

# THE NORTHERN MINE RESEARCH SOCIETY



# Newsletter

**DECEMBER 1998**

## **Diary Dates**

### **27th March, 1999. Spring Meeting.**

Annual General Meeting at 12 noon, followed by the Annual Dinner at 14.00. Both at the Kings Arms, Redmire, Wensleydale. NGR SE 045911. After the Dinner, Clive Torrens will lead a meet at the Hurst Mines, Marrick.

### **28th March, 1999.**

Wensleydale. Leader: Clive Torrens. Tel: (01969) 624721. Meet at 10.30.

### **17th April, 1999.**

Rossendale/Rooley Moor. Leader: Clive Seal. Tel: 01434 382439. Meet at 10.30.

### **1st May, 1999. The Ghost of NAMHO '98. Swords, Candles & Old Boots.**

An evening of mining related entertainment will be held at Nenthead Village hall, Nenthead, Cumbria starting at 19.00. Refreshments will be provided and the bar will be open. Come as you are - wet suit, jeans or dinner jacket, but anyone wearing Victorian dress will add atmosphere to the evening. Places are limited, so book early. Write to Sheila Barker, The Rise, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3DB. Closing date for bookings is 12th April, 1999.

### **15th May, 1999.**

Keld Heads (Possible working party). Leader: Clive Torrens. Tel: (01969) 624721. Meet at 10.30.

### **12th June, 1999.**

Magpie Mine/Lathkilldale. Leader: Lynn Willies. Tel: (01629) 584322. Meet at 10.30.

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## **1999 Subscriptions - Due on 1st January**

Once again subscriptions have been held at 1996 levels. A subscription form and deed of covenant are enclosed. If you pay UK income tax please complete a deed of covenant form. Although it is for four years it doesn't matter if you fill one in every year. the Society derives a lot of benefit from reclaimed tax and it costs you nothing extra.

<http://www.ex.ac.uk/~RBurt/MinHistNet/NMRSevents.html>

### **24th July, 1999.**

Grassington Moor (Walk). Leader: Sallie Bassham. Tel: (0161) 2954905. Meet at 11.00 at Yarnbury. NGR SE015659.

**September 1999.** Nenthead. To be finalised.

### **23rd September, 1999.**

Tom Leonard Mining Museum, Skinningrove. Leader: Derrek King, meet at 13.00. NGR NZ712192. Boulby Potash Mine (likely to be a 2 or 3 hour visit), meet at 16.00 - numbers will be limited.

### **September 24th -27th, 1999.**

NAMHO Conference - Forest of Dean.

### **October Autumn Meeting.**

All meets are subject to weather and permission being granted. Further details in subsequent Newsletters. Please contact the appropriate meet leader if you intend going on a meet.

## ***Autumn Meeting - 1998***

We returned to the comfort of the Ascot House Hotel in Harrogate for this event and, after a brief business meeting, members gave illustrated talks of their current interests. We had two examples of underground videos - one of the Sir Francis Level engines and the other of a visit to the Inclined Plane at Cononley Mine. Those of us who remember earlier films made on Cine Film (lit by the landing lights from a Lancaster bomber!) could only marvel at what can now be achieved. We had a visit to the Isle of Man, a pot pourri of slides which members were able to identify, a description of the archaeological survey done by members at the Grassington Low Smelt Mill and an update of the Yorkshire Dales Lead Mining Population Project.

This was followed by an excellent buffet lunch, which left everyone pugged, and the chance to network. If you missed out this year, why not come along next October. Better still, bring a few slides and tell us about your latest endeavours - people are interested and it's a good chance to bounce ideas off them.

Mike Gill

## ***Please Help Us Keep In Touch With You***

With an ever growing and what sometimes feels like a constantly moving membership we sometimes lose touch with members. Please help us by remembering to let us know your new address if you move. If you do not hear from us for a while, we aim to send out newsletters in:

February

May - with a Monograph

August

December - with the Memoirs

If you do not hear anything by a month after those dates (remember we are doing the job in our spare time and things sometimes drift) - please shout out. (The Secretary, c/o 38 Main Street, Sutton in Craven, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 7HD. Tel/Fax: 01535 635388 or Email [martgill@legend.co.uk](mailto:martgill@legend.co.uk)).

