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These transcriptions relate to the several incarnations of the Seaman museum. It was always advertised that some of the specimens in the travelling museum (pre 1840) were acquired at the sale of the Leverian Museum in 1806. How much, of this material was preserved in the static museums, and how it was distributed, is unclear.

Seaman's Travelling Museum
John Seaman's museum, Ipswich
Simpson Seaman's museum, Hull
Charles Seaman's museum, Liverpool

1811 December 21: The Suffolk Chronicle

IPSWICH The beautiful Museum of Natural History that has excited so much attention in our Assembly Room, closes this evening. No one who wishes to improve themselves in this delightful study should omit this opportunity, which can never occur again, as it will immediately return to London.

On Tuesday the 10th inst., was married, John Seaman, Esq. of the Hill-house, Brockford to Miss Edwards, daughter of Mr. Thomas Edwards, of Brockford.

[A strange juxtaposition of snippets – neither or both may be relevant. The marriage is of John Seaman, farmer (c1789 – 187+) although Hill House is quite close to Kenton and Debenham the relationship is probably distant.]

1818 January 10: *The Ipswich Journal

MUSEUM. John Seaman, respectfully begs leave to acquaint the ladies and gentlemen of Ipswich, and the public in general, that he is removed to convenient premises in the Old Butter-market, which he has fitted up for a museum, where he purposes to exhibit his valuable and extensive collection of BIRDS, ANIMALS, REPTILES, FISH, &c. during the Winter. It is now ready for inspection, and will continue open every day (Sundays excepted) from 10 till 4. He begs leave to return his sincere acknowledgements for the patronage he has already received, and trusts, by unremitting assiduity, to be honoured with a continuance of those favours which it shall be his study to merit.
Birds sold or exchanged, and collections repaired.

[This reference to exhibiting the material during the winter suggest that he may tour with it during the summer months.]

1818 June 15: Norfolk Annals (1801 – 1850), Charles Mackie (ex. Norfolk Chronicle)
Seaman's Museum of Natural History was exhibited on Orford Hill, Norwich.

1819 September 21: Tyne Mercury, &c.

FOR THIS WEEK ONLY.

Patronised by their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Cumberland and Brunswick.

SEAMAN'S MUSEUM, FROM LONDON.

MR SEAMAN begs leave to inform the ladies and gentlemen of Newcastle and Its vicinity, that he has just arrived with his extensive and valuable MUSEUM, containing MANY THOUSANDS OF NATURAL CURIOSITIES.

The Proprietor takes the liberty to mention, that it contains the most rare QUADRUPEDS, BIRDS, FISHES, REPTILES, INSECTS, MINERALS, AND SHELLS, from every part of the world.

THE QUADRUPEDS are principally those whose habits and mode of life render it impossible to bring in living state.

THE BIRDS consist of the most rare and beautiful from the Deserts of Asia and the Indian Islands, Botany Bay, the interior of Africa, North and South America, and the West Indies; whose varied plumage or extraordinary form renders them worthy the attention of the admirers of the works of nature, from the King of the Vultures and Patagonian Penguin, to the various and splendid tribe of the almost insect Humming Bird.

THE REPTILES Consist of two Crocodiles, two GREAT BOA CONSTRICTOR SERPENTS 23 feet in length, destroying the Royal Panther; the BATTLE SNAKE, and various other serpents.

THE FISHES consist of the wonderful SWORD FISH, 11 feet in length, weighing 320 lb. the only one ever exhibited in the kingdom; the voracious SHARK; BLOOD FISH, BALANCE FISH, CAT FISH and many others.

This COLLECTION has been made at considerable expense, and with several years of unremitting and arduous research. To convey an adequate idea of it in the limits of an advertisement would be impossible. The Proprietor flatters himself that nothing on his part has been wanting to render his MUSEUM worthy the attention of those Ladies and Gentlemen who may honour him with that patronage and support he humbly solicits. The Collection is now exhibiting in a large and commodious Booth, on the PARADE GROUND, no Room could be had large enough to show the whole, it being positively the largest that travels the kingdom. The Exhibition is open from 10 in the morning till 9 in the evening.

