

CHAPTER 3

BUILDING, CONTRACTING AND ENGINEERING



David Bellhouse (1792 – 1866)¹

David Bellhouse junior (1792 – 1866) entered his father's business in about 1816 at which point the business became a partnership known as David Bellhouse and Son. Initially the partnership covered all aspects of the father's business empire, but even at the outset David Bellhouse junior was operating only in the area of building and contracting. The Manchester directory for 1817, for the first time lists the firm of David Bellhouse and Son, as well as a separate entry for David Bellhouse junior who is described as a joiner and builder living in Faulkner Street. The younger David Bellhouse carried on in the tradition of his father by erecting houses, warehouses, mills and public buildings throughout his career. Within a decade David junior was operating his building business independently of his father. The partnership was formally dissolved on December 31, 1824. David Bellhouse junior took over the building and contracting aspect of the business. All other facets of the father's business related to timber operated under

the name of David Bellhouse and Son; the new partnership under the old name was between David Bellhouse senior and his son John.²

To avoid confusion in this chapter, David Bellhouse junior will be referred to simply as David Bellhouse and any reference to his father will be made clear.

Like his father, David Bellhouse continued the process of vertically integrating his building business. During his father's lifetime, Bellhouse junior had access to the raw materials through his father's timber business and iron foundry. At his father's death, David Bellhouse obtained the iron foundry,³ which in two years went to his own son, Edward Taylor Bellhouse (1816 – 1881).⁴ The timber business, including the sawmill and steam tugs, went to his brothers John (1798 – 1863) and William (1803 – 1883).⁵ They appear initially to have worked closely together perhaps even in a loose partnership, so that a de facto vertical integration of the business remained. His brother John and another brother James (1796 – 1874) were co-signers to a railway contract, signed in 1845 by David Bellhouse.⁶ During the 1850s the Manchester directories list David Bellhouse as a timber merchant in addition to builder and contractor. The firm of David Bellhouse and Sons, with interests in timber, also appears. It is uncertain whether Bellhouse was beginning to operate independently of his brothers or was merely promoting the careers of his own sons. An additional step to vertical integration that David Bellhouse made was that he became one of the original five directors of the Union Plate Glass Company in St. Helen's in 1836.⁷

The erection and renovation of houses was probably the major activity of the family building firm. In 1821, David Bellhouse senior estimated that about 85 to 90% of the timber he used was North American pine, the rest being Baltic timber. North American pine was used in the construction of cottages and what he called "middling" buildings while Baltic timber was used in "heavy" buildings.⁸ The 85% figure is probably an overestimate of the percentage of business devoted to housing. Iron girders or beams were used in the construction of large buildings such as warehouses. Also, Bellhouse senior had other uses for the North American pine he imported, specifically trunks and packing cases. The use of Baltic timber for "heavy" buildings probably continued throughout the younger David Bellhouse's career. In an 1830 warehouse, built by David Bellhouse junior, a modern industrial archaeological survey shows that the bulk of the wood used in building the warehouse was Baltic timber, European Oak and European Pine.⁹ As a second example, Bellhouse obtained a £100,000 contract in 1843 to build some bar-

racks to house 2,000 cavalry and 2,000 infantry of the British army. A Canadian newspaper noted, no doubt with some regret, that little or no North American pine was to be used in the project.¹⁰ North American pine for the British market generally came from Quebec and New Brunswick. Most of the wood to be used in the project was English oak and Baltic timber.

The construction of residences usually went unrecorded by the press so that only a few references concerning the construction of houses by David Bellhouse have been found. The earliest known reference is the construction of his own house in Grosvenor Square in Chorlton on Medlock in 1821.¹¹ The only reason that the *Manchester Guardian* recorded the construction of the house was that a hurricane-force storm in 1821 blew down the chimney of the new house. The chimney fell onto the roof of the house next door that was also under construction by Bellhouse. This move from Faulkner Street to Grosvenor Square was the first of two to the suburbs. In the late 1840s, he made another move to a house near Altrincham.¹² Ten years after building his own house in Grosvenor Square, David Bellhouse built another house in the same square. This house was occupied by his brother Wainwright (1800 – 1885). It was situated at one corner of the square on land purchased for about £650 by another brother John.¹³ This house, built of brick in the Georgian style, is now known as the Bellhouse Building and is part of the Manchester Metropolitan University. In the early 1840s a third brother James Bellhouse is said to have built five mansions in the then newly fashionable suburb of Manchester, Victoria Park.¹⁴ The mansion that James occupied in Victoria Park was built in the Tudor style.¹⁵ Since James was a cotton spinner, it is probable that he financed the building of the mansions himself and that his brother David erected them. Four of the Bellhouse brothers – James, John, Wainwright and William – lived in or near Victoria Park. There is a family tradition that David Bellhouse laid out the development of Victoria Park.¹⁶ This suburb, now a part of Manchester, is about two miles from the Township of Manchester as it was in the 1840s. The initial attractiveness of the suburb for the wealthier Mancunian was that “it is free from the nuisance of smoke and manufactures, and combines with the advantage of close proximity to the town, the privacy and advantage of the country.”¹⁷ David Bellhouse’s work in the housing industry continued at least into the early 1850s. At that time he was building some houses in St. Ann’s Street and renovating another in King Street.¹⁸ From then on there was probably a substantial decline in Bellhouse’s work in housing. The general activity in house construction in Manchester peaked in the early 1850s. Over the two-year period from 1853 to 1855 the level of activity fell by more the 75%. Through-

out the remainder of the 1850s and until David Bellhouse's death in 1866, the level of activity remained at about one-half the levels seen in 1851 or 1854.¹⁹



View from the tracks, 1830 warehouses at Liverpool Road Station



View from the back, 1830 warehouses at Liverpool Road Station²⁰

David Bellhouse took advantage of the great railway boom of the nineteenth century. Unlike the great railway builders such as Thomas Brassey, whose work took him to several countries, Bellhouse worked in one place only, Manchester and its surrounding area. Bellhouse's earliest work for the railways was the erection of five brick warehouses for the Manchester and

Liverpool Railway in 1830 at the Liverpool Road Station in Manchester, the world's first railway station.²¹ The warehouses, still standing today opposite the station, are now part of the Manchester Museum of Science and Technology. The warehouses were actually the first buildings to be completed at the Liverpool Road Station, making them the oldest railway buildings in the world.²² During the 1840s, Bellhouse built a station at Ashton-under-Lyne and a suite of offices in Hunt's Bank, Manchester, for the Manchester and Leeds Railway. Messrs. Holden were the architects for the offices. While this work was being done, Bellhouse and the same architects were building a large warehouse in King Street for someone else. Bellhouse also built, at a cost of £17,000, "an extensive pile of workshops" for the Manchester and Leeds Railway for the manufacture of locomotive engines.²³

In addition to the buildings associated with the rail lines, David Bellhouse made one venture into the actual construction of a railway. In 1845 he obtained a contract to build the mile-and-three-quarter-long Manchester South Junction Railway between London Road Station near Fairfield Street and the Grand Junction Railway line near Ordsall Lane.²⁴ The track was laid on a thirty-foot-high arched viaduct through a densely populated part of Manchester. The major task of the project was the construction of the viaduct, and this is probably what attracted Bellhouse to the project. The viaduct passed very near the Bellhouse family businesses, both the timber yard and the cotton mill. It is clearly visible at the left-hand side of the picture of Mynshull Mill shown in Chapter 7. One of the arches of the viaduct, the arch over the branch canal at Castlefield, had a span that was unusually large at that time for a bricked arch – 80 feet. In addition to building the viaduct and laying the track, Bellhouse was responsible for the purchase and demolition of buildings on the proposed site of the line, the alteration and diversion of streets, and the building of two stations. Bellhouse's son Edward built several cast iron bridges for the railway. The project was a very large one, at least in terms of material: 300,000 cubic feet of stone, 50,000,000 bricks and 3,000 tons of wrought iron. The ground was broken for the new line early in 1846. Subsequently, the railway ran into some financial difficulties that delayed work for about 18 months so that the railway was not completed until 1849. The viaduct is still in operation today.²⁵

There were other opportunities in Manchester for major building projects as Manchester grew during the nineteenth century. David Bellhouse took advantage of these opportunities to the point that his obituary states, "his name is inseparably connected with nearly all the great public

edifices and works of his time.”²⁶ In view of this statement, it is not surprising to that he worked with several architects in Manchester.



Manchester Royal Institution²⁷

During 1825-6 Bellhouse was responsible for the foundation work of the Manchester Royal Institution, which was designed by Sir Charles Barry.²⁸ Bellhouse was also a shareholder of the Institution after subscribing 40 guineas to the building fund in 1824.²⁹ Although he was involved in the early stages of construction, Bellhouse secured little or no work for the remainder of the building. This may have come about because of a dispute over the original contract regarding the foundation work. He submitted a bid and then later wrote to the building committee that he wanted to add a clause stating that any differences in opinion between the committee and the contractor should go to arbitration. In addition, he suggested that when the work was finished, the architect should examine it, and if he approved, then Bellhouse would not be liable for any claims from the committee for damages. The committee objected to these additions on the grounds that they were not part of the original bid. Bellhouse replied that it was usual to have a personal interview about any initial bid to clear up any points about the bid. Since this had not been done, he refused to sign the contract without his requested changes.³⁰ Some accommodation

must have been reached since Bellhouse completed his work and the building was eventually erected.



Chorlton on Medlock Town Hall³¹

Several other projects with various other architects have been recorded. In 1830, David Bellhouse was the contractor for the Chorlton on Medlock Town Hall and Dispensary.³² Later in 1846 he was involved in the alterations to the Queen's Theatre in Spring Gardens.³³ Richard Lane was the architect for these two projects. Lane was also involved in the construction of the Royal Manchester Institution and appears to have had some close connections to the Bellhouses.³⁴ The Palatine Hotel, designed by Messrs. Holden, was erected in 1845 by Bellhouse.³⁵ A novelty in this building was a unique cast iron staircase at the entrance, probably the work of Bellhouse's son, Edward. In 1843 David Bellhouse was the building contractor for the Manchester Poor Law Union Moral and Industrial Training School.³⁶ Designed by the architects Tattersall and Dickens of Manchester, the school housed orphaned and deserted children. It was an ambitious project. The building itself covered four acres of the 23 acres of grounds and was comprised of schoolrooms, workshops, dormitories, an infirmary and a dining hall. The Manchester Workhouse in Bridge Street, erected in 1855, was designed by Mills and Murgatroyd. Bellhouse obtained the contracts for work done by the carpenters, joiners, bricklayers and masons. Someone else did the ironwork.³⁷ He was also the contractor for the exhibition house of the Manchester Botanical and Horticultural Society designed by Thomas Worthington.³⁸ Other large contracts include construction of an Italianate-style gaol for the Borough of Manchester in 1848, the Denton and Gorton Reservoirs in 1850 for Manchester Corporation Water Works, and a three-room extension in Museum Street to Owens College at an unknown date.³⁹ The writer for

The Builder who reported on the building of the Manchester Gaol did not like the appearance of it, claiming that the upper story was much too heavy and massive for the lower story. On the positive side, the reporter felt that the building was well built.

There is another reference to the good quality of Bellhouse's work, although it is related to a failure. In March of 1823, David Bellhouse built a six-story mill for Nathan Gough.⁴⁰ Part of the mill collapsed in October of the following year. The apparent cause of the collapse was a flaw in an iron beam in an upper floor of the factory. Gough hinted at negligence. He claimed he had watched most of the iron beams being tested and proved before they were used at the construction site. The testing of the iron beams for the upper floors of the mill occurred when he was sick in bed. Unlike Gough, David Bellhouse made no comment to the press at the time. Twenty years later, when commenting on the fall of a mill at Oldham, Bellhouse stated that the flaw in the beam in the Gough mill was apparent only after the accident and not before.⁴¹ Despite the tragedy, the *Manchester Guardian* commented that, in general, the construction of Gough's mill was very sound and that the brickwork was very good. When the beam broke, only the arches below it gave out; the outer walls of the building held so that the rest of the building remained intact. This is in contrast to the fall of the mill at Oldham in 1845, which was not built by Bellhouse. There, when a beam gave way the entire structure collapsed.

