

Chapter Fourteen

Diesinkers

Mark, was five years younger than his brother John(2) but he followed his father to become a scythesmith. There is no doubt that having changed the family's course by leaving glass, Benjamin set a trend which lasted many generations. Mark also left a will when he died in 1795.

Mark was reasonably well off, but in spite of his instructions to take two duplicates of his inventory, no inventory seems to have survived. It is difficult to find what he had. Richard Brickeridge wrote in longhand on the will :

"Chesterfield 23rd April 1795. Let Probate be made to Paul Tyzack the sole Executor. As being duly sworn and also that the personal estate of the deceased will not amount in value to £300 before me."

There are several special bequests but Mark seems to have been obsessed with textile gifts. He left £170 altogether in money and several buildings. Messuage is a dwelling with offices, perhaps his workshop, and appropriate lands for the household. Appurtenances mean the rights.

Paul Tyzack son	<p>Messuages Cottages or Dwelling Houses Appurtenances (All at Four Lane Ends Norton) Rents, Issues Profits Residue large Huggaback Table Cloth</p>
Camdena Tyzack wife	<p>Rents, Issues Profits during her natural life Use of Household Furniture plus £40</p>
Hannah Fisher grand-daughter	<p>Set of Bed Hangings in best Chamber one Feather Bed with Stocks, Hangings two pairs of sheets Three Blankets, Bolster, Pillows and Quilt Counterpane half share All Table Linen except Huggaback Table-Cloth plus £10</p>
Ann Tyzack daughter, wife of Joseph Morton	<p>One Feather Bed with Stocks two pairs of sheets three Blankets, Bolster, Pillows and Quilt set of China six silver teaspoons and silver tongs half share All Table Linen except Huggaback Table-Cloth plus £70</p>
Mark Tyzack grandson	<p>a Squab-Bed and Bedding the Great Box in the Parlour plus £10</p>
Francis Fisher grandson	£20
Mary Fisher granddaughter	£20

The will is a trust. Mark left the property to Camdena, his second wife for her natural life and then to Jonathan Lupton, Farmer and Joseph Broomhead, Victualler, apparently so that they could provide Camdena with the rents during her natural life. It then went to Paul in the same way with the same trustees for ultimate bequest to his grandson Mark. Camdena died on 2 July 1797. The witnesses to the will, were Abraham Sellars, John Stevenson, and Thomas Fox. Mark was capable of signing his own name. For several generations the family lived at Four Lane Ends, not far from where Benjamin had lived. Paul, Mark's son, was said to be of Hackenthorpe. Paul's grandson Moses was of Derbyshire Lane, which was really at Four Lane Ends. There is still one of the original cottages standing, at the corner of Norton Lees Lane, directly opposite Scarsdale Road.

Mark was a tenant of Joseph Barker in 1771 because he took his landlord to court. Joseph Barker of Norton Woodseats had given notice to Mark that his agent was empowered to enter the premises at Four Lane Ends and to seize property in lieu of rent unpaid by Mark on 30th October, 1771. However anyone threatening to remove the property of Mark had better get his facts right. Joseph Barker had not done his homework. So on 30th October, 1771 there appears a subpoena to Joseph Barker to answer a charge at the Sheriff's Court. A Charge was listed from the Sheriff of Derbyshire to the Bailiff of Scarsdale and the Constable of Norton to send back the goods seized from Mark Tyzack. Both Officers of the court were also instructed to see that Joseph Barker was charged to appear at the next Court.¹

Mark's son Paul married Joanna Linley and their marriage was very prolific. They had ten children. The eldest being a son

¹ W. C. 1307

called, of course, Mark(2), after his granddad. He was to be the ultimate benefactor of his grandfather's willtrust. Paul always worked as a scythesmith but without joining the Cutlers' Company. In addition to Mark(2), Paul and Joanna had a daughter Hannah who was in the Sheffield directory as a dressmaker. They also had three sons, William, Paul and Samuel. Samuel became a silversmith and coincidentally finished up living in Edmund Street a few doors away from his distantly related Samuel Tyzack, brother of the Abbeydale Tyzacks. Paul junior became a scythemaker.

