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ROYALIST CONSPIRACIES AND DERBYSHIRE

by

Nellie Kirkham.

After the annihilation of the King's army at Naseby in June 1645, and his execution in 1649, through the second Civil War to the final defeat of Charles II at Worcester in 1651, and onwards to the Restoration of 1660, royalist conspiracies simmered in the background.

The Commonwealth government had efficient methods for crushing any royalist incipient rebellion. From 1643 they had enforced laws discriminating against their enemy. They passed ordinances for sequestering royalist estates, lands, rents, and profits of all kinds, which were only to be avoided by compounding and paying heavy fines. Members of the local parliamentary committees and their friends frequently made good bargains for themselves by buying sequestered estates at prices below their value. It was not only applied to wealthy men, but to anyone owning as much as £200 who had fought for the King, or contributed money and arms, or even expressed loyalty to him. Many named royalists such as Price Rupert and the Earl of Newcastle were to die without mercy if found within the limits of the kingdom, and their estates were to be confiscated. Papists in arms were to have half their estates seized.

The parliamentary method of law-making, and law-enforcement, was denial of free representation, and efficient and prompt curbing of any signs of rebellion. Among the ordinances and acts was one of June 1644 by which any M.P. who had deserted the parliamentary side and adhered to the King was disabled from electing or being elected. By 1649 no one who had borne arms against parliament was to hold any office as mayor, alderman, bailiff, sheriff, J.P., constable etc. In April 1652 there was an act ordering that delinquents (their name for royalists) were not to bear office or have a vote in the election of any public officer. In April 1653, just before Cromwell and his armed musketeers turned the members out of parliament and locked the doors against them, the members had passed a bill by which they would hold their seats without re-election.

The Council of the Army, without any election, then picked the members for what was called the Nominated Parliament. Finally the country was held under military rule, being divided into twelve sections with a Major-general over each. Major-general Edward Whalley was over Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Derbyshire. Everywhere there was a setting for smouldering but ineffectual rebellions.

Underdown has dealt widely with royalist conspiracy but the general aspects can be expanded to reveal much of interest regarding Derbyshire.(1)

Through Sir John Gell the county was associated with a well-known conspiracy. At the beginning of the war Colonel Eusebius Andrews, a barrister of Gray's Inn, was a captain in the King's 1st regiment, but later he withdrew from the army. He was secretary to the royalist Lord Capel.(2)

A possible conspiracy was vaguely discussed in September 1649 when Charles II landed in Jersey. There was stirring of royalist plots in many places, and Andrews revived a 1644 scheme of his for capturing the Isle of Ely. In 1648 the defending parliamentary colonel wrote that the royalists kept a 'special eye' on the Isle of Ely, as if they could capture it they could keep a considerable army there. Careful defences had been made, with breastworks at every passage, and it was well-manned with hundreds of soldiers, and forts were built but, wrote its commander, he needed a troop of horses for its northern defences, and had insufficient ammunition, also lacked swords. He had not the means for a scout for intelligence, and at one unfinished fort the enemy might arrive unperceived right under the works.

Major John Bernard (Barnard) who had been a major of horse under Colonel Andrews, now joined him. In Andrews' evidence at his trial he said that when he returned to his civilian practice he kept in touch with his major, 'by reason of his good parts and sober demeanor' and frequently visited him.(3)

During the autumn of 1649 parliament frequently heard of royalist unrest and were preparing to cope with it. On 5 October the Council of State sent to the sheriff of Derbyshire, Anthony Morewood of Alfreton, saying that they were considering the danger which might arise from numerous and tumultuous meetings at races and bowling matches, and from which insurrections might rise. They ordered the sheriff to disperse all such gatherings and preserve the peace of the county. Under the pretence of meetings there had been as many as five or six hundred men, with thousands of horses. The men were armed with swords, and some with pistols. The sheriff had been informed weekly, but had not used his power either to disperse or prevent them, which he must do.

On 11 October they wrote to Colonel Thomas Sanders repeating the above information regarding meetings particularly in Derbyshire and the borders of Staffordshire. They said they had written to the sheriff, but his neglect continued. They asked the Colonel to obtain information as to where the meetings were likely to occur; the Council had heard that they were held weekly. The Colonel was to be present, 'unlooked for,' with as many of his horse as he thought necessary. He was to disarm, dismount, and disperse the company of people, and take their arms and horses for the use of the State. Colonel Sanders probably had about seventy men at his disposal. In 1644 there were fifty men, and seventeen officers, counting the chaplain etc, in Colonel Sanders troop. This appears to be a fairly normal number, not often rising to a full hundred.(4)

On 1 December 1649 the Council of State sent to various counties who were to send names of colonels, majors, and other officers and soldiers, and to obtain information of secret meetings of disaffected people. They were to disarm and secure all papists, and all who had

corresponded with Charles Stuart, or with anyone inclined to disturbance, or planning alteration in the present government, or in raising tumults. Also they were to obtain details regarding horses and arms, and men fit for service were to be mustered and trained as soldiers. People owning estates were to be charged to supply horse and foot, which would be paid for when in actual service.(5)

Major Bernard introduced Captain Holmes, of Dorset, who brought in Major John Benson. The last had had command under Sir John Gell, and a while ago had been his servant - the word was widely used, it could mean an agent or steward - and Benson was still his dependent. They took a letter to Colonel Andrews to read. It dealt with affairs at home and abroad, and a pressing forward in the King's cause. To Andrews they stressed Sir John Gell's interest in his county, his regret at what he had done in his parliamentary service, and willingness to make amends by service to Prince Charles. Andrews was informed by them that people of quality in Kent, Buckinghamshire, and Dorset, would join in an engagement and advance money, and that it was believed that Sir John Gell would join and bring in his friends, Sir Andrew Kniveton, Sir Guy Palines, and Fitzherbert, and others. Benson approved of the Isle of Ely plan, which he suggested could be helped by the strength which Gell could raise, added to the considerable numbers of men which he and Holmes possessed.(6)

Sir Andrew Kniveton was the royalist governor of Tutbury Castle when it surrendered in April 1646. He was impoverished by his loyalty to the King, having to sell almost all his estates. He and Sir John Gell were enemies. Sir Guy Palines proved untraceable. Captain William Fitzherbert, of Tissington and Norbury, was already involved in possible conspiracy.

It was decided that Colonel Andrews and Major Benson should ride down to Sir John Gell, to see if his strength and purpose were as good as was stated. Sir John was known to be very dissatisfied with his considerable arrears of army pay, and about mid December Captain Holmes brought instructions to Andrews to draw up a petition for Gell regarding the arrears, which he did. Andrews wanted to meet Gell, as up to then he had neither seen nor corresponded with him. Then there came an invitation to Andrews to meet him, including an additional suggestion that he should arbitrate between Gell and his wife, with the aid of Sir Thomas Prestwick. As Andrews was a lawyer, it may have been about Gell and his wife's financial affairs, which had many complications.

When Andrews and Gell met, among other matters, Gell spoke of the lack of reward for his services, and of his losses, and arrears of pay. Being told that Andrews intended to go abroad to see the Prince, Gell asked to be mentioned to him, and given a good report, and said that if he took up arms again it would be for Prince Charles, and he would do all he could for the Prince's advantage. Andrews told him of the conspiracy and the plot regarding the Isle of Ely, and Gell answered that he "would not meddle with acting in that design for which he had no capacity, nor would he engage under his hand and seal to be bound by any future action for them." He

added that John Benson was a fellow given to drink, and 'lavish of his tongue.'(7)

Andrews told the others what Gell had said and they did not appear dissatisfied. Andrews said that he was content with Sir John's sincerity, even though he was not actively engaged.

Captain Ashley, and a Lieutenant Pitts 'by name of Smith', now came into it. The latter and Major Bernard went to Colonel Andrews and told him that if he would write an Oath of Secrecy and Engagement, and sign and seal it, then Bernard would help him with £200 to cover his expenses when he went abroad to get commissions to help the plot, also money by bills of exchange. They said that they also would sign the Oath. This would bind them to be faithful to each other and to the Engagement, and not to disclose any information, and engaged that they would use all skill and endeavour, even hazarding their lives and fortunes, to set Prince Charles on the throne.

Andrews was afraid that Bernard and Ashley planned to go over to see the Prince and would 'spoil both mine and Sir John's credit with him, and disappoint all I intended to do in Gell's favour.'

When Benson had engrossed the Oath, on 19 March 1650 he and Ashley went to Andrews, and it was afterwards stated that they all signed and sealed it, at a cook's shop, at Lower Hill, London. Andrews later said that he never signed it. One statement says that Bernard signed it, but he denied that he and Pitts had done so.

The next day Andrews wrote to Gell to meet him at dinner, but Gell did not come, sending his man to excuse him and to defray the charge. That afternoon Andrews saw Gell by chance. The latter told him that he had not subscribed to the oath and would not do so, but that he meant all he had said about his attitude to the Prince's cause, and would engage himself in it.

John Bernard wrote to Andrews reproving him and Gell for the latter's withholding his hand from the Engagement, for unless it was subscribed by Gell the plan must fail as Kentish friends would not proceed. Apparently the Kentish men were to bring money to Gravesend, and Andrews went there with only £50 in his purse, presuming that money was there, but it was not.

Bernard asked Andrews to write letters to some 'Persons of Note,' including Sir John Gell. So Andrews wrote to him from The New Inn, Gravesend, which letter Bernard took to Gell at the Sanctuary, Westminster.(8) This letter to Gell appears to have been a further request to him to join with them, but Andrews said that in it he did not press the matter, leaving Gell to do what he pleased. Bernard said that if Gell did not agree to continue, then Andrews should have his seal and subscription returned, and the plan should be abandoned.

The question of Sir John Gell's complicity in the plot largely turned upon the controversial question of this letter. It was addressed to 'Sir John [blank] Baronet,' but said to be intended

for 'Sir John Gell,' which Andrews said he did for security reasons, in case 'the letter should be surprised.' He also put 'John B,' for John Benson. In a number of documents Sir John Gell is referred to as 'Sir John.' In depositions at Andrews' trial it was stated that the letter was brought to Sir John Gell late on Saturday night, 22 March, and that Sir John burnt the letter.

In his evidence Sir John Gell denied that he had received any letter, and that there was no proof of it but the oaths of Bernard and Pitts, and they were 'both perjured and scandalous.' Gell, in stating his case, also said that the letter was contributed by Bernard and others from London, then taken to Andrews who transcribed it, and if the letter was directed to Sir John Baronet, what had it to do with Sir John Gell?

The issue widened under the query whether the letter was the original, or a copy, for Colonel Bernard was an agent provocateur.

Among the royalists as a whole only a few were spies for parliament, informers, and agents provocateur who were called 'decoy ducks.' Letters were intercepted, deciphered where necessary, and forged copies sent on, the originals being retained. One royalist secret letter was described as being 'written in a water which appears not till it be held held to the fire neare warm coles,' when it could be read clearly. Carriers packs were often searched for royalists' messages.

In many cases it was careless talk rather than calculated information, although informers were encouraged and paid. Most royalists were loyal and when arrested and interrogated gave away as little as they could, generally little, of misleading, information. Some volunteered information in return for pardon, as if accused of treason this meant saving their lives.(9)

Sir Thomas Coke was the most infamous and important informer who betrayed the royalists, as can be seen in the Coke papers in the Portland Collection.(10) Among the royalists he became a byword for treachery.

Thomas Coke, of Gray's Inn and Melbourne, was the second son of Sir John Coke, Secretary of State. He succeeded to the Melbourne estate in 1650 on the death of his brother John. Thomas was a royalist, John a parliamentarian. Thomas was expelled from parliament in 1645 for his adherence to the royal cause. In 1648 he was fined £500 for going to the King at Oxford, which fine he refused to pay. While there he buried £100 worth of plate, which was found and sold for £80.

His decimation tax alone was £2,000, with fines for other estates of £2,000. He held shares in Wirksworth mines, with lot and cope and office of barmastership which were worth £300 a year. These caused many complications which have been dealt with by Mr. F.N.Fisher.(11) By 1651 he had only paid part of his fines and the Derby Committee were ordered to sequester his estate, and to seize an inventory, deeds, and goods, in a iron chest at Gray's Inn. In March 1650 he was apprehended and ordered to be brought

before the Council of State, but he escaped out of a messenger's custody. An act was passed declaring him to be a traitor unless he surrendered to the sergeant-at-arms within four days, and £500 was offered for his capture. Eventually he was committed to the Tower and charged with high treason. On 28 May 1651 a messenger petitioned the Derby Committee for payment of a bill of £11, expenses and service for riding post to Derby to seize and secure Coke's estate, in doing which he had lamed his horse.(12)

A proved charge of high treason meant execution, and very many royalists were as badly treated as he was, but only a few gave information in return for a pardon. He wrote to Sir Henry Mildmay (13) in May 1651 that by his close imprisonment God had opened his eyes and made him see the error of his ways, so that he was writing down all that he could remember. Countless people who had been in contact with him were investigated and apprehended, including some Derbyshire royalists whom he betrayed.

The espionage system of parliament, and the post office, were in the hands of John Thurlo (1616-1668). He was Secretary of State, and a bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and was very efficient. He paid spies and 'decoy ducks' and was supposed to have a 'little black book.' Parliament knew beforehand the plans of many royalist conspiracies, with close knowledge of the royalists concerned.

Major John Wildman secretly entered Thurlo's employment as a spy. He was mixed up in plots for both royalists and parliamentarians, being concerned in one to assassinate 'that tyrant' Oliver Cromwell. Much of his life spent in and out of imprisonment by both sides. During the Civil War period he spent much money in buying sequestered royalist estates as speculation to sell again. This was a lucrative business for anyone who could pull-strings in local parliamentary committees, as they allowed sequestered estates to go for values much below their true worth. Wildman bought a number of houses in Derbyshire, lordships, leading mining duties, office of barmastership of the King's Field of the High Peak, all of which had belonged to royalists. In 1655 he bought Hurdlow House, now the Bull i't' Thorn Inn, about six miles south-east of Buxton, which had belonged to the royalist Rowland Eyre of Hassop. At one time John Wildman and Sir Richard Willys were unknowingly spying on each other. Willys was one of the most famous of Thurlo's informers.(14)

John Bernard, as agent provocateur, tried to get Thomas Bushell, an important royalist, master of the King's Mint, and lead mine owner, into the plot. There is reference to some letters which John Benson was to give to Bushell for him to take to royalists overseas,

Sir John Gell's side of the case claimed that Major Bernard was a papist, and reputed jesuit, and a contriver of plots. That he had suggested to a Colonel William Eyres to join with raising five hundred men 'to cut the throats of Parliament,' that to another he had said that the only way to freedom was to raise the people to destroy parliament. Bernard appears to have caused trouble with the Speaker of the house of parliament, and to have intrigued to ensnare members of parliament.

