

## COURT ROLLS AND OTHER PAPERS OF THE MANOR OF STRETTON

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### INTRODUCTION

The manor of Stretton, in the hundred of Scarsdale, is something of a puzzle for the local historian, and probably for this reason it has hitherto been largely ignored. The early descent of the manor is undoubtedly complex and its geography raises some puzzling and intriguing questions. Yet although the scarcity of documentary material means that much has to be left to conjecture, it is nevertheless possible to give a broad outline of its history.

The only serious contribution to the history of the manor that has appeared in print is the article by G. C. Hopkinson in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*<sup>1</sup> based on the Barnes Collection in Chesterfield Public Library. This contained a transcript of the only known court roll of the manor (for the year 1724), and gave an interesting account of the way in which the manorial tenants gradually succeeded in buying out the lords of the manor. It also touched on the agricultural and coal-mining activities carried on within the manor during the 17th and 18th centuries. But it did not attempt to explain the early descent of the manor or to offer any comment on the problem of its curious geography. Amongst the Ogston records there has now come to light a number of documents concerning the manor of Stretton, including copies of seven further court rolls (for the years 1762, 1765-68 and 1771-72) and papers relating to matters such as the chief rents of the manor and the holders of manorial offices. In publishing transcripts or abstracts of these additional court rolls it may therefore be helpful to give an outline of the descent of the manor, and to discuss the puzzling features of its geographical bounds.

### GEOGRAPHY OF THE MANOR

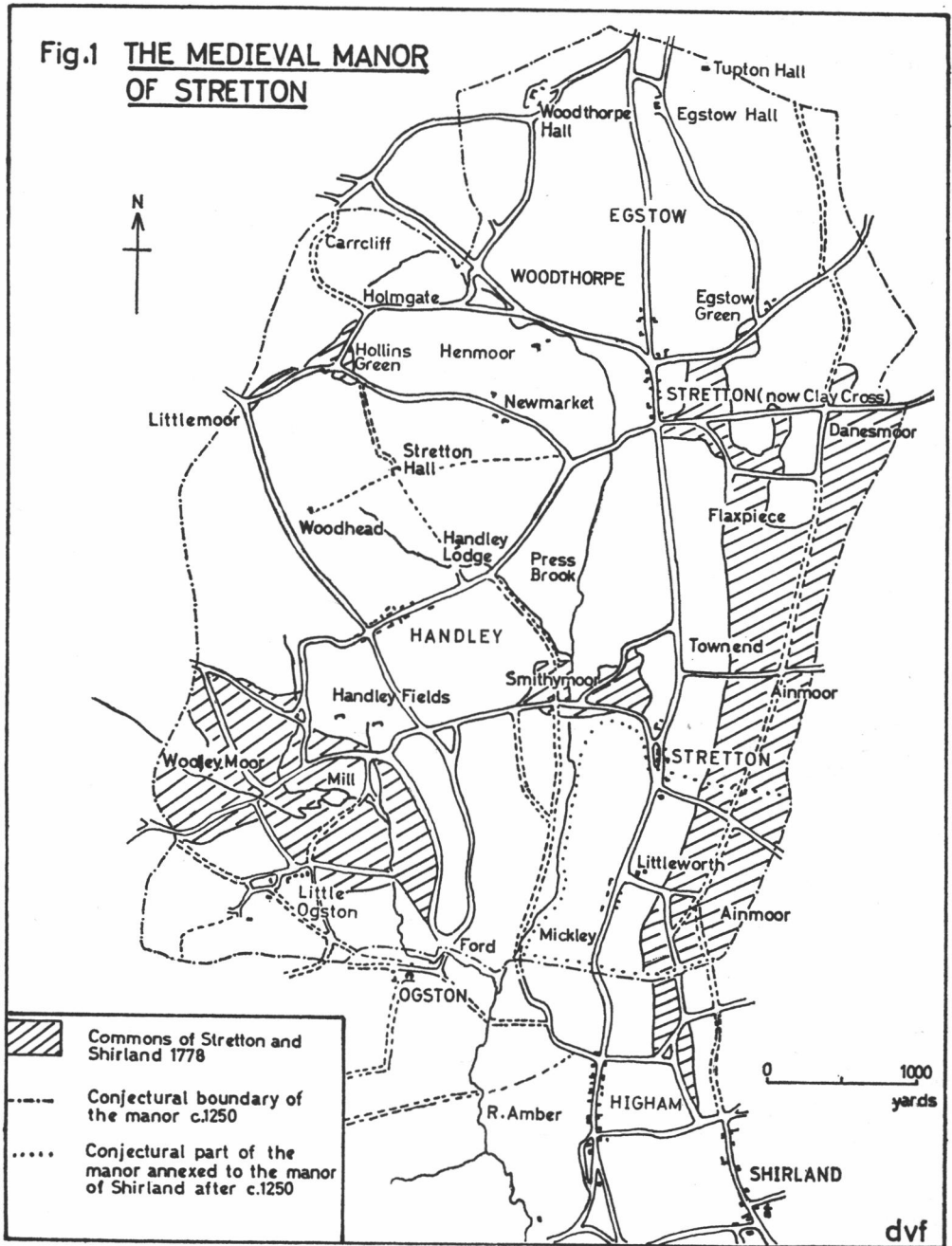
The name Stretton is of Old English origin and means 'farm on the Roman road'.<sup>2</sup> Thus we find the present township of Stretton lying astride the A.61 trunk road, just over a mile south of Clay Cross, which at that point coincides with the course of the former Roman *Rykneld Street*, which ran in a northerly direction from Little Chester (on the outskirts of Derby). It is the only village of that name in Derbyshire, although until certain adjustments were made to the county boundary in 1897 the present Leicestershire village of Stretton-en-le-Field, lying close to the *Rykneld Street* near Burton-on-Trent, lay also within the county. It is perhaps surprising that there are not more 'Strettons' along the course of the *Rykneld Street* in Derbyshire, and indeed the former existence of another village bearing this name will be suggested below. Despite the distance of Stretton-en-le-Field from Stretton in the hundred of Scarsdale the early families in each place have often been confused, and the appearance in Scarsdale of another family deriving from Stretton in the county of Staffordshire has added a further complicating factor.

The Domesday Survey for Derbyshire records that Henry de Ferrers held a manor in Stretton which was held under him by Roger. This Stretton is clearly identifiable as Stretton-en-le-Field,<sup>3</sup> and Roger may have been the ancestor of the family who later took the name of 'de Stretton'.<sup>4</sup> The Survey further records that Ralph fitzHubert held a manor in Stretton, Egstow and Handley, and that he also held a manor in 'another Stretton': both manors being held under him by Robert.<sup>5</sup> It is with these two manors that we are concerned.

The Survey leaves us in no doubt that in Ralph fitzHubert's time there were two separate and distinct settlements known by the name of Stretton, and that each was grouped within a different manor. The manor of Stretton, Egstow and Handley contained land for four-and-a-half ploughs and had formerly been held by the Saxon Leofnoth. The manor of Stretton was rather under half the size and had previously been held by Leofric. Now all Ralph fitzHubert's manors in Derbyshire (with a single possible exception) were held before the Conquest by the Saxon thegns Leofric and Leofnoth, and although this territorial bloc included several manors, such as Ashover, Crich (with soke in Ogston, Wessington and elsewhere) and Oakerthorpe, Ripley and Pentrich, close to the present township of Stretton, other manors in the group were widely dispersed throughout the county so that the pre-Conquest ownership of these two 'Stretton' manors reveals nothing about their probable location and relationship. Ralph fitzHubert's under-tenant, Robert, in addition to holding the two 'Stretton' manors also held of the fitzHubert barony a large manor in Barlborough and Whitwell, with two bovates in Clowne (as well as holding other manors in Nottinghamshire of the same barony). This Robert was almost certainly the ancestor of the Derbyshire Meynells<sup>6</sup> and he and his descendants continued to hold Barlborough and Whitwell as under-tenants for many generations. Furthermore, his descendants are recorded in the late 13th century as still holding the 'manor of Stretton', with which by then they had enfeoffed Richard de Riboeff 'to hold of their manor of Barlborough' (see below). It is significant that by this date there appears to be in existence only one 'manor of Stretton', and it may therefore be inferred that the two Domesday manors had either become amalgamated or, alternatively, that one had by then become attached to some other manor. From a comparatively early date the *caput* of what had now become the sole manor of Stretton, which included the settlements at Stretton, Ford, Handley, Woolley Moor, Smithymoor, Newmarket, Holmgate, Henmoor, Woodthorpe, Egstow and Danesmoor, was established at Stretton Hall (now a farm about one mile west of the town of Clay Cross), and later references to the manor often speak of it as the 'manor of Stretton Hall'.

Let us turn now to the geography of this part of Derbyshire. It will at once be apparent from the conjectural plan of the manor of Stretton (page 14) that the area surrounding the settlements at Egstow, Stretton Hall and Handley forms a logical and compact estate which would appropriately correspond to the Domesday manor of 'Stretton, Egstow and Handley'. But the present village of Stretton is clearly in an anomalous situation. Its position on the southern boundary of the manor is too far from Stretton Hall for the two to be obviously related; it is now actually intersected by the boundary between the respective manors and parishes of Stretton and Shirland, where the latter makes an apparently illogical loop northwards from the village of Higham along the old Roman road; and the logic of its situation demands that it must at some stage have been the focal point of a settlement much of whose land would have lain along Stretton hillside and Mickley in what is now the parish of Shirland and Higham. On geographical grounds therefore it is difficult to resist the conclusion that the present village of Stretton was once the nucleus of the small Domesday manor of that name which had disappeared as a separate entity by the late 13th century, and part of which had by then been absorbed by the neighbouring manor of Shirland. Such a manor would have extended from the boundary with Morton on Ainmoor on the east; embraced the present village of Stretton as well as the 'northern loop' of the manor and parish of Shirland and Higham; extended westwards to the River Amber to include Ford and Woolley Mill; while its common boundary with the larger manor of Stretton, Egstow and Handley to the north might well have been the predecessor of the present Stretton/Woolley Moor road. Its cultivable area would probably have been about a third of that of its neighbour to the north.

There are several pieces of evidence which suggest that this geographical assessment of the likely history of the present village of Stretton is correct. In the first place there is the evidence of the 1778 Enclosure Award maps for the parishes of Stretton and



Shirland. It is apparent from the Stretton map that the greater part of the original Stretton manorial commons extended from the centre of what is now Clay Cross (see below) southwards in a broad strip of land between 1,500 and 1,900 feet wide along the eastern or Ainmoor boundary with the manors of North Wingfield and Morton. When this strip of commons reached what is now the Shirland boundary just to the north of the present Stretton–Morton road its configuration remained broadly unaltered and it passed through the boundary as a strip of about 1,500 feet in width. However, when it reached the lane, known in 1778 as Mickley Road, leading east from the present Mickley Lane to Mickley Farm, its whole configuration changed. Almost opposite the 1778 Mickley Road was a lane, known in 1778 as Lees Road, leading westwards from the present Mickley Lane along the southern boundary of what is now field O.S. (1961) 3388. South of Lees Road the commons shrunk in width to a mere 500 feet, the eastern part having stopped at Mickley Road, and continued south, like a tail, until the tip of the tail reached Birkinstyle Lane at Goosegreen in Shirland. The inference to be drawn from this peculiar narrowing of the commons, which (it will be observed) does not occur at the present boundary between Stretton and Shirland, is that the boundary between the original Stretton commons and that of the original manor of Shirland on the south lay at this point. To the south of it, the policy of enclosure pursued by the manor of Shirland is in glaring contrast to the integrity of the entire eastern belt of the Stretton manorial commons. Moreover, if we follow the course of Lees Road westwards it leads along the northern boundary of fields known in 1724 as ‘Town Heads’ to that point on the present A.61 road where the Roman *Rykneld Street* resumed its northerly course after making a slight detour round what is believed to have been a Roman camp just to the north of the village of Higham. The field name ‘Town Heads’ suggests that here lay the northern boundary of the village of Higham, and if this suggested boundary is continued westwards down the hillside it would reach the Smithy Brook at the point where the Stretton branch track off Ogston Lane probably forded the stream. We are thus left with a well-defined and almost straight boundary between the manor of Shirland and the small Domesday manor of Stretton to the north of it.

