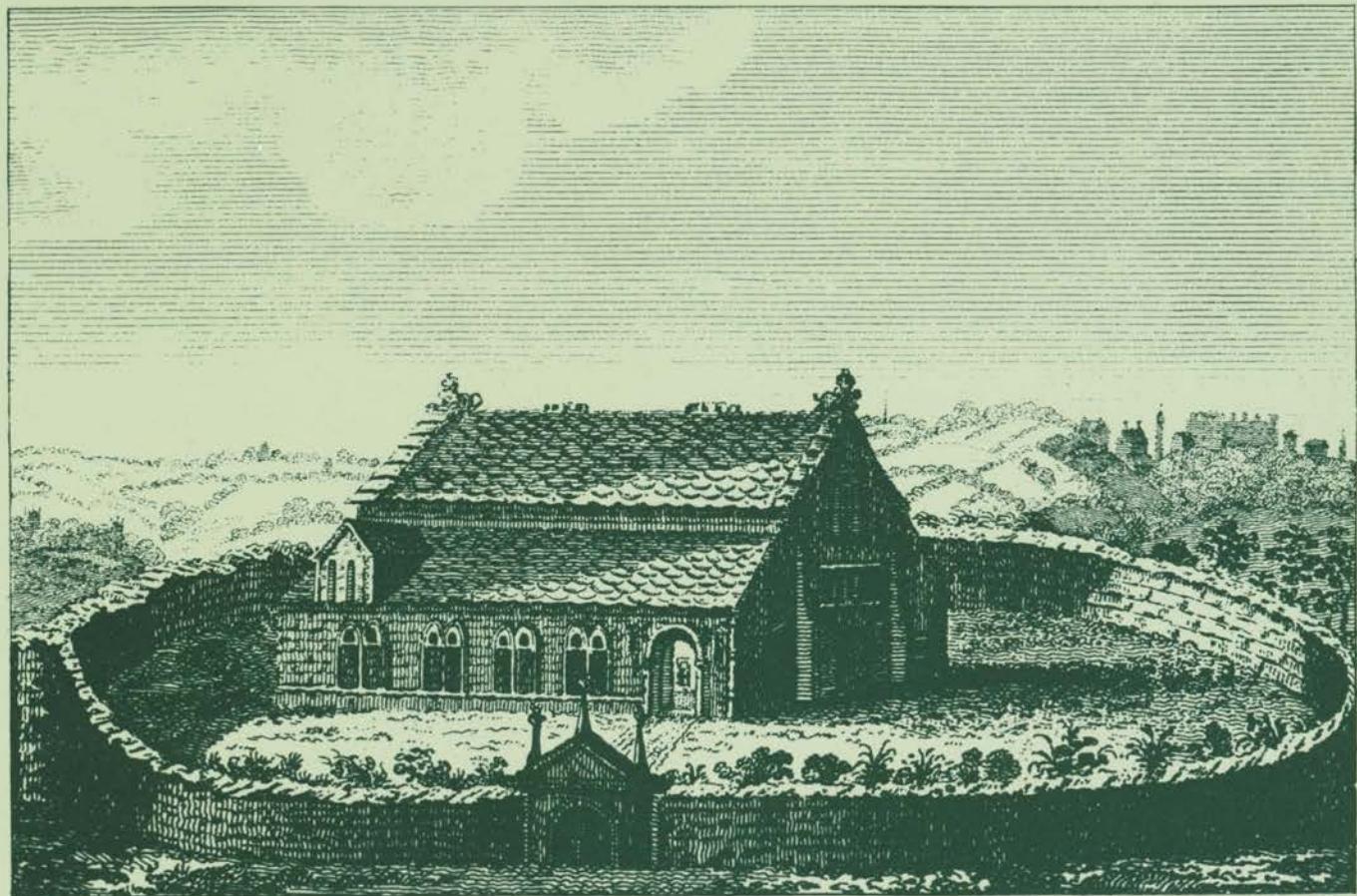


Rutland Record

Number Two 1981

Journal of the Rutland Record Society



Marcatt Sculp

OKEHAM CASTLE

The Rutland Record Society

The Rutland Record Society was formed in May 1979.

Its object is to advise the education of the public in the history of the Ancient County of Rutland, in particular by collecting, preserving, printing and publishing historical records relating to that County, making such records accessible for research purposes to anyone following a particular line of historical study, and stimulating interest generally in the history of that County.

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The Rutland Record Society welcomes new members and hopes to encourage them to participate in the Society's activities at all levels including indexing sources, transcribing records, locating sources, research, writing and publication, projects, symposia, fund-raising and sponsorship etc.

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COVER ILLUSTRATION:

Our front cover, which is reproduced from an engraving by Metcalf and part of the Bryan Waites collection, shows Oakham Castle as it was in 1730.

Editorial: The Call to Arms

BRYAN WAITES

How many times have you been counted? How many files do you appear in? We live in a Society where we are continually being assessed and counted. We cannot escape the taxman nor can we avoid the registration of births, marriages and deaths. There are Electoral Rolls both of State and Church, school records, medical records, rating, national insurance, TV and car licences as well as national, sample and interim censuses with sinister regularity. More and more information seems to be required as times goes on to feed the insatiable computer which can now process our most intimate details in a flash and then render the results in summary form to advise experts about regional trends, the distribution of wealth and poverty, health and sickness. We don't need to 'stand up and be counted' it happens whether we like it or not.

In an angry moment we may resent this kind of intrusion - some people have described it as the beginnings of a police state, but a democracy needs to know its citizens. Historians, at least, are thankful to have such records which may reveal, in due course, the bare bones of Society if not its flesh and its spirit.

Of course, it has gone on since the *Domesday Survey* (1086) at least. Even the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* reported 'so very narrowly did he cause the survey to be made that there was not a single hide or rood of land, nor even was there an ox or pig or a cow that was not set down in his writing'. As Julian Cornwall has shown in *The County Community under Henry VIII* the skill of the tax collectors and the subtleties of government financiers had increased by the 1500's when the escalating needs of the nation state, especially in time of war, demanded more and more money.

For centuries, in a well balanced society, an inter-dependent system of payment in goods and by services existed, characteristic of a rural and feudal organisation. Such a system had greater personality and humanity than a money economy but the onrush of an urban, industrialised and mercantile society based on international links squeezed out the last fragments of 'Christian service and true chivalry'.

However, one of the final remnants was the ancient 'Call to Arms' and, though the Military Survey of 1522 was levied largely for money there was still an element of rallying to the King in time of war. As Julian Cornwall has shown the Survey listed able-bodied men liable for service in the Militia with their arms and accoutrements. At the same time note was taken of the Chief Lord of the township, the Steward, clergy and villagers their occupations, value of land and goods, military rating, etc.

Now, what is most interesting to us in the Rutland

Record Society, is the manner in which this information was collected. Leading men picked for their reliability relayed instructions to all Constables of every town, hamlet, parish and village within a hundred district. They in turn handled matters in their own locality eventually reporting back and collecting the levy - a so-called loan which was never, in fact, paid back by the King. Similarly, in the tax, or Lay Subsidy of 1524-5, there were five high ranking Commissioners, below them 5 High Collectors and an unknown number of sub-collectors in the villages. So, as you can see it was done on a detailed, historic area basis.

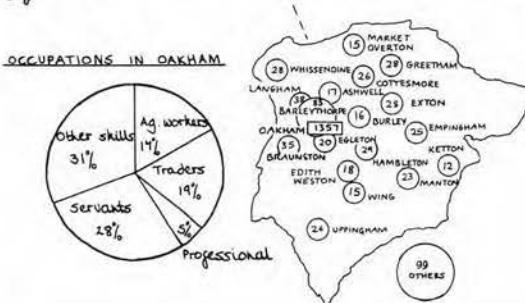
Can we recapture the spirit of the *Call to Arms*? What we need is a twentieth century *Call to Arms in Rutland*. The Rutland Record Society represents the Commissioners. Its many members, especially throughout Rutland, represent a potential task force. Why can't we again divide Rutland into its old hundreds and wapentakes. In each have a 'Constable' and around him or her within the district, village representatives? By this means the distribution of our business, news, sales, subscriptions and so on would proceed with greater efficiency and the morale and spirit of the Society could flourish

Part of a GCE O Level project, referred to overleaf.

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE PEOPLE OF OAKHAM - 1871

| Location | Total | % |
|----------------------------|-------|-----|
| 1 Rutland | 1973 | 65% |
| 2 E. Midlands | 560 | 20% |
| 3 Other counties | 305 | 10% |
| 4 Ireland, Scotland, Wales | 21 | 1% |
| Overseas | 16 | |

| Location | Total | % |
|----------------|-------|-----|
| Oakham | 1357 | 40% |
| Within 5 miles | 307 | 16% |
| Over 5 miles | 272 | 14% |



whereas otherwise it might tend to stagnate. Best of all we might then find out which members can offer *services* to the Society in terms of contributions to projects, by writing, photography, sketching, indexing, transcribing, collecting, etc. We might also discover and be notified of the valuable documents lingering away in dusty corners of our land.

Such a scheme is well suited to Rutland. Its small size and the intensity of its local patriotism can make it possible. A well-informed network focused on the Rutland Record Society and fittingly based on the medieval organisation described would be certain to produce good results. One example already of talent waiting to be discovered in this kind of way is in our Rutland schools. Original and important work is being done on local projects which could be of great value to the Society if word was more freely given of this.

One such project examined the *People of Oakham in 1871* using the Census Enumerators' Returns which after a safety lapse of 100 years are now available for study. These give details of names, ages, family, birthplaces, occupations, status for each household on a particular date in 1871 in Oakham. Indeed, 1981 is also a Census Year and you will have filled in answers to twenty-one questions on April 5th but the details will not be available to historians until 2081.

Examination of the intimate family details in returns for 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 and (now they are released), 1881 for a small town like Oakham or Uppingham can give a real cross-section of social structure, stability and change over a vital forty-year

period. The historical geography of a street or group of streets can be clearly worked out.

Only part of the project of a sixteen year old, prepared for GCE O Level, is included here and no attempt is made to explain the illustrations. However, it is clear enough to see that this is the kind of work of value to the Society. The kind we would wish to promote and to know about. How many more such projects are being done and then forgotten about? It may well be that a team could be formed to carry the work further, for example to reveal and study the cross-section of society in Oakham from the Census Enumerators' Returns. How much more could be done by an organised team?

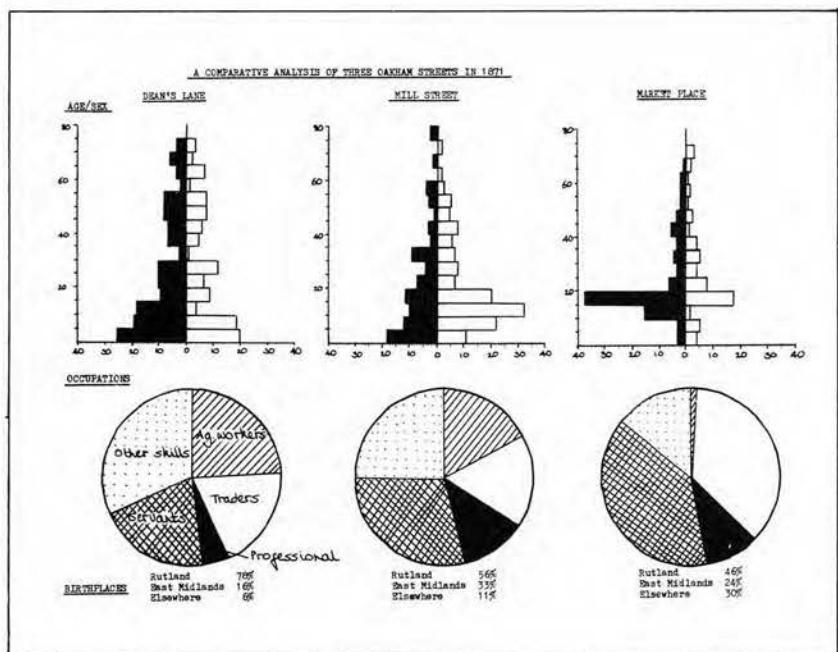
Let us, then, brace ourselves for a new *Call to Arms* so that we can know and be known. For our Society does not exist merely to pass the time of day or to fill up a lecture hall on a cold winter evening. It exists for its members and it must be a forceful, active body using all the talents it can find. Only then can it achieve its greater object of maintaining the historical continuity in this little corner of rural England. *Vitai lampada tradunt!*

Below:
Social Structure of Oakham in 1871 from a GCE History Project.

OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE OF OAKHAM -1871

| AGRICULTURAL WORKERS | | MAN EMPLOYED IN SHOPS AND AT TRADES | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Farmers | 16 | Butchers | 20 | Chandlers | 3 |
| Agricultural labourers | 119 | Grocers | 9 | Sweetmeatmen | 2 |
| Cabholders | 2 | Brewers | 9 | Jewellers | 1 |
| Pig/cattle dealers | 4 | Hairdressers | 3 | Newspapermen | 2 |
| Wagoners | 1 | Drapers | 27 | Corn merchants | 3 |
| Drovers/shepherds | 6 | Fishmongers | 64 | Cloth merchants | 2 |
| Cow keepers | 1 | Wine-sellers | 1 | General dealer | 3 |
| Hogbackers | 2 | Turner/stone off. | 16 | Glass / China | 3 |
| Poultry keepers | 1 | Mercantile | 1 | Dealer | 1 |
| Horse breakers | 1 | Mercenaries | 1 | Chemists | 1 |
| Wool washers | 2 | Millers | 2 | Wine / spirit | 1 |
| Cannakers/pipers | 2 | Hucksters | 3 | Merchants | 1 |
| | 187 | | | | |
| | | | | 180 | |
| OTHER SKILLED WORKERS | | PROFESSIONAL OCCUPATIONS | | | |
| Builders | 11 | Physicians | 3 | Teachers | 22 |
| Masons | 13 | Surgeons | 1 | Pupil teachers | 5 |
| Stoners | 6 | Magistrates | 1 | Church | 3 |
| Plumbers/glaziers | 15 | Police off. | 3 | Ministers | |
| Carpenters/joiners | 58 | Solicitors | 2 | Ministry | 2 |
| Wheelwrights | 4 | Reporter | 1 | Workers | |
| Machinists | 12 | Auctioneers | 3 | Tech surgeons | 3 |
| High-steepleers | 12 | | | | |
| Milliners | 31 | | | 46 | |
| Dress-makers | 51 | | | | |
| Knitters | 27 | | | | |
| Shoemakers | 24 | | | | |
| Butchers/slaughtermen | 12 | | | | |
| Cheesemakers | 6 | | | | |
| Watchmakers | 6 | | | | |
| Cordwainers | 5 | | | | |
| | 176 | | | | |
| SERVANTS BY OCCUPATION | | | | | |
| Domestic servants | | | | 164 | |
| Charwoman | | | | 10 | |
| Washwoman | | | | 20 | |
| Groom | | | | 41 | |
| Cook | | | | 21 | |
| Nurses/nursemaids | | | | 12 | |
| Governesses | | | | 3 | |
| | | | | 241 | |

(Plus 14 other skilled nonoccupants totalling 53)



Archdeacon Robert Johnson: Puritan Divine

BRYAN MATTHEWS

It would be an interesting exercise to compile a list of the people who had by their lives and actions most greatly advantaged the County of Rutland. Such a list would be likely to include representatives of the Finch and Noel families, while a more recent candidate for admission might well be the late Sir Kenneth Ruddle. But a contender for the first place in the list would surely be Robert Johnson whose foundations and benefactions in the County still provide valuable services very nearly four hundred years after their creation. In 1584 he founded a "Free School" and a Hospital of Christ (which was a home for indigent elderly men) in both Oakham and Uppingham. A few years later he refounded the almost defunct Hospital of St. John and St. Anne in Oakham. Today, as a result of these benefactions, there are in both Oakham and Uppingham, seven homes, with a Warden, for elderly men and their wives who are in difficult circumstances, endowed from the original foundation of the Hospitals of Christ; while the funds and property of the Hospital St. John and St. Anne have in the past five years made possible the building of ten flats in Oakham and twelve in Uppingham to provide a similar service.

The two schools he founded have both grown greatly from the numbers he originally provided for. It is true that they no longer serve the County in the way he originally prescribed, but they still benefit it in other ways, as sources of employment and as providers of amenities, and perhaps they bring some lustre to it.

The man who was responsible for these enduring establishments was born at Stamford in 1541. His family origins are interesting and go far to explain his later influence and wealth, which were both due in the main to a connection with the Cecils of Burghley in Stamford.

Robert Johnson's father, Maurice, came from Clun in Shropshire in the Welsh Marches where his father, John, and his Grandfather Evan, had possessed land which later descended through Maurice to Robert's elder brother Geoffrey.¹ There is no record of exactly when Maurice ap John, - or Johnson - migrated, or perhaps was taken, to Stamford but it must have been before 1493, for an entry in the Hall Book of Stamford states that Maurice Johnson was on December 1st 1500 admitted to the Freedom of the Borough, paying a fine of two shillings having just completed his apprenticeship with Geoffrey Hampden, a Master Dyer.² From this statement it can be deduced that Maurice was then over 21, had been at Stamford seven years serving his apprenticeship, yet was not a native of Stamford.

He was now able to practise his craft as a Master Dyer, at which he clearly prospered, for he very

quickly began to climb the ladder of municipal importance until in 1519 he was elected to the office of Alderman of Stamford, which under the charter granted by Edward IV was the title of the Chief Magistrate of the Borough. More importantly for the future of his son Robert, Maurice was chosen in 1523 to represent Stamford in Parliament, in company with another Stamford worthy named David Cecil, considerably his senior in age, the Grandfather of the great William Cecil who built Burghley House and was Queen Elizabeth's Secretary and Chief Minister. The Cecils, or Syssils, had also come from the Welsh Borders, in Herefordshire some miles south of Clun, and it is accepted by Historians that David Cecil had moved eastward across England having followed the fortunes of Henry Richmond to Bosworth Field in 1485. It is tempting to believe that Maurice Johnson's arrival in Stamford was due to his father John pursuing the same adventure. There is no direct evidence of this, nor has anything been discovered to contradict it. Whatever the truth and whatever caused the family to desert their native heath for a Borough on the edge of the Fens, the fact that Maurice Johnson and David Cecil were burgesses of Stamford in 1523 was of the utmost importance to the future of the Johnson family. The position and influence of David Cecil's grandson, unparalleled for so many years, was of great advantage to Robert Johnson on more than one occasion, as will become evident.

Maurice Johnson represented Stamford in Parliament three times in all, and he was also Alderman thrice, and then, at the age of almost 60 he married Jane Lacy, the daughter of another Stamford man, also an M.P. and once the Alderman, by name Henry Lacy. It is natural to suspect that this late marriage must be a second or even a third union, but there is no evidence in any Stamford Church record of a previous alliance, nor does Maurice's will hint at any previous dependants. However, late though it was, Maurice had time to father five children before he died, of whom Robert was the second oldest, born in 1541.

Because of his late marriage, Maurice Johnson had taken precautions to ensure his children's welfare in the likely event of his own death before they were of age, - which did in fact occur, for he died when Robert was ten.³ The lands at Clun went to the eldest son, Geoffrey, Robert inherited a share of Maurice's Stamford property, and was sent to live with his Uncle and Aunt at Stanground which is now part of Peterborough. While he lived with them, he went daily to the comparatively new King's School, from which he proceeded as a Sizar to Clare Hall, Cambridge at the age of 16. He was evidently intel-

lignant and apt for an academic career, for within a year he had migrated to Trinity College, Cambridge as a Scholar, took his B.A. in 1561, and two years later became a Fellow of Trinity.⁴ This achieved, he went abroad for three years to study in Paris and was, (so his son says), briefly in Ireland, but no reason for this visit has been discovered.⁵

After this excursion abroad, - the only time in his life he went far afield - he settled down to a career in the Church. He was ordained Deacon in Peterborough in July 1568, and Priest in December of the same year, at the age of 27. Next year was his *annus mirabilis* when he not only received his first mark of distinction, being appointed a Select Preacher at Cambridge, but also won his most rewarding position, that of Chaplain and Chaplain Examiner to Sir Nicholas Bacon, Queen Elizabeth's Lord Keeper of the Great Seal during the long period when she managed without a Lord Chancellor.⁵ Sir Nicholas was an old College friend of Sir William Cecil's, and also his brother-in-law, and one cannot but see the hand of Cecil in the appointment. It was a very important one, for Sir Nicholas Bacon held in his hands the Crown Patronage in Ecclesiastical affairs; it was Robert Johnson's task to suggest the names of clever and suitable young men in the Universities for preferment. He thus already had great influence; he would be in daily contact with the Lord Keeper and it would seem very likely that he would often meet Lord Burghley. His own advancement was not slow to arrive; in 1569 and 1570 he picked up three prebendal stalls, at Peterborough, Rochester and Norwich, which added comfortably to his income. In June 1571 he received further evidence of his burgeoning importance (and dependence upon Sir Nicholas and Lord Burghley) when he was appointed one of the founding fellows of Jesus College, Oxford⁶ (for which honour his Welsh ancestry was no doubt a factor. He was also a fellow Prebendary at Rochester with Dr. Price, the founder of Jesus College). But there was a critical time ahead. On July 4th of the same year he was summoned to Lambeth Palace to appear before Archbishop Parker to explain some scruples he had expressed, from the depths of his Puritanism, about the Elizabethan Prayer Book. He found it impossible to sign three articles placed before him and was immediately suspended from his Ministry. Johnson was, throughout his life, a firm Puritan, (and in this he was of the same opinion as Lady Bacon, herself a deeply convinced follower of Puritan principles), but he never let the severity of his beliefs destroy his career, and he avoided the disasters which fell upon his contemporary and exact namesake, The Rev. Robert Johnson, known as the Northampton Preacher, who

so refused to compromise his beliefs that at this time he died in the Gatehouse Prison. Our Robert Johnson was more of a Trimmer. After a month's cogitation, with, no doubt, some practical advice from Sir Nicholas Bacon, he wrote to the Archbishop, submitting entirely to his bidding.⁷ Thus he was able to keep his position with the Lord Keeper and resume his advance in ecclesiastical importance, receiving his fourth prebend (that of a Canon of Windsor)⁸ at the hands of Queen Elizabeth when she made a visit to Gorhambury, Sir Nicholas' Hertfordshire home. She had disapproved of Archbishop Parker's treatment of Johnson; maybe this was a quid pro quo. Next year the disgruntled Archbishop complained to Lord Burghley of 'this Johnson, cocking abroad with four several prebends'.⁹ A year or two later, in 1574, Johnson was appointed Rector of North Luffenham,¹⁰ (which was a Royal advowson), and entered upon the only living he ever had, in which he remained for the rest of his life, another fifty-one years.

Not long after his induction, he married the first of his three wives, Susanna Davers,¹¹ who died a year later, perhaps in childbirth, though there is some evidence that she was delicate and the marriage was postponed because of her ill-health. He did not remain a widower long, and a year later found consolation in a second marriage with a lady named Mary Herd,¹² as rigid a Puritan as he was himself. From this marriage was born in 1577 Robert Johnson's only child, Abraham, who grew up to be cranky, eccentric, feckless and complaining, but to whom we are indebted for the account he left, which still survives, of his father's life, his own peculiarities, and of every conceivable link by consanguinity with noble or not-so-noble worthies. He wrote in an idiosyncratic style, of which his tender description of his mother may serve as an example: 'His owne deere entirely-loving worthy virtuous pious chaste Mother and most patient under the Lord's long sharp correcting hand of stone and specially the gowte.'¹³

Robert Johnson did not let his appointment as Rector interfere with his Puritan activities; he was very busy for some years arranging 'Fasts' at Stamford and Oakham; he was 'presented' by his churchwardens in 1587 for preaching after being prohibited by the Bishop, and he also employed a Curate, William Lacocke, whom he allowed to preach although he was unlicensed.¹⁴ Two years later he allowed an itinerant preacher, Giles Wiggington, to give a sermon in North Luffenham, even though he had been deprived of his living at Sedbergh as a suspect Marprelate author. In spite of all these irregularities, Johnson was appointed in 1591 Archdeacon of Leicester, a position he held until his death in 1625,

though in his latter years he cannot have often made the long journey on horseback by the Elizabethan equivalent of the A47 to Leicester. We know, however, that at least in the earlier part of his office, he was an efficient and vigorous Archdeacon.

All this activity did not take his whole mind or all his energy; he was always very interested in the education of the young, and in 1584 put into operation a plan which had clearly been in his mind for some years. In April that year he bought a site just to the south-east of Uppingham church for a 'Free School' at Uppingham, and immediately began to build the foundations of what is now called the Art School,¹⁵ which still stands, little altered externally from the substantial room he constructed. The site for a similar school at Oakham was purchased in November of the same year after some very shrewd dealing with two professional traffickers in 'concealed' church lands, who had purchased two chantries in the churchyard at Oakham which had been reported as 'concealed' (that is, had escaped surrender in the time of Henry VIII) by an Inquiry on which Robert Johnson's brother-in-law had been a member. Here too Robert Johnson lost no time in building the School, slightly bigger than the one at Uppingham, which also still stands, now known as the Shakespeare Centre.

It is difficult to be sure how Johnson financed these operations. His father had left him some property,¹⁶ his two marriages so far were to ladies who were well-off, but hardly heiresses, his own income from his various prebends (two of which he had had to surrender after complaints of plurality) could not have been more than pleasantly satisfactory; yet his financial transactions seem to show that he was a man of property.

Having built the Schools, - which were only part of his grand design - Johnson's next care was for their endowment, for he had stipulated that the schools were to be free for local boys who could show financial need, and fees alone could not cover his expensive plans, which involved a Master and an Usher in each school. Land was the only medium of permanent investment then, and the purchase of land for endowment purposes was banned by the Statute of Mortmain, so Johnson needed, and obtained, through the good offices of Lord Burghley and his influential friends, a Licence of Mortmain by Letters Patent.¹⁷ It is this which Uppingham and Oakham call their School Charter, and of which each has an official copy framed and on display.

