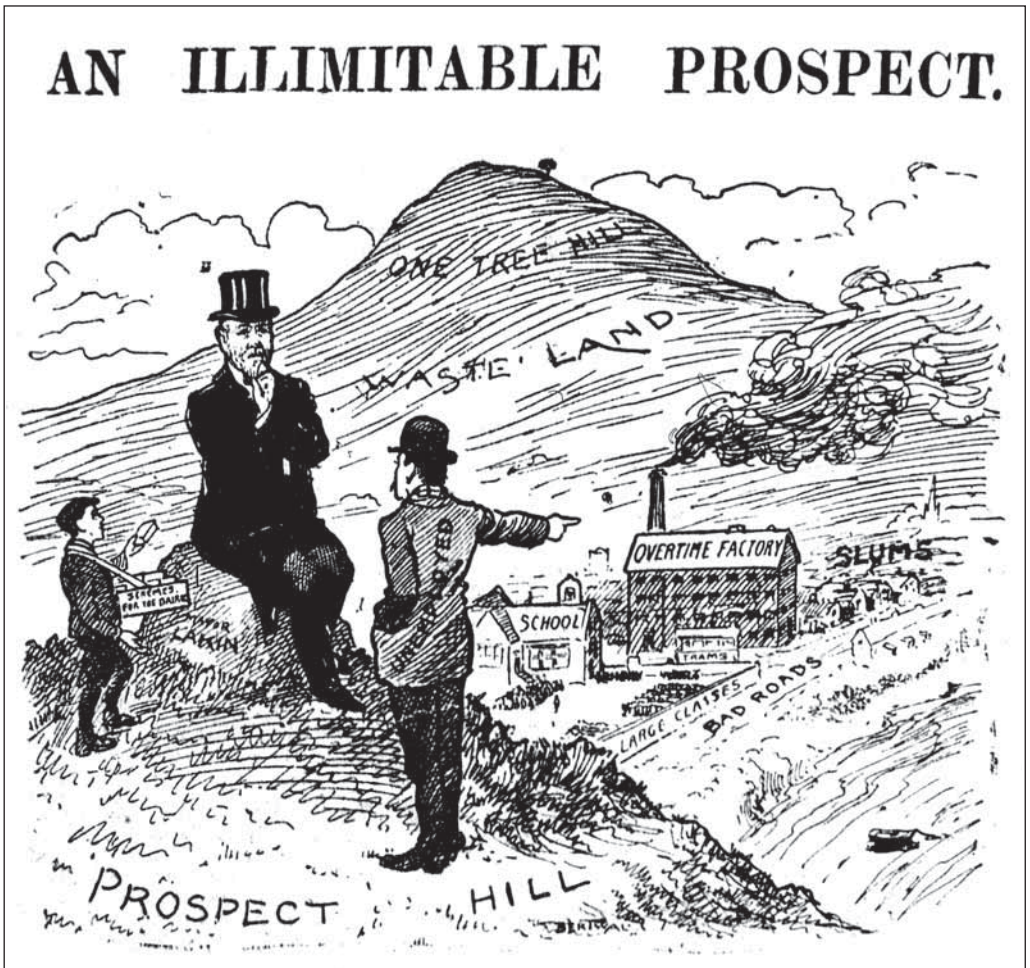
No 51 (2015)

Leicestershire Historian



The Mayor of Leicester has asked for schemes or suggestions for dealing with the unemployment problem. The Leicester unemployed themselves have directed his Worship's attention to a few of the more obvious needs of the time, to meet which would fully absorb all the so-called surplus labour.

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Cover picture: The Pioneer's *response to the request from the Mayor of Leicester in 1908 for how to deal with unemployment. (Reproduced with thanks to Ned Newitt.)* *See page 13.*

Editor: Joyce Lee

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Editorial

Historians of Leicestershire have much to be grateful to John Nichols for with his remarkable *History of Leicestershire* - a monumental eight volume work of over 5,500 pages, five million words and 2,500 finely engraved plates. It was with considerable pleasure that the LAHS was able to commemorate the bi-centenary of this seminal work in 2015, both through a new Nichols publication by Caroline Wessel, and a candlelit banquet. Julian Pooley, organiser and director of the Nichols Archive Project has kindly allowed his after dinner talk on John Nichols to be reproduced in this edition of the *Leicestershire Historian*.

Engravings from Nichols are one of the main sources of illustrations available for scenes from the period. Here they are used to dramatically illustrate a number of 'Leicestershire's First Lost Houses' that J. D. Bennett turns his attention to, many of which were disappearing long before the dawn of the twentieth century.

Belgrave Hall, in contrast, is one of the graceful houses to have survived from the early eighteenth century. Erica Statham finds out about the building of the Hall by the Cradock family, and in the process discovers documents in the National Archives which throw new light on the family's affairs.

At the same time that the wealthier families of Leicester such as the Cradocks were starting to move further out of town, educational facilities were being established in the towns and villages around the county. Using a range of primary sources, Emma Roberts takes Countesthorpe as her case study, describing how between 1706 and 1919 education in the village went from non-existent to being an important and thriving part of the community.

A little-known group of Leicester men calling themselves Leicester Landgrabbers was formed in 1909 in response to the long-term unemployment of many of Leicester's skilled workmen that had largely resulted from industrial changes. Cynthia Brown explores the Landgrabbers in this fascinating article as part of her continuing research into responses to unemployment in Leicester in the first decades of the twentieth century.

Four years earlier, in one of the more industrialised and very deprived areas of Leicester, the town's new Maternity Hospital known as 'Bond Street' was established, to attempt to reduce the high maternal mortality rate which had raged throughout the nineteenth century. Showing how valuable oral history sources can be, Shirley Aucott tells the moving story of the hospital, its benefactors, the dedication of its staff, of their training, working conditions, and the sometimes harrowing accounts of their work.

Richard Graves completes the poignant story of sisters Irene and Helga Bejach who arrived in Leicester from Berlin just before the outbreak of the Second World War, and who became the 'adopted' sisters of Richard, David and John Attenborough. Part two tells of the sisters' experiences in wartime Leicester and beyond, and their eventual emigration to America.

Leicestershire's waterways and rivers feature in two of this year's articles. Derek Deadman revisits the development of Leicestershire's canals, uncovering new cartographic evidence and extending knowledge on this subject. Meanwhile Bob Trubshaw shares his interest in locations where rivers could be forded and become trading places, examining if there could be continuity from the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon era.

A chance find in an antiquarian bookshop in Leicester's Clarendon Park led David Howell to discover the connection between Leicestershire and a widely used Hindustani Grammar textbook, the preface to which had been written by Colonel Mark Kingsley Wardle of the Leicestershire Regiment.

The major event of the year in Leicester and Leicestershire of the re-interment of King Richard III, along with the continuing commemorations of World War I are both strongly reflected in the Recent Publications section. Compiled by Cynthia Brown and her team of reviewers, this outstanding and diverse collection of informative reviews should help whet the appetite for further reading and exploration.

The *Leicestershire Historian* aims to promote the study of the county's history by providing a platform for established and new authors, and through encouraging the pursuit of research and project work. It also aims to publicise the work of local groups and organisations, and seeks to raise the awareness of research sources.

Contributions for future editions are welcome from individuals, local groups, museums and other organisations and should be sent to the Editor for consideration. Articles can be short items or longer in-depth pieces, and can be submitted at any time. If you would like to discuss an idea in advance, please contact the Editor.

Joyce Lee, Editor

‘Joyous to a pitch of Baccanalian Vivacity’: John Nichols as bon viveur, good company and historian of Leicestershire

Julian Pooley

Nichols as bon viveur and good company

Ladies and Gentlemen, we’ve just enjoyed a wonderful meal, inspired by a description of a feast enjoyed by John Nichols and his daughters when they visited Joseph Cradock at Gumley in September 1819. It’s described in a letter surviving in private hands in which Anne Nichols told her sisters at home in London that,

> Mr Cradock and the Servants were up very early and the Table was chiefly set up before we made our appearance. …; we had all sorts of Cold meat Chicken, Ham; Tongue, Venison Pasty; but the grand savoury dish was Pigeons a la Capote; which is Pigeons in Savoury Jelly; they were greatly approved of; and looked beautiful. Prawns and Crayfish from London, and also Oysters in silver shells, but the prettiest part was the Fruit 4 Pines; Grapes Peaches and Nectarines; American Apples which with Pastry, Curd & Sweetmeats you will say would make a handsome appearance. (1)

Engraved portrait of John Nichols. (Reproduced by permission of the author, Nichols Archive Project.)

I’m sure that John Nichols would have loved every minute, and every course, surrounded as he was by many of the local people who’d helped him complete his vast county history of Leicestershire just four years previously. The fact that he was still regularly visiting his Leicestershire friends after completing the thirty year project says much for his popularity and conviviality and this evening I’d like to briefly explore the sociable side of Nichols – his sense of fun, enjoyment of good food, drink and company – all contributing to the success of his monumental county history.

The first glimpse that we have of Nichols at play comes in a letter written to his fellow apprentice, William Tooke, in 1765. They were both bound to William Bowyer, a leading London printer. Nichols had fallen in love with a local girl called Anne Cradock, daughter of a tailor whose family came from Leicestershire and told his friend that it was time to sober up and settle down:

> I have at last met with the Girl who answers all my expectations […] I begin to be very serious! No frolics to the *Garden* now, no breaking Glasses nor battering enfeebled Watchmen! […] (2)

The ‘Garden’ referred to was Covent Garden, where many young men, apprentices and those who should have known better went to frolic in the clubs, bagnios and brothels that flourished in what was Georgian London’s most notorious attraction. Nichols and his fellow apprentices enjoyed what little spare time they had to the full, drinking heartily and teasing elderly parish watchmen but Nichols knew this now had to end. With promotion to Overseer of the Press in the office, it soon fell to him to call the toasts at the annual Wayzgoose when apprentices, compositors and journeymen alike let their hair down: ‘Oh! How I detest a crowd’ he told Tooke later that year, ‘How different from my taste is a noisy revel.’ (3)

The noise and crowd may not have been to his taste, but it is clear from his letters, his household accounts and from

On 15th May 2015, the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society celebrated the bi-centenary of John Nichols’ History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester *with an eighteenth century candlelit banquet at the City Rooms, Leicester. Julian Pooley, originator and director of the Nichols Archive Project enlightened and entertained the assembled company with his fascinating and informative after dinner talk about John Nichols, which is reproduced here, with grateful thanks to Julian Pooley. (Ed.)*

comments made of him by his friends that Nichols was really quite a *bon viveur* – he knew how to live well, was a fine host and excellent company. I'm sure he realised how important good food, wine and conviviality have always been to ensuring success in both business and personal affairs.

Take his household expenses. Both of his wives died young and his eldest daughter, Sarah, took responsibility for his domestic arrangements. Her carefully written annual accounts survive in several volumes of Nichols Family Records. In 1814 her total expenditure was £439.0s.7d, of which £123.2s.0d. had been spent on beer, sherry, brandy, rum and port. In fact, that year £66 had been spent on port alone, in contrast to a mere one pound subscription paid to the Charity for the Indigent Blind. (4) More than a quarter of Nichols' annual household spending had been on booze and, if you type in £123 to the Measuring Worth website, you'll find that, matched against the retail price index, it was the equivalent of over £7,600. (5) This was by no means an unusual year. In 1821 half a pipe of port from Mr Sandeman cost £56.14s.6d. (6) and in 1824 they spent £99. (7) When his son, John Bowyer Nichols, married in 1805 and moved into the dwelling above their printing shop in Red Lion Passage off Fleet Street he noted that the wine cellar contained six dozen bottles of port, two dozen of sherry, a few bottles of Vidonia [dry white wine from Tenerife], 22 gallons of currant, two gallons of brandy, a few bottles of rum and Hollands, a few bottles of sweet wine. (8) No wonder that, in 1784, when Nichols became a common councilman of the City of London, his faithful friend, William Tooke, warned him against excessive indulgence: 'only take care of Alderman Kitchen,' he wrote. 'Eat no turtle soups, no rich ragouts; keep from the feasts of fat things. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is death.' (9)

Nichols needed no such warning. With a strong constitution, he could survive such festivities. His daughter, Sarah, later wrote:

> So well regulated were my dear Father's energies of mind that after dining and passing a social evening with either public or private friends, he would on returning home at 10, 11 or 12 o'clock sit down to his desk with a perfectly clear head, to examine the papers that awaited him, correct proofs if necessary, or make any other arrangements for his compositors to proceed with in the morning. (10)

Nichols was what Samuel Johnson would have called 'a Clubbable man'. He was a member of Johnson's Essex Head Club and also of a monthly dining club of London's leading booksellers, which met at the Shakespeare Tavern in Fleet Street. His account of it in his *Literary Anecdotes* lists its members and notes that their meetings provided 'the germ of many a publication', including Dr Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*. (11) Being in the right place, at the right time and in the right company ensured that Nichols got the contract for printing this landmark work of literary biography and as he did so, his conviviality and desire to please endeared him to Johnson who, living nearby, often invited him round in the evening. (12) After Johnson's death in 1784 Nichols assisted James Boswell with his Life of Johnson and it's clear from Bozzy's letters that he and Nichols got on famously. In March 1789 they bumped into each other 'at a club at the Blenheim Tavern, Bond Street' (13) and in March 1791 Boswell told Edmund Malone that he had 'supped at the London Tavern with the Stewards of the Humane Society and continued till I know not what hour in the morning. John Nichols was joyous to a pitch of baccanalian vivacity.' (14) They agreed to dine together the following Monday, when Boswell recorded in this journal that he had:

> Dined at Mr Deputy John Nichols's, a most hearty City dinner, more solid victuals upon the table than I almost ever saw at a private house. …. A Capital day. I hugged myself in the thought of being so well in the City, … Eat and drank well. Staid the evening; had coffee, tea, Whist, at which I won £1.8. Punch, porter and Sandwiches. Walked home. (15)

A year later, when Boswell's *Life of Johnson* was finally published, he threw a party: 'This day I gave a dinner a kind of feast, two courses and a desert, upon the success of my first edition of Dr Johnson's *Life*' Nichols and his son in law, John Pridden, were both present. We drank "Church and King" "Health and long life to the *Life of Johnson*" – … We did not drink to excess.' (16)

Nichols and Leicestershire

Such conviviality lies behind the successful completion of John Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicestershire*, researched over more than three decades and eventually completed two hundred years ago this year. It was one of the largest of the great Georgian county histories, eventually occupying eight folio volumes containing about four and half thousand pages - roughly calculated at about seven million words. It was a monumental achievement in his time and, two centuries later it remains the foundation for many studies of the history of Leicestershire, its towns and villages, churches and stately homes, people, religious life, local customs and natural history. There is no time this evening to say very much about how a London printer became involved in such an enormous project. For that, I urge you to read Caroline Wessel's splendid publication that marks this bicentenary. (17) Suffice it to say that it was Leicestershire's women who tempted him, its previous historians who provided the core of his materials and its people – especially the local clergy, landowners, solicitors

and fellow antiquaries – who gave him such friendship and support.

Nichols married twice and both ladies came from Leicestershire. Anne Cradock was the daughter of a tailor in the parish of St Clement Danes whose family came from Hinckley. She died in childbirth in 1776 and in 1777 he met another Hinckley girl, Martha Green, who was visiting her relations in Smithfield. He married her in Hinckley church in 1778, but ten years later, she too died from complications associated with pregnancy. Twenty years of married life to these women, with regular visits to the area established ties of kinship with Hinckley and the rest of the county and awakened Nichols' interest in Leicestershire.

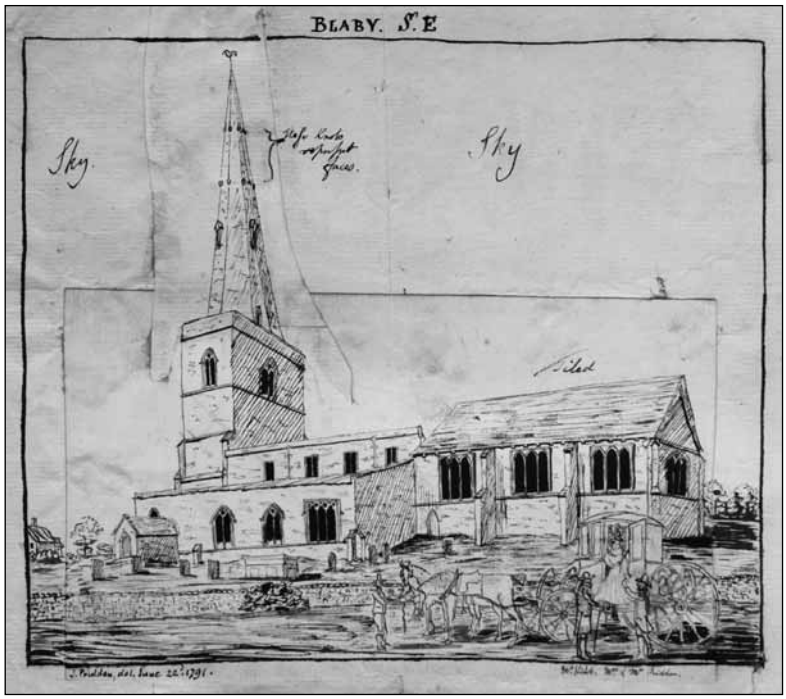
Martha Nichols, John Nichols' second wife, c1780. Oil on canvas. (Reproduced by permission of Leicestershire County Council, Museums Service.)

These ties were significant. Through his marriage to Anne, Nichols became involved in a lawsuit over the inheritance of considerable property. Skilled in textual analysis, Nichols came into his own, using the Hinckley parish registers and epitaphs as well as records at the College of Arms to win the case. It ignited his interest in local history. Nichols's county history of Leicestershire grew out of the fulfilment of a duty to his first wife and became a monument to the memory of the second. As with so many of Nichols' projects, it began in a small way, with *The History and Antiquities of Hinckley* published in 1782. Having established his credentials as a local historian, he followed it up with a circular questionnaire, asking the county's clergy and landowners for local information to augment the research of earlier antiquaries such as William Burton, Richard Farmer, Thomas Carte, Francis Peck, Sir Thomas Cave and John Throsby which he made it his business to locate and acquire.

I'm making this sound very simple, but of course it wasn't. It took years of patient research and applications for access to privately owned manuscripts and rare books; but Nichols had an advantage that other county historians did not have. In 1778, just a year after inheriting Bowyer's printing business, he became the printer and editor of the *Gentleman's Magazine*, a popular monthly periodical read by thousands of eager local historians and genealogists across the country. He used his position as 'Sylvanus Urban,' its pseudonymous editor, to appeal to readers in town and country alike for the information he needed for both Leicestershire and the many other works that he edited or compiled throughout the rest of his life. His pleas for assistance were hidden behind more than forty pseudonyms and so very few of his readers realised that these letters were from Nichols; but they were made in the spirit of friendship, scholarly interest and conviviality that marked his editorship of the magazine just as it marked his friendships with people from all levels of society in London and Leicestershire. It was his personality and engaging enthusiasm as much as his untiring scholarship that ensured the success of his county history.

Each year Nichols travelled to Leicestershire to visit family and friends and explore the county for himself. His annotated copy of Bowen's map of Leicestershire is preserved in his own copy of the county history in Leicestershire Record Office. Using my database of Nichols letters, the diaries of his son, John Bowyer Nichols who often accompanied him and the work of the late Alan Broadfield, I've managed to identify nearly fifty visits Nichols made to the county between 1785 and 1815 but I'm sure there were more. Some years, particularly in the 1790s when he was most occupied with the work, he visited Leicestershire several times, often with his son in law, John Pridden who was a keen artist and antiquary. Many of his sketches are preserved in Nichols' personal copy of the county history. You can see them in Caroline's book: they provide an extraordinary glimpse of a local historian actually at work because Pridden included Nichols and his family in some of his sketches. You might call them an early antiquarian 'selfie' and a testament to Nichols' warm humanity. I don't know of any other county historian who we can glimpse at work in this way.

Nichols usually made Hinckley his base, staying with the Green family and storing some of his papers in a room above the kitchen of his relation, Mrs Iliffe. When he travelled further afield, he would stay with Joseph Cradock at Gumley, Earl Ferrers at Staunton Harold, or the Herrick family at Beaumanor. Though Nichols was really 'just a printer,' - a tradesman - his interests, enthusiasm and sheer good company broke through social barriers. In August 1800 he and John Herrick travelled together to Loughborough, Dishley, Hathern, Long Whatton and Langley where they



Pridden's original sketch for the Blaby church engraving from Nichols' own 'Grangerized' copy of History of Leicestershire, vol. IV, part i, p.53. His handwritten names (bottom right) identify the three people. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

enjoyed sandwiches, wine, and tasted the sulphurous Langley water. That evening they feasted on pike with Lord Ferrers at Staunton, returning to Beaumanor at 1.30 in the morning, rousing the house by hammering at the door. (18)

Alongside his research in London and Leicestershire, Nichols could draw upon an enormous network of correspondents who could lend him rare books and manuscripts, negotiate access to private collections, correct his pedigrees and check his proof sheets as the work passed through the press. I think it is hard to over-emphasise the importance of this network in the eventual completion and success of the work. His correspondence chronicles the production of the *History of Leicestershire* and explains its success and lasting value. As a printer, Nichols the historian could print materials as they came to hand, refining them through a robust framework of peer-review. To be a correspondent of John Nichols or even of the *Gentleman's Magazine* was also to be a corrector of his press and collaborator in his research. This is highlighted by a comparison between Owen Manning and William Bray's *History of Surrey* and Nichols' *History of Leicestershire* which he printed at the same time. I've used the Nichols papers and the archive of Manning and Bray, now split between the Bodleian Library and Surrey History Centre, to identify those who assisted them – there are barely half a dozen of them. (19) The same exercise has so far identified 270 people who helped with the *History of Leicestershire* - and my research is not complete. This extraordinary contrast helps to explain how he managed to complete a task which would have defeated other men and also raises the question of how far Nichols should be credited as the author of the *History of Leicestershire*. Perhaps we should see him as compiler who utilized his skills as a magazine editor and printer to ensure the success of his work.

Again, you can see this through his friendly and yet persuasive correspondence. John Herrick of Beaumanor first wrote to Nichols in 1791, telling him that his family had lived in the county for centuries and that he had a chest full of papers for him to see. (20) Over the next decade, Herrick provided crucial help, giving Nichols free access to his records, regularly allowing him to make Beaumanor his headquarters and even travelling beyond his estates to check epitaphs and registers in neighbouring parishes. All of this is chronicled in their correspondence, extending to nearly 100 letters, now split between the Bodleian Library and Yale University. Rebuilding the original order on the Nichols Archive allows us to listen in to their conversation, follow their research and watch the growth of a friendship between the two families that would last for nearly a century.

William Hamper of Birmingham was typical of the local historians who were caught in Nichols' web. He regularly contributed to the *Gentleman's Magazine* and his knowledge of manuscripts and topography proved essential to Nichols' project; but what Nichols must have valued most was the personal warmth and humour of his letters. In 1811 Hamper told him that 'Your perseverance is astonishing to those only who have not the pleasure of being acquainted with you, for what is laborious exertion in other men is merely agreeable amusement to Mr Nichols'. In a later letter to their mutual friend, Samuel Pipe Wolferstan of Statfold, he noted that 'certain warm headed people are apt to imagine that the undertaking of a county history is an affair of but little more labour … than scribbling a Gentleman's Tour or arranging an auctioneer's advertisement. [to such folks] Musty parchments and tedious pedigrees … are objects of aversion … though you and I know these articles to be the very nerves, sinews and vitality of local history.' (21)

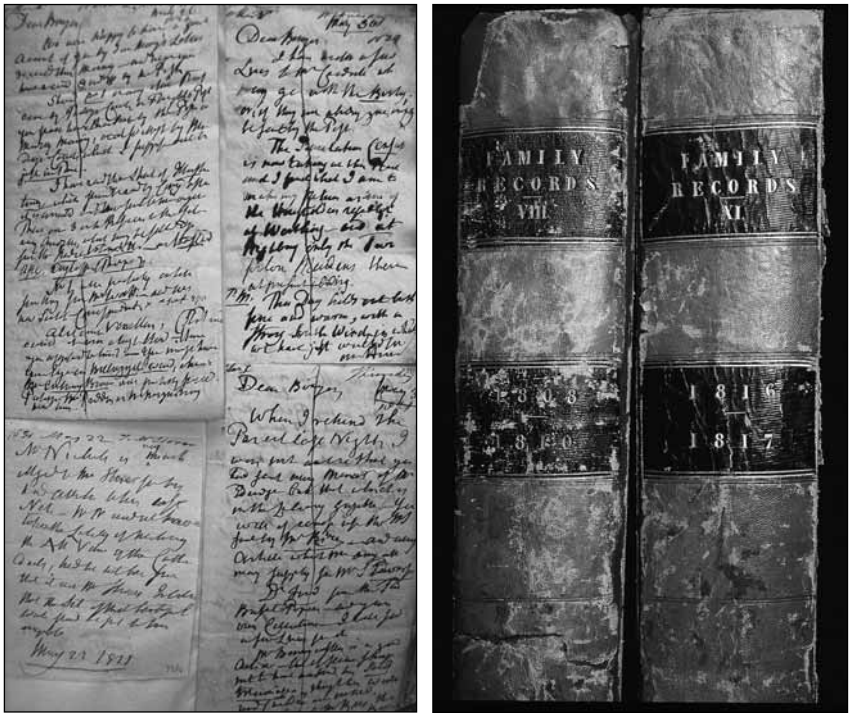
Support from friends like this must have helped Nichols through some pretty dark days. Alongside the sheer logistical challenge of research, writing and revising proof sheets of material contributed by more than 270 contributors and running one of London's largest printing houses, Nichols also faced two major setbacks that might have beaten other county historians. In January 1807 he broke his thigh in a fall in the printing house, which confined him to bed for several months and left him physically frail for the rest of his life and the following year his printing house and

warehouse were destroyed in a catastrophic fire. He lost £30,000 of stock and equipment (about £1¼ million today), the entire stock of the *Gentleman's Magazine* from 1783, several county histories then in the press and 300 of the 500 copies of *Leicestershire* in his warehouse, plus nearly all the copies of the completed but not distributed volume on Guthlaxton. His losses on these volumes alone came to £5000. (22)

That Nichols completed the project after such a setback is as much a tribute to the strength of his friendships across Leicestershire as it is to his own resolve. The initiative was taken by Walter Ruding of Westcotes who rallied support at the Leicester races in September and offered to increase his subscription for the Sparkenhoe volume from two to five guineas. (23) A letter was printed in the *Leicester Journal* and the support it received enabled Nichols to complete the work.

Nichols later admitted to Lord Ferrers that if he had foreseen the infinite labour attached to a county history, empires should not have tempted him to have begun it. 'The task has indeed been laborious, [he wrote to John Homfray of Great Yarmouth] and its termination as to profit unfortunate, but the friendships formed in its progress much relieved the taedium of it, and … now constitute my reward.' (24) He was showered with tributes. James Knight Moor of Sapcote described it as the 'most perfect provincial history at present extant' (25) and Joseph Budworth described it as – 'a work founded on such stout antiquarian knowledge and research, sound sense, and indefatigable labour that, besides the *depth* of Leicestershire being explored, there is scarcely a county unmentioned, and whose historians must not reap advantage from it. (26) Local and national historians have continued to reap advantage from it ever since, but what makes Nichols' county history stand apart from the others? The fact is, as Nichols must have realised, that writing a county history was simply too much for one man. The founding father himself, John Leland, had gone mad; Sampson Erdeswick of Staffordshire was described a 'being often-times crazed, especially in his last days', (27) Benjamin Hutchinson researched Huntingdonshire for thirty years before insanity killed him in 1804 and both Edward Hasted of Kent and George Lipscomb of Buckinghamshire wrote part of their histories in debtors' prisons. With Leicestershire, Nichols spread the load, drawing upon a national network of local experts. He drew on his experience of working to the tight printing deadlines demanded by his parliamentary contracts and the relentless monthly numbers of the *Gentleman's Magazine* to set his information in type and get it peer reviewed by the right people in good time.

We owe him an incalculable debt. From the *Victoria County History* to the pages of countless local publications and indeed websites, Nichols is cited as the authority for an extraordinary range of studies relating to Leicestershire and its people. The *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* cites his county history in 128 articles. So I wonder what Nichols might have thought of local and family history today, when we have online resources such as Ancestry, Find My Past, ODNB and Google Books at our fingertips - and the speed of communication afforded by email, texts, Facebook and Twitter. I'd like to think that as one of the period's greatest communicators he would have embraced them and maximised their potential not only to crowd-source his county history to an even greater extent, but also to ensure that the materials he used were digitised and made as widely accessible as possible; but I also think that he would have urged anyone undertaking family or local historical research to remember to turn off the computer and get out to visit each village, walk the boundaries, explore the churches, meet like-minded researchers in societies like this and also consult the original documents now preserved in the county record office and experience for themselves the thrill of handling historical materials.



Letters from John Nichols to his family and friends, sent while he was away from home, and now preserved in the Nicholses' Family Records, two volumes of which, currently in private hands, are shown here. (Reproduced by permission of the author.)

But where do I fit in to all of this? Those of you who heard my talk to this Society last year will remember that I came to Nichols by chance, having discovered a diary in a bookshop that I later found had been written by his granddaughter, Mary Anne Nichols. You'll know that research into this diary led me to the huge collections of Nichols papers that now survive in about 80 libraries on both sides of the Atlantic and that further research – backed up by serendipity and a lot of good luck – led me to discover thousands more Nichols papers in private hands. (28) For the past twenty years or so I've been engaged upon a project to identify and calendar all of this amazing material onto a database to provide an analytical guide to this important archive and allow scholars to rebuild Nichols' many conversations with family, clients and friends. I could not ever have begun this or achieved what I have without the continuing interest, support, hospitality, good-will and firm friendship of the Nichols family today. The idea for my Project was formed over a splendid lunch, fine wine and conversation around the kitchen table with Francis Nichols in about 1995 and I have remained in regular contact with him and with other branches of the family ever since. Sadly, Francis is unable to be with us this evening, but many other members of the Nichols family are, and I would like to finish by recording my heartfelt thanks to them all for continuing the warm tradition of welcome, conviviality and friendship established by their common ancestor, John Nichols, historian of Leicestershire, two centuries ago.

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26. John Nichols, *Literary Anecdotes of the Eighteenth Century*, vol. 9, (London, 1815), p.156.

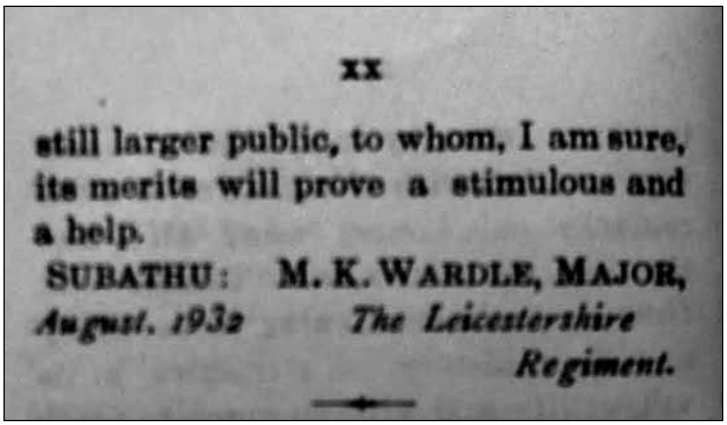
27. Anthony Wood, *Athenae Oxoniensis*, vol. 1, (London, 1691), p.155.

28. See Julian Pooley, 'The Papers of the Nichols Family and Business: New Discoveries and the Work of the Nichols Archive Project', *The Library* Seventh Series, 2 No. 1 (March 2001), 10-52. The Nichols Archive Database and the transcripts and research documents linked to it are accessible by prior appointment with me at Surrey History Centre in Woking. Regular updates of news and progress are also posted on the Project's pages hosted by the Centre for English Local History at the University of Leicester: http://www2.le.ac.uk/centres/elh/research/project/nichols/the-nichols-archive-project

'I am that Toad' Serendipity, Subathu and The Tigers: A brief record of Colonel Mark Kingsley Wardle

David Howell

'Serendipity' might not seem to have much application in military affairs, but it can pollinate ideas as the author of this article found whilst browsing in an antiquarian bookshop in Clarendon Park, Leicester. The owner of the business asked me 'Is this of any interest?' and passed me a small brown cloth-bound book. It was entitled *Saihgal's Hindustani Manual Revised (1945) Edition*, published by M. C. Saihgal & Son, Subathu: Simla Hills, and printed at the Karmyogi Press in Allahabad. (1) My initial response was 'not really', but as I continued to browse the pages, I was mystified and intrigued by the Preface which consisted of five pages written and signed off by M. K. Wardle, Major, the Leicestershire Regiment, Subathu, August 1932. Why had a British Army Officer written the Preface to a Hindustani Grammar? The book had found a home.



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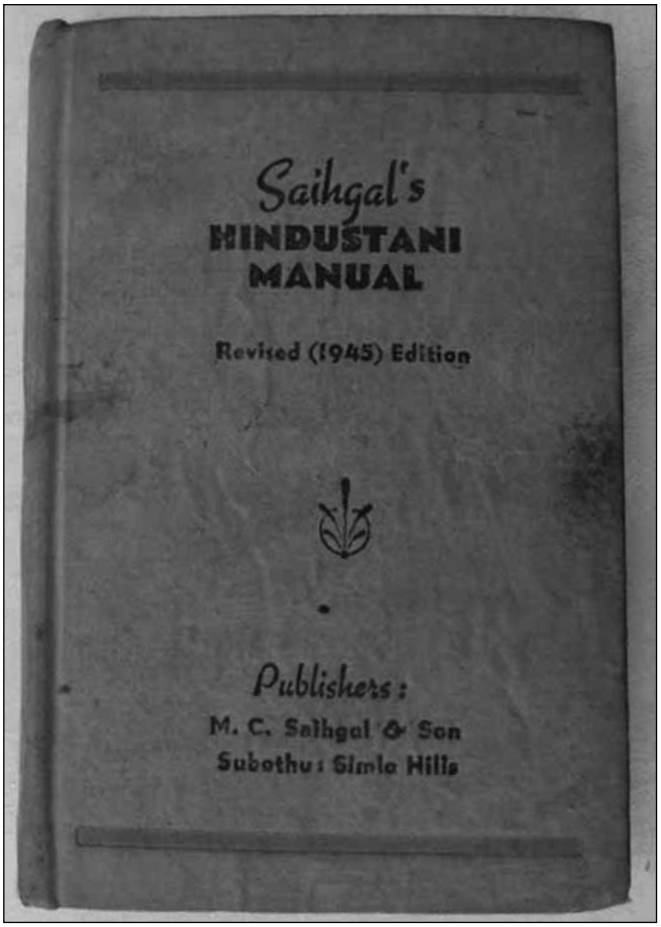
still larger public, to whom, I am sure, its merits will prove a stimulous and a help.

SUBATHU: M. K. WARDLE, MAJOR,
August, 1932 *The Leicestershire Regiment.*

Major M. K. Wardle's sign off of the preface to the 1945 edition of Saihgal's Hindustani Manual.



Saihgal's Hindustani Manual, revised (1945) edition.

The Leicestershire Regiment had a long connection with India, having been formed in 1688 by Colonel Solomon Richards. By 1713 it was assigned the seniority of the 17th Infantry Regiment, and in 1751 it became the 17th Regiment of Foot. The Regiment's history in India commenced when they were posted there in 1804, remaining until 1823 and fighting in several engagements: Bundelkund 1807, The Sutlej 1808, Nepal 1813, and Nagpore 1817. In 1825 King George IV awarded the Regiment the badge of the Royal Tiger superscribed" Hindoostan", as a lasting testimony to what the British government at the time considered the Regiment's exemplary conduct in India from 1804 to 1823. The Regiment returned to India in 1836, being awarded Battle Honours which include Ghuznee (1839), Khelat (1839), Afghanistan (1839), Ali Masjid (1878), and Afghanistan (1878).

By 1881 when the Regiment was renamed 'The Leicestershire Regiment', it comprised two Regular battalions, one Volunteer and one Militia battalion, and had its headquarters at Glen Parva Barracks, South Wigston, Leicestershire. Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions were in India in the 1880s and served there at various times until 1947. Granted the 'Royal' prefix in 1946, the Regiment was amalgamated with The Royal Anglian Regiment in 1964. The Royal Tiger, the last visible vestige of the 17th Regiment of Foot, remains now only on the uniform buttons of the Royal Anglian Regiment, and the Royal Leicestershire Regiment's heritage is carried forward in B

(Leicestershire) Company 2nd Battalion, and No 2 (Leicestershire and Lincolnshire) Company 3rd Battalion, of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

Mark Kingsley Wardle was born on 17th February 1888 in Bishops Auckland, Co. Durham, and was initially appointed 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th (Militia) Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry. On 13th October 1909 he was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant into the 2nd Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment (Army Service number 512) and promoted to Lieutenant on 25th October 1911.

The Regimental History records that on the outbreak of World War I, Lieutenant M. K. Wardle was in India, and left Karachi in September 1914 with nine other officers and 417 men and arrived in Marseilles on 12th October 1914. He fought with his Regiment during World War I, being wounded three times. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1917, the Distinguished Service Order (for conspicuous gallantry) and a Mention in Despatches in 1918.

D.S.O. FOR "TIGERS' " OFFICER

In a supplement to the "London Gazette", it was announced that Capt. Mark Wardle Kingsley, M.C. Leicestershire Rgt., has been awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. By a daring reconnaissance during a withdrawal he located the exact extent of a gap between our troops, and ascertained the position, strength and movement of the enemy. His report was of the utmost value to the brigade commander and to the High Command. All through the operations he displayed great courage and ent[h]usiasm.

The Green Tiger, 1918, p.174.

Promoted Captain on 13th February 1915 he also served on the General Staff between June 1916 and July 1917. After the war, he was a Staff Captain in the Home Forces from 15th October 1919 to 31st January 1920.

It is at this point that a glimmer of light appears to shine on the puzzle of the Hindustani Manual's preface. Wardle was posted to The French Military School, Ecole Speciale Militaire at St Cyr Morbihan, Brittany, as an Instructor in English and remained here from 2nd November 1920 to 30th September 1923, and in June 1921 had qualified as a French Interpreter 2nd class. Clearly Captain Wardle had an aptitude for languages.

He was appointed Adjutant of the City of London Regiment TA from 11th November 1924 until 15th August 1928, and promoted to Major in the Leicestershire Regiment the following day. Wardle at some time prior to 1929 joined the 1st Battalion of his Regiment and was at Sabathu in August 1932 where he made the acquaintance of Moolchand Saighal, a Munshi (2), at the School of Instruction for Officers, Sabathu.

This is also probably where Wardle wrote *Foundations of Soldiering: a new study of regimental soldiering in the British Army*, a book of 181 pages which was to be published by Gale & Polden, Aldershot.

