

# Rutland Record

Number Four 1984

Journal of the Rutland Record Society



# *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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## COVER ILLUSTRATION:

*The front cover shows the Victoria Gate, Uppingham School, drawn by Roger Thomas*

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# Editorial: The Immortal Memory

BRYAN WAITES

There has been a great concentration in the past on the history of institutions like Monarchy, Parliament and the Constitution; on activities like trade, diplomacy, war and exploration. Now there is an emphasis on social and landscape history at national and local levels but the resurgence of family history, as this issue shows, continues to grow in popularity.

This is a good and positive trend in historical studies for the individual and family must be of crucial importance at all levels in society.

The past lives on within individuals if we can search it out. Appearance, speech, tastes and behaviour patterns may be characteristic of a region, transmitted through generations to the present. For each person preserves within himself part of the human environment of the past. Each person is a living summary of a set of conditions developed through centuries by his ancestors. Each person preserves an oral tradition which might have disappeared from other families. The detailed mapping of hereditary traits has barely started, yet it is in this direction that some of the greatest discoveries are likely to be made in the future.

It is time that the study of physical anthropology returned, for there are vital patterns to be discerned regionally in terms of stature, cephalic and nasal indices, face shape, eye and hair colour. Study of blood groups in Wales, too, shows that people living in the mountains are overwhelmingly of one group, which is different from the people of the lowlands. In the distant Orkneys the islanders cannot taste everything the rest of us can. Why does the incidence of colour blindness increase in Devon and Cornwall?

## Contributors

**Charles A. Sharman** has retired from the management of the family business, Sharman Newspapers. He has had an interest in genealogy for twenty five years. He served as a Lieutenant RNVR during the last War and lives in Peterborough.

**Barron Wright** is a part-time lecturer for Leicester University Department of Adult Education, the W.E.A. and the National Trust. He obtained degrees from the Universities of London, Leicester and Nottingham. At present he is preparing a Ph.D. thesis on a subject of Victorian Literature.

**Richard Davies** is a schoolmaster at Oakham School. He was born and brought up in Patagonia and began his education in Chile before being sent to school in the U.K. After two years in the Royal Marines he went to Cambridge University to read Natural Sciences. He has taught on exchange in the U.S.A.

**Elizabeth M. Dickson** is a descendant of the Painters of Burley-on-the-Hill and is the grand-daughter of the late Mr William Burton of Warner Sheppard & Wade. She has lived in Leicestershire most of her life and is particularly interested in local history being a founder-member of the Leicestershire Local History Council. She has served for many years on the Executive Committee of the

Dialect, its distribution and recording, must also be vital and here the great *Atlas of Dialects* produced by Leeds University shows the way, but in our own locality we can study dialect remnants pinpointing specialised areas and reflecting particular occupations.

Just as appearance and dialect mark out people in characteristic ways, so do their tastes, behaviour and thinking. These, too, must form the data for study for they are part of that past environment which has left its impact, not this time on fields and forests, but on the minds of men and women.

Despite attempts to standardize, market research shows that there are still many regional variations in Britain's population. Northerners are critical, blunt, shrewd, conservative. They chew sweets; southerners suck. Northerners look for health-giving foods; southerners for piquancy and refreshment. Belief in the Devil is stronger in Lancashire than elsewhere and very few northerners will walk under a ladder, pass on the stairs, cross knives, spill salt without throwing over the shoulder or open an umbrella indoors.

'Each region of Britain has a detectable set of interwoven attitudes, a distinctive trend in its underlying psychology, which is long-enduring and which imparts a certain special look or direction to virtually every kind of human activity carried on by its inhabitants ... each region in its present-day behaviour is to a great extent the product of its past'. Can we go deeper into these aspects which display the history of the *individual* and the *family*? Not all history consists of documents and landscape evidence. We have not yet begun to explore the boundaries of *genetic history*.

Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society and is closely linked with the Family History Society and the Heraldry Society.

**Anne Kanter** graduated from the University of Leeds and more recently studied under the auspices of the Victorian Studies Department, University of Leicester, as part of a Master's Degree earned at the University of Southern California.

**Carol Haswell Debney** graduated from the University of Nottingham and later studied English Local History at the University of Leicester where she wrote a dissertation on the history of Greetham in the nineteenth century for the degree of M.A.

**John L. Barber** is Chairman of the Friends of Rutland County Museum. A former pupil and for many years a master at Oakham School he has written *The Story of Oakham School*, Sycamore Press, to commemorate the Quatercentenary in 1984.

**Richard Adams** is District Planning Officer for Rutland. He is well known for his expert and artistic photography and interest in antique maps, of which he has a fine, large collection.



# The Sharmans of Greetham 1538-1863

CHARLES A. SHARMAN

This is the record of a family which came to a village in Rutland where there were none of that name before and the eventual disappearance of that name some ten generations later.

Richard Sherman, the first of that name, was a tenant of John Durante at Greetham in 1538 and John Sharman, the last of that name, grocer and farmer died there in 1863.