Gell stated that the controversial letter from Andrews which Bernard was to convey to him was first taken by Bernard to John Bradshaw, Lord President of the Parliamentary or illegal High Court of Justice, who kept the original, producing a copy for the court. Bernard said that the President told him to go forward with the plot, and that the Council of State, and others, encouraged him to get to the bottom of it. Also he said that it was a duty to inform the State of 'treasonable plots and practices against the state.' For this he was said to have received £500, and had a troop of horse conferred on him. Andrews, in his evidence, said that the letter seen by his examiners was 'a true copie thereof.' When confronted by Sir John Gell on 11 April, Andrews said that Gell had never received the letter, that Sir Henry Mildmay, one of the commissioners at the High Court of Justice, would never have discovered it, had not the President given him a hint. Andrews said that the original letter was directed to 'Sir John Baronet', not to Sir John Gell.

Gell said that the whole affair was a plot to snare him and Andrews, but that he never received the letter, although had it been sent he could not have prevented it. The President kept the letter, and the one which they said they delivered was a copy made to trap him. He also stated that he had burnt it.

On Sunday, 24 March 1650, Colonel Andrews was taken prisoner at Gravesend by a troop of horse, and conveyed to the Gatehouse in London. The apartment over the gate of a city or palace was often used as a prison. The gate-tower of Newgate was the only predominately criminal prison in London, on its south side was 'the street called the Old Bayly.' (15)

The next day Colonel Andrews was taken before John Bradshaw, Lord President of the High Court of Justice, who had tried, and passed sentence of death on Charles I. He was the second son of Henry Bradshaw of Marple Hall, Cheshire, a branch of the Bradshawes of Chapel-en-le-Frith and related to those of Eyam and other Derbyshire places. (16) He received many rewards such as a gift of £1,000, and also sequestered royalist estates worth £2,000 a year.

The High Court of Justice was established by the Parliamentary Rump to try Charles I, because although the Houses of Parliament were a court, the House of Commons by itself was not. The Parliamentary process of impeachment could not be used because the King himself played an essential part in this.

The remnant of the House of Commons, after the expulsion of the majority of the M.P.s by Colonel Pride in December 1648, and now largely the tool of the army, and with royalists and moderates excluded, passed without a division of the ordinance for the establishment of the High Court. Lord Grey of Groby, son of the Earl of Stamford, and in 1643 the Major-general of the parliamentary forces to be raised in Derbyshire and other counties, conveyed the ordinance to the House of Lords, which rejected it. The House of Commons then carried it through a first and second reading in a single session, and ignored the Lords' rejection. A hundred and fifty commissioners were appointed, later changed to a

hundred and thirty, composed of I.P.s, army officers, all on the side of parliament, aldermen and citizens, largely of London, and containing hardly any lawyers, and Charles I was tried.

This High Court of Justice was continued for the purpose of trying traitors. The trials took place in Westminster Hall, in the twentieth century it is the only remaining part of the old Westminster Palace, founded by Edward the Confessor, which was burned down in 1834. The hall was begun in 1097, but after being almost totally destroyed by fire it was rebuilt in the fourteenth century, the present roof being new in 1399, an amount of extensive repairs having to be done on it earlier this century. Its length is about 290ft., 68 ft. wide, and 92 ft. high.(17) The hammer-beam roof is one of the largest unsupported by pillars in the world. In medieval times the clerks' offices below the Hall were called 'Hell.' The Painted Chamber in Westminster Palace had walls which were painted in the time of Henry III with scenes from the bible. In the seventeenth century the Court of Chivalry was held there until it was dissolved in 1641, also various affairs, like the private sessions of the Commissioners of the High Court.(18)

When Colonel Andrews was taken before President Bradshaw, Lieutenant Pitts, Captain Benson, and Captain Ashley were already in custody. On the morning of the same day a warrant, directed to Captain Thornton, was made out to arrest Sir John Gell, and it was executed about 1-2p.m. that day.

Andrews was examined on the 27th, 29th, and 30th of March. He considered that his questioning attempted to implicate his confederates, Sir John Curzon, Sir Thomas Whitmore, and others, and that he had been betrayed, but he said he was treated with great civility. On the 30th he was carried by boat to the Tower, was sentenced for treason, and executed on Tower Hill 22 August 1650.

Sir John Curzon (1599-1639) of Kedleston Hall, was a parliamentarian and presbyterian. He was on various committees, including the Derbyshire Committee for Sequestration, and bought several royalist sequestered estates. His mother was the widow of Sir John Gell's father, and the latter was brought up at Kedleston Hall. Sir Thomas Whitmore (1612-1653) was from Shropshire.

On 27 March Sir John Gell had also been committed to the Tower on suspicion of treason, to be kept a prisoner until examination. On 1 April he requested that his servant should be with him, and his wife be allowed to visit him, also that he could attend church, but his requests were refused. He had what was referred to as 'some infirmity' and he was to have necessary attention for this, but was to be kept a close prisoner. On the 16th his servant, after being searched, was allowed to go to him, but was to be kept a close prisoner with his master. On the 23rd his lawyer brother Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Gell, was granted leave to speak with him regarding the settling of his estate, this took place within the hearing of the Lieutenant of the Tower, and no other business was permitted. Three days later he was allowed to have pen and paper, to go to church in the Tower in the company of the Lieutenant of the Tower, and on 11 May he was given leave to walk on the leads

of the Tower, accompanied by his keeper, but no one must speak to him.

Five days later a Mrs. Barbara Bagshawe, in the presence of the Lieutenant, was permitted to speak to him with regard to some writing belonging to her which was in his hands. Sir John Curzon was allowed to see him, also Thomas Gell again.(19)

The beautiful, witty, charming, and treacherous Lucy Countess of Carlisle was in the Tower from March 1649 to September 1650. She was said to have had 'some hand in the late engagement with Sir John Gell and others for the King.' In 1650 the Committee for Compounding wanted to know what they should do about the sequestration of her estate, because in Sir John Gell's examination no mention was made of her. She was the Queen's closest friend, and among other aids to royalists she pawned a necklane for £1,500 to raise royalist troops, and was an intermediary between royalists. But also she attached herself to the politics of the parliamentarian John Pym, and disclosed the King's plots to him. She appears to have simultaneously betrayed both parties, doing much mischief.(20)

Sir John Gell's trial took place in Westminster Hall. By September 1650, when he was still held in the Tower, he requested to be allowed to have counsel and a solicitor for his defence by Common Law. On 8 September the House of Commons gave an order for him to choose any two counsellors-at-law, with the assistance of Thomas Gell.

His trial began on 11 September when the charge of treason and misprision of treason was exhibited against him in the High Court of Justice by Edmund Prideaux the Attorney General, on behalf of the Keepers of the Liberty of England by the authority of parliament.

Misprision of treason was concealment or keeping secret any high treason. At this date it could be punished by death, by beheading or hanging. Among treasons recognised by the Commonwealth could be the proclamation of any person as king, and correspondence with, or aid given, to Charles Stuart. But usually the punishment for misprision of treason was imprisonment for life and forfeiture of goods and profits for life.

The charge against Sir John Gell was that he was a false traitor and enemy of the Commonwealth, and concerned in a traitorous and wicked design to stir up a 'New and bloody warr, and to raise sedition and Rebellion within the nation,' on the last day of March, and at other times, with Eusebius Andrews, Ashley, John Benson, John Holmes and others. They plotted and contrived to raise forces against the Commonwealth, particularly in regard to the Isle of Ely and the town of Lyme Regis, and Yarmouth, and to capture forts. The further to accomplish their traitorous designs, Sir John Gell, and the above, with others, after the execution of the late King Charles I, promoted his son, Charles Stuart, Prince of Wales, to be King of England. They took an oath of secrecy, hazarding their lives and fortunes, to establish him on the throne.

Sir John Gell was charged with knowingly being privy to all this, and that he 'contemptuously hath concealed and still doth conceale' the traitorous practices of these men, and did 'harbor ayde comforte' and assist the conspirators, and conceal the treason. He was a traitor and enemy of the Commonwealth, and was to answer all the proceedings and examinations that judgement might be given.(21)

On the charge being read to him, Gell pleaded not guilty. Witnesses, and other evidence, were produced to prove the charge, then he pleaded for more time for his defence. This was granted until Wednesday 18 September, when he was again brought before the bar of the court. He produced witnesses in his defence, also spoke for himself. The Attorney General then replied and prayed the judgement of the court upon the whole evidence on the charge against Sir John Gell.

Sir John then alleged that various matters of law had arisen and prayed for a further delay, and for further counsel, also for a copy of the charge. These were granted and he was ordered to be brought again before the bar of the court on 25 September. The court required him to make his alleged matters of law, which the special counsel did, and was fully heard. The Attorney General replied and prayed the judgement of the court as before.

The court considered the whole matter, and stated that they were satisfied that Sir John Gell was guilty of misprision and concealment of treason as set forth in the charge, but he was acquitted of treason. For misprision of treason and concealment he was to forfeit to the Keepers of the Liberty of England all his goods and chattels, debts and duties, also the profits of his lands during his life, and be imprisoned for life.(22)

Major John Benson was sentenced to be hanged, and was executed at Tyburn 7 October. Captain Ashley was sentenced to be beheaded but was pardoned as he had only subscribed to the Engagement but not acted in it. Captain Culpepper, and Spooner were found guilty of treason, but were pardoned. Regarding Captain John Holmes and Lieutenant Pitts there is no information. According to Sir John Gell, Major Bernard was not found guilty of treason.(23)

In a pamphlet which Gell published about the time of his trial he reiterates a good deal of the above discussion about the letter which he stated he never saw, adding that as the President of the Court had it, the state knew about the conspiracy, so there could be no concealment, nor any misprision of treason. Also there was no treason because it was never intended that the plot should 'ever come to pass,' it was only planned to betray and snare particular people for Bernard's gain.(24)

On 11 March 1651 the Sequestration Committee of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire were ordered to sequester Sir John Gell's estate. According to these orders, Robert Mellor, Ralph Clarke, and Gervaise Bennett, seized it on March 21. Robert Mellor was on the Derby Committee, was mayor of Derby 1647, and was one of the Derbyshire Commissioners for Sequestration. Ralph Clarke,

possibly of Chesterfield, was also on the Sequestration Committee, as was Gervaise Bennett, M.P. for Derby, and mayor 1645, he was member of the Derby Committee, and at one time treasurer.

John Gell, the son, said that the estate was settled on him by a deed of 1635 which was made "on occasion of some words given out concerning the King, for which he '(father or son?)' feared to be questioned," and the deed lay dormant until the son married in 1644, when the estate was settled. Sir John sold his stock, and laid out his revenue, which was then about £1,500 a year, borrowed money from his brother and others, and married off John, his only son, who then received his portion. £1,200 per annum was reserved as an annuity for Sir John during his lifetime.

An undated document of a rental of lands belonging to Sir John Gell includes the demesne lands of Hopton and Griffie Grange, also farms with names of tenants and rents at Bakewell, Wirksworth, Tideswell, and other places. There were tithes (Gell had much trouble and litigation over lead ore tithe(25)), and two smelting mills, a wind-mill, and a horse-mill. He owned the upper smelting mill at Wirksworth. His family had interests in lead mines, merchanting lead, and in smelting for several centuries. In the list there is mention of some of these being given on the marriage of his son, but in the photocopy it is not clear if this refers to the whole or part. This deed was not shown to Robert Mellor and the others, although they asked to see it. It had been produced in the course of a process from the Exchequer to the Sheriff in an enquiry about the estates.(26)

After the Derby Committee had seized the estate, finding that Sir John Gell had been convicted of misprision of treason, the question arose as to whether to proceed against him according to the Sequestration Act, or whether the cause should be tried in the Exchequer. The case was finally moved by writ of certiorari (27) into the latter, by virtue of the act of 27 August 1651.

On 27 March 1651 the Committee for Compounding wrote to the Council of State asking if they were to proceed against Sir John Gell, and after a petition from Thomas Gell, on 20 May it was ordered that the Committee for Compounding should dismiss Gell, and that the Committee for Sequestration should not meddle with any estates of his for which he had been tried in the High Court. The Committee for Compounding, upon this petition, dismissed the case.

While he was in prison Gell made several petitions, one of which was when he had been imprisoned for eighteen months, in September 1651. He stated that according to the time when the controversial letter was said to have been delivered to him it was previous to the Act of 26 March 1650, for establishing the High Court of Justice. There was a further Act of 27 August, giving more powers to the court, before then there was no law stating that concealment was an offence, therefore the High Court of Justice had not the power to try him.(28) But he was incorrect: statutes of 1551/2 and 1553/4 made concealment a misprision of treason.

In this petition he stated that he had suffered much already, had been a prisoner for eighteen months, and had lost much of his estate. He prayed that a law made after the fact done might not be his ruin, and that in their mercy they might pardon his fine, and also the sentence against him. Captain Culpepper, Captain Ashley, Spooner and another, had been pardoned although they were greater offenders, being guilty of treason. The High Court had only found him guilty of misprision of treason, and acquitted him of treason.

The 27 March Act listed a number of actions which would be considered as treason, anyone plotting to seize any towns, forts etc belonging to the Commonwealth should be punished by death, as also should anyone helping with money or ammunition, also anyone who took up arms against the Commonwealth. The High Court of Justice could also proceed against anyone who had any contact with Charles Stuart, either sending or receiving any communication. Anyone receiving any letter or message prejudicial to the Commonwealth must reveal it to the Speaker of the House, the Council of State, or two M.P.s or two J.P.s. The 27 August Act mentioned that the Court was to hear and determine all misprisings and concealment of treason mentioned in any acts or articles. The Court was authorised to pronounce judgement and sentence for treason by beheading or hanging. They could give sentence of execution for misprision of treason or for concealment.

