

Whaley Bridge Local History

Errwood Hall



Errwood Hall can just be seen in this picture nestling amongst the trees to the top right of this superb landscape.



The following photographs is how the hall looks today

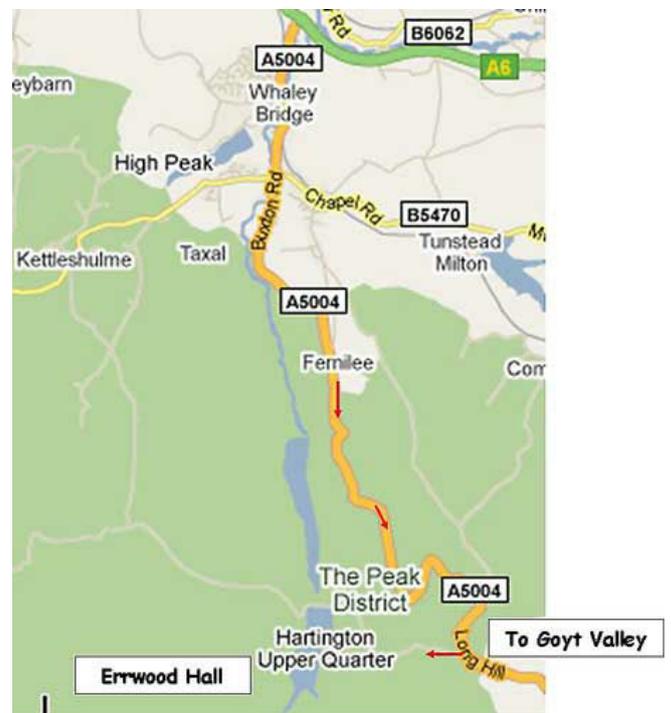




How to get to Errwood Hall from Whaley Bridge:

At the traffic lights by the White Horse, take the A5004 to Buxton (Long Hill) for about 5 miles. When you get to the top, just before dropping down into Buxton, turn right to Goyt Valley. Follow the road down Bunsell Cob which brings you to Errwood Reservoir.

Continue on the road across the dam and turn left at the next junction which takes you along 'The Street' where there is a car park. Errwood Hall is signposted from there.



The yellow dotted line is the A5004. And the red dotted line is the road to the car park.

The Queen of the Peak, or Buxton in 1877. By C.S. Devis.

Half-an-hour's sharp walking brought us to the lodge gates of Errwood Hall. Passing up the winding drive we at length arrived opposite the mansion, a modern building in the Italian style, which stands upon a commanding eminence at the junction of two dales. Leaning over the white pillars of its noble terrace, we looked down upon the far-famed valley whence we had descended. From the summit of its sloping sides to the banks of its brawling streamlet, basked myriads of rhododendrons, whose gorgeous blooms flushing in the sunlight, glowed like those phosphoric fires of chameleon hue which ride upon the heaving waves of the starlit ocean. Of every tint—from the deep Tyrian dye of Imperial purple to the faintest blush that ever flitted across a maiden's velvet cheek were they.

Relieved by the sombre tones of the yew and the holly, perfumed by the fragrant odours of the woodbine and azalea, carpeted by the feathery fern and waving foxglove ; the lark that poured forth his hymn of praise far up the blue empyrean, had seen nothing under heaven to equal this, his native vale ; and whilst drinking in its varied beauties, I registered a mental vow to perform (deo volente) an annual pilgrimage to the Home of the Rhododendron in the Valley of the Goyt.

Having visited the mausoleum chapel which stands upon the summit of a hill above the Hall, and from whence extended views of hill and moorland can be obtained, we repaired to our carriage, and were soon bowling through the Goyt Valley, following the course of the stream in the direction of Taxal and Whaley.

Memories of Errwood Hall and the Goyt Valley from the 1950s.

Peakland

Crichton Porteous 1954

Goyt Recollections

Behind where the hamlet was is Errwood Valley and relicts of Errwood Hall. The last occupiers were two old ladies who used to drive regularly in a carriage and pair down the Goyt Valley by a sandy road (most of it now under Fernilee Reservoir) to the Long Hill road and so to Whaley Bridge or Buxton. Between the wars the house was still well kept up. Then the sisters died—they were the last of their line—and for a short time the Hall was a hostel for ramblers. At my next visit it was being dismantled because of the reservoir scheme. Contractors had paid a lump sum for what they wanted. The best stone had been taken, the rest left, and none who see what is there now can for any proper idea of the beautiful old home.

It was a double-winged house with a central tower, all standing on a broad terrace looking south. At the east end in the upper storey of a long extension was the private chapel. At the west end of the house a French window gave into a terraced garden. Wide steps led to the front entrance. Over it was a proud stone dragon, and above the tower a proud metal dragon told the way of the wind. The dragon was the crest of the original Grimshawes. The last Grimshawe, a daughter, was married to a Gosling, and the name became Gosling-Grimshawe. In the gardens was an ornamented stone arch surmounted by bird and a large "G."

Errwood Valley is still noted for the show in spring of rhododendrons and azalea blooms, but the best place to see them from was the upper room of the tower. One almost seemed to float on colour, and the scent coming up with the damp and peacefulness of evening made one think that no place could be more beautiful.

After such memories, to see the raped building at first was pathetic, though now nature has softened the despoliation somewhat. On a quiet knoll behind the hall the private burying-ground had received dependants as well as members of the family. One stone commemorated a seaman, aged fifty-five, who for thirty years had been captain of Grimshawe's yacht ; another stone, a Frenchwoman, presumably a governess—a strange place, this wild glen, for her to die in, so far from her native land. The last stone was dated 1911, to a gamekeeper, Pownall, who is remembered to have been very well off, having been left £1,000. Any tenant or worker on the estate had the privilege of being interred there. Privilege it must have seemed when the estate was flourishing, though somewhat different now—a forgotten place, with crosses atilt, the graves lost under weeds, and the little burying-house, which held a tiny altar and a series of old tiles depicting the Stations of the Cross, desecrated. The whole railed space, when tended carefully, seemed to speak of a very benevolent despotism.

Halfway down the knoll on the side away from the Hall there used to be a row of cottages for estate-workers. The cottages looked on the stream, where the sheltered gardens with greenhouses and fruit trees were. Behind the gardens were the tennis courts, and upstream was the swimming pool.

The Hall even had its private coal-pit, going a mile and a half diagonally into the hill behind. The Hall took all the lump coal—there was not much—and the rest, poorish stuff, was sold to farmers around at 5d. a hundredweight. If made up over a fire of good coal it lasted a tremendous time. A yarn is told of a farmer who went to America and when he returned found his fire still in!

A man who worked twelve years for the two last Gosling-Grimshawes told me:

"There wern'a two finer ladies than them nowheer. It did'na matter wheer they were, they'd move ta me. If they saw me i' Buxton they'd pick me up thay would an' all! Aa were th'on'y man as worked theer as werna a Catholic. Most chaps went tath' private Chapel th' first Sunday they worked theer an' then 'ad to keep it up, by As did'na. An' they ne'er looked daan on me fer it. That's what Aa liked abaat 'em."

