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THE LEEKE FAMILY IN THE CIVIL WAR.

by

Nellie Kirkham.

In April 1643 Colonel Chadwick, a Parliamentary, (1) collected together about three hundred horses from Yorkshire and Scarsdale, and on 8 April informed Colonel Sir John Gell that Lord Deincourt had fortified for the King his house at Sutton, four miles south-east of Chesterfield, and also was sending assistance to the Royalists at Bolsover Castle. The Parliamentary garrison at Chesterfield and people round there pressed Gell to move against Deincourt. Gell sent his brother Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Gell, Major Mollanus, and Captain Sanders, with five hundred men and two pieces of ordnance to besiege the house which Lord Deincourt defended. He held out for a long time, but eventually the house fell and Deincourt, his wife Anne, and his men, were taken prisoners, with the loss of only two or three Parliamentarians.

By the terms of surrender Deincourt promised to come to Derby within the next few days and submit to Parliamentary censure. Thomas Gell demolished the defensive works about the house and returned to Derby, whilst some of his troops returned to Chesterfield. But he had no sooner left Sutton than Deincourt went to Newark instead of to Derby. The Parliamentarians considered themselves revenged for this as the 'garrison at Bolsover' pillaged Sutton House, and others from Newark caused Deincourt to 'unburye his money', a rather curious statement as the Earl of Newcastle garrisoned Bolsover Castle for the King early in 1643, and the Countess stated that in March his forces at Bolsover came out and took thirty horses from adjacent people. Newark also was garrisoned for the King, in February Parliamentary forces had attacked the Royalist defensive works there: so possibly it means that their forces attacking the Royalists at those places came to Sutton. (2)

Sir Francis Leeke (Leake, Leke) (III), Lord Deincourt, possessed a large fortune. The estates of the Leeke family lying around Newark in Nottinghamshire, and in north and east Derbyshire round Sutton Scarsdale, were largely built up in the mid-sixteenth century by the purchase of monastic lands from Henry VIII after the dissolution of the monasteries. At the same time the King seized the tithes of lead ore in Bakewell, Tideswell and Hope, which had belonged to the Monastery of Lenton, and granted them to Sir Francis Leeke (I) in 1545, for the fee farm rent of £6.13.4, which later was increased, and which passed to his descendants. This grant which should have been very valuable was in part frustrated because for many years the lead miners refused to pay tithe, or paid little. This led to a series of lawsuits. (3)

In 1612 the Leekes, father and son, presented a Bill in the Exchequer. In 1622 the miners petitioned the Privy Council. There was another suit in 1626, Attorney General v. Lord Deincourt, and during the years many interrogations and suits followed. In 1631 it was stated that Lord and Lady Deincourt 'are excited by the Lady of Devonshire's contracting with Lord Carlisle for their tithe of lead ore, which will make ill affections, like bad spirits, walk between them.' This evidently resulted in the suit in the Exchequer, Lord Deincourt v. Christian Countess of Devon, in 1632.

The family did not only quarrel with outsiders over money, but from time to time there was considerable discord within the family. Sir Francis Leeke (I) died in 1581. His son, Sir Francis Leeke (II), born in 1549 died in 1626. His eldest son, Sir Francis Leeke (III) was born before 1581, represented Derbyshire in Parliament in 1601, was knighted in 1603, served as sheriff in 1604 and was created a baronet in 1611, one of the first members of the new dignity. In 1624 he was raised to the peerage as Baron Deincourt of Sutton, during his father's life. (4)

The financial arrangements within the family to support the peerage led to trouble. In 1625 Sir Francis (II), named as the father of Lord Deincourt, 'by reason of his great age' kept to his house, and was under the control of his then wife. She stated that in spite of his great age, his understanding was perfect, but his self-will' threatened to ruin her and her son.' According to Cox's figures he must have been seventy-six. In 1638 Lord Deincourt referred to his own 'unwiedly and aged body', and in 1650 there is reference to the 'aged and palsied' husband of Anne, Lady Deincourt. (5)

There are passages in the Domestic State Papers stating that in August 1624 Mary Lady Leeke complained of differences between herself and her son-in-law or to use the modern term, stepson, Lord Deincourt. She wrote to Sir Edward Conway, Secretary of State, saying that Lord Deincourt had persuaded his father 'who is out of his senses to convey to him an estate at Haughton, Nottinghamshire, for the rent of 12d. This was to the great damage of herself and her son. She begged for aid to regain the land, or at least preserve her husband's personal estate 'lest her jointure be called in question'. Also she complained of outrageous conduct from Lord Deincourt towards her sister and herself, requesting that he should be questioned about his disrespectful language. She further alleged that when the conveyance of the estate, and a lease for present possession, was procured, his father, Sir Francis Leeke (II) understood that his son would pay him £1,000 a year for it, in reality the issue turned out to be only 12d.

Two weeks later she wrote that Lord Deincourt had repented of his fury and settled Haughton on her son. In

May 1625 the Secretary of State ordered Lord Deincourt to satisfy his father, and to notify his compliance within fourteen days, or an appeal would be made to the King. In December of that year Lady Leeke said that Lord Deincourt had 'manifested his utmost malice against her by imprinting into the King's heart' a false and unjust opinion of her. She added that Lord Deincourt was a disobedient and violent son, and his father would not allow him to come into his sight unless he paid back the money which he was detaining, and which was his father's maintenance. The State papers mention a report on the violent conduct of Lord Deincourt towards his father.

The King ordered Sir George Manners, and some aldermen of Newark, to procure access to his father for Lord Deincourt, his wife, and children. Elizabeth, Countess of Exeter, wrote a letter to the Secretary of State about the worthiness of Lady Leeke, and 'the infinite misery of her fortune' for the last twenty years, and the 'unsufferable wrongs' inflicted on her by her son-in-law, Lord Deincourt. The rent which he withheld from his father was the latter's main livelihood by which he provided for his family. 'This insatiable lord boasts that he will have all.' She pleaded with Conway to help his kinswoman, Lady Mary Leeke, but his help must be given secretly' for fear of displeasing her aged husband.'(6)

Mary Lady Leeke creates difficulties for there is no Lady Mary in the printed pedigrees. Sir Francis Leeke (II) for his first wife married Francis Swift who became the mother of Lord Deincourt. His second wife is given as Elizabeth Egiok (Egyoke) and they had one son, William, of Haughton and Newark. William's son, Francis, (b.c. 1629) married when young and his father settled land on his father-in-law in trust for him and his wife.

In 1650 this Francis begged to compound at 1/6th, £480, for delinquency.. Delinquency or malignancy as defined by Parliamentarians was the support of the king whether by expression of loyalty or the giving of aid. Suspected royalists were heavily fined. Any royalist who admitted his delinquency to the Committee for Compounding could negotiate a lesser fine on disclosure of his real and personal estate. If he failed to give accurate information concerning his estate, anyone could inform or discover his omissions to the Committee, and as a reward receive part of the delinquent's fine. Francis Leeke claimed that his annuity was his only means of subsistence, so that, when the estate near Newark was destroyed, he took up arms for 2 years. His fine was increased to £2,352 which he paid, and for which he was discharged. Unfortunately in 1651 John Weaver and William Featherstone, two discoverers or informers gave information that a sequestered estate of his had not previously been included, and they were allowed 1/- in the pound for their discovery. (7)

Elizabeth Egiokke, grandmother of young Francis, according to the pedigrees, survived Sir Francis Leeke (II) and became the third wife of Sir Gervase Clifton's seven wives, so Mary cannot have been a third wife of Sir Francis Leeke (II). So it appears as though either her name was Mary Elizabeth, or that Elizabeth is incorrect. The State Papers make the relationship quite clear. More than once Mary Lady Leeke mentions a claim on her husband, stating him to be Sir Francis Leeke, and 'his son' is referred to as Lord Deincourt trying to claim land which was settled on 'her son.'

Lord Deincourt himself was a royalist. Clarendon tells a story which he said was repeated with amusement at court, about Deincourt and Pierrepont, Earl of Kingston (either Robert, Viscount Newark, or his son, Henry) They were living fairly close to each other, and both were known to have money lying with them. In 1642 the King sent messengers to the Earl with a request to borrow between £5,000 and £6,000. Pierrepont said that he could not lend any, as he spent £1,000 on land each year, but that Lord Deincourt 'who was good for nothing and lives like a hog, not allowing himself necessities', must have £20,000 in 'the scurvy house' in which he lived. John Ashburnham, of the King's bedchamber, was sent to Lord Deincourt, and in the morning, after 'an ill supper and indifferent bed,' Deincourt spoke to him, 'with as cheerful countenance as his could be, for he had a very unusual and unpleasant face, 'and told him that he had no money, in fact was extremely in want of it, but that he had a neighbour, the Earl of Kingston,' that never did good to anybody, and loved nobody but himself, 'but who had 'a world of money' and could provide the King with whatever he needed, and that he knew the Earl had a trunk full of money. (8) Nevertheless in 1643 Lord Deincourt in spite of being hard pressed by Parliamentary forces lent the Queen £1,000. (9)

Money was in large part the key to the war. The Parliamentarians, who had objected violently to Ship Money, saw no objection to financing their own rebellion and later wars by compulsory levies on all men of substance living in areas controlled by parliament. The Parliamentary Derbyshire County Committee's Treasurer's accounts for 1642 - 1643 (10) show a number of payments by royalists of substantial sums to the Committee - among those who contributed with sums of £80 etc., were Lord Deincourt, Sir Thomas Milward, Sir Edward Vernon, and other Royalists. There were probably payments to the Derbyshire Committee under the Ordinance of January 1643 by which 'men of ability', towns, parishes, etc, who had not already contributed to the Parliamentarians were to be rated, and assessed and taxed. (11) In these documents it stated that the money collected from the enemy's quarters was done 'with grave hazard and charge.'

It might well have been this forced payment that drove Deincourt to open defiance and the fortification of his house at Sutton in late March or April 1643. There is some difficulty in accepting Glovers statement that it was 8 April 1643 when Colonel Chadwick notified Colonel Gell that Lord Deincourt was fortifying his house, because an account of money collected and paid out when Lieutenant Colonel Gell went against him is dated 26 March. (12) Sums were received from inhabitants of various places, the only northern one being the Buxton Commissary, which contributed a total of over £40. One possible explanation is that Gell had already been informed by other means, and was ready to move before he received Chadwick's message.

Gell's accounts are fascinating, and throws light on his troops and arms. There were a hundred and twenty-six men in Lieutenant-Colonel Gell's company. Among them was Thomas Melland, who, Mr. John Melland considers, was probably from the branch at High Needham, between Longnor and Monyash. Mainly the men were paid $4/8$ a week, a few up to $7/8$. In the New Model Army of 1645 a soldier was paid 8d. a day, labourers wages in Derbyshire varied from 6d. to 11d. a day. 'Black Will a Cannoneer' and some others were paid separately.

It seems doubtful whether all the entries on the pages concerned apply to the seige of Deincourt's house, for they continue throughout the year. In October money was lent to the Lieutenant-Colonel to stop his soldiers from mutiny when they had no pay. Through the war there was much trouble over arrears of pay. Substantial sums were sometimes involved. It cost £5.10s.0d for troops to fetch powder and match and to remain at Chesterfield one night, and then one night at Wirksworth. Many of the payments-out however were small amounts. A pair of bandoleers cost 1s., ten pairs were bought for 6s. 'Wyne and beere besides' for 2s 6d went to tye' Cannon and Carters,' a surgeon was paid £1.10s 0d., a pair of shoes cost 2s 6d, and £3.2s.8d. was spent on 'horsemeat and mansmeat'. There was 1s 4d. for a 'Quart of Lacke' on the cannon - ? lacker or laquer, and 3s 6d for brass to make laddles for the guns. '3 Musketts one fowling piece and 3 swords' were £3.1s.6d. in another instance three swords were 10s 6d.

A clear picture of Gell's arms emerges. Bandoleers were small wooden or tin cases covered with leather, each containing a single charge of powder. They were fastened to a broad band of leather worn over the left shoulder, the cases hanging down the foot-soldier's back and front. Powder was kept in a barrel standing behind the guns, and was laddled out when the cannon was fired.

Match was a cord of twisted strands of tow of cotton, or hemp, boiled in a solution of saltpetre, vinegar, or lees of wine. A link of match two or three yards long hung on the soldiers belt, a piece about two feet long was held ready lit. The musket was fired when the match ignited the powder in the priming pan.

The musket was a matchlock, as long as four feet to four feet six inches, the muzzle being supported on a rest - an ashwood rod with a forked top - stuck in the ground in front of the soldier. By 1649 the rest was ceasing to be used.

Fowling pieces were better made than the military weapons, and were a more accurate gun, often elaborately ornamented by skilled smith's work. Generally they were mentioned as being brought into the Royalist's army by gentlemen who had used them for sport.

