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"DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY"

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Editorial Notes

The editors wish to apologise for the lateness of this issue, which is due to an illness of Joan Sinar coinciding with a press of other work.

Readers will have learned with regret of the deaths of Robert Thornhill, one of our oldest supporters and contributors, and of John Bestall, the man to whom we owe the foundation of the Local History Section and this journal. Members of the Council of the Society know how he influenced Council and persuaded it to set up the Local History Section. Our first Section secretary and editor, Amy Nixon, still talks of his encouragement and inspiration and of the practical help he gave her through the early years.

It is with sorrow that we publish here Mr. Bestall's last work for Miscellany, his article on the Derbyshire Record Series which he again persuaded Council to set up, and which was very dear to his heart. At his death the Society lost one of its key figures, and as a result the structure of publication will be changed. For some time Council, including John Bestall, had been concerned by the lack of a suitable series in which to publish monographs and other work which fell neither within the scope of the Journal, Miscellany or the Record Series. Now that we have lost our Editor Council has set up a standing Publications Committee on which all our publishing interests are represented. It has agreed that the programme of Record Series as now planned shall be completed under the aegis of this Committee. To supersede the Record Series and deal with monographs and other works as well as record texts the Council has set up a Supplementary Series to include all except the regular publications the Journal, Miscellany and the news letters.

A programme for the new Supplementary Series is being worked out. The first volume will be a volume of historical studies in Derbyshire issued in memory of John Bestall. Later volumes will include a reproduction of Burdett's one inch map of Derbyshire with cartographical and geographical introductions. Details will be given in later issues of Miscellany. Volumes will be sold outside the Society and partly by subscription. Preliminary enquiries may be sent to Joan Sinar at the Derbyshire Record Office, County Offices, Matlock, DE4 3AG and will be answered by a circular letter or leaflet when details are known.

A RECORD SERIES FOR DERBYSHIRE

by

The late John Bestall

Historians of local history in Derbyshire may find it very strange that this county did not make provision for the annual publication of a volume of its records until as late as 1964. In that year the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, encouraged by the expanding interest in local history and its documentary sources, and more particularly by the establishment of the Derbyshire Record Office, decided to launch a new Record Series and appealed for subscriptions.

This late start must indeed seem surprising because at the end of last century Derbyshire had attained a high position in the county historical table, mainly through the labours of J. Charles Cox on church, county and other local records, and in 1906 the publication of Derbyshire Charters, edited by I. H. Jeayes, further improved the county's standing. Yet something had gone wrong. Volumes of the Journal for the year 1890 may still contain a pink leaflet headed 'DERBYSHIRE RECORD SERIES - in connection with the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and the British Record Society.' The editor was to be W. P. W. Phillimore, M.A., B.C.L., author of How to write the History of a Family, and the annual subscription was to be 10s. 6d. Then followed a statement, which was to gain sad overtones, but which may be worth citation:

The Council of the DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY desire to remind members of this Society of their recent proposal for a special RECORD SERIES relating to Derbyshire. The Council feel strongly that Derbyshire ought not to be behind other counties in printing clues to its records, and they therefore wish to urge members to send in their names as Subscribers without delay, so that the series may be at once proceeded with. The series will be commenced as soon as 150 names are received.

The years passed but that number of subscribers could never apparently be mustered.

In the present century those counties which had made an early start with annual publications through Record Series of their senior society or through new Record Societies were joined by others on one of these lines. A visitor to a large library may now see shelves of volumes containing the printed records of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, Staffordshire, Lancashire, Cheshire and other midland and other northern shires. Or the recent Historical Association pamphlet Local Record Sources in Print and in Progress, edited by Joyce Youings (price 36p), may be consulted for an interesting national picture of county achievements. Despite the appeal of 1890, it is unhappily inescapable that in this respect

Derbyshire did fall well behind most other counties, though not all. Cambridge it is pleasing to note launched its distinctively named Antiquarian Records Society in 1972.

This is not the place to explore the factors behind this Derbyshire failure, but that it has imposed a brake on the study and writing of local history in Derbyshire cannot be questioned by anyone with experience of work in counties more generously furnished with record publications. From this angle it may to some extent be unfortunate that many local historians do concentrate their energies within the boundaries of their own county. One consequence has been that the notion of a special series of annual record publications with its separate subscription was not familiar to many people interested in the history of Derbyshire. Such series demand a large body of subscribers, who well understand that not every volume will be of equal interest to them personally but that taken together these volumes will form a unique source of local history worthy of the fullest possible support from all concerned with the county heritage. The new Derbyshire Record Series has certainly had its difficulties in these early years resulting in highly regrettable, even though unavoidable, delays. However as the number of volumes on the Derbyshire shelf steadily builds up many more people may appreciate what the Record Series does offer and wish to be associated with it as subscribers. Names of all the initial subscribers were printed in the first volume, and such a list will be included in one of the volumes to be published this year. In the meantime it may be worthwhile to review what has been published, how it has been done and what may be done with stronger backing.

Ideally a new record series would have been launched with a number of volumes having the widest possible appeal, possibly for example the newly-discovered letters or diaries or an interesting man or woman illuminating the life of Derbyshire in a rich variety of ways. In fact no such approach to a 'best-seller' has yet appeared, nor should it necessarily be expected. The early volumes in Record Series have depended heavily on the scheme of Joint Publications by which the Historical Manuscripts Commission, now the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts, has helped local societies to overcome their formidable financial problems through the printing by H.M. Stationery Office of selected volumes deemed especially worthy of publication by reason of both their local and national historical interest. Such volumes are sold in the normal way by HMSO, but in addition subscribers to local societies obtain the same volumes bound in their own style at an unusually favourable rate.

This arrangement has made possible the publication of a growing number of record volumes, which would otherwise have been beyond the resources of most local organisations. Monastic records have for example enjoyed the benefit of this series of Joint Publications. In this way the charters and other records of Dale Abbey have been printed with a

scholarly introduction on the history of Dale and its records by the editor Professor A. Saltman. Because of the interests that Dale Abbey had in the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire borderland and further afield, nobody interested in the two counties during the middle ages can neglect the new light thrown by this volume on social and economic life as well as religious life in the region.

Here it should be said that too often local historians may be deterred by the fact that such records are in Latin. This does inevitably raise problems but they are not insuperable. The challenge they present has been met both by people who once 'did' Latin but had allowed it to go rusty and by people who were spared this youthful experience. A most valuable aid to them has been a book called Latin for Local History, by Eileen Gooder, published by Longmans in 1961. Her considerable experience in the Birmingham area of tackling this Latin problem enabled her to produce a book that has proved indispensable for many students of local history intent on breaking through this language barrier. For those wishing to go further and read such original manuscripts there is now available a booklet Medieval Local Records - A Reading Aid, by K. C. Newton, County Archivist of Essex, published by the Historical Association, which may be obtained through its Derby, Chesterfield or Matlock branches or from its headquarters (59A Kennington Park Road, London S.E.11).

Sometimes local historians facing this question of documents in Latin have found advantages in joining with others having similar interests to study as a group. If this were the case, the Local History Section might consider making arrangements in one of the larger centres for such a group. Undoubtedly to gain some mastery of the basic essentials of Latin documents extends our understanding of the middle ages, as well as offering a satisfying sense of achievement. Even for those not wishing to undertake such studies, a volume like that on Dale Abbey still has much to offer. In addition to his introduction, already mentioned, Professor Saltman provides a brief summary in English for each document, giving essential details about the transaction recorded, the names of persons involved and of places, together with editorial notes. It may be worth reminding any with a growing appetite for monastic records that the Society still has for sale a limited number of the The Cartulary of Darley Abbey, edited by Professor R. R. Darlington (2 volumes, 1945, £5.55p).

It is however not only medieval cartularies that have benefited from Joint Publications, Derbyshire having for example successfully sponsored two volumes of Shrewsbury and Talbot papers, edited by Dr. E. G. W. Bill and Mr. G. R. Batho, which make accessible in summary form the immense collections of letters and other documents illustrating the parts played by the earls of Shrewsbury not only in Derbyshire but also in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, as well as on the national stage. In these calendars, as they are called,

hundreds of records, mostly letters, are summarised with quotations wherever appropriate. The special value of these two volumes, particularly for the history of Elizabethan England, has been widely acclaimed, but not all local historians may have realised just how extensive is the range of subjects, persons and places covered.

Derbyshire has thus been fortunate in having three early volumes included in the Joint Publications series, whilst last year another proposal was accepted. HMSO therefore will be responsible for printing the unusual collection of family and estate records of the Kniveton of Bradley to be found in the archives of the dean and chapter of Lincoln. These documents have been edited by Professor Saltman in a volume known as The Kniveton Leiger, which offers an exceptional view of a Derbyshire family through the 13th century as it struggled to a position of some eminence in local society. The main concentration of documents relates to the area east of Ashbourne, north as far as Parwich and Wirksworth and south to Derby and beyond; smaller groups refer to the Chesterfield and Tideswell districts, as well as to a number of estates in Staffordshire.

Students of Derbyshire in the middle ages are further indebted to Professor Saltman for having edited the series of documents formerly called the Crich cartulary and now to be published under the title of The cartulary of the Wakebridge chantries. These were used many years ago by J. C. Cox, but a modern edition has been needed to elucidate the role of the Wakebridge family in the religious, social and economic life not only of Crich and central Derbyshire but of a wider area extending into Nottinghamshire. The publication of this volume has been made possible by a generous grant from the Marc Fitch Fund, to which the Society is deeply indebted, as it was for the publication of The Glapwell charters in the Journals for 1956-7. Subscribers to the Record Series will receive this volume, which is now in the press, later this year.

