

# Rutland Local History and Record Society



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# RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

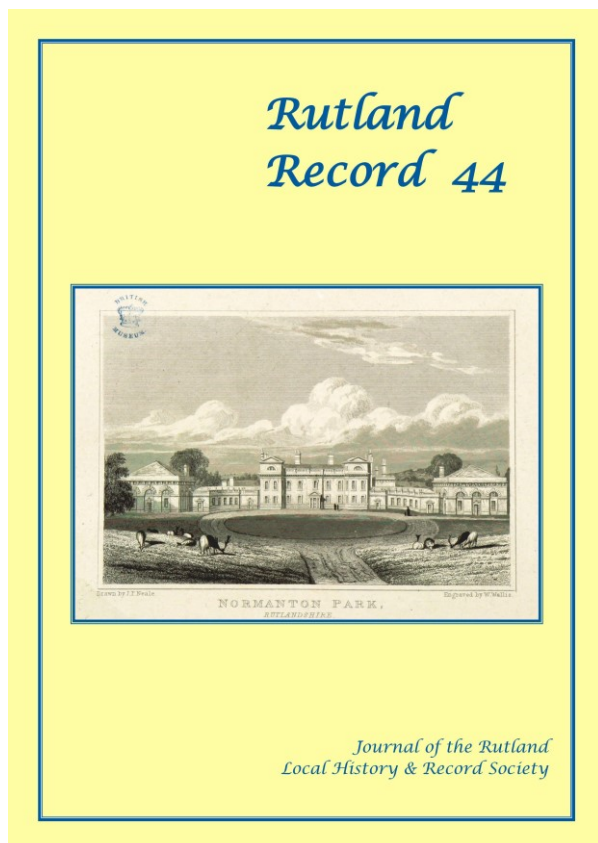
Registered Charity No. 700273

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW

\*\*\* **PRESS INFORMATION** \*\*\*  
\*\*\* **NEW PUBLICATION** \*\*\*

## ***Local History Society publishes this year's Rutland Record***

The Rutland Local History & Record Society has just produced the forty-fourth issue of its annual journal, *Rutland Record*, which is free to the Society's members.



There are three main articles in this year's issue. In the first, historian David Roffe focuses on the little known and somewhat mysterious early medieval settlement of Bradcroft, on the western outskirts of Stamford. It seems to have been a hamlet which was occupied before the Norman Conquest of 1066 but which had largely been deserted by the mid fifteenth century and has left no trace on the ground. Curiously, though, it seems to have been a place where from time to time the shire courts of Rutland held their sessions as late as the sixteenth century. Was Bradcroft a communal meeting place of an early Rutland even before the county as we know it today came into being? David Roffe thinks there may be enough evidence to make this a possibility – but will other historians agree?

The second article in this year's issue is something entirely different. Here Jemima

Hubberstey, a research officer for Historic Royal Palaces, brings us into the mid eighteenth century with her tale of the social and intellectual life of Lady Margaret Heathcote. Margaret was born into the influential Yorke family and as a teenager she was a member of a literary group of contemporaries who met at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire, and had connections with the Bluestocking Circle of female writers. Some of her own writings and poems survive. All this was thrown into chaos, though, when at the age of just sixteen she married the Rutland aristocrat Gilbert Heathcote and came to live at Stocken, north of Stamford, where she found herself largely isolated from that intellectual stimulation even though she continued to write.

After the death of Gilbert's father Sir John Heathcote Bt he inherited both the baronetcy and the grand family property at Normanton, but they were childless and Margaret was in poor health: when she did eventually conceive it was too much and she died in childbirth, as too sadly did the child. This article puts on record the story which Jemima Hubberstey told at a recent meeting of the History Society at the Rutland County Museum.

Our third article brings us into the twentieth century and the life of the renowned musician and conductor Sir Malcolm Sargent. Sargent's parents lived in Stamford and he soon became well known for his musical prowess, serving as organist and choirmaster at Melton Mowbray from 1914 to 1924. Less well known, though, is his association with Oakham and Rutland, and here Sam Dobson redresses the balance with details about Sargent's considerable participation in the musical life of the county. He had many society connections in the area, and indeed it will come as a surprise to many that after his marriage to Eileen Horne in 1923 the family lived in Burley Road in Oakham for about five years. Sargent's contributions to Rutland's musical life are mainly reflected in the success in the 1920s and 1930s of the Rutland Musical Festival and its choral concerts and competitions. The article is illustrated with some of the concert programmes, and there is much information in contemporary newspapers, especially the *Grantham Journal*, which describe those events in detail.

Finally, as usual, *Rutland Record* closes with reports of work carried out by record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county locally during the preceding year. This section includes details of archaeological finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland in 2023, several of which are illustrated, but also an account of excavations on a Roman and medieval site at Great Casterton. Recent museum and record office acquisitions are also listed.

The Society's Chair, Ian Ryder, said, 'Once again, we are so grateful for the expertise of our contributors and their special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. *Rutland Record* is free to members, and we encourage anyone and everyone with an interest of Rutland's past to join us: full information about membership, our other publications and our activities, including our meetings, will be found on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

*Copies of the new publication can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £5.00 (plus £2.00 p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk). ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-67-9.*

For further information or images, please contact: Tim Clough, Honorary Editor, RLHRS,  
Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW,  
or e-mail [editor@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:editor@rutlandhistory.org).

*December 2024*

END

# RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No.700273

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW

**\*\*\* PRESS INFORMATION \*\*\***  
**\*\*\* NEW PUBLICATION \*\*\***

## ***Local History Society publishes this year's Rutland Record***

### *Rutland Record 43*



*Journal of the Rutland  
Local History & Record Society*

The Rutland Local History & Record Society has just produced the forty-third issue of its annual journal, *Rutland Record*, which is free to the Society's members.

The new edition begins with an article by the Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, who describes the tokens issued by Rutland tradesmen in the mid-seventeenth century. There was a shortage of small change at the time, and for a period of about 25 years these tokens became an unofficial alternative. Some 22 tokens were issued by people in Oakham, Uppingham and several villages. Tim was inspired to write this article following the discovery of several local tokens which have been recorded for the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Amongst the people who issued them were John Homes of Langham whose farthing token is dated 1658. Like several others, he was a tallow chandler, producing candles. Amazingly, Langham still has a connection with the Worshipful Company of Tallow Chandlers which makes an annual charitable donation to support people in need in the parish.

Another man who issued tokens was Thomas Hunt of North Luffenham, who belonged to one of the more important families in the village, but here the story is a sad one. He died in 1674, but a few months after his death there was a terrible family tragedy, for the parish registers record the deaths of his three children when their house was burned down: they were just 8, 6 and 4 years old.

A happier story concerns Richard Matthew and John Potterill of Oakham who jointly issued a halfpenny token in the late 1660s. They were prosperous apothecaries, and had intriguing connections with the Flamsteed family from Derbyshire, one of whom was John Flamsteed, the astronomer royal.

In time, research on Oakham and Uppingham may enable the premises of some of these token issuers to be identified, including Samuel Reeve's Bell Inn which must have been in Oakham's High Street close to Matthew's and Potterill's properties.

The second article in this year's issue tells the story of Francis Davis, a man from Morcott who was born in 1775 and grew up to serve first with Sir Gerard Noel's Rutland Fencible Cavalry, based in Oakham, and then joined the 18th Light Dragoons in 1800. He would soon take part in England's wars with revolutionary France. Tony Martin, a member of the Society's committee with an interest in militaria, follows Davis's career through the challenging conditions of the Peninsular War, including the battles of Sahagún and Benavente in 1808.

In February 1813 Francis Davis's regiment helped to drive Napoleon's armies back to France. After the battle of Toulouse in 1814, Davis came back to England where he was examined by a regimental doctor who declared him 'almost worn out': he was barely 40 years old. Returning to Morcott, he married and had three children; he and his wife Rebecca are buried at nearby Pilton. Just before his death in 1848, he was granted the Military General Service Medal instituted by Queen Victoria, and it was the discovery of this medal which led Tony Martin – himself born in Morcott – to write this article, and to wonder whether, in the end, Francis Davis lived long enough to see the medal he had earned.

Our third article, by Peter Flower, is different again. It recalls how the author's grandfather Reginald Grove, a boy at Uppingham School in the mid-1880s, became interested in monumental brasses and taking rubbings of them. He kept a diary in which he recorded his visits to local churches, undertaken during free time with the encouragement of the headmaster, Edward Thring. The author has followed in Reginald's footsteps, visiting the same churches – some of which have changed following Victorian restoration – and making a photographic record of the brasses which survive today. His article is illustrated with images of the brasses at Braunston, Little Casterton, Lyddington, Manton and Stockerston. His grandfather wrote an article for the school magazine, which is reproduced in full, and continued his interest in monumental brasses when he went on to Cambridge University.

Finally, as usual, Rutland Record closes with reports of work carried out by record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county locally during the preceding year. This section includes details of finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland in 2022 such as a lovely little lead-alloy bird mount, but also an update on the wonderful Roman mosaic uncovered at a villa site near Ketton which has attracted interest nationwide.

The Society's Chair, Debbie Frearson, said, 'Once again, we are so grateful for the expertise of our contributors and their special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. Rutland Record is free to members, and we encourage anyone and everyone with an interest of Rutland's past to join us: full information about membership, our other publications and our activities, including our meetings, will be found on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

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or e-mail [editor@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:editor@rutlandhistory.org).

December 2023

END

*Rutland  
Record 42*



*Journal of the Rutland  
Local History & Record Society*

The Rutland Local History & Record Society has just produced the forty-second issue of its annual journal, *Rutland Record*, which is now being distributed to the Society's members. The new edition begins with an article by the late Elaine Jones. Here she draws on her extensive archaeological fieldwork in the county over many years to put its development through prehistoric times into context. Elaine was an Honorary Member of the Society who tragically died alongside her geologist husband Clive in a road accident on 9th May 2022. The Society's Chair, Debbie Frearson, said, *'To lose Elaine and Clive in this way was such a shock to their family but also to the Society. This article now has a different perspective: instead of forming the foundation for future work to be carried out by them, we publish it in memory of two people who contributed so much to the work of the Society and to our understanding of the history of the county of Rutland, a legacy which will now be built upon by others'*.