Secondly, there is the documentary evidence. In mediaeval documents, from the 13th to the 15th centuries, there are a number of references to the manor of Stretton, and in some a distinction is made between ‘Great’ and ‘Little’ Stretton. Thus in the *Placita de Banco* for 1327–28 Robert and Joan Fraunceys are recorded as holding land in ‘Great Stretton’,<sup>7</sup> while at the inquisition taken on the death of Sir Nicholas Longford in 1373 he was found to be possessed of 2s. 6d. yearly rent from tenements in ‘Little Stretton’, as well as a moiety of the site of the adjoining manor of Morton known as ‘Parkhalle’.<sup>8</sup> A fine dated 1227 speaks of ‘6 oxgangs of land in Little Stratton, and 2 oxgangs of land in Forda, to wit, all the land held by Deforciant in the same vills . . . .’; another, dated 1245 (in which one of the same people is involved) refers to ‘11½ oxgangs of land . . . . in Little Stratton and in Forde . . . .’<sup>9</sup> The wording of these latter fines suggests that ‘Little Stretton’ and Ford, below Ogston, were in reasonably close proximity to one another. By contrast, the reference in a fine dated 1310 to ‘20 acres of land, 1 acre of meadow, 4 acres of wood, and a fourth part of a messuage in Stratton, near Essoure’<sup>10</sup> points to that Stretton which was closest to the border of the manor of Ashover — namely, Stretton Hall. While there is as yet no conclusive evidence from documentary sources alone that the existing village of Stretton is identifiable with the ‘Little Stretton’ of mediaeval documents, we find unexpected place-name support for this theory. Until about 1800 there existed between Stretton and Higham, to the east of the *Rykneld Street*, a settlement known as Littleworth. This community is marked on Burdett’s map of 1767 (as also incidentally, is the north–south road traversing Stretton common, now only a footpath), but has long since disappeared and been forgotten. In mediaeval days this village, being close to Stretton, may well have been called ‘Littleworth-in-Stretton’ or



'Littleworth-by-Stretton', and the name of the district would soon have been contracted to 'Little Stretton'. The conspicuous absence of the name Littleworth from mediaeval records suggests that this is in fact what occurred.

The evidence therefore points to the village of Stretton — or the now-forgotten village of Littleworth — as having formerly been the nucleus of the smaller of the two Domesday manors held by Robert under Ralph fitzHubert, and identifiable with the 'Little Stretton' of mediaeval records.<sup>11</sup> If this is in fact correct, then it raises another interesting question. Stretton Hall, the *caput* of the larger Domesday manor to the north, is one mile to the west of the Roman *Rykneld Street* at Clay Cross and can hardly be described as a 'farm on the Roman road'. The name Clay Cross is of relatively recent origin and does not appear in records prior to the 18th century, while its predecessor, Clay Lane, appears not earlier than the 16th century.<sup>12</sup> Yet the situation of the present town is strategically important and it is likely that there has been a settlement here for a very long time. The logical conjecture therefore is that the town of Clay Cross is on the site of a former Saxon farm known at Domesday as Stretton. The 1778 Stretton Enclosure Award map shows that the greater part of the commons of what eventually came to be known as the 'manor of Stretton' lay along the Ainmoor boundary with the manors of North Wingfield and Morton on the east. And, what is significant, the area of the commons extended from the manor of Shirland as far north as the present Market Street in the centre of Clay Cross and included also a considerable part of Danesmoor. This clearly indicates that much of Clay Cross today lies on land which has always formed part of the manor of Stretton, and that this manor included the area of land between Clay Cross and the manor of North Wingfield to the east.

There can be no doubt therefore that Clay Cross is situated on land which was formerly part of the mediaeval manor of Stretton and that this manor extended from Danesmoor on the east to Littlemoor on the west. At present, however, it cannot be proved that the forerunner of the town of Clay Cross was known in 1086 as Stretton, although this seems a strong presumption. Furthermore, we can only speculate that at some period in mediaeval history, for reasons as yet unknown, the settlement close to the Roman road at Clay Cross was abandoned, and the seat of the manor moved to the location of what is now Stretton Hall, while a new settlement known as Newmarket sprang up nearby.<sup>13</sup> The old name of Stretton thereafter gradually fell into oblivion. Later, in the 16th century, the family of Clay began their rise to prominence in the locality.<sup>14</sup> A settlement started to grow up afresh at the cross-roads on the old Roman *Rykneld Street*, and the name 'Clay Lane' became attached to it — in much the same way as other families gave their names to local roads (for example, Allen Lane and Eaton Lane, in the parish of Ashover). By the early 18th century a market cross had been set up near the junction of the modern main road with Clay Lane and Thanet Street, and the community living nearby soon began to refer to their neighbourhood as 'Clay Cross'. In this way, over a period of years, we may envisage the modern community of Clay Cross developing within the district of Clay Lane, until in recent years the latter in turn lost its identity when it became merged with the newly formed urban district of Clay Cross.

#### DESCENT OF THE MANOR

Having examined the geographical background of the two Domesday manors of Stretton, we must now consider the evidence for the early descent of the manors. We have already noted that in the Domesday Survey Ralph fitzHubert held both manors and that his under-tenant was Robert, the probable ancestor of the Meynells. The family of fitzHubert were descended from Hubert, lord of Ryes near Bayeux in Normandy, whose sons Ralph and Eudo both became men of influence in England and were held in high esteem by William the Conqueror. Ralph was given large estates in the east midlands and the seat of his barony was at Crich. In Derbyshire alone he held at least 24 manors with their appurtenances and he was for some time governor of Nottingham

Castle. The manors of Stretton passed by direct descent from Ralph to his descendant Hubert fitzRalph, baron of Crich (d. 1217–22). But about 1185 the fitzHubert barony of 30 knights' fees was divided between Hubert fitzRalph and Henry de Stuteville, who was his cousin and also a direct descendant of Ralph fitzHubert.<sup>15</sup> The Stuteville share of the divided barony (15 knights' fees) included the manors of Barlborough, Whitwell and part of Clowne; Eckington; the two Stretton manors; Clifton; Duckmanton; Boulton; Kirk Langley; as well as manors in the counties of Nottingham, Leicester and Lincoln. However, Henry de Stuteville forfeited his English estates when he supported Philip Augustus against King John in 1203, and his mother, Leonia de Rames (widow of Robert de Stuteville of Valmont in Normandy), was thereupon obliged to redeem her son's inheritance, which in fact she herself had inherited, by payment of a fine of 200 marks.<sup>16</sup> She is recorded as holding 15 fees of the barony of fitzHubert in 1205, 1212 and 1214. After his mother's death in 1215/6 Henry recovered his English lands, but forfeited them once more after the renewal of the French war in 1224. Following Henry's death (about 1227) his son John de Stuteville paid a relief of 200 marks to obtain his patrimony in England. John was succeeded in 1258 by his son Robert, who in turn paid £100 relief for possession of his share of the fitzHubert barony. When war broke out again with France in 1294 Robert supported the king of France and his English lands were confiscated, although his wife Eleanor, who remained in England, was allowed to retain the manor of Eckington for her maintenance. Robert regained his estates after peace had been declared in 1303, and on his own death in 1306 his French possessions passed to his grandson Robert (from whom the later Stutevilles of Valmont were descended). John de Stuteville, his son by his second wife Eleanor, inherited his English property, and when he in turn died in 1322 he is recorded as holding the manor of Eckington for one fee and other manors in Derbyshire for eight fees. The last of the family to inherit half the fitzHubert barony was Robert de Stuteville, who came of age about 1336, but his lands were then taken into the king's hands along with those of other aliens.<sup>17</sup>

The tenure-in-chief of the Stretton manors, along with the Stuteville holdings in Barlborough, Whitwell and Clowne, passed at this point from the descendants of the Domesday holder Ralph fitzHubert to those of his under-tenant Robert. Although Robert's immediate successors are not known with certainty, it appears that Robert de Meynell, probably the great-grandson of his Domesday namesake, held five fees of the fitzHubert barony in about 1166,<sup>18</sup> and this holding would have included the two manors in Stretton. Robert's eldest son, Robert de Meynell, left four daughters and co-heiresses, two of whom left no surviving issue, and the Meynell fees in the fitzHubert barony eventually therefore came to be held in moieties between the descendants of the families of Hathersage and Cridling whose representatives had married the two other co-heiresses. Robert's younger brother, William de Meynell, was the ancestor of the Meynells of Meynell Langley.

About the middle of the 13th century it seems probable that the two separate manors of Stretton were amalgamated and part of 'Little Stretton' absorbed into the manor of Shirland. For at this period we find the family of Riboeff appearing in the area and about 1284 Richard de Riboeff is recorded as holding the 'manor of Stretton of the manor of Barbro' of the heirs of Robert de Meynil, by the service of 1 fee; the same heirs hold the said manor, with the manors of Barbro' and Whitwell, of Robert de Stuteville, for 5 fees; and Robert of the king *in capite*, together with his manor of Eckington'.<sup>19</sup> The reason for the annexation of part of the manor of Stretton was no doubt economic. Higham was then at the height of its prosperity, its manorial lord (Sir John de Grey) having been granted a charter for a market and fair in 1243, and the land available to its inhabitants was by then probably insufficient for their needs. It would have been impossible to expand southwards (because of the demesne lands of the manor of Shirland), and the obvious direction was towards Stretton. Besides the likely amalgamation of these manors it would seem also that two further areas of land were added to

this unit. From the time of the Conquest Ralph fitzHubert and his descendants had held a small area of sokeland in Ogston attached to the manor of Crich. This land may be identified with the 'Little Ogston' estate held by the canons of Darley under the descendants of Ralph fitzHubert, and its location may be placed with reasonable certainty in that area of Woolley lying between the Carr Brook on the south and the former course of the River Amber on the east and north.<sup>20</sup> The sokeland of Little Ogston did not however descend with the manor of Crich, but appears to have passed on the partition of the fitzHubert barony about 1185 to the Stutevilles as part of their manor of Stretton which adjoined it on two sides. Its history, curiously, remained quite distinct from its larger neighbour, Ogston, whose connection from the earliest times had been with the Deincourt manor of Morton, although Little Ogston appears always to have been within the ecclesiastical parish of Morton.

The other area of land to be added to Stretton consisted of part of Woodthorpe, which was originally taken into cultivation by assarting the woodland region to the west of Egstow on the borders of the manor of Wingerworth.<sup>21</sup> It proved to be a successful settlement, and it first appears in records in 1258 when Alexander de Ramsay and Hawise his wife granted one-third of the manor of Woodthorpe to Matthew de Kniveton.<sup>22</sup> The following year Roger de Stretton (that is Stretton-en-le-Field) granted Matthew, who was his son-in-law, property and rents in Woodthorpe and elsewhere.<sup>23</sup> In 1272 Matilda, widow of Robert de Stretton (son of Roger de Stretton above) granted the manor of Woodthorpe to Matthew de Kniveton (and certain rents and properties in Woodthorpe jointly to Matthew and his son Henry) for the sum of 40 marks,<sup>24</sup> while shortly afterwards Matthew granted the manor exclusively to his son Henry.<sup>25</sup> Thus by the late 13th century it appears that Woodthorpe had become a distinct territorial unit held by a branch of the Kniveton family, and as late as 1431 we find Henry Kniveton of Bradley holding 6s. 8d. rent from sokeland in Woodthorpe.<sup>26</sup> Yet Woodthorpe, or certainly some part of it, must still have fallen under the manorial jurisdiction of the lords of Stretton, for Woodthorpe Hall was for long regarded as lying within the manor of Stretton (and its occupants regularly served as constables of the township of Stretton — see below). From the 15th to the 18th centuries, during the time the Shrewsburys and their descendants held Stretton, there is no separate record of Woodthorpe. However, by the early 18th century the bonds linking the constituent parts of the manor of Stretton were beginning to weaken, and we find the manor of Woodthorpe passing first to the family of Leake, earls of Scarsdale, and then to the Hunlokes of Wingerworth. By the late 18th century Woodthorpe (although still part of the township of Stretton) had extended its influence eastwards to embrace part of what had originally comprised the settlement of Egstow, and soon came to be regarded as a township in its own right.

