

VOLUME 1
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The Bulletin of the
Local History Section
of the
Derbyshire Archaeological & Natural History Society.

Editorial

This twelfth Bulletin completes the first Volume, and an index for the Volume is being prepared and will be ready shortly.

The Editor announces with most grateful thanks yet another gift from Mr. R. Thornhill - a companion volume to Supplement 2, "A Village Constable's Accounts, 1791 - 1839". This new Supplement (No.5) is entitled "About a Derbyshire Village, 1770 - 1820". It deals again with Great Longstone, and it is based upon the day by day accounts of Robert Thornhill (1740 - 1820). Lead mining, farming, quarrying for chert, schools, churchwardens', accounts and highways are amongst the many matters dealt with, and there are many interesting comments by the editor, which link the events of long ago with the present time. For instance, the malt grinding mill of 1775 was put into use by Mr. John Thornhill, in 1912, for the grinding of broken crockery for poultry grit. Again, recalling a sale at Longstone Hall in 1804 at which a "two armed chair" was sold - "The chair will be the one on which I am sitting whilst copying these records."

This is a most interesting little book, delightfully produced by Mr. Thornhill, who, incidentally, retired in May of this year after 51 years' service on the staff of the D.P. Battery Co. Ltd. at Bakewell. Now that he has more time at his disposal it is hoped that he may soon be able to publish the results of his investigations into the history of the early Cotton Mill which Richard Arkwright built on the site later covered by the D.P. Battery Works.

The second Supplement (No.6) for 1959 is now in hand, and will be published later in the year. It is by Mr. Oswald Hull, M.A., who has made a detailed study of Gresley - the family, lands and priory, 1066 - 1250. The Supplement will be about 20 pages in length and will be illustrated by a reproduction of the drawing of old Church-Gresley, showing the priory arch, which was made by the Rev. R. Randall Rawlins. The drawing comes from the Rawlins Manuscript which is in the possession of the Derby Borough Library and is reproduced by kind permission of Mr. Bletcher, the Borough Librarian.

The article "F.A. Holmes and Dovedale" describes local history being made in our own time. All who know Dovedale will feel deep gratitude for what has been done to preserve the lovely dale intact for Derbyshire, and it is especially fitting that we should put on record the story, by his son, of the long-continued and successful work of F.A. Holmes.

The National Trust, which set the seal on this work, is a private charity dependent upon gifts, legacies, and individual subscriptions. It was begun by a few far-sighted people in 1894, and today the Trust preserves 250,000 acres of land and 130 major historic buildings which are open to the public. There are 73,000 subscribing members and it is hoped to raise this number to 100,000 by 1960. Membership costs.

To anyone walking in Dovedale on a spring day in 1916 the sound of a chopper and cross saw at work would not have been out of place among the sparse woodland of the valley below Dove Holes. To one man, however, it was a new and menacing sound and it meant that young saplings were being torn from the bankside which he knew so well.

From that day F.A.Holmes was determined that Dovedale should not be further despoiled. Had not Isaac Walton, Dr. Johnson, the Derbyshire writer "Strophon", and others made Dovedale famous? As a result of the publicity which he gave to the tree felling a protest was made in Parliament and the only timber removed since then has been in the interests of good forestry. F.A.Holmes had become the self appointed protector of Dovedale and that Spring morning marked a turning point in the history of that glorious valley.

In his diary for January 7 1892 there is the entry "21 years old today, probably a third of my lifetime, yet what have I done for my fellow men?".

Subsequent events showed that this question was a challenge which he accepted with boldness and fortitude and that whatever this Lincolnshire-born man may or may not have accomplished during the first twenty-one years of his life much of the rest of it was unquestionably spent in the service of Derbyshire. There can be no greater monument to his work than the glorious Dove Valley between Beresford Dale and the Stepping Stones at Thorpe Cloud which he worked to secure for the enjoyment of the public through the National Trust.

He wrote many articles for the newspapers in an effort to attract attention to the Dale, "Dovedale - a National Park", "Dovedale, the most Exquisitely English thing in England", "The World's Divinest Dale", "The Enchantments of Dovedale" always the same theme, which caught the popular imagination.

For some years F.A.Holmes had been attending Committee Meetings in Manchester in connection with his varied interests and it was fortunate that here he should come in contact with Robert McDougall, a Manchester business-man, who too showed himself to be keenly interested in the preservation of the countryside, and of Dovedale in particular.

The outcome of this common interest was that in 1933, when two areas on the Staffordshire side of the river Dove, Hall Dale and Hurt's Wood, became available, McDougall offered to purchase them outright for the National Trust.

The announcement of this bequest was made in December 1933, and it was warmly received by the general public and the National Press, which F.A.Holmes had supplied with prior information and photographs, in his capacity as "honorary" publicity manager.

Ilam Rock is the outstanding feature of Hurt's Wood, once the property of the Hurt family, and divided from Hall Dale by an ancient Mule track. This track passes Stanshope Hall, once the home of Captain Jackson, who taught Charles Cotton to fish for trout with a fly.

Hall Dale comprises 60 acres and includes a limestone outcrop known as The Greek Temple, and Shepherd's Abbey, a strangely-shaped rock opposite Doveholes.

Further purchases were subsequently made by Robert McDougall in both the Dove and Manifold valleys. Ilam Hall and grounds, for instance, presented to the National Trust in 1934, ultimately proved to be an outstanding investment, both to the Youth Hostel Association as a Hostel when suitably altered, and to the general public, who could now gain access to a fine stretch of the river Manifold, including the "boil holes", where the river rises from an underground course which commences some eight miles away at Wetton Bridge, while a few feet away another river, the Hamps, also bubbles up from its underground channel.

The poet Drayton, a friend of Shakespeare, thus describes the scene with characteristic Elizabethan exaggeration !

"Hanse, that this while suppose him quite out of her sight,
No sooner thrusts his head into the cheerful light,
But Manifold, that still the runaway doth watch,
Him, ere he was aware, about the neck doth catch,
And as the angry Hanse would from her hold remove,
They, struggling, tumble down into their Lord, the Dove.

In a grotto shadowed by yew trees in the Maze Walks is a stone table where the 17th Century dramatist Congreve wrote two of his more respectable plays "The Old Bachelor" and "The Mourning Bride". Dr. Johnson knew Ilam Hall, and it was while he was staying here that his only novel "Rasselas" was written, in order to earn money for his mother's burial and payment of her debts.

In May 1934 Robert McDougall also gave to the National Trust 50 acres on the Derbyshire side of the river, including Lode Mill and the Fishponds Plantation. In August of the following year he gave Biggin Dale (52 acres) a dry limestone gorge of great beauty above which rises Wolfscote Hill 1272 feet high. This Dale joins Wolfscote Dale (as the upper part of the Dove valley is called) on the Derbyshire side some way above the 32 acres between the river and the railway line at Nettleby Knowe which were given to the National Trust by Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., in December 1934.

Although Robert McDougall's generous gifts to the National Trust brought him nation-wide esteem, his philanthropic gestures in other directions had dated back to the first World War. It was entirely fitting that his exceptional generosity received the recognition of Knighthood in 1937.

Typical of the modesty of the man, however, are the following extracts from a letter received immediately following his Knighthood in reply to my letter of congratulation.

"The idea of happy people in the Dale long after I have gone is my reward; you may have heard the old story "My grandfather filled the cellar, my father drank the port, I have the gout ! Dovedale's version is, F.A.Holmes did the hard work, the National Trust got the land, R.McDougall received the Honours" and continuing, "but I hope that this state of affairs will be rectified. I cannot be quite happy until your father fulfils his ambitions, and proper recognition for years of hard service, too".

In 1936 the Pilgrim Trust very generously gave Gipsy Bank and Peasland Rocks (68 acres) on the Staffordshire side of the river and nearly opposite to Fishponds Plantation.

Although the Trust property now exceeded 390 acres, only half of it was in the more popular part of Dovedale itself. When therefore the Pilgrim Trust also announced the gift of Baley Hill and Boston Nab, including Dove Holes, Pickering Dale and Tor, and Lion Face Rock (a total of 165 acres) the dreams of F.A.Holmes were materialising at a greater speed than he had once dared to imagine.

Iron Tors, a limestone buttress immediately North of the I.C.I. Ltd. gift, and The Nabs, opposite Dale Hall, were presented to the National Trust in January 1936 by the late E.Hodgson Kerfoot of Buxton, who as a member of the National Trust Dovedale Committee also helped considerably in an advisory capacity when new properties were being considered.

