

In this Newsletter . . .

George Phillips and Tony Traylen Awards 2011	1
Email contact with Society members	2
Membership Subscriptions	2
Joint Meetings Programme	2
Book Reviews	3
The Feet of Fines for Rutland	4
David Henderson Tew	5
Warwick Metcalfe	6
William Henry Baker	6
A Rutland Titanic Query?	8

**UPPINGHAM SCHOOL AND THE OLD HALL LANGHAM
SHARE RUTLAND BUILT ENVIRONMENT AWARD**

The 2011 George Phillips and Tony Traylen Built Environment Awards were presented at Oakham Castle on December 8th by the Society in conjunction with Rutland County Council.

The George Phillips Built Environment Award was awarded jointly to the new Sports Centre at Uppingham School and the Old Hall, Langham. The Award, introduced in 1980, recognises significant contributions by a recent, new or refurbished building or development towards conserving or enhancing the built environment of Rutland.

The Award to Uppingham School was received by David Hearsum on behalf of the Trustees. Located to the west of the town centre in open countryside, the new Sports Centre incorporates a swimming pool, fitness and dance studios, sports hall and gymnasium. Planning Permission was granted in 2008 for the demolition of existing facilities and the erection of the new sports centre and pavilion, including grounds, courts, pitches, paths, parking and landscaping.

The Award to the Old Hall Langham was presented to the owner, Jill Armstrong. The Hall underwent extensive restoration following a devastating fire in October 2007 that caused substantial destruction of the grade II* listed building. Langham Old Hall also received the Tony Traylen Award, formerly known as The Rutland Historic Building Award, introduced in 2007 for the renovation or conservation of an historic building in Rutland.

The awards were presented by Tim Clough, the Society's editor and former curator of Rutland County Museum.



George Phillips Award 2012 winners - David Hearsum (Uppingham School - left) and Jill Armstrong (Langham Old Hall - centre), with Tim Clough. Photo - Mike Frisby



Langham Old Hall in 2011. It has been extensively restored following a devastating fire in October 2007. The fire swept through the roof and kitchen wing to the extent that the roof timbers were severely damaged, windows destroyed and stone walls left in an unsafe condition. Old Hall has a date stone of 1665, but its initial construction by Luke Sharpe was probably that of an important yeoman farmer's property rather than the building it subsequently became. Owen Hugh Smith acquired Old Hall in 1922 and employed the Arts and Crafts Architect H S Goodhart Rendel to create designs for extending and improving the building and its gardens, as well as providing a new entrance lodge and converting five cottages into a guest annexe. Most of the work was completed by 1926.



Langham Old Hall after the fire in 2007



The new Uppingham School Sports Centre



The new Rugby pavilion at Uppingham School Sports centre under construction

Two other projects nominated for the George Phillips Award were Commended. They were The Market Shop at Market Overton, the conversion of a former hairdresser's salon to a community shop, and "The Barn", Barlow Road, Oakham, a former 18th century barn and workshop converted to a dwelling.

The Award ceremony was followed by "Oakham Castle - Recent Archaeological Survey Results", a presentation by Richard Sheppard and Julia Clarke of Trent & Peak Archaeology.

EMAIL CONTACT WITH SOCIETY MEMBERS

Last year we asked members to let the Society have their email addresses. We are repeating this request as we are well aware that an ever-increasing number of members are able to communicate by email and we would like to use this method where possible to keep in touch with you. It is quick and easy, and helps the Society to keep costs to a minimum.

Email addresses will only be used by the Society to distribute information on Society matters, particularly details of events. They will not be used for any other purpose, or passed on to any other individual or organisation.

If you agree to this, please send an email to allow@rutlandhistory.org giving your name and brief address in the subject line, as shown in the following example.

Also, if you have changed your email address in the last 12 months, please let us know the new address by the same method.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RENEWAL

The Society's Executive Committee is concerned that increasing costs (particularly postage and meeting room costs), reduced interest from our invested reserve and falling membership are resulting in the Society running at a loss.

Looking to the future, the outlook for interest rates is bleak, and costs incurred by the Society are set for further rises. As a consequence, and in view of the long lead time needed to initiate a change in subscriptions, the Committee is proposing the following changes at the forthcoming AGM:

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Individual £12; Family/ Institutions £14;
Overseas Supplement £3

SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM MAY 2013

Individual £14; Family/ Institutions £16;
Overseas Supplement £5

If you pay your membership fee by standing order, please ensure that you are paying the correct amount.

