

"STROUD NEWS"

# STROUD

- ★ *Convicted and Branded*
- 26. ★ *The Loyal Stroud Volunteers*
- 4. ★ *When Paupers lodged in the*
- 57. *Workhouse*

THE last case of branding in the county was of a man, who in 1779, tried to break into the Stroud Bank of Messrs. Hollings and Co., now the U.D.C. chambers. His name was Spear and he was convicted of attempting to break into the Bank from the cellar of the adjoining premises (now occupied by Messrs. Revell and Sons). Spear was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and public branding on the hand at the Old Booth Hall, in Gloucester.

With the threat of an invasion hanging over the country during the Napoleonic Wars, over 450,000 volunteers were raised for "home guard" duties.

Stroud's contribution to this patriotic movement was the Loyal Stroud Volunteers, formed in 1798. The total strength of the unit was 115, and their uniforms consisted of scarlet coat, white waistcoat, breeches and stockings, black gaiters, with caps "somewhat helmet-shaped." The rank and file were armed with musket and bayonet. The unit has had quite a smart military review in September, 1799, preceded by its band, it marched to a grand review on Minchinhampton Common, to receive its colour (flag) from the Countess of Berkeley.

## POOR LAW

The Stroud Poor law Union, consisting of 15 parishes, was constituted in 1836. The Union Workhouse, now used by the local Civil Service, stands on the north side of the Bisley Road. Fisher wrote of the inmates in the 1860's: "The adult paupers are employed in cultivating the land and garden, and in other needful labour. The boys and girls are educated by a School Master and Mistress; and are engaged in such suitable work and healthful exercise as can be provided for them. Some of them are disposed of, by being put out to service or apprenticed; and others, (together with adult paupers), voluntarily remove themselves in search of employment elsewhere."—the days of Victorian charity!

Not until 1833 was Stroud supplied with gas by the company established at Lodgemore for that purpose. Until then the town was badly illuminated at night with oil lamps.

As the town increased in size there gradually developed various public institutions. In 1823, at the junction of Bedford Street and George Street, new premises were erected for the Stroud Dispensary and next to it, in 1835 was built the Casualty Hospital. The two institutions were merged into the Stroud General Hospital, in 1859. The present Hospital was erected in 1874, the foundation stone being laid with masonic ceremony on May 28th. Lord Sherborne, the Provin-

the road to pass beneath the viaduct the whole road at Rowcroft had to be excavated to a depth of six feet at the lowest part. The building along Rowcroft and the footpath in front of them, stand on the original level of the road. Because of these alterations carriages could no longer be drawn up in front of the Rowcroft houses, which became accessible only from either end of the pavement which runs in front of the houses. This was the reason for the reduced value of the houses.

From a copy of "White's Illustrated Stroud Almanac, for the year of our Lord 1877", we learn of the numerous carriers in those days of the old horse carts:

J. G. Workman and Baxter made several return journeys between Stroud and Chalford with the exception of Sundays, their headquarters being the Swan Inn. Dangerfield of Church Street, Stroud, was the Gloucester four-days-a-week carrier. Holmes and Co., of George Street, carried daily to and from Nailsworth, Minchinhampton, Painswick, Stonehouse, Chalford and Brimscombe; and on Wednesday and Friday to Dursley. There were several other carriers, and Holmes and Co., had a weekly road service to London and Bristol. Evidence that canal transport had not then begun to decline is given in the list of boats controlled by W. Knee, of Lower Wharf, Wallbridge, which journeyed to Birmingham, Staffordshire, Bristol, Newport and Cardiff.

"Magistrates acting for the Division of Stroud" in 1877 were:

Robert L. Townsend, Steanbridge House; William Capel, The Grove; J. E. Dorington, Lypiatt Park; R. Winterbotham, Field House; J. W. Hallelwell, Stroud; S. S. Dickenson, Brownhill House; J. C. Little, Pitchcombe House; Alfred T. Stanton, M.P., The Thrupp; F. A. Hyett, Painswick House; Colonel Collier, Stanley Hall; Clerk: W. Heelas, Rowcroft, Stroud.

It was in 1849 that the two brothers, George and Henry Adam Holloway, founded the firm of Holloway Brothers. They claimed to be "the first to introduce power sewing machines into England." Their first premises were in "Threadneedle Street"—hence the name. Then in 1899 came the factory in Brick Row, to which several additions have been made.

The Stroud War Memorial, which stands in the Park Gardens, was unveiled by the widow of a Stroud Service man. After the unveiling the names of the Stroud fallen in the Great War, were read out.

William C. Cowle, a former Stroud trader, who lived at Dourbridge left in his will of

Art, which was then being built. During the late 20's interest in the museum was revived, and the re-born museum with a curator was officially opened in 1930.

The present curator of the museum is Mr. L. Walrond who is to be congratulated on the enterprising "Stroud Past and Present" Exhibition, which has been held in the School of Art this week.

The "Working Men's Conservative Benefit Society" was founded in 1875 by Mr. George Holloway. Now called the Stroud Holloway Original Benefit Society, Mr. Holloway's enterprise still flourishes.

Stroud's other benefit society the Mutual was begun in the late 80's.

And here we must conclude our brief history of Stroud and its institutions. This series of articles has been shorter than we intended, so we offer our apologies for any omissions.

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In 1845 the houses in Rowcroft, were considerably reduced in value by the Great Western Railway, which built its viaduct over the road and through Rowcroft to enable traffic on

viaduct the whole road at Rowcroft had to be excavated, to a depth of six feet at the lowest part. The building along Rowcroft and the footpath in front of them, stand on the original level of the road. Because of these alterations carriages could no longer be drawn up in front of the Rowcroft houses, which became accessible only from either end of the pavement which runs in front of the houses. This was the reason for the reduced value of the houses.

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William C. Cowie, a former Stroud trader, who lived at Bowbridge, left in his will of 1897, £4,000 for the establishment of a museum in Stroud and a further £1,900 for the maintenance of an observatory. Both these sums were used to establish a museum in two rooms of the Stroud School of

Art, which was then being built. During the late 20's interest in the museum was revived, and the re-born museum with a curator was officially opened in 1930.

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