How far off those days seem! Sad memories and the man who gave them has now been dead a dozen years. But well I recall his:

"Yo' should see th'rhodies theer, lad! Non a few flowers miles on 'em. Flowers as far as from 'ere ta them rocks yonder" (indicating quite a mile.)

It was this recommendation that made me go to Errwood first, and was in time, just before the benevolent reign ended. My old friend did not stay quite to the end. A new bailiff had been engaged, he explained:

"Aa knew every yard o' Errwood—reet up ta th' back door o' th' Cat an' Fiddle. Aa were working reet up theer, makin' gaps up so as sheep couldna wander. Yo' know, if they got aat Macclesfield Forest way, we ne'er saw ownt on 'em agen. They're aw rogues that way! Any'ow 'e come up ta me an' said: 'Well, John, A'am yo're gaffer naa.' So Aa looked at 'im an' Aa said: 'Tha anna. Aa'll walk far enough afore Aaa'll 'ave thee fer mi gaffer.' So Aa gives mi fortnight's notice. Aa were gassy then, an' 'ad money in mi pocket, an' in th' bank, an' did'na care fer noobody. Th' old ladies wanted me ta stop, bur Aa wouldna. Aa'm an Englishman, an' winna be 'umble t'anybody."

While the Hall was still occupied the grounds were opened at rhododendron time every spring for years so that anybody might enjoy the beauty. But there was much smashing of bushes and taking of flowers, and eventually someone broke the nose off one of the religious figures that stood in niches in the wall round to the main steps. That was an insult the devout owners could not forgive and all privileges were withdrawn.

After Errwood Hall was abandoned the massed rhododendrons and azaleas became a breeding stronghold of hill foxes, and for many years the keeper from White Hall organised an annual shoot there. Farmers with guns from neighbouring valleys would stand in line across the top of the glen, and men and youths without guns would beat up towards them.

It was a job remembered, pushing through the undergrowth so as not to miss anything, for the rhododendron stems were inextricably tangled and as tough as wire. Sometimes, however, five or six foxes were shot. The last year before the second war a dozen beagles belonging to the High Peak Hunt were used in place of men beaters, but only one fox was put out, a vixen, though.

Goyt's Bridge without its cottages seems a sad place now for all its remaining beauty. The stepping stones even appear to be gradually disappearing; the pack-horse bridge close by spanning the tributary off Burbage Edge is in much better condition. After coming down the old track off Long Hill, the pack-horses turned sharp right on the lower side of the bridge and went through a ford across the much wider Goyt. One track then, I surmise, as already said, went up Stake Side, and another followed "the Street," up to Jenkins Chapel and on to Saltersford. Probably this was the main route by which salt was brought in the Middle Ages from Cheshire into Derbyshire. Motorists who do not care to retrace the route by the upper Goyt must leave the Goyt by this Saltersford lane and will soon come to Jenkins Chapel. It somewhat resembles a barn, but has been a place of worship about 250 years.

Walkers can go on from Goyt's Bridge beside the river by crossing the stile to the left of the railed-up gateway opposite the entrance to Errwood. They then follow the old carriageway of the Grimshawes. Soon the river sounds on the right die out as the current loses itself in the deeper water of Fernilee Reservoir. Near the head of the reservoir a steel suspension bridge, connecting as it seems no special place to anywhere else, spans the water, offering a good view northward of the wider end of the reservoir. Erected in 1935 at a cost of well over £500, this bridge is scarcely used in the week. When Stockport Corporation secured powers in 1929 to build two reservoirs (one still to be made sometime, the dam above Goyt's Bridge,) the Act of Parliament stated that any public paths interfered with should be replaced by others, and this bridge takes the place of an old ford across the Goyt.





The architect Alexander Roos drew this sketch for Mr. Grimshaw before the Hall was built. A forum member is the holder of one of only eleven prints ever made.

Purchase of the land in preparation for the construction of Errwood Hall.

"First the said John William Jodrell agrees to sell unto the said Samuel Grimshaw who agrees to purchase at or for the price of £9250 the fee simple and inheritance free of Incumbrances of and in the Goit's head and Erwood Estates in Taxal called Erwood, Goits Bridge, Within Leach, Goits Clough, Castedge, the Cat & Fiddle public house, Gamekeeper's House, dog kennels, etc. containing 2010 acres."

It is noticeable that in the sale the Estate was spelt with only one 'R' Erwood whereas nowadays the acceptable spelling is Errwood.

Samuel Grimshaw appointed the Architect A Roos to design the mansion for him. If you Google A Roos Architect Errwood Hall you will come up with some good info.

The house itself was a turreted, double-winged structure of white stone in the Italian style and had a central tower and a chapel which formed the upper storey of an extension to the northern end. A French window opened on to a terraced garden at the southern end and wide steps led up to the main entrance. The house faced east, towards Long Hill on the Buxton to Stockport road. Over the entrance was a stone dragon, the crest of the Grimshaws, and a small stone coat of arms over the front door. A metal dragon acted as a weather vane. In the garden stood an ornamented stone arch surmounted by a bird and a large G. In a window high in the central tower there was always a Crucifix with a lamp shining before it, and, from here, must have been the best view of the massed rhododendrons all round the house and down the valley towards Goyt's Bridge.

Below the cemetery and further from the house are the remains of the extensive kitchen gardens overlooking the stream, and, beyond this again, further upstream, all that is left of a private swimming pool; in the same area, too, were the tennis courts. The Errwood estate was virtually self-supporting, even to the extent of having its own coal mine.

Among the inevitable stories about the family is one to the effect that they gave as much meat to their dogs as would have fed half of Whaley Bridge.

The last Grimshawe married a Miss Gosselin and the name became Gosselin-Grimshawe. There were, apparently, no children and Mrs Gosselin-Grimshawe was living at Errwood with a female relative in 1928. After her death, the house was used for a short time from about 1930 to about 1934 as a youth hostel which had to close down when the reservoir was being built. Interestingly the name Grimshaw has two spellings one ends with 'E' and the other doesn't.

I have a copy of the Architect's drawing of what the Hall should look like when complete. Mr Roos calls it Erwood Hall; The Seat of Sam Grimshaw Esq. It is a great architect's drawing by any standards.

A Description of the Hall from 1883

Errwood Hall, for such is its name, is a modernised building of dressed stone, with rooms of considerable size and number. In the centre there is a noble tower, underneath which is the main entrance to the elegant structure, reached from the ground by a fine flight of steps. On the right side of the Hall are fitted up the various offices required by the servants, and also the stables, coach house, and other outbuildings necessary. On the left side are the lawn and the terraces. In the centre of the neatly laid out frontage is a very fine laver, with a fountain springing up from an artificially constructed basin. A number of carefully laid out flower beds, with their gaily blooming flowers, contesting with the sombre hue of the green mossy rocks on the right side, and the variegated trees on the other, with the noble archway in front, make up a very pleasing sight. On the entrance arch to the terraces are the crest and monogram of the family inhabiting the hall, namely Samuel Grimshawe, Esq., J.P., a venerable gentleman, who, prior to his death, made this abode his country seat. The terraces rise in easy ascents to the beautiful romantic walks on the high hill, situated upon a declivity of which the entire buildings rest, securely sheltered from the fierce winds which sweep over the heights around.

