

Malton Iron Foundries

Introduction

There would have been great demand from the surrounding area for metalwork for agricultural implements and parts for machinery in the mills and breweries in the town. The occupation of iron founder was usually attached to those who owned and operated an iron foundry. Iron moulders made the moulds for casting the iron. As skills and technology evolved the iron founders were able to

The Malton Foundry

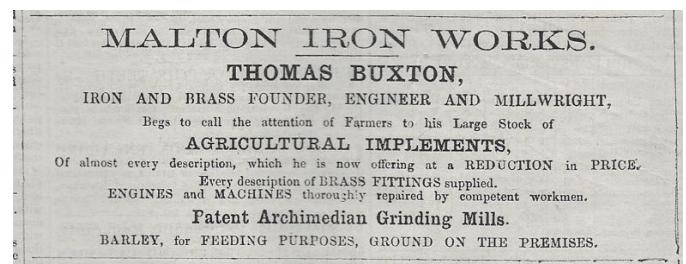
The 'Malton Foundry' was for some time prior to 1836 in the hands of Mr. James Booth [1]. In 1836, Thomas Buxton announced [1] 'that he has taken the above foundry with the extensive stock of Models; and where he continues to manufacture and supply Casting for Engines, Millwork, and machinery of every description, Patent and other Pumps, Gates and Palisading of the newest patterns; Spoutings, pipes, etc.' All may have not gone well with the transfer of the business however since in July 1836 there was a legal case Booth v Buxton for trover, arising out of a disputed right to the foundry at Malton. The case ended in a juror being withdrawn, leaving each party to pay its costs. Whilst the case was proceeding, Booth, against whom an indictment was preferred by Buxton, for damaging machinery, was called to the Crown Court to take his trial for the felony [2].

Thomas Buxton exhibited his 'two knife straw cutter, machine fan, three rowed presser with corn drill, American rake, turnip cutter and thrashing machine (among other items) at the Grand Exhibition of the Yorkshire Agricultural Society in 1839 [3] His thrashing machine was awarded a prize 'for the application of a lever to his portable thrashing machine, whereby one man can raise weight equal to the power of two or three men.' [4] Presumably a significant advancement in

offer improvements to agricultural implements and exhibit and market their inventions. The 1851 Census tells us there were 5 iron founders in Malton: Benjamin Marshall, in Carpenter's Yard; William Carr, in Newbiggin; Ralph Yates in Low Street; Thomas Buxton in Yorkersgate (but foundry in Old Maltongate); and, Joseph Lucas in the Market Place.

mechanisation at the time. In succeeding years there were frequent exhibitions in which Thomas was commended.

In the 1851 census Thomas Buxton is listed in Yorkersgate as a "Land Surveyor, Iron & Brass Founder, Master, employing 13 men and 10 apprentices - a sizeable business. His foundry was though in Old Maltongate. In the 1871 census Thomas Buxton is still listed in Yorkersgate as an 'iron and brass founder, employing 4 men and 1 boy.' His son John is at the same address and described as an engine fitter.



The above advertisement is taken from the Malton Messenger, 28 September 1871. Thomas died at Malton in April 1872.

In April 1877, the business is put up for sale with 'instructions from Mr. John Buxton (who is giving up the trade) to sell by auction . . . ' [5] A full advertisement appeared shortly afterwards which listed the plant etc. [6]:

Malton Iron Foundry

To Engineers, Boiler Makers, Pattern Makers, Designers, Ironmongers, Iron Merchants, Builders, Tool Makers, chain Makers, Gasfitters, Blacksmiths, Wheel moulders, Metal Brokers, Carpenters, Dealers in Stores, and others.

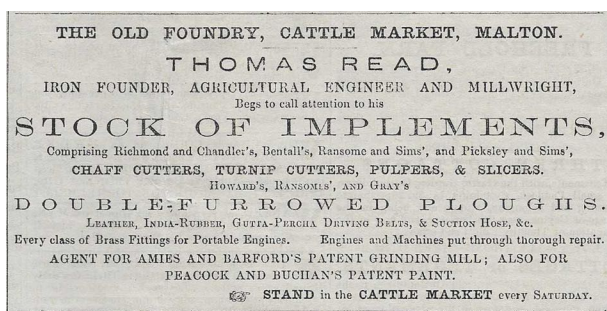
Mr. R. BOULTON has received instructions from Mr. John Buxton (who is giving up the trade) to Sell by Auction, on Monday and Tuesday, April 30th and May 1st, 1877,

