

SHOTLEY BRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



THE STORY
OF
OUR VILLAGE



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by

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SHOTLEY BRIDGE is situated on the right bank of the river Derwent in the parish of Benfieldside in the county of Durham, equidistant (14 miles) from Newcastle, Durham and Hexham.

The Derwent here divides the counties of Durham and Northumberland and is spanned by a bridge of one arch from which the village derived its name.

It is now chiefly residential this slumbering stone-built village, abounding with handsome villas set in large gardens and ground. Most of these residences were erected in times when various forms of industry flourished here, but during the past twenty years many semi-detached houses and bungalows of brick have been built in the vicinity.

Industries have vanished one by one, first the cutlery manufacture, then the paper-making trade, lastly the flour-milling industry. Two gasometers, owned by the National Gas Board, alone remain.

Shotley's chief attraction today lies in its natural beauty, the winding river sparkling between the rich tree-lined banks, the attraction of the Spa grounds and its convenience as a centre from which to explore the higher reaches of the valley.

Yet this was not always a rural retreat for the holiday-minded people of Tyneside and elsewhere in the North-East.

Today, half-demolished streets—these are in the older part of the village down by the river bank—a deserted mill, and stately buildings still clinging to their dignity testify not only to the hand of time but to a place that never quite “made it” as a town.

Shotley alone, however, must have been the simple and primeval name of a considerable tract of country round about, to which several affixes have subsequently been made: Hence Shotley Parish, in Northumberland, on the northern side of the river, Shotley Field, a rural village two miles west, Shotley Grove higher up the river and Shotley Spa.

Nothing has been determined concerning the place-name. We have here a piece of countryside with the general name of Shotley, *ley* synonymous with *lea* meaning a "clearing in a wood." Certainly three or four centuries ago, the sloping banks of this river Derwent at Shotley Bridge and the heights at Benfieldside were covered with forest; with a clearing here and there to mark habitation.

The Bishops of Durham used to appoint a forest keeper of their woods, where they or their retainers were wont to follow the chase, for at that time the native red deer frequented the neighbourhood.

A bridge across the Derwent evidently existed here between five or six hundred years ago, for in the survey of Bishop Hatfield under Benfieldside, one of the villis of the Manor of Lanchester: "William Broune holding 1 messuage and 12 acres, formerly held by William at the brig; and again, Thomas of the brig held 1 messuage and 27 acres, formerly held by John Abel." At this time the bridge was a wooden structure for foot passengers only.

No date or inscription to determine when the present bridge was built has been ascertained. About 1820 the old one was widened and made level, and on the old battlements was an inscription which disappeared when the alterations were made.

Mr. Jonathan Marshall, of Shotley Field, who left many fine structures in the neighbourhood in ample proof of his ability, was the architect and builder.

There were, before any bridge, several fords across the river near Shotley. The rage of floods have effaced the vestiges, and seem to deny the existence of these fords; but the course of a rivulet which descended the channel of the oldest road, now filled up, marked the primeval way down to the principal ford at Shotley. A great annoyance on this old narrow road was when two carts not infrequently laden, met on the same pass, and one was compelled to "back," perhaps a mile. Single horses, however, were generally employed in bringing stores or carrying corn to market.

One of these fords is said to have been the scene of one of "Mad Maddison's" earliest mischievous exploits—a notorious character who lived in a large house near the river.

"He had considerable estate in the neighbourhood, and was for some time a kind of warden in the district. His christian name was Ralph, which was seldom given him anywhere, 'Mad,' because of its fitness to give some idea of his eccentric and wicked conduct.

"On one occasion when the river was in spate, an elderly woman who had heard of his mischievous fame but did not know him, saw him near the ford on horseback. She asked him to take her over the river as she dared not wade through, saying, 'she was glad to meet such a canny man and was afraid of meeting Mad Maddison.'

"He took her on beside him and having reached the middle of the river the 'canny man' pushed her off into the rushing torrent and heartily laughing left her to sink or swim; the unfortunate woman, after having been carried a long way down, managed to gain the shore and with difficulty recovered.

"At night he would amuse himself by overturning stacks of hay and corn. One old man, however, who had been often annoyed in this way, built his stack round the stump of an old tree; when Maddison came to his usual mischief he found an obstruction and after repeated attempts ran away in great fear of some witch in the stack. (At this time about 1681, there was a very real belief in witchcraft and ghosts in the vicinity).

"And one night when his son-in-law and he had been drinking at the bridge-end public house, he proposed to go home, and his own wild horse, of high temper and far famed for speed, being brought out, he put his son-in-law backwards upon him and put a bunch of thorns where it made the horse frantic; the infuriated animal darted across the river and threw the unfortunate man.

"And after his daughter, who is said to have been a beautiful and talented woman, married again, he attempted—by shooting—the life of her second husband; indeed there was no end to his wickedness, and eventually he was hanged at Durham."

Now above the bridge the banks on both sides are overhung with beech and oak, and here the river has formed its bed in the millstone-grit which it has laid bare. This rock was used for millstones some five centuries ago and existing records show that in this locality, such use was made of this class of stone:—

"The Halmote Roll of 1356 contains numerous entries of payments made for license to dig millstones out of the bed of the river, and frequent fines are made for taking them without the Lord's license. John Robinson is fined for not having John Milner of Iveston to answer the Lord for five millstones obtained at Shotley Brig; and at a subsequent Court (vol. c, p. 571) the jury of the vill of Benfieldside present that, John Sadler arrested John, the miller of Iveston for two pairs of millstones of the value of two shillings, for the Lord's rent for leave to dig the millstones in the Lord's soil near Shotley Brig."

It is curious to observe traces of these depredations upon the Lord's strict rights still existing in the river bed, after the lapse of five centuries. Between the bridge and the paper mill, may be seen numerous round holes in the millstone-grit from which millstones have been taken; and it is not difficult to believe that the entries above refer to some of the existing marks.

THE SWORD MAKERS OF SHOTLEY BRIDGE

THE HISTORY of Shotley Bridge as a place of importance may be said to have commenced at the close of the 17th century, when it was colonised by a few German refugees who fled from their own country for the sake of religious liberty.

The Shotley colonists came from Solingen, a small city of Cleve Berg, in Germany, celebrated of old for cutlery manufactures. Their names as far as can be ascertained with any degree of certainty were: Oley, Vooz, Mole and Bertram.

Surtees, in his notice of the colony (History of North-West Durham), fixes the reign of William III as the date of their coming; but although a considerable increase in the German community took place at that time there is evidence of much earlier settlement here. Ebchester register has an entry, "Eleanor, daughter of Matthias Wrightson Oley, baptised 1628," furthermore, at the Newcastle-on-Tyne Polytechnic Exhibition in 1848, there was shown a sword made some 200 years previously and bearing the British arms and the name Oley.

The account of the Germans choosing this locality, preserved among their descendants, is that they sought for a place suited to their purpose in several parts of England before finally reaching the river Derwent; and following the course of the river they reach Shotley, where the remarkable softness of the water, the excellence of the ironstone in the neighbouring hills and no doubt the beauty and seclusion of the valley, induced them to remain.

These men were craftsmen in the art of sword making. And on certain stones in the river today may be seen the grooves left by "sliping" and tempering of the precious blades. There were obvious reasons for them to have their shops and houses near the river; an opinion has universally prevailed among the old inhabitants, and long been confirmed by facts, that "no fever of epidemic disease can long remain in Shotley nor even

gain prevalence there because of the near and rapid sweep of the stream."

But now the old houses, many of them bearing inscriptions which told the cause of the sword makers leaving their fatherland, are crumbling and forgotten. And although they are officially classed as ancient monuments today, the planners say that because of their poor state they must be demolished.

Yet the men who lived in these now tumbledown shells, once turned out swords reputed to rival those from Toledo and Damascus in flexibility and strength.

One story concerns Robert Oley: He made a bet with eight foreman smiths that he could, within two weeks, produce a spring better than any of them could make. When Oley appeared at the appointed meeting place apparently without his spring he was declared to have lost his bet. Oley, however, placed his hat on the table and all saw that the spring lay coiled inside it in the form a double-edged sword. He won the bet and offered to pay the amount to anyone who could state which way the spring had been coiled. But no one could do this.

Today, some excellent swords made by these German makers are preserved at Hamsterley Hall—the residence of Viscount Gort, brother of the late Field Marshal Viscount Gort, V.C., D.S.O., C.B., who died in March 1946.

Swords were still being made in the first half of the 19th century, but fierce competition from Sheffield and elsewhere put them out of business.

The Oley's and others played no small part in what is now one of the largest steel works in the country—Consett Iron Co. Ltd.; one of the earliest factories for the manufacturer of steel started in Shotley Bridge.

Amidst the many modern houses which line Cutlers Hall Road—leading to Consett from the village—is an old house in excellent condition and occupied today. On the date stone is inscribed: Cutlers Hall, 1767, and the name William Oley. Hence the road name. And in another old world cottage across the bridge, dwells the last surviving Nichol Oley, now over 80 years of age and today, hanging on his cottage wall is, he affirms, "the last sword that was tempered in the river Derwent by my grandfather."



THE GERMAN INSCRIPTION ABOVE THE DOOR OF THE OLEY HOUSE IN WOOD STREET.

Translation: "THE BLESSING OF THE LORD MAKES RICH WITHOUT CARE, SO LONG AS YOU ARE INDUSTRIOUS IN YOUR VOCATION, AND DO WHAT IS ORDERED YOU."

THE PAPER MILLS

THE PAPER-MAKING industry is well represented in the county of Durham, but probably the Derwent Valley may justly claim having been the longest home of this interesting manufacture.

