

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY

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Cromford Canal at Codnor Park c.1955

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JOHN WARD

A BIOGRAPHY BY MAURICE BRASSINGTON

(Edited for publication by Nigel Brassington)

As many members will know, Maurice Brassington was a noted local amateur archaeologist with a special interest in Roman Derby. As an allied part of this interest, he researched the life of John Ward, a fellow amateur archaeologist of an earlier era.

Family History

John Ward knew little of the origin of his family beyond the fact that they lived in the villages to the east of Worcester. In a letter to his nephew he wrote:

"... most of them appear to have been farmers, and to have been old fashioned Tory churchmen, stodgy probably, but I have never heard of them being disreputable or unsteady. Respectable members of society, I feel sure, but none distinguished for intellectuality."

The earliest member of the family that can be traced is John Ward of Peopleton, who married Elizabeth Bluck on 27th September 1755 at the Church of the Holy Cross, Pershore. Their eldest son John (II) and his wife Betty had six children, the eldest of which was John (III). He was baptised at the village of Aston White Ladies in 1792. His parents must have apprenticed him to the joinery trade, for it would appear that he spent his adult life working as a cabinet-maker in Worcester. His wife Susan was of Welsh extraction, born in 1789 at Kimbolton, Herefordshire. She was lively, excitable, fond of music and company, but given to occasional bouts of depression. She had three children: Caroline born in 1823, John (IV) on the 28th April 1824, and Joseph in 1827. Caroline, who never married, became a milliner, whilst John and Joseph followed their father's trade. In the 1820s the family lived in Wylde Lane, Worcester.

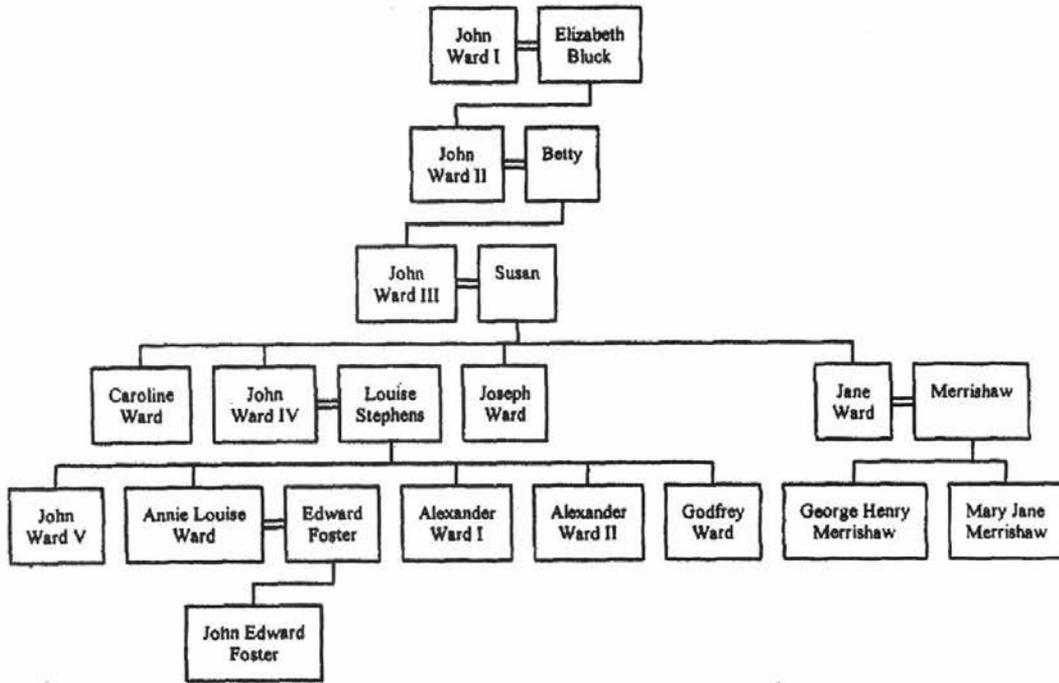
Ten years later on the 28th April 1834 in a nearby house, Louisa Stephens was born, who, at the age of 21, became the wife of John Ward (IV). Alexander Stephens, her father, was by trade a monumental mason, as had his forebears for many generations. Her mother Ann was the eldest of the three daughters of Henry and Hannah Crisp.

During the winter of 1850-1, John (IV) and his brother Joseph came to Derby and formed a partnership. They took over the well-established Cabinet-making & Upholstery business of Joseph Woollatt at 9 Iron Gate. Their parents and sister remained in Worcester.

Louisa Stephens was an accomplished needlewoman and her embroidery was sold by the partners. On the 5th April 1855, when the business in Derby was firmly established, John (IV) married Louisa at Worcester. They set up house in St. Ann's Terrace, Kedleston Road, where on the 8th February 1856 John (V) was born. Soon afterwards the family moved to 6 Friargate, where on the 17th November 1857 a daughter, Annie Louisa, was born. Louisa was a strong capable energetic young woman. Despite having two young children and being pregnant with a third, she created the Berlin Wool Repository and sold embroidery silks. By 1860 the family had moved, for the last time, to a shop with accommodation above at St. Peter's Bridge. Her second son Alexander was born there. Louisa employed a 16 year old girl as nurse and shop-maid.

Joseph married Jane Merrishaw, a Derby widow three years his senior with a three year old daughter. Caroline moved to Derby and opened a Boarding & Lodging House in Stafford Terrace, New Uttoxeter Road. This was a new development at the corner of Junction Street, not far from the Diocesan Training College. Across the road was the cemetery where eventually the whole family was to be buried. The house was demolished in August 1986.

The Family Tree of John Ward



Education

By 1861, John (V) was five years old and described in the April census as a scholar. It is not known which school he attended, but Louisa who was a *'staunch church woman'* would doubtless send her son to a school that was under the control of the established church. He would have been instructed in *'reading, writing and arithmetic'* at the probable cost of 3d per week. Eventually his sister Annie would also attend, but not Alexander, who died when only two years old.

As a scholar John did not excel, but being an imaginative child was fond of ruins, particularly castles. He would, when taken into the country, build one with loose stones and in imagination invest the structure with medieval romance and glorious deeds. At other times he would erect a cathedral out of half a dozen sticks and by humming furnish it with an organ. Despite John's addiction to day-dreaming, his father had hopes that his son would enter the medical profession. At the age of nine or ten years he was sent to the Diocesan School, a boarding and day school situated in Friar Gate. This school, whose headmaster was Philip Edward Hammond, was favoured by the tradesmen of the town because the curriculum was not that of the grammar school, but was biased towards the commercial.

In 1866 Louisa gave birth to identical twin sons, Alexander and Godfrey. Sadly her husband, whose health had been declining, was not destined to see these children grow up, for on the 14th November 1868 at the early age of 44 he died. Louisa, now a young widow with four children to support, needed all her energy and strength. She still employed a domestic servant, which was undoubtedly a necessity, for also living with her at this time was Rebecca Crisp, a blind maiden aunt. Her husband had willed Louisa the management of the wool shop for life, at the discretion of his brother Joseph and his friend Leonard Brookes. The family of Joseph Ward, beside his wife and step-daughter, consisted of a son George Henry born in 1857 and a daughter Mary Jane born in 1860. With the death of his brother, the partnership was dissolved and the business suffered a set-back. Although he had to give up his house in Gower Street and live over the shop in Iron Gate, he still employed two men, three boys and a domestic servant.

Louisa must have found her son's progress at school disappointing and wondered if the fee of £5 per annum was being well spent. John found his studies boring and day-dreamed whenever he had an opportunity. In his free time he would roam the countryside and was wont to improve on his early building projects by erecting elaborate

ruins in the woods around Little Eaton and Coxbench. He was not, however, mentally lazy for he worked hard at the disciplines he set himself and school lessons took second place to astronomy, botany and conchology. John left school in 1871 at the age of 15 years. He wished to train as an architect, as did his great friend Edward Foster who lived next door. However, out of deference to his late father's wishes he was apprenticed to Mr. Hart the Chemist at 7 Sadler Gate. He continued his rambles in the countryside and began to make notes and sketches of old buildings and geological features. Sometimes he was accompanied on these walks by his cousin George. Both young men became competent artists.

In 1875, at the age of 19, John produced for his employer Hart's Almanack, a pamphlet that was issued annually. In later years, under his editorship, this booklet was to contain many interesting notes and comments on Derby history. However, his '*pet hobby*' at this time was geology, which led him to anthropology; its study also to some extent inspired by biblical considerations.

Louis Figuier's book *Primitive Man* made a great impression upon him. Also, the Darwinian doctrine on the evolution of species was a burning issue at the time and John endeavoured to come to terms with it. Whilst conceding that geological strata were of a great age and acknowledging the antiquity of man, he still considered himself an orthodox Christian. A year or two later he read Huxley's American addresses upon evolution. Feeling the weight of Huxley's arguments he read the addresses with tears in his eyes, but his Christian upbringing was strong and he was not at that time prepared to abandon it. Eventually he did concede and henceforth looked upon the Bible as authoritative in spiritual matters only. From then on he pursued his hobbies '*untrammelled with theological considerations*'.

John obtained his Pharmaceutical Diploma on the 24th October 1878 and, at the age of 22, his apprenticeship came to an end. He now had more time for his '*intellectual studies*'. His natural inquisitive nature had been totally lacking in any previous member of the Ward family. His grandfather, who died in July 1877, was regarded by John as stolid, dependable and respectable. However, he considered that any mental ability he possessed had been inherited from his mother's family, the Crisps. He later traced this family back to a Jacobite refugee living in Warwickshire.

John must have been fond of his great aunt Rebecca Crisp. She had been a governess and, although blind, did not intend to be a burden on the family. The census of April 1881 describes her, a few days before her death at the age of 73, as an assistant. The same census gives the information that John's sister, Annie, was at this time acting as her brother's housekeeper. The following year on the 19th September she married Edward Foster, the boy next door, not in her own church (St. Peter's) but at the Baptist Chapel, Watson Street, Derby. Edward Foster, who had served his apprenticeship at Handysides of Derby, was loaned by that firm to Cardiff Corporation to design the gates and roof for the Indoor Market. After his design for the Clarence Bridge was accepted he decided to remain in Cardiff and became Assistant City Engineer. His son, John Edward, was born on the 8th September 1883. There exists amongst family papers an illustrated folded page of doggerel that was concocted by the brothers to commemorate their sister's first child:

*A Poetical Effusion. Written by Master Alick Ward
Drawn by his Bro. John.*

*All about a soul mixed up with a few lbs of Protoplasm & Gristle
& Linen-Rags collectively called John Edward Foster.*

*Alick and Godfrey, Mamma and John
Get four Rods and lay hard on:
If he still continue wild
Spare not the rod, but spare the child.
But if he is good and does nothing amiss,
Love him and hug him and give him a kiss.*

John Ward, Chemist

John began trading as Messrs J. Ward & Co. in October 1881, in what was then the progressive suburb of Rose Hill. The shop, formerly Crosby's the Chemists, was situated at the corner of Loudon Street and Normanton Road. It was to continue to trade under the name of John Ward until well after the Second World War. Pharmaceutical preparations were stocked in quantity, not only for the medical profession but also for the general public. John published the composition of his medicines, assuming that the public would prefer the

known medicaments of a qualified chemist to the '*nostrums of the speculative quack*'. John purchased the rights to his predecessor's well-known *Crossby's Cough Mixture*. *Contra-Grippe* was recommended for influenza, and *Cross-keys Oil* for rheumatism and sprains. Perfume was also distilled as '*The best of scents, choice pleasant & sweet*'. All these products were sold at what was called '*reformed prices*'. John was to follow this profession for the next 12 years.

From his method of trading and oblique references in his writings, it would appear that he was of the Liberal persuasion, though he did not concern himself to any great extent with politics. A remark made by his brother-in-law, Edward Foster, that both he and John taught at the Ragged School indicates a family concern for the less fortunate. Eighty children, neglected by their parents and too dirty for the Church Schools, attended this school.

