

JOB LOUSLEY (1790-1855) OF BLEWBURY AND HAMPSTEAD NORRIS

JOB EDWARD LOUSLEY

Job Lousley 'was a big man, rather eccentric in his ways, and very fond of books . . . ' He 'used to wear breeches and gaiters, and a hat as big as a lady's umbrella. He had one hat for winter, another for summer, and made an imposing figure when he set out to ride to Newbury market on his blind mare . . . Talk about George III! His Majesty was not in it when Job Lousley rode to market in his big hat, his Wellington boots, and great-coat'. That was how my great-grandfather remembered his father as he was in his later years.¹

At that time, about 1850, Job was farming over a thousand acres which were mostly his own freehold. Farming was his main business in life and on agricultural matters he was regarded as an authoritative writer and leader throughout Berkshire, and indeed beyond. Parish affairs claimed his attention at Hampstead Norris where he was Vicar's warden, and at Blewbury where he still maintained an interest. In spite of all this he found time for his hobbies. Books were his ruling passion and he amassed a vast and famous library. All branches of Natural History received attention and his botanical records are still valuable. The study of antiquities delighted him; he opened barrows, helped leading antiquarians, and wrote accounts of several parishes. He also compiled a glossary of local words. These were all life-long interests dating from his early youth.

Job was born in 1790 at South Moreton, a village two miles from Blewbury where the family was centred at that time. He was the eldest surviving son of Joseph Lousley, the third of that name. Grandfather Joseph was still very much alive. He had been born in 1733 at Kingston Bagpuize, where the family had been settled as small freeholders since the

16th century. Soon after the birth of his first son John in 1760 he moved to Bridgecombe Farm under the White Horse at Uffington, and there his second son, Job's father, was born in 1765. It was at Michaelmas 1774 that grandfather Joseph moved to Blewbury, when he took a lease of the glebe land and tythe of Blewbury from the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, for a term of 21 years at a yearly rent of £250 and a fine of £1,300—a large sum for those days.² The lease of Parsonage Farm was to be renewed until 1828, when Job surrendered it as his father's executor. The tithes of Blewbury were collected in turn by five members of the family acting as lessees or agents for the Corporation until 1855, and copies of much of the correspondence is still extant.³ In 1801 grandfather Joseph bought Aston Farm near Cherrington, Glos., and shortly afterwards, Lowesmoor and other property nearby. It seems that the management of the Blewbury farms was then left to his second son, Joseph, the father of Job, while grandfather and his eldest son John moved to Gloucestershire.

Job's father was equally active and shrewd, a keen man of business, constantly helping people who were in trouble, active in parish affairs, but steadily buying or leasing more and more property. As a sideline he built up a wide reputation as a valuer and acted as agent for other people's estates.⁴

Thus Job was born into a world where his services were soon in demand. His father's work as a valuer involved frequent absences from home and his son was needed to look after the farms. For this reason he could only be spared to go away to school for nine months and explaining this, years later, he said 'what little I know has mostly been acquired by

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reading'. He turned to this form of self-education at an early age—'When a youth I was fond of catching larks, and I earned when young many of the books in my library by catching larks with a net called a tramel net'.⁵ When he was 24 he went to live at West Hagbourne Farm, which was a farm of about 200 acres which his father rented from J. B. Pocock.⁶ This I believe to be the one rebuilt and now known as Manor Farm, and here Job made his first observations on the dormancy and vitality of seeds—in this case charlock—a subject which interested him to the end of his life. At about this time he compiled 'An alphabetical list of all the English wild herbs' which is now in Newbury Public Library.

