

The Terracotta Art of Nuneaton

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& THE LOCAL BRICK and TILE TRADE in Nuneaton & Bedworth

By the 1850's there were 80 small brickyards operating in the Warwickshire coalfield (producing 75,500,000 bricks in 1858).

THE BRICKMAKERS

Joshua Waters Adams (1810-1889)

Brick maker of Chilvers Coton (and timber merchant). Married, Elizabeth, one of the daughters of William Bindley. Bindley was also a brick maker (see entry). Adams may have taken over William Bindley's operations, after the latter's decease. The brickyard was in Coton Road and appears to have been leased from the Harpur estate in 1849 for a period of 15 years. Adams Employed 13 men and 8 boys in 1881. Elizabeth was also listed as a brick maker in her own right prior to her marriage.

John Alexander

Inventory of estate is dated 1680

Brick maker. One kiln, Wash Lane, Nuneaton. Made bricks, quarries, tiles, gutters.

Mr. Alexander carried on a considerable business.

George Allen

(listed in trade directories 1828,1835,1841)

Brick maker, Abbey Street, Nuneaton. (yard location not known)

Ansley Hall Coal & Iron Ltd

The colliery business commenced in 1873, the coalfield was noted as covering 2800 acres but later the colliery company worked 4000 acres including the Oldbury estate. Brick making started and the pit was sunk 1873/1874. There were 11 seams 80'0" thick which in 1873 was said to be capable of yielding 2000 per tons per day for 300 years. covering

Bricks had been made in the Ansley area since 1760.

The clayhole was known as "Neddy Orton's Pit". Initially there was a single beehive kiln but this was soon superseded by a continuous kiln which produced bricks from pit debris. A single chamber of the kiln could hold 13,000 bricks. A Bradley Craven "Stiff Plastic" brick making machine was purchased in 1896, and there was a German "Hoffmann" twelve chamber continuous kiln in use at one time.

In 1891 225 men were employed. In 1894, 184 employees producing 70,000 tons of coal per annum. By 1896 228 underground, 69 surface workers.

In 1913 there were 391 men producing 139,000 tons per annum In 1939 674 men were employed and 670 in 1945.

In 1957 production was 224,600 tons of coal with 724 men.

Brick making continued for a longer period than the colliery business not ceasing production until December 1969. It was carried out on a substantial scale with 3 million engineering bricks produced annually. A total of 66 million bricks were produced between 1947 and 1969.

The National Coal Board built an area workshop for concentration of engineering activities on the Ansley Hall site.

Thomas Astley

Operated a blue brick and tile yard in the Black-a-Tree Gate Road, (now Haunchwood Road) in the 1830's

Attleborough Road (Fudgy Nutt's) Brickyard

This was extant in 1845 but may have been obliterated by the construction of the Coventry to Nuneaton railway line. It stood adjacent to Anker Street on what was then open land called "Fudgy Nutts". "Fudgy" because of its soft clay ground, and "Nutts" after the old local family of Nutt who owned the land, the last Charles Nutt died c. 1822. No brickyard operator is recorded although it is likely to have been one of the Nuneaton brickmakers listed here. Soft clay subsequently caused difficulty for the railway company as part of the brickyard lay under the locomotive shed yard and caused instability to the railway sidings laid over the top of it at a higher level. Needing frequent maintenance.

Attleborough Stone Quarries & Brickyard

Known Proprietors: Nathan Smart (listed as a stone mason, during the period 1828-1841);

Joseph Barnwell (listed as a stone mason, quarry owner by 1850).

Nathaniel Smart (1791-1860)

William & Joseph Seal (by 1863-71),

Foxwell & Davies (quarry proprietors and brickmakers) (by 1871 and 1884),

David Parker (by 1888),

Thomas Smith (Builder, quarry owner, brickmaker by 1892 and his firm until the 1930's.

Thomas Smith (Builders) built the Chase, now the Chase Hotel, Coton Arches, Newdigate Hotel, and former Midland Bank and other important Nuneaton buildings)

In 1871 a sale document lists the equipment at the quarry and brickyard:

Engine house, boiler shed, several drying sheds, three kilns capable of producing 18,000 bricks each, three circular ovens, shedding, 25 horse-power horizontal steam engine, two boilers, brick making machines by Clayton & Shuttleworth, travelling crane, tramway, lifting crane.

