

Derbyshire Miscellany

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Section News

There have been two meetings of the Local History Section already this year. At the first, held at the Bridge Chapel Library on February 25th, Mr. C.W. Hage showed the large collection of colour photographs which he had taken of the Cromford Canal. He is making a special study of this Canal and its history, and will be very glad to receive any information about it which members might possess. Mr. Hage has given us permission to reproduce the notes on which he based his talk, and these will appear in the October Bulletin. This dedicated work by an amateur historian has resulted in a valuable contribution to our local history, and it provided a delightful evening's entertainment.

On Saturday, April 2nd, Members met at Chesterfield to hear Mr. C. C. Handford on the Historical and Topographical Literature of Derbyshire. Mr. J.M. Bestall took the Chair, and the meeting was held in the Library Room by kind invitation of Mr. G.R. Micklewright.

After speaking of the great number and the varying value of the books on the county, Mr. Handford outlined those which the amateur historian should possess as the basis for a library. He exhibited a number of books from his own collection, and these were augmented by others from the Local Collection of the Chesterfield Library. Mr. Micklewright also showed some interesting maps and pictures.

Mr. H.J. Wain was to have led one of his extremely popular expeditions during May, this time to Foremark. Members will learn with regret that he has been ill, and will not be able to conduct the outing until a later date. We all send our sincere wishes for his speedy and complete recovery.

On Saturday, June 18th, our Chairman, Mr. R. Hayhurst has organised an outing at Alport, near Youghreave. The main object will be to visit the water mill which is one of the last still to be working in Derbyshire. A century ago there were large numbers of water mills working in every part of the county.

The mill is not in use at the present time, but it is in going order, and will actually be working for the visit on June 18th.

Mr. Hayhurst has arranged for the party to proceed to the grit-stone quarry at Elton, where Mr. Price has kindly promised to give a short talk about the workings.

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Mr. R.A.H. O'Neal, whose article on Aldwark appears in this issue, has had brought to his notice one small claim to fame by this isolated hamlet. It is said that Baroness Orczy stayed there while writing her novel "Beau Brocade", and that some scenes are set in the Aldwark and Longcliffe areas. This information was supplied by Dr. W. Heap of Wirksworth.

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THE MEDIEVAL HISTORY OF ALDWARK

by R.A.H. O'Neal

Half way between Brassington and Winster lies the small and little-known village of Aldwark. It is situated at over 1,000 feet about one mile from Grangemill and one and a half from Ible, on the opposite side of the Griffie Grange valley. It must be virtually the same now as it was a hundred years ago and its life, too, cannot have changed very much in nearly ten times as long. It is true that some of the houses have television aerials and the farmers have cars and tractors, but a visitor is still enough of a rarity to cause considerable interest and, possibly, speculation among the villagers who come to their doors along the grass-grown village street at the sight or sound of a strange car. Its situation probably accounts for Aldwark being one of the least known and least spoilt of Derbyshire villages in spite of being barely a mile from the main Cromford to Newhaven road. The old turn-pike road from Wirksworth through Middleton and over Nimblejack to Grangemill and on to Newhaven was well used by the nineteenth century coach traffic, but Aldwark was just off the line of it. Similarly, when the Via Gellia was built, the new road joined the old at Grangemill and still missed Aldwark. The oldest road of all of them, that from Derby to Newhaven, through Hulland Ward, Hognaston, Brassington and Pikehall passed by Aldwark about one mile away. One of the results of this is that Aldwark has not, and never has had, an inn or even a public house.

