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A FORGOTTEN BATTLE - BURTON UPON TRENT 1322 by Anthony P. Munford.

Although the encounter between the forces of Edward II and those of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, which took place at Burton-upon-Trent during March 1322, cannot be compared in importance with battles such as Evesham or Naseby, it did have a certain significance in the history of the reign for it marked the final collapse of Lancaster's attempt to impose his own influence upon the control of government.

The roots of the Boroughbridge campaign, of which the fight at Burton was a part, can be traced back to the beginning of the reign. Edward II, who succeeded his father in 1307, did not possess the necessary attributes to make a strong or good king. His talents and interests lay more in the direction of brick-laying, rowing and fishing, but, having been born to rule, he persisted in asserting absolute control over the conduct of the administration⁽¹⁾ and his reign was a succession of attempts by the earl and barons to impose some system of restraints upon the king. His great failing was his reliance upon favourites, first Piers Gavaston and later the Despencers, and the magnates' low opinion of Edward was not improved when they saw their rightful position as 'natural councillors' to the king usurped by a host of foreign favourites and hangers-on. In 1311 Edward was forced to recognize a body of ordinances, reforming the conduct of the royal household and administration, and although they were never put fully into operation, they became the basis of all future attempts to place some restraints upon the king.

The evil genius on the baronial side was Thomas, Earl of Lancaster. As the son of Edmund Crouchback, younger son of Henry III, he was Edward II's cousin but there was never any love lost between the two men. He aspired to be a fourteenth century Simon de Montfort and claimed that his office of hereditary High Steward of England⁽²⁾ entitled him to the position of chief adviser to the king. When, after the disastrous defeat at Bannockburn (1314), the control of government fell into his hands, he quickly showed that he was no better fitted to rule than was his cousin, the king.

The years between 1317 and 1319 were a period of peace. This was a result of the influence of the Middle Party under the leadership of Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, a moderate who sought to control the king by a policy of co-operation. This policy had a large measure of success but was destroyed by the actions of the younger Despenser who soon came to replace Gavaston in Edward's affections.⁽³⁾ After the death of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, at Bannockburn, his three sisters and heirs were married by Edward to three young household knights who were also among the principal supporters of the Middle Party. The eldest sister, Eleanor, became the wife of Hugh Despenser the younger, while Margaret (widow of Gavaston) and Elizabeth were married to Hugh de Audley the younger and Roger Damory. When the Clare estates were divided between the sisters and their husbands, the lordship of Glamorgan was among the estates awarded to Despenser who at once set to work to increase his power in South Wales. Audley was harassed into exchanging Newport and the lordship of Gwynllwg (Mon.) for estates in Sussex and large grants of land in Carmarthenshire were obtained from the king.

The magnates were becoming increasingly suspicious of Despenser's influence over Edward II. The storm broke when Edward was persuaded to confiscate the lordship of Gower on a legal quibble and to bestow it upon Despenser. The Marcher Lords saw this as an infringement of their liberties and an extreme group, headed by the Earl of Hereford and including Audley and Damory, decided to deal with Despenser in their own way. In May 1321 they invaded Glamorgan, siezed Despenser's castles and wasted his manors before
/treating.....

treating his English lands in the same manner. Edward was powerless to do anything but declare the "contrariants" estates forfeit.⁽⁴⁾

Hereford and his allies now appealed to Lancaster for aid, thus ensuring that what had begun as a purely Marcher quarrel would assume national significance. Lancaster still harboured ambitions of controlling the government and he was able to use the military support of Hereford and his associates to further these ends. The Lancastrian party met during June in a "parliament" at Sherburn-in-Elmet near Pontefract where they decided upon a policy which they then proceeded to impose upon the king. Edward was forced to agree to the exile of the Despensers and the return of the Ordinances to full operation.⁽⁵⁾

Lancaster's victory looked complete but its foundations were shaky and all he had really accomplished was the antagonisation of Edward. In October an insult paid to Queen Isabella by the wife of Bartholemew de Badlesmere, gave Edward the excuse to raise an army for the reduction of Badlesmere's castle of Leeds in Kent. When Leeds fell, he was free to turn these forces on his enemies. Lancaster had withdrawn to Pontefract while Hereford and the others were in the Welsh Marches. Choosing to deal first with the more dangerous Marchers, Edward advanced up the Thames Valley, spending Christmas 1321 at Cirencester.

The Contrariants sought to block the direct route into the Marches by occupying Gloucester. Edward therefore veered northwards and made for the crossing of the Severn at Worcester, a move which his enemies countered by leaving Hereford to hold Gloucester while Audley, Damory and the Mortimers moved north up the Severn. Attempts by the royal army to cross at Worcester and Bridgnorth were repulsed but when Edward approached Shrewsbury the Mortimers, disheartened by Lancaster's failure to come to their aid, surrendered to the king and resistance collapsed. Audley and Damory with their followers escaped to join Lancaster at Pontefract and Hereford did likewise.⁽⁶⁾ With the Marches now completely in his hands, Edward was able to move slowly southwards to Gloucester where, on 14th February 1322, orders were issued for a general muster at Coventry on 28th February.⁽⁷⁾

Although the Lancastrians had received a severe reverse, they were still a powerful military force. Lancaster's best strategy would undoubtedly have been to attack the royal army while it was forming at Coventry but he chose to act with his usual dilatoriness and besiege the royal castle of Tickhill which threatened his own stronghold of Pontefract. Although the Lancastrian army was equipped with a full siege train, they were able to make no impression upon the castle walls and three precious weeks were wasted.⁽⁸⁾ Edward meanwhile had gathered a strong army at Coventry. The author of the *Vita Edwardi Secundi* puts its strength at 300,000 but a figure of 30,000 is more likely.⁽⁹⁾ No estimates exist for the size of Lancaster's army, although the sources were unanimous in saying that it was considerably smaller.

Edward left Coventry on 2nd March and advanced north through Merevale and Drayton Basset. As soon as Lancaster received word that Edward was on the move, he abandoned the siege of Tickhill and hurried his army southwards to Burton-on-Trent. Here they threw a strong barricade across the bridge and prepared to hold the crossing of the Trent against the king. The *Flores Historiarum* states that they broke down the bridge but this assertion is contradicted by all the other sources and it is unlikely that there was enough time to carry out such a demolition.⁽¹⁰⁾

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The royal army spent the night of 7th March at Elford (Staffs.) and on the following day crossed into Derbyshire. When Edward reached Caldwell he halted and sent his servants on ahead to arrange accommodation in Burton. They were met by the fire of Lancaster's archers and driven back in confusion. Edward sent forward a strong body of cavalry and foot but they too were forced to retreat.⁽¹¹⁾ It is unlikely that any serious attempt was made to force the passage of the bridge. The difficulty of crossing a strongly guarded bridge had been shown at Stirling in 1297 and was soon to be underlined at Boroughbridge. The bridge was too narrow for cavalry or foot to attack more than two or three abreast and they could easily be picked off by the opposing archers and spearmen who had the advantage of operating from behind cover.

The fighting probably degenerated into exchanges of archery across the river and stalemate set in. Edward was unable to cross by any of the fords "by reason that the waters, and speciallie the river of Trent through the abundance of raine that was latelie fallen, were raised." ⁽¹²⁾ According to the Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvan there was snow on the ground.⁽¹³⁾ Edward was forced to take up quarters in Caldwell, a manor of Burton Abbey, where the presence of the royal army must have thrown a severe strain upon the resources of the small settlement. The inhabitants of Caldwell, however, undoubtedly fared better than their counterparts in Burton for Edward's supply train was far better organised than was his enemies'. Lancaster probably took up quarters in the abbey which had the advantage of being on the river bank so that a watch could be kept on the approaches to the bridge. His army lived off the land, levying supplies from the burgesses and foraging in the surrounding country. Hugh de Audley and Richard de Limesy, Thomas de Gravele and Richard Ferrour descended upon Wichnor and carried off oxen cattle, sheep and other goods belonging to Philip de Somerville and his tenants.⁽¹⁴⁾ This expedition may also have been intended to check that Edward was not attempting to cross the Trent by the bridges at Wichnor.

Edward and his advisers spent 9th March searching for a way over the river. They could have moved north-eastwards to cross by the bridge at Swarkestone but this was some 10 miles downstream and to have adopted this source would have given Lancaster time to withdraw unscathed. For once Edward was acting decisively and he wished to deal with his cousin once and for all. It was therefore decided that on 10th March, the Earl of Surrey would be sent with a strong detachment of cavalry to cross by the bridges at Wichnor, some 3 miles upstream of Burton, and attack the town in the rear.⁽¹⁵⁾ Before these tactics could be employed, however, it was learnt that the ford at Walton-upon-Trent had become passable and plans were altered.

The Earls of Richmond and Pembroke were sent ahead over the ford with a vanguard of 300 men at arms, followed by the rest of the army with Edward and his young half-brother, Edmund of Woodstock, Earl of Kent. A strong force of foot, led by Robert le Ewer, was left on the east bank to attack the bridge "which he did verie manfullie causing the archers and crossbowes to annoie them that kept (the bridge), so he might draw the whole power of the ennemies that waie." As well as distracting the attention of Lancaster's soldiers from the main body of the army, Ewer's detachment also ensured that Lancaster could not sally out to attack the king from the rear.⁽¹⁶⁾

Once over the river, the royal army formed up and advanced against Burton. Although the Lancastrian forces could not afford to detach pickets to guard all the fords, they almost certainly had scouts watching the crossings and it cannot have been long before they learnt that Edward was over the river. Lancaster quickly gathered his forces, leaving a detachment to hold the bridge, and led them out into
/the.....

the meadows to the south of the river where they formed into battle array.

As Edward neared Burton, he ordered his banners to be unfurled. If we are to believe the Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvon, the younger Despenser hurried before the king and pleaded with him not to display his banners, arguing that their opponents were acting not through any evil design but through youthful hotheadedness and to display the banners would lead to the outbreak of a general civil war. This outburst may be dismissed as a scribal invention. Despenser was not noted for his moderate views, Lancaster and Hereford could hardly be described as youthful, and there had been a state of civil war since the previous October.⁽¹⁷⁾

For a time it looked as though there would be a full scale battle but at the crucial moment Lancaster's nerve broke. Overawed by the obviously superior size and quality of the royal army, he ordered a retreat and withdrew into Burton. No attempt was made to hold the town. Setting fire to part of the town, they withdrew rapidly northwards under cover of the smoke, abandoning the major part of their provisions and baggage.⁽¹⁸⁾ Following closely behind, the royal troops were able to put out the fire and fell to looting the abandoned stores. Edward made no attempt to prevent the looting and retained for himself a valuable cup which Lancaster had left behind.⁽¹⁹⁾

