Manorfield Detectives



This is a photograph of Howe's Factory on Sapcote Road, Stoney Stanton.

It was built at some time between 1870 and 1900, for its time it was state of the art, with machinery powered by electricity produced by a steam boiler.

William and Henry Howe, the brothers who built and owned the factory and one like it in Leicester, were born in Stoney Stanton; William in 1848 and Henry in 1850. Their parents were Wiliiam and Hannah Howe.

William, their father was a blacksmith journeyman and was born in Lutterworth, Hannah was from Desford.

Do you know what a blacksmith does?

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1851 census Stoney Stanton.

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1861 census Stoney Stanton.

The factory was a hosiery factory, it employed at one time over 100 people from the village. There were also 4 cottages built for some of the workers.

If you look at the photograph, you can see the houses in front of the factory.

Materials were required, which in the early days were brought to the village from Leicester by horse and cart.

The factory continued until the 1930's when the building was sold to a chemicals company. Unfortunately, there was a huge fire in 1940 which totally destroyed the factory buildings.

After World War II, the site was sold for housing and South Drive is close to where this factory stood.

This second photograph shows workers leaving the factory at the end of a working day.



What do you notice about a lot of them?

Yes, I agree, they do look very young to be working in a factory.

Sadly, that wasn't unusual at that time.

Even after education was made compulsory in 1880, it was only until the age of 10.

In 1893 that age was increased to 11, and in 1899 a further increase to age 13.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0115hdq

This section of the 1861 census for Stoney Stanton shows a family who lived on Huncote Road.

Huncote					
Road	William	head	38	framework knitter	Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
	Mary	wife	39	framework knitter	Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
	John	son	15	framework knitter	Earl Shilton, Leicestershire
	Samuel	son	13	framework knitter	Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
	Arthur	son	12	framework knitter	Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
	Charles	son	10	stocking seamer	Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
	William	son	7	stocking seamer	Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
		daught			
	Mary	er	3		Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire
	Alfred	son	2		Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire

This family worked from home, all working together to earn enough money to pay rent for the house and food for the table.

Although the 1833 Factory Act prevented children from working in factories under the age of 9, they could still work at home.

Howe's factory brought people to work in a purpose built factory, children could be employed in the factory over the age of 9.

From aged 9-13 children were only allowed to work for 9 hours a day, for example if they began work at 8am, they would work until 5pm. That's 3 hours more than a school day, without a break. With a lunch break it means they would work until 5.30 or 6pm.

Maybe school isn't so bad after all?