On the wall of F.A.Holmes's study was pinned up a 6" Ordnance Survey map of the area, and one vividly remembers the pleasure with which he showed to his friends the properties - coloured in red - which had been acquired by the National Trust since first he launched his campaign. This map, together with photographic enlargements of the area, were his comfort and inspiration as he maintained a correspondence out of business hours which covered a wide circle of friends and subjects in connection with his schemes. There were always letters to be posted. The envelopes were to such widely divergent correspondents as Estate Agents, farmers, Newspaper Editors, timber merchants, landowners and Secretaries of the varied Associations in which he was interested, all of them integrated for the ultimate good of the cause.

Each new area involved a great deal of groundwork in investigating the possibility of purchase for the National Trust. Acreage, type of land, state of repair of walls, buildings, possible income from grazing or from fishing rights had to be considered, and when all these details had been obtained and the "go ahead" signal given, full use had to be made of bargaining ability - an attribute for which F.A.Holmes was given full credit by his friends !

In addition to lectures, broadcasts in later years, writing articles to the Press, and generally publicising Dovedale, F. A. Holmes found a particular delight in conducting parties through the Dale. Arriving by train at Alsop-en-le-Dale, and walking across the fields to Hanson Grange Farm, a short climb up behind the farm would reveal the Nabs, a vantage point some 500 feet above the river - which could be faintly heard as it wound its way past the Dove Holes, to disappear round a bend into full view of Hall Dale and Hurt's Wood.

Raven's Tor would be pointed out opposite, whilst Grindon church spire and Alstonfield might also be visible on a clear day, and Ilam Rock, arising from no apparently solid foundation, and Thorpe Cloud beyond the top of Dove Holes, like a miniature Matterhorn.

The descent to Nabs Dale and thence via Dove Holes to Ilam Rock and Pickering Tor would be completed to the accompaniment of a running commentary by F.A.Holmes, who would graphically describe the ascent of Ilam Rock by his friend Samuel Turner.

A lone fisherman might be seen, reminding one of Piscator in "The Complete Angler" as he gives instructions to "Scholar".

"Look you, scholar, you see I have hold of a good fish, I now see it is a Trout, I pray put that net under him and touch not my line, for if you do, then we break all. Well done, scholar, I thank you.....so, now we shall be sure to have a good dish of fish for supper."

Looking north from the peak of Sharplow Point, the Watch Box would be clearly defined, whilst a climb up the bank revealed an uninterrupted view up the valley as far as Alstonfield; downstream the Twelve Apostles reared up out of the undergrowth. Even the skyline had its interest as the sun sank behind Ilam Tops, leaving Dovedale Woods in deep shadow, but still lighting up the opposite bank until the stepping stones were reached.

Many parties enjoyed this walk in the company of F.A.Holmes, who would contrive to gain from them more support for his plan to preserve Dovedale, and many were the friends he made in this manner.

When Mr.H.M.Kerfoot gave 60 acres of land at Mill Dale in 1936, it became possible to walk by the side of the river on National Trust lands from Biggin Dale, at the lower extremity of Wolfscote Dale, to Pickering Tor and Lower Taylors Wood in Dovedale, a distance of some four or five miles.

The precipitous Shining Tor, overlooking Lode Mill, was also included in this gift, and the surrounding woodlands were added some fifteen years later in order to preserve completely this delightful part of the Dove valley.

By branching right at the isolated little hamlet of Mill Dale, half a mile downstream, and proceeding along the road in the direction of Hopedale, one comes upon some 67 acres of land on both sides of the valley. This area was protected by Covenant in 1938, as also were 40 acres of Stanhope pasture to the south in the same year, whilst 100 acres were protected by covenant in the vicinity of the Izaak Walton Hotel.

1938 was indeed an outstandingly successful year for the Dovedale Movement. 500 acres of the Castern estate, situated on the Staffordshire side of the river, were protected by covenant, whilst 400 acres of the Cold Eaton estate, some two miles north of Lode Mill, were similarly protected; in addition 40 acres of the same estate, adjoining Biggin Dale, were acquired by the National Trust.

Another welcome acquisition in 1938 was Dovedale Wood (104 acres).

The well known rock formations of "Dovedale Castle", "Twelve Apostles", "Jacob's Ladder" and "Dovedale Church" are included in Dovedale Wood, and this part of the Dale is perhaps the best known in view of the easy access from Thorpe and the good parking facilities in a field adjacent to the road leading to the stepping stones.

Bunster Hill (35 acres) and 100 more acres in the vicinity of the Izaak Walton Hotel, were also protected by Covenant about this time. Nearly 1000 acres of land now belonged to the National Trust, and at no point on a four mile course of the winding river valley was there a single break in this property on at least one side of the river. Moreover, some 3,500 acres between the Dove and Manifold valleys were protected by Covenant.

Significantly, 1938 was notable too in the Manifold Valley's history for in that year 962 acres were purchased as the result of a public appeal for funds by the National Trust - the purchase of this land, namely part of the Grindon and Swainsley estates, was indeed a "big fish" landed with the guidance of F.A.Holmes after much exhaustive ground work and negotiation.

This is emphasized by the following extract from a letter which he wrote to Sir Robert McDougall:-

"Mr.G.....and I have been up until midnight for the last two nights and off again by 9.0 am. in the mornings, hence no chance to concentrate on correspondence; in addition to which one evening after a big day I had to get ready for the country at short notice in order to lecture on Dovedale."

"We have been all over four farm estates, including Ossam's Hill and Ladyside we went all along the tops of the 1,000 feet contours, and I can assure you it was hard work."

To F. A. Holmes, now in his 68th year, these days were a great strain, and only his strong constitution, reinforced by the sympathy and encouragement he received from his wife, enabled him to withstand the continual overwork and worry of this period. Not only was he kept busy with the acquisition of the Grindon and Swainsley estates, but he had also to devote time and thought to the preparation of an appeal for funds to effect the purchases.

A preliminary Meeting was held by the National Trust in Derby on June 15th, 1938, followed by a Nation-wide appeal for subscriptions by means of circulars, Press articles, and private letters. Full support was given by the various magazines, and the daily newspapers gave much help by stressing to the public the importance of acquiring this property. The appeal was successful, and with the final backing of Sir Robert McDougall, who had once again pledged his support, it was possible to purchase these two well-known and attractive estates.

Unfortunately, triumph over these latest acquisitions was soon to be followed by sorrow, for Sir Robert McDougall died suddenly in December 1938, and there ended a unique partnership which, beginning in a small way, had matured, and was subsequently distinguished by many years of close friendship and collaboration towards a single objective.

With the growing threat of hostilities in 1939, there was very little incentive to launch a further appeal for funds, and in retrospect, the following war years were a great hardship to one who had been instrumental in building up so much in such a short time. Not outwardly disheartened, however, F. A. Holmes assumed the role of protector once again, in addition to which there was much maintenance work to be seen to on the 2,000 acres of National Trust property.

His business and public duties had also increased owing to wartime conditions, but since these memoirs are chiefly concerned with Dovedale, it is intended to omit the various difficulties which beset him as the direct result of hostilities.

In 1939 Wolfscote Hill was presented to the National Trust by the kindness of Lady McDougall. Some 1,000 ft. high along its topmost contours and 33 acres in area, this hill lies between Biggin Dale and Wolfscote Dale, overlooking the Dove only half a mile from Beresford Dale, and it now represented the most northerly possession, with Bunster as its complement at the extreme southern end of Dovedale.

Grindon Moor, Staffordshire, was conveyed to the Trust in 1940 out of funds which had already been acquired by public appeal.

Although F. A. Holmes's work had so far been dedicated to the service of Derbyshire, it was Manchester University which saw fit to recognise this hard work, by conferring the honorary degree of Master of Arts on him in 1943.

Professor T. W. Manson presented him to the Graduation Assembly as the "unsleeping sentinel of Dovedale and the Manifold valley" and a "perpetual Home Guard in war and peace, constant in the defence of these natural sanctuaries against the hand of the spoiler and the exploiter".

F.A. Holmes was not at all unmindful of his new title of "unsleeping sentinel" when in 1944 a public Company applied for permission to erect a cement works in close proximity to the Manifold Valley. The main reason for concern, with Hope valley vividly in mind, was the dust nuisance which works of this nature were bound to create over a large area. It is not surprising, therefore, that a vigorous protest was also made by organisations and societies connected with the preservation of the countryside at an enquiry which was held to hear the case for and against. Unfortunately, these protests were not successful, permission being granted in the following year for a cement undertaking and the quarrying for limestone and shale. A tall chimney now dominates the scene as one approaches Waterhouses along the valley of the Hamps.

Of a different character was the threat to the same valley - but several miles away near to Longnor - in the following year, when an application was made for permission to build a reservoir. F. A. Holmes met this new threat with incisive thought and characteristic urgency in spite of his advancing years and various rambling Associations, local Councils, and people with personal interests were consulted in order to obtain first hand information for the opposition to this scheme.

