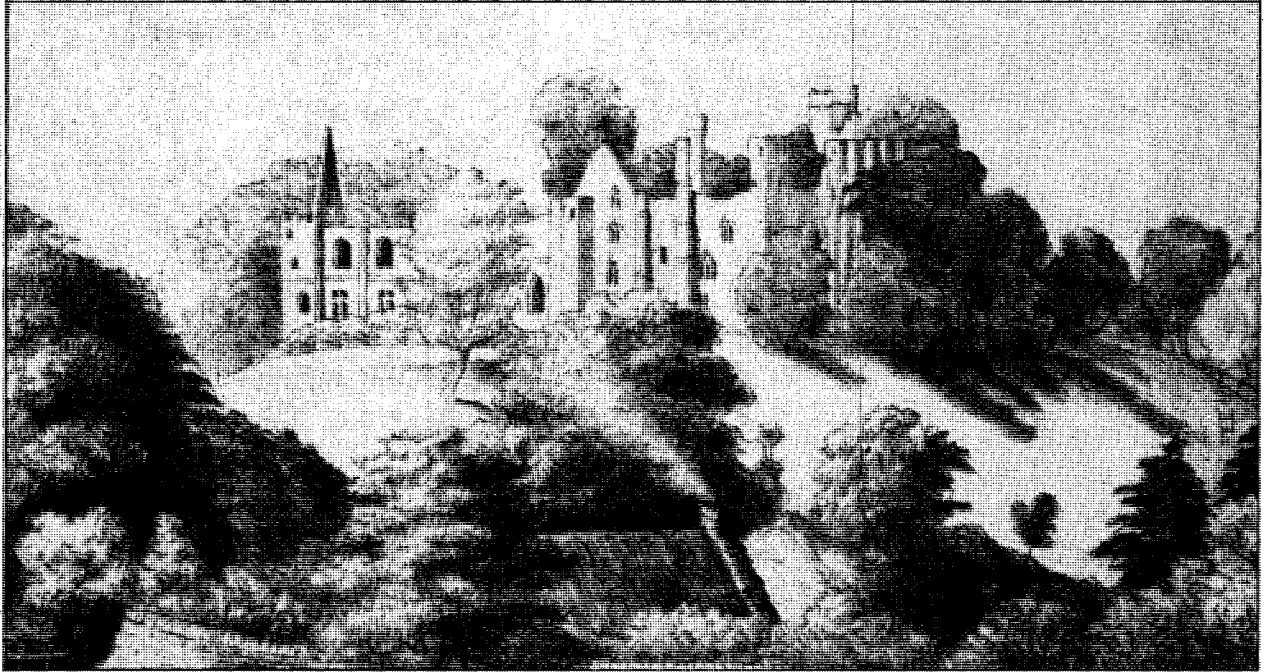


DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



VIEW OF SOUTH WINFIELD MANOR HOUSE
FROM THE VILLAGE.

The Local History Bulletin
of the
Derbyshire Archaeological Society

Volume 11

Autumn 1986

Part 2

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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A RETURN OF EACH MEMBER OF THE LOWER HOUSE

FOR DERBYSHIRE PART 2 1340-1832

(Continued from Vol. 10 Part 4 Autumn 1984)

(by David Craggs)

VENUE NOW WESTMINSTER UNLESS CONTRARY STATED

21.	8.	1340	
23.	4.	1341	John Cokeyn, Robert de Irland
16.	10.	1342	
28.	4.	1343	Thomas Adam, Robert de Assheburn
7.	6.	1344	John Cokeyn, John Foucher
11.	9.	1346	Egidius de Meignill, Roger de Eryngton (writ de expensis gives William de Asshewell and John de Chelaston)
14.	1.	1347/8	Roger de Evynton, Robert de Assheburn
31.	3.	1348	John de Rocheford, John de Chelaston
19.	1.	1348/9	Prorogued on account of the Black Death
19.	2.	1350/1	John de Cokeyn, John Foucher
13.	1.	1351/2	Roger de Padley, William de Chastr'
16.	8.	1352	Robert de Twyford
23.	9.	1353	Robert Fraunceys
28.	4.	1354	Henry de Braylesford, Robert Fraunceys
12.	11.	1355	Thomas Adam, John Beele
17.	4.	1357	Robert Fraunces, Thomas Adam
5.	2.	1357/8	William de Wakebrugge, Roger Michel de Breide ton
15.	5.	1360	Robert Fraunceys, John Foucher
24.	1.	1360/1	Henry de Brotherford, John Cokeyn
13.	10.	1362	John Cokeyn, Robert Fraunceys
6.	10.	1363	Edmond de Appelby, William Grey de Sandiacre
20.	1.	1364/5	Godfrey Foljambe, Henry de Braillesford
20.	5.	1366	Robert de Twyford, Ralph de Statham
1.	5.	1368	Robert de Twyford, John Foucher
3.	6.	1369	Godfrey Foljambe, Robert de Twyford
24.	2.	1370/1	Godfrey Foljambe, John Foucher
8.	6.	1371	<u>At Winchester</u> Godfrey Foljambe
13.	10.	1372	Alfred de Sulney, John Frauceys
21.	11.	1373	William Bakepuis, Ralph de Statham
12.	2.	1375/6	Edmond de Appelby, Ralph de Statham
27.	1.	1376	John de la Pole of Hartington, Edmond Foucher
13.	10.	1377	Alfred Sulney, Robert de Twyford
20.	10.	1378	<u>At Gloucester</u> Oliver de Beston, Ralph de Statham
24.	4.	1379	Alfred de Sulney, John Curson of Kedleston
16.	1.	1379/80	Thomas de Marchington, Ralph de Brailsford
5.	11.	1380	Oliver de Barton, William de Sallowe
16.	9.	1381	Robert de Twyford, Thomas de Marchington
7.	5.	1382	Thomas de Marchington, Philip de Okeover
6.	10.	1382	Thomas de Wensley, John Curson of Kedleston
23.	2.	1382/3	Thomas de Marchington, Ralph de Brailsford
26.	10.	1383	John Curzon, Ralph de Brailsford
29.	4.	1384	<u>At Salisbury</u> Robert Fraunceys, William de Adderley
12.	11.	1384	Thomas de Wennesley, William de Dethick
20.	10.	1385	Robert Fraunceys, William de Adderley
1.	10.	1386	Thomas de Wensley, William Dethick
13.	2.	1387/8	Robert Fraunceys, William de Adderley
9.	9.	1388	<u>At Cambridge</u> Nicholas Montgomery, Robert Fraunceys
17.	1.	1389/90	Thomas de Wensley, Nicholas Montgomery
12.	11.	1390	William Addirly, Thomas Foljambe

3. 11. 1391 Philip de Okeover, Thomas Foljambe
 14. 10. 1392 Prorogued sine die: was to be at York
 20. 1. 1392/3 At Winchester John Daprichecourt, Nicholas Goushill Junior
 27. 1. 1393/4 Thomas de Wensley, John de la Pole
 27. 1. 1394/5 John Cokayne, Peter de Melbourne
 22. 1. 1396/7 William Dethick, Roger de Bradbourne
 17. 9. 1397 John Dabrychecourt, William Meynell
 30. 9. 1399 did not meet as Richard II abdicated 29.9.1399
 6. 10. 1399 Walter Blount, John Curzon