The one volume that has been published so far without this kind of subsidy has been The duchy of Lancaster's estates in Derbyshire 1485 - 1540, edited by Dr. Ian Blanchard. For the local historian this book demonstrates more fully than ever before just what the duchy of Lancaster with its elaborate hierarchy of officers and courts and its detailed financial organisation meant to the farmers on its estates over an extensive area of Derbyshire from Ashbourne and Duffield north-westwards ultimately to Glossop. The various fluctuations during this period in the economic development of the Peak District are carefully analysed in the introduction giving the first fully documented study of farming in Tudor Derbyshire, which demands the attention of all local historians.

In the press at the moment is a double volume with a more modern appeal, The Church in Derbyshire in 1823-4, edited by Michael Austin. This is based on the records of the visitation of all the parishes of Derbyshire made in these years by the Rev. Samuel Butler, archdeacon of Derby and headmaster of Shrewsbury school until his election as bishop of Lichfield and Coventry in 1836. The outstanding interest of these visitation returns is that they provide an unusually full picture of the state of every parish covering the condition of the church, chancel, steeple, churchyard and parsonage, particulars of the services and of the income of the church, the parish clergy and parish officers, schools, the position of dissenters and finally population. For the first time it will be possible to obtain a close view of the position of the church throughout Derbyshire at a critical date in the 1820s after some decades of industrialisation and just before the tempo of change quickens with reforms and railways in the next decade.

For all local historians who are primarily interested in Derbyshire since the 18th century, this may be the first volume in the Record Series to have an immediate appeal. Existing subscribers will receive it as a double volume, that is to say one that because of its size has to cover two years' subscriptions, as soon as it is published in the summer. As this is likely to become established very quickly as a standard work of reference, it is anticipated that there will be a considerable demand for this volume, so order forms are enclosed.

In conclusion the Derbyshire Record Series has gone through an initial period in which rising costs have upset all calculations and made such a publishing venture an extremely difficult undertaking. However with two volumes appearing in 1972 and two others in 1973 much of the ground lost is being made up so that by the end of the first decade we may not fall far short of the target of ten volumes, though like other much more strongly established county record societies we shall not again be able to provide volumes as large as the Cartulary of Dale Abbey (423 pages) or the Calendar of the Talbot Papers (442 pages) for single annual subscriptions. A number of volumes covering such subjects as household inventories, Tudor and Stuart taxation returns, 18th century visitation records and the Hardwick Hall building and household accounts are in varying stages of preparation, and other local historical records are under consideration. On this side prospects seem brighter than they have previously been, but on the other the restrictions imposed by the exceptional rise in costs of recent years show no signs of being eased. It is vitally important therefore that the resources of the Record Series should be substantially increased in all possible ways - through donations, wider sales of volumes from the present stock and of forthcoming volumes this year, but above all a big increase in the number of subscribers, both individual and institutional,

within Derbyshire and its surrounding area. There are undoubtedly many members of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, particularly its Local History Section, who now that they have a fuller picture of what is being attempted in the Record Series may feel able to take out another subscription to safeguard this series and to encourage its further growth. Both local history and Derbyshire would benefit from such support.

BOOK NOTES

The Story of Swanwick Hall by Mike Higginbottom and Terry Thacker. Printed and published by Duffin and Son Ltd. of South Normanton. Available from Mike Higginbottom, Flat 4, Newlands House, Riddings, price 60p + postage.

This excellently-produced booklet is the very worthwhile end-product of several years painstaking research by two former pupils of Swanwick Hall School into the often elusive history of the two Swanwick Halls and the people who lived there up to the time of the sale of the present Hall to the County Council in 1920. The often fragmentary evidence on the history of the Halls and the Wood family is scattered far and wide not only in the British Isles but also in Canada where a descendant of the Wood family now lives and the authors are to be congratulated for their detective work in tracing this material.

D.V.F.

WINGFIELD MANOR IN THE CIVIL WAR

by

Nellie Kirkham

The seventeenth century civil war came about as the result of a political struggle between Charles I and Parliament, complicated by the religious issues raised by the High Church party in the Church of England led by Archbishop Laud. By early May 1642 the two parties were moving towards open conflict.. Many thought that the King ought to set up his standard at York, where he lay with his court, to rally loyalist sympathy and march south at the head of the army thus raised. There was some opposition to this amongst the King's advisers and in the end he moved south to raise his standard at Nottingham on 22 August 1642, at a key stronghold commanding much of the Midlands and guarding one of the bridges over the Trent, controlling one of the principal routes north from London.

General histories of the war almost ignore Derbyshire, perhaps because no major battles were fought there. It could however have been of strategic importance. It lay centrally between the army of the Royalist commander, the Earl of Newcastle, and the King's army based at Oxford. It controlled two major crossings of the Trent and important trade routes ran through it. Royalist halls and houses were garrisoned and there was much minor fighting. Probably the Parliamentary cause owes more to Sir John Gell for his quickness in raising troops and seizing key points than is normally recognised.

One interesting incident in Gell's campaigning is the siege of Wingfield Manor, the beautiful fifteenth century house built by Ralph, Lord Cromwell, and ruined in the Civil War. Early in the war by the end of the summer of 1643 in spite of the opposition of the Parliamentary commander, Ferdinando, Lord Fairfax, William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle (1) had gained almost all Yorkshire for the royalists. He had an immense fortune and by March of that year already had sixteen thousand armed men, nearly three thousand of them horse and dragoons, largely raised by his money and interests. His own troop of horse was a hundred and twenty men, and his regiment of foot was carefully selected, mainly from men bred 'in moorish grounds of the north', finally there were three thousand of these called Whitecoats, as when he was obtaining coats for them it was announced that there would be a period of waiting while the cloth was dyed. The men were so anxious to fight that they asked if they could wear the cloth in an undyed state. (2)

When he was at York during October 1643 the Earl received intelligence that the parliamentary party in Derbyshire was growing very numerous, and 'busy seducing

the people', so at the beginning of November he decided to march southwards and came into Derbyshire with his forces, (3)

Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Fairfax was at Chesterfield with parliamentary troops when some of the Earl's horse arrived there and attacked a few parliamentary soldiers. Following this a troop of Fairfax's horse, and a troop of the Earl's horse, remained on a hill until darkness fell, when the royalists set bilberry and gorse on fire, which alarmed the town, and Fairfax called up his horse and left Chesterfield at midnight. Then the parliamentary garrison holding Wingerworth, the house of the royalist Sir Henry Hunloke, withdrew and fled in disorder to Nottingham. Many parliamentarians were killed or taken prisoner. Two parties of stragglers met in a lane, and thinking that they had met royalists, fired on each other, killing one of their own lieutenants. All were very weary when they reached Nottingham. (4)

The Earl of Newcastle quartered his troops mainly at Chesterfield, where he collected two thousand two hundred volunteers, and also along side Nottingham. Emmanuel Bourne (5), rector of Ashover, said that when the Earl, with part of his army, came to Chesterfield, Colonel Sir John Gell a local parliamentary commander, departed for Derby and Nottinghamshire and that left most of Derbyshire in the hands of the King's troops, 'who like demons destroyed all they came near', that hundreds joined Colonel Gell either for revenge or to keep from starving, and if it had not been for the lead miners, in spite of Colonel Gell trying to enlist them in a parliamentary troop, 'all would have been deserted and gone to ruin'. Bourne added that he confessed that now he was beginning to side with parliament, (6) even though his property, Eastwood Hall, had been destroyed by the parliamentarians.

On 7 December 1643, while Newcastle was at Chesterfield, part of his forces were sent to besiege Wingfield Manor, which was described as a strong house and garrison. This is said to have been first garrisoned by parliament in early March of that year because the Earl of Newcastle's forces at Bolsover had 'extremely pestered' the surrounding countryside by sallying out at night and seizing horses etc. Also it was said that the inhabitants of Chesterfield, for the safety of their town, had placed thirty soldiers in the manor house. Another account states that at the beginning of the war the manor was garrisoned by the parliamentary Earl of Pembroke who had married a daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury. The manor house was jointly owned by the latter's co-heirs, three daughters, and their husbands, being then occupied by the Earl and Countess of Pembroke. The royalists made several attempts to capture the house.