Debit or credit cards can now be used for on-line membership renewal. See 'Membership Application & Renewal' on the Society's website at www.rutlandhistory.org, or visit www.genfair.co.uk.

JOINT MEETINGS PROGRAMME

Rutland Local History & Record Society (RLHRS) and the Friends of Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle (FRCMOC).

Note: Open meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of each month, but there are exceptions so it is wise to check the programme for dates and venues.

The remainder of the Spring/Summer programme:

Wednesday 18th April - 7.30 pm - Rutland County Museum
Grass Roots Archaeology: New Insights into the Development of Historic Buildings in two East Anglian Communities

Dr Adam Longcroft, University of East Anglia
Norfolk Historic Buildings Group's systematic analysis of two communities which has shed new light onto the development of vernacular architecture in rural and urban areas.

Wednesday 16th May - 7.30 pm - Rutland County Museum
RLHRS AGM

Followed by: **The Medieval Feet of Fines for Rutland and their importance in local history**

Dr Bridget Wells-Furby

An introduction to the feet of fines for Rutland between 1195 and 1485, indicating their significance as a source for local history and the way they illustrate wider trends in landholding in medieval England

Wednesday 20th June - 7.30 pm - Rutland County Museum
A Role for Volunteer Archivists?'

Nigel and Caroline Webb

The speakers will raise questions about the potential for practical help by amateurs to overstretched archivists, illustrating their talk with examples from the papers of Sir Roger Conant, MP, the Royce Papers, and other collections.

Wednesday 18th July - 7.30 pm - Rutland County Museum
Shopping in Rutland in the Middle Ages - luxuries and the everyday

Professor Christopher Dyer

It is often imagined that medieval people lived on their own produce and did little shopping. It is also often said that the towns provided mainly luxuries for the rich. The evidence points to other conclusions.

August (Date to be arranged) - 7.30 pm - Oakham Castle
The Tennants Lecture

There will be a charge for this meeting and booking will be essential. Further details will be circulated later.

RLHRS and FRCMOC 2012/2013 programme

The 2012/2013 programme is currently being prepared and will be sent to all paid-up members in August. It will also be included under 'Events Programme' on the Society website at www.rutlandhistory.org

Details of the first event in this new programme are now available:

Saturday 15th September

Village Visit to Great Casterton

1.00 pm - Great Casterton Church Hall

This ever-popular event will include talks, a leaflet guided village walk and a photographic exhibition on local history and archaeology. There will be a charge for this meeting and booking will be essential. Further details will be circulated later.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Act Book of St Katherine's Gild, Stamford, 1480-1534

Professor Alan Rogers (ed)

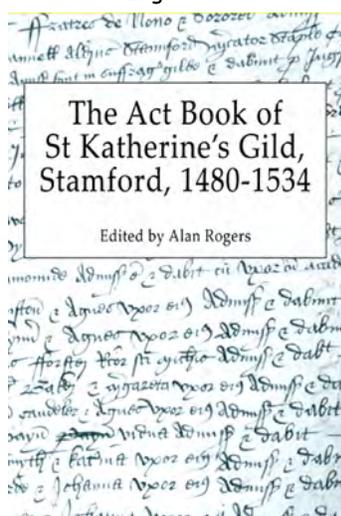
Stamford Survey Group, Stamford, Lincolnshire. 2011

ISBN 978-1-84549-509-1

£19.95

The Henrician and Edwardian Reformations not only destroyed much of the fabric of late-medieval religion, they also ensured the destruction of much of its historical record. That the Act Book of the Gild of St. Katherine in Stamford survived was entirely due to the collecting instincts of Dr William Moore, a seventeenth-century Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, who presented the manuscript to the College's library, thereby ensuring its survival. We should be grateful, therefore, to Alan Rogers and his team from the Stamford Survey Group for their considerable effort in transcribing this substantial document and editing it for publication.

From the point of view of the modern reader the major shortcoming of the Act Book is, as Professor Rogers acknowledges, that it reveals very little of the religious life of the gild. Gilds and confraternities flourished in fifteenth-century England, and the cult of St. Katherine, evident in England from the eleventh century, was widely celebrated.