During these 325 years members of the family farmed in the Common Fields and Cow Pastures, for which they were granted land at the Enclosures of 1764. In addition, almost without exception, they were carpenters and joiners, at which occupation they prospered, were literate and self-employed, some undertaking the then onerous duties of churchwarden and overseer of the poor. In the nineteenth century they were millers, bakers, grocers and small yeoman farmers.

Richard Sherman was the godson of Richard Stokesley, parson of North Luffenham under whose will in 1528 he inherited farming equipment and household effects. In a deed of feoffment of 1538 he is described as of Cottesmore, a tenant of John Durante, lord of the manor of Cottesmore, with appurtenances in Greetham. Nothing further is known of Richard until he died in 1554 leaving a widow Agnes and four sons, William, Thomas, Robert and Henrie. His will proved him to be a man of considerable wealth. He bequeathed money to Robert and Henrie to complete their schooling, the rent of his land in North Luffenham to his widow, farming stock, the lease of Lock House and copy-right of land in Greetham to son Thomas and the residue to son William.

The Greetham Registers start in 1576, are very incomplete to 1620, and from them it is not possible to identify with certainty which of the four brothers, was the father of the next generation of Shermans. I think Robert and Henrie can be eliminated as their names do not subsequently appear to be used in Greetham.

Almost entirely the names Richard, Thomas and William are used throughout. Son Thomas appears to have given up the lease of Lock House and land and his will proved in 1593 at Swinstead, Lincs. makes no mention of a son Thomas. Son William, by this process of elimination must be the father. He was witness to several Greetham wills, one as late as 1585 and was overseer of his brother Thomas' will in 1593.

Thomas Sherman who was buried 'the elder' at Greetham in 1660 was shown as a tenant of the late Duke of Buckingham in 1651, farming land in the North, South, Rood and Church Fields and occupying a tenement accurately described. This can be

identified without doubt as the present home of Mr and Mrs David Turner, number 2 Church Lane, on which is a date stone 1635. Almost next door is Locks Close so maybe No 2 Church Lane is on the site of the original Locks House of Richard's 1554 will.

Thomas his son, baptised in 1625, left a will when he died in 1682 in which he is described as a carpenter. This is the first mention of a Sherman in this occupation. He married Elizabeth, (daughter of Francis and Jane Hinman?) who was buried as his widow in 1693/4 and who is recorded in the Finch papers as paying rent in 1686 for her cottage. Thomas and Elizabeth had six children, the eldest Thomas dying within a year and the remainder living at the time of Elizabeth's will of 1693.

Francis Sherman their second son was baptised in 1661, married Dorcas Sisson, daughter of William Sisson, yeoman, and their four children are recorded in baptism. I think Francis inherited the land as his eldest son is described as a yeoman.

Thomas their third son was baptised in 1665/66 married Elizabeth and four children are recorded. He is described as a carpenter, recorded in the Clipsham Wood Book of 1697 and in the Finch papers between 1711 and 1720. He was buried the elder in 1742 and Elizabeth, his wife, in 1741. His eldest son Thomas baptised in 1696 married at Exton in 1722 and his memorial stone records his burial there aged 85. From this Thomas is descended the writer of this family history.

William, their fourth son, was baptised in 1670, married Martha Foyster in 1705 and had six children. I think he too was a carpenter. A memorial stone records William buried in 1743 aged 72 and Martha in 1742. His son William was a cordwainer of Lound, Witham in 1763.

Richard, the fifth son, was baptised in 1673 married Mary Hastings at Wissendine in 1706 and had four children. Son Thomas farmed at Swayfield, Lincs. Richard was a carpenter noted in the Finch papers, and in 1719 as tenant of tenement and land in Greetham, so he too farmed as well as carrying on his trade. He died in 1735, administration was granted to his widow in 1739 and she was buried in 1756.

Thomas, the eldest son of Francis and Dorcas born in 1685 appears to have inherited the Sherman land as he is described in his will of 1753 as a yeoman. He is recorded as a tenant in the Finch papers 1719/23, as farming the Home Close in 1730, Church Warden 1731-37 and signing the Glebe Terrier in 1736. Thomas was buried in 1753 and a will dated and proved in the same year leaving considerable properties to his wife Mary, sons Thomas, Francis,

William and son-in-law Benjamin Christian, and cash to daughters Mary and Ann. From him also came the Common Rights for which land was granted to his three sons at the Enclosure of 1764. The sons of his father's three brothers appear to have moved away from Greetham as the records from now on cover only the descendants of Thomas; even so these are plentiful!

Eldest son Thomas was baptised in 1720 and there follows no record of him in the Greetham Registers until his burial. At the Enclosure of 1764 he was granted land in addition to what he already owned as evidenced by the 'Poll for the Knights of the Shire Apl 1761' recording him resident St. James, Westminster with land at Greetham. His memorial stone records his burial in 1786 and his age as 67. No wife nor family are recorded so it is to be presumed if there were any that they were buried elsewhere.

