



history

AQUEDUCT COTTAGE HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURE + ENVIRONS

The building of the cottage

Aqueduct Cottage was built as lengthsman's and lock-keeper's accommodation in c1802 on completion, by Peter Nightingale, of the branch canal to his factories and lead works at Lea Bridge and Lea Wharf.

Nightingale was Richard Arkwright's financier and the landlord of his developing mill complex at Cromford. Management of the water supply to the new branch was key and subject of extended disputes with the Cromford Canal Company and the owners of water mills on the Derwent downstream of this point.

The name

Aqueduct Cottage (so-named on the 1898 ordnance survey) has also been known as the 'Lengthsman's', 'Lock-keepers', 'Wigwell' and 'Wayfarer's' and has been referred to in the vernacular, as 'Ackerdock' Cottage.

'Lengthsman's' and 'Lock-keeper's' describe the original function of the cottage; 'Wigwell' is the alternative name for the adjacent Derwent Aqueduct and 'Wayfarer's' refers to the last use of the structure as a shelter for walkers. It is also sometimes known simply as 'Leawood Cottage' in reference to the woods which extend up behind it.

LEAWOOD ARM of the Cromford Canal

This was a branch canal off the Cromford Canal main line. Originally 500m long, built along the lower valley of the Lea Brook.

This was the only branch of the Cromford Canal in the Derwent Valley and the only branch on the Canal as a whole built directly to serve mining and quarrying. It was an important feature of the early years of the Canal and part of the complex relations between the great industrialists Arkwright and Nightingale.

Peter Nightingale was authorised by the Cromford Canal Company in 1800 to build at his own expense a branch of 2.5 furlongs. This was completed in 1802. Nightingale was the owner of cotton mills at Lea Bridge as well as quarries and two leadworks further up the valley and a hat factory built in 1793 along the line of the branch.



Wayfarer's Cottage

The 'Wayfarer' name has stuck, long after the cottage ceased to be used as a walkers' shelter in the 1970s, partly because the title daubed over the door lintol has survived to this day.

The length of the canal was reduced by about 100m in 1819, as a result of objections from the Strutts that the canal took water directly from Lea Brook, threatening the water supplies to their mills downstream at Belper. After the building of the railway, lead was conveyed by boat to the sidings at Whatstandwell.

The branch was built into the valley side for its length, retained above the river meadows by a dry stone wall. The truncated channel now terminates at Lea Wharf where the wharf cottage, sections of the stone paved surface, channel copings and crane base, as well as the wharf arm survive. Very few features of the earlier length of canal to Lea Bridge (only a length of retaining wall which elevated the canal above the Lea Brook) are evident and the wharf there has been completely obliterated.

The remaining length of canal is in a much worse condition than the rest of the northern section of the Cromford Canal: there is no water in much of it and one of its significant features, the aqueduct over the railway, has been replaced with a footbridge.

Goods to meet the needs of the residents were largely brought by boat to the wharf at Lea Bridge. The collection of coal from a stone shed on the wharf, which still stands, has been verified by Mrs Marsh who stayed at Aqueduct Cottage over a long period as a child.

According to the nomination document for the World Heritage Site:

'When the closure of the canal was proposed in 1910 by the canal's then owners, the Midland Railway, the businesses at Lea Bridge were among the principal objectors, the canal having become an essential link for the import of coal and other raw materials'.

LEA WOOD

Lea Wood was part of the Nightingale family's extensive holdings in the area. The wood provided the 'white coal' needed for Nightingale's lead smelting—timber was dried in hollowed out kilns distributed about the wood.

However, recreational enjoyment of the wood as a natural asset has been a priority since the construction by Florence Nightingale's father of his house on the edge of the wood, Lea Hurst. Scenic rides and walks were created

and, following the purchase of the wood by Mr Bowmer of Whatstandwell, public access was enjoyed all through the second half of the twentieth century.

Preservation of the woods and public access was uppermost in the minds of the community group Lea Wood Trust, which formed to purchase the land when it unexpectedly went on the market in 1996 and again when the Lea Wood Trust recently transferred the land to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

CROMFORD CANAL

The five miles of the Cromford Canal in the Derwent Valley is owned and managed by Derbyshire County Council for the enjoyment by the public of its natural and built heritage .

'Cromford Canal, its wharves, roads, bridges and aqueducts, the Leawood Pumphouse and the High Peak Junction goods sheds, workshops and other railway buildings are pioneering examples of industrial development.

The are significant elements in the cultural landscape which constitutes the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, which was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001 for its critically important contribution to the Industrial Revolution.

A remarkable amount of the the original 18th and 19th century engineering structures survive in a largely unaltered setting—a 'relict' industrial landscape which, after the Manchester, Matlock, Buxton and Midlands Junction Railway line had been threaded through the valley in 1849, remained and remains largely unchanged.

The Cromford Canal is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest, a wildlife site of national importance for its aquatic plants and animals. It is a Derbyshire haven for water vole, a rapidly declining species despite its protected status.

The Canal and the landscape in which it sits are enjoyed as a recreational venue, for walking in particular, by thousands of visitors each year.'

Extract from Derbyshire County Council's Cromford Canal: Cromford to Ambergate Conservation Management Plan 2007



