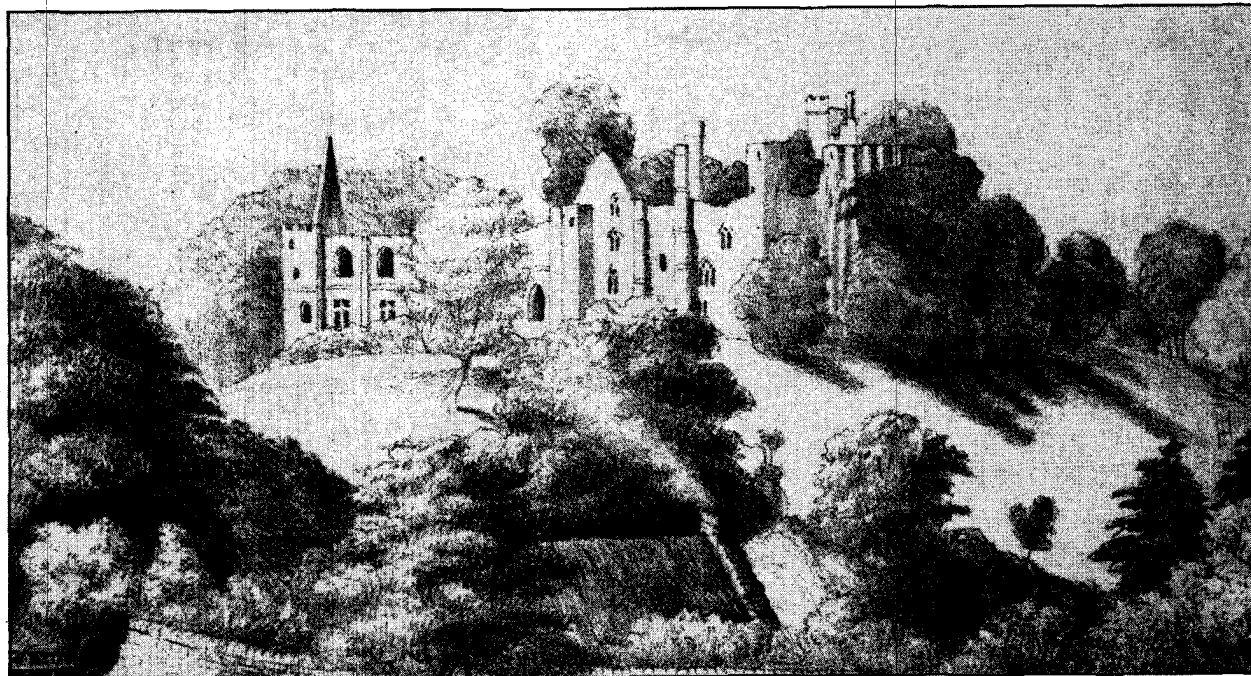


DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



VIEW OF SOUTH WINFIELD MANOR HOUSE
FROM THE VILLAGE.

The Local History Bulletin
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DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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C O N T E N T S

	<u>Page</u>
Early enclosure at Melbourne by Howard Usher	71
Notes on the History of Winster by Margery Rodger	76
Thomas Nightingale of Lea, Lead Merchant by Miriam Wood	81
Water at Over Haddon by Howard Usher	89
George Sitwell of Edington who died in 1607 by Pamela Kettle	90

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EARLY ENCLOSURE AT MELBOURNE

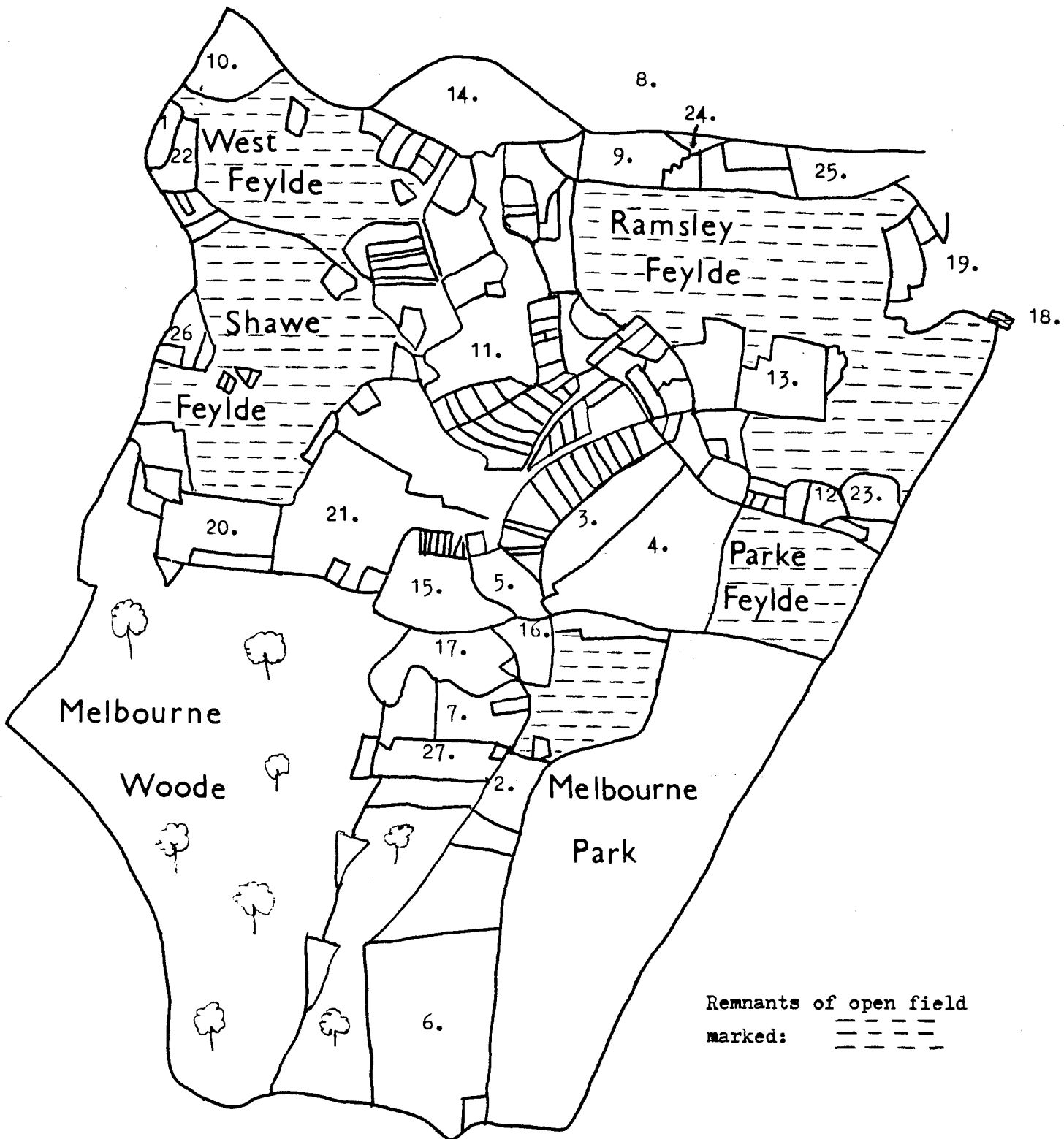
(by Howard Ushe

The Enclosure Act for Melbourne was presented to Parliament in 1787 for the enclosure of 2500 acres of the Commons, Open Fields, Meadows and Pasture. When the Enclosure Award was made in 1791, only 1582 acres were involved. The total area of the parish around this time was 3290 acres, so that, even when allowance is made for the acreage of the built-up areas and roads, there was obviously a large area of the land in the parish to which the Act did not apply. This is land which had already been enclosed in the past, and was customarily referred to as "ancient inclosures".

The process of enclosure had been going on piecemeal all over the country since the middle of the 15th. century, as it had been found more profitable to use the land for rearing sheep for their wool, rather than for growing a food crop. This process had caused a great outcry as the labourers in the open fields lost their livelihood to a handful of shepherds. As there was no land for the labourers to work, they abandoned their villages for the towns and their cottages were demolished. In 1489 an Act was passed to prevent the 'pulling down of townes' caused by enclosure and subsequent depopulation. The act seemed to have no effect and a second Act, passed in 1515, ordered the turning back to arable of all land which had been put to grass since 1488. This Act was given teeth by a Commission of Inquiry, chaired by Cardinal Wolsey, which investigated enclosure in the Midlands in 1517. In our area, Sir Ralph Shirley was indicted for depopulation at Staunton Harold, Leicestershire. "And he caused...24 people who lived around the ploughed fields, occupied these lands and inhabited those Messuages to leave quickly and lamentably.." It is not clear whether Ralph Shirley did turn his grassland back to arable - probably not. Another Act was passed in 1563, but this was repealed in 1593 when corn became abundant. Immediately food prices rose and anti-enclosure riots became common, culminating in the assembly of 3000 angry labourers at Hillmorton in Warwickshire in 1607. The State put down the revolt and prosecuted not only the leaders of the rebellion, but also the enclosing land-owners. However, the State soon found a convenient source of revenue by levying a fine on enclosures, and enclosure by agreement became even more widespread.

