Building Engineering Services

THE GURNEY STOVE - A VICTORIAN ICON

&

THE LONDON WARMING AND VENTILATING COMPANY

PAUL G YUNNIE
Advert from ‘Hood on Warming Buildings by Hot Water’ Frederick Dye 1897
CONTENTS

Preface (5)
Introduction - Goldsworthy Gurney (7)
The Gurney Stove (8)
The London Warming & Ventilating Company Ltd (14)
Awards (20)
St Paul’s Cathedral (22)
Manufacturing (24)
The Gurney Stove to-day ‘at home’ (28)
Overseas (34)
Conversion (40)
Other Products (47)
Summary (53)
Acknowledgements (55)
References (57)
Publications Summary (59)
Cathedrals (61)
Other Religious Buildings (63)

“Engineering is the art of directing the great power in nature, for the use and convenience of man” Thomas Tredgold (1788-1829).
PREFACE

From being a young schoolboy in Southampton in the 1940’s to the present time I have always been interested in history and, in particular, castles, cathedrals and abbeys. I guess it started with a school outing to Gloucestershire to visit Prinknash Abbey and then over to Monmouthshire to see Tintern Abbey. This prompted requests to my father for Sunday outings to the likes of Portchester Castle, Salisbury Cathedral and Romsey Abbey.

When we moved to the Worcester area a whole new collection of buildings drew me to them. Not least was Worcester Cathedral that dominated the south end of the shopping area and looked out from its lofty height to The County Cricket Ground, the Malvern Hills and beyond to its sister cathedral, Hereford.

Worcester Cathedral was one of those cathedrals that installed Gurney Stoves for heating the main body of the church. Sadly, they have been replaced but one still remains in the cloisters as part of the history of the cathedrals’ infrastructure.

This started a lifelong interest all things heating that somehow lead me into the industry and thus to that wonderful gathering of the CIBSE Heritage Committee, of which I was proud to serve as vice chairman for many years.

A further incentive to look at how great English & Welsh cathedrals were built, and therefore heated, came from reading Ken Follett’s magnificent book The Pillars of the Earth.

The historic facts have been put together with available information. I make no apology for certain assumptions, particularly with reference to the manufacturing of the stoves. I hope that this narrative might bring forth further information and justify a second look at the history of The London Warming & Ventilating Company.

I hope that you enjoy reading about the stove and the company as much as I have enjoyed researching and writing this short history of what I think of as a Victorian Icon.

Paul G Yunnie. 

December 2020
Young Goldsworthy Gurney

Korean 1985 stamp depicting the Gurney Steam Carriage of 1825

Model of Gurney Steam Carriage at the Science Museum London

Sir Goldsworthy Gurney
INTRODUCTION

The Victorians certainly built things to last. Unlike our modern thinking of built-in redundancy, they definitely built and manufactured for long life, maybe because of lack of knowledge regarding the ageing properties of materials or because they needed to have safety in their work. We can see that all around us in steam engines and boilers, machinery, structures and the like that still work or function and have stood the test of time.

One Victorian who epitomises the age was Goldsworthy Gurney (1793-1875), a Cornish Doctor who moved to London in 1820, and pursued a career as a lecturer/scientist/inventor. His interests were many, in 1825 he patented a steam carriage, in 1842 a patent for recovering heat from lighting fittings and in 1852 he was appointed to investigate the ventilation problems in the Houses of Parliament. Some would say that this later involvement was more dangerous than Guy Fawkes as he used flashes of gunpowder to study the flow and motion of air currents.

It’s not totally surprising then that these activities of investigating ventilation & heating would lead to look at a new way of warming large open areas within buildings. Hence, in 1856, he applied for a patent for a warm air stove – what has become known as The Gurney Stove.

A Practical Treatise on Warming Buildings by Charles Hood showing design by the son of Charles Sylvester
THE GURNEY STOVE.

According to Charles Hood in his book ‘A Practical Treatise on Warming Buildings’, Gurney ‘adopted’ a design of a cast iron cockle that he had been invented by the son of Charles Sylvester in 1830 – see accompanying diagram. Could this have been the forerunner or, at least, the inspiration for the Gurney Stove we now see in a number of English Cathedrals?

Whatever the answer to that conundrum, Gurney did patent his idea for a warm air stove in 1856 that had certain features similar in character to Sylvester’s idea.