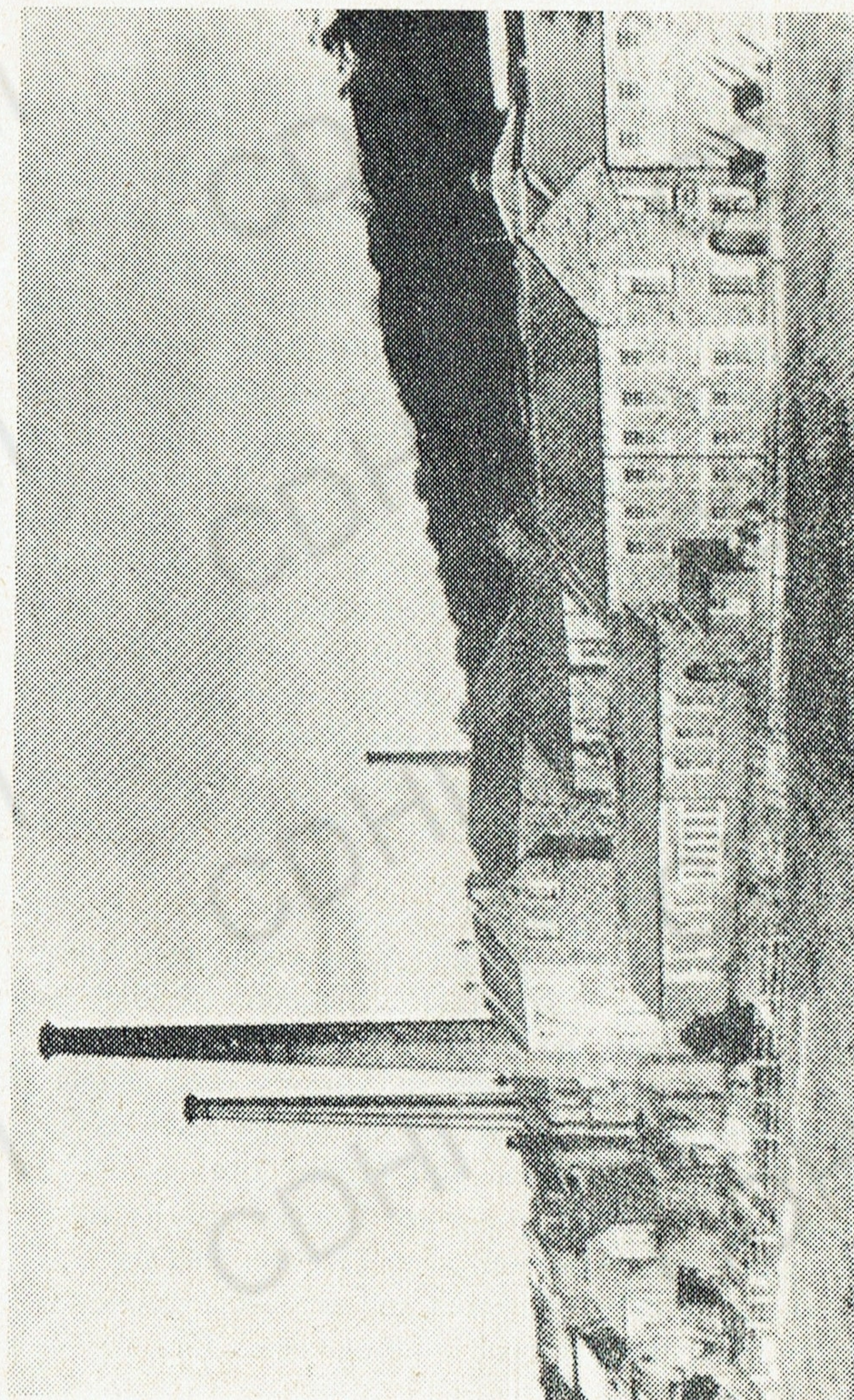
There were two paper mills on the Derwent, both of which were the property of Messrs. John Annandale and Sons—the larger at Shotley Bridge named Shotley Grove Mill—and the other five miles lower down the river at Lintzford.

Shotley Grove Mill, established in 1788, was of insignificant dimensions. In their early days paper was made by hand, sheet by sheet, but in the course of a few years the onset of machinery changed the face of paper-making, and in 1894, 4,000 tons per annum were produced, and the mill employed over 300 hands, half of whom were girls. The mill was celebrated for its make of cartridge a tough paper largely used by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by artists and packers of hosiery.

The firm of "John Annandale and Sons" was honoured throughout the kingdom, and the Shotley Grove Paper Mill the first in the north of England.

One of the oldest industries of the Derwent Valley, this manufacture did much in the 18th century to foster the growth and prosperity of the then thriving town of Shotley Bridge.

And yet another industry died—the paper mills closed down in the year 1905.



THE PAPER MILLS — 1905

THE FLOUR MILL

IN THE EARLY records of the parish of Benfieldside, about the end of the 14th century, mention is made of an ancient water mill, then without a tenant. John Bateson bought the site and built a new mill at his own cost. This was long before the days of co-operative societies and free competition.

The farmers at that period were bound to grind at the village mill and pay for the privilege in kind; and no doubt as more land was broken up and brought into cultivation, John Bateson found it a profitable speculation to renovate the old water mill.

"In 1545, Nicholas Smith and John Darvel went from the Lord of the Manor's Mill with their grain and each were fined sixpence. The obligation to grind at the Lord's Mill was often evaded, and at first sight it may appear an undue restriction on the liberty of the villagers and contrary to our notion of trade. The Lord's Mill, therefore, was not only a source of profit to the Lord of the Manor but a boon to his tenants so long as the Miller was honest."

The old water-mill occupied the same site as the flourishing steam-mill which later came into being, conducted under co-operative principles. It was part of the state of John Annandale, who established the paper mills at Shotley Grove. The estate passed into the hands of various descendants, and eventually the "Corn Mill, etc. by the bridge" was sold to the Derwent Co-operative Flour Mill Society Ltd. in 1872.

It continued to flourish at Shotley Bridge until the latter part of 1920, when it was transferred to Dunston-on-Tyne.

And today the mill is deserted and derelict, excepting a part kept as an office for a firm of building contractors, the head of the firm being Roxby Surtees.

The following extracts from the Abstracts of Title, handed to the purchasers are interesting when we remember that the shell of the old mill stands on the very site of the ancient grinding mill of the sword-makers, and when we also realise that a

quarter of an acre of the actual bed of the Derwent became the property of federated societies:

"First, all that Corn Mill called Shotley Bridge situate and being at Shotley Bridge in the township of Benfieldside in the parish of Shotley Bridge in the county of Durham, etc. Secondly, all that water Corn Mill commonly called a grinding mill and formerly used for making Sword blades."

And again—"All that dwelling-house or cottage and garden of the South-East end of the said mill including as part such garden or as belonging thereto part of the bed of the river Derwent situate in Shotley Bridge in the said county of Durham, formerly in the occupation of Christopher Oley."

SHOTLEY BRIDGE SPA

NOW IN the 18th century children in Shotley Bridge found a new amusement. At a village well they drank water with a curious taste and the "sport" was to see the facial contortions of the drinkers.

Tradition points out a "Hally Well" (Saxon hal—whole in health) at Shotley from time immemorial and the water was always thought to be remedial in scrofulous complaints.

An old inhabitant, Joshua Lax, ironmonger, bank manager and poet—a book of poems by him was published in 1884—expressed the opinion in the following lines :

"No scurvy in your skin can dwell
If you only drink the hally well."

Visitors drank and took away the water from the never ending stream. The water bubbled up into a natural basin and the taste never varied. There was iron in it. And the time came when the valuable spring was made widely known.

In 1838, Mr. Jonathan Richardson, landowner, banker and industrialist, began to think of the water as a commercial proposition ; a health resort, a mineral water spa, a second Harrogate.

The well's source was located. Shotley Bridge boomed. At the well a saloon and bathrooms were built. The Spa grounds were like ornamental gardens. An imposing hotel was erected for visitors, who flocked to partake of the waters. A stone encased the well and the water ran from a spout to bring a flood of prosperity to the area.

In its early history Shotley Bridge gave promise of being one of the most popular village spas in England ; but other interests did not go in favour of the man who had conceived the idea, and the vision of a north-country Spa faded.

Industry and people moved to the adjacent townships of Blackhill and Consett.

There was to be a revival. The lovely grounds in their

natural setting became a resort for workers wanting to get away from Tyneside and Wearside. In one year alone, 60,000 visitors enjoyed the surroundings.

Today, the grounds are used for the pursuit of sport ; cricket, football and tennis. The crinolined ladies and the bewhiskered gentlemen of a more leisurely age, and the children whose faces grimaced as they drank from the well, are gone their way. The glory that was to have been Shotley Spa went with them.

THE QUAKERS

A CONSIDERABLE portion of property on the slopes above the village belonged to members of the Society of Friends' or Quakers, and George Fox, founder, had many followers in the township; indeed there is evidence that in 1700, one of the first Meeting-Houses in England was established here on the summit of Benfieldside bank. Later, in 1843, a new Meeting-House was erected at Snows Green Road—today only a few stones remain to mark the place—the old one being converted into cottages.

These cottages—with date stone 1700—are, in 1959, still sturdy dwellings; the windows at the rear giving on to the Friends' Burial Ground which adjoins them. For many years this ground was neglected. But today, due to the efforts of Mr. G. Ogle, market gardener, it is well cared for. He keeps the key to the Burial Ground and allowed the author to list some of the most important interments:

Jonathan Richardson	—	—	1871
Jonathan B. Richardson	—	—	1872
George Peile	—	—	1831
Henry Peile	—	—	1935
Ethel Peile	—	—	1947
William Allen, M.D.	—	—	1920
Nita Allen, widow of William	—	—	1959

Today, the persons of this religious persuasion have almost diminished to extinction.