The quarry was effectively worked out by the 1930's and has been partially infilled by domestic rubbish. It now lies under Paul's Land recreation ground. Part has been built over for housing development. The last piece of stone hewn from the quarry has been preserved in the front garden of a house in Quarry Lane.

Charles Ball

Builder and brick maker, Attleborough stone quarry, 1871. Built Nuneaton Gas Works.

William Bindley

In January 1825 Mr. Bindley found clay in an area of Pool Bank Street, Nuneaton between there and Wash Lane (now Queens Road) and commenced manufacturing bricks. Bindley, who was a builder, had originally bought the property for £40 in July 1824. He then secured additional areas of the Pool Bank Close. In addition he built some houses and shops on this site increasing the value of his security. He rented land from the Harpur family in 1828.

Bonner's Brickyard.

Samuel Bonner

Arthur Hood (in the period 1867-1874)

After 1874 William Moss, Railway Contractor of Stafford

A small brickyard was operated in Wash Lane, Nuneaton (now 225-233 Queens Road) initially operated by Samuel Bonner. There was a small clay hole on the site. Following Samuel Bonner in 1867 was Arthur Hood who worked the yard up until 1874. Hood lived at 7 Gas Street, Nuneaton. (Gas Street was later to become Queens Road at the town end.) In the 1870's the brickyard was taken over by a railway contractor William Moss of Stafford who was engaged at the time laying a third track down the Trent Valley main line for the London & North Western Railway. Moss had also rented the old Coventry-Nuneaton loco shed south of Nuneaton station where he kept one or more contractors locos for the duration of his contract. It is highly likely that Moss made bricks for the various culverts and bridges he built on his contract at the yard in Wash Lane, and on termination of his contract abandoned the workings. In 1883 this brickyard was offered to let. Three, 14 hole brick kilns, two large flame drying sheds, two dwelling houses occupied by Whitehead and Boyer. The site was 256 feet long adjoining Wash Lane (now Queens Road). The area of the property was 2 acres. Brick making ceased at this time, and the kilns not used thereafter. The site was cleared. It was later built over as part of the housing and industrial usage in Queens Road and all traces obliterated.

John Butterton

Extant 1542 as a tile maker. Situated on a site near what is now Stanley Road, Nuneaton. Rent being paid 13s. 4d. per annum.

Charity Colliery

Owned by the Nicholas Chamberlain Charity, Bedworth

Lessees:

Peter Unger Williams (1775-1837)

Caroline Williams (widow of P.U. Williams) (1780-1873) managed colliery until 1858

Later John McTaggart Williams (1810-1859)

Charles McTaggart Williams (1819-1858) trading as Williams Brothers. (-1861)

George Barker & Sons trading later as:

Bedworth Coal & Iron Co. Ltd (1878 by 1896)

Stanley Brothers Ltd (1899-1924, closure date 13th September 1924 lease given up 20th April 1925)

Charity Banks Brickworks

After the closure of Charity Colliery brickworks was started on the same site. Later on this developed into the production of breeze blocks. Charity Banks brickworks was notable for the fact that the famous and much loved comedian Sir Norman Wisdom was at one time the Managing Director. He was a leading shareholder from sometime in the 1950's until the works was closed in 1972.

Chilvers Coton Pottery

(- Coxon)

Thomas Sankey residence: Bridge Street, Chilvers Coton 1836

This pottery (as it is referred to in the Nuneaton Diary of John Astley) was situated near the Cock & Bear bridge over the Coventry Canal. There was a wharf known as Wash Lane wharf. The site also had lime kilns located adjacent. The remnants of kilns stood on the wharf at least until the 1990's, but have now had modern housing built over their footprint. Clay was obtained from the Haunchwood and Whittleford area. Products made at the pottery are not known. It may be that the output was ornamental items rather than the usual bricks and tiles. The Pottery was extant in 1837. Nothing further is known of it.

Collycroft Colliery

William Wilson in the 1830's-1854 at least

Edward Wilson in 1876

Howlette & Wilson Estates Colliery & Brickworks

The brickworks was closed c. 1902.

William Cox, Brickmaker

(- Ruskin until 1879)

Cox acquired the brickyard from a previous owner (Mr. Ruskin) when he retired in May 1879. It is listed as a blue brick and tile yard in 1880 with Thomas Cox as manager.