Bone Caves and Dale Abbey

John's interest in primitive man led him to read Pengelly's Manchester lectures on the excavation of Kent's Hole, Torquay. William Pengelly, in early life a fisherman from Looe, was a self-taught archaeologist. For over twelve years (1868-1880) he excavated in Kent's Cavern, a horizontal cave system some three acres in extent. In the process he retrieved some 70,000 animal and human remains, together with flints and hand axes. John wrote to Pengelly expressing his interest and all the literature relating to the work was made available to him. Then, with mounting enthusiasm, he studied William Boyd Dawkin's book on *Cave Hunting* (1874) and visited many of the Derbyshire '*bone caves*' and examined the remains '*deposited in museums*'.

John still, however, retained his childhood fascination with the medieval period. It was later said that he assisted in the excavation of Dale Abbey that was undertaken in 1878-9 by the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, but there is no evidence to support this belief. In an article he later wrote concerning the Abbey, he stated that he read the report on the excavations published in *the Reliquary*, but did not say that he took part. He visited the site many times to examine the structure in detail.

Captain Beamish, RE, and William St. John Hope supervised the labourers who were employed to excavate the abbey. St. John Hope, who had made a special study of monastic buildings, was an undergraduate at Peterhouse, Cambridge and the son of the Rev. William Hope, Rector of St. Peter's, Derby. Despite being contemporaries and the son of his parish priest, John does not appear to have been acquainted with him at this time. St. John Hope had been educated at St. John's College, Hurstpierpoint, before entering university, and from 1881-5 he was a master in the King's School at Rochester. During that period he carried out a heavy programme of excavation on various abbey sites, amongst them, in 1883, Repton Priory. In the autumn of 1885 he applied for, and obtained, the Assistant Secretaryship of the Society of Antiquaries.

Castleton, Rooke Pennington and John Tym

John Ward loved the rural scene and was always pleased when the chimneys of Derby, which he described as '*a town of football and chapels*', sank below the horizon. He later wrote:

"... bustle and crush are all very well once-in-a-way, and so are mighty tors and precipices, but the true heart soon yearns for the quieter scenes of rural England, the copse-clad knoll, the shaded lane, the nestling cottages and old world spire.

*To breathe the breath of the cowslip and primrose sweet,
With the sky above our head, and the grass beneath our feet."*

The last two lines were paraphrased from Thomas Hood's *The Song of the Shirt*.

Early in the 1880s, John began to study the antiquities of the countryside in depth. Any church, barrow or stone circle that he read about he would visit and examine. In this way he began to accrue a vast store of first-hand knowledge. Unfortunately the need to manage his shop precluded him from taking holidays longer than one or two days, and this limited him to his own district. The mountains of Wales, the beauties of the Lake District and the moors of Scotland were for the most part denied to him. The restriction on his free time he found irksome when inclement weather confined him indoors. To quote his own words: '*of all dismal places under the sun it is a Peak village in sloppy weather*'.

Great distress in the district had resulted when easily worked lead was discovered in Australia, making the Peak District mines uneconomical. Once, when John was exclaiming how hungry he was after a hard day among the beauties of nature, a local man (probably John Tym) made the pithy query: '*Scenery did not fill your belly then?*'.

John began to write accounts of his rambles and these appeared in the local press. The first article he received any payment for was titled *Lazy Days in Derbyshire*, a description of two days in the Peak that was printed in the *Derbyshire Advertiser* in October 1886. The payment was, however, very small and therefore called an '*honorarium*'. John made Castleton the base for his wanderings in the High Peak. He invariably lodged with Mrs. Hodgson who lived near the church, a kindly old woman who always welcomed him with open arms. At Whitsuntide he often managed to stay for four or five days. When he went rambling he could always rely on his satchel being filled with all the delicacies his '*Peak mother*' could cram in. These were not few as she was a splendid cook. He considered these visits among the happiest days of his life.

He soon made the acquaintance of the local geologist and mineralogist, John Tym (1829-1901), a Methodist of the old school who was steeped in local folklore and knew every yard of the district. Through him he met Rooke Pennington (1844-1887), a Bolton lawyer who had a country house near Castleton. Pennington's major contribution to archaeology was his book *Notes on the Barrows and Bone Caves of Derbyshire* published in 1877. It describes how he, along with John Tym and friends, made many excursions into the countryside to dig into barrows and burrow in bone caves. This energetic and often light-hearted activity would be considered vandalism by the standards of the present day. At that time it was considered, certainly by Pennington, as scientific investigation. Unfortunately, the necessity of recording accurately the position of each find in its stratum was only just beginning to be appreciated. These were still the '*buccaneering*' days of archaeology where the prize was the acquisition of prime specimens. In this way Pennington built up the collection later displayed in the museum he opened in 1876 at Castleton, allowing public access at set times. In a room below the museum John Tym established a Spar and Marble Shop from which he traded as a dealer in minerals and fossils. Unfortunately, the relations between Tym and Pennington eventually became strained and in January 1885 reached breaking point. John Ward heard much from both parties of their grievances. On The 5th October 1886, nine months before his death, Pennington wrote to John cataloguing the misdeeds of his former friend:

"In the early part of last year, Tym who had looked after the museum up to about twelve months previously became bankrupt. I had been obliged to discharge him from any interest in my affairs owing to continual speculation on his part. He not only helped himself to all sorts of things belonging to me but actually both embezzled money and applied money to his own purposes which I had given him to pay my bills. From what has come to light since he left Castleton after his bankruptcy. I should think he is a thorough-paced a scamp as ever lived. I understand he circulated all sorts of tales about the museum; asserting that practically everything in it belonged to him."

John came to the conclusion that there were faults on both sides. It was fortunate for Tym that he managed to obtain in January 1885 the post of Curator of the Vernon Park Museum, Stockport, where he had worked part-time since 1874. John subsequently met him on several occasions, but after the illness and death of Pennington, on the 5th July 1887 at the early age of 43, his visits to Castleton gradually came to an end. He transferred his base to Matlock. The contents of Rooke-Pennington's Castleton Museum were sold in February 1888, being purchased in the main by Bolton Museum.

George Fletcher

John Ward's interest in geology brought him into contact with George Fletcher, who was described by Dr. Richardson in his *Citizens Derby* as an '*aspiring and rather odd man*'. On leaving school, Fletcher had become a telegraphist with the Midland Railway Company at Derby, qualifying in electrical engineering through evening classes. These classes had been started in the 1870's by Dr. W. Davies. Fletcher continued his education with this '*Local Lecture Syndicate*' and amassed no less than thirteen certificates. His instructors considered that he was wasted as a railway telegraphist and invited him to join the staff as a Science Demonstrator. By 1891 he was headmaster and principal science teacher. His daughter was to become the well-known flower arranger Constance Spry.

John Ward, Archaeologist - Duffield Castle

On Easter Monday 1886, a youth digging on Castle Field, Duffield, uncovered some old masonry. The name of the field suggested that here had once stood Duffield Castle, but since not a stone of that structure was visible above ground, the exact site was not known. The discovery aroused much local interest; a committee was formed and funds were raised which enabled the site to be excavated. Throughout the summer a gang of workmen gradually uncovered the foundations of one of the largest Norman keeps in England. In plan it was almost square, 95' x 93', with walls 15' thick. This huge fortress of Robert de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, had been confiscated by the Crown in the thirteenth century and demolished by order of the King.

The Rev. Dr. Cox, who wrote copiously on antiquarian matters, had taken over the editorship of the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* from St. John Hope. He consulted John Ward on the geological structure of the bed rock upon which the castle was built. John produced a sketch of the feature that, with his observations, appeared on pages 159-60, Vol. ix of the journal.

John Ward was now 30 years of age and from this time onwards became engrossed in archaeological work. Although not a 'clubbable' man, preferring to carry out research independently, he now became a member of the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Two years later he was elected to the governing council of that body.

Haddon Fields

Owing to ill-health, Joseph Ward sold his business to Smith & Son in 1884 and retired to Crich Carr near to Whatstandwell. His neighbour and physician was Dr. Greenhough, and through that circumstance John Ward became acquainted with him. In 1887, Dr. Greenhough moved to Youlgreave. Like John, he was interested in archaeology, and when it became known that workmen had discovered a burial on Haddon Fields he immediately visited the site. Recognising the interment as prehistoric he made notes and sketches of the remains. A garbled account of this find appeared in the local press and on reading it John at once wrote to Dr. Greenhough for further details. An extract of the reply is given below:

'My dear Sir

Sept 2nd 1887

The account in the paper relative to this find is not quite correct.

- 1. There was only one human skeleton found, contracted in the position you describe, with the head to the west.*
- 2. It was in a cist with very large slabs over it, one of gritstone of great thickness over the head, the others of limestone laid transverse to the body. Unfortunately the labourer (who was getting stone for making a mere and building a wall) smashed these up and in doing so also broke the skull to fragments.*
- 3. They were found in a mound, that is the body had evidently been interred on a level with the ground and stones placed over it; the man had carted four cart loads away when I saw it.*
- 4. There was no pottery found although we looked very carefully, plenty of flint, chert and sandstone all foreign to the ground surrounding the interment.*
- 5. The handle of a sword is a flight of imagination. A hooked piece of iron very rusty was found but I think this got there accidentally, it was not found with the skeleton but in the stones at the top, at least I have that opinion. It was found before I got there.*
- 6. The body rested, as it were, on a bed of flint or chert with its head west and feet towards the north-east, a short distance from the body was the lower jaw of a pig, also teeth of a pig.*
- 7. Underneath the body and bed of flint were found the bones of another animal (probably elk) but only a few of the bones, the ulna and a large flat bone very short but strong and in a good state of preservation. A portion of the head with a short horn. Several pieces of polished bone evidently used as ornaments, one has been perforated.*

The above remains of our illustrious ancestor are in my surgery where you can find them surrounded with every modern convenience in the shape of paper, cupboard and drawers. I shall be glad to shew them to you at any time. I may say that I intend opening another [barrow], when I will let you know and you can then bring your pickaxe and spade, also magnifying lens, geological, anthropological and zoological books. I have obtained the assistance of a photographer so that you need not cart your apparatus nor developing plates ...'

A short time later John spent two days with Dr. Greenhough and they dug on the site in the rain without much result. On the 1st March 1888 Dr. Greenhough wrote to John, after reading his account of the interment in the *High Peak News*, informing him that most of the local people who had seen the article said it was a little beyond them. 'Some of the words they could not spell, much more pronounce'. The letter continued:

'It would be something fearful to go barrow digging in this weather. Haddon Field, in some places, is five or six feet deep in snow. One of the men who found the interment, after seeing the account in the paper, wanted to know who was the person that thought it was a sheep's skeleton. I told him that Shimwell gave me to understand that he himself said it was a sheep's carcass whereupon he was a 'little injured in feelings' and said that Shimwell was a man given to romancing.'

While John was at Youlgreave, Dr. Greenhough borrowed from someone in the village a pocket book that had belonged to Thomas Bateman. This contained notes and sketches of excavations that had probably been copied by Bateman from notes written by Hayman Rooke. It is not known what became of the book, but John took the opportunity to copy out many of the drawings. In 1876 Thomas William Bateman, Thomas Bateman's son, loaned his father's archaeological collection to the Weston Park Museum at Sheffield. Since his father's death this collection had lain at Lombersdale House near Youlgreave. The collection remained on loan until 1893 when it was purchased from the Bateman family.

During November 1887, whilst John was preparing his report on the Haddon Fields barrow, he received news from Cardiff that after a short illness his sister had died. Her death occurred some six months after the birth of her third child.