In 1822 a silver mug was presented to him and this is still in the possession of the family.⁷ It is inscribed 'The Vicar's Cup' and 'Presented in 1822 by 120 Poor Persons of Hagbourn to Mr Job Lousley, Churchwarden, in gratitude for his benevolent exertions in rescuing and recovering their Property from the hands of a *Rapacious* and *Dishonest Vicar* who had long been in the habit of defrauding them of the same. 29th Chap. Job 11th and following verses. Job Lousley's Motto—Constant washing will wear away stones'. It seems that the cup was presented following proceedings in the Court of Chancery concerning irregularities in the management of Eaton's Charity, which was intended for the 'placing out' and apprenticeship of poor children and the relief of poor widows and others. By a decree dated April 22, 1822 certain arrangements were made for the protection of the capital, and, amongst other provisions, the Rev. John Schultes, vicar of Hagbourn, was directed to pay £31 16s. into the bank in the name of the Accountant-General.⁸ This was only the first of a series of battles which Job fought to help the poor.

A little earlier, in 1816, he was elected—or as the Club Book says 'Chused'—Clerk of the Blewbury Club, later known as the Blewbury Friendly Society.⁹ This was a sort of primitive do-it-yourself forerunner of National Insurance which dated from 1756. The members met at the Load of Mischief and contributed to the

'box', from which payments were made when they were ill or died. Funds were also raised by forfeits as, for example, the mysterious entry on February 5, 1821 'A New Hour Glass for J. Lousley's Forfeit for not going to Church but only going to Church Porch at John Lane's Funeral.' There was an annual feast and an annual sermon, which for forty years was preached by the Rev. Morgan Jones, the famous miser. At the time Job took over, the Club was running into a deficit and the book was already £2 5s. 10d. in debt. The free annual feast and heavy sickness payments were the root of the trouble. Drastic changes were needed and in 1821 new rules drawn up by Job were approved at a Special General Meeting. The Club then flourished so much that two years later they were able to hire a 'band of Musick' for their feast, and the new Clerk elected in 1826 started with a balance of £82 5s. 1d. The £1,000 of 3 per cent Consols however remained in the name of Job Lousley and Edward Humfrey, and Job brought down the interest from London until 1851.

On November 7, 1820 a remarkable Address was presented by the Club to the unfortunate Queen Caroline. It was passed without a dissentient voice by the 87 members present, and signed by Job Lousley as Clerk.¹⁰ The Queen, who whatever her faults had been treated disgracefully by George IV, had returned to England on June 6 and entered London in triumph. At the time of the Address she was regarded by the public as a wronged and courageous woman pursued by ministers who had suppressed the liberties of the nation. Without this background of widespread public support the Blewbury Club would have run grave risks in their implications against the King, government and Church: two months later, when the Queen accepted £50,000 a year and a house, it is unlikely that she retained their sympathy.

In 1826 Job was involved in another dispute—this time over the fees of the Blewbury Parish Clerk. The matter was referred to the Chancellor of the Diocese of Sarum and a schedule drawn up of 'Fees to be always in future

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demand and we trust honourably paid'. This, making some allowance for means and residence, was signed by the vicar and Edward Humfrey and Job Lousley as churchwardens.¹¹ Earlier he was involved in petitions accusing the Trustees of the Charity School at Blewbury of abusing their Trust. One draft petition in his handwriting is in his own name as a farmer of West Hagbourne, complaining that a rent charge on an estate there was not being paid and applied to education; the other in the name of the inhabitants of Blewbury uses his name and is addressed to the 'honourable commission for enquiring into Charities.'¹² A petition was in fact presented first to the Bishop in 1812, and then to the Charity Commissioners, by Ilbury Humfrey and Joseph Lousley, the churchwardens at the time, but the complaints were not accepted as substantiated.¹³

