



**Some Maps of The County of Derby**

**1577 — 1850**

*by*

**CHARLES C. HANDFORD**

*Published by*  
**'Derbyshire Miscellany'**  
the Local History Magazine of the  
**DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

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Copies of this publication may be obtained from the above. Price: 40p.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Extracts from a catalogue of Derbyshire Maps compiled by Mr. Charles Handford will appear in this and forthcoming issues of the Miscellany in such a form that they may be detached and assembled into a separate volume. For the benefit of those readers who do not have W. Douglas White's short account of Derbyshire Mapmakers (Derbyshire Miscellany Volume 1, No.1 1956) this has been reprinted.

Charles C. Handford, who was born in 1890, has done much to foster the study of local history in the county. He is by profession a teacher, and was headmaster of Mary Swanwick Secondary School at Old Whittington from 1920 until his retirement in 1950. He is a founder member and the President of the Chesterfield branch of the Historical Association and of the Chesterfield Philatelic Society, both of which have been in existence for more than 21 years. He is also a lifelong member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and serves on its Council. Mr. Handford who was for many years a co-opted member of the Chesterfield Library and Museum Committee, is probably Chesterfield's best known historian. He has long taken a special interest in the history of Whittington and the Revolution House, and in the work of Dr. Samuel Pegge, his great predecessor in the field. In 1967 he crowned his work for Chesterfield by presenting his collection of original manuscripts and holograph copies, books, illustrations and other papers of Pegge, the history of Whittington and the Revolution House to the Borough of Chesterfield. This collection is now housed in the Revolution House, Old Whittington, where it is available to students of local history.

Amongst the many projects which have occupied Mr. Handford's energies has been the compilation of a detailed list of some of the atlases of Great Britain and Ireland containing maps of Derbyshire.

The list itself is seventy four pages long and contains notes arranged in tabular form on the editions and reprintings of the major atlas. For the purpose of this article the material has been rearranged in narrative form each section headed by the name of the cartographer originally responsible.

Mr. Handford does not claim that his list is complete but it fulfills a much needed want as nothing of the kind is at present available for Derbyshire.

The work is based primarily on Thomas Chubb "The Printed Maps in the Atlases of Great Britain and Ireland 1579-1870" published in 1927. But it must be remembered that not all County maps were issued in atlases, for example the large-scale maps of the County by Burdett, Greenwood and Sanderson. Nor does Chubb include other classes of maps such as the appropriate sheets of the early editions of the Ordnance Survey and early Geological maps. Mr. H. Nichols, who is at present engaged on a survey of Derbyshire maps, has drawn attention to a new work by Mr. R.A. Skelton - a revision of Chubb which is in process of publication in parts.

NOTES ON DERBYSHIRE COUNTY MAPS 1579-1800

by

W. Douglas White

To study local history we need the modern Ordnance Survey maps, but we must constantly go back to the early county maps for an intimate peep into our past history.

An important factor in Tudor Policy was emphasis on local contacts but, prior to the reign of Elizabeth, a necessary tool for implementing this policy was lacking, viz. a reliable map of England. On her accession, Elizabeth gave instructions to William Cecil, Secretary of Council, to obtain a detailed map of England and Ireland and "to study and digest it".

Since the year 1548 the Royal Printer has been preparing County Charts to illustrate Holinshed's "Chronicles" but this work was issued in 1577 without the maps as they were found to be incomplete. In the meantime, Thos. Seckford, one of the Queen's Masters of Requests commissioned a young man in his employ, one Christopher Saxton to survey and draw maps of all the counties in England and Wales.

Little is known of Saxton's life. Born in Yorkshire about year 1542, he undertook this immense task and in 1579 published his Atlas of County Maps of England and Wales - a work which formed the basis of all English Atlases for the next 100 years. Saxton was granted a 10 years' monopoly by the Queen. What of Saxton's tools for the job? - triangulation of a crude sort, the astrolabe, compass and cross-staff and the inclination to "ascend the highest tower in the town and thence view all around". The standard of measurement is the Old English Mile of 2428 yards. No meridians or parallels are given, but Saxton followed Mercator who drew his prime meridian through St. Michael in the Azores. Saxton's Derbyshire County Map published 1577 owes much in style to the great Dutch cartographer, Ortelius, but the engraving has a lighter touch and is less florid, also contemporary colouring is more restrained. No roads are shown, but river crossings are marked. The conventional signs for churches etc. bear a strong resemblance to our Ordnance Survey. Hills appear as shaded humps. Positions of towns and villages are only approximate. Parks are fully indicated, no doubt as an inducement to subscribers. Saxton's Derbyshire map was not only included in the Atlas, but was published as a separate sheet (the actual plate was used as late as 1720). It was also re-engraved a number of times on a smaller scale and of poorer quality and was used in editions of Camden's Britannia.