 27. 10. 1400 At York Thomas de Gresley, Peter del Pole
 30. 1. 1401/2
 15. 9. 1402 John Cokayn, Roger Leche
 3. 12. 1403 At Coventry Nicholas de Longford, John Curzon
 6. 10. 1404 At Coventry John Cokayn, Roger Bradbourne
 15. 2. 1405/6 At Coventry, changed to Gloucester, prorogued to 1. 3. 1405/6
 at Westminster Roger Leche, Roger de Bradshaw
 20. 10. 1407 Gloucester John de Strelley, Thomas Okeover
 27. 1. 1409/10 Bristol altered to Westminster
 3. 11. 1411 Nicholas Montgomery, Robert Fraunceys
 3. 2. 1412/3
 14. 5. 1413 Roger Leche, Thomas Chaworth
 29. 1. 1413/4 At Leicester Philip Leech, Nicholas Montgomery
 19. 11. 1414 Roger Leech, Thomas Gresley
 21. 10. 1415
 16. 3. 1415/6 Nicholas Montgomery, John de la Pole of Hartington
 19. 10. 1416
 16. 11. 1417 Thomas de Gresley, John de la Pole
 16. 10. 1419 John Cokayn, Hugh Erdeswyk
 2. 12. 1420 Thomas Blount, Henry de Both
 2. 5. 1421 John Cokayn, Thomas Gresley
 1. 12. 1421 Nicholas Gosyll, Thomas Okeover
 9. 11. 1422 Richard Vernon, John Cokayn
 20. 10. 1423 Henry Bothe, John Curzon
 30. 4. 1425 Henry Bothe, Thomas Mackworth
 18. 2. 1425/6 At Leicester Richard Vernon, John de la Pole
 13. 10. 1427 John Cokayn, Henry de Bothe
 13. 10. 1429 John Curzon, Gerard Meynell
 12. 1. 1430/1 John Cokayn, Thomas Mackworth
 12. 5. 1432 Richard Vernon, John Curzon
 8. 7. 1433 Richard Vernon, John Cokayn
 10. 10. 1435 John Curzon, Gerard Meynell
 21. 1. 1436/7 At Cambridge afterwards Westminster Fulco Vernon, Robert
 Fraunces
 12. 11. 1439 At Oxford afterwards Westminster
 25. 1. 1441/2 John Curzon, William Vernon
 25. 2. 1444/5
 10. 2. 1446/7 At Cambridge afterwards Bury St. Edmunds Walter Blount,
 Nicholas Fitzherbert
 12. 2. 1448/9 John Sacheverell, Walter Blount
 6. 11. 1449 William Vernon, John Sacheverell
 6. 11. 1450 William Vernon, Walter Blount
 6. 8. 1452/3 At Reading Walter Blount, Nicholas Fitzherbert
 9. 7. 1455 Walter Blount, Robert Barley
 20. 11. 1459 At Coventry Robert Barley, Robert Eyre junior
 7. 10. 1460 John Gresley, Walter Blount
 6. 7. 1461
 5. 2. 1462/3 At York
 3. 6. 1467 William Blount, William Vernon
 22. 9. 1469 At York prorogued on account of expected invasion by French
 and Scots

26. 11. 1470
6. 10. 1472 Nicholas Longford, James Blount (dissolved 14. 3. 1474/5)
16. 1. 1477/8 John Gresley, Henry Vernon
1482 - 1528 No record of Derbyshire members

3. 11. 1529 Roger? Mynours, William? Cott (dissolved 4. 4. 1536)
8. 6. 1536
28. 4. 1539
16. 1. 1541/2 George Vernon
23. 11. 1545 Richard Blackwall, Vincent Mundy
4. 11. 1547 William Basset, Thomas Poutrell
1. 3. 1552/3 Thomas Cokayn, Humphrey Bradbourne
5. 10. 1553 John Port, Richard Blackwall
2. 4. 1554 At Oxford Francis Curzon, Thomas Poutrell
21. 10. 1554
21. 10. 1558 Humphrey Bradbourne, Vincent Mundy
20. 1. 1557/8 John Zouch, Godfrey Foljambe
23. 1. 1558/9
11. 1. 1562/3 Sir William Seintlowe, Richard Wensley
8. 5. 1572 Gilbert Talbot, Henry Cavendish
23. 11. 1584 Henry Talbot, Henry Cavendish
15. 10. 1586 Henry Talbot, Henry Cavendish
12. 11. 1588 Henry Cavendish, John Zouch
19. 2. 1592/3 Henry Cavendish, George Manners
24. 10. 1597

27. 10. 1601 Francis Leek, Peter Frecheville
19. 3. 1603/4 Sir John Harpur, William Kaiston of Mercaston
5. 6. 1614 Henry Howard, Sir William Cavendish
16. 1. 1620/1 Sir William Cavendish, Sir Peter Frecheville
12. 2. 1623/4 Sir William Cavendish, Sir John Stanhope
17. 5. 1625 William Lord Cavendish, Sir John Stanhope
6. 2. 1625/6 William Lord Cavendish, John Manners
17. 3. 1627/8 Sir Edward Leche, John Frecheville
13. 4. 1640 John Mewtes, Sir John Curzon
3. 11. 1640 Sir John Curzon, Sir John Cole junior
3. 9. 1654 Nathaniel Barton, Thomas Sanders, Edward Gill, John Gell
17. 9. 1656
27. 1. 1658/9 John Gell, Thomas Sanders
25. 4. 1660 Henry Cavendish, Viscount Mansfield, John Ferrers
8. 5. 1661 William Lord Cavendish, John Frecheville
2. 11. 1665 John Millward replaced John Frecheville who was called to Upper House as Baron Frecheville
24. 11. 1670 William Sacheverell replaced John Millward, dec'd
6. 13. 1678/9 William Lord Cavendish, William Sacheverell
17. 10. 1679 William Lord Cavendish, William Sacheverell
21. 3. 1680/1 At Oxford William Lord Cavendish, William Sacheverell
19. 5. 1685 Sir Robert Coke, Bt., Sir Gilbert Clarke
22. 1. 1688/9 Sir John Gell, Bt., Gilbert Clarke Sir Philip Gell replaced Sir John Gell, dec'd. 18. 4. 1689
20. 3. 1689/90 Sir Gilbert Clarke, Henry Gilbert
22. 11. 1695 William Marquis of Hartington, Sir Gilbert Clarke
24. 8. 1698 William Marquis of Hartington, Thomas Coke

6. 2. 1700/1 William Marquis of Hartington, John Lord Roos
30. 12. 1701 Thomas Coke of Melbourne, John Curzon of Kedleston
20. 8. 1702 John Curzon of Kedleston, Thomas Coke of Melbourne
14. 6. 1705 John Curzon of Kedleston, Thomas Coke of Melbourne
8. 7. 1708 Thomas Coke, John Curzon
25. 11. 1710 John Curzon, Godfrey Clarke
12. 11. 1713 John Curzon, Godfrey Clarke

17. 3. 1714/5 John Curzon, Godfrey Clarke
 10. 5. 1722 Sir John Curzon, Godfrey Clarke
 28. 11. 1727 Sir Nathaniel Curzon, Godfrey Clarke
 13. 6. 1734 Charles Cavendish, Sir Nathaniel Curzon
 25. 7. 1741 William Cavendish, Sir Nathaniel Curzon
 13. 8. 1747 William Cavendish, Sir Nathaniel Curzon
 27. 6. 1751 Frederick Cavendish replaced William Cavendish called to
 Upper House as Baron Cavendish of Hardwick
 31. 5. 1754 Lord George Cavendish, Nathaniel Curzon
 19. 5. 1761 Lord George Cavendish, Sir Henry Harpur
 10. 5. 1768 Lord George Cavendish, Godfrey Bagnall Clarke
 29. 11. 1774 Lord George Cavendish, Godfrey Bagnall Clarke, Nathaniel
 Curzon replaced G.B. Clarke, dec'd 4. 2. 1775
 30. 10. 1780 Lord Richard Cavendish, Nathaniel Curzon, Lord George Cavendish
 replaced Lord Richard, dec'd 29. 11. 1781
 18. 5. 1784 Lord George Cavendish, Edward Miller Mundy
 10. 8. 1790 Lord George Cavendish, Edward Miller Mundy, Lord John Cavendish
 replaced Lord George, dec'd 22. 5. 1794
 12. 7. 1796 Lord John Cavendish, Edward Miller Mundy, Lord George
 Augustus Henry Cavendish replaced Lord John, dec'd 12. 1. 1797

 31. 8. 1802 Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, Edward Miller Mundy
 15. 12. 1806 Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, Edward Miller Mundy
 22. 6. 1807 " " " " " " "
 24. 11. 1812 " " " " " " "
 4. 8. 1818 " " " " " " "
 21. 4. 1820 " " " " " " "
 Francis Mundy replaced Edward Miller Mundy, dec'd 25. 11. 1822
 25. 7. 1826 Lord George Augustus Henry Cavendish, Francis Mundy
 14. 9. 1830 " " " " " "
 14. 6. 1831 " " " " George John Vernon
 Lord William Cavendish replaced Lord George who was called to
 the Upper House as the Earl of Burlington 22. 9. 1831

THE PARISH CLERKS OF ST. HELEN'S, DARLEY

(by Ernest Paulson)

The Parish Clerk. Does anyone remember such a man outside the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks of the City of London? (1) Or, in a country church, a full time Verger and Sexton? Nowadays the man cutting the grass in the churchyard, attending to the boiler or sweeping the path may be the Vicar, the Churchwarden or one of the devoted band of helpers who keep the place going. It certainly won't be the Clerk, for he died out long ago and the Sexton is an employee either of the local undertaker or of the local council. None of them are full time church officers and none regard the church as his own personal property to rule with an iron hand. Our last Verger died in 1953. He was the last in an unbroken succession which went back to the founding of the church in the time of Edward the Elder (c.900) and he is sorely missed.