It must have been in the hands of parliament in October 1642 for then, when Captain Vermuyden, under Colonel Gell's warrant, was plundering Edward Lowe's house at Alderwasley, over £800 worth of plunder was taken from there to Wingfield Manor, including 'one fatt bull' worth £6, oats, seven hundred and fifty sheep, colts, swine, etc. (7)

When Lieutenant-General Fairfax came to Derby during the summer of 1643 and asked Colonel Gell to let him have four or five hundred musketeers, Gell agreed to withdraw some forces from outlying Derbyshire garrisons. At that time there were a hundred men at Wingfield, and he gave Fairfax sixty of them. (8)

This resulted in Wingfield being weakly defended when the Marquis of Newcastle's forces attacked it in December 1643 and took it by storm, probably by 19 December, the most reasonable of varying dates. (9) This large manor house, with a gatehouse and outer walls built in the twenty years after c.1440, lies on a hill, steep on both sides. Cox wrote in 1886 that he considered it to be one of the best specimens of fifteenth century domestic architecture in England, and the Ancient Monuments Board has called it 'one of the most beautiful of 15th century houses' in the country. (10)

Sir Francis Mackworth was probably the officer leading the Earl's forces against Wingfield, for the latter gave an account of Sir Francis arriving there in the evening of 15 December, with five hundred horse and foot and some cannon, and storming the manor house which was described as having an embattled wall 15 ft. high and 10 ft. thick. The garrison was summoned to yield, and on refusal, cannon was fired but without much harm being done. There was discussion between the two sides, and Sir Francis told the defenders that if they would surrender they would be treated favourably. The offer was accepted, and the garrison was allowed to walk away leaving about one hundred and sixty arms behind them, a good store of ammunition, and more than three months provisions. The taking of this manor was of much importance because of its situation between Chesterfield and Derby. Sir Francis Mackworth was a Major-General in the royalist army, and at one time was governor of Halifax garrison. (11)

A few days after the capture of the manor, Colonel Gell sent Major Thomas Sanders (12) with his horse to the village of South Wingfield where after a sharp skirmish he captured two royalist captains, some other officers, and forty soldiers of Colonel Sir John Fitzherbert's regiment with their colours. (13) The Earl's forces then departed, leaving Colonel Roger Molyneux, of Hasland Hall, near Chesterfield, as governor, and Colonel Fitzherbert with his regiment.

In January 1644 there were a number of letters concerning South Wingfield. On 10 January Colonel Molyneux wrote from Wingfield to Colonel Sir Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough (14), who had been made Colonel General of all royalist forces in Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, and Rutland on 3 February 1643. He had received the letters and provisions sent to him, and had returned the fifteen bars of iron. He reported that the parliamentary forces were heading from Nottingham and Derby, and probably advancing towards Chesterfield, adding 'If so I hope you will look after them'. The previous day the small number of horse which he possessed had met some enemy horse who were plundering the countryside, his men wounded and took one of them, also two cases of pistols, and three horses, with some of the plundered goods.

On 14 January the Marquis of Newcastle wrote to his cousin Sir John Fitzherbert, high sheriff of Derbyshire, (16) stating that as he believed that if public business was left in the hands of a committee 'it is commonly thought the particular of none', and as raising money and increasing Fitzherbert's force was entrusted to a committee, he asked him to state the affairs of Derbyshire in such a way that by the consent of the committee they could be effectually performed.

About 18 January Colonel John Frescheville of Staveley (17) wrote to Colonel Hastings that he had heard that Colonel Fitzherbert had 'moved the General to put forth the Governor of Wingfield and confer the command' on himself. Colonel Frescheville did not know if Colonel Molyneux would resent this. Fitzherbert had employed his cousin Mr Fitzherbert without telling Frescheville of it until he 'had received a return from the General'.

On 19 January Colonel Molyneux wrote from Wingfield to Colonel Hastings saying that Colonel Fitzherbert's soldiers who were now at Wingfield had mutinied, and as he thought that he would be 'more happy and safe' without them, he enquired if he could send them back to the Colonel's quarters - presumably Tissington, as this house was garrisoned.

On 21 January, William 1st Lord Widdrington (18) wrote to Colonel Frescheville, 'I spoke my mind freely to Sir John Fitzherbert, lieutenant colonel, touching Wingfeild. My lord hath writ to my Lord Lowghburrough for the continuing of Mollineux at Wingfeild', if the last had sufficient men to keep it. He added that 'without some have power to command all the forces in Derbyshire' and to continue there, he was afraid that 'things will not be so well ordered as they might be, everyone standing on their own legs' (19).

In connection with Wingfield several writers say 'Colonel Sir John Fitzherbert of Tissington', But Sir John Fitzherbert of Tissington was not a colonel and died in 1643.

Sir John Fitzherbert of Norbury was a colonel of dragoons in the royalist army, dying in Lichfield in 1649 in command of a regiment, leaving no issue. He was the only son, and his sister, Elizabeth, had married Sir John Fitzherbert of Tissington, so linking two entirely separate branches of the family. (20)

When Sir John of Tissington died in 1642 he left a son William who was under age. Nathaniel Hallows had his wardship through the Court of Wards and Liveries. Subsequently Hallows applied to the Committee for Compounding, claiming that the wardship was worth a considerable sum, that William had become a royalist captain, and that as a delinquent in arms for the King, he had been fined half of his estate, £1,000, reduced to a fine of £817, but that the amount of wardship had been concealed. As discoverer of this, and in lieu of benefit of wardship, Hallows claimed £300.

Captain William was said to be a recusant, and was tendered the Oath of Abjuration, but he refused to take it, and two-thirds of his estate was sequestered. This Oath was the National Covenant, ordered by an ordinance of June 1643 to be taken by the whole kingdom, stating that everyone believed in the forces raised by parliament for the defence of the true Protestant religion, against the forces of the King, and that they would assist the parliament's forces. There were further demands regarding his one-twentieth fine as a delinquent, and in 1651, with regard to his 'supposed debts' he was to pay £72.10.0 of the residue of the fine, and a month or two later he was again assessed for £200. (21)

William is normally described as of Tissington, so it can be supposed that Sir John Fitzherbert of Norbury, the royalist colonel, moved to Tissington, his nephew's home, and lived there during the Civil War. He garrisoned the house and is often described as Sir John Fitzherbert of Tissington.

Nathaniel Hallows was one of the sequestrators for Derbyshire from 1643 onwards, dealing with the sequestered estates and the compounding fines of royalists. He was one of the most active members of the Derbyshire parliamentary committee who Colonel Gell sent on special missions. In the accounts he was treasurer for all 'Monyes, plate, horses and other goods' handed in under acts and ordinances up to August 1643 when he described himself as late treasurer. His salary was 2d. in £1. He was on the committee for Derby for a commonwealth assessment in 1644. In 1648 he was on the committee for dealing with the militia.

Glover lists Nathaniel Hallows of Muggington as a Justice of the Peace in 1650. As many did, he invested in land and rents, those in a position comparable to his being often able to buy sequestered estates advantageously.

In 1647 he bought the fee-farm rent of Sawley manor for £400, when parliament was seizing and selling bishop's lands, and Cox comments that there was 'much jobbery in these sales, to favour friends of Parliament, estates were often sold at appraisement barely equivalent to the materials of the manor house and timber on the grounds.' Hallowes also bought the manor of Mercaston. In 1654 he bought the manor of Muggington.

Hallowes was M.P. for Derby in the Short and Long Parliaments of 1640, and in 1644 at least he had a house in Derby for the Committee of Both Kingdoms in London sent their letters of instructions to Colonel Gell there, and his answers were collected from there. He was an alderman of Derby by 1642. His family originally were from Duffield. Some of the references to Nathaniel are confusing. Possibly he had a father of the same name who was a bailiff of Derby in 1622. (22)

Nathaniel Hallows' wardship of William Fitzherbert was bought from the King through the Court of Wards and Liveries which was set up in 1540 to capitalise on the King's right to the wardship of the lands and person of any minor who held any part of his lands directly from the King by knight service. In feudal law the lord from whom lands were held by knight service collected the revenues of these lands so long as their tenant was under age, because the minor could not fulfil the duties by which he held the lands. The lord also had the right to marry off or sell the marriage of any such minor or of an heiress. If any part of the lands were held directly from the Crown, the Crown took the wardship of the whole. These were lucrative rights which brought large sums to the Exchequer and which could be exercised or sold to others. Besides collecting the revenue and administering the lands of a minor, the Court of Wards existed to market wardships to the highest bidder, which was a good source of revenue to the Crown. (23)

The garrison at Wingfield became very troublesome to the parliamentarians during the next few months, making frequent sallies into Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and many expeditions for provisions, so that Colonel Gell was ordered to re-take the manor. For instance at the beginning of January 1644 Colonel Frescheville reported that he had come out from Wingfield with a hundred horse, having heard that 'the rebels of Nottingham' had plundered Mansfield and Lord Byron's house at Newstead, with seven troops of horse and at least a hundred dragoons, and he had 'a little scuffle' with them. They met in a 'passage by Bescodd Park' and the Colonel thought that the losses were about equal, as the parliamentarians did not dare to advance out of the protection of their musketeers because of the lie of the land. He lost his lieutenant of horse as prisoner to them, and seven of his men were slain, but he

heard that the Nottingham force had lost an officer and more men. (24)

Towards the end of May 1644 Colonel Gell brought all his troops, foot and horse, to Wingfield, except for two companies which he left at Derby. At that time he had five hundred horse and dragoons and three hundred foot. He requested assistance from Nottingham, and Colonel Francis Thornhagh (25) sent his major with troops of horse to join Gell within a mile of Wingfield and surround the manor house. Ten days later Colonel Hutchinson, governor of Nottingham, sent two hundred men. In June after much tempestuous weather and heavy rain, there was difficulty in moving horse and ordnance about.

The royalists realised the importance of keeping Wingfield and made strong efforts to raise forces to relieve the seige. They began to gather troops from Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Tutbury, Lichfield etc., to rendez-vous at Burton-upon-Trent.

