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JOHN BROWN OF ELMTON - A NOTE

BY

David Edwards,

I read with interest the article on Elmton in the latest issue of Miscellany, and was pleased to see reference made to the land agent at Elmton Park in 1857. I can throw some more light on him, my information coming from a number of sources including the annexed obituary (there is another in the Derbyshire Times a few days after his death, as well as a report the following week of his funeral).

Before I had confirmation from the enclosed, I had suspected that the John Brown in White's Directory was the same as Sir Henry J. J. Hunloke's agent, who was living at Wingerworth Hall in 1851 according to the census enumerator's book, since I knew from contemporary newspapers that he was also W. H. de Rodes's agent at Barlborough. What is uncertain is the date of his removal from Wingerworth to Elmton and that of his subsequent removal to Rose Hill (the date 1851 in the obituary is obviously wrong) However, on a map of ironstone working in Wingerworth and Walton which he drew up in 1858 or 1859 (I forget which) he is described as of Rose Hill.

The Derbyshire Times of 15 July 1854, p.5, reports a presentation to him on discontinuing the agency to W.H. de Rodes after 12 years on the Elmton estate, then up for sale. I cannot at present throw any light on the question whether John Brown continued as agent to the Duke of Portland at Elmton from 1854.

What the annexed obituary tactfully avoids reference to is the fact that he led the charge of the mounted Volunteers on the mob during the Baron de Camin troubles in Chesterfield!

Transactions, Chesterfield & Derbyshire Institute
of Mining, Civil & Mechanical Engineers, Vol.11,
1882-3, pp.14-15

John Brown was born at Woodend, in the township of Stenton, Haddingtonshire, Scotland, on the 30th day of June, 1815. He was the eldest son of Mr. William Brown, a land agent, residing at Reston, county Berwick, and his earlier years were spent in assisting his father in his business.

When he was about 25 years of age (1839-40) he came to Derbyshire, and secured an appointment as assistant agent on the Duke of Devonshire's Hardwick estate.

A few years later he became chief agent on Sir Henry Hunloke's Wingerworth estate, and at the same time took up his residence in that parish. Shortly after he was appointed agent for several other estates, including that of Mr. W. H. de Rodes, of Barlboro', and by perseverance and tact he gradually formed a very extensive land agency business. He removed to Elnton Park, but soon afterwards purchased Rose Hill Chesterfield, where he came to live in 1851, and continued to reside up to the time of his death.

He took an interest in public matters early in life, and was at various times associated with many public bodies. Whilst at Wingerworth he was guardian of the poor, and on his removal to Chesterfield, was elected to fulfil the same duties on behalf of that parish.

About 1860, when the Volunteer movement was in its infancy, he was the principal mover in the establishment, at Chesterfield, of a mounted volunteer corps, of which he was for several years captain.

He first entered the Town Council in 1863, and was re-elected in 1866. At the next election in 1869, he was, however, defeated. In 1875 he regained his seat, and in 1878 was again re-elected.

He was thrice Mayor, having been elected to that office for three successive years, viz., in November, 1879, 1880, and 1881; on the second occasion being, in addition, raised to the aldermanic bench. Consequently he was alderman and Mayor of Chesterfield at time of his decease.

He had been for some years chairman of the Sheffield Union Banking Company, and was also chairman of the Dronfield Gas Company. He was possessed of considerable property in these and other well established local companies, and in freeholds.

The inmates of the Chesterfield Workhouse have, in Mr. Brown, lost a very sincere friend, who was ever forward in promoting their comfort, and affording them pleasure and amusement.

During his mayoralty, he presented the town with a fountain and took an active part in providing a babmen's shelter. His great experience, diligence, capacity, and tact were testified to in resolutions and remarks by members of the Town Council and the borough bench of Magistrates.

He became a member of this Institute on April 29th, 1871, i.e. directly after its formation, and so continued until his death.

He married, in 1851, Catherine, only daughter of the late Mr. George Tomlinson, of Chesterfield, and left issue one

daughter, who, in 1873, married Mr. F. Butcher, a Sheffield manufacturer. Mrs. Brown died in June, 1881.

His own death took place on the 25th of May, 1882, at his residence, after only a few days' illness; and he was buried at Old Brampton Church, the members of the Corporation attending the funeral.

MORE OX-HORNS AT ASHBOURNE

BY

Miss K. Hollick

Some years ago a note of mine was published in Derbyshire Miscellany (Vol.6. Spring 1973, p.162) concerning the occasional turning up of ox-horn cases along the valley bottom at Ashbourne. It referred to the excavation in 1972 for a new sewer just north of the Henmore Brook (SK 177463) opposite what was then the old L.N.W. railway station, whose site is now occupied by the swimming pool. Numerous horns were then unearthed and a sample sent to the British Museum (Nat.Hist.) Dr. Juliet Jewell of the zoology dept. gave her opinion that the horns were of the type of the longhorn ox common in the midlands from the 16th to 18th centuries, and as such bones were frequently used for field drainage in the 18th century, this seemed the most likely reason for their presence, though a butchers' refuse-dump could not altogether be discounted. More recently, in Nov 1977, about thirty similar horns were found at a depth of seven feet below the present road surface during the laying of a new drain in Compton (SK 180465), in a length of some thirty yards of the trench immediately south of the Bridge. This is about a quarter of a mile from the other site. The find was reported in the Ashbourne News Telegraph of Nov. 18, accompanied by an excellent photograph. No other bones were seen. These horns were more probably found insitu than those near the old station. The latter were more widely scattered in ground that has undergone a number of major upheavels, including diversion of the brook-course, over a long period. For many years it has been possible to find the odd horn in the Henmore Brook, especially after a flood. The unearthing of the horns in Compton, thus extending the area over (under?) which they are known to occur appears to increase the likelihood that they were buried for drainage.

BYGONE GRASSMOOR.

BY

S. L. Garlic.

The area now known as Grassmoor appears to have been entered in the Domesday Book of 1086, as Greherst, it was held by the King and was described as waste.

In Jeayes Derbyshire Charters No. 697 there is mention of Greyhirst Wood that lay between the hamlet of Williamtorp and the great road leading towards Chesterfield. The name Grey-hirst means the dark wood and the only great road worth a mention at that time (1300) was the Roman Road called Rykneld Street which ran from Little Chester (Derby) to Chesterfield.

Burdett's Map dated 1762 shows Grassmoor to be a piece of land bounded on the west by the River Rother, on the east by the road leading from Chesterfield to Mansfield, on the south by Lings and in the north it stretches into the area now known as Hasland.

In the 13th century the Cartulary of Welbeck Abbey mentions Grayhirst and Greyhyrst, the name Gresmore appears in an unpublished Court Roll dated 1549 and Grassmore in Chesterfield Parish Registers dated 1568.

Only a few rudimentary paths crossed the "moor" at this date, from north to south ran what is now the Hasland to North Wingfield road, on the southern boundary of the moor, running from east to west and crossing the north-south road was a path which became Birkin Lane, the present road from Temple Normanton to Ashover.

Roughly in the centre of the present village of Grassmoor a pathway branched off almost due west, (Mill Lane) passing a windmill on the left, then falling sharply to ford the River Rother and pass a water mill on a tributary of the river before joining the Derby-Chesterfield road near Wingerworth Park.

The present village of Grassmoor owes its existence to the seams of coal upon which it stands, the extraction of coal from these seams were at first restricted to those which lay near to the surface.

In the early 18th century there were no deep coal mines, the day of the industrial capitalists had not yet begun, the leasees of coal-mines were then humble yeoman and well-to-do farmers who required coal for lime-burning and who sank shallow pits which supplied the domestic and industrial needs of their neighbours and themselves.

This type of mine was known as a bell-pit, the depression of a few of these bell-pits can still be seen in the hollow just north of Grasshill, from these small beginnings developed the deeper coal mines of later days.

The impact of the industrial revolution, the development of the iron trade and the introduction of coke for smelting iron stimulated the demand for coal.

By the beginning of the 19th century the Grasshill furnaces were in work, owned by John Brocksopp, Yeoman, they were turning out 750 tons of pig-iron annually.

John Farey reporting in 1811 mentions Grass Hill Furnaces as having adapted the "close-way" of coking invented by David Mushett, the coal used to produce the coke was mined on the same site.

The Barnes family had been interested in coalmining since the 18th century, John Barnes, the son of a tenant farmer obtained the lease of a small colliery at Barlow in 1763, he became the freeholder of some 70 acres of land at Ashgate and a colliery was developed there.

Alfred Barnes, his son, studied engineering under Robert Stephenson and later finance with a Liverpool firm, when he returned to Chesterfield in 1846 he was told by his father, who now owned some land at Grassmoor, that he was to start a colliery there.

A lease was arranged with the Duke of Devonshire and Grassmoor Colliery was established, three small shafts were sunk and according to Alfred Barnes, 'the first load of coal was taken away by a Mrs. Hopkinson on her donkey cart.

Two deeper pits were later sunk which cost £40,000, Alfred Barnes claimed to have foreseen the great trade boom of the 1870s, he bought 350 wagons and for some time kept them in his private sidings.

He was prepared for the demand when others were not, he sold 120,000 tons of coal and made a lot of money, the whole of which was invested in the pits and they sank down to the Black Shale seam, Edward Bromley was General Manager and Charles Vardy Under-manager.

