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Most people will be aware of the two amazing discoveries in Rutland during the COVID pandemic. Extensive media coverage has certainly put the spotlight on the county, reinforcing the motto of Much in Little.

The Trojan War mosaic, 'The most exciting Roman mosaic discovery in the UK in the last century', was found by Jim Irvine on his father's farm. After eighteen months of secrecy, during which the site was partially excavated and scheduled as an



photo - ULAS

Multum in Parvo

Ancient Monument, it was revealed to the world at large in November 2021. Our Chair, Debbie Frearson, was a member of the excavation team from the start and she provides a personal account in this issue.

Meanwhile, just eight miles away as the crow flies, the 10m long fossilised skeleton of Britain's largest ichthyosaur, an ancient marine reptile, was found by Joe Davis of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust in a Rutland Water lagoon. Its discovery and subsequent excavation were revealed in January 2022, and Robert Clayton tells the story in *Jurassic Rutland* on page 7.



photos - Anglian Water



Mosaic *noun* ... a combination of many different parts forming one thing

Debbie Frearson

Just after midnight on the morning of Thursday 25th November 2021, I breathed a sigh of relief. The secret was finally out.

The media announcement about the discovery of the Rutland Roman villa site and its mosaic was a secret that I and members of the Society's committee as well as the wider heritage community had kept for well over a year.



Debbie working on the mosaic (author).

In 2020, during the first Covid lockdown, I joined University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) to help to record the newly discovered mosaic which is near to where I live in Rutland.



Jim Irvine, who discovered the mosaic (ULAS).

The team included Jim Irvine, the farmer's son who discovered the site, Peter Liddle, former Leicestershire County Archaeologist, Jennifer Browning, ULAS Site Director, and John Thomas, ULAS Project Manager. Also joining us was David Neal, an archaeologist, watercolour specialist,

and leading expert on Roman mosaics. He was on the site to record the mosaic in detail.



Peter Liddle (LinkedIn).



John Thomas, ULAS Project Manager (ULAS).

Jennifer Browning, Site Director (ULAS).



Dr David Neal, Roman mosaic and watercolour expert (author).

Because of the sensitivity of the discovery and COVID restrictions, our work was kept top-secret and the number of people involved on the site at any one time was limited to six. It was necessary to protect it against possible heritage crime and also to prevent trespass on the land which is in private ownership.



Initially, we had to clean and record the area of the mosaic which had been exposed by Jim. It was not such a steep learning curve as I had initially thought, as all my training on annual excavations over the past fifteen years involved the same techniques. It was just a once in a lifetime opportunity to use them on such an amazing site. I cannot deny that I found the work exhausting, but employing drawing, global positioning system and excavating skills was exhilarating.

As well as conventional tools, we used plastic plant labels and soft brushes, and we wore thick woollen socks rather than boots to avoid disturbing the fragile remains. Immediately above the mosaic was a thin layer of fine gravel that meant that we had to lay aside our trowels and begin meticulous and delicate cleaning using brushes and sponges.



A face is revealed (author).



A pistrinx (ULAS).

Following on from the area of the mosaic that Jim had first uncovered, a human skeleton was soon revealed, and others were later found on the site.

As work progressed there was a constant commentary from us: 'I have a spear' - everyone got up and came over to look. 'I have a wheel', 'What is this?' (It was a pistrinx or sea creature) - incredible!

There were a lot of behind the scenes heritage people and processes involved with this site, many of whom are not known to the public. In the first instance the acting County Archaeologist, Richard Clark, and his team were informed. They then contacted the relevant personnel in Historic England. Next, Rutland County Museum provided an accession number for the archive. This is used on all the site documentation, drawings and artefacts. It is also a code which identifies where the archive is stored. The storage capacity of the museum was also assessed for a major excavation.

Megan Gard, Rutland's Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, was also involved.



The number of people on site was limited in the first year (ULAS).

An excavation of this size, and the subsequent storage of artefacts and creation of project displays requires funding. It was therefore important to include fund raising bodies early in the project and the Friends of Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle and our Society were involved in this. Local knowledge of the area and the community network had a hidden

benefit to funding as a number of local people offered their time, skills and equipment without charge.

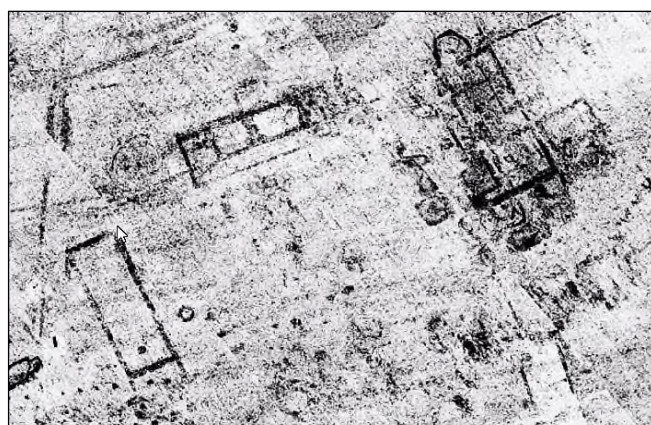
After the initial exposure of the mosaic, Historic England provided funding for an investigative excavation on a limited area of the site. This meant that more people and organisations were involved both on and off the site. These included people from Historic England, Leicestershire County Council, Rutland County Council, the University of Leicester, Worcestershire Archaeology, conservation specialists, geophysics specialists and drone surveyors. It was an education to see people from these different groups coming together to learn more about the site, and to discuss how it could be managed in the future.



Site visitors with Jennifer Browning, Site Director (ULAS).

At this time, surrounding landowners were invited to visit the site and were advised on the importance of preventing trespass. As security was so important, everyone who came to site was asked not to take photographs or make videos.

After the initial investigation it was clear that more work would be needed to understand the mosaic and its wider archaeological context.



From the ground-penetrating radar survey (SUMO/ULAS).

Further revelations were provided by SUMO who conducted the magnetometry and ground-penetrating radar surveys to astonishing effect.

Their work showed the scale and complexity of the villa site in amazing detail. I was looking at it on my mobile phone at the time and thought I was seeing things. There were so many features - it was like a Magic Eye image. If you stared at it long enough another building would appear! As a result, Historic England asked for further trenches to be dug, focusing on four areas outside of the mosaic building in the two large fields.

Worcestershire Archaeology, which is part of Worcestershire County Council, advised on how to prepare a COSMIC (Conservation of Scheduled Monument in Conservation) survey to assess the depth of the archaeology in the wider landscape. This resulted in us digging about thirty small test pits across the site in October 2020.

After the geophysical surveys and investigative excavations had been completed the extent of the site was known. Following advice from Historic England, it was protected as a Scheduled Monument by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. This legal protection allows prosecution if the site is damaged in any way or illegal metal detecting takes place. Special permission is required to conduct any further excavations.

When Covid restrictions were lifted, more people were allowed on site to complete work on the mosaic and look at other buildings revealed by the geophysical surveys. With funding from the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester, a second season of excavation in the summer of 2021 was possible. As a result, there were now up to thirty archaeology students on the site and more ULAS staff working in three big trenches, as well a steady flow of official visitors. We were also being filmed by the Rare TV film crew for BBC2's *Digging for Britain* with Professor Alice Roberts.



Dr David Neal with archaeology students (ULAS).

This was such a positive experience where rural resourcefulness was second to none, and there was no shortage of help from local people.

We are part of a rural heritage network and fitting into the bigger picture made me feel mentally so much better. Some of the team joked that it was like the Rutland Mafia in action - we needed a digger driver, so I telephoned someone I knew; we needed provisions so I suggested the local shop at Edith Weston.



Professor Alice Roberts was on the site with the Digging for Britain film crew (ULAS).

During this time, there was more involvement of local volunteers including the Hallaton Fieldworker geophysics team. There was also some oral history about the site. Volunteers revealed that the landowner's father had employed them to pick potatoes in these fields when they were teenagers in the 1960s and 1970s. They had no idea they were working on such an amazing site.



Archaeologists, students and film crew working together (ULAS).

After the media embargo had been lifted, Leicestershire and Rutland Heritage Watch posted an excellent article about theft from heritage sites (night hawking), how to report it and what legal detecting is. This had over 5000 views on their social media sites.

There have been many comments on social media about wanting to visit the site. However, there is nothing to see as it is now completely covered over. When we were excavating, we could see that the mosaic was deteriorating so the best thing to do was to

preserve it *in situ*. The cost to lift such a large and delicate artefact would be huge, and there may be other mosaics on the site.

Another possible option for the site is a visitor centre, but the cost of this and its access would be astronomical. As a Society, we would welcome the creation of a digital display of the mosaic together with a permanent museum exhibit which could evolve as the research progresses. But this is for the heritage team at Rutland County Council to progress.

The site is in private ownership and it is only with the permission of the landowner that it has been possible to explore it this far. The farmer is asked to keep the site under pasture rather than an arable crop so that the archaeology is not affected by tillage. There is a cost of having fields out of crop for a long period of time and grant is available to help with this, but it is not an infinite resource.

Although the Society is prolific in producing information about Rutland, both archaeologically with our fieldwork team and historically with our publications, I often feel we are overlooked nationally. It was wonderful therefore to have all the media attention, although some reporters clearly have no idea where Rutland is!

The mosaic had remained undiscovered for over a thousand years and it was amazing that we were able to keep it secret for another eighteen months. But this is not just the story of the mosaic. It is also the story of the different people and general goodwill of all involved that makes this site so special.



Jim Irvine working in the mosaic trench (author).



Debbie in excavation gear (ULAS).



The site archaeologists and archaeology students in September 2021 (ULAS).

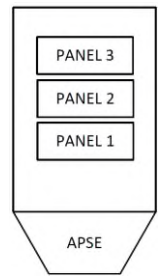


Detail from the mosaic - King Priam paying the ransom for Hector's body (ULAS).

The Trojan War Mosaic

Robert Ovens

The large Rutland Roman villa complex was in active use in the third and fourth centuries and the extraordinary mosaic in what was probably the main villa is about 11m by 7m. It consists of three panels telling the story from bottom to top of Hector's death at the end of the Trojan War and is based in part on Homer's ancient Greek poem *The Iliad*. The mosaic was intended to be seen from a viewing platform in the apse below the first panel. The images shown here are therefore in reverse order to the actual floor. Colours have been enhanced and the confusing seriously burnt areas from later site occupation have been blanked out.



Panel 1

In the first panel, the naked Achilles on the right, enraged by the death of his friend Patroclus, is fighting a duel from the back of chariots with the Trojan prince Hector who had killed Patroclus.

The duel ends with the death of Hector.



Panel 2

The second panel is more damaged, but the naked body of Hector being pulled behind Achilles' chariot is clearly seen. On the right, Hector's father, Priam, King of Troy, looks on. Achilles holds the red shield which Hector was holding in the first panel.



Panel 3

In the third panel, King Priam is paying the ransom for Hector's body. A Trojan servant balances a large set of scales on his shoulders with Hector's body on one side. On the other side is a large gold dish to which Priam is about to add more gold vessels. The left-hand side of this panel is

quite badly burnt, but it has been interpreted as showing the seated Achilles holding his spear and shield, with two Greek warriors standing behind him. This is an alternative ending to Homer's *The Iliad* in which Achilles says he will not release Hector's body even if he is offered his weight in gold.

Jurassic Rutland

Robert Clayton



Joe Davis of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust (Anglian Water).

In January 2021, Joe Davis, Conservation Team Leader for the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, was working on the routine draining of a lagoon island for re-landscaping at Rutland Water Nature Reserve, which the Trust operates in partnership with Anglian Water. He realised that the receding water had revealed what appeared to be a series of large, fossilised vertebrae.

Joe called Rutland County Council to report he might have found a dinosaur. A site visit was swiftly organised, calling in Dr Mark Evans of the British Antarctic Survey. Dr Evans, who was previously curator for the Leicester City Museums palaeontology collections, is an expert in Jurassic fossil reptiles, and lives locally.