The following is an indication of the way in which he went into the attack when questioned by a Newspaper reporter.

"This plan would mean swamping 30 farms, six cottages, a cheese factory, a milk Depot and a corn mill in favour of a large artificial lake. We don't want the lake, however nice it will look. The proposals would seriously affect the Dovedale area". The water of the rivers Dove and Manifold would be diverted, with consequent effect on the flow through Dovedale. In addition, some 1,000 acres of farmland would be sacrificed in a valley which was well known for its rich pastureland. The rivers Ashop, Derwent and Goyt had all been damned near their source, and the Wye would be the only remaining Peak river to retain its natural course.

A protest rally was organised, and took place at the Stepping Stones in Dovedale on August 6th 1945. The full proposals were considered some months later by a Select Committee of the House of Lords, and the final decision, announced by the Chairman, sealed the fate of the reservoir in thirteen words.

"The Committee has decided that the Bill should not be allowed to proceed."

Close to the site of the proposed reservoir stands High Wheeldon Hill. One of the six highest peaks in Derbyshire, both the source of the Dove and its winding course may be traced from the summit, until it is lost to view on its way to Beresford Dale and Dovedale. This hill was presented to the National Trust by F. A. Holmes in November 1946 and became the last acquisition during his lifetime.

It was the writer's privilege to take him by car to see the hill immediately after the purchase had been effected, and prior to its presentation.

His keenness had still not lost its edge, and as the car was stopped on his instruction at a vantage point so that he might take in the full measure of this latest addition to a now well-established and famous family, it was obvious from his conversation that its history had been carefully investigated, even to a detailed description of the fossils which had been discovered in a cave high on the hillside, indicating both human and animal habitation thousands of years ago.

Now it was safe from the hands of the 20th century despoiler and he was satisfied. Apart from one more visit he was not spared to see it again and he died after a short illness in January 1947, at the age of seventy six.

Without payment, and in later years, labouring under a physical disability which prevented him from walking through the Dale which he loved so well, and from seeing his favourite view from the Nabs, not once did he complain, but continued to give his time to a cause which fully answered his 21st birthday challenge "What have I done for my fellow men?"

In June 1950 a plaque was placed on the South side of the Idonface Rock. It reads:

This Dale and the Adjoining Lands became National Trust Property through the vision of the late F. A. Holmes M.A., J.P. of Buxton who planned to that end from 1916 - 1947."

The other activities of F. A. Holmes, which were many and varied, also merit mention. His geological excavations in Derbyshire resulted in a fine collection of specimens being handed over to the Buxton Museum. He was also instrumental in procuring the William Boyd Dawkins collection of books and manuscripts for the Museum in 1928.

Until physical disability rendered it no longer possible, he delivered lectures extensively in Derbyshire and Staffordshire and carried out geological work in these two counties.

He was also a member of various archaeological and geological Associations and a founder member of the British Speleological Society.

In 1918 he became a County Magistrate and he served for some twenty years as a member of both the Buxton and Derbyshire Probation Committees.

As a member of the Devonshire Hospital Management Committee and a Governor of Buxton College he had two additional and widely divergent interests and in connection with his own business he became President of the Buxton Chamber of Trade.

An article written by F. A. Holmes in 1943 is reproduced here in order to give some idea of how his eloquent words did much to champion the cause for which he strove.

A Day in Dovedale

The morning opened misty and with spots of rain, but I started off just after 7.0 a.m. knowing that the day would break out in the later hours and visualising an afternoon of brilliant warm sunshine. I was not disappointed.

The hedges with their full greenery, the grass more green still, and the trees budding so prematurely they will quickly be in full leaf. There are birds everywhere - starlings, robins, chaffinches without number with their many coloured plumage; the kingfisher with its rainbow splendour darts upstream, the blackbirds are tossing for partners, the cuckoo is yet unheard, and the active blue tits seem to be investigating each budding leaf for food (they are the most restless of birds). There are dippers galore diving for food as they are accustomed to in the Dove and the Manifold, and now I have let the secret out. I am at the Staffordshire village of Ilam (on the borders of Derbyshire - England's unrivalled scenic county) amidst all the magic of an enchanted land.

So here we are in the heart of the country surrounded by a perfect tempest of wild flowers growing everywhere, leaving no cranny or nook unbedecked.

The butterbur is gaining height and soon will swamp the banks of Izaak Walton's and Charles Cotton's favourite stream. Primroses, wood anemones, wood sorrel, wild parsley with an abundance and strength unmatched, the bluebells are just showing their tiny heads, greeting the sun, and a week or two later will be smothering the Dovedale woods and the riverside with a glory that no other country in the world can excel.

The first forget-me-nots by the Dove are just peeping - rather shyly - and later they will bedeck the Dove's silent bank with a profusion that will satisfy apparently all England.

Nature is so profuse in this valley. Happy England that our men are fighting for, with vales so pleasing and rivers so full of trout and fields so green. Walk through this countryside yourselves, it belongs to England through the National Trust, it is yours, it is your heritage.

The Pentrich Revolt

by R. Hayhurst.

History provides numerous examples of persons for whom we all feel heartily sorry, and there is no lack of such cases in the records of Derbyshire. Joan Weaste, the Padley Martyrs, and Jeremiah Brandreth readily come to mind.

It is not my intention to reiterate the well-known circumstances of "The Pentrich Rebellion", but merely to record that recently I discovered a notebook which belonged to Sir Henry FitzHerbert, of Tissington, wherein he had kept a record of prices of essential commodities from 1812 to 1819. Under the heading "1816" there is a review of the conditions then prevailing and an account of the insurrection at Pentrich, with comments on Jeremiah Brandreth.

It should be noted that Brandreth was not a local man, having come from Nottingham apparently as the district organiser for the rebellion, and that Sir Henry FitzHerbert was a member of the Grand Jury of the Special Commission on October 15th 1817 when Jeremiah Brandreth and his associates from the Pentrich district were indicted, though he was not a member of the jury which was sworn in on the second day of the trial, and which arrived at the verdict on all the men concerned.

Here then is Sir Henry's review:

1816

This was the worst year, which was ever recollected. The spring was most severely cold, the snow falling as late as the 7th of June; and there was no grass till the end of June. The autumn was unusually wet, so that the harvest throughout England was very bad, and in the higher parts of Derbyshire, the oats were not cut till October, and in many places they were never housed, but remained in small stacks in the fields all the winter. Besides this wonderful untowardness of the season, we had to contend with the reaction in the prices of every thing, produced by the general peace. Public Credit, which had been abused, was shaken; a great number of Country Banks failed, and several of the principal Mercantile Houses in London, and in the large Provincial Towns stopped payment. The Bank of England, as well as the Country Banks, which continued solvent, greatly contracted their issues; so that it was calculated, that the circulating medium had been reduced in quantity by fifty Millions. The Bank Restriction was still continued, and no gold coin appeared in circulation, and very little silver, and that of the most debased character. In consequence of all this, a third of the working population were thrown out of employment, and became paupers. A very general removal of persons, who had never contemplated such a reverse in their fortunes, became necessary, and the almost inevitable consequence of

such removals viz. appeals against the Orders of Settlement, greatly increased the amount of the Poor Rate, so that nearly one Million was expended under that Head alone; and the whole Amount of the Poor Rate raised in this year was above Nine Millions. In some Parishes near Nottingham and Mansfield, the Tenents threw up their occupations, the whole PRODUCE of their farms being insufficient to pay their Assessments for the poor. This state of things could not be without its moral effect; crimes of all descriptions increased fourfold, and the prisons were crowded to excess. This too was the season for the maturity of all that was most extravagant in the Political Theory of hot-headed Democrats, who began to force their speculations into practice, and Treason became full blown. Frequent, and violent meetings took place in the Fields, and the Metropolis was much agitated. In Manchester immense bodies were collected, intending to proceed to London, to Petition, as they said, the Prince Regent; every Man had his blanket, and was in marching order, and thence called the Blanketeers; they were divided into hundreds, and sub-divided into fifties, and tens, each class having its leader, who was also the paymaster; and they were under strict military discipline. The greatest part of this body was pursued by the Troops to Stockport, Macclesfield, and Leek and about 200 were stopped at Ashbourn, and sent back into Lancashire. A general Insurrection was to have burst forth in June, but several of the Delegates were secured near Sheffield, and the other escaping warned their Towns, and neighbourhoods from breaking out at that time; no notice however was given to the disaffected part of our County, namely the Hundred of Scarsdale, and that part of the County from Alfreton to Butterley, and Nottingham; they alone were bravely faithful to their Oaths, and wicked purposes, for they commenced the Rebellion precisely at the time appointed, headed by the noted Jerry Brandreth. They took the way to Nottingham, but before they reached it, they were opposed by the Troops, who took several of them, and dispersed the rest, though twice attempted to be rallied in front of the Dragoons by their brave leader J. Brandreth, who was taken at Nottingham some time afterwards. A Special Commission was issued to try the Rebels at Derby in October, and four of the Judges attended. Jerry Brandreth and three others were hanged and beheaded at Derby; several others were convicted, and several pleaded guilty, who were transported. J. Brandreth was a man of the most undaunted courage and firmness, and possessed every talent and qualification for high enterprize. He had been a framework knitter, and latterly a Sailor. He was 20 years old, of short stature, and very dark, with a strong expression of countenance. He conducted himself extremely well upon his trial. The other prisoners were common characters.