BUILDINGS, CHURCHES, CHAPELS

TOWN HALL

Towards the end of the 19th century when the village we now know was always referred to as a town, the Shotley Bridge Town Hall Company was formed and a fine ornamental stone building was erected. Alas! The project failed.

For a time the main hall was used for concerts, dances, etc., and certain rooms were used as offices by the Benfieldside Local Board. Mr. Booth, solicitors, registrar of the Local County Court, had offices here and other apartments were let to the Sanitary Authority of the township.

For many years past, however, the main building has been used as a bank and manager's residence by Messrs. Lloyd and their predecessors, the late R. G. Barclay, Esq., being manager for many years.

Today, Lloyds Bank have their offices on the ground floor and the huge concert hall has been converted into flats.

TEMPERANCE HALL

It has been alleged against Shotley Bridge that the chief vice of its early inhabitants was the ruinous use of the bottle. The first temperance organisation here of which there is any record was established about 1832. It was not a strictly teetotal society, for although spirits were prohibited, its members were allowed one pint of beer per day.

The building also contained a reading room and library of carefully selected books; the subscription being six shillings per annum.

This society collapsed and today the Temperance Hall is a warehouse. In our village are four Inns and a Working Men's Club.

THE INSTITUTE

A Reading Room Society was formed by a few villagers in 1892, and a promising start was made in a vacant shop owned

by one of its members. The society flourished, and in 1909 a new building was needed. The difficulty was met by Francis Priestman, Esq., of Shotley Park, who erected the present handsome Institute on Snows Green Road, and in the summer of 1910 turned over to the society.

The building consists of billiard room with two tables, games room, news room, library and caretaker's house of three rooms.

The library, a branch of Durham County Library, was in 1957, extended, and about 1,160 fiction, non-fiction and juvenile books are issued each month. The library is open on Tuesday only of each week.

WESLEYAN CHAPEL

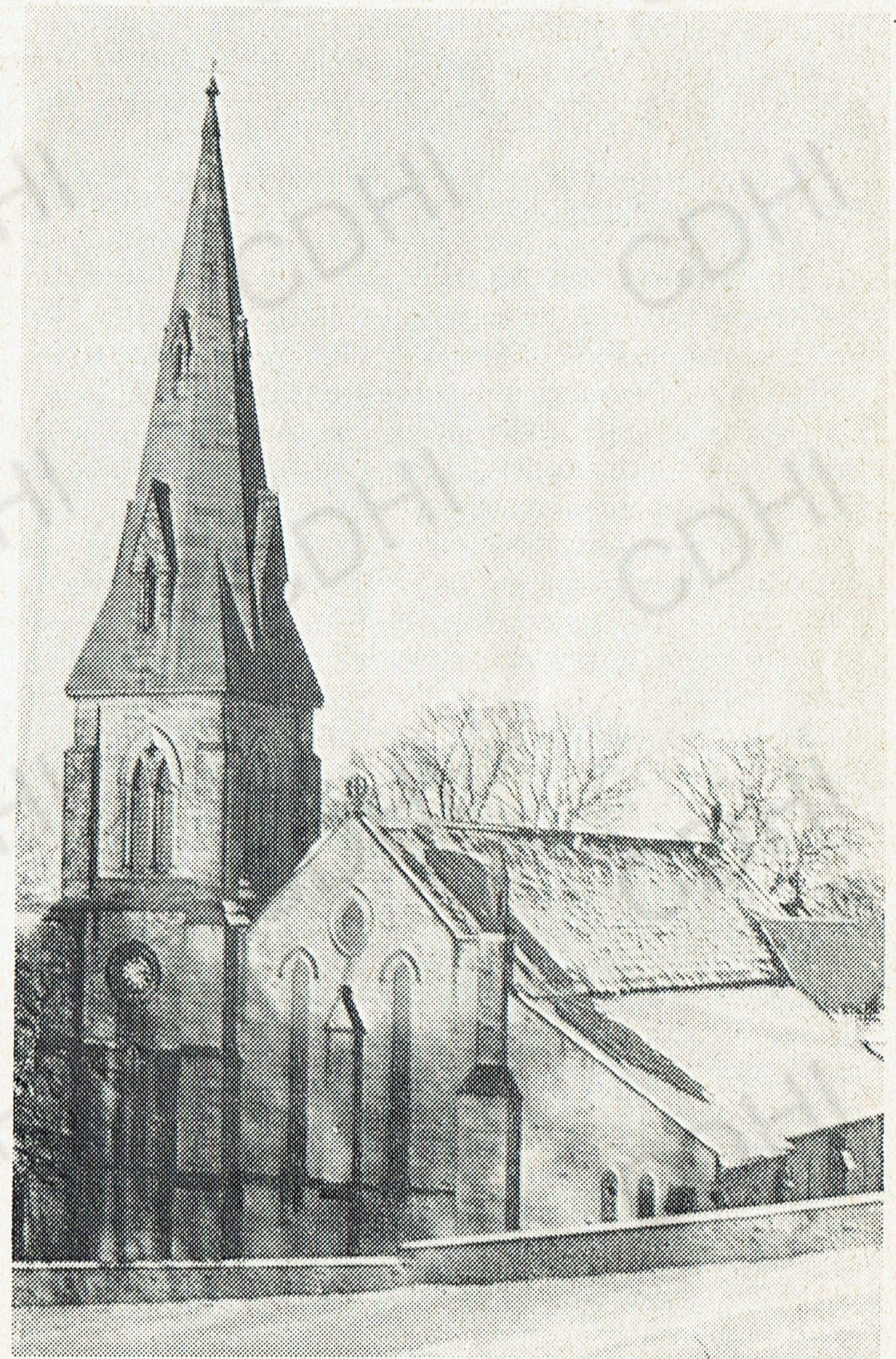
The Wesleyan Methodist Society at Shotley Bridge seems to have had its origin at the beginning of the 19th century. Previously to 1814, when a Chapel was built in Wood Street, on a site given by Mr. Christopher Oley, the members worshipped in a small room near the Flour Mill, and they were for a long period the dominant Church in the village. The Chapel was enlarged in 1837, and with the congregation's steady increase in members it was necessary to build a new one. It was designed by Messrs. Smith and Son, and the style of architecture 15th century Gothic. It cost £1,650 and accommodated 350 persons.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL

Although a stone above the doorway of the Primitive Chapel in Front Street, Shotley Bridge, bears the date 1852, it was not the first. The building at Cutlers Hall, known as the Gospel Hall, and later used by the Plymouth Brethren, was their first Chapel. The growth of the society called for increased accommodation, and the present Chapel—a plain substantial building—has 300 sittings and cost £400.

About 1950, alterations took place. The schoolroom was extended and used for religious meetings, Women's Fellowship, Men's Thursday Meeting, and social gatherings; a modern kitchen too was added.

The union in 1932 of the Wesleyan, Primitive and United Methodist bodies into the one Methodist Church, had no effect on these two Chapels for many years. It was during the latter part of the World War II that they finally amalgamated and held



ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH — 1959

all services at the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Front Street.

And today, the Wesleyan Chapel is being demolished, and the Sunday school adjoining, has been converted into a much needed Village Hall.

Methodist Minister is at present the Rev. W. Ivor Claydon, The Manse, Shotley Bridge.

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH

A Church was built by subscription in 1850, on a site given by Thos. Wilson, Esq., of Shotley Hall—now Derwent Dene—who was also a liberal contributor to the building fund.

It is situated on a commanding site, south-east of Shotley Bridge, from which an advantageous view is obtained of Shotley Hall with its pleasure grounds and park. The Church, which was designed by Mr. John Dobson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, is Early English in character, and consists of nave, with north aisle, chancel, and tower surmounted by a graceful spire, the whole as viewed from the opposite hill, producing a bold and varied outline.

The tower is at the north-west corner of the Church, and contains a clock and a peal of bells. Beneath it is the principal entrance to the interior of the edifice, which has an extreme length including the chancel of 101ft. 6in. The chancel is lighted by three tall lancet windows at the east end and four lesser ones, north and south.

Two very fine lancet windows are inserted at the west end of the Church, and eight windows similar to those in the sides of the chancel give light to the aisle. At the base of an elegant arch which divides the nave and chancel, is a brass plate, recording that the foundation stone of the Church was laid on Wednesday, March 7th, 1849, by Thomas Wilson, Esq., assisted by the Rev. F. B. Thompson. The Church, which is dedicated to St. Cuthbert, is spacious and lofty, with open roofs of ornamental timber. The chancel floor is laid with encaustic tiles of a chaste pattern, and the other embellishments are executed in a superior style.

The Church clock was put in the tower by public subscription in 1874, with striking mechanism, the present chimes being added when the bells were re-cast and increased to a peal of six in 1884.

At this time plans were prepared for a new aisle, organ chamber, porch and gallery, by Mr. J. Walton-Wilson, architect, of London. There was no single contractor—the works generally being carried out by local tradesmen who zealously co-operated with the architect.

In addition to the alterations and improvements, the present organ was purchased for £400 (built by Mr. N. C. Nicholson, of Scotswood Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne). The total cost was £3,400. The organ was enlarged by the addition of a choir organ and a number of new stops in 1897, at a cost of £155.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING

Except for the years of enforced silence during World War II, the bells of St. Cuthbert's have always been well and truly manned. The bell-ringers have held an honoured place amongst campanologists throughout the North. The ringers are associates of Durham and Northumberland bell-ringers association. There are seven, and change ringing is carried out.

The district secretary, Mr. C. T. Lamb, gave the author the following information :

Makers: J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough. The bells are a composition of copper and other metals with ball bearings in steel frame. The Tenor bell weighs 12 cwt.