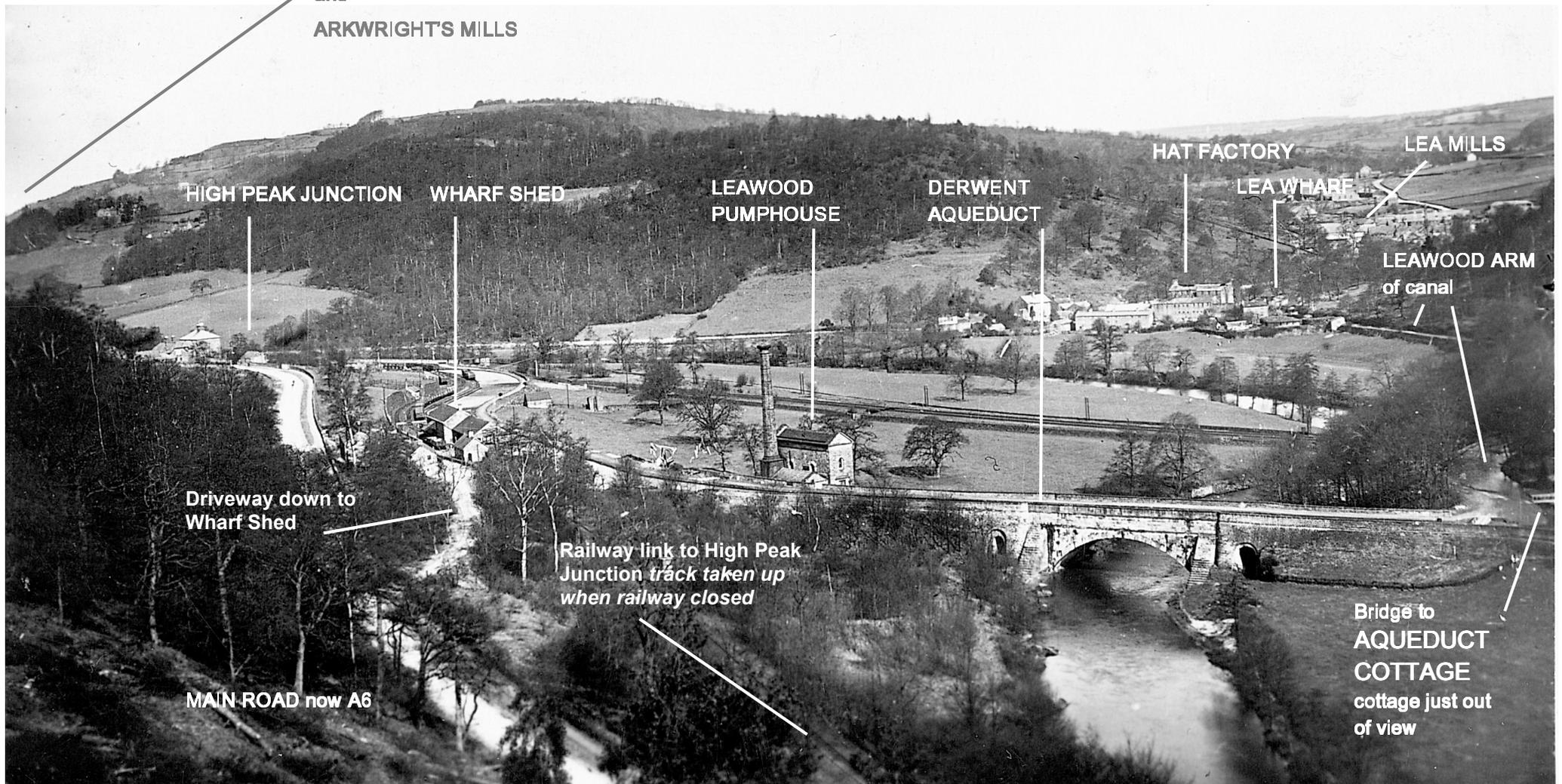
C14th	Lea Hall, property acquired by Nightingales dates from this period	1849	Leawood Pumphouse installed to pump water into the canal from the River Derwent as original supply diminishes
1698	Lead smelting works recorded at Lea Bridge	1870	Canal taken into Midland Railway ownership
C17th	Thomas Nightingale takes over lead mining & smelting business at Lea and establishes the family's wealth	1893	Lea Mills, finally sold by Nightingale family to Smedleys who continued their successful textile business
1707	Lea Hall acquired by Peter Nightingale I—son of Thomas	1898	Ordnance survey shows Aqueduct Cottage apparently twice original size and occupied as two dwellings.
1736	Peter Nightingale II (son of Peter Nightingale I) born	1900	Butterley Tunnel second collapse closed Cromford Canal to through traffic permanently although upper section remains in use for local trade.
1771	Richard Arkwright begins world's first successful water-powered cotton spinning mill at Cromford with Nightingale as landlord and financier	1906	Hat Factory at Lea Bridge closed
1783	Lea Bridge textile mill established by Peter Nightingale II	1936	Leawood Branch ceased to be used: dam constructed at Aqueduct Cott lock
1790	Arkwright mill complex at Cromford largely completed	1938	Last traffic passed along upper section of Cromford Canal
1790	Work on Cromford Canal commences with Nightingale as one of its promoters	1944	Whole canal officially abandoned by Act of Parliament
1792	Death of Sir Richard Arkwright	1951	Lea Wood, incl Aqueduct Cottage sold into private ownership: Mr Bowmer
1793	Construction of the vast Hat Factory by Nightingale at Lea Bridge	1963-67	Cromford and High Peak Railway closed in stages
1793	Partial collapse of Derwent Aqueduct delays opening of Canal	1971	Cromford Canal Society founded: restoration of north end commenced
1794	Cromford Canal fully opened to Cromford Wharf including Derwent Aqueduct after which the cottage is named	1974-?	CCS run horse drawn trip boat: Cromford Wharf to High Peak Junction
1794	Peter Nightingale II establishes cotton mill powered by Lea Brook, based on Arkwright's model	circa 1970	Aqueduct Cottage last known permanent resident, Mr Bowler, moved out of the Cottage
1794	Possible date of establishment of large hat factory at Lea Bridge/Wharf	1974	Derbyshire County Council (DCC) acquire Derwent Valley length of Canal
1802	Peter II opened Leawood Branch of Cromford Canal: predominantly used to transport lead after smelting to High Peak Junction	1981	Canal from Cromford to Whatstandwell declared SSSI
circa 1802	Aqueduct Cottage built by Nightingale at the same time to house lengthsman operating lock and controlling canal traffic	1989	Canal overtopped south of Gregory Tunnel putting paid to hopes of making that section navigable.
1803	Peter Nightingale II died	1990	Cromford Canal Society ceased trading
1811	Plan of canal shows very small building at junction of main canal and arm: apparently half present size of Aqueduct Cottage	1996	Lea Wood, incl Aqueduct Cottage , sold to community group Leawood Trust
1818	Lea Mills leased to John Smedley: a fully functioning cotton spinning mill which they converted to wool	2001	Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site inscribed, including Cromford Canal
1819	Leawood Arm of canal truncated following disputes over water supply	2002	Friends of Cromford Canal announce aim to restore/re-open full length of canal
1830	Cromford & High Peak Railway opened	2009-11	FCC run horse-drawn boat Cromford Wharf to High Peak Junction
1830s	Cromford Canal: peak tonnage 300,000 tons per annum	2006	DCC complete Conservation Management Plan for Cromford Canal, identifying Aqueduct Cottage as important heritage asset under threat
1840	Stephenson's Manchester, Buxton, Matlock & Midlands Junction Railway opens (Leawood tunnel & aqueducts spanning main canal & arm)	2012	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust acquire Lea Wood incl canal arm & Aqueduct Cottage
1840s	Competition from railways began to undermine canal trade.	2013	Friends of Cromford Canal acquire new narrow boat, planning to resume horse-drawn runs from Cromford Wharf to High Peak Junction in 2014

PRE-1916 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

High Peak Junction, Derwent Aqueduct and Lea Mills

The lack of trees provides views which are completely obscured today.

**CROMFORD WHARF canal terminus
and
ARKWRIGHT'S MILLS**



HIGH PEAK JUNCTION

WHARF SHED

LEAWOOD PUMPHOUSE

DERWENT AQUEDUCT

HAT FACTORY

LEA WHARF

LEA MILLS

LEAWOOD ARM of canal

Driveway down to Wharf Shed

Railway link to High Peak Junction track taken up when railway closed

MAIN ROAD now A6

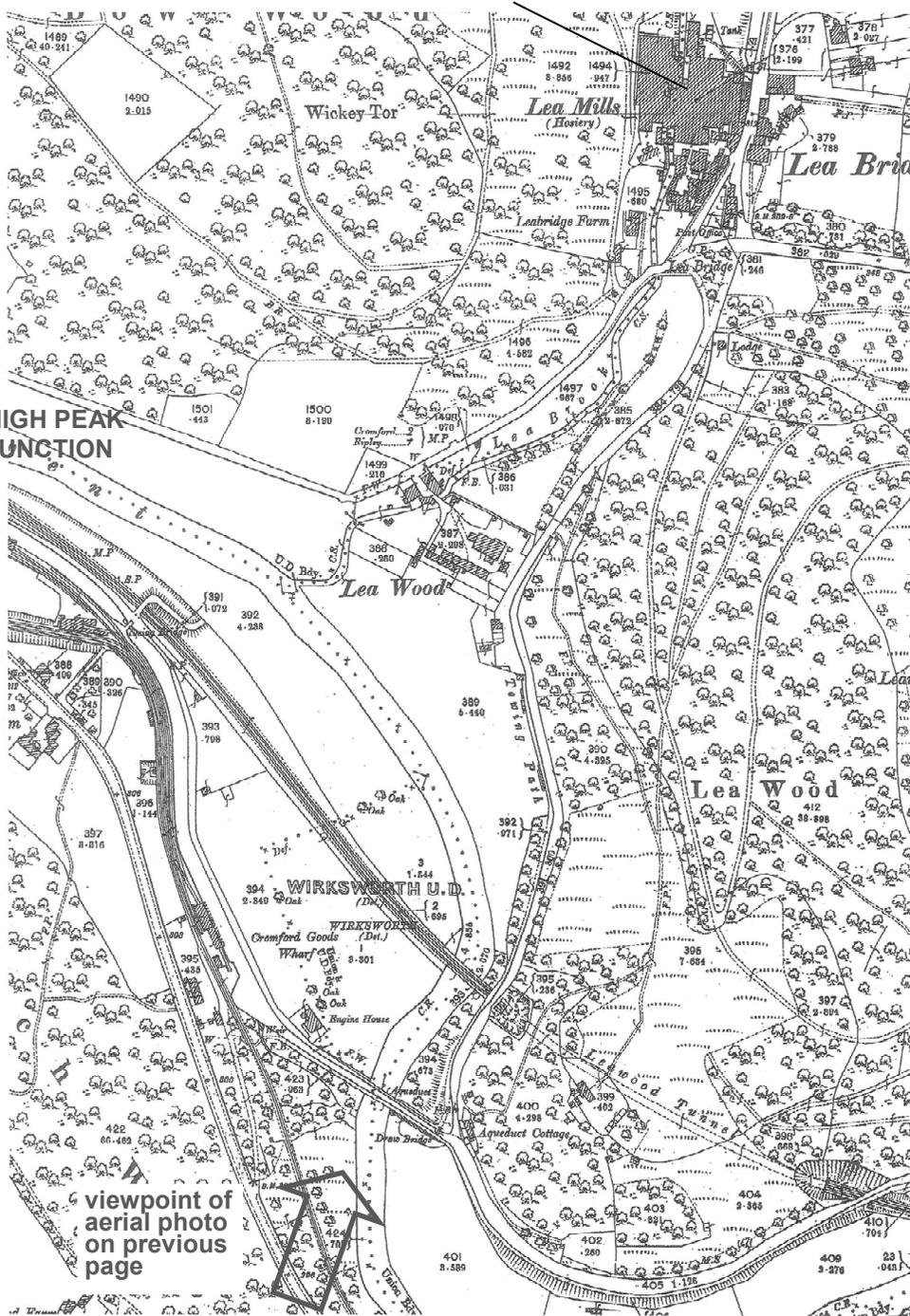
Bridge to AQUEDUCT COTTAGE cottage just out of view