The office of Parish Clerk dates back to the time of St. Augustine and Ethelbert of Kent (597 A.D.). When the church in Canterbury was founded, Pope Gregory the Great ordered that its Clerk should be allowed to marry once but not again and that he should be the incumbent's assistant. Aethelbert added that anyone who stole property belonging to the Clerk should be made to restore it threefold. A further order instructed the Clerk to accompany the Vicar to the yearly Synod, as he was a Clerk in Minor Orders. By this order Aethelbert simply brought the Clerk into line with the Clerks of continental churches. (2)

In 599 A.D. Gregory laid down the duties of the Clerk. There was to be one in every parish who could sing the service, read the epistle and the lesson, teach in school and see that the people sent their children to the church for instruction in the faith. This meant an educated man, someone far superior to the average villager. Probably he and the incumbent were the only educated men in this Peakland parish. Bishop Grosseteste of Lincoln (1235 - 53) underlined this when he ordered that 'in every parish of sufficient means there shall be a Deacon or Sub-Deacon, but in the rest a fitting and honest Clerk to serve the priest in a comely habit.' We in Darley were definitely among the rest.

The instruction attributed to the Synod of Exeter (1289) also seems to have been followed: 'where there is a school within ten miles of any parish, some scholar shall be chosen for the office of Parish Clerk.' An attempt about the same time to make Parish Clerks celibate failed.

An order from Archbishop Packham shows what happened at Bakewell. He ordered (1280) that at Bakewell and the chapels annexed to it there should be 'Duos Clericos Scholasticos' carefully chosen by the parishoners on whose alms they would have to live. They were to carry Holy Water round the parish and chapels on the Lord's Day and festivals and minister 'in divinis officis' and on weekdays they should keep the school.

By this time the Parish Clerk was a person of considerable importance.(3) He could read and write, he was a member of a recognised Guild or Fraternity and to him fell the task of seeing that the agricultural year followed its proper order, that the church festivals and the more bucolic festivals like Hocktide and Harvest were organised, that the war gear for the village men who would be called to follow the Lord was kept in repair, that the Manor Courts were held and the rolls kept and above all, that the church was properly cared for. Who raised the 'hue & cry' when a silver chalice was stolen from Matlock church by a passing vagrant in the fourteenth century and sent a message to Darley when the man ran that way? And who received the

Hocktide collections when that 'saturnalia' took place on the second Monday and Tuesday after Easter and the money paid over at the Church Ales held in the summer? Almost certainly it was the Clerk. He certainly did when a Clerk's Ale was held.

An example of the work of the Clerk is found in the fragmentary remains of the Darley Manor Rolls, dating from about 1540: (4)

'John, son of Alan of Darley, paid to Thomas Columbell & 40.7s.0d. The whole rent is £44.8s.0d. Thomas Columbell of Sandiacre paid £14.13s.0d.
John, son of Thos. Columbell of Sandiacre paid 10s.0d.
The church paid 6s.0d.
The Rector of the Northern Medietie paid 13s.4d.
For work done by the tenants 5s.2d. paid
Rent for Ganwell 3s.10d. paid
For work on the mill 12s.9d. paid

(Thomas Columbell was summoned several times in the years between 1540 and 1550 for not carrying out maintenance and repairs at the the mill. I assume that this mill was the one at Warney, but there were other mills at Darley Bridge and Ladygrove.)

He received

9 bushells from the mill and another 4½ bushells. I paid for 13½ bushells. The same John sold 9 bushells of oats at Darley for the Lord's use and for 5 bushells more at the price of 12d. - 15s.0d. and he expended for work done for the Lord at the same place under the inspection of the same John and the said John paid for carpenter's work done about the house of Henry of Harston 10s. and he also paid to Hugh of Lees for work done at his house at the castle 2d.

(The castle was the walled enclosure with its impressive three towered gateway and stone built house which stood a quarter of a mile to the north of the church. Originally the home of the King's Bailiff for Darley, the wooden house was rebuilt in stone by William de Kelstede on the orders of John de Darley in 1321. It was never used by the Columbells as a residence, they preferring to live at Darley Nether Hall and Standcliffe and after 1620 it became ruinous and was demolished by the order of the Duke of Rutland in 1776.)

The Clerk kept the rolls of the Manor Court and collected the fines. My mother's ancestors seem to have paid a good many of those. The Gills held land to the value of 4s.0d. per year and were well known poachers and trespassers. The 2d. and 4d. fines occur regularly throughout the fifteenth century, usually for fishing in the Derwent.

The first volume of the church registers introduces John Cantrell.(5) On the last page is the note 'Finis decimo octavo die Septembris. Written by me John Cantrell schoolmaster at Darley A.D. 1630.' This indicates that the whole book is a transcript of the originals, made in obedience to the Canon of 1597 which required the parish 'to provide a parchment book wherein shall be written the day, the month and the year of every christening, marriage and burial and a chest wherein the said register book is to be kept.' The Clerks of Darley, Edensor and Bakewell are supposed to have walked together to London to get the books.

Cantrell's origin is unknown. He was appointed Clerk and Schoolmaster at Darley in 1627. In 1633 he left for Mr. Raphael Barke's house at Stanton for two years, then returned to Darley until 1644. Two years in Ashover and another two years at Hucknall Torkard were followed by the appointment as Minister and a schoolmaster at Elton from 1649 to 1652. Then he ran into trouble. He was reported by the Parliamentary Commissioners as 'scandalous' and 'inefficient' which probably means that he was a Royalist at heart and slow to obey the Commissioners' orders. He finished his career as Minister for Parwich and Schoolmaster for Parwich, Elton, Winster and Darley from

1653 - 55 and after that as Minister at Chelmorton and Beeley and Schoolmaster at Beeley. He must have spent quite a lot of his time on horseback!

He is rather a mystery. He was born in 1604 but not baptised until 1624. He became Clerk of Darley in 1627 and became a 'minister' in 1649. Was he a Royalist who managed to keep one jump ahead of the Parliamentary authorities or a Parliament man sent into the backwoods to rule the villages of Parwich, Elton and Chelmorton? On the other hand he could have ministered to the villages because there was no available parson. In 1571 Archbishop Grindal had condemned parish clerks who rose above their office and conducted all services because there was no minister. This happened in Fairfield and in several places, all isolated, in the Lincoln Diocese and could easily have been the reason why Cantrell called himself Minister rather than Clerk. At Dale Abbey before the passing of the Marriage Act of 1653 the Clerk solemnised marriages for a shilling a time and buried, churched and baptised according to the Prayer Book rites because there was no minister.

What happened to Cantrell after 1656 is not known.

Andrew Heath (1697 - 1723) and Richard Milner (1723 - 1772) occupied the Clerk's place for three quarters of the next century, Richard Milner being assisted by his daughter, Jane, 'a singular woman'. From all accounts she was another Phoebe Bown of Matlock - a strong, mannish woman well able to fulfil the duties of a Sexton. An old story says that she hid an escaped convict for three weeks in the Sexton's churchyard shed, then sent him on his way, only to have to bury him three days later as he was killed by a falling wall at Darley Old Hall soon after he left her.(6)

Richard Milner left a list of his fees in the 1698 terriers:

'His duties and wages are as follows: For every wedding 1s.0d., for every churching 1d., for every burial in church 1s.8d., for every burial in chancel 3s.4d., for every coffin grave 8d., for every grave of corpse without coffin 4d.

Leonard Wheatcroft of Ashover (7) gives an interesting list for the same period (1680 - 1706). As the sums payable are on the average greater than at Darley it is not surprising that more than one Clerk of Darley has moved to the Ashover Clerkship. The last was John Williamson who took over in 1846, but was sacked by Rev. Joseph Nodder, gave up his school and left the district.

The fees are: 'for a christening, five pence to ye minister and a penny to the clerk.

For a wedding; when ye banns is written, ye pay ye Clerk sixpence and if ye be asked in ye church and married here they pay two shillings - fourteen pence to the minister and ten pence to the Clerk, but if ye both come out of another parish with a licence, the minister hath five shillings and the Clerk one.

For a funeral; When the corpse is buried ye pay ye Clerk nineteen pence if ye corpse be coffined and seventeen pence if it be wrapped in a shroud, whereof ye minister hath seven pence and ye Clerk the rest.'

The references to coffined and shrouded burials indicate the custom of the times. Gentry were buried at Darley in coffins and under the floor of the nave or chancel. Ordinary folk were buried under the yew tree, either in a wooden coffin, a stone coffin or shrouded. Corpses from the outlying parts of the parish were usually carried down on three black staves as the roads or tracks were rough and steep. People from Farley, Hackney, Northwood and Fallinge were always brought to church in this way. During the very severe winter of 1766/7 a body from Fallinge was kept in the ice of the frozen duck-pond for several weeks before being carried the two and a half miles to church for burial. At Ashover a body was salted for the same reason.

