

REVIEWS

GERRARDS CROSS – A HISTORY

Julian Hunt and David Thorpe

Phillimore and Co Ltd, 2006

xi + 164 pages including 155 illustrations, £17.99

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AN ATLAS OF GERRARDS CROSS 1840-1940

Julian Hunt and David Thorpe

BAS, Buckinghamshire Papers No 6, 2006

104 pages

ISBN 0-049003-20-4 or 978-094900320-0

These two books were published at the same time, to coincide with the centenary exhibition which celebrated the opening of the railway through Gerrards Cross on 2nd April 1906. Although the Phillimore book will stand on its own, I am sure that most readers would also appreciate the *Buckinghamshire Papers* volume alongside, even if only for the large number of maps that are included.

Gerrards Cross – A History, shows that the area had long been associated with the route from London to Oxford, which crosses the common. Strangely, the section between Uxbridge and Beaconsfield was not made a turnpike until 1751 and the area held a rather lawless reputation. During the coaching era, the area did not have a real identity of its own as it was merely the meeting place of the five parishes of Chalfont Saint Peter, Iver, Langley Marish, Fulmer and a detached portion of Upton. The book details the coaching inns around the common, but shows that most travellers preferred to break their journeys at Beaconsfield or High Wycombe. The increasing importance of the two houses of Bulstrode Park and Chalfont Park eventually led to many other houses being built around the common, and there are accounts of more than a dozen of them, often replacing small cottages. The second chapter deals with the formation of the Parish of Gerrards Cross, which did not take place until the two Reid sisters had the church of St James built in memory of their brother George Alexander Reid, who had died in 1852. The Duke of Somerset had been persuaded to give the land for

the church as it would 'add respectability in that locality'. The church was finished in 1859, but the civil parish of Gerrards Cross was not established until 1895, by which time a number of other houses had been built around the common. The third chapter deals with the people of Gerrards Cross, from the aristocracy and the gentry to their servants, the shopkeepers, farmers and their labourers. Figures for the second half of the 19th century show that whilst the number of agricultural workers was rapidly declining, the number of servants was increasing as estates took land out of production.

The fourth chapter is devoted to the arrival of the railway. It explains how Buckinghamshire came to be served by various railway lines opened between 1838 and 1887, but all of which left Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield rather neglected. The eventual construction of the Great Western and Great Central Joint Railway required two major engineering achievements at Gerrards Cross; the mile-long cutting and the two-part viaduct over the valley of the River Misbourne. The railway advertised its services with the slogan 'Live in the Country', and the population of Gerrards Cross soon started to increase.

The first shops were being built only a month after the railway opened. Chapter Five describes the shops, which architects designed them, who built them, and who occupied them. By 1911, 29 shops were trading, and by 1940 the number had increased to 59. Apparently a scheme to build more shops across the railway was turned down in 1937, and this up-to-date book reminds us of the ill-fated Tesco scheme, 60 years later.

Chapter Six *Building the Houses* tells us that house building close to the station was started in 1903, and 1107 houses had been built by 1940. We are taken around each road or estate and given the background to its land, who purchased it for development, the type of houses built, who sold them, and often we are told whom they were sold to. The chapter is illustrated with many original drawings and photographs. Details of the type of people who purchased these houses and their occupations are

given in chapter seven which lists many of the professionals who moved to Gerrards Cross, all being called “Newcomers”. We are also given an insight into the different number of servants in various houses. The final chapter explains the reasons why available land ran out and further development was not possible.

The appendices form an excellent source for the history of the development of Gerrards Cross. They detail the principal works and involvements by Architects, Builders and Estate Agents. The pages include many of the original elevation drawings, a surprising amount of which had been produced in colour by the architects.

An Atlas of Gerrards Cross 1840–1940 includes a large number of maps of the historic layout of the area, as well as plans of the housing developments. It also has a vast amount of directory and census data from which the conclusions in *Gerrards Cross – A History* have obviously been drawn. Both maps and data will be invaluable for research into the locality even down to individual houses. Availability of this information will surely only encourage people’s interest, proving that all places have a history which needs to be recorded for future generations. I presume that a technical problem has intervened with the page numbering of *An Atlas of Gerrards Cross 1840–1940*, which means that the contents page shows incorrect page numbers, a ‘1’ needs to be added to each page number shown. The book states that it is based on work in progress, and we must hope that the detailed research is continued once census data becomes available for the decades after the railway opened and Gerrards Cross was rapidly developing into the special area that it was to become.