Rains Cave

In March 1888 Lord Scarsdale informed the Derbyshire Archaeological Society that in a cave near Brassington fragments of pottery and a large quantity of bones had been discovered. The cave was situated on the eastern side of an outcrop of dolomite rock (then called Longcliffe, but now known as Rainster Rocks). While sheltering from a storm Isaac and Edmund Rains, the sons of a tenant farmer, noticed some bones protruding from the cave floor, which they pulled up. Later, with a friend, they made frequent visits and found many more bones.

After members of the council had inspected the cave, it was decided to seek advice from Professor Boyd Dawkins. The professor replied that the discovery should certainly be followed up and promised to come and examine the finds. Some months later on the 14th August he eventually visited the site. From a heap in the farmer's barn he rapidly picked out the bones of men, oxen, horses, deer, goats, sheep, hogs, hares, badgers, dogs, wildcats and birds. He considered that this material belonged to the Neolithic and Bronze Ages. He also suggested that the British Association be notified and an application be made for a grant towards the expense of excavating the cave. A provisional committee, which included John Ward, was appointed to watch over the matter. As they did not receive a reply from the British Association, the committee decided to block the entrance to the cave to prevent further intrusion (*Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, Vol XI, 1889).

The Roman Fort at Little Chester

Little Chester, a village situated on the northern outskirts of Derby, was incorporated with the town in 1877, after which building development rapidly took place. In 1886 Alfred Seale Haslam began the construction of terraced housing along Old Chester and City Roads. This area was known to be the site of a Roman fort and Haslam, who was a member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, had given orders that any ancient objects that were dug up were to be preserved and not sold as curios. However, many artefacts were broken through negligence. W. Thompson Watkins, a well-known antiquarian, wrote an account of the potsherds and coins that

were sent to him and John Ward commented on the quernstone fragments. Their reports appeared in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal* for 1888.

In the autumn of 1888 labourers, digging a foundation trench to the south of Manor House Farm, discovered four feet below the surface a thin layer of gravel. Below this was a layer of black earth that contained Roman pottery, charcoal and animal bones. John Keys, a retired hop merchant, hearing of this find promptly visited the site and collected all the potsherds that had been found. These he showed to John Ward. After examining the sherds, John accompanied Keys to the farm. It was while they were inspecting the find spot that they made the acquaintance of Thomas Mottram, the next door neighbour, who invited them to examine his garden. Whilst doing so they found among some ferns a block of gritstone some 20" high. This stone had been roughly shaped to represent a shrine within which was a crudely carved relief of a nude man. From the incised representation of a wand held in the left hand, John deduced that the figure depicted Mercury, patron of travellers, shepherds, traders and robbers. This carving, which was later acquired by John Keys had been found some years previously by Thomas Mottram's uncle, John Williams, when digging in a field near the river. The relief had been placed amongst the rockery, which had been built from stone that had been taken from the remains of an ancient wall that formed the western boundary of the garden. John Keys rightly concluded that this masonry formed part of the eastern wall of the Roman fort.

In July 1905 John Ward wrote to Haverfield, who was collecting information for his *Victoria County History*:

'The piece of wall still visible, is for more than half its width built upon by a cow shed, erected about 20 years ago; the remaining portion has been much removed and replaced by garden soil. Much of the removed stone is used in rockeries in the garden. The material used in the wall is millstone-grit, and it appears to be grouted into a rocky mass, very hard to remove. The wall cannot be less than 9 feet wide.'

Thomas Mottram had a small collection of pottery, quern fragments and coins, all found at various times in his garden. His uncle, however, had a much larger collection that he had obtained when the foundations of the railway bridge, over Old Chester Road, were dug in 1876. From this group of pottery John Ward borrowed a mortarium that he exhibited in his shop window. Another mortarium sherd carried on the rim a potter's name that appeared to read VIVIVS. This was translated by some as Vivian, probably accounting for the name Vivian Street. John Ward believed that the pottery found on the Manor House Farm was from a Roman rubbish heap that had, in ancient times, been laid down to form a foundation for a gravel path. He eventually drew many of the finds and published them in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, 1889. His drawings were later utilised by Francis Haverfield in his *Victoria County History of Derbyshire* (1905).

Apart from the road system, John Ward was not at this time greatly interested in the Roman period, preferring the prehistoric. He did not pursue his investigations at Little Chester to any great extent. He did, however, from time to time correspond with Thomas Mottram. Mr. Mottram was, after the death of the Rev. Samuel Brasher (1817-1881), the only resident to take any interest in the history of Little Chester. George Bailey, a fellow member of the Archaeological Society, commented on the local indifference (*Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*, 1890, p. 175):

'.. when the Great Northern Railway, or one of the roads in Strutt's Park was made, we saw several brass coins in the possession of a man, and on questioning him, were told that a man had found a lot in a pot which also contained a parchment on which was writing. 'But yer know, sir, it wer that kind er riting nobory on earth cud read so hey chucked it int fire an bont it!'

[It was to be 35 years before any excavation took place at Little Chester. In 1964, to facilitate the expansion of Pickford's Garage, Manor House Farm was demolished. A further expansion four years later led to the destruction of Mottram's House. Early in 1984 the garage site was sold to a property developer and in 1988-9 houses were built on the site.]

The Death of Joseph Ward.

On 15 August 1888 Joseph Ward died at his house at Crich Carr and was buried in Derby. He was the last of his generation, Caroline having died on New Year's Eve 1881. His son George, now married, lived in Derby earning a precarious living as an art master and picture restorer.

Rambles and Dale Abbey

John continued with his rambles, making Matlock his base, accompanied at times by members of his family, his cousin George or his brother. Field-work in structural physiographical geology was still an absorbing pastime and the quarries in the Amber Valley were visited, often in association with George Fletcher. However, his most constant companion at this time was his friend John Stenson. It was about this time that John began to study the remains of Dale Abbey in detail. He regarded it as a research project and published the results of his work in the *Derbyshire Advertiser*; this material formed the basis for a future book.

Harborough Rocks

Harborough Rocks are part of a conspicuous dunstone outcrop situated in rugged and almost treeless moorland situated a mile to the north-east of the Derbyshire village of Brassington. On the northern side the land slopes gently, but on the southern the strata are broken into bold tiers of rock resembling a giant stairway. Between the vertical edges lie intervening terraces of green sward that vary in width from a few to a hundred feet. When digging in a sloping hollow, which connected a lower terrace to a higher one, Cornelius Gregory, a farmer's son who lived at the farm at the foot of the rocks, uncovered a number of bones and potsherds. John Ward heard of this find in April 1889, no doubt from the Rains brothers who were cousins of Cornelius Gregory. Visiting the site he found the potsherds lying where they had been dug up some months before. Noting that they were handmade and of great age he decided to organise some exploratory diggings to determine the nature of the site. On Friday 31st May 1889 these investigations commenced.

Assisting John were Cornelius Gregory, the two Rains brothers and several other young people. The first operation was to extend Cornelius Gregory's trench up the slope to the terrace above. Other smaller test holes were dug in the terrace and in various places along the cliff side. The material recovered from these holes and from mole heaps indicated that the pottery scatter extended over a considerable area on the south-western side of the hill. The bulk of the material, however, came from the original trench that yielded rim fragments representing some 45-50 different vessels. Mixed up with the pottery were several whetstones, also animal bones (mostly of pig and oxen, with some sheep, horse and deer). John believed that the dark soil layer that contained these finds was the decomposed remains of refuse that had been thrown down from the terrace above. He deduced that this terrace, an ill-defined oval some 70' in diameter, was the site of a native hut (or huts for the pottery spread along the cliff suggested there was more than one). The inhabitants had enjoyed a not insubstantial fare of pork and beef, with exceptional variants of mutton and venison.

The experts whom John consulted included Mr. Franks of the British Museum, Professor Boyd Dawkins and the Rev. Canon Greenwell. All agreed that the finds were of the early Iron Age. However, oyster shells and a wheel-turned potsherd that had been uncovered by Cornelius Gregory, led John to the conclusion that the settlement existed in Roman times. He doubted that the Celtic tribes were capable of transporting perishable seafood so far inland from the coast, whereas the Romans with their efficient road and water systems did so in bulk. It seemed logical to John that in this isolated spot a small group of Celtic hill people followed their traditional way of life with minimum contact with the occupying power.

On the brow of the hill above a large cave stands a rock that has been roughly carved, at no distant date, into the shape of an armchair. Carved on it are the initials EH and the date 1757. About 200' away is another isolated rock that has a superficial resemblance to a pulpit. Between these two rocks John had noticed the inconspicuous remains of a burial mound some 46' in diameter. On Saturday 1st June he set his young helpers the task of cutting trenches across the barrow. A stone burial chamber was discovered near the edge of the circle. The capstone had been pushed off and the interments disturbed at some indeterminate date when the mound had been almost totally demolished. The fragmentary bones of sixteen individuals were found both within and outside the chamber. What little remained of the original mound suggested that it had been a round barrow, but the excavation revealed features that John considered to be of a chambered tomb (an early type of burial having an underground passage or gallery, giving access from the outside to a burial chamber deep in the mound). In the present case, the arrangement was curious if the remains were indeed those of a chambered tomb. The burial chamber was near to the edge of the mound and three aligned stones, taken to be the remains of a gallery, pointed inwards toward the centre. The reverse of what would be expected. Near the centre of the mound were found some delicately chipped flint arrowheads. No implements of any kind were found in the burial chamber. The dead lay on their sides in the usual contracted or 'doubled-up' posture. In physique they were small and delicate people when compared with their successors, buried in the round barrows, who were a tall and powerful race.

The results of these energetic and enjoyable two days of exploratory digging were quite remarkable. The material recovered, belonging as it did to two widely separated periods, was of great interest. However, the success of the excavations had an unfortunate sequel. John, it seems, had not informed the trustees of the property of his plans to excavate, and when they found out all further digging was banned and the finds confiscated. This action prevented any further investigation of the site for many years. When the embargo was eventually lifted John's work was not followed up.

Waterlow

At the time of the enclosures of the moorland, many burial mounds were utilised as quarries and the material from them used to construct walls. The Rains brothers, knowing the site of one such robbed mound, a small round barrow called Waterlow, decided to undertake their own investigation. The barrow lay near to the railway line not far from Brassington. All that remained of it was a stony gravelly patch. At the centre of this area the boys commenced digging and at a depth of only 7-8" a female skeleton was found, curled up on the bedrock with the head pointing southwards. No trace of a cist was found protecting the sparse remains. The boys were disappointed that nothing more was found, but John pointed out that no relic of bygone times was worthless, not even a broken skeleton from a small barrow. Each find had to be scientifically examined and placed on permanent record; otherwise its testimony was irrevocably lost.

Rains Cave

The circulars issued in May 1889 asking for subscriptions toward a systematic exploration of Rain's Cave had produced few promises of assistance. The Rev. John Charles Cox therefore suggested to John that he should undertake the excavation on behalf of the Society, using the money that had been collected. John took up the task with the greatest enthusiasm, describing it as the answer to a prayer. It gave him the opportunity to put into practice Pengelly's system of excavation, which he had studied so many years previously.

The cave was not an inviting prospect. Described as a dark damp creep hole, the main chamber was in plan an irregular oblong 16' wide by 23' long. The roof was so low that there were few places where a person could stand upright. John explained the method of excavation to be followed to Isaac and Edmund Rains, after whom he had named the cave. They started work on Thursday 7th November 1889 by enlarging the cave entrance. John was present on the two following days but afterwards the brothers, assisted by a young boy, spent 6 days removing rubble from the interior and carrying out blasting operations to reduce in size a large rock that lay across the cave entrance. It was not until 26th December that John again visited the site, when Cornelius Gregory joined the team, supplanting the young boy. The cave floor was then considerably lower and tolerably level. Following Pengelly, a datum line was stretched horizontally from a fixed point at the entrance to another at the back of the chamber. Hanging from this datum line, a foot apart, were lines stretching down to the cave floor. These divided the cave area into vertical strips. Further horizontal lines divided these vertical strips into squares. The cave earth could then be dug out in cubes, each one of which was given an alphanumeric reference. Any objects found were wrapped together and labelled according to the cube in which they were found. The cave earth and a red marly soil were removed slowly, first by loosening it with a pick, keeping a sharp lookout for any objects of interest. The spoil was then shovelled into a hand barrow and examined carefully. Finally, the two who carried out the barrow re-examined its contents when it was tipped out into the open air.