One aspect of archaeological research which has led to many discoveries is aerial photography. The second article in this year's journal, by Robert

Hartley, provides an introduction to the extraordinary contribution made by James Pickering (1915–2004), an aerial archaeologist with an extensive flying background who identified many sites whose cropmarks represent archaeological sites, particularly prehistoric and Roman, across Rutland. Robert, himself an archaeologist who worked for Leicestershire Museums for many years and has a special interest in the history of the landscape, accompanied Jim Pickering on many of his flights over the county and so can recount the story at first hand.

The main article in this issue is by Diana and Michael Honeybone, a husband and wife team who have devoted many years to the study of the famous early eighteenth century antiquarian William Stukeley (1687–1765) and his correspondence, drawings, and publications. The Reverend Dr Stukeley had strong associations with Stamford and the surrounding area, and here we learn about his interest in Rutland, especially a tour he undertook with his friend Richard Gale in 1737 in the eastern part of the county. In the previous year, Stukeley had set about founding a learned society in Stamford, the Brazen Nose Society, and one of its earliest scientific meetings took place in Rutland at Lyndon Hall, the home of Samuel Barker; the Honeybones give us a full account of that meeting. They also reproduce some of Stukeley's Rutland drawings, such as those of Tickencote church or St Tibba's shrine at Ryhall, which are to be found in the collections of the Bodleian Library, and tell us about his associations with his friend Maurice Johnson and the Spalding Gentlemen's Society, a society still active today.

The final main article, by Robert Ovens, is devoted to the association between Walter Gore Marshall of Hambleton Hall and John Thomas Lee, his architect. Between them they achieved the wonderful Arts and Crafts Hambleton Hall and its stables, as well as other domestic buildings in the village of Hambleton which date from the closing years of the nineteenth century.

Continued

Lee also designed an opulent scheme for the rebuilding of the chancel of the parish church, with a sumptuous interior lit by stained glass windows by James Egan. The article is illustrated with photographs of the main elements of these buildings, and the Hambleton Hall stables clock features on the cover of this issue.

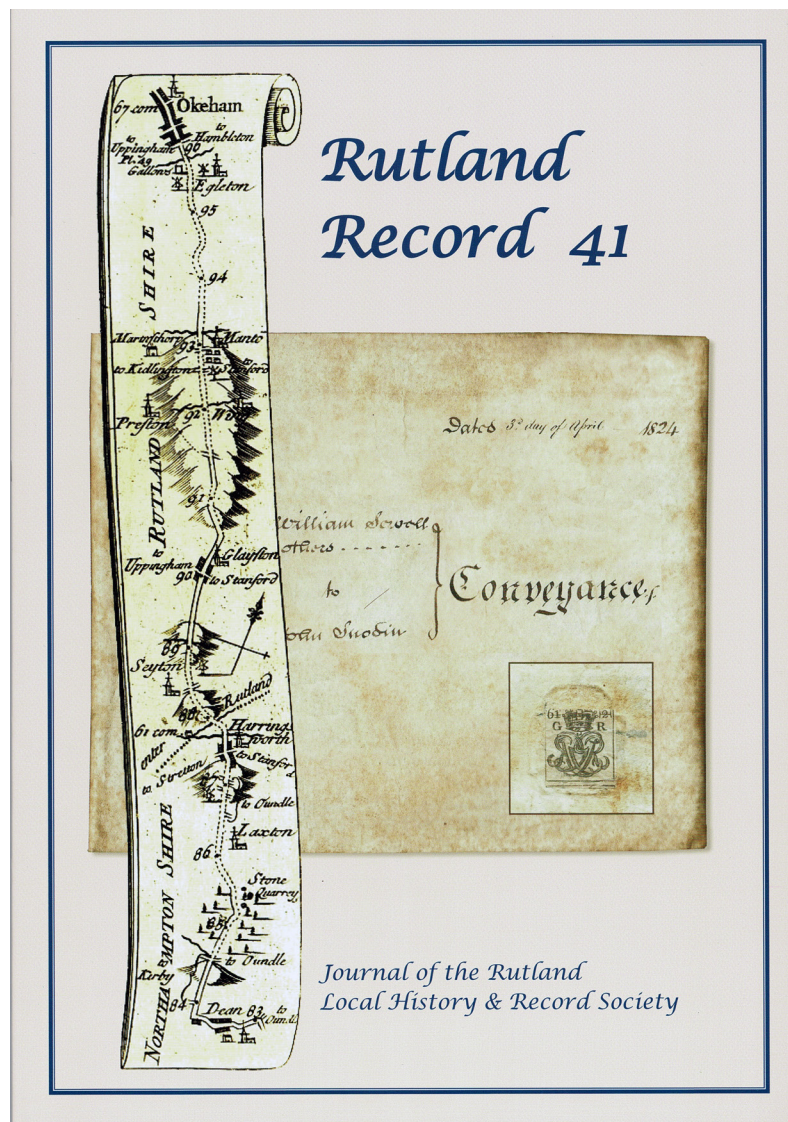
Once again Rutland Record closes with reports of work carried out locally during the preceding year. Despite the restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 epidemic, many organisations have been able to resume something approaching their normal range of activity. This section includes details of finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland in 2021 such as a small Roman marble figurine of Venus, but also a note on the wonderful Roman mosaic uncovered at a villa site near Ketton which has attracted interest nationwide. It concludes with annual reports on the activities of record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county.

The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, said, 'Once again, we are so grateful for the expertise of our contributors and their special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. Rutland Record is free to members, and we encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to join us: full information about membership, our other publications and our activities, including our meetings – some of which are now held on-line, will be found on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

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## Rutland Record Record 41 - December 2021

The Rutland Local History & Record Society has just produced the forty-first issue of its annual journal, *Rutland Record*, which is now being distributed to the Society's members.



The new edition begins with an article by the Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, about a remarkable hoard of Anglo-Saxon silver pennies which was found in 1749 by a local miller when some of the coins stuck to his muddy boots! The find soon attracted the attention of antiquarians like William Stukeley and the hoard seems to have been rapidly dispersed and taken up by collectors, but even so quite a few coins known to have come from the hoard can still be identified in museum collections, even as far afield as the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. Tim said, 'We don't know how many coins there were, but it was certainly several hundred. The hoard was deposited somewhere around AD980–985 during the reign of Æthelred II and is certainly one of the most important of that period ever found in Britain'.

The second article in this issue is also by Tim Clough, and is all about the history of a small piece of land beside the Uppingham Road on the outskirts of Oakham where a windmill once stood, perhaps near where the coin hoard was found, although it hasn't been possible to identify the miller who found it. This parcel of land which had belonged to Thomas Sewell until his death in 1812 was sold in 1824 for £48, and

the details are recorded in a deed or conveyance of that date which the Rutland Local History & Record Society purchased in 2020 so that it could be preserved with the county's archives. Thomas married twice but many of his children died in infancy and he was survived only by daughters, but with the aid of the deed Tim has been able to tell something of the story of the Sewells and the related Adcock family and also of windmills in the area. In the early nineteenth century there was a windmill each side of the road, near to what is now Mount Pleasant, but sadly Thomas Sewell's windmill was burnt down in 1814 through the carelessness of the miller, who hadn't fastened the sails properly when the wind got up and the machinery overheated.

Hazel Morgan is the author of the next article, which is based on the memoirs of her grandmother, May Moorhead, who was born in 1892 and moved to Whissendine with the rest of her family in 1900. She spent her childhood and teenage years there and much later, after she was widowed, she filled three notebooks recounting her memories of that time. Her mother had married into the longestablished Stafford family, and May lived in the village until her marriage in 1914, so her memoirs are rich in the detail of life in an agricultural community in the years leading up to the First World War. She proved to be very musical, and won prizes in the local music competitions for her piano playing. She was also an accomplished singer. The article is illustrated with photographs of the time and descriptions of carol singing and Christmas festivities, and extracts from the memoirs paint a picture of country life in Edwardian England.

The final article, by Brian Needham, the Honorary Historian of Oakham School, turns to a period which will be familiar to many, the time fifty years ago when changes in circumstances revolutionised education in the county. When Rutland as a local education authority did not adopt the comprehensive school system, Oakham School decided to revert to full independence; Brian follows the arguments between the Trustees of the school, under its then Headmaster John Buchanan, and county council personalities such as Sir Kenneth Ruddle and Mrs Winifred Clark which led up to this fundamental change in 1970. A year later – to the concern of some – the school admitted girls for the first time in its four-hundred-year history. As Brian says as he reviews the after-effects, ‘The conclusion has to be reached that the introduction of girls ... allowed the newly fully independent school, no longer with a guaranteed day entry financed by the State, to survive, and indeed to flourish’. In that first year, there were just 29 girls: what an impact they must have had on the 714 boys they joined!

Once again the issue closes with reports of work carried out locally during 2020 despite the restrictions imposed due to the Covid-19 epidemic, including finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland such as a Bronze Age axehead dating from 1500–1300 BC, and annual reports on the activities of record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county.

