



# Sarah Maddocks

1845

Rachel Hathaway Illustrations

## Monks and Church Coppenhall

Crewe developed out of two ancient towns.

Monks Coppenhall had only 33 families living there at the time of the first UK census in 1841. Most of them were working in farming.

Church Coppenhall had 84 families including farmers, labourers, brickmakers, tailors and blacksmiths.

Prior to the development and arrival of the railway, these two towns had mainly produced cheese as well as growing trees to provide fuel for the nearby Nantwich salt industry. With the opening of the railway in 1837, it changed the area forever.

The Grand Junction Railway Company had an existing trainline that ran through Crewe and so it was decided that it was a suitable location to build a new station.

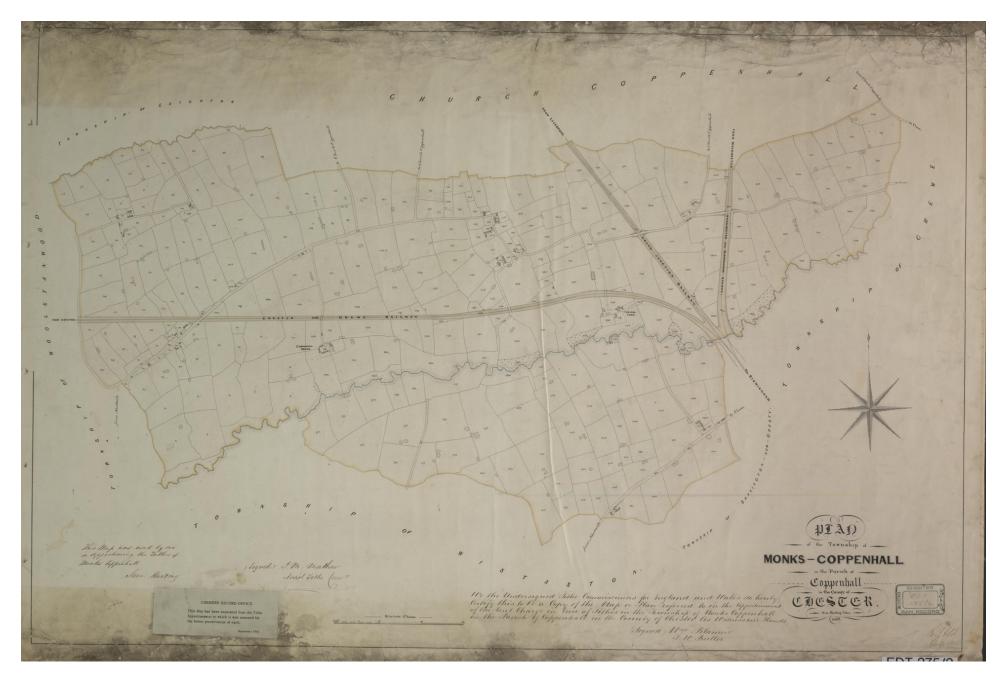
In 1840, Joseph Locke, the chief engineer of the Grand Junction Railway suggested they move the railway works to Crewe where there was available land to build the workshops on. They opened 3 years later in 1843.

There was not much skilled labour in the area so the railway chiefs also developed a new place for workers to move to with their families to start a new life. They wanted the workers to move with their families too so they set up schools, churches, hospitals and shops to attract them. This became known as Crewe.