Mark(2), who was the prime beneficiary from granddad's will became a diesinker.² This skill became of great importance to this branch because Mark(2)'s descendants followed suit for some years. Diesinking is the fabrication of tools for pressing objects out of metal plate or sheet.

It was all for pressing sheets of silver plate and so making parts which could either be used in that form, or silver soldered together to form more rounded objects. The diesinking trade therefore was closely related to son Samuel's trade. *Die sinking was an art requiring skill and ingenuity. The die was formed out of a steel block. A small hardened chisel was used for cutting the required pattern in reverse and the block was then hardened. The completed die was secured to a metal bed directly beneath the stamping hammer which was supported by a rope. Molten lead was poured into the die and, when cool, was lifted out and fastened to the stamping hammer head, having taken the impression of the die. Copper linings were put into the die to insure that the fused plate was not struck into the die too quickly. The plated sheet was gradually stamped into the die by repeated hammer blows. After each stroke one of*

² Sheffield Directory, 1817

*the copper linings was removed. Final details were brought out with punches.*³

Will of Mark(2) Tyzack, diesinker:-

Mark(2)'s will dated 27th November 1817, first bequeathed all those dwellinghouses, workshops and premises he occupied and held from Mr Osborne, to his three sons Aaron, Moses, and Joseph Tyzack. Mark his youngest son had died aged nine, two years before. All the property in Four Lane Ends, Norton, given to him by his grandfather Mark(1), he left to his wife Judith for her natural life. Immediately after her decease these premises went to his two daughters, Mary Ann Tyzack and Charlotte Tyzack. Again his other daughter Hannah had also just died a few months earlier. Then he dealt with the inevitable household items, furniture, beds, bedding, plate, linen and china and all other implements. He gave these to Judith. He also left Judith all his money employed in his trade which he carried on in co-partnership with his two sons Aaron and Moses. He gave Judith his part share and interest in the business, his stock in trade, the working tools, debts, estate and effects of the business. He directed that his son Joseph, who was eighteen, and his daughters who were fourteen and thirteen should be maintained and educated by Judith and by Aaron and Moses.

The will was witnessed by George Watson, James Wilkinson and Moses' father-in-law, Edward Royle⁴.

Paul junior, the scythemaking son of Paul and Joanna then dwelt at Four Lane Ends. Although he lived for another twenty nine years he did not appear in the Sheffield directories after 1817. Aged 64, Paul was found drowned in four inches of

³ John and Julia Hatfield, *The Oldest Sheffield Plater*, page 138

⁴ Sheffield City Archives, Ref. MD 6475/2

water in Ochre Dyke, when he was manager of Staniforth & Son, Hackenthorpe. Although the verdict was accidental death, there was a suspicion of murder. He was buried at Beighton, near Hackenthorpe.

Mark's business did continue to appear. After 1817 it changed its name to Mark Tyzack & Sons. It operated out of 52 Carver Street from 1817.

Moses bought the land, five hundred and forty two square yards, where his father had worked. It was bounded by Carver street, and on the west by Back Lane, north by land of the late Thomas Newton. South it was bounded by land obtained by William North from the Duke of Norfolk but now belonging to Joseph Smith. It was all purchased by Philip Osborn from Edward Royle, who had purchased it from the Duke of Norfolk. It included a dwelling house together with a privy, wash-house, and workshops. Moses was another who married into money. His father-in-law, Edward Royle, a Commercial Traveller, owned land bought from the Duke of Norfolk. Moses had a son, Mark(3), who also became a diesinker. Mark(3) married Elizabeth Wood and had four children including Mark(4).

Aaron married Hannah W. Castleton of Sheffield on 5th May 1819 when she was eighteen.

Paul and Joanna's son, named William became apprenticed as a filemaker through the Cutlers' Company, but later joined the army.