Internally this mansion is most magnificently furnished, not only with most of the modern luxuries which wealth can command, but also with many rare and costly works of art, the production of foreign continental lands, more especially Italy, whose holy city, magnificent Rome, has been brought under good contribution to provide some of the marvellous paintings, or splendid marble, which adorn the walls of this palatial home. By the kindness of the benevolent owner we are able to give a few items respecting some of the most noteworthy rooms, and their appointments. Attached to the hall, and, in fact, forming part of the building, is a very handsome room, fitted up as a chapel, for the use of the family and servants, and the few inhabitants of the neighbouring farmsteads and cottages to celebrate divine service. The room is very comfortably furnished and well lighted; and has two altars, the largest of which has a neatly-formed chancel or communion attached to it for the use of the officiating priest and his attendants to stand and celebrate mass or other services. There is a beautifully constructed canopy over the altar, with its splendid cross and other things; when lighted by the numerous wax lights it has a splendid appearance. There are on the second altar some elaborate things useful for ornament or use in the services. Some splendidly executed figures of the Madonna, an altar piece, "Ecce Homo," by Guido; Madonna of San Luca, and one by Simone Memmi, celebrated old masters. There is also an original portrait of the blessed *Benedict Joseph Labee*, by Cavallucci, and some other oil paintings. Both altars, and the entire fittings and furniture of this room, are worthy of the noble owners of the hall. An air of ease and elegance seems to be enjoyed, as well as a spirit of devotion seems to hover about the place.

Passing into the various staircases we find the walls adorned with extremely well executed and fresh looking medallions, and scenes in history depicted in exquisitely worked white Elgin and other marbles. The blue room and the drab room are, with a few others, mainly utilised as bed rooms, and are furnished with very artistic bedsteads, cabinets, and other appointments, with some elaborate tapestry or silken work. The upstairs library which is superbly furnished and contains some very fine volumes, perhaps some of the oldest books extant. The reception room, leading from the floor of the building, is furnished in the most luxurious manner. Within a splendid frame are some remarkable fine photographs of one of the Queens of Spain and her daughters, presented to the Grimshaw family. A splendid gilded gold framed state chair, with a seat and back of the finest embroidery, worked in a beautiful pattern, and a grand sofa, with embroidery and other elaborate sittings to match with the chair, are objects well worthy of notice.

There is also a number of elaborately made stands and cabinets, A splendid chest of black ebony, with panels of tortoise shell, is well constructed with a number of drawers, and stands upon a gilded carved table. A fine ivory carving, a number of oil paintings, some old pottery, and a variety of elaborate ornaments, may also be seen in rich profusion. The roof is also a work of art seldom noticed; it is flowered and figured, and laid out in a pattern carpet fashion, the various tints and shades of colour being visible at every point. The splendid sunshades of the windows also contrast favourably with the furniture. The fire place and mantel shelf are also works of skill, the former being of elaborately printed porcelain pottery. No ordinary amount of skill seems to have been lavished in order to make everything contrast agreeably, and none but artists of the most skilful hands could have done the work; the same may be said of the decorations of all the rooms.

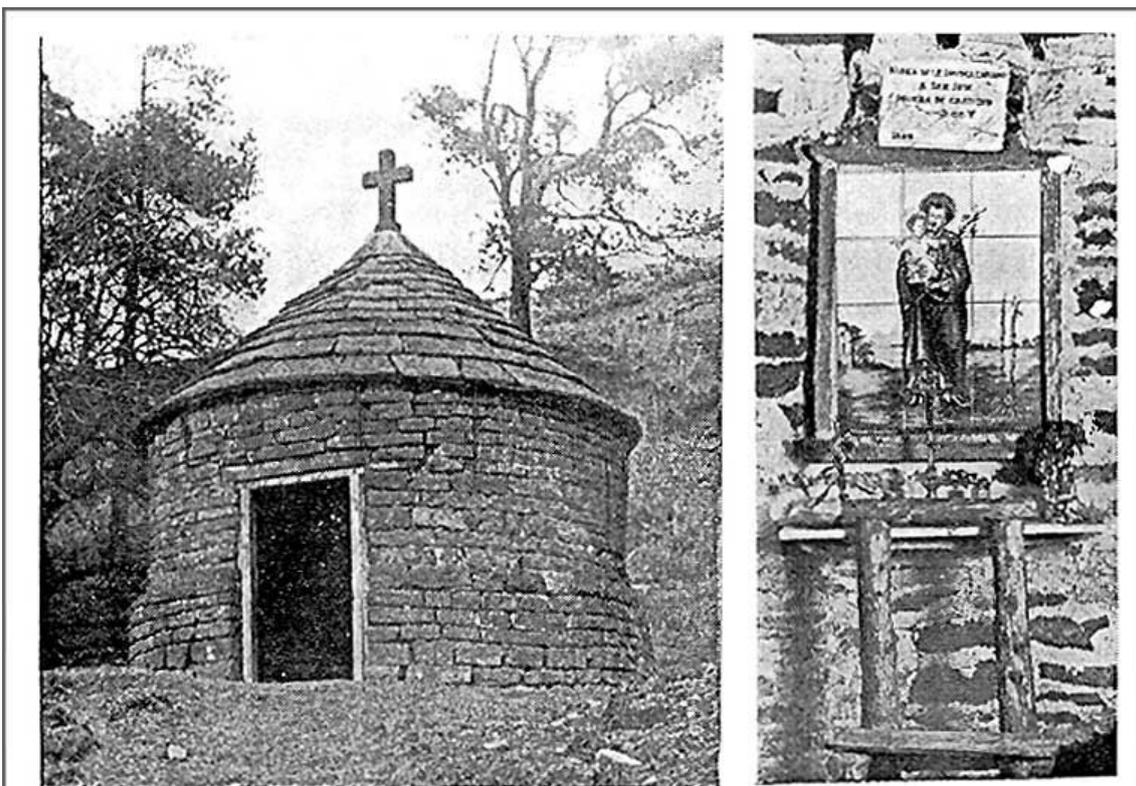
The large drawing-room has a splendid appearance, the brilliant colours of the showy flowers which adorn the ceiling, which is also elaborately wrought into a huge picture, forms a pleasing contrast in harmony with the rich fittings of the room. In the centre of this noble apartment is a most conspicuous object, a very finely inlaid marble table, formed of hundreds of small pieces of variegated stones, placed in circles within circles, and beautifully polished upon its capacious surface. It is of the most exquisite workmanship, and standing upon an elegant support of grey stone, presents a truly magnificent appearance. It has been brought from Rome. There are also some fine old china vases, some antique furniture, the seats, chairs, and ottomans being covered with crimson velvet gold braided, with the extremely well-fitted and rich damask curtains, and the large mirrors fitted between the three large windows, reaching from the ceiling to the floor, form an aspect not often seen in such places.

