

MISS NELLIE KIRKHAM (MRS. J.H.D. MYATT) - an Obituary

It is with regret and a great deal of sadness that I must inform you of the death of Nellie Kirkham as we all knew her, on Monday, 28th May, 1979 at Stoke-on-Trent.

Nellie was a woman of many parts, an artist in the mid-1920s doing designs for costumes and illustrations for books of which it was said in *Drawing and Design*, August 1924, "Imaginative work of an high order, an inventiveness and originality which is rare, especially when allied with a dainty jewel-like sense of colour".

Poet, Playwright and Broadcaster; between 1929 and 1939 she had several plays broadcast on the old Midland Region; some were based on old Derbyshire Legends, others had a near science-fiction flavour and Lead Mines and Miners crept into them more and more.

Correspondent and Author, the plays and short stories grew to novels, "Unrest in Their Time" and "Challenge to the Dark". History began to take its place with "Derbyshire (Vision of England)" and "The Pilgrims Way". She wrote to Notes & Queries in The Derbyshire Advertiser on subjects as various as wife-selling, Derbyshire sayings and the value of the pound.

As early as 1936 Nellie wrote a manuscript entitled "The Lead Mines of Derbyshire" which is now housed in Buxton Library with the comment that "this no longer represents the author's considered views". From 1947 to 1969 with her great book on Lead Mines and Soughs in mind, no less than 40 papers on the subject were published. Some were later updated and published in other journals and there were many smaller items, introductions and sections in larger works. Whilst the major work never appeared, due rather to publishing restrictions than lack of material, "Derbyshire Lead Mining Through The Centuries" was published by Bradford Barton in 1968.

In the period 1970 - 1975 the scene switched to Ancient Boundaries and Perambulations of Lordships and Manors in Derbyshire whilst concomitantly, a need to know more about the Civil War in Derbyshire prompted her to start writing a history of it and she was very actively engaged in the latter when her husband's incapacities demanded the whole of her time and energies.

We all remember Nellie in the field; she would come bustling up with her maps and pad and no matter what remote corner of Derbyshire someone happened to mention, she knew that there was a tiny mark on the stone gatepost of the field in question, or she would have an anecdote for that very spot.

Every farmer, land-owner and indeed, Lord of the Manor, knew Nellie, every workman, labourer and roadman when the latter still existed had cause to remember her kindness and ease of asking questions which brought forth answers which even the giver had forgotten.

Derbyshire is the poorer by the loss of Nellie, but she will never be forgotten and few will be the future works on Lead Mines and Miners that do not somewhere carry a little bit of Miss N. Kirkham in them.

Douglas A. Nash

THE COLLECTED WORKS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE WRITINGS OF NELLIE KIRKHAM

+ indicates that the work referred to is included in the volumes of this "Collected Works".

- 1929 *Out of the Memory of Man*. Broadcast 12th November. (re Derbyshire Lead Mines).  
1930s (Several papers whose exact date has been lost):  
*The Snake Track*. A Broadcast.  
+ *Spending Power of a Shilling*. Staffordshire Sentinel.  
+ *A Trade Well Dead*. Derbyshire Advertiser. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').  
1930 + *History of Derbyshire Lead Mines*. Radio Times. 21st February. "Extract from a talk recently broadcast by Miss Nellie Kirkham."  
*The Spell of Silence*. Broadcast 4th March. (short story or talk).  
+ *Intrusion into Eldon Hole*. Broadcast from Manchester and Leeds. 23rd May. (see: 1931).  
1931 *Londonderry Air on Hucklow Edge*. Broadcast from Manchester. 18th March.  
+ *Intrusion into Eldon Hole*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 11th December and concluded the following week. (as the Broadcast in 1930).  
1932 + *Inclusive of Wine*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 19th February. (under: 'Notes & Queries').  
+ *Our Sovereign*. Harrogate Advertiser. 27th February.  
+ *Unseen Ghost*. Broadcast 7th April. (It opened a series "Short Stories by Northern Authors"). (see: 1934).  
+ *Green Glass Ball and Scaffell*. Broadcast in May.  
*Witchcraft on Bradwell Moor*. Broadcast on North Region. 20th July.  
+ *From Haddon Hall to Gallows Acre*. Broadcast on North Region. Review of it in Manchester Guardian 3rd/4th September. (Third story in a series called 'Legends Alive').  
+ *Opposition to Early railways*. Derbyshire Advertiser. December 11th. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').