Apprenticeship

The life of some apprentices was very hard. In earlier times they usually lived in with the family of the tradesman who taught them. In spite of that, recruitment of apprentices to the Cutlers' Company was usually oversubscribed. Many of them in the

Company's books were the sons of cutlers. Outsiders also sent their sons to Sheffield to learn the cutler's trade. These included minor landed gentry, clergy and yeomen of the neighbouring counties and some from further. Their sons all had to rough it in the same conditions of hard work, no pocket money, and such food as their masters thought fit to give them. Often they had the barest provision of clothing and bedding.

We can get some idea of what an average apprentice looked like. Because life was tough for them, several tried to run away. As a result handbills were put up for their recovery. One from 1806, describes the run away as dressed in working clothes, wearing a brown coat, a red shag waistcoat, old leather breeches, and blue and white stockings. A clear distinctive mark was a hat sewn with pack thread round the crown.

Another from 1789 said the lad turned his knees a little inward when walking. The bill admitted this didn't help much as it was a prevalent defect in Sheffield ! He wore a green coat and a waistcoat, black velveteen breeches and a round hat. Another had a coat of greenish cast, a striped waistcoat and corduroy breeches. Altogether a very strong stereotype shows through. If they did not wear a uniform, at least their dress conformed to a pattern.

Out of all those Tyzack scythemakers and workers in the metal industries of Sheffield, the only one who shows in the records of the Cutlers' Company ⁵ as an apprentice was William the son of Paul of Hackenthorpe, scythemaker and his wife Joanna. In 1797, aged fourteen years old, he was apprenticed to Charles Garfitt, filemaker, as a filemaking apprentice. The indenture was for seven years. We do not know whether William lived in with Charles Garfitt but there must have been a lot of family

⁵ History of the Cutlers' Company, Leader

contact because Charles later married William's sister Mary. Mary was christened 9 March 1777, so she was twenty when William became apprenticed

Adding seven years of apprenticeship to the starting date gives 1804 as the time when William became a journeyman. William disliked making files because within the next eight years he either joined the army or was pressed into it. He fought under Wellington in Spain and died in the battle of Salamanca in 1812. Wellington's opponent in the great battle was the French general Marmont. Fortunately much of Napoleon's army in Spain had been drawn to Poland for the Moscow campaign. (What would the Proms have done without it?). Wellington won the day and later Napoleon's brother Joseph left the Spanish throne.

There was a terrible loss of life on both sides and one life lost was that of poor William Tyzack. One is left wondering what was so bad about filemaking?

We do not have a copy of William's apprenticeship indenture, but we do have a later one, for Alfred Wolstenholme, signed by the co-partners in W. Tyzack & Sons. Much changed in the years between William's apprenticeship and Alfred's. In Alfred's case the lad did not live in and a covenant is given by the father to feed and clothe his son.

Indenture

made in the year 1854 between **Alfred Wolstenholme**, aged sixteen years, son of Thomas Wolstenholme of Dronfield, Derby, farmer, on the one part and William Tyzack, Ebenezer Tyzack, William Tyzack the younger, and Joshua Tyzack all saw and scythe manufacturers in copartnership together in the firm of **William Tyzack & Sons**.

Alfred Wolstenholme has of his own free will and the consent of his father, put and bound himself apprentice to the above, for a term of five years. During this period he will serve his masters faithfully, keep their secrets, observe their lawful commands, forebear to do them hurt or injury, and attend regularly and diligently to their affairs and interest. and account honestly for all money and goods committed to his charge.

*In return the copartnership shall, in consideration of such service and of the covenant of Thomas Wolstenholme, teach and instruct the apprentice, in the art, trade, occupation or calling of a **Patent Scythe Maker**.*

*During the term **William Tyzack & Sons** will pay the father or the apprentice, six shillings a week as and for the Board wages of the apprentice, for the first year. For the next two years, seven shillings and for the remainder of the term, eight shillings. Thomas Wolstenholme covenants that during the term he Thomas Wolstenholme will feed, and provide for the said apprentice, good and sufficient meat, drink, lodging, clothes of all sorts and the washing thereof, medicine and medical attendance, and all the necessaries fitting and meet for such apprentice.*

Tyzacks' Tilt hammer

