

Chapter 8

Hambleton: The Settlement on the Crooked Hill

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The Medieval Village of Hambleton

Visible for miles on its high ridge above the Gwash Valley, Hambleton was always an important and valuable estate. Even before the Norman Conquest it had been part of the dower of Saxon queens, including the wife of Edward the Confessor, who gave her name to the village of Edith Weston. According to Domesday Book, compiled in 1086, the manor was extensive enough to contain three churches and seven hamlets, five of which afterwards became separate parishes. One of the churches belonging to Hambleton was St Peter's, Stamford, which with half a carucate (around 60 acres) of land at Hambleton was held by Albert of Lorraine, William the Conqueror's chaplain (Morris 1980, 19-21).

In addition to its arable lands, the manor of Hambleton contained 40 acres of meadow and more than three square miles of woodland. With male adults listed in 1086 as 140 villeins and thirteen bordars, the total population probably exceeded 500. Serfs toiled up and down the three great open fields, behind oxen pulling the 45 ploughs belonging to the king and the villagers. Today, nearly a millennium later, areas of former ridge and furrow strips can still be seen.

*The western
end of
Hambleton
peninsula from
the air in 2006
(John Nowell,
Zodiac
Publishing)*



*An 1839
drawing of
Hambleton Church
(Uppingham
School Archives)*

Some time after the Domesday survey, William the Conqueror granted Hambleton to the powerful Norman family of Umfraville, who sub-divided the large and sprawling manor into two: Great and Little Hambleton. In 1412, Little Hambleton was sold to the prosperous, wool-dealing Flore family whose town house in Oakham stands to this day (*VCH* II, 70). All that now remains of their manor is the faint trace of a moated site near Half Moon Spinney, at the north-eastern point of the present Hambleton peninsula, close to which sherds of medieval pottery have been found. The 1296 Lay Subsidy recorded five tax payers in Little Hambleton, and in 1588 there were still four houses. The tiny manor was probably deserted long before 1726 when it was included on the Estate Map of Normanton (Ryder 2006, Appendix II, 3).

*Ancient ridge
and furrow near
Hambleton Old
Hall revealed
when the
reservoir was at
low level in
November 2005
(RO)*



Flore's House in High Street, Oakham, in 1908 before the wing projecting into the street was demolished for road widening (Hart)



The Black Death of 1349 spread its deadly shadow over Rutland as elsewhere, and in Hambleton eleven small farms were ‘in the lord’s hand for want of tenants, which paid £11 yearly before the pestilence’ (*CIPM*, 27, quoted in Ryder 2006, 22). Some of these may have been in the settlement of Nether Hambleton, which retained the earthworks of a deserted village until flooding of the valley obliterated both the lost and the living village (see Chapter 20 – Medieval Settlements at Nether Hambleton and Whitwell).

By the time of the Wars of the Roses, the manor of Great Hambleton was held by the Duke of York and his victorious son, King Edward IV, who granted it to the Ferrers family. In the early sixteenth century there were between 30 and 40 households. In 1522 King Henry VIII’s minister, Cardinal Wolsey, organised a Military Survey to assess the wealth and military potential of the nation. The Rutland survey, the most complete to survive, shows Sir Edward Ferris [Ferrers] as ‘chief lord’ of Hamyldon [Hambleton] with John Harington the elder as his steward. Both a parson and vicar are listed, while among the lord’s tenants, fourteen are noted as archers or ‘bill men’ and several actually possessed the necessary weapons (Cornwall 1980, 67).

Another Lay Subsidy granted to the king in 1524 assessed the ‘goodes’ or ‘profyte of wages’ of the seventeen husbandmen, fifteen labourers, one widow and ‘Edward Burton, Gent.’ of ‘Hamyldon’, whose wealth ranged from £30 to twenty shillings. Edward Ferris is no longer listed, presumably residing elsewhere, although still in possession of the manor of Great Hambleton. In 1601 Henry Ferrers sold the manor to Sir John Harington, whose family had by now accumulated many estates in Rutland including Exton and Burley. However, the sudden decline of that family, after the death of the first and second Lords Harington in 1613-14, brought the manors of Hambleton and Burley into the hands of the most powerful subject in England, the king’s favourite, George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.

With the new Stuart dynasty on the throne of England, it seemed that an era of peace, stability and prosperity was about to dawn, and Rutland was well placed to share in the benefits. In 1603 King James I passed through the county on the journey south to claim his new kingdom, staying at Burley to enjoy the hunting for which Rutland was becoming renowned. Further royal visits by James and his son, Charles I, brought the exciting presence of the court and royal entourage combined with a heavy demand for provisions of all kinds. While Buckingham was rarely in residence in his grand house at Burley, and following his assassination in 1628 was succeeded by an infant son, Hambleton saw little of its Lord of the Manor. But other residents of Hambleton were about to exploit the changing economic and political conditions of the age, and begin to climb the social ladder.



HAMYLDON			
1524			
Edward Burton Gent. in goodes	£30	Rafe Nutt laber. in lyke profyte ..	20s
John Atkyns husb. in goodes ..	£15	Robert Newell laber. in lyke	
William Fowley husb. in goodes	£16	profyte	20s
Robert Freman husb. in goodes	£13	Robert Scott laber. in lyke	
Thomas Fowler husb. in goodes	£10	profyte	20s
Thomas Bradley husb. in goodes	£8	Robert Fynne laber. in lyke	
George More husb. in goodes ..	£6	profyte	20s
William Richerdson husb. in		Thomas Redhed laber. in lyke	
goodes	£5	profyte	20s
Symond Fowler husb. in goodes	£8	Robert Jacson laber in lyke	
Richerd Aswell husb. in goodes	£5	profyte	20s
John Whytwell husb. in goodes ..	£3	Edward Richerdson laber. in lyke	
John Baldoke husb. in goodes ..	£3	profyte	20s
John Fynne husb. in goodes ..	40s	Thomas Broke laber. in goodes ..	40s
Robert Aswell husb. in goodes ..	40s	John Mathew laber. in goodes ..	40s
Robert Freman husb. in goodes	£3	Johne Fowler wedow in goodes ..	£5
John Bell husb. in goodes ..	40s	Henry Fowler laber. in profyte	
William Gunthorp husb. in goodes	£3	of wages	20s
John Gunthorp husb. in goodes	40s	William Whytwell laber. in goodes	£3
John Cole laber in profyte of		William Burges laber. in goodes	40s
wages	20s	Robert Wyles laber. in profyte of	
Thomas Walker laber. in lyke		wages	20s
profyte	20s		

The former moated site of Flore's Manor at Little Hambleton from the OS 2nd ed 25" map 1904

The 1524 Lay Subsidy for Hambleton (Cornwall 1980, 104)

The Old Hall, Hambleton

Although not the actual Manor House of Hambleton, one of the most attractive buildings in the village to this day is the Jacobean farmhouse now known as 'The Old Hall'. It was built in the early seventeenth century by Christopher Loveday and sold soon afterwards to Roger Quarles. This 'delightful stone-built manor house' was described thus three centuries later in *Country Life*, 27th September 1930:

'For a seventeenth century yeoman's residence it possesses a surprising individuality, with its loggias back and front, its balustrade and galleries and its arcaded parapet; while, in addition to, and in spite of, these ornaments, there is a reticence and a conscious sense of design which are altogether modern in feeling.'



The south facade of Hambleton Old Hall in 2005 (RO)

Abel Barker, Father and Son

In the early years of the seventeenth century, as Christopher Loveday built his new house and James I enjoyed his new kingdom, a farmer named Baldwin Barker died at Hambleton. Baldwin had held a messuage (house) 'lying in Henbecke in the Lordship of Great Hamelton, co. Rutland, and one and a half yard lands of arable in the fields of Great Hamelton with meadows and pastures appertaining to the said messuage' (ROLLR DG/11/404). Baldwin Barker left his house and strips in the open fields to his eldest son Abel Barker, £150 to his youngest son Samuel, and five shillings each to his seven remaining children. His wife, Elizabeth, received £20 a year for five years plus accommodation, half a yardland, six cows and forty sheep as well

as the right ‘to grind her malt at one of the mills, and gather her herbs in the garden, and have room for hanging her clothes in the orchard’ and ‘a horse or mare to carry her to market or elsewhere’ (ROLLR DG/11/989). However, the newly widowed Elizabeth encountered problems with her eldest son, beginning one letter to Abel in 1604 (ROLLR DE 730/1/1), ‘Harp not so much upon my death . . .’.

Abel Barker proved a capable, ambitious farmer. He added to his inheritance by leasing additional strips from the new Lord Harington of Exton, so that by 1629 his holding in Hambleton was four yardlands, totalling about 120 acres. He also leased additional closes (small enclosed fields) outside Hambleton from Sir Kenelm Digby of Stoke Dry. By 1634, Abel Barker had amassed sufficient wealth to pay £1,010 for the Old Hall of Hambleton, together with one cottage, four yardlands in the open fields, ‘Flowers Land’ and all other fields in Hambleton formerly owned by the Quarles family (ROLLR DG/11/571). The new owner of the Old Hall had only three years to enjoy it before his death in 1637. His will shows the family’s increased prosperity and social status over one generation. Whereas Baldwin Barker had been described as ‘Yeoman’ (farmer), Abel Barker was identified as ‘Gentleman’. His wife, also Elizabeth, received £100 a year and a house for life; four of his children received over a thousand pounds each. In addition, the second son, another Abel, inherited the Old Hall and some of his father’s leases, while the eldest son, John, the executor, inherited the freehold land with remaining property and leases (ROLLR DG/11/995).

Not content to remain a farmer and grazier, the younger Abel Barker seized every opportunity to extend his business interests. He served King Charles I in the provision of twenty good horses and riders to attend the royal entourage returning from the belated Scottish coronation of 1633, as they passed through Rutland along the Great North Road. John Barker’s death in 1639 brought additional property into the possession of his brother Abel, who was by now sufficiently prosperous to employ a bailiff and expand his landholdings by entering into additional leases.

