

DERBYSHIRE
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Local History Section
Derbyshire Archaeological Society.

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

A well-attended Annual General Meeting has provided a good start for our activities in 1964, and I hope that we shall have an equally numerous and enthusiastic representation at our meetings throughout the year.

For, looking back on the lectures and excursions organised by the Local History Section during the past twelve months, I have pleasant recollections of a series of interesting, instructive and friendly gatherings, from Mr. Peel's display of Firearms in March to the tour of Leicestershire's Lost Villages with Mr. Green in September. All these were most enjoyable occasions, and when sometimes the attendance was less than might have been expected the thought uppermost in my mind was one of regret that some members had missed something worthwhile.

Transport, for some, may appear to present a difficulty, but it has been evident in the last year that always we have had car seats to spare, and I suggest that members should not be deterred from joining an expedition through having no car available. Indeed, providing transport for someone, perhaps not well-known to us individually, encourages that intermingling of members and the discovery of mutual interests which add so much to the enjoyment of a Society such as ours.

I look forward to the continuance of our happy association during the coming year.

Rennie Hayhurst

MIGHTY MEN

by

Robert Thornhill

The following notes are copied from a manuscript belonging to the writer, and comprising twelve neatly written pages stitched in a folded sheet of hand-made brown paper. The manuscript is undated, but a companion "booklet" of school work is dated 1775.

Glover Vol.2 p.390 quotes the reports which appeared in "Derby Mercury" and Hutton's "History of Derby" concerning the Duke of Devonshire's meeting at Derby on the 28th September 1745 "to consider of such measures as are fit to be taken for the support of the royal person and government of his majesty King George, and our happy constitution in church and state, at a time when rebellion is carrying on in favour of a popish Pretender".

- 1st And whilest these Things were doing D...re arose and said unto the King:
O King live for ever let thy Throne be established in righteousness and
let thine Enemyes fall down before the Face of thy mighty men.
- 2nd Behold now I have found favour in thy Sight grant unto thy Servant thy
royal Commission that I may raise a ridgement in the provence where I
dwell for why should thy Servant be idle when the Enemyes of the King
are conquering against him.
- 3rd And this saying pleased the King and he answered and said unto him thou
hast our leave to do as thou hast said and of the Ridgement which thou
shalt raise be thou Colonel D...re took leave and departed to his own
Country.
- 4th Now this D...re was a mighty man honoured by the King and beloved by his
own Country he had been twice Vikar of the kingdom of Ireland moreover
he was Lord Lieutenant of the County of Derby.
- 5th And he came to Derby and said unto the Elders thereof and to the mighty
men of the neighbouring Vilages; Come near unto me all ye that are
loyal and stout of Heart and hearken unto my Vice.
- 6th For verily Isaer the Pretender is approaching: he haith taken the
Capital of Caledoma and threateneth to bring us unto bondage and put a
Yoke upon our Necks and cause us to bow down unto Idols.
- 7th Now therefore be ye steadfast and unmoveable and gird every Man his Sword
upon his Thigh and let us behave our selves valiantly that G...e the
King may know that the men of Derby are good and true.

- 8th Moreover he said unto them go to No. Let us unstring our Purses that we may raise us a Regiment I also will Contribute thereunder and my son like these.
- 9th And he began to collect money of those who had large possessions were pore in Spirit and the Money collected amounted to Six Thousand tallents.
- 10th And then began to appoint Captains over tens and Captains over fiftys Lieutenants and standard bearers appointed he.
- 11th And maney were appointed at the Request of Hathan who were not men of Valover serving onley for the sake of pay and these things greeved D...re sorely for he said surely we shall become a Scorn and Derision before the Face of our Enemyes.
- 12th And when the Regiment was raised they Numbered them and they amounted to the Number of 600 Men.
- 13th And the Men were array'd in blue according to the teaching of Saml the scribe albeit it was a Colour of no Repute for the men of that gard had fled before their Enemyes in Ger...y.
- 14th Now there was a Man amongst these Captains whose name was L...we of the tribe of H...rlie & he was a mighty hunter and he said unto the men of his Company Verily Issachar and his men are Rebels therefore will we persue to the utmost Corner of the Land till we shall have destroyed them for he said in his Heart they will fly before us as the Hare flyeth before my Dogs.
- 15th And he maid a great Boasting among his Kindred and Acquaintance saying Verily my Company are all brave men for if I asce~~nd~~ into Heaven or go down into the Chambers of Hell these men will follow me.
- 16th And the saing of this man was partly verified.
- 17th And D...re sent word to the Captains over fiftys and the Captains over tens the Lieutenants and Standard bearers saing geather your selves togeather both you and your men that I may Review you so they assembled themselves and came into Derby even as he had said unto them.
- 18th And they drue out into a place called the Holmes the same is Compassed by the River Derwt and then he reviewed them.
- 19th And when D...re came to behold them he perceived and lo many of them were Striplings that tottered under the weight of their Cockades neither were they able to weld a Sword.
- 20th And he shook his Head and said are these thy mighty Men? O Derby the Lord protect thee for Vain is the help of these men.

- 21st And while they where yet in the Field Sorrowfull tidings came saing Issachar is at Ashbourne and he will be with you on the morrow.
- 22nd And when D...re heard these things Indignation and wrath came upon him and he said surely surely their Vain gard cannot exceed 600 Men, go to let every man be of good chear and prepare himself for Battle so let us meet them on the plains of Shirly for I trust in the Lord we shall destroy them.
- 23rd Albeit fear came upon them so that they hearken'd not unto the vise of D...re for they said one to another should we be slain our Wifes wou'd sorrow and our Damsels wou'd make grievous Lamentations so every man took up his weapon and prepar'd to fly.
- 24th And when De...re saw he prevailed not with them to tarry he Commund with them saying if you are determined to go hence let us join ourselves unto W...m the King's Son or to W...de the Generall who is in the provence of York Peradventure we may be of servise to our Country.
- 25th And they Communied amongst themselves saying if we join our selves unto W...m we shal be in Danger but if we join ourselves unto W...de we shall be safe for h^e is a peaceable man.
- 26th So they agreed to march unto Nottingham under hour of the Night and D...re said unto them go now to refresh your selves lest you faind by the way and lest the Enemy come upon you and slay you fasting.
- 27th And there was given to every man a portion of Bread and Cheese moreover they had strong Drink in abundance.
- 28th And about the 10th Hour they Departed some Whooping some grinning and some swaring Others weeping and waling and gnashing of the Teeth of thee is very many and the cry of them was Greivous.
- 29th And they Jurney'd and came unto Burrowsash a Village in the way as thou goest to Nottingham And there they took unto themselves Poultreys moreover they drank much Drink and departed nether did they remember to pay for it.
- 30th And as they drew nigh unto Nottingham word was brought saying Issachar is at Hand yea verily he is on this side Stopliford and the men of Nottingham were more affraid and their Hearts faild them.
- 31st And they sent out messengers to spy out the Roads and bring them entelligence.
- 32nd And the messenger returned unto them and said it is even so the young man is coming moreover he bringeth with him 10000 Men.