Very little is known of the family of Riboeff, and because of their tenure of the manor of Stretton in Scarsdale they have been confused with the family of Stretton of Stretton-en-le-Field.<sup>27</sup> The earliest member of the family in this locality was Walter de Riboeff who, through his marriage with Isabel daughter of Simon de Kime, became possessed of one-half fee in Bilborough (Nottinghamshire) and one-half fee in Etwall.<sup>28</sup> Walter was certainly dead by 1241, and since his presumed younger son Richard was returned as holding one-half fee in Bilborough in 1235/6<sup>29</sup> it may well be that he had died by that date. From Richard this one-half fee in Bilborough passed (possibly with his daughter in marriage) to Robert le Vavasor of Shipley and his descendants, passing eventually to Robert de Strelley through his marriage with Elizabeth daughter and co-heiress of the last William le Vavasor (died before 1268) of Shipley.<sup>30</sup> Walter de Riboeff's presumed elder son, Walter, was serving in 1264/5 in the garrison of Nottingham Castle under Sir John de Grey, who was then constable.<sup>31</sup> It is possible, but by no means certain, that Walter obtained the manor of Stretton by marriage with Felicia de Sidenhall (later Sidness, in Stretton), since her family appear to have held considerable property in the area (and they may indeed have been descended from a

junior branch of the Meynells whose heirs were then lords of the manor).<sup>32</sup> In 1263 Walter witnessed a Wessington charter as 'Walter de Rybo, knight'<sup>33</sup> and probably died about 1270. Walter's son was probably the Richard de Riboeff we have noted earlier as holding the manor of Stretton for one fee in about 1284. In 1296/7 Richard held one-half fee in Etwall, which his family had inherited from the de Kime family. He probably died the same year.<sup>34</sup> Another Richard de Riboeff (probably his son) witnessed charters in 1316, 1319 and was described as 'Richard Rybef of Stretton' in 1327/8.<sup>35</sup> However, the Riboeff interest in Stretton appears to have ended about this date. There is no mention of a Riboeff under the entry for Stretton in the 1327 Subsidy Roll and we find that by 1346 the Riboeff one-half fee in Etwall had passed to Robert de Ingram, who may possibly have obtained it by marriage with Richard's heiress.<sup>36</sup>

The manor of Stretton then became the property of Reginald, 4th Lord Grey of Wilton, who held the adjoining manor of Shirland, where his forbear Sir John de Grey (second son of Sir Henry de Grey of Thurrock, Essex) had settled in the first half of the 13th century.<sup>37</sup> According to the rules of mediaeval land tenure the Greys of Shirland would have held the now-unified manors of Stretton 'of the heirs of Robert de Meynell', who had themselves become tenants-in-chief after the permanent confiscation of the English lands of the Stutevilles. But the heirs of Robert de Meynell soon became so numerous since the family inheritance was divided amongst co-heiresses that for all practical purposes the Greys were regarded as tenants-in-chief, which, indeed, their status in feudal society fully warranted. The Greys of Shirland occupied an important position in society during the 13th and 14th centuries. Sir John de Grey, the first of the family to settle at Shirland, accompanied Henry III to the Holy Land (1253); he was appointed steward of Gascony (1253); he was a justice in eyre for the counties of Somerset, Dorset and Devon (1260); and he was sheriff of the counties of Nottingham and Derby (1265).<sup>38</sup> Early in the reign of Henry III the first church was probably built by Sir John de Grey in his manor of Shirland,<sup>39</sup> and in 1243 he was granted a charter to hold a market and fair at Higham (within the manor).<sup>40</sup> His son, Sir Reginald de Grey, was summoned to Parliament regularly from 1290 onwards as 1st Lord Grey of Wilton. He was sheriff of the counties of Nottingham and Derby, constable of Nottingham, justice of Chester; he fought at the battle of Falkirk (1298), and died in 1308. His son John served in the king's French and Scottish campaigns, and was present at the battle of Bannockburn (1314). He was justiciar of North Wales, and died in 1323, leaving two sons. The younger son, Roger, was summoned to Parliament in 1325 as Lord Grey of Ruthin, and from him the later Lords Grey of Ruthin were descended. The elder son, Henry, 3rd Lord Grey of Wilton, died in 1342 and was succeeded by his son Reginald, 4th Lord Grey of Wilton, who acquired the manor of Stretton from the Riboeffs. Reginald was born in 1311, was summoned to Councils from 1349/50–53 and to Parliament from 1432/3–60. He died at Shirland in 1370 and his wife Maud (who was probably the daughter of Sir John de Botetourt) died there in 1391. It appears that the last Lord Grey to live at Shirland was Henry, 5th Lord Grey of Wilton, who was summoned to Parliament in 1376 as 'Henrico de Grey de Shirland' and thereafter as 'Henrico de Grey de Wilton', and who died 22nd April 1396. His wife is believed to have been Elizabeth daughter of Sir Gilbert Talbot, and she died 10th January 1401/2.<sup>41</sup> The elegant ogee-arched tomb in the chancel of Shirland Church is their memorial, and the many armorial escutcheons on the base of this tomb testify to the alliances of this distinguished family.

From the middle of the 14th century there began to be profound changes in land tenure. The agricultural prosperity of the latter years of the previous century had declined, and landlords had begun to lease land rather than exploit their demesnes directly. The arrival of the plague, with its ghastly reduction of the working population followed by a sharp escalation in wage rates, further hastened this trend. Increasingly, therefore, we begin to see the rise of small tenant farmers on manorial estates, and the 1327 Subsidy Roll shows the beginnings of this process in the manor of Stretton. Here we find Robert Francis and his wife Joan (who are recorded elsewhere as holding land in 'Great



Stretton')<sup>7</sup> featuring as one of the nine people assessed. His tax amounted to 43s. 4d., but we find that his main interests lay in Tibshelf where he was assessed at 70s., second only to John de Heriz, the lord of the manor (who paid £4).<sup>42</sup> From these beginnings the Francis family, who came from the south of the county, gradually increased their substance. In 1373 there is record of a William Francis holding tenements in 'Little Stretton', which in turn were held of him by Sir Nicholas Longford.<sup>43</sup> By about 1412 Sir Robert Francis of Foremark (whose father had purchased the manors of Foremark and Ingleby half a century earlier) was renting lands in Stretton, Sidenhall, Hardstoft and Tibshelf. Although the Francis family seem to have disposed of most of their interests in the area by the middle of the century, we find Ralph Francis (probably the great-grandson of Sir Robert) involved in an assize of novel disseizin in 1476 affecting tenements in Hardstoft, Tibshelf and 'Little Stretton'.<sup>44</sup> Apart from the Francis family, the names of Roger Fox, Roger 'de Hanley', Nic. del Clay, Hy. 'del Woodthrope' all appear in the 1327 Roll under Stretton, and it may well have been Roger Fox's descendant who rented Stretton Hall Farm some three centuries later (see below).

When Henry, Lord Grey, died in 1396 his son Richard was only three years old. The latter was brought up away from Shirland and never returned to live in his family's old home. In 1431 he is recorded as holding one-sixth of a fee in Shirland and one-tenth of a fee in Stretton.<sup>45</sup> But it seems likely that before he died in 1442 he had sold the manors of Shirland and Stretton to the Shrewsbury family, for they formed part of the 2nd Earl of Shrewsbury's estate when he was killed in 1460. Stretton was left to the second earl's third son, Sir Gilbert Talbot of Grafton, but with reversion on the latter's death to John Talbot, the third earl.<sup>46</sup> Stretton remained one of the many Shrewsbury properties until the death in 1616 of Gilbert, 7th Earl of Shrewsbury without male issue. The final and most complicated chapter of the descent of the manor then began. Gilbert's extensive estates passed in equal shares to his three daughters and co-heiresses: Mary, wife of William Herbert, 3rd Earl of Pembroke; Elizabeth, wife of Henry Grey, 7th Earl of Kent; and Alethea, wife of Thomas Howard, Earl of Arundel (later Earl of Norfolk). Mary left no surviving issue, but her third share of the manor of Stretton (and other estates) passed to her cousin Sir William Savile, Bart., from whom it descended to the three daughters and co-heiresses of William, Marquess of Halifax (d. 1700), namely, Anne, Countess of Aylesbury; Dorothy, Countess of Burlington; and Mary, Countess of Thanet. Elizabeth in turn left no issue and her third share of Stretton passed to her uncle Edward, 8th Earl of Shrewsbury, who settled it on the heirs male of the 10th earl, from whom it eventually descended to Charles Talbot, 12th Earl of Shrewsbury, later created Duke of Shrewsbury (d. 1717/8). The third share of Alethea, Countess of Arundel, passed to her grandson Thomas, Duke of Norfolk (d. 1678).

As has been explained by G. C. Hopkinson, it was the policy of the tenants of the manor of Stretton from the 17th century onwards to try to buy out the lords of the manor, to whom all manorial rents, royalties and feudal dues were payable. Thus in 1660 23 tenants combined with Thomas Gladwin of Tupton Hall to purchase the Duke of Norfolk's third share for £3,040.<sup>47</sup> This effectively dispersed one-sixth of the manor but left one-sixth (although, strictly speaking, it was somewhat less than this fraction) in the hands of Thomas Gladwin and his descendants. In 1708/9 the tenants bought the Duke of Shrewsbury's third share of the manor for £1,958 10s. 0d.<sup>48</sup> This left only the third share held jointly by the Countesses of Aylesbury, Burlington and Thanet; but by a legal arrangement made in 1743 the Countess of Thanet alone was allotted this third share. The manorial tenants of Stretton did not however succeed in acquiring the Thanet share of the manor, for in 1800 it appears that the manor was still held as to one-third share by the then Earl of Thanet and as to one-sixth share by the family of Bourne (as successors of Thomas Gladwin).<sup>49</sup> In 1817 the lords of the manor were recorded by the Lysons as 'the Earl of Thanet, William Turbutt, Esq., and others',<sup>50</sup> William Turbutt's share having probably descended to him from his wife's mother, Mary Bourne (daughter of Dr. Henry Bourne). In 1869 Gladwin Turbutt (grandson of



William above) sold one-eighteenth of the manor to the Clay Cross Company for £420, which is some indication of the value of the coal royalties to that company which was then engaged in mining the Deep Hard seam between Clay Cross and Shirland. Bulmer's Directory for 1895 states that W. G. Turbutt (son of Gladwin above) and the Clay Cross Company were joint lords of the manor. Subsequently all the Turbutt share was disposed of, leaving the Clay Cross Company as the major single manorial lord.

