

## THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CONSTABLES OF THE VILLAGE OF STATHERN, LEICESTERSHIRE.

Transcribed and edited by EVERARD L. GUILFORD, M.A.

The recent history of these accounts is not without interest and may serve as an apology, if any is needed, for the publication of the details of the life in a midland village during the years 1630-1649. About the year 1888, after the discovery of the valuable papers at Belvoir castle by Mr. Maxwell Lyte, the attention of the Rev. Dr. J. C. Cox was drawn to these constables' accounts. Dr. Cox, recognising their historical value, made certain extracts from them which he brought to the notice of the late Mr. S. R. Gardiner, at that time engaged on his great history of the Civil War. Mr. Gardiner considered them to be of much importance, but after his death the manuscript could not be found, and from that day to this the accounts have been forgotten. About eighteen months ago the writer's attention was drawn to them by the rector, who found them in a chest believed not to have been opened "within living memory." It was soon proved, however, that these were the same accounts that Dr. Cox had transcribed twenty years before.

Unfortunately it has not been found possible to print these accounts in full, but it is hoped that enough will appear to make it evident how interesting and valuable a document we have here, valuable not only for the light it throws on the movements of the forces during the Civil War, but also for the insight it gives into the life of an out-of-the-way village during the seventeenth century.

In order that some general idea of the extent and nature of these accounts may be obtained, the year 1630, the earliest now surviving, has been printed in full with explanatory notes.

## Disbursements By mee Richard Pachett Cunstable 1630.

Paid for my oyth [oath]	..	..	..	..	I	0
Payd for a warand that I had for ye Punnising of The poore <sup>1</sup>	..	..	..	..		4
Paid for a passe <sup>2</sup> making The 14th of Aprill..	..	..	..	..		2
Payd for passe making ye 15th of Aprill ..	..	..	..	..		2
Geven to 2 poore men and a child that had a passe ye 20th of Aprill	..	..	..	..		3
Spente before The Justices The 21th of Aprill ..	..	..	..	..		6
Paid for our Bill making and Calling that day ..	..	..	..	..		8
Payd for tow [two] passes making ye 23th and 26th of Aprill	..	..	..	..		4
Geven to 2 poore men that had a passe ye 29th of Aprill	..	..	..	..		2
Paid for a passe making ye 1th of May ..	..	..	..	..		2
Geven to tow poore men ye vith of May ..	..	..	..	..		2
Geven to one poore man ye 7th of May ..	..	..	..	..	I	1
Payd for a bill for ye towne to gabriell Caunte ye tel. <sup>3</sup>	..	..	..	..		9
Spente Before Justices ye 12th of May ..	..	..	..	..		6
Payd for our bill making that day..	..	..	..	..		4
Payd for a bill making for our ale men ..	..	..	..	..		4
Geven to Mr. Palmar for Excusing mee at ye quartar Sessions The 24th of May	..	..	..	..	2	0
Geven to a poore man that had a passe ye xvth of May	..	..	..	..	I	1
Paid to Mr. Elston for Trenetey [Trinity] quarter The 19th of May	..	..	..	..	2	2
Payd for a quittance ..	..	..	..	..		4
Spente that day ..	..	..	..	..		4
Payd for a passe making ye 18th of May ..	..	..	..	..		2
Spente at Waltam ye 24th of May Going before ye commessenas <sup>4</sup> [commissioners]	..	..	..	..		20
Paid for our bill making ..	..	..	..	..		4
Paid for a Branch of ye Statud [Statute] ..	..	..	..	..	I	0
Geven tow men and there wives and one child ye 24th of May	..	..	..	..		6
Geven to one man and tow children ye 25th of May	..	..	..	..		2

<sup>1</sup> In 1630 a royal commission was appointed to inquire into the neglect of the Poor Laws and to direct their enforcement.

<sup>2</sup> This was a passport or licence to beg,

granted under certain conditions by the justices of the peace to vagrants.

<sup>3</sup> "tel" probably refers to the date of the preceding entry.

<sup>4</sup> See note <sup>1</sup>.

Geven to tow wemen and one child y <sup>e</sup> 26th of May	2
Geven to one man and a child that had pa. [pass]	
y <sup>e</sup> 27th of May .. .. .	1
Geven to one man and his wife and tow children	
ye 29th of May .. .. .	2
Geven to three men y <sup>e</sup> 31th of May that had a passe	2
Spente going Before Mr. langoum [Langham]	
y <sup>e</sup> 10th of June aboute wil. ham. .. ..	3
Geven to one man and his wife and one woman and	
hir child y <sup>e</sup> 3th of June .. .. .	5
Spente Before y <sup>e</sup> Justices y <sup>e</sup> 7th of June .. ..	2
Paid for our Bill making That day .. .. .	4
Geven to a genttelman y <sup>e</sup> 10th of June that had a	
passe .. .. .	2
Spente at longclosen [Long Clawson] when I wente	
with Kattherine Blankley Before Surharrie [Sir	
Harry] y <sup>e</sup> 9th of June .. .. .	2
Geven to a woman that had passe y <sup>e</sup> xith of June ..	1
Geven to one man and a woman that had passe	
y <sup>e</sup> 13th of June .. .. .	2
Geven to man and his wife and 3 children y <sup>t</sup> had	
pass ye xvth June .. .. .	5
Spente at Melton Before y <sup>e</sup> Clarke of y <sup>e</sup> markitt <sup>1</sup> y <sup>e</sup>	
16th of Ju. .. .. .	4 2
Payd for our Bill making and Kalling .. ..	8
Payd for a pass making y <sup>e</sup> 17th of June .. ..	2
Payd for fuing y <sup>e</sup> goote <sup>2</sup> .. .. .	6
Geven to tow men and there wives and one child	
y <sup>e</sup> 21th of June .. .. .	4
Geven to one man and a creppill [cripple] y <sup>e</sup> 22th	
of June .. .. .	4
Spente Before y <sup>e</sup> Ju. 28th of June .. .. .	7
Payd for our bill making that day .. .. .	4
Geven to tow women and one man y <sup>t</sup> had passes	
y <sup>e</sup> 30th of June .. .. .	3
Geven to 6 poore people y <sup>e</sup> 4th of July y <sup>t</sup> had passes	4
Geven to a man of Botsforth [Bottesford] y <sup>t</sup> mad	
a nale y <sup>e</sup> 24th of June y <sup>t</sup> Mr. langoum and	
Mr. Elston Requested mee .. .. .	2 0

<sup>1</sup> The constable went before the clerk of the market to have the weights and measures of the parish tested.

<sup>2</sup> "Fuing the goote" means cleansing

the watering place for cattle, which was fed by the stream flowing through the village. The word in use in Leicestershire now is *Feying*. (Evans, *Dialect Dict.*)

Payd to Mr. Elston for our Bill carring to ye Sise [assizes] .. .. .	I	0
Payd for making our Bill .. .. .		6
Geven to 4 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had passes ye 10th of July .. .. .		3
Geven to 6 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had passes ye 14th of July .. .. .		4
Payd a Pass making ye 18th of July .. .. .		2
Spente before ye Justices ye 19th of July .. .. .		2
Payd for our Bill making .. .. .		4
Payd for a Pass of ye statud making To Abraham busshop .. .. .		6
Geven to 2 men y <sup>t</sup> had passes ye 21th of July .. .. .		2
Geven to 4 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had passes ye 29th of July .. .. .		3
Payd for a pass making ye 2th of August .. .. .		2
Geven to 2 men and 2 wemen ye 5th of august .. .. .		3
Payd for a pass making ye 17th of august .. .. .		2
Spente at Botshforth going Before Justis of my horse and my slefe ye 16th of August .. .. .		10
Geven to 3 poore people ye 20th of August y <sup>t</sup> had pa. .. .. .		3
Geven to 2 men y <sup>t</sup> had passes ye 28th of august .. .. .		2
Payd for a pass making ye 30 of August .. .. .		2
Payd for writting <sup>1</sup> for The towne .. .. .	5	0
Spente at ashbee dallesouch [Ashby de la Zouch] Going Before Commisnar The 26 and 27 and 28th of august of my hors and myslfe .. .. .	7	6
Payd for our armar dressing <sup>2</sup> .. .. .	4	0
Paid for nails for ye penfould <sup>3</sup> .. .. .		1
Geven to 3 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had a pass ye 10th of September .. .. .		2
Payd for a pass making ye 17th of September .. .. .		2
Payd for a passe making ye 27th of September .. .. .		2
Payd to William Rosse for men ye penfould .. .. .		16

<sup>1</sup> It was quite unlikely that the constable would be unable to write, and he had to pay somebody to do this work for him. At Stathern Mr. Brough, the curate, appears to have done the necessary writing.