- 1933 + *Shivering Mountain*. Broadcast 8th January. North Regional from Manchester & Leeds. A play.
- + *Among us in 1777*. Derbyshire Advertiser. March 10th. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- + *Smooth Runs The Water*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 7th July. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- 1934 + *Moon-Men and Abram Coves*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 27th July. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- + *Antithesis to Martha Taylor*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 15th October. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- + *But What Feeds?* Broadcast Midland Region. 10th November. A macabre little mystery with a strong Derbyshire atmosphere.
- + *Unseen Ghost*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 28th December. (as broadcast in 1932).
- 1935 + *The Lead Mines of Derbyshire*. Published in the Dentrak Magazine & Oral Topics. 1935. Includes two photographs and a probable third of Ladywash Mine by J.H.D. Myatt.
- 1936 + *The Lead Mines of Derbyshire*. Bound MSS. in Buxton Public Library. A note that: 'this early work no longer represents the author's considered views'.
- 1937 + *Bagshawe's First Pothole*. Broadcast 10th September. A play - see: "His First Pothole" 1939.
- + *Wild Moor by Wronksley Water*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 8th November. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- 1938 + *Against the Parson's Will*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 7th January. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- Unrest in Their Time*. The Crescent Press. Explores the corridors of time. It draws a fascinating picture of Derbyshire in times long past.
- Unknown paper*. British Caver. Vol. 3. p. 79.
- 1939 *Unknown title*. Broadcast. About six people including Miss Kirkham went for separate walks in Derbyshire, then talked about it, adding history and anything of interest. Midland Region.
- + *His First Pothole*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 2nd June & 16th June. (See: 'Bagshawe's First Pothole' - Broadcast 1937).
- 1942 + *Bamforth Hole*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 3rd July. (See: British Caver, 1948).
- 1944 + *Wop's 'Osses*. Derbyshire Countryside. No. 56, Autumn.
- 1945 + *Woughs, Soughs and Main Rakes*. Derbyshire Countryside. No. 57, Spring.
- + *Those Limestone Hills*. News Chronicle. 30th August.
- + *To Show Ye Waie*. Derbyshire Advertiser. 2nd November.
- + *Many who have made it their Inne*. Derbyshire Countryside. No. 59 & No. 60. Autumn.
- 1946 *A Derbyshire Umbrella in Brazil*. Derbyshire Advertiser. + Part 1. 23rd August. + Part 2. 30th August. Part 3. not trace. (Under: 'Notes & Queries').
- 1947 *Derbyshire*. (Vision of England). Paul Elek. A largely pictorial history of the County.
- + *Cave Humour - Not Intended by the Authors?* The British Caver. Vol. 16, 1947.
- + *Ecton Mines*. Derbyshire Archaeological Society Journal. Vol. LXVII, 1947.
- + *Water: The Cheapest Commodity*. Derbyshire Countryside. Vol. 16, No. 8, Autumn.
- 1948 + *Bamforth Hole - Lost since 1734*. The British Caver. Vol. 18. (See: 1942).
- The Pilgrims Way*. Frederick Muller. 1948. Not Derbyshire. Cycled and walked from Winchester to Canterbury.
- + *Dale Lead Mine*. Peakland Archaeological Society. Newsletter No. 4. (See below, 1949).
- 1949 + *Derbyshire Lead Mining Glossary*. Cave Research Group of Great Britain. Pub. No. 2.
- + *Ecton Mines*. Dalesman Publishing Company.
- + *Dale Lead Mine*. Dalesman Publishing Company.
- 1950 + *Old Drowned Work In Derbyshire*. Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.
- 1951 + *Fox Holes - High Wheelton*. Stoke-on-Trent Potholing Club Journal. Vol. 1, No. 1.
- Challenge to the Dark*. Dalesman Publishing Company. A story of Sedan and the Commune, set mostly in Paris and Sedan.
- + *Soughs of Dovegang*. Mine & Quarry Engineering, Vol. 17.
- + *Lead Mine Soughs of Eyam, Stony Middleton & Calver*. Part 1. British Caver, Vol. 22.
- + *With Reference to Swallets in Derbyshire*. by D. Turner. British Caver, Vol. 22.
- 1952 + *Lead Mine Soughs of Eyam, Stony Middleton & Calver*. Part 2. British Caver, Vol. 23.
- + *Cave Exploration*. Derbyshire Countryside, Vol. 19, No. 1. 21st Birthday & Christmas number. January/March.
- + *Hillcarr Sough*. Mine & Quarry Engineering, Vol. 18.
- + *A Coronation Procession of Lead Miners in 1821*. Derbyshire Countryside, Vol. 19, No. 6, The Coronation of George IV.
- 1953 + *Gregory Mine and Cockwell Sough*. Mine & Quarry Engineering, Vol. 19, No. 1, January.
- + *Lead Mine Soughs of Eyam, Stony Middleton & Calver*. Part 3. British Caver, Vol. 24.
- + *Tumultuous Course of the Dovegang*. Derbyshire Archaeological Society Journal (see 1956).
- + *Caverns in Mines*. British Caving, Part IV. ed. Cullingford. Pub. Routledge & Kegan Paul.
- 1954 *Underground Water & Some Derbyshire Lead Mine Soughs*. Cave Research Group of Great Britain. Transactions, Vol. 3, No. 1.
- + *Lead Mine Soughs of Eyam, Stony Middleton & Calver*. Part 4. British Caver, Vol. 25.