Aldwark has seldom, if ever, intruded upon the affairs of the outside world and it even managed to escape mention in the greatest census of all - the domesday survey. Its name suggests that there was something at Aldwark at the time domesday book was compiled in 1086; it is compounded from the old English "Ald-(ge)weorc", meaning "Old fortification". There is no evidence for any earlier name than this Anglo-Saxon one, but the fortification referred to may have been a Roman or even pre-Roman since the village is close to the Roman road which runs from the civil settlement of Aquae (Buxton) to Littlechester (in Derby) and which is known as "The Street"; it is also close to an even older road known as the "Portway". This fortification, of which no trace remains, could, at least in theory, have controlled both these roads in conjunction with the ancient hill fortress of Minninglow some two miles to the west on the far side of The Street. Aldwark is not mentioned in the domesday book, but it was probably included in the lands of Sewallis who held from Henry de Ferrars, Earl of Derby. Sewallis granted his lands in Aldwark to the Abbey of Darley during the reign of Henry I and, in about 1140, Robert de Ferrars

granted six acres there to the Bishop of Coventry to help in the foundation of a religious house in Derby; this was later confirmed by William and, later still, by Hugh de Ferrars. The original grant by Sewallis was of five ox-gangs of land and three acres of meadow and this remained with the abbey until its dissolution, although not without incident. In 1272, a plea was heard at Warwick in which Robert de Waddesle sought against the Abbot of Derlegh (Darley) eight messuages and ten bovates of land in Anderwerk (Aldwark) as his inheritance, into which the Abbot had no entry except by Robert de Anderwerk, grandfather of the said Robert, whose heir he was, who devised the tenements to the Abbot when he (Robert senior) was insane. The Abbot, who was represented by attorney, maintained that he ought not to answer to that writ because he had found the church of Derlegh seised of the said tenements after the death of his predecessor and that he had had no entry by the said Robert. Robert could not deny this and judgement was given in favour of the Abbot.

The monks of Darley had a grange at Aldwark, now represented by Grange Barn on the north side of the Newhaven road, and this probably had a chapel and, possibly, a burial place (although the latter is unlikely) which may account for the Lysons' statement that there was a chantry and cemetery at Aldwark. The only other possible explanation for this may lie in the fact that James Beresford's chantry in Fenny Bentley church was partly supported by his lands at Aldwark. The grange, like the manor, was with the Abbey until its dissolution. In the hundred rolls for the 3rd and 4th years of the reign of Edward I is a statement that the Abbot of Darley held Wyggewell (Wigwell) in free alms of the gift of Earl William de Ferrars since twenty years and one carucate of land in Aldwark for the previous thirty years. The Abbey, however, did not own the whole of Aldwark. Ralph de Snitterton, of Ible, seems to have had considerable interests there. In 1289 he leased some land in Aldwark to William de Ible for forty years at an annual rent of ten shillings. In 1309, Ralph de Snitterton's son, Ralph, leased a toft and lands in Aldwark to John fitzRichard Knot, of Bonsall, at a rent of eight shillings per annum for forty years and ten marks per annum for any period beyond this. This seems to have been the normal way of doing business of this kind for, in the same year, Ralph leased some more lands in Aldwark to William fitzAde de Middleton for forty years at ten shillings a year and for ten marks a year after this. The following year Ralph granted to William de Ible and Agnes, his wife, a messuage and lands in Aldwark for life, or for twenty years, at ten shillings a year; after twenty years, they were to pay a hundred shillings a year. This was evidently a confirmation of William de Ible's original grant in 1289, perhaps on his marriage to Agnes for, in 1317, the grant was amended in favour of William de Ible, Agnes and their son, Nicholas. The new agreement was for the lease of a messuage and lands in

Aldwark and for their heirs to hold the same for fifty-three years at a rent of ten shillings. As usual, any further occupation was at the rate of a hundred shillings a year. Judging from the high rents, the amount of land involved in these deals must have been considerable and William de Tble must have been fairly prosperous to be able to make agreements on these terms. Ralph fitzJohn de Bonsal was another landowner in Aldwark and, in the reign of Edward II, he is recorded as having leased his holding there to Roger Colte and Ynglesia for a rent of one penny. Ynglesia was Ralph's daughter, so this looks like some kind of marriage settlement. William de Atlow also had some land in Aldwark for he and his wife, Agnes, granted two messuages and lands there for life in 1368; unfortunately, the recipient is not named.