While these national events were taking place, enclosure was occurring in Melbourne, although this was not necessarily for conversion to pasture, but for the convenience of the landowners. In the early 16th. century, tenants of Melbourne and Ticknall complained that Richard Francis of Ticknall had enclosed certain parcels of ground upon which they had formerly enjoyed rights of common. This enclosure had occurred just before the death of Henry VII in 1509. (V.C.H. Derbys., II, 172) It sounds as if this enclosure had been made in the Derby Hills area.

One of the earliest rentals for Melbourne was taken for the Duchy of Lancaster on 5th. April, 7 Henry VIII (1513), and although closes are not explicitly mentioned, the phrase "a parcel of land called Pynholme" (un' pcell terr' voc' Pynholme)) strongly suggests an enclosure. (Leicester R.O. DE658/24) There were a number of these parcels, some of which appear later as enclosures. Enclosure is first mentioned definitely in 1536, when John Wilne released to Amice Sacheverell all his rights in Bennet Close otherwise Wood Close containing 80 acres. (Hastings MSS, I, 106) Closes are again mentioned in the assessment of St. Catherine's Chantry in 1549, just prior to its dissolution. (Melbourne Muniment Room, Box 52) The phrase used is "a parcel of enclosure" (unu' pcell Cli) and closes rented to Thomas Cantrell and Robert Kyrkman among others are listed. Enclosed meadow pasture is also part of the estate. In 1564, Gawyne Bewley and Nicholas Hardy purchased an estate which was part of the late St. Catherine's Chantry. (Matlock R.O. DE658/25) Numerous closes are mentioned in this rental, including Stanton potts, Carr heyas, Fulwalles, the Shawe, Mylneholme, the Wiggs, the Parke,



Note: Melbourne Park has been added for the sake of completeness. It was omitted from the original, presumably because it was already enclosed.

Key to the names of closes marked on the map:

1. Allam Mead
2. Bennit Close
3. The Carr
4. Carr Heyes
5. Castle Orchard
6. The Coppye
7. Damhead
8. Great Meadow
9. Hall Meadow
10. Kings Holme
11. Kings Newton
12. Little Meadow
13. Lords Ground
14. The Marsh
15. Melbourne
16. Melbourne Hall
17. Melbourne Pool
18. Ramsley Gate
19. Ramsley Wood
20. The Ridings
21. The Shaws
22. Stanton Pitts
23. Statfold
24. Steanard
25. Wigpoole
26. Wild Slade
27. Wood Close

Rydings, Sharold Closes and Kings Close. It is interesting to note that many of these were demesne lands of the Queen, so the Queen's stewards were happily creating closes in spite of the nominal Royal disfavour.

In 1597 the crown sold Melbourne Park as a separate enclosure of 370 acres out of the manor of Melbourne to Sir Francis Nedham who had recently purchased the lease of Melbourne Rectory. In 1604 the residue of the manor of Melbourne was sold to Henry Hastings, 5th. Earl of Huntingdon. In March, 1628, Sir John Coke bought the lease of the Rectory of Melbourne from Sir Francis Nedham. Soon afterwards the Earl of Huntingdon was taking steps to effect a partial enclosure of Melbourne and Sir John Coke became involved in the action.

In a letter to Sir John Coke, dated January 9, 1631/2, Henry Hastings wrote: "The inhabitants of Melbourne and I are at end of all suits and in the general agreed for a general inclosure. When the conditions are drawn up, I will send them to you. I pray you send word to your bailiff that you are content to have your land admeasured. The next summer at your coming down I make no question but there will be an absolute conclusion amongst us all. There can be nothing done until the quantity of every man's land be known..." (Melbourne MSS,I,448) Sir John Coke was not very happy about Hastings' proposals, and asked the advice of his brother, Sir Francis Coke of Trusley. Francis wrote back in June, 1632. "I perceive that my Lord of Huntingdon is fully resolved to go on (whether you agree or not) to inclose his own demesnes and hath the consent of the freeholders; they think it will be beneficial for the town; but how it will be good for the poor when the commons are taken away, I yet see not. My cousin Cundy thinketh that it will be rather profitable to you than otherwise, and I am also of that opinion, if you make your agreement warily now you may make yourself a better match than hereafter, for inclosed it will be without doubt in time; my Lord's heart is so set upon it. And if you mind to agree thereto you must survey yours to know what part you have of the manor, that you may have answerable allowance of commons and wastes, and for your field ground that you may have so many acres of like value, joining to your park, as is offered as I conceive. Get a surveyor that you may trust, which is hard to do in this country, my Lord being so great an Earl..." (Melbourne MSS,I,459).

Sir Francis was putting the same arguments against enclosure which were to surface 150 years later. The poor would lose their common, but the rich could benefit by it if they were skilful. He did not trust Hastings at all and was sceptical of the possibility of obtaining an honest surveyor. His advice to Sir John Coke to have his field ground joined to his park was taken, as can be seen on Thomas Coke's estate map of 1724, now hanging in the Library of Melbourne Hall. This map shows the enclosures of Melbourne Park with the adjacent strip-ploughed fields of Town End and Dovemore as the whole Coke estate at this time.

However, it appears that events did not proceed smoothly, and in December, 1632, Sir Francis again wrote to his brother: "...it will behove you to take some order for the settling of your estate there in some certainty with my Lord of Huntingdon and the freeholders, or to suffer loss still. They are a multitude of stubborn people and with forbearance they are made worse..." It seems that Sir John had lost out to the Earl and Sir Francis was advising him to be tougher with the other parties to the agreement.

Some sort of agreement was eventually hammered out, but no statement of this has survived. However, there is a framed map in the Melbourne Hall Muniment Room, which seems to represent the result of this enclosure. This map shows dozens of tiny closes scattered over the parish and one can see how the four great open fields of Shaw, Ramsley, Park and West have shrunk to a fraction of their original size. The largest unenclosed area was Melbourne Wood and this, together with the vestiges of the four open fields, must have formed the 1582 acres which remained for enclosure in 1791. The map is not titled or dated, but on the back of the frame is written: "Plan of Melbourne Common probably made in 1722", and in a

different hand: "From the style of lettering and internal evidence, I think it more likely that this plan represents Melbourne about the time of S^r John Coke first occupied it i.e. 1625. P.W. Kerr, June 1927." Philip Kerr's comment is very close to the mark, although the date 1632 would be a lot nearer.

The names of freeholders appearing on the map include S^rJo Cooke, Hardy, Rivit, Cooper, Dawson, Mugliston, Ragg, Cantril and Ratcliffe, all of whom appear in other documents of the period. Certain parts are marked as "My Lords Plotts", suggesting that the map was drawn up on behalf of the Earl of Huntingdon, the Lord of the Manor of Melbourne.

It might be thought that that was an end of it and the enclosure agreement continued unchanged to the Parliamentary Enclosure of 1791. However, problems arose and court litigation took place in 1652. (Leicester R.O. DE658/46) On October 11, 1652, Ferdinando, Earl of Huntingdon, made a plea to the Lords Commissioners of the Great Seal. He observed that it was 24 years since his father, the Lord of the Manor of Melbourne, had made an agreement with the freeholders and copyholders of the manor to inclose their lands, which inclosure had been enjoyed without claim of Common for 23 years. "And now of late the Defendant, Robert Hardie of Melbourne aforesaid, hath threatened to lay waste the said Inclosure." Ferdinando therefore requested an injunction to quiet the plaintiff in the inclosure of the said lands until the hearing of the cause in the next Term.

It will be observed that this puts the date of the enclosure in 1628, whereas we know that Sir John Coke was still litigating in 1632. The agreement may have been implemented with the freeholders without Sir John Coke's participation. Another note attached refers to an order dated 6th, June, 1631 which may be the agreement between the Earl of Huntingdon and the freeholders. Robert Harding appears to be dissatisfied with the right of common which had been agreed by his father, Nicholas Harding. It must be remembered that this was the period of the Commonwealth, and Robert Harding, a disillusioned Royalist, may have been simply trying to create trouble.