Decline, however, did set in. Membership was reduced by the late 1520s, the Act Book finishes abruptly in 1534, and there is no record of the gild in the chantry commissioners' report of 1548. Professor Rogers eschews any speculation about the specific circumstances of the ending of the gild. At present, therefore, it is impossible to place its

demise in the context of continuing debate about the nature of popular religion during the Henrician Reformation.

On the other hand, the major strength of the Act Book is what it reveals about the social elite of Stamford and its relationship with the surrounding countryside. The gild lacked the prestige and wealth of Stamford's leading gild, the combined gild of Corpus Christi and St. Mary. Nevertheless, it did give scope for office holding for the 'second tier' of the town's tradesmen and provided a focus for the extension of their connections to celebrities of local and national importance, most significantly Lady Margaret Beaufort, mother of Henry VII. The gild also cultivated links with local clergy in Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. The social basis of its membership moved upwards during the first decade of the sixteenth century. However, this might have had a detrimental effect on the gild's core functions, and the gild seems to have experienced some sort of crisis in 1510, from which it did recover before the final decline set in. This volume certainly represents a significant piece in the rich and complex jigsaw of Stamford's late-medieval religious and civic culture.

Mike Tillbrook

Rutland in Dissent

350 Years of Protestant Meeting-Houses and Chapels

Pauline Collett

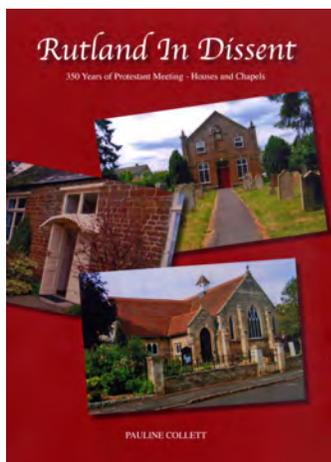
Spiegl Press Limited, Stamford. 2011

ISBN: 978-0-902544-67-3

184 pages

The nine page *Introduction* to this publication sets the scene with a comprehensive background to non-conformity. The following 50 pages provide historical details of the various non-conformist denominations which have been represented to a greater or lesser extent in Rutland. They include the Calvinistic, Presbyterian, Congregational, Baptist, Methodist and Mormon Churches, together with The Religious Society of Friends, The Churches of Christ, Plymouth Brethren and The Salvation Army.

The excellent gazetteer, which is enhanced with historical and recent illustrations, covers almost every parish in Rutland and fills the remainder of the book, apart from a useful two page Select Bibliography at the end.



Sadly, there is no index, but this is partly mitigated by the comprehensive Contents pages. A People index would have been a useful addition. The author, Pauline Collett, a former primary school teacher and later an artist and illustrator, spent several years researching meeting houses and chapels of Rutland for this book and the result is excellent. RO.

Rutland Through Time

Stephen Butt in association with Rutland County Museum

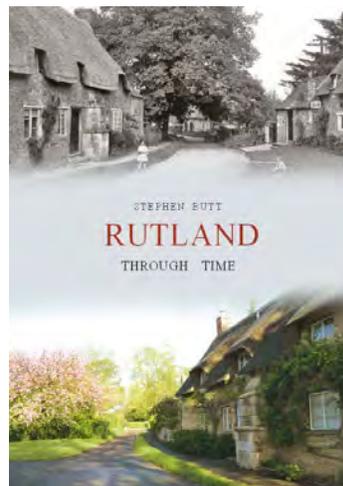
Amberley Publishing 2010

ISBN 9781848689015

96 pages. Paperback.

£ 13.49

This is one of a nationwide series of 'then and now' publications produced by Amberley Publishing. For this volume, the 'then' photographs have been taken from the Jack Hart Collection of old Rutland postcards at Rutland



County Museum. These are printed alongside contemporary full colour photographs which illustrate the same scene. The contrasting images show how Rutland has changed and developed over the last 100 years. The captioned photographs printed on quality paper illustrate shops, schools, garages, churches, houses and street scenes. RO.