Safety lamps were first provided at Grassmoor Colliery in 1883, the owners bore the entire cost of the lamps, previously the miners had to provide their own candles, but the men claimed an extra three pence per ton owing to poor lighting, a demonstration was held in Chesterfield, this controversy led to a Court investigation into miners nystagnus.

In 1884 the Grassmoor Company sought limited liability, and with one exception all the subscribers were members of the Barnes family, the Company controlled a large group of collieries capable of producing 24,000 tons of coal a week.

By 1896 there were 60 miles of underground workings, six of them which were face workings, on the surface, the screens for

sizing, the picking bands and weighing apparatus were said to be the best available, and cost £6,000.

At this time there was little sale for small coals (slack) so colliery companies began to develop by-products and brickmaking in order to make use of unsaleable stock.

Grassmoor Company had two Scotchfield machines and two Fawsett presses which produced 12,000 bricks per day, the semi-plastic bricks being burnt in ordinary open topped kilns, the Manager was Mr. J. A. Oxley, the site of the brick-works was where in the late 1930s the Colliery baths and canteen were built.

Under the title Hasland Coking Company 180 bee-hive coke ovens had been constructed by 1896, these were very wasteful but continued in use until about 1910 and a few of them still stood until 1950, being used as store rooms.

The continental type battery ovens replaced the beehives, from time to time improvements were made, they were mechanised and their number increased to 110.

In the 1930s a much improved type was introduced and they were in use until after the National Coal Board took over.

In 1890 Grassmoor Colliery Company secured large contracts for hard coal to railway companies and soft coal to a number of gas works, thus providing assurance of regular work for their employees.

However by 1896 a depression in trade caused many iron works to close down, in August of that year Grassmoor Colliery Company decided to close half of their pits, throwing a number of miners out of work.

In 1898 an excursion to Scarborough was arranged for the benefit of Grassmoor miners and their families, five special trains were run from Chesterfield Station, the Colliery Company contributing to the cost.

Early in the 19th century Grassmoor was said to be a scattered village with a few outlying farms and a population of only just over 300, it stretched one and a half miles from north to south and about one mile at its widest part.

Controlling the cross roads at the south end of the village was a Toll Bar, nearby Charles Stacey worked in his blacksmiths shop and Robert Hopkinson was the landlord of the Boot and Shoe Inn, there were a few cottages flanking the roads to the south and west, there were two farms and much of the land around was farmed by the Marsh family.

A little to the north-west of the Inn was a quarry from which the stone had been extracted to build the cottages and from which a little coal was obtained for domestic use locally.

By the middle of the century two rows of terraced cottages stood on the east side of the main road and one block of seven terraced cottages just down Chapman Lane (onetime called Pit Lane and Hobbly Lane) two farms lay to the west, one down Mill Lane owned by the Fould family and the other down Gill Lane farmed by Susanah Gill.

Of the outlying parts there were three farms and a row of cottages at Grasshill to the north of the village, the farmers being James Platts, Edward Holland and Joseph White, to the east stood Heathcote Hall (later occupied by the colliery policeman) and on the south-east corner was Philadelphia Farm.

It was in the last quarter of the 19th century that the population increased rapidly, many men seeking work at the colliery, their families followed and there was a great demand for dwelling houses, many of which were built along New Street and streets leading off, half way down was the Mission Church and almost opposite was a Beer house kept by William Ball.

Nearer the pits the Grassmoor Company built seven blocks of terraced houses, 56 in number on East Street, Dr. H. Peck stated that many colliery housing conditions were deplorable, only at Grassmoor had the Public Street Act been observed with advantage.

In 1857 the Church of England built the National Schools, comprising two large rooms, one being consecrated for divine worship, the cost being £300, the curate was the Rev. James Woold who resided at Grasshill House, the School Mistress was Sarah Marshall.

A Primitive Methodist Chapel was built in 1898 at a cost of £1700 it served as a day school, a theatre, a picture house, a billiard hall and later a betting shop, it was demolished in 1975.

Grassmoor Church was built in 1910 near the then Council Schools at a cost of £1,023, it was open for divine worship on August 6th in the same year, it too was demolished in 1975.

CALKE AND TICKNALL

BY

Joan Sinar, Derbyshire Record Office.

Situation and name

Calke and Ticknall lie adjacent to each other on the southern edge of the great valley of the river Trent, in an area which was forest before its colonisation by first the Anglians, then the Danes, and then their medieval descendants. Ticknall is the earlier settlement. It is first recorded about 1002 and again in 1004 in the form Ticenheale, in the early 11th century as Tychenhal', and in 1086 as Tichenhalle. It means "at the kid nook of land". The first settlement must have been in a small sheltered nook in the woodland, probably in a well watered glade. The settlement thrived because by 1002 there were already at least two separate estates there, one belonging to Wulfric Spot a great Midland lord, the other probably to the Earl of Mercia an even greater magnate only a little less powerful than the Crown. Wulfric gave his estate to Burton Abbey which held it until the dissolution of the monasteries over 500 years later. The other estate later in the 11th century in the reign of Edward the Confessor belonged to Alfgar the rebellious Earl of Mercia, whose son Edwin first accepted and then almost immediately rebelled against William I, the Norman Conqueror.

The name Calke first appears in the 1130's. It means chalk or limestone and is derived from the outliers of carboniferous limestone that outcrop there, 16 miles further south than the main Derbyshire beds. Its limestone subsoil makes it likely that it was known and probably used for pasture well before the Norman conquest of 1066 as part of the great stretch of woodland south and west of Ticknall. Certainly these woodlands were used for pannage in 1086 by the peasants of all the Ticknall manors.

Ticknall at Domesday

In 1086 Ticknall lay in the soke of Repton. A soke was not simply a geographical concentration of neighbouring estates held by the King in person or a very great lord but also an area within which the lord of the soke exercised a range of legal and financial powers which are not now fully understood. Domesday records its former owner as Alfgar Earl of Mercia, who died in 1065, and makes no mention of his son Edwin, earl of the shire who forfeited his estates for rebellion against William I. Alfgar had held a string of manors along the Trent, all of which like the soke of Repton, were held by the Conqueror in 1086. The value of the soke in 1066 was £15 yearly but by 1086 this had dropped to £8, most probably because of the reprisals exacted by the Normans for the early post conquest risings. The entries for Ticknall point to serious devastation and recent recovery still under way.

There were three manors in the vill or township of Ticknall in 1086. The vill had been assessed in the geld, a fossilised Old English tax of the 10th or early 11th century at 4 carucates. The carucate was the land which could be tilled in one year by a plough team of 8 oxen and is normally reckoned about 120 acres. A bovate is one eighth of this. There were three manors in Ticknall: the king's own manor, the estate belonging to Burton Abbey, and Nigel de Statford's manor. There was also a great stretch of woodland one league in length by half a league in breadth. This was entered separately in the lands of the soke from the lands of the three manors though both the Abbey's and Nigel's manors had substantial rights of pannage in it.

The king's manor was assessed at 2 carucates $2\frac{2}{3}$ bovates in the geld. Yet at the conquest there was only land for two ploughs, and by 1086 there was actually only one plough shared by two sokemen. These sokemen were substantial free peasants with small estates. There were also 22 acres of meadow for the lord of the soke had kept the bulk of the meadow for his tenants.

Burton's estate, assessed at $5\frac{1}{3}$ bovates, had been left to the abbey by Wulfric Spott, a great Mercian lord, between 1002 and 1004, and his gift confirmed in 1004 by the king. Its plough land at the Conquest was not given but in 1086 there was one plough in demesne, and 4 villeins or servile peasant farmers shared another between them, again substantial peasant holdings but not equal to the sokemen's farms. There was 8 acres of meadow and a fifth of the woodland for pannage. The estate was valued at 10s. yearly, exactly the sum for which the Abbey was renting it to Henry de Ferrers, the most important of William I's barons in Derbyshire.

Nigel de Stafford's manor was assessed at one carucate, and before the Conquest had land for one plough. Nigel himself in 1086 had one plough in demesne and a villein and a bordar, a smaller peasant farmer, shared another plough between them. This villein must have farmed more land than even the king's sokemen but of course he was not free. There were 10 acres of meadow, and a fourth part of the woodland for pannage belonged to Nigel. Yet the whole was only valued at 3s.

Early Eleventh century Ticknall and the foundation of Calke

The Crown held the soke of Repton, including the manor and woods of Ticknall, until Henry I [$\frac{1100-1135}{7}$] gave the soke to his second cousin, Ranulph le Meschin, 3rd Earl of Chester who died about 1129. The Earl of Chester was one of Henry's more important midland magnates and as Vicomte d'Avranches one of his more important supporters in Normandy. Ranulph inherited the Viscounty and was given the Earldom in 1120 on the death of his cousin, Richard, who was drowned in the wreck of the White Ship with his cousin, Prince Henry, heir to the throne. The earldom

and the county palatine of Chester had been created in 1071 for Ranulph's uncle, Hugh d'Avranches, nephew of William I. Hugh, later named the Wolf because of his greed and rapacity, turned devout in his later years, founded the two great abbeys of St Werburgh, Chester, and St Severs, Normandy, and contributed generously to the endowments of a third, Whitby. He retired finally to St Werburgh's where he died a monk in 1101. He has been claimed as the founder of Calke priory but he never owned the woods of Ticknall in which the priory of Calke was founded and part of which was set aside as the priory's endowment.