John Ward's method of excavation was no worse and probably better than that carried out in the Manifold Valley by the Rev. G.H. Wilson some 40 years later. Between the 13th January and 10th February 1890 the three boys worked for 12 days without supervision. John returned on 27th February accompanied by his brother Alexander and stayed some five hours. After this the boys worked a further five days until John arrived on 11th March. From that time until the end of the month his visits were more frequent.

John kept a record of the hours worked and presumably the boys were paid by the hour out of the '*excavation fund*'. In the 1890s the pioneering excavator Pitt Rivers had paid his labourers 15 shillings a week, with beer money, a wage then considered generous.

Excavation of Rains Cave

A carbonaceous layer of soil at the back of the cave yielded many animal bones and fragments of pottery. John considered this to be refuse accumulated when the cave was used as a dwelling. He believed that there were periods of occupation and periods when the cave was used as a charnel house. Many disconnected human bones were found; these puzzled John, who wrote:

"The scattered human bones are a mystery. Still, in one case we found some bones of a skeleton in their proper order; several leg bones unbroken, which would scarcely have been the case if they had referred to a case of cannibalism as they would then have been broken to extract the marrow. The potsherds are all of one character unlike both the Romano-British and the hand-made Harborough pottery. They are characteristic of the British sepulchral ware. This leads me to think that the human bones were introduced by way of burial in the so-called bronze age. The small burying area may well have necessitated the disturbance of the older burials with each new introduction ..."

Some of the bones belonged to very young children but John believed that if such a wretched and damp cave had been used as a dwelling-place the residents must indeed have been a miserable and poverty stricken group. He considered it more likely that the cave was used temporarily by passing nomadic hunters both before and after it was used for sepulchral purposes. It was evident from the quantity of bones recovered that animals had gained access to the cave after man had ceased to use it. Boyd Dawkins added wolf, fox, hedgehog and water-rat to his previous list. Romano-British material found at the base of the rocks and a lathe turned spindle whorl of hard black shale found in the cave indicated occupation in historical times. In this period the cave was not used to any great extent; probably a shelter in storm (as the Rains brothers had used it) or a hiding place in time of danger.

Excavations were suspended at the end of March 1890, but the study of the packaged remains occupied John for many months. His faith in Pengelly's system was, however, justified for it enabled him to reconstruct the history of the cave which would not have been possible otherwise.

Merger of the Societies

At this time John was involved in an attempt to revitalise the Natural History section of the Archaeological Society by sponsoring a proposal to amalgamate with the Derbyshire Natural History and Philosophical Society. Natural history in the Archaeological Society was almost entirely neglected; so much so that an attempt had been made to drop it from the title. The Philosophical Society, however, had members specialising in natural history. It was considered that a merger of the two societies would be mutually beneficial. The motion was successful and H. Arnold Bemrose and George Fletcher joined the Council of the Society as representatives of the former Committee of the Philosophical Society.

Incense Cups

In March or April 1890 a large Bronze Age urn, fourteen inches high and ten inches across the mouth, was found by workmen in the process of quarrying on Stanton Moor. The urn, which was devoid of ornamentation, was sealed only by a thin piece of flagstone and lay just below the surface. It was more than half full of burnt bones. However, what was most interesting, lying on the deposit was a so-called '*incense cup*'. These small vessels were supposed by some antiquaries to have contained incense at the cremation; hence the name. This example was only two inches high and two and three quarter inches in diameter. It was beautifully modelled in fine clay and decorated with incised zig-zag lines. The two vessels received rough treatment at the hands of the workmen and might have been destroyed had not Joseph Heathcote, a local farmer, rescued them.

Some weeks later a second urn and cup, '*the old man's snuff box*' as a quarryman described it, was found near the same spot. Unfortunately, the urn was broken up and the sandstone '*incense cup*' found inside it badly damaged. Mr. Heathcote managed to retrieve the cup, which was three inches in diameter and globular in shape. John was called in to comment on these rare vessels. He formed the opinion that no mound had been thrown up over the grave and that the urns found were probably two of a trio; there seemed to be a mystic meaning to the number three. In 1787, Rooke had examined a small mound within a so-called '*Druids' Circle*' and found three urns, one of which contained an '*incense cup*'. Bateman, in 1852, had also found the remains of three urns and cups within a small stone circle. '*Incense cups*', rare in the Peak District, have always been found in association with urn burials, but what significance they had in the burial rite John did not know. Llewellyn Jewitt called them '*Immolation Urns*', intended to receive the ashes of an infant, perhaps sacrificed at the death of its mother. Another theory held that they carried the flame that ignited the funeral pyre.

Deepdale

At the time that John Ward was digging in Rains Cave, Micah Salt (a tailor) and Robert Millett (a builder) were exploring Thirst House Cave at Deepdale near Buxton. The cave had been known to generations of school boys,

who had played in the secluded dale. There was a belief that a miser's gold was hidden in the cave. Another version of the story was that the proceeds of a robbery was buried there. Thus children often searched the cave, and the discovery of the occasional Roman coin must have given credence to the old tales. In 1874, Robert Millett read Boyd Dawkins' *Cave Hunting* and from time to time dug in the cave. It was the finding of a bear's skull that started him digging in earnest. Micah Salt joined him and together they unearthed a large quantity of animal bones, numerous potsherds and artefacts, which they sent to Professor Boyd Dawkins for examination. The bones proved to be of red deer, sheep or goat, ox, horse, fox and hare; the pottery was of the prehistoric and Roman periods. The Professor expressed the wish to examine the cave, but apparently this did not materialise. On the 26th and 27th of December 1889 and again on the 14th of January more Roman brooches and ironwork were recovered. These were sent to the Rev. John Charles Cox who exhibited them at a Society meeting. John Ward was greatly interested, but also concerned that due to the manner of excavation evidence was being lost.

The Secretary wrote to the owner of the land, Mrs. Percival of Chelmorton, deprecating the unsystematic digging and proposed that the entrance to the cave be blocked. The reply to this letter was discussed at the Society's Council meeting held on the 4th June 1890, and it was resolved that John Ward be asked to see the cave and make a report. Accordingly, John wrote to Micah Salt expressing a wish to visit the cave. Micah Salt willingly agreed to the meeting and met John at the site. Access to the cave entailed a fifty foot scramble up a 45° scree slope to the base of a perpendicular limestone cliff. It was immediately obvious that the cave could not be excavated in a similar manner to Rains Cave, for it was at least ten times the size and had a wide entrance. The first chamber is at least 90 feet long, 15 feet wide and varies from 6 to 18 feet in height. Rearwards there are eight connecting caves of smaller size. Messrs. Salt and Millett were little more than treasure hunters and lacked the expertise to divide the cave into stratified sections, also the skilled labour necessary to excavate such a large cave was not available. In an attempt to minimise the damage being done to the archaeological strata, John suggested that certain areas should not be dug and this request appears to have been complied with. Robert Millett concentrated on exploring the inner reaches of the cave, whilst Micah Salt dug at the entrance and in the scree below the cave.

The cave was known to the old people of the district as Hob's Thirst House. Originally the name would have been Hob Hurst House, which by a process of phonetic corruption became '*The Hurst House*', then '*Th'hurst House*', and finally '*Thirst House*'. A hob-hurst was capricious wood elf; hurst being the Old English word for wood or forest. There was a local belief that Hob had charmed the spring below the cave and in consequence all who drank the water on Good Friday were cured of their ailments.

The Roman Period.

The presence of Romano-British occupation was overwhelming, far exceeding the earlier and later deposits. Professor Boyd Dawkin's opinion that the cave was used as a hiding place at the time of the English invasion is difficult to reconcile with the extensive Romano-British remains. The thickness of the Roman stratum indicated occupation over a long period of time. John at first thought the cave was a robber's den, but later favoured the belief that most or all of the objects recovered were left by miners who would have found the cave useful as a shelter, storehouse, or even as a dwelling. One theory that did not occur to John was that the cave, with its associated spring, was the site of a Romano-Celtic shrine.

John appears to have enjoyed his visit to Deepdale and during the three mile walk back to Buxton formed a friendship with Micah Salt that was to last for life. From now on he visited the cave frequently, but when writing any account of the excavations was always careful to stress that he was in no way connected with the work.

Rains Cave Revisited

In February 1891, John and his young helpers reopened Rains Cave. Although the results of the excavation had fallen short of what was anticipated, John had recorded his finds in minute detail and this enabled him to deduce certain incidents in the cave's history. A flint-knapper had at one time dwelt there. At another time an unfortunate man, crippled with rheumatism, had slipped whilst attempting to enter the cave and in falling broke both his thigh bones. This had resulted in a slow and painful death. Despite the fact that Pleistocene layers had not been reached, John decided to close the excavation as too much labour would have to be expended to reach these early layers and there was no guarantee that such deposits existed. Although John did not realise it, this was to be his last excavation in Derbyshire.

A Ramble in Derbyshire

In this late Victorian period, when John commenced his rambles, the countryside was still a quiet and peaceful place. Overhanging trees shaded the lanes and wild flowers grew in profusion. The only disturbance he would have encountered would have been the rumbling wheels and jingling harness of the occasional farm cart. Sadly, in South Derbyshire many of the picturesque half-timbered cottages have been replaced by brick houses lacking any architectural merit. The labourers who lived in these houses were paid 14s a week, led a simple life and travelled little. It was a period of agricultural depression, which was to last from 1870 to 1914. Mail coaches had long since ceased to run, the railways having taken their trade. To the south and south-west of Derby the gravel roads were generally well kept, but to the west they were loose and stony. Around Matlock the roads were macadam, which turned into white mud in wet weather and white dust when dry.

In this period class distinctions were clearly marked and those favoured by it considered it a divinely appointed social order that only trouble makers questioned. The ale house and the chapel were the only alternatives the labouring classes had to the monotonous round. Education at village schools consisted mainly of reading, writing and arithmetic. History teaching amounted to little more than learning by rote the '*dates of wars and deaths of kings*'. It is perhaps not surprising that there was little appreciation of surviving historical monuments. To the common people, a ruined building was valuable only as a quarry for materials. They had no inclination to enthuse over old stones. However, it was John's custom to seek out the '*oldest inhabitants*' and question them about earlier times. He found that old people were always willing to talk to him. The following is an account of a ramble undertaken on the 2 August 1891 over land now covered, in part, by modern housing estates.

Passing Merrill House, on his way to Sinfin Moor, John came to Moor Farm. Here he met a man who told him that the coppice marked 'Moor Plantation' on the map was commonly called 'Cavalry Wood'. It occupied the site where fifty or more years previously the Derbyshire Cavalry were drilled. Beyond it was the place where the Derby Races were formally held.

John continued his walk via a pleasant trackway that led him to Sinfin House, a substantial Georgian farmstead set in a prominent position. From here a road ran southwards to Arleston; it was little more than a cart track, but the panoramic view of the Vale of Trent obtained from it was exceedingly fine. The timber framed farmhouse of Arleston at the foot of the hill, close by the canal, incorporated what was thought to be the remains of a Preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers. John considered that the house was built about the time of James I, but that the north, west and south parts were of more recent date. On the northern side of the house a large hall had once stood and various interspersed mounds indicated the foundations of other ancient buildings. Around the sides of the field in which the house stood the remains of an enclosing moat and embankment could be traced.