By the end of the fourteenth century, Aldwark seems to have grown to a fair size and to have been reasonably prosperous. Apart from the monastic owners, the parish apparently contained some relatively wealthy inhabitants. The assessments for a lay subsidy taken in 1327-28 show this clearly; the tax was a twentieth and several persons paid between two and five shillings which was a fairly large sum in those days. John de la More and Robert Jurdon both had their property valued at forty shillings and thus paid two shillings tax; Ralph fitzJohn Wase paid three shillings on property assessed at sixty shillings and John Glyn's assessment was one hundred shillings, so that he had to pay five shillings. The total assessment for Aldwark was £60 and the total payment was sixty shillings.

Life seems to have gone on smoothly for some fifty years until the dissolution of the monasteries. Even this, however, probably had little direct effect on the place, any more than the normal ownership quarrels like the one which resulted, in 1503, in John Leeke, of Sutton-in-the-dale, issuing a defeasance of a bond given by Thomas Sacheverell, of Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, for delivery of title-deeds of lands in Aldwark in exchange for waiver of a claim on some other deeds. Aldwark and Aldwark Grange reverted to the crown in 1539. They remained in the hands of the crown until Edward VI granted the grange to Sir Thomas Heneage and Lord Willoughby jointly. They sold it in the following year to Robert Goch and, through his heirs, it passed to the Curzon family and, finally, to the Manners family, Dukes of Rutland. The manor of Aldwark remained with the crown until Elizabeth I granted it to James Hardwick, of Hardwick, from whom, through his heiress, Bess of Hardwick, it passed to Sir William Cavendish and so to the Dukes of Devonshire. Early in the nineteenth century, the then Duke of Devonshire exchanged his lands in Aldwark for others of the Duke of Rutland who thus reunited all Aldwark under one owner after four hundred years.



At about the time when Elizabeth I granted Aldwark to James Hardwick, a description of the Manors of Derbyshire was drawn up. The reason for this is not certain, but it may have been the result of some commission of enquiry set up to deal with lands alienated after the dissolution of the monasteries. The part dealing with Aldwark may prove interesting, if a little obscure:

"Aldwarke Manor and Ilston Rectory, the Lordship and Manor of Aldwarke, with its appurtenances, and the Rectory of Ilkeston and the advowson of the Vicarage of Ilston, with its appurtenances, as also of the lands, tenements, etc., in Aldwarke, Bradburne, Little Hallam, Ilkeston and Ilston, held by James Hardwicke, for himself and his heirs of the king as with respect to the Manor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in free and common socage and not in capite. 4 Elizabeth.

"Aldwarke Grange. Aldwerke, alias Aldwarke Grange, and all the lands, meadows, pastures, etc., lying in Aldwarke, called The Grange, alienated to Robert Goche, Armiger, and his heirs by Thomas Heneage, Knight, and William, Lord Willoughby, and held in capite. 3 Edward VI.

"Aldwarke Grange. Aldwarke, alias Aldwarke Grange, with its appurtenances in County Derby, and diverse messuages, etc., in Aldwarke, alias Aldewarpe, as well as diverse messuages...in Blegh and Sherbrook...held by Thomas Heneage and William Willoughby...of the king in capite, among other things, by the service of a tenth part of one knight's fee."

The reference to East Greenwich seems out of place and is puzzling, unless that manor was used as some sort of standard by which to rate others. Ilston cannot be identified with any certainty.

Aldwark, formerly in the parish of Bradbourne, was united with the parish of Ivenbrook Grange in the nineteenth century; it is, however, a civil parish and appears to be increasing in size slightly. In 1801 its population was 68 and in 1951 it was 64; during the intervening 150 years, it had fluctuated between the extremes of 97 in 1831 and 36 in 1901. There has never been a church in the village, although there may have been a private chapel at the Grange at one time, but there is a Methodist chapel. This occupies the upper storey of an eighteenth century building, the ground floor of which is used as a garage. A feature of the village is six stone cattle troughs adjoining each other near the cross-roads. The scattered community is almost certainly engaged entirely in agriculture, with the possible exception of some of the villagers working at the nearby Longcliffe Quarries. There are some fourteen old quarries, two lime-kilns and a number of old shafts, presumably for lead, in the 950-odd acres comprising the civil parish.