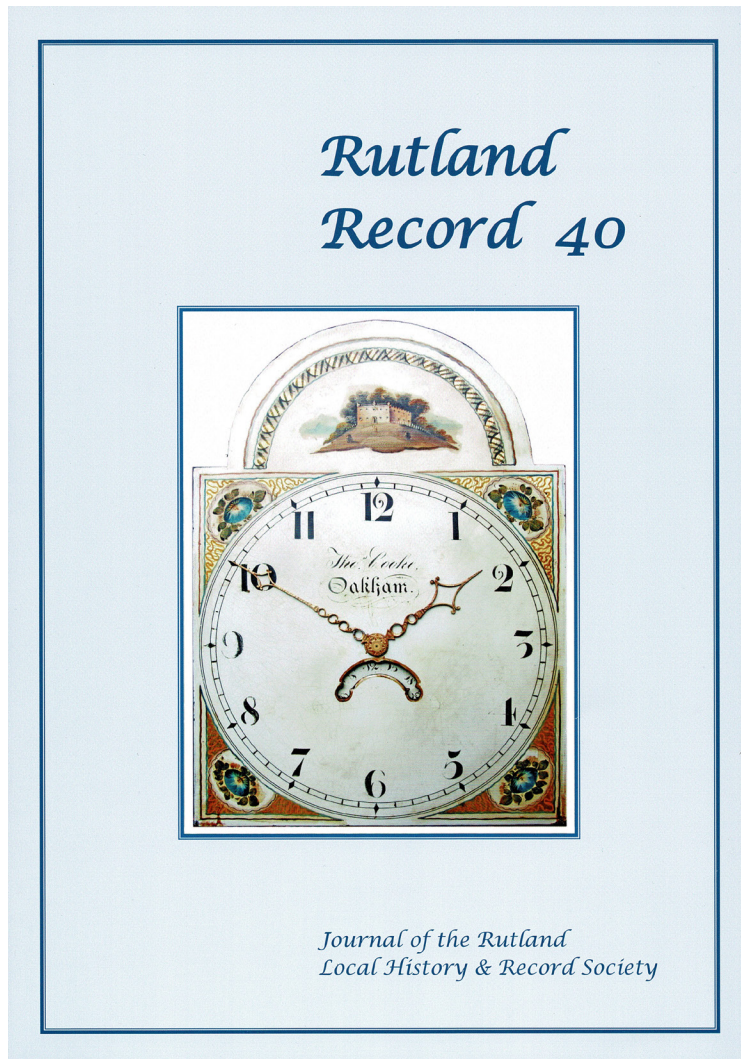
The Society’s Chair, Debbie Frearson, said, ‘Once again, we are grateful for the expertise of contributors with a special interest in Rutland’s long and varied history. Rutland Record is free to members, and we encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland’s past to join us – full information about our other publications and our activities, including our meetings and how our programme is affected by the coronavirus epidemic, is given on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)’.

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December 2021

## *Rutland Record Record 40 - December 2020*

Forty years ago, in 1980, the Rutland Record Society published the first issue of its annual journal, *Rutland Record*, under the editorship of the late Bryan Waites. This month the Rutland Local History & Record Society, as it is now known, has produced the fortieth issue of the journal, alongside an index volume of the last ten issues.



The new edition begins with an article by Professor Alan Rogers in which he discusses and transcribes a survey of the manor of Preston with Uppingham which was produced in 1595, towards the end of Elizabeth I's reign, for William Cecil, lord Burghley, who had acquired the estate in 1588. The survey describes all the various parcels of land and buildings in the manor and gives the names of his tenants – over a hundred names appear – and how much they paid in rent. In Uppingham we find names familiar to Rutland historians such as Chesilden, Fawkener and Digby amongst many others; in all 58 properties are mentioned, including 39 buildings including at least two inns or taverns, the Swan and the George. In Preston we are told of 48 tenancies, and here Fawkener and Digby appear again, and so does Sir John Harington of nearby Ridlington. The village had not only a malt mill but also a bakehouse and a windmill; Widow Dawson had a cottage but also a 'new house'. We begin to see a picture of two busy and flourishing places, their inhabitants going about their day-to-day business, going to the market in Uppingham, and working in the fields and woods which belonged to the

two settlements: but they also had to pay their annual rent, which might range from a few pence to fifty shillings or more. It is quite unusual to find so much detail at this date, and the survey is really useful to both local and family historians.

In a second article, Sheila Sleath has set out to trace the history of one Thomas Cooke, an Oakham watch and clockmaker whose business flourished in the town throughout much of the nineteenth century. Sheila reveals that his premises were on the north side of Oakham High Street, adjacent to what is now Walker's bookshop – a prime position in the town, and tempting enough for 'some rogues' to attempt a break-in early one Tuesday morning in March 1830: they were disturbed by the family and took nothing, but a reward of £50 was offered if they were caught and convicted. Thomas Cooke eventually retired and ended his days in Penn Street, where he died in 1883 aged 90. The business was taken over by his son John.

Sheila's article also covers the history of several other local watch and clockmakers, often itinerant traders as was usual for the time, and sometimes with German and Jewish ancestry such as Matthias Houser or Abraham and Samuel Samuel. Houser took over John Cooke's business, and provides a link to a much more recent and well-known family firm, for in 1905 his daughter Louisa married John Charles Ford, an Oakham upholsterer, whose son Bert Ford carried on that side of the business and lived until 1997. This study shows that we do not have to look too far to find direct connections between the modern era and that of Queen Victoria and even earlier.

The third article in this issue, by Uppingham local historian Vivian Anthony, gives an account of the life in Uppingham of Chancellor William Wales, previously vicar of All Saints', Northampton, who became rector of Uppingham and lord of the rectory manor in 1859 and stayed until his retirement in 1879 at the age of 75. This was a period of considerable social turbulence in the town, much of it to do with outbreaks of typhoid and arguments about improving sanitary conditions but also coloured by the somewhat abrasive relationship between Chancellor Wales and Edward Thring, Headmaster of the burgeoning Uppingham School, and how each of them perceived that education in the town should develop. While Thring was developing his school, Wales became chairman of the governors of the town's National School which catered for the children of the parish and secured the building of a new school. As rector, Wales was able to oversee considerable alterations and restoration work to the parish church, which resulted in enough and better seating for the congregations, which were growing at the time – as indeed were those of the several non-conformist chapels in the town – and would number several hundred people every week. When William Wales retired, he left a flourishing church but, perhaps through no fault of his own, a rectory manor in financial disarray due to the misappropriation of funds on the part of the steward, William Henry Brown, who was soon to be struck off. Wales retired to Leamington Spa, where he died ten years later, and a memorial to him was erected in the east window of Uppingham church.

This fortieth issue closes with reports of work carried out locally during 2019, including finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland such as a Roman brooch in the form of a cockerel from Leighfield. There is a summary account of the community archaeology dig carried out at Oakham Castle, and annual reports on the activities of record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county.

The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, who has produced the past 25 issues, said, 'Once again, we are grateful for the expertise of contributors with a special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. Rutland Record is free to members, and we encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to join us – full information about our other publications and our activities, including our meetings and how our programme is affected by the coronavirus epidemic, is given on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

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## *Personal Achievement Award for local historians - June 2020*

The Rutland Local History & Record Society (RLHRS) is delighted to announce that two of its long-standing members, Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath, have been presented with a joint Personal Achievement Award by the British Association for Local History (BALH) in this year's awards.



*Sheila Sleath and Robert Ovens with the copy of **The Heritage of Rutland Water** presented to HM The Queen*

Each year the BALH invites nominations for these awards, which are designed to give public recognition to people who have made significant voluntary contributions to local history, so essential to the vitality of the subject today. A maximum of six such awards may be given each year, and in June this year it was announced that one of the 2020 awards would go jointly to Robert and Sheila. Normally the presentation would take place at a national event in London, but since this has not been possible this year the announcements have been made on-line via the BALH's media feeds.

Under the heading '*Outstanding contributions to the history of the county through activities and publications of Rutland Local History & Record Society*', the full citation reads:

*'For more than twenty years Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath, childhood friends from the Rutland village of Belton, have made outstanding contributions to the history of the county through their voluntary work in pursuance of the objects of the Rutland Local History & Record Society.*

*'Two joint achievements take pride of place: first, the publication in 2002 of **Time in Rutland: a history and gazetteer of the bells, scratch dials, sundials and clocks of Rutland** (ISBN 0-907464-30-0), a definitive and masterful compendium; and secondly the compilation and editing of **The Heritage of Rutland Water** (2007, reprinted 2008, ISBN 978-0-907464-39-6), a multi-disciplinary volume recording everything from the construction of the reservoir to the history of the parishes affected, taking in its archaeology and natural history on the way. They continue to contribute articles to the annual Rutland Record on various subjects.*

*'Robert has served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of its Executive Committee, and has regularly produced the Society's spring Newsletter, arranged its autumn Rutland village visits, and organised its Sheila Sleath and Robert Ovens with the copy of **The Heritage of Rutland Water** presented to HM The Queen annual George Phillips and Tony Traylen historic environment awards, all with background support from the modest Sheila.*

*'The reputation and status of the Society have gained immeasurably from their joint unstinting support.'*

The Rutland Local History & Record Society's Chair, Debbie Frearson, said, 'We are immensely proud of both Robert and Sheila. Their body of work has increased our understanding of Rutland, and their willingness to share their plethora of experience makes them wonderful people to learn from. They are deserving recipients of this award'.

Robert Ovens, speaking on behalf of Sheila and himself, said, 'It was all a big surprise! But we're really pleased to have received this award, because the history of our county has been a big part of our lives for a long time and it's nice to have our efforts recognised in this way!'

Councillor Lucy Stephenson, Rutland County Council's portfolio holder for culture and leisure, added, 'This is such exciting and well deserved news. We are fortunate in Rutland to have such a rich history at every turn but it is the enthusiasm, dedication and expertise of volunteers such as Sheila and Robert that ensure this history is preserved for the enjoyment and understanding of us all.'

Robert and Sheila's work goes on: Robert has been busy indexing the Society's next occasional publication which will be on seventeenth century Rutland, and Sheila will have an article on Oakham clockmakers in the next Rutland Record which will be published towards the end of the year.

The BALH also gives awards for articles published in the journals of local history societies up and down the country. Competition for these awards is fierce, but on three occasions articles in the RLHRS's annual publication Rutland Record have also won such awards.

#### *Notes for Editors*

Although The Heritage of Rutland Water is now out of print, it is freely available on the Society's website at [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org) along with many of the Society's other publications.

## Disastrous fire destroys nearly 30 houses at Belton – in 1776!

### *Rutland Record 38*



*Journal of the Rutland  
Local History & Record Society*

Wednesday 29th May 1776 was a day of high drama and terrible loss in the Rutland village of Belton. It was a dry day with a stiff southerly breeze blowing. Around mid-day, a servant girl threw some hot ashes out onto dry litter in the yard of William Allin's house near the south end of the village. This promptly caught alight, and within a short space of time, fanned by the wind, the fire had spread to the thatched of neighbouring buildings. Nothing could be done except rescue animals and belongings, and despite the best efforts of the villagers, aided by the Uppingham fire engine and the Rutland Militia who happened to be assembled for training in Oakham, the fire raged all day and through the night, leaving a trail of smoking ruins through the village. In the space of 24 hours, though there had been no human and few livestock fatalities, nearly 170 villagers had been left homeless and bereft of their possessions.