Both books have appeared at just the right time, when an increasing number of people are realising the unique nature of Gerrards Cross and its architect-designed houses built from the Edwardian era through to the 1930s. It is clear that urgent action is needed to preserve this unique character as it is coming under increasing threat from twenty-first century developers keen to use gardens and even the sites of houses themselves to build new flats and properties at a density quite contrary to the standards that guided the sophisticated developers of the early twentieth century. These books must surely help to increase people’s awareness of what is being lost and what needs to be protected as a unique part of Buckinghamshire’s history and built landscape.

The authors have now turned their attentions to Beaconsfield. A similar study of the houses of New Beaconsfield would make an important and easily accessible record, as these books on Gerrards Cross have already done.

Michael G Hardy

THE BLACK POPLAR. ECOLOGY, HISTORY & CONSERVATION

Fiona Cooper

Windgather Press

xii + 116pp. £18.199

ISBN 10 1 905119 05 4

Just as the Chilterns have their beeches, so Aylesbury Vale has its black poplars. These large trees, with their characteristically leaning trunks and arching branches, are a major landscape feature of the Vale, and with one third of the national population growing in the county, they represent a key component of Buckinghamshire’s local distinctiveness and biodiversity. In an era of increasing land development the publication of this book therefore is timely in allowing a greater understanding and appreciation of this nationally scarce tree.

This is the third title published, under the heading of ‘historical ecology,’ by Windgather Press, following on from ‘*The Ancient Yew*’ by Robert Bevan Jones, and ‘*Oak*’, by Esmond Harris et al, both of which, incidentally, mention Buckinghamshire trees. Author, Fiona Cooper, has had a long involvement with black poplars, coming across them accidentally at first through a holiday job recording trees in Shropshire for the Environment Agency and leading on ultimately to undertaking a Ph.D. researching the trees’ geographic distribution and genetic diversity. While this work underpins the content of much of this volume, the book, in keeping with the earlier titles mentioned, provides a much broader biography of the species, exploring the trees historical and cultural cross-overs as well as its biology and ecology. The trees key identification features are described and contrasted against similar species, notably the introduced Lombardy Poplar and Hybrid Black Poplar. Its past and current distributions in relation to the loss of its natural river floodplain habitat are discussed. Former usage including the construction of cruck-framed buildings, and its involvement in

local folklore and customs are also covered along with short biographies for some notable specimens.

While no Buckinghamshire trees are singled out for special mention, the Aylesbury Vale population is discussed en masse (over three pages) and the work of local black poplar enthusiasts, Lesley Davis and Alan Holmes, credited (some members may recall a talk given to our Natural History Section by Alan a few years ago while Lesley is responsible for two excellent leaflets on local black poplars recently produced by AVDC's Green Spaces Team). The dearth of female trees, only 6 out of a population of around 5,000, is seen as indicative of the Aylesbury Vale population having been deliberately planted, males being preferred over females due to the excessive production by the latter of masses of white fluffy seeds. The high pollarding rate compared to other parts of the country is also seen as suggesting some definite usage, however, all lines of investigation by the author as to exactly what purpose this was have proved inconclusive. A mention in the *Victoria History of the County of Buckinghamshire* that black poplar timber may have been utilised for the construction of buffers for railway goods wagons is noted, as is their use in railway carriage brake blocks but it is thought that advances in technology proceeded faster than the trees could grow, thus leaving a redundant crop.

The other major population of black poplars, around Manchester, is also discussed. At one time these were thought to be a separate clone, the 'Manchester Poplar', but were found by the author during her Ph.D. research to be genetically identical to the Black Poplar, thus pushing the national population up by another 5,000. Genetics are discussed in more detail in a separate chapter while the final chapter looks at conservation strategies for the tree.

The book is informative and generously illustrated with high quality images. More importantly from our own point of view, it puts Buckinghamshire's sizeable population of trees into the wider context. It would have been nice for the book to have focussed on some individual trees in our area (none are even included in the 87 trees listed in the gazetteer at the end of the book). It would seem that this is possibly one downside of having such a large population in that they may be taken for granted while isolated trees in other parts of the Country are revered. While the overall content is

good the ordering of the component parts seems to meander with certain points being partly dealt with in one chapter before re-emerging later on for further discussion in other chapters. There is also a slight sense of repetition of some points, which may result from translating a book from a Ph.D. format. Having said this, I should make it clear that these are very minor points and should not detract from the overall value and interest of the books content.