In 1821, when fifteen families lived in Aldwark, eleven were farmers and four were miners and traders; the odd family was not accounted for. There are fifteen families there now, and the proportion must be about the same, with the quarries taking the place of the mines. There are a number of tumuli on the summit of Greenlow, half a mile north of the village, and the parish is bounded for a few yards at its extreme western end by the Roman road, The Street, which passes below Minninglow. Apart from these, there are no known archaeological remains. Electricity has reached the village, but not gas, nor, apparently, a mains water supply. There are a few springs in the village issuing from the carboniferous limestone and Lidgate Farm has its own spring which is never known to dry up; the main supply, however, is rain water.

Unless there is some unforeseen development, Aldwark's story, such as it is, seems likely to continue for another thousand years with as little change or incident as in the past. If this is the case, Aldwark will surely remain one of Derbyshire's forgotten villages, unknown, unvisited and unspoilt.

R.A.H. O'Neal

Table of population, 1801-1951

1801	68 persons		1881	52 persons	
1811	74 persons		1891	40 persons	
1821	92 persons	15 houses	1901	36 persons	8 houses
1831	97 persons		1911	37 persons	8 houses
1841	82 persons		1921	42 persons	8 houses
1851	79 persons	17 houses	1931	38 persons	10 houses
1861	65 persons		1951	64 persons	14 houses
1871	82 persons				

HOLDERS of the manor of Aldwark

1086	Sewallis, from Henry de Ferrars, Earl of Derby.
Henry I	Darley Abbey, by gift.
1539	Reverted to crown.
Elizabeth I	James Hardwick, of Hardwick, by grant.
	Sir William Cavendish, by inheritance through Bess of Hardwick.
	Dukes of Devonshire.
19th century	Dukes of Rutland, by exchange with Duke of Devonshire.





Sugar .. .. £2. 0s. 0d. pr. cwt. = 112 lbs. Sugar about 5  
yrs. previous to  
this date had  
been as low as  
30/- pr. cwt.

Beef .. .. 8d. pr. lb. ) At Ashbourne Market  
Mutton .. .. 8d. pr. lb. ) and dealing constantly  
Veal .. .. 6½d. pr. lb. ) with the same butcher.

A pipe of port at Carbonell's  
In London £150. In consequence of the state of Portugal.

Posting 1/6d. per mile, and in some places 1/9d. per mile, and near  
London 2/-d. per mile.

Stocks - 3 per cent. Consols - 55. At War with almost all the World.

A good horse .. .. 70 guineas  
A good milk cow .. .. 25 guineas  
A two year old black cart horse 50 guineas

Lump sugar in the shop .. .. 14d. per lb.  
Candles .. .. 13d. per lb. In the year 1800  
they were 15d.  
per lb. in consequence  
of the Russian War.

Soap .. .. 12d. and 13d. per lb.  
Potatoes .. .. 14d. per peck  
Coals .. .. 8½d. per cwt. at Cromford Wharf,  
and the carriage thence to  
Tissington 7d. per cwt.

Agricultural Labour .. .. 2/6d. per day. In Harvest 3/-d.  
with ale and victuals.

Master Mason .. .. 4/-d. per day  
Journeyman Mason .. .. 3/6d. per day  
Carpenter .. .. 3/6d. per day

Hay old and good .. .. £7. 7s. 0d. per ton  
Flour .. .. £5. 5s. 0d. per sack of Seconds  
in the summer of 1812  
at Ashbourne.

Meal .. .. 3/-d. per peck at the same time  
and place.

Claret at Carbonell's in 1812 - £6. 6s. 0d. a dozen  
Brandy at Carbonell's in 1812 - £-.10s. 6d. a bottle