After beseiging Wingfield for fifteen days Colonel Gell heard of the approach of some royalists and sent Major Sanders and his horse and dragoons towards a detachment of about two hundred royalists, under Colonel Rowland Eyre, (26) lying at Boylestone Church, about nine miles west of Derby, without watch or sentry. About day-break Sanders's dragoons arrived, dismounted, and noiselessly surrounded the church, then shouted simultaneously at the door and windows for the royalists' surrender, threatening to fire on them. The small door of the chancel was opened and they were ordered to come out one by one. As each royalist emerged his arms were taken, as Gell's account says 'soe taking men, arms, collours, and all without losse of one man on either side'. They were all driven back into the church and a small detachment of Major Sanders's dragoons left in the churchyard, while the rest of his men went on to Burton. Here, the parliamentary account says that after two or three skirmishes they 'beat the Royalists out of the town'. Five of Major Sanders men were slain, and seventeen royalists, and a number taken prisoner. These, and the Boylestone garrison, making three hundred prisoners altogether, were marched to Derby with six foot colours and one horse colour, and all their arms. (27)

Lysons says that the seige of Wingfield was of some length, and that in August the King sent General Hastings to its relief. Whitelock states that this general sent a party of royalists to the manor which was then beseiged by the Earl of Denbigh (28) and Colonel Gell, who marched out against the royalists with five hundred horse lately sent to them by Sir William Waller. They fell on the royalists, killing many of them, and taking a hundred and fifty prisoners. Pilkington says that Lord Grey of Groby (29) and Colonel Gell beseiged Wingfield. (30)

It is doubtful, when some old writers state that certain commanders were present in Derbyshire whether they were actually present in person, or whether some of their forces were there.

When Colonel Gell's forces were back at Wingfield he found that because of the naturally strong position of the house his ordnance 'would do no good against the house' and that the place could not be taken unless the defenders were 'pined out', starved, or reduced by hunger. He did not want to sit down and wait to starve the garrison because he was ~~sp~~ frequently being attacked by sallies of small bodies, and there was a constant influx of provisions. One account says that the cannon of the defenders was superior to that of the besiegers. The latter had cut off an underground piped water-supply to the manor but the besieged had sunk a well in the courtyard. One account says that this was in the south courtyard, and that it fell in about 1850, and was then filled up. In the 1940's a well was discovered near the entrance to the kitchen in the northern courtyard.

The well was of vital importance, as made clear in a letter of 30 July 1644 from Colonel Roger Molyneux to Colonel Hastings, intercepted by the enemy. It stated that they had been besieged for nine days, the cannon being trenched very close, bombarding the tower where the well was, and one firing 'canies'. As far as possible the water was 'barricadowed'. The parliamentary cannon were only slightly guarded, and he thought that a little strength would scatter them. If the well failed they would be forced to make conditions of surrender which otherwise he would detest. He begged to hear from Hastings as quickly as possible so that they could be relieved.

'Canies' will be case-shot, earlier called cannister-shot, in which small pieces of metal or shot were enclosed in wooden or metal cases. They were fired at close quarters, at point-blank range, and were particularly effective against cavalry. Barricado was a hastily formed rampart of barrels, waggons, stones etc, some were made of cases filled with stones and earth.

On 12 August Colonel Molyneux drew up an order of precedence for the use of the well. The first to draw water were to be the soldiers for drinking. Water was to be drawn for the horses and the cow, 'to women none, but by the order of my hand'. Each horse was to have a gallon and a half a day and no more, and it was only to be issued to the thirty-four horses listed under names, such as the Governor, the Lieutenant-Colonel, Major Eyre, Captain Wilkinson, and Mr. Danby. So Colonel Molyneux was still in charge on 12 August, although when Wingfield was taken a few days later, several sources state that Colonel Danby was the governor.

Among those besieged in Wingfield was Francis Revel, deputy-lieutenant of the county. In 1644 his estate was sequestered for being at Wingfield, garrisoning his own house, supplying the royalists with arms, horses and money, and for refusing to take the oath and covenant which promised to assist parliament against the king. It appears as though he was one of Carnfield Hall family, perhaps the man of this name dying there in 1681. There are also references to a Captain Revel on the parliamentary side. (31)

Colonel Gell sent to Major-General Laurence Crawford for ordnance of 'four great pieces for battering'. Some horse and foot and heavy guns arrived from him, together with reinforcements from the Earl of Manchester's army. In a joint assault heavy cannon were placed on Pentrich Common, south-east of the manor house. The defenders had a half-moon battery on this side of the house, but the parliamentary account says that it was 'soon carried', although a breach was found to be impossible. Colonel Gell then moved his guns south-west of the manor to a wood called Wingfield Park Gate. After only three or four hours of bombardment from the new position a considerable breach in the walls was made. (32)

In 1789 Pilkington wrote that he had seen the breach by which the attackers entered, also several cannon balls, which were frequently found, one of them weighing 32lbs. In 1886 Cox noted that remains of the defensive earthworks at the south east angle of the south courtyard could still be traced, while Edmunds notes that there were earthworks outside the west sallyport of the same courtyard. (33)

The ball, solid iron shot, weighing 32lbs., would be from a demi-cannon often used in sieges. Its calibre was 6-6 $\frac{1}{2}$ in., weight 6,000lb, with a length of 12 ft. Differing weights are given for the ball of a demi-cannon, from 25lb. to 32lb., the heavier being more likely. There were no very precise weights or measurements, shot differed in size, weight, and roundness, powder varied in strength from barrel to barrel. The gun was elevated by a wedge under the breach end, the cannon recoiled on a bed of planks, and after a shot its exact position could not be repeated, while gun-sights had not yet been invented. Point-blank fire was when a cannon was fired in a horizontal position across a level field. At random, or utmost random, was when it was elevated above the horizontal to strike beyond the point-blank range. Heavy guns could be fired ten or twelve times an hour.

The point-blank range of a demi-cannon is given in several sources as being between 1,400ft. to 1,500ft. Some writers give distance in paces presumably the military pace of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. - some give yards. Burne states that there

is no exact data for extreme range, but that in practice heavy field guns were seldom over 3,000ft. in range and light guns not more than 1,800ft. Cannon were planted as close to their target as possible outside the range of a good musket. Opinions differ as to the range of the latter. Burne gives a range of 400yds, some writers give a much longer range.

From the first position of Colonel Gell's guns, at the Roman camp on Pentrich Common, then called Coney Green, to the manor house, is 4,300ft. in a straight line at the same elevation. Had the guns been placed due east of the manor house, on Oakerthorpe ground, the range could have been at least 700ft. but perhaps the Strelleys of that place were royalists, although research has not produced evidence.

Then the cannon were moved to the far closer range on the south-west. At the Bench Mark of 448ft. O.D., near Toplane Plantation, at a slightly higher elevation, the range would be about 2,200ft. Even this would be beyond the theoretical point-blank range of a demi-cannon.
(34)

After three hours bombardment the parliamentary soldiers entered by a breach made by the fire of the cannon, and Wingfield was taken, probably on 14 August. By the terms of the surrender every man was allowed to march to his own home. Two hundred and twenty royalists surrendered, and the besiegers took from the manor twelve pieces of ordnance, two hundred and fifty muskets, and a hundred and fifty pikes. Hutchinson describes it as being 'taken by composition'. Colonel Dalby, then the governor, was shot and killed by a royalist deserter. Tradition said that the man put his musket through a hole in the wall at the stables. One account says that this deserter gave information to the parliamentary forces which enabled them to decide where to try to make a breach.

After his success at Wingfield, Colonel Gell returned to his headquarters at Derby, leaving two foot companies and a troop of horse at Wingfield. Within a few days of the surrender there were complaints from parliamentarians at Nottingham and Bolsover that Colonel Gell had ordered them to send provisions to Wingfield. In December Lord Fairfax suggested to the Derby Committee that the garrisons at Bolsover and Wingfield were no longer necessary and should be removed elsewhere. It was then promised that this should be done after permission was obtained concerning Wingfield from the Earl of Pembroke. On 23 June 1646 there was an order to dismantle Wingfield.
(35)

Among the petitions from maimed soldiers in the war, one in 1649 stated that the petitioner John Mathew of Loscoe, had been a soldier under Captain Bagshawe at Wingfield, and that the cavaliers had plundered him of all his goods. Since then he had been lame so that he had to be carried about. He had a wife and two small children, and had sold their cow, and all their household goods, and clothes, to buy bread and other things. In answer to his appeal he obtained a pension of 12d. a week, which was quite a good labourer's wage. It is impossible to estimate accurately the value of money in the past. There was little for a labourer to buy; he produced his own food, had some land and a cow or two, and rents were low, for instance, cottages in Wirksworth in 1649 were rented at 6d. or 8d. a year. Parliamentary soldiers ceased to be pensioners after the Restoration, royalist soldiers taking their place, who had had no pensions when parliament was in power.

Captain Bagshawe, later Colonel, was probably Edward Bagshawe of Ridge Hall, Chapel-en-le-Frith. He and his brother Henry both fought for parliament. The former was a lawyer of Middle Temple, and fought first for parliament, then sided with the royalists. In April 1643 he was commissioned by parliament to raise a troop of horse. (36)

When Major Sanders came to Wingfield he was ordered to investigate George Pole of nearby Heage Hall, a distant relation of his. If he was a royalist his person and estate were to be seized. Although not lords of Heage manor, the Pole (or Poole) family lived on their estate there. An account of George Pole (1604-1674) is in Derbyshire Miscellany, it says that originally he was a royalist, and although a rich man had pleaded age and poverty for not supporting them. Major Sanders went round by Heage Hall and told Pole that he could save himself by joining the forces against Wingfield, while he would be kept safely in the background. George Pole joined them when the guns were moved to the south-west side, and took refuge in a deep natural ditch on the south side of Garner Lane. Then he marched with the parliamentary forces into the breach made in the walls of the manor, being present when Colonel Fitzherbert and his officers were taken prisoners, and the Colonel was surprised to see Pole among the enemy, saying that he had expected better of him.