South of the canal and railway, in the hamlet of Merrybower, stood an old thatched cottage. Here John met Mr. Mather, an old man of 76 years, who said he had been born in it and that his father and grandfather had also lived there. Before that it was an inn called The Apple Tree kept by a Mr. Camp. A piece of old oak was shown, recently sawn off the gable, in which the bars carrying the sign had been socketed. Close by, in a field behind some new cottages, the outline of a cock pit could still be traced. Mr. Mather remembered cock fighting taking place there in his younger days. The following is an eighteenth century advertisement:

"Amain of Cocks will be fought at Mr James Lovet's Booth, on Sinfin Moor, at the sign of the Crown, betwixt the Peak gentlemen and Derby gentlemen, to show and weigh forty-eight cocks of each side, for two guineas a battle, and twenty the Main, or Odd Battle. To fight in Silver Heels. To fight on Monday and Wednesday, the Race Days. Feeders: For Peak, Cock Abraham; for Derby, Joseph Martin. A Pair of Cocks will be on the Pit as soon as the race is over each day."

White's directory of 1857 (p. 250) states that around 1750 Merrybower was an open common. The inn at that time was kept by George Clay, a celebrated '*deer stealer*'. His house was a noted rendezvous for similar characters and, according to Mr. Mather, highwaymen.

The Fate of the Derbyshire Collections

John considered that the management and display of antiquities in provincial museums left much to be desired. The Derby Museum received much-needed criticism in this respect from John. The following letter, quoted in full, lists the deficiencies. At the time of writing the letter he probably did not realise that his interest in museum management was to change the course of his life. The Librarian, William Crowther, who was in charge of the

Derby Museum, was struggling to live down the scandal that his predecessor, Henry Allpass FRSL had in 1885 absconded with the petty cash; a circumstance that in future years was never referred to.

The Antiquary and the Derby Museum (1891).

To the editor of the Derby Mercury.

Dear Sir,

All right-minded Derbeians will thank Mr. Bailey and the Rev. Dr. Cox for their outspoken criticisms - all too lenient - on our municipal museum in the new (September) number of the above magazine. Permit me through your valuable paper to amplify several of their statements and to make a correction.

The writers rightly lament that our Museum 'is chiefly remarkable for its almost entire deficiency in the matter of antiquities, and this in a county which has probably yielded more pre-historic relics than any other of a like acreage in Great Britain'. How wealthy our county has been in this respect is well known. Take one department alone of this branch of archaeology - the ancient barrows or grave mounds. Some years ago I commenced to tabulate all published accounts of the openings of these curious burial places in Derbyshire and the adjacent parts of Staffordshire. The number of barrows, excluding the older 'long' variety has, so far, reached 390 on my list. Most of these were used again and again for interments, and the list gives particulars of some 600 of the more archeologically interesting of them.

A very large number were opened by the late Messrs Bateman and Carrington, and the relics they found were, upon the death of the former gentleman, removed from the private museum at Lombardale, near Youlgreave, to Sheffield, which thus possesses the finest collection of British pottery in the country. The late Mr. Llewellyn Jewitt was also a considerable barrow-opener; but his collection has passed into private hands outside the county. Then there was the valuable private collection of Derbyshire palaeontology and prehistoric archaeology (including the proceeds of many Peak barrow-openings) of the late Mr. Rooke Pennington, at Castleton, which Mr. Bailey quite overlooks. The sale of this collection about three years ago was previously notified to at least one of the Museum Committee, yet it was allowed to fall into the hands of the Bolton Corporation. These three collections have slipped away from the county without apparently even an enquiry whether they were worth acquiring, and so of all this wealth of local archaeology our Museum possesses nil!

It is not likely that another Derbyshire barrow investigator of Mr. Bateman's calibre will arise, and if he did where are the untouched barrows to open? Burials upon the sites of long since removed barrows will undoubtedly be broken into accidentally from time to time, but to attempt to 'spot' them would be as hard a task as the proverbial hunt for a needle in a hayrick. A little public spirit and cash at the right moment would probably have caused these treasures to gravitate to their rightful goal, Derby, which thus would have had the best provincial museum in England in this department of prehistoric archaeology.

Equally unfortunate is Derby with respect to the Roman occupation. Ever and anon, for centuries back objects of this period have been turned up at Little Chester; yet not a solitary coin or potsherd has found its way to, or remains at, our museum. I was at Leicester Museum a few days ago, and was agreeably surprised at the largeness of the local Roman collection. Yesterday I was at Lichfield, despite the somewhat paltry and miscellaneous character of the public museum, there are several cases of Roman fragments from the neighbouring village of Wall, certainly mixed up with encaustic tiles of the 14th century, but sufficient to show that Lichfield takes more interest in a Roman Station two miles away than Derby does in her Roman self. Warrington, like Lichfield, is a smaller town than Derby, yet its show of local Roman antiquities is particularly good. Why is Derby so behind hand? Mr. Bailey's allusion to the

interesting bas-relief of Mercury found at Little Chester a few years ago, perhaps explains.

I must here correct Mr. Bailey. When he deploras the absence of the Rains cave skulls, &c., he evidently confuses the recent work of excavation that I have conducted at the cave for our local Archaeological Society, with my interesting diggings on the sites of a small Romano-British village and more ancient 'long' barrow on Harborough Rocks in the vicinity of the cave. The dolichocephalic skulls, pottery, and marvellously delicately-chipped arrow-heads found there were claimed by the landowner, who so far, has not seen his way to present them to the museum. Perhaps wisely so, if he is aware of the painful disappearance of the valuable series of Saxon cinerary urns, that Dr. Cox complains of. Some of these urns were found at Kingston, in Leicestershire, in 1844, others at King's Newton, in 1867. They were deposited in our museum. In 1883 all that could be found was 'a single broken specimen'. May not the fragments still remain in some out-of-the-way corner of the museum? It is satisfactory to learn that the insitution is in a receptive conditional; but will the 'public-spirited individuals' that Mr. Bailey invites to give their treasures care to do so without some guarantee being given that they will not be treated as the above urns have been?

Dr. Cox suggests, as a remedy, a joint committee consisting of members of the Corporation and of the Council of the local Archaeological and Natural History Society. I believe that the Leicester Museum is, or at least was, managed by a similar joint committee. Whether this arrangement worked well or ill, the museum is excellent, and a new wing is being erected. But if our museum is badly organised, or is insufficiently supported, no matter how well Mr. Crowther and his satellites do their part the results will remain the same.

I am yours,

Derby, August

J. Ward.

This letter and criticism apparently had some effect, for a year later Mr. John Keys made a request to the Council of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, to have back the 'Mercury Stone' which he had placed in the custody of the Society. He intended to set up the stone in a grotto in his garden. The Council of the Society was unanimous in thinking that the stone should be offered to the Derby Museum, the committee of that body having announced that a room had been set apart for the reception of archaeological objects from Derbyshire. However, in 1910, when Frank Gerald Simpson visited the museum he noted that there was '*very little from Little Chester*' on display.

The Ward Family

John continued to live over the wool shop in St. Peter's Street until he left Derby. By 1891, his brother Alexander had emigrated to Australia, presumably to stay initially with his Aunt Hannah Maria Gardner. Some three years later Kate Stacey, his mother's assistant in the wool shop, followed him and they were married. They returned to England soon after the birth of their only child, Kate Louisa, in 1907 to live in Walnut Cottage, Rushwick, Worcester. Godfrey, who never married, had also left Derby to work in Birmingham. Whereas Alexander had often accompanied John on his rambles, there is no evidence that Godfrey had done so. Godfrey would get annoyed when he was mistaken for Alexander; it would seem that he desired to be independent of his twin.

This biography breaks off at the point when John Ward left Derby in 1893. John Ward became the Curator of the Cardiff Museum & Art Gallery (1893-1912), and the first Keeper of archaeology at the National Museum of Wales (1912-1914). His excavations of the Gelligaer Roman Fort were particularly well regarded. John Ward eventually returned to Derby and his grave can be found in the graveyard close by New Uttoxeter Road.

THE THREE ANGEL INNS AND THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE INN IN ROTTEN ROW AND THE CORNMARKEAT, DERBY

(by Peter Billson.

The article 'The Angel Inn, Cornmarket, Derby' by Jane Steer in *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Volume 12, Part 2, Autumn 2007, pp44-48, clearly demolishes previous belief that this particular Angel inn was the original ancient hostelry of that name. That is, the one which had its origins prior to the dissolution of the College of All Saints in 1549. This Inn was also named in Queen Mary's charter of 1555 which formed part of the endowment of All Saints church conveyed to the town's Corporation.

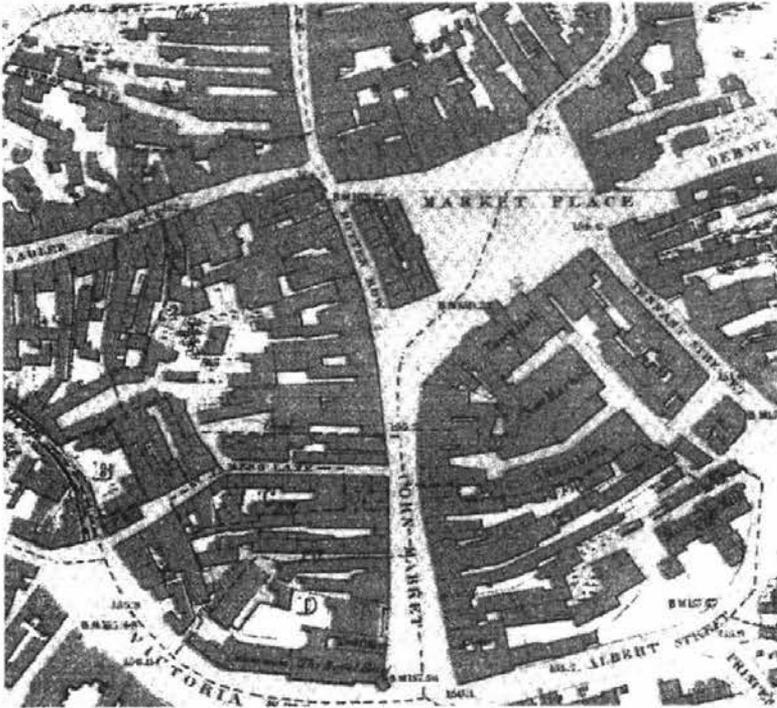
Jane Steer in her article demonstrates, from certain legal deeds she chanced upon, that this Angel Inn on the east side of the Cornmarket, which was demolished and cleared away in 1979, had in fact been called the Elephant and Castle Inn prior to 1782. The earliest known date for this particular inn bearing that name is now known to be in a Matthew Saywell's will dated 14 July 1715 (proved 1718). It is also so named in two subsequent wills. That of Matthew Saywell junior's will of 2 April 1743 (proved 24 April 1744); and then again in the will of Joseph Corbett, victualler, dated 4 September 1767 (proven 23 September 1771). Sometime between 1771 and 1782 the premises were acquired by the silk and cotton entrepreneur Jedidiah Strutt. Strutt was at that time buying properties contiguous to the Corn Market, the Markeaton Brook course and through to the Morledge (Street). This land acquisition was to enable Strutt and William Woollatt, his brother-in-law partner, to expand the textile manufactory which they had established alongside the Markeaton Brook in around 1760.¹

In 1782 Jedediah Strutt entered into an arrangement to exchange his possession of the Inn and its plot with other land and houses owned by Wilcox's Charity, and which had the advantage for Strutt of being closer to his Cornmarket mill, and strongly possible to have been adjacent. Hence the desire for the exchange. The Indenture of Agreement recites it as - '*Exchange of ... the Angel Inn and houses in the yard in exchange for houses on St Peter's Bridge*'. (The bridge crossing over the Markeaton Brook from the Cornmarket to St Peter's Street. At that date the watercourse was still open through the town - not being culverted under Victoria Street and Albert Street until 1839.) The Indenture dated 12 June 1782 also recites specifically that the Inn was - '*formerly known by the sign of the Elephant and Castle but now known by the sign of the Angel*'.²