Civil War in Rutland

The second Stuart king was less adept than his father in managing recalcitrant parliaments. In 1642 the rumbling opposition to King Charles I’s Personal Rule erupted into civil war.

Amid the deepening conflict, it became essential to protect investments in livestock and harvests, and Abel Barker instructed his bailiff, John Musson, to buy wheat ‘and have it brined after the Lincolnshire fashion to avoid blasting’. He enquired anxiously about his own sheep and urged the collection of debts due to him. The proximity of the opposing armies was soon to cause more desperate concerns. In 1645, Abel Barker was seized and carried off to the Royalist stronghold of Belvoir Castle, Leicestershire, where he was forced to pay over to his captors rents which he had already paid to their enemy, Sir Edward Harington. Sir Edward was unsympathetic, expecting that Abel would also pay the taxes due to Parliament on his rented lands. For years, such disputes between tenant and landlord were a

recurring topic in Abel Barker's letters. Rents could be confiscated, charged twice, or otherwise disrupted, during the turbulent times. Any moneys kept at home were vulnerable to plundering, and Abel wrote:

'If these times continue, landlords with us must expect little or no rent, or if any very slowly, neither do I for my own part expect to receive the one half of my rents due unto me' (HMC *Appendix to the Fifth Report*, 398).

In Rutland as in other counties, the long-standing social order, agricultural routines and economic relationships were disrupted for nearly two decades. Those leading families who supported the losing side were heavily fined and temporarily displaced, while others seized the opportunity to rise to new levels of wealth and influence, which in some cases survived the Restoration. One of these was Abel Barker. He supplemented his expanding farming and sheep-dealing interests by serving as agent and later treasurer to the Rutland County Committee.

King Charles I
(1600-1649) by Sir
Anthony Van Dyck
(Bridgeman Art
Library)



This group of local gentry, opposed to the king and headed by Sir Edward Harington, governed Rutland in the name of Parliament. Their headquarters were the magnificent mansion of Burley on the Hill, extended by the first Duke of Buckingham but largely neglected by his heir, who was living in London. The stables, grander than any in England, were occupied by the Parliamentary troopers, their horses and equipment. Regular supplies of food and fodder were required, as well as a constant replenishment of horses. These Abel Barker undertook to obtain. In the Barker archives, deposited by the Conant Family in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, a large collection of receipts provides evidence of his tireless and no doubt profitable activities. As well as supplying large quantities of oats, horses and other commodities to Burley and the nearby garrison at Rockingham Castle, in 1644 Abel Barker ‘lent upon the public faith’ money and goods to the sum of £208 10s. Perhaps equally reluctantly, he was required to assist in the provision of ‘quarter’ (accommodation) for Parliamentary troops, including those billeted at his own house and that of his landlord, Sir Edward Harington. He dealt with the complaints of householders such as Katherine Walcott of Uppingham, ‘burdened with a soldier to whose maintenance I am weekly to pay half-a-crown, which far passeth my ability . . .’ (ROLLR DE 730/1/30).

In 1645 Abel Barker’s name was added to the Rutland County Committee, and in 1647 his devotion to Parliament’s cause was rewarded by his election as High Sheriff of Rutland. Abel Barker was now a local figure of status and authority.

A New Bride at Hambleton



As his status and prospects steadily improved, Abel Barker made a significant improvement in his financial position. His ambitious mother negotiated her son’s marriage with Anne Burton, daughter of a Royalist family of Stockerston, Leicestershire, who brought with her a dowry of £1,500 and lands in Lincolnshire. It seems to have been a marriage of affection as well as convenience, as Abel wrote in a letter to his intended:

‘That you may not judge me oblivious of our forepassed amity, I have presumed to break the ice, in confidence that you will not disdain to wade after, and impart your present condition of your affairs. For change of place cannot alter the mind of yours you know who and how’ (ROLLR DE 730/4/43).

For his new bride, Abel ordered a wooden clothes-press or cupboard to be built into the wall of the Old Hall’s principal bedchamber, carved with ‘1646’, the date of their marriage. Tragically, the marriage lasted less than two years. Anne died giving birth to Thomas, a much desired heir. Her clothes-press, with the carved wedding date, remains to this day.

Seventeenth-century gentlewoman by Wenceslaus Holler, 1640 (ROLLR DE 730/9)

Right: A wooden cupboard which was built into the wall of the main bedchamber at Hambleton Old Hall, carved with the date of Abel Barker's marriage to Anne Burton (SH)

Anne Barker's correspondence during her brief married life at Hambleton highlights many fascinating aspects of country life. Her sister in London was requested to buy and send to her by carrier, 'bone lace and satin for a gown and kirtle, and a laced handkerchief and cuffs made and starched, and a love hood'. Anne enquired of a relation in Oakham about the character of a possible maidservant: 'Send me word whether you think Mrs Ross's daughter of Edith Weston will be a fit chambermaid for me. I must put her to wash clothes'. For Twelfth Night, Anne sent her sister a traditional 'country cake', with sticks marking the pea and bean contained within, the finders of which would play King and Queen for the day. Yet in the same year, more serious concerns were caused by the upheaval of civil war:

'We . . . lived in daily expectation of troopers whom we have had already quartering with us almost these three weeks, and my maid having the green sickness and gone away we could no ways leave the house in safety . . .' (ROLLR DE 730/4).

Abel Barker's own correspondence identifies these troopers, billeted with their horses at the Old Hall, as Cornet William Ranze and Corporal William Petty in the regiment of Sir Robert Pye.



A letter written by Anne Barker to her cousin Henry Herne in 1646 (ROLLR DE 730/1)

Noble Cousen

*I am sorry that I could not see you at my weddinge
for truly I wrote for you although I did not then
know the certaine day, I chose rather to have had
you lost your Labour then to have wanted your sweete
company. but now my suite is that you would be plesed
to come to Hambleton and solemnize my weddinge there,
pray doe me the fauour to present my humble duty to
my Lord Cobham & my Lady, and my seruice to your
Sisters when you see them, hoping you will be pleased
to honour with your presence in Rutlande*

*m^r Barker presents his
seruice into you.*

*yo^r humble seruant & kin woman
Anne Barker.*

To my noble cosen Henry
Herne esq, these bee
presented.

The address on
Anne Barker's
letter to her
cousin (ROLLR
DE 730/1)

Hambleton,
shown as
'Hamleyton', on
John Speed's
1610 map of
Rutland (private
collection)



Changing Masters

The civil war brought dramatic changes in ownership to the parish of Hambleton. The Haringtons had sold it to George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, together with the manor and great house of Burley on the Hill. But following the assassination of the high and mighty duke, his young heir rarely visited Rutland, and his estates were confiscated by Parliament for his support of King Charles. The Parliamentarian commander who bought the sequestered manor of Hambleton, with its 2,244 acres, was Colonel Thomas Waite, a far more grasping local landlord. War had brought new opportunities to rise through the ranks, and Waite was now in a position to exert ruthless authority over his social superiors, subordinates and enemies. Elected to Parliament in 1646, Waite gained immortal infamy as a regicide when in 1649 he signed the death warrant of King Charles I

Thomas Waite who was quick to purchase this most desirable of sequestered estates took action to maximise his income. He persuaded the Hambleton tenants to support his purchase by promising to protect their

interests. Yet once in possession, he ordered enclosure of the medieval open fields, pastures and springs. Rents were doubled and brooks diverted, so that villagers were cut off from water, and they could not reap corn without additional payment of ten shillings an acre. In desperation, they appealed directly to Oliver Cromwell, now Lord Protector:

‘Through the oppression of Colonel Thomas Waite, by enclosing the town, and taking away the best of our lands . . . we were obliged, at great expense, to come up to town and petition the late Council of State . . . Colonel Waite offered an agreement which for peace’s sake we accepted. But Parliament dissolving, he refuses to make it good, intending to prevent us by poverty from helping ourselves, so that we shall be ruined and the town depopulated’ (*Calendar of State Papers Domestic*, 1653-4, 27).



Armley Wood and the northern arm of the Gwash Valley in 1972 (looking west), showing enclosed fields of Hambleton parish (Jim Eaton)

While Colonel Waite outraged Hambleton villagers by depriving them of their common rights, the ever-pragmatic Abel Barker corresponded regularly with his landlord, offering support and information. He was party to an agreement made in 1653 between Waite and his fellow landlords, John Poole of Hambleton, Richard Spell of Exton and George Andrews of Egleton, ‘to inclose the open and common fields of Hambleton’. This involved transferring leases between the parties to allow the enclosure to take place, following which:

‘The said John Poole and Richard Spell release unto the said Abell Barker all lands, meadows, pastures, etc., contained within the plots set out for the said Abell Barker, all of which the said Abell Barker stands seised by virtue of a lease made 1st April 1653’ (ROLLR DG/11/672-678). A fine map, drawn up by Richard Daynes, confirmed Abel Barker’s new landholdings at this time.



Abel Barker's landholdings following Enclosure of Hambleton 1653 (Edward Conant)



Part of the post-enclosure map of Sir Abel Barker's freehold estate in Hambleton. The large house is Hambleton Old Hall (Edward Conant)

Unlike Colonel Waite, Abel Barker never bore arms against the king, though sympathetic to Parliament's cause. Playing a safer, long-term game, he continued to serve Parliament's interests while expanding his lucrative sheep-dealing business. From the Old Hall at Hambleton he maintained a regular and wide-ranging correspondence with friends, relatives and business contacts, all carefully copied into his still surviving Letter Book. In November 1648, as plans were being laid for the king's trial in London, Abel Barker wrote that he was sending 350 tods of wool to weavers at Coggeshall, Essex. Each tod, or bundle, weighing around 28 pounds, was worth 29 shillings, and contained between seven and eight fleeces.

Rising Fortunes

As England adjusted to republican government and regional administration by Major-Generals, Abel Barker saw the steady increase of his wealth and local influence. Still an eligible widower, he looked for a second wife who would care for his growing son and perhaps bring influential connections. His successful choice fell on Mary, daughter of Alexander Noel of Whitwell. They were married at Ketton in a civil ceremony before Evers Armyn, Justice of the Peace.