<sup>2</sup> Each village owned a certain amount of armour necessary to equip the soldier or soldiers whom they provided. There are

frequent payments towards the upkeep of this.

<sup>3</sup> Repairs to the pinfold are very frequent, and there is no doubt that when strayed cattle were impounded it was no unusual thing for the owner to break open the pinfold and take away his cattle without paying the fine.

Payd for y <sup>e</sup> Gaile and memed suldiers and hospie-							
tals <sup>1</sup> y <sup>e</sup> 30th Sep. . . . .	4	8					
Spente y <sup>t</sup> day . . . . .		4					
Payd for a quittance . . . . .		4					
Spente at Leicester at The Sissons Of my horse and							
my Selfe . . . . .	6	7					
Payed for our Bill making y <sup>t</sup> day . . . . .		6					
Geven to a woman y <sup>t</sup> had a pass y <sup>e</sup> 13th of october		1					
Spent at y <sup>e</sup> States [Statutes] of my horse and my							
selfe y <sup>e</sup> 18th of october . . . . .		16					
Payd for our Bill making and Kalling . . . . .		8					
Spente at y <sup>e</sup> States y <sup>e</sup> 21th of October . . . . .		13					
Payd to william Killenlee for wood and neils for y <sup>e</sup>							
penfould . . . . .	4	0					
Payd for mending The penfould . . . . .		16					
Payd for a warrand for one of Elton . . . . .		4					
Geven to woman and one child y <sup>t</sup> had a pass y <sup>e</sup> 6th							
of november . . . . .		1					
Spente y <sup>e</sup> 10th of November Botshforth going before							
Mr. la. . . . .		8					
Geven to a Gentillman y <sup>t</sup> was in destrs [distress]							
y <sup>e</sup> 17th of november . . . . .		2					
Payd for a passe making y <sup>e</sup> 19th of november . . . . .		2					
Geven to 2 wemen y <sup>e</sup> 23th of november . . . . .		2					
Spente at melton going Before y <sup>e</sup> Justices y <sup>e</sup> 22th							
of no. [November] . . . . .	1	0					
Payd for Carges for Kircum and blankley y <sup>e</sup> 13th and							
14th of No. . . . .	4	0					
Payd for a warand of Charges . . . . .		6					
Payd for articles out of y <sup>e</sup> warand of Charges . . . . .	1	0					
Spente when wee serchd ye towne for Corne <sup>2</sup> . . . . .		5					
Spente at melton going before y <sup>e</sup> Justices of my hors							
and myselfe y <sup>e</sup> 27th of november . . . . .		15					
Geven to 2 wemen and a man y <sup>e</sup> 28th and 29th of							
november . . . . .		3					
Spente at melton going with mathy belee [Matthew							
Bailey] before mr. lacey . . . . .		6					

<sup>1</sup> The bulk of the civil administration of the county was carried on at the quarter sessions: hence these payments.

<sup>2</sup> This search was instituted in order to see that no one was keeping back corn

from the market in order to raise the price. There are numerous statutes dealing with the offence. 1629 had been a very bad year for corn.

Spente Before ye Justices ye 10th of december ..	7
Paid for our bill making y <sup>t</sup> day .. .. .	4
Geven to 2 poore men ye 10th of december.. ..	2
Geven to 4 poore people ye 14th of december ..	3
Paid to Ross greene for watching ye towne <sup>1</sup> ye 18th of decem. . . . .	14
Geven to 2 Passes y <sup>t</sup> came with people ye 18th of decem. . . . .	2
Geven to fife poore people ye 21th of december..	3
Geven to 7 poore people y <sup>t</sup> came in a Carte ye 23th of dec. . . . .	4
Geven to fife poore people y <sup>t</sup> came by passes ye 24th of de. . . . .	3
Paid to Rosa greene ye 25th of december .. ..	14
Paid for a passe making ye 24th of december ..	2
Paid to Browne for watching Kircum ye 29th of de.	3
Spente Before ye Justices ye 29th of decm. .. ..	6
Paid for our bill making .. .. .	4
Paid to Rose greene ye 1th of day of January ..	14
Paid for chrismas quartar ye 6th of January ..	2
For a quittance .. .. .	4
Paid for carring ye money to mosson [Muston] ..	2
Paid for a warand for Richard walson of harby ..	4
Geven to 3 poore people ye 6th of January .. ..	2
Paid for pales and neils for ye penfould ye 7th of Ja. . . . .	6
Paid for mending ye penfould ye 7th of Ja... ..	6
Paid to Rose greene ye 8th of Ja. .. ..	14
Geven to a poore man that had a p. ye 10th of Ja.	1
Paid to Rose greene ye 15th of Ja. .. ..	14
Geven to a woman and 2 children ye 16th of Ja.	2
Paid for a Passe making ye 14th of Ja. .. ..	2
Paid to Rosse agreene ye 22th of Ja. .. ..	14
Geven to 3 pore people ye 20th of Ja. .. ..	2
Geven to 3 poore people ye 26th of Ja. .. ..	2
Spente Before ye Justices ye 24th of Ja. .. ..	5
Paid for our Bill making y <sup>t</sup> day .. .. .	4

<sup>1</sup> It was the duty of the inhabitants to arrange for the watching of the town at night. At Stathern the duty was undertaken by one man for a whole year. The

amount of the wages, which were paid weekly, varied considerably from year to year.

Geven to a poore man y <sup>e</sup> 24th of Ja. y <sup>t</sup> Sir harry hastings de. . . . .	6
Payd for a passe making y <sup>e</sup> 26 of Ja. . . . .	2
Payd to Rosse a greene 29th of Ja. . . . .	14
Geven to 2 men y <sup>t</sup> came by p. y <sup>e</sup> 29th of Ja. . . . .	1
Geven to 4 passes y <sup>e</sup> 3th and 4th of fe. and a xi peopel	6
Payd to Ros. greene y <sup>e</sup> 5th of february . . . . .	14
Payd for a passe making y <sup>e</sup> 5th of february. . . . .	2
Geven to 3 poore peopel y <sup>e</sup> 6th and 7th of fea. y <sup>t</sup> had p. . . . .	2
Geven to fife people y <sup>e</sup> 8th and 9th of fea. y <sup>t</sup> had p. . . . .	3
Payd to Rose agreene y <sup>e</sup> 12th of fea. . . . .	14
Payd to Mr. Elston y <sup>e</sup> 8th of fea. . . . .	5 0
Payd for a quittance . . . . .	4
Spente before y <sup>e</sup> Justices y <sup>e</sup> 14th of fea. . . . .	6
Payd for our bill making y <sup>t</sup> day . . . . .	4
Payd Ross greene y <sup>e</sup> 19th of fea. . . . .	14
Payd for a passe making ye 20th of fea. . . . .	2
Geven to 2 en y <sup>t</sup> had a p. 22th of fea. . . . .	2
Spente Before y <sup>e</sup> Justices y <sup>e</sup> 18th of fea. . . . .	4
Payd for our bill making y <sup>t</sup> day . . . . .	4
Payd to Rosse greene 26th of fea. . . . .	14
Geven to 4 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had pa. y <sup>e</sup> 27th of fea. . . . .	2
Geven to a woman y <sup>t</sup> had a pa. y <sup>e</sup> 5th of March	1
Payd to Ross greene y <sup>e</sup> 5th of March . . . . .	14
Geven to a lame man and his wife y <sup>t</sup> had a pa. y <sup>e</sup> 8th of March . . . . .	2
Geven to 2 wemen more y <sup>t</sup> day that had a pa. [?]	
Spente of Mr. Palmar y <sup>e</sup> 14th of march . . . . .	2 6
Geven to 2 men y <sup>t</sup> had a pass y <sup>e</sup> 9th of march	1
Payd to Ross greene y <sup>e</sup> 12th of March . . . . .	14
Geven to a creple y <sup>t</sup> had a passe 10th of March . . . . .	1
Spente at leicester Cisses of my hors and my Selfe . . . . .	6 0
Payd for my bill of inditmente and for my oyth and for delivering of my bill . . . . .	2 6
Payd to Mr. Elston for my bill putting in and my bill making . . . . .	1 0
Geven to 3 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had a pass y <sup>e</sup> 16th of march . . . . .	2