Thus closed this most interesting year.

PLACE NAMES OF DERBYSHIRE

Volumes XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX of the English Place Names Society
by K. Cameron, Cambridge University Press, 35/-d. each.

Reviewed by J. W. Allen

Those of us who have for some years been aware of these volumes being on the stocks have eagerly awaited the launching. Now we realise how fully justified has been the long wait: these volumes make a masterpiece of meticulous research. Not only is the general range wide, since it comprehends the documentary records of the names of towns and their streets, villages, farms and other topographical features, and also of fields both at the time of the enclosure awards and earlier, but the detailed particular is painstakingly accurate and reasoned where doubt exists. This in itself is a work too vast for one man alone to accomplish, and, while Dr. Cameron has been generous in his acknowledgment of the help given him by many interested people, clearly with him rests the credit for the enormous labour of sorting and sifting, of checking and research. However, apart from this, other sections of no less importance are equally of the same high standard of scholarship, and the inferences from the general consideration of the county's place names thoroughly discussed.

In the introduction a broad geological survey demonstrates the dominant influence of the geological features, on settlement, and industry and land utilisation from prehistoric times. The discussion on old roads is sufficiently informative and suggestive of further research to be quite intriguing. How often has the problem of the continuation of the Roman road south of Minninglow been discussed, but here is a clue in a name from Windley. I have trailed afoot the probable line of the ancient way across the county from Chesterfield towards Ashbourne but only here discovered its name to be Hereward's Street.

There is a later section at the end of Volume III on the distribution of place names but the discussion of this in the introduction is quite fascinating. There is much debatable matter here. Bearing in mind that the English occupation of the Peak was a slow infiltration and fusion, and that there was an ancient indigenous peasant population and culture, I venture to

suggest it seems reasonable to suppose that there are more "Celtic" elements hidden among the numerous "probables" than is credited in the work. Some colour is given to this suggestion by derivatives of some of the topographical names which are difficult to reconcile with the features themselves. The introduction continues to deal with the two great forests of the Peak and Duffield, and other significant features - lead mining, religious houses and granges, crosses and so forth. This introduction is itself an extremely valuable contribution to the literature of Derbyshire Archaeology.

The place name section proper commences with river names and reference to the "Place Names Elements" at the end of Volume III is helpful. The derivation of the Derwent, as the asterisk indicates, is still in some doubt. I would venture to comment here that that of Derby, later on, has added nothing to the old controversy, and considering that the Danes renamed and planned the place as one of their five "burhs" the suggested derivative seems rather unlikely. It still seems to be a case of *tot homines tot sententiae*.

The excellence of the place name derivatives, the records and notes is most fully appreciated when one is on familiar ground. A shock or two may be administered as doubt is thrown on a long-cherished derivation - mine was Full Street in Derby - but that is stimulating. One or two of the frequently recurring elements might have been given alternative derivations: could "Ash" have no other origin, possibly British, than that of the tree? Was not "Butts" used of archery grounds? And is not the common and familiar "t'ode" this, that or the other sometimes more likely than the "toads" which seem to appear in unlikely habitats?

Volume III ends with nearly one hundred pages of engrossing notes and discussions on the Elements of Place Names, on the Distribution of Elements, on Personal Names and on Elements in Field Names.

These volumes, this work, indeed fulfils a much felt want. It has a wealth of information and suggestions which will serve as a stimulus to further research in various fields of archaeology and history, and as a valuable source of reference. Its remarkable comprehensiveness is most satisfying and its sound scholarship most admirable. These volumes will never collect dust.

J. W. Allen

SOME ADVICE ON SEARCHING PARISH REGISTERS

by F. Fisher

If advice is called for, perhaps it might follow Punch's classic rejoinder to those about to get married - don't! The parochial registers of baptisms, burials and marriages are, in the true meaning of the word, unique. They constitute the only record of almost any family not of gentle birth, and it is vital that the utmost care should be exercised in their use. Any restriction exacted by the incumbent should be accepted gracefully and indeed be applauded: he is the custodian of documents more rare than Magna Carta - of which several copies exist. It should also be remembered that he is entitled to make a charge of 1/- for every year searched by the enquirer. If this is waived, a fee or donation to the funds should be made without being asked. Do not prejudice the hopeful searchers who will follow you.

With these cautionary remarks on paper, let us make sure we know what the registers contain. In theory, they should record every baptism, burial and marriage performed by the parson from 1538 until 1837, when civil registration came into full force. Even knowing that few if any registers show any semblance of regularity during the Civil War and Commonwealth, it is still certain that only a proportion of the expected entries will be there. Rarely if ever can a 'pedigree' be compiled wholly on register entries. Marriages are acknowledged to be the most complete. Burials come next, with baptisms a long way behind.

It should scarcely be necessary to say that before proposing a search, one should verify that no printed transcript is in existence. The Society of Genealogists has published a complete list, and another catalogue of all copies in their possession. Phillimore's printed Marriage Registers are in existence for many parishes and are invaluable in enabling one to assess the likelihood of success in a particular register. These volumes always indicate the condition of the registers, and deficiencies are usually noted. Dr. Cox's 'Churches of Derbyshire' generally gives the date at which the oldest register started. Since then there have been losses - the oldest volume of St. Werburgh Derby was lost in the 20's, probably due to flooding of the church.

If you have satisfied the incumbent that you are a fit and proper person to make a search, what are you likely to find? Usually there are three or four volumes, the most recent being of course easy to read. The earlier books will vary enormously, both in the legibility of script and in the distinctness of the ink. There will be spells when the entries are neat and positive of interpretation, then suddenly will follow pages of almost unreadable scrawling, possibly faded and defying certain transcription, often just when one has pinned particular hope on that period!

Before undertaking such a search, you will no doubt have done sufficient preliminary work to realize that spelling was largely a matter of choice. A recent quest for a family of Colston shewed variants as Coulson, Colson, Couson, Cowson and Cawson. Some names are unfortunately capable of completely different rendering. I have several instances of Fisher being written as Fletcher and vice versa. The Darley Dale registers contain many entries when one is at a loss to know whether the name is Steer or Shore.

Again in theory there should be in existence the yearly Transcripts which were by statute required to be lodged with the Diocesan Registrar. As with the keeping of the register, this was observed in an extremely casual way. For Derbyshire there are none before 1660 - our own Sir John Gell was largely responsible for the conflagration which consumed the earlier returns. But from 1660 it is encouraging to find many cases where missing entries in registers can be found. The calligraphy of these returns is often infinitely superior to that of the registers themselves - one visualises the parson settling down quietly to make a creditable showing. These are at the Diocesan Registry at Lichfield, but unless there has been a change for the better in recent years, a search there is not recommended unless the position is desperate as a good wash will be needed afterwards.

In the main these few remarks will add nothing to what is already known to the average genealogist with a little experience. There is a good selection of books such as Cox's "Parish Registers of England", Tate's "The Parish Chest" and R. C. Muncey's "Romance of Parish Registers" to give the necessary guidance to the complete novice. But do not entertain the idea that some registers commence before 1538. Many fruitless journeys have been made by experts to look at volumes reported to start before then!

A few words may be acceptable on the general use of the registers for a village history. Some list should be made of the surnames most frequently occurring. Deficiencies should be noted. The unusual interpolation should be copied - often there are remarks about national events such as coronations or victories on land or sea. Very occasionally there are comments indicating the manner of death or that a child had been found abandoned. One South Derbyshire parish boasted notes beside many entries where the vicar had expressed his opinion of the person recorded. But a successor regarded these as so unbecoming that he secured the Bishop's permission to expunge them! The names of Churchwardens are generally copied when found. And always check to see that you are not missing the name of an incumbent unknown to those such as Dr. Cox who have compiled lists of vicars.