The two manors of Stretton never aspired to a church, but lay within the extensive jurisdiction of the church of North Wingfield until the formation in recent years of the parish of Clay Cross. Had the manors been in the hands of an influential and resident family in the early 13th century they might have achieved their own church, as the manor of Shirland did under the Greys. But the Stutevilles had little interest in their Derbyshire possessions, and the senior line of their tenants, the Meynells, died out about this time. The small settlement of Little Ogston, on the other hand, although from an early date part of the manor of Stretton, appears to have fallen under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the rector of Morton, as did its neighbour (Great) Ogston — which was, in fact, a detached part of the manor of Morton. Thus the inhabitants of Woolley who lived in the area of Little Ogston to the west of the River Amber were buried at Morton, while those of Ford — who lived on the other side of the river — regarded North Wingfield as their mother church.<sup>51</sup>

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

At the time of the Domesday Survey the two manors of Stretton contained arable land for six-and-a-half ploughs in all — say about 624 acres.<sup>52</sup> In addition, there were ten acres of meadow and a considerable area of pastureable woodland. A population of some 16 families lived on both manors.<sup>53</sup> It is clear from these figures that only a very small percentage of the total area of the manors was under cultivation, and by far the greater part of the countryside would at that date have been covered with dense forest, moorland and scrub. Indeed, it would have seemed to a traveller that the manors consisted of a number of clearings and settlements in the forest, through which the Roman road ran like an artery from south to north linking them with other centres of population further afield. To the east lay the wild expanse of Ainmoor over against the 'Mor-ton', to the west Smithymoor and Woolley Moor, Henmoor and Littlemoor led away towards the hills bordering the manor of Ashover. Gradually, as the years went by, the communities in both Strettons, in Egstow and Handley, and in outlying hamlets such as Woodthorpe, Ford and Little Ogston increased in numbers and fresh areas of cultivation were 'stubbed out' of the forest, as is indicated by the frequent occurrence of field-names such as 'stubbing', 'ley', 'riding' and 'lawn' in the area we are considering. We can see from the 1655/6 Survey of the manor of Stretton<sup>54</sup> (despite the exclusion from this of Egstow, Woodthorpe and Clay Lane) how much land had been brought into cultivation during the period since the Conquest. The manor then consisted of a variety of holdings. Stretton Hall Farm, the successor of the original *caput* of the manor, was a farm of 242 acres and was leased by Anthony Fox (whose family we have already noted as having been in the manor in 1327) at an annual rent of £61 0s. 0d. This was substantially the largest holding on the manor; six other farms were between 50 and 100 acres in extent; five between 25 and 50 acres; 13 between ten and 25 acres; 13 smallholdings were less than ten acres, and there were 15 cottagers and ten freeholders. The total area of this part of the manor alone was about 1,500 acres, and it appears that all the land within the manor then comprised more than 4,000 acres.<sup>55</sup> By 1790 Stretton Hall Farm had been reduced in size to 133 acres, but its owner John Brocksopp shortly afterwards purchased Handley Lodge Farm of 69 acres. Yet a plan of the Stretton Hall Estate about the end of the 19th century shows that it had by then been reduced again to some 70 acres in all, embracing Stretton Hall and Handley Lodge, the area being bounded by the present Newmarket–Ashover road on the north and the Clay Cross–Handley road on the south.<sup>56</sup> The general picture between 1655/6 and 1790

is of a sizeable increase in the number of agricultural holdings in the 25–50-acre bracket, the proportion of holdings in this bracket increasing from nine per cent in 1655/6 to 23 per cent in 1790. This was paralleled elsewhere<sup>57</sup> and suggests that the 25–50-acre farm was the average size for a family mixed farm in this part of Derbyshire during the 18th century. The increase in the number of agricultural holdings from 1655/6 onwards is an indication of the sharp population growth which had taken place in Derbyshire and of the quickening economic activity in the Scarsdale area. In 1635 the population of the county was some 45,000, in 1676 about 68,000, while by 1704 it had reached 127,000, a threefold increase in the space of 70 years.<sup>58</sup> Apart from taking in new land from the wastes, there was a steady process of enclosure from the 16th century onwards, and by the early 18th century many tenants who had strips in the old open fields had exchanged them and consolidated and enclosed their holdings.<sup>59</sup>

The larger manors were usually recorded as having a mill (owned by the lord of the manor) at the time of the Domesday Survey, but there is no mention of any mill under the Stretton entries. However, at an early date mills were constructed: in the larger manor the original mill seems to have been Hen Mill, leased in 1655/6 to Henry Revell at a rent of £4 yearly. This was situated on the Press Brook below Henmoor, and here it was customary to hold manorial courts for the combined manor during the 18th century. Another mill, Woodthorpe Mill, was built further upstream and no doubt served the hamlet of Woodthorpe, but this part of Woodthorpe probably lay within the jurisdiction of the adjoining manor of Wingerworth. The mill for the smaller Stretton manor was situated on the River Amber below Woolley Moor, and was known as 'Baker' or 'Balker' Mill, and later Woolley Mill, and was leased in 1655/6 to John Revell at a rent of £5 7s. Od. yearly.<sup>60</sup>

The very considerable value of the manorial rights in the manor of Stretton, which (as we have seen above) the tenants were at pains to extinguish, underlined the mineral potential it contained. From the 17th century onwards local entrepreneurs were quick to realise the profits that could be made from coal and ironstone mining within the manor, for the 'Deep Hard', 'Tupton' and 'Blackshale' coal seams all lay beneath it. In the Survey of 1655/6 there is an entry 'The Rent of the Coal pitts upon the Common of Stretton in the Possession of Thomas Wragg . . . . £10. 0. 0.'<sup>61</sup> In 1702 Humphrey Oldfield, Thomas Clay and William Wragg leased two-thirds of a coal pit called Clay Cross Delfe on the manorial commons adjoining Clay Cross, the lease of which was later transferred to John Mottershaw and thereafter to Thomas Gladwin.<sup>62</sup> Another pit on adjoining land was leased from William Woodyeare and Richard Turbutt in 1733, and in 1744 this was handed over to William Cupit and John White<sup>63</sup> who had already (in 1739) obtained a lease from Messrs. Woodyeare and Turbutt to dig for coal in Higham. In 1765 William Wragg and Thomas Clay obtained a lease from John Woodyeare (son of William above) and William Turbutt (son of Richard) to mine coal beneath certain farms in the manor, and this pit apparently continued in production until about 1800.<sup>64</sup> The pit in question may have been in the Smithymoor area below the present village of Stretton,<sup>65</sup> where a number of old coal workings are marked on the earlier Ordnance Survey maps. Close to these workings (just to the north of Stretton House and close to the Smithy Brook) was the Stretton iron furnace to which reference is made in a Survey of 1657,<sup>66</sup> and at the end of the 18th century John Brocksopp of Stretton Hall rented 93 acres of land at Henmoor from William Webster for ironstone quarrying.<sup>67</sup> There were also pits in the Woodthorpe area on the Tupton and blackshale seams.<sup>68</sup> Most of the early coal mines in the Stretton area were worked on leases by small entrepreneurs like the families of Clay and Wragg. The leases were either based on the acreage of land worked, depending on the quality, depth and thickness of the seams, the need for drainage and the distance from a market, or upon a fixed royalty per ton of coal sold. The rents recorded by Farey<sup>69</sup> ranged from £50 to £180 per acre and the royalties 4d. to 16d. per ton. By comparison, we may note that in 1796 William Turbutt leased to Messrs. Birks, Mortimer and Siddall for a period of seven years the right to take coal on the east and west of the turnpike between Higham and Chesterfield

(that is on land within the manor of Stretton). The rent payable was £75 an acre for coal on the west side and £105 an acre for that on the east side of the turnpike. A valuation in 1807 of William Turbutt's 'over coal' in the 'Higham field Cliffs' area showed that the profit per acre to be obtained from the coal (at the then selling price of 6s. per ton) would amount to £230. A note adds that 'the deep coal is worth considerable more than the over coal'.<sup>70</sup>

We can therefore see how the mediaeval agrarian economy of the manor of Stretton was gradually diversified during the 17th and 18th centuries into an industrial economy which was to lead in the following century to the large-scale exploitation of coal by the Clay Cross Company. Yet despite the employment opportunities that industrialisation was to offer, and the resulting concentration of population in the Stretton, Clay Lane and Egstow areas, the economy of the greater part of the manor continued to be based on agriculture.

#### MANORIAL COURTS, OFFICIALS AND LEVIES

We know singularly little about the operation of the Stretton manorial system, and it is unfortunate that no court rolls or other papers have survived prior to the 17th century. Hitherto, the only extant court roll for the manor of Stretton was that for the year 1724,<sup>71</sup> but recently seven further court rolls (for the years 1762, 1765-68 and 1771-72) have come to light amongst the Ogston records and these are transcribed or abstracted below as Appendices I to VII. Certain other papers relating to Stretton have also been found: one of these is an interesting note written apparently by John Curtis of Ford to his successor George Holland at the time the latter purchased the Ford Estate (c. 1680),<sup>72</sup> which contains a number of facts concerning parish officials and the various manorial and parish levies payable at that date. Curtis stated that he had never served as churchwarden or overseer 'soe it is very likely whosoever succeeds mee wilbee putt to serve those offices shortly after their comeing . . . .'. He goes on to detail the various levies he had to pay, including the tithe rates and the trained soldier's levy. The latter cost him £14 per year, and 'The Trayned soldjir is Edward Ellison who Lives at Lead mill neare unto wooley he has ye Armer in his custody (vizt) a muskett and bandeleer a sword and belt wch was in good ordr ye Last mustr and I thinke is soe still for ye man has byn always very carefull . . . .'.

According to John Curtis' note 'ford is wthin ye Mannor of Stretton Hall & appears there when there is a Court wch was never but once since I can remember': this implies that only one court was held during the period about 1655-80. The note continues: 'There was 3 Lords formerly belonging to yt mannor ffrancis Parker gaithers chiefe rent for 2 of them. Justice Gladwin for half of ye other 3d Lords part and ye ffreeholdrs that bought their owne parte of their Land half of ye other 3d Lords part this last was nev demanded since they bought . . . .'. This reflects the fact that in 1660 (as we have seen above) the freeholders and Thomas Gladwin had between them purchased the Duke of Norfolk's third share of the manor, so that Francis Parker was the collector of the chief rents for the remaining two shares of the manor. The chief rents, payable by the freeholders of the manor, were not excessive, but nevertheless constituted an irksome levy. The chief rents for the manor in 1655 were as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Potts, widows		12.	0.
John Clay		1.	0.
Thomas Curtis		1.	0.
Mr. John Revell		1.	0.
John Platts		2½	
John Sympton		1.	0.
Robert Watkins		3½	
George Hopkinson		1.	0.
George Calton		2.	0.
John Gregory		3½	
	£	19.	9½

Even at that date it is noted that all the freeholders of the manor were not truly known, but that the above sum was due, in equal shares, to the then lords of the manor — namely, the Earl of Arundel and Surrey, the Earl of Shrewsbury and Sir George Savile, Bart.

In 1673 the chief rental was as follows:

		s.	d.		£.	s.	d.			
Pott's Farm	{	Mr. Nathaniel Brailsford whereof	s.	d.	}					
		Saml. Wheatcroft pays 12 <sup>d</sup> p ann	3.	4.						
		Samuel Wheatcroft	3.	4.						
	John Gregory	3.	4.	}	12.	0.				
	Mr. John Curtis	s.	d.		}					
	John Millward	1.	10.							
	Mr. John Curtis for his own		2.	}	2.	0.				
	Mr. John Curtis for J. Clay's Farm				}			6.		
	Mrs. Harris's Farm, now in the Tenure of Webster, Hernshaw & Wilson			}				6.		
	Watkinson's Farm, now Marriott's				}	1.	1.			
	Sympson's Farm, now James Bennet's			}				6.		
	John Platts's Farm, now William				}			2.		
	Holly-Hall, now Mr. Twentyman's			}		2.	0.			
	John Gregory, now Richd. Gregory				}			4.		
	John Hall, formerly Fallowes's Farm			}		3.	0.			
Geo. Hopkinson's Farm	{	Mr. Bourne	}							
		Geo. Cantrell								
		Geo. Hopkinson								
		Solomon Sheldon								
								1.	1.	7.