Payd to Tho. wilson for Earls for Keping y <sup>e</sup> deare <sup>1</sup>	6
Spente Before y <sup>e</sup> Justices y <sup>e</sup> 14th of march .. ..	6
Payd for our bill making y <sup>t</sup> day .. ..	4
Payd to Ross agreene y <sup>e</sup> 19th of march .. ..	14
Payd to Rosa greene y <sup>e</sup> 26th of march .. ..	14
Payd to Ros greene y <sup>e</sup> 2th of aprill .. ..	14
Payd to Rosse agreene y <sup>e</sup> 9th of aprill y <sup>e</sup> summe is	
£6 13s. y <sup>e</sup> 9th of aprill .. ..	14
Payd to Rosse greene y <sup>e</sup> 16th of aprill .. ..	14
Geven to 2 men y <sup>e</sup> 22th of march y <sup>t</sup> had pa. ..	1
Geven to 3 poore peo. y <sup>e</sup> 29th of March y <sup>t</sup> had p.	
[passes] .. ..	2
Geven to a widdow y <sup>e</sup> 30th of March y <sup>t</sup> had a p...	1
Geven to one man y <sup>t</sup> had y <sup>e</sup> falling seknes <sup>2</sup> y <sup>e</sup> 2th	
of aprill .. ..	1
Geven to 3 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had a passe y <sup>e</sup> 3th of	
april .. ..	1
Geven to 2 poore people y <sup>t</sup> had a pa. y <sup>e</sup> 4th of Aprill	1
Geven to 2 wemen y <sup>e</sup> 5th of Aprill y <sup>t</sup> had a passe	1
Geven to 2 poore peo. y <sup>t</sup> had a passe y <sup>e</sup> 7th of	
april .. ..	1
Payd for tow passes making y <sup>e</sup> 8th of Aprill ..	4
Payd for poultry <sup>3</sup> .. ..	7 0
Payd for y <sup>e</sup> gaile and memed souldiers and hospitals	4 8
Payd for a quittance .. ..	4
Spente .. ..	4
Payd to Rosse a greene y <sup>e</sup> 23th of aprill .. ..	14
Spente Before y <sup>e</sup> Justices y <sup>e</sup> 13th of aprill .. ..	8
Payd for our bill making y <sup>t</sup> day .. ..	4
Geven to one man that had passe y <sup>e</sup> xvth of aprill	1
Paid for a warand to abram Busshopp .. ..	6
Paid to James Rowse for a tree .. ..	20 0

Willam Caunte y<sup>e</sup> Elder chosen by y<sup>e</sup> towne constable  
1631 of Statherne.

<sup>1</sup> That is, earles for keeping the deer out of the fields belonging to the parish. The deer would be those belonging to Belvoir park. Earles, or arles, is "money paid on striking a bargain in pledge of future fulfilment, especially that given to a servant when hired" (Wright, *English Dialect Dictionary*, s.v. arles).

<sup>2</sup> Epilepsy.

<sup>3</sup> Paid to certain crown officials called purveyors. The royal rights of purveyance were much disputed in the first quarter of the seventeenth century, with the result that they became much better regulated, and some of the abuses were abolished.



Payd to Willam Caunte y<sup>e</sup> Elder y<sup>e</sup> 17th of Aprill  
 at is Entrance 1631 .. .. 17 0  
 The Summe of disburments is £8 14s. 2d. 1630.

Perhaps the first thing which will strike the reader of this extract is the great number of vagrants who came to Stathern, were given a small sum of money and passed on. To-day Stathern is an out-of-the-way village, sleeping beneath the shelter of the great Belvoir woods and seldom disturbed by travellers, for it lies on no high road; but in the seventeenth century it must have witnessed a much larger influx of wayfarers of all sorts. The majority of these entries are of little interest individually, but here and there we meet with one which is out of the ordinray. On August 9th, 1631, we find

It. given to two travillers that had the Earle of  
 Huntingtons letters and one of them had a  
 wolfe on his side .. .. 0 0 4

A "wolfe" is the disease known now as lupus.

The constable was frequently troubled by applications for warrants of all kinds. Many were issued to apprentices whose position had been most strictly defined by numerous acts of parliament. In 1563 an act was passed "touching divers orders for artificers, labourers, servants of husbandry and apprentices" (5 Eliz. c. iv). Section xxviii is referred to frequently:

If any person shall be required by any householder having half a ploughland at the least in tillage to be an apprentice and to serve in husbandry or in any other kind of art before expressed and shall refuse to do so, then upon the complaint of such housekeeper made to one justice of the peace of the county wherein the said refusal is made . . . he shall have full power to send for the same person so refusing; and if the said justice . . . shall think the said person meet to serve as an apprentice in that art . . . the said justice . . . shall have power . . . to commit him unto ward, there to remain until he will be bounded to serve.

The period of apprenticeship was seven years at least, and ended for agricultural apprentices when they reached the age of twenty-one, though for apprentices to crafts in towns the agreement was binding until they had reached

the age of twenty-four. Contemporary opinion provides us with the reason for this : "Untill a man growe unto the age of xxiiii yeares he for the moste parte, though he not allwayes, is wilde, withoute judgment, and not of sufficient experience to govern himselfe. Nor (many tymes) grown unto the full or perfect knowledge of the arte or occupation that he professed." Besides the warrants it is most likely that some of the passes mentioned in these accounts may have been issued to such as, having completed their apprenticeship, wished to depart to any district, but could not do so without a testimonial (section vii).

Another entry which occurs regularly is the quarterly payments to the sick and to prisoners :

It. payd to Mr. Elston for the visited people (i.e., those suffering from some epidemic, perhaps small-pox) of Loughborrow, 6s. 8d. for the Jayle, iis. 6d. for Hospitalls, and maimed soulders iis. iid.

The training of the local soldier or soldiers was always in evidence. The muster-masters had to be entertained, the arms and armour kept in repair, and the upkeep of the butts is the subject of frequent mention.

We are often told that the golden age of English village life belongs to the past, but whether this is the case or no, we find that no opportunity was lost of celebrating an event with a feast. Whether this was due to an exuberance of spirits or to a desire to vary the monotony of life we cannot say, but one thing must be remembered : the means of obtaining news of the great outer world were very limited and depended on those travellers who passed through the village. In these accounts we can see how welcome they were, how the constable and his friends took charge of them, entertained them at Richard Tompson's ale-house, and we can imagine the interest with which the news of the traveller was heard. Vagrants who had the gift of talking in an interesting way and who, moreover, were furnished with a good imagination, doubtless met with a warm reception. Now and then a red-letter day would arrive when some traveller, who had perhaps been a prisoner of the Turks, came to Stathern and was listened to open-mouthed by the village

elders. But the gullibility of the constable and his fellows was not infinite, for [at the end of the entry of some travellers' entertainment we find the significant words "or so he says."

The entry: "Itt. spente at melton when James Rowse and I was before the Justisses about Paule Steeple" is interesting. The spire of old St. Paul's cathedral in London had been destroyed by fire in June, 1561, and was never rebuilt. From this date until 1620 neglect of the fabric caused great and general dilapidation. At the end of 1620 a royal commission was appointed to restore the building, and among the commissioners was Inigo Jones, surveyor of the royal works. The lukewarmness of the public resulted in the raising of only a small sum of money, with which stone was purchased. Nothing further was done, and the commission ceased to exist at James I's death. Charles I issued a new commission at Laud's urging. Money was raised and the work was proceeded with. Entries referring to this work occur in these accounts in the years 1633 (Paule Steeple, pales church in Lunden), 1634 (Paules Steepell), 1637 (poules), 1641 (poules, poule money).

Early in 1634 we have a solitary mention of a band of strolling players to whom a warrant was granted. It is most likely that they had been to Belvoir castle.

Such accounts as these would hardly have passed a modern auditor. The constable considered it quite the proper thing that the parish should pay for the personal delinquencies of its officials and he acted accordingly, entering fines for neglect of ordered returns at the quarter sessions or other defaults among his legitimate expenses.

"Mr. Hacker chosen Constabell of Statherne in the countie of Lessester in the yeare 1635 and in the 5th day of aprill."

This is an interesting entry, for it contains the first mention of Colonel Francis Hacker, the parliamentary soldier. The Hacker family had been settled in the midlands for two generations and held lands principally in Nottinghamshire. Hitherto Francis Hacker has been claimed as a native of East Bridgford, but no entry of

his baptism has been found nor is his birth year known. These accounts show that he was squire of Stathern, and lived in a large house just to the east of the village. Unfortunately nothing but the name and some mounds remain to show where the home of the Hackers stood. This is not the place to give the details of Francis Hacker's life. He will be remembered as the man to whom the warrant for the execution of Charles I was given and in whose hands the arrangements for the execution were left. After the restoration Hacker himself perished on the scaffold on 19th October, 1661, and there is a tradition in the village of Stathern that eventually his body was brought to his home and buried on the south side of the church.

Another of the duties of the constable was to see that the ale brewed in the village was up to the assize standard and to report on the matter to the justices of the peace.

