

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

The Bulletin
of
The Local History Section
of the
Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

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DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

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A Note from the Chairman of the Section

I am very pleased to be able, so soon after the formation of the Section, to introduce its bulletin. We hope to see it established as a link between people who, in various localities, are exploring the county's past, and we consider it to have a special role in furthering the aims of this Section throughout Derbyshire.

Our Society has always given prominence, in its Journal and in its meetings, to Derbyshire history and a Local History Section can develop this interest and guide it towards constructive ends. Its overriding aim must be to advance our knowledge of Derbyshire history by helping to preserve, make known and interpret the sources from which this history has to be reconstructed.

We shall accordingly give special attention to the use of local historical records. The practical problems of studying local history will be given prominence in the talks, and in our discussions the interchange of experiences, both triumphs and frustrations, will be encouraged. At a later stage I hope that we may undertake some research projects suitable for our dispersed membership.

People from all parts of the county and with varied interests are joining the Section. Some have only recently taken an active interest in Derbyshire history, others have been engaged in the study for many years. This Section, as the only body solely concerned with local history on a county basis, can, I believe, prove valuable to us all and can benefit from the diverse contributions which each can make to its work.

Looking at this first number of the bulletin, I trust you will feel that, beginning in a modest way, it can do much to promote our common interests in the history of Derbyshire. I would like, finally, to stress that the success of the bulletin, as of the Section, will depend upon the active and sustained support given by each member.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting of the Section will be held on Saturday March 24, at 3 o'clock at the Chesterfield Public Library when Mr F. Fisher will give a talk on "Family Records".

The THIRD MEETING will be held at the Bakewell Pudding Shop, The Square, Bakewell on a date to be announced later.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The first issue of the Miscellany will give some idea of the pattern which it is hoped to follow. Published quarterly it will in future devote more space to the "Notes and Queries" since these are the main channel of communication between members. There will also be one short article on a subject of general interest. In this number Mr W.D. White has written on Derbyshire maps.

It is intended, if members signify their support, to publish each time a single sheet copied from the hitherto un-published manuscript of Stephen Glover's History of the County of Derby. These sheets will be incorporated in such a way that they can, if desired, be extracted and filed separately.

Notes on books or on library resources will appear in each issue. Mr V. Livesey, Deputy Borough Librarian at Derby has written on the Library's Local Collection and in the next number Mr G.R. Micklewright, the Librarian at Chesterfield, will tell us about the records of local interest there.

Mr W.H. Hanbury has promised that from time to time he will let us have some notes on his recollections of Derby in the nineteenth century. Contributions from other Members will be welcomed and as many notes and queries as possible, please.

There are now 46 Members of the Section and when space allows a list of names will be published.

THE DERBY MEETING

The Inaugural Meeting of the Section was held in Derby on Saturday, January 21st, when 36 members and visitors heard a most interesting and instructive talk on the Compilation of Parish History by Mr H.J. Wain, F Z S, Secretary of the Burton-on-Trent Archaeological Society. A brief notice of this is given for the benefit of those who were unable to attend.

Mr Wain said that he had found great pleasure in collecting notes concerning his native parish of Bretby. Valuable work could be done not only by the trained historian but also by beginners, and to them his talk was directed. There was local history all around us, but too often records were lost because no one had troubled to preserve them. Local lore often contained clues and the local historian should be a good gossip. Every statement must, however, be verified.

The first requirements were a large notebook and a 6" Ordnance Survey map of the district from which a map of the parish could be prepared. Then everything that had been written about the district should be read, including manorial and monastic records, government publications, the Domesday Book and all available parish records such as Parish Registers, churchwarden accounts, local charities and school log books. Enclosure awards and title maps should be examined and village festivities, fairs, games and customs investigated. The parish church itself called for special study, also the castle and manor house where these existed. Pictorial records of any old building or landmark were valuable and a study of dialect and place-names could be most rewarding.

Mr Wain recommended especially several helpful books on the subject: "How to write the History of a Parish" by J.C. Cox; "How to compile a history and present day record of Village Life" written by Joan Wake for W.I's of Northumberland; The relevant booklets of the Historical Association; The Victoria County History; "Derbyshire Churches" and other writings of J.C. Cox; "Derbyshire Charters" by Isaac Jeayes; "Pre-historic Britain" by J. and C. Hawkes; "Britain BC" by S.C. Winbolt.