*Letters Patent to Goldsworthy Gurney, of Bude, Cornwall for the Invention of “Certain Improvements in Warming and Moistening Air”.*

Sealed the 16th December 1856, and dated the 23rd June 1856. The patent (Patent No 1468) goes on to explain that the stove is,

‘An apparatus constructed to apply the laws of conduction and convection of heat for the purposes of warming and moistening air. The apparatus consists of a metallic vessel, having a number of plates extending from its outer surface standing with the plates vertical in a shallow trough of water. Heat is communicated to the interior of the apparatus by hot water, steam or fire, and from thence, under the laws of conduction, passes into the plates on the outside; part of the heat from the plates is communicated to the water in the trough below and part to the air between them above. As the air becomes warmed, the vapor escaping from its surface passes up into the air contained in the spaces between the plates’.
In practice the heat source within the stove was ‘fire’ that used coal, preferably anthracite. The whole idea being that the heat emitting from the perimeter ‘plates’ or fins would help to draw moisture from the trough and thus give a modicum of humidification.

The appliance could be used either as a free-standing stove or placed in a cellar with air passing over the unit to be heated by convection and then conveyed into the area, as with the cockle stove.
THE UNDERGROUND GURNEY STOVE

This illustration shows two Gurney stoves fixed in an underground chamber with the warm air rising up through a large grating in the floor of the church. In addition to the fresh air supply to the base of this chamber, there is a return warm air duct brought from the far end of the church so that not only is the warmed air re-heated, but also a more even distribution of the heat is ensured. The stoves themselves are fixed within the chamber so that there is no difficulty in stoking them.
Hood on Warming Buildings by Frederick Dye 1897 showing Gurney Stove in cellar or crypt
In the third edition of Hood’s ‘A Practical Treaty upon Warming Buildings by Hot Water’ of 1897, rewritten by Frederick Dye, he illustrates this later application but describes floor standing units thus:-

‘The Gurney stove embraces in a most successful and practical manner the utility of gills or flanges attached to heating surfaces. The stove is circular in form with gills standing out all around its circumference. A very unique feature is in the gills which terminate in a water trough running around the stove to receive them. The object of the water trough is to provide the necessary degree of humidity to the warmed air, and a more successful plan could hardly be considered. This stove (a battery of them) has the reputation of successfully warming St. Paul’s Cathedral when all other efforts have failed. The Gurney stove is made for use in exposed positions for ordinary warming purposes, as well as in stove chambers for heated air works’.

The beauty, and probably attraction, of the Gurney Stove was the simplicity of its installation. Other than placing and erecting the stove in position there was only one connection to make, that of a flue to take and remove the combustion gases to the outside. This would make the initial costs attractive against a wet heating system with boiler and its pipes conveying water or steam to heat emitters.
The downside being the charging of coal, clearing of the ash and replenishing the water. Otherwise, they were maintenance free.

*Stoking up at Hereford: these magnificent Victorian stoves – Gurney’s Patent, the London Warming and Ventilating Co. – have heated many draughty cathedral naves and transepts, as they still do at Hereford*
THE LONDON WARMING & VENTILATING COMPANY LIMITED.

The London Warming & Ventilating Co (henceforth referred to as LWVC or the company) was formed in 1854 by Charles Sumner and Robert William Kennard (1800-1870). For whatever reason, Goldsworthy Gurney decided to sell his patent for the stove. It was purchased by LWVC in 1858 and in 1861 they filed an Amendment Disclaimer and Memorandum to the Gurney Patent and thus were given the sole privilege to make, use, exercise and vend Gurney’s patent for a period of 14 years.

Robert William Kennard. (1800 – 1870) Railway Chairman, Politician & topical writer

Very little is known about Sumner but Kennard had many interests particularly in the iron industry. One such company was the Falkirk Iron Co in which he had invested in 1830. The possible significance of this will become clearer later in this narrative.
Kennard was a real Victorian entrepreneur. He had interests in various ironworks and railway projects in the UK and continental Europe. In his ‘spare time’ he was, at various times, a Justice of the Peace, Deputy Lieutenant of Monmouthshire and Sheriff of London & Middlesex, and if that wasn’t sufficient he was twice elected MP for the Isle of Wight.