By 1656 Abel Barker had achieved sufficient status to be elected as Member of Parliament for Rutland (*Journal of the House of Commons*, 19th September 1656). However, the Commonwealth which he had served so diligently could not survive the death of Oliver Cromwell. As competing republican interests struggled to fill the vacuum, General Monck moved decisively to recall the Stuart dynasty. Once again, Abel astutely seized a golden opportunity to secure his own interests. He was instrumental in

*King Charles II,
restored to the
throne of England
in 1660*
(Wikipedia)



arranging a monetary gift and declaration of loyalty by the gentlemen of Rutland to the new king, Charles II. The Royalist relations which his second marriage had brought to Abel Barker were to prove a sufficient counterweight to his record in supporting Parliament against the king, albeit as a non-combatant. His wife's uncle, Sir Geoffrey Palmer, was shortly appointed as Attorney General to the new king, a connection which can only have enhanced his prospects.

Pardoned by Charles II's Act of Oblivion for his support of the wrong side in the Civil War, Abel Barker saw his steady advancement continue under the new government. His undoubted talents

were employed as Deputy Lieutenant, Justice of the Peace and one of the Commissioners responsible for levying taxation, such as the 1665 Hearth Tax. The returns kept by his brother-in-law, Andrew Noel, show that in that year Abel Barker's property, the Old Hall, was the largest in Hambleton, with ten hearths. His widowed mother, Elizabeth, lived close by in a substantial house of five hearths. In the same year his brother, Thomas Barker, was recorded as having an even larger house of twelve hearths at Lyndon. It was in this neighbouring parish that the Barker brothers would both shortly begin building a grand new house.

In the early years of the Restoration, Abel Barker was frequently absent in London, sending regular letters by carrier to his anxious and fretful wife at Hambleton. As with her predecessor, Mary sent frequent requests of clothes and commodities, such as 'sherry of amber' or 'a satin mantle for my child to christen it in'.

One of Mary Barker's Letters to her Husband

'1673. June

My Dearest Heart,

I was in a greate perplexity when the carrer came, and had noe letter for me, I shall not bee well a gane this day or tow., I have resaied your letter from Mr Greane haws an nower after the carrerboy was come., truly I amin so great a disord I can hardly rite., I am sory you cannot com downe so sounne as you intended., your bulding goos not on in the lest., for it is the sadist wether that ever was knone of man for this time of the yeare., the carpenders have doune what the can dow with in Dores, Mr Storges tels me, and all the masons was constraned to goo a wa, Sutons stayed the longest, but John sayed the deed more hort than good., heare hath bene such a flued in twine brookes as was never sene be fore., all your meadows are flotten every wheare., I desire to know if Mr Hudson be found, for I am in great want of a goune, and would have those thinges I sent for all best, if posabell., all your corne is tharesed out, and the ould all sorte, I would know if you would sell any of that it ris is very much, it was seven grates a strik of fryday., there is a grate many pepell desire to by, but I tell them I can not let them have it so with out your order., John wased but halfe his sheepe., the rane beat them out, he mus was them a gane he sath, the weather is so un sertan hee can dow nothing to wasing your sheepe yet., one Thursday last John Bell coled at brake a day for same and tow or three more, to helpe him to get out all his cattell to save them from drouning, all the dikes meat., pray god send you a good Jorney doune, you will find durt innofe., the children present you with ther duty, by deare heart

thy truly loveing

Wife M Barker

Hambleton

22 Jun: 73'

(ROLLR DE 730/1)

It was apparent that Abel Barker was easily irritated by his wife, who expressed her fear of a chiding if she urged Abel to return from London before completing his business. In an undated letter, she confesses, 'I would be loth to have you angry at your return, as you was at your departure . . . Let us know if Lamples [fields named Upper and Nether Lamples] are to be ploughed in your absence'. Mary was constantly anxious about the farm, for which she was often left responsible. In June 1673 she described a flood in Tween Brooks as had never been seen before. All the meadows were flooded, and the price of corn rose rapidly to seven groats a strike (2s 4d per bundle), so that Mary requested her husband's permission to sell in his absence (ROLLR DE 730/1).

Abel Barker's post-enclosure estate with field names and adjacent landholdings added to the OS 2nd ed 25" map 1904



The enclosure of Hambleton's open fields, imposed on the reluctant tenants by the forceful Thomas Waite in 1652, continued to cause hardship and discontent. When the manor was returned to the Duke of Buckingham following the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660, the enclosures were

confirmed by a deed of 1662. This described the Manor of Hambleton as comprising: '30 messuages, 30 cottages, a windmill, 60 gardens, 60 orchards, 800 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow, 1,000 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood and 30 acres of furze and heath'. Disputes continued, however, until an Act of Parliament ratifying the enclosure was passed in 1692. This brought Hambleton the distinction of having one of the earliest Parliamentary Enclosures in England, few others taking place before the mid-eighteenth century.

The New Estate

In 1661, with his fortunes and prospects assured, Abel Barker felt sufficiently confident to negotiate with his brother, Thomas, to purchase the nearby estate of Lyndon from Hugh Audley. The purchase price was £9,400, of which Abel paid two thirds and Thomas one third. Mary's letters make clear that she was kept in the dark about this significant development, although she continued to assail her husband with reports from Hambleton of sickness, bad weather, and her own and her daughters' desperate need for new clothes (and dowries):

'I hear you're in a manner agreed about Lyndon, and that you're like to buy it. I wonder I should never hear anything from you of it. I much desire to know [if] it be so. Not that I shall desire anything therein for myself, but desire you to have a care of my children. You know what is best to prefer daughters. If you put all into land, I desire you will take care how they shall be provided for out of that, if God should cut off you and I before they are of age. This is all I desire. This day hath been so turbulent a wind that it hath done a great deal of hurt abroad, and us more than ever we had. All the rails are blown down in the court on both sides, and the out hovel down to the ground . . . and a great deal of hurt in the field. It is a great flood, it hath been the saddest weather for a day and a night that ever I knew in my life' (ROLLR DE 730/1).

Major events such as the Great Plague and Fire of London carry no mention in the collection of letters between Abel and Mary Barker. Nor is there reference in their surviving letters to what must have been a cause of great delight and satisfaction, when in 1665 Abel was made a baronet by King Charles II, as Sir Abel Barker. Abel and his brother had already, with the assistance of Sir Geoffrey Palmer, negotiated the purchase of the estate at Lyndon from Hugh Audley. The original gabled manor house was demolished in 1673 as Sir Abel's new house took shape.

In 1670, before his new house was built, Sir Abel Barker made his will. His body was to be buried in Hambleton Church and five pounds left to each parish for the poor of Hambleton and Lyndon. His 'dearly beloved Wife', Lady Mary, was amply provided for, while their three daughters would receive fifteen hundred pounds each on attaining the age of 21, or on their marriage. Sir Abel's brother, Thomas, was made sole executor, receiving lands in Lincolnshire as well as the profits of other Rutland properties for a term of 30 years. Meanwhile Abel's only son, Thomas, would inherit the baronetcy and the new house and estate at Lyndon (ROLLR DE 730/1/70).

As he grew to manhood, Thomas Barker shared the management of the Hambleton and Lyndon estates in his father's absence. In 1675 Lady Mary reported that, following in his father's footsteps:

'My son did sell ten sheep at nineteen shillings a piece to Ned Ward, I have given an account to you . . . I showed my son your letter of what you desired, and he said he did look to your grounds, and after the shepherds' (ROLLR DE 730/1).

In recognition of his father's importance, Thomas Barker, now aged 27, was seen as a desirable match in the marriage stakes, but Thomas Barker remained unmarried. After his death the wealth and grand house established by Sir Abel Barker passed to a cousin rather than a direct heir.

Lyndon Hall

Mindful of his enhanced status, Sir Abel Barker, Baronet, prepared to build a grand house more suited to his family's social position than their relatively humbler farmhouse at Hambleton. At about the same time that Abel was planning his new house at Lyndon, his brother, Thomas Barker, built Top Hall close by. Sir Abel kept detailed notes for his new mansion, still preserved at Lyndon. These show that Sir Abel had read intensively about architecture before planning his new house, particularly the newly translated, fashionable Palladio. By 1668 his ideas had been shown to his architect, John Sturges, whose work included contributions to Chatsworth (Derbyshire) and Belton House (Lincolnshire). Sturges was paid 30 shillings for advice by Sir Abel in 1672, and oversaw building work, as Mary Barker reported on 22nd June 1673:

'Your building goes not on in the least, for it is the saddest weather that ever was known to man for this time of the year. The carpenters have done what they can do within doors, Mr Sturgess tells me, and all the masons was constrained to go away. Suttons stayed the longest, but John said they did more hurt than good' (ROLLR DE 730/1).

'John' was Sir Abel's bailiff, John Musson, while John Sutton was the Stamford (Lincolnshire) builder contracted by Sir Abel to build some of the walls and all the chimneys of Lyndon. By 1674 the interior was begun and by 1677 the house was complete, having cost £1,690, excluding the internal painting.

The south front of Lyndon Hall in 1905, showing the original entrance (Hart)





Top Hall, Lyndon in 1910. It was built by Thomas Barker, Sir Abel Barker's brother (Hart)

Portrait of Sir Thomas Barker, 2nd Baronet (Sir John Conant)



Sadly, Sir Abel Barker was only able to enjoy his elegant new home for two years. He and Philip Sherard were elected to Parliament as Rutland's two Knights of the Shire in 1678, but the following year Sir Abel died, leaving his son Thomas to inherit the baronetcy and Sir Thomas Mackworth to replace him as Member of Parliament. The inventory of Lyndon Hall, taken by Tobias Hippisley and his son after Sir Abel's death, listed 'Goods, chattels and Credits' worth £3,110 15s 2d. Fittingly for a man who made much of his fortune through sheep, Sir Abel Barker was buried in a woollen shroud, according to the law passed the previous year to protect England's wool industry.

