

NORMANHURST AND THE BRASSEY FAMILY

From 'Normanhurst and the Brassey Family' by George Kiloh © 2017, Battle and District Historical Society, <http://battlehistory.btck.co.uk>

Today, perhaps, it is only architects whose names live with their engineered creations. Those who build bridges, roads and railways are hidden within the corporations responsible, but in the nineteenth century they could be national heroes. They could certainly amass considerable wealth, even if they faced remarkable risks in obtaining it. One of the – perhaps the greatest – was the first Thomas Brassey.

Brassey was

“probably the most successful of the contractors, was called a European power, through whose accounts more flowed in a year than through the treasuries of a dozen duchies and principalities, but he was such a power only with his navvies. “

Brassey's work took him and his railway business across the world, from France to Spain, Italy, Norway, what is now Poland, the Crimea, Canada, Australia, India and South America, quite apart from major works in the UK. His non-railway work was also impressive: docks, factories and part of Bazalgette's colossal sewerage and embankment project in London that gave us, among more important things, the Victoria and Albert Embankments, new streets and to some extent the District and Circle Lines. By 1870 he had built one mile in every twenty across the world, and in every inhabited continent.

To read more of this article about Normanhurst Court and the Brassey connection follow the link shown below. (*Since that time the gardens have been converted into a Caravan & Motorhome Club site but the landscaping for the original house is still in evidence. Peter Bolt*)



<http://btckstorage.blob.core.windows.net/site15733/Web%20O/O%202017%20NORMANHURST%20BRASSEYv2.pdf>