John Speed, born in Cheshire in 1552, published the second English Atlas in 1611. The Derbyshire map is finely engraved by the Dutchman Hondius and dated 1610. A plan of Derby and a curious view of Buxton are included. This map is not based on any actual survey but is largely borrowed from Saxton. Many editions were taken off the original copper plate and the date was crudely altered in 1660. In the later copies the plate is worn and cracked. In the writer's opinion, Speed has been given too high a place among our native cartographers.

Although many more Derbyshire County maps were published before the last quarter of the 17th century, few added anything to knowledge of the County. It was during this period that the splendid pictorial county maps by Blaeu and Janson were imported from the map factories of Antwerp. The Derbyshire sheet by Blaeu is a fine example of the printer's craft and is brilliantly coloured, but again, there is no evidence of a survey, and one suspects that the map maker's chief interest was decoration.

In 1675 John Ogilby, published his Book of Roads and established himself as one of the most practical of English geographers. He surveyed the 100 main roads of England and Wales, using a compass for direction and a "perambulator" to measure the distances. The latter instrument was trundled behind a coach, and consisted of a road wheel with a device for counting the revolutions of the wheel. Ogilby was the first to apply the measured mile of 1760 yards. His road charts were engraved in strip form, and look very like the A.A. routes of the present day. Ogilby gives the Derby to Buxton route through Kedleston, (old house and Church at side of road), Hlland-open road over common, Monyash, and then by what appears little more than a track to Buxton. Here is original work, with every mile numbered and total distances expressed in miles and furlongs.

Robert Morden's Derbyshire maps were published in large numbers and varying sizes towards the end of the 17th Century. They are still easy to obtain and cheap. His maps show 3 scales of rules of varying length, an example of the confusion in measurement existing at this date. A few roads are included and meridians and parallels are indicated, also minutes of time from London.

During the 18th century there was a great demand for Atlases. Consequently Derbyshire maps of this period are in great variety, but much of the information remains vague and roads are still reluctantly included. A popular map was Emanuel Bowen's sheet of 1777. The map itself is surrounded by descriptions of the "Seven Wonders of the Peak". Some idea of his style can be gained by quoting from the map his estimate of the height of North Derbyshire hills. He says "the top of the mountains seem to be as high above the clouds, as the clouds are above the common hills"! Bowen's romantic style marked the end of an era and John Cary of London in 1787 published his first Atlas of English County Maps. Though small in size (4 to) this work set a standard which is an inspiration to this day.

Cary's Derbyshire County Maps are typical of his production. His 1787 sheet gives the complete road system with mail coach road marked out, and the beginning of our Canal System, with the "New Cut" later called "Trent and Mersey" Canal. Hill contours are hatched in for the first time. All the information is given with an accuracy never before attempted. Yet there is no feeling of crowding, due largely to the high quality of the engraving. Cary continued to publish well into the 19th century.

In 1784 General Roy measured out his first base-line (5 miles) on Hounslow Heath for the Trigonometrical Survey and in 1792 the main Ordnance Survey began: the new base-line differed only  $2\frac{1}{4}$ " from that of General Roy.

A CATALOGUE OF SOME MAPS OF THE COUNTY OF DERBY

by

Charles C. Handford

Introduction

Richard Gough was the first writer to deal with maps as a subject for study, tracing their history from the crudities of the Ancient World to the reign of Elizabeth I. when real interest in surveys of our island began. Gough's first publication was "Anecdotes of British Topography" in 1768 and in this he attempted to record map production in Britain from Saxton to the latter half of the eighteenth century. The second edition entitled 'British Topography' appeared in 1780 and brought the records up to date.

It is surprising that a field so rich in material should be so long neglected, for not until the turn of the present century was the subject scientifically studied. The appearance of "The Maps of Hertfordshire" by Sir H.G. Fordham in 1907 marked the turning point which focussed the attention of students on the importance of County Maps in the pursuit of information on local affairs. In 1911 Thomas Chubb, whose vast experience, gained during a period of over forty years' work in the Map Room of the British Museum, had given unrivalled opportunities for studying maps of every description, produced catalogues of the Maps of Wiltshire, followed by those of Gloucester and Somerset. These have been succeeded by volumes on many other counties, Derbyshire being a notable exception.