Based on Bellhouse's statement that the flaw was only visible after the beam broke, the most probable cause for the fall of Gough's mill was a casting flaw that was a spherical blowhole inside the casting. Typically, the iron was cast by pouring the molten metal into a sand mould and then leaving it to cool for at least 10 hours. Blowholes occur when there is poor venting for the gases that are produced when the molten metal comes into contact with the sand moulds. The press reports referred to the quality tests on the beams as "proving" the beams. The basic method for this test was to apply weight, either by adding weights or by applying a hydraulic press, to the centre of the beam. When safety factors of three or four were observed the test was complete. An alternate test, not used in this case, was to make a small sample beam cast from the same batch of iron and then test the sample beam to destruction.⁴²

What is typical of many contractors, even today, is that they take on so much work that some projects get completed piecemeal, often to the client's detriment and dissatisfaction. David Bellhouse was no exception. In 1836 James Nasmyth, a mechanical engineer and machine tool-maker, was moving his engineering works from Dale Street in Manchester to Paticroft. The same

year Nasmyth was joined by his new partner Holbrook Gaskell (1813 – 1909). Nasmyth was the engineer and Gaskell handled the commercial side of the operation.⁴³ The Paticroft site became the Bridgewater Foundry, one of the most successful engineering works in Manchester.⁴⁴ David Bellhouse was contracted to build several timber workshops so that production could continue during the move. Unfortunately, things did not go at all well for Nasmyth. In a letter to his new partner Gaskell, Nasmyth wrote, “With regard to Bellhouse’s progress had we known that he would have proceeded as he has been doing he should have been the last person to whom we have now have applied to. He has behaved very badly but we must [...] bear with him now as this history is near finished...”⁴⁵ Nasmyth lost several orders because of the slowness of Bellhouse’s work.

Ironically, five years later Gaskell married David Bellhouse’s niece Frances Ann Bellhouse and became part of the family. Gaskell retired from the Bridgewater Foundry in 1850 due to ill health. He returned to business in 1855, this time in partnership with Henry Deacon in a chemical manufacturing company.⁴⁶ Like many of the Bellhouses of this era, Gaskell was a connoisseur in pictures. However, his collection greatly surpassed those held by any of his relatives by marriage.

Dissatisfaction in the building and contracting business can also go in the other direction. David Bellhouse seems to have had a running battle with a Manchester gentleman by the name of Charles Walmsley. The dispute was over the nonpayment of Walmsley’s bills for building projects. After a six-year disagreement over an approximate £50 difference of opinion over the bill total, Bellhouse took Walmsley to court – and lost.⁴⁷

It is impossible to say what the exact extent of Bellhouse’s building business was. Some idea of the relative size of the business may be obtained from the reports of the coronation parades in nineteenth century Manchester. At the coronations of George IV, William IV and Victoria, “grand processions,” which include representatives of various trades, were held in Manchester. The “joiners in the employ of Messrs D. Bellhouse and Son” were at the head of the joiners’ section of the 1821 procession.⁴⁸ They were followed by Messrs Samuel Buxton and Son, and then by “the rest of the shops in proportion to their numbers,” leaving one with the distinct impression that the Bellhouses were one of the two largest, and probably the largest, builders in Manchester. The description of the 1831 procession gave no employers’ names, but David Bellhouse junior figures prominently in the 1838 procession.⁴⁹ His employees and those of Messrs.

Bowden and Edwards led the procession of joiners. By the 1850s David Bellhouse was one of the biggest builders in the country. In the census of 1851 Bellhouse was enumerated at 133 Big Pitt, Sale. He stated that he was a builder and contractor employing about 500 men. Among more than 3,600 individuals in England and Wales who called themselves builders, only five employed 350 men or more in 1851. Most employed 20 or fewer men.⁵⁰

As in modern day parades, there was the equivalent of floats in the 1838 coronation procession in Manchester. David Bellhouse had a Greek temple, a large wooden model of the Lantern of Demosthenes, built on a carriage. At the top was an imperial crown and cushion; at the pedestal in the temple's interior was a boy dressed as the goddess of Fame. The carriage was drawn by four greys with postillions and grooms in Greek costume. Before the procession, Bellhouse's journeymen joiners were given food and ale at their employer's house in Grosvenor Square. Afterwards, they dined at the Eagle Inn, all at their employer's expense. The clerks and other tradesmen were also given breakfast and then dined later at the Bull's Head Inn, again at their employer's expense.

There is another aspect to David Bellhouse's professional career that is in addition to that of builder and contractor. Throughout his career he worked as what may be described in general terms as a consulting engineer.⁵¹ This included work as a surveyor and valuer, and as a witness in cases before the courts involving property damage. His reputation in court cases was such that his obituary states:

“As a witness in what are called ‘Compensation Cases,’ so remarkable was his skill, intelligence, shrewdness and knowledge of the value and capabilities of land in the district, that his testimony was considered to be almost indispensable to one side or the other and this ‘retainers’ were very numerous.”⁵²

When his brother-in-law John Roberton, wrote an article in *The Builder* on the working conditions of women in Manchester warehouses, Roberton quoted extensively from his brother-in-law when describing the extent to which dwellings been converted to warehouses between 1804 and 1860, the time at which the article was written. Roberton commented that, in view of “his great knowledge, no one is more competent to supply this kind of information.”⁵³ David Bellhouse retired from the building and contracting side of his business in about 1860. Until his death in 1866, he worked solely in the capacity of consulting engineer, describing himself in the Man-

chester directories as a surveyor and valuer. His father also worked as a valuer but apparently did not achieve the same reputation as the son.⁵⁴

The earliest known example of Bellhouse's work under the general title of consulting engineer was in 1829 when he and another, Thomas Dickenson, examined three houses in Market Street allegedly damaged during the demolition of other houses and the subsequent widening of the street.⁵⁵ The request to examine the houses came from the Surveyors of the Highways, one of whom was Bellhouse's father. Bellhouse and Dickenson reported to the Surveyors that the houses were unsafe and that the damage was not due to the widening of the street. Two projects have been recorded later in 1845. That year, David Bellhouse was asked to give an opinion on fixing the roof at Christ Church, Harpurhey. Two plans were proposed to replace the main beam in the roof. Also, comments on the cost and safety of each plan were provided.⁵⁶ The second project was carried out in conjunction with William Fairbairn, an eminent Manchester engineer. He and Bellhouse were asked to examine the collapse of the Oldham mill.⁵⁷ Some years later he again worked with Fairbairn. In 1857, he and Fairbairn, as well as one other individual, examined the building that was to be used to house the Manchester Art Treasures Exhibition.⁵⁸ They assessed the safeness of the building, both for the public and for the works of art. Still in 1857, Bellhouse provided two valuations of the Union Club House: the value if the property continued as a clubhouse and the value if it were sold by auction.⁵⁹ Another project that was out of his usual line of work was the inspection of a coalmine beginning in 1858.⁶⁰ The mine had been leased by Simon Crosfield, a Liverpool merchant, and George Crosfield, a soap maker from Warrington. Bellhouse was to make regular inspections of the roadways, the engines, the workings and the premises for the Crosfields. Some of Bellhouse's work as a consulting engineer involved an element of danger.⁶¹ In 1860 Bellhouse inspected the Hanover Mills, which had been severely damaged by fire. Shortly after he left the building, a sidewall came crashing down causing much further damage. Another deteriorating structure that Bellhouse examined was the tower of Manchester Cathedral. He and J.E. Gregan, an architect, recommended that the tower be pulled down since the masonry was in a dangerous state. The tower was removed in 1863 and rebuilt by another builder-architect pair over the years 1864 to 1867.⁶²

The era in which David Bellhouse worked was also the era that saw the beginning and rise of the trades unions. The Combination Laws were repealed in 1824 allowing unions to operate legally. Consequently, there was an increase in union activity. Employers responded with the

formation of their own organizations, although some of them, like the trades unions, had already existed in secret. The new masters' associations were usually formed at the local level during periods of strike activity for the purpose of suppressing the strike and the union.⁶³ Bellhouse was at the centre of anti-union activity in the Manchester building trades during the 1830s and 1840s.

The building trades unions amalgamated in 1831 or 1832 to form the Operative Builders' Union. They were strong in Manchester and its surrounding area. The union achieved several victories in 1832-3, mainly over the issue of general contracting. The union wanted to maintain the system of separate contracts for each phase of the building process as opposed to a single contract for the whole building. The smaller firms, comprising the majority of masters, quickly gave in to this demand forcing the larger firms, David Bellhouse and Son among them, to comply. The victory was ephemeral. With this easy victory the union became reckless and arrogant, which had the effect of frightening some smaller masters concerning the new power of the unions.⁶⁴ On July 5 of 1833 representatives of the larger firms of master builders from Manchester, Liverpool, Blackburn and Bolton met in Preston. David Bellhouse attended this meeting. The meeting resulted in the masters demanding that their workers renounce union membership or be locked out.⁶⁵ Many of the smaller master builders did not go along with this decision.⁶⁶ In any case the lockout came about. As the lockout dragged on, sporadic violence broke out. One of Bellhouse's workers was knocked unconscious when he was struck on the head by a stone.⁶⁷ The lockout had the effect of breaking the union. Early in 1834 many union members began to renounce their membership. By the end of 1834 the Operative Builders' Union ceased to exist, although some of the individual trades unions survived.⁶⁸ The masters' association formed to crush union power was dissolved. This move was typical of most early masters' associations because of the conflicts of interest and natural competitiveness between employers.⁶⁹ The masters' association remained moribund until 1846 when the Operative Carpenters and Joiners Union struck to obtain a nine-hour working day. David Bellhouse reorganized the masters' association to combat the union. During the strike he also attempted to use non-union labour to finish a job that he was working on. However, the non-unionists (scabs in North American parlance, knobsticks in England) were harassed and Bellhouse had to give up this tactic. The strike was eventually unsuccessful.⁷⁰

Although there is less evidence of it, Bellhouse, like his father, appears to have given freely to charity. In 1826 he was a canvasser for the poor relief fund, donating £5 himself and

collecting over £10 from his own employees.⁷¹ He donated to the Chorlton Row Infant's School Society. Bellhouse also subscribed to Manchester hospital: ten guineas in 1830 to the Chorlton Row Dispensary, one guinea in 1833 to the Manchester Lying-in Hospital.⁷²

The Bellhouse family's involvement in politics reached its apex with David Bellhouse senior's work in the city government, and basically ended with the parliamentary election of 1832. After that time, no Bellhouse seems to have had any connection with politics. David Bellhouse junior had four brief brushes with politics. The first three are petitions. Bellhouse was a signatory to an 1824 request to have a public meeting to discuss and put forward a proposal to have Manchester supplied with sufficient gas to provide lighting for the town.⁷³ A second petition from 1827 had to do with the Corn Laws. Several signatories to this petition, which included Bellhouse, were not pleased that an amendment to the Corn Laws, which was intended to relieve some of the heavy duties imposed on grain, had been abandoned by the House of Lords.⁷⁴ Although he signed this petition, there has been nothing found subsequently which would link him to the Anti-Corn Law League formed in Manchester two years later. A third petition was with respect to a municipal election. During the 1846 election for the Town Council several people placed an advertisement supporting a newcomer Joseph Adshead over the reelection of the incumbent James Bake in the Oxford Ward, the ward in which several Bellhouse businesses were situated. David Bellhouse's name was included on the list of supporters along with several other businessmen in the Oxford Ward including his son Edward Taylor Bellhouse and his brothers John and William Bellhouse. Adshead won.⁷⁵ In his last brush with politics David Bellhouse played a slightly more activist role. This was in the election of 1832. Like his father, Bellhouse voted for the Liberal candidate Mark Philips.⁷⁶ Unlike his father, he cast his second vote for the Tory, John Thomas Hope. He also actively supported Hope's campaign. In November of 1832, Bellhouse was a steward at a dinner held in support of Hope.⁷⁷

David Bellhouse's best-known activity outside of his work is his singing. He was well known for holding many musicales of glees and madrigals at his house in Grosvenor Square.⁷⁸ Bellhouse was a member, and probably a founding member, of the Manchester Gentlemen's Glee Club, which began in 1830. He first sang (he had a tenor voice) at a Club meeting in January of 1831.⁷⁹ The forerunner of the Club, a group called the Gentlemen's Concerts, was one of the promoters of the Manchester Music Festival of 1828. Associated with this festival was a costume ball that many of the Bellhouses attended; David came dressed as a naval lieutenant.⁸⁰ A

second Manchester Music Festival was held in 1836. David Bellhouse and his brother Wainwright were members of the management committee for this festival.⁸¹ Again there was a costume ball. This time David Bellhouse came as the character Lionel, the premier tenor part in a French comic opera *L'Éclair* by the composer Jacques François Halévy.⁸² Lionel, and thus David, was an officer of the marines. This opera, with a cast of four characters only and no chorus, had only premiered in Paris in December of 1835.⁸³ David Bellhouse was also a member of the Manchester Choral Society, again probably a founding member. The Society was established in 1833 as an amateur choral club with a limited membership of thirty. Interest in the Society grew so much that the membership restrictions were eased. It grew to 200 members within ten years.⁸⁴ On behalf of the Society, Bellhouse rented rooms at the Manchester Royal Institution at a cost of £100 per year.⁸⁵ During 1846 the Choral Society had some problems with the Manchester Royal Institution; their rent was in arrears and the Institution was threatening to seize their furniture in lieu of rent. Bellhouse represented the Choral Society and over a two or three-month period he seems to have settled the problem.⁸⁶

David Bellhouse had four sons: Edward Taylor Bellhouse (1816 – 1881), Thomas Taylor Bellhouse (1818 – 1866), Frank Taylor Bellhouse (1820 – 1863) and Richard Taylor Bellhouse (1825 – 1906). The middle name of the sons comes from their mother's maiden name; Mary Taylor of Wakefield married David Bellhouse early in 1816.⁸⁷ Even less is known about this Mary Bellhouse than her mother-in-law, another Mary Bellhouse. All that is known about her is that she was the daughter of a Wakefield surgeon and that she died in 1828.⁸⁸ Three of her sons were part of the family business, or were at least influenced by it. The remaining son, Thomas Taylor Bellhouse, went into law. Her eldest son, Edward Taylor Bellhouse, was a very successful engineer. He and his descendants are followed in Chapter 4. The other two sons will be followed in the remainder of this chapter.