## ***Protection of Lead Mining Remains in the Yorkshire Dales***

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has continued its major programme of survey, consolidation and interpretation of lead mining remains in the Yorkshire Dales. Two main projects were undertaken in 1998: the consolidation of the late nineteenth century mineshop and dressing floor at Bolton Parks Mine above Castle Bolton in Wensleydale and the consolidation of the Blakethwaite Smelt Mill and Peat Store. The latter is the first phase of what it is hoped will be a more extensive programme of consolidation work in Gunnerside Gill. The remote nature of this smelt mill meant that a helicopter had to be used to transport lime, sand, cement, a mortar mixer, scaffolding and a wooden hut to the site. This is believed to be the first time a helicopter has been used for conservation of an industrial archaeological site in England and possibly only the third time in archaeological conservation in the UK. Unfortunately the poor weather of most of the summer and autumn meant that the planned first phase had not been completed before the onset of winter, and will therefore continue in 1999. Work also continued on the renewal of the lead mining trail on Grassington Moor.

Bolton Parks Mine was initially drawn to the National Park's attention by Ian Spensley when he submitted a completed IRIS form - the Association for Industrial Archaeology's Index Record of Industrial Sites. A detailed pre-consolidation survey was subsequently carried out by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services. A management agreement with the Bolton estate who own the site will provide for permissive access to Bolton Parks Mine and the provision of on-site interpretation.

Both consolidation projects benefited from financial assistance from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and the European Regional Development Fund while additional funding for Blakethwaite Smelt Mill came from English Heritage.

English Heritage has also been active in developing formal protection for lead mining sites in the Yorkshire Dales and elsewhere. Prior to the implementation of its Monuments Protection Programme only the lead smelt mill complexes at Grassington Moor, Grinton, Marrick, Old Gang and Surrender were scheduled ancient monuments although some other structures were listed buildings. (A list of these was published in *Industrial Archaeology Review* XII, I, 1989, p101). Two more smelt mills in the National Park have recently been individually scheduled (the Marrick Cupola Mill and the Blakethwaite Smelt Mill) but other schedulings mean that the formally protected sites are now more representative of the industry. They include the principal mining remains in Gunnerside Gill around the Sir Francis, Bunton, Priscilla, Barbara, Dolly and Blakethwaite dressing floors, most of the Bunton area hushes, the remains of the two Blakethwaite dams and Moss Dam. Further west the Beldi Plate level dressing floor and the Startindale engine house and dressing floor have also been scheduled.

The largest site in Swaledale and Arkengarthdale to be scheduled however is centred on the dramatic Hungry hushes complex. This includes the remains of the Octagon and New mills and their joint flue as well as Turf Moor hush and Danby lead level. This monument covers some 79ha and also includes part of the chert mining and processing complex described by Les Tyson in *British Mining* 53, *The Arkengarthdale Mines*.

In Wharfedale new schedulings include the Buckden Gavel smelt mill and mine and the New Providence mine. The Red Scar complex above Grimwith reservoir has also been identified as being of national importance while a rather more extensive area of the Grassington Moor mining field, including the Yarnbury dressing floor, is also proposed for scheduling.

Significant remains in the lead mining areas outside the National Park boundary recently scheduled include the Lumb Clough smelt mill, Prosperous lead mines and smelt mill, Providence smelt mill, Panty O'on stone and Sam O'on level, Keld Heads and Cobscar smelt mills. Maplets showing the scheduled monuments areas are held by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority or the NYCC Archaeology section as appropriate as well as English Heritage.

The designation of extensive areas of heather moorland as Sites of Special Scientific Interest, mainly for their botanical and ornithological interest, should also provide some additional protection for lead industry sites, not least by bringing motor sports on SSSI's under planning control and hopefully reduce the loss of spoil heaps for shooting track construction.