This tragic and dramatic event is the subject of the main article in this year's issue of the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual journal, *Rutland Record*, which has just been published. Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath describe what happened next, with the setting up

of an appeal fund to aid the afflicted, nearly all of whom would have had no insurance cover. Appeals in the local press – *Stamford Mercury*, *Northampton Journal* and *Leicester & Nottingham Journal* – and in the surrounding counties led to the collection of nearly £3,400, which was distributed to those who had lost homes and possessions. The article gives details of many of these people and their background, and indeed how much compensation they received. William Allin, in whose yard the fire started, received £339 13s 10d (around £30,000 in today's money), whilst at the other end of the scale 53 sufferers shared £130 (around £11,000, or £200 each) for lost possessions. Robert and Sheila have been able to trace the course of the fire and have identified several buildings in the village whose fire-redened masonry still bears witness to that dreadful event today.

In a second article, Paul Reeve tells a fascinating story, linking the French aristocrat Mme la Comtesse de Boigne by way of her memoirs to George Finch, Earl of Winchilsea, and a childhood Christmas at Burley on the Hill in 1789 when her family had fled France and the terrors of the French Revolution. This is a many-faceted story, bringing together an unlikely combination of the American War of Independence, Spanish aristocracy, a 16-gun American privateer capturing Winchilsea's sister off the coast of Spain in 1781, the hospitality of Monseigneur Dillon, Archbishop of Narbonne, an essay by Marcel Proust – and finally the construction of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link at St Pancras!

The other main contribution is an essay by Malcolm Tozer in which he identifies the scarce surviving evidence for the Uppingham High School for Girls, a short-lived venture in High Street West which ran only from 1888 to 1893. It was set up by Miss Mary Beisiegel, the daughter of one of Edward Thring's masters, the Prussian Georg Beisiegel who taught gymnastics and music. Its early success under Mary and her sister Lillie soon evaporated when they ceased their connection with the school, and their successor Miss Florence Wilde could not maintain the momentum: the school seems to have faded away. Malcolm ends by making an appeal for any photographs of Uppingham High School pupils, perhaps at their annual prize-giving: no such photographs have been found to date.

The issue closes with notes of finds recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland, including a Bronze Age gold ring from Whissendine, and annual reports on historic building surveys and on the activities of record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county.

The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, said, 'Once again, we are grateful for the expertise of contributors with a special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. Rutland Record is free to members, and we encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to come and join us – full information about our activities including our meetings and our other publications is given on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £6.00 (plus £2.00 p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk). ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-59-4.

For further information, please contact: Tim Clough, Honorary Editor, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, or e-mail [editor@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:editor@rutlandhistory.org).

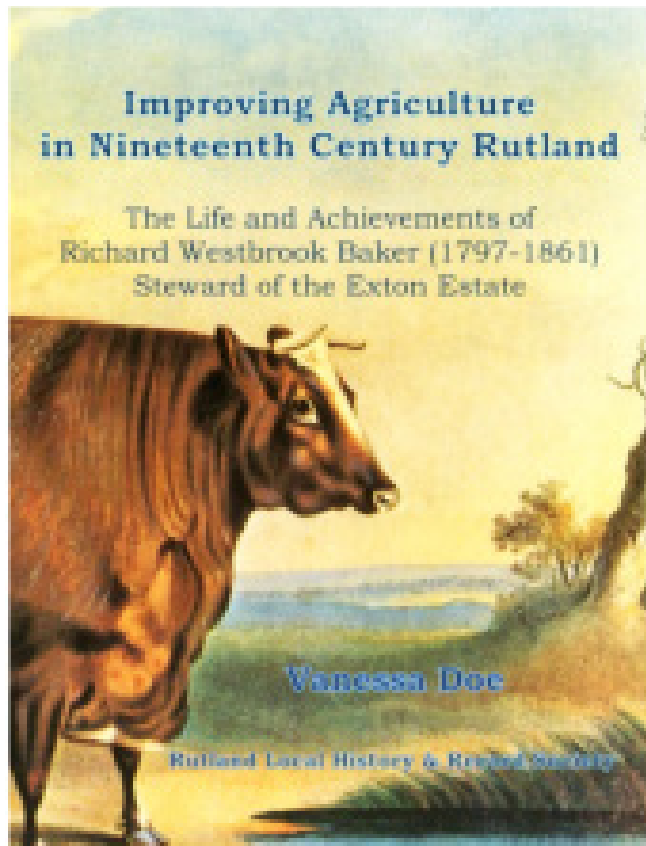
# *Improving Agriculture in Nineteenth Century Rutland*

*The Life and Achievements of Richard Westbrook Baker (1797-1861), Steward of the Exton Estate*

by Vanessa Doe

The Rutland Local History & Record Society is pleased to announce the publication on **10th May 2018** of the latest title in its Record Series, a biography of the most influential improver of agriculture in Rutland in the early nineteenth century, Richard Westbrook Baker.

## *About the book*



In 1814 a seventeen-year-old youth began work for Sir Gerard Noel, Bt, on his family estate at Exton. Fourteen years later, that young man was to become Sir Gerard's estate steward, a role in which he then played a very significant part in the development of improved farming practice in Rutland and beyond. This biography recounts how Richard Westbrook Baker, who had been born in Baldock (Hertfordshire) in 1797, led by example in this period of rapid agricultural change, and caused great improvement in both arable and livestock farming in the county.

The author, Dr Vanessa Doe, said, 'Baker had a profound effect on many aspects of rural life in Rutland. For instance, he became a foremost livestock breeder, particularly of Shorthorn cattle, and won many medals and prizes.

He designed an improved Rutland plough, and set up annual ploughing meetings. He founded a Friendly Society to help farm labourers during periods of hardship and introduced spade allotments on estate villages for the same reason.

He was held in such regard that he was presented with a service of silver in 1841, and with a silver model of the Rutland Plough in 1847. We are so fortunate that his career is so well documented by surviving archives and press reports'.

David Wood, who is Chairman of Trustees of the Rutland Agricultural Society, commented, 'Richard Westbrook Baker was the driving force that founded our Society in 1831, and then its annual show, with the support of Sir Gerard Noel. The lasting success of his many projects is reflected in the fact that this year we will be holding our 186th Rutland Show. This book is testament to his work and ambition, and gives a full account of what he set out to achieve'.

The Rutland Local History & Record Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, recalled that he first encountered Baker many years ago when he was Curator of the Rutland County Museum and carried out a study of the Rutland Agricultural Society's background and origins. Tim continued, 'Baker was clearly such an important character that he merited a detailed biography, and I am so pleased that Vanessa has now provided us with this definitive account of his work. Over the years the museum has been able to acquire some of his silver as well as images of his prize-winning beasts, and what is even more gratifying is that some of his descendants who live in Australia have been in touch and have confirmed that they still possess the wonderful silver model of the plough which was presented to Baker in 1847.'

Debbie Frearson, the Society's Chair, said, 'We are delighted to be adding this well-illustrated biography of Richard Westbrook Baker to our publication list, and we are grateful to the Rutland Agricultural Society for a contribution to the cost of publication. Baker's career as Sir Gerard Noel's estate manager was outstanding, and he was deeply involved in so many aspects of the farming world. It is wonderful that we now have such a detailed account of his many achievements'.

This new biography will be launched at the Local History & Record Society's annual general meeting at the Rutland County Museum on Thursday 10th May at 7.30pm, when Vanessa Doe will give a short presentation about Richard Westbrook Baker. There will also be a special exhibition for the evening of items relating to Baker in the museum's collections.

## About the author

After studying history at Cambridge, Vanessa Doe joined the staff of the Department of Economic History at Sheffield University where she completed her doctorate. She then transferred to the Extra-Mural Studies Department to work on local history projects in Derbyshire. Having lived in Derbyshire during her teaching career she moved to Rutland in 2006. Her interest in Richard Westbrook Baker began in 2007 with work on documents in the Exton archive in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland. Whilst this archive was closed for the preparation of a new catalogue in 2010 she joined the Lyddington Manor History project and contributed to the publication of Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor in 2015, after which she resumed work on Richard Westbrook Baker.

## Uppingham's prisoner of war hut revealed in Rutland Record 37



This year's issue of the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual journal, Rutland Record, has just been published, and as usual includes much of special interest to Rutland historians.

In one of the main articles, Sheila Sleath traces the history of a wooden hut which was originally part of a World War I prisoner of war camp at Uppingham, erected in 1917 and now in its centenary year surviving – much altered and in a different location – as the venue for Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club. After the closure of the camp at the end of the war the hut served as a social club linked to what was to become the British Legion. Whist drives, dances and many other events were held there, and then it functioned as a cinema for the town until 1937 – the cover illustration reproduces a poster for one of the films shown in the 1920s. After that, indoor bowls became its primary use, and today the former prisoner of war hut is the permanent home of the Indoor Bowls Club, of which Sheila is a keen supporter.

First, though, Brian Needham, the honorary historian of Oakham School, sets out the sequence of the hereditary trustees of the Archdeacon Johnson foundation from the

late sixteenth century to the present day, pointing out that it is quite by chance that Johnson remains the surname of those of Robert Johnson's descendants who have held that office. It is a sometimes colourful and certainly complex story, and it is remarkable that today's honorary trustee, the founder's 10 x greatgrandson, is only the thirteenth to have inherited that responsibility, some four hundred years later.

The other main story is that of the Lowther family, Earls of Lonsdale, and their association with Rutland in general and Barleythorpe in particular, a story recounted by Alan Crosby, editor of the Local Historian and someone very familiar with that family's origins and associations with Cumbria. He shows how in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the spectacular rise in that family's wealth, land and fortunes, reflected in their purchase of the Barleythorpe estate just outside Oakham, was to lead inexorably to an equally spectacular fall due to their uncontrolled and extravagant expenditure, particularly that of the 5th Earl, Hugh Lowther, whose colourful life is well remembered in Rutland.

The issue closes with an account of artefacts recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland, including some remarkable 7th century gold finds, and annual reports on historic building surveys and on the activities of record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county.

The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, said, 'Once again, we are grateful for the expertise of contributors with a special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. Rutland Record is free to members, and we encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to come and join us – full information about our activities including our meetings and our other publications is given on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

Copies of the new publications can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £5.00 (plus £2.00 p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk). ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-57-0. For further information, please contact: Tim Clough, Honorary Editor, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, or e-mail [editor@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:editor@rutlandhistory.org).

## Rutland's history under the spotlight



This year's issue of the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual journal, *Rutland Record*, has just been published. It covers a wide range of subjects, from the discovery of a remarkable prehistoric stone axe to a study of Vale of Catmose villages.