Robert William Kennard. (1800 – 1870) Railway Chairman, Politician & topical writer

Enter William Woodcock (1814-1874) who seems to have had some involvement with Goldsworthy Gurney in the development of the Gurney Stove. He became the first Managing Director of the company, having had some experience in steam boiler development following the Smoke Nuisance Act. He was an Associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers where he presented a paper entitled ‘Means of Avoiding Visible Smoke from Boiler Furnaces’. He is variously referred to as the Managing Director, Director, Manager and Secretary. In 1870 Woodcock purchased the company from the shareholders and continued with the company until his death in 1874. For a time, he was assisted in his management of the company by his son, William Hugh Woodcock (1844-1908) who was employed by the company between 1865 and 1867.
One of the interesting features of the company is found in their advertising. An enormous amount of information is given to the management; the various London addresses/offices of the company; clients and awards. Hence, we know that by 1874 they had moved from their offices at Abingdon Chambers, 12 Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W., where they had certainly been in 1868, to 23 Abington Street.

Another move took them to 32 Henrietta Street in Covent Garden, W.C. by 1884 and then to 105 Regent Street (The Quadrant) W. by 1897, where A P Florence appears to have taken over as the Manager of the company. A further move to 2 Percy Street, Rathbone Place W.1 and then to 20 Newman Street, W. by 1911. By 1874 the company had established an office in Paris at 12 Boulevard St. Martin.

Looking through the adverts we see the number of clients increasing for the stoves. In the early adverts of 1869, they list the Houses of Parliament; the Department of Science & Art; St Paul’s Cathedral; York Minster, and 14 other cathedrals plus 1,000 churches & other buildings too numerous to name. By 1874 they have added St George’s Chapel, Windsor and another 17 cathedrals as well as 2,200 other premises.

In 1884 Llandaff Cathedral was added and 1897 saw Exeter, Gloucester, and Lincoln Cathedrals were also added to the list of installations with the boast of 10,000 buildings utilising their stoves.

Another consideration was the fact that LWVC also offered a range of smaller stoves and these may have been utilised to embellish the numbers! Nevertheless, a seemingly successful company with the Gurney Stove as its flagship product.

To be noted is that the company changed its name early in the 20th century, dropping the word Ventilation, to become The London Warming Co Ltd. They also introduced a new company by name, The Anthracite Stove Co. – see 1911 advert page 48.
Advert from 1868.

Advert from 1874.

Advert from 1884.
THE LONDON WARMING AND VENTILATING COMPANY, LTD.
105 Regent Street (The Quadrant), London, W.
ESTABLISHED 1834.
Contractors to H.M. War Office, Admiralty, Home Office, &c. &c.
A. P. FLORENCE, MANAGER.

Proprietors of the
PATENT "JACKSON" AND "REVERTIVE" OPEN GRATES.

Sole Agents for
CHOUBERSKY, "SALAMANDRE" & OTHER CONTINUOUS BURNING STOVES.
Suitable for Entrance Halls, Corridors, Billiard Rooms, Studios, &c., and specially adapted for burning most successfully
ANTHRACITE (Smokeless) COAL,

Effecting a saving in fuel of more than 30 per cent., with increased heat, and warmth under perfect control.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE ON APPLICATION.

Proprietors of "GURNEY" Stoves for Warming Churches, &c., as specified by leading Architects, and as used in St. Paul's, Salisbury, Exeter, Gloucester, Lincoln, Llandaff Cathedrals, York Minster, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, &c. Twenty-two Cathedrals, and over 10,000 Churches, Schools, Government and other public and private buildings successfully warmed by our system.

ECONOMICAL, EFFICIENT,
CHEAP, DURABLE, SAFE.

MANY PRIZE MEDALS AWARDED.

PARTICULARS AND ESTIMATES FREE.

Advert from 1897
Early 20th century adverts

**CHURCH HEATING**

**THE GURNEY STOVE**

*for Anthracite or Coke*

**THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT STOVE YOU CAN INSTALL**

By its special construction a healthy temperature is maintained in every part of the building. It will give you the best trouble-free service and cost less in upkeep than any other heating system. Installed in over 10,000 Cathedrals, Churches, Schools, Government and Public Buildings.

*Price List No. 23 giving full particulars, post free.*

**THE LONDON WARMING CO. LTD.**

2 Percy St., Rathbone Place, London, W.1
AWARDS

From their 1874 advert it can be seen that the company had exhibited and won prize medals at a number of exhibitions – Dublin 1859; London International Exhibition of 1862; Exposition Universelle Paris in 1867, and Beauvais in 1869.