Mike Palmer

**BLETCHLEY PARK PEOPLE
CHURCHILL'S GEESE THAT NEVER
CACKLED**

Marion Hill

Sutton Publishing 2004

1 – 144pp £10.99p

ISBN 0 7509 3362 3

Over the last ten years, Marion Hill has produced several books based on the reminiscences of women and men who have been associated with various aspects of Milton Keynes' past. This book represents her most successful interpretation to date. This is because it summarises the activities of a closed society intimately involved in an endlessly challenging battle of wits during a small window in time. One of her main successes is that, by grouping reminiscences and adding further background information, she has managed to provide a coherent picture of life at Bletchley Park as it was experienced there during the Second World War.

Starting with an account of the house during its ownership by the Leon family, Marion Hill turns her attention to the recruitment of personnel for code breaking. From there the chapters range over the working conditions, lodgings, food, entertainment, romances, etc., not forgetting the outstations and of course the effects of continual secrecy. Throughout this work the text is reinforced by black and white illustrations drawn largely from the Bletchley Park Trust Archive. Most of these are captioned with the names of the personnel on them. In view of this it would be very helpful to readers if any future edition of the book could be provided with an index.

This book undoubtedly will be an eye-opener to a vastly more affluent younger generation, whilst for those who were directly involved it provides a gateway for past memories. Based as it is on the reminiscences of so many people who actually

worked there, it is a welcome addition to the information about Bletchley Park.

E. Legg

MILTON KEYNES A HISTORY & CELEBRATION

Marion Hill

The Francis Frith Collection 2005

1–119 pp Illustrated. £15.99p

ISBN 1 84589 212 7

In this short book Marion Hill has modified her usual style to produce five event-filled chapters outlining the whole history of Milton Keynes ranging from fossil remains to the Snowdome and the football stadium. This has resulted in an extraordinarily well illustrated volume, with numerous black & white photographs of the past and some excellent coloured ones of present scenes. There are also impressionistic drawings of past buildings and future developments, together with various maps and plans.

The difficulty for the accompanying text is to match all this splendour. In trying to cover everything, one gets a feeling of the apocryphal American's tour of England. One consequence of this breathless rush from one event to another seems to have resulted in some rather simplistic and misleading views of local history on occasions: Roman slaves did have rights – although somewhat limited, printing was not invented by William Caxton, the Tudor enclosures, highlighted on the time line, had much less local effect than those of the 18th century which are not even mentioned. Again the use of imaginary scenes and suppositions, whilst occasionally enlightening, do sometimes lack a certain credibility. Would the innkeepers of Stony Stratford, mentioned on page 44, really have been delighted to see the navvies digging the canal through Wolverton?

Despite these drawbacks and the lack of an index, the volume has a useful place in the literature of Milton Keynes. It covers more ground in its introduction to Milton Keynes' past than any other modern book, but it is a celebration rather than a rounded history.

E. Legg

JOHN WILKES: THE SCANDALOUS FATHER OF CIVIL LIBERTIES

Arthur H. Cash

Yale University Press, 2006

xiii + 482 pp., 27 illustrations, £20

Though its author is an emeritus professor of English, this lively and well-written biography is directed at the general reader and makes no claims to be definitive. In order not to hold up the narrative, Professor Cash deliberately eschews scholarly caveats and the analysis of evidence but his 54 pages of notes and 12 pages of references to sources, both primary and secondary, are a sufficient guarantee that his book is based on solid research. The portrait of Wilkes the man that emerges is fuller and more rounded than the one found in Peter D. G. Thomas's excellent 1996 political biography. Somewhat surprisingly, this work is not mentioned in Cash's text, although the two volumes are in some ways complementary.

Remembered today largely for a handful of brilliant witticisms, as the subject of Hogarth's squinting caricature and for lurid tales of his association with the so-called Hellfire Club, Wilkes is a most unlikely political hero. As Cash and Thomas both insist, however, more than any other single individual, Wilkes was responsible for securing the freedom of the citizen from arbitrary arrest and for enlarging and transforming the role of public opinion in national politics.

