

WASC

1963

New Buildings
and Improvements
Between 1787 & 1789
(with Costs)

from Winters
~~Centennial~~ Memorials
1887

admitting a footpath from the *Barrier Gate* (near mill head) leading out of the King's Works across the Hoppit to the island to be railed off by Government, to prevent the labourers walking about the Hoppit, as described by the red line marked A on sketch. (2) For admitting about 3ft. broad to be excavated on one side of the ditch, 21ft. length, as at B. (3) For admitting the horses to pass to and from the Corning House through the Common Marsh.—N.B.—A stable will be erected in the Island, where the Corning House now stands, also a footpath for the men employed in the Refining House up to the Mill Tail, as permission to bridges across the ditch from the Island to the Hoppit for the men to pass.

Mr Walton paid £5 5s per annum for the liberty of towing barges from the Refining House to the Mill Tail.

April 7th, 1789.—Lower Island and the Hoppit finished, planted with wood. Also to be planted Upper Island, in which Corning House stands. Sufficient sets left for the island below the Refinery House Meadow. Mr Barwick will supply hornbeam and oak for experiments.

April 11th, 1789.—Cutting canal at the new Corning House and ditch round the Lower Island. [Dividing it from Town Mead.]

April 26th, 1789.—Plans of the office asked for to give directions how it is to be finished.

May 4th, 1789.—Messrs. Heron and Jackson, surgeons of this place.

May 22nd, 1789.—Donald M. Lean would be discharged for illtreating a young woman servant-maid to clerk of cheque in one of the watch houses.

July 1st, 1789.—Dwelling house upon these premises intended for the master worker have been occupied since the purchase as an office and watch house, as new offices and watch house are nearly complete. Dwelling house needs repair

EXTRACT FROM CENTENARY MEMORIAL OF THE ROYAL GUNPOWDER FACTORY

W. WINTERS
1887

for master worker to reside in that he may be upon the spot in case of mills blowing in the night time.

July 17th, 1789.—Mr John Cuttle appointed overseer of the works.

NEW BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS BETWEEN 1787 AND 1789.

July 26th, 1789.—Money laid out between the date of purchase and the 31st March, 1789, *Fencing gallows gate*, 9s 6d; stove, No. 1 wharf and coal hole, £291 2s 9½d; corning house, £182 14s 6d; tumbling-room, £69; old stove for a traverser and watch house, £100 5s; dusting house, £51 16s 6d; new corning house, £603 13s 6¾d; powder magazine, £10 9s 8d; old dusting house used for empty barrels and fitted up for a cooper's shop, £9 7s; a brick charge magazine, £76 4s; Queen's Mead, No. 1, £72 3s 2d; ditto, No. 2, £71 11s 6d; Smeaton's Mill, No. 1, £15 16s 2d; ditto, No. 2, with brick charge magazine, £73 16s 8d; No. 15, new head mill, £106 18s; ditto, No. 16, £141 10s 4d; Hoppit Mills, £81 10s 6d; new mills and brick charge magazine, £57 7s 2d; wharf from the tail pool of the head mills to charcoal and sulphur mills, £52 10s; new mixing house, £239 13s 6¾d; new saltpetre mill, £130 3s 6d; machinery at ditto, £18 18s 6d (£2,759 3s 5d.) Grand watch house, £212 14s 3d; charcoal and sulphur mill and carpenter shop, £77 13s; bell posts and putting up the *Field Gate*, £39 9s 2d; barge house, £165 12s; boat house, £8; new proof house, £213 4s 8d; old corning house, converted into store house, £92 2s; wharf under the common side of the canal at the store houses and on the opposite side, £48 6s; refining house, £45 15s 5d; watch house at ditto, £31; coal at ditto, £23; great window at ditto, £61 1s 4¼d; bridge removed, etc., £20; ladders for the stove lofts, £2 2s;

