

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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MARSTON-ON-DOVE CONSTABLE'S ACCOUNT 1695

The different cover design for Volume 7 has provoked considerable comment. The polite comment is centred around the content of the document used to create it. In fact, it is the account of "Widow Spurrie", Constable of Marston (on Dove) for the year 1695. I am not sure whether I believe my own reading but it does really seem to be a female constable. I have come across the occasional female overseer but this is really unusual. For anyone wishing to check my palaeography, the original is in Marston-on-Dove parish records in the Derbyshire Record Office. The document reads as follows:

		£	s	d
27	May Charges to Sudbury to put in sesors for the act of marage, berths and buryall 2 sesors and a presentment the same time paid for the Constable's oath	0	2	6
		0	1	0
11	June for Going to Sudbury to put in ye sesments of marage, berths and buryalls and for righting pd to 2 companyes of pasingers	0	2	0
	for carting a pasingerer to Hatton	0	0	3
	for carying a humancry (hue and cry)	0	0	6
		0	0	2
4	July Paid to the Hy Constable at 2 payments for ye meamed soulgers house of correction prisors bred and ye reapears of Monks Bridge	1	0	2
	Charges to pay ye same 2s and 2 quitances 8d and a presentment for ye seshors 8d	0	3	4
	for going to Dauberyless to make a presentment for the sise 1s and ye presentment 8d	0	1	8
	Given to a company with a pass	0	0	3
	for going to Fosson to sarve on ye Jure 3 men	0	0	6
	for carying of humancry to Hatton	0	0	2
12	September Paid to ye Hy Constable for briges Tuttbury and others	0	2	2
	for a quittance and my Charges and a presentment for ye seshons	0	2	0
23	October Given to 6 Cripels and for carying them to Hilton	0	1	0
	Charges to ye Clarke of ye Market	0	4	0
	Given to 5 with a pass	0	0	3
	For carying a humancry to Hatton	0	0	2
	Paid for lodging a man with a pas	0	0	6
	for Carying a huancrye to Hatton	0	0	2
	Given to pasengers 6 of a company	0	0	6
	pasingers 4 of a Company	0	0	4
	Dauberelese to put in a presentment for ye Sise 8d and my Charges is	0	1	8
	to the Hy Constable for severall bridges	0	8	1
12	March for a quittance 4d and Charges is	0	1	4
	Charges to Longford to put in Sessors for ye Land Tax	0	3	0
	and for a presentment and a warrant	0	1	0
17	March Charg to Longford to put in ye sesments and ye warant	0	2	6
		3	1	10

Parish constable's accounts for the late 17th century are not particularly common and, apart from an amusing array of phonetic spellings, this short abstract of accounts gives a very clear picture of the role of the parish constable. The 'policing' element is represented by several examples of *carrying a hue and cry* (usually to Hatton - obviously trouble with juggernauts at the Salt Box!), the administrative element by regular visits to make presentments to Quarter Sessions and to JPs and the payment of money to the High Constable to repair county bridges, and the support to the overseers by the making of charitable payments to people passing through.

Editor

A JACOBEOAN "TUDOR HOUSE" AT BRASSINGTON

(by Ron Slack)

The house stands on the east side of Town Street, facing into the village. Its two gable-ended bays, characteristic of Jacobean houses, its chimney stacks and large mullioned windows, present a great contrast to the cottages around it and to the nearest large building, the eighteenth century former pub, the George and Dragon, all built in the Derbyshire limestone village style. The Tudor House looks its part - the earliest dated building in Brassington, apart, that is, from the twelfth century church. A stone plaque over a window, formerly a door, in the west front has the date 1615, the initials TW and AW and the words Tudor House. This last is absent from a photograph of 1890 and it is thought that the name was added by the village schoolmaster when he bought the house in 1895.

The house has a well documented history. In 1755, after the death of the current owner, Job Marple, described in his will as "innholder", a very detailed inventory of Marple's goods was drawn up.¹ This includes a room-by-room list of household goods which make it clear that the house was at that time an inn. In fact a lease granted by Marple in 1746 had identified it as the Red Lion.² It was part of the Brassington manor estate and the present owner has some of the transfer documents - the copies of the entries in the manor court book recording its sale or inheritance. The manor court books themselves have survived and successive transfers are recorded there, up to and beyond the time in the nineteenth century when the house became the village workhouse - the "House of Industry"³ The Red Lion was not the house's original name, but it can, however, be identified back through the eighteenth and seventeenth centuries to its building in 1615.

In the eighteenth century and earlier Brassington was on the main Derby to Manchester highway. The advantages which this position gave to the village's farmers, miners and publicans were increased in 1720 by a Turnpike Act which brought an improved road from Derby. Turnpiking was the eighteenth century attempt to solve the ancient problem of maintaining a decent road network. Local trustees undertook to raise money by tolls and to use it to pay for regular maintenance. The 1720 Act provided for improvement to the "dangerous, narrow and at times impassable road" between Shardlow, where the London to Manchester road crossed the Trent, and Brassington, where it stopped. The reason for the road ending there was that the route over the uplands north of the village, the limestone plateau, was considered dry enough not to need maintenance.⁴ Turnpiking was clearly not going to achieve Roman standards, and the road had not advanced beyond Brassington when Burdett published his map of Derbyshire in 1789. An alternative route to the north through Ashbourne was turnpiked by an Act of 1738, cutting Brassington's advantage. A further turnpike in 1758, linking Oakerthorpe and Ashbourne, crossing the old road at Turnditch, must have redirected much northbound traffic westward to join the Manchester road at Ashbourne. For most of Job Marple's time, however, his inn was on the main road to the north.

In the middle of the eighteenth century the custom of recording a detailed probate inventory of a dead person's goods had almost been abandoned and we are therefore lucky that when Job Marple, innkeeper and farmer of one hundred and sixty-three acres, died in 1755, his executors produced one of the most detailed inventories of all the long series produced in the village over two hundred years. Job Marple was childless and left his estate in trust for his nephew, Thomas Swindell, who was under age. The trustees kept up the pub business - there were advertisements in the *Derby Mercury* for sales to be held at the Red Lion in 1759 and on three occasions in the 1760s. On the last two of these the landlord's name was given - John Prestwidge. Thomas Swindell himself seems to have kept the pub for at least one year as he was included in the 1777 list of the licensees in the Wirksworth hundred. Job Marple's inventory, listing goods worth £776 8s 4½d, tell us what one eighteenth century inn was like.

The furniture was oak. The "great parlour or dining room" of the inn had two oak folding tables, one oval and one square, and a third, smaller oak table. There were six chairs with leather bottoms and a seventh with leather to the back and bottom, plus a round drinking stool and a squab with a blue cushion. By the walls were an ark (chest), a book case and a large looking glass and hanging on them Marple had seven pictures and maps. Coffee cups and teapots (for the wealthier visitors, since tea and coffee were expensive), jugs, glasses, basins, decanters and plates were kept in a cupboard in this parlour. There were eight flowered china coffee cups, two teapots, one black and one flowered and both of "common ware", a delft plate, a delft basin and a delft

pint cup among them. Three of the decanters were quart-sized, one held a pint and another a half pint. There were a cream jug, a black jug and a mustard pot. There were glasses and tumblers and "one pocket bottle" in the cupboard. The great parlour had a fireplace containing "one small grate and hangers", which sound hardly enough to keep the customers warm when a winter wind was blowing down Town Street. A second room, the "new parlour over the new cellar" was also furnished in oak - two tables, one square and one oval as in the great parlour, and seven oak armchairs, six of them with leather bottoms. This room, too, had a small fire grate and the appraisers noted something which may have been a game for the guests to play while they drank their beer or coffee, a "spell board".

In the hall was a grandfather clock - "one clock and case" - highly valued at 45/-. Here were three "long seated chairs" which, from their valuations of 9/8 each must have been more like sofas than chairs, three old leather chairs, one wicker-bottomed chair and one "common" chair, one long table and "one oval cupboard table, old fashioned". There were a pair of step ladders, four cheese shelves, some barrels and a lantern in the hall and this room sounds like the eighteenth century equivalent of the tap-room. It had a bigger fireplace than the other public rooms.

The inn had five chambers, three "garrets" and another parlour furnished as a bedroom. Two of the garrets contained chairs, forms, a spinning wheel, an old meal chest and twenty-one quart and pint bottles and the third was a servants' bedroom. This had two "ordinary" beds with chaff mattresses, an ark "with doors and partitions" and a small looking glass, meagre furnishings when compared to the style of the "Captains Chamber over the Hall". The two beds here were of ash wood. One had check furnishings, one green and both had feather mattresses, three blankets, a quilt, bolsters and lace hangings and valances. The window hangings (curtains) continued the green and check theme. The Captain's Chamber had "six good chairs of oak with fine flagg (wicker) bottoms" and a square folding table, also of oak. The chamber over the great parlour was similarly furnished, with red and blue the colours here. The table in this room is described as "one long shuttle board table in two parts". The other three, small chambers had one bed each, the one next to the chamber over the great parlour having a square table and a chair. The linen, listed separately, includes thirty-nine sheets, thirteen of which are described as "fine" and ten of which were flaxen. There are pillow cases, night caps, towels, table cloths, napkins, "one plain Cover for the Dressing Table with Tassels" and, mysteriously, "2 Cabbage Netts" and "one Turell". Clearly this inn provided a very considerable degree of comfort.

The appraisers noted the food and drink in stock at the time of the landlord's death - fifteen hundred cheeses, one hundred and thirty pounds of bacon, eight "neats tongues" (a neat was a cow), twenty-two pecks of oatmeal, one hundred and thirty nine gallons of ale and an unstated quantity of cider. There were also pipes for the smokers. This was basic village food and drink, with no luxuries and no wine or spirits, but the equipment of the kitchen and cellar make it clear that the inn could provide properly for its guests.

The kitchen had two tinder boxes to light the fire, a grate with gridiron, hangers, bellows and a damper, a "new fashioned" roasting spit, roasting fork, beef fork, rabbit spit, chafing dish (also new fashioned) and a three-legged stand among its cooking equipment. The fires in the inn burned coal - there was a stock of six tons eleven hundredweight. There were "stag hafted" and "blackhafted" knives, forks (a fairly recent addition to English cutlery), pewter spoons, plates and dishes, trenchers, measures, cans, jugs, mugs, salt cellars, mustard pots, brass candlesticks, smoothing irons, kettles, buckets and two types of earthenware vessel which were still to be found in some Derbyshire homes two hundred years later. These were a stein, pronounced "stain", a bucket-shaped vessel, and two "pancions". These latter were very large storage bowls. After listing the kitchen goods the appraisers realised that they had overlooked some important items and made another heading - "Goods in the kitchen and elsewhere forgot". These included silver tankards, cups, spoons and "tea tongs", two sugar pots and a pickle pot. This subsidiary list also included "one large pair of scales with wood beam". The size of the kitchen can be judged from the furniture in it - a "slop dresser" and shelves where the washing up was done, four cheese shelves, another dresser and shelves, an old cupboard with drawers, one long seated chair and a new arm chair with a long back.

The buttery, next to the kitchen, had more kettles, pots, pans, vats, dishes, barrels and steins. The tools of the brewer's trade were in the brewhouse - "one large brewing copper 70/- one large mash tubb 14/- one gathering tubb 8/-". There was another brewing tub, two brass pans, which at 24/- and 30/- must have been very large ones, and other vessels including piggins, kinnells and kitts. Kinnells and kitts were wooden tub-like vessels and a piffin was a wooden bucket with one elongated stave forming its handle. The brewhouse was used for baking

and cheese-making as well as brewing - it contained a bake stone, a bake spittle and a cheese press. The inn's two cellars contained six hogsheads, eight half hogsheads and thirty quart bottles, together with four brass taps valued at 6/-. The appraisers valued this very long inventory of household and inn goods at £100 15s 10d.