- 1955 + *A Mines Royal in Nether Haddon*. Derbyshire Archaeological Society Journal, Vol. LXXV.  
1956 + *Lead Mine Soughs of Eyam, Stony Middleton & Calver. Part 5*. British Caver, Vol. 27.  
 + *Lead Mine Shafts and Hillocks*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 1, No. 3.  
 + *Tumultuous Course of the Dovegang*. British Caver, Vol. 27 (see 1953).  
 + *"Shining Slabs of Lead" An Account of Lead Mining in Derbyshire. Part 1*. The Plumbing Trade Journal. November 1956.  
 + *"A Prodigious Strength of Water" An Account of Lead Mining in Derbyshire. Part 2*. The Plumbing Trade Journal. December 1956.  
1957 + *"Time Out of Mind" An Account of Lead Mining in Derbyshire. Part 3. Conclusion*.  
 + *On Lead Mines & Soughs. The Chesterfield Meeting*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 1, No. 6.  
 + *Ridgeway Level, Whatstandwell*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 1, No. 6.  
 + *Milestone at Monyash*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 1, No. 6.  
 + *Glebe Mine, Eyam*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 1, No. 7, October.  
1960 + *Derbyshire Lead and Lead Mining*. A Bibliography by R.A.H. O'Neal. Derbyshire County Library. 2nd Edition. Introduction by Miss N. Kirkham.  
 + *The Magpie Mine and Sough*. The Sorby Record, No. 3, Winter Issue.  
1961 + *Lead Miners and Royalists*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 2, No. 5, February.  
 + *The Drainage of the Alport Lead Mines*. Newcomen Society Transactions, Vol. 33.  
 + *Ecton Copper Mines*. P.D.M.H.S., Pub. No. 1 (see 1967).  
 + *Winster Sough*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 1, No. 5, October.  
 + *Mrs. J.H.D. Myatt - Nellie Kirkham*. Staffordshire Evening Sentinel. (Sentry Box) 17 Nov.  
 + *Tearsall and Dalefield Soughs, Wensley*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 1, No. 6, May. (Wrongly printed No. 5).  
 + *Yatestoop Sough*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 1, No. 7, October.  
 + *Magpie Mine and its Tragedy*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 2, No. 8.  
 + *Foxhole Cave, High Wheelton*. Peakland Archaeological Society Newsletter No. 18.  
 + *Sallet Hole Sough*. To Glebe Mines, November.  
1963 + *Draining of the Wirksworth Lead Mines*. Derbys. Arch. Soc. - Local History Section.  
 + *Great Hucklow Mines*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 2, Pt. 1, May.  
 + *Old Mill Close Lead Mine, Derbyshire*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 2, Pt. 2, October.  
 + *The Boundaries of Sheldon, Derbyshire*. Peakland Archaeological Society, Newsletter No. 19.  
 + *Wye?* Eldon Pothole Club. Newsletter No. 5.  
 + *Silence Mine*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 2, No. 12.  
1964 + *Wheels Rake, Alport by Youlgreave*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 2, Pt. 3, May.  
 + *Whale Sough and Hubbadales Mine*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 2, Pt. 4, October.  
 + *The Ventilation of Hillcarr Sough*. Newcomen Soc. Trans., Vol. 37, 1964/65.  
1965 + *Lead Ore Tithe*. Derbys. Arch. Soc., Supplement No. 9.  