Thomas Fuller describes how Johnson raised money for the purchase of the land for endowment: 'He had a rare faculty in requesting of others unto his own desires, and with his arguments could sur-

prise a miser into charity Hereby finding none, he left so many Free Schools in Rutland as there are market towns'.¹⁸ But Johnson must also have contributed out of his own pocket towards the building and endowing of the schools, as Abraham Johnson's MSS makes very clear.

The Letters Patent was issued in 1587, by which time the Schools were built, but the Hospitals for the indigent old had not yet taken shape, and it was not until 1591, in the same year in which he became Archdeacon, that Johnson petitioned Queen Elizabeth for financial assistance so that he could complete his plan and build the Hospitals.¹⁹ The petition received, as one might expect, the full support of Lord Burghley who wrote 'I know that the party hath begun these good acts and hath maintained them with all the goods his father left him; such actions are rare in this age' - a noble tribute which also supplies evidence of Johnson's own financial involvement. So in June 1592 he bought the site for his Hospital of Christ in Uppingham,¹⁵ a piece of pasture land known as 'Conygree Close', and he built upon it the house for the Master - cum - Warden and the dwelling for the poor men and one washerwoman. The present Uppingham School Library, part of the Old School House and New Library undoubtedly contain in their walls stones from this original building and stand on the very site. There is no legal document existing relating to the Hospital of Christ at Oakham built where the School House now stands, adjacent to Butter-Market, but there is a legend that the site belonged to the Harringtons, then a distinguished and wealthy Rutland family.

The creation of the Schools and Hospitals was a substantial act of philanthropy. Unfortunately no record has survived of the detailed motives and principles which led Johnson to create his foundations; it would have been interesting to know what really drove him on. But we do know that he had an intense interest in education, and practised his beliefs upon his unfortunate son, who must have been one of the most over-educated children of his age; (he says, for instance, that he was taught to write 'the Secretary, Roman, Court Hand, or Chancery Hand, Text hand and Bastard hand, all these both in the small letters and the Great or Capital').²⁰ It is also clear that Robert Johnson had a great sense of compassion for elderly and impoverished people, for his second great enterprise was the re-founding and rehabilitation of the old Hospital of St. John and St. Anne on Chamberlain's Close in Oakham.²¹ This had been founded in 1399 by William Dalby, who desired to lay up for himself treasure in Heaven after a lifetime of doing so on

earth. His foundation comprised the upkeep of a Warden, and a Chaplain to pray for the King and Queen, himself and his Wife, their souls after their deaths and for all the faithful departed, and provided for the sustenance of twelve poor men. On Dalby's death, six years later, his eminent son-in-law, Roger Flore, became Patron and for some years the Hospital flourished. But Roger Flore's descendants lost interest, the lands of the foundation were declared 'concealed', and as in the case of the site of Oakham School, Robert Johnson bought the land from professional traffickers in concealed lands. Four years later, in 1597, by another Letters Patent from the now aged Queen, aided for the last time by an aged Lord Burghley, he refounded the Hospital, re-endowed it and appointed new Governors, who included (and still include today) ex-officio, the Bishop of Peterborough, and the incumbents of Oakham, Uppingham and North Luffenham. Although the buildings were demolished in 1845 when the Midland Railway drove the Oakham line through the site, and though the Chapel is now sorely vandalised, some of the endowments with which Robert Johnson endowed the Hospital survived and have so increased in value with the years that they have provided the basis for the Old People's flats already mentioned.

Robert Johnson lived on in North Luffenham as Rector until his death in 1625. He had lost his second wife in 1597, but two years later married a widow, Margaret Wheeler,²² who was by birth a Lilly, member of a literary and academic family, whose brother, John Lilly was rated by Francis Meres to be a better writer of Comedy than Shakespeare. Of Margaret, his step-mother, Abraham Johnson wrote: 'She was a gentlewoman, and verily a religious woman, and loved me and mine as if I were borne of her owne body'.²³ She and Robert had 17 years together before she died, leaving him thrice a widower, but in that 17 years she had brought up Abraham's first child, Isaac, (for Isaac's Mother had died when he was an infant, and Abraham was occupied with a second marriage and seven more children, leaving Isaac to be looked after by his Grandparents). Perhaps the seeds of the bitter quarrel which developed between Robert and his son Abraham lie in the fact that Isaac grew up in his Grandfather's house, for Robert found in Isaac all that he had looked for and could not see in Abraham. When Robert's will became known²⁴ the unfortunate Abraham found that out of all his father's wealth (which he quotes as £20,000 - an enormous sum for those days), he only received £100, his Wife £20 and his 7 children by the second marriage £20 apiece. Most of the property had either already been given

or was bequeathed, to Isaac, with the stipulation that if Abraham were to oppose the will or 'molest the executors', he would be cut off with 40/-, his wife 20/- and his other children 10/- each - which looks perilously close to a parental insult.

Some of the money did, in the end, return to Abraham, for Isaac had inherited also his father's Puritanism, and had married an aristocratic wife, the Lady Arbella Fiennes, who was even more so. Six years after his father's death both set sail to New England to join with the Massachusetts Bay Company in founding a new colony there. The journey was too much for Lady Arbella who died within days of setting foot in America; Isaac lasted only two months more, but in that time had been an important member of the Committee which voted to name their new town 'Boston' after the town in Lincolnshire where Isaac and Lady Arbella had been living. Isaac left much of his property to the new colony, but some found its way back to his father.

Robert Johnson's last benefaction appears in the third codicil to his will. He had already endowed 'leaving Exhibitions' for able and needy boys at his Schools. He now set aside money to found Exhibitions at the four colleges at Cambridge with which he had connections: St. John's, Clare, Sidney Sussex and Emmanuel, and stipulated that preference should be given to those who had been at least a year at either of his Schools in Rutland. By this act he ensured the future prosperity of these schools, for able boys came to them from a distance to qualify for the exhibitions, which meant that the Master was able to increase his income by taking them in as boarders, and that there was a succession of mature sixth-form pupils in the Schools. This in turn meant that the posts of Master and Usher were attractive to men of ability, often with first-class degrees.

Robert Johnson was buried in the chancel of North Luffenham Church, and his grave was marked by a bronze plate, which, for its preservation, is now affixed to the chancel wall. The inscription, in a contemporary style. (Could it have been written by a slighted but still faithful Abraham?), summarises his life succinctly in noble words, of which the following are an extract:

*Robert Jhonson,
Bachelor Of Divinitie,
A Painful Preacher,
Parson of North Luffenham
Had a Godlie Charge Of Religion,
And A Charitable Minde To The Poore.*

(There follows a record of his foundations in Oakham and Uppingham).

He Was Also Beneficiall To The Towne Of North Luffenham, And Also To The Towne Of Stam-

ford Where He Was Borne Of Worshipfull Parents

It Is The Grace Of God To Give A Man A Wise Harte To Lay Up His Treasure In Heaven
Sic Luceat Lux Vestra - Let Your Light So Shine.



REFERENCES

The only printed sources for a life of Robert Johnson are: *Our Founder*, a 48 pp. booklet by C.R. Bingham, published in 1884 for the Uppingham School Tercentenary. This is helpful, but wrong in some important details. The article on Robert Johnson in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Both of these had access to the prime source of information about Robert Johnson, the *Abraham Johnson MSS* mentioned in the article above. This was written by Abraham Johnson in 1638 and has been passed down the Johnson family. It is at present in the Uppingham School Archives (UA). Much of the subsequent research on Robert Johnson was carried out in the 1920s and 1930s by the late Arthur Hawley, who at his death in 1952 bequeathed his MSS and notes to UA.

Notes to the article:-

1. Chancery Proc. Series II, Vol 7, Bundle 102, No. 53, p.225. (Public Record Office). This gives an account of the legal battle between Geoffrey Johnson and his cousins in Clun. Maurice Johnson spells his name variously. It is MORRICE in his will.
2. The *Hall Book of Stamford* gives details of Maurice Johnson's early life and municipal career. See also Butcher, *History of Stamford*, 1646.
3. Henry Lucy's will: Prerogative Court of Canterbury, (P.C.C.) 2. Morrison. Maurice Johnson's will P.C.C. 29 Buck.
4. J. Venn (Ed), *Grace Book, Records of Cambridge University for years 1542-89*. (1910).
5. Abraham Johnson's MSS. (henceforth AJMS).
6. Letters Patent of Foundation, dated June 27, 1571.
7. Petty MSS. 538, Vol. 46. Fol. 32. Inner Temple Library.
8. Lansdowne MSS. 984. Fol. 67. (Bp. Kennett MSS). British Library.
9. Lansdowne MSS. Vol. xvii. 54. November 9 1573. British Library.
10. Peterborough Diocesan Records. Institutions. 1574-84. Fol. 2. Northamptonshire Record Office.
11. AJMS.
12. *Marriage Licences granted by the Bishop of London. 1520-1610*. Harleian Society. Vol. I p.70. (Available in Leics. Univ. Library).
13. AJMS.
14. W.J. Sheils, *Puritans in the Diocese of Peterborough*, Northamptonshire Record Society. Vol. xxx. (1978).
15. All transcripts of Robert Johnson's purchase of land at Uppingham are in UA.
16. Maurice Johnson's will. See note 3.
17. The original Roll is in the Public Record Office, Chancery Lane. The original Letters Patent and the original duplicate copy hang at the two Schools.
18. Thomas Fuller, *The Worthies of England*. 1662.
19. Hatfield MSS. Pt. iv. p.107. Historical MSS. Commission, *Calendar of Salisbury Papers*, 1892,
20. AJMS.
21. All relevant documents are kept in UA.
22. PDR. Marriage Licences, May 11 1599. Northamptonshire Record Office.
23. AJMS.
24. Robert Johnson's will. P.C.C. 131. Clarke. (1625).

I am grateful to Mr. W. BLOIS JOHNSON, descendant of Robert Johnson, who allowed me to research among the archives of the Johnson family.

Thomas Barker of Lyndon Hall, Rutland and his Weather Observations

J.A. KINGTON and
BERYL D. KINGTON

For a number of years a research project has been in progress at the Climatic Research Unit in the University of East Anglia, Norwich concerned with the preparation of a series of daily historical weather maps for a period in the eighteenth century. Among the many meteorological records being used, there is one of outstanding value both for its continuity and content. This is the weather journal kept by Thomas Barker at Lyndon Hall, Rutland from 1733 to 1798. Before discussing the value of these observations to current climatological studies, it may be appropriate to say something about Thomas Barker and his family background.

The Barker Family and Lyndon Hall

References to Thomas Barker are usually given in the form of his relationship to William Whiston or Gilbert White, but Thomas Barker is worthy of fame in his own right. It has become apparent from the use being made of his meteorological register that he was one of the most important observers of the weather in the eighteenth century.

Thomas Barker has been variously described as 'a man of some note as an astronomer and mathematician interesting himself also in natural history observations';¹ 'an extraordinarily interesting and thoughtful country squire';² and 'a very intelligent gentleman'.³

Thomas Barker was born at Lyndon Hall, Rutland in 1722, his father Samuel Barker, having become the squire of Lyndon Hall (see Figure 1) fourteen years earlier. Samuel Barker was a distant cousin of

the brothers Sir Abel and Sir Thomas Barker, the former of whom built the present Lyndon Hall in the 1670s. This branch of the family was probably descended from yeomen recorded in Lyndon as early as the reign of Henry VIII. Sir Abel's grandfather, Baldwin Barker, had lived at Hambleton to the north of Lyndon. In 1634, his son Abel Barker, Sir Abel's father, bought the Old Hall at Hambleton and in 1639 Sir Abel succeeded an elder brother to the property. During the time of the Civil War the younger Abel was Cromwell's representative for Rutland.⁴ In the meantime, the old Lyndon Hall was acquired by Hugh Audley of The Temple, London in 1654. With the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Abel Barker was granted a pardon for any misdeeds he might have committed during the Interregnum and was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Rutland. Two years later Abel and his brother Thomas bought Lyndon from Hugh Audley, Abel putting up £6,133 towards the purchase price of £9,400. In 1663 the two brothers made a survey of the manor (see Figure 2).

Abel Barker, now Sir Abel, a baronetcy having been conferred on him in 1665, began to have ideas for a new house at Lyndon. It is believed he was influenced by three important works which had appeared during the 1660s: the first English translation of the famous treatise on architecture by Palladio (1663), the publication of Gerbier's *Counsel and Advice to all Builders* (1663) and the *Act for rebuilding the City of London* (1667). During the winter of 1667-1668 Sir Abel worked on his plans.

Fig. 1 Lyndon Hall, Rutland. View of the original entrance to the house from the south side with Lyndon Church on the right.



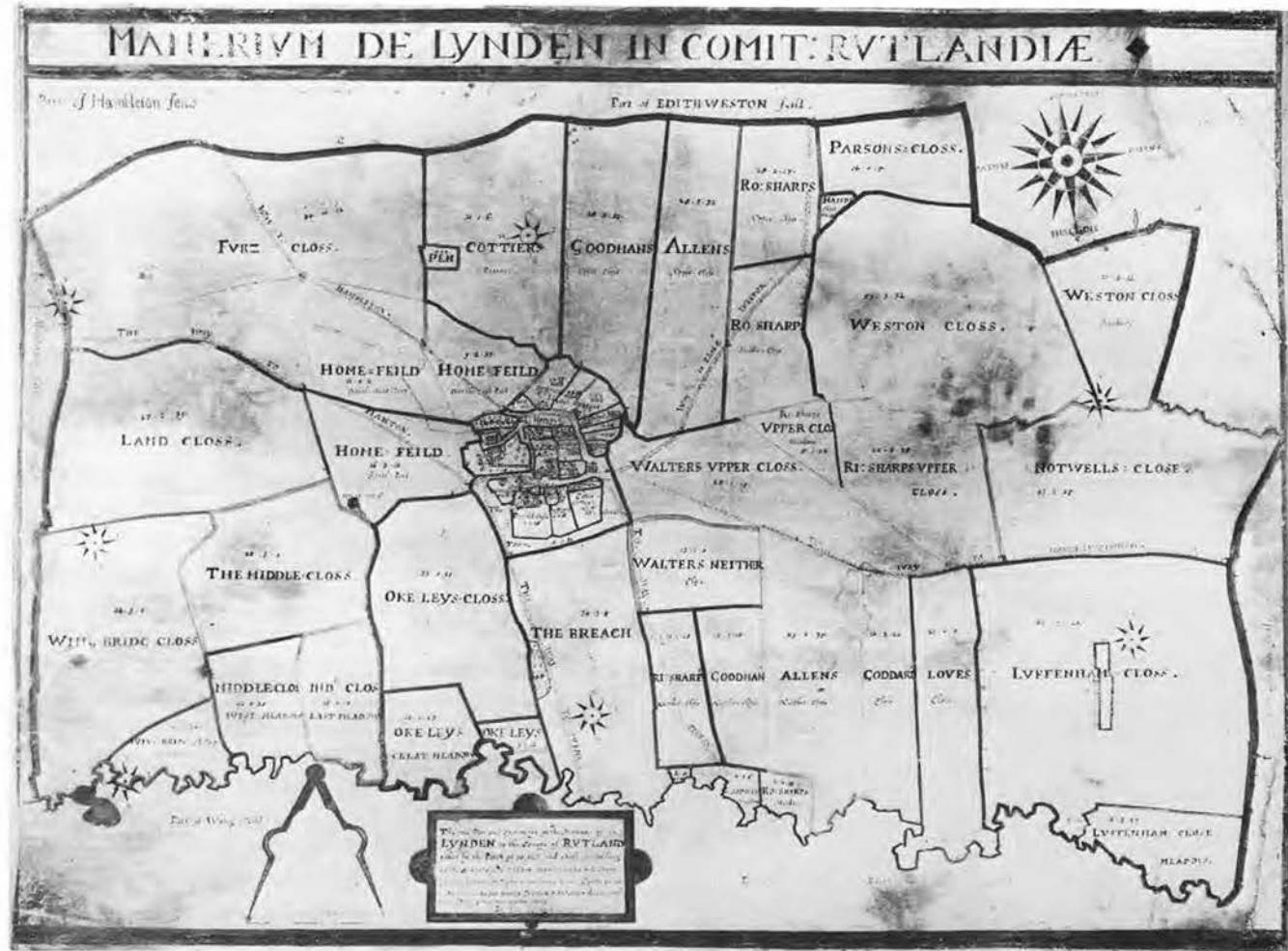


Fig.2 Survey of Lyndon Hall by Abel and Thomas Barker, 1663. By kind permission of Sir John Conant.

It is known that he had consultations with the architect John Sturges but it seems that Sir Abel superintended the building himself. The building of the new house took place between 1671 and 1677.

In 1679 Thomas Barker, now Sir Thomas, succeeded his brother. Neither brother had sons and on the death of Sir Thomas in 1708 Lyndon Hall passed to another branch of the family, the Barkers of North Luffenham.⁵

The first member of this family to become squire at the age of 22 was Samuel Barker, the father to be of the weather observer, Thomas Barker. Samuel's father, also a Thomas, had been a patron of the Anglican priest and mathematician William Whiston (1667-1752) who is to feature so prominently as an influence on his future grandson, Thomas Barker.

William Whiston and the Scientific Revolution

William Whiston first met Isaac Newton (1642-1727) in 1694 and became interested in his system of natural philosophy. He began to study Newton's *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica* with great enthusiasm. In 1696 Whiston published his own work, *A New Theory of the Earth*, dedicated to Newton in which he suggested that the origin and all major changes in the earth's history could be attributed to the action of comets. He was at this time chaplain to Bishop John Moore at Norwich

and was probably influenced by Moore's political and religious views. His scholarly tendencies must have benefited by access to Moore's library which was famous throughout Europe. In 1699 William Whiston married Ruth Antrobus and in 1702 succeeded Newton as Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. His published lectures span the period 1701 to 1708 comprising a commentary on the *Principia* and were widely used as textbooks during the eighteenth century.

At this time Whiston (see Figure 3) was also actively engaged in sacred and antiquarian chronological studies which, in the first half of the eighteenth century, were highly respected disciplines. It was during his period at Cambridge that Whiston first pursued theological ideas about the development of the doctrine of the Trinity and in 1710 he was deprived of his Chair at Cambridge for spreading ideas in the University which were contrary to the established teaching of the Church of England. There is a contemporary description of him by Uffenbach, a German scholar visiting Cambridge:

'This time we found in the Coffee-house, among other scholars, the famous William Whiston ... He is, it seems, a man of very quick and ardent spirit, tall and spare, with a pointed chin and wears his own hair. In look, he greatly resembles Calvin. He is very fond of speaking and argues with great vehemence.'



Fig.3 William Whiston wearing non-clerical dress and holding a diagram of a comet approaching the sun. By kind permission of Sir John Conant.

During the years 1700 to 1711 his four children who survived to adult life were born: a daughter Sarah (1700), and three sons, William (1703), George (1705) and John (1711). It is Sarah who is to be the mother of Thomas Barker. After his dismissal from Cambridge, William Whiston and his family moved to London where he gave public lectures and published works of various kinds. He maintained an active interest in both scientific and religious studies. From 1713 to about 1744 Whiston made continuous efforts to find a solution to the longitude problem. In about 1715, his daughter Sarah was married to the young squire of Lyndon Hall, Rutland, Mr. Samuel Barker. This was an event which seemed to benefit the whole family. Lyndon Hall became a second home for William Whiston, his wife Ruth and their three sons. Samuel Barker was a noted Hebrew scholar who took an active interest in Whiston's publications. Following the birth of two daughters, Sarah in 1718 and Elizabeth in 1720, Thomas was born at Lyndon Hall in 1722.⁶

Thomas Barker, Gilbert White and Early Meteorology
The earliest recorded meteorological observations with instruments were made in the mid-seventeenth

century. In 1663, four years before the birth of William Whiston, Robert Hooke (1635-1703) proposed *A method for making a history of the weather* whereby members of the newly founded Royal Society of London were requested to record daily instrumental weather observations in a standard form. In 1723, one year after the birth of William Whiston's grandson, Thomas, James Jurin (1684-1750), Secretary of the Royal Society, invited all weather observers who were both willing and equipped for the work to submit annually to the Society the records of their daily meteorological observations. Included in his request were detailed instructions on how these observations were to be made and recorded. Jurin had studied medicine under the Dutch physician Hermann Boerhaave (1668-1738) at Leyden who was particularly keen on investigating the possible relationship between the weather and disease. It is interesting that the portrait of William Whiston shown in Figure 3, probably dating from the early part of the century, includes a book in the background by Boerhaave. Although Thomas Barker was at present too young to heed this invitation, by the time he was 14 in 1736, two entries made in his diary reveal both an interest in natural history and the knowledge of a fellow enthusiast. Mary Isaac, wife of the Rector of Whitwell near Lyndon had a nephew, a boy of 15, who was probably staying with them for the Easter holiday. This fellow enthusiast had seen a flock of wild geese flying north on March 31st and heard the cuckoo on April 6th. These events were noted in Thomas's diary together with the initials of the observer - G.W. The name of the nephew was Gilbert White.⁷ In the next month, May, of the same year 1736, Thomas Barker began to take measurements of rainfall,⁸ a series of observations he was to continue for the next 62 years. During this period, as mentioned previously, Thomas's grandfather William Whiston made continuous efforts to find a solution to the longitude problem. He was a frequent visitor at Court and Queen Caroline, wife of George II, is said to have enjoyed his forthright manner and unequivocal language. Ruth Wiston wrote to her daughter Sarah from London, August 8 1730:

'Mr Whiston is come safe from Windsor and was received very kindly at court especially by her majesty.'

Whiston's publications included accounts of unusual atmospheric phenomena, for example, accounts of two 'meteors' observed on 6th March, 1716 and 19th March, 1719, both at night. At the time the term 'meteor' was commonly used to cover many classes of natural phenomena: 'airy meteors',

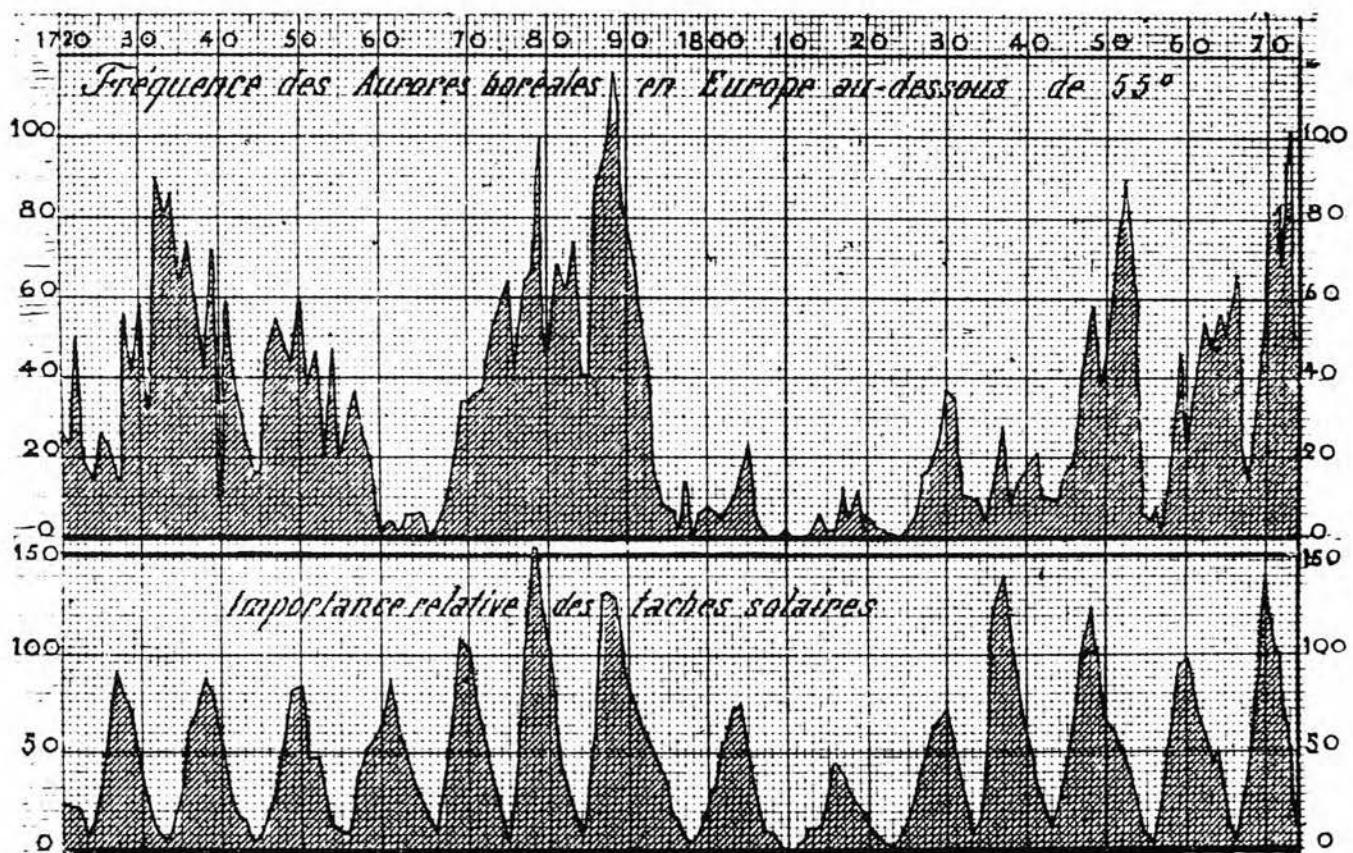


Fig. 4 Comparison of the frequency of aurorae in Europe south of 55°N (1720-1874) with sunspots, showing the marked increase in aurorae from the 1720s to 1730s.