SECTION NEWS

The Willoughbys of Wollaton

At a well-attended meeting of the Section on Feb. 25th, at the Bridge Chapel House, Mr. R.S. Smith, B.A., F.L.A., gave a talk under the title, "The Willoughbys of Wollaton and the Development of Coal Mining on the Notts.-Derbys. Border in the 16th Cent". This talk aroused so much interest that it is hoped that a visit to Nottingham University to study the documents can be arranged for later in the year.

After speaking about the features which led to the development of coal mining in this area Mr. Smith referred to coal mining in Nottinghamshire during Roman times. There was a mysterious blank during the Saxon and early Norman period which is surprising because of the number of references to lead mining.

Some confusion is caused by charcoal being referred to as coal in early documents. The earliest unmistakable references to coal-mining in Nottinghamshire date to the 13th cent. In 1257 Queen Eleanor was offended by the smoke of coal-burning in Nottingham and moved on to Tutbury. The purpose for which coal was used at that date is not known. Flues and grates are not found in medieval houses and there was plenty of wood for domestic fuel.

The founder of the Willoughby family fortunes was a wealthy Nottingham merchant named Ralph Bugge, who about 1240 purchased an estate at Willoughby-on-the-Wolds. His grandson was knighted as Sir Richard de Willoughby and the old name was dropped. His son, another Sir Richard married Isabella, heiress of the de Morteins of Wollaton, and thus acquired the Wollaton estate.

The earliest coal-mining lease is dated 1316 when colliers took over the lease 'by the pickaxe'. The miners also undertook to maintain the 'sowe' (sough) at this date which is also the earliest reference to a sough.

During the 15th cent. increased trade led to the development of metal and coal mining in Germany and to the exploration of new sources of supply. S. Germany was a strong centre of production and new mining machinery was invented and exploited in this area. England - a late starter in the early industrial field - copied German methods.

In 1493 Sir Henry Willoughby drew up a will and left instructions that 5 pits be kept going at Wollaton and the level one, i.e. the one into which the water would drain.

The rise in population and dearth of wood in the 16th cent. led to an increased demand for coal. In 1500, £200 profit was made at Wollaton and this later rose to £500. The greatest output was in the 1520's when 10,000 tons were mined.

Record of the workings of the pit were kept in 2 books. - The Coal Pit Book which recorded details of output and wages and The Sinking Book which kept account of the preparation of the pits for the hewers. Everyone at this time worked at piecework rates and the miner in charge of the pits also sold the coal and collected the money.

In 1548 a new sough was under consideration and when Sir Edward Willoughby died he left £1000 for the building of it through Lenton. By 1560 although revenue was rising other expenses were increasing also, for the Willoughbys maintained considerable estates before building the present Wollaton Hall. In 1573, £1400 were spent on household expenses at Wollaton alone. Coal revenues continued to increase however, and in 1574 some Cornish men were brought to erect rag and chain pumps as the coal seams were below water level. This is the first reference to any machine being used for coal mining in Britain. In 1580 the Willoughbys embarked on the building of the present Wollaton Hall.

In the 1590's the profits on the Coal Pits declined due to increased expenses and the fall in demand. At this time the Beaumont family from Coleorton, Leics. had a lease of pits near Bedworth, Coventry and they were complaining that they could not meet their charges. The Strelleys also had fallen into debt and had offered pits to the Willoughbys. All seem to have been in difficulties through living beyond their means. The Byrons of Newstead were then approached and it was decided to lay up the Wollaton pits and to concentrate on Strelley. In 1605 a pit railway was laid - the first one in the country and Beaumont attacked the coal with the greatest vigour. The coal factors, however, were not willing to go to Strelley and he could not sell it. He then put up another plan to extend the wagon way to the R. Trent and ship the coal to London and the Continent but this proved to be impracticable. Beaumont then began to look to the N.E. Coast for pits to enable him to get some of the London trade. He secured the backing of London merchants and he took all the latest advances including the wagonway with him. A local historian of

Newcastle, in 1640 writes that Mr. Beaumont brought £20,000 and engines to get into the coal trade but in a few years consumed all his money and returned to Strelley in 1613. The merchants were intent on recovering their money and Beaumont was put in prison in Nottingham. Percy Willoughby had been imprisoned in the Fleet in 1606 for debt.

The pits at Wollaton were reopened but they still failed to pay their way and everything was sold down to the last flayed horse skin. Coal mining however began again at Wollaton after the Restoration.

R.H.W.

The Chesterfield Meeting

The Chesterfield meeting was held on April 11, when Mr. P.M. Tillott, the editor of the Victoria County History for the East Riding of Yorkshire gave a talk under the title, "The need for Encyclopaedic Local History".

In outlining works on local history the speaker said that they fall into three main types:-

- (1) Literary or Synthetic
- (2) Analytic
- (3) Encyclopaedic.

The literary approach is the portrayal of local atmosphere in fictional works. 19th cent. Wessex would be difficult to appreciate without Hardy's novels. The opening chapters of Priestley's Good Companions, Thomas Armstrong's and Winifred Holtby's works are 20th cent. examples. One of the dangers of the literary approach is lack or shortage of material which may lead to invention or embroidery. For example, the number of beds Queen Elizabeth slept in.

Historical accuracy is not vouched for in this fiction writing but it is expected in Local History writing.

Mr. Tillott went on to explain the Analytic approach to Local History writing by means of a Devonshire example, which took one short period and examined it with considerable detail. This aspect quite often illustrates or illuminates aspects of national history.

The encyclopaedic or 3rd type is the factual information and the source which will provide the material for the earlier ones. This however is not its primary aim.

The compilation of Local History Encyclopaedias begins with Leland and Camden and reaches considerable maturity with Dugdale. Imitators followed and almost every county had a full scale History by the 19th cent. Some of these had been compiled from secondary sources.

The V.C.H. was very much influenced by its predecessors up to 1939. For instance, Dugdale's interest had been in country gentry and nobility. Thus, tenure of land and heraldry and armorial bearings are pre-eminent. The V.C.H. inherited this tradition and most of the earlier volumes are written on such lines. This continued up to the 1939 war, after which it broadened out and now includes literary and analytical work.

Where there is no V.C.H. one is at a great disadvantage in studying Local History.

In the discussion which followed the talk, Mr. Tillott expressed the opinion that it is better for individuals to work separately under a central direction than to tackle the job in teams. References should be given for all documents used.

It must be borne in mind that a large percentage of documents of every parish are in Public Collections which are not readily accessible. The purchase of photo-copies of Local History documents by Public Libraries is however becoming more widespread.

Any parish history could be expanded indefinitely, but too bulky works mean that facts are lost. Where there is a considerable amount of material unused in writing the text, references should be given to enable interested readers to locate it easily.

After the talk and discussion tea was taken and the party was then conducted round the Parish Church by the Archdeacon of Chesterfield. An unusual feature of the Church is the tomb of Godfrey Foljambe V. This monument was erected at a time when Puritan prejudice ran high and it bears the figures of Juno, Minerva, Thetis, Venus and Ceres - heathen gods instead of saints.

In the mid 18th cent. a merchant adventurer presented to the Church two immensely elaborate wrought iron pendants which are unique in this country.

R.H.W.

The report on the Gresley meeting in May will appear in the next bulletin. Members are reminded of the meeting at Dethick in June. It is hoped to arrange an excursion to Melbourne in September in order to see the excavations which are being conducted by the Sheffield Trades Historical Association at Furnace Farm. Further particulars of this meeting can be obtained from the Section Secretary.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Information regarding any query should be sent to the Editor who will also be glad to receive for publication notes or queries on any branch of local history in Derbyshire.

N.Q.74. Dry Stone Walls ref. N.Q.70.

Mr. Window assumes that an advertisement inserted in the "Derby Mercury" of April 12, 1791, asking for Masons, was intended to attract masons for employment in the construction of field walls. This is exceedingly unlikely. It is much more probable that these masons were needed for the building of some of the mills which were at that time being erected in the Derwent Valley. It should also be remembered that a mason is a skilled craftsman, and except under pressure of dire financial straits would not have demeaned himself so far as to have taken any part in the building of dry stone walls, and also his very skill as a mason would have made more certain the rapid downfall of his work if he made the attempt.

To repeat, the mason is a skilled craftsman, whereas the ability to build a satisfactory dry stone wall, was until fairly recent times, an essential skill, for people engaged in farming, at any rate in "Stone Wall Country".

The comparatively recent introduction of cheap fencing wire has led to much makeshift repair work on farm fences, both stone wall, and thorn hedges. To drape a length of barbed wire along the top of a damaged dry stone wall is a very quick but eventually unsatisfactory way out of a difficulty. Often such makeshift jobs are done with the idea of making a 'proper job' some day.

Another mis-conception concerns the amount of stone used, "12 tons of stone lifted to a height of one yard" in the course of a day during which 7 yards of dry stone wall are built, should not be taken to mean that 12 tons are used in the actual construction of 7 yards of wall, the figure more generally accepted is one ton per yard linear of wall. The amount needed depends on the height to which the wall is carried.