THE FEET OF FINES FOR RUTLAND 1197-1509

The Society's next additional publication will be an edition of the Feet of Fines for Rutland prepared by Bridget Wells-Furby and is scheduled for publication in the coming months. In advance of her talk at the AGM on 16th May, Bridget has kindly provided the following comment:

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the feet of fines (the 'foot' of a 'final concord') as a source for medieval history. Arising originally in the late 12th century from legal disputes over land, the format was quickly adopted as the most secure form of property transfer and remained popular even after a statute of 1360 made them less secure. The 'final concord' or agreement was copied in triplicate by clerks of the king's court; each party to the agreement kept one part while the third part, the 'foot', was retained by the court. The accumulation of these 'feet' comprises an official record of land transfers which is unparalleled. The record is not exclusive. Many, perhaps most, transfers of property continued to be made by private charter without an accompanying fine, but their importance as a source lies in two factors: they survive in large numbers and they do not suffer from the bias of survival of private charters in private archives.

This edition will be a calendar of all the feet of fines, a total of 355, in the single county series for Rutland. They are an important source for manorial histories and genealogical studies but they also record the transfer of smaller freeholdings which did not amount to manors, and

therefore shed light on the ranks of society below the manorial lords of the gentry. Some include important topographical details and a few record names of tenants. The edition will provide a detailed summary in English of each of the fines and will be very fully indexed for the names of persons, the names of places, the names of the justices, and subjects. The introduction will provide a full description and explanation of the format of the fines, together with a substantial discussion of some of the ways the fines may be used. The latter will include an analysis of the appearance of women in the fines, the relationship of the fines to the manorial and political geography of the county, and some examples of how and for what purposes the fines were used by contemporaries.

If you want to learn more, come to the Society's AGM on 16th May. Details of the publication schedule and order forms for this important publication will be made available as soon as they are known.

OBITUARY - David Henderson Tew MA PhD 1920-2011

David Tew, the only child of Sir Mervyn and Lady Tew, was born at North Stoneham House, Hampshire, in 1920. His father was a member of the Colonial Judicial Service and



was employed in West Africa where he rose to become Attorney General in Nigeria, before becoming Chief Justice of Sierra Leone.

Unfortunately, the climate in West Africa was unsuitable for a child so David remained in England in the care of aunts and uncles while both his parents were abroad. Early in life David became captivated by books because he lacked playmates, and he remained an avid reader to the end, blessed with excellent eyesight and a phenomenal memory.

David was educated at Bryanston School at Blandford, Dorset, a school remarkable at the time for having no 'fagging' or corporal punishment, and for making boys responsible for planning their own time with a view to preparing them for studying at university. David regarded his time there as the happiest of his early life. He formed friendships which lasted for the remainder of his life.

In 1939 he went up to Hertford College at Oxford University to read History, but his studies were interrupted by his war service. After graduating, he lived in Cambridge where he trained as a solicitor whilst working for Mr Straton Fowler. In 1954 he moved to Oakham where he took over the office originally founded by Mr Fowler's father, Captain Fowler.

David was delighted by Rutland. He cycled round its unspoilt villages and beautiful countryside, and visited most of its ancient churches. He joined the local Chamber of

Trade, the Rotary Club, the Tennis Club and the Local History Society. He was also a member of the Rutland County Museum committee at the time of its opening. His attention was drawn to papers relating to the construction of the Oakham Canal, and after several years of research he published *The Oakham Canal* in 1968. Initially it was in a limited edition designed by Trevor Hickman and illustrated by Rigby Graham and this book has become a collector's item. A second edition including later research was published in 1984 under the title *The Melton to Oakham Canal*. Other publications included *Sewstern Lane* in 1975, *Traction Engines and the Law* in 1981, and *Canal Inclines and Lifts* in 1984.

In 1958, David married Brenda and settled in Langham where he was soon asked to become treasurer of the Village Institute. In due course he served as Churchwarden to three successive vicars. He wrote a guide book for Langham Church (Langham and Barleythorpe in Rutland: its history, church & people), and at the invitation of Rev Arthur Kettle, a guide book for Wing Church.