SMEDLEY'S (once Nightingale's) vast mill complex at Lea Bridge

Lea Brook

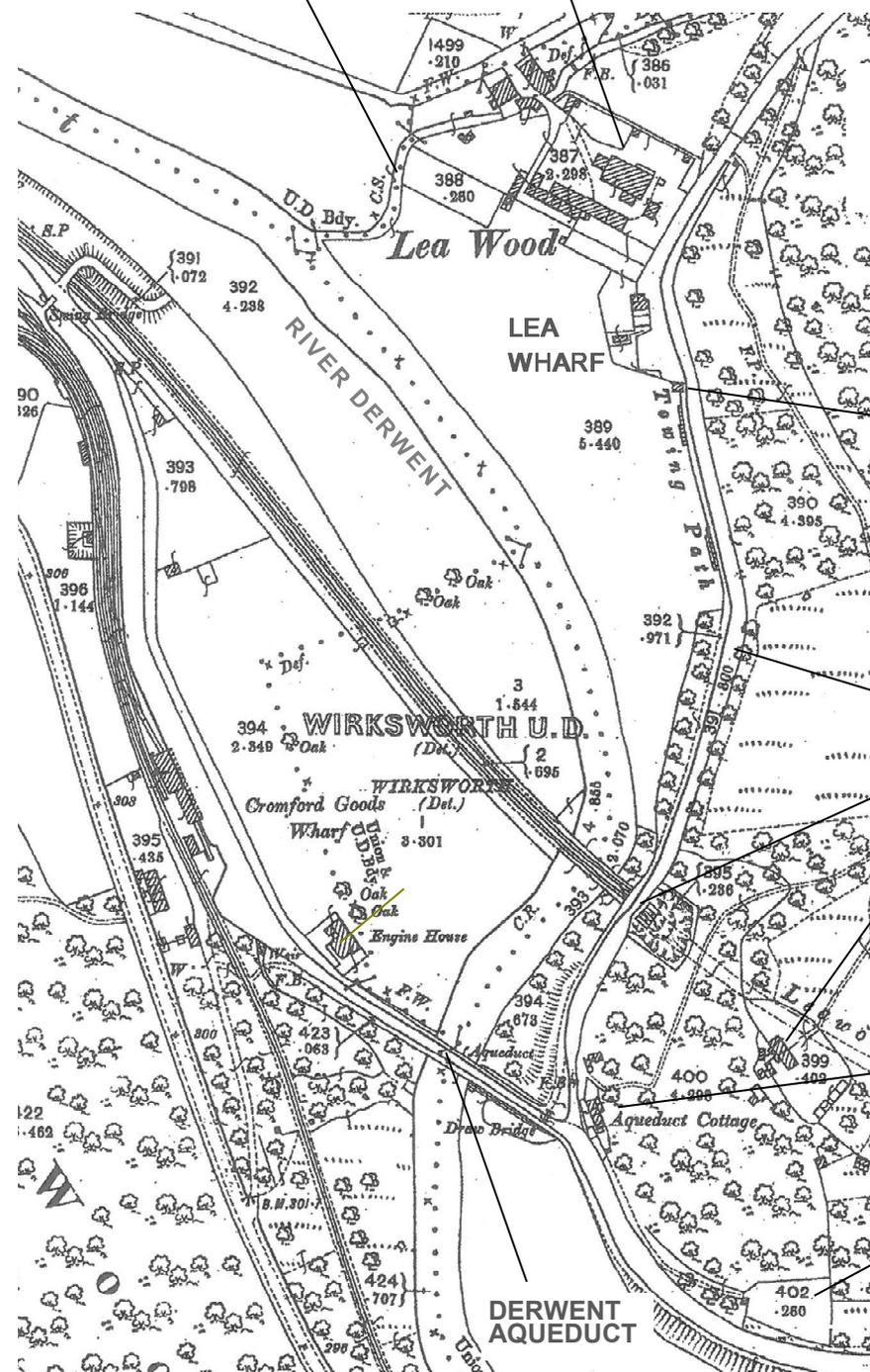
Hat Factory

03 HISTORY + SIGNIFICANCE



HIGH PEAK JUNCTION

viewpoint of aerial photo on previous page



1898
ORDNANCE
SURVEY

stone shed on wharf from which Aqueduct Cottage residents fetched their coal

LEAWOOD ARM

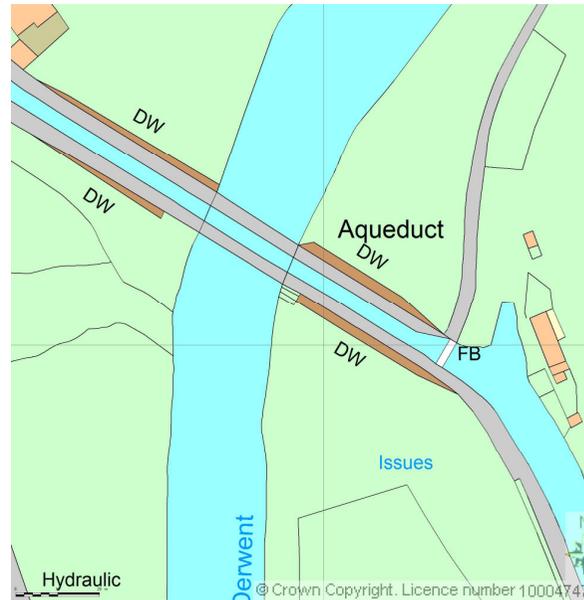
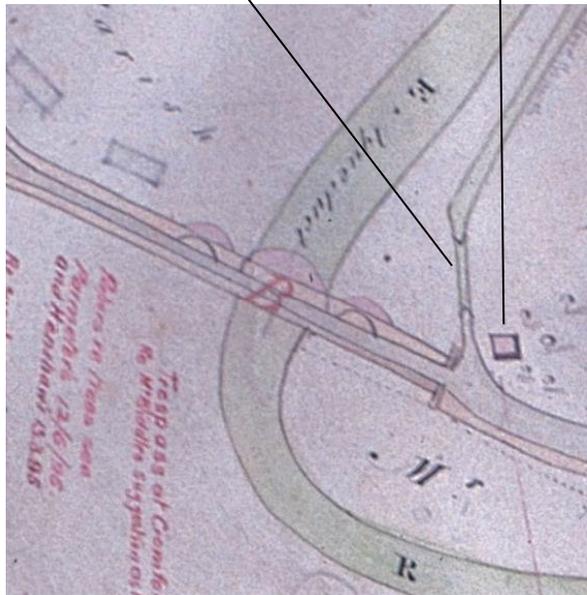
RAILWAY AQUEDUCT