Updated conditions, for a planning permission granted in 1949 for the continued use of land for metalliferous mining over an area of almost 700ha of Melbecks Moor and Reeth High Moor extending from Gunnerside Gill in the west to Surrender Mine and Old Gang Smelt Mill in the east, were approved by the National Park Committee in 1997. The conditions limit the permission to 20 years and require, amongst other things, phased working and the submission and prior approval of the National Park Authority of a detailed "assessment of the archaeological features in and adjacent to the area to be worked together with proposals for their recording prior to any working and preservation where appropriate measures to prevent damage to or disturbance of scheduled ancient monuments" and "an assessment of the ecology of the area to be worked together with proposals for the protection of plants, vegetation and surface water ponds where appropriate". The intention behind the request for updated conditions had been to rework old spoil heaps for barytes but, unlike the former Swaledale Mining company who had a semi-portable dressing plant above Old Gang, to transport bulk material to Derbyshire for processing. A subsidiary interest of the estate which owns the moorland and shooting rights in the area was the improvement of shooting tracks at the expense of the mineral operator. However, as yet no details have been submitted and the operator who had expressed interest in reactivating the permission appears to have withdrawn.

It is an offence to cause damage to any scheduled monument without the consent of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. This would include taking samples from slag heaps for analysis or removing material from spoil heaps. Further material seems to have been removed from the slag heaps at the Surrender lead smelt mill (well outside any valid planning permission area) where cutting into the slag deposits has weakened the granular structure and is now allowing the previously stable heaps to be eroded. The scale of the disturbance suggests it may have been caused by an educational group - perhaps a university department? Any confessions?

Other damage to the remains here has been caused by the annual Scott Trial, a long standing trial bike endurance event, whose route once again crossed several lead industry sites between Hurst and Gunnerside Gill. Scheduling itself does not provide any protection against natural erosion but can make it easier to attract resources to assist in consolidation and interpretation. Interpretation panels were produced for Grinton and Surrender lead smelt mills and will be installed as soon as the management agreements on these sites have been renewed.

Robert White

Archaeological Conservation Officer, YDNP

## ***Pit Ponies***

Two of Wales' last pit ponies have retired from Nant Fach colliery, Pontardawe. Records show that pit ponies were used in the coal mines from the mid-18th century. After 1842 women and children were barred from working in the mines and this accelerated the use of pit ponies which were stabled underground and often lived and died without seeing the sun. In 1911 major legislation protected the ponies from the worst abuse. In 1913 it was estimated that there were 70,000 working ponies, 20,000 in South Wales. These two - Dobbin and Patch will be retired to an RSPCA home in Milton Keynes.

*Cymro Llundain (The London Welshman)*, Autumn 1998.

John Hopkinson

## **Weardale News**

Durham Industrial Minerals Limited has announced the closure of the cluster of fluorspar mines at Frazer's Hush in Weardale. The five small mines and the company's processing plant at Frosterley employ 25 workers, most of whom are Weardale residents. When the mines close later this year it will mean the end of one of the oldest industries in the region. The mines in Derbyshire will then be the country's only producers of the mineral used as a flux in steel furnaces as well as in chemical medicine manufacturing processes.

The shutdown is being blamed on falling prices, the strong pound and competition from other countries. The current world fluorspar prices are less than 1980 levels and there have been few orders. Jeffrey Allison, managing director of Durham Minerals, is sad that the company has had to give up the fight to keep the mines open. He is trying to find the workforce places in his other business, Sherburn Stone Company Limited, which will include quarrying.

He told the Environment Agency that he is unable to guarantee that the pumps will be kept going at the 500 feet drifts. Experts reckon that they will fill up with water within a year. Jeffrey Allison explained that all resources had been used up trying to keep the mines operational.

*Weardale Gazette*. October, 1998.