But what were the duties of the Clerk? Before the reformation he was the Rector's assistant and the general factotum of the Lord of the Manor. He ran the church, opening it daily for Mass and ringing the evening curfew, a custom which survived at Matlock until 1939, he organised the Manor Court and kept the rolls, he read and he sang, looked after the vestments and rang the bell, carried the holy loaf and holy water to the people, helped at christenings, marriages and funerals and at all other services, kept the church clean, in some places acted as dogwhipper and at Darley awakened snoring sleepers during the sermon. He was also, of course, the schoolmaster. He had to be literate and numerate and also give advice and comfort. In addition, he was also a peasant. He cultivated his own strips in the common fields and kept his sheep on the waste. The only concession he received was that he did not have to work the demesne as the other villagers did.

After the Reformation he used English where he had mumbled Latin and no longer carried the holy loaf and holy water to the parishioners. Instead he organised the church ales - and probably a Clerk's ale - each year. After the Enclosure of the waste at Darley (1768) he busied himself with whatever clerkly duties came his way. At Bakewell Samuel Roe (1722 - 1792) was honoured by an article in the Gentleman's Magazine (8) for his care of the fabric of Bakewell church including the Vernon and Wendesley tombs and for his excellent singing. His work was carried on by his son, Philip Roe (1763 - 1815). At Dore was Richard Furniss (1791 - 1857) an Eyam man and a poet who wrote: (9)

'Richard Furniss, schoolmaster, Dore,
Keep parish books and pay the poor,
Draw plans for buildings and indite
Letters for those who cannot write
Make wills and recommend a proctor
Cure wounds, let blood with any doctor
Draw teeth, sing psalms, the hautboy play
At chapel on each holy day,
Paint signboards, cast names at command
Survey and plot estates of land,
Collect at Easter one in ten
And on the Sunday say Amen.

Yet from 1782 to 1823 Richard Furniss' ability to turn his hand to anything was equalled if not exceeded by Thomas Gregory, the Darley Clerk. He was a Wessington man who came to Darley as clerk to Thomas Nuttall, one of the Enclosers Commissioners. By 1782, when he succeeded to the Clerkship, he was landlord of the Crispin (Church) Inn and well off. He built Butts House with money borrowed from someone who trusted him although the Rectors of Darley, Matlock and Bonsall had turned him down, had a family of seven sons and four daughters and provided every one of them with a farm. Tor, Tinkersley and Megdale Farms were all his. He had a finger in every pie in the district and ran the school and the church with exemplary efficiency. (10)

Two stories are still remembered about him. He led a successful strike against the Rector and he would never open the Crispin Inn on a Sunday. Anyone in need of refreshment had to go to the White Horse, a beer house next to the church which is now the White House. The White Horse belonged to the Rector.

The strike began when William Ulithorne Wray, sometime Chaplain to George II, wished to form a boys chior similar to that of St. George's Chapel, Windsor at which he had officiated when Vicar of Wexham. Gregory, Clerk and leader of the chior of mixed voices and very mixed instruments, objected, whereupon the Rector ordered that the chior and bells be silent except when he ordered. They were - for six months and finally Gregory got his authority back as the ringers and chior said that they would only perform when the Clerk ordered them to do so. The Rector gave way.

Something similar - a ringers' strike took place at Crich about a hundred years ago, but in that case it was the Curate who restored order.

The only blot on his Clerkship was the suicide of his eldest son and assistant who drowned himself in the Derwent in 1801. John Gregory was clever. He had been educated with the Rector's two sons and Wray had promised to send him to Oxford when his sons went up, but Wray was a notorious spendthrift and the family purse was kept by his cousin, Sir Christopher Wray of Glentworth who lost the 1784 Westminster election in which Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire and Fox played such notorious parts. He provided only enough money to send the two sons. Wray himself was unable to find the money in spite of having a living worth £1,000 a year and conveniently forgot his promise. Ten years later Gregory drowned himself. Probably Mr. Wray had put him off with promise after promise and excuse after excuse. He was the only son of the Clerk who did not have a farm.

After the death of Sir William Ulithorn Wray in 1808, the next Rector was an absentee who lived in London, but he appointed two excellent Curates. Gregory, now an old man, let things slide. The school, once numbering over fifty, fell away altogether, the church became ruinous so that it had to be extensively restored in 1854 and the Clerk busied himself with his family farms and the Crispin Inn.

When he died, still Clerk, in 1823, his successor was a tailor named Bampton from Darley Bridge, a man of small education and less enterprise. His successors were men of like stamp who were soon no longer Clerks but Vergers and Sextons, good men who cared for 'their' church, dug graves and pronounced their loud Amens. That later ones were also the Rector's handy men and gardeners shows how the position had deteriorated in importance.

The last of them was John Shaw who died in 1953. Like his predecessors he was a good man who ruled 'his' church, the choir and the congregation with an iron hand. He lined up the choir boys before practice on a Thursday night and made them wash under the churchyard tap, marched them into church and stayed to see that there was no hanky-panky. Every wedding and funeral was inspected and for anyone to go into his churchyard shed was an unforgivable crime. His wife brought him his tea every afternoon at three o'clock and he took it in the shed, reclining in the wheelbarrow which he padded with sacks, Mrs. Shaw did not share it; she stayed outside the shed.

His best exploit began when he started to dig a grave one evening and went into the graveyard early the next morning to finish it. As he approached the grave, he heard snores and looking down, saw a local drunk comfortably asleep. Picking up a clod, he crumbled it over the sleeper and as the startled man sat up, asked, "Art comfy, Charlie? I can soon tuck thee up if tha likes." The man looked round, gaped at John, realised where he was and took off 'as if his pants were afire', afterwards avoiding the churchyard like the plague. He wouldn't even come to family weddings. I did find him asleep on our garden path at 2 a.m. one morning though.

My grandfather was another of the same type. 'Old Harry' was equally proud of his church, equally strict with everyone and equally a 'holy tartar'. At Bunny, Notts. the bells had to be rung for 6 a.m. service on St. Thomas' Day. He went to get the church ready; my grandmother and my father were routed out to do the bell ringing.

At Matlock, when 'Walking Weddings' were common, he met the groom and the bridal party at the lych gate with brush, comb and mirror, shoe and clothes brushes and not until he was satisfied were they allowed into church, no matter how much Canon Kewley grumbled.

His dog was a brown and white pointer bitch which loved choir boys as much as he did. One Mischief Night (All Souls Night) the boys planned to go up into the belfry and ring the curfew again. It had been rung at 5p.m. as usual and they hoped to cause a stir. Old Harry heard of this and after he'd had his tea he went quietly back to church and put Mack into the belfry. Then he climbed up the tower staircase and waited. The boys came up the stairs and found themselves trapped between the Verger and the snarling pointer. After threatening to lock them in for the night, he delivered a lengthy lecture and let them go - but he was careful to lock the belfry door thereafter.

Clerk, Verger and Sexton, all were cast in the same mould. Good men, devout men who served their churches devotedly for very small wages throughout usually long lives. One thing marked them out - and still does: their complete indifference to mortality. From the old Sexton I knew who found a skeleton in a supposedly empty grave space beneath a stone slab and calmly shoved it to one side and said nothing to save fuss to the present day undertakers' Sexton, often a Council employee, they take everything as it comes and never forget the person they buried. Do you remember the Sexton in Hamlet?

"Here's a skull now. This skull hath lain i' the earth three and twenty years..A pestilence on him for a mad rogue. A' poured a jug of Rhenish on my head once. This skull, sir, was Yorick's skull, the King's Jester." Or, as John Shaw once said, when he found it impossible to fit in the grave of a widow next to that of her husband, so that she had to go elsewhere, leaving the husband next to a spinster who had always wanted him, "Tha's got 'im at last, Alice. She won't half be mad, but he's yours for keeps now."

As with Alice, so with the Parish Clerk. He's dead, but by no means forgotten. I found John's gown last year when we were cleaning out the vestry, green with mould, its velvet panels spotted and stained. With a sigh of regret, I rolled it up and threw it into the waste bag.

NOTES

1. Letter from Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks 1986.
2. Bede, Hist. Eccles. II.V.
3. Ditchfield, The Parish Clerk (1907), p.30 & seq.
4. Derbyshire Record Office (D.R.O.) Dakeyne papers II.
5. Registers of St. Helen's Darley, Vol.I. Smith, Historical Notes of St. Helen's Darley (1953).
6. Letter of W.U. Wray to Gilpin 1790.
7. Luard, Saints & Sinners of Ashover, p. 40.
8. Gentleman's Magazine 1794, p. 300 et seq.
9. Ditchfield, p. 127.
10. Gregory refused to go to hear John Wesley when he was at Ashover and at Matlock Bath. Letter from W.U. Wray to Gilpin 1790.
11. D.R.O., Darley MSS.