The School of Instruction for Officers was formed in 1917 as a result of a suggestion from The War Office to the Commander-in-Chief India. (3) The school's purpose was to train 150 young officers as Company Commanders once they had been with British Regiments in India for at least three months. Each course would last two months and the cost was to be borne by the Imperial Government. Fifty Reserve Officers would also attend but only for one month. All officers attending the course were to be armed and equipped as 'private soldiers'.

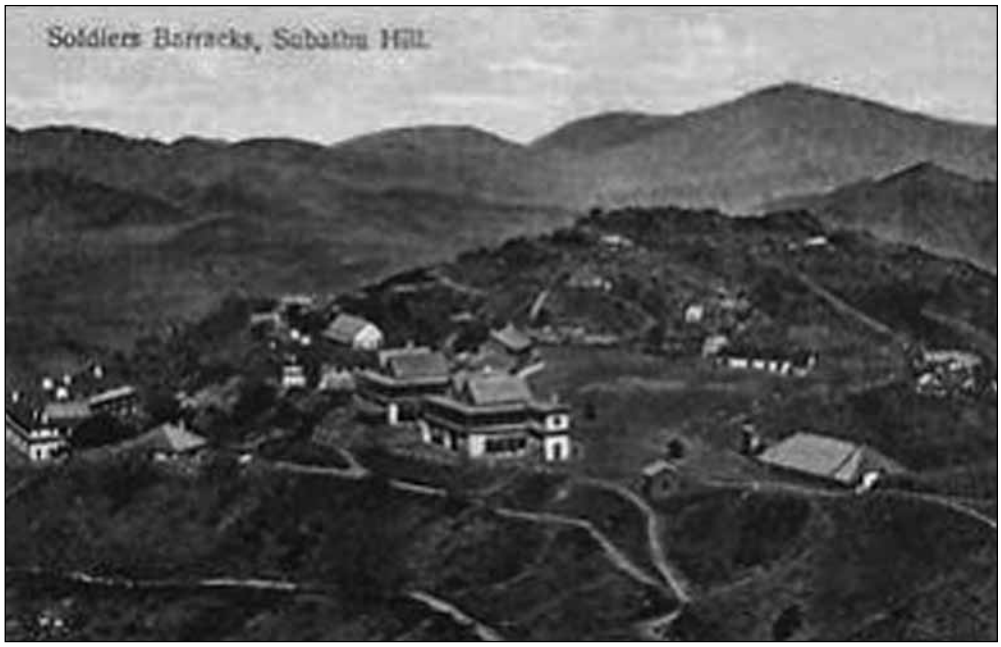
The mess arrangements were similar to those of a regimental mess with an additional grant of 750 Rupees as an initial foundation for book purchases towards a library and the stationery to be purchased at '150 Rs per mensem'. During the summer, the school would be at Sabathu near to Simla, relocating to Amballa 160 miles to the south in winter. The School Commandant would be an Indian Army Officer of 'appropriate rank'

Saihgal's Hindustani Manual has several pages of laudatory comments, five of which are from British Officers in the Army Educational Corps and one from the Secretary to The Board of Examiners in Languages, Lt. Col. C. A. Boyle. In

The School Commandant had an establishment of staff of:

2 X Company Commanders
Adjutant
6 X Platoon Commanders
9 X Sergeant Instructors
Quarter Master Sergeant
Physical Training Instructor
Religious Education Instructor
Corporal, 2 X Privates
2 X Clerks
2 X Buglers
14 X Bhisties (water carriers)
6 X Sweepers
6 X Latrine Sweepers, and Bildar (night soil).

There was also a Regimental Munshi at the School.



Early twentieth century postcard titled 'Soldiers Barracks, Sabathu Hill'.

the Preface, Wardle queries whether he is the most competent person to write it but believes that he has one qualification that *may commend itself to the reader*. He has *worked at the language* using an edition of the book as his proof copy and has first-hand knowledge of how *it will strike, not the expert but the student who will work with it.* He continues:

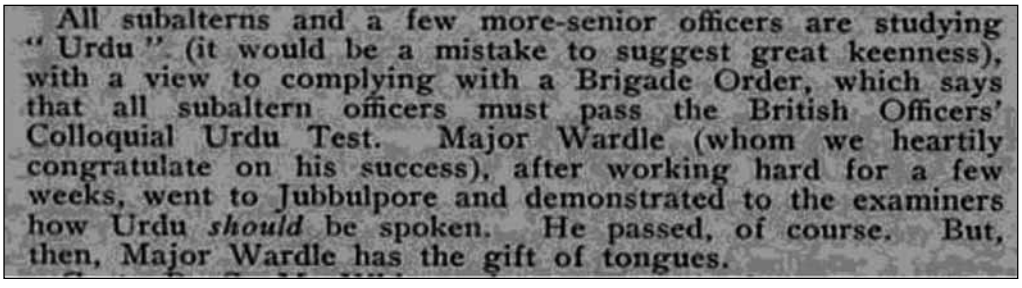
> *The toad beneath the harrow knows more about its own difficulties than does the farmer that 'larns it to be a toad': I am that toad: but for some years I had to teach a language to foreign cadets so that I have also some familiarity with the teacher's requirements. (4)*

Wardle also makes a plea for all British Other Ranks and Officers to learn Hindustani, *... and that a special obligation is upon all Englishmen who live in India to achieve an understanding of the ... language*. (5)

Major Wardle's affinity for languages included Hindustani and Urdu, in addition to an empathy for soldiers studying the language and a desire for all military personnel to reach a good standard of vocabulary and grammar. An article in the 1929 Regimental Journal provides a further clue about his aptitude with languages – 'the gift of tongues', as the Journal points out.

Wardle was stationed in Mooltan by 1933, and at Jubbulpore in 1935. In 1936, he left India for a posting as Second in Command of the 2nd Battalion at Derry-Londonderry, Northern Ireland. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel of the Leicestershire Regiment in 1937 with the Battalion then in Aldershot. Wardle was present at the Grand Hotel Leicester for the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the 17th Regiment of Foot, and a caricature cartoon by 'Mel' of the Officers and guests at the dinner is in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.

In August 1938 Wardle was sent to Palestine as the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion of the Leicestershire Regiment, and Military Commander of Acre sub-district. On 8th May 1940 he retired on half pay and fully retired from the Regiment on 8th November 1940. He was then given a Staff Appointment in the North of England as Colonel in the Home Guard. He was granted the Honorary rank of Colonel on 10th June 1945, when aged 57 years.


All subalterns and a few more-senior officers are studying "Urdu" (it would be a mistake to suggest great keenness), with a view to complying with a Brigade Order, which says that all subaltern officers must pass the British Officers' Colloquial Urdu Test. Major Wardle (whom we heartily congratulate on his success), after working hard for a few weeks, went to Jubbulpore and demonstrated to the examiners how Urdu *should* be spoken. He passed, of course. But, then, Major Wardle has the gift of tongues.

Major Wardle's 'gift of tongues' is noted in the Regimental Journal of 1929.

He married Isla Mary Wilder of Stansted Park, Sussex in 1917 and they had two sons and a daughter Susan who was born in Kasuli in 1932. His elder son Michael Mark Wardle born in 1917 was also commissioned into The Leicestershire Regiment.

Colonel Mark Kingsley Wardle died at Woking, Surrey in 1977, aged 89 years. His medals and decorations are not held in The Royal Leicestershire Regimental Museum and their whereabouts are unknown.

Mark Kingsley Wardle. (Reproduced by courtesy of The Royal Leicestershire Regiment.)

India's Independence in 1947 and the Partition of India and Pakistan made the necessity of a Hindustani Grammar for British military personnel gradually superfluous. Editions were still being published, however, up to 1955. During operations in Iraq in 2006 the British Army was keen to train troops in the Arabic language and cultural issues in order to improve trust and avoid misunderstanding and confusion. Major Wardle's advice in the Language Manual of 1932 still had relevance seventy years on.

References and Notes:

1. *Saihgal's Hindustani Manual* was a well-known language course book for British Officers during The British Raj. First published in 1917, it passed through many editions until Independence. Its primary aim was to enable Officers to pass the required language examinations, and to encourage Officers and Other Ranks to be able to communicate with the Indian soldiers (sepoys) and population.
2. Munshi. The term munshi or moonshee derives from the Arabic word for writer, reader or secretary, and came to be used also to describe a teacher (*i.e.* of languages).
3. The British Library, Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections IOR/L/MIL/7/18381 1917-1919. Correspondence in this file suggests that the School of Instruction for Officers was formed and commenced in 1917 without the knowledge of the India Office, Whitehall. A letter dated 22nd May 1917 from Lt. Gen. H. Cox advises that the Secretary of State for India had not been informed of the School's formation but had no wish to prevent its continuance. Images of the School at Sabathu & Ambala, 1917-1919, can be found at: gillww1.wordpress.com
4. The expression or proverbial phrase 'The Toad Beneath the Harrow' can be traced back to the thirteenth century to describe a 'sufferer'. Rudyard Kipling used the phrase in his poem *Pagett M P* (1886).
5. The disinclination of some British Officers to fully learn the language, or empathise with the culture of the Indian sepoy and to ignore their professional grievances, created a fertile ground for the seeds of insurrection.

Sources and acknowledgements:

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Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland: DE3736/2189, DE8244/2/5.
Katherine Phillips, Librarian, Imperial War Museum: K80/3663-2.
The National Archives, Kew.
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment Museum, Newarke Houses , Leicester.
The Royal Leicestershire Regiment web site Have you a Tiger in your Family
http://www.royalleicestershireregiment.org.uk/have-you-a-tiger/record/61279/
Families in British India Society.
Colonel (retired) Michael Goldschmidt formerly The Royal Anglian Regiment.
Clarendon Books, Leicester.

‘This land belongs to all of us’ Unemployment and the Leicester Landgrabbers, 1909

Cynthia Brown

Landgrabbers at No. 1 Camp, Walnut Street. (From a copy of a postcard loaned to the author.)

In November 1909 a group of unemployed men calling themselves ‘Landgrabbers’ occupied three areas of vacant land owned by the Borough Council in Leicester at Walnut Street, Sawday Street and Knighton Fields Road East, with the intention of founding ‘colonies’ on them: of cultivating the land and supporting themselves from what they could produce. Their protest was short-lived and failed to achieve their objectives, but it is revealing in terms of attitudes to unemployment in the Edwardian period and the limited means available for its relief. Arguably, it also offers some interesting insights into the nature of the Labour Party in Leicester following the election of Ramsay MacDonald as one of its MPs in 1906.

Many of the unemployed in Leicester in the early twentieth century were skilled men whose situation could not be dismissed in terms of a failure to be sober, industrious and self-reliant. The substitution of machinery for hand labour, particularly in the footwear industry, was a major factor in their plight. Leicester had ‘suffered more acutely than any other district by rapid introduction of labour saving machinery’, while the displacement of male by female labour was said to be another cause of ‘great distress’, encouraged by the adoption of lighter machinery. (1) The long-term unemployment that resulted from these changes was very different from the short-term ‘boom and bust’ cycles that characterised the hosiery and footwear industries, but it proved very difficult to address within the framework of government powers.

Charity remained an important source of relief for the ‘deserving’ poor, including the Mayor’s Unemployed Fund on which the Leicester Trades Council was represented. (2) Emigration to the colonies was also encouraged as a solution, reinforced by the many advertisements for ‘free land’ and a new life carried by local newspapers at this time. However, as the Liberal Alderman Edward Wood observed in 1905, charity had been ‘tried before’, and although emigration was a ‘useful factor… it was only the most able of our citizens that went abroad’. Relief was also available through the Poor Law, but so persistent was the stigma attached to it that: ‘Next to being sent to prison, the worst calamity that could befall a man was to be compelled to go to the workhouse’. (3)

While holding to the view that the Poor Law itself encouraged pauperism by ‘helping the drunkard and chronic loafer who wastes his earnings, neglects his family, and is devoid of all sense of parental or civic responsibility’, another Liberal member of the Council, Ald. Thomas Smith, also acknowledged that it ‘discouraged the industrious artisan, who through no fault of his own has become temporarily unemployed, and declines to accept help under conditions that destroy his manhood and disenfranchise him’. (4) Recipients of poor relief had their names removed from the electoral register for a year, and were also subject to a ‘Labour Test’ for relief outside the workhouse. This required them to carry out a 'task of work' each day to demonstrate that they were genuinely in need, often

consisting of work such as wood-chopping that was meaningless and unproductive in itself, so as not to compete with local industries.

The work provided by local authorities in Leicester otherwise consisted of the laying out or cultivation of land owned by the Poor Law Board or Borough Council - heavy work to which men used to working in hosiery or footwear manufacture were often ill-suited. The Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905 - the year in which around 500 unemployed footwear workers had marched from Leicester to London to petition the King (5) - went some way to extend the powers of local councils, enabling them to set up Distress Committees and provide temporary work 'of actual and substantial utility' for up to 16 weeks in one year. By 1908, however, when the Labour Party promoted a new Unemployed Workmen Bill in Parliament, it was generally acknowledged to be inadequate. One MP declared that 'the present position is impossible', quoting the opinion of a Distress Committee that it had 'altogether failed to benefit the class of persons specially aimed at'. (6) According to a petition from the unemployed to the Borough Council in Leicester in October 1909, around half of the 1461 men currently on the Distress Committee register had been on it since the beginning, and were permanently dependent on the Committee for work. (7)

The Pioneer's *response to the request from Mayor Charles Lakin in 1908 for ideas about how to deal with unemployment,* Leicester Pioneer*, 28th November 1908. (With thanks to Ned Newitt.)*

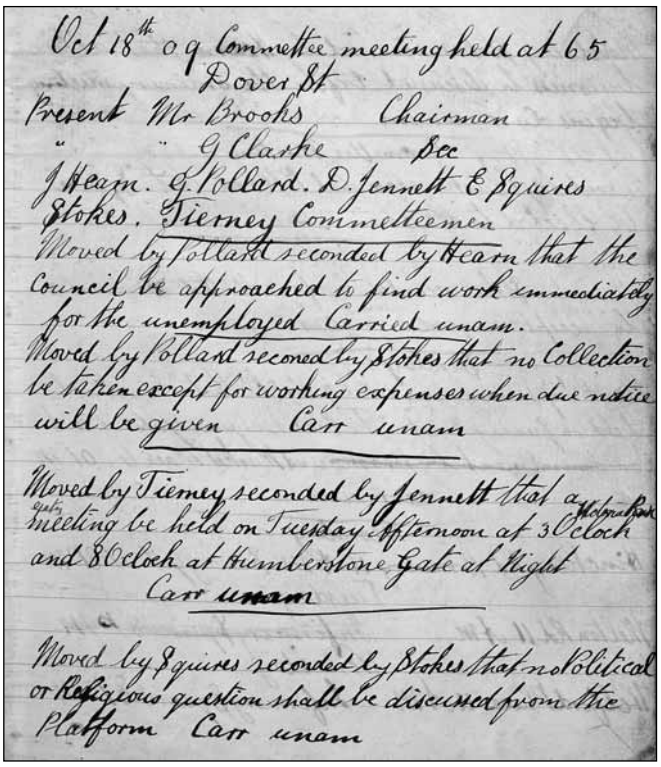
'Back to the land' schemes were one of the other remedies for unemployment favoured at this time. Both Ald. Wood and Ald. Smith were among their advocates, along with Ramsay MacDonald himself, whose 1906 election address included assistance to 'get back on the land… [for those who] desire this'. (8) The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 enabled local authorities to provide plots for cultivation as a means of individual or family self support, but land, farm or labour 'colonies' were also promoted as a remedy for unemployment on a larger scale – not least in sorting the 'loafers' from those who genuinely wanted to work. The land, Ald. Smith said in 1905: 'is not cultivated up to its highest capacity… its cultivation is healthy, stimulating, educational, generally restores lost efficiency, and will find work for the unemployed without largely coming into competition with other labour'. (9)

A conference at the Town Hall in December that year had considered a proposal for one such colony to 'assist the Distress Committee to carry out its duties', but it had still to materialise by November 1909 when the Leicester Landgrabbers took matters into their own hands. The first meeting of the No. 1 Landgrabber Camp Organising Committee took place at 65 Dover Street on 7th November 1909, when it voted to 'empower the unemployed to proceed to the Corporation and obtain tools, agricultural implements etc. for the purpose of erecting shelters and cultivating vacant land' [sic]. (10) It was not an isolated campaign however, but one in a series of 'land-grabbing' episodes across the country since 1906. In July of that year Landgrabbers took possession of glebe land at Holy Trinity Church in Hulme, Manchester and established a 'Pioneer Camp' there. Their eviction in August that year, reputedly accompanied by the 'ruthless destruction of the camp and clearance of the crops', led to them 'uttering fiery denunciations' against the Rector, Rev. Henry A. Hudson, and accusations of 'Church against the People'. (11)

In the same month Landgrabbers at Plaistow in West Ham established the 'Triangle Camp', and reportedly set about cultivating it 'with a will… instead of the 14 who were digging Friday there were 30 on Saturday… they had arranged for cabbage-plants to be sent to them, and these would be planted in the land… [which] had already been cleared and marked off'. (12) Towards the end of the month, West Ham Town Council voted to take steps to recover possession of the land, a decision that caused 'intense excitement in the neighbourhood… more than 3000 people gathered… and bade defiance to the authorities…'. (13) At the end of August 1906 a small group of men, described as 'professedly unemployed', also occupied land acquired by the Corporation in Liverpool for a public recreation ground. Meeting at midnight, they 'erected their tent in the moonlight, and yesterday commenced digging'. (14)

'The Leicester unemployed have followed the example of their unfortunate brothers in Manchester and other parts of the country', the *Leicester Chronicle* reported in November 1909:

> ... and have seized a piece of land with the intention of founding a colony on it. The land in question adjoins Walnut-street, and belongs to the Corporation. For some considerable time past the unemployed of the town have felt that if their demands for work were to have any effect, their protests must take a much more concrete form than hitherto. They contend that the land belongs to the townspeople, inasmuchas it is the property of the Corporation, and they make no secret of their ideas on this matter, for on a post they have nailed a placard with the following inscription: "Whose land is this? This land belongs to all of us". (15)



Oct 18th 09 Committee meeting held at 65 Dover St
Present Mr Brooks Chairman
" " G Clarke Sec
J Hearn. G Pollard. D Jennett & Squires
Stokes. Tierney Committeemen
Moved by Pollard seconded by Hearn that the Council be approached to find work immediately for the unemployed Carried unam.
Moved by Pollard seconded by Stokes that no Collection be taken except for working expenses when due notice will be given Carr unam

Moved by Tierney seconded by Jennett that a Platform quiet meeting be held on Tuesday Afternoon at 3 Oclock and 8 Oclock at Humberstone Gate at Night
Carr unam

Moved by Squires seconded by Stokes that no Political or Religious question shall be discussed from the Platform Carr unam

Record of the first meeting of the Organising Committee of No. 1 Camp Landgrabbers, Walnut Street. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, location mark MISC 118.)

The timing of their action was significant. For some years the Independent Labour Party in Leicester had been gaining ground on the Liberals on both the Borough Council and the Poor Law Board. In 1902 it had two seats on each body, increasing its representation on the Council to 11 in 1906 and to 16 on the Board of Guardians in 1907. Labour members of the Council at this time included Ald. George Banton, a former President of the Leicester Trades Council, Cllr. Amos Sherriff, one of the leaders of the march of unemployed footwear workers to London in 1905, and Cllr. J. K. Kelly, who was also a Poor Law Guardian. Three more seats were gained from the Liberals in the municipal elections early in November 1909, giving Labour 12 in total, alongside the Conservatives with 19 and the Liberals with 25. (16) The relief of unemployment was one of the issues central to its claim to be the only party to truly represent the working man; but if the Landgrabbers had expected to secure concessions from the Council as a result, they were to be disappointed.

When the Council was asked to receive a deputation, one Liberal Councillor, John Hurley, asked: 'What party do they belong to? ... I think we know the legitimate portion of the unemployed and the Labour Party, and I don't know that the Labour Party, as we know them, recognise them'. (17) There was a perception that their actions had been orchestrated by outside 'agitators', notably the Manchester-based activist Stewart Gray, who had abandoned a successful career as a lawyer in Edinburgh to campaign against unemployment and poverty. Described as 'one of the most picturesque figures among the great army of England's unemployed', in February 1908 he had embarked on a fast outside Windsor Castle, after an unsuccessful appeal to the King for permission for a group of unemployed men to cultivate part of Windsor Great Park'. (18) He was in Leicester at the time of the Landgrabbers' campaign, but the Labour newspaper, the *Leicester Pioneer*, concluded after interviewing him that he was 'by no means a noisy agitator making a living by stirring up strife... he is genuinely stirred with a desire to bring the people back to the land… Tall and distinguished-looking… with long hanging hair... there is nothing of the poseur about Mr. Gray… he is merely a generation before his time.' (19)

The Council, however, refused to admit him, and the Landgrabbers' case was put by Dennis Jennett, the son of a professional boxer, who was Organising Secretary for No. 2 Camp at Sawday Street. According to the *Pioneer*, Jennett had been displaced from his employment, in which he had earned 35s. a week, by a man paid 20s. a week who had volunteered to take his place for 28s. Offered the alternative of accepting a reduction to 30s. or leaving, he 'preferred to go'; but he had been unable to find other employment and 'was reduced to applying to the labour test'. (20) After establishing his credentials as a 'Leicester man', he said:

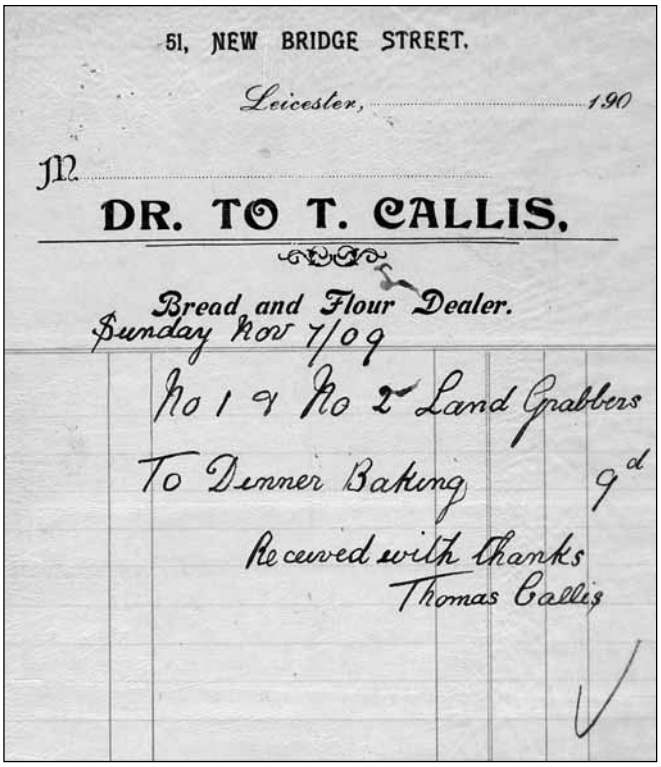
> He would rather go to the House of Correction than to the Workhouse, for at the House of Correction one was treated as a man. As a protest, the men had made up their minds that they would not go to the Workhouse, or register their names at the Distress Committee, knowing how hopeless their case was. The unemployed had come to the conclusion that the only way to solve the unemployed problem was to solve it themselves... The speaker described the labour test as an abominable and degrading system... he wished to remind them that while the grass was growing the horse was starving. The men were not clamouring for themselves, but for their wives and children. "I want to live", continued Jennett, "I don't want to die by slow starvation... I am not going to die by slow starvation; I am speaking for other men who have no spirit"... (21)

The Mayor, the Conservative Cllr. Chitham, replied that 'he had no doubt that the Council would take what steps they could to arrive at some conclusion with a view to helping the men in some form or another...'. There the exchange ended. However, it did agree to hold a meeting of the Open Spaces Sub-Committee of the Distress Committee to consider the Landgrabbers' position. (22)

The police kept a 'watchful eye' on the camps, but by contrast with local authorities elsewhere, the Council made no attempt to reclaim its land. Its restraint no doubt owed something to the degree of public sympathy and practical support the Landgrabbers had attracted, some of it recorded in the *Minute Book* of the No. 1 Camp. This lists donations of food including 15 loaves from Frears bakers; three plum cakes from Mr Sampson of Havelock Street; a leg of mutton from Mrs Hensman of New Bridge Street; 2lb tea and 12 tins of meat from Mr Barrs of High Street; and 30 bloaters from 'A Friend'. The men also raised money through collections and the sale of postcards and pamphlets, including *The Political House that Jack Built*, the parody of the popular nursery rhyme written after the Peterloo Massacre in 1819. (23)

Dennis Jennett. In the early 1920s Jennett was active in the Islington Unemployed Council. He is pictured here during his arrest in January 1921 after leading a raiding party which intended to seize Islington Town Hall. (With thanks to Ned Newitt for providing this image.)

These funds were deposited for safekeeping with William May, a newsagent of 8 Dover Street who acted as the No. 1 Camp Treasurer. Some of the money was expended on picks and shovels, or paid to the men 'as wages'. Other items of expenditure included 'To Dinner Baking 9d', coal, and two gallons of paraffin, a reminder that the weather was on the side of the Council rather than the Landgrabbers. (24) Earlier Landgrabber camps had been established during the summer months, but those in Leicester had to contend with 'inclemency of the weather' and the prospect of the winter ahead, protected only by mud shelters covered by a tarpaulin. It is also clear from the Landgrabbers' records that there was a certain amount of discord within their ranks about how the camps and the campaign should be organised, as well as conflict between local men and those who had come to Leicester for the protest from elsewhere.



51, NEW BRIDGE STREET.

Leicester, ... 190

Mr. .....

DR. TO T. CALLIS.

Bread and Flour Dealer.

Sunday Nov 7/09

No 1 & No 2 Land Grabbers

To Dinner Baking 9d

Received with thanks

Thomas Callis

Invoice for dinner baking for No. 1 and No. 2 Camps. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, location mark MISC 118.)

At a meeting on 9th November at No. 2 Camp, for instance, it was agreed that the No. 1 and No. 2 Camps would have their own secretaries and committees 'to work on their own ideas', and that 'only Leicester men should fill the three Head Offices' of President, Secretary and Treasurer. Those appointed to these offices for No. 1 Camp were Mr Brooks of 24 St. James' Street (President,) G. Clarke of 65 Dover Street (Secretary), and Mr May as Treasurer. It is otherwise difficult to know from the names in the *Minute Book* which of the Landgrabbers were 'Leicester men' or 'more recently arrived'. (25) They do not appear in local trade directories, and where addresses were given – possibly of lodgings – they appear to have moved on by the time of the 1911 Census. One exception is George Pollard, aged 39, 'a comparative new-comer to the town' (26), who in December 1909 was convicted of using threats against a fellow Landgrabber, Albert Cramp. 'TROUBLE IN THE LAND GRABBERS CAMP', the *Leicester Chronicle* reported on 4th December 1909, followed by a graphic account of an alleged attack by Pollard on Cramp and another man at No. 3 Camp on Knighton Fields Road East. The Landgrabbers, said Cramp, 'did not recognise any leader':

> but Pollard was general organiser… [He] came to the hut, and said: "If you don't come out, I'll bash your brains out with this piece of wood". At that time witness was under the shelter which had been erected by him and Roslyn. Witness got up to put on his boots, but before he could do this Pollard knocked down the hut on the top of witness's head… defendant picked up

> a five-foot post, but witness just managed to avoid the blow… A number of convictions were proved against the prisoner. He had been convicted for assault, for using words calculated to cause a breach of the peace, begging in the Market-place, and deserting his wife and family. (27)

This attack was apparently provoked by Cramp asking to see the accounts for the camp, 'because they had been three days without food, and they knew there was 8s.6d. in hand'. The adverse publicity that it generated was compounded by the admission of Mr A. Callard, the No. 3 Camp secretary, that 'he had done no regular work for seven years', and his claim - greeted by laughter in court - that he had come to Leicester in the previous May 'for the benefit of my health… Leicester was recommended to me by the house surgeon of the London Hospital I was in'. Pollard was bound over in the sum of £10 and one surety of £10 to keep the peace for six months, and an order was made for costs or one month's imprisonment in default. 'Why not make it £50', he retorted: 'I'll go to prison'. (28)

It might be expected that the Liberal press, as represented here by the *Chronicle*, would exploit this opportunity to discredit the protest; but the Landgrabbers were clearly too radical for the Labour Party as well. Donations of three gallons of potatoes and 6d. from two Labour Councillors are listed in the *Minute Book*, but this appears to be the extent of its support. (29) The *Pioneer's* first report on the seizure of the land described it as 'a small sensation', while the editorial a week later wrote of the 'hope, however faint' inspired by the injection of 'new blood' into the Council by the municipal election. The Landgrabbers themselves were described as desperate men who have forced themselves on public attention during the last few days… the small knots of haggard-looking men who hung about the approaches to the Town Hall, on this day of ceremonies and high feasting, could not but cast a shadow over all the other events...'. (30)

This was the last time the *Pioneer* reported on the protest, and given that other local newspapers continued to cover the story, it has the feel of a deliberate omission rather than an oversight. Three by-elections were pending later in November, and there was clearly some concern that the adverse publicity generated by the Landgrabbers would undermine public sympathy for the unemployed in more general terms. (31) Nor was there any doubt, as the Town Clerk told the Council meeting in November 1909, that their actions were 'grossly illegal', (32) but illegality alone cannot explain the distance that the Labour Party apparently wished to put between itself and the Landgrabbers. As the *Pioneer* itself pointed out, several 'eminently respected' citizens of Leicester had broken the law in protest against compulsory smallpox vaccination and State funding for denominational schools under the 1902 Education Act. (33) Such actions were well within the radical political tradition for which Leicester was widely known, as a major centre of Chartism in the 1840s, of co-operation, secularism and radical trade unionism, republicanism and anarchism, and the march four years earlier of unemployed footwear workers to London. (34) The Labour party had fought the local Liberals on the very issues that the Landgrabbers themselves were putting before the public – so how is its reluctance to openly support their cause to be explained?

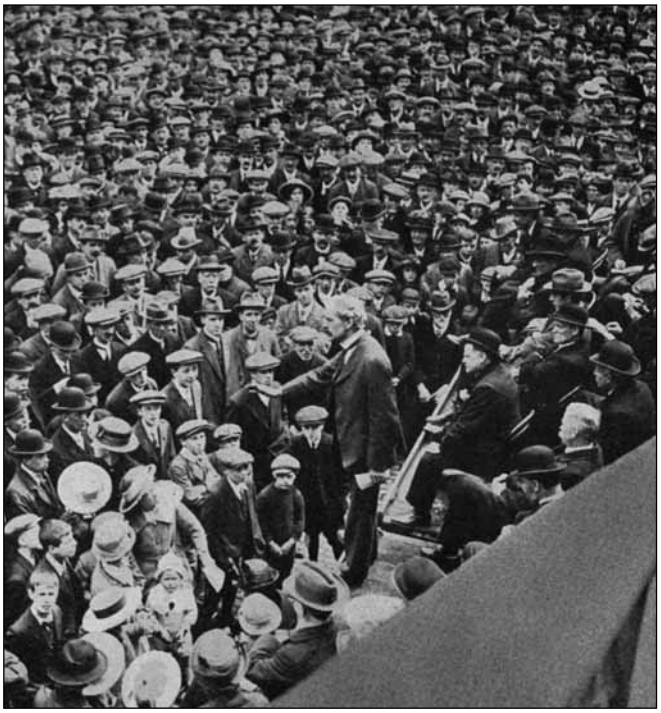
As Bill Lancaster has argued in his study of radicalism, co-operation and socialism in Leicester, the party in Leicester was in a period of transition following the election of Ramsay MacDonald and 28 other Labour MPs to Parliament in 1906, which arguably dictated the direction in which it must now go in the cause of political credibility and 'electability'. It 'possessed a Janus face'. On the one hand it remained 'a product of a specific local political tradition deeply entrenched in, and taking direction from, issues rooted in the local community'. On the other, 'the party with MacDonald at the helm appeared to prefigure the future process of bureaucratising and centralising Labour politics', particularly as its representation on the local Council continued to increase. (35) There is a hint of this at the Council meeting in November 1909, at which Ald. Banton reported that:

> he had suggested that 'the "land grabbers", as they styled themselves, should wait upon him as Chairman of the Distress Committee and the Chairman of the Estates Committee, on the previous morning, but the deputation did not attend. He thought this would have been the way in which they should have acted. (36)

The Landgrabbers' actions were perhaps not without some influence, even so. Later that year the Council resolved not to adopt any more labour-saving machinery in its own departments until such time as alternative employment could be found for those displaced by it: an 'understandable definite policy' greeted with applause. (37) And in a by-election in 1913, when the National Executive of the Labour Party decided not to field a candidate against the Liberals in line with the electoral agreement made in 1903, the local party proposed to field a candidate of its own. MacDonald threatened to resign his seat and they retreated - but the spirit of local radicalism had not yet been entirely suppressed. (38)

The introduction of a national scheme of Labour Exchanges in 1909 went some way to address the difficulty the unemployed faced in finding work without ready access to information about vacancies. Unemployment itself was all but eradicated for the period of the First World War, and in 1918 Ramsay MacDonald lost his seat in Leicester, mainly as a result of his pacifist views. When unemployment returned with a vengeance in the inter-war period however, the same issues about its relief resurfaced with it. 'Back to the land' schemes once again featured in the proposed

remedies, including the Homesteads for the Unemployed at Birstall promoted by the Labour stalwart Amos Sherriff in the 1930s. (39) They made little impact on the mass unemployment of the time, serving only to reinforce the plea of the Distress Committee in Leicester in 1909 for greater state intervention to address the 'constantly recurring distress from unemployment… [for] the problem has been shown to transcend the powers and opportunities of any one merely local body'. (40)



Ramsay MacDonald addressing a meeting in Leicester Market Place. (East Midlands Oral History Archive.)

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6. P. W. Wilson, MP for St Pancras South, *Hansard*, HC Deb. 13th March 1908 vol. 186 cc.10-99.
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11. *Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, 17th August 1906.
12. *Aberdeen Journal*, 16th July 1906.
13. *Chelmsford Chronicle*, 27th July 1906.
14. *Dundee Courier*, 1st September 1906.
15. *Leicester Chronicle*, 6th November 1909.
16. *Leicester Pioneer*, 6th November 1909.
17. *Leicester Chronicle*, 13th November 1909; *Leicester Daily Post*, 10th November 1909.
18. *New York Times*, 1st March 1908. The newspaper also reported that, when the authorities at Windsor Castle 'offered to pay Gray's fare back to Manchester… he shook several gold sovereigns at the official… and explained that he personally was not short of funds and suggested the money offered him be given to the poor'.
19. *Leicester Pioneer*, 13th November 1909.
20. Ibid.
21. *Leicester Daily Post*, 10th November 1909.
22. Ibid.
23. ROLLR, MISC 118 op. cit. One of the Frears family, John Russell Frears, was a Liberal member of the Council at this time, and the company regularly advertised in the *Pioneer*, claiming that '32,000 of the People of Leicester are supplied every day with Frears bread'.
24. Ibid.
25. Among the members of the Committee were J. Hearn, 2 Back of 115 Sherrard Road; W. Stokes, 135 Curzon Street; and J. Tierney, 79 Charnwood Street. Other 'Men on the Land' included S. Horner, 16 Saffron Hill Road; William Hall, 102 Leire Street; J. E. Billington; and P. Benfield.
26. *Leicester Pioneer*, 13th November 1909.
27. *Leicester Chronicle*, 4th December 1909. Pollard was sentenced to six weeks' imprisonment in 1906 for assaulting a council official at the Triangle Camp at Plaistow (*Nottingham Evening Post*, 3rd September 1906). He was described by the Chronicle as a miner, and by the *Luton Times and Advertiser* (3rd December 1909) as 'the well known socialist who lived in Luton for some years, and while here was the "leader" of the "Hunger Marchers"...'.
28. *Leicester Chronicle*, 4th December 1909. However, the *Pioneer* reported on 4th December that his fine had been paid.
29. These were Cllrs. J. W. Murby and J. K. Kelly respectively.
30. *Leicester Pioneer*, 13th November 1909.
31. All three seats were won by Labour. In a sermon at Holy Trinity church in December 1909 the vicar, Rev. F. Papprill, asked his congregation 'not to say "I don't believe in the unemployed, they are Socialists, thriftless, extravagant, loafers; a set of men who won't work – land-grabbers and the like"… There were 1000s of genuine unemployed, some whom they would never expect to be in need…' (*Leicester Chronicle*, 11th December 1909).
32. *Leicester Daily Post*, 10th November 1909.
33. *Leicester Pioneer*, 13th November 1909.
34. See, for instance, Bill Lancaster, *Radicalism, Co-operation and Socialism: Leicester working-class politics 1860-1906*, (Leicester University Press, 1987).
35. Ibid, p.xviii.
36. *Leicester Chronicle*, 13th November 1909.
37. *Leicester Chronicle*, 20th November 1909.
38. See J Pasiecznik, 'Liberals, Labour and Leicester: the 1913 by-election in local and national perspective', *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*, 63, (1989), pp.96 – 104.
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Education in Countesthorpe: From Origins to a Secure Foundation, 1706-1919

Emma Roberts

Countesthorpe is a large village approximately six miles south of Leicester city centre. This article seeks to explore the origins of education within Countesthorpe and investigate the changes that occurred between 1706 and 1919. Although the Cottage Homes educated some children within this period, this essay will focus on the village, rather than the Homes. (1)

The origins of Countesthorpe's educational history emerge in the neighbouring village of Blaby, the two villages having been within a single ancient parish until 1878. The Rector, replying to two Bishop's visitation enquiries in 1706 and 1709, stated that that there was no school in the parish at that time. Yet, just three years later, the roots of education within the two villages had began with the setting up of a Charity school. (2) Subscriptions of £17 from the Rector, the Rev. Edward Stokes, and five other members of the parish provided a Master and Mistress. (3) The aim of the school was to take up to six children at a time to 'teach our miserable poor to spin, read write & to learn & understand the Church Catechism'. (4) The exact location of the school is not mentioned, but it was probably located within Blaby village as the first mention of a school in Countesthorpe does not occur until 1753. (5) It is unclear if any children from Countesthorpe attended the earlier school in Blaby.