Also preserved is a copy of Ferdinando's oration to the Commissioners. He lists 23 copyholders and freeholders of Melbourne who made the enclosure agreement with his father, Henry, Earl of Huntingdon. The 23 names are those found on the map in the Melbourne Muniment Room and are the well-known yeomen of the parish - Rivetts, Cantrells, Ratcliffes, Muglistons, Raggs, Bowleys, Coopers and Bucknalls. Ferdinando stated that the enclosure was made because the cattle of freeholders intercommoning upon each other's lands, were found very inconvenient and prejudicial to all. Separate treaties were made with Sir John Cooke who held the parsonage impropriate. The freeholders then enclosed their lands about 24 years earlier and enjoyed the same without any Right of Common from the Lord or anyone else. 22 years before the Earl of Huntingdon had improved and inclosed his own lands which then lay open, at the great charge of one thousand pounds or thereabouts, and enjoyed the lands without claim of Common until the time of his death about 7 or 8 years before.

We don't know the sequel to this case. The enclosure certainly remained unaffected and the shapes of fields enclosed in c.1632 remained and can be identified on the parliamentary enclosure map.

NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF WINSTER

(by Margery Rodger)

The Medieval Village

The first church in Winster was built in the twelfth century. Along with its mother church of Youlgreave and the chapelries of Elton, Gratton, Stanton and Middleton, it was to pass by gift about the year 1154 into the hands of the Abbey of Saint Mary in the Meadows, Leicester. From the records of this establishment we learn how Winster paid its tithes of lead and wool into monastic hands and remained under the dominance of Youlgreave.

There are references to the settlement and inhabitants of Winster in medieval documents. For instance, in 1302, Robert son of Robert is concerned in a grant of common pasture upon the moors of Stanton. He is surnamed "de Winster", as was Thomas in 1304 and Hugh in 1349. In a deed of 1313, people and property are recorded together, this relating to three messuages and land in the village, the grant being witnessed by Gilbert Gerard, Robert Marriott and Lodewyne de Winster, all of this place. Subsequent deeds for this property show ownership within the family of Gerard over a long period of time.

At the dissolution of the monasteries, patronage of the church passed into secular hands and the appointment of the minister became vested in the resident freeholders. The ancient parish chest, once used to house the church records, is now in the safe keeping of the Old House Museum, Bakewell.

The Churchwarden's Accounts for the years 1720 - 1725

The Office of Churchwarden

The ancient and honourable office of churchwarden originated at an unknown date in connection with the repair and maintenance of the church fabric and was known to exist in the 14th century or earlier. Under the Act for the Relief of the Poor of 1598, the churchwardens also became ex-officio overseers, assisting the overseers of the poor, created by this act, with the relief and maintenance of the parish poor.

At this time, responsibility for the destruction of vermin lay in the hands of the church. By an Act of 1532 each parish was to provide itself with a net for the slaughter of such creatures and from time to time this act was renewed. Many ravens were brought in for instance, some years more than others, 4d being paid for each bird. Hedgehogs fetched 2d and moles were mainly dealt with by the professional catcher, by yearly contract, no money being paid out until the pest was certified as dead by the churchwarden.

The Accounts

The Chapel Warden's Accounts, correctly so called at this early period, not churchwardens, begin in the year 1720. The earliest entry is on a small piece of paper dated November 12th and has written upon it the following:

"A soundbox and panel to ye back of ye pulpit seat	£2.7.6
Repairs about ye bells	2.0
	£2.9.6 "

The bill is signed by Jacob Holmes. This man is forever busy about the church and village. His memorial is within the building.

The first long sheet of accounts commences on Lady Day 1721, the entries starting with the word "Visitations". This denoted the regular visits paid to the church

by the Archdeacon twice yearly, when the wardens for the past year gave him a true copy of the register of all marriages, christenings and burials which had taken place during their period of office. The customary charge for this was 5s0d. Wine was bought and drunk. This sheet of accounts runs straight through the year with no further datings, and the collective sum paid out to the ringers was 17s0d. Travellers were helped on their way at several times amounting to 5s0d in all, but bread and wine cost 9s9d. The oil bill was 1s5d for the year. The churchyard walls are seen to under the entry "8d for amaking" them, with 1s0d spent on ale. The Church Lane was cleaned for 4d.

Winster, as a chapelry of Youlgreave had customary charges to pay to the mother church and, the sum of £1.13s0d was regularly paid out in this respect. £1.8s10d was expended upon the clock whilst Thomas Dore was paid £2.2s0d, this being his wage as "Clarke".

One Adam Eyre was buried by the parish, 6s0d for his coffin and 2s6d for his burial, plus 1s0d expended upon the occasion. Overseers and churchwardens never missed a free drink. The year's charges or disbursements were £18.9s8d in all.

1722

The usual administration charges took place. The "Ewe" trees were lopped for 6d and the newly erected Sundial had a further 2s0d spent upon it. The Churchyard Lane is stoned at a cost of 3d. Vermin was killed as usual and by October there was trouble with the windows when £2.0s6d was paid out for lead for glazing. There were certain arrears due to the ringers, in all £2.7s2d, with a bonus of 9s0d. The clock was cleaned for 5s9d. Thomas Dore had his usual wage of £2.2s0d plus an extra 2s0d for washing the surplises. The assessment for the year was £20.11s11d, the monies disbursed being £20.2s7d, leaving 9s4d in hand.

1723

There is no detailed account for this year beyond the usual payment to Youlgreave church of £1.13s0d. It is obvious that certain of the sheets are entered up on to one paper from rudely kept originals.

1724

Again there are no dates for this year, but visitations took place, and 7s0d was paid to the Ringers. New bells were bought, with new clappers costing 12s0d and bell ropes at 7s0d for the four. Jacob Holmes supplied 5s0d worth of ale to celebrate and a further lot of tippie when the bell founder was paid his money. Holmes sends in his bill for work done in the loft - £2.9s8d with 10s0d for boards.

There were many repair bills at this time and the school house needed attention. Timothy Storer supplied new bands to the pinfold door at a cost of 1s0d. The total monies spent in this year amounted to £20.8s9d.

The level of church attendance was reflected in the sums paid out for bread and wine, with Easter costing 7s2d, Christmas 3s1d and Whitsuntide 4s1d.

1725

Vermin was troublesome just as it had been in the past year when the mole catcher had been paid £3.4s0d. Hedgehogs are here called by their old name, that of urchins or orchins and moles are modewarps.

There is now trouble with the church roof, lime and moss being bought and two ladders had to be fetched for the work at a cost of 2d.

A number of people passed through the village, all needing assistance, such as a man and his wife and two children who were given 1s0d; others received from 1s8d down to 4d.

The ringers were given 15s0d and there follows a number of entries concerning the bells themselves when the final settling up with the bell founder took place in Matlock. The total sum was £11.10s9d. Yew trees were dressed as for the last 2 years.

Jacob Holmes bound the Common Prayer Book for 1s6d, just as he was paid also for hanging the new bells. The church expenses for the year 1725 amounted to £38.9s 8 1/2d.

The other Parish Officers

The Overseers of the Poor were directly responsible for the relief and maintenance of the poor. They were elected yearly at Easter, and in Winster were four in number, each being a substantial householder.

The office of constable was an ancient one. His expenses in Winster are recorded in the parish accounts, but are few in number.

The appointment of the Way Warden, or Surveyor of the Highways was confirmed by the Local Justices under whose jurisdiction he worked. The repair and upkeep of the roads were his responsibility and it was his duty to enforce what was known as Statute Labour. This involved the whole of the parish, each inhabitant having to supply his own labour or the services of a cart and team to assist with the maintenance of the roads on the days appointed by the Surveyor. This compulsory duty, obnoxious to all, led to neglect of the roads and unless brought to the notice of the Justices themselves was often ignored. If unmoved by the order to "mend your ways" from those in authority the parish was compelled to pay a fine. The later establishment of the Turnpike Trusts sometimes led to much improved conditions. As with the constable, there are few entries relating to the above.

The Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor

1720

There are four long sheets of paper concerning the Poor Law in Winster for the above year. They are well written and commence with the out-payment of money to the very poor or destitute, they receiving during this period sums ranging from 18d to 6d per week. There are ten regular entries, seven women as against three men. In certain cases house rents are paid, probably for arrears, as also are lodging dues.