At the time of the siege of Sutton Deincourt was at least 62 years old, yet in spite of age and ill health he held his manor house against Lt. Col Thomas Gell for some time, and almost immediately after his surrender left again to join the royalists in Newark. He stayed in besieged Newark until its surrender to Parliament in May 1646, when the Royalist Governor went out with Lord Deincourt or rather Lord Scarsdale, twelve knights, and many gentlemen, and 1,500 foot. The Parliamentarians found they had left behind fourteen pieces of ordinance in the town, with much ammunition and provisions, but there was great sickness there, for 'the Plague was hot in the town.' A picture emerges of an indomitable Royalist, but a difficult personality, with a life which does not appear to have been happy in spite of his wealth. His loyalty to the Crown, his material aid of money, personal service, and the service of two younger sons, Edward and Charles, was acknowledged by his elevation on 11 November 1645 when he was created Earl of Scarsdale. After the execution of the King, he was so unhappy over the 'wofull Murther of his rightful Sovereign', that he had his own grave dug some years before his death in 1655, and every Friday dressed himself in sackcloth and lay in the grave in meditation and prayer. (13)

Deincourt's life must have been clouded by the split in the loyalties of his immediate family, a split so often found in the Civil War. As Sir Francis Leeke he married in 1607 Ann daughter of Sir Edward Carey by Katherine, widow of Henry Lord Paget (of Beaudesert) and daughter of Sir Henry Knynett. He had by her seven sons and six daughters. His eldest son, Francis, born in 1619 was slain in France before June 1646. His third and fourth sons, Edward and Charles were killed in the Civil War, although the accounts differ. Dugdale says that one lost his life in the south, the other in the West.

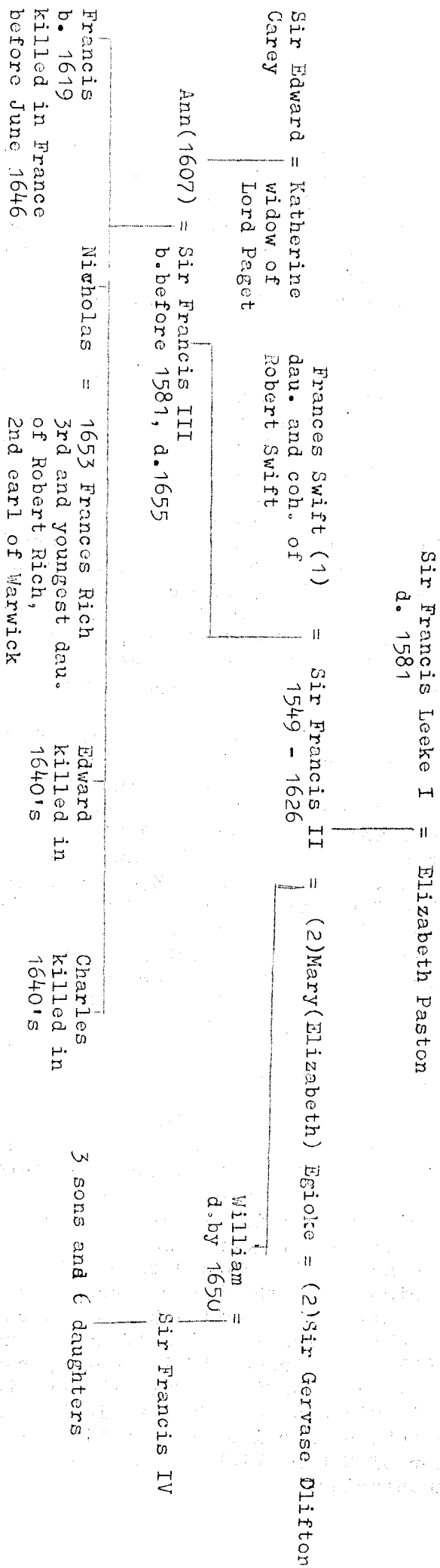
Whitelock says that Leake, Lord Deincourt's son, was slain with the Royalist colours 'about his arm' in the battle of Landesdowne, July 1643, and that in December 1643 Colonel Leake, Lord Deincourt's son, was slain in a sally of two hundred horse out of Newark. Clarendon says that a Lieutenant-Colonel Leake, Royalist officer in a troop of horse, was slain in the battle of Newby, in October 1644. (14)

The sympathies of Nicholas, the second son, were however Parliamentary. This was extremely useful after the surrender of Newark in May 1646. Clarendon states that Lord Deincourt had refused to compound, saying that when Parliament possessed all the country he would not give them a penny, nor compound for delinquency, allowed all his estate to be sequestered, and 'lived in miserable fashion' only on what he could get from his tenants. Although the rents were now paid to the Commonwealth he was said by his rage and threats to have forced them to give him enough to keep him. Nicholas therefore as his father's heir, took charge of negotiations on behalf of his family, representing his father before the Committee for Compounding from 25 June 1646. (15)

In April 1649, on behalf of his mother, Lady Anne, and his brothers and sisters, Nicholas begged to compound for his father's delinquency in adhering to the King's forces in Newark garrison. He begged for reduction of the fine, for it far exceeded his ability to pay. He requested that his father's estate could be settled on him in fee. It was worth £3,600 a year, but his mother had 1/5th for maintenance, and was entitled to one half as dower. In 1646 Lady Anne had begged for continuance of her 1/5th of the sequestered estate, and for this to be reserved to her if she survived her husband. Nicholas stated that £16,000 had to be raised for portions for unmarried sisters, and in the next year timber would have to be sold. He suggested means of settlement in part, and security for the rest.

As a result of Nicholas' negotiations Lord Scarsdale was fined £18,287 on 24 May 1649. The fine was not paid and during subsequent negotiations in 1650 Nicholas stated in evidence to the Committee for Compounding that 'his affections for Parliament incurred his father's displeasure' so that for eight years he had no allowance, being forced to run into debt, and that he was a prisoner in the Upper Bench. The fine was finally paid in full on 20 April 1652, and Lord Scarsdale discharged of his debt. Nicholas himself was a Justice of the Peace from 1647, but struck off in 1652, perhaps because of this trouble in compounding. With the estates restored and the fine paid Nicholas was free to look to his own affairs, and in 1653 he married Frances Rich, third and youngest daughter of Robert Rich, second Earl of Warwick, another Parliamentary.

Abbreviated Pedigree



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WILLIAM ULITHORN WRAY

by

Ernest Paulson

William Ulithorn Wray was Rector of Darley from 1764 to 1808, dying in his eighty-eighth year after holding the living for forty four years. He was the grandson of John Wray, twelfth Baronet of Glentworth, Lincs., the only son of Cecil Wray of Enfield, Sir John's third son and himself became the 14th Baronet in 1805 at the age of 83.

He held the title for four years, enjoyed neither the income nor the estate, from which he was excluded when his cousin, Sir Cecil Wray barred the entail and made a new one in favour of his wife, Esther (Summers) and William Wray's sons, had a pension of £200 per annum from the estate and died at Darley as he had lived - a scholar, a cleric, a friend of the well connected and a man through whose fingers money flowed like water.

He was born at Enfield in 1721. His father is described as 'gentleman' and there is a likelihood that he made his fortune in India before buying the Enfield property. His mother was Frances Holmes, a cousin of the then Dean of Winchester. At the age of 17 he went to Oxford and matriculated from Hart Hall on 6th April 1739. He then entered Hertford College where he obtained his B.A. in 1742. After Oxford, William Wray went on the Grand Tour to Italy before entering the Church. In June 1745 he was ordained Deacon in Carlisle Cathedral and Priest in September of the same year. His father had died whilst he was at Oxford and his mother married again. His stepfather, Robert Bolton, had become Dean of Carlisle in 1735 and Vicar of St. Mary's Reading in 1738, so that it was in the company of the Dean that he made a hurried return to Reading when the Young Pretender advanced on the city of Carlisle in November 1745. From then until 1758, when he received the living of Wexham, Berks., his curacies are unknown, but C.H. Dalton in his 'Wrays of Glentworth' (1880) says that he was Chaplain to the King (George II). Unfortunately, no record of this appointment can be found in the Archives at Windsor and as late as 1777 Mr. Wray was still trying to obtain Royal preferment.

Details of education from 'The Complete Baronetage' (1900) by courtesy of the Standing Council of the Baronetage.

In a letter to his friend, William Gilpin, Rector of Boldre, Hants. and the artist, he wrote, "The K-- may have his reasons for not commending me; perhaps he fears it may draw consequences. If he has not taste of his own he may have and has counsellors in taste as well as in wisdom and politics and if he thought it proper to commend he could not but learn that the matter in question was worthy even of Royal commendation....The man and the King are distinct persons; I cannot but grudge him his long exclusive gratification." (1)

He was probably brought to the notice of George II but did not find favour with George III. Certainly in preparation for promotion he took his M.A. in 1760. One reason for his failure to catch the Royal eye may have been his cousin, Sir Cecil Wray, M.P. for Gainsborough from 1768 to 1782 and for Westminster from 1782 to 1784 when he was defeated by his former friend and ally, Charles James Fox in a 40 day election marked by riots and the Chelsea Hospital scandal. Articles in the Derby Mercury show that the election attracted nation wide attention even at a time when such excesses as drunkenness, double dealing and bribery were normal.

Sir Cecil, so far as George III was concerned, was a Foxite and he did not endear himself to his King by expressing himself well, if not wisely, in support of the Opposition policies on the American War. (2)

Failure to secure his coveted chaplaincy now caused William Wray to look for another and better living and one of Robert Bolton's last acts was to persuade the Dean of Lincoln, a family friend, to give his step-son the living of Darley when it fell vacant. The Dean Bolton had a stroke in 1763 and died after a short illness. His funeral sermon was preached by Mr. Wray in St. Mary, Reading to the text, "Let me die the death of the righteous".

In a letter to his friend William Gilpin, dated from Reading on 20 December 1763, Wray wrote:

"Your late friend, the Dean, complained a great part of last summer of unusual pains in the head &c. Sometime in Octr. I was stopped in my to Lincoln by a summons from my mother on his acct. From that time I continued constantly with him (excepting one night at Wexham) until Novr. 26th, ye day of his death, if you will not allow me to say his translation. The whole time was a lesson of piety, resignation and affection and indeed of humility and a sense of dependence. The latter I say because his disorder showed us how little parts or learning can be called our own. An oppression (probably due to extravagation) on ye brain took from him, in a manner, all of that mind wch he cd have pretended to, but left him those dispositions which are a much better qualification for Heaven and which

I hope will influence my whole future life. The latter end of a good man is an excellent lesson of death.

This event confines me at present to Reading and will dispose of me for some weeks to come according to my Mother's wishes and convenience, neither of which, I am persuaded, will carry me to Wexham till the weather is fitter for her first visit there. I am sorry to be disappointed of your company there but hope you will let us have it some time in the summer."

Gilpin was at this time Headmaster of his school at Cheam.

By April of the following year, Wray was in Darley, as he officiated at the funeral of his predecessor, Thomas Savage, who was buried there on the 29th. Surprisingly enough, the Wrays had old links with the district, as they had married into several of the local families of gentry. In 1558 the sister of Lord Chief Justice Wray had married a Foljambe and a later daughter had married into the same family in 1630. Another Wray had married the daughter of Foljambe of Aldwark who died in 1667 and the Foljambes had married daughters of the Vernons of Haddon and the Drurys of Darley in the previous century. It was therefore to known country that Mr Wray came as Rector, but not to known people. That knowledge took him a long time to acquire; it is open to doubt whether he ever did understand, or try to understand the parish he administered and the way in which he ran through his considerable fortune did nothing to endear him to a people accustomed to watch every penny carefully and who judged a man by the care he took of all that was his. Eventually even William Gilpin wrote censoriously of the Rector's spendthrift ways and with considerable regret of his habit, towards the end of his life, when he was wholly dependent on his stipend, of 'touching his friends for a small loan', which, Ukridge like, would be repaid when he came into the family fortune - a contingency which his cousin anticipated by cutting him out of the succession to anything but the title.

With the acquisition of a good living, marriage now became a necessity and on 2nd February 1765 William Wray married Frances Bromley, daughter of the Rector of Wickham, Hants. in St. Mary's, Reading. A week afterwards he began a letter to Gilpin which reads:

"You will not expect a long acknowledgement of your friendly congratulations. Time, you are sensible, is too precious an ingredient in my present happiness to be given up to formalities. I am sorry your genius should so unusually fail you in an affair so enlivening. Perhaps Hymen was too much engaged in my part to lend you his assistance. Had you applied to Apollo for a Epithalamium, Hymen would probably have excused himself to me for a few

minutes and attended him. But, however, your Pegasus may flag, mine would be the veriest hack that ever was worn out by an Oxford spur if it did not mount on so exalting an occasion. I may therefore assure you that I feel myself as no man ever did before that had been married a whole week. Whatever married men may pretend, their bliss was never so perfect as to convey to them the same feelings, the same sentiments, the same, in short, ecstatic relish that I enjoy on ye present occasion. Do not fancy that I have a higher sensibility of my own hapiness than others are capable of and that - but in short, I am talking a little nonsense." (3)

He was 44, she was 26.

ii

The Darley to which William Wray brought his wife in the Spring of 1766 was in many ways similar to the one of today. Darley (now known as Darley Dale) is a collection of scattered hamlets linked by the A.6 road and the B.5057 Chesterfield to Winster road. Both are straightened and improved versions of the 18C. turnpikes, though in some winters the wisdom of the improvers is undoubtedly questioned by the motorists who try to negotiate the flooded sections between Matlock and Darley and Rowsley and Bakewell. The old roads kept to the hillsides.