They were restored and quarter turned by J. Taylor and Co. in 1957. And on May 31st, 1958, a peal of minor 50-40 changes, double oxford, single oxford, st. clements, cambridge, surprise, oxford T.B., trent T.B. and plain bob, in two hours thirty-seven minutes.

INCUMBENTS OF ST. CUTHBERT'S

Rev. Frederick Brewster Thompson, 1847-81.

Mr. Thompson was a keen horticulturist and won many prizes in local flower shows, particularly with his hollyhocks. There is an apple tree in the garden below the Sunday School which was planted and grafted by Mr. Thompson which, at one time, bore seven different varieties of apple. He died in 1881.

Rev. George Harrison Ross-Lewin, 1881-1913, was appointed second incumbent by Bishop Lightfoot in 1881. He was for many years an Honorary Canon of Durham. He was of a quiet disposition, generous in almsgiving and above all a great scholar.

After 32 years of faithful and diligent ministry, Canon Ross-Lewin's death occurred with tragic suddenness. He had given an address at a missionary meeting held in Consett Parish Hall when he collapsed in his chair, and was found to be dead. The present carved oak chancel screen and lectern were erected as a memorial to him by the congregation.

Rev. Henry Arthur Mackenzie, 1914-1936, was the third incumbent and appointed by the Crown in August 1914. His ministry started during the first World War and during the war years matters parochial became increasingly difficult and sad with the war-time casualty lists to be followed by the many influenza deaths. Mr. Mackenzie was a lovable character with a great gift of humour. A musician of some distinction, he composed and wrote a book of carols which were published by and for the benefit of St. Dunstan's.

He died after a long and painful illness in 1936. The carved oak credence table in the Sanctuary was placed there by the parishioners as a memorial to him. His ashes lie in a small crypt underneath the table.

Rev. Alexander Archibald Wynne-Wilson, 1936-38. He came with the Lord Bishop's highest recommendations, which soon proved themselves amply justified by the energy he infused into the parishioners. He had a charming personality and was a great believer in parochial visiting; he promised himself that he would visit every house in the parish within two years.

It was not to be. On Easter Monday, 1938, he was travelling in his car to Stockton to visit his wife who had just had a baby, when the car ran off the road and hit a telegraph pole. He sustained severe internal injuries from which he died. As a memorial to his so tragic death the parishioners erected the Children's Corner in the Church and also the carved oak front cover.

Rev. Edward Hartwig Fenwick, in 1938, was appointed by the Bishop of Durham and is the present vicar.

He served faithfully throughout the arduous years of World War II. Mr. Fenwick, who is a graduate of Cambridge University, is a former president of Consett Rotary Club and chairman of Consett Council of Churches. He was also a chaplain at Shotley Bridge Hospital. The Vicar is an excellent organiser and skilful photographer.

He will leave Shotley Bridge in February, 1960, to take up a new appointment at Lapworth, in the Diocese of Birmingham. No one has as yet been appointed to fill the vacancy.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A new Roman Catholic Church to serve the Snows Green district of Shotley Bridge was opened on September 8th, 1952, by the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle (the Right Rev. J. McCormack, who died on March 2nd, 1958).

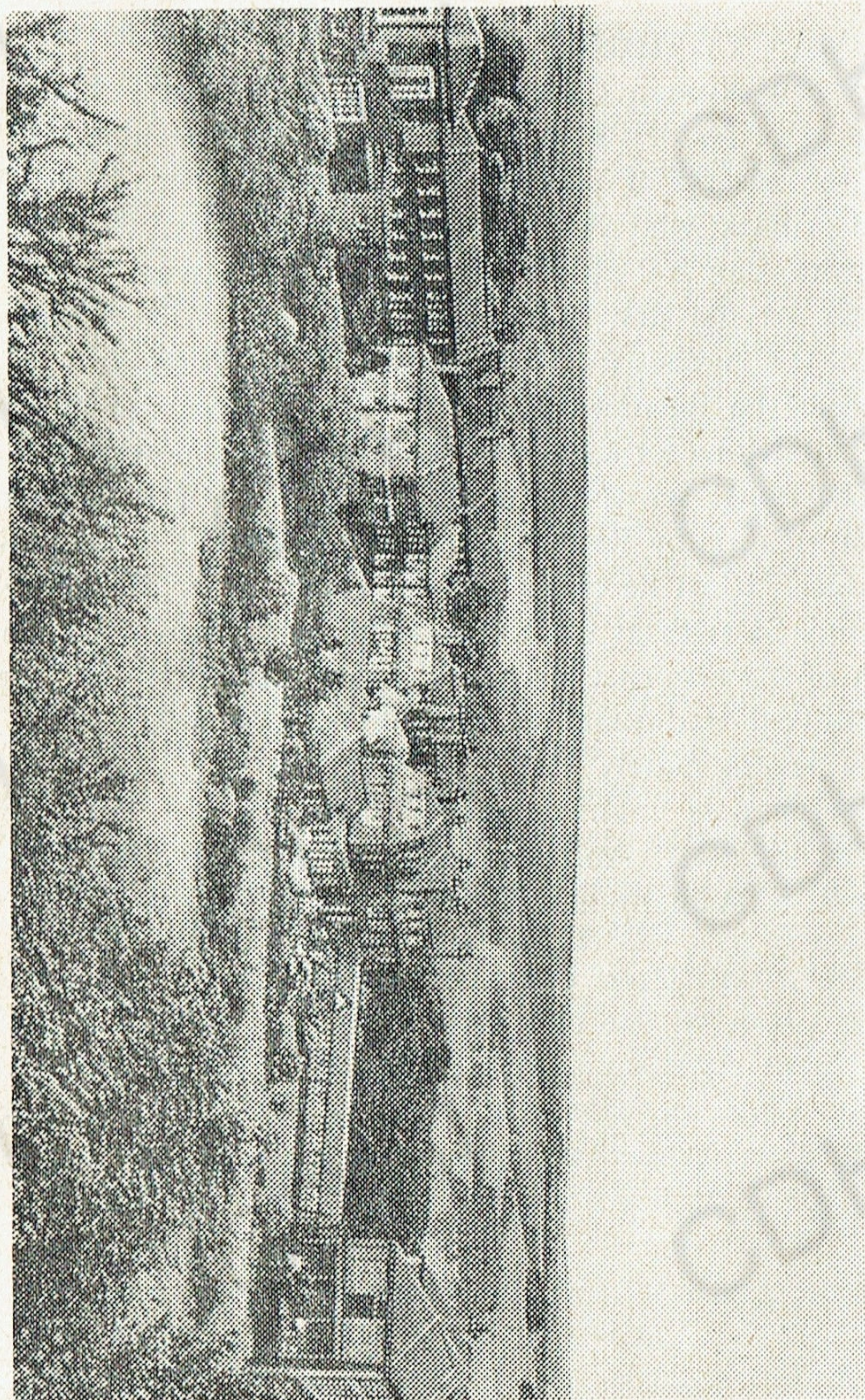
More than 100 people of a crowd of 400 were unable to get inside for the first celebration of Mass. Priests representing over 40 Churches in different part of the North-East helped to conduct the opening ceremony which was preceded by a procession stretching for a quarter of a mile along Snows Green Road.

The event set the seal on three years of enthusiasm and determination by Rev. J. Kelly, to establish a Church at Shotley Bridge. When he came here in 1949, Father Kelly organised Sunday Services in the King's Head Hotel, and then converted part of his residence on Snows Green Road into a Chapel.

Built in traditional style of stone-faced bricks, the Church seats approximately 250.

Parishioners contributions met most of the cost.

The architect: Anthony Rossi, of Consett, and the builder was R. C. Williamson, of Rowlands Gill, Newcastle-on-Tyne.



SHOTLEY BRIDGE GENERAL HOSPITAL — 1956

CONVALESCENT HOMES, HOSPITALS

At Elm Park, Shotley Bridge, in 1888, a Cottage Home was established by the Cathedral Nurse and Loan Society (Newcastle-on-Tyne branch). It provides accommodation for twelve patients and is entirely supported by voluntary contributions.

PEILE HOME, is in pleasant grounds, with delightful views north and west across the Derwent Valley. It is a convalescent home for mothers, babies and children under five years of age. It was presented by the late Mrs. Peile and the Misses Peile to the Durham County Council.

RICHARD MURRAY HOSPITAL

This splendid institution was built and endowed out of funds provided solely by the late Richard Murray, Esq., J.P., of Benfieldside House, a native of the district, who gave for the purpose land, shares and cash to the estimated value of £60,000.

It was opened in 1911.

The intention of the donor was “to provide the poor of the locality with gratuitous medical and surgical aid, nursing, board and lodging during illness and convalescence.”

It remained thus—but for the intervention of World War I when it was at the disposal of the war authorities—until the advent of the National Health Service Scheme in 1948, and is now reserved for maternity cases.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Erected in 1913 as a Mental Institution it was then known as “Whinney House.” During World Wars one and two it functioned as an Emergency Hospital for men of H.M. Forces and of other nations.

But Shotley Bridge Hospital as named today, has had “growing pains” since those war years. It is now the third largest in the Northern Region and is expanding still further. October 1st, 1958, saw the start of another major development

scheme which is expected to take several years to complete. It will provide a new out-patients, x-ray and casualty admissions departments.

A large site is being levelled, possibly for this new out-patients department ; also as a helicopter landing-ground in connection with air-sea rescue.

Following on the recent extension of this scheme, Shotley Bridge Hospital has been named as one of the various hospitals in the North to which people rescued from the sea by helicopter will be taken. The hospital has approximately 550 beds.