- 33rd And the rulers of the place arose and Laid there Heads together and said one to another the young man cometh for money so let us give it him and it shall come to pass that he will be mercifull to us and to our Wives and to our Children.
- 34th And they gave unto S...th the usurer 12000 Talents saying give this unto Issacher in the name of the men of Nottingham so shall his wrath be asswaged and he shall have mercy on us.
- 35th Albeit he came not for the Money but returned by the way which he came.
- 36th And D...re jurnied and came to Nottingham and it came to pass that when the men thereof saw they had been deceived and that they had been affraid where no fear was that they threw up their hosts saying god bless G...e the King and may all the devises of Issachar come to nought.
- 37th Albeit Issachar was at Derby and heard them not.
- 38th And when they had again refreshed themselves they said one to another this is no abideing place for us neither is there safety in Nottingham.
- 39th And they took their Journey Northward towards Mansfield by the way of Sherwood they came is a Forest of G...e the Kings.
- 40th Now there was amongst them a Standard bearer whose name was M...ls of the tribe of P...Gileis he was a man of war from his youth but was a great boaster moreover he was a Publican and A sinner.
- 41st And he vountpted much and said in the Days of my youth I was accouned a man of Valour for a Drunken Blacksmith offended me and I smote him with the Edge of my sword I will do so likewise unto Issachar for what is he that defieth the Armies of G...e our King.
- 42nd And while they journed there came unto them a Lying messenger saying Issachar cometh with speed verily yet Half an Hour and he cometh upon us.
- 43rd And M...ls cryed out with a loud voice saying halt ye men in the front for our Rear is sore Opressd and we shall in evitably be cut off.
- 44th And they laughed him to scorn saying how is the mighty fal'n and his Honour laid in the dust how be it they starken'd not their pace for happy was he who was swiftest on foot.
- 45th And they came into Mansfield and there abode that Day.
- 46th And they sent out partes to spy out the Land lest the Enemies come upon them at unawares.

- 47th And they returned in the Night having heard much talking and a great noise like the trampling of an Army and they maid their Report unto D...re saying now of a truth the young man Approcheth verily we are not deceived for we have seen them with our Eyes and their vane Gard is about 2000 Men.
- 48th And when the men of Captain L...we heard this they cryed out Captain what shall we do to be saved and he Answered them and said Run Lads run and turned his back as they did also and followed them.
- 49th This was done that the People of the Captain might be fulfilled wich he spoke to Ca...perth Esq. saying my men will follow me whersoever I go.
- 50th And they fled in great Confusion and many were loaded by the fames of Liquor within Albeit all was a false Alarm for verily it was a herd of Cattle that the men of the Country were driving them to a place of Safety.
- 51st And one of the men in his flight lost a warlike Instrument called a Drum yet he returned not back to look for it.
- 52nd And Gr...tt...n the Lieutenant came riding furiously and he wiped his Horse curiously saying fly swiftly for on thy speed dependeth my life.
- 53rd And he saw not the Drum but rode upon it and burst it and the noise thereof was like unto the report of a great gun. And the Beast was affrighted and threw his rider to the ground and he roared out terribly Oh! I am slain and the fear of this man was grievous.
- 54th And they journied and came unto Redford and Aboad there untill word was brought them that the young man was return'd from Derby by the way he came.
- 55th And they turned back and when they came nigh unto Derby they gave a great shout saying Hail Derby happy are we to behold thee for we greatly fear'd never to behold thee more.
- 56th And they came nigh unto Derby with Joy and gladness Howbeit they was soon discharg'd for Issachar had taken the money that shou'd have mentained them.
- 57th So they was discharg'd and each man went his way some to labour sore against their wills but others said we are gentlemen neither will we do any servile work and they joynd themselves unto Granby the marquiss.
- 58th Now the rest of the acts of the Blews are they not well known and the Money spendd by them is it not written in the book of Samuel the Essaer and these men were called Drivers of Cattle to this Day.
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THE BELLOTS OF BROCFIELD

by

M. A. Life

Early records of the occupants of Brocfield, also known as Brook House and Old Brook House show in the years:-

1252 Alditha De Brocholes.

1280 William De Broc.

1399 Idem Will for Brocfield.

1470 William son of John Bradshaw of Heylee, held Brocfield.

1699 Stephen Bellot and Brook Houses. It was held by the Bellots or their descendants, the Jacksons, until

1899 when Henry Gittus, the engineer (my Grandfather) rented it.

1928 (approx) Gertrude Le Peton, his daughter, became owner of the property, and I was born at and still live in this house.

The Bellots originated from Morton and Gawsworth in Cheshire and came to live in Combs at Castle Naze Farm, below the promontory Fort of that name in 1381.

Through the years their name has been spelt in various ways, e.g. Baylett, Bealot, Belot, Bellott and Beallott. In the year 1640 Combs Moss was called Bealott Edge and in 1767 Castle Naze was known as Beylett Tor.

I have a deed in my possession dated Feb. 1691 relating to Brook Houses and Pitt Yard Estates, and between Nicholas Bradshaw, the older, of Brook Houses (related to Judge Bradshaw of the Hall) and a Stephen Bellott.

".....All those several fields, pieces and parcels of land at Brook Houses, called The Bank, The Gunhole, The Clay Butts, The Rye Croft and the Calf Croft and that Messuage Farm or Tenement called Pittyard. The Closes called Broad Dole, Barns Meadow, the Nearer Hoe Leagh, the Further Blackhurst, the Near Blackhurst, and all the edifices, buildings, barns, gardens, orchards and all the messuages of the said Nicholas Bradshaw."

The last three generations of Bellots of Brocfield all bearing the

name of Stephen will be referred to as Stephen 1, 2 and 3. They were big landholders in the district and were apparently well-to-do. They owned White Hills, Castle Naze, Rye Flatt, Dane Hey, Grieve House, the Water Corn Mill, Brook Houses, Pitt Yard, Black Brook and various estates over the years. But alas, the estate was divided after the death of Stephen (3) and there is now only one property belonging to the descendants of the Bellots (Brook House Farm, owned by the Jacksons).

There are two properties known as Brook Houses, but the house in which I live is on the site of the original Brocfield Farm. The other house was the Brewery, for which the storage reservoir in the garden of Brocfield may have been built.

This house has been rebuilt and altered over the years, but the back premises are undoubtedly the older part, as some of the mullioned windows with diamond panes survive.

When Stephen (3) died in 1830, intestate and without issue, there was a family dispute and a lawsuit over the next of kin. The estate reverted to the female side of the family (the Jacksons). A family tree in the possession of Mrs. W. B. Jackson of Combs (see page 478) shows the connection between Stephen Bellot (3) and Anthony, from whom the Jacksons are descended.

Some facts are available about the family during the years at Brook Houses.