N O T E

The paper in Derbyshire Miscellany on Heage Hall describes the traditional ghosts of the hall, firstly George Pole's wife, who died in 1639, then, after his death, he was seen in various forms, coursing with his dogs in the fields, or riding in his coach, even to the extent of a parson laying his ghost. Also there is given an account of the renovation of a chimney when someone descending it came to an opening into a chamber in which was found a pair of white leather breeches with one leg coated with bloodstains, and silver buttons on them. Stories of hauntings by ghosts continued until this century (37)

The late Mr. Arthur Watkins of Fritchley had a great knowledge of his area, and in a letter to me re Heage Hall and its hauntings he mentioned 'legends of headless horses pulling a coach', to say nothing of "Poole" and his two black dogs. One certain fact was a pair of 17th century breeches found in a dry well, with a presumed weapon-cut in them and the mark of a blood-stained hand. The women would not have them in the house, but one of the sons cut off the buttons and put them on a waistcoat. This would be roundabout 1900, when we knew the family very well indeed...I remember being shown a patch of snowdrops set in the form of a date. The family said they had altered the date from 1611 to their own time'. (38) As a Derbyshire friend once said to me about a haunted field near Longnor, 'things were not always what they ought to be after dark'.

Notes and References.

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- 3 Newcastle *ibid.* p.60. Hutchinson, L. Life of Colonel Hutchinson (c.1664) (edition 1906) p.195.
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- 5 Emmanuel (Immanuel) Bourne (1590-1672) bought Newhall (Eastwood) Manor, Ashover, in 1623.
- 6 Wood, A.C. Nottinghamshire in the Civil War (1937) p.60. Evans, E. Peakland Pickings (no date) p.421.

- 7 Edmunds, W.H. Wingfield Manor (no date) p.14. Blore, T. Manor of South Wingfield (1795) pp.67 et seq., Newcastle ibid. p.60, 62. Derbyshire Archaeological Journal Vol.III (1881) p.170.
- 8 Glover, S. History and Gazetteer County of Derby Vol.I.(1829) Appendix p.66.
- 9 D.A.J. ibid. Vol.VIII (1886) pp.71-72. Memorials of Old Derbyshire, edited J.C.Cox (1907) p.155. Glover ibid p.66.
- 10 D.A.J. ibid. Vol.VIII (1886) p.78. Ibid. Vol.LXXX (1960) p.120.
- 11 Newcastle ibid. pp.62.125.
- 12 Sir Thomas Sanders (1610-1695) of Little Ireton, was first attached to Colonel Sir Francis Thornhagh's regiment, he became a major, back to captain again, then major, later he was colonel.
- 13 Glover ibid. p.74.
- 14 Colonel Sir Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough (c.1610-1650), royalist, son of the Earl of Huntingdon. He charged at the head of his own troop of horse at Edgehill. He collected a thousand miners from his father's east Derbyshire coal mines, some of them were used as sappers at the seige of Lichfield. Created Colonel-General February 1643.
- 15 Wood ibid. p.88.
- 16 Cox, J.C. Three Centuries Derbyshire Annals Vol.I (1890) p.60. No regular sheriffs 1642-44.
- 17 Colonel John Frescheville (c.1607-1682) Joined Charles I at the raising of the standard at Nottingham in 1642. In the autumn of 1643 he was commissioned to raise a regiment of foot and a regiment of horse in Scarsdale. He was governor of Welbeck in 1643.
- 18 Lord Widdrington was a Northumberland royalist, killed at Wigan 1651.
- 19 Historical MSS. Commission, Hastings MSS. Vol.II (1930) pp.92,114-117.
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- 21 Committee for Compounding 1643-1660, 5 vols. (1880) p.1488. Committee for Advance of Money 1642-1656, 3 vols. (1888) p.1069. Acts and Ordinances of the Interregnum 1642-1660, 3 vols. (1911) Vol.I. p.175.
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- 24 Memorials ibid. pp.155-56. Glover ibid. p.67. Hastings ibid. p.116.

- 25 Sir Francis Thornhagh (d.1643) of Fenton, Nottinghamshire, raised a regiment for parliament, commanded by his son, Colonel Francis Thornhagh, who distinguished himself until he was killed at Preston in 1648. His horse troops were described as great plunderers. (Wood. ibid.)
- 26 Colonel Rowland Eyre (1600-1689), of Hassop, raised a regiment for the King, was described in 1662 as a man with £3,000 p.a., 'a Catholique, and a great Sufferer', he had his estate sequestered. Colonel Thomas Eyre, of Dronfield Woodhouse, was a royalist who died of his wounds in Derby gaol in 1645.
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- 37 Letter from the late Arthur Watkins to me 1 July 1952.

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A DERBYSHIRE DIARY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

by

John Heath

Diaries kept by politicians, landowners, ladies involved in the social life of London and so on have provided valuable source material for historians, but it is only infrequently that the diary of an ordinary man comes to light to give us an insight into the everyday life of a Victorian. Such diaries seem rare in Derbyshire, but one survives to give us a comprehensive account of the day-to-day activities of Henry Hill who farmed land at Horsley over the last quarter of the 19th century. His diary commented briefly on the weather, the activities on the farm, visits and journeys; and his financial transactions are meticulously recorded in a Pettitt's Folio Diary for 1872.

It appears that Henry Hill took over the tenancy of Slackfields Farm at Horsley from a Mr Richardson in 1871. The farm was part of the Sitwell estate at Smalley. In addition Hill rented land from Mr Woolley, another of R.S.W. Sitwell's tenants, who farmed Horsley Flate. Slackfields Farm consisted of land in the parishes of Horsley, Horsley Woodhouse and Kilburn. This involved the payment of tithes and rates to all three parishes. Henry paid highway rate twice yearly at 7½d in the pound to Horsley Woodhouse, money and teamwork (highway rate £7. 4s. 8d. less teamwork at £3. 18s. 10d.) for Horsley, and a small rate to Kilburn. He paid poor rate twice yearly to Horsley at 6d in the pound, and lesser sums to the other two. He paid Land Tax and Income Tax assessed on Schedule B at 3d. in the pound to the tax collectors in each parish, House Duty at 10s.; a quarterly rent to Mr Woolley; a half yearly rent to Mr Sitwell which involved a visit to Mr Sitwell's house; insurance of the farm stock paid to Mr Ashton, the Belper agent of Norwich Union Fire Office; 6s. a quarter to Bell's Messenger; and licences for the nag horse and the trap.

The diary records the daily activities on the farm. Depending on the time of the year these include - ploughing, seeding, harvesting, hedge-topping, the burning of brushings, thrashing with a flail - for thatch, manuring, drawing thistles and docks, stone-picking and turf-knocking. Henry Hill records the quantities and types of seeds he used both in the fields and in his garden. The seed was usually bought in Derby. The grain harvested on the farm was sent to the mill at Darley by way of Coxbench Station, or it was sent to Oldfield's mill at Kilburn, or it was sent to his father's mill at Higham (known as Bumpmill). A regular entry concerns the

collecting of horse dung from Bodils of Orchard Street, Derby, and the collection of night-soil from various inns and houses in the Horsley area.

Henry Hill had three horses as well as his nag horse. He spent some time breaking in horses. He required three horses to pull a laden cart up the hill from Coxbench. The farm carried cows, pigs and sheep. There are regular references to the sheep, whether it is the dressing of them for ticks with Coopers sheep dip, lambing and the associated losses, gelding ewe lambs and tups, washing the sheep at Kilburn mill, and the selling of sheep at Derby market at tenpence-halfpenny a pound to a Nottingham man, and also at Belper Fair. The wool was sold to a Mr. Earp at 5s. 7d. per todd, the wool being delivered to the Boars Head on Duffield Road, Derby.

In this year Henry embarked upon cheese-making, and he obtained much of the necessary equipment from his wife's parents' home which was at Lea Mill. The first cheese was made on May 7th. There are occasions when a cheese is used by the household but these are carefully recorded. The cheeses were sold at the Derby Cheese Fair for between sixty and seventy shillings per hundredweight. He also sold cheeses to Mr. Wright of Sadlergate who had a shop in Albert Street, Derby. Butter was also made on the farm and on the occasion it was taken to Derby market there was found to be no sale, the market being overstocked. Later the butter was taken to Ilkeston market where it was sold at one shilling and eightpence a pound. These were not the only visits to market or to a fair. Apart from the weekly visit to the market at Derby with a note of the expenses incurred including tolls and drinks, Henry Hill attended the fairs at Ripley, at Higham where he said the cows were very dear, at Matlock where he sold four bullocks and two heifer stirks, and at Chesterfield:-

Wednesday 25 September: Wet, cold day, Went to Chesterfield Fair. Horses very dear.
Miserable day. Bought umbrella
9s. 6d. Expenses 5s. 8d.