David had a lifelong interest in the history of engineering technology and as a result he joined the Newcomen Society at the Science Museum in 1944. At meetings there he read papers based on his research work on *John Smith of Coven, Engineer, 1827-1879*, on *Canal Lifts and inclined Planes*, on *The Continental Origins of the Man Engine*, and *The Life of Man*. From 1956 until 1989 he served as the Society's Honorary Solicitor. From 1978 until 1981 he was President of the Society, and was honoured by being made a Newcomen Fellow 'in recognition of his distinguished contribution to the Society'.

On retirement from his law practice David decided to research for a PhD, but had the misfortune to suffer a viral paralysis resulting in transverse myelitis in April 1989, just after starting his studies. He was told that he would remain a paraplegic for the rest of his life, but despite this, he was eventually able to complete his thesis on *The Origins, Rise and Decline of Free Mining Customs*. His PhD was awarded by the University of Leicester in 1998 when he was 77. David Henderson Tew died on 14th September 2011.

We are grateful to Brenda Tew for helping with the preparation of this obituary.

OBITUARY - J P W (Warwick) Metcalfe 1918-2011

Warwick Metcalfe, former Head of Art at Uppingham School, died at Leicester Royal Infirmary in May 2011 aged 83 years.

Warwick was the son of an Army officer in the Royal Warwickshire regiment. He attended the Nautical College Pangbourne in 1942, rising to become a Cadet Captain. He was called up for National Service in 1946, eventually being appointed to an Army unit serving in West Africa. Following demobilisation in 1948, he enrolled at Bournemouth College of Arts to train as an art teacher. His first teaching posts were temporary and during this

time he exhibited paintings at the Royal Academy summer exhibitions of 1953 and 1954.

His first full-time post was at Brambletye preparatory school, West Sussex. After four years there he moved in 1958 to Uppingham School as head of a one-man Art department which also included the School Press -



this Society's editor became Manager of the press under Warwick's tutelage, and many years later got his own back by editing Warwick's article on 50-52 High Street, Uppingham, which appeared in RR17. However, his great enthusiasm, determination to succeed, subversive cunning

and passion to discover young talent and nurture it resulted in some major changes. For the next 21 years he built up his department until it had four teachers and up to 40 'A' level students each year. In 1979 he withdrew from management of the department and finally retired from Uppingham School in 1988.

Warwick with his passion for Art, Architecture and the theatre, inspired many with his creativity, leadership and sense of community. He loved Uppingham - the school and the town and its people - and left a substantial physical legacy behind him including many improvements to the school, particularly the enlargement of the chapel, and his book *Uppingham: A Picture Book of a Unique School*.

In addition to his many works of art, Warwick will be remembered for his Millennium Trust and the Millennium Map of Uppingham, his last great work which he created to raise funds for youth projects. Warwick will long be remembered as a gifted community champion.

WILLIAM HENRY BAKER (1832-1874)

By Vanessa Doe. Genealogical research by Robert Ovens (Based on an article prepared for Campden & District Historical and Archaeological Society which was published in the Society's Autumn 2011 *Notes and Queries*).

This is a follow-up to the introductory article in the 2010 Newsletter on Richard Westbrook Baker, the distinguished 19th century Rutland agriculturalist. William Henry was his eldest surviving son and the following account traces his life from birth at Cottesmore, through education at Rugby School, his training as a land surveyor, and his recognition as a pillar of society in both Rutland and Gloucestershire, to his downfall as a bankrupt 'lime burner'.

Much of the research is based on the Exton Archive at the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, the Royal Agricultural Society Library at Stoneleigh, and the collections at Rutland County Museum. The article also demonstrates the power of the internet as a local and family history research tool - particularly Ancestry.co.uk, Family Search.org and Google Books.

William Henry Baker was born at Cottesmore on 16th August 1832, and baptised on 1st February 1833. His

father was Richard Westbrook Baker (1797-1861), the Land Agent on the Noel estates in Rutland, who married Ann Brown of Melton on 6th December 1820. They lived for a time at The Lodge, Market Overton, where William Henry's elder siblings were born; Ann Caroline, baptised on 6th April 1823, and Richard, baptised on 24th April 1825, both at Market Overton. In 1828, when his father was appointed Agent to Sir Gerard Noel following the death of Thomas Dain and the retirement of Mr Dollin, William Henry's parents moved to the house in Cottesmore now known as Cottesmore Grange. It had formerly been occupied by Thomas Dain, the long serving agent to the Noels of Exton, from whom Richard Westbrook Baker had probably gained valuable insight on the management of a great estate. The house, which stands at the east end of the village beside the Cottesmore to Exton road, was probably quite a modest property when the family moved there. It was subsequently enlarged, first by the building of a new estate office on the east front in 1831 and later by a new range of reception rooms along the south front, probably around 1840.