Sir Abel Barker's son, Thomas, inherited his estate and baronetcy. However, after Sir Thomas Barker's death without direct heirs, Lyndon and Hambleton passed through the family of Sir Abel's cousin to Samuel Barker of South Luffenham. It was his son, another Thomas Barker, who compiled the celebrated *Weather Journals of a Rutland Squire*. By 1846 this branch of the Barker family had also died out and the estate passed to a nephew by marriage, Mr E N Conant. To this day the Conant family owns and farms the Lyndon estate, and still owns the Old Hall at Hambleton. Meanwhile the Manor of Hambleton, linked in ownership with Burley, was purchased by Daniel Finch, second Earl of Winchilsea. Hambleton's public house, the Finch's Arms, bears testimony to that family which remained in possession until the mid-twentieth century.



*Left:
Thomasina and
Elizabeth
Barker, twin
daughters of
Sir Abel
Barker
(Edward
Conant)*

*Below: The
Finch's Arms
public house at
Hambleton
circa 1972
(Brian
Hollingshead)*



The Palmers of Hambleton

When Sir Abel Barker moved out of the Old Hall, Hambleton, to live in his grand new house at Lyndon, his former home no longer had a resident owner. It remained part of the Lyndon Estate, to be occupied by tenants for the next three and a quarter centuries. One such, in 1727, was Robert Ridlington of Edith Weston, who was to allow free liberty to Samuel Barker and his Lyndon tenants, 'for the time being to wash their sheep in the sheep-wash near the Bridge in Hambleton' (ROLLR DG/11/887). In 1735 Samuel Barker leased to Daniel Adcock, grazier, 'the capital messuage in Hambleton

called the Hall House' with 133 acres which included Andrews Close, Well Close and Tween Brooks (ROLLR DG/11/895). However, by 1760, the Hall provided a home for Thomas Barker's three unmarried sisters, Sarah, Elizabeth and Anne Barker, provided as security for their loans to him of £1,200 each (ROLLR DG/11/910).

From the last quarter of the eighteenth century, one family leased the 'Hall House' and its associated fields, remaining in occupation for more than a century. These tenants were members of the Palmer family, whose papers survive in the ownership of a descendant now living in Essex. The collection contains no maps or photographs. However, the apparent dreariness of dozens of farm accounts is relieved by a pencil sketch of the Old Hall, unsigned and undated – evidence that at least one of the family felt a close affection for the Jacobean farmhouse.

The first surviving records of the Palmer family date from the time when Samuel Barker, the Hebrew scholar who inherited Sir Abel Barker's estate, was living at Lyndon Hall. Among the villagers of Lyndon were John Palmer (1700-72) and his wife, Elizabeth, with two infant sons. The earliest document suggests that John Palmer was involved in brewing as on 25th October 1749 he paid 12s 5d for the excise duty on three quarters of malt. Surprisingly, the collector of this tax must have been illiterate, since John Dimbleby acknowledged receipt only by making his mark. Two further receipts indicate that between 1753 and 1758 John Palmer was renting 'three nooks in peacks midow [three corner plots in Peak's Meadow]', from Abraham Sapcote, for the sum of 3s 6d per year, due each Lady Day [25th March].



A pencil sketch of Hambleton Old Hall in the Palmer family papers (Janet Lavender)

Thomas Barker of Lyndon Hall

The Palmer records become more detailed after 1759 when Thomas Barker, the naturalist, author and vegetarian, succeeded to the Lyndon estate. He had already begun to keep his now famous *Weather Journals*, which span a period of over 60 years. The new landlord seems to have been a most energetic and enquiring individual. Married in 1751 to Anne, sister of Gilbert White of Selborne (Hampshire), Thomas Barker was regarded as ‘naturally prone [to] extreme Abstractedness and Speculativeness’ (Kington 1988, 10).

As well as managing his estate, serving as Deputy Lieutenant of Rutland and Governor of the Oakham and Uppingham Schools, Thomas Barker found time throughout his life to record every aspect of the changing weather and natural phenomena. His detailed observations cast light on the farming environment on his new estate in 1759:

‘Those who sow’d turneps early this year had great crops, but what were sown after midsummer lay dry in the ground till August, came up well then, but had not time to grow large. Harvest was I think hardly ever more plentiful than this year of almost all sorts, good in its kind and most of it well got yet some of the Barley was caught out in the rain towards the end of August. Wheat was about 3 Shillings, Barley scarce 2. Pease from 2 to 2s. 6d. and Oats about 16d a strike’ (Kington 1988, 72). A strike was a measure of corn, normally equal to one bushel, weighing about 60 pounds.

William
Whiston 1667-
1752 (Edward
Conant)

William Whiston, Thomas Barker and *Weather Journals*

With recent interest in global warming, the *Weather Journals* of the Squire of Lyndon, Thomas Barker (1722-1809), have proved a valuable record of past climate patterns. Thomas’ grandfather was William Whiston who studied Mathematics at Cambridge before becoming a Church of England minister in Norfolk. In his *New Theory of the Earth* (1696) he expounded the view that Noah’s flood was caused by a comet.

William later resigned his parish to become Sir Isaac Newton’s deputy at Cambridge, succeeding him as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics. However, his unconventional religious views led to his expulsion from the university in 1710. For many years he attempted to solve the problem of longitude; he predicted that the world would end in 1736, and he also became a Baptist. William Whiston’s later years were spent at Lyndon Hall, the home of his daughter, Sarah Barker and her family, where he died in 1752.

Sarah married Samuel Barker in 1715 and their first son, Thomas Barker, was born in 1722.

Influenced by his brother-in-law, Gilbert White of Selborne, Hampshire, Thomas kept meticulous notes of weather and seasonal changes over a continuous period of more than sixty years. These included the ‘Great Frost’ of 1739-40, the year when a ‘Frost Fair’ was held on the frozen River Thames. At the time, these records were recognised as being so important that from 1771 onwards they were published every year in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society.



Right: Lyndon
Hall in 2006
(RO)



Below: The
agreement
between
Thomas Barker
and John
Palmer (Janet
Lavender)

Mar 29th 1774
Grounds at Hambleton
House garden & 2 acres at 25 - 2. 10. 0
Andrews close 8 25 - 10. 0. 0
Ball leys 28 25 - 35. 0. 0
Well close 2 25 - 2. 10. 0
Bushcroft 20 25 - 25. 0. 0
Long Lampleys 20 15 - 15. 0. 0
The above to be enter'd on
at old Martinmas next.
Round Lampleys 20 acres at 15 - 15. 0. 0
this to be enter'd on
at Lady day 1775
105. 0. 0
I pay the Land tax & tythe,
John Palmer the Parish levies.
I repair the house but J. Palmer
to thatch and glaze, and fetch
the materials for repairs.

The new landlord kept his own accounts, and several pages of notes and receipts in Thomas Barker's neat handwriting, retained among the Palmer papers, testify to his efficient oversight of his tenants. In listing some of the enclosed fields available for rent at Hambleton, he noted that the animal pens belonging to the closes had been in bad condition for several years. He therefore specified which corner posts, gates and bars should be repaired by the tenant of each close, presumably including members of the Palmer family.

The John Palmer who had rented meadowland from Abraham Sapcote had two sons: the elder, also John, was born and baptised at Lyndon in 1745, and the younger, William, four years later. At the age of 30 the elder son, also John, was married by licence to Jane Russell of Leigh Lodge, whose lack of education is shown by the fact that she signed the Lyndon parish register only with her mark.

The description of John Palmer junior as ‘Grazier’ indicates that he had become a successful sheep-farmer, and marriage proved an incentive for him to take on a more ambitious landholding in a neighbouring parish. While his brother, William, remained at Lyndon, John Palmer junior moved with his bride the few miles northward to Hambleton. There he entered into a formal agreement with Thomas Barker of Lyndon to become tenant of the [Old] Hall at Hambleton.

John Palmer’s Tenancy

According to this agreement, John Palmer would enter into the property at Martinmas [11th November] 1774, while an additional field, Round Lampleys, was to be rented from the following Lady Day. Thomas Barker agreed to pay the Land Tax and tithes, while John Palmer was to pay the parish levies. House repairs would be the landlord’s responsibility although the tenant agreed to thatch and glaze as necessary, and fetch the materials for repairs. For the Old Hall and fields at Hambleton totalling 80 acres, John Palmer’s annual rent was to be £105.

John Palmer’s accounts for his new farm were kept in a leather notebook which served him for the rest of his life. He also purchased and signed in 1784 a leather bound *Daily Journal or Gentleman’s, Merchant’s and Tradesman’s Complete Annual Account Book for the pocket or desk*. Farming at Hambleton soon proved profitable, and John Palmer continued to expand his landholding, entering a joint tenancy with Robert Croden for Panks Ground and Meadows. The stock raised on this land was sold in November 1780 for £97 16s. His attentive landlord, Thomas Barker, continued to sign half-yearly receipts for his rents, which continued unchanged for twelve years.

In 1785, as Thomas Barker prepared to divide his estate with his son, Samuel, the farms at Hambleton were ‘new arranged’. According to the new Estate List, John Palmer’s holdings now included Great Wall Close, Great Wall Close Meadow and Watkin’s Meadow (ROLLR DG 7/1/77). A year later, he was probably unsurprised to receive a letter from his landlord at Lyndon, raising his rental for Round Lamp Leys by a modest two pounds per year, since ‘taxes are so very high, and all other things so very dear’. The rent on all the other lands remained the same.

In the fields around the Old Hall at Hambleton, sheep-rearing continued to be a lucrative business. John Palmer’s sheep were normally sold by agents at Smithfield Market in London, for prices of around £1 10s per sheep.