Exhall

Exhall Coal Mining Co. Ltd (Edward Wilson) from 1857 until c. 1896

Exhall Colliery Co. Ltd until 21.12.1906

Exhall Colliery & Brickworks Ltd (1906-1939)

Hawkesbury & Exhall Collieries Ltd

Three brick works were also associated with the site. Nr. 1 yard closed in May 1916. Exhall had an average weekly output in 1929 of 70,000 bricks. 3,674,000 bricks were made in 1930. The brickworks losses started to accumulate in the 1930's and this led to closure of their brick yard interests on September 11th 1939. Three men stayed on at the brick yard until 1941 to dispose of one million bricks in stock. The clayhole was near Speedwell Farm.

Robert Garnett

Brickmaker, Nuneaton

(Valued the inventory of John Alexander, brick maker)

(1680)

Henry Greene

(will of 1637)

Brick and tile maker, Nuneaton.

Griff Brick, Tile and Limeworks

Thomas Kydd (1828-1892) proprietor

This facility was located at the canal wharf at the head of the Griff Arm of the Coventry canal. It seems probable that the facilities here were worked before Mr. Kydd purchased the business.

Grove Colliery

Thomas Ball Troughton

Trading as: Troughton & Lee

Nr. 1 colliery was working in 1841 but closed in 1844. Nr. 2 Colliery was situated next to Bedworth Station on the Bedworth side of the railway. There is no record of a rail connection as it closed c. 1851. There may have been a brickyard associated with this colliery which Thomas Ball Troughton inherited from Charles Lilly of Coventry in 1834.

Thomas Ball Troughton was Town Clerk of Coventry at one time
Employed about 20 men in 1841.

Thomas Hardy

Had a brickyard in Chilvers Coton in 1828 and 1841 (also traded as a timber merchant). Worked a brickyard in Stockingford by 1850. Still trading in Chilvers Coton in 1866.

Thomas Harris

(1841)

Brickmaker, Nuneaton

William Harris

(1850)

Brickmaker, The Bull Ring, Chilvers Coton

Haunchwood Brick & Tile Co. Ltd

formerly Haunchwood Brick Co.

and initially Fowler & Knox)

James Knox was passing through the new cutting of the Nuneaton-Whitacre Junction railway on his way towards Birmingham when he noticed the freshly exposed bands of Etruria Marl. To his trained Civil Engineer's eye he knew this meant there was high quality clay in the area.

This huge enterprise was originally founded as a partnership of George Fowler, Civil & Mining Engineer of Nottingham, William Maltby, Surgeon of Old Basford, Nottingham, John Walter Fowler and James Knox, Civil Engineer of Attleborough, Nuneaton under the style of the Haunchwood Brick Co. It was registered as a limited company on the 11th May 1878 with directors: James Knox, George Fowler, William Maltby, Robert Walker Smith, Charles Bennett, Richard Bush Spencer, and Herbert Walker with a share capital of £20,000.

The Knox's were directors in other firms such as Lewis Tileries, Barnstone Cement Co.Ltd., Nottingham Patent Brick Co.

In 1896 the brickyard employed 2 men underground and 1 on the surface in a fireclay pit

Nr. 1 works at Stockingford made: blue, brindled, hard red engineering bricks, (pressed and wire cuts) stable bricks and pavers, copings, ridge tiles and finials, chimney pots, flue linings, garden edging tiles, briquettes for fire places, sand faced bricks, garden vases.

By 1923 Haunchwood Brick & Tile's travelling salesmen were: Arthur J. Franks, and his son Donald covering London, S. Wallace Allan covering Scotland, W.M.Hincks covering SE England and East Anglia, J.H.Buxbaum the West of England, William Daffern, the North of England, Sidney Jones, Wales, Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, Fred Shute covered the local area of Coventry, Nuneaton, Hinckley etc., and H.T. Lavender the Birmingham district. (Mr. Lavender married the daughter of one of his Birmingham customers and he then became a partner in the builder's merchant of Proctor & Lavender, and bought millions of bricks from Haunchwood Brick & Tile Ltd. He was very well in with the local architects.)

The associated company G.W. Lewis Tileries Ltd whose head office was at Stockingford had works in the Cannock and Essington areas of Staffordshire.