Admittance - Ladies and Gentlemen, 1s. - Servants and Children, 6d.

Descriptive Catalogues, 6d. each, may be had at the Place of Exhibition.

BIRDS, &c. BOUGHT and SOLD.

1823 January: The Sporting Magazine

NATURAL HISTORY ... A few days subsequent to the above [January 16] was killed, near Woodbridge, that rare and beautiful bird, the Otis Tetrax, or little bustard, supposed not to have been seen in England for more than 30 years; it is now in J. Seaman's museum of birds and insects, in Ipswich.

[This relates to Simpson's father.]

1825 June 20: *Salisbury and Winchester Journal

SALISBURY—FOR WEEK ONLY.

Will be opened on Monday evening, June 20th, in the Market place,

THE LEVERIAN MUSEUM. Mr, SEAMAN begs to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of this City, that he has just arrived with that extensive and valuable MUSEUM, containing many thousands of Natural Curiosities, Quadrupeds, Birds, Fishes, Reptiles, Insects, Minerals, Shells, Fossils, and Coins,, from every part of the World; also, the heads of two CHIEFTAIN WARRIORS.

Admittance: Ladies and Gentlemen, 1s. working people and Children, 6d.

The exhibition is open from ten in the morning till nine in the evening. - Descriptive Catalogues (6d. each) may be had at the Place of Exhibition.

Birds, Beasts, Insects, Coins, &c., bought, sold, or exchanged.

1825 September 5: *Morning Post

WORTHING Sept. 3.

... For nearly a week, we have had the "Leverian Museum," a collection of Natural Curiosities of the highest interest, and to an extent never before exhibited in a state of loco motion: its contents being arranged with the greatest order and precision, in four spacious caravans, so constructed, as to be connected with each other, and to form a suite of apartments, or more properly speaking a spacious saloon. This collection (if we may give credence to the proprietor) is so called, from being partly formed of curiosities of the Museum formerly known by the same name in the Metropolis, and has been in a course of augmentation for twenty years.

1827 August 8: *Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser

NOW OPEN, PATRONIZED BY THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKES OF CUMBERLAND AND BRUNSWICK.

THE LEVERIAN MUSEUM. MR. SEAMAN, (as Manager for Society of Gentlemen, to whom this Collection belongs) to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Taunton, that he has just arrived with that extensive and valuable MUSEUM, containing many thousands of Curiosities, where may seen the progress of Art in the different ages of the World, exemplified in the variety of utensils each Nation in each Century hath produced. Natural History may in this place studied from Nature herself, so great the variety herein contained of the most curious productions of the Earth, Air, and Water. Part of this Museum was formerly the property of Sir Ashton Lever, exhibited for many years in London, and visited by the principal Nobility of England. The Manager takes the liberty to mention, that the Museum contains the most rare quadrupeds, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, minerals, shells fossils, and coins, from every part of the world. Also, the heads of two Chieftain Warriors, from the South Pacific Ocean, curiously tattooed, according to the custom of their country, and embalmed with such admirable style, as to preserve the natural character of those Islanders.

The Quadrupeds consist of African and American Lions, Panthers, Tigers, Leopards, Greenland and Russian Bears, &c. ...

[It continues with a list of exhibits similar to that described for Newcastle in 1819.]

1831 September 24: *The Suffolk Chronicle

... Mr Daniels, of Bucklesham Hall, last week shot a fine specimen of that rare bird the Hoopoe, which is now in the possession of Mr. seaman, Naturalist, Ipswich.

1833 March 1: *Hull Packet

LIVERPOOL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Mr Atkins, who has for some years travelled the country with a menagerie of wild beasts, is now forming an establishment in Liverpool, on the principle of the London Zoological Gardens. An extensive piece of land, situated in Rake-lane, a few hundred yards beyond the Necropolis, on the West Derby road, has been selected as the site of the gardens, and it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to find a place more admirably suited to the purpose. Nature seems to have done considerably more than half the business, and left to art only the task of completing it to best advantage. It is about twelve acres in extent, of which considerably more than half consists of irregular natural amphitheatre, from 30 to 40 feet below the level of the surrounding fields. Several of the buildings have already been commenced.