On the subject of underground connections between Weardale and the Nent Valley an article written by Dr. Tom Bell appeared in the magazine of the Weardale Railway Society, *Between the Lines* concerning the efforts between 1844 and 1892 to extend the Wear Valley branch railway of the NER to Alston and thence to Glasgow via a tunnel connecting Killhope with Nenthead. The steepest gradient was projected to be 1 in 50. The *Hexham Courant* reported in April, 1870 on a proposal to link Garigill, Nenthead and Killhope with a surface railway with a ruling gradient of 1 in 40! The last set of plans were deposited in 1891 for consideration by Parliament in 1892. Not surprisingly they were supported by the Commissioners for the Greenwich Hospital.

The Bonny Moor Hen - Journal of the Weardale Field Study Society. No. 10, 1998 has just been published and contains a subject index for Nos. 1-10 which is very useful. Part II of W. F. Heyes article concerning the formative years of the Weardale Iron Company discusses the relationship between the company and WB mines. This was important for both parties as the two ores often occurred together. In a number of cases W. B. Beaumont would pay the Weardale Iron Company for the receipt of well dressed lead ore at the smelter. The Bonny Moor Hen is available from Mrs. M. Manchester, 81 Front Street, Sunniside, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, DL13 4LW. The cost is £3.50 including postage. Please make cheques payable to "Weardale Field Study Society".

## **Royal School of Mines**

Roger Bade

The last surveying course was held at Easter 1998 and the Royal School of Mines will surrender its lease. The Botallack Trust, part of the Carn Brae mining society is hoping to take over the lease and preserve access to Tywarnhale. Other organisations have proposed a scheme by which the whole valley would be classified as an area of unique mining heritage.

## **Discussion Lists**

It seems that many people with an interest in mining history also have an interest in railway history. If this is the case you may not be aware that there is a railway history discussion list which may be joined at <railway-studies@mailbase.ac.uk>. - Ed.

## Books

### Coal mining in Lunesdale - Philip J. Hudson.

A new publication, exploring the history of coal mining from 16th to 19th centuries. It delves into one aspect of industrial history in the north west that has never been published before. This book is the result of over ten years research and study and will, hopefully, stand up as the definitive work on this topic.

The book is of A5 format, SB, 329pp. on stitched art paper with over 30 black and white photographs, 50 maps, diagrams, index, glossary and bibliography. It costs £15.00 post free and is available from Hudson History, Procter House, Kirkgate, Settle, North Yorkshire, BD24 9DZ. Phone/fax: 01729 825773. Email: hudson-history@daelnet.co.uk

The web site is: <http://www.users.daelnet.co.uk/hudson-history/index.html>

### Lead Mining in the Yorkshire Dales - John Morrison

This book is aimed at walkers who visit the lead mining areas of the Dales and gives an outline of the various processes involved in lead mining. There are six walks, five in Swaledale and one on Grassington Moor. The "potted histories" accompanying each walk are fine for general readers, but the enthusiast would need to read further. The author's superb, modern colour photographs are supported by historic monochrome prints.

The book (ISBN 185568 138 2) costs £5.99 and is published by the Dalesman Publishing Company.

Mike Gill

### The Late Tony Wall's Book Collection.

John Hopkinson writes:

The following books have been sent to me by Tony Wall's widow to be sold with proceeds to be donated to the Society. As it is Mrs. Wall's wish that younger members should not be discouraged by high prices, I have set the price low at £4.00 per book, plus postage at cost. If you wish to purchase one or more books, write to me enclosing a cheque made payable to NMRS for £5 per book, and marking the envelope NMRS on the outside. I shall open all letters on 16th January 1999 in random order. In case of over-subscription you may not get all (or any) of the books you have requested - but be sure to mark your first and second choices so I can make the allocation as fair as possible. Excess postage will be refunded in stamps; all letters will be replied to. All books have at least 48 pages, except as indicated by \*\*. Letters to: John Hopkinson Fron Dirion Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr Corwen LL21 9UG.