The appraisers were as thorough with Job Marple's farm stock as with the goods in his house. He was by far the biggest farmer in the village and there are long lists of "*quick stock*", farming tools and equipment and "*the estimate of the hay, edish (new grass after mowing), winter grass & corn*". These meticulous appraisers not only gave the number and values of the milk cows but named them. Milk cows, as well as horses and pets, always did have names and these give us not only the colours of a typically mixed eighteenth century herd, but a little character too - Yellow Heifer, Little Briend (brindled), Gray Cheek, Daubry Broken Horn, Starwell, Spangled Cow, White Cow, Black Stirk, Matlock, Crum and Briend Heifer. Matlock presumably came from there and Crum must have been oddly-shaped, since her name meant "crooked". If Daubry had broken her horn in fighting, she might well have been the sort of cow who needed a strong man to milk her. All were the mixture of breeds normal before the arrival of uniformly black and white Friesian or fawn Ayrshire herds. There were a hundred and ten sheep of various sorts and one ram. A "*red fatt cow*" and "*five store swine*" were presumably destined for the inn's dinner table. There were a black horse, valued at £9 15s 0d, a black mare (£12 11s 0d), a bay mare and foal (£8 19s 0d) and "*one old mare*", valued together with a pack saddle with "*1 girth 1 wanting*" at £1 10s 0d. Among the equipment items are listed a cart (two-wheeled), a wain (four-wheeled) and three sledges. Inserted incongruously among the spades, forks, rakes, saddles, sheep shears and the rest is a line which reminds us that things really were different in 1755 - "*one dressed horse hide 5/6d, one dog skin 6d*". A line listing twenty five pecks (fifty gallons) of blen corn reveals that at that time wheat and rye were still being sown, harvested and used together. Other crops, in addition to hay, on the farm were oats and beans and the inn had a stock of ninety three pounds of hops and three quarters of a hundredweight of malt for brewing.

The inventory was drawn up in October. The hay was safely stacked - three ricks at Washill, two at Blackfurlong and one each at Longlands and Harborough. The corn harvest seems not to have been completed since there is a valuation of £15 9s 0d put on "*corn upon the ground*". In the barn were fourteen bushels of oats, six pecks of beans and fourteen hundredweight of hay. Altogether enough fodder to see the cattle, horses and pigs through the winter.

The Red Lion and the farm were the major establishment in the village in the first half of the eighteenth century. It had been a public house during the time of Job Marple's father, Thomas, who was described as "*innholder*" in the will of one of his friends. While the appraisers of Job's grandfather Ralph's goods in 1695 had produced a very cursory list, they had named one room as the "*Captain's chamber*", identifying it as the same house as Job Marple's Red Lion. Ralph Marple had acquired it in 1680 from an innkeeper called Ralph Brunt, and, while the manor court records for the period have been lost, the record of this transaction has survived. The evidence is a document between Brunt and a William Taylor of Carsington, with whom Brunt had mortgaged his pub in 1668.⁵ Taylor had presumably foreclosed the mortgage and then sold the house to Marple. What grounds Brunt had for objecting to this are not clear, but the upshot was that the arbitrators whom Brunt and Taylor had called in to settle the dispute ruled that Taylor was to pay Brunt £25 and Brunt was to surrender the house in favour of Marple at the next meeting of the manor court. Ralph Brunt had bought the house from a gentleman farmer in the village in 1655. This was Robert Westerne who had inherited it from his mother, Anne, in 1636. In all the transactions in the manor court from this date, and in the 1680 document, the house is called the New Hall. The original holder of New Hall, its builder in 1615, was Robert Westerne's father, Thomas, who died in 1622. He was sufficiently proud of his New Hall to fix a stone over the door, carved with the date and with his and Anne's initials.

Westerne is described as "*gent*" in his will and as a yeoman in other documents. Clearly the family was making the transition from yeoman status and the next generations were always described as gentry. He farmed about 200 hundred acres in the village, making him the largest land holder there, and he was bailiff for Brassington and other manors held by the then Earl of Kent. Westerne was also an innkeeper and had been for about twenty years in 1615. The manor court regularly fined him, along with the other village publicans, for "*breaking the Assize of Ale*", a medieval survival which by the seventeenth century seems to have become more of a tax than a punishment for brewing defective ale.

Westerne's inventory of 1622 is less detailed than Job Marple's and there is no mention of cellars. However, the appraisers listed six rooms plus an unspecified number of "*lower chambers*", making it the largest house

described in inventories of the time. The hall, clearly the main living room, with a collection of fire irons which implies a large open fire - three spits, two brandrethes (stands for large pots to hang over the fire), two landirons (grates), two pairs of pothooks, gallows (also to hang pots), fire shovel, tongs - had a table and seats for nine (there were nine cushions). The seats were two chairs, two "joined (jointed) stooles" and a form. The hall also had two boards, the earlier form of board and trestle table. The inventory lists brewing and baking equipment in an unnamed room and flagons, dishes, bowls, etc in the buttery. This buttery also had a bed, as did the other ground floor room described, the parlour. The parlour, in fact, was still, in 1622, a ground floor bedroom, though this one was clearly used for more than sleeping since there were two tables, a form, a chest and a cupboard there. Upstairs the "great chamber" had two feather beds, two tables, three chairs and a stool, the "litle chamber" two more beds and a chest and the "corne chamber" a further bed. This last was also being used as a store room - there were hemp, flax, salt and "all other things". The frequent use of phrases like the last one does not hide the fact that this was a very well furnished and equipped house for its time.

It must have been one of the earliest stone houses in the village, at a time when timber-frame was being replaced by stone. It is built of dressed dolomitic limestone, as is an almost contemporary building, the Gate Inn. Dolomite is softer than the limestone used in almost all the later houses in Brassington, including additions at the side and back of the Tudor House, which are of rubble construction. There are timber-framed interior walls, the oak timbers pegged at the joints, which the carpenters have marked to make sure they joined the verticals to the horizontals in the right places. Either the builders used old technology inside the new stone walls or the stone was built around an existing timber-framed building. Westerne's original inn was probably in the same place, built to catch the through trade. The rise in his fortunes and his dignified status as the Earl of Kent's bailiff may have prompted him to upgrade his inn. Other features surviving inside the house from its earliest days are sections of panelling on the first floor landing, beams decorated with fairly rudimentary carving and a well-worn gritstone fireplace. The fireplace has only recently been uncovered. It is in what would have been the hall in Westerne's time and has the holes in its lintel and sides which would formerly have been plugged and used to anchor the pothooks, gallows and the rest of the fireplace fittings.

The twentieth century has brought to light three survivors from the seventeenth, hidden, by accident or design, in the cavity between floor and ceiling. These are a horn book, a naval cutlass and a clothes beater, used to beat the dirt out of clothes when they were being washed. A horn book was an alphabet and numbers, usually mounted on an object shaped like an oblong table tennis bat and covered in transparent horn for protection. It was intended to make the letters and numbers familiar to a child by being ever-present - it was hung from a child's belt by its handle. The one in the Tudor House, one and a half by three inches in size, is made from the local metal, lead. As for as the cutlass it is tempting to imagine that this weapon belonged to the captain who gave his name to the chamber in Ralph Marple's inn.

During its early years Westerne's inn was linked with Brassington's lead miners, as other pubs in the village were to be. His eldest son, William, a bachelor who lived in the family home, had quantities of both lead ore and smelted lead listed in his inventory when he died in 1635 and there is a record of members of a mining jury, sitting in judgement on a dispute in 1627, being called to meet at "the house of William Westerne, gent".⁶ Two of Thomas Westerne's sons-in-law, Henry Trevis and William Blackwall, were successively barmasters for the Brassington liberty.

Westerne's house remained an inn during the life of his widow, Anne. Shortly before her death in 1636 she appeared before the manor court and made arrangements for the house to be held for two years after her death by her daughter Mary and thereafter by her last surviving son, Robert. Anne's will, signed and proved in 1636, includes the bequest of her brewing vessel and malt mill to Robert and Anne clearly expected him to carry on the family business. There is, however, no evidence that he did. He seems to have preferred gentleman farming.

He sold the house in 1655 to Ralph Brunt, identified as an innkeeper in the same way as the Westernes by his falling foul of the manor court by breaking the Assize of Ale. This new owner provides us with several opportunities to follow the house's history since he appeared before the court raising money by mortgaging it. The second mortgage was taken out in 1668. In 1671 Brunt was fined for breaking the Assize of Ale and in 1672 there is evidence that his inn was a large one in the Hearth Tax return for that year. He was assessed for Hearth Tax on five hearths.⁷ The number of hearths listed by the Hearth Tax assessors is a rough and ready

guide to the size of house and there was only one other in the village in 1672 with as many - the house of Richard Buxton, one of the lords of the manor.

As Job Marple's inn the house was probably little changed from what it had been in 1615. It still keeps its seventeenth century appearance in spite of marks left by the years in the shape of blocked windows, windows where there were doors and a door replacing two lights of an originally six-light window. Inside, the south bay has recently been completely modernised. Changes in the north bay include twentieth century internal walls and a resited staircase. However, the biggest revolution in the house's history came in 1820, when the village Poor Law officers bought it from James Swindell, son of the Thomas Swindell who inherited it from Job Marple. The price was £195.

Occupying the house in 1820 was Benjamin Gregory, a farmer. Gregory was probably combining farming with innkeeping, as many did. Certainly the memory of the house's existence as an inn remained as late as the 1840s, when the Ashbourne Poor Law Union's minutes twice referred to it as "*the old Red Lion*". The record of the 1820 purchase in the manor court book says that the rents from the house were to be used to relieve poverty and it may have remained in Benjamin Gregory's possession for a time. However, in 1835 it was listed in land survey of the village as the House of Industry, or workhouse,⁸ and in 1841 the census recorded seventeen inmates.

The house served the members of the Brassington Incorporation, which has left no records, and it is only for the last three years of its life as a workhouse that there are any descriptions of what went on there. In 1845 Brassington was incorporated in the newly-formed Ashbourne Union, whose minute books have survived, and although an inspector described it as unsatisfactory for the purpose, the Ashbourne Board of Guardians decided to use the Brassington workhouse until a new one could be built.⁹ The old inn became the home of seventy seven paupers. A further sixty three were housed in a second workhouse, rented from Phillip Hubbersty of Wirksworth. This house had been the George and Dragon and was to be so again later in the century.

For three years the Tudor House was home to a small army of grey people - men and boys in grey suits and grey shirts, women and girls in grey gowns, grey petticoats and grey shifts. The men and boys were given black woollen hats and the women and girls coarse straw bonnets. To make sure that the villagers should not mistake the paupers for ordinary people the suits were fastened with "Union" buttons. The new regime was efficient. The room facing the garden and a stonepit or quarry then in the grounds of the house was fitted out to increase the accommodation, William Knowles being paid £1 12s 0d to make a new door and repair the floor. A fence was built across the garden to keep the quarry secure. This was where the able-bodied men of the workhouse spent their time, breaking one yard of limestone each day into pieces small enough to pass through a two and a half inch ring. The Poor Law Commissioners had refused to sanction the employment of the paupers in crushing bones. Two cast iron boilers, of sixty gallons and thirty gallons capacity respectively, were bought in Derby and installed in the house but the Union minutes reveal that at that time it had no water supply. Mr Hubbersty was therefore ordered to repair the pump in his house and a plumber was engaged to lay pipes from there to the "*lower house*". The workhouse schoolroom was in the "*upper house*" and the children seem to have been moved there when the second house was taken over, as a minute records that, on the recommendation of Robert Weale, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, the former children's room should have a stove installed and be used as a laundry and drying room. A further refinement ordered by the Board was a wall to divide the privies, and the way to them, from each other.

To the alterations carried out by the Ashbourne Union, and to those which had presumably been necessary in the time of the Brassington Incorporation, was added fire damage. The Master reported in April 1847 that there had been a fire and that there was "*some damage*". It cannot have been great, however, since Mr Weale inspected the workhouse a few weeks later and reported that it was "*in as good order as it is possible for such an ill arrangeable place to be in*". The "*ill arrangeable place*" had almost ended its life as a workhouse. The Board of Guardians was pressing on with the building of the new one in Ashbourne and in September they ordered "*that Notice of Quittance at Lady day next of the Houses occupied as Workhouses at Brassington be given forthwith*". There was a delaying tactic by Phillip Hubbersty, who refused to accept the notice, claiming that he was owed rent to Michaelmas, and there was a delay in completing the Ashbourne house but by the middle of the year the paupers had been moved, the stove removed and taken to Ashbourne and the key to the workhouse handed over to the Brassington Overseers. The Overseers complained that damage had been done to the house after

the paupers had been moved but the Board refused to accept any blame for that. In 1850 the Union House reverted to private ownership, Thomas Fearn paying £100 for it.