27. 15. 0
Nov. 9. 1774 Received of John Palmer twenty seven pounds for half a years rent due Apr. 5. last by me
27. 0. 0
Thomas Barker

May. 15. 1775. Received of John Palmer twenty seven pounds for half a years rent due Oct 10. last, and fifteen shillings for plowing, also two & sixpence for a hundred of bricks brought with mure, he has now left the West Luffen ham close.
27. 0. 0
15. 0
2. 6
27. 17. 6
Thomas Barker

Nov. 27. 1775 Received of John Palmer ten pounds ten shillings for half a years rent of Peaches close at Lyndon due Apr. 5. last; also forty five pounds for half a years rent of the Skull & garden Andrews, Bald Leys, Well close Long Lampleys & Bush-crofts at Hambleton. being his first rent due May 22^d last by me.
10. 10. 0
45. 0. 0
55. 10. 0
Thomas Barker.

Half yearly
rental receipts
signed by
Thomas Barker
(Janet
Lavender)

Many receipts survive for his animals and crops sold during the 1780s and 1790s. This was a period when the population was rapidly increasing, there were several bad harvests and, towards the end of the century, fear of war following the French Revolution. While food shortages combined with high prices, many farmers prospered, although the landless poor inevitably suffered.

M^r Palmer

I have hitherto done less in raising my Rents than almost any body in the country, but taxes are so very high, and all other things so very dear, that I find it now necessary to do it, especially as I am going to divide my Estate with my Son: I shall however still be very moderate in it. The alteration I have determined to make in your rent is 17th for Round Lamp Leys instead of 15, making 2th increase in your rent from 105 to 107 to take place from Apr. 5 next. I have written a like letter to my several tenants where I have determined to make an alteration. and am

*yours &
T. Barker*

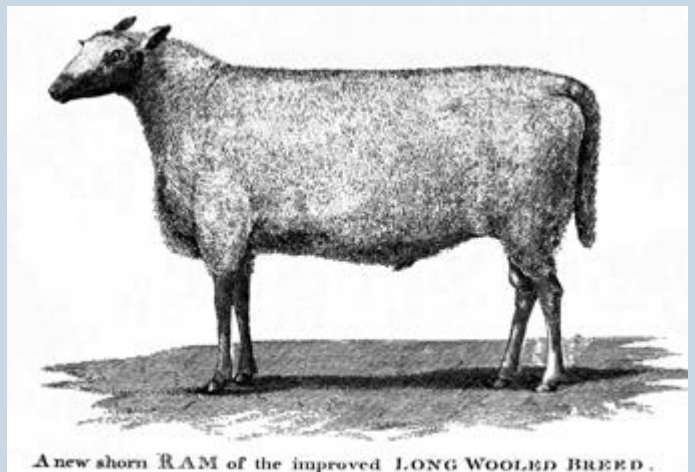
Lyndon June , 1786

*Letter from
Thomas Barker to
John Palmer, his
tenant at the Old
Hall, Hambleton,
in June 1786
(Janet Lavender)*

Eighteenth Century Sheep Rearing

The eighteenth-century Agricultural Revolution saw many improvements in animal husbandry and crop cultivation, helping to increase productivity and hence profits. In neighbouring Leicestershire, Robert Bakewell experimented with sheep-breeding until he had produced the new Leicester Longwool sheep, which gave more and a better fleece. His prize rams were hired out to farmers so that they could improve their own stock. In 1786 Bakewell made 1,000 guineas from hiring twenty rams; three years later he made 1,200 guineas on just three rams. The breed was exported to far-flung colonies, and it is very likely that graziers of Rutland including John Palmer of Hambleton were affected by such developments.

*Leicester Longwool sheep
(Robinson Library)*



John Palmer served for around twenty years as churchwarden in Hambleton, recording the amounts 'due to me [for] Whitsunday Bread & wine'. He noted the publication in 1802 of Henry Clavering's useful new handbook, *The Complete Parish Officer, or, A Perfect Guide to Churchwardens, Overseers, Constables*. Along with his neighbour, Robert Croden, he also served as Executor for the Estate of Mrs Ward, who died in 1791, leaving him a legacy of five pounds. When the Archdeacon conducted his regular Visitation of Hambleton in 1821, it was the churchwardens, Mr Needham and Mr Palmer, who were summoned before him on Friday 1st June at St Martin's, Stamford.

Among the births and deaths listed in the Hambleton parish registers is a transcript of a valuation of the parish, dated 1792. Another copy survives among the Palmer family papers. It lists the major landowners as Lord Winchilsea of Burley on the Hill; Sir Gilbert Heathcote of Normanton; Tobias Hippisley of Hambleton and Thomas Barker of Lyndon. Among Thomas Barker's properties were listed all the fields, house and garden rented by John Palmer for the past eighteen years, totalling 94 acres. However, John and his wife had no children to inherit this prosperous tenancy – there are no entries in the parish register relating to the couple between their marriage in 1775 and John's death in 1807.

A Period of War

The momentous events of the 1790s, with the French Revolution leading to the rise of Napoleon, leave no mark in the *Weather Journals* of Thomas Barker nor in the account books of the Palmer family. However the repercussions of the resulting war with France reached the tranquil heart of England in 1804, when John Palmer of Lyndon, nephew of the tenant of Hambleton, was among those balloted to serve in the Additional Army, called up to defend the country from threatened invasion. As with many other gentlemen who preferred to pay for a substitute, rather than leave their property to risk life and limb, John Palmer paid Richard Case to take his place. History does not record whether Richard Case made a good bargain.

The uncertainties of war brought a steady rise in prices and profits for farmers. But the final accounts of John Palmer's life bear witness, not to profitable sales of stock, but to increased expenditure on fortifying spirits. An

An extract from
the Hambleton
parish
valuation of 1792
(Janet Lavender)

M ^r Barker's Estate				Total Acres			
	A	R	P		L	S	D
Hill Widow.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
House and Garden	5	2	19	28	7	17	3
Home Closes - - -	22	..	..	16	17	12	..
Home Closes - - -	27	2	19	..	26	9	3 9
<hr/>							
Palmer John							
Long Lamplays -	19	..	..	20	19	..	..
Round Lamplays -	19	..	..	24	22	16	..
Bush Croft - - -	19	..	..	28	26	12	..
Well Close - - -	1	3	..	30	2	12	6
Bald Leys - - -	28	..	..	29	40	12	..
Andrews Meadow -	8	..	..	30	12	..	..
An House yard & garden	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
	94	3	..	..	128	12	6
<hr/>							
Note. The Orchard, Garden, Yard &c. and the upper part of the Well Close is	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total Acres - - -	97	..	..	..	..	..	..

invoice sent by Mr Thomas Stimson shows that the farmer's regular order of one bottle of brandy per week, at six shillings per bottle, was supplemented in February and March 1807 by increasing quantities of sherry, port and wine. Then, on 16th April 1807, the Hambleton parish register records the burial of 'John Palmer, Grazier'. His heir was the nephew, who had avoided military service three years previously. A note in the parish register reads: 'John, the elder son of his brother, William Palmer of Lyndon. Now aged 33, John moved to Hambleton, where in 1816 he brought his new wife, Elizabeth Ormond of Little Bytham [Lincolnshire].' Their first son, yet another John, was born the following year, followed by a brother and two sisters. Once again a young family would grow up in the Old Hall.

**ADDITIONAL ARMY OF
ENGLAND.**

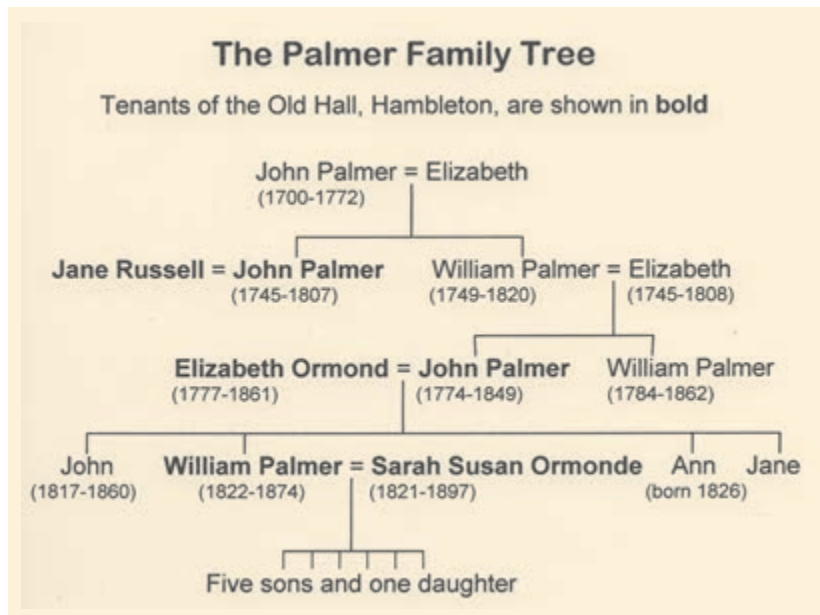
RUTLAND, } I Do hereby certify that *John Palmer*
TO WIT. } of *Lyndon* in the said County

was balloted to serve in the said Additional
Army, for the said Parish of *Lyndon* on the
7th Day of *January* 180*4* And that
on the *10th* Day of *February* following
Richard Carr was sworn and inrolled to serve
therein as his Substitute.

As Witness my Hand, this *10th* Day of
February in the Year of our Lord 180*4*

John Briggs
Clerk of the General Meetings.

*John Palmer's
Additional Army
certificate of 1804
(Janet Lavender)*



Taxation and Poverty

Shortly after the young John Palmer took up his uncle's tenancy at Hambleton, his landlord, Thomas Barker of Lyndon, compiler of the *Weather Journals*, died in 1809. He was succeeded by his son, Samuel Barker, who had already assumed responsibility for half the estate on his marriage to Mary Haggitt in 1786. Samuel Barker now moved his family from Whitwell to Lyndon Hall, taking on the management of the whole estate and collecting rents from his many tenants. After a long period of stability, these rents had seen more frequent increases – the £107 annual rent paid by the Palmers since the small increase of 1786 had risen by 1834 to £145 per annum for the same acreage. This was, as claimed by Thomas Barker, partly due to the increasing burden of taxation.