The discussion which followed the talk helped to clarify the aims and objects of the Section. Mr J. Marchant Brooks gave an interesting account of the formation of the Bakewell and District Historical Society. Its objects are to seek out and record items of local historical interest for the benefit of posterity and to provide accommodation for a Folk Museum. Four groups have been formed; to catalogue items of historical interest in the district; to search books and old records for past information and to compile this information in manuscript form; to investigate old buildings of historical interest and to collect architectural information; and to prepare photographic records of items of special historical interest. The Bakewell Society has kindly invited the Section to hold a meeting in Bakewell.

Mr E. Osborne emphasized the valuable work that could be done by the Section with regard to local archives and his note on these appears below. For those willing to work on documents, but with insufficient experience, the Section will provide guidance and anyone interested should get in touch with the Section Secretary.

LOCAL ARCHIVES

It is desirable that all archives should be investigated and recorded, that is, all public, local, ecclesiastical and private documents, ranging from the accumulated papers of an ancient family to current records of local societies.

These cannot all be discovered unaided and any information regarding the existence of such papers, however local or apparently valueless would be welcomed.

For the listing and examination of Parish Documents, the services of experienced voluntary helpers are needed. Mr R.H. Oakley, a member of the Section has undertaken to investigate these in the NE of the County and has already done useful work. For want of well qualified helpers however, no work in any other area can be started.

It should be noted that a number of large and important accumulations of papers have been calendared. These calendars, which are lists of documents arranged chronologically, with a short summary of their contents, are available on application to the County Librarian, but cannot be taken away from the Library. A short account of documents already calendared will appear in a later issue. (Edgar Osborne)

NOTES AND QUERIES

Queries and short informative notes will be greatly appreciated. Members having information regarding any item appearing below are invited to submit it to the Section Secretary for forwarding.

NQ 1 — BAKEWELL COTTON MILL — Richard Arkwright's water-power driven cotton mill was opened in 1777, in 1868 it was burnt down and in 1875 a single storey mill was built on the site. The first power-driven mill of this type was erected by Arkwright at Cromford; the second was evidently the one at Bakewell but no records can be found regarding the construction of the mill or the extensive water works. Any information on the subject will be appreciated by Mr R. Thornhill.

NQ 2 — INLAID MARBLE — Information is sought regarding the inlaying of black marble, which work appears to have been confined to Derbyshire. The marble was quarried at Ashford-in-the-Water where inlaying ceased early in the present century. (Mr R. Thornhill)

NQ 3 — COX'S "CHURCHES OF DERBYSHIRE" — A member of the Society has a set of the four volumes, three of which are bound in red cloth, the fourth being a specially bound author's interleaved copy. This is autographed J. Charles Cox, December 19th 1875. If anyone has information regarding the author's copies of the other volumes will they please advise the secretary.

NQ 4 — JOHN BARBER OF STAINSBY HOUSE, SMALLEY, AND OF NUNEATON — Any information regarding actual work done by Barber on any of his patents, and especially on his gas turbine patent (1791) would be appreciated (Mr F. Nixon)

NQ 5 — THOMPSON FAMILY OF ASHOVER — Information is desired of this family of engineers and engine builders — Stephen, originally of Winster (Ca 1750); Francis (1747—1809); Joseph (1781—1848) etc (Mr F. Nixon)

NQ 6 — FRANCIS THOMPSON — RAILWAY ARCHITECT Date and place of death or any biographical information after 1850 of Francis Thompson architect of Derby Midland Station and Midland Hotel 1840 also architect on Chester and Holyhead line 1840—1850 (Mr A.L. Thorpe)

NQ 7 — COURT ROLLS — Mr R.H. Oakley has recently translated in full the Court Rolls of Temple Normanton (1447—1518), the MS of which is kept in Derby Public Library. These contain much detail relative to the following areas: Chesterfield, Brampton, Temple Normanton, Staveley, Duckmanton, Denby and other places.

NQ 8 --- FOLK MUSEUMS --- Mr J.W.H. Higgs, Keeper of the Museum of English Rural Life at Reading, speaking to the Lincolnshire Local History Society in 1953 said that the word "Folk" had acquired an unfortunate connotation. It should mean the study of people in their everyday lives and applies to town communities as well as to rural groups. Collecting folk material was the duty and responsibility of the whole community and not just of the few enthusiasts. The Folk Museum was not a retreat from reality; its function was to record the past so that we could learn where we were going.