TUNNEL COTTAGES

AQUEDUCT COTTAGE

Aquaduct Cottage 'Top Garden'

stop lock apparently single cottage



HISTORICAL MAP SEQUENCE

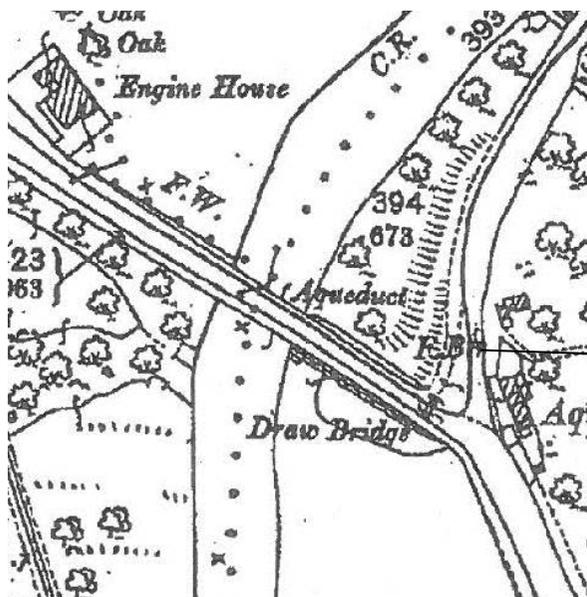
The archaeology of Aqueduct Cottage, substantiated by the 1811 plan, suggests that there was originally a single, much smaller, dwelling on the site. It appears that it was the left hand bay of the cottage which was built first given that the thick partition wall internally is bonded into the stonework of the external walls on that side.

The earliest photographs show that the second ground floor window from the left was a door and this can be substantiated by the evidence of the stonework in this area. The second phase of building therefore initially added on a second, separate, dwelling. It seems that later the two were united and the left-hand door converted into a window.

above
Ordnance Survey : present day

above left
1811 plan of the Canal

left
1898 Ordnance Survey



remains of stop lock, by this time out of use



STOP LOCK + BRIDGE TO THE COTTAGE

The stop-lock was built in 1802, as part of the agreement, of May 1800, between Peter Nightingale and the Cromford Canal Company for the construction by Nightingale of the private Leawood Arm of the Canal. The Canal Company wished to prevent water from the main line flowing into the Leawood Arm.

The ability to control water levels at the junction became critical subsequently when a dispute arose between Nightingale and the owners of water mills further down the Derwent who were concerned that the Lea Brook, which supplied the Leawood Arm, was losing water en route to the Derwent and reducing their supply downstream.

From then on negotiations regarding levels were conducted three ways. Nightingale needed to ensure that Lea Brook water was not escaping down the main line of the Canal at the same time as preventing main line water from escaping into his canal branch. He was eventually forced by the mill owners to reduce the length of the branch and isolate it from the Lea Brook supply.

The lock does not appear on the 1876 survey and it is assumed it had by then gone out of use with the decline of the number of water powered mills on the Derwent.

This photograph of 1905 shows the swingbridge over the Leawood Arm which provided access to the Cottage. In one of the archived records, Ivy Turberville describes as a child, opening this and the main canal swing bridge for the boat men.



COTTAGE OCCUPIED UNTIL 1970s WITH NO MAINS SERVICES

So far, research has only taken us back to Ann Eaton, who lived in the cottage with her husband from the late 19th century. It is her grandchildren and great grandchildren who have provided first hand accounts of daily life at the Cottage.

Ivy Turberville (now over a hundred years old) records how her grandmother managed with quite primitive facilities which were not uncommon in her day. However, by the time the cottage was vacated around 1970, still without any mains services, such lack of amenity was regarded as unacceptably substandard. Mrs Turberville relates:

‘In the kitchen under the window stood a pot sink which drained into the canal but no water laid on. We had to be careful what we poured away in order not to pollute the canal because we took our laundry water out of the canal from two stone platforms just outside the gate at the canal edge.

We got our cooking water most times from springs on our side of the canal.

The water for the drinking came out under the canal on the far bank. It didn't come from the canal itself, it had soaked down the hillside and right under the level of the canal and it was quite clear. It had 'water clearer beetles' swimming about in it as we called them. We had a pot to purify the water with sand in for the water to drain through to clear it for drinking.

Grandma was very strict and we all had to work. Just by the back door were nails that our yokes hung on ready to help us carry the pails of water. There was a small one for me and I had two quart milk cans to fetch water from below the canal, down the wooden steps, that was my task.

When I was a bit older and going across the other side of the river for water I used to walk back on the parapet. I think I walked on the parapet more often than on the tow path when going over the river. I couldn't do it now, it made my father swear no end.

At the Lea Bridge end of the cottage was a high stone building with our earth closets on the upper floor and a pig sty below.....

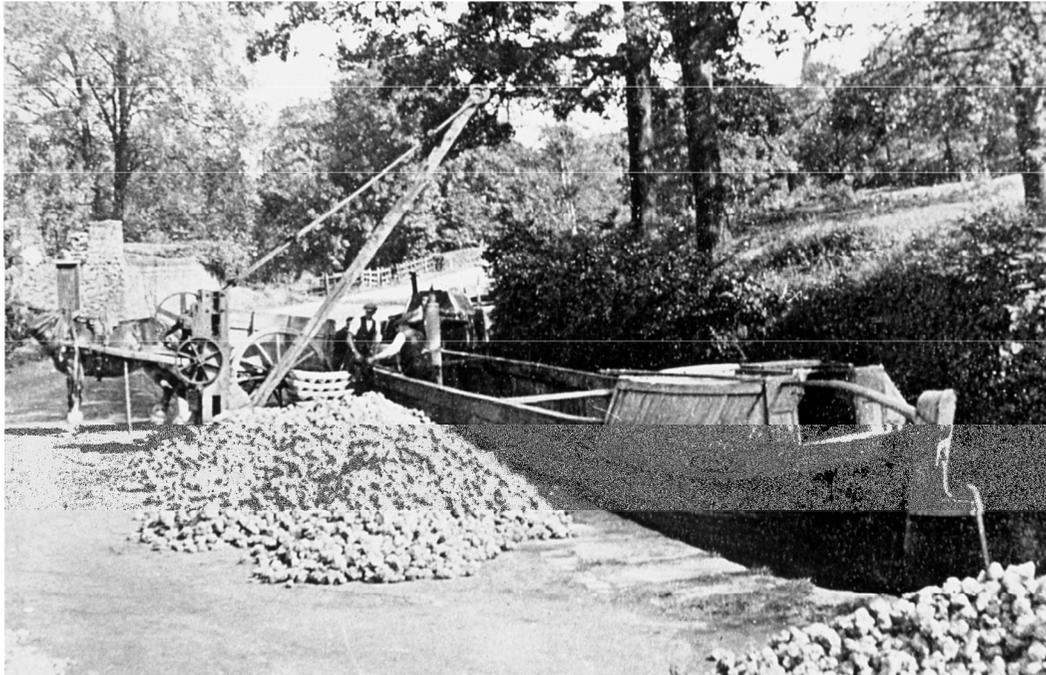
There was even less privacy for a bath. You might wait until everyone else went out or else draped some cloths on the clothes horse round the bath for a bit of privacy in the kitchen near to the little fireside boiler for a bit of hot water’.



left
Mrs Ann Eaton sitting on the stone steps from which she drew water out of the Canal for washing. She is pictured with her daughter, Violet Farnsworth and grandchildren Henrietta and Arthur. *Photograph provided by Ivy Turberville.*

below
This is believed to be Mr Bowler, last known resident of Aqueduct Cottage, *photographed by Frank Rogers.* The yoke used for carrying pails to collect drinking water from the other side of the Canal can be seen hanging outside the house in a number of the old photographs.