Some splendid oil paintings adorn the walls, and amongst these we may notice the following: -- In a gilded frame, and in old Spanish tapestry work, is a finely-executed picture of St. Francis from the collection of the Brazilian Minister in Rome; a fine portrait of Pope Innocent, by Velasquez; portrait of "Catherine, Queen of Cyprus," by H. Moro; "St. Mary Magdalene," by Guido "Justice and Peace," by Battoni; marble statue of the Immaculate

Conception (the woman shown with her foot on the serpent's head), by Benzoni. Several other valuable works of art also grace the room.

The downstairs library is well worthy of notice, containing as it does some thousands of volumes of the rarest and most costly productions of the press. The roof is beautifully coloured and adorned with a splendid floral pattern in bright tints, with flowered corners, and a neat border to match ; there is also emblazoned on the ceiling in panel fashion the arms and crest of the family, which is a splendid piece of decorative art. Two of the most conspicuous objects are a fine portrait of a Spanish lady by Velasquez, and a most exquisitely worked marble bust of Pope Pius IX, by Benzoni; every feature in the face of His Holiness seems to have been drawn out with life-like effect.

The dining-room is also a spacious apartment, and besides being admirably furnished with a very capacious dining table and other furniture to match, has a splendidly adorned roof, and possesses some rare old oil paintings, amongst which are a portrait of one of the Leane family, by Michael Angelo Correggio ; large landscape and sea piece, by William Vandervile ; portrait of Pope Gregory the Great, by Titian; two landscapes, by Rosa de Tivoli ; two views of Venice (Canaletto) ; Adoration of the Magi, by Pietro di Cortona. The Basso Relievi (to be seen) embrace admirable representations of various subjects, amongst which are The Triumph of Alexandra from Thorwaldsen ; panathenaic procession, from the Elgin marbles and others from Thorwaldsen and Flaxman are well worthy the admiration with which they are viewed.



The Shrine in the Goyt Valley

Hidden in the fold of the hills, about three hundred yards off the old salt road leading up to Saltersford, near the Goyt Valley, is a circular stone building, surmounted by a plain stone cross—the shrine of St. Joseph.

The shrine faces a trickling stream, wending its way down to where it joins the River Goyt at Goyt Bridge.

The shrine is best reached by one unfamiliar with the district by leaving the Macclesfield Road from Whaley Bridge at the signpost, on the left of the road, directing you to Saltersford. Take this road to the left, which winds its way up to some hundred feet above sea level. When it reaches the join of the old Roman road or salt road, leading to Jenkins Chapel, again turn left. Follow this road for some two or three hundred yards, and you will find a plantation.

Opposite this the stone wall is broken. Climb over and follow a straight line, and in about five minutes' walk you will come across the shrine, hidden in the valley.

The circular building is six feet in diameter. The entrance faces the River Goyt, and it is necessary to stoop to pass beneath the lintel. The exterior is of rough stonework, but the interior is quite artistic. A coloured plaque represents St. Joseph, and a Spanish inscription states, "No one prays to St. Joseph in vain."

By some people the plaque is regarded as a miniature altar piece, and is stated to be the work of a priest who was at Errwood about fifty years ago. It is painted on a dozen tiles. The inscription on the picture is, "In gratitude." There are two windows to the shrine, and the roof is lined with good work in oak. Fronting the altar piece is a praying chair, and on a ledge immediately below the picture of St. Joseph are ornaments and receptacles bearing flowers.

There is also a candlestick holder with the remains of a candle. A vase, possibly the tribute of a rambler, holds a shrivelled rose, whose beauty and fragrance once filled the shrine.

A GREAT CATHOLIC FAMILY.

Though the date of the shrine is apparently not known, its appearance in the valley need cause no surprise to those who know the history of Errwood. The Grimshaws were a great Catholic family, who had their private chapel and priest at Errwood Hall. They travelled in many lands, and Catholics from many lands, priests and others visited Errwood Hall. Spain was well known to the Grimshaws, and people of that nationality were their servitors for many years. Treasures from many lands were brought home by the Grimshaws to adorn their home and their private chapel. The last of the Grimshaws died not long ago.



Errwood Hall was compulsory purchased by Stockport Corporation in preparation for the construction of Fernilee Reservoir. Stockport Corporation feared that Errwood Hall would pollute the proposed Reservoir. The land and property were taken over by Stockport Water Board and they most certainly had a duty of care to all the buildings and the burial ground. I am not 100% sure if this extended to the Shrine but it would be remarkable if it did not.

The Shrine was re-roofed many years after Errwood closed so I have to presume that Stockport Water Board footed the bill. Stockport Water Board eventually became part of North West Water.

The Shrine was in fact vandalised in 1974/75 when some thoughtful person decided it would be a good idea to gouge the eyes out of the figures on the tiles. I seem to think that damage repair work was paid for by Diocese of Chester but I am not certain.



The Family

Guardian 2.5.1883

THE LATE MR. S. GRIMSHAW – The funeral of Mr. S. Grimshawe, of Errwood Hall, near Whaley Bridge, who died on 20th ult., took place yesterday. The deceased gentleman was born in Manchester in August, 1808.

At the age of 18 he entered Brasenose College, Oxford, where he was in company for some time with John Henry Newman, now Cardinal Newman. He took the degrees of B.A. and M.A., and in 1851 was received into the Roman Catholic Church.

At the funeral there was a large attendance of Catholic clergy and friends, including the Bishop of Salford, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, Mgr. Provost Croskell, V.G., Mgr. Canon Kershaw, Very Rev. Canon Sheehan, V.G., and others. The Bishop of Shrewsbury delivered the funeral oration in the chapel, and the coffin was afterwards removed to the mausoleum at the top of Chronicle Hill, within the grounds, the clergy, Mrs. Grimshawe, the Misses Grimshawe, and other mourners following. After prayers the procession returned to the hall. The funeral arrangements were entrusted to Mr. Evans, of this city.

Guardian 6.7.1960

Old bridge will be dismantled before flooding

By our Stockport Correspondent

Assurances that the most interesting parts of the Goyt Valley will be preserved as far as possible when a new reservoir is built there have been given by the Stockport waterworks committee. This was disclosed at the town council meeting last night. The town, after its serious water shortage last year, is planning to build the reservoir at Errwood.

When the Peak Park planning board granted planning permission in outline for the project, it asked for car parking facilities on new roads, the preservation of the remains of Errwood Hall and St Joseph's Shrine, and the dismantling of Goyt's Bridge for re-erection elsewhere. The waterworks committee has agreed to meet these requests. The bridge is to be taken down and re-erected by the Peak District and Northern Counties Footpaths Preservation Society.