 + *Eyam Edge Mines and Soughs. Part 1*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 2, Pt. 5, May.  
 + *Eyam Edge Mines and Soughs. Part 2*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 2, Pt. 6, December.  
 + *Steam Engines in Derbyshire Lead Mines*. Newcomen Soc. Trans., Vol. 38.  
1966 + *Longstone Edge Area Soughs and Mines. Part 1*. Cave Science, Vol. 5, No. 39, April.  
 + *Eyam Edge Mines and Soughs. Part 3*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 3, Pt. 1, July.  
 + *Longstone Edge Area Soughs and Mines. Part 2*. Cave Science, Vol. 5, No. 40, October.  
 + *Eyam Edge Mines and Soughs. Part 4*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 3, Pt. 2, December.  
1967 + *Ecton Copper Mines, Staffordshire*. Nellie Kirkham (part author). P.D.M.H.S. Spec. Pub. No. 1. Second edition (see 1961).  
 + *Derbyshire Lead Miners Dish*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. 4, No. 2.  
 + *Ball Eye Mine and Sough*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 3, Pt. 3, May.  
 + *Oakenedge, Streaks and Watergrove Soughs*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 3, Pt. 4, December.  
1968 + *Watergrove Mine. A Supplementary Note*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 3, Pt. 5, May.  
*Derbyshire Lead Mining*. Published D. Bradford Barton. 1968 (book).  
 + *A Sough to Miln Close and Windmill Sough, Derbyshire*. Derbys. Miscellany, Vol. 4, No. 4.  
 + *Soughs in Middleton Dale. Part 1*. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 3, Pt. 6, October.  
1968-1969 + *Lead Mining at Crich*. Manchester Association of Engineers, No. 5.  
 + *Early Lead Smelting in Derbyshire*. Newcomen Soc. Trans., Vol. XLI.  
1969 + *With Aubrey Glennie in Derbyshire*. Cave Res. Gp. of G.B. Trans., Vol. 11, No. 2, July.  
1970 + *Ancient Boundaries, Part 1. The Castlegate*. Derbys. Miscellany, Vol. V, Pt. 3, Spring.  
 + *Lead Smelting Boles in Derbyshire*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. V, Pt. 4, Autumn.  
1971 + *Ancient Boundaries, Part 2. Part of Ashford*. Derbys. Miscellany, Vol. VI, Pt. 1, Spring.  
 + *Ancient Boundaries, Part 3. Hassop*. Derbys. Miscellany, Vol. VI, Part 2, Autumn.  
 + *Wingfield Manor and the Civil War*. Derbys. Miscellany, Vol. VI, Part 5, Spring.  
1973 + *The Perambulation of Hartington, Part 1*. Peakland Arch. Soc. Bull., No. 28. Map in No. 29, 1974.  
1974 + *The Leeke Family in the Civil War*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. VII, Part 1.  
 + *Royalist Conspiracies and Derbyshire*. Derbyshire Miscellany, Vol. VII, Part 2, Autumn.  
1975 + *The Perambulation of Hartington, Part 2*. Peakland Arch. Soc. Bull. 29, April.  
 + *Maypit and Redsoil Mines*. Comments on Lynn Willies's Article. P.D.M.H.S. Bull., Vol. 6, No. 1, May.

Supplement:

1927 Some dress designs and illustrations for books have been found.

1920-1930 A group of poems which, it is understood, were read on radio:

Dovedale

The Haunted Wood

The Dark Dome or On The Derbyshire Border

A Bax Sonata

The Beach of No Return

The Cloth of Your Happiness

The Frozen Wood

Your Dream or Mine

Bitter Wine

Green Sea.