In 2015, Stewart Carter was going for a walk at Martinsthorpe when he picked up part of a stone axe and brought it to the Rutland County Museum for identification. Here he met Tim Clough, the museum's former curator who has studied stone axes for many years. Tim recognised that it was something unusual and arranged for it to be sent to an excited Alison Sheridan at Scotland's National Museum in Edinburgh. From there it went for non-destructive analysis to a specialist laboratory in France where it was confirmed that it was made of a particular type of rock, jadeitite, which had been obtained by Neolithic craftsman from the Mont Viso massif in the Alpine mountains of north-west Italy. Tim Clough said, 'There are only about 120 Alpine axes known from Britain, and this is a first for Rutland – not only that, but this one is of a particular type which is known from Germany and France but which has only one

other parallel in Britain. These beautiful axes are real works of art'. Alison Sheridan and her French colleagues Pierre Pétrequin and Michel Errera give a full account of this exceptional find.

First, though, Robert Ovens, the Society's vice-chairman, who has a special interest in clocks and timepieces, contributes a well-illustrated study of an early seventeenth-century sundial which he shows was originally made for Ridlington church by Isaack Symmes. He identifies Symmes as a leading goldsmith and clock and watchmaker who worked in London and, as an inscription shows, must have been commissioned to make the dial by Sir William Bulstrode, a former Sheriff of Rutland who also served for many years as one of the county's two members of parliament. Robert illustrates other sundials and watches made by Isaack Symmes.

The next main article in this issue by Bridget Wells-Furby turns to the medieval history of Rutland, specifically that of Belton and its association with the Blount family who held the manor from the late thirteenth century until 1557. Bridget is able to clarify the probable descent of the manor through succeeding generations of the Blount family and its place in their estates through a close analysis of surviving documents.

Michael Hinman then provides a social study of six villages in the Vale of Catmose – Ashwell, Barrow, Burley, Cottesmore, Market Overton and Teigh – through the eighteenth century, showing how their population rose and fell, and how families moved in or out of these villages, or indeed stayed put. The issue closes with an account of artefacts recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland by Wendy Scott and, as usual, reports on the activities of record offices and local societies with an interest in the history and archaeology of the county.

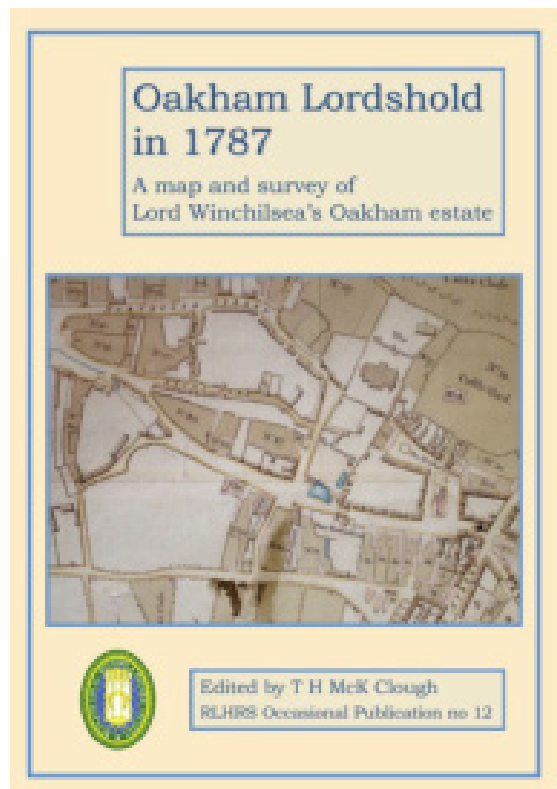
The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, said, 'Once again, we are grateful for the expertise of contributors with a special interest in Rutland's long and varied history. *Rutland Record*, which has full colour illustrations for the first time, is free to members, and we encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to come and join us – full information about our activities is given on our website.

Press Release May 2016

Oakham Lordshold in 1787

## A map and survey of Lord Winchilsea's Oakham estate

edited by T H McK Clough



RLHRS Occasional Publication No 12 (A4, 104pp, paperback, full colour) - ISBN 9780907464556

A crumpled document found many years ago in a cupboard at Burley on the Hill turned out to be a very fine map of the manor of Oakham Lordshold, drawn by William Cullingworth in 1787. Indeed, it gives the earliest detailed plan of Oakham known so far. Not only that, but a series of four field survey books in the Finch family archives, deposited like the map in the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, were found to belong with it because they list all the occupiers of the Lordshold properties at that date, as well as information about changes of tenant over the new few years.

The author, Tim Clough, who is also the Society's Honorary Editor, said, "These documents are important because they reveal so much about the appearance and layout of the town of Oakham – even though they cover just one of the town's two manors – before enclosure of the parish took place in the early part of the nineteenth century.

"The field books in particular contain much information about the inhabitants of the town, where they lived, what type of property they occupied and how extensive it was, including houses, yards and outbuildings as well as closes and land in the then open fields."

The book draws together all these details, ranging from the layout of the roads and watercourses to an identification of tenants, tradesmen and others who are mentioned both in the field books and in the Universal British Directory of 1791. The field books are transcribed in full, with an index.

The map can also be used to suggest successive patterns of defended enclosures centred on the church and castle in the early medieval period, which were disguised as a result of the later enclosure of the parish, and Tim Clough puts forward his ideas about how the layout of the town changed after the Norman Conquest.

Debbie Frearson, the Society's Chairman, said, "These documents are a valuable resource for the study of Oakham and its inhabitants at the end of the eighteenth century. They are full of information for family historians and local historians alike, and we are delighted to be able to publish it. We are particularly grateful to Mr Joss Hanbury for permission to publish them, and to the Record Office and the Rutland County Museum for facilitating their study."

Tim Clough was Curator of the Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle from 1974 to 2002, and is the Society's Honorary Editor. Educated at Uppingham School, he has a degree in prehistoric archaeology from the University of Edinburgh and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. He has a long association with the county of Rutland and has a keen interest in and appreciation of the county's rich heritage.

Published May 2016. Price: £10.00 (£7.50 for members of RLHRS) plus £2.50 UK p&p.

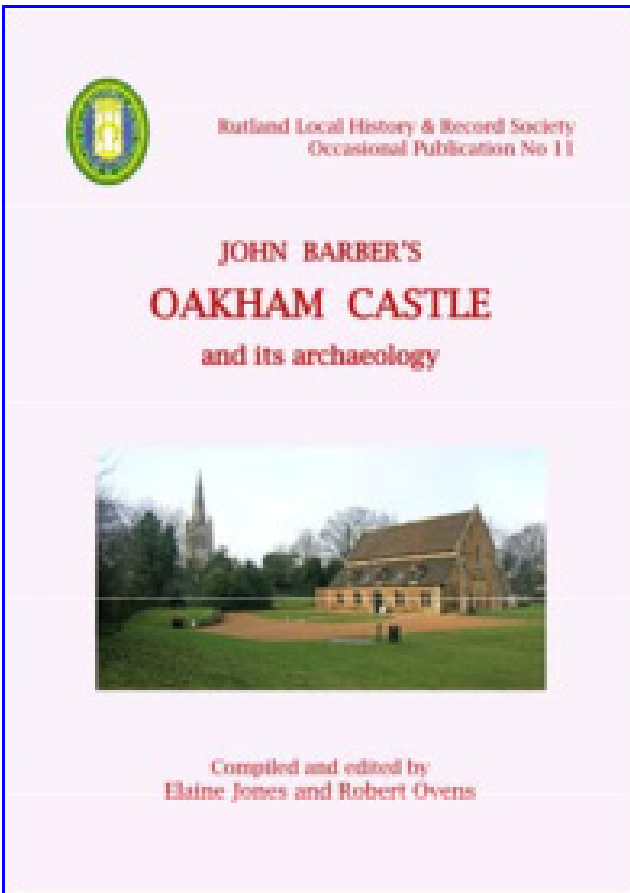
Copies of the new publication can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum via local bookshops, or on-line.

Press Release January 2015

## John Barber's Oakham Castle and its archaeology

Compiled and edited by Elaine Jones and Robert Ovens

RLHRS Occasional Publication No 11 (A4, 72pp, paperback, full colour)



Oakham Castle is one of England's most important Romanesque vernacular buildings, and it will soon be undergoing refurbishment following the award of a £2m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In the 1950s, John Barber carried out excavations adjacent to the Great Hall of Oakham Castle with the assistance of boys from Oakham School, where he was a master. Circumstances conspired against his being able to produce a detailed excavation report at the time, but he subsequently wrote extensive notes about the Great Hall and the castle site. Now, since there is renewed interest in the history and archaeology of the Castle, the Rutland Local History & Record Society has decided to publish these notes in its Occasional Publications series. The Friends of the Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle have supported the publication with a grant which has made it possible to print in full colour.

Although more recent research undertaken with the benefit of modern techniques has amplified our knowledge and understanding of the Castle, sometimes challenging John Barber's ideas in the process, his work is by no means diminished as a result. His notes and reports remain important and

informative background material for any study of Oakham Castle, Rutland's most important ancient monument. The publication also includes an up-to-date assessment of the pottery from his excavations by Deborah Sawday, as well as Peter Gathercole's report on the rescue excavations he undertook in 1953-54 when the now closed Oakham Post Office was being built.

Amongst those who remembers taking part in the excavations when he was a boy at Oakham School is Peter Lawson, High Sheriff of Rutland in 2011, who recalls, 'I spent many muddy hours over half a century ago rescuing medieval Stamford ware from the bottom of a trench beside Oakham Castle. It's a joy to see the full record of those summers published for the first time: a fitting acknowledgement of John Barber's genius'.