In view of the fact that he stated he had been imprisoned for eighteen months, it appears curious that on 17 October 1651 parliament resolved that Sir John Gell should have three months further liberty from imprisonment, on the same security. On 28 January 1652 there was a similar order for a further three months.(29)

In April 1652 there was an agreement between Sir John Gell and John Bowring, of Westminster. If Bowring, by himself, or with others in parliament, obtained the suit with pardon of the sentence for misprision of treason on Sir John Gell, without a fine on him, then he would pay Bowring £500 or more, up to £600. Sir John had had an earlier encounter with Bowring - assuming it was the same John Bowring - according to Sir Thomas Coke's 11th paper of traitorous revelations 'concerning the Treaty with the late King at the Isle of Wight.'

King Charles I was imprisoned at Carisbroke on the Isle of Wight for fourteen months from November 1647, but was not very closely confined. While there he signed a secret treaty, the Engagement, with the Scots. They were to invade England on behalf of the royalists and restore Charles to the throne, in the belief that the city of London would rise, as well as other parts of the kingdom. In return Charles promised to establish presbyterianism, Coke stated that Sir John Gell came to the King at the Isle of Wight 'to tender his services,' and to ask the King to pardon his former actions, and the King gave him 'something to that purpose' under his own hand and signet. One Bowring came down to negotiate the business, he was a servant of Lord Commissioner Lisle.(30) Coke added 'what money was given for it, he best knows.'

On 5 April 1653 a petition of Colonel Sir John Gell was read, and parliament ordered that he should be pardoned for misprision of treason, concealment, and all other matters, misdemeanours, whatsoever touched against him. The Attorney General was to prepare a pardon with the Great Seal of England on it.

On 18 April Sir John Gell was pardoned for misprision of treason. He was not to be disturbed by any bailiff, or any official, and his goods, chattels, duties, and all which had been forfeited, were to be restored to him. He was released from sequestration, and indemnified from any act, law, or ordinance of parliament, of parliament, or restraint to the contrary, at any time thereafter.(31)

There was a curious history behind the Great Seal of England of this date. The trouble arose at the beginning of the war in 1642. Both sides tried to seize the magazine of arms belonging to the militia, the county forces, and tried to get hold of these selected trained men of a county. The King declared that the parliament's ordinance for setting up the militia was illegal, and in return the King set up commissions of array for volunteer men, which parliament declared was illegal. From the thirteenth century onwards these commissions of array had been set up by Kings, being granted by the great charter of Henry III, whereby people of quality were appointed to array, train, and muster men. During the Civil War a number of commissions of array were held in Derbyshire, including one in December 1643 where the royalists gathered about two thousand 'stout Derbyshire volunteers' at Chesterfield.

For the parliamentarians the trouble was that among the documents which had to be sealed by the Great Seal were those authorising commissions. In 1642 the Great Seal had secretly been carried away by the royalist Keeper of the Great Seal, and it was afterwards used by royalists to make new sheriffs, and for commissions of array etc. Parliament needed the Seal to authenticate certain writs and other matters, so the next year they ordered that everything henceforward sealed by the King's Great Seal was to be illegal, and that a new seal was to be made and used. Six people, including the Earl of Rutland, of Maddon Hall, were to have the keeping of it, but he excused himself on the grounds of ill-health.

In June 1646, when Oxford, the King's headquarters, surrendered, the Great Seal and the Sword of State, with other things, were ordered to be 'locked up in a cell and left at the Public Library.' The next month they were presented to the House of Commons. The Great Seal, and some others, were broken into pieces by a smith at the bar of the House of Lords, the whole House of Commons being present. The silver of them was given to the Speaker of the two Houses.

There is a rather puzzling sequel to this. On 9 January 1648 the Houses of Parliament voted that the Great Seal should be broken into pieces, and a new one made. The possible explanation appears to be that the second breaking of the seal was that of the

new one which had been ordered to be made in July 1643. On the new one of 1648, on one face there was to be the arms of England, the harp, and the arms of Ireland, and the inscription 'Great Seal of England.' On the other side 'a sculpture' of the Houses of Parliament, and the words 'In the first year of freedom by God's blessing restored 1648.' (32) Forgery of the Great Seal was treason.

After his pardon Sir John Gell appears to have taken no more part in the Civil War, and little in Derbyshire events.

Part II will give an account of other Derbyshire royalist conspiracies and conspirators, also reference to Sir John Gell's money troubles, supposed to be the cause of his defection.

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5. S.P.Dom. ibid. 1649-50. p. 418.
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7. Gell ibid. 58/1e. State Trials ibid.
8. Gell ibid. 58/1d. ibid. 58/1e. State Trials ibid.
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11. Fisher F.N. Sir Cornelius Vermuyden and the Dovegang Lead Mine. Derbyshire Archaeological Society Journal LXXII, (1952) pp. 74-118.
12. Compounding ibid. pp. 126, 742, 2775. Proceedings Committee for Advance of Money, Edit. Green H.A.E., 3 vols. (1888) p. 1844. Portland ibid. I. 576. D.A.J. ibid. XIII (1891) pp. 143-7. Ibid. LXXII (1952) pp. 112-3.

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14. Compounding ibid. p. 2321. Portland ibid. I, 604. Underdown ibid. pp. 192, 198.
15. Gell ibid. 60/31. Ibid. 58/1d. Ibid. 58/1e. State Trials ibid. Harding A., Social History of English Law (1966) p.84.
16. John Bradshaw (1602-1659), at Gray's Inn 1620, called to the bar 1627, a bencher 1647, sergeant-at-law 1648. He held various legal positions was president of the Council of State, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He was strongly against the power of Cromwell, and was suspected of being concerned in plots against him, also he was a parliamentarian.
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21. The charge is from a contemporary copy from the Records of the High Court of Justice, made by the clerk of the court. Gell ibid. 58/1f. ibid. 58/1e. Ibid. 58/1h. H.MSS.Comm. Appendix 9th Report p.394. Ordinances ibid. I. 419. Gell's trial is not in Cobbett's Complete Trials.
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27. Certiorai, Shorter O.E.D., A writ from a superior court to an inferior one, by which records were called up for trial in the superior court.
28. Act for Establishing an High Court of Justice, 26 March 1650. Gell ibid. 58/1i. An Act giving further power to the High Court of Justice 27 August 1650, Gell ibid. 58/1j. Ibid. 31/30i. Ibid. 31/30h. Ibid. 31/30x. Ibid. 31/74a. Ibid. 60/74. Compounding ibid. p.2750. H.MSS Comm. ibid. 13th Report. p.375.
29. H.MSS Comm. ibid. p.395. Gell ibid. 56/11. Ibid. 60/31.
30. Sir George Lisle was a royalist, in the battle of Newbury October 1644 defending Shaw House, he threw off his buff coat so that in the gathering dusk his white shirt would be distinguishable to his men. After the parliamentary victory at Preston in 1648 they took him to the prison at Colchester

Castle and shot him.

31. Gell ibid. 58/12a. Ibid. 58/12b. Portland ibid. I. 593-4.
H.MSS. Comm. ibid. 9th report. p.395.

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FOUR ASHOVER ACCIDENTS OF THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES

by

Adrian Henstock

Amongst the archives of the Duke of Portland deposited in the Nottinghamshire Record Office is a group of some 70 verdicts and related letters (DD.P 65/1-71) referring to coroners' inquests held in the Hundred of Scarsdale, Derbyshire, between 1680 and 1769, mostly in the early part of the period. In their descriptions of the events which led up to accidental deaths the documents provide fleeting pictures of everyday life in North-East Derbyshire at that date. Many of the accidents have a modern ring about them, as by far the most common cause of deaths by misadventure appears to have been the road accident, either involving horses or carts or both, and others relate to fatalities of persons ascending or descending coal mines (at Pinxton and Stretton (twice) in 1689 and 1694-5) or to accidents to agricultural workers. Two cases relate to finds of ancient coins (at Hardstoft in 1686 and Alfreton in 1748), which the coroner had to adjudge as treasure trove or not. There were also a number of suicides and bizarre deaths such as that of the unfortunate Thomas Cocker, who died in 1684/5 from injuries caused by a bell-rope when, ironically, he was tolling the passing bell in Chesterfield Church!

The reason for the documents' presence amongst the Portland archives is that ancestors of the Portlands, the Cavendishes, Earls and Dukes of Newcastle, had received a grant from the Crown of the lordships of Chesterfield manor and borough and the hundred of Scarsdale, which included the right to take all 'deodands' which caused accidental deaths within the hundred. A 'deodand' (Latin, *deo dandum*, 'given to God') was in early English law any animal or inanimate object which, by moving, caused a death by misadventure, for example, the horse from which a man was thrown, or the stick with which he was struck. The original theory was that the offending object should be given to the Church so that its sin in causing death might be expiated, but, by the early Middle Ages, deodands had become just another feudal perquisite of the Crown. Normally the value of the deodand was determined by a coroner's jury and a cash sum paid instead. The system caused much hardship to many people, for example, any newly-widowed woman who had to forfeit the value of the horse which had thrown her husband to his death, and consequently coroners' juries often undervalued the deodands or else limited them to a part of the offending object. In later centuries, when many of these rights had been granted into private hands, the holder often exercised clemency and only demanded a nominal payment in such cases as was the case with the Duke of Newcastle in Scarsdale.

As an example of these documents, four relating to accidental deaths in Ashover have been chosen for description here; they are perhaps fairly typical of the whole.

The Ashover inquests were held between 1684 and 1719, before the coroner for Scarsdale. In 1684 this was John Wilkinson (of Hilcote Hall, Blackwell) and in 1689 and later it was Arthur Dakeyne (of Stubbing Edge, Ashover). The juries varied in size from 14 to 17, and consisted of "good and lawful men of the neighbourhood in Scarsdale". They included many well-known Ashover names of the period such as Wheatcroft, Hodgkinson, Crich, Hole, Towndrow, Hopkinson, Milnes, Bower, Ragg, Henstock, and Smedley.

On 16 April 1719 an inquest was held on the body of Anthony Sowter of Ashover, husbandman, "a lame and disaised person", who was struck on the right side of his head above his ear by a horse which he was leading to a field for plowing. The shock of the blow, coupled with his other illls, contributed to his death ten days later. The jury adjudged the horse as the deodand, valuing it at 20 shillings. At the time of the inquest it was in the hands of Joseph Sowter of Ashover, a relation of the deceased.

Another death caused by a blow from a horse was that of a 9-year old boy, John Hunt, who, one Wednesday in February, 1694/5, was in a corn mill in Ashover when he was "unfortunately stricken by a certayne lame young mare on the upper part of his belly soe as he did languish of the same untill the 13th of the said month and then dyed of the said stroke". The mare, then in the hands of Richard Nightingale of Ashover, was declared a deodand worth £2.

One Tuesday morning in the late autumn of 1689 Anne Bestow (the spelling is no doubt a variant of Bestall,) the wife of John Bestow of Wensley, set off on her young black bay mare down into Darley Dale and up Sydnop Hill opposite, probably on her way to Chesterfield to do business. Whilst riding over the moors in the northern fringe of Ashover parish near the Quaker outposts of Peasonhurst and Buntingfield Nook, at about 11 a.m. her stirrup leather apparently broke and she was thrown from her mount. Anthony Arthur, who was working nearby, saw her fall and went to her aid, later joined by Edmund Brocksopp. They hurried to one of the nearby farmhouses and called out Hannah Bunting for help. She "did find some little life in the said Anne Bestow" but within an hour she died. Two days later, on the 10th of October, fifteen local jurymen were called by Coroner Dakeyne to an inquest at Peasonhurst farm, where they heard statements by the witnesses and adjudged the mare with its saddle and bridle, valued at 30 shillings, to be a deodand.

An accident with a farm cart proved fatal to Richard Milward, a young man from Ashover, in October, 1684. He was working at Edward Hall's farm at Holmgate, just over the parish boundary in Stretton. Together with two farm labourers from Holmgate, John Hopkinson and William Cutt, he was carting manure from the foldyard into the fields. The wain was being drawn by a team of four oxen, two in front and two behind, and one horse. On returning empty to the foldyard with the wain Milward turned a corner clumsily and the wain overturned on top of him,

injuring his left leg. He cried out and was rescued by his fellow workers. His injuries were not serious but the next day he was taken home to his mother's house in Ashover on horseback. As a result of the lack of proper medical care, however, his wound developed gangreen and six days later he died. Samuel Wheatcroft of Ashover (probably the brother of the well-known Leonard Wheatcroft) stated at the inquest that the youth "was in the towne of Ashover aforesaid expecting helpe by Chirurgery /surgery/ or some plasters applyed to his wound untill he dyed".

The coroner, in a letter to the Duke of Newcastle, remarked that "in very truth the man was through ignorance and neglect of understanding persons to assist in the dressing of the hurt which seemed not altogeather great, perfectly lost by a gangreene which succeeded speedily upon the want of advice and Chirurgery".

Presumably qualified doctors were hard to find in remote areas such as Ashover in the late 17th century. One is reminded of the fact that Godfrey Clarke, a member of a gentry family from Somersall Hall, Wingerworth, only a few miles from Ashover, employed as his physician in the 1660's Robert Thoroton (better known as the Nottinghamshire antiquary) from Car Colston, some 40 miles away in south-east Nottinghamshire (Nottingham Public Library, Archives Dept., M 493-4).

On this occasion the coroner's jury noted that Richard Milward "was not well acquainted with the course of driving of wayns", and ingeniously recorded a verdict which would avoid the whole wain and team being forfeited as a deodand. They decided that the two rear oxen harnessed to the "wayne copp" (the beam or pole projecting from the cart) were deodands, worth £5, but the two other oxen and the mare were not, on the grounds that they were "so old and bad that they were Lazy and would not willingly stirr further than they were forced by the Gadd /long whip/ and we also knwing the place have inducements to thinke that by reason of the shortnes of the turne where the wayne was overturned, the farmer Catle were not moving".

It is tempting to speculate on the effects of the deodand system if it were still in existence today - perhaps a vast scrapyard of mangled vehicles somdwhere near the Heath intersection of the M.1. to receive the forfeited instruments of modern road accidents in Scarsdale?

