

SYDENHAM QUARRIES

Aynho History Society Research Project

Peter Brookfield

The Aynho History Society is joint winner of the Local History Prize initiated by Banbury Historical Society late last year. A purpose of this was to seek articles suitable for publication, so this research was a contributory factor in the award. Peter Brookfield, a resident of Aynho and a member of Aynho History Society, completed this research project. It follows earlier research into other ironstone quarries that previously existed near Aynho at Adderbury and Nell Bridge.

We are delighted to be able to publish this, especially as it effectively provides a sequel to Hugh Compton's 'The Oxford Canal and the Ironstone Business' (C&CH. 14.2, pp.27-36, Spring 1998). This concluded "In [1890] railway sidings were laid... Thereafter the story is one hundred per cent railway." Here it is.

In 1998 *Cake & Cockhorse* published an article by Hugh Compton on 'The Oxford Canal and the Ironstone Business' which showed the important role played by The Oxford Canal Company in the development of the ironstone quarries, including Sydenham Quarry, and the distribution of their product.

The Aynho Census for 1901 shows that there were six ironstone miners living in Aynho at that time. They were:

George Butler, aged 30, of Main Road

Joseph Lambert, aged 49

Amos Lord, aged 22

Alec Williams, aged 26

Richard Savings, aged 46; and

George Williams, aged 41,

all of whom lived next door to each other in Brackley Road.

Sydenham Quarries

The quarries were situated in and around the area now occupied by the Banbury Business Park, adjacent to the Banbury and Cheltenham branch of the Great Western Railway. The original owner was Sir Alfred Hickman, who also owned a large steelworks at Bilston in the Black Country; ownership passed to Stewarts & Lloyds from April 1925.