Stokes' son, the Rev. Edward Stokes Jr., followed in his father's footsteps, and in 1753, indentured the use of a building known as Lord's Garden for the purpose of the first known Anglican school within Countesthorpe. The building consisted of 'one parlour, one stable, two coal-houses and two privies, and one chamber'. The premises were to be shared by the future rectors of Countesthorpe as a vestry, and the remainder of the building was to be used by either a schoolmaster or mistress to teach children 'to read, write and cast accounts'. The building was entrusted to five trustees - being the churchwardens, overseers and collectors of land tax, who were also responsible for appointing a new master within three months of the departure of the previous through 'death, incapacity, or unfitness from immoral conduct'. The indenture was meticulous in securing the longevity of the building, detailing the requirements of the master to be responsible for maintaining the building's windows. Any other repairs were to be shared jointly between the master and the rector. Conversely, if the master failed to meet his part in the repairs, the building could be temporarily taken over and rented out at the 'best reserved yearly rent' in order to have funds to pay for the repairs. Once any repairs had been completed the building could go back to being a school. (6) This is likely to be the same school that was listed as a 'school room' in a Parliamentary Paper of 1819, which together with 'several dames' schools' oversaw the education of approximately 100 local children. Curate John Wootton noted that the poor could not afford to pay for the education of their children; writing 'if a daily school could be established for their gratuitous instruction, it would doubtless be well attended'. (7)

From 1793 the Baptists also provided a school in Countesthorpe, although the children attending appear to have been omitted from the figures quoted above. Accounts show that in 1804, subscriptions amounted to £3 10s. There is no detail as to what was taught at the school until 1810, when William Elliott paid a master £1 5s. for 'learning the children to write'. (8) Some Sunday schools were reluctant to teach beyond reading the Bible, any additional subjects were potentially seen as 'less necessary or even harmful'. (9) Rules for the Countesthorpe Baptist Sunday school stated that children must begin their learning at 9 o'clock and resume in the afternoon at 2 o'clock. However, it seems that The Baptists were not just concerned with the education of children, for in 1815 it was noted 'that many adult persons in the village were unable to read and others could read but a little.' As a result it was decided that a school should open to teach adults from 10 o'clock on Sundays. (10)

Countesthorpe's population increased from 593 to 839 between 1811 and 1831, but despite this increase, the number of children being educated in day schools between 1818 and 1833 remained around 100 with six daily schools overseeing the education of 104 children. An increased number was seen in the two Sunday schools, which educated 166 (Anglican) and 60 (listed as dissenter) children. (11)

Elsewhere, it was very common during this period for Sunday schools to be the only source of education children received, as education was 'haphazard'. Some people feared that education could have a negative impact on the poor, meaning their education would be disproportionate to their social standing. However over time, fears moved to be more concerned about the teaching of political and religious dissent to children. It was hoped that teaching children to read would give them some ability to read the Bible and prayer books. Perhaps what was more important for children being educated at a Sunday school was that it did not interfere with their ability to work during the week. (12)

There were four types of school in this period. Sunday schools, run by the Anglican or by dissenting churches, usually provided free tuition, as the teachers did not expect to be paid, and any costs, for example for heating and candles, were generally covered by a collection taken at an annual sermon. Charity schools were funded by a permanent endowment, the income from which would cover the costs of educating a number of children, often alongside those who paid fees. Subscription schools were financed by annual donations from local people, the children usually also paying a few pence each week. Private schools charged fees which covered the full cost of tuition. The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church (National Society) was set up in 1811 with the aim that a school should be available in every parish and provided building grants. (13) For the next 100 years, the National Society became a vital source of funds to Anglican schools.

Stokes' school was still in use in 1839, nearly 90 years after it had been established, when it still only consisted of 'the parlour and stable and room over'. It was noted that William Jones was the schoolmaster and it was a fee paying school. The fees were not recorded but were probably only a few pence each week. (14) An indication of how much private education in Countesthorpe could cost is seen in a newspaper advertisement of 1840 when Miss Varnem's private school 'for the reception of Boarders' was charging fourteen guineas a term. (15)

Further details are given about the Church of England school in 1846-7, when it acted as both a daily and a Sunday school. The school was listed as being part of the church building. There were four paid (three male and one female) teachers and seven gratuitous teachers (one male and six female). The Daily school consisted of 28 boys and four girls, whilst the much larger Sunday school taught 114 boys and 72 girls. The total cost of running the school was £18 per annum and the funding for the school was paid for by a patron, Mr. Henry Ralphs. (16) By 1846, some of the cost of the school was funded by the revenue generated from the rent of cottages on Knighton Close, which reached £7 per annum, again gifted to the school by Henry Ralphs. (17)

This is the same year that Stokes' first school building within Countesthorpe closed, being so 'inconvenient and dilapidated', that it was unfit to be used as a school anymore. As a result the Sunday school had to be held in the chancel of the church. The Rev. Hoskins wished to demolish the old building and 'build a new & commodious one in its place', but was unable to secure enough funding locally as 'The Parishioners are very poor, chiefly of the manufacturing Class, so I fear not much pecuniary aid can be obtained from them'. Furthermore, Hoskins was also worried that the majority of the trustees of Stokes' school might at some future point be dissenters who could use the school 'for the purpose of teaching Dissent'. (18) In the 1851 Ecclesiastical Census there were two nonconformist groups within Countesthorpe – Primitive Methodists who had 100 worshippers and Baptists and Independents, who met together, with 175 worshippers. Hoskins' worry was realistic as the Anglican Church had an average attendance of 145 to 200, making them the minority. (19) The application for the new building mentions two other Sunday schools which belonged to the Baptists and Methodists. Furthermore there was another daily school for about 20 male pupils with fees between 3d and 6d per week. The new school was intended to accommodate 120 boys and girls who would be taught during the week and on a Sunday, with a weekly fee of 2d. The expected cost of the building was £267, but estimates for subscriptions and donations would cover little more than half the cost (£140). (20) Further, the Committee of Council on Education which had been formed in 1839 to superintend the application of sums voted by Parliament for the purpose of promoting public education refused aid in funding the school.

Meanwhile, the National Society had given a grant of £50, enabling construction to go ahead. Built on the original site of Stokes' school, the new National School was described as being a 'neat brick building in the early English style'. It opened on the 31st January 1848, with the total cost of construction reaching £300. Donations for the school, which included the grant from the National Society, met just half the cost of the build (£188). Hoskins had donated £40 to the cause, but was worried that the remaining costs would fall on him, and asked the National Society if the grant could be increased, but it was not. However, when the Society paid, the grant did cover the remaining costs, but it is unclear where the additional funding came from. It could have come from Henry Ralphs who further endowed the school by leaving a £450 dividend. In addition, Rev. Miles gifted a house and garden for a schoolmaster. (21)

The 1851 Ecclesiastical Census records that on the 30th March 1851, 121 children attended the Anglican Sunday school in the afternoon, although normal attendance was estimated at 220-240. The recorded attendance for the Primitive Methodist Sunday school suggests all the regular 41 children attended on census day, with a similar figure of 40 being recorded at the Baptist and Independent Sunday school. (22) By 1869 Countesthorpe's schools were said to be in a 'flourishing condition'. (23)

The following year brought the introduction of the Elementary Education Act which fundamentally changed education within England and Wales. Before 1870, education was seen as a privilege to those who could afford it, or depended on local charities and subscriptions being available. This changed to ensure that any child, regardless

ST ANDREW'S *c.* 1885

Known names are: 2nd row from top L to R, Ada Riddington, ?, John Gillam, William Weston, Harry Veasey, Louisa Veasey, Mary Elizabeth Veasey. 3rd row, ?, ?, Frances Mary Ward, Sarah Stevenson March, Deborah Morris, Mary Morris, Jane Barsby.

Children at the National Junior School Countesthorpe, c1885. (Image courtesy of the Countesthorpe and Foston Heritage Group.)

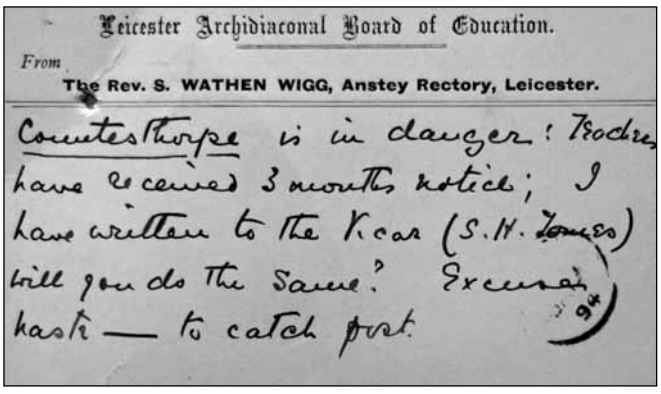
of their circumstance, had the right to be educated. In order to ensure a place could be given to every child in Countesthorpe, a new infants' school was built in 1873. This was on land that was donated by the Rector opposite the National School, and was complete with a playground. (24)

The population of Countesthorpe had increased considerably by 1871 to 1,026, and by 1878 it seems that the National school was full to capacity and therefore needed to be enlarged. Plans were put in motion which saw an extension built the following year. At this point the school was still funded by Ralphs' charity. (25)

The population continued to increase, and in 1891 Countesthorpe was home to 1,344 people. The Elementary School (School Attendance) Act, 1893, had made it compulsory for children to attend school between the ages of five and eleven; meaning Countesthorpe's schools had to secure more places to meet the increased demand.

By 1894, there was talk that a school board would have to be imposed on the village to provide a non-sectarian school which would be funded by the ratepayers. It looked like the church school might be forced to close, and indeed the teachers were given three months' notice. The chairman of the Leicester Archidiaconal Board of Education, Rev. S. Wathen Wigg sent an urgent post card to the National Society, (26) and made an emergency visit to Countesthorpe on 6th February 1894. Following his visit, he judged the situation for the church to be 'serious', but advised the National Society that the situation would have been less severe 'if the Vicar had a little more spirit & got on better with his people'. The population were seen as 'mostly "hard-shell" Baptists & very stiff necked'. Mr. Bassett, a major landowner, although opposed 'quietly' to the creation of a Board (on the ground of costs), seemed 'reasonable'. Reverend Wigg suggested to him that their local vicar address a meeting of ratepayers, but identified a 'great dread' at the possibility of 'meeting the ratepayers in public'. (27) In terms of the actual teaching within the schools, the diocesan inspector's report shows this seems to have improved and was now 'pretty good'. Praise was given to the upper school children – to their singing, oral responses and discipline. In addition, the religious teaching at the school was seen as good. The infants' school was 'of good tone', with praise towards the children's repetitions. (28)

The creation of a Board was temporarily delayed through improvements to the church school in 1895, costing £120 18s. 6d. The costs were covered by subscriptions, donations, a loan (£116 11s. including an £85 loan from Ralphs' charity) and a £10 grant from the Board of Education. However it seems that these improvements did not satisfy the demand for places, and two years later, the trustees of the school were faced with compulsory enlargement with estimated cost of £531 if a school board was to be averted. The trustees now faced the 'very serious difficulty' of having to borrow 'at least' £350 for the work to be completed. A request was made to see if the school building could be used as security for a loan, otherwise the trustees would have to give personal guarantees to the bank. (29) A final three month warning was given but the money could not be raised, and a school board was imposed in 1898 which would allow the necessary funding to be raised via a rate charge. (30)



Leicester Archidiaconal Board of Education.

From

The Rev. S. WATHEN WIGG, Anstey Rectory, Leicester.

Countesthorpe is in danger: Teachers have received 3 months notice; I have written to the Vicar (S.H. Jones) will you do the same? Excuse haste — to catch post.

Urgent postcard from the chairman of the Archidiaconal Board to the National Society, February 1894. (Image from the National Society Archive, reproduced by permission of the Church of England Records Centre.)

The creation of the Board caused tensions over the composition of the future elected members. As it was the National School which needed to be expanded, it was suggested an Anglican-favourable board should resolve the matter. However, the nonconformists argued that as the majority of the children in the existing schools were nonconformist and the new Board School would need to ensure places for nonconformist children, the 'Nonconformists and Liberals ought to have a majority on the School Board' to satisfy their interests. The nonconformists argued that schools were 'no longer private institutions' and that the school board should be representative of the community as it was funded by public money. Nonetheless, the first election brought an overwhelmingly Anglican/Conservative majority to the board (out of the six elected members only one was Liberal). (31) The interests of the Anglicans were fully realised when Rev. H. Tomes became the chair of the Board.

The Anglican majority on the Board clearly preferred the smallest board school possible to ensure the Anglican school would remain viable, and proposed to construct a new board school for just 53 children. With over 100 children of nonconformist parents at the National School, the nonconformists on the board, and those interested in overall economy, preferred a larger board school, and a local newspaper commented on 'the downright absurdity of the dual system' (32) There followed discussion about whether children from the Cottage Homes would be able to attend the Board School. The Leicester Board of Guardians, who had a legal obligation to ensure the Cottage Homes' children received an education, rejected the idea for a number of reasons, including a claim that the former workhouse children could bring 'infection and contagion' back to the Homes if they mixed with others. Some also saw it as unfair that Countesthorpe's ratepayers would be responsible for paying for the education of children who were 'taken into their parish by the public body'. (33) However, part of their reason may have been financial, as the Guardians would have to contribute towards the cost of the Board school, but if the children went there they would lose the government grant they were receiving for educating them. A newspaper editor thought it was a 'grotesque situation' to have three schools in one village served by three different authorities. (34)

During the process of building the new Board school - unconnected with the church - the school leaving age was again increased, this time to 12. Despite this, the new Board school which was built c1900 on the corner of Leicester and Foston roads accommodated just 53 children. Although the nonconformists suggested that it should at least accommodate 60 children, equating to the number of nonconformist children who had passed the first standard, the majority of the Board favoured the smaller number, the Vicar contending that the extra cost for the larger number would be around £50. (35) Soon afterwards, the Board school was taken over by the County Council following the 1902 Education Act.

This decision to restrict the Board school's size backfired for the Anglicans, because although the immediate shortfall was covered, by 1907 the National School was again too small and the Vicar had to buy more land with the intention of adding it to the National School site. (36) Countesthorpe's population was now around 1,450.

FOSTON ROAD *c.* 1922

Top row: Aubrey Hickford, Graham Boat, Douglas Boat, ?, Arthur Herbert, William Lord, Bernard Page. Middle row: Reginald Williams, Winifred Chapman, Dorothy Oldershaw, Nora Immins, Ivy Dalby, Francis Page, Marjorie Weston, Grace Lord, Mary Lord, Mary Weston. Bottom row: Graham Findley, Alfred Oldershaw, Vera Finley, Barbara Herbert, Naomi Plumtree, Ivy Lord, Dorothy Hunt, Cyril Adams, George Reynolds, George Wood, Leslie Higgs, Norman Cobley.

Children at the Foston Road Board School c1922. (Image courtesy of the Countesthorpe and Foston Heritage Group.)

It seems little change occurred to the National school over the next five years but by 1912 the school was condemned 'as a bad building' which saw the Vicar wanting to build a new mixed school next to the 'satisfactory' infants' school. (37) It was hoped that the construction costs could be met through Ralphs' trust and that the Board of Education would simply allow the transfer of funds and not interfere with the school or its denominational character in any other way. The application mentions that there were three schools within the village: the senior and junior school (1848), the infants' school (1873) and the Council former Board school (c1900). The proposed plan was for a one-roomed mixed senior school to be built onto the junior school, to replace the 'present senior room, which has neither classroom nor playground'.

Estimated costs totalled £890. Local donations raised were just £16, with an additional £261 2s. 9d. coming from the realisation of the capital sum on Ralphs' charity. The Board approved the plan, but the parish 'consists entirely of the working classes' and was considered too poor to contribute more than just 'a few pounds'. It seems the same procedure as 1848 was adopted and the school was built without securing full funding. The new building was complete by July 1914, but even after grants from the National Society (which would not normally have paid until all costs had been met) and the Diocesan board, there was still a shortfall of £379 12s. 0d. on the total cost of £904 17s. 10d. This had been met through a bank overdraft, for which some of the trustees had accepted personal liability. (38) The National Society agreed to pay £70 of their £80 grant, reserving the remainder for when the debt was cleared. In thanking them, Tomes asked if the sum could be increased, stating that the Anglicans were 'prepared to make any sacrifice' in order to prevent the school children from being 'handed over to the secular system of instruction, which has for many years done so much harm in this country'. However, the Society did not increase the grant. (39)

Children at the National Infants school 1912. (Image courtesy of the Countesthorpe and Foston Heritage Group.)

The completion of the new mixed (church) school coincided with the outbreak of the First World War, which made it even more difficult to raise money, which was now diverted to the war effort. Tomes again pleaded with the National Society that although the timing was unfortunate, the school was very much needed to combat the 'presence of the militant attitude of nonconformity here' and prevent the constant attempt 'being made to draw away the children to the council school and so to sacrifice the Christian interests of the children to a godless system of secular teaching, with a smattering of bible reading'. Between July 1914 and August 1915 he had only been able to raise £47 4s. 3d. and with accrued interest on the bank overdraft, the deficit had increased to £442 4s. 11d. (40) By 1918, with the aid of the Diocesan Board, Betton's Charity and village donations, this had been reduced to £205 10s. 5d. As a result, the Society agreed to release the remaining £10 of their grant. Further pleading letters from Tomes continued to be sent, stating that Countesthorpe was 'just the class of parish that needs outside help'. (41)

By 1919, the outstanding costs were still £109 14s, the First World War had ended and the ongoing need to pay the balance of the school was now preventing much needed church improvements. It seems the Society relented and agreed another grant of £10. (42) Although the building was eventually paid for, Fisher's Education Act (1918) increased full time educational attendance to the age of fourteen, with the provision for part-time attendance to continue to the age of eighteen. (43) A new 'battle' would soon begin, as the new mixed school rapidly became too small, although this proved to be more easily defused, largely through the efforts of Colonel Martin, the Chairman of the Leicestershire County Council Education Committee and also a member of the National Society's standing committee. (44) In 1928 it was decided that 'junior' children would in future go to the council school, and 'senior' children to the mixed church school. Although Rev Tomes regarded this as a 'downgrading' of the church school, he was encouraged by the National Society to see that 'in the interests of our children the church is bound to cooperate in the great advance in education which is now being made'. (45)

Between 1706 and 1919, education within Countesthorpe had gone from non-existent to being an important and thriving part of the community. By 1909 there were three schools supplying education to children between the ages of five and fourteen (with part-time compulsory attendance to the age of 18). However it seems that the creation of an education system within Countesthorpe had not been an easy process. Ongoing population growth, the introduction of compulsory education and the raising of the school leaving age had seriously impacted on available spaces. The vicar and many Anglican members of the community, who were concerned about the threat of nonconformity in the village, had been reluctant to allow an alternative to the National School, which would provide Anglican teaching. However, in a parish with little wealth, and other demands for the little money which was available, including a major church

rebuilding project and the War effort, it was a struggle. As a result, the schools could not be expanded, updated or renovated as quickly as the church people would have liked, to ensure sufficient places would always be available to new children entering the school and to those staying longer within the system.

The arrangement made in 1928 only lasted a few years, as by the early 1930s all Countesthorpe children over the age of 11 had to complete their education elsewhere: Lutterworth Grammar school or Long Street, Wigston Magna until the latter closed in 1957, to be replaced by Abington secondary school in Wigston Magna. Bushloe and Guthlaxton Grammar school also opened in the late 1950s, while some parents still chose Lutterworth Grammar or the secondary schools in South Wigston. Foston Road school continued to serve all children between ages 5 and 11, although infants could also attend the 'church' school, now known as 'Old Main Street school'. Foston Road school closed in the late 1960s, to be replaced by Linden Junior School. 'Old Main Street' closed in 1976, when Beechwood Infant school opened. Beechwood and Linden schools amalgamated in 2000 under the new name Greenfield school. (46) Secondary education was again reorganised in the 1970s, with the opening of Countesthorpe College for ages 14 to 18 and Leysland High School for ages 11 to 14. These schools plan to merge into a single school for ages 11 to 19 by September 2016. (47) These later reorganisations are being achieved harmoniously, in contrast to the changes of earlier years.

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The Cradocks of Belgrave Hall, and an inheritance wrangle

Erica Statham

Wrought iron gateway with the monogram E C at the entrance to Belgrave Hall.

Lead water cistern on the south side of Belgrave Hall bearing the initials C E A and the date 1710.

Belgrave Hall has been described as 'something of a mystery, surrounded by high walls and obscured from view, even from the top of a tramcar'. (1) After its acquisition by Leicester Borough Council in 1936 and conversion into a museum, the Hall and its gardens still retained their air of mystery and intrigue, due in part to their unusual design and development:

> Entrance through fine original wrought-iron gates with overthrow, close to the brick façade with its chequer pattern of red and dark blue. Three-storeyed, the triple-pitched roof hipped behind a plain parapet so that there seems to be no roof at all. The parapet probably replaces gables like those on the garden front … Behind the house, a series of walled-gardens with an alley axial with the main doors … To the N. the stables, dated 1710 in dark headers, with oeil-de-beouf and hoodmould, in moulded brick in the gable. (2)

While working as a volunteer at Belgrave Hall when the house was still open as a museum, I became interested in the fabric and statues of the house and grounds (3), and also in the families associated with the Hall. This led me to try and find out about the Cradock family who built the Hall, and to documents in the National Archives which throw new light on the Cradock family and the Hall.

Property deeds indicate that the Hall we see today has not always been known as Belgrave Hall – in fact up until the 1830s there was a separate, older building known as 'Belgrave Old Hall' which stood on the Loughborough Road, and today's Belgrave Hall was initially known as 'The Mansion House' and 'Cradock's House at Belgrave'. A further substantial building called Belgrave House was built opposite The Mansion House in the 1770s, and it seems that following this, the Mansion House gradually became known as Belgrave Hall. Belgrave Old Hall was demolished to make way for road widening in the 1830s.

Today's Belgrave Hall was initially built between 1709 and 1713, as indicated on drainage headers on the back and front of the house, but possibly on older foundations although an inspection of the cellars underneath the house itself appear only to contain brickwork of the same period. However, it has been suggested that the stone foundations of the stables may represent the earlier stone cottages drawn on Coffyn's enclosure map of 1657. (4)

The early history of the present hall is closely associated with the Cradock family, having been built for Edmund Cradock and his wife Anne. This is borne out by the initials C E A which appear on two lead water cisterns, one outside the house on the south side, and one in a cupboard on the second storey. The initials E C also appear on the wrought iron gateway entrance, and the Cradock family arms – boars' heads – appear on the outside drainage pipes.

According to the parish records '[there was a] parish questionnaire returned to Lincoln which stated "Belgrave, Mr Cradock hath bought an estate and lives here" '. The parish records also indicate that three brothers - Joseph, William and Edmund Cradock were living in the parish at this time, whilst Heard's Rentall (5) which was collected on behalf of the lay rector Mr Aislabie indicate that from 1712 – 1714 a Mr Cradock paid tithes for a substantial property in Belgrave. It seems likely that the three Cradock brothers came to live in Belgrave sometime between 1685 and the end of the century.

Drainage headers bearing the dates 1709 and 1713, and boars' heads – the Cradock arms - which can be seen on drainage pipes and headers at Belgrave Hall.

The brothers came from a prominent Leicester family. Their grandfather, Edmund Cradock [senior], was a mercer by trade dealing in buying and selling textiles. He was the younger son of Robert Cradock of East Farndon in Northamptonshire, and had come to Leicester as an apprentice to Roger Cotes, a local mercer. In 1626, he was appointed as one of Leicester's forty-eight councillors, and was amongst those who rode out to Queniborough, on behalf of the Corporation, on the 7th September 1642 to negotiate with Prince Rupert regarding his demand for £2,000 'to leave the town alone'. Cradock and the other members of the town's governing body explained that they could only raise £500 from 'divers of the gentry and commoners of this Corporation'. Although Rupert left on this occasion, his father, Charles I, returned in 1646 with members of his army to besiege the town but again Leicester successfully resisted their advances. (6)

Edmund Cradock senior was also Mayor of Leicester in 1645 and 1657, as was his son, Joseph, in 1687. (7) Joseph was best known as the landlord of the town's Angel Inn which straddled Cheapside and Gallowtree Gate. This was a lucrative business, favoured by the Council as an entry in the Borough Records of 27th June 1688 informs us - 'it is agreed … that a day of feasting and rejoicing be kept at the house of Joseph Cradock esq, maior, at the Angel Inn, Leicester, for the birth of the young prince, on Sunday next, the day appointed for thanksgiving … said feast charged to Corporation'. This was hotly followed by another feast at the Corporation's expense, this time celebrating the Coronation of William and Mary in April 1689, when Cradock claimed expenses for 'Ale, wine, sack, clarett and tobacco'. (8)

Joseph Cradock's wife, and mother of Edmund, Joseph and William, was Jane Hastings. Her brother Henry Hastings of Humberstone (and later Belgrave) - their uncle - was an altogether more eccentric character. He was described by the Reverend John Dudley, one time Clerk at Humberstone, as 'a man of loose manners and extravagant habits', whilst John Nichols further tells us that in 1681 'he styled himself as the next male heir to the Earls of Huntingdon' (9), the connection between the Hastings of Humberstone and the more illustrious Hastings family, the Earls of Huntingdon, seemingly being on name alone.

Nichols further tells us that Henry Hastings had owned Belgrave Old Hall. Hastings sold the Old Hall and probably some land that went with it, to the Lord Keeper of The Great Seal Nathan Wright who originated from Leicester and was known to the Hastings / Cradock family through their Leicester Corporation connections. However, Hastings retained an annuity from the estate of around £200. The Old Hall was then tenanted by the Roman Catholic Byerley family. Henry continued to live in Belgrave with his wife Pentecost.

There is a curious reference to Hasting's nephew Joseph, in the Belgrave parish records of 8th May 1690. This relates to his marriage to Catharine Norrice, and an irregularity in the

licence – 'Joseph Cradock to marry Cathn. Norrice … both of St Martins Parish, Leicester. They were married at Belgrave by Mr John Kilby, curate, without lawful authority'. Henry Hastings and Pentecost his wife were also cited, being present at the ceremony, the former stating that 'Cradocke was his nephew and that he was desired to give away the bride. The various parties expressed ignorance and submitted.' This irregularity appears to have been resolved, as by 1699 Joseph and Catharine had moved to Markfield where Joseph had become Rector and the Baptismal records there show that Catharine had given birth to at least 4 children by 1708. Henry Hastings' other nephew, William, was a grocer whose business was originally in London and who married a Dorothy Mason of Leicester at Belgrave in 1707. Two years later the parish records for 1709 contain an entry regarding Edmund and Anne Cradock's youngest child, Hastings - born March 14th, baptised March 30th and buried April 1st, and presumably named after Edmund's uncle.

Apart from any offspring, the three brothers - Joseph, William and Edmund - are the only Cradocks mentioned in the parish records at that time. Henry Hastings died in 1697 in Belgrave but left everything to his wife Pentecost and she died in 1705 in Belgrave and left what she had to members of the Hastings family. The three Cradock brothers are not mentioned in either will. Maybe Henry gave them land and money before he died. Certainly all three prospered financially.

Edmund, whose initials are on Belgrave Hall, died at Bath on 21st April 1715. He had been accompanied there by his unmarried daughter Jane, presumably thinking the waters would do him good. His will was a comparatively simple one. His executors were his brother Joseph, and Zacheus Duckett of Leicester, attorney at law and the husband of his cousin Jane, Joseph's other brother William having predeceased him in 1710. Joseph and Zacheus were entrusted with all Edmund's real and personal estate to be sold to provide for his three surviving children - Jane, the eldest to receive £1,000 immediately on his death, her sister Anne and brother Edmund to receive equal shares of the remainder of the estate when they reached twenty-one, or in Anne's case when she married if that was sooner. There is no mention of the Anne who was Edmund's wife. (10)

The sale of Edmund's property and the distribution of the various legacies did not go smoothly and around 1718/19 his daughter Anne (now married) and her husband James Holwell, both living at Melton Mowbray, filed a petition in the Court of Chancery, complaining that Anne had not received her inheritance. (11)

They suggested that the estate had been worth at least £5,000 on the death of Anne's father, describing it as 'large and plentiful' and blaming the executors, Joseph Cradock and Zacheus Duckett for not handing over 'the rents or profits from Edmund Cradock's real or personal estate'. They accused the executors of 'combining and confederating' with Anne's sister Jane to defraud Anne out of her money. Anne was particularly aggrieved that she had not received sufficient funds for her 'maintenance and education' prior to her marriage.

Joseph Cradock replied that he would have given her more but that Zacheus held the funds and was in charge of the distribution; and was not prepared to make a full settlement until she reached twenty-one. Anne also argued that her father had not understood all the details of his will and that the executors had coerced him into signing something that he had not fully understood.

Jane replied by saying that she had no idea what was in the will because Joseph and Zacheus had asked her to leave the room when it was being discussed with her father. Jane also complained that her father had led her to believe she would get more than the £1,000 mentioned in the will. She had not been at the auction of the estate, having stayed down in Bath and had not known how much the sale had raised until now. She believed it was around £700 or £800 and was very unhappy that her harpsichord had been sold without her permission. Joseph and Zacheus expressed their disappointment too at the small amount raised, particularly by the sale of Edmund's personal estate and implied that there was still a lot left that had been put into storage which also had to be paid for. Jane went on to explain that it had taken the executors some time to pay her the £1,000 and was given it in two lots over a period of time causing her to ask for an interim maintenance grant of £50 to tide her over.

Joseph and Zacheus then replied, perhaps somewhat unnecessarily, that none of them had approved of Anne's choice of husband anyway. It had 'not been a proper match'. Why this was is unclear, as James Holwell would have been of a similar social standing, being described as a 'mercer'. Jane, Joseph and Zacheus may simply have taken a dislike to him thinking it was he who had instigated this petition, but it does seem that the executors were taking a surprising amount of time to fully distribute the legacies. They continued to justify the tardiness of their actions by explaining that by law Jane was entitled to her share first, and after paying her legacy, there had not been much left, certainly a lot less than the £5,000 they had all expected. They had experienced a great deal of difficulty collecting all the outstanding debts and everyone concerned needed to be fully aware that Edmund had also owed over £2,000 to the lawyer Orlando Bridgeman and this had to be repaid as a priority.

Meanwhile, Joseph and Zacheus continued to refute the allegations that Edmund Cradock did not understand his own will. In fact, Cradock had been 'a clerk at the Court of

Chancery' and although this may well have been an unpaid position, it does imply some legal expertise. Also, the will had been dictated, word for word, by Cradock to Duckett, who simply wrote it down. It was then signed by four witnesses, including Thomas Cradock, a cousin from Walsall who was later called upon to attend the auction of Cradock's estate.

The records include a financial break-down of the income and expenditure from the sale of the Cradock estate, which, the executors stressed, had been appraised by independent experts from Loughborough, and who had lodged at the Angel, in Leicester during the auction. The item which generated the most income was Cradock's 'House at Belgrave' – 'The Mansion House'. This raised £1,350 through its sale to a Mr Simons in February 1716 but it appears that he took some time to pay for it and was charged £5 interest. The executors obviously felt that this might not have been thought to be a particularly good price and appear to have misleadingly tried to justify this by saying that the 'house was old and much repaired' and that they had also paid workmen to 'build and adorn' the 'House at Belgrave' before the sale and this had cost money too; a strange statement bearing in mind that as far as we know Cradock's House was only a few years old and Belgrave Old Hall had already been sold by Henry Hastings to Nathan Wright. Mr Simons also bought the freehold of 16 acres of land in Belgrave on 30th March 1717 for £495 which had previously belonged to Edmund Cradock. Additionally, Cradock had owned the leasehold of some land in Rickmansworth and Chalfont St Peters which raised a total of £1,110. In contrast with his property estate, Cradock's personal estate raised a lot less - this came to £603 7s. 11d. in total. The executors also submitted a detailed account of their expenses and other matters including payment for a substitute preacher to cover for Joseph Cradock who had to go to London on a number of Sundays to collect various debts.

The executors believed that they had done their best to comply with all the family's requests for money. These included requests from Edmund's wife Anne, who, not having been provided for under the will, needed money for her 'necessaries' such as board and silk stockings. Money was also needed to pay for the education of the third beneficiary – Edmund and Anne's son Edmund, and at one point Mr Marten, a school master at Market Bosworth (the Dixie Grammar School?) was paid a year's tuition fees. The executors also reminded Anne and James that they had agreed to let young Edmund have some of his father's possessions, including a set of silver spurs and a silver snuff box that had not been sold, and that they had paid £10 per annum for Anne's education and board at Melton Mowbray. The executors believed that they had acquitted themselves well and it was not their fault that Edmund Cradock's estate had not raised more.

Disappointingly, the outcome of Anne's and James' petition to the Court of Chancery remains unclear, but in the process of attempting to follow its progress we can learn something of middle income life in early eighteenth century England, while the building of Belgrave Hall by the Cradocks exemplifies how town businessmen and their families were building new out-of-town houses, and in this case contributing to 'the beginning of the village's [Belgrave's] life as a residential suburb for the wealthier of the Leicester tradespeople'. (12)

Belgrave Hall and gardens today. (13)

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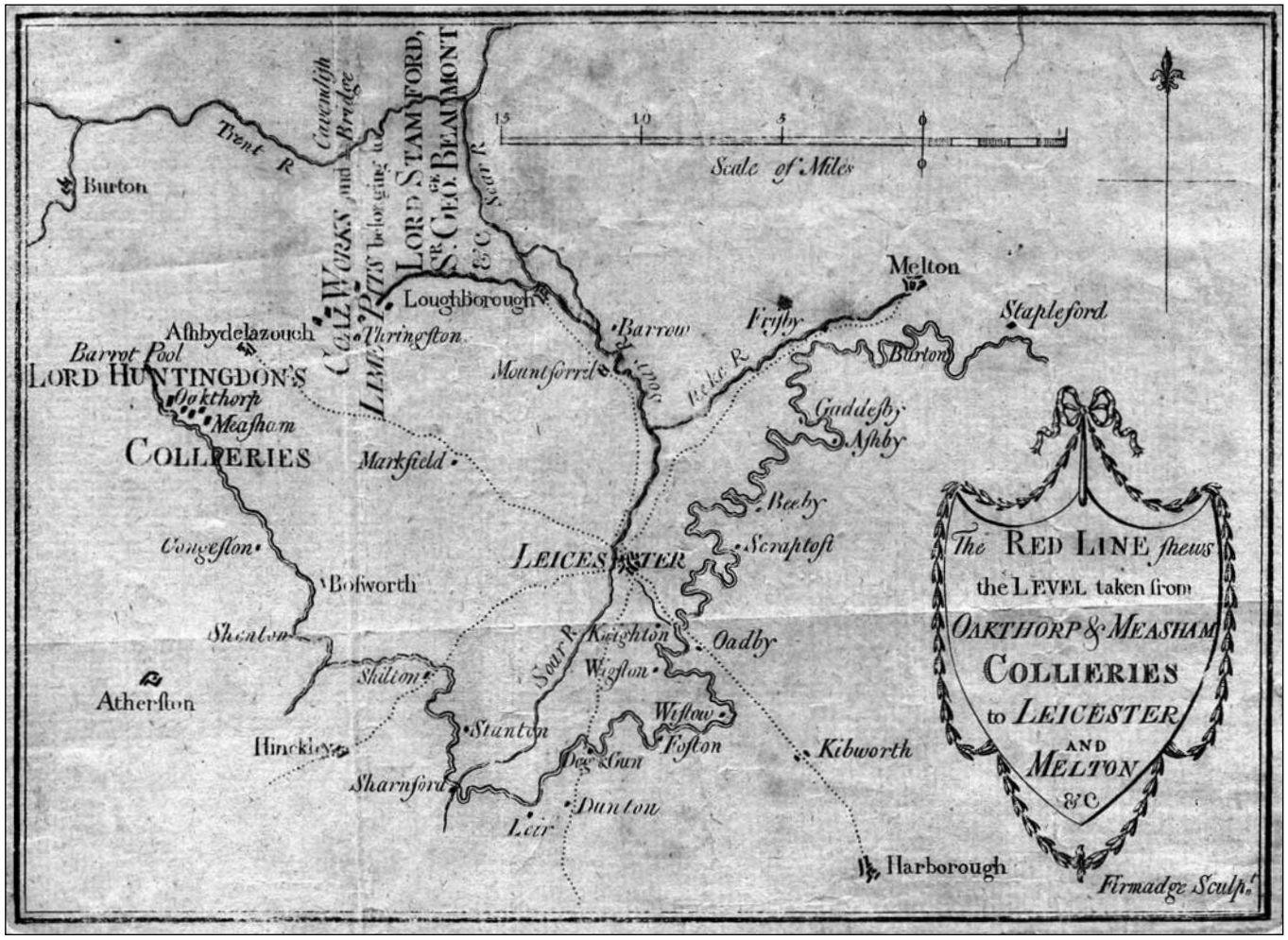
Leicestershire Canal Wars of 1785 – Some Further Information

Derek Deadman



The 1786 broadsheet, upper section. (Image credit: Colin Brooks.)

Temple Patterson (1) and Philip A. Stevens (2) respectively have already provided detailed accounts of the development of the canal system in Leicestershire in general, and of the Leicester and Melton Navigations in particular. Although the history has been well explored, a broadsheet in the author's possession suggests that the topic be revisited as it appears to fill a gap in the story that was acknowledged by Temple Patterson.

In order to study the broadsheet that is illustrated here, it seems useful to remind ourselves of some of the details provided by Temple Patterson, and in particular, to consider the especially contentious issue of the proposed extension to the 'Soar Navigation' (completed in 1778). The Soar Navigation made the River Soar navigable by horse-drawn barges from the Trent to Loughborough. The extension discussed concerned 'The Leicester Navigation' that would extend the navigable waterway through to Leicester. This extension would have permitted the direct transportation of coal from Derbyshire to Leicester, substantially reducing the cost of coal in Leicester. This would have been deeply damaging to the mining interests (coal and limestone) in the west of the county around Ashby from where much of Leicester's coal had been delivered by packhorse. The Soar Navigation had already depressed delivered coal prices in Leicester by 1780, and popular pressure mounted to reduce these even more.

In 1785, subscriptions were opened in Leicester to promote the development of the Soar to make it navigable from Loughborough to Leicester, and moves were also made to make the Wreak navigable, thus opening up a route to Melton, and from there by a new canal to Oakham. The organisers of the Leicester Navigation expected – and

received – strong opposition from the Leicestershire coal-owners and proprietors of lime-works in the west of the county, as well as from large landholders of estates and water mills on the rivers Soar and Wreak. The leader of the opposition was Lord Rawdon, son and heir of the Earl of Moira, who thus had a family interest in the collieries in the west of the county. He was joined by Earl Ferrers who owned mines near Staunton Harold and was lord of the manors of Ratcliffe, Thrussington and Sileby, and by the Earls of Huntingdon and Stamford and Sir John Danvers of Swithland. Together they formed a powerful group who could oppose any Bill presented to the Commons or Lords.

To try to placate this opposition, the organisers of the Leicester Navigation altered their proposals to include a canal from the Soar near Loughborough to Coleorton Collieries together with a short stretch of railway (horse-drawn) if needed from the canal to the pits. This canal – The Charnwood Forest Canal – would run from Thrinkston or Thringston(e) Bridge (near Coleorton and Swannington pits), follow the Gracedieu Brook and pass north of Shepshed, Garendon Park and Loughborough, and join the Soar between Quorn and Barrow. A plan of the proposals dated 1785 was drawn up which is illustrated (Map IV) in the article by Temple Patterson and of which two original copies exist at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland. (3) This route may also be seen on the map on the broadsheet illustrated here from Leicester to Thringstone via Loughborough. (This route is described as the 'Blue line' on the broadsheet. It was not though the route actually traced by the Charnwood Forest line when it was constructed later).