Dr Evans was able to confirm that the find was the fossilised remains of an ichthyosaur, an ancient marine reptile rather than a dinosaur. But unlike previous small ichthyosaur finds at Rutland Water during initial construction in the 1970s, the specimen appeared to be much larger and more complete.

In order to keep the find safe under a cloak of secrecy, the County Council and Anglian Water assembled a team of professional palaeontologists and volunteers and sought funding to recover the creature. The fragile remains of the huge skeleton were carefully excavated in August and September 2021, with the work being captured on film for BBC Two's *Digging for Britain* series, which was broadcast in January 2022 and is now available on BBC iPlayer.



World ichthyosaur expert Dr Dean Lomax and members of the excavation team (Anglian Water).

The 180-million-year-old ichthyosaur is the biggest and most complete skeleton of its kind found to date in the UK and is also thought to be the first ichthyosaur of its species (*Temnodontosaurus trigonodon*) found in the country. The skeleton measures over 10 metres in length, with a skull weighing approximately one tonne.

The excavation was led by world ichthyosaur expert Dr Dean Lomax with Dr Evans, and specialist palaeontological conservator Nigel Larkin, alongside Dr Emma Nicholls from the Horniman Museum, and volunteers with experience of excavating fossilised marine reptiles, including the Peterborough Geological and Palaeontological Group.



The fossilised remains of the ichthyosaur were encased in plaster of Paris before removal (Anglian Water).

Dr Mark Evans, who is also a Visiting Fellow at the University of Leicester, said: *'I've been studying the Jurassic fossil reptiles of Rutland and Leicestershire for over twenty years. When I first saw the initial exposure of the specimen with Joe Davis, I could tell that it was the largest ichthyosaur known from either county. However, it was only after our exploratory dig that we realised that it was practically complete to the tip of the tail. It is fitting that we found Britain's largest ichthyosaur skeleton in England's smallest county - "Multum in Parvo" indeed! It's a highly significant discovery both nationally and internationally but also of huge importance to the people of Rutland and the surrounding area.'*

The team of palaeontologists will continue to work on the research and conservation of this significant scientific discovery, with academic papers to be published in the future. The County Council and Anglian Water are seeking funding to preserve the precious remains, and to ensure that it can remain in Rutland where its legacy can be shared with the general public.

A Tankard and Medals for the Museum

A silver tankard and two silver medals awarded to Christopher J Bradshaw of Alstoe House, Burley, at Rutland Agricultural Society's Oakham Shows were offered for sale at auction by Stamford Auction Rooms on 25th September 2021. The sale also included two medals won by him at Smithfield Club shows in London. All were acquired for £2,640, including the buyer's premium, by Rutland County Museum thanks to the Friends of the Museum who agreed to support the bidding. All were from the estate of the late Edith Susan Sutton of Geeston Lodge, Geeston Road, Ketton, who died in April 2021 at the age of 92. Edith Susan was the daughter of Frank and Amelia Burchnell of Old Fletton, near Peterborough. Her late husband was William A Sutton. No connection with the Bradshaws of Burley has been found.

The 21cm high silver presentation tankard, weighing just over 706 grams, is hallmarked for John Lambe, London 1809. It is engraved with 'Rutland Agricultural Society, November 30th 1859' and 'Presented by Lord Aveland to C. J. Bradshaw, Burley, for the best Three Long Woolled Fat Wether Sheep, open to all England'. The hammer price was £1,500.

Class 15. (By Lord Aveland.) Best pen of three long-woolled wether sheep, one year old, a silver cup value £10, to Mr. C. J. Bradshaw; second (by the Society) £5, to the Marquis of Exeter.

(Leicester Journal 2nd December 1859 p7).



The catalogue description of the tankard: '...the whole with chased and repoussé rococo decoration, the domed lid with scrolled shell and acanthus thumb-plate to the handle with heart shaped terminal.'

The first silver medal is 50mm in diameter and weighs about 54 grams. It is hallmarked for Charles Rawlings & William Summers, London 1843 and was awarded at the 1857 Rutland Agricultural Society Show. It is in an oak leaf mount and engraved with 'Presented by the Tradesmen of Oakham, to C. J. Bradshaw, Burley, Exhibitor of the Best Sheep shown as Extra Stock'.



Both sides of the silver medal presented to Christopher Bradshaw at the 1857 Rutland Agricultural Society Show.

The second similar but larger silver medal is 60mm in diameter and weighs just over 100 grams. It is hallmarked for William Summers, London 1868 and was awarded at the 1868 Rutland Agricultural Society Show. It is in an oak leaf mount and engraved with 'Presented by the Town and Trade of Oakham, 1868 to C. J. Bradshaw, Burley, Exhibitor of the Best Sheep shown as Extra Stock, Open to all England'.



Both sides of the silver medal presented to Christopher Bradshaw at the 1868 Rutland Agricultural Society Show.

The other two medals are 48mm diameter Smithfield Club medallions, with the bust of Charles Duke of Richmond K:G President of The Smithfield Club on one side, and with John Charles, Earl Spencer President 1825-1845 on the other. Neither is hallmarked but both are probably silver. Both are engraved round the edge, 'Mr Christopher J. Bradshaw, Alstoe House, Burley on The Hill, Oakham, Rutland', one 'as Exhibitor Best Leicester Wether Sheep in Extra Stock, 1864', the other 'as Exhibitor best Leicester Ewe in Extra Stock, 1866'.



Both sides of one of the two Smithfield Club medallions awarded to Christopher Bradshaw.

[All images by courtesy of Stamford Auction Rooms].

A Datestone Puzzle

Tony Martin

The recent discovery of a hitherto unknown datestone inscribed 1600 E + O on the former Blue Bell Inn, a prominent house in High Street, Morcott, prompted me to rekindle the detective abilities I learnt as a police officer.

Most of the datestones in the village have been previously photographed and catalogued, the earliest known example being the one attached to Sundial House in Pingle Lane. With a date of 1627 and the initials W C, this has been attributed to William Collison, who was the village priest until the period of the Interregnum when he was deposed. Always known locally as 'The Priests House' rather than its more modern name, several myths have been associated with it, the most fanciful of which was that a secret tunnel existed between it and the Church for the use of the recusants who lived in Morcott at the time. This was debunked in the 1960s when a main sewer was dug along the length of Church Lane, which failed to discover any trace of an underground passage. Nevertheless, it was still a good story.

However, with the discovery of this latest datestone, Sundial House can no longer claim to be the oldest dated house in the village. Lodged high up under the eaves of the former Blue Bell Inn, which closed in the early 1960s, the datestone was noticed by the present owner who turned to the Society for help in identifying its origin. Nick Hill of Historic England¹ was kind enough to confirm that the initials and date most likely referred to the original owner of the house, and that features still visible on the building such as the four-centred arch (since raised) above the doorway to the right, and the small square window to the left would point to it being quite a good status house in the village for this date. Despite the fact that the building had been much altered during its time as a public house, enough evidence of its original footprint still remains to confirm this.

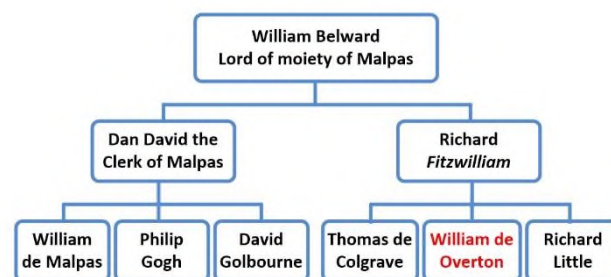


*The south-east aspect of the former Blue Bell Inn.
The datestone is circled (author).*



*The datestone
under the eaves of
the former Blue
Bell Inn (author).*

So, who was the mysterious EO? Surprisingly, surnames beginning with the letter 'O' are almost non-existent in Morcott during this period. There are many other recognisable Rutland names such as Rudkin, Presgrave, Behoe and Spires in the registers², yet there is only one family that fits the bill, that of Overton.



It appears that the Overtons enjoyed a well-established connection with both the village and Rutland in general at this time. The body of a William de Overton once occupied an elaborate table tomb below the South window of the church³, believed to date from the 1400s. This William is reputed to descend from the Barony of Malpas⁴ on the English/Welsh border.

On initial inspection they seem a complicated bunch, but of course surnames were not in vogue in the early Middle Ages. The family tree shown above illustrates three generations spanning the period 1100 to 1300. William de Overton, the son of Richard Fitzwilliam (son of William) is so named as he was granted land in Overton, Cheshire, by his father. So, we first see a de Overton come into existence in the 1200s and at some point, the surname is simplified to Overton. The individual buried at Morcott is most probably the grandson of the man above. A Christopher de Overton is also recorded as being buried in Morcott in 1482, although his birth is recorded in Helmsley, Yorkshire. Nevertheless, it seems safe to assume that the de Overtons had arrived in Morcott by the mid-1400s. However, where they were actually living in the village remains a mystery.

The Manor of Morcott passed through various hands in the early Middle Ages. Originally held by the Earls of Warwick together with Barrowden, it was later passed to an Edward Dodingsells after seizure by the Crown, whose descendants sold it to the Digby family

in 1525. The latter family of Gunpowder Plot fame held extensive lands and property throughout Rutland, so it is very possible that the Manor House in Morcott was never actually occupied by a Digby. The Military Survey of Rutland⁵ conducted in 1522 gives a fascinating snapshot of the county at this time and helps us understand the relationships between the more affluent people living here.

Looking initially at the Digby family, we find two main characters prominent in Rutland. Edward (also known as Everard) Digby, Sheriff and Member of Parliament for Rutland from 1529⁶, lived at Stoke Dry but also held land at Ridlington. Furthermore, in 1517 he was declared Steward of several Rutland villages, formerly under the ownership of the disgraced Duke of Clarence, who himself had inherited the land through his marriage into the Neville family, the Earls of Warwick. His land subsequently became the property of the Crown, so Digby's position was an extremely important one. He was Steward of Barrowden, Essendine, Greetham, Morcott, Pilton, Preston, Seaton, South Luffenham, Thorpe by Water, Uppingham and Wing.

The other Digby is John, son of the above. Appointed Knight Marshal for King Henry VIII and High Sheriff of Warwickshire and later Rutland, he lived at Eye Kettleby near Melton Mowbray but also owned property at Preston. In addition, he held land at Barrowden, Morcott, North Luffenham, Pilton, Seaton, and South Luffenham. Furthermore, he also acted as Steward for the Abbot of Westminster who held a large part of Oakham. So, a powerful family indeed who exercised major influence in the County.

Another powerful dynasty with holdings in Rutland was the Hastings family of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. George Hastings, later 1st Earl of Huntingdon, was a favourite of Henry VIII and had accompanied him at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. He had land in the west of Rutland on the Leicestershire border and his Chief Servant was one Bartholomew Overton who lived in Uppingham. He also held land in Morcott. Morcott becomes more important to the story when we look at an obvious relative of the Bartholomews, one William Overton.

William's exact relationship to Bartholomew is unclear, but he was undoubtedly an important person in his own right for he served as Steward to a variety of local landowners, including Brudenell, Harrington and Sapcote, all of whom were prominent members of the nobility. As such he had responsibility for overseeing Ayston, Burley, Empingham, Exton, Normanton, Wardley and Whissendine. But what we also know is that he owned land and lived in Morcott⁷ albeit we do not actually know where. It would be fair to assume that a man of his status would enjoy a reasonable

standard of living and probably occupy a substantial house. Stone-built properties were still the preserve of the wealthy, and there would be very few in Morcott at this time aside from the Manor House and perhaps one or two others on the High Street and adjacent to the Church. It would be pure conjecture to assume he may have occupied the Manor House, although given his obvious connections he could well have been a tenant of Everard Digby.