The death of his father in 1825 at the age of 59 completely changed Job's life. For years he had acted as Joseph's deputy during his frequent absences from Blewbury, but the task that faced him as executor must have been daunting in the extreme. First he wrote the obituary—the draft is still in existence. Then he turned to administration of the estate sworn at 'under £12,000', with realty in addition.¹⁴ Joseph's main bequest to Job was an estate at Hampstead Norris, of which more anon, and to Daniel, his younger son, cash and the unexpired leases of Blewbury Farm (now Blewbury Manor) (Plate III), Lower Farm, Blewbury and West Hagbourne Farm—the last two were in the occupation of Job at the time. The pecuniary legacies to Daniel, the four daughters and others totalled £9,723 which, as the receipts show, were promptly paid. Collecting the outstanding valuation fees was a troublesome business since people took it as a matter of course in those days to delay payment of bills of this sort for years. There was a threatened legal action to recover the Gloucestershire properties which Joseph's father had left in male entail, and which had passed to female issue—this action Job wisely and rightly dropped. There was also a most un-

pleasant dispute over the estate of a certain William Bushnell, of which Joseph was an executor.¹⁵ At 34 Job was suddenly faced with grave responsibilities and a move from the Vale, where he had spent all his youth, to Hampstead Norris in the 'Hill Country' with new farming problems.

William Bushnell's affairs had been causing great trouble for years. The executors were unable to administer the estate until the Slades handed over certain documents, and when at last they did so, and Probate was obtained, the executors refused to pay the legacies and surrender the papers until duty had been provided.¹⁶ Job, on his father's death, handed over all the papers he could find to the surviving executor, Charles Pocock of Greenham, but in early 1826 he by chance discovered further documents. Before he could hand these on to Pocock, Septimus Slade came to his house in a dreadful rage and threatened him until Job promised to send them to Greenham the following day. He sealed them up in a parcel with two seals and despatched them by a trusted messenger on May 9. As he wrote to Pocock 'the man was on his way to your house when at a lonely place on the Downs called Dennisford Gate he was waylaid by Septimus Slade and a vile low life fellow of the name of Bennett and robbed of the same after an ineffectual attempt to procure the parcell by stratagem (sic)'. Job was now in a proper fix. He was advised that as the parcel was taken by force he could only proceed against Slade upon a capital charge of Highway Robbery and nothing could save him from the gallows. Since Septimus was brother to Job's sister's husband, cousin to Charles Pocock, and related to beneficiaries the prospect was one at which any man might shrink. Job first tried every effort at persuasion, but Septimus would not surrender the papers. At last he had no alternative to an appeal to the law, and early in June he proceeded to Abingdon and laid the case before the magistrates. They refused to grant a warrant unless he could swear that the papers were his property, which of course in law they were not—they were the property of the

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surviving executor. On June 8 he wrote that he had 'seen Mr C. Pocock and he has agreed to meet me at Newbury on Thursday next and to lay the case before the Magistrates there as the Robbery was committed in Compton Hundred . . . ' James Bennett and Septimus Slade were committed to the Berkshire assizes at Abingdon on a charge of having stolen, from Lawrence Leonard, at East Ilsley, a brown paper parcel containing deeds and papers, the property of Charles Pocock¹⁷—but at the assizes on July 3, 1826 the Grand Jury 'ignored' their indictments, and they were discharged¹⁸. I have been unable to discover how this unpleasant matter was finally resolved between Slade and the surviving executor but, like Job, 'I think it a pity such men as these should finally escape and thus triumph in their evil deeds'.

HAMPSTEAD NORRIS

At Michaelmas 1827 he obtained possession of Hampstead Norris Farm, now Manor House (Plate IV), which had been left to him by his father. Joseph bought this in 1817 when it was sold with other property of a Mr Joseph Tanner who was bankrupt owing to the failure of the Bank at Newbury.¹⁹ The estate totalled 759 acres, was charged with annuities totalling £120 per annum, and the arable was on lease to Thomas Dewe of Wyld Court. When Job gained possession the land was in poor heart since Dewe had been carrying off about a third of the straw, hay and dung to his own farm. It was a struggle to get the ground back into good condition and to persuade his neighbours that they could no longer trespass with their sheep.²⁰ In November 1827 he married Ruth Robinson, who was 14 years his junior, at Blewbury—one of the witnesses to the marriage register was Jesse King with whom he was later to open barrows on the downs. By Ruth he had nine children, four boys and five girls.