The 18C. road system of Darley has already been described.(4) For the present it is sufficient to say that the Matlock to Bakewell road meandered along the eastern side of the valley from Matlock Bridge to Hackney, down to Churchtown, up to Northwood and downhill again to Rowsley where it crossed the Derwent to reach Bakewell by Church Lane and Coombs Road. The Chesterfield turnpike entered the parish at Darley Flash, ran downhill to Toadhole, then south to the river bridge, crossing the Matlock road at Four Lane Ends, through Bridgetown (Darley Bridge) and uphill to Wensley and Winster. All the main areas of settlement were linked to one or three of these roads. This large parish, "supposing a circle (with the church at the centre) three fourths are in this parish and the rest in Stanton. The diameter of the circle may be three miles and 300 families on one side and 300 on the other. The church about two miles from the utmost extremity" (5), had formerly been two Rectories, but these had been united in 1744, although there had been only one Rector since 1689. Each had retained and still retains its own identity and had its own Churchwardens and other officers. There was only one church, St.Helen's, though a chapel had once existed at Snipetown (Snitterton) and services were held in houses at Wensley and Bridgetown, but there were two Rectories near the church. These, with a farm and three houses belonging to the Rector, a beer house, The White Horse, the farmhouse and the Sexton's cottage, constituted

Churchtown. "Churchtown no town. Three houses belonging to the Rector, ruins of the castle called the Abbey. Yew Tree. Its spreading to the barn and to the church. The situation (of the church & parsonages) beautiful beyond imagination in a rich valley on a turnpike road near the Derwent, the glebe encompassing it." (6)

The two Rectories stand opposite the church, that for the South Mediety having been rebuilt as a schoolroom. It is now continuous with the byre and storehouse of the farm as the arched gateway to the farm was walled up in the 19C. It is a small stone built house of four rooms which still bears on its southern wall the weathered inscription placed there by its proud builder, Brian Exton, Rector of the Southern Mediety 1602-15: NE MIHI INVIDENS HAEC DOMUS EST STRUCTA NON MIHI SED MUSIS.B.E. 1607. It is now the Rectory coach house.

When Mr Wray arrived, the present Rectory, which stands a few yards east of the other across the yard, was probably almost its twin, although it was far older. Glover (7) says that it is probably as old as the church and a friend of mine, a builder, is of the opinion that a wall which he stripped and replastered is of the 14th century. Mr Wray enlarged it by the simple process of knocking two doorways through each of the long walls, building extra rooms on both sides then taking off the roof and replacing it at right angles to its original position to form an H shaped house.

Next to the Rectory was the farm on the edge of the hundred acre Broad Meadow. A few trees sheltered the buildings, but otherwise the situation was damp, windswept and lonely. Darley folk had long deserted damp, rheumatically Churchtown for the Hillside and the new family at the Rectory soon found out why. Rheumatism and sciatica, the waters of Bath, Matlock Bath and Buxton are constantly mentioned in the letters to Gilpin. None the less, the Rector did what he could with the place and the Rectory and its surroundings are still much as he left them.

It is easy to imagine him standing in the Rectory yard during his first visit to his new parish, a tall, fashionably dressed black figure huddled in a thick cloak against a cutting Spring wind sweeping across the valley. On either side of him an empty house, for the Curate, like the people, lived on the Hillside. Facing him, across the turnpike, the immense bulk of the yew tree, then at its maximum size and 'stretching from the barn to the road', with the rather battered church behind it. To his left the meadows sloped away to the river with treeless Oaker hill and the swelling bulk of Masson behind. To his rear was the long-enclosed meadow land, divided into grazing and arable. Not until the hillslopes were there any extensive woodlands, but above what he soon found was the

moor road, the woodland was continuous from Matlock to Rowsley and beyond and behind that was the moor, the home of sheep and a few unwanted men, and the barrier between Darley and Chesterfield which was only then being pushed back by enterprising sheep men turned Enclosers, for the Act to Enclose the Darley Commons was proposed in 1766 and passed in 1769.

As he stood there, a whiff of wood smoke came to his nostrils and a movement in the yew tree caught his eye. A boy's face showed for a moment, then there was a rustle in the branches and a small figure ran along a projecting bough and dropped onto the Church roof. A moment later a bundle of firewood was flung on the leads, picked up, carried across the roof and dropped over the other side. The boy returned, scrambled back into the tree and disappeared. Quietly the new Rector walked out of his gate, crossed the East end of his church and found himself looking at an ordinary dwelling house built in the angle between the chancel and the north transept. The bundle of sticks lay in the railed-off yard. Even as he stood there, the house door opened and the housewife emerged, gave him a cursory glance, picked up the sticks and re-entered the house. Mr Wray just stood and stared for a moment, then began to examine the area carefully, the house, a beer house next to it and a small cottage on the other side. Where the turnpike bent northwards a by-road curved away in a westerly direction towards a farmhouse and a jumble of ruins dominated by a tall, embattled gateway about a quarter of a mile away across the field. Later he was to learn that it was the ruins of Darley Old Hall, uninhabited since the previous century and later to be demolished in 1771. That was all, just the Rectories, farm buildings and three houses, all presumably church property. He must find out, and, if he was right, then that house would have to be turned to better use. Finally he turned his attention to the church: no clock; tower damaged and only roughly repaired; one pinnacle fallen from the tower; east end a mess, the window partly boarded up - that would be due to the turnpike traffic passing immediately below; no fence to the churchyard and a barn on its far side. He moved a few paces and a watching face appeared briefly at a window. The north door was blocked up, not that it would be much use with that tangle of nettle and elder against the wall of the beer house. So that house had a yard, had it! With a privy - or ought it to be a "necessary"? - in the corner, too. Very convenient for the beer house! Well, they'd soon see. He'd alter all that and pretty quickly! Now he'd better go to see what the inside of the church was like.

What Mr Wray saw that day and for many days after is best summed up by a local guide book published half a century later: "On approaching Darley, we are delighted with the rural appearance of the church...but on coming

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up to it we are disgusted with a building of common domestic architecture that blocks up an angle of the edifice. This is a charity school. On a tablet in front of it is an ostentatious display of the minister and churchwardens who effect this destruction of beauty and who, no doubt, thought their names worthy to be recorded as that of benefactors; but little did they think while the secret smile of self importance spread over their countenances on the erection of the tablet, that their taste would be regarded as barbarous by nearly every passer by. (The tablet bore the names of Wm. Wray, Chas. Curtis and - Dakeyne.)

The tracery of the east window is completely gone and the lower part of it is blocked up. The present system is to suffer dilapidations to increase until they become alarmed at the increasing expense; then patchwork becomes the order of the day which the churchwardens for the time being style beautifying, thus outraging both taste and common sense." (8)

The interior, with its box pews, 'the best are in the north side of the nave', two decker pulpit, galleries on both sides of the chancel arch for the Duke of Rutland and Greensmith of Stancliffe, high seats for the four Churchwardens on the south side of the nave, the private pews of the local gentry round the walls of the chancel, circular communion rails, narrow cluttered side aisles and dirty transepts was on a par with the exterior. The following (9) gives the picture: "In the middle aisle is a block of marble with a brass plate. On the south side is a chapel with a good window enclosed with a handsome Gothick screen and doorcase, it is now a way to the stairs and the south gallery" (which could also be reached by an exterior stair and door in the transept wall.) "Floor pretty good, seats pretty good. North of the middle aisle best. A very narrow way down the north aisle and uneven. The transepts Mr Greensmith's and the Duke of Rutland's. The Duke's Steward will not repair. The churchwardens at last undertook it. Communion rails good. Circular. A spacious chancel no north and south windows in it. The west good but seems to want a continuation downwards. Pulpit good. Reading desk large. Font old. Date MC. A cover suspended. The new one disused. Windows good. In the belfry a broken part of the plaister discovers the changes to be rung. The north door is made up. A stone coffin catches the drips. In the north transept there is an old painted back skreen with a canopy against the east wall. One alabaster flag is reared against the east wall of the transept and another against the north each with a man and a woman. No pavement in part of the north transept, the rest of it ill seated. The front gallery leaves the crown of the window and the entrance into the gallery opens part also of the lower lights into the church.

Officers separate for Darley and Wensley. The churchwardens' seat is under the front gallery raised and commands the whole church."

The whole of the interior was white washed. The Churchwardens' accounts have not survived, but other local church accounts mention whitewash very often. When the church was renovated in 1928 an inch thick covering of lime was chipped from the walls of the nave and underneath it were found the major portions of three mediaeval paintings - the shields of Reuben and Zebulun, from a series of the banners of the twelve patriarchs and a text on the south wall immediately over the lectern. Traces of other paintings were found on flakes of limewash removed from other walls. If it had not been for these traces the paintings might not have been preserved. I well remember standing, carefully examining each flake of plaster removed from the wall above the pulpit, with strict instructions to fetch the Rector if anything was found - but I wasn't there at the right time.

As the responsibility for the church fabric was the churchwardens', the Rector was unable to do much about it except to line his own pew 'with green'. The building was dilapidated in 1764, even more so when Moore described it in 1818 and so bad in 1853 that a major restoration and enlargement was undertaken at a cost of about £3000. Only the tower and the Rector's vestry were left in something of their original appearance.

Although the church was in poor condition, the houses of the more prosperous people were not. New houses of sandstone or limestone were being built on many south facing sites in both parts of the parish, so stoutly built that most of them survive to the present day with the builder's initials carved either over the front door or along the chimney piece. Barker, Flint, Gill, Potter, Dakeyne and others are commemorated in this way. The landlords also built substantial farmhouses for their tenants. The manor houses of Wensley, Snitterton, Stone-cliff, Holt House and Knabb House were occupied by solidly prosperous families, whilst the miners had their own substantial cottages at Wensley. A glance round the church and the stones under the yew tree will give a comprehensive catalogue of the men, their wives, children and virtues.

Stone cliff, or Stancliffe, belonged to the Greensmiths, Lords of the Manor of Darley, though the owner Herbert Greensmith, a bachelor, spent most of his time at the family home, Breadsall Priory, Derby. This family were lead agents in Wirksworth. They bought the property in 1718 and sold it in 1799, eleven years after the death of Herbert Greensmith, when the firm's manager defrauded them of the greater part of their money. Later the

Greensmiths opened a malt house in Newark.

They also owned Darley Nether Hall, the original farmhouse home of the Columbells. This was leased by the Bowers when the Greensmiths bought the estate and in 1765 was occupied by Christopher Bower, a fifty eight year old widower with three unmarried daughters. He had married Dorothy Bunting of Youlgrave, a Bunting of Buntingfield, Ashover and lived all his life at Nether Hall until 1788 when he moved to Wheatley House as the Hall was too dilapidated to be habitable. Two of the daughters married before his death in 1790 at the age of 83. The youngest married Richard Potter of Manchester who bought the new Darley Hall from Sir Richard Arkwright in 1822, took the name of Bower-Potter and became a substantial property owner in Toadhole. The Bower-Potters left Darley in 1920.

Christopher Bower was Waywarden in 1762. He only received about ten acres of land in the Enclosure Award and made no attempt to increase his holding. This was because his business was leadmining. The London Lead company had re-opened the Old Mill Close Mine in the 1720s and leadmining was becoming more organised.

Cowley Hall, near Mill Close Mine was occupied by the Fantems of whom little is known except that they bought the property from the Gills, when the last of the family, Hannah Maria aged 12, died in 1762. In 1799 four of the daughters died within a few days of each other. January and February 1799 were bad months and an epidemic of measles is mentioned in the Youlgreave register. The Fantems were still at Cowley in 1830.

Snitterton Hall was leased to a tenant farmer. Half the property was held by William Hodgkinson of Overton, Ashover, who sold it to Sir Joseph Banks of Sydney in 1760, the other half by a Mr Turner, who had inherited it from the Millwards.

Finally, Holt House, the Green House, Knabb House and what is now Cedar House in Toadhole were the homes of the Dakeynes, owners of the Ladygrove Flax Mill, bankers, (the last of their bank notes has recently been inherited by an Australian) landlords of most of Toadhole and the inventors of the Equilibrium, a water turbine which was in the mill until 1899. Glover (10) says: "The late Mr Daniel Dakeyne of Holt House was a poet and eminent antiquary. He was contemporary with Blore and collected considerable materials for the compilation of a Topographical and Genealogical History of his native county which is contained in sevenfolio Manuscript volumes now in the possession of his widow, to whom we acknowledge ourselves indebted for some of the pedigrees contained in these volumes. Messrs Edward & James Dakeyne, his

younger brothers are eminent mechanics and have obtained patents for their inventions and improvements of flax and spinning machinery and steam engines."

Daniel Dayeayne, with whom Mr Wray became friendly, was educated at Lincoln's Inn where the Rector's elder son, Cecil Bromley Wray later studied, but was not called to the Bar. Instead, he returned to Darley, built the Holt House and devoted his time to poetry, the compilation of his History and collaboration with Adam Wolley of Riber, the attorney and even more assiduous collector of Derbyshire historical material, whose many folios are now in the Additional MSS section of the British Museum. Among Daniel Dayeayne's poems was, according to A.W.Smith, one entitled "The Vanity of Human Expectation" which the poet had dedicated with, perhaps, unconscious appropriateness, to the Rev. William Wray.

Mr Wray had no success at either Haddon Hall or Chatsworth House. His dealings with the Duke of Rutland were through the Steward of the Duke's Old Hall Estate and the Manor of Little Rowsley. Of Chatsworth he wrote to Gilpin (11) "NO sir! I am not so within ye vortex of Chattersworth as to be harried in a giddy circle to forget all that I owe to King, country, public, private &....If I have had no devotion in my prayers til now, now I have learnt it. From.....Good Lord deliver us."