Second son Francis, was baptised in 1722 married Elizabeth Bennett on Boxing Day 1749 and was described in his will as a carpenter. He too at the 'Poll of 1761' was resident in Greetham with land there and was awarded land at the Enclosure of 1764. He and Elizabeth had four children, the first born at Ashwell 1750 and buried at Swinstead, Lincs in 1752. The second and third were born at Swinstead where no doubt he worked for the Ancaster Estate in Grimsthorpe Castle, and the fourth at Greetham. Only son Francis survived infancy. His will was proved by his wife Elizabeth and he was buried at Greetham. A very large and important memorial stone records his burial in 1782 and that of his wife Elizabeth in 1793 aged 66.

William, the third son, was baptised in 1725 and became the most prosperous and important of his generation. He was variously described carpenter in 1776, at his death in the Register as joiner, in the *Stamford Mercury* then as Master of the Crown Public House and in his will as yeoman. At the 'Poll of 1761' he was resident at Greetham with land there and was granted land at the Enclosure of 1764. In 1776 with his son Thomas and Mary Warren, he owned 67 Main Street and on 69 Main Street is a date stone S.W.A. (William and Alice Sharman) 1769. He was churchwarden in 1788 and a beam in the church belfrey had carved on it Wm. Sharman fecit 1787. Some time prior to 1746 he married Alice and ten children are recorded. A large and important memorial stone to match that of his brother Francis is inscribed with the date of his burial in 1798 aged 73 and of Alice in 1803 aged 81. In his will he left bequests to wife Alice, son William, daughter Jane Faulks (wife of Kenelm Faulks of Belton), Susanna Digby and Ann Idle (wife of Francis Idle and widow of John Spinnell yeoman).

A memorial stone tragically records the burial of John Spinnel aged 45 and twins aged 6 in 1787 and also 4 children in infancy. Of the two daughters there is no record of Mary, but Ann was baptised in 1735 and in 1754 married Nathaniel Idle.

Francis, the only surviving child of Francis and Elizabeth was baptised in 1752 married Elizabeth Hubbard, had one child Matthew, born in 1788 and was buried on 22 January 1795 aged 41. In his will he is described as a yeoman with property at Greetham and Allington, Lincs and was a tenant of the Finch Estate in 1787. Elizabeth his widow, later in 1795 married Thomas Brown.

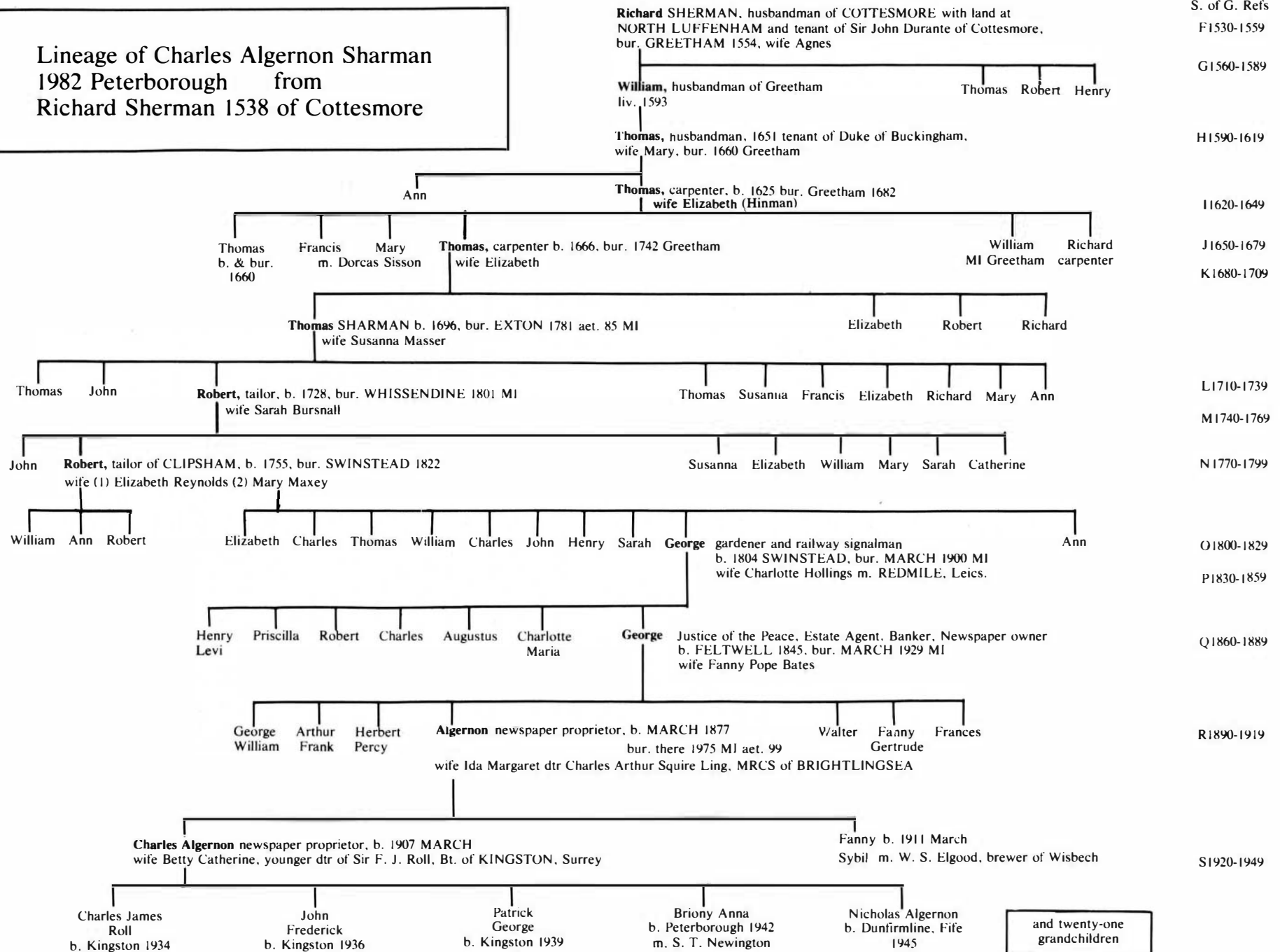
Thomas the eldest surviving son of William and Alice as baptised in 1753, worked as a carpenter and married in 1776 Mary daughter of Thomas Warren, wheelwright, of Melton Mowbray. They had five children, three of whom survived infancy, John, Thomas and Mary. A memorial stone records the death of Thomas in 1783 and also of Mary Draycott. Mary having married as her second husband Tho. Idle and as her third Henry Draycott. The *Stamford Mercury* reported her death in November 1828 when she was described as late of the Crown and Anchor Inn.