By 1890, from the evidence of the photograph taken then, the house was in danger of slipping into dereliction - clearly to be seen is a bush growing from the roof of the south bay. It may have been the schoolmaster, Thomas Winnall, who stopped the decline. The present roof dates from about this time. However, Winnall seems not to have lived in his Tudor House for long and by the end of the century he was renting it to Samuel Warner, joiner, and later to Samuel's son, John. It is this family which has seen the house through for almost another century and Nigel Taft, whose wife is one of the current generation, has contributed greatly to this history by his own research, his knowledge of the house and by his kindness in showing me round.

Acknowledgements

I acknowledge with thanks the help I have received in this research from Nigel Taft and from the staffs of the Derbyshire Record Office, the Public Record Office and the Lichfield Joint Record Office.

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THE QUARREL BETWEEN JOHN MUNDY AND MARK HOPE, VICAR OF MACKWORTH, IN 1633

ERRATUM and ADDENDUM

Rosemary Lucas writes:

I'm afraid a typing error has been made in reproducing my article in the Autumn 1992 *Derbyshire Miscellany* which alters the whole meaning of the sentence. On page 53, line 23, it reads "Hope claimed that the living at Mackworth had been sold since 1650 ...". This should read "... had been void since 1650 ...".

The ecclesiastical records (Cox, *Derbyshire Churches*, Vol IV) do not record a patron for Mackworth church after 1571 until 1695, a fact which I used when writing my article. However, my attention has been drawn to the claim to the patronage made by Francis Mundy at the time of the marriage of his heir, John, c1630 (Uncatalogued Mundy Papers, Derby Local Studies Library). This I did know but had overlooked... If the Mundys had the patronage, or believed they did, then they failed to present men to the living in the proper manner. This would account for the Crown appointing Mark Hope to the living at Mackworth in 1663. However, this does not affect the argument in my article.

ROBERT WILMOT'S CHADDESSEN ALMSHOUSES

(by Peter Cholerton,

Introduction

1991 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the demolition of the six Chaddesden almshouses built over 350 years previously by Robert Wilmot and which were such a familiar sight to many generations of Chaddesden people. Little now remains to mark the position of these tiny houses and some account of their history is long overdue.

Description

The small row of six almshouses was part of an attractive group of old properties which formerly stood in the vicinity of St Mary's Parish Church. Fig 1 shows the area as it would have appeared c1920. Unfortunately none of the buildings (with the sole exception of the church) survives to the present day, all having been demolished between 1950 and 1965. Once in Church Lane, access to the almshouses, church and Old School House would have been gained through one of a set of gates situated between the northernmost almshouse and the north wall of the churchyard. The gate nearest the almshouse was for pedestrians and alongside this, but separated from it by a stone post, was a pair of large gates designed to permit vehicular access to the church and its neighbouring dwellings.

A good idea of the actual layout of the almshouses can be gained from an examination of some surviving scale drawings made in 1957 and re-drawn here as Figs 2-5, which illustrates the main features of the cottages, although it should be noted that in these needless repetition of detail has been avoided. The almshouses were very tiny, the external dimensions of the whole row being only 52 wide x 23 feet deep. The accommodation in each cottage comprised a brick-floored living room some 8 feet wide, 15 feet long and just over 6 feet high, a small scullery-cum-larder and a single upstairs bedroom of the open landing type which extended over the living room only and was reached by a narrow winding staircase. The six little houses had no back doors and the occupants had to make do with just two WCs in the space at the rear of the property.

Photographs of the almshouse clearly show the style of half-timbered construction used, the bays and panels being filled in with brick nogging. The rear portion of the almshouse, which contained the sculleries, was very probably an addition to the original building and took the form of a continuous "outshut" along the west side of the entire structure and was created by an extension of the main roof slope, the eaves at this point being only some four feet from the ground, whilst the floor of the sculleries was actually below the exterior ground level. Upstairs, each bedroom (8 feet by 15 feet overall) had a plaster floor and was lit by a solitary dormer window overlooking the church a few feet away to the east; to the rear single squares of glass were let into the roof slope over the bedrooms and the sculleries. Downstairs, the living room windows also faced the west end of the church, each window being provided with a horizontally hinged "apron" shutter.

The roof was constructed of hand-made red and black tiles, although there is evidence to suggest this roof was laid over an earlier thatch,¹ this being quite likely in view of the relatively steep pitch of the roof at 50 degrees.² The six little houses shared three chimney stacks, an arrangement which necessitated the fireplaces in the living rooms of each pair of cottages being placed back-to-back on the brick dividing wall, the other internal dividing walls being of timber with plaster infilling. The six front doors opened on to a pavement some four feet wide which ran along the east front of the almshouses, access to the rear of which was gained through the northernmost of a pair of arched doorways adjacent to almshouse number 6 - the other doorway leading to the back of the Old School House to the south. Another small doorway set into the perimeter wall on Church Lane allowed the almsfolk to throw the ashes from their fires into the ashpit situated immediately behind the door without having to make the long trip round the back of the cottages.

Fig.1 SITE PLAN

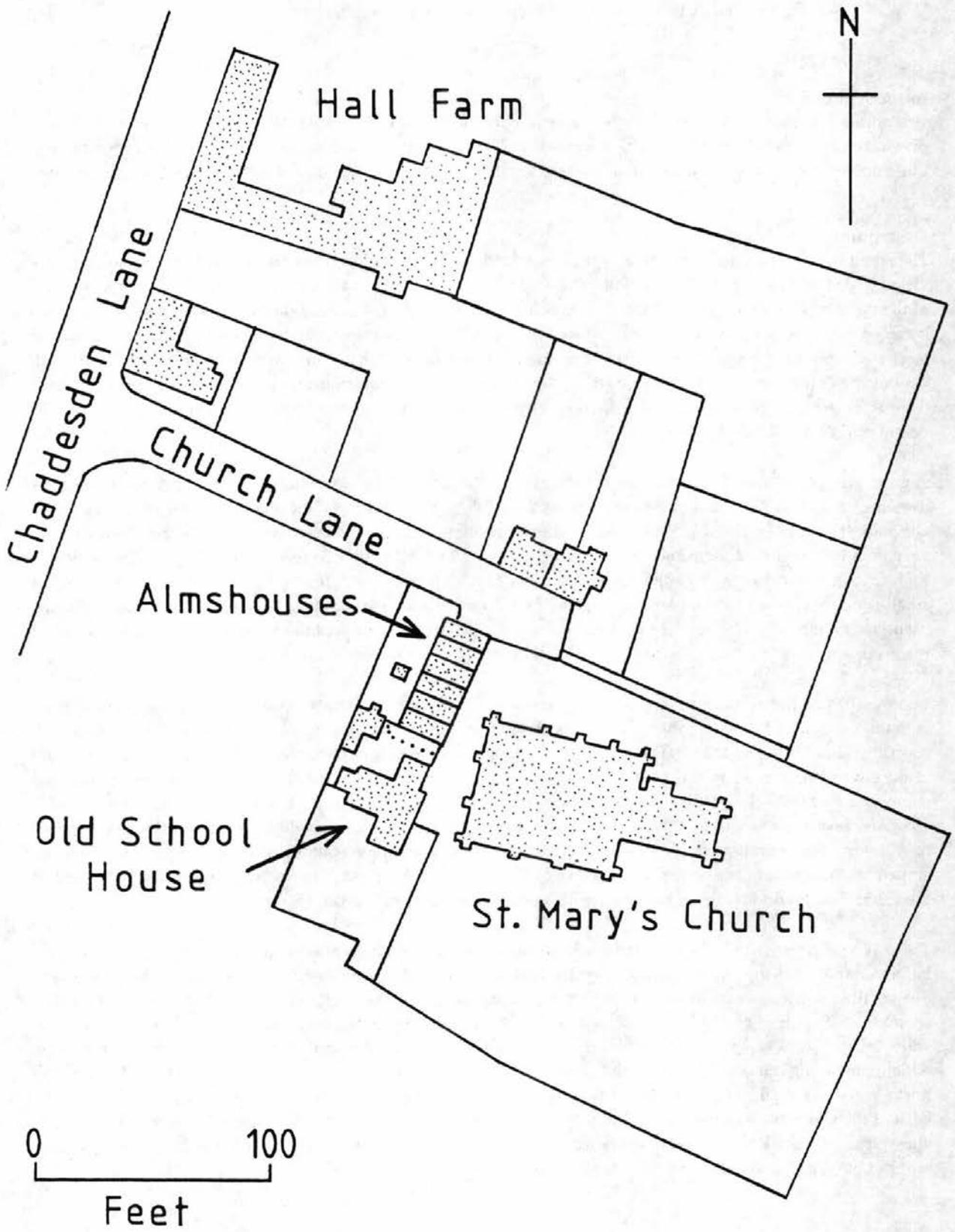
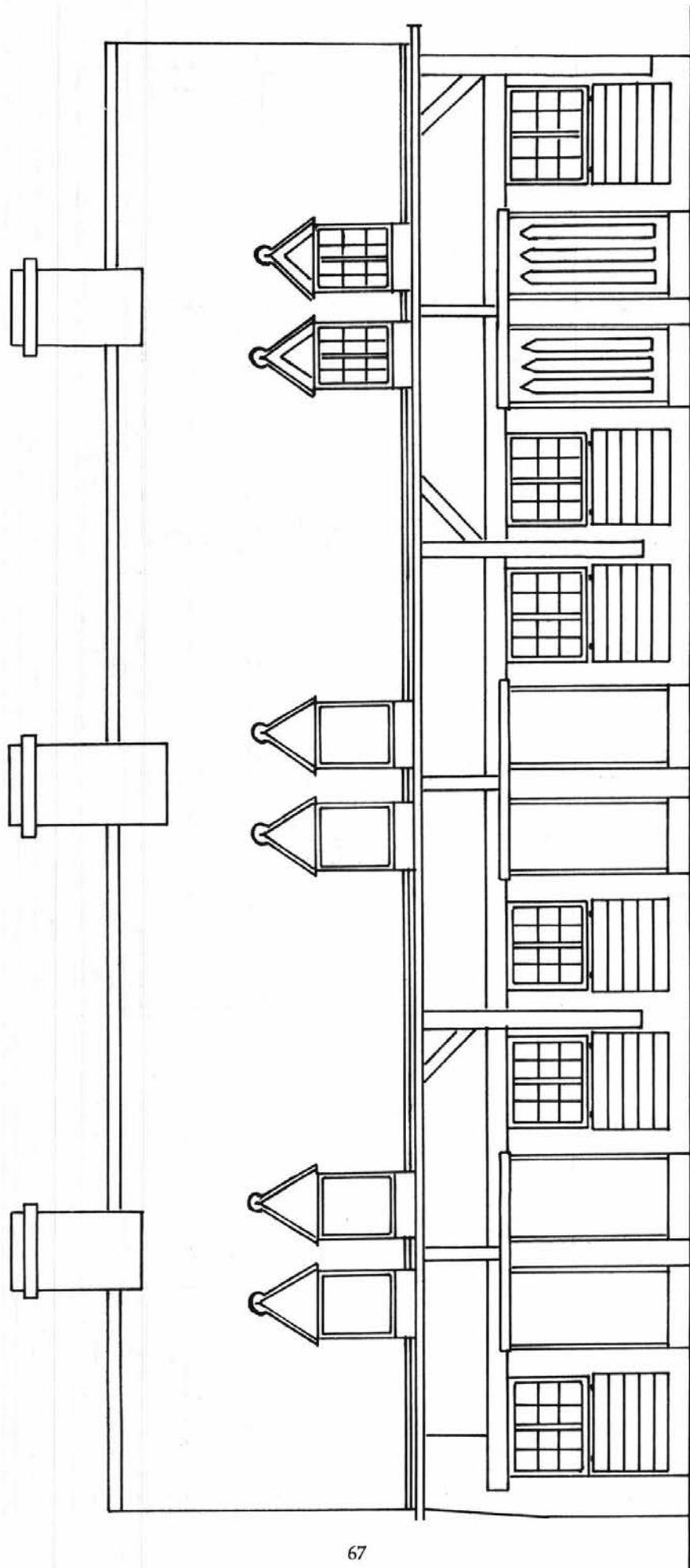


