

Ranmoor Society Notes *March 2023*

Parker, Roebuck & Shore: The 1843 crash

Parker, Roebuck & Shore the town's first ever bank, crashed unexpectedly on January 16th 1843. It was described by the Yorkshire Post as Sheffield's "most severe commercial calamity ever". There was immediate widespread panic. As the town was not yet a borough and had no council, it was Master Cutler William Broadhurst who convened a meeting at the Cutlers' Hall for 3pm the same day! Amid the chaotic uproar James Montgomery, former editor, poet, hymn writer and now local elder statesman stepped up to calm the gathering which finally agreed to give full support to the other six banks to prevent matters becoming even worse.

During the 1780's and 1790's brothers John and William Shore had been in charge and by moving their premises from Church Lane to a Shore property and created Bank Street – a great publicity coup. Following the brothers' respective retirements, and the exit of John Shore junior, Hugh Parker (from 1808) and Offley Shore (1818) had become the principal partners. Parker, eldest son of a founder, was the town's senior magistrate, ironically prosecuting local bankrupts. Offley Shore was a great nephew of John and William and squire of Norton.

Bankruptcy proceedings were held in Leeds because of Parker's previous Sheffield role. It began with an examination of the personal accounts of former partners John and William Shore and revealed that both had left substantial debts unpaid (£13,530 and £3,289). More seriously John Shore junior had fled to America owing even more (£29,790) but this debt had been kept in the accounts as an asset, with little chance of repayment.

When the business accounts were examined the most outstanding deficit was an overdraft (i.e. an unsecured loan) of some £65,000 made to Booth & Co of the Park Iron Works where no interest had been charged for the past 15 years. It transpired that an original partner at Booth's had been John Shore's father-in-law! When many other significant deficits were taken into account it became evident that total business "bad" debts amounted to around £250,000, with "good" debt considerably less at £191,000.



The printing of their bank notes then came under scrutiny. In

1825 more than £150,000 had been in circulation. An examiner commented that Parker Shore must really have been bankrupt at this point. The current partners had clearly worked hard to improve matters as the note tally in 1842 was £37,000, a three-quarter reduction

The Leeds court concluded that there had been malpractice and theft of funds and more recently poor management, negligence and false accounting. The previous six years of severe trade depression during which a rise in local bankruptcies had led on to more defaulting clients was overlooked as was an overdraft of £21,000 owed by Baron Wharnccliffe of Wortley Hall. He had been Lord Privy Seal in Robert Peel's 1830's government and when he died intestate in 1845 his total debts nationwide amounted to £233,816. An establishment cover-up has to this day kept it secret.



In the dock after criticism for not being more hands-on both Parker, now 70, and Shore 46, argued that they were otherwise pre-occupied, Parker as a busy magistrate and Shore rebuilding Norton Hall and being obliged to spend much time in London at Chancery.

Portrait of partner Hugh Parker

The first dividend of five shillings was paid in August 1843, but the last came nearly nineteen years later in November 1861. The final total was 13s 1½d in the pound, almost two thirds. An angry creditor wrote to one local newspaper complaining that the administrators had, on the one hand, sold off the bankrupts' properties far too hurriedly when values were low because of the recession, and, on the other, had allowed many recoveries to drag on at huge cost. He argued that, with better process, the partners and hence the bank, might just have been solvent!

This story has relevance to Ranmoor. Firstly, William Shore, an early partner, had lived at Tapton Mount, later Tapton Hall on Shore Lane. And secondly, within weeks of the failure, Edward Vickers, steelmaker, had with others taken over the Bank Street premises and created the Sheffield Union Bank. It was Vickers who purchased Tapton Mount in 1855 after Mrs Shore's death and, using Flocktons as architects, built the Tapton Hall we see today. Was it more than coincidence that he was drawn to Ranmoor?

Our thanks to Member Neville Flavell for researching this story and for presenting it at our meeting last October.

Carsick Hill or Carsick Hall?

Stuart and Anne Barratt's researches into their family history uncovered a newspaper item of 1843 that mystified them. It stated that an ancestor, "William Creswick of *Carsick Hall* had been proposed as a Burgess for the Upper Hallam Ward". They however believed that William, who died in 1857, had been a farmer, in line with many previous generations. And the census confirmed that between 1841 and 1851 William indeed lived and farmed in Tom Lane. But at *Carsick Hill Farm*! Unsurprisingly the newspaper had confused the two similar names.

