

STRETTON IN THE 17th AND 18th CENTURIES.

By G. C. HOPKINSON, M.A.

AMONGST the Barnes Collection recently deposited in the Chesterfield Public Library are a number of manuscripts connected with Stretton. These manuscripts, mostly relating to the Wragg family, were evidently preserved by John Gorell Barnes of Ashgate House, Brampton, when he became executor of John Brocksopp, who died in 1812. Brocksopp was a coal and ironmaster, who lived at Grasshill, on the Hasland-North Wingfield road, where he had a number of collieries, and a blast furnace. In addition to his business activities, he farmed land at Stretton Hall and at Handley Lodge, on the slopes rising out of the valley now occupied by the old main line of the Midland Railway near Clay Cross up towards Littlemoor. Brocksopp had inherited Stretton Hall from his mother Mary, who had in turn inherited it from her brother William Wragg. The Wragg papers are of special interest to the economic and social historian of Derbyshire, as so little has yet been published on these topics, at least as regards that vital period of transition, the Industrial and Agrarian Revolutions.

The oldest manuscript bears on the outside wrapper the name and date — William Wragg 1732. It is in fact a survey of the Manor of Stretton compiled 1655-6 by Francis Allen for the lords of the manor, the Earls of Arundel and Shrewsbury and Sir George Savile. The information contained in this survey provides a picture of land ownership and land holding in the township. The largest farm was the Hall Farm, then held by Anthony Fox, 242 acres in extent and rented at £61 a year. There were five farms between 50 and 100 acres, thirteen

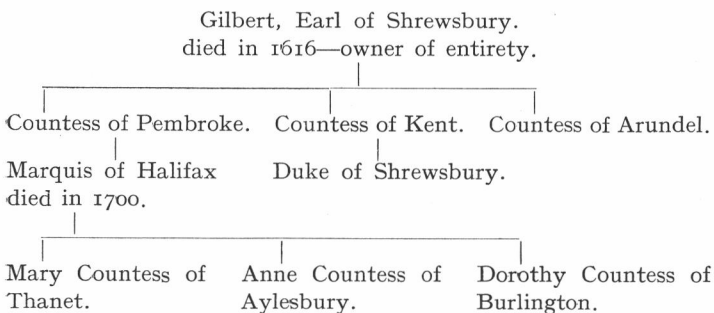
between 10 and 25, and thirteen small holdings below 10 acres in size. In addition, there were 15 cottages, to which were attached land varying between a rood and an acre in extent and rented generally at 1/- a year. There were also 10 freeholders, the size of whose farms unfortunately is not mentioned (the information of course was of no value to the lords of the manor), but where the names of the freeholders can be found in other documents, their farms are generally in the 25-50 acre block. The survey mentions two mills, the Hen Mill and the Baker Mill, both held by members of the Revel family and rented at £4 and £5. 7s. respectively. On the whole, the survey shows a village with a wide spread property range, an agricultural ladder with plenty of rungs to enable men to climb, together with a strong freeholding element.

Towards the end of the 18th century, another survey was made in 1790 to regulate the land tax. It is fuller than that of 1655-6 in that it includes Woodthorpe and Egstow, but like the earlier survey it provides a picture of the social structure of the township after a century and a half of more rapid change than Derbyshire had yet seen. The largest farm in the village was still the Stretton Hall Farm, but now shrunk to 133 acres. This was owned and farmed by John Brocksopp, who was also shortly to purchase the Handley Lodge Farm of 69 acres. He also rented from William Webster, 93 acres of land at Henmoor for ironstone quarrying. There were four other farms over 100 acres, three of which were in Woodthorpe, where the whole of the land was owned by Sir Henry Hunloke, who lived in the adjacent Wingerworth Hall. In the 25-50 acre group there were 24 farms all rented; in the 10-25 acre group 13 farms were owner occupied, while in the 5-10 acre group 8 out of 14 farms were rented. There were about 50 properties in size less than 5 acres. It is plain from the assessment field record that the smallholder had received compensation in previous enclosure acts, as is shown by such records as:—