The Devonshires had retained their political influence by their agility. The Pelhams had lost theirs and Sir Cecil Wray had backed the wrong horse - or rather had failed to counter the attractions of My Lady Cavendish. in the Westminster election of 1784. Mr Wray did, however, retain an admiration for Henry Cavendish and the Dean of St Asaph, the scientists, although his own interests were letters and theology.

What did the ordinary folk of Darley think of the new Rector? Very probably they never thought of him at all, unless they needed him, or he them. Probably the same was said of William Wray as has been said of more modern holders of the Rectory, "Seems a decent enough fellow" - until the new arrival has made real contact with his parishioners.

He arrived in Darley at the time that the Act for the Enclosure of the Common Land on Darley Moor was being drawn up. This was an area of 2,417 acres stretching eastwards from the boundaries of the "Ancient Enclosures" - the present Hall Moor Road - to the boundaries of the parish with Matlock and Ashover. The area consisted of good grass and moorland which was in far better heart than it is today, sheep pasture and the arable fringes of the ancient Farley enclosures, stretching down into Halldale and up to Cockshead. All of the moorland could be

improved, either for farming or for forestry. Parts of it have been improved, but only at great cost and no return is noticeable on the investment for several years. When the land was first enclosed, some came into production, some was sold almost immediately, some beggared its owner and some was left. The Land Tax assessments from 1770 onwards begin a story which is essentially the same theme. constantly repeated: the hardworking and fortunate have done well, left the moor and come down towards the valley, the others have just faded out.

The rest of the valley had been enclosed for many years. There are references to the lands held by the Dakeynes at Snitterton in the 16th century in the Dakeyne papers and in Vol 1 of the same papers is a list of the Glebe in 1682 which is carefully itemised. In Bulmer's Directory (1846) it is stated that the Wall family had held Fallinge for 400 years. Another yeoman family held Cowley for 200 years until 1762. (13)

The enclosure procedure presented Mr Wray with his first problem in his new parish. The previous Rector had been a Prebendary of Wolverhampton and had left the parish almost wholly in the care of his Curate, only visiting it for a short time each year and had had little interest in his glebe which was widely scattered on both sides of the valley. This Mr Wray did not like. His idea borrowed from the family holding at Glentworth, was to have a compact estate round the Rectory, although he realised that this might have to be a long term project. He was in fact more successful than he probably expected. His willingness to exchange and buy land enabled him to exchange most of his moor land for land nearer to the Rectory before the Act was implemented in 1769 and these exchanges are itemised in the Award. He exchanged with nine proprietors: Herbert Greensmith, Gilbert Nevil, John Hooley, Gilbert Soresby, Wm. Green, Thos. Wheeldon, Godfrey Middleton, Robert Dunn and the Bakewell Turnpike Commissioners (14), mostly to his own advantage - if we except that many exchanges must have involved a cash deal as well.

After the Enclosure Award had been implemented, Mr Wray continued to buy or to exchange land. In 1770 he effected "an exchange of 1 rood 24 perches of land at Upper Wilsitch and land at Bridgefield, 1 rood 36 perches for an ancient enclosure called the Nine Roods now in the possession of Luke Evans, bounded by an ancient lane called Butts Lane on the north east, by ancient enclosures of the said Wm. U. Wray on the South west, by the Broad Meadow on the south east containing 100 acres." (15) A cash adjustment (£200?) was also made. Soon afterwards more of Broad Meadow was bought from Robert Newton and part of Crowstones Meadow, to which Butts Lane led was purchased from Robert Dunn.

The Rector may have regarded the money spent on his purchases of land in the valley as the justifiable expenditure of the money saved by getting rid of his moorland, as he then had no walling to pay for. The allotments had to be enclosed by stone walls 6 feet high, 34 inches wide at the base and 16 inches wide at the top, with a minimum of 21 throughbands (stones as wide as the wall) in every 21 feet of wall, 12 at 2 feet above the ground and 9 at 4 feet. Most of these walls are still standing. (16)

Herbert Greensmith and the Rector were never very friendly, though civil to one another, especially when they met at the Dakeynes'. Daniel Dakeyne and Greensmith were, however, very friendly and on Greensmith's death, Dakeyne lamented the loss of "my own particular friend". Two instances of this mutual dislike are recorded. The first was when the Rector refused to exchange a field next to the parish quarry on Bent Lane with Greensmith, who had previously obliged the Rector with other exchanges. The other was over the custody of the parish copy of the Enclosure Award. (17) "The Award (is) in a box, Mr Greensmith had one key by appointment of the Commissioners. The Rector & the Churchwardens (did not?) Mr Wray would not have a key while a person who had no right to it had one. The Churchwardens also refused to have any. It remained in a box which by weather had started asunder. Mr Wray had the box opened and the Award removed into the chest. The Commissioners' authority had long ceased." This copy of the Award is now in the County Archives. The stains on the parchment outer sheet bear out the story. The other copy (with map) is in the Matlock U.D.C. offices.

By 1792 "the parsonage (was) very good...the glebe encompassing it. A new communication to the only piece of glebe not connected with the rest." This is now the road to the Abbey House. The whole was finally completed by the next Rector Benjamin Lawrence, who exchanged Tinkersley in the Manor of Little Rowsley for the only part of Limekilns, the meadow south of the Crispin (Church) Inn which he did not own, when Little Rowsley was enclosed in 1817. In all, Mr Wray had 126 acres of glebe which, with rents, small tithes and fees gave him a comfortable income possibly in excess of £1000 per year. Thomas Savage, his immediate predecessor, had £420 p.a., and George Lee enjoyed over £900 in 1829 during the agricultural depression which followed the Napoleonic wars. Nevertheless, Mr Wray was always on the look out for more money. He, with the Rectors of Matlock, Bonsall, Ashover and Carsington, tried for many years to claim tithe on lead ore, but finally failed. (18) He was scrupulous about the collection of heriots, but not of briefs, and received his rents personally in the church porch each Lady Day and Michaelmas Day. A tradition

mentioned to me by a member of an old farming family is that an attempt to raise the rents at a time when harvests were poor - any time in the second half of the eighteenth century - caused the then head of the family to refuse to pay the increase and to tell the Rector he could have his land back. Certainly, by 1790 the Rector employed a bailiff who lived in one of the Churchtown houses.

Mr Wray was not a farmer. He was not even a countryman. For him, the importance of having the glebe around the Rectory was that his "estate" could easily be seen. There are too many similarities with Fillingham, Sir Cecil Wray's Lincolnshire estate, to think otherwise and when the Rectory gardens were laid out, the hand of the professional and the determination to show a Fillingham Castle in miniature were very obvious. The annoyance the Rector felt at having a right of way pass across the field in front of the Rectory which he could not extinguish is like that felt by Sir Cecil in his dispute with Squire Whichcot M.P. over a right of way at Fillingham which is told in Arthur Mee's Lincolnshire.

The reconstruction of the Rectory and the laying out of the gardens was begun soon after the Wrays arrived in Darley. The sitting room of the reconstructed house had a Piranesi hanging on the wall and was 'modishly' furnished. The room behind it became the Rector's study and on the other side of the central hall was a large dining room with new kitchens and scullery. That the study was built over a cellar which gradually filled with water which could not be drained away, was of no consequence.

Then came the gardens, with the need to provide shelter in a picturesque way. Here Gilpin was consulted and probably he and his friend William Mason provided the plan as the layout is reminiscent of many of Gilpin's compositions, with rocks and yews to break the force of the east and north winds, grass sloping to an ornamental pool, a ha-ha between the garden and Champion's meadow and a grove of ash and sycamore trees dominated by a huge copper beech and a Wellingtonia to the south and south west. The turnpike was lined by limes which have since been replaced by a stone wall, but the kitchen garden was walled from the first, to separate it from the farm. To make the "rocky grottoes" huge limestone blocks were brought from a quarry off Oldfield Lane, Bridgetown, whilst much of the walling stone may have come from the ruins of Darley Old Hall, which was demolished on the orders of the Duke of Rutland in 1771. The final touch was the erection of the shaft of an old cross at the end of the garden over the ha-ha. The classical picture was completed, and very proud the Rector was of it.

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The Wrays soon settled in the Rectory. Their first child, Frances, had been born in Reading on 3rd May 1767. She died there on 6th August 1772. The other children were all born in Darley and their baptisms are prominently recorded in the Parish Register in their father's hand. (19) They are Cecil Bromley, born 6th April 1768, William James, born 1st June 1770, Lucy, 17th May 1773, Frances(ii), 1st June 1775, Mary Anne, 2nd May 1774, Isabella, who died in infancy, 6th May 1777 and Elizabeth, 2nd May 1778. With an ever growing family Mr Wray's movements may have been rather restricted in this period and apart from regular visits to London, Cheam, Reading and Lincolnshire, he stayed in Darley, occupied with his house, gardening, glebe and parish and entertained such friends as cared to come to Derbyshire. Like Gilpin at Boldre, he was accustomed to inspect the parish on foot until arthritis and sciatica forced him to go on horseback. No matter how he travelled, he knew his parish well, from Fallinge in the north west to Snitterton in the south. Farmers, miners, woodmen, tramps and travellers, he knew them all and possibly his friends accompanied him on his rounds. It could have been this constant walking that made him realise how much more convenient it would be if the glebe was all at Churchtown.

Gilpin visited Darley in 1771 and probably in 1772 on his return from his tour of the Lake District. He was accompanied by a group of friends and pupils, so the group would have strained the accommodation at the Rectory more than a little. Twenty years later Mr Wray wrote to him about the limes planted by the turnpike side being well grown. A sketch of Haddon Hall and three of scenery at Matlock in the Gilpin collections are initialled A.C., there are recognisable features of Chatsworth in one or two of William Gilpin's drawings and a "sketch of the ruins of Darley Old Hall and S.W.V. of the Yew Tree and the Church by Gilpin himself" are missing (20) though they were in the possession of Dame Frances Wray at Kenwick, Worcs., where she died in 1816. Gilpin never re-visited Darley, although often pressed to do so.

Dr Burgh also visited the Rectory and whilst there, measured the Yew Tree, which was then at its best. "Its dimensions a yard above the stone seat 28 feet measured by Dr Burgh."

Another very welcome visitor was Captain Leonard Smelt, a friend of the Gilpins and of Robert Bolton in his early days at Carlisle. He was Sub-Governor to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York from 1771 to 1776 and a prominent courtier. The Rector tried to enlist his help in securing Royal preferment. It was after meeting Smelt at Buxton, where he and Lucy had gone to take the

waters for their rheumatism, that the Rector exploded to Gilpin. (see note 1.) (21)

William Cowper, the poet, also visited the Rectory in 1787.(22)

"Now stir the fire and close the shutters fast,
Let fall ye curtains, wheel the sofa round
And while the bubbling and loud hissing urn
Throws up a steamy column and ye cups,
That cheer but not inebriate, wait on each,
(With Cowper) welcome peaceful evening in."

"So had we said, when having met Cowper on a visit, and taken him home with us (leaving an order with an agent to make due reparation to the family plundered) we had read in a light, summer-like way his bold and manly strictures. He was presented to me as a congenial: and his sentiments on emulation appeared so perfectly the same with those which I had happened the day before to have broached to my son, that he was struck with the resemblance and I was pleased with the authority. Obscure he certainly is, but I had not presumed to charge him with 'dormitating'. I rather concluded he had procured me a nap; and (like Socrates) gave him credit for what had passed in my sleep for ye satisfactions I received during my waking attentions." One other comment from the letter sums up Wray's opinion of Cowper. "I had determined to subscribe (to the Task) but my various calls do not allow me to expend three pounds three in mere encouragement of ye attempts of genius.....Farewell Cowper for the present."

However, Mr Wray opened his letter to add a long post script which makes it abundantly clear that he did not like Cowper - and that he was himself not above passing on some lines which are not kind to Gilpin. He wrote: "But my dear sir, by your exulting in your impunity, while you scarce pity the sporting and fiddling divines, you seem not to be yet aware of some lines handed about by his friends as what are to make a part of a second edition.

'Pictorius comes, a pencil in his hand
High on a promontory takes his stand;
The towering rock, the level lake surveys
Sinks the Creator's in the landscape's praise;
Enthusiast in harmonising tints,
Leaves sermons uncomposed, composes - prints!
Pictorius, say, to Harmony divine,
To Heavenly Love, what Harmony is thine!
Right reverends adopt the grovelling waste
Of time & talents; dignify the taste
For well compounding Stone and Dirt and Trees,
O'erlook all worthier works, if works than these
More worth Pictorius boast: the Painters call

To dream his earth born visions in a stall.
Way Kings and without one indignant frown,
Take landscape lessons from the holy gown.
Shudder, Pictorius, when the tempests lower
And down the mountains their black horrors pour,
When all sublime, in darkness picturesque
They rap thy soul, thy pulpit and thy desk
And, flock forsaken, view with shuddering dread
The indignant thunder gathering o'er thy head!
If spirits sent to minister for those
Who of salvation shall be heirs, oppose
Their Maker, for his works his will neglect,
Where deep and hot enough can they their Doom expect?