According to Professor K Cameron the place name Calke is first recorded in 1132. He does not give a detailed reference and it is not clear which deed or charter is concerned. In the 1130's in a document dated by Professor C R Cheney between 1130 and 1136 William, Archbishop of Canterbury and papal legate, notified Roger, Bishop of Chester, and Ranulph, Earl of Chester. that William, Abbot of Chester, in the presence of the Archbishops of Rouen and York at the Council in London had restored to the canons of Calke the church of Calke and promised to restore all things that had been taken away by him or his men as well as the Earl's charter which he had also taken. The archbishop willed and enjoined that the said church should remain free and quit to the said canons for the service of God.

Calke priory was therefore founded before this notification. As it was the Earl who was notified and the Earl's charter which had been taken away, it must have been founded by an Earl of Chester who can only have been Ranulph le Meschin, the third earl, or Ranulph de Gernon, the fourth earl. Ranulph le Meschin died about 1129 and was buried like his predecessors in the earldom at St Werburgh's. To found a priory, find canons and build a church and living quarters takes time. Still further time is needed for a powerful outsider to seize the priory, carry away its endowments, and even longer (particularly in the middle ages) for the dispossessed canons to seek and find justice against their powerful adversary. It is extremely unlikely that all this could have happened between about 1129 when de Gernon succeeded his father, and 1136 the latest possible date for the document. Furthermore it is extremely unlikely that the Abbot of Chester would seize a priory founded by his most powerful patron immediately after its foundation and in that patron's life time. It is much more likely that the priory was founded by Ranulph le Meschin, probably as a thank offering for the gift of either the earldom or the soke of Repton, and that the Abbot seized the opportunity offered by the death and burial of le Meschin. The death and burial of any man let alone a great magnate was accompanied by the payment of legally enforceable dues to the church of burial, as well as such further gifts as the dying man might volunteer willingly or under spiritual pressure. Roughly speaking the richer or more powerful the dying man, the greater the need to purchase prayers and masses

for his soul. The death bed and burial of Ranulph le Meschin would be expected to profit the abbey of St Werburgh, and the Abbot probably seized Calke on this basis, acting, he would claim, on the wishes of the dying man.

Whatever the date of original foundation, the foundation and its endowments were restored by the Abbot's surrender and the Archbishop's notification in 1130/6. After the restoration of the priory's independence a number of other gifts were made to the canons of Calke by several persons. Chief amongst their benefactors was Maud widow of Ranulph de Gernon. Between 1149 and 1161 with the consent of her son, Hugh, 5th Earl of Chester, she gave them the advowson of St Wystan, Repton, and the working of the quarry there, on condition that so soon as opportunity offered Calke should transfer its endowments to a new priory to be set up at Repton, and itself become simply a cell of its daughter house. About 1162 Hugh confirmed gifts by his father of the wood between Sceggebroc and Aldreboc and Little Geilberga, a culture between Aldreboc and Sudmude /South wood/, the little mill of Repton and four bovates of land in Ticknall. He also confirmed gifts by Nicholas the priest of two bovates in Ticknall and the chapel of Smisby, by Geva Ridel of a measure of land in Tamworth, and other gifts by his father of lands in Repton and fishing near Chester. The identity of Nicholas the priest is not known but Geva Ridel was the only daughter of Hugh d'Avranches, first Earl of the county palatine of Chester. There were a number of other mid twelfth century gifts to the church of land and rights in the neighbourhood and in Sutton Bonnington which Hugh did not confirm.

Dom David Knowles considers that the priory of Repton was founded between 1153 and 1160 and that a few canons were then transferred from Calke to Repton. The main body followed when Repton priory buildings were completed in 1172. After that Calke became a cell or grange dependent on Repton with only 2 or 3 canons in residence.

Medieval Ticknall and the Priory of Repton

The Earls of Chester, founders both of Calke and the new priory of Repton were not content to have given part of their woods of Ticknall as site and endowment for Calke. They and their descendants continued to support their new priory of Repton with gifts of land in Ticknall. Hugh, the fifth Earl gave Repton four bovates, about 60 acres of arable, in Ticknall, and Ranulph the sixth Earl gave the canons permission to draw a cart load of wood daily for fuel from his woods at Ticknall. One of the family must have given them the chapel of St Thomas, its courtyard and enclosure, which the sixth Earl excepted in the canons' favour from his confirmation about 1200 of an exchange of lands made by his mother, Bertrade, a cousin of Henry II. This chapel dedicated to Thomas a Beckett was one of the chapels dependent on Repton priory itself the parish church of Repton. There

were eight chapels in all: Newton, Bretby, Milton, Foremark, Ingleby, Ticknall, Smisby and Measham. The canons drew the whole ecclesiastical revenues, drawn from glebe, tithes, legal dues and offerings from this large area, and for the most part served the parish church and its chapels themselves, only sometimes employing curates. The priory kept the chancels in repair, the parishioners were responsible for the rest.

There was a long struggle in the thirteenth century to free parishes and parochial chapelries from such arrangements but it had little effect in this area for in 1271 Roger Langspec Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield confirmed to the prior and canons of Repton the church of St Wystan, Repton, with its eight chapels. John Pecham, Archbishop of Canterbury, again confirmed to the priory all but the chapelry of Milton in 1279 in the course of his metropolitcal visitation.

The prior of Repton therefore not only held Calke but was parson of Ticknall and held a good deal of land there, at least four bovates given by the fourth earl to Calke, two bovates given by Nicholas the priest to Calke, and four bovates given to Repton by the fifth earl, about 150 acres of arable with all appurtenant common rights, together probably with smaller gifts of land from other persons. The prior was therefore a considerable landowner in Ticknall, where he held more land than the abbot and convent of Burton whose estate there was given them in 1002. Indeed the prior's standing as a landowner in Ticknall was recognised by Edward I when he gave him free warren or the right to hunt over the priory's lands there. These holdings must have been considerably increased in 1312 by the gift to Repton by Edmund Earl of Arundel of all his waste lands at Ticknall. Edmund was descended from one of the four sisters and co-heiresses of Ranulph sixth earl of Chester who split his vast estates between them after his death in 1232. Ticknall itself was held by Ranulph's widow, Clemence, for life as part of her dower and cannot have passed to Arundel's family until after her death in 1252.

The medieval lords of Ticknall and other owners

Clemence was reported in the royal inquisition Testa de Neville in the mid thirteenth century to have held the town of Ticknall, tota villa. If this is so it suggests that the estates of Burton Abbey and Repton Priory, together with the farm or farms of the old Stafford manor, lay outside the main village centre. Clemence's successors, the Aubigny and FitzAlan earls of Arundel, descended from her husband's second eldest sister Mabel wife of William D'Aubigny Earl of Arundel and Sussex, had a chequered history. Edmund who gave the

waste lands of Ticknall to Repton priory was beheaded by Edward II's rebel queen and her lover, Mortimer, then attainted after death and his estates confiscated. Both honours and estates were restored to his heir after the overthrow of Queen Isabel.

It is difficult to trace the descent of the Chester manor of Ticknall immediately after Edmund's gift to Repton in 1312, but at some stage after this Edmund or his successors ceased to hold the manor in their own hands and granted it to a mesne lord to hold of their barony. It is likely that Edmund's gift to Repton was preparatory to the subinfeudation of the manor. In the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) William Frances of Osmaston where his family had held land for several generations married Agnes eldest daughter and coheir of Ralph de Tickenhall or Ticknall. By this marriage William acquired the Frances property in Ticknall, and very probably the mesne lordship also. Certainly his descendants were mesne lords of Ticknall. There still survives in the new church an early 14th century monument of a man in civilian dress [dress of a civil lawyer] holding a heart in his hand. J C Cox argues that this must be the man responsible for rebuilding the old church in 1325 and thinks that it is most probably an effigy of William Frances. The Frances manor house was close to the old church on the south west side. Its last remains were pulled down about 1840 to make way for a new vicarage.

The family of Frances of Ticknall held the Chester manor of Ticknall and a reasonable estate there until the mid or late 16th century when the last male heir died. His sister had married William Frances of Foremark and their daughter Jane married Sir Thomas Burdett of Bramcote, Warwickshire. Their descendants inherited estates of both Frances of Ticknall and Frances of Foremark.

The Frances family were not the only landowners. The Segraves held the Stafford manor in the early 14th century but its earlier and later descent has not been traced. The Knights Hospitallers held land in Ticknall but how they acquired it is not known. The Prior of Repton held not only Calke but a fair sized estate in Ticknall. The Abbot of Burton held the manor given to the abbey by Wulfric Spot in 1002. In the early 16th century this manor was leased by William Frances of Ticknall.

Post Reformation Changes in ownership and Ticknall Hall

In 1535 the Valor Ecclesiasticus a survey of all ecclesiastical property in England and Wales was prepared for the Crown preparatory to the dissolution of the religious houses and orders and the confiscation of their property. The houses were closed in groups. Subject to existing leases

their confiscated property was sold off over the next two or three generations.