LEA WHARF

As a result of a dispute over water rights with mill owners further down the Derwent Valley, in 1819 the Leawood Arm wharf was moved to its present location from the original terminus adjacent to Peter Nightingale's mills at Lea Bridge. The final length of the branch was abandoned and it is difficult to make out in the landscape today.



Top The wharf and Wharf Cottage from the north

Above The stone shed on the wharf from which Aqueduct Cottage residents fetched their coal.

Left In this photograph of unknown date, lead from Nightingale's works was being loaded on to a boat at the wharf, to be transported up to the main Canal and past Aqueduct Cottage at the junction. The Hat Factory wall can be seen in the background.



Turning the 70 foot narrow boats

The width of the junction of the Cromford Canal and Leewood Arm does not allow turning here and Hugh Potter, Friends of Cromford Canal archivist confirms:

'As I understand it they could not turn here. They would have had to use Gregory Wide Hole or the winding hole by the Pump House.

My guess would be that if they were going to Lea loaded from the south (as is most likely) they would go forwards, unload, back down to the junction, then go forwards to the pump house and turn there, giving them minimal backwards running.

In fact they would be breaking the bye-laws if they went back to Gregory wide to turn for in 1804 it was stated

That no boatman navigating upon this Canal shall permit or suffer any Boat or vessel under his care or direction to sail with the rudder foremost, or without a rudder at the stem....on pain of forfeiting Twenty shillings for each offence.'

Above left

Hugh Potter records:

Probably mid 1930s. By this time (the boat) was being used as a maintenance boat and the crew would be the local canal workers. The Canal was owned by the railway, hence the LMS décor.

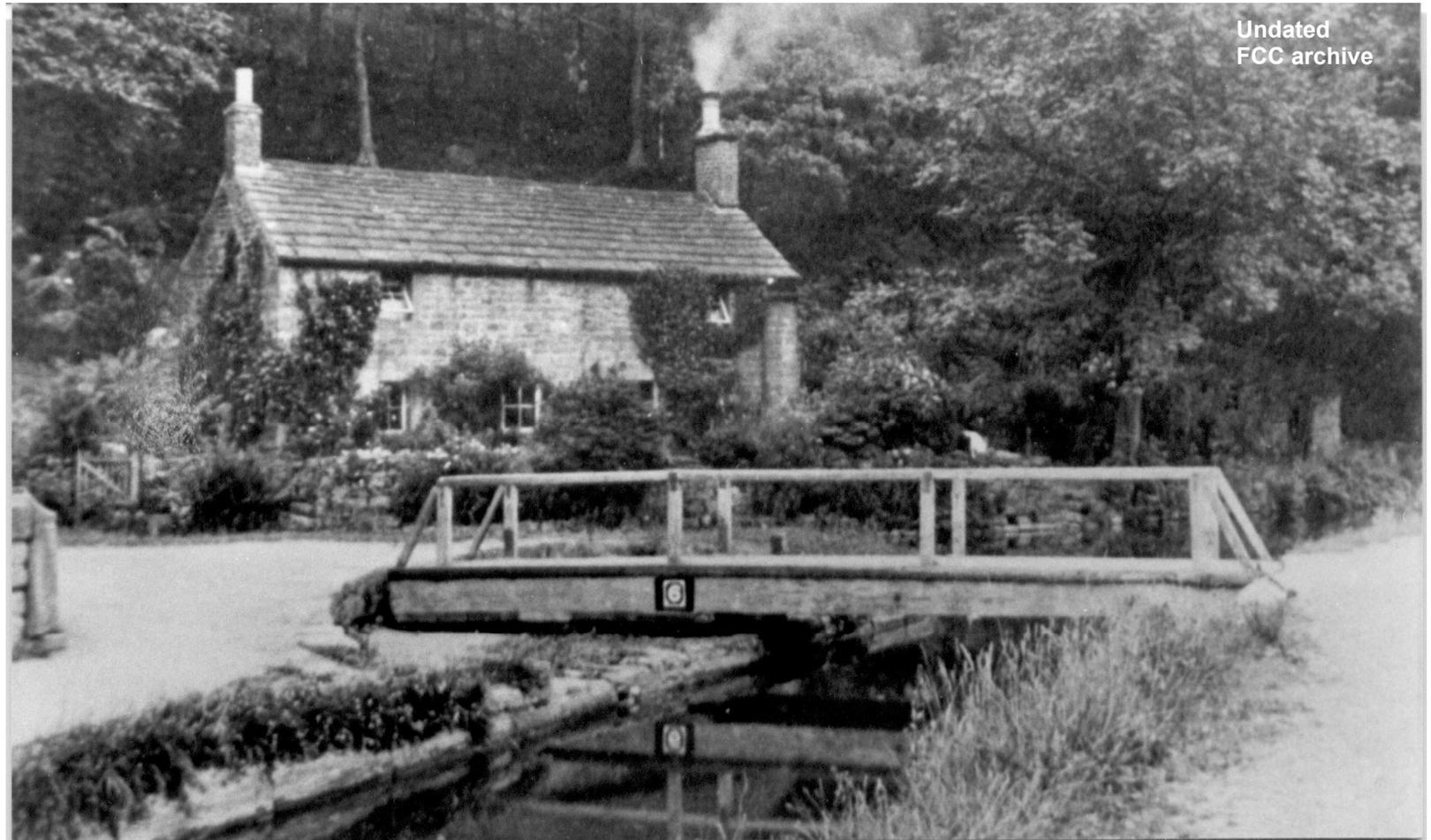
(The photograph) shows....Edward Sampson, who was inspector on the Canal until he retired in 1958. Thistle is the boat which ended up sunk by Bullbridge Aqueduct—see below.