'aqueous meteors', 'luminous meteors', 'igneous or fiery meteors'. The so-called 'meteor' of 6th March, 1716 was apparently a spectacular auroral display which Whiston witnessed from London and published a first-hand account. It would appear that the term 'Northern Lights' can be attributed to Whiston. It is clear from his writings that Whiston was aware of the connection between auroral displays and terrestrial magnetism. He also noted that:

*'Whatever hypotheses have been made about these meteors or northern lights, none pretend to give any sure account why they have been so much more frequent for 20 or 21 years together from 1715 till 1736 than formerly: which fact yet I take to be undeniable.'*⁹

Whiston is here making a very interesting contemporary statement about the reappearance of aurorae which occurred in 1715-1716 after a 70-year long period from 1645 to 1715 when the phenomenon had been markedly absent. The same period was also notable for a minimum of sunspots, the so-called 'Maunder Minimum'. There is a well-established positive correlation between sunspots and aurorae and it has been suggested that times of very low solar activity are linked with periods of colder climate, for example, the 'Maunder Minimum' appears to correspond very closely with a severe phase of the 'Little Ice Age'.¹⁰ (Figure 4)¹¹.

Whiston was an assiduous observer of meteoro-

logical and astronomical phenomena, and often communicated his observations to the *Royal Society*, for example, the optical phenomena including a halo and parhelia seen from Lyndon following an auroral display in October 1721. He was in contact with astronomers at European observatories concerning their observations of the solar eclipse of 11th May, 1724. He communicated to the *Royal Society* an account of the extraordinary 'sun-spot' of 23rd September, 1730 and suggested that it could have been a comet passing across the face of the sun. Whiston regarded the astronomical year of 1736 (25th March, 1736 to 25th March, 1737) as one of great significance for which he listed no less than eighteen astronomical phenomena, including two total eclipses of the moon, a transit of Mercury, an annular eclipse of the sun and the reappearance of the comet of 1668.¹²

It is not surprising, therefore, that with all this activity in making observations of natural phenomena young Thomas should have become aware of the atmosphere and himself began to record details about the weather. He commenced his journal in 1736 and besides observations in astronomy, it also contained notes on the measurements of trees, a record of the appearance and disappearance of migratory birds, and the leafing and flowering of trees at Lyndon. The first entry reads 'March 28th: First swallow seen.'

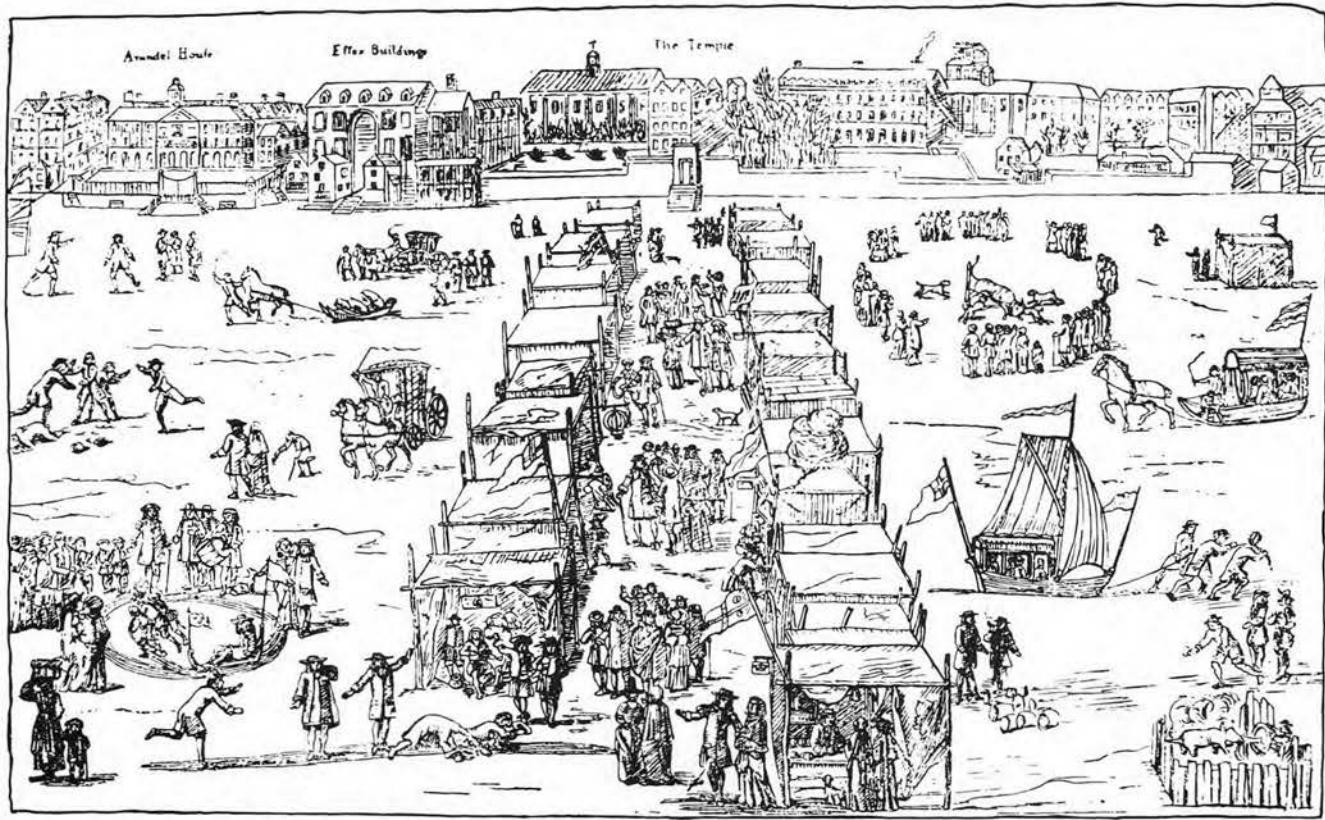


Fig.5 Frost Fair on the Thames,¹⁵ winter of 1683-84. Copy of an engraving from a broadside entitled 'Great Britain's Wonder, London Admiralty. Being a True Representation of a prodigious Frost, which began about the beginning of December, 1683 and continued till the fourth day of February following.' etc.

It would appear that his instrumental observations of the weather also began in the 1730s but unfortunately the relevant volume is missing. However, his yearly accounts which he began to write about 1741, are still in existence. The accounts of the years before that, back to 1733 were, 'by memory & such other helps as I had; Yet I believe there are no great mistakes in it.'¹³ Evidence of his thoroughness in keeping his records was given many years later (20th April, 1785) when in a letter written to his brother-in-law, the Rev. Mr. White of Fyfield, Andover, he compares the severity of several past winters.

'Much the severest Frost in my time was that in the winter between 1739 and 40, no winter since has ever come up to that for steadiness and sharpness.... I measured the Freezing every morning and evening, ... It is unlucky I cannot say what the degree of cold was, for I had not then begun to keep a Thermometer abroad; but the effects of the frost were such as have never happen'd since; The Thames was so frozen over at London that a Street was built upon it, which stood about six weeks and was call'd Frostfair, ... This Frost however by the accounts I have met with does not seem to have come up to some former ones. The greatest of all was that in 1683, and 4; which lasted 13 weeks, and so sharp that water thrown up fell down ice, and my Grandfather Whiston

*who measured it said it froze 3 inches & 1/3 in one night. The Thames was then frozen, and an Ox roasted whole on the ice.'*¹⁴

It is known that Gilbert White was again at Whitwell Rectory, Rutland in 1742 for a long vacation of three months.¹⁶ Eight years later in October 1750 Thomas was planning to marry Gilbert's sister Anne. A friend of Gilbert White, John Mulso, wrote to Gilbert:

*'I take part in the satisfaction of the family on that occasion & heartily wish all prosperity to your sister.'*¹⁷

The single-mindedness of Thomas Barker's character is revealed by the nature of the recording in his meteorological register. No personal or current political events were referred to and on the occasion of his marriage the only note in his register to explain the break in the record from the 15th October, 1750 to the end of February, 1751 is 'At Selborne'. A further letter from John Mulso dated 13th December, 1750 adds:

*'I heartily wish your sister much happiness in her new State: with her cheerful & easy Temper she will be ye best wife in the world to Mr. Barker, & may manage to her own Content and his Advantage that extreme abstractedness & speculativeness to which I hear that he is naturally prone.'*¹⁹

The wedding took place on 6th January, 1751.

It was in 1751 that Gilbert White commences a kind of natural history diary which he called a *Garden Kalendar*. In this he entered the principal events in his horticultural life, miscellaneous notes on birds, insects and the weather. It has been suggested that Gilbert White's practice of keeping a journal originated with the biologist Dr. Stephen Hales (1671-1761) who, during Gilbert White's early manhood was rector of Faringdon near Selborne.^{20,21} Although Dr. Hales made his permanent home at Teddington on the Thames, he was accustomed to spend about two months every year at his Faringdon rectory. Perhaps Dr. Hales was the instigator of Gilbert White keeping a journal, however it is quite a coincidence that Gilbert White should commence a journal in 1751, the very year his sister married Thomas Barker who was already well-experienced in the practice of keeping a meteorological register. Did Thomas miss writing up his own journal whilst staying at Selborne early in 1751 and inspire Gilbert to begin his?

During March 1751 details were published about the proposed adoption of the Gregorian Calendar and Whiston's interest in chronological studies was revived. However, he was to die at Lyndon on 22nd August, 1752, one month before the change in the calendar was made.

At the end of August 1752 Thomas Barker wrote:

'The next page Sep. 14 immediately follow Sept. 3. The 11 intermediate days being dropt, because the new stile takes place there.'

A human touch is provided when he writes '3' by mistake and then crosses it out to write '14', adding 'Here the new Stile takes place.'²²

By this time Thomas Barker was beginning to experiment with different types of thermometer scales. From notes given in his journals, it appears that his thermometer was made by the instrument maker Patrick and was of the spirit-in-glass pattern as used by the *Royal Society*. Thomas Barker further describes it as being

'... about a yard long divided downward from 0 to 95, which distance is 2 feet 2 inches'

that is, its scale was inverted compared with later practice, with high temperatures being recorded by low numbers and vice versa. On 21st October, 1757 he opened a column in the register headed 'Fahrenheit'. It appears from the readings that they were merely corresponding values in the Fahrenheit scale of his *Royal Society* Patrick thermometer; or, if there were actually two separate thermometers, they must have been exposed side by side. This additional column ceased on the 29th February 1760 and the

temperatures from March 1760 were given in Fahrenheit only. Thomas Barker makes it clear that his Patrick thermometer had been regraduated into Fahrenheit degrees, and this scale was retained until the end of the record.

In collecting together on one page the most notable cases of extreme temperatures, Thomas Barker gave the Fahrenheit equivalent of some of his Patrick readings so that any of his earlier recordings can be converted to Fahrenheit. The freezing point (32° F) on his Patrick thermometer was at the division 76, while 80 degrees Fahrenheit corresponded to the division 12. From June 1763 an additional column of observations headed 'Thermometer abroad' was made, but no hint as to its exposure was given, beyond that it was 'outdoors in the shade'.²³

In 1759 on the death of his father Samuel, Thomas, as the only son and heir, succeeded to Lyndon Hall and became Deputy Lieutenant of Rutland. Thomas and Anne had four daughters: Sarah (1752), Anne (1754), Mary (1760) and Elizabeth (1764) and one son Samuel (1757). Samuel was to become a regular correspondent of his uncle Gilbert White. In 1759 Gilbert took the only long holiday of his clerical life and the last considerable absence from Selborne. He set out in November for his brother-in-law's house at Lyndon, via London and it is possible to imagine the conversation between the two gentlemen discussing their observations. Later in a letter, dated 17th August, 1768, to the zoologist and traveller Thomas Pennant, Gilbert White referred to the observations of his brother-in-law, Thomas Barker:

*'Now I present you with a paper of remarks from Thomas Barker Esqr of Lyndon Hall in Rutland, agent: who married one of my sisters. In it you will find, I think a curious register, kept by himself for 32 years, relative to the coming and departure of birds of passage. If you find anything in it, or among ye rest of the observations worthy yr notice, you are welcome, he says, to make what use you please of any of them.'*²⁴

Whether Thomas Pennant made use of the observations is not known but many scientists of the twentieth century have found them most valuable.

The European Context

Why are Thomas Barker's records of such importance? To answer this question it is necessary to put them into context with regard to the contemporary meteorological scene both in the British Isles and on the Continent.

The response to Jurin's request in 1723 for the

collection of standardised weather reports under the auspices of the *Royal Society* was rewarding for a time, with observations being received from several locations in England, Europe, North America and India. But the continuation of this scheme on an organized basis was not developed. On the Continent, however, observational networks were being organized by several scientific societies that became established in Scandinavia, France and Germany. The meteorological observers in Scandinavia were mostly astronomers and mathematicians and by the 1780s regular and standardised observations were being made at Stockholm, Copenhagen, Trondheim and Lambhús, near Reykjavik.²⁵

In France and Germany concerted efforts in making and collecting meteorological observations were being made on an increasingly ambitious scale in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Following the lead of Boerhaave, the medical profession throughout the century became interested in the possibility of finding a relationship between weather and diseases. In 1778 the *Société Royale de Médecine* was set up in France under the patronage of Louis XVI to maintain detailed and regular correspondence on medical and meteorological matters with doctors throughout the kingdom, and the French meteorologist Louis Cotte (1740-1815) was actively involved with establishing and maintaining an extensive network of observing stations for the Society. Detailed instructions were issued on instrumental operation and exposure and observational procedure. The correspondents of the Society were also issued with specially printed forms for recording the daily observations during each month; these forms were sent at regular intervals to Paris for perusal and analysis. By 1784 the network comprised over 70 stations and had been extended beyond France to include correspondents in Holland, Germany, Austria, New York and Baghdad.²⁶

In Germany, Mannheim, the capital of the Palatinate of the Rhine, developed into an influential centre of the arts and sciences during the 18th century under its Elector Karl Theodor. In 1780 he founded the *Societas Meteorologica Palatina* with Johann Hemmer (1733-1790) as its director. Again, standardised instruments were supplied to correspondents of the Society with instructions on instrumental operation and observational procedure. Like the *Société Royale de Médecine*, correspondents were requested to make full meteorological observations. Records were dispatched to Mannheim for collation and publication in the annual *Ephemerides* of the Society. From a nucleus of about a dozen stations, mostly located in central Europe at

the beginning of 1781, the network spread extensively during the next five years to include over 50 observatories from Russia across Europe to Greenland and North America.²⁷

What was happening in the British Isles? Although early efforts had been made by Hooke in 1663 and Jurin in 1723 of the *Royal Society*, meteorological observing in the British Isles during the late eighteenth century was not on an organized basis. The *Societas Meteorologica Palatina* had included the British Isles in their invitation for observers to join their network but this offer was not taken up. Weather observing in the British Isles during the eighteenth century was in the hands of a dedicated group of amateurs, mostly comprising physicians, parsons and country squires working as individuals. These people did, however, sometimes correspond with one another about their interests in meteorology and natural history, with the *Royal Society* in London providing a centre for more formal discussion and exchange of ideas. In fact the efforts to establish a network of meteorological stations in the 1720s had probably not been forgotten, and by the 1780s comparable methods of recording standard weather elements at specific times every day were being followed at several places in the British Isles.

What was done with this great volume of observational material that had been built up in the eighteenth century? Unfortunately, apart from compiling monthly and annual statistics there was not much that could be attempted at the time towards understanding the overall weather picture because the means to analyse the intricate data in a meaningful way had yet to be discovered.

In 1820, the German meteorologist H.W. Brandes (1777-1834) was the first to construct daily synoptic weather maps using the observations made in the 1780s and although his original charts have not survived, sample reconstructions were made by the Swedish meteorologist H.H. Hildebrandsson (1838-1925) later in the nineteenth century (see Figure 6).²⁸ By overcoming the uncertainty about the height at which the barometer readings were made, the observations were successfully combined to allow the equivalent of isobars to be drawn and the resulting patterns revealed some very important results such as the fact that areas of low pressure were travelling weather systems that generally moved from west to east.

Following the lead of Brandes there was an intensive study of storms in the 1830s and 1840s and with the invention of the electric telegraph at about the same time, meteorologists at last had the means to map current weather patterns and to develop synoptic forecasting.

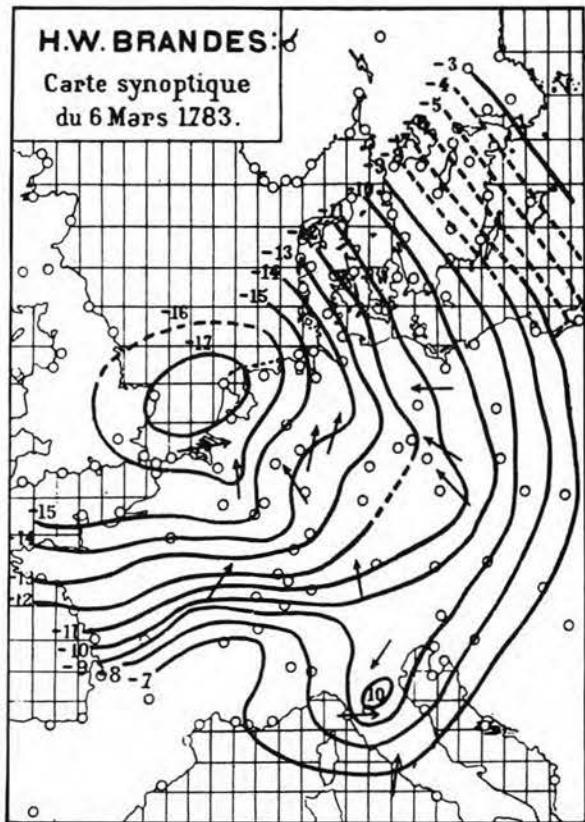


Fig. 6 Synoptic weather map for 6th March, 1783 by H.W. Brandes, reconstructed by H. Hildebrandsson. Surface wind direction is shown by arrows and the distribution of pressure by isopleths of equal departure of pressure from average (e.g. -17, -16, -15, etc.)

Fig. 7 Synoptic weather map for 6th March, 1783 by J.A. Kington. The presentation using isobars and fronts is similar to that used on current weather maps.

The Significance of Thomas Barker Today

Following signs in the 1950s that weather and climatic patterns were beginning to behave differently from those of earlier decades in the twentieth century, it is not surprising that, in the mid-1960s, the idea of constructing a series of daily historical weather maps to extend investigations of circulation patterns back beyond the 100 years or so of the present synoptic record should have been reconsidered. Fortunately most of the observations made during the eighteenth century are still available but unlike the centralised collections of today, they have to be searched for in various archives and libraries throughout Europe.

Once the observations have been plotted and the charts analysed, the depicted weather patterns can be classified according to the British Isles weather types devised by Professor H.H. Lamb.²⁹ Good data coverage for the British Isles is necessary and this is where the importance of Thomas Barker comes in with his observational series being the longest and best of the daily instrumental records that is avail-

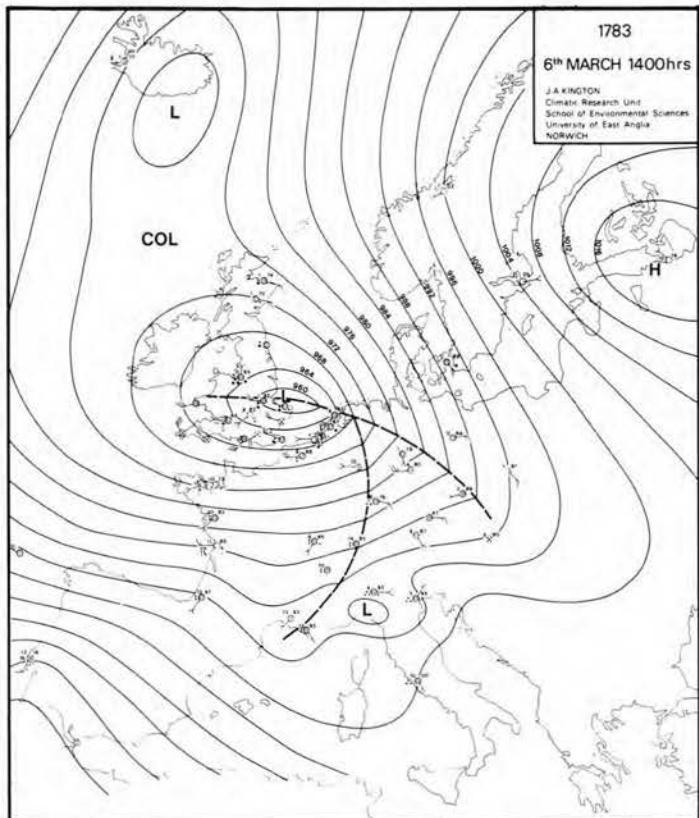
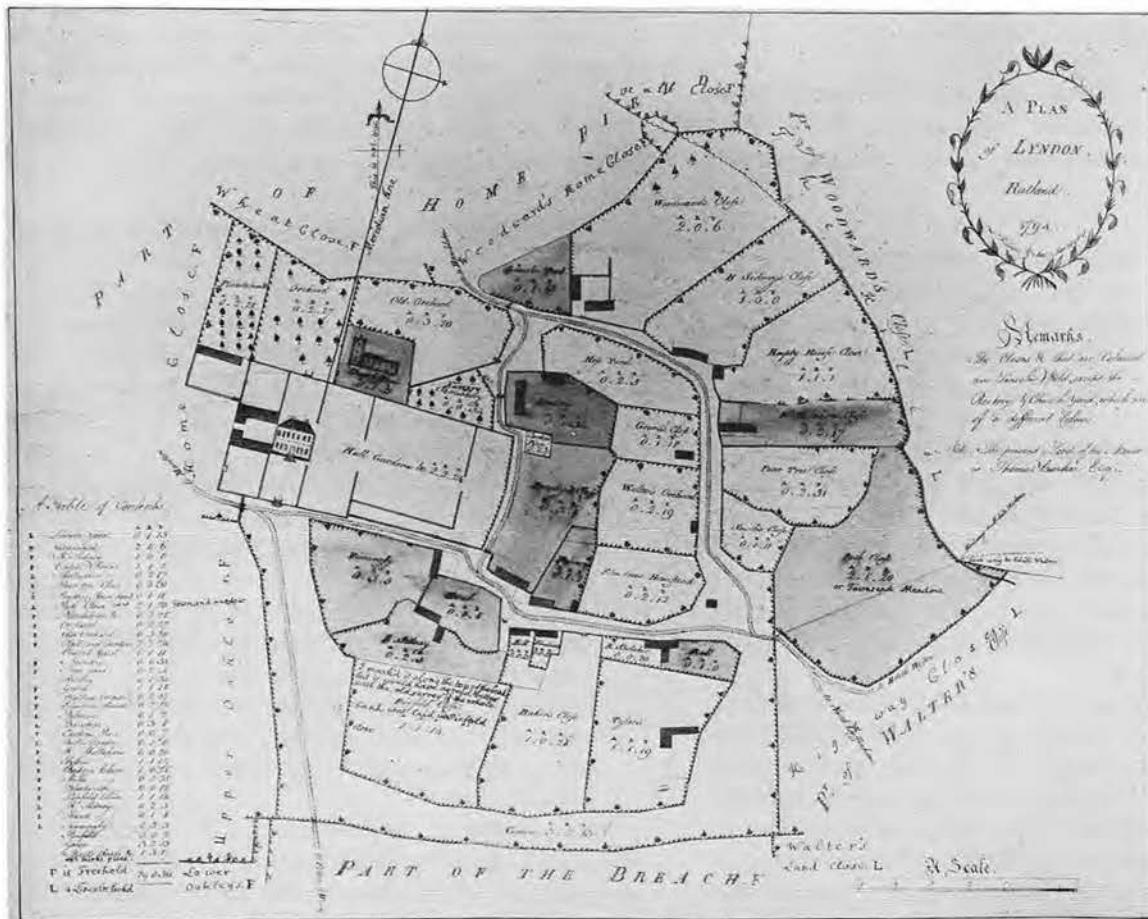


Fig.8 Extract from the meteorological register kept at Lyndon Hall, Rutland by Thomas Barker for June and July, 1783. The two pages illustrated from this manuscript record show daily observations made at about 0700 h and 1400 h of pressure in English inches and hundredths (see Figure 9), temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (interior and exterior thermometers), cloud velocity, wind velocity, rain, state of sky and significant weather.

Fig. 9 Historic mercury barometer by D. Quare, belonging to Sir John Conant and hanging in the corridor of the ground floor of Lyndon Hall today. Was this the instrument used by Thomas Barker?



*Fig. 10
Survey of
Lyndon
Hall, made
in 1794
by Thomas
Barker.
By kind
permission
of Sir John
Conant.*

from this study that the mean value of the westerly type, the one most closely linked with the temperate character of the climate of the British Isles, was greatly reduced in the 1780s compared with the mean value for the period 1900-1950. The frequency of the westerly type has again fallen since 1955 and it appears that the circulation patterns that have been constructed for the 1780s, with the help of Thomas Barker's observations, are providing some interesting parallels with those of recent years.

Thomas Barker investigated his observations and communicated many of his findings to the Royal Society. We owe a great deal to the long-standing diligent work of this eighteenth-century meteorologist. Throughout his journal of observations on the weather, Thomas Barker also made comments about the effect of atmospheric conditions on agricultural activities.

In 1794 he made a survey of the estate of Lyndon, 130 years after that made by the brothers Abel and Thomas Barker (see Figure 10). On the 27th September, 1807 Thomas's wife Anne died and two years later at the age of 87 Thomas Barker died on 29th December, 1809.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank Sir John Conant for kindly allowing visits to be made to Lyndon Hall and for giving permission for photographs to be taken.