On the 19th April, 1635, is the entry :

"Itt. payed to him (Mr. Elston) which was oing in the tax for the shippes," .. .. . 0 3 0

In 1634 this tax, which caused so much discontent throughout England, was levied on the ports and coast towns, and in the following year it was extended to the inland counties.

The village soldier must have been not the least of the constable's troubles, for he required much attention. The village armour had to be kept in good condition and all arrangements made as to the training which generally took place either at Leicester or Loughborough. As a rule the constable escorted the soldier, providing him with a horse and hiring a waggon to carry the baggage. Then fees had to be paid to the officers and to those who acted as conductors to the place of assembly, while in addition to all this gunpowder had to be made and badges provided to distinguish one set of soldiers from another.

With the year 1640 we begin the period of the great civil war for which these accounts are especially valuable.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For the explanations of the entries relating to the war I am deeply indebted to Mr. E. W. Hensman of Quorn Grammar School, Loughborough, who most generously

placed his unrivalled knowledge of this period, as far as the midlands are concerned, at my disposal.

Itt. payed to Mr. Elston of Muston at Lough- burrow for presse mony souglger Cooles offecers fees for Droomes and other thinges Aprill the 28th .. .. .	2	10	0
Itt. payed to Garland for Carring our Armes to Loughborrow the same time .. .. .	0	3	0
Itt. spent of seaven men charges for meat and Drinck .. .. .	1	10	0
Itt. spent of seaven Horse the same time .. .. .	0	7	0
Itt. payed to Mr. Elston for a quittance for the aforesay tow powndes and tenn shillings Aprill the 28th .. .. .	0	0	4
Itt. payed for paper .. .. .	0	0	1
Itt. payed to Mathew Smaly for waching May the 10th .. .. .	0	2	0
Itt. payed to William Grisse for one weekes paye when hee was his ma <sup>tie</sup> soughdger May the 6th .. .. .	0	4	8

Here we see the state of things in England as early as April 1640, when preparations were being made for a renewal of hostilities after the Pacification of Berwick, made with the Scots in June, 1639, had broken down.

Itt. spent in going to Loughborrow the time that the soulgers was to go for warder of my self and them June the 9th .. .. .	0	14	0
Itt. spent of my horse thre Dayes grasing .. .. .	0	1	3
Itt. given to William Grisse which the Justices did allow him and the prices of his hatt June the 9th .. .. .	0	12	9
Itt. payed to Caband for bringing and carring our friends from melton to Loughborrow .. .. .	0	2	0
Itt. payed for a warrant for a soply .. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. given to one that has a passe June the 7th .. .. .	0	0	2
Itt. payed for our Muskitt Mending .. .. .	0	0	6
Itt. spent in going to Waltham before the Jus- tices of my bill making and my expences June the 17th .. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. payed to Mr. Julin for carrying our Knap- seck to Nottingham June the 15th .. .. .	0	0	3

Itt. payed to William Rose man for going to Hose with it .. .. .	o	o	2
Itt. given to three people that had passes June the 25th .. .. .	o	o	2
Itt. spent when I went to melton with Thomas Williamson and John Greene .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. payed for and to wardes a horse for his ma <sup>te</sup> servis in to the Northen partes upon the first day of July .. .. .	3	10	o

Here we find that a move is being made towards the north ("forwarder") on 9th June, and on 15th of that month the forces had reached Nottingham.

Itt. payed at Loughborrow for Grisse cullers	o	1	4
Itt. payed for his sword scabard .. ..	o	1	4
Itt. payed for our Charges at Loughborrow when I went with our soughgers may the 6th	o	15	o
Itt. spent of my horse Charges that time ..	o	o	11
Itt. payed to Mr. Elston of Muston for Treniti quarter for maymed Souldgers and hospitaes may 21th .. .. .	o	2	2
Itt. payed for a quittance for the same money	o	o	4
Itt. given to eight people that had passes May 21th	o	o	5
Itt. spent in going to Waltham before the Jus- tices of my Charges and my bill making May the 21th .. .. .	o	o	10
Itt. payed for a Passe making may the 18th ..	o	o	2
Itt. payed to William Grisse for three weekes paye when he was his ma <sup>ties</sup> soughger may the 28th .. .. .	o	14	4
Itt. spent at Loughbrow when I was theire with Georg hand and William Grise and a soblye [supply] may 28th .. .. .	o	14	6
Itt. payed to Mr. Elston of Muston for and to wardes the hyring of a Cart for his ma <sup>ts</sup> servis when he was in the Northerne partes..	o	1	8
Itt. given to a man and his wife that had a passe Aug 3th .. .. .	o	o	3
Itt. spent when I was at witham with tow post horses of there Charges and my one one Night August 21th .. .. .	o	6	6

Itt. payed to Mathew Smaly for waching Sep- tember the 6th .. .. .	0	2	0
Itt. spent at Loughborrow the 2th of September untill the 6th of the same mounth of fower men and fower horses and my Charges and my horse tow dayes with the Cullers also ..	2	17	2
Itt. spent at Loughborrow the 7th of Septembr untill the 12th of the same mounth of fower men and horses and my self and my horse ..	1	14	6
Itt. payed to Robert Whittell and William Ker- kam for going with a cart to tuxford about his ma <sup>te</sup> servis and was one day and a night	0	3	4
Itt. spent at Grantham when this cart was Loded of my Charges and my horse a whipp to haltes of hemp and shooting of a linpin the same time .. .. .	0	2	0

Charles himself did not start for Scotland till 20th August. He reached Newark 21st August, and York on 23rd. Strafford "followed post" a few days afterwards. The Stathern people no doubt had to help in keeping the line of communication and assist in forwarding supplies.

Itt. spent in going to Melton about the subcity the first Day of fower Mens Charges.. ..	0	6	9
Itt. spent the second day in going to melton about the same bissines .. .. .	0	6	10
Itt. payed to Henery Armson for a warrant for the subcity .. .. .	0	0	4
Itt. payed to Mr. Smith Clark for a warrant ..	0	0	4

These entries mark a further stage in the preliminary war with Scotland. The Scotch army was in England and had occupied Newcastle. The Commons seized this opportunity to discuss grievances, and Charles patched up an agreement with them, and on 16th February the Commons granted subsidies.

Itt. given to tow Ierrish weman the same day	0	0	2
Itt. given to an Ierrish man and a woman June the 7th .. .. .	0	0	4
Itt. payed to Hamson wife for a traveler supper his bed and his sunday Diner .. .. .	0	1	0

Itt. spent at melton when wee payed our sub-					
sities of our charges June the 13th .. ..	o	1	o		
Itt. spent when the buttes was made .. ..	o	1	6		
Itt. given to an Ierrish woman June the 14th	o	o	2		

In the entries for the year 1641 we find frequent mention of Irish vagrants. The presence of these men and women is not easy to explain unless we assume that they were camp-followers or deserters from the Irish forces brought over by Strafford in 1640. They cannot be the result of the Irish rising and massacre of the protestants, for that event did not take place until 23rd October, 1641.

Itt. spent at waltham when wee weare about					
the protestation .. .. .	o	1	o		
Itt. payed to John Barnes for mending the neat					
waters .. .. .	o	1	6		
Itt. spent when I went to Muston with the bill					
of protestation .. .. .	o	o	4		

Here we have a reference to the Protestation of Religion, which it must be remembered was quite distinct from the Covenant. The object of the Protestation was "to maintain with my life, power and state the true reformed protestant religion expressed in the doctrine of the Church of England against all popery and popish innovations, within this realm." It was taken by the Long Parliament in May 1641, and was afterwards made public by the press and sent broadcast throughout the country for signatures. It seems only to have been extensively signed "in those parishes where the minister or squire, or both, were of pronounced puritan tendencies."<sup>1</sup>

After he had failed to arrest the "Five Members" Charles left London on 10th January. He was at Theobalds on 1st March, at Stamford on 16th March, and at York on 19th March. On 23rd April he was refused admission to Hull. His headquarters were at York until July, when he removed to Nottingham on the 21st of that month. About this time he also visited

<sup>1</sup> See Cox, *The Parish Registers of England*, 198-200.



Newark, Doncaster and Leicester. We find that during all this time the village people were compelled to contribute towards the royal supplies, a necessity that was by no means popular.