William the other surviving son of William and Alice was baptised in 1755 and married Mary, they having nine children, the eldest Thomas, baptised in 1789, the second son William in 1796, and the third son John in 1799. The six daughters were Alice, Jane, Sophia, Mary Anne, Elizabeth and Susanna. William was a member of the vestry, farming land with his father and tenant with him of the Finch estate. A memorial stone records his burial in 1827 aged 73 and Mary in 1830 aged 62.

Matthew the only child of Thomas and Elizabeth was christened in Greetham in 1788, married Eleanor with whom he had three children born in Greetham between 1809 and 1813, and three in Empingham after he had moved to Horn House in about 1816. He was in Greetham in 1811 when he was Overseer of the Poor. He was a baker in 1813, a miller in 1816 and at the census of 1851 was a farmer of 377 acres employing eight labourers at Horn House, Empingham.

John Sharman, the eldest son of Thomas and Mary Warren was baptised at Greetham in 1776. Married Eleanor Laxton of Melton Mowbray at Grantham in 1806 when described as ironmonger. In 1807 Baillies record him as a clockmaker and in 1833 the *Stamford Mercury* referred to him as a silversmith. From his son Warren Sharman is descended the mother of the Peterborough engineer John Edward Sharman Perkins, whose son Frank founded the diesel engine firm of that name. John was buried at

Lineage of Charles Algernon Sharman  
1982 Peterborough from  
Richard Sherman 1538 of Cottesmore



Melton Mowbray in 1849 aged 72. Thomas, the second son of Thomas and Mary was baptised at Greetham in 1778, was living in 1798, not further recorded.

Thomas, the eldest son of William and Mary, was christened in 1789 and was variously described as grocer, draper and farmer. He died in 1848 aged 59 as is attested by his memorial stone. From his will proved in 1848, he left a widow Mary Ann, buried in 1858 and no children. His widow is recorded as having lived at 45 Main Street, Greetham. William the second son of William and Mary was born in 1796 and buried in 1822 a bachelor as his memorial inscription records.

John the youngest son of William and Mary and destined to be the last of the Sharman name in Greetham was born in 1799. He was described as labourer, cottager, farmer and grocer. At the census of 1851 he farmed 132 acres and in 1861 60 acres now known as Lodge Farm, when his occupation was given as cottager and grocer. The Ordnance Survey map of 1884 (1903) names the farmhouse Sharmans Lodge. John married Mary Tyler at Teigh in 1821 and they had a family of eight children. The eldest, William, born in 1823 mentioned in his uncle Thomas' will of 1844 and in which year married Mary Seneschall died in 1851 described as a miller and baker leaving a widow. As he is not included in the census of 1841, 51 or 61 I presume he lived away from Greetham. Second son Thomas born in 1824 was buried in 1862 aged 38 and from the census of 1861 was unmarried. Third child, John, born in 1825 from his memorial inscription was buried in 1850 aged 25. Mary, born in 1827, married William Fountain in 1848 and the census of 1851 shows them occupying number 69 Main Street and the woodyard opposite. This was the house occupied by her great grandfather, William the carpenter and joiner in 1769 and later, perhaps the woodyard also belonged. Jane, Susan and Matthew died in infancy and Rebecca in the census of 1861 was married to John Bagley.