Fig. 2

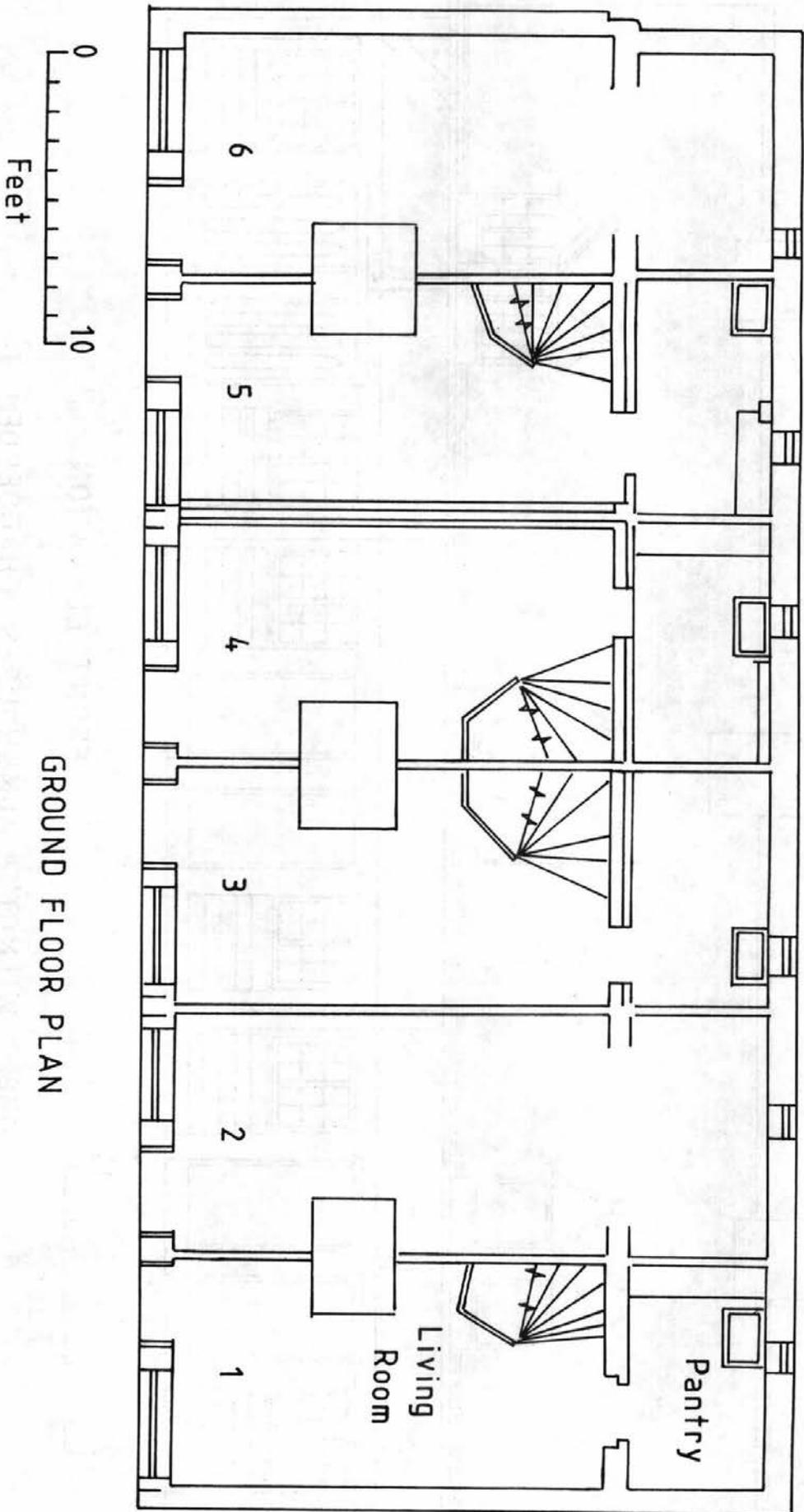


0 10
Feet

FRONT ELEVATION

ROBERT WILMOT'S ALMSHOUSES, CHADDESDEN

Fig. 3



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Fig. 4

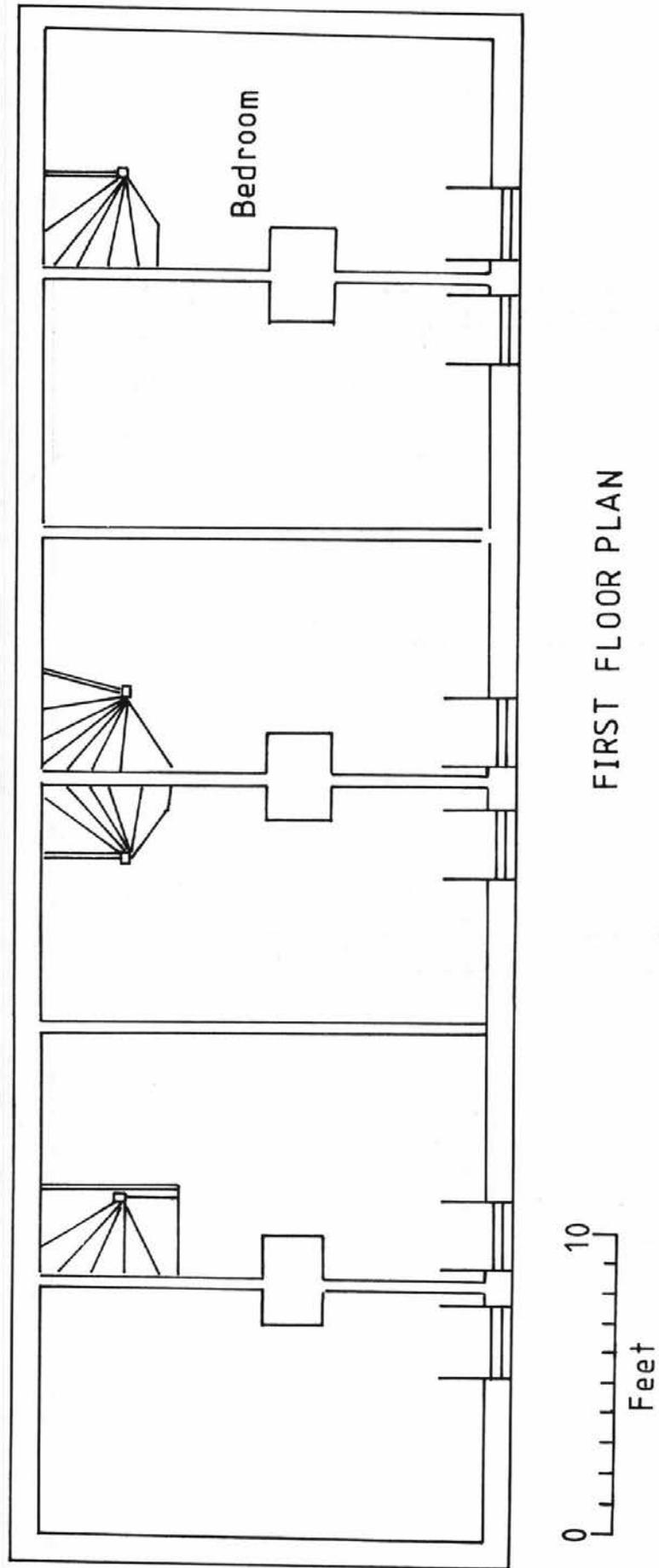
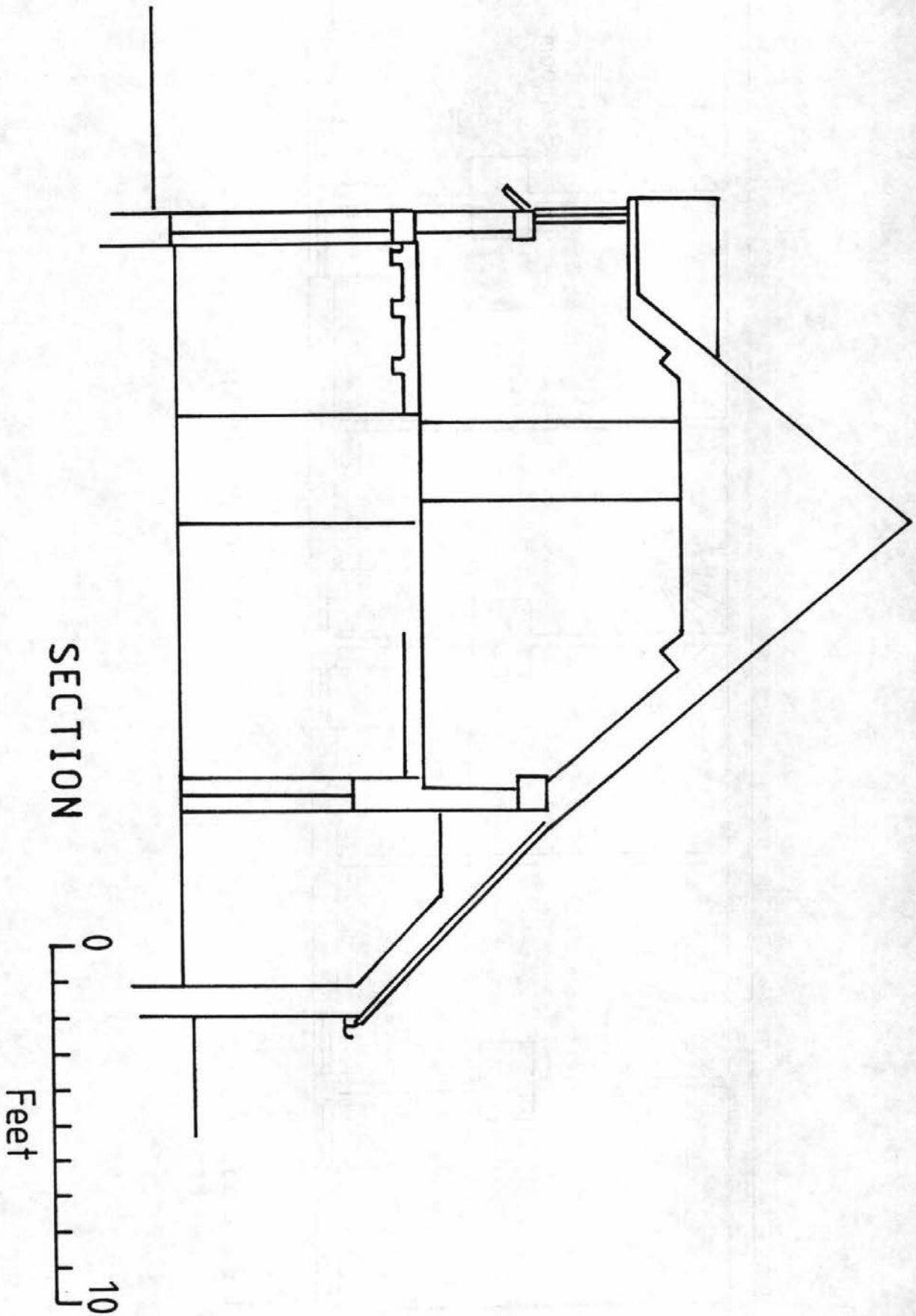


Fig. 5



History prior to 1900

The almshouses were built sometime before 1638 by Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden, hereafter called Robert I (see Wilmot family tree reproduced in fig 6), who was an early ancestor of the first Baronet, for, in his will dated July of that year, Robert I charged his eldest son, Robert II, to pay out of the rents and profits of certain lands he was bequeathing to him '*the severall somes of Twelve pence a peece weekly unto sixe poore people That is to say fower men & twoe woemen of good life & Conversacon now placed & hereafter to be placed in sixe little howses in Chaddison aforesaid which I long since built for the said number to dwell in*'.³ In addition, he directed that Robert II should make to the almsfolk at Chaddesden the same allowances given to the poor people in the ten almshouses in Bridge Gate, Derby (ie the Black Almshouses in St Alkmund's Parish - also founded by Robert I), that is, each Christmas a black gown faced with red or 10s in lieu; a red cap (for the men only) of the price of about 2s once every two years; three yards of linen at 12d a yard annually to each inhabitant '*to make them shirts & smocks*'; and finally, each occupant was to receive a Christmas dinner or 8d in lieu.⁴ Robert II and his heirs were to appoint further poor people from time to time to fill any vacancies, and they were also placed under an obligation to keep the Chaddesden almshouses in repair as often as the need should arise.