After the two third shares of the manor had been acquired by the freeholders and the Gladwin family, the chief rents payable to the Earl of Thanet (the holder of the remaining one third share) in 1749, 1750 and 1751 were as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Bonsall Richard late Bennet			1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Clay Thomas Mr.			2.
Cowlshaw Richard Mr.			8.
Holland Thomas Mr.	2.	0.	
Johnson Richard	1.	1.	
Rooth Benjamin			4.
Woodhouse David Mr. late Allsibrooke			6.
Wilson William			2 $\frac{3}{4}$
White John late Marryott			3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wilson John			1 $\frac{3}{4}$
	£	5.	6 $\frac{3}{4}$

But John Reynolds, Jr., who collected the rents, noted that during these three years 'I never received the last sum of 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. charged upon John Wilson, neither could I by any means find out who had a Right to pay it'. Thomas Holland's rent is explained by another note in Reynolds' hand, in which he states that in 1720:

Mr. Holland and William Draycott pd for Draycott's Farm	p ann	1.	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mr. Holland for Curtis's Farm			11.
whence Mr. Holland then pd p annum		£	2. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
William Sadler paid for Bacon's Farm, p ann			4.

The offices of constable and thirdborough (or headborough) were served in rotation by the occupiers of certain dwellings within the township in accordance with a schedule

(a copy of which was attached to John Curtis' note) which had been agreed between the householders on 7th May 1662. This schedule is transcribed below:

It is agreed upon by us whose names are und<sup>r</sup>written That ye Constables and Thirdborrowes office w<sup>th</sup>in ye Townshipp of Stretton shall bee executed yeare after yeare in manner following

Constables For the yeares		Thirdborrowes
1663	John Curtis	Robert Hall
1664	John Hall	George Revell
1665	Thomas Wilshaw	John Marriott
1666	Her[c]ules Breylsford	Robert Cowlshaw of Woodthorpe
1667	Widdowe Smith	Sam Wheatcroft
1668	George Milward	Edward Bradshaw
1669	John Fletcher	Thomas Fidler
1670	John Bowne	Math. Hopkinson
1671	Henry Pursglove	Widd Gregory
1672	John Revell	Henry Pursglove
1673	William Milnes	William Staw
1674	Fletcher's Farme	Richard Holliley
1675	John Breylsford	John Revell
1676	John Marriott	George Smith
1677	Woodthorpe Hall	Edward Wright
1678	Thomas Fidler	William Milnes
1679	James Hawksly sen <sup>r</sup>	Giles Fowler
1680	John Mosely	Richard Glue
1681	Henry Cowlshaw of Woodhead	Edward Wilson
1682	Widd Gregory	John Lee
1683	Bacons Farme	John Breylsford
1684	Edward Bradshaw	James Haw[k]sly, jun <sup>r</sup>
1685	Richard Milward	Thomas Wilshaw
1686	Francis Fox	John Watson
1687	Na. Breylsford	Francis Calton
1688	George Smith	James Hawksly, sen <sup>r</sup>
1689	Edward Wright	Thomas Beighton
1690	Briggs Farme	Thomas Fowke
1691	Giles Fowler	Thomas Jackson
1692	George Hawksley	Widd Smith
		Adam Fletcher
		William Blith
		John Fletcher
		Widd Revell
		Adam Ragg
		Ralph Wass
		Francis Foldjam
		Lawrence Bunting & Henry Oldham
		George Milward
		Peeter Ellott
		John Glue
		John Beighton
		Hercules Breylsford
		Richard Milward
		Henry Cowleshaw
		Bacons Farme
		Thomas Holliley
		John Mosely
		Ralph Cutt
		Richard Hawksley
		John Bowne
		John Hall
		Na. Breylsford
		George Hawksley
		Francis Fox
		Robert Cowleshaw
		John Curtis
		Thomas Wilshaw
		John Barker
		John Amery



1693	Daniell Hall
1694	Henry Cowlishaw Farme of Woodthorpe
1695	John Beighton
1696	Richard Glue
1697	George Revell
1698	John Amery
1699	John Watson
1700	James Hawksly jun <sup>r</sup>
1701	Edward Wilson
1702	Prestwitch Farme

A note attached to the schedule states:

This is ye originall agreem<sup>t</sup> of ye neighbours but that w<sup>ch</sup> is entred in ye Sessions booke differs from this in forme but not in substance for Councelor Bateman told mee this would bee but binding for ye psons Lives herein mentioned soe advised mee to expresse ye Tenements in ye possession of these severall psons. Soe it is recorded in or Townshipp booke w<sup>ch</sup> Archelaus Breylsford hath in keeping as alsoe all Ord<sup>r</sup>s that concerne ye same. As to ye First Order I shall procure a copy of it some tyme. It is barm'd of a Little Chest Lidd my Father used to keepe his writings in w<sup>ch</sup> I gave to my sonne Jonnathan to Lay his close in and is yett at Higham.

From the court rolls of the manor we learn that a pinder (or pounder) was also appointed each year.

The fact that these offices attached to dwellings rather than to individual persons will be seen from the inclusion of certain premises amongst the names of householders and also from the note attached to the schedule. Thus under the year 1674 the office of constable is to be performed by 'Fletchers Farme', in 1677 by 'Woodthorpe Hall', in 1683 by 'Bacons Farme', in 1690 by 'Briggs Farme', in 1694 by 'Henry Cowlishaw Farme of Woodthorpe' and in 1702 by 'Prestwitch Farme'. Moreover, John Curtis' note is of interest on this point, for he says:

The old house serves noe Constables Office but a Thirdborrowes Office as it comes to its turne according to ye Agreem<sup>t</sup> in ye paper. It will require a little care to see that this agreem<sup>t</sup> bee observed though I thinke it is soe firmly confirmed it needs not much. For formerly ye Constables Office was executed onely by 6 houses whereof these 2 was 2 of ye 6 houses but above 60 yeares agoe my Father procured an Ord<sup>r</sup> of ye Sessions for 40 to serve it but Justice Gladwin about 6 or 7 yeares agoe endeavoured to breake that custome w<sup>ch</sup> occasioned mee & Archelaus Breylsford a deale of trouble (who was one of ye 6) to prevent it w<sup>ch</sup> we did and procured another Ord<sup>r</sup> to confirme ye former w<sup>ch</sup> he hath by him as alsoe sevarll other y<sup>t</sup> concernes it and ye townshippe booke where they are entred . . . . .

The 'old house' mentioned by Curtis was the old dwelling formerly on the site of Ford House which was incorporated in the new building; the other house at Ford was the then residence of John Curtis, which, after Ford House was built in the early 18th century, became known as 'Old Ford House'.<sup>73</sup> Until the early years of the 17th century, therefore, the constable's office was apparently performed by the occupants of six houses only in the township, of which two were at Ford. Thereafter this burden was spread over 40 premises.

Manorial stewards and their deputies were usually attorneys, and from the surviving court rolls we learn that Richard Calton was steward of the Stretton manor court in 1721<sup>74</sup> and 1724; that Godfrey Heathcote was steward in 1762, 1765, 1767, 1768, 1771 and 1772, while Anthony Lax was his deputy in 1766, 1767 and 1771. Godfrey Heathcote was (according to Glover) 'an eminent attorney' and was Clerk of the Peace for Derbyshire. He died on 2nd December 1773 at the age of 72, so it appears that he was steward almost to the end of his life. His deputy, Anthony Lax (who later adopted the surname of Maynard), followed him as Clerk of the Peace in 1774, a post which he held for over 50 years. He married Godfrey Heathcote's grand-daughter, Dorothy, and died on 3rd July 1825 aged 83. In 1790 he and others founded a charity school at Deerleap, near Stretton Hall, for the education of 25 poor children.<sup>75</sup> The stewards presided at court sessions, and the court reeve or bailiff was the official responsible for carrying out the court's orders. The Stretton court reeve in 1762, 1765, 1766, 1768 and 1771 was Joseph Mason, and in 1763, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1771 and 1772 Mason was also appointed pinder.

The proceedings of the manorial courts by the 18th century had become fairly stereotyped. In 1724 the court roll is headed 'The verdict and presentment of the Jury at the Court Leet and Great Court Baron . . . . .' while later court rolls are entitled 'The View of Frank Pledge and Great Court Baron . . . . .'. This preamble implies that the jurisdiction of the Stretton court was both seigneurial and regal: the court baron was concerned with jurisdiction over the lord's manorial tenants and the administration of the manor, while the right to hold both the view of frankpledge and a court leet could only be secured, strictly speaking, by prescriptive grant from the king. Many manorial courts had in fact assumed such prescriptive rights illegally, and there is no record of any such grant to the lords of Stretton. On the other hand, the manor passed at an early date into the hands of the Greys of Shirland. Now we know that this family had obtained various royal privileges in that manor (for example infangentheof and gallows, assize of bread and ale, free warren, and a market and fair),<sup>76</sup> and they may well have assumed that these were valid also within their adjoining manor of Stretton. And once recorded on the rolls, the type of manorial jurisdiction, whether court baron or leet, would be repeated year by year and eventually become hallowed by time. Although the view of frankpledge and the court leet were originally quite distinct, they later became merged into a single court. Furthermore, in early days it was customary for the records of this royal jurisdiction to be kept separate from those of the courts baron — the view of frankpledge would be held perhaps twice a year (on the lines of the hundred court sessions), while the courts baron might be held as frequently as every fortnight; but as time went on this distinction was not maintained and the courts tended to be combined, so that later court rolls became a mixed record of all cases that came before the courts. Thus by the 18th century the Stretton manor court had become a single court for dealing with all types of jurisdiction possessed or assumed by the lords, and although the holding of regular courts seems to have been the exception rather than the rule in the 17th century, by the 18th century they were clearly held with greater regularity, but not more frequently than twice a year.

The courts were presided over by the steward of the manor or his deputy, and a panel of 12 jurors with a foreman comprised 'the Inquest'. At the beginning of each court roll there is to be found a list of these 13 jurymen. Apart from these 'named' persons there would also be present all those who owed suit of court to the manor, and the presentments, pains and amercements of the court would be approved by all present. The proceedings began by the jury being sworn, and they then 'amerced' any jurymen and other suitors who had been summoned to attend but had not appeared or 'essoigned' (that is excused themselves by sending a neighbour to state their reasons for absence). Those who essoigned had to pay one penny. The 1724 roll shows that 'every Gentelman and freeholder who owes suit and service . . . .' but had not appeared or essoigned was fined 1s., while every 'Tenant, cottager and others' was fined 4d. By 1762 (Appendix I) the term 'every Juryman' had taken the place of 'every Gentelman and freeholder', while in place of every 'Tenant, cottager and others' was the general description 'every other suitor' (whose fine was now raised to 6d.). By 1765 (Appendix II) the jurymen's fine had been raised to 5s. After the initial amercements there followed a list of manorial pains which were of an essentially practical nature, with penalties corresponding to the seriousness of any acts of infringement. The pains covered matters such as: incroachments upon the manorial commons or wastes, improperly turning cattle onto the commons or putting more cattle or sheep onto the commons than was allowed, turning scabbed cattle or horses onto the commons, failing to fence off coal pits or quarries, etc. It is interesting to note how penalties had altered between the time of the 1724 and the 1762 court rolls. Thus in 1724 the penalty for turning diseased cattle onto the commons was £1 0s. 0d. for each offence, but by 1762 the penalty had been reduced to 5s. for the first offence and 10s. for every subsequent offence. Likewise, the penalty in 1724 for keeping dogs that chased cattle or sheep was 10s., but by 1762 this had been reduced to 2s. The penalty for bracken burning had also been reduced from 10s. to 3s. 4d.