[Messrs. Seaman were at this time touring – with Atkins' menagerie? Shortly after this Atkins published a call for subscriptions stating that the gardens were expected to open in June 1833. They actually opened a little earlier on May 27.]

1833 May 25: *Hereford Times

... Messrs. Seaman's Leverian Museum of Natural curiosities was infinitely the most attractive exhibition in the fair; it afforded the parent an opportunity of giving a fairing, from which might be derived both instruction and amusement. ...

1833 May 31: *Liverpool Mercury

LIVERPOOL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

... He [Atkins] has gone to great expense, - he has run great risk, - he has broken up his travelling establishment, - in short, he has thrown himself unreservedly on the known liberality and public spirit of Liverpool, ...

[The Dublin Pilot report of the opening states that the "caravans of wild beasts and foreign birds" only arrived days before the opening.]

1835 May 30: *Oxford Journal

BANBURY, May 28

... Our fair was this day, as usual, numerously attended by the light-fingered gentry; but owing to the vigilance of the constables we have not heard of their having succeeded in the exercise of their trade to any extent. A number of exhibitions, amongst which

Wombwell's Menagerie, and Seaman's Museum, were most conspicuous, contributed to enliven the scene. ...

[This is the latest reference to the exhibition travelling that I have found so far. It is clearly well after the founding of the Liverpool Zoological Gardens.]

1836 May 20: *Chester Chronicle

Mr Atkins, Proprietor of the Liverpool Zoological Gardens, has offered them for sale to a public company, in consequence of his declining health.

1848 October 7: *The Suffolk Chronicle

IPSWICH MUSEUM, - Received since our last ... Mr. Seaman, (naturalist,) Ipswich, some fine specimens of British Insects.

1855: Melville's Hull Directory
ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

This beautiful spot is frequented by thousands during the summer months, and the liberal spirit which is manifested by the proprietors towards the humble classes, in attending them recreation at a cheap rate, on certain days, is highly commendable. The galas are of a superior description, and worthy the support of the sight-seeing public. These gardens are tastefully laid out, and enlivened with numerous varieties of flowers and plants: its sloping grass plots, winding walks, and beautiful fountains, with its specimens of rural architecture, render the general appearance both agreeable and interesting. The zoological collection consists of a number of animals, some of which are of a superior kind. Nearly opposite the garden lodge, is the residence of Mr Seaman, the artist to the establishment, who possesses a museum of no ordinary interest: his collection of stuffed birds and animals and other curiosities, may be seen gratuitously, and id well worthy of a visit.

...

J SEAMAN'S
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
OPPOSITE THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS,
SPRING BANK, HULL
OPEN EVERY DAY, ADMISSION FREE

This museum contains many thousand specimens of quadrupeds, birds, fishes, reptiles, insects, minerals, shells, etc., which to parties from the country, connoisseurs, naturalists, and others availing themselves of a visit, it affords a vast fund of information, pleasure, and instruction.

Birds, quadrupeds, etc., preserved in a superior manner, to imitate nature.

REFRESHMENTS of every description, on reasonable terms. Manufacturer of fireworks of every description; Alarm crackers, for giving notice of burglars 1s. 6d. each; Robber's Night Lights, 9d. each; Gamekeeper's Protective Pocket Lights, &c., &c.

1857 June 13: *Liverpool Daily Post

*POLICE COURT, YESTERDAY
Beer Sellers Cases*

... Charles Seaman, Derby Museum, Zoological Gardens, West Derby Road, Sunday trading. Fined 1s and 1s costs. ...

1865 August 12: *Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser

DESTRUCTION SEAMAN'S MUSEUM, AT HULL, BY FIRE.