The following appeared in the *County Annual Register* for 1810 and has been communicated to the Editor by Prince Yuri Galitzine:

Dec. 29, 1809 Died, in his 88th. year, Thomas Barker, esq. at Lyndon, co. Rutland. His father was remarkable for a critical knowledge of languages, particularly the Hebrew; and his mother was daughter of that eminent person, the Rev. Wm. Whiston. Mr. Barker was author of several tracts on religious and philosophical subjects; particularly one on the discoveries concerning comets, 1757; which contains a table of the parabola, much valued by competent judges, and reprinted by Sir H. Englefield, in his excellent treatise on the same subject: but he was most known as an assiduous and accurate observer in meteorology; and his annual journals on this subject were many years published in the *Philosophical Transactions*. He was a remarkable instance of abstemiousness having totally refrained from animal food, not through prejudice of any kind, or from an idea that such a regimen was conducive to longevity, as some of the newspapers improperly stated, but from a peculiarity of constitution which discovered itself in his infancy. Till within a few years of his death he enjoyed uncommon health and spirits, but was distinguished, more than by any other circumstance, by his exemplary conduct in all respects through the whole of his long life.

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A Newly-Discovered Letter from Thomas Barker

BRYAN WAITES

The following letter from Thomas Barker to the Rev. Henry White of Fyfield, Andover, Hampshire is dated 20th April 1785 and autographed. Thomas was sixty-three years of age at the time. The letter was located in the Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, USA, and we are grateful to the Director for permission to publish it.

Revd. Sir,
In your letter to my daughter about February last you took notice of the severity of this last winter, which was certainly uncommonly frosty, but was I think more remarkably so in Hampshire than here. I here however for your entertainment send an account of the particulars of several severe winters which have past under my observation.

Much the severest frost in my time was that in the winter between 1739 and 40. No winter since has ever come up to that for steadiness and sharpness. There was a smart frost for eleven days in November that year; but for 54 days beginning December 25 in the evening, there was not one thawing night, and but one day before February that it in the least gave in the day time. The severest part of that frost were the four last days of 1739, a very sharp, strong, cutting East wind, but much abated Dec. 31. I measured the freezing every morning and evening, and in the day time Dec. 30. it froze on the water ice an inch thick, and in the night following it froze on the water 2 inches & an half thick in 16 hours. What snow we had follow'd this sharp time, but was no great one; it preserved the ground however, for the sun had no power to thaw it. After this it frequently froze from an inch, to an inch & $\frac{1}{4}$ in a night, though sometimes less and the whole thickness of the Ice was about a foot. It is unlucky I cannot say what the degree of cold was, for I had not then begun to keep a Thermometer abroad; but the effects of the first frost were such as have never happened since. The Thames was so frozen over at London that a Street was built upon it, which stood about six weeks and was called Frost fair. and the wheat in some countries was very much damaged, but escaped pretty well here.

This Frost however by the accounts I have met with does not seem to have come up to some former ones. The greatest of all was that in 1683, and 4. which lasted 13 weeks, and so sharp that water thrown up fell down ice, and my Grandfather Whiston who measured it said it froze 3 inches & $\frac{1}{3}$ in one night. The same was done in the ten weeks frost of 1715-16. but that was not ventured on in 1739-40. Some old English histories speak of a frost much longer than any of these as lasting

from September to April, but whether it was a continued frost all the time I should be apt to doubt.

The winter 1753-4 was a hard one, the Frosts were severe but not long ones for the common course that winter was that the full moons were hard frost, and the new moons open the greatest cold was Feb. 6 I had not a Farenheits thermometer then, but by comparing since I think it was about 9 or 10 that was the first I observed a settled frost in March. Gardenstuff was remarkably cut off by the vicissitudes of the weather.

Winter 1759-60 Much frost but no long ones.

1762-3 A five weeks frost in December and January, almost without sun or wind, but remarkable Rimes; the first snowy, of which the spikes grew to be 4 or 5 inches long: the latter icy, and so great that a 2 ounce Elm branch carried near 2 pounds of ice. Many branches were broken with the weight, and the willow tops bent downward. Feb. 12. the Thermometer was down at 4 which is the lowest I have ever seen it.

1773-4 Severe and disagreeable after Christmas. Hard frosts going away suddenly with Snow or Rain, and as suddenly freezing again; for 7 or 8 weeks.

The cold of January 1776 seems to have been as great or greater than that of January 1784. Jan. 20th. 11; 28th. 10; 30th. 11; Feb. 1. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$. but the frost was much shorter, scarce four weeks; whereas that in 1783-4 was above eight.

The winter 1779 began early being sharp frost the middle of November. And in December 19 and January & February 80. was as long a Frost as most, for the frost was not out of the ground for 9 or 10 weeks, but it was not so steady a frost as some others.

The winter 1783-4 (which is just an hundred years after that remarkably severe one in 1683-4) was one of the mildest winters before Christmas, and one of the severest afterward. The Frost in December, January & February lasted near nine weeks, which is rather longer than that in 1740. But though this was indeed a very sharp time, it was neither so steady nor so severe as that of 40. both winters however were follow'd by backward frosty Springs even into May.

If you count the number of frosty days in the late winter 1784-5 it will probably come up in number to any of the former, for it began in October and lasted till April. and there were two very severe frosts in it, one in December, the other in February and March. But upon the whole though there were some very severe days in both frosts, it did not come up to that of January and February

84. of which the following is an example. In January 84 we were obliged to send down our Greenhouse plants into the cellar, and by that means brought them out in summer in very good order, whereas those who did not do so, and who like us had no regular Greenhouse found their plants to suffer much, and some of them to be almost kill'd; but no such thing happen'd this winter, we only removed some of the Pots which stood near the window to further into the house. And January which is often the severest month, was much the most open this winter: there might be about 8 or 9 frosty days or mornings in the month but a good deal of it was very warm and remarkably wet air.

The most remarkable snows are as follows.

I think the greatest snow I ever knew was Nov 30 1747, which by the account of those who went out in it gave me, I estimated to be above two feet upon a level, some people when they open'd their door in the morning found the snow driven higher than the top of it and it was then said to be the greatest since about the year 1725 but it was not long lasting snow for a great of it was gone in a week, and the rest in a fortnight.

December 10 1753 in the evening, to 13th. in the morning, there came near half a yard deep of snow in 36 hours, and in as many more it was all gone again, with a vast flood. And as the ground was hard frozen when the snow came it almost all ran off, and hardly wetted the ground at all.

Feb, 1766, Jan 67 and Jan. 68. were great snows three winters together; that in 1767 was the greatest since 1747, some thought it greater than that, but I think it was not.

1770-1 The Frosts were frequent and sharp but not long ones.

In January 1772 There was one great snow, there was another in February and a third in March, if they had been all lying at once it would have been very great indeed, but one was pretty well gone before the other came.

In the severe month January 1776 There came here the greatest Snow since 1767 but it was much greater in some other countries. For that was the time when the company coming up from Bath to beat the Queen's birthday were stop'd upon the road till it was over. Mails & expresses were turn'd back in Kent by the same cause; and the Newspapers said it was driven in some countries, to be from 6 or 8 to 14 or 18 feet deep, and over the hedge tops.

In January and February 1777 there was a good deal of snow at times but it was not all lying at once, which was also the case in January 1781.

In the late winter 1784-5. There has been very

frequent snow and a great deal upon the whole of it had all lain at once; but it never lay long enough to get any great thickness. it might for a time be ankle deep upon a level, and Drifts here and there under hedges of 3 or 4 feet thick, but was never any great interruption to the roads and February & March were remarkably dry. but I suppose there were greater Snows in other countries.

But as I said of frosts so I may also of Snows, that I have met with accounts, which if they be not exaggerated, seem to speak of greater than any I have seen. The severe winter 1708-9 had as I have heard from those who lived at that time, as great a snow; which lay driven as high as the tops of the hedges, and was perfectly hard frozen, and that some of it lay in the ditch bottoms almost to May day. But when I was a boy, an old man then said he remember'd a very remarkable one. I think it was about 1674 which began on St. Matthias's day, lasted without ever ceasing the Almanack chronology says elevan days but this man said, above a fortnight together, and lay so long in seed time that they went out and plow'd the South sides of the lands before the snow was melted on the Northsides.

The almost constant frosty mornings continued this year to April 4 without the least sign of Spring but what is remarkable the Turneps wery never know to be less hurt than this winter of which the dryness was probably the occasion. Apr. 5 the weather began to mend and it has been pleasant season since but rain is wanted. The wheat does not appear to be hurt in general and the seed time though delay'd as first by frosts has been since very good, & the ground never harrow'd so fine except this time six years because there has been no rain since the frost. The circumstance of dryness after the frost was the same 6 years ago, but that winter was total different from this in other respects for it was (illegible) spring almost all winter, but this year it has been Winter a good deal of the Spring. My daughters return you thanks for the musick you sent them, and we join in respects to yourself Mrs White and all the family and I remain Sir

Your affectionate brother and humble servant
T. Barker

Lyndon Apr. 20. 1785

Mar. 17 Blackbird sang

Apr. beginning Violets

5 Wheatears

9 Butterflies & Humble Bees

14 First Swallow

16 First Martin - First Wasp

The Formation of the Rutland Agricultural Society

T.H. McK. CLOUGH

Quere 30. Are there any Societies instituted in the County for the Improvement of Agriculture?

Answer. None.-

So wrote John Crutchley of Burley on the Hill in 1794 in the manuscript of the first of the Board of Agriculture's reports on Rutland.¹ Although he could state with confidence that 'the spirit of improvement has increased very much of late years, among the occupiers of land in Rutland', he recognised also that much more needed to be done particularly in the way of enclosure to make farming methods more fruitful. In his report, short though it was, he pressed for support for the widespread improvements of the day. He did not, however, enlarge on the absence of an agricultural society. It was left to Richard Parkinson, in the second report on Rutland, published in 1808, to comment as follows:

*'There are no agricultural societies in this county, which is much to be regretted, as they are a very great spur to emulation in all farming improvements.'*²

Parkinson went on to defend modern improvements vigorously and to condemn the backward farmer using methods and following traditions that were now both out-dated and ruinous to land, crops and stock.

Although there was at the time no Rutland society, there was, as Parkinson acknowledged in an addition to that section, a Leicestershire and Rutland Agricultural Society, which had originated in Leicester in 1788, and had very recently extended its formal sphere of influence to include Rutland. Parkinson, unfortunately followed by *VCH Rutland*, has the details of this society wrong, and introduced a source of confusion which is elucidated in an appendix below. A number of Rutland men were members, but in itself it does not appear to have been very effectual in the county. Indeed, as we see below, it seems to have faded away altogether by 1814.

Among those who did support its work was Col. G.N. Noel (later Sir Gerard Noel, Bt.), who became its president, and was later to play a leading part in the activities of the Rutland Agricultural Society. Others who were also adherents of the new agricul-

ture in Rutland were the Earl of Winchilsea, owner of Burley on the Hill, who was a member of the Board of Agriculture in 1793 (the year before Crutchley's report was published); Mr Wright of Pickworth, whose work was recognised by the Board of Agriculture;³ and Richard Westbrook Baker of Cottesmore, land agent for the Earl of Gainsborough and a distinguished agriculturalist.⁴ Besides being a highly successful breeder of improved short-horn cattle (Fig. 1), Baker established the Rutland Ploughing Meeting in 1828, and was responsible for introducing the Rutland plough, a type which came to be manufactured and widely marketed first by Ransome of Ipswich and then by other implement makers (Fig. 2).⁵ In 1842 he was presented with a silver service valued at about £380, and at the twentieth and last ploughing meeting in 1847 he was given a silver model of his plough, 'in grateful testimony of the many advantages conferred upon agriculture by his indefatigable zeal to promote and improve the art of Ploughing'. He was therefore recognised in his own time as the man who had made the greatest individual contribution to the successful progress of contemporary agriculture in Rutland.⁶

There were many factors which contributed to the eventual formation of a new agricultural society in Rutland, apart from the presence of these interested men and the general 'spirit of improvement' noticed by Crutchley. Among them were perhaps the memory of the failed Leicestershire and Rutland society; the wool fairs which that society had begun in Leicester in 1806; the ploughing matches (which are still emulated today, although with modern equipment); and the need to buy and sell cattle and crops in the right place, regularly and at the best price. And it is this last basic requirement of the farming industry that led directly to the formation of the Rutland Agricultural Society that we know today.

The matter first came to public notice late in the summer of 1831, when for three consecutive weeks the *Stamford Mercury*⁷ carried this advertisement on the front page:



Fig.1 Lithograph of an Improved Short-Horned Heifer, painted and drawn on stone by W.H. Davis, printed by C. Hullmandel.

The caption to the lithograph records that this animal was bred and fed by Richard Westbrook Baker, Esq., of Cottesmore, Rutland. It won the following: First Prize (6th Class) Grantham Agricultural Society, 1836; First Prize (5th Class) Rutland Agricultural Society, 1837; and at Smithfield 1837, when 3 years 5 months old, the First Prize (6th Class), and the Silver Medal and the Gold Medal as the best beast in any class. It was bought and slaughtered by Mr Thos. Mylam Morton, 10 Great Bell Alley, near the Bank, London. Dead weight 152 stone 3 lbs. [Collection and Photograph: Rutland County Museum].

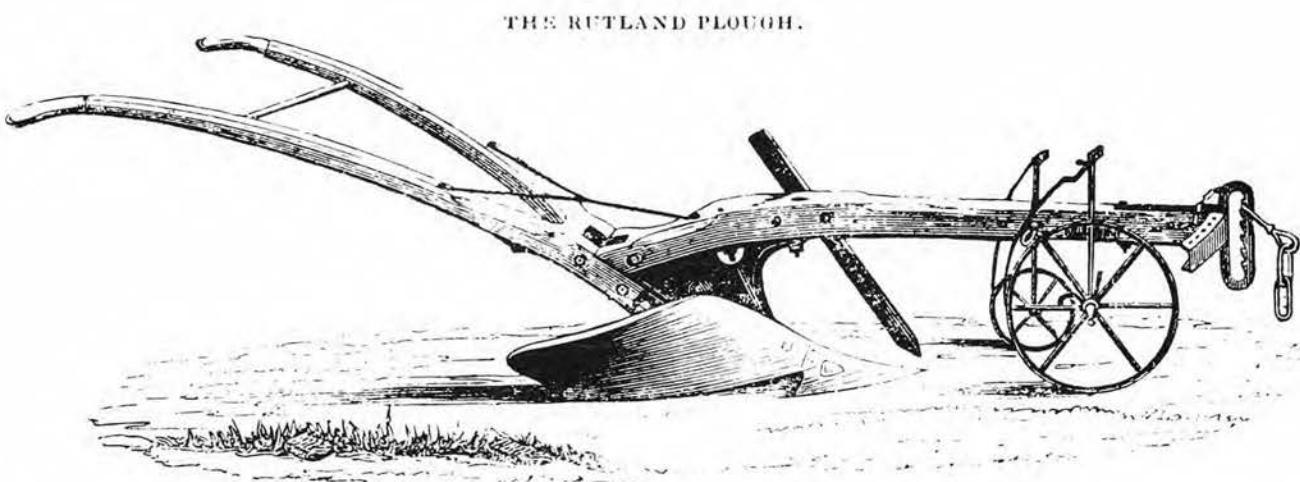


Fig.2 The Rutland Plough, designed by R.W. Baker, from J.A. Ransome, The Implements of Agriculture (1843) 39.

OAKHAM MARKET

We, the undersigned, propose to meet at the Crown Inn, Oakham, on Friday the 9th day of September, 1831, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to take into consideration the best means of improving the Corn and encouraging a Cattle Market, and we invite the public interested therein to attend.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| R. Hawley, Oakham | Rd. Healy, Ashwell |
| Amos Butt, Langham | M. Sharman, Horn Mills |
| John Chapman, do. | - Spencer, Knossington |
| Henry Rudkin, do. | G.T. Smith, Oakham |
| R.W. Baker, Cottesmore | Rice Davies, do. |
| Val. Baines, Brook | Turner & Co. do. |
| Jos. Rawlings, Oakham | A. Kelly, do. |
| J.H. Robinson, Barleythorpe | J.R. Silver, do. |
| Mat. Laxton, Greetham | G. Dain, Langham |
| John Wright, Exton | T.H. Wilson, Mt. Overton |
| Benj. Spriggs, do. | M. Royce, Oakham |
| Hy. Stimson, Oakham | John Crowson, do. |
| W. Stimson, do. | John Clarke, Burley |
| John Bunting, Teigh | W. Robinson, Oakham |
| John Morton, Egleton | Dr. Freer, do. |
| Rd. Healy, Hambleton | C. Smith, Burley |
| | Thos. Adcock, Oakham |

The tenor of this first public meeting must have been very favourable, for immediately afterwards we find the following notice:⁸

OAKHAM MARKET

At a public Meeting held at the Crown Inn, Oakham, on Friday, Sept. 9, 1831, pursuant to public advertisement, to take into consideration the propriety of IMPROVING THE CORN MARKET and ENCOURAGING a CATTLE MARKET, -

Resolved, that this meeting considers the town of Oakham to be well situated for a Corn and Cattle Market, particularly if the Market-day was Thursday instead of Saturday.

Resolved, that the following gentlemen do act as a Committee, with leave to add to their numbers (and any five having power to act), to make enquiries and receive communications, and report upon the same at the next public meeting: Mr Hawley, Mr Turner, Mr Smith, Mr Silver, Mr Baker, Mr Butt, Mr Robinson, Mr Chapman, Mr Baines, Mr John Smith.

Resolved, that this meeting do adjourn to Saturday the 24th of September inst., at 11 o'clock, then to meet for the purpose of agreeing upon a plan to carry into effect the intention of the meeting.

Resolved, that these Resolutions be advertised in the Mercury, Champion, and Bee once, and a subscription entered into to defray the expenses.

The thanks of the meeting were voted unanimously to

Robert Hawley, Esq., Chairman.

The second public meeting was duly held, and the resolutions of the meeting were advertised in the *Stamford Mercury* and the *Leicester Journal* thus:⁹

OAKHAM MARKET — ALL TOLL FREE

At a Public Meeting held in the Crown Inn, Oakham, on Saturday the 24th day of September, 1831, pursuant to advertisement, to further consider the propriety of improving the CORN MARKET and establishing a CATTLE MARKET: Robt. Hawley, Esq., in the Chair;

Resolved, that this meeting do consider Monday as the most convenient day of the week to establish a Corn and Cattle Market at Oakham.

Resolved, that Monday the 17th of October next be the day for commencing a Corn and Cattle Market at Oakham, agreeably to the above resolution.

Resolved, that the resolutions be advertised in the *Stamford* and *Leicester* papers.

Resolved, that the thanks of the meeting be expressed to the Chairman for his impartial conduct in the chair.

N.B. Sheep pens will be provided free of expense.

The new market immediately attracted a great deal of interest and support from the farmers of the surrounding district. The first market was held on Monday 17th October 1831 and was reported by the *Stamford Mercury*¹⁰ in these words:

Oakham fair and new market commenced on Monday last, with a very large show of beasts and sheep; the trade was quite alive, and the greater part of the stock sold at improved prices. - The corn-hill was well attended by sellers and buyers, and upwards of 800 quarters of grain were sold.

The following anonymous letter to the Editor was published on the same page, fulsome in its support of the project:

OPENING OF OAKHAM MARKET.

Mr Editor:

Monday last was the day fixed for attempting the first step towards putting the county town of Rutland upon a footing with her hitherto more fortunate neighbours, by establishing a market for the sale of corn and cattle: the result was such as to astound even the most sanguine well-wisher to the scheme.

I for one have for long thought the town of Oakham well situated both by nature and art for a market, but I was very little prepared to witness the scene of last Monday: early in the day the town was filled with several hundred beasts, and between four and five hundred sheep. The great show of beasts, I am well aware, is partly attributable to one of the 'new meetings' being also on that day, but the show of sheep was entirely owing to the market. Very extensive sales were effected in both. - At about eleven o'clock (which, by the bye, I am told was an hour earlier than was intended) the corn-market commenced; and can it possibly be believed, Mr Editor, that nearly 900 quarters of grain were sold in this hitherto neglected market? I believe the word nearly might be omitted, for I am in possession of the names of parties who effected sales to the amount of upwards of 800 qrs, and I have no hesitation in saying that had twice the quantity appeared the number and respectability of the buyers were such that it would have been purchased. The conclusion of the day was not less gratifying: at the two principal inns¹¹ between 70 and 80 persons sat down to excellent dinners; after which mutual pledges were given between buyers and sellers to support the undertaking so auspiciously commenced. This is indeed a Reform, when a few short weeks since to be seen going to Oakham market for the avowed purpose of selling grain would have been considered good evidence against a man in a writ of Inquirendo as to his sanity, - which will now only be doubted by his omitting to attend a market like Oakham. - I shall conclude, as a well-wisher to the cause, by respectfully urging all farmers and graziers in the neighbourhood to complete by their exertions what they have so profitably begun.

Yours,

A FRIEND TO THE CAUSE

Oakham, Oct. 19, 1831.

The second market was also favourably reported:¹²

Oakham new market was well attended on Monday. - To show the state of feeling regarding it, a proposition was made late in the day that a subscription be entered into for the purpose of offering premiums for the best fat cattle, &c., at the Christmas market, and in a few minutes 26 subscribers announced themselves. It is expected that the number will be 100 before the subscription closes.

The project was not perhaps entirely without its opponents - or at least less enthusiastic supporters. The Uppingham market, only six miles away, clearly looked upon this new development with some apprehension, as we may glean from consecutive entries in the regular market reports column of this week's markets:¹³

OAKHAM, Monday Oct. 24. - We were liberally supplied with all kinds of grain today. Wheat was 2s. and Barley 1s. per qr. dearer than last Monday. - The supply of Beasts and Sheep was very large, and nearly the whole were sold, at improving prices. - Wheat, new 60s. to 64s., old to 67s.; Barley 40s. to 42s.; Oats, new 24s. to 27s., old to 33s.; Beans, new 32s. to 38s., old to 43s.

UPPINGHAM, Wednesday Oct. 26. - Notwithstanding Oakham market on Monday, we had a very large show of samples today, which met with a brisk sale - Wheat 56s. to 65s.; Barley 30s. to 44s.; Oats 26s. to 34s.; Beans 38s. to 44s.; Butter 12d to 13d per lb.; Eggs 15 for 1s.

These weekly reports of stock market prices are a rewarding source of information for the economic or agricultural historian, and it is perhaps worth citing one more example:¹⁴

OAKHAM, Monday Oct. 31. There was a considerable increase of all kinds of grain at our market today. Wheat and Barley were 1s per qt dearer than last market-day, with a brisk sale. The Cattle Market was very large, and nearly everything was sold at improving prices. Two or three large parcels of Wool were sold, at a trifling advance. Wheat, new 60s to 65s, old 67s to 68s; Barley 40s to 44s.; Oats, new 24s to 27s; Beans, new 37s; old 44s.

On the same page a correspondent observed that 'the show of beasts is likely to be very considerable at Oakham new market on Monday next, being the day before Stamford Simon and Jude fair'. We may also note, however, that although Uppingham market prices are regularly quoted in the *Leicester Journal*, the new Oakham market is not. Nor are further advertisements of the Society's meetings to be found there.

Up to this point, there had been no mention, at least in the press, of the possibility of founding a society, but the quick response to the proposal to offer premiums at the Christmas market no doubt encouraged the prime movers of these events. We may suppose that the formation of an agricultural society was indeed their goal, although when it happened it was still under the guise of a market supporters' institution.

A public meeting of the subscribers to the premium fund was called for Monday 7th November, and proceeded to resolve on the formation of a society, and on the premiums to be offered at the Christmas market. These resolutions were immediately published, as follows:¹⁵

At a meeting at the George Inn, Oakham, on Monday, November 7th, 1831, called by advertisement, for the purpose of offering Premiums for Stock brought for sale to the New Market lately established:

Mr Samuel Cheetham in the Chair

*Resolved, - That a Society be formed and supported by Voluntary Subscription, and named *The Society for promoting the interest of the New Market established in Oakham in October 1831.**

That Sir Gerard Noel, Baronet, M.P., be requested to act as President of this society; that Mr R.W. Baker, of Cottesmore, Mr John Painter, of Burley, and Mr Valentine Baines, of Brook, be Stewards for the year 1831, and Mr Robert Hawley, of Oakham, Secretary and Treasurer.

That this Society extend to the whole of the County of Rutland; and not exceeding ten miles from Oakham out of the county.

That this Society offer the following Premiums to be awarded on the Market-day of Monday the 5th December 1831, for Stock then exhibited for sale, and bona-fide the property of the exhibitors, and to have been his property and in his possession at least six months previous to the show:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Class 1. | To the owner of the best fat Ox or Steer of any breed, age, or weight. Premium (plate or money) Five Sovereigns - To the owner of the second-best, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 2. | the best fat Ox or Steer, fed upon grass, hay, or vegetables, Three Sovereigns. |
| Class 3. | the best fat Cow, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 4. | the best fat Heifer, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 5. | the best pair of Scotch Oxen, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 6. | the best pair of Irish Oxen, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 7. | the best pen of five two-shear long-woollen fat Wethers, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 8. | the best Pen of five long-woollen fat Shearling Wethers, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 9. | the best fat Pig, exceeding 20 stone of 14 lbs to the stone, Two Sovereigns. |
| Class 10. | the best fat Pig, exceeding 12 stone and under 20 stone, Two Sovereigns. |

Quality in all the classes to be considered, and no

animal to be shown in more than one class.

All stock for any of the premiums to be in the Riding-house by six o'clock in the afternoon. The public to be admitted at Twelve o'clock.

The Judges not to award any premiums if the animal or animals exhibited have not in their judgement sufficient merit.

To the owner of the best Bull of any breed, that has served as many cows during the six months previous to 1st April, 1832, as have been offered to him, not beyond a reasonable number, nor exceeding ten shillings per cow, confined to the district. Premium (plate or money), Five Sovereigns.

To the best Cart Stallion, providing he attends Oakham every new Market-day during the season 1832, and covers as many mares as may be offered to him, not beyond a reasonable number, nor exceeding two sovereigns per mare. Premium (plate or money), Five Sovereigns.