Unfortunately, the proposed canal was of little use to Lord Huntingdon's collieries at Moira and Oakthorpe which lay further to the west, and Lord Rawdon and his followers were not satisfied. This is where this broadsheet, not previously illustrated or recorded as far as it is known, may be of some interest.

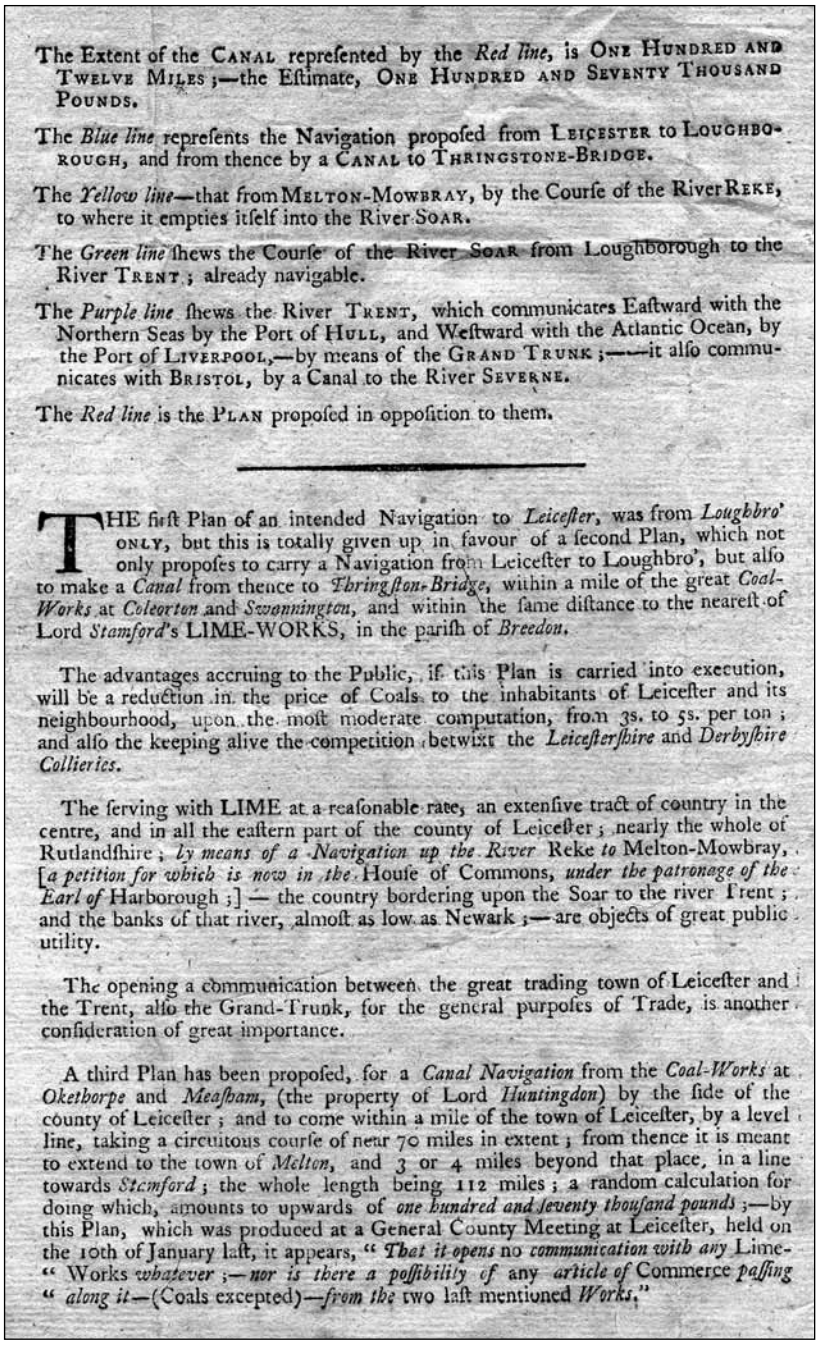
Lord Rawdon came up with an alternative to the Leicester Navigation. According to Temple Patterson ' He brought forward a plan for a canal from Oakthorpe, passing by a circuitous route near all or almost all of the principal collieries, coming (apparently) close enough to Market Harborough to offer it advantages which the rival did not, and going by Leicester to Melton.' Temple Patterson also notes that 'The precise details of the proposed route are apparently lost' and that 'A paper war of pamphlets and petitions followed, in which the opposition put out a broadsheet proclaiming that the Leicester Navigation would 'overwhelm and destroy' the whole county through which it passed.'

Three of these pamphlets of the paper war are held at ROLLR. The earliest chronologically is entitled *Considerations upon the Scheme for a Navigation to the Town of Leicester*. (4) As it makes no mention of the proposed Charnwood Forest Canal or the plan of Lord Rawdon, it probably relates to the earliest proposal for the Leicester Navigation. The pamphlet concludes that 'Upon the whole, this line of Navigation seems to have no chance to be of any Public Utility whatsoever, or even to be beneficial to the Town of Leicester. It will be attended with great injury to private property; it will prejudice extremely the owners of the many valuable collieries in Leicestershire, by transferring the principal part of their sale to the collieries in another county; without furnishing us with better coals, or on more reasonable terms; and it will establish a company of coal carriers, to the utter ruin of many hundred industrious men, and their families, and other parts of the county …'. There were clearly other such publications produced by the opposition to the Leicester Navigation as a second (later) pamphlet (5) entitled *An answer to the different statements of objections to the plans of Navigation, now proposed to be undertaken in Leicestershire* addresses claims from at least two other similar publications that 'seem to have been written with little regard to facts'. The third pamphlet has a small scale map showing Leicestershire and all adjoining counties entitled *A Plan of the 'Intended Navigation from Thringston to Loughborough and from thence to Leicester and Melton shewing their communications with other Inland Canals* ... . (6) With an associated account of the purported benefits of the Leicester Navigation, it was intended for members of the Lords and Commons, presumably at the time of the presentation of the Bill in 1786. It concludes that the plan is 'infinitely more practicable and useful than any other that has been proposed … and has been recommended for execution by a majority of the Gentlemen of the county'.

The broadsheet of 1786 reproduced here touches on many of the points outlined above, including the naming of several of the protagonists involved and the routes of the two rival plans. It was clearly another of the pamphlets issued in the 'paper war' of 1785/86 that Temple Patterson mentions. If the line on the broadsheet (described as the 'Red line' in the document) representing Lord Rawdon's route from Oakthorpe and Measham is an accurate representation of his proposed route (a point which we will return to later), it would seem to fill in the details thought by Temple Patterson to have been lost. It would appear to have been issued by supporters of the Leicester Navigation plan in retaliation to claims put out by supporters of Lord Rawdon. The broadsheet stresses the length of Lord Rawdon's suggested canals (70 miles to Leicester or 112 miles to Melton) at a cost of £170,000, figures well in excess of those claimed for the Leicester Navigation (e.g. a total of only 22 miles and 4 furlongs from Thrinkston Bridge to Leicester at a cost of £42,000). The simple, relatively short and straight Leicester Navigation construction appears to compare very favourably

to the incredibly long and winding route proposed by Lord Rawdon which apparently followed contour lines to avoid the construction of tunnels or locks. The broadsheet was clearly designed to show the latter in a bad light. At a county meeting in January 1786 (the broadsheet states the 10th), Lord Rawdon presented his plan but it did not receive the support that he required. The Bill in the Commons for the Leicester Navigation in the form proposed including The Charnwood Forest Canal was considered in May 1786 but was defeated by 51 votes to 42. Not until after Lord Rawdon and most of his group changed their minds in 1790 did a Leicester Navigation plan get the approval it needed.

The map on the broadsheet illustrated here appears to be more than a simple outline sketch. It has a scale (15 miles = 2.5 inches) and carries the name of the engraver, William Firmage. Bennett refers to Firmage as a slater, engraver, plasterer, painter, joiner, builder, stone mason, architect and surveyor. (7) He became Mayor of Leicester in 1805. Interestingly, according to Bennett he was the surveyor of the map *(A plan of the intended Canal and River Navigation from Thrinkston Bridge to Leicester ... surveyed in 1785)* reproduced in Temple Patterson's article of 1951, so that he would have been an obvious choice to produce the map on the broadsheet. He also engraved the map (scale 40 miles = 3.4 inches) that accompanied the pamphlet that was 'intended for the members of the houses of Lords and Commons' in 1786. (8) It also suggests that as it was prepared by a professional surveyor, the route shown on the broadsheet as that proposed by Lord Rawdon can probably be treated as trustworthy.



The Extent of the CANAL represented by the *Red line*, is ONE HUNDRED AND TWELVE MILES;—the Eſtimate, ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THOUSAND POUNDS.

The *Blue line* repreſents the Navigation propoſed from LEICESTER to LOUGHBOROUGH, and from thence by a CANAL to THRINGSTONE-BRIDGE.

The *Yellow line*—that from MELTON-MOWBRAY, by the Courſe of the River REKE, to where it empties itſelf into the River SOAR.

The *Green line* ſhews the Courſe of the River SOAR from Loughborough to the River TRENT; already navigable.

The *Purple line* ſhews the River TRENT, which communicates Eaſtward with the Northern Seas by the Port of HULL, and Weſtward with the Atlantic Ocean, by the Port of LIVERPOOL,—by means of the GRAND TRUNK;——it alſo communicates with BRISTOL, by a Canal to the River SEVERNE.

The *Red line* is the PLAN propoſed in oppoſition to them.

THE firſt Plan of an intended Navigation to *Leiceſter*, was from *Loughbro'* ONLY, but this is totally given up in favour of a ſecond Plan, which not only propoſes to carry a Navigation from Leiceſter to Loughbro', but alſo to make a *Canal* from thence to *Thringſton-Bridge*, within a mile of the great *Coal-Works* at *Coleorton* and *Swannington*, and within the ſame diſtance to the neareſt of Lord *Stamford*'s LIME-WORKS, in the pariſh of *Breedon*.

The advantages accruing to the Public, if this Plan is carried into execution, will be a reduction in the price of Coals to the inhabitants of Leiceſter and its neighbourhood, upon the moſt moderate computation, from 3s. to 5s. per ton; and alſo the keeping alive the competition betwixt the *Leiceſterſhire* and *Derbyſhire Collieries*.

The ſerving with LIME at a reaſonable rate, an extenſive tract of country in the centre, and in all the eaſtern part of the county of Leiceſter; nearly the whole of Rutlandſhire; *by means of a Navigation up the River* Reke *to* Melton-Mowbray, [*a petition for which is now in the* Houſe of Commons, *under the patronage of the Earl of* Harborough;] — the country bordering upon the Soar to the river Trent; and the banks of that river, almoſt as low as Newark;—are objects of great public utility.

The opening a communication between the great trading town of Leiceſter and the Trent, alſo the Grand-Trunk, for the general purpoſes of Trade, is another conſideration of great importance.

A third Plan has been propoſed, for a *Canal Navigation* from the *Coal-Works* at *Oketborpe* and *Meaſham*, (the property of Lord *Huntingdon*) by the ſide of the county of Leiceſter; and to come within a mile of the town of Leiceſter, by a level line, taking a circuitous courſe of near 70 miles in extent; from thence it is meant to extend to the town of *Melton*, and 3 or 4 miles beyond that place, in a line towards *Stamford*; the whole length being 112 miles; a random calculation for doing which, amounts to upwards of *one hundred and ſeventy thouſand pounds*;—by this Plan, which was produced at a General County Meeting at Leiceſter, held on the 10th of January laſt, it appears, "*That it opens* no *communication with any* Lime-"Works *whatever*;—*nor is there a poſſibility of* any *article of* Commerce *paſſing* "*along it*—(Coals excepted)—*from the* two laſt mentioned *Works*."

The 1786 broadsheet, lower section. (Image credit: Colin Brooks.)

Thanks are given to John Bennett for his helpful comments, to Keith Ovenden at The Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland for his assistance in locating material relevant in the preparation of this article, and to Colin Brooks for the photography.

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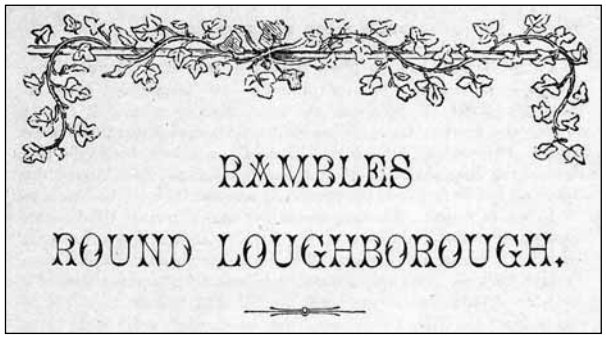
Leicestershire's First Lost Houses

J. D. Bennett

The twentieth century saw the disappearance of large numbers of country houses, particularly during the period between the two World Wars and during the 1950s and '60s. *The Destruction of the Country House 1875-1975*, the book accompanying a major exhibition of the same name at the Victoria & Albert Museum in 1974, listed more than 1,100 houses (twenty-one of them in Leicestershire) that had gone during the previous hundred years, though this was subsequently thought to be an under-estimate. It was a process which began with the agricultural depression of the 1870s and loss of revenues from farm rents; the introduction of death duties in 1894; and the loss of many sons and heirs of landed estates in the First World War. Post-war, there were difficulties with obtaining domestic servants upon whom the running of country houses largely depended; whilst the ravages of the Second World War took their toll with many houses requisitioned by the military.

Yet country houses were disappearing long before the dawn of the twentieth century. As Anna Sproule pointed out in *Lost Houses of Britain*, 'people have been destroying mansions ever since there were mansions to destroy', and she admitted that 'it would be manifestly impossible to work out how many British houses of architectural or historical importance have disappeared since, say, the Tudor period'. Some houses, thought old-fashioned or inconvenient, were let to tenant farmers, so starting a long process of decline, or just abandoned and left to fall down. Others were destroyed by accidents such as fires, or when national events such as the Civil War impinged. Those which were too close to rapidly expanding towns were sold and replaced by streets of houses. And in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries earlier houses were often demolished, to make way for new and more up-to-date mansions.

In Leicestershire there are a number of early examples of houses which, for various reasons, were vacated by their owners, and which subsequently disappeared. The mansion called Bagworth Park, built by the Banaster family in 1616 and surrounded by a moat, was very short-lived. It was garrisoned for a while by Royalist troops during the Civil War, but 'devastated and destroyed soon after', the remains finally being cleared away about 1769. Not far from Thornton Reservoir, it is still shown as a moated site on Ordnance Survey maps.



RAMBLES
ROUND LOUGHBOROUGH.

COTES BRIDGE has so often been the subject of remark that we pass it without further mention—not forgetting, however, that the Earls of Scarborough have been (traditionally) said to owe the present Lumley line to a circumstance that took place here.* The ancient British road from Lincolnshire, by Seg's Hill crossed the Soar at this point, running in a straight line through the lower part of Burton, and the present Prestwold Park. The turnpike to Hoton is recent. Turning to the left, and entering Mr. Warner Lacey's homestead, the site of the ancient Hall of Cotes is easily traced. A glance will discover this must have been a fine old place in days of yore. The old terraces, the garden walls, the traces of a boat-house, and the unique barn, are all that remain to tell what Cotes Hall (or Cotes Castle, as it was *once* called) must have been. They must be cold-hearted who can find no interest in such a spot! Here the Frumentins, the Skipwiths, the Packes long kept up a noble house. In a room—the site of which can still be traced—Charles I. spent a night in 1645,† and here he wrote that beautiful letter to Queen Henrietta, beginning "*Swete Harte.*" It is dated May 29, and was probably written *early in the morning* of that day, for the previous day the King left Ashby Castle, marched by Coleorton and Grace Dieu, where he took refreshment with Sir Henry Beaumont, and did not reach Sir Henry Skipwith's till late on the 28th, having stayed some hours at Loughborough, where a large portion of his army had arrived on the 27th. A busy and an anxious time must that have been here! Our town brimful of soldiers and the Sovereign at Cotes! Fancy may picture the scene. Late on the 29th the King and Prince Rupert met at Aylestone.

Le Keux has taken the river front of Cotes Ruins as the subject of a charming picture. We are not aware that any view of the Hall in its glory is extant, but that it must have been a noble place may be seen by what remains. At one time it was important as commanding the bridge. The large *ilex* still growing in Mr. Hallam's garden was, no doubt, flourishing in the *Plaisaunce* in 1645. The Hall was partially destroyed by fire—tradition says by an unjust steward—and much of the material was used at Prestwold. The park, extending to the fish pond, and Moat Hill, still retains its name, and, perhaps, a few of the oaks and limes of other days.

Thomas Rossell Potter's description of Cotes Hall, from Rambles Round Loughborough*, 1868. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)*

The seat of the Skipwiths and then the Packes, Cotes Hall near Loughborough was built in the 1580s and also had Civil War connections - Charles I on his way to attack Leicester, spent a night here in 1645. It was destroyed by fire in the early eighteenth century, though some of the garden walls which Thomas Rossell Potter mentioned in his *Walks round Loughborough* (1840) and in *Rambles round Loughborough* (1868) could still be seen well over a hundred years later.

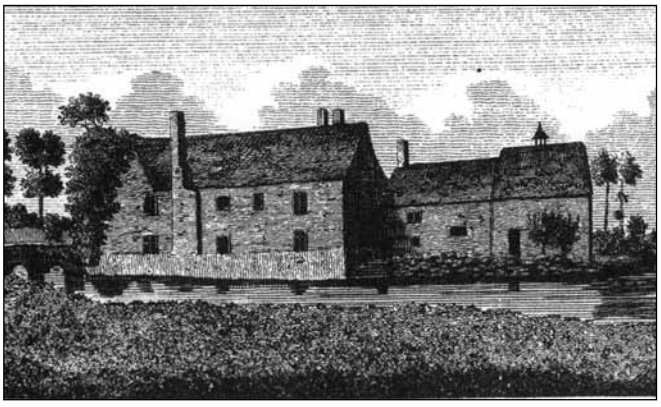
'A part of the antient mansion of the Turviles in New Hall Park is yet standing ... surrounded by a deep broad moat, over which there is a stone bridge', wrote John Nichols when he visited the site of this house near Thurlaston, built, or rebuilt in

Garden walls at Cotes, photographed in 1961.

the early part of the fifteenth century. It was the home of the Turvilles till at least the early eighteenth century, but had become a farm by the nineteenth century. The remains of the 'antient mansion' of New Hall apparently survived until the 1940s.

Bradgate House, the late medieval seat of the Greys and birthplace of the ill-fated Lady Jane, and visited by both Charles I and William III, was abandoned by the family in 1719 but apparently intact till about 1739. In 1807 the antiquary John Britton noted that 'the ruins of this venerable, and once dignified mansion … are highly picturesque', and one of Nichols' correspondents recorded that 'traces of the tilt-yard are still visible; and the courts are now occupied by rabbits, and shaded with chesnut trees and mulberries'. Not surprisingly, in the nineteenth century Bradgate became a favourite subject for local artists like John Flower and John Martin, both of whom published engravings of it, and as early as the 1830s the park was open to visitors, 'for a day's enjoyment and relaxation from the homelier cares of life and business ... to the inhabitants of Leicester ... an invaluable privilege'.

One of the least known of Leicestershire's early lost houses, Elmesthorpe Hall near Hinckley was a large Jacobean house



New Hall Park near Thurlaston, 1791, from John Nichols, History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, vol. IV, part II, plate CLII, opp. .page 1002.*

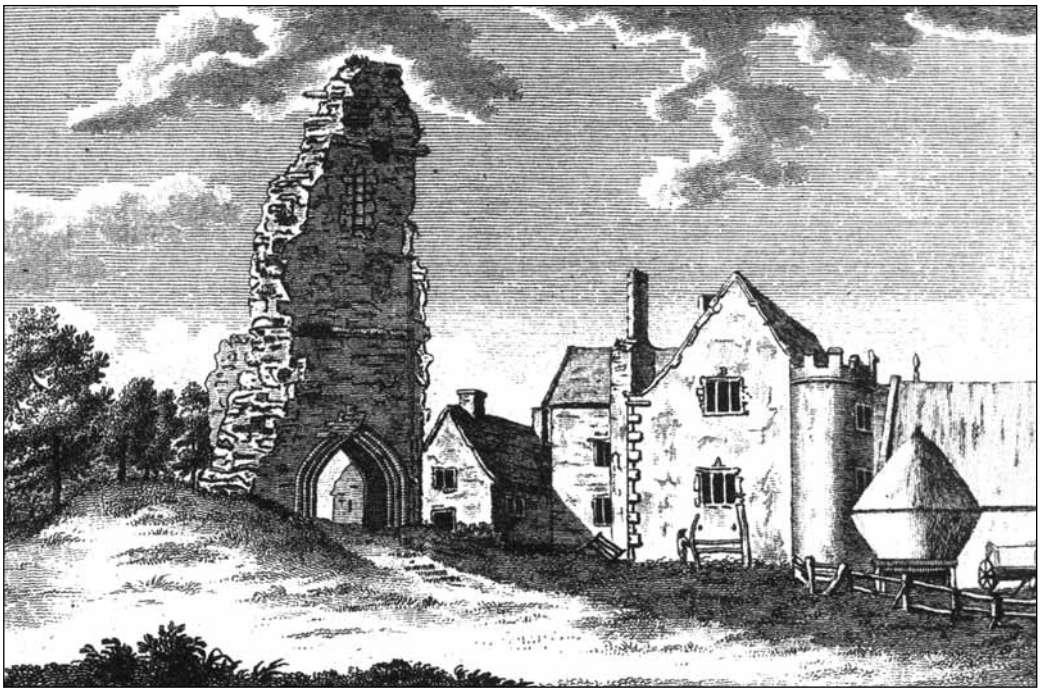
built about 1610 by the Harrington family and later owned by the Cockaines. The last remnants of it appear to have vanished about 1750.

Burnt by Parliamentary troops in the Civil War, Kirby Bellars Hall, though subsequently rebuilt also disappeared when most of it was pulled down in the 1750s. What was probably part of the stables or outbuildings was later turned into a hunting box by Sir Francis Burdett, MP, the Regency political reformer, and became known as Kirby Park. From here, in the wake of the Peterloo Massacre (1819), he wrote a widely-published condemnatory letter to his constituents, but it was deemed to be seditious libel. For this he was tried at Leicester Assizes the following year, and sentenced to three months in prison and a fine of £2,000. After his death, Kirby Park became a farmhouse which can still be seen to the left of the A607 when travelling from Leicester to Melton Mowbray.

Welham Hall, north-east of Market Harborough, had an unusual origin. Originally built c1720 by the lord of the manor, Francis Edwards, as a large inn on a projected turnpike road, this ambitious scheme failed to receive approval and the inn was converted into a mansion which lasted only about forty years. Demolished c1762, it was already a fading memory by the 1790s. John Nichols commented on the gardens, 'planted in a very magnificent style, the walls of which are now standing; and the lands, together with what the house stood upon, are converted into pasture' - what Hugh Collinson in *Rural Rides in Historic Leicestershire*, described as 'A field full of walls'.

Walls in the fields at Welham, photographed in 2015.

The home of the Turpin family, Knaptoft Hall, an early Tudor mansion, enlarged by its early seventeenth century owner, was probably burnt by Parliamentary troops in 1645. Already in a ruinous condition by the 1790s, it had largely vanished by 1805. About 1815 'a comfortable modern dwelling' was built on the site. This too was replaced, by later farmhouses incorporating some remaining fragments of the Hall.



Remains of Knaptoft Hall, 1791, from John Nichols, History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, vol. IV, part I, plate XXXII, opp. page 221.*

Cadeby Hall, a gabled, probably late seventeenth century mansion, was recorded in a watercolour by John Flower before it was demolished in 1828. It was replaced, though perhaps not immediately, by a later Cadeby Hall, described by Peter Foss in *The History of Market Bosworth* (1983) as 'rebuilt from an earlier house in the mid 19th century'. Belgrave Old Hall, a sixteenth century house, also survived long enough to be depicted by Flower in one of his famous lithographs, before being pulled down, probably in 1835 when the new road from Belgrave turn to the bottom of Red Hill was being constructed. Another house on approximately the same site, which later became Belgrave Constitutional Club, apparently included fragments of the Old Hall.

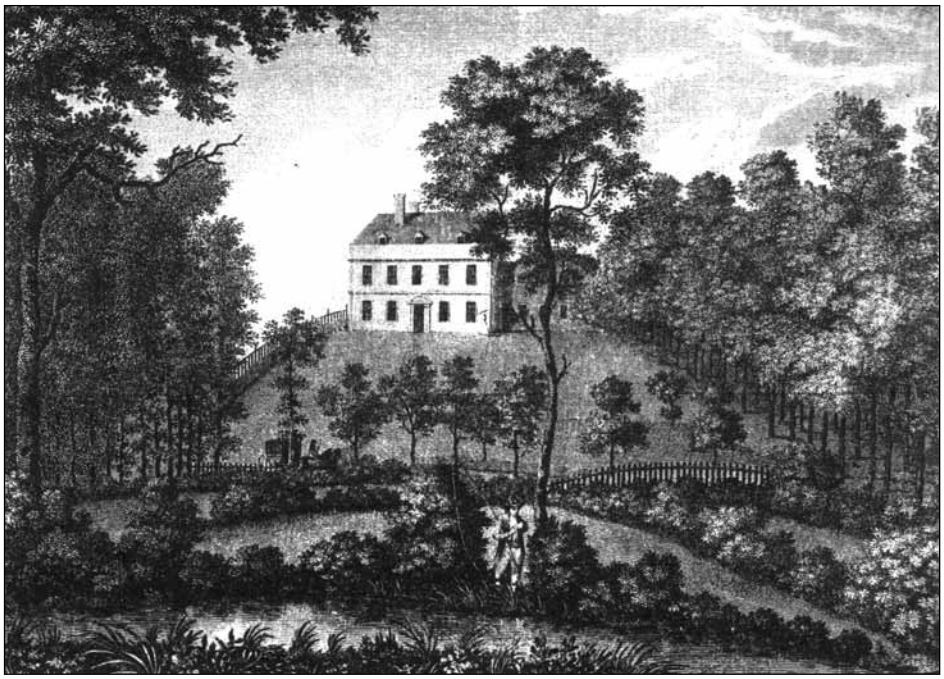
A seventeenth century mansion, the seat of the Boothby family, Tooley Hall was sold by them in 1779 and rebuilt by its new owners, the Boultbees, early in the nineteenth century. It had become a farmhouse by the 1840s and was abandoned later in the century, its ruins a playground for local children. The ruins subsequently disappeared, though some garden walls and an entrance lodge could still be seen in the late 1950s.

The Hall at Sutton Cheney is an example of a partially lost house. Originally a gabled Elizabethan mansion, with a recessed centre and two projecting wings, it was 'speedily hastening to decay' by the 1790s and appears to have been partly pulled down during the nineteenth century, perhaps after the death of Richard Smith (d.1852) who lived here for fifty years according to his monument in Sutton church. What now remains is the former right wing, much restored in Victorian brick.

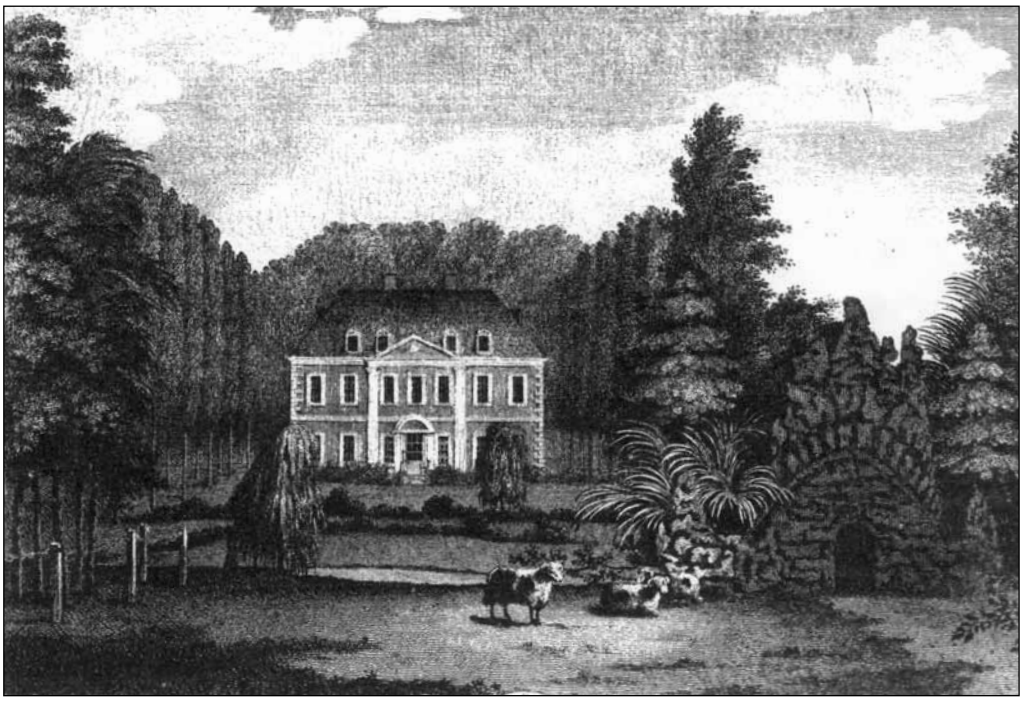
Danets Hall and Westcotes Hall on the western fringes of Leicester were both victims of urban expansion. In 1801 the population of Leicester was only 16,953, but by 1861 it was 68,056 and twenty years later had reached 122,376. The home of the Watts family from about 1700 to 1769, and rebuilt by them, Danets Hall then had a succession of owners, but by 1828 belonged to Dr Joseph Noble. After his death in 1861 in a cholera epidemic in the Spanish town of Malaga, the estate was sold to the Leicester Freehold Land Society and the house demolished the same year. Addressing the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society in 1864, Dr John Barclay observed: 'Danets Hall is swept away, and new streets laid out on its site ... I cannot forbear the expression of a regret that the Danets Hall estate was not secured as a place of recreation for the public - a Peoples Park'.

The same idea resurfaced some twenty years later when the Westcotes estate was sold, with the suggestion that the mansion and its grounds should become a public library and park. This proposal was rejected by the Corporation, and the ancient home of the Rudings, then in the nineteenth century of the Freer and Harris families, was demolished in 1885. Refronted about 1730, it was so well built that dynamite was used 'to hasten the work of its destruction'. A Georgian staircase from the house was saved and re-erected in 1894 at Somerleaze, a house at Wookey in Somerset, where it was seen by a contributor to the *Rutland Magazine* in 1911.

Many Leicestershire country houses have been rebuilt, some of them more than once, though not always on the same site, so the forerunners of the present Baggrave Hall (rebuilt in the 1750s), Beaumanor (last rebuilt in the 1840s), Belvoir Castle (last rebuilt following the disastrous fire of 1816), Donington Hall (rebuilt in the 1790s) and Swithland Hall (rebuilt in the 1830s after fire destroyed its predecessor) are also examples of lost houses.



Danets Hall, illustrated by Throsby, from John Nichols, History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, vol. IV, part II, plate XCIV, opp. page 567.*



Westcotes Hall, illustrated by Throsby from John Nichols, History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, vol. IV, part II, plate XCIV, opp. page 567.*

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From Berlin to New York via Leicester: The long journey of the Attenboroughs' 'adopted sisters' (Part 2)

Richard Graves

This article continues the moving story of sisters Irene and Helga Bejach who arrived in Leicester from Berlin on a *Kindertransport* just before the outbreak of the Second World War, and who became the 'adopted sisters' of Richard, David and John Attenborough.

The Attenboroughs and the University of Leicester

In October 1931 Frederick Levi Attenborough had been appointed as Principal of the University College of Leicester, later to become the University of Leicester. With his wife, Mary, and their three young sons, Richard aged 8, David 5 and John 3, the family moved into College House on the edge of Victoria Park. College House was built in 1872 as a home for the Medical Superintendent of the former Leicestershire & Rutland County Lunatic Asylum. The entire site along with 37 acres of surrounding land had been gifted to the Borough of Leicester by Thomas Fielding Johnson a retired local textile manufacturer in 1919 for a new University, and in 1921, Leicester College admitted its first nine students. Frederick Levi Attenborough became the College's second Principal and remained in post until 1951, with College House being the Attenborough family home for twenty years, and as such it was the adopted home of Irene and Helga Bejach for seven of those years. It is still used today, now by the University of Leicester's Department of Mathematics.

When Irene and Helga arrived in August 1939 it was not a complete surprise to brothers Richard, David and John. Their parents would often take one or two boys who had never seen the sea with them on annual family holidays to Wales. Richard recalled: 'There were always other children in the house who were in some way disadvantaged. Fred and Mary were constantly looking for ways to address the problems of poverty, injustice and cruelty'. (1)

Fred Attenborough had academic interests in Germany, and became well aware of the deteriorating situation for Jewish academics in the country during the late 1930s. He chaired a committee to bring Jewish academics to Britain, some of whom came to Leicester. As David recalls: 'Such refugees were only allowed into this country if they had jobs here. So the University College offered distinguished scientists from Germany posts as laboratory assistants which they held until such time as they could either get something more suitable in Britain, or were able to continue on their journey to the United States'. (2) Places were also facilitated for refugee students. The Academic Committee Minutes of the University College give a flavour of the positive action being taken to assist academic refugees, for example, the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th March 1939 record the recommendation that 'in the event of refugee students coming to reside in Leicester, they should be allowed, if they wish to continue their studies, to attend courses at the College without payment of fees'. (3) One of the academics the University College was hoping to assist out of Germany was Dr Curt Bejach. David Attenborough recalls: 'My parents agreed that before he managed to escape they would take his two daughters, Irene and Helga-Maria, and give them a home until they could continue to New York where they had an uncle'. (4) Irene and Helga duly arrived just three weeks before war was declared. Their father and older sister, Jutta, however, were now trapped in Germany.

Wartime Leicester and beyond

When it became clear that the girls' onward journey to New York would have to be postponed indefinitely due to the outbreak of war, Fred and Mary explained to the boys that 'it was their wish to take the girls permanently into the family and to treat them as their daughters. They would become a family of seven as opposed to five and they would all be treated alike'. (5) Richard Attenborough conceded that this sudden change to family life caused tensions, 'but we felt excited rather than compromised'. (6)

Within a month of arriving in a country where they knew little of the language, the two sisters had to accustom themselves to the idea that their new host country was at war with the land where their father and sister still lived and with ever-increasing personal risk, and that they would have to settle into a new school for the start of the academic year. All three Attenborough brothers attended Wyggeston Boys' Grammar School and the school records for Wyggeston Girls' Grammar show that Gisela M. Irene Bejach and Helga Maria Bejach entered the school on 13th September 1939. (7) Helga's daughter, Beverly, says that her mother was 'hyperactive' at school, but in general both girls flourished at Wyggeston. (8)

Although they had grown up in a non-religious environment in Germany, Helga and Irene were always aware of their half-Jewish heritage. At College House whilst no religious rituals were observed by the family, the Attenboroughs employed Jewish chambermaids from time to time who were provided with a room to celebrate key events in the Jewish calendar such as Pesach (Passover). Irene and Helga were allowed to observe these rituals, and whilst they did not participate, this was their first real contact with Jewish religious rituals. (9)

Helga practising ballet in the garden of College House. (Reproduced by permission of the Florida Holocaust Museum, USA.)

Helga found Leicester "exciting" and found a strong role model in Mary Attenborough. Helga said of life at College House: 'They were a most extraordinary family, really brilliant. As well as being intellectual Auntie Mary was wonderful at looking after the house, good at everything. Uncle Fred was stricter. Two gongs would sound at mealtimes, one to wash your hands and one to be at the table and we all toed the line. They were so supportive of my passion for ballet. David and Irene were the same age and they fought but he was very nice to me. He would bring me books on ballet from the library. We were really so lucky'. (10)

Richard Attenborough said that sharing the family home with Helga and Irene in wartime Leicester strongly influenced the future themes of his artistic work and his portrayal of human rights issues in particular: 'Instead of hearing of the horror of racial prejudice, anti-Semitism and brutality in theory we heard it first-hand'. (11)

Once in Leicester, Helga and Irene talked very little about their former life in Germany, and they were 'not particularly overjoyed' even when they received mail from Germany. (12) This may have been in part a 'defence mechanism' to suppress their anxieties, but Helga admitted that new interests and activities at school, particularly dance, helped her to look forward and not to the past. (13) She said that dance absorbed her and 'became my salvation'. (14)

Irene and Helga, aged 16 and 14 respectively, both left Wyggeston on 28th July 1942. Irene's 'occupation or further training' plans were 'to attend De Montfort College'. (15) This institution no longer exists, but in 1942 it was known as De Montfort Secretarial College, and was located in Lloyds Bank Chambers, 9 High Street, next to the Clock Tower, in Leicester city centre. (16) The intention was presumably for Irene to undertake vocational training as preparation for any future career.

Helga's future plans were 'to live with grandmother – Uxbridge High School'. (17) This is something of a mystery as Helga's natural grandmothers were not in England at the time. Helga had presumably expressed a wish to leave Wyggeston at the same time as her older sister. Although the earliest state school leaving age at the time was 14, the Attenboroughs, and presumably Helga herself, were no doubt keen to channel her energies into pursuing some form of continuing education. Records also show that shortly before Helga and Irene left the Wyggeston, Fred Attenborough wrote to the School of Ballet, 79 Wildwood Road, Hampstead, London, on 14th May, explaining the situation of the girls and saying of Helga that she 'is now 14 and is consumed with a desire to become a ballet dancer. We have sent her to the local school of ballet, the teacher of which is very much impressed by this child and has offered to give her free tuition while she is in Leicester. She is convinced that the child is very good indeed'. (18) There is no record of any reply or any evidence that Helga went to Hampstead.

Helga had first become acquainted with the traditional Jewish *'hora'* dance on the boat from Holland to England, and this seems to have stimulated her interest in dance, which was to become a life-long passion. Both girls would have had the opportunity and encouragement to see live theatre and to embrace the arts during their stay with the Attenboroughs. Mary Attenborough was actively involved with the Little Theatre in Dover Street, Leicester, and Richard's thespian beginnings focussed on the same venue from an early age.