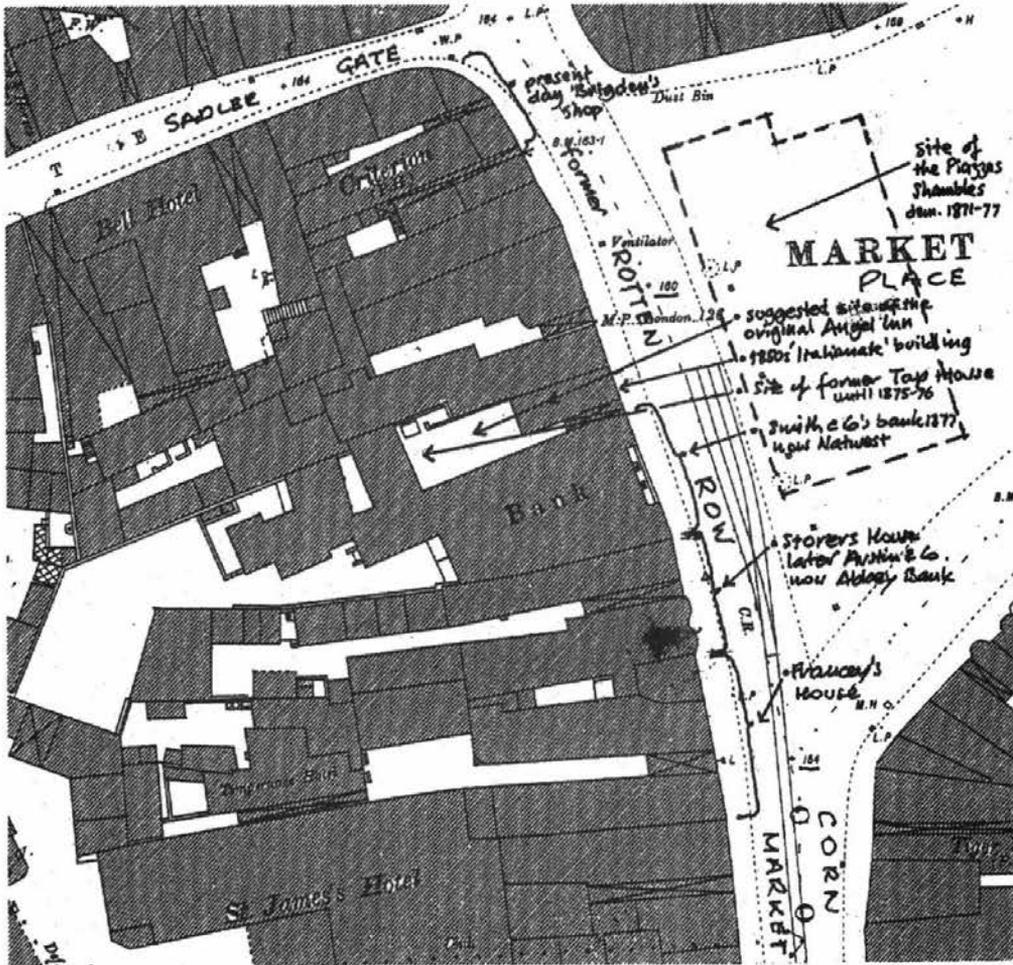
So, as it is thus established that this hostelry sited in the Cornmarket could not have been the (ancient) Angel Inn, we then turn to asking where was it actually been sited. Jane Steer observed that Maxwell Craven in his book *Inns and Taverns of Derby* lists another inn called The Angel located on Rotten Row in c1673.³ This record comes from Glover's *History of Derby* published in 1829. Glover states that in 1673 '*A great flood upon the Markeaton Brook ... filled the cellars as high as the Angel (Rotten Row ...)*'. Glover in turn appears to have derived this from the similar account in William Hutton's *History of Derby* published in 1791.⁴

This particular deep flood in 1673 was one of many over the centuries that inundated the centre of Derby, caused by sudden heavy rainfall that filled the normally low flowing Markeaton Brook. Then with the nearby River Derwent flowing high it caused the water of the brook to back up and overflow. Glover records eight of these disastrous floods occurring through the period from 1610, until one in 1842 at the time he was compiling a new edition of his Directory.⁵ The last great flood in the town was much later in 1932 and of which there is a photographic record.

The name Rotten Row, where Hutton and Glover located the earliest Angel Inn, no longer survives; although part of the thoroughfare does, the rest is now pedestrianised. It lay between what used to exist as the Piazzas and Shambles, an independent group of buildings erected in 1709 on the west side of the Market Place (fig 1). However that group was demolished and completely cleared away between 1871 and 1877. As can be seen from map 1 Rotten Row was a relatively short length of street of around 78 yards length, running southward from the junction of Iron Gate and Sadler Gate down to the south end of the present day Abbey Bank building. The premises next beyond, still surviving today, was way back always regarded as being in the Cornmarket (fig 3). This house was built in c1695 for the noted apothecary Alderman William Franceys (1650-1724). Maxwell Craven, in *Derby Pubs*, notes that an inn called The Angel was sold by All Saints Parish Vestry on 17 April 1732 for the sum of £210 to Alderman Henry Franceys, apothecary, son of William Franceys. On a first instinct I conjectured that maybe this Rotten Row Angel Inn may have been located next door to Franceys's house and



Map 1
Rotten Row
on the Board of Ordnance
Map 1852 for the Local
Board of Health.



Map 2: Ordnance Survey Map of 1882 s
Shows former Rotten Row after removal of the Piazzas and Shambles in 1871-77 - with annotated notes.

shop and that he may have bought it to control its usage. But on further investigation this could not have been so. Next door, where the Abbey Bank now stands, was a dwelling house known as 'Storer's House' (fig 2). This house of 5 bays and 3 storeys high had some characteristics in common with Franceys's House, primarily in window sizes (but not detail), and storey heights. But since it was built at around the same time as Franceys's house in the 1690s, it could not have been the site of the Rotten Row Angel. It was converted later - downstairs into two shops and, in the late nineteenth century to Austins, a highly respected grocers. This building survived until demolished in 1936 to make way for the present premises, first used for Martin's Bank before changing to the Abbey National.

Next north along this Rotten Row frontage were originally two burgage plots as can be seen on the 1852 map (map 1). The left hand one of these plots had a 3 bay 3½ storey early 18th century house, with a later shop front inserted at ground floor level. In the mid-19th century this building housed the Stamp & Legacy Office (fig 3). Then next beyond on the second plot was a 3 bay 3 storey building carrying a brick parapet above a simple stone cornice and with distinctive stone quoins down each side of the facade. The ground floor frontage was divided into three parts by two pilasters carrying a stone cornice above. We will return later to an apparent significance of this three part frontage. The building as seen in a photograph of the early 1870s just prior to demolition (fig 4) appeared to be of early 19th century build and was probably built for Samuel Smith & Co, bankers (posters on the frontage in the photograph state '*The Bank ...*'). Smiths moved to this Rotten Row location in 1824 from their first premises in Tenant Street. These two 'burgage plots' premises seen vacant in the photograph, were shortly after demolished to make way for a new large banking house completed in 1877.⁶ This was spread over the two earlier sites. The bank premises survive today now under the title of NatWest Bank (fig 4).

This then leaves us with the remaining upper length of Rotten Row to consider. As already stated Stephen Glover in his mention of the great flood of 1623, said it '*filled the cellars as high as the Angel*', which literally must be taken that the waters flooded the lower lying Cornmarket and then, in this part of the town, extended the waters up the slope of the Market Place and Rotten Row sufficiently far to get into the cellars of the ancient Angel. It is not recorded how deep that particular flood was, but Glover in 1843 does say that - '*The most ... disastrous flood on the Markeaton Brook that ever occurred in the memory of man*' was the then very recent one of 31 March 1842. That night '*the rain fell in torrents and about 3 o'clock in the morning ... the brook began to rise, and rose so suddenly and rapidly, that few of the inhabitants had timely warning of their danger. The sudden rise of the brook soon filled the cellars ... and filled the houses and shops in the Corn Market*' - in the '*Cornmarket*' (sic) (the water was) *5 feet 6 inches* (deep). Glover records some half-dozen comparable water levels. There used to be in present living memory a number of cast iron wall markers in central parts of the town which indicated various historic flood levels but these have disappeared over recent decades, apart from one survivor in the Wardwick.

On the Ordnance Survey's first edition large scale survey map of 1883 (map 2) levels on roads are given. The Corn Market is recorded with a level of 154.3 feet on a low wall bench mark adjacent to the Lock Up Yard (this benchmark is currently approximately 7 inches above paved level). Then travelling up along what had then been Rotten Row until the late 1870s, it can be seen that a road level of 160 feet is marked on the road opposite what is the southern boundary of the modern pub known as The Walkabout and its neighbour the 'Italianate' character building between there and the NatWest Bank. Taking these levels, - deducting them, and adjusting for the 7 inches below the ordnance datum in the Corn Market gives a level of approximately 6.30 feet above the Corn Market road surface. Obviously, surface finishes have changed over the years since 1883 but probably not by any very great differential. If we take Glover's recorded 1842 high flood level as an example then that would have brought the flood waters at that date up to a point around the boundary between the present NatWest Bank and the 'Italianate' building. If there is any commonality between the 1673 and 1842 flood levels as I venture to suggest, then this (Old) Angel must very likely have occupied the ancient burgage plot since overbuilt by the 'Italianate' building (currently occupied by estate agent Bairstow Eves). And which in consequence could well have had its '*cellars flooded*'.

It appears most unlikely that the site of the Angel could alternately have been sited further up the slope of Rotten Row. This frontage was, and still is, well built up right up to and round the corner into Sadler Gate. Way back, the penultimate one of these buildings used to be another inn. Built in around 1760 (we don't know the earlier history of this site) it was originally named the Greyhound.⁷ It lay just about where the present day entrance to Brigden's menswear shop lies. In 1836 this inn was completely rebuilt behind the facade. Over the ensuing years it was gradually reduced in size, shrank back and lost its frontage to a shop. By 1881 it had been renamed the Criterion Vaults.⁸ It ceased to exist as a pub from 1908; but its history makes it clear that apart from being at another 3 feet higher up the street, it could not at any time have been the elusive Angel. But, its circumstantial



Franceys's House Storer's House Rotten Row The Piazzas
 Fig 1: From a photograph taken by Richard Keene c1857.



Franceys House Storer's House No 11 former Stamp and Legacy Office
 Fig 2: South end of west side of Rotten Row c1858.

history of shrinkage seems to have been paralleled by that of the Angel itself.

The site of this 'Italianate' character building is an ancient plot, its frontage width is 16 feet 6 inches; a distance known in earlier English measuring system as a 'rod' or 'pole' or 'perch, with 40 such measurements to a 'furlong'. These particular measurements had particular importance as dimensions for the early laying out of land survey, since at least before 1270.⁹ A 'rod' or 'pole' distance of 16½ feet whether of itself or in multiples was a common dimension for the frontage width of a medieval burgage plot. So here we have an ancient plot.