The premiums to be offered to the Bull and Stallion on the first new Market-day in April 1832. The premium to the latter to be paid at the end of the season.

Notice to be given to the Secretary as early as possible, stating the name and residence of the owner, and in what class he intends to exhibit his animal or animals.

Also accommodation will be afforded for Extra Stock upon notice being given.

The Christmas show was clearly well advertised and organised, and Sir Gerard Noel 'granted for the show the use of a large building at Catmos, equal to any in the kingdom for such a purpose'.¹⁶ That building was the Riding-house which he had built at the onset of the late war with France; it still stands and is well known today as the Rutland County Museum.

When the day came, it was a resounding success. The *Stamford Mercury*¹⁷ published the list of winners, which included many names still familiar in Rutland. R.W. Baker won the First Prize in Class 1, with his short-horn or Durham steer, aged 2 years and 11 months, fed on grass, hay, turnips and cabbages. We learn that a numerous and respectable company attended:

THE SHOW OF CATTLE for the premiums at Oakham new market on the 5th inst. very much exceeded the most sanguine expectations, considering the short time since the commencement of the society: the attendance of gentlemen and graziers was very large - upwards of 500 were once present in the show room After the dinner at the Crown inn, very liberal subscriptions were announced from several noblemen and gentlemen in the county, and upwards of 201 was subscribed by the company present for the show of 1832.

From this account the crowd must have been so great - equivalent to the number of visitors received at the museum on a Bank Holiday Monday today - that there could hardly have been room to see the stock exhibited. It was an auspicious start, soured by only one note of discontent, in an adjoining column:¹⁸

Mr Editor - I shall feel obliged if you will allow the insertion in your paper of the following remarks relative to the late Cattle Show at Oakham, as I consider myself much aggrieved by the unfair manner in which I was prevented from receiving the prize, after it had been awarded to me by the Judges, whose qualification for their office no-one calls in question. - The circumstances are these: having entered in Class 1 a bullock which had been in my possession for six lunar months and seven days, and this animal being considered the best, the prize became mine; but by the interference of the Stewards, who were candidates, the award was reversed, upon the ground that the bullock had not been my property for six calendar months. I con-

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tend that this was unfair, as the word calendar is not to be found in the printed resolutions, and in every case unless otherwise expressed lunar months are understood.

Your's,
Francis Needham
Wymondham, Dec. 7, 1831.

Needham was not placated by the Stewards' response the following week, and in another letter challenged the Stewards to meet him on January 2nd and discuss the matter in public at the meeting of subscribers called for that day.¹⁹ Needham's case was that the Stewards were guilty of gross impropriety in intruding themselves as candidates, the last straw being, of course, that Baker, who was one of the Stewards, was given the first prize in his stead. In the event, however, the meeting appears to have been conducted in such a way that Needham did not have an opportunity of raising the matter, partly because of the protracted business of the day. We learn this from a third, longer, and final letter of aggrieved protest addressed, somewhat bitterly, 'To the Members of the Oakham Cattle Club'.²⁰

At some unknown date between January and March 1832, the decision was taken to abandon the cumbersome title adopted at the public meeting on the previous November. The April market, at which the premiums for the best bull and cart stallion were to be offered, was now advertised under the heading of the *Rutland Agricultural Society*, this being the first occasion on which this name appears. That show also was a success - especially for Baker, who won with his bull Gainsboro'.²¹

The measure of support which the society's activities had acquired may be seen from this public notice, which was supported by 116 signatories:²²

Oakham, Rutland,
March 19, 1832

We, the undersigned, Farmers and Graziers, Cattle and Corn Dealers, attending the Fairs and Markets held at Oakham, hereby attest our satisfaction at the accommodation afforded: we profess our belief that the situation is in every respect highly eligible for the buyers and sellers of Corn and Cattle, and are determined to support the said Markets and Fairs, particularly as it was one of the first Places to remove for ever that obnoxious and feudal impost, Town Tolls.

The Rutland Agricultural Society was now firmly established, after a period of less than a year. The

next two Christmas shows were reported only in brief, but we gather from later accounts that the best beasts in the show went on to win first premiums at Smithfield. From 1834 onwards we find very full accounts of the results each December in the *Stamford Mercury*, which alone may occupy a whole column of close-set type. The lengthy proceedings which followed are also reported in extensive detail. Anything up to 200 or more persons sat down to an ordinary each year at the Crown and the George at 3 pm. In fact the crowd was so great that they could only be seated for the meal by knocking out the gable end of the Crown and making a temporary structure some 40 feet long! The subsequent toasts, speeches and festivity - a 'free and easy' - went on until 7 or 8 pm at least, and we may suspect that a number of the company had to rely on the memory of their trusty horses to carry them home afterwards. Distinguished guests from neighbouring counties, and from further afield were present, and spoke in glowing compliments about the show, the exhibits, and agriculture in Rutland. Trade exhibitors, such as Ransome of Ipswich, Burrell of Thetford, and others showed their machinery and new inventions. There was little doubt, at least in some minds, that the Rutland society's show was second only to Smithfield.

It is hardly surprising, in view of these circumstances, that by 1838, subscriptions were being raised for the building of an Agricultural Hall in Oakham High Street - today it has become the Victoria Hall. By July 1839 the hall was nearly complete, and was inspected by Lord Abinger, Lord Chief Justice, and his colleagues on the Bench at the Rutland Assizes. At the Christmas show that year, the Society was able to look back with pride on its achievements since the institution of the new market in 1831.²³

There have been many changes since then, which may be documented by reference to the columns of the *Stamford Mercury* and the reports of the annual shows contained there. As with all such societies, there were good times and bad. In the 1870's, for example, the Poultry Hall was built in South Street; later it was damaged by fire and sold. After various changes of fortune that building, like the riding-house, now forms part of the Rutland County Museum's premises. The Society's Minute and Account Books survive from 1869-70 (the earlier ones are lost) and, although not always very detailed, give some indication of how the Society fared through the agricultural depression of the late 19th century and the lean years of the Great War and its aftermath. In 1980, one year in advance, the Society celebrated its 150th anniversary with an

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enlarged one-day August show at Burley-on-the-Hill - a historical anomaly which, in all likelihood, will be repeated in fifty years' time. It was not, in fact, discovered until the present writer came to prepare the introduction to the show catalogue and turned to the newspapers for enlightenment.²⁴

Appendix:

The Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Agricultural Society: a misleading reference

VCH Rutland 1 omits any reference in its chapter on agriculture to the Rutland Agricultural Society. It does, however, put forward an unsupported statement that 'The Leicestershire and Rutland Agricultural Society had been established in 1806 and met at Melton Mowbray and Oakham alternately'.²⁵ The unacknowledged source of that statement is clearly Parkinson who, having at first remarked that 'there are no agricultural societies in this county', was obliged to add 'Since I wrote the above, I have been informed that there is an agricultural society, entitled, The Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Agricultural Society, meeting at Oakham and Melton Mowbray alternately'.²⁶ Parkinson then set out *in extenso* the premiums which that society proposed to offer for 1807 and which were agreed at a meeting held at the George Inn, Oakham, on 27 November 1806, Col. G.N. Noel in the chair.

This reference may have given rise to a suggestion, raised at the centenary show in 1930,²⁷ that the present Rutland Agricultural Society was an offshoot of some former two-county society. Since it contradicts what is now known of the origins of the RAS, further investigation was clearly necessary. Just as the answers to the origins of the RAS were found in the *Stamford Mercury*, so did the pages of the *Leicester Journal* shed light on, and correct, the statements of Parkinson and *VCH Rutland*. The following details summarise the true course of events.

In February 1788, a meeting was held at the Three Cranes, Leicester, to establish a Society in Leicester and the adjacent parts for the encouragement of agriculture, namely the Leicester Agricultural Society.²⁸ The next meeting, postponed from 19 March to 2 April, was 'very respectable', and a list of founder members and the resolutions of the meeting were published.²⁹ A code of rules was adopted on 6 August,³⁰ and notice was given of a first Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Lion & Lamb, Leicester, in December, to which those resident in the adjacent counties were invited and at which it was proposed to appoint a salaried secretary.³¹ That meeting, however, had to be postponed indefinitely because of the importance of

business before Parliament - namely the health and sanity of George III.³²

The deferred AGM was not held until 7 August 1789, when the first premium was announced, but there was no mention of a secretarial appointment.³³ Thereafter the business of the society was recorded regularly in the *Leicester Journal*. Its activities were summarised by Monk as follows: 'There is a society which meets annually on the fourth Wednesday in October at Leicester. It consists of about one hundred members. . . . At the last meeting, an experimental farm was fixed upon, which they are about to take in Queniborough lordship. . . .'³⁴ Pitt and *VCH Leicestershire* both cite Monk, *VCH* stating that nothing was known of the later work of the society.³⁵

Certainly its affairs were never healthy, for in the AGM advertisement for 1805, which followed a special general meeting on 9 August, notice was given of an intended revision of the rules and regulations.³⁶ It was feared the society would dwindle away without full support from the nobility, gentry, clergy, tenantry, &c.³⁷

The results of this new initiative were publicised in the following summer. It was proposed to hold an annual wool meeting, and the *Leicester Journal* congratulated the Counties of Rutland and Leicester 'on the first fruits of their Agricultural Coalition'.³⁸ Similar advertisements of this activity are found also in the *Stamford Mercury*. What had actually happened as far as the society was concerned, and what this agricultural coalition was, is not made clear until later in the year. The advertisement for the AGM³⁹ is for the Leicester Agricultural Society, but the subsequent account describes the event as the Anniversary Meeting of the Leicestershire and Rutlandshire Agricultural Society, at which six gentlemen of the county of Rutland were added to the Committees of Correspondence and Premiums.⁴⁰ A month later, it was further announced that it had been agreed that the county of Rutland should be united (for this purpose at least) with the county of Leicester and that the Society should have its title accordingly.⁴¹ At the same time, notice was given of a meeting to be held at Oakham on 27 November, and it is this meeting whose proceedings were reported by Parkinson, as well as by the local press.⁴² The meeting was in fact adjourned to the White Swan at Melton Mowbray, hence perhaps Parkinson's suggestion (followed by *VCH Rutland*), that the society met at Oakham and Melton alternately. Unfortunately neither the *Leicester Journal* nor the *Stamford Mercury* appears to contain an account of the meeting scheduled to take place at Melton

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on 23rd December 1806, and it may never have happened. There may have been no more such meetings.

The annual meetings of the re-vamped society continued to be held in Leicester in October, and were reported in the local press. In spite of its nominally wider interests, however, the society was virtually on its last legs. In 1811, the names of only 12 members are listed as having been present at the AGM;⁴³ in 1812 the meeting was advertised in the Leicester and Stamford newspapers, but no account of the meeting was published; in 1813 it was advertised only in the *Leicester Journal*;⁴⁴ and in 1814 we find no advertisement at all. The implication is that the society was wound up at this time, after some 25 years' uncertain existence.

The Leicestershire Agricultural Society of today is a separate institution, founded 20 years later in 1833. It is thus younger than the Rutland Agricultural Society by two years. It held an annual wool

fair, probably inspired by that inaugurated in 1806 by its predecessor. Eventually the new society amalgamated with the well-established Waltham Agricultural Association in 1862.⁴⁵

The separate identity of these societies therefore seems certain. But one other event should be mentioned, even if only to throw matters into renewed confusion. Amongst the various efforts to prolong the life of the old Leicestershire society, we find reference in 1811 to a ploughing match and show which it was proposed to hold at Exton Park. It had to be postponed from March because Col. Noel, the host, was suffering from gout, and appears to have been held after the AGM in October of that year.⁴⁶ In Matkin's *Oakham Almanack* for 1912, there is reprinted a poem, at once bucolic and patriotic, 'written on the 22nd October, 1811, being the show-day of the Rutland Society of Agriculture, holden at Exton Park'. The *Rutland Society of Agriculture . . . ?*

REFERENCES

1. The report was published as J. Crutchley, *General View of the Agriculture in the County of Rutland* (1794). There is a manuscript copy amongst the Finch MSS in the Leicestershire Record Office (DG7 Box 4970 Rut 4), which is in full question and answer form. It is the answers alone to the thirty-three questions posed by the Board of Agriculture which form the published report, which is arranged under section headings largely equivalent to the relevant questions. The order was altered somewhat for publication, so that for example the brief answers to questions 8-11 are now found under Miscellaneous Observations (p.22), and questions to which the answer was 'None', such as that about agricultural societies, are omitted altogether. Crutchley's extensive and pertinent comments on enclosures have been removed to the end, following his section of the friendly societies and the Rutland Society of Industry, to form a concluding essay.
2. R. Parkinson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Rutland* (1808) 175.
3. *Stamford Mercury* (hereafter SM) 25 July 1806, 3; 'The Board of Agriculture have voted to Mr Wright, of Pickworth, . . . twenty-five pounds, in addition to his other rewards and medals, for his unremitting attention to experimental agriculture . . . '
4. W. White, *Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland* (1846) 610, and (1877) 671, for biographical details.
5. J.A. Ransome, *The Implements of Agriculture* (1843) 39 and fig.; Kelly, *Post Office Directory of . . . Rutland* (1855), 138. W. White, op.cit. (1877) 671.
6. We are much indebted to Mr V.R. Blundell, MC, for details of an inventory of Baker's plate, medals, &c., some of which are known to survive.
7. SM 19 August, 26 August, 2 September 1831.
8. SM 16 September 1831, 1.
9. SM 7 October 1831, 3; *Leicester Journal* (hereafter LJ) same date, 3.
10. SM 21 October 1831, 3.
11. Namely the Crown (High Street) and the George (Market Place).
12. SM 28 October 1831, 3.
13. ibid.
14. SM 4 November 1831, 3.
15. SM 4 November 1831, 1; 18 November 1831, 1.
16. SM 2 December 1831, 3.
17. SM 9 December 1831, 2 and 3.
18. SM loc. cit.
19. SM 16 December 1831, 4; 23 December 1831, 2. A neighbouring paragraph on the latter date highlights one of the farmer's problems at this period, namely incendiarism. A letter from 'A Freeholder', very wisely anonymous, calls for a County Meeting to petition Parliament to remit the Insurance Duty upon Farming Stock, which contributed to under-insurance and consequent financial loss by the farmers who suffered from incendiary attacks. A fire at Mr Bunning's farm at Empingham is described, in which £450 worth of barley, corn, straw and property were destroyed.
20. SM 6 January 1832.
21. SM 23 March 1832, 1; 13 April, 3.
22. SM 30 March 1832, 3.
23. SM 6 December 1839, 2, 4.
24. The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the *Stamford Mercury* and of the Central Reference Library, Leicester, in making available the newspapers which constitute the basis of this article. He is also most grateful to the Rutland Agricultural Society, its Secretary, Mrs L. Blake, and her predecessors in office for their help and interest.
25. *VCH Rutland* 1 (1908) 246.
26. op. cit. in note 2, 175-6.
27. SM 1 August 1930, 4.
28. LJ 1 March 1788, 1.
29. LJ 5 April 1788, 3.
30. LJ 9 August 1788, 3.
31. LJ 29 November 1788, 1.
32. LJ 13 December 1788, 2.
33. LJ 14 August 1789, 1.
34. J. Monk, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Leicester* (1794) 63.
35. W. Pitt, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Leicester* (1809); *VCH Leicestershire II* (1935), 231.
36. LJ 2 August 1805, 1.
37. LJ 27 September 1805, 1.
38. LJ 11 July 1806, 3.
39. LJ 26 September 1806, 1, and three weeks following.
40. LJ 17 October 1806, 3.
41. LJ 21 November 1806, 3.
42. Parkinson, op. cit. in note 2, 176 ff; LJ 5 December 1806, 2; SM 5 December 1806, 1.
43. LJ 11 October 1811, 1.
44. SM 18 September 1812, 1; LJ 18 September 1812, 2; LJ 24 September 1813, 3.
45. W. White, op.cit. in note 4, (1846) 95, and (1877) 47; W.J. Mossop, 'A Report on the Farming of Leicestershire: Prize Essay', *J. Roy. Agric. Soc.*, 2nd ser., ii (1866) 336.
46. SM 8 March 1811, 2; LJ 11 October 1811, 1.

Rutland Farms in 1871

ALLEN CHINNERY

The censuses for 1851 onwards contain all sorts of information about the structure of Rutland society and activities which have not been, as yet, very fully explored. This article looks, very generally, at one particular set of facts which are recorded on the census, that relating to the size of farms in the area and the manpower employed on them. To start with, it is necessary to describe the sort of information, how it is presented and some of the deficiencies in it. This will enable us to decide some of the questions which it is reasonable to ask, and to examine the kind of answers obtainable. In particular, this article deals with the census for 1871, that being just over 100 years ago. It would be possible to carry out the same investigation for the earlier years, 1851 and 1861 as well as for 1881 and subsequently when these censuses are released for public inspection. However, the analysis involved in reaching even the few conclusions which emerge below is, though fascinating, a time consuming one. Should any members of the Rutland Record Society feel they would like to pursue information for these other dates, the writer would be very happy to make his detailed work available to them so that analysis can be carried out on a comparable basis.

The information taken at the census was arranged on a parish basis. Within the parish the enumerators took down details of everyone who was resident there on the night the census was taken. As, in villages, there were no house numbers (some are still so fortunate) and very often no road or street names apart from 'Main Street', 'Back Lane' or similar, it is often not possible to be precise about the location of each family except in the towns. However, each family was described, starting with the head and working down through the blood relations to any visitors or servants. Their sex and age are given, their marital status, then their trade or occupation and then their birthplace. Under

the trade there should have been a note made, for the farming community, of the amount of land farmed and the numbers of employees if there were any. The employees were classified as men, boys or women. The statistics were compiled each year from returns farmers should have sent in to the Board of Agriculture. As there are thirty-nine columns it is unlikely that total accuracy resulted. However, the broad categories show that 26,500 acres in Rutland were under 'corn crops' which included Peas and Beans as well as wheat, barley and oats, 7,000 under root crops and green stuffs, the vast majority being turnips, and 48,000 under permanent pasture or laid down for hay. On the livestock side there were 3,277 agricultural horses, 2,779 cows and heifers, 12,000 other cattle, 3,000 pigs and 89,215 sheep and lambs. Needless to say, the information given is not totally reliable; there are bound to be approximations in size, even where the farmers knew with total precision the size of their holdings. Employees would be, in most cases, those regularly employed, not those who might be taken on temporarily for the intensive tasks of harvest. Nevertheless, a broad picture does emerge of a number of farming activities.

This information, farm by farm, can be correlated with the Agricultural Statistics which were collected year by year by the Department of Agriculture which look at other aspects of farming life. They too have their deficiencies and need to be treated with caution, and, again, only a broad picture can be drawn. A specimen entry for a farming family in Rutland is illustrated in the table at the bottom of the page.

The deficiencies of all such records may be, perhaps, best epitomised by the comment of the old farmer: 'If there's a drainage grant in the wind it's 250 acres, but if it's a levy, likely it's 175'. With these caveats in mind, let us look at some of the information culled from the census.

PRESTON

Specimen entry from Agricultural Statistics for a Rutland farming family

| Name | Position | Age | Occupation | Where born |
|-----------------------|----------|-----|--|------------|
| Thomas Fryer | Head | 54 | Farmer of 120 acres employing 3 men, 3 boys. | Preston |
| Francis Fryer | wife | 37 | Farmers wife | Medbourne |
| Herbert W. Fryer | son | 10 | scholar | Preston |
| Mary E. Fryer | daughter | 9 | scholar | Preston |
| Elizabeth A. Fryer | daughter | 5 | scholar | Preston |
| Walter E. Fryer | son | 1 | | Preston |
| Elizabeth Ellingworth | servant | 17 | general servant | Oakham |
| Charles Sergeant | servant | 17 | general servant | Preston |

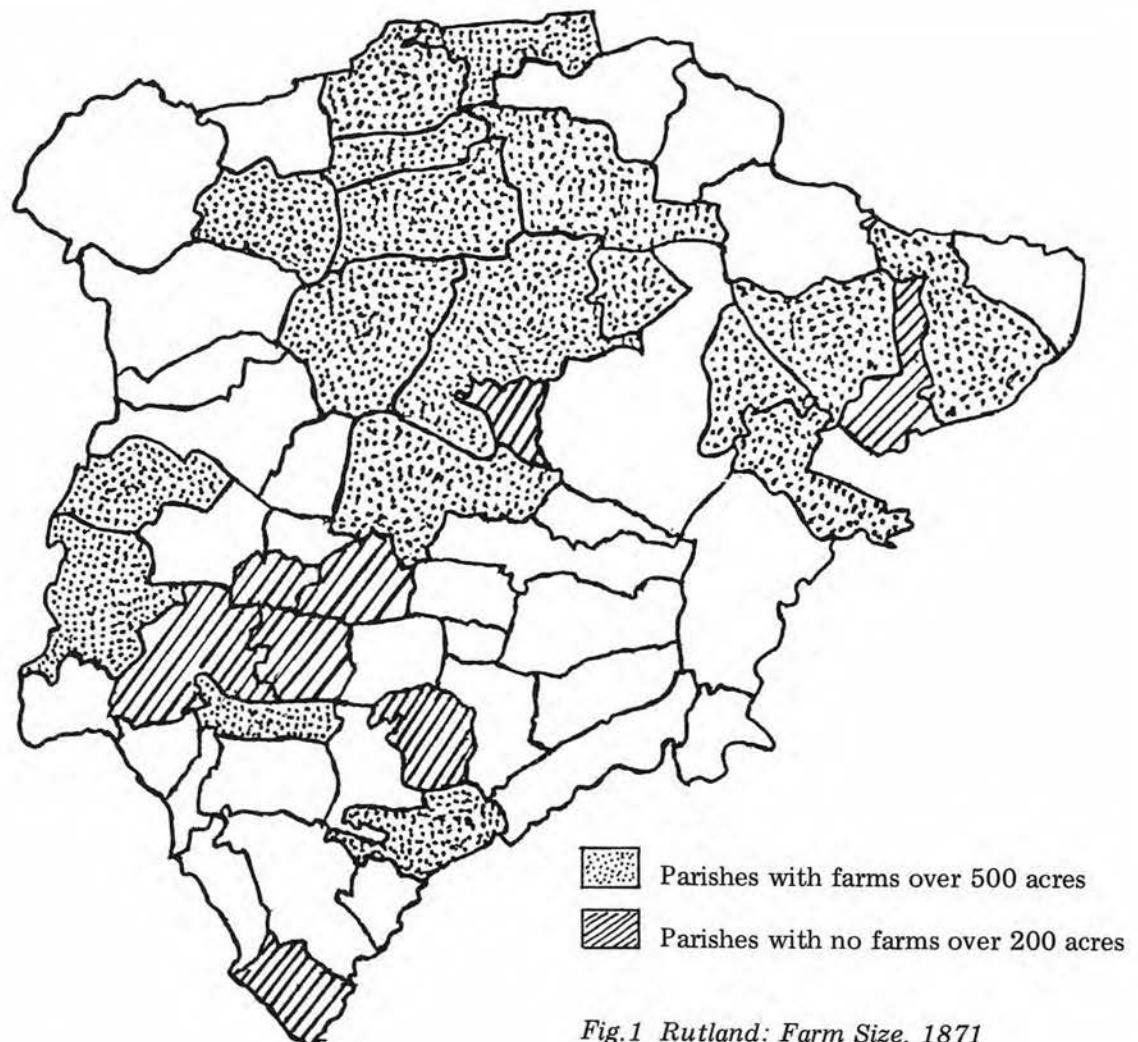


Fig. 1 Rutland: Farm Size, 1871

Size of Farms

In the first place, details of the holdings of 413 farms occur where the acreage is given. The largest farm was of 850 acres, the smallest of 3 acres only. Roughly half the farms (213 out of 413) were over 100 acres in size, but only a few were really big. The table below gives a closer analysis of the size range and the total area farmed by each set:

| |
|--|
| 19 of over 500 acres accounting for 11,086 acres |
| 23 of 400-500 acres accounting for 9,790 acres |
| 24 of 300-400 acres accounting for 7,943 acres |
| 57 of 200-300 acres accounting for 13,815 acres |
| 90 of 100-200 acres accounting for 12,451 acres |
| 200 under 100 acres accounting for 8,283 acres |

Just over half of the land thus accounted for was being farmed in units below 300 acres, while the small number of large farms accounted for nearly a fifth of the whole area. Although these larger farms occur fairly well scattered across the County, there is a lack of them in the south-east from Empingham and Ketton across to Belton and Wardley, and, to the south, the only farms over 500 acres were in Ayston and Seaton.

At the lower end of the size scale, in Barrowden, only one farm in ten was of 300 acres, all the rest were under 160. In Bisbrooke, all thirteen farms were under 300; at Caldecott 160 was the largest of the eight farms and, at Glaston, 177 acres, again out of eight farms. At Langham, only two out of the eighteen farms were over 200 acres, and, at Lyddington, only one out of seventeen. Pilton and Wing present much the same picture. Hambleton was quite remarkable in that, out of ten farms, only one was under 100 acres and three were over 400, the Healey and Fryer families occupying six farms between them and accounting for 1,560 acres or over 60% of the recorded area.

The accompanying map (Fig. 1) shows the distribution of those parishes with farms of over 500 acres and those with no farm over 200 acres.

Turning from distribution of size to the working of the farms, the census does not, unfortunately, give any indication of the type of farming being carried out on particular farms.

Manpower

Naturally, it is in the smaller farms that we find no

outside employment. 115 farms recorded had no permanent employees, and, of them, only five were over 100 acres in size. In Brooke, Emma Hack, aged 24 and unmarried managed a 170 acre farm with a sister aged 16. She was born in Brooke, and it is conceivable that she had inherited a family farm which must, surely have been either sub-let or used as accommodation land. In Langham, Elizabeth Royce, a widow, managed 164 acres of grazing with the aid of a 33 year old son as manager. The largest 'family farm' was at Morcott where Thomas Baines Clarke farmed 197 acres, but with the aid of two adult sons and two adult daughters.

