

DERBYSHIRE RECORD OFFICE AND DERBY DIOCESAN RECORD OFFICE 1970

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1970 was a busy year marked chiefly by a heavy public demand for exhibitions. Further storage space was allocated to the Office in outlying offices, and car journeys will be necessary to bring papers in to the search-room. It is planned to keep bulky modern material, at present little used, in the new store. Most of this material is on restricted access and not available without special permission. Searchers who anticipate that their searches might lie amongst such papers are asked to make appointments. Parish records, maps, plans, and views, however modern, will normally be kept at County Offices.

Work on the official records continued steadily. A large miscellaneous collection of maps and plans other than deposited plans of public undertakings has been sorted and indexed. One voluntary helper is still generously listing and indexing ancillary series of quarter sessions records. Two others are listing medieval deeds. We are keeping abreast of all but the largest current deposits, and about 60 collections from the backlog have been listed.

There were 177 accessions, transfers, gifts, deposits and further deposits including papers from 23 Anglican parishes. These accessions ranged in date from the 13th century to 1970, and in bulk from a small piece of paper to the tons which came from the National Coal Board.

The 23 Anglican parishes depositing records were: Alfreton (additional) 1806-1921, Alkmonton (provisional) 1839-1959, Alvaston 1614-1928, Ashbourne (additional) 1698-1934, Church Broughton 1539-1925, Egginton 1561-1969, Elton 1734-1908, Etwall 1558-1935, Findern 1558-1969, Foremark 1662-1847, Longford (provisional) 1538-1948, Lullington 1560-1966, Mapleton 1704-1949, Marston-on-Dove 1654-1947, Morton 1575-1947, Netherseal 1566-1967, Overseal 1863-1931, Smalley 1655-1935, Sutton-on-the-Hill 1567-1941, Willington 1679-1964, Winster 1674-1962, Yeaaveley (provisional) 1840-1949. In almost every case records retained by depositing parishes have also been listed. Surveys were made at three churches each holding unusual papers. At Heanor there is a long series of confirmation registers 1886-1916 and a good run of churchwardens' accounts 1585-1872. The once tiny parish of Wingerworth has Sunday School bills and accounts 1816-1849, and three registers of service agree-

ments 1816-1833. These registers, specially printed and bound for the parish, were kept by the overseer of the poor and record agreements between masters and servants hired for terms of 51 weeks. Servants serving for 52 weeks or more gained a legal settlement in the parish of their service, and were consequently entitled to poor relief from that parish when they came on hard times. Agreements, written or tacit, between ratepayers not to hire servants for more than 51 weeks are not uncommon, but these registers are the first I have seen. The field survey of Hathersage church records has been completed, but these records are unusually plentiful with good runs of civil, ecclesiastical and charity papers in some disorder, and the final list is not yet ready.

In the deposited parish records there is a wide range of material supplemented for some parishes by further separate deposits of allied papers such as the Ashbourne Parish Magazine 1873-1959, Pinxton tithe rent charge apportionment, and Netherseal Charities records. Each parish has its separate strengths. Amongst the more outstanding groups are the Easter rolls 1671-1746 and constables' accounts 1652-1785 from Marston-on-Dove, and good overseers, vestry and charity records from Netherseal and Overseal. The provisional deposit from Longford includes early 19th-century valuations of rectorial tithes which are unusually detailed, noting even land use, and a late 18th-century tithe account-book for corn, hay, and Easter dues, with details of the Longford and Bentley moduses.

The more normal surveys of land found in parish records are copies of glebe terriers, rate assessments and books, and the mid 19th-century tithe rent charge apportionments and plans. These last should be found in most parishes, unlike the earlier tithe records which occur infrequently and are usually the fruit of contention between tithe owners and tithe payers. Rate assessments must have been made for nearly every parish, but comparatively few survive as opposed to rate books. A good example from the Alfreton additional deposit is a detailed survey of the whole mother parish made in 1824, based on the valuation by the Inclosure Commissioners about 12 years earlier. The copies of glebe terriers taken from the Lichfield diocesan records which occur occasionally in the older parishes are now of great importance because the originals, transferred from Lichfield to the new diocese of Southwell almost a century ago, have not yet been found. Other surveys are not normally to be found or expected. It is, therefore, very pleasing that Morton has deposited the 1653 and 1657 version of the mid 17th-century economic survey of the hundred of Scarsdale, an assessment for military purposes of a type not yet found outside the county. The 1652 original version is in Sheffield City Library, that for 1662 is a private deposit in this Office. Now two more appear, set out in different forms. One gives the acreages of woodlands separately from those for meadow pasture and arable. Both give the numbers and types of mills, mines and furnaces. Neither is complete, but both throw new light on the development in N.E. Derbyshire of what became and remained the county's standard rate basis until 1817.