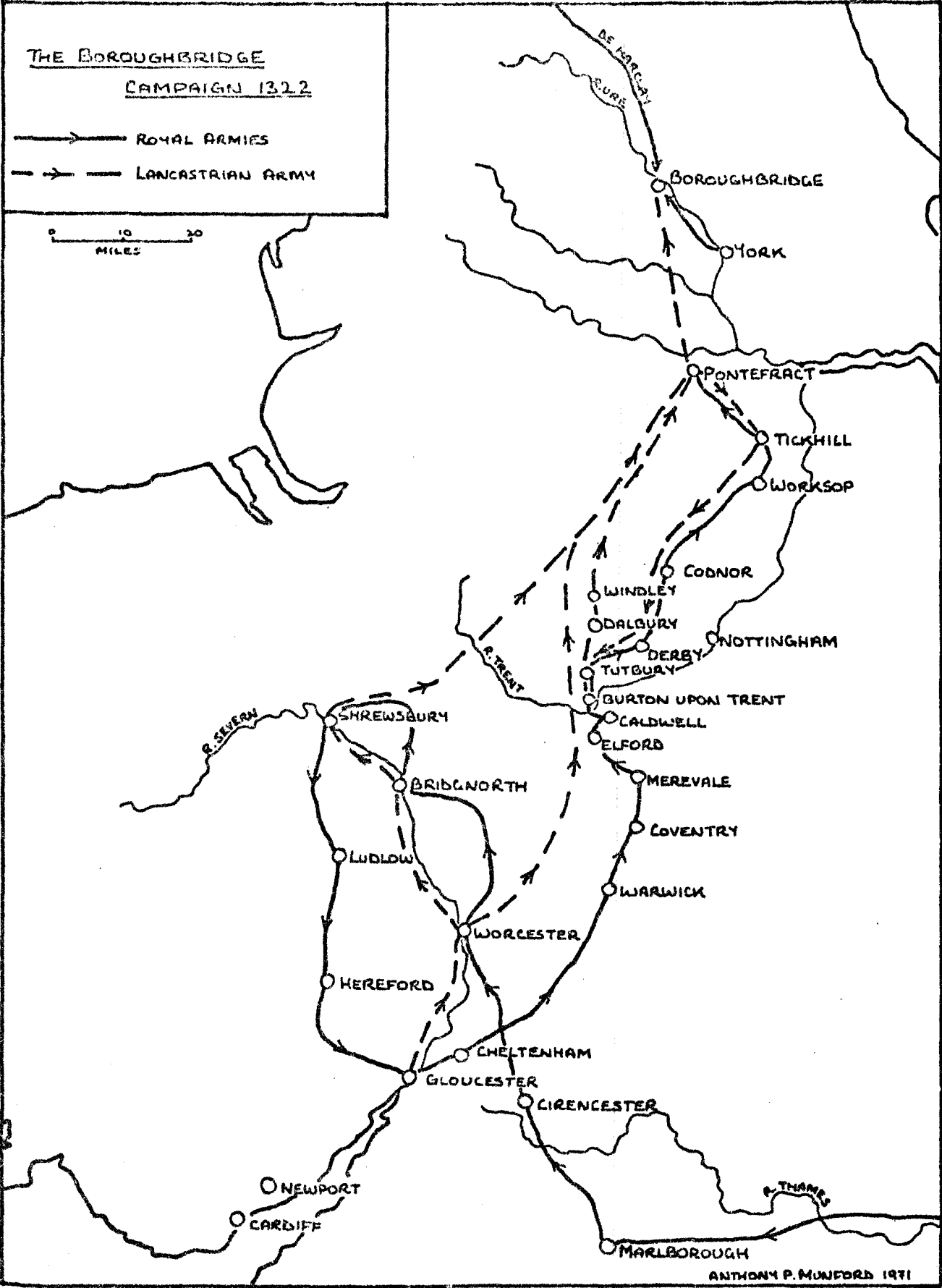
The decisive factor in Lancaster's decision not to fight at Burton was the non-arrival of expected reinforcements. The Earl had sent a trusted member of his household, Robert de Holand, to levy troops from among his tenants in Lancashire and bring them to Burton. Holand, however, chose to desert his lord and remained at his manor of Dalbury, entering into correspondence with the Earl. As the Lancastrian army retreated north through Derbyshire, de Holand deepened his desertion by ambushing one section of it, including Audley, Henry Tyeys and the Countess of Lincoln, at Windley and plundering them of goods later valued at £1,000.⁽²⁰⁾ If the expected reinforcements had arrived, Edward might well have stood his ground at Burton and while it is unlikely that he could have defeated Edward, he could perhaps have fought well enough to obtain favourable terms for himself and his followers. Although the Victoria County History for Derbyshire states that de Holand took his name from Hulland, he was in fact the son of Robert de Holand of Upholland in Lancashire. He had risen quickly in the service of Lancaster who had obtained for him a grant of the manors of Dalbury, Melbourne, Kings Newton, Osmaston, Chellaston, Normanton and Wyveleston.⁽²¹⁾

No serious attempt seems to have been made by the royal army to pursue the Lancastrian forces. Edward moved up to Tutbury Castle where he found Roger Damory and several others who had been wounded in the fighting around Burton. Damory died of his wounds a few days later.⁽²²⁾ A large cache of silver coins found near the castle in 1831 was thought at the time to have been abandoned by Lancaster in his headlong flight.⁽²³⁾ From Tutbury Edward issued writs of aid for the Earls of Kent and Surrey who were to pursue Lancaster and lay siege to Pontefract Castle, the Earl's main stronghold and the place where he might have been expected to make a stand.⁽²⁴⁾

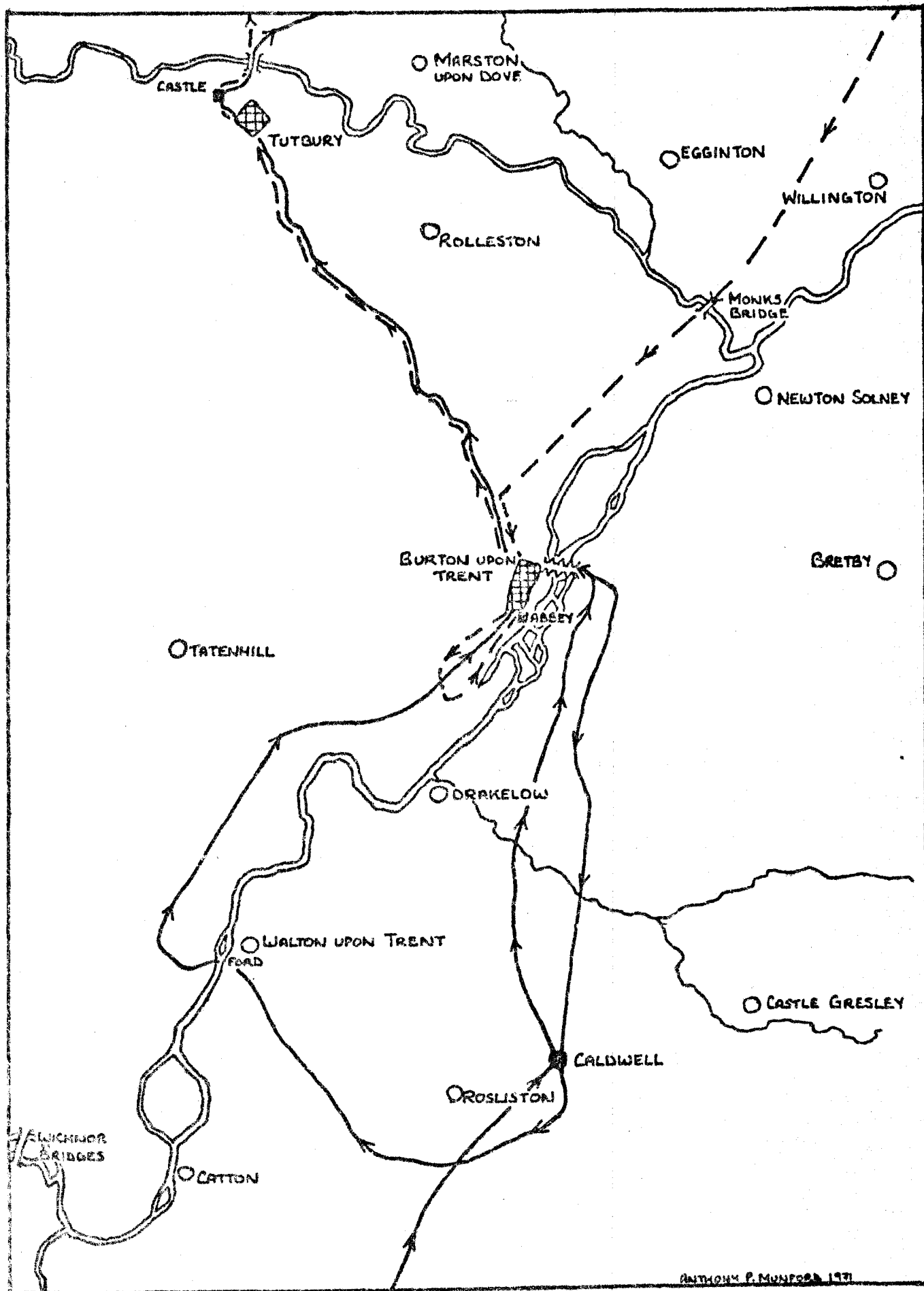
Lancaster's army most probably retreated north until they were in the neighbourhood of Bakewell before turning north-east for Pontefract. They remained at Pontefract only long enough to take council among themselves as to the best course to follow next. With the strength of their army greatly depleted after the debacle at

/Burton.....

MAP I.



MAP II.



Burton, there could be no possibility of meeting the king in open battle and it was decided to retreat further northwards. Lancaster probably hoped to join up with the Scots with whom he had recently entered into an alliance, under which the Scots were to "come to our aid in England and Wales, to live or die with us in our quarrel." (25) On 16th March Lancaster and his tired allies arrived at Boroughbridge to find the road to the north blocked by Andrew de Harclay and the levies of Cumberland and Westmoreland, hardened veterans of the wars against Scotland. Attempts to force the passage of the bridge over the Ure, in the face of de Harclay's dismounted men-at-arms and archers, ended in disaster with the death of Hereford and the fighting died down into desultory skirmishing. On the following day, when the arrival of the sheriff of York from the south completed their encirclement, Lancaster and most of the army surrendered to de Harclay. (26)

From Tutbury Edward moved to Derby where he received the surrender of Robert de Holand and Gilbert de Ellesfield. If de Holand thought that his desertion of Lancaster would earn him preferential treatment, he was soon disillusioned for Edward committed him to prison in Dover Castle. (27) From Derby Edward led his army via Codnor, Worksop, Tickhill and Doncaster to Pontefract which was reached on 21st March. Lancaster was immediately put on trial and, with the Earl forbidden to speak in his own defense, the result was a foregone conclusion. The following day he was led out and executed beneath the walls of his own castle. Most of the other Lancastrian leaders suffered a like fate, the executions taking place in various towns around the country as an example to the populace. Only Audley was spared at the plea of his wife, Edward's niece. He was committed to prison, first at Berkhamstead and later at Nottingham whence he contrived to escape to join Roger Mortimer and Queen Isabella in the deposition of Edward (1326-7).

The confrontation at Burton was the last opportunity for Lancaster to oppose Edward II with any chance of success. His failure to make a stand on 10th March destroyed the confidence of his army in his leadership and was ultimately to cost him his life.

A Note on Sources

The most detailed account of the encounter at Burton is undoubtedly that in Holinshed (Chronicles.....First Compiled by Raphael Holinshed, 3 vols., in 2, London 1587). Holinshed's reputation as a chronicler is not high and he wrote 250 years after the events but none of his statements are contradicted by more contemporary sources nor are they inherently unlikely. The writer who was closest to the events he was describing, was the anonymous author of the Vita Edwardi Secundi (ed. N. Denholm Young, Nelson and Sons, 1957) who compiled his biography c.1326. Other useful accounts will be found in the Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvan (in Chronicles of the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II, vol. II ed. G. Stubbs, Rolls Series 1883), Chronicon Henrici Knighton (ed. J.R. Lumby, Rolls Series 1889) and Flores Historiarum (ed. H.R. Luard, Rolls Series 1890).

The encounter has generally been ignored by modern writers. The account in Glover's History and Gazetteer of the County of Derby (vol. I, pp. 427-8, 1829) is inaccurate and there is a short account in volume two of the Derbyshire Victoria County History (p. 101). The Staffordshire V.C.H. gives a rather longer account (vol. I., p. 233), based largely on Holinshed.

The best histories of the reign of Edward II are J. Conway Davies, The Baronial Opposition to Edward II, (Cambridge University Press, 1918) and T.F. Tout, The Place of Edward II in English History

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(Manchester University Press, 2nd edn. 1936). Readers searching for a short account of the reign should consult May McKisack, The Fourteenth Century (Clarendon Press, 1959).

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1. For the character of Edward II see Tout, pp. 8 - 11, and Davies, pp. 75 - 80.
 2. Thomas held the earldoms of Lancaster, Leicester, Derby, Lincoln and Salisbury, although he never formally assumed the last two.
 3. Fourteenth Century, pp. 51 - 61.
 4. For the war in Glamorgan, see J.C. Davies, The Despenser War in Glamorgan, in Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, 1915.
 5. Fourteenth Century, pp. 61-4.
 6. Flores Historiarum III, pp.345-6; Vita Ed.II, pp.118-9.
 7. Parliamentary Writs, II, div.II, pt.i, pp.547-8.
 8. Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvan, p.74.
 9. Vita Ed. II, p.122 and n.
 10. Flores Historiarum, p.346.
 11. Calendar of Close Rolls 1318-23, p.522.
 12. Holinshed III, p.329.
 13. Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvan, p.75.
 14. Staffordshire Historical Collections X, pt.1., p.55.
 15. Holinshed III, p.329.
 16. Ibid.
 17. Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvan, p.75.
 18. Ibid; Calendar of Close Rolls 1318-23, p.522.
 19. Holinshed III, p.329.
 20. Staffordshire Historical Collections IX, pt.1, p.99. The Countess of Lincoln was Alice de Lacy, wife of Lancaster, and Countess of Lincoln and Salisbury in her own right.
 21. Complete Peerage, VI, pp.528-31.
 22. Vita Ed.II, p.123.
 23. Glover, I, p.428n.
 24. Calendar of Patent Rolls 1321-4, p.81.
 25. Parliamentary Writs II, div.II, pt.ii, p.196.
 26. Vita Ed.II, pp.123-5.
 27. Knighton, p.424. Statements that he fought at Boroughbridge arise from a misreading of the Boroughbridge Roll (Parl.Writs II, div.II, pt.ii, pp.200-1) which lists him with the Mortimers among "those who surrendered to the king". He was released in 1328 but was soon after set upon in Boreham Wood by a party of Lancaster's supporters and summarily beheaded (Knighton, p.448). His son, Thomas, married Joan (sister and heir of John, Earl of Kent and daughter of Edward III's son, Edmund of Woodstock) and became Earl of Kent in 1360. After his death in the same year, Joan married the Black Prince and became the mother of Richard II. Thomas's younger son, John de Holand, was created Duke of Exeter in 1397.