Repton surrendered in 1538, and the cell of Calke with its fields and woods was sold to the Earl of Warwick in 1547. Whether he also bought Repton's lands in Ticknall or whether these were sold elsewhere is not clear. The Calke property passed rapidly through several ownerships and was sold in 1621 to Henry Harpur. Burton's manor in Ticknall, and Repton's patronage of Ticknall chapel together with the rectorial tithes of Ticknall, and probably Repton's other property there were bought by Edward Abell some time before his death in 1596. What happened to the Hospitaller's property is not known. Possibly Abell bought that too. An examination of the Ministers Accounts and the Surveys of Particulars for Grants in the records of the Court of Augmentations should clear up these points.

In 1625 Henry Harpur who already owned the whole of Calke bought Edward Abell's property in Ticknall from Edward's son Ralph. This double purchase established this branch of the Harpur family as sole owners of Calke and major owners in Ticknall.

The lordship of the manor of Ticknall was however held by Burdett of Foremark, as heir of Frances of both Ticknall and Foremark. It seems likely that Frances of Foremark had already inherited the lordship of Ticknall by the mid 16th century because there is no mention of them in a tax return of persons living in Ticknall made between 1537 and 1548, probably in 1547 or 1548. In fact the return shows no landowners living in Ticknall at all, only tenants assessed in goods. Frances of Foremark living so near Ticknall, can have had little need of the manor house or hall which lay close to the church on the south west side. There are references to the Hall as early as 1328 when it was probably already a Frances home, and as late as 1613. The hall would probably first be let, then dwindle into a farm house, and then it fell into ruin. Its last remains were pulled down about 1840 to make way for the new vicarage.

Calke in the mid 16th century

At the dissolution of the monasteries Calke was a small, apparently comfortable settlement. Six or seven farms, a few cottages, a mill, and a parochial chapel had grown up round the cell of Calke but whether they were clustered together or scattered about the monastic estate is not known. The farms, cottages, and mill are known from a tax return made between 1537 and 1548, which lists 18 persons assessed to the tax. These persons in turn represent 18 households or a population of about 80. First on the list was John Prest, esquire, worth

in land 200 marks or £133.6s.8d. This was a very considerable sum of money. Anna Kendall, widow of the late lord of the manor of Smisby who owned the bulk of the land there, was only assessed at £11 in land on her widow's third, making the value of the lordship and land attached there only £33. To be assessed at so large a sum, and on land not goods, points clearly to Prest having bought Calke from the Earl of Warwick and dates the return to 1547 or 1548. This does not square with Tilley's account of the descent of Calke, its forfeiture to the Crown in 1553 and its regranting to Warwick's son, but the assessment is contemporary and its evidence must be preferred to a 19th century journalist's account. There were some extremely involved sales, re-sales and trusts of former monastic property, and possibly some complicated set of circumstances is involved here. The assessment certainly shows the high value of the lordship of Calke with its monastic house and farms, all owned by one man. His property brought him the social standing of an esquire, only one rank below a knight, at a time when there were comparatively few knights and esquires and when titles of respect were not lightly bestowed.

In addition to Prest there was a husbandman and a miller each worth £5 in goods, a minstrel and a husbandman each worth £4, a widow and 2 husbandmen each worth £3, 2 husbandmen each worth 40s. and 8 labourers each worth 20s, all in goods. Minstrels though few were not uncommon in the 1540's. The same series of tax returns lists another minstrel at Smisby, only a few miles from Calke, and a minstrel's court at Tutbury survived as an antiquarian festival well into the 18th century. The travelling singer and jester must have been a much more common visitor to Derbyshire halls and villages in the Tudor period than is normally realised. The widow was probably farming in her own right. So there were in Calke 6 or 7 farms, 8 labourers, a minstrel, and the lord, each with his household.

The inhabitants of Calke worshipped in the little chapel which stood a little to the north of the conventual buildings. This had served the peasants and tenant farmers of Calke for centuries. It was rebuilt in 1826 but from a drawing and written description of it made by Mr Rawlins in 1816 it is clear that it formerly had a porch on the north side with a round headed Norman doorway beneath. The font which was removed in 1826 and later restored dates from the 13th century. This chapel for the use of the laity belonged to the priory and then to the purchaser of the cell or priory of Calke and its lands, who was wholly responsible for its maintenance and the provision of services there.

Ticknall in the mid 16th century

Both more and less is known about contemporary Ticknall. Later map evidence and the village pattern surviving today show

it in spite of its several manors to have been a nucleated farming village with its farmsteads clustered closely along the village street. Other sources pinpoint the manor hall just south west of the old church. It is possible that the two lines of old settlement, one east of the church with a back lane, the other south of the church with crofts still visible, mark two separate manors. It is equally possible that the peasants' households were inter-mixed and that one of the two, probably that south of the church, is simply the result of the growth of population, the colonisation of new land and the building of more farmsteads. Certainly the late 17th and 18th century growth was on the Smisby road, south of the line of crofts.

The tax return shows no resident landowner amongst the 47 persons liable to the tax. All were assessed on their goods, suggesting that Frances of Foremark was already lord of the manor and the Hall was let. Some of the tenants were however very prosperous. Most prosperous was John Webster husbandman assessed at £20. Next came Richard Netham, gentleman, worth £15, and George Car, another husbandman, worth £10. One husbandman was worth £6. One husbandman, two yeoman (a stage higher in the social scale), and a labourer were assessed at £5 each; 3 husbandmen at £4; 3 husbandmen, 2 potters, a widow and a labourer at £3; 4 husbandmen, 4 potters and a labourer at 40s.; and 6 husbandmen, 1 widow, 2 orphans, 1 miller, 1 potter and 8 labourers 20s. each. The former monastic and religious lands were probably all still in the hands of the Crown and let out on leases. Richard Netham and the larger husbandmen probably leased these and the Frances lands. The number of potters, seven, and the inclusion of only one of these in the poorest group points to a well established and reasonably thriving industry exploiting the local clay deposits. The seven potters shared four surnames and two, Richard Knight senior and Richard Knight junior, assessed at £3 and 40s. respectively, were probably father and son. There is no way of estimating the number of kilns but it seems unlikely to be more than three or four, all obviously on leasehold or rented premises.

The parochial chapel of Ticknall probably still in the hands of the Crown in 1547 was Norman in origin, with a house attached to it in 1328. The old church is known mainly from paintings which show a thirteenth century lancet window, buttress and other features in a church which had largely been rebuilt in the 14th century in Decorated style. At the rebuilding an embattled tower and octagonal spire were added, and in the Perpendicular period of the 15th century the walls of the nave were raised and three clerestory windows inserted on each side. This work on the nave and tower was done by the parishioners for Repton priory was responsible only for the maintenance of the chancel. The priory mainly served the chapel with its own canons but curates were sometimes appointed. After 1538 the

Crown must have appointed and maintained a curate until the patronage and rectorial tithes were sold. The curate in 1552 according to the Commissioners enquiring into Church Goods was J. Warde. The chapel was fairly well equipped with two vestments and matching stoles, one in grey say, one in blue, two other sets of clothes, 2 corporals and cases, a chalice and paten parcel gilt and 3 bells in the steeple.

The diocesan census of 1563 omitted Calke, probably because it was an ecclesiastical peculiar completely controlled by its owner who was not answerable to the bishop. It only returned 42 households for Ticknall, 5 less than the tax return of the late 1540's, representing a marked drop in population from about 210 to 190. Plague was then endemic in the country and there could well have been a minor out-break.

The rise of the Harpur family and the building of Calke Abbey

The double purchase of Calke in 1621 and Abell's property in Ticknall in 1626 established Henry Harpur as head of one of the junior branches of a family the senior line of which held extensive estates in South Derbyshire along the line of the River Trent. These estates had been built up in the 15th century by the Findern family and taken in marriage to the Harpurs in the early Elizabethan period. The senior line died out in 1627 with the death of Sir John Harpur of Swarkestone. Although he left two sisters his main heir was his elder uncle, John Harpur of Breadsall, who had married Dorothy, only daughter and heiress of John Dethick of Breadsall. His younger uncle Henry Harpur of Calke had already bought Calke and much of Ticknall. He was created a baronet in 1626 and died in 1638. His heir Sir John Harpur of Calke was sheriff in 1640.

Sir John Harpur of Calke and his cousin Sir John Harpur of Swarkestone were both loyal to the King in the Civil Wars and suffered financially for this. In addition to what they gave to the Crown, when the fighting ceased they had to pay crippling fines or compositions to the Parliamentary administration to retain their lands. Both of them continued to nurse the estates left to them, and to fulfil their obligations. Sir John Harpur of Calke even maintained separate curates for the parochial chapelry of Ticknall and his peculiar of Calke. The Parliamentary Commissioners of 1650 did not approve of the curate of Calke who was a royalist and reputed to have been deprived of a living in Leicester for his beliefs. They recommended that the chapel at Calke should be closed and the peculiar united with Ticknall. Ticknall, formerly a chapel and part of Repton parish, they considered had of late become a separate entity. They recommended that South Woods and Broadstone, also parts of Repton, should be severed from Repton, joined with Ticknall, and Ticknall elevated from a chapelry to a parish. Nothing came of the Commissioners' recommendations

and Ticknall only became a parish when it was made a vicarage in the second half of the 19th century. The Commissioners reported that Sir John Harpur of Calke as impropiator [owner of the rectorial tithes] appointed and maintained both curates. Under the terms of his composition Sir John had been forced to settle £40 yearly for the maintenance of the curate of Ticknall, of whom the Parliamentary Commissioners did approve. This settlement lapsed after the restoration of first the monarchy and then the Anglican Church of England.