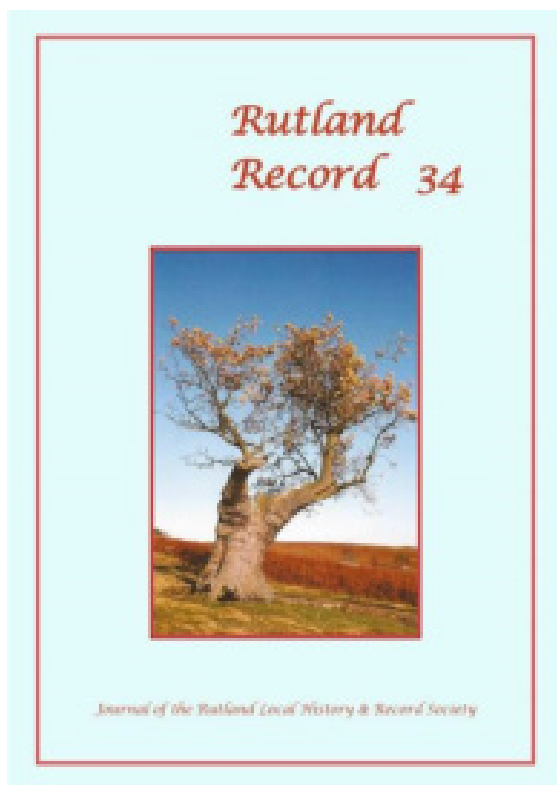
John Barber's son Tony said, 'I remember as a very young boy of eleven Father's exploits at Oakham Castle when we lived in Brooke Road, and was very interested in reading about the excavations'. Both he and his brother John have said how pleased they are to see this publication.

Tim Clough, the Society's Honorary Editor, said, 'John Barber's knowledge of Oakham Castle and his enthusiasm for everything to do with the history and archaeology of Rutland never failed to inspire when as Curator of the Rutland County Museum and the Castle I had the responsibility of looking after this wonderful building. It's great that we have now been able to publish this work of his, and we're very grateful to Elaine Jones and Robert Ovens for transcribing, editing and indexing the original, and for providing the illustrations.'

Press Release December 2014

## Rutland Record 34

### Rutland's Leighfield Forest and Market Overton under the spotlight



This year's issue of the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual publication, *Rutland Record*, has just been distributed to members of the Society. The main feature is an account of the many woodlands which formed Leighfield Forest in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries by Anthony (Tony) Squires, an expert on the history of woodland in the east Midlands who has got to know the story of Rutland's ancient forests better than anyone.

Tony's article gives details of over fifty individual woodlands which are recorded in documents dating from the thirteenth century onwards. He is able to locate most of them in the parishes of Beaumont Chase, Belton, Braunston, Brooke, Leighfield, Ridlington, Stoke Dry, Uppingham and Wardley. They were part of the medieval Royal Forest of Rutland, which gradually fell into decay and became fragmented, so that today only a few remnants of that old hunting forest remain: Prior's Coppice (which had once belonged to the prior of Brooke), Stoke Dry Wood and Wardley Wood. Tony describes how these changes happened, how the woods were managed, how big they

were, and what species of tree were to be found. This article completes the survey of Rutland's ancient woodlands which he began in *Rutland Record* 31 (published in 2011, still available).

The other main article in this issue is by Kate Cooper and looks at the early history of Market Overton. She recounts the story of archaeological excavations which have taken place on Roman and Anglo-Saxon sites in the parish, and sets the record straight about the location of some of these important sites.

Finally, Dr Simon Dixon describes some of the resources in the University of Leicester Library's local history collection which will be helpful to anyone working on the history of the County of Rutland.

As usual *Rutland Record* concludes with notes on a great variety of archaeological and historical work, including building surveys, in Rutland during the previous year, with reports from the museums, record offices and societies whose interests and responsibilities cover the county's heritage.

The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, said, 'Once again, we have been able to harness the expertise of contributors with a special interest in aspects of Rutland's long and varied history. *Rutland Record* is included in our membership subscription, as are monthly lectures and other events covering the widest range of periods and subjects. We would encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to come and join us – full information about publications and meetings is given on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

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For further information, please contact: Tim Clough, Honorary Editor, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, e-mail [book.orders@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:book.orders@rutlandhistory.org).

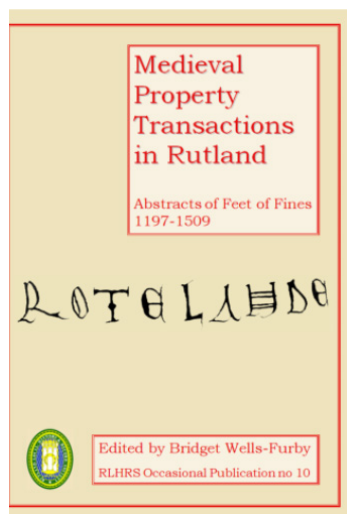
Press Release March 2013

RLHRS Occasional Publication No 10

## Medieval Property Transactions in Rutland

Abstracts of Feet of Fines 1197 - 1509

Edited and with an introduction by Bridget Wells-Furby



The Rutland Local History & Record Society has just produced the latest in its series of Occasional Publications about the history of this small county, this time concentrating on local property transactions in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. In the National Archives there are 355 documents, known as Feet of Fines, which record such transactions for Rutland alone, and it is these that the author, Bridget Wells-Furby, has summarised and discusses in this book.

These medieval Feet of Fines were used originally in the late 12th century to resolve legal disputes over land, and this was quickly adopted as the most secure way of transferring property. The same legal terminology continued long after that background became a mere fiction.

The 'final concord' or 'fine' recording each transaction was copied in triplicate by clerks of the king's court; each party kept one part while the third part, the 'foot', was retained by the court, hence the name by which they are known today. By no means all such transactions were so recorded, but these 'feet' survive in large numbers as an unparalleled record of land transfers.

The fines 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 help to shed light on lower ranks of society. Some of the Rutland fines include important topographical information on land holdings and other assets such as mills, fisheries, and church advowsons; a few record names of tenants as well as those of the parties involved and the justices who heard each case.

The edition runs to 108 pages and provides an English summary of each fine, with full indexes of the names of people and places, and of subjects. There is also a glossary. The introduction explains the format of the fines, and discusses some of the ways they may be used. It shows the part played by women in the fines, the relationship of the fines to the manorial and political geography of the county, with examples of how and to what end the fines were used by contemporaries. There are also reproductions of some of the original documents, and in time it is intended to make them all available for consultation on the Society's website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org).

Tim Clough, the Society's Honorary Editor, said, 'The Feet of Fines provide an invaluable source of information for anyone interested in the early history of Rutland, its land and its families, and we are greatly indebted to Bridget Wells-Furby for all the work she has done in transcribing and discussing these archives. The book will be very useful to local historians'.

### About the author

Bridget Wells-Furby is an independent scholar specialising in the social and economic history of fourteenth-century England. Her St Andrews University PhD on the Berkeley family of Gloucestershire in that century led to the publication in 2004 of a calendar of the large medieval archive at Berkeley Castle and, most recently, *The Berkeley Estate 1281-1417: its economy and development* (2012). She has also published a calendar of a late-fifteenth century Suffolk cartulary, *The Bohun of Fressingfield Cartulary* (2012), and has written various articles on aspects of social and political history in the period.

The price of this publication is £10.00, or £8.00 for members of RLHRS, plus £2.00 UK postage & packing. Copies can be obtained at the Rutland County Museum and local bookshops, or ordered on-line via the Society's website or from [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk)

Press Release December 2013

Rutland Record 33

## From 'Time Team' to the Duke of Buckingham's marriage

This year's issue of the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual publication, Rutland Record, has just been distributed to members of the Society. One of the highlights of last year's archaeological work was the Time Team investigation at Oakham Castle, the subject of a TV broadcast in spring 2013, and the results are summarised in this issue by archaeologists from Wessex Archaeology.

There are two other main articles. The first tells the story of the marriage of George Villiers, 1st Duke of Buckingham, and Lady Katherine Manners, which took place in 1620 amidst political and financial intrigue. Buckingham bought Burley on the Hill the following year and remodelled the great house there, but the marriage was short-lived because only eight years later, in 1628, he was assassinated in Portsmouth. The author, Patricia Womack, brings to life the scandal and intrigue that surrounded the Duke, who was the favourite and close companion of both James I and Charles I.

Then Ian Ryder, the Society's honorary treasurer, shows how in 1838 a special report of the Manchester Statistical Society contained an in-depth study of living conditions in three Rutland villages, Braunston, Egleton and Hambleton. This study was undertaken amidst increasing concern about dreadful sanitary conditions in rapidly expanding industrial towns, and sought to compare them with life in a rural area. The report, which Ian reproduces in full, contains fascinating information about diseases, causes of death, social class, occupations, houses, and how many people lived in one house.

The Society's honorary editor, Tim Clough, says, 'Ian's earlier article in Rutland Record 31 about the state of education in Rutland at the time was short-listed by the British Association for Local History in this year's local history publication awards, a true accolade, and his second article on social investigations in early Victorian Rutland develops the theme further – it's a mine of information about these three Rutland villages in particular and even points to social differences between them'.

This issue of Rutland Record also looks at the possible Saxon background to Wilkershaw cow pasture, overlooking Beaumont Chase, and as usual concludes with notes on a great variety of archaeological and historical work, including building surveys, in Rutland during the previous year, with reports from the museums, record offices and societies whose interests and responsibilities cover the county's heritage.

Tim Clough said, 'Once again, we have been able to harness the expertise of contributors with a special interest in aspects of Rutland's long and varied history. Rutland Record is included in our membership subscription, as are lecture meetings and events covering the widest range of periods and subjects. We would encourage anyone with an interest of Rutland's past to come and join us – full information about publications and meetings is given on our website, [www.rutlandhistory.org](http://www.rutlandhistory.org)'.

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For further information, please contact: Tim Clough, Honorary Editor, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum,

Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW

E-mail [book.orders@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:book.orders@rutlandhistory.org).



The latest issue of the Rutland Local History and Record Society's annual publication, the *Rutland Record*, has just appeared. Its contents range from evidence for the possible presence of Neanderthals in Rutland 40,000 years ago to a review of Oakham School's masters and ushers, taking in Edward Thring's approach to adolescent boyhood at Uppingham School and the photographic pioneer Fox Talbot's associations with Rutland along the way.

Ten years ago archaeologists carrying out pre-development work at Glaston chanced upon an amazing discovery, evidence for a hyena den on what was then an open landscape ridge, with very early flint tools identified by specialists as typical of those used by Neanderthal humans. Alongside these were the bones of spotted hyena, wolverine, wild horse and woolly rhinoceros. John Thomas and Lynden Cooper from University of Leicester Archaeological Services describe the finds as of international importance and one of the most significant finds locally in recent years, and their article is illustrated with

reconstruction paintings of the contemporary environment by artist Jayne Brayne.