For once comparatively little has come from civil authorities. The Office warmly welcomed Sir Jack Longland's deposit of his working papers as a member of the recent Royal Commission on Local Government. A record set of Electoral Returning Officer's formal notices for the General Election 1970 was transferred from current papers. Mid 20th-century correspondence files of the Derbyshire Rural Community Council on various subjects, ranging from village halls and local societies to surveys of population, were accompanied by a roll of drawings of designs used in rural craft industries. Two unusual little groups came in: one from Shirebrook dealing with census sub-divisional boundaries 1911-1931; and the other being two registers of births of children reported by the District Registrar to Pinxton School Board 1868-1901.

Education looms large in County Council transfers. The County Museum Service transferred a large artificial collection of deeds and papers covering the last three centuries made by the Schools Museum Service and formerly used for teaching purposes. It includes single items such as a copy map of Codnor 1792, a brewer's account book from the Heanor district 1833-1836, pressure and temperature readings at Bretby during the long frost, 18 October 1813—19 March 1814, and a number of prints, engravings and postcards. Amongst the small archival groups in the collection are a useful group of business papers of Mold of Aldwasley working the Hurt furnaces, 13 schools' log-books, 3 school portfolios and 5 school plans, together with most of the minutes missing from a separate and earlier transfer of Eckington School Board and Eckington Councils Schools Committee 1891-1940. Ashover and Ripley School Boards' older deeds were transferred from Modern Records, together with early 20th-century Education papers.

Two schools deposited papers from their earlier days: Shirebrook (National) School 1852-1944, and Bolsover Carr Vale Infants' School 1904-1952. The New Mills Comprehensive School deposited records of its predecessors, the Secondary and Grammar Schools, together with the minutes of their governing bodies, 1864-1965. The records of the Scargill Schools' Foundation, an Anglican educational charity for the West Hallam area founded in 1667, are a most welcome addition to both educational and charitable holdings. They include not only almost complete runs of deeds of properties now and formerly belonging to the trust, but also a fine series of administrative papers 1667-1956.

Business records came in pleasing volume. There was little leadmining material, only two copy plans of Ashover leadmining about 1800, and the Lumsdale cupola deeds and plan 1749-1792, part of the Drabble family estate deposit. There were two valuable additions to the Butterley Company ironmasters' deposit; the Forge Book with its wide range of detailed memoranda 1828-1870, and the partners' private ledger 1796-1856. Over a van load of Butterley Company colliery records were received from the National Coal Board. These taken with earlier deposits of Butterley papers both by the Company and the National Coal Board

make Butterley records easily the largest and probably the most important group of holdings in the Office.

There is a good deal of old Butterley material in private hands, rescued by its present holders who feared that it would be destroyed. The Office welcomes any information on the location of such material, and would happily co-operate by listing it for the present holders should they wish to keep it. Our great fear is that the papers will again be in danger when the present holders die. To safeguard against this the Office could take them on deposit from the present holders, and would regard them as the holders' property.

Two van loads of other colliery companies' pre-vesting date records were also deposited by the National Coal Board. They were mainly 20th-century papers for the Mapperley, Shipley, Glapwell, Bolsover and Sheep-bridge Coal and Iron companies, but included minor runs for other collieries, a little 19th- and 20th-century material for South Normanton, and Miners' Welfare Commission papers, 20th century. A useful series of Swanwick Colliery accident plans, 1895-1946, was accompanied by a surface working plan, 1903. A surface plan of Tibshelf Colliery workings, c. 1879, and a group of drafts relating to Templeton Normanton Coal & Coke Company mineral leases came from other sources, as did Miller Mundy copy estate papers including a Shipley Colliery inventory 1895 and a Shipley farmer's diary 1867. John King's descendants deposited their family Bible and King's patent for his winding cage safety-hook 1867. Teaching papers came from Chesterfield Technical College Mining Department. A long search, with much outside help for the records of the South Derbyshire Coal Owners' Association, revealed that they were almost certainly destroyed by their custodian a few years ago. As a result of the search a history of Moira Colliery 1919 and one of Donisthorpe Colliery, 1951, were deposited.