1718 Stephen Bellot (1?) was baptised.

1761 Stephen Bellot (1) married Jane Goodwin.

1762 Their son Stephen (2) was baptised.

1789 Death of Stephen (1).

Very little actual fact is known about him, but his name frequently appears in ancient deeds. He had a brother Anthony, who married Ann Kirke of Spire Hollins (?) and a sister Ann who married Josiah Bradbury of Further Bradshaw, who was a tanner. From them are descended the Bradbury Robinsons of Chesterfield. It is thought that the pond or reservoir in the garden may have been constructed by this Stephen, as a water supply for the Brewery and farm buildings, taking its water from the brook at the far end of the Rye Croft, which runs through a stone sough for about 50 yards. About this time also, a high stone wall was built around the fruit garden at the back of the house. This was heated from a fireplace on the north side of the wall. The hot air circulated round two sides of the garden, and eventually the smoke escaped up a chimney in the cart shed. Until about 60 years ago, peaches and victoria plums grew up this wall.

1808 Stephen (2) was married to Mary Ollerenshaw.

1809 Stephen (3) their son was born.

Mary was sister to Anthony Ollerenshaw of Glossop, Road Surveyor. She was a gentle soul and gave freely to the poor. Beggars, being wise to this, visited her frequently, often changing their clothes at the top of the avenue and calling again.

She outlived her husband and son by many years, and lived alone until she became infirm, when a Mrs. Swindels who farmed Lane Ends, stayed with her at night.

1804 Lieutenant Stephen Bellott was in the Bowden-Chapel Volunteers.

The uniform was a scarlet coat, blue collar and cuffs and white trousers. The officers wore gold lace, the others had silver lace. The corps was disbanded in 1809 when it merged into the local militia.

1828 Stephen (2) built a new water course from the far side of the orchard to supply the house. He carved the date on the new trough, which is still standing in the yard.

During his lifetime a pack of hounds was kept at this house, in the outbuildings, and a high iron railing was erected round the yard, so that they could not roam about.

1816 On May 21st of this year, Stephen made a will.

".....I give and bequeath unto my dear Wife Mary Bellot, all and singular my household goods, books, plate, linen, china, furniture and utensils in and belonging to my dwelling house to her for her own use absolutely.....and I give unto my said wife during her widowhood, all that messuage or dwelling house in which I now reside, with the garden and appurtenances adjoining thereto, and also the keep in summer and winter of a Cow in such of my fields as she should think proper.....I give and devise all the rest residue and remainder of my real and personal estate..... unto my friends Adam Fox of Martinside (farmer), Samuel Barker of Buxton (gent) and John Lingard of Astley (gent) (Executors).....and rents and profits of my real estate.....to pay unto my said Wife during her widowhood but no longer, the clear yearly annuity of the sum of £80, to be paid to her by four equal quarterly payments in each year.....and I give and bequeath unto the said Adam Fox an annuity or clear yearly sum of £10 payable unto him until my son Stephen Bellott shall attain the age of 21 years.....and shall out of the money to arise from the said residue of my real and personal estate, pay a competent part thereof for the maintenance and education of my son Stephen until his attainment to the age of 21, and to pay over to him at the age of 21 all residues of estate.

If my said son should die under the age of 21 without lawful issue..... my wife to get a further sum of £50.

(Bequests to labourers & friends in Combs)

.....in the event of my son dying under the age of 21.....a share in trust for my Cousin Anthony Bellot of Moss Side near Manchester (gent) and his eight sons, share and share alike."

Trustees were to ".....pay my son Stephen towards placing him in life before the age of 21, sums of money for his education not exceeding the sum of £500 etc."

Stephen died on September 27th 1824, six years before his son.

His wife lived a further 24 years. Poor Mary Bellot, in this very room in which I write, she must have wept her heart out, for on July 29th 1830 her only son Stephen was drowned while bathing or fishing in the reservoir, on the eve of his marriage. Was it in the Combs reservoir, or the Brocfield reservoir? Records do not say, but it is said that "his wedding coach took him to his funeral".

His fiancée wrote an elaborate epitaph for his tomb in Chapel Church Yard, but within twelve months, her sorrows had vanished and she was married to another.

Stephen died intestate, and the estate (after his Mother's death) reverted to the female side of the family, the Jacksons.

1848 October 11th. Mary Bellot made her will, in which she left her household goods to her brother's son, James Ollerenshaw, of Glossop. Also money to labourers and friends in Combs.

19 guineas to the poor of Chapel Parish.
£10 to the British & Foreign Bible Society.
£5 to the Church Missionary Society.
£19 to the National Schools.
£10 to the Wesleyan Sunday School.
£10 to the Methodist School.

The residue to her brother's children, and money from mortgages, etc. to her late husband's relatives, the Bradbury's of White Hills, and the Bellots of Manchester.

It is interesting to note that there was a Stephen Bellot as Church Warden from 1719 to 1818, and that from the year 1709, the Bellots of Brook House occupied two seats in the Church: The Long Form on the North side...3 shillings & 4 pence per annum; The Ladies Quire, South side.....1 shilling & 4 pence per annum.

1818 In this year, a Hearse House was erected in Chapel, when Samuel Grundy was Minister. The two Church Wardens at that time were Stephen Bellot and Adam Fox. These names can still be seen on the Hearse House, opposite the Town Hall. The Hearse was hired out for funerals, but the families had to

provide their own horses.

Epitaph on the tomb of Stephen Bellot

South Side

Sacred to the memory of
Stephen the only son of Stephen Bellott Esq.
of
Brook Houses near Chapel-en-le-Frith
Who departed this life
July 29th 1830 aged 21 years.

It is only a tribute due to his memory
to say that he was beloved by all
who knew him for his virtues and
amiable qualities and he has left the
dearest of friends to lament their
irreparable loss.

West Side

Watch therefore; for ye know not,
When the time is:
And what I say unto you,
I say unto all,
WATCH.

East Side

In this vault are also deposited
the remains of the late MARY BELLOTT
of Brook Houses, who died Dec. 17th 1848
in the 83rd year of her life.

Below is the epitaph composed by Stephen's fiancée.

North Side

Yet do I live? Oh how shall I sustain
This vast unutterable weight of woe.
This worse, than hunger, penury or pain,
Or all the complicated ills below.
He, in whose life my hopes stood centred high,
Is gone, for ever fled;
Alas, my Stephen's dead.
Those eyes, those tear-swell'n eyes,
beheld him be. (continued)