The Development of Ironvilleby D.V.Fowkes

The village of Ironville is essentially a product of the nineteenth century. Prior to the coming of the Cromford Canal in 1792-3, the small area of land in Alferton and Codnor Park which was to become the site of the model village was utilised entirely as farmland, with the nearest settlements the small village of Riddings and the scattered farmsteads of Codnor Park⁽¹⁾. Presumably this low-lying land which was part of the estate of Lancelot Rolleston of Watnall⁽²⁾ was used chiefly as grassland being a continuation of the waterside meadows of the neighbouring parish of Selston⁽³⁾.

The earliest settlement, located in the Codnor Park part of the village, was very much canal-orientated, consisting of the stables, the brewery, the stone-bottle factory and a small group of associated cottages known as the Pottery Yard⁽⁴⁾. These early buildings were constructed of local stone in marked contrast to the characteristic red brick of the 'rows' of the model village. The precise dating of these early developments is not known but they can probably be attributed to the 1795-1810 period, that is contemporary with the development of coal mining and the ironworks at Codnor Park. Unfortunately the Codnor Park land tax assessments are insufficiently detailed to assist with this problem⁽⁵⁾.

Both the stone-bottle factory and the brewery were located immediately on the south bank of the canal (see plan). In 1829⁽⁶⁾ the brewery was described as 'Staley and Foxlowe, Wholesale Brewery', but by 1846⁽⁷⁾ it had disappeared. The pottery belonged to William Burton in 1829⁽⁸⁾ but by 1846⁽⁹⁾ it had been acquired by the better known Joseph Bourne of Denby Pottery. It is not however mentioned subsequently in county directories.

The early canal settlement was one of the few developments in Codnor Park and Ironville for which the Butterley Company was not responsible. The Company's interest in Ironville commenced in 1809 with the purchase of 58.1 acres of land from Lancelot Rolleston⁽¹⁰⁾. This purchase was part of the first phase of Butterley expansion in this area, being contemporary with the construction of the blast furnaces and forge at Codnor Park and the first absolute purchase from Rev. Leigh Hoskins Master⁽¹¹⁾. This part of the Erewash Valley was completely isolated from all communications apart from the canal at this stage, both Bullock Lane and Nottingham Lane (from Riddings - see plan) petering out in the fields above the site of the future village⁽¹²⁾. Development of the land purchased in 1809 commenced almost immediately however with the construction of the first 'rows' - the aptly-named Foundry and Furnace Rows - in the Nether Bullock Close⁽¹³⁾ (see plan). By 1823 one of the 32 houses was utilised as a school and another as a shoemaker's shop⁽¹⁴⁾. Prior to the major phase of Butterley expansion from 1830 onwards, the company 'village' of Ironville consisted in its entirety of these two isolated rows, continuing the pattern of the equally isolated contemporary Forge and Limekiln Rows in Codnor Park.

To the north of the Butterley 'village', little development had as yet taken place in the small part of the village which was to come under the influence of the Butterley Company's local rivals as coal and iron masters, the Oakes.

cont'd...

Riddings Ironworks had been opened nearby in 1805⁽¹⁵⁾ by Saxelby and Co., and was purchased in 1810 by the Oakes family⁽¹⁶⁾. There is no evidence that Oakes had as yet started their coal mining activities in the Nottingham Lane area by 1823⁽¹⁷⁾. This land was still occupied by local farmers and not yet leased to the company. Housing developments in this area consisted only of William Fletcher's own house on the site later to become Fletchers and Thorntree Rows.

The principal phase in the development of Ironville involving the building of the model cillage was contemporary with a period of expansion at Codnor Park Ironworks with the adoption of Neilson's hot blast process and the addition of an extra furnace⁽¹⁸⁾. The isolated 'rows' were presumable no longer adequate to house the growing labour force and between 1834 and 1840 the nucleus of the model village was built⁽¹⁹⁾. In 1836 the 55 'old built' houses were inhabited by 370 persons, 6.73 per house, suggesting considerable overcrowding⁽²⁰⁾. The brick-built workmen's houses were of a standard four-roomed type following the pattern of the earlier Furnace and Foundry Rows and were constructed at a cost of £63.15s or £65.15s each⁽²¹⁾. To the earlier rows were added King William Street, Victoria Street, Albert Street, Meadow Street and Tank Street a total of 126 new houses. The six three storey houses known as the 'big six' which adjoined Victoria Street were added in 1842-3⁽²²⁾.

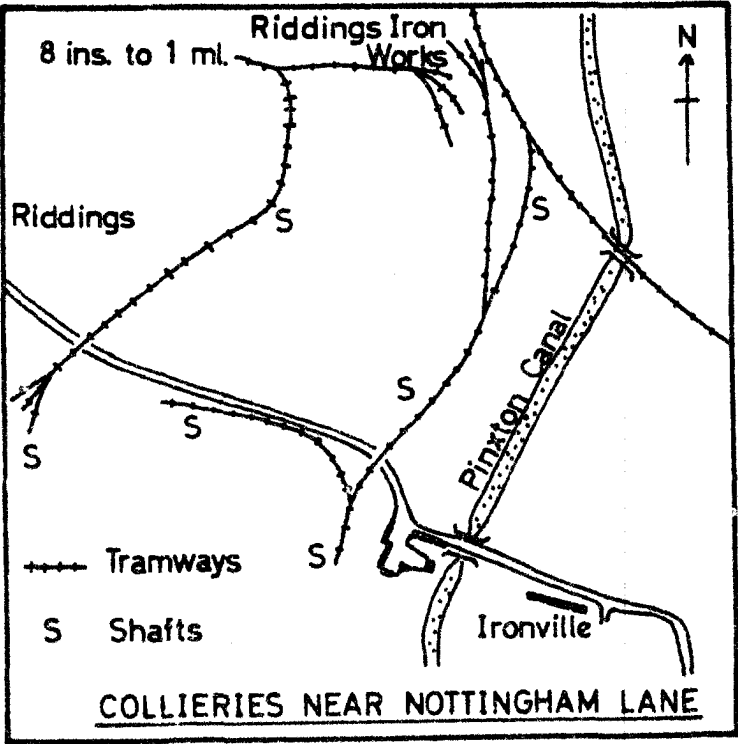
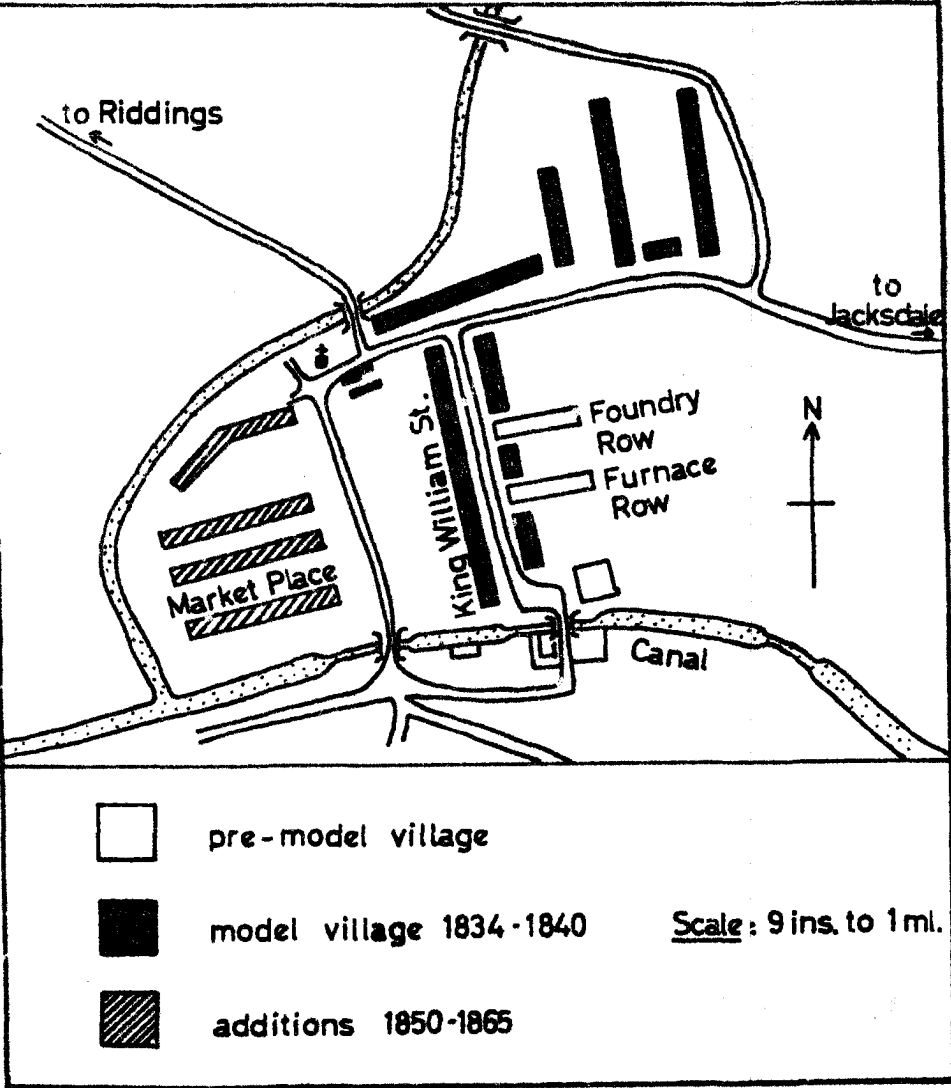
The National School was built in 1840-1 by the Butterley Company⁽²³⁾. There are references to laying the floors of the school and plastering the walls in the 'Forge Book' in 1840. Shortly afterwards in 1843 the Mechanics Institute was opened on the site of the brewery⁽²⁴⁾.

At the same time as the Butterley Company was building the model village, the Oakes began their exploitation of the coal and ironstone beds adjoining Nottingham Lane. At some date between 1823 and 1835⁽²⁵⁾ tramways were built linking the expanding Riddings Ironworks with coal pits on each side of Nottingham Lane, one terminating at the rear of Fletchers Houses and the other at pits nearer to Riddings village. The recently demolished Fletchers Houses (1971), also dating from the 1823-1835 period, were probably associated with this development.

By 1843 therefore the original model village was complete and by the early 1860s the village had assumed substantially its present-day form with the building of the church in 1852⁽²⁶⁾, Casson Street (named after the first vicar) in the late 1850s and Queen Street and the Market Place in the early 1860s⁽²⁷⁾ (see plan). Subsequent changes have been remarkably few with no significant developments until the late 1960s. The demolition of a number of houses in Meadow and Albert Streets in 1875⁽²⁸⁾ to make way for the Midland Railway branch from Pye Bridge to Ambergate was the only alteration to the original model village over this period.

1. D(erbyshire) R(ecord) O(ffice) D.769 Legh Hoskins Master Deeds and estate papers, Burdett's map of Derbyshire, surveyed 1762-7, published 1791 and the Alfreton enclosure award and map (QR/16).
2. D.R.O. D.503 Historical box D, map 29.
3. Lothian Estate Office Melbourne - surveys of Melbourne estate at Selston 1784 and 1824.
4. N.C.B. map 1371.

SUMMARY OF THE STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF IRONVILLE



5. D.R.O. Quarter Sessions Records.
6. Glover's Derbyshire directory 1829.
7. Bagshaw's Derbyshire directory 1846.
8. as 6.
9. as 7.
10. as 2.
11. Butterley National Brick Co. deed No.24.
12. D.R.O. QR/1 6.
13. D.R.O. QR/1 6 and D.654 Terrier of the parish of Alfreton 1823.
14. as 13.
15. D.R.O. Quarter Sessions Records.
16. as 15.
17. as 13.
18. D.R.O. D.503 Historical box C, survey of Butterley Company property 1834.
19. As 18 together with the Butterley Company 'Forge Book' 1828-1870 and Ordnance Survey First Edition One Inch surveyed 1837.
20. D.R.O. D.503 'Forge Book' 1828-1870.
21. as 20.
22. as 20.
23. as 7.
24. as 7.
25. D.R.O. D.654 and Sanderson's '45 miles around Mansfield', 1835.
26. White's Derbyshire directory 1857.
27. as 20.
28. D.R.O. Deposited railway plan 108.