With this generation, we see some evidence of substantial changes in the social status of the Bellhouse family. The Bellhouse marriages are a good example of this. David Bellhouse senior began as a tradesman of moderately humble circumstances. He married a woman of his own class. David Bellhouse junior married the daughter of someone associated with the professional classes. The next generation had connections with the lower gentry. Edward Taylor Bellhouse married Sarah Jane Lafone. She came from a wealthy merchant background; her brother Alfred Lafone moved into the ranks of the gentry when he purchased Hanworth Park in Middle-

sex County.⁸⁹ Richard Taylor Bellhouse married Elizabeth Ida Wynyard. She was the daughter of a naval lieutenant and a member of a family with very strong connections, over several generations, with the officer class of the British Army.⁹⁰



Sarah Jane (née Lafone) Bellhouse⁹¹

A second indication of the change in the family's social status is through education. Many of the great-grandchildren of David Bellhouse senior, were educated in English public schools. The first of the Bellhouses to be educated this way was actually of the generation of the grandchildren. Charles Hatton Bellhouse (1845 – 1924), the son of James Bellhouse (1796 – 1874), attended Harrow between 1858 and 1864 and then Oriel College, Oxford.⁹²

Another example of the rising social status of the Bellhouses is through leisure activities. This generation saw the emergence of “sporting Bellhouses,” most visibly in cricket – as administrators, players and builders. On the administrative side, Thomas Taylor Bellhouse was the Treasurer and Secretary of the Manchester Cricket Club in 1849-50 and again in 1858-9, serving as President in 1867-8. He may have held the position of Secretary more than the two dates mentioned. To thank him for his work, a gift was given to him in April of 1860. It was described as “a richly-chased silver centre-piece, with three arms for holding lights or glass dishes for fruit, with a suitable inscription on the base.” William Bellhouse (more likely William the cousin rather than William the uncle) was Vice President of the Club in 1855.⁹³ Both the brothers Edward Taylor Bellhouse and Thomas Taylor Bellhouse were connected with the Lancashire

County Cricket Club.⁹⁴ This club amalgamated with the Manchester Cricket Club in 1880 to become the Manchester and Lancashire County Cricket Club. Thomas was part of the committee that brought about the amalgamation. Thomas first played for the Manchester Club on July 19, 1841. Later in 1864, he was in the first game played by Lancashire County Cricket Club.⁹⁵ He is described in cricket guides as “a good bat and an excellent field.” Richard Taylor Bellhouse was an excellent cricket player. He has been described in one place as “one of the ‘cracks’ of the Manchester Club” and elsewhere as “a first rate long-stop and an excellent bat.” He first played for Manchester in 1845. After he moved from Manchester to Knutsford, Cheshire, Bellhouse played for the Knutsford Cricket Club over the years 1861 through 1865. While in his prime, he played for the North in a game of the Gentlemen of the North against the Gentlemen of the South held at Lord’s in July 1853. He was also a member of the team from the North that played the South at the Kennington Oval, Surrey in a game held from June 23 through 25, 1859. The Gentlemen of the South won this game by 206 runs. It was not one of R.T. Bellhouse’s better games. In the first inning he was run out after five runs and was caught out after one run in the second inning.⁹⁶ Finally, with regard to the building aspect of cricket, the firm of David Bellhouse and Son built the pavilion at the Manchester Cricket Club on Old Trafford Ground in 1856-7 at a cost of £1,200.

This interest in sports carried into the next generation. The finest example was probably Thomas Percy Bellhouse (1856 – 1902), elder son of Thomas Taylor Bellhouse. By profession, this Thomas was a solicitor like his father. And like his father he took an interest in cricket, being described as “a cricketer of more than average ability.” He played for some seasons with the Manchester Cricket Club and was captain of the Brooklands Cricket Club in the town in which he lived.⁹⁷ In the sporting arena he was better known as a boxer. He became secretary of the Manchester Amateur Gymnastic Club, a club devoted to boxing. In the ring he was one of the finest boxers in the Manchester area, winning the middleweight division of the Amateur Boxing Association Championship in 1883 and the Queensbury Championship in 1881.⁹⁸

Before returning to the mainstream of the family history, there is one instance in which Thomas Percy Bellhouse, the lawyer, had an interesting brush with the law. It stemmed from his passionate interest in dogs, fox terriers in particular.⁹⁹ In May of 1888 the county of Cheshire, the county in which Bellhouse lived, passed some regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act that required dogs to be muzzled and leashed. The intent of the regulations was to

prevent the spread of rabies. Two months later Bellhouse was caught walking his dog, without a leash or muzzle, in the town of Sale. His case was heard in the Petty Sessions held at Sale and he was convicted. He appealed to the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, contending that the Act under which he was convicted did not apply to dogs. He lost his appeal.¹⁰⁰ In an interesting twist of mistaken reporting, *The Times* claimed that Bellhouse had been walking a rabid dog.¹⁰¹

Frank Taylor Bellhouse (1820 – 1863) was trained as an architect in Manchester under the supervision of Thomas Atkinson beginning in 1835-6.¹⁰² Initially Bellhouse worked for his father and then by the early 1840s he was working independently. During the 1840s and into the mid-1850s he worked in Manchester. In the late 1850s he went to London with another Manchester architect forming the partnership of Dean and Bellhouse with offices in The Strand. The partnership was dissolved a year or two before his death. In Manchester he designed the Miller Street Baths and Washhouses.¹⁰³ This was an experimental project in Manchester to increase sanitation among the poor. The project, begun in 1845 and completed the next year, was initiated in part by his brother Edward Taylor Bellhouse.¹⁰⁴ Frank also designed the four-story Day and Sunday Schools associated with St. Silas Church in Manchester. In 1851 he designed some warehouses in Corporation Street with his partner Dean.¹⁰⁵ Five years later he designed new buildings for the Macclesfield Grammar School after the school decided that its current building, dating from the mid-eighteenth century, was too small.¹⁰⁶ In London Bellhouse submitted several sets of competition drawings: the Manchester Assize Courts, the rebuilding of Bowden Church, the Hartley Institution and the Albert Memorial. His drawings for the Albert Memorial were shown at the Royal Academy of Arts in 1862.¹⁰⁷

With his eldest son running the iron foundry, his second son in law, and his third son an architect, it was David Bellhouse's intention to have his youngest son, Richard Taylor Bellhouse, follow him in the building and contracting business. The youngest son does appear in the Manchester directories of 1855 and 1858, as well as other documents, as a timber merchant or as a contractor and builder.¹⁰⁸ Richard also had at least one commission as an architect. In 1865 he designed the grandstand for the racecourse at Knutsford, the town in which he was living at the time. The grandstand could accommodate 1,500 people to watch the horse races. The Bellhouses were not involved in the construction aspects of the project, with the exception of Richard's brother Edward who supplied the ironwork.¹⁰⁹ Despite this activity, Richard's interest in his fa-

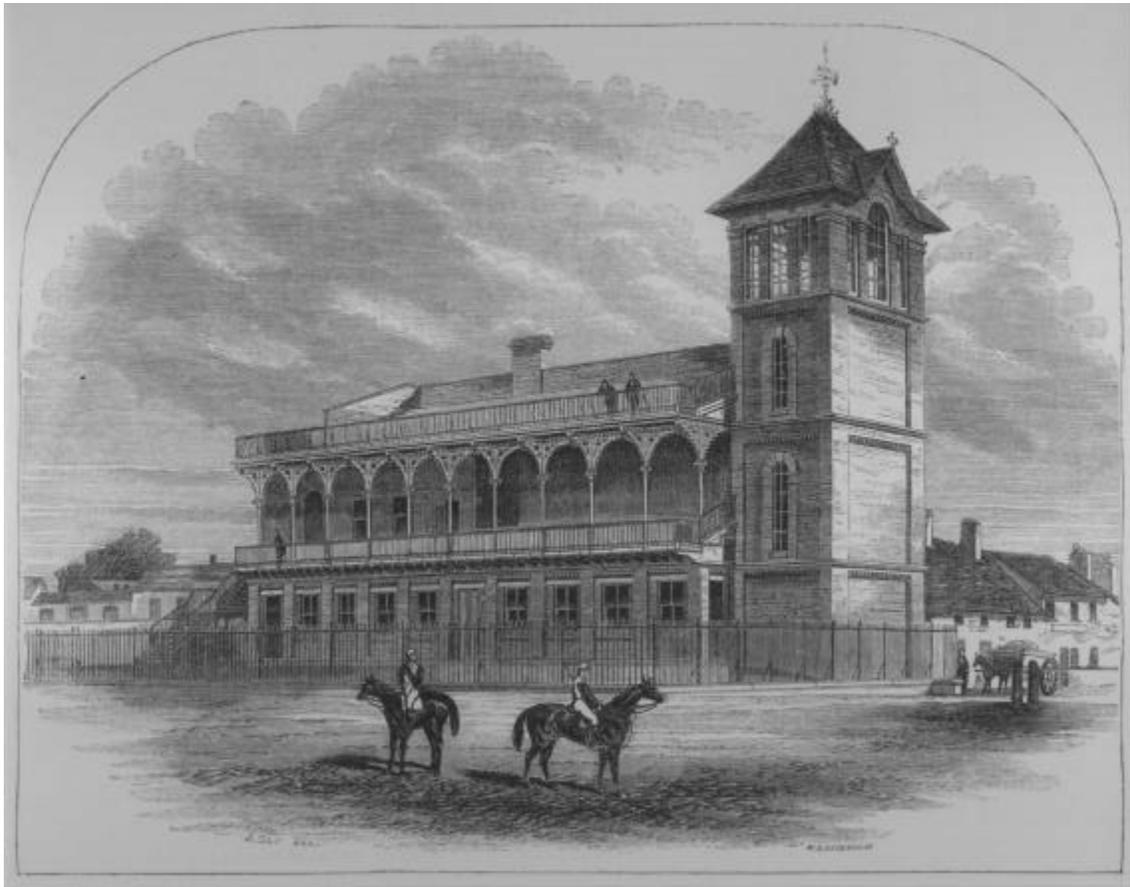
ther's business must have been minimal. He does not appear in the Manchester directories in the 1860s. After his first wife died in 1869,¹¹⁰ Richard Taylor Bellhouse left Manchester and began travelling extensively through Europe establishing himself as an architectural landscape painter in watercolour. Some paintings that survive among his descendants date from 1869 with the bulk of work in the 1880s. Some of the paintings are of English architecture. In particular, he painted the Nether Alderley Grammar School, which he attended as a boy.¹¹¹ Most of the surviving paintings were executed in France, Germany and Italy. During the early 1880s, Richard Taylor Bellhouse was living in Bruges, Belgium. He then settled in London by the mid-1880s. In London his work was shown in several galleries: Dudley Gallery, Suffolk Street Gallery, Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours and Royal Society of British Artists. He also had showings at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool and at the Manchester City Gallery, which evolved out of the Royal Manchester Institution.¹¹² Some of Bellhouse's paintings have recently come on the market. An 1881 watercolour of a church interior and an 1888 watercolour of a gardener on the grounds of a ruined castle sold in the mid to late 1990s for £80 and £50 respectively.¹¹³



Richard Taylor Bellhouse¹¹⁴

Richard Taylor Bellhouse's attendance at Nether Alderley Grammar School shows another change in the Bellhouse family. The school was run by the Church of England. Richard's

grandfather attended a Nonconformist chapel. With Richard's generation many of the Bellhouses began to attend the Established Church.