John died in 1863 aged 63, predeceased by his sons, and as the census of 1871 records no Sharman living in Greetham, being the last of that name in the village.

It may be of further interest to consider the family fortunes during this period of 350 years. Richard in his will of 1554 left many bequests, not only to his family but also to the Churches of Greetham and Cottesmore in money and in kind to the cottagers of both parishes. This will indicated that he was wealthy even though he was a young man when he died, not being of the age of 16 to be included in the Military Survey of 1522 and that his eldest son could

have been only in his teens. Where did his wealth come from and to whom did it go? His descendants in Greetham were husbandmen having little land of their own and tenants only of a few acres, and until they combined the trade of carpentry with that of farming, had little to will to their families.

Not until the mid 1700's did the fortunes of the family blossom. The three brothers Thomas, Francis and William not only possessed some land but were granted further land at the Enclosure. They also owned considerable property acquired through the profits of their carpentry and joining undertaking. Their imposing memorial tablets indicate their standing in the community. Perhaps there was a building boom at this time!

The son of Francis farmed and invested in property whilst his grandson took to baking, milling and farming in another parish.

William's eldest son carried on the carpentry business and his grandson prospered in Melton Mowbray as an ironmonger, clockmaker and silver-smith. William's other son farmed in the parish and his two grandsons were grocers, drapers and farmers. The grandson John, last of the Sharmans appears to have been forced by the agricultural depression of the 1850-1870s to sell his land until he ended his days as a cottager. Perhaps this was the time of 'Grievous Greetham' and that the Sharmans suffered with the rest of the village.

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# Fifty One Churches of Rutland

BARRON WRIGHT

In their number and variety, Rutland's churches provide a highly rewarding subject for study. It is wise to group them geographically in view of the present cost of travel, and to restrict each expedition to a maximum of three churches in order to avoid confusion when thinking about them afterwards. Indeed church visiting is essentially an interest to be followed at leisure so that adequate time can be devoted to their long historical periods of construction, to their additions and restorations, to building details which are puzzling, to careful inspection of exterior features — the towers, spires and the methods of conjunction between them, doorways, battlements, decorations etc, and afterwards to the many items which make the interiors such fascinating ground for examination.

Churches naturally vary, not only in size and arrangement, but in the diversity of features which they offer for discussion. In the category of those in Rutland which suggest main interest, either by size or particular details, we should obviously include Oakham, Uppingham, Brooke, Exton, Ketton, Langham, Lyddington, Market Overton, Morcott, Stoke Dry, Tickencote, Whissendine and such others which embody items of decoration or furnishing which appeal to us personally.

If we look at the subject in the light of historical sequence we shall find that there are several sites where Anglo-Saxon churches most probably existed, as at Hambleton, North Luffenham, Wardley and Whitwell, but the only church where actual traces of the period have survived is at Market Overton, and there confined to the tower arch. Norman work, however, is widespread. Perhaps the most notable is at Tickencote where, after taking due note of the 18th century restorations, we stand amazed before the multiple bands of the chancel arch. Exterior Norman building instantly appeals at Essendine, Hambleton, Morcott, Tixover and especially in the west front of Ketton, late in the period. Interior Norman decoration and piers are prominent at Egleton and Morcott, and evidence to a somewhat lesser degree exists at Braunston, Brooke, Burley-on-the-Hill, Edith Weston, Glaston, Great Casterton, South Luffenham, Stoke Dry, Stretton and Tinwell, with traces at many other places.

In a short article such as this it would be impossible to do justice to the architectural periods which follow. The evidence of styles is not, fortunately, difficult to recognise and can usually be identified, particularly through inspection of arches and windows; for example, as we move forward into the early 14th century, we think of outstanding work in the Decorated period at Oakham, Uppingham, Langham, Market Overton and Whissendine.

At Langham, the windows are unsurpassed along the south side, which also gives us an excellent example of the following Perpendicular period in the great window of the south transept. Of the latter period there are noble windows at Oakham, Lyddington and in the south aisle of Uppingham.

The 18th century was not a time for extensive church building, but Holy Trinity church at Teigh shares that taste for the Gothic which became popular in a limited expression after the middle of the century. This taste was more evident in the domestic field than in church building, possibly following the examples of Lacock Abbey (part c.1748), Arbury Hall (c.1750 onwards), and Strawberry Hill (c.1776). Teigh church was rebuilt shortly after these, in 1782, on the instructions of the Reverend the Fourth Earl of Harborough. It is an unusual church altogether. It has facing pews in the manner of a college chapel, a pulpit standing high on the western wall and flanked by canopied reading desks, one on each side and lower. The background to this triple group is a trompe-l'oeil in the form of a painting of a great pointed window with glazing bars and rising to its apex above the pulpit; in this way the canopy is drawn upwards in perspective. To right and left of the pulpit, above the reading desks, green trees are painted within the window frame, so that the whole illusion is that of looking beyond the building to a rural scene — it is a charming and unique idea.