In many cases the very small farmers naturally combined their agricultural activity with another trade. This was particularly noticeable where there were urban opportunities. Butchers, innkeepers, beersellers, bakers, the occasional miller all with close links and the need to use some land in their other business often farmed on a formal scale as well, and, though the farms might be small, the other sides of their business could be large and flourishing. At Langham, Edward Baker employed one man and a boy on his 100 acre farm, but seven men and a boy in his brewery business.

What is perhaps more surprising is that, on ninety-five of these 115 farms, there was no family of age to help the single person (often a widow or widower) or couple (often elderly) with the work. Long tables filled by sturdy sons and daughters all active on the farm simply do not exist. Certainly the census gives no support to the idea of large families communally working a farm. The picture is far more of ones and twos either with children too young to help or old enough to have left home and not be recorded. Thirty-five of these small family farms were being run by either a widow or widower, or by a couple in their late sixties or seventies. At Empingham, Ann Gower farmed 70 acres and was an innkeeper as an 80 year old widow.

Moving from those farms where only the family was employed, we can look at the actual intensity of employment by taking the active family, the farmer and his wife and any children or relatives over the age of 14 and adding the number of employees. These are usually divided into men and boys, though the age of a boy becoming a man is not altogether clear. Occasionally, women employees are mentioned. Counting a boy as half a man, we can make some rough calculations on the number of acres/man which was normal.

There are very few cases where the ratio fell below 20 acres per man, and, correspondingly, few in which it was over 60. Well over half of the farms

employing labour had an intensity between 25 acres per man and 40 acres per man, 33 acres per man having, in fact, the highest number of instances. Fig. 2 shows the distribution.

It is probable that, on the very large farms, the farmer's position was more or less managerial, but this would affect only a very small number. William Jackson of Ashwell farmed 518 acres and, though with no family other than his wife, employed seven men and two boys. Edward Worthey of Ayston farmed 500 acres and employed sixteen. The largest farmer, John Christian who worked 850 acres in Barrow had a labour force of eighteen men and seven boys, and, again, had no internal family help. He was 46 and his wife 38. These men and others like them probably did more managing than ploughing or stock-keeping.

As with the small family farms, it is remarkable how relatively few had a large labour force within the family. Of the nearly 300 employing outside labour, 218 had no children at home over the age of 14, as against 79 which had. Nor were the families very large. George Leadenhurst of Langham farmed 274 acres with one hired man (he himself was 56 and his wife 58) and three sons and two daughters over 14. His was the largest family group, usually the active children were numbered in ones and twos. It looks as if, should there be a large family, members of it moved away as soon as they were old enough, and did not stay to work on the farm.

Age and Origins

This leads us, naturally enough, to look at the ages of the farming community. Here there is a very wide span, but, when looked at by age groups, it does provide some surprises. At the extremes, the youngest farmer was Thomas Stretton farming at Wing. He was only 19, but worked 80 acres, employing one man and a boy. At the other extreme was William Sharrard at Langham who farmed 150 acres and employed three men and two boys. He was 85. Between them were people of all ages. As might be expected, the mature decade of 50 to 59 year olds was the largest, containing 102 farmers, 25% of the total, but the 60 to 69 year olds ran them a close second with 22%, and, in fact, there were fifty-seven farmers over 70 providing 14% of the total. Less than 6% of the farmers were under 30.

Most of them were either born in the parish or came from one sufficiently nearby to be called neighbouring. So many of Rutland's parishes lie within a few miles of its border that many of the farmers, in fact, hailed from Northamptonshire, Lincolnshire or Leicestershire. However, they were within a few miles of their birthplace.

Rutland Farms in 1871

Where they did come from far afield, they were likely to be farming large areas. William Neville Brown farmed 560 acres at Great Casterton, but came from Bermondsey, then in Surrey. Richard Jackson, with 270 acres at Empingham, was from Marylebone, and George Saville (460 acres at Tinwell) was from Colchester. Farthest from home was John Hutton, born in Scotland and farming 400 acres at Tixover.

Because the census does not record relationships between households, only within them, it is not easy to disentangle major farming families in the absence of wives' maiden names, and how far they were interlinked by marriage. Hambleton has already been mentioned with the Healey and Fryer families. Two other Fryers born in Hambleton were farming - one, John Thomas, 289 acres at Empingham and Ann, unmarried and 64 years old, was grazing 25 acres at Whissendine. There were two Tidd farms in Ashwell, two Christians in Barrow, two Baines in Belton and two Allens in Bisbrooke. From the ages, it is possible that all these were cases of father and son. There were numerous Baines though without evidence of close relationship. William and Everard King, aged 37 and 35, handled 200 and 230 acres respectively at North Luffenham, almost certainly brothers, but Thomas and William Pridmore (200 acres and 403 acres) at South Luffenham look more like father and son. There are many other examples: Goodliffes (Morcott), Royces (Oakham and Seaton) and so on.

Town Farms

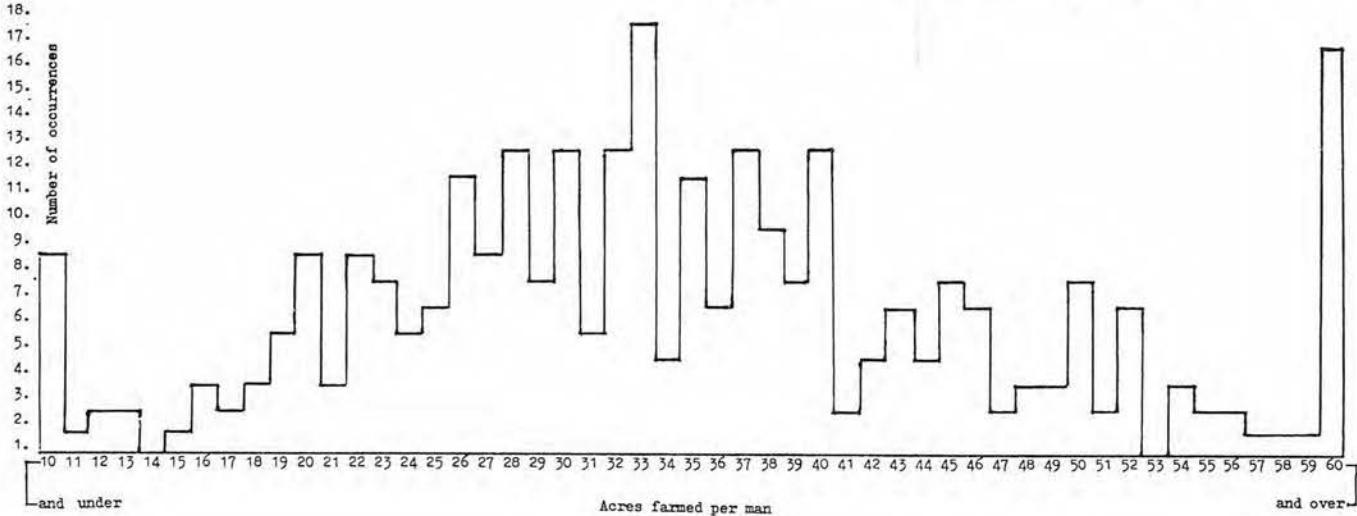
There were only two concentrations of population in the area which can be called towns, Oakham and Uppingham, though Stamford, just across the

border in Lincolnshire exercised a considerable influence on the eastern side of the county. Oakham had a population of 3,130 of whom 865 lived in the area of Deanshold with Barleythorpe. In this smaller portion there were three farmers, in the larger Lordshold there were eleven more. The size of farms varied from 230 acres (Robert Selby Hays in Barleythorpe) down to 20 (Robert Baines in Lords-hold who is also described as 'gardener' and as he appears in the Directory as 'greengrocer' was probably mainly a market gardener). Uppingham had a population of under 1,400, not significantly greater than Ketton (over 1,100) and less than twice that of Whissendine (759). As the 1,400 included a large number of boarders in the already sizeable school the town was not significantly larger than a number of villages. However, it was distinctly a town and White comments that it 'is in some respects superior to Oakham, having a busier market and its houses being mostly well built'. It contained twelve farms ranging from 303 acres (Henry Hay) to 9 acres (Robert Freeman, beerseller).

In both Oakham and Uppingham the operation of farms from within the town have left traces on the topography and (especially in Uppingham) the remains of the farm building layout within the urban area can still be easily discerned.

From all these details, a picture of farming in Rutland emerges which is very different from that of today, and, perhaps, very different from the received stereotype. It is, however, from the detailed examination of the records of an area that the picture appears most clearly of what things were like, and such studies can form practical and interesting work for members of a group such as the Rutland Record Society.

Fig. 2 Rutland. Acres farmed per man.



The Documentation of the Oakham Workhouse Clock

T.H. McK. CLOUGH



*Oakham Workhouse
as depicted on
the clock*

One of the early acquisitions of the Rutland County Museum was a long case clock, originally made for the Oakham Union Workhouse. It was given to the museum by Rutland County Council in 1969 (accession no. 1969.413).

Hitherto, the clock has lacked any reliable documentation. It bears no maker's name, but the name of the Birmingham dialmakers Walker & Hughes is deeply lettered on the hollow-square cast-iron false-plate to which the dial is attached. This company was in business between 1815-35, a range of date which is consistent with the style and appearance of the clock. In the dial-arch, however, there is a coloured painting of the workhouse itself, which was built in 1836-7 and survives today as the Catmose Vale Hospital. The clock could not therefore be earlier than that and it is reasonable to suppose that it might have been assembled using parts which were a year or two old.

With this evidence, it began to appear that the clock might have been made especially for the workhouse in its early days, and not just casually decorated 'by an old tramp' as the museum label confidently asserted. Indeed, Mr P.A. Hewitt, to whom I am much indebted for his opinion and advice, comments (*in litt.*) that the style of painting is consistent with that of professional dial painters of the period. Although the style may seem naive, it is rare to find an illustration of a particular building on any clock, and to some extent the dial painter, although professional, may have found himself on slightly unfamiliar ground. This may also help to explain the main discrepancy between the building itself, which is of local ironstone trimmed

with limestone quoins, and the illustration, which colours it as if it were of brick. It is very likely that the painter was working from a sketch, without ever seeing the building.

In each spandrel of the dial there is a representation of the common seal of the County of Rutland. The legend, or inscription, now very faded, reads

SIGILLVM COMITATVS DE RVTLAND

It is given an 'antique' appearance by using forms of A, C and E that may be found on medieval seals and coins, and by reversing the letters R and N.



*Rutland
County Seal*



Above: The Oakham Workhouse building today.

Fortunately, the minute books of the Board of Guardians of the Oakham Union survive, and are deposited in the Leicestershire Record Office. These show that the Board, which was called into being as a result of the Poor Law Amendment Act, met for the first of its weekly sessions at Oakham Castle on 30 April 1836. One of its first duties was to secure the building of a new workhouse to replace the two existing Oakham workhouses (one for Lordshold and one for Deanshold) and those in the neighbouring parishes which were now covered by the Union.

The minute books indicate that the Guardians moved with some speed. Tenders for architects' designs were invited (at about three weeks' notice),

the successful architect (a Mr Donthorn) and builder (James Richardson) appointed, the stone quarried, and the building proceeded with so rapidly that they were able to move to the boardroom in the new workhouse for their meeting on 21 October 1837. The whole process of building, staffing, furnishing and providing for the workhouse is well documented in the minutes.

One item, however, was still lacking, and at the Board of Guardians meeting held at the workhouse on 30 December 1837, the omission was to be rectified by the passing of the following resolution:

135

A clock or Timepiece to be provided by Mr Simpson of Oakham for the Workhouse under the direction of Mr Morton and Mr Stimson.

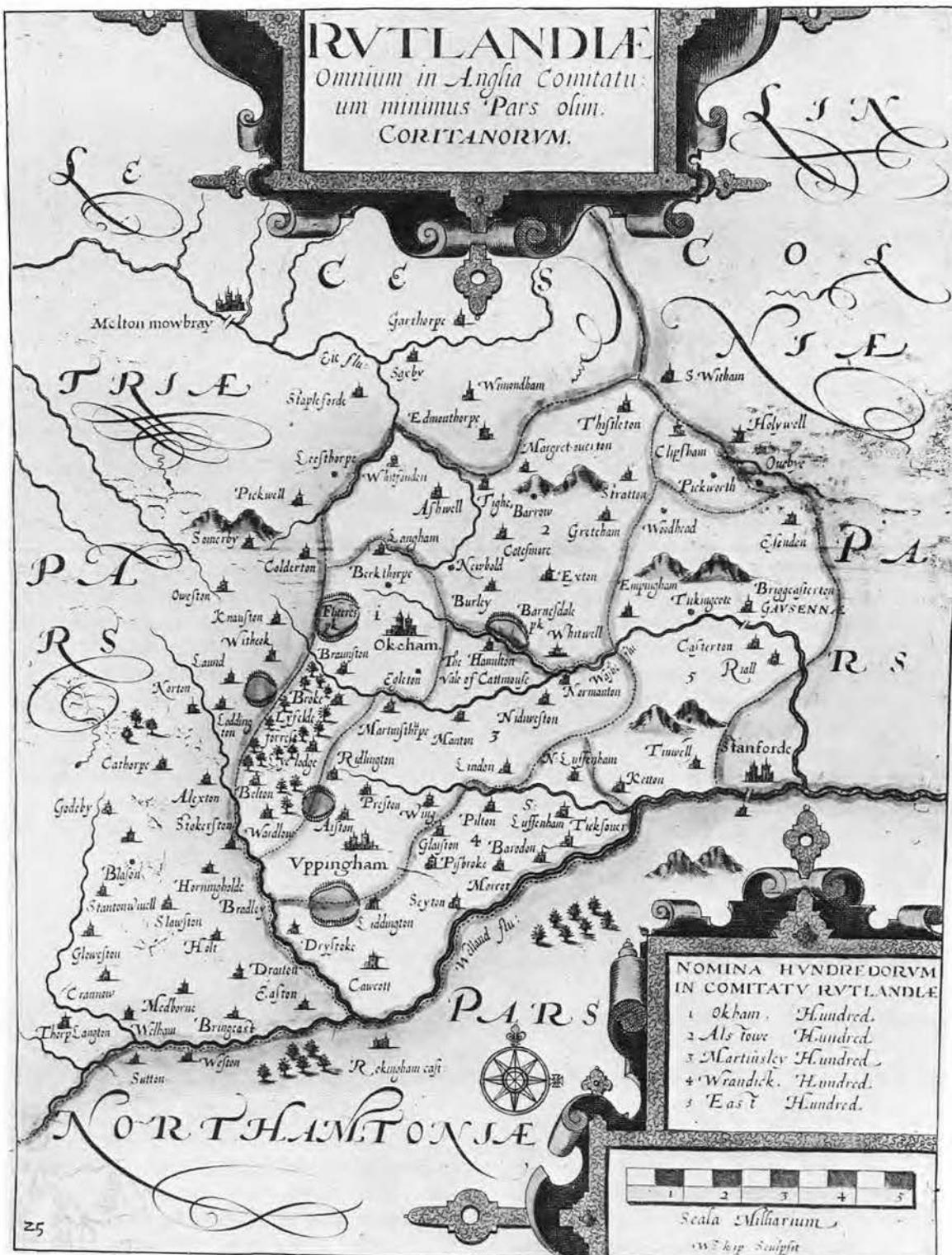
John Morton and Henry Stimson were the members representing Egleton and Oakham Lordshold respectively, and Stephen Simpson is listed as a watch and clockmaker in Oakham Market Place in Pigot's *National Commercial Directory* for 1835. Other directory entries show that he was in business at least from 1828, and he last appears in Slater's *Directory of Rutland* for 1858. However, the arrival of the clock at the workhouse appears to pass unnoticed in the minutes, and the separate ledger which might have recorded the payment of an

account does not appear to have survived. Nevertheless, this clearly documented authority for the provision of a clock by Simpson may serve to illustrate how, given good fortune, surviving records may establish a provenance for items such as this.

Note: The minute is in the Oakham Union Minute Book 1836-38, Leics. R.O. DE 1381/401, and is reproduced by kind permission of the Leicestershire Record Office.

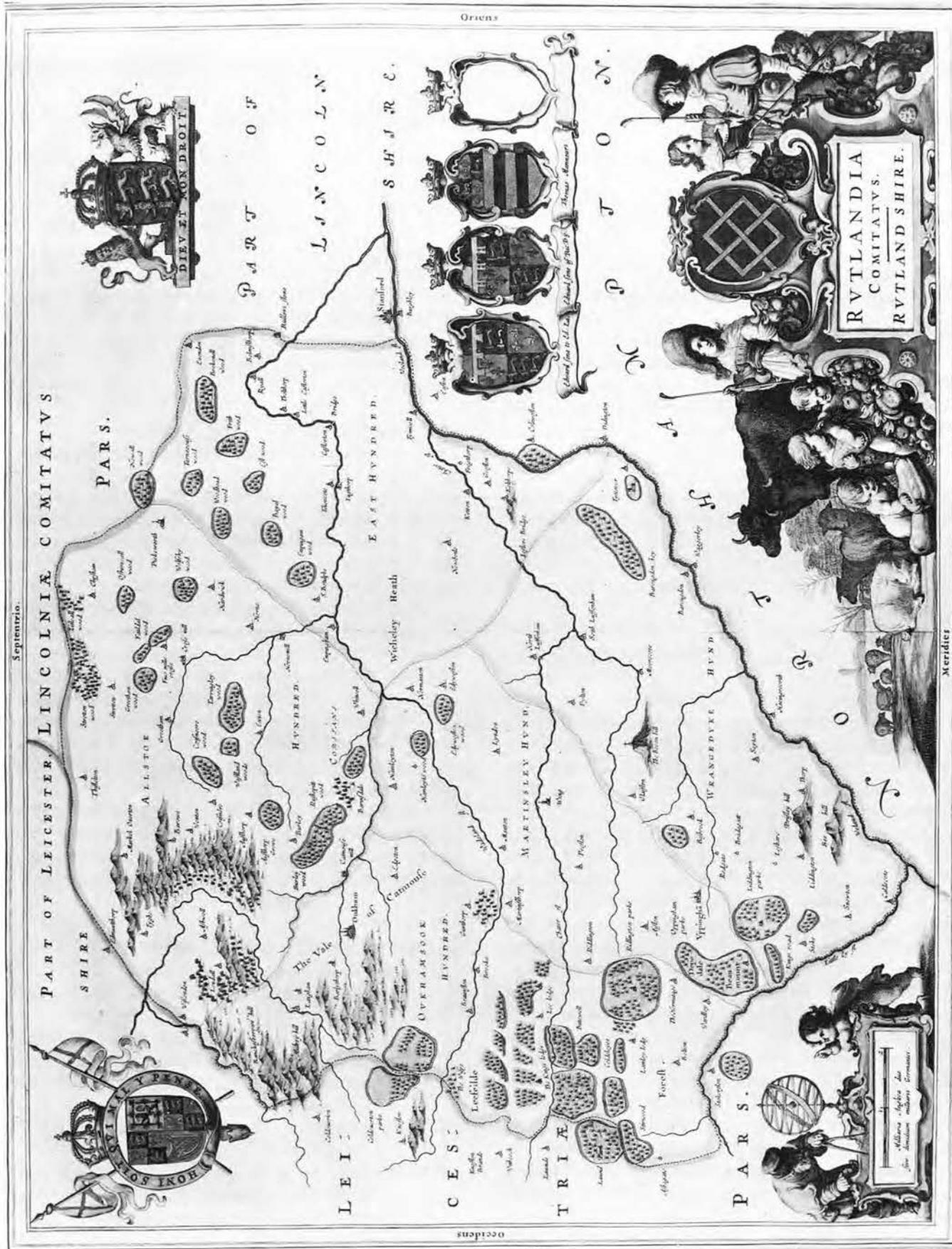
Rutland in Maps

RICHARD ADAMS



'Rutlandiae' from 'Britannia' by William Camden 1607

This map, engraved by W. Kip, is the first giving a separate printed representation of the County of Rutland. The 1607 edition has Latin text on the reverse whilst further editions in 1610 and 1637 have plain backs. Although based on Saxton's map of 1579 a number of additional place names and the boundaries of the hundreds have been included from the W. Smith map of 1602.



'Rutlandiae Comitatus - Rutlandshire' from 'Theatrum Orbis Terrarum sine Atlas Novus'

A beautifully engraved map of Rutland by Joannes Blaeu 1645, based on John Speed's map of the County. Ten editions were published between 1645 and 1672 with a descriptive text about the County on the reverse in Latin, Dutch, French, German or Spanish. One plain backed edition was issued in 1648.

Rutland Records

Edited by ALLEN CHINNERY

RUTLAND RECORDS IN THE LEICESTERSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

DG7: Finch Manuscripts

The Finch Manuscripts were listed by the Historical Manuscripts Commission earlier this century and four volumes were published between 1913 and 1965, with a fifth and final volume in preparation. In an Appendix to the 7th Report of the Commission (1879) is a brief description of certain items in the collection. The manuscripts were transferred to the Leicestershire Record Office in 1964, but several items were sold at Sotheby's in 1966; photographic copies of these items are available. In addition to the material listed by the HMC there is a substantial amount of other material, especially relating to the estate at Burley-on-the-Hill, and other property in Buckinghamshire, Essex and elsewhere.

Manuscripts listed by the Historical Manuscripts Commission

Volume I, published in 1913, has a detailed introduction to the collection, and then deals mainly with the embassy of Heneage, Earl of Winchilsea, to Constantinople. Volume II (1922) contains documents relating to Sir Heneage Finch, Secretary of State, Lord Chancellor and Earl of Nottingham; his eldest son Daniel, First Lord of the Admiralty and one of the Secretaries of State; and Sir John Finch, brother of Sir Heneage, ambassador to Turkey. Volume III (1957) consists mainly of correspondence and other documents accumulated by Daniel Finch, 2nd Earl of Nottingham, during his first tenure of the office of Secretary of State, February 1689 - November 1693, covering the year 1691. Volume IV (1965) continues this series to the end of 1692 and the projected fifth volume will complete it to 1693. This material is of course of great national importance and is used by scholars from all over the world. The letters of Daniel Finch as Secretary of State are contained in five volumes, and in addition there is the private correspondence of Daniel Finch and other members of the family for 1694-1826. There are Parliamentary and political papers from the reign of Elizabeth I to the early 18th century; naval and military papers c. 1660-1693; papers relating to foreign affairs c. 1660-1721; to colonies and overseas possessions c. 1619-1690; to finance and trade c. 1669-1674; to ecclesiastical affairs c. 1661-1715; to Ireland c. 1662-1680; to Scotland c. 1673-1729; legal papers c. 1588-1870; and other material relating to the royal household,

accounts, diaries, inventories, and innumerable other things. There is a small amount of Rutland material in this part of the collection, including inventories of furniture, pictures and other goods at Burley. Among the diaries is one of Lady Charlotte Finch, 1764-7, when she was governess to the King's children. Some of this material is listed in the printed volumes, but not all of it, and the volumes have to be consulted in conjunction with the classified manuscript list prepared by Francis Bickley.

The Burley Estate and other property

This part of the collection contains title deeds from the 13th century to 1812, rentals, estate accounts and papers, surveys, terriers and valuations, estate correspondence, household and garden accounts. Of particular interest are the accounts for building the house at Burley, 1694-1714. There is similar material for property owned elsewhere.

Other unlisted material includes literary, religious and political pamphlets, broadsheets, and other printed material. An interesting example is 'The Laws of Cricket, Revised at the Star and Garter, Pall Mall, February 25 1784, by a Committee of Noblemen and Gentlemen of Kent, Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, and London'. Among the collection of maps and plans is an undated plan of Burley Park and the adjacent estate.

It is impossible to do justice to the Finch collection in a short article; it is one of the more interesting family collections on deposit in the Record Office, with its wealth of nationally important material.

Rutland Records Deposited 1 Jan to 17 Dec 1980

- DE 2096 Wing School Log Book, 1957-1977
(E/LB/R55/1) transferred by Oakham Library.
- DE 2141 Exemplification of Bill regarding Henry Noel of North Luffenham, 1683, transferred from Northamptonshire Record Office.
- DE 2150 Langham parish records, 1559-1974 deposited by Rev. A.J.F. Dudley.
- DE 2158 Records of the Eagleton family of Belton, 1774-1960, deposited by E.D. Downing, President of Henry Eagleton Co., Virginia, USA.
- DE 2177 Hawkers Licences, 1963-1966 donated by Mrs E.A. Channell, Great Yarmouth.
- DE 2182 Enclosures Award and maps of Barrow, Cottesmore and Exton, 1807
(EN/A/R13/1) transferred from Sleaford Library.

- DE 2186 Rutland Midwives Institute Minute books, 1937-1972, deposited by Rutland Branch of Royal College of Midwives.
- DE 2191 'Rutlandshire' ms. 1648, by W.B. (Wingfield Bodenham, of Ryhall) purchased from anon. vendor via C. Irwin, The Bookhouse, Loughborough.
- DE 2199 Records of Manton Burial Board, 1889-1945, deposited by Rev. P.T. Miller.
- DE 2202 Minute books of the former Oakham Urban, Oakham Rural, Uppingham Rural and Ketton Rural District Councils, 1950-1974, deposited by R.L. Francis, Esq., Chief Executive, Rutland District Council.

Kathryn M. Thompson
County Archivist

Sir Wingfield Bodenham and 'Rutlandshire'.