1814 at Christmas

Wheat .. .. .	80/-d. pr. Qr. in London
Barley .. .. .	35/-d.
Oats .. .. .	27/-d.
Malt .. .. .	70/-d.
Kent hops .. .. .	£9. 9s. Od. per Pocket
Hay .. .. .	£7. 7s. Od. pr. ton
Sugar .. .. .	£3. 18s. 6d. per cwt. exclusive of duty.
Sugar in the shop ..	1/9d. per lb. at Ashbourne
Currants .. .. .	1/1d.
Raisins .. .. .	101.
Mustard .. .. .	2/4d.
Black pepper .. .. .	4/-d.
Isinglass .. .. .	1/8d. per oz.
Soft soap .. .. .	10d. per lb.
Candles .. .. .	1/-d.
Cheese .. .. .	£3. 16s. Od. per cwt., 120 lbs. Good Derbyshire.
Potatoes .. .. .	8d. per peck
Flour (seconds) .. ..	£2. 11s. Od. per sack at Ashbourne
Meal .. .. .	1/4d. pr. peck at Ashbourne
Butter .. .. .	1/2d. pr. lb. at Ashbourne
Salt .. .. .	4/6d. pr. stone at Ashbourne

1816 at Christmas

Wheat .. .. .	170/-d. pr. quarter
Oats .. .. .	80/-d. pr. quarter
Barley .. .. .	90/-d. pr. quarter
Malt .. .. .	16/-d. per strike or bushel
Flour .. .. .	£5. 17s. Od. a sack of Seconds
Oatmeal .. .. .	3/2d. per peck (in July 1816 it was £2. 14s. Od.)
Derbyshire Cheese ..	50/-d. per cwt. = 120 lbs. This was the <u>highest price</u> .
Beef .. .. .	6d. pr. lb.
Mutton .. .. .	6d. pr. lb.
Veal .. .. .	4d. pr. lb.

A three year old black horse - £20. Os. Od. A Yearling ditto.

A good Milch cow - 14 guineas - not saleable.

Butter	..	..	..	1/-d. per lb. - 6d. in the summer.
Coals	..	..	..	8d. per cwt. at Cromford Wharf, and the carriage thence to Tissington 11/-d. per ton.
Agricultural labour	..			2/-d. per day in summer and 1/6d. in winter.
House ? Men	..	..	..	7/-d. per week, or 6d., 8d. 10d. a day, with maintenance.
A journeyman mason	..			3/-d. per day.
Posting	..	..	..	1/6d. per mile
Eggs	..	..	..	1/-d. per dozen

1817 at Christmas

Wheat	..	..	..	120/-d. per quarter
Barley	..	..	..	70/-d. per quarter
Oats	..	..	..	40/-d. per quarter
Flour	..	..	..	£3. 7s. 0d. per sack (Seconds)
Oatmeal	..	..	..	1/4d. per peck
Cheese	..	..	..	58/-d. per cwt. = 120 lbs.
Malt	..	..	..	14/6d. per strike or bushel
Butter	..	..	..	1/3d. per lb.
Potatoes at setting time in the Spring	..			2/-d. per peck
Ditto at Christmas	..			6d. per peck
Hops	..	..	..	5/6d. per lb.

No variation in the price of the other articles mentioned in the last year.

3 per cent. Consols: in July 1817 - 85. At peace with all the World.

A pipe of port at Carbonell's in London £130.

Apples	..	..	..	6/-d. per peck
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1818 at Christmas

Wheat	..	..	..	90/-d. per quarter
Barley	..	..	..	70/-d. per quarter
Oats	..	..	..	45/-d. per quarter
Flour	..	..	..	£3. 9s. 0d. per sack (Seconds)
Meal	..	..	..	2/-d. per peck
Derbyshire cheese	..			£4. 4s. 0d. per cwt. = 120 lbs. In September 90/-d. per cwt.
Malt	..	..	..	12/-d. per strike

Hops .. .. .	2/-d. per lb.
Butter .. .. .	1/5d. per lb.
Eggs .. .. .	8 for 1/-d.
Salt .. .. .	4/6d. per stone
Potatoes .. .. .	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. per peck
Beef .. .. .	8d. per lb.
Mutton .. .. .	8d. per lb.
Veal .. .. .	8d. per lb. the best parts, the others 6d.

A 3 year old black horse at Ashbourne at the October Fair - £40.

A good milch cow in May - £24. Ditto in December - £18.

Labour .. .. .	2/6d. per day in the summer
	2/-d. per day in the winter
Journeyman mason ..	3/6d. per day
Posting .. .. .	1/3d. per mile

Good hunters for weight 200 guineas to 250 guineas

A pair of handsome carriage horses in London - 220 guineas

Coals and carriage of same from Cromford - 25/-d. per ton.