Clay Lane.					
Hodgkinson R. Esq., Jas. Pendleton Tenant.					
Upper Carr.	2	3	26	10	£1 9 2
Nether „	1	2	32	10	19 0
Allotment on Hen Moor.			18	19	1 0
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total.	4	2	36		£2 9 2
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Harding W. Abraham Gent Tenant.					
Common Allotment.	2	2	15	10	£1 5 10
and					
North John.					
House, Yard, Barn, Garden & Croft.	1	1	7		2 10 0
Over Croft.	3	8	14		11 2
Sick.	1	2	17	19	14 5
Gilford Hole.	2	2	19	11	1 8 9
Common Allotment			3	38	15 9
			<hr/>	<hr/>	
Total.	7	1	9		£6 0 1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	

It is, therefore, apparent that enclosure and the great changes in agricultural technique which so much affected the English countryside during this century had, so far as Stretton was concerned, not led to the disappearance either of the small landowner or the small landholder.

The situation as regards the lordship of the manor of Stretton was peculiarly complicated. Stretton had been one of the numerous Shrewsbury manors, but it had, in 1616, passed into the hands of co-heiresses, as shown by one of the manuscripts, apparently drawn up by Edward Brocksopp towards the end of the 18th century.



The policy of the tenants through a century and a half was to buy out the lords of the manor. In 1660, they had subscribed £1,623. 17s. 8d. towards £3,040 necessary to extinguish the third share of the Countess of Arundel, the remainder being contributed by Mr. Gladwin of Tupton Hall. A list of the tenants taking part in this operation is to be found below:—

When the half of Howards Royalty being a sixth part of Stretton Manor yields 20 shillings profit.

	s.	d.	mites.
Mr. Clarke will have for his part of the 20/-	01	00	11
Mr. James Webster	... 01	02	12
John Clay	... 00	06	13
Robor Hall	... 01	01	13
James Hauksley	... 02	02	09
Mathew Hopkinson	... 01	00	04
Richard Millward	... 01	10	01
George Milward	... 00	11	15
John Beghton	... 00	08	21
Richard Holley	... 00	10	08
Thomas Brighton	... 00	04	16
Thomas Fauke	... 00	09	19
Samuel Wheatcroft	... 00	07	20
George Brunt	... 00	03	17
Richard Glow	... 00	04	05
Thomas Cowlshaw	... 00	05	03
George Smith	... 00	09	19
Robert Millward	... 01	02	18
Robert Alwood	... 01	01	02
John Osland	... 00	03	23
John Revell	... 01	07	23
Lawrence Bunting	... 00	02	04
Peter Ellat	... 00	02	04
	19	11 2 f.	4

Note that 6 mites make one farthing.

In 1708/9, the tenants negotiated successfully with the Duke of Shrewsbury to extinguish his third share.

Articles of Agreement indented made and outlined and agreed upon the fourth and twentieth day of September in the year of our Lord 1708 between John Arden and William Hill [stewards] of the most noble Charles Duke of Shrewsbury on the one part and William Wragg Humphrey Oldfield and James Hawxley of Stretton in the county of Derbyshire yeomen on the part and behalf of themselves and other tenants of the said Duke in Stretton . . . on the other part.

Imprimis the said John Arden and William Hill do hereby promise that the said Duke for and in consideration of the sum of £1958. 10. of lawful money of Great Britain to be paid to him . . . shall and will truly convey to the said William Wragg etc. . . . all that his third part of Messuages lands and tenements etc. in Stretton.

The tenants signed an agreement to contribute their shares of this sum.

20th January 1708/9.

We whose names are here unto subscribed being purchasers of his Grace the Duke of Shrewsbury's third part within the Manor of Stretton appointed to be sold by articles under the hands and seals of Mr. John Arden and Mr. William Hill appointed commissioners by his Grace bearing date 24th day of September 1708 do hereby promise and engage to bring in our proportion of the one half of our purchase money unto William Wragg James Hawxley and Humphrey Oldfield being appointed and nominated trustees for themselves and the other purchasers . . . Witness our hands the day and year aforesaid.

Israel Cantrell. John Towntrow. John Beighton (his mark). Jeremiah Higginbotham. Francis Oldham (his mark). Peter Rudgate. George Heald (his mark). Francis Low (his mark). Robert Barker (his mark). John Mottershaw. Sam Rowth (his mark). Peter Mottram. Ann Heald (her mark).