Timson Storer was a drain upon the parish over a long period, usually being given a few coppers at a time, but was also supplied with coal as were all the needy, particularly towards the winter time. Storer was supplied with a new bed in the summer under the entry of:

"Six boards for Timson Storers bed	2s0d
For a rail	3d
Nails	1d
Workmanship	9d "

Many personal purchases were made such as those for Jane Hanson (long on parish pay). A new pair of "shews" 2s0d, five yards of linen cloth at 10d per yard with 2d for thread and 8d for the dressmaker. She also has a new apron at 1s2d and later in the year a further two yards of cloth and thread. She had a daughter for whom she has received money payments also. There were a number of children in the care of the parish poor law officers, entered perhaps as "John Hartley's child" or

the "Blackwell sisters", whilst medical attention was given when needed, as it was to Ralph Hawley, the doctors charge for this being 17s4d. Doctor Gell was paid in June for seeing to Ellin Blackwell's son 10s0d and £2.0s4d for the illness of Hanson's daughter. Throughout the Winster accounts over many years medical attention is recorded, often with high fees. Despite this, Ralph Bark was to die in high summer being buried by the parish - Funeral 3s6d, coffin 6s0d.

A number of journeys were made on account of settlement matters with horse hire at 8d, with 6d expenses, whilst money was allowed towards the upkeep of the roads; the constable had a new staff at 6s0d and written alongside is entered "searching for Brittlebanks daughter 8d", with a warrant charge of 1s0d.

The entries continue as:

Spent at baptizing Timmersons child 3s8d
Payed at removing John Loselly's child 3s0d. The father here is subsequently removed to London at a cost of £1.10s0d
For meat and drink to London £1.0s0d
For delivering him 10s0d
For meat and drink at Ashbourne £1.2s10d
With 4 horses for 2 days 8s0d

This was a clear case of returning a man to where he belonged, under the Act of Settlement.

Women in labour had attention when needed, as did Martha Adams. A trouble to the village over many years, the births of her children are recordings of her troubles. One feels them to be base-born and here she is given 1s0d and has two women "tenting" her. 1s6d to Ann Ashmore and 6d to Jane Doncaster. Martha stayed one night at Richard Harrisons - charge 2d. A pot was bought for her at 3s6d. A bed was made for her at 5s0d with a bolster and a blanket. Her chaff bed cost 1s0d and she received 1s2d worth of coal. Then follows the entry "and for her table (food) and lodging 2s0d five days. She was later put to work when 3s6d was paid out for a "sarsy" wheel. As with other women paupers she was given spinning to do.

Property repairs are ever present as here lime is bought at 2s0d per load and a gable end is walled up for 5s6d labour.

A "shut" of clothes cost 7s2d, whilst Francis "Foxla" was taken before the Squire Boothby and the overseers spent 1s2d in going about it. Ellin Duffield was given 5s0d towards burying her child. The funeral cost 3s0d. Mary Toust had linen and whalebone supplied to her for 10d with 1s6d supplied upon making her a new coat.

Other regular payments were made throughout the year and coal was supplied. The Pinfold was repaired.

After spending 7s0d at a meeting at one Richard Wilcocks and "for paper and righting" 2s0d the year ended with "and for our sallorys" £2.0s0d.

Bastardy was rife and as was the law of the day the woman had to state either by force or choice who was the father of the child before a magistrate in public, on what date the incident took place and where. The man was then apprehended and as in the case of Nicholas Hall of Winster in 1724 he is called to the Quarter Sessions in Derby. The case proceeded as follows:

"Touching the begetting of a bastard child being of the body of Ann Stafford of Winster, spinster, and upon hearing upon oath in open court the said Ann Stafford touching the same, the court was of the opinion and did adjudge ye said Nicholas Hall to be the putative father of ye bastard child, it was hereby ordered by this court accordingly that ye said Nicholas Hall shall after ye expiration of ye said

seven years pay and deposit into ye hands of ye overseers of the Poor the sum of three pounds for and toward this child putting out as an apprentice".

This order appears many times in the records with only difference being in the names and particulars, leaving the child in the care of the Overseers with sometimes the mother sent to the House of Correction in Chesterfield according to the judgement of the court.

Absconding from ones master in the case of an apprentice, loitering and begging were all punishable by the constable. This usually took the form in either sex of being stripped to the waist and whipped in public "Until the Blood flowed".

The Act of Settlement was a refinement of the Elizabethan statute regarding the relief of the poor, whereby each town or village was made responsible for its own inhabitants. If you were native to Winster there you should live and work and draw on the poor rate should you fall on hard times. Should you move elsewhere without permission very soon you would be up before the local magistrates for examination regarding your settlement and more than likely find yourself being escorted back to your native place. You would only have been allowed to remain in the place into which you had moved on production of a certificate from the overseer of Winster stating that they would be willing to pay your relief should you fall on hard times.

The village is quiet at this period, 3s4d only being laid out in coal over the month. Old George Ashton was given 9d twice and on October 3rd Anne Ashmore, long on parish pay, was given a bedhilling, that is, a bed cover costing 5s0d.

On the 17th of the month appears one of the most interesting items in the Winster records. This concerns the building of houses to accommodate the poor, arising out of a refinement of the Elizabethan Poor Laws which encouraged parishes to provide houses for impotent people. These buildings were usually erected upon parish land.

Headed as

"An account for ye houses for ye Poore" the items are all listed separately as below:

"Paid for getting stone and ridding the ground work for both houses	£1. 1s 6d
Paid to them likewise for the Walling the Bargain being set by John Badeley	£1.15s 0d
Gave to them in ale at the Bargain making	1s 1d
Gave to them in ale at the foundation laying	1s 0d
Paid Ralph Barke for freestone for the fireplaces and for through stones for the chimneys	5s 0d
Paid for the leading of the stone 14 load at 2 pence 1/2d	2s11d
Paid M. Bagshaw for gunpowder and wiskits	1s 2d
Gave to them in ale at the laying on the timber	1s 0d
For 6 score of oat straw at 1.6 per score	9s 0d
For fifty six sheaves of wheat straw at 1.9 per score	4s11d
For digging and leading of 400 of clods	1s 4d
George Meltam for 5 days after 1.0 per day	5s 0d
Robert Hampson for the serving of him five days after 6d	2s 6d
Paid for two hundred and a half of rods	1s 0d
John Wheldon for smith work	3s 0d
Paid for 14 loads of lime after 1.0 per load	14s 0d
Paid Francis Parker horse for leading stone and water for the houses	2s 6d
William Bramley bill for glase	3s 0d
Paid Sarah Hawley for leading stone and water and filling the walls	2s 0d
For Likewise to Thomas Blakewelle and Sarah Hawley for ridding the rubbish out of the houses	6s 4d

1725 shows the same paupers dependant upon the parish. Journeys from Winster show in many cases the remoteness of the area. Horse hire and fodder, meat, drink and lodging, with perhaps 6d. paid for a guide, were all duly entered. Bank House was supplied with a new "chimley" piece costing 5s9d. Repairs to other property continued and roofs were rethatched, clothing was bought and children in care watched. The Pinfold had a new lock at 1s0d, whilst letters were written, odd lots of coal were supplied and Samuel Holmworth was buried at a cost of 10s9d.

Entries follow for the usual clothes, rents or perhaps new shoes. The school house was repaired taking four days time. Thatching would seem to have been a major worry. Thomas Turner was the thatcher, using his wheat and oat straw, his wage being 1s0d per day. John Roberts, working alongside him had 7s0d for the week as carpenter. Though now winter time there are very few entries for the supply of coal and no alteration of payments.

The year 1725 (old style calendar) is now drawing to a close. An unusual entry here is the supply of 2 pecks of meal at 1s6d being supplied to "Margret Eyere". Stone was bought costing 11s0d towards the erection of another house. Full sanction had been given in 1724 to the Overseers of the Poor and the Churchwardens for them to purchase or hire any house or houses in the parish for poor law purposes and to contract with persons for the lodging, employment and keeping of the poor. Only such people as wore the Paupers Badge or were duly registered in the books, except in pressing circumstances, were to be relieved. Failure to apply this meant a fine of 20s0d for each offence upon the Overseers. There were therefore many entries for lodgings and often short stays about the village. Women on parish pay were set to work spinning and the entry of 7lbs of toe at 7 1/2d per lb records this, and this was to continue regularly.

The years accounts finish with the entry

"For the Overseers Care and Trouble allowed by the Town £2.0s0d, in money spent being £67.0s2d, leaving the remaining sum of 8s8d to be carried forward into 1726".