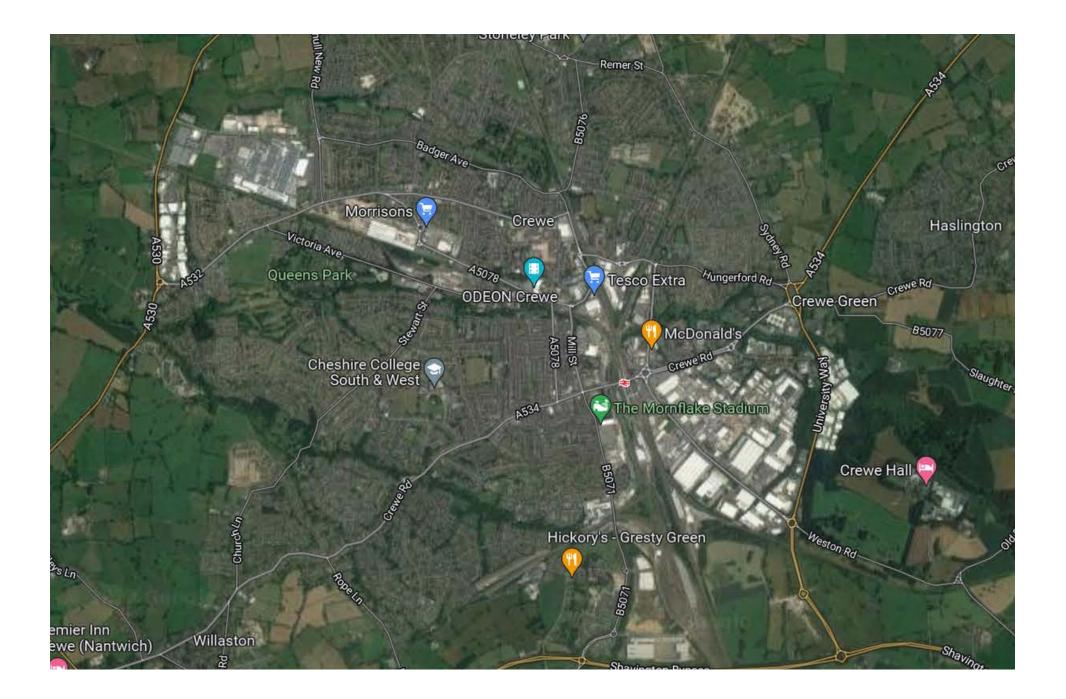
- Take a look at the maps below.
- It shows the railway running through Monks Coppenhall and Church Coppenhall in 1838, 1 year after the opening of Crewe Station.
- Can you see the station where Crewe built up around? Compare it to the map below from the present day.



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Take a look below at this newspaper article from 1846 talking about the new town- Crewe.

municipal matters. They regulate the library, newsroom, festivals, &c. They have no criminals. A new church is on the point of completion. It is built with blue or variegated brick, in the style of carly Norman, with tower, transept, &c. and is most comfortably fitted up inside. It occupies the centre of an open space, and on the left are the boys' school, the girls' school, and the infants' school. In the boys' school we saw lads under twelve drawing most careful and accurate outlines of locomotives; and in the girls' school we were gratified with the sight of about sixty of the most healthy children we ever saw. There was an air of grace about them, indicative of good-breeding and intelligence ; several of them were, indeed, quite beautiful. Their fair teachers exhibited, with considerable pride, proofs of their skill; and they sang with an attention to time which bespoke the care of their instructor. Music is a resource at Crewe, and the community is happy in the presence of Mr Jones, who excels on a dozen different instruments. His wife proudly observed. ' that if he was as big as he was clover, he would be a great man."

## The Railway Cottages

The new cottages had gas lighting in their homes which was a rare feature for homes at the time- they even had it 17 years before the Houses of Parliament!

Most of them also had a running water supply directly to their house or a local water pump, fireplace and a scullery for washing and drying their clothes.

The children of the railway workers could go to specialist built schools paid for by the railway as well as visit shops like pharmacies, grocers and mercers (textile dealers in silks and velvets).

Dorfold Street was built on new land in 1845 and consisted of 70 houses known as the railway cottages.

They were built by a building company called 'Messrs George Branson and Edwin Gwyther'. They promised to build the homes using "the very best materials of every kind."

- Take a look at the images below.
- Can you spot Dorfold Street on the maps?
- Take a look at the steam engines and factory that John would have worked in as well as a picture of people from his team.

Take a look below at this newspaper article from 1846 talking about the railway cottages.

The rooms are all capacious : the ground-floors are tiled, and, as the back and front are open, ventilation is perfect. Each house is supplied with gas ; the water is always on at present in the street, but is to be immediately introduced into the houses. The engineers, &c. pay 3s. 6d. a week, the labourers 2s. For water there is no charge, but for gas they pay in winter twopence per week for each burner. The fittings cost them nothing. There are baths, playground, news-room, library, schools, and assemblyroom. They pay one penny each for a bath when they use it, subscribe for papers and books, and pay twopence a week for each child's schooling. The company provide clergymen-one of the church of England, one of the church of Scotland-and pay L.50 a year to the surgeon, Mr Edwards, who contracts with the community at threepence a week for each family, medicine included ; and the wisdom of the arrangement is implied in the fact, that, since his appointment, there has not been a single death in the town-previously there were several.