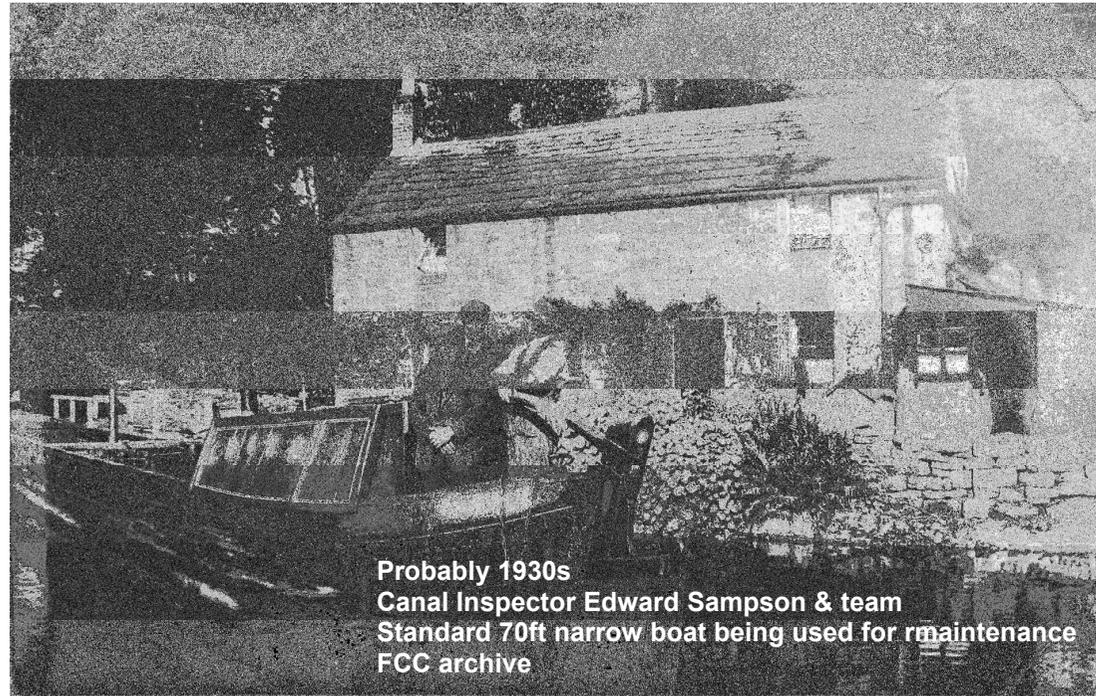
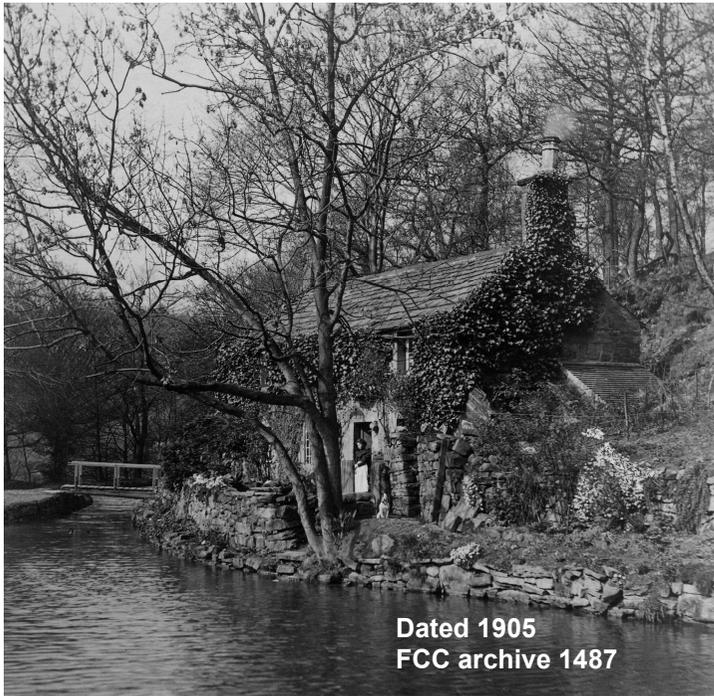


probably Eaton family in doorway
Courtesy Helena Marsh & FCC archive 425

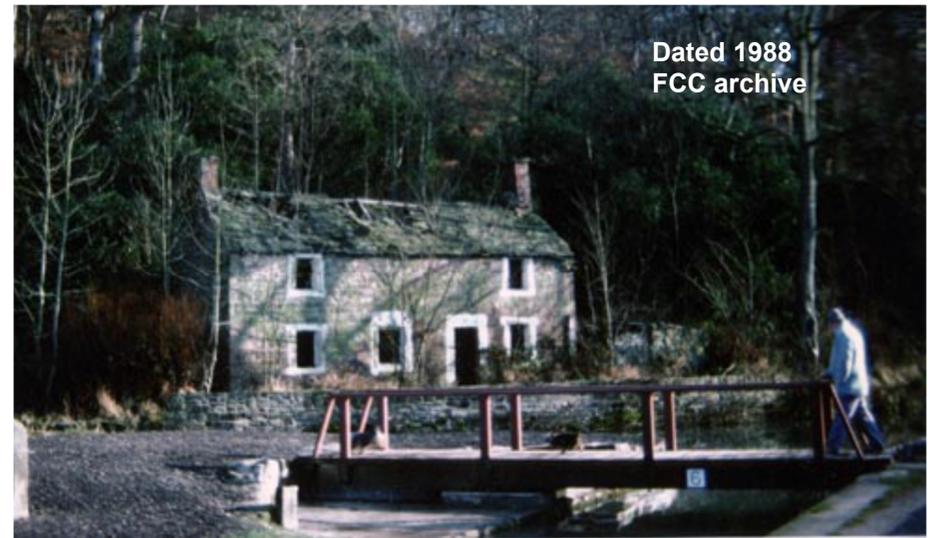
AQUEDUCT SWING BRIDGE

The swing bridge across the Canal at the Aqueduct—an important element in the historic setting of the Cottage. The Cottage residents refer to operating the swing bridge to allow boat traffic through, but it is not known whether by the 20th century this was done as a duty or a kindness. The present swing bridge is a replica which was installed by the Cromford Canal Society in the 1980s.





DECLINE INTO DERELICTION These photographs show the progressive decline of the cottage from when it was vacated **c1970**

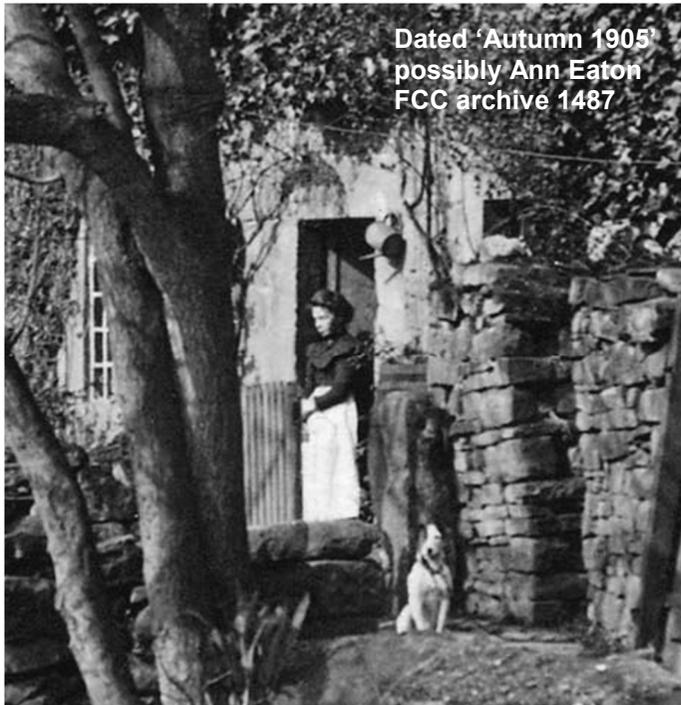


DECLINE INTO DERELICTION These photographs, taken by Peter Daykin, further confirm that it was the 1980s which saw the catastrophic loss of the roof and with it the rest of the timber work. The photographs are of additional importance in that they are the only images we have of the interior, with at least some features of the structure and finishes still discernable.





Frank Bark's mother, Fay, and sister, Violet
Dated '1950s'
FCC archive 3452



Dated 'Autumn 1905'
possibly Ann Eaton
FCC archive 1487

Ann Eaton brought up eight children in the two-bedroom cottage and it may be that the two dwellings were converted to one to accommodate her family.



Dated 1954
Frank & Ruth Bark
FCC archive 3453

Family used path says Susan

READER Susan Tomlinson of Matlock sent in this historic photograph of the Nightingale Estate in Holloway.

In 1915-16 Jack Knowles (Mrs Tomlinson's father) his brother Charles, sisters Emily, Jenny and Nancy and parents, Arthur and Mary moved in to one of two cottages, situated on the estate.

To get to the cottage the family used a footpath from Lea Bridge. The privately-owned path, at Mill Lane, is currently at the centre of a protest storm about access and villagers are calling for it to be turned in to a public right of way. (Mercury Thursday October 7).

Mrs Tomlinson said: "The family

lived in this cottage up until about 1937, and must have used the footpath everyday, as did most of the families that worked at Lea Mills."