Purchases during the year include rum at 2s. 9d., whiskey at 19s. and regular quantities of ale from William Alton and Company of the Wardwick, Derby. Other purchases include a zinc bucket - 1s. 4d; two merino singlets - 4s. 6d; trousers and vest at £1. 9s. 0d.; a new hat cost 4s. 3d; coat and waistcoat cost £1. 12s. 6d. and a pair of blankets at 15s. 6d. He bought boots at Salter and Scales of Derby at 14s. a pair, water-proof boots from Mr Bardill the village cordwainer (16s.), who soled and heeled his boots for 3s. 9d. An easy-chair was bought from James Pym of Bridge Street, Belper and cost 2s. 11d. On July 5th he bought a washing machine for £3. 15s. 0d. but only paid £3. 11s. 0d. on September 20th.

Henry bought equipment for the farm including a Crosskill Clod Crusher and a Taylor's Patent Mangle from Messrs. Ratcliff and Company of 16 Cornmarket, Derby, and a Jefferies and Ashby Tedding machine, from Breary's auction at Derby.

His right-hand man on the farm was Harry who received £21 a year. Other labour was hired at the Muggington Statutes - a nineteen year old lad for £17 a year, and at the Castle Donington Statutes a lad was hired for £9 a year. At the Mansfield Statutes he hired George Green as a wagoner at £20 a year. There was also help in the house;

February 19. Mary Tagg left and Sarah Gregory came.

Hill acted as the carrier for the village. He carted slack (at 5s. 10d. per ton) from Marehay, coal from Heanor (at 7s. 6d. per ton) and cobbles from Kilburn, for the landlord of the New Inn and for various villagers.

August 11th was an important day for the Hills; their first son was born. On September 6th Henry spent £1. 2s. 0d. on baby clothes, and two days later the child was christened. On October 22nd the baby was vaccinated at Coxbench by Doctor Forshaw who received two guineas for the attendance at the confinement.

Social occasions were few. Hill attended two ploughing matches - one at Shottle and the other where he entered Harry in the match was a Waingroves. Tuesday December 17th. Foggy. Turning manure. Went to Derby to see the Prince and Princess of Wales. Expenses 2s. 6d.

December 31st was the day when the year's finances were worked out. In 1872 Henry Hill paid out £102. 11s. 0d. in wages, £28. 12s. 7d. on groceries and meat, and £23. 17s. 11d. on ale and beer.

Such a diary enables us to build up a day-to-day picture of the life of a farmer one hundred years ago. Other diaries must be lying undisturbed in the lofts of old buildings, as this one was. Unfortunately they lie unnoticed, gathering cobwebs, but too often they are consigned to the bonfire.

Slackfields Farm SK34/385447, at Horsley is still being farmed today. The field names in some cases have changed as has the acreage of the farm, but Henry Hills memory is perpetuated in the diary and in Horsley Churchyard, where he was laid to rest having died on May 18th 1899.

THE SOCIETY OF FRITCHLEY FRIENDS. 1869 - 1968.

by

Brian Key.

'Fritchley is an odd mixture of the commonplace and picturesque but of much interest to the Quaker community as it is reputed to be the earliest of all their settlements'. (1)

So wrote Thomas Tudor in 1928, although a little mistakenly. The number of Quakers in the village, even at their strongest, represented only a small proportion of the village population. Yet those Quakers who first came to settle in this quiet Derbyshire village and established the Society of Fritchley Friends made its name well-known, not only in this country, but in many parts of North America and Scandinavia. For nearly one hundred years the Fritchley Society worshipped independently of the main Quaker body, keeping strictly to the basic principles of the movement, the cause of their breaking away.

The first Quaker family to settle in Fritchley was that of John Grant Sargent in 1864. (2) Prior to this date there had been several Quaker Meeting Houses erected in the county. One of the first was built at Chesterfield in 1696, (3) only two years after the death of George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers as they were popularly known. Incidentally, it was whilst Fox was appearing before Justice Bennett in Derby in 1650 that the name Quaker was first used. Fox declared that it was time for men to quake and tremble before the Lord, to which the Judge replied, 'So you are 'quakers' are you?' From that the name passed quickly into general use. (4)

John Sargent was a remarkable man with an unswerving belief that God's guidance should be sought in all matters and then acted upon, no matter how unpopular one becomes or how difficult it is to execute. Around the middle of last century he could see a movement away from the basic principles and original character of the Society of Friends. He contacted certain other Friends who thought as he did and the result was the establishment in 1869 of a General Meeting of Friends, to be held at Fritchley, and independent of the London Yearly Meeting. Not unnaturally the main body of Friends did not view the breakaway group too kindly, but in the face of many discouragements the little community survived. This was due partly to the group's adherence to the basic principles but more to the inspired leadership of John Sargent.

A similar change had been taking place in the character of Friends in America and so there had grown up a close feeling between those who still held to the originals beliefs there and the small community at Fritchley. In fact John Sargent, with two other Friends, Matilda Rickman and Louisa Gilkes, had visited America in 1868. In the following year two Friends from America came to stay with John Sargent at Fritchley during a visit to England and Scandinavia. These visitors were Daniel Koll and Mahlon Kirkbride.

Mahlon Kirkbride took an immediate liking to the village in its quiet peaceful setting. His account of the views still holds good today, over a century later. "From the window where I write, there is a beautiful view of cultivated hills and valleys, away from noise, and with little visible evidence of life, except a cow grazing quietly on the hillside, and the smoke from some manufactory below". (5) Only the manufactory has now gone. This was the bobbin mill and wood-turning business which belonged to John Sargent and which was one of the reasons why he came to settle in Fritchley. He had owned a similar business at Cockermouth in Cumberland before moving to Fritchley in 1864. (6)

Between the house and the bobbin mill stood the Cottage Meeting House, converted out of two cottages. On first moving to Fritchley the Friends had met at the home of John Sargent as it was too far to go to attend the nearest meeting, which was at Furnace, near Shirland, some four miles distant. It was thought likely that more people would attend meetings if more suitable premises could be found so it was with this view that the cottages were acquired.

As he was the owner of the bobbin mill John Sargent had a direct contact with the people in the village and Louisa Gilkes would often visit them in their homes. This personal contact was important for the locals must have viewed with some suspicion these newcomers with their unusual Quaker dress and style of language. Of their interest there is little doubt for when a public meeting for worship was held in the bobbin mill one hundred and fifty people attended.

After a short stay at Fritchley the American Friends undertook a tour of this country and the continent, accompanied in part by John Sargent. On their return they again spent a short time at Fritchley before leaving finally for America.

Following their visit the little community began to grow. Jesse Derbyshire came to live at Barn Close Farm. Nine years later in 1879 he married the owner's daughter and took over the farm, running it until one year before

his death in 1929. (7) After a countrywide tour by John Sargent and his wife, Thomas Davidson, Henry Wake and Edward Watkins came to reside at Fritchley.

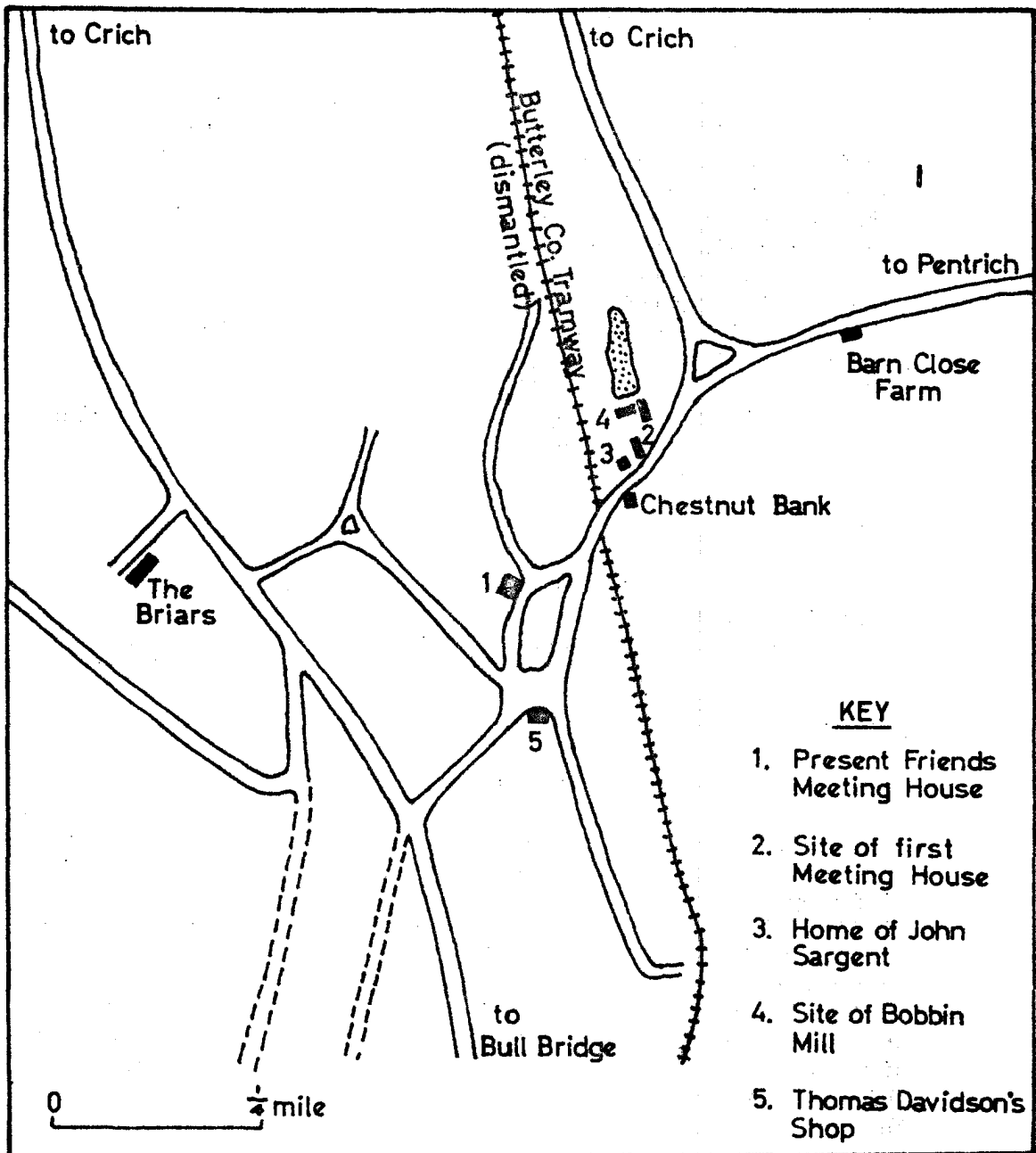
Thomas Davidson was born in Aberdeen but he was working in Manchester when John Sargent visited him. On being offered work at Fritchley with one of John Sargent's sons he accepted and never regretted his decision. (8) Later he took over the grocery and general store which also included the post office. Because of Quaker custom everything in the shop had its price marked on so that there was no haggling over costs, and yet it was a forward looking innovation for those times.