THE whole of the Valuable PLANT belonging to the above old-established Works, comprising foundry boxes, ladles, patterns in wood and iron, bar and pig iron, several valuable sets of blacksmiths' fitters', and turners' tools, scrap iron and metal, engine and boiler cupola, with fan and connecting pipe; drilling machines, hand shearing do., powerful fly-punching do., 4-ton foundry crane, with necessaries; several good benches, two chaff cutters, pulper, bogies and hand-carts, grindstone, portable forge, a first-class self-acting screw-cutting slide lathe, 16ft. bed, 10 in. centres, with all recent improvements (only been erected nine months); saw bench, Benthall's scarifier, two grinding mills, castings, fire ranges and requisites, iron shafting, plumber blocks, blocks, caps and brasses, driving pulleys and cones, strapping and driving belts, mandrils, cramps, drilling stands, screw jack, screw post, core barrels, bar and tool steel, numerous weights, and a large collection of general stores used in the business. Also a quantity of timber, and all the office requisites.

Sale each day at 12 o'clock.

Auctioneer's Offices: Castlegate and,
Cattle Market, Malton

The Old Foundry

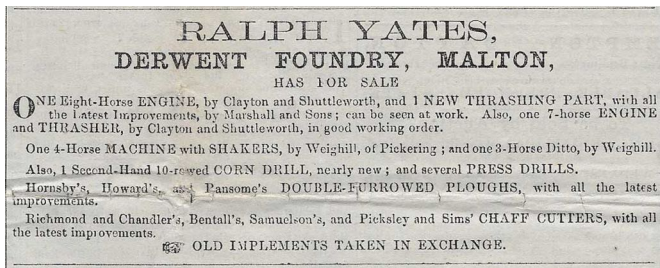


The 'Old Foundry' in the Cattle Market was run by the Gibson family, who also had similar interests in Driffield. An announcement appeared in the press in December 1833 'Take Notice, That all persons who stand indebted to Arthur Gibson, Iron Founder, New Malton are desired not to pay any Account they may stand indebted to the said Arthur Gibson, except to himself, or to his Son, Robert Gibson, and he further gives notice, that he will not be

answerable for the Payment of any Goods, unless ordered by himself, or by his Son, Robert Gibson, Malton, December 12, 1833 [7]. Arthur Gibson has a memorial to him inside St. Leonard's Church inscribed '*Here lies one, when living, had his virtues and vices, copy his virtues and shun his vices.*'

An advertisement in 1844 [8] placed by E. Gibson, Iron Founder, Engineer, Mill-wright and Machinist, 'begs to inform his friends and the public that he has taken the foundry established and carried on by his Father and Brother . . .', and also refers to the show room in the Cattle-Market. Prior to 1851 possibly Joseph Lucas took these premises. It looks likely that Thomas Read eventually succeeded to this business as he is listed with premises in both the Market Place and Cattle Market in Whites Directory, 1867.

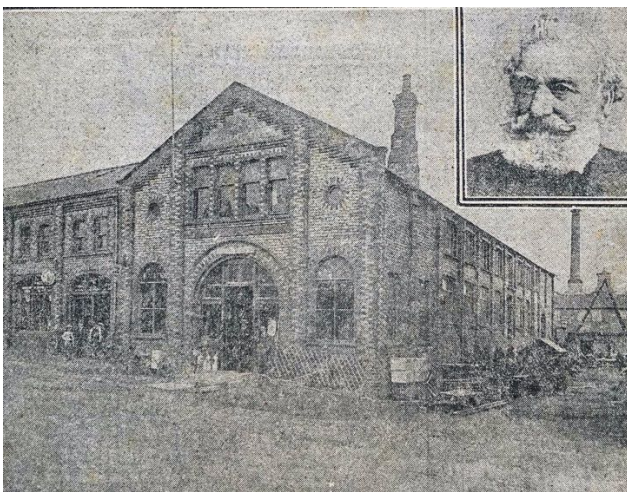
The Derwent Foundry



The "Old Hand", writing in the Yorkshire Gazette, states that the business of Ralph Yates was started in Carpenter's Yard then the site of the old Keel dock. As the river traffic fell away, the foundry

increased in capacity, eventually taking the whole of the yard and expanding into Railway-st. Buxton's foundry existed when Mr. Yates began, but within a short period he had the monopoly in Malton. He went in largely for the sale of agricultural machinery and implements and introduced into the district the Massey Harris reaper which revolutionised harvesting. He was assisted in the business by two brothers and took his sons into the firm. In later years he took to farming the land at Whitewall which had belonged to John Scott [9].

The following article is taken from the Yorkshire Gazette series Malton Trades and Industries.