Type of medal awarded at London 1862 International Exhibition

Type of medal awarded at Paris’s Exposition Universelle in 1867
Their ability to win awards even comes down to us today. A Gurney Stove, transferred from Salisbury Cathedral (where it had been used for a time as a collection box see page 33) is now in the Bude Castle Museum Cornwall, the former home of Goldsworthy Gurney. In 2019 it won *The Object of the Year* at that years Cornwall Heritage Awards. Thus, completing the circle in the history of the Gurney Stove.
One of the earliest installations for Gurney Stoves was at St Paul’s Cathedral, as LWVC were proud to proclaim in their adverts. Here as many as thirteen stoves were installed in 1864 the crypt. In his rewriting of Hood on Warming Buildings Frederick Dye says, "This stove (a battery of them) has the reputation of successfully warming St Paul’s Cathedral when all other efforts had failed"

The idea was presumably to heat the crypt so that the warm air rose through the floor gratings into the main body of the cathedral. The stoves installed in 1864 served the cathedral until replaced by a combined warm air and hot water heating system installed by G N Haden & Sons in 1912.

The accompanying drawing shows the position of the stoves
St Paul’s Cathedral, plan of the Crypt 1875/76 showing positions of the Gurney stoves
MANUFACTURING

A disappointing feature of their adverts is the lack of information regarding where the stoves were manufactured. All their addresses seem to be in commercial rather than industrial areas of the city. They appear to be the addresses of offices and/or showrooms, not suitable as iron foundries for heavy castings to be made. So where was the iron foundry and who made them? One theory, and it’s only a theory, they may have been made at The Falkirk Iron Co Ltd in Falkirk, Scotland.

Why? Well, it has already been noted that one of the original proprietors of LWVC was Robert William Kennard who had invested in Falkirk Iron Co in 1830 and had taken over the company in 1849, a few years before starting LWVC.

Robert William Kennard
Managing Director
Falkirk Iron Co
Kennard was also involved in the Blaenavon Coal & Iron Co in South Wales where he gave employment to his son Thomas William Kennard (1825-1893) and who, together with his younger brother Henry Martyn Kennard (1833-1911) established the Crumlin Viaduct Works 12 miles south of Blaenavon.

Then we have William Hugh Woodcock (1844-1908), son of LWVC’s first Manager, serving his articles at no less a place than The Crumlin Viaduct Works where he worked for two more years as an assistant. So, there we have a number of connections between the two families and their enterprises.

The Crumlin Viaduct Works of the Kennard Bros.

Further evidence appears many years later with the formation of Allied Ironfounders Limited. This grouping of 17 companies formed in 1929 included The Falkirk Iron Co Ltd. – then run by the great-grandson of R W Kennard, Captain H J Kennard RN.
The Allied Ironfounders 449-page Export Catalogue of c1963 includes on page 112, a full-page entry for no less a product than Gurney Stoves and Fittings. QED?

What is not in doubt is the skill with which the castings for the stoves were made. Credit must go to the pattern makers and foundrymen for the precision of the castings. The parts had to fit exactly to prevent products of combustion escaping. The original coal fired stoves had nothing between the fire and the cast iron casing. When the stove was later converted to oil and/or gas firing then refractory fire bricks were built internally to safely allow pressure jet burners to fire into the stoves without directly impinging on the outer cast iron casing.

Originally the stoves were offered in three sizes and two forms. They were measured by the areas they could heat and serve – 120,000 cu ft, 70,000cu ft and 25,000cu ft. One form was a top dome surmounted with a crown or an alternative of a hot plate top. It is doubtful that many Gurney stoves were installed in a cellar beneath the area to be heated, as suggested in Dye’s book, but would have been installed and fitted on the floor area to be heated. Similarly, not many seem to have been supplied with the hot plate – only one such unit survives that was particularly suited to its environment as shall be seen later. There was even provision made for a fresh-air inlet in the base.

In the Allied Ironfounders c1963 export catalogue it shows that they were then offering five models, still offering either a dome or flat hot plate top – with the relevant heating power given as 120,000, 70,000, 30,000 & two at 15,000 cu ft.
GURNEY STOVES AND FITTINGS

No. 237 A
WITH CROWN TOP.

Specially constructed for heating Churches, Halls, Etc.

Can also be supplied with Flat Top.

Illustration shows A, B, C, and D patterns, New D is the same but has lion paw feet instead of base and water pan.