In 1669 Sir John Harpur, the second baronet, died aged 53. He was succeeded by his son, Sir John Harpur, the third baronet, who in 1677 succeeded also to the estates of his father's cousin, Sir John Harpur of Swarkestone and Breadsall. This brought to the Calke branch of the family the remains of the old Findern Harpur estates lying along the Trent, Breadsall, and such further purchases as the Kendall lands in Smisby bought in 1660 reputedly by Harpur of Swarkestone, but possibly by Harpur of Calke whose estates practically adjoined Smisby.

Sir John Harpur, the third baronet, became therefore one of the largest landowners in South Derbyshire with a group of estates conveniently blocked for the most part on a line between Swarkestone and Smisby. He died in 1681 and was succeeded by his son, Sir John Harpur, the 4th baronet. This Sir John Harpur married Catherine, youngest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas, 2nd Lord Crewe of Stene, by his second wife, Anne daughter and coheiress of Sir William Armine of Osgodby, baronet.

It must have been the fourth baronet who rebuilt Calke early in the 18th century. No traces of the former priory are now visible but according to J C Cox certain of the inner walls of the present house are over six feet thick, and if so, probably incorporate some walls of the old priory. The rebuilt house was named Calke Abbey in the mistaken belief that it lay on the site of a former abbey rather than a priory which had early become a cell of its daughter house.

Calke Abbey is a large, elegant house built of fine freestone round a quadrangular court, probably from stone quarried locally. It is dated by Pevsner to 1703. The farms which had surrounded the cell in the 16th century were cleared at some time, probably when the house was rebuilt to produce a great stretch of park land swept by bands of woodland. Glover in 1829 wrote of the house and its setting: "It is a noble mansion, standing in the centre of an extensive park, of which the verdant and well wooded elevations rise on all sides from the Abbey. These elevations afford rich and interesting prospects, and the valleys which intersect them are adorned with venerable oaks and other ancient forest trees. Few spots exceed this in variety, and wood intermixed with sheets of

water is met with amid this charming diversity of hill and dale. Groups of deer, sheep, and cattle enliven the scene. The deer are a fine species of the fallow-deer: the sheep are a peculiar breed, called the Portland. From this park two drives led to gates and entrance lodges in Ticknall. How the park was farmed before the 19th century is not known, but it is likely to have consisted of one or two big farms devoted to mainly grazing. There was still a mill in the mid 19th century which probably was the successor of the Tudor mill, surviving as an estate mill from the early middle ages onwards. After the clearance of the farms and cottages to make room for the park the chapel though remaining the parish church of the peculiar became very much a family chapel with fine monuments.

The Harpur lords of Calke and Ticknall

As lords of Calke the Harpurs were responsible for the maintenance of their church, and after the clearance of the village to make way of their park they made themselves responsible for the upkeep of their roads and their poor. No parish meeting or vestry was needed or established. Even after the establishment of the Boards of Guardians under the act of 1834 Calke was joined to no Poor Law Union as the owner undertook to keep the poor from being chargeable until some time after 1857.

Though lords of the old Burton manor and owners of much of the chapelry, the Harpurs were not so firmly established in Ticknall where by the eighteenth century there were several owners. One of these was the head of the Burdett family, heirs of Frances of Ticknall and Foremark. The Burdetts retained the ownership of land in Ticknall well into the 19th century, but their lordship of the main manor of Ticknall was forgotten. Possibly it was sold to the Harpurs, possibly it was simply lost by disuse. In either case by the late 18th century the Harpurs had established themselves as sole lords of the manor in Ticknall.

The Harpur Schools

Dame Catherine Burdett, daughter of Lord Crewe, wife of the fourth baronet, was obviously a woman with both sense and generosity. She built on the manorial waste in Ticknall near the church a school. This was probably the waste of the Burton manor which Henry Harpur bought in 1626, for the Segrave manor was early lost and the waste of the main manor was separated and given to Repton Priory in 1312 by the Earl of Arundel before the grant of the manor to a mesne lord. Dame Catherine built the school and maintained in it for many years one or more persons to teach to read and write such of the children of

Calke and Ticknall as she nominated. In 1741 she gave £100 in trust to buy lands to provide tuition for 6 poor boys and girls to be nominated by her or her descendants but the land was never bought. The descendants of her trustees who had removed from the county lent the money in the early 19th century to a Derby tradesman who paid interest at 4 per cent. The Charity Commissioners in 1827 recommended that it should be invested in government stock in the names of Sir George Crewe, Dame Catherine's great-great-grandson, and some other local landowner in trust to pay the income to the school to support 12 poor children.

Dame Catherine was not content with these efforts to ensure the future of her school. In 1744 she persuaded her son, Sir Henry Harpur, the fifth baronet, to join her in a conveyance of the school and its site to trustees. She also bought lands in 1744 with which she further endowed the school. By the late 18th and early 19th century these brought a rent of 11 guineas a year which her descendants paid to the schoolmaster. It was normal for school trusts of the day to provide that the children to be taught free should be nominated by specific persons such as the donor and his or her descendants. The master of course was able to take more pupils who paid for their tuition. It was less usual for the benefits of such trusts to be extended to girls. In this Dame Catherine showed both unusual compassion and farsightedness.

The Harpur family continued an interest in the education of the poorer persons on their estates, endowing or giving sites for schools in other villages as occasion and finance permitted. They did not lose sight of the needs of the children of Calke and Ticknall. In 1822, when income from the industrial exploitation of the local lime stone was at its greatest Sir George Crewe's wife built a separate school for 30 to 40 girls which first her husband and then she in her widowhood maintained. In 1824 Sir George took down Dame Catherine's school which had grown dilapidated. On its site he built a house for the master, and added a schoolroom for boys only, adjoining on his own property. The next year he agreed to pay the schoolmaster £25 yearly and to make it up to £30 if the master did not receive £10 more from boys who paid for tuition. By 1846 there were 40 free places for boys.

In 1857 the boys' school was taught on the National plan. The two schools were then supported by Sir John Crewe and his mother. As the population began to fall in the second half of the 19th century with the contraction of the industrial enterprises the separate girls' school was closed, and the endowed school again took boys and girls. The schools became a parochial school retaining the Harpur endowments. Kelly in 1891 claims that the school was built in 1844 but there is nothing in earlier directories to substantiate this statement.

In 1871 an infants classroom was added. By 1895 schooling was free for all the children from both Calke and Ticknall.

Ticknall Hospital

The schools were not the only practical help given by the Harpur Crewe family. In 1772 under the will of Charles Harpur dated 5 April 1770 a hospital or block of almshouses was built in Ticknall for 7 poor decayed men or women of Calke and Ticknall. The hospital contained seven houses each with a ground floor room, a chamber over, a large pantry and a plot of garden ground. The premises were kept in repair in 1827 by Sir George Crewe. Out of the yearly income of £80 from the capital endowment of £2,000 Sir George paid each of the inmates £10, and put the remaining £10 towards the cost of repair. The charity was still active in 1941, and presumably continues to the present day.

Calke and Ticknall churches

Sir George Crewe did not confine his attention to rebuilding the schools and repairing the Hospital. In 1826 he modernised the old church, at Calke, recased the walls in new stone, providing a new entrance and windows with cast iron mullions and tracery.

At Ticknall there were major repairs of the church in 1755. The three aisles were re-roofed and re-leaded, a porch added, and other works performed. Such substantial works must have been largely at the expense of the local landowners, chief of whom were the Harpur family, rather than of the farmers, potters and labourers of the parish. In 1820 the church was re-pewed. The curate in 1824 described the church as a very neat ancient stone building consisting of nave, side aisle and chancel which would hold about 400. He reported it in good repair and well attended. He was non-resident and lived in Repton but a decent residence in good repair was provided as a parsonage.

In 1841 the church was again "out of repair". It was decided to demolish it and build a larger one to seat 600 on an adjoining site. So sound was the church in fact that it had to be blown up after the more important monuments had been removed. Two fragments of wall were left standing to mark the site. The new church designed by Stevens of Derby was built in 1842 at a cost of £2,000, raised partly by public subscription, partly by a grant from a national charity, but principally by Sir George Crewe. The rescued monuments were transferred to the new church. A four clustered pillar with the capital carved in foilage, and another carving thought to be Norman were moved to the garden of the new vicarage built a year before the new church. Other stones including the stone dial of the

old clock were moved to Mr Hickinbotham's garden. It should be possible to find this garden by local enquiry.

Land ownership and use from 1780

(a) Calke

Calke has been owned solely by the Harpur family from Henry Harpur's purchase in 1621, and it was from Calke that he took his title as a baronet, Sir Henry Harpur of Calke, in 1626. It remained the main seat of the family even after they inherited the estates of the senior branch, Harpur of Swarkestone. Sir Henry Harpur of Calke, seventh baronet, was the last to use the name, Harpur. His son, George, the eighth baronet assumed the name Crewe in honour of his great-great-grandmother Dame Catherine Harpur, one of the younger daughters and coheiresses of Lord Crewe of Stene. It was possibly her inheritance which made possible the building of Calke Abbey on so large a scale. Sir George Crewe's son, the ninth baronet resumed the name of Harpur, and was known as Sir John Harpur Crewe, a double name used by his descendants.