The land to the south of the house adjoined that of Hall Farm, Exton. William Henry's father also rented this from the Exton estate and this farm and the adjoining land in Cottesmore was to become the site of the famous annual Cottesmore Ploughing meeting established by his father in 1828. Ploughing Meetings were usually held, as today, in the autumn and were intended as a means to demonstrate the most up to date farming techniques. One of the best known inventions to receive the accolade at Cottesmore, the Rutland plough, was designed by his father and manufactured by Ransome of Ipswich. It was one of the innovations demonstrated to 'top agriculturalists' both locally at Cottesmore, and nationally at the Royal Agricultural Society Shows in the 1830s and 40s. The Ploughing Meetings were attended by many of his father's friends and associates who were entertained each year to a dinner in the family home. As a boy the young William will have met many of the most enterprising and educated men from a wide range of farming backgrounds.



The east-facing elevation of Cottesmore Grange showing the new offices built for Richard Westbrook Baker in 1831.

The 1851 census shows that his father, in addition to all his duties on the estate, was farming 250 acres on his own accord with the help of 13 men. William's elder sister Sarah, who was born in Cottesmore and baptised in 1831, was the only child at home on the night of this census. In October 1854, she married Charles Ransome, son of Robert Ransome, her father's friend and associate whose company manufactured the Rutland plough. Their older brother Richard had died aged 8 in October 1833 during the smallpox epidemic in Oakham. His death is recorded by plaque in Cottesmore church.

Ann Caroline by this time had married John Startin, an East India Company agent and had also moved away. The younger brother, Edward George, baptised in Cottesmore in 1835 and now aged 15, together with William Henry aged 17, were in Rugby on census night living with other scholars and pupils at Rugby School. The Rugby School Register records that William Henry was admitted as a pupil in 1846 and that his younger brother Edward George was admitted in 1849

When he left school, probably in 1852 at the age of nineteen, William Henry joined his father and was trained as a surveyor working on the Noel family estates both at Exton and in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. He was sufficiently experienced to direct matters on his father's behalf for the Exton estate during the Thorpe by Water enclosure from 1852 to 1854. He was also involved in the important new valuation of properties on both the Exton and Campden estates, for the purpose of updating and regularising rents. In this connection he corresponded regularly with his father on the valuation of farms in both Rutland and Gloucestershire from 1850 to 1857. His handwritten reports on a number of Rutland farms with his assessment of the tenants' abilities and family circumstances are in the Exton Archives at ROLLR.

By August 1856, at the age of 24, he was sufficiently well known in the county to be invited to be one of the judges at the annual inspection and prize giving of the Allotments. These had been established in many parishes on the Exton estate by his father in the 1830s, and the event was reported both locally and nationally in the *Stamford Mercury* and the *Farmers Magazine*.

As William Henry Baker Esq he was in the company of many county worthies including Lord Gainsborough and his retinue. They judged the Uppingham and Ridlington allotments in the south of the county on the first day, after which they were 'hospitably received by Mr Burgess of Ridlington Park'. On the morning of the second day the party reviewed the Whitwell and Exton allotments and then were 'sumptuously entertained by the noble Earl and Countess at Exton Hall' In the afternoon, the Barrow and Cottesmore allotments were examined and meeting was 'brought to a conclusion by dining at Mr Baker's', the house of his father, Cottesmore Grange. After his father's death in 1861, and described as of 'Westington, Chipping Campden', William Henry was reportedly in Rutland again to judge the allotments.

RUTLAND – SMALL ALLOTMENT SYSTEM

The thirty-second annual examination of this excellent system of spade and fork husbandry, established by the late R. W. Baker, Esq., of Cottesmore, principally upon the Earl of Gainsborough's estate, took place on Friday and Saturday, the 2nd and 3rd Aug. The judges were—Mr. W. H. Baker, Westington, Campden, Gloucestershire; Mr. C. J. Bradshaw, Alstoe House, Burley-on-the-Hill, Rutland; and Mr. John Sleath, Branston, near Oakham. The following prizes were awarded:

Uppingham, Stamford Road Field.—No. 12, Geo. Nutt, first prize, 10s.; No. 1, John Coulson, second prize, 7s.; No. 11, Edward Seaton, third prize, 5s. Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 disqualified for cross cropping, under rule 4.