THOMAS NIGHTINGALE OF LEA LEAD MERCHANT (1665/6 - 1735)

(by Miriam Wood, Derbyshire Record Office, County Offices, Matlock)

Despite the fame of the Nightingale family, little is known of its earlier history and its origins are obscure. The career of Peter Nightingale (died 1803) Lead Merchant, industrialist and land-owner is often confused with that of his father also named Peter (died 1763) (1) and few local historians know of Thomas Nightingale, father of the first Peter, and founder of the family's prosperity.

He was probably the Thomas son of John and Frances Nightingale who was baptised at Ashover on 25 March 1666 (1) When Thomas Lead Merchant died on 19 January 1734/5 (2) he was said to be 69, so his birth could have occurred at any time in the years up to 19 January 1666 and his baptism took place when he was between two and fourteen months of age. Little is known of Thomas's parents, but the baptisms of two other sons are recorded in Ashover parish registers: Henry on 17 May 1668 and Richard on 13 August 1682 (1). A brother Richard is mentioned in Thomas's will (3). Nothing is known of his childhood or youth. The family was probably poor and no reference to them is to be found in the Hearth Tax records printed by the Derbyshire Record Society (4). As he was unable to write his name to the end of his life, making a mark like an up-turned T on deeds such as his will, it seems that he received little formal education. There is no evidence as to whether he could read or reckon, although his later career would suggest that he was capable at least of mental arithmetic.

A pedigree in the Wolley Manuscripts (5) claims that Thomas was a servant of John Marshall of Lindway Lane (north of Wheatcroft in Crich parish) "agricola" (farmer) and that he married Katherine Bowler of Lea. Thomas's wife was certainly named Katherine and Bowler was a local name, so there is no reason to doubt the pedigree with regard to his marriage. Like the Nightingales, the Bowlers were not people of any social standing and Katherine could not write (6) (but that is of less significance than it would be for a man). Mary, a daughter of Thomas Nightingale of Lea - presumably the future lead merchant - was buried at Ashover (1) in March 1700/01, but five of Thomas and Katherine's children survived beyond childhood and youth. Henry, the eldest son, was born in 1702 and after his father's death lived at 'Matlock Wolds'. (5) Peter, born in 1704, succeeded to Thomas's lead interests and to much of the Lea estate, whilst Paul probably went to Derby and became a grocer (7). Thomas's daughter Katherine married Benjamin Bland, described in 1731 as of Somercotes, a framework knitter (8) and Rebecca married Thomas Miles, in 1735 said to be of Derby (3). A fourth son Job died in 1731 aged 18 (1).

The first reference to Thomas, apart from the record of his baptism, may be in a list of Protestant Dissenters sworn and registered in the Quarter Sessions Order Book for 13 November 1689 (9). There a Thomas "Nightindale" of "Ludor" Lane appears, his name immediately followed by that of John Marshall of the same place, the man perhaps said to have been the lead merchant's master. It is not certain however that this is the right Thomas Nightingale as there was at least one other Thomas alive at that time - the Thomas of "Lindery" Lane who was buried at Ashover some 15 years later, in 1704 (1). The Order Book entries are however of some interest, even if Thomas, later of Lea, is not listed, for they show that members of the Marshall and Nightingale families were living near each other at Lindway Lane and that both families were involved in dissent. No doubt the young Thomas did work for a John Marshall of Lindway Lane although there is no direct evidence. Later, Thomas Nightingale of Lea registered a house as a meeting house for dissenters on 7 July 1719 (10) and Thomas the lead merchant endowed a dissenting chapel in his will (3). It may be that his religious leanings explain the closeness of his relationship with John Spateman of Roadnooke (between Brackenfield and Wessington) esq., a man much his superior in wealth and social standing but said to be "a constant frequenter of Conventicles" (assemblies of dissenters) (11).

In 1702, a Thomas Nightingale was involved in a suit in the court of the Duchy of Lancaster as one of the many partners in the Shack Vein lead mine at Winster (12). It is the first known reference to his connection with the lead industry and the first time his name was associated with that of John Spateman another partner in the Shack Vein mine. The following year, with others, Thomas Nightingale of Lea yeoman took a lease of the tithes payable from the property of nearly 30 persons (including himself) in Lea and Holloway for a term of 3 years at a rent of £6 (13). Evidently no one of the persons held much land subject to these particular tithe payments, nor is it obvious whether they owned or leased their properties. The chief interest of the document is that it shows that Thomas Nightingale was living at Lea and claimed the status of yeoman. He was presumably now farming but it is difficult to say how substantial his activities were. The only direct reference to land in Thomas's hands at this period shows that he became a tenant of several closes or fields, acreage unknown, at Brownswood in Matlock parish between 1700 and 1705 (14). However, land tax assessments of 1706 show that Thomas Nightingale was paying 3s6d and £1.16s2d (£1.19s8d in all) for land he owned in the constabery of Dethick, Tansley and Lea and 14s0d for land in Matlock. The sums appear very small but the larger sums would have been payable on acreages in double figures (15). He may well have still been leasing the Brownswood closes too.

It is often said that Peter Nightingale bought the manor of Lea in 1707 but as Thomas's son Peter was a very young child at that time it is more likely that Thomas bought part of the manor (not all, for it was, and remained, divided) and somewhat later than 1707, but the purchase was later attributed to the

better-known Peter. Thomas of Lea undoubtedly owned parts of the manor later (16) - this almost certainly implied ownership of manorial rights, not of land.

When John Spateman of Roadnooke esq. made his will on 1 December 1707, Thomas Nightingale of Lea yeoman was named as one of the three trustees for the sale of Spateman's properties (17). The latter was a man of some wealth and standing. The Wolley lists show him as a partner in lead mines and and soughs (18) and the Nightingale papers as the purchaser of the Cowhey smelting mills at Lea (19). His property in Ashover, Morton and Crich was sold for £3,800 in 1709 (exclusive of the smelting mills). What the connection between Spateman and Nightingale was is not known and on the face of it, it is odd that Spateman should have chosen an obscure yeoman, unable even to write, as one of his trustees. Their shared religious convictions, similar business interests (though many men in central Derbyshire at that time had some interest in the lead industry) and perhaps that Thomas served Spateman in some capacity as he had once served John Marshall - any or all could have played some part in their relationship.

The disposal of Spateman's property did not go smoothly. In a declaration of 10 December 1709 (20) Edward Nevill of Newhall (in Heath) recited that on 1 December Spateman's executors and trustees sold to Nevill, for £3,800, all the properties Spateman died siesed (possessed) of in Ashover, Morton and Crich, with certain exceptions. Some lands in Ashover were however, unknown to him and the other persons involved in the transaction and which he is not to have by virtue of the articles. These are said to be 'the Lea Wood and Smelting Mills the Cow Hay house and Lands thereunto belonging and one other close now in the possession of the s'd (said) Thomas Nightingale' and half of the royalty (manorial rights) of Lea. Nightingale at least must have known these were part of Spateman's property (the other two trustees were from Blackwell and Ault Hucknall) but there is nothing to explain this puzzling episode further. There appears to have been a dispute about the will at least until 1711 and Thomas Nightingale was still involved with the Spateman family, though not in any unfriendly way as late as 1722 (19)

Perhaps in Spateman's half of the royalty of Lea may lie the origins of the belief that Peter Nightingale purchased the manor of Lea in 1707. Thomas could have taken the opportunity to buy part of this himself soon after Spateman's death, but he would have bought only one quarter of the manor at most, as the other quarter was purchased by Peter Nightinglae in 1737 (21)

The reference to the smelting mills in Nevill's declaration is somewhat ambiguous. It is not clear whether the Lea Wood, the mills and the Cow Hay house were all in Nightingales possession (tenancy) as well as the close referred to. It is possible to say only that Thomas may at the time of the declaration already have been leasing the mills at Cow Hey and the Lea Wood which probably supplied them with fuel.

The Matlock land tax assessment for 1711 (22) shows Thomas Nightingale in possession of property on which he paid 7s. 6d. - a little more than half the tax he had been liable for in 1706 - and another for 1712 (23) shows that he was taxed at £3.4s.2d in the Dethick, Tansley and Lea constabulary. This total was made up of separate sums of £1.1s.6d, 3s. 6d., 3s. 0d. (paid with William Buxton) and £1.16s.2d., two of which were exactly the same as in the assessment of 1706 (£1.16s.2d. and 3s.6d.). It is evident that Nightingale was already prospering in a modest way by the 1700's and was continuing to build up his small estate, albeit slowly. It will be shown later that he bought a number of chiefly very small properties from 1712-1714, yet by 1719 the land tax assessment for Dethick, Tansley and Lea (24) listed him as liable only for £2. 5s. 10.1/2d, made up of separate sums of 16s. 1.1/2d., 2s.7.1/2d. and £1.7s.10.1/2d.

