The Iron Horse

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron



With George Stephenson lined up to be their main man, At a pub in Yarm High Street they worked out their plan To lead trucks to the banks of the dark River Tees, So the colliers of Durham could export coal with ease.

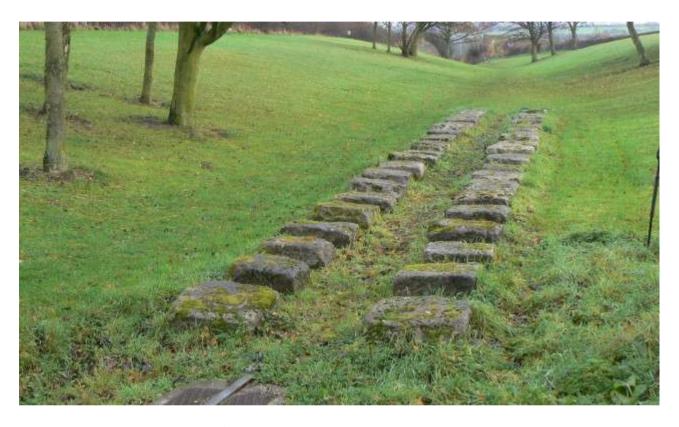
Ch: Trucks on the rails are the new driving force, Steam engines are coming to drive out the horse.

September the 14th dawned fine, dry and clear; Near Brusselton, crowds met to clap or to jeer. At the foot of the incline - Locomotion in steam -Some gathering passengers let out a scream.

They scrambled for seats on the waggons of wood, And the blue-scarv'd brakemen pushed in where they could. 'All ready?' asked Hackworth as the steam was turned on, Then the train struggled onwards towards Darlington.

Large crowds kept up with the train at the first, While lots of onlookers - they feared for the worst. Two waggons came off, but were levered back on And before long the train pulled into Darlington. As the driver set off for Stockton-on-Tees
Folk clung to the waggons like huge swarms of bees.
Past Yarm, the old road ran alongside the track A coach and four horses soon fell a way back.

They arrived at Stockton at a quarter to four,
Where the smutty-faced passengers shouted for more!
The guns fired out, and the band it struck up,
While the Iron Horse rested, its water to sup.



Stone sleepers on Brusselton Incline