Itt. spent of my one Charges in going to Leicester when we was Commanded to have beene there with the traned men .. .. .	o	1	6
Itt. spent at Waltham when I payed the tax June the 13th .. .. .	o	o	8
Itt. payed for a quittance for the same moneys	o	o	4
Itt. given to a pore man which had a passe June the 14th .. .. .	o	o	2
Itt. given to three men with passes June the 18th	o	o	4
Itt. spent at melton when we shoed our Armes June the 16th .. .. .	o	7	4
Itt. payed to John Bell for waching nine weekes June the twentieth .. .. .	o	4	6
Itt. spent when we trayned at Leicester June the 22th .. .. .	o	12	4
Itt. given to six Crippels June the 24th.. ..	o	o	4
Itt. spent with the kinges bayly June the 30th	o	o	6
Itt. given to eight pore peopell July 21th ..	o	o	3
Itt. payed to John Bell for fuing the goeat ..	o	o	8
Itt. spent when we trayned at Leicester the 21th of July before his Ma <sup>tie</sup> of all our Charges for tow men and horses towe dayes and George hand and his horse fower Dayes	o	19	3
Itt. payed to Mr. Vinson for our bill making and Carring to the Sisses at Lammas.. ..	o	1	o
Itt. payed to William Killingly for his horse to goe to Leicester to carrie a trane man ..	o	1	o
Itt. given to fower Cripples August the 8th..	o	o	2
Itt. given to fowerteene pooer peopell August 11th .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. given to three that had a passe August 17th	o	o	3
Itt. given to three poore peopell August the 18th .. .. .	o	o	3
Itt. spent at Leicr when wee trayned before his Ma <sup>tie</sup> August the 19th .. .. .	o	3	6
Itt. payed to John bell for waching August the 21th .. .. .	o	4	6

Itt. given to one pore man with a passe August			
21th .. .. .	o	o	1
Itt. given to three that passes August 23 ..	o	o	2
Itt. given to one man that had a passe Aug 27th	o	o	2
Itt. spent at Leicr at trayning August 25th..	o	8	o
Itt. spent at Leicr at trayning August 27th..	o	7	3
Itt. spent at Loughborrow trayning Septem 23th	o	11	o

After Charles' repulse from Hull events moved quickly. On 4th June the earl of Stamford came to Leicester to enforce the parliamentary ordinance for the militia, and the trained bands were ordered to assemble at Leicester on 8th June, but on the 4th of that month a messenger from the king had forbidden the muster, and the ordinance was not generally obeyed. Evidently the constable did not know what to do, so he himself went to Leicester to find out more definitely what was expected of him. Notwithstanding the king's order musters were held at Broughton Astley on 14th June, Kibworth 15th June, Melton 16th June (to which muster the Stathern contingent went), Queniborough 17th June, Copt Oak 20th June. At Melton and Queniborough the demonstration in favour of the parliament was less favourable than elsewhere owing to the fact that in these places resided many catholics. On 22nd June the Stathern force was present at a muster held on the Horse Fair Leys at Leicester when Henry Hastings, second son of the Earl of Huntingdon, came from York in an endeavour to enforce the king's commission of array. Hastings entered Leicester with a body of his own tenants gathered together at Loughborough, but the townsmen were in no mood for listening to him, and he had to fly to York, while his followers were deprived of their arms.

The king was not satisfied with the way things were going. He wished to possess himself of the magazine at Leicester, and for this purpose he went from Nottingham on 22nd July. The Leicester men refused to surrender their magazine, and a compromise was effected by which the arms were to be distributed throughout the hundreds of the county and not again to be collected under one man or in one place.

During the summer of 1642 the Stathern contingent

can have spent but little time at home, for on 18th and 19th August they were once more training at Leicester before the king who was on his way to overawe Coventry. Charles failed to gain an entrance into that town, and on the 21st he passed once more through Leicester on his way to raise his standard at Nottingham on the 22nd. Prince Rupert and Hastings were at Leicester on 25th August, and they reached Bradgate house on the 26th, and then took up their quarters at Queniborough.

The king left Nottingham on 13th September, and by the 23rd both royalist and parliamentary armies were far away. On this latter date indeed the first engagement took place between the outlying forces near Worcester when Colonel Sandys was killed by Rupert, whose cavalry then gained their first laurels.

Itt. spent at Belvier when wee went to Belvier with provision for his Ma <sup>ties</sup> garison Februar the 9th .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. spent there when wee went with bedding Feb. 15th .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. given to 5 pore people at tow severall times Feb 27th .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. given to three that had passes Februar 28th	o	o	[?]
Itt. spent at Belvier when we were there about his Ma <sup>tie</sup> servis Februar .. .. .	o	o	9
Itt. spent with the bayly of the Hundred when he came to gather Corne march 3th.. ..	o	2	6
Itt. spen at Belvier when I was there and five moe with me March the 4th .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. spent when wee went with the corne to Belvier march the 6th .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. given to six pore people that had passes March 30th .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. payed to william Walke for carring one lode of stuffe from Nottingham to Darby for his Ma <sup>tie</sup> Aprill 3th .. .. .	1	o	6

The year 1643 opened propitiously for the king locally. On 20th January Belvoir castle was seized for him by viscount Campden, Gervase Lucas and Mr. Mason, the rector of Ashwell. It is somewhat difficult to understand

the phrase "for his ma<sup>tie</sup>" in the last entry of the above extract unless we regard it as an euphemism, for on 3rd April, 1643, Derby was in the hands of Sir John Gell, the parliamentary leader, while Nottingham was in the possession of the roundhead Colonel Hutchinson. Prince Rupert was in Warwickshire on his way to join hands with Newcastle in Yorkshire. He defeated a parliamentary force near Birmingham on this date and killed the earl of Denbigh.

Inprimus.

Ittm. payed to John bell for waching Aprill the

9th .. .. .	o	5	6
Itt. payed to Nicholas Rowse for barly that was carried to Belviour .. .. .	o	16	o
Itt. payed for my oeth .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. payed to Mr. Vinson of Eastroup for his Ma <sup>tie</sup> provision for the whole yeare Aprill the 10th .. .. .	1	4	o
Itt. payed to him for his ma <sup>tie</sup> gayle and for maymed soulgers and hosbytales the same time	o	7	o
Itt. spent at Belviour when I went with money	o	o	7
Itt. spent when I went with the bill which did concerne the same money .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. given to twelf pore people and thre cripples which had al passes Aprill 24th .. .. .	o	o	9
Itt. payed for the charges of five soulgers and theire horses Maye the 8th .. .. .	o	5	6
Itt. given to nine pore people that came out of Ierland may the 4th .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. given to tow men and a woman that had passes may 6th .. .. .	o	o	3
Itt. payed to John Bell for waching June the 11th	o	4	6
Itt. payed to Mr. Julion for his horse to goe to Belviour .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. payed for peayse for soulgers horses at Wistentide .. .. .	o	2	o
Itt. payed to Mr. Vinson for trenitie quarter	o	2	2
Itt. payed for a quittance for the same money	o	o	4
Itt. spent in going to Belvior and one with me staying there with 4 horses one night and half the Day .. .. .	o	1	o

Itt. spent in going to Belvior .. .. .	o	o	2
Itt. spent in going to Belvior and tow with me staying there one night and half the day	o	1	o
Itt. given to 4 pore people that had Passes June the 21th .. .. .	o	o	2
Itt. spent at Belvior when I was there with seaven men and seaven horses one night ..	o	1	8
Itt. given to three women that came from Ier- land July 20th .. .. .	o	o	[?]
Itt. spent at Belvior when I was there about the tax and other five with me .. .. .	o	1	[?]
Itt. payed for chikings to goe to Barkston ..	o	1	[?]
Itt. payed for tow barrilles of Alle to goe thether	o	1	[?]
Itt. payed for tow fatt sheep to goe thether ..	o	[?]	[?]
Itt. payed for bread to goe thether .. .. .	o	[?]	[?]
Itt. payed for tow Fatt Calfes to goe to Barkston	o	9	o
Itt. spent in going with theese thing to Barkston	o	1	o
Itt. spent in going to Belvior about the tax and six other with me .. .. .	o	o	8
Itt. spent at Belvior when I was ther one night with horses .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. payed for mending the Pinfould .. ..	o	2	2
Itt. spent at Belvior when I was there about horse that was gone .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. given to 14 Jepsees august the 14th ..	o	o	10
Itt. given to 9 pore people august 14th.. ..	o	o	7
Itt. given to sixteene august the 21th.. ..	o	o	7
Itt. payed to quarter Mr. whawler for tow quarters of pease that our Towne was charged with all .. .. .	o	10	o
Itt. spent at Belvior of tow men and six horse one night .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. given to six soulgers that came to the Towne and would have had horses ou of our Towne .. .. .	o	5	o
Itt. given to six people that came from Ierland	o	o	3
Itt. spent in going to Belvior tow severall times and three with me .. .. .	o	o	8
Itt. payed for tow quarters pease that was carried to Bottifford .. .. .	o	18	10
Itt. spent when I went to melton to bye the pease .. .. .	o	o	6

Itt. given to tow quarter Masters that would					
have quartered souldger in our Towne	..	o	o	6	
Itt. spent with Captaine Garland and his souldges		o	o	6	
Itt. payed for my bill making and calling at the					
statutes	.. .. .	o	o	8	

The numerous entries relating to Belvoir castle during the middle months of 1643 prove to us that the country people were by no means unaffected by the war. In May and the beginning of June the Belvoir cavaliers were very busy getting in cattle and supplies for the queen, who, with the proceeds from the sale of the crown jewels, had landed in Yorkshire from Holland in January, and was at this time en route for Newark. She left Newark on 4th July and spent one night at Ashby de la Zouch on her way to join the king at Oxford. The country people round about Belvoir had to drive and guard the captured cattle.