Next, Paul Reeve tells us of William Henry Fox Talbot's little known associations with Rutland. Family connections brought him to Burley on the Hill as a boy, and he spent a year being tutored by the Rev Thomas Kaye Bonney, rector of Normanton, before going up to Cambridge. Best known for his photographic research, Fox Talbot was in fact a true polymath, as is shown by his surviving correspondence which includes many letters written to, from or about Rutland.

The remaining two articles are both connected with Rutland's famous Archdeacon Johnson foundations of Uppingham and Oakham Schools. For the latter, Brian Needham, the school's honorary historian, seeks to establish a firm sequence of masters and ushers from 1584 onwards and gives biographical summaries for each of them. For the former, Malcolm Tozer, himself once a master at Uppingham, pens an account of the way in which Edward Thring, the school's great Victorian headmaster, dealt with the challenges faced by adolescent boys as they approached manhood through an emphasis on Christian moral values.

Tim Clough, the Society's honorary editor, said, 'Once again, we have been able to harness the expertise of contributors with a special interest in aspects of Rutland's long and varied history, and the latest issue of *Rutland Record*, which is included in our membership subscription, contains articles covering the widest range of periods and subjects.'

As usual, the issue concludes with notes on a great variety of archaeological and historical work, including building surveys, in Rutland during the previous year, with reports from the museums, record offices and societies whose interests and responsibilities cover the county's heritage. One of the most striking finds is a complete Bronze Age pot from a burial site at Barleythorpe.

*Rutland Record* 32 is published in the context of continuing cuts to public funding and very real threats to the protection of our heritage. The Editorial points to some hopeful signs such as the current project to improve the facilities and environment of Oakham Castle, Rutland's most important ancient monument, but draws attention to the adverse affect these cuts are having especially on the region's archive services.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £4.50 (plus £1.25 p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via GENfair. ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-49-5.

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Press Release November 2011

Rutland Record 31

## Rutland's Medieval Woodland, & Education in early Victorian Rutland

This year's issue of Rutland Record, the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual publication, has just appeared and contains two main articles of interest to anyone fascinated in Rutland's varied past. The first is a detailed study by Tony Squires, an expert on the historic woodlands of the east Midlands, of the medieval woodlands of Rutland. After introducing the sources available, from Domesday Book onwards, Tony gives details of the woods he has been able to verify in each parish in the county, greatly aided by John Speed's early seventeenth century county map. These include substantial historic woodlands that survive today, even if in altered form, like Burley Great Wood, and others that have been clear-felled and planted with conifers such as Addah Wood in Clipsham. Yet others, like Newhall Wood in Pickworth, are now renowned for the importance of their flora and have been designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest. Tony's article shows how much woodland, including some which represents ancient or semi-natural woodland, in fact exists in the county: and also points to the need for further research into how these woods have changed over the centuries.

The second main article covers an entirely different subject. In the first of two articles about early Victorian Rutland, Ian Ryder, the Society's honorary treasurer, looks at the state of education in the county in the 1830s. Following earlier studies of education in the great industrial conurbations of Manchester and Liverpool, in 1838 the Manchester Statistical Society selected agricultural Rutland as the subject of a contrasting study. Now Ian interprets the Manchester society's findings, which detailed the numbers of children attending school and the types of school available – from dame schools to charity schools, Sunday schools and 'superior private and boarding' schools. The Manchester Society's report is reproduced in its entirety, complete with tables setting out the numbers of pupils and schools, the subjects taught, and the conditions in which the classes were held, with a separate section relating to Sunday schools. What may come as a surprise are the numbers of schools involved and of children attending – what may be less surprising is that eleven of the 50 dame schools were described as 'disorderly'! The nineteenth century was an era of enormous social change, with the growth of education one of its key developments; Ian's article places Rutland firmly into context.

As usual, the issue concludes with notes on a wide range of archaeological and historical work, including building surveys, in Rutland during the previous year, with reports from the museums, record offices and societies whose interests and responsibilities cover the county's heritage. Amongst the results is the intriguing possibility that evidence for a Roman vineyard has been found at Thistleton.

Rutland Record 31 is published in the context of continuing cuts to public funding and very real threats to the protection of our heritage offered by existing legislation and guidelines governing the treatment of planning applications. In the Editorial, the Society draws attention to nation-wide concerns about the implications of the draft National Planning Policy Framework, and the need for continued vigilance to ensure that our museums, libraries and record offices can continue to carry out the functions for which they were established.

An Index to issues 11-20 of Rutland Record is published at the same time, and distributed free to members.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £4.00 (plus £1.25 p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk). ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-46-4. The Index to Rutland Record 11-20 is available for £2.50 (plus £1.20 p&p) from the same sources.

Press Release - January 2011

Rutland Record 30

## The Haringtons, Vincent Wing, and Robert Gouger

The new issue of Rutland Record, the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual publication, contains three main articles about well-known and perhaps not so well known Rutland families. First, Sue Howlett explores the relationship between the dynastic Haringtons of Exton and the royal court of James VI and I. We read how, as one of the great Rutland landowning families, they rose to power and privileged position in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, becoming guardians to James's daughter Elizabeth and friends with Prince Henry, Prince of Wales: and then how everything unravelled following Prince Henry's death at the tragically early age of 18, the death of Lord Harington in 1613 and that of his son John the following year, so that the dynasty failed.

Next, Professor Bernard Capp of the University of Warwick looks at the life and achievements of Vincent Wing (1619-68), surveyor, mathematician, astronomer and astrologer, of North Luffenham, who became nationally famous for his work in establishing new methods of surveying – witness an estate map of Luffenham which he published as an example – as well as for pioneering astronomical work which helped to establish the Copernican theory of the solar system. He published many technical works, but also nearly thirty annual almanacs containing astrological predictions: the political nature of these caused him to sail perilously close to the wind in the uncertain waters of the seventeenth century.

The third major article in this issue, by Paul Reeve, explores the family background of Robert Gouger (1802-46), the first Colonial secretary of South Australia, and his associations with the East Midlands and Rutland in particular. He reveals how the Gougers had a silk manufacturing business in Stamford and, for a short while, in Oakham, something which has been entirely lost sight of through the passage of time.

As usual, the issue concludes with notes on archaeological and historical work, including building surveys, in Rutland during the previous year, with reports from the museums, record offices and societies whose interests and responsibilities cover the county's heritage. These include a note on medieval and other Rutland archives in the University of Nottingham.

Rutland Record 30 is published in the context of severe cuts to public funding and very real threats to museum, archive and library services across the region. In the Editorial, the Society draws attention to the vulnerability of such services, and urges Rutland and its neighbours to minimise the likely impact on the high quality and highly valued services which its inhabitants and its visitors enjoy.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained as usual from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £4.00 (plus £1.25 p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk).

ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-45-7.

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Press Release May 2010

## Rutland Entries in Return of Owners of Land 1873

The Rutland Local History and Record Society published the latest in its series of Occasional Publications at its Annual General Meeting held at the Rutland County Museum on Thursday 13th May. In *Who Owned Rutland in 1873? Rutland Entries in Return of Owners of Land 1873*, the author, Tim Clough, transcribes all 564 entries in the Rutland section, supplies notes about many of the individuals concerned, and discusses what the Return can tell us about Rutland towards the end of the nineteenth century.

In the early 1870s there were serious social concerns that too much land in Britain was in the hands of too few major landowners, and Parliament carried out a survey to settle the matter. The result was the publication of the Return of Owners of Land 1873 in two massive volumes. The survey lists for each county all those identified as holding an acre of land or more, where they lived, how much they held, and the notional rental value. Despite errors and omissions, the Return is a mine of information about the people of each county, and Rutland is no exception. We learn who the county's landowners were, where they came from – many lived outside the county – and what they did.

In the case of Rutland, there were four principal landowners, the Earl of Gainsborough of Exton with over 15,000 acres in the county, Lord Aveland (later Earl of Ancaster) of Normanton Park with 13,600, the Marquess of Exeter of Burleigh House with 10,700, and G H Finch of Burley-on-the-Hill with just over 9,000. Between them they owned over half the county. Twelve others owned more than 1,000 acres, leaving just 25% of the county divided between the remaining 1,400 owners, of whom 861 had less than 1 acre and so do not appear individually.

Tim Clough said, 'Even though the Return records details of only some 2.5% of the county's total population at the time, it does afford a fascinating view of the landowning element of its society, and can be used alongside other sources such as Census returns, trade directories and parish records to build up the wider picture. It really is a very useful document and of great interest to the local and family historian.'

There are special sections on the parish of Lyddington and on an intriguing mystery concerning a group of minor landowners with strong associations with Chipping Campden in Gloucestershire, but apparently holding small plots of land in Whissendine.

The author, Tim Clough, was Curator of the Rutland County Museum and Oakham Castle from 1974 to 2002 and is the Rutland Local History & Record Society's Honorary Editor. He has written and edited many books and articles on archaeology, local history and numismatics, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. His long association with the county of Rutland has left him with a keen interest in and appreciation of the county's rich heritage, and he continues to delve into its past and to research its history.

*Who Owned Rutland in 1873?* is priced at £7.50, plus £1.50 postage & packing, and can be obtained from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum, Oakham, from Friday 14th May.

For further information please contact Tim Clough by e-mail: [editor@rutlandhistory.org](mailto:editor@rutlandhistory.org).

Press Release November 2009

Rutland Record 29

## Victorian Clergy in Rutland, and new light on Martinsthorpe

The new issue of Rutland Record, the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual publication, concentrates on the history of clergy in Rutland in the nineteenth century. First, Dr Gerald Rimmington – retired professor of education and one-time Rector of Barwell – surveys how the great social changes of the early Victorian era affected local clergy. He looks at their income and qualifications, reviews changes in the system of patronage, and looks at their relationships with the communities they served.

Next, Paul Reeve, a member of the Society who is studying the history of the photographer W H Fox Talbot, gives a biographical account of the Ven Thomas Kaye Bonney (1782-1863), who was Rector of Normanton for nearly half a century and Archdeacon of Leicester from 1831 until his death. He also served as domestic chaplain to the Heathcote family of Normanton Hall and was a man of many parts whose influence was felt in many spheres of Rutland life.