Not only was he paying less than in 1712 but the individual sums were quite different, so that either he had reduced the size of his holdings by selling off

parts of them or he was paying tax on completely different properties. There is no direct evidence as to what caused this change but one possibility is that Nightingale sold the lands he owned by 1712 in order to finance the purchase of the share of the lead mills at Lea which it is known he acquired at some time before 1732. The land tax assessment of 1706 shows John Spateman, then the owner of the mills, the Lead Wood and associated property, paying £2.10s.2d. tax and that of 1712 shows £2.10s.2d. liable on what it calls Mr. Spateman's land. Spateman was long dead then but it looks as though his executors and trustees had still not sold his property in that area. It had certainly been disposed of by 1719.

The earliest purchase by Thomas Nightingale for which the title deeds survive was of a messuage house and a croft belonging to it with one-third of the fold yard and one acre of the royalty (manorial rights belonging to the house) in Ashover parish. This he bought for £11 on 27 October 1711 (25). Three months later, on 28th January 1712/13, Thomas purchased a piece of land already in his tenure with the lea field in Ashover parish called the hard (1/2a) for £4.12.6d. (25). His next purchase was of 4 closes called Greensmith's Croft, Old old Towne, Little Close and Rushy close in Lea, of which he was the tenant, and which he bought on 6 April 1713 for £130 (26). On 8 June 1713, he paid £1.10s for two thirds of a dole (16 perches of land) called the Swathes in Lea (but this may not have been a straight forward purchase) (26) and in the following year on 29 September Nightingale bought for £10 a cottage in Lea with 2 gardens, stable, barn and croft belonging to the cottage (1 acre) (25)

There are no more title deeds for purchases until the 1720's. The only other documentary evidence for this period mentioning Thomas Nightingale is a 'cottage' rental for Lea in which he appears 7 times paying in all 10s.9d. (4 of the payments are of 1.1/2d each) (27) and the land tax assessment of 1719 already referred to. It is not obvious what Thomas's interest in buying the very small properties was. More valuable to us is the information that he was a tenant of the largest property bought at this period, the 4 closes which cost £130, which gives some indication of his farming activities, and that, in the purchase of 1714, for the first time known, Nightingale called himself 'lead merchant'. Thereafter this was his normal, though not invariable, description. It is possibly an indication that he was involved in smelting as well as in dealing in lead, as the two occupations were often combined. Perhaps it was about this time that he acquired a share of the Cow Hay mills at Lea, but there is no evidence of the date at which this was acquired.

The only known reference to Thomas's involvement in a soughing (mine drainage) venture is an agreement of 1721 for a number of persons to bring up a sough to lead mines in the Upper Grounds at Ashover and to maintain it for a certain period (28). In this he is referred to as a yeoman, but even as late as 1731, Nightingale was described as such in a daughter's settlement (28).

Nightingale's deeds again show him purchasing property in Lea in the 1720's and again buying on a very small scale. He paid £37.6s for 4 parcels of land on 24 May 1721 (29). Two years later on 20 December 1723 he bought a dwelling house for £12.12s.6d. (30); on 24 February 1724/5 he purchased for £2.5s a cottage, croft or tenement and one little garden spot, both containing one rood of land (31); a month later on 30 March 1725 he paid £12 for the royalty of 18 acres of land in Lea Manor (32) and in May £3.10s for a cottage house, croft of 1/2 acre, orchard and garden at Cow Hey Yate, part of which was already in his possession (tenancy) (25). Thomas next acquired a dwellinghouse with chamber over it at Lea, one third of the yard or fold and a vacant piece of ground within the fold, for £11.5s. in July 1725 (29). Nightingale also purchased a little copyhold property within the manor of Matlock, a messuage (house) and 1/2 acre to which he was admitted on 27 April 1727 (33) and one acre 'recovered' to his use on 17 May 1727 (24).

Thomas Nightingale invested a little money in a mortgage when he lent £56 to Hugh Hole in 1726 on the security of 3 closes (8 acres of land). Thomas was the tenant

of the land concerned at the time and still held it in 1733 when his son Peter bought the closes (35). This particular mortgage has probably survived because of the later purchase by Peter, but lending to neighbours and friends whether secured on a mortgage or by a bond would have been a normal activity for anyone with spare money. Whether Thomas's lending made a significant contribution to his growing prosperity it is impossible to say without further evidence: the likelihood is that lending was peripheral to his main concerns and made only a minor contribution.

Thomas made the biggest purchase for which the details survive on 26 March 1727 when he bought Lea town head house and a number of closes from William Hodgkinson of Overton in Ashover esq and his wife Elizabeth for £450 (36). A map made of L'le Town head Farm' in 1698 when it was substantially the same farm Thomas Nightingale bought 29 years later (although buildings may have changed) shows a probably L-shaped house standing amongst trees - an orchard perhaps - in an acre of land just south of a road or path on to which a gate opened. The 'Town streete' is shown more or less parallel to the path but well south of it. The house and the land in which it stands lie in a block with 4 other closes, the one next to the house property called 'The Chappel Yarde' and containing a building. The other 8 pieces of land were scattered, only 2 lying together (37). In 1698 the farm contained 19.1/2 acres and in 1727 a little more - perhaps a little over 20 acres - but the difference is so small it may be accounted for by differences in measurement rather than by any real addition to the farm.

In February 1727/8 Nightingale paid £170 for a messuage in Lea and two thirds of the closes belonging, but this property he conveyed to his son Henry on 15 July 1729 for a token sum of 5s. (38). Unless there are circumstances of which we know nothing, the conveyance was in effect a gift to his son. Thomas's final purchase - or the last for which deeds survive - was once more a very small one, a cottage house and garden in Lea, costing only £3 and adjoining Thomas Nightingale's croft (6 August 1728) (30).

Nightingale undoubtedly made some acquisitions for which the title deeds have not survived, but his will disposed of only one such property of any size or importance - his half share in the Cowhay smelting mills and Lea Woods. There is evidence, however, of a more substantial transaction in the settlement (8) made on his daughter Catherine, wife of Benjamin Bland of Somercotes, framework knitter, on 7 September 1731. Thomas settled on her and her family one third of a messuage and of several crofts and fields containing 43 acres, presumably meaning one third of 43 acres or about 14 acres - at Wheatcroft in Crich, together with one third of 15 bays of building with gardens, yards etc. and of a piece of land and tithes of some Whatstandwell lands. In his will Nightingale refers to having given his daughter about £250 for her portion, perhaps a reference to the purchase price of the Wheatcroft lands. He may have treated his other daughter similarly but no evidence survives of a purchase made for her and he may simply have settled the money (about £200) mentioned in his will on Rebecca without investing it in land.

Nightingale made his will on 9 September 1732 describing himself as Thomas Nightingale of Lea, lead merchant (3). He left his wife the house in which he dwelt called the Town head house for her life (together with some land), to his son Henry his Matlock lands and properties including half the Cow Hay house and lands belonging to it, with the instruction that he must not obstruct the way through the premises to the smelting mills in Thomas's possession, and to his son Peter, the Town Head House and lands after his mother's death or remarriage, various other small properties, half the smelting mill called Cow Hay Mills and half Lea woods, all his mines and mineral possessions and the residue of his estate. This is the only evidence we have that Nightingale owned a share of the mills and of the woods which probably supplied them with fuel.

Only one guinea was left to Thomas's son Paul as he had already been given £800 for his portion; likewise he left to his daughter Katherine Bland only £5 as she

had already been given about £250 for her portion and to his daughter Rebecca £5, Thomas having given her £200 and more for her portion. Peter, not Henry the eldest son was made Thomas's executor, just as he was intended to succeed his father in the smelting and lead business. Thomas had second thoughts about some of his dispositions, just before his death in January 1735, revoking some of his gifts to Peter in favour of Henry and making his son in law Thomas Mills of Derby joint executor with Peter, but the changes he made did not alter the substance of Thomas's will: Peter his second son was still to succeed him in the lead business and to all intents and purposes was his heir and successor. There is no hint as to why his eldest son was treated less favourably. There does not appear to have been a quarrel for Thomas was not ungenerous to Henry and his status as the eldest son was acknowledged in Thomas's will when he left the larger of his 2 silver tankards and 2 silver tumblers or cups to Henry and the smaller to Peter. Unimportant as this may seem, it would undoubtedly have had considerable symbolic importance for Henry. The most likely explanation is that Thomas believed Peter to be the more able of the two. If so, his judgement was sound and his faith in Peter was to be justified.