The Grandstand at Knutsford¹¹⁵

Although Richard Taylor Bellhouse left the family business, three of his sons had their career paths influenced by it. Two of these three immigrated to North America along with a fourth son.

The son who stayed in England was Edward Lloyd Wynyard Bellhouse (1858 – 1947). His early education reflects his father's move to the continent. Edward was educated in Germany and traveled extensively in Switzerland and Belgium.¹¹⁶ When he returned to England he settled in Sheffield where he became a "well-known industrialist." His work was related mainly to the manufacture of steel tools and other hardware products. In 1881 he began working for the Sheffield firm of Sanderson Bros, later known as Sanderson Bros and Newbould when it took over

the firm of Samuel Newbould in 1900. Later he worked for Thomas Firth and Company. These companies were all crucible or cast steel toolmakers.¹¹⁷ Probably when he was between positions at these two companies he worked for smaller firms that produced steel tools and other products. In the late 1880s he was Managing Director of Joseph Ashforth and Company.¹¹⁸ It was at about this time that Edward began to obtain a series of patents for his work. His first invention, patented in 1887,¹¹⁹ was related to improvements to machines that cut the teeth of files and similar objects. The patent was granted to Bellhouse and to John Thomas Hill whose occupation in the patent specification was described as “manager.” A second patent, this one from 1903,¹²⁰ was for automobile tires. A major problem with pneumatic tires at that time was that it was difficult to fix a flat. Bellhouse’s solution was to come up with a tire with a detachable tread that would expose the tube without removing the whole tire from the wheel. A few years later, in 1907 and 1908,¹²¹ he obtained three patents for improvements to the design of steam driven rock drills. The final series of patents, in 1920 and 1921,¹²² relate to improvements to gears that were comprised of laminated plates of metal with the teeth on each plate staggered. Based on this work he formed a company, Laminated Gears Ltd. It was subsequently taken over by Laycock Engineering Company, a company that produced mainly railway furnishings.¹²³ By the end of his career, Bellhouse held a directorship in the Hallamshire Steel and File Company, which was founded in 1873 to produce a variety of forged and rolled steel products. He also held a directorship in Messrs Martin Hall and Company and was involved in local politics, sitting on the West Riding County Council.

Edward had three daughters¹²⁴ and so the engineering connection skips a generation. Bellhouse’s grandson, through his eldest daughter Ida Maud Harland (1890 – 1975), is Air Marshall Sir Reginald Edward Wynyard Harland (b. 1920). During World War II he served with the RAF in the Mediterranean theatre of operations. In the early 1950s, Harland was the Chief Engineering Instructor at the RAF College, Cranwell. Among his many duties and accomplishments, he was the Director of the Harrier Project in 1967-8. He is a Fellow of both the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and the Institute of Electrical Engineers.¹²⁵

The eldest son of Richard Taylor Bellhouse was Richard Wynyard Bellhouse (1856 – 1898). He was originally apprenticed to Beyer, Peacock & Co, Manchester locomotive works. He then went to work for his uncle, Edward Taylor Bellhouse, at Eagle Foundry. For two years after his uncle’s death in 1881, Richard worked for the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. He

then immigrated to the United States in 1883, working for Sanderson Brothers Steel Company in Syracuse, New York. There he was in charge of the reconstruction of the company's works. In 1886 he was building the cement works in Syracuse for Warner's Portland Cement Company and carried out similar work later at Sandusky's in Ohio. He was killed in a fall while working as an erecting engineer for the Solvay Process Company in Detroit, Michigan.¹²⁶



Tom Wynyard Bellhouse¹²⁷
(1867 – 1937)

A younger brother, Tom Wynyard Bellhouse (1867 – 1937), immigrated to Canada working initially as the manager of a stone quarry in Amherstberg, Ontario. He then went to Detroit and, like his elder brother, worked at the Solvay Process Company. He eventually lived in Alto, Georgia in the United States. His public school alma mater, King William's College, reported him in 1927 as "in business" with the Green Hills Orchard in Alto.¹²⁸ Tom had two children, Tom Wynyard Bellhouse junior (1912 – 1976) and Helen Wynyard Bellhouse. Helen was a physician and the younger Tom worked initially as a machinist's apprentice, rising to become the chief mechanical officer for the Southern Pacific Railroad.¹²⁹

Many who immigrated to North America were inspired by advertisements from the Canadian government for inexpensive farmland. In the 1880s several advertisements were put in British newspapers for settlers to open up the Canadian West. One could either buy land cheaply or obtain a homestead. With a homestead, a settler was given a quarter section of land to work (a section is one square mile). If sufficient progress was made in farming the land, the settler was

given the land for free and was also given the option to obtain another quarter section. David Wynyard Bellhouse (1861 – 1952) responded to the call by immigrating to the Province of Manitoba. Rather than homesteading, he bought his land. Some of his cousins responded as well. John Wortley Bellhouse (1861 – 1921), the second son of Thomas Taylor Bellhouse, came to Canada via the United States and obtained a homestead in Manitoba in the late 1880s.¹³⁰ A more distant cousin, Arthur Lyon Bellhouse, with connections to the spinning business (described in Chapter 6) immigrated to the Province of Saskatchewan in the 1880s. An even more distant cousin Charles Bellhouse (1838 – 1896) immigrated to Manitoba living only about 30 miles away from David Wynyard Bellhouse.

John Wortley Bellhouse was another product of the English public schools, attending Malvern College from 1874 to 1879.¹³¹ In 1907 he moved his family moved to Galiano Island on the west coast of Canada in the Province of British Columbia. They continued to farm there. After John Wortley Bellhouse died, his son Leonard Thorneycroft Bellhouse (1893 – 1968) transformed the farmhouse into an inn, calling it Farmhouse Inn.¹³² The Inn burned to the ground in 1928 and was rebuilt in the same style. When the Leonard retired in about 1964, he sold the Inn and donated six acres of prime waterfront land to the Province. The area is now called Bellhouse Provincial Park.¹³³ The Inn operates today under the name of Bellhouse Inn. John Wortley Bellhouse may have had a marginal connection with the family business in Manchester. He must have received some training in drafting. The Manchester Central Library possesses a floor plan by him of Manchester Cathedral done in ink and watercolour, and dated 1883.¹³⁴

The fourth son of Richard Taylor Bellhouse, though not the youngest, was David Wynyard Bellhouse (1861 – 1952).¹³⁵ He was trained in architecture in Bruges following schooling in Stuttgart, Germany and Neuchatel, Switzerland.¹³⁶ As a result of this schooling, he could speak both Walloon and German. One further effect of his German education was that he continued to count and do arithmetic calculations in German throughout his life.¹³⁷ After Bruges Bellhouse went to study at the Royal Academy Schools in London, graduating in 1882. The following year he immigrated to Manitoba, purchasing a farm near Cypress River. He was the first trained architect to arrive in Western Canada. His original idea in emigrating, an idea that was pursued by many of the middle class and professionals among the English settlers, was to be a gentleman farmer. When his father visited Manitoba in 1887 and painted the farmhouse, the painting was entitled *The Game Lodge*, reflecting these gentlemanly aspirations.



The Game Lodge¹³⁸

While at Cypress River Bellhouse met and married Emma Maria Stacpoole (1866 – 1936). Their first child, Richard Wynyard Stacpoole Bellhouse, was born on the farm in 1891. Emma was a daughter of Frank Alexander Stacpoole (1823 – 1901) and his wife Mary Jane, née Burnett (1834 – 1898). The Stacpoole family that immigrated to Canada in 1883 included three sons and four daughters; one son, the eldest, remained in England. They occupied three homesteads near Cypress River, one for the father and two for each of the two elder sons who came. Frank Stacpoole came from a wealthy English family that had lost much of its wealth, probably through bad investments. He was another who had aspirations to being a gentleman farmer; his homestead records show that he kept 11 horses in two stables. All the daughters married English immigrants in the Cypress River area. This extended Stacpoole family was fairly close knit with many house visits, parties and dances.¹³⁹

Although David Wynyard Bellhouse's in-laws, the Stacpooles, had relatives living in England, most of the Stacpoole family had immigrated to the same location together. The immigration pattern for Bellhouse's family was different. One brother and all his sisters remained in England while two other brothers eventually immigrated to different parts of the United States.

Despite this Bellhouse Diaspora, they remained in contact with one another. Bellhouse's father and stepmother visited Manitoba in 1887 and again in 1899.¹⁴⁰ Two of his brothers, Edward and Tom, visited him in Winnipeg in 1896.¹⁴¹



David Wynyard Bellhouse and Emma Maria (née Stacpoole) Bellhouse¹⁴²

The late 1880s to the mid 1890s saw difficult times for Manitoba farmers. Over this period, rainfall was below average so that crop yields were down. Moreover, the prices for wheat and other farm produce were low. At this time wheat was selling at below normal prices, less than 75 cents a bushel.¹⁴³ Bellhouse often sold his wheat at prices between 30 and 50 cents a bushel, hauling it 65 miles to the nearest railway point.¹⁴⁴ Faced with these kinds of difficulties, the Bellhouses left their farm in 1896 and moved to Winnipeg, at that time a city of about 35,000. Within a short interval of only a few years, the extended Stacpoole family all moved to Winnipeg as well.

Bellhouse's arrival in Winnipeg coincided with the beginning of a long and growing boom period that lasted until 1912.¹⁴⁵ In Winnipeg Bellhouse tried to set up practice as an architect but there were very few clients requiring his services.¹⁴⁶ Initially, he was hired by the provincial architect Samuel Hooper to work on plans for the Deaf and Dumb Institute, which was located on Portage Avenue, one of Winnipeg's main streets. To make ends meet, he operated a parcel delivery service. His first entry in the Winnipeg directories in 1897 gives his occupation as "teamster." Early in 1902 he set up his own architectural office, operating out of 50 Princess Street from which he continued to oper-

ate his parcel delivery service.¹⁴⁷ This was in the heart of Winnipeg's commercial district. For over a year he advertised his services as an architect in every issue of the *Winnipeg Tribune*.¹⁴⁸ One of Bellhouse's buildings that dates from this time period is a warehouse, now demolished, at 120 Lombard Street¹⁴⁹ designed for MacNab and Roberts who operated in Winnipeg as manufacturers' agents including storage and forwarding. They operated from 118-122 Lombard with offices at 118.¹⁵⁰ After a year, he gave up full-time architectural work and took a position as a draughtsman in the Engineering Department of the Canadian Pacific Railways (C.P.R.). Bellhouse continued to do architectural work on the side. In 1904 he designed a house at 290 Boyd Avenue.¹⁵¹ This house is north of the C.P.R. tracks, which at the time cut Winnipeg into two separate and increasingly distinct parts. It was also near the C.P.R. offices at 751 Main Street where Bellhouse worked so that convenience may have been a factor in his accepting this commission.