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

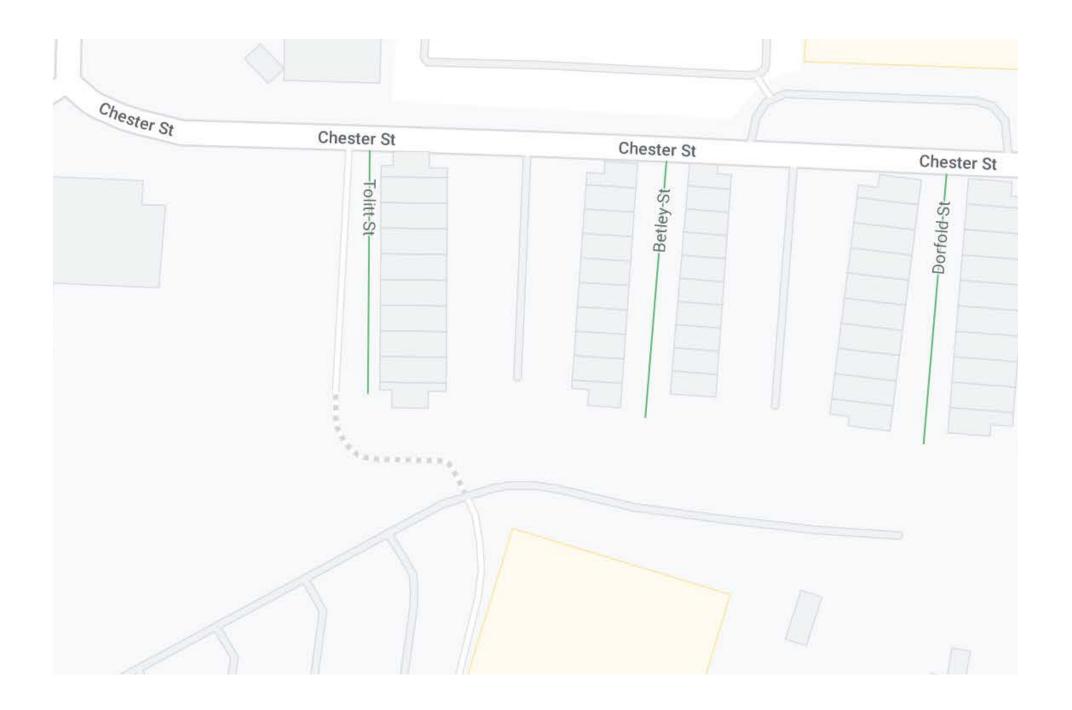
Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Railway Cottages Residents Association