JOHN HIERON, WILLIAM WOLLEY, SAMUEL SANDERS

AND THE HISTORY OF DERBYSHIRE

by

Philip Riden

It is something of a commonplace among Derbyshire historians that the county lacks a standard 'county history', a set of stately folio or quarto volumes replete with accounts of each manor and parish in the county, its great houses, its trade and industry, its natural history, its prehistoric and Roman remains, everything one expects to find in such famous works as (to take only a couple of neighbouring examples) Robert Thoroton's Nottinghamshire or John Nichols's Leicestershire. There are, of course, the well known and well thumbed writings of James Pilkington, Daniel and Samuel Lysons and Stephen Glover, as well as two solitary volumes of the Victorian County History, but it is undeniable that there is no satisfactory large scale eighteenth or nineteenth century county history. As has long been recognised, this is not for want of trying: 'Little has been done, though much seems to have been intended, towards a topographical history of Derbyshire' lamented the Lysons in 1817 and went on to describe some of these good intentions in a valuable review of early writing on Derbyshire. The first name on their list, Philip Kinder (b.1597), is well known. In the early 1660s he planned a county history, of which the 'prolusion', in effect an elaborate synopsis, was written and survives. Sadly, he never completed the project or even any real progress towards doing so.(1)

After Kinder, the Lysons mention three less well known figures, John Hieron, William Wolley and Samuel Sanders, before coming to the great eighteenth century antiquary Samuel Pegge (1704-96) and other more recent writers. This is what they say about the earlier historians:

The Reverend John Hieron, an eminent nonconformist divine, who died in 1682, made copious extracts from the Herald's visitations; and from records, particularly those at the Roll's chapel, relating to this county: collected in a volume, now in the possession of Godfrey Meynell, Esq., of Langley-park. It is evident, by a note at the beginning of the volume, that he meditated a topographical history of the county.

Mr. William Wolley wrote a brief topographical history of Derbyshire, brought down to the year 1712, which remains in MS. In this work he was assisted by the collections of Mr. Samuel Sanders, of Little-Ireton, who was connected with his family by marriage. A copy of the MS. is in the possession of Mr. Adam Wolley of Natlock, and another among Dr. Pegge's collections.

While local historians have shown a certain amount of interest in the careers of both Philip Kinder and Samuel Pegge, this passage in Lysons seems to have gone unremarked.(2) What I hope to show in this brief note is that the Lysons' statement is confused, that the first serious attempt at a full scale topographical history of the county has gone unnoticed as a result, and that the 'collections' mentioned in the extract just quoted are still in existence and are a neglected source for the history of the county of considerable interest.

The Godfrey Meynell mentioned by the Lysons lived from 1779 to 1854; his home was Meynell Langley near Derby. Through the kindness of his descendants, in particular Mr Godfrey Meynell, I was recently able to examine the work known as 'Hieron's Collections', which is still in the family's possession.(3) It is a substantial quarto volume, lettered on the spine 'Hieron's MSS Collections Derbyshire' and dated 1660. The book consists of blank sheets of paper watermarked 1812, which must be roughly when the work was made up into its present form, into which nearly two hundred leaves of notes in a seventeenth century hand have been bound. There are numerous additions to the notes, in various hands of several periods, of which some of the more recent spill over onto the interleaving. Pasted into the book near the front is some interesting correspondence between Daniel Lysons and Godfrey Meynell, himself an antiquary of some repute.

On 7 February 1817, when the Derbyshire volume of Magna Britannia was already in print as far as the article 'Bolsover', Lysons wrote to Meynell asking if he could borrow a manuscript volume by the eminent seventeenth century divine John Hieron to see if it contained a new material on the history of the county. Meynell complied and on 22 February Lysons returned it with thanks. He expressed the view that although there was no name on it, the book was the work of John Hieron. It consisted only of notes and was not a finished county history but among the extracts from records in the Rolls' Chapel some new information had come to light which Lysons would use in Magna Britannia, attributing it to 'Hieron's Collections'. This he did and footnotes with this slightly cryptic, and indeed totally misleading, reference appear at intervals throughout the book.(4) Before looking more closely at John Hieron it is worth quoting Meynell's views on the authorship of the volume:

This MS. Book was given to my Father by Mr Hieron of Little Eaton who told him it was written by Mr Sandars, but Mr Lysons in his Mag: Britt: says it was written by the Revd John Hieron a Nonconforming divine of the 17th Century; I have therefore had it so letter'd on the Cover, altho I am still more inclined to think it was written by Sandars, and the very M.S. from which Mr William Wolley wrote his "brief history of Derbyshire"; indeed there are several strong circumstances which confirm me in this opinion, particularly the Extract relating to the Countess of Dorset, which is verbatim the same in both, vide Kedleston in Wolley's MS. & page 186 in this MS.

I believe this Book was in my fathers possession for fifty years and it appears that it once belonged to the Revd Mr Michell of Breadsall, as his name & dates "Gilb Michell Breadsall 1707" was on page 3, although obliterated with Ink. This Gentleman is mentioned in Wolley's MS. under the head of Breadsall. In a postscript to this Meynell adds that the volume is referred to by John Nichols in his great history of Leicestershire (vol.4, p.525) in an article on the Mundy family, where it is called 'mitchells MS'. At the point in the manuscript where Mitchell's name and date appear Meynell has repeated his view that the book was the work of Samuel Sanders and suggests that the fact that it was given to his father John Meynell, who died in 1802, by a Mr Hieron of Little Eaton some fifty years earlier explains Lysons' error. Nowhere in their book do the Lysons acknowledge that the authorship of 'Hieron's Collections' might be open to question and since the book has never been re-examined until now, later references to 'Hieron's Collections' merely derive from the statement printed on page 1 of Magna Britannia.

Meynell's account of the history of the manuscript seems clear and coherent, so let us turn now to Samuel Sanders. He was a member of a family which came originally from Surrey and settled in Derbyshire in the sixteenth century at Lullington, where Thomas Sanders died in 1558.(5) His son and grandson lived at Caldwell, while a member of the next generation, Collingwood Sanders (died 1653), married an heiress of the Sleight family of Little Ireton, near Kedleston, so that his son Thomas transferred the family home to Ireton. Thomas Sanders (1610-1695) was a prominent parliamentarian colonel in Derbyshire during the Civil War and a member of parliament during the Commonwealth; his son and heir Samuel, in whom we are interested, was born in 1641. Unlike his father, who had been educated at Derby School and Repton, Samuel had a university education, going from Repton to Christ's College, Cambridge, where he was admitted in 1659. In 1664, however, he went down without a degree, having refused to take the oath necessary for admission as bachelor of arts. Two years later he entered Gray's Inn but stayed only a short time as a student member before settling at the family home in Derbyshire. There he seems to have followed the career of a modest country gentleman, dying before his father in 1688 aged only 47. What happened to Sanders' antiquarian collections is not known. His will left his library to his son-in-law John Earle but we do not know whether this included the material for a county history and the subsequent history of the library as a whole has never been traced.

His kinsman William Wolley belonged to an old Derbyshire family, one of whom, William Wolley, a London 'silkman', married Samuel Sanders' sister Elizabeth (1644-1722) and had a son William and daughter Esther.(6) It was their son who, about 1712, wrote the short topographical history of Derbyshire mentioned by the Lysons in the extract already quoted. Esther Wolley

married her cousin Samuel Sanders (1686-1740), the son and heir of the author of the antiquarian collections, so that the two historians were related twice over. William Wolley lived at Darley Abbey and was distantly connected with the far more famous antiquary Adam Wolley of Matlock (1751-1827), whose vast accumulation of notes on Derbyshire fill fifty volumes of additional manuscripts in the British Museum, one of which, no.6697, contains a copy of William Wolley's history of 1712. The Lysons mention another copy of the work as being among the papers of Samuel Pegge, which the Leicestershire historian John Nichols, who was Pegge's literary executor, sold to the College of Arms for a hundred guineas and which have thus remained inaccessible to all but the heralds a few others ever since.(7)

It seems likely that after Samuel Sanders' death his papers passed into the hands of his nephew William Wolley, since both the Lysons and Meynell are agreed that they formed the basis of the history of 1712 and in fact no separate corpus of notes by William Wolley has ever come to light. By 1707, however, the book was in the hands of the Reverend Gilbert Mitchell, rector of Breadsall, a parish close to Wolley's home at Darley Abbey, between 1700 and his death in 1738.(8) Apart from his signature near the front, further evidence of Mitchell's connection with the book is provided by an original document, a draft agreement of 1753 concerning highway duty in Breadsall, inserted at the end, which refers to Mitchell as the former rector, now deceased. Finally, who was the 'Mr Hieron' who gave the book to John Meynell? Among the residents of Little Eaton in the first half of the eighteenth century was one John Hieron, generally described as 'Mr' or 'gentleman', who was living there in 1723 if not earlier, whose wife Martha was buried at St Alkmund's in Derby in 1756 and who himself was buried in 1767.(9) Godfrey Meynell tells us that his father had owned the manuscript for about fifty years: quite possibly John Hieron, reaching old age, passed them to Meynell a few years before his death to ensure their permanent survival. It is probably fair to say that the manuscript has been in the hands of the Meynell family since the middle of the eighteenth century.

Before discussing the contents of this important document we might return to the other John Hieron, whom Daniel Lysons was so sure the author of 'Hieron's Collections'. He was indeed an 'eminent nonconformist divine, whose life is fully recorded in a contemporary biography which seems to have formed the basis of any subsequent accounts of his career.(10) He was born at Stapenhill in 1608, was educated at Repton and Christ's, Cambridge, where he graduated BA in 1628 and MA in 1633. He held several cures in Derbyshire, notably Breadsall rectory between his presentation to the living by Sir John Gell in 1644 and his ejection in 1662. After this he became an itinerant preacher, living for part of the time at Little Eaton, until his death in 1682. He published a couple of theological works in his lifetime, left some other notes in manuscript and was a biblical critic of some standing. No-one except Lysons, least of his seventeenth century biographer, has ever suggested that he made collections for the history of Derbyshire and it seems clear that

Godfrey Meynell was right in attributing Lysons' error to the fact that another John Hieron had once owned Sanders' book. Nevertheless, the coincidental links between Hieron's career and the actual history of the manuscript are remarkable and it is easy to see how the mistake could have been made.

To sum up so far, we can say that the book traditionally known as 'Hieron's Collections' is in fact the work of Samuel Sanders. It was written between about 1663 and 1688 (Meynell's date 1660 added at the time of rebinding must be slightly too early; this is not the work of an undergraduate), formed the basis of William Wolley's manuscript county history of 1712 and then belonged to a couple of others before being given to its present owner's direct ancestor in the 1750s or 1760s. Thus the 'collections of Mr Samuel Sanddrs' mentioned by Lysons in the second paragraph quoted above are in fact identical with the 'volume, now in the possession of Godfrey Meynell, Esq.,' referred to in the first paragraph, with the Reverend John Hieron in no way connected with the work. We may now turn to the book itself.

Most of the work is taken up with notes on each parish in Derbyshire (and in fact a number of smaller townships and hamlets), in a single alphabetical sequence from Abney to Youldgreave. The quantity of material on each place obviously varies, to some extent depending on the size of the town or village but also on its proximity to Little Ireton. For most parishes there are more or less detailed church notes and for most manors extracts from public records and private muniments on its descent. There are a few chart pedigrees in the parochial notes and a larger number of pedigrees grouped together near the end of the book. It is at the back of the book that most of the additions occur, in some cases a pedigree has been brought down a further generation or two, or a manorial descent has been expanded by a later hand. Some of these extra notes are by Meynell; the rest are earlier and may be by Wolley, Mitchell and others. Particularly interesting in this context is a list of sheriffs of Derbyshire from 1601 to 1848, which was carried by one writer down to 1720 in a hand obviously postdating Sanders'; a second writer has added the sheriffs for 1721-59, a third those for 1760-72 and a fourth those for 1773-84. The list is completed to 1848 by Godfrey Meynell. Preceding the parochial notes is a copy of the Derbyshire portion of Domesday, with an alphabetical index. There is a separate index to the other material. The whole work is executed in a small, neat hand and the general impression is one of care, precision and thoroughness. The book is in no sense a jumble. If confused and inaccurate scribbles, such as one sometimes associates with early antiquaries of this period, but a careful collection of material for a history of each parish and manor in the county.

That Sanders undoubtedly intended to complete a county history is made clear by a note on the first page, referred to by the Lyson, which is a very interesting comment on the concept of local history as it had developed by the 1660s. Sanders listed what he saw as the essential ingredients of a good parochial history:

The Towns Name, the reason of the name, the situation in what Parish, constabulary and hundred it is, who were the owners in Domesday Book and ever since, by what tenure, what arms they have born, what coats or inscriptions on monuments or in church windows, when the church was founded, and by whom endowed, whether a Rectory of Impropriation, and to what Monastery, who were have been the Patrons, of what value in the Kings Book, whether any decayed Market Towns, Castles, Monasteries or any Appendages, what Peculiars: what Parks, Chases, Forrests, Rivers, Bridges, by whom built, by whom maintained. What Manufactures, natural commodities any place affords, what antient coins have been found, How many Churches, Chappels, what Schools, Alms-houses, when and by whom built, endowed. What Battels, Medicinal Waters, Wonders, Buildings, Memorable Persons &c there have been in the Town.

This synopsis has a remarkably timeless appearance. The county historians of the seventeenth century mostly followed a scheme of this kind, as did their eighteenth century successors. In the nineteenth century there was more natural history and archaeology but, in its basic format, Sanders' ideas for a parish history are not so very different even from the plan proposed for the original Victorian County Histories.