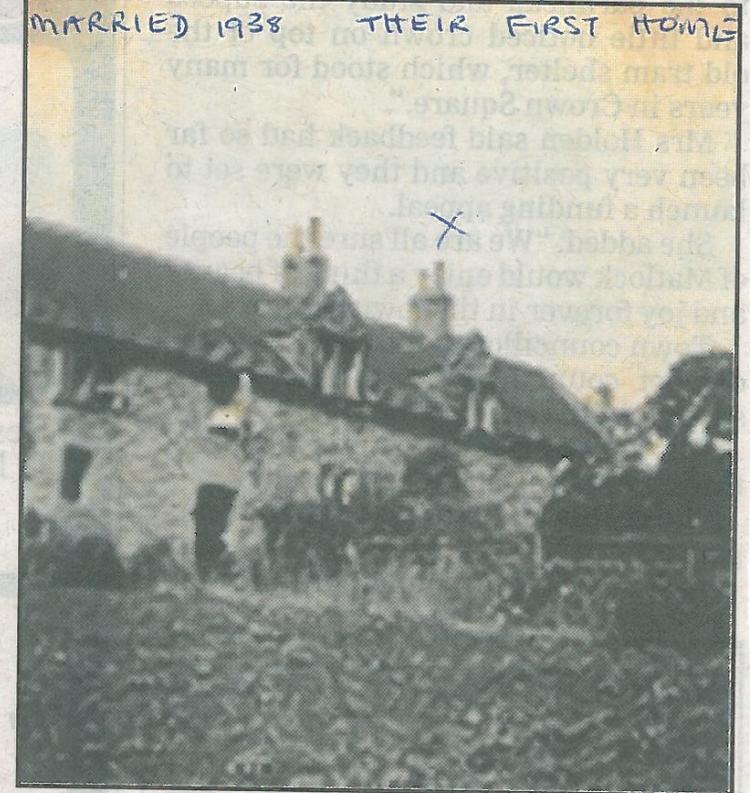
About half way up the path, through the wood, is a spring where people used to get their water, a round trip of almost a mile. After carrying it by hand for some time a trolley was created so that they could pull the water up to the cottage.

COSY COTTAGES: Nightingale Estate at Holloway.

Submitted picture

JOHN WILLIAM FANTOM & WIFE HENRIETTA FARNSWORTH

MARRIED 1938 THEIR FIRST HOME



TUNNEL COTTAGES

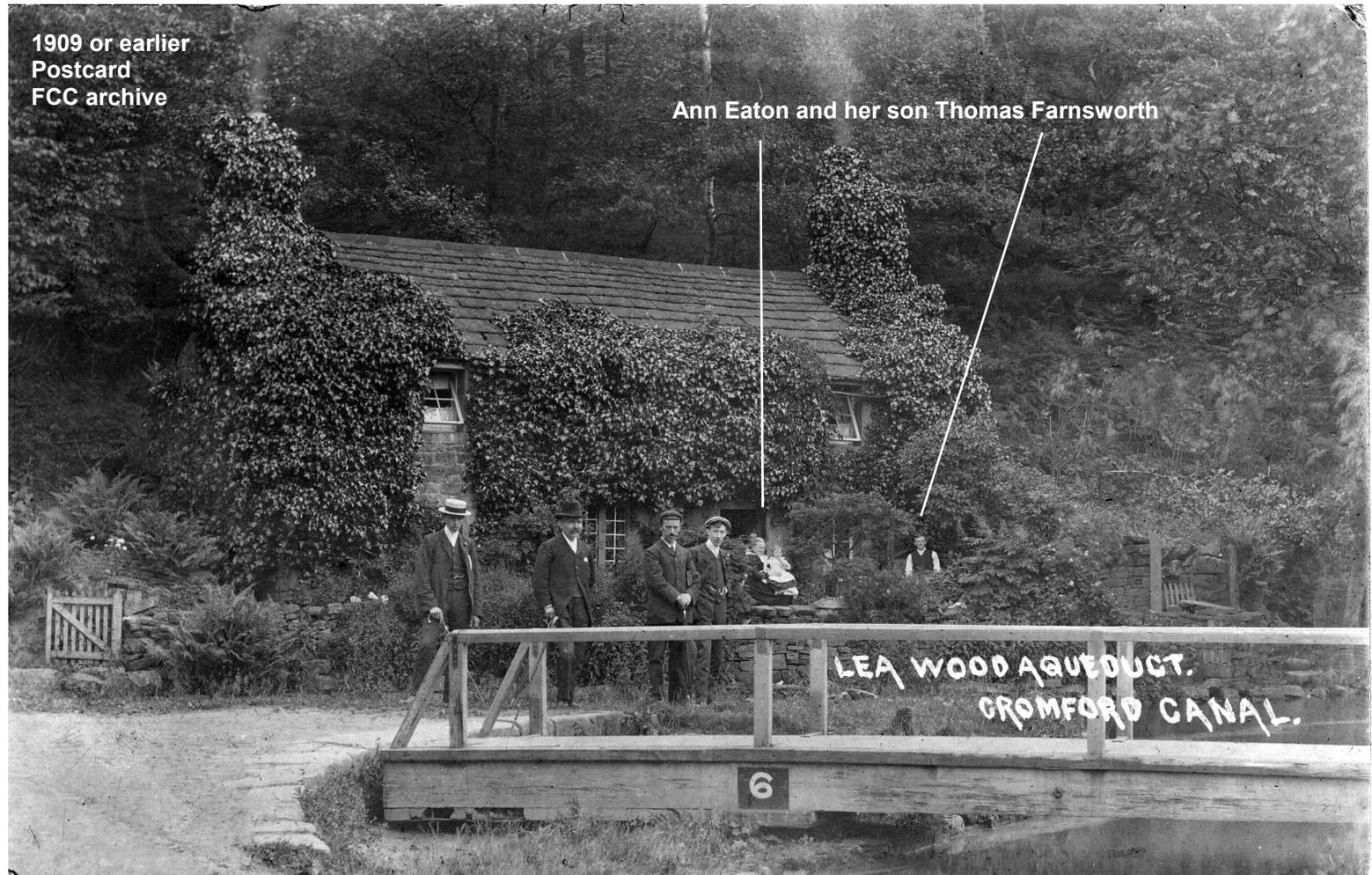
This cutting was provided by Helena Marsh, who lived with her parents, John and Henrietta Farnsworth, in Tunnel Cottages up the hill from her grandmother in Aqueduct Cottage. Helena spent the first months of her life with her grandmother in Aqueduct Cottage, while her mother recovered from an illness. Helena continued to visit frequently throughout her childhood.

Although the site can still be identified, the cottages have now been flattened and the stone taken away and reused elsewhere.

Ann Eaton 1843-1922

'She was born in April 1843, at Bolehill, a daughter of James Sims and Ann Kniveton. She was married in February 1869 at Trinity Chrch, Derby, to Josiah Eaton (born in June 1839 in Cromford, son of George Eaton and Ann Clark, who for a time kept the Red Lion Inn on Cromford Hill). Josiah was an engine tenter and platelayer, and he and Ann lived variously at Bolehill, Pilsley, Whittington Moor/Brimington and Holloway. I know of eight children: my wife is descended from the eldest, Mary Ann. Violet, shown in the photograph, was the seventh child, born in 1882 and married in 1907 to Thomas Farnsworth. Henrietta, the older of the children in the photograph, was born later that year. Josiah died in 1897, and Ann herself died in December 1922. Both she and Josiah are buried in Holloway Cemetery.'

Roger Jennens, whose wife was related to Ann Eaton Wirksworth Parish website

**Ivy Turberville says of her grandmother, Ann Eaton**

'She wasn't a bargee type, no definitely not, grandma wasn't. In the small portrait she is more dressed up. I don't really know how she came to live in the cottage. I think it must have been grandfather who got a job; he was a kind of engineer and I think he came from over Whittington Moor way but I am not certain. Grandfather died when he was only 50-something so grandma was living there for years and years and years.'

