



Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology

Cotswold Canals Restoration

Phase 1b. Saul Junction to The Ocean, Stonehouse

Project S09

Some Vessels Associated with the Stroudwater Canal

by Joan Tucker April 2007 Issue 1

These notes give details of 20 vessels used on the Stroudwater Canal. The notes are the result of research carried out by the Author for her book *The Stroudwater Canal* published in 2003. The dates of the references run from 1795 to 1822. Where possible the information includes where the vessel was built, its owner and master at different times, the nature of the cargoes and where it operated.

Much of the information given here does not appear in the book due to limitations of space.

Vessels on the Stroudwater Navigation Some Notes

Compiled by Joan Tucker

April 2007

Disney

Trow. 63 tons. Built at The Bourne, Brimscombe, Stroud in 1794 (Ref. Glos Archives D4292) Registered Gloucester Jan 16th. 1796 as number 76. (Ref. Glos. Archives TS 194/70) A full description of the vessel is given.

It was one of the trading fleet owned by the Thames & Severn Canal Company and named after the Chairman Rev. Dr. John Disney (1746-1816) Thomas Smith, Clerk to the Proprietors of the Company was registered as the owner.

John Wheeler of Brimscombe was the first master with 5 watermen as crew.

Extent of trading was between Brimscombe / Newport, Mon /Cardiff / Bristol

Galley

Trow or barge. Built at Brimscombe 1802

Owner Heane & Co. later changed to Stroud Galley Company

Master. John Wintle of a well known Severnside family of mariners (he signed his name)

Ran a service back and forth between Bristol and Wallbridge on average once a week, 'without shifting the cargo or using a lighter'. Carried 'goods' of between about 10cwt to 25 tons. An advert. In *Stroud Chronicle* of Jan 11th. 1834 states the vessel will leave Bristol for Stroud & Chalford every Sat. & deliver goods at Framilode, Eastington, Ryeford & Dudbridge every Monday. One entry looks like 'bones' otherwise the commodities are not specified. Timber would be taken in at the Valley, Chalford for delivery to Bristol.

George

Owner John Sims. He was also the master, and signed his name.

Traded between Bristol and Wallbridge, mostly carrying goods up to 15 tons.

Aug 10th. 1822 shipped 2 tons of timber at Wallbridge for Bristol

Oct. 11th. Landed 5 tons timber & coal at Wallbridge (Did he employ his son?)

Hopewell

Owner Samuel Roberts 70 tons burthen

Ref. Gloucester Journal June 18th. 1810. This vessel advertised for sale, with tow boat materials, etc. 'Samuel Roberts has assigned his effects to his creditors'. Described as a trow and a strong able vessel fit for the Newport or Bristol trade.

In June 1814 the owner and master was Newbury.

Joe

Owner John Baker of Brimscombe He also owned the **William** and the **John**

Master in 1814 Sam Tims

Master in 1822 L Sims, who made his mark

Aug 13th 1822. Landed 10 tons coal from Newport

John

Barge 55 tons Reg. Gloucester number 41 in 1795 for master and 2 watermen
Owner John Baker of Brimscombe
Master in 1795 George Hartshorne
Master in 1814 S Packer
Extent - Brimscombe to Stourport

Nancy

Barge 46 tons Registered Gloucester 1795 Number 5. With master & 3 bargemen
Owner 1795 Benjamin Grazebrook & Sons
Owner 1814 Heane & Co.
Master 1795 James Probert
Master 1814 Green
Extent – Brimscombe to Gloucester

Neptune

Owner Richard Miller
Master 1814 Collings
Master 1822 John White, who made his mark
Carried up to 50 tons of goods from Bristol to Wallbridge
Nov 9th. 1822 shipped 1 ton iron at Wallbridge for Bristol

Betsy

Owner Joseph Higgins
Master Joseph Higgins, who signed his name
Traded between Stourport and Wallbridge carrying coal
Aug 8th. 1822 Crate (of goods) 5cwts landed at Wallbridge
Bran 4 cwt shipped at Wallbridge for Stourport
Sept. 21st. Bran 10 cwt. Shipped at Wallbridge for Stourport

Betsy

Owner William Hill
Master Job Blick, who signed his name
Nov. 16th. 1822 Coal 52 tons, 10cwt landed at Wallbridge from Stourport. This entry in the Wallbridge Port Book was annotated (by the Committee) being omitted by Adams the clerk, & is squashed into the list.
Dec 30th. 1822 Master Job Blick Coal 52 tons landed at Wallbridge from Newport

Betsy

Owner Joseph Miller
Master Joseph Miller, who signed his name
Sept. 12th. Timber 2 tons shipped at Wallbridge for Stourport

Betsy

Owner James Lloyd
Master James Lloyd, who signed his name
Nov. 30th. 1822 Coal 11 tons landed at Wallbridge from Shropshire

Defiance

Owner Thomas Butt

Master Thomas Butt, who made his mark

Traded between Lydney & Wallbridge carrying coal, landing usually up to 10 tons there, so perhaps dropped off other amounts at other wharves on the way.

Nov 22nd. 1822 Iron 4cwt landed at Wallbridge from Lydney

This is probably the Thomas Butt whose family continued in trade as carriers at Upper Wharf Stroud until the 1930's. Then became builders' merchants at the same address until c.2005

George

Owner John Sims

Master John Sims, who signed his name

Traded between Bristol & Wallbridge carrying goods (not specified) about once a fortnight.

Aug 10th. 1822 Goods 6 tons 4cwt landed at Wallbridge from Bristol

Shipped 2 tons timber at Wallbridge for Bristol

George

Owner Edward Yates, who signed instead of the Master

Master James Blick

Traded between Wallbridge and Lydney, carrying coal to Wallbridge, and beer back to Lydney fortnightly

July 2nd. 1822 Coal 44 tons and 8 tons stone landed at Wallbridge – inserted in the ledger is a pencil note stating that it was certified for only 4 tons of stone.

Nov 5th. 1822 Coal 49 tons landed at Wallbridge from Lydney

Beer 1 ton 4cwt shipped at Wallbridge for Lydney

Good Design

Owner Robert Tovey

Master John Addis, who signed his name

Traded monthly between Droitwich and Wallbridge, carrying salt.

Oct. 17th. 1822. Salt 10cwt landed at Wallbridge from Droitwich

Goods 1 ton 12cwt shipped at Wallbridge for Gloucester.

Patty

Owner G Warren

Master G Warren, who made his mark

Traded between Lydney and Wallbridge carrying coal monthly, up to 45 tons.

June 4th 1822 Coal 3 tons landed at Wallbridge from Newnham

Roseanna

Owner George Doughty

Master George Doughty, who signed his name

Traded between Shropshire and Wallbridge, carrying coal

Speedwell

Owner William Pugh

Master William Pugh, who signed his name

Traded between Bristol and Wallbridge with road stone, from Lydney with stone, & Newport with coal

July 31st. 1822 Master Francis Pugh. Poles 2 tons landed at Wallbridge from Lydney

1821 census. Pugh, barge owner registered at Lower Lypiatt, Stroud. Household consisted of 4 males 1 female.

William

Owner John Baker

Master James Grimes, who signed his name

Traded between Wallbridge & Gloucester, carrying sand

Baker also owned the **Joe**

1821 census. John Baker listed as boat builder of Lower Lypiatt, Stroud