Just three years after they were married, Job and his young wife had the most terrifying experience of their lives. This was on November 22, 1830 only eleven days before the birth of their third child. The part of Berkshire where

they lived had been in the throes of the Machine Riots for a week, with roving bands burning ricks and farms and destroying threshing machines. This is how Job described his ordeal in a letter written a few days later to the Rev. James Reed of Eversholt, Vicar of Hampstead Norris:²¹

' . . . at last the bad characters and bad feelings of our own Parish prevailed, and we were called up before five o'clock in the Morn by parties parading our Streets blowing Horns and threatening to break the Windows and doors of those who were not willing to join them—there was no time to be lost, I called and sent for all the Farmers, and went out and met them as soon as possible, and succeeded and captured with my own hands a foreman with his horn and gave him into the custody of the Constable, but as the numbers came flocking in from Well House, Hermitage, Hungerford and Bothamstead we were obliged to come to their terms and raise their wages one fifth.

—It was a truly trying scene to observe my own Labourers arrayed against me with large clubs—men upon whom I had heaped every favour—men whom I had let have Pigs and Corn to fat them without money, and Men whom I had but a few days before delivered 20 Faggots each, and to do which I had actually went without myself, and Men who lived in my own Cottage Houses at a low Rent, and others who had not many days before borrowed Money of me to pay their Rent, and what was more astonishing still was to see men who made a great profession of Religion with great clubs, and who I understand had that Morning met together and prophanely (*sic*) offered up prayers for success, and thus, as it were, mocked their Creator by asking for his assistance to break his Commands, but Revd. Sir I must be short on this subject as it is so disgusting.

—After coming into the midst of the Parishioners I asked my own Labourers whether either of them could accuse me of denying them either Corn or Money or Wood whenever they asked me, and they could not say one word, and I then challenged them to

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accuse me of any other thing, and only one voice said that I generally made a hard bargain, but that very man had been earning 12 shillings per week of me ever since Harvest'.

The men ended the day by fighting amongst themselves, and the following day settled down to work. Job got off lightly and without serious damage, and this in itself is evidence that he treated his employees reasonably well. His sister Charlotte, of Aston Upton, faced the mob alone when they came to her husband's farm, and by tactful argument persuaded them to move on.²² His brother Daniel rode into the mob at Upton, and got a servant away from them.²³ The Machine Riots arose from the sheer desperation of the labouring classes who were half starved, and once the gentry had got over their fright, and the ringleaders had been hung or transported, sympathy went to the working men and efforts were made to improve their condition.

Job acted as enumerator for Hampstead Norris for the census of 1841, and again in 1851, though his son Jethro actually collected the details for the latter.²⁴ In 1841, there were 9 members of the family, two male servants, two female, and eight labourers living at the Manor House. In 1851, there were eight members of the family, two house servants, and seven labourers, while he described himself as owner and farmer of 850 acres employing 58 labourers. The church must have been regularly packed to capacity. Job, who was churchwarden at Hampstead Norris for 14 years, and had been churchwarden at Blewbury, made it a condition at the time of hiring his labourers that they should agree to attend church twice every Sunday. In February 1852 he brought a labourer, Richard Middleton, before the Magistrates at Newbury on a charge of breaking his contract, because on the first of that month the boy had refused to go more than once.²⁵ The Bench commended Job for setting a good example, and fined the boy 8s. 6d. (including costs) which his master paid, after being authorised by the Magistrates to deduct 6d. per week from the wages. It was revealed in evidence that while Job was in church, the bad

lots were apt to raid the hen-houses; no doubt it was for the good of their souls to have them out of the way of temptation. Job and his fellow churchwarden presented the Bishop of Oxford in his own Court, when he visited Newbury in November 1854, on the grounds that it was wrong for the churchwardens to be called away from their business two days in one year.²⁶

The 28 years Job spent at Hampstead Norris were a complete contrast to those of his youth at Blewbury. The earlier period was characterised by keen observation and building up a fund of experience, but he had few contacts with the world of learning apart from his books. At Hampstead Norris he shared his knowledge with a circle of friends with kindred interests and made use of his experience. He built up a reputation which led to contacts with eminent people and to contributions to periodicals and books. His main interests will now be discussed.