NQ 9 --- COURTS LEET --- Following up a query in the Daily Telegraph Mr F. Fisher asks if any member knows of any Courts Leet still held in Derbyshire.

NQ 10 --- TISSINGTON AND BRADBOURNE --- Mr L.R. Hayhurst writes: "I think that perhaps too much stress is being laid on Archives, for there are many matters of comparatively recent date which are very soon lost sight of. There are in this village two men, one 79 and the other 82, who can well remember singing in the gallery of Tissington Church --- you will probably know there is no gallery now. One of the men relates how, when he was working on the raising of the Chancel floor, about 1911, a door was found near the altar, and it opened into a vault, which he can describe. These things, I think, are worth recording. They will be lost to another generation.

Some members might be interested in Bradbourne Mill: Here the archives come into their own, for it is constantly referred to down the centuries, and it is still there, with its mill race, overflow weirs, two wheels, and all the internal machinery."

NOTES ON DERBYSHIRE COUNTY MAPS

1579 to 1800

To study local history we need the modern Ordnance Survey maps, but we must constantly go back to the early county maps for an intimate peep into our past history.

An important factor in Tudor Policy was emphasis on local contacts but, prior to the reign of Elizabeth, a necessary tool for implementing this policy was lacking, viz. a reliable map of England.

On her accession, Elizabeth gave instructions to William Cecil, Secretary of Council, to obtain a detailed map of England and Ireland and "to study and digest it".

Since the year 1548 the Royal Painter had been preparing County Charts to illustrate Holinshed's "Chronicles" but this work was issued in 1577 without the maps as they were found to be incomplete. In the meantime, Thos. Seckford, one of the Queen's Masters of Requests commissioned a young man in his employ, one Christopher Saxton to survey and draw maps of all the counties in England and Wales.

Little is known of Saxton's life. Born in Yorkshire about year 1542, he undertook this immense task and in 1579 published his Atlas of County Maps of England and Wales — a work which formed the basis of all English Atlases for the next 100 years. Saxton was granted a 10 years' monopoly by the Queen.

What of Saxton's tools for the job? — triangulation of a crude sort, the astrolabe, compass and cross-staff and the inclination to "ascend the highest tower in the town and thence view all around". The standard of measurement is the Old English Mile of 2428 yards. No meridians or parallels are given, but Saxton followed Mercator who drew his prime meridian through St. Michael in the Azores.

Saxton's Derbyshire County Map published 1577 owes much in style to the great Dutch cartographer, Ortelius, but the engraving has a lighter touch and is less florid, also contemporary colouring is more restrained. No roads are shown, but river crossings are marked. The conventional signs for churches etc. bear a strong resemblance to our Ordnance Survey. Hills appear as shaded humps. Positions of towns and villages are only approximate. Parks are fully indicated, no doubt as an inducement to subscribers.

Saxton's Derbyshire map was not only included in the Atlas, but was published as a separate sheet (the actual plate was used as late as 1720). It was also re-engraved a number of times on a smaller scale and of poorer quality and was used in editions of Camden's Britannia.

John Speed, born in Cheshire in 1552, published the second English Atlas in 1611. The Derbyshire map is finely engraved by the Dutchman Hondius and dated 1610. A plan of Derby and a curious view of Buxton are included. This map is not based on any actual survey but is largely borrowed from Saxton. Many editions were taken off the original copper plate and the date was crudely altered in 1660. In the later copies the plate is worn and cracked. In the writer's opinion, Speed has been given too high a place among our native cartographers.

Although many more Derbyshire County maps were published before the last quarter of the 17th century, few added anything to knowledge of the County. It was during this period that the splendid pictorial county maps by Blaeu and Jansson were imported from the map factories of Antwerp. The Derbyshire sheet by Blaeu is a fine example of the printer's craft and is brilliantly coloured, but again, there is no evidence of a survey, and one suspects that the map maker's chief interest was decoration.

In 1675 John Ogilby, published his Book of Roads and established himself as one of the most practical of English geographers. He surveyed the 100 main roads of England and Wales, using a compass for direction and a "perambulator" to measure the distances. The latter instrument was trundled behind a coach, and consisted of a road wheel with a device for counting the revolutions of the wheel. Ogilby was the first to apply the measured mile of 1760 yards. His road charts were engraved in strip form, and look very like the A.A. routes of the present day. Ogilby gives the Derby to Buxton route through Kedleston, (old house and Church at side of road), Hlland-open road over common, Monyash, and then by what appears little more than a track to Buxton. Here is original work, with every mile numbered and total distances expressed in miles and furlongs.