SUMMERDALE PRELIMINARY TRAINING CENTRE FOR NURSES

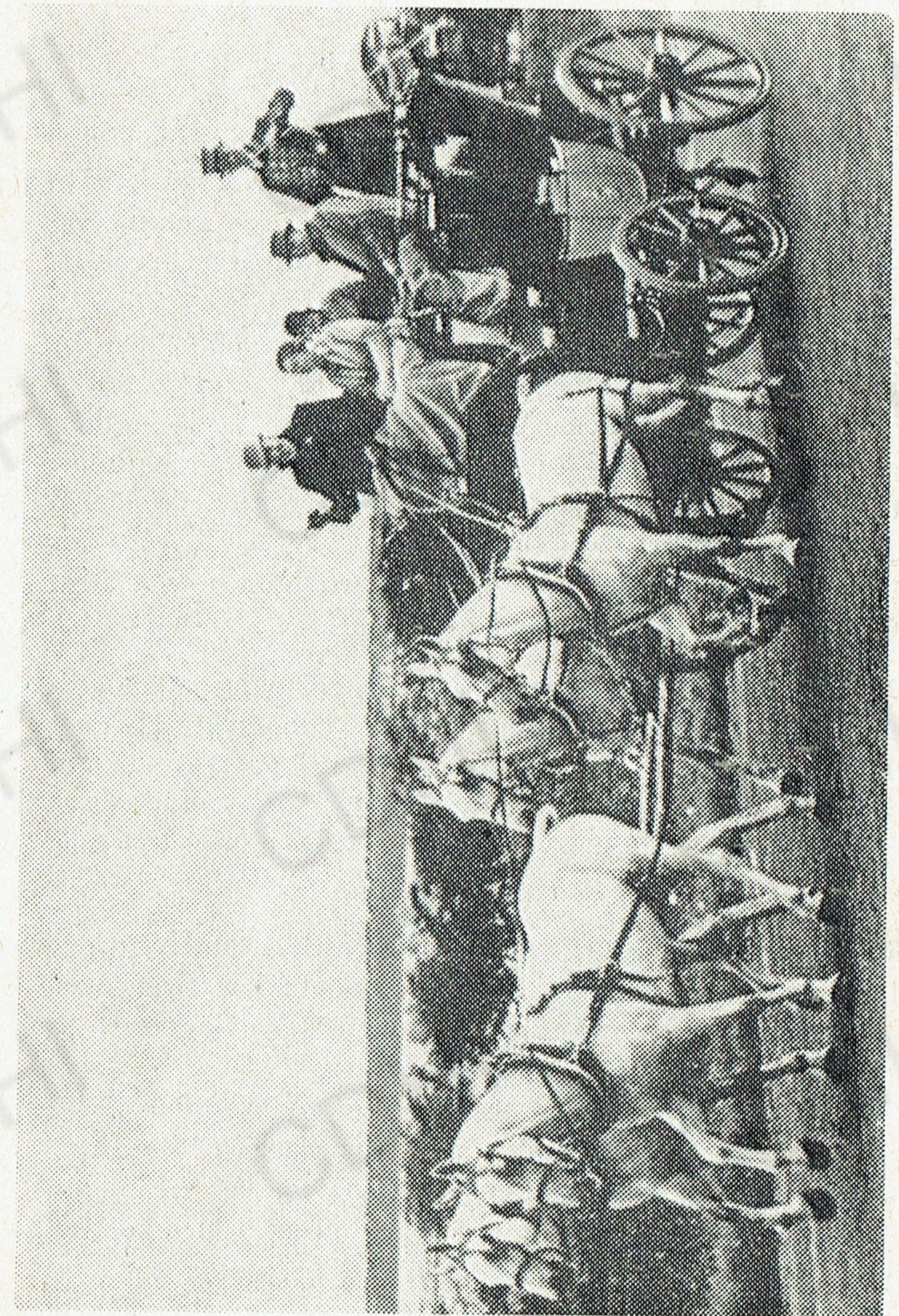
A one-time private residence, this centre is on Snows Green Road.

Student nurses enter this school for a period of three months and are given careful tuition in the Theory and practice of nursing.

Another one-time mansion, "Springfield," also on Snows Green Road, was, in 1838, famous as the "Spa Hotel," accommodating many visitors from all parts of the North.

When Charles Dickens undertook a coach journey to the North of England in January of that year in severe weather in order to collect material for his book, "Nicholas Nickleby," he stayed here. Today, the visitors book, signed by him is in the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

For many years "Springfield" housed the P.C.H.A. It is now the Regional Headquarters of the National Coal Board.



THE VENTURE COACH
LAST JOURNEY — AUGUST, 1939.

LANDOWNERS. FARMS

THE BRIARY stands on elevated ground a mile from the village. It was the residence of S. F. Annandale, Esq., later of J. B. Richardson, Esq., landowner, banker, Quaker and philanthropist, who, according to the following information received, must have been highly esteemed in the district.

"A procession of nearly 100 horsemen, accompanied by carriages and a large number of persons on foot, on the 13th of June, 1858, met J. B. Richardson, Esq., and his bride on their return from their wedding tour and escorted them to their home in the town with demonstrations of joy, after which a complementary address was delivered."

The Briary has been converted into two houses which are occupied today by a doctor and an engineer.

SHOTLEY PARK is a delightfully situated mansion about a quarter mile from Snows Green and quite concealed by woodland. It was the seat of F. Priestman, Esq., J.P., D.L., then of his son J. Priestman, Esq., who, at the close of World War II disposed of it to Dr. Barnardo's Homes. It was opened as such in 1946.

DERWENT LODGE stands off the Newcastle—Shotley Bridge road. It is a spacious residence with smooth lawns and well laid out flower beds; many of the windows giving on to a wonderful panorama of the Derwent Valley.

This was the residence of the late Lewis Priestman, Esq., director of large coal companies. He was Master of the Braes of Derwent Foxhounds* for fifty years, and owner of the famous coach the "Venture" with its four in hand greys, which kept up the tradition of the old coaching days. The author can well remember the old-time gaily coloured coach, complete with

*The Braes of Derwent Foxhounds have their headquarters at Shotley Bridge, the kennels being at Tinkler's Hill, Snows Green. They began to hunt the Derwent Valley and some of the country of the old Durham Hunt in 1854. Today, the M.F.H. is G. A. Cowen, Esq., of Apperly Dene, near Stocksfield.

"insides" and "outs" and guard with coaching horn rolling briskly through the village on its way to and from Blanchland—a village about fourteen miles from Shotley Bridge—four days each week during the summer months. And then in the year 1939, the coach ceased to run.

Mr. Lewis Priestman died August 6th, 1945.

In the neighbourhood are several other fine residences.

GREENWOOD, where lived the Peile family, who did much for the welfare of the villagers. It is occupied today by a business man named Mr. Ellis.

SHOTLEY HALL, one-time residence of Dr. Henry Peile—now Derwent Dene—is the residence of Mrs. Crump.

There are many outlying farms but only two concern the village. And one of these in Northumberland. The following information was given by Mr. Crawford Millar, ~~owner~~ ^{TENANT} of this farm:

LOW WASKERLEY FARM

Situation—A mile from Shotley Bridge. Hexham Rural Area of Northumberland.

Acreage—Grain 40 acres; Swedes 5 acres; Kale 1 acre; Potatoes 3 acres. Temp.: Grass 50 acres (mainly hay); Perm.: Grass 76 acres (mainly grazing).

Other 35 acres of Parkland taken annually for grazing.

Cattle—20 cows; 7 in-calf heifers; 1 Bull; 10 cattle over 2 years; 34 cattle over 1-2 years; 18 cattle under 1 year.

Implements—One medium heavy tractor; one medium heavy tractor; one 3-furrow and one 2-furrow plough; one small combine harvester; one binder; one baler; one disc harrow; two harrows; one cultivator; one ridging plough; one corn drill; one roller; one grass cutter; one turner siderake.

Sheep—One ram; 55 ewes; 90 lambs. Horses. Pigs, 6.

Labour—Farmer and wife; two men and one youth; one part-time dairy-woman. Soil—Medium loam.

SNOWS GREEN FARM

This was the Home-Farm of the Priestman family and the owner, Major J. Priestman, used the farm for the breeding of beef cattle and hunting horses.

In 1938, Mr. Alex Forster, became tenant of the farm. He changed to dairy cows (shorthorns). The work on the farm was done by two draught horses. Mr. Forster died at the beginning of World War II, and his widow and two sons carried on the farm. Came the "Plough for Victory" campaign. All available land was ploughed to produce food and the need for mechanisation arose. Tractors took the place of horses.

The dairy herd was changed to Ayrshires and were Tuberculin Tested, which was compulsory for Producer-Retailer.

After the war years the housing shortage was acute and took its toll on agricultural land. A new Housing Estate was built at Woodlands Road and an infants' school and playing field at Snows Green. The National Coal Board, too, requisitioned 30 acres for open-cast mining.

The farm consists of 118 acres, 20 of which are arable and the remainder as grassland and woods. One diesel tractor; one T.V.O. tractor and all modern implements. Stock—50 milking cows and heifers; 33 calves.

There are many entries under Benfieldside in the Lanchester Petty Tithes' Book, a manuscript volume of 200 pages. The entries cover a period of nine years, from 1699 to 1707, and some of them are very curious.

At page 22, under date June 23rd, 1699, is a note that, "Thomas Leaton, Sir vair (surveyor) at Benfield Side, keeps 60 or 80 sheep in one yeare and no teith wooll paid for them."

Under the same date, William and John Raw, of Snawes Green, agree to pay "fower pound a yeare, for two yeares, for their pettie tithes at Snawes Green, and their corn and pettie tithes of the ground they now farm at Hounes."

There were at this time other farms at Snawes Green (then called) under cultivation and belonging to Thomas Russell, Hugh Hopes and John Mayor.

Another curious entry concerns Robert Smithe, of The Law, an adjoining estate, which was for many years in the hands of the Smith family.