Credit: Railway Cottages Residents Association

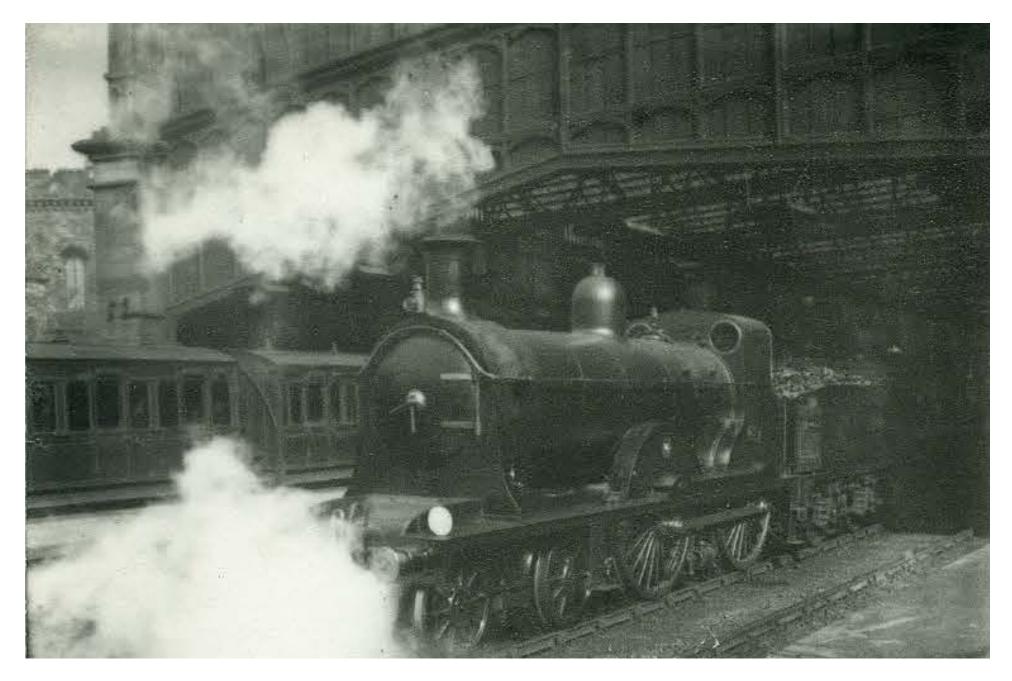


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Take a look at this map from 1975 showing the plans for Crewe. Can you spot Dorfold Street?

Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies





Credit: Crewe Library



Credit: The National Railway Museum



Credit: The National Railway Museum

## **The Superior Officers**

The Grand Junction Railway owned the houses and rented them out to their workers.

Superior officers lived close by in large manor houses in Chester street.

At the border of Chester Street and Lawrence Street, stood Chester Place, a manor house built for the Chief Mechanical Engineer at the time.

It's residents included the Chief Mechanical Officer, Francis Webb and John Ramsbottom.

Regular, on the ground workers living at the railway cottages of Dorfold Street would have lived very different lifestyles. The residents at Chester Place would have had 4 servants also living with them.

It has been said that were you to walk down the street and find you are on the same side of the road as a superior to you in the works; that it was common courtesy to cross the street to show your respect.

- Take a look at Chester Place in the images below.
- How is it different to the houses in Dorfold Street?



Credit: The National Railway Museum



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies



Credit: Cheshire Archives and Local Studies

## **Dorfold Street**

One of these cottages, was number 3 Dorfold Street.

It's first residents were John and Sarah Maddocks in 1845.

We know that the Grand Junction Railway wanted to bring in a skilled workforce from the surrounding countryside into Crewe and encouraged them to do so with better wages, modern homes and provisions for their whole family in the form of schools, hospitals and churches.

Life working for the Grand Junction Railway would have been a rewarding but exhausting job.

John would have had to start at 6am and begin his 12 hour work day. He would have had to clock into work by hanging up his work token.

If he was ever late and his token missing, he would be penalised.

At the same time the homes were being built, they were just starting their new life together as newlyweds.

Let's take a closer look at their life in this period following their journey to Crewe using census and archive material.

By 1846, the Grand Junction Railway merged with other railway companies to form the London and North Western Railway, who John would have worked for.

## Suggested activities

- Read through the information about Crewe's beginnings and the start of the Grand Junction Railway.
- Pupils to get into groups of 3.
- Each group should be assigned one of the 10 resources available below.
- Each group should have 15 minutes to study their resource and think about the questions on their resource question sheet.
- Once they have had research time with their resource, each group will spend up to 5 minutes preparing to present what they have discovered.
- Each group to present in order as this is also year order.
- Each group to present to the rest of the class.
- Once all groups have presented, discuss as a class the following questions.

#### Conclusion questions:

- Who can summarise John and Sarah's life?
- What do you think happened to Sarah?
- Why do you think that the trade directory showed the provisions business belonging to Sarah but John's will showed him leaving the business to her?

#### <u>Further information:</u>

- In the end, your pupils should be able to conclude that John and Sarah moved to Crewe for a better life. They should be able to track their progress throughout their life.
- You can also point out that we know John and Sarah were well educated and literate as they were able to sign their names on their marriage certificate. You can compare this to the mark by the couple above them.
- They moved from Cheshire to Crewe for a better life promised to them by the Grand Junction Railway company. They had a good home with running water and gas lighting which was very modern for the time.
- The cottages were intended for the workers of the railway and when John died we can conclude that Sarah had to leave her cottage at number 3 Dorfold Street. In 1871 she was a widower and by 1881, she was living next door at number 5 Dorfold Street. She would have moved there as we can now see that her son is a 'Mechanical Engineer' with the London North Western Railway (LNWR); allowing them to both live here.
- We know that her son then moves away abroad in 1889 and by the 1891 census, she is no longer living there.
- You might want to hear from your pupils about what they think happened to Sarah.
- You might also want to explore what a census is with your pupils. You can find out more about this in the short video on our website.
- You might also want to explore what it was to be a 'Provisions Dealer' and selling groceries out of her house.
- You might also want to point out the 1851 census where we can see 22 Chester Street with Francis Trevithick living with 3 servants. He was the the Locomotive Superintendent and would have lived opposite Dorfold Street. You can compare and contrast how different these Victorian homes would have been. It has been said that were you to walk down the street and find you are on the same side of the road as a superior to you in the works; that it was common courtesy to cross the street to show your respect which John would probably have had to do.