Continued from page 15.

ASHBOURNE CHURCH BELLS - a note by Reginald Smith.

Four of the wheels of the old chimes were apparently preserved. Dr. J. Charles Cox asserts in his "Derbyshire Churches" that Tom Moore was inspired by the chimes of Ashbourne church to write "Those Evening Bells". This statement is repeated by J.B. Frith in his "Highways and Byways of Derbyshire" (1908) Macmillan, and I fully expect, by Arthur Mee. So far I have not reached a definite conclusion about this assertion. The old peal was defective. It consisted of 6 bells only. Moore in the period 25th Sept. 1813 to 11th March 1817 lived at a cottage (still there) in Mayfield, Staffordshire, from which the bells of Ashbourne can be plainly heard. The poem had lines with syllables of eight, which Moore normally used. This was not likely to be inspired by a peal of six - with one cracked! The British Museum tell me that the poem was first published in "National Airs" in London and Dublin in 1818. The words were by Moore and the accompaniments by Sir John Stevenson.

Although one's inclination might be to follow Cox, and writers of local lore, in view of the foregoing information, it leaves open the questions :- When was the music composed; and which came first - the music or the words? And despite the date of publication, were the words composed before October, 1815? The words were apparently set to the air, "The Bells of Petersburg"; but the Museum are unable to supply a date of publication of this particular piece. Unless it can be established that the poem was awaiting an accompaniment earlier than October 1815, or a statement by Moore about the date of composition is traceable, the matter remains indeterminate, with a bias in favour of the inspiration accorded by local lore.

BOOK NEWS

The Hope Valley in 1851: by A.J. Fletcher, E.A. Bentley, M.M. Brown, G.D. Bungard, P. Crump, F.E. Ellacott, W.W. Green, C. Hibbott and E.M. Jakeman (University of Sheffield, Department of Extramural Studies 1971 - 40p.)

This study is based on the 1851 Census returns for the parish of Castleton and the major part of the parishes of Hope and Hathersage (15 townships in all). It is a valuable piece of work, which was well worth doing. It is furnished with a map and many tables of figures, sensibly placed near the relevant text, whilst the text itself is kept mercifully free of statistics.

The authors analyse the population in social and occupational groups, showing that a slightly larger proportion of the working population worked in industry than on the land. It was essentially sheep-farming country, labour requirements were not large, farmers relied heavily on the labour of their families, and, it is suggested, farm labourers suffered from chronic under-employment. There was however, alternative work, for one of the main conclusions of this study is that the area had 'a remarkably diversified economy'. The most important industries were lead mining at Castleton and Bradwell, textiles, chiefly at Bamford, Brough and Edale, and mainly employing young women, and metal working, the manufacture of wire and wire products at Hathersage. There was also rope making and twine spinning at Castleton.

A detailed analysis of the social and occupational structure of each township shows the comparative importance of farming, industry, trade and crafts, within each community, and yields fascinating information on many aspects of 19th-century life in this remote area. The authors are able to describe the means of communication with the world outside the Hope Valley, the tradesmen, the craftsmen in clothing, leather, wood, metal and stone, and the professional men, doctors, veterinary surgeons, teachers, clergy and solitary solicitor, who served the needs of the population. There were few large landowners here and no great family to dominate the area.

The children, their education and their work, receive special attention, quite rightly, for they constituted more than a third of the population. Indeed, almost three-quarters of the people were under 40 years of age. Finally, the study shows that almost 4 out of 5 people living in the Hope Valley in 1851 were born there and most of the remainder within 25 miles. Nevertheless, a few came from over 100 miles away - including a number from Ireland!

A History of Hallcroft School by Rodney F. Small, M.A., pub. Nov., 1971 by Moorleys Bible and Book Shop, 8 Nottingham Road, Ilkeston. Price 45p. pp.74 plus index, illustrated with photographs and drawings.

Brasses and Brass Rubbing in the Peak District, by G.A. Lester. published by Midsummer Publications, 82 Huntley Road, Sheffield, 11. Tel. 65533, on November 15th, 1971, price 50p (plus postage - one copy 5p; 2 copies 7p, 3 or more free.) Also available from booksellers.

ANCIENT BOUNDARIES

by

Part 3 Hassop

Nellie Kirkham

(Notes on the boundaries of Hassop lordship)

The boundary of Hassop in 1432 and 1589 (26) commenced at Backdale Head cross-roads, then followed a narrow roadway westwards to Longstone Edge. In 1432 this was 'the way that lyeth to Tideswell'. Nearly half a mile from the main road there is an angle in the boundary, so possibly this was a Gospel Place (see Part 1) as Gospel Mine is close by. All the ground below, including Backdale Mine, Frogatt Grove, and Brightside Mine, was Backdale Pasture. In 1794 articles of agreement were made between Francis Eyre of Warkworth Castle, Northampton, John Robinson of Hassop and William Milnes. They possessed Backdale Pasture divided into thirty-eight shares in differing proportions. Buildings on the mines are shown in the sketch accompanying the agreement. The brook (with enclosures called Sych) rises 1,400 ft further north than it does on modern maps, with two small pools shown where a well is now marked. Nowadays the latter is a small amount of muddy water, with part of a breasting wall. Mr. Booker said that in 1960 there was a sudden flood of sludge and a pool formed, while at the present spring to the south at one time there was a pump which piped water to a dressing plant 160 ft above. It was a never failing source of water.

Miss Meredith gives the area of Backdale Mine etc., as the Brekes (Bretch, Breke or Breache) which was part of Norclay (Narclay) Field, which in 1588 Rowland Eyre enclosed out of the waste as part of his land from which he excluded the inhabitants of Hassop from common grazing, which caused trouble with the freeholders.

A crude mine-map of 1728, insofar as it can be interpreted, appears to place 'Breech Veins all three' on the north of the gateway to the dressing plant of Bleaklow Mining Company. It depicts the veins belonging to the partners of a sough, and includes Dogge Rake and Red Rake, which are known, and Long Hole Vein. Another name for Northcliff Plantation is Long Wood. Entries of 1759 and 1762 mention Breechside Sough in Calver, and in Hassop in 1763. So it can be inferred that the sough ranged northwards, under the boundary into Calver Liberty, and possibly it would have a branch to the west in Hassop, for the hillside is extensively mined. This is interesting, for although some of the Calver soughs are identified the course of others is uncertain, including that of the Breach side (Breach) Sough.

It appears reasonable to conclude, though it is not proved, that this north running sough is Breachside Sough, driven by 1728. It was very profitable, much ore being mined in the area it drained in the 1760's to 1780's. Hopkinson calls it highly productive. It was closed down between 1807 and 1816. (27).

At about 3,000 ft from the road was the 'ditch that goeth over Cockerfieldlowe'. A portion of this ditch, now more than five centuries old, in 1966 was still distinct as a ditch between two banks.

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In 1570, (28) as now, the Ashford boundary went northwards, following 'the same great dyke towards Middleton into a place called Rydall mouthe, and from thence to thenether end of Comsdale leaveing the Lordshippe of Calver on the right hand', from there going up the valley to Blackden (see Part 1). Cockerfieldlowe must be on the high ground of Deep Rake, as from there the ground dips north into the valley which descends to Coombsdale. One meaning of mouth is an entrance to a valley.

At the top, near Cockerfieldlowe, where the ditch goes southwards by the boundary wall, in the sixteenth century there was a 'stone that stands in a prymme gap in the double ditch end', and the boundary continued 'holding ever West to a stone and so to the stones that stand by the wayside that lyeth betwixt Bakewell and Stony Middleton'. Near where the ditch now ends, by the junction of Hassop, Calver and Ashford, a limestone monolith lay in the grass which was undoubtedly far older than the present line of upright boundary stones. A primgap in lead mining was the measurement of part of a meer in a vein which was less than half a meer in length, and which occurred where a vein ranged into another liberty. It belonged to the lord of the field, and in order to work it, and the Lord's meer, the miner had to purchase them from the lord. Great Vein, from White Coe Mine, ranges north-east along the boundary wall, so its workings can be dated to late medieval times.

The 1570 boundary of Ashford began 'neare the Beacon that standeth on the hill toppe above Hassope at ...a great Double Dyke', and a 'little from the same Beacon South eastward' was where the three lordships met. This gives the top of the Edge as an approximate site for the beacon. On some hilltops with this place-name, cressets, or even remains of towers, have been found, where beacons were lit on hilltops for the purpose of giving an alarm or indicating some event of importance. In 1585 among the duties of the Lord Lieutenant of the county was "watching" the beacons, and in 1588, at the time of the Spanish Armada, beacons blazed from hilltops all over the country. In 1804 the beacons flared, drums beat to arms, and the voluntary forces turned out, but it was not the looked-for invasion of Napoleon, but a chance spark from a limekiln somewhere which made the countrymen set the rest of the beacons alight. (29) Beacon Rod is the name of an enclosure lower down the hill, a rod is a clearing of trees and bushes to make arable land, an assart.

The boundary, or lordship, stones which are marked on Ordnance Survey maps are a short distance from the wall, probably originally having been set on the true boundary - the now disappeared ditch. They are well-dressed with good lettering, at the earliest they look as if some of them could date from last century. Earlier standing stones had been set up before 1432 by Will Lemyng, Gervase Dobble of Longstone, and Harry Jackson of Hassop. (30)

A vein is visible, and there was mining in the open enclosures on the north of Beacon Rod. In 1798 Beeton (or Beacon) Mine title was sold to Waterhole Mine.

In the course of long troubles between the Eyre family and the Duke of Devonshire and between the Eyres and Wright of Great Longstone (31) there was a dispute over a lead mine 'on beacon side' in 1629. In November William Eyre, with his servant Nicholas Thornhill, and John Steades of Rowland his tenant, came to the mine which was in dispute. Here William Telear 'was in quiet possession for my la'y of Devon her right'. Eyre ordered Telear to come away from the mine or he would 'draive him by force', and 'did take him by vollenge to Haddon,' for which action Eyre had no pretext or warrant.

cont'd...

But when Telear was brought before John Manners of Haddon (32) Eyre had nothing to allege against him, only asking Manners to send Telear to a house of correction. The writer of the account said that Eyre did it 'on purpose to have my la'y loose her possession'.

For over a month Eyre kept servants at the mine, at night two of them were on guard, one with a sword and long staff, the other with a long staff. The next month Thornhill came there 'and like to have throttled William Munro'. In January there was further violence, for Eyre and Thornhill and six others, including a John Telear, to the mine 'whoe stroke and misused' William Singleton who was there keeping possession for the writer of the document. They 'broke and pulled the timber in pieces'. In the afternoon Thomas Eyre and two servants came and drove Richard and Hardie and Henry Platts from the mine, and 'pulled in the grove', took away 'the timber by force', and with 'manie reproachful words', said that 'hee would burne my Tymber before my face...strike my servants with a staff too', and 'where I had one lippe he would make me two'.

The account is slightly confusing in that it is not clear who was writing it, but it is among the Wright documents. About March, William Brassington, Eyre's shepherd, brought his sheep upon the ground in question 'about ye Doole Ditch wch is with ye Mannor of Ashford'. A man who was hired by this parish came up to turn the sheep out of Ashford, Brassington struck him with a staff and Eyre brought his sheep back. (33)

Timber means the possession stowes, small wooden models of the miners' winding stowes (winches) which had to be placed at the end of every meer measured in the vein, denoting possession. In certain circumstances, when a miner was illegally in possession, the barmaster threw off the possession stowes and burnt them, but it was an offence for anyone else to remove, burn or damage them. An article of the Ashford Barmote laws in 1626 stated that if any man 'pull in any Man's Work' which was in legal possession, 'or cut or pull in pieces any Stowes or Timber, to hinder him from working' the culprit should forfeit £5 to the lord and £3.6.8. to 'the Party grieved' and 33/4 to the barmaster - which was a good deal of money with wages at 1/- a day.

