

Copy of a letter written by Thomas Stirrup and sent to a Mr Puller. The identity of the recipient of the original letter is unclear.

Lane End, June 11<sup>th</sup> 1800

Sir,

The week after Mr Puller was here Mr Coyney sent me word to meet him, and Messr`s Chawner and Tinsley on the Ground which I was to purchase. When I went he and Mr Chawner, (unsolicited by me) proposed and much urged that the stakes should be removed higher up the meadow that I might purchase a greater quantity of land. I left unwilling to alter the marks fixed by Mr Puller, but consented to their proposal.

About a week after that (as we had removed the stakes) I proposed to Mr Coyney to remove them still a little higher which he willingly agreed. He then ordered a Ditch and Bank to be made across the meadow, leaving for me two acres and five eighths of an acre of Land.

They have presented the fall from Mr Coyney`s new Ditch to my present fence as being five feet, but it is only 3 feet 5 inches.

On Saturday last Mr Kenwright and Mr Caldwell met to value the property. Mr Caldwell was attended by Mr Coyney and four of his friends, Mr Kenwright alone. Mr Caldwell presented Mr Kenwright with a paper containing his valuation. Which was for the Land £90 per acre, Timber £16, Coals £30, Water £450.

When Mr Kenwright had looked it over, he returned it to Mr Caldwell without making any observations, he not thinking it would be proper to discuss the subject before so many witnesses, particularly before Mr Coyney. Mr Caldwell seemed to take Mr Kenwrights silence for consent, and immediately handed the papers to Mr Coyney, who you may be sure was well pleased, Mr Caldwell then proposed that Mr Chawner should make minutes of that valuation to be forwarded to Mr Puller. Then Mr Kenwright interposed and assured them that he had not given his consent to any such valuation.

Mr Caldwell appealed to two of Mr Coyneys friends who had been present all the time who most readily agreed that the valuation fixed by Mr Caldwell was fair. Mr Kenwright wished to suspend his judgement till he had obtained the opinions of several respectable and independent persons who are well acquainted with Water and Water Mills.

Mr Thomas Nickisson of Stone, Mr Robert Griffin of New Inn Mills near Trentham and Mr James Dix of Tunstall have all been consulted. They are all owners of Flint Mills and are as competent judges as perhaps any there are in the Kingdom. Some of them are of the opinion that considering the great expense I must necessarily be at before I can have the benefit of the additional fall, it is to me no real value and they all agree that it cannot be worth more than £50.

Though Mr Caldwell has valued the land at £90 an acre, without either water or timber or coal you know that I have lately purchased better land, close adjoining that with timber of superior value and coals at least of equal value all for £40 an acre.

Mr Kenwright will again try if he can, agree with Mr Caldwell on the value of the Land. If he cannot succeed I shall propose taking only what land Mr Puller marked out at first – by that I shall gain no fall of water, consequently I cannot be charged for any.

There is I believe on that ground no timber, and if I must pay above there value for the land itself and the coals the quantity is so small, that I shall not be much hurt by the bargain.

I am Sir yours

Thomas Stirrup

PS. Mr Kenwright has seen the above, he wishes you to lose no time in laying these particulars of the case before Mr Puller and to desire Mr Puller to give him directions how to act in this difficult business. In so doing you will also oblige.

Notes – November 2006

Although the land in question is not clearly identified there are a number of clues which suggest it may have been just to the west of Cinderhill. By 1851 Thomas Stirrup owned land, a colliery and a water powered Flint Mill in this area. The water was provided by the Anchor Brook which carried the overflow down from the lake at Park Hall.

The location of the Flint Mill may have provided a landmark or name for the area. The names Millfield, Millfield Junction and Millfield Gate Colliery appear in other documents. In 1815 Walter Hill Coyney became a partner of a company which would lay a railway from Consall Wood to Mill Field Lane at Weston Coyney.