"You see he is not so discriminating in his censures as he ought to be. I have taken care (effectual I hope) that the author shall know the Visitor of our Lakes is not so absolutely devoted to scenes of picturesque beauty as to forget entirely the beauty of holiness. You have not seen likewise perhaps an epigram on Mr Cowper's own inconsistency.

"See Vol. 1 p. 309

The learned Knox indignant pours
Contempt on impious Th.. 's head:
By pious Cowper all his stores
Of praise are on his learning shed.

"It never appeared to me that the Bp. of Llandaff was ashamed of his chemical employments. He appeared indeed to have been, and unmanerly, shamed out of them."

He does, however, make some amends by later quoting a piece, also attributed to Cowper, which is an apology for the previous piece. "My remonstrances may have been "effectual". As he had determined to humble himself, he regards not, as I am informed, the humiliation of an party production.

The Recantation

Pardon, Divine, the persecuting zeal
Whose keen reproof, unmerited, you feel.
My prejudice my honest heart betrayed;
Like zealous Paul, in ignorance I strayed.

Can he, who scenes earthly compounds so well
In Heavenly compositions e'er excel?
Who shudders holy ruins to repair,
Look up to Heaven and have a treasure there?

Who loves his Landscapes ornaments to teach
The doctrines of his God adorn & preach?
Can the same pencil earth & Heaven paint?
The same heart be T...Harmonist & Saint?"

One is left with the feeling that Cowper's visit to Darley was not a success and a feeling of regret that Cowper's opinion of Mr Wray is not available.

William Garratt, a London merchant, who gave some beautiful silver to the Church, and Rebecca Bromley, Mrs Wray's widowed Mother, were other regular visitors to the Rectory until Mrs Bromley's death in 1778 and Garratt's in 1791. Rebecca Bromley left £10 and the Churchwardens gave another £5 to educate one poor child from the two parishes at the Free School.

Mr Wray has been described by the late A.W.Smith in his Historical Notes as "A good parish priest and a model to the clergy of the times in which he lived." He was resident. He was certainly not idle and although always insistent on his rights and dues, he was always available for help when and where it was needed. He is credited with having personally organised the rescue of two miners trapped by a rock fall in a groove on Masson side and in 1783 organised an appeal on behalf of a man returned to Darley from Derby by the Poor Law authorities which allowed the man to re-settle in Derby. The Darley poor were cared for in the parish, and treated extremely liberally, if the record of John Burton's receipts in 1717 is typical.

"John Burton 1s. per week £2 and 11 weeks at 6d per week 5s.6d. and for sowing and plowing his croft 9s.4d. for getting stone & leading for John's house 3s.10d. and thrashing and making his oats 3s.4d. and lime for John Burton's house 17s.6d. John Burton, load of coles 1s.4d., paid for lincey to make frock and breeches 5s. and paid for making ym 1s.6d. and paid for walling his house 3s. and caring and serving stone 2s.8d. and given ye workmen in ale 6d and for thacking his house 1s.2d." This extract is taken from the Churchwardens' accounts which passed into private hands many years ago. Only the above and one dated 1714 are preserved.

It is no wonder that Darley was one of the original subscribers to the Ashover Poor House when it was opened in 1767. This expenditure of £3.18s.8d. was only one item in a year's accounts - the other, for 1714, is of 56s. - and Darley, great in area, was not populous. In 1789 Pilkington (23) described it as follows: "The living is a Rectory and the church is dedicated to St.Helen. It is in the gift of the Dean of Lincoln. The living is divided into two parts; the northern division is valued at £9.13s.1½d, and the southern at £48.1s.9d., and the yearly tenths 19s.3¾d.

The whole parish contains 381 houses. Of these 196 are in the Liberty of Darley & the Lordship of Little Rowsley in the High Peak and 185 in the Lordships of Wensley & Snitterton in the Wapentake of Wirksworth. In all these places agriculture & mining business are the chief supports of the inhabitants.

There was always something happening. In 1765 there was an outbreak of smallpox in Hackney Lane; in November 1770 there were three floods in one week followed by a great one on 25 November due to rain melting a heavy snowfall in the Peak.(24) There were very hard winters in 1776 when the river froze and in 1795 when Jane Ball was killed by the fall of her house during a night of heavy snow; there were storms of a different nature such as the one between the Rector and Herbert Greensmith over the Enclosure Award.

The "house attached to the church & inhabited" was one of these. The Rector evicted the family and turned the ground floor of the house into the vestry and the upper into the schoolroom, thus releasing the other Rectory, which had been the school, for his bailiff. The trouble was that the house was the only part of the church that could be heated and at the best of times the church is cold and damp when the heat is off. Consequently, the congregation crowded the room before service, and after it as well, so that the Rector could not put on his surplice with any decorum, nor keep it clean. He therefore took to robing at home and coming across to church when the five minute bell began. One can imagine the long procession headed by Mr & Mrs Wray in their powdered wigs (they paid Pitt's guinea tax in 1795 to wear their hair powdered) which wound its way through the laggard parishioners under the Yew Tree on a Sunday morning and the strict order of precedence in which the people followed them into church, the Rector's tenants to their seats in the chancel, the better people to their high pews and the ordinary folk to the back and sides of the church.(25)

"The vestry was a house attached to the church and inhabited. Mr Wray (wished?) the school elsewhere but removed the family and broke the door of the school into the churchyard. He now puts on his surplice at home for the vestry is crowded with people coming to the fire and dirtied. Mr Wray has a wife and seven children."

The school was another bone of contention. Under George Green, Clerk until 1782, but who ceased to be Schoolmaster in 1767, the school had been small. The Primary Visitation of 1751 gave the number of pupils as eight and mentioned that there were several other schools in the parish. When Thomas Gregory was appointed, the new broom swept the numbers up to 25 to 30, though they

later fell again to nearly the original number. Gregory, a native of Wessington, wished to teach the children congregational psalm tunes and was very disappointed by the lukewarm attitude of the church goers. When the Rector who warmly supported the efforts of his Clerk, tried to help by ordering the "singers" who had hautboys and fiddles" to play for congregational singing, the musicians went on strike (26) and there was no music in church for some time. Eventually Clerk Gregory persuaded the musicians to play when the Rector ordered him to sing and in the end, congregational singing became the accepted thing. Only once is a choir mentioned. This was a special one imported for the funeral of Christopher Power in 1790, when a group of Marcellon sang a special arrangement of the funeral psalm and anthem. The writer of the MS did not approve - "The eight balance wanting in both."

Mr Wray was more successful with the Sunday School, which was helped by the S.P.C.K. After an initial meeting chaired by the Rector, an "ingenuous young man" was deputed chairman, three masters were appointed, though four were thought of, at a wage of 1s.6d. each Sunday and the school opened. Lessons were given in Arithmetic, Reading, Writing and Scripture with the Catechism and were directed by the expert and probably far from benign Mr Gregory. The star pupil was Mr Gregory's eldest son, John, "a pious and industrious youth who wrote an excellent hand both round and running". He remembered to the writer of the MS the last time that "crants" were carried in Darley church at a funeral. Crants were paper garlands carried before the coffin of a maiden and later hung in the church. Faded examples are preserved in St Giles' Church, Matlock. Reference to the registers showed that this was at the funeral of sixteen year old Hannah Boleyn, who died in March 1792.

The origin of the MSS from which the above accounts are taken is unusual. A bundle of documents was found in the safe and on the envelope was written by Canon F. Atkinson, Rector 1881-1905: "The enclosed papers were received by me Oct. 1900 from Mrs Barton Stratfield (Hutfield? Stutfield?) daughter of the late Rev. Richard Lee who was Rector of Darley in 1846.

They refer to the period when Sir William Wray was Rector, i.e. between 1764 and 1808. F.A."

There are several possible authors, but it seems unlikely that one person was responsible for all four accounts, as there is considerable duplication in the notes. They give the impression that they are essay notes belonging to members of a class or a family. Could they have been written by the younger Wrays? Frances, Mary Ann and Elizabeth were all under 16 in 1792 whilst Clerk Gregory's eleven children certainly included some

who were above the average in literary ability. Whoever they were, they had easy access to the Rectory, were able to move about the church as they wished and have their questions answered by a knowledgeable adult. Were they the Wray children, the Gregory children, Hannah Dakeyne, the Fantem girls from Cowley? No one knows.

In 1778 Mr Wray tackled the job of completely rewriting the Parish Registers. On the fly leaf of the Burial Register for 1678 to 1778 which he copied into a new book, he wrote: "The transcriber of the following pages seems to owe an apology for his thus having employed the time due to better purposes. Having recommended the work to the Churchwardens and engaged them in the purchase of a book at considerable expense, he experienced some unexpected delays. He foresaw more and, if not total disappointment, much unseasonable interruption to himself. (His youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was born in May, 1778, a year after her sister, Isabella, who died when only a few months old.) "During a fortnight therefore of the season appropriated to self denial (Lent), he daily devoted some of the hours of recreation to the unpleasant task, employing about thirty three in transcribing and about twelve in collating, signing and preparing the title page."

On the other side of the page he wrote down the recipe for the ink he used. In his letters he gives this recipe to Gilpin and also the recipe for Dr Burgh's Ink. "My own ink" communicated by the son of a clergyman who had used it in his register book 40 years.

"Boil gently 6 ounces of dark galls, beaten into fine powders in 3 quarts of soft waters till 1 quart is evaporated. Strain it and put ye remaining 2 quarts into a stone bottle that will hold 3 quarts. While the liquor is warm add 2 ounces of Copperas well powdered. Stop it close. Shake it 2 or 3 times a day for a fortnight. Add 6 ounces of Gum Arabic, shaking it another fortnight. Note. They that are nice, pour it into a jug as soon as boiled and pour the liquor from ye Galls ye next day, warming it when they add the other ingredients as before."

After about 1794 details of the Rector's movements are difficult to find. He was beginning to slow down at last and the death of his eldest son in 1794 must have affected him greatly. He was increasingly handicapped by shortage of money, for he had dipped so deeply into his capital that he was by now dependent upon his stipend, a trust fund (origin unspecified) and those small sums which he extracted from his friends as "temporary" loans, although he knew by then that he would get no more than a small pension from the Wray estate, and that only in Sir Cecil's lifetime.

In 1792 he successfully appealed against the closure of Doughty Lane, Hackney, the action being heard in the County Court at Derby. He was probably deeply involved in the rapid changes in landownership which followed the Enclosure. (The Land Tax assessments show 103 persons paying tax in 1769. In 1779 there were 90. 50 had sold out, 53 still held their land and there were 27 new owners. In 1785 the total had shrunk to 80, in 1790 to 73 and in 1795 to 68. For the rest of the Napoleonic period the total fluctuated about this level. In 1800 there were 73, in 1805, 69, in 1810, 55, in 1815, 60, and in 1820, 73. By 1830 the total had increased to 108 persons who paid for houses, houses and land, and plantations. Of this 108 only 20 names survived from the list of 1779 and most of these were the holders of considerable farming property- Dakeyne of Knabb House, Holt House and Toadhole, Erasmus Darwin of Sydnoppe, Heathcote of Stancliff, the Rev. B. Lawrence, Bower Potter of Darley Hall, Peter Walthall of Hackney Lane and the Duke of Rutland being the chief.)

He seems to have continued his life in much the old way until in August 1808 he died after a short illness.

iv.

The period from 1778 to 1794 is covered by letters to Gilpin. He was well off, although drawing recklessly on his capital, his family was growing up around him, he travelled extensively and entertained without parsimony and he had not yet been told that he would not inherit the Glentworth and Fillingham estates. In his letters he speaks of Bath, of Lymington, Cheam, London, Reading, Buxton, Matlock Bath and the West country, and argues theology and English usage with vigour and knowledge, then discusses the education of his sons with one who, as the Headmaster of Cheam School, was an acknowledged expert.

A new and less pleasant trait was, however, becoming noticeable, a tendency to self glorification and a habit of re-telling past triumphs. There was a sermon which he submitted to his step-father before 1763 and a condemnation of the action of an acquaintance in passing him by when a short detour would have brought him to the Rectory. He rarely mentioned his daughters. Only his sons mattered. Mrs Wray was never mentioned. His eldest daughter, Lucy, went with him to Buxton to take the waters and the other girls went once to London when their brothers were at Oxford. But he complained, planned and described and his letters are full of interest.

In the years from 1769 things had gone well for him, although his daughter, Isabella, had died when only a few months old. His mother had died, leaving him a

comfortable fortune. He was on good terms with his cousin, Sir Cecil Wray, was the heir to the title, and, above all, the new farming in Darley was augmenting his stipend. He had made two good friends - Daniel Dakdyne of Holt House and William Garratt of London and there was usually a Curate to share the work of the parish and to leave in charge when he was away. In 1781 he was tempering "the solitude of the Peak with social occasions" by travelling to the south for a family funeral, was contemplating a journey to Johnny Grotte (John o' Groats) and had met Gilpin's admirer and subsequent pupil Miss Hartley, at Matlock Bath.

By 1785 the Scottish tour had been modified to one of the Lake District and after discussing his plans, he went on to talk about Gilpin's theory of the Picturesque with animation, although suffering from a bad attack of sciatica. He had been on a tour of the West Country - Salisbury, Bath, Bristol, Malvern and Hagley. "Our journey home was pleasant and propitious. We met with several kind receptions and welcomes. We saw new scenes (new to the majority) stored some new ideas and made some new reflections." (27) One of them was occasioned by a quarryman who carried baskets of limestone on his bare shoulder. "I recommended him a cushion or a pad. 'No', replied he. 'That would keep me always tender....now my shoulder hardens.'"