Individual amercements sometimes throw interesting light upon the geography of the manor. In 1762 Francis Fox was fined for neglecting the 'Dam Pasture Gate at the Nether End of Ain Moore' (Appendix I); in 1765 Peter Elliott was fined for not hanging the gate between Woolley Moor and Handley; Christopher Wragg was similarly fined for not hanging the 'Old Lane Gate in Handley', while James Milward was taken to task for not hanging the gate 'Leading betwixt Henmore and Woodthorp' — although in the margin of the roll is a note 'Not in the Manor' (Appendix II). In the 1767 roll (Appendix IV) George Cutt was instructed to open up the well on Ainmoor which he had maliciously filled in. In 1771 (Appendix VI) and 1772 (Appendix VII) we again hear about the gate in the lane between Woolley Moor and Handley, which in 1765 Peter Elliott had been fined for not hanging, and penalties were imposed for wilfully leaving it open. At the end of each court session the jurors presented those who were to serve as constable, headborough and pinder for the following year. No list of officers comparable with the agreed schedule for the years 1663–1702 survives, but from the rolls themselves we may note that the manorial officers were as follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Constable</i>	<i>Headborough</i>	<i>Pinder</i>
1763	John Barlow	Thomas Hopkinson of Ford	Joseph Mason
1766	Isaac Williamson	" " "	" "
1767	Thomas Hopkinson of Ford	John Sadler of Clay Lane	" "
1768	Henry Ashmore	William Bonsall	" "
1771	Thomas Hopkinson	Henry Ashmore	" "
1772	Thomas Hopkinson	Henry Ashmore	" "

From these it is evident that, unlike earlier years, the manorial officers were not being selected from householders on a rota system, but were becoming permanent officials. Thus we see Thomas Hopkinson of Ford, Henry Ashmore and Joseph Mason beginning to feature year after year as officials of the township and manor. After the court roll had been written up copies of the 'verdict' were made and one was sent to the court reeve for his information and any necessary action.

Action was indeed required from time to time to recover the fines which had been imposed by the court. There survives amongst the Ogston records a warrant dated 25th April 1768, addressed to 'Joseph Mason the Bailiff or Court Reeve of the said Manor and also to John Cooper a Bailiff specially appointed for this purpose' by Godfrey Heathcote the steward to 'Levy by Distress of the Goods of the several Persons' named in the warrant the various sums of money required from each. The warrant is headed 'Estreats of Amerciaments of certain Courts Leet and Great Courts Baron' of the manor of Stretton and contains a list of persons with their defaults and fines owing. At the head of the list is 'Francis Fox for not hanging a Gate at the nether end of Ane Moor called the Dam pasture Gate contrary to a pain laid at the Leet and Great Court Baron held for the sd Manor the 10th May 1759 . . . . 0. 5. 0.' Against this is the note 'Recd 5'. A few lines below this entry is repeated, but the fine is given as 10s. However, against it is a note 'Forgiven'. Francis Fox was a persistent offender in respect of this gate, for we have already seen that he was fined again (10s.) at the 1762 court for neglecting to maintain it. The name of Christopher Wragg, who was fined at the 1765 and 1766 courts for not hanging his gate in the old lane leading to Handley from the Ford, appears in two consecutive entries — the first qualifying for a fine of 5s., the second for 10s. James Milward appears on the list 'for not hanging a Gate leading to Ane Moor betwixt this Manor & the Manor of Woodthorpe . . . .', but a marginal note reads 'The Fence belongs to Sr Henry Hunloke', so it seems he escaped the fine. Most of the names on this list, however, are of suitors who did not appear at various courts in answer to their summonses, and from this it is possible to deduce that courts were held on the following dates: 10th May 1759; 14th October 1761; 13th October 1762; 20th October 1763; 16th October 1764; 16th October 1765; 29th October 1766; and 15th May 1767. Some of those who failed to appear at the

courts are recorded as 'Forgiven', some as 'Free', and some have 'Paid' against their names. Of these amerancements, the sum of 19s. 6d. had been paid by 20th April 1769 — only about one-eighth of the total.

Hen Mill, the seat of the Stretton manorial courts in the 18th century, was pulled down many years ago, and a red-brick farmhouse (now known as Hen Mill Farm) has since been built on the site. But remains of the mill dam are still plainly visible, as well as a small section of the original mill buildings. Stretton Hall, the *caput* of the combined Stretton manors, still flourishes today as a farm, but the dwelling house has been rebuilt in recent years.

## ABBREVIATIONS

BAR	Barnes Collection, Chesterfield Public Library.
Cox	J. C. Cox, <i>Notes on the Churches of Derbyshire</i> , 4 vols. (1875–9).
<i>D.A.J.</i>	<i>Journal of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society</i> (1879 onwards).
<i>Darley</i>	<i>The Cartulary of Darley Abbey</i> , ed. R. R. Darlington, 2 vols. (1945).
<i>D.C.</i>	<i>Descriptive Catalogue of Derbyshire Charters</i> , by I. H. Jeayes (1906).
<i>D.P.N.</i>	K. Cameron, <i>The Place-Names of Derbyshire (English Place-Name Society, vols. XXVII–XXIX)</i> , 3 vols. (1959).
D.R.O.	Derbyshire Record Office.
Lysons	Revd. D. Lysons and S. Lysons, <i>Topographical and Historical account of Derbyshire (1817)</i> .
P.R.O.	Public Record Office.
<i>V.C.H.D.</i>	<i>The Victoria History of the County of Derby</i> , 2 vols. (1905, 7).
Yeatman	J. P. Yeatman, <i>The Feudal History of the County of Derby</i> , 6 vols. (1886–1907).

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 51 ff.
- <sup>2</sup>*D.P.N.* II, 307.
- <sup>3</sup>*V.C.H.D.* I, 337.
- <sup>4</sup>Cox III, 485 ff.; J. Nichols, *The History and Antiquities of Leicester* III, 997.
- <sup>5</sup>*V.C.H.D.* I, 349.
- <sup>6</sup>*D.A.J.* XLVII (1925), 193.
- <sup>7</sup>P.R.O., *Placita de Banco, 1327–8 (P.R.O. Lists and Indexes No. XXXII Pt. 1, 82)*.
- <sup>8</sup>P.R.O., *Cal. of Inq. Post Mortem, Vol. XIII, No. 265; Cal. of Close Rolls, 1373, 509*.
- <sup>9</sup>*D.A.J.* VIII (1886), 26, 53–4.
- <sup>10</sup>*D.A.J.*, XV (1893), 12.
- <sup>11</sup>See *D.P.N.* II, 307–8, where the identities are transposed. The name 'Little Stretton' was apparently in use as late as 1476 (*D.C.* no. 2378).
- <sup>12</sup>*D.P.N.* II, 237. For a note on the original 'cross' see *D.A.J.* XLVI (1924), 125–6. The base of the cross is now in the churchyard of St. Bartholomew's Church.
- <sup>13</sup>It is tempting to believe that the 'New Market' mentioned in a fine of 29th September 1236 refers to this new settlement (see *D.A.J.* VIII (1886), 32).
- <sup>14</sup>The Clay family are of considerable interest and were widely spread throughout north-east Derbyshire. The Clays of Crich were established there by the 15th century. John Clay purchased lands in Crich from Anthony Babington in 1584; he married, first, Mary daughter of William Calton (reputedly 'chief cockmatcher and servant of the hawks to Henry VIII'), and secondly, Margaret daughter of Edward Ferrers of Tamworth (widow of German Pole). Both his sons died without issue. The arms of this branch of the family were: *arg., a chevron engrailed between three trefoils slipped sa.* (see *The Genealogist*, N.S. VII, 69). Other branches were of yeoman status, and were established at North Wingfield and Wingerworth (Henry de Clay features in the court rolls of 1397, 1405) as early as the 15th century; at South Normanton and Rowthorne (see the lease by Richard son of Thomas Clay dated 1593 in D.R.O., 184M/T40) the following century; and at Egstow (see John Clay's lease dated 1685 in D.R.O., 37M/T17), Stretton, Higham and Hardstoft shortly afterwards (although a 'Nic. del Clay' appears in Stretton in the 1327 Subsidy Roll). The Clays of Higham and Stretton, in addition to being farmers, played a considerable part in the exploitation of coal in the manor of Stretton.
- <sup>15</sup>*Darley* I, xx–xxii. The reason for this partition is unknown, but the point is discussed in Gladwyn Turbutt, *A History of Ogston*, 213–4.

- <sup>16</sup>Darley I, xxi.
- <sup>17</sup>C. T. Clay (ed.), *The Stuteville Fee in Early Yorkshire Charters, vol. IX (Yorkshire Archaeological Society Record Series, Extra Series vol. VII (1952))*, 57 ff.
- <sup>18</sup>Yeatman I, s. II, 351–2.
- <sup>19</sup>Yeatman I, s. II, 461.
- <sup>20</sup>Thus between the years 1154 and 1159 we find Ralph fitzEudo, lord of Crich, granting to Darley Abbey the manor of Crich, including (*inter alia*) its appendages Ogston and Wessington (Darley II, 595). The Darley Abbey Cartulary shows that from the latter years of the 12th century their estate in Ogston was known as *parua Ogged* or 'Little Ogston', in contrast to the main Ogston community which was referred to as *maior Ogged* or 'Great Ogston' (*ibid.* II, 448–9, 457–463). The similarity of field-names quoted in a number of charters to some of those in the Woolley region point with a reasonable degree of certainty to the location of Little Ogston.
- <sup>21</sup>*D.P.N.* II, 337. Note that in a charter *temp.* Edward I it is called 'Wodethorpe in Scharvisdale' (*D.C.* no. 2702).
- <sup>22</sup>*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 252. It seems probable that Woodthorpe had come to Hawise through her first husband Ingram de Brailsford, whose family were lords of the adjoining manor of Wingerworth, in which manor part of Woodthorpe certainly lay.
- <sup>23</sup>*D.A.J.* X (1888), 157–8. Matthew de Kniveton's wife, Isabel, was daughter of Roger de Stretton, who in turn was the son of Walter de Stretton (that is Stretton-en-le-Field), Hawise's second husband.
- <sup>24</sup>*D.A.J.* XI (1889), 106. This property (we learn) was Matilda's dower resulting from her marriage to Robert de Stretton.
- <sup>25</sup>*D.C.* nos. 2702, 2703.
- <sup>26</sup>Yeatman I, s. II, 498.
- <sup>27</sup>Thus Statham's account of 'The Etwall Family' (*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 246 ff.) must be treated with great caution, since it thoroughly confuses the Strettons of Stretton-en-le-Field and the Riboeffs. Statham admits 'Of the origin of this family I have ascertained nothing', and goes on to say 'Walter de Riboeff appears to have been the son of the William de Stretton who married Johanna one of the three daughters of Serlo de Grendon, but gives no evidence for this surprising assertion. He later confuses Richard de Riboeff with Richard de Stretton, son of Herve de Stretton, whose ancestor had held Stretton, near Penkridge, Staffordshire, and other lands of Robert de Stafford in 1086 (*D.A.J.* LIX (1938), 78). Richard de Stretton was lord of Unstone (which had come to him through his mother Isabel, daughter of Nicholas de Brailsford) and he and his son Richard witnessed many charters in the first half of the 13th century (*D.C.* nos. 2418–23, 2425–6, 2434, 1031, etc.).
- <sup>28</sup>*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 247; Yeatman I, s. II, 444.
- <sup>29</sup>Yeatman I, s. II, 420.
- <sup>30</sup>*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 250.
- <sup>31</sup>*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 253.
- <sup>32</sup>Walter de Riboeff and Felicia de Sidenhall (or *Sydenhale*, as it was generally written in mediaeval documents) held certain tenements in Handley of Robert de Pilsley in 1233 (*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 252). Felicia was probably identical with Felicia fitzRoger who in 1254 was granted by Robert de Glamorgan lands in Ford, Handley and Egstow for her life (*D.A.J.* IX (1887), 88; Yeatman II, s. III, 156). Her father would therefore have been Roger de Sidenhall (whose wife may have been Sarah, sister of Robert de Glamorgan) who was brother and heir of Robert de Sidenhall (liv. 1253: see *D.A.J.* IX (1887), 86). It is possible that Robert and Roger were descended from a junior branch of the Meynell family, whose heirs were then lords of the manor of Stretton. It is interesting to note that Sidenhall was known by that name as late as the 17th century. It later became 'Sidness', which in turn became corrupted to 'Sidneys' (see *D.P.N.* II, 308). An attempt has recently been made to change the name back to Sidness.
- <sup>33</sup>*D.A.J.* XIX (1897), 124; *Darley* II, 466.
- <sup>34</sup>*D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 253.
- <sup>35</sup>*D.C.* nos. 520, 521; *D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 253; P.R.O., *Placita de Banco, 1327–8 (P.R.O. Lists and Indexes No. XXXII Pt. I, 82)*.
- <sup>36</sup>Yeatman I, s. II, 475; *D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 253–4. It appears however that Richard had a brother Robert de Riboeff of Tupton (liv. 1293, 1317), who married Juliana widow of John de Holins and had a son Walter de Riboeff (living 1319: see *D.A.J.* XLIX (1927), 253). From Walter the later Riboeffs of Ashover and Etwall may be descended: thus a 'Robert Ryboffe' of Ashover is recorded in 1370 (*D.C.* no. 126), and in the same year the trustees of a John Riboeff released the manor of Etwall to Beauvale Priory (Cox III, 161). A John Riboeff of Etwall, husbandman, held 30s. socage rent in Etwall as late as 1431 (Yeatman I, s. II, 510).
- <sup>37</sup>It is not known precisely when or why the manor of Stretton passed to the Greys from the Riboeffs. Stretton is not recorded as being one of the manors belonging to Sir John de Grey (d. about 1265), the first of the family to settle at Shirland, and although Cox states (Cox I, 333) that Reginald de Grey (son of Sir John de Grey) held the manor of Stretton, he appears to have confused him with a later Reginald — namely, the 4th Lord Grey of Wilton (d. 1370). It seems clear however that the manor passed out of the Riboeff family at about the same time as Etwall — that is between c. 1327 and 1346. The Lysons merely refer to the 'manors of Shirland, Stretton and Higham' being for several generations in the family of Grey (Lysons, 254).