The importance of Sanders' manuscript lies not, however, in its timelessness but in its very early date. Previously Philip Kinder has been seen as the 'first historian of Derbyshire', with his scheme of 1663. Apart from the fact that this was a more than slightly fantastic project which could never really have been carried through, Kinder may have been preceded by an undated seventeenth century 'Project for a book containing a description of the county of Derby', apparently the work of one of the dynasty of Chester heralds and antiquaries, the Randall Holmes. In any case some of the very earliest antiquaries of this period, certainly Arthur Agard (1540-1615) and St Lo Kniveton (c.1560-1628) and quite possibly others, had shown a special interest in Derbyshire and made collections relating to the county.⁽¹¹⁾ On the other hand, there is no doubt that the first serious antiquary (not a description that could be applied to Kinder) who planned and made collections for a history of Derbyshire was Samuel Sanders. For some reason, possibly his relatively early death, his plan was never carried through and his papers then formed the basis of William Wolley's better known history of 1712. Nevertheless, it is clear from a careful study of the manuscript at Meynell Langley that Sanders had formed the idea of a full scale history of the county before his death and, judging by such work as he lived to carry out, had the capacity to complete such a history. He should probably be regarded as the earliest historian of the county, a near contemporary of his Nottinghamshire counterpart Robert Thoroton (1623-78). One can only regret that Derbyshire has no seventeenth century history of the quality of Thoroton's Nottinghamshire.

What relevance, if any, has Sanders' work to local historians of today? Superficially, none, since local history now pays little attention to the minutiae of manorial descents, the pedigrees and arms of gentle families, monumental inscriptions and the other subjects on which Sanders and his fellow antiquaries of this period bestowed so much effort. His notes are interesting, however, for the light they shed on the way in which the mind of a seventeenth century local historian worked, or the kind of pursuits to which a country gentleman of antiquarian leanings devoted part of his leisure. Rather more important, Sanders almost certainly saw private muniments and monumental inscriptions, and possibly public records as well, which have since disappeared for ever, so that his extracts from them have become an irreplaceable primary source for certain information. This being so, it might well be worth considering whether either Sanders' notes or Volley's history, or preferably both, could not one day be published, albeit three centuries after they were written.

References

1. Daniel and Samuel Lysons, Magna Britannia, 5, Derbyshire (1817), 1, E.B. Thomas, Philip Kinder. The author of the 'Historie of Darbyshire', Derbyshire Miscellany, 4, part 2, 1967. His 'Prolusion' is in Bodleian Library, MS Ashmole 788.
2. For Pegge see the unpublished work of Charles Handford in Chesterfield Public Library.
3. For the Heynells see Burke's Landed Gentry. I should like to thank both Mr Godfrey Heynell and other members of his family for their courtesy and hospitality when I visited Langley to examine Sanders' MS.
4. Pages clxvi, 112, 113, 133, 176, 184, 189, 201, 229, 247 and 288.
5. John L. Hobbs, The Sanders family and the descent of the manors of Caldwell, Coton-in-the-Elms and Little Ireton, Derbyshire Arch.J., 68, 1948, and printed admission registers of Cambridge and Gray's Inn for what follows.
6. Hobbs's article and pedigree in Reliquary, 11, 1871-2, pl.25 for the family generally; Lysons, pp. xcvi and 205 and the British Museum manuscript catalogues for the two historians. A microfilm copy of Adam Volley's MSS is available at County Library Headquarters, Ratlock, to which Mrs M. Wood is preparing a list and index.
7. Note by Heynell in Sanders' MS; Anthony Richard Wagner, Records and collections of the College of Arms, 1952.
8. Derby Public Library, Tilley MSS. I am grateful to the library for drawing these notes to my attention.
9. Stray references, assumed to refer to one person, in Derby Library's personal names index.

10. Robert Porter, The life of Mr John Hieron, 1691; Lysons, p.68; Tilley MSS.
11. British Museum, Harleian MS 2129 for the Holmes scheme. For Agard's work on Derbyshire see J.C. Cox, The Wolley manuscripts. An analysis of the first ten volumes, Derbyshire A.J., 33, 1912, 133; for Kniveton numerous references in British Museum and Bodleian manuscript catalogues available on request.

DERBYSHIRE NEWSPAPERS

by

J.E. Heath.

'The local newspaper (of which there will usually be more than one for each locality) provides the third staple diet of the nineteenth century local historian!' So writes Alan Rogers in 'This was their world' - B.B.C. 1972.

Provincial newspapers made their appearance in the early eighteenth century. Reasons for these publications can be associated with the increased cost of the London newspapers; with the increased price in the country of the London papers brought about by the Stamp Acts, and with the upsurge of sympathy for the Stuart cause in the form of the Jacobite party.

In the early provincial papers, which were usually published on market day, local news was not given prominence. The first editors (who were usually the printers) compiled their papers from the London newspapers. Local news did not appear until the closing years of the eighteenth, but informative advertisements appeared from an earlier date.

The provincial nineteenth century newspapers give us a local insight into all aspects of life ranging from local politics (editorial comment is very illuminating) to the activities of the Poor Law Guardians, the Friendly and Temperance Societies the misdoings of the populace and the social and cultural activities (the lists of visitors to Matlock and Buxton is fascinating), the growth of new areas of housing and the associated rural movements, the activities of the churches and the onending references to Turnpike Trusts, the Stage Coach routes and the Canal and Railway Company activities.

The first paper to be produced in Derbyshire was the Derby Postman or British Spy which commenced publication in 1719. The Derby Mercury appeared in 1732 and Harrison's Derby Journal in 1772. Some newspapers had a very short life like the Derby or Weekly Courant which appeared seven times in 1732 in competition with the Derby Mercury, and the Derby Herald equally short-lived in 1792.

Many more newspapers appeared in the second half of the nineteenth century the result of the removal of the tax on advertisements in 1853 and the repeal of the Stamp Act in 1855.

The following list which is based on information obtained from the Derby Central Library Local History Section, is an attempt to identify the many newspapers produced in Derbyshire in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Unfortunately copies of many of the newspapers listed are not available for reference.

The first date is the first edition of the newspaper.

- Alfreton Argus - 1915
- Alfreton Advertiser - 1909 (continued as the Ripley Advertiser 1912).
- Alfreton & Belper Journal - 1887 (merged with the Derbyshire Advertiser).
- Alfreton & District Advertiser - 1901 (continued as the Ripley Chronicle in 1904).
- Alfreton Coming Events - 1889 (continued as the Mid-Derbyshire Star in 1890).
- Alfreton Echo - 1896.
- Alfreton Journal - 1885 (became Alfreton & Belper Journal in 1887).
- Alfreton Journal & East Derbyshire Advertiser - 1870 (continued as the Alfreton Journal in 1885).
- Alfreton Weekly News - 1868 (to 1870).
- Anti-Slavery Magazine (Derby) - 1824.
- Ashbourne Advertiser - 1846.
- Ashbourne Chronicle 1865 (to 1870).
- Ashbourne News - 1891 (amalgamated with the Ashbourne Telegraph in 1957 - to today).
- Ashbourne Telegraph 1903 (amalgamated with Ashbourne News in 1957 - to today).
- Bakewell Echo 1908 (previously the Bakewell Times).
- Bakewell Standard 1861 (to 1870).
- Bakewell Times 1908 (continued as Bakewell Echo - issue no.7 in 1908).
- Belper Advertiser and Monthly Reporter - 1843 (continued as the Belper, Alfreton and Wirksworth Advertiser in April 1843).
- Belper and Alfreton Chronicle - 1885 (incorporated with Derby Mercury - 1901).
- Belper Journal and General Advertiser - 1854.
- Belper Journal and Times - 1870 (to 1875).
- Belper News - 1896 (incorporated with Derbyshire Telephone in 1901 - to today).
- Belper News, Derbyshire Telephone, Mid-Derbyshire Mail and People's Advocate - 1896 (incorporated in the Derbyshire Telephone in 1901).
- Belper Weekly Times - 1861 (to 1868).
- British Coal and Iron Trades Advertiser (Derby) - 1871 (to 1874).
- British Spy or Derby Postman - 1749 (to 1731?).
- Buck in the Park (Derby) - 1895.
- Burton and Derby Gazette - 1880 (continued as the Burton Evening Gazette in 1887).
- Buxton Advertiser - 1852 (amalgamated with Buxton Herald in 1951.)
- Buxton Advertiser and High Peak Chronicle 1885? (to today).
- Buxton Chronicle - 1888 (incorporated with High Peak Chronicle in 1893).
- Buxton Fashionable Visitor's List - 1871.
- Buxton Herald - 1842 (amalgamated with Buxton Advertiser in 1951).
- Buxton and Matlock Times - 1871 (to 1872?).

- Catholic Weekly Instructor (Derby) - 1844 (to 1847?).
Chapel-en-le-Frith, Thaley Bridge, New Mills and Hayfield
Advertiser - 1877 (incorporated with High
Peak Advertiser in 1881).
Chesterfield and District Free Press - 1890 (to 1893).
Chesterfield Gazette & Scarsdale & High Peak Advertiser - 1828.
(became the Derbyshire Courier Chesterfield
Gazette and Derby, Ashbourne, Alfreton,
Bakewell, Wirksworth, Scarsdale, High Peak
and General County Advertiser in 1829).
Clay Cross Chronicle - 1900 (to 1911).
Codnor Park and Ironville Telegraph - 1860 (to 1897).
Coming Events (Derby) - 1896 (to 1916).
Daily Gazette (Derby) - 1860 (previously titled the Derby
Exchange Gazette; became Derby and Derbyshire
Gazette in 1865).
Derby and Burton Evening Gazette - 1880 (became Derby and
Burton Gazette in 1881).
Derby and Burton Gazette - 1881 (became Derby Evening Gazette
in 1884).
Derby Evening Gazette - 1884.
Derby Chronicle - 1881 (7 May - 8 October).
Derby Comet - 1893 (to 1894).
Derby Reporter and General Advertiser - 1823 (to 1827).
Derby and Chesterfield Reporter - 1828 (incorporated in the
Derbyshire Chronicle in 1842).
Derby and Derbyshire Gazette - 1866 (to 1899).
Derby Daily Express - 1884 (incorporated with Derby Daily
Telegraph - 1932).
Derby Daily Telegraph and Reporter - 1897 (to 1940).
Derby Evening Gazette - 1879 (became Derby and Burton
Evening Gazette in 1880).
Derby Evening Post - 1887.
Derby Exchange Gazette - 1860 (continued as the Daily Gazette
in 1860).
Derby Free Press - 1904.
Derby Herald or Derby, Nottingham and Leicester Advertiser
- 1792.
Derby Mercury - 1732 (incorporated with Derbyshire Advertiser
in 1929).
1932-1933 (revived as a separate publication).
Derby Morning Post - 1885 (to 1887).
Derby Ram - 1865 (to 1920?).
Derby Telegraph and Weekly County Advertiser - 1853
(to 1869?).
Derby Weekly Express - 1885.
Derby Weekly Observer - 1903.
Derbyshire Advertiser and North Staffordshire Journal - 1846
(incorporated in Derby Mercury in 1929; and
the Derby and Chesterfield Reporter in 1930 -
to today).
Derbyshire Chronicle and Midland Counties Advertiser - 1839.
(previously North Derbyshire Chronicle and
Chesterfield Advertiser; incorporated with
Derby and Chesterfield Reporter in 1842).

Derbyshire Chronicle and Universal Weekly Advertiser - 1823.
Derbyshire Courier, Chesterfield Gazette and Derby,
Ashbourne, Alfreton, Bakewell, Wirksworth,
Scarsdale, High Peak and General County
Advertiser - 1829 (amalgamated with the
Derbyshire Times in 1922).
Derbyshire Evening Football Echo - 1897 (to 1898).
Derbyshire Independent (Wirksworth pub.) - 1861 (to 1870).
Derbyshire and Leicestershire Examiner - 1873 (to 1877?).
Derbyshire News and Chesterfield Express - 1862 (continued
as Hattons Derbyshire News in 1864:
incorporated in the Ilkeston Pioneer in
1866).
Derbyshire Patriot - 1833.
Derbyshire Post - 1884 (to 1887?).
Derbyshire Reporter - 1903 (previously the New Mills Reporter:
became High Peak Reporter in 1916).
Derbyshire Telephone and People's Advocate - 1898
(incorporated with Belper News in 1901).
Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald - 1854
(amalgamated with the Derbyshire Courier
in 1922 - to today).
Figaro in Chesterfield - 1832 (to 1835) New Figaro - 1915.
Football Express (Derby) - 1906 (became the Derby and
County Football Express in 1912).
Glossop Advertiser - 1871.
Glossop Chronicle and Advertiser - 1859 (to today).
Harrison's Derby Journal - 1776 (to 1780?).
Hatton's Derbyshire News and Chesterfield Express - 1864
(to 1866). (previously the Derbyshire
News and Chesterfield Express).
Heanor Advertiser - 1890.
Heanor Observer - 1900 (became Heanor Observer and Langley
Hill Chronicle in 1924 - to today).
High Peak Advertiser - 1881 (previously Matlock, Buxton,
Bakewell and Tideswell Advertiser:
incorporated the Chapel-en-le-Frith,
Whaley Bridge, New Mills and Hayfield
Advertiser in 1881).
High Peak Daily News - 1880.
High Peak Express - 1874 (incorporated in the North
Derbyshire Advertiser in 1876).
High Peak News - 1870 (amalgamated with the Buxton
Advertiser in 1958).
High Peak Reporter - 1875 (to today).
Ilkeston Journal - 1896 (became Long Eaton, Heanor and
Ilkeston Journal in 1897 - to 1900).
Ilkeston Advertiser - 1881 (to today).
Ilkeston and Erewash Valley Telegraph - 1868 (1880?).
Ilkeston Leader - 1861 (to 1863).
Ilkeston News and South Derbyshire Advertiser - 1854.
Ilkeston Pioneer and Erewash Valley Gazette - 1853
(to 1854: restarted 1856 - to 1967).
Illustrated Derbyshire Chronicle - 1855 (became
Derbyshire Chronicle in 1855).

Long Eaton Advertiser and Ilkeston and Brewash Weekly News - 1882, (became the Long Eaton Advertiser and South Derbyshire Chronicle in 1945 - to today.)

Matlock Bath Advertiser - 1854 (became the Matlock Advertiser in 1865).

Matlock Bath Herald - 1865.

Matlock Bath Telegraph - 1860 (to 1867?).

Matlock, Buxton, Bakewell and Tideswell Advertiser - 1877 (became High Peak Advertiser in 1881).

Matlock Fashionable Visitor's List - 1871 (1871).

Matlock Guardian - 1902 (became Matlock Visitor in 1912).

Matlock Register - 1887 (to 1890).

Mid-Derbyshire News - 1897 (to?).

Mid-Derbyshire Star - 1890 (to 1893). Previously Alfreton Coming Events.