Blacklow (see Part 1) was of larger extent than the Blakelow (Blacklow) around the beacon, and had always been demesne land. This was land held by the lord of the manor, though portions of it, such as the home farm, could be let off to tenants. The Wrights held a good deal of land in Great Longstone from the time of Edward III. By 1770 they had 181 acres in Blacklow, but in 1611 the Earl of Devonshire appears to have had all the ground of the part of Blacklow in the region of the beacon. In 1550 he was lord of the manor of Ashford, of which Great Longstone was a parcel, so he had the lead mining rights in this private liberty, also the rights to coal, ironstone, marble and other minerals, with the exception of gravel, clay and sand. Meredith says that the Countess of Devonshire had a jointure in her own right in Ashford. (34)

In 1620, as a widow, the Countess administered the estates during the minority of her son, so she would have lot and cope etc., on Beaconside. Apparently also before 1631 she was farmer of lead ore tithe in parts of north Derbyshire, over which there was a suit between her and Lord Deincourt.

cont'd...

But the phrases in the document 'my la'y of Devon her right' and reference to her 'losing possession' sound as though she actually had taken title to the mine. (35)

White Coe and Waterhole Mines lie on the southern edge of the boundary. Between them two stones, one of which is still visible, marked the division between Waterhole and Brightside's possessions, which later in the eighteenth century included White Coe. Where the Hassop boundary turns southwards slight signs of the ditch are visible along it. The boundary joins the old roadway, and if the wall at this junction is followed westwards a short distance, there is what might be, though it is uncertain, a continuation of the ditch alongside the wall.

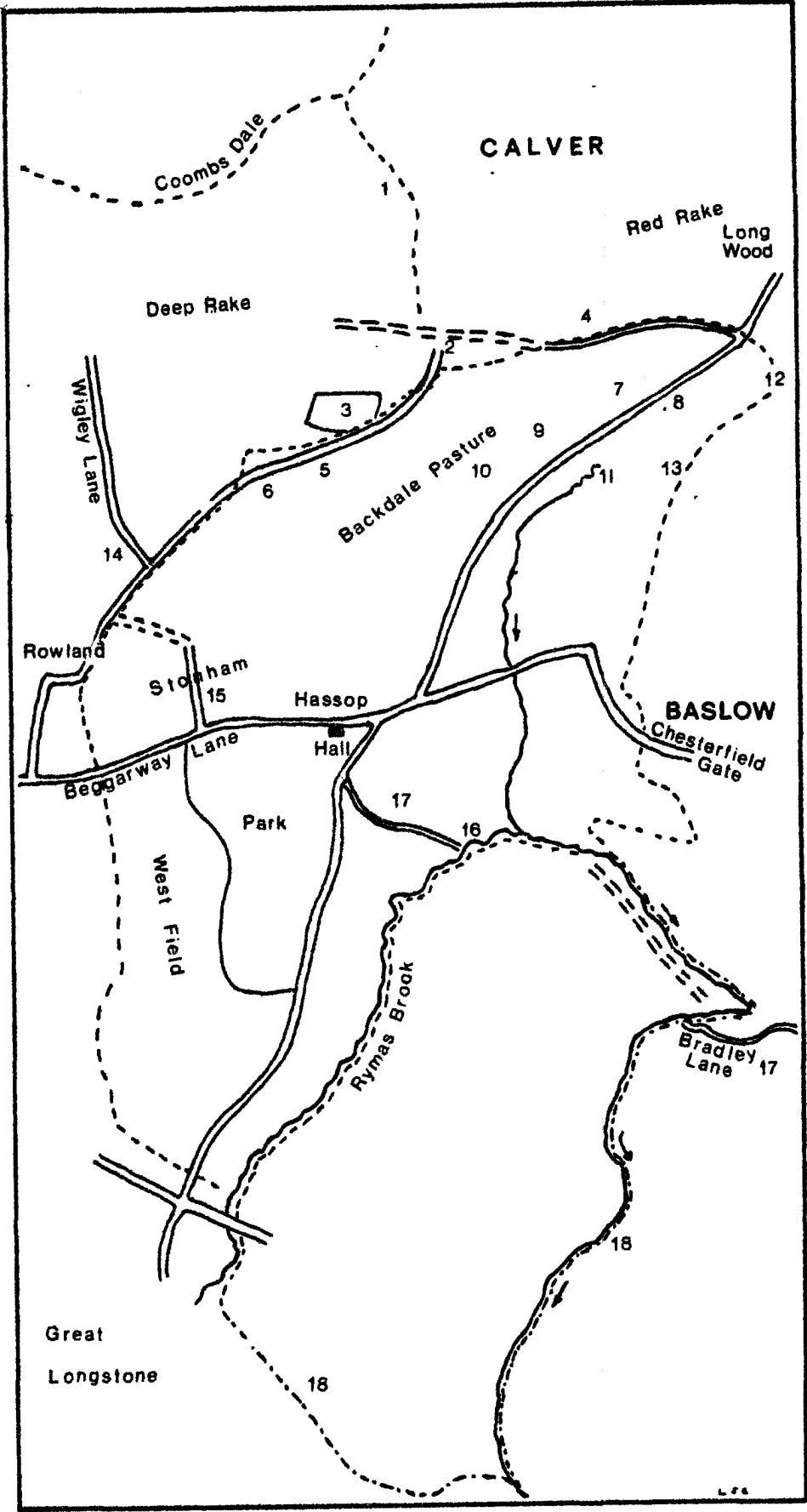
The old boundary followed 'the high way to Pekelow cross', which is now lost, though it could be suggested that perhaps the cross stood where Wigley Lane leaves the roadway to continue steeply north as a narrow packhorse lane. From the cross the boundary went to a stone 'that stands in the (outgate ?) betwixt Hassop and Roland', (1432) or 'to a Stonne lyinge at Rowland towneheade' (1589) and then to a 'well alias wall at the nether end of Roland towne and so to an Ashe at Rowland close'. The 1432 boundary went 'down to pye wall' and then to the ash' in Roland close end'.

The hamlet of Rowland has no real street, but a few scattered houses and farms face all ways. Some of the backs of the houses and buildings are old and unaltered, many of the fronts appear to have been renewed last century, when lead mines were prosperous. The phrase 'well alias wall' possibly indicates where the short stretch of road from east to west in the centre of the village is a walled causeway over a north-to-south dip in the ground, with a 'well' in the next enclosure to the south. Here there is a slightly raised line down the centre of the field, as though over a drain. It is possible, but unproved, that this is the line of Hard Nell Sough. Mr. Somerset of Calver says that the village drain ran down this field and suggested that if it was the sough the sewage was turned into it. He added that this field below the causeway was said to have been a washing floor, and to be exceedingly belland. As water from sough-tails were often used for a washing floor, this is further probable evidence.

A probable meaning for 'pye wall' is a small old lime-kiln, pyes being the name for these. In north Derbyshire they are still referred to as 'pudding pies'.

At Beggarsway Lane (Blind Lane) from Hassop to Longstone, the boundary crosses into the park of Hassop Hall. There is a well-preserved pinfold on the north side of the road. The park was much smaller, much of West Field and its enclosures being taken into it later. The subsequent laying out of the park must have destroyed many features, so the meere stones are not traceable. Many of the plantations date from the eighteenth century when alterations were made to the house and gardens, and a hot house and a very large greenhouse were erected. The Eyre of that time was said to be 'possessed of a greater number of exotics' than any other gentleman in this part of the country. (36)

HASSOP MAP



The boundary continued to 'Hassopee Ryse and as the water runneth to the stonne brydge' then to 'a place called heyforde, now called towste Ford', (1589), or 'down to the hayforth'. (1432) And 'after Rymblys to the toyst betwixt Hassop and Byrchills', (1432) 'so followes the rymbels to a towste', (1589).

The ancient boundary was the present one until it joined Rymas Brook, then it followed this east-of-north to where the present boundary - having left the brook - joins it again at Toast Bank Wood, so that a large tract of land, now in Hassop, did not then belong to this manor. A map of Rowland Eyre's estate of Hassop manor in 1752 is the same as in 1432. (37)

The stone bridge is a stone-slab bridge crossing the brook, with a narrow, walled, packhorse roadway going up to Hassop. This was part of the way from Chatsworth to Castleton taken by Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) when he journeyed round Derbyshire before writing his 'Wonders of the Peak'. He rode to Pilsley and Hassop on what he described as a 'rugged track' which was the old packhorse roadway which still curves down the hillside below Pilsley, crossing the Bakewell main road, and over the old slab bridge up to Hassop. The next part of the way will now be lost through Hassop Park to Beggarsway Lane. From there no doubt he would take the old roadway, now a belt of trees, through Stonham enclosures, not the present road to Rowland, then north-east out of the village, up Wigley Lane, and so onto the Edge. He described how steep this way was, with 'many a tug and weary strain' for their horses. They came to the mines on the top, where two miners had been killed, 'before our feet, a Corps digg'd up we see...T'other lies buried in the Earth'. A crowd had gathered on the hillocks, among them were two weeping women whose men had been killed. (38)

Down at Rymas Brook there is also a large monolith which may mark Heyford. After the brook the boundary went to Chesterfield Way, or Gate, or Wheatlands Lane in 1589, the way to Baslow, and thence to a ditch 'called bole edge toppe', or Hassop Dyke, where the lead smelting 'Boyles' were in 1432, and 'so to the way where we began these meres'.

The boles were somewhere along Bank WoodRidge. Very approximately 1,600 ft along the boundary, on the top of the ridge, is some slightly disturbed ground with what appears to be a short length of trackway near it. On a very crude map of 1794, something, it is impossible to guess what, is indicated on the boundary about here, and there seems little likelihood of there being anything but boles on this ridge (39).

References

26. Meredith, R., "The Eyres of Hassop" Journal of Derbyshire Archaeological Society Vol. LXXXIV pp 9-10 (1964).
27. Plan of the manor of Hassop 1752. Sheffield Reference Library, Bagshawe Collection 242. Plan of Hassop Backdale Pasture, Bagshawe Collection 1142, 431a and 546. North Derbyshire Mining Co. plan and Brightside Mining Co. Prospectus, Brooke - Taylor Collection. Plan of a sough at Calver, 1728. Mr. J. Rieuwerts Collection. Hopkinson, G.G. "Five Generations of Derbyshire Lead Mining", Journal of Derbyshire Archaeological Society LXXVIII pp 13,18. Information from Mr. J. Somerset of Calver.

cont'd...

28. Wager documents, a transcript given me by Mr. R. Thornhill.
29. Cox, J.C. Three Centuries of Derbyshire Annals (1890) Vol.I p.22. A. Bryant, Years of Victory (1944) p.77.
30. Leeming was chamberlain to John Manners in 1578-1581. Dobble occurs fairly widely in 1599 - Pilsley, Chesterfield and district.
31. Meredith ibid. LXXXV pp. 72-76.
32. John Manners (1604-1679) The main line died out, and he became the 8th Earl of Rutland in 1641. It is not clear why Eyre went to him, as he did not then hold any official post such as J.P.. Thomas Eyre (d.1652) son of Thomas, succeeded to many estates, on his death there was included 100 acres of land in Great Longstone, one meadow, and 8 acres of pasture in socage by fealty and yearly rent of 2/6. It is impossible to distinguish between various William Wrights. In 1615 one was a yeoman of Great Longstone (b.1587). In 1648 one of Great Longstone had been a papist commander for the King, in 1650 his estate was seized and secured by Parliament, rents were to be stayed in tenants hands. In 1668 one was listed under lead merchants and had an income of £500 p.a.
33. Wright ibid. p.228.
34. P.R.O. Exchequer E/134/8. Calendar State Papers Domestic Chas. I. 1631-33 p.121. Brooke-Taylor ibid. Senior map 1611 Chatsworth Collection.
35. Christian, Dowager Countess of Devonshire, daughter of Lord Bruce, married the 2nd Earl of Devonshire who died in 1628, leaving her with four children. The eldest, William (b.1617) became a ward of the Crown. During his minority, by good management she paid off debts and improved the estates. She was a strong Royalist. As a delinquent she was assessed for £1,000, but because most of her estates were in places 'under the power of the King's Army', or were paying rates under the protection of Parliament, she was discharged being left to make voluntary contribution.
36. Bray ibid. p.160. Pilkington, J. View of Present State of Derbyshire Vol.II. p.429 (1789).
37. Cameron has Rymelesbrok c.1270. Rimeles 1340. He says it is a difficult word, possibly rima, a border, or bank.
38. Hobbes, T., Wonders of the Peak (5th Edit. 1683).
39. Plan Buckdale ibid.

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To Cave Science for a few extractions from my article on
Longstone Edge.

Grateful acknowledgement is also made to Mr.L.J.Stead who has
re-drawn my sketch maps.

Hassop Map Explanation

1. Rydall
2. Ditch over Cockerfieldlowe.
3. Beacon Rod.
4. Gospel Mine.
5. White Coe Mine.
6. Water Hole Mine.
7. Backdale Mine. Bleaklow Mining Company dressing plant.
8. Probably Breechside Sough.
9. Frogatt Grove.

cont'd...