"In the name of God, Amen. The 4th day of October, in the yere of our Lord, 1561. I, Robert Smithe, of Benfeyldsyde, in the countye of Durham, being sicke of bodie, but hole of mynde, how be it perfecte of good remembrance, God be

prayed: Therefore, doe make this my last will, in the maner following. First and principallye, I give and bequeth my soull unto Almighty God, my creator and redemer, and my bodie to be buried in the Church of Medomsley. I give and bequeth unto Willyam Morrison, my sister's sonne, one whye and xtie sheepe.

"The residew of all my goodes and chattells, movable and unmovable, debts and legacies beinge payde, I give to Catherine Smithe, my wiffe, and fower children, who I make and appoint my true and lawfull executors of this my last Will and Testament. And I have called to record the same as witnesses, Robert Cominge, John Bakeworth, Nicholas Atkinson, Thomas Smithe and Anthony Smithe, George Sympson and my Curate, Sir John Crosbie."

LOCAL WILLS

In contrast to the above, the following wills are of interest:

Miss L. Priestman, Shotley Lodge, Shotley Bridge, died in 1931 and left £150,362.

Lady Bessie Reid Common, Hunter House, Shotley Bridge, widow of Sir Lawrence Andrew Common, died in 1958. She left £143,757 (£143,473 net; duty paid £79,109).

Bequests included £1,000 each to Winifred Yule, of Cowbyers, Blanchland; Phyllis Whitton, of Knowlaw, Rothbury, and Grace D. Gray, of Queensway, Fenham, Newcastle.

Mrs. Frances Edith Vesper, Townely Street, Stanley, left, in 1959, £100 to Shotley Bridge General Hospital.

THE VILLAGE HALL

THE OLD Church Hall—once the Wesleyan Sunday School—came alive again on the 21st March, 1957. It will continue as a hub of village activity in its new capacity as a community centre—the first of its kind in the Consett Urban area.

In its new role it was officially opened by Ald. T. Holmes, chairman of the County Youth and Social Service Subcommittee. A memorial tablet to those from the village who lost their lives in the 1939-45 war was unveiled by County Coun. Mrs. R. Mohon, and dedicated by the Rev. E. H. Fenwick, Vicar of Shotley Bridge.

The provision of the community was done through the joint efforts of the county education authority and the Shotley Bridge Memorial Hall Fund.

The latter was established in 1945, with a target of £10,000, to provide a Memorial Hall in the Shotley Bridge locality. Five years later it was learned that the village's two Methodist Churches were amalgamating, and consequently one would fall into dis-use. The Fund began to realise that its task of raising so much money was a near-impossible one and then it became known that the education authority was considering providing a community centre in the village.

The Fund was wound up in November 1955 when £800 was handed over to the county authority. In March 1957, a further sum—representing the balance of £373 7s. 6d. was paid over by the Fund Committee.

The premises which house the new centre were purchased for £1,500, and an additional £3,000 has been spent on repairs and decoration. Apart from the large hall, the centre includes an upstairs games room, two committee rooms and a kitchen.

At the rear of the hall is an inscribed tablet of Hoptonwood stone. The blue lettering reads :

“Shotley Bridge and District. This hall is furnished in memory of those who fell in the cause of liberty and as a thank offering for those who returned, 1939-1945.”

Coun. Mrs. Mohon, who became secretary of the Memorial Hall Fund in 1951, said she was deeply conscious of the honour in being asked to unveil the tablet.

“We have worked hard together and now we feel we have kept faith with those who gave their lives and their tomorrows in order that we might have our todays,” she declared, pulling aside the Union Jack which veiled the tablet.

Certainly with the innovation of the Village Hall, the social side of our village has widened greatly for young and old. There are the Youth Club, Darby and Joan Club, Over-60 Club and our Women's Institute meetings, besides various whist drives, lectures, etc., classes in art, soft furnishing, leather work, keep fit. And through the auspices of the Local Council, a Chiropodist is in attendance once each week for the benefit of the old people in the locality.

SCHOOLS, SUNDAY SCHOOLS

SHOTLEY GROVE SCHOOL

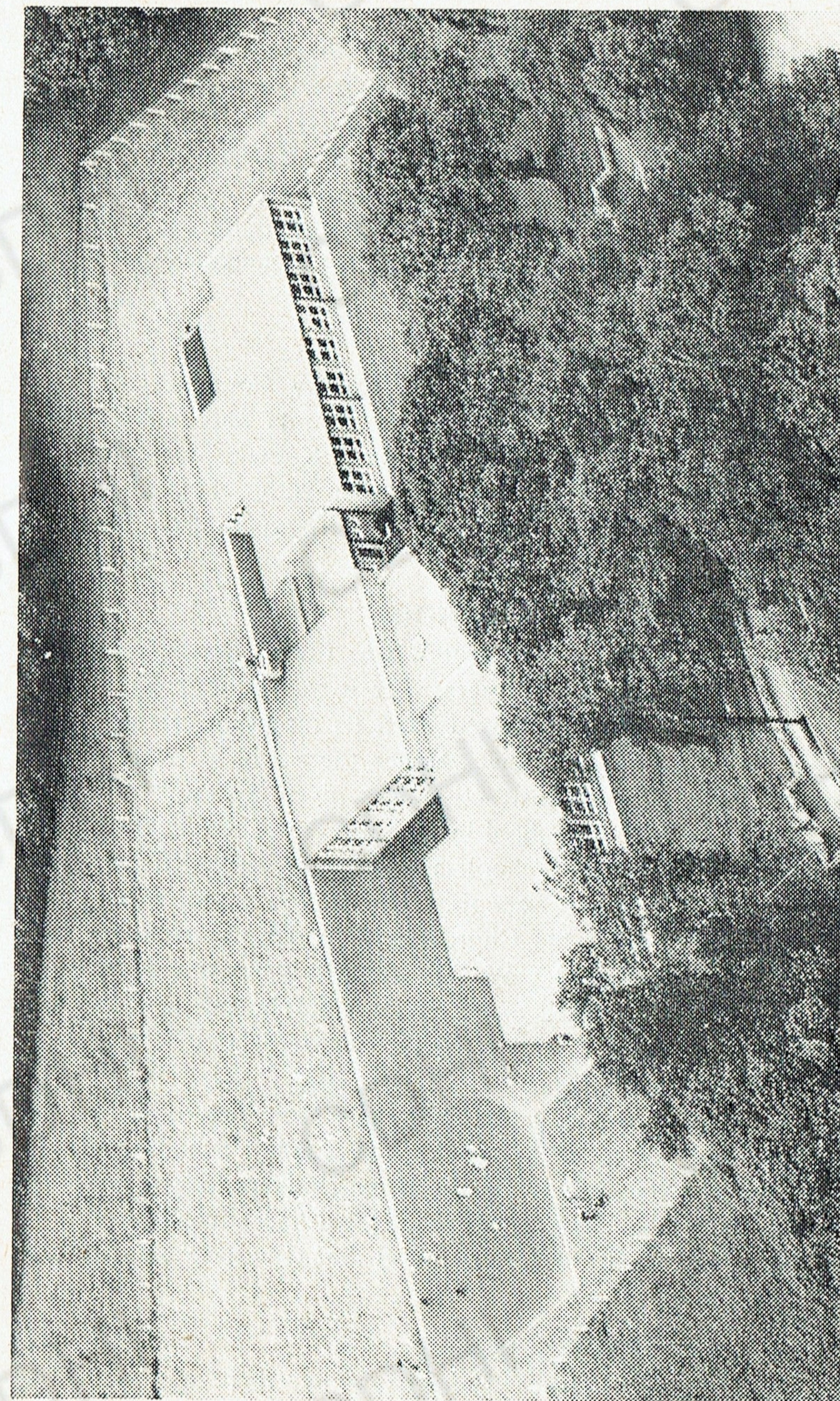
This private school was erected at Cutlers Hall in 1841 by Messrs. Annandale at a time when education was almost entirely neglected by the State, and the simplest rudiments of education were left to the various religious bodies, large landowners and employers of labour. It was enlarged in 1873 to accommodate a total of 157 pupils.

Some of the oldest inhabitants tell amusing stories of Martin Bell, the village schoolmaster here. Of him, as of Goldsmith's schoolmaster in "The Deserted Village," it may be said, "the wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew." He seems to have been a man of stern discipline, if not a veritable martinet, for undoubtedly, the boys "had learned to trace the day's disasters in his morning face." Nevertheless those same boys, many of whom—thanks to his skilful training—have filled important positions in life.

Mr. John Collinson succeeded Martin Bell, and later the school came under Government inspection, but the advent of the Board School system and free education subsequently brought about the final closure of this and other private schools (an exception being one on Snows Green Road, the mistress Miss Collinson, daughter of John Collinson, tutored about eight pupils here). She carried on this primary school until about 1953. She died in 1955.

There are records of a school at Elm Park, about a mile from the village. From St. Cuthbert's Magazine 1898, came the following entry :

"Prize-giving at Elm Park school. Canon Ross-Lewin presided. (Incumbent from 1881-1913). The examiner, Rev. Joseph Short, B.D., and the Head Master, Montague Steggall, M.A., gave a good account of the work during the past year. Gledstone, a former pupil has gained an annual scholarship for four years at Durham school of fifty pounds and several other successes are recorded."



SHOTLEY BRIDGE SCHOOL — 1955
INFANTS — JUNIORS

The above mentioned Gledstone, became the Rev. Gledstone, and spent most of his life in the Far East. He now resides at North Shields.

This school has been closed for many years and is now a private residence.

The educational needs of the village were met by the Council school at Benfieldside, erected in 1877, and the Secondary school at Consett.