New Mills Reporter - 1855 (became Derbyshire Reporter in 1903).

North Derbyshire Chronicle and Chesterfield Advertiser - 1836. (became Derbyshire Chronicle and Midland Counties Advertiser in 1839).

Ripley Advertiser - 1864 (became Alfreton Advertiser in 1909: reverted to Ripley Advertiser in 1912).

Ripley Chronicle - 1905 (to 1910).

Ripley and Heanor News and Ilkeston Division Free Press - 1900. - (to present).

Ripley News - 1889 (continued as Ripley and Heanor News in 1890 - to today).

Ripley Times - 1875 (to 1876?).

Swadlincote and Gresley Herald and South Derbyshire News - 1909 (to?).

The Dawn (Ilkeston) - 1902 (to 1905).

Weekly Courant - 1732 (to 1732).

Wirksworth Advertiser - 1858 (to 1879).

Wirksworth Mercury - 1864 (to 1865).

Wirksworth Observer - 1858 (to 1858?).

N.B. for information on newspapers referring to the Ilkeston area see 'The Ilkeston & District Local History Society's News-Letter' pp.53 and 68.

THE COCKYARD TOLL BAR COTTAGE

by

M.A. Bellhouse

Cockyard, is a small hamlet on the main road from Chapel-en-le-Frith to Whaley Bridge and it takes its name from the cock fighting pit which, I have been told, was well hidden by trees, somewhere on the present golf course.

The "new" turnpike road, on the line of our present road, was constructed in 1763/4.

At its junction with the road to Combs, stood the toll cottage, demolished in January 1968 for so-called road "Improvements". The cottage measured approx. 10 yards by 8 yards, and appeared to be built of local Bank Hall sandstone, roofed by Eccles Pike sandstone, which is a thin splitter. It had the usual toll bar type of bow window, fronting the road, and a smaller viewing window on the Combs road side.

The ground floor consisted of the toll room, kitchen, hall and pantry, while adjoining the west side, was a wash house, stable and cart shed. The upper floor was reached by a staircase leading from the kitchen and consisted of a landing bedroom, and one over the toll room. The map of 1842, appears to be the only one showing the cottage as a toll cottage.

In 1908, it was lived in by a Mr & Mrs J. Wood, who kept a shop in the front room and sold groceries, sweets and ginger beer, the latter being made in Whaley Bridge by the Mortens.

The road was constructed, or engineered by John Metcalfe, but there appear to be no road plans existing.

The following bodies have been approached:-

- 1) The House of Lords Records Office, who hold no plans for turnpike roads prior to 1814. All they hold, is the 1764 text of the Road Act. (See later)
- 2) The P.R.O. hold no turnpike Deeds of the area.
- 3) The Treasury Solicitor, holds no old road plans, but have deeds and documents relating to this toll bar house, dating:- 1781, 1827, 1831, 1885, 1895, 1903, 1940, 1951, 1954, 1967, the latter being a conveyance between the owners and the Ministry of Transport.
- 4) Miss Sinar of the Derbyshire Record Office, suggested that this part of the Turnpike, might have been administrated from Stockport by a Solicitor. Mr Lingard Vaughan, was a very old firm but, Mr E Thorniley (also a Solicitor) who was articled to Vaughan, cannot recollect any documents held by the firm relating to this.
- 5) The Stockport Public Library, hold three Acts for repairing and widening the road in 1729. (See later)

- 6) The West Riding County Library regrets that none of the Road Survey Plans of John Netcalfe are in their Local History Collection.
- 7) Sheffield Library, Dept Local History & Archives, holds no material on the continuation of the road between Chapel and Manchester.
- 8) The Cheshire Records Office, hold records of the Macclesfield & Chapel road, with a plan only as far as Horwich End and the annual statements of income and expenditure of the Trust 1822-1878.
- 9) City Library, York, have no records.
- 10) Manchester Record Office ditto.

Perhaps one day, I may stumble onto the missing road plans.

I have photostat copies of 5 of the Deeds held by the Ministry of Transport, the first one being dated March 1st 1781.

March 1st 1781. Indenture between Samuel Frith (Bank Hall), John Byron (Chapel), Henry Kirk (Martinside) 1st part. and John Turner (Bradshaw) 2nd part. (and Father of Ralph.)

... "the Commissioner for the Turnpike roads leading from Horridge Common, in the said County, through Chapel-en-le-Frith"

Conveyance to John Turner of Bradshaw (Hall), farmer,

... "Whereas at a late meeting of the Commissioners for the said Turnpike road, the said (first 3 names as above), were deputed, appointed & empowered to sell & dispose of all that Messuage, dwelling house or tenement, with garden thereto adjoining. Situate and being at Cockyard and the said dwelling house was erected some years ago by the Commissioners of the Toll Gate erected in the same road" etc. etc.

The sum agreed upon, and for which there is a receipt, was £50-5.

Signed by the above mentioned people, in the presence of Samuel Fox & Thos. Orgil.

May 3rd. 1827. Indenture . Mortgage of a dwelling house at Cockyard, in the Parish of Chapel. Securing £20 Interest.

Mr Ralph Turner to Mr George Dunn, (The Nook, Long Hill).

... "between Ralph Turner of Horridge in the Parish of Hope in the Co. of Derby (yeoman) surviving son & heir at law of John Turner, late of Bradshaw in the Parish of Chapel (farmer), deceased, on the one part and George Dunn of Horridge (Flour Dealer) of the other part.

"Whereas the said Ralph Turner hath this day borrowed & taken interest of and from the said George Dunn to make and execute such security for the said sum of £20 and the interest thereof as herein mentioned..... All that messuage, dwelling house, or tenement with the garden thereby adjoining, belonging, situate and being at or near a place called Cockyard, in the Parish of Chapel, now or late in the occupation of James Mellor, Toll Collector, which said dwelling house was erected many years ago by the Comm. of the Turnpike Road leading from Horridge to Chapel, aforesaid, and the said premises were sold in the year 1781, sold and conveyed by the three of the said Comm., thereunto duly authorised, unto the said John Turner his heirs &

assigns, together with all & singular authorised ways, waters, watercourses, easements & rights, priveledges, members & appurtenances to the said demised premises belonging" etc etc. Interest to be paid on the 3rd day of November next.

Signed by Ralph Turner. Signed sealed delivered in the presence of Josiah Bradbury (Rye Flett) and John Wright (Solicitor) of Chapel). Receipt for £20, signed by Ralph Turner.

Conveyance between James Hague of Horwich Lodge near Whaley Bridge in County of Derby (Dated Aug 3 1895), farm bailiff of the one part, and Lees Broadbent of Denton in Co of Lancaster, Gent. On the other part. (Later of the Cedars, Tunstead Hilton)the Said Hague has agreed with the said Lees Broadbent of Denton, for the sale to him of the said messuage or dwelling house etc for the sum of £97-10.....the said James Hague doth hereby convey unto the said Lees Broadbent, all that messuage formerly used as a Toll Bar house etc. Situated at or near a place called Cockyard.....now or late in the occupation of John Wood.

Signed in the presence of John Richards, clerk to the Denton U.D.C., with J.E. Strangeways Solicitor of Ashton U Lyne and Denton.

July 24th 1903. Conveyance between Lees Broadbent & John Wood of Cockyard (Plate Layer)....of the Toll Bar Cottage for the sum of £200 etc.etc. Witnessed by G.S.C. Woolfenden. Solicitor Denton.

March 1841. Baptismal Records. Chapel P Church.
Baby bap. Father Ralph Turner, Toll Gate Keeper.

In the Stockport Borough Library, are three Acts for repairing the "Roads from Sherbrooke Hill, near Buxton and Chappel in the Frith, in the County of Derby, through the Town of Stockport in the County of Chester, to Manchester in the County of Lancaster, & other roads in the said Acts mentioned and for turning and diverting the roads from Whaley Bridge to Chappel in the Frith and to Sparrow Pit Gate, and from Whaley Bridge to the western end of Longside Common in the County of Chester".

The particular one that I shall be quoting, is a transcript from the Manchester Reference Library, & is microfilm copy of the original Act in the Record Office of the House of Lords. I am much indebted to the Librarian of Stockport Borough Library for letting me have a copy.

There are 17 foolscap size pages, dealing with this Act, and I do not think there is one punctuation mark. I obviously have added a few, to make it readable. It is dated 4.Geo.3 C 45 (1764) But there is very little about Cockyard.

....." and whereas part of the road leading from Whaley Bridge to Chappel in the ffrith in the Co of Derby, being part of the road directed by the said several Acts to be repaired, is very mountainous and steep and dangerous to travellers, and it would be greatly for the convenience of the publick if the said road

was turned or altered from a certain part of the present Turnpike road leading from Whaley Bridge to Buxton, at or near a Bridge called Shallcross Bridge, over Horridge Common, in the Parish of Hope, and through certain enclosed Lands and a Wood called Ollerenshaw wood, at or near Chapel Tunstead of and belonging to, Simon Jackson esq, John Gaskell, William Thomasson & Francis Thomasson, and from thence through certain Lanes, called Bye Lanes, to the Turnpike road in the Town of Chappel in the ffrith, afore said".....

....."may it therefore, please your most excellent Majesty, that it may be enacted, & be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual & Temporal and Commons in the present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same that".....

(Here, is a whole page of names, but I include only those belonging to the Whaley/Chapel area).

"Stephen Bealot, Josiah Bradbury, William Bradbury, Thomas Bowden, John Cresswell, James Carrington, Philip Chandley.gent, John Carver esq, John Frith (junr) gent, John Gee (Clerk), Thomas Grove (Clerk), John Harris (jnr), Godfrey Heathcote (Senr), Godfrey Heathcote (Jnr) gent, William Harrison (Clerk), James Heywood (Clerk), Joshua Jebb esq, Thomas Longsdon, William Longsdon, John Lingard, Robert Longden, John Mander, James Mowdr, Elias Needham, James Pickford, Cornelius Pickford, Richard Roe, John Renshaw", etc "all of

the County of Derby, shall be added to and joined with the Trustees appointed:.....and be it further enacted that in case the said Trustees or any 7 or more of them, shall at any time or times during the continuance of the said former acts, and this Act, think proper to turn or alter the said road leading from Whaley Bridge" etc etc.....and the said Trustees or any 7 more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and empowered from time to time, to turn or alter the said road and also widen.....and out of the Tolls or Duties by this Act granted, or out of the money to be borrowed on the credit thereof, to pay for such lands, grounds or hereditaments, and for such loss or damage, such sum or sums shall be agreed upon" etc etc.

(Page 8)....."and it shall & may be lawful to and for the said Trustees or any 7 more of them, to cause to be erected a Toll Gate or Turnpike and Tollhouse, in upon or across the said road, so turned or altered and to cause to be demanded, and taken at such Gate or Turnpike, the following Tolls or Duties, before any cattle or carriages shall be permitted to pass through the same: (That is to say), ffor every Coach, Berlin, Landau, Chariot, Calash, Chaise or Chair upon ffour wheels, drawn by 6 or more horses, geldings or mares, Two shillings. And drawn by ffour horses, geldings or mares, One shilling. Ffor every calash, chaise or chair upon two wheels, drawn by 2 or more horses, mares or geldings.. Ffour pence. And for every waggon, wain, cart or carriage loaden with Coal only and drawn by ffour or more horses, mares or geldings, or oxen. 8 pence. And drawn by 3 horses, mares geldings or oxen. 6 pence.

By two horses etc.. 4 pence.....and for every other waggon or other ffour wheel carriage. ffour shillings. etc. etc.

.....drawn by 1 horse etc. 4 pence, and for every horse, mare, gelding, mule or ass laden with malt, salt, fflower, corn or grain.....returning back unladen $1\frac{1}{2}$ penny. etc. etc.....
...Drove of oxen or neat cattle. 10 pence, per score. And so, in proportion for greater or lesser numbers.
Calves, hogs, sheep, lambs. 5 pence per score.

There were certain penalties for these refusing to pay toll dues within 4 days, such as, the seizure of their carriage, or cattle, goods & chattels.

The Act, gives the rights to the 7, to dig and cart away stone gravel, ffurze, heath, sand stones and other material, from any ground other than gardens & orchards, for road making, but the holes were to be fenced round.

There is no mention of the Cockyard Toll Bar in this document, the only toll gate mentioned, being one "at or near a place called Higher Crossings, on the western side therof."

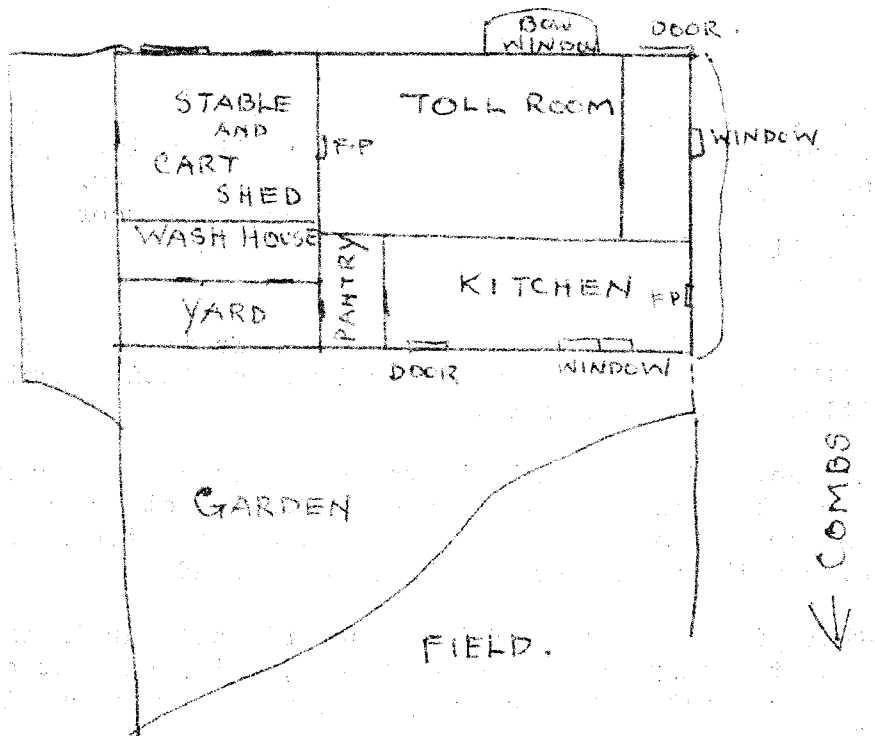
This appears to be on the "old" turnpike road, Perhaps this "new" road did not follow the line of the present road through Chapel, but turned up Crossings road, joined the old one, and continued on this line to Chapel, through the Market Place.