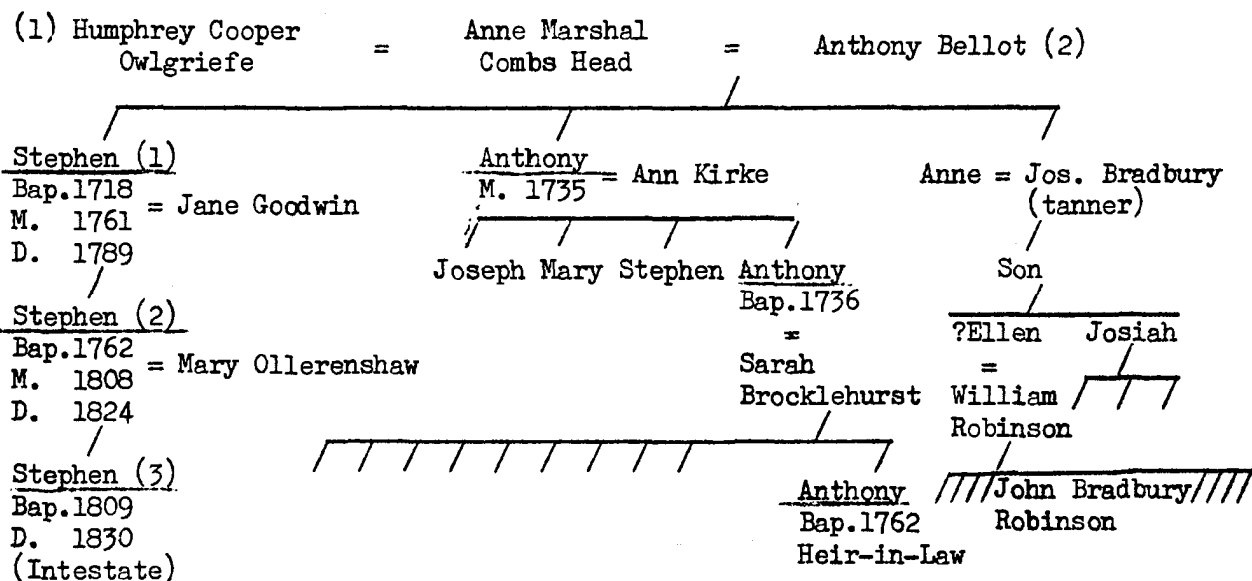
Still tho' he lives, my joys are oe'r.
HE lives, but lives to me no more.

Stephen Bellot (2)

(copy of signature on Deed 1812)

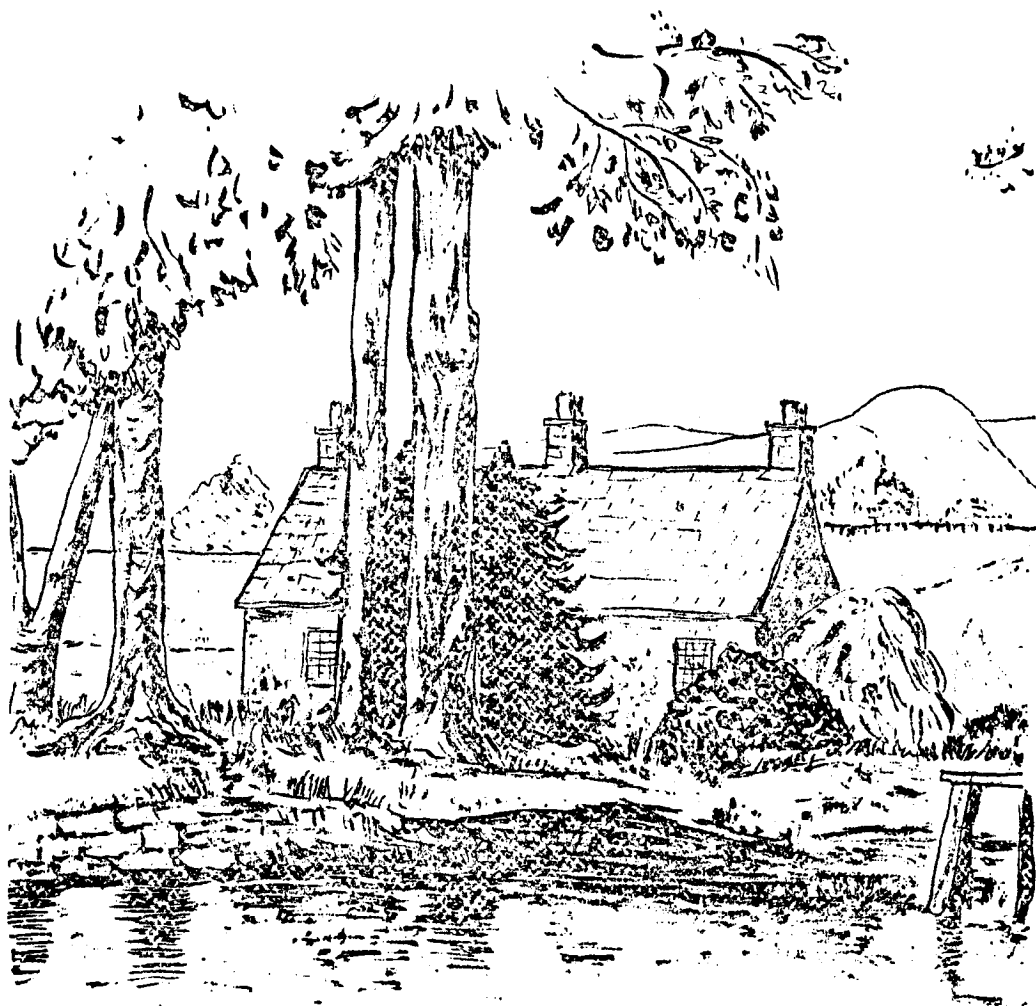
Copy of Family Tree of the Bellots

Showing Anthony as claimant in the "Next of Kin" Lawsuit.



Note: Mr. Philip M. Robinson in his book "The Robinson Family of Bolsover and Chesterfield", published in 1937, gives details of the connection between his family and the Bradburys of Rye Flatt, Chapel-en-le-Frith. "William Robinson, born 1772, married, on February 9th 1796, Ann (not Ellen) Bradbury, born 1775, daughter of Josiah Bradbury."

In the book there are pictures of William and Ann and details of the ten children of the marriage, all of whom had Bradbury for their second name. Ann died in 1821 and William in 1845. One daughter, Maria Bradbury Robinson who married Benjamin Boothby, was still alive in 1889.



BROOKFIELD

M.A. LIFE

SEATING AT KIRK IRETON CHURCH

The manuscript which is reproduced here belongs to Miss A. S. Cooke of Kirk Ireton. It appears to have been a copy made from a small handwritter book now in the possession of Major J. Blackwall of Biggin House.

Keep thy foot when thou goest into
the House of God.

JOHN BLACKWALL

His Book 10ber 22 MDCCXLI.

In the year 1739 the Parish Church of Kirk Ireton was all New Seated by the consent of the Parson, Churchwardens and Parishners. Being authorised by a Faculty from Litchfield Court. Here followeth an Exact Catalogue and Account of all the seats and sittings in the said Church the persons named being annexed to whom they at this time belong.

