

23rd June 1976

Dear Mrs. Broadhurst,

I enclose a list of references in the Northampton Mercury.

It appears that Saltley was a hamlet in the parish of Aston juxta Birmingham, so it is unlikely that any native coachbuilders would be available at the time the Carriage Works were established there; I don't know when that was. If it was soon after 1838 there should have been the second generation ready to go to Wol. when the staff were transferred. It occurs to me that whereas the carriage staff at Saltley may have preferred to stay in that area and find work nearby, the Wolverton loco staff would have no alternative but to go. With regard to your statement that the Saltley Works were closed abruptly and men arrived in Wol. before the loco men had vacated their houses, this does not seem to be borne out by the remarks in the N.M.

The microfilm of the 1871 Census at Delapre only includes a part of Wolverton, and no other Bucks parishes so is not much use. I found 3 born at Saltley and one at Aston, about 35 at Birmingham (I included widows who had sons born there). In the part of Wolverton on the film there were 357 houses, 5 of which were empty and one in course of erection; 1032 males, 882 females, total 1914. (Compare these figures with those in Peter Richards' article.) I feel that his statistics need to be used with caution. The figures are no doubt accurate as he got them from printed returns, but the conclusions he drew may not be. The actual schedules for 1861 and 1871 were not available to researchers at the time he wrote. He does not seem to have been locally born or with local connections, and has several errors apart from statistical ones. If Census returns are to be used at all it would be necessary to do the work much more thoroughly and systematically and no doubt you will not be able to do it.

I give the following in case it is useful:

Locally born railway employees, all "labourers", living at YG:

1851 1 (he had 2 brothers in same employ living at Wol.)
1861 3
1871 5

Born at YG living at Wol. 1871:

1 male servant to a butcher
1 ostler to a publican
1 master butcher and his housekeeper
1 barman at the Railway Refreshment Rooms
1 washerwoman
1 widow and family
1 widow not born at YG but her child was

I have traced in red on map the route taken by workmen from YG to Castlethorpe Station.

Yours sincerely, D. Warren

<u>Year</u>		<u>Notebook ref.</u>
1865	New workshops, Rd Dunkley of Blisworth bldr.	(see scan)
1885	Wolverton Park Sportsground opened	
1886	Tramway Co. Started. Opened 1886	
1886	Sports held in Park	
1886	Skeletons found in Bedford Street	
1863	Model lodging house built	
1867	Radcliffe Arms near Station	
1866	North Western Hotel	
1840?	New passenger station and refreshment rooms	
1841	Freehold property for sale	
1843	New road from station to Stony Stratford	
1844	New church consecrated Whit Tuesday	
1845	Queen Victoria's visit to Stowe. Why travelled on old Road?	
1845	Mary Rowles landlady Radcliffe Arms	
1846	Schools' outing to Tring	
1847	Schools' outing to Bedford	
1846	Bones dug up opposite church	
1847	Frightful collision near Blue Bridge, 7 killed. Points had been turned into sidings. Signalman Fossey taken into custody, found guilty of manslaughter. Letter from WW Sanders of Yardley who was in train	
1849	Soiree at Mechanics' Institute	
1850	The Market House mentioned	
1861	The Victoria Hotel opened. Landlord Hicks late of Radcliffe Arms	
1842	Church to be built. School and reading room used as chapel	
1861	Foundation stone laid of new Mech. Inst. (Science & Art Inst.)	
1854	W.A. Rogers, surgeon mentioned. Insolvent	
1854	Threatened strike of engine drivers	
1855	Brass band played at Hanslope Holy Thursday Fair	
1856-7	Wolverton Watch Society closed. 99 members paid weekly sum to obtain watches	
1859	Cricket match: Wol. Mech. Inst. Vs. Stony Stratford, attended by Wol. Works Band	
1861	P.C. Goodson walking over canal bridge near Radcliffe Arms saw two men in field near the house ill treating a horse. Men brutally attacked Goodson	
1861	Meeting re New Mech. Inst. £1000 to be raised by workmen – 6d and 1/- tickets	
1861	"North Western" built by Rogers & Bull, Brewers, N.P.	
	"Victoria" built by P. & R. Phipps, Brewers	
1861	Train trips to Matlock very popular, 3/6d return	
1862	Temperance Society formed, 30 signed pledge	
1863	Balloon ascent by James Glaisher watched by great number of inhabitants of Wol. and Stantonbury. Excursion trains ran from Bedford, Northampton, etc. Cold collation in Engine Shed prepared by Mr. Hicks of the Victoria Hotel, given by Duke of Sutherland. Splendid brass band. Concert in aid of N'ton Infirmary, 2000 present, followed by a ball. Telegram received at 8 O'clock, balloon came down at Littleport near Ely, Cambs, 70 miles in 1 hr, 26 mins.	
1863	Robbery and mischief in Wol. allotments	
1863	St. George Church undergone thorough repair, fitted 130 gas lights	