AGRICULTURE

First in importance was agriculture, the basis of his income. On this he was an acknowledged authority and he contributed monthly agricultural reports for Berkshire to *Bell's Weekly Messenger* for over 30 years. This was a paper with an agricultural bias, and Conservative and Corn Law advocacy. Job's contributions were usually unsigned, but their style is unmistakable. They are strongly anti-Free-Trade, evidence a deep sympathy for the poor, and points are driven home by biblical quotations. This series of reports also appeared in *The Monthly Agricultural Reporter*, and the *New Farmers' Journal and Agricultural Advertiser*, and were sometimes repeated in Berkshire papers.

His strong conviction that a heavy duty on imported corn was essential to English agriculture came from his father and was passed on to his sons. It led him to intervene in politics—he was a life-long Conservative—but his intervention was as a farmer rather than as a politician. As early as 1818 he toured Berkshire getting signatures to a petition to the House of Commons, and on January 14th, 1819, at a

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meeting at Henderson's Hotel, Westminster, he was elected as the representative for Berkshire of the Agricultural Association.²⁷ This organisation was set up to protect the rights and interests of agriculture by constitutional means. Their main contention was that occupiers of land in the United Kingdom carried such a heavy load of taxation that they could not compete on equal terms with producers overseas. To remedy this they claimed that the ports should be thrown open to all nations and import duties placed on agricultural produce equivalent to the level of taxation borne by home producers. There is little doubt that they had a very strong case. Occupiers of land were subject to a highly complicated system of taxation which was difficult to understand and heavy in its incidence and they had to provide most of the Government's revenue. For example, they paid £6,473,475 in Property Tax in 1814, while the trading and manufacturing parts of the community paid only £2,000,000.

Job returned from the Westminster meeting to organise the collection of signatures to a Berkshire petition which was presented to the House of Commons by Charles Dundas on February 24th. He embarked on a series of letters to the *Reading Mercury*²⁸—most of them ran to well over a column—and organised meetings in various centres in the county. In June a meeting at Ilsley instructed him to draw up a further petition to Parliament, and he received the thanks of the meeting 'for the able manner in which he has advocated the claims of agriculture'. These activities continued for years. He was one of the first members of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which was founded in 1838. In 1843 he took a leading part in one of the biggest demonstrations Berkshire farmers have ever made.

This was a Public Meeting called by the High Sheriff of Berkshire in accordance with the request in a petition signed by 800 freeholders, farmers and others interested in agriculture. The meeting opened at 11 o'clock on May 19th at Reading Town Hall but such

was the attendance—it rose to 1,500—that they had to adjourn to the hustings in the Forbury and went on until 5.20 p.m. There were three resolutions, the first, proposed by Mr Hipplesley and seconded by Job Lousley drew attention to the depressed state of agriculture and claimed that '... home produce has a constitutional right to expect and demand from the Legislature ample protection against the otherwise ruinous competition of untaxed foreign capital and foreign labour'. The second was proposed by the Earl of Radnor and seconded by Mr J. T. Norris, and the third, which received negligible support, by a Mr Walters and seconded by the Rev. Sloper. From the long report in *The Times*²⁹, and the even longer one in the *Reading Mercury*,³⁰ it is quite clear that Job stole the thunder. Not only was his speech reported at length, but the other speakers devoted much of their time to attacking 'Mr Lousley, his class and his party'. The resolution he supported was passed by a large majority, and ordered to be signed by the Sheriff on behalf of the meeting and to be presented to Parliament. It was presented to the House of Lords by Earl Stanhope. Looking back on this long and heated controversy we can now see that both sides greatly exaggerated the effect of the import duties on corn. Up to about 1850 official statistics show that the amount of corn brought into the country was so trifling in relation to the total consumed that it can hardly have had any significant effect one way or the other. The Earl of Radnor came near to the truth when he said it would be as rational to suppose 'that the price of meat in the market at Reading would be affected because some traveller, coming by train from Bristol, had brought some sandwiches in his pocket to eat'. The depressed state of agriculture was due to other reasons, but my great-great-grandfather and his friends could not be expected to know that, and they argued their case with logic and sincerity.