Before the demolition of Barrow church in 1974, the 19th century was represented there in complete form; it is still so at Bisbrooke and partly so at Normanton. The removal of Barrow church reduces our total number to fifty.

Normanton is a baroque design of 1826/29, based on St. John, Smith Square, Westminster. Although many people regard the now unused building as half-drowned, sufficient of it remains above water to supply a focal point in an otherwise homogeneous



*St Matthew's, Normanton (Richard Adams)*

stretch of landscape. Seen in the sun's rays, the church still reflects whitely across Rutland Water, and one can only be grateful for its preservation, even in truncated form.

In a return to consideration of the main churches we should, when visiting All Saints, Oakham, walk round the outside to see every aspect before going inside. The chief impression will be of great length, height and width, of fine proportion and of cohesion by means of the generous supply of battlements. The very tall tower dates from the 14th century; it terminates in a pinnaced parapet out of which springs a tapering spire, also of the Decorated period. The combined height of tower and spire is 248 feet.

It is interesting to compare Oakham with Ketton in respect of the towers and spires. Ketton also has a fine tall spire but in this case it rises directly out of the tower and has no parapet to break the line visually. Ketton has two tiers of lucarnes, one tier to each face of the spire; Oakham has three tiers but on the same faces, alternating faces being left blank. At both churches the lucarnes are similar in style and of approximately the same date; this is to say that all have two lights, pointed, with quatrefoils above them. It is in such points of comparison and difference that one can see the diversity in detail and arrangement throughout Rutland—not two groupings are exactly the same, and it is worth the effort of study to establish the respective characteristics. Both Oakham and Ketton were restored by Sir Gilbert Scott around the year 1860.

Entrance to Oakham church is by the south doorway, one of the oldest parts of the building. It has several features of the 13th century, including the five pointed arches along each side of the entrance with rows of stone seats beneath them. Inside, the length of nave and chancel is moderated by the width of the aisles and transepts. Because the tower stands between the ends of the aisles all three elements are contained within the west wall and give a total width of sixty feet; thus, the tower differs in position from most Rutland churches since it is not an extension beyond the main structure. Similarly, the chancel derives width from the two chapels in parallel, so that the whole plan of the church is almost symmetrical. The interior fully confirms the promise of dignity and repose which is offered to the traveller when he sees the church rising exactly at the end of his road should he approach Oakham either from Uppingham or Burley-on-the-Hill.

Uppingham (St Peter and St Paul) has a long history and is recorded in Domesday. Although it was thoroughly restored in 1860/61 and leaves a



*St Peter's, Brooke (Richard Adams)*

general Victorian impression, there are many reminders of past centuries, for example in the 14th century tower, the Decorated period north aisle, the Perpendicular south aisle and the pulpit of the early 17th century. The chancel and extension of the nave are however of Victorian date.

Brooke (St Peter) should be visited not for its size but for its distinction as one of the few churches in the country to be rebuilt in Elizabethan times; the interior, though of Norman origin, is chiefly of later times (c.1579). This does not however, preclude a late Norman arcade of fine circular pillars and round arches, nor the splendid little font with its own columns and arcades, but it is in the furnishings that we find the predominating sixteenth century influence. These comprise box pews with iron hinges and remains of latches, the pulpit, the reading desk, the arcaded panelling in the screen and on the fleuron-topped choir stalls. The stalls are marked with initials and dates from 1664 to 1862, ignoring others of more recent years, and perhaps these were carved by choir boys safely out of sight of the pulpit, since this stands behind the stalls and with its back towards the east.

The paved floor of the Elizabethan chapel contains the graves of four wives of Mr Henry Rawlins, dated respectively 1713, 1717, 1718 and 1722. Most people ponder this rapid succession of wives and are interested to see that the fifth outlasted her husband and buried him under the same floor. A slab in the chancel marks the resting place of Endymion Cannyng who died 26th November, 1683, but earlier than this is the excellent alabaster tomb of Charles Noel in the chapel already mentioned. The date of death is 1619 when Charles Noel was aged 28, and the Renaissance detail of the tomb is spectacular. It includes a coat of arms held in strap-work between obelisks; there is a frieze of ovals, squares and oblongs, all in the manner of Serlio; a pair of polished columns on each side frames the

## *Fifty One Churches of Rutland*

recumbent figure of the Knight. The main panel carries an epitaph in Latin and a translation stands near, of which the last two lines read:

*Yet even he in youth's fair springtime pined  
As buds will perish in a bitter wind.*