<sup>38</sup>*Dictionary of National Biography*, xxiii, 191.

<sup>39</sup>Despite Cox's view that the church was probably built in the reign of John (Cox I, 331), it is more likely to have been built by Sir John de Grey in the early years of the reign of Henry III — say c. 1220. Prior to this date it seems clear that the church at Morton was the mother church for the manor of Shirland, for there is a singularly interesting fine, dated 22nd September 1226, in which it is recorded that Walter Deincourt agreed to release to John de Grey the presentation to the church of Shirland, which he had earlier sought to impede by alleging that the church was a chapel pertaining to his church of Morton (*D.A.J.* VIII (1886), 18). Such a dispute could only have occurred relatively soon after the building of a new church at Shirland.

<sup>40</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXXV (1965), 100–1, 108–9.

<sup>41</sup>The genealogical details of the Grey family are taken from G.E.C., *The Complete Peerage* (1926), VI, 171–187.

<sup>42</sup>Yeatman II, s. III, 209.

<sup>43</sup>P.R.O., *Cal. of Inq. Post Mortem*, Vol. XIII, No. 265.

<sup>44</sup>*D.C.* no. 2378.

<sup>45</sup>Yeatman I, s. II, 497.

<sup>46</sup>T. Blore, *An history of the manor and manor-house of South Winfield in Derbyshire* (1793), 43.

<sup>47</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 54.

<sup>48</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 54–5.

<sup>49</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 57. But by 1800 Dr. Henry Bourne had in fact died and his sixth share had presumably been divided amongst his children. An interesting note on 'The Lords of the Manor's Share of the Royalty of Stretton' (*BAR*, 245), written in 1800, seeks to show that Dr. Bourne's claim to a full one-sixth share of the royalty was incorrect. The writer lists 45 separate shares in the two-thirds of the royalty not owned by the Earl of Thanet at that date.

<sup>50</sup>*BAR*, 289.

<sup>51</sup>We find, for example, that the Curtis' and their successors the Hollands of Ford were normally buried at North Wingfield, while the Fidler family of Woolley were buried at Morton. The Fidler family lived for many years in the 'Little Ogston' area of Woolley, and William Fidler's initials with the date 1764 may still be seen over the door at Walnut Farm, Woolley. It is probably this William who is mentioned in the court roll of 1724 (*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 59), and in Morton parish register there is a burial entry under 7th December 1765 which reads 'William Fidler of Oxen' — suggesting that even in the 18th century this area was still popularly known as (Little) Ogston. William was followed at Walnut Farm by another William (doubtless his son), who was living there in 1772 but had disappeared from the scene by 1800. A contemporary of William Fidler (d. 1765) in Woolley was Thomas Fidler, who was living between 1724 and 1772 in the farm (now demolished) above Bottom Farm, Woolley (and is mentioned as absenting himself from the manorial courts held in 1763, 5 and 7), but by 1800 he had been succeeded there by John Fidler. John in turn had been succeeded by 1822 by Hannah Fidler (probably his widow), and by 1849 the farm was occupied by another William Fidler (probably his son). After his death the farm was taken on by Henry Cowlshaw, but at the end of the latter's tenancy it was demolished and all that now remains to mark the site is the old well-head in field O.S. (1961) 2338.

<sup>52</sup>The bovate varied considerably in size. But if we take Pentrich (where 1½ bovates are recorded as being equivalent to 17 acres) and Crich (where 1 bovate appears to have equalled 12 acres) as about standard for this part of Derbyshire (see *Darley* I, lxx) — that is about 12 acres to the bovate — then we arrive at a figure of 624 acres for the manor as a whole.

<sup>53</sup>This compares with an arable area of some 720 acres and a population of about 18 families for the adjoining manor of Morton, Ogston and Wessington; corresponding figures for the manor of Shirland and Ufton were 240 acres and six families.

<sup>54</sup>*BAR*, 903.

<sup>55</sup>The precise area of each section of the manor is hard to determine. Woodthorpe and Egstow covered about 1,000 acres, Clay Lane some 1,300 acres, while 'rural' Stretton comprised about 1,500 acres.

<sup>56</sup>*BAR*, 308.

<sup>57</sup>For example, on the Ogston Estate the number of holdings in this bracket doubled between 1724 and 1814, although the number of smallholders with holdings of less than 10 acres increased far more.

<sup>58</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 14. Even if these figures are not strictly accurate, there can be little doubt as to the large increase in population. Perhaps the most striking illustration of this fact is the surprisingly large number of 17th-century dwelling houses which survive in the rural areas of Derbyshire. This was the first great period of domestic building activity which reached down to the lowest stratum of society.

<sup>59</sup>By this date the greater part of the Higham open fields had been enclosed, and numerous 'New Closes' and field-names such as 'Six lands', 'Hollow lands' had appeared where the old open fields were formerly situated.

- <sup>60</sup>Thus 'John Revell for his Baker Mill . . . . £5. 7. 0.' (BAR, 903). The identification of Baker Mill with Woolley Mill is proved by an Abstract of Title (1879) to Woolley Mill at the time it was purchased by W. G. Turbutt. In this a deed of 1788 is recited, whereby the mill was sold by John Clay to John Hardwick for £1,600, the indenture describing the property as: 'All that Messe or Dwellinghouse or Tenement Bakehouse and Water Corn Mill situate . . . . at Woolley Moor . . . . commonly called or known by the name of Balker orwise Woolley Mill with the Kiln or drying House thereto belonging and the stable . . . .' (Ogston records). The name 'Balker' or 'Baker' may originate from the ON *bekkr* (meaning a stream or beck), that is the mill by the stream (see *D.P.N.* III, 672). Woolley Mill was submerged when the Ogston Reservoir was constructed in 1958. In addition to renting Woolley Mill, John Revell also farmed a holding of 50 acres 'at Oley'. His family, who had been freeholders in the manor of Stretton from the 16th century (and were probably descendants of a younger son of the Revells of Ogston), lived in the house known as Revell Farm at Woolley, which was part of the old Revell freehold estate. The greater part of this estate (comprising rather more than 38 acres) was sold in 1780 by Francis Revell of Stony Houghton (son of William Revell of Scarcliffe) and Mary his wife to William Turbutt of Ogston for £427. 10. 0. In 1794 William Revell of Woolley Moor, apparently nephew and eventual heir of William Revell of Scarcliffe, sold a further two parcels of land to William Turbutt for £79. 10. 6. (Ogston records).
- <sup>61</sup>BAR, 903.
- <sup>62</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 62–3. The remaining third share was of course held by the tenants and by Thomas Gladwin.
- <sup>63</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 62–3.
- <sup>64</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 64–5.
- <sup>65</sup>See John Farey, *General View of the Agriculture and Minerals of Derbyshire* (Farey) (1811) I, 209.1
- <sup>66</sup>Revd. Charles Kerry's MSS., Derby Central Library, Vol. XVII, 131 ff.
- <sup>67</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 52.
- <sup>68</sup>Farey, I, 215.
- <sup>69</sup>Farey, I, 182 ff.
- <sup>70</sup>Ogston records.
- <sup>71</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 57–9.
- <sup>72</sup>John Curtis appears to have been the last of that family to reside at Ford, which he sold c. 1680 to George Holland of Swathwick. The latter was succeeded by his son John Holland (d. 1713), and he in turn by his son Thomas Holland (b. 1702 d. 1776), who was responsible for building Ford House and who later became a magistrate and High Sheriff (1763). By his wife Cornelia (daughter of Cornelius Farr of Bolsover) he had a son John (b. 1734 d. 1807), the friend of Joseph Wright of Derby and a painter in his own right, who married Mary (b. 1754 d. 1847) daughter of the Revd. Benjamin Burrow, Rector of Morton, but who died without issue. For an account of the families of Curtis and Holland of Ford see my article in *Derbyshire Life and Countryside*, October 1972, 68–70.
- <sup>73</sup>*Derbyshire Life and Countryside*, October 1972, 68–70.
- <sup>74</sup>There exists among the Barnes papers (BAR, 600) a summons signed by Richard Calton, dated 28th October 1721, to all cottage tenants on the manor to attend a certain meeting. Richard Calton was an attorney of Chesterfield. He married Helen daughter of Thomas Gladwin of Durrant Hall and died 17th May 1756. His son and two sons-in-law (Gervase Gardiner and William Marley) were also attorneys in Chesterfield.
- <sup>75</sup>Lysons, 289.
- <sup>76</sup>Yeatman II, s. III, 58, 73.
- <sup>77</sup>*D.A.J.* LXXI (1951), 58.

## APPENDIX I

## COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 13 OCTOBER 1762

The Mannor of Stretton	}	to wit	The View of Frank Pledge and Great Court Baron of the Right Honourable Sackville Earl of Thanet, Henry Bourne Bachelor of Physick and Sarah his Wife and John Hawkesley Gentleman holden at Hen Mill in and for the Mannor aforesaid the Thirteenth Day of October in the Second Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the third King of Great Britain &ra and in the year of our Lord, 1762. Before Godfrey Heathcote Gentleman Steward there —
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The Inquest  
vitz

Thomas Hopkinson Weaver		
John Johnson	James Brailsford	John Bower
Joseph Fidler	William Bott	Peter Elliott
John Allsopp	John Saint	James Walker
John Lee	Henry Ashmore	William Bird

Which said Inquest being duly Sworn and Charged do Amerce every Juryman who has not appeared at this Court according to his Summons, in the Sum of One Shilling, and every other Suitor who has not appeared & answered to his Name upon Call of the Suit Roll, the Sum of Six Pence.

They lay a Pain upon every person that at any time heretofore hath made or at any time hereafter shall make any Incroachments upon the Commons or Waste Grounds of this Mannor, unless such Incroachments as are already made, be thrown open again immediately, and the Incroachments hereafter to be made be thrown open again to the said Commons on or before the 29th day of September next following the making of any such Incroachments of the Sum of Fifteen Shillings for every Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person who shall turn any Scabbed Cattle Horse or Mare upon any of the Common or Commons within this Mannor of the Sum of Five Shillings for the first Offence and Ten Shillings for ev'ry other Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon ev'ry person not having a right of Common upon the Waste Grounds within this Mannor who shall turn any Cattle upon any Common or Commons of this Mannor of the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence for every such offence.