SIZES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>New D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Height</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>39 ins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exterior Diameter</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>22 1/2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interior Diameter</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heating Power about</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>70,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000 cub. ft.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE SHIPPING SPECIFICATION.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cubic Measurement</td>
<td>87-1/2</td>
<td>62-1/2</td>
<td>40-26</td>
<td>25-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Weights</td>
<td>c. q. l.</td>
<td>c. q. l.</td>
<td>c. q. l.</td>
<td>c. q. l.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 112
THE GURNEY STOVE TODAY.

At Home -

The amazing thing about these stoves is that they are extant and are still performing the roll that was given to them and in their original settings. They all started out burning solid fuel but those still in use have been converted to fire with other fuels – some were converted to oil but now all are using natural gas.

Examples can be seen in at Ely, Peterborough, Chester and Hereford Cathedrals as well as Tewkesbury Abbey. In addition to these, Worcester Cathedral has a redundant static display in the cathedral cloisters and, as already stated, another can be found at the Bude Castle Museum. The dome top of another, complete with crown, is on display at the Bath at Work exhibition in Bath.

This Gurney Stove originally in Chichester Cathedral that was saved by Neville Brown is now in the care of the National Tram Museum in Crich, Derbyshire displayed in the museum’s Victorian Trade Exhibition.
Chester Cathedral

Gurney Stove at Chester Cathedral
A testament from Ely Cathedral in 1953 says ‘The floor area of Ely Cathedral is 48,000 sq.ft and it is the third oldest cathedral in England. Of the seven Gurney Stoves installed over 50 years ago, only five are ever lit at the same time, and a temperature of 50 degrees to 55 degrees is maintained throughout.’
Tewkesbury Abbey

Gurney Stove in Tewkesbury Abbey

Photograph: David Peters Photography
Gurney Stove now redundant at Worcester Cathedral

This Gurney Stove was removed from Salisbury Cathedral where it served as an offering box and is now on display in the Bude Castle Museum.

Dome of Gurney Stove (size A) stove in the Bath at Work Exhibition, Bath Spa
Overseas –

The company claims in one of their 1876 adverts ‘The company’s operations in France, Russia and on the continent generally, are very extensive and rapidly increasing. “Sadly, there is little evidence of this extensive overseas operation other than just in a few instances”.

RUSSIA. The former Anglican Church at 56 English Embankment in St. Petersburg still exists, despite the various conflicts that the city has endured. The church had originally been established in the 1730’s by the British Factory, an organisation of leading merchant families who controlled the trade between Imperial Russia & Great Britain. It was originally established in the 1730’s and rebuilt between 1814-1816 in Palladium style by the Italian architect Giocomo Quarenghi. More renovations were carried out in the 1870’s to the interior in the Gothic Revival style.
Recent access, prior to the conversion to concert hall, showed many features including, would you believe, a Gurney Stove, or at least a remnant of one. The accompanying illustration shows the cap of one stove that still survives. The stove, or probably stoves, were probably installed during the 1870’s interior improvements. The building is now used by the St Petersburg Music Conservatory.
The most remarkable survivor has been in the coldest place possible, Antarctica. Captain Robert Falcon Scott (1868 - 1912) led two expeditions to the South Pole 1901 - 1904 and 1910 - 1913.
In their c1915 catalogue, LWVC claim to have ‘satisfactorily heated the Discovery for the first expedition’. Scott’s base camp for his second, doomed, attempt was at Terra Nova hut at Cape Evans. The hut, 50ft long, 25ft wide and a height to the eaves of 9ft, had been prefabricated in London and test assembled in Lyttelton, New Zealand prior to its final erection in Antarctica. The significance of this site to our story is that, according to LWVC’s catalogue of c1915 they supplied heating and cooking stoves to the expedition. With winter temperatures as low as -45°C this equipment was essential for the 25 men, ponies and mules. There was a galley cooking stove in the messdeck, a small stove in the stables and a Gurney stove in the officer’s wardroom.

Remarkably much of the contents of the hut have survived for over 100 years, including the Gurney and cooking stoves. This Gurney stove had a flat top on which stood a water tank in which to melt ice blocks. Usually burning anthracite but on this occasion using compressed coal briquettes. It is the smaller stove that is mentioned in the Allied Ironfounders catalogue, New D, heating power about 15,000 cu.ft. and standing 39ins.