Uppingham Church Field.—Tibbs Smith, first prize, 10s.; Geo. Tilley, second, 7s.; Geo. Larratt, third, 5s. Highly commended: Thos. Larratt, James Nutt. Commended: Thomas Tyers.

Uppingham Leicester Road Field.—William Richardson, first prize, 10s.; Thomas Chapman, second, 7s.; Joseph Thorpe, third, 5s.

Ridlington New Allotments.—Joseph Barfield, first prize, 10s.; George Webb, jun., second, 7s.; George Webb, sen., third, 5s.

Ridlington Old Allotments.—Robert Manton, first prize, 10s.; Edward Russell, jun., second, 7s.; William Wright, third, 5s.

William Henry Baker of Westington, Gloucestershire, was one of the judges of the Rutland Allotments in 1861
(Extract from The Farmer's Magazine 1861)

On 15th November 1856 William Henry Baker, Land Agent, son of Richard Westbrook Baker and born in Cottesmore, married by license Elizabeth Keen aged 26, daughter of John Keen, a farmer of Westington in the Park, Chipping Campden Their first child, Elizabeth, was born in 1857. Their first son, William, born in 1858, died at the age of 6 months in 1859 and was buried in Chipping Campden churchyard They went on to have three more children, Richard Westbrook in 1860, William Henry in 1861 and Francis Edward Alphonso in 1862. William's wife, Elizabeth, died in May 1863 and was also buried in Chipping Campden churchyard.

In the meantime Richard Westbrook Baker, William Henry's father, had died in Cottesmore on 30th January 1861 and left him properties in Exton, Glaston and Oakham. William had already raised money on the Glaston property from his father's solicitor, Richard Thompson of Stamford. By May 1861, the Exton property had been mortgaged as security against a loan of £2,500 from two local farmers at 4% interest, and further loan of £400 from Charles Richardson, a builder. These loans were still outstanding when in 1865 another loan was taken out with Joseph Phillips, a solicitor of Stamford, for £2017, also secured against the Exton properties. We also know from the 1861 census that he was farming 300 acres in Westington, employing 2 indoor servants and a farm manager. He had every appearance of a prosperous and well established figure in Gloucestershire, as well as in Rutland.

William Henry, described as 'of Cottesmore,' his occupation given as 'lime burner' was declared bankrupt in 1866 and the Bankruptcy Court appointed one John Cave of

Brambridge near Winchester as the Receiver. The Exton properties were sold to the Earl of Gainsborough for £5,500, and the mortgages and loans were paid off leaving the receiver with the remainder to pay outstanding debts.

Only eight months after his wife's death and presumably undeterred by his impending bankruptcy, William Henry had married a second time to Monica Farquharson Cave, age 24 at a ceremony on 21 January 1864, witnessed by her sister Christina and her brother James at Twyford in Hampshire. She was the second daughter of John Cave of Brambridge near Winchester who two years later was appointed receiver in his son in law's bankruptcy.

The marriage appears to have been childless and by 1871 the couple with the four children from William Henry's first marriage had moved to Sussex. On census night the children, Elizabeth (13), Richard Westbrook (11), Francis (8) and William Henry (9) are recorded as living in Brooklands, a house in Broadwater, with their aunt Constance Theresa Cave, together with servants Fanny and Eliza Faulks, both born in Market Overton. Their parents William and Monica Baker were obviously away from home on census night as there is no head of household given. By 1881 William's son, Richard Westbrook, aged 21 and born in Campden, Gloucestershire is found as a Farm Pupil on a farm of 400 acres worked by George Dunn employing 9 men and 14 boys at the Manor House in Bury, near Pulborough, Sussex. This Richard is then recorded in 1884 marrying in a Catholic ceremony at Tallington, just over the Rutland border into Lincolnshire, and by 1891 he was living in The Cedars, now Abbotsbury, in Westington, Chipping Campden, as a gentleman of independent means with his wife, Emily and three daughters aged 5, 2, and 1.