A short list of fourteen maps of Derbyshire drawn up by J.S. Luxmore, first appeared in "Notts. & Derby Notes & Queries" May 1893 under the title "Derbyshire Bibliography", but no further attempt was noted until "Notes on Derbyshire County Maps" by W.D. White was published in "Derbyshire Miscellany" in February 1956.

Engravers of the great Dutch and Flemish school were mainly responsible for the numerous maps of the English Counties during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the work of both drawing and engraving being executed in the Netherlands. Apart from some of the work of Hollar, that of other artists of foreign extraction employed in this country shows less artistic merit.

A great improvement took place in the middle of the eighteenth century mainly due to the superior skill and ability shown by Thos. Kitchin, the Bowens and some of their contemporaries. The dominating figure during the first half of the nineteenth century was John Cary who has been termed by one great admirer "The Founder of the Modern English School." He flourished during a period of great activity in land surveying and map production in which he played a major roll. He combined beauty and design with a nearer approach to geographic accuracy than even the Bowen and Kitchin Circle had

attained and he maintained throughout a high standard of excellence as author, engraver, and publisher. Cary's "New Map of England and Wales with part of Scotland" issued in 1794 was the first map drawn with the prime meridian at Greenwich, adopted in the 1925 conference for the international map of the world.

A small collection of Derbyshire Maps made during the past forty years by the present writer, had been listed and mounted, when, in 1951 considerable additions were made to the Borough collection in the Chesterfield Central Library by Mr. G.R. Micklewright. These were studied and added to the catalogue. The appearance of Mr. White's "Notes on Derbyshire County Maps" provided the spur to greater activity in producing as complete a catalogue as research and ability allowed.

Wherever possible descriptions of the Atlases and other publications containing the County Maps have been given - mainly in abridged form - to enable the maps separated from their context to be correctly identified. Repetition of titles in the case of further editions and reprints has been avoided, but all alterations in imprint and other essential points are recorded for the purpose of enabling the student to determine with accuracy the date of production of the map he has acquired. It will be observed that County Maps from the same Atlas frequently carry different dates of engraving, the Atlas itself being published at a still later date. Wherever this occurs both dates have been recorded.

Students and collectors will be familiar with the position of the prime meridian fixed by Mercator as, "The line passing through or near the island of Ferro," defined as 20° W. of Paris, used by our early cartographers, but it appears to be less widely known that John Seller, Hydrographer to Charles II, James II and Queen Anne, was the first of our map makers to place it through London, c.1676. (This distinction is also attributed to John Adams whose "ANGLIAE TOTIUS TABULA ... etc." appeared in 1698).

In the compilation of this catalogue numerous works and well known authorities have been consulted, particular indebtedness being gratefully acknowledged to Sir H.G. Fordham's "Maps of Hertfordshire" and "John Cary, Engraver;" to Thomas Chubb's "The Printed Maps and Atlases of Great Britain and Ireland," and to the Borough Librarian and his staff at the Chesterfield Central Library for their untiring efforts in giving every assistance for research and for their unfailing courtesy which made work among them a pleasure.



SELECTIONS FROM A LIST OF DERBYSHIRE MAPS

1577 CHRISTOPHER SAXTON

Saxton produced the first maps of the English and Welsh Counties between 1574 and 1579, when his complete atlas was published. The maps bear different dates. The Derbyshire Map is inscribed, "UNIVERSI DERBIENSIS COMITATUS GRAPHICA DESCRIPTIO 1577. C. SAXTON DESCRIPSIT, SCALA MILIARIUM 10 (= 4 inches).

1. This first impression is engraved on paper with a watermark of crossed arrows. The size of the map is  $19\frac{1}{2}$  x  $15\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Five further imprints are of the same size but distinguishable by their different water marks.
2. Watermark a bunch of grapes with letter "A" on left and "F" on right of stem.
3. Watermark a bunch of grapes surmounted by fleur de lys.
4. Watermark a bunch of grapes with ornamental appendage letter "B" on left and "C" on right, with arrows.
5. Watermark as 3, but the map is mounted. This map appears to have been specially produced for sale in the County separate from the Atlas.
6. Watermark a kneeling Saint holding a cross.