It is not at all clear for whom the provisions were intended which were taken to Barkston at the end of July or beginning of August. Cromwell had stormed Burleigh house on 24th July, left Stamford with his horse on the 26th, and had gone ahead to join Willoughby at Gainsborough. The provisions may have been his, though more likely they belonged to the earl of Newcastle. The latter had crossed the Trent towards the end of July, retaken Gainsborough, entered Lincoln, and on 6th August summoned Nottingham to surrender.

Towards the end of August we find numerous entries pointing to a decided oppression of the countryside both by the seizure of food and horses, as well as by the quartering of soldiers upon the inhabitants of the villages. About this time Lord Grey had gone with all his horse to join Essex for the relief of Gloucester, so that the royalists, and Hastings and Newcastle in particular, had the open country at their mercy.

Itt. spent that day at Bottifford	.. .. .	o	1	o	
Itt. given to sixe poer people that came out of					
Ierland octob 25th	.. .. .	o	o	5	
Itt. given to seaven that came from Ierland		o	o	10	
Itt. given to souldgers that would have had					
horses when the Randevow was at our milne		o	2	o	

Itt. given to fower poer people that came from Ierland .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. given to tow souldgers .. .. .	o	o	3
Itt. payed for one souldger supper and his bed .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. payed for the Charges of six souldgers the horses and them selves, theire supper and breakfast .. .. .	o	6	8
Itt. payed for coles that was carried to Belviour over and above the Rate that the would alowe .. .. .	o	3	6
Itt. spent of the carte that went to Eashbee .. .. .	o	3	6
Itt. given to fore people December the 18th .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. payed for six strikes pease that was carried to Barkston .. .. .	o	8	o
Itt. payed for six strikes of pease that was carried to Plunger .. .. .	o	6	o
Itt. payed for five mens Charges and theire horses [?] ing one night and a day at Hamsones being souldgers .. .. .	o	5	6
Itt. spent when I went to Melton to take time for the tax monies .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. spent of my self my horse and the man that carried the monies of our Charges one night .. .. .	o	2	8
Itt. payed to the man that carried the money for his Labour for going with it .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. spent in going to Belviour with scoute horses staying there all night .. .. .	o	o	9
Itt. spent when I went to melton about bull-workes and one with me and our Horses .. .. .	o	1	8

Melton was strongly royalist. The Leicester parliamentarians had fought a successful skirmish there in September, 1643, and entered the town, but retreated for want of sufficient men to hold it. Again at the end of November the Leicester committee were in the town collecting assessments from the country round when they were surprised by a party of 300 horse from Newark, and a large number of roundheads were taken prisoners, including Captain Hacker. The royalist forces engaged in this affair consisted of drafts from Newark, Belvoir and Wiverton, and almost certainly they are the soldiers "that would have had horses when the Randevow was at our milne."

Towards the end of January Manchester and Lord Grey joined at Melton with the design of besieging Newark, hence perhaps the "bullworkes."

The countryside in the neighbourhood of opposing garrisons must have felt the strain severely, for it was assessed by both sides and had to be paid as many as eight times a year.

Itt. payed to Bartho Greene for his meare	..	2	3	4
Itt. payed to Captaine Archer when he Rec this meare of Bartho Greene the some of	..	2	0	0
Itt. spent when I payed this money and livered in the meare	.. .. .	0	0	6
Itt. payed to Hamson for heay and other Charges which the souldges put them tow	.. ..	0	1	0
Itt. spent of tow souldgers that came for horses	.. .. .	0	1	6
Itt. payed which the Receaver and Captaine Archer spent when the came to gather Returnes		0	2	6

It is interesting to trace some of the history of the soldiers who fought in this war, and we are fortunate in being able to find some mention of nearly all the officers named in these accounts. Captain Archer was a royalist of the Belvoir garrison and the Harleian manuscript, no. 944, tells us that he "sold gloves over against the cross at Cheapside."

Itt. payed to Captaine Neavell for towe quarters of Pease and towe lodes of haye	.. ..	1	10	0
Itt. given to souldger that was left sick at William Linnes	.. .. .	0	0	6
Itt. given to Killingly for Earles when he was hired to keepe the Townes beast	.. ..	0	0	6
Itt. given to Captaine Gregory quarter me when he would had quartered in our Towne	.. ..	0	1	0
Itt. spent at Belviour at tow sevrall times when I payed the Mounthly tax	.. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. spent of tow souldger that came from Newarke and lodged here one night and was going to Frishbee	.. .. .	0	0	8
Itt. given to three Irish women that had Passes		0	0	4



Itt. payed to William Eashbee for fewing the gouet .. .. .	o	o	6
Itt. spent on captaine Peniston and his men and provender for there horses .. .. .	o	2	4
Itt. given to sixteene pore people that had greate losses by fire which was going to the corte at oxford .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. payed to quarter mster that came from my Lord Goring which came to our Towne for provision in money .. .. .	1	o	o
Itt. spent of theese tow and their companie that was with them that day .. .. .	o	5	o
Itt. payed for Pease that we was Charged with all also for Lord Gorings Armie .. .. .	1	4	o
Itt. payed for tow veales for the same Armie ..	o	12	6
Itt. payed for three sheepe for them also ..	1	1	8
Itt. payed for tow strike of barly and tow of Rie	o	7	o
Itt. payed for this corne making in to bread ..	o	o	6
Itt. payed to Bartho Hamson for dressing the afforsaid veale and muton .. .. .	o	1	6
Itt. payed to Roger Barnes for a sack that the pease was carried in to the armie 1s. 9d. William Linne one sack 1s. 4d. Thom. Holmes one sack 1s. 6d. and hom. wirkes one 1s. 6d. and Cabrill Caunte one sack 1s. 6d. whole sume is .. .. .	o	7	7
Itt. payed to Bartho Hamson for a pack sheet to carrie the aforsayd meat in .. .. .	o	3	o
Itt. spent of them that carried this provision to the armie.. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. payed to Hamson wife for ale that the souldger had when the kept cort of gard at the cross .. .. .	o	1	10

Captain Nevill of Holt, whose house had been sacked by Lord Grey in January, 1643, had apparently joined the Belvoir garrison. In June he was "with 500 horse and dragoons about Stamford, intending to make a garrison of Woothrop."

Captain Gregory, who was also one of the Belvoir garrison had been an "attorney in the common pleas" (MS. Harl. 944).

The mention of Lord Goring's army brings us to the Scots, whose army had crossed the Tweed in January 1644. Newcastle had retired into Yorkshire to stop their advance, while Rupert, or as we find him called "Prince Robert," after relieving Newark and defeating Meldrum in March, had gone to Shrewsbury to organise Wales and prepare for a northward march in aid of Newcastle. On 10th April Fairfax gained a signal victory at Selby, and on the 13th Newcastle entered York. The Scots joined Fairfax at Tadcaster on 20th April; Manchester joined them on 6th May. Matters were thus drawing rapidly towards the siege of York. In the meantime Henry Hastings, Lord Loughborough, Rupert in the western midlands, and Goring in the eastern midlands, were manœuvring against Denbigh, Grey and others, and plundering the locality preparatory to a concerted attempt to march against the combined roundhead forces. Goring was reported to be in Leicestershire in May with 4,000 men making "not a little spoil." The siege of York was begun on 3rd June. The roundhead victory at Marston Moor took place on 2nd July, and York surrendered on the 13th.

The entries for the last half of 1644 are full of interest and demand a detailed explanation.