As with every rural village, Hambleton had its share of hungry, suffering poor. From 1785, Hambleton's Overseers of the Poor had been listed as having use of 'Two small Tenements upon the Waste and Two Houses in Andrew Close', with a total value of ten shillings (DG7/1/77). Spurred on by an Act of Parliament in 1819, the Churchwarden and Overseer of the Poor, Nicholas Needham, convened a meeting of Hambleton parishioners to elect a committee, or 'Select Vestry for the Concerns of the Poor', to deal with the problem. The elected group of 'substantial householders or occupiers' included John Palmer, tenant of the Old Hall. His landlord, Samuel Barker, counter-signed the election return in his role as Justice of the Peace.

A paid Overseer was empowered to provide 'outdoor relief' – food for the starving without the necessity of their going into a workhouse. While a few Rutland villages such as Exton and Empingham had their own parish workhouse, the system of poor relief became far more rigid after the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834. From then on, Hambleton was included in the Oakham Union. The new Oakham Workhouse, still standing today, became the refuge of last resort for the destitute of all the surrounding villages.



Above: An early photograph of Sarah Susan Palmer (née Ormonde) standing at the door of her home, Hambleton Old Hall (Janet Lavender)

Right: Oakham Union Workhouse as depicted on the dial of the workhouse clock. The clock was commissioned by the Workhouse Guardians and made by Stephen Simpson of Oakham circa 1837 (RCM)



Victorian Hambleton

In 1846, the full extent of John Palmer’s landholdings was once again listed when additional charges were calculated in lieu of tithes. These included ‘The Old Hall, Courts, Farm building Yards Orchard and Gardens’. Out of thirteen fields, totalling over 100 acres, John Palmer kept twelve fields to grass, indicating the extent of his pasture and sheep rearing: there was a similar pattern for other tenants (DE 1381/514).

John Palmer, grazier, of Hambleton died, aged 75, in 1849. He was buried on 12th March and succeeded as tenant of the Old Hall by his son William, who died at the early age of 52, in 1874. A handwritten anonymous obituary describes William’s ‘manly appearance . . . long remembered by those frequenting the fairs of Oakham and Uppingham; he was very well known on account of his business abilities . . .’. An inventory of William’s personal effects, signed by the solicitor John Royce of Oakham, lists personal and household goods valued at just over £343, but ‘Farming Stock and Implements of Husbandry’ worth £5,457 18s 4d. William’s ‘business abilities’ had made for his family what in those days was a considerable fortune.

An Inventory and Valuation for Administration of the Personal Effects of the late Mr William Palmer of Hambleton in the County of Rutland deceased			
	£	s	d
Household Goods and Furniture, Plate, Linen, China, Books, Wearing Apparel Trinkets &c	219	5	3
Wine and other Liquors	39	17	0
Horses and Carriages	84	10	0
Farming Stock and Implements of Husbandry	5,457	18	4
	5,801	10	7
Valued by us	Geo Wood, Teigh John Royce, Oakham		



The Gwash Valley before flooding – looking towards Middle Hambleton on the road to Lyndon (Jim Levisohn ARPS)

Sarah Susan Ormonde's Poetic Description of the Gwash Valley

William Palmer's widow was Sarah Susan Ormonde, a relation of his mother, Elizabeth Ormonde. She lived on in the Old Hall for a quarter of a century, attending services in Hambleton Church at which she kept a note of the sermons, and copying out poetry which took her fancy. The following ditty, which she copied out on 1st July 1882, describes the view from Hambleton churchyard, long before the flooding of the Gwash Valley totally re-ordered the landscape:

'Lo – the glorious landscape round;
Tread we not enchanted ground;
From this bold and breezy height;
The charm'd eye sends its magic flight
O'er the panoramic scene,
Undulating, rich and green;
And with varied pleasure roves
From hill and dale to field and groves,
Till the prospect mingling grey,
With the horizon fades away;
Shutting in the distant view,
By fainter lines of glimmering blue.'

For much of her widowhood, Sarah Susan Palmer continued to farm the rented fields around the Old Hall. She is described in the census of 1881 as 'Farmer of 360 acres employing five men and two boys'. Two of her sons had left home, but Charles and Edward, aged twenty-two and thirteen respectively, remained at home, along with their unmarried only sister, Susan. The family was served by three indoor servants, including a fourteen-year-old housemaid and her older brother. Meanwhile the eldest son, William Palmer, had moved into a nearby farm of his own at Hambleton, totalling 200 acres. Although only 24 years old he did sufficiently well to employ a housekeeper, labourer/horsekeeper, two other men and a boy.

Unlike his forebears, William Palmer did not spend the rest of his life farming in Rutland. According to his grand-daughter, Janet Lavender, he moved to London, possibly following his marriage. As the nineteenth century drew to its close, villagers of Hambleton, as elsewhere, celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in June 1897. A month later, Sarah Susan Palmer was dead, and more than a century of Palmer tenancy at the Old Hall, Hambleton, came to an end.

The New Hambleton Hall

The late nineteenth century saw increasing prosperity for the landowners of Rutland, as farms became more efficient. Fewer agricultural labourers were required, and Hambleton's population continued to decline. From 336 in 1801, it fell to 290 in 1851 and 244 in 1901 (*VCH* I, 231-2). By 1951 it had fallen still further, to 199. But 'new money' was coming into Rutland, as successful businessmen mingled with the old families of Finch, Noel, Conant and Heathcote. Rutland's many attractions, not least hunting with the Cottesmore, proved a magnet to the rich and titled.

Among those who recognised the delights of the area was Walter Gore Marshall, an unmarried brewing millionaire. His new mansion, built as a hunting lodge on the crest of Hambleton Hill in 1881, overlooked the scenic, tranquil Gwash valley. Now that the Victorian mansion was named Hambleton Hall, the Jacobean farmhouse lower down the hill, still part of the Lyndon Estate, became formally known as the Old Hall. Walter Marshall entertained lavishly in his grand new mansion, gaining a reputation for the excellence of his table and cellar and the ‘raffishness’ of his company. In 1884 he became High Sheriff of Rutland.

Hambleton Hall was ideally situated to meet its owner’s taste for fox-hunting. The Cottesmore provided regular local meets, but not far away in Leicestershire were the equal attractions of the Quorn, Belvoir and Fernie Hunts. During the late nineteenth century, several aristocrats and business tycoons built or rented hunting lodges around Rutland and Melton Mowbray. Their elegant guests could arrive by steam train, to be safely delivered by carriage to the various house parties.

Much local life was arranged for the convenience of the hunters. One of the early benevolent acts of Mr Marshall, as the new ‘Squire’ of Hambleton, was to build a new village school in 1892. The new building was not on the original site in the centre of the village, but lower down the hill on the road to Middle Hambleton. His reputed reason for this magnanimous gesture was that ‘the children were hindering hunting horses on their way to the Hall, and when assembling on the Green opposite the old school’ (Traylen 1999, 120).

*Hambleton Church
and the old village
school (Hart)*



Evaline Astley Paston Cooper

When Walter Marshall died childless at the end of the nineteenth century, Hambleton Hall passed to his younger sister Evaline. She was married to Clement Astley Paston Cooper, a retired army officer, whose ancestor, Sir Astley Paston Cooper, was a pioneering surgeon who received a baronetcy for his successful treatment of King George IV. When the census enumerators arrived at Hambleton Hall in 1901, they found Mr and Mrs Astley Cooper in residence with their three daughters and seven indoor servants. Four grooms maintained the stables, while the family's German governess, footman and thirteen-year-old hall boy lodged with the Cole family nearby.

Following her husband's death, Mrs Astley Cooper became the centre of a fashionable circle, inviting many famous visitors to enjoy her celebrated house-parties at Hambleton. One was the Stamford-born conductor, Sir Malcolm Sargent, but probably the most glamorous was Noel Coward. First taken under her wing while still a boy, Coward quickly forgot his humble origins. The sophisticated milieu and luxurious lifestyle to which he quickly adapted provided fertile inspiration for his later comedies. Indeed, *Hay Fever* is reputed to have been written at Hambleton. Noel Coward described Mrs Astley Cooper in his autobiography, *Present Indicative* (1937): 'Mrs Cooper was gay company. Her principal pleasure was to lie flat on her back upon a mattress in front of the fire and shoot off witticisms in a sort of petulant wail'.

*Hambleton Hall in
2006 (RO)*



Mrs Astley Cooper's Hambleton Estate included Home Farm, which was rented out to the Wild family. Miss Joan Wild still recalls how, as a child, she was allowed to borrow, groom and ride a little Shetland pony belonging to Mrs Astley Cooper. She described the excitement of watching the hunt,

which met at Hambleton once or twice a year. On one occasion, as a small child, she accidentally became caught up with the riders. Her little pony was swept along, trotting half-way down the hill with the hunters before coming to a halt in the farmyard, to her great relief.

Enjoying her role as ‘Lady of the Village’, Mrs Astley Cooper was a generous benefactor to the village children. She donated yards of red material to make winter cloaks, which became a colourful school uniform for the girls. Every two years, they were summoned to Hambleton Hall to be given cakes and milk in the nursery, before being presented with their cloaks by Mrs Astley Cooper in the drawing room (Traylen, *Rutland Villages*). Dorothy Westland, a contributor to *Rutland Voices* (Spelman, 2000), described how ‘Mrs Cooper used to ride through the village in her carriage. The men were expected to doff their caps and the girls to curtsy. If they didn’t then they were unlikely to get their bag of coal at Christmas!’

Village Life

Several older residents of Hambleton today remember the traditional highlights of the 1920s and 1930s, such as May Day. Joan Wild described how the May Queen was chosen, ‘usually one of the pretty ones’, while Joan served as groom, leading an old horse-drawn brougham from the Hall. The children got up early to gather flowers, decorate the vehicle and make garlands. The procession set out from the school or village green to go round all the houses. When they reached Hambleton Hall, Mrs Astley Cooper sniffed disapprovingly when they once made the mistake of using Arum lilies. People came out to admire the procession, and contributed pennies which went towards the annual village outing. This took the form of an annual coach trip to Skegness or Hunstanton, with food provided by Mrs Astley Cooper, packed up in biscuit tins.