Henry Wake was an antiquarian living in Cocker-mouth before transferring his business to Fritchley in 1874. He resided at Chestnut Bank, a large mid-eighteenth century house situated at the top of Bobbin Mill Hill and almost opposite the home of John Sargent. The upper rooms were used as a store and here would be kept coins, pottery, pictures, archaeological finds and Quaker leaflets. A point of interest about his work was that every month for many years Henry Wake would write out and illustrate a catalogue of all the items for sale and these were then printed by Bemrose of Derby. (9)

The third Friend, Edward Watkins, lived in Birmingham but moved to Fritchley when his father died. He took an active interest in the wood-turning business and eventually took it over, thus relieving John Sargent of any business responsibilities. (10)

Thus the little community was growing steadily both numerically and in the conviction that its stand had been the right one. In 1879 John Sargent's daughter, Catherine, was married to George Smith of Belper in the little Meeting House. This was probably the happiest time for the community because within a few years several of the founder members were to pass away. On Christmas Day 1881 Louisa Gilkes died, aged 67 years. Seven weeks later her dear friend Matilda Rickman died, aged 83 years. Both these Friends were buried at Bakewell. Matilda Rickman left £1,800 (11) for educational purposes and classes were subsequently held at the Meeting House and later at Chestnut Bank. In that same year Jane Sargent, John's aunt, died aged 94 years.

During 1882 John Sargent, now in his 69th year, in the company of his wife, paid an extensive visit to America. On his return there was a gradual decline in his health and he never again went far from home. His strength declined until his death on the 27th of December 1883, and he was buried in the Friend's Burial Ground at Furnace.



SKETCH MAP OF FRITCHLEY

With the loss of its founder the community could be expected to be in for a trying time, but this was not to be, for at the next meeting, to the astonishment of those who knew him to remain silent in worship, Jesse Derbyshire spoke such a lengthy testimony that it was evident he merited his seat at the head of the meeting. (12)

In June 1885 came a blow for the village as well as for its Quaker community. At three o'clock one morning a Mrs Slack, who lived near the bobbin mill, noticed flames coming from the windows of the mill. Although the alarm was raised quickly and the villagers formed a chain of buckets from the nearby mill pond, the mill was soon well ablaze. Within a few hours the whole four storied building had collapsed into a complete wreck. Edward Watkins had allowed the insurance policy to lapse so that the total loss of £1,200 fell upon him. About fifty men and boys were thrown out of work at Fritchley, and as a similar factory of Edward Watkins at Bull Bridge was dependent on the Fritchley one the same number were unemployed there. However, it was soon possible to concentrate production on the Bull Bridge works, although employment could not be found for everyone. (13)

After this troubled and testing period the community entered a more settled phase. About fifty Friends regularly attended meetings and as the Cottage Meeting House had become inadequate the present Meeting House was erected in 1897. It is a plain, red-bricked building situated just off the village green.

Henry Wake died in 1914, the same year in which the First World War began. The War caused much sadness to many Friends and many became conscientious objectors or turned to work on the land. The former were confined in military camps or in Derby prison and here, by his many visits, Thomas Davidson gave much needed help and encouragement. During the War Miss Mary Watkins, a relative of Edward, ran a small guest house at Fritchley. It was known as 'The Nook Hostel'. On his release from prison at the end of the War Arthur Ludlow also opened a guest house at his home. It was known as 'The Briars' and for more than thirty years guests were entertained from many parts of the world.

Thomas Davidson died in 1928 at the age of 78, and his death was followed four months later by that of Jesse Derbyshire aged 80. A further loss was experienced some six years later with the death of Edward Watkins, then aged 86 years. His work as clerk to the Meetings was taken over by Catherine Ludlow, wife of Arthur, and a grand-daughter of John Sargent. She held the post until a few years ago and is now in her ninety second year.

By now there was a much less rigid approach than there had been when the community began. The old style language had gone, as had the original Quaker dress. Although many of the descendents of the first Fritchley Friends remained in the village, others moved away, some going overseas. Thus there was a fall in the numbers attending the meetings. The differences that had caused the break from the main body were now no longer so pronounced with the passage of time so for these two reasons it became desirable to re-unite with the main body. So arrangements were made and from January 1st 1968 the Fritchley Friends ceased to function as a separate body, thus failing by a few months to complete a century of worship as an independent community.

Today there is little in the village to remind us of these last hundred years when the village was an important Quaker community with connections across the world. Of course the homes of the original members still stand and their descendents may be still found living in and around the village, many attending worship at the Meeting House each Sunday morning. The village has remained quiet and unspoilt and changed little since that day in 1864 when John Sargent came to reside there and found a community that for a time gave Fritchley a gentle and peaceful air and a unique place in this country.

Footnotes

1. High Peak to Sherwood by Thomas Tudor. 1928.
2. Diary and Correspondence of John G. Sargent. 1885.
3. Bulmer's History and Directory of Derbyshire. 1895.
4. Story of George Fox by Rufus M. Jones. 1919
5. Events and Reflections by Mahlon S. Kirkbride. 1890
6. Diary and Correspondence of John G. Sargent. 1885
7. A Testimony of Jesse Derbyshire. 1929 Quaker Leaflet
8. A Testimony of Thomas Davidson. 1928. Quaker Leaflet
9. Henry Wake. Article in Derbyshire Countryside. Oct/Nov. 1960.
10. A Testimony of Edward Watkins. 1934.
11. Bulmer's History and Directory of Derbyshire. 1895.
12. A Testimony of Jesse Derbyshire. 1929.
13. Derby Mercury. Weds. June 17 1885. Derby Daily Telegraph June 11 1885.

OX-HORNS AND ASHBOURNE

by

K. Hollick

Over the past fifty years and more it has been possible to pick ox-horn cores with part of the skull attached, and (only occasionally) other large bones from the bed of the Henmore Brook by the site of the old L.N.W. railway station (SK 177463) at Ashbourne, and they have also been found in soil that was dumped on adjacent land when the brook-course was diverted to make the station in the 1890's. In 1972 a new sewer was laid here, and many more cores of similar type were found scattered about in the ground to the full depth of the excavation, going down about 13 ft. A sample was sent to the British Museum (Natural History Department). Though it was not possible to date the horn short of using expensive methods, Dr Juliet Jewell of the zoology department gave her opinion that its shape conformed to that of the longhorn ox common in the Midlands from the 16th to 18th centuries; and, while they could have been the remains of a dump for butchers' refuse, in the 18th century such bones were used fairly commonly for field drainage.

It is unlikely that any of those turned up were in situ. The land has undergone many upheavals on various occasions over the past hundred years or so including the coming of the railway and the laying of the original sewer, both involving deep digging; also, part of it is now made-up ground having been used for tipping. Earlier, probably about the middle of the 18th century, an ornamental pool was made on the site, then part of the grounds of the Mansion, Dr John Taylor's house in Church Street. After so much disturbance it is therefore impossible to say just how and where these horns were originally placed. The site is a quarter of a mile from the old Ashbourne shambles in the market place and it is only lately that we have been fussy about the smell arising from such offals, so in view of the distance, and the low-lying nature of the ground it seems more likely that the horns were usefully employed in drainage for which their shape and lasting quality made them specially suitable.

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION OUTINGS

by

V. M. Beadsmoore

The outing to Pinxton on Saturday, Sept. 9th, was the last arranged by Mr. Heath for the Summer of 1972, which have all been most enjoyable. Our guide on this occasion was Mr. Frank Smith of Pinxton, to whom our thanks are also due.

We first visited Brookhill Hall, the home of the Coke family since 1567. It is now the home of Roger Coke, the musician, and we were able to go inside the old stables, which were adapted by the B.B.C. some years ago, using special panelling to improve the acoustics. In the house we saw the Drawing Room, Dining Room containing Jacobean woodwork, and a Bedroom complete with four poster bed. An interesting experiment is being carried on at present by a Committee led by Mr. Darwin, brother-in-law to Mr. Coke, with the help of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, to rehabilitate drug addicts, and this is proving very well worth while.

A seam of white china clay was found near the hall, and the building of the china factory commenced in 1795.