10. Brightside Mine.
11. Spring.
12. A small enclosed garden here in 1794.
13. Bole Edge Top. Now Bank Wood.
14. Hard Nell Mine.
15. Old road.
16. Slab bridge.
- 17 and 17. Packhorse road from Pilsley.
- 18 and 18. Present boundary Hassop.

Field Names

(From Plan of Manor of Hassop 1752, B.C. ibid. 242. Hassop Backdale Pastures, B.C. ibid. 1142. Information from Mr. J. Somerset. Plan of Calver 1752. B.C. ibid. 243).

Hassop

Torrs Pasture 2. Stonham from 128 to 119. Coat Close 27. Norclay approx. 23, 24, 25. Narclay 22. Sych approx. 21.

Calver

Widhammouth Close 240, 239. Long Flatts 202, 203. Coombs Close 154, part of 156. Thirds Pasture 153. New Intake southern part of 153.

Industrial Archaeology Section

Report on the East Midlands Industrial Archaeology Conference:

This was held at Nottingham Adult Education Centre on Saturday, 23rd Oct., 1971 and was one of the most successful to date in terms of attendance figures, over 50 people being present, and it maintained the usual high standard of lectures and visits to sites of interest.

After morning coffee, John Goodchild, Curator of the South Yorkshire Industrial Museum, Cusworth Hall, Doncaster, gave a talk "The Introduction of Steam Power: A case study of the West Riding", illustrated with slides. Mr. Goodchild has made a special study of the steam engines used in the West Riding, and has compiled a list of them based on the available documentary evidence, although this is, as usual, scarce for the earlier periods.

Many interesting facts emerged from his talk: The available water power was fully exploited early in the industrialisation of the textile trade, and steam engines were introduced as an alternative source of power. The Boulton and Watt engine was never popular, the Newcomen type being preferred, and indeed a few were still in use until the beginning of this century. The slides showed examples of various engines and engine houses, many now unfortunately demolished.

After lunch in the refectory, Mr. J. P. Ford of Nottingham University, Dept. of Architecture and Civic Planning, put on his cine film of the Papplewick Pumping Engine (James Watt & Co.), its fine house and well set-out grounds, designed about one hundred years ago by the Nottingham Borough Engineer, Marriott Ogle Tarbottom, Esq., C.E. The sound accompaniment throughout the film was of the engine working. This steady throb of the engine was particularly effective, especially as now that it has been replaced with an electric pump we may never hear it again.

After the film Mr. Ford gave a brief history of the pumphouse, and spoke of the need to preserve it. The deputy chief engineer to the Water Board explained that his dept. was not able to finance any preservation project out of the water rate, although speaking as a private individual he would support its preservation. The meeting discussed the problems of preservation and it is to be hoped a solution can soon be reached.

After tea there were optional visits to: City of Nottingham's Industrial Museum; Ruddington Stocking Frame Shops; and Papplewick Pumping Station.

The next conference will be organised by the Railway and Canal Historical Society and held in May next.

- L.J. Stead.

NOTES ON MORTON

(being extracts from his history of the village)

by

E.C. Clayton

Morton Colliery

Morton in the old days was purely an agricultural community; now it is dependent on coal mining and it will interest many engaged in that industry to know that coal was being dug in the liberties of Norton and Alfreton as early as the reign of Edward II. At that time Thomas de Chaworth, Lord of the Manor, gave to the Abbey of Beauchief licence and authority to supply themselves with coal from either place in whatever quantity they chose.

Coal mines have therefore been worked in the East of the county for many years. In 1829 coal 'pittes' were worked to the South East of Stretton and also at nearby Smithymoor. Another local pit was situated one third of a mile south of Tibshelf church.

In the 17th century coal miners were paid a daily wage - stated to be 10d in 1634 and 16d in 1648. By the 18th century, however, custom had changed and miners were paid on piece work. Tibshelf colliers in the early 19th century were paid 3s.9d per quarter of coal (45 cwts) mined. Daily payments are again recorded locally in the 19th century, Alfreton miners receiving between 2s.6d and 4s.6d per day in 1829. At Tibshelf, also, young boys received 8d per day and donkey boys 1s.5d to 1s.8d per day, increasing to 2s to 3s per day after the age of sixteen.

Morton No.5 colliery was sunk in 1865 and No.6 shaft, which was closed in 1942, in 1874. A gas house and gasometer formerly stood in the right-hand side of the yard when the colliery and neighbourhood were supplied with gas before the time of incandescent mantles.

Great changes took place at the colliery after Nationalisation in 1947. The stone cottages at the entrance to the colliery yard were demolished to widen the yard entrance and to provide a car park. Colliery offices, complete with lawns and gardens were erected on the site formerly occupied by the Wardens' post in the Second World War. The pit-head baths had been erected in 1936, along with a canteen, on the site of an old pond and clay hole.

Old Buildings

On the North side of the Pilsley road is a farmhouse known as Hagg House, no doubt so called from its proximity to the former Old Hagg Wood. The wife of the present occupier is a descendant of one of the oldest Morton families, the Milners, several of her ancestors being churchwardens of Morton from 1795 onwards. On April 15th 1896 horse races were held at Hagg Farm under the auspices of the Rufford Hunt and East Derbyshire Steeplechases. Five races were run, the most valuable being the Hardwick Plate for which the prize money was £40. Admission to the course was 1s. per person and 2s.6d for carriages. (See figure 1).

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Another interesting old building is Morton House which according to a stone set in the front wall dates from 1752. This became the headquarters of the Morton Colliery Welfare scheme. The initials of the then owner of the house, John Oldham, are also inscribed on the stone.

The Welfare Hall adjoins Morton Hall. This was formerly the old malthouse where ale for the village was brewed. It was apparently closed in 1834 on the death of Thomas Oldham at which date home brewing was rapidly being superseded with the development of the large breweries. Before its conversion into a village hall by the Miners' Welfare Committee in 1936, it had stood in ruins for many years.

A building which has long since disappeared is the forge on Back Lane of which William and Richard Parsons were the proprietors. Iron weighing machines were manufactured at the forge, a survivor of which lay for many years in the empty wagon shunt at Morton No.6 colliery. The Parsons' house nearby had a corrugated iron roof thatched underneath. Richard Parsons was a man of several interests. He not only had a brickyard on the site of the present pit heap, but he also kept one of the two village public houses, the Royal Oak, the licence of which was transferred to the Church Farm, which became the Sitwell Arms Inn.

Close to the church and to the village pond, now filled in, was the other former village inn, the 'White Horse', which was one of the last thatched cottages in the villages to be demolished, and one of the oldest buildings in the parish. According to local legend customers in the Inn used to climb up by means of steps or a ladder and sit on the oak beam over the fireplace in the living room. Another local story is that the fiddler sat on this beam playing his fiddle while customers sang and danced in the room below. The 'White Horse' ceased to be the village inn in the early 19th century when the licence was transferred to the Sycamore Farm. Its granary was used as the Club Room where weekly meetings of the local Oddfellows were held.

Near to the inn was a saw-pit which became disused when a steam engine was installed at the East side of the yard. The Hill family who lived at the former inn ran a wheelwright and joiners business in the yard.

The original village school was built on land on the north side of Morton Churchyard conveyed to the Rector by the then Lord Scarsdale in 1737. The stone schoolroom erected by voluntary subscription on this site remained in its intended use until 1884 when the present village school was built. Since 1884 the old school has seen many uses, including a period as an A.R.P. wardens' post in the Second World War, and it is now used as an old people's clubroom.

Place Names

The lane to Padley Wood near Morton Church formerly bore the name of Haverhill Lane (not Averil Lane as some of the present residents now term it) and an old tithing book mentions Upper and Nether Haverill closes on the Rectory farm in 1758. The Lane from Pilsley Green to Padley Wood, mostly in Morton Parish, was formerly known as Cockshead Lane.

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The brook near Doe Hill Station, which is the parish boundary on the East side, was known as the Sheepwash, because of the sheep being dipped there each year, whilst the village pound or pinfold as it was called locally, an enclosure in which straying cattle were placed until their owners 'bailed them out', was situated near the Station Inn. From the old name 'pinfold' Corner Pin, the present name for Station Road, was derived.

I have heard my parents speak of the Bog Inn apparently an old inn which stood near the brook between Corner Pin and Doe Hill House, or perhaps a nickname for the present Station Inn based on the wet and boggy nature of the adjoining land.

From the Church to the house of my grandfather, John Woolley, at the Pit Lane end stretched an avenue of oaks of which the oak tree in front of the White House is the sole survivor. By the Churchyard was the old village pond, a very ancient one, filled in after much opposition from the older generation about 1950. Trees and shrubs were planted on the site by the Morton Women's Institute in commemoration of the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Over the pool hung a majestic Sycamore tree and until comparatively recent times the village stocks stood between the pool and the churchyard gate. On the top stones of the Churchyard wall near the present lych gate are unmistakeable marks where the villagers shooting at the Butts for practice after the Sabbath morning service sharpened their arrows.

The Churchyard Wall

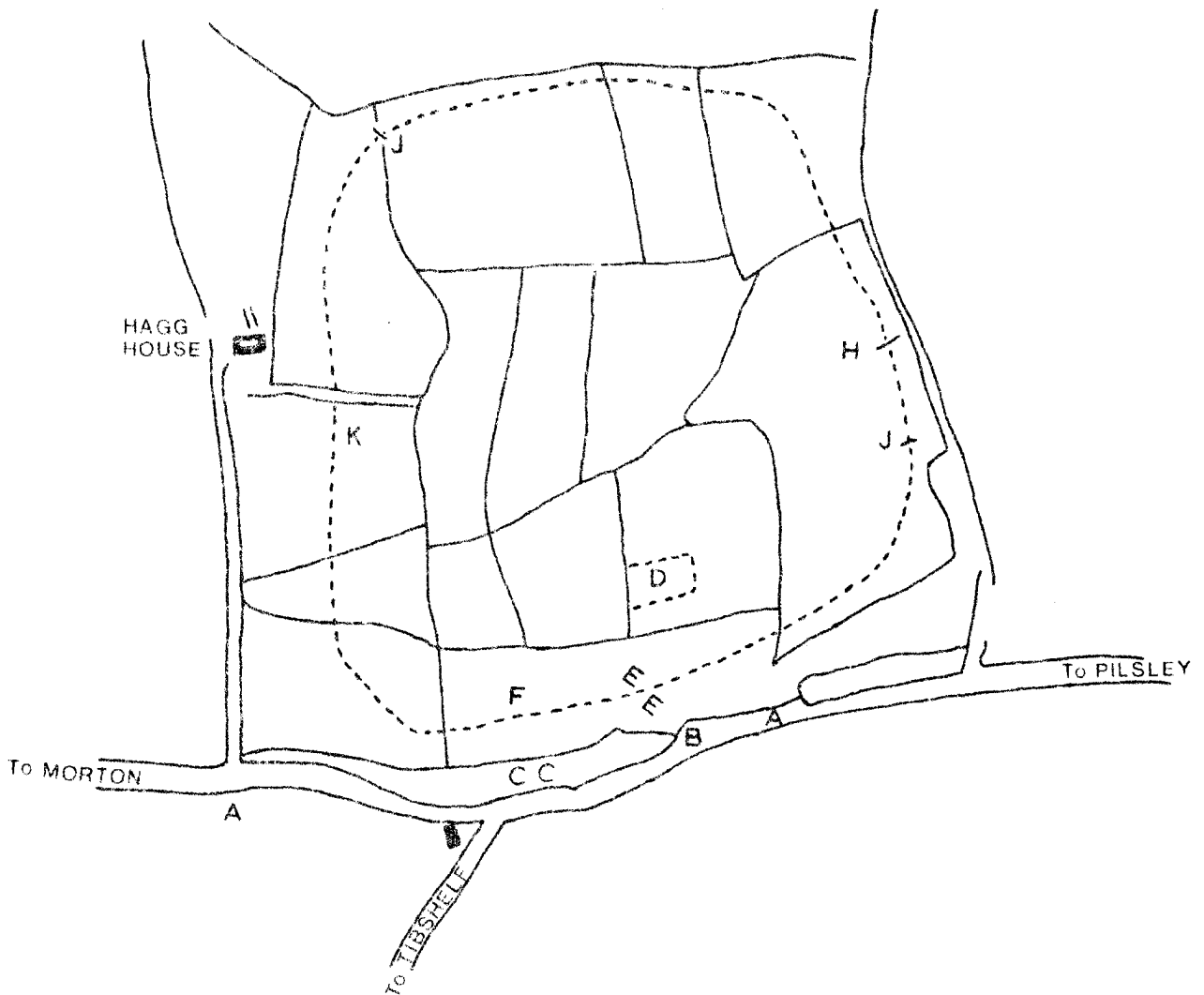
In many parishes in England it was incumbent on the landholders to repair and maintain the churchyard wall, and a certain portion of this was allotted to each holding in proportion to its extent and valuation. At the village of Puttenham in Surrey where the churchyard wall is divided into seven or eight sections, each shows a separate and individual construction. In five of these sections are old stones bearing the initials of the persons responsible for the repair of that particular portion.