Apart from this and my suggestion that the ground level hereabouts offer realistic correlation with the height of severe flooding, there is another relevant circumstance. While we have no written documentary evidence that the ancient Angel Inn occupied this site, circumstantially it seems most likely and, there is the documentary factor that there was a hostelry here. In Pigot's Directory of 1818-20 there is an entry for a pub called the Tap House on Rotten Row, with its victualler by the name of Thomas Riley.¹⁰ The Tap House can be traced in successive Directories up to 1874. No postal address is given for 1818-20, but following Directories do record these. Numbers were changed along this length of street four times over the years, until for this site it settled at no 1½ Market Place by 1874 when Rotten Row ceased to exist. We can be certain that the Tap House was on this site, as in Freebody's 1852 street Directory we find Smith's Bank at no 10, with the adjacent Tap House given as no 9. However by this date the 'Italianate' building had been erected on this site frontage and the Tap House had retreated to the rear. It has not been established exactly when the 'Italianate' building was erected but the earliest surviving Borough Rate Book of early 1840 gives a Miss Francis Sperry, a Haberdasher, on the frontage, with a William Jolley in the Tap House at the rear (this inn was listed as '*a House and Brewhouse*').¹¹ Both Miss Sperry and William Jolley shared the same no 4 on Rotten Row, although the buildings were separate. As already hinted, it appears that like the nearby Greyhound/Criterion inn, the hostelry on this site also shrank back. If indeed as I postulate, it was originally the ancient Angel, then when it shrank in form it may well have shrunk its name to a mere Tap House. Whether its possible Angel name went around the time that the Cornmarket Elephant and Castle changed its name to the Angel may be another factor. Did the Victualler/Landlord move to the Cornmarket Inn and take the Angel name with him.

In Freebody's 1852 Directory we find that Miss Sperry in the frontage shop had been replaced by the Misses Maria and Patience White's - Fancy Goods Repository listed as no 8. The Misses White had gone by 1858, being replaced by George Richard Fley, tobacconist, who had moved from no 13 Rotten Row. Thomas Riley had by 1852 been replaced by William Jolley to the proprietorship of the Tap House. In due course he also would be replaced by James Mason as the final owner/publican of this Tap House.

Further substantiation for the Tap House being on this site is supported by a photograph of the early 1870s (fig 3) where a wooden sign board bearing the legend Masons Tap House is affixed to the 'Italianate' building above the shop's overall sign bearing the title Tobacconist, by this date now Messrs Fley and Atkins. The Tap House signboard can be seen above a typical pub street lantern (bearing the same legend on its glass) in turn above a tunnel through-passage in the left hand side of the building. This is immediately next door to Smith's original bank building, by that date boarded up awaiting demolition along with its next door neighbouring building to its left. A curious circumstance is that Smith's bank building had had no street frontage door. Well at least for sometime well before this date. As I've already described, this original bank building had a three bay frontage. In each of these bays there were chest-height stone dados, each bearing a decorative raised central panel, so there was no place for a front door. We can only presume the entrance into the bank had been from either the side through-passage in the 'Italianate' building or via the side through-passage immediately adjacent in the building to the left. Either alternative is odd; the sharing of a Bank entrance way, through to an ale house even more unusual.

However it appears clear that sometime before 1876, and with plans for a major expansion through rebuilding, Smith's bank had not only acquired the next door premises no 11, and the former Stamp and Legacy Duty Office on the south side, but also must have acquired the premises of the Tap House - no 9.¹² This is confirmed in two examples. Firstly from the 1877 photograph of the newly completed banking house, it can be discerned that both the Mason Tap House signboard had disappeared together with the referred to public house lantern below. And, that the soon-after 1883 large scale Ordnance Survey map, and later plans of the bank, clearly show the new bank's rear premises now extending across on the extreme rear of the 'Italianate' building plot - where no 9 the Tap House had recently stood.¹³

There does not appear to be any other logical site for the ancient Angel to have been, along this short street length of Rotten Row. If I am correct in my proposition, then the residual rear outbuildings of the Angel became



No 11 former Stamp and Legacy Office Closed Smith's Bank Mason's Tap House
behind Fley's Tobacconist

Fig 3: West side of Rotten Row in 1877 prior to demolition to make way for new Smith's Bank.



Fig 4: New enlarged Smith's Bank on Rotten Row c1878.
Note Fley's Tobacconist still next door but with Mason's Tap House sign removed.

the subsequent Tap House pub, and so ended its long history. As to the name going to the Corn Market, replacing the Elephant and Castle in the late 1770s and certainly by 1782, it has been not unknown for a landlord to take a pub's name with him when he removed to another hostelry. This may be so in this instance.

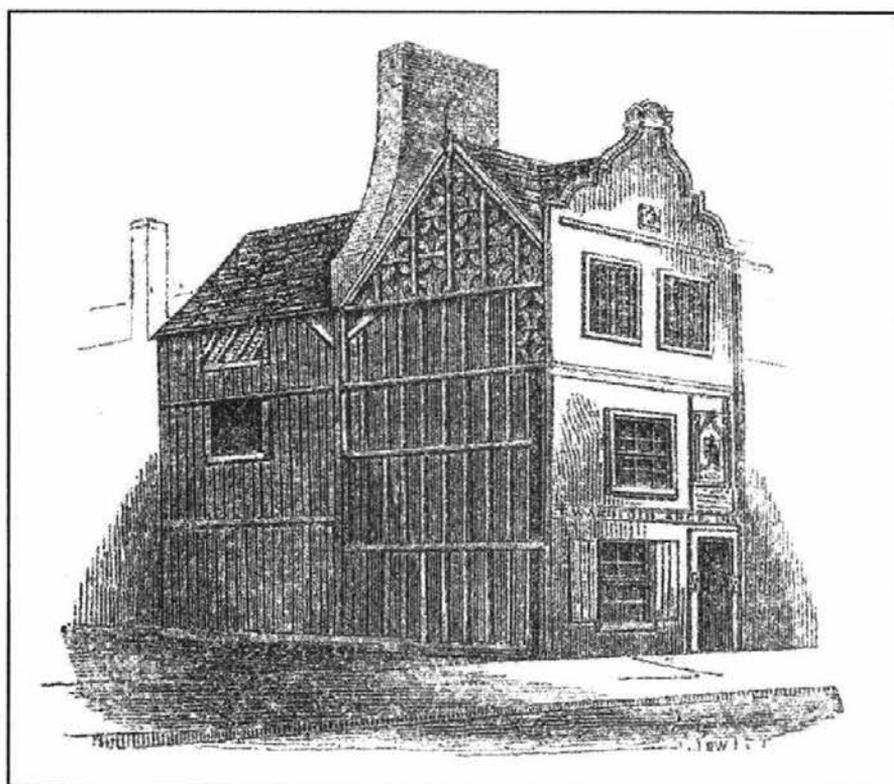


Fig 5: The Angel Inn, Cornmarket in 1836.

This latter could be a possibility and might explain puzzling features on the Cornmarket Angel. In the publication *The Reliquary*¹⁴ dated 1866-67, edited by Llewellyn Jewitt, he wrote an article on some local inn signs including the Cornmarket Angel. There is also a drawing of the Inn¹⁵ which Jewitt says he made back in 1836 when the adjacent Old Rodney inn¹⁶ was being taken down, exposing the north side of the Angel. From his engraved sketch of 1836 (fig 5) it can clearly be seen that it was a timber framed building of at least three stages of building. And in common with the suggested (ancient) Angel plot on Rotten Row, this Cornmarket site was similarly a burgage plot with a width of 16 feet 6 inches (a rod or pole). The dimension appears annotated on a plan drawn on the 1805 deed which was reproduced in Jane Steer's article. The close oak timber framing of the site is of two dates of build, very possibly of the 15th and 16th centuries: and with a brick re-fronting of possible late 17th century date with a curvilinear parapet Dutch gable. But running across the front between the ground and first floor windows can be seen a narrow band bearing the legend 'T. WARD OLD ANGEL INN'. Then immediately above, to the extreme right and above the entrance door is seen a storey height framed panel (the inn is of 3 storeys) within which is a smaller framed panel surmounted with an ogiform head moulding. Within this is the figure of an angel, with wings at its side hanging down from its shoulders. It cannot be seen whether the figure bears anything in its hands, although such angels frequently carried a scroll or a trumpet. The Angel sign is said to derive from the 'Salution' (sometimes itself used as an inn sign) - the Angel appearing to the Holy Virgin at the biblical Annunciation.

This figure of the Angel clearly cannot date its origins here from the re-fronting, since we know that this establishment did not become named the Angel until sometime in the 1770s. Likewise even by 1836 it would not have been logical to state on the sign that it was the OLD ANGEL INN unless there was some special reason. Even then, the Pigot's Directory of 1818-20 lists it simply as the '*Angel, Nathaniel Bosworth, Cornmarket*'.

Llewellyn Jewitt writing in 1866¹⁷ cites a broadsheet dated 1761 in his possession, which is a '*List of the houses engaged for the entertainment of the friends of Sir Henry Harpur at the time of the election*' - in short, for treating voters to free drinks to gain their votes. In it there does not appear to be any inn named the Angel in

either the Cornmarket or on Rotten Row (or the Market Place). But Harpur was only one out of four candidates, and with only 45 inns names, we assume that other un-named hostelries were likely to be on the other candidates lists. The (later) Cornmarket Angel does appear under its then early name of the Elephant and Castle. But to add to the complexities, it seems that there must have been another - third - Angel Inn in the Cornmarket, as the name is mentioned in other records. From the dates and descriptions given it clearly cannot be the Elephant and Castle/Angel Inn already discussed on the east side of the Cornmarket.

An advertisement of 1746 shows this third Angel Inn to have been a much more extensive property than the other two. It had extensive stabling for horses and so resembled a coaching inn:

*'To be Lett and entered upon immediately, or at least at Lady Day next, a House known by the sign of ANGEL standing upon Gaol Bridge, in DERBY, with stabling for Sixty Horses, a large Garden, and all other Conveniences; also some Tenements in the Yard, to be Lett together or separate. Enquire of Mr Spauldin, Schoolmaster in Derby, for further particulars.'*¹⁸

Jewitt also remarks that from 'a hundred and fifty to fifty years ago' (c1716-c1816) the Angel was a 'famous house for the barbarous sport of Cockfighting', and regular cockfights were carried on:

*'1749' 'This is to Give Notice that there will be Fought a Match of SHAKEBAGS, betwixt the Gentlemen of Staffordshire and Scarsdale, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 13th of this Instant March, at the House of Robert Radford at the Angel on the Gaol Bridge, in Derby for Ten Pounds a battle, and Forty the Odd Battle; where Gentlemen who please to favour him with their Company, shall be well accommodated, by their Humble Servant, ROBERT RADFORD.'*¹⁹

In 1753: '*Cockfighting at Mr. Radford's at the Angel, in Derby, each morning during the Races.*'²⁰

December 1777: '*Cocking. A Main of Cocks will be Fought at the Angel in Derby, 'betwixt the Gentleman of Leicestershire and Gentleman of Derbyshire.'*'²¹

Jewitt carries on to say '*Similar advertisements of "Cocking" appear during the remainder of the [17th] century*'.

As seen, this particular Angel Inn is cited as being '*on the Gaol Bridge in Derby*'. This bridge was also referred to as St Peter's bridge, the one giving passage over the Markeaton Brook between the Cornmarket and St Peter's Street. The precise location occupied by the old Town Gaol seems uncertain, but there is thought that it was alongside the Markeaton Brook on the south west corner of the Cornmarket. On this west side of the Cornmarket there was, until demolished in 1965, a former coaching inn set back in a yard running through to St James's Lane, known as the Rose and Crown.²² Maxwell Craven says that '*if not renamed, then it was in existence by 1725*'. However, this establishment although of a suitable size, was actually very much closer to the Cornmarket/St James's Lane junction than the Markeaton Brook, possible Gaol and bridge.