Catherine Bland's settlement and Thomas's will together show that Thomas and his wife Catherine had at least 9 grandchildren by the early 1730's. Henry had a son and daughter, Job and Mary, and there were Peter's children Anne and Thomas, and Catherine Bland's 5 sons and daughters, Thomas, Richard, Benjamin, Hannah and Catherine. Young Thomas Bland appears to have been a favourite as his legacies were rather larger than those of the other grandchildren and the Bland children in general were more generously treated than Peter and Henry's sons and daughters. None of the children's legacies were large, however. Thomas's brother Richard was left £5.

Amongst the properties left to Peter were a house and land in which Thomas Broadhead lived and a house adjoining, used as a meeting house by Protestant Dissenters. Nightingale provided that the rents and profits of Broadhead's house were to be given to the minister who usually officiated at the meeting house and desired that it should always be used as such. It would seem, therefore, that Thomas's sympathies remained with Protestant dissent until the end of his life.

Thomas Nightingale died on 19 January 1734/5 and according to A. A. Rollason (2) was described on his tombstone as of Lea gentleman. He was buried in Ashover churchyard on 22 January (1). His wife outlived him by 7 years and was buried on 27 April 1742, aged 70 (2). She made her will on 21 April 1742, proved on 6 October of the same year.

The sources available for describing and assessing Thomas Nightingale's career are meagre. Any conclusions drawn from so little evidence must be very tentative, particularly as few of his surviving documents bear reference to his business activities. By the time he was in his late 30's - in the early years of the 18th century - he seems to have been a moderately prosperous yeoman, but the means by which he had achieved this can only be guessed at. On a negative view, a late marriage may have helped him to accumulate a little capital which otherwise would have been spent on maintaining a young family. He was respected enough to be appointed a trustee of John Spateman's will in 1707 and to be an assessor for the land tax in 1710 (39). He was able to add to the property he owned between 1706 and 1712.

The second decade of the 18th century on the evidence of the land tax assessments alone saw a setback for Nightingale. He apparently owned less land in 1719 than in 1712, he bought little and no doubt found the maintenance and upbringing of 6 children an expensive matter. But he was by no means poor, his sons at least were educated (40) and if he was indeed working the lead mills - whether as owner or tenant - the impression given by the land tax assessments could be misleading.

There is no doubt that Thomas prospered in the 1720's. Although several of his purchases were of very small properties, in 1727 he was able to pay £450 for the Lea Town Head farm and in 1728 £170 for a messuage and land which he gave away to his son Henry the following year. Then in 1731 he settled property at Whatstandwell on his daughter Catherine and her family, which was probably worth about £250. Catherine had evidently been married some time as she had 5 children at the time of the settlement, so there is a suggestion that Thomas had been unable to give her much before. Yet his will (1732) shows that he had given £800 to his son Paul for his portion and £200 to his daughter Rebecca for hers, so a settlement on Catherine may have been delayed less because of an overall lack of money than because Thomas felt other more urgent expenses had to be met first.

How far Thomas Nightingale's success in the 1720's was due to years of work building his business as lead smelter and merchants and how far to other factors, such as the entry of his 2 elder sons and in particular Peter into the family business it is impossible to say. It cannot even be certain on the evidence available that the prosperity of his last years came from the lead industry, although it seems a more likely source than any other. He was not a large landowner, owning well under 100 acres of land fit for farming (the land about the mills was barren, poisoned by lead fumes) although his woodland probably amounted to about 70 acres (21). There is no hint of any other source of the kind of profit Nightingale was making.

The most convincing argument in favour of the thesis that Thomas Nightingale's chief source of money in his later years was the smelting mills at Lea comes from a purchase made by his son Peter in 1737. In that year, Peter Nightingale paid £1,250 for one half the following: the Cowhay House and croft (1 acre), the Intack lying contiguous (4a) Smiths or Allens Croft (about 1a) 2 'smilting' mills called Cowhey Mills, a parcel of barren land on which the mills stood (20a). 4 'copies of Wood Ground' (i.e. wood coppices) called Leawood (about 140a) the Leawood Lane adjoining (about 3a) a beastgate and (probably) half of Lea Manor (22). Presumably, the other half of these premises, already owned by Peter by his father's will, was worth a comparable sum even if Peter paid a little more than they were worth in order to have full control of the smelt. The smelt was obviously of considerable importance to Peter Nightingale. That it was a busy site is evident from the details of the purchase - there were 2 mills, some 20a of poisoned land around them and 140a of wood coppiced to supply fuel to them. It is also comment on Thomas's achievement that his son only 2 years after his death could raise £1,250 for this purchase.

Yet though it is possible to see how Thomas Nightingale became prosperous in his last years, his earlier career remains mysterious. We do not know how he made sufficient money to establish himself as a yeoman in the early 18th century or to buy a share of the Cowhay Mills at Lea. With so much that is still uncertain about his life and work, one thing is clear, that it was Thomas who established the Nightingale family at Lea and laid the foundations of its future wealth.

Note Lea was in Ashover parish

References

Notes: D.R.O. means Derbyshire Record Office and D.R.O D1575 refers to the Nightingale papers in the D.R.O.

Wolley Mss refers to British Library Additional Manuscripts numbers 6666-6718 inclusive, a microfilm copy of which is held at the Local Studies Department of the County Library, County Offices, Matlock

1. D.R.O. D253 Ashover parish registers
2. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Notes and Queries vol. 4 1986 'The Nightingale Family of Lea and Ashover', with reference to gravestones of the Nightingale family in Ashover burial ground near the gate at the East end.
3. D.R.O. D1575M/Box E Will of Thomas Nightingale
4. Derbyshire Hearth Tax Assessments 1662-70, edited by D. G. Edwards, Derbyshire Record Society Vol. VII 1982.
5. Wolley Mss. vol. 6670 f 93d
6. D.R.O. D1575 M/Bundle XIX Will of Catherine Nightingale of Lea 1742
7. Wolley Mss. vol. 6680 ff 95-6
8. D.R.O. D1575 Box H no. 1 settlement by Thomas Nightingale on daughter and her family 1731
9. D.R.O. Quarter Sessions Order Book 1
10. D.R.O. Quarter Sessions, returns made by the Clerk of the Peace of places of public worship certified 1688-1852 and Older Book 3, a reference for which I am indebted to Dr. L. Willies.
11. Derbyshire Archeological Society Journal vol. XXXVII 1915, p. 51 'The Spatemans of Roadnook' by Canon Prior quoting a letter from the Earl of Scarsdale to Thomas Coke.
12. Wolley Mss. vol. 6677 ff 148-168
13. D.R.O. D1088M/Z3
14. Wolley Mss vol. 6673 ff 71-2 and D.R.O. D1575 Box J no. 5.
15. D.R.O. Gell Mss. D258 M/S/7
16. Wolley Mss. vol. 6666 f.288 and Will (3 above)
17. Wolley Mss. vol. 6695 ff 328-9
18. Wooley Mss. vol. 6677 ff 102-3, 148-168; vol. 6680 ff 64-7, 105-6; vol. 6681 ff 319-325, 327-8, 426-7, 449-50, 460-1; vol. 6682 ff 158-9; vol. 6684 ff 134d-140
19. D.R.O. D1575 Box F Spateman and Slack bundle
20. Wolley Mss. vol. 6666 f 289
21. Information kindly given by Mr. Turner of Derby.
22. D.R.O. D258M/48/9b
23. D.R.O. D258M/48/9c
24. D.R.O. D258M/61/35
25. D.R.O. D1575M/Box D

26. D.R.O. D1575M/Box A
27. D.R.O. D1575MM/Bundle XVI
28. Wooley Mss. vol. 6680 ff 99-100
29. D.R.O. D1575M/Box E
30. D.R.O. D1575M/Box C 15-17
31. D.R.O. D1575M/Box A 18-19
32. D.R.O. D1575M/Box D No. 22
33. Derby Central Library, Local Studies Department, Hodgson 5684
34. AS 33, Hodgson 5735
35. D.R.O. D1575M/Box D No. 12
36. D.R.O. D1575M/Box E loose
37. D.R.O. D1088M/P 3
38. D.R.O. D1575M/Boxes D and E
39. D.R.O. D258M/48/9e
40. D.R.O. D1575M/Box I deeds signed by Peter and Henry, Thomas's sons; both signatures are those of practised writers.