The boom picked up in the early twentieth century with Winnipeg increasing in size more than three-fold between 1901 and 1911. Bellhouse decided once again to return to architecture full time during this decade. He left the C.P.R. in April of 1906 to enter the architectural firm of Stevens and Patterson. Bellhouse was well liked at the C.P.R. When he left, his fellow workers gave him a "handsome set of volumes on engineering" as a going away present.¹⁵² Probably during his time at Stevens and Patterson or possibly earlier while he was still at the C.P.R., Bellhouse took on two commissions for the real estate, loan and insurance company Steele Bros Investment.¹⁵³ One commission was a one-story building on Main Street between Euclid and Selkirk Avenue. The other was for renovations to a duplex at 186-188 Aberdeen Avenue. Similar to his earlier work in 1904 the buildings were all north of the C.P.R. tracks but near the C.P.R. Station. In 1907 Bellhouse set up practice on his own¹⁵⁴ and continued in this endeavour until he retired in 1938. By 1912 he was carrying out "all classes of architectural work, but mainly [...] large undertakings, such as public buildings, fine residences, etc." and in reputation was "second to none for the extensiveness and superior quality of his professional service."¹⁵⁵

Bellhouse must have had an earlier connection with the C.P.R. In 1896, his first year in Winnipeg, he was playing on the company cricket team. Although he never came close to the status of his father and uncle, he was a good cricket player. The 1896 season in Winnipeg serves as an illustration.¹⁵⁶ There were four cricket clubs in Winnipeg that

year: the Winnipeg Cricket Club, the Norwood Cricket Club, a club associated with the Royal Canadian Dragoons and the C.P.R. Club. The three nonmilitary clubs often fielded two teams, a senior team, referred to as the “First Eleven” and a junior team usually called the “Colts.” Each club had its own cricket pitch.

Preparation for the 1896 cricket season began in May with practices and friendly matches throughout the month. The Winnipeg club and the Dragoons were the earliest to get started in mid-May; the C.P.R. team, after some delays caused by wet fields, played its first game on May 24. The Norwood team had the slowest start; the club’s cricket grounds were under two feet of water at the end of May because of heavy rains. Bellhouse got off to a good start that year. In a preseason game against the Norwood team, the press described him as “a regular stone wall [referring to his batting] and a splendid field.” The official season began on June 13 with Norwood playing the Dragoons and the C.P.R. club playing the junior team from the Winnipeg Cricket Club. Again Bellhouse played well for the C.P.R. club. In describing the game, the *Manitoba Free Press* reported, “Bellhouse was the next man in, and he and H.R. Holmes put up the partnership of the day, raising the score from 23 to 65 when Bellhouse was bowled out by Harstone after making 23.” When regular season play ended in mid-July, the C.P.R. team was undefeated so that the team was chosen to represent Winnipeg at the cricket tournament held as part of the annual fair at the Exhibition Grounds in Winnipeg. The C.P.R. team, which eventually won the tournament, was not exclusively comprised of C.P.R. players; there were seven from the original C.P.R. team with three from Norwood, one from the Winnipeg club and one from the Dragoons. Bellhouse was not on the team that played. After the fair, regular cricket play resumed in the city. Play for the city championship began in August with friendly games continuing as well. Thursday, August 20, was a civic holiday in the city. The First Eleven of the C.P.R., which included Bellhouse, played their own Colts that day. It was an all-day affair. Play started at 10 a.m. with lunch served by “ladies of the club.” In the city championship the C.P.R. won their first game and then were surprised by the Winnipeg Colts in their second game, losing 106 – 38. Bellhouse scored nine of the 38 runs for the C.P.R. The game went to a second inning before it closed, but only the C.P.R. batted, with Bellhouse scoring another nine runs without going out. The next game, against Norwood, was crucial for the team, but it was dogged by misfortune.

Some of the top players could not come to the game. The team captain learned of the situation only at the last minute so that the team had to play two men short. Norwood won 149 – 81, Bellhouse scored no runs that game and the team was eliminated from competition. The First Eleven of the Winnipeg Cricket Club went on to win the championship.

Bellhouse continued to play cricket. As late as 1912, when he was in his early fifties, it was said that he “is fond of recreative sports and is noted as a cricket player.”¹⁵⁷ In the late 1920s or early 1930s he took his grandson, Richard Montague Bellhouse (1923 – 1993), to watch cricket games at Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg’s largest park. The park currently contains Winnipeg’s last remaining cricket pitch.

The year 1896 also provides some insights into the social and family side of David Wynyard Bellhouse. His father-in-law, Frank Stacpoole, kept a very terse diary for that year that still survives.¹⁵⁸ That year Emma Bellhouse was pregnant. Her own mother had become ill in early December and her father had hired a nurse. The only reference her father made to the pregnancy was an entry on December 12: “Bellhouse here early in morning to fetch Nurse Kirke to his wife. Emma confined of a son 12 noon.” The son was christened Edward Ainslie Montague Stacpoole Bellhouse,¹⁵⁹ one more given name than his elder brother. Prior to this birth and two weeks afterward, Frank Stacpoole, who was an expert whist player, regularly came to the Bellhouses for an evening of whist. These evenings were usually in the winter months to early spring and then again in the fall. In the spring Stacpoole often went to the theatre with family and friends to take in the popular plays of the day. The Bellhouses, including son Richard, sometimes joined him. The plays the Bellhouses saw included *East Lynne* adapted from the novel of the popular Victorian writer Ellen Price Wood and the domestic comedy *Hazel Kirke*. The Bellhouses may have taken separate holidays that year. Her father reported that Emma and son Richard went to the Cypress River area from July 27 to August 4. Later in September, David spent a week in Cypress River on a shooting trip. He used his father-in-law’s gun, a double-barreled shotgun made by the prominent London gun maker Alfred Lancaster.

One of David Bellhouse’s hobbies was painting, usually giving his work away to friends and relations. Like his father he painted architectural landscapes. The difference is

that the son painted on birch bark. His only known surviving painting, which is in a damaged condition, is a picture of All Saints Anglican Church in Winnipeg circa 1900. His other surviving piece of artwork is a valentine done with ink on birch bark in the early 1940s for his grandson's fiancée, Margaret Jean Daly (b. 1924).¹⁶⁰

Once he entered architectural practice permanently in 1907, Bellhouse was most active or perhaps visible, in the building of private residences. His work switched from the Winnipeg area north of the C.P.R. tracks to two fashionable areas that were being developed as the city expanded in the early twentieth century. On the Winnipeg map these areas lie near or on the Assiniboine River that flows from west to east into the Red River. The first area is known as Armstrong's Point. It is the area of land north of the river in the U-shaped bend in the river. The second area, known as Crescentwood, lies to the south and west of the river bend.

Shortly after he went into practice on his own, Bellhouse was commissioned to design a house at 252 Kingsway. This street appears on the map as four streets south of the Assiniboine River west of Armstrong's Point.¹⁶¹ The next year he designed a house for Benjamin Jenkins at 67 Middlegate in Armstrong's point.¹⁶² On the map this street is shown as Central Avenue. Construction on the house began in mid-June of 1908. The commission may have come from Bellhouse's contacts in his C.P.R. days. Jenkins was the superintendent of the C.P.R.'s Western Telegraph Lines. The year 1909 was a busy year. That year, again with construction beginning in June, Bellhouse was responsible for two more residences on Middlegate, numbers 22 and 43.¹⁶³ As well as these two houses in Armstrong's Point, Bellhouse was also working on a house at 804 Preston Avenue¹⁶⁴ just two streets north of the point, on another at 97 Academy Road¹⁶⁵ two streets south of the Assiniboine River west of Armstrong's Point, and on a third at 188 Yale Avenue¹⁶⁶ four streets south of Academy Road. Work on houses continued into the next year with a house at 276 Harvard Street,¹⁶⁷ again in the Crescentwood area. In 1912 Bellhouse designed his last house in Armstrong's point at 131 Westgate.¹⁶⁸ On the map, this is the unnamed street immediately west of Central Avenue. The house still contains a billiard table on the third floor that was built with the house. That year or the next, Bellhouse designed another house in Crescentwood at 333 Yale.¹⁶⁹ Of the houses from this period, at least three of them (43 Middlegate, 97 Academy Road and 131 Westgate) were con-

structed in the Tudor Revival style. The first story was of red brick and the second story was half-timbered.



Winnipeg around the Forks of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, 1915¹⁷⁰

The same year that he was building the house at Westgate, Bellhouse was caught in the middle of a controversy in Armstrong's Point. His involvement may have resulted in him obtaining no further commissions in this area of the city, Westgate being his last.¹⁷¹ At that time in Winnipeg there were no zoning by-laws so that, unless previous owners placed caveats on the deed, the choice of what to build was up to the property owner. Two New York building contractors, Frank and Maurice Frankel, bought three building lots in prestigious areas of Winnipeg with the intention of erecting apartment buildings. It may have been a greenmail scheme. In at least one of the cases, a property owner living across the street quickly bought the land from the Frankels so as to ensure that no apartment building would be erected. One of the Frankel properties was in Middelgate in Armstrong's Point. Bellhouse was commissioned by the Frankels to design the

apartment building. He applied for a building permit on September 28. Some changes were requested and when Bellhouse returned two days later with the changes, the permit was denied based on some legal technicalities regarding Winnipeg's building by-laws.¹⁷² The Frankels sued and lost. While this was going on Theodore Hunt, the City Solicitor, worked quickly to get a by-law passed prohibiting the building of apartment blocks on Armstrong's Point. Hunt himself was operating in a conflict of interest. He was a Point resident living at 43 Middlegate, the house he commissioned Bellhouse to design three years previously. The by-law was passed in February of 1913 and the whole affair came to an end.

In the 1920s Bellhouse continued to design substantial houses. Two of these houses were in the River Heights area west of Crescentwood and another two were in the Crescentwood area itself. A residence at 227 Waverley Street in River Heights, erected in 1923 for the Winnipeg physician Wesley Pirt, was at that time Winnipeg's largest electrically heated and operated home.¹⁷³ It was described as,

“the very last thing in a fully equipped ultra modern dwelling, insulated from basement to attic, electrically heated throughout and the latest invention in radio installation. Every known labor-saving device is included in the equipment, the whole illustrating the most perfect consummation of the new era of building.”¹⁷⁴

Some of Bellhouse's attention to quality is evidenced in this house. He wrote to the contractor James Fraser claiming that the plastering work was substandard and would have to be redone. Fraser was also the contractor for another house Bellhouse had designed on Victoria Crescent in the Winnipeg suburb of St. Vital.¹⁷⁵ Four days after the letter on the Pirt residence, Bellhouse wrote again to Fraser charging that the plastering at the St. Vital house was “absolutely no good & will have to be made good before and money is paid.”¹⁷⁶ Bellhouse also inspected the heating at the Pirt residence. He noted temperature differentials between some adjoining rooms and wrote to Charles Kirk, the plumbing and heating subcontractor, to have the situation remedied.¹⁷⁷ Three years later Bellhouse designed two houses in the Crescentwood area, one at 41 Kingsway¹⁷⁸ and the other at 1 Ruskin Row.¹⁷⁹ Later in 1929, he designed a red brick house in the Italianate style at 1095 Wellington Crescent in River Heights.¹⁸⁰ Henry Gauer, who was the Western Manager of the investment firm of James Richardson and Sons, commissioned this house.¹⁸¹



1095 Wellington Crescent¹⁸²

One of Bellhouse's earliest commissions in public buildings was for the Royal Bowling Alley built in 1907 on Notre Dame Avenue.¹⁸³ This street is north of the area shown on the map. The building has since been demolished. The next year he had a more substantial commission, the Quo Vadis Apartments. The apartment building, now demolished, stood at the corner of Kennedy Street and Qu'Appelle Avenue.¹⁸⁴ The location is again north of the area shown on the map. This three-story building had a number of modern conveniences. There were two lounges on the third floor for all the tenants. Each kitchen had its own access to garbage disposal and there were two large laundry rooms in the basement, each equipped with large soft water cisterns. The main entrance had marble steps and the hallways were tiled. Each apartment was trimmed with weathered oak and the floors were of maple. In 1909 Bellhouse was preparing plans for two more apartment buildings.¹⁸⁵ Unfortunately, these buildings were not identified in the press report. Other public buildings that Bellhouse designed were: a warehouse for the T. Eaton Company¹⁸⁶ at 283 Stanley Street (1910), the Blue Ribbon Building¹⁸⁷ at 334 McDermot Avenue (1910), the Crump Block¹⁸⁸ at Notre Dame and Hargrave Street (1912), warehouse¹⁸⁹ for Martin, Bole and Wynne at 576 McDermot Avenue (1914), and J.P.L. Watt Stores¹⁹⁰ at 139 Donald Street (unknown date).