The grounds of the house are very overgrown but Mr. Smith told us it was possible to trace the line of the Pinxton - Mansfield railway on a bank nearby, and to see some of the stone block sleepers.

We next visited Pinxton Church, dedicated to St. Helen. Arriving at the West side gives no indication of the interest of this church, as all one sees is a squat entrance of very heavily dressed stone, with rusticated windows, characteristic of most English classical architecture. Moving to the South side of the church yard, the Rector told us the history of the church. It was probably built about 1150 when there were 12 people in Pinxton, as a daughter church to South Normanton. The tower is dated about 1366, is 33 ft high, and now has a peal of 8 bells. The inside presents various styles - probably alterations were made in 1350, the chancel is Gothic (1450), the nave Neo-Classic (1755), and in 1930 the North aisle was added. The chancel walls are covered with two layers of plaster, but it would be inadvisable to remove the top layer (paid for by the Coke family in the 19th century) as it has been found to be keyed to the mediaeval plaster underneath. The East window, dated 1803, probably part of a window from somewhere else, is unusual in it's very clear

colouring. Expert opinion has said that the two windows in the South wall of the nave are examples of very good victorian glass. Under the organ is the Coke family vault, which contains painted wooden coffins covered with leather, definitely of French origin. (The Coke family always had French governesses). The two pictures on the East wall of the North aisle came from Brookhill Hall - these are copies by an unknown painter, dated 1700, from Northern Italy. By the shapes of the halos and the folds in the garments it is possible to say the originals would be painted about 1475.

In the churchyard we saw the gravestone to John King, who invented the safety detaching hook for mine cages - this prevents the over-winding of pit cages which in the 19th century was a serious problem. An overwind damaged headstocks, cages, and adjacent property, together with loss of production, also disturbing the confidence of men and officers. The safety hook was tried out at No. 1 Pit at Pinxton in 1873.

Travelling on to Selston church, this is also dedicated to St. Helen. There was probably a place of worship on the site in Saxon times, but the present building is Norman - 1150. In the sanctuary floor is the cover of the grave of the priest responsible for the building - the oldest cover in England. In the chancel is the tomb of William Willoughby and his wife, 1630. Owing to death watch beetle the ceilings of the aisles and nave have had to be restored. The font, like so many others, had been turned out of the church by the Puritans, and had been used for many years as a drinking trough and it is still possible to see where the butchers sharpened their knives on the edge. The tower dates from 1450 and has six bells, which we were able to hear rung very ably by young people, as our visit was sandwiched between two weddings.

After a very welcome tea (it was a very cold day), at the Pinxton Miners Welfare Centre, our last visit was to Langton Hall to see the collection of Pinxton china belonging to Mr. P. Dennis.

It is generally believed that William Billingsley, leaving the Derby Works in 1796, started the Pinxton Works, and was managing partner in connection with John Coke. According to the first "Factory book of the Pinxton China Works" the building was commenced on October 26th 1795. Billingsley left Mr. Coke about 1800 or 1802, and went first to Mansfield, moving eventually to Swansea and Coal Port. The Pinxton China Works closed about 1818.

As the result of a most interesting talk given in November 1972 by Miss L.I. Edwards of Nottingham City Library on "Old Nottingham", she very kindly agreed to take us to see the places of interest she had mentioned.

We met on the steps of St. Mary's Church. There has been a church on this site since Saxon times, but the present building is an imposing fifteenth century structure with large windows of the perpendicular period. On entering, one is impressed with the spaciousness, but, at present, the interior is not at it's best as the organ is being rebuilt and the chancel is closed. The furnishings are almost entirely Victorian and date from an extensive restoration begun under Sir Gilbert Scott just over a century ago.

The monuments on the north wall of the nave give an account of life in 18th and 19th century Nottingham society. The west window commemorates a lace manufacturer, a window in the south transept Thomas Smith of banking fame, and the east window the Prince Consort.

March 17th was a lovely day, and coming out of the church into the sunshine again and the quiet of High Pavement and the Lace Market, it was hard to believe that the shoppers were thronging in the "French borough" nearby.

Walking by the church, we turned left into Stoney St. and left again into Broadway. Before 1853 this site was occupied by Plumptre House, but then bought by Richard Birkin and turned into lace warehouses. These buildings are massive and the Victorian architecture is most impressive with windows in many differing styles. On the left is a gateway bearing the bee symbol in the stonework of the lintel - symbol of the Birkins, with their initials and those of the architect, T.C. Hine. Inside the gate are two small Norman arches set into the wall, probably from the Norman St. Mary's church, with the Plumptre coat of arms above. Near the end of Broadway an iron strip is let into the pavement marking the boundary of Birkin's land.

This area is now a conservation area, and was called the Lace Market because the lace was prepared for sale in it's warehouses but very little was actually made in this part of the town.

Turning back into Stoney St. we passed the former lace warehouse of Thomas Adams & Co., also built by T.C. Hine in 1855. On it's right are the basement windows of the chapel attended by the workers every morning from 8 to 8.30. The building now houses various small firms.

Then into Warser Gate, and above a doorway was an interesting carving, 1860, showing the figures of a merchant, a blacksmith, Brittania, ships and factories.

Left again into St. Mary's Gate, passed an altered 17th century house, once owned by the Sherwin family, lawyers and magistrates, we arrived back at the church, and crossed High Pavement into Commerce Square to look down Malin Hill, an ancient way up the cliff into the old town.

Retracing our steps, the south side of High Pavement has a long row of late 17th and 18th century houses now offices, etc. On the same side is County House, an 18th century building much altered in 1833 when it was converted into judges lodgings. The old dining room on the east side is supported by cast iron columns.

The Shire Hall opposite has been a county parish on it's own since 1449, when Nottingham was made a county in its own right. The last public execution took place in 1864, and over a doorway inside the railings Miss Edwards pointed out to us a correction in the carving of the spelling of the word "goal" to "gaol".

Walking on towards Weekday Cross, the site of the weekday market until about 1800, we passed the Unitarian Chapel opened in 1876, and built on the site of a meeting house of 1691.

Crossing the market and along Low Pavement, on the left is a fine group of 18th century buildings - No.18 Willoughby House built in 1738 by Rothwell Willoughby, then Nos.24 and 26 rebuilt just after 1733 when the site was bought by the Gawthorn family. No.26 has the best iron-work in the city.

On the opposite side of the road is the 1836 facade, with cast iron pillars, of the Assembly Rooms, and the Nottingham Trustees Savings Bank which opened there in 1836.

At this point we crossed the flow of shoppers in Wheeler Gate and in Castle Gate saw the Congregational Church built in the Venetian style in 1863, replacing a meeting house of 1639. Evidently this was an important residential street in the 18th century and contains many fine houses, now used as offices, etc.

St. Nicholas Church replaces one pulled down in 1643 when the Royalists had broken into the town and from the church tower were able to fire into the Castle Yard. Rebuilding began in 1671.

With the making of Maid Marian Way Castle Gate has been cut in half, but having safely negotiated this, the way up to the Castle is a charming pedestrian area with, on the left a well restored group of houses now the City Architect's Offices, and on the right the late 17th century Newdigate House.

Severn's Restaurant, a 15th century timber-framed house, once in Middle Pavement, has been re-erected opposite the Castle.

The last place of interest we looked at on our tour of Old Nottingham was Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, which has a 17th century front with a series of rooms cut into the sandstone of the Castle rock. Behind it, in Brewhouse Yard, is a group of 17th century houses.

Q U E R Y

Mrs Doris H. Matkin of 1026 - 19th Street South, Lethbridge, Alta, Canada, is working on her family tree and would appreciate leads on eight points:

- 1) the family of Ruth Edley who married Thomas Darwent at Sheffield on 14 November 1773
- 2) the family of Ann Hutt who married Thomas Hobson, filesmith, at Sheffield on 22 November 1752
- 3) the family of Marwell Chershaw (Kershaw) who married Samuel Wells at Sheffield on 21 May 1797
- 4) the family of Martha Hilton (died 9 August 1865 aged 59 years) who married John Edlin, razorsmith, on 3 June 1827
- 5) the families of Anthony Lingard and Eliz Ashton who married at Sheffield on 1 March 1778. Eliz was the daughter of Anthony Ashton who married Mary Ellis on 8 March 1756
- 6) the family of Henry Ellis, farmer, who married Alice Atkin aged 36 years at Sheffield in 1736. (Mrs Matkin has traced the Atkin line back to 1500).
- 7) the families of Joseph Darwent and Martha Morrell who married on 26 December 1739 at Ecclesfield, Yorks.
- 8) the families of William Wells and Sarah Addy who married on 6 May 1798.

Mrs Matkin would be happy to give details of the lines of the parties which she has traced to anyone interested. Would anyone who can help or who would like help on these families please write direct to Mrs Matkin.

E D I T O R S

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C/O Derbyshire Record Office,
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Mr. V.S. Smith,
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T R E A S U R E R

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DE2 6NG

D I S T R I B U T I O N S E C R E T A R Y

Miss J. Allen,
33, Vicarage Road,
Mickleover,
Derby.

Q U E R Y

I would be interested to find out about a stone cross, situated, according to the Ordinance Survey (1922) in Ellastone, Staffordshire Sheet XX7, and called on the map Ousley Cross. I have no other information than the indication on the OS map - except that the land on which this cross was situated is farm land, beside a brook and a considerable distance from the village church.

Sylvia Benz,
Ousley Cross Farm,
Ellastone,
Ashbourne.
Derbyshire.
DE6 2HD