Guardian 16.6.1930

Catholic Bequests

Mrs. Mary Ambrosia Louisa Gosselin, of Errwood Hall, near Buxton, Derbyshire, who died on February 23 last, widow of Hellier Gosselin, left unsettled property of the gross value of £19,678. Probate has been granted to Colonel the Hon. Richard Martin Preston, of Woburn Hill, Addlestone, Surrey, William Nevile Broadbent Bury, of 8 John Dalton Street, Manchester, chartered accountant, and Miss Antoinette Eileen Maud Preston, of Donadea Lodge, West End, Hants. The testatrix left money lying to her credit at Barclays Bank, Limited, to Antoinette Eileen Maud Preston, and she left to her also £6,000 and a further legacy of £150, the proceeds of sale of certain furniture. She left 's Society for -£50 to St. Joseph Foreign Missions, Mill Hill, London, N.W. £50 to the Rev. Ernest Grimes, priest in charge at Errwood Hall.

£1,500 in trust to pay various annuities, and on the death of the last surviving annuitant the said sum of £1,500 to the Sisters of Charity, Ancoats Branch.. £5 to the Rev. James Thornton, of the Catholic Church, Hertford, and £10 each to the Rev. Bede Jarrett, O.P., St Dominics Priory, Southampton Road, London, the priest in charge of the Catholic Church, Whaley Bridge and the Very Rev. Charles Kuypers of Thorndon, Brentwood, Essex, and the Very Rev. Antonius Maguire, O.P. St. Sebastian's Priory, Pendleton, Manchester, and "I would request each of them to say a mass for my intention."

To the Roman Catholic Dominican Father, the Very Rev. Bede Jarrett of Haverstock Hill, London, N.W., whom falling to the Prior of the Dominican Black Friars Priory of the Holy Ghost, St Giles Street, Oxford, a copy of St. Luke's picture of "The Virgin and Child" and all other pictures in the private chapel at Errwood Hall, together with all the vestments, sacred vessels, and chapel furniture, and the collection of relics with their authentications. £50 for masses "to be said according to my intention". £100 to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Salford desiring without imposing any trust that he will apply the income for the benefit of St. Mary's Church, Clare Road, Levenshulme. £50 to the Convent of Poor Clares, Clare Road, Levenshulme. £100 to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Shrewsbury, desiring without creating any trust that the income may be used for the benefit of the Church of the Sacred Heart, Whaley Bridge. £10 to the Rev. Alexia O'Brien, of the Dominican Order of St. Sebastian's Priory, Gerald Road, Pendleton, Manchester. £5 per annum to the Prior of the Dominican Priory, Black Friars, Oxford, for the maintenance of a lamp to perpetuate the memory of the chapel at Errwood Hall.

Guardian 26.2.1930 - Deaths

GOSELIN - On February 23, 1930 at Errwood Hall, Buxton, MARY AMBROSE LOUISA, widow of Helier GOSELIN. Funeral this day (Wednesday), Errwood Hall, 10.30. R.I.P.

Guardian 7.6.1851

THE LATE ROBBERY AT ERRWOOD HOUSE. - At the petty session held at Disley, on Monday, before James Newton, Esq. And the Rev. Peter Leigh, James Smith, a journeyman painter, was charged with stealing certain valuable property belonging to Mr. Samuel Grimshaw.

It appeared from the evidence that, in April last, the prisoner was employed by a master painter at Buxton, to do certain work at Errwood Hall, the seat of the prosecutor. The family being at the time absent in London, the prisoner had an opportunity of ranging over the entire house, and of this opportunity it appeared he availed himself, as he succeeded in abstracting from several bedrooms, amongst other things, a valuable gold watch, with gold guard and two seals; a pair of knee buckles, a chain of silver, and Scotch pebbles, a lady's brooch, a gold ring set with hair, some valuable foreign lace caps, and a few old silver coins, &c. with which he contrived to get clear off. Nothing further was heard of him until about a fortnight since, when from the description given of him in the *Hue and Cry*, he was apprehended at Brecon, in South Wales, with the lace caps and other property in his possession. - The prisoner, who declined to say anything, was fully committed for trial.

Observer 7.2.1851 - Deaths

At Errwood Hall, Cheshire, Samuel Grimshawe, Esq., in his 81st year.

Observer 14.12.1851 - Births

7th inst., at Errwood Hall, Cheshire, the lady of Samuel Grimshawe, Esq.

The Errwood Estate used many Buxton Traders throughout its existence especially traders of quality like Milligans, Milligans for those who don't remember stood on Spring Gardens where Argos is now situated and was a shop on par with any London outlet Edwardian Mahogany and Glass, where service was paramount, Edward Milligan came from a Scottish background and the family started with a small shop in Chapel. Very Important man in Buxton in his day on most Boards etc, mason and so on buried in Fairfield Church Yard.

Below are some examples of invoices for the Errwood Estate.

TELEPHONE 102 BUXTON. **HARDWICK HOUSE** BUXTON. *Call*
 SPRING GARDENS. **BUXTON**. *Jan 9th. 1929.*

Hon. Mrs. Preston. Errwood Hall. Near Buxton.

Bought of J. Milligan & Son, LTD.
 GENERAL & FANCY DRAPERS.
 SILK MERCERS AND LADIES OUTFITTERS.

1928.

To Account as Rendered.				
Sep. 1 to		16	4	8½
10.	1. doz. Binding 2/-.		2	7½
21.	2. Braid @ 6½d.		2	6½
	4. Cotton @ 5½d.		2	6½
	2. Moulds @ 1½d.			9½
	3. Moirette @ 2/11½.		8	10½
27.	4. Broche @ 8/11.	3	11	4
28.	Hat 49/6.	2	15	5
Oct. 11.	Hat 42/6.	2	2	6
18.	2. Hose @ 6/11.		17	9½
	Cardigan 3/11.		3	11
Nov. 17.	3. C. de Chine @ 8/11.	1	6	9
24.	18. Ribbon @ 3d.		8	6
	3. Hdks @ 3/11.		11	9
Dec. 4.	Coat Trimming 52/6.	2	12	6
7.	2. Hose @ 7/6.		15	0
		32	11	9½

1825 Buxton 15 to 16 1929.
 Received from Hon. Mrs. Preston
 Pounds eleven shillings and nine pence.
 For J. Milligan & Son Ltd.
 £ 11: 9: 0
 With Compliments and thanks.

TELEPHONE 42. ESTABLISHED 1853
M^{rs} The Hon. Mrs. Preston *Feb. 11. 1929*

FRUITERS. FLORISTS & GREENGROCERS.
2, THE GROVE, BUXTON.