Seats above the Chancel Door South Side

First	Robert Wayne	Two sittings
Seat	Richard Pyser (?) for Allkins	Two do
	Samuel Walmesley	Two do
Second	Joseph Harrison	Two do
Seat	Robert Webster	all the rest

Seats over against the Chancel Door South Side

First	Paul Yeomans for Wigley	Two sittings
Seat	Mr. Thomas Leacroft M.D. for the Hays	One do
	Jeremiah Ward	Two do
	Luke Allsop for Steeples and Jackson	Two do
	Roger Longden for Jackson	One do
Second	John Dayne	Two do
Seat	Edward Bradshaw for Whitaker	Two do
	Samuel Hickton	Two do
	John Ford for his Landlord Gell	One do
	The Mistris of the Girl School	One do

Third John Frost all the seat behind the pillar
Seat

The three sittings in the South Ile

First Seat	Benjamin and George Peat	all the seat
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Second John Blackwall of Callow for Gell Esq. all the seat
Seat

Third	Edward Higgitt for his Landlord Cell	One sitting
Seat	John Hoon	One do
	Joshua Land for Tunnicliff	One do

Fourth Seat	Mrs Elizth. Cowper	all the seat
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Fifth Seat	William Storer of Blackwall	all the seat
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Sixth Seat	William Melburn for Ratchets Carr	all the seat
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Seventh Seat	Ralph Walmesley for Gell Esq.	all the seat
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The Two Sitting Seats in the South Ile

First	Mrs. Mary Leacroft	One sitting
Seat	German Buxton	all the rest

Second	Peter Hutchinson	One sitting
Seat	John Bruckfield	all the rest

Third William Rich for his Landlord Hurt all the seat
Seat

Fourth	Edward Higgit for his Landlord Gell	One sitting
Seat	William Harrison Joyner	One do
	John Dayne	One do
	Samuel Walmesley	One do
	Isiah Millington	One do

Mr. Gantum bought ye sitting of Isiah Millington ye
23 March 1754.

Fifth Seat	John Blackwall of Blackwall	all the seat
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Sixth	Mary Willet	One sitting
Seat	Joshua Lane for Tunnicliff	One do
	Mr. Bingham	One do
	William Storer of Kirk Ireton	One do
	Anthony Hurt	One do
Seventh	John Blackwall of Callow for Gell	Three do
Seat	Richard Taylor	One do
	Henry Harrison	One do
Eighth	Edward Bradshaw for Whitaker	all the seat
Seat		

Seats under the Loft South Side

First	Robert Leacroft	One sitting
Seat	Mr. Thomas Leacroft M.D.	One do
	John Bower	One do
	William Harrison	One do
	Peter Hutchinson	One do
Second	John Ford for Gell Esq.	Three do
Seat	John Hodgkinson for Hoon	One do

Seats behind the Porch Door

First	Doctor Gell	all the seat
Seat		
Second	Thomas Ward	all the seat
Seat		

One seat over against the Chancel North Side

Mrs. Bingham	all the seat
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Three Sitting Seats in the North Ile

First	William Harrison Joyner	all the seat
Seat		
Second	John Bower	One sitting
Seat	Henry Harrison	One do
	John Storer	One do
Third	William Harrison	Two do
Seat	Samuel Hickton	One do

Fourth	John Hodgkinson for Hoon	One sitting
Seat	Dorothy Millward	One do
	Richard Taylor	One do
Fifth	Ralph Walmesley for Gell Esq.	One do
Seat	Robert Leacroft	One do
	Abraham Webster	One do
Sixth	Edward Bradshaw for Soar	all the seat
Seat		
Seventh	Esqr Burton for Killdale Castle	One do
Seat	Lewis Normand	all the rest

The Two Sitting Seats in the North Ile

First	Dorothy Walmesley	all the seat
Seat		
Second ^d .		
Seat		
Third	Mr. Thomas Beard Cler.	all the seat
Seat		
Fourth	Ralph Walmesley for Gell Esq.	four sittings
Seat	Abraham Webster	One do
Fifth	John Bower for Esq. Burton	Two sittings
Seat	William Miles for Esq. Burton	Two do
Sixth	Francis Archer for Steeples	Two do
Seat	Richard Taylor	One do
	Mr. Thomas Leacroft M.D.	One do
	John Storer Senr.	One do

Seats under the Loft North Side

First	John Mellor of Ashburn	Two sittings
Seat	German Buxton	One do
by the	Samuell Hickton	One do
Font	John Dayne	One do
Second	William Storer	Two sittings
Seat	Thomas Storer	One do
	Isiah Millington	One do

Mr. Gantum bought ye sitting of Isiah Millington
ye 27 March 1754.

Two seats next the new window North Side

First	Mrs. Thomas Leacroft M.D. for Hays	Two sittings
Seat	William Harrison	One do
	Robert Hayne	One do
Second	Smith for Coxfield	Two sittings
Seat	John Mellor of Ashburn	One do

F I N I S

In the year 1741 the loft in the Church at Kirk Ireton was taken down and rebuilt.

First	The Five Seats on the South Side of the Loft
Seat	John Blackwall one half William Hawford the other half
& front	It now belongs to Mr. Cresswell

2nd Seat	Wm. Harrison
	It now belongs to Mr. Blackwall

3rd Seat	Isaac Millington Senr.	2 Sittings
	Isaac Millington Junr.	2 do
	Rowland Millington	1 do

4th Seat

5th Seat Dorothy Millward

The Five Seats on the North Side of the loft.

First	George Millington	3 Sittings
Seat	These three sittings now belong to Mr. Blackwall	
& Front	Thos. Ward	2 do

2nd Seat	Robt Hayne	2 do
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3rd Seat	Peter Wilcockson	one half
	Thos. Mart	other half

4th Seat	John Blackwall of Callow	2 sittings
	Joseph Harrison	3 do

5th Seat

JOHN JOSEPH BRIGGS OF KINGS NEWTON

by

H. Domleo

John Joseph Briggs was born at the Elms Farm, Kings Newton, Derbyshire in 1819. His father John Briggs, as well as being a farmer, carried on the business of Maltster at a malt house which is still standing in Trent Lane, Kings Newton. The family was related to the Briggs of Hemmington and seems to have been well known in South Derbyshire.

John Briggs was born in 1777, and when a young man was in the Volunteers. An invitation to a Company meeting at Aston reads:-

Lieut-Col. Holden requests the pleasure of Ensign Briggs' Company at Aston on Sunday next to meet the Officers of the Derwent and Trent Battn. on important business, not in Regimentals.

Aston, Monday 15 Aug. 1808

Thomas Briggs, a brother of John, lived at Pear Tree House near Derby, and later at Alvaston.

John Joseph was sent to school with Mr. Potter at Wymeswold and later to the Rev. Saxon's School at Darley Dale. I do not propose to go over his life as if writing a history, as this has already been done by Llewellyn Jewitt and by Mr. Hudson Read in an article in the Derbyshire Countryside, January 1947. I wish rather to give some idea of his work and character as reflected in some of his correspondence, to which I have access. Unfortunately, a great deal of this is undated.

From childhood Briggs suffered almost continuous ill-health, and he was never able to take up the work of a farmer, which would normally have been his. Instead, on leaving school he was apprenticed to Bemrose of Derby as a printer and book binder.

There is a letter from Mr. Bemrose to John Briggs dated 25th April 1837 informing him that both he and Mrs. Bemrose have noted that his son is ill, and seems to be getting steadily worse, and that on medical advice he should go back home for at least a year.

This seems to have been the start of John James' career as a naturalist, archaeologist and writer. He was always a keen observer and when he went home to live he spent his time walking about the district and writing about what he saw. He wrote on all kinds of subjects connected with the

countryside, and his writings were published in the local press.