Robert I's grandson, Robert III, was also a benefactor to the almsfolk: under the terms of his will dated 2 November 1671, he gave £400 to purchase land, the profits of which were to be used to give an additional 12d a week to each of the almspeople at Chaddesden as an increase to their former pay. In 1675 the money was used by the executors of his will (his cousins Robert and Nicholas Wilmot and his sister, Dorothy Robey) to acquire a third part of three fields in Litchurch, Derby, called Darwin Field, Rye Flat and Gallows Pasture, which were charged with an annual payment of £15 12s 0d.⁵ Any surplus income from this estate was to go to Thomas Robey, the husband of Dorothy. In 1713 these fields were conveyed by Edward Robey and Sir John Harpur to Isaac Borough (or Borrow) subject to the payment of this annual sum: this continued until c1920 when the rent-charge was commuted in exchange for a sum of £626 in the 2½% consolidated stock giving an almost identical yearly income.

The annual income of all the various allowances at the Chaddesden Almshouses can easily be calculated as follows:

	Yearly value		
	£	s	d
First endowment - Robert I (1638)			
Weekly allowance (6 people x 12d x 52 weeks)	15	12	00
Gowns (6 people x 10s)	3	0	00
Caps for men only every two years (4 people x 2s x 0.5)		4	00
Three yards of linen each (6 people x 3 yds x 12d)		18	00
Christmas dinners (6 people x 8d)		4	00
Sub total:	19	18	00
Plus maintenance of the almshouses: unspecified			
Second endowment - Robert III (1671)			
Additional weekly allowance (6 people x 12d x 52 weeks)	15	12	00
TOTAL (excluding maintenance of the almshouses):	35	10	00

Things did not always run smoothly at Wilmot's almshouses in Derby and Chaddesden, for in January 1728/9, Robert Wagstaffe, mayor of the Borough of Derby, alleged that Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden (Robert IV) had

not paid at least three almspeople in the Black Almshouses in Bridge Gate, Derby, forced then to repair their own dwellings, appropriated almshouse gardens to his own use by planting trees, etc, paid their allowances to *'lusty able Men of his own Town of Chadsden ... upon Terms that some of them shall be obliged to work for him at Harvest ... at considerable under wages'* and that he did not clothe them properly in accordance with the founder's wishes. Robert IV replied on 15 January 1728/9 and promised to submit himself to the judgment of Samuel Sanders, Thomas Bayley and William Richardson (as Commissioners of Charitable Uses). The Commissioners met in March 1728/9 when they heard that the 'hospital' at Derby (ie the Black Almshouses) was in poor condition and troubled with rain and wind the past 40 years and would, in the opinion of *'an able workman called Nathaniel Peale by us appointed to view the same'*, cost £34 10s 0d to repair; likewise, necessary repairs to the Chaddesden almshouses would cost £16. It appeared that few of the people receiving pensions actually lived in the almshouses and that their places had been taken by others allocated by Robert IV who were given no pay and were also expected to repair their rooms at their own cost.⁶

The Commissioners also heard complaints from individuals such as Daniel Meet who was indebted to Robert IV *'on a large Bargaine'* for making bricks for building his house (Chaddesden Hall). Meet had been in the almshouses at Derby for *'severall years'* and his debt of 15s had been paid by stopping his weekly allowance of 1s 6d.⁷ Additionally he alleged that Wilmot had made him make larger and better bricks at a rate of 4s 6d per 1000 instead of the more usual 5s 0d he had agreed with another person and that he had only been paid 8d a day for gardening instead of the customary 12d a day.

Joseph Woodhouse appeared before the Commissioners on behalf of his brother Henry (aged 28) who had lived in the Chaddesden Almshouses for about the last 20 years at a pension of 2s a week. Henry was deaf and dumb since birth and had been obliged to work half a year for the past seven years for Wilmot at 3d a day and 6d a day at Harvest, instead of the 8d and 12d he would expect to receive from other employers. On refusing to work for such wages he was threatened that he would be turned out of the almshouses and that his father would lose the farm he rented from Robert IV. Henry should have been put to his brother Joseph as a flaxdresser at 2s a week but it was said that Robert IV forced him to come back to work at 3d a day instead.

William Blower (or Blore), a pensioner at Chaddesden, was employed on work by the river for 13 or 14 weeks and he claimed Wilmot only paid him 6d a day whereas others received 8d a day.

The Commissioners also heard that Isaac Borrow of Derby paid £15 12s 0d per annum to the Chaddesden almspeople in respect of the second endowment and Robert Wilmot of Osmaston paid £13 per annum to the inhabitants of the Black Almshouses at Derby.

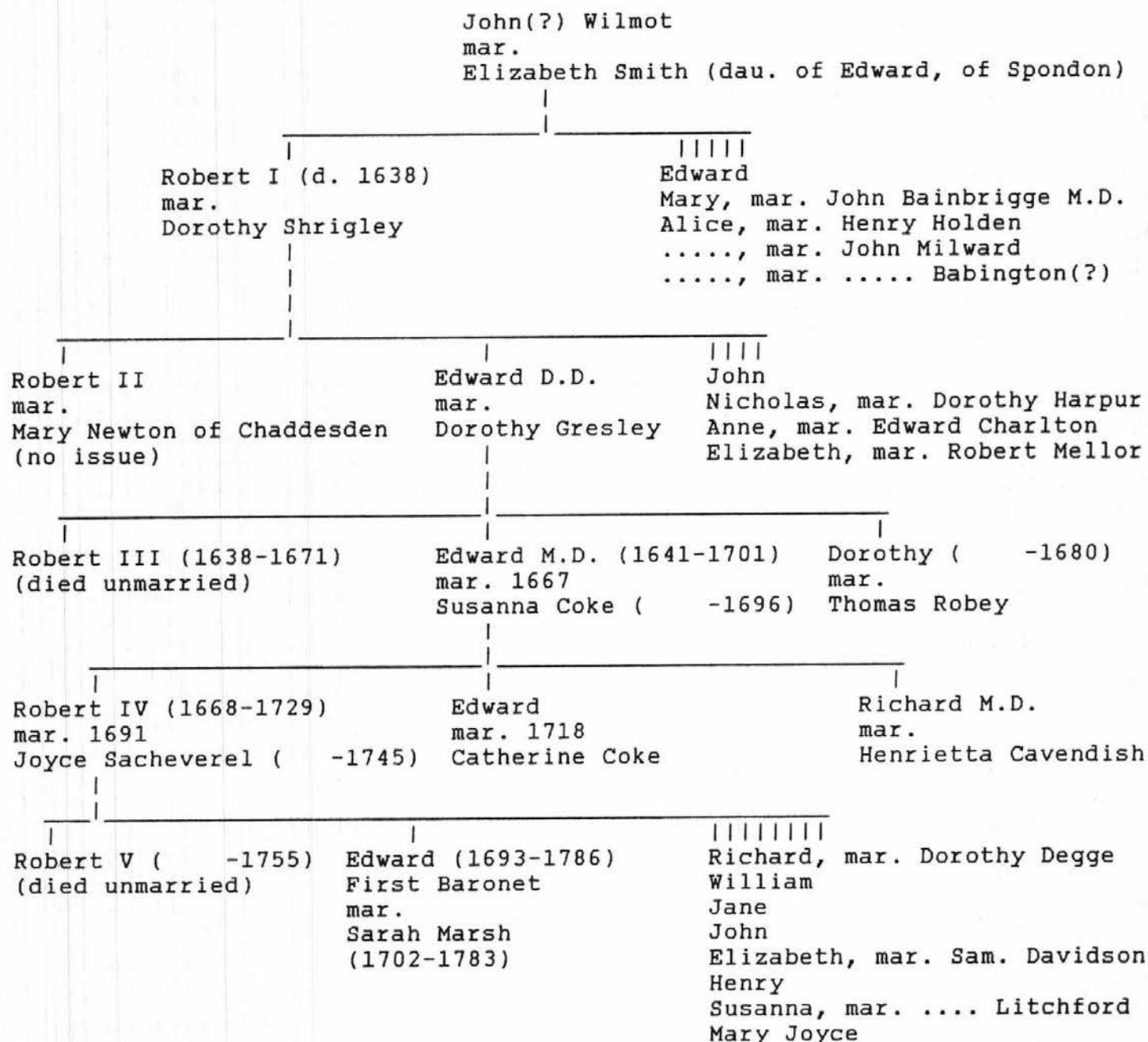
After hearing all the evidence, the Commissioners made their award on 25 March 1729, wherein they decreed that Robert IV was to pay £34 10s 0d to repair the Black Almshouses and £16 to repair the Chaddesden ones. In addition he was to pay compensation of £1 to Daniel Meet, £18 4s 0d to Henry Woodhouse, 14s to William Blower and £6 expenses to Robert Wagstaffe, the Mayor of Derby. Furthermore, since Robert Wilmot of Osmaston and Isaac Borrow made payments to the inhabitants of the Derby and Chaddesden almshouses respectively, they were to be allowed to inspect the payments of the almshouses once each year. The Commissioners further ordered that people receiving pensions should live in the almshouses and that pensioners should not be turned out at will. All compensatory payments and repairs were to be effected before the next Michaelmas Day.⁸ In defence of Robert IV though, it must be acknowledged that at the time of the Commission he was a sick man. He failed to appear before the Commissioners on at least one occasion because he was ill in bed and died shortly afterwards. According to the Chaddesden Parish Registers he was buried on 17 April 1729.

History after 1900

As has been described earlier, part of the Wilmot estate in Chaddesden had been charged under the terms of the first endowment with the annual payment of the pensions to the almspeople and the upkeep of the almshouses. When the Wilmot family left Chaddesden shortly after the First World War, these lands were acquired by various other people who were nonetheless still responsible for paying the pensions and keeping

FIGURE 6

THE WILMOT FAMILY TREE



the almshouses in repair. However, on 17 March 1921, Henry Smith of Leamington Spa, Alfred Bedwell of Coventry and William Alfred Wallis of Long Eaton - the new owners of the lands so charged - transferred a sum of £1476 in the 2½% Consols (then valued at £708 9s 7d) to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds and on 20 January 1922 the compromise was duly completed and the lands freed of the charges. This sum related to the first endowment only and produced an annual income of £36 18s 0d, thus indicating that the value placed on the obligation to repair the almshouses was a mere £17 per annum (ie £36 18s 0d less £19 18s 0d).

The total income of the charity was now made up of the sum of £2102 in the 2½% Consols (£1476 from the first endowment and £626 from the second endowment). As the 20th century progressed, however, the fixed income of £52 11s 0d per annum derived from this source was gradually eroded in real terms as the almsfolk continued to receive the same level of allowances as their predecessors had in the 17th century. Robert I could not have been expected to foresee that his six almshouses at Chaddesden would still have been standing over 300 years later.⁹

Unfortunately the fixed income of the charity in the first half of the present century had another disastrous effect. It meant that only the small sum of £17 was available each year for repairs. This was perhaps adequate for the smaller jobs that needed doing around the almshouses, but this lack of money would eventually prove to be the downfall of the buildings themselves. Ironically, following the demolition of the almshouses, the introduction in 1963 of the Charities Official Investment Fund Income Shares paved the way for this charity and thousands of others to take advantage of a common investment fund, designed at least to maintain, and if possible increase in real terms, the income of a charity.

Despite their limited size, the almshouses must have provided much needed accommodation for many poor and aged people in the years before housing for the elderly became the responsibility of the local authorities. Initially the almsfolk were nominated by the Wilmot family but after 1919 this right was handed over to five independent charity trustees nominated by the Chaddesden Parish Council. No specific direction was given by Robert I in his will of 1638 as to the former place of residence of the almspeople but the successful applicants were generally parishioners of Chaddesden, including several members of my own family.¹⁰

As the 20th century progressed, the almshouses continued to function. With little money to fund essential repairs, however, they were condemned by the Shardlow Rural District Council in August 1956 as being unfit for human habitation. Over the next two years various suggestions - such as the conversion of the six almshouses into three at an estimated cost of £1875 - were examined but all without success and in October 1958 the Council served Closing Orders on the six almshouses; by March 1959 the remaining occupants had been rehoused by the Council. Efforts continued to be made by various interested bodies to save the houses but to no avail. Finally, in the autumn of 1961, the almshouses were demolished by a Long Eaton firm at a cost of £60. All that now marks their site is a small, mainly grass-covered area immediately to the north-west of the church, along with the pavement which ran along the eastern frontage of the cottages.