JOB'S LIBRARY

Books were Job's lifelong weakness; he just could not resist buying them. He amassed

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them to such purpose that at his death he left a great library of at least 40,000 volumes (one account says 70,000).³¹ To house them he built a new wing on to the Manor House in 1840, where the shelving is still in position to this day. He was not a book collector in the strict sense; his books were bought to read and to use and he would rather wait and buy an imperfect copy at a bargain price than pay more than he thought the book was worth. From the modern collector's point of view his practice of writing his name and comments on the title page and elsewhere ruined many a scarce work, but it makes former ownership by Job very easy to recognise now. During his lifetime many people were invited to make free use of the library and from their accounts it seems unlikely that the books were arranged in any very systematic sequence. The collection was kept intact for nearly 40 years after his death. In 1894 a selection of the rarer volumes was sold in 791 lots at Sothebys. A further instalment of at least 20,000 volumes was sold at Newbury for a fraction of the real value in 1896, and there were further sales at Newbury in October and November 1904. These included the Berkshire books, many of which were bought by Mr Slocock to form the foundation of the fine Berkshire collection which he gave to Reading Public Library.³²

ANTIQUARIAN INTERESTS

Job's widespread antiquarian interests are evidenced more by the numerous acknowledgments of his help by other authors than by his own writings. He contributed the accounts of the parishes of Hampstead Norris, Compton, Yattendon and Frilsham to the 'History of Newbury' published in 1839, and he contributed also to William Hewitt, Junior's 'The History and Antiquities of the Hundred of Compton . . .' which appeared in 1844. He was a friend of Jesse King of Appleford, who had a private museum, and together they opened tumuli on the downs. Their object was to acquire the contents of the barrows, and on one occasion they were rewarded with 40 urns and other treasures including a fine arrow-head,

but, in common with other excavators of the time, they made no attempt to record accurate measurements and details. Job facilitated the opening of barrows on Aston Downs by Robert H. Valpy in 1845, and an account in the *Archaeological Journal* of 1848 refers to the work of Lousley and King, and acknowledges Job's help with a long note on the course of the Devil's Ditch. He helped John Richards with his collections for a history of Berkshire (now at the British Museum)³³ by providing notes on Blewbury, Hagbourne and Hampstead Norris and the course of the Ickleton Way. The Victoria County History account of Hampstead Norris is indebted to a manuscript left by Job.

This seems the appropriate place to mention a little book published under his name in 1852. This was 'A Glossary of Provincial Words used in Berkshire', of which only sixty copies were printed. His interest in local words was continued by his son Barzillai who published a much larger book on the subject in 1888.

NATURAL HISTORY

Job's interest covered nearly all branches of Natural History but he is mainly remembered as a botanist. He contributed a very large number of plant records to the 'History of Newbury' published in 1839, for which his manuscript with many subsequent additions is still in existence. This provides a valuable detailed record of the flora of Blewbury and Hampstead Norris as it was at the time, and I have attempted to compare it with the flora as it is today, and to account for the changes. Many of Job's plants still persist in the places where he found them. He also contributed a few records to Hewitt's work on the Hundred of Compton. His notes are characterised by shrewd observations which are sometimes ahead of the views held generally in academic circles at the time.