GEORGE WILKINS - PRINTER, BOOKSELLER, NEWSPAPER PROPRIETOR,

ARTIST AND EVANGELIST

(by John Heath)

On 23 August 1830, Elizabeth, wife of William Wilkins, gave birth to a son, George, at their home at 16 Queen Street, Derby. It was the address to which his grandfather, also named George, had moved his printing firm in 1811, from across the road where he had founded it in 1801. Grandfather, George Wilkins, as well as running the printing firm, sold a wide range of books and other printed material, and also provided a circulating library, of some two thousand volumes, to any person able to pay an annual subscription of sixteen shillings. By 1820, this lending library boasted 5,000 volumes, which could be borrowed on payment of a subscription of twenty shillings. Like libraries and booksellers today, George Wilkins, and the successors of the firm held annual sales in order to get rid of unwanted volumes as well as to create cash flow. In the 1839 catalogue, Cary's 'Map of Derbyshire' was available at 2s.6d. as was Glover's map (with views) while Chapman and Hall's was priced at a mere 2s.6d. Wilkins also appeared to be an agent for Sanderson's maps which, at that time, were the most detailed available for large areas of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Successive catalogues include a range of their items, possibly the most intriguing being that of 1870 which advertised 'Singapore Chutnee'? Three years after this the successor partnership of Wilkins and Ellis, lent library books at a quarterly subscription of 5s. and 3d. per volume per week.

In 1836, George Wilkins took into partnership his son, young George's father, William. His son George, at the age of eight, was placed in the care of his maternal grandfather - the Reverend James Taylor of Hinckley. In this cloistered environment, George, who was never allowed out on his own, or to mix with other children outside school hours, in the early evening had to walk for one hour, with his grandfather, backward and forward from one end of his study to the other, saying nothing except that when he touched the wall at either end of the room he had to say a letter of the Greek alphabet or give a latin numeral. This restricted upbringing came to an end with his grandfather's death in 1845.

In that year he moved back to the family home in Derby where he attended the Grammar School under the headmastership of Mr. Hudson, and where he was to be influenced by the drawing master, Moses Webster. He also came under the influence of his paternal grandfather. He left Derby School at the age of fourteen and joined the family firm, being apprenticed into the printing office on the day following. George was soon to become aware of the primitive methods employed by the firm which persevered with hand presses although steam power was being used by most of the other printers in the town.

His grandfather died on 13 August 1848, and George joined his father in the running of the firm, and immediately persuaded him to introduce steam presses. It would appear that the combination of George Wilkin's death, and the taking on of the founder's grandson, was the opportune moment for expansion. In 1850, the firm produced the first issue of Wilkin's Almanac(k) which although it was little more than a copy of the forerunner of Old Moore's Almanac with a local cover, was the first of a sequence of annual almanacs which included more and more local information. The public were left in no doubt about the effort involved because in the second issue (1851) the editorial included - 'many persons have but little idea of the expense and labour attendant on the production of a publication of this kind'(!). It was published on the basis of a circulation of about 1750 copies. In 1859 it was claimed one hundred copies were distributed free of charge, but by 1867 the

circulation had declined to about 2000 copies, even though it went through various titles - Wilkins's Almanac Companion for Derby and Derbyshire (1851 - 1859); Wilkins and Ellis's Almanac and Companion (1861); the Derby Gazette Companion (1865); Wilkins and Ellis Circular (1866) - which reflects the various activities and partnership changes of the firm.

George was given a partnership in 1853, the year in which a retail outlet was opened at 12 St. Peter's Street, and on 3 March, he was married to Mary Stevenson in the Sacheverel Street Chapel. Both William and his son George were involved in the non-sectarian movement in the town, their activities being based on the Brook Street Chapel, but Derby townsfolk were not ready for activities which included inter-religious functions and as a result of the St. Mary's Gate Chapel, which held the rental on the Brook Street Chapel, raising the rent, the group was disbanded. William Wilkins was a trustee and deacon of the St. Mary's Gate Chapel. However, George in particular continued his Sunday School work in the firm belief that the Gospel must be taken to the people. He preached at any public gathering - wakes, fairs, race-meetings, public executions - where he could distribute tracts and preach. He went to Derby Station and talked to the employees during their breakfast hour.

In 1860 he hired a room over a stable in the China Factory Yard, Nottingham Road, where he commenced a Sunday School, as well as holding services. Pre-1860 there were no Mission Halls in Derby, no Hallelujah Band, and no Salvation Army; only orthodox chapels and church from which, it was claimed, the working man was excluded. Increased size of congregations compelled George Wilkins in May 1863 to move his activities from Nottingham Road to a room in Wright Street where a Ragged and Industrial School was already catering for the children of impecunious working families. Once again the accommodation proved inadequate, and the need for a permanent building became a priority. At this time the old Theatre Royal in Bold Lane was for sale, and a prospective theatrical manager had been refused a licence by the Magistrates for public performances. George Wilkins and his followers raised the money to purchase the building which then had to be converted from its night-time function (no windows) to a chapel, the Derby Theatre Gospel Hall being used for worship for the first time in 1870. The Almanac carried 'urgent' appeals for the Gospel Hall for the Poor at Derby, and for the proposed Ragged School next door. Wilkins who was friendly with John Smedley of Lea Mills (an 'extreme' non-conformist), was also involved in the Temperance Movement and this Almanac included temperance propaganda as for example 'A Water-Drinker's Experience' by T. Martin (a Chalk Digger). Associated with this movement was the provision of drinking fountains which were provided for in the Local Government Act of 1858. Such drinking fountains and their associated animal troughs were first erected in Liverpool, Hull, Aberdeen, Leicester, Leeds, Darlington, Blackburn and Derby (where was it?).

On 7 January 1860, four months prior to his father's retirement from the business and five months before he was joined by his brother-in-law, Ephraim C. Ellis, George Wilkins produced the first number of the Derby Exchange Gazette, a weekly newspaper costing only one half-penny a copy. The enlarged issue number 7 was re-titled the Derby Gazette and was priced at one penny. In an attempt to increase circulation, George Wilkins, midway through 1860, produced 'local' editions for Alfreton, Belper, Chesterfield, Castle Donington, Matlock and Ripley, but these contained little local news and lasted at the most six months. On and after 6 January 1865 The Derby Gazette was enlarged to eight pages and claimed to be the 'only penny paper all printed at Derby', having achieved a circulation of 3000 copies. This move was aimed to attract more advertising copy which it was suggested should be aimed at the working classes which formed the basis of the newspaper's readership. To reflect its intended wider appeal, in 1866 the title 'The Derby and Derbyshire Gazette' was used and under this heading it continued until 3 March 1899, A.P. Muddiman of Full Street being the proprietor when publication ceased. George Wilkins

was the paper's editor for seventeen years, and refused to publish sporting news but how this fitted with his working-class readership is difficult to reconcile. He used the newspaper to support the Parliamentary candidature of Samuel Plimsol who was elected Liberal M.P. for Derby in December 1868.

In 1863 George Wilkins fell from his velocipede, and as a result was restricted in his activities. By chance, a few days previously, he had purchased water-colour materials from Messrs. Rowney's Traveller. His tuition in art at Derby School became useful with such good effect that after nine years of putting brush to paper he was eventually persuaded to offer his paintings for sale. In 1873 he turned to oils, and for the next twelve years painted scenes from North Wales, Scotland, the Lake District, Middlesex, Surrey and naturally, Derbyshire. Among his patrons were the M.P. Samuel Morley, and the Duke of Devonshire, while examples of his work were purchased by various provincial art galleries and in 1884 he had a picture accepted by the Royal Academy. This was three years after he had moved his family to the 'sweet country air' of Duffield, following a period of illness. At Duffield he established the Duffield Christian Union. This 'sojourn' in the country lasted only three years, because in 1884 following his father's death, and a period in the Matlock Bath Hydro, he returned to the Derby home. Unfortunately further ailments confined him to his home, and he died on 21 July 1886, aged fifty-five.

A REASSESSMENT OF THE CHELLASTON GYPSUM PLASTER INDUSTRY

(by J.A. Young
R.J. Firman, Dept. of Geology, University Park, Nottingham)

Before the Autumn 1984 Derbyshire Miscellany appeared with its article (1) 'The Plaster Industry in Chellaston' the Mercian Geologist, March 1984, published 'A Geological Approach to the History of English Alabaster' (2). Neither author was aware of simultaneous work in different approaches to the history of different aspects of gypsum. As a result of exchanges in correspondence, and more particularly, constructive criticism, we both agreed that it was necessary 'to put the record straight'. That is, to revise in the light of geological and cartographical evidence, as well as other evidence from records of old Chellaston, the distribution of gypsum mining and quarrying in Chellaston.