St. Thomas Anglican Church

Apart from commercial and apartment buildings, Bellhouse designed two churches and a church hall. In 1912 Bellhouse designed the parish hall for Holy Trinity Anglican Church in the heart of downtown Winnipeg.¹⁹¹ The next year he designed St. Edward's Roman Catholic Church on Arlington Street. The church was built of red brick in the Italianate basilica style.¹⁹² It features a sloping floor that declines three feet from the church entrance to the communion rail at the front, an unusual feature in a Roman Catholic church. Bellhouse must have considered it possibly his best work to that point in time; it is one of the very few instances in which the architect's name appears on the cornerstone of the building along with the year of construction. The second church is St. Thomas Anglican Church built in 1923 in the Winnipeg suburb of Weston.¹⁹³ The original church on the site, built in 1907, had become too small for the congregation. Upon completion of the new church, the older building became the parish hall. Bellhouse's new church was described as a "simple, dignified and well proportioned structure of stucco."

Bellhouse's usual commission for his work, at least with houses, was 5% of the cost of the building. Details of this and his schedule of payments survive for the house on Victoria Crescent in St. Vital built in 1923. The total cost of the building was \$10,877.70 so that Bellhouse's commission was \$543.88. He received an initial cheque of \$50 when work was started in 1922. He received additional installments throughout 1923 and early 1924: March – two installments of \$100; September – an installment of \$15 and another

of \$10; November and January – two more installments each of \$25. In January of 1924 Bellhouse wrote to the new house owner that the balance owing was \$218. What happened next is unclear. There is only a note at the bottom of his accounting that a further \$15 was paid in March of 1924.¹⁹⁴

Based on the 5% commission a very rough idea of the kind of money Bellhouse was earning can be formulated. In 1909 he had commissions for at least five houses and two apartment buildings. The prices of four of the five houses can be determined: 22 Middlegate (\$8,000), 43 Middlegate (\$6,000), 804 Preston (\$6,500) and 97 Academy Road (\$7,000). No prices, not even the names, of the apartment buildings are known. However, a general idea of the cost may be estimated from an addition to the Ashford Block on Balmoral Street, which was completed the next year at a cost of \$25,000.¹⁹⁵ On using this as the cost of each apartment in 1909 and on taking the average house price for the house with the missing price, Bellhouse's commissions for that year amounted to about \$4,200.

Despite these kinds of figures, Bellhouse was only moderately successful as a businessman. One indication of his moderate success is that either his place of business or his residence changed every few years.¹⁹⁶ By examining his residential addresses and comparing them to the fashionable areas of Winnipeg, it may be inferred that Bellhouse's most prosperous years were from 1912 to 1916 approximately, when he lived on Dorchester Avenue in the Crescentwood area. In the 1920s he had financial difficulties. Soon after the residences on Waverley Street and Victoria Crescent were completed in 1923, he was behind in the rent on his own house. In February of 1924 he wrote to the owner of the house that he could pay only part of the rent and concluded the letter by saying, "Things are very quiet just now I'm sorry to say, but we hope for an improvement soon." He paid the full rent of \$65 the next month, but again in April of that year he could pay only part of the rent and asked for a rent reduction. He wrote that, "my collections are very poor & business at present is nil, but we live in hopes." With respect to his "collections" perhaps he was referring to the money owed to him on the house in Victoria Crescent. In response to his request, the rent was reduced to \$60 per month. This situation continued for some time. In mid-April of 1926, he was several months behind in his rent. He wrote to the owner enclosing a cheque for \$105, which brought him up to two months

late in his rent. Business was starting to look up at this time. He wrote, “work is coming in now & things are improving, I am glad to say, it has been a very trying time for the last six months.”¹⁹⁷

Bellhouse’s moderate success as a businessman was also played out in the latter stages of his career against the background of the Great Depression of the 1930s. What was the Winnipeg Auditorium, and is now the building that houses the Manitoba Provincial Library and Archives, was a make-work project begun by the City of Winnipeg in 1931. As part of the make-work aspect of the project, five Winnipeg architects including Bellhouse were brought into the project. They worked under the direction of either Colonel J.N. Semens, another Winnipeg architect, or for the architectural firm of Pratt and Ross, the firm that had been involved in drawing up the preliminary plans for the building.¹⁹⁸ One of Bellhouse’s jobs was to inspect the building. He took his grandson to the building to have the young boy test the seats and the sight lines. As the depression deepened into the mid-1930s, Bellhouse took on work as an inspector for the Engineering Department of the City of Winnipeg.¹⁹⁹ During the Depression, after he had turned 70, Bellhouse served as president of the Manitoba Association of Architects.²⁰⁰

In this branch of the family, the link with engineering and the building trades stops with the next generation. David Wynyard Bellhouse’s younger son, Edward Ainslie Bellhouse (1896 – 1965)²⁰¹ worked for the Canadian National Railways in Winnipeg. For over 40 years he was a clerk in the Right-of-Way Department.²⁰² This Department was charged with the responsibility for buying and selling the land on which the main track and spur lines ran, The elder son, Richard Wynyard Bellhouse (1891 – 1916)²⁰³ trained as an engineer at the University of Manitoba. He was killed in action during the First World War.²⁰⁴ There may be some return to engineering in this branch of the family. Erika Michelle Bellhouse (b. 1979), great-granddaughter of Edward Ainslie Bellhouse, is currently studying mechanical engineering at the University of Western Ontario.

Many Bellhouses volunteered for service during the First World War. Of those who served, there were some casualties. For example, Leonard Thorneycroft Bellhouse (1893 – 1968), who served with the Canadian Expeditionary Force, was wounded three different times during the war.²⁰⁵ After arriving in France on May 25, 1916 he was sent to the front at Ypres. In less than three weeks his leg was broken after being buried in a

trench when a shell exploded nearby. He returned to duty after five months. In November of the next year he received wounds to the head and shoulder and spent six weeks convalescing. Within another few months, April of 1918, he was gassed at Arras. He convalesced for seven months this time and was discharged as medically unfit, returning to his home in January of 1919.



Richard Wynyard Bellhouse²⁰⁶

Among the Bellhouses who served, only Richard Wynyard Bellhouse (1891 – 1916) was among the fatalities.²⁰⁷ Typical of many who died, he was a young man with a lot of promise. As mentioned already, he had university training as an engineer. He was also well known in Winnipeg sporting circles where he played rugby for the intermediate team of the Winnipeg Tigers. Just after the outbreak of war in 1914, he joined the Canadian Militia, serving seven months as a lieutenant with the Fort Garry Horse. When he joined the regular army in May of 1915 he became a private in the Cameron Highlanders of Canada based in Winnipeg. This was mobilized as the 43rd Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. At the time he enlisted, he was working in the Engineering Department of Canadian Pacific Railways in Winnipeg, one of his father's old places of work. The Battalion embarked for England in late May of 1915 as part of the 3rd Canadian Division. On the day before embarkation, the extended family of parents, brother, aunts, un-

cles and cousins came together to see Richard off.²⁰⁸ Once in England the battalion was stationed in the south at Shorncliffe for training beginning in June 10 of 1915. After training they embarked for France on February 20, 1916, about two months before his cousin Leonard.²⁰⁹ There his battalion relieved the 2nd Canadian Division along a six-mile front south of the Ypres Salient, about one-half mile from the town of St. Eloi. On March 27, the British launched an offensive at St. Eloi, known today as the “Actions of St. Eloi Craters.”²¹⁰ Typical of trench warfare, the initial part of the battle was an artillery bombardment. The heavy fighting began about April 5 and continued until April 16. Bellhouse, who was part of a machine gun unit, was killed in action on March 31 during the early artillery exchange. He was buried the next day. He was one of the first casualties in his battalion, having been at the front for a month at most and probably for only a week or two. His parents were first informed of his death by the Militia Office on about April 12. The parents were not satisfied with the initial information that they received. They seemed very worried about the nature of his death. His mother asked her brother Dick Stacpoole, a Winnipeg lawyer and eventually a judge, to make inquiries. Stacpoole wrote to a friend at the Headquarters of the 2nd Canadian Division. The friend, known only as Roy, wrote back on May 2 with some words of comfort but little information beyond a general description of how the soldiers were buried and how the notices of the deaths were passed on from the regimental chaplain to the Militia Office. Roy may have pulled some strings to get more information. A more graphic account of Bellhouse’s death was sent on May 6 by the Captain of his regiment. Other letters also followed, one from the Regimental Chaplain Charles Gordon (known better by his pen name, Ralph Connor) and Bellhouse’s immediate commanding officer, Lieutenant Ian MacKinnon.²¹¹ A memorial plaque to Bellhouse’s memory is in the Engineering Building of the University of Manitoba, and another in St. Luke’s Anglican Church in Winnipeg, the church that the family attended.

Richard’s brother Edward enlisted on February 23, 1916 probably without the knowledge of his parents.²¹² He gave his father’s name as Henry Winford Bellhouse, rather than David Wynyard Bellhouse. Although he was judged fit for service overseas, he was discharged on May 22, 1916 for medical reasons and was described as “unlikely to become efficient.” Since his parents were overwrought about the death of his brother,

the discharge may be related to connections the parents may have had. Edward Bellhouse volunteered for service again in May of 1917, stating that his earlier discharge was due to colitis.²¹³ He became ill in April of 1918 while still in Winnipeg and was discharged again the next month. Edward Bellhouse felt the effects of the war for many years, but not from his illness during military service. In 1921 he eloped with Theresa Pfeifer who was of Austrian descent. Because of the death of her eldest son from German shelling, Bellhouse's mother Emma had an antipathy towards all Germans and Austrians, military or civilian. She was never on friendly terms with her daughter-in-law. This included a period of several years up to and during the Depression when they all lived together in the same house.²¹⁴



Edward Ainslie Bellhouse and
Theresa (née Pfeifer) Bellhouse²¹⁵

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- ¹ Photograph in the possession of the author
- ² *Manchester Guardian*, January 9, 1825.
- ³ Obituary of David Bellhouse senior in John Robertson's notebook, *op. cit.*
- ⁴ Obituary of Edward Taylor Bellhouse, *Manchester Guardian*, October 15, 1881.
- ⁵ John Robertson's notebook, *op. cit.*
- ⁶ Public Record Office RAIL 465/43.
- ⁷ T.C. Barber and J.R. Harris, *A Merseyside Town in the Industrial Revolution: St. Helen's 1750 – 1900*. Liverpool U.P., 1954, p. 217.
- ⁸ *Parliamentary Papers* 1821 [186] vi. 1.
- ⁹ J.P. Green, "The 1830 warehouse and the nineteenth century trade in timber," *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, **90**, 1 – 13.
- ¹⁰ *Chatham Journal*, September 2, 1843
- ¹¹ *Manchester Guardian*, December 8, 1821.
- ¹² Manchester Directory for 1848; the residence is described as "Sale Heys, near Altrincham."
- ¹³ D. Brumhead and T. Wyke, *A Walk Round All Saints*, Manchester Polytechnic, p. 12.
- ¹⁴ M. Speers, *Victoria Park, Manchester: A Nineteenth Century Suburb in its Social and Administrative Context*, Manchester, Chetham Society, 1976, pp. 21 – 22.
- ¹⁵ *Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal*, January, 1846, pp. 4 – 5.
- ¹⁶ Speight pedigree, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁷ B. Love, *op. cit.*, p. 12.
- ¹⁸ Manchester Corporation Register, drawing numbers 2002, 2003 and 2004.
- ¹⁹ J.P. Lewis, "Indices of house-building in the Manchester conurbation, South Wales, and Great Britain, 1851 – 1913," *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 1961, **8**, 148 – 156.
- ²⁰ Photographs taken by the author.
- ²¹ R.S. Fitzgerald, *Liverpool Road Station, Manchester*, Manchester U.P., 1980, pp. 36 – 37, 42, 48; R.H.G. Thomas, *op. cit.*, p. 131.
- ²² J.P. Greene, *op. cit.*
- ²³ *Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal*, April, 1845, p. 292; *Statement of Facts Connected With the Turn-out in the Lancashire Building Trades ...*, Manchester, 1846, pp. 53 – 54, reprinted in: *Rebirth of the Trade Union Movement*, Arno Press, 1972. The latter article describes the trouble that Bellhouse had in finishing the railway station during the middle of the strike.
- ²⁴ Public Record Office RAIL 465/43; *The Manchester South Junction and Altrincham Railway: Its Inception and Development, Jubilee 1849 – 1899*, Manchester, George Faulkner and Sons, 1899.
- ²⁵ The viaduct was heavily used so that by the 1860s the condition of the arches became notoriously bad. See David Hughes, "Bridges and viaducts," in *Railway Architecture*, Marcus Binney and David Pearce (eds.), New York, Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, p. 143. An examination of the viaduct today shows that it has been reinforced with steel or iron rods.
- ²⁶ *Manchester Courier*, January, 1866.
- ²⁷ T. Allen, *op. cit.*, facing p. 9.
- ²⁸ *Manchester Guardian*, January 31, 1824 and October 16, 1830; M. Whiffen, *The Architecture of Sir Charles Barry in Manchester and Neighbourhood*, Royal Manchester Institution, 1950, p. 9.
- ²⁹ *Manchester Guardian*, February 7, 1824.
- ³⁰ Manchester Central Library M6/1/49/1,2; M6/1/6.
- ³¹ B. Love, *op. cit.*, facing p. 250.
- ³² *Manchester Guardian*, October 16, 1830.
- ³³ *Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal*, January, 1846, p. 4.
- ³⁴ There is an oblique reference to Lane in Bellhouse's obituary, *Manchester Courier*, January, 1866. Also Lane transferred his share in The Portico Library to Edward Taylor Bellhouse in 1834; see The Portico Library, Share Transfer Book, Vol. I, 1812 – 1834, p. 539.