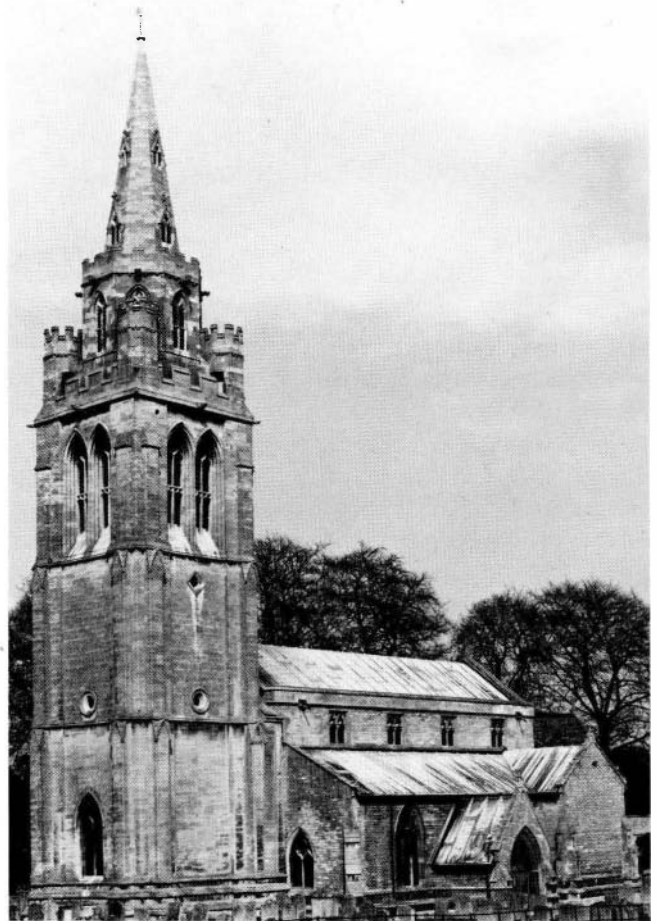
The monument is altogether impressive and testifies to the past of the partially deserted village of Brooke, when the Noel family occupied their Manor based on Brooke Priory.

Exton (St Peter and St Paul) is a church at some little distance from the village. It is an object of pilgrimage and should not be included with other visits, if possible. There was a major but harmonious restoration in 1850 after lightning damage; however, the tower ensemble is of the 14th century and is finely proportioned. The tower itself terminates in corner turrets enclosing an octagon which resembles a crown; out of the octagon rises a tapering spire with two lucarnes to alternate faces. This triple combination is unusual and aesthetically satisfying.

Inside the church is an incomparable series of monuments. There are no less than nine, commencing with the 14th century tomb of Nicholas Grene, followed in order of date by that of John Harington (1524) and his wife; this is in alabaster. Next comes the monument of Robert Kelway (1580), lawyer, with others of the family, a fully Renaissance expression with much decoration — strap-work, coupled columns and effigies. In the chancel is the monument of 1591 to Sir James Harington and his wife; next is a black and white marble memorial of Anne, Lady Bruce of Kinlosse (1627). Dated 1681 is a wall monument in tribute to James Noel dying at the age of 18, and his two infant brothers, with effigies of all three.

But the climax of the series is reached in the great monument by Grinling Gibbons to the Third Viscount Campden (1683), also in black and white marble. It has all the flowing buoyancy which we associate with the works of this master-sculptor — draperies, cartouches, reliefs and obelisks. Dressed in Roman costume, the Viscount and his fourth wife are carved as standing figures divided by a central urn on a wreathed pedestal, the whole forming a group contained within receding columns and gigantic obelisks. In the relief below them are carved the figures of their children whilst other reliefs carry carvings of the first, second and third wives with their respective children. Inscriptions are added in three more panels.

Two further monuments, both by Nollekens, complete this splendid assembly of memorials; one is to Bennett Noel (1766) and the second to Lady Gainsborough (1771)



*St Peter and Paul, Exton (Richard Adams)*

Ketton (St Mary) has already been mentioned briefly. The church deserves a long visit and much further study. Built, curiously enough, of Barnack stone, it abounds in late Norman decoration and, in the words of Professor Hoskins "is almost incomparable in England for the sheer suave beauty of the tower and spire." The west front contains a variety of motifs, Norman in transition to Early English, in an evolving composition of designs in a church on a grand scale.

Langham (St Peter and St Paul) has great width and length, many tall windows which supply light in generous measure to an interior of much space, and with a general feeling of the Perpendicular period; we have however noted the earlier windows along the south side which are beautiful examples of the Decorated style. The spire is proportionately tall and rises with broaches from a tower of Early English date. Battlements and pinnacles add further dignity to a church of exceptional merit.

Although the tower and chancel windows are of the early 14th century and therefore come within the Decorated period, Lyddington (St Andrew) also is predominantly Perpendicular; in other words the church has developed through the centuries from its foundation and kept vigorously alive through progressive building techniques which later enabled weight to be distributed along the main fabric and accordingly permitted the inclusion of larger window frames and greater areas of glass, much as at King's College Chapel, Cambridge. Here at Lyddington, the chancel windows are earlier than



*St Mary's, Ketton*

*(Hartshorne collection, Northampton Record Office)*

the nave which rises so majestically to its arcade and clerestory. It seems likely that the nave and aisles were rebuilt to the orders of the Bishop of Lincoln in the early 16th century when the nearby Bede House was rebuilt. The Bede House was then one of the 'palaces' belonging to the See and was not surrendered to the Crown until the last year of Henry VIII's reign. Lyddington has therefore always been one of the most important churches in our district.

