

Extracts from *A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 11: Telford* (1985)

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The township [*Eyton upon the Weald Moors*] was bounded on the south, and in part on the west, by major roads that were turnpiked in 1726. (fn. 39) Two lanes formerly led in to the village: one, known as Bratton Way in 1769, left the Wellington-Crudgington road near Wheelwright Cottage (now Denwood), the other left the old Newport-Shrewsbury road near Shawbirch to enter the village at its southern end. (fn. 40) In 1807 both lanes were closed and the present road to the village, following the line of Bratton brook, was built. (fn. 41) The Shrewsbury Canal was built across the township in 1794 between Wappenshall junction and Long Lane wharf. (fn. 42) A lock-keeper's cottage was built near Eyton mill, where the occupation road from the village to the Weald Moors crossed the canal.

The ready supply of coal afforded by the canal led one of the 19th-century squires, probably T.C. Eyton (d. 1880), to build a gas plant near Eyton mill to provide domestic lighting for the village. The works was operating by 1871 but ceased to function during the 1880s. (fn. 43) For water supply the village relied on private boreholes until a piped supply was provided c. 1960. (fn. 44)

In the 19th century the township's social life was dominated by the Eyton family. A cricket club, one of the earliest in the county, flourished at Eyton from c. 1839 to 1853 under the patronage of Thomas Eyton, the 'father of Shropshire cricket'. (fn. 45) He and his son, T. C. Eyton, were moving forces in the short-lived Wrockwardine and Eyton Benefit Society, which was founded in 1840 but had ceased by 1842. (fn. 46) A lodge of Odd Fellows (Manchester Unity) in 1871-2 probably had Bratton members too. (fn. 47) In 1898 the village had a clothing club, and a reading room was open two evenings a week in winter. (fn. 48) During the 1950s Eyton Hall, then uninhabited, was used for village gatherings, but in 1967 the cedar-clad village hall was built on land given to the village by Capt. A. C. Eyton (d. 1954).

From: '*Eyton upon the Weald Moors*', *A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 11: Telford* (1985), pp. 136-139. URL: [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18098&strquery="eyton benefit society"](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18098&strquery="eyton%20benefit%20society"); Date accessed: 15 January 2014.

Wappenshall (mentioned 1228) (fn. 95) consisted by 1723 of Wappenshall Farm and c. 3 cottages, (fn. 96) as in 1883. At the canal junction, opened 1835, (fn. 97) there was a public house in 1841 and a house by the wharf. (fn. 98) A few cottages were added near the junction before the 1880s (fn. 99) but by 1870 the public house was closed (fn. 1) and there was no further growth.

From: '*Wellington: Growth of settlement*', *A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 11: Telford* (1985), pp. 204-211. URL: [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18139&strquery="wappenshall farm"](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18139&strquery="wappenshall%20farm"); Date accessed: 15 January 2014.

The Shrewsbury Canal, from Wombridge, opened as far as Long Lane (in Wrockwardine) in 1794, having crossed Wappenshall township, and it reached Shrewsbury in 1797. (fn. 49) In 1835 it was joined at Wappenshall by the Newport branch of the Birmingham & Liverpool Junction Canal, which thus connected the coalfield canals to the national system. (fn. 50) Until the arrival of railways most

coalfield companies used Wappenshall as the national outlet for their coal and iron. Rather than negotiate the coalfield canals, however, the producer normally carried goods to Wappenshall road, there to load them on his own narrow boats. Likewise a wide variety of incoming goods was unloaded at Wappenshall for road distribution in the coalfield. (fn. 51) A large warehouse was built there. (fn. 52) A major import was fluxing limestone from north Wales; in the 1830s and 1840s thousands of tons reached the coalfield annually through Wappenshall. (fn. 53)

From: 'Wellington: Communications', A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 11: Telford (1985), pp. 198-204. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18138&strquery=Shawbirch> Date accessed: 15 January 2014.

Dr. J. E. Cranage, an unconventional Anglican, was inspired by a visit to Ireland in 1859 to lead an undenominational mission among the poorer people of Wellington. His preaching at the town hall and elsewhere attracted numerous followers and in 1862 he built New Hall, (fn. 75) a large plain brick building off High Street. In 1875 there were meetings at noon every day and three meetings on Sundays, (fn. 76) as well as twelve cottage meetings in and around Wellington. Since 1859 there had been weekly meetings at the workhouse. In 1889 a Children's Gospel Hall was added at the west end of the hall. Cranage's work was supported by the 3rd duke of Sutherland and by Millicent, marchioness of Stafford, (fn. 77) a noted philanthropist. (fn. 78) After Cranage's death in 1891 Robert Weston continued his work (fn. 79) but the mission closed c. 1899 (fn. 80) and the hall was sold to the Y.M.C.A., (fn. 81) which disposed of it within a few years. (fn. 82) Wellington cemetery had a nonconformist chapel by 1882. (fn. 83) A Gospel Army Mission room in New Square was registered in 1883 but had closed by 1896. (fn. 84) The Salvation Army had a barracks in Foundry Lane (registered 1887, closed by 1896) (fn. 85) and a hall in New Street (registered 1912, closed c. 1923). (fn. 86) An iron chapel at Wappenshall canal junction closed for worship in the early 20th century and was dismantled. (fn. 87)

From: 'Wellington: Protestant nonconformity', A History of the County of Shropshire: Volume 11: Telford (1985), pp. 243-245. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=18147&strquery=%27cranage'sdeath%27> Date accessed: 15 January 2014.

The fn. numbers refer to footnotes in the original text which can be accessed from the website links given at the end of each extract.