The Morton Churchwardens Book for the period 1592 to 1642 reveals that agreements were made in 1617 and one in 1698 was entered against this, as to the liability of Morton landholders for the repair of the wall which surrounded the Churchyard.

Apparently in 1617, this work was divided amongst thirty five parishioners, being landholders, the extent of their responsibility being determined by the number of oxgangs (every 15 acres) each of them held.

At that time the Churchyard measured 785 feet in circumference, so there were 44 oxgangs, 18 feet of walling being reckoned for one oxgang. Mr. Revell of Ogsden had the largest portion, his being that against the parsonage fold, owing to the fact that he held five oxgangs. One wonders how many Morton parishioners walking up the Stretton Lane have noticed the stone in the churchyard wall bearing the initials of the person responsible for the repair or maintenance of that particular portion - "I.W.R."

MORTON RACE COURSE 1896



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A - Foot Peoples Entr: | F - Starting Post For 3 Mile Races. |
| B - Carriage Entr: | H - Water Jump. |
| C - Carriage Encl: | J - Open Ditches. |
| D - Saddling Paddock. | K - Starting Post For 2 Mile Race. |
| E - Winning Post. | |

Course = Dotted Line.

Mr. Spateman of Roadnook had three oxgangs, so would have about 54 feet of wall to maintain. A portion of the wall built by Spateman in brick stands today between the Rectory Garden and the Church, and the bricks appear similar to those with which the forge at Roadnook is built.

The remainder of the wall was divided amongst 33 other persons. Henry Wass's portion adjoined Mr. Revell's; James Gregory's slice lay at what was termed the Steeple End. (It would be interesting to know which end this was - was the Tower end meant, there is no record of any steeple existing at Morton). Edwin Hunt's portion lay at the West end of the pinfold and the remainder of the allotments are undefined.

The pinfold, an enclosure for retaining stray cattle, was on the waste ground against the present old School or old People's Welfare room, but no trace of it remains.

There was no difficulty in ascertaining each man's portion of wall, for the entry in the Register in 1618 states -

"If at any time hereafter any part of the Church wall be not sufficiently made and you do not know perfectly who should make it, then take this Church book (in which is shown the liability of the various landholders) and your measure and begin to measure.

Mr. Revell, his five oxgangs against the parsonage fold, and so go westward by the steeple-end; in so doing you may know who it is to make it".

As we have stated the old list was revised in 1698 and the names of the successors of the original landholders was placed in the margin of the book.

1803 - Volunteers against expected French Invasion

In June 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte assembled an army of 120,000 veterans at Boulogne and waited for a fog to throw these men on to the shores of England.

The Nation met the menace by enrolling 347,000 volunteers; almost every able bodied man offered himself for service.

The following is a list of men who volunteered from Morton in 1803

Richard, Turbitt	- Rector of Morton. Aged 33, married, ready to serve the King in any part of England.
William, Cupit	- Farmer, aged 33, 2 children under 10 years, willing to go with his Class.
Edward, Cooper	- Labourer, aged 40, married, 3 children under 10, is lame, but willing to do what he can.
William, Fletcher	- A substantial Farmer aged over 55, has no children.
William, Cotton	- Servant, aged 24, single.
Isaac, Abbott	- Servant, aged 17, single.
William, Hopkinson	- Labourer, gone in the Country to shear sheep, has 5 children under 10 years.
John, Woolley	- Labourer - gone with him, a young able man, married, has one child under 10 years.
John, Heald	- A reputable Farmer, aged 34, married, was ballotted for the Militia, no children.
Robert, Heald	- Labourer, aged 35, married, no children.

cont'd...

- William, Spencer - Labourer, aged 42, married, has 4 children under 10 years.
- Thomas, Oldham - A substantial Farmer, aged over 55, no children under 10.
- Jacob, Hernshaw - Servant, aged 19, single.
- Peter, Turner - Servant, aged 17, single.
- Thomas, Ford - A reputable Farmer, aged 45, married, has three children under 10 yrs and is entered into Alfreton Cavalry.
- William, Wood - Servant, aged 17, single.
- John, Blanksby - A reputable Farmer and Peace Officer, aged 50, married and is willing to render his country all the service in his power.
- William, Blanksby-His son, aged 23, single.
- Thomas, Greatorex-A reputable Farmer, aged 21, married and entered into the Alfreton Cavalry.
- John, Dean -Labourer, married, has no children, is above 55.
- Richard, Parsons -Cordwainer - aged 31, single, was ballotted for the Militia of Reserve.
- Joseph, Godley -Cordwainer, aged 35, single, lame of a thigh.
- John, Oldham -Farmer, aged 24, married, has one son under 10.
- Edward, Blyth -Farmer, aged above 55, married.
- Samuel Kirk -Servant, aged 25, single.

In the Township of Morton there are 7 fowling pieces, one brace of pistols and one broad sword, which will be, no doubt, willingly lent.

So reads the List of Volunteers - many of these names are familiar, but only THREE, JOHN WOOLLEY (my own Mother's ancestor), Richard Parsons and William Spencer, have descendants in Morton today.

Middleton Top Engine

The preservation work on the engine has been progressing steadily since the Industrial Archaeology Section first started the project. The top parts of the engine have been cleaned and undercoated, and the brasswork polished, etc. The bottom parts, that is the drum, driving gear, cranks, bearings, condensing tanks etc., below floor level, are now being scraped and cleaned preparatory to painting. This is going to be a fairly long and rather dirty job; there is a lot to do, some of it awkward to get at, and any member who would like to help would be welcomed. We are fortunate to have a group who are prepared to give up so much time and energy to preserving this unique engine.

During the Arkwright Festival the engine house was open every day and was staffed at the weekends by section members. This proved to be very popular with the public - hundreds used this opportunity to see it and showed great interest in the site and our work there.

- L.J.S.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL, HOLLIS LANE,
CHESTERFIELD

by S.L. Garlic.

The history and information on early schools is rather scanty, but recently the writer came into possession of a 1861 Report of the British School in Hollis Lane, Chesterfield.

The old school buildings erected about 1843 were "modernised" in 1850. They still stand at the bottom of Hollis Lane, on the right-hand side going out of town, brick built, gabled, with pan-tiled roofs covering two oblong rooms.

Until the Education Act of 1870 came into operation, the school was under the management of a committee whose names are listed in the report. In 1871 the first School Board in Chesterfield took over the school at a rent of £25 per annum. In 1873 the building was condemned and the school closed; the scholars were transferred to a new school in Hipper Street, but part of the old building was again used as a temporary school from 1894 until 1901.

The Officers and the Committee.

The Founder of the British School was William Bingham, a tallow chandler, who lived in St. Mary's Gate. He acted as Treasurer. The Hon. Secretary was Michael Cornal, a brewery manager and Congregationalist, who lived in Tapton Lane. The Presidency was vacant.

The Committee had a strong religious flavour. Heading the list were the Rev. R.W. Selbie, B.A., Independent Church, with his residence in Queen Street; the Rev. Francis Bishop, the Unitarian Minister, his residence in Abercrombie Street; the Rev. John Hanson, U.M. Free Church, his residence in West Pool Place; and the Rev. James Fairbourn, the Wesleyan Minister, with his residence in Saltergate.

The following are the gentlemen and tradesmen from in and around the town who were members of the committee:

Mr. Clay Hall, Newbold Road;
Mr. John Silcock, Spa Lane;
Mr. J. Furnace; Mr. R.W. Henderson; and Mr. R. Ward.

John Harrison, Chemist, Low Pavement,
John Kent (of Hacket & Kent, needle manufacturers, Brampton),
residence in Queen Street,
Robert Parker, Draper, Low Pavement,
John Lambert, Coal Merchant, St. Mary's Gate,
James Pearson, (Unitarian) Pottery Manufacturer, residence in
Lordsmill Street,
Thomas Mason, Tobacco Manufacturer, Spital, residence in Low
Pavement.
Charles Tucker, Silk Thrower, South Street.

The following tradesmen received the various sums of money for services rendered or for materials supplied :-

		£	s	d
Robert Bradley,	Plasterer, of Stockingers Alley	...	1	7 0
Henry Hall,	Joiner, of Lordsmill Street	...	1	3 0½
Dudley & Son,	Ironmongers, of Vicar Lane	...		9
John Walton,	Stationer, of Low Pavement	...		18 2
William Britt,	Ironmonger, of South Street	...		12 8
John Hoyland,	Gas Fitter, of Knifesmith Gate	...		6 6
Thomas Greenwell,			2	2 3

The Staff.

The Headmaster of the school was Mr. George Arthur Early. He received £100 per annum and lived in West Bars. The Junior Master was Mr. H. Johnson, who only received £32. 10s. per annum. Ann Greenwood received £1. 19s. half-yearly, but her duties are not stated.

The Secretary's Report:

The report presented at the annual meeting was of a cheering and encouraging character, and stated that the committee were able to say that all the reasons which existed at the last meeting to call forth a spirit of thankfulness and hope, remained in undiminished force to the present time, the school certainly was never more fully attended, and the committee believed it was never more efficiently conducted.

The school had been in operation 18 years, and since its establishment, in 1843, there had been entered on its register 2,779 names, a small portion of this number comprised scholars who had left the school for a time and then returned to it, and had been entered twice, but undoubtedly at least 2,500 boys had been taught in the school since it first opened.

With regard to the number of scholars, it appears that, at mid-summer 1860, there were enrolled on the books 200 names. Since then 172 had been cancelled, and 172 enrolled, so that the number in attendance remained the same as the previous year, but the weekly attendance was stated to average 170.

On examination, the visitors book showed that members of the committee visited the school from time to time. They reported most favourably as to the discipline and good order of the scholars, of the efficiency of the teaching, and of the high standard in the subjects of instruction.

The Treasurer's Report:

This report stated that the income of the school during the year 1860 - 61, equalled its expenditure, but warned that the subscribers list was continually suffering by the inroads of death and by removals from town, and that constant effort was required to enlist new subscribers so that funds might be kept up to maintain the school at its high standard.

The funds for maintaining the school were derived from the fees received from the scholars and from subscriptions received from sponsors. These amounted to £105. 3s. 10d and £54. 0s. 6d., respectively.

Apart from the staff's wages, £136.8s., and tradesmen's accounts, £6. 10s. 8½d, other items of expenditure were an additional £5 to Mr. Early, spent on school materials £6.11s. 1d., cost of monitors' tea 16s. 4½d., a loss of 13s. 9d at the annual tea, two tons of coal 10s. 6d., and miscellaneous items 11s. 11d., leaving a balance of 12s. 2d.

In conclusion, the Treasurer desired to acknowledge thankfully the support so kindly given to the institute, and wished to ensure the sponsors that the teachers would endeavour to influence the character and conduct of the pupils by the lessons given to them daily from the scriptures.

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Method and aims of the instruction

The boys were grouped into three sections, the highest, the second and the lowest. Of the highest 30 paid 6d per week and 20 were free scholars, (being a total of 50). The second class numbered 80; these paid 4d per week, leaving 70 in the lowest division who paid 2d per week.

In the highest section, the boys were engaged weekly in composition of letters, calculations (mentally and on the slate) relating to the value of articles of commerce and work to be done by artificers, the practice of drawing from objects, the study of geography and of the history of England and her colonies and the copying of translations from the scriptures.

It is interesting to note that at the annual tea meeting of the Committee and the monitors, essays on various subjects, composed by the most advanced pupils of the First Class were read, and the writers of the best efforts were rewarded with book prizes kindly provided by Mr. Bingham, the founder of the school.

The school was equipped with a well stocked Library for the use of the scholars and in the left-hand corner of one of the classrooms was the "museum". It displayed a collection of geological specimens gathered together by the boys of the school, whilst around the room, hung on the walls, were mottoes quoting religious texts and plaques extolling the virtues of "Uprightness" and "Perseverance".

St. Mary's Meadows.

At the time of its foundation, the view from the school, and the area around was very different from that of today. The North Midland Railway (now British Rail) had been opened to the public but two years; very little industry then operated in the valley, and the town had not expanded towards the east.