SNOWS GREEN SCHOOL

The foundation stone was laid by County Coun. R. G. Knowles, on September 14th, 1954, for an Infants' and Juniors' school, and formally opened by Coun. R. G. Knowles, member of the Education Committee, on September 20th, 1955. The Head Master is Mr. Robson. They are approximately 200 pupils.

ST. CUTHBERT'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

"It is evident from the fact that it was found necessary to enlarge the Church Hall four years after it was built that our Sunday School was well supported from its inception in 1881. Prior to that we do not know whether there was a Sunday School, but that religious instruction was given by the Vicar at the Church of England School in Durham Road at Blackhill, is established. Today the School is so large it is divided into Infant, Junior and Senior Schools. The Infant School meets on Sunday mornings in the Church Hall, under the superintendence of Mr. Fenwick; Mr. W. E. Westgarth is superintendent of the Junior School which meets in the Church Hall at 2.30 p.m., and the Vicar is in charge of the Senior School held in Church at the same time.

"There are approximately 160 children on the register and 15 teachers. The continued success of the Sunday School has always depended on the willingness of parishioners to give up their Sabbath rest in the interest of the Christian education of the children, and we are deeply thankful that they have always been forthcoming."

METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

The superintendent is Mr. Henderson, and there are four teachers. Miss E. Henderson, Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Millar and

Mr. D. Shackleton. And the number of scholars—23 Primary, 31 Junior. A few of these Junior boys come from Dr. Barnados Home.

These scholars give a first class Biblical Play at Christmas time and on the Sunday School Anniversary which falls in June of each year, they take over the Sunday services with their singing and reciting.



SHOTLEY BRIDGE JUNCTION
ROADS LEADING TO CONSETT AND NEWCASTLE — 1886

TRANSPORT. ROADS.

IN 1841, two horse-drawn coaches ran daily from Newcastle-on-Tyne and Gateshead-on-Tyne to Shotley Bridge. The only other form of transport was the railway. Landowners, farmers and businessmen owned a horse-drawn carriage or pony and trap and many travelled round on horse-back.

One old inhabitant remembers: "It was a nice sight to see the carriages lined up at the foot of Benfieldside bank on a Sunday morning; and all the ladies and gentlemen in their fine clothes walking up the steep hill to Church."

It was to be many years before any other form of transport came to the area.

Shortly after the 1914-18 war, a daily bus service was introduced to run between Shotley Bridge and Newcastle via the Derwent Valley.

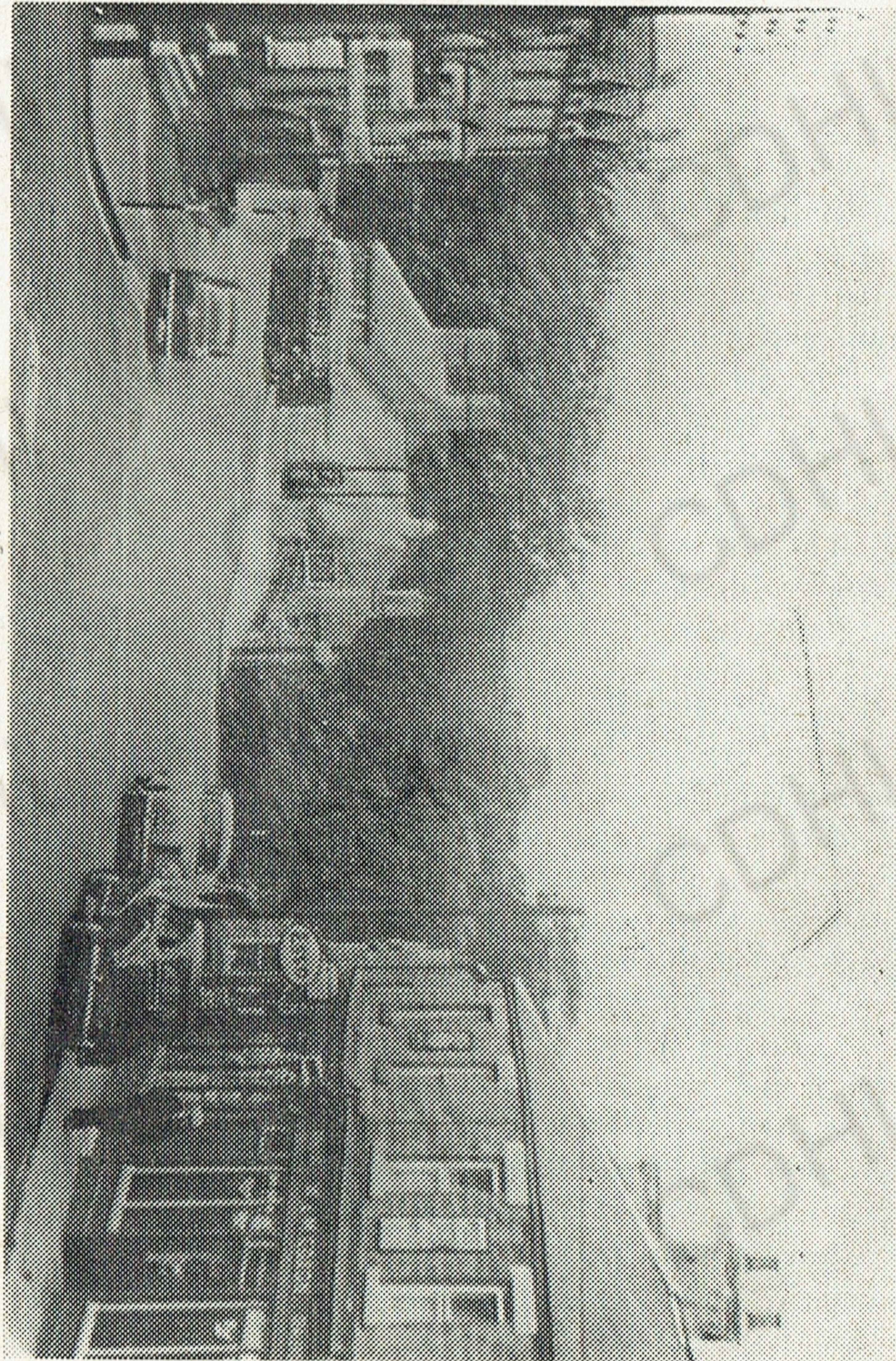
"The proprietors were Harper and Lockey, whose business was acquired by two brothers-in-law, G. R. Harrison and W. T. Richardson.

"This service, which now forms part of route 11, was commenced with converted army lorries and it is interesting to note that the journey time is still the same today as when the route was first introduced.

"Harrison and Richardson decided to carry on business under the name 'Venture.' At that time a well known sight in the Derwent Valley district was the four-in-hand Venture Coach of Major Priestman, a colliery proprietor. Harrison and Richardson approached him with the suggestion that the name 'Venture' be given to this bus service. To this Major Priestman readily agreed. These two men in 1929 formed their business into the Venture Bus Service Ltd.

REED BROS. LTD.

"There were five brothers, but only two in the early stages, William and George, were engaged in the garage business, the other had a financial interest only.



SHOTLEY BRIDGE — 1955

“ They carried on a repair garage with four private cars for hire and an agency for overtime farm tractors. In 1912 they bought a second-hand Iris charabanc and commenced to run a service. When war broke out the business lapsed for the time being.

“ Early in 1918 William was enabled to run a regular service again. The business was formed into a private Limited Company under the name of Reed Bros. Ltd. in 1919. And then in 1930, Reed Bros. Ltd. and Venture Bus Services Ltd. agreed to run their services jointly which remained in force until the present Company was formed in 1938—**THE**

VENTURE TRANSPORT COMPANY (NEWCASTLE) LTD.”

Another bus company runs an hourly service from Consett to Newcastle via Shotley Bridge—**THE NORTHERN GENERAL TRANSPORT CO. LTD.**, and a bus runs twice daily from Hexham to Consett via Shotley Bridge. The result of these services is a fifteen minute bus service every day via Shotley Bridge.

RAILWAY STATION

Shotley Bridge Station is about one mile from the village and was in June 1952, closed, as were many stations between Newcastle and Consett at this time, due to lack of passengers who no doubt found it quicker to travel by car or bus.

ROADS

About 1930 an improvement to widen the road at Snows Green took place. A wall forming part of a small bridge over a culvert was removed, the road widened and new kerbs laid. And in 1956, the existing road leading to Peile Home was surfaced, a footpath and new kerbs laid.

It was not until 1959, that a major change regarding the dangerous junction in the village took place. One of Shotley's best-known landmarks—the stone fountain* erected many years ago—has been removed, but will probably be re-erected in a more prominent position when the Council reach a decision.

The improvement scheme is now virtually completed. Houses have been demolished and kerbs laid along the northerly and southerly sides and the new carriageway surfaced.

Since the start of the improvement it has been apparent that the old fountain and the dis-used trough at its foot would have to be moved back approximately 3ft. to give a footpath around the northerly side of the improvement so as to avoid forcing pedestrians on to the carriageway. The alternative would be to re-erect the monument in a more prominent position, possibly on the vacant land between the foot of Church Bank and the improvement scheme.

*The story of the fountain goes back to 1885, when there were complaints that the people of Shotley Bridge were being poisoned by the water supply. At that time, the water was from a well and a pump which stood in roughly the same place as the present fountain. The well was fed partly by underground water and by a spring running from a spot near Springfield gate.

The question of a fresh water supply was considered by the Benfieldside Board who decided that in place of the pump a fountain should be erected. The cost of the fountain was estimated at £30 and it was to stand eight feet high.

The lowest tender received was £32. A dispute arose and despite the poisoning reports, the matter was deferred until the following year and the fountain was completed in August 1886.