There was comparatively little on transport. Papers relating to the Nutbrook canal closure inquiry, 1896, were transferred from Modern Records; copy plans for the Bull Bridge aqueduct 1836, and papers found in the High Peak and Cromford Railway Sheep Pasture building were transferred by the Planning Department. Other papers found in Middleton engine-house were deposited by an industrial archaeologist. A copy plan of the first Ambergate station, mid 19th century, came from another; and two plans of stations on the Great Northern Railway, 1882, completed the railway accessions for the year. There were turnpike records for the Ashbourne and Leek trust 1762-1855, and for the Ashbourne and Belper trust, 1836-1889, in the Eddowes, Simm and Waldron deposit.

Other business records were varied in range. There were two additional deposits of deeds relating to Bailey's Mills, Matlock, 1785-1916; and the copy building accounts for Raenstor Close, Alport, 1913. Three separate runs of household grocery books for families and grocers in North Derbyshire, 1859-1912, were accompanied by a school exercise book and social ephemera of the later 19th century. A Wirksworth grocer's day bill-book

for goods received, 1839-1852, is thought from the volume of goods bought wholesale to be part of the records of Charles Wright, the Wirksworth grocer and wine merchant. A second book of Wirksworth accounts belongs to the Newton family who ran three businesses. This is a combined bill-book of joiner and coal merchant, with a maltster's accounts, 1779-1797. A handful of monthly catalogues of Henry T. Wake, secondhand book-seller of Fritchley, 1896-1898, extended the range of the as yet limited retail trade holdings, as did other small printed groups including two horticultural catalogues, 1868, and a number of individual items on Smedley's Hydro.

Two most welcome deposits dealt with labour relations. The former National Union of Railwaymen Rowsley Branch deposited their minutes and accounts for the branch and its associated clubs 1918-1964. The record of the detailed arguments against the Rowsley closure made by the branch has been retained by its leader. A former secretary deposited the Pinxton Collieries Committee minute book 1923-1926. This includes the minutes of the emergency sub-committee for providing food and boots for the children during the General Strike of 1926, a sub-committee formed by the colliery manager in the opening days of the strike.

Family papers have in the main consisted of groups of deeds. The only country-house deposit was further papers of Gresley of Drakelow. They included rentals and accounts 1727-1738; Lullington rentals 1725-1772; a volume of legal precedents, copy letters and petitions on military and county matters including business of the Parliamentary Committee for Derbyshire, 1600-1650; a plan of Needwood Forest and Burton-on-Trent 1781; and heraldic and family miscellanea 17th-19th centuries. Five surveys of country-house collections are in progress.

Two sets of professional records were deposited. The records of the Brookes family of Tansley include not only the deeds and papers of their estate in Wessington and Wheatcroft, 18th-19th centuries, but also pharmaceutical and chemist's records and advertisements for a chemist's business at Ibstock, Leicestershire, in the 19th century. A good run of solicitors' bill-books, 1816-1908, came from Eddowes, Simm and Waldron. These were part of a rich addition to an earlier deposit which came in late 1969, too late to be reported on in the last article. Together they provide fine series of tithe rent charge apportionments and plans; good estate papers for the Ashbourne Grammar School estate in East Derbyshire, and a few papers relating to the school itself; runs of Boothby deeds; papers of the Hartshorne estate in the old parish of Ashbourne and for the Goodwin estate in Mapleton; rate assessments for all the townships of the old parish; Ashbourne charity papers including accounts; the turn-pike trust records mentioned earlier; and a large collection of miscellaneous deeds for the Ashbourne area, mainly 17th-19th centuries.

The early instalments of deposits from Taylor, Simpson and Mosley were rich in maps and plans, about 300 in number, 1764-1936, the Derby items of which will be passed to Derby Borough Library. Other records

are Burdett rentals 1817-1830; Cotton estate papers including court rolls and manorial records for Burnaston, Dalbury and Elvaston, mid 18th-19th centuries; deeds and papers of the Legh Hoskins estate at Codnor, 18th-19th centuries; South Derbyshire Conservative Party electoral papers, 1859-1869; a quarter sessions' precedent book and a shrievalty one; and miscellaneous deeds, 18th-19th centuries.

From Moody and Woolley came the deeds and papers of the Aston Hall estate of the Holden family, lying mainly in Aston and Weston-on-Trent, 13th-19th centuries. This deposit is strong in royal charters, confirming gifts to the Abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester, the former owners of the Aston property. There are useful rentals, late 18th-early 19th centuries, and amongst the estate plans a map of Chellaston plaster mine, 1866. A more modern group of papers concerning the development of the Matlock Bath estate of Jessop family in the 19th century came from a York solicitor.