It is not known if Helga ever attended Uxbridge High School, but she did at some stage during 1942-43 attend the small private school, Chalfont Lodge, at nearby Gerrards Cross for at least one term. This is evidenced by a report card at the end of the summer term, which records that

Helga had made 'satisfactory progress' and that her conduct was 'very good indeed'. She also displayed 'a keen and intelligent interest' in English Literature. (19) At first Helga was probably living with an aunt, who had moved from Hampstead to Chalfont St Peter during the Blitz. Later she moved into the school as a residential 'boarder', 'back in the jurisdiction of the Attenboroughs'. (20)

In late 1944 and into 1945-6, Helga visited and stayed at three different addresses in Boscastle, Cornwall. In 1944-5 she was enrolled as a student at the innovative Ginner Mawer School of Dance and Drama which had been evacuated from London to Boscastle during the war. Helga was to became a devotee of modern dance, this suiting her physique and personality more than classical ballet. (21)

The effects of war in Leicester

There had been a small influx of Jewish refugees into Leicester from Central Europe throughout the 1930s augmenting the existing community. Many in the 'host' community did not however find it easy to integrate with the new arrivals. (22) There was also a significant influx of Jews from other large cities in Britain, such as London and Manchester, as they sought a 'safer' refuge from bombing. Leicester appealed to a number of immigrants because it was an important European centre of hosiery, textiles and fashion, the so-called *'schmatter trade'*. (23) One refugee from London to Leicester quoted her family's removals man as saying: 'You'll find a better class of Jewish people in Leicester than in the East End'. (24)

Fairly soon after war broke out and with the effects of rationing starting to be felt, households with access to a garden were encouraged to 'dig for Victory'. College House at the time had a reasonable garden area and was 'surrounded by a great deal of open ground presumably to allow for the future expansion of the College. There was a large paddock (in which there was at one time a horse). My father used this paddock to grow vegetables and soft fruit and to keep a pig and chickens'. (25) Helga later recalled that '(John) and I had the job of feeding the chickens'. (26) As a major industrial city Leicester was always a likely target for German bombing raids, although it did not suffer the same level of damage and fatalities as neighbouring Coventry. Irene and Helga, however, could not have failed to notice various activities on their own doorstep which would have reminded them of the ongoing threat and danger. The iron railings and fencing around Victoria Park were removed to be recycled as scrap metal for the war effort, whilst by 1941 several acres of the western end of the park in front of College House had been transformed into temporary allotments.

On 14th November 1940 Coventry had been attacked by the Luftwaffe. Just five days later on 19th November 1940 Leicester was attacked on the same night that Birmingham was hit. Around 550 houses were destroyed, over 4,000 were damaged and over 80 industrial premises were either demolished or disabled. The area worst hit was Highfields where most of the 108 fatalities and 200 injuries were sustained barely half a mile from College House. Leicester's Synagogue was also badly damaged. The following night, Wednesday 20th November, another smaller raid came even closer to home for Irene and Helga. With wartime anonymity, the *Leicester Mercury* noted: 'A Midland town that had suffered in the bombing of Tuesday-Wednesday night stood in preparedness last night and for many hours suffered intermittent bombing. The raid was by no means as severe as in the previous night, but casualties were caused….A German plane dropped a flare to light up its target, and then a large bomb fell in a park. The blast from this bomb caused a great deal of damage in houses surrounding the area'. (27) Two parachute landmines had been dropped - the first destroyed a factory in St. Saviours Road, Highfields, which was producing parts for RAF Spitfire fighter planes, and the second damaged beyond repair the large pavilion in Victoria Park, which had been erected in 1876. Later intelligence reports revealed that the intended target of the second landmine was in fact a secret radio transmitter, which was housed in the nearby University College. (28)

Believed by David Attenborough to be taken in Cornwall. Back row Fred, Helga and probably W. G. Hoskins. Front row, unknown lady and Mary. (Reproduced by permission of Beverly Waldman Rich.)

Part of Victoria Park, Leicester, converted to allotments during World War II. The World War I Memorial is in background. (Reproduced by permission of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.)

Murder and forced labour in wartime Germany

Following the departure of Irene and Helga to safe refuge in England the situation deteriorated for their father, Curt and sister, Jutta. Jutta had wanted to study medicine in Berlin but was now barred from doing so on account of her Jewish heritage under the *'Rassegesteze'*, or race laws. She worked in an office for a while and then as *'Zwangsarbeiterin'*, or forced labour, in a parachute factory. In a letter dated 3rd June 1941 Curt writes from Berlin to Helga in Leicester explaining that Jutta will be returning home at the end of June after four and a half months away. (29) In the same letter Curt refers to Helga's forthcoming fourteenth birthday and bemoans the fact that he is not able to send any gift to her except a small photo of Jutta. Curt makes the effort to remain upbeat and says that they are now starting to make preparations for their *'Ausreise'* (emigration). They were apparently on a waiting list for a US visa, and he writes that with luck, they might all be reunited by the end of the year. (30)

Between 8th June 1942 and 17th September 1943 Curt Bejach, a doctor by profession, was sent as forced labour to work in his downgraded capacity as a *'Behandler'*, or medical assistant, at Waldlager Britz, a camp in Brandenburg, which housed prisoners of war and foreign forced labour workers. Shortly after Curt returned to Berlin on the night of 22nd-23rd November 1943, most of the old *Hansaviertel* was destroyed in Allied bombing raids, including the Bejach family home in Claudiusstraße. Fortunately neither Curt nor Jutta were there at the time, but they quickly had to make emergency housing arrangements. Curt moved into the home of a colleague, Dr Georg Braun, in Berlin-Charlottenburg, whilst Jutta stayed with a friend from school, Birgit von Harbou, the niece of a German film-maker and screen writer, Thea von Harbou, in a Berlin suburb. Jutta continued to see her father during this time. On 18th December 1943 a message was sent from Jutta on behalf of herself and her father via the German Red Cross to Irene in Leicester, saying they were both well and wishing Irene a happy birthday. The message arrived on 25th January 1944, three weeks after her birthday, with Irene replying in early March that she and Helga received regular correspondence from Uncle Hans in New York. (31) Irene would not have known at the time she replied that her father was by then no longer in Berlin.

In December 1943 a Nazi party circular authorised local security police to deport Jewish spouses of formerly 'protected' mixed marriages if those marriages had been ended by divorce or death. As a widower since 1931, Curt Bejach was deported by train from the goods station in Moabit, Berlin to Theresienstadt Ghettolager on 10th January 1944 with 351 fellow prisoners, where like many deported Jewish doctors, he was forced to continue working in a medical capacity as long as his strength held up. (32) On 17th July 1944 Curt sent a typed letter from Theresienstadt to Jutta saying that he was still receiving correspondence intermittently, and he had received the card celebrating and depicting Jutta's recent marriage. Jutta, now aged 22, had married Axel Grosser, like herself half-Jewish. Jutta was to recall that they took their marriage vows on a copy of the Bible, unlike many young German couples at the time, who swore their vows on a copy of Hitler's *'Mein Kampf'*. (33) A letter in English dated 8th May 1945 from Jutta and Axel to Irene and Helga explains that they are now living near Hamburg. (34) Jutta says that they have not heard news of their father since October 1944, but 'at all events we will try to come out of Germany'. In fact it would be another five years before Jutta and Axel finally left Germany and the three sisters were reunited after a ten-year separation. After eight months at Theresienstadt, Curt Bejach was deported on 29th September 1944 with around 1,500 other prisoners to Auschwitz where he was murdered barely a month later on 31st October. (35) Irene and Helga would not learn their father's fate for certain until well after the end of the war.

Emigration to America

At the end of the war, plans were resumed for Irene and Helga to carry on to America. In a letter to Uncle Hans in New York from a Mr Hohmer, Regional Secretary of the Refugee Children's Movement in Leeds, dated 9th October 1945, Hohmer explains that it was impossible to predict at that stage when the girls might sail as the shipping situation

was only just beginning to return to normal. He had, however, met Irene and Helga in Leicester and assured Hans that the girls 'are a success in every respect'. He also wrote that the girls in turn had 'every reason to be thankful to Mr and Mrs Attenborough for all the care and excellent education they have provided for the girls'. (36)

Taken at College House mid-1940s. Back row David, Sheila Sim, John and Richard. Front row Fred and Mary. (Reproduced by permission of the Florida Holocaust Museum, USA.)

An abstract from the US Department of Justice *'List or Manifest of Alien Passengers for the United States, List no. 50'*, shows that Irene and Helga, by now aged 20 and 19, travelled on the Cunard liner *SS Aquitania*, which left Southampton on 27th October 1946. Helga's Certificate of Identity issued by the Home Office in London, shows that she was 'admitted permanent' at New York on 2nd November 1946 and that she was allowed to take the basic allowance of £10 for travelling expenses. (37) Irene is described in the *Manifest* as a 'short-hand typist' and Helga as a 'student'. Their nationality or country of origin is listed as '(Germany) Stateless'. Their last permanent address is listed as 'England, Leicester'.

Irene and Helga disembarked in New York on 2nd November 1946, after spending the first two decades of their life in a Europe disfigured by intolerance and genocide in their German homeland, but also marked by an immense humanitarian gesture, which had sheltered and nurtured them in wartime England. Their destination in New York was the home of their uncle, Hans Egon Bejach, the oldest of the Bejach brothers, and his wife, Frieda. Hans had managed to emigrate from Germany in 1939, and he was practising as a doctor in Chambers Street, Lower Manhattan. Frieda had worked as a seamstress in order to help pay her husband's business costs. (38) Their home was in West 69th Street in the Upper West Side of Manhattan, between the Hudson River and Central Park. Irene soon found work in New York using the secretarial skills she had learnt at college in Leicester. She had a brief first marriage which ended in divorce. Then in 1960 aged 34, she married Sam Goudsmit, aged 58, whom she had met when they were both working at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island. Both Irene and Helga had maintained contact with all the Attenborough family following their emigration in 1946, a 'family' bond which was strong enough for Sam to fly from America to England to ask Fred Attenborough for Irene's hand in marriage. (39)

Helga and Irene in England 1944-45, location unknown. (Reproduced by permission of the Florida Holocaust Museum, USA.)

Samuel Abraham Goudsmit was a major figure in American physics. He was born in The Hague into a Dutch Jewish family in July 1902. He studied physics at Leiden University in Holland where he obtained his doctorate in 1927. One of his significant and historic contributions to the field of theoretical physics was his postulation of electron spin in 1925, achieved jointly with his colleague, George Uhlenbeck. The detailed mathematical theory was later worked out by Wolfgang Pauli in 1927. Dr Goudsmit moved to America in 1927. Dr Goudsmit became widely known after World War II when it was learnt that he had been scientific director of the secret Allied wartime mission, known as Alsos, whose task was to follow the Allied advance into Europe and find out whether or not the Germans were making an atomic bomb. Whilst in Europe in the wake of the German retreat, Sam visited the ruins of his childhood home in Holland. His parents had been taken to a concentration camp where they were both murdered. He had apparently arranged for his parents to emigrate to America just before the Germans invaded, and he later blamed himself for not having worked faster to achieve this goal. (40) After his official retirement Sam became a visiting professor at the University of Nevada. Irene and Sam moved briefly to Reno, Nevada, where Sam died of a heart attack on 4th December 1978. After Sam passed away Irene moved back east and settled in River Vale, New Jersey. (41)

In America Irene did not pursue any formal further education, but she was 'smart as a whip, and could hold her own with all of her husband Sam's colleagues (who you can imagine were quite intellectual)'. (42) Irene had very strong convictions about public health and the environment. At one stage she worked for The Planned Parenthood Federation of America, echoing part of her father's role as a *Stadtarzt* in 1920s and 30s Berlin. (43) Irene passed away on 25th May 1994, aged 68. She was 'probably one of the kindest and most generous people that I have known. When she died quite suddenly in 1994 I felt a huge void as did our family'. (44) Irene had no children from either marriage, although she was devoted to Helga's children and to Jutta's son, Rene. (45)

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NLT HELGA MARIA BEJACH 106 WEST 69TH STREET NEWYORK23USA

DEAR HELGA WE BOTH SEND YOU OUR VERY BEST WISHES AND MANY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR 21ST BIRTHDAY WITH OUR FONDEST LOVE

SHEILA AND DICKIE

Telegram from Richard Attenborough and his wife Sheila Sim to Helga in New York on the occasion of her 21st birthday, 21st August 1948. (Reproduced by permission of the Florida Holocaust Museum, USA.)

Helga found work in New York as a telephone operator. She met her future husband, Herman Waldman, a clinical psychologist, on a 'blind date' in 1952 and they married in 1954. (46) Helga continued to pursue her 'passion for dance', encouraged by Herman. After teaching modern dance at the Rockland Center for the Arts in West Nyack, New York, for many years she became the Center's Director of Dance Education. She also continued her pursuit of formal further education and obtained a B.A. from the Rodger Williams University when she was in her 40s and later a Masters in Occupational Therapy in her 50s. After retirement the Waldmans moved to Florida in 1989. Helga had converted to Judaism through the influence of Herman and his family, and became an active member of the local Reform temple when they retired to Florida. (48) Helga also became actively involved with the Florida Holocaust Museum in St Petersburg, Florida, where she frequently gave talks to school children about her experiences. (49)

Helga passed away in 2005 and was survived by Herman who still lives in Florida. She was also survived by two daughters, Beverly Rich and Hilary Waldman, and six grandchildren. Beverly is the mother of four and works as an advanced practice nurse in child and adolescent psychiatry and also teaches at a college. She is married to Harlan G. Rich, Associate Professor of Medicine at Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island. Hilary was a journalist for about 30 years and studied for a Masters Degree in Public Health as a mature student, with a particular emphasis on 'underserved populations'. (50) This recalls the pioneering work of her grandfather, Dr Curt Bejach, in Berlin during the 1920s and 1930s described earlier. Hilary now works in internal communications for a large hospital in Hartford, Connecticut. She is married to Joseph O'Brien, also a journalist, and the couple have two teenage children.

Jutta eventually emigrated to America with her husband Axel Grosser, in 1949 when she was almost 28. The delay in leaving Germany was due to tighter controls on immigration into post-war America and the priority given to refugees who had survived the concentration camps in Europe. Jutta and Axel settled in New York. They had one son, Rene. They divorced in 1967. Jutta worked for a medical textbook company, Grune and Stratton, in New York, and became the company's vice-president for medical books and operations when she was in her 50s. (51) She lived in an 8th floor apartment in Madison Avenue for many years and moved to upstate New York after the events of 9/11. Jutta still lives in New York State, now aged 93.

Postscript – Berlin 2015

The Modernist *Landhaus*, or villa, designed and built by Erich Mendelsohn for his friend Curt Bejach in Berlin-Steinstücken in 1927, survived the war and is now considered to be a nationally important architectural monument of its time and style. It is today used as the base of the Erich Mendelsohn Foundation. In 2011 the civic authorities in Berlin Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg named the health centre in its area *Curt Bejach-Gesundheitshaus*, official recognition after 86 years of the pioneering role of Dr Curt Bejach in establishing the *Gesundheitshaus am Urban* in the same area in 1925.

Herman and Helga Waldman with Richard Attenborough and his daughter, Jane, on Richard's 50th wedding anniversary, 22nd January 1995. (Reproduced by permission of the Florida Holocaust Museum, USA.)

Irene, Jutta and Helga in New York area 1950. (Reproduced by permission of the Florida Holocaust Museum, USA.)

The new Health Centre in Berlin named after Curt Bejach. (Reproduced by permission of Helga Lieser, Bezirksamt Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg von Berlin 2014.)

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51. E-mail with Irene's niece, Beverly Waldman Rich, op cit.

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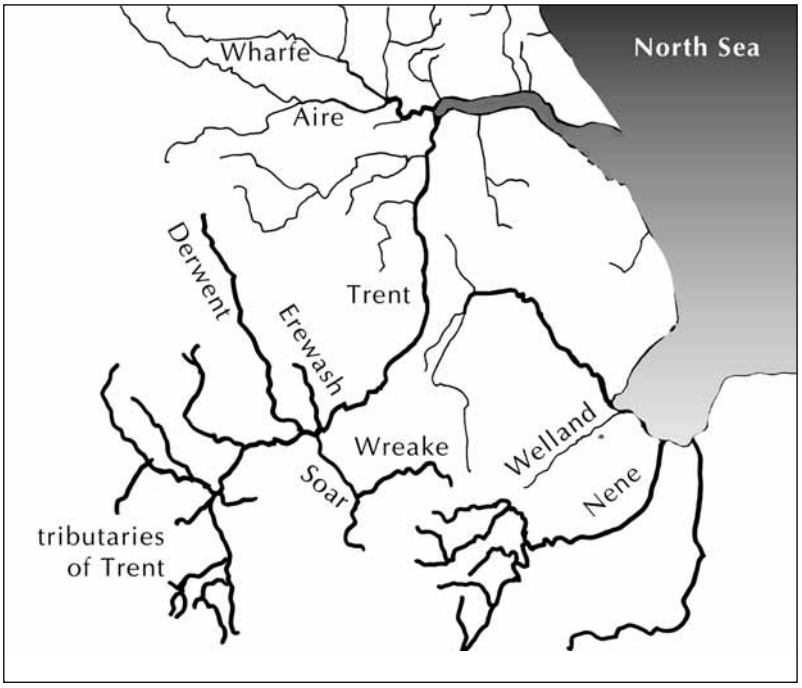
Leicestershire: a County of Inland Ports

Bob Trubshaw

Before bridges, rivers presented significant obstacles to overland travel giving importance to locations where they could be more-or-less reliably forded. Yet, at the same time, rivers were in themselves important routeways – not least when transporting goods which were too heavy or bulky to be easily carried overland. Put these two ideas together and little surprise that places where rivers could be forded became trading places.



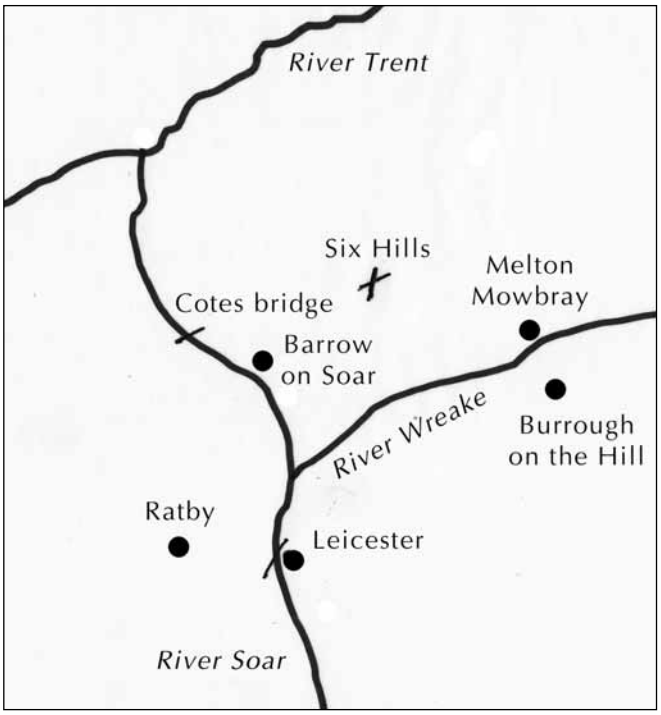
Sketch map of the principal rivers draining into the Wash and Humber estuary.

The importance of fords stretches back into prehistory, as Jan Harding's study of North Yorkshire reveals in its correlation between the lowest fording places on rivers and Neolithic henges. (1) The evidence is more abundant in the Roman era, where numerous settlements are associated with fordable river crossings, Ratae Corieltauvorum - Leicester - being a good example where the Roman Fosse Way enters the city immediately after crossing the River Soar. The Normans also recognised the strategic importance of this entrance by the river crossing, and erected their castle nearby. This is also the relationship of the Tower of London to the precursor of Tower Bridge across the Thames.

Interestingly, in the whole distance between Lincoln and Cirencester, the Fosse Way makes only four significant river crossings. Around Newark where the Fosse Way runs to the side of the River Trent but does not cross it. After the River Soar at Leicester the next crossing was the 'missing bridge' over a tributary of the Soar to the north of High Cross. After the demise of this bridge route the Fosse Way dog-legged west along Watling Street then north through Sharnford, which as the place-name suggests, had no need for a bridge. The third significant crossing is over the Avon at Bretford in Warwickshire. Here the valley is so flat that a ford rather than a bridge is probable – the place-name may derive from 'planked ford' but otherwise is a dialect variation on 'broad ford'. Finally, in Gloucestershire, not far north of Cirencester, is the Fossebridge crossing where – in complete contrast to Bretford – a steep-sided ravine allowed for a short bridge to traverse the River Coln.

John Blair appears to have been the first to recognise fords and bridges as Anglo-Saxon 'meeting places' looking at examples in Oxfordshire (2). Andrew Reynolds, who has examined the role of fords and bridges as sites for Anglo-Saxon judicial executions (3), noted that such crossings tend to be continuities of previous Roman centres of jurisdiction and governance.

The River Soar from King Richard III bridge, looking towards Leicester castle mound.



Simplified map of the rivers Trent, Soar and Wreake showing principal places mentioned.

But could there be continuity from the Iron Age to the Anglo-Saxon era? Around ten years ago I became intrigued by the proximity of Leicester to the late Iron Age hill fort known as Bury Camp at Ratby, and by the similar proximity of Melton Mowbray to the older Iron Age hill fort at Burrough on the Hill, both of which suggested possible continuity from the Iron Age across the Roman period into the Anglo-Saxon era. Like Leicester, Melton Mowbray is situated at the side of a river. Downstream of Melton, the river is known as the Wreake – a rare example of an English river with a Scandinavian name, and the result of the extensive Scandinavian settlement in the valley during the ninth century. Upstream of Melton the river retains its earlier name, the Eye. The modern bridge at Melton is a splendid piece of architecture, but the topography strongly suggests that this location would have been a good place for a ford.

The name Melton itself reveals the importance of the settlement – it was the 'middle town'. But, just as a High Street is not necessarily more elevated than others, so too a 'middle town' was not merely the most central settlement. The sense of 'middle town' was akin to 'high town' – somewhere more important than other streets or towns. Interestingly, Melton Mowbray is more or less in the centre of a land unit roughly the same size as Rutland, and like Hambleton in Rutland, it may have been the main residence of an early Anglo-Saxon leader whose 'kingdom' approximated to the Framland Hundred (but probably without the Bottesford 'pan handle').

While direct evidence is lacking, we can reasonably assume both Leicester and Melton were at the limits of navigation of the Soar and the Wreake respectively – at least for the type of boats that might be travelling these inland waterways in the Iron Age. The importance of such 'ports' situated almost in the centre of England cannot be underestimated. Anything loaded onto a boat at the wharf in Leicester could be readily transported along the Trent and Humber to any other port in the British Isles, over to the Continental coastline, and even up rivers such as the Seine, Maas, Rhine and Elbe.

From at least the later Iron Age onwards, there would have been considerable trade between the East Midlands and the Continent – horses, hunting dogs, slaves and grain were probably the main exports, and with 'luxury goods' – such as good quality pottery, wine and olive oil the most probable imports. In times of poor harvests there would have been a real need for such transport– accompanied inevitably, by the prospect of worthwhile profits.

We know that by the eighteenth century the Soar was not passable to boats anywhere along its length, but what of the river in the centuries immediately after the Roman period? If the gradual silting up which led to this had started in the Roman period, then this might explain why Leicester is much less important in the Anglo-Saxon era than might be expected.

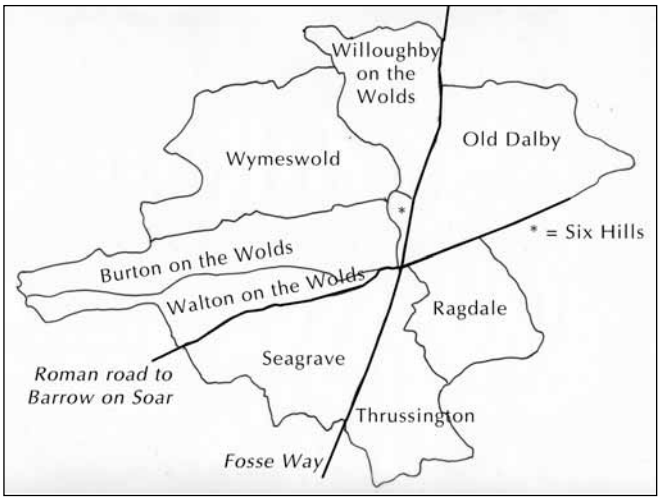
The River Soar and Proctor's Park at Barrow on Soar. In Anglo-Saxon times this area was a thriving riverside settlement.

In contrast, for example, vast amounts of Anglo-Saxon pottery shards collected from the vicinity of Proctor's Park caravan and camping site reveal that a substantial 'port' once thrived where the Roman road from high east Leicestershire crossed the Soar at Barrow on Soar suggesting that the Soar was navigable to Barrow during the Anglo-Saxon period.

The area around Goadby Marwood is particularly rich in iron ore, and is also known to have been settled in Roman times. The Roman road from neighbouring Eastwell via Six Hills to Barrow would have been the shortest route by which iron smelted at Goadby Marwood could be put on a boat. Goadby, along with Thistleton in Rutland, would have been one of the most important places for 'wealth generation' in the region from the later Iron Age through the Roman era. By extension, the wharf at Barrow on Soar would have been of regional or national significance. From Barrow the Roman road continued on the west bank of the Soar to a small Romano-British town near Ravenstone, conveniently situated equidistantly between the Soar and the Trent.

In the Anglo-Saxon era, the continued importance of Barrow would justify the creation of Burton on the Wolds which was created by dividing Prestwold and Walton on the Wolds parishes as part of King Alfred's defences against the Vikings. What is most revealing about Burton on the Wolds is that the parish acquired a 'pan-handle' of land just a few hundred metres wide stretching down to the Soar at Cotes. This makes no sense unless the garrison needed easy access to the river.

There has been a bridge at Cotes since at least the early fourteenth century, but in earlier times the river would have flowed anywhere between Cotes Mill and what is now the Brush factory on the outskirts of Loughborough. This would have been an excellent ford except when in flood – when the



The parishes of the Leicestershire Wolds, showing the Roman roads and the westward extension of Burton on the Wolds and Walton on the Wolds to the banks of the River Soar.

eponymous 'cots' at Cotes would provide shelter until the water levels had fallen. Along with Stanford on Soar, just over a mile away, Cotes is probably as far downstream from Leicester that the Soar could be reliably forded, as topography suggests that the bridge further north at Zouch probably replaced one or more ferries.

As the regular water levels at Cotes would not normally have allowed a boat to be floated over the fording place, it would also have provided a strategic defence for places upstream. While peaceful Viking traders were probably fairly commonplace, should any less welcome Vikings have had the temerity to drag their craft upstream, they would have done so knowing that a 'welcoming party' would have awaited their return journey – and any 'loot' would simply have made the craft more difficult to drag over the shallows associated with the ford.

The River Soar seen from the Cotes end of Cotes Bridge. Note the shallow weir alongside the bridge. The valley is flat all the way to the far distance, where the Brush factory stands on the outskirts of Loughborough.

Furthermore, as the confluence with the Wreake is also upstream, this means that not only Barrow on Soar is protected. Leicester and Melton are also out of reach of such raiding. Keeping a small permanent garrison at Burton on the Wolds would be an excellent 'investment'. The toot hill in Loughborough, which survives only as a street name, could have kept a look out for 'danger signals' from the burgh on the other bank so that the west bank was also defended. Clearly the ninth century inhabitants of Melton Mowbray took a similar approach as they created their own Burton – Burton Lazars, standing on the hill crest a couple of miles to the south, has broad views down towards the

River Gwash, a tributary of the Welland. Keeping a garrison of soldiers – who, presumably, had little to do most of the time – on the opposite side of the river but still handy enough to muster when needed would seem to make excellent sense.

Further indications of the importance of navigable inland waterways can be gleaned from the sequence of Anglo-Saxon settlements excavated in 1998 on the southern bank of the River Wreake to the immediate west of Melton at Eye Kettleby. The quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery recovered at Eye Kettleby prior to excavation is only exceeded in Leicestershire by that recovered by fieldwalking at Barrow, and it is hoped the long-awaited excavation report may shed considerably more light on the importance of this 'secondary' settlement to Melton.

What about the other rivers in Leicestershire, such as the Welland on the boundary with Northamptonshire? Market Harborough fits exactly into the pattern of a market town on a fordable location along a routeway, just as Stamford does further downstream. Market Harborough, though was not founded until the twelfth century, being a successor to the Anglo-Saxon royal estate centre at Great Bowden.

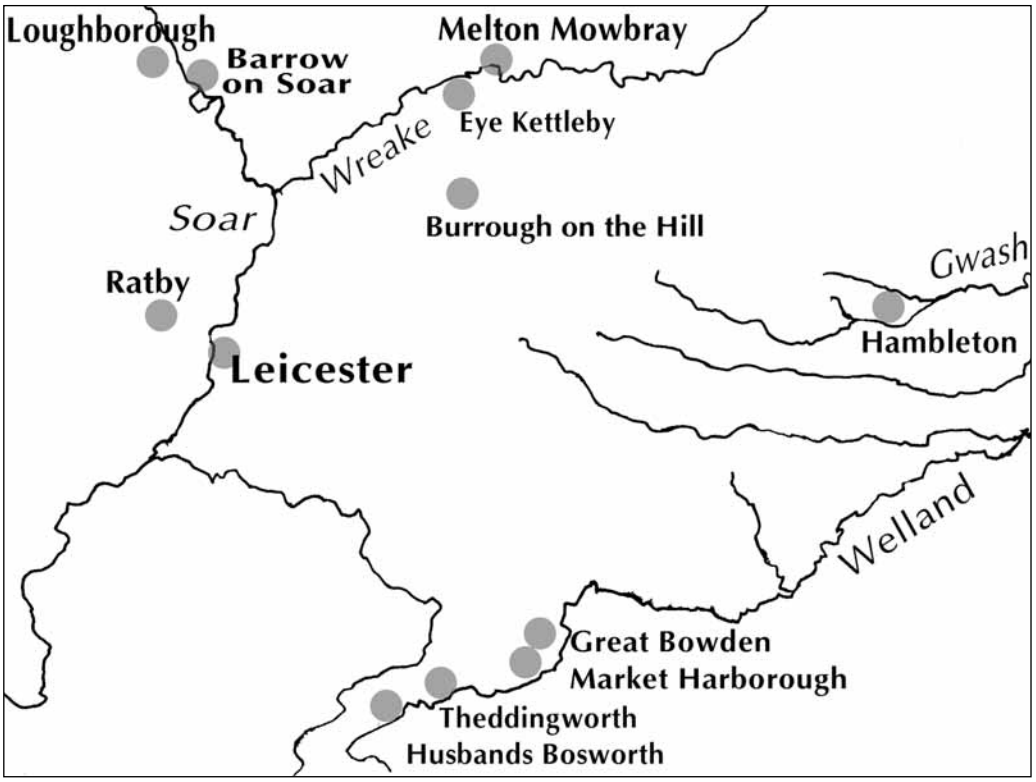
Bowden seems to be the successor to a prehistoric place of regional importance. The ruined church of St Mary in Arden is situated on a hill between Harborough and Bowden. Prehistoric cremation urns discovered near the church, and Roman coins and fragments of Anglo-Saxon horse harness found by chance near the churchyard, along with several hilltop springs in the vicinity, give some indication of the former significance. Moreover, the place-name 'arden' is itself from *arduuina*, meaning 'the place of a deity known as the high or exalted one'. Plausibly, this was a counterpart to the hill forts at Burrough on the Hill and Ratby which seemingly are precursors to Melton Mowbray and Leicester. However, during the Roman period the focus of activity shifted a couple of miles north-east, to the small Roman town at Medbourne, situated close to where the Gartree Road crosses the Welland.

West of Market Harborough, towards the source of the Welland is an unusual cluster of '–worth' place-names: Theddingworth, Husbands Bosworth and the Kilworths. The toponym 'worth' is often associated with trading places or places which are important for other reasons, yet also associated with considerable trade. A good example is Tamworth, on the banks of the rivers Tame and Anker, and the capital of Mercia. Interestingly, Lutterworth may be on the one-time limit of navigation of the Swift, a minor tributary of the Avon but – perhaps significantly – to the north-east of Watling Street so plausibly in a different tribal area.

While the upper reaches of the Welland today seem little more than a stream, it could have been navigable to smaller Anglo-Saxon craft. Also, about five thousand years ago, the Welland was significant enough for one of the few known causewayed enclosures in the East Midlands to have been built near Husbands Bosworth. As Gordon Noble showed (4), both early Neolithic causewayed enclosures and later Neolithic henges are typically on the watersheds between two river systems (in the case of Husbands Bosworth the second watershed is the upper reaches of the Soar valley, while the Avon/Severn drainage is only a few miles to the west on the other side of the Watling Street). This strongly implies that people making their way up one watercourse met up – presumably on a seasonal basis – with people from the other valleys.

St Mary in Arden, Market Harborough, looking from the south.

This apparent importance of the Welland in prehistoric and Anglo-Saxon times is a little surprising, as in many respects the Welland seems much less important than the River Nene running almost parallel to the south. But the upper reaches of the Nene peter out into numerous small streams. One of these flows from Arbury Hill, near Watling Street. This is a possible Iron Age hill fort, situated on a three-way watershed between the Nene, the Cherwell (a tributary of the Thames) to the south-west and the Leam (a tributary of the Severn) to the west and north-west. But these streams may well have been too small to allow for waterborne transport. The Welland, although smaller, may well have been better suited for transport. It also has 'better connections' to the headwaters of other river systems.



Simplified map of the rivers Welland, Gwash and Nene showing principal places mentioned.

Even though the upper reaches of the Welland seem a little too stream-like to have been important enough for the various 'worths', if waterborne travel was the reason for the importance of these settlements, then we need to look also at the River Gwash in Rutland. The Gwash joins the Welland just downstream of Stamford. Before the creation of Rutland Water the Gwash ran past Hambleton – regarded as the seat of power for Rota, the eponymous early Anglo-Saxon ruler of Rutland. The reservoir has of course masked the original topography – and indeed drowned the lower parts of Hambleton – but older maps provide sufficient detail to make this seem to be another settlement at or near the limits of navigation, at least for craft small enough to make it up the Welland.

There is a second reason why the Welland and the Nene were individually important: in the pre Roman period, one ran through Corieltauvi territory and the other through Catuvellauni lands. The boundary between these tribes is the Welland–Nene watershed. This watershed is associated with the iron-working sites in the Rockingham Forest area which were of national importance in the Iron Age and Roman era. Intriguingly, both the Welland and a substantial tributary of the Nene, the Willow Brook, would have provided easy access to water transport for *both* these Iron Age tribes. In practice, the survey of the Welland valley by Dr Jeremy Taylor and his team (reported in a lecture to LAHS on 2nd February 2010) reveals less evidence for occupation in the Welland valley during the Iron Age and Roman periods than in the Nene and Soar drainage. (5) Presumably the presence of equally-important iron sources at Goadby Marwood meant that the Corieltauvi felt little need to exploit similar resources adjacent to the Catuvellauni.

Only in the later Roman period – when, presumably, tribal boundaries had been subsumed into new administrative arrangements – did the Welland begin to gain more importance as a trade route. Nevertheless, neither was Great Bowden as important as Melton Mowbray in the Anglo-Saxon era, nor did any of the 'worths' further upstream develop into towns. Only with the 'planting' of Bowden's medieval successor, Market Harborough, did the Welland acquire an 'inland port' which was a counterpart to Leicester or Melton Mowbray.

This short article is not intended to be a definitive list of 'inland ports' in the East Midlands and I would welcome comments from anyone with local knowledge of other fords-cum-'markets' or significant sites near headwaters.

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‘Buried Between Factories’: Bond Street Maternity Hospital 1905-1971

Shirley Aucott

Bond Street Maternity Hospital, labour ward. Date unknown. (The author’s collection.)

The Maternity Hospital, colloquially known as Bond Street, was situated on the corner of Causeway Lane and East Bond Street, Leicester, in what was a very deprived and industrialised area of the Town. In the early 1880s, Dr William Farr (chief statistician to the General Register Office) called for the better training of doctors and midwives in obstetric practice with the intention that it would reduce the high maternal mortality rate, which had raged throughout the nineteenth century. The establishment of the Maternity Hospital in 1905 was a response to this call. Taking up this cause in the 1880s was the Matron’s Aid and Trained Midwives Registration Society who acted as a pressure group by lobbying Parliament to introduce a Midwives Registration Bill. Rosalind Paget (later Dame), the daughter of John and Elizabeth Paget, *née* Rathbone, was a trained midwife and an active member of the Society. She was also the second cousin of Agnes Mabel Bruce, daughter of Thomas and Agnes Fielding Johnson, *née* Paget. Together they brought the ‘Midwife Question’ to the attention of the Leicester branch of the National Union of Women Workers, who, in 1897, formed a special committee comprising of Isabel Ellis, Charlotte Ellis, Mary Coy, Fanny Fullagar, Emily Bosworth, Mrs Sanders and Mrs Peake, to actively take up the cause of the Midwives Registration Bill by bringing it before their local MP. After several attempts to get the Bill through Parliament, they succeeded on 26th February 1902 through Lord Cecil Manners, MP for the Melton Division of Leicestershire.

The Midwives Act came into force on 1st April 1903, but Leicester was not ready to implement it, as Dr Charles Killick Millard, the Leicester Medical Officer of Health, explained ‘No provision has yet been made for the local training of midwives. Many of the larger towns are already moving in this direction’. (1) After approaching the Leicester Infirmary and the Poor Law Union, who declined to introduce a course of midwifery training, the N.U.W.W. turned to the Board of the Leicester and Leicestershire Provident Dispensary who agreed to do so, if supported financially. An appeal was launched by Rachael Ellis, née Hutchinson, president of the N.U.W.W., and sufficient monies were raised by March 1905 when seven cottages, adjacent to the Provident Dispensary in Causeway Lane, were leased. Four of the cottages were converted into a small maternity teaching hospital which opened in July 1905. Its aims were to provide lying-in provision for working class women at a moderate fee, and the training of pupils for the examinations of the Central Midwives Board. Miss Mason was appointed matron, but was quickly replaced by Jeannie Gray. However, it soon became apparent that five beds were totally inadequate, and the three remaining cottages were converted and opened in 1909, although demand still exceeded supply.

On 1st July 1910 the Hospital separated from the Provident Dispensary and became an independent institution calling itself the Leicester and Leicestershire Maternity Hospital. Its governing Council was Thomas Cope, the president, and Agnes Fielding Johnson, Rachael Ellis. Sir Edward Wood and John E. Faire, were vice presidents. Dr Ernest Lewis Lilley became its medical officer and lecturer, with his general practice partner, Dr Clarence L. Somerville, joining him later in 1931. Jane Paget, *née* Clephan, became its honorary corresponding secretary up until her death in 1938.