So having established that the Overton family had been in Morcott since the 15th century we can now fast forward to the mid-1500s and examine who was living there by then. The Register of Births, Baptisms and Burials for Morcott⁸ gives us a nice snapshot of the Overton Family: -

Anthony Overton, buried 1st May 1545.

Katherine Overton, buried 4th May 1545.

Mary Overton, baptised 20th February 1559, married Erasmus Caatsbie (Catesby of Seaton) 21st September 1591.

Thomas Overton, baptised 18th February 1571.

Lucy Overton, baptised 3rd February 1572, married Edward Burnbie (Burnaby of Watford, Northants) 1st October 1588.

Dimock Overton, baptised 28th December 1574.

Joan Overton, baptised 15th December 1577.

Thomas Carter, servant to Mr. Overton, buried 6th August 1588.

Edward Overton, son of Edward Overton Gentleman, buried 20th December 1600.

Katherine Overton, daughter of Dimock Overton, baptised 2nd February 1611.

Edward Overton, buried 26th January 1615.

Katherine Overton, widow, buried 13th January 1619.

Edward Overton MA, Cambridge University, sometime of St Johns College, buried 23rd March 1655.

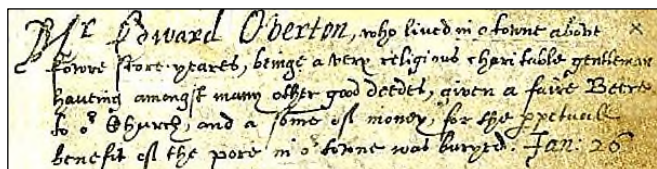
Elizabeth Overton, widow of Edward, buried 24th August 1670.

Familial connections are difficult to work out with the earlier records. Parents were not named for baptisms nor spouses for burials but given that the family seems to be almost entirely confined to Morcott we can make some educated guesses. For example, from his will⁹ dated 1553, we know that Bartholomew Overton was resident in Morcott at that time. His relationship to Anthony and Katherine Overton is unclear, and of course we must also consider the aforementioned William Overton. Examination of his will, if one exists, may give us further clues.

The baptisms of Mary, Thomas, Lucy, Dimock and Joan are more interesting however, because they are very likely all children of Edward and Katherine Overton. This Edward Overton is the same man that

died in 1615, and we can place him with certainty in Morcott well before this because there is an interesting note added to the record of his burial: -

'Mr Edward Overton who lived in the town above four score years, being a very religious, charitable gentleman. Having amongst many other good deeds, given a fair Bier to the Church and a sum of money for the perpetual benefit of the poor in the town was buried Jan: 26th [1615].'



Four score equals 80 years, so he had been resident for a considerable period and was undoubtedly related to either William or Bartholomew Overton. So, did he live in this house? His wife Katherine (the daughter of Morris Johnson, Alderman of Stamford) died in 1619, and with her death the Overton family appear to lose some of its connection to the village. A tantalising clue as to why can be found in a record held at The National Archives¹⁰ and this would clearly merit further investigation. A small bundle of Rutland documents covering a period between Edward I and James I¹¹ mention a Coroner's Inquest held in the 43rd year of the reign of Elizabeth I. That equates to the year 1599-1600 and the inquest is into the *'Homicide of Edward Overton by Dymock Overton at Morcott'*. This is confirmed by the burial entry mentioned above of Edward Overton, son of Edward Overton, Gent, at Morcott. So, are we looking at some sort of family feud? It is pertinent to note that the term 'homicide' meant something slightly different in 1600 to what it does now, and in this instance signifies an accidental or unforeseen death rather than a deliberate act of murder¹². Self-defence for example could see an accused person acquitted of any charge of murder provided they could prove no intent to kill. In the case of Dymock the inquest clearly found in his favour, as he went on to father a son in 1609 and a daughter in 1611. So, now we have two possible EOs.

It seems likely that Dymock and Edward were brothers, and some bad blood between them ended tragically. Dymock moved away from Morcott before the birth of his son and by 1609 we find him in Boothby Pagnell, Lincolnshire, which lies to the North of Colsterworth. His daughter is baptised in Morcott, however, so the link with the village remains. Interestingly, his will is written in Wickham (now West Wickham) in London¹³, so one wonders what his actual employment was.

A final note to this is that Dymock Overton's son was named Edward (possibly in homage to his father or dead brother), and this Edward may be the same person that goes on to gain his MA at the University of Cambridge and who died at Morcott in 1655. His widow Elizabeth died in 1670 and is buried at Morcott.

Elizabeth the widow of Mr Edward Overton. Bur. Aug. 24

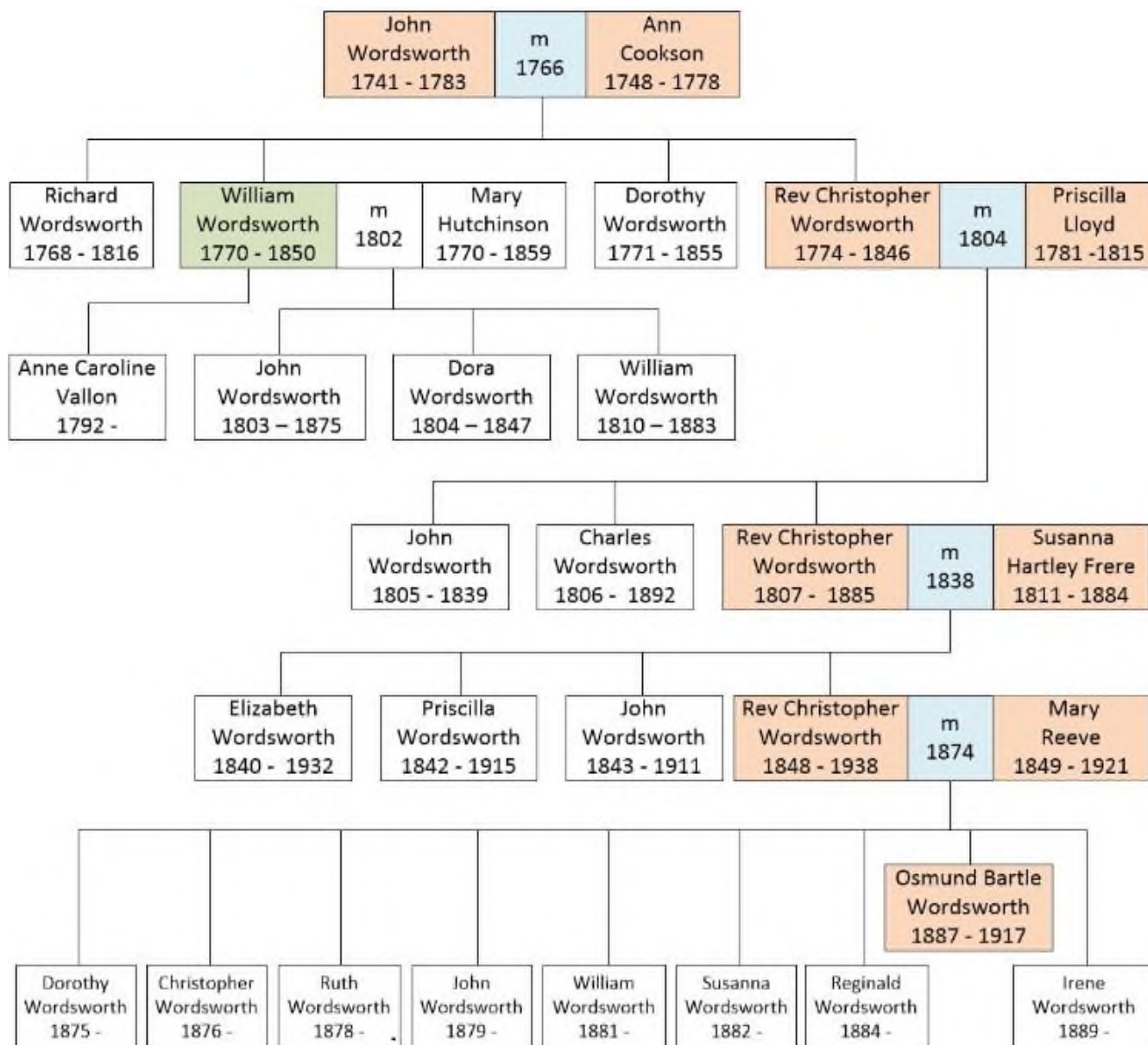
So, did this Edward return to Morcott in later life or were the couple in fact the last living Overtons in the village all along? We will likely never know, but their family's legacy remains, carved in stone and preserved in the fabric of a house that still echoes its links to the past. The puzzle is far from solved, but there are still more leads to follow so we may yet get an answer.

Endnotes

1. Grateful thanks to Nick Hill for his insight into the datestone and confirming its context in relation to the building as a whole.
2. Bishops Transcripts, ROLLR DE2876, Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland.
3. This tomb was opened during the 1874 remodelling of the church, but his body had been removed.
4. Cotgreave, Peter, *The Barony of Malpas in the Twelfth Century* (www.hslc.org.uk).
5. Cornwall, Julian (ed), *Tudor Rutland. The County Community under Henry VIII*, Rutland Record Society, 1980.
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Osmund Bartle Wordsworth

Robert Owens



Osmund Bartle Wordsworth was born at Glaston Rectory on 17 May 1887, a son of the Rev Christopher and Mary Wordsworth. Osmund was one of the survivors when the Lusitania was sunk by a German U boat in 1915, but lost his life on a battlefield near Arras, France, in 1917.


Bartle Wordsworth was the eighth of the nine children (five sons and four daughters) of the Rev Christopher and Mary Wordsworth, seven of whom were born at the Rectory in Glaston

Christopher Wordsworth was rector at Glaston from 1877 until 1889 when he moved to Tyneham in Dorset. His grandfather, also named Christopher, was the brother of the poet William Wordsworth and his father, another Christopher, became the Bishop of Lincoln.

By the time he was three years old, Osmund Wordsworth's family had moved to Dorset. He was educated at Durnford school at Langton Matravers, Dorset (1895-1899), and like his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he went on to Winchester College (1899-1906) and then to Trinity College, Cambridge. He graduated in 1909 and taught briefly at Lancing College. From 1911 to 1914 he was Lecturer in Classics at Selwyn College, Cambridge. In 1914 he published a novel entitled *The Happy Exchange*. That same year he emigrated to Canada to take up a post as a lecturer at Trinity College, Toronto. He had travelled on the steamship *Andania*, arriving in Quebec on 24th September.

However, within six months, and mindful of the recruitment campaign at home, he had now decided to

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.
CUNARD



**EUROPE VIA LIVERPOOL
LUSITANIA**

Fastest and Largest Steamer
now in Atlantic Service Sails
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, Fri., May 7, 5 P.M.
Orduna, - - Tues., May 18, 10 A.M.
Tuscania, - - Fri., May 21, 5 P.M.
LUSITANIA, Sat., May 29, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, Fri., June 4, 5 P.M.
Gibraltar-Genoa-Naples-Piraeus
S.S. Carpathia, Thur., May 13, Noon

NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22, 1915.

Warning published by the Imperial German Embassy (Peter's Lusitania Page, wordpress.com)

On 7th May the *Lusitania* was torpedoed by a German U-boat about eleven miles off Cork on the southern coast of Ireland, an area which was within the declared maritime warzone around Great Britain. The ship sank in only eighteen minutes. Of the 1,266 passengers and 696 crew aboard, only 761 survived. Of these 434 were adult passengers and 40 were children. Many of the casualties were American citizens and the sinking turned public opinion against Germany, contributing to the American entry into the War.

According to the Salisbury Cathedral Roll of Honour Osmond gave his lifebelt to another passenger during the last minutes before the vessel finally sank. He was one of the last to leave the ship but survived and was rescued soon after. His sister Ruth was rescued some three hours later when she was found on an upturned lifeboat in an unconscious state.

return to England to join the army. From Toronto he travelled to New York, arriving on 30th April 1915 to board the *Lusitania* the following day.