By the 1930's the two clay holes nearest to the brickyard were almost worked out and a new clay hole was developed in Whittleford Road. The former clay hole in Tomkinson Road was filled in by household rubbish by the Nuneaton Borough Council.

In 1938 the brickyard was producing 10 million bricks per year.

Coal was purchased from Haunchwood Brick & Tile's sister company: Arley Colliery Co. Ltd, and salt for salt glazing pipes was purchased from salt producers such as Amasol and the Salt Union Co. in Cheshire. This was brought by rail.

Rail traffic ceased at the end of June 1967 and the track was lifted during 1969.

The company was merged with G.W.Lewis Tileries in 1968 and traded thereafter as Haunchwood-Lewis Brick & Tile Ltd.

Nr. 1 works closed in February 1971 due to dwindling clay reserves and impending smoke pollution legislation. 120 people were employed on closure. Nr. 3 yard employed 70 on closure. Production was switched to Essington near Cannock. Demolition of Nr. 1 yard commenced in 1971 but the footprint of the site and the old kiln bases can be seen amongst the undergrowth of Whittleford Country Park. This wild life haven is rich with memories of the old brick and tile industry of Stockingford and is being looked after by Friends of Whittleford Country Park.

Haunchwood Brick & Tile supplied all the bricks and flooring blocks for Nuneaton Town Hall, Hunterston power station, Scotland, Nuneaton Flour mill 1885-6, the railway cuttings approaching Euston station under contract to the London & North Western Railway.

Gillette Razor headquarters at Isleworth.

Barker's Department Store, Kensington High Street.

Derry & Toms, London

D.H.Evans, Oxford Street

Milk Marketing Board headquarters at Thames Ditton

Earls Court Exhibition Building, London

Swan & Edgar Ltd., Piccadilly Circus, London

Peter Jones, Sloane Square, London.

Nottingham City Council House

Sandfaced briquettes were supplied to the ocean liner "Queen Mary" for use in one of her lounges.

Blue platform copings were sold to Egyptian State Railways

The seven foot high statue now in Nuneaton Museum which once adorned the former Prince of Wales (later Hippodrome) theatre and cinema was donated by Stanley Brothers.

Customers also included: The Patent Chimney Pot Co. of Leeds.

Sankeys of Canning Town

The Fawcett Co.

Diespeker & Co

Kleine Patent Flooring Syndicate Ltd. London.

Very detailed catalogues were produced by Cawthorne & Son, printers, Nuneaton.

There was some inter company trading between Haunchwood Brick & Tile & Stanley Brothers.

They had a stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition in the inter war period.

Most coal was supplied by Haunchwood (Old or Nowells) Colliery., Ansley Hall Coal and Iron Ltd, or Arley Colliery which was owned by the directors of Haunchwood Brick & Tile Ltd.

Nr. 2 Works, Heath End. Made red facing bricks, common red bricks and quarry tiles.

Heath End Road closed in 1946.

Nr. 3 Works, Bermuda. Made stoneware pipes and fittings, common bricks, hollow fire clay blocks, unglazed land drains, closed 1969/70

The business was taken over by Thomas Wragg of Swadlincote in 1970.

Haunchwood (Tunnel) Colliery

Officially opened on July 20th 1891 by Sir Alfred Hickman on the site of Woodland Cottage Farm. Sinking was finally completed on 1st January 1894. The chief shaft sinker here was Mr. Elijah Hyde.

A brickworks was also operated primarily for the manufacture of bricks used in the construction of the colliery, but later for production of common bricks. The brickworks closed in 1901.

Hawkesbury and Bedworth Brick & Tile Co. Ltd.

(1887-1923)

Benjamin Pollard Blockley (Proprietor) 1910

Taken over by Blockley's Ltd. of Hadley, Shropshire c. 1932.

The brickyard was built on Charity's Nrs. 3 & 4 collieries site. A siding existed for delivery of coal from Charity colliery close by, and a private siding connected to the Coventry- Nuneaton line which was installed in 1897. The branch to Charity colliery closed with the pit in 1924 although the Brick & Tile complex retained its rail connection until 1948-52. The brickworks address was Marston Lane, Bedworth.