But does *Carsick Hall* exist? The earliest reference to *Carsick Hall* appears in the 1840 register of electors naming William Andrew, a scythe maker, as living in and owning *Carsick Hall* in Sandygate. The 1841 and 1851 censuses confirm that the Andrew family continued to own and occupy *Carsick Hall* over this period. As it does not appear on the 1795 Fairbank survey map we can presume it was built after 1795. A description by Joseph Creswick of Snaithing Farm dismisses *Carsick Hall* as "... near the water conduit, a small double-fronted house unworthy of its name, but very old and very old-fashioned." Today *Carsick Hall* is a conventional house at 66 Carsick Hill Road. In contrast both *Carsick Hill Farm* and *Carsick Hall Farm* are evident on the 1795 Fairbank map and stood opposite each other across Carsick Hill Road.

Carsick Hill Farm

Carsick Hill Farm the home of William Creswick in the mid 19th century was typical of farms in the area and dates back to 1620. A photo in Peter Warr's book on Ranmoor shows how it looked around 1900 prior to it being renovated in 1919 as a modern home. Between 1903 and 1908 *Carsick Hill Farm* was occupied by Charles Smithson, his wife Emma and daughter Constance (age 9 in 1901). From 1908-1912 it was occupied by John and Amy Creswick. It is now known as *Carsick Cottage* and stands at 146 Tom Lane.

Carsick Hall Farm

Frustratingly no link between *Carsick Hall* and *Carsick Hall Farm* was found. The 1901 census shows it occupied by Elizabeth Woodhouse and her family but no one there seems to have been involved in farming. One son, Thomas, and a nephew Charles Fox, are "quarrymen", and her other son Henry is a "stonewall mason". She also has three daughters Elsie (10), Eliza (8) and Bessie (6). In 1911 the census shows Elizabeth Woodhouse was still living here with her three daughters now described as "Day Girls (Domestic)". It was rebuilt as a stone bungalow in 1920's, and today can be discovered at Number 2 Stumperlowe Hall Road.

The sad demise of the Plough Inn:

A number of milestones stand out in the 400 year history of the Plough Inn at Sandygate.

1695, the date on a plaque over the front door was probably bequeathed by an earlier building, a farm possibly. In 1841 it was known as Causeway House, a hostelry serving thirsty travellers on their way to and from Stanage along, the medieval packhorse road between Sheffield and Hathersage known as Long Causeway. The 1851 census shows it had now become "The Plough". By 1860 the ground opposite had become the home of Hallam Football Club founded by Sheffield FC members Thomas Vickers and John Shaw and was chosen to host the Club's first game against Sheffield FC on Boxing Day that year. The Plough must surely have witnessed the celebrations and on many Saturdays since. It is even rumoured that the original rules of football were first drawn up in its very rooms.

Well into the twentieth century this building continued to reflect its farming heritage but after the Great War it was decided that the time had come to replace with a more modern building in 1929. The later Plough has been described by Historic England as an important example of an inter-war public house. Some of us may be able to recall enjoying a pint there with friends over a game of snooker on its full size table back in the sixties or seventies.

Whitbread took it over from Tennant in 1962; by 2003 Enterprise Inns was the owner but closed it in 2016 and Sainsbury's then applied for planning permission to erect a convenience store on the site. Despite its honorable history which includes the 2019 "Save the Plough" campaign which raised £435,000 by selling community shares, a building development company eventually prevailed.

Now in early 2023 the remains of the Plough lie in the demolition yard of the Reclaimed Brick Company and we are invited to purchase and own "an important piece of Sheffield and football history". Henceforth any drinking on this site will be enjoyed by the new owners of the 8 houses planned to be built here.

Committee

Chairman	Mike Killingley	263 0454
Secretary	Gerald Eveleigh	230 1992
Treasurer	Nick Morris	07515 889 394
Planning	David Barber	230 4717
Membership	Peter Marrison	230 3238
Meetings	Helen Sweet	230 1252