This was despite the dire warning published by the Imperial German Embassy that ships flying the flag of Great Britain in waters adjacent to the British Isles were liable to destruction.

Osmond was joined on the *Lusitania* by his sister, Ruth, who had been a missionary in Tokyo. She had travelled to New York via Shanghai, and Seattle.

Osmond shared a cabin on the *Lusitania* with the Rev Hugh Morris who was also a lecturer at Trinity College, Toronto.

The following newspaper report records a little more of Osmond and Ruth Wordsworth's story:

'Among other survivors from the Lusitania who arrived in London yesterday were Osmond Bootle (sic) Woodsworth (sic) of Trinity College, Toronto, and his sister, Ruth Marks Woodsworth (sic).... Each had thought the other lost until they met again in Queenstown on Saturday morning.' (The Province, Vancouver, 12 May 1915, p 6).

[Queenstown, now known as Cobh, is a seaport town on the south side of Great Island in Cork Harbour].

The Rev Hugh Morris was also a survivor. Incredibly, he returned to the USA in September 1915 on the *St Paul*, bound for Trinity College, Toronto, where he resumed his teaching post.



The sinking of Lusitania by Norman Wilkinson (Illustrated London News 15 May 1915 p631).

Osmond had been in the Canadian Officer Training Corps as a private from October 1914 to April 1915. When he was back in England in June 1915, he enlisted in the 9th Battalion of the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and reported to Portsmouth Garrison for training.



*Second Lieutenant
Osmond Bartle
Wordsworth
(Winchester College).*

He transferred to the 21st Company Machine Gun Corps (Infantry) in April 1916 and received orders for France on 28th August. He embarked with his Company on 31st August and landed at Boulogne later that same day. He arrived at Etaples on 1st September.

Second Lieutenant Wordsworth was killed on 2nd April 1917 in the Battle of Arras, while positioning his guns in the village of Henin-sur-Cojeul, five miles south-east of Arras. He had insisted on going into the open to see that all his guns were in position and was shot while on his way from one post to the next.

Osmond was buried at Henin-sur-Cojeul, but his grave and those of others were destroyed by shell fire.

In 2012, a farmer was digging in his garden in the village following storm damage caused by heavy rains when he discovered the remains of a body. Once the local gendarmerie had officially declared the find as of no criminal interest it became a case of trying to identify a missing soldier. Following the discovery of a regimental button and from the quality of remnants of the uniform, it was established that the remains were those of an officer of the 5th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Other finds included a watch, a penknife, a torch and battery, and a whistle.



Items found with the remains of the officer at Henin-sur-Cojeul (Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum).



Research, in collaboration with the regimental museum (The Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum at Woodstock, Oxon), was conducted by the Ministry of Defence War Detectives, more formally known as the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre Commemorations (JCCC) team. They are based at Imjin Barracks, Gloucester and are part of the wider Defence Business Services organisation. They investigate and attempt to identify the remains of British armed forces personnel discovered in World War 1 and later battlefields across the world.

In this case, their extensive research, which focused on four men who went missing near the village of Henin-sur-Cojeul, proved to be inconclusive, and it was not possible to identify the officer by name. Consequently, he was buried in 2015 as an unknown soldier at H A C Cemetery, Ecoist-St Main, France.

In 2021, the MoD War Detectives contacted a great nephew of Osmund and a swab was provided for DNA analysis. This confirmed that the remains were indeed those of Osmund Wordsworth. A new gravestone has been commissioned and will be erected on his grave in France in 2022.

Osmund Bartle Wordsworth is commemorated on Panel 10 of the Arras Memorial to the Missing. He is also remembered on the Durnford School war memorial in Langton Parish Church, in Winchester College War Cloister, at Lancing, Selwyn and Trinity Colleges, Cambridge, on the Trinity College Chapel war memorial in Toronto, Canada, and in the Salisbury Cathedral Memorial Book. [Osmund's father, the Rev Christopher Wordsworth, was Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral from 1917 to 1938].

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Paul Reeve for suggesting this article, and for information supplied from his research.

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William Samuel Dalby DCM

Robert Ovens

Following on from the account of the presentation to Arthur William Cant DCM in the 2021 *Newsletter*, another picture postcard of a similar presentation has been found in the Jack Hart Collection at Rutland County Museum.

Unfortunately, most British WW1 service records were lost when the War Office warehouse (the Army Records Centre), where they were stored, was hit by a German incendiary bomb in an air raid in 1940. Consequently, these accounts, based on articles in the



Grantham Journal and other newspapers, may be the only surviving records of the gallantry of these men.

Sergeant William Dalby was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) for his conspicuous gallantry in November 1915 whilst serving in the Leicester Regiment.

He was the eldest son of William and Ellen Dalby of Bisbrooke who had two other sons serving with the Leicesters at the same time.

William enlisted in November 1914, when he was 21 years old, and went over to France with the Expeditionary Force on 29th July 1915.

He won the decoration whilst belonging to a trench mortar battery near Bienvillers, Pas de Calais, France. When a mortar was being fired, one of the bombs fell near the gun position owing to a defective charge. Shouting to the men nearby to run clear, and regardless of all danger, he re-loaded the 50lb bomb, in which the fuse was still burning, and fired it clear of the trenches, saving the lives of many men.



A photograph by W J W Stocks of the presentation to Sergeant William Dalby in Market Place, Uppingham on Friday 12th May 1916 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

In recognition of Sergeant Dalby's noble deed, a committee was formed to arrange for a public testimonial, support being solicited in Bisbrooke, Glaston and Uppingham. Whilst he was on a short leave, a considerable gathering witnessed the presentation to William in Uppingham Market Place on the afternoon of Friday 12th May 1916.

An impressive quadrangle was formed around the Market Place, consisting of Uppingham School Officer Training Corps under Major Sterndale-Bennett, Uppingham Volunteer Training Corps, Uppingham School Band, and a large number of local people.

At one o'clock, Sergeant Dalby was escorted to the platform accompanied by members of the Presentation Committee with R H Owen, Headmaster of Uppingham School and E Hockliffe, an assistant master. Mr Hockliffe said the whole of Uppingham and the villages of Bisbrooke and Glaston had contributed towards the token of respect. The headmaster described William's gallant action and then presented a gold watch and six savings bonds to him.



R H Owen, Headmaster of Uppingham School (left), addresses the gathering, accompanied by E Hockliffe, an assistant master of the school. Immediately behind are members of the presentation committee. Sergeant William Dalby stands to the side awaiting the presentation. (Jack Hart Collection, at RCM).

Reference

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Wing Windmills, its Millers and Bakers

Sheila Sleath

Whilst researching my family history I found a connection to a John Bradshaw who was apprenticed in 1804 to John Peach, a Wing miller. John Bradshaw spent much of his married life as a baker at Kibworth Harcourt and Tur Langton, Leicestershire, before returning to Wing as a widower. He was working there as a baker sometime after 1841 through to at least 1851. This research generated a great deal of information relating to Wing mills, millers and bakers and it seemed sensible to publish these findings.

A mill at Wing is noted in the twelfth century (VCH II, p104) and David Henry records that a 'post mill appears in the 1772 Enclosure' (Henry, p24). Armstrong's map of 1791 shows a windmill at Wing and King's map of 1806 features two mills located on opposite sides of the road leading to Glaston. They are clearly shown on the original Ordnance Survey map published in 1824. Although the earlier maps are lacking in detail it seems reasonable to conclude that the mill on the east side, sited where Mill Close is today, was the earlier of the two. They must have been an imposing sight when entering the village.



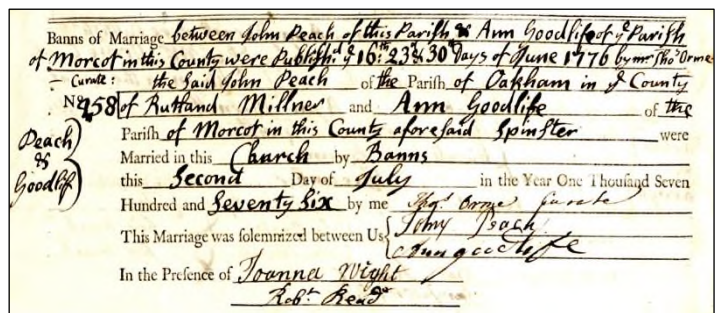
Two windmills are shown at the side of the Wing to Glaston road on the 1824 Ordnance Survey map.



Preston post mill c1910. Those owned by John Peach at Wing may have been similar (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

Wing parish registers only give a few names of residents whose occupations were millers or bakers during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Millers recorded were Nicholas Barnaby who married in 1633, and Randolph Eaton, Richard Pepper and William Smitten [Smeeton] whose children were baptised respectively in 1640, 1659 and 1701. William and Richard Baines were recorded as bakers between 1701 and 1727/8. Apprenticeship records give Thomas Bullock as a master baker at Wing in 1796 when his apprentice was Thomas Michelson (TNA IR 1, piece 68).

John Peach was the miller and baker at Wing at the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is difficult to determine his parentage, but he may have been the son of William and Mary Peach baptised at Morcott on 11th March 1743 (ROLLR DE2876/2). John Peach, a bachelor, living at Oakham and a millner (*sic*) married Ann Goodliffe of Morcott at Oakham on 2nd July 1776. They lived in Oakham where their children Robert and Mary were baptised in 1777 and 1780. They moved to Wing during the 1780s and it was here that daughters Ann and Sarah were baptised in 1789 and 1796.



The marriage of John Peach and Ann Goodliffe in 1776 in the Oakham Parish Register (ROLLR DE 2694/9).

As a master miller, John Peach is known to have taken on three apprentices whilst at Wing: Sam Vials in 1797, Richard Wignell in 1802 and John Bradshaw in 1804 (TNA IR 1, piece 71). In October 1804, a windmill at Wing belonging to John Peach was blown down whilst he was working in it. He managed to escape uninjured and presumably the mill was repaired (*Ipswich Journal* 27th October 1804, p1). By 1812, John owned both windmills at Wing.

John Peach was buried at Wing on 15th October 1812 and his will, written nine days before his death, reveals that he lived in a messuage adjoining the bakehouse in Wing. This was left to his married son Robert who was a master baker living at Whissendine. Amongst other bequests to Robert was '... a warehouse for flour Brewhouse [believed to be today's Kings Arms opposite the old bakehouse] and heredit thereunto adjoining which were purchased by me from Henry Sharpe Esquire also all those my two Wind Mills in the parish of Wing aforesaid and the Ground whereon the

same do stand and the piece of land containing one Acre or thereabouts adjoining....' (TNA PROB 11/1542/188). Robert, the new owner of the mills and bakehouse, was fortunate in that his brother-in-law Thomas Morris, who had worked alongside John Peach, continued in the role of miller and baker at Wing. Thomas, baptised on 28th December 1783 at Caldecott, was the son of Thomas and Sarah Morris (ROLLR DE4195/3). In the 1790s he was apprenticed to Henry Jackson, miller of Lyddington (TNA IR 1, piece 71) and he married Robert's sister Ann in 1806.



This headstone of John Peach is beside that of his wife in Wing churchyard. Wing parish register (ROLLR DE1846/3) records that he was buried 15th October 1812 (author).

On 9th December 1814, the *Stamford Mercury* (p2) reported that John Taylor, an apprentice of Thomas Morris, had absconded. It is not known if he returned to Wing to complete his apprenticeship.

WHEREAS JOHN TAYLOR, Apprentice to Mr. THOMAS MORRIS, miller and baker, of Wing, in the county of Rutland, ABSCONDED from his said master's service on the 23d of November last. If the said apprentice will forthwith return, he shall be favorably received; and his misconduct forgiven, both by his master and parents.
Wing, 7th December, 1814.