In "Leaves from a Naturalist's Notebook" there were articles on the mole, on bats, on the harvest mouse, the fox, the viper and the hare. An article on the turnip nigger, a small black caterpillar that infested turnip crops, estimated that the number in a field was 50,000 to the acre. The nests of wasps were dug up at intervals (1st November and 17th February) to see if they were surviving and it was noted that they were all dead.

Briggs wrote on fishing, too, about the roach and the rudd (some people, he stated, suggested that the rudd was a hybrid between roach and bream, but he had no doubt that it was a separate species!). On pike, he noted one caught by Sir John Harper Crewe, in the Trent, in 1845 that weighed 35 lbs. He carried on a regular column on these lines, and I have at least 50 articles of this type that he wrote. He must have written many more.

A friend whom he invited to fish in the Trent came with a large amount of expensive tackle and "managed to get over the dangerous eccentricities of the Chellaston roads" to arrive safely at his destination.

As his health did not improve a great deal, Briggs travelled about visiting a number of Spas and health resorts. The letters he wrote home contain much of interest.

In 1849 he visited an aunt in Liverpool, and there is an account of a visit to Liverpool docks. He went with a party of his aunt's friends and seems to have enjoyed their company. They went for a steam boat trip on the Mersey, which must have been quite an adventure at this date, and he wrote "The Ladies made most excellent companions, chatty but not nonsensical, courageous without being too venturesome consequently they were able to enjoy themselves that they had not been affrightened by the steam-boat and afraid of being run over by every carriage we should not have accomplished very much". They were much impressed by the beautifully fitted cabins in an American Sailing Packet over which they were conducted, and watched an East Indiaman being unloaded.

Leamington was also visited in order to take the waters at the spa. In a letter to his parents, written on note paper on which there is a print of Kenilworth Castle, he described visits to places of interest near by; there is mention of Offchurch the burial place of King Offa, and an interesting description of a visit to Birmingham which gives some idea of what an industrial town looked like at this date. "Imagine some thousand streets rather like Walker Lane, Derby, for filth and dirt, intersecting one another, with here and there a tolerable good church, and being perambulated by mean and haggardly looking mechanics, and polluted women, with a few gentlemen and some genteel ladies mixed with them, and you have Birmingham, the most disagreeable disgusting and beastly town I have ever visited".

During this time when at home he was walking about the countryside and writing on what he saw, sending his observations to the "Field" and the

"Zoologist", and to other people who were interested in natural history, including Charles Darwin.

He must have sent a note to the "Zoologist" and asked for advice on what was most needed for contributions, for a letter from the Editor, Edward Newman, stressed that "nothing is more valuable than the record of Genuine observation recorded by the eye witness" and recommended Mr. Briggs to record observation in his own district. He was pleased with his sample pages on the Fauna of Melbourne, and would be glad of more pages for the "Zoologist".

In 1846 Briggs visited the Channel Islands to see if this would benefit his health. The account of the journey reads like that of a modern excursion trip. One packet boat was out of order and undergoing repairs, so that the boat was so crowded that no cabins were available. But it was calm and warm, and they were able to sleep all right on deck, with a blanket, and managed very well. He mentioned how plentiful and good were the oysters, and that there was excellent fruit, figs, grapes, melons and Charentelle pears, on the Islands.

He also went to other places for his health; "Harrowgate" he described as "dignified and dull" and after a week he went on to Scarborough. He found Scarborough suited him much better, and he returned there regularly in the years which followed. It must have been a popular place even then, and he described a gala performance at the Pavillion which was attended by four or five thousand people.

On a steamboat trip to Whitby they were struck by a severe storm. "It was very amusing, the sea was being blown over the boat wetting the passengers and the Ladies were seasick". He himself must have been a good sailor to enjoy this. The weather was so bad that they could not return to Scarborough that day, and had to stop the night in Whitby. Next morning they went down to the pier and saw a Sailing Vessel that had lost two of its masts. They returned to Scarborough without incident.

While at school at Darley Dale, Briggs must have become familiar with Rowsley and the barrows and other archaeological remains which were then being excavated by the Batemans. Thomas Bateman was born at Rowsley in 1821, so that the boys were about the same age.

They were in touch with one another in later life. A newspaper cutting, undated, describes the opening of a barrow on Smirrell Moor near Bakewell by Mr. Bateman accompanied by Robert Nesfield, Francis Barker, Mr. Parker and Mr. J. J. Briggs, and gives an account of what was found. A letter from Thomas Bateman dated 2nd April 1852 asked if he could have "impressions from plates connected with churches as additions to my collection relating to Derbyshire Churches of which I have a goodly collection". Bateman goes on to say that he was born at Rowsley in 1821 and was brought up amongst archaeological pursuits accompanying his father on barrow opening expeditions before he was five years old.

The interest of Briggs in natural history was well known locally, and anything that seemed strange or unusual was brought to him for identification. Fish caught in the river were weighed, measured once, then placed on a piece of paper and drawn round and the particulars were written down and witnessed by those present, so that a reliable record was made. A letter from Donnington Hall, no date, reads, "Mr. Panlyn Hastings has much pleasure in sending to Mr. Briggs a duck killed on the Trent on Wednesday last, and would be much obliged if Mr. Briggs would let him know what kind of bird it is. Mr. Panlyn Hastings hopes that Mr. Briggs will accept the bird". It is not recorded what kind of a bird it was. However, I wonder if it would be tender.

Several guide books were written by Briggs and published by Bemrose. The most notable of these being that on the Peacock Inn, Rowsley. "Melbourne, a sketch of its history and antiquities" was published in 1839 and about 1870 the "History of Melbourne" with biographical notes on the Cohe, Melbourne and Hardinge families. A Natural History of Melbourne was begun and partly printed, and a book about Worthies of Derbyshire was planned. This was to be an account of the lives of eminent Derbyshire men, and a considerable amount of information was collected. But neither of these last two books was completed owing to the final illness from which John Joseph Briggs died, on 23rd March 1876.

NOTES AND QUERIES

The Editor is glad to receive notes or queries on any branch of local history.

N.Q.114 Old Bricks and Brickwork

Mr. J. Marchant Brooks of Church Alley, Bakewell is making a study of old bricks and brickwork in Derbyshire, and would be glad to receive information about centres of brick making in the County and about any old brickwork of unusual interest.

N.Q.115 St. Alkmund's Church, Duffield

There is reference to a church in Duffield in the Domesday Survey, and the present Church is of Norman origin and dates from the early 12th century. There are in existence many interesting documents, the earliest of which is dated 1494. Marriage registers go back to 1598. Some of the roof beams date back to 1621 as shown by dated cross beams at the east and west ends of the nave. The woodwork has been badly attacked by beetles, and a sum of £7,000 is urgently needed for the restoration of the church roof and fabric generally. Any sum, however small, donated for this purpose, will be gratefully received by the vicar, Rev. Martin Boyne.