But, by 2008 the Gurney stove, flue and water tank were suffering from heavy corrosion. As part of a major conservation programme, the New Zealand based Antarctic Heritage Trust have managed to remove the corrosion, stabilise the metal and have applied a protective coating. A remarkable achievement of an amazing survivor.
Gurney Stove at Terra Nova before restoration

Gurney Stove at Terra Nova before restoration
Gurney Stove after restoration

Gurney Stove after restoration
An excellent example of how today’s Gurney Stoves have survived is Peterborough Cathedral. Following the successful conversion to gas firing of the Gurney stoves in Ely Cathedral in 1982 it was decided to convert those at Peterborough in 1990. Originally fired by solid fuel coke, they had been converted to oil firing in the early seventies. So, this was to be an oil to gas conversion, quite an undertaking in such an historic and busy building.

The external gas supply and stove conversion was in the hands of British Gas Eastern with John Hardiman (Heating) Ltd as the mechanical services contractor. The accompanying illustrations give some idea of the disruption to cathedral life as well as showing the various stages in the renovation and transition from oil to gas. The stoves were cleaned and black leaded. New refractory bricks were fitted. The eight Gurney Stoves continue to provide service to this day giving 120 years of continuous service.
Gurney Stove firing on Oil before its conversion to Gas
Trench dug in the South Transept for the gas main feeding the Gurney Stoves
Gurney Stove with crown and dome removed before being cleaned and black-leaded
Refractory Blocks being lowered into the reassembled Gurney Stove
The converted Gurney Stove now firing on Natural Gas
Advert from Academy Architecture Vol 20   1901
OTHER PRODUCT OFFERINGS

Other products offered by The London Warming & Ventilating Co included a number of heating and cooking stoves and at least one ventilating product. The latter was a Tobin Tube as illustrated by Joseph Constantine in his 1881 book ‘Practical Ventilation and Warming’. It is purported to having been supplied by the LWVC. The air is drawn into the room to be ventilated being ‘deflected over a trough of water to cleanse it from smuts and organic impurities. On entering the room air is introduced via a vertical tube to a height of around 4ft from the floor’.

As was seen in, the case of Scott’s hut in Antarctica, the company also supplied cooking ranges as well as numerous anthracite stoves, electric and gas fires as well as small domestic boilers. They were even a distributor for Beeston boilers.

Interestingly, in later adverts they show that they are distributors for the very ornate French Choubersky and Salamandre stoves. In fact, it appears that it was probably a Salamandre stove that was supplied to heat the Discovery for the 1901-04 expedition.
Advert for Stoves & Kitchen Ranges 1906

Advert for Anthracite Grates & Kitchen Ranges 1911
COAL & LABOUR SAVED
BY USING ANTHRACITE IN
PREFERENCE TO OTHER FUEL.

"KOOKSJOIE" RANGE
(EVEREADY SERIES) Florence Pats. 1337/15.

Being Specially Designed for this purpose
is the most Scientific and Economical
Fuel-Saving Range on the Market.

Advantages.

Very Economical
in Fuel.

Hot Water Service Day & Night.

No Re-Lighting
of Fires.

No Dirty Flues
to Clean.

Will burn the
year round with
next to no atten-
tion.

Demonstrations
daily.

Full particulars from Dept. 3.

LONDON WARMING AND VENTILATING CO., LTD.,
20, NEWMAN ST., OXFORD ST., W. 1.
(CENTRAL HEATING A SPECIALTY.)

Advert for Kooksjoire range 1918
Gurney Stove in Gloucester Cathedral

(now removed)
Gurney Stove in Rochester Cathedral
(now removed)
St Nicholas Church, Grosmont, Monmouthshire

Gurney Stove at St Nicholas Church
SUMMARY

What can be said with some certainty is that the company made their Gurney Stoves with pride. They were happy to emblazon their name in the casting around the diameter of the dome and acknowledge the inventor thus,

‘GURNEY’S PATENT. THE LONDON WARMING AND VENTILATING COMPANY’.

Photographs: Arlette Pengilly

Gurney Stove at Ely Cathedral.

The Stoves are quite brilliant. They are functional and aesthetic in their surroundings, particularly in cathedrals. They have a certain elegance and, with the crown on top, can even be said to be Regal.