Bot of CHANTREYS'
 A. D. PUGH.
 ALL CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO A. D. PUGH

To acc Recd: £ 5-3-0

3184 2 The Grove, BUXTON.
 Received from *October 15 1929* £ s. d.
Taylor, Kitcham & Phipps
 for Hon. Mrs. Preston.
 For CHANTREYS
 A. D. PUGH with thanks
£ 5-3-0

Established 1898. *P. Bennett. R. Bennett.*
To Peter Bennett & Son,
 Funeral Director & Furnisher,
 Cremations & Embalming,
 Private Mortuary,
 Torr Street,
 Buxton

The Hon. ANN GENEVIEVE MARIE PRESTON
 Errwood Hall,
 Buxton.

March 9th: 1929. Office: 24 High Street Telephone 449

1929.
Feb: 2/14th:

"	Representative meeting by appointment Mr J. Oyarzabal at Whaley Bridge, to take instructions re the funeral of the late Mrs Preston. 2/2/29.		
"	Meeting train at Buxton, and conveying the body to Errwood Hall, placing in the chapel. 9/2/29.		
"	Attending funeral, conducting bearers and assistant, complete with gratuities.	7 19 0	7 19 0
"	Car to Whaley Bridge 2/2/29.	1 10 0	
"	Motor Hearse & car Buxton to Errwood Hall. 9/2/29.	3 10 0	
"	Car to Buxton Station etc.	10 0	
"	Car to Errwood Hall 14/2/29.	2 10 0	
"	Motor Lorry delivering oak bier. 14/2/29	1 0 0	9 0 0
"	Telegrams.	9 6	9 6
			<u>£ 17 8 6</u>

Samuel Grimshawe Snr is interred at St Peter's Church in Manchester in vault number 17.

He was laid to rest alongside four of his closest relatives who were:

Samuel Grimshawe died Jan 27th 1851 aged 80 years.

Elizth Grimshawe died 17th August 1829 aged 64 years.

Hannah Clough died 5 Jan 1848 aged 83 years.

Sarah Grimshaw died 12th June 1825.

Phoebe Leigh died 12th October 1837.

Samuel's wife Anne was buried at Taxal Church.

The Grimshaws bought the land for the construction of that church so she should have been laid to rest there.

In Taxal Church there is a Tablet on north wall of the Chancel which says:

In a vault beneath this tablet repose the mortal remains of Anne, wife of Samuel Grimshaw Esq., of Errwood Hall, in this parish who departed this life June 21st 1850 aged 67 years; also in memory of the said Samuel Grimshaw who died Jan 27th 1851 aged 83 years. This tablet is erected by their only daughter Margaret Elizabeth and her husband, John Upton Gaskell of Ingersley.

The names of the people buried at Errwood are as follows:

Samuel Dominic Grimshawe died 20 April 1883;

Jessie Mary Magdalen Grimshawe died 6 Dec 1893;

Arthur Grimshawe died in infancy.

Capt the Hon. Edward Francis Preston died 1 Mar 1901;

Anne Genevieve Marie Preston died 28 Jan 1929.

Helier Robert Hadsley Gosselin died 31 Mar 1924;

Mary Ambrose Louisa Gosselin died 23 Feb 1930.

Irma Niorthe, born at Bayonne, France, 7 Jul 1855 died at Errwood, Cheshire 19 Dec 1882 aged 27.

John Butler, Captain of the yacht Mariquita, 16 years friend and faithful servant of the late Samuel Grimshawe died 3 Feb 1886 aged 55;

Hannah his wife died 4 Nov 1887.

Ellen Ferns died 12 Jan 1889 aged 75.

Elizabeth Anne Braddock died 6 Jan 1903 aged 19.

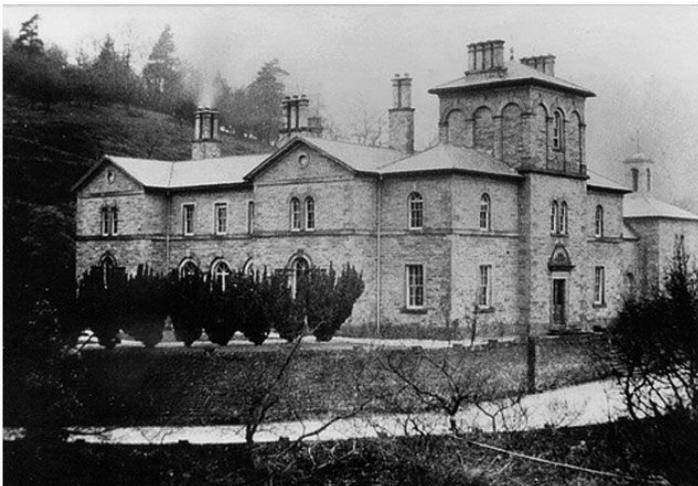
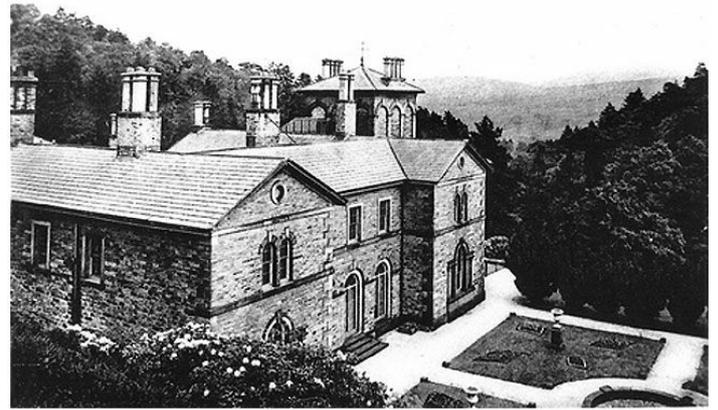
Thomas Braddock 28 Nov 1911 aged 71.



The Grimshaws had their own burial ground and it still remains.