The third major article in this issue, by Nick Hill, a chartered building surveyor with English Heritage, takes a fresh look at Old Hall Farm, the last surviving building at the deserted village of Martinsthorpe, and its relationship to the lost Martinsthorpe House. Nick Hill shows that rather than being stables as has usually been thought, instead the farm was originally a service range with kitchens for the big house, and probably dates from 1666-70.

As usual, the issue concludes with notes on archaeological and historical work, including building surveys, in Rutland during the previous year, with reports from the museums, record offices and societies whose interests and responsibilities cover the county's heritage. Amongst these is the Rutland County Museum, which in 2009 has been celebrating its 40th anniversary and the 50th anniversary of its Friends, these events coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Society: the highpoint was the visit of HRH The Duke of Gloucester to the museum on 7th June, an event recorded in the Editorial to this issue.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £4.00 (plus £1.25p p&p), via local bookshops, or on-line via [www.genfair.co.uk](http://www.genfair.co.uk). ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-43-3

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Press Release January 2009

Rutland Record 28

## A Coconut Cup, a Royal Governess, and a Man who Sold his Wife

The Rutland Local History & Record Society has just published the 28th issue of its annual journal, Rutland Record. As always, this publication contains articles on different aspects of the county's past as well as notes on the activities of local organisations involved in work on its archaeology, history, museums and archives.

The first article, by Professor Alan Rogers, publishes for the first time a selection of late medieval wills from various sources covering five generations of the families of Browne (of Stamford and of Tolethorpe, Rutland), Stokes (of Warmington and Easton on the Hill) and Elmes (of Lilford and Stamford) who were closely related to each other. They reveal much about the standard of living of the wealthy urban merchants and country gentry of the period, and describe the contents of their houses. Amongst them was a drinking cup made out of a coconut and mounted on a silver-gilt stand which became a family heirloom. The Society's Editor, Tim Clough, said, 'These wills are of enormous interest to historians of all kinds. They describe the possessions of these people in fascinating detail, from feather beds to silver cutlery, and demonstrate how great a part religious belief played in their day-to-day lives'.

Another article, by retired librarian J D Bennett, gives details of the life of Lady Charlotte Finch, who became governess to the children of George III in the later eighteenth century, and was probably the first person to use jigsaws made from maps as teaching aids: some of her maps survive, as does the cabinet in which she kept them which is now on display at Kew.

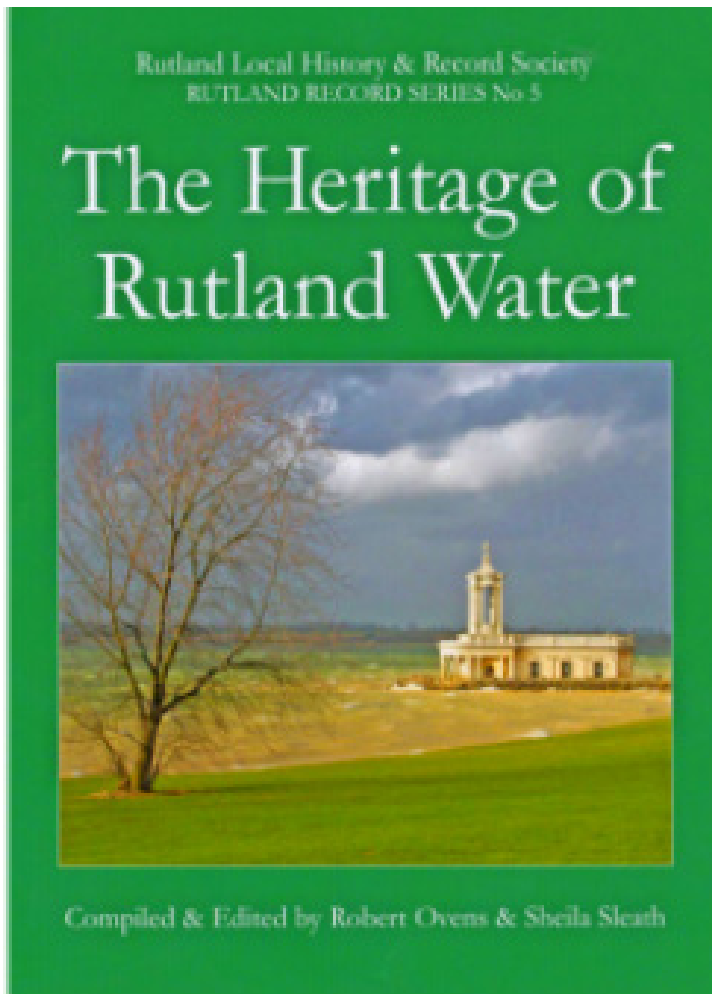
In a third article, Brian Palmer sheds light on the life of Thomas Hotchkin of Tixover, an influential member of Rutland's lesser but still wealthy landed gentry in the nineteenth century, whose family also owned plantations in Jamaica as well as the negro slaves that went with them at the time. Thomas Hotchkin was also well known in Lincolnshire for building the Victoria Hotel at Woodhall Spa, where thousands of people took advantage of the mineral-rich waters to treat a multitude of ailments.

Two other articles give details of the almshouse charity that Lord Harborough endowed at Stapleford in 1732, and of an astonishing case heard by Rutland magistrates in 1819 when Richard Hack of Clipsham, a well-to-do farmer, was up in court for having sold his wife to Charles Garfoot for half-a-crown (12½p) – a story that would have been front-page news for today's tabloids. The outcome? Hack pleaded guilty and was fined the princely sum of one shilling (5p).

Rutland Record 28 concludes with descriptions of archaeological fieldwork across the county, of Rutland archives acquired by the record office in Leicester, and of the activities of the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust and of the Rutland's own County Museum Service in 2007-08.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £4.00 (plus £1.25 p&p), or via local bookshops. - ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-42-6.

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The Rutland Local History & Record Society's book, *The Heritage of Rutland Water*, published at the end of November 2007, has been such an extraordinary success that the entire edition of 1200 copies was virtually sold out by Easter. Now the Society is delighted to announce that the book has just been reprinted, and copies will shortly be available again at the Rutland County Museum and other local outlets.

Compiled and edited by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath and running to 680 pages, with full colour throughout, *The Heritage of Rutland Water* is one of the most extensive and important books on Rutland ever produced. Its publication marked the culmination of a three-year community project initiated by the Society and sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Local Heritage Initiative. Focusing on Rutland Water, its surroundings and its heritage, twenty authors discuss subjects ranging from its underlying geology to its flora and fauna, from archaeological finds and historic houses to sailing and cycling.

Tim Clough, the Society's Honorary Editor, who contributed the Foreword, said, 'I don't think anyone envisaged at the start that this

project would give birth to a publication on such a scale, nor that the book would sell out so quickly. The decision to reprint has been a difficult one for the Society to make, because it commits substantial funds which are only recovered as the book sells, but we are confident that the coming summer season will see many more copies sold'. He added that in the new edition the opportunity had been taken to correct a few minor errors which had been brought to the Society's attention.

The local media, not to mention local booksellers, have been generous in their praise of the book – one magazine even recommended it as a Valentine's Day gift! Everyone who has seen it has commended the Society and the editors on its quality and content. Copies will be available in bookshops in Oakham, Uppingham and Stamford, the Rutland Water Tourist Information Centre, and the Egleton Nature Reserve, as well as the Rutland County Museum. The new edition costs £15.00 members £12.00 (postage and packing is an additional £7.00).

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Press Release March 2008

Rutland Record 27

## From Militiamen to Stone Age Hunters

Unlikely bedfellows are brought together in the new issue of the Rutland Local History & Record Society's annual journal, the 27th Rutland Record, just published. As always, this publication contains articles on different aspects of the county's past as well as notes on the activities of local organisations involved in work on its archaeology, history, museums and archives.

The first article, by Robin Jenkins of the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, is about the history of the Rutland Militia, an article prompted by a Record Office exhibition on the 250th anniversary of the Militia Act of 1757. Those who served in the militia were selected by ballot: you couldn't avoid selection, but if you could afford it you could pay a fine or hire a substitute to serve in your place. It's hardly surprising, then, that some locals chose to avoid military service in this way, as Robin demonstrates, drawing on surviving archives to illustrate his article.

The early development of Rutland's railways formed the subject of the RLHRS's annual Bryan Matthews lecture in 2005, and in the second article in this issue John Wales has now put pen to paper to record the basis of his talk on that occasion. The history of the Welland Valley line from Market Harborough to Peterborough and the importance of the Midland route from Kettering to Nottingham, over the Harringworth viaduct, are brought out in this study. The county's shortest line, from Seaton to Uppingham – less than four miles, is also featured, as well as other components of the complex of lines that criss-crossed Rutland in the latter part of the 19th and the earlier 20th centuries.

The Society's Honorary Editor, Tim Clough, said, "I remember getting the special end-of-term train which left Uppingham station at 6.33am when I was a boy – so this article has a special interest for me: but as always there's something to fascinate anyone with an eye for the history or archaeology of our county in this issue."

Members of the Society have been taking part in archaeological fieldwalking across the county for years, and in recent seasons their activities around Uppingham have led to a series of discoveries of unexpected importance. Evidence has been found by the fieldwalking team, led by Elaine Jones of Uppingham, that nomadic hunters and gatherers of the Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic – the later Old Stone Age and the Middle Stone Age – lived in or passed through the area around 18,000 years ago. Elaine's article describes finds of early flint tools from some 30 sites in this part of Rutland, and compares the life-style of these early peoples to that of reindeer hunters and fishers of Lapland in more recent times.

This edition also contains obituaries of two prominent members: George Boyle, of Bisbrooke Hall, who was past President and then Patron of the Friends of the Rutland County Museum, as well as a past President of the RLHRS; and Olive Adams, a founding member of the Rutland Field Research Group for Archaeology and History, later merged with the RLHRS of which she was an honorary member.

Descriptions of archaeological fieldwork across the county, of Rutland archives acquired by the record offices in Lincoln and Leicester, of the activities of the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust and of the county's own vibrant Rutland County Museum Service through 2006-07 bring the issue to a close.

Copies of the new publication can be obtained from the Rutland Local History & Record Society at the Rutland County Museum for £3.50 (plus £1.25 pence p&p) or via local bookshops. ISBN-13: 978-0-907464-40-2.

[Click here to order on-line using the Genfair Service](#)

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