His notes on animals and birds include some which are extinct in Berkshire, or much rarer than in his time. The polecat he says is 'not half so plentiful as it was 50 years ago', the pine marten (which he says is called the swift) was 'common in woods but not known

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in other parts of the county', the kite he had not seen for 20 years, and the bittern he had not seen or heard for the same period, while the 'knee bustard' was but seldom seen, and the nightjar was getting 'more scarce'. He could sometimes hear the nightingale as he lay in bed, while 'the corncrake continues its monotonous sound night and day of *crake crake* and the *whit to whit* of the quail is generally late in the evening or soon in the morning'. After reviewing with some scepticism the evidence for young adders running down their mother's throat for shelter he decided guardedly that it was established. There are still naturalists who would agree with him. Notes such as this are included in twelve long letters which he addressed to James Hardy in 1853 and 1854.³⁵

He died at his home on July 8, 1855 and was buried in a vault in Hampstead Norris churchyard in a coffin of which the outer casing was made from a tree growing on his own land and which he had selected himself.³⁶ A memorial in iron made by Hedges of Bucklebury in 1876 was erected over the vault by his eldest son Luke. Job's wish was to be buried on a triangular piece of ground at the south-west corner of Beech Wood on his own land, but, as might have been anticipated, it was found on his death that this was not possible. His second son therefore arranged for a memorial stone (Plate VI) to be erected on the spot and this bears the following inscription:

'In memory of JOB LOUSLEY of the Manor, Hampstead Norris, who died July 8th 1855. Aged 64 years.

This monument was put up by his son Jethro Lousley to respect his father's wish to be buried on this piece of ground, but it could not be carried out as it was not consecrated and no preparation had been made, so he was buried in a vault in Hampstead Norris churchyard'.

His fourth son, Barzillai, provided a memorial tablet inside the church to the memory of Joseph, Job and Luke.

On the monument in the wood Job's surname is spelled 'LOUSLEY', and on the other two

memorials 'LOWSLEY', and this calls for an explanation. In the seventeenth century the family spelt their name in many different ways, even using several spellings in the same document, but from the early eighteenth century it was LOUSLEY. Job and his father always spelt it that way. Two of his sons, Luke and Barzillai, were keenly interested in the family history and found that LOWSLEY was the spelling in the earliest records they traced,³⁷ and they and their brother Oded decided to revert to this and used this spelling on the memorials they erected. It seems that the change was made early in 1863, for the first spelling in this way I have traced is dated March 29, 1863—in Hampstead Norris churchwarden's accounts. The other son, Jethro, continued to use LOUSLEY, as have his descendents.

Job Lousley's achievements in so many fields are all the more remarkable since from 1840 onwards he was handicapped by poor health. His letters contained such frequent complaints about his cough that it is not surprising that the cause of death shown on his death certificate is 'chronic bronchitis and disorganisation of the lungs'. His other troubles included an ulcerated leg which for long periods prevented access to his beloved library. Fortunately he had built up such a reputation that towards the end of his life, when he was no longer able to get about freely, a steady stream of learned visitors made their way to his house and library.

Job's activities are a sharp contrast to those of other members of the family. His father, Joseph, and his brother, Daniel, were equally active and have left very considerable records but these are restricted to their work, their churches, and local affairs. Job's interests, on the other hand, extended far beyond his main occupation, and he was constantly striving to add to the stock of knowledge. His contemporaries regarded him as somewhat eccentric because he did unusual things. It is for his unusual interests that he is remembered today.