*May Day
procession at
Upper Hambleton
in 1933 (Joan
Wild)*

*Joan Wild with the
May Day proces-
sion outside
Ivydene farmhouse
at Lower
Hambleton in 1933
(Joan Wild)*



Hambleton's school teacher from 1926 until 1935 was Miss Dolce Ellingworth, teaching between twenty and thirty pupils up to fourteen years old in one large room, with the infants taught by an assistant teacher in the smaller room. The fire needed regular stoking, but at times it was so cold that the ink froze in the ink pots! Miss Ellingworth recalled the importance of discipline and concentration: 'When you told the children to do a thing, they did it!' (Buxton & Martin 2001, 31).

There was no excuse for the children to be late to school. In 1898 Mr Marshall had provided the village with an impressive Post Office, complete with 'art nouveau' clock, similar in style to the clock and sundial he had installed at Hambleton Hall. For nearly 70 years the clock was wound weekly by George Bushell, whose wife received the British Empire Medal for fifty years' service as Postmistress, beginning in 1932 (Ovens & Sleath 2002, 200).

*The pupils of
Hambleton School
with their teacher,
Dolce Ellingworth,
in 1935 (May
Wheatley)*





The Village Community

In the first half of the twentieth century, Hambleton, like so many rural villages, was able to call on the skills of many of its residents. According to the census of 1901, there were three dressmakers, two carpenters, a milliner, baker, mason and laundress. A blacksmith from Manton, Mr Tyler, visited Hambleton on two afternoons a week. Although at this time there was no village shop, many requirements could no doubt be obtained from the 'Higgler Hawk', presumably a pedlar prepared to haggle! The main occupation of the village was farming, with four farmers, ten graziers, eleven agricultural labourers, and other farm workers such as bailiff, shepherd and farm horseman.

Several of the graziers listed in 1901 probably had shares in the Hambleton cow pasture, lush meadows in the Gwash Valley. In the same year, it was described by Sir Henry Rider Haggard:

"The Hambleton cow pasture, which is 102 acres in extent, [is] divided into eighty cow-commons. Some holders occupy two or more small fields, but the general system has been for the tenants to graze large fields in common, and to have separate small fields reserved for mowing hay for the winter. In the fields which are grazed in common five roods [one and a quarter acres] have been taken as being sufficient to keep a cow' (Rider Haggard 1902, 260).



Top: Upper Hambleton Post Office, built in 1898 by Walter Gore Marshall (RO)

Above: The 'art nouveau' clock at Upper Hambleton Post Office (RO)

*Hambleton Cow
Pastures were to the
north of Nether
Hambleton (RO)*



The Residents of Hambleton in 1938

Arnold, G	Meadows, W
Bayliss, Miss M	Noble, Mrs, shopkeeper
Blackwell, Miss A	Orr-Ewing, Major, Hambleton Manor
Bushell, G	Parker, J R & A, graziers
Chamberlain, H C, grazier	Parker, Miss A, Post Office
Chappell, F	Parker, Miss M
Charity, T E, labourer	Preston, J, gardener
Clark, H, grazier	Preston, C, gardener
Clements, W D, 'Finch's Arms'	Robinson, Mrs
Cooper, Mrs Astley, The Hall	Servante, Rev F A, The Vicarage
Fowler, S B S, Crazy Cottage	Sharp, T, farmer & grazier
Gregory, A	Sharpe, T, Lodge Farm
Gregory, J A, grazier	Skellett, C H, gamekeeper, Burley Fishponds
Halliday, W, grazier	Smith, A A, grazier
Harvey, Mrs	Taylor, H, waggoner
Hibbitt, Mrs	Tryon, Miss M, The Old Hall
Ireland, D W, wheelwright	Tween, W R, chauffeur
Ireland, J A, grazier	Wade, H, Lower Hambleton
Jenkins, Mrs	Wakerley, G B, Grazier
Jenkins, R, chauffeur	Wild, A E, The Farm
Johnson, H, keeper	Williamson, J T, grazier
Ludgrove, Mrs	
Marriott, H	
Mason, the Misses	

(Matkin's Oakham Almanack, 1938)

Killing the Pig

Rural self-sufficiency in Hambleton, as elsewhere, included the centuries-old tradition of pig killing. Joan Wild described how most households would keep a pig, to be killed before Christmas by the local butcher. This annual ritual took place in the yard, after which the carcass was put in a long pig trough and scalded to remove the hair. Then began a busy time for the housewife. Joints of ham were cut up, rubbed with salt and soaked in the trough, before being hung from ceiling hooks until ready to be boiled or fried. A more immediate task was making pork pies and sausages, with sweetbreads and other remains being enjoyed as 'fries' for breakfast. In the absence of freezers, anything which could not be eaten or preserved by the family was passed on to relatives and neighbours, who would reciprocate when their own pig was killed. Similar exchanges took place with farm produce such as butter, cream, eggs and fruit.



Joan Wild's mother feeding the hens in the farmyard at Home Farm, Upper Hambleton, in 1932. Fresh 'free-range' eggs were then an important part of the near self-sufficient diet (Joan Wild)

Miss Tryon of the Old Hall

While the new Hambleton Hall at the top of the hill attracted well-heeled guests from London and beyond, down in Middle Hambleton, life at Old Hall Farm continued much as it had for the previous three centuries. Still owned by the Conant family of Lyndon Hall, it provided an attractive home for family members or other tenants. In 1910 it was let to an intrepid farmer, Miss Maud Tryon. Her cousin, Eva Mildred Tryon, of Bulwick Park, Northamptonshire, had in 1898 married Ernest William Proby Conant, High Sheriff of Rutland in 1907, and father of the first baronet. This marriage led to the eventual ownership of the Bulwick Estate by the Conants of Lyndon Hall.

Maud's father, Richard, was a younger son of the Tryons of Bulwick, and had moved in around 1874-75 from Loddington, Northamptonshire, to set up home with his growing family at The Lodge, Burley Road, Oakham. According to the 1881 Census, he was serving as Sheriff [of Rutland], while the 1901 Census identifies him as Justice of the Peace.

Among the Tryon family listed as residents of Oakham in 1901 were Richard and his wife Jane, five children (the youngest aged 22) and six female servants. Two of their sons, Captain Henry Tryon and Captain Richard Tryon, were later killed in the Great War. One daughter, Jane Matilda Tryon, born at Loddington in 1873, was generally known as Maud. A keen botanist, Miss Tryon found time in 1912 to help with the *Cambridge County Geographies – Rutland* by George Phillips. In the preface, the author expressed his thanks to 'Miss Tryon of Hambleton for botanical notes'. She was also an artist, having prepared 'reductions and copies of the original plans of the house' for *The History of Burley on the Hill* by Pearl Finch in 1901. Six years later she contributed two drawings of birds for Haines' *Notes on the Birds of Rutland*.

Compared with the ladylike Mrs Astley Cooper in the new Hall, Miss Tryon demonstrated a very different personality, particularly to the children visiting her home for Carol Singing or May Day. When the May Queen's procession reached the Old Hall one year, they had to traipse across the fields looking for Miss Tryon. When found, she demanded that the children sang 'The Farmer's Boy' for her, but was sufficiently approving to reward them with ten shillings towards their summer outing (Traylen 1999, 121).

*Kemmel Freestone
in 2005 (RO)*

One of her farm workers in the 1930s was fourteen-year old Kemmel Freestone, who lived at Beehive Cottage with his mother and step-father,



also employed at the Old Hall. Seventy years, later Kemmel recalled vivid memories of his employer:

'[I helped] Maud in general duties until the milkman left, then she said, "Would you like to take the cows over?" That was 44 cows and a machine and I said, "Yes". She said, "It'll mean starting early." I said, "What do you call early?" She said, "You'll start at half past four in the morning."'

When the cows had been washed down, Miss Tryon brought out a big mug of cocoa and a ham sandwich for Kemmel's breakfast. Then followed milking, after which the milk was put through the cooler into the churns, and lugged to a table to await collection by lorry, which would take the milk to Oakham Station. After calling home to Beehive Cottage for another breakfast, Kemmel had to clean out the milking parlour, or 'Nettas'. Then there were



calves and cows to be fed, and when all this was done: ‘Maud used to say, “Come on Kemmel, we’re going to mow the lawn”. . . I used to pull, she used to push . . . and there was some lawn!’

Always a ‘hands-on’ farmer, Miss Tryon would say to Kemmel, ‘We’ll go to that field and haymake’. Kemmel recalled, ‘We used to have this horse with the sweeper and sweep the hay into a heap and it used to be tossed and everything was shook up’. She was very methodical, making sure the hay had been well tossed and dry before being put into the stack. Water for the farm was provided by a wind pump, which was still in use until 1949. Miss Tryon checked this regularly, sending Kemmel to climb up the windmill if the blades needed oiling. His many regular jobs included ‘helping the good lady’ sweeping up the yard, or anything else that was required. There were two horses for farm duties, but Miss Tryon also had a van, ‘an old pickup . . . a shackled old thing’, in which her farm workers might be driven to their duties.

In 1930 Miss Tryon took a break from her farming duties to entertain Arthur Oswald, of *Country Life*. He was preparing an article on the Old Hall which appeared on 27th September that year, describing ‘the care spent on the garden and the taste with which the house has been furnished’ (*Country Life*, 27th September 1930). However, Maud seems to have been far more at home working the land rather than sitting at ease in her house or garden. Despite employing a foreman (Mr J T Wass from 1936), she would take decisions and deal with most of the problems herself. Most of the fields were kept to grass for sheep farming as they had been for centuries.