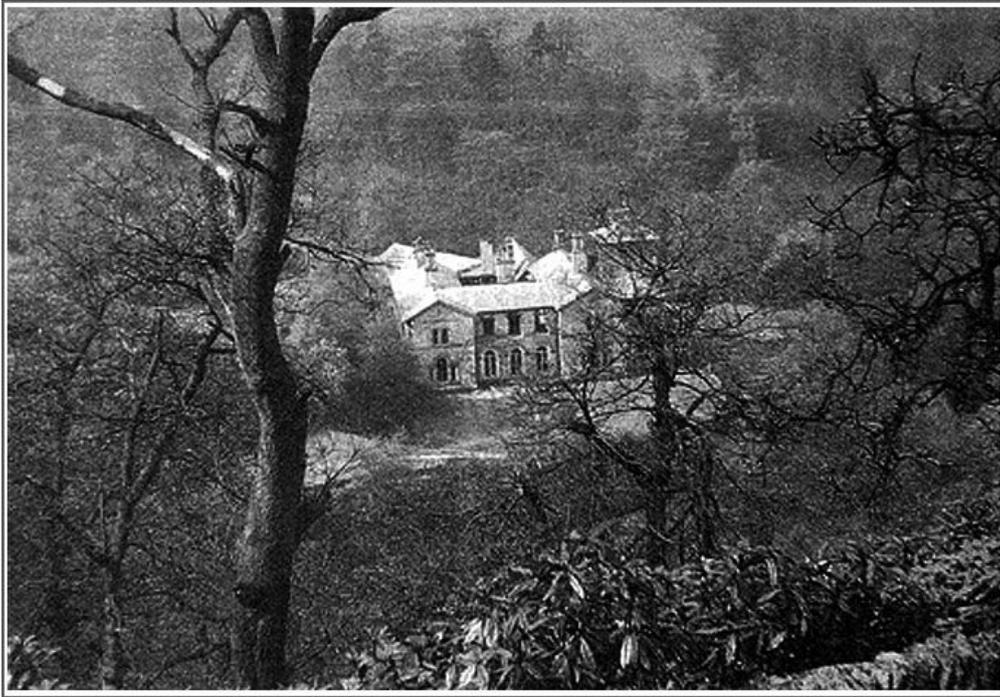


The cemetery above The Hall





The Drive, Errwood



Errwood Hall, 1930

Research



The 3D computer model of Errwood Hall was created from photographs and drawings displayed at various times in Whaley Bridge Forum postings.

This was produced using the Google SketchUp software. The artist/draughtsman is David Easton a member of the Forum, by profession an architectural model maker.

He has also put a short computer generated walk through of The Hall on YouTube, the link is http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Xc_BeXwMU8

Visit David's website - <http://parabuild.blogspot.com>



The Sale

Macclesfield Courier **7 June 1930** **Errwood Hall.**

The onward march of civilisation is forever stealing some of the country's most beautiful possessions. This cannot be more truly said than in respect of Errwood Hall, that magnificent building in the Goyt Valley, the contents of which are to be sold by Mr A.S. Turner, the week after next. Features of the Hall grounds are the wonderful beds of azaleas and rhododendrons, which have been accounted the finest show of their kind in the world.

I sincerely recommend all who can possibly visit the Hall on the two view days, Friday and Saturday next, to spare no effort in doing so. It might be the last opportunity of seeing such a magnificent show of blooms, for in all probability; if the Stockport Water Scheme matures they will be sacrificed.

The sale which will be extended over five days, commences on Monday, June 16th, and there are very good pieces offered for sale. In particular there are some fine old Masters which are expected to raise a high price.

High Peak News **14 June 1930**

Some of the appointments of the private Roman Catholic Chapel at Errwood Hall, which is being sold upon June 16th, have gone to Oxford, and some to the Dominion Priory at Pendleton, which has always had a strong connection with Errwood. The chapel is very beautiful, the requisites for the altar being of solid gold and silver.

Macclesfield Courier **21 June 1930**

Errwood hall sale **some of the prices**

The beautiful surroundings of Errwood Hall, Goyt Valley, near the Cat and Fiddle, attracted large numbers of would-be buyers to the Hall last week for the sale of the household goods and chattels. The sale, which is in the hands of Messrs Turner and Son, has been authorised by the Misses Preston, who are giving up possession of the Hall. The sale commenced on Monday last, on which day extensive bordering of rhododendrons along the winding three-quarter mile drive from the lodge to the Hall, with the help of the strong sunlight, looked their best. On each day there was a large number of buyers from the length and breadth of England, but despite this, however, the bidding was rather slow and, on the whole, poor prices were realised. The highest prices during the sale of the pictures on Tuesday was £400 for an old Spanish painting, purchased by Mr J.U. Gaskell of Ingersley Hall, Bollington. The nearest price to this was £150.

First day's sale

Magnificent Venetian glass frame, £4 2s. 6d. ;
Unique set original Spanish cut glass on bronze bases comprising "The Crucifixion", with 2 candle holders on cut glass pillars, £40 ;
handsome small suite of crystal glass, £7 ;
most magnificent suite of Venetian glass, £23 ;
set of 4 old Chelsea figures "Children with Flowers," £3 15s. ;
Dresden ornament, "The Musicians," £3 ;
group of 3 Dresden figures, "Man, Woman, Child and Dove," £2 5s. ;
Dresden group, "The Sedan Chair," £4 ;
pair Dresden figures, £5 ;
pair Dresden figures, "The Dancers" £15 ;
group of old Dresden, "Neptune and his Sea Horses," £6 ;
oval Dresden mirror frame, £3 10s. ;
set 3 old oriental mugs, £6 ;
pencilled Worcester tea service, £10 ;
pair Italian bottle vases, £6 5s. ;
pair Worcester vases, £8 ;
pair powder blue Worcester pot pourri vases, £5 ;
very rare bronze lustre bowl, £4 ;
unique specimen of a Savona Plate, £4 ;
old English blue and white tea service, £6 10s. ;
Worcester china tea service, £14 10s. ;
Crown Derby tea service, £10 ;
Chelsea blue and white tea and coffee service, £12 ;

Crown Derby dessert service, £14 5s.;
Part Crown Derby dinner service, £12 5s.;
green and white Doulton dinner service, £9 ;
oblong mustard pot, George IV, £4 10s.;
double-handled sugar basin on claw feet, with cream jug and sugar bowl to match, £6 15s.;
pair double-handled sauce boats, £4 ;
pair tall candlesticks, with fluted stems on round bases, £5.