A K Hamilton Jenkin *Mines of Devon Volume 1* 1974 h/b (Postage £2.00)

A K Hamilton Jenkin *Mines and Miners of Cornwall Volume 5* 1980

A K Hamilton Jenkin *Mines and Miners of Cornwall Volume 6* 1981

A K Hamilton Jenkin *Mines and Miners of Cornwall Volume 14* 1967

A Burton *The Miners* 1976

M J Messenger *North Devon Clay* 1982

D E Bick *Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales Volume 1* 1974

D E Bick *Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales Volume 2* 1975

D E Bick *Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales Volume 4* 1977

D E Bick *Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales Volume 5* 1978

D E Bick *Old Metal Mines of Mid Wales Volume 6* 1991

A Raistrick *Malham and Malham Moor* 1983  
 Bennet & Vernon *Mines of the Gwydyr Forest Part 2* 1990  
 W R Mitchell *Pennine Lead Miner* 1979  
 D Smith *Great Orme Copper Mines* 1988  
 J H Reinwerts *Derbyshire's Old Lead Mines and Miners* 1972 \*\*  
 W T Shaw *Mining in the Lake Counties Dalesman* 1970  
 S J S Hughes *The Cymystwyth Mines* BM17 (A4, 1993)  
 R J Pritchard *The Rheidol United Mines* BM27 (A4, 1985)  
 L O Tyson *Lead Mines of Arkengarthdale* BM29 (A4, 1986)  
 D E Bick *Frongoch* BM30 (A4)  
 M C Gill *The Yorkshire and Lancashire Lead Miners* BM33 (A4)  
 Ford and Rieuwerts *Odin Mine, Castleton* PDHMS Bulletin Vol 6 No.4 1976  
 Various PDHMS Bulletin Vol 9 No.1 1984 *The Nenthead Mines*  
 Various PDHMS Bulletin Vol 9 No.5 1986  
 Various PDHMS Bulletin Vol 12 No.4 1994  
 P Newman (ed) *PDMHS Vol 13 No 2 1996 Mining and Metallurgy in South West Britain*  
 T Greaves *Tin Mines and Miners of Dartmoor* 1986  
 P Collier *Colliers Way - The Somerset Coalfield* 1986  
 Stanton and Clarke *Cornish Miners at Charterhouse* 1984  
 B Atkinson *Mining Sites in Cornwall* Vol 2 1994  
 B Atkinson *Mining Sites in Cornwall and SW Devon* 1988  
 P Stanier *Cornwall's Mining Heritage* 1988  
 L Popplewell *The Railways, Canal, and Mines of Looe and Liskeard* 1977  
 J Trounson *Mining in Cornwall* Vol 1 no date  
 J Trounson *Mining in Cornwall* Vol 2 no date  
 D B Barton *Copper Mining in Cornwall and Devon* 3rd Ed 1978  
 D B Barton *Copper Mining in Cornwall and Devon* 3rd Ed 1978  
 J A Buckley *Cornish Mining at Surface* 1990 \*\*  
 J A Buckley *Cornish Mining Underground* 1989 \*\*  
 J Vivian *Tales of Cornish Miners* 1970 \*\*  
 H V Williams *Cornwall's Old Mines* 1990 \*\*  
 D B Barton *Cornwall's Engine Houses* 1970 \*\*  
 Cumbria Amenity Trust *The Mine Explorer* Vol 4 1994  
 Raistrick *Wensleydale and Swaledale* Vol 1 The Mines 1991 (p/back)  
 John Adams *Mines of the Lake District Fells* Dalesman 1988

Roger Flindall and Andrew Hayes *The Caverns and Mines of Matlock Bath*

*Volume 1 The Nestus Mines* 1976

Brook F & Allbut M *The Shropshire Mines* 1973

**Black Diamonds By Sea - North East Sailing Colliers. 1780-1880 - Dick Keys & Ken Smith.**

This book, published by Newcastle Libraries and Information Service, gives an interesting insight into the brigs, scows and brigantines which brought coals from Newcastle in the nineteenth century. If you thought the death rate was high in the coal mines, it was almost as high in the shipping industry. With no shipping forecasts and the pressures of having to deliver the coal, the attrition rate was high. Steam power came to the Tyne in 1852 and by 1877 no new sailing ships were acquired by Tyne owners. I was slightly disappointed by this book in that it was not more detailed or larger, but it serves as a useful introduction. It costs £5.99 and can be purchased by post for £6.49 for those who do not live close to Newcastle library. Cheques should be made payable to the "City of Newcastle upon Tyne" and sent to The Community and Leisure Services Department, City Library, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1DX.