#### **Resource 1**

Take a look at John and Sarah's wedding certificate. They got married 3 years before they moved to Crewe in 1845.

Read the document to answer the questions below.

- 1. What date did they get married?
- 2. Where did they get married?
- 3. Take a look at John and Sarah's wedding certificate next to "This Marriage was solemnized between us,". They have been able to sign their names. Then take a look at the wedding certificate of the couple above them. The mark there symbolises the couple's signature as they were not able to write. What does this tell us about John and Sarah?
- 4. What were both of their father's jobs?
- 5. Why do you think it asks about their father's jobs and not their mothers?
- 6. What are John and Sarah's job?
- 7. What do you think these jobs involved?
- 8. How old are John and Sarah?
- 9. When would they both have been born?

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Resource 1: John and Sarah's wedding certificate, 1842

#### **Resource 2**

Take a look at the 1851 Census.

- What is a census?
- Can you spot John and Sarah Maddocks?
- Where are they living?
- Number 3 Dorfold Street was a 2 bedroom house. Who was living in the house at this time?
- What was John's job?
- What do you think this job involves?
- Who else can you see on the census?
- Can you find Francis Trevithick also?
- Who else was living with Francis Trevithick and what were there roles?
- Francis Trevithick was the Locomotive Superintendent and despite living just down the road at number 22 Chester Street, would have lived a strikingly different life to John and his family.
- Take a look at the rest of the street. Was anyone born in Crewe? Why do you think this is?
- Who is the 'Head' of the house? Why do you think they were called the Head?

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Resource 2: 1851 Census

#### **Resource 3**

Take a look at the 1861 census.

- What is a census?
- Can you spot the Maddock family?
- Where are they living?
- Who lives in their home?
- What are their jobs?

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Resource 3: 1861 Census

#### **Resource 4**

Take a look at the wedding certificate of John and Sarah's eldest daughter, Sarah-Ann.

- Who does Sarah- Ann marry?
- What year did they get married in?
- Where did they get married?
- What else do you see on the certificate?
- What was the job of her father (John) on the certificate?

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Resource 4: 1869 marriage certificate of Sarah Maddocks (daughter)

### **Resource 5**

Take a look at the 1871 census.

- What is a census?
- Can you spot anyone from the Maddocks family?
- What else can you read?
- Where is John?
- What is Sarah's job?
- What do you think this means?
- A provision dealer is someone who sold food, mainly groceries including fruits, vegetables and sometimes meat.
- There was no fridge at 3 Dorfold Street. How do you think Sarah ran her business without a fridge?

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#### Resource 5: 1871 Census

### **Resource 6**

Take a look at the will of John Maddocks from 1870.

- It is a very difficult document to read.
- In his will, he hands the business onto Sarah as a provisions dealer if she feels fit to run it. It might be possible that John no longer works for the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) anymore and is self employed as a provisions dealer, then passing it onto Sarah.
- We know that he would have worked 12 hours a day in his role on locomotives at the Railway Works so he would not have been able to continue his job and run a provision business.
- We know that his will was written in 1870 and the 1871 census shows us that Sarah is a widow. What do you think this tells us?
- Can you read any words below?

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Resource 6: John Maddocks' Will

Take a look at this Trade Directory in Crewe from 1874.

- What can you see?
- What do you think 'Provision dealer' means?
- A provision dealer is someone who sold food, mainly groceries including fruits, vegetables and sometimes meat.
- There was no fridge at 3 Dorfold Street. How do you think Sarah ran her business without a fridge?