William Henry's death was registered in Hastings in 1874. He was 42. In the 1881 census his widow, Monica F. Baker, is living in 2 Havilland Terrace at Tooting Graveney, London, with her stepson William Henry Baker age 19, now a medical student. She then moved to Portsea, Portsmouth where in the 1891 census, aged 48 she was working as a housekeeper for John Backwood, a brewer. Monica F. Baker, aged 70, died in 1909 at Portsmouth.

The cause of William Henry's bankruptcy is not yet known, but it seems likely that he was already in difficulties before his father's death in 1861 and it was to the younger brother, Edward George, that the family heirlooms were left. Nevertheless he will have appeared to many as a pillar of society both in Rutland and Gloucestershire. He was a churchwarden in Campden and a lieutenant in the North Cotswold Rifle Volunteer Corps about 1860. In Rutland he was a trustee of Byrche's Charity in Cottesmore and Barrow, and carried on his father's role as a pedigree cattle breeder doing the rounds of the local agricultural shows. After his father's herd of cattle was sold in 1863 he did well in the show ring with cattle in his own herd, at the Rutland Show in early December 1864, and in the same year at the Birmingham and Midland Counties Cattle and Poultry Show where his 'Cottesmore ox' was much praised as 'handsome, level and true' and the worthy winner of his class. He also did well at

that year's Smithfield show in London where in the winter of 1864 his shorthorn ox won first prize and a gold medal.

William Henry was a well educated man, trained as a surveyor and employed as a land agent for one of the most prosperous farming families in both Rutland and Gloucestershire. The cause of his downfall may never be known. But after his death his children were well cared for by his second wife and apparently went on to succeed in life, Richard Westbrook as a country gentleman in Gloucestershire and William Henry II as a medical practitioner in London.

A RUTLAND TITANIC QUERY?

Quite by chance, in looking for something else, I have come across a reference on www.encyclopedia-titanica.org to Major G J Noel and Master Noel having had 1st Class ticket no 48 (cost £3) for the Southampton to Cherbourg leg of the Titanic's maiden voyage. Was this indeed the Hon Gerard James Noel, long-serving MP for Rutland? If so, then his death in 1911 will have meant that the ticket was not taken up - and who was the 'Master Noel' who was to have accompanied him? Titanic websites seem to have no further information: can anyone help to solve this query?

Tim Clough

The Editor's Suggestion:

Titanic sailed on her maiden voyage on the Southampton-Cherbourg-Queenstown-New York route on 10th April 1912 with 1,320 passengers and 892 crew. She sank in the early hours of Monday 15th April 1912 after striking an iceberg some 1,500 miles across the Atlantic. 1,517 lives were lost.

Gerard James Noel of Catmose, Oakham, was born in 1823, the son of Charles Noel, 1st Earl of Gainsborough. He married Lady Augusta Lowther in 1863 and died on 19th May 1911 aged 87.

Issue of Hon Gerard James and Lady Augusta Noel:

1. **Gerard Cecil Noel** of Cottesmore House, Cottesmore - born 4 Dec 1864, died 28 Jun 1925

Issue:

1. Lieutenant Tom Cecil Noel - born 12 Dec 1897, died 22 Aug 1918 (Aged 14 in 1911)

2. Charles Cecil Noel - born 27 Nov 1904, died 15 Dec 1966. (Aged 7 in 1911)

3. John Cecil Noel - born 28 Jul 1906, died in 1942 on active service. (Aged 5 in 1911)

(See the 2009 *Newsletter* for an article on the Cars and Motor Racing Exploits of John Cecil Noel)

2. **Henry Cecil Noel** - born 23 May 1868, died 28 Aug 1931 (No issue from either of his two marriages)

So my suggestion is that 'Master Noel' was Tom Cecil Noel, Gerard James Noel's first grandson.

Does anyone have a different suggestion?

Many thanks to all the contributors of this issue of our *Newsletter*. If you would like to make a contribution to, or suggest an idea for the next issue, please contact me by email at rfovens@yahoo.co.uk. I would particularly like to hear about new local history research projects and publications, and the activities of other Rutland local history groups.

Robert Ovens