WATER AT OVER HADDON

(by Howard Usher)

The problems of water supply on the limestone uplands of Derbyshire are vividly illustrated in the correspondence between William Garratt, Earl Cowper's agent at Melbourne and Joseph Wildgoose, his representative at New Close Farm, Over Haddon. The correspondence is in Box 163 of the X94 Lothian archive at Melbourne Hall.

Supply of rainwater tanks and repairs to meres are features of the letters up to 1873, in which year a turbine was installed in the bed of the river Lathkill to pump water up to a reservoir in the village. However, the turbine was a dismal failure and year after year, engineers were called in from Chesterfield or Buxton to effect repairs. Joseph Wildgoose bore the brunt of the complaints from the villagers about the lack of water, and the comments from the engineers about the lack of maintenance of the machinery. He wrote that he was doing all he could to look after the machinery but he was not a skilled engineer and didn't understand it. To add insult to injury, regular demands were received from Bakewell for payment of the water rates. The river Lathkill tends to run low in dry weather and in 1889, Mr. Stephenson-Peach of Repton complained that the river was so low that he had not been able to get any decent fishing. The situation was much worse up in the village where there was no water at all.

Eventually in 1895, the 3" cast iron water pipes suffered frost damage, and in 1896 the turbine was stripped out and replaced by a ram. Wildgoose was jubilant - 'the new ram is pumping splendidly', but by 1897 the ram had broken down and proved to be no more reliable than the turbine. Wallace Shaw gave notice of his intention to quit his lease of Manor Farm in 1899. He was a good tenant and wrote that he didn't want to leave, but both he and his son were not prepared to put up with the water problems any longer. If a guaranteed supply of water were provided, he would withdraw his notice.

He had only been able to water his cattle in the summer by carting water from Bakewell. The farm was re-let to Mr. Blackwell, but it was up for letting again in 1904.

As a tragic end to this story, Mrs. Wildgoose was found drowned in the Over Haddon reservoir in September, 1900. The news was transmitted to Garratt by another tenant as Joseph Wildgoose was too upset to write. Shortage of water had been a major concern of his life at Over Haddon and it was water which had caused his wife's death.

Details of the design and manufacture of the 'turbine' and 'ram' are not given in this box, but may be elsewhere in the archive. A query on the insurance for a portable steam engine in 1867 suggests that this was the means of powering the pump. The location is unknown, but works and repairs to the mill dam were in hand at this time and the pump may have been sited here.

GEORGE SITWELL OF ECKINGTON WHO DIED IN 1607

(by Pamela Kettle,

George Sitwell, yeoman of Eckington was the son of Francis Sitwell and his wife Ellen, daughter of Robert Bright, and was married to Mary Walker of Derby. He was cousin to Robert Sitwell, who had moved around 1540 from Eckington to Staveley Netherthorpe, three miles away to the south. Later, this same Robert acquired the site of the present house at Renishaw by buying up certain closes originally part of the great common ryecroft in the 'South Field' of Eckington, perhaps with the intention he never carried out of building there, for he continued to live at Staveley, where he helped to found the local Grammar School in 1572. This Robert Sitwell is thought to be the youngish man dressed in the fashion of Edward VI in the earliest of the family portraits now hanging in Renishaw Hall. Considered a rich man in his day, he had lease of a coal mine at Eckington Marsh as early as 1560 and was one of the Derbyshire residents who contributed to the defence of the realm against the Spanish Armada - contributing £25. Perhaps patriotism was tempered by religious beliefs, for his name had appeared in a list of principal recusants in the County of Derby for 1587. This 'Ould' Robert, as he was known, died childless in 1599 and made things awkward for his cousin and heir, George Sitwell (the subject of this study) by leaving all that he could of his numerous properties to his young Catholic widow, tenants, and servants - recusants all!

Years of litigation ensued; his elderly Protestant cousin, George Sitwell, being an old man and weary of the strife made over his claims to his son, George Sitwell (2), who managed to consolidate the Eckington estates, but died only two years after his father in 1609, leaving an infant son, George Sitwell (3).

It is interesting to note that this George Sitwell, grandson of George Sitwell (1), the subject of this study, was the first Sitwell to be described 'as of Renishaw'. Born in 1600, a year after his grandfather had succeeded to the disputed fortunes of his cousin Robert of Staveley, George Sitwell (3) inherited the Eckington estate when he was only 9 years of age. From the savings effected during his long minority he built himself in 1626 an H-shaped house, that forms the central nucleus of the present Renishaw Hall. To return to George Sitwell (1), following his death, Mary his widow, later re-married Henry Wigfall of Carter Hall.

Sources

The Sitwells by Reresby Sitwell (Part 1), published in Derbyshire Life and Countryside - April 1981.

Note Burke's Peerage and Baronetage fails to include George Sitwell (2), who died in 1609 and shows George Sitwell (3) as the son and not the grandson of George Sitwell (1).

THE WILL OF GEORGE SITWELL OF ECKINGTON dated 12 April 1607

In the name of God Amen. The twelfth daye of Aprill in the fifth year of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord James, by the grace of God Kinge of Englande, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and of Scotland the Fortith. And in the yeare of oure Lord God One Thousnd six Hundreth and Seaven. I, George Sitwell of Eckington in the Countie of Darby, yeoman, being whole of mynde and perfecte memorye (thanks be given to Allmightie God, calling to mynde the frayleties and incertentie of man's life unto whom mothinge is more sure than deathe, and yet the hower and tyme thereof is most uncerten), make and declare my laste will and testamente concerninge the disposition of my goods and cattells in maner and forme followinge, that is to wytte. First and principallie I comend my soule unto allmightie God, my maker and Redeemer, by and throughe whose abundant mercies and graces I assuredly hope to be saved and made partaker of the joyes and habitacon celestial. And my bodye I will be buryed w(i)thin the parish Church of Eckington. Item. I give to Mr. Burbeck a preacher Tenne shillinges to preache a funerall sermon for mee. Item. I give and bequeath towards the repayre of the parishe Church of Eckington Twentye shillinges. Item. I give and bequeathe to the impotent and needfull poore people of the towne of Eckington everye yeare during the naturall life of Marye nowe my wife the some of Tenne shillinges to be distributed yearlye at her discretion uppon the Feast daye of Sainte Thomas the Apostle. Item. I give and bequeathe to my God child Will(ia)m Walker sonne of Will(ia)m Walker of Darbie the some of Twentie shillinges. Item. I give and bequeathe to my god son Edwarde Walker, sonne of Edward Walker of Darbye Twentie shillinges. Item. I give and bequeathe to my godson Thomas Agarde, the some of Twentye shillinges. Item. I give and bequeathe to every other God child as well men as women Twelve pence a piece. Item. I give and bequeathe to my servant Nicholas Cooper Three shillinge foare pence. Item. I give and bequeathe to everie other of my Household servants two shillinge six pence a piece. Item. I doe heeby unquite Thomas Redfearne of Three pounds percell of his debt to me. So that he doo satisfie to my executors the rest of his debte willinglie and in some due and reasonable tyme. Item. I do give and bequeathe towards the repaire of the highe waies within the towne of Eckington Tenne shillinges to be paid in two yeares nexte cominge by the rate of fyve shillinges a yeare. I give and bequeathe to my brother in law John Howseden Twentye poundes being percell of the debte of the saide John whiche he dothe owe unto me. And I give to his sonne John Howseden the some of Tenne pound beinge percell of the sayde debte of the said John, the Father. The sayde tenne poundes to be paide by the John Howseden the elder to the sayde John the yonger at suche tyme as the saide John the younger shall accomplish his full age of One and Twentie yeares. Allso I give to Henry Walker of Darbye fortie shillinges. All the residue of my goods and chattells not herein before given and bequeathed after my debts payde and funerall expenses discharged I give to the saide Marye my wife and to George Sitwell my sonne whiche Marye and George I doo ordayne constitute and make my executors of this my laste will and testamente.

And I doo desire my lovinge friendes Thomas Clarck of Chesterfield and Will(ia)m Walker of Darbye to be supervisors of this my laste will and testamente. And I give and bequeath to either of them Fortie shillinges for their paynes to be taken herein. And in wytnes hereof I have hereunto put my hand and seale the daye and yeare first above wrytten. This being witnesses Thomas Clarck, Henry Walker, Edward Needham, the mark of Thomas Redfearne, the mark of Henry Ansley.

By me George Sitwell