Grandma didn't really have a job there, but what she used to do was to go out when anyone was ill or she used to go out and sit with them overnight, or when they were having a baby or when anyone had died they would call on Grandma. She wasn't qualified'.

Hugh Potter interview 2001

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The industrial revolution

Aqueduct Cottage has significance as a surviving example of canal lengthsman's accommodation in the local vernacular. It has group significance with the immediately adjacent Leawood Arm, stop lock, main canal, aqueduct, pumphouse and it is photographed and described in the nomination document for the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site *DVMWHS*. The significance of the main canal in the WHS is recounted at the beginning of this section.

The Cottage is of group significance with the Nightingale/Smedleys industrial settlement at Lea Mills - it was constructed in conjunction with the canal arm which served this complex. The important role of the pioneering Nightingale industrialists and financiers in the industrial revolution (in particular Peter Nightingale, previously in the shadow of Richard Arkwright) is increasingly being recognised *see below*.

The importance of the Cottage is recognised by its Grade 2 listing on the English Heritage Historic Buildings register of structures of national importance. Derbyshire County Council recognises its local significance on its own buildings at risk register (highest risk level). The Dethick Lea and Holloway Conservation Area encompasses the Lea Wood and Aqueduct Cottage.

The Cottage is within sight, and/or a short walk of, a number of exceptionally important early industrial buildings and structures including:

- Derwent Aqueduct (the eponymous aqueduct) engineered by William Jessop
- George Stephenson's railway and tunnel under Lea Wood
- The two aqueducts over the railway at either end of the tunnel (of which one survives and is in use).
- High Peak Junction complex of buildings representing so may 'firsts' in the history of canal and railway
- Lea Mills industrial complex
- Arkwright's Cromford Mills: key buildings of the *DVMWHS*

Florence Nightingale and Alison Uttley *see also following pages*

The Cottage was constructed by Florence Nightingale's great uncle and was owned by the Nightingale estate until 1951. Early 20th century residents apparently had direct contact with Florence and this is likely given her recorded interest in, and care for, the residents and workers of the estate and the wider locality.

Alison Uttley, children's author, in a descriptive passage in her memoir 'Cuckoo in June' refers to the cottage as a '*...Hans Anderson dwelling..*'for her '*....a dividing place between work and play, between fairy tale and reality, and we were bound for fairy tale.*' The cottage is one of the images she commissioned from the well-known illustrator CF Tunnicliffe, reproduced in her memoirs.

Nightingales

The Nightingale family made their fortune from lead mining and smelting in the valley of the Lea Brook diversifying into cotton spinning in the wake of the success of the Arkwright enterprise nearby at Cromford. Indeed, Peter Nightingale was Arkwright's landlord and he bankrolled the development of the mills at Cromford before establishing his own. Thus he was a key figure of the Industrial Revolution, recognised by the inclusion of Lea Mills and the Leawood Branch of the Canal in the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. Although eventually transferred to the Smedley family, who converted the operation from cotton to wool, Lea Mills has the distinction of being the oldest and longest continuously operating textile factory in the world.

Friends of Cromford Canal archive

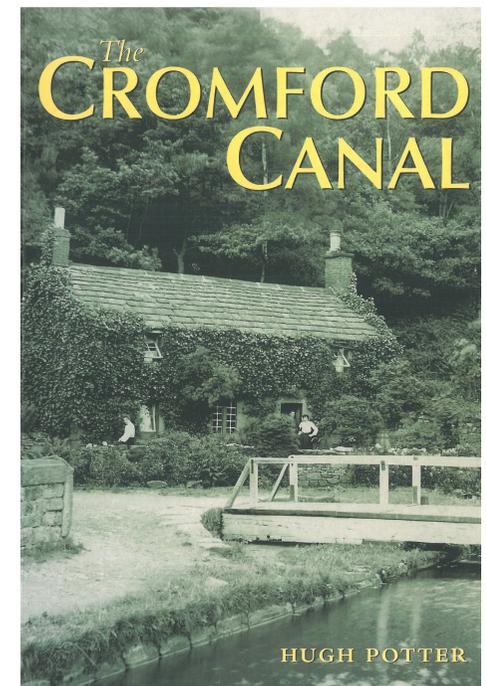
The extent of material in the archive relating to the cottage is testament to the value placed on it.

They maintain an archive of currently 60 old photographs of the cottage from throughout the 20th century.

Several early 20th century photographs of the cottage were made into postcards.

In the last 10-15 years Hugh Potter, FCC archivist, has recorded a wealth of oral history detail of the 20th century occupation of the Cottage including detail in relation to trade (and recreation) on the main Canal and Leawood Arm.

Hugh Potter, author of 'The Cromford Canal', chose a photograph of the cottage for the front cover and reproduced three further images inside the book. He says '*....it seemed to epitomise the canal. It must be the most photographed building on the canal and everyone knows it*'.



SIGNIFICANCE: FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE 1820-1910

Lea Wood forms part of the large estate established by the Nightingale family in the 17th century. This was intermittently both childhood and adult home of Florence Nightingale, whose father constructed the Lea Hurst residence on the edge of Lea Wood.

Below Photograph reputedly of Florence Nightingale driving her fly over the Cromford Canal at Chase Bridge probably en route from the station at Whatstandwell

**Ivy Turberville recalling memories of her grandmother quoting Florence Nightingale**

'At the time the house belonged to the Nightingales. Florence Nightingale's family. Grandma and Florence Nightingale were quite friendly. I think grandma would have liked to have been a nurse because there's a saying that Grandma used to quote to us when we were kids and didn't want a bath, she said Florence Nightingale said that with a pint of boiling water, a walnut of soap and a square of flannel anyone can have a bath. That was quite a big saying of hers'.

Hugh Potter interview 2001



SIGNIFICANCE: ALISON UTTLEY 1884-1976

Born at Castle Top Farm in Bow Wood (NW of Lea Bridge) Alison Uttley's primary education was at Lea School. She won a scholarship to Lady Manners School in Bakewell and read physics at Manchester University, becoming, at the turn of the century, only the second woman honours graduate of the university.

A celebrated children's author, known in particular for the 'Little Grey Rabbit' stories, she later turned to memoirs of her childhood, often describing with affection the Cromford Canal, and singling out Aqueduct Cottage as a place of particular delight:

The Canal

'The canal was a vital link with life, the boats silently brought the goods we needed, and they carried away exchange goods from the villages.....our canal was a private heaven, and the walk beside it a stroll through the gardens of Paradise...although it had once been a regular traffic route for the boats from the potteries, it had been forgotten in time, except for the boats brining and taking goods for the little villages.

The lead trade

So the hay wharf was one terminus, and another was a small wharf in a group of small cottages, on a tiny branch of water, where lead lay in silvery piles waiting to be loaded. Lead from the Roman mines up in the hills was taken by road to a lead-works, a cupelow in the valley. I passed it on my way to school and sometimes we climbed the rough wall and stared through the open doors of the cupelow at the furnace where the lead ore was smelted....It was a small but important country traffic, hidden away in this valley with the river and the canal near. The country was unspoilt except for a field whose vegetation was killed by the sulphur fumes...the 'belland field'...the old name for poisoning from the fumes of lead ore....

Lea Wood

....here the canal curved round the foot of Florence Nightingale's park, with many beautiful oak trees, and tow-path lay on a high embankment, above the river and the water meadows. It was an engineering wonder to see water over water....

Aqueduct Cottage

We passed the canal cottage, a Hans Anderson dwelling, whose little walls were reflected in the water, whose garden ran parallel to the canal. A small swing-bridge crossed the canal at this point, where the waters divided, part of the stream going to the lead wharf in the village. The cottage was the dividing place between work and play, between fairy tale and reality, and we were bound for fairy tale'.

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Charles Tunnicliffe illustration from 'Our Village'
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