river or tail stream deepened, £149 7s; a branch of the river to King's Arms, £7 10s; back ditch behind New Hoppit and Head Mills deepened, £7 1s; back ditch from corning house to Horse Mill ground deepened, £46 10s; Hook's Marsh ditch cleaned, £48 18s; Thoroughgood ditto, ditto, £14 18s 6d; at second stove door to loft, 12s; locks for gates and building, £12 6s; two punts, £52 10s; a decker powder barge, £195 6s; a coal barge, £162 15s; loft hinges bolts, £29 12s; three bell posts and putting up, £107 10s 1½d; loft hoop, keys, and washer for mills, £4 18s 6d; a watch house at field gate, £41; repairing Thoroughgood sluice, £13 2s; slide boards to preserve banks of river, £15 10s; office for respective officers and clerks, £129 10s; four old charge mags. removed and set in brick work, £24; repairing the mills, etc., £65; repairing water wheels, water gates, stone work at Head Mills, £59 1s (£4,986 0s 5d); repairing platforms Head Mills, £7 10s; hand corning engine, £11; gates and wharfing at inlets, £47 10s; fence in Hook's Marsh ditch, £3 5s; taking down millwrights' shop and mortar house and fitting up a millwrights' shop, £15 7s 6d; engine house, £75 13s; transporting gloom from wharf, £10 5s; freight of ditto, £10 18s; making loops and new work, £5 10s; making bridges, £15 18s; transporting a gloom and pair of runners, £17 10s; taking out runners to Hoppit, £10 10s; centre for arches of charge magazine, £6 18s; repairing bridge to island, £3 13s; transporting earth to filling fish ponds, £27; removing earth and mending banks of the land, £37 10s; deepening the Old Barge River, £42 10s; mowing and cleaning river from inlet to Hollow Field [Holyfield] Bridge, £24 12s; taking off part of the island and deepening the water at inlets, £12 3s; cleaning the ditch between the Horse Mill Ground and Connop's Field and laying a trunk across the road into the old river, £10 4s;

making five gang ladels, £10 10s; purchase of twelve water boots, £12 12s; ditto drag hooks, etc., £7 3s; oak coping to wharf, £3 15s; tarring and painting frame of conductors, £10 (£5,425 8s 11d); making bridges over ditches to convey materials to new corning house, £11 12s; making a temporary coal-yard, £14 13s; miscell. items, £111 13s 0½d; total, £5,563 6s 11½d.

ROYAL CALENDAR, 1791.

In the *Royal Kalendar* for 1791 appears the annexed list under Waltham Abbey:—*Storekeeper*, James Wright, per annum, £150; *clerk of the cheque*, John Cloudsley, £90; *clerks*, R. Coleman, £70; H. Doughty, £60; *surgeon*, W. Marchant, £63 17s 4d; *master worker*, £90. In addition to the above-named sums the following amounts were given as extras, viz.: 1789, per annum—*storekeeper* for house rent, coals, and candles, £25; *clerk of cheque*, £20; two *clerks*, £15 each; *master worker*, £5. John Cloudsley received his appointment to office April 1st, 1788; W. Newton came from Lincolnshire, was appointed master worker January 2nd, 1788, and finally installed December 17th of the same year; and held office until his death in 1825. In 1789, William (afterwards *Sir*) Congreves was "Deputy Comptroller." *Soldiers* were then appointed to officiate in the factory as *Warders*. In the April of 1806 appears the following list of officers and their pay:—H. S. Matthews, *storekeeper*, per annum, £300, allowance for coals and house, £25; Wm. Brige, *clerk of cheque*, £150, quarterly, £12 for house; James Wright, *first clerk*, £90, with £50 for house, etc.; Joseph Jessopp, *second clerk*, £80, allowance £20 (no house); M. S. Littler, *third clerk*, £70; William Newton, *master worker*, £100, with house, etc. In the August of 1808 the list stands as follows:—H. S. Matthews, *storekeeper*, salary, £350; Wm.