3 per cent Consols at Christmas - 80

Hay .. .. .	£6. 6s. 0d. per ton
Straw .. .. .	£4. 4s. 0d. per ton
Apples .. .. .	3/-d. per peck
Sugar .. .. .	50/-d. per cwt. exclusive of the duty.
A very steady price for many months.	
Sugar in the shops ..	14d. and 15d. per lb.
Fine lump sugar ..	19 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. per lb.
Raisins .. .. .	1/-d. per lb.
Jar ditto .. .. .	2/-d. per lb.
Currants .. .. .	1/2d. per lb.
Isinglass .. .. .	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -d. per lb. In 1812 it was 42/-d. per lb.
	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> -d. in London
Mustard .. .. .	2/4d. per lb.
Vinegar .. .. .	2/4d. per gallon
Gunpowder .. .. .	1/-d. per lb.
Shot .. .. .	4d. per lb.
Almonds .. .. .	5/-d. per lb.
Brown soap .. .. .	9d. per lb. )
White soap .. .. .	10d. per lb. )
Dip candles .. .. .	11d. per lb. )
Mould candles .. .. .	1/4d. per lb. )
Rushlights .. .. .	1/2d. per lb. )
At Ashbourne.	
Not so high in London.	

Parmesian cheese	..	2/6d. per lb. - in 1812	)	
		it was over 5/6d. per lb.)	)	
Fine Salad Oil	..	6/6d. per qt.	)	
Morells	..	£1. 8s. Od. per lb.	)	
Truffles	..	£1. 4s. Od. per lb.	)	At Barto
Vermicelli	..	3/-d. per lb.	)	Valle's
Macaroni	..	2/6d. per lb.	)	in the
White pepper	..	5/- per lb.	)	Haymarket
French Vinegar	..	3/6d. per qt.	)	
Capers	..	7/-d. per qt.	)	

Lamp Spirits of Wine	4/6d. per pt.	)	
Bohea Tea	9/-d. per lb.	)	
Green Tea	12/-d. per lb.)	At Antrobus's	
West India Coffee	2/6d. per lb.)	in the Strand	
Chocolate	6/-d. per lb.)		
Cocoa	4/6d. per lb.)		
Fine Sperm Oil	8/-d. per gallon at Smethurst's		

Swanwick Coals at Cromford Wharf 14/6d. per ton. Carriage of coal from  
Cromford to Tissington - 11/6d. per ton.

1819 - May 20th

Bank Stock - 249	In London	
5 per cents - 105	Wheat	£75. 0s. Od. per qr.
4 per cents - 91	Rye	£49. 0s. Od. per qr.
3 per cents - 72	Barley	£48. 0s. Od. per qr.
	Oats	£30. 0s. Od. per qr.
Beef 8d per lb.	Beans	£54. 0s. Od. per qr.
Mutton 8d. per lb.	Peas	£54. 0s. Od. per qr.
Veal 7d. per lb.	At Ashbourne	
Cows £24 0s. Od.	Oatmeal	20d. per peck
Posting 18d. per mile	Flour	£3. per sack (Seconds)
	Malt	11/-d. per strike
	Hops	2/-d. per lb.
	Cheese	70/-d. per cwt.
	Butter	1/-d. per lb.
	Eggs	9d. a dozen
	Potatoes	6d. per peck
	Swanwick coals at Cromford	13/6d. per ton.
	Wool (Derbyshire)	35/-d. per Tod.
	Sugar	40/-d. per cwt.

Members should assemble at Alport at 3 o'clock. It has not been possible to organise a coach, and the Secretary, Mr. Window, would be glad to know from members who will have spare seats in their cars, and from any members who require transport. A picnic tea should be taken.

It is hoped to organise an expedition to Wirksworth on a Saturday in July. Miss H. Smith and Miss L. Northrop have been invited to lead the party and Wirksworth is easy of access from all parts. The rendezvous will be the Market Place at 3 o'clock, and again a picnic tea should be packed. Mr. Window will notify the date to all who apply to him.