He had also been to see Captain Smelt and other friends. That he took the waters for his sciatica he regarded as almost unmanly - his mother suffered from sciatica for 40 years without complaint, so he thought he ought to do likewise. Then came an oft-repeated invitation to come and see his completed garden and a strong defence of Sir Cecil Wray's conduct in the Westminster election of 1784: "Come and view my Churchtown, bosomed high in tufted trees, my house peeping with several eyes by turns thro' the surrounding limes (grown to thick maturity since your visit to ye place) at the passing travellers.

"You mention Mr Gosh but say nothing of how he has bore Sir C.'s letter. Fox I see has drawn up his phalanx against ye High Bailiff & Triumphed. I verily believe ye H.B. acted from principle. He was called during ye poll a partial favourer of Fox. Sir C. did not call him so. He said he had laid down a mode of proceeding which indeed did turn out in Fox's favour.....The mode was to accept all votes that offered themselves leaving their legality to a future occasion."

As the election was marked by rioting, drunkenness, scandal, double and triple bribery by both sides and decided by the superior charms and tactics of the then Duchess of Devonshire, the explanation is as sound as any.

These surviving letters from Wray to Gilpin have been carefully chosen by someone who wished to throw a favourable light on their author. There is very little which does not detract from the image of a perfect eighteenth century gentleman - yet one wonders, for underneath the polished elegance it is possible to detect in his writings an intolerance which grows progressively more noticeable, a concern for money formerly absent and a dislike of any opinion other than his own. In the latter part of his life he certainly lost the friendship of William Gilpin, as the oft-repeated invitations to Darley were never accepted and Mr Wray's visits to Hampshire became fewer and fewer. He wanted a copy of Gilpin's Tour of the Lakes; from the whining way in which he frequently asked about it, one infers that he wanted a free copy, and did not get one. There is a great difference between the man who spoke so movingly of the last days of the life of Robert Bolton and the remarks he made about the Lady Glenorchy Chaplain at Matlock Bath who helped him out when he was without a Curate; "The Revd. Captain Scott, Chaplain &c to ye late Lady Glenorchy (and then Ly. Huntinton.- haud passibus aquis) and now by her bequest possessing a house and chapel at Matlock Bath, takes his weekly circuit to, the market places &c of surrounding parishes. I am not yet sensible of any change made by him. The parson, to ye swarm round whose door he preaches from a room within, is not yet driven from church, nor do I find any others less serious that are driven into it. I find his engine is Terror." (28 & 1)

Similarly, of the Bishop of Botany Bay he wrote: "You did give me acct. of the Bishop of Botany Bay whilst he was in his more humble employment of civilising foresters. If the papers say true, his entrance in his charge is to be to bury his Diocese in their sins - he will say in their faith and hope", whilst a little farther on he severely criticises the Archbishops: "How shall we depreciate the labours of Methodism if our Head thus countenances them?" (29) Here he had good reason to speak with feeling, he was losing members of the congregation to the Methodists himself. They, or rather, Dissenters are first mentioned in the Primary Visitation of 1751 and the first Methodist Chapel in Darley was built in 1824. Curates were also becoming a constant source of irritation. He could never get the men he wanted and those who came, soon went. A Mr Johnson from a parish near Boldre caught his attention and was considered worthy - but Mr Johnson would not come. A glance at the list of Curates of Darley (30) for the period gives the answer. William Willson held the post from 1765 to 1778 apart from the two years 1771-3 when Joseph Bushby was Curate. Willson was dismissed in 1778, the year in which the Rector first complained about his money troubles. For five years there was no Curate, except for a few months in 1780 when the Wrays were touring the West country. Then there was an

irregular procession of them, some for two years, some for only a few months. It was not until 1806 that one could be persuaded to stay for longer than two years. As the usual pay for Curates was about £50 per annum and some served for much less, and as Mr Wray's dictatorial ways and financial fables inevitably were well known, this is not surprising. To Gilpin he wrote: "You have great good fortune in finding a succession of Curates who wish satisfactorily to follow a plan like yours." (29)

Two glimpses of life at the Rectory are given by his description of the family production of Thompson's "Edward & Eleanora" two years before the boys went to Oxford and the fright that Captain Gilpin gave him in Dovedale in 1771. Both were written in 1787.

For the play "I was both manager & in part poet &c. My hands and my head were full. Our exhibition was Thompson's "Edward & Eleanora" reduced to three acts with its pathos much more abated. For our heroines sunk the actors in the parties and could not rehearse. That ye five might have each their share we had Prologue, Promesologue, Epitaesologue and Dipl-Epilogue. We had but one adventitious spectator, an intimate of taste and learning whom ye actors desired to have as Critic and an Animator. He was polite and ye main part of ye audience well pleased. What next to do with youths I scarce know, O tempora!"

Gilpin's father scared him badly. The two were exploring Dovedale on a misty day the experienced fell walker and the man who had no real love for hilly country. "Dovedale has regularly dwindled as its indefiniteness has worn off. I visited it once with your good father in ye midst of gloom and cloudscaped horror. Having submitted (to avoid the keeping our path a little underwater) in compliance with him, to mount an hill, in, which, by high grass and underwood in a mizzle of cloud we were more wet yn the river'd have made us, I would not again follow him against all my assurances that he was wrong. We separated - soon lost sight of each other, he descending, I keeping on ye height. All the terrors that anidea of unknown precipices - the very place for ye next footstep - almost obscured &c now seized me. I began to charge myself with consequences of his resolution. I called-hollowed but in vain. In vain too it was to attempt to follow him - all was obscurity. At length - where my path united with ye path by the river, we met - I with terror on my countenance, he with a convulsed laugh."

Mr Wray, one surmises, was not pleased, even after nearly twenty years.

Between March 1787 and June 1789 four more letters were written. In March 1787 the Rector described his entertainment of William Cowper and then, for the first time admitted that he was short of money; "I have had some epistolary intercourse with a friend at Oxford concerning University matters, but before I can determine I must contrive to plunder some Indiaman or qualify myself for a bribe from Hastings. I will not therefore at present enter upon ye tour by ye Lakes."

He had decided that his sons were to go to Oxford together. In the autumn of 1787 he took Cecil Bromley, the elder son, to London to enter him at Lincoln's Inn as he had decided that the boy was to read Law. Here he may have been influenced by Daniel Dakeyne. From London they went to Oxford, "the scene of unbounded and jovial dissipations", where a foreign tutor was engaged at considerable expense.

In the following Spring (1788) he was back in London with his daughters and the boys came to see them. In the following November he was with them in Oxford, praising the excellence of the tutor. London, of course, had to be visited. There, he admits, he went to Blamire the publisher to try to 'borrow' some sermons by Gilpin, but was unsuccessful. He also took the opportunity to castigate a Mr Parrish for passing twice near Darley and not calling upon him. Characteristically he wrote: "the chaise would have gone only four miles out of its way. I could not have done this."

In the summer of 1789 he went to Vicar's Hill and left the deposit for a copy of Gilpin's "Lakes" in a drawer in his bedroom where it was not found for months. Consequently he had to make enquiries about it. The reply he received made him do something he had never attempted before to anyone - to take a good look at himself. Gilpin meant him to examine his way of life, cut his expenses and realise that he would get very little from Sir Cecil Wray. Sir Cecil had retired from politics, built Fillingham (Summer) Castle on the higher ground above Glentworth and married Esther Summers, an unknown, who was to outlive him by 16 years. He had then barred the entail, paid the fine and cut his cousin out of the succession to everything except the title. This was common knowledge, but Mr Wray chose to ignore it. (Esther Summers has been described to me as the housekeeper, a London actress and a daughter of a neighbouring squire, but nothing is known of her origins.) Who ever she was, she enjoyed the income from the Glentworth estates until her death in 1820.

In his reply Mr Wray gave a self portrait which is amusing and reveals more than he really meant to do. There is no time for anything but a 'cursory' review - and

that is of his appearance, plus the fact that at 68 he must not be thought to be more than 47. After looking carefully at his portrait and at his face in a mirror, he picked up his pen and wrote: "Your ltr. of ye 22nd reached me not till Fryday last. You awaken me to look - if not into - upon myself. Time's touches on ye original as in ye portrait, are so gentle, so nice, that the changes he makes are scarce observed - indeed, not observed. My inverting ye portrait in a mirror we see its deviations as an old friend after long interval may serve as a mirror to ye original. "How altered is such a one!" say I sometimes to myself. So say others of me. That I may not then shock you nor be shocked by your exclamations, I now take myself under a review; tho' I have scarce time for a cursory one. If in ye road you point out you meet with a man something more meagre than you once knew me - with a pallor on his visage tending to yellow - the left side of his mouth - I hope not much contracted - I've a head almost bald - it is of little moment of what tint the grey may be - with a little - surely but a little - stoop in ye loins - a stiffish knee and a scarce discernible catch in ye tendon Achilles on ye same leg (the right). If such a one you meet walking rather gently with his crutch handled cane and an eye glass hanging to his button - with two Peakrilles not quite licked by a fortnight's polish of London - when such you meet, take him by ye hand and conduct him in friendship to your hospitable Hill. BUT exclaim not - nor whisper - in ye hearing of ye young ones, 'How much you are altered! How long since we met! Let me see, by my own age - you must be - let me see - at least 47!" - "47!" the boys wd inwardly exclaim with a look of astonishment at each other - "47!" I cd not that my father had been so old. We shall now be able to manage him &c &c." Ridentem discere virum quid vitat? Exclaim, compose, lament when we are alone.

When you may meet & welcome I know not to say. I had proposed this week. Business at ye Bank (a Rect. of money for which I am in trust) is put off by ye holidays to Saturday. If I shd be delayed beyond ye middle of next week you shall hear. In ye meantime prepare yourself and hold yourself singularly attended to by so long a letter in a place where to Curiosity &c the Season is so short.
N.B. The Boys' years have advanced under ye same imperceptible changes as my own."

There he is - William Wray, Gentleman; the parson in his parish is gone and Darley is far away - yet the letter was written from the Rectory. Even here the money question raises itself to interfere with his plans, though not for long.

The final letter is written from Bates' Hotel, London on 20th May 1794 and is primarily one of thanks following another visit to Vicar's Hill. As the date is within the period which covered most of his Children's birthdays, it might have been expected that he would be accompanied by some of his family, but he was alone. In the letter he refers to the correction of a line in 'The Hermitage' (his own poem?) - "a numerous, blooming, well trained offspring share." Was it an improvement? He was not sure, but does not quote the original. "But as he thinks a line is improved, I am bound to communicate this improvement."

Then the Rector launches into a description of his journey home which is totally characteristic in its egotism, his dislike of the Prince of Wales, the costs of the journey and his flattery of Gilpin. At 73 he is still the same.

"After my having almost failed of a dinner at Lymington while all were faring well and at length obtained an elegant one by ye auspices & attendance of ye landlord himself, I set out comfortably at 4 o'clock with a lady "who belonged to the camp" and to your parishioners "the Highlanders"; and at Lyndhurst entered deep into ye dregs of a review - at which I need not tell you, ye P. of W. assisted. By a tr.. we took in I learnt your Highlanders were distinguished men & soldiers. An officer who had come from Ln. to ye review implored admittance as a fifth, unable to procure any other conveyance. I soon learnt he was pressing forward to London in ye Pool mail coach if possible. He chided my vigilance, knowing ye may while I was inquiring it and by his name set down first, obtained ye only place vacant. I was condemned to a quiet supper, a comfortable bed and a very pleasant, sociable journey in ye long coach and at a difference in price which defrayed all my expences at Lymington & Southampton. Our travelling was at ye rate of seven miles an hour. I shd have told you that at Lymington I sent, as a fairng, to ye boy at ye Bath, a bewitchingly- tempting sixpenny spelling book that ye mistress promises to instruct & encourage & that you, sir, stand engaged as far as my word can engage you, for "the most entertaining little book in ye world" as soon as he shall have enabled himself to read it.

Our discourse is now very much engaged by ye discovery of the intrigues & designs of ye Constitutional Society and ye warmth of debate in ye H. of C. A conciliatory address by ye Speaker for which Mr Grey thanked him, did him much honour."

Only in London do politics enter his head!

There seems little doubt that whatever happened Mr Wray's outward self appeared little affected. One can only guess the effect upon him of the death of his eldest son. Cecil Bromley Wray died in London in April 1794. Where he was buried is not known, but his father could have gone from there to Vicar's Hill. Cecil Bromley Wray had been named by Sir Cecil Wray as the successor to the Wray estates after Lady Esther and had had a pension of £200 per annum. The heir apparent then became his brother William and soon afterwards William James Wray moved to a house near Fillingham and rose to be a Major in the North Lincolnshire Militia.

On his return to Darley Mr Wray at last curtailed his wanderings and began to try to set his parish in order. The uneasy union of North & South Darley was partly eased by his engaging a series of Curates on two yearly contracts, he tried for a short time to teach in the school and tried to copy the improved farming methods of his fellow land-owners. But the effort did not last. Increasingly Clerk Gregory deputised for him, especially when there was no Curate - and the Clerk missed few opportunities.

