



Joseph Bramah was born at Stainborough Lane Farm and baptised in Silkstone church on 13th April 1748.

After suffering a serious injury to his leg in an athletics competition, he was unable to work on the farm and trained to become a cabinetmaker.

Bramah walked to London and found work there, including making cabinetry to surround an early type of flush toilet. He realised that he could improve the mechanism, and his invention was patented in 1778.



At some stage he changed his name to 'Bramah' thinking it more appealing to London society

In 1784 Bramah produced a new design of lock. It took 67 years for someone to be able to pick it, and the the principles of Bramah's lock are still in use today.

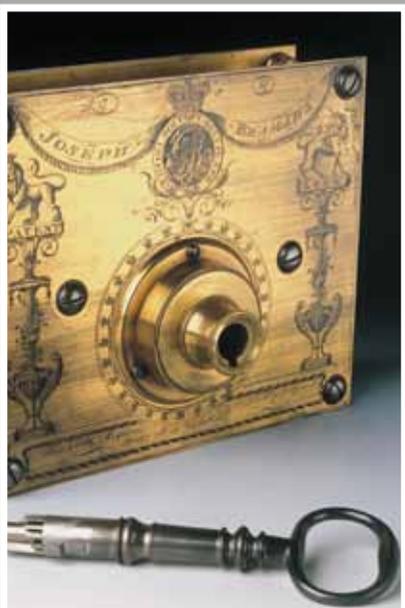
In 1785, he patented seals which could hold pressure within a machine. They enabled him to make the first hydraulic machinery, including the Bramah Fire Pump or Engine. The pump made for Wentworth Castle is now exhibited in Experience Barnsley.



It's a Bramah!

A common saying, meaning something made to high quality.

This lock, on display at Bramah UK, London, is inscribed: 'This lock requires 419,001,605 keys to open it under all its variations.'



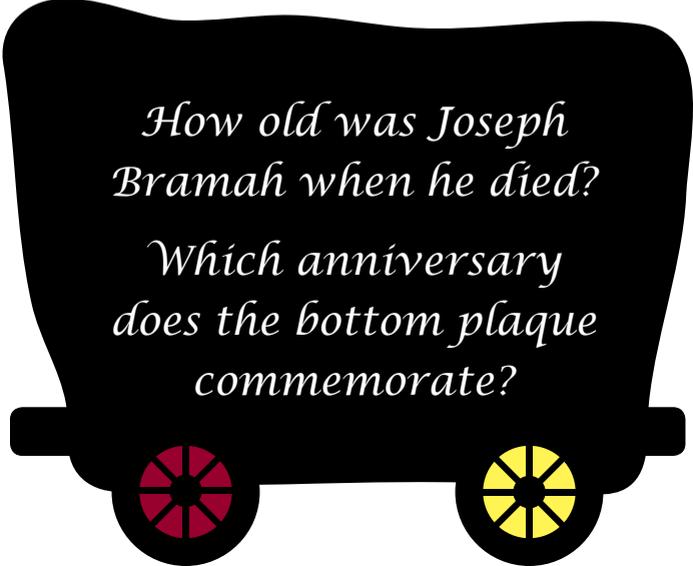
This technology also lead him to develop a hydraulic printing press. Patented in 1796, a Bramah printing press is exhibited in Kelham Island Museum, Sheffield. It was used by the Ordnance Survey to print maps.

The two plaques above are possibly the only memorials to this prolific inventor, whose ingenuity changed our lives and the course of engineering throughout the world.

The plaques were conserved in 2014 for the 200th anniversary of his death.

The tower gallery is named for this incredible man.

Why not use it to explore heritage information about the area and its people.



How old was Joseph Bramah when he died?

Which anniversary does the bottom plaque commemorate?