An interesting book has been published by Faber and Faber in 1957 I think, written by Col. F. Rainsford-Hannay, called, "Dry Stone Walling", it is well illustrated both with diagrams and photographs.

John Lomas.

N.Q.75. Derwent Packhorse Bridge

Many people will remember the beautiful and ancient packhorse bridge which used to span the River Derwent at Derwent village before the Ladybower reservoir was made. It was only suitable for foot traffic, being too narrow for vehicles, and was a perfect example of its kind. It stood near to the Elizabethan Derwent Hall which was demolished at the same time, although its gate posts can be seen at the gate of the reservoir. The bridge, however, was saved from complete oblivion by the Derwent Valley Water Board which presented it to

the Sheffield and Peak District Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. The C.P.R.E. arranged for the bridge to be dismantled and put into store for re-erection elsewhere. Each stone was numbered and stored at Abbey Grange, a suitable place for this was once part of the lands of Welbeck Abbey. It is said that the original architect of the bridge was a canon of Welbeck, although the Water Board states that it was an early 17th cent. structure. The site chosen for the re-erection was about four miles upstream from its original position, at Slippery Stones on the edge of some of the wildest and unspoilt moorlands on the borders of Yorkshire and Derbyshire where there is already a modern wooden footbridge in a state of great dilapidation. The second world war and its aftermath prevented its re-erection for many years but now, at last, work has begun. The central pier has already been re-built to a height of several feet and many of the numbered stones are lying nearby, ready to be used in their original positions; the excavation for the western pier at the river bank has begun.

Apart from the preservation of a beautiful old bridge, the re-erection at Slippery Stones is a triumph for those voluntary organisations by whose efforts the bridge has been saved. Its purpose will be not only to provide a crossing for ramblers and others over the Derwent but also to be a permanent memorial to John Derry who did so much through his book "Across the Derbyshire moors", which ran into many editions between the wars, and in other ways to teach people how to enjoy the moorlands of north Derbyshire and south Yorkshire.

R.A. H. O'Neal.

N.Q.76. William Margerison

The late W.E. Godfrey did much work on the early history of Staveley-Netherthorpe Grammar School (e.g. J.D.A.N.H.S., vol lxi, 40; Trans. Hunter Archaeological Soc., iv, 1937). William Margerison is said to have been the first master at Staveley, though exactly when he took up duties there is not known; nor, indeed, is the exact date of the foundation of the Grammar School. Margerison was certainly in Staveley in 1591, since he is mentioned in Elizabeth Frecheville's Will of that year.

Some light is thrown on Margerison by a statement made by a certain Thomas Beveridge when he entered the English College, Rome, in 1600. All students of that College were obliged to give some details of their history before admittance; the full text of their statements will be published in full shortly by the Catholic Record Society. However, the substance of Thomas Beveridge's statement was published by Foley in his History of the English Province of the Society of Jesus (1875). Beveridge said that he was the son of Robert and Bridget Beveridge of Sutton, Derbyshire. He went to school at Staveley under an Oxford tutor, William Margerison, until he was twelve, when Margerison died. As there was no other master fit to teach in those parts, he resumed his studies at Chesterfield, three miles distant from his father's house. His father was of the middle class, sufficiently well-off to educate his children.

From this statement we learn one or two things about Margerison which have not been pointed out before: a) that Margerison was an Oxford tutor; b) that he died whilst still a teacher; c) and that he died in 1594/5, since it is known that Thomas Beveridge was born at Sutton-in-le-dale in 1532/3. Also, there is the important point that there was no other master available to continue teaching. Henry Cook, who resigned from teaching at Stowoley in 1598, can have been at the Grammar School only for a short time.

Thomas Beveridge was ordained a Roman Catholic priest and is known to have been in Lancashire in 1655. An elder brother, John, died at the English College in 1594. Another brother, Francois, was a physician in Sutton-in-le-Dale and was compounded for recusancy in 1629.

M.A. Doughty.

N.Q.77. Hungry Bentley Hall

The exceptional architectural interest of this building may justify the following description taken from a printed work which would almost certainly be overlooked by anyone wishing to trace the history of the Hall. It occurs in evidences for an exhaustive pedigree of the family of Browne of Derbyshire and elsewhere which appeared in Vol. II, N.S., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*. The account, here somewhat abridged, is at page 268.

"The ancient residence of Bentley Hall faces the high-road from Longford to Cubley. It stands upon the manor of Hungry Bentley. Through the kindness of S.W. Clowes, Esq., its present proprietor enhanced by the courtesy of his solicitors Taylor, Kirkman & Colley of Manchester, I have obtained full information from the title deeds with respect to the acquisition and possession by the Browne family.

"An epitome of title with the deeds recites as follows: 20 April 1613. By deed enrolled Lord Windsor in consideration of £2600 grants the manor of Hungry Bentley etc. to Thomas Browne and his heirs."

A considerable amount of genealogical detail follows, starting with the purchaser Thomas Browne, a Proctor of the Arches Court at Canterbury. His great-great grandson Rupert, says the compiler is believed to have restored and enlarged Bentley Hall, adding the "Queen Anne" portion. The property was alienated to the Wilmot family in 1749, and remained with them for four generations, when it was conveyed by Sir Henry Sacheverall Wilmot, Bart. in 1860 to the trustees of Lord Vernon. It was conveyed by Lord Vernon in 1878 to S.W. Clowes, Esq. of Norbury, 'in whose possession it now remains'.

"In 1878 the estate consisted of 1040 acres, at a rental of about £2,000 per annum.

"The principal portion of the house is brick quoined with stone and stone mullioned windows. The Hall proper was built in the earlier part of the 17th cent. most probably by the purchaser Thomas Browne. It is now used as a farmhouse, and at the time of my visit in August 1884 was tenanted by the late John Massey, whose grandfather and uncle had held the farm in the same way. The fireplace in the hall, partly bricked up in 1848, measures 10 feet across and 4 feet in recess. There is a very massively carved-oak staircase in the old portion of the house about 5 feet wide. The staircase in the later portion is about 8 feet in width, built of plain oak with oaken balustrade and balusters of curiously twisted wrought-iron. The entrance door to this later hall is 12 feet high. Inside this hall there still hang several large old allegorical paintings in oil and in distemper. One of them I ascertained represented 'Joan of Arc'. These relics of former grandeur, in their tarnished gilt frames, have a very melancholy appearance in the old house, which is now fast going to decay. I could not learn anything of their history beyond the fact that they had "always been there".

Francois Fisher.

N.Q.78. Parish Registers. ref. N.Q.71.

There is nothing remarkable in the defective state of the Barlow parish registers seen by Mrs. Webb. The Civil War, particularly in a Parliament-controlled area such as Derbyshire, brought many troubles to the clergy, and almost from the outbreak one notices the irregularity of entries. In 1653 the custody of the registers was taken out of the hands of the ministers, and a year later the solemnisation of marriages was made a duty of the Justices of the Peace. 1660 is the year in which most registers show anything like their former regularity.

The change from Latin to English came about gradually, with no official directives, and varies much from parish to parish.

F.F.

N.Q.79. Parish Registers. ref. N.Q.71.

This query in the February, 1959 issue asked whether it was normal to find gaps in Parish Registers for the Commonwealth period. I have listed the contents of very many Leicestershire chests for the Master of Rolls and usually the registers are very "gappy" at this period. Weddings became a Civil ceremony instead of ecclesiastical. The second part of the query as to Registers being written in Latin; it is surprising that N.K. Webb has found a register as late as 1733 A.D. still in Latin. In Leicestershire a few Latin entries are encountered but even at the earliest possible date (1538 A.D) most entries are in English. Even now a few clergymen like to give their Latin an airing on occasions. Comments are sometimes made in Latin to impress or else to thwart the less educated apparently.

Geo. H. Green.

N.Q.80. Eckington. - Population statistics.

Glover's notes, p.38. gave 43192 inhabitants for the year 1861. The figure was accurately copied without noticing the obvious inaccuracy. In 1857 the total was given as 4958. Bulmer's Directory gives the population in 1891 as 12,357. It is reasonable to assume a figure of 5-6000 in 1861.

F.F.

N.Q.81. Simon Degge

With regard to Mr. Fisher's wish for further information about Sir Simon Degge, my ancestor Francis Redfern, in his "History and Antiquities of Uttoxeter" (1886) gives in full the inscriptions which were on the mural tablets to the memory of him and his relations in Kingston Church, and also states that they had perished by the date of his writing.