An appeal to potential donors for specific help for the Hospital was made in Dr Lilley's 1910 report:

> A notable feature which comes out in the records is the large number of premature births, a state of affairs due doubtless to the fact that the Hospital draws its patients largely from the workers in factories. The care of these premature babies is a very anxious problem. This work would be greatly helped if some kind donor would present an incubator to the institution. (2)

The need for expansion was constant, as was the need for voluntary funding prior to the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948. Like all voluntary hospitals, funding was totally dependent on its income from patient and pupil fees, subscriptions, donations, legacies, periodic appeals and fluctuating grants from the Local Authority and the Government. Donations, legacies and subscriptions came from many well known Leicester families, such as: Corah, Morley, Faire, Gimson, Ellis, Paget, Wykes and Pickard. One family that dedicated themselves to the Hospital was the Fielding Johnsons, and when Agnes died in 1917, she was seen as a major loss to the Hospital: 'The Hospital and Council have sustained an irreparable loss in the death of Mrs Fielding Johnson ... and the Council feels that her name should be perpetuated in connection with it.' (3) To achieve this, a bed was endowed in her memory and a ward was named after her. Many memorial gifts were also given in her memory, including '[a] beautiful Memorial Clock by Mr John E. Faire'. (4) Agnes's daughter, Agnes Wallace Bruce, took her mother's place as a vice president and later as president in 1932 after the death of her half brother, Thomas Fielding Johnson (jnr), who was president from 1925.

Agnes Fielding Johnson. (The author's collection.)

Gifts given to the Hospital were generous and diverse including: a copper, firewood, concert tickets, newspapers, magazines, flowers, clocks, a rug for matron's room, baskets of Empire fruit, chests of tea, eggs, a wireless set, electric lamps, bales of flannel and flannelette, a floor polisher, an air cushion and a quantity of crockery from the Great Central railway station master. Every individual who gave to the Hospital, was thanked in the annual report and special note was made of a particular gift: During the First World War there was a decline in donations, due to peoples' money probably being diverted to the war effort. However, there was one very welcome gift which helped to raise spirits: 'Mr J. E. Faire, who is a "friend indeed", presented a beautiful piano to the Hospital. This is a possession which has been ardently desired for a long time. It is, of course, a great pleasure to the Staff and even patients can enjoy it'. (5)

Nevertheless, a lack of donations and the rising cost of food put the Hospital Council under considerable financial strain. There was also an increased demand for admissions, which was an added pressure on the Hospital. An influx of Belgian refugees coupled with an increased demand for admission by soldiers' wives, drained resources and resulted in many applicants for admission having to be refused. The booking of local doctors for home births was also limited because they too were on active service. Consequently, more women sought hospital admissions. The Hospital's own medical officer, Dr Lilley, left for military service in Egypt in 1916 and did not return until early 1919. Whilst away, Dr E. C. Hadley, Superintendent of the Workhouse Infirmary, gave lectures to the pupils and Dr David W. Noble undertook a visiting role at the Hospital. Military demands also meant that there were fewer nurses, or pupil midwives.

Financial problems continued in the early post-war period due to a lack of admissions caused by influenza, and patients being admitted to Westcotes Maternity Hospital, which had been opened by the Local Authority in 1919. This new departure was deeply concerning for the Hospital Council:

> The Council begs its subscribers and friends not to imagine that their support is less needed in consequence of this new departure by the Corporation. It would be a real loss to Leicester if this modest and comfortable institution were not enabled to carry on its existence. It is situated in a part of the City where it is most needed. (6)

However, admission numbers soon recovered with the demobilization of men. The number of pupil midwives increased too, their services no longer needed by the military. Bond Street also had a good reputation for training as evidenced in 1920 when an extract from *Nursing Notes* appeared in the Hospital Council report: 'Particular tribute was paid to the Leicester Maternity Hospital which not only trained pupils so successfully, but was also a happy home. One of the Association's pupils from there was specially commended by the Examiner – a rare occurrence'. (7) Three years later a similar comment was made. (8)

Even with the increased number of fees paid by pupils and the raising of patient's fees, the cost of new equipment and the pressing need for an extension meant the Hospital continued to struggle financially. By 1927 the Hospital Council became extremely anxious about the financial situation and decided to ask the Board of Governors of the Provident Dispensary to again take them under their wing. The Board agreed to do so and the Hospital Council was dissolved and an annually elected committee formed. Despite this action, financial problems continued, exacerbated by the Local Government Act of 1929, which reduced the number of grants they had previously received from the Ministry of Health.

Meanwhile the Hospital continued to be overcrowded, with nurses often having to be sent out to sleep in order to accommodate patients. Unlike their training, the nurses' accommodation was not of a high standard. In 1920 two rooms in the roof space were converted into bedrooms and in 1928 seven further cubicles were added above the Provident Dispensary. Dorothy Barker, who trained there in 1932, thought the accommodation very spartan 'We had sort of cubicles, not rooms. They were on the second floor and there was not much in the way of bathrooms'. (9)

The staff of Bond Street Maternity Hospital in the early 1930s. Matron Jeannie Gray is seated centre with Dr Ernest Lilley next to her and Sister Heggs, the clinic sister, next to him. The names of the other staff are unknown. The dog, called Scottie, belonged to the Matron. This photograph was used to raise funds for the 1933 Hospital extension. (The author's collection.)

When premises adjacent to the Hospital had become vacant, the Hospital Council negotiated with the City Tramways Department who were the owners, and successfully obtained a sixty year lease with reasonable terms. They hoped to build an extension on the land, but insufficient funds prevented them from doing so for many years. It was not until 1933 that the extension, containing a theatre, electric lifts, new wards, nurseries, a dining room, kitchen, a lecture hall and bedrooms, was officially opened by Sir Julien Cahn on 19th October 1933.

Gifts in this period included the following from Queen Mary: 'During the autumn of 1932 Mrs Morley laid before Her Majesty Queen Mary, the special needs of the Hospital and received from the Queen a gift of "Old Wedgwood" to be sold for the benefit of the Extension fund. (10) The following year special thanks were given to 'Messrs John Foster and Sons Ltd, of Queensbury, Bradford, for arranging the famous 'Black Dyke Mills Band' to give two concerts in the De Montfort Gardens on 3 September 1933'. (11)

Cramped and inadequate conditions did not prevent the Hospital from advancing its obstetric practice, particularly its ante-natal care. The spring of 1918 saw the Leicester Sanitary Committee open its first ante-natal clinic, attended by its Medical Officer, Dr Mary Weston, who co-operated with Dr Lilley by holding a weekly clinic in the Hospital. However, in 1925 a new ruling by the Central Midwives Board stipulated that maternity hospitals should run their own ante-natal clinics. Consequently, the Hospital opened its own clinic in the Provident Dispensary in October 1925.

During the 1920s and 1930s maternal mortality was still extremely high, but Bond Street figures reflected a much more favourable picture. In his 1927 report Dr Lilley believed that the ante-natal work being done at the Hospital '... serve[d] a very valuable purpose in the prevention of disease and death during and after labour'. (12) His following report gave statistics for the Hospital's previous seven years:

> During that time 3,611 patients have been admitted to the Hospital, an average of 516 per year. In 1929 the figure was 534. During these seven years the number of maternal deaths was 5, being 1.38 per thousand births, which compares with the National figure for England and Wales of 3.81 per thousand. Of these five deaths, one was due to pneumonia … which was concomitant with labour. (13)

Dorothy Barker, who had been a ward sister at the Leicester Infirmary before doing her midwifery training at Bond Street, explained why she thought maternal deaths were low: 'The mothers had single rooms and they were delivered in their own beds. This helped to prevent the spread of infection. (14) Improved instrument sterilization also prevented the spread of infection, and this was improved, in 1920 when a grant from the Ministry of Health paid for the conversion of the drying shed into a sterilising room equipped with a steriliser and fittings. Irene Bailey, *née* Snow, who trained at Bond Street in 1936 and then became a staff nurse, thought infection a rare occurrence: 'We got very little infection of any sort. It was A1, it really was a marvellous Hospital. I mean when you consider what it stood in. It was absolutely buried between factories. I don't remember any infant mortality ... mind you we had to work really hard'. (15)

The sterilization of equipment may have improved, but the age of the property and its location attracted vermin, which was a large and constant problem. Dorothy Barker did not enjoy breakfast time very much as: 'The cockroaches [were] in with the bacon, on the dish, in the morning.' (16)

Olive Wagstaff, who trained three years later, had very clear memories of incidents with rats: 'I was collecting all the patients' trays when I was on night duty and to my horror there was a large rat trying to negotiate the polished corridor before me. I had to mark time to give it time to scamper out of the door and get away'. (17) On another occasion she recalled: 'One senior nurse called Scottie did a toreador act when dealing with a rat. It was reported by one of the mothers who said she was sure a big mouse ran over her pillow during the night. We thought she had imagined it ... We removed her and baby from the room and Scottie, with a bucket and poker, managed to nobble it'. (18) Irene Bailey, also had similar memories 'They would get onto the table to take bread and sometimes placentas out of the bin, if the lid had not been replaced properly'. (19)

Not only was the Hospital troubled by vermin, but so, too, were the surrounding houses, as Dorothy Barker explained when doing her district training:

On the district they were the most terrible houses ... The beds were terrible, they were sagged, of course, from long use and there were people all about while you were busy ... They hadn't got room to tip them out ... There were no kettles. Saucepans we had and I mean things use to drop off the ceiling into the saucepans ... While we were waiting for the woman to get delivered we use to sit outside on the pavement and the policeman would go by ... and have a little chat with us. (20)

The Hospital's district midwives and pupils certainly had their eyes opened to the appalling housing conditions experienced by their patients and their families. They also met ignorance and the unwillingness of doctors to inform their patients about birth control techniques available at that time. Mrs G. Matthews, a pupil midwife at Bond Street in 1932, remembered a particularly harrowing case:

> It was mostly night work ... and we had to walk everywhere and when we went to Caroline Street, which was my first case [the qualified midwife] said we must keep an eye on the husband because we shan't find it otherwise because there were no street lights, only here and there ... The children were disturbed because the mother had been so ill before we got there and they were all looking on in the door way ... My patient was very ill and it was a big brass bed and we had to put the bed on kitchen chairs because she was haemorrhaging so badly and nurse was giving her an injection which wasn't a lot in those days ... and we had to send for the doctor three times. Dad had to go on his bike ... Nevertheless she didn't die and the baby was beautiful. Eleventh baby and eleven and a quarter pounds ... I remember clearly Dr Porchas on Humberstone Road. He gave the father such a wigging. He told him that she wasn't to have any more children. It was dangerous. This was before she had the eleventh. But he never told him what to do. (21)

Two years after the Hospital was extended, in 1933, Jeannie Gray, who had been matron almost since its inception, retired. Throughout those years she received constant praise, culminating in her being awarded an MBE in 1931 for her services to midwifery and the Hospital: 'It is impossible to express adequately the gratitude which the committee feels towards this valued Matron, who has for so long devoted herself so splendidly to the cause of the Hospital'. (22)

Although she received official recognition for her services to the Hospital, there are aspects of her kindness that do not appear in the official records. One example came in 1919 when a recently widowed woman, whose husband had died of war wounds, was admitted to the Hospital suffering from pneumonia and pleurisy, resulting in a premature birth. Too weak to return to agricultural work, Matron Gray offered her a maid's job, and mother and daughter lived in the Hospital for the next six years. The matron and Sister Heggs were the baby's godmothers giving her the name Dorothy. Dr Lilley was her godfather giving her the name Avis and her mother named her Joyce. Joyce's memories of Dr Lilley are of a kind and caring person: 'Whenever he came into the Hospital I seemed to sense he was there ... I'd come down and through the kitchen and go and sit in Matron's room ... he used to use quill pens ... and I always had to have my foot tickled with the feather and he used to get the quill pen and rub under my foot and then take me back to bed'. (23)

The staff of Bond Street Maternity Hospital in 1920. Matron Jeannie Gray is seated in the centre with Mrs Parker (a maid at the Hospital) and her baby, Joyce, next to her. The names of the other staff are uncertain. Front row, extreme right, Sister Else (the district midwife employed by the Hospital). Back row, extreme left, Nurse Worthington, next to her is Nurse Hoskins and on the extreme right is Sister Willet. (The author's collection.)

The matron who replaced Jeannie Gray, within hours of her leaving, was Miss M. Bennett Johns who came from the Haig Memorial Hospital, Hawick. Like all 'new brooms' she swept away the old and brought in new systems, which Dr Lilley recorded in his 1935/36 report: 'As was to be expected, the new Matron has made sweeping changes and, ably backed up by the Committee, the whole Hospital has been reorganised ... and all-round efficiency has been increased as a result'. (24)

Just like at the end of the 1920s, a financial crisis arose again at the end of the 1930s, caused largely by a decline in subscriptions, donations and legacies: 'Several old friends of the Hospital, who for many years gave their time and money in aid of work which they considered of prime importance ... have passed away'. (25)

The senior nursing staff of Bond Street Maternity Hospital in the early 1950s. Matron Violet Sim is in the centre, wearing a dark dress, and Sister Margaret Noble, who was in charge of the Special Care Baby Unit, is on the far right. The names of the other staff are unknown. (The author's collection.)

Fearing closure, the Hospital Committee approached the Local Authority with a view to them taking it over. They were keen to do so, not wanting to lose forty-five maternity beds, but the cost proved prohibitive, as under the rules laid down by the Charity Commission they would have to purchase the land and buildings. The only authority allowed to take over the Hospital as a going concern, was another voluntary hospital. Consequently, the Leicester Royal Infirmary was approached and they agreed to, on condition that there was a financial contribution from the City and County Councils. The official takeover took place on 1st April 1940 with Violet Sim being made sister-in-charge with responsibility to the Matron of the Infirmary, Mildred Hughes, followed by Clara Bell. This arrangement came to an end about 1950 when Violet Sim was appointed matron in her own right. Unfortunately, she died whilst in office, as reported to the Infirmary Board on 2nd July 1952. According to Patricia Law, who trained at Bond Street in 1956 and later became assistant matron 'We did not have a great deal to do with the LRI and did not like to be called the Infirmary Maternity Hospital. We liked to be called Bond Street – this was our little domain'. (26)

Although there had been an extension to the Hospital in 1933, the ante-natal clinic still remained in the same place in rather cramped conditions when Elsie Aldwinkle became clinic sister in 1946. Ante-natal care had progressed to a degree, but the procedures carried out would be seen as very rudimentary today:

> Ante-natal care was very simple ... We tested urine as a routine and we weighed patients as a routine. A physical exam was routine, but a blood test was only done if necessary. Urine was tested for sugar and albumen ... You had a Bunsen burner and you put the urine in a test tube and dropped some chemicals in and then you had to hold the test tube over the Bunsen burner. It spluttered terribly. It was very long winded and took about seven minutes. Very time consuming and frightening when it spluttered. (27)

By the 1940s the accommodation for nurses had not improved a great deal. The cubicles were still in existence, and according to Staff Nurse Marie Philip, they were called 'horse boxes'. (28) In 1942, when accommodation for the nurses became critical, the vicar of All Saints Church offered accommodation for some nurses at the vicarage. Margaret Bramley, a pupil midwife at this time, experienced sleeping there: 'When we were on night duty we slept in the vicarage of All Saints Church. There was a bachelor vicar there and when we went there he would carry our case up to the first floor ... Of course the drawback was when it was bell ringing practice, or Sunday, you just could not sleep'. (29) Unfortunately, when the vicar died in 1945, the arrangement ceased and the vicarage was put up for sale. The situation was resolved in 1948 when the Infirmary Management Board bought the property to use as a permanent nurses home.

Patient overcrowding continued to be a problem in the 1940s, particularly after the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948, as remembered by Stanley Tipton, who succeeded Mr F. A. Alexander as secretary of Bond Street:

> With nationalisation everyone wanted beds and we couldn't cope with the demand ... The health visitors had to interview applicants to see what home conditions were like and whether home confinements could take place. One of the priorities was medical grounds ... and I think it was the first child, if the patient was over thirty... Also I think it was after five births ... a hospital confinement then qualified ... I really think two things were responsible. One was a baby boom and it was also free. (30)

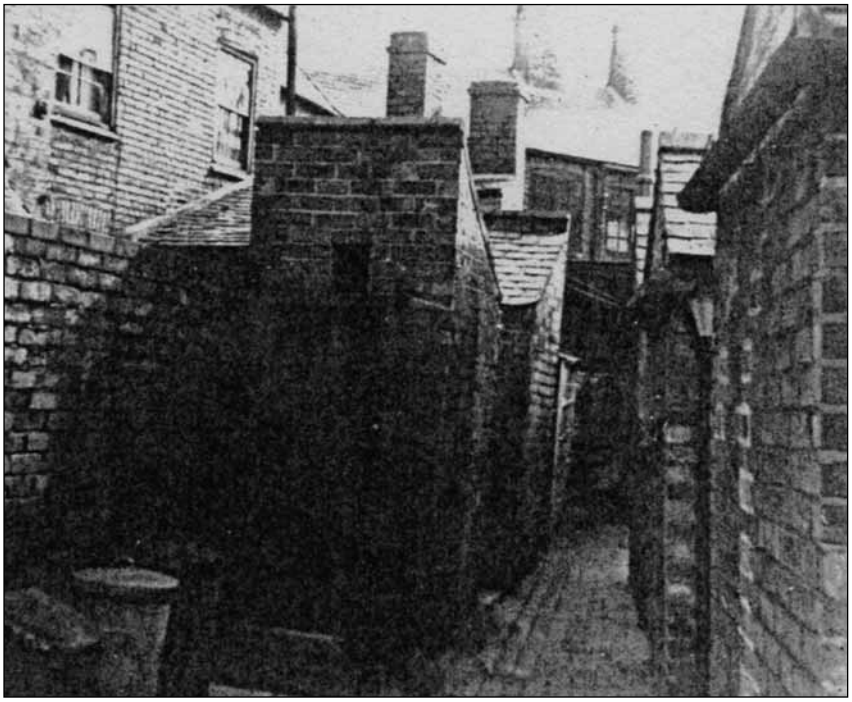
Bond Street Maternity Hospital in the 1950s. The Hospital corner building was the ante-natal clinic, which had previously been the Leicester and Leicestershire Provident Dispensary. Adjacent to it are the Hospital cottages and at the other end is the 1933 extension and part of what had previously been the John E. Faire Hospital. (The author's collection.)

Consequently, it was again realised that further expansion was necessary but this did not happened until 9th October 1957 when the John Faire Hospital, in Countess Street, was taken over and joined to Bond Street by a connecting corridor. The Faire Hospital, opened by the Provident Dispensary, had been closed with the introduction of the National Health Service. Elsie Aldwinkle remembered the opening day of the extension for an ironic reason 'We had a celebration when the new wing was opened and on that very day, they began to talk about a new hospital, which was years ahead'. (31) The day following the opening, Gertrud Traub, who had been appointed matron after the death of Violet Sim, wrote in her scrapbook: 'October 10th Anti-Climax – no sterilizer boiling, humidifier not working, the fan out of action, pipes leaking, plugs not pulling, terrazzo floors cleaned by machine – clouds of dust raised, equipment missing, list could be continued ad infinitum'. (32)

The extension was one of many new innovations in the 1950s. The beginning of the decade saw the introduction of a breast milk bank that not only served the Hospital, but also poorly and premature babies in the city, county and elsewhere. Mary Snee, a telephonist / administrator who joined the Hospital in 1954, remembered the importance of it: 'There were people who were employed to sterilize and bottle it ... It was very special, other hospitals would ring up and beg, borrow and steal breast milk for prem babies, or babies who were allergic to ordinary milk. The milk kitchen was a hive of activity'. (33) Patricia Law also recalled how well the service was used: 'We had a milk round and an ambulance would come and collect the milk that was going out and go to the homes of Mums ... Occasionally you would tootle off to London Road Station with [the milk], in dry ice, and it would go off to Great Ormond Street, or Birmingham. Kirby and West had nothing on Bond Street'. (34) Increasing transport problems and a movement towards formula feeding brought the outdoor service to an end in 1963.

Two other important innovations were Mothercraft classes, which began in 1953, and on 17th January 1956 classes for fathers were introduced, with the first childbirth film being shown later in the year. However, it was not until 1961 that husbands were allowed to be present at a birth, and only then if they had attended all of the classes. It would probably not have happened then had it not been for an article in the *British Medical Journal*, by Dr H. B. Kidd, the medical superintendent and consultant psychiatrist of the Towers Hospital and chairperson of the Leicester and Leicestershire Branch of the Association for The Improvement of the Maternity Services:

> If ... a mother wishes her husband to be present at the birth of their child because it is his as well as hers, this wish should be granted gladly. To refuse is cruel and may cause considerable psychological suffering. [He also believed] A mother should only be confined in hospital if it is absolutely necessary for valid social or obstetric reasons ... a mother who has her baby at home is in a much better psychological climate. (35)



The Bond Street Maternity Hospital backyards in the late 1950s. This photograph appears in Matron Gertrud Traub's Scrapbook, Leicester Royal Infirmary Archive.

Bond Street Maternity Hospital in the early 1960s. This shows the 1933 extension and what had previously been the John E. Faire Hospital. (The author's collection.)

This was a very different attitude to that prevailing at the Hospital in the 1930s when 'Husbands were banished. They were never even thought of.' (36) This was still the case in the 1950s and afterwards 'Husbands were not allowed to go into labour ward. They could leave the case at the desk and ring up in x number of hours to find out [if the baby had been born]'. (37)

The 1960s brought with it a raft of challenges for Matron Traub and her staff, although one major structural problem that had caused a great deal of inconvenience since the inception of the Hospital was finally solved. Because part of the Hospital was situated in a row of old cottages, floors were at different levels and this made life very difficult:

> If you needed to take Mum to ward two from labour ward we had a very old fashioned wheelchair which had enormous wooden wheels ... So you had to say to Mum now don't worry because this was a terrific slope down. So you put your foot on the back of the wheelchair and went straight down on a wing and a prayer ... The first half of ward two we kept for newly delivered Mums. When they were up, after a few days ... you transferred them to the second half of the ward, which you went down three steps, along a bit, and then up three steps ... So that was known as you had transferred Mrs Bloggs over 'Jordan' ... You hoped you didn't have to do swabbings over 'Jordan' because getting trolleys over there was not terribly easy. (38)

Even though one problem was solved, there were many more to face. Early in the decade the bitterly cold winter of 1962/3 wreaked havoc with the Hospital: 'Arctic winter. Low gas pressure – nearly without dinner one day. Cottages, cold and grim. Electricity failure. Hospital in the dark and six incubators getting cold. Pipe bursts in the cottages and the vicarage [the nurses' home]. Just when it was coldest the roof was 'done''. (39) There was also the continuing problem of vermin to deal with. Cockroaches were ever present in the staff changing rooms, and mice were a constant problem in the kitchen which was in the cellar. Equipment in some areas of the Hospital was also inadequate and slow to be replaced, as was the case in 1960 'At long last sterilizer installed in Ward 1 – fish kettle to the Museum'. (40)

Patient overcrowding had not gone away either, despite the John Faire Hospital becoming part of Bond Street. St Mary's ward which had opened at the Infirmary in the mid 1930s to take abnormal maternity cases, closed on 18th March 1960, putting further pressure on beds and resulted in the introduction of early discharges. Under such pressure, Christmas 1964 saw the formation of a planning committee for a new purpose-built maternity hospital some fifty years after it had been first proposed in 1914: 'Structurally ... [this is] in no sense a hospital [and that] efforts are being made to raise a fund to purchase the freehold, and should they prove successful we presume that in due course plans will be invited, and a modern up-to-date hospital will eventually be built'. (41)

Mr Rupert (Ralph) Lodge, who had replaced Mr Thomas Clare as the consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, explained his involvement with the planning for a new hospital 'The pressure [to build a new hospital] came from people like myself. I was on the special committee of the Regional Hospital Board and spent hours and hours with them'. (42)

However, despite poor conditions and over-worked staff, there was apparently a good working atmosphere and team spirit: 'It was a family hospital, rather lovely. The cooking was done downstairs in the kitchens and everybody knew everybody's favourite dish. If you were working late and you liked sausages, then someone saved you the sausages. It was really a lovely atmosphere. Very hard work and primitive working conditions, but there was team spirit.' (43)

Matron Traub seems to have generated this sense of team spirit: 'She ruled with an iron rod, but loving care ... Everyone respected her from the top to the bottom. She earned respect, she didn't command it ... Your job was as vital to the running of the Hospital as the matron's job. You were a cog in a great big wheel and if you didn't make that wheel go round then everything stopped'. (44) Patricia Law

remembered Matron Traub in a similar way: 'She set a very high standard and she wouldn't really expect you to do anything that she wouldn't. For example: one night we were so busy ... this must have been about 2 o'clock in the morning and we suddenly realised that there was someone in the sluice. Miss Traub had realised how busy we were and had got up ... and she was cleaning the instruments'. (45)

Team spirit and hard work was probably the glue that kept the Hospital functioning while planning discussions for the new hospital dawdled on. The need for a new hospital had been stated in the 1945 Ministry of Health Survey Report, but it was not until the summer of 1957 that the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board agreed that a purpose built hospital should be built on land adjoining the Infirmary at the junction of New Bridge Street and Jarrom Street. However, it was 1965 before the Infirmary Management Board finally succeeded in persuading the Regional Board of the desperate situation and that a new hospital was urgently needed. It was also team spirit that helped the staff to weather a storm that was brewing. A statement written in Matron Traub's scrapbook in 1966, described what happened:

> Suddenly the storm broke! And of all the unexpected people it was Mr Elliott who stepped into the limelight and dragged Bond Street into it, though unintentional, his letter was not meant for the press. Our first reactions – horror and depression! How can any patient ever come to Bond Street again with confidence? Why should any nurse wish to train here and domestic wish to work here? But the patients came to our rescue, spoke up for us and what could have been a disaster became a moral victory! (46)

The statement refers to a letter sent by Mr Thomas Elliott, consultant obstetrician at Bond Street, to the Minister of Health, Mr Kenneth Robinson, with copies to eight MPs for the city and county. The letter described the appalling conditions and progressive dilapidation of Bond Street and that a proposed delay in building the new maternity hospital would be criminal. On 3rd February 1966, the contents of the leaked letter appeared in a damning article in the *Leicester Mercury*. It warned its readers that its exposure revealed '... a state of Dickensian neglect that makes frightful viewing and reading. (47) It then went on to describe some of the conditions and stated that the Hospital was working beyond the limits of safety:

> ... a maternity hospital has been developed with a sanitary system, for our present needs, so inadequate that not infrequently drains overflow; with corridors so narrow and so uneven that two people cannot, in comfort, pass shoulder to shoulder, where rubbish collection, rubbish disposal and incineration stand side by side with the main sterilising plant of the Hospital ... where nursing staff live in damp and cramped quarters and where domestic staff sleep in circumstances which in this day and age, are frankly appalling.(48)

Pauline Payne who went to work as a secretary at Bond Street three weeks before they moved to the new hospital, remembered the state of dilapidation. 'Everything was decrepit and the typewriters were antiquated. (49)

In trying to boost the morale of Matron Traub and her staff, the editor of the *Leicester Mercury*, J. Fortune, wrote her a letter, enclosing a letter they had received at the newspaper:

> ... I think it will cheer you up. We have had many more letters than we can hope to publish which have praised the Matron and the staff of Bond Street to the skies and this particular letter is no more typical of a score, or two of letters that have been received. (50)

Extract from the enclosed letter

> ... all Bond Street lacks in comfort and amenities is replaced by the kindness of Matron, the doctors, nurses and domestic staff. They work wonders under abominable conditions, and were it not for their cheerfulness the morale of the patients would be much lower. Grateful Mum. (51)

Miss E. E. Taylor (chairperson of the Maternity Hospital Committee) presenting Matron Gertrud Traub (right) with a typewriter on her retirement in September 1968. Mr Thomas Elliott, consulting obstetrician and gynaecologist, is looking on. (The author's collection.)

Enraged and frustrated by delays with the Regional Board and the Ministry's proposed delay in putting back the building start date to 1968, Mr Elliott broke with tradition and complained directly to the Minister of Health and local MPs, instead of leaving it to the No. 1 Hospital Management Committee of the Infirmary. Despite Ministry officials visiting Bond Street and pleas in the House of Commons from MPs, Mr John Farr and Sir Barnett Janner for an earlier starting date, they were turned down and told that building would not begin until the end of 1967, or early 1968. The foundation stone was eventually laid on 17th October 1968, but there was another storm to weather in January 1970, when it was revealed that there was a deficit of £48,000 needed for furnishing the Hospital. It was a further year before the long awaited new hospital opened its doors for business at 8 am, Monday 1st February 1971.

From the opening of Bond Street Hospital, its Council/Committee faced a continuous uphill financial struggle until it was taken over by the Leicester Royal Infirmary. They were never able to achieve the purpose built hospital they had hoped for in 1914. Indeed, even after the introduction of the National Health Service it was another 23 years before the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board and the various governments saw fit to lay aside money for a new build, and even then it was not achieved without a fight. Evidently they did not hold the same values as the Hospital Council had held as far back as 1916, when they made the following statement:

> Maternity and Child Welfare are much talked of in these days, surely an Institution such as the Maternity Hospital lies at the foundation of any good that can be done for these causes, and should be adequately supported by those who have them at heart. (52)

Successful training, low maternal mortality rates and innovations coupled with a dedicated and long-serving staff, hard work and team spirit seem to have compensated for appalling conditions and an inappropriate location for a hospital. Not only were the staff dedicated, but so too was the Hospital Council/Committee, its founding members and the wider community of Leicester who gave their time, subscribed, donated money and gave multiple gifts. One such gift taken to the new hospital was the clock given by John E. Faire in memory of Agnes Fielding Johnson, in 1918. Sadly it was stolen and most probably the knowledge that Agnes was a founding member of Leicester's first maternity hospital disappeared with it:

> At the new hospital [the clock] used to sit in the Senior Nursing Officer's office. We didn't notice when it went missing, but we suddenly realised it wasn't there. The big grandfather clock in the foyer of the Infirmary was stolen, but they got that back. But the other one was a carriage clock and easily transportable. (53)

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Recent Publications

Edited by Cynthia Brown

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND: GENERAL

THE LEICESTERSHIRE STORY: PEOPLE, POWER AND POLITICS IN AN ENGLISH COUNTY
Ernie White
4 Sheets Design & Print Ltd., 2014, 203pp, illus., ISBN 9780992908515

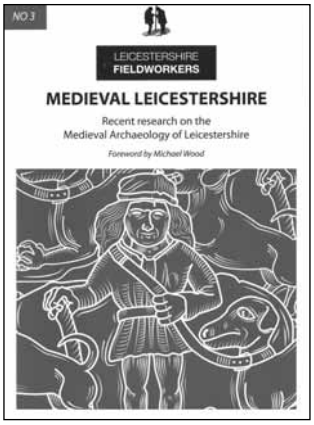
This book deals with the story of Leicestershire County Council, mainly during the period 1973 - 97. Ernie White was elected to the County Council in 1975. He has served on many committees and was Vice Chairman of the Council in 1994 - 95 and Chairman in 1995 - 96. He has been a cabinet member since 2001, and portfolio holder for community services, education and public health. He was himself part of the story he tells, and his background has given him a special insider perspective. He shares his insights with the reader in a lively way. The book is unexpectedly readable and a fascinating story of a kind not often told, about practical politics and the real issues and challenges of local government.

Like most counties, before the *Local Government Act 1972* Leicestershire was arranged in many small urban and rural authorities. In the 'old days' (1888 - 1973) the County Council was described as 'the best gentlemen's club in Leicestershire', and was non-party political. After the 1972 Act a two-tier County and District structure emerged (the new intake of 1973 included women, which at the time shocked the county Tories!). Controversially Leicester City lost its County Borough status and powers and became a District of the new Leicestershire County Council, also losing significant services such as education and social services. Only after 1972 in the new County Council did party politics become the way in which things were organised.

In the former County Borough of Leicester there had been genuine debate amongst politicians, and officers accepted that members were in charge. In contrast, in the former County Council, officers were questioned but left to get on with the job. Ernie White explores the cultural clash this initiated in the new County Council and focuses on a number of case studies which highlight issues of the time: the city/county educational debate; the Frank Beck child abuse case; the period when Leicestershire County Council was hung; the Banham Commission leading up to local government reorganisation in 1997; and the council post-1997. Of particular interest to readers of the *Historian* will be the museums issue, which became a bone of contention in 1997, when a stand-off developed between the 'Save Our Museums' campaign led by elected members and the Director of Museums and Chief Executives who were trying to plan for future museum services in their areas. The book concludes with accounts of prominent people, and a postscript includes how the County Council acquired UKIP members by virtue of defections with no votes cast.

Yolanda Courtney

MEDIEVAL LEICESTERSHIRE: RECENT RESEARCH ON THE MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF LEICESTERSHIRE
Various authors; Kathleen Elkin ed.
Leicestershire Fieldworkers, 2015, 271pp, illus., ISBN7980954820022, £20



This important new publication brings together a wide range of research by both professional and amateur archaeologists and historians, originally presented at a conference organised by Leicestershire Fieldworkers on medieval Leicestershire. It is as 'scholarly and fascinating' as its cover promises. It begins with a reflection by Christopher Dyer on 66 years of research into medieval rural settlement, outlining different approaches and the influence of new ideas in archaeology and cultural history, important in encouraging us 'to see the medieval world from the perspective of the peasants themselves'. Several other chapters consider specific aspects of settlement, ranging from medieval houses of south-east Leicestershire and Rutland (Nick Hill), medieval fortified sites (Richard Knox), and the archaeology of currently occupied medieval rural settlement in the two counties (John Thomas). Others focus on industry and the landscape. That by Robert F. Hartley on coal mining, for instance, analyses the documentary evidence for the industry in Leicestershire, and explains how the discovery of medieval coal mine workings in a late twentieth century open cast mine at Coleorton 'for the first time allowed us to see the layout of fifteenth century mines and some of the artefacts used by the miners'.

In a chapter on ridge and furrow in southern Leicestershire, Tony Brown uses a number of village case studies to trace the development of field systems in the late Saxon and medieval periods, and later changes in the open fields. Anthony Squires contributes an account of the Royal Forest of Leicester and its parks and woodlands. As 'a minor property of the Crown', its evolution and subsequent decline is examined here in detail, suggesting that it had much in common 'in pattern and process' with other royal properties of this nature. In 2010 a late fifth or early sixth century bracteate – a thin disc of gold sheet with an image hammered from behind - was discovered by Chris Bursnall while metal-detecting in the parish of Scalford, near Melton. It is described here and placed in its wider context by Wendy Scott.

Religion was of central importance in medieval Leicestershire, as emphasised here with chapters on religious houses of Leicestershire and Rutland (Peter Liddle), the archaeology of the medieval church in Leicestershire (Matthew Godfrey and Mike Hawkes), and Graham Jones' section on 'The origins of Leicestershire: churches, territories, and landscape'. Bob Trubshaw also reviews progress so far on Project Gargoyle, established in 2009 with the aim of photographing all the medieval carvings outside and inside the churches of Leicestershire and Rutland. Rutland is in fact well covered in the book – something that may not be clear from its title – and Leicester also has three chapters devoted to it. Richard Buckley's substantial analysis of its medieval archaeology demonstrates how far knowledge has advanced since the 1970s, alongside an overview of work from the mid-nineteenth century. As a modern historian, accustomed to using documentary evidence to answer such questions as 'what did people eat, how long did they live, of what did they die?', I was particularly fascinated by the final chapters on food in medieval Leicester (Angela Monckton) and the insights into mortality, health and disease offered by the church and cemetery of St Peter's, investigated as part of the Highcross redevelopment earlier this century and presented here by Harriet Ann Jacklin.

Medieval Leicestershire is beautifully illustrated, and very accessible to readers unfamiliar with this period of history. It contributes on a grand scale to our understanding of Leicestershire and Rutland's past; but above all, as Michael Wood writes in his foreword, it conveys 'the excitement of history; it shows us how the frontiers of knowledge can be expanded not only by the experts, but by collaboration between communities, local groups and professionals'.

Cynthia Brown

NICHOLS' HISTORY OF LEICESTERSHIRE: A BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Caroline Wessel, with chapters by Julian Pooley and Robin Jenkins

Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, 2015, 82pp, illus., ISBN 9780954238834, £9.95

NICHOLS' LOST LEICESTERSHIRE

Stephen Butt

Amberley Publishing, 2015, 96pp, illus., ISBN 9781445620770, £14.99

It took the London printer, publisher and antiquarian John Nichols more than 25 years to complete the eight monumental volumes of his *History and Antiquities of the Town and County of Leicester*. Drawing together the work of historians, writers, illustrators, engravers, local clergy and churchwardens, its voluminous text and thousands of images covered houses, castles, abbeys and churches, monuments, coats of arms, and natural features of the landscape, and it is still one of the most consulted works on Leicester and Leicestershire history. The bi-centenary of its publication in 1815 is well worth celebrating, and these two books stand alongside a series of events as a lasting tribute to the man and his monumental work. There is of course much common ground, but in many respects they are quite different from each other.

Caroline Wessel's account begins by asking *why* Nichols embarked on this work when he never resided in Leicestershire, nor had business connections there. The answer lies in part in personal connections – both his wives were from Leicestershire families, and many friendships developed during his extended visits to the county – but it also owes much to the eighteenth century development of antiquarianism: the 'objective and accurate recording, compiling and classification of buildings, documents and texts of antiquity'. Three of the chapters focus on the Nichols family and its Leicestershire circle. One, co-written with Julian Pooley explores three generations of the family itself, while the others identify friends, patrons and contributors to the volumes. They are supplemented towards the end of the book with a 'Who's Who of the Nicholses' antiquarian circle'. There is also a users' guide to *History and Antiquities*, very useful in terms of Nichols' scheme of layout and methodology, whilst Robin Jenkins uses his archival expertise to look at the value of Nichols in the search room. Julian Pooley also gives us a fascinating account of the Nichols Archive Project (of which he is the Director), and its value as an international resource. One of the most interesting sections records the comments of some Leicestershire people in 2014 on how the *History and Antiquities*, despite its inaccuracies, relates to their particular specialisms now. These have been gathered by the author in 'true Nicholsian fashion'. This clearly demonstrates Nichols' continuing relevance for the study of archaeology,

church monuments, coins, dialect, fossils, heraldry, maps and more besides. The chapter 'It must be true – I read it in Nichols' gives examples of some of the more unusual occurrences he recorded. Among them are the death of Robert Parr of Little Ashby in 1757 at the age of 124, easily outstripped by his great grandfather Thomas who 'is known to have died at the amazing age of 152'. Another relates that on the three final occasions that Mr Hackett of South Croxton answered his door, an owl perched on his shoulder. He 'made a joke of the omens', but fell from his horse soon afterwards and died. Of particular value are the engravings, sketches and watercolours from Nichols own original copy of his *History of Leicestershire*.