Without consulting the family's estate records it is not possible to say how Calke was managed. The Land Tax assessments throw a little light on it. All occupiers of more than approximately one quarter of an acre were liable to be taxed. The tax itself had fossilised soon after its introduction in the late 17th century and changes in the individual assessments reflect changes in the size of properties. The Land Tax for 1780 is the earliest known assessment surviving for the bulk of the county including Calke and Ticknall. In 1780 Sir Henry Harpur paid £38.5s.4d. the assessment for the whole of Calke. Yet Pilkington in 1788 reckoned there were 13 houses there. The census summary of 1801 gives 12. These fell to 8 in 1811, rose to 16 in 1821, and then seesawed: 9 in 1831, 12 in 1841, 11 in 1851, 14 in 1861, stayed steady at 10 from 1871 to 1891, then seesawed between 8 and 10 rising occasionally to 11 between 1901 and 1961.

These houses were largely the homes of estate workers. In 1829 Glover listed as resident in Calke, Sir George Crewe, bt., at Calke Abbey, the curate, Sir George's agent who doubtless ran the home farm as well as Swarkestone Lows and Dishley, a licensed victualler at the Elm Tree, a corn miller, a farmer, and Miss Ann Wheldon, possibly the mistress of Lady Crewe's school, or a retired senior servant. Miss Lucy Wheldon was schoolmistress at Melbourne in 1834. In 1832 Sir George paid tax of £33.3s.6d. on land in hand. Eliza Pegg paid £3.14s.10d. tax as tenant of house and land, obviously a reasonable sized farm, and two men paid small sums for land only, William Woodward who was a maltster in Ticknall in 1829 and James Tomlinson who cannot be traced. They were probably both lime quarriers

and burners. The Elm Tree was still in being in 1834 but had gone by 1846, when Bagshaw lists in addition to Sir John Harpur Crewe, two lodge keepers, the head gamekeeper, the housekeeper, the gardener, the miller, two farmers including one at Parsonage Farm, Sarah Marshall at the School, and Miss Wheldon.

The extensive development of the Ticknall lime works, both quarries and kilns, must have provided a very useful extra source of income for the maintenance of Calke Abbey and its park. There had probably long been local exploitation of the lime for both building and agricultural purposes, but it was only with the arrival of cheap bulk transport by horse tramway and canal that any expansion of the industry became possible. Ticknall men, tenants of both Burdett and Harpur took full advantage of their opportunity with the obvious encouragement of their landlords. A tram road was built under and through the Calke estate to link with the Ashby canal which was built in part to permit large-scale exploitation of the Calke and Ticknall lime deposits. The tram road and canal were completed in 1805, and represent considerable investment by local interests, chief of which must have been that of the Harpurs of Calke. It seems likely that the belt of trees shown on the mid 19th century tithe map running east of Middle Lodge in a great curve was planted to shield Calke Abbey from the lime works to the north. A similar belt of trees curved south from the northern entrance to Middle Lodge shielding both the drive and the village of Ticknall from the works. These plantations are shown on mid 20th century OS maps as Serpentine Wood and Lodge Plantation. At Middle Lodge the drive curved east and the plantation continued south, shutting out from the Abbey views both of the tramway and Pottery Farm, presumably the site of the last and probably the largest of Ticknall's potteries.

Things were little different in 1857 when White listed Sir John's butler, gardener, housekeeper, and gamekeeper, Charles Palmer farmer and steward to Sir John, a second farmer, a dairyman at The Dairy House, a corn miller, Sarah Marshall at the School, and Mr Henry Engledew. Sir John's agent at this time lived in Ticknall. By 1881 Kelly listed only the farm bailiff, the house steward, the gardener and the miller/farmer, and in 1891 only the gardener, farmer/steward and miller/farmer. Both the farmers received their mail through Ashby-de-la-Zouch pointing to houses well south of the Abbey, mail for which came from Derby. This listing was repeated in 1895. It represented merely the editor's views on which servants should be included, and did not mirror any drop in the establishment of servants. Bulmer also writing in 1895 listed butler, housekeeper, head gardener, under gardener, coachman, dairy man, two lodgekeepers, house steward/bailiff, and the miller. Kelly in 1908 repeated the 1891 and 1895 listings and continued to repeat them with only changes of name until 1922 when two farmers and a gardener only were listed, a listing repeated in 1925. By 1928 Sir Vauncey Harpur Crewe, the last baronet,

had been succeeded by his heiress Mrs Mosley and her husband. Two farmers and a gardener continued to be listed until 1941, when the last directory for Derbyshire was published.

The high mark of Calke's population in the census summaries was in 1801 when the estate was the home of 96 persons. There was a sharp drop to 67 in 1811 and from then on a gentle decline to 55 in 1841. This rose to 79 in 1851 and declined to 48 in 1881, rose to 57 in 1891 and declined to 48 in 1931. There was then a very sharp drop to 27 in 1951, 26 in 1961 and a slight rise to 29 in 1971. The gentle decline with sudden rises probably mirrors a shifting population of estate servants when the arrival of a gamekeeper or gardener with a large family could reverse the general trend. The sharp drop in the early mid 20th century almost certainly indicates a drop in the household establishment of the Abbey itself as well as mirroring the spread of the smaller family amongst tenants and estate servants.

The Harpurs, Sir George Crewe and Sir John Harpur Crewe maintained a separate curate for Calke until some time after 1846. There was a resident curate in 1846, but he was replaced by the perpetual curate of Ticknall before 1857. He held both curacies and continued to hold Calke after Ticknall was made a vicarage. On his death or resignation in 1881 the livings were split. One man held the vicarage of Ticknall, another held the chaplaincy of Calke and vicarage of Foremark but lived in Ticknall. By 1904 the living of Foremark was again held separately and the livings of Calke and Ticknall both held by the vicar of Ticknall living in Ticknall, an arrangement which still continues.

(b) Ticknall

The position in Ticknall is not so clear cut. By the late 18th century there was a large village, reckoned in 1788 at 175 houses. By 1801 these had increased to 229, rose to 274 in 1821, suffered a slight set back, falling to 262 in 1841, rose to 279 in 1851, then declined on the whole gently to 169 in 1901. The civil rather than the ecclesiastical parish boundary was then adopted for census purposes. Using the new boundary Ticknall had 198 houses in 1901. These dwindled to 186 in 1931 but began to increase again after the war rising from 195 in 1951 to about 215 in 1971.

The population rose from 1,125 in 1801 to a high mark of 1,278 in 1831. From that point it declined steadily to 630 in 1901 in the ecclesiastical parish. The population of the civil parish that year was 735. The population of the new parish rose to 761 in 1921, decreased sharply to 535 in 1961 and rose to 546 in 1971. The decrease in population from 1921 is largely due to birth control because the number of families and houses

actually first stayed almost steady and then increased in the same period. The earlier gentler decline paralleled by a decline in the number of families and houses reflects economic conditions in the village.

In 1780 Ticknall's total assessment under the Land Tax was £70.4s.6d. Of this Sir Henry Harpur owned £19.12s. for land in hand. This might simply have meant that Sir Henry paid the tax in person rather than requiring his tenants to pay their separate shares direct to the collector. Whatever the case he obviously owned almost a third of the parish. The next largest owner was Sir Robert Burdett who was assessed at £2.3s.8d. on land in hand, and also had two tenants assessed respectively at £5.6s.8d. and £1.5s. Mr Richard Sale of Barrow-on-Trent had a tenant assessed at £3.9s.4d.; Mr Gilbert Ralph had in hand land assessed at £2.1s.8d., and Messrs Hill and Sherratt had a tenant assessed at £1.11s.4d. 17 other owners, including 9 owner occupiers, owned parcels assessed between 1s.4d. and 13s.4d; and a further 12 owners, including 7 owner occupiers, parcels assessed between 4d. and 1s.

By 1832 the last available land tax assessment shows Sir George Crewe, grandson of Sir Henry Harpur, with 3 parcels of land in hand, one assessed at £5.5s.10d., the other two described as "late Tafts" assessed at 10s. and 9s.11d. He had 10 large tenants whose holdings were assessed at sums varying between £1.15s.8d. and £5.11s.9d., and 33 small tenants who were assessed at sums varying between 6d. and 16s.8d. 8 of the large tenants held farms with farmsteads. Two held land only. Three large tenants paid over £5 each, four about £4 each, one £3.16s.3d., one £2.4s.8d., and the last £1.15s.8d. The 33 small tenants paid in all £11.4s.3d. The total assessment for Sir George's property was £47.8s.6d., well over two thirds of the total assessment for Ticknall, indicating a steady policy of purchase which between 1780 and 1832 more than doubled the family's property in Ticknall.

Sir Francis Burdett was the next largest landowner, assessed at a total of £8.15s.4d. on three parcels of land let separately, at least two and possibly all three to lime burners. Two fairly small men let land assessed at £1.4s. and £1.14s. respectively. Twenty five small owners or their tenants were each assessed at under £1. Fifteen of these were owner occupiers most of whom had also one or more tenants.