**The Red Data Book for Northumberland - Linda Kerslake (Ed).**

This book is published by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust. It contains a good description of the geology and ecology of Northumberland. The production of the Red Data Book has been supported by Northumberland County Council's North Pennines Project. This project, which I haven't heard of before, was established in 1996 with support from the Countryside Commission. It aims to focus on the council's work in implementing the North Pennines Management Plan, which includes recommendations on nature conservation, including the conservation of rare species. North Pennine target species are identified in the text. They include five mammals; Brown Hare, Red Squirrel, Water Vole, Pine Marten and Otter; seventeen birds including Black Grouse and Raven and ten vascular plants including a single site with a single tree of Rock Whitebeam in the South Tyne Valley on a limestone bank. The book is a little expensive, but not too academic. It is available for £13.00 + £3.50 p&p. from Northumberland Wildlife Trust, The Garden House, St. Nicholas Park, Jubilee Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 3XT.

**The History and Workings of Nenthead Mines - Martin F. Critchley**

The Peak District Historical Mines Bulletin Vol. 9 No. 1 has been re-issued. As Dr. Critchley is now based in Ireland he has not felt able to revise the text. He has made minor revisions and incorporated new information from other publications. The text is in a more readable font and the pictures are clearer. There are also a number of new photographs from Brewery Shaft and Scaleburn Horse Gin. The new edition is available from Nenthead mines and Killhope for £6.00. No doubt it will also be available from PDMHS plus the cost of postage.

Roger Bade

**Manx Mines and Minerals Video**

This new video illustrates the history of Manx mining and features spectacular underground footage. It includes the mines at Bradda and the water leats which provided water for Laxey Wheel. The working life of the Laxey miner is also explored. For further information contact Duke Video, PO Box 46, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1DD. Tel: 01624 623634.

NAMHO Newsletter

## ***Mining Biographical Sketches. Nicholas Wood. 1795 - 1865***

A civil and mining engineer, he was born at the farm of Daniel at Sourmires, in the parish of Ryton, County Durham on the 24th April 1795, the son of Nicholas Wood, tenant farmer. It is said that he was of a delicate constitution in early life, and was accordingly placed in the care of his uncle, Mr. Greener of Hallgarth, near Winlaton. He attended the village school in Crawcrook, where his abilities were so marked as to attract the attention of his father's landlord, Sir Thomas Liddell (later first Baron Ravensworth), to whose collieries at Killingworth, Northumberland, he was sent in April 1811 to learn the business of a viewer or colliery manager. Also at Killingworth at that time was George Stephenson, fourteen years older than Wood, and the two were soon drawn into a lasting friendship by their mutual interests and ambitions. Wood had evidently benefited a good deal more from his schooling than had Stephenson, and unlike Stephenson's, his work was based more on learning than intuition. It was a tribute to Stephenson's opinion of him that his son Robert was apprenticed to Wood from 1819 to 1821 at Killingworth. Wood assisted Stephenson in the development of his safety lamp, which was first tested in 1815. He was also closely associated with Stephenson in his experiments with steam locomotives, and in 1821 accompanied him to Darlington where they met Edward Pease and discussed the projected Stockton-Darlington railway line. As a result of his experience and observations he was able to publish in 1825 'A practical Treatise on Railroads, and Interior Communication In General', a classic work of early railway literature in which he discussed, for example, the various types of 'motive-power' then in use; self acting planes, fixed steam engine planes, horses, and locomotive steam engines. It appeared in three subsequent editions in 1831, 1832, and 1838, considerably enlarged and brought up to date. Even in 1827 Wood's reputation in railway matters was such that he was invited to give evidence before committees of both Houses of Parliament on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Bill.

