

JOHN MAZINE AND MANOR FARM, CARBURTON

by

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Carburton is one of several Nottinghamshire deserted villages in which the only house of any age is the manor house. There is a plan of 1615 showing 'the town of Carburton' before its decline.¹ The manor house, now a working farm belonging to the Welbeck estate, stands east of the small church which was originally a chapel of Edwinstowe; the decline of the settlement is marked by the fact that this minute building, Norman in origin, lost a south aisle some time before 1748.² In the sanctuary there is a small memorial brass with a coat of arms and a Latin inscription to John Mazine, *armiger*, honorary keeper of the royal stables (*regii stabuli minister honorarius*) who married the daughter of Anthony Barber of Windsor, Berkshire, and died in 1677 (Fig. 1). The arms are not to be found in the usual works of reference and if they are genuine do not look English. They may be blazoned as 'three chevrons debruised by a pallet and in chief two roses', the crest 'a cubit arm in armour holding a broken tilting spear'. The Carburton parish registers for 7th July 1677 record the burial of 'John Musinge, Esquire'; his widow lived on at Carburton until 31st May 1698, when the burial is recorded of 'Mis Barbray Mazine'.³ Mazine does not figure in William Dugdale's heraldic visitation of 1662-4 but in the visitation papers is recorded as disclaiming a title to arms; Richard Hall, Dugdale's assistant, wrote that 'Mr Mazine of Carburton is constantly in London'.⁴

Mazine was a professional horseman; when he died a contemporary called him 'the old grand horseman'.⁵ His designation as honorary keeper of Charles II's stables seems to have a basis of fact. The surname of Mazine is very rare. A John Mazine, Esquire, was listed as one of the 'Querries of the Crown-Stable' in 1684, which may represent a failure to update the list after our John's death.⁶ He may be identical with a 'Mr Mazon' who in 1638 rented a house for £5 10s. 0d. (a fairly low rent) in the London parish of All Saints the Less, and with the John Mazene of St Paul's, Covent Garden, whose daughter Elizabeth (aged eighteen) was licensed on 19th June 1662 to marry Simon Corbet.⁷

Mazine was probably of French origin, for that country excelled in the art of equitation, and he must have entered the service of William Cavendish, Earl of Newcastle, before the outbreak of the Civil War. After the battle of Marston Moor in 1644 they went together into exile, and Mazine as Newcastle's captain of horse helped to run the school of equitation in Antwerp which was celebrated in the book published there in 1658 by the earl under the title of *Méthode et Invention Nouvelle de Dresser les Chevaux*.⁸ The book was published in English in 1667 under the title *A New Method and Invention to Dress Horses*. It was reprinted several times down to 1743, both in England and in France. The engraving reproduced here (Plate 1) shows the Duke of Newcastle and 'Le Capⁿ' against a background of Bolsover Castle. It was executed by Abraham van Diepenbeeck, a well known Flemish artist, who is said to have been brought to England by Charles I to work for Newcastle.⁹ Other engravings have Welbeck as a background. If the plate showing Mazine was based on a painting, that has not survived, but there is one at Welbeck, presumably by Diepenbeeck, of one of the duke's horses with a small view of the house seen between the horse's legs.

The first clue to Mazine's connection with Carburton is provided by Thoroton. 'The royalties and wast[e]s of *Edenstowe* and *Carberton* are the inheritance of his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle* by agreement, his servant Captain John Mazine hath builded at *Carberton*, and Mr. Moseley had a seat there, whose daughter and heir is married to Mr. Flower'.¹⁰ There is no house now which might have been Mr. Flower's unless it is Carburton Grange, south of the manor house (and the home until his death in 1988 of Mr. H. A. Johnson, the architect who contributed several articles to these *Transactions*). The Grange appears to be of Georgian date.