They also lay a Pain upon ev'ry person sinking either Coalpits or Stone Pitts within this Mannor, who having Notice given him to guard & secure the same, shall not within Thirty Days next after such Notice effectually fence in and secure such Pitts, of the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence for each Pitt for the first Offence, and Five Shillings for every other Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person that shall be found Burning Bracken on any of the Commons within this Mannor before the first day of August in any Year of the Sum of Three Shillings and four pence for each Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person that shall lay any Carrion in the Highways or upon the Commons within this Mannor, of Three Shillings and four pence for every Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person that shall neglect the Brushing of his Hedges or scouring his Ditches adjoining to the Highways within this Mannor of the Sum of Two Shillings and Six pence for ev'ry Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon all such persons as shall neglect the ringing of their Swine which are suffered to go out into the Highways or Commons of this Mannor the sum of One Shilling for each Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person who knowingly shall keep any Dog or Bitch accustomed to Chase any of the Cattle or Sheep upon any Common or Commons within this Mannor of Two Shillings for each Offence by such Dog or Bitch.

They also lay a Pain upon every disqualified person that shall be found either Shooting or Snaring Hares or using any other Means destructive of the Hares or other Game within this Mannor of the Sum of Twenty Shillings for each Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person who shall lay any Muck or Rubbish in any of the Highways within this Mannor of the Sum of Three Shillings for ev'ry Offence. They also lay a Pain upon ev'ry person who shall trespass upon his Neighbour by going over any of his Inclosed Lands within this Mannor out of the Common and usual Footway, of Two Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain on every person who shall bring in or be the Means of bringing in any Pauper or Person likely to become chargeable to reside within this Mannor without having a proper Certificate of the Place of the last legall Settlement of such person, of Twenty Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person that shall be found gathering manure from off any of the Commons within this Mannor of the Sum of Five Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person within this Mannor who shall neglect to Hang and keep up the Gates adjoining or belonging to the Highways or Commons within this Mannor, and which of right they ought to uphold of the Sum of Five Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every person who shall put more Sheep or other Cattle upon the Comons within this Manor than in Proportion to the Lands such person occupyes within the Manor of Five Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon ev'ry person that shall be found cutting Wood from off the Comons within this Manor of the Sum of Ten Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon ev'ry person that shall take and carry away any of the Fences belonging or adjoining to the Comons within this Mannor of the Sum of Ten Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every Person that shall throw any Loose Stones into the Highways within this Manor without properly placing the same in the Sum of Five Shillings for each such Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon every Person that shall carry any Fire uncovered either from House to House or near to any Dwelling House or other Building, the Sum of Twenty Shillings for each Offence.

They also Amerce Francis Fox the Sum of Ten Shillings for his Neglect of keeping up the Dam Pasture Gate at the Nether End of Ain Moore.

They also Amerce William Sneath the Sum of Five Shillings for not appearing upon the present Jury, having been lawfully Summoned.

They also lay a Pain upon all such Persons as shall for the future let any Swine go Unwring upon any of the Comons or Waste Grounds within this Mannor to forfeit and pay to the Lords of this Mannor the Sum of Five Shillings for each Offence.

They also lay a Pain upon all such Persons as shall for the future neglect either appearing or sending their Essoigning penny to forfeit and pay to the Lords of this Mannor the Sum of One Shilling for each such Neglect.

They present John Barlow Constable for the Year Ensuing.

They also present Thos. Hopkinson of Ford Headborough for the Year Ensuing.

They also present Joseph Mason Pinder for the Year Ensuing.

G : Heathcote Stewd.

Addressed to:

Joseph Mason Court Reeve  
at  
Stretton

## APPENDIX II

ABSTRACT OF ROLL FOR COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 16 OCTOBER 1765 : GODFREY HEATHCOTE, STEWARD

The roll is written in the same form as that given in Appendix I. Differences are noted below.

Names of 'The Inquest':

Daniel Heald	John Bower	Joseph Fidler
John Johnson	William Bonsall	William Bott
Henry Ashmore	Francis Slater	Job Berresford
William Birds	John Saint	John Lee
John Crofts		

Fine for non-attendance of jurymen raised to 5s.

Fine for neglecting to ring swine reverts to 1s.

Fine for neglecting to 'essoign' omitted.

New fines, pains and presentments:

'They also Amerce Samuel Rooth for a Wattering pool the Sum of Ten Shillings.

They also Amerce peter Elliot for not hanging the Gate between Woolly Moore and Handley in the Sum of Ten Shillings.

They also Amerce Christopher Wragg for not hanging the Old Lane Gate in Handley the Sum of Five Shillings.

Not in the Manor They also Amerce James Millward for not hanging the Gate Leading betwixt Henmore and Woodthorp the Sum of Two pounds.

They present Isaac Williamson Constable for the Year ensuing.

They also present Thomas Hopkinson Headborough for the Year ensuing.

They also present Joseph Mason pinder for the Year ensuing.'

## APPENDIX III

ABSTRACT OF ROLL FOR COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 29 OCTOBER 1766 : ANTHONY LAX, DEPUTY STEWARD

The roll is written in the same form as that given in Appendix I. Differences are noted below.

Lords of the manor : Sackville, Earl of Thanet, Henry Bourne, John Hawkesley, William Wragg and Edward Brocksop.

## Names of 'The Inquest':

Thomas Hopkinson	William Bonsall	Peter Elliot
Henry Ashmore	Francis Slater	Joseph Allen
John Milward	William Bott	Joseph Fidler
John Crofts	Peter Taylor	John Allsopp
Robert Wall		

Fine for non-attendance of jurymen raised to 5s.

Fine for neglecting to ring swine reverts to 1s.

Fine for neglecting to 'essoign' omitted.

New fines, pains and presentments:

'They also Amerce Samuel Rooth of New Market the Sum of Ten Shillings for his Neglect in not Securing the Banks of apond which is Hurtfull to his Neighbour John Milward he being amerced last Court.

They also Amerce Christopher Wragg the Sum of Ten Shillings for Neglecting to hang his Gate in the Old Lane leading to Handley from the Ford.

They present Thomas Hopkinson of Ford Constable for the Year ensuing.

They also present John Sadler of Clay Lane Headborough for the Year ensuing.

They also present Joseph Mason Pinder for the Year Ensuing.'

## APPENDIX IV

ABSTRACT OF ROLL FOR COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 15 MAY 1767 : ANTHONY LAX, DEPUTY STEWARD

The roll is written in the same form as that given in Appendix I. Differences are noted below.

Lords of the manor: Sackville, Earl of Thanet, Henry Bourne, John Hawkesley, William Wragg and Edward Brocksopp.

## Names of 'The Inquest':

Daniel Heald	Joseph Fidler	James Walker
William Bonsall	William Crofts	John Milward
Peter Elliott	William Bott	Samuel Haslam
Robert Wall	George Allen	John Brailsford
John Johnson		

Fine for non-attendance of jurymen raised to 5s.

Fine for carrying uncovered fire between or near houses reduced to 2s.

Fine for neglecting to ring swine reverts to 1s.

Fine for neglecting to 'essoign' omitted.

New fines, pains and presentments:

'They also lay apain on George Cutt that if he does not make up the Well on Anemoor which he has Maliciously pulled in, which was usefull to the Neighbourhood on or before the First day of June Next of the Sum of 10s. to be forfeited and paid to the Lords of this Manor.

They Amerce Saml. Rooth of New Market the Sum of 10s. for not Securing the Banks of apond which is Hurtfull to his Neighbour John Milward to be forfeited & paid to the Lords of this Manor.

They allow all persons belonging to their Liberty to gather Manure from the Common within this Manor on Mundays and Thursdays only betwixt the Houres of Six in the Morning and Six at Night of the same days.'

## APPENDIX V

ABSTRACT OF ROLL FOR COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 27 APRIL 1768 : GODFREY HEATHCOTE, STEWARD

The roll is written in the same form as that given in Appendix I. Differences are noted below.

Lords of the manor : Sackville, Earl of Thanet, Henry Bourne, John Hawksley, William Wragg and Edward Brocksop.

## Names of 'The Inquest':

Thomas Hopkinson	Joseph Fidler	John Sant
William Bonsall	John Crofts	John Brailsford
Robert Wall	William Bott	John Alsop
John Johnson	Henry Ashmore	Samuel Haslam

Fine for non-attendance of jurymen raised to 5s.

Fine for carrying uncovered fire between or near houses reduced to 2s.

Fine for neglecting to ring swine reverts to 1s.

Fine for neglecting to 'essoign' omitted.

Presentments:

'They present Henry Ashmore Constable for the Year ensuing.

They also present William Bonsall Headborough for the Year ensuing.

They also present Joseph Mason Pinder for the Year ensuing.'



## APPENDIX VI

ABSTRACT OF ROLL FOR COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 30 APRIL 1771 : ANTHONY LAX, DEPUTY STEWARD

The roll is written in the same form as that given in Appendix I. Differences are noted below.

Lords of the manor : Sackville, Earl of Thanet, Henry Bourne, John Hawkesly, William Wragg and Edward Brocksopp.

Names of 'The Inquest':

Thomas Hopkinson		
William Bonsall	Joseph Fidler	John Johnson
Robert Wall	John Sant	Charles North
William Bott	Henry Ashmore	Abraham Gent
Peter Elliott	Richard Fisher	Samuel Haslam

Fine for non-attendance of jurymen raised to 5s.

Fine for carrying uncovered fire between or near houses reduced to 2s.

Fine for neglecting to ring swine reverts to 1s.

Fine for neglecting to 'essoign' omitted.

New fines, pains and presentments:

'They Amerce Peter Taylor in the further Sum of Twenty Shillings for not Mending and repairing the Lane Adjoining to his Lands called Horscar Lane to be Forfeited and paid to the Lords of this Manor.

They also Lay a pain upon all such persons as shall Turn any Old Geese upon the Commons or Wastgrounds within this Manor without Bowing the same in the Sum of One Shilling for every Goose so Unbowed to be Forfeited and pay to the Lords of this Manor.

They also Lay a pain upon every person who hereafter shall wilfully Set open the Gate leading from Woolley Moor to Handley which is prejudicial to the Landholders Adjoining the said Lane the Sum of Two Shillings and Six pence for each such Offence.

They present Thomas Hopkinson Constable for the Year ensuing.

They present Henry Ashmore Headborough for the Year ensuing.

They present Joseph Mayson Pounder for the Year ensuing.'

## APPENDIX VII

ABSTRACT OF ROLL FOR COURT HELD AT HEN MILL ON 20 MAY 1772 : GODFREY HEATHCOTE, STEWARD

The roll is written in the same form as that given in Appendix I. Differences are noted below.

Lords of the manor : Sackville, Earl of Thanet, Henry Bourne, John Hawkesley, William Wragg and Edward Brocksopp.

Names of 'The Inquest':

James Riggot		
William Bonsall	Thomas Hopkinson	Abraham Gent
Peter Elliott	John Crofts	John Saint
Richard Fisher	John Brailsford	Henry Ashmore
Robert Wall	Richard Johnson	Samuel Haslam

Fine for non-attendance of jurymen raised to 5s.

Fine for carrying uncovered fire between or near houses reduced to 2s.

Fine for neglecting to ring swine reverts to 1s.

Fine for neglecting to 'essoign' omitted.

New fines, pains and presentments:

'They also lay a Pain upon every person who shall turn any Old Geese upon the Commons or Wastgrounds within this Manor without bowing the same to forfeit and pay to the Lords of this Manor the Sum of One Shilling for every Goose so unbowed.

They also lay a Pain upon every person who hereafter shall wilfully set open the Gate in the Lane leading from Woolly Moor to Handley to the prejudice of the Land Owners adjoining the said Lane the Sum of two Shillings and six Pence to be forfeited and paid to the Lords of this Manor for each such Offence.

They also lay a pain upon Daniel Heald that if he does not repair the Old Lane leading to Handley before the next Court he shall forfeit and pay to the Lords of this Manor the Sum of Twenty Shillings.

They present

Thomas Hopkinson	Constable for the Year ensuing.
Henry Ashmore	Headborough for the Year ensuing.
Joseph Mason	Pounder for the Year ensuing.'