- 1863 Accident to man working on Mech. Inst.: ladder broke, spine injured
- 1863 Bldg. Land for sale in 5 lots frontage Stratford Rd, extending back to back road near Victoria. Shop with plate glass front, and dwelling house recently erected opposite church and Mech. Inst. Close to model lodging house, drapery etc. Known as Waterloo House
- 1863 Anniversary dinner of the Wolverton branch Steam Engine Makers Soc. held at Royal Engineer. Wol. was first established Loco Dept. in England. Where town stood corn had grown 26 years earlier.
- 1864 Opening of Science & Art Inst. Whit Monday
- 1864 Fire in Wol. Engine Works. New fire engine from Stony Stratford Fire Brigade
- 1865 Jos. Parke of Old Bradwell seized and broke a gun from David Edwards who was birdkeeping for his master Robert Adams in Great Monks Field. Mr. Adams said that every Sunday these Station chaps were all over his farm. "Men of your caste committing such outrages are a disgrace to the company who employ you." Two months hard labour
- 1865 Rural walk by the canal between Wol. and SB rendered almost unavailable by intolerable nuisance. Seems to be chosen spot for executing cats, dogs and other animals. Bodies lie on surface of water in every stage of decomposition.
- 1865 Opening of Wolverton Market, fat and store stock, corn and other agr. produce, in Church St. in open space betw. S.&A. Inst. and Victoria Hotel; belonged to Culverhouse, Harris, McCaughan, and Mrs. Rowland, and was purchased by Pickering Phipps of N'ton, Mr. Parrott of S.S. and Mr. Wm Scott, by whom it has been let to Market Committee. One of the large rooms in S. & A. Inst. which has entrance into the market, has been obtained for a Corn Exchange. Market lasted 3 hours, then adjourned to dinner at North Western, Vic., Royal Engineer and Radcliffe Arms.
- 1865 Anniversary of S. & A. Inst. The first ox sold in the Market was bought by the tradesmen of Wolverton and roasted whole. Strangers poured into the town from 4 am. About 2 pm old English sports and pastimes took place on the Recreation Ground (where was that?); 500 took tea in New Carriage Shop. Public Ball – 1200 danced to Wednesbury Sax-Horn Band specially engaged who also played for The Foresters who walked in procession to the church.
- 1866 Tea and public meeting at Baptist Union House Wol.
- 1866 Mention of slaughterhouse near Radcliffe Arms
- 1866 Robbery at the Co-op
- 1866 Farewell party to James Cowper, Sec. to Co-op who is emigrating to America. Was in Loco Dept.
- 1866 Cricket match betw. Wol. and Crewe apprentices
- 1866 A few friends met in Schoolroom Church St. to consider building a Congregational chapel.
- 1866 Carriage accident; horse frightened by whistle as it passed over loco. bridge; galloped off down hill by Radcliffe Arms as far as Stonebridge Farm; jumped hedge, ran to river before being caught.
- 1866 Mr. Bonsor Master of YG Workhouse and Inspector of Nuisances for Potterspury Union inspected the backways of Wol.
- 1866 Anniv. Of S. & S. (?) Inst. Whit Monday Tues. and Wed. Festivities. Wednesbury Band, etc.
- 1867 4th anniv. of Wol. & SB Co-op. Tea and concert
- 1867 Auction sale "The Bazaar" in Church St. and 4 cotts adjoining recently built (Co-op Furn. and hardware stands on site now)
- 1867 Two Irishmen arrested at Wol. suspected of Fenianism taken to Aylesbury by large body of police. Trial attended by crowds, including considerable number of Wol. workmen whose identity was unmistakeable. Discharged, insufficient evidence