The introduction to Stephen Butt's book gives an overview of the early eighteenth century to place Nichols' work in context, not least that of the travel involved in compiling the entries and the challenges this posed at the time, before the introduction of new road building and surfacing techniques. There is an interesting section on the engravers and artists who provided Nichols with thousands of images, employing techniques that even modern digital photography cannot match, but in some cases dying in poverty or spending time in debtors' prisons. The main focus is on some of the buildings that appear in the *History and Antiquities*, both those that have disappeared and others that have survived to the present day. There is a brief history of each building, accompanied by the engraving from Nichols – without 'the clutter of the Victorian and Modern eras' - and where possible a modern photograph for comparison. In Leicester, for example, the entries include the churches of All Saints and St Mary de Castro, the Blue Boar Inn, The Newarke Gateway and Trinity and Wyggeston's Hospitals. Each of the Hundreds into which Nichols' volumes were divided has a chapter to itself, covering a cluster of villages with references to the original entries and their more recent history. In Framland, for instance, the Victorian successor to the weathercock in the engraving of Somerby church apparently squeaked so incessantly that troops awaiting deployment in Operation Market Garden in 1944 were unable to sleep. One 'eventually took decisive action and shot at it four times'. In Appleby Magna in the Sparkenhoe Hundred, the sixteenth century Moat House - described by Pevsner as 'eminently picturesque' - looks remarkably unchanged in a modern photograph from the early eighteenth century engraving. According to Nichols, one of the villagers, Joseph Green, also had remarkable powers of survival, falling from the battlements of the church 'without receiving any injury', and being 'very little hurt' when more than a thousand bricks fell on him in a cellar.

Both these publications are well researched and grounded in serious historical scholarship, including bibliographies and suggestions for further reading; and as the examples above may suggest, they are also in the 'Nicholsian' tradition of entertaining as well as informing the reader. They are highly readable and beautifully illustrated, and offer between them a comprehensive picture of John Nichols and his work, and its continuing relevance in the twenty-first century.

Cynthia Brown

THE PLACE NAMES OF LEICESTERSHIRE: PART SIX – SPARKENHOE HUNDRED

Barry Cox

English Place-Name Society, 2014, 474pp, ISBN 9780904889888, map, £45

I reviewed the fifth Leicestershire volume (Guthlaxton Hundred) produced by the English Place-Name Society (EPNS) for the *Leicestershire Historian* in 2012. Part Six - *Sparkenhoe Hundred* follows the traditional EPNS format, with an overview of the Sparkenhoe Hundred and its place names, abbreviations and a bibliography, and an alphabetical entry for each civil parish. These incorporate field names and, where relevant, entries on street names and civic, ecclesiastical and domestic buildings. The true site of Bosworth Battlefield, located in 2009, falls within the Sparkenhoe Hundred, and a short section, 'The Battle of Bosworth and related toponyms', is appended to the introduction, dealing briefly with the battle and the burial of Richard III from a place-name perspective. The EPNS volumes are works of great scholarship, and the only reservation to express of them is still that of price: at £45 each (reduced to £40 for members), a Leicestershire set would be a major investment and possibly beyond many local libraries, still less private individuals. We might even question if this is the best format. The 'popular' 160pp version for the whole of the two counties, *A Dictionary of Leicestershire and Rutland Place-Names*, cuts out much detail in a cheaper paperback format, but in place of seven hardback ones several times the length, is unlikely to satisfy many. However, print is certainly essential for the version of record and must continue to be produced, but a mobile app would be a fine thing: the index is already geotagged on their site, so the Society has the potential to really open up this knowledge.

Malcolm Noble

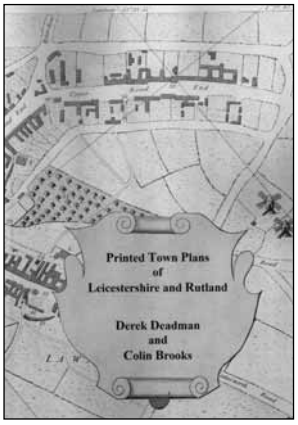
PRINTED TOWN PLANS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

Derek Deadman and Colin Brooks

Landseer Press, 2015, 154pp, illus., ISBN 9788100007747, £17.95

This book provides an introduction to the printed maps and plans of the towns of Leicestershire and Rutland that were published between 1610 and c1900, with particular reference to those held by the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR). It presents information

about more than 100 maps of Leicester, a small number of maps covering Ashby, Loughborough, Market Harborough, Oakham and Uppingham, and a few examples of transport maps and sale particulars. Each map has notes on the date of production, size, scale, publisher, information about the authors of the maps and details of interest. Where the maps are stored at ROLLR, the reference number is also given. Photographs of over 40 of the maps have been included in the book itself, and on a CD that comes with the book. The ability to enlarge the maps on a computer screen enables the reader to pick out a lot of useful detail and creates a fascinating visual journey through 300 years of history. Highlights include John Burton's Health Report maps of the 1850s, which show outbreaks of various diseases across Leicester; a map of c1897 that shows all the coffee houses in the town; and a Drink Map of 1886, which shows all its sellers of alcohol. The variety of maps, the informative text and the high quality photographs on the CD make this a very useful publication for the local historian.



Colin Hyde

RUTLAND RECORD NO. 34
Various authors
Rutland Local History and Record Society, 2014, 192pp, illus., £4.50

The main feature of this edition of the *Rutland Record* is an article by Anthony Squires on the sixteenth and early seventeenth century woodlands and landscape of the former Royal Forest of Leighfield. Only a few remnants of this now remain, but the article covers over fifty individual woodlands recorded in documents from the thirteenth century onwards, among them Stoke Dry Wood and Prior's Coppice, the later once belonging to the prior of Brooke. This very comprehensive survey is well illustrated with maps, tables and photographs, with additional sections on sources of woodland records and some of the problems of woodland study. In her article on early Market Overton, Kate Cooper re-examines archaeological and historical evidence - including 'inaccuracies and conflicting information' - to establish the chronology of the development of the village to the early medieval period. Her research suggests 'a much longer pattern of continuity of human activity than was thought possible by early landscape historians such as W. G. Hoskins'. Simon Dixon, Digital Humanities and Special Collections Manager at the University of Leicester, also gives a short but useful account of Rutland resources in the University Library. Among them are manuscripts, books, directories, and volumes relating to Rutland in the topographical library of Thomas Hatton, donated in 1921 to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland College from which the University itself eventually evolved. The journal is well-produced, and concludes with a survey of Rutland history and archaeology in 2013, and a list of the Society's publications.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

BANG IN THE MIDDLE: A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MIDLANDS – THE MOST UNDERRATED PLACE ON EARTH
Robert Shore
The Friday Project, 2014

BRADWELL'S BOOK OF LEICESTERSHIRE WIT & HUMOUR
Richard Walker
Bradwell Books, 2014

BURROUGH HILL LAD: THE MAKING OF A CHAMPION RACEHORSE
Gavan Nadan and Max Riddington
Chequered Flag, 2015

DARING TO DREAM: MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Sam Bailey
Blink, 2014

ENGEL'S ENGLAND: THIRTY NINE COUNTIES, ONE CAPITAL AND ONE MAN (INCLUDES LEICESTERSHIRE)
Matthew Engel
Profile Books, 2014

FOOTPATH RAMBLES IN LEICESTERSHIRE: A COMPLETE RAMBLERS' GUIDE
Alfred L. Cook
Reprint, 2014; first published 1947

HIDDEN STORIES (SPECIALLY-COMMISSIONED WRITING INSPIRED BY THE HISTORY OF LEICESTER'S CULTURAL QUARTER AND THE MILLS OF THE NORTH DERBYSHIRE TOWN OF GLOSSOP)
Various authors
Affective Digital Histories, 2015

LEICESTERSHIRE MURDER STORIES: A COLLECTION OF SOLVED AND UNSOLVED MURDERS
David Bell
Bradwell Books, 2015

LEICESTERSHIRE: SOME LEGENDS AND STORIES
Jack Meadows
Reprint, 2004; first published 1995

THE MAN WHO SAW THE FUTURE: A BIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM LILLY (ASTROLOGER)
Catherine Blackledge
Watkins Publishing, 2015

NAKED AND MAROONED: ONE MAN, ONE ISLAND, ONE EPIC SURVIVAL STORY
Ed Stafford
Virgin Books, 2014

LEICESTER

BLUE THUNDER: THE JOCK WALLACE STORY
Jeff Holmes
Pitch Publishing, 2014, 256pp, illus., ISBN 9781909626324, £17.99

Although Jock Wallace was manager of Leicester City only for a short time, he is still remembered fondly by many City supporters. This book covers his managerial career which started at Berwick, moving on to Hearts, and then to his beloved Glasgow Rangers. The reasons for his departure have never been revealed, but Rangers' loss was Leicester's gain. Known for his tough managerial style, he dragged Leicester into the then First Division and to an FA Cup semi-final. He loved the involvement that he had in the club and introduced many family-oriented schemes such as the family enclosure at the ground. He also believed in his young players continuing with their education, allowing day release to college. Wallace moved back to Scotland to manage Motherwell after three years, and two chapters cover his time in the city. The book is well written and illustrated, and if you want to know more about Jock Wallace this is an interesting read.

Lois Edwards

FROM KAMPALA TO LEICESTER: THE STORY OF LEICESTER'S UGANDAN ASIAN COMMUNITY
Leicester Museums and Galleries
Leicester City Council, 2015, 14 pp, illus.

This booklet is based on the exhibition of the same name that opened at Newarke Houses Museum in Leicester in 2013, and incorporates personal memories as well as images from Leicester and Uganda itself. It gives a brief history of the Asian community in Uganda from the 1890s, their expulsion by Idi Amin in 1972, their arrival in the UK, and their settlement in Leicester. It goes on to identify something of the economic, social and cultural impact of the city's Ugandan Asian community, including the businesses they established and their contribution to Leicester's professional, political and educational life. It concludes by asking how the Ugandan Asian community sees itself more than 40 years after the expulsion.

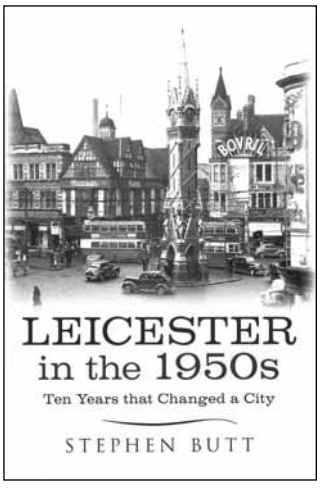
Cynthia Brown

LEICESTER IN 100 DATES
Natasha Sheldon
The History Press, 2014, 130pp, illus., ISBN 9780752499215, £9.99

Natasha Sheldon has previously written *Not a Guide to Leicester*, and *Leicester in 100 Dates* is in a similar vein. Beginning with 22nd February 1094 (the death of the First Earl of Leicester) and concluding with 4th February 2013 (confirmation of the identity of the skeleton of Richard III in the car park) the book guides us through various 'noteworthy dates' in Leicester's history. It is written in an accessible style, with each of the 100 dates receiving a page, and some illustrated with a line drawing. A broad range of episodes and topics are highlighted, including politics, royalty, street crime, sport, entertainment, war, local personalities, civic affairs, health, wealth and industry. Among the more unusual entries are the references to bubonic plague in 1593, and the shooting with an arrow of a Loughborough man in 1300. The entries are well researched and each event is supported by interesting background information. Overall the book provides an entertaining source of local stories and trivia.

Philip R. French

LEICESTER IN THE 1950s: TEN YEARS THAT CHANGED A CITY
Stephen Butt
Amberley Publishing, 2014, 95pp, illus., ISBN 9781445640457, £14.99



Stephen Butt has had a long and distinguished career in the local media and has authored many books on local history. This book takes an innovative approach, putting the fifties in the context of the previous decade as well as briefly looking at the sequel of the sixties. The first chapter, 'From Wartime to Peace', considers how the Second World War impacted on the

city, from the role of industry in the war effort, to the bombing raids on Leicester. Stephen argues that 'the pain, the suffering and the heroism [of the war]… were taken forward into a new decade', with the townscape of Leicester receiving the most attention, both in the physical reminders left by bomb sites in areas of the city such as Highfields, and in the desire to build something better. Topics such as sport, recreation and leisure, health, work and study are all highlighted, and many readers will remember the venues and personalities mentioned, such as the Theatre Royal and Leicester Stadium, Max Miller, and the local singing group the Dallas Boys. The book is very detailed and well researched, and gives plenty of background information of interest both to the general reader and local historian. The author notes that 'we began the decade with black-and-white and we ended the decade with the possibility of colour'.

Philip R. French

LIFE STORY OF MR ANDREJS OZOLINS, A LATVIAN, AND HIS WIFE MRS DULCIE OZOLINS
Kiyotaka Sato
Research Centre for the History of Religious and Cultural Diversity, Meiji University, Japan, 2014, 236pp, illus.

The Latvian community in Leicester is one of its smallest, and this seventh publication in Professor Sato's 'Memory and Narrative' series is all the more welcome for that reason. Mr Ozolins was born in Riga in 1935. His family lived through the German occupation of Latvia in World War II and spent some time in camps for displaced persons before coming to Britain in 1947-48: his father first, followed by the rest of the family. He met his English wife Dulcie when both were training to be teachers at different colleges in Devon, and they moved to Leicester in 1970. Both of their life stories are told here in a format similar to earlier volumes, beginning with an overview of Latvian history in the twentieth century as context, and a summary of the detailed life stories that follow. These cover Mr Ozolins' experience of his new life in Britain, his and his wife's work as teachers, their family life and the education of their children. Both also reflect on their identity, and on multiculturalism in Leicester and in Britain more widely. In an addition to the previous format, Mr Ozolins comments on the first three volumes in the 'Memory and Narrative' series and their value in helping him to understand other ethnic groups. Some of the most interesting sections relate to his involvement in local and national Latvian organisations, and visits made by him and his wife to Latvia, both before and after its independence in 1991 – along with the linguistic and cultural differences between Latvia and other Baltic states that may come as a surprise to some readers. Like others in the series, the book is copiously illustrated with family photographs and maps, and there are extensive notes and a bibliography. It all adds new information and perspectives to the history of migrant communities in Leicester, their contribution to the life of the city, and how families accommodate a mix of cultures and identities. More volumes in this excellent series are in preparation, and will be very welcome.

Cynthia Brown

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF THE LEICESTER SECULAR SOCIETY, WITH DIGRESSIONS: PART 1, MARCH 1932; PART 2, 1935
Sydney A. Gimson
Leicester Secular Society, 2014, Part 1: 47pp, Part 2: 23pp

This reprint of Sydney Gimson's memoir of the Leicester Secular Society will attract any reader interested in Victorian and early 20th century Leicester. It is an intriguing insight into the activities and members of this longstanding local association, as well as a highly entertaining account of the stream of distinguished visitors who came to lecture at the Leicester Secular Hall from the 1880s to the 1930s. The Gimson family were at the heart of the Secular Society, which provided a centre for local freethinkers and radicals, and Sydney Gimson, president of the society for much of his adult life, knew his local membership well. His recollections give us vivid glimpses of these individuals: for example, a picnic shared on a grassy slope in Bradgate Park with the well known Leicester socialist Tom Barclay, and a description of William Holyoak, an Owenite and founder member of the Society, selling books on a Saturday from a trestle table outside the Secular Hall. The Gimsons took great pleasure in the company of the visiting lecturers who they welcomed into their home, and the author's many anecdotes include such episodes as Charles Bradlaugh's refusal to lecture in the Floral Hall while anyone was smoking, an overheated debate between William Morris and Leicester artist Edith Gittins, George Bernard Shaw's complaint that his vegetarianism meant he was always served tomatoes in breadcrumbs, and Peter Kropotkin's sadness when a careless word reminded him he might never return to Russia. Sydney Gimson modestly comments that he has no literary gift, but his relaxed style, ability to pick out a striking detail, his affection for the people he is describing and the interest of the Leicester backdrop all makes this memoir a very pleasurable read.

Siobhan Begley

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CITY OF LEICESTER COLLEGE 1956–2013
Bob Childs
The City of Leicester College, 2014, 83pp, illus., £5

This booklet was produced to coincide with the opening of the school's new building. It covers the history of Spencefield, City Boys' and the City of Leicester Schools

before their amalgamation in 1985 to become the City of Leicester College. The booklet is nicely laid out, with plenty of colour illustrations. Sources are many and varied, and include personal recollections. The school had a magazine, *The Wyvernian*, and I can imagine the excitement when a full leather-bound set from 1931 - 71 was discovered in the cellar of one of the school's buildings! It is a tale of staff, students, academic, sporting and other achievements, changes and occasional tragedies. It is also a reminder of the huge changes and challenges faced by the schools over a comparatively short time, coping with becoming comprehensive and co-educational, the raising of the school leaving age, amalgamation and rebuilding. Changes in attitudes over time also become apparent through the recollections. Every credit is due to Bob Childs for his achievement in putting this book together. Whilst this publication will be of most interest to the many present and former pupils and staff of the City of Leicester College and its predecessors, others interested in local history and education may also enjoy reading it.

Gillian Lighton

A TASTE OF ROMAN LEICESTER
Margaret Adamson and Angela Monckton
Friends of Jewry Wall Museum, 2014, 30pp, illus., £3

This booklet has its origins in the activities of the Friends of Jewry Wall Museum, which have included displays of food relating to particular themes and periods, and ingredients known to have been available in Roman Leicester. The recipes include spelt bread, oat cakes, pea and mint pottage, nettle soup, and sweets made with dates, almonds, honey and sea salt. They have been adapted for modern kitchens, with modern ingredients where the original varieties are not available. There are interesting sections on the evidence for foods available in Roman Britain, imports and food products, and equipment for cooking and serving Roman food, with a bibliography for further reference.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

100 NOT OUT: OUR FIRST 100 YEARS IN PICTURES
Peter Scott
24th Leicester (St Philip's) Air Scout Group, 2014

FROM SHED TO STADIUM: 130 YEARS
John Hutchinson
Leicester City Football Club, 2014

GOT, NOT GOT: THE LOST WORLD OF LEICESTER CITY
Derek Hammond and Gary Silke
Pitch Publishing, 2014

OUT OF THE ASHES OF LEICESTER (AUTOBIOGRAPHY)
Robert George Jackson
Reprint, 2014

TIGERS: OFFICIAL HISTORY OF LEICESTER FOOTBALL CLUB
Stuart Farmer and David Hands
Rugby Development Foundation, 2014

WITH ALL FOR ALL: THE LIFE OF SIMON DE MONTFORT
Darren Baker
Amberley Publishing, 2015

TOWNS AND VILLAGES

ABSENT THROUGH WANT OF BOOTS: DIARY OF A VICTORIAN SCHOOL IN LEICESTERSHIRE
Robert Elverstone
The History Press, 2014, 192pp, illus., ISBN 9780750952187, £9.99

Using extracts from the Log Books of Albert Road Board School in Hinckley, this publication offers insights into the lives of working class families in the area as well as the organisation and operation of the school itself. The entries are not confined to the Victorian period, but range from its opening in 1872 in temporary premises at the Congregational church to the 1940s, with the final brief chapter taking the story up to 1987 when the Log Books were discontinued. The entries are a rich source of social history on several levels, illustrating how far the education of working class children could be disrupted or cut short by low family income, illness, and frequent 'inclement weather', and for this reason alone they have an interest and value beyond Hinckley itself. There are frequent references to unpaid fees, children being sent home to fetch them, encounters with 'aggressive' parents unwilling or unable to pay them, and of parents 'laying down the law' about how their children should be taught. Local events also caused higher than usual absenteeism. Among them were the town cricket match, the annual fair, and the Church School Treat - which encouraged a temporary exodus of some pupils to the Church School in order to qualify. Diphtheria, measles, mumps, scabies and other infectious diseases could cause the closure of the whole school, or the prolonged absence or death of a child, while illness among the teachers was itself very disruptive because there were so few of them. Head lice, ringworm and children arriving at school ill-clothed or in a 'filthy' condition were common, although the introduction of the School Medical Service in 1908 went some way to address these problems. There is less about the curriculum, though references to singing become notably more prominent every time a concert looms. Until the early

twentieth century children are identified in the Log Book extracts by their full names, making them a potentially useful source for family historians until discretion limits the family name to an initial.

Cynthia Brown

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH PAST AND PRESENT: JOURNAL OF ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH MUSEUM, NO. 16
Various authors
Ashby de la Zouch Museum, September 2014, 70pp, illus., £4

The latest edition of the Museum's journal has a varied and absorbing selection of articles. In 'From the school playing field to the Somme', Nigel Holmes focuses on the story of Robert Samuel Hallam, one of the 24 fatalities among former pupils of Ashby Grammar School. He was only 17 when he was commissioned into the Special Reserve – Sherwood Foresters in 1915, his 'short journey from playing field to battlefield' ending on the Western Front in July 1916 when he was killed in action. An article by Samuel T. Stewart gives a synopsis of his book on the Coleorton Pottery from 1835 to 1938. Known locally as 'The Potworks', it owed its origins to abundant natural resources of clay, and coal to fire the ovens, and was owned by the Coleorton Beaumont family throughout its life. John Macdonald writes of another local entrepreneur, John Wilkins, a pioneer of coalmining in the Swannington and Coleorton area in the seventeenth century, while Ken Hillier explores Ashby's first museum, established by the Kirkland family in the later eighteenth century. The contents, sold in Ashby following the death of Thomas John Kirkland in 1824, included 'Bengal slippers, curiously and richly wrought', a 'Curious Indian Quiver with poisoned arrows', and a model of the guillotine 'on which the late King of France Suffered'. The sixth in a series on the Victorians also adds 'an extra *frisson*' to Ken Hillier's 'Scandal and Murder' walk around Ashby, relating the life and crimes of the serial killer Frederick Bailey Deeming, born in Ashby in 1853 and executed in Melbourne, Australia in 1892. The journal concludes with three entries by local schoolchildren in the Ian Clewes Writing Competition.

Cynthia Brown

DESFORD AT THE TIME OF THE BATTLE OF BOSWORTH 1485
Caroline Wessel with Bosworth Academy, Desford
Bosworth Academy, 2015, 10pp, illus.

Legend has it that soldiers in the army of Richard III sharpened their swords on the stone porch of the Old Manor Farm on Desford High Street *en route* to the Battle of Bosworth. A legend it is – as the house was not built until around 1640 - but the troops came 'enticingly close' to the village, and it was directly on the route of the procession from the battlefield to Leicester Cathedral to reinter the King's remains in March 2015. This booklet celebrates Desford's role in this journey to the King's final resting place by using Poll Tax records, maps and other documentary sources to explore 'what life was really like for the inhabitants' in 1485, when the village was a demesne manor of the Duchy of Lancaster. It also records Bosworth Academy's temporary installation of a cascade and swathe of white roses entitled 'To seek, to find, and to make safe', its thousands of roses symbolising the instances of a person reported missing in Leicestershire each year.

Cynthia Brown

HARBOROUGH HISTORIAN: HISTORICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL OF LOCAL HISTORY FOR MARKET HARBOROUGH AND DISTRICT, NO. 31
Various authors
Market Harborough Historical Society, 2014, 64pp, illus., ISBN 9780955768682, £5

This edition of the *Harborough Historian* marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War I with three personal accounts of men who served in the conflict. Part Two of Douglas Wooldridge's article on the First World War Diary of his father G. C. Wooldridge covers his service as a Sapper from January 1918 to the Armistice, marked by 'huge crowds in Whitehall and outside Downing Street', and the sound of Big Ben tolling for the first time since 1914. He later settled in Market Harborough and became one of the founding members of the Historical Society in 1931. In 'A Farndon Soldier in the First World War', Alan Langley introduces John (Jack) Belton's account of his service in the Great War, in the course of which his views on the army 'changed considerably. I was no longer the willing recruit… and should never be satisfied until I had either "gone west" or been discharged'. Such written accounts are relatively rare, and there are now no living survivors of the combat – so Fred Tuffs' account, based on interviews by Dave Allen, also emphasises the value of recording memories before the opportunity is lost forever. An outline of local commemorative events and an article by Denis Kenyon on the creation of the Imperial War Graves Commission – described as 'a work greater than the Pharaohs'- complete the coverage of the war, but a range of other topics are also featured. These include Alan Langley's account of the charities of Farndon, a short history of Wartnaby Hefford Solicitors in Market Harborough, and a biography of William Knibb, social reformer, Baptist minister, missionary and 'friend of slaves' by Mike Stroud. Bob Hakewell explores the question of why so many brick yards were located along St Mary's Road, concluding that any

Harborough gardener would be able to answer it: the road 'lay on clay beds, as does much of the town, and Harborough clay is very difficult to work'. A short item by Phil and Janice Morris gives examples of Harborough entries in fire insurance registers, while book reviews, news from Harborough Museum and from the Historical Society itself also contribute to a very readable and informative publication, produced to its usual high standard with many good quality illustrations.

Cynthia Brown

HINCKLEY HISTORIAN: MAGAZINE OF HINCKLEY AND DISTRICT MUSEUM, NO. 73 AND NO. 74

Various authors

Hinckley and District Museum, Summer 2014 and Winter 2014, both 40pp, illus., £1.50

The First World War theme of the previous issue of *The Hinckley Historian* continues in a new compact A5 format in the Summer 2014 edition with the second part of 'Old Hinckleyans in World War I' by Dave Knight, and the first part of an article by Greg Drozdz on Temporary Second Lieutenant Ernest Louis Hall, a carpenter's apprentice who served with the Leicestershire Regiment and was fatally wounded in 1917. This includes extracts from his letters to family and friends, some of which were published in the Hinckley Grammar School Magazine and the parish magazine of St Peter's church. The school also features in 'The Grammar School Poacher', a short article by Charles Cook, a self-confessed 'naughty boy' who turned 'gamekeeper' and trained as a teacher, eventually becoming headmaster of a school in Canada. Along with Trevor Cook, he also relates his memories of the Grammar School during the Second World War. There is another brief memoir of life in Hinckley by Ron Jennings, who was born there in 1943, while David Wood's article on 'Burbage Charities from 1672 to the present' outlines their original provisions and, in some cases, their amalgamation or amendment by the Charity Commission as they became 'too small to be of much use'.

The Winter 2014 edition ranges more widely in its wartime theme. There is a short article on Hinckley men in the Napoleonic Wars, in addition to part three of 'Old Hinckleyans in WWI', a second article on Lt. Hall's First World War experiences, and an account of 'Harry Hayes – a Leicestershire Yeoman and the Great War'. Sheila Parsons also recalls her service in the WRNS in World War II, alongside the memories of her cousin Mary Curtis, who spent some time with the family in Hinckley after being evacuated from Bournemouth in 1940.

Cynthia Brown

MELTON MOWBRAY AND THE LOCAL VILLAGES

Trevor Hickman

Witmeha Press, 2014, 128 pp, illus., £36

Trevor Hickman is on home ground in this publication, having been born in Wymondham and travelled extensively around this part of east Leicestershire over many years. His aim is to indicate places of interest in Melton and a wide variety of local villages, from the Eye Valley to the Wolds, along the Wreake, and places in between. Each village has its own entry, illustrated with historic and/or modern images, many of them in colour, and explanatory text. Churches naturally feature prominently, remaining the dominant feature of many villages despite their often dwindling congregations. Among their most interesting and unusual features must be the tomb of Sir Eustace de Folville at Ashby Folville, with the remains of the arrow with which he was killed protruding from the chest of his effigy. The church at Brentingby, constructed around 1150, became a private residence in the 1970s, and the book also features a number of country houses that have been converted to other uses. Ragdale Hall, built in 1785, is well known as a Health Hydro, while Stapleford Hall, home of the earls of Harborough, became a hotel some years ago. Pubs, schools, and memorials of various kinds are also featured, and if the entries for some villages are - in the author's own words - 'very slight', they all earn their inclusion. The page on Grimston, for instance, a small village off the ancient Salt Way, shows the medieval 'two-person' stocks where miscreants - including publicans selling un-pressed cream cheese prior to 1734 - were 'subjected to some form of punishment as determined by the local elected constable'. In the chapter on Melton Mowbray itself the town's connections with Stilton cheese and pork pies are well covered, but some sites may be less familiar than others, among them the Blue Plaque marking the bakehouse of Edward Adcock in Leicester Street, erected by the Pork Pie Association in recognition of his role in commercialising the production and marketing of the pies. There is a great deal of interest in the book for the general reader as well as those with a more direct connection to the places it covers; and if some will be daunted by the price, it will be well worth seeking it out for loan in a library.

Cynthia Brown

JOHN BARBER'S OAKHAM CASTLE AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGY

Elaine Jones and Robert Ovens

Rutland Local History and Record Society, Occasional Publication No. 11, 2014, 72pp, illus., ISBN 9780907464518, £8

A grant of £2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to refurbish Oakham Castle has prompted renewed interest in this hitherto unpublished account of excavations adjacent to

the Great Hall in the 1950s. The work was carried out by John Barber, a master at Oakham School, with the assistance of some of his pupils. The extensive notes that he made on the excavations formed part of the 'random jottings' he made in the years following his retirement, and later deposited in Rutland County Museum – but the term scarcely does them justice. They are highly detailed, and the almost conversational tone in which he writes make them absorbing and accessible to readers with no specialist knowledge. Interestingly, Barber admits to 'misgivings' about the conclusions he drew from the excavations, noting that while most were based on 'authenticated facts', there were times when he 'put forward theories or deductions, that only posterity and a more detailed examination of the evidence may prove wrong'. Some of these have indeed been challenged by more recent research, but as the publishers suggest, 'his work is by no means diminished as a result. His notes and reports remain important and informative background material for any study of the Castle. They are presented here alongside an up-to-date assessment by Deborah Sawday of the pottery from his excavations, a republished contemporary report of the excavations themselves by P. W. Gathercole, and a comprehensive list of references and further reading.

Cynthia Brown

FOWKE STREET ROTHLEY
Terry Sheppard
Rothley Heritage Trust, 2015, 216pp, illus., ISBN 9780956341563, £15

Terry Sheppard has been collecting information about Fowke Street and its 'close', School Street, since 1994, building on his interest as a resident through a course in local history at the University of Nottingham. Much of his research is published here for the first time, though he also draws on his earlier publication about the National School. The book begins with a reflection on 'mining' the archival sources, a process that has led him to some 'glorious places' like the Wren Library at Trinity College Cambridge, where 53 boxes of Babington correspondence are deposited, and left him 'well and truly captivated'. This is clear from the lively, almost conversational style in which the book is written, firmly underpinned by an impressive depth and breadth of research and critical analysis of sources.

As well as the Babington papers, these include maps, Census returns, valuation surveys, sales catalogues, receipts and payment books, wills, newspapers, and reports of archaeological investigations. In a section that really brings the street to life, he has also drawn on the personal memories of some of the present day owners of properties, presenting them in the context of documentary sources relating to each building. Thus we learn that 13 Fowke Street was a Cruck Cottage, and has been well-studied as such by academics; but at one stage it was also a beer house, with customers entering through the door on the left of the now restored building – one that was in such a 'sorry state' when sold in 1961 that no financial institution would offer a mortgage on it. Other sections cover the Industrial Co-operative Society, hosiery manufacture at Victoria Mills - initially established in some cottages - and The Grange, the large house around which Fowke Street bends. This is an unusual, entertaining and informative approach to the history of Fowke Street, and an excellent example of what can result when the author is someone with sound historical skills and a real sense of place.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

GROBY OLD HALL: TREE RING ANALYSIS OF TIMBERS
Alison Arnold and Robert Howard
English Heritage, 2014

A WALK THROUGH HATHERN
Hathern Local History Society
The Authors, 2014

HIGHAM ON THE HILL: AROUND THE VILLAGE WITH GRAHAM TAYLOR
Celia Hornbuckle
The Author, 2014

THE ATHLETIC GROUNDS OF LOUGHBOROUGH
Barry Wilford
Panda Eyes Publishers, 2015

LADYBIRD: A COVER STORY (LOUGHBOROUGH)
Jo Garden
Ladybird Books, 2014

THE LADYBIRD STORY: CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR EVERYONE
Brian Alderson and Lorraine Johnson
British Library, 2014

LOUGHBOROUGH'S BATTLE AGAINST FIRE
John Gibson
Panda Eyes Publishers, 2014

FIRE FIGHTERS OF MARKET HARBOROUGH
Fred W. Allen
The Author, 2014

UP, UP AND AWAY: POEMS FROM MELTON MOWBRAY
Phyllis Handley
Arthur Stockwell Ltd., 2015

TILTON AND DISTRICT HISTORY GROUP JOURNAL, ISSUE NO. 7
Various authors
Tilton and District History Group, Autumn 2014

OUR FIFTY YEARS OF MEMORIES: GLENMERE PRIMARY SCHOOL, WIGSTON
Glenmere Primary School
The Authors, 2014

INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORT

ADMIRAL: KIT MAN – ALL FOR THE SHIRT
Bert Patrick
Matador, 2014, 152pp, illus., ISBN 9781783063864, £10.99

This book tells the story of how a small hosiery company based in Wigston became the supplier of kit to the England football team in the 1970s, and helped to revolutionise the way that professional football marketed itself. Bert Patrick, an ex-journalist, became the owner of Wigston underwear manufacturer Cook & Hurst in the late 1960s. In the wake of England winning the 1966 World Cup, and the advent of colour TV, he saw the potential of each team upgrading its strip and marketing a more colourful kit. Patrick approached Don Revie, a former Leicester player having huge success as the manager of Leeds United, and persuaded him to adopt an Admiral kit. Other contracts followed, and when Revie became England manager in 1974 Admiral got the contract to clothe the national team. The company then expanded to take in the North American and South East Asian markets. This book is also about the rise and fall of the clothing industry in Leicestershire. Patrick blames his unwillingness to outsource the work abroad as one of the reasons for the failure of Admiral in the 1980s, and although Admiral is still trading, he left soon after the original company went into receivership. The book is written in an anecdotal style and is illustrated with colour photographs. Although frustratingly short of references and dates, it does however add to the literature on Leicester's recent industrial past and is an enjoyable, entertaining read, packed full of stories that take the reader back to the heyday of soccer in the 1970s.

Colin Hyde

COURTAULDS AND THE HOSIERY AND KNITWEAR INDUSTRY: A STUDY OF ACQUISITION, MERGER & DECLINE
Bramwell G. Rudd
Crucible Books, 2014, 336pp, illus., ISBN 9781905472062, £18

Many of the towns and villages in Leicestershire played a key role in the knitting industry, and the wealth generated by the industry stimulated growth and shaped towns and cities throughout the East Midlands. However, there is a lack of wider recognition of Leicestershire's unique role in the hosiery and knitwear trade, perhaps because major literature from which this story can be told is sparse. Professor Stanley Chapman's *Hosiery and Knitwear c1589-2000* (2002) provides a framework, while the New Opportunities Fund website put together by Leicester City Museums (http://www.knittingtogether.org.uk/) is an accessible overview. Geoff Bowles & Siobhan Kirrane's *Knitting Together: memories of Leicestershire's hosiery industry* (1990) reflects the oral history of the industry. Adding to this, Bramwell Rudd's book examines the more recent years of the trade in depth. Based on his PhD thesis, it mainly covers the period 1960 - 2000 which saw major changes in the knitwear industry. The author worked in the industry from 1966 for many years, so the book has the benefit of his memories, his access to private files, and interviews with former workers and managers. It summarises the early history of Courtaulds, and the impact of two world wars. It also deals with diversification and the takeover bid by ICI in the 1960s; Courtaulds' acquisitions of household names such as Aristoc and Wolsey; and industrial relations. It covers the days when small retailers gave place to the new power of High Street stores such as Marks & Spencer, the relationship with Marks & Spencer itself and changes in the supply chain, problems from the 1980s, and the decline and eventual takeover by Sara Lee Corporation. There are appendices covering the Mansfield Hosiery strike in 1972 and trade organisations, plus a full bibliography. The book is helpfully divided into titled sub-sections - 'After the war – rayon under threat', 'Decline in children's socks' and so on - which are fully indexed in the contents pages, and this helps with effective navigation of the text. This is a serious book and a substantial contribution to its subject. The hosiery and knitwear trade was significant for Leicestershire's economic well-being for many years and future local heritage interpretation will benefit from this work.

Yolanda Courtney

AN EXPERIMENT IN ENGINEERING CO-OPERATION 1915–1918
Leicester District Armaments Group of Engineering Employers
The Authors; reprinted by Leicestershire Industrial History Society, 2014, 46pp, illus., £6

Many titles relating to the centenary of the start of the Great War have been published in 2014, ranging from studies of failed international diplomacy to the contribution of local communities. This reprint of a business association report is an interesting and useful primary source, and gives a good insight not only into an important aspect of industrial organisation but also attitudes of the time. As the war escalated a huge increase in munitions production was needed. In Leicester the local manufacturers 'told the representatives of the War Office and the Board of Trade that they would rather undertake the work themselves than have their employees transferred to other districts'. The

report gives details of the type of munitions manufactured, costs, supplies and output, and is a great source for understanding the organisational changes required to fight a 'total war'. Indirectly it shines a spotlight on attitudes of the time. Prevalent attitudes to women are summed up in a section which deals with the various 'problems' the industry faced, including 'the necessity of substituting women for unskilled men'. The publication is an interesting and unusual primary source containing some useful information and a selection of photographs of shell production - including a group photograph of 'Women Workers'.

Philip R. French

THE LEICESTER AND SWANNINGTON RAILWAY IN A NUTSHELL: A LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST STEAM RAILWAYS
Leicestershire Industrial History Society
The Authors, 2014, 28pp, illus., £4

This very readable and informative booklet begins by explaining the difficulties of transporting coal for sale from the North-West Leicestershire coalfield in the 1820s, and the role played by businessmen such as William Stenson and John Ellis, and the railway entrepreneur George Stephenson himself, in developing a solution in the form of the Leicester and Swannington Railway. A section on the route of the line illustrates some of the challenges faced by its chief engineer Robert Stephenson, including the high ground between Leicester and Glenfield that required the construction of a tunnel over a mile long. Inclines at Bagworth and Swannington were also too steep for the power of locomotives at the time, requiring inclined planes to negotiate them, and these are also explained in some detail. Later sections cover the termini of the line at West Bridge in Leicester and at Swannington, 'the busiest railway junction in the world' when it opened in 1832, linking lines from quarries and mines constructed by their owners. The booklet is generously illustrated with photographs and maps, providing a very accessible account of Leicestershire's earliest steam railway.

Cynthia Brown

S. RUSSELL & SONS, IRON FOUNDERS & ENGINEERS, BATH LANE, LEICESTER: LEICESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY, BULLETIN NO. 20
David Pearce
Leicestershire Industrial History Society, 2014, 48pp, illus., £10

This book was first published in 1964 to mark the centenary of Leicester iron founders S. Russell and Sons, and it is re-published here with additional text, footnotes and comments by David Pearce who started work with the company in 1962. It begins with a biography of its founder Samuel Russell, a moulder, who moved from Loughborough to Leicester to set up a brass and iron foundry. A family tree identifies the four generations of the family who ran the business until it was taken in over by the London-based machine tool manufacturers B. Elliott & Co. Each chapter then deals with particular chronological periods and different aspects of the company's development, giving a detailed account of extensions to its premises, technical developments and products, and changes in its management structure. For instance, the company's experience during the First World War was in many ways typical, with increased orders for war work combined with a loss of manpower as employees volunteered for military service. It also took a personal toll on the family. One of the founder's grandsons was wounded three times while serving with the Leicestershire Regiment, and a granddaughter commissioned into the Women's Auxiliary Service Corps died during the post-war influenza epidemic. The section on World War II is an interesting contrast, both in terms of products and the system of 'reserved occupations' that enabled Russell's to retain most of its skilled workforce. In the final chapter David Pearce updates the company's history to the present day, as it continues under the name of Russell Ductile Castings in the Bonchurch Street works built in 1920. This is a welcome reminder of Leicester's once substantial engineering industry, and will perhaps encourage the re-publication and updating of other company histories in years to come.