Signed in the presence of:—

John Holton. William Flint.

As may be seen, William Wragg was the leading spirit in these negotiations. He had become the tenant of Stretton Hall Farm in 1683, paying a fine of £8 and an annual rent of £13. os. 9d. to each of the two owners of the manorial rights. The Wragg family evidently became wealthy through farming and coal mining, as a later William Wragg who made his will in 1746 was able to leave land at Littlemoor, Stretton, Alton and Brampton, cottage property and a share in the Hen Mill, coal mines at Stretton Common, a sum of £520 and an annuity of £17 a year.

A petition by the tenants shows an endeavour to disentangle the ninth shares of the three countesses.

To the Rt. Hon. The Earl and Countess of Burlington and the Hon. Sackvil Tufton Esq. and Lady Mary his Wife and the Hon. Rupert Bruce Esq Coheirs of Wm. Late Lord Marquis of Halifax.

The Humble Petition of your several and respective Tenants holding your One third of the lands lying and being within the Manor of Stretton Com: Derby.

Shewith—

That as you have brought a bill in the high Court of Chancery for the setting out and dividing of the said lands into thirds your petitioners humbly crave leave to make here a State of the Case of their present Circumstances.

The Duke of Norfolk and Duke of Shrewsbury sold their two thirds of the premises unto your present Tenants and to some other Persons who together as near as we can be informed make a number above one Hundred proprietors and as their Interest being so small in quantity of land Your petitioners pray and beg the Liberty of assuring you the consequence of Such a Division as is proposed will be that the Law expenses will far exceed the value of their Property of the Estates they now enjoy of the aforesaid two thirds and further it will be attended with utter ruin of many of the owners and even greatly hurt the Most Ablest of them and in Order to prevent Such Miserys and Calamitys in the Country the petitioners Humble Submit themselves to your Lordships etc. and pray that you would Inquire of Mr. Wm. Abdy your agent into the truth and certainty of this their Petition Humbly Desiring that the Suite of Division may not be carried into further execution being your Petioners are ready and will Chearfully contribute their Two thirds of the Charges of a new Survey to be made of the Lands within the said Manor and as a Security for the same some of the most responsible of them have signed an Instrument Unto Mr. Abdy for that very purpose hoping thereby to be entitled Unto your Lordship and Favour either to obtain the Grant of Leases or to become Purchasers of your third as in your great Wisdom and Judgment Shall seem best.

And your Petitioners will as in
Duty bound ever pray etc.,

This Petition is addressed:—

For

Mr. William Ragg

Att Stretton Hall.

A note added to the genealogical chart quoted earlier explains the result.

“In January 1743 the thirds of these 3 ladies was allotted on a division of the late Marquis’s estates to the Countess of Thanet alone.”

The Thanet family endeavoured apparently, as the following letter shows, to sell out their third.

Sir,

I am very sorry to trouble you with this letter about my affairs with Lord Thanet, but as the matter stands, cannot well avoid it. The case is this, Tho' I should be very glad and willing to take his Lordship's third part of my Farm If I could but soon take it so as to save myself, yet the present advanced rent is so high that I really cannot make it of the land. I am rather apprehensive some mistake must be made therin, as it is well known to be a wet, cold, clayey soil, moreso than most of the neighbourhood, and is valued at a considerable greater price than most of my Lord's Tenants Lands about it, which might perhaps be owing to the greatest part thereof being out of tillage and well manured and sown with seeds at the time when valued occasioned by a disagreement between our Rector and me about the tythes, or what other thing could occasion the mistake if this did not I cannot tell but certainly there must be one and whether a second (revaluation) of lands might not be the best way to discover it or not I submit to you. I should be very glad to take it rather than give any more trouble either to his Lordship or yourself. If you'll but pleased to take it into consideration, and make such abatement as it really deserves or in proportion with the rest of his Lordship's Tenants in the Neighbourhood . . . I should be very glad to know whether you'd please to have me wait upon you in London upon this affair. If an abatement cannot be made and a Division must ensue I beg it may be done amicably, without the Expense of a Chancery Suit. I should be very glad to continue Tenant to his Lordship provided the rent can be fixed at such a rate as I can pay for it. I beg pardon for giving you this trouble and am

Your Most obedient and Humble servant,
W.W.