### CREWE AND MON

Lilyan William, shopkeeper, 114, Earle st Linnell Mrs. Thomas, straw bonnet maker,

45, West street

Llewellyn Henry, hairdresser and perfumer, 25, Earle street

Lord John, M.D., surgeon, Havelock house Lord Richard, M.D., surgeon, Gatefield house

Lovett John, builder, 18, Victoria street Lowe Thomas, tailor, Edleston road

Lynch The Misses Esther and Mary, milliners and dressmakers, Market street

McBlain Robert, day school, 48, Mill street McEwen James, beer retailer, 174, Mill st McKay James, draper, 91, Wistaston road McNeil James Norton, chemist, 77, Victoria street

McNeill William, tailor and draper, 106, Nantwich road; h. 116, Nantwich road

Maddocks Mrs. Sarah, provision dealer, 3, Dorfold street

Mallay Charles, clerk, 27, Nantwich road

Resource 7: 1874 Trade Directory

Take a look at the 1881 Census.

- What is a census?
- Can you spot anyone from the Maddocks family?
- What is their relation to each other?
- Where are they living?
- What are their jobs?
- Can you find the 'Head' of the family?

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#### Resource 8: 1881 Census

Take a look at the Crewe Chronicle from the 25th May 1889.

- What can you read?
- Can you spot anyone from the Maddocks family?

FORTHCOMING SALES BY AUC-TION at Crewe, by MR. TAYLOR :-FRIDAY. May 24th, at his AUCTION MART, HEATH-STREET, Aungal Sale of PAPER HANGINGS. PAINT, and Wire Nails. Sale at 2 and 6.30. SATURDAY. May 25th, at his MART, a neat collection of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, die., removed from the country. Sale at 2.30. MONDAY. May 27th, at his MART, valuable Trichord PIANO and a neat collection of HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, belonging to Mrs. Bullock, Garfield House, who is leaving Crewe. Sale at 2 o'clock. SATURDAY, June 1st, at 5, DORFOLD STREET, the FURNITURE and Effects belonging to Mr. J. T. Maddocks, who is going abroad. Sale at 2 o'clock. WEDNESDAY, June 5th, at the EUSTON COFFEE TAVERN, two DWELLING-HOUSES, numbered 129 and 131, in Mill-street, Crewe. Sale at 7 p.m. Resource 9: The Crewe Chronicle, 25th May 1889

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take a look at the 1891 Census.

- What is a census?
- Can you spot anyone from the Maddocks family?
- What do you think has happened to them?
- Has your answer changed now that you have heard everyone else discuss their resource?

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#### Resource 10: 1891 Census

## The Victorians

Sarah Maddocks and her family were living in Crewe at the time of the Victorian period.

This was during the reign of Queen Victoria between 1837-1901.

Life during the Victorian period was very different to what we know now.

Our homes would have been very different too. The way we power our machines, what our homes look like and even how we go to the toilet have all changed!

# A Victorian family

The first families in Crewe first settled here because of Crewe Works.

When Crewe Works first moved to Crewe in 1843, they needed people who were strong with special engineering skills to move to Crewe to work in the factories building the locomotives.

To encourage people to do this, they also invited their families to join them too.

Crewe Works built schools, churches, hospitals and shops to attract families to come here.

That's how Crewe became a town!

- Explore the image below of Francis Webb and his family.
- He was the Chief Mechanical Engineer of Crewe Works from 1870 to 1903.
- He was well known for managing Crewe Works well and using innovative new technology and power to grow the capacity of the Works.
- This picture was taken in the early 1970's when he had just started this job.
- Explore the clothes they are wearing and compare them to the clothes we wear now.



Credit: The Crewe Heritage Centre

## Victorian Homes

These Victorian railway cottages in Dorfold Street were built to provide good homes for the Grand Junction Railway workers and their families.

They would have been made from bricks and local stone from Crewe as well as other materials like glass brought in from the local area via train.

Number 3 Dorfold Street where Sarah Maddocks lived with John had gas lighting, running water and a privy in the garden. It also had a fireplace in the living room.

Take a look at the images below of a Victorian home.

- Take a look at the images below.
- What do you notice about the rooms?
- Can you see any electricity or technology?
- How does it compare to the technology in your home?



Credit: The Museum of the Home



Credit: The Charles Dickens Museum

## A Victorian toilet

When, Sarah and John first moved in, they wouldn't have had a flushing toilet like we do now.

They would have had a privy.

Their privy might have been a hut in the garden. Inside the hut would have been a wooden shelf with a hole in it. The hole would have covered a bucket or a pot.

The privy would have been emptied by someone called the Night Soil Men. This job involved collecting the buckets in the middle of the night so that by the time people woke up in the morning, their privy was clean again!



## Additional resources



• Watch the short video about the railway cottages.