Cynthia Brown

Other recent publications

90 YEARS OF MOTOR BUSES IN LEICESTER
First Leicester and Leicester Transport Heritage Trust
First Leicester, 2014

'JUBILEES' AND 'JUBBLEYS': A TRAINSPOTTER'S STORY, 1959–64, PART I
Stewart Warrington
Silver Link Publishing, 2014

LITTLE THINGS IN GLASS (HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH GLASS COMPANY)
Tom Lawson
GML Publishing, 2015

MIDLAND RED IN NBC (NATIONAL BUS COMPANY) DAYS
Mike Greenwood and Paul Roberts
Ian Allen, 2014

RATBY SERVICE: THE STORY OF ASTILL AND JORDAN
Mick Gamble
Leicester Transport Heritage Trust, 2014

STONEYGATE TRAM DEPOT: THE STORY OF THE TRAM DEPOT & THE HISTORY OF THE TRAM AND BUS ROUTES THAT SERVED LEICESTER'S STONEYGATE SUBURB
Mike Greenwood
Leicester Transport Heritage Trust, 2014

WELLINGBOROUGH TO LEICESTER AND ITS ROUTES TO NORTHAMPTON AND RUGBY (MIDLAND MAINLINE)
Vic Mitchell and Keith Smith
Middleton Press, 2015

MILITARY AND WAR

WWI SERVICEMEN BELGRAVE CEMETERY

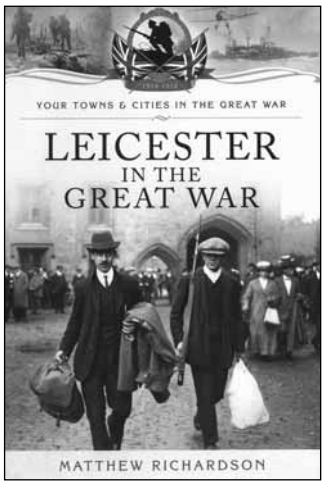
Joy May and Robert Horner ed.
Friends of Belgrave Cemetery Group, 2014, 110pp, illus., ISBN 9780955897221, £15

What a wonderful year 2014 has been for research into all aspects of the local impact of World War I. Communities have been moved to find out more about the stories behind the names on their war memorials, bringing these casualties 'back to life' and restoring their histories. They highlight the impact the war had on local families, and personalize a conflict which can sometimes seem overwhelmingly statistical: numbers of the dead, the injured, or armaments made and fired. This book does so through brief histories of 109 local men who were killed in the war, using a mixture of military and family history sources - mainly the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) online database & the 1911 census. The men are listed in alphabetical order of surname, with the location of the headstones within Belgrave cemetery, and the location of any headstones or names on memorials in the places where they died. It also includes three men who died after the qualifying date for the CWGC headstones. Photographs of the men, relevant documents, headstones and cemeteries around the world are included where appropriate. Those who died ranged widely in age. The youngest seems to have been Aircraftman Alan Jeffery Kilby, b.1901, who enlisted 1st December 1917 and was dead 'of sickness' by 27th March 1919, aged 18. The oldest, Company Sgt Major Arthur Jones, DCM, had been honoured for gallantry in the field in the Sudan campaign of 1898 and died in France, age 48 on 1st May 1918. Many deaths were the result of illnesses or accidents of various kinds. Pte Sidney Maurice Banbury was killed accidentally in the Melton area while exercising horses before the regiment went to France, while Pte George David Bird contracted nephritis in Italy in February 1918, and was discharged from the army as unfit for service in December 1918. When he died the following February in the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester it was calculated that of his 232 days in service overseas, 195 days were spent in hospitals. The men listed in this book served and died all over the world. Sgt John Francis Edgar Baker, for instance, a career soldier with the 14th (Kings) Hussars, died in Mesopotamia and is remembered in the North Gate Cemetery in Baghdad. Lt Horace E. Eglon was attached to the Gold Coast Regiment of the Royal West African Frontier Force, and died in an attack on the Germans at Narungombe, German East Africa (now Tanzania). He is remembered in Dar es Salaam war cemetery. There are some remarkable stories, like that of Sgt Arthur Neaves Manship, the son of a freeman of the city of Leicester, who joined the navy at 16 years 8 months in 1900, but ran away from HMS Pembroke in 1902. Under the surname 'Neaves' he joined the 14th Hussars in South Africa, where he served from October 1902 to May 1903. On his return to Britain, the Navy arrested him and imprisoned him as a deserter. However, he managed to return to the army, and as one of the 13th Hussars, went to India where he took part in the Delhi Durbar in December 1911, served all through World War I, and eventually died of pneumonia in Winchester in 1919. This useful book has been carefully researched and contains much significant information that it will be of considerable interest to family and World War I historians.

Margaret Bonney

LEICESTER IN THE GREAT WAR

Matthew Richardson
Pen and Sword Military, 2014, 172pp, illus., ISBN 9781783032891, £12.99



It is a curious feature that up until recently, so little has been written on Leicester's experience of the war, with so much to commend it to historians: the troops at the 5th Northern General Hospital, high employment (soldiers need boots and socks), the slow take up of arms, and an important pacifist tradition. Our shelves might hold the (now unobtainable) F.P. Armitage, *Leicester 1914-18*, or Ben Beazley, *Leicester during the Great War*, but this up-to-date offering by Matthew Richardson is as timely as it is welcome. It forms part of a series on *Your Towns & Cities in the Great War*, and is a valuable resource. It is attractively priced and offers an accessible introduction. Newspapers are a vital source: as it has been wisely said, they are the first rough draft of history. These are supplemented with limited reference to oral history recordings and, perhaps most interestingly, a range of manuscript material in the hands of the author and private families which provide the human dimension. It is illustrated in monochrome and some of the images were new to this reviewer. The book is aimed at a

popular readership, and does not relate to the large scholarly literature on the War or take its source material too critically. Nonetheless, it deserves a place on bookshelves as the 'go-to' book on Leicester during World War I.

Malcolm Noble

LEST WE FORGET: IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN IN THE GREAT WAR, NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

North West Leicestershire Heritage Forum (NWLHF)
Blue volume: Ashby Museum, ISBN 9780957464018; yellow volume: in association with Ashby Museum ISBN 9780957464932; green volume: Diseworth Publications, ISBN 0953956531; £12 each

The first three volumes in a series of five commemorating the men from North West Leicestershire who died in the First World War have now been published. They cover Ashby, Ibstock and the northern parishes around Kegworth and Castle Donington, and are based on research by members of the North West Leicestershire Heritage Forum and other volunteers into names on war memorials. Each volume covers a cluster of villages, with entries organised alphabetically village by village. They start with biographical details, followed by those of their military service, and are accompanied by images relating to each individual, including regimental badges, photographs of graves or war cemeteries, commemorative plaques or personal documents. The range of military units in which they served, in addition to the Leicestershire Regiment, is itself much wider than might be imagined. It will be no surprise to find a miner from the North West Leicestershire coalfield in the Tunnelling Company of the Royal Engineers, but others were much further afield when the war started – like Private Edgar Henry Butler, a farm labourer from Ellistown, who emigrated to Australia in 1912, enlisted in the 15th Battalion Australian Infantry in September 1914, and was killed in action in April 1915 during the Gallipoli campaign. These volumes are a remarkable achievement, representing a vast amount of research conducted entirely by volunteers to an impressively high standard. They are not only an invaluable resource for military historians, family historians and others with a connection to North West Leicestershire, but a fitting tribute to the fallen themselves.

Cynthia Brown

HOW SAXBY STREET GOT ITS NAME: WORLD WAR I AND THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH HIGHFIELDS

Residents of South Highfields, Leicester
South Highfields Neighbours, 2015, 92pp, illus., ISBN 9780993118005, £10

Saxby Street – originally Saxe Coburg Street – is significant in the context of this book as one of several streets in Leicester with Germanic names to be renamed in October 1918. During the First World War the Highfields area of Leicester was one of the wealthier parts of Leicester, with a mixture of large houses and substantial terraces, and more modest properties in the streets in-between. The war and the experience of local residents are the focus of the first part of the book, combining personal stories of combatants, Conscientious Objectors and Prisoners of War with those of people who lived or worked in the area. There is a particular focus on the role of women, both in terms of war work and in dealing with the absence or death of male members of the family, shortages of food and eventual rationing. Shops, schools, health and mortality are also covered, drawing on oral history recordings from the East Midlands Oral History Archive as well as a range of documentary sources. Some of the anti-German attitudes that led to the renaming of Saxe Coburg Street are explored through the experience of two local residents, the hairdresser Maximilian Baumeister and Professor Willebald Richter, a teacher of music, both interned during the war. The second part of the book takes a different view of the war by examining its global impact in terms of migration to the South Highfields area. By gathering the stories of people whose fathers or grandfathers fought in the war, it illustrates how the redrawing of borders, invasion or violence eventually led individuals or families to Leicester. Werner Menski, for instance, whose father's family came from a part of Eastern Prussia, now Poland, recalls that it was 'thrown all over Germany' by the First World War, and: 'The memory that people in that area had of the Russian invasion during World War I made them think, foolishly, that their treatment would not be as cruel as it turned out to be. Hence they did not leave in time [during World War II] and were overrun by the Russians…'. This is an unusual and very interesting perspective on the First World War, also considering its longer term impact in India, Kurdistan, parts of Africa, and the Caribbean. The local residents who compiled the book found it an 'enriching' experience, and the same may be said of its contribution to the history of Leicester.

Cynthia Brown

THURMASTON AND THE GREAT WAR, 1914–1918

Mark Gamble
The Author, 2014, 178pp, illus., £12.99

The individual stories in this book relate to over 320 people with Thurmaston connections who served during the First World War in the British Army, Royal Navy, Royal Air Force or the forces of the British Empire. It also includes those engaged in home defence or agriculture. It begins with an overview of Thurmaston on the eve of the Great War, including the main occupations of its residents, before considering the impact of the war itself, from recruitment to the armed forces, the arrival of Belgian refugees, and the

commemoration of the local men who died in the conflict. The greater part of the book consists of alphabetical biographies of those who served. Henry Fox, for instance, was born in Thurmaston in 1886 and started work as a basket maker at the age of 15. In 1911 he was living with his widowed mother in Brook Street, and joined the army in February 1916, serving with the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA) as part of the British Expeditionary Force. In 1917, injured and suffering from trench fever, he was invalided back to England, but later returned to service with a Reserve Brigade of the RGA and survived the war. Many other examples could be given, all researched over many years using documents from the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester, and Rutland, newspapers, the Thurmaston Parish Magazine, Thurmaston Cemetery records, and information from individuals, in addition to national records. The book is produced to a high standard with many interesting images, and will be an invaluable resource for anyone with a connection to Thurmaston during this period.

Cynthia Brown

UNCOVERING RESISTANCE: LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE IN WORLD WAR I

Leicester Memories in Conflict Collective

Leicester CND, 2015, 124pp, illus., ISBN 9780993219306, £10

This is an unusual and absorbing publication, combining an analysis of resistance to the First World War in town and county at the time with its impact on succeeding generations. As it demonstrates, organised resistance in Leicester was led by the Independent Labour Party, within a tradition of radicalism dating from the mid-nineteenth century and embracing secularism and a range of religious and political viewpoints. In terms of individual resistance, much of it is naturally concerned with those who rejected military service on the grounds of conscience after the introduction of conscription in 1916. It includes accounts of the local tribunals that judged the validity of their objections and decided on their fates: refusal of any exemption, service in a non-combatant capacity, or more rarely, total exemption from military service. Where known, the occupations and religious affiliations of Conscientious Objectors are also analysed – interestingly Christadelphians constituted the largest single group in Leicester - and several personal stories are told, relating their grounds of objection and the hostility that they and their families encountered. There is also a full list of Leicester and Leicestershire Conscientious Objectors, drawn from a national database and offering opportunities for further research into their backgrounds and experiences.

The effects of the First World War on later generations are explored through interviews with descendants of those who lived through it, including those with German connections and others who became became Conscientious Objectors themselves. Malcolm Elliott, for example, who found his 'spiritual home' as a Quaker, speaks of his objection to National Service after World War II on conscientious grounds. He was initially 'very reluctant to follow my father as a pacifist, because this seemed, a sort of easy thing to do, but I always felt I was naturally pacifist… then I realised that this wasn't just because of my parents, that I really did not see how it was possible to equate this with Christianity…'. The book claims to make 'only a modest contribution' to the question of how contemporaries viewed the war, and ongoing historical debates about its legitimacy. This may be so in the grand scheme of things, but in terms of its reflections on the nature of memory as well as the historical information uncovered by the research, its contribution to the history of the war in both Leicester and county is both timely and significant.

Cynthia Brown

WIGSTON IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Duncan Lucas, Derek Seaton, Tricia Berry and Jean Dann

The History Press, 2014, 132pp, illus., ISBN 9780752488356, £12.99

Both Wigston Magna and South Wigston are featured in this book, which is based on an impressive amount of research and covers the contribution of their civilian populations as well as those who fought in the conflict. It begins with a chapter on Glen Parva Barracks, the Regimental Depot of the Leicestershire Regiment, where tens of thousands of men received their basic training during World War I. Conscientious Objectors assigned non-combatant duties by Military Tribunals and those who refused any service at all also passed through the barracks. Life on the Wigston 'Home Front' is illustrated from a variety of sources, among them local government records and church and chapel magazines. These demonstrate the support offered to Belgian refugees from early in the war, and the importance of 'Baby Week' in 1917, emphasising the need to take care of the health of the next all-important generation. The effects of the war on local industries are also explored, and personal memoirs add still more interest. The final sections of the book consider the aftermath of the war and the memorials to those who died in the conflict, among them the Peace Memorial Park and the gravestones of eleven military personnel buried in Wigston Cemetery. This comprehensive picture of the two villages at war has much to offer a wider historical audience as well as those with a more direct connection to Wigston and South Wigston.

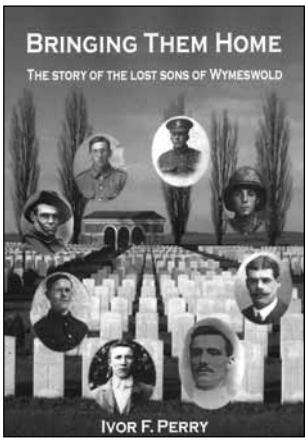
Cynthia Brown

BRINGING THEM HOME: THE STORY OF THE LOST SONS OF WYMESWOLD

Ivor F. Perry

Wolds Historical Association, 2014, 203pp, illus., ISBN 9780951734353, £12.95

The title of this book is a nod towards the policy of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), which decided that the bodies of the dead were not to be repatriated, but would be placed in specially designed and constructed cemeteries on the fields of battle. The author begins by setting the pre-war scene in a small and reasonably prosperous village. There were four regular serving soldiers in the community in the early twentieth century, but the First World War made a much larger impact, as the 30 names on the its war memorial showed - over half recorded in 1918 alone. A second chapter explores discrepancies between the numbers and names on the parish church memorial and that in the Methodist chapel, not to mention the CWGC listing. Why was this, and how were these names decided on in the first place? He found that all the men worked in Wymeswold at some stage in their lives, or had family members resident in the village, but there is still some guesswork. Colin Bramall, for example, was born in Bradfield near Sheffield. He was living in Nottingham in 1911, and then the family moved to Stapleford. When he was killed near Arras in 1917 his wife and children were living in Loughborough, but his pre-war career as a policeman seems to have taken him to Wymeswold around 1912 and this might be the reason for his name appearing on the memorial.



The final chapter gives an interesting insight into the discussions that took place after the war about the most fitting way to remember those who died, and also to provide suitable community facilities for those who returned. The vicar's role in liaising with the local YMCA was key in bringing about the building of a Memorial Hall in the village. The main part of the book deals with the histories of each of the Wymeswold World War I dead in alphabetical order. Each man has a generous chapter, illustrated in black and white, with family photographs, documentation and maps of the sites where he died, and a useful list of the sources consulted at the end. The range of these is impressive, including service records where these survive, parish records and local school records, which give an insight into the personalities of the dead. Where no military records survive, the author has most ingeniously used information about siblings or other relatives who served to infer the course of a military career. At every stage, regimental war diaries and related sources are drawn on to illustrate the campaigns in which the men died and to set the military context.

There are some moving personal stories among the Wymeswold names. Eric Evans, born in London, but by 1901 living in Wymeswold as a 'nurse child', perhaps an orphan being brought up by a local family, volunteered for the army in 1915, although he was not on active service until 1917. By May 1918 he was part of the British reinforcements desperately trying to counter a ferocious German offensive north of Rheims. Eric went missing, and his body was never found. By April 1919, the army had accepted he was dead. 'Eric's short life has left no trace in Wymeswold, except for his name on the Rolls of Honour…. Let this small history help us to remember with gratitude the life of Eric Evans, the child whose parents are unknown, but who found a loving family in Wymeswold'. These last sentences sum up the author's motives and personal commitment to a project to remember and honour the World War I dead of Wymeswold.

Margaret Bonney

Other recent publications

DOING THEIR BIT: ASHBY GIRLS' WARTIME HARVEST CAMPS 1942-1944
Wendy Freer
Pudding Bag Productions, 2015

BARROW-UPON-SOAR: THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918
Malcolm Dark
The Author, 2014

CARLEY STREET BAPTIST CHURCH: HOME FRONT 1914–18
Stephen M. Hardy
Carley Street Baptist Church, 2015

A TRIBUTE TO COSBY'S FALLEN IN THE GREAT WAR
Andy Strang
The Author, 2015

CHRIST CHURCH COALVILLE: REMEMBERING THE PARISHIONERS OF CHRIST CHURCH COALVILLE WHO FELL IN THE WAR OF 1914–1918
Michael Kendrick
The Author, 2014

GREETHAM AND THE GREAT WAR
David Bland and Paul Bland
The Authors, 2014

LEICESTER AT WAR: WALKING TRAIL (WORLD WAR I)
School Development Support Agency
The Authors, 2015

LEICESTER IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR - EARLY DAYS: AUGUST 1914–DECEMBER 1914
Sue Mackrell
Crystal Clear Creators, 2014

THE LINGO OF NO MAN'S LAND
Lorenzo Napoleon Smith
Originally published 1918; republished 2014 by University of Leicester School of English with an introduction by Prof Julie Coleman

LOUGHBOROUGH CARILLON TOWER AND WAR MEMORIAL
Marigold Cleeve and Peter Minshall
Loughborough Carillon Tower and War Memorial Museum, updated 2014

LUTTERWORTH IN WARTIME: THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II ON A RURAL AREA OF ENGLAND
Tony Bailey
The Author, 2014

RUTLAND AND THE GREAT WAR
George Phillips
Rutland County Museum, reprint 2014; originally published Padfield, 1920

TESTED BY BOMB AND FLAME: LEICESTER VERSUS LUFTWAFFE AIR RAIDS, 1939–1945
Austin J. Ruddy
Halsgrove Books, 2014

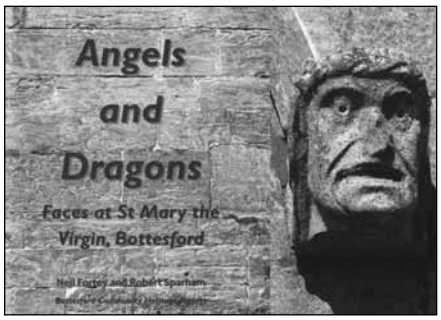
THE HOME FRONT: THE PARISH OF THURCASTON AND CROPSTON 1914-18 AND 1939-45
Brenda Hopper
Thurcaston and Cropston Local History Society, 2014

THRINGSTONE AROUND WORLD WAR TWO
John Wisehall, Colin Moore, Ron Brewin and Frank Richards
Friends of Thringstone, 2014

RELIGION AND PLACES OF WORSHIP

ANGELS AND DRAGONS: FACES OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, BOTTESFORD
Neil Fortey and Robert Sparham
Bottesford Community Heritage Project, 2014, 86pp, illus., ISBN 9780957063174, £10

The church of St Mary the Virgin in Bottesford may be most familiar for the 'Witchcraft tomb', the memorial to the sixth Earl of Rutland, the Countess Cecilia, and two of their children recorded as dying of 'wicked practice and sorcery'. This has its place here, alongside the many other faces depicted both inside the church and on its exterior: some angelic, some 'truly grotesque', and many - particularly those of the Medieval period - 'quite extraordinarily lifelike'. It begins with an overview of the church's historic framework from the late twelfth century to the nineteenth, identifying extensions, restorations and other changes over the years, with a plan first published in 1908 indicating its layout and the location of some of its most important monuments.



The amazing carved heads in different sections of the church are examined, with outstanding close-up images affording the reader a view of the detail that would be difficult to match on the ground. The focus is 'as much on the beauty of the images as the history they have to tell', and the latter is well-explained, encompassing allegorical meanings, the inspiration of biblical texts, changes in the representation of faces within the wider historical and cultural context, and in materials and styles of clothing. A section on tombs and monuments covers those of the Roos family and the Earls of Rutland who succeeded them, showing the extraordinary detail of the alabaster and marble effigies, while the angels come into their own in the chapter on the church's stained glass. The 'Doom' painting, parts of which were revealed when plaster was removed from the chancel arch, also features angels sounding the trumpets alongside a demon pushing sinners into Hell. At the end of the book there is a useful glossary and bibliography. As the authors note, all the heads represented here reflect not only the history of this most northerly parish of Leicestershire, but the skills of those who created them: 'We have been impressed again and again by the skill and artistry of the medieval masons and painters, and of the later sculptors and creators of stained glass… Most are anonymous [but]…today they would be celebrated artists and deservedly so'. This beautifully illustrated book is a work of art in itself, and a sheer pleasure to read.

Cynthia Brown

THE BELVOIR STREET CHAPEL, LEICESTER
Neil Crutchley
The Author, 2014, 30pp, illus.

This history of the former 'Pork Pie Chapel' in Belvoir Street is an expanded version of a talk given by the author to the Victorian Society in Leicester in February 2014. It

begins with a brief history of the Harvey Lane Baptist chapel established in 1756, whose ministers included the missionary William Carey and J.P. Mursell, an ardent opponent of the imposition of Church Rates on Nonconformists. Harvey Lane was enlarged on several occasions, but by the early 1840s new premises were needed to accommodate a growing congregation with a sizeable middle class element. This 'striking, classically inspired edifice', designed by Joseph Hansom and located in the fashionable area of Belvoir Street, was the result. Its circular plan, and the events that marked its opening are described in detail, before a chronological account of the pastorates of its ministers. It also outlines some of the financial issues faced by many places of worship once their congregations dwindle - leading to a merger with the Charles Street Baptist Church in 1940 and the sale of the building itself to the Borough Council six years later. It concludes with a bibliography that will enable the reader to explore the wider Baptist history of Leicester as well as that of the chapel itself.

Cynthia Brown

ST LEONARD'S MISTERTON CHURCH GUIDE
Brian Davis and Jan Zientek
St Leonard's Church, 2014, 22pp, illus.

Apart from the Hall and a few cottages, the village of Misterton disappeared centuries ago. Its church remains, its spire visible from the M1 motorway nearby, but otherwise so 'tucked away' that many people may be unaware of its existence. This guide suggests that it is well worth a visit. It begins with a brief history of Misterton village, and of St Leonard himself, a sixth century hermit and special patron of prisoners, peasants and the sick. Monuments, stained glass, floor tiles and other features are covered in some detail, well illustrated with photographs. Other entries cover the church plate, the Rectory, and Misterton Hall. There is also a list of rectors and patrons of the church, alongside extracts from the archdeacons' reports and local newspapers. The latter include a report from 1854 of four men from Walcote charged by the churchwarden with disturbing the congregation by 'talking with a loud voice and laughing', for which they received a 'severe reprimand' from the magistrate.

Cynthia Brown

ST PETER'S AND HIGHFIELDS: THE HISTORY OF A LEICESTER CHURCH AND ITS COMMUNITY
Paul Griffiths
Kairos Press, 2014, 64pp, illus., ISBN 9781871344349, £6.50

Historians, especially those interested in the built environment, are tempted to think of churches simply as buildings, and a publication of this length might easily be an extensive discussion of fabric conducted in specialist vocabulary. Griffiths does something of much wider appeal than this. The church, its fabric, its parish and community, are taken together, and the end result is considerably more interesting and useful for it. He uses St Peter's as a way to consider the changing character of the community, which has been transformed several times from the late Victorian period to the present, and does this and more in remarkably little space. From substantial villas, to the modest terraces of the working classes, to a succession of newcomers who have settled in South Highfields over the decades, all are explored through St Peter's church. This compact work will be of great interest to those with a connection to the area, regardless of their religious views.

Malcolm Noble

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE PARISH CHURCHES OF RUTLAND
Andrew Swift
Velox Books, 2014, 113pp, illus., ISBN 9780957570122, £15

There are 50 churches crammed into England's smallest county and Andrew Swift features all of them, including redundant churches, in his illustrated guide. This is the promised follow up to his two volume *Guide to the Parish Churches of Leicestershire*, and uses the same format and approach. Each church is given two pages comprising a half page photo of the exterior, a half page of text, and a full page of smaller photos covering interesting external and interior features. The photos are all of good quality, the text is well-researched and informative, and there is a useful bibliography and list of references. The book works very well - as a colourful armchair church crawl through Rutland; as a reminder to the reader of details of churches visited, and to whet the appetite for churches yet to be visited and not to be missed highlights such as the chancel arch at Tickencote, the carvings at Stoke Dry, and the walk across the fields to the church at Tixover. Fortunately, most Rutland churches are open to the public and Andrew Swift has created an excellent guide to the many ecclesiastical riches of the country's smallest county.

Colin Hyde

THE TOWERS AND BELLS OF LEICESTERSHIRE
Pauline Carroll
The Author, 2014, 48pp, illus., £14.95

The cover of *The Towers and Bells of Leicestershire* features the church of St Mary de Castro in Leicester, whose spire has recently been removed due to its unsafe condition, and to whose 'Save Our Spire' appeal some of the proceeds from the sale of this book are being donated. The book opens with an outline of the role and function of bell towers, their

(mainly Norman) builders and patrons, and their materials in relation to local geology. Subsequent chapters deal with the architectural styles and designs of church towers, the casting of bells, and the structural challenges that they could pose in terms of the strength of the towers in which they were hung. The final sections present some case studies, including St Nicholas in Leicester, St Mary in Melton Mowbray, and St Michael and All Angels in Hallaton, along with a bibliography.

Cynthia Brown

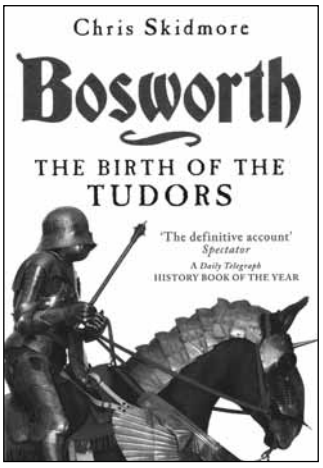
Other recent publications

DISEWORTH PARISH CHURCH TRAIL: ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS – 1000 YEARS OF HISTORY
Pat Guy and Nikki Hening
Diseworth Heritage Society, 2014

CHURCH OF ST MARY MAGDALEN, ESSENDINE: TRANSCRIPTS OF PARISH REGISTERS 1600–2009
Derek Patience
Essendine Parish Council, 2014

RICHARD III

BOSWORTH: THE BIRTH OF THE TUDORS
Chris Skidmore
Phoenix, 2014, 438pp, illus., ISBN 9780753828946, £9.99



The author had just completed the first draft of this book when the skeleton believed to be that of Richard III, and later confirmed as such, was discovered in the autumn of 2012 – just in time to feature as a 'Postscript'. The eyewitness accounts, manuscripts and recent archaeological evidence in which the book is firmly rooted were supplemented by other research 'on the ground', including an attempt to recreate Henry Tudor's march through Wales in August 1485, 'admittedly with the aid of my car, starting at the terrifyingly sheer cliffs of the Pembrokeshire coastline in sleeting rain'. He also climbed to the top of St Margaret's church in Stoke Golding, 'clinging to a thirty foot wooden ladder inside its tower as I peered out from the same spot where onlookers watched the battle unfold over 500 years before'. The book is by no means confined to the Battle of Bosworth, although this is explored in detail in its later chapters. It also charts the rise to power of the Tudors, a 'relatively humble Welsh gentry family', one that owed much to Henry Tudor's mother Margaret Beaufort, and the 'extraordinary perseverance' that finally brought him to victory on the battlefield of Bosworth. In so doing, it also offers a comprehensive and very readable account of the reigns of Edward IV and Richard III and the events leading up to 'one of the most legendary events in British history'.

Cynthia Brown

THE CHILDREN'S BOOK OF RICHARD III
Rosalind Adam and Alice Povey
The Reading Shop, 2014, 30pp, illus., ISBN 9780992930202, £8.99

This is a hardback book, beautifully produced, and a very timely publication. It covers the background to Richard's reign, including the Princes in the Tower, Richard's coronation and parliament, the Battle of Bosworth Field and his death. This is followed by a section headed Good King/Bad King. The story of the excavation, the identification of the skeleton and the decision about Richard's final resting place is then told. The language used is very accessible, without being in any way patronising. A surprising amount of information is presented in quite a short space, and a useful family tree, a timeline and an index are included. The lively and colourful illustrations will appeal to children of any age, introducing an element of humour as well as enhancing the text in a way which is likely to make the story even more memorable. Throughout facts are presented together with sources, opinions and alternative views: it is made very clear that there are things we simply do not know. The book therefore serves as an excellent introduction to historical research and critical thinking about the past as well as to the life and times of Richard III. It is perhaps best suited to children and young teenagers between 7 and 14 years, though younger children will enjoy the illustrations and many adults will also find it very informative. It will also be an excellent resource for school projects and school libraries.

Gillian Lighton

DIGGING FOR RICHARD III: HOW ARCHAEOLOGY FOUND THE KING
Mike Pitts
Thames and Hudson, 2014, 208pp, illus., ISBN 9780500252000, £18.95

This is easily one of the most unusual, entertaining and informative of the many books that have appeared since the discovery of the skeleton of Richard III in 2012, living up to its description on the dust jacket as 'an insider's gripping account of how modern archaeology *really* works'. Mike Pitts is both an archaeologist and a journalist, having edited

the magazine *British Archaeology* for the last ten years and contributed to a range of other publications. He has worked or reported on 'more excavations than I can remember', but never one in which events parted so quickly from the 'normality' of archaeological digs and a seemingly impossible objective was actually achieved. The book itself departs from the standard form of narrative and is presented instead as Acts of a play, taking the reader from the England of 1452–85 through the search for the remains of Richard III, the excavation itself, the scientific analysis of the skeleton, and the 'inquest' that established the cause of death and confirmed its identity. In Act II, Scene I, for example, we 'visit Leicester, discover how a city remembers Richard III, meet Richard Buckley and Philippa Langley, and learn of the origins of Philippa's quest to find a king's remains', while the Epilogue considers 'why finding a king's remains matters' and describes how the site of the Battle of Bosworth itself was confirmed. It is an approach that lends itself well to the dramatic nature of these events, and far from being as flippant as it may sound, it also reveals more pragmatic aspects of the excavation and the identification of the remains as those of Richard III. In the words of another reviewer, this sort of insight, as much as the archaeological analysis itself, offers 'a fascinating glimpse into the twenty-first century world of faith, science and publicity'.

Cynthia Brown

FINDING RICHARD III: THE OFFICIAL ACCOUNT OF RESEARCH BY THE RETRIEVAL & REBURIAL PROJECT

A.J. Carson ed., J. Ashdown-Hill, D. Johnson, W. Johnson & P. J. Langley, Imprimis Imprimatur, 2014, 96pp, illus., ISBN 9780957684027, £8.50

This book is one of the many slim and not so slim volumes published in the wake of the discovery of the remains of King Richard III in the Social Services car park in Leicester. It announces itself as 'the only Official Account of all the efforts that went into finding Richard III'. It takes us from the moment in 1485 when the dead king was brought to Leicester from the battlefield and exposed in the Newarke, covering mendicant orders of friars and the practical problem of the layout of a medieval priory, along with the tomb commissioned by Henry VII and Robert Herrick's memorial pillar. The role of the Richard III Society in researching the Leicester burial site, the DNA research on Richard III and his siblings, and the early days of the research are also explained, as are the significance of local topography, the dig and exhumation of the bones, and the reburial. A postscript explains key events that followed on after the exhumation. There are also seven appendices: the reburial document, the epitaph borne by the tomb set up by Henry VII; a breakdown of the excavation costs; Leicester City Council's permissions to the 'Looking for Richard' project to carry out investigations and to film; the University of Leicester's Archaeological Services' written scheme of excavation; the exhumation application and licence; and the Richard III Society's appeal for funding the excavations. This is an account written from a specific viewpoint, and it includes considerable detail. It will appeal to those who are seriously interested in King Richard III and the often controversial stories that followed on from this amazing discovery. In my view, the best advice is to read or browse a range of the Richard III books, and to attend the lectures of the people who made the discovery if possible – and then to make up your own mind.

Yolanda Courtney

Other recent publications

THE BONES OF A KING: RICHARD III REDISCOVERED
The Grey Friars Research Team, Maev Kennedy and Lin Foxhall
Wiley-Blackwell, 2015

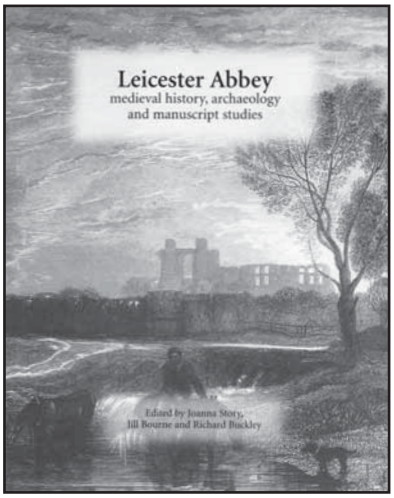
THE HOLLOW CROWN: THE WARS OF THE ROSES AND THE RISE OF THE TUDORS
Dan Jones
Faber and Faber, 2014

THE MYTHOLOGY OF RICHARD III
John Ashdown-Hill
Amberley Publishing, 2015

RICHARD III: THE STORY OF THE KING UNDER THE CAR PARK
Various authors
BBC History Magazine, 2015

THE WORLD OF RICHARD III
Kristie Dean
Amberley Publishing, 2015

Publications for sale



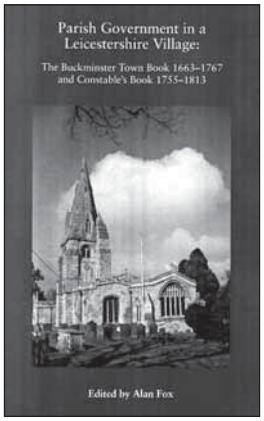
Leicester Abbey: medieval history, archaeology and manuscript studies
Ed by Joanna Story, Jill Bourne and Richard Buckley

Leicester Abbey was founded in 1138 and became one of the most important Augustinian monasteries in medieval England. But it is one of the least known of the Midland monasteries because of the almost total destruction of its buildings and archives after its Dissolution in 1538. This is the first volume on Leicester Abbey for more than 50 years, produced to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society.

The book presents eleven papers by leading scholars and local historians on the social, political and landscape history of the abbey as well as its archaeology, manuscripts, charters, urban rentals and library. Newly discovered charters are published here for the first time, as well as accounts of recent excavations in the abbey and gatehouse that formed the core of the post-Dissolution mansion known as Cavendish House.

2006 Hardback with dust jacket 314 pages Illustrations: many, some colour ISBN 0954238818 Price: £25 (plus £5 post and packing in the UK)

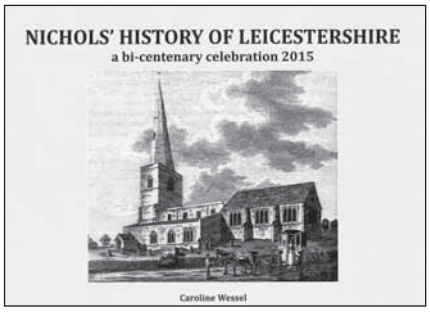
Parish Government in a Leicestershire Village: The Buckminster Town Book 1665-1767 and Constable's Book 1753-1813
Ed by Alan Fox



The first in a County Records series for Leicestershire.

2015 Hardback xxvi + 228 pages ISBN 9780954238841
Price: £15 (plus £3 postage and packing in the UK)

Nichols' History of Leicestershire: a bi-centenary celebration 2015
Caroline Wessel, with chapters by Julian Pooley and Robin Jenkins



There is every very good reason to celebrate the bi-centenary of John Nichols' remarkable History of Leicestershire (1795-1815); for its eight volumes of detailed and fascinating information have captivated historians of every type for two centuries. This publication explores the remarkable lives, talents and achievements of three generations of the Nichols family and the literary and antiquarian world of London and Leicestershire that they inhabited. Focussing on the extraordinary, extensive and varied contents of Nichols' History, a veritable treasure trove of information is uncovered. The book also utilises the Nichols Archive Project's huge collection of letters and journals to shed light upon late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century life. The 'User's Guide' and 'Who's Who' chapters are invaluable tools for the Nichols reader, whilst the contributions from present-day Leicestershire people with specialist expertise bring John Nichols' concept of enlisting the local populace right up to date.

2015 Paperback 82 pages. Illustrations: many in colour. ISBN 9780954238834
Price: £9.95 (plus £1.80 postage and packing in the UK)

The Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society 1855-2005
Robert A. Rutland

Produced to mark the 150th anniversary of the Society, this volume chronicles the Society since its foundation. It also tells a great deal about the movements in the intellectual and social history of Leicestershire.

2006 Paperback 227 pages 77 Illustrations ISBN 0954238826, 9780954238827
Price: Members £12, Non-members £18 (plus £3 post and packing in the UK)

Bringing them to their knees: church-building and restoration in Leicestershire and Rutland 1800-1914
Geoffrey K. Brandwood

Contains an extensive gazetteer of all churches in the region which had work carried out to them in the period 1800-1914.

2002 Paperback 154 pages 53 illustrations ISBN 095423880X
Price: Members £12, Non-members £15 (plus £3 post and packing in the UK)

Copies of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society's publications can be ordered through:
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