The notice regarding the absconding of John Taylor, Thomas Morris' apprentice (SM 9th December 1814, p2).

Two years later Joseph Adcock, another apprentice of Thomas Morris, was assailed whilst returning with his master's cart to Wing from Preston. He was 'knocked down with a bludgeon by a man dressed in a smock frock reaching half way down his thighs' and was robbed of about £5. 'The robber appeared to be of a light weight, something more than five feet high, and in every respect resembling, a labouring man'. Thomas was a subscriber to the Rutland Association for the Prosecution of Felons and a notice in the *Stamford Mercury* by the Association's clerk added, that

'whoever will give information of the offender ... shall on his conviction' receive 5 guineas from both Thomas Morris and the Association (12th January 1816, p3). It is unknown if the culprit was found.

An auction held at his premises in Wing in August 1819 suggests that Thomas had fallen upon hard times. The auction included livestock, crops, implements of husbandry, brewing utensils and household furniture (SM 6th August 1819, p1). He was declared bankrupt in 1820 by which time he had moved from Wing. His mother-in-law Ann Peach's will, dated June 1830, states that a bequest made to her daughter Ann was 'for her sole and separate use independent of any husband' and that in the event of her daughter's death the bequest was to be divided between her four named children, the implication being that Thomas and his wife had separated. Details in the 1841 census for Plumstead, London, and in that for Woolwich, London, in 1851, possibly identify where Thomas settled on leaving Wing. On both occasions he is recorded as a journeyman baker.

In an advertisement in the *Stamford Mercury* on 23rd April 1819 (p3) Robert Peach was offering for sale the 'excellent new-erected POST WINDMILL, accounted to be the best Mill in the county of Rutland' and sited at Wing, but it was not sold at this time.

A month later, a newspaper report covered the inquest into the tragic death of Robert Peach's twelve-year old son, Robert, in one of the windmills at Wing. The deceased, along with another boy, was serving an apprenticeship under Mr Laxton, the miller (SM 28th May 1819, p3). Within a year Robert senior had died at Whissendine 'by the sudden bursting of a blood vessel in the head ... a man universally respected' (SM 18th February 1820, p3). Ownership of Wing windmills then passed to his wife Anne. Shortly after, in May 1821, an Amos Butt, miller and baker at Wing, was declared bankrupt.

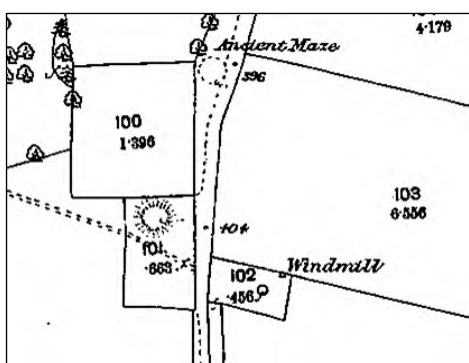
Nine years later, Anne Peach advertised to let the windmills and the bakehouse at Wing, stating that the whole 'were in full trade' (SM 6th February 1829, p2). Her eldest son John was miller there in 1830 and 1832. In 1838 she decided to sell property she owned in Wing and Whissendine. An auction was held at the Exeter Arms (*sic*), Wing, on 17th September 1838 and amongst the Wing lots were the two windmills. Each mill was described in Lot 1 and 3 as a 'Post Corn Windmill, with large Round house, and standing and going gear'. That in Lot 1, 'To be removed or not as shall be determined at the time of Sale', was let to Joseph Slater. The other mill was in the occupation of Thomas Compton. Lot 4 was advertised as 'All that large and convenient Messuage or Tenement, with the Bakehouse, Outbuildings, Yard, and large Garden'

(*Leicester Journal* 14th September 1838, p1) and was also let to Joseph Slater.

The mills appear not to have been sold at this auction as they were put up for auction again in May 1839, two months after the death of Anne. One of the mills along with a good dwelling house and bakehouse in the occupation of John Bradshaw and Joseph Slater was advertised to let '*with immediate possession*'. This implies that Joseph Slater was at this time occupying the mill previously rented by Thomas Compton. The mills were possibly still part of the Peach estate as application for this letting was to be made to John Willford, a relieving officer who lived at Uppingham. He was the son-in-law of the deceased Anne Peach.

Six months later an advertisement was placed in the *Stamford Mercury* (15th November 1839, p1) for an apprentice to a miller and baker at Wing. Applications on this occasion were to be made to Henry Penn, Wing Mills. Did this address indicate that there were still two mills in Wing at this date, and was Henry Penn the owner? The identity of Henry Penn has not been determined. Also, were the mills sold on soon afterwards and was the mill in Lot 1 removed? What is known is that William Bagley was a baker at Wing in 1840 and William Woodcock and Charles Presgrave are recorded as being millers there in 1841. By 1851 William Woodcock had moved to Stamford where he is recorded as a farmer. He spent the rest of his working life as a baker at Deeping St James, Lincolnshire.

The mill on the west side of the road to Glaston was no longer there in 1885 (OS Series 1 25" map) and, although this map was surveyed a long time after the advertisements of 1838, it confirms that it was the mill in Lot 1 that was removed. However, exactly when has not been determined.



The mill on the west side of Glaston road had been removed by 1885 (OS Series 1 25" map of 1885).

Millers are known to have worked in more than one mill and millers and bakers moved from place to place quite frequently. The men noted in the advertisements of 1838 and 1839 are examples of this practice. Joseph Slater was a baker at Preston in 1841 and a journeyman miller at Uppingham in 1851. Census returns show that

Thomas Compton was a miller at Ketton in 1841, at Leicester in 1851, at Anstey, Leicestershire, in 1861 and as an unemployed miller at Nottingham in 1871. By 1881 he was a pauper living at Nazareth House in Nottingham, where he died in 1882. John Bradshaw was a baker at Kibworth, Leicestershire, before 1824, at Tur Langton, Leicestershire, in 1841 and a baker at Wing from about 1846 to 1851.

It is believed that Charles Presgrave, baptised at Bourne, Lincolnshire, on 10th August 1810, purchased Wing mill, bakehouse and the adjoining property about 1840/41. Exactly when Charles bought this property, owned by John Peach pre-1812, is unknown. In April 1840, the baptism record of his son John Thomas at Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, gives Charles' trade as miller. By June the following year, he was living at Wing as a miller. Census returns, parish registers and trade directories confirm that Charles, two of his sons and a grandson traded as millers and/or bakers in the village for over a century.

The Wing census return of 1841 records Charles Presgrave as a thirty-year-old miller, and his household consisted of his second wife Elizabeth, sons Charles and John and two servants. His sons were born outside the county of Rutland.

Charles, as miller and baker, advertised for a young, unmarried journeyman in October 1841. The successful applicant could be one who had served part of his apprenticeship and who was recommended by his previous employer (*SM* 15th October 1841, p3).

Five years later he advertised for a journeyman miller (*SM* 4th September 1846, p3). White's Directory of 1846 (p641) names Charles Presgrave, Mrs Baines and John Bradshaw as the bakers in Wing. Mrs Baines was Mary Ann the widow of baker Henry Baines who had died at Wing in 1843, and she and John Bradshaw are recorded as Wing bakers in 1851. Other named bakers living at Wing recorded in the parish records in this decade are William Bagley in 1840 and John Rollerson in 1848.

In 1851 Charles' occupation is given as '*Miller & Baker, Grocer, Beer Retailer*' and '*Master employing 2 men*'. By this date, his household consisted of his wife Elizabeth, four sons and two daughters, Tebbutt Tyres, a journeyman baker, Alfred Routen, a journeyman miller and baker, and a female servant. Within the next ten years both journeymen had left Wing and were living in Leicestershire. In 1861, Alfred Routen was a married baker living in Ashfordby, and Tebbutt Tyres was an under gardener at Loddington.

By 1861, Charles, as '*Miller, Baker & Grocer*' was employing his eldest son, Charles Bowker Presgrave, as a miller. His second eldest son, John Thomas Presgrave, had settled in nearby Edith Weston where he became

the village baker. In the 1871 Wing census, 'Beer House' is included in the 'trade' column for Charles, now aged 61 years. Working alongside him is his son Charles as miller and his eighteen-year-old son William as baker. The beer house recorded is almost certainly the Kings Arms of today. At some time over the next ten years William had left Rutland to work as a railway foreman. White's 1880 Directory (p536) gives Charles Presgrave as beer retailer and shopkeeper and Charles Bowker Presgrave as baker and miller. Charles' youngest son Herbert Palmer Presgrave had joined the family business by 1881 and, like his father and brother, was a corn miller and baker.

Charles senior died at Wing in August 1889 aged 79 years and a headstone to him and his wife Elizabeth, who died in 1881, is in Wing churchyard. In 1891 Charles junior, now married, was recorded as a miller in Wing and his brother Herbert, also married and living in Wing, was recorded as 'Miller, Baker & Beer Retailer', possible proof that the mill was still in existence. By 1901 Charles junior had retired and his brother Herbert is now recorded as a baker and a shop keeper living in the baker's shop with his wife Ann, three children and a female servant. The details given in this census return may indicate that the windmill was redundant or had been removed.

Charles junior died at Wing in 1909. In 1911 Herbert was recorded as the village baker and in 1916 as 'beer retailer' (Kelly, p692). It is recorded that a Mr Presgrave, presumably Herbert, owned Preston mill, which he subsequently demolished in 1926 (Henry, p21). The 1939 Register for Wing gives him as innkeeper at the Kings Arms and his son Charles as 'Baker & Postmaster'.



The former home and bakehouse of John Peach opposite the entrance to the Kings Arms (author).

Herbert died in 1946. It is not known when the bakehouse was sold, but in 1953 it was being used as a bakery by an Oakham firm. Soon after, it was condemned as a bakery.

It has not been possible to establish exactly when the mill on the east side of Glaston Road

ceased working or when it was removed. The OS 25" map of 1885 shows the mill *in situ*, and the occupations given for Charles and Herbert Presgrave in the 1891

census return imply that the mill was still functional. However, in the 1901 census return, Herbert was described as a baker, not a miller, and the OS 1" map of 1899 shows this mill as 'Old Windmill'.



The 'Old Windmill' on the OS 1" map of 1899 is believed to have stopped working sometime after 1895.

The OS 25" map of 1904 shows that the 'Old Windmill' was no longer there. Only the mound of the west windmill is shown. In 2021, houses occupy the site of the former east windmill, now known as Mill Close.



Charles Presgrave, son of Herbert, in the Presgrave baker's cart about 1908. With him is Hilda Manton of Lyddington, his wife-to-be (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).

Abbreviations

OS - Ordnance Survey; RCM - Rutland County Museum; ROLLR - Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland; SM - *Stamford Mercury*; TNA - The National Archives.

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Parish Boundary Project Update 2

Tony Martin

Just to recap, the aim of this Council for British Archaeology (CBA) East Midlands project is to survey and record the existing parish boundaries in every county in the East Midlands. The survey results are then included on a dedicated CBA website (see <https://boundaryproject.cbaem.org>).

'This project is designed to involve local groups in a regional exercise to map their local parish boundaries and identify features of archaeological and historic interest that mark them. This way a large number of local groups can make a small contribution to a large project. The result will be a unique online resource accessible to anyone with an interest in historic landscapes and will serve as an important record.'

'Ancient boundaries are marked by a vast variety of walls, ditches, banks, hedges and trees, but currently there is no systematic record of the patterns of their individual elements. The recording involves starting with parish boundaries on historic maps and then going out and recording their form and condition – to create a 21st century 'domesday' GIS [Geographic Information System] with linked drawings and photographs.'

I am leading this project for the Society and my first report was included in the 2021 Newsletter. This report details the progress and objectives for 2021/2022 and includes a survey example.

With Autumn 2021 firmly behind us and the trees and hedges losing their last traces of greenery, it was time to strap on the boots and get on with the project.