Fortunately though, Wilmot's Almshouses Charity, which controlled the houses at Chaddesden, did not cease with their demolition but has survived to the present day, being amalgamated on 6 January 1987 with two other ancient Chaddesden charities - those of John Berrysford (founded in 1813) and Henry Gilbert (founded in 1680 under the terms of the will of Thomas Gilbert dated 1657) - thereby creating the Wilmot, Gilbert & Berrysford Charity.

Acknowledgements

I am obliged to my co-trustees on the Wilmot, Gilbert & Berrysford Charity, Chaddesden, for permission to quote from the charity's files,¹¹ and also to the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Charity Commission at Liverpool, both of which rendered valuable assistance.

References and Notes

Abbreviations:

DLSL Derby Local Studies Library, Irongate, Derby
DRO Derbyshire Record Office, New Street, Matlock, Derbyshire
PRO Public Record Office, Chancery Lane, London

1. Charity Minute Book, meeting held on 21 March 1950: 'Mrs Taylor (a trustee) reported the presence of insects in one almshouse, probably from the thatched roof under the tiles.' DRO D2709/4/1
2. Powys, A.R, *Repair of Ancient Buildings*, (1929) (reprinted by Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings, 1981), suggests that between 75% and 60% of the width of a house would make a good pitch for thatch, ie between 56° and 50°. This view is substantiated in:
 - (i) Cordingly, R.A, 'British Historical Roof Types and their Members: A Classification', *Transactions of the Ancient Monuments Society*, Vol 9 (New Series), 1961, where a minimum pitch of thatch of 45° is given, and
 - (ii) Billett, M, *Thatching and Thatched Buildings*, (Hale, 1979) which gives the additional information that 'The pitch angle of 50° (for thatch) compares with the 45° commonly employed with a tiled roof and the 30° of a slated roof.'
3. Taken from a copy-will in PRO. Another copy of this will (this time with probate attached) is held by DLSL, Deed no 6811.
4. Robert I devolved responsibility for the Black Almshouses at Derby to his second son, Edward Wilmot.
5. DLSL, Deed no 15544 (Calendar only), 3 Oct 1675; DRO, Deed no D3155/6533, 4 Oct 1675.
6. DLSL, Deed no TSM 178. An extract of the Award of the Commissioners of Charitable Uses is also given in *Reports of the Commissioners appointed in pursuance of Acts of Parliament to inquire concerning charities and education of the poor in England & Wales*, Vol VII (Derbyshire), 1815-1839, DLSL no 3903.
7. *Reports of the Commissioners ...*, *op. cit.* This weekly allowance of 1s 6d to each of the ten inhabitants of the Derby Almshouses was paid at this time in two portions: the first, of 1s per person, was given by Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden out of the tithes of Denby at a total cost of £26 per annum; the second portion of 6d per person (ie £13 per annum) was paid out of lands owned by Robert Wilmot of Osmaston.
8. *Ibid.* This report made approximately 100 years after the original Award of the Commissioners of Charitable Uses back in 1729 states: 'The (Black) Almshouses are kept in repair by Sir Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden. About 12 years ago (ie c1815) they were thoroughly repaired by him at an expense of more than £250.' The Report also confirmed that in the 19th century it was still 'frequent practice to appoint persons both to these (Black) almshouses and to those at Chaddesden, to receive the weekly and other allowances without requiring them to reside in the almshouses, other persons being permitted to inhabit rent free, the houses to which the non-residents would be entitled'. As this was both contrary to the founder's wishes and to the Award of the Commissioners of Charitable Uses, Sir Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden agreed that it would be discontinued in the future.
9. The records of the former Gilbert & Berrysford Charity show that this charity augmented the pensions of the almsfolk between (at least) the years 1945 to 1958. DRO D2709 1/1 to 3/1.
10. The last relative of mine to end his days in the almshouses was my great-great-uncle, John Cholerton. It seems he was not averse to sampling the delights of the local alehouse and after drinking perhaps rather more than was good for him, would return to his almshouse to sleep off its effects. This period of dormancy often used to continue for more than a day and frequently alarmed his neighbours, who would call upon his nephew - another John Cholerton (my grandfather) - to climb up a ladder to his uncle's bedroom window and attempt to wake him up. This same great-great-uncle also had a standing arrangement with another occupant of one of the almshouses: each week he would lend his neighbour 6d for her beer money and the next week on pension day she would return the loan. Inevitably though on the following day she would be knocking on his door asking if she could borrow the 6d again!
11. Much of this material has now been deposited with DRO, ref. D2709 4/1 to 8/1.

SHIREBROOK NOTES

(by Charles Crapper,

Introduction

Of three contiguous Derbyshire places, Pleasley, Shirebrook and Stony Houghton, only the latter is mentioned in the Domesday survey. For how long that place had been so distinguished is a matter for conjecture but, by the twelfth century the manor and parish of Pleasley had been established and thereafter Houghton along with Shirebrook were mere hamlets of the same.

Amazingly, Stony Houghton remains a hamlet to this very day even though the colliery village, New Houghton, is not far distant. Shirebrook on the other hand, was not destined to preserve a rural charm. Having the benefit of a railway in 1875, a colliery in 1896, another one just over the border in Warsop in the same year, no time was lost in turning fields into housing estates for the accommodation of a sudden and massive influx of immigrants.

Another neighbouring place, also not mentioned in Domesday, that acquired manorial status about the same time as Pleasley was Langwith, or more precisely, Upper Langwith. The adjacent village of Nether Langwith is in Nottinghamshire and in the parish of Cuckney so does not feature in this study.

Langwith was a very small manor and parish embracing no other townships within its bounds. Shirebrook, on the other hand, was a chapelry within the parish of Pleasley and both its ecclesiastical and civil affairs were bound up with those of Pleasley. As its importance increased by the decade in the nineteenth century however, separation from Pleasley became inevitable.

About 1850 the chapelry of Shirebrook was raised to the status of a vicarage, the first incumbent being the Reverend R. Lowndes. Civil separation from Pleasley was not effected until the formation of the Blackwell Rural District Council, of which Langwith, Pleasley, Stony Houghton and Shirebrook¹ became members after 1894. Langwith's separate civil identity was shortlived. In 1934 it was abolished and its territory divided between Shirebrook and Scarcliffe. As a result, Shirebrook, already then larger in extent than Pleasley, was made larger still. Adding insult to injury as it were, a small chunk of Pleasley was added to Scarcliffe in 1935.

Parliamentary Enclosure

(see Fig 1 and Appendix)

Langwith and Stony Houghton remain little altered from the day, 29 September 1747, when an Act of Parliament was passed entitled "An Act for inclosing certain Common Pastureground within the Manors and Parishes of Langwith and Pleasley and the hamlets of Stony Houghton and Shirebrook in the said Parishes in the County of Derby". Nine commissioners recited below were appointed by the Act to implement it.

"William Wenman of Edwinstowe in the County of Nottingham, Esquire, John Wall of Wensley in the County of Derby, Gentleman, Edwarde Hinde of Whittington in the said County of Derby, Gentleman, John Birch of Pleasley in the County of Derby, Gentleman, George Barker of Baslow in the said County of Derby, Gentleman, John Wilkinson of Hilcot in the said County of Derby, Gentleman, Daniel Newton of Warsop in the said County of Nottingham, Gentleman, William Clarke of Sutton-Hardwick in the said County of Nottingham, Gentleman, and Francis Barber of Greasley in the said County of Nottingham, Gentleman."

Their first task was to make a survey of the land to be enclosed. Its extent proved to be 782 Acres 2 Roods and 20 Perches. Old roads and paths were to be extinguished and new ones driven through and over the common and none other than these were "to be used thereafter".

Land given to roads was taken from the total acreage. The land to be apportioned was divided into forty unequal plots among twenty nine recipients. They ranged in amounts from the 291 Acres 3 Roods and 20

perches awarded to William, Duke of Devonshire, to the 4 Perches going to Paul Swift! One of the forty plots was for a communal quarry numbered 22. An unnumbered plot called Holy-Well measuring 33 Yards by 22 Yards was also given for a communal watering place. That place lay exactly on the line between Elizabeth Hacker's Plot 35 and *"her old inclosed land on the East"*, ie in the area of the New Barn of Hodhill Farm. A footpath from Pleasley to Shirebrook crossed a new road into Henry Thornhill's Plot 37, where stood the "High Cross", into Matthew Heath's Plot 36 and across a corner of Plot 35 into Shirebrook.

The status of roads laid out in 1748 was declared upon so public and private roads were differentiated. Three public roads were to be forty five feet between the fences and two others thirty six feet between the fences. Two private roads were made twenty one feet between the fences. Of the three wider roads, one led from *"Pleasley Moor Coat Gate² to the South end of Langwith Lane"*. That came to be called Common Lane. Another led from Stony Houghton to Shirebrook. A thirty six feet wide branch was taken from that road to Carter Lane which later became known as *"Little Lane"* because it was such a short length of road. However, it was a public road in so far as it was access to Carter Lane. Another branch was taken from Carter Lane itself to join to Common Lane but that was a private road cutting between Plots 11 and 10 so only twenty one feet in width.

As to the public road called Little Lane, it was probably so named in this present century as a result of ignorance. Equally ill-informed were people of the last century who called it Rodger Lane but they were perhaps nearer to its original name of Rother Lane and perhaps it should be changed back to that.

The third *"Great Publick Road"*, ie *"forty five feet wide between the fences"* led from Stony Houghton to Wood Lane. The second thirty six feet wide public road was taken from Common Lane to Wood Lane by Pleasley Park Farm. A twenty one foot road was taken from Wood Lane *"By the old enclosures to Shirebrook"*. That road, Stinting Lane, was probably so called when first used because it skirted the allotments. It may also have been adjectivised later by the addition of "ing".

People hereabouts will recognise these roads with an instant glance at the "annext plan". All are in use to this very day. One, however, now called Green Lane is used only by pedestrians or farm vehicles. The track shown on the OS 1:25000 map as Forge Lane was laid out by the Commissioners but not by them so named. They also determined certain footpaths: one from Langwith, another from Scarcliffe, both leading to *"Forge Hill Top and thence down the Valley to the Upper Forge"*. These were footpaths to Mansfield via Radmanthwaite after crossing the River Meden by the *"Upper Forge"*. That forge was replaced by a textile mill in 1784.