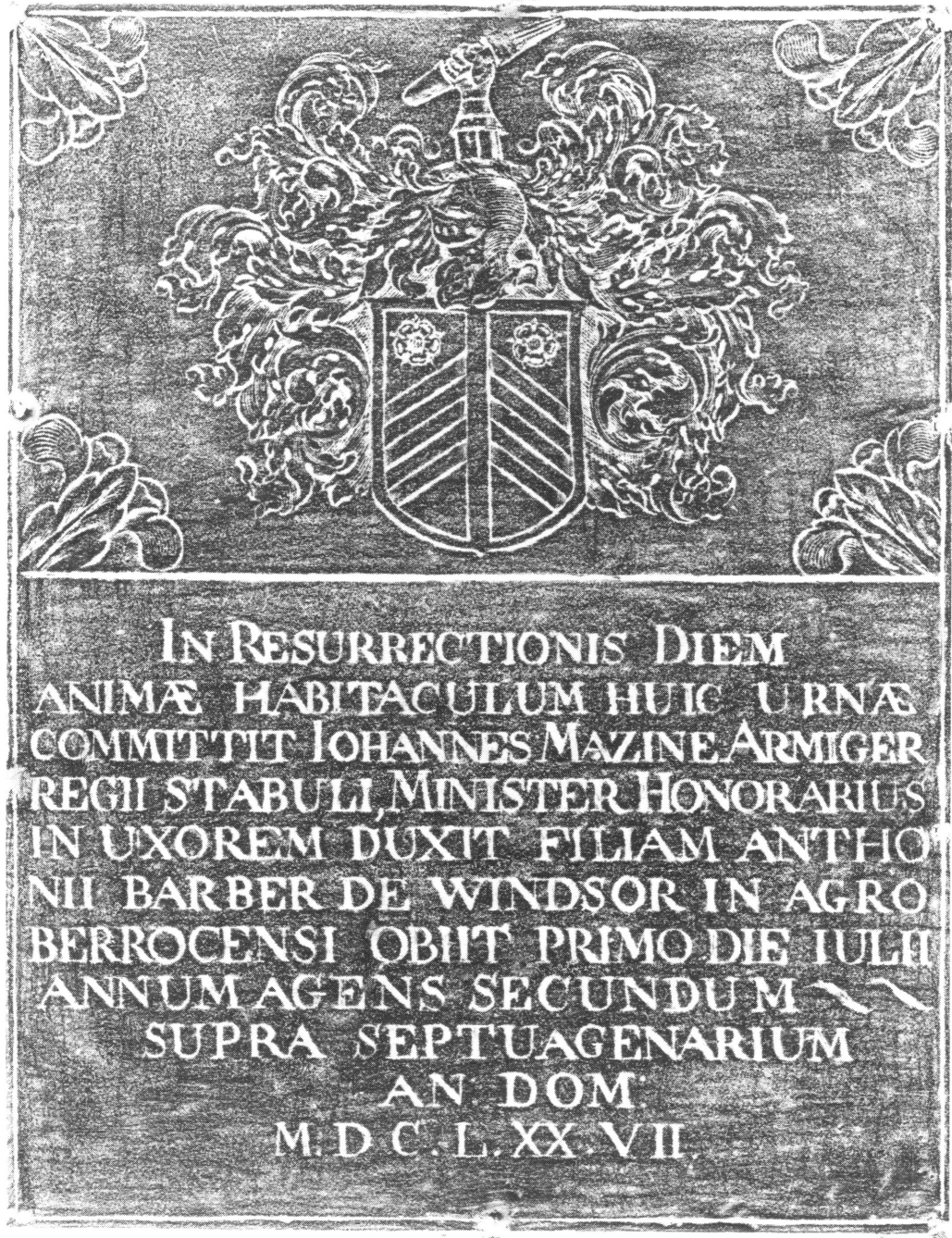


FIGURE 1
 Memorial brass to John Mazine, 1677

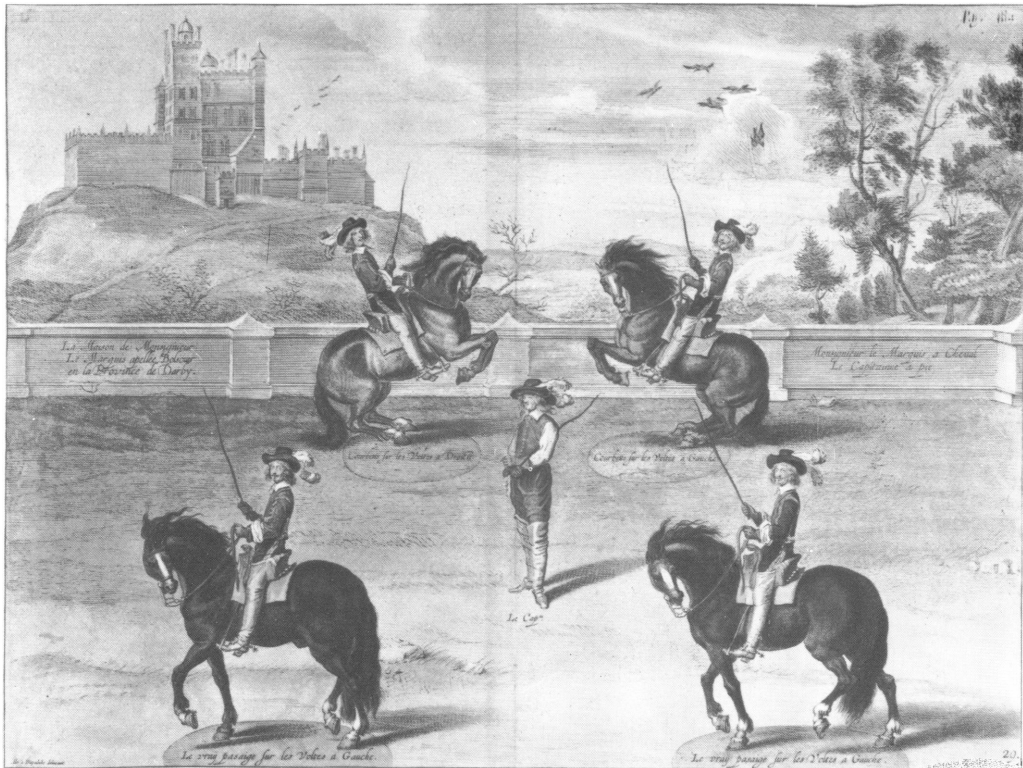


PLATE I

Engraving of Captain Mazine (centre) and the Marquess of Newcastle, 1658.

Mazine must have lived at Carburton Manor by grace and favour. It is easy to ascribe it on architectural grounds to a date in the third quarter of the 17th century. The clinching evidence is that in the hearth tax returns 'Capt. Mussen' paid tax on fourteen hearths.¹¹ The house still has two stacks of four chimneys, planted diamond-wise, and two more stacks of three; two single chimneys can be explained as later additions for the comfort of servants sleeping in garrets.

The house is built of well-coursed rubble limestone, fully visible except on the west gable, which is rendered. There are two lofty storeys. The plan is essentially a double pile with parallel east-west ridges, but the north range, and the valley between the ranges, is interrupted; in a recess on the north front the staircase rises to its own gable (Plate 3). This irregularity suggests that there was a change of design during building or very soon after; it is difficult to accept that a plan which called for such an awkward and expensive form of roof was original. The south front has three widely spaced openings to a floor with the stacks of three chimneys rising between them. Viewed from the north, the eastern part of the north range is slightly larger than the western and has two openings to a floor, the other only one. In the east gable there is a vertical break (not a straight joint) in the masonry between the two ranges, which is probably the consequence of mining subsidence; the north-east corner of the house has dropped a few inches opening a crack in the gable wall. The break has been mortared over and the damage is not very recent. Since the two stacks of four chimneys are on the gable ends of the north range, the house must have assumed its present plan by 1674.



PLATE 2
South front of Manor Farm.