Wirksworth is of particular interest to the Section this year as we have been endeavouring to make a survey of the area. Facts of any kind about Wirksworth, Duffield, Ashlehay, Beighton Hill, Spout, Alport Height, Shottle, Turnditch, Windley, Idridgehay, Kirk Ireton, Alton, or any other locality in the area are urgently wanted. This is the first of the local regional surveys which the Section is undertaking. If this and future ones are to succeed as useful contributions to the County's history, the full co-operation of all members of the Section is needed. The Editor acknowledges with thanks the efforts of those who have already sent in useful information.

Mr. C. Skellern, who knows a great deal about the district, has been invited to lead a party around the Castle Donington area on September 3rd. Full details of this outing can be had from Mr. Window. In the next Bulletin there will be an interesting article by Mr. G.H. Green on Derby Hills, which was once attached to Castle Donington.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 22nd at 3 o'clock, in the WEA Building in Becket Street, Derby. The room here has been made available by Mr. Middleton, who was kind enough to suggest that it would be more convenient than the Technical College. A light tea will be available.

The meeting is being held a month earlier than usual in the hope that more members will be able to attend. It is intended to have an exhibition of the work so far done on the Survey. Mr. Window would be glad to know of any work on any area of the county which could be shown. He would also welcome offers of short talks (about ten minutes) on any aspect of Derbyshire history. Will members please do what they can to help.

For the first time, this number of Miscellany has no Notes and Queries to publish. The Editor hopes that this is only a passing phase.

Requests have been coming in for photographs of the James Brindley miniatures. The negatives will not be available after June 11th, so that any further requests should be sent in without delay. The copies will be circulated as quickly as possible after the list is closed.



MORE HISTORICAL NOTES ON DERBYSHIRE-  
LEICESTERSHIRE BORDER

by GEO. H. GREEN

February, 1959 issue of Derbyshire Miscellany briefly introduced interesting problems of the intermingled parishes of Derbyshire and Leicestershire, and the various detached parts of some parishes. Further information regarding these complicated land occupancy features is to be found in old County Agriculture Reports (1).

Amongst other unsuspected divided parishes it reveals that Castle Donington in Leicestershire at one time had a detached portion in Derbyshire. This was the strange little parish of Derby Hills, near to Calke and Melbourne. The present article supplies some information about this matter, and should be of interest to Derbyshire historians as it touches on a by-way of Agrarian History upon which more study is needed - the shortage of common grazing lands in Midlands parishes.(2)

Derby Hills now lies in ordinary enclosed farms and the extent of the Civil Parish is 323 acres. It is from 6 to 8 miles away from Castle Donington. Nicholls "History of Leicestershire" (circa 1800) confirms what Farey's list of detached parts shows. Derby Hills at that time and for a long time earlier "was parcel of the Manor of Castle Donington, in the counties of Leicester and Derby". Castle Donington is somewhat peculiar in having required 3 separate Enclosure Acts. The first in 1737 does not directly mention Derby Hills but it has some relevance to this matter for it describes the difficulties of securing sufficient pasture grazing. "...and the said pastures were not sufficient to support and maintain so large and numerous stock of horses and beasts (491) but that the same were eaten up early in the summer so that little or nothing remained for the keep of so large a flock for the great part of the time they were so depastured, many of them were almost starved and forced to live chiefly on water, which occasioned distempers among the cattle and frequently death; and many of the sheep from being too numerous (4705) often died of hunger."

This shortage of pasture may be thought peculiar for Castle Donington parish is 3,839 acres (including water) in extent even when Derby Hills is excluded. However, a large parcel - Donington Park - was in private hands. River Cliff and osier beds and spinneys took a lot of land. The Castle, borough and township occupied much. The open field system was still in full swing and the fallowing of one third (it was a three field system) made it necessary to maintain a great deal of ground in arable working. Moreover, much of the parish is flood meadows, often under water, and the herbage tending to be reedy and rank. This enclosure Act recorded the acreage of open and common pasture as 490 acres - obviously insufficient for the great mass of livestock. Whether Derby Hills fell in this limited acreage is not at all clear.