A marked feature of the year has been the range of maps and plans deposited. Over 500 have come either in small groups or as part of large deposits. The runs of O.S. 1/2,500 and 1/25,000 have been greatly strengthened in all editions. There are now 63 tithe rent charge apportionments and plans in original or copy form, almost a quarter of the total possible and treble the holding at the beginning of the year. Private maps and plans cover a wide range including modern copies of such older plans as Heath, c. 1600, Darley Dale early 17th century, and Shirland 1762. Three maps for Baslow, Cromford and Duffield are the work of historians reconstructing local features now lost or little known.

The plans include a few for houses and other buildings. One set received from the County Planning Officer are architect's drawings of Whittington manor house made for record purposes prior to demolition. Similar drawings and sets of measurements for other old buildings would be very welcome. This conscious effort to record for the future the buildings and works of the past is paralleled in another field by the record cards produced by the Industrial Archaeology Section of the Society and their friends and contacts. A number have already been deposited and it is hoped to build up an index record of old industrial sites and monuments in the county. Similarly the Office awaits with eagerness the tapes recording local memories and ways of speaking which the Society's new Tape Recording Group is making. If other groups are at work in the county both the Office and the Group would be glad to hear of them and of their holdings.

Deeds, sale catalogues and views of various kinds were strongly represented in the smaller deposits and gifts. Amongst the less usual individual items and small groups received were: the articles of association of the Belper Society for the Prosecution of Felons 1791; Ilkeston inclosure commissioners' papers 1798; 2 farm account books from Wilsthorpe 1841-1852; a memorial on the death of William Gauntley of Bakewell 1860; a volume of obituaries and letters of condolence on the death of John Smedley, manufacturer and hydrotherapist, 1865; a scrapbook of cuttings

and notes on Melbourne 1874-1900; Longstone Women's Institute records 1924-1948; and Duffield Women's Institute Scrapbook and Village History mid 20th century.

The use of the Office increased considerably. 1,160 searchers made personal visits, and postal and telephonic enquiries rose proportionately. Exhibitions proliferated. The Office either staged or lent material for 32 exhibitions, 11 in celebration of the centenary of the 1870 Education Act. Three standard exhibitions were used to illustrate talks on the range and use of manuscript sources. The remaining exhibitions were *ad hoc*, specially designed to point a particular theme, and normally backed by a talk. Subjects covered ranged from conservation, ecology, lost villages, topography and parish history, to railway history and cookery. A special exhibition of Scargill Foundation records was arranged in honour of the opening of a new infants' school built by the Trust. An unusual exhibition was organised in honour of European Conservation Year 1970 in Chesterfield Library Lecture Hall in October. It dealt with problems of conservation not simply of wild-life, natural resources and the rural environment, but also of archaeological and architectural sites, artifacts, books, manuscripts and urban life. Whilst problems were considered affecting the greater part of the county, particular attention was paid to North East Derbyshire, its riches and its difficulties. Twenty-seven bodies co-operated, both official and voluntary. Sections of the exhibition went on tour afterwards. A large exhibition relating to Ironville and the Butterley Works preceded an archaeological tour of the Ironville and Butterley sites led by the assistant archivists.

In addition to the talks accompanying exhibitions there were talks on material which could be used by teachers dealing with environmental studies, and other talks to social clubs given largely for the publicity they afford to the Office and its work.

Following the publication of my comments on publicity in this article for 1969, discussions took place with Professor A. W. Coats of Nottingham University Department of Economic History. It became clear that there had been a deep and widespread misunderstanding of the policy of his department and consequent misinterpretation of his actions. The occasions of these misunderstandings are much regretted and both Office and Department look forward to fruitful collaboration.

A new Federation of Derbyshire Archaeological and Historical Societies was recently set up under the auspices of the Derbyshire Rural Community Council. At the request of Commander Somerville, Secretary of the Council, the Office undertook the secretarial duties of the embryonic Federation, and the County Council's Press Relations Officer very kindly helped with publicity. I became the first Hon. Secretary of the new Federation, which is growing rapidly. We have tried to let every society whose interests lie in the field of archaeology or history in Derbyshire and the Peak know about the Federation. New societies or any of whose interests we were unaware are asked to contact me at this Office, County Offices, Matlock.