It is a puzzle, and one I must look into.

WHARLEY. ←

→ CHAPEL

ROAD



PLAN



COCKYARD TOLL BAR COTTAGE.



M.A.B.

BERSHAM FOUNDRY

RICHARD KIRK AND HIS ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE
WILKINSONS OF BERSHAM FOUNDRY NEAR WREXHAM.

by

M.A. Bellhouse.

The Kirk's settled in Chapel during the 13th century, and were considerable landholders. Their early residence was the Old Hall at Whitehough, and it was a younger branch of the family who built Martinside.

Through the centuries, the most common names for the male members of the family, have been Arnold, Henry and Richard, and although the first Arnold lived at Whitehough, the first Kirk at Martinside appears to have been Hogo, in 1399.

The old house at Martinside, was a black and white building, mostly of timber and consisted of a central portion with two wings. It contained 26 rooms. Part of one of the wings was set aside, and was called the "widows corner". This was kept for the widow of the last owner, and in it were two sitting rooms, two bedrooms and a kitchen. It was used up to the year 1789, by the widow of Henry Kirk.

Once, old armour & swords hung on the walls of the Hall, but when Henry Kirk died, the estate passed to his nephew Richard, who went to live in Wales, taking with him "all of interest in the old house", which he let to Adam Fox. (Reliquary).

When Richard died, one of his sons sold Martinside to Adam Fox, who demolished the old house and built the present one in 1845. He was married four times, and lived to the age of 98.

Some Records from "John Wilkinson & the old Bersham Iron Works.
By A Neobard Palmer."

Bersham, was originally applied to a township in the old parish of Wrexham, and not the Village only.

The lower part, was known as "Dol Cuhelyn". It is now used as a small recreation park.

The upper part of the Village, was called "Pentre Dybenni".

The Iron Works, once owned by the Wilkinson family, was called locally the "Pont y Pentre".

Situated on the banks of the river, were red brick buildings, covering considerable ground. The Falls, are still a great feature of this property, although the old buildings have now been demolished, and a new house built.

It was when I was a very small child, that my parents & I lodged in the old buildings around 1916, which was then used as a smithy.

My father, on War work, was driving the Commissioner for the Board of Agriculture in Wales, Mr John Owen, who lived at the White House on the high ground above the smithy. (M.A.B.)

It was Isaac Wilkinson who started the works here and a blast furnace was in existence in 1724, worked by a Charles Lloyd and taken in hand by Isaac Wilkinson in 1754.

Isaac came from a small farm in Cumberland, where he had been a labourer at 12/- per week.

At Bersham, he invented Iron boxes, which could be filled with sand, in order that the school children might learn to write in the sand.

His two sons, John and William, received a good education. John married a Miss Mawdsley, who died on Nov. 17 1756, at an early age. They lived at "Plas Grono". His second wife was a Miss Lee of Wroxeter. They had several children.

Although Isaac made articles such as heaters, water pipes, cannon etc, he was obliged to end his work at Bersham on 1761 & went to Bristol.

His son John, trading under "The New Bersham Co", took the works successfully in hand.

A ledger of 1762, showed "Box Heaters, Calendar Rolls, Malt Mill Rolls, Sugar Rolls, Pipes, Shells, Grenades & Guns".

Under the date May 28th 1764 "The office of Ordnance", is charged with 32 guns, value £238-12-9. Shells were 4 2/5th diameter.

Many cannon for the Peninsular War were made here & tested in the high bank beyond the works.

John issued tokens in copper & silver, the earliest being 1787.

Above Bersham, higher up the valley, were two fulling mills, in which James Watt helped with the steam power.

John had several illegitimate children, one of whom was Mary Ann, who, on May 24th 1821, was married at Cartmel Church, to William Legh, gent. of Hordley, Hants, 2nd illegitimate son of Thomas Peter Legh Esq of Lyme, Cheshire. They were the parents of the first Lord Newton. Their home was at Brymbo Hall.

John made many castings for James Watt, the steam pioneer, and he was also a big Government contractor.

It is said of him that the British Government, could not pay him, and so allowed him to make and issue the copper pennies. (M/c Guardian).

Arthur Young's Journal, quoted in an old Manchester Guardian, (no date visible, but probably about 1919).

"Mr Dawson writes as a pioneer of the Silesian Iron Industry under date Sep 22 1788".

"Messrs Epivent had the goodness to attend me in a water expedition to view the establishment of Mr Wilkinson for boring Cannon, in a island in the Loire, below Nantes.

Until that well-known English Manufacturer arrived, the French knew nothing of the art of casting cannon solid & then boring them.

Mr Wilkinson's machinery for boring four cannon, is now at work, moved by 4 tide wheels: but they have erected a steam engine, with a new apparatus for boring 7 more".

On Aug. 3rd 1789. Arthur Young was at Montcenis near Beaune:-

"A disagreeable country; singular in its features."

It is the seat of one 'Mons. Weelkinsongs' establishments for casting & boring cannon.

.....The French say that this active Englishman is the brother-in-law of Dr Priestly & therefore a friend to mankind, and that he taught them to bore cannon in order to give liberty to America.

The establishment is very considerable; there are from 500 to 600 men employed, besides Colliers; 5 steam engines are erected for giving the blasts & for boring "etc, etc.

Signed by R.V. Vernon. Manor Lodge. The Vale of Health. Hampstead Heath. April 18th.

Can this be the John Wilkinson? A far cry from tiny Bersham, to France.

John Wilkinson and Richard Kirk, became partners in a lead mine and raised quantities of ore at Cae Mynydd, Maes Ffynnon Wen.

When John died in 1826, a James Kyrke of Ffrith Lodge, became Receiver of the Bersham Iron Works.

Another account, states that a John died at Hadley on July 14 1808, aged 80 & was buried in an iron coffin at Castlehead, in the garden, covered by a pyramid of Iron. He was re-interred in 1828 at Lindal Chapel.

I think it was Isaac who died in 1808, not John.

Kirk Papers. Derbyshire Records Office.

The estate of Richard Kirk, was called Gwersyllt & was in Denbighshire.

On the 1st day of November 1792, there was a lease by J.Griffiths of Ffrwd, Wrexham, gent, to Richard Kirk of Gwersyllt, gent, of all coal & Ironstone beneath a messuage known as Cae Mawr & demesne, otherwise the Ffrwd, & beneath 3 closes known as Coedy Bran, Gwerglodd Gylmys and Cae March Cadwgan, in the township of Gwersyllt & Brymbo, with liberty to sink Shafts & raise Coal., drive soughs & erect engines for 31 years, rendering 1/7th of the coal raised (except that for working the engine) to Griffiths, & paying 2/- for every dozen of Ironstone.

There were many regulations, concerning ironstone to be weighed in his presence, on the clearing up of wood & machinery at the termination of the lease, but, certain machinery was to be left intact.

Richard Kirk owned Collieries at Broughton & Brymbo, and there was a clause to allow him to drive a sough to these mines for drainage on payment of £5.5 P.A.

The document was signed by Ann Griffith (Daughter to J.G) and Foulkes, Clerk to Mr Hutchinson of Wrexham, Attorney, by Richard Kirk, and J. Griffiths (with a X)

J. Griffiths died before the 31 year term was up and his widow made a further agreement with Richard Kirk to cover the period.

The Wrexham Public Library have a copy of the Will made by Richard Kirk, dated 1839, also the settlement made upon the marriage of his daughter Elizabeth, to John Burton of Minera, in 1818.

There is an account about Richard Kirk and his family, in the "History of the 13 Country Townships of the old Parish of Wrexham", by Alfred Neobard Palmer, printed for the Author, by Hughes & Son, Wrexham 1903.

Page 106, par 54....the lands of Pendwll (Pit tops) in the adjacent township of Gwersyllly, extended into Broughton, and adjoining hereto, on St Giles day, the Feast day of the Patron Saint of Wrexham Parish, Mr R.V. Kyrke told me, a fair was formerly held.....the Pendwll, formerly belonged to George Shakerley (of Lower Gwersyllt), whose daughter Frances married the first Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, & the Pendwll afterwards passed into the possession of Mr Richard Kirk, who obtained it by exchange for lands near Ruabon, from the next baronet.

Par 55..."The Mr Richard Kirk of whom I have so often spoken, was the son of Mr Thomas Kyrke & nephew and heir of Henry Kyrke esq, of Martinside, who died in 1789".

There is a long account on the family history of the Kyrkes of Whitehough, but this must be kept as a separate article.

Page 107....."it will be noticed how variously the different members of the family spelled their names.

Mr Richard Kirk of Gwersyllt Hill always signed his name as KIRK, but his sons & descendants invariably used the spelling KYRKE, as did his ancestors of Whitehough & Martinside".

Par 58....."I first find Mr Richard Kirk mentioned in connection with the neighbourhood of Wrexham in the year 1775, when he is described as "of or near the Wheatsheaf", that is the Village of Gwersyllly; afterwards he removed to Bryn Mali, and finally to Gwersyllt Hill.

He married Ellen, daughter of Mr George Venables of Prestbury, who died 8 April 1827, aged 82, & was buried in the Dissenters Graveyard, Wrexham.

Mr Richard Kirk himself, died 13 September 1839, aged 92.

He was one of the chief agents in developing the Mineral resources of this Parish, the others being Mr John Wilkinson of Bersham & Brymbo, Mr John Burton of Minera & the Smiths of Minera.

Richard Kirk had 5 sons, of whom the two eldest died unmarried.

The other sons were:-

1) James Kyrke, afterwards of Brymbo Hall; Glascoed Hall, Brymbo and Ffrith Lodge. Baptised Nov 12 1778 at Chester St Presbyterian Chapel. Died Oct 15 1857. Buried in the Dissenters Graveyard, Wrexham.

James married Elizabeth, only daughter of John Walker, and had several children.

2) George Kyrke, afterwards of Bryn Mali. Baptised Dec 12 1780 and died about 1858. He married Rachel Harriet, daughter of William Roe of Liverpool, by whom he had 4 children.

3) Richard Venables Kyrke. Born Nov 25 1787. Died 1868. He married Harriet Anne, daughter & heiress of Captain John Jones of Cae Mynydd, Minera. etc.

Mr Richard Kirk, had several daughters, of whom those who survived & married were,

(1) Elizabeth, wife of John Burton esq, of Minera. Died May 4 1829, aged 45.

(2) Frances, wife of Thomas Penson, architect, who refaced the house at Gwersyll Hill.

(3) Margaret, wife of John Dickenson esq of Highfield, Stansty.

ST. AIDAN, DAUGHTER CHURCH OF ST. ALKMUND, DERBY

by

Vera M. Beadsmoore.

The site of the churches of St. Alkmund, dating back to Domesday, was in the very south of the parish, and in connection with the building of the inner ring road and the demolition of the Victorian church (1846), a central site for the new church was purchased by the Corporation. This situation gave rise to the demolition of St. Aidan's church, and the amalgamation of the two congregations.

The Rev. E.H. Abney was appointed Vicar of the parish of St. Alkmund in 1841, and under his guidance and energy two new ecclesiastical institutions grew, St. Paul's, consecrated 1850, and St. Anne's in 1872".

Until about 1880 there was very little or no development on the North East side of Kedleston Road, and it was about this date that building began in Cedar Street. According to all accounts the majority of the initiative for evangelical work at this end of the parish came from the people in Cedar Street.

Miss Emily Newton, of The Leylands, purchased land for a Mission House, and although in a terrace and numbered 49, it was purpose built. There was one large room for school purposes and worship on the ground floor, and "to make of the upstairs rooms a comfortable house for whomsoever shall live at the Mission House". The piece of land, having a frontage of 21 feet, cost about £60. Miss Newton also rented a cottage nearby for a mixed day school.

The following is an extract from Churchfolk's Home Magazine for February, 1882:- "The Mission in Cedar St. prospers. The service on Tuesday evening is well attended, and Miss Archer gives an encouraging account of the Day School conducted by her for young children". The service and the school were held in the rented cottage, No.43.

The foundation stone of the Mission House was laid by Canon Abney on Saturday afternoon, August 5th, 1882. The cost of the house exclusive of fittings and furniture, was £260. The opening took place on Wednesday, November 29th, 1882, at 8.6p.m. On Sunday, October 7th, 1883, the first Harvest Thanksgiving was held, "when the room was tastefully decorated with fruit and flowers sent by the neighbours".

The Mission House was soon found to be too small for services, and as the years went on there was a feeling that a proper place of worship was required. About 1895 a waste piece of land at the bottom of Cedar St. on the Kedleston Road was acquired at a cost of 3516.16.3d. and the foundations for a church were dug out by the men of the neighbourhood. As far as it is known the

corrugated iron building, wood lined, was erected professionally, and was given a temporary building permit by the Corporation for 25 years, but it served the district well until 1972.

The dedication was performed by the Bishop of Southwell on Saturday April 11th, 1896, at 4.0pm, in the name of the Cedar Street Mission Church. "Among those present was Lord Scarsdale, and the Bishop of Southwell preached an eloquent sermon. Mrs. Sherwin of Alpha House, (now at the corner of Sherwin St.) loaned her house for the clergy to robe and entertained them to tea afterwards".

Until 1898 one of the church wardens was one of the wardens of St. Alkmund's, but at the second Easter vestry meeting this was altered and both wardens were chosen from the people of the district. At the same meeting it was decided to ask the Bishop if the church could be named after a saint, and from the three names suggested he selected "St Aidan".

By 1900, The Sherwin Field Estate - Sherwin, Longford and Bradley Streets - had developed. Also after Mr. Wheeldon of Parkfields died in 1899, the development of the land from what is now Bromley Street to White Street, was in hand, and the need for a permanent church was in view. But it was not until August 1925 that a special meeting was held to consider whether a scheme could be drawn up for a church hall, or a new church. By this time more Sunday School and social accommodation was urgently needed, and as various improvements had been made to the church, it was decided to postpone the idea of a new church, and to concentrate on the provision of a church hall.