Wilkes's adult connection with Buckinghamshire, and with Aylesbury in particular, began in 1747, when at the age of 21 or 22 (his birth date is disputed) "to please an indulgent father", he married the "deeply neurotic" Mary Mead, ten years his senior. The connection had effectively ended by 1764 when, a fugitive abroad, financial necessity forced him to sell the Prebendal estate. The estate, Mary's marriage portion, was retained by Wilkes – together with some scattered properties in Bucks and neighbouring counties – when the couple formally separated in 1756. Yet the time between 1747 and 1764 was no mere interlude; rather it was pivotal to the whole of Wilkes's future political career.

Wilkes was a man of many parts but he always insisted on his claim to be a gentleman, to the point of fighting several duels in defence of his honour. He certainly could not achieved so much if his claim had not been accepted. But he was not born a gentleman. A classical education (part of it spent

in Aylesbury) followed by a year or two at the University of Leiden – all paid for by his father, a prosperous London distiller – provided the essential polish. But Aylesbury opened wider horizons. It gave Wilkes, while still in his twenties, the opportunity to cut a figure in county society as a justice of the peace, high sheriff and officer of militia, to make friends among the landed gentry, aristocracy and intelligentsia and eventually, in 1757, to launch himself into parliament. Buckinghamshire was especially significant for two reasons. Residence in Aylesbury brought Wilkes into the circle of Earl Temple of Stowe, his future political patron, and it was while serving in the Bucks militia encamped at Winchester that he first turned his hand to political satire.

Cash's account of the Aylesbury years contains a number of errors. "Squire of Aylesbury" was not a formal title conferred on Wilkes's wife's uncle; it is misleading to describe the Prebendal estate as embracing "broad gardens, fields and woods"; the office of prebendary had not, as stated, been abandoned in the Reformation, nor had the Church of England sold the estate (ironically, it reverted to the prebendary as a direct consequence of Wilkes's death in 1797, long after he had disposed of his interest in it); Wilkes's in-laws the Sherbrooks had not lived in Aylesbury for generations, or indeed ever; the Willes family did not have extensive landholdings at Aylesbury. Most of these errors are relatively trivial, though nearly all could have been avoided by consulting the relevant volumes listed in the bibliography or other standard works.

The size of Wilkes's estate is important because it provides some indication of his income during the Aylesbury years. Peter Thomas is under the impression that Wilkes was lord of the manor of Aylesbury, but that title belonged to the absentee Pakingtons, who were also by far the largest landowners. The Prebendal manor and estate, though very ancient, comprised only a few acres in the centre of the town, together with the great tithes of the parish of Aylesbury (exclusive of the hamlet of Walton). It was held on lease for a fairly nominal rent for the duration of three concurrent lives, an archaic (and precarious) form of tenure associated with Church land. The tithes were leased to John Dell, a brewer, who was also Wilkes's friend and election agent. In 1764, when the estate was sold, Dell's rent was stated to be £270 per annum.

Out of this income and the income from the

other scattered properties mentioned above, Wilkes had to pay an annuity of £200 to his estranged wife. Additionally, on his marriage Wilkes had also received lands and tenements to the value of £330 yearly from his father; thus, when Israel Wilkes died in 1761, his will made no further provision for his son. Clearly Wilkes's resources were, at best, very limited in relation to his increasingly extravagant lifestyle. Yet we learn that towards the end of 1758 he bought himself a handsome newly-built house in George Street, Westminster.

The real problem was that Aylesbury had an unusually wide franchise. It was evidently the cost of securing the votes of the many poor constituents in the Aylesbury borough election of 1757 and, more particularly, that of March 1761 (the latter occasioned by the accession of George III in 1760), which brought matters to crisis point. Cash tells us that, in 1757, Wilkes was forced to borrow £500 from a moneylender. It is not known how much he borrowed in 1761 but his letters to Dell suggest that his outgoings were even greater. In February 1761, for example, we find Wilkes writing to Dell "I reckon about 1500 g[uineas?] will do it (Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, D/X 463, copy Wilkes-Dell correspondence). In the interval between the two elections Wilkes had apparently hoped to save on bribery by wooing voters in various less expensive ways – but to no avail. Disillusioned and resentful, in April 1761, he instructed Dell "to keep away from the house and gardens all the rabble of A[ylesbury]" and announced that, in future, he would spend as little time in the town as possible.