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SECTION

A diary of meetings for 1964 appears on the back cover of this issue. It is hoped that these will be well attended. Tea will be served at each meeting, after which members will have an opportunity for discussion.

INDEX TO VOLUME TWO

This is enclosed with the current issue. Our warm thanks are due to Mr. R. A. H. O'Neal, who not only compiled the index but also undertook to produce it for us.

A LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Manchester College of Commerce, in association with the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Manchester, has organised a two-day Conference on:

The Techniques Used in Local History

Friday, 8th and Saturday, 9th May, 1964

9.45 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.

at the Roscoe Building, University of Manchester
(Brunswick Street)

fee 20 shillings

For further information write before April 24th to:

R. G. Garnett, Vice-Principal,
College of Commerce,
103 Princess Street, Manchester 1.

SOME RECENT BOOKS

Industrial Archaeology, by Kenneth Hudson, pub. John Baker 36/-d. 1963

A good preliminary guide to a new subject. Kenneth Hudson is a member of the Council for British Archaeology's Research Committee on Industrial Archaeology.

The Journal of Industrial Archaeology

This is a new publication by the Lombard Press in association with the Newcomen Society. The first number will be published on May 1st 1964, and thereafter quarterly. Each issue will consist of at least 96 pages of text and up to 8 pages of illustrations, page size 9 in. x 7 in. Annual subscription (4 issues) £2. 2s. Od. Lombard Press, 95 Walton Road, Sidcup, Kent.

1,000 Years of Houses recently issued by the Building Societies Association, 14 Park Street, London W.1. is intended for schools, but gives a well illustrated guide to the story of dwellings from Anglo-Saxon times to the present day.

years ago two men discovered an urn surrounded with stones: one of the parties wishing to secure it entire went some distance for a spade: in the meantime the other, thinking it might contain some treasure, dashed it to pieces, when to his mortification he found it contained some ashes and two copper coins, one of which was inscribed Maximianus, and some other characters not legible. About 56 years ago an urn was found at Riley in which was some weapons and arrow heads of flint. Near the same place two barrows or cairns were destroyed in which were found urns containing ashes and burnt bones. Many customs of ancient Druids still remain amongst the villagers of Eyam. One of the incantations practised at their festivals was to anoint the forehead of the sick with Maydew, which was carefully gathered at daybreak: hence the prevailing custom of anointing deceased children with Maydew. Another part of the ceremony of the great Druidical festival consisted of carrying long poles of mountain ash decorated with flowers, and it is the practice of the villagers to hang branches of flowers from the cottage windows on May Day. Singing at funerals or other observances, have purely a Druidical origin. The ancient cross in the churchyard formerly stood in that part of the village called 'The Cross', another stood in Eyam Edge and one at Cross Lane, both of which have been destroyed. The ancient manners and customs, so well described by Mr. William Wood the author of *History & Antiquities of Eyam*, prove the great antiquity of Eyam, and will at the same time be applicable to most other parts of the Peak of Derbyshire.

However, the varied and romantic scenery of this village has distinguished the inhabitants by all the characteristics of mountainous districts and their observance of ancient customs and adherence to hereditary prejudices. As to the present state of the population, Mr. Wood says "It is lamentable however that the physical condition of the inhabitants of this far famed village is greatly inferior to their forefathers, the principal cause of which is the decay of lead mines. Previously to the present century, each miner had his cow and small plot of land, to which he attended during the intervals of his work at the mine: this double employment yielded him sufficient to live in health and happiness leaving him abundance of time for wholesome recreation. The mines being under water can no longer in their present condition be successfully worked and this deplorable circumstance is fast changing the aspect and character of the village."

Eyam has produced several literary characters. John Nighthroder, a native of Eyam, highly distinguished for his literary taste, founded the house of Carmelites or White Friars at Doncaster in the year 1350. Miss Anna Seward, the Poetess, was born at Eyam in the year 1742: she wrote an elegy on Captain Cooke, monody on Major Andre, and Luisa, a poetical novel. After her death in 1809 her letters were published in six volumes 8vo. She also wrote the life of Dr. Darwin: the various works of this lady are universally admired. Her father the Rev. Thomas Seward, rector of Eyam, who wrote some poems printed in Dodsley's Collections and published an edition of Beaumont and Fletcher

plays and a treatise on the Conformity between the Pagan and the Roman Church. He died in 1790. Richard Furniss published a history of his native village: the Rag Bag and Medicus Magus are amongst his poetical works. William Wood the author of the history and antiquities of Eyam, with several other productions, is now a resident of the village. Thomas Birds Esq. of Eyam well known for his antiquarian researches, possessed one of the finest collections of fossils in the kingdom.

Eyam formerly had a market and a fair, both of which have long been obsolete; but an effort was made about twenty years ago to restore the market on Thursday and to establish fairs on April 13th, Thursday after the last Sunday in August and October 18th. The feast is held on the last Sunday in August.

Eyam is now the residence of many respectable families. The Hall is a large Elizabethan structure, the seat and property of Peter Wright Esq. Eyam Firs is the residence of Miss Wright. Eyam Terrace occupies a romantic situation near Eyam Dale and is the property and residence of Thomas Fentem Esq. A good mansion nearly opposite the church is the residence of William Wyatt Esq. Hollow Crook Cottage is a neat residence built by Mr. Francis Cocker. The View is a good dwelling at the west end of the town, the property and residence of.....

See an account of the rock basin on Stanage Edge
above Hathersage in my description of that village.

The rock basin on Eyam moor which has also the peculiarity of being the only one on those conspicuous rocks is 30 inches by 29 in diameter and $15\frac{1}{2}$ deep, varying to 9 from the inclination of the surface of the stone, and is peculiar from having the lower part of its upright sides (especially those on the N. and W.) hollowed out by the action of the water rotating within it; showing that this change has been effected at a later time in its sides, which were originally made perpendicular to the bottom by the hand of man. It has a spout or channel on the east side and is destitute of the usual accumulation of decomposed stone found in deep natural basins, and like many others it is in the vicinity of ancient British remains.

(Here is a print of the Stone Circle on Eyam Moor, from a drawing by Sir Gardner Wilkinson F.R.S.)

E.N.E. and about one third of a mile from the rock basin on Eyam Moor is an otholithic circle about 100 feet in diameter, of which ten stones are standing out of fifteen or sixteen, the original number. It has the peculiarity of being surrounded by a low mound of earth and stone about 12 ft in width, making the total diameter about 112 ft., and it is remarkable for having within it what is said to be the remains of a cist. A large stone was also taken from it some years ago, which differed very much in its dimensions from those composing the circle, measuring as they do less than three feet in height, and we may conclude from their moderate size that it was not a sacred circle, but rather

altogether sepulchral and of the class of monuments which, from being surrounded by isolated stones, are called by some antiquaries 'encircled cairns'. They are found on Dartmoor and other places. There are, however, some instances of cists within sacred circles. Near it is a stone cairn, or heap of stones, and about 300 yards on the higher ground to the southwards are other smaller circles of different dimensions, some ten to twelve paces, others seven paces in diameter internally, which though very imperfectly preserved, are interesting from having the usual appearance of British houses, or hut circles, so often met with in other parts of England. And as all these are far removed from the basin above described, it is evident that it was not intended for holding water for drinking, especially as the quantity it holds is small, and as a spring (traditionally called the Druid's Well) was nearer to them: a remark equally applicable to the basins at Carn Brea near Redruth, where the inhabitants have a plentiful supply from natural fountains. And if there is reason for believing that the water of these basins was intended for any purpose, it might, without any violence to probability, be supposed that it was applied to some superstitious rites: nor would this be at variance with what has been handed down to us respecting the customs of our British ancestors.