-
- ³⁵ *Builder*, 1845, p. 548; *Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal*, April, 1845, p. 129.
- ³⁶ *Manchester Guardian*, April 29, 1843.
- ³⁷ *Builder*, September 15, 1855.
- ³⁸ *Manchester Examiner and Times*, September 16, 1854.
- ³⁹ *Builder*, December 9, 1848; *Builder*, 1850, p. 454; Joseph Thompson, *The Owens College – Its Foundation and Growth*, Manchester, Cornish, 1886.
- ⁴⁰ *Manchester Guardian*, October 16, 1824.
- ⁴¹ *Parliamentary Papers* 1845 [628] xvi. 539.
- ⁴² T. Swailes, “19th century cast iron beams: their design, manufacture and reliability,” *Civil Engineering: Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*, **114**, 1995, pp. 25 – 35.
- ⁴³ J.A. Cantrell, *James Nasmyth and the Bridgewater Foundry: a study in entrepreneurship in the early engineering industry*. Manchester, Chetham Society, 1984, pp. 36 – 41.
- ⁴⁴ J.A. Cantrell, “James Nasmyth and the Bridgewater Foundry: Partners and Partnerships,” *Business History*, 1981, **23**, pp. 346 – 358; E. Jones, *Industrial Architecture in Britain*, New York, Facts on File, 1985, p. 100.
- ⁴⁵ Letter from James Nasmyth to Holbrook Gaskell, Salford Local History Library.
- ⁴⁶ *Dictionary of National Biography*, CD-ROM Version 1.1, 1997, Oxford University Press.
- ⁴⁷ *Manchester Guardian*, June 22, June 29 and July 6, 1833.
- ⁴⁸ *Manchester Guardian*, July 1, 1821.
- ⁴⁹ *Manchester Guardian*, June 30, 1838.
- ⁵⁰ *Census of Great Britain*, 1851, Table XXX, p. cclxxvii.
- ⁵¹ In the Manchester directories for 1861 through 1865, David Bellhouse junior is described as a valuer.
- ⁵² *Manchester Courier*, January, 1866.
- ⁵³ *Builder*, August 18, 1860, p. 522.
- ⁵⁴ There is one example of David Bellhouse senior giving court testimony in a compensation case, *Manchester Guardian*, April 10, 1824.
- ⁵⁵ *Manchester Guardian*, December 26, 1829.
- ⁵⁶ Manchester Central Library M414/2/8/1.
- ⁵⁷ *Parliamentary Papers* 1845 [628] xvi. 539.
- ⁵⁸ *The Art Treasures Examiner: A Pictorial, Critical and Historical Record of the Art Treasures Exhibition, at Manchester in 1857*, Manchester, Alexander Ireland and Co., p. v.
- ⁵⁹ Manchester Central Library M17/5/1.
- ⁶⁰ Information taken from an Indenture in the possession of Richard Lafone Bellhouse, Kempsey. The indenture was seen courtesy of Roger Bellhouse, Caterham.
- ⁶¹ *Builder*, February 11, 1860.
- ⁶² T.L. Worthington, *An Historical Account & Illustrated Description of the Cathedral Church of Manchester*, Manchester, J.E. Cornish, 1884.
- ⁶³ A.H. Yarmie, “Employers’ Organizations in Mid-Victorian England,” *International Review of Social History*, **25**, 1980, pp. 209 – 235.
- ⁶⁴ R.W. Postgate, *The Builders’ History*, London, National Federation of Building Trade Operatives, 1923, pp. 70 – 76; G.D.H. Cole, *A Short History of the British Working Class Movement 1789 – 1947*, London, George Allen and Unwin, 1948, pp. 81 – 84.
- ⁶⁵ *Manchester Guardian*, July 13, 1833.
- ⁶⁶ *Manchester Guardian*, July 20, 1833.
- ⁶⁷ *Manchester Guardian*, August 31, 1833.
- ⁶⁸ G.D.H. Cole, *op. cit.*
- ⁶⁹ A.H. Yarmie, *op. cit.*
- ⁷⁰ *Statement of Facts ...*, *op. cit.*, pp. 19, 53 – 54; Cole, *op. cit.*, p. 171
- ⁷¹ *Manchester Guardian*, May 13, 1826.
- ⁷² *Manchester Guardian*, September 30, 1830 and October 26, 1833.
- ⁷³ *Manchester Guardian*, February 7, 1824.
- ⁷⁴ *Manchester Guardian*, June 30, 1827
- ⁷⁵ *Manchester Guardian*, October 1, 1846 and November 4, 1846.
- ⁷⁶ *The Elector’s Guide*, *op. cit.*
- ⁷⁷ *Manchester Guardian*, November 28, 1832.

- ⁷⁸ Obituary of David Bellhouse, *Manchester Courier*, January, 1866.
- ⁷⁹ H. Watson, *A Chronicle of the Manchester Gentlemen's Glee Club, 1830 – 1905/6*, Manchester, Charles Barker, p. 35.
- ⁸⁰ *An Account of the Manchester Music Festival*, Manchester, T. Sowler, 1828.
- ⁸¹ *Manchester Guardian*, January 30, 1836.
- ⁸² *The Second Grand Music Festival in Manchester 1836*, Manchester, Wheeler and Son, 1836.
- ⁸³ J.A.F. Maitland, *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians, Vol. II*, Philadelphia, Theodore Presser, 1916, pp. 273 – 275; F. Halévy, *L'Éclair, Opéra Comique en Trois Actes*, Paris, Lemoine.
- ⁸⁴ B. Love, *op. cit.*, p 276.
- ⁸⁵ Manchester Central Library M6/1/49/1, 2 – letter of April, 1834.
- ⁸⁶ Manchester Central Library M6/1/49/4 – letters dated April 15, May 15 and June 16, 1846.
- ⁸⁷ *Manchester Mercury*, January 23, 1816
- ⁸⁸ Speight pedigree, *op. cit.*
- ⁸⁹ Will of E.T. Bellhouse, Somerset House, probate granted 1883; *Burke's Landed Gentry, 18th Ed., Vol. 3*, London, Burke's Peerage Ltd., 1972.
- ⁹⁰ W.R. O'Byrne, *A Naval Biographical Dictionary*, London, Murray, 1849; C.W. Bingham, "The Family of Wynyard," *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica* NS 2, 1877, pp. 269 – 272.
- ⁹¹ Photograph courtesy of Miss Evelyn Bellhouse, Alderley Edge.
- ⁹² M.G. Daughlish and P.K. Stephenson (eds.), *Harrow School Register 1800 – 1911, 3rd Ed.*, London, Longmans; J. Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: The Member of the University of Oxford, 1715 – 1886*, Nendeln, Kraus Reprint, 1969.
- ⁹³ Much of the cricket information on the Bellhouses was obtained from Don Ambrose, cricket statistician and historian of Ormskirk, Lancashire. Some of his information came from the Lillywhite Guides for 1852 – 1862. I was also given a cryptic reference "S. & B. Vol. IV, page 493" for some of the information on the Bellhouses. Other sources are given below separately.
- ⁹⁴ B. Bearshaw, *From the Stretford End*, Partridge Press, 1990.
- ⁹⁵ *ibid.*; W.A. Shaw, *Manchester Old and New, Vol. III*, London, Cassell and Company, pp. 127 – 129.
- ⁹⁶ *The Times*, June 24 and 25, 1859.
- ⁹⁷ Obituary circa 1902 from a newspaper clipping of unknown source.
- ⁹⁸ *A Dictionary of Edwardian Biography*, Manchester & Salford, 1987, Edinburgh, Peter Bell (reprint of W.T. Pike, 1899, *Contemporary Biographies*); *The Malvern College Register 1865 – 1924*, London, Charles Murray, 1925.
- ⁹⁹ Obituary circa 1902 from a newspaper clipping of unknown source.
- ¹⁰⁰ *The Law Journal Reports, Magistrates' Cases*. LVIII, 1889, London, F.E. Streeten, pp. 67 – 71.
- ¹⁰¹ *The Times*, January 24, 1889.
- ¹⁰² *Builder*, 1863, p. 878; H. Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600 – 1840*, London, John Murray, 1978, p. 75.
- ¹⁰³ C. Stewart, *op. cit.*, p. 10; *Builder*, 1846, p. 501 and 1863, p. 878; London Post Office Directories, 1859 – 1872.
- ¹⁰⁴ E.T. Bellhouse, "On baths and washhouses for the people," *Transactions of the Manchester Statistical Society*, 1854, pp. 91 – 103.
- ¹⁰⁵ Manchester Central Library M28/20; C. Stewart, *op. cit.*, p. 42.
- ¹⁰⁶ B.E. Harris (ed.), *A History of the County of Chester, Volume III*, 1980, Oxford University Press.
- ¹⁰⁷ A. Graves, *The Royal Academy of Arts: A complete dictionary of contributors and their work from its foundation, Vol. I*, New York, Burt Franklin, p. 177.
- ¹⁰⁸ Manchester Directory, 1855, 1858; will of E.T. Bellhouse, Somerset House, probate granted 1883.
- ¹⁰⁹ *Builder*, October 14, 1865, pp. 728 – 729.
- ¹¹⁰ Speight pedigree, *op. cit.*
- ¹¹¹ David Wynyard Bellhouse wrote a note to his son on this picture, "The school your grandfather attended near Manchester." The author donated a photograph of the painting to the Manchester Central Library. The librarians pinned it to a notice board asking library patrons to identify the school. It was identified at Nether Alderley School.
- ¹¹² Algernon Graves, *A Dictionary of Artists who have Exhibited Works in the Principal London Exhibitions from 1760 to 1893, 3rd Ed.*, Bath, Kingsmead, p. 22; J. Johnson and A. Greutzner, *The Dictionary of British Artists 1880 – 1940*, Antique Collectors' Club, p. 52.