The firm of Messrs. Ralph Yates and Sons, agricultural implement makers and iron founders has been established for over half a century. The Derwent Foundry occupies a large area of ground in Railway-st., and the firm's goods are to be found on most of the farms in the North-East of Yorkshire. Mr. Ralph Yates, originator of the firm, served his apprenticeship with Mr. Marshall, whose foundry occupied the site of part of the present works; and after completing the terms of his indentures, he obtained a situation with an important firm in Oldham. On the death of his late master, he returned to Malton in order to take over his business, and since that time it has extended and increased, until the name of Yates is known throughout the county.

In the early days, the late Mr. Yates practically restricted his work to moulding of castings, but from small beginnings the business has been built up to its present position. From time to time Messrs.

Yates have acquired most of the patterns held by foundries in the town and district which have "closed down," and as a result, the firm is in a position to carry out almost any casting work. The front premises, which face Railway-st. and Wells-lane, were erected about thirty years ago. The general repairing sheds - a photograph of which is shown on this page - were erected a few years ago. They were built at the river side on the site of an old coal wharf which belonged to a Mr. Pierson. The show rooms and offices are extensive and commodious, enabling many of the firm's special lines to be effectively displayed.

One of the principal manufactures of Messrs. Yates is the J.H.B. plough, which has deservedly gained a great amount of success. It is largely used by agriculturists throughout the district, and Messrs. Yates have received more expressions of gratification from purchasers.

Other manufactures of the firm are turnip cutters and corn and press drills. All these are well-known in the district. Messrs. Yates hold the agencies for the noted Massey-Harris self binders, Ransome's ploughs and shares, Bamford's swathers, horse rakes and grinding mills, Martin's cultivators, May's separators and best makes of dairy appliances, implements, and all agricultural requisites. A later feature of the firm's enterprise has been in connection with kitchen ranges and register stoves. The "Yates" ranges are held in high repute and there is no doubt that the workmanship involved in their making is of the best. Messrs. Yates do a large

business in the more ornamental drawing-room fire grates and fancy mantelpieces, and many residences in Malton and the district have been fitted with these by the firm. One of the large rooms in Wells-lane is devoted to an exhibition of modern grates and register stoves and there is always on view an elaborate display of fancy tiles and tiled hearths. At the northern agricultural shows Messrs. Yates always have interesting "stands," at which all the latest and most up-to-date implements and machinery are shown.

Mr. George Yates is a well-known figure at all the markets in the district. He has attended those weekly markets at Pickering, Helmsley, Kirbymoorside, Driffield, Scarborough and Malton for many years, and there will be much regret that, owing to indisposition, he has now had to give up these engagements.

Another important side of the firm's business has to do with threshing operations. In an important agricultural district such as this, threshing machines

are in great demand, and Messrs. Yates have eight sets of engines and machines, which at this period of the year are constantly employed. The machines are drawn from one farm to another by means of traction engines, which are used to drive the machinery when stationary.

The present heads of the firm are Messrs. Harry, Alfred, and Ralph Yates. Over sixty men and lads are employed, and the firm is served by an efficient clerical staff. A visit to the foundry is a source of much interest, especially at a time when special casting operations have to be continued into the night. The sky then reflects the lurid glare of the furnaces and the movements of the workmen, and the continual rap, rap of their hammers, make the scene a weird one. Messrs. Yates have carried out many important contracts, including the installation of heating apparatus at Hutton Hall, the new Grammar School, and many churches and chapels. [10]

Opening of New Ironworks

On Thursday a new ironworks was opened at Malton. Mr. Normanton, an agent of the Brazilian Gas Company (who is also a native of Malton) having brought over to England an extensive order for pipes and other material for that Company, entrusted it to the hands of Mr. Read, who has had an extensive foundry erected near the railway

station, and has opened a large ironworks in connection therewith. Over 1,000 tons of goods are ordered for Rio de Janeiro, and other orders are expected. The opening of the new works was celebrated by a dinner to over 100 workmen on Thursday night [11] Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 8 November 1873

References

[1] Yorkshire Gazette, 16 April 1836

[2] Sheffield Independent, 16 July 1836

[3] Leeds Intelligencer, 31 August 1839

[4] Yorkshire Gazette, 31 August 1839

[5] Leeds Mercury, 23 April 1877

[6] Leeds Mercury, 28 April 1877

[7] Yorkshire Gazette, 14 December 1833

[8] Yorkshire Gazette, 11 May 1844

[9] Yorkshire Gazette 29 December 1906

[10] Yorkshire Gazette 11 Nov 1911

[11] Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 8 November 1873