Eyam is a parish, constabulary and township in the hundred of High Peak in the Northern division of the county, in the polling district of Tideswell, in the Bakewell Poor Law Union and in the archdeaconry of Derby. 187 miles from London, 7 miles N.N.E. from Bakewell, 5 miles east from Tideswell, 11 miles west from Chesterfield and ... miles north from Derby, and 12 miles S.S.W. from Sheffield.

	<u>acres</u>	<u>val.</u>	<u>1801</u>	<u>1811</u>	<u>1821</u>	<u>1831</u>	<u>1841</u>	<u>1851</u>	<u>1861</u>
Eyam p or t	2258	2663	817	1000	1021	911	951	1079	1172
" Woodland t	1033	1110	163	175	197	213	226	275	258
Foolow t	950	746	301	332	298	248	249	226	243
	<hr/>								
	4241								1673

and the villages of Bretton, Hazleford and part of Grindleford bridge.

Eyam is romantically situated, many of the cottages are inhabited by miners and their dwellings though humble, are generally clean and comfortable: there are however some very respectable residences in the place, particularly the parsonage house which is near the church, and was built by the Rev. Mr. Seward, the father of the late poetess of Lichfield. Eyam Hall now occupied by Mr. Wright, and the houses of Mr. Fentem and Mr. Wyatt, both modern and finely situated, are also handsome mansions. The church is a good old structure, and the burying ground is environed by fine old lime trees and sycamores. On the south side of the church is the tomb of Mrs. Mompesson, one of the early victims of the plague of 1666, but not as Miss Seward stated "surrounded by iron palings": no such honour indeed has yet been

conferred upon it. Close to her place of sepulture is Eyam Cross, a fine old relique of former times: the front and back are sculptured over with different figures and designs characterised by various symbolic devices, and the sides are liberally adorned with a succession of curiously involved knots, which some antiquaries have denominated Runic or Scandinavian. This fragment - for it has suffered delapidation, a part of the shaft having been lost - is said to be of Saxon origin. Eyam, a township and considerable village on the Sheffield and Tideswell road, forms a long street running from east to west in a serpentine form. The village is said to be built on a series of caverns, many of which have been explored to a considerable extent chiefly for the beautiful stalactitious petrifications with which they abound.

Eyam is altogether a pleasant village; it is situated at the western extremity of a succession of beautiful meadows that crown the rocky heights on one side of Middleton Dale, with which it is connected by two steep dells called Eyam Dale and Cucklet Dell. On the north it is screened by a steep and lofty eminence, designated Eyam Edge which is partly covered with an extensive plantation of larch and mountain pine. In many places in the immediate neighbourhood of the village, the scenery is of a highly picturesque and romantic character. In Cucklet Dell these qualities are strikingly conspicuous. The steep hills that form the sides of the Dell, crested with natural cliffs, the jutting crags below with intervening slopes of verdure, interspersed with underwood honeysuckles and wild roses, the rich foliage of the ash and the elm, which are here amongst the finest in the county altogether combine to form a scene of uncommon beauty. This secluded spot derives also a peculiar interest from the circumstance of an arched rock on the western side of the dell being used as the scene of divine worship at the time of the plague in 1666 when the village of Eyam was nearly depopulated by this dreadful scourge. This it will be recollected was the year in which this fatal pestilence ravaged London; and which according to Dr. Mead and the concurrent testimony of other authorities, was introduced into this remote village by a box of clothes sent from the Metropolis. The person who opened the box, from whence the imprisoned malady burst forth, was its first victim, and the whole of his family, with the solitary exception of one only, shared the same fate. The plague raged with unremitting violence in this little spot for nearly three months. To prevent as much as possible the spread of the contagion pest-houses were opened in the village, and here the dying and the dead were huddled together in horrible confusion, the victims of an infliction for which no remedy appeared. Graves were dug in adjoining fields ready to receive the expiring sufferers, who were buried with unseemly haste from their death beds to the tomb, the corpse uncoffined and sometimes unattended. The population of Eyam was at this time about 330: two hundred and fifty nine of whom fell victims to this calamitous visitation - a mortality averaging nearly four out of five in every family. But few memorials of the ravages of the plague at Eyam now exist. Nearly the whole of the stones that were formerly

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SUMMER PROGRAMME 1964

Saturday 11th April 3 p.m. at the Bridge Chapel Room

Speakers: Rev. D.H. Buckley on the restoration of Norbury Church Glass. Also Mr. Francis Fisher on the interpretation of Old Documents.

Saturday 2nd May Visit to Little Eaton

Leader: Mr. Peter Brady. This will be an opportunity to see what can be found of interest to the historian in a village not otherwise noted for its wealth of antiquities. It is hoped to inspect the Paper Mill, and other interesting items. Members should be prepared for some walking. Meet near the park in Church Lane, off the Duffield Road, at 2:45 p.m.

Saturday 6th June Visit to Litton and Cressbrook Mills

Leader: Mr. Robert Thornhill. Members who have been able to enjoy last year's excursion to the Milford and Belper Mills, and who heard Dr. Smith's recent talk on the subject, will welcome this opportunity to inspect these two interesting examples, in a beautiful setting. Tea will be arranged at Tideswell, and members requiring this meal should advise the secretary in writing not later than 31st May.

Meet in cars at the church in Ashford-in-the-Water at 2:45 p.m. from whence the party will proceed in convoy. It would be appreciated if members with spare room in their cars would kindly advise the Secretary, likewise members wishing to avail themselves of a lift, so that the two may be put into touch with each other.

Wednesday 8th July Visit to Dale Abbey and Morley
(Evening meeting)

Leader: Miss A.M. Rowland. The party will be able to inspect the abbey ruins, the windmill, and other interesting places in this locality, ending at Morley Conference House, where we will be able to see the glass originally from Dale Abbey.

Meet at Dale Abbey at 7:15 p.m. if coming by car, otherwise at the Bridge Chapel at 6:45 p.m. where it is hoped that members with room in their cars will call to pick up those hoping for a lift.

Saturday 12th September Visit to Foremark and district

Leader: Mr. H.J. Wain. The tour will include Foremark Hall, the church, Anchor Church, the Danish Cemetery, and other interesting sites in the area. Meet at the lodge to Foremark Hall at 2:45 p.m. or at Bridge Chapel at 2:15 p.m. It would be appreciated if anyone with a car passing through Derby would kindly call at the Bridge Chapel at 2:15 to collect anyone requiring a lift. Please bring a picnic tea. Cups of tea will be available.