In his Preface to the Reader, James Wright in 'History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland' (1684) declares his debt to Sir Wingfield Bodenham, knight 'formerly, while he lived, of Ryhall in this County; who in the late times of Anarchy being a Prisoner in the Tower for his faith and Loyalty to his King, had there sufficient Leisure to make several collections of Antiquity, which he did chiefly from the Labours of that Industrious and Famous Antiquary Mr Roger Dodsworth; among which miscellaneous Papers of his, [W.B.] I found diverse Notes relating to this County, as will appear by my Citations'. In the past, the references in Wright's work, to 'M.S. Winf. Bod.' or 'Ex collec. Wingf. Bodenham m.' have provided the only evidence to assess the extent of his debt to the Ryhall antiquary. No personal papers were known to have survived locally or further afield in the Public Record Office, British Library or in other County or private archives, other than a manuscript of four folios in the Dodsworth MSS., entitled 'Notes Taken in the Tower of London, by Sir Wingfield Bodenham', in the custody of the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

In the late summer of 1980, a local bookseller offered a manuscript volume tentatively entitled 'Rutlandshire' for purchase by the Record Office. Initially the potential value, in the historic sense, of the book was not fully realised, there being no title page, or author's name. Much of the content of the volume was dated, from handwriting styles, at mid-seventeenth century, although several earlier and later hands were also distinguished. The volume also had a strong Royalist flavour, pedigrees of the Palmes family of Ashwell, the Beaumont family of Coleorton, and the Bodenham family of Ryhall, all staunch

Royalists during the Civil War, lists of gentry created lords or barons by Charles I, 1642-1646, and references to other noted Royalist families. These two facts, in their own right, pinpointing the work of a Royalist during the Civil War period provoked much interest in the manuscript. The key to its identification as the work of Wingfield Bodenham however, lay in the reference (p. 159) 'Collected p[er] me W.B. out of Mrs Frances Pate's Buske 1648, fo. 5'. Subsequent correlation between the folio references in Wright's 'Rutland' and the manuscript proved conclusively that this was Bodenham's 'Collection of Antiquity'. Further evidence lay in the fact that the contents were drawn from two major sources - 'ex libris Roger, Dodsworth' and from Public Records. Pipe Rolls, Fine Rolls, Pleas etc. were all kept in the Tower of London until provision was made for a Public Record Office.

Wingfield Bodenham was born c. 1615. His father was Sir Francis Bodenham, who was sequestered as a Royalist, and who died in 1645 at Belvoir, possibly during the heavy skirmishes there that year. He was buried in Ryhall church. Sir Francis' first wife, Wingfield's mother, was Penelope, daughter of Edward Wingfield, and his second was Theodosia, daughter of Francis Hastings of Ashby de la Zouch, the Leader of the Leicestershire Royalist forces. Wingfield himself married Francisca, daughter and heir of Farnham Beaumont of London, second son of Thomas Beaumont of Stoughton, another loyal Royalist. There were five children from the marriage, although only two, Beaumont born in 1641, and William in 1644, are entered in the Bodenham pedigree. Wingfield was knighted at Reading in November 1642, at the outbreak of Civil War, and was appointed High Sheriff of Rutland for the following year. With the escalation of fighting, however, it is unlikely that he had any authority. In 1644 he was taken in arms against Parliament at Burghley, in Northamptonshire, and was imprisoned in the Tower where he remained until November 1647. During this time, Roger Dodsworth, the famous antiquary who began the momentous 'Monasticon' later completed by Dugdale, was a frequent visitor to the Tower. He had been given free access to the records there and presumably lent his own material during his visits to Bodenham and the other captive antiquarians. It also appears that for part, if not all of his imprisonment, Wingfield was accompanied in the Tower by his wife, as according to his pedigree, the second child, William, was 'natus in Turri London June 5 1644'.

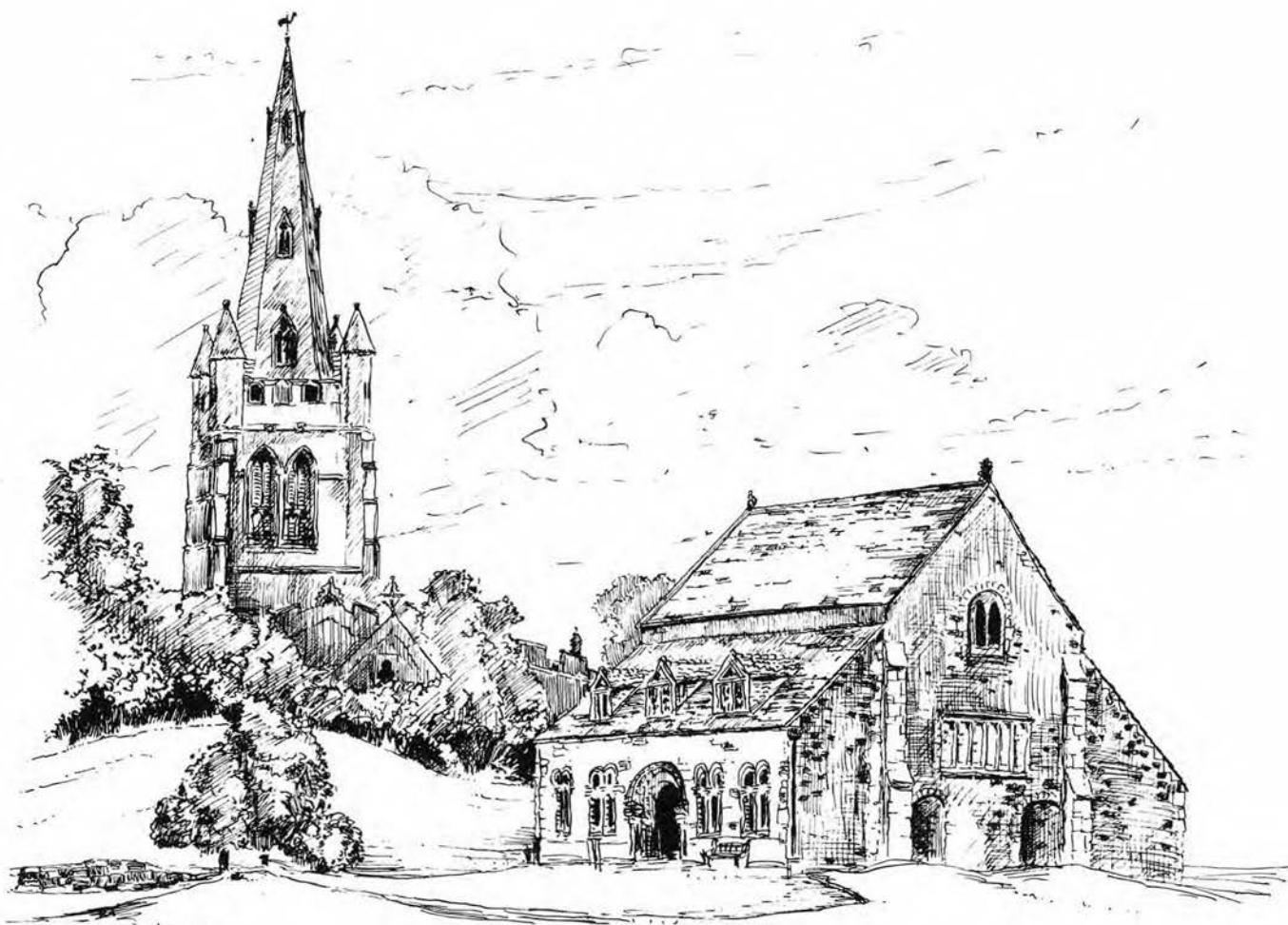
The work itself comprises 118 numbered and 48 unnumbered folios. Most of the unnumbered pages are at the front and rear, although single pages

are interspersed throughout, often with no relevance to the surrounding mss. From this it seems likely that the work consisted of loose sheets during the author's lifetime and were bound up at a later stage. Unlike Wright's Rutland, the contents follow no logical order, either topographical or chronological. Other than a few out-county notes, the work relates to families and their descent, to land ownership and holdings and to church patronage in Rutland. Pedigrees of the Despencers, Cliffords, Boyvilles and Murdocks of Ayston and Wardley, Busseys, Brudenells, Harringtons, Beaumonts, Sapcotes, Clarkes, Palmes and Bodenhamns are included. Some of the pedigrees also have coats of arms, and on a general heraldic theme, there are also descriptions of the descent of coats of arms. Lords of the manors, tenants-in-chief and landowners are listed,

and ownership of the land is traced. Charters and grants confirming land or privileges are abstracted. There are lists of lords, names of soldiers, a list of persons disclaimed from the title of gentlemen in 1615 and extracts from Exchequer records regarding financial administration of the County. Details of the patronage and the names of incumbents of ecclesiastical establishments, taken from cartularies and other church records, are also to be found.

'Rutlandshire' can be consulted at any time during normal opening hours at the Record Office (our ref: DE 2191). To safeguard the condition of the work, however, a copy of the original has been made, and is available in the Record Office Searchroom Library.

*Heather E. Broughton,
Keeper of Archives*



RUTLAND RECORDS AT NORTHAMPTON

Rutland Maps and Plans in the Northamptonshire Record Office

As maps are one of the classes of records most in demand I hope it will be useful to run through those few which are now in the Northamptonshire Record Office. The type of maps which exist include those of the whole county or of some special area or large division of it, those of lines of communication that run through the county, those prepared for the owners of estates down to small plans of individual houses and grounds, inclosure maps, tithe maps, parish maps made to assist in rate collecting, other maps made for public purposes or development, the Ordnance Survey plans and maps prepared to illustrate some aspect of the history or economy of the county.

County maps. The Record Office has only a few printed maps such as W. Kip's map in the 1637 edition of Camden's Britannia, one of R. Blome, undated but of about 1675, dedicated to the Earl of Cardigan, and a negative photostat of that by Captain Andrew Armstrong published 24 June 1781 by R. Sayer and J. Bennett. This has a small plan of Oakham in the bottom left hand corner. The map that accompanied James Wright's History of Rutland (1684) is missing in both this Record Office's copies of his work although we have a photostat of it. No map seems to have accompanied T. Blore's History although it does contain a small plan of the village of Casterton Magna. A printed map of the tract of country surrounding Belvoir Castle published by W. King in 1806 includes the whole of Rutland. The British Museum publishes reproductions of Saxton's maps of 1576 and of his map of the counties of Northants., Beds., Cambs., Hunts. and Rutland this office has a copy. In the 19th century gazetteers, directories and guide books as well as publications by local bodies were apt to contain printed maps of the county, but of these and of the very much collected coloured county maps there are no doubt much better collections in local Rutland institutions.

The one inch to the mile early Ordnance Survey maps were based on work done in earlier years of the 19th century which produced manuscript plans on a scale of two inches to the mile which are now in the map department of the British Museum. Sheet number 267 covers Rutland as far north as a line running along the roads through Whissendine, Ashwell, Cottesmore, Greetham and Pickworth. The date is 1814. Of this there is a photocopy in

the office. The map shows field boundaries which were in the main omitted from the printed one inch maps, but there is much dispute as to their accuracy. The printed map which forms the north west, south west and north east corners of sheet LXIV sometimes shows additional matter, for instance Cop Farm buildings on the west of the main road just south of Oakham are not marked on the manuscript map despite its larger scale. The printed map was published on 1 March 1824. It shows the Oakham (to Saxby) canal. Reprints of the map were taken from electrotypes but the 1824 date was left on them. Some of these electrotypes are dated as 'taken in 1876' but others have no date other than 1824 which can be confusing as railways were added to these electrotype versions. The '1876' version of which the Record Office has three copies, marks the Rugby and Stamford, Syston and Peterborough, Stamford and Essendine railways with the small portions of the Essendine and Bourne and Great Northern railways that run through the county. A version marked as having railways added to 1882 at the bottom includes also the Kettering and Manton line. Of the larger scale Ordnance plans the office has only a number of 2nd edition six inch maps dating from 1904 or 1905.

Of other maps of lines of communication there is a copy of the printed plan of the proposed Stamford Junction Navigation from Oakham to Stamford and Boston etc. surveyed under the direction of Thomas Telford by Hamilton Fulton and drawn by W.A. Provis in 1810. This is one of a class of plans deposited with Clerks of the Peace of undertakings authorised by Act of Parliament. The plan shows the intended canal from its junction with the Welland up the valley on the north side of the river Chater through Ketton, North Luffenham, Lyndon, Manton, Martinthorpe, Egleton to Oakham. The reference book gives particulars of the owners and occupiers of all the small properties through which the canal was to pass. The position of toll bars is marked on one or two of the roads. The plan of the proposed canal and navigations from Harborough to Stamford also of 1810 does not affect Rutland as the line ran wholly on the south of the Welland. The office contains no records of the main roads out of Uppingham which were first turnpiked in 1753.

The Record Office has no inclosure maps or maps made for parish purposes (other than tithe maps described below) except for a map of the greater part of the Lordship of Little Casterton made by Edward Gibbons and Edward Arden in 1796 bound with a copy of Little Casterton inclosure act in a volume deposited by the Bishop in his registry on 28 June 1824. The part not mapped

is of a farm called the Frith which lay east of the Ryhall to Great Casterton road called on the map Salters Lane. The reason the map was deposited in the registry is no doubt because *inter alia* the inclosure awarded the rector a corn rent in lieu of an allotment in lieu of tithes. The map gives the numbers, acreages and names of the owners of the new allotments and the numbers and acreages of old inclosures.

The largest number of Rutland maps in the Northamptonshire Record Office are those produced as a result of the 1836 Act to commute tithes in kind to rent charges on land. With each of them there is an apportionment in documentary form which is a very valuable historical document. Sometimes during the next century these apportionments were altered, usually only so as to affect small areas but nevertheless also accompanied maps. So far as Rutland is concerned most of the maps cover the whole of each parish. As the rent charges were laid on each separate field or plot these are usually numbered and under these numbers in the apportionments the names of the owners, occupiers, the state of cultivation, the size of each and the amount payable are given. The names of whole parishes for which tithe maps exist are as follows: Ashwell 1838, Ayston 1850, Barrowden 1844, Brook hamlet c. 1841, Clipsham c. 1838, Edith Weston 1847, Essendine 1847, Glaston 1841, Gunthorpe 1844, Hambleton 1845, Horn hamlet (only an outline) 1838, Langham 1841, North Luffenham 1845, South Luffenham 1845, Lyndon 1840, Martinthorpe 1844, Morcott 1841, Pilton 1838, Ridlington c. 1839, Seaton 1847, Stoke Dry 1842, Stretton c. 1837, Teigh c. 1842, Thorpe by Water hamlet 1848, Tickencote c. 1838, Tinwell 1846, Wardley 1845 and Whitwell 1838. The quality of the maps and the detail marked varies considerably. A duplicate of the Martinthorpe map with a later tracing on which are marked trial holes and the type of soil found is also in the office.

In some parishes in 1836 there was only a small portion subject to tithes and in these cases the maps are of course only of small areas within the parishes. These cases are Greetham 1839 which shows most of the buildings in the village and 444 acres of fields and woodland each side of the Great North Road. Leighfield Forest 1852 which was extra parochial, Oakham c. 1839 being only of fifteen fields, a pond and a building forming the area known as Flitteris Park, Brook, Gunthorpe and Langham having their own maps and apportionments, and Uppingham c. 1851 which shows only three fields. In the remaining Rutland parishes tithes had either been commuted under inclosure awards for corn

rents or allotments or under earlier agreements or were redeemed in toto under the 1836 Act, thus requiring no map.

The maps of Barrowden, North and South Luffenham, Pilton, Seaton and Thorpe by Water show strips in the then still uninclosed open fields. A map of an altered apportionment of Seaton of c. 1862 shows the whole parish after inclosure with the new fields superimposed on the old strips. The other altered apportionments with maps are of Ashwell c. 1855 showing the village centre only with buildings south of the church, Barrowden c. 1884 (whole parish), Glaston c. 1867 and c. 1871 both showing two fields only, and 1883 along the line of the Midland Railway, Langham 1936 (two fields), North Luffenham 1884 (all but 198 acres), South Luffenham 1884 (all but 161 acres), Pilton 1923 (336 acres), Seaton 1894 (119 acres along the line of the Seaton & Uppington railway), Stoke Dry c. 1857 (fields south of the church), and Thorpe by Water c. 1862 (whole hamlet).

In addition to these there is a map of the altered apportionment of corn rent on 316 acres east and north east of Empingham village over Chapel Hill marked on a twenty-five inch to the mile Ordnance Survey plan in 1920.

The second largest group of Rutland maps at Northampton are those of estates in the county, many being photostat copies of originals retained by the landowners. The earliest are photocopies of maps of estates of Thomas, Lord Brudenell (later Earl of Cardigan) drawn by Henry Paxton about 1635. They are of the manors of Ayston, Thisleton and Wardley and are accompanied by terriers. No strips are marked. Photocopies have also been obtained of maps of some of Lord Exeter's estates in the county. These comprise a map of a disputed boundary between Barrowden and S. Luffenham parishes showing the north east corner of Barrowden parish and S. Luffenham heath with a detailed reference to the whereabouts of merestones and mereholes. It is not dated but probably a 19th century map.

Secondly there are two almost identical maps of the whole parish of Bridge Casterton, one being by J. Baxter of 1798. Both may be copies. The fields are numbered but not named and their acreages marked in. A plan of Ingthorpe north of a line running east and west from Glebe Farm gives the names of the fields and their acreages. Lightly pencilled in are the names of the tenants and the crops grown. The date is probably c. 1775-1800. A large map of Pickworth drawn in 1710 by John Wing gives the name of each field, its tenant and acreage. The buildings are sketched in elevation and include the

church tower and steeple. Not included in the map are Pickworth Stockins to the north west and the western boundary consists of the lordships of Woolfox, Hardwick, Empingham and Woodhead. Another map of Pickworth of 1798 by J. Baxter gives the names and acreages of the fields with tenants names added somewhat later. This includes Stocking Closes in the north west corner. Finally there is a map of Tinwell in three sections giving tenants names and acreages. It is similar to and probably of about the same date as that of Ingthorpe.

The office also possesses a photocopy of an early 17th century map of Seaton by Thomas Thorpe. It does not show any strips in the open fields. The houses are drawn in with the names of their owners or occupiers and various closes and meadows are named. A manuscript map of Seaton of 1727 by Tycho Wing names all the furlongs in the open fields. Other Seaton plans include a rough map of named fields each side of the road from Seaton to Harringworth bridge giving the names of the occupiers of houses north, east and south of the church (c. 1848), a plan of a proposed new road to run north west from Harringworth bridge half a mile west of Seaton station (c. 1850), tracing of a plan of ten named closes south of Seaton village belonging to George Monckton and Lord Aveland (1856), plan of land on the boundary of Seaton and Barrowden parishes next the Welland with two triangular pieces hatched as if for an exchange (undated), and plans of the Welland showing Seaton mill and the weir a mile above it with proposed position for a new weir and new cut (1890).

A manuscript map of Tixover of 1850 unfortunately lacks a table of reference. The fields are numbered but no names or acreages are filled in. There are also two plans of 1796 of estates in Glaston by Thomas Wilson and Son, one of the manor estate of John Stanger of 108 acres in nine named fields partly north of the church and partly north of the Seaton parish boundary west of the Glaston to Seaton road, and the other of 70 acres in eight named fields on the Morcott boundary belonging to Hon. George Watson.

These are virtually all the maps of any consequence in the Northamptonshire Record Office. There is a small plan of 22 acres of Morcott glebe of 1841, a plan of eighteen allotments on 2 acres in Belton in 1888 and there could sometimes be plans drawn on the last skins of 19th century conveyances of larger properties which have not been noted yet. A sale catalogue of 1882 contains plans of 170 acres in Ryhall immediately west of the village, 36 acres in Morcott, 15 acres in South Luffenham and 8 acres in Belmesthorpe. The catalogue gives the name of

each field, its cultivation and size. Another sale catalogue plan of 1918 includes 185 acres in Lyddington and 11 acres in Seaton.

In concluding this account of Rutland maps in the Northamptonshire Record Office it should be borne in mind that maps are best studied in conjunction with relevant documents.

Rutland Records acquired by the Northamptonshire Record Office, 1980

The only items received during the last year have been a mortgage by William Ward to John Judkins of Stowe, Northamptonshire of land in Belton, Rutland and in E. Norton, Leics. 1837 with a conveyance in 1844. A series of Peterborough Diocesan administrative files from 1914 to 1980 naturally contain files relating to Rutland parishes. These files in general relate to purchases and sales of property, title to property, tenancies, bequests, terms of trusts, repair funds, chancel funds, funds for the upkeep of graves, funds to increase stipends, investments, insurances etc. Also the minute book of the Oakham Church Extension Board 1936-56 has been deposited.

Finally, in the Beauchamp Cartulary 1100 to 1268 edited by Emma Mason for the Pipe Roll Society, New Series 43, 1980, there are a number of charters printed relating to Barrowden and North and South Luffenham. It is particularly interesting to note that very few originals of the 384 documents printed still exist, but of those that do seven of them are amongst the muniments of the Marquess of Exeter at Burghley which have been catalogued.

P.I. King
County Archivist

RUTLAND RECORDS AT LINCOLN

As I mentioned in my contribution to the first number of *Rutland Record*, there is no policy of acquiring Rutland material at the Lincolnshire Archives Office except when it forms part of a mainly Lincolnshire archive. It follows therefore that a year may often pass during which no new Rutland documents are received at Lincoln and there is nothing to report in this publication.

The last year has seen the deposit of the records of Browne's Hospital, Stamford. This fifteenth century charitable foundation possessed considerable estates in Lincolnshire, Rutland and Northamptonshire, and its documents make up an important

Rutland Records

archive; The Rutland material includes medieval title deeds and seventeenth to nineteenth century leases for North Luffenham and Stretton and the nineteenth century rentals, accounts and other estate records will also no doubt contain references to these parishes. The deposit has not yet been catalogued, so no further information can at present be given.

In the absence of any further new deposits of Rutland interest it seems appropriate to give a summary of the documents at Lincoln belonging to Lincoln Cathedral's three Rutland prebends of Empingham, Ketton and Lyddington. Prebendal estates formed the endowments of canonries in the Cathedral. Each Cathedral canon had a *peculiar* jurisdiction over his prebend which put him into the position almost of a mini-bishop. He had power to carry out visitations, hold ecclesiastical courts, prove wills and demand transcripts of parish registers. Unfortunately the standard of record keeping was usually of a lower standard than that of the bishops' registrars, so that there are usually more gaps in the various series of documents for a prebendal parish than for one which was subject to normal diocesan jurisdiction.

Summary of Rutland Prebendal Records

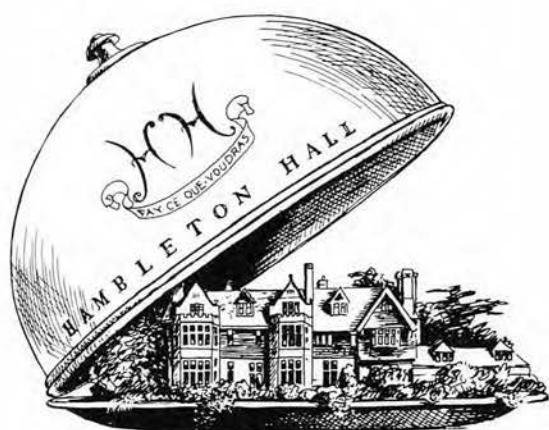
Empingham prebend : title deeds, c. 1260-early 14th c (14); leases of prebendal estates, 1723-1845; parliamentary survey, 1650; valuations, corresp., etc, 1796-1802 (1 file); terriers, mid-17th c (2); schedule of ancient enclosures and corn rents, 1795; court and visitation book, 1745-9; churchwardens' presentations, citations and other court papers, 1745-1833; wills and administrations (some with related inventories) 1669-1835 (194); probate inventories, 1537, 1658-98 (43); parish register transcripts, 17-19th c.

Ketton prebend : leases, 1859-66; parliamentary survey, 1650; terrier, 1638; corresp. re-enclosure, 1767-8 (1 file); valuations, corresp., etc., c. 1750-1850 (2 files); wills, 1666-72 (12); probate inventories, 1657-83 (6); parish register transcripts, 17-19th c.

Lyddington prebend (including also Caldecot and Thorpe by Water) leases, 1728-1871; parliamentary survey, 1649; terriers, 1668-73 (3); citations and other court papers, 1738-1804; wills, 1668-1810 (22); probate inventories, 1645-1812 (18); parish register transcripts, 17-19th c.

C.M. Lloyd
County Archivist

For information about Hambleton Hall
telephone Oakham (0572) 56991
or write to Tim Hart, Hambleton Hall,
Hambleton, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8TH



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Rutland Record Society and Rutland Local History Society Publications, and many modestly priced books and souvenirs relevant to the collections are available from our sales desks at the museum and at Oakham Castle.

Our local reference collection may help to answer your historical enquiries. Please contact the Keeper for information, telephone Oakham (0572) 3654.

Museum & Project Reports

Edited by T. McK. CLOUGH

RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

1. Accessions during 1980

A number of accessions of potential interest to members of the Society were received by the Rutland County Museum during 1980, including the following:

- 1980.6 Scrapbook of letters and photographs relating to Rutland's fight for independence, 1962-63, bequeathed by Sir Kenneth Ruddle.
- 1980.27 Two coloured lithographs by W.H. Davis of beasts bred by R.W. Baker of Cottesmore (see article on the Rutland Agricultural Society elsewhere in this number). Purchased by the Friends of the Museum.
- 1980.38 MS Hunting Journal, Cottesmore Hunt area, 1919-23. Purchased by the friends of the Museum.

2. Rutland Society of Industry

The Rutland Society of Industry, or, to give its full title, the Society for Promoting Industry among the Infant Poor in the County of Rutland, was founded in 1785.

The purpose of the society was to lighten the burden of the poor rates of each parish by teaching the children of the poorest families to knit and sew, so that they could be fitted for gainful employment.

Although the basic workings of the Society were known, none of its books or papers was thought to survive. However, in February 1981, a chance discovery in the Social Services area office at Catmose, Oakham, brought to light the earliest minute books and accounts of the Society.

The manuscript books give details of all those who subscribed so that the Society could sponsor the award of premiums to the best spinners of jersey or linen and knitters of woollen among children aged up to sixteen. Premiums were won by boys and girls of all ages - like three-years-old David Tomlin, of Ayston, who won five shillings for knitting in 1795.