Here is an update of what has been achieved so far and what we hope to complete in the coming months:

Barrowden - Northern boundary partially surveyed.

Bisbrooke - Western and southern boundaries partially surveyed. 54 photos linked to Google Earth Pro and narrative partly completed.

Morcott - Boundary completely surveyed. 249 photos linked to Google Earth Pro and narrative completed.

Pilton - Southern, western and eastern boundaries surveyed. 28 photos linked to Google earth Pro and narrative partly completed.

South Luffenham - Southern boundary partially surveyed.

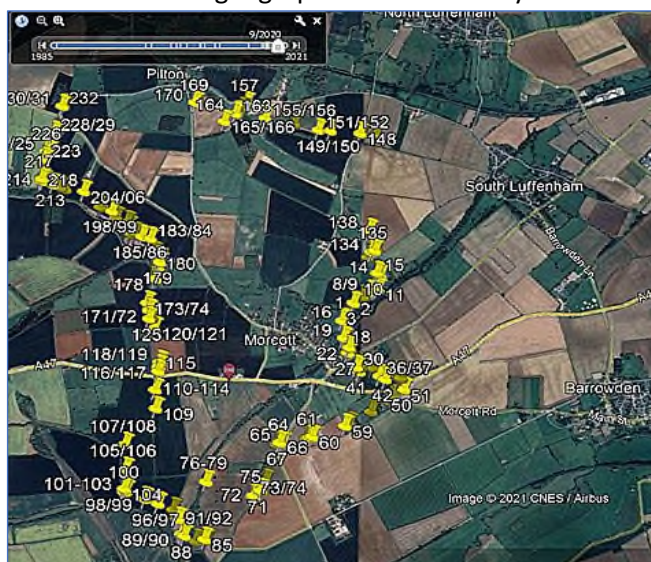
Stoke Dry - The section running through the Eyebrook Reservoir remains to be surveyed, otherwise this parish is complete. 134 photos linked to Google Earth Pro and narrative almost completed.

Uppingham - One small section of the northern boundary remains to be surveyed, otherwise complete. 82 photos linked to Google Earth Pro and narrative partly completed.

The plan for the 2022 season is to finish Bisbrooke, Pilton, Stoke Dry and Uppingham before concentrating on Barrowden, South Luffenham and hopefully North Luffenham.

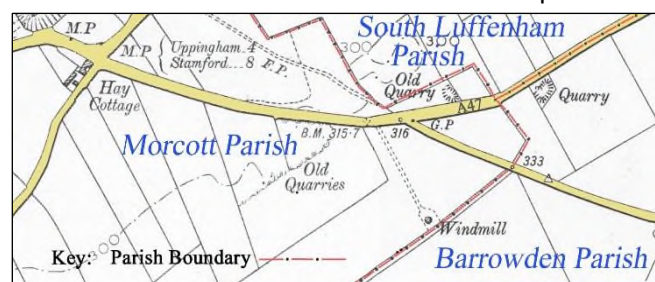
As each new section is surveyed, we capture two, or even three parishes, so things begin to get easier although there is still a long way to go.

The Morcott parish boundary survey is a good example of the project work using Google Earth Pro as the basis for the geographic information system.



This screenshot shows the reference numbers of photographs taken during the Morcott parish survey. Google Earth Pro enables the recording of boundaries by attaching photos along the way.

The following extract from the survey narrative refers to the Morcott parish boundary between the A47 and Morcott windmill shown on this map:



'... The Morcott boundary then crosses the A47 to the south and enters a field on the eastern side of the Barrowden Road. There is a noticeable curve in the hedge at this point and a short-pointed post sits in the hedge line (45-47). Once it enters the field all trace is lost but it crosses roughly south and emerges onto the Barrowden Road just west of the trackway leading to the windmill (48-49). Crossing the Barrowden Road it then follows what appears to be an original track alongside the modern access road to the mill (50). It is believed that this track allowed access to a stone quarry to the south-west in Barrowden parish (51).

'The track is initially bounded on both sides by Hawthorn and small Ash trees, but this disappears on the southern side as the field boundary has been grubbed out. On the northern side a number of boundary stones are visible at intervals along the verge (52-54) and the hedge line is clearly of some age, with mature Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Alder and Ash ...'



Photo 48. Looking north from the point at which the boundary crosses the Barrowden road (author).



Photo 50. Looking south-west along the old track towards the windmill (author).



Photo 52. One of the boundary stones in the hedge line on the northern side of the old track near the windmill (author).

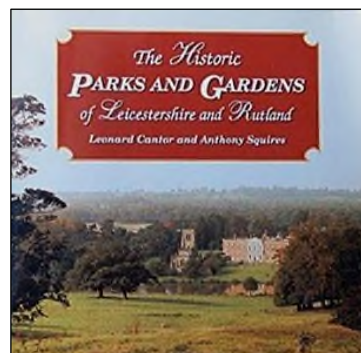
Anyone interested in taking part in this project can contact me by email (steelback58@gmail.com) and I will be happy to explain what is involved and answer any questions.

Obituary - Anthony E (Tony) Squires

Tony Squires, who died in March 2021, was a prolific local historian and one of the stalwarts of the local history and archaeology scene. He was recognised as an authority on medieval woodland, deer parks and gardens, and had been a tutor for the University of Leicester's Department of Adult Education and later for its Institute of Life-Long Learning.

Tony was author, often in collaboration with others, of a range of local and natural history publications, including: -

- (with Wallace Humphrey) *The Medieval Parks of Charnwood Forest*, Sycamore Press, 1986.
- (with Michael Jeeves) *Leicestershire and Rutland Woodlands Past and Present*, Kairos Press 1994.
- (with Leonard M Cantor) *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Leicestershire and Rutland*. Kairos Press, 1997.



He was also a regular contributor to *Leicestershire Historian*, *Transactions of Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society* and *Rutland Record*

His contributions to *Rutland Record* (RR) were: -

- RR12 for 1992 - *Flitteris & Cold Overton: Two Medieval Deer Parks*.
- RR23 for 2003 - *The medieval park of Ridlington*.
- RR31 for 2011- *A Provisional List of the Medieval Woodlands of Rutland (excluding Leighfield Forest) c1086 – c1540*.
- RR34 for 2014 - *Leighfield Forest: Woodlands and Landscape in the Sixteenth and early Seventeenth Centuries*.

Tony later came to Rutland County Museum to talk about the history of Leighfield Forest as part of the Society's and Friends joint talks programme.

In 2006, he was one of the annual British Association for Local History (BALH) publication award winners. This was for his article *The Medieval Park of Ridlington* in *Rutland Record* 23. The presentation for this outstanding achievement was made at the BALH Local History Day held in London in June 2006.

Obituary - Deborah Sawday

Deborah Sawday, who died in October 2021, was well known to many as the ULAS (University of Leicester Archaeological Services) medieval pottery specialist. But her expertise spread far beyond this as a result of experience she gained from working on Bronze Age, Roman, Saxon and medieval archaeological excavation sites.



Debbie joined Leicestershire Archaeological Unit (LAU) in 1974 and worked on many excavations in and around Leicester city as well as in the county. She transferred to ULAS when it was established in 1995 following the closure of LAU.

In Rutland, she assisted Elaine Jones and our committed and enthusiastic Archaeology Team with the identification of pottery sherds found in the field. A major contribution was her reassessment of all the pottery from John Barber's early 1950s excavations at Oakham Castle. All the material had been deposited at the Oakham School Museum and later transferred Rutland County Museum. Her report is included as an appendix in *John Barber's Oakham Castle and its Archaeology*, published by the Society in 2014 as Occasional Publication No 11. This is available to read online at: -

<http://rutlandhistory.org/pdf/oakham-castle.pdf>

Elaine Jones, our retired Archaeological Convener, adds the following: -

'Debs was positively helpful and gave us more than just good advice. She contributed to the identification of the post-Roman pottery from fields around Oakham and the results are published in The Oakham Parish Field Walking Survey [Jones, 2007]. She identified pottery from Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath's Martinsthorpe project, and pottery from Squadron Leader Adams' Whitwell excavation which is now in Rutland County Museum.'

In 2012, along with Nick Cooper, she dated the material from a field at Sweet Hedges in Stockerston. She also dated and provenanced the medieval ridge-tiles in the Ryhall builder's yard of Collyweston slater David Ellis in 2010. These are just some of our projects to which she contributed. She also came to Rutland County Museum for a pottery school teach-in for our members.

Our pot reference collection is made up from sherds she nibbed-off from her own collection – so we cannot forget Debs.'

Debbie will be remembered as a colourful person who was great fun to be around. She will always be missed by those who had the great fortune to work with her.

Obituary - Jill Bourne

Jill Bourne, who also died in October 2021, was an historian and archaeologist with the Education Section of Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service. She had a particular interest in place-names, settlement and landscape, and held an MA in English Local History from the University of Leicester. She was well known to many as editor of *Transactions*, the journal of Leicestershire Archaeological & History Society.



Jill was also author or editor of several publications with a Rutland connection, including: -

- *Place-names of Leicestershire and Rutland*, Leicester Libraries and Information Services, 1977.
- (with Amanda Goode) *The Rutland Hearth Tax 1665*, Rutland Local History & Record Society, Occasional Publication No 3, 1990.
- *Anglo-Saxon Landscapes in the East Midlands*, Leicestershire Museums, Arts & Records Service, 1996.
- *Understanding Leicestershire and Rutland Place-names*, Heart of Albion Press, 2003.

Golden Jubilee Drinking Fountains

Robert Ovens

photo - RO



The Grade II listed 'Gothic revival' drinking fountain in Uppingham Market Place was installed to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the reign of Queen Victoria. It replaced a hand pump and lamp column with three lights. The monument was made at a cost of £73 10s by stonemason Smithson Thorpe of Uppingham to a design by Mr Rossiter, the drawing master of Uppingham School. The decorative cast-iron gas lamp bracket was made by a Mr White, the whole cost being less than £100 which was raised by public subscription. However, the final decision to erect the monument was not made until the Jubilee Memorial

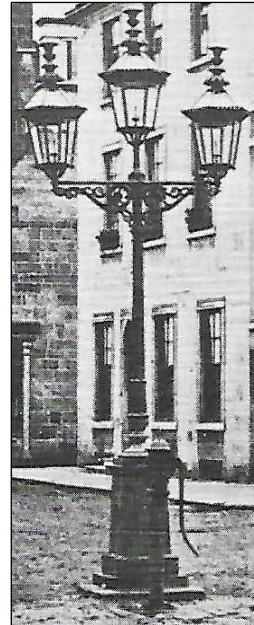
Meeting on 15th November 1889, so the work was not completed until the early 1890s (*Grantham Journal* 23rd November 1889, p2).

It has small piscina-like niches with basins on each alternate face, that to the south originally having a water-spout. The north face has the Royal Arms and the top has the inscription shown here.

THIS MONUMENT
IS ERECTED BY THE INHABITANTS OF
UPPINGHAM
IN LOVING AND LOYAL
COMMEMORATION
OF THE FIFTIETH YEAR OF
THE REIGN OF HER
MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY
VICTORIA
JUNE 1887
LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

After 130 years of exposure, the limestone of the drinking fountain needed specialist cleaning and restoration. This was carried out in 2021 thanks to a local donation.

The Royal Arms and a capital on the north face of the fountain (RO)



The original hand pump and lamp column in Uppingham Market Place (Traylen, A R, Uppingham in Rutland).

The Golden Jubilee Drinking Fountain at Stocks Hill, Ketton, is also Grade II listed. It was unveiled at a ceremony on Thursday 21st June 1888 when Mr Snell addressed the gathering. At the conclusion of

his speech, 'a glass of water was drawn and handed to Mr. Snell, which he drank, and water was then handed round to any who wished to taste. After a few minutes (by some ingenious arrangement of Mr. Molesworth) beer was drawn from the tap and handed round to the people'. After the votes of thanks were given, the Ketton Brass Band played 'God save the Queen'.