Saxton's maps were engraved on copper plate. When used, water colour was applied by hand. 8 towns are named and indicated by red towers. Hills are shown as mounds, parks are shown as ringed enclosures and woods indicated by clumps of trees. Rivers are drawn in but no roads are shown.

The map was re-issued in another edition "The Maps of all the Shires in England and Wales. Exactly taken and truly described by Christopher Saxton. And graven at the charges of a private gentleman for the publicke good. Now newly revised, amended and re-printed. Printed for William Web at the Globe in Cornhill, 1645." The Derbyshire map, which is the same size as before is described as "An Exact Map of Darbieshire Anno 1642 ... with Arms of Charles I".

An edition of smaller scale measuring  $8\frac{1}{4}$  x  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches was reduced by William Hole from Saxton's map of 1577 for the 6th edition of Camden's Britannia, published in 1607. This was the last edition produced during Camden's lifetime and the first to contain a series of County maps. The text is in Latin. The title for the Derbyshire map is "Universi Derbiensis Comitatus qui olim Corit an orum fuit descriptio. Christo. Saxton descrip. Guliel Hole sculpsit, Scala miliarium 8 (=  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches)"

Hole not only reduced Saxton's map but redesigned the decorative titles, Scales of miles and other ornaments. The map is numbered 28.

This edition was re-issued in 1610 for the first edition of Camden's Britannia in English translated by Philemon Holland. Scale 8 (=  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches) as before. Re-issued in 1637. The maps in all three editions of Camden, 1607, 1610 and 1637 are from the same plate.

Saxton's maps were again redrawn in 1690 on the smaller scale 8 (=  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches) by Philip Lea in "The Shires of England and Wales" described by Christopher Saxton, being the best and original maps. With many Additions and Corrections viz. ye Hundds Roads, etc. by Philip Lea. Also the New Surveys of Ogilby, Seller etc. Sold by Philip Lea at the Atlas and Hercules in Cheapside near Friday Street and at his shop in Westminster Hall near the Court of Common Pleas where you may have all sorts of Globes, Mapps etc. (1690) Fol'.

In this edition the insert plans of the town are copied from those of John Speed's maps of the Counties of England together with the Arms of Noble men associated with the individual counties.

On the Derbyshire map, No.8 in this edition copies of the arms of John of Gaunt and Thomas Standley (correctly named on the Speed map) have had the identifying name plates transposed by Lea. He has replaced the arms of Thomas Seckford by the plan of "Darbie". The hundreds and main roads are added and the initials "C.R." above the Royal Arms.

1599 PIETER van den Keere (PETER KEER)

Keer, a bookseller, was the brother-in-law of Hondius the Dutch cartographer. He produced fine miniature county maps  $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{8}$  inches, copied from Saxton. The plates of all the Counties were first issued in 1599 but as yet no complete atlas or even a title page has been discovered. The map of Derbyshire is numbered 13 in this early issue. The scale 10 (=  $15/16$ th")

This map was re-issued from the 1599 plate size  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{5}{8}$  inches for the 1617 edition of Camden's Britannia. In 1620 the 1617 maps were reprinted for a further edition of Britannia "abridged from a far larger volume, done by John Speed anno cum privilegio (1620)".. and are to be sold by Georg Humble at ye Whit horse in popeshead Alley". The map of 1620 was reprinted for another edition of Camden. The date 1627 is engraved on the title page only. Size the same scale 10 (=  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch). Other editions and reprints were produced in 1630 and 1646. The 1630 map is from a re-issue of the 1627 edition. The type has been re-set and is longer. The 1646 re-issue is precisely the same, the Derbyshire map is coloured.

In 1662 the imprint is corrected to "and are to be sold by Roger Rea the elder and younger at ye Golden Cross in Cornhill against ye exchange." This edition is referred to by Fordham in the supplement to his "Herefordshire Maps" 1666. Another edition but the date altered to 1666. The maps are the same as the 1620 issue in every respect.

Another edition of Keer has date on title page altered to 1676. The maps are the 1620 issue  $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. by  $5\frac{5}{8}$ in. scale 10 miles (=  $\frac{7}{8}$ in.). A second title page to this edition of the Atlas reads "An Epitome of Mr. John Speed's Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain. And his Prospect of the Most Famous Parts of the World...London, Printed for Tho. Basset at the George in Fleet Street and Ric. Chiswell at the Rose and Crown in St. Paul's Church Yard 1676. (Keer's miniature English County Maps after Saxton seem often to have been wrongly attributed to Speed. See King Penguin Book No.61 pub. 1951 for reproductions of the 1627 maps. Darbyshire Map 9).