Stretton Hall.
24th April 1766.

However, a document of 1800 shows that the Thanet third and the sixth of Dr. Bourne, the heir of the Gladwins, still remained a bone of contention between the owners and the tenants.

The Wragg Papers contain one example of the working of a manorial court in the 18th century.

Stretton. of Manor	}	The verdict and presentment of the Jury at the Court Leet and Great Court Baron held for the said Mannor the twenty-seventh day of October Anno Dom. 1724:—
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before

M. Calton

Steward there.

The Names of the Jury

Viz:—John Towndrow	Jur ^r		
Jeremiah Higginbotham	} Jur ^r	John Beighton	} Jur ^r
John Rooth		Isaac Williamson	
George Milnes		Israel Cantrell	
Richard Hawkesley		Ralph Wass	
		Arthur Wass	
		Thomas Millard Junr.	} Jur ^r
		Philip Draycourt	
		Francis Barber	

	£	s.	d.
Impris. They Amerce every Gentelman and freeholder who owes suit and service to this Court and hath not appeared here this day or Essoyned each person to forfeit the sum of	...	0	1 0
Item. Every Tenant, cottager and others to forfeit for the like, the sum of	...	0	0 4
Item. They lay a pain upon all cottagers and other persons within this manor who shall keep any Dogs or Bitches to drive or disturb the sheep or other cattle upon the Common, that each person shall forfeit for every time such offence be committed by him or her to the Lady and Lords of this Manor	...	0	10 0
Item. They lay a pain that all persons within this Manor who shall burn any Bracken upon the Commons before the 25th day of July in every year that each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lady and Lords of this Manor	...	0	10 0
Item. They Lay a pain that if any person within this Manor shall put any cattle upon any of our Commons troubled with any infamous distemper each person shall forfeit for every such offence to the Lady and Lords of this Manor	...	1	0 0
Item. They lay a pain upon all persons within the Manor who shall put any cattle upon any of the commons having no common Right within this Manor that each person so offending shall forfeit to the Lady and Lords of this Manor for beast for every Horse or Beast 12d. and every sheep 6d.	...	0	0 6

- Item. They Lay a Pain upon every person within this Manor that shall put more cattle upon any of the Commons in the Summer than the Lands they hold within this Manor will Maintain in the winter that every person so offending shall forfeit for each offence to the Lady and Lords of this Manor for every Horse or Beast 1/- and every sheep 6d. 1 0
0 6
... for sheep
- Item. They Amerce the several persons hereinafter named William Cutt Junr., John Linard Senr., John Linard Junr., Widow Milward, David Tatam, Mary Cowlshaw, Widow, James Norman, Wm. Hop, Wm. Mellors, Hannah White, Widow Keeton, Anthony Sneath, Ralph Slater, Mathew Cowlshaw, Eliz. Wass, Smal. Harrison, Widow Oldham, John Bunting, Thomas Fidler, Mathew Wass, Wm. Fidler, Joseph Hopkinson, Richard Hawkesley, Francis Goodale, Elizabeth Goodale wid., Susanna Goodale Widow, Geo. Millward, John Jackson, Michael Burkland, Samuel Wheatcroft, Richard Wilbourne, Wm. Hallowes, Geo. Wragg, Eliz. Cutt, John Turner, Richard Wood, John White, Mr. Holland for having not laid open their respective Jutarks or Jurroarthums upon the Commons or Wast Ground within this manor according to A pain laid at the last Court the sum of ... 2 10 0
- Item. They the said Jury present that the way to the Stoney Lands (being the Jutarks of Robert Hunloke Esq. and in the possession of his Tenant Savage — Shepherd lying within this mannour) is and of right ought to be from the — said Stoney Lands through A Close called the Pitt Hills and from thence thro' the Upper-John-Croft both in the possession of Joseph Barber, and out of — the said Upper-John-Croft into A Lane called John Lane and so to pass and repass that way to and from the said Close called Stoney Lands as well for driving of cattle as with all other carriages and for all other useful and necessary purposes, And we do further find that as well the said Mr. Hunloke and his said Tenant as also the said Joseph Barber being present in Court do justice to the right of way as before described and that in consideration of six shillings and six pence paid to the said Joseph Barber towards setting up A New Gate he shall forthwith put one up in the place in his own houre as now Directed and agreed upon, and shall for the future maintain it and — that Mr. Hunloke or his Tenant shall at all times repair for his own use that part of the said Way which is over the said Pitt Hills Close.