Other awards were made to labourers who raised four or more children without the aid of parish relief to the age of fourteen. For example, William Tebbs, of South Luffenham, was awarded five guineas in 1799 for bringing up seven children without relief.

The books confirm details of the society given, for example, by J. Crutchley in his *General View of the Agriculture in the County of Rutland* (1794).

A selection of the books were on display for some weeks at the Rutland County Museum, and they are now deposited at the Leicestershire Record

Office where they are available for study.

At the time of writing it is unknown whether any of the later books of the Society remain in existence, and we would be very pleased to receive any information.

3. Oakham Castle

A considerable amount of research into the manorial history of Oakham Castle - i.e. Oakham Lordshold - was undertaken during 1979 and 1980, culminating in a booklet on the history of the Castle as a companion to the one on the horseshoes. Some revisions to the latter, as a result of additional information recovered when all the horseshoes were removed during redecoration work, are being incorporated into a second edition. A series of special events were held at the Castle in 1981 to commemorate its 800th anniversary.

*Information supplied by T.H. McK. Clough
Keeper, RCM*

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

1. Publications

Issued 1980 Vol 1. *Villages in Rutland*, part 1. @ £5.25 (first reprint); Vol 3. *Railways in Rutland* £5.25; Vol 4. *Wings over Rutland* £5.25; Issued 1981 Vol 1. *Villages in Rutland*, part 2. £5.25. Although not in our volume series, we have co-operated in the publication of *Elsie Fenwick in Flanders* @ £6.25 (Spiegel Press), the story of the aristocratic wife of North Luffenham Hall who went as an ordinary nurse to the carnage of 1914/18.

At the printers awaiting publication is Vol 5. *Turnpikes and the Royal Mail in Rutland*. The story of the early roads, the stage coaches that raced over them, and of the many waggons that could only trundle. An account of a fast journey from London to York in the 1830s, illustrated with many sketches of the scenery and villages at the time on the journey; with prints of the Ram Jam Inn (1760) and the true origin of its name, which has no connection whatsoever with the Victorian invention, with which it is credited today.

In preparation during 1980, *Maps of Rutland*, Volume 6, a book containing copies of most of the known maps of Rutland, 1579 to 1850, some eighty in number, with notes on each. Also it is hoped to include a final section on all the Rutlands throughout the world, the research on this now being complete.

2. Projects

During 1980 our records have been increased by research into the following subjects, which have resulted from approaches outside Rutland: *Tramp Folklore in Rutland; Sir Henry Royce's family and their origins in Rutland; Ice Houses in Rutland.*

3. George Phillips Award

The first of an annual event, the presentation of a plaque for the best new structure erected in Rutland which harmonises with its historic environment, and judged by an independent panel, was awarded in December 1980 to Mr Peters, owner of a building conversion in Ketton. The Society financed the casting of the plaques, but George Phillips' grandson in South Africa also contributed some £50. George Phillips had a library in Church Passage in Oakham in the early part of this century, and wrote many books on the history of Rutland.

*Information supplied by A.R. Traylen
Chairman, RLHS*

RUTLAND FIELD RESEARCH GROUP FOR ARCHAEOLOGY & HISTORY

Work of the Field Research Group, 1980

1. The main outdoor activity of the year has been the continued excavation of a Medieval property at Whitwell. The site is situated about 200 metres south of the church and is partly on property belonging to the Anglian Water Authority and partly in a privately owned grass paddock, on the northern side of the perimeter fence. Following several seasons' work on the AWA area, permission was obtained to expand the area of activity into the paddock. This was necessary in order to locate the northern parts of the medieval building and yard exposed earlier. Although much of the available volunteer labour time has been concerned with removal of turf, topsoil and rubble, the results this year have been very rewarding and bode well for coming seasons.

The western part of the new area produced a northern continuation of the west wall through the fence, a pebble lined path to an adjacent property and a well defined area of ironstone working. The ground further east has revealed a thick west to east limestone wall of up to four courses, a related south to north wall, and a well paved (limestone) floor area. In the proximity of the fence large flat drain cover slabs are appearing and also a probable wall edge at a lower level similar in every respect to those found on the southern side of the fence.

Pottery sherds and finds in the upper layers include wares ranging from 12th century to 17th century and several metal knives of late medieval type. One coin has been dated to c. 1260 A.D. and a further coin is still to be dated. One random find was a Neolithic arrow head of good quality and workmanship, and this tends to confirm the authenticity of locality to another arrow head found three years ago on the ground south of the fence. It is planned to continue excavation work during 1981 and a considerable amount of effort is required on spoil removal, drawing of exposed stonework, and surveying.

2. Field walking and identification of other sites of historical and archaeological interest continues, mainly on an individual basis, but members are now partaking in a county-wide review of all known medieval earthwork sites. Access is difficult in many cases due to winter ploughing and seeding methods now in vogue.

3. Documentary research has been carried out by members at Leicester University Library and at Lincoln Archives Office under the guidance of Mr T. Clough and a considerable number of interesting references have been found. This includes information for the publication of the Nether Hambleton excavation report and for future use in respect of Whitwell and other locations. Several members took part in a short course on Early English Writing and this has proved useful in the reading of Ancaster documents held at Lincoln.

4. Lectures have been given by the Chairman to the Melton Mowbray Historical Society and other interested groups and a Ten Year Group History was produced for the Annual General Meeting in October. A very pleasant evening was enjoyed by all members on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary Dinner held at Stamford in December. At the annual Summer Picnic and Study evening in June an interesting lecture on the history and contents of Exton church was given by the Reverend G.V. Jameson of Whitwell. This was followed by a presentation to Mr Leslie Emmerson (previously Chairman and Secretary of the Group) of an appropriate book suitably inscribed and signed by members.

5. Group members have appreciated the opportunities to attend the Museum Lecture Programme and have recorded their acknowledgement of the work of the Museum staff and the associated groups and societies. It is anticipated that the year ahead will continue to provide rewarding work and amicable association with all concerned.

*Information supplied by Sqn. Ldr. A.W. Adams
Chairman, RFRGAH*

Notes and Queries

The Place-Names of Rutland. The preparation of a county volume for the English Place-Name Survey entails much arduous collecting of name forms from documents of all periods. The editors of the Rutland survey are hoping that the drafting of this volume will begin within the next year or two. Many public and private collections of manuscripts have been examined, including the Public Record Office, the county archives in Leicester and Northampton, the British Library, Belvoir Castle muniments, and smaller depositories in various parts of the country. There are considerable variations in the quantity of material available for different parishes, and it is hoped that some of the gaps may be filled from information provided by private owners of medieval deeds and other land documents, and of manuscript and other material relating to places in the county in later centuries.

Field-names and 'minor names' (generally alluding to physical features, hamlets, and identifiable small locations within parishes) are particularly required for Barrow, Horn, Stretton, Whitwell, Essendine, Tinwell, Manton, Barleysthorpe, Normanton, Preston, Wing, Pilton, and Thorpe by Water. Owners of documents providing even one or two additions to the collections for those places are asked to communicate with Dr Barrie Cox of 95 Wilford Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7RN. Lists of later field-names (from 1800 to the present) will be much appreciated by John Field, 23 Fishery Road, Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NB, who is also prepared to answer enquiries by telephone (0442 57042).

Our Chairman, Prince Yuri Galitzine, appeared on BBC TV in *Pebble Mill at One* on 31 March, 1981, where he was interviewed by Bob Langley about Rutland and the Society.

Illegitimacy Studies. The SSRC Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure, 27 Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1QA is making a special study of this topic and would like the help of interested people. Further details, baptismal extraction forms, etc. can be obtained from Dr. Peter Laslett at the above address.

Rutland 2000: latest publications. *Rutland Social Survey* £1.90. A Register of Rutland Resources. (bibliography) 2nd. Edition 1978. ISBN 0 85022 045 9. With illustrated plasticised paper covers. £2.50. *Water in Rutland* (set of wallcharts) and *Rutland: The Future*. A Resource Reference Unit, are both available on restricted loan (not by Post). *Rutland Water* - an illustrated visitors' guide £1.00. *Rutland 2000 Teaching Units*. Each unit consists

of six A3 size sheets with work suggestions, £0.40 per copy per unit. Unit 1 - *Setting the Scene*; 2 - *Voice of the People*; 3 - *Landscape and Land Use*; 4 - *People, Homes and Jobs*; 7 - *Rutland Heritage*. (extras: protective plastic sleeve 15p each sleeve. Comb binding 10p per comb). *Ketton Trail* - A village trail with work suggestions £0.30. *Uppingham Town Trail* £0.35. *Rutland 2000 Slide Packs*: (Colour, plastic mounts, with notes). *Rutland - A Changing Environment* (General pack of 24 slides) £3.90. *People, Homes and Jobs* (for use with Units 24 slides) £3.90. *Rutland Enclosure Maps* - available as a set of 12 black and white slides £3.00, or as a set of 12 A4 size prints £0.75. Prices include p&p. Cheques payable to the Treasure P.S. Brydson. All orders to *Rutland 2000*, Oakham Library, Catmose Street, Oakham, LE15 6HW.

Please let the Editor or a member of the Council know if you hold important documents or if you know where such documents are to be found. Ideas for publications, articles, projects, etc. would be most gladly received.

The Editor would like to receive your letters, notes and queries for publication in the next issue. Please keep him informed about local developments, publications, etc. Books and materials for review are particularly wanted.

Advertisers in *Rutland Record* are welcomed and for details of rates, etc. please contact the Secretary, *Rutland County Museum*, Oakham.

Rutland Cricket. Mr E.E. Snow writes that the Chief Founder of the MCC in 1787 was the 9th Earl of Winchilsea of Burley-on-the-Hill. He played a great part in the early development of cricket. Despite a disastrous fire at Burley in 1908 some evidence remains especially in the Private Account Books. Recently, a broadsheet giving the Laws of Cricket dated 1784 was discovered amongst the Finch family documents.

There are details of cricket expenses, winnings, subscriptions and many matches are referred to. Mr Snow has written about this in the *Journal of the Cricket Society*, vol. 8 No. 1, Autumn 1976 and we look forward to an article on this topic in the 1982 issue of *Rutland Record*.

Some of the great games at Burley-on-the-Hill were: 1790, 19th to 21st July: first appearance in the district of England's most famous exponents of the game, All England v Hampshire. 1791, 20th to 22nd June: All England v Hampshire. Winchilsea, as a member of the famous Hambledon Club, played for Hampshire.

There followed matches between MCC v Old Etonians (1791); MCC v Leicestershire (1791); Hampshire v England (1792); MCC v Notts. (1792); Leicestershire & Rutland v Notts. (1792); England v Surrey (1793). Many later games took place. Rutland v MCC played ten games between 1881-86. In a game in 1885 Wisden reports that a world record was established for the time of most runs scored in a day. The match was at Lords but unfortunately Rutland was not the heavy scoring side. MCC scored 278 and 645 (8 wkts.), the latter in one day. Rutland scored 209 (Fury 56, Drake 67) in a drawn match.

John Furley, E.T. Drake, the legendary H.R. Finch were some of Rutland's giants but several Rutland men also played first class cricket for Leicestershire. Ian Balfour, now coach at Oakham School, holds several records. Playing for Gentlemen of Leicestershire CC v Free Foresters on 19th August 1963, he battled 100 mins. without scoring. Eventually he made 39 runs. *Guiness Book of Records*, 1980.

Uppingham School (23) and Oakham School (2) also played the MCC. There were single wicket matches at Burley and Exton. As late as 1954 a Rutland and Leicestershire XI played the Canadians on the Town Ground. With this and All England matches it could be said that Rutland not only helped to establish the game but was the venue for many 'Test Matches'.

The Editor would be pleased to hear from people who have old records, programmes, mementoes and memories of the golden age of Rutland cricket.

We are grateful to Roger Thomas for several sketches included in this issue also to Richard Adams and Brian Nicholls, Oakham, for some of the photographs. We are grateful, too, for a donation from the Midland Bank Ltd., Oakham, towards the cost of this issue.

Rutland 2000 is a group promoting environmental education in Rutland consisting of teachers, planners and other local people. Meetings are held once a month in Rutland County Library. New members are welcome and the Group aims to help the development of new materials, ideas, activities for primary and secondary schools in the area. Rutland 2000 is associated with the Schools' Council and would be especially useful to teachers new to the area. Contact the Secretary, 6 Chater Road, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6RY for further details.

The Editor requests local and national publishers to send copies for review especially relating to Rutland, the Midlands, archives, sources and history methodology.

Book Review

History From The Sources: Domesday Book: Rutland, edited by Frank Thorn, Phillimore, Chichester 1980, £4.00 hardback, £2.50 limp.

The Saxon Chronicle records that in 1085 'at Gloucester at midwinter... the King had deep speech with his counsellors... and sent men all over England to each shire... to find out... what or how much each landholder held... in land and livestock, and what it was worth... The returns were brought to him.' So Domesday had arrived, a statistical and land use survey unique in Europe.

Although the Domesday Survey has long been used by scholars, lawyers and others it has not been generally available to the public. The text has only once been set and printed in 1783 in an edition of only 1250 copies by Abraham Farley. However, texts for individual counties have appeared and the *Victoria County Histories* give Domesday details.

Farley's text, with necessary corrections, has been used in this series. The original text lies on the left hand page and the modern translation on the right, directly opposite. This allows an insight into the actual spelling with abbreviations of placenames and personal names. There is a useful introduction

describing the conduct of the survey. Notes provide a commentary on the text and there is an index of persons, places, technical terms as well as a map of Domesday Rutland.

One of the most interesting aspects is that Rutland as a county is only partly-formed being divided between Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire with parts also related to Lincolnshire. However, the embryo of the emerging county can be seen in the wapentakes of Martinsley and Alstoe, given a unity as Royal Dower land. There are many other intriguing points such as the real identification of the Borough of Portland, in the text next to Casterdon. Is it really Stamford? Which are the outliers of Oakham, Ridlington and Hambleton-nineteen in all?

No doubt Domesday will continue to present its almost insoluble problems, now to a much wider audience of local historians. Rutland, in the transitional zone between formerly Danish held and English regions may hold the key to some of the solutions. After all, it is the only midland shire not to be named after a chief town and its distinctiveness as a long-term Royal Dower from Mercian times

may also have implications. The extra-territorial interests of nearby counties and the duplication of entries in Domesday may also help.

Local historians must take the advice of F.W. Maitland given long ago in 1897 - 'A century hence the student's materials will not be in the shape in which he finds them now. In the first place, the substance of Domesday Book will have been rearranged. Those villages and hundreds which the Norman clerks tore into shreds will have been reconstituted and pictured in maps, for many men from all over England will have come within King William's spell, will have bowed themselves to him and become that man's men.' This excellent book and series allows more people to fall under the Conqueror's sway but now they will need their calculators and computers in the unceasing battle to understand Domesday. Additionally, the work of H.C. Darby and others in reconstructing and picturing the data in maps through the indispensable *Domesday Geography of England* (CUP) series needs to be used alongside the present volume and its companions in the excellent *History From the Sources*.

Bryan Waites

Rutland Bibliography

An Annotated Bibliography of Recent Books, Pamphlets and Journals relating to Rutland and the surrounding area.

CHRISTINE HILL

THE ADAPTATION OF CHANGE: Essays upon the history of nineteenth-century Leicester and Leicestershire; edited by Daniel Williams. Leicestershire Museums, £3.50, 1980. Includes 'Leicestershire churches, 1825-50' by G.K. Brandwood and 'The Agriculture of Leicestershire in the mid-nineteenth century: a study of the 1845 crop returns' by J.P. Dodd. These contain references to Rutland.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LEICESTERSHIRE CHURCHES. Part 2: The newspaper sources; edited by G.K. Brandwood. University of Leicester, Department of Education, £1.50, 1980. The second part of a compilation of sources for the architectural history and archaeology of parish churches in Leicestershire and Rutland covering the period from the mid-nineteenth century. Part 3 is due for publication in late 1980 and will cover 'Parish Records A-H'.

THE BIRDS OF RUTLAND WATER, 1977-78. Compiled by Tim Appleton. Leicestershire and Rutland Trust for Nature Conservation, £1.25, 1980. Consists of classified lists of the birds recorded at Rutland Water during 1977-78. Also includes a short introductory description of the Rutland Water Nature Reserves and a guide to visiting arrangements for them. The first report in this series covered the years 1975-76.

MELTON MOWBRAY, QUEEN OF THE SHIRES. Brownlow, Jack, Sycamore Press, £15.00, 1980. A history of Melton Mowbray with particular emphasis on the nineteenth-century and the hunting fraternity of that period. There are extensive descriptions of the hunting boxes of the town.

THE COUNTY COMMUNITY UNDER HENRY VIII The Military Survey, 1522, and Lay Subsidy, 1524-5, for Rutland. Edited by Julian Cornwall. Rutland Record Society, £7.95, 1980. This is the first volume in the Rutland Record Society's 'Record Series' and contains transcriptions of the above documents. The Rutland Military Survey, or muster book, is one of the few county muster books still preserved and of those that do survive, the Rutland Survey is the most thorough.

DOMESDAY BOOK 29; Rutland, edited by Frank Thorn, from a draft translation prepared by Celia Parker. Phillimore, £5.00, 1980. This edition is based on Abraham Farley's printed Latin text of 1783 and provides a parallel, uniform, modern English translation, with maps, indices and explanation of technical terms.

RUTLAND BORDER RIDES. Ennis, Philip, (Northamptonshire by Welland and Willowbrook) Vol III. Spiegl Press, £0.80, 1980. A third booklet of cycle rides based on a continuing series of short articles published under the pseudonym 'Ganwick and I' in the Lincolnshire, Rutland and Stamford Mercury.

STARTLED INTO WONDER. Ennis, Philip, Published by the author £2.95, Hardback, £1.95, Paperback, 1980. A collection of verse for children by a local poet. One of the poems is entitled 'Ballad of a Rutland Fox'.

ELSIE FENWICK IN FLANDERS. Fenwick, Elsie, The diaries of a nurse, 1915-1918. Spiegl Press, £6.75, 1980. The diarist lived at North Luffenham Hall for many years. She was decorated for her work, in Belgium, as a Red Cross nurse during the First World War.

THE RADIO LEICESTER COOKERY BOOK. Forsyth, Marie, BBC Radio Leicester, £2.50, 1980. A collection of traditional and contemporary recipes contributed by Leicestershire people.

LEICESTERSHIRE. Graham, Rigby, Gadsby's of Leicester, £500., 1980. A personal view of Leicester and Leicestershire as it is today, written and illustrated by the artist Rigby Graham. It contains 161 illustrations and a text which is part autobiography and part commentary. It is published in a limited edition of 150 copies, one of which is in the Leicestershire Collection in Leicester Information Centre.

LEICESTERSHIRE The County Handbook 1980-82. E.J. Burrow and Co. Ltd. with the approval of Leicestershire County Council, £0.50, 1980. A comprehensive guide to Leicestershire for both residents and visitors. It includes sections on Local Government services, the Architectural heritage and Industry and mining.

PLANNING FOR THE EIGHTIES. Leicestershire County Planning Department, Leicestershire County Council, 1980. A convenient popular summary of the Leicestershire County Council's major planning policies and proposals and their practical effect in the 1980s.

STRUCTURE PLAN FOR RUTLAND, written statement. Leicestershire County Planning Department, Leicestershire County Council, 1980. The Approved Rutland Structure Plan, written statement, which became operative on 4 January 1980.

RAILWAYS IN RUTLAND, compiled by A.R. Traylen. (In Rutland Series Vol.3). Rutland Local History Society and Spiegl Press, £5.25, 1980. Contains the history of the Mainline railways that operated within Rutland, the Midland Provender Stores, the Ironstone Branch lines and the Oakham Canal Company. Illustrated with many old photographs.

WINGS OVER RUTLAND. Rennison, John, A history of RAF Cottesmore, Woolfox Lodge and North Luffenham including a section on Stamford. (In Rutland Series Vol 4). Rutland Local History Society and Spiegl Press, £5.25, 1980. Includes chapters on 'Civilians and the War 1939-43' and a 'Crash log for Rutland 1939-1979'. Contains many illustrations and photographs.

THE YELLOW EARL. Sutherland, Douglas. The life of Hugh Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale, K.G., G.C. V.O. 1857-1944. The Molendinar Press, £8.50, 1980. A reprint of 1965 edition, with different illustrations, of a biography of the famous patron of many sports who was also Master of the Cottesmore hunt.

THE VILLAGES OF RUTLAND. Vol 1, part 2. (In Rutland Series, compiled by A.R. Traylen) Rutland Local History Society and Spiegl Press, £5.25, 1981. Originally published as separate booklets containing collections of old photographs and memories. Part 2 completes the cumulations.

JOURNALS

BULLETIN OF LOCAL HISTORY: East Midland Region, Vol XV, 1980. Published by the Department of Adult Education, University of Nottingham.

EAST MIDLANDS bibliography, Vol 18, Nos. 1-4, 1980. Published by the East Midlands Branch of the Library Association. A quarterly list of current publications relevant to the historical counties of the East Midlands.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIAN, Vol 2, No. 10, 1979-80. Published by the Leicester Local History Council.

LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, Vol 15, 1980. The Journal of the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST AND PRESENT: the Journal of the Northamptonshire Record Society, Vol VI, No. 4, 1980-81.

THE STAMFORD HISTORIAN, No. 4, 1980. The Journal of the Stamford Historical Society and the Stamford Survey Group.

RUTLAND RECORD: the journal of the Rutland Record Society, No. 1, 1980.

Accessions 1980-81

From Mr. Scott Murray, Oakham

The permanent loan to the Society of the records of Royce & Co represent the Society's first major acquisition.

Royce & Co. was until a few years ago the only Estate Agent and Auctioneer in Rutland. After the death of the last member of the Royce family. Mr Scott Murray took over the firm, which now trades under the name of Murray's.

Founded in about 1816, Royce has handled the sale of most Rutland properties during the last century and also managed a number of estates. Sadly, for the Society, a great many records, including probably the oldest material were in the cellar of the Oakham office and were thrown out and destroyed about thirty years ago.

What remains, is a daily diary record of the transactions of the Company, going back to the beginning. These are in books on the bookshelves in Murray's offices. Also there are a miscellaneous selection of papers which were in the attic and loft of the office building. It is the latter which the

Society has acquired.

Royce's materials, consist of a number of Deed boxes, several hundred document cases, various estate management accounts - including those of Launde Abbey, Ayston and Clipsham - individual files on transactions for clients, printed catalogues, ledgers of various kinds going back over one hundred years and a number of estate maps. In addition there are a whole selection of miscellaneous documents and the records of the Oakham and Stamford cattlemarkets going back a great many years.

Two of the Deed boxes contain the oldest material, which is a complete set of Title Deeds, relating in each case to land in Greetham. The earliest document which is dated 1696, is a transfer of ownership by the Earl of Nottingham.

Where the files and catalogues inter-relate, there are many valuable and interesting pictures of the past, for instance, there is correspondence on the sale of major houses, which can be studied with the printed sales catalogues, with Estate maps, with the sales catalogue of furniture and contents, and with

the sales catalogue of the outside farm machinery and equipment. Also the subsequent re-distribution of the farm tenures can be traced.

Printed catalogues, include those of the sales of Stocken Hall before the First World War, Clipsham Hall, Normanton House, Wing Manor, Hambleton Manor, and Ashwell Grange.

The initial sorting of the material is almost complete and discloses that besides Rutland, the records cover properties in many other counties, especially Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and a limited number of others including Hunts, Notts., Warwick, Dorset, Lancs., and Bedfordshire. This is mainly because the properties were associated with Rutland families.

From Mr. A.S. Ireson, Men of Stones, Tinwell Thomas C. Halliday's manuscript pocket book dated 1842. Thomas was a member of a family of stonemasons and quarrymasters who originated in Greetham and later moved to Stamford. The book contains drawings, dimensions and costs with references to work at Walcott Hall, Exton Church and houses in Whitwell and Exton. There is an interesting series of drawings of gravestones with epitaphs and detailed plans of Mr. T. Jackson's bakehouse, built in October, 1843, in Whitwell.

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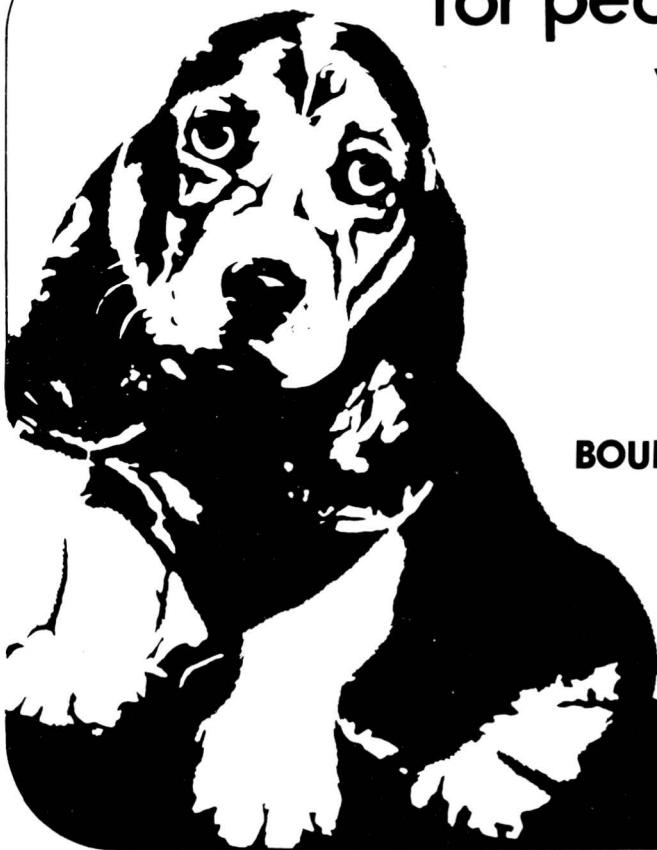
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