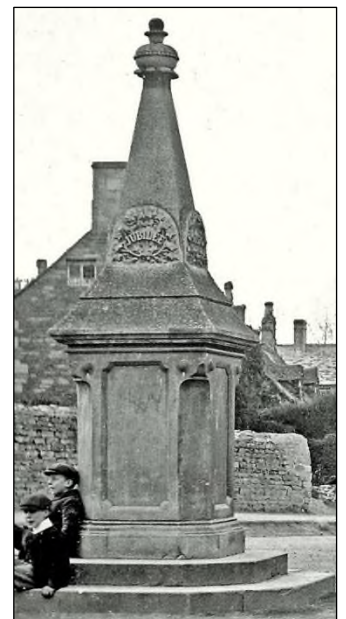
The design and erection of the monument was the work of George and William Hibbins, both stonemasons of Ketton.

'The monument, which is of Ketton stone, on a base of York slabs, stands thirteen feet high. The octagon base is 7ft 2in across, and the shaft is 3ft square, finished at the top with a ball terminal. Near the top is a splendid piece of carving by William Hibbins. On one side is a crown and rose, on another side the word 'Jubilee', and on the other sides '1837' and '1887 V R'. The devices and inscriptions are surrounded by wreaths of oak leaves, laurel and ivy.

The water supply, which has been analysed and pronounced pure, is obtained from a spring near the post-office and is forced up to Stocks Hill by means of a ram pump.' (*Grantham Journal* 30th June 1888, p2).

The total cost of about £100 was raised by public subscription.

The Golden Jubilee Drinking Fountain at Stocks Hill, Ketton, in 1908 (Jack Hart Collection at RCM).



Book Details and Reviews

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A VICTORIAN COUNTRY DOCTOR

A Portrait of Reginald Grove

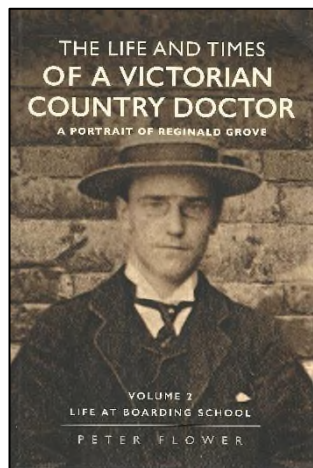
Volume 2 - Life at Boarding School

By Peter Flower

Published by Brown Dog Books, 2021.

ISBN 978-1-8395-2206-2

£24.99. Available from the Self-Publishing Partnership.



This handsomely produced 360 page, well-illustrated paperback is one of the trilogy produced by Peter Flower based upon the diaries of his grandfather who was for many years Medical Officer of Health at St Ives. Its interest to Rutland lies in the fact that Grove (like Flower himself in the 1960s) was a schoolboy between the years 1883

and 1887 at Uppingham School. These were the last years of the tutelage of the great Victorian headmaster Edward Thring.

This second volume of biography is chiefly concerned with Grove's days at Uppingham School. Although quoting diary extracts, the chief benefit of this publication is the considerable research that Flower has done both at Uppingham School and elsewhere, to illustrate the life of the Victorian schoolboy at Uppingham at the time. Flower manages to extract and condense published contemporary school memoirs as well as current historiography relating to Thring and Uppingham written by Tozer and Richardson, supplementing it with material from school archives. This has resulted in a publication of considerable significance to those interested in the development of Victorian public schools and of Uppingham in particular.

Although considerable emphasis is given to the religious background to the teaching (much is made of Thring and his 'mission'), the subjects taught, ranging from classics through to science and games, as well as most aspects of school life at the time, are comprehensively explored in the various chapters. A chapter is devoted to an unfortunate case of bigamy concerning one of the schoolmasters, which caused a minor scandal at the time. Life in Uppingham town itself is also covered giving some details from various sources. There are extensive, fulsome and useful footnotes to the text. However, there is some

repetition between the text and footnotes. In some cases queries raised by the text are answered by the footnotes of a later chapter. Overall this volume is to be commended for breadth of its coverage and should be consulted as a starting point by anybody interested in the development of Victorian Uppingham.

H C

COTTESMORE HALL

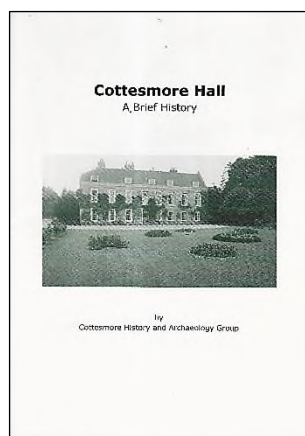
A Brief History

Published by Cottesmore History and Archaeology Group, 2021.

ISBN 978-1-9996-9721-1

£2. Available from the group via their website.

(<https://www.thelivingvillage.co.uk/>)



Apparently, few records remain of Cottesmore Hall which was demolished in 1974. However, those found by the Cottesmore Group have been used to prepare this succinct and interesting twelve-page A5 pamphlet.

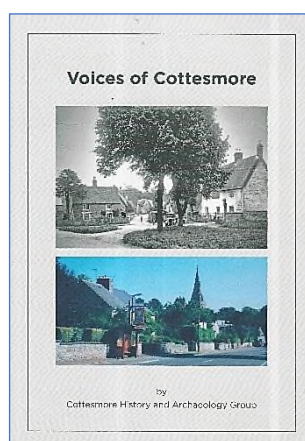
H C

VOICES OF COTTESMORE

Published by Cottesmore History and Archaeology Group, 2020.

ISBN 978-1-9996-9720-4

£5. Available from the group via their website (*see above*).



This Heritage Lottery Funded paperback, thirty-four pages perfect bound in an attractive illustrated edition, is based on the transcripts of interviews with fifteen Cottesmore villagers taken by the group over recent years and published during lockdown. It fulfils the intention of the group to record the memories of

older villagers for future generations.

This is something all local history groups should aspire to prioritise, particularly in today's fast changing local communities. The Cottesmore group achieves this by taking extracts from the literal transcripts of interviews and arranging them under headings such as

Family Life, Farming, Travel and Pleasure, and Village Life. Each small chapter is arranged under smaller subsections, such as *Ironstone, Scrimping* and *Stricklands*. Paragraphs under these headings are more or less literal transcripts of interviews. They are anonymised and run together without any distinction between interviewees, which is quite confusing until one gets used to it.

There is much good and useful material here which would prove of interest to those looking into the social history of Rutland apart from those just solely interested in Cottesmore itself. Although some of the detail is confusing particularly concerning properties since changed or demolished, the reader is left wishing for more. However the group have made a good start in this short publication.

Some of the illustrations are very small on the page and the literal transcription of some of the comments made by the interviewees does not always make the text flow easily. But these are minor criticisms in relation to a publication which is long overdue for the majority of Rutland's communities who should look to this small publication to see how it could be done for their own village and the benefits in recording memories before they are lost forever.

H C

50 GEMS OF LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND

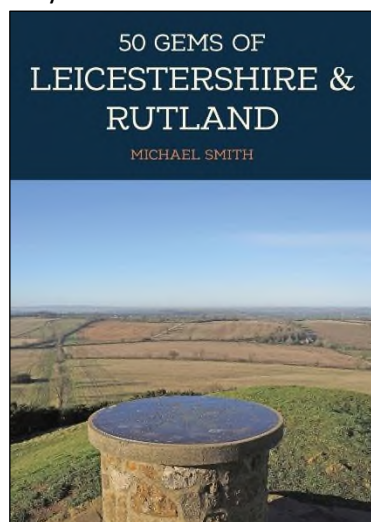
By Michael Smith

Published by Amberley Publishing, 2021.

ISBN:978-1-4456-9701-7

£15.99. 96 pages.

This book has much of interest for locals however well they know the area. For visitors, it offers an excellent



way of planning what to see. Each entry is around two pages long with enough information to give a good sense of the main points of interest, along with the street address, postcode, and often a website link for further information.

The local author highlights some of his favourite places from

both counties, selecting those historic buildings, parks, open spaces, events, festivals and sites which will help locals and visitors alike to make the most of the area.

Amberley Publishing

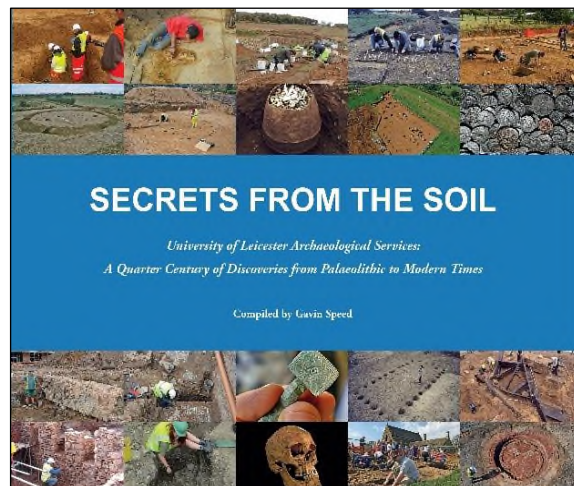
SECRETS FROM THE SOIL - A Quarter Century of Discoveries from Palaeolithic to Modern Times

By Gavin Speed

Published by University of Leicester Archaeological Services, 2020.

ISBN 978-0-9574-7927-2

£9.95. Available from University of Leicester bookshop (<https://shop.le.ac.uk/>).



This new publication marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) in 1995.

One of the strengths of ULAS is being part of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at the University of Leicester, fostering close connections with its research and contributing towards training students to professional standards.

ULAS currently employs around fifty archaeologists and has completed thousands of archaeological projects, often in advance of housing, commercial developments, new roads, pipelines, and quarries within the East Midlands and beyond. However, most of the projects are in Leicestershire and Rutland and the focus of this book is on the most exciting discoveries within these two counties.

It moves chronologically, featuring large colour photos and reconstruction illustrations throughout, exploring rarely seen Palaeolithic hunting grounds; Neolithic monuments and art; Bronze Age bogs and bodies; the only Iron Age bark shield from Europe; Roman buildings, mosaics and burials; an Anglo-Saxon village; the most complete Saxo-Norman timber structure in Britain; medieval houses and a brewery; all the way through to Victorian waterways and 1940s bomb shelters.

With a bibliography providing links to further reading, this book is ideal for those with an interest in learning more of the soil's archaeological secrets.

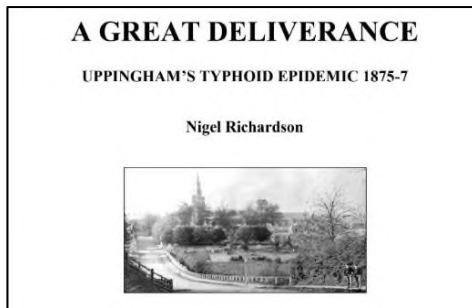
ULAS

A GREAT DELIVERANCE

Uppingham's typhoid epidemic 1875–7

By Nigel Richardson.

Privately published 2021. ISBN 978-1-9196205-0-3.



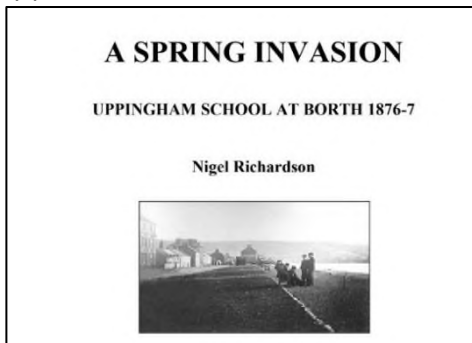
and

A SPRING INVASION

Uppingham School at Borth 1876–7

By Nigel Richardson.

Privately published 2021. ISBN 978-1-9196205-1-0.