One of the small owner occupiers was John Hutchinson, owner occupier of a house and land assessed at 10s. He was one of Crewe's larger tenants assessed at £5.4s. on a parcel of land only of which the estimated rent was £139. He held another parcel of land from Sir Francis Burdett with an estimated rental of £13.18s. and a land tax assessment of £1.5s. The directories show him to have been a lime burner by trade. In 1780 the Burdett parcel assessed at £1.5s. was held by Gilbert

Hutchinson who appears in Glover's Directory of 1829 as a lime burner, malster and licensed victualler keeping the Wheel. In 1835 he still kept the Wheel which was to judge from the Land Tax Assessment of 1829 owned by William Gilbert. The likely explanation is that he began lime burning as Burdett's tenant, built up a substantial business, then retired from the larger enterprise to make room for John Hutchinson, probably his son. Another of Burdett's parcels in 1829 and 1832 assessed in the Land Tax at £2.3s.8d. with an estimated rental of £42 was tenanted by Messrs Ordish and Goadsby, one of whom, Ordish, is shown as partner with Hutchinson in Pigott's Directory in 1835. John Cope is listed in 1829 as a gentleman, malster and lime burner, and Thomas Cope as a lime burner in 1835. John Cope was one of Crewe's smaller tenants in 1829 and 1832 with a house and land assessed at 10s.9d. and an estimated rental of 19s.4d. Thomas Cope, lately dead, had owned a house which was let and two small pieces of land including one quarter of Nickaberry, the whole assessed at 3s.6d. The other three quarters of Nickaberry he held from Sir Thomas Burdett, assessed at 3s. All was in the hands of his executors. It seems likely that here again was a family lime burning concern with John taking over from Thomas and passing it on by 1835 to another Thomas.

Tenants therefore of both Crewe and Burdett were heavily involved in lime burning and malting in the early 19th century and were advancing their social status through their profits. The lime quarries and kilns were worked on a large scale exporting the bulk of their produce to meet the late 18th and early 19th century demand created by the high farming of the day. Bagshaw's Directory of 1845 describes the lime works as lying on the east side of the village with a tram road running from them to Ashby-de-la-Zouch and Leicester. Bagshaw adds: "These quarries, the property of the lord of the manor, except a small portion worked by Mr Thomas Cope, have been worked for upwards of 50 years and the lime is in great repute for agricultural purposes". In other words between 1832 and 1845 Sir George Crewe had bought Burdett's quarries and owned all except Cope's quarter of Nickaberry. The tram road actually ran to the Ashby canal which Farey claimed in 1817 was built with the principal objects of carrying limestone from Ticknall and Clouds-hill and coals from the Ashby-de-la-Zouch field. The canal and railroad were completed in 1805. The railroad ran across and under the Harpur Crewe estate in Calke. It remained for many years a monument to the business acumen of the Harpur and Burdett families, a major contribution to the industrial development of Ticknall, without which the lime quarriers and burners could not have built so large an industry.

Though lime burning was the major industry Hutchinson and Cope both ran side lines as maltsters in 1829, and there was a third maltster Thomas Woodward shown in the directory but not listed in the Ticknall land tax assessment. He could

have been a sub-tenant or a tenant of one of the small owners whose tenants were not named in full. He could alternatively have been the father or son of William Woodward one of the two tenants of Calke assessed to the land tax in Calke in 1832 for land only. It is obvious from the Ticknall assessment that industrial buildings were not noted for the known lime burners holdings were described as land only. It seems likely that Woodward was a lime burner as well as maltster for the two occupation were run together in Ticknall at this time.

There were at least two other industrial enterprises in Ticknall in 1829, a worsted manufactory run by John Cheatle, and a brown earthenware manufactory run by Joseph Hide. The site of the worsted manufactory like the site of the malt kilns is not traceable from the maps and directories but it may be known locally. Cheatle was out of business by 1835. The earthenware manufactory, last remnant of Ticknall's long established pottery industry, survived under different managements until 1881, producing a coarse brown ware. By 1891 it no longer appeared in the directories. It was sited three quarters of a mile south of the village at or near Pottery Farm, to judge from the name. A careful survey might reveal field evidence of earlier kilns in the neighbourhood. Joseph Hide had two landlords in 1829, Sir George Crewe for a house and land assessed to the land tax at 3s.10d., and the late Joseph Hanson from whom Hide and other persons unnamed rented a small piece of land assessed at 1s.6d. The latter parcel was probably the site of the pottery.

Although Ticknall was not a market town its industries and rapidly growing population made it a small shopping and service centre for the villages round. In 1829 there were a veterinary surgeon, a surgeon, 6 farmers worthy of mention in the directory, 2 gentlemen, 3 blacksmiths, 3 wheelwrights, 4 butchers, 4 bakers one of whom kept a shop and another The Chequers inn or tavern, 2 other licensed victuallers, one at the Royal Oak, the other at The Wheel, 2 grocer/drapers, 3 tailors and a shoemaker. To provide for their spiritual needs there was the curate living in Repton who in 1824 was running a Sunday School for 30 to 40 girls; a Methodist Chapel and a Baptist Chapel, both built in 1815 and both running Sunday Schools in 1824. Sunday Schools at this date were highly practical establishments teaching at least reading and some also teaching writing. The early 19th century Sunday Schools were probably the most important set of institutions then combating illiteracy amongst the labouring classes. In Ticknall and Calke they supplemented and furthered the work begun by Dame Catherine Harpur probably a century or more earlier.

From the 1820's to the 1840's Ticknall was at its most prosperous with the lime kilns for the most part flourishing. It was in this period that Sir George Crewe provided a new school for girls, rebuilt the boys' school, rebuilt both Calke

and Ticknall churches, and provided a parsonage at Ticknall. He and his heirs also took care that from the building of Ticknall parsonage there should be at least one resident cleric in Ticknall. An extra curate to help the perpetual curate or later vicar appears in the directories from 1857 to 1881. How the money was raised to pay him is not known but it is highly likely that the bulk of it came from the head of the Harpur Crewe family. In 1881 on the vacation of the living of Calke it was given to the vicar of Foremark who took up residence in Ticknall where he presumably acted as curate to the vicar of Ticknall. In 1904 on another vacancy the arrangement with Foremark was cancelled and the living of Calke given to the new vicar of Ticknall, and a resident curate appointed to help him. This arrangement still held in 1908 but by 1922 the vicar of Ticknall had lost his curate, though he retained the chaplaincy of Calke.

Between 1832 and 1846 whilst the lime kilns still flourished Sir George Crewe acquired the Burdett family's interest in the quarries, and during the same period the tramway was sold to the Midland Railway Company. In 1846 the village was still prosperous. The census figures for 1841 show 636 male and 635 female persons in 262 houses, a balance of male and female pointing to a steady need for heavy labour. Sir George Crewe was the dominant local figure, and the handsome entrance lodges to his estate were carefully noted in Bagshawe's description of Ticknall. There was a handful of private residents in the village, a widow, a spinster and a gentleman, the parson, a surgeon, a veterinary surgeon, the schoolmaster and mistress, a land agent (probably Crewe's), 2 maltsters/ lime burners, a glover, a brownware manufacturer, a stone mason, 3 builders including a second stone mason and a joiner, 3 wheelwrights and 3 blacksmiths. Market and nursery gardening had been established with 3 gardeners and 2 seedsmen. The Priory at the north eastern end of Ticknall was clearly a small industrial settlement with a brickmaker, a fellmonger and a woolcomber and spinner. The brickmaker at the Priory may have been trading privately but he may well have been one of Crewe's estate workmen, as the woodman resident in Ticknall must have been. To service local industry there were 2 book-keepers. There were 6 farmers. The populace was thirsty, supporting 3 inns or taverns and 4 beer houses. To feed and clothe them there were 3 bakers, 5 butchers, 2 grocer/druggists, 4 simple shopkeepers, 4 tailors, 3 drapers and 3 boot and shoemakers. There was a saddler and a clock and watch maker. Two carriers ran to Derby on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and one to Ashby on Saturday.

In 1855 the Post Office directory commented that in Ticknall there were extensive works and kilns for burning lime, an earthenware manufactory, some brewing, malting and market gardening. There were 10 private residents including the

perpetual curate and his curate. A police officer and a preparatory school had both appeared, as had a cattle dealer, an earthenware dealer and a higgler.

By 1857 the lime works, though still producing lime of great repute, were contracting with the falling agricultural demand. They were run by William Garrard, the veterinary surgeon. Sir John Harpur Crewe had extensive brick and tile works with apparently two managers. His agent and woodman both lived in Ticknall. There was a firm of maltsters unconnected with the lime business, John Hyde the brownware manufacturer, a small ware dealer, a glover, a clock and watch maker, a gardener and seedsman, 10 farmers, a cattle dealer, a surgeon, a schoolmaster and mistress, 7 private residents, a hairdresser, and a police constable. There were 3 builders including a wheelwright, a mason, a bricklayer, a plumber and glazier, 3 blacksmiths, a saddler who kept the Royal Oak, 2 other inns or taverns, 3 beer houses, 6 butchers, 4 bakers, a shopkeeper, 4 grocer/drapers, 2 draper tailors, 3 tailors and 10 boot and shoemakers. There were 2 carriers journeying 3 times weekly to Derby, twice to Burton and once to Ashby.