Since members of parliament were unpaid and Wilkes's credit was almost certainly exhausted, he was increasingly driven to live on his wits. At this critical juncture, however, the political upheavals that had attended the accession of George III came to Wilkes's aid. In September 1762 the historian Edward Gibbon, then a captain in the South Hampshire regiment of militia, dined with "Colonel Wilkes" at Winchester. Gibbons wrote: "Wilkes told us himself that in this time of public dissension he was resolved to make his fortune. Upon this noble principle he has connected himself closely with Lord Temple and Mr Pitt, [and] commenced public adversary to Lord Bute, whom he abuses weekly in the *North Briton*". Curiously, Cash's excerpt from the entry in Gibbons's diary recording the encounter omits this passage.

The code of a gentleman forbade outright fraud,

but the borderline – between what was permissible and what was not – was often blurred. Taking a profit from the interest accruing on official funds entrusted to one’s care was widely condoned and even the most blameless country gentlemen could be extremely dilatory about paying tradesmen’s bills, to the detriment or even ruin of the individuals affected. Wilkes, who as an MP could not be sued for debt, never paid tradesmen’s bills if he could avoid it. He excused himself on the grounds “that those who do pay make amends for those who do not, and that tradesmen always charge accordingly”.

There were, however, at least two occasions when, desperate for cash, Wilkes seems to have passed over the line between mere bilking of creditors and actual criminal conduct. While based at Winchester in 1762, he falsified the accounts relating to the purchase of uniforms and pocketed the payment money due. In the case of the Aylesbury branch of the Foundling Hospital, which he had been mainly instrumental in founding in 1759, Wilkes diverted funds sent to cover expenses between 1761 and 1764 to his own use and, once again, arranged for false accounts to be sent back to head office. A further instance of fraud, not apparently known to Cash, was the misappropriation of £250 surplus funds belonging to Harding’s apprenticing charity in Aylesbury which Wilkes, as one of the trustees, had obligingly undertaken to deposit in the Bank of England in 1756 (Hugh Hanley, *Apprenticing in a Market Town: the Story of William Harding’s Charity, Aylesbury, 1719–2000*, Phillimore, 2005).

“There is no knowing”, says Cash, “what Wilkes did with the Foundling Hospital money. His fellow governors at Aylesbury must have known; but they did not think him morally at fault, for they colluded to protect him in 1764 when the London governors demanded an audit” (as in the case of the militia uniforms, the accounts – far from being deficient – showed a balance in Wilkes’s favour!). This comment seems naive and surely underestimates Wilkes’s ability to dominate his inferiors, especially members of a committee handpicked by himself. Nor is there any reason to suppose that Wilkes’s interest in the charity had anything to do with humanitarianism; his objective, as he explained in a letter to Dell in October 1759, was “more money circulating, more dependence created, etc.” What he clearly means is more political influence.

In the event, and against the odds, virtually all of

Wilkes’s enormous debts – comprising some £14,000 in personal debts, including old militia debts, and £3,000 in unpaid election expenses – were paid off by the Bill of Rights Society, which had originally been founded in 1769 largely for this specific purpose. Although the Society drew the line at the Foundling Hospital debt and excluded it from the settlement, it was still discharged by three anonymous members. Such a ‘vote of confidence’ in Wilkes represents an amazing vindication. Yet by upholding and extending the principles of the original Bill of Rights of 1689, Wilkes made such a contribution to Liberty, the vindication may not have been altogether undeserved.

Hugh Hanley

JOHN WILKES: THE LIVES OF A LIBERTINE

John Sainsbury

Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006

xxiv + 282 pp., 12 illustrations £55

ISBN 0 7546 5626 8

The appearance of two separate lives in the same year is testimony to the continuing public interest in John Wilkes. His lively persona, combined with the picaresque nature of his career, make this easy enough to understand. But, as John Sainsbury notes in this perceptive “times in the life of” study, Wilkes still presents a problem for professional historians. While they acknowledge his importance, there is a “lingering uncertainty as to what it actually was.” The fact is that historians and biographers (not excepting Arthur Cash) have tended to fight shy of deep analysis of the many paradoxes and ambiguities in Wilkes’s personality and conduct. Their reluctance is understandable. Wilkes’s libertinism is not in doubt, but what sort of libertine could have earned “a simultaneous reputation as a moral bandit and a moral scourge.”