*The south front
and garden of
Hambleton Old
Hall in 1930*
(*Country Life*
Picture Library)

Wartime Hambleton

The Second World War changed lives for ever, and had a significant impact even on agricultural communities such as Hambleton. Farmers were ordered to plough up every possible acre of previously uncultivated grazing land, to produce grain and vegetables for the nation's needs. The Women's Land Army was recruited to work on farms in place of the young men now fighting for their country. In Rutland, Land Girls were issued with uniforms by Miss Brocklebank of Wing Grange, and paid one shilling per hour for a 48-hour week. A contingent of 60 to 70 was billeted at the Hambleton Hall Stables and travelled to various farms by bicycle. On the larger farms, girls were able to live in. For one, Dorothy Bailey, her new farming life at Home Farm brought romance, and she married Noel Sharp of Lower Hambleton.

In addition to the Land Girls, some farmers had German and, later Italian, prisoners of war to work on the farms. These would be transported from the prison camps at Ashwell or Normanton. Joan Wild recalled how the foreigners were treated:

'I think we were sensible enough to realise that they were people who didn't really wish to go to war. My mother used to do big sort of stews and things to give them a little bit of something to keep them going.'

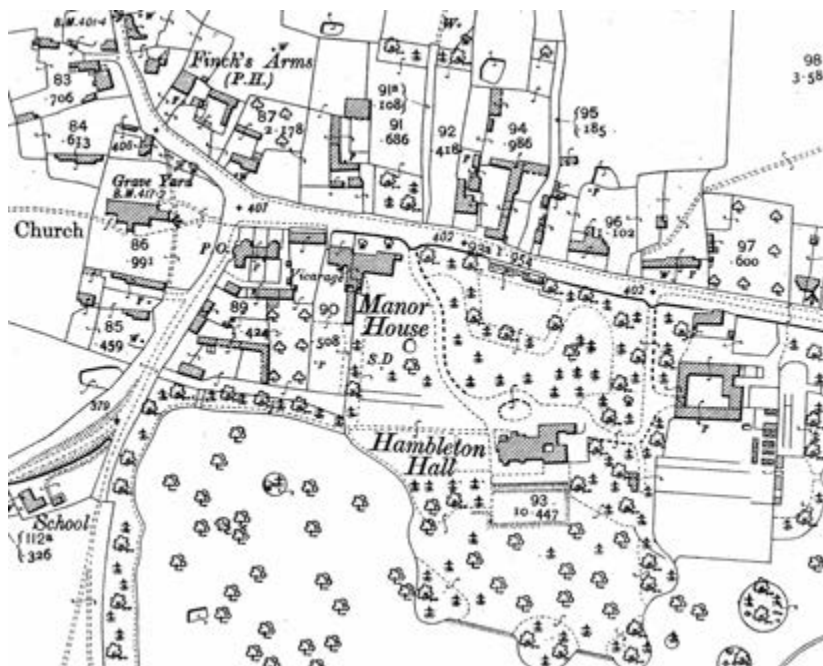
At a later date, farm work was carried out by Latvian refugees, brought in from the camp at Woolfox. Joan Wild remembered three brothers, one named Arvitz, whom she described as 'nice men, very clever with wood'.

Other visitors to Hambleton during the war included servicemen from nearby airfields, especially North Luffenham. The landlord of the Finch's Arms since 1941, Doug Clements, recalled being besieged by thirsty Americans, desperate for more than their ration of six pints. When other needs prevailed, ardent servicemen attempted to climb the drainpipes of Hambleton Hall Stables, in pursuit of the closely chaperoned Land Girls! In addition to running the Finch's Arms for 40 years, Doug Clements was also a farmer, with a landholding of 160 acres before the coming of Rutland Water (Buxton & Martin 2001, 74-6).

Other wartime arrivals in Hambleton, whose lives must have been far more hidden and limited than those of the Land Girls, were a special class of evacuees who were brought into the parish between 1941-42, to 'Hamble Manor Residential Council School for Evacuated Physically Defective Children' (details of this little-known establishment are among the National Archives at Kew, in 'Special Schools Files' ED 32/661).

Post-War Changes

As England recovered after the war, it seemed that the rural tranquillity of England's smallest county had been restored. Tenants and landlords came and went: by 1950 Mrs Astley Cooper of Hambleton Hall had died, and the Hall and its estate were purchased by Lord Trent. John Campbell Boot, 2nd Baron Trent, was the son of the well-known Jesse Boot who established the chain of chemists. He was a philanthropist, keenly involved with the City of



*Upper Hambleton
from the OS 2nd
ed 25" map 1904
showing the
Vicarge, and
Hambleton Hall
and its grounds*

Nottingham, and the first Chancellor of the new University of Nottingham in 1948.

On arriving in Hambleton, Lord Trent did much to improve the lives of his tenants, with innovations such as installing electricity into all the farms and cottages. Joan Wild remembered how the new landlord arranged for one of the six bedrooms in Home Farm to be turned into a bathroom, with the wonders of hot running water. Previously, water had to be heated in a copper, poured into the bath tub by the fire in the back kitchen for the family bath night, and finally scooped out again into the drain.

In 1955, Hambleton's new vicar was the recently retired Post Office official, Hugh Westland. He brought his family to the beautiful vicarage with its Dutch gables and attics from which could be seen the whole Vale of Catmose. Dorothy Westland remembered the heavy housework for herself and her mother, since no girls were available in the village to help in the house: 'Mother used to alternate the rooms that had fires to keep the place aired . . . Coal, bread and milk were all delivered.' At this time Hambleton had no shop, although the Post Office was memorably decorated with Aggie Bushell's many little plants. Bread came from Mr Strickland's shop in Oakham, and on Wednesday afternoons a bus would take villagers the three miles into Oakham. Dorothy helped organise dances in the village hall, and joined her mother's working parties to provide products for the annual village fete, held in the gardens of Hambleton Hall.

Major Hoare became the new owner of Hambleton Hall following Lord Trent's death in 1956. Shortly before this, the estate was sold to Mr Bowley who divided it into six lots. At this time, Joan Wild's family moved out of Home Farm, which was sold along with the other farms. Major and Mrs Hoare had previously lived at Holywell Hall in Lincolnshire, while Major Hoare commanded a Home Guard unit during the war (V H Bettinson,

bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar). Moving to Hambleton, the Major became Master of the Cottesmore Hunt. After his death in 1977, his widow sold Hambleton Hall to Tim Hart and his wife, who continued the hunting tradition. During the 1970s, the Rutland landscape changed beyond all recognition with the coming of the reservoir. Seizing the opportunities of their wonderful new lakeside location, the new owners converted the rambling Victorian house into a fifteen-bedroom luxury hotel, with what is now one of the country's finest restaurants.



A Model Farm at Hambleton

*Hambleton
Hall from the
north-west in
2006 (RO)*

After the war, changes had also taken place at Hambleton Old Hall. In 1949 Miss Maud Tryon retired to April Cottage, Lower Hambleton. The Old Hall became home to John Conant and, the following year, his new wife, Periwinkle. Having served with the Grenadier Guards during the war, John Conant began farming at the Old Hall while his father, Sir Roger, a keen politician who in 1954 was created 1st Baronet, lived at Lyndon Hall. Working hard to build up a profitable farm, the Conants gradually made significant improvements to The Old Hall and its gardens. The wind pump maintained by Miss Tryon proved an irregular supplier of water – either there was no wind and no water or strong winds damaged the equipment, so an electric pump was installed.



*Sir John and Lady
Periwinkle Conant
(Audrey Buxton)*

With only two men to help, John Conant worked Old Hall Farm, producing cereal crops or grass, the latter providing grazing and fodder for cattle and sheep. A new Ferguson tractor was bought in 1949, providing a sharp contrast with the fine Shire horses on Mr Wild's adjacent farm. Assisted by government grants and Irish labourers, many field drains were installed. These were sections of narrow pipe laid end to end, three feet underground, to drain the fields for arable crops. Half a century later, when Rutland Water is at low level, pipes can again be seen on areas of the exposed lake-bed.

The output per acre of Old Hall Farm in 1952-53 was £24. However, John Conant's innovative methods increased productivity to £72 per acre in 1956-57. These included more efficient use of fertilizer, which greatly increased the yield of wheat and barley. Grassland was managed more intensively, producing larger quantities of grass for silage and a significant increase in stock numbers. John Conant took early advantage of a government grant for the erection of silos, from which stock could feed without the normal waste. He also bred pigs and poultry, which in 1956 produced, together, 55 per cent of the farm income.



*Gardens to the
south of
Hambleton Old
Hall, now lost
under Rutland
Water (Sir John
Conant)*

The New Landscape

When the shock announcement came, the success of Old Hall Farm was no protection against the compulsory purchase of much of its acreage for the creation of Rutland Water. Many Hambleton villagers joined the protest movement against the new reservoir, which would affect many farms and change their landscape for ever. But the campaign proved unequal to the forces for change, and construction began in the early 1970s. At first it appeared as though Upper Hambleton would become an island, but according to Joan Wild: ‘Someone said, “You may depend, they’ll leave a road so that we can go and pay our rates!” and that’s just what happened.’

With the demolition of Lower Hambleton and part of Middle Hambleton, the remaining Hambleton villagers were forced to accept a new way of life on what was now a peninsula. People adapted in their different ways. Jane Theobald recalled how her brothers worked on the dam while they were on university vacations, while she found herself unable to ride her pony in all the familiar places. ‘I also remember taking my pony swimming in Rutland Water when they started filling it up – from the road at the end of Hambleton by Half Moon Spinney!’

Fortunately, unlike the neighbouring Beech Farm in Middle Hambleton, the Old Hall escaped inundation. By this time, Sir John Conant had inherited his father’s baronetcy and moved back to Lyndon Hall. While the rising water lapped at the edge of the now shrunken gardens, Hambleton Old Hall was once again occupied by tenants. For most of the 1970s this included the glamorous fighter pilot, Air Vice Marshall Johnnie Johnson. But the view from the gardens and the south-facing windows had now changed beyond recognition. As the waters rose in the former valley of the River Gwash, fishing boats and yachts sailed above the foundations of Lower Hambleton and the fields once belonging to the Old Hall. No longer a farmhouse, it remains today one of the most attractive, unspoilt Jacobean houses in the Midlands and beyond.



*The Old Hall
as seen from
Rutland Water
(SH)*