1595 GERHARD MERCATOR (1512-1594) real name Kremer and Gerhard Mercator Younger fl. 1595. Map entitled Eboraceum, Lincolnia, Derbia, Staffordia, Notinghamia, Lecestria, Rutlandia et Norfolcia. 10 miles (= 15/16in.)  $16\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 12in. pub. 1595 and reprinted many times for about 50 years.(H.N.)

1610 JOHN SPEED 1552-1629

A map of Derbyshire by John Speed in his "Theatre of Great Britaine". This work was published in 1611, but as in the case of some other counties, the maps were issued before that date and sold separately. The map of Derbyshire, divided into Hundreds, is dated 1610. Scale 10 = ( $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches), "Darbieshire Described" Map No.34 20 in. x 15 in.

John Speed, a worthy successor to Saxton, was an industrious and painstaking cartographer, who not only introduced new material into his maps but included a considerable amount of Heraldry into the framework, employing Dutch craftsmen - the best engravers of his day - to execute the work. The maps were issued uncoloured, although some of the contemporary owners had their copies coloured. These early (1610) maps have plain backs, only the copies from the Atlas have printed text on the reverse. The early issues of Speed's maps bear the imprint of the publishers, John Sudbury and G. Humble.

"Map No.13...Darbieshire.....1610", "A collection of Maps of the Counties of England and Wales. By John Speed". (A series of early impressions of Speed's maps of the English counties. In some cases the maps were printed before the imprint, the engraver's name and the dates were added. Plain backs, except Kent.

Another edition - Title page corrected to 1614. (London printed by Thomas Snodham for John Sudburie and George Humble 1616). Map of Derbyshire No.13.

Latin Edition. "Theatrum Imperii Magnae Britanniae" etc. The Latin Edition of Speed's Atlas of Great Britain and Ireland is extremely scarce; the British Museum only secured a copy in 1918.

The date on the title page is corrected to 1616. The maps are precisely the same as the 1614 issue

"Darbieshire" in another edition of "The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine" by John Speed 1627(-31) Are to be sold by George Humble at the White Horse in Popes Head Alley. The text on the back of the maps is re-set throughout. 10 miles (=  $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.)

"Darbieshire" in Another Edition of "The Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine by John Speed. Imprinted at London, 1650. Are to be sold by Roger Rea the Elder, and younger, at the Golden Crosse in Cornhill agat. ye Exchange 1650-62 fol. The text throughout is reset in smaller type. The maps in Part 1 (England) are the same as the 1627 edition, with - in the case of Darbieshire - the following corrections: the imprint of Roger Rea (as given in the title) is substituted for that of J. Sudbury & G. Humble.

"Dabieshire" in "England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland described and abridged from a far larger volume, with 62 of the 63 maps - Yorkshire missing -" bound with "A Prospect of the most famous parts of the world, with 20 maps". Sm. oblong. 8vo. old calf. Printed by M.S. for Roger Rea 1665.

Another Edition of "The Theatre", date on the Map of Derbyshire is altered from 1610 to 1666, in, Vol.1 fol. London, Printed for Thomas Bassett and Richard Chiswell 1676. This is the same map of Derbyshire as 1610 - the only difference being in the altered date and imprint.

Another edition, 1676, Published by Thomas Bassett and Richard Chiswell. The sixty five maps of Great Britain and Ireland are coloured copies of the last mentioned issue. They have plain backs and were probably printed for separate publication as soon as Bassett and Chiswell had acquired the plates, and before the issue of the 1676 Atlas above.

Another Edition - "A Collection of the County Mapps of the Kingdome of England and Principality of Wales by John Seller (London 1680) fol." A miscellaneous collection of 57 maps of Gt. Br. and Ireland, including 39 (Derbyshire being one) from John Speed's Atlas of England and Wales. The Maps are without text. The map of Derbyshire bears the imprint of Thomas Bassett and Richard Chiswell and is a reprint from their edition of Speed's Atlas.

Another edition of Speed's Maps, "A Catalogue of a Set of Maps of the several Counties of England and Wales.....each Map is printed on a sheet of good Royal paper.....Printed and Sold by Henry Overton..... Sold either in sets or singly. (1710) The Map of Derbyshire bears the imprint of Bassett and Chiswell. This is probably the first issue of Speed's maps by Henry Overton.