"Here lyeth the body of Sir Symon Degge, Knt, who was judge of West Wales to Civri the 2nd XIV years, and of the same king, Counsel in the War of Wales 12 years, and then upon his petition (his) discharge, he was in the commission of peace for the counties of Derby, and Stafford and Recorder of Derby above thirty-five years. Was born January Vth MDCIXII. Died February X, MDCICII".

On the right side of this was another slab bearing an inscription to his second wife.

"Here lies the body of Dame Alice Degge, daughter of Antony Oldfield of Spalding, Lincolnshire, Esquire and second wife of Sir Symon Degge. Was born and christened, June XXVth MDCIXIV. Died March XXXth, MDCIXCVI.

The following inscription to his first wife and other persons was on a stone which was fixed in the north side of a chapel projecting from the nave, and said to have been built by Sir Simon Degge.

"Against this place, in the body of the Church, were buried the bodies of William Whitehall, gent., who died 12 March 1615 aged 83, and Elizabeth his wife, formerly the wife of Thos. Degg of Stramshall, gent., great-grandmother of Sir Symon Degg, Ys built this chapel. She died 10th June 1620, aged 94, and Symon Whitehall, their son, gent., who died 17th May 1630 aged 63; and Letice his wife, who died October 20th 1649, aged 97; and Dame, first wife of the said Sir Symon Degg, who died 2nd July 1652, aged 42 years.

Molly Pearce.

N.Q.82. Francis Redfern

I would be pleased if any reader could give me further details about Francis Redfern. I know that he was born in about 1820, at the 'Blue Bell', Fenny Bentley and came of an old Derbyshire family. He moved to Uttoxeter in the 1850's, where his house still remains and lived there until his death in 1895. He is buried in Uttoxeter

Churchyard. Francis Redfern was a cooper by trade, and a Methodist local preacher. In addition, he wrote "The History and Antiquities of Uttoxeter", "Staffordshire Place Names and Pitcher Literature" "Dove Valley Rhymes", and "Memorials of Tissington". He produced an edition of the works of George Heath the Moorland Poet and contributed articles to the Reliquary, and the Derbyshire and Staffordshire Advertisers.

Molly Pearce.

N.Q.83. Gotheboldsicke.

The recent publication of "The Place-Names of Derbyshire", by Kenneth Cameron, (C.U.P./E.P.N.S. 1959. 3 vols.) has brought to mind a curious place name in Hartington which is not noted by the author.

Gotheboldsicke is said to have been the name of a field in the township of Hartington which the Ferrers family granted to the abbey of Garendon, in Leicestershire, during the reign of Henry II. The hamlet of Heathcote was granted first and this was followed by "a messuage and twenty acres of land and half their appurtenances in New Biggin, Wolstoncote and Hartington, together with a meadow called "Gotheboldsicke"" (Cox, J.C. Notes on the churches of Derbyshire Vol.2. p.473-4) The entry in the cartulary of Garendon runs as follows:

"Concessionem vero et confirmationem quas idem comes per eandem cartam fecit eisdem abbati et monachis de uno messuagio. viginti acris terrae, et dimidia cum pertinentis in Nova-Byggyng, et Wolstoncote, et Hertyngdone, et de quondam prato vocato Gotheboldsike, in dicta villa de Hertyngdone, et de medietate cujusdam prati vocati Overmedwe in Lee, et de uno prato quod vocatur Heye in Bradborne, et de uno prato vocato Swetedoles" (Dugdale, W. Monasticon Anglicanum, New, ed. 1846 Vol.5, p.334). Nichols' translation of this runs:

"The grant and confirmation which the same earl (Robert de Ferrariis), by the said charter, made to the same abbot (of Garendon) and monks, of one messuage, 20 acres and a half of land, with the appurtenances, in New Byggyng and Wolstoncote, and Hertyngdone, and of a certain meadow called Gotheboldsike, in the said town of Hertyngdone; and of the moiety of a certain meadow called Over-meadow in Lee; and of one meadow which is called Heye in Bradeborne; and of one meadow called "Sweet Doles" (Nichols, J. History and Antiquities of Leicestershire. Vol.III, part II, 1804. p.795 (No.192))

J.P. Sheldon asked for information on this name in the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Notes and Queries, Vol.1, 1893, p.113 and Walter Kirkland replied (N. & D. N. & Q. Vol.1. 1893, p.183-4) giving several possible derivations any of which may, or may not, be correct. Has any reader of "Derbyshire Miscellany" any views or suggestions? It may be of interest to note that the field called "Heye" in Bradbourne is noted by Dr. Cameron because it appears in the charter rolls of Henry IV; this serves to emphasise further the great care and research which has gone into "The Place-Names of Derbyshire".

R.A.H. O'Neal.

N.Q.84. Cromford Canal

I have been engaged in making a series of colour slides of the Cromford Canal. There are over a hundred slides covering most of the Canal and it is hoped to complete the series as far as possible this year.

I have been attempting to obtain as much information regarding the Canal as possible. Descriptive details are more or less complete and the early history up to about 1830 also but later history is more or less non existent. Other than the take over by the Railway in 1870; the increasingly bad state of the Butterley Tunnel soon after until it was finally closed about 1900 and the final abandonment of the Canal in 1944 - little else appears to be publicly available. I have notes of trouble below Crich 1870 - 1880 when the whole hillside started to slide down towards the Derwent carrying the canal and railway with it; also about this time and later when the Canal bed collapsed into a culvert below, against Robin Hood (a house on the hillside about a mile up valley from Whatstandwell); that this trouble was repaired only to happen again.

It is hoped to make notes as complete as possible to serve as a basis for a talk to accompany the showing of the slides.

If you can offer any help re information of any type I would be most pleased to receive it and to show the result to any person interested.

Carl W. Hage.

N.Q.85. Hammer Ponds. ref. NQ.72.

In answer to the query by Mr. G.H. Large, hammer ponds are the dams of water, made to serve watermills actuating hammers used to forge the "blooms" of wrought iron, which was from the earliest days the form in which iron was produced and used for weapons and tools.

This process was supplanted in Tudor times, by the blast furnace for producing iron in cast form, which then needed to be converted into wrought iron, by puddling, or into steel.

The furnace in which ore, rich in iron, was reduced by heating it with charcoal, was called a "bloomery" from the Saxon word "bloma", meaning "metal", or "lump". The lump of malleable iron produced in the furnace was then hammered to express as many of the cinder-like impurities as possible, and the resulting "wrought iron" was then hammered down into bars.

These bloomeries were referred to indiscriminately as furnaces or hammers. Many hammer ponds have survived, especially in the Weald, where a suitable grade of iron ore was to be found, and trees for fuel were plentiful.

Nearer home, perhaps the last hammer pond to have been used to operate tilt hammers is that at Beauchief, which is passed on the right as one approaches Sheffield by road, or on the left by train.

FN.

Editorial

- continued from Page 191 -

a minimum of £1 per annum, and the membership card gives free admission to every National Trust property at which an admission fee is normally charged. In addition, members receive a News Bulletin, an Annual Report, and a list of all National Trust properties.

It is always interesting to receive one of Mr. Hayhurst's notes from the Tissington manuscripts, and he has promised to follow up the one on Brandreth which appears in this issue by an account of the prices of essential commodities as recorded by Sir Henry Fitzherbert between 1812 and 1819. This will appear in the next Bulletin.

"The Place Names of Derbyshire", a notable and long awaited work, has been very ably reviewed for this Bulletin by Mr. J.W. Allen. The Society now has these volumes in its library and copies are also available at the Derby Borough Reference Library.

Mr. Francis Fisher has contributed some most helpful notes on searching parish registers, for the assistance of those who are just beginning this type of work. He states that he will gladly give help and advice to anyone who is experiencing difficulty in this field.

This would appear to be the appropriate place in which to mention the projected scheme for enlarging our records about every parish in the county. Members will be aware that there now exist many useful files of information which has been collated by the Keepers of the Section's records. Every member is asked to contribute some additional information to augment these records. For example, any information which supplemented the Glover notes would be invaluable. Mr. Francis Fisher has prepared a note on Alvaston for the next Bulletin, which shows how a parish history can be built up from rough notes. Similar work could be done for every parish in the county with the assistance of members and any of their friends who have any knowledge of the history of their locality. Any information at all, however seemingly trivial, helps to complete the picture of the past - a brief note perhaps on a memorial in a church, on old documents in private hands, on a house or other building, on a family and its affairs, or a will, a mine, a quarry or any other industrial enterprise. The Editor would be grateful to receive as many notes as possible, and a report of progress will be made in the October Bulletin.

Some members have published privately the results of their researches, and some of the more recent are mentioned below. The Section is anxious to list every private publication that has been produced about the County.