It is unfortunate that there is little material about farming. There is, however, a valuation of Stretton Hall Farm made when John Brocksopp and his mother dissolved partnership.

A VALUATION OF THE FOLLOWING GOODS AND CHATTLES AT STRETTON HALL BELONGING TO MRS. BROCKSOPP AND SON.

APRIL 1786.

a.	r.	p.		£	s.	d.
16	0	0	Summer Fallow Wheat 5 times ploughed and Harrowed at 7/6 per acre each time	30	0	0
			33 Loads of Lime Leading & spreading included	...	14	0 6
			Rent and Assessment for last year	...	16	0 0
			Seed for do. 13. 1. at	...	11	3 0
					<hr/>	
					71	3 6
5	0	0	Clover ley Wheat ploughing and harrowing	2	10	0
			Seed for do. 5 loads	...	4	0 0
			Winter Herbage on do.	...	12	6
					<hr/>	
					7	2 6
7	0	0	Summer Fallows and Turnips 6 times ploughed & harrowed at 7/6	...	15	15 0
			12 Loads of lime on do.	...	5	2 0
			75 Loads of Dung at 4/- per load & spreading incl.	...	16	17 6
			2 qrs. 6 sts. Seed at 26/- £3. 11. 6. 5 st.	...	4	1 6
			Oats on do. 10/-	...		
					<hr/>	
					41	16 0
16	2	0	Thirty Loads of Dung to Grass Land	...	6	0 0
			Oats, ploughing & harrowing at 8/- p. acre	...	6	12 0
			10 qrs. 2 sts. Seed for do. at 16/- £8. 4.	...	8	17 0
			4 sts. Barley 13/-	...		
					<hr/>	
					21	9 0
			80 lbs., Clover seed sown in 1785 at 8d.	2	13	4
			Dutch clover, trayfoil and Hayseed sown in 1785	...	2	9 0
			100 load of Dung in the Folds at 3/- per load	...	15	0 0
			Horses a 3 year old Colt £20. Two 7 yr. old mares £34	...	54	0 0
			A yearling colt and Filley £16. Galloway £8. 8.	...	24	8 0

5 cows £40	Two Stirks £9.	Four yearling Calves £10.	three rearing do. £2 5.	...	61	5	0		
Two Barren Cows £11.	three Piggs £3.	15.	...	14	5	0			
20 Wethers and 27 Ewes	...	...	...	36	2	0	
Waggon £7.	7.	Two Carts £9.	Plough £1.	two pairs of Harrows £1.	10.	...	18 17 0		
Roller 10/-	Grindstone 5/-	Branderiff £1.	10.	15	Fleaks £1.	2.	6.	...	3 7 6
Sledge, four stone troughs, eight hayrakes, thirteen sacks	...	...	...	1	11	0	
Strike three riddles.	Wellbucket torn rope etc.	...	...	17	6		
Sowing Hopper, Iron shovel, Mathack, Gablock, spade, dungfork	...	...	...	6	6		
Twelve twogained forks, Straw engine, Fan, Maltmills and wheelbarrow	...	...	...	2	12	6	
Gearing	...	...	...	3	0	0	
				382	15	4			
Deduct the value of Turnips. £7	...	...	...	7	0	0	
				Total	...	£375	15 4		

It is of definite interest, casting light on the implements and tools used as well as on farming practices of the time. In addition, John Brocksopp's Farm Pocket Book and a few bills found in it supply other information. It is evident that his principal business was in fat stock, his best customer being Robert Nall, butcher of Chesterfield.