In 1829 he was one of the three judges for the Rainhill locomotive trials on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway won by the Stephensons' Rocket. His knowledge of coal-mining and the geology of the North of England coalfields was now such that his assistance was frequently called for by mine owners and speculators, and he acquired interests in a number of mines in the area. Up until 1844 he lived in Killingworth, but then moved to Hetton Hall in the County of Durham, and assumed the management of the collieries belonging to the Hetton Coal Company, in which he was a partner. He took a prominent and active part in the investigations which led ultimately to the Mines Inspection Act of 1851, and he was elected the first President of the North of England Institute of Mining Engineers, to which he subsequently read many papers, on its formation at Newcastle on Tyne in 1852. He was elected a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers (1820) and Mechanical Engineers (1858), and a Fellow of the Geological Society (1843). He became FRS in 1864. He married Maria Forster, daughter of Collingwood Forster Lindsay of Alnwick, Clerk to the Magistrates of Northumberland. He was a widower for some years before his death. There were four sons and three daughters of the marriage. Wood died on the 19th December 1865 at 49 Sussex Gardens, Hyde Park, London, where he had gone for medical advice, and was buried in the churchyard at Hetton.

### **References.**

T.Doubleday, *Memoir of the Late Nicholas Wood Esq*,

Transactions of the North of England Institute of Mining Engineers, vol.xv, 1866, pp49-59.

Proceedings of the Institute of Civil Engineers, vol.xxxi, 1866, pp236-8;

The Engineer, 22 December, 1865, p.415, and 12 January, 1866, p.37.,

Proceedings of the Royal Society, vol.xvi, 1868, pp.61-3.

R.Welford, *Men of Mark Twixt Tyne and Tweed*, 1895.)

Tony Fretwell

## **Query Corner**

Barry Hunt writes:

Whilst walking in the Bowland Fells recently I came across an old quarry containing the remains of a steam crane whose only markings were 'Rodley Smith' and 'A 759'. I assume that the stone from the quarry was used in the construction of Stocks Reservoir but this is by no means certain as there are several miles between them. There also appears to have been a small railway linking the quarry to the road near to the Cross of Geet Bridge.

Has any member any information on either the quarry or steam crane? If so, please contact Barry at: 22 Mayfair Road, Nelson, Lancashire, BB9 8JP. Tel: 01292 692880.

John A. Knight writes:

"During the summer I was en-route to an organised walk/talk with the Yorkshire Dales National Park hosted by NMRS member Peter Hodge at Hebden. On the road from Pateley Bridge to Hebden and just before the signpost announcing Greenhow, there were the remains of a chimney sited left, and hidden from view on the road were further remains in a field". Can anyone provide further details of the site. Contact John at 40 Fladgate Road, Leytonstone, London, E11 1LY. Tel: 0181 989 4303.

## **Shropshire Engine Houses**

Shropshire County Council has consolidated Ladywell Engine House and work is in progress on White Grit.

## **Change of Society Secretary**

NAMHO Newsletter

Clive Torrens, has been having difficulty finding time for his job as Secretary of the Society owing to pressure of work. It has been agreed by the committee that he will swap positions with Steve Mitchell, Junior Vice-President, who will now serve as acting Secretary. Steve may be contacted at 21 Lowfield Crescent, Silsden, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD20 0QE. Tel: 01535 657090.

## **Don't Forget Your 1999 Subscription**

A subscription form and deed of covenant are enclosed. If you pay UK income tax please complete a deed of covenant form. Although it is for four years it doesn't matter if you fill one in every year. The Society derives a lot of benefit from reclaimed tax and it costs you nothing extra.

## **Finally**

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers. Thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter. Please keep the contributions rolling in - they are very much appreciated. Contributions on 3½" discs are welcome. Discs will normally be returned with the following newsletter unless otherwise requested. Contributions for the February, 1999 Newsletter by 17th January, please, to:

**Keith Nolan, West End Cottage, Woodhall, South Duffield, Selby, North Yorkshire, YO8 6TG. Telephone or Fax: 01757 638503. E-mail: keithn@woodhall.u-net.com**

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