Gregory had been appointed Schoolmaster in 1764 and Clerk in 1782, when Geo. Green had given up the job to become a publican. He held the Schoolmaster's job until his death in 1825, but did no teaching for the last twenty years of his life, was general factotum to the Enclosure Commissioners, kept the "Crispin" Inn from 1777 to 1824 and had a finger in every pie in the district. As his family grew, he decided to build a house next to the Crispin - the Butts - and tried to borrow from Mr Wray. Here he naturally failed, so he borrowed the money from the Rector of Bonsall. Eventually he went to live across the river at Cowley near Millclose Mine. He was the father of 11 children, the eldest being the star pupil at the school. Of his sons, two became farmers - at Morledge and Tinkersley and his descendants are still prominent in the parish.

In 1804 Mr Wray became Sir William. That, apart from a small pension, was all. C.H. Dalton surmised that he would be too old and tired to be bothered by this, but one wonders. Crippled by arthritis, he continued to run his parish with his Curate, to visit his friends and take the waters at Matlock Bath. He is reputed to have preached two sermons each Sunday until shortly before his death, so it is to be expected that he worked his Curates hard. None the less they did have their lighter moments. Gervase Powell officiated at the wedding of Tom Watts & Jenny Taylor which was reported in the Bath Chronicle of 15th February 1798. (The wedding was on 1st February.)

"Mr T. Watts of the Leopard Inn, Darley Dale, to Miss Jenny Taylor of Wensley, both of Darley. The newly

married pair invited friends & relations to the number of 370 & having liberally provided meat and drink in great plenty all their friends partook of a most delicious repast. There were also two bull baitings and a ball at night."

On 9th August 1808 Sir William Wray died after a short illness, having been active until a few weeks before his death. His grave in Darley churchyard is in the triangular plot south of the chancel and a memorial hangs on the south wall of the chancel. Within ten years most of his family had gone too. Sir William (James) died in the "Spread Eagle" Inn at Coventry on 27 August 1809 and his sister, Elizabeth on 8th December of the same year, soon after the family moved to Kenwick, Worcester. Dame Frances died in 1816, Mary Ann, wife of the Rev. T. Morgan, at Tewkesbury in 1817 and Lucy at Eastbourne in 1824, where she had gone to live with her surviving sister, Frances. Frances Wray lived until 1852, the last survivor of "the numerous, blooming, well trained offspring" and the Wray estates passed to the Daltons of Slensingford, Yorks. through the marriage of Sir Cecil's sister, Isabella to Col. John Dalton. What happened to Sir William (James) wife and daughters is not remembered.

Sir William Wray does not compare well with his contemporary, Gilbert White of Selborne, who knew and loved his people and his countryside as Wray could never do. White was a contented man, living where and as he wished to live. Wray was not. He was content neither with the rude, uncivilised Peak from the 'Horrors' of which he escaped as often as he could, nor with a station in life which was not that of a gentleman, though he almost beggared himself to live like one. He was typical of the transient grasper of opportunity whom economists extol and residents detest - except that he stayed.

He is supposed by the 'Complete Baronetage' to have been patron of the living of Darley. Certainly the living passed to a man whom Sir William would have chosen - Benjamin Lawrence of Gloucester Place, New Road, London - a rich absentee who employed first Edward Jones & later Solomon Saxton as his Curate.

Sir William's memorials are in the churchyard & the chancel. He is best remembered for the rebuilding of the Rectory and the creation of its garden.

The Derby Mercury carried the following notice in its issue of 15th August 1808:

"On Tuesday the 9th inst. in his 87th year the Rev. Sir William Ulithorn Wray, Bart. at Darley in the County of which parish he had been 44 years Rector."

References

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6. MSS No 3.
7. History of Derbyshire, Glover, Part i Vol. i p.389.
8. Picturesque excursions from Derby to Matlock Bath - Moore - 1818.
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THE MEDIAEVAL CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, DERBY.

by

Margaret Mallender.

The year 1973 marked the 250th anniversary of a notable event in the history of Derby Cathedral. This was, of course, the demolition of the mediaeval church prior to its re-building as we know it now.

Although the actual demolition and the events surrounding it caused bitter controversy, there can be no doubt that some drastic measures needed to be taken over the fabric of the old church, especially the chancel. It seems that the building had suffered a lot from the activities of the Puritan reformers in the mid-17th century, apart from the ravages of time, and that nothing more than patching-up had been done. The ruinous state of the church is referred to in the Parish Order Book with growing concern by the end of the 17th century, and various attempts were made to raise money for repairs, including a country-wide appeal, known as a 'brief' in 1714. No lasting improvements were made, however, and by 1719 the building was in such a state that the congregation had dwindled alarmingly: according to one account people were simply afraid to attend services.

In 1719 Dr. Michael Hutchinson was appointed Vicar, and he immediately made it clear that in his view a rebuilding of the whole church, except the tower, was the only possible solution. Over this, however, he met with strong opposition from the Corporation. They as impropiators, were responsible for the upkeep of the Chancel, but were as unwilling to consent to its rebuilding as they had been to making effective repairs. This is not the place to go into details of the wrangles that followed: suffice it to say that Hutchinson, an impatient and headstrong character, pressed on regardless with preparations for the rebuilding, collecting materials, appointing James Gibbs as architect and Smiths of Warwick as building contractors, and finally, (February 12th 1723), among other domestic details, making arrangements for services to be held at St. Michael's during the rebuilding - although All Saints' bells were to be rung as normal.

There was thus no secret that demolition of the old church was imminent: all that was lacking was the Corporation's consent, and when this was still not forthcoming, Hutchinson took the law into his own hands, and early one morning (according to some, February 18th, though February 28th seems a more likely date) set a demolition squad to work. It is significant of the decayed state of the structure that before the

Corporation was aware of what was happening, matters had gone too far.

What then of the old church, which met such an undignified end? It was obviously considerably older than the tower, which was rebuilt in the early 16th century, and may well have been 14th century. In mediaeval times it had been important because of its collegiate status, and after the Reformation had always been the chief church of the town, holding a special place in the townsfolk's affections. Yet in an unself-conscious age no-one troubled to record its appearance before it was pulled down. Some details can be gathered from items in the Accounts and Order Books, but only two pictures survive which purport to show it. One is the curious print of unknown origin entitled 'Derby Church' reproduced in Cox's 'Chronicles of All Saints.' The Tower of this church is so manifestly wrong as to be a warning - unless, of course, it was intended to represent the original tower. It shows the south elevation of a Gothic structure complete with battlements and pinnacles, with a south aisle extending to the east wall of the Chancel. Narrow lancet-type windows are set between the buttresses and there is also an elaborate projecting porch on the south side. This can indeed, however, be tied in with the plan of the church which can be reconstructed from the records; there was a porch in such a position, and the south aisle was, in fact, extended to form 'S. Katherine's Quire' or chapel. It can also be fitted to the only other surviving picture - a general view of Derby of late 17th century date, which, although quaint in perspective, seems remarkably accurate in detail. The original oil painting is now at Renishaw Hall, but an engraving taken from it was used to form the cover design for 'Life in Bygone Derby', a booklet recently produced by Derby Borough Libraries. This shows clearly the east end of All Saints as being a double gable-chancel and S. Katherine's Quire - each containing a fairly ornate traceried window: the Chancel also has a rectangular window above. An attempt has been made to draw a pinnacled south wall, and there is no sign of the north aisle, which we know stopped short and had a lean-to roof. Since the details and proportions of the tower - and of the other Derby churches - seem correct, there seems no reason to suspect this picture's accuracy, though one must continue to have some reservations about Cox's print.

As for the interior, it appears that most, if not all, of the original glass was shattered during the Puritan depredations, the Chancel floor levelled, and no doubt such ornaments and treasures as the church boasted destroyed. S. Katherine's Quire contained memorials to the Cavendish family, in particular that of Bess of

Harwick, standing in the same place as it does in the Cavendish Chapel today, and an extraordinary and incongruous free-standing monument to the second Earl of Devonshire and his wife, which was also transferred to the new church but later dismantled. Other monuments, such as those to William Allestry and Richard Crowshawe, probably occupied similar places on the north wall while the slab commemorating Sub-dean Lawe and the wooden monument to Sub-dean Johnson would be in prominent positions. The wooden structure known as the Consistory Court, together with its railed enclosure, was also originally in S. Katherine's Quire. The church had been fitted with box pews in the early 1600s and two galleries had been erected at about the same time, one at the west end and another over the north aisle. Of the smaller fittings the only one to survive the reconstruction was the octagonal 17th century font, used until replaced in the 1890s.

It is hard to say whether the demolition of the old church was an act of vandalism or not: accounts tend to be coloured by recollections of the unseemly squabbling which was associated with it. In view of the state into which it had been allowed to fall, it could perhaps fairly be said that by 1723 it had little but its antiquity to commend it. It seems in any event to have been fairly modest in design, particularly in comparison with the tower, though it was apparently about the same size as the new building. All things considered, it is probable that even if Dr. Hutchinson had restrained himself, some Victorian restorer would have let little of it survive.

THE LOST 'WOMAN'S CROSS' IN COMBS EDGE.

by

M.A.Bellhouse.

The earliest record of the Woman's or Weeping Cross at Combs Edge is a map of 1604, when it is shown standing at the corner of the trackway to Combs, adjoining the old coaching road from Buxton to Whaley Bridge, and on the Archers' Wall which was the parish boundary. It is again shown on W.Marsland's map of 1707, but since then it has disappeared.

It is mentioned in the Reliquary as a penitents' cross, built into the Archers' Wall, and it is also mentioned by W.B.Bunting on pp.16-17 of his book on Chapel-en-le-Frith. The writer referred to it several times in 'The Story of Combs my Village' in addition to a cross known as the Wainstones Cross.

According to a late resident of Withen Lache, the base of a cross once stood near Wainstones and part of a cross head lay half buried in the grass at the Windgap where it was used to tether packhorses. The writer discovered the latter, but it was moved before it could be saved.

A large squared stone, with a circular hole in it which could be a cross base was dug up in 1965 at Wainstone, and still lies on the roadside.

The account in the Reliquary of the Woman's Cross states that from its position one could see Kinder, Cheshire and the Yorkshire Hills, and this points to the position at the corner of the Combs track. Another old resident, Mrs.M.Thorniley, told the writer that 50 or 60 years ago a long rounded stone lay in the field called Upper Peat Knowle at the junction of the Combs track from Whitehall and that she and her sister rolled it down the steep field towards the clough, belonging to Haselhurst Farm, where it remained.

While walking by way of Baghouse Flatt and Strawberry Bank on 28 February 1972, the writer glanced over the wall into the corner of Upper Stoney Knowle Meadow and saw two stone rollers with a rotted wooden frame which must have been there a long while. One was of a very rough gritstone, almost circular and very clearly a roller, but the other was quite different being of a smooth sandstone bearing the patina of years of weathering. This stone was 48 ins long and oval not round in shape, tapering slightly to the top. At the base was a small rough cross mark and near the top was

an oval mark, now obliterated, which appeared to have some sign or letters within. MR. Jacob Lomas who owns the farm and has lived there for 80 years, realises that the two stones are different but says that they have been about the farm as long as he can remember. Both have had irons cemented into their ends to facilitate rolling operations.

The writer would be pleased to show these stones to anyone and will welcome their opinion on the possibility of the oval stone being the Woman's Cross.

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THE TRANSACTIONS OF THE EAST DERBYSHIRE

FIELD CLUB 1903-1917

by

Philip Riden.

Although for many years the Derbyshire Archaeological Society has been the only antiquarian body in the county with the resources to publish, in even moderately permanent form, the work of its members, there have been, in the more distant past, several other local journals. Some of these flourished for a number of years before succumbing to rising printing costs and the falling value of subscriptions, and taken together represent a substantial corpus of work on Derbyshire's past. Even if much of the material in these publications is now of very little value, there must remain an irreducible minimum - the writing down of some local tradition now forgotten, or a note of some archaeological discovery unpublished elsewhere - which is worth saving.

One such local and defunct publication was the Transactions of the East Derbyshire Field Club. As an introductory note in the first volume of the series explains, the club was formed in 1902 at the initiative of the East Derbyshire Teachers' Association and the following year began to publish an annual volume, containing the previous year's lectures and a report on the club's activities. Volumes appeared each year until 1917, when the sudden explosion of printing costs at the end of the first world war meant that the club, never very large or wealthy, could no longer afford to produce anything resembling its pre-war efforts. Instead, a booklet with purely ephemeral reports of outings and meetings was substituted. These booklets continued to appear until at least 1931, after which I have been unable to trace any further numbers.

The club's activities embraced both natural history and anti-quarianism and this was reflected in their Transactions. Since it is at least possible that some of the historical notes may have some permanent value, which would be increased if their contents were better known, I have prepared a simple index to the volumes from 1903 to 1917, excluding articles wholly within the field of natural history. From the list of authors and titles, it is obvious that the club was a small group with interests largely limited to the district around Chesterfield, where it was based, and with a limited range of authors. The volumes were not

always numbers (in 1904 not even the pages were numbered) and so the volumes have been cited in the index by the year of publication. A conspectus of years and volume numbers would be as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Volume</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Volume</u>
1903	1	1908	6	1913	11
1904	2	1909	7	1914	12
1905	3	1910	8	1915	13
1906	4	1911	9	1916	14
1907	5	1912	10	1917	15

The most complete set of these Transactions, and the one from which this index was prepared, is probably that in Chesterfield Reference Library, who can supply photocopies of articles on request. The County Library at Matlock has the 1915 volume only.