			£	s.	d.	
321 Weathers	195.	0.				
34 Ewes	187.	11.				
			382.	11.	at 8d. pound...	
8 Cows			178	12	8	
2 Cows			357.	8.	at 8/- per stone	
1 Cow			143	0	6½	
1 Incalf do.			80.	7.	at 7/- per stone	
2 Tups			28	3	6	
			...	16	16	0
			...	16	0	0
			...	4	10	0
			£387	2	8½	
5 Jan. 1811.	To 1 Cow	33 st. 7/6	...	12	7	6
	To 1 do.		...	22	0	0
				421	10	2

Received of Rob. Nall on Acc.	286	11	6	
1811 Jan. 11. do.	60	5	0	
Jan. 18. do.	61	2	0	
		1	9	9
				<hr/>
				409 8 3
				<hr/>
				12 1 11
Keep of 6 Sheep from 17 Apl. 1810 to 13th Oct.				
1810 — 25 weeks 4 days — 3/-	...	3	16	6
Do. of 5 Sheep 13 Oct. to 26 Dec. 1810 10 weeks and 4 days — 2/6	...	1	6	3
				<hr/>
				17 4 8

A certain amount of wool was sold off the farm as is evident by the following extract from John Brocksopp's pocket book.

		Spencer & Ward Dr.		£	s.	d.
1793.						
Dec. 12.	To 20 st. 10 lbs. Wool at 10/3 to be paid for 25 March 1794	...	14	14	0	
1794.						
Mrch. 21.	Pr Contra..... Cr..... By a Bill	...	14	14	0	

Information as to wages is sparse, but the following extracts relating to James Strutt, who rented land from Brocksopp and paid for it by working are typical.

1790.	Dec. 21.	By 83 days labour at 10d.	...	3	9	2
	to	May 12.				
1791.	Dec. 27.	By 57 days labour	...	2	11	6

In the survey of 1655-6, coal mining had already begun on Stretton Common, as Thomas Wragg is noted as paying £10 rent for his mines. The earliest mention of a mining lease in the Wragg Papers is one of 1702 from the Duke of Shrewsbury and the Dowager Marchioness of Halifax to Humphrey Oldfield, Thomas Clay and William Wragg of two-thirds of a mine called Clay Cross Delfe situated upon the common adjoining to Clay Cross. The lease mentions a sough which had been dug to drain this mine — a sough that was to cause future owners of this pit much trouble. The partners agreed to complete this, and as their price were to work the mine one year rent free. However, in 1709 the lease was transferred to John Mottershaw, who transferred it to the

Gladwins of Tupton. Trouble arose when the Duke of Shrewsbury sold his third share in 1709, as Robert Barker who had bought a third share of the land he held, filled up the shaft by putting earth in it — a fact which shows, apart from the legal obligation in the lease to fill in the shafts when the coal was got — how shallow were the workings. What the result of this rather violent action was, the Wragg Papers do not mention, but a further complication arose in 1733, when the partners leased another mine on adjacent land belonging to Messrs. Woodyear and Turbutt and proposed to use part of this sough to drain the new mine. The other holders of shares in the manor protested that the sough belonged to all and not merely to some of the lords, and threatened to stop it up rather than allow the partners to use it without payment. They did so in fact, but in 1736 it was amicably settled that the partners should pay a rent for the use of this sough. In 1744, the seam was leased out to William Cupid and John White.

May the 13th 1744 MEMORANDUM let to William Cupid and John White Clay Cross pits of forty five pounds a year and to pay forty two pounds per acre and to let Humphrey Oldfield, William Wragg and Thomas Clay have what coke they have occasion to burn in their own houses and to let Doctor Burn have what coals he shall take at a Boon as usual, and twenty shilling a year to ballance the partners coals, to be paid to him by William Cupid and John White over and above the forty five pounds AND the said William Cupid and John White are to enter to the pits on the eight day of May and to two pits new sunk, seventy yards of level, forty yards of heading, three pits well timbered, three others timbered, one Thousand of punchons, Eight hammers, twenty seven picks, seven hooks, seven rakes, eleven spades, nine calves, twenty nine wedges, three bank rakes, one dresser, two old drags, one axe, one sharpening hammer, two mandrils, two clives, one sowwell froned, two trunks, one bank hook, one fire pan, three new ropes, two turn barrels, two foot hooks, two turn gears, four foot boards, three wiskets AND the said William Cupid and John White shall stand to the same Articles that John Mottershaw and George Barker did, in their last Bargain AS WITNESS OUR HANDS

TESTATORS.