Robert Morden's Derbyshire maps were published in large numbers and varying sizes towards the end of the 17th Century. They are still easy to obtain and cheap. His maps show 3 scales of rules of varying length, an example of the confusion in measurement existing at this date. A few roads are included and meridians and parallels are indicated, also minutes of time from London.

During the 18th century there was a great demand for Atlases. Consequently Derbyshire maps of this period are in great variety, but much of the information remains vague and roads are still reluctantly included. A popular map was Emanuel Bowen's sheet of 1777. The map itself is surrounded by descriptions of the "Seven Wonders of the Peak". Some idea of his style can be gained by quoting from the map his estimate of the height of North Derbyshire hills. He says "the top of the mountains seem to be as high above the clouds, as the clouds are above the common hills".

Bowen's romantic style marked the end of an era and John Cary of London in 1787 published his first Atlas of English County Maps. Though small in size (4 to) this work set a standard which is an inspiration to this day.

Cary's Derbyshire County Maps are typical of his production. His 1787 sheet gives the complete road system with mail coach road marked out, and the beginning of our Canal System, with the "New Cut" later called "Trent and Mersey" Canal. Hill contours are hatched in for the first time.

All the information is given with an accuracy never before attempted. Yet there is no feeling of crowding, due largely to the high quality of the engraving. Cary continued to publish well into the 19th century.

In 1784 General Roy measured out his first base-line (5 miles) on Hounslow Heath for the Trigonometrical Survey and in 1792 the main Ordnance Survey began: the new base-line differed only $2\frac{3}{4}$ " from that of General Roy.

W. Douglas White

THE DERBYSHIRE COLLECTION OF THE DERBY BOROUGH LIBRARIES

The "Bemrose" and "Devonshire" Libraries which, together with later additions form the Local Collection of the Derby Borough Libraries, have been described as one of the outstanding examples of a collection of local material in the hands of a public library. The individual collections, one donated by the 7th Duke of Devonshire in 1878 and one purchased from Sir Henry Howe Bemrose in 1912, numbered about 7,000 volumes, and to these well over 3,000 volumes have been added.

Among the manuscripts must be mentioned the 26 folio volumes of the notes of the Rev Charles Kerry, who was born at Smalley. Sixteen of these are almost entirely devoted to notes on Smalley and district, and their most important use to date has been for their transcription of the Smalley parish registers and those of 39 other parishes. Apart from the published transcriptions of marriage registers by Phillimore, Derbyshire is unusually backward in this important branch of genealogical and local history.

Other manuscripts of importance include Glover's notes for the completion of his history, and many transcriptions of documents relating to the County held in the British Museum or in private hands.

The Borough Libraries are an Official Repository for local archives and there is a steady flow of material from the British Records Association. There are now some 10,000 documents in this section, which includes manorial archives of Egginton, deposited by Sir Edward Every, and the Mundy Collection of family deeds and papers, while a large collection of the letters of the Strutt family was recently presented by the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

There is a complete file of the "Derby Mercury" from 1732 to 1933 and incomplete files of other past and current County newspapers, with indexes compiled by former local historians.

The Local Collection is housed in the Central Reference Library in the Wardwick and is available to all enquirers from 9 am to 8 pm from Monday to Saturday inclusive.

FORMATION OF SECTION

At an informal meeting of members at the Headquarters of the Society on November 9th 1955 a Local History Section was formed.

Mr J.M. Bestall was appointed Chairman, and a Committee consisting of Mr F. Fisher, Mr W.D. White, and Mrs F. Nixon was elected to formulate the aims and preliminary programme of the section.

Mrs Nixon was nominated Section Secretary by this Committee which drew up the following constitution, to be submitted to the Council for approval:

- 1 The Local History Section of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society shall have as its primary aim the holding of meetings in different parts of the County to aid those interested in any aspect of local history.
- 2 It will encourage original work and research by members and will aim at providing a means of exchange of knowledge and information.
- 3 A bulletin relating to members' interests and to Derbyshire History will be issued periodically to members of the Section.
- 4 The subscription for the first year shall be 4s Od. This may be adjusted by consent of the members in subsequent years.

Mr G.R. Micklewright and Mr C.C. Handford have since been co-opted on to the Committee to represent members in the Chesterfield area, Mr J. Marchant Brooks for the Bakewell district, and Mr Owen Ashmore, M.A. for Northwest Derbyshire.