PLATE 3
North front.



PLATE 4

East end. Note break in masonry.

A stone range north-east of the house, its nearest corner about 25 ft. (8 m.) away, has at its west end a large room (now used as a garage) with a very large fireplace in its east end wall. The fireplace has a segmental lintel, both lintel and jambs chamfered. The opening was subsequently reduced and divided, in brick, for a bread oven and small range. It is possible that this was the original kitchen for the house but it is more likely that it was built as a brewhouse. The range has two storeys and the first floor was a granary entered by an external staircase on the north side which has disappeared and a doorway blocked. The granary is now entered by stairs in a later extension of the range to the east. The roof has been renewed and the west end of the range has been rebuilt in brick, but some stone quoins remain at a high level, and the original coping.

If the inference of two phases of building is correct, what was the plan of the house in its first phase? It would have had a T-plan, with three rooms in range and a stair turret projecting in the middle of the north side. The doorway in the middle of the south front was originally a window; there was a back doorway at the bottom of the stair turret, but the principal entrance was in the east gable, into the south-east room. That room could be thought of as a parlour, but the hypothesis leaves unanswered the question of which room was the kitchen. When the building was completed, the large north-east room was the

kitchen; it has been divided into smaller spaces and its large fireplace in the east gable blocked, but the original plaster cornice survives on all four walls. There are cellars under the two west rooms. No probate inventory for the house has been discovered, nor other documentary evidence for the names and functions of rooms.

All the openings have been altered in one way or another. The original doorway (Fig. 3 and Plate 5) in the east gable still has its cornice, a pulvinated frieze and the stumps of a moulded lintel below a rectangular light which had a central mullion; the moulded jambs survive, their bottoms and the threshold being buried below soil level. The windows had a straight moulded hood and were of mullion-and-transom form; some hoods survive; the transoms were well above mid-height. Apart from the conversion of the east doorway into a window and the insertion of new wooden window frames the exterior is virtually unaltered. On the south front there are traces of two openings of which one was a doorway into the south-west room. Inside the staircase has been renewed, in the same position, and all the fireplaces have been renewed; that in the north-west room, which at present serves as the kitchen, has been blocked and there is a new window in the west wall. The north wall of the south-east room has a recess of Georgian date, as if for a sideboard. There are new openings in the north rooms, including one giving access to a lean-to scullery of brick, at the north-east side.