Francis Barker.
William Wragg Junior.

His mark.
William X Cupid.
His mark.
John X White.

An indenture of 1746 with reference to this mine is of interest in casting some light on the condition of Derbyshire roads at this time.

KNOW ALL MEN that we Henry Bourne of Spittle in the parish of Chesterfield . . . William Wragg of Stretton Hall . . . Humphrey Oldfield of Holmgate in the parish of Northwingfield and Thomas Clay of Higham . . . are firmly bound to Thomas Holland of Ford, Gent, in the sum of Fifty pounds . . . WHEREAS the above bounden Henry Bourne etc have for several years last past been working . . . a certain coal mine within the hamlet of Stretton, and have carried and laid very great quantities amounting to more than One Thousand Loads of Deads, earth, dirt, slack and rubbish raised out of the said coal mine into the Common King's highway leading from Chesterfield towards Derby Whereby the same is becoming dangerous . . . they the said Henry Bourne etc have come to an agreement with the overseer of the Highway . . . that they shall at their own proper charges spread and level the said Deads etc, that the same may be even from the hedge or fence on the one side to the hedge or fence on the other and shall also in like manner lay a horse causway on the side of the road over the said slack already laid . . . and also the said Henry Bourne etc shall from time to time . . . during the term of eight years well and effectually repair the said highway . . . and also if the said Henry Bourne etc do not . . . lay any other Deads etc. within the said road whereby the same shall be raised higher than the sides thereof when levelled as aforesaid and not more than eighteen inches higher in the middle and further also if they the said Henry Bourne etc. shall pay unto the said Thomas Holland for the use of the Lords of the Manor of Stretton for all such quantities of coal as have been gotten by them within and under the said Highway being part of the waste of the said Manor after the rate of Forty two pounds per acre and accept the posts left for the support of the roof of the said work then and on performance of this present condition the above written obligation, to be void, but if default be made in the performance thereof or of any part thereof contrary to the true intent and meaning of these presents then the above written obligation to be and remain in full force strength and virtue.

Signed in the presence of:—
Geof. Heathcote.
John Elye.

Henry Bourne
William Wragg
Humphrey Oldfield
Thomas Clay.

Two more later leases refer to the other mining activities of the Wragg family. One is dated 1765, and is between William Wragg and his partner Thomas Clay

of Higham and John Woodyeare of Crookhill, Conisborough and William Turbutt Esq. of Doncaster, empowering the former to mine coal on certain farms in Stretton. It is known that the partners sank two pits and a water level and that the pit closed down *c.* 1800 leaving a considerable quantity of coal untapped. The other is unfortunately undated and is in draft form. It records an agreement between William Wragg and the Hunlokes, whereby the latter are to pay for the sinking of a new pit and for the driving of 60 yards of level and to transfer these and another pit to William Wragg. The Hunlokes also agree "to lay on the bank six cord of puncheons for every pit that shall be worked during the term" of the lease and are prohibited from working the Woodthorpe or Crosscliffe Collieries, except for coal for Wingerworth Hall. Evidently it was the custom of the royalty owner to provide a checkweighman, as a clause is included whereby the Hunlokes were to pay his wages "unless he will do the work of a banksman". Finally, a note to the draft lease shows that Wragg was to take over the engine at Woodthorpe or Tupton Collieries and chose the former.

Although the Wragg papers do not, unfortunately, enable us to build up a picture of the development of the family fortunes during this period, they do at least provide some material towards the history of a period and of an area too long neglected by historians of the county.

NOTE.—Charles, 12th Earl of Shrewsbury was created Duke of Shrewsbury and Marquis of Alton in 1694. At his death 1st Feb. 1717/8 the Dukedom became extinct, the Earldom reverting to his cousin.

GLOSSARY.

- Branderiff = Framework of a hayrick.
 Clive = A strong hook fixed to end of chain or rope and attached to rings of buckets for hauling them up the shaft of a mine.
 Deads = Unsaleable coal.
 Fleaks = Wattled hurdle for drying and storing.
 Gablack = Iron Crowbar.
 Mandrill = Miner's pick.
 Puncheons = Pit props supporting roof in a coal mine.
 Sowwell = Stake.
 Wisket = Basket.