A parcel of land in Newton's Walk had been bequeathed to the Church Hall Committee, and in March 1930 a tender for £3,445 from Harlow, Stone & Storer of Leacroft Road, was accepted. The foundation stone/ceremony took place on Wednesday evening, May 21st, and the opening ceremony was performed on November 15th, 1930. The Cedar Street Mission House was sold when the hall was completed, and the proceeds applied to the church hall.

The hall was well used by the Sunday School and various organisations until War was declared in 1939, when it was commandeered by the Army and occupied by them until the end of hostilities. The Sunday School was held in church and services continued there, as it was possible to blackout the building.

After the War, circumstances in the district were very different, and there was still a large debt on the hall, so the Committee was glad to sign a lease with the Education Committee for its use during the week as an annexe to Parkfields Cedars. They left when the new school on the Mackworth Estate was built in 1969.

The new church of St. Alkmund was opened in March, 1972, and the closing services were held in St. Aidan's church on March 12th. The Sunday School remained at the hall until July, and moved to the new complex in September.

The church and land were sold in February 1973, and the Church Hall was sold in October 1973 to the Womens Institute, and is now their Derbyshire Headquarters.

So came to an end all the work of the first people who lived in Cedar Street, who joined together as a Christian community in 1882.

(CLOWNE, Derbyshire. SK 495754.)

Field-work is continuing on the line of a possible Roman Road, running between Templeborough Fort (W.R. SK 414916) and Broxtowe Roman Fort three miles North West of Nottingham. The road appears to run North down the Magnesian limestone ridge East of the Rother Valley before swinging North West for Templeborough Fort. The supposed line of the road South takes it via Whiston, Ulley, Todwick, Kniveton Park and Harthill, before entering Derbyshire North of Clowne on the A.618. In Derbyshire the suspected road runs through Scarcliffe and Pleasley before entering Nottinghamshire via Sutton and Kirkby in Ashfield, and after Hucknall it reaches Broxtowe it is presumed. Initial identification has been made by field-work, surface finds, Humidity-meter graphs, field-names and tithe maps, as well as by aerial photographs taken by Meridian Airmaps Ltd. Selected excavation is to take place shortly.

S.P. Hornshaw and P. Fullelove.

11 March 1974.

Mrs. Jessica Kinder of Ash Grove, Chinley, near Stockport, would be glad to hear of any facts linking her family name with Kyrke of Whitehough (Chinley).

SECTION OUTINGS

by

Vera M. Beadsmoore.

The first outing of the 1974 Summer season was to Hartington. Those who went by coach travelled on the A.6 as far as Picory Corner, and this route took us through Youghreave, with a glimpse of the Cromford and High Peak Line at Friden, and so to Hartington Hall.

The present approach drive is from the South, but the original Hall was built facing East, and we were met on this front by the Asst. Warden. The house, built by the Bateman family, dates from 1350, and was rebuilt in 1611, the heads of the lead down pipes carrying the Monogram H.B. 1611.

It was restored in 1862 by Hugh Bateman, buildings to the North of the original house being added to form a central court yard. In 1911 further restoration took place when large bay windows were added on the South side, giving this the appearance of being the front.

In the entrance hall, the oak panelling is the original and on the floor, on the left, can be seen marks left by the original staircase.

We wandered through the Hall, now a Youth Hostel, noting two tiny panes of stained glass in the original bay windows facing East; and visiting the bedroom reputed to have been used by Prince Charles Edward on his journey South in 1745. This room is now rather dark, as one of the windows in the original outer wall was blocked up when the extension was built, and from the landing outside it is still possible to see the mullions.

By the side of the drive to the Hall is a copper beech planted in October 1934 by Richard Scheermann, the founder of the Youth Hostel movement.

We then visited the church, standing high above the village, dedicated to St. Giles.

There may have been a church here in Anglo-Saxon days, but the foundations of the present building were laid in the early 13th century.

The church is built of limestone from Derbyshire and sandstone from Staffordshire. The buttressed West tower is of the perpendicular period with battlements and pinnacles, but it wasn't until the mid 19th century, when major repair work was carried out, that the battlements were extended right round the church. The gargoyles are mediaeval, with some Victorian restoration. The porch, with its parvise, dates from about 1450.

The church is cruciform. It is possible to see the small arch which once held the rood beam carrying the crucifix and figures of Mary and John, while underneath there would have been a screen.

In the South transept is a monument of a 13th century lady, under a trefoil arch. All that can be seen of her is her head, hands holding her heart, and her feet. It was discovered in the restoration of 1858 a foot below the floor level. Also in this transept hang panels, which date from about the year 1700, representing the patriarchs of Israel. They are thought to be the only complete set on wooden panels in the country and have recently been renovated.

The baptistry was made at the beginning of the century, and the 15th century font was restored at the same time.

On coming out of church it was raining very heavily, so we made our way home via Ashford-in-the-Water, where the well dressings were being held.

The second outing was to Leicester on July 20th, led by Mr. Danson, Chairman of the Local History Section, who is a native of Leicester.

Leaving Belper at 11.0am, we broke our journey into the city at Belgrave. The old village lies to the West of the A.6, and includes two eighteenth century houses, Belgrave Hall (1709-13) and Belgrave House, dating from half a century later. At right angles to them stands the church.

Belgrave Hall came on to the market in 1936, its last owner being Thomas Morley, the hosiery manufacturer, and Leicester Corporation were able to purchase for between 8 and 9 thousand pounds the estate of three houses and parkland. It is now a delightfully furnished museum, and from the beautiful walled garden it appears the house was built with the front at the back. The three storied square bays from the road are most unattractive, but the house from the garden is charming with three gable ends, and lead down pipes with ornate heads showing the date 1709. The kitchen, facing the road, a most unusual arrangement for this period, contained a fascinating collection of cooking utensils, both copper and pewter, and other household equipment of the 18th century when servants were plentiful. The various rooms were furnished in varying styles and the portraits included those of the Herrick family who lived at Beaumanor, Old Woodhouse, Leics. In the stables was the Beaumanor coach made in 1740 for the wedding of the fifth William Herrick with Lucy Gage of Bentley Park, Sussex.

The church has a Norman tower and door in the South wall, a thirteenth century nave, and chancel of the fourteenth century.

The mediaeval town of Leicester, bounded on three sides by Soar Lane, Sanvey Gate, Church Gate, Gallowtree Gate, Horsefair Street and Millstone Lane, lies to the West of the modern city.

Within this area we visited first of all the Saxon church of St. Nicholas, partly built of Roman materials. The North wall of the nave dates from the Saxon period, probably from early in the 11th century, and is pierced through the great thickness with two Norman windows; the South wall is opened into one large arch finished in brickwork. There are many examples of Saxon and Norman work, together with a 13th century triple sedilia, Early English detached columns in the chancel, and various restorations in the 19th century. South of the chancel is a chapel used by the Greek Orthodox Church. Owing to the development of the area around, the church has no parish now, and is the chapel for the University.

Passing the Jewry Wall, one of the most impressive pieces of Roman masonry to survive in Britain, we then went to the Church of St. Mary de Castro, "the church of the castle". It was originally the church of a collegiate foundation, established 1107, and by 1150 a large and lofty chancel and aisle on the North side had been added. In a rebuilding after 1173 the chancel was extended to its present length and two transepts added. The Sedilia in the South wall of the chancel are a very fine example of work done in this period. At the beginning of the 13th century the South transept was enlarged to provide separate accommodation for the parishioners, and later in the same century the narrow South aisle was enlarged Westwards to include the tower, crowned much later by a crocketed spire. In the 15th century this "South aisle parish church" was reroofed and the perpendicular clerestory added. The span is 32ft. and contains some very fine woodwork. The North transept and chapel have disappeared, and all the work on that side of the nave is 19th century. Beneath the tower stands the font dating from about 1230, also sixty inlaid 14th century floor tiles.

From St. Mary's, passing through the Turret Gateway, we entered the Newarke, which was once a walled enclosure accommodating the College of the Annunciation of St. Mary, 1331, and destroyed at the Reformation 200 years later. Two of the original buildings are left, the chapel of Trinity Hospital, and the Magazine Gateway, which derives its present name from the practice of storing arms in it when it was part of the barracks, demolished in 1963. It is now the museum of the Leicestershire Regiment.

With the permission of the Matron we were able to go into the Hospital, which is now a home for elderly ladies, to see the chapel. The Hospital was founded in 1331 by Henry, Earl of Lancaster and Leicester, and built on land next to his castle. After various changes during the centuries, the hospital was to a large extent rebuilt at the expense of George III in 1776. The Georgian buildings did not wear well and were replaced in 1902, being modernised internally during the past decade. The chapel is the only ancient part left, and is early fourteenth century. The East window (1905) is very striking, depicting cherubim and seraphim. In the entrance hall is a very large iron cooking pot probably made in the Elizabethan period, in which was cooked the food for the hospitallers.

After this visit, the party split, to visit the various museums of which Leicester has so many, and to finish a most enjoyable outing in the sun in the Castle Gardens.

Some recent publications on Derbyshire history

The Twelve Parts of Derbyshire, by Edward Boaden Thomas. Vo.III, Parts 8, 9 & 10. Published 1974. Each volume 45p.(limp), or £1.80 (handbound), from Hub Publications Ltd., Youghreave, Bakewell, Derbyshire.

In Volume III of his descriptive reverie on Derbyshire through the centuries Mr.Thomas covers the southern extremity of the county. This is more or less the area south of the roads A516 from Hatton to Derby and A52 on to Nottingham. Part 9 includes the whole of Derby. Parts 8 and 10 lie west and east respectively of the A514 road from Derby through Swarkestone and Melbourne and on towards Ashby de la Zouch. Mr. Thomas has followed the epic style of blank verse of the earlier volumes, and the reader will derive greatest pleasure by reading it aloud and cursively. In this connection it is interesting to note that a team of five readers, having already given presentations of the earlier volumes in many places in the county, is willing to visit new areas.

The work, which will be completed with the fourth volume, is the result of a lifetime's study of the county, particularly as exemplified through its literary men. An intimate first-hand knowledge is clearly indicated and the charm and interest of the work lies in its intensely personal approach.

Time and again one comes across a pen picture of a country lane, a street in Derby, a remote hamlet, brought vividly to life by an allusion to some individual who had trodden the same path maybe hundreds of years ago. The book is rich in tantalising references which should afford hours of pleasure to those wishing to discover more about their sources.

Mr. Thomas deserves our gratitude for the novel way in which he has presented Derbyshire to us and for having brought out of obscurity and neglect men such as Bancroft, Cokayne and Fox.

A.Nixon.

Note. Mr. Thomas has told the story of Philip Kinder in D.M.Vol.IV p.99 and of John Grattan in D.M.Vol.V, p.16. See also 'Some Notes on the Minor Poets of Derbyshire', by Henry Kirke, D.A.S.Journal Vol.XLIV, 1922.

Peakland Roads and Trackways by A.E and E.M.Dodd, Moorland Publishing Company, price £3.60. In this book Dr. and Mrs. Dodd set out to trace the evolution of the Peak District's road system from the earliest prehistoric ridgeways through to the era of turnpike roads in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, demonstrating in the process how some roads such as parts of the Roman Hereward and Ryknild Streets have continued to be important lines of communication through to the present day, while others such as the old Manchester road north of Brassington have now been abandoned completely or are used only as farm tracks. Perhaps the most valuable parts of the book are the sections on the mediaeval routes and early trade routes for packhorses and drovers, which, relative to the prehistoric and Roman roads and the turnpike era, have received little attention. The section on turnpike roads which on the whole succeeds admirably in unravelling their complicated history in Derbyshire, unfortunately contains one major error namely the incorrect description of the route of the Derby -Chesterfield turnpike which ran via Holbrook, Heage, Oakerthorpe

and Higham, not via Alderwasley, Wicksworth and Matlock as shown in the book.

The book is lavishly illustrated with photographs of these early routes and features along them at the present day, and also contains a fine series of maps which serves both to elucidate the text and to provide an extremely useful guide for anyone wishing to investigate these routes for themselves. All in all a book to be recommended, and certainly the most significant book on the country's roads to date.

D.V.Fowkes.

Archaeology in the Peak District by D.Bramwell, Moorland Publishing Company, price 80p. Don Bramwell's book provides a concise, lucid introduction to the archaeology of the Peak District, aimed at amateur enthusiasts and visitors to the area. In so doing it fills an obvious gap, for while there is an abundance of articles in the D.A.J. and elsewhere on individual sites, this is the first attempt at an up-to-date summary of the archaeology of the Peak District for some years. The book is admirably illustrated with diagrams of many of the principal sites and drawings of many of the most important artifacts found in the area, and there are useful summaries of the chief characteristics of the various cultures providing the background to the local finds. Its usefulness to visitors to the area is enhanced by the series of suggested archaeological tours and list of local museums holding Peak District archaeological material.

D.V.Fowkes.

Wormhill Wakes The Story and Legend of a Village by A.L.Hunter. A brief history of the peakland village of Wormhill from prehistoric times via Domesday, the Forest of the Peak, the foundation of the church, the Bagshawes, James Brindley, the enclosure of the 1820s, right through to the present day and the problems presented by the expansion of the limestone quarries. Published privately in association with the celebrations for the 700th anniversary of the founding of the parish church held in July 1974.

D.V.Fowkes.

Moorland Publishing Company's Programme

The Moorland Publishing Company of Hartington has been responsible for a number of books on various aspects of the history of Derbyshire and adjoining parts of Staffordshire in recent months including two of the books reviewed above. Their forthcoming titles also include several books of interest to Derbyshire among them The Cromford and High Peak Railway by J.McCarthy and C.Lawrenson, a reprint of Enquiry into the State of the Earth and Observation on the Strata of Derbyshire by John Whitehurst, 1788, Pennine Way Sketch Book by P.Kearney and B.Spencer, The Travel Diaries of Joseph Banks 1767-1768 Ed. by S.R.Broadbridge, The Metal Mines of North Staffordshire by L.Porter and J.A.Robey and Early Maps of Derbyshire by J.Holthouse. All these books may be ordered from the Moorland Publishing Company, Market Place, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 0AL.