- ¹¹³ The 1881 painting was sold by Andrew Hartley Fine Arts of Ilkley, West Yorkshire in 1997 and the 1888 painting was sold by Christies of London in 1995. This information was obtained via the internet and from Wilcox & Hall Appraisers through a request from Tom Bellhouse III of Alto, Georgia.
- ¹¹⁴ Photograph in the possession of the author. This is taken from a miniature portrait of him in the possession of Mr. Allan Bellhouse, Winnipeg. R.T. Bellhouse's dates of birth, first marriage and death are on the back of the miniature.
- ¹¹⁵ *Builder*, October 14, 1865, p. 729
- ¹¹⁶ Obituary, *Sheffield Star*, August 4, 1947.
- ¹¹⁷ Geoffrey Tweedale, *Steel City: Entrepreneurship, Strategy and Technology in Sheffield 1743 – 1993*, Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1995.
- ¹¹⁸ Sheffield Directory, 1889.
- ¹¹⁹ Patent Office 1887/15549.
- ¹²⁰ Patent Office 1903/23994.
- ¹²¹ Patent Office 1907/27415, 1908/3515 and 1908/6876.
- ¹²² Patent Office 1920/151186 and 1921/160121.
- ¹²³ Tweedale, *op. cit.*, p. 32.
- ¹²⁴ Genealogical information supplied by Reginald Edward Wynyard Harland.
- ¹²⁵ *Who's Who*, 1983; P. Martell and G.P. Hayes (eds.) *World Defense Who's Who*, London, Macdonald and James, 1974, p. 90.
- ¹²⁶ *The Engineering Record*, 1898, **37**, p. 403; *American Society of Mechanical Engineers*, 1899, **20**, p. 1014, Manchester Directory, 1881.
- ¹²⁷ Photograph courtesy of Tom Wynyard Bellhouse III of Alto, Georgia.
- ¹²⁸ Speight pedigree, *op. cit.*; K.S.S. Henderson (ed.), *King William's College Register, 1833 – 1927*, Glasgow, Jackson, Wylie and Co., 1928.
- ¹²⁹ Information obtained from Tom Wynyard Bellhouse III of Alto, Georgia.
- ¹³⁰ National Archives of Canada, homestead patent dated 1891; M. Nelson and T.V. Nelson, *Marringhurst Cemetery, R.M. of Argyle*, 1983, p. 1. The cemetery transcription is in the library of the Manitoba Genealogical Society.
- ¹³¹ *The Malvern College Register, 1865 – 1924*, London, Charles Murray, 1925.
- ¹³² Elizabeth Steward, *op. cit.*
- ¹³³ Press clipping from *The Islander*, circa 1964 (newspaper from Galiano Island).
- ¹³⁴ Manchester Central Library, BR FF 912.4273 M, Plan of Manchester Collegiate Church, 1883.
- ¹³⁵ This is the first Bellhouse in the story so far with whom I have had any personal contact. I was three when he died. My only recollection is not of him but of going to the nursing home with my parents and grandfather. What I remember is that outside the home my grandfather cut me a bulrush that was growing in a ditch nearby.
- ¹³⁶ F.H. Schofield, *The Story of Manitoba*, Winnipeg, S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., p. 449; *Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Journal*, 1952, pp. 368 – 369.
- ¹³⁷ Personal reminiscences of my father, Richard Montague Bellhouse.
- ¹³⁸ Photograph of a painting in the possession of Margaret Bellhouse of Winnipeg. The painting has been shown at two exhibitions at the Winnipeg Art Gallery.
- ¹³⁹ D.R. Bellhouse, *Stacpoole Family Reminiscences: English Gentlemen Settlers in Manitoba in the 1880s*, 1998, published by the author.
- ¹⁴⁰ A note taken by Harry Speight for the Bellhouse pedigree states that he received a letter from Mrs. Richard Taylor Bellhouse who mentioned meeting a Bellhouse family in Montreal in 1899. Presumably they carried on to Winnipeg. West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford, Deed Box 47, Case 4.
- ¹⁴¹ The visits are mentioned in Frank Stacpoole's diary for 1896. The diary is in the possession of Mrs. Barbara Hill of Winnipeg and is transcribed in D.R. Bellhouse, *Stacpoole Family Reminiscences: English Gentlemen Settlers in Manitoba in the 1880s*, 1998, published by the author.
- ¹⁴² Photographs in the possession of the author.
- ¹⁴³ W.L. Morton, *Manitoba: a History*, 2nd Edition, University of Toronto Press, 1967, p. 254.
- ¹⁴⁴ Schofield, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁴⁵ Morton, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁴⁶ Some of the material relating to David Wynyard Bellhouse's early career in Winnipeg is contradictory. What I have done to reconstruct this early career is to rely first on contemporary source material first

-
- and then to fill in details from later remembrances. Contemporary material has been taken from business directories and stories and advertisements in newspapers. Later material with biographical information is found in Schofield, *op. cit.*, an article in *Winnipeg Saturday Post*, June 8, 1912, p. 9 and his obituaries in *Royal Architectural Institute of Canada Journal*, 1952, pp. 368 – 369 and *Winnipeg Free Press*, October 30, 1952.
- ¹⁴⁷ Winnipeg Directories, 1896 – 1904.
- ¹⁴⁸ *Winnipeg Tribune*, January 24, 1902 to March 31, 1903.
- ¹⁴⁹ Winnipeg Building Permit 489/03. I am grateful to Mr. Randy Rostecki for providing me with this and many more references to Bellhouse's buildings. These references have been taken from his own research notes and from R.R. Rostecki, *Armstrong's Point: The Beauty Spot of Winnipeg*, The Heritage Winnipeg Corporation, 1996 (revised 1997 and 1998). In some cases the archived originals have been lost and the only source of information is Rostecki's notes.
- ¹⁵⁰ Winnipeg Directory 1905.
- ¹⁵¹ Winnipeg Building Permit 733/04.
- ¹⁵² *Manitoba Free Press*, April 17, 1906.
- ¹⁵³ Winnipeg Building Permits 1579/06 and 2273/06; Winnipeg Directory 1906.
- ¹⁵⁴ *Manitoba Free Press*, February 12, 1907.
- ¹⁵⁵ *Winnipeg Saturday Post*, June 8, 1912, p. 39.
- ¹⁵⁶ The reports on the entire cricket season, especially games involving David Wynyard Bellhouse, are on various sports pages of the *Manitoba Free Press* for 1896: May 12, 14, 21, 23, 20, 25, 30, June 8, 15, July 13, 20, 25, August 19, 20, 31, September 5, 7, 18.
- ¹⁵⁷ *Winnipeg Saturday Post*, June 8, 1912, p. 39.
- ¹⁵⁸ Transcribed in D.R. Bellhouse, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁵⁹ He was christened the next year on July 17 at Holy Trinity Church, Winnipeg.
- ¹⁶⁰ The birch bark works are in the possession of the author.
- ¹⁶¹ Winnipeg Building Permit 2264/07.
- ¹⁶² Winnipeg Building Permit 632/08. In 1971-72 I was a graduate student in the second year of my M.A. I rented this house and lived in it with several others not knowing for the next 28 years that my great-grandfather was the architect. It was a beautiful three-story red brick house with interesting lines and room shapes.
- ¹⁶³ Winnipeg Building Permits 980/09 and 1012/09. See also Rostecki, *op. cit.*, pp. 161 – 163.
- ¹⁶⁴ *Winnipeg Tribune*, May 15, 1909.
- ¹⁶⁵ *ibid.*
- ¹⁶⁶ Winnipeg Building Permit 449/09.
- ¹⁶⁷ Winnipeg Building Permit 2416/10.
- ¹⁶⁸ *Manitoba Free Press*, August 13, 1912; Rostecki, *op. cit.*, pp. 189 – 191; Schofield, *op. cit.*
- ¹⁶⁹ Schofield, *op. cit.*, states that Bellhouse designed the Burnham residence on Yale. The Winnipeg directory for 1913 shows John D. Burnham at 333 Yale. The directory for 1912 has no house with a 300 numbering on Yale so that the house had not been built by the time the directory was printed.
- ¹⁷⁰ Canada, Department of the Interior, *Atlas of Canada*, 1915.
- ¹⁷¹ Rostecki, *op. cit.* pp. 145 – 149 and 189 – 190.
- ¹⁷² City of Winnipeg Archives, Legal Department File 3669.
- ¹⁷³ *Western Canada Contractor*, August, 1923, pp. 19 – 20, 24.
- ¹⁷⁴ *Manitoba Free Press*, June 9, 1923.
- ¹⁷⁵ The residence, owned by H.R. Johnson, had no street number. The 1926 Winnipeg Directory shows Victoria Crescent between St. Vital Road and Central Avenue. The houses were all on the south side of the street. Johnson's house was the 9th house or lot from St. Vital Road.
- ¹⁷⁶ Letter book of D.W. Bellhouse for the dates July 19, 1923 to July 8, 1924 in the possession of the author. Letters to Fraser are July 19 and 25, 1923.
- ¹⁷⁷ Letter book of D.W. Bellhouse, letter to Charles Kirk dated November 9, 1923.
- ¹⁷⁸ *Western Canada Contractor*, December, 1926, p. 36
- ¹⁷⁹ City of Winnipeg Archives, Committee on Public Improvements 2439. There is a letter from Bellhouse requesting to building a sidewalk across the boulevard on Ruskin Row for N.J. and J.P. Weidman. The 1927 Winnipeg directory shows that N.J. and J.G. Weidman resided at 1 Ruskin Row. The directory for 1926 has no addresses with odd numbers on Ruskin Row.

-
- ¹⁸⁰ This house is attributed to Bellhouse by family tradition.
- ¹⁸¹ The Winnipeg Directory for 1929 shows 1095 Wellington Crescent as a new house. The following year the occupant is Henry Gauer.
- ¹⁸² Photograph taken by the author.
- ¹⁸³ Winnipeg Building Permit 2252/07.
- ¹⁸⁴ *Manitoba Free Press*, September 26, 1908.
- ¹⁸⁵ *Winnipeg Tribune*, May 15, 1909.
- ¹⁸⁶ Winnipeg Building Permit 2245/10. The building has since been demolished.
- ¹⁸⁷ *Manitoba Free Press*, May 7, 1910.
- ¹⁸⁸ *Manitoba Free Press*, July 6, 1912. Mr. Rostecki has reported that this building was never completed.
- ¹⁸⁹ Winnipeg Building Permit 1534/14.
- ¹⁹⁰ Dominion Bridge Order Book. The information was extracted by Mr. Rostecki before the book was discarded from the Manitoba Archives. The building has since been demolished.
- ¹⁹¹ *Manitoba Free Press*, July 13, 1912.
- ¹⁹² Kathryn Young, mimeo note entitled, "Saint Edward's Roman Catholic Church – 836 Arlington Street," written for the Historical Buildings Committee.
- ¹⁹³ *Manitoba Free Press*, September 29, 1923.
- ¹⁹⁴ Letter book of D.W. Bellhouse, letter to H.R Johnson dated January 19, 1924.
- ¹⁹⁵ *Manitoba Free Press*, May 7, 1910.
- ¹⁹⁶ *Winnipeg Directory*, 1896 – 1940.
- ¹⁹⁷ Letter book of D.W. Bellhouse, letters to Marion Anderson of Elm Creek, Manitoba, dated February 15, 1924, April 3, 1924, May 6, 1924 and April 15, 1926.
- ¹⁹⁸ City of Winnipeg Archives, Civic Unemployment Works Committee, letter dated November 5, 1931 to the Committee from the Manitoba Association of Architects.
- ¹⁹⁹ City of Winnipeg Archives, City Engineering Files.
- ²⁰⁰ *Winnipeg Tribune*, January 21, 1933.
- ²⁰¹ He usually dropped the Montague and Stacpoole from his given names.
- ²⁰² Letter from H.M. Blaiklock of the C.N.R. to E.A. Bellhouse on the occasion of his retirement in 1961. Letter in the possession of the author.
- ²⁰³ The third given name, Stacpoole, was often dropped in various documents.
- ²⁰⁴ *Winnipeg Free Press*, April 13, 1916.
- ²⁰⁵ National Archives of Canada, military service records for Leonard Thorneycroft Bellhouse, 463023.
- ²⁰⁶ Photograph in the possession of the author.
- ²⁰⁷ There are five individuals in the years 1914 – 1919 with the surname Bellhouse listed on the internet site for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (yard.ccta.gov.uk/servlet/). Of the five, only Richard is a descendant of David Bellhouse senior (1764 – 1840).
- ²⁰⁸ A surviving cousin, Barbara Hill, of Winnipeg, was at the party. She was four at the time. Her only remembrance of the party was seeing her cousin coming down the stairs wearing his regimental kilt.
- ²⁰⁹ National Archives of Canada, military service records for Richard Wynyard Bellhouse, 421103. His death from artillery shelling is in a note dated May 6, 1916 from his commanding officer to Brigade Headquarters. A copy of this note is in the possession of the author.
- ²¹⁰ G.W.L. Nicholson, *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914 – 1919*, Ottawa, Queen's Printer, pp. 133 – 138, 544.
- ²¹¹ There were four letters: (1) From an officer with Christian name Roy to Dick Stacpoole, dated May 2, 1916 now in the possession of the author. (2) His death from artillery shelling is in a note dated May 6, 1916 from his Regimental Captain to Brigade Headquarters. A copy of this note is in the possession of the author. (3) and (4). Fragments of the letters from Charles Gordon and Ian MacKinnon are preserved on a memorial photograph of Bellhouse in the possession of the author.
- ²¹² National Archives of Canada, military service records for Teddy Bellhouse, 701207.
- ²¹³ National Archives of Canada, military service records for Edward Ainsley Montague Stacpoole Bellhouse, 2181328.
- ²¹⁴ Information on the rift between mother and daughter-in-law was obtained from Barbara Hill of Winnipeg.
- ²¹⁵ Photograph in the possession of the author.