Surely, Goldsworthy Gurney had no idea that he was inventing a product that would endure and stand the test of time.
St James the Greater Church, Ab Kettleby, Leicestershire
Photograph: James Breckon English Heritage

Gurney Stove at St James Church.
Photograph: James Brown Historic England
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My first thanks must go to my colleagues Frank Ferris and Brian Roberts, from the Heritage Group of The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), Together they have encouraged and assisted me with the layout. I would particularly like to thank my good friend of long-standing Frank Ferris who has offered great encouragement and given practical help editing the Gurney book and for bringing it to print and publication.

My starting point for the research was the web site of the Heritage Group of CIBSE –

www.hevac-heritage.org

The amount of information about the HEVAC industry contained on this web site is attributed to my aforementioned colleagues, Frank & Brian.

My most grateful thanks also go to,

Lizzie Meek, Programme Manager - Artefacts of the Antarctic Heritage Trust for photographs of Scott’s Hut at Cape Evans.

Anita Kempster-Palmer, PA to the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral for the copy of the British Gas report on the gas conversion of their Gurney stoves.

David Bruce at Ely Cathedral

Andrew More of Historic England for giving me access to their photographic library.

My thanks to Margaret for her forbearance, encouragement, copy-reading and endless cups of tea to sustain the ‘little grey cells’.
REFERENCES

1. Wikipedia,

2. Graces Guide to British Industrial History

3. These dates are not necessarily the dates of the move to new premises but are the dates of the adverts giving this information.

4. The 6 stoves in Chester Cathedral, although still in situ, have been decommissioned.

5. From a copy of the 1953 catalogue in the CIBSE Heritage Group library.

St David’s Cathedral Pembrokeshire

Lincoln Cathedral
Summary of Publications referred to in the book:-

1881 Practical Ventilation and Warming by Joseph Constantine

1885 A Practical Treatise upon Warming Buildings by Hot Water by Charles Hood

1897 A Practical Treatise upon Warming Buildings by Hot Water by Charles Hood rewritten by Frederick Dye

c1915 LWVC catalogue.

1953 LWVC catalogue

c1963 Allied Ironfounders export catalogue

1990 Gas Conversion of Gurney Stoves at Peterborough Cathedral British Gas Eastern

*In attempts to improve, it is always desirable to know exactly what progress has been made – to be able to measure the distance we have laid behind in our advance.*

Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford. (1753 – 1814)
Cathedral Buildings that had/have been heated by Gurney Stoves:-

Chester (6 No)
Chichester (1890’s)
Durham
Ely (7No) (1867)
Exeter (c1887)
Gloucester (1865) (4No) (1931)
   (1 from St Asaph’s Cathedral)
Hereford (1867)
Lincoln (c1890)
Llandaff
Norwich (RC)
Peterborough (8 No) (1900)
Rochester
St. Asaph’s
St. David’s
St. Paul’s (c1890)
Salisbury (c1860)
Wells
Winchester
Worcester
St James the Apostle Church Wigmore Herefordshire

St Mary the Virgin Church Yazor Herefordshire
Other Religious Buildings that had/have been heated by Gurney Stoves:-

Beverly Minster  
Southwell Minster  
York Minster  
Malmsbury Abbey  
Romsey Abbey  
Shaftesbury Abbey  
Tewkesbury Abbey (2 No) (1875)  
Christchurch Priory (1890)  
St. George’s Chapel, Windsor  
St James the Great Wigmore Herefordshire  
St Nicholas Grosmont Monmouthshire  
St Mary the Virgin Yazor Herefordshire
THE "GURNEY" STOVE

Heating Capacity from 4,000 to 120,000 cubic ft.
Prices from £6 to £10

"GURNEY" Stoves are used in most of the Cathedrals and in thousands of Churches, Schools, Government and other public and private buildings.

The "GURNEY" Stove is the best when it is desired to combine economy in use, efficiency, comfort, durability and safety, and the practical test of years has proved its complete success and reliability.

The quantity of fuel consumed by the "GURNEY" to secure the requisite heat in a building is much less than by any other heating apparatus. The atmosphere obtained is the most healthy and agreeable one which can be produced.

The temperature is practically the same in every part of the interior of the building of whatever shape.

Economy in management and freedom from all danger of fire and drafts are valuable features of the system.

Economical to Install. Economical for Fuel.

For particulars and prices see separate list.

L.W.Co.

USE ANTHRACITE COBBLES FOR THESE STOVES,

L.W.Co.