Today, two reservoirs supply the area with water—Burnhope, and Waskerley. But another is already planned, and work will begin in the spring of 1960. The scheme will cost £133,000,000, and the work done by direct labour. The reservoir, which will take several years to build, will be one of the country's biggest. It will have a capacity of 11,000,000,000 gallons and flood a three-mile stretch of the upper Derwent Valley.

HOUSES. POPULATION.

THE FOLLOWING details are of houses erected in Shotley Bridge before and after the 1939-45 war :

	Pre-war	Post-war
Private ...	199	75
Council ...	78	39
	<hr/> 277	<hr/> 114

The population of Shotley Bridge in 1882 was 1,187 ; at the present time, 1959, it is approximately 2,200. This does not take any account of the dwelling-houses on the Northumberland side of the river Derwent.

LOCAL COURT. AN OLD CUSTOM.

UP TO 1875—when the police headquarters and courthouse were moved to Consett—the court was held in the magistrate's house at the foot of Cutlers Hall Road.

And old resident, Mr. Andrew Houliston, the village undertaker and builder—a rare character and great walker, the firm of A. and J. Houliston was established 105 years ago—told of a custom of the old days when the local police would not lock up a petty offender straight away.

“ They would take him on to the front lawn of the magistrate's house nearby,” he explained, “ and that gentleman would say what had to be done with him while leaning from his bay window.”

FAIRS, HIRINGS, SHOWS.

UP TO the latter part of the 19th century, two fairs were held annually in the village on Wednesday before May 13th and November 11th; hirings for servants too took place twice a year. A Floral and Horticultural Show was held in August in the Spa grounds, and an Agricultural Show every four years.

Shotley Bridge Agricultural Show Society was formed in 1842 and a show staged in 1851. Nothing more was recorded until 1914, when the present society was formed, but World War I came before its first show. Interest was maintained, however, and in 1937 and the following year successful shows were held. War intervened again in 1939, and came another setback for the society members. It was not until 1950 that the next show was held, but two subsequent wet summers and poor gates resulted in financial difficulty for the society members who still keep on hoping for better luck in the future.

VILLAGE CHARITIES.

IN THE PAST, wealthy benefactors, many of whom were Quakers or members of St. Cuthbert's Church, helped the poor of the parish by contributing to a Coal and Clothing Club; many, of course, have since died or left the district. Messrs. Priestman and Sons and Mr. Henry Peile, each gave one truck of coal. And about 60 families were helped in this way each year.

Today, voluntary helpers of the village collect for many organisations: Help the Children Fund, Cancer Campaign, The Blind, Red Cross, Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and at the present time, for Refugee Year.

LIGHTING, NEWSPAPERS, COMMUNICATION

THE VILLAGE was gas-lit until about 1950, when standard electric lighting was installed.

We have two local weekly newspapers. The Consett Guardian—printed at Consett—and the Consett Chronicle, printed at Priestgate, Darlington. Then there are the Newcastle Evening Chronicle and Sunday Sun, both popular newspapers and widely read in the North-East.

Shotley Bridge Post Office is now a Sub-Office. Letters are delivered about 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. Telegrams are delivered by hand. There is a telephone exchange in the village, which came into operation in October, 1928.

From the Consett Guardian, 1881:

“Letters arrived at Shotley Bridge Post Office about 8 a.m., window delivery at 10 a.m. and other deliveries at 11.50 a.m., 5.30 and 8 p.m. Money Order Office open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Telegrams received from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Sundays, 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

THE GREAT WAR

ON THE close of World War I three commodious and pleasantly situated cottages were erected in the village by Mr. J. R. Surtees, builder, and formally opened by Mrs. F. Priestman in 1921, as a permanent memorial to the men who served.

Two of the dwellings were occupied by disabled soldiers, the other by a war-widow and her young family.

Gifts of food and warm clothing were sent regularly to the boys at the front, and a fund was raised for the benefit and encouragement of those who came home on leave, and especially recognised by gifts of illuminated address or gold watch, the men who won distinctions.

The following is a list of the young men from the village only, who served in the Great War :

H. J. Armstrong.	J. T. Jewitt.
W. Armstrong.	S. Joyce.
J. Allan.	T. W. M. Johnson.
C. Angus.	H. Johnson.
J. Anderson.	C. Johnson.
C. S. Barron.	W. E. Judson.
S. H. Barron.	A. Jones.
N. Blyth.	C. Jones.
J. Broadly.	A. Logan, Senr.
J. Bell.	A. Logan, Junr.
J. H. Bell.	G. Lamb.
J. W. Bell.	T. W. Lister.
T. W. Bell.	J. W. Lister.
F. Brown.	E. H. Lovett.
E. J. Barradell.	R. Lawson.
J. Blair.	T. Manon.
R. Bramley.	E. McElrue.
E. Best.	C. McElrue.
R. W. Coulson.	W. Mode.
J. Carson.	R. A. Milburn.
C. E. Collins.	W. S. Moore.
J. Coats.	J. S. Moore.

T. Coats.	T. S. Moore.
S. T. Coxon.	S. C. Mitchell.
D. Coxon.	D. McQueim.
W. V. W. Cranstoy.	P. Newton.
G. R. Clarkson.	R. Nixon.
G. E. Colling.	J. D. Nichol.
J. Connor.	N. Oswald.
T. Chisholm.	H. Oswell.
T. Dixon.	W. J. Oswell.
H. Dixon.	G. Patterson.
W. Dinning.	J. L. Priestman.
T. W. Dodd.	H. S. Raisbeck.
J. Dewar.	W. J. Robinson.
E. Dixon.	H. Robertson.
E. C. Dixon.	G. Richardson.
R. F. Elliot.	W. Snowdon.
V. H. Elliot.	O. Sullivan.
I. Featherstone.	F. Sloan.
J. K. Fisher.	G. Stubbs.
A. J. Fox.	H. L. Seymour.
C. J. Fox.	C. Telford.
P. Farrell.	O. Telford.
W. Fairless.	W. Telford.
I. Foster.	J. Telford.
J. W. French.	N. Telford.
J. Gibson.	J. Teal.
J. Grant.	J. R. Telford.
T. W. Glendinning.	M. Thompson.
T. Henderson.	P. Toole.
G. Henderson.	J. Toole.
J. W. Howarth.	W. Toole.
C. Howarth.	T. W. Turnbull.
H. Howarth.	W. C. Taylor.
C. Hogarth.	E. Taylor.
W. Hogarth.	J. Thorpe.
J. H. Hamilton.	W. Urwin.
W. Houlston.	W. Urwin.
J. Houlston.	R. Walker.
T. Hopper, Senr.	T. N. Wigham.
T. Hopper, Junr.	W. Weightmon.
J. Holyoak.	C. Wilson.

ST. CUTHBERT'S CHURCH REGISTER**Entry of first baptism—1850 :**

July 2nd. Jane John Foggan
 Ann and
 Daughter Mary Cutlers Hall
 of
 Laboror
 Fred Thompson.
 Incumbent.

Entry of first marriage :

October 18th, 1850. Andrew Graham, Bachelor
 Mary French, Spinster
 Rank: Waggon Man, Black Hill
 Father's name: William Graham, Farmer
 „ „ Mathew French, Laboror
 Married. The mark x of Andrew Graham.
 The mark x of Mary French.
 In the presence of us. John Rankin.
 The mark x of George Parker.
 Fred Thompson.
 Incumbent.

Entry of first burials :

Name—Margaret Garet Gardener.
 Abode—High Gate.
 Burial—September 18th, 1850. 5 months.
 John Pringle, Shotley Bridge.
 September 21st, 48 years.

Fred Thompson.
 Incumbent.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**RECORD OF FORMATION AND MEETING**

The formation and meeting was held in the Methodist Church Hall, Shotley Bridge, on Friday, May 4th, 1956, at 7 p.m. There were forty ladies present, of whom four were members of a neighbouring Women's Institute.

Mrs. Suthren, Voluntary County Organiser of Edmundbyers, took the chair. She explained that the meeting had been arranged in order to see whether there was any desire for a Women's Institute to be formed in Shotley Bridge as the neighbouring Women's Institute at Benfieldside had a waiting list.

Mrs. Suthren introduced Mrs. Fox, U.C.O., of Middleton St. George, who gave an address on the History, Work and Constitution of the Women's Institute Movement.

Mrs. Green, a co-opted member of the County Executive Committee then explained the financial aspects of the running of a Women's Institute.

The resolution that a Women's Institute be formed in the village was carried unanimously. And that the new Institute be called Shotley Bridge Women's Institute.

The first meeting was held on May 11th at 7.15 p.m. And Mrs. Kellett was nominated President. Mrs. D. Coxon, secretary and Mrs. Bowe, treasurer. There were fifty ladies present.

Our Institute has gone from strength to strength ; we now have an average of 70-80 members attending the monthly meetings which are held in the Village Hall.

LIST OF SOURCES

The author desires to thank the following members of Shotley Bridge Women's Institute and various friends who have so willingly supplied photographs and information regarding the village :

Mrs. Armstrong.	Mrs. Oswell.
Mrs. D. Coxon.	Mrs. Simons.
Mrs. W. Coxon.	Mrs. Stephenson.
Miss I. Calvert.	Mrs. W. Urwin.
Mrs. G. Gradon.	Mrs. W. B. Wilson.
Mrs. Hume.	Mrs. Williams.
Mrs. Kellett.	Miss Young.
Mrs. Kitchen.	

Mr. A. Forster and Mr. C. Millar, Farmers.

Also Dr. W. G. Allen, whose three etchings, with all other photographs were reprinted by Dr. C. E. Kellett.

Information from: Mr. Close, Under-Manager, Venture Transport Co. ; Mr. J. Surtees, Hon. Secretary, War Fund, 1914-18.

“ History of West Durham ”
by George Neasham.

“ History of Derwent Flour Mill ”
by G. T. Hyden, J.P.