There was little change by 1860 but considerable change by 1881 by which time the brick and tile works had closed. The main period of rebuilding on the Harpur Crewe estate had obviously ended. In fact building in Ticknall generally must have slowed down considerably for there was only 1 builder and a builder/carpenter. This was only to be expected with a declining population. A woman farmer, apparently widow of the veterinary surgeon, had taken over the lime works, and a mysterious machinist appeared. He probably cared for the machinery at the lime works. There were 4 blacksmiths, a maltster, an earthenware dealer, a mail contractor, 2 carriers and 12 farmers including the lime burner, the cattle dealer, a pig dealer and the landlord of the Royal Oak. There were still the vicar, the curate and four private residents including a surveyor William Dick with antiquarian interests. There were 3 inns or taverns in all, a firm of ale and porter merchants, and a baker who sold beer. Another baker sold groceries. There were 2 general shops, a grocer/draper, a draper, a tailor/draper, 2 other tailors, 2 shoemakers, 1 shoe dealer, a hairdresser, and a painter/glazier who kept the post office. Some of the changes could probably be accounted for by changes in style between one directory editor and another, but the overall picture is one of shopkeepers fighting for a share of contracting trade, and the disappearance of specialist shops and services.

By 1891, according to Kelly both the lime works and the earthenware manufactory had closed. The Vicar was supported by the Vicar of Foremark rather than by a curate. There were still 4 private residents worthy of note including the surveyor.

There were two market gardeners and 19 farmers including 1 at Pistern and 9 at South Wood, areas not formerly mentioned, though these and other hamlets had been incorporated in the civil parish of Ticknall in 1880. One farmer was deputy steward to the Calke estate. One farmer kept the Royal Oak. This, the Chequers and the Wheel were still backed by two beer sellers, one doubling as a baker, the other as a general shopkeeper. There were 4 other general shopkeepers, an earthenware dealer, draper/grocer, draper/clothier, butcher, 2 shoemakers, a shoe dealer/joiner, 2 joiners, a carpenter/builder, a carpenter, a wheelwright, a carman/coal dealer, 3 blacksmiths and 3 tailors. The number of joiners and carpenters suggests a good deal of building, particularly as Kelly's Directory for 1895 paints much the same picture, adding a painter/glazier. One of the taverns had gone and a Reading, Coffee and Parish Room had made its appearance.

Bulmers Directory for 1895 paints a livelier picture. He comments on the former extensive lime quarries, brick and tile works and earthenware manufactory, adding that only the brick kilns survive worked for estate purposes. Bulmer lists estate workmen worthy of note living in Ticknall, not mentioned by Kelly: a lodge keeper, the head gamekeeper at Ragge's Lodge, the brick and drainpipe maker, and the estate joiner foreman at Estate House. He lists a woodman, a wood cutter and a sawyer who were probably also estate workmen. The farmer who acted as deputy agent appears in both lists. Bulmer makes clear more diversity than Kelly. He lists a steam thrashing machine proprietor, a blacksmith/engineer, a lace net repairing works, a saddler, and a hairdresser/tobacconist, a wheelwright, a joiner/wheelwright, a carpenter. The same picture of shopkeepers fighting for trade emerges with a tailor/draper/grocer, a tailor/confectioner, 2 tailors, a shoemaker, a shoe dealer, a baker/cowkeeper/Post Office, a grocer/beer seller, a baker/beer seller (an enterprising lady who traded as The Staff of Life), 2 inns or taverns, a shopkeeper, a general dealer, 2 butchers, 2 carriers, a carter, 2 market gardeners, one doubling as a farmer, 2 cowkeepers, and 22 other farmers including the Crewe family's deputy agent.

Kelly in 1908 shows a shrinking community. He comments that the tram road is now used only for estate purposes. He lists 2 gamekeepers, 2 inns or taverns, the Reading Room, a baker/beer seller, a grocer/beer seller, a grocer/draper, a tailor, a tailor shopkeeper, 2 shopkeepers, a painter/glazier, a painter/assistant overseer, a joiner/boot dealer, a second joiner, a wheelwright, 2 carriers, a coal dealer, a butcher, 2 blacksmiths, a grazier, a market gardener, 18 farmers, the threshing machine proprietor, and (an innovation) an apartment keeper. Kelly may well be omitting estate workmen, but even so the village trades are shrinking.

By 1922 the position was much the same except that the number of shopkeepers had again contracted in response to a fall in population. There was the vicar, 4 private residents, 2 pubs, 1 beer retailer, the Reading Room, and an apartment keeper. The village still had a reasonable run of shops and services with a draper, a tailor, a grocer, a coal dealer, 2 shopkeepers, a butcher, 2 carriers, a carter, a painter/overseer/tax collector, 2 blacksmiths, 2 gamekeepers, a market gardener, the threshing machine proprietors, 19 farmers and a poultry farmer. By 1932 a doctor was holding a surgery 3 times weekly in the village. The estate carpenter was listed but only the head gamekeeper. The list of occupations was otherwise much the same. The Parish Room with a reading room with 200 books is noted as having opened in 1892.

In 1941 the brickworks and kilns were still in use for estate purposes. The Crewe land steward, estate foreman, and head gamekeeper were all in Ticknall. The estate and the 20 farmers listed must have provided the bulk of the employment in the village. There were 2 market gardeners, 2 blacksmiths, the threshing machine proprietors, a motor haulage contractor, a baker, a draper, a grocer, a butcher, a painter, and a doctor three days a week. The village had 3 inns again, the Wheel, the Chequers, and the Staff of Life which had emerged from its baker/beer seller origins. Perhaps easier transport with evening drinking for town people in country hostleries explains the rise of the Staff of Life during the period of Ticknall's decline.

Summary

Ticknall was originally a nucleated farming settlement carved out of the woods south of the River Trent. By the early 11th century it had at least two lords, and by the mid 11th century three, the lord of the largest manor and woods being the King. Calke began the early 12th century as a small monastic house founded in the woods by the Earl of Chester to whom the King had given his manor of Ticknall. Calke Priory had a very short independent life and in 1172 became merely a cell of its daughter house, the priory of Repton. Repton acquired not simply Calke Priory and the land surrounding it but a decent sized estate in the lands of the earlier settlement of Ticknall. There were other close links between Repton and Ticknall, for Repton was responsible for the provision of a priest to serve Ticknall chapel. Repton was not the only house to hold lands in Ticknall for Burton Abbey held an estate there, one of the two lesser manors of the mid 11th century, from 1002. Other religious houses and orders also had estates in Ticknall. Altogether the religious orders probably held more land in Ticknall by the end of the middle ages than the mesne lord of the Chester manor which had at Domesday been much the

largest of the three manors. The male line of the Frances family, mesne lords of Ticknall, died out in the 16th century, and their manor and lands went sideways to Frances of Foremark. The Burdett heirs of Frances of Foremark retained lands in Ticknall until well into the 19th century but their manor disappeared, either forgotten or merged by sale with the Burton manor.

After the dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530's their property was confiscated by the Crown and sold off. At least 3 properties were bought by a scion of the house of Harpur between 1621 and 1625: the former cell of Calke with its land, the rectorial tithes and patronage of the chapel of Ticknall, and the former Burton manor. Harpur of Calke next acquired a baronetcy and in 1677 inherited the remaining estates of the senior branch of the family, Harpur of Swarkestone. The fourth baronet's marriage in the late 17th century with Catherine, youngest daughter and co-heiress of Thomas, 2nd Lord Crewe of Stene, brought the family further wealth. Following this marriage Sir John Harpur and Dame Catherine rebuilt the old cell of Calke about 1700 as a large country house with extensive outbuildings.

During the middle ages with the shortage of vocations villages of lay peasant farmers sprang up round almost all monastic houses to cultivate the monastic lands. Calke was no exception as the early provision of a special chapel for the laity proves. The mid 16th century successors of these farmers are clearly identified in a tax return. These tenant farmers were swept away and their farms emparked probably in the 17th or early 18th century, most likely after the 1677 inheritance or the Crewe match. The park with its deer, cattle and sheep provided a fitting setting for the new house, mistakenly called Calke Abbey.

From this house the Harpur lord of Calke, lord of the Burton manor of Ticknall, later known as lord of the manor of Ticknall, ran a group of estates lying in the neighbourhood. As owner of Calke outright and largest owner of land in Ticknall he was well placed to clear Calke of all save estate servants necessarily living on the spot, and to plant them in the village of Ticknall just outside his gates. Shrewd exploitation and development of the limestone deposits not only created a second major industry in Ticknall already a pottery centre of several centuries standing, but provided the profits both to shield Calke Abbey from view of the works and to buy more land in Ticknall, almost doubling his holding of land there between 1780 and 1832.

The Harpur family were not unmindful of the needs of the people of their two manors, providing schools and almshouses, and in the 19th century under their new name, Crewe, rebuilding churches and providing a vicarage. It is obvious from the

development of the extensive estate brickworks that as the lime industry declined the family sank much of their profits in rebuilding not simply on their property in Ticknall but through their South Derbyshire estates. This must have helped to provide work in Ticknall as the older industries declined, and done much to shape the present state of the Harpur Crewe properties in Ticknall. The appearance of the village and the planting not simply of the park but of the old lime quarries suggests that the Harpur Crewe family have considered the effect of their work on the landscape over a very long period.

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