

Addendum

A Description of the Ironworks at Hampton Loade, Salop, in 1806

From the diary of John Urpeth RASTRICK (1780 - 1856) - 'Journal of my own time. vol.4.' (In the University of London Library: MS242. I.(4).)

5th May 1806. (Rastrick went home to Mr. Vernon's at Wolverhampton and agreed to visit Vernon's brother at Hampton Loade.) "...and after dinner at two o'clock we set out for the Heath Forge (in Staffordshire) and got there about three o'clock. We stopped there about half an hour and then made to Hampton Load. There Mr. Thos. Vernon has the management of an iron work. We found him and his wife at home, the works consist of a Tilt forge, and pair of Puddling Rolls worked by a water wheel which takes the water at the top, two Puddling Furnaces at the Upper work. The lower works are drove by a water wheel 20 feet dia. and ten foot wide works a Pair of Shingling and Bar Rolls, and one Pair of Boiler Plate Rolls, one Pair of large shears and one pair of small shears. Two heating Furnaces. We got there by tea time and found it a very pleasant situation close by the Severn River. There is also another Mill above the upper Work drove by a Water Wheel for turning the Rolls, but meant for blowing of a Finery. We spent the evening verry agreeably, and went to bed about twelve o'clock.

6th May When I got up this morning I found Mr. Thos. Vernon, and Mr. Vernon up and out. I followed them and went up the Brook where the water comes to the Mill thro' a Wood by the side of the hill we saw a quarry where they were getting of Millstones. And a little above a water mill for making of paper (brown). Came back again and went thro' the works and saw the Mill go, and about twelve o'clock we left there for Bridgenorth, and after a ride of about an hour and half arrived at the Hand and Bottle Inn where we dined. After dinner we went to Mr. Hazeldine and Co. Foundery but he was not there. We went over to his house and found he had just set out for the Foundery. We returned and found him, he showed us through the Works, and then we went over to the Town and at a Publick-house, we had a great deal of conversation and after some little explanation Mr. Hazeldine and I proposed to join in partnership and he told me his proposals which were to take an equal share in the business with him and do all the out door work and attend to the putting up the machinery. I told him I would consider the Business and we would come to a conclusion as soon as possible. We left him about half past seven, went to the Hand and Bottle...."

(Rastrick stayed in partnership with Hazledine until 1817 at the Bridgnorth Foundry. In 1819 he joined James Foster in partnership at the Stourbridge Ironworks and stayed there until 1831, by which time he was well known as one of the early railway engineers.)