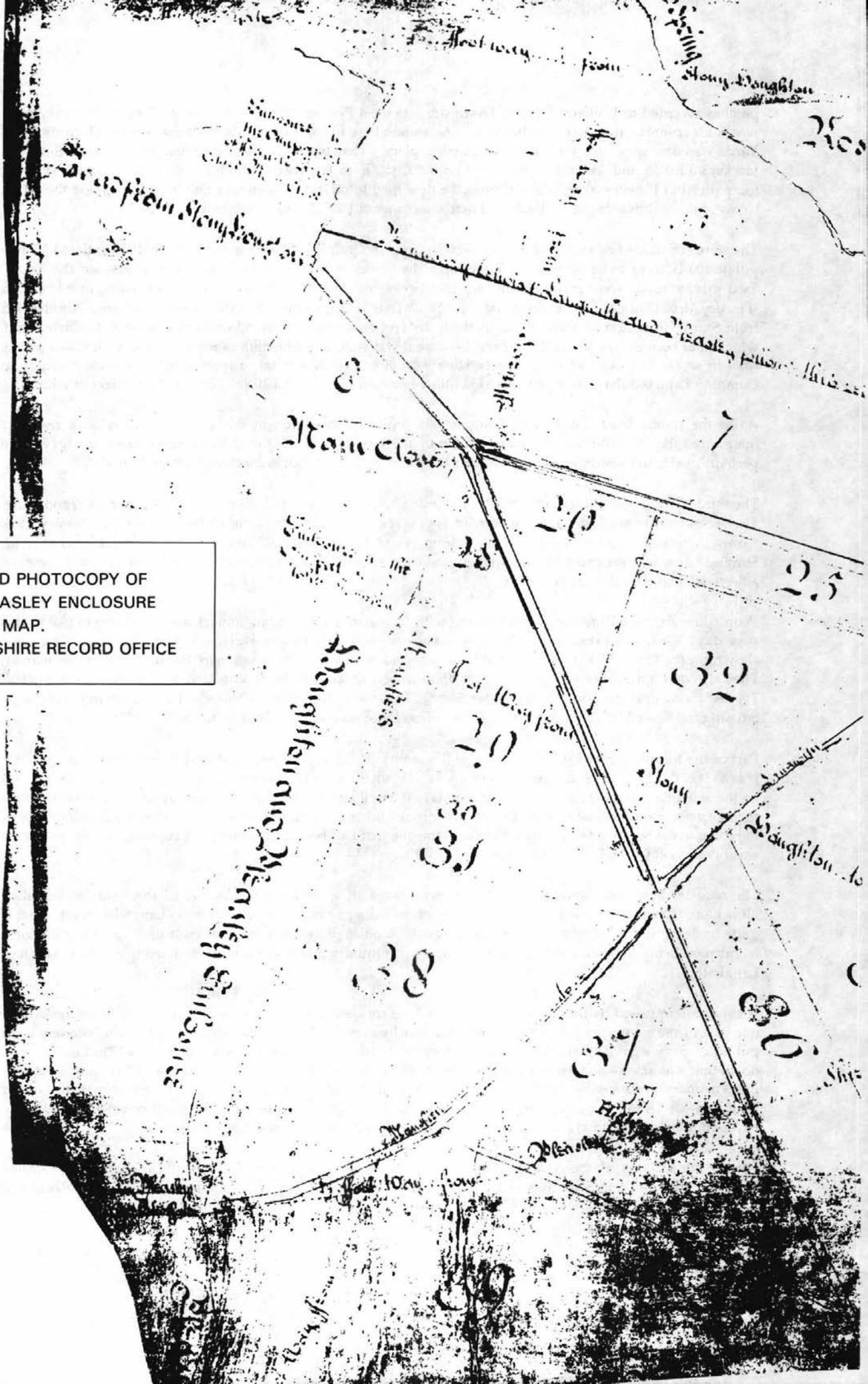
Part of the footpath *"Scarcliffe to Shirebrook"* still remains. Prior to post Second World War development all of it was as laid out in 1748. It entered Shirebrook Hill (Main Street in the twentieth century) via a steep path down by the side of a quarry (Plot 22). By that time (1748) dwellings were being built high up in the quarry opposite the footpath, ie on the East to West line of Shirebrook Hill and the quarrying was continued on the other side of the road, ie the South side directly opposite to the one that had been discontinued. Eventually a further quarry was opened off Carter Lane in the vicinity of Plot 13.

The road leading from Shirebrook Hill to Stony Houghton, after crossing Common Lane, came to be called New Lane. Certain documents of the late nineteenth century refer to Common Lane as Langwith Road. That is quite understandable because the present Langwith Road in Shirebrook was not built until early this century, its purpose being to serve a railway complex and a community growing around it situated in the then parish of Langwith.

A condition imposed by the Act which authorised the enclosures was that each plot was to be fenced in within one year of the signing and sealing of the "Award or Instrument". All the decisions of the Commissioners were put into wordy legal language by Mr Joseph Heynes, Clerk of the Peace for Derbyshire from 1710 to 1760. The document was acknowledged in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire on 15 April 1748 by Mr John Dakeynes, a "Master Extraordinary in Chancery", in the presence of seven of the nine commissioners, ie the further presence of Mr Wall and Mr Hinde not being required. Signifying the hedging and fencing had been completed as legally required, the said document was enrolled at Derby by Joseph Heynes on 4 April 1749.

Further stipulations of the Award were that a copy be kept in the parish chest of Langwith and Pleasley churches and a third copy at the Court of Quarter Sessions at Derby. Those in the custody of the Rectors of

FIG. 1
REDUCED PHOTOCOPY OF
THE PLEASLEY ENCLOSURE
AWARD MAP.
(DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE
Q/RI 62).



Langwith and Pleasley respectively were to be "*Line read after Divine Service*".

As was customary, the recipients of allotments under the award were the existing freeholders and common right holders. Those awarded more than one parcel of land were the Duke of Devonshire as lord of the manor of Langwith, Henry Thornhill as lord of the manor of Pleasley, Elizabeth Hacker, Allen, Lord Bathhurst and the Trustees of Ashbourne Grammar School, none of them, of course, local residents. Nor were John Hall, John Fellowes, John Plumtree and William Inman. Of those who did live locally, four were of one family named Heath.

There were family links in some degree between several recipients. Elizabeth Hacker, lord of the manor of Trowell, Nottinghamshire, was the great grand-daughter of John Stuffin who died in Shirebrook in 1695. The Clays (Plot 34, next to Elizabeth's Plot 35) and Stuffins were anciently connected whilst one of the Commissioners, Daniel Newton of Warsop (Coroner for Nottinghamshire) was married to Sarah Heath. They wed in 1717, she being then eighteen years old and he twenty two. Sarah Stuffin, twin sister of Elizabeth Hacker's great grandfather, John Stuffin, married John Newton of Sutton in Ashfield. She may have come to know him through her cousin Hercules Clay³ (or his son) who held land in Sutton in Ashfield in the early seventeenth century. Daniel Newton may have been her great grandson. His son or grandson may have been the John Newton who conveyed the Gate Inn, Shirebrook to Mr and Mrs Jackson in 1797. The Commissioners possibly took refreshment at this inn. It is very probable that Sarah Newton, née Heath, was the daughter of Richard Heath (Plot 25) of Littlewood House. He was most likely the Matthew Heath noted by Miss Joan Sinar⁴ as charged a Land Tax assessment of £4 15s 4d in 1780. "*Joseph Briggs, Gent*" though only awarded a small plot (number 9) was then Patron of St Michael's, Pleasley, so was likely a man of some substance.

Given the grants were proportional to what a grantee already held in the parish, Elizabeth Hacker seems to have been - after Devonshire and Thornhill, the largest single landowner in Shirebrook. Collectively they owned most of the 1450 or so acres that comprised "Shirebrook Town".

Shirebrook's encroachment on the commons was from three points: in the north, Carter Lane, Shirebrook Hill in the centre, and just to the south, Wood Lane. Rather than confess to having wilfully trespassed on each other's domain, the Langwithites and Shirebrookians professed ignorance as to where the true boundary lay. However the Commissioners were in no doubt as to that and, since the Act delegated to them discretionary powers, their word on any decision had the full authority of Law and, with no more ado, staked out a demarcation line. This line they committed to the plan in red ink. It runs from Stony Houghton parallel to the road from there to Common Lane and is two hundred and fifty four yards distant from that road until near to Common Lane where it makes a sharp angle to the road and then another to run north in the west hedge of Common Lane to a spot near the path leading to Roseland, and from there, taken east, over Common Lane for about one hundred and forty five yards and then, yet another ninety degree turn, to take the line south for a similar length. That remained the boundary (at that point) between Langwith and Shirebrook until 1934.

Later development

The later development of Shirebrook seems, for one reason or another, to have been muddled. It proceeded after the fashion of someone making it up as they went along. Development began at two separate points, one at the extreme east of the village and the other at the far west end. Of the latter, dwellings were built on part of what, in 1748, was the eight acres or so of Thomas Taylor's Plot 24. That row became known as Warren Terrace (Fig 3).

In the east Carter Lane was diverted only slightly with the coming of the railway in 1875. The main difference was the grading that had to be given to bridge the railway. Formerly it crossed into Derbyshire approximately by the north end of the station platform. After 1900 a row of dwellings was built on the natural level stretching for about fifty yards, thus lying several feet below the grading of the road.

When past that man-made slope on the Shirebrook side, the Lane continues its undulating and winding way in a direction of north by west. Just below that grading the terrain shelves sharply to the west dipping down to Sookholme Lane and the valley through which the brook meanders. A pathway went down the slope from Carter Lane. By the path and standing on Carter Lane was a farmhouse. About two hundred yards equidistant of that house, Sookholme Lane and the railway was a post windmill (flour) (see Fig 2.) described as "*ruined*" in

1898 but everything was in good working order in 1879. In the latter time the farm and the mill were owned by a Mr Jonathan Robinson. All that area was taken up by first a sewage plant in the 1890s and appropriately added to later by a gasworks (Shirebrook Gas Company), and then by houses - Vernon Street, Minerva Street and Merchant Street.

The post mill stood on a spot between the end of the housing and the gasworks. One hundred yards or so further on, the land still shelving away, was another house on Carter Lane. By that too was a path or lane reaching down to the stream and Hardwick Farm on Sookholme Lane. (This farm may have been the original holding of the Cavendish family in Shirebrook in 1610-20 when they held just fifty four acres. However, it may also have been a later acquisition.) The house at the head of that lane or path was demolished in about 1920 and replaced by a branch of the Pleasley and Pleasley Hill Co-operative Society.

In former times, a few yards east and on the other side of Carter Lane was a residence distinguished sufficiently to be noticed by the 1880 Ordnance Survey (Fig 2) known as "Carter Lane House". Still traversing a scarp, a little further on Carter Lane comes to a spot where a Nottingham Brewery Company, having evaluated Shirebrook's potential, built "The Station Hotel" in 1898. This structure is near triangular in ground plan, ie wedge-shaped with a door at the thin end looking east towards the railway station. Another opened to Carter Lane on the north side and on the other to the side of the footpath running up to Shirebrook Hill. By 1898 part of this footpath had become Portland Road as far as the area of Ashbourne Farm lying in the valley, about forty feet lower than the Hotel, and Carter Lane had been renamed Station Road.

Beyond the Station Hotel an ancient track runs north alongside the bank known from medieval times as "Thickley Bank". Streets were then put out on either side: Cavendish Street and Devonshire Street on the north (parallel to Thickley Bank) and Clumber Street, Morris Street⁵ and Ashbourne Street on the south joining to Portland Road.

In 1896 Shirebrook was a veritable boom town, everywhere looking like a Wild West construction camp. The colliery company had reached the object of its endeavours, a seam of coal known as the "Top Hard Seam". Just over the border Warsop Colliery had done the same. This happy state of things did not go unnoticed by the Trustees and Governors of the Queen Elizabeth's Free Grammar School of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, who, perhaps thinking it an opportunity not to be missed, offered for sale by auction in the Swan Hotel, Mansfield on Thursday, 25 July 1901 at 3.00pm,⁶ their seventy three and a half acres of land known as Ashbourne School Farm: "*These Lots must increase rapidly in value - a remark which applies to the Lots generally, bearing in mind the rapid progress of Shirebrook.*" they confidently predicted. The plans which the Trustees had in mind and which had tentatively been drawn to interest a purchaser or purchaser-developer would, if carried out, have resulted in a far different town plan to that which was adopted.

Meanwhile, in or before 1898, the Primitive Methodists had moved from the street leading to Shirebrook Hill and had built premises on Simpsons Lane where some building had also been carried out over the yard. After a convoluted process the market place was created nearby in a former orchard.

The Ashbourne plan had envisaged development southwards from Portland Road down to Sookholme Lane but it was not to be. However, more by accident than design, part of what they had in mind perversely came to fruition some years after the Second World War in that Portland Road was carried straight through to King Edward Street, alias the old east and west path up to Shirebrook Hill and, latterly, called Main Street.

In the late 1890s the Great Northern Railway Company sought to make a junction with the Midland Railway in the parish of Langwith. To that end, starting at a place in Shirebrook considerably lower than Rother Hill or even Shirebrook Hill, they raised a railway embankment which passed over Devonshire Street and Cavendish Street at a height of about eighty feet. For the little use and short life of that line, it is a question whether the expense and effort were worthwhile. However, it is not forgotten, in that time money and lands were changing hands at an hitherto undreamed of rate. What with mining and railway entrepreneurs itching to buy and the "Collective Freeholders" dying to sell, how could it be otherwise!

FIG. 2
O.S. FIRST EDITION
SIX SHEET COVERING
SHIREBROOK —
SURVEYED 1878.