CARBURTON MANOR FARM

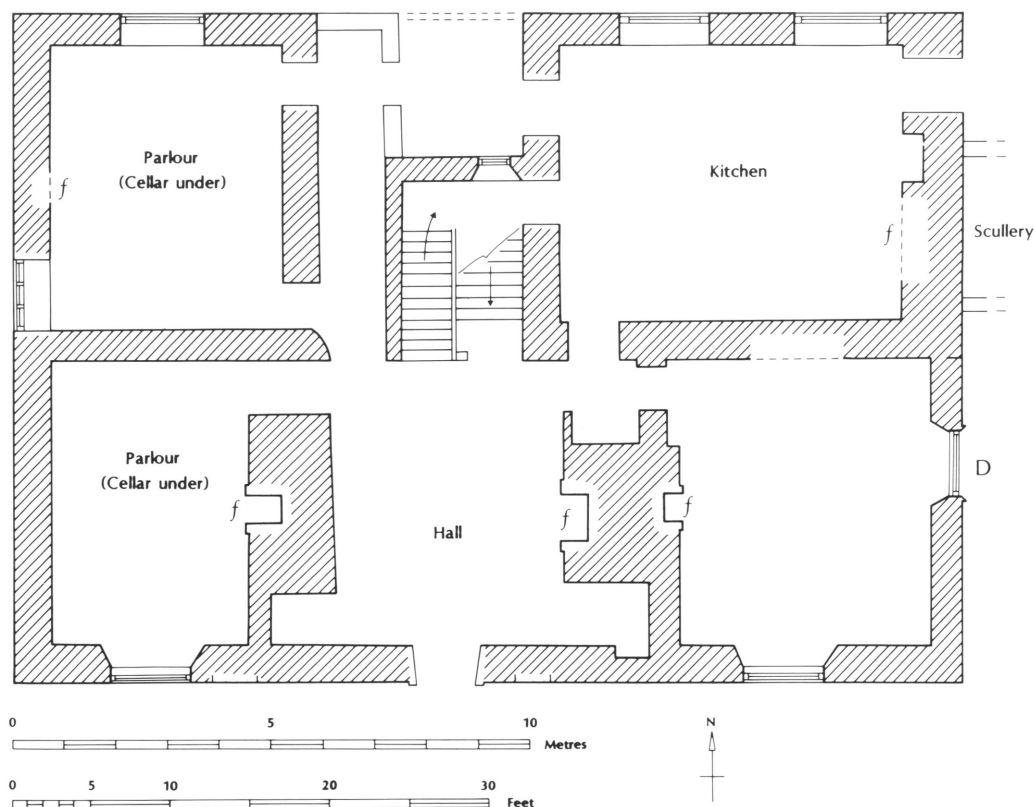


FIGURE 2
Ground floor plan. Original walling is hatched.
D: doorway converted into window. f: fireplace.



PLATE 5
Former doorway, now window.

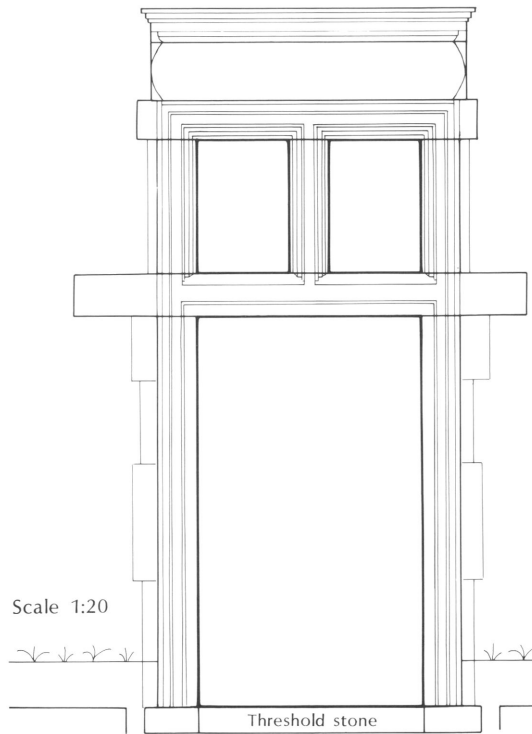


FIGURE 3
Reconstruction of former doorway at east end.

The fenestration of the stair turret has been altered and on the flanking wall of the north-east block there are creases of two roofs that have gone. It is said that at some time, presumably in the 19th century, the first floor room in that block was used as the village school, with external access. Presumably at the same time the ceiling height of the room was raised; this necessitated making new access from the house to the garret over it. There is a short flight of steps and a passage, with a brick wall and its own pitched roof, on the east side of the stair turret roof. The garrets are ceiled at collar level.

The house is maintained in good condition by the Welbeck estate and damage from coal-mining subsidence has been made good.¹²

REFERENCES

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- ⁷T. C. Dale, *The Inhabitants of London in 1638* (1931), 14; J. Foster, *London Marriages 1521–1869* (1887), 910.
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⁹E. Benezit, *Dict. des Peintres* . . .

¹⁰R. Thoroton, *The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* (1677), 436.

¹¹W. F. Webster, ed., *Nottinghamshire Hearth Tax, 1664: 1674*, Thoroton Soc. Record Series, 37 (1989).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to the Mary Evans Picture Library for the photograph of Plate 2 from the Duke's *Méthode*; to Mr. G. D. Squibb for the London references to Mazine; to Leo Godlewski and David Taylor for the drawing (Fig. 3) of the doorway, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Bower for freedom to explore the house.