Itt. payed to Roger Lee and William for ether of them three dayes workes a boutte the Rales in our Feild .. .. .	o	6	o
Itt. given to the Kinges bealy when he came with a warrant from Colonell Patte .. ..	o	1	o
Itt. payed to Mr. Winston of Eastrowpp for his Matis Proviton at Easter .. .. .	1	4	o
Itt. payed for a quittance for the same monies .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. payed to captaine Masons quarter me for one quarter of pease .. .. .	o	8	o
Itt. payed for a strike of pease for Captaine Robinson .. .. .	o	1	o
Itt. payed for half a strike of pease for a Captaine and his man that brought Willson of Eastwell to my howse and payed for there wittels ..	o	2	o
Itt. given to three Terrish women .. ..	o	o	2

Itt. payed to John Dixon and Robert Whittell for going to Aeshbee for there Charges ..	o	4	6
Itt. spent at Langer when I payed in Mays month tax at Worton .. .. .	o	2	o
Itt. payed for a pownd of candell for Coronall [Colonel] nevell souldgers to keep Courtt of gard with all .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. payed for fower strikes of pease for Captaine Robbinson .. .. .	o	4	8
Itt. payed in part for our Neighbours that was Imprisoned at melton when my Lord Gray came for the great tax payed for there Charges then .. .. .	1	5	6
Itt. spent at Belviour when the Governer sent for ten scouitt horses .. .. .	o	1	4
Itt. given to tow men and tow women that came from Ierland .. .. .	o	o	4
Itt. payed to Captaine Mason quarter mr [quartermaster] for a quarter of pease ..	o	12	o
Itt. payed for aell that the spent at the same time .. .. .	o	2	6
Itt. payed for three quarters of pease that was sent to Stanton to Coronall Nevill ..	1	10	o
Itt. payed for one quarter of pease for Coronall Crumwell at Belviour .. .. .	o	10	o
Itt. payed for aell that Captaine Archer men spent when the was in the ber close ..	o	2	6
Itt. payed for half a strik of pease and witteles [victuals] for fower men that was quartered at Hamsons .. .. .	o	4	o
Itt. payed for aell that was spent of Coronall Crumwell quarter mr his companie ..	o	2	6
Itt. payed to Thom Stevenson for a soulger that was lame and was quartered there fower dayes .. .. .	o	1	4
Itt. payed to Stevenson for aell when Coronall Nevill quartered in our Towne for souldger that kept court of gard at the cross ..	o	1	o
Itt. payd for fower strikes of pease that was carried to East well for the Parliment ..	o	5	4
Itt. spent of my chargers at Belviour when the first Bull workes was making .. .. .	o	1	o

Itt. spent at Langer when I was sent for by Captaine Archer to know of me whyther may tax was all payed .. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. given to three Ierrish women .. ..	0	0	2
Itt. payed for a strike of pease for Coronall Dalnison souldgers .. .. .	0	2	0
Itt. given to a woman that was Robed [robbed] and had a passe .. .. .	0	0	2
Itt. payed for a quarter of pease for Corronall nevill when the lay about Belviour .. ..	0	16	0
Itt. payed to Mr. Winston of Eastroup for his Maty [Majesty's] maymed souldger and hospi- talles for Easter Trenity and Mickellmas ..	6	6	0
Itt. payed for a quittance for the same monies	0	0	4
Itt. spent at the Statutes at Bottisfore of my charges .. .. .	0	2	0
Itt. payed for my bill making and Calling then	0	0	8
Itt. spent of my Charges at Belviour when I went to paye July and august taxes in.. ..	0	1	0
Itt. payed for one quarter of pease for Coronall Crumwell .. .. .	0	16	0
Itt. peayed for three strikes of pease that Cap- taine Hacker had when he and his souldgers was at his howse .. .. .	0	6	0
Itt. given to a Captaines wif that Lodged in our Towne which was going to her husband as she sayd .. .. .	0	0	6
Itt. given to tow pouer women that came from Eastwell one of them was brought of a barrow	0	0	4
Itt. payed for my Charges and one with me when I went to pay in the three mounth taxes at melton for the Parliment .. ..	0	4	8
Itt. given to a pore man and three Children that came from Ierland .. .. .	[?]		
Itt. payed to the colectter that Recd the Par- liment tax over and above the taxes for his coming for it .. .. .	1	[? ?]	
Itt. payed to Bartram for going to Plunger, Eaton and Eastwell to gather up the Parli- ment tax .. .. .	[?]		
Itt. payed for aell that Captaine Needum Soul- gers drunck when the came for Provition ..	[?]		

Itt. payed to John Dixon for a pad that was gone when his horse went to loughborrow with souldgers .. .. .	[?]		
Itt. payed to Nicho Rowse for a lode of pease and fife bottels .. .. .	0	10	0
Itt. payed to widow Ellis for a barrill of aell that the Parliment had .. .. .	0	2	9
Itt. payed for a matterries a covering and a blankitt a Boulster and a payre of Sheetes ..	1	7	4
Itt. payed for aell that Captaine Needums men drunck at Hamson .. .. .	0	2	0
Itt. payed for barrills bringing from Belviour	0	0	4
Itt. payed to Bartram for going to Plunger Eaton Eastwell .. .. .	0	0	4
Itt. given to Captaines Needum quarter master	0	3	0
Itt. payed for a soulder bed and vittels that brought warrant .. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. payed for barrills bringing from Belviour	0	1	2
Itt. payed for my charges and one with me when I payed the Parliment tax being the tow last taxes .. .. .	0	3	6
Itt. payed for bringing six barrills from Belviour	0	1	0
Itt. given to a woman that had a passe.. ..	0	0	2
Itt. payed for Inck and paper .. .. .	[?]		
Itt. given to tow Irish men three women and seaven Children becke carried to Eastwell in a cartt .. .. .	0	3	0
Itt. given to Duck langlees men by Reason the would have taken a Veale from me which was to goe to Belvior .. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. payed for nine barrilles bringing from Belviour .. .. .	0	1	6
Itt. spent of quarter Mr. Generall and three more	0	4	0
Itt. spent of Mr. Reay and Mr. Hall the next morning .. .. .	0	1	0
Itt. payed to Bartram when he was put in pinder .. .. .	0	0	6
Itt. payed to Bartram for gathering money in the three forsaid Townes .. .. .	0	0	6
Itt. payed for feching six barrills from Belvir	0	1	0
Itt. payed to Robert Bartram for mending the pinfould .. .. .	0	0	6

Itt. payed to Nicho Barnes and Gabrill Caunt  
 in parte of there Charges when the were im-  
 prisoned at melton .. .. . o 7 11

In July (see Nichols, iv, 558), "My Lord (Grey) is now gone out in person in pursuit of Colonel Nevill and Colonel Pate, who are plundering the other (i.e. eastern) side of the county." Also in the Domestic State Papers (Interregnum, 16E, p. 93) Lord Grey writes to the committee of both houses that Colonel Nevill on Monday, 1st July, "plundered all the towns within three miles of Leicester towards Beaver," but they marched away on Grey's approach on the Tuesday, "but a Captain Robinson and his troop" were surprised and captured by his (Grey's) forlorn hope. Grey then went to Melton "to gather up the money assigned to me for my horse by the committee." A Captain Robinson was also taken prisoner by the Derby, Leicester and Nottingham forces at Wilne Ferry (Shardlow) on 18th July.

The rector of Ashwell, whom we have mentioned previously as among those who seized Belvoir castle for the king, was evidently of a very militant disposition. He is mentioned now as Captain Mason, and later on a parliamentary newspaper describes him as the "commander-in-chief of the fen robbers." Walker in his *Sufferings of the Clergy* describes his subsequent imprisonment and ill-treatment by the puritans.

Our first mention of Cromwell occurs during May 1644. His presence is best explained by quoting from the *Perfect Diurnal* of 21st to 28th May. "A party of the earl of Newcastle's horse that not long since escaped out of York are now in Leicestershire, where they make great spoyle, pillaging and plundering the county in a cruell manner within a mile of Leicester. But Col. Cromwell being in pursuit of them we hope it will not be long ere he overtake them." Goring, Rupert, Porter and Hastings, however, joined and, about 23rd May, marched towards Lancashire to relieve Lathom house. In June we find Nevill once more at Stathern whither he had been driven after an engagement with Grey at "Rowell."

After the battle of Marston Moor the position of the royalist garrison at Belvoir was none too secure and "bull-

workes" were made. Manchester's army was at Lincoln from 10th August until 2nd September, when it marched south in support of Essex. During this time the approaches to Belvoir needed constant protection.

Colonel Dalison, or, to give him his full name, Sir Robert Dalison, was another member of the Belvoir garrison, for under the date 9th August, 1645, Whitelock says, "Letters informed that Captain Allen with 95 dragoons from Burleigh house fell upon 200 of the Newark and Belvoir horse commanded by Sir Robert Dalison, routed them, killed five, took several officers and 50 prisoners, 80 horses and rescued the countrymen and plunder which they had taken."

When Manchester marched south in support of Essex he left forces under Sir Thomas Fairfax, Rossiter and Fleetwood in Lincolnshire, to prevent the Newark and Belvoir garrisons from plundering the neighbourhood. Cromwell, who was with Manchester at Lincoln, writes a letter from Sleaford, dated 5th or 6th September; and both Cromwell and Manchester were in their place in parliament on 12th September. Hacker no doubt entertained Cromwell at his house at Stathern on the way.