Geological and cartographical evidence

It is necessary to correct the map on page 99 of Derbyshire Miscellany and the notes which follow about each of the six areas shown on that map, (1). Almost certainly there was no plaster mine near Shelton Wharf as implied by the opening description of the advertisement appearing in 1860. The wording of this advertisement is open to interpretations which cannot be reconciled with the geological and cartographical evidence. If a mine existed 'lying by the side of the Derby Canal at Shelton Bridge' there would have been evidence on the surface which could hardly have been missed when officers of Geological Survey made their examination, particularly since they were expected to walk over every field, to examine all working mines and evidence of any past mining. Moreover the Geological Survey one inch map published in 1855 indicates that the marls west of the Turnpike Road all lay below the level of commercially exploitable gypsum. All subsequent Survey revisions on the 6 inch scale including that of C. Fox-Strangeways (published in 1901) and G.H. Mitchell in the 1930's (published 1950) confirm this interpretation as do many boreholes in the East Midlands and recent field-work by one of the writers (R.J.F.).

If there were no mines near Shelton Bridge the most likely location would be in Wootton's property at Woodlands. Such an interpretation is consistent with the descriptions of Farey (1811)(3) and Glover (1829)(4) both of whom stated that all plaster pits were situated south east of Chellaston. There is, however, one discrepancy with the 1860 advertisement namely that mines at Woodlands would have been about 4 miles in a direct line from the centre of Derby and nearer 5 miles by road. Such mines would, however, have been about a mile as the crow flies from Shelton Wharf and did have a road, Wootton's Plaster Road (now Woodland's Lane) leading to them. The location 'about four miles distant from Derby' is therefore considered to have been an example of the advertiser's licence. If this is accepted then the rest of this somewhat ambiguously worded advertisement is consistent with there having been, in 1860, a wharf, kiln and plaster works at Shelton Bridge and mines 'about a mile distant from the Wharf' at Woodlands there being no gypsum mines near Shelton Lock.

Although it might be objected that mines near Woodlands would have been more likely to take their gypsum to Cuttle Bridge rather than the more distant wharf at Shelton it must be remembered that George Wootton had a kiln and other facilities at Shelton Lock making it more profitable for him to use the Derby canal for bulk transport in spite of the extra half-mile road haulage. More recent research by one of the writers (J.A.Y.) has shown that Wootton senior had other vested interests in using the Derby canal in preference to the Trent and Mersey canal. He was also a shareholder in the Derby Canal Company for whom he acted as Superintendent in its early days. The Share Transfer Book (5) records one £100 share transferred from Thomas Dumelow to Wootton in

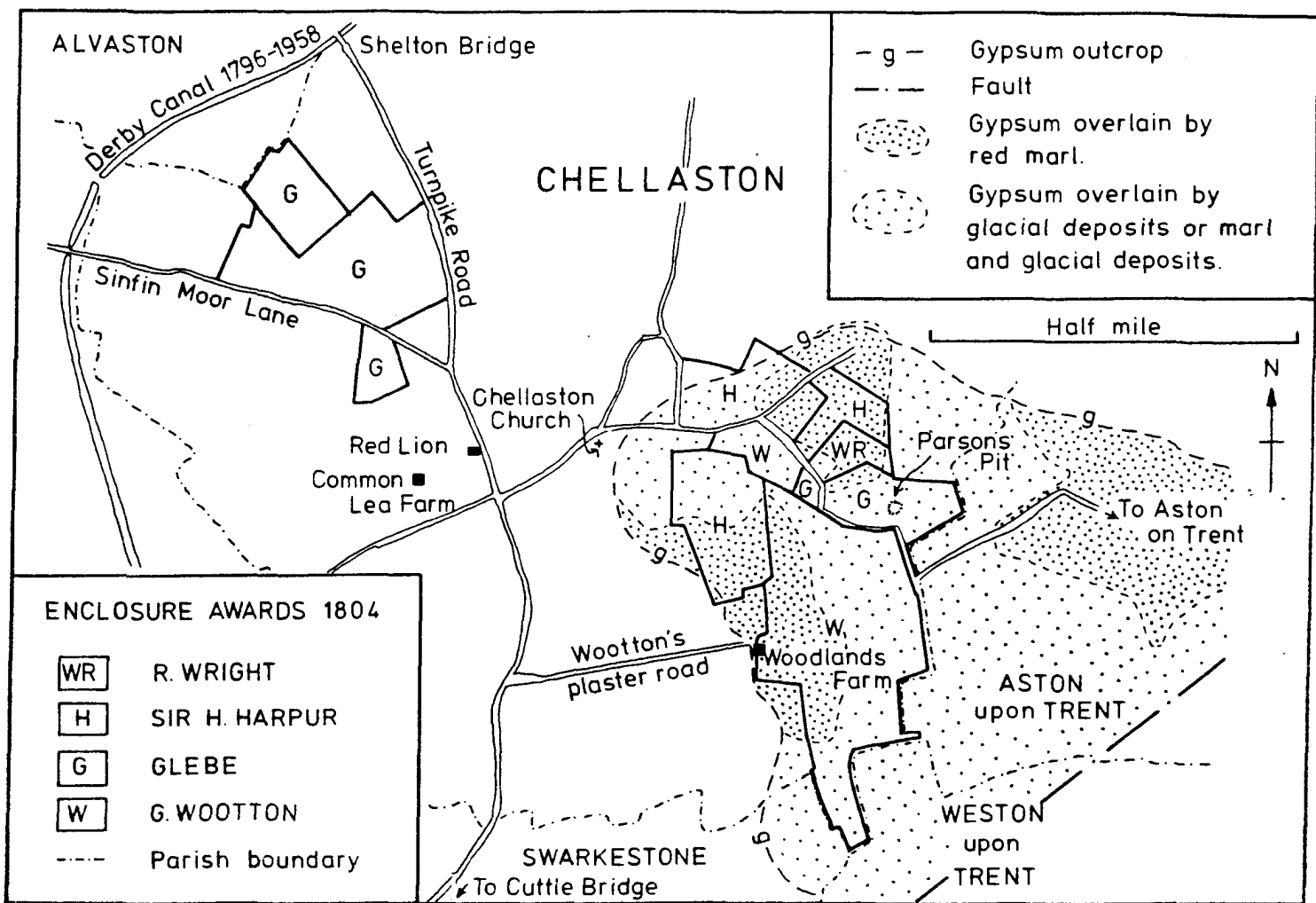


Fig. 1 Enclosure awards of 1804 in relation to geology.

The unshaded area is underlain by strata below the main gypsum seam. Glacial deposits are shown only where they overlie gypsiferous strata. Geological boundaries are based on Geological Survey mapping revised by R.J.F.

September 1749 and by his will dated 12 November 1833 ' he gave and bequeathed' it to his executors who included his daughter Mary (but, strangely, not to his son George). The entry of the transfer 25 August 1835 records that George Wootton 'is dead' but no record of his actual date of death has been found. George Wootton, junior, appears to have continued the business as plaster merchant and farmer until his death in 1860 and presumably, like his father continued to use the facilities at Shelton Wharf in preference to those at Cuttle Bridge. The phrase in the 1860 advertisement referring to 'outlets in other directions' probably had Cuttle Bridge in mind as one alternative but would not wish to emphasise this since the objective was to lease both the mines and the facilities at Shelton Lock.

Enclosure evidence

The geological evidence which precludes gypsum mines near Shelton Bridge equally throws doubt on Young's suggestion (1) of an old mine near Common Lea. The evidence here was based on an entry in Henry Forman's diary (6) dated May 3rd 1884 which recorded that he went with the vicar and an old miner to some glebe land 'with the idea of working over again an 'old mine' for alabaster'. The enclosure award of 1804 (Fig.1) reveal that glebe land existed not only west of the Derby - Swarkestone Turnpike Road but also east of Chellaston. Geological evidence indicates that this latter area, unlike that northwest of Chellaston, was underlain by workable gypsum. This glebe land encompasses a pit shown on Smith's 1919 map (7) as Parsons Pit thus suggesting (in spite of the lack of apostrophe) a church connection. This pit is known to have produced gypsum at least as early as 1835 (cf. the 1 inch O.S. map) and moreover the Mines Records Office list (8) indicates that the Chellaston Glebe Mine which closed about 1874 was hereabouts. There can, therefore, be little doubt that the old mine visited by Henry Forman in 1884 was in the glebe land east of Chellaston and not as previously assumed (1) the area behind the Red Lion at Common Lea. This latter area contained a brick yard with no gypsum (see Appendix 1).

The enclosure evidence of 1804 (9) indicates the extent of George Wootton's land but does not show the precise localities of his workings. Farey (1811) (3) also mentions pits worked by Robert Wright and Gilbert Hutchinson. Wright's pit was probably in the 3 acres allotted to him near to Wootton's and glebe land. Hutchinson is not in the Enclosure Award nor is the whereabouts of Henry Orton's mine known (cf. Glover, 1829 (4)). Possibly Hutchinson and Orton were tenants or lessees and their workings were on land owned by other landowners.