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- ⁴ Copy Letter Book, 1821-1825, of Joseph Lousley in possession of E. H. Lousley.
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- ⁸ *Reports of the Commissioners . . . Charities in England and Wales relating to the County of Berks, 1819-1837*, 165 (243); *Reports on Charities . . . Endowed Charities (County of Berks)*, 1912, 729; Chancery Decrees 1821, A. Leake f. 1477, 22 April 1822, 'In the Matter of Eaton's Charity' (Public Record Office); Presentment of Job Lousley & Richd. Child, Churchwardens of Hagbourne, May 23, 1822. (Bodleian Library, MS/Arch.pprs. Berks. A.c. No. 118 f. 105).
- ⁹ *Blewbury Club Book* (Berks Record Office, D/Ety. Q5/1/1); *Rules and Regulations to be observed and kept by a Friendly Society, held at the Load of Mischief . . .* (Reading Public Library, BVG/OU); Job Lousley MS, *Particulars relating to Blewbury Club*, 1826 (Bodleian Library MS/Top. Berks. C.18 f. 169).
- ¹⁰ Address in *Blewbury Club Book*—Nov. 1820 (B.R.O. D/Ety. Q5/1/1).
- ¹¹ *Blewbury Parish Register*—Burials. Agreement dated August 22nd, 1826. (B.R.O.).
- ¹² Berkshire Record Office ref. D/Ex.62.5.
- ¹³ *Reports of the Commissioners . . . Charities in England and Wales relating to the County of Berks, 1819-1837*, 15 (19) seq.
- ¹⁴ Will of Joseph Lousley proved June 21st, 1825. P.C.C. (Somerset House). Probate Copy with receipts for legacies attached in Hedges & Son's collection of wills (B.R.O. D/EH/B.13).
- ¹⁵ The will of William Bushnell, proved at London, January 28th, 1823, by Joseph Lousley and Charles Pocock, runs to 7½ very closely written large pages. The very length was an encouragement to disputes and litigation. (P.C.C., 1823, Richards f. 9).
- ¹⁶ Joseph Lousley's Copy Letter Book, 1821-1825 which his son Job continued to use for copies of letters relating to his father's affairs.
- ¹⁷ Reported in *Berkshire Chronicle*, 2, no. 75, for Saturday, July 1st, 1826.
- ¹⁸ *Reading Mercury*, 104, no. 5496 for Monday, July 10th, 1826.
- ¹⁹ Advertisement for sale quoted in Lowsley, B., 1897, *Record of the Family of Lowsley*, 167-169. (Privately printed).
- ²⁰ Notes and copy letters added by Job Lousley to Joseph Lousley's Copy Letter Book.
- ²¹ Copy letter loosely inserted in Joseph Lousley's Copy Letter Book.
- ²² Report in *Berkshire Chronicle* 7, no. 310 for Saturday, January 15th, 1831.
- ²³ Report of assizes in *Berkshire Chronicle*, 7, no. 309 for Saturday, January 8th, 1831.
- ²⁴ Census of 1841 (HO.107/16/18) and Census of 1851 (HO.124/2/344) at Public Record Office.
- ²⁵ Report in *Berkshire Chronicle* for February 14th, 1852.
- ²⁶ *Richards Collection*, 14, (British Museum Library, ADD.28673).
- ²⁷ *Reading Mercury* 97, no. 4518, for January 25th, 1819.
- ²⁸ *Reading Mercury* 1819, 1820, 1822 passim.
- ²⁹ *The Times*, Monday, May 22nd, 1843.
- ³⁰ *Reading Mercury* for May 27th, 1843.
- ³¹ Lousley, J. E., 1963, *The Library of Job Lousley. Notes and Queries* 10, (N.S.), 429-430.
- ³² A. L. Humphreys, 'Mr Slocock's Great Gift to the Reading Public Library', *Berks, Bucks and Oxon. Archaeol. Jnl.*, 29, (1925), 18.
- ³³ John Richards Collection. (B.M. ADD. MS. 28660-28677).
- ³⁴ J. E. Lousley, 'The Berkshire Records of Job Lousley (1790-1855)', *Proc. Bot. Soc. Brit. Isles*, 5, (1964), 203-209.
- ³⁵ Lousley, Job, 1853-54, letters to James Hardy. *Hardy MSS.* 5, in library of Berwickshire Nats. Club.
- ³⁶ Family records in possession of the writer.
- ³⁷ Family records in possession of the writer.