Thomas Hincks (1776-1843)

Mary Hincks (by 1845)

The brickyard was on the site of Atack's billiard hall in Regent Street, then called Brick Kiln Lane. It stretched back across the later course of the Trent Valley main railway line. Thomas Hincks (1777-1843) was also proprietor of the town's flour mill.

The yard and kilns were obliterated by the construction of the railway. No tramway is indicated. There was a similar brick yard nearby also on the bed of the T.V.R. but the operator of this yard is not recorded. (See Peacock Lane brickyard).

Jees Quarries & Brickworks

Trading as R.R.Jee until 1877

later Jee's Hartshill Granite & Brick Co. Ltd.

Tarmac operated the site from 1st September 1972 but quarrying ceased by 2000.

These became extensive workings originally started by Richard Jee a local landowner at Hartshill from modest beginnings in 1822.

The quarry tramway was operated by horses up to the workfaces, by rope haulage up to the sides of the quarry but on the surface locomotive haulage was used. The gauge of the track was 2ft.6½inches. Locos were extensively used for overburden removal. Three steam locos were obtained from the Hunslet Engine Company between 1907-1910. There were three second hand engines from Bagnalls of Stafford between 1913-1931. A further Hunslet purchased second-hand from a contractor in Ireland and an ex-WD 4-6-0T Hunslet of the type widely used behind the front lines in France in the First World War. These were gradually replaced over the years by seven Ruston diesels. The narrow gauge tramways were subsequently replaced by mobile plant and were taken out of use by October 1954. The last steamer on site a 0-6-0T Bagnall named "Stafford" narrowly missed preservation when it was inspected by enthusiasts in its shed in June 1954 with preservation on the Talylyn Railway in Wales in mind. They went back the following week to conclude the deal and unfortunately found it cut up. One of the diesels a 4 wheel diesel mechanical built by Ruston & Hornsby in 1940 did make it into preservation in March 1957 and can be seen today on the Talylyn Railway under the guise of "Midlander". The last three diesels which entered service between 1942 and 1951 were sold for further use in 1955 to a customer in Scandinavia. The rest of the diesels were scrapped on site by 1960.

Moorwood Brickworks

Jee & Co. Ltd

A brickyard was operated as an offshoot of Jees Quarries which was served by a spur from the Stockingford branch at Chapel End. The connection was put in in the 1890's.

Brick making on this site ceased in 1912. The brick works chimney stood isolated for many years and was demolished in the 1950's.

Judkins Quarry

William Cropper & John Judkins in partnership, from mid 1840's. until 1862

William Arthur Judkins & Co. until 1903. (Leasehold purchased outright from the Aston Estates in 1864). Became a limited company in 1903 and traded as Judkins Ltd.

Judkins Ltd took over the former Boons, Windmill Hill Quarry in 1955 and that quarry was absorbed within the greater workings of Judkins and was obliterated by their workings.

In 1970 Amey Roadstone Corporation took over the quarry and it traded as ARC from 1972 onwards.

Marston Hall, Perch Hill & Pink Hill Quarries, Marston Jabbett

Camwell & Boon (1860)

B.J.Forder & Son Ltd (1904, 1924)

London Brick Co. & Forders Ltd

London Brick Co. Ltd

The quarries at Marston Jabbett were started by 1850. They were small and worked out by the 1920's. The London Brick Co. Ltd. took over the site and removed the crushing plant and conveyors to provide a brick distribution depot. A railway siding branch from the Trent Valley main line had been opened on 27th March 1904. After the stone trade had ceased the branch was used to bring lengthy trains of bricks from the LBC's Bedfordshire brickworks for local distribution by lorry. They used three petrol and diesel engine shunting locomotives for handling the internal shunting. A narrow gauge tramway had formerly been used around the quarries, worked by horses, but the track was abandoned after stone extraction ceased.

Newdigate Colliery, Bedworth

F.A. Newdigate

Newdigate Colliery & Brickworks in 1900

Newdigate Colliery Co. Ltd until 1914

Newdigate Colliery (1914) Ltd

National Coal Board (1947 until closure)

Sinking commenced in 1898 and coal winding started in 1901. In 1914 1174 men were employed below ground and 350 on the surface. In 1914 there was an underground fire which brought about a stoppage and the failure of the company. The company was re-formed in the same year. In 1938 there were a total of 1249 men employed, in 1957, 1249 men. In 1960 the colliery employed 972 below ground and 404 on the surface. and on closure in 1982, just 235 men. A brickyard was also located next to Newdigate Colliery which operated for some years.