Second day's sale oil paintings and other pictures

"The Madonna" by Cigoli, £5 ;
"Saint Anne and the Infant Christ" by V. Schedone, £8 10s. ;
"Mary Magdalene" by Guido Reni, £6 ;
Antique Sampler, "Horse" 10s ;
"Justice and Mercy" by P. Bartoni, £11 ;
"Joseph and the Holy Child", £5 ;
"The Crucifixion", £2 ;
"Farm Buildings, Figures, and Pigstye Interior" by G. Morland, £25 ;
"The Grand Canal, Venice" by Canaletto, £12 ;
"Scene in Venice" by Canaletto, £5 ;
"Moonlight Scene with River, Cattle and Boat" by Aart Vander Neer, £7 ;
"St. Anthony and Infant Christ" by Carlo Dolci, £6 ;
"The Nativity", £6 ;
"The Adoration of the Magi" by Pietro Da Cortona, Barritini, £6 10s. ;
"Landscape with Cattle, Sheep Dog and Shepherd" by Rosa da Tivoli, £3 10s. ;
"Full Length Portrait of a Cavalier" by Caravaggio, £150 to Mr Ball, of Stalybridge ;
"Pope Gregory" £100, to Mrs Scott ;
"A Lady with Ruff", £400, to Mr Gaskell, of Ingersley Hall ; (this picture was brought by an ancestor of the late Mrs Gosselyn, from Spain. It was cut from its frame, wrapped up, and smuggled into England, where it was re-framed) ;
"Castle and Harbour Scene" by Vander Velde, £18 ;
"Portrait of a Gentleman in Wig" £4 10s. ;
"Return of the Huntsman" by "Il Basano" (Jacopo da Ponte), £8 ; "The Holy Family", £4 10s. ;
"Saint with Infant Christ" by Contierra, £2 10s. ;
"Figures and Sheep", £14 ;
"Dutch Scene with Church and Numerous Figures" by Van Ostade, £37 to Mr Percy Wright ;
"Portrait" by Charles Hallé, R.A., £6 ;
"The Crucifixion", £4 ;
"Lady at the Spinnet", £23 ;
"Picture of a Farm" by Teniers, £9 ;
"The Virgin and Child" by Albert Durer, £16.
Sheraton mahogany card table, £5 5s.;
mahogany pedestal writing desk, £7 ;
rare old oak settle, £11 ;
antique burr walnut miniature spice chest, £5 10s.;
antique oak hall chair, £5 ;
old oak hall chair on turned supports, £2 2s. 6d.;
pair dark oak heavily carved hall chairs, £9 ;
very fine old oak armchair, £5 ;
antique plain old oak armchair, £10 ;
genuine old oak armchair, £5 ;
fine old black lacquer table, £10 10s.;
antique enclosed cabinet, £15 10s.;
fine old oak rug chest, £15 ;
old oak hall table, £8 5s.;
chippendale mahogany single chair, £3 ;
set 4 antique mahogany single chairs, £7 ;
antique mahogany circular table, £7 ;
antique walnut hall seat, £5 ;
very rare and genuine antique Buhl table, £15 ;
original Buhl inkstand, £3 2s. 6d.;
genuine William and Mary card table, £10 ;
massive brass semi-circular trivet, £5 5s.;
Heppelwhite armchair, £18 ;
very fine old mahogany extending dining table, £19 10s.;
Georgian design mahogany sideboard, £13 ;
very rare Chippendale mahogany sideboard, £70 to Colonel Preston, of Southampton ;
fine old walnut kneehole writing desk, £40 to Mr Welsh.

Brass and ormolu time piece, £15 ;
pair of ormolu rose leaf stands, £15 ;
Louis XV brass ormolu timepiece, £20 ;
Oil painting, "Queen of Cyprus" by Il Moretto, £11 10s.;
Oil painting, "The Pope" £24 ;
antique needlework panel, "St Francis of Assisi" £21 ;
upright grand pianoforte, £30, to Mr Ashworth of Timperley ;
antique 8-days grandfather clock, £14 ;
old 8-days grandfather clock, £15 10s.;
Wilton pile stair carpet, £8 5s.;
carved figure, "The Blessed Virgin" £83 to Mr Needham, of Stockport ;
heavily carved gilt console table, £12 ;
circular Italian marble mosaic table, £8 10s.;
large girandole in heavy gilt frame with eaglemount, £8.

Third day's sale

Carved oak armchair with cane back and seat, £4;
6 antique mahogany dining chairs, 12s. each ;
Pier glass in gilt frame, with 3 mirror panels, £4 15s.;
Axminster carpet square, 4 yards by 3½ yards, £4 6s.;
Neat inlaid Sheraton mahogany swing mirror with 3 drawers, £3 ;
Mahogany bow fronted 4-tier Chest of Drawers, £9 2s. 6d.;
Handsome Spanish mahogany trio wardrobe with 6 moveable shelves, 6 drawers and hanging cupboard, £8 ;
Four-tier Sheraton mahogany chest of drawers, £5 2s. 6d.;
Oak bow-fronted corner cupboard with carved front, £2 5s.;
Three-tier mahogany chest of drawers, £3 ;
Small oak Queen Ann writing table with three drawers, £4 2s. 6d.;
Capital Spanish mahogany trio wardrobe, £10 ;
Small Sheraton mahogany wine bin, £9 ;
Burr walnut military chest, £11 ;
Oak Jacobean 4-tier chest of drawers, £4 15s.;
Capital walnut bedroom suite, £20 ;
12 h.p. Bean 4-seater touring car (1925), £32 10s.;
Ford light lorry (1 ton), £5 10s.

Myths and Tales

High Peak News

3 April 1943

A rumour which has circulated in Whaley Bridge recently that the vault at Errwood Hall, in which members of the well known Grimshaw family are buried, had been broken into by vandals, was denied this week by Mr Oyarzibel, of the Stockport Corporation Waterworks, who is in charge of the Goyt Reservoir estate on which Errwood Hall stands.

"I wish to state quite emphatically," he told a "High Peak News" reporter, "that the vault is undisturbed, and unlikely to be entered either by vandalistic hikers or by over-enterprising schoolboys. The vault was bricked up and sealed, at the request of the Grimshaws, and it would be impossible to penetrate it in any way without a great deal of demolition work being done. This would be out of the question, as a member of the waterworks staff patrols the area continually."

The rumour arose, apparently, because a group of local people who were in the vicinity of the Hall recently noticed that the porch above the vault had had its roof broken in, making a hole, in the words of one of them, "big enough to put a bullock through." This, it was assumed, opened directly to the vault.

In actual fact the mortuary chapel is situated between the chapel proper and the vault, and between the mortuary chapel and the vault is the stone and cement floor of the chapel, built over a concrete floor, which stands over the oak-raftered ceiling of the vault.

Mr Oyarzibel took the opportunity of denying the stories that the bodies of the Grimshaws in the vault are embalmed in glass-topped coffins, and that the corpses still wear the gold watch chains, and so forth, which they wore when they were alive. The bodies, he says, are not embalmed, but are buried in coffins of shell, lead and oak. And the coffins contain no valuables.

He is in a position to know, for as the last remaining member of the Grimshaw household he saw the coffins laid in the vault and himself helped to seal the vault when the Goyt Valley was acquired by the Stockport Corporation for flooding.

Nevertheless, there has for some time been evidence of unnecessary vandalism and interference at the Hall on the part of hikers and schoolboys. The chapel has been entered, and many windows of the hall have been broken. The graveyard round the chapel, where members of the household were buried, has been trampled on and crosses over the graves have been overturned. The railings round the graveyard have been pulled down.

It is likely that in the near future Stockport Corporation may make new arrangements for preventing this kind of thing from going on.

There is now a large mound over the crypt but once there was a mausoleum see picture below



Macclesfield Courier
30 January 1847.

Burglary.

Information has been received at the County Police Office in this town of a desperate burglary, in which one of the burglars was killed, and to have taken place on Wednesday night at Errwood House, near Buxton, the seat of Samuel Grimshaw Esq. The family are absent at Southport, and the house is left in charge of servants.

On Wednesday night, it is said, a gang of burglars broke in and seriously ill treated the servants, but while they were engaged in ransacking the house, the gamekeeper came up, and fired amongst them, killing one of the party on the spot; the rest made their escape.

Macclesfield Courier.
6 February 1847.

Alleged burglary at Errwood Hall.

On the authority of the Superintendent of the County Police in this town, we gave currency last week to a rumour which prevailed of a man having been shot in an attempted burglary at Errwood Hall.

We have since ascertained from the same source that there was not one word of truth in the rumour.