The better to grapple with such questions, Sainsbury abandons narrative, choosing instead to examine Wilkes’s life thematically under the six headings of family, ambition, sex, religion, class and money – in the process deploying an impressive range of recent socio-historical research. While it is true that this admittedly artificial exercise can make for a demanding read, it does explain much about Wilkes’s life and character and in a way that reveals a good deal about the society in which he lived. Sainsbury concludes that Wilkes was “a man of contradictory facets” but that “each

was sharply etched and consistently displayed to its assigned audience.” This many-sidedness was the secret of his ability to connect with so many different sorts of people while remaining at heart an aristocrat. What is especially remarkable is that even debtors and other casualties of the new commercial ethos found it possible to identify with him. In the end his personal appeal was undermined by the emergence of a more ideological brand of politics in the 1790s.

Particular attention is paid to Wilkes’s formative years in London and at the University of Leiden; here the account is in some respects fuller than that given by Cash. There are also some differences of interpretation. According to Sainsbury, the character faults sometimes attributed to Wilkes’s wife are not supported by any reliably documented evidence and he points out that there was no shortage of suitable rival suitors for her hand, including one bona fide aristocrat. In regard to Wilkes’s mother, Sarah, evidence is adduced to show that she was “not the gloomy sectarian she is often depicted as.” In addition, we learn that Wilkes’s devotion to his daughter Mary (Polly), with whom he lived in later life, did not preclude a strong mercenary interest in her inheritance.

Coverage of the Aylesbury period, including Wilkes’s involvement with the Medmenham Monks, is more concise. Wilkes’s enthusiastic landscaping of the Prebendal gardens in the currently fashionable “natural” style is commented on, as is the presence of his housekeeper-mistress, Catherine Smith (also mentioned by Cash), by whom he had an illegitimate son. Sainsbury also refers to the later allegations concerning the funds of the Aylesbury Foundling Hospital, but Wilkes is given (undeserved) credit for good intentions in initiating the project in the first place.

Hugh Hanley

EDGEHILL: THE BATTLE REINTERPRETED

Christopher Scott, Alan Turton and Eric Gruber von Arni,

Pen and Sword, Barnsley, 2005.

Pp. xiii + 224. £16.99.

ISBN 1-84415-254-5.

There is a Buckinghamshire ‘interest’ in the first major engagement of the English Civil Wars through the participation, or near participation, of several regiments raised in the county for the

Parliamentary cause. It is usually assumed, for example, that John Hampden’s Greencoats were not at Edgehill, but the authors make a good case that they moved up from Warwick in the late afternoon and did come into contact with Royalist cavalry. Arthur Goodwin’s Regiment of Horse was certainly present, only to be swept away with the rest of the cavalry of the Parliamentary left at the very beginning of the action. Of course, the battle is also known for the death of Sir Edmund Verney, the King’s Knight-Marshal, who, as the authors point out, was carrying not the Royal Standard on this occasion but the entirely separate Banner Royal. Details like these represent useful additions to the best-known previous account, Peter Young’s *Edgehill, 1642*, published as long ago as 1967.

Scott, Turton and von Arni all have impeccable backgrounds in Civil War studies. Scott is a leading figure in the Battlefields Trust, Turton the curator of Basing House in Hampshire, and von Arni an historian at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, who has undertaken doctoral research on contemporary medical arrangements. The volume appears seamless in terms of the melding together of potentially conflicting styles, though the new detail on casualties and the subsequent care of the wounded in surrounding villages is presumably the work of von Arni. The existing archival material is judiciously combed and full benefit has been derived from the preliminary archaeological investigations of the field – most of which is still owned by the Ministry of Defence – as well as from an intimate knowledge of the site and the implications of unit frontages common to contemporary military practice. However, it is likely that work associated with the new Edgecote to Edgehill Battlefield Trail project by the Battlefields Trust will yield more archaeological evidence. This could be useful in testing ideas put forward by the authors that, at present, inevitably remain speculative.

The volume is attractively illustrated, though readers will probably have already seen the reproductions of the Parliamentary Colours. The book is also very well mapped, and there is a useful guide to the field today for those unfamiliar with the site. While not a radical re-interpretation, there is certainly enough here to warrant the attention of all those interested in the Civil War.

*Ian F W Beckett,
University of Northampton.*