Nuneaton Colliery Brickworks,

Stanley Brothers (worked 1877-1899)

A Newcomen engine was erected here in 1736.

Leases covering the period 1730-1771 extant. The colliery closed in 1855 and re-opened in 1868.

The colliery officially closed on 26th April 1899. The miners were then transferred to Nuneaton (New) Colliery at Whittleford.

Nuneaton (New) Colliery, Whittleford.

Stanley Brothers Ltd (1900-1922)

In 1896 Nuneaton (New Colliery) was being sunk with 24 men underground and 26 on the surface.

In 1910 employed 1115 men. In 1920 there were employed 1392 men, but on closure in 1922 the figure had reduced to 844.

After the colliery closed the site was converted into Stanley's Nr. 7 brickyard which operated between 1922 and 1940 when it too closed.

F. Parrott

Paid rates on a brickyard in Bedworth in 1828. Location not known.

J. Pinkerton

Paid rates on a brickyard, coal pits and stone pits in Bedworth in 1828. Location not known.

Joseph Parker (1866, 1874)

Blue brick manufacturer, Stockingford

Ezra Paul

(extant 1854)

Builder, brickmaker, manufacturer of quarries, paving slabs, drain pipes for sanitary purposes. Attleborough. (possibly at Attleborough stone quarry and brickworks). Samples of bricks with the name Paul incised in the frog are known to exist.

Peacock Lane Brickyard

(extant 1845)

Located off Peacock Lane (now King Edward Road) Nuneaton. The brickyard was situated in the middle of the trackbed of what is now the main railway line from Rugby to Stafford. The land belonged to William Stratford Dugdale but was rented to a local brickmaker, although we do not know which one of the Nuneaton brick makers worked the yard at the time. It seems possible that a depression in Nuneaton cemetery used to lay wreaths for people who have been cremated may be a remnant of the clay excavations connected with this brickyard. The brickyard only appears on the track plan and section of the Trent Valley main line of the L.N.W.R. It would have been largely obliterated by the construction of that line commencing in 1845.

Premier Artificial Stone Co. Ltd.

Moorwood (later Globe Works, Chapel End.)

Gibson & Preston's Patent Slab Works

Ireland & Knight originally (who later moved to Mancetter Granite Quarries)

Moorwood, Hartshill.

Connected to the Stockingford Branch railway line at Ireland & Knight's siding c. 1897. A member of the Ireland family told me that their workings here were not successful as the stone was of poor quality. That is why they moved to take over Mancetter Granite Quarries. It does seem though that the stone was of sufficient quality for crushing to make concrete. This was used by the Premier Artificial Stone Co. Ltd. in their products. It is likely that production at this the quarry here was short lived and stone came from other local quarries latterly. The spur from the branch also served Jee's Moorwood brickyard. The brickyard closed in 1912 (see separate entry). The spur seems to have been abandoned in 1915, although not lifted until the 1930's. There was a narrow gauge rope-worked tramway connecting the railway loading dock, the works and the quarry face. Premier Artificial Stone Co. Ltd. made paving slabs, kerbs, house lintels, and other concrete building products. The concrete company moved to the site of Stockingford Colliery in the 1930's taking over the old colliery site and continued production there until the 1990's.

John Robinson

John Robinson (1822-1896)

A John Robinson (probably the father) operated a brickyard on the Common, Stockingford by 1828. He resided in Church Street. A brickyard was still operated by a John Robinson (presumably the son of the original John) as late as 1874.

Rowland Robinson

Rowland Robinson

(listed: 1850)

Brickmaker and Farmer, Church Street, Nuneaton

Thomas Robinson

Opened a blue brick and tile yard in Swan Lane and also sunk an 80'0" deep coal shaft.

George Sidwell

Brickmaker. Chilvers Coton, extant 1818. George is said to have emigrated to America where he sold his brick making equipment patent.

Robert Sidwell

(1850)

Brickmaker, Heath End, Chilvers Coton

Stanley Brothers Ltd

(formerly David Wheway offered for sale in January 1869 after his death in 1868.)