About six o'clock on Wednesday evening last, information was received at the Parliament-street police-station that a conflagration was raging in the museum and tavern of Mr. Seaman, the well-known pyrotechnic artist, at the corner of Spring-bank and Derringham-street. The hose-cart was got out and taken to the spot with as little delay possible, but owing to the long distance which intervened between the scene of the disaster and the station-house, considerable time elapsed before the apparatus arrived on the spot. The large museum of natural curiosities, which is one of the most extensive and best private museums in the provinces, was contained in a large wooden erection, and in this building the fire was raging with great fury when the police hose arrived in fact, the place, with the whole of its contents, was one mass of flame. There was a light breeze from southward at

the time, which carried the flames in the direction of the tavern, which was also speedily in flames. The fire spread with such rapidity that it was impossible to save any of furniture, and nearly all the house contained fell a prey to the flames. We were informed that the fire originated in a wooden shed at the rear of the public-house, which was used as laboratory for the manufacture of fireworks. Mr. Seaman, junr., was in the act, of filling some rockets, or some such occupation, when the powder which he was using exploded, setting fire in a moment to the shed. A quantity of powder in the place was also exploded, as well as a great number of fireworks, the reports from which drew large numbers of persons to the spot. In an incredibly short space time the fire spread along the wooden walls of the building, quickly setting fire to the museum adjoining. In the explosion Mr. Seaman was severely wounded about the head and arms, and was at once conveyed to the Infirmary. When the police hose and one or two fire-engines arrived on the spot there was fortunately a plentiful supply of water, and the tavern was thus saved from entire destruction, but the salvation of the splendid museum and its varied contents being perfectly hopeless, the efforts of the police were directed entirely to the extinction of the flames in the brick building. In this they were successful about eight o'clock, at that time only a few rafters in the roof being in flames. In a drawer in one of the upper rooms there was a considerable sum of money in gold and silver, and when the fire in that portion of the house had been extinguished, some sovereigns and silver were found in the debris. So great had been the heat that some of the silver coins had partially melted. A report was current that Mr. Seaman was not insured; but be this as it may, his loss regards his valuable museum is irreparable. The exhibition was the result of years of collection, and there were in it some very magnificent specimens. Only a short time ago a large elephant, which, it is said, cost above £100 mounting, was obtained, but after the fire, the hide of the beast and his bones lay a shapeless mass amongst the ruins. The collection of eggs, of all kinds was a great feature of the museum, and the birds were of the brightest plumage. All, however, were totally destroyed. It is estimated that the damage will amount to upwards of £4000.

1865 August 19: *Louth and North Lincolnshire Advertiser

The late Fire Seaman's Museum.

- On Wednesday night last, a meeting was held in the ante-room of the Mechanics' Institute for the purpose of expressing public sympathy with Mr. Seaman on the destruction of his museum by fire, and for raising subscriptions wherewith to compensate his loss. Mr. J. C. Pettingell was voted to the chair, and after making some observations regretting the deplorable loss sustained by Mr. Seaman, and urging those present to assist in the work of raising subscriptions, he called upon any gentlemen to move such resolutions as were desirable. A committee was formed consisting of those present, with power to add to their number, and Ald. Bannister was elected president of such committee. Messrs. H. Lambert and J. R. Stephenson were elected vice-presidents, and the chairman treasurer. A committee meeting was appointed to be held on Monday evening next, and a vote of thanks having been awarded to the chairman, the business terminated. It was announced that subscriptions would be received by any member of the committee, or at the banks in the town.

1865 August 31: *Hull and Eastern Counties Herald

HULL BREWSTER SESSIONS. The annual Brewster Sessions were held in the Sessions Court, Town-hall, on Thursday. The magistrates on the bench were the Mayor (Mr H. J. Atkinson), and Messrs T. Ward, B. M. Jalland, W. B. Garrick, J. Gresham, and J. Lumsden. The unopposed licences having been granted, those, the granting of which was opposed or cases where the police reported against the applicant were heard. Mr. Seaman, landlord of the Polar Bear, applied for new licence. The Mayor informed him that complaints were made that the admission of the public to his museum on Sundays had occasioned great disorder. If the building had been still in existence the magistrates would have felt it necessary to administer a caution to the manner in which it was conducted. The licence was granted.