Old Hall

Malthouse

Langwith Station

Upper Langwith

Bradshaw Wood

Stabbins Wood

N G W I T H
N G W I T H

MIDLAND RAILWAY
M.P. NOTTINGHAM 22

Warp Cottage

Bennett's Cottages

Shirebrook

Shirebrook Station

B.M. 421-8

B.M. 257-8

B.M. 329-2

B.M. 324-2

B.M. 327-1

B.M. 327-2

B.M. 327-3

B.M. 327-4

B.M. 327-5

B.M. 327-6

B.M. 327-7

B.M. 327-8

B.M. 327-9

B.M. 327-10

B.M. 327-11

B.M. 327-12

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B.M. 327-94

B.M. 327-95

B.M. 327-96

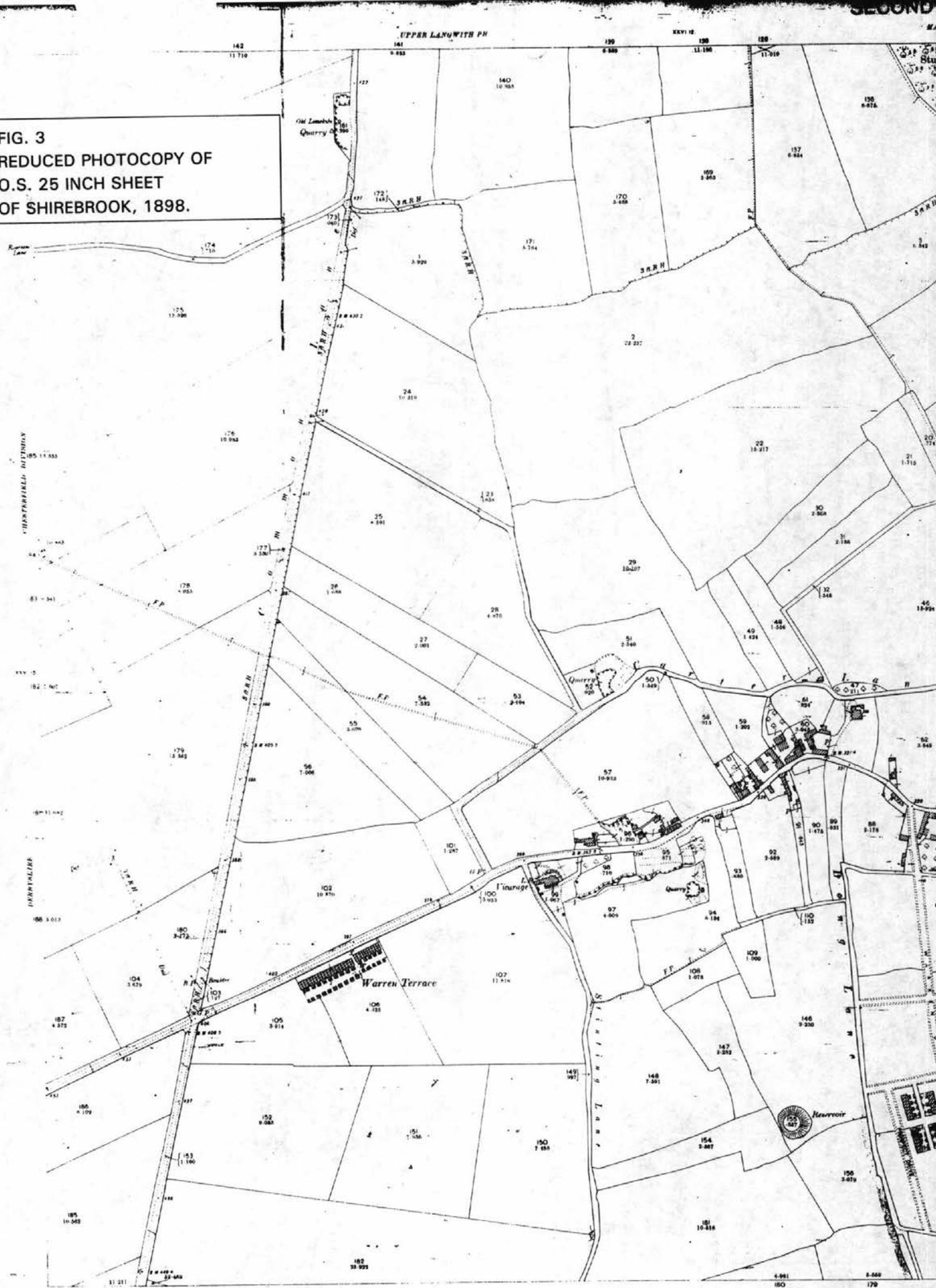
B.M. 327-97

B.M. 327-98

B.M. 327-99

B.M. 327-100

FIG. 3
REDUCED PHOTOCOPY OF
O.S. 25 INCH SHEET
OF SHIREBROOK, 1898.



Lighthouses Surveyed in 1855 Revised in 1890
 Nottingham Surveyed in 1885 Revised in 1890

CHARACTERISTICS AND SYMBOLS FOR BOUNDARIES, &c.

<p> W Change of Boundary indicating the point at which the character of a boundary changes (Fitzpatrick's Site of) D Proposed Boundary P Proposed Boundary </p>	<p> 2 Municipal Wards C Urban Districts P Civil Parishes M Municipal </p>	<p> 27 Every parcel is numbered that its area is given underneath in acres, that those indicating that the space is unoccupied are included in the same reference number and area. </p>
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 Altitude indicated thus (100' 50") refer to Bench Marks on
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PLEASLEY PH

Survey Office, Southampton, 1930

PRICE 3/-

20 30 40

2500 3500 4500

Scale of Feet

Roman Building at Thickley Bank

Looking back to a far distant past, it is truly astonishing to learn a Roman building of sorts was discovered in 1949 in the area of Thickley Bank, to be precise in a part of the former Stubbins Wood. The finds actually extended into Plots 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, as offered for sale by the Ashbourne School in 1901. Whilst today that area is fairly well built up, in the late 1920s there were just two houses, one owned by a Mr Hind and the other by Mr G. Fowler. A third built in the early 1930s, a short way from Mr Fowler, was owned by V.E. Moon (a baker). Just to the south close to where the Great Northern Railway crossed the path edging Thickley Bank was a medieval earthwork.

A Developer's 'El Dorado'

For at least a hundred years Shirebrook has been a "Developer's El Dorado" and may indeed continue to be so. At the present time only a small fraction of the total acreage has not yet fallen prey. Everything has a price! It would be tedium to write and a bore for anyone to read, a house by house, street by street chronology of the development of Shirebrook or any such place; so, exclusive of industrial sites, we will note a rough chronology of the building from the 1890s to post second World War. Such building seems to have been in haste and in spasmodic phases. First, in the late 1890s the Colliery Company built a village hard by the Colliery. That programme was resumed in 1920 or so: these properties are still sometimes referred to as the "new buildings".

The "Warren Terrace" end, already referred to as Plot 24 on the Inclosure Plan, did not receive any further attention until 1921 when Plots 19, 20, 21 and part of Plot 18 were built on. (However Plot 32 west of Common Lane had been acquired for use as a Public cemetery about 1900.) Further development of that area began in earnest after the Second World War but the 6" Ordnance Survey indicates that Elizabeth Hacker's Plot 15 can still be discerned.

However, remaining as yet with the 1920s and hard on the heels of the Warren Terrace development, an estate was built in the Park Road area. There was a lull in operations until 1931 when the area north from Langwith Junction Railway Station was developed extensively. Most odd that, at such a late date, those houses were equipped with gas lighting! These properties abutted to the north end of Thickley Bank. Beyond that path, during the Second World War some prefabricated dwellings were hastily bolted together. They were the precursors of an enormous Post War development which led to the present townscape.

Some early families

A flurry of names issue from the Pleasley parish registers of the seventeenth century but in few cases can it be said with certainty the whereabouts of their holdings and homesteads. In the eighteenth century we have for certain "*Richard Heath of Littlewood House*" but his close relative is "*of Shirebrook*", whereabouts is not said. Much earlier to that time, in 1368, we have the Savage Family⁷ in possession of a "*Messuage and six Bovates of Land in Shirebrook*"; that is a parcel of land near to one hundred acres in extent. That messuage may have been the moated dwelling referred to but there is no certainty of that. The Abbot of Rufford also had "*tenements*" in Shirebrook.

The family Stuffin(g)(yn) are generally thought to have been in Shirebrook about five hundred years and the area of Stuffin Wood commemorates their name. However, giving or taking a name from a place does not necessarily mean such a family resided for ever. It is very likely John Stuffin died at Stuffinwood Farm but it cannot be said for certain. Given that his great-granddaughter was apportioned Plot 15 "*and her old inclosed lands lying to the East*" suggests the possibility a major part of Stuffin land lay between Carter Lane and Main Street, stretching down to the seventeenth century cottages referred to and known colloquially as "The Bodkin" and by the postman as "Bennetts Cottages" (Fig 2). A coincidence not to be dismissed lightly, John Stuffin's uncle, Hercules Stuffin, married Ann Bennet on 3 July in 1615.

To conclude on a more certain aspect of past and present; when in 1748 the Commissioners laid out the roads through and over the Common, they began at a certain place in Pleasley. Generations of people thereabouts have pondered in vain as to why a certain place, remote from human habitation, should be named "*Market Hollow*" - and well they might, because there is no such field or place. That is the spot where the Commissioners began and known then as Moor Coat Gate. Show the spot on the map to any aged local and without any hesitation it is immediately referred to as "*Market Hollow*". Contrary to what you might read

elsewhere we have no hesitation in saying that Market Hollow and Moorgate Hollow are one and the same place, ie there is no such field or place as Market Hollow. That hollow lies at the bottom of Forge Lane. The Lane is accompanied by a stream which, originating from a spring in Stony Houghton, joins the River Meden. It was at their confluence that the Upper Forge was built.

APPENDIX

In making the allotments the Commissioners first awarded to William Cavendish, the Duke of Devonshire, and to Henry Thornhill, as Lords of Langwith and Pleasley respectively, a token award of two acres each in acknowledgement of their established manorial rights. Those token plots are included in the one numbered (1) assigned to William, the Duke of Devonshire and in the one numbered (37) disposed to Henry Thornhill. That being said; below are cast in order of appearance in the wording of the Award and in the list of "References" to be seen, bottom right hand of the Plan.

Plot No	Name	Acres	Roods	Perches
1	Wm. Duke of Devonshire	200	1	32
2	Wm. Duke of Devonshire			
3	Michael Hartshorne, Rector of Langwith	7	2	35
4	Allen, Lord Bathhurst (in Langwith)	2		25
5	Allen, Lord Bathhurst (in Pleasley)	3	2	
6	Ashbourne Grammar School	4	2	
7	Wm. Duke of Devonshire	91	1	33
8	Wm. Duke of Devonshire			
26	Wm. Duke of Devonshire			
29	Wm. Duke of Devonshire			
9	Joseph Briggs	5	3	27
10	Wm. Fellowes	9	3	22
11	John Crosby and Sarah his wife	7		20
12	John Seddon	6		9
13	George West	2	1	20
14	John Bradley	5	2	9
15	Miss Elizabeth Hacker	8	2	28
16	Wm. Inman	7	1	11
17	Ffrancis Boler (Boaler)	3	3	4
18	Ashbourne School	17		21
19	Christopher Hatton		1	8
20	John Bristow, Esq		1	20
21	Ann Hart (Widow)		2	19
22	Stone quarry including the watering place, Holy Well	35	1	5
23	Henry Heath	12		
24	Thomas Taylor	8	1	9
25	Richard Heath of Littlewood House	12		5

27	Paul Swift			4
28	Robert Rockley	5	3	9
30	John Rockley (Son)	4	2	28
31	Wm. Barker, Rector of Pleasley	9	1	15
32	John Plumtre	33	2	1
33	Richard Heath of Shirebrook	24	2	9
34	Hercules Clay	11		34
35	Elizabeth Hacker	45	3	30
36	Matthew Heath	26	3	23
37	Henry Thornhill			
38	Henry Thornhill			
39	Henry Thornhill	167	3	24
40	John Hall, Gent, of Park Hall			8

References

1. The former Urban and Rural Districts were created by the Local Government Act of 1894. The first known surviving Minute Book of the Blackwell Rural District Council begins in 1897.
2. *William Senior's survey 1610-20*, Eds D.V. Fowkes and G.R. Potter, (Derbyshire Record Society)
3. *Idem*
4. Historical Notes for Bolsover District Council - Joan Sinar (unpublished)
5. Mr Morris was the first Chairman of the Blackwell Rural District Council
6. Derbyshire Record Office, Matlock, D749/10
7. *Derbyshire Feet of Fines 1323-1546*, Ed H.J. Garratt (Derbyshire Record Society)

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