Stanley & Broadbent (1869)

Stanley Brothers (1869-1895)

Stanley Brothers Ltd. (1895-1988) became part of the Higgs & Hill Group in July 1961. The remaining business was sold to the rival Leicestershire terracotta manufacturer – Redbank Manufacturing Co. Ltd in 1986. All sites except nr. 5 yard have been redeveloped for housing.

In 1857 the yards later operated were in the hands of four parties who made blue bricks, glazed pipes and roofing tiles. One yard was Handley & Wheway (see their entry) On the death of David Wheway in 1868, his executors sold the brickyard to two Leicester businessmen trading as Stanley & Broadbent. In Nrs. 1,2, and 3 brickyard was a fireclay pit employing 6 underground and 2 on the surface. Stanley Brothers brickyard estate covered 145 acres by 1900. The driving force behind Stanley Brothers was Reginald Stanley (1838-1913). He was borne in Hayle in Cornwall and migrated to the United States of America in 1857 to seek his fortune. After an epic decade in America which included a period of great turbulence the American Civil War, he was gold prospecting out west. Whilst out there he became one of the founding fathers of the state capital of Montana – Helena. On his return to England in 1869 he found his brother, Jacob and cousin in partnership. Reginald Broadbent was in failing health so Reginald Stanley bought into the partnership and in 1872 his brother relinquished his day to day involvement but still retained a financial interest, as indeed the Broadbent family did. They were shareholders and sleeping partners for many years. The Broadbent's owned a builders merchant's business in the city of Leicester. When the business formed into a limited company in 1895 it was said to have 4000 customers.

Yards:

Nr. 1 Yard Red ridge tiles and chimney pots

Nr. 2 Yard Salt glazed stoneware pipes

Nr. 3 Yard Multiplex quarries, super paving tiles, common red bricks.

Nr. 4 Yard Glazed bricks and sinks, malt kiln tiles.

Nr. 5 Yard Blue bricks and paviers

Nr. 6 & 7 Yard Common bricks

Production finally ceased on 31st January 1988. Its commercial records were acquired by the Nuneaton Civic Society and are on permanent loan to Warwickshire County Records Office.

Stockingford Colliery

Stockingford Colliery Co. Ltd from 30.12.1868. Production commenced in 1872. Generally it had a fairly uneconomic history and exchanged hands several times. A brickworks was also in use and operated up until 1894 and was disused after that year.

Swan Lane Colliery

Cooper & Handley
Handley & Wheway

David Wheway (-1868) (son in law of Walter Handley (1783-1864))

Stanley Brothers (1872-1878)

This colliery was part of the business of Stockingford farmer – Walter Handley, who also owned a brickyard, and the Black Swan Pub which he opened in 1830 – hence the name given to the stretch of roadway between the Coventry Canal and the location of the pub – Swan Lane, known today as Croft Road. The executors of David Wheway sold the brickyard to the partnership of Broadbent & Stanley later to become Stanley Brothers Ltd. The colliery was worked out by 1878. Walter Handley is known to have had a brickyard in Wilnecote, near Tamworth in 1825.

Robert Tyler

(1564)

Roofing Tile Manufacture, Nuneaton town.

James Wagstaff

Builder and brickmaker of Nuneaton (also may have been a land valuer and auctioneer – extant 1835, 1841)

Samuel Wood

Heath End, Nuneaton. Operating in 1808. Later business carried on by George Sidwell, who subsequently went to America to sell his brick making patent. The brickyard was extant on land rented from the Harpur family in 1836.

Wyken Colliery Co.

Lessees: Sir Thomas White's Charity administered by Coventry Corporation

(As was also: Hawkesbury, Craven (Sowe) collieries)

Huntingdon Beaumont (1595)

Sir Thomas Beaumont (1611)

Earl of Dover (1636)

Sir John Winter (1671)

Evans & Broome

James & Hall (1820)

James Sibley Whitton (by 1856 and in 1881 he is listed as a farmer of 256 acres)

(The colliery had its own farm attached to it)

Warwickshire Coal Co. Ltd from April 1912

Brickworks were also operated at one time. It produced red bricks, drain pipes and tiles. Between June 1855 and March 1856 407,850 bricks were produced here.

Wyken merged with Craven Colliery and they closed together in 1928.