Before the coming of the railway, most of that area east of the town was still fertile meadows, stretching from the junction of the rivers Rother and Hipper and the Spital Brook, to the site of Bishop's Mill near Crow Lane and further down the River Rother.

These meadows, known at that time as St. Mary's Meadows, were liable to be under flood waters, flowing off the moors to the west of the town and the higher hills to the north. Records show that St. Mary's Bridge was destroyed by floods and that in 1832 the present Spital Bridge was built to replace it.

It was in these same meadows, on the part still known as the Ox Croft (now used as a car park), that the boys of the British School had their playing fields. It was here that they played and competed against the boys of the Victoria Schools from Vicar Lane. (The Blue Coat School.)

From the playing fields and along the east side of the River Rother ran a pleasant footpath on which the boys exercised and eyed with favour the pupils from the Misses Mugliston's Private Academy for young ladies, which was situated on Spa Bank.

Across from the school, in Hollis Lane, was Mrs Taylor's Tuck Shop, from which they obtained sweetmeats on "tick", at the top of Hollis Lane on the site of the Old Ship Inn. The boys often challenged and were challenged by the boys from the rival school.

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One unfortunate scholar from the Blue Coat School challenged Mr. Early's son to a fight in which young Early was rather beaten up. This so roused "Daddy" Early's wrath that certain proceedings were threatened. It was later reported that the boy and his parents had left the district.

Amongst the boys who were educated at the British School was John Pendleton, a native of the town who has made a name in literature. He was a well known journalist and descriptive writer, the author of a number of books on local history and of the history of Railways in his day.

He also wrote of Mr. Bingham and described him as being "an old Quaker with a strict sense of justice, and a quiet humour", and of Mr. Early, that he "would be remembered for his zeal for the advancement of the boys' intelligence, for their correct morals, that he too was strict and did not believe in 'sparing the rod.'"

He describes the bottom of Hollis Lane as "a pretty landscape, once dominated by the British School, with its garden, orchard, and fields so beloved by the boys".

Richard Dudley, son of Thomas Dudley, Ironmonger of Vicar Lane also attended the school, but he does not seem to have left his mark, except that it was he who filed the Report that was to come to light over a hundred years later.

Luke Slack was another boy who painstakingly learnt his lessons at this school. He left behind his exercise book for 1858; this book is very enlightening on the methods used in his day for instilling knowledge into young boys and shaping their careers.

The subjects entered in Luke's exercise book show that the promises and instructions contained in the Secretary's Report were faithfully carried out.

The New School Board.

In pursuance of the Education Act, a School Board was duly elected in Chesterfield on the 31st January 1871, and the following new regulations were passed and communicated to the Master of the School in Hollis Lane newly taken over by the Board:

1. That all children be required to attend regularly until they have passed examinations as follows,
 After passing 3rd Standard to be exempt half time.
 After passing 4th Standard to be exempt wholly if their parents desire it.
2. Parents unable to pay the school fee may be exempt.
3. That copy-books and other requisites be supplied gratuitously.
4. That the Bible be read and explained daily.
5. Reports to be furnished to the Board from time to time.
6. That lists of absentees be made available to the School Board Officer.
7. That the Rules as to Attendance, conduct and cleanliness be observed as formerly.
 Fees to be collected were,
 2d per week under the age of 8 years,
 3d per week 8 to 10 years, 4d over 10 years.

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Mr. Early notes in his log-book for October 1872 that, "it was found that such demand for youthful services had set up as almost to extinguish the highest standard."

The closure of the British School.

By 1873 the School Board had built three new schools in Chesterfield, the one in Hipper Street to accommodate 317 boys, 160 girls and 149 infants; Mr. G.A. Early, formerly principal of the British School was appointed Headmaster over the boys, Miss M. Spencer, Mistress over the girls, and Mrs Early, Matron.

Mr. Early retired after serving as a Headmaster in Chesterfield for 42 years, 25 at Hollis Lane School and 17 at the Hipper Street School; of the members associated with the old school, the secretary, Michael Connal, appears to be the only one to be elected to serve on the new School Board, but James Pearson rose to affluence and became Mayor of Chesterfield in 1897.

With the closure of the British School in 1873, the old buildings served for a time as a private school; a Miss C.J. Ball was Mistress. By 1881 it became the Gospel Army Mission Rooms. It was taken over by the School Board as a temporary school from 1894 until 1901, after which the school building served as a Quaker Meeting house, for Spiritualist meetings, as a dance hall. During the last war it became a storage depot, later a warehouse, and at the present time the building is used as a car repair workshop.

An Exercise Book dated 1858

I have to thank Mr. Donald Slack of Hasland for the loan of an exercise book that originally belonged to his ancestor. He also tells me that the family name of Slack is derived from the hamlet of that name near Ashover.

The book is well bound and backed with hard covers. The fly leaf bears a design with a space for the owner's name and other particulars. It is dated 1858, with the following in copperplate:

Luke Slack,
British School,
Hollis Lane,
Chesterfield,
Derbyshire.

The subjects taught appear to be all in the one book and in the following order, Geometry, Arithmetic, Art and Science, History, Spanish Dominions, Mexico or New Spain, Religion and Translations from the Scriptures.

One exercise in arithmetic is ..

100 birds cost 100 pence, sparrows cost $\frac{1}{4}$ pence each,
larks $\frac{1}{2}$ pence each and pigeons 4 pence each.
How many sparrows, larks and pigeons were bought?

Sparrows	10 at $\frac{1}{4}$	-	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Larks	75 at $\frac{1}{2}$	-	$37\frac{1}{2}$
Pigeons	15 at 4	-	60
			100

It is not shown in the book how he arrived at the answer, but slates were used to work out the sum and answers were copied into the book.

Luke Slack and his family.

Interspaced in various parts of the book is reference to his sister Mary, who was two years older than Luke, being born in 1844.

Mary Slack worked for William Turner, Butcher, Brampton Moor. Mary Slack received 11/8d for one month's wage, due 9th Sept. Mary Slack received on the 9th Oct. 11 shillings and 8 pence for one month's wage.

Mary Slack went to work for Mr. Taylor, Grocer on the 23rd May 1860 and received one month's wage 11/8d. 23rd June, 23rd July 23rd Aug., 23rd Sept.

Mary Slack went to work for Mr. Allen Harris, publican, on the 20th August, 1861, received on the 24th Aug. 7 shillings wage, received 24th Sept. 10 shillings 8 pence wage for one month.

Another item was ..

X Paid Richard Lyons Club, 3 shillings 3 pence, on Feb. 25th 1860.

The following were listed in 20 Miles round Sheffield by Francis White, 1862 ..

O William Turner, Butcher, Brampton.

X Richard Lyons, Landlord of the Bold Rodney public house.

Luke Slack was born in 1846, so would be 12 years old when attending the British School in Hollis Lane. He lived with his parents in Bank Street, Brampton.

His father, also named Luke, was born in 1818. He died in 1860 and was buried in Holy Trinity Churchyard on Monday 12th March 1860.

Note From the Report it is obvious that the school of 1843 was founded and sponsored by the non-Conformists of Chesterfield, that the use of the slate and economy in the use of paper were in keeping with the practice of the day. It also shows that the founder and committee were acutely aware of the need for education in the town.

It may be of interest to add a little of the history of the "rival" school in Vicar Lane, which was founded by the Church of England as a memorial of the visit to Chesterfield of H.M. Queen Victoria in 1842, and named The Victoria Schools in her honour. The Rev. Thomas Hill was Vicar at this time, but the school was not opened until May 1845.

The Victoria School was "mixed", at first only accommodating 50 boys and 50 girls. It was popularly referred to as The Blue Coat School, owing to the fact that the children wore a distinctive uniform, described as "a quaintly cut blue coat with bright brass buttons", the generous gift of the Vicar and his Lady.

Mrs Edwards was appointed as the first Mistress. Her successor in 1860 was Miss Grayson. Under them the school was extended; by 1857 there were 200 scholars and by 1860 they numbered 300 including infants.

This school had a long record of 85 years; it did not close until the 25th July 1930.

References:

The School Report for 1861.

The Exercise Book dated 1858.

Chesterfield, Old and New, by Tatler, 1882.

Modern Chesterfield, J. Pendleton and W. Jacques, 1903.

20 Miles Round Sheffield, Francis White, 1862.

Derbyshire Directory, Bulmer, 1895.

Outing of D.A.S. Local History Section

by V.M. Beadsmoore.

On Saturday afternoon, July 17th, under the guidance of the Rev. D. Buckley, the Section visited Snelston Church, Norbury Church and Manor, and Longford Church.

Although a church at Snelston is not mentioned in Domesday Book, there seems little doubt that one existed at an early date, and the dedication seems always to have been to St. Peter the Apostle.

The tower of early 15th century workmanship is all that remains of a second church on the site, and in 1824 Mr and Mrs John Harrison, after succeeding to the Manor, decided to carry out extensive repairs. Mrs J.B. Stanton (nee Harrison) further restored the church in 1907, with vaulted ceilings to the nave and chancel. The alterations also included the rebuilding of the arcade of pointed arches, reopening of the arches under the tower, and making the chancel arch higher and wider. A Priest's and Choir vestry were also added.

The font is 13th century, and the Rood figures were given in 1927 by Mrs A.F. Stanton in memory of her husband, and were carved in Oberammergau.

After the visit to the church we walked through the charming village, which has recently had a conservation order placed on it, passing on the way the "Hut" built for the use of the congregation while the church was being restored in 1907, and now called the Reading Room, and the unusual Post Office.

At Norbury the party split in two, visiting the Church and Manor. Between the visits we ate our picnic tea in the July sunshine.

The Church

This is mentioned in Domesday, in 1076, when Henry de Ferrers founded Tutbury Priory and gave Norbury Church to the monks. In 1125 the Prior of Tutbury gave the manor and advowson of the church to William Fitzherbert, and the family were patrons until 1551.

The approach to the church gives a lovely view of the fine 14th century chancel and 15th century tower and nave.

Inside, the font is dated about 1200, and near the west wall are two Saxon shafts, found when the north wall was ~~being~~ rebuilt in 1899. The South-East chapel is part of the 15th century rebuilding for which Nicholas Fitzherbert was responsible and is particularly associated with him. The glass in the window is 15th century and was restored in the workshops of York Minster in 1962, the cost being borne by the Pilgrim Trust. It depicts Nicholas with his eight sons of his marriage to Alice Bothe, and also their five daughters. Above them is the figure of St. Anne teaching the infant Virgin Mary to read, and then the figures of Nicholas and his second wife, Isabel Ludlow, with their two sons and two daughters. Under the arch dividing the chapel from the nave is the stone effigy of Sir Henry Fitzherbert, sixth lord of the manor. The chancel is the glory of Norbury, and contains two very fine alabaster tombs - the single one represents Nicholas Fitzherbert who died in 1473, and the double one Ralph Fitzherbert son of Nicholas, and his wife Elizabeth Marshall. The glass in the East window is mostly 15th century and was transferred from the clerestory and windows of the north aisle and chapel and southwest chapel, now used as a vestry, in 1842, and much of it damaged or lost in the process.

The Manor.

As far as it is possible to say, the ground floor was built in the 12th century, and the first floor in 1305. It was rented until 1448 and then by the exchange of many pieces of land was bought by the Fitzherbert family. In 1450 came the Tudor building. In 1650 the Fitzherberts from Swinnerton came to live at

Norbury, but ceased to reside there soon after the restoration of Charles II in 1660, and in 1680 it was largely reconstructed as it is today. In 1874 the parsonage and glebe were purchased by Mr. Samuel Clowes, and in 1881 Mr. Clowes purchased the manor house and one remaining farm, the lordship of the manor however being retained by the Fitzherbert family. A Staffordshire business man, Mr. Stapleton Martin, who is connected with the family, purchased the house in 1964, and is restoring it. On going into the old part, the first floor was most interesting. The windows, three lights under a pointed arch, had been left without glass, except for one or two small 15th century pieces. The Tudor beams had been well restored, and there was a large Tudor fireplace. In the walls were evenly spaced holes which were probably for rails and shelves on which to place butter, cheese, etc., during the time the house was used as a farm. Below the ground level was a brew house and large kitchen, where further demolition and reconstruction remains to be done.

From Norbury we travelled to Longford church, by the side of Longford Hall, dedicated to St. Chad, and dating from pre-Norman times. There are three bays in the North arcade with circular piers. The East window dates from 1843, and at that time the South arcade was altered - the piers are still the Norman ones but the capitals were altered. The tower and the clerestory was 15th century. In the South aisle are various alabaster effigies, including Sir Nicholas Longford and his wife, and three Knights.

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