Both publications:— paperback, A4, illustrated. Free on-line at <http://uppinghamhistory.org.uk/pubs/borth.pdf>.

Has enough already been written about the uncomfortable years of typhoid outbreaks at Uppingham in the 1870s and Edward Thring's controversial flight with his school to Borth on the Welsh coast, not least by the author of these two parallel publications?

Nigel Richardson taught history at Uppingham from 1971 to 1989 and was thus well-placed to take advantage of the school's archives to document the fractious relationship between the personalities of town and school such as Thring and the rector William Wales, the insanitary conditions exacerbated by the growth in pupil numbers, and the conflicts between institutions such as the local Rural Sanitary Authority and, in London, the Local Government Board. This he did to good effect in *Rutland Record* **21** (2001) and **26** (2006), and *Social History of Medicine* **20.2** (2007), followed by his University College, London, doctoral thesis, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/42578116.pdf>, which in turn became a book, *Typhoid in Uppingham: Analysis of a Victorian Town and School in Crisis 1875–1877* (Pickering & Chatto 2008); see also his study *Thring of Uppingham: Victorian Educator* (University of Buckingham Press 2014). Nor is he the only writer to have put pen to paper about Thring and Uppingham in recent

years: but yet we can welcome these two volumes.

Especially in *Deliverance* we have a useful overview of conditions in the town in the 1870s, giving a sense too not just of relationships between town and gown but of the society of the place as a whole. There is a feeling of what it would have been like to live there with livelihoods threatened by the transhumance of the school away from Rutland, and by foul drainage systems and contaminated water supplies.

Thring's temperament, vacillating between energetic optimism and fearful depression, emerges clearly from the original sources which are so fruitfully used; so too do the obstinacy and belligerence of the various conflicting parties. Officials of the Local Government Board remain largely anonymous, but one can only sympathise as they received yet another bombardment of letters, requests and complaints from Uppingham.

The two volumes might have been better presented as one. Separately, there is a fair amount of repetition between the two, especially with regard to Borth, both in text and illustration, but those with access to the earlier *Rutland Record* articles will find that here there are rather more illustrations.

There is also more in the way of quotation from contemporary sources, but the short reading lists are selective and there is minimal referencing in the text. It would have been helpful to cite and indicate more clearly the whereabouts of specific sources such as Dr Bell's letterbook.

Overall, one is left with a sense of admiration for Thring's determination to overcome the threats facing his school, and the logistical achievement of translating the school lock, stock and barrel to Borth, nearly 200 miles away on the Welsh coast – never mind the language barrier! Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the elections to the board of guardians in 1876 when voting papers were taken to Borth by overnight train from Rugby and returned just in time for the count (*Deliverance*, pp63–4; *Invasion*, pp23–4). A little earlier this could not have happened: there would have been neither railway nor telegraph – even today the journey by train from Rugby to Borth via Birmingham takes up to four hours (and there is no overnight train).

Sixty years ago, this reviewer was an Uppingham School boarder. Borth was more than just a distant memory of something that had happened in the remote past. It was present to the extent that he and his fellows were expected to learn and to sing the words of the *Borth Lyrics*, set to music by Paul David: -

Never, oh never, was heard before,...
...That a school as old as an old oak tree,
Fast by the roots was flung up in the air,...
... And ... Pitched on its feet by the sea.

Tim Clough (OU, Meadhurst 1957)

DATING BY DESIGN

1840-1915

A new way of dating old photographs

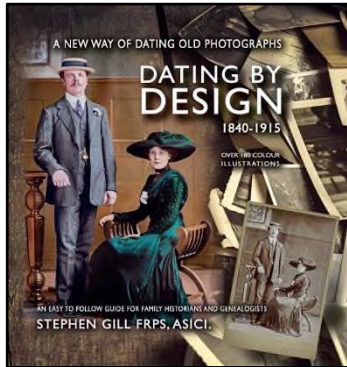
By Stephen Gill FRPS ASIC

Published by The Federation of Family History Societies, 2021.

ISBN 978-1-9062-8060-4

£18.95 plus £3.00 P&P. Available from:

<https://www.familyhistorybooksonline.com>



How many of us have access to a box of old undated photographs of our ancestors? The aim of this excellent and very readable book is to enable us to accurately date them, sometimes even down to a year.

The subject has been tackled in a very detailed and organised manner. This makes it very easy to follow the dating process through the book which is colour-coded by five-year periods.

After a brief history of photography, the author discusses the different types of images, including daguerreotype and ambrotype, and the various small cards like cartes de visite and cabinet cards.

The first step in the dating process is to try to establish the type of photograph. For each period, the book then follows a detailed investigative method, considering fashions of men, women and children with regard to their hair, headwear, neckwear, skirts, trousers, jackets, shoes and so on.

FFHS

STUKELEY AND STAMFORD

Part I: Cakes and Curiosity: the Sociable Antiquarian, 1710-1737

By Diana and Michael Honeybone (editors)

Lincoln Record Society, Volume 109, 2021.

Published for the Society by Boydell & Brewer.

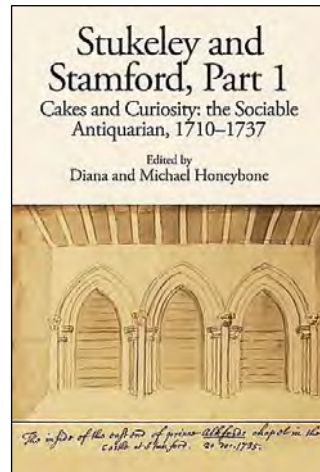
ISBN 978-1-9106-5307-4, ISSN 0267-2634

£40.00. 312 pages. Available from Boydell & Brewer.

Lincolnshire native William Stukeley (1687 – 1765) was a leading antiquarian who lived at Stamford between 1730 and 1740 as the vicar of All Saints Church. This latest volume in the long-standing Lincoln Record Series is a handsomely produced hardback with a comprehensive text and extensive footnotes, as one might expect from these editors and this society. A fulsome introduction leads the reader to the annotated text, accompanied by very helpful and insightful

commentary and appendices of three of Stukeley's works: *The Iter Oxoniense* (1710); *Stanfordia Illustrata* (1735-6) and the *Minutes of the Brazen Nose Society of Stamford* (1736-7).

This book is an important contribution to the study of Stukeley and eighteenth century antiquarianism as well as that of the developing appreciation of Stamford's history in that time. Stukeley visited and wrote about a confederate of Rutland residents including Samuel Barker, William Whiston, and Tycho



Wing, who are all mentioned in the text. Stukeley also visited Ryhall, Great Casterton, Woodhead, Belmes-thorpe and Toilethorpe, in the east of Rutland, all of which are mentioned in the text, together with an interesting commentary on Tickencote church before restoration.

Although those who are interested in Rutland will look forward to the same authors' article on Stukeley's excursions in our county in the forthcoming *Rutland Record* 42, some may wish to supplement their understanding of the man and his sojourn locally by reference to this book.

H C

A YEAR UNFOLDING

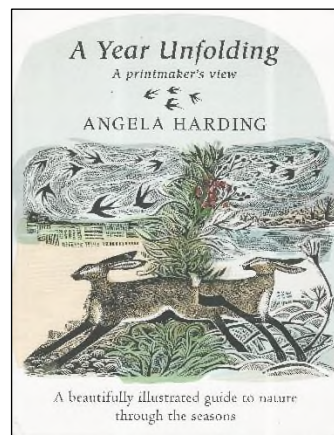
A printmaker's view

By Angela Harding

Published by Sphere Books, 2021.

ISBN 978-0-7515-8433-2

£20.



Described on the dust jacket as 'A beautifully illustrated guide to nature through the seasons', this book by Wing resident Angela Harding does not disappoint. Although the depictions of nature are not confined to Rutland, the Wing countryside is well featured. Her work has

been highly praised and used to illustrate a number of books and publications as well as being published for its own sake. The artwork is accompanied by commentary and 'nature notes' by the artist.

H C

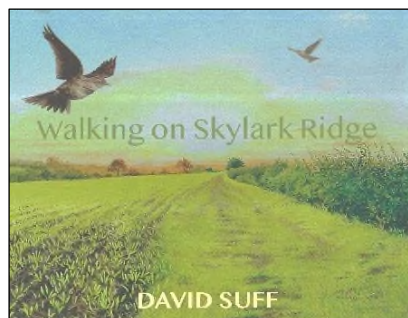
WALKING ON SKYLARK RIDGE

By David Suff

Published by Fledg'ling Books, 2021.

ISBN 978-0-9926-3953-2

£40. Available from www.davidsuff.com



This Uppingham artist is well known for his beautiful artwork and has exhibited locally. During the 2020 lockdown he took a daily walk on the ridgeway near his home

and sketched his impressions of the wildlife and changing seasons. This handsomely produced hardback contains delightful pictures of birds and wildlife completed from his sketches with differing pens, pencils and paper, and suitably coloured. Accompanying these are his nature observations. It is an important commentary on the state of the natural environment in Rutland as well as being a wonderfully illustrated book. It is available through local outlets as well as online. Proceeds from the sale of this book are being donated to the RSPB.

H C

DIARY OF AN ENGLISH COUNTRY ROAD

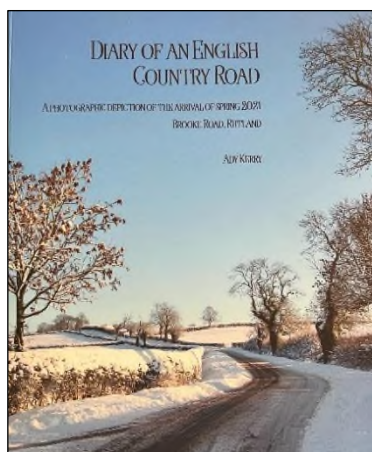
**A photographic Depiction of the arrival of Spring
2021, Brooke Road, Rutland**

Ady Kerry

Published by the author, 2021 .

Available from Walkers Books, Oakham and Stamford.

This is a really skilful and artistically pleasing collection of photographs and accompanying observations which



record the changing seasons during the lockdown in the winter of 2020-2021. It is a micro-study of the defined natural environment of the countryside along the Brooke Road in Oakham.

The exceptional photography along with accompanying commentary, however, gives a greater insight into the Rutland landscape - the co-existence of nature with traffic and the incursion of the road at a moment in time.

H C

Our New Website Interface

We tend to forget that our Society's website has been online in its current format for about fifteen years. The only major change has been to make the site more mobile and tablet friendly.

Over the years, the topics covered, with information made available to a worldwide audience, have increased considerably. New sections and material in various design formats have been tucked in as data have become available.

For some time, it has been apparent that a radical interface redesign was needed to introduce a modern look and feel, using technology to support fast access with an easy-to-follow design making the site easier in use.

With this in mind, we have been creating a new look and feel for the site, hopefully, with a straightforward and fast performing user interface. Some of this ongoing work is to update, correct, or remove outdated individual page content, moving towards a common look and feel across the site.

The site continues to provide functionality to complete forms online and to search for information across multiple Rutland local history websites and pages. There is an updated section of reviews of Rutland-related books, and a section of twenty local history Village Walks, with Belton in Rutland, Hambleton, Lyddington and Wing added recently. Barrowden will appear in time for the 2022 Village Visit, and updates are in preparation to the Langham and South Luffenham walks. We will also continue to add free downloads of our publications as they go out of print.

This has been a complex and time-consuming exercise for Mike Frisby our webmaster, with help from committee members providing feedback on the various updates and changes.

There is no change to our website URL 'rutlandhistory.org', but if after reading this article anyone who types in our URL will be visiting the updated website via its new interface.

Members' comments and suggestions regarding existing and new content will be very welcome.

Many thanks to the authors of articles in this issue of the Newsletter. Please contact me if you have additional information on any of the topics, or would like to contribute an article or suggest an idea for the next issue.

Robert Ovens
(rfovens@yahoo.co.uk)