<u>Author</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year & pages</u>
Brodhurst F.	Hardwick Hall	1911 16-9
Brown.E.W.	All Saints' Church, Wingerworth	1903 10-11
Burr W.T.G.	Early man in Derbyshire	1903 12-3
	Creswell Craggs	1904
	Stone circle and tumuli on Eyam Moor	1906 45-51
	Creswell Craggs	1910 5-7
	Arbor Low	1913 30-3
Coleman W.L.	Staveley in past days	1905 70-82
	Some notes on Youghreave	1908 18-21
	Dale Abbey, Morley and Stanton	1913 34-43
	Whitwell	1915 55-6
	Steetley Chapel	1915 57-60
Court A.	A visit to Romeley Hall	1910 25-7
Evans S.	Bradwell	1915 118-22
Forster G.	The development of the safety lamp	1915 46-54
Garnett C.S.	Devonshire Works, Staveley	1913 22-6
Gregory H.	Ireland Colliery	1912 32-3
Griffin G.	The village of Pentrich and its revolution	1906 64-74
	Lead mining in Derbyshire	1907 28-31
	Some decayed and lost industries of Clay Cross and neighbour- hood	1910 35-40
Grocock W.T.	Dronfield Church	1916 91-6

Hudson H.	Sewage disposal (near Chesterfield	1916	58-61
Jacques W.	Winfield manor House	1903	23-8
	The Roman fort at Brough	1904	
	Stanton Moor	1906	14-23
	Markland Crips	1906	77-80
	The new reservoir at Linacre	1908	33-6
	Roman Derbyshire	1910	10-19
	Some by-paths of Derbyshire history	1910	19-24
	Dethick	1911	5-7
	Spital and Sutton Scarsdale	1911	26-8
	Eyam	1912	14-20
	Lead mining in Derbyshire	1913	14-22
	Bolsover Castle	1913	49-55
	Beauchief Abbey	1914	28-33
	The royal forests of Derbyshire	1914	56-70
	The Fanshawes and Fanshawe Gate	1917	71-6
Longden G.A.	A visit to Pleasley Colliery	1908	28-9
Longden <u>Mrs</u>	The growth of the lace indistry	1916	116-26
Mackenzie E.C.	Old Brampton Church	1917	43-8
Mullins E.H.	Langwith Cave	1907	32-4
Notes and Jottings	Pit dwelling at Holymoorside	1915	8
	Winfield Manor and its barn		8-9
	Stone coffin in Ashover churchyard		9-10
	Ashover in the Civil War		10-11
	Parliamentary troops at Ashover		11-12
	Destruction of Eastwood Old Hall		12-14
	A pilgrimage to Pentrich		19-21
	The Heathcote family	1916	9-11
	The Eyam Moor stone circle		11-12
	Derbyshire Barrpws		12-14
	Wilne Church		25-6
	Holymoorside and Harewood Grange	1917	8
	Ashover and its Church		9
	The Ashover lead font		9-10

	Other features of		
	Ashover church		10-11
	Wingerworth and North		
	Wingfield		12-13
	The Linacre		
	Reservoirs		15-16
Peck H.	An Ashover worthy		
	(Leonard Wheatcroft)	1916	65-84
	Hault Hucknall		
	Church	1916	113-5
Roden N.	The fortress of		
	Carlwerk, Hathersage	1915	113-7
Ryde H.	Chesterfield Parish		
	Church	1915	27-45
	Wingerworth Church	1916	37-49
Sharkey J.	Newbold Chapel	1909	26-7
Stevenson W.	Notes on North		
	Wingfield Church	1917	21-7
Thompson H.	Some notes on		
	Clowne	1908	27
Turbutt G.M.R.	Ogston Hall	1909	19-23
Udall F.D.	The "Athens of the		
	Peak" (Eyam)	1904	
	Geo. Eliot's		
	associations with		
	Wirksworth	1905	12-24
	Barlborough Hall	1907	12-13
Watkins E.	The pitsteads in		
	Lindway Springs Wood		
	(Ashover)	1914	34-40

A FARM ACCOUNT BOOK OF THE

EARLY 18TH CENTURY

by

F.S.Ogden

During the first half of the eighteenth century Gilbert Sorsbie who was born about 1697 and died in 1775, was a yeoman farmer and cattle dealer living at Brailsford. His father, Edward Sorsbie, was a yeoman farmer and a freeholder in Darley Dale who after his marriage to Jane Mos(e)ley of Brailsford in 1698 moved to the latter parish.

Gilbert kept a record of his transactions in great detail and two of his account books have survived. These relate to the years 1732 to 1763. The entries for the earlier years are the more numerous and it is on these that the following comments are made.

The entries in the book are not in chronological order but are to a large extent categorised. For example several consecutive pages are devoted to payments in cash or kind to employees, several to purchases of butchers' meat, several to dealings in livestock and several to details of payments of parish levies, land and window tax.

Account books and documents of this period relating to estates and to important families are fairly plentiful but such information about the activities of an ordinary country yeoman family living on and largely by the land is scarce.

The names of people mentioned in the volumes are those who he employed or with whom he did business or to whom he made payments either in their or his own official capacity and seem almost to provide a local directory. There are the names of Churchwardens, Overseers, Constables, blacksmiths, schoolmasters and tradesmen.

As was usual in so many parts of lowland Midland England in the early eighteenth century the economy of the farm was very broadly-based with an interest in most sections of agricultural production including corn production (there are references to 'Hebridin white wheat' and 'red Wheat' as well as oats) as well as the cheese and livestock products traditionally associated with south west Derbyshire.

The group of entries relating to the payment of parish levies tells us a great deal about the parish administration of Brailsford at this date, showing the various parish offices in the village, who served in them and some of the duties involved. The number of payments involved suggest that the parish officers in Brailsford were all assiduous in the collection of their respective levies. There are regular payments to the Churchwardens for church rate which appears to have been levied at least once a year, while land and window tax were paid at regular half-yearly intervals. A further point of interest that emerges is that Brailsford, unusually for Derbyshire, had a Third-borough as well as a Constable as shown by the apparently regular annual payment of 5¹d to the Thirdborough (e.g. 5 November 1734 paid Joshua Reive ye Third Borrow money 5¹d.).

Many of the entries relating to wages are not specific but some do give details of the work involved and the rate of pay. For instance, it would appear that a days pay for mowing in 1732 was 8d. Indeed the full range for a days work in this period in Brailsford seems to have been between 4d and 1s. with mowing one of the highest paid jobs. Nat Fone and Sam Fone were regular employees in the early part of the period covered by the books.

The largest section relates to Sorsbie's hiring and payment of indoor servants, i.e. hired youths and young women who lived in. Sorsbie invariably notes the period for which a servant was hired, the agreed wages for the period of hire and the deductions from his pay during his hiring. Occasionally there are additional comments on the work or conduct of the servant. The first of the servants, Thomas Tomson, was hired for ten months, but it is not clear whether Sorsbie always followed the usual custom of hiring for 50 or 51 weeks to prevent a migratory labourer gaining a legal settlement in the parish. The usual annual payment before deductions was between £3.10.0d and £4.16.0d, that is 3d-4d per day. Two typical examples of Sorsbie's memoranda relating to the hiring of servants are as follows:-

12 Feb. 1732/3 Thomas Tomson came to live with me
he came in ye afternoon & begun to work
ye next day.
I hired him for ten months & was to give him
three pound fifteen shillings & one I
gave of earnest. he was one day badly.
1 day & $\frac{1}{2}$ at Greens Crisning, another
day & $\frac{1}{2}$ lost. August ye 28 was ye last
day yt he worked for me and he would

away on ye 24 and ye 25 he fetcht his
cloths and I payd him two pound eleven
shillgs beside ye one he had of Earnest
which makes £2.12s which I think was
ye more yn his due besides his last time.

£ s d
2. 12. 0

2 Novembr 1733 Thos Waste came to live with me and
was hired at foure pnd & foure silingsh
(here follow payments during the year
including)

4s to go to Christining
5s to pay his sister for his stokins
2s for his linen cloth for breeches
Novembr ye 3 1734 being Sunday he left
me &

I paid him in full.

NOTES REGARDING SOME WOODEN TROUGHS

FOUND IN COAL WORKINGS AT MAPPERLEY

COLLIERY, DERBYSHIRE

by

G.H.N. Spencer.

Date found March 1947

Seam Deep Soft

Approx position in relation to surface Top end of Smalley,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile beyond the Nags Head Inn, towards Heanor.

Depth from surface approx 50' 0"

Circumstances Recovered from an old drainage sough which
extended from Heanor Gate(?) to Smalley
Green. This sough is mentioned in Kerry's
History of Smalley, 2nd Ed. and in Mark
Fryer's History of Denby.

The troughs were made of thick oak boards held apart by
oak stretchers top and bottom, and the stretchers were
dovetailed and pegged in position. Each section of
trough was lapped jointed to the next one, and each had
a cover.

Purpose of the trough

If the heading in which the trough was found
was used to drain water, it would appear that
these were used as air ducts.

SECTION OUTING

by

V.M.Beadsmoore.

The second Local History Section outing took place on the evening of April 25th 1973, and was a most interesting perambulation of Jacksdale and Ironville led by Mr. D.V.Fowkes.

Meeting at Jacksdale, we started our walk in Nottinghamshire, along the raised carriage-way constructed across the floodplain of the Erewash for the tramway which transported coal from Portland Colliery to the Cromford Canal, and was later extended to the ironworks.

On the left, we came to Portland Wharf, constructed in about 1820, and it was just possible to see the remains of Jacksdale Row, thirteen cottages probably built for workers on the wharf. To construct the canal basin, which was filled in about 30 years ago, it was necessary to build an aqueduct across the River Erewash.

At this point, river and canal running side by side, we crossed into Derbyshire.

The opening of the Cromford Canal in 1792-3 provided the key to the opening up of the area, the Partnership which was to become the Butterley Company being quick to see the possibilities for exploiting the coal and iron in the area.

Nearby are the remains of the forge and blast furnaces, constructed between 1809 and 1813. The forge remained an important supplier of wrought iron until 1965.

To the left is the engineering works which had become increasingly important relative to the furnaces and forge in the mid nineteenth century, producing railway wagons and heavy constructional work such as bridges.

The Butterley Co. quarried lime stone in Crich from 1795 and kilns were built all along the canal for processing the stone, including four at Codnor Park.

From the forge we look across to the modern Pye Hill Colliery, the only one left in the district.

Then crossing the main railway line, one of the busiest freight lines in the Midlands, (mostly block coal, trains of coal to power stations), the memorial to William Jessop (co-partner in the Butterley Co.), stands on the sky line.

Forge Row, consisting of 13 cottages, was built somewhere between 1802 and 1809, and rebuilt in 1863. They stood in isolation as did the cottages of Jacksdale Row at Portland Wharf.

The whole of the area was a network of tramways to connect the pits with the canal, and eventually the Butterley Co. private railway was built, using in part the filled in branch canal which served the Codnor Park lime kilns.

After the railway crossing, we passed Cinder Bank on the right, now being landscaped, and came into Ironville. On the left the area is called the Market Place, with housing dated about 1850. Permission to hold a market was granted in 1822.

With the expansion of the ironworks came the need for houses for the workers, and in 1834 the Company started to build the Model Village of Ironville. The church was consecrated in 1852, and the present school building is dated 1850, although as the first vicar was appointed in 1846, it is probable that a mission room stood on the site of the school until the church was completed,

Turning right opposite the church, is Victoria Street, where the houses on the left hand side are being modernised by Alferton District Council, which purchased virtually the whole village in 1969, in the 20th century manner - the brickwork being stuccoed, the chimney stacks removed and central heating installed, etc. In connection with this scheme, the village will eventually be developed behind this row of houses, and those on the right hand side of Victoria St., and King William St., the axis of the village in 1834-37, will be demolished. At the bottom of King William St. on the left are two rows of cottages, 2 up and 2 down, running at right angles to the street, Furnace Row and Foundry Row, built about 1812 in the middle of fields, when there were no roads at all.

The Market Place is also part of the general improvement area,

To complete our circular tour, we walked along the towpath of the canal, passing the buildings which had been the canal stables, and a very large building originally The Mechanics Institute, and

having had many uses since.

On the far side of the canal once stood one of the earliest housing developments - a row of 11 cottages, named Limekiln Row, built between 1802 and 1809, for workers at the lime kilns. Only one cottage remains, the other 10 being demolished to make way for extensions to the forge.

There is still a lengthman's hut on the canal side, although the canal was severed by the collapse of Butterley tunnel in 1908, and is now derelict.

It was beginning to get dusk as we arrived back at our starting place in Jacksdale, after a most pleasant and instructive evening.

THE - "BARLBOROUGH WAKES"

"On July 6th 1974, Barlborough Historical Society together with assistance from other groups in the village taking part, are re-enacting the Wakes of 1760. Six to eight stalls are to be erected round or near the Village Cross. The stallholders, dressed in period frock, will be selling produce and products of this era. To remember the event a special drinking vessel has been made, only 200 have been ordered at £1.00 each. These vessel may be obtained from the Barlborough Wakes Committee, C/O 6 Rodwood Avenue, Barlborough, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S43 4JB cash/cheques with order."