I am therefore inclined to suggest that this third Angel might have lain about where the former Derby and Derbyshire Bank premises stand in the Cornmarket, which would have been almost opposite the location of the Elephant and Castle/Angel Inn. Further, it is possible that this third Angel closed and was lost sometime around 1780, and its name transferred across the road to replace that of the Elephant and Castle. And it is possible that the actual Angel figure was transferred across and fixed on the latter's frontage at around the same time. Likewise this may be part of the reason that Thomas Ward of the east side Cornmarket Angel was using the prefix 'OLD' to the title of this inn - certainly by 1835. By reason of both the older west side Cornmarket Angel and the much older Rotten Row Angel having gone or changed. Equally, the Angel figure could have come from Rotten Row. We don't know whether the landlord of the Gaol Bridge Angel himself transferred across the road - the last one known there was Robert Radford in 1753.²³ In 1782 there is record that the Elephant and Castle had lately been tenanted by a Samuel Dawson²⁴ but the house and site, including its small stable for two horses were vacant. From 1784 a Samuel Brackley took a tenancy on a 21 year lease.²⁵ He was followed by a Nathaniel Bosworth who was still there in 1818.²⁶

The facts about the Elephant and Castle/Angel Inn are documented. The ancient Angel Inn on Rotten Row has slimmer but authentic existence, but its exact location only exists from my foregoing attempt to pinpoint it. As is the third Angel by the Gaol Bridge, its existence is circumstantial from the quoted advertisements.

There are three final pieces of information given by Jewitt in 1866-67.

Firstly he quotes:

'1645 'One Richard Cockeram was hanged at the Gallows on Nuns Green, for killing one Mills, a servant at the Angel.'

and then in respect of the Mercers Company of Derby. Quoting him:

'The first meeting of the Company was held at the Angel in July 1675 and meetings continued there until 1730.'

and finally

'January the 18th 1676, at the Angell, in Derby. Orderede yt Mr Jno. Dunidge, Warden of the Company of Mercers, doe ... give information next Sessions held for this Borough, against Jno Booth, for his trading in this towne Contrary to Law, ...'

I think it is reasonably fair to presume that these were all at the ancient Angel Inn, on Rotten Row in All Saints Parish.

Acknowledgement

To Derby Local Studies Library for permission to reproduce the engraving of the Old Angel Inn taken from *The Reliquary*, Vol VII, 1866-67, p178, by Llewellyn Jewitt, F.S.A.

References

1. Jane Steer, 'The Angel Inn, Cornmarket, Derby - formerly the Elephant and Castle Inn', *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 18, Part 2, Autumn 2007, pp44-48. The relevant deeds and their whereabouts are listed in references at the end of the article.
2. *Ibid.*
3. Maxwell Craven, *The Illustrated History of Derby's Pubs*, 2002, p24.
4. Stephen Glover, *The History of the County of Derby*, 1829, p608.
5. Stephen Glover & Son, *The History and Directory of the Borough of Derby*, 1843, p84, 85.
6. Information from NatWest Bank plc and Local Directories.
7. Craven, *History of Derby Pubs*, p80.
8. *Ibid.*
9. A Royal Ordinance entitled *An Assize of Weights and Measures* was enacted in the reign of Edward I in 1270.
10. There is no earlier Derby Directory than Pigot 1818, 1819, 1820 which gives any information on Inns and Taverns in Derby, other than the Universal British Directory of 1791. No Tap Houses are listed in the latter, and the only interest is an entry for 'Samuel Brackley, Victualler (Angel)'. The Land Tax records list 'Samuel Brackley - Victualler - Angel' from 1783 in St Peter's Parish. As 'Mr Strutt' is given as Owner, this Angel has to have been the former Elephant and Castle.
11. *Borough Rate Book, All Saints Parish*, February 1840.
12. *Borough Rate Book, All Saints Parish*, February 1875, p10 has the entry 'Joseph Mason (occupier) R. Foreman Exors (owner) Public House', with the additional added note 'Taken Down'. The Rates were accordingly voided according to that record. This Tap House therefore can be judged to have gone sometime, probably in late 1874. The remains of the (ancient) Angel if I am correct.
13. *Borough Rate Book for the Assessment and Collection of the Poor Rate of the Parish for All Saints*, 30 October 1875, p14 (to meet expenses for which the above purpose which will be incurred before 25th March 1876).

		Market Place		
	Arrears	Occupier	Owner	Description
202	entered Xmas 1875	Smith & Company	Smith & Co	New Bank and Premises uncollected (added) unoccupied (words)
Amount actually collected £19 14s 0d.				

NatWest say their records show that the new Bank was opened in 1876 so it must have been in early 1876.

14. Llewellyn Jewitt, F.S.A., 'Derby Signs', *The Reliquary - Quarterly Archaeological Journal and Review*, Vol VII, 1866-67, pp 175-180.
15. *Ibid*, p178.
16. See also Craven, *Derby Pubs*, p124. (Admiral) Rodney (Arms), 30 Cornmarket.
17. *The Reliquary*, 1866-67, p176.
18. *Ibid*, p179.
19. *Ibid*, p179-180.
20. *Ibid*, p180.
21. *Ibid*, p180.
22. Craven, *Derby Pubs*, p125.
23. *The Reliquary*, 1866-67, p180.
24. Jane Steer, *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Autumn 2007, p44.
25. *Ibid*.
26. Pigot, *Derby Directory*, 1818, 1819, 1820, p133

Records

Land Tax Records for All Saints and St Peter's Parishes, Derby, Derby Local Studies Library (DLSL).
Borough of Derby Rating Books, All Saints Parish, 1840-1875 (DLSL).

Directories (all in Derby Local Studies Library)

Universal British Directory - Derby, 1791.
 James Pigot, *Commercial Directory for Derby*, 1818, 1819, 1820. Published 1818.
 Brewer's *Derby Circular Guide and Commercial Directory*, 1823 and 1824.
 Pigot, *New Commercial Directory of Derby*, 1822-23.
 Pigot, *Commercial Directory of Derby*, 1828-29.
 Stephen Glover, *History and Directory of the County of Derby*, 2 Vols, 1829.
 Pigot, *Commercial Directory of Derby*, 1835.
 Stephen Glover, *History and Directory of the Borough of Derby*, 1843.
 Freebody, *Directory of Derby*, 1852.
 Stephen Glover, *Directory of Derby*, 1858.
 Drake, *Directory of Derby*, 1862.
 Harrod, *Directory of Derby*, 1870.
 Wright, *Directory of Derby*, 1874.

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THE MARBLE WORKS, DERBY AND MASSON COTTAGE, MATLOCK BATH: FURTHER NOTES

(by Jane Steer,

The Marble Works, St Helen's Street, Derby

In 1820 Richard Brown sold a chimney piece to William Turbutt of Arnold Grove, Nottingham. His original bill, preserved in the Derbyshire Record Office (D37M/F98/20), makes interesting reading. At this time the St Helen's Street buildings were divided between Richard Brown who owned the Marble Works at the west end and John Mawe who owned the Spar Manufactory to the east (*Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 16, Part 6, p159).

		Derby Marble Works
William Turbutt Esq.		
1820	Bought of Rh Brown	£ s d
Augt 25th	A full Column shell Marble Chy piece with fluted shelf mantle - Pilasters - inner & outer Grounds - & Plinths and square Caps to the Columns	13 # #
	4 Cramps & pls	# 1 #
	3 Cases	<u>1 5 #</u>
		<u>14 6 #</u>

Sir

The Chim^y piece is now ready packed & will be sent by Mess^{rs} Soresby & Flacks Boats to Miss Ravensdales Wharfe Nottingham, to be forwarded by the Arnold Carrier. If the Cases are returned in good condition I will allow one pound for them, & if you had rather pay soon than let the acc^t stand to the end of the year, you will please also to deduct 13s from this bill for ready Money - I remain hoping it will arrive safe, & be approved.

Your very obliged & obed^t Serv^t

Rich^d Brown

William Turbutt (1768-1836) of Ratcliffe Lodge and Arnold Grove, Notts, was the son of William Turbutt of Ogston Hall and father of Gladwyn Turbutt of Ogston Hall (Gladwyn Turbutt, *A History of Ogston*, 1975, p274). Price comparison charts indicate that the bill would equate to about £1000 in today's money.

Masson Cottage

In 'The Spar Manufactory, Derby, and the Mawe Family: further notes' in *Derbyshire Miscellany*, Vol 18, Pt 1, Spring 2007, it was established that John Mawe, the famous mineralogist (1766-1829) owned Masson Cottage on Upperwood Road, Matlock Bath. There was a bit of a mystery about this house though because today there is a date stamp of 1771 on Masson Cottage but William Adam, writing in 1840, stated that it was built by the late Mr. Mawe. To add to the confusion, John's wife, Sarah Mawe (1767-1846), left property, including two cottages in Matlock, to her grandsons in her will dated 1833 and her grandson, Anthony Tatlow Tissington, left a house called Masson Cottage in his will of 1865.

An Indenture dated 1 January 1825 between Samuel Wragg, miner, and John Mawe of 149 The Strand, London held at the Derbyshire Record Office (D5630/15/1/2) throws some light on the subject. On 29 April 1805 Samuel Wragg bought 560 square yards of land in Matlock Bath which was bounded on its north side by a boundary wall alongside the road from Bonsall to Matlock Bath. In this conveyance Wragg is selling the land to John Mawe (apart from a piece of fenced off land 20 yards long and 8 yards wide at the eastern end which he had sold to George Vernon of Stone, Staffs, gentleman) together with the boundary wall and two dwelling houses he had erected on the land, one of which he occupied; the other was unfinished and unoccupied.

This doesn't solve the problem of the 1771 date stamp because Wragg built his houses after 1805. It does explain the two cottages that Sarah Mawe refers to in her will. The exterior design of Masson Cottage suggests that Mawe either rebuilt the house or altered it to a more contemporary design. .

FROM THE *DERBY MERCURY*

CASTLE FIELDS HOUSE

TO BE LET

And entered upon the 24th day of May next.

All that Convenient MANSION HOUSE, situate in the Borough of Derby, called CASTLE FIELDS HOUSE, comprising large Entrance Hall (22 feet by 20), Dining Room and Drawing Room, 22 feet by 20 each, and both opening on a pleasant Lawn; Breakfast Room, and Library, and Housekeeper's Room on the ground floor, with an elegant Conservatory 32 feet by 17; having an entrance from the drawing room by a glass slide; seven excellent Bed Rooms on the first floor, with Dressing-rooms attached, and a communication by a separate Stair-case; and on the upper-storey seven excellent Bed Rooms equal in size to those on the first story. The basement includes a Servants' Hall, Larder, Wash-house, Laundry, with other useful Offices, and an infinity of capital Cellaring, Out-buildings, connected Coach House, two excellent Stables, Harness-room and Room over the same, and a neat Dwelling House for a Gardener.

The Premises are well calculated for the residence of a Gentleman's Family, and the Mansion is surrounded by four Acres of Land converted into a Lawn, Pleasure and Kitchen Gardens planted with ornamental Trees, Shrubs, &c, and enclosed within a Wall. The Kitchen Garden is also enclosed, and well stocked with excellent Fruit Trees; the Conservatory is furnished with choice Vines, Myrtles and Geraniums; and the drive to the House is pleasant.

The above Premises were formerly in the occupation of Thos. Borough, Esq; afterwards of William Newton, Esq; and are now in the tenure of Mrs. Bateman.

For further particulars apply to MR WILLIAMSON, Solicitor, Corn-Market, Derby, at whose Office a Ground Plan of the Mansion House may be seen.

Corn Market, Derby, Feb 11th, 1833.

Derby Mercury, 13 February 1833



Castle Fields as shown on Burdett's map of Derby 1791.

Castle Fields House, built by the Borough family in the early 18thC on the southern outskirts of Derby, was bounded by London Road (from 1738), the River Derwent and, to the south, by its park. By 1806 some of the park to the west of London Road had been sold for the site of the new Derbyshire General Infirmary, Traffic Street was pitched by 1826 and in 1837 the site of the new Derby Railway Station south of the river between the nearby Holmes and Siddals Lane had been agreed. Unsurprisingly, a private buyer for Castle Fields house was not forthcoming and in 1837-38 it was demolished. Park Street was pitched and Siddals Lane widened with piecemeal development of artisan's housing and factories gradually covering the park.¹

¹ Maxwell Craven and Michael Stanley, *The Derbyshire Country House*, 1991, p56. Maxwell Craven, *Derby, An Illustrated History*, 1988, pp139, 151.