- 1868 Change at Loco Dept. Men being transferred to Crewe, several leaving each week
- 1868 Workmen gone to Crewe, trade slack, many empty houses
- 1868 Removal of hundreds of workmen. Near corner Pin 14 out of 18 houses empty
- 1868 Public meeting at S. & A. Inst. to consider raising funds for celebrating opening of Inst. Had for some years been occasion of grand holiday at Whitsun. Numbers now reduced to half but some spirit survives.
- 1868 Attempt to stop up a footpath across a field near Radcliffe Arms to the Railway Arch, much used by Wol. workmen in going home to Castlethorpe, Hanslope and Haversham, also by local people generally, saves ½ mile. Various plans to stop people, tarring stiles, blocking with thorn bushes, building high brick wall which was speedily demolished. Landlord of Radcliffe Arms applied for summons but the Bench had no jurisdiction.
- 1868 Little girl bringing father's dinner from Old Bradwell to Wol. was robbed of dinner, basin, plate and cloth.
- 1869 Wol. & S.S. Rly. Co. Act of Parl. Station to be near Watling Works, London Rd., S.S. 6d 1st class, 4d 2nd class, 3d 3rd class
- 1870 Many Wol. men removing to Crewe. Men expected to come to Wol. for Carriage Dept. Trade much affected.
- 1870 Wesleyan Church opened. Paid for by L & NWR

- 1870 Road betw. Wol. and SB to be lit by gas
- 1870 Rly. Accident at Harrow Station. 7 killed including Shelvey the driver. He had formerly lived at Wol. and relatives wished him to be buried in St. Geo. Churchyard. Special train was provided by Company and free tickets to any fellow drivers and friends who wished to pay last respects. Over 4000 watched funeral, some walking from miles around. Camden Steam Shed Band preceded corpse and played Dead March in Saul and Mariners Hymn at graveside. Shelvey's dog "Snatchbury" who had travelled in cab with him for 12 years, with black crepe collar and rosette was carried by Shelvey's fireman. £314 collected for widow. (There is a memorial stone in St. Geo. Churchyard to Wm. Shelvey killed at Harrow 26 Nov. 1870 aged 39; Frances his widow died 22 Feb. 1878 aged 50; Wm. Jas., their son died an infant.)
- 1871 "As I was going over the Rlyl. Bridge I passed defendant midway between the steps up from Glyn Sq. and the steps down to the platform."
- 1871 The hours in Wol. Works reduced from 58 ½ to 54, from 6 am to 5.30 pm. 45 mins for breakfast and 1 hour for dinner. 12 noon on Sats. Celebrated by a dinner at the North Western attended by 130 men.
- 1872 Visit of Prince Arthur to the Duke of Grafton for hunting. He returned to town by mail train from Rugby, stopped at Wol. by signal. Family saloon and composite coach added to train for prince and suite. Wol. Fire Brigade attended in uniform at the station as guard of honour.
- 1873 Sleeping saloon built at Wol. Works ran for first time from Euston to Perth. Described
- 1874 Sixth ½ yearly mtg. of Wol. Mutual Loan & Investment Soc. formed 3 yrs. earlier by 14 workmen of LNWR Works
- 1875 A block of houses built by LNWR to be occupied this week. Private bldg. is also going on.
- 1875 The Model Lodging House at corner of Church St. and Creed St. pulled down, cottages to be erected on site.
- 1876 First Spelling Bee held at Wol. in Dining Room Stratford Road. Entrance 6d over 16 years; Songs and recitations, 34 competitors, large audience. (Spelling bees were being held all over the place about then, but they seem to have died out very quickly. At any rate not mentioned in Mercury.)
- 1876 Whitsun. Anniv. S. & A. Inst. Sports, etc., Wed. Band

- 1876 New entrance to church from Buckingham Street
- 1876 Prizegiving S&S (?) Inst. Two girls prizewinners
- 1878 At Whitsun sports, donkey race won by Warr of YG
- 1878 Presentation to Mr. Cummings, Sec. of Workmen's Benefit Soc., of his own portrait
- 1879 Owing to extension of new line the Radcliffe Arms will shortly be demolished
- 1879 Rifle Corps met in New Dining Room, Stratford Rd.
- 1879 Whitsun sports. Bicycle race from Haversham Rd. Arch through Old Wolverton to the Forester's Arms S.S. and back through Wol., finishing Bradwell 4 ½ miles. 13 started. Dinner for 90. Deputation from Viaduct Institute, Earlstown and the Mech. Inst., Crewe. Sports in Battams Field spoilt by rain. Donkey race won by Warr of YG 3rd year in Succession. Ball on Mon. attended 1200, on Tues. 500.
- 1879 1st annual meeting Wolverton Building Society
- 1880 Wol. Bicycle Club: 10 went to N'ton via Grafton Regis, back by Hanslope
- 1880 Wol. Livonia Boat Club trip to Stoke Bruerne; tea at The Boat, back to YG for short stay