Evidence from rates assessments

Although Henry Orton's name does not appear on the 1804 enclosure maps and is not mentioned by Farey (1811)(3) he is listed in an assessment on Chellaston property of 1824 at 6d. in the £ 'for the necessary repairs of the highways within the said parish (10)' which has the following entries (Appendix 1) about 'Plaster quarries', 'Henry Orton £2.6s.9d. and Geo. Wootton £2.5s.0d.'

By 1824 therefore, Henry Orton may have been marginally a more important producer of gypsum than Geo. Wootton. Significantly there is no mention of 'mines' even though Orton was reported by Glover (4) to have successfully mined gypsum which was 'until the year 1820 got by open work'. Another significant entry records Samuel Rose as having a brickyard, so by 1824 bricks as well as plaster were produced in the parish.

Another assessment for the Chellaston rates (the Relief of the Poor, 1832, at 10d. in the £) has been found in a private collection (10) which makes no mention of mines but specifically refers to 'all Houses, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, Plaster Quarries and rateable Property within the

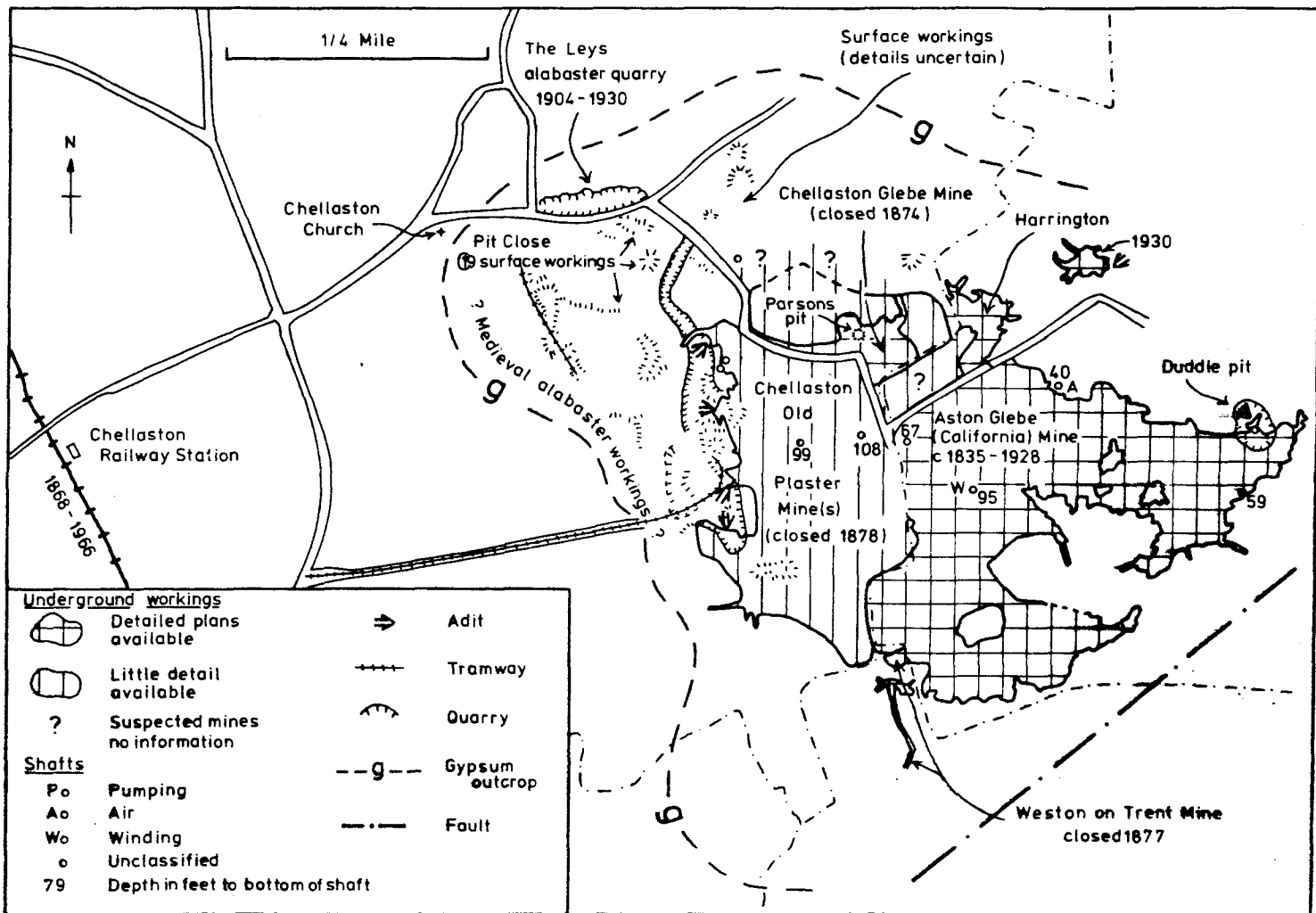


Fig. 2 Principal underground and surface workings for gypsum based on the 1887 6 inch O.S. map, Smith, 1919⁷ and plans of abandoned mines in the Mines Records Office, Liverpool. Note the adit entrances to Chellastom Old Plaster Mine appear to have been from the Woodlands Brick and Tile quarry the outline of which, as depicted on the 1887 O.S. map, is shown on this figure. After the mines closed this quarry was greatly enlarged eastward eventually closing in 1977 by which time most of the strata overlying the Chellaston Old Plaster Mine had been removed.

Parish'. Appendix 2 gives extracts that are relevant. Note that there were then three quarries, the most valuable of which was owned by Geo. Wootton jnr. although his father was still alive. Orton, both Henry and William were dead but their executors still owned the next valuable quarry. Then there was the glebe quarry, awarded in lieu of tithes at the 1804 Enclosure, occupied by Joseph Brookhouse, a new name to Chellaston records.

One more record has come to light, also found in a private collection (10). The Poor Rate for the Parish of Alvaston for the year 1837 has entries, extracted in Appendix 3, which show that Wootton and Orton owned property, probably adjacent to the Shelton Bridge, and Wootton also owned and occupied the Plaster Kiln and Wharf in the parish of Alvaston near the parish boundary between Alvaston and Chellaston (Fig. 1). The phrase 'in the parish of Chellaston' which appeared in the 1860 advertisement thus applied only to the mines and not to the kiln and wharf at Shelton Bridge. The lack of any mention of plaster quarries or mines in the Poor Rate for Alvaston reinforces the geological evidence indicating that there was no gypsum near Shelton Bridge either in Alvaston or Chellaston parishes.

Unresolved and partially solved problems

Although the combined historical and geological approaches have solved many problems several enigmas remain. All, however, can be constrained by the geological and documentary evidence and some partially resolved. For instance Farey (3) in 1811 reported that George Wootton owned two gypsum mines, one of which was covered by 'alluvial clay' the other being 'the most south westerly Pit' (of a group of four situated southeast of Chellaston) 'where the stratified Red Marl is removed to come at the Gypsum Alabaster or Plaster-stone beds.' The 1804 enclosure map defines Wootton's property and Farey's perceptive geological description permit the probable location of these pits to be further constrained. Farey's 'alluvial clay' is equivalent to the glacial deposits, mostly boulder clay, mapped by Geological Survey officers which cover most of the area. Thus the most south westerly pit must have been in the ground near Woodlands which was not covered by glacial deposits (Fig. 1). Similarly although the precise locations of Robert Wright's and Gilbert Hutchinson's pits are not known, from Farley's description it can be deduced that they must have been on land which was covered by glacial deposits. Moreover in 1811 before underground gypsum mining began they would have been in places where the overburden was thin enough for gypsum to have been easily found and exploited. The whereabouts of Henry Orton's underground mine, apparently developed in 1820, is more difficult to constrain because Glover gives no indication of whether gypsum was got by shaft sinking or drift mining, indeed as mentioned above the Poor Rate evidence of 1824 throws some doubt on Glover's report. Complications also arise because the words 'pits' and 'mines' are used indiscriminately (as indeed they are today) and cannot be used as firm evidence of surface and underground workings respectively.

Conclusion

The combined historical and geological approaches to the history of gypsum exploitation at Chellaston have already solved some problems and constrained others. We hope that further cooperation will eventually allow us to publish a more definitive history of alabaster plaster and plasterstone workings. Fig. 2 summarises the information gleaned to date.

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2. Firman R.J. 'A geological approach to the history of English alabaster'. Mercian Geologist Vol. 9, no. 4 (1984), pp. 161 -178.