There is a virtually unexplored field for research into the growth of Baptist Witness in Derbyshire, for Baptist churches have played an important part in the life of the community during the past 300 years. In this connection a pioneer effort has been made by Mr. C. Hargreaves the Ilkeston Borough Librarian, who has written a history of the Baptist Church in Ilkeston - "One Hundred Years of Queen Street", a booklet published on June 22nd, 1958, to mark the centenary of the present building.

Mr. M. Gavaghan has published a booklet on the history of Pleasley Manor. This makes interesting reading at a time when the Glapwell Charters are being reproduced in the Society's Journal.

Dr. Doughty has presented to the Section two numbers of "The Mountaineer", the School Magazine of Mount St. Mary's College at Spinkhill. These contain an informative article written by him on the Poles of Spinkhill and Park Hall, based on three documents in the Local History Collection of the Sheffield City Library, dated 1651, 1699 and 1701.

"Onward", the official Journal of the Inland Waterways Society, has been received by the Section.

The Editor wishes to take this opportunity, at the conclusion of the first volume to thank most sincerely all those whose writings and labour, so generously given, have made it possible to create and maintain the Derbyshire Miscellany throughout its first three years. Continued support is earnestly solicited so that the Miscellany may continue in its dedicated purpose of putting on record as much information as possible about the County.

BOOK LIST

"The Strutts and the Arkwrights 1758 - 1830 - A Study of the Early Factory System" by R.S. Fitton and A.P. Wadsworth - published in 1958 by the Manchester University Press - price 35/-.

"One Hundred Years of Queen Street - The Growth of Baptist Witness in Ilkeston" by C. Hargreaves A.L.A. - published in 1958 - price 5/- . From C. Hargreaves, 21 Kniveton Park, Ilkeston, Derbyshire..

"History of Pleasley Manor" by M. Gavaghan - price 2/6d - From M. Gavaghan, 70 The Terrace, Pleasley, Mansfield.

A new "Guide to Eyam" by C Daniel has been published recently, price 2/6d - from C. Daniel, "Cratcliffe" Eyam - via Sheffield.

"History of British Canals" by C.Hadfield - 2nd edition completely revised with 8 plates and 42 other illustrations including maps. First published in 1950, much of the original book has been completely rewritten making use of material which the author has come across in his researches since then. 2nd Edition 1959 - price 36/-.

"Local History" by Francis Celoria - published in 1958 by the English University Press Ltd. in the "Teach Yourself" series. Price 7/6d. This small volume is uniform with "Archaeology" by S.Graham Brade-Birks, first published in 1953. Mr.Celoria writes for the amateur student and deals with every aspect of local history. For those who wish to know more about any special topic there are good bibliographies at the end of each chapter.

The Local History Section's Publications 1956-59

Reproduction of the DAS's Burdett Map - Sold Out.

1957 Supp.1 "Richard Furness, the Peakland Poet" by C.Daniel - A few backed copies are still available from the Author, "Cratcliffe", Eyam, via Sheffield - price 1/- postage 4d.

Supp.2 "A Village Constable's Accounts" 1791-1839" edited by Robert Thornhill - price 3/6d.

1958 Supp.3 "Derbyshire Clockmakers before 1850 - The Whitehurst Family" by W.Douglas White - SOLD OUT

Supp.4 - "James Brindley, Millwright and Civil Engineer" - SOLD OUT

1959 Supp.5 ~~Supp.5~~ "About a Derbyshire Village 1770 - 1820" (Great Longstone) edited by Robert Thornhill - price 3/6d.

Supp.6 "Gresley : Family, Lands and Priory - 1066-1250" by Oswald Hull M.A. to be published in the early Autumn price 3/-.

Eckington

Glover 41

There are 189 Electors, viz. 116 Freeholders, 44 Copyholders, 26 occupiers, 3 leaseholders. The Freeholders are Rev. Edward Henry Abney, The Firs, Derby; Alfred Alderson, Joseph Andrews jun., Francis Appleby, William Appleyard, James Barker, Wisewood near Sheffield; James Beresford Charles Boot; Mark Bolsover, John Boot, Joseph and William Booth, Thomas Birks, Charles and Samuel Billam, Rev. A. C. Broomhead; John Dodsworth, Charlesworth, Chapelthorpe Hall; Joseph Charlesworth, Lofthouse; John Gregory Cottingham Esq.; Rev. Henry Cottingham, Hathersage, Francis Colly, Sheffield; James Dixon, Page-hall, Rev. Edmund Hiley Bucknall Escourt; Thos Charles and Robert Fanshaw; Robert Field; Thomas and Joseph French; Benj Fiddler; E. T. France, Dronfield; Samuel Gardner; John and Jediah Goodwin; John Green, John Gilbert, Sheffield; Joseph Hall; Geo. Hall; Billey Herring, C. H. Hanger, Sheffield; Samuel Hollingworth; Matthew Habbershon, Handsworth; Jabez Harwood; I. M. F. Hutton; Robert Harrison; Samuel Hardy Geo. Hollingworth

&c. &c. (This manuscript is in the Pamphlet Box.)

(A list of about 50 Copyholders follows, after which come the principal occupiers, 26 in number.)

In 1854 a Mechanics Institution was established and has a small library and news-room in connection with it.

The Church and Rectory

At the time of the Norman Survey there were a priest and a servant at Eckington but no church. However we find one at the beginning of the fourteenth century, for Eleanor wife of Robert or Roger Stuteville who died 4 Edw II held the Manor and advowson of the church. The living is a rectory value in the King's Books at £20.13.4d and yearly tenths £4. 1. 4d. The Church dedicated to St Peters and St Paul is an ancient building of the Anglo-Norman style of architecture, with a tower containing six bells, terminated by an octagon spire. It is in the Diocese of Lichfield, the Archdeaconry of Derby, and Deanery of Chesterfield or Staveley. Before 1843, the Rectory included Killamarsh, the Rector being termed Rector of Eckington cum Killamarsh, together they were worth from £1600 to £1700 per annum; but by an order in Council dated June 10th 1843 pursuant to the reforming plans of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Killamarsh was made a separate Rectory; and Ridgeway with the Troway quarter, a perpetual curacy and distinct parish. The Rectory now £745 per annum is in the patronage of the Crown and incumbency of the Rev. Edmund Hiley Bucknall Estcourt, M.A., 1843, who has ---- acres of glebe. Rev. R. Bickman and Rev. C. Cayley curates.

In the church are some ancient monuments, on one of which is the Effigies of a Male and female kneeling on one knee in the costume of the time of Charles the Second. There is church accommodation for 1069 persons, 300 of the seats are free.

The organist has an endowment of £14 a year arising from land and £5 from other sources.

(In a different hand are four pages of monumental inscriptions, with some of the epitaphs).

Phoebe Godbear was buried at Eckington in the year 1818 in the 108th year of her age.

Charities

In 1711 Henry Inman devised his lands and tenements at Newbold, upon trust, the rents and profits thereof to provide strong warm blue gowns, with the letters H and I to be set upon one of the sleeves. The land is now let for £6.10.0 per annum. One moiety thereof is given to Eckington quarter, and the other to Mosborough. In 1828 the ironstone, and the timber growing on this estate was sold for £102 which was laid out in the purchase of land at Bramley Brook, the proceeds of which is laid out as above.

In 1762 Margaret Foljambe widow, directed a rent charge of £5 per annum to be paid out of a tenement at Barlborough Woodlane End and several closes of land called the croft, the little ox close, the Great Meadow and the Long Meadow. These premises are now in the possession of Sir Sitwell Reresby Sitwell Bart. subject to the above payment, which is distributed at the vestry on St Thomas's Day; 40s. thereof equally amongst 20 poor widows, and the residue to 60 other poor persons of the quarters of Eckington and Renishaw in sums of one shilling each. An annual sum of £4 is received by the overseers as a charge upon some part of the estate of E. S. Chandos Pole Esq. which is given in sums varying from 1s to 2s.6d.

In 1791 Jonathan Bromehead left on trust for the benefit of the poor certain messuages in Eckington and an allotment of land containing 1a Or 20p on Eckington Marsh. The following benefactions may be considered as forming part of this charity, though given by the Rev. Joseph Bromehead and other persons of his family, in consequence of the loss of a legacy intended to have been given by the said Jonathan Bromehead. The sum of £200 in 1819 and the sum of £100 in 1827 was invested in the 3 per cent consols. Out of the income of the charities consisting of rents and dividends, seven fivepenny loaves are given weekly to poor families of Eckington and Renishaw quarters.

In 1817 the Rev. Francis Gisborne left £5.10s. per annum to be expended in flannel and coarse woollen cloth, and distributed to the poor in Winster.

The yearly sum of nineteen shillings from Denham's charity is carried to the account of the poor rate (see Clowne).

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