Towards the end of September, when Manchester's army had left the neighbourhood, the royalists seized Croyland and threatened the Eastern Association. Sir Thomas Fairfax and Rossiter promptly besieged the place. Towards the end of October the royalists mustered a large force at Belvoir to raise the siege, but they were defeated in the vale of Belvoir "by the conjunction of the Lord Fairfax, Nottingham, Derby and Leicester Horse together," losing 600 horse and 400 prisoners. Belvoir castle itself was shortly afterwards "blocked up" by the roundheads and the Captain Needham, who is mentioned in the accounts, was almost certainly one of the blockading force. Needham's house at Stanton, near Owthorpe, had been plundered by the royalists in 1642, and he had joined the Leicestershire forces. He was made governor of Leicester after the recapture of that town in 1645, and arranged the terms of surrender of Ashby castle at the end of February 1646. In the *Journal of George Fox* the Quaker states that when in 1654 he

was arrested and brought before Colonel Francis Hacker, "his son Needham" was also present. Though absolute proof is lacking, yet there is every likelihood that this is the same Needham who had married Anne Hacker.

Pontefract castle being closely besieged by the parliamentary troops at the beginning of 1645, Sir Marmaduke Langdale was sent from Oxford in February with 1,600 men, and a convoy of provisions and munitions of war. On the way he fought a sharp engagement near Melton with the Leicester, Nottinghamshire and Lincoln roundheads on 25th February, and forced his way through. He continued his march beyond Belvoir the same night, sent reinforcements into Newark on the 26th, and relieved Pontefract on 1st March. He is doubtless the "Duck langlees" mentioned in these accounts.

Unfortunately for the continuity of this local history the year 1645 is missing from the accounts, and we are compelled to omit this year and take up our story again in 1646.

The first point of any interest is on 9th August, 1646, when we find the constable "going about the excise." Clarendon says that in March, 1643, "The two Houses at Westminster, who called themselves, and they are often called in this discourse, the Parliament, had at this time by an ordinance . . . laid an imposition which they call an Excise, upon wine, beer, ale and many other commodities, to be paid in the manner very punctually and methodically set down by them, for the carrying on the war. This was the first time the name of payment of Excise was heard of, or practised in England." Possibly the excise was more regularly collected now that the parliament were masters of Leicestershire. Whitelock, on 17th September, notes "an ordinance sent up to the Lords for charging ten thousand pound upon the Excise, for poor widows, officers' wives, and others."

Itt. spent at plunger when I went with hors									
provand .. .. .	o	o	6						
Itt. payd to Gabrell Caunt for A Bushell of									
pease .. .. .	o	3	4						
Itt. spent at plunger the 1th of Serptember with									
the Souldgers .. .. .	o	1	o						



Itt. payd for my horse and man Caring horse				
provernder to plunger 6 dayes..	..	..	o	3 o
Itt. payd to william linne for 4 strikes of otes			o	6 8

Belvoir castle had surrendered to Poyntz and the capture of Shelford and Wiverton provided the chief points of interest. Possibly the soldiers at Plungar were part of the Wiverton garrison getting in supplies.

During April 1646 Stathern was visited by the plague and the burial register records 16 deaths from this cause, including Barbara Hacker, 29th April, and Isabel Hacker, 30th April.

Gradually the strain and stress of the war was lessening at Stathern, and it is only now and then that we catch faint echoes of the struggle that was still going on elsewhere. In January 1647 we find a waggon, probably laden with supplies, going to Nottingham. This was possibly for Skippon's force which left London towards the end of December with £200,000 for the Scotch army in thirty-one waggons guarded by a strong convoy.

On 18th February, 1647, there are several charges for soldiers. This is possibly a mistake of the constable's for 13th February, on which date king Charles was at Nottingham on his way to Holdenby, which he reached on the 16th, spending a night at Leicester on the way. If so these soldiers may have been part of his guard.

On 1st March, 1647, the parliament directed that Belvoir castle be disgarrisoned and the new works be slighted. According to the accounts this work was carried out at the end of June and the beginning of July.

Until the outbreak of the second civil war in Kent in May, 1648, Stathern appears to have returned to its former peaceful and humdrum existence, but on 6th July we find the following entry: "Itt. spent at Leicester the 6th of July when I wente beefore my lord Graye about the Horses that our Towne weare Charged with all in Charges of Horse and selfe, o 6 8." Pontefract was seized by the royalists in June and shortly afterwards besieged by Lambert, and preparations for a general rising in favour of Charles were made in various parts of the country. Attempts were made by the royalists

to seize Croyland, Tattershall castle, and other local strongholds, but they were frustrated by the activity of Grey, Pickering, Rossiter, and Hacker, the last of whom killed Hudson, Charles I's late chaplain, in a skirmish in Northamptonshire. In a letter from Market Harborough dated 22nd June, it is reported that Grey had raised six regiments of horse and dragoons and was organising the foot, that Rutland and Northamptonshire were prepared to join him and that "both Presbyter and Independent joyne now cordially in the county." In the meantime a body of 400 horse had broken out of Pontefract. They crossed the Trent on 30th June, entered and plundered Lincoln on 3rd July, but were completely defeated by Rossiter and Hacker at Willoughby on the Wolds on 6th July; and so far as Leicestershire was concerned the parliamentary cause was triumphant.

On the 31st August, 1648, we find an entry of seven shillings spent "when the Scotcs quartered in towne." Cromwell's victory over the Scots at Preston was gained on 17th August. Hamilton surrendered to Grey on 21st August, and Langdale about 26th. These "Scotes," the same no doubt as those who are mentioned in the Stathern churchwardens' accounts as having broken the "locke of the chist and the locke of the Chancell Dore," were obviously a fugitive detachment of Hamilton's scattered force, who had escaped Grey's army.

Ytt. payede for lodgeing of a Souldiers wife the 19 of november that where under Corn Rens- boro .. .. .	o	o	8
Ytt. given the 22 of november to a Souldier ..	o	o	2
Ytt. spent at Richard Tompsons of Mr. Julyan and a Souldier that came to straine for Ser Thomas Faierfax tax .. .. .	o	2	o
Ytt. given the 26 of november to 7 Souldiers	o	1	6
Ytt. given the 28 of november to 2 travelers that had a pase .. .. .	o	o	4
Ytt. given to 14 Crippels that came in a cart the Second of December .. .. .	o	1	6
Ytt. given the same daye to three Souldiers that weare under Crumwell that would have quartered in the towne .. .. .	o	1	o

Ytt. given the 9 of Dcember to 9 Iersrish peopel .. .. .	o	o	8
Ytt. given the 10 of December to a Souldier that quartered in the towne .. .. .	o	o	6
Ytt. payed to Thomas nix wife the same day for lodgine of a woman .. .. .	o	o	10
Ytt. given to a man that came out of Yorkeshiere that had a letter of request .. .. .	o	1	o
Ytt. given the 22 of December to 9 Ierish peopel .. .. .	o	o	6
Ytt. given the 24 of December to a letter of request that came from newarke .. .. .	o	1	6
Ytt. given the same daye to a memed Souldier that came from Scarborro Castell .. .. .	o	o	4

The chief interest now was the siege of Pontefract which held out for the king until 24th March, 1649. Colonel Rainsborough was sent by Cromwell to take charge of the siege, but was killed at Doncaster on 29th October, 1648, when resisting a party from Pontefract who had attempted to surprise and take him prisoner. Cromwell, who was at Knottingley near Pontefract on 25th November, shortly afterwards left the siege to Lambert, and reached London in the evening of 6th December, the day of "Pride's Purge."

Boynton, the governor of Scarborough castle, declared for the king in July, but the castle was stormed and taken by Colonel Bethel on 16th September.

To all intents and purposes the civil war interest in these accounts ceases with 1648, but one entry at the end of June 1649 is worth quoting :

"Given to three familes that came out of westmoreland that had a passe and had there housses burnt by the Scottes, o 1 o."

These Scots were evidently the fugitives from the battle of Preston.

Thus once more Stathern retires into seclusion and lives its own life apart from the great events that were stirring England to its depths. Now and then soldiers pass through and are entertained, but for the most part

nothing occurs to break the settled course of the daily life.

In concluding I wish to thank the Rev. E. G. Pierson of Stathern for his kindness in placing these documents at my disposal, as well as for his generous hospitality during the period of transcription. To Rev. Dr. J. C. Cox I owe much, both for encouragement and help, while to Mr. E. W. Hensman I wish once more to tender my most sincere thanks.