3. Farey J. A general view of the agriculture and minerals of Derbyshire, Vol. 1 (1811), pp. 141-150.
4. Glover S. (1829). History and Gazetteer of the county of Derbyshire, Vol. II (1829), p. 100
5. Derby Central Library, Local Studies Department.
6. Private collection of Miss Betty Forman, Chellaston.
7. Smith B., 'The Chellaston gypsum breccia and its relation to the gypsum-anhydrite deposits of Britain'. Q.J. geol. Soc., London, LXXIV (1919), pp. 174-203.
8. Mines Department. Catalogue of plans of abandoned mines. Vol. 3 (1920).
9. Derbyshire Record Office, Quarter Sessions records.
10. Private collection of Mr. John Forman, Stenson, Derbyshire.

Notes

The spelling of 'Wootton' or 'Wooton' varies in different sources, e.g. it is the former in Chellaston Church records but the latter on a tombstone in the churchyard.

Nowadays the term 'alluvium' is restricted to sand silt and (especially) mud deposited by rivers in flood on flood or alluvial plains. Farey used the term much more widely to include all superficial deposits. Subsequent research has shown that many of these, including Farey's 'alluvial clay' at Chellaston were deposited not from rivers but from glaciers which formerly covered much of this country.

Appendix 1

Extracts from 'An assessment on all lands, tenements and hereditaments within the Parish of Chellaston at 6d. in the £ for the necessary repairs of the highways within the aforesaid parish. Dated 30th March, 1824.'

	£.	s.	d.
Jos. Wright House & land		6	0
Meakin Henry)			
Sir Geo. Crewe)	2	2	7½
Orton Henry Plaister Quarries	2	6	9
Rose Sam land		10	8
do brickyard			10
Wootton Geo. land	2	2	4
do own land	1	4	6½
do Scotland (1)		3	9¼
do Plaister quarries	2	5	0
Total for the Parish (including other assessments not listed in these extracts)	£38	8	1

Notes

1. Scotland may be a corruption of Scot and Lot which was a payment for the upkeep of a special facility.
2. No plaster is recorded for the Wrights.
3. No plaster is recorded for the Harpurs.
4. Although Sir Geo. Crewe may have been a Harpur-Crewe, no plaster is recorded.
5. No assessment was included on glebe land.
6. There is no mention of a Wootton brick-yard.

Appendix 2

Extracts from a hand written record, the 2nd. Book, 1832, signed by Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor

An Assessment for the necessary relief of the Poor and for the other purposes in the several Acts of Parliament mentioned relating to the Poor - on all the Houses Lands Tenements Hereditaments Plaster Quarries & Rateable property within the Parish or Township of Chellaston in the County of Derby made and assessed for the first day of December One Thousand eight hundred and Thirty two being a Rate of tenpence in the Pound.

Owners	Occupiers	Description	Annual Value			Rate		
			£	s	d	£	s	d
Glebe		Plaster Quarry	60	0	0	2	10	0
Orton Willm. Exors. of late	Brookhouse Josh.	Lands	1	15	0	6	1	5½
" "	Cope John	Plaster Quarry	150	0	0	6	5	0
Wootton Geo. Jnr.	" "	Houses & Lands	1	12	0	1	1	4
Wootton Geo. Snr.	Castledine Josh.	Houses & Lands	1	3	0	1	11½	11½
Wootton Geo. Jnr.	Forman Henry	Lands	2	6	0	1	1	11
" "	" "	Houses & Lands	19	0	0	1	9½	9½
" "	Kinsey William	" "	1	4	0	1	0	0
" "	Pegg William	" "	2	19	0	2	5½	5½
" "	Platts Joseph	Lands	7	6	0	6	1	1
Rose Samuel Jnr.	Rose Samuel Snr.	a Brick Yard when at work	3	0	0	2	6	6
" "	" "	Houses & Lands	92	13	0	3	17	2½
Orton William Exors. of late	Richardson Richd.	" "	15	0	0			7½
Wootton Geo. Jnr.	Trutchley Robt.	Lands	5	0	0			2½
Wootton Geo. Snr.	Thrutchley Thomas	Houses & Lands	17	0	0	14	2	2
Orton William Exors. of late	Wright Joseph	Houses & Lands	73	15	0	3	1	5½
Crewe Sir Geo.	Wootton Geo. Jnr.	" "	71	4	0	2	19	4
Wootton Geo. Jnr.	" "	Plaster Quarry Roads, etc.	390	0	0	16	5	0
" "	" "	Brick yard when at work	3	0	0			6
" "	" "	Land used as Dock Yard	7	0	0	3	2	3
Wootton Geo. Snr.	Wootton Geo. Snr.	Houses & Lands	1	3	0			11½
" "	Whyman Joseph	" "	2	0	0			1
Wootton Geo. Jnr.	White John	" "	1845	0	0	76	17	6
Total for the whole Parish			£1845	0	0	£76	17	6

Appendix 3

Extracts from entries in a hardback book, 'Shardlow Union Rate' for Alveston 1837

An assessment for the necessary Relief of the Poor, and for the other purposes in the several Acts of Parliament mentioned, relating to the Parish of Alveston in the County of Derby made and assessed the 29th day of May, being the first Rate at 10 pence in the pound for the present Year 1837. A second rate of 5 pence in the pound was assessed the 5th January 1838.

Number	Name of Occupier	Name of Owner	Description of Property	Presumed no. of Acres		Rental or Annual Value		Rate Collected			
				A.	R. P.	£. s. d.	s. d.	@10d.	@5d.		
38	Forman Henry	George Wootton	Land	1	1	1	16	6	1	6½	9¼
66	Leeson Robert	"	Cottage		2		16	0	8	8	4
103	Smith late Paul (Lock)	"	Cottage				12	0	6	6	3
114	Thrutchley Thomas	"	House & Land	1	3	5	17	0	4	10½	2 5¼
116	Wootton George	Crewe Sr George	Land	10	2	10	14	0	11	0	5 6
		Himself	Plaster Kiln & Wharf	1	16	2	10	0			
	White John	George Wootton	Cottage & Garden		9		8	0	5	8	4
125	Wright Joseph	Ortons Trustees	Land	6	0	6	8	3	5	4	2 8
			Total for the whole parish						£98 15	1	£46 2 0½

THE DERBYSHIRE DOMESDAY

by David Roffe (Derbyshire Museum Service
ISBN 0 906753 08 2 £1-20 32pp.)

Among the many impatient institutions and individuals who could not wait for the 1000 th Anniversary of the Domesday Book were Derbyshire Museum Service who have joined many others around the country in producing a booklet and exhibition to mark the rather less momentous 900th Anniversary. Assisted by 1986 technology, people have been trying very hard to wring the last bit of new information and conjure up the most convincing bit of new interpretation this time round: I wonder what will be left to say in 2086?

David Roffe's booklet is based on his re-examination of the Derbyshire section of Domesday commissioned by the Derbyshire Museum Service in association with Derby City Council, Erewash Borough Council and the Peak Park Joint Planning Board. It is intended as a companion to the Domesday exhibition which has been touring the county in the latter half of 1986 and it contains a description of the Domesday Book itself as well as a very stimulating consideration of various aspects of Domesday Derbyshire. It also includes a very useful glossary, even if one can, not suprisingly, quibble with some of the definitions quoted.

The fundamental problem with Domesday, and one that will probably remain insoluble for all time, is that the compilers knew what they meant by the terms they used in the context of the institutions and customs of the day: they also knew what they were including and, more importantly, what they were not including. We will always be at a disadvantage on both these counts: we will never know exactly what was meant by some of the terms: we will never know exactly what categories of people and what areas of land or estates were for some reason not included. To his great credit, Mr. Roffe makes it absolutely clear that Domesday must not be interpreted literally and that by no means every place is included. He also advances some plausible ideas on what the omissions might be. Where I feel he fails somewhat is in his aim to make it a guide to Domesday for the interested layman: this is a very difficult task but I feel that the unevenness of the explanation and interpretation of the jargon of Anglo Saxon, Danish and Domesday England makes it fail in this respect. It is not meant to be an 'idiot's guide' - which in many ways is a missed opportunity - but I still feel that it could have been made easier to follow even by people with a considerable background knowledge of the period.

Other quibbles? I wish that place-names had been consistently modernised except where only archaic forms are known: I find Morleyston irritating and **accepted** modern spellings should have been used consistently on the base maps. Generally the production is very good especially for such a modestly priced booklet but the figures that appear in the text e.g. Fig.11 might have been better demarcated either by the use of a smaller type-face or by dividing them off from the main body of the text with lines. As it stands, they are in danger of being completely lost in the text.

Overall this is a very worthwhile publication (surprisingly it doesn't appear to support Nuclear Free Zones!) and excellent value at £1-20. A very great deal of work and knowledge has been distilled into concise form and generally it renders groundless one's fears for yet another regurgitation of known facts and theories about Domesday Book.

Dudley Fowkes.