

## Appendix 24

### An introduction to the Gazetteers

Chapter 6 of this thesis, and chapter 8 which relies on it, depend on the data set out in appendices 12 and 15. These summarise detailed (but unpublished) research. As indicated in the Preface and Appendix 1, I hope (in due course) to publish the results of this research. This will probably be as three volumes with titles such as *Iron in the North*, *Iron in the Midlands*, and *Iron in the West*. The first of these exists as a fairly complete typescript, though it may need to be restructured (as mentioned below). This consists of a number of introductory chapters (dealing with aspects of the iron trade generally), followed by gazetteer chapters. For the other two volumes only the gazetteer chapters exist in a reasonably presentable form.

The gazetteer chapters each deal with the iron industry in a particular area. They begin with an overview of the industry in that area, outlining its resources and giving an outline history of the principal firms, together with any developments peculiar to it, its transition to coke and the decline of its charcoal ironworks. This is followed by a gazetteer of charcoal ironworks comprising a history of each ironworks, then a briefer account of 'other ironworks' (including forges that were not finery forges, some that are referred to in published sources but probably never existed, tilts, and steel furnaces. Finally there is a list of coke ironworks. Where an ironworks was established well before the Industrial Revolution, I have sought to trace its history up to its closure. However for the 'other ironworks' and coke ironworks, I often not sought to carry their history beyond 1815, or have dealt with their later history in a couple of sentences. If an ironworks was not built before 1815, it is not included at all unless there is some special reason for including it. In the gazetteers, I have sought to say as much as I can about poorly documented works, but to limit the description of the well documented. This means that the accounts of them are more in proportion to their significance than to the available sources. Nevertheless the well documented commonly have a somewhat longer description.

The description of each ironworks ends with information on its size, trading, surviving accounts, and a list of sources. The books, articles, and archives listed as sources do not however constitute the whole authority for the history of that ironworks; for the material cited for size, trading, and accounts is also important. Subject to this, the list of sources is intended to be comprehensive. However books and articles that are entirely based on other books and articles and add nothing are sometimes not cited. This applies particularly to articles referring to Coalbrookdale and to John Wilkinson. There are a few significant exceptions to this. I have made great use of Riden 1993 and appendix v of Schubert 1957, and could have cited them in respect of almost every furnace, which would be tedious. I have also frequently used early 19th century directories, but have only rarely cited them. These should be understood as underlying sources to the whole work. I have also generally

avoided citing Rees 1968, because I have found it unreliable. Too often what it says is based on the contents of calendars, rather than of the documents themselves, with the result that the documents are misinterpreted. Perhaps the most gross example of this is his interpretation of the partnership agreements of Boycott & Co. as leases by certain partners to other partners.

In order that the complete sources of appendices 12 and 15 (and also 16 and 17) should form part of this thesis it was decided at a very late stage of its preparation that this material should be appended to it. However its scale is such that if it were provided as hard copy, it would probably amount to several additional volumes. Furthermore, it is unfinished. A number of minor issues particularly concerning the *Midlands* and *West* volumes require further research; both of them need to be carefully considered for internal consistency; and attention is required to ensure that the work maintains a single style throughout. Some gazetteers are in note form, listing successive ironmasters with their dates, often in the form John Jones 1675- to 1688+ (meaning John Jones used it by 1675 and until at least 1688). At one stage it was intended that there should be a description of the site of each ironworks, describing it as an industrial archaeological site or monument. However this proved not to be very successful, and is now to be incorporated in the history. In some cases this has been done. In other cases the original format remains. Resolution of all these matters would take a minimum of some months.

Furthermore over recent months certain research databases have become available that are searchable via the Internet. These are being added to all the time. This applies to the 'Equity Proceedings' database of the Public Record Office, which at present deals with class C 6, a class whose sole finding aid has been a class list arranged by the initial letter of the plaintiff's name and roughly by date. It also applies to the Access to Archives (A2A) database, into which the calendars of all County Record Offices and other archive repositories are gradually being incorporated. Searches of these databases undertaken recently have revealed further source material that ought to be considered. The newly identified archives are likely to add further detail, which ought to be included in the gazetteers, but nothing has been noted that obviously appears to alter the content of appendices 12 and 15 significantly. However it would take several more months to consider these extra archives. By then more relevant publications would have appeared, which would mean that this thesis would require further alteration. Altogether this might well have delayed the submission of this thesis by a year or more. Indeed the process might be almost never-ending, but a line has to be drawn somewhere.

Accordingly it has been decided that the present unfinished texts for the three proposed volumes should be included in the CD-ROM accompanying this thesis. Each proposed volume contains the material written for one volume. These usually conform with the structure of regions districts and groups adopted in this thesis (see appendix 7, each group commonly being the subject of a chapter. *Iron in the North* covers the North region, together with East Coast iron imports to ports north of London. There is a difficulty as to an appropriate location for the Thames group, where iron was processed rather than produced. Ideally this would

have been discussed with the Weald, but that is beyond the scope of the project, as I am not in a position to add significantly to Cleere and Crossley 1995. Accordingly it may be necessary to expand the scope of this volume to include London and the Thames valley, and to change its title to *Iron in the North and East*. However no such changes have been undertaken, and the chapter on the Thames valley has been placed as if it were a chapter 15 of *Iron in the North*, but has not been integrated into it. *Iron in the Midlands* covers the Black country [BL] and Northwest Midland [MID] regions (for whose scope see appendix 7). It may be useful to expand this volume by including material on blade mills in Birmingham and the Black Country, and the needle mills of the Redditch and Alcester area. If so, Redditch and Ipsley Forges, which have been treated in this thesis as part of a South Midlands district in the West Country region [WEST], will need to be included as well. The rest of the Country is the subject matter of *Iron in the West*. This covers the South (but not the Weald), the West Country, South Wales, the West Coast [NORWEST] and Scotland. Each chapter is contained in a separate file, and these are named so that they appear in the intended order in the relevant folder.

In converting files to WORD format, I have undertaken a limited amount of formatting so that the format is reasonably consistent in each volume, but not quite the same between them. I have incorporated amendments that I had identified to *Iron in the North* and added to a typescript of it, but at various points in this and the other two volumes, I have noted in the text various points which remain unresolved, usually because more research is needed. It is possible that there are inconsistencies between the introductory text and the actual gazetteer within gazetteer chapters. If so, it is likely to be the detailed gazetteer entries that are correct, as these are more likely to have been updated following further research.

I have also included on the CD-ROM as in a separate folder ('Articles'), the latest drafts that I have in electronic format of two articles which are (or recently were still) forthcoming, King 2002a and King 2003. The proofs of the former were returned with a number of manuscript corrections, particularly to its appendix, an edition of Woodward, 'Observations'. These corrections have not been incorporated. It is also likely that the other will be amended in proof. I have also placed on the disc in WORD format the text of this thesis in a folder called 'Thesis text'. However little attempt has been made to provide this with a consistent format, and in particular it has not been paginated so that the tables and figures come at the end of a page.

It is no doubt unsatisfactory to have so much unfinished material appended to this thesis. However as already mentioned, any other course of action might well delay the submission of this thesis by a year or more. A number of research leads still need to be followed up, and it is likely that these may produce slight adjustments to the content of appendices 12 and 15 to 17. This would in turn make slight changes to the estimates made in chapters 6 and 8. Nevertheless I consider it most unlikely that further research will produce material that will significantly change the estimates or the overall conclusions of this thesis.