

Adverts for Employment at the Mill

Cotton Mill, Cromford, 10th Dec. 1771.

WANTED immediately, two Journeymen Clock-Makers, or others that understands Tooth and Pinion well: Also a Smith that can forge and file.—Likewise two Wood Turners that have been accustomed to Wheel-making, Spole-turning, &c. Weavers residing in this Neighbourhood, by applying at the Mill, may have good Work. There is Employment at the above Place, for Women, Children, &c. and good Wages.

N. B. A Quantity of Box Wood is wanted: Any Persons whom the above may suit, will be treated with by Messrs. Arkwright and Co. at the Mill, or Mr. Strutt, in Derby.

*Derby Mercury,
13th December 1771.*

W A N T E D,

At CROMFORD, in the County of Derby,

FORGING and Filing Smiths, Joiners and Carpenters, Framework-Knitters and Weavers, with large Families. Likewise Children of all Ages; above seven Years old, may have constant Employment. Boys and young Men may have Trades taught them, which will enable them to maintain a Family in a short Time. Two or three young Men who can write a good Hand, are also wanted.

By personal Application at the COTTON-MILLS, Particulars may be known.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1781.

*Derby Mercury,
20th September 1781.*

Worker's Housing



No. 8 North Street, Cromford, one of a double row of cottages built by Arkwright for his workers about 1777. (From a survey made by the Ancient Monuments Society, the present owners of the property)

Plan and photograph of North Street Workers House

Views on Machine Manufacturing

SOURCE A

'..Arkwright's machines require so few hands and those only children, with the assistance of an overlooker. A child can produce as much as ten adults. Within the space of ten years from being a poor man he has become the Lord of the Manor, and has purchased an estate of £20,000 while thousands of poor women, when they can get work, must make a long day to card and spin and reel 5,040 yards of cotton and for this they have 4d or 5d and no more..'

1780 'An impartial representation of the case of the Poor Cotton Spinners' Ralph Mather

SOURCE C

'..you expressed some fear of the riots coming to destroy the works at Cromford, but they are well prepared to receive them should they come here. All the Gentlemen in this neighborhood are determined to support Mr Arkwright in the defense of his works. 5000 or 6,000 men, Miners, etc can be assembled in less than an hour, determined to defend the works by which hundreds of their wives and children get a decent and comfortable livelihood..'

A letter to a Gentleman of Manchester, published in the Derby Mercury, October 9th 1779

SOURCE B

The sole cause of the riots that have lately happened in Lancaster, is because of the building of certain mills and engines for the manufacturing of cotton, which is argued lowers the price of labour.

It is the opinion of this court after the examination of many witnesses, that the invention and introduction of the machines for carding, roving, spinning and twisting cotton, has been of the greatest use to this country alongside expansion and improvement of cotton manufactures and the labour and subsistence provided to the industrious poor, who have not had any reason for committing the late riots from the want of work.

It is impossible to restrain the force of ingenuity in mills. Destroying them in one country only serves to establish them in another, and if the legislature was to prevent the use them in this country, they would be establish in foreign countries, which would be highly detrimental to the trade of this country.'

Machine Wrecking Quarter Sessions Order, 1779

Cromford Mills Festivals and Celebrations

Derby Mercury 25.9. 1778

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The workmen, children, &c. at CROMFORD COTTON-MILL, were entertained by Mr Arkwright and they all walked in procession in their uniforms, accompanied by a band of music. A song composed by one of the workmen was sung. Song composed for the annual celebration of the Cotton-Mills at Cromford.



Tune:

Roast Beef of Old England

Ye numerous Assembly that make up this Throng,
Spare your Mirth for a Moment, and listen to my Song,
The Bounties let's sing, that our Master belong,
At the Cotton Mills now at Cromford,
The famous renown'd Cotton Mills,

Our number we count seven Hundred and more,
All clothed and fed from his bountiful Store,
Then Envy don't flout us, nor say any's poor, & c.

Ye know we all ranged in Order have been,
Such a Sight in all Europe sure never was seen,
While Thousands did view us to complete the Scene, & c.

Likewise for to make our Procession more grand,
We were led in the Front by a Musical band,
Who were paid from the Fund of that bountiful Hand, & c.

Ye Hungry and Naked all hither repair,
No longer in Want, don't remain in Despair,
You'll meet with Employment and each get a Share, & c.

Ye Crafts and Mechanics, if ye will draw nigh,
No longer ye need to lack an Employ,
And each duly paid, which is a great Joy, & c.

To our noble Master, a Bumper then fill,
The matchless Invention of this Cotton Mill,
Each toss off his Glass with a hearty Good-will,
With a Huzza for the Mills now at Cromford
All join with a jovial Huzza.