Market Overton (St Peter and St Paul) has already been mentioned because of its reminder, unique in Rutland, of the Anglo-Saxon time. It stands within a Roman emplacement and adjacent to an Anglo-Saxon cemetery from which artifacts were recovered and can now be seen in Oakham's excellent museum. The stile leading out of the churchyard into the lane is flanked by two little Roman columns, not in situ.

Morcott (St Mary) is one of the best of the Norman churches. Features of the west doorway promise an interior where nave, aisles and arcades are splendidly decorated in the versatile manner so characteristic of Norman exuberance, here expressed in massive piers whose capitals are adorned with leaf motifs, animals and a variety of moulding. The tower is for the most part Norman, but other exterior work belongs to the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. This is indeed a church where we can quietly enjoy evocation of times long past.

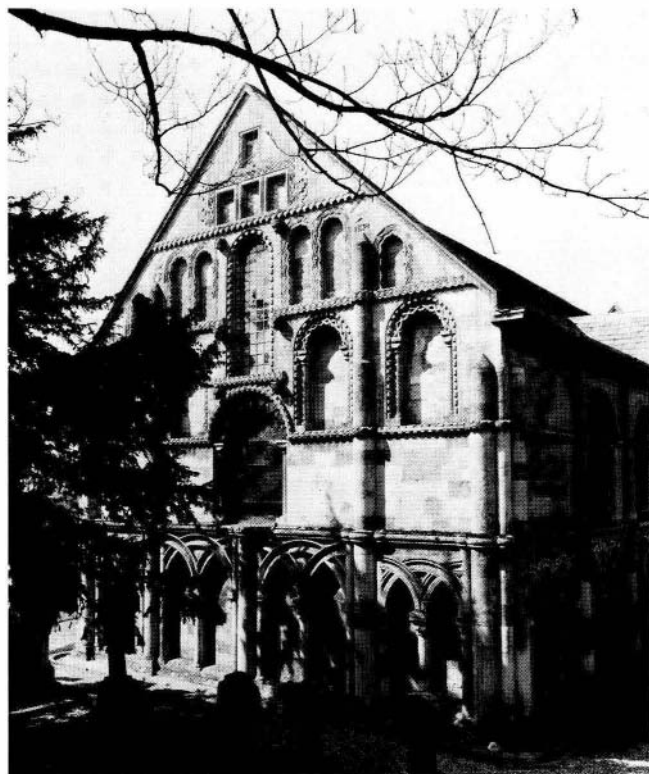
Stoke Dry (St Andrew) is an appealing little church, high on a mound, and containing several unusual features due to the long period of its building history and to a lengthy association with

the Digby family who lived in the now vanished manor house. Here again, Norman work is abundant, especially in the chancel where two shafts are thickly decorated with conventional plants and leaves, figures of men and animals. There are some wall paintings whose meaning can now only be guessed. Three monuments to members of the Digby family date from 1496 to 1590, and are remarkable for the quality of their carving.

The building history continues through the Early English period, seen in the narrow lancet of the narrow west tower; Decorated work appears in the pillars of the north arcade and the south windows. The windows in the clerestory and some in the chancel and nave are Perpendicular, so it is possible here to watch the progress of church architecture as it changed and developed over five hundred years. Other distinguishing items are the presence of porches to north and south leading into their respective aisles, and which are a little unusual for so small a church. Then there is the charming oriel window on corbels above the north doorway. This gives light to a tiny room for the Priest — a parvis — and is reached by a winding staircase. Interior features include an aumbry, piscina and a stoup for Holy Water.

Tickencote (St Peter) enjoys national fame as a Norman church of 1160/70, with a chancel of that time; otherwise, it was rebuilt in 1782 from a neglected condition. The Norman chancel contains an unexampled wealth of decoration in the same idiom as the amazing arch, but the chancel was part of the restoration to some degree, though there is no reason to suppose that it was not carried out with accuracy. First, however, as one approaches the church it is the frieze which impresses, then the zigzag decoration of the windows and the ranges of interlaced arches, all amounting to a great richness. This exterior work is all part of the restoration though it does appear likely that the original Norman designs were followed; the difficulty is that it is not known how much of the original decoration was in existence when the architect, S.P. Cockerell, undertook the restoration and he may have made his own additions in the style which he saw before him. Evidence on the point is lacking, but the nave was a new construction of this late date in the 18th century, whilst the chancel arch was left in its original form. There is really nothing like the arch anywhere else. Its semi-circle has become a little depressed in the course of the centuries but this does not detract in any way from its tremendous vitality. There are six main arched bands of carving, each resting on its own pier; every band is packed with decoration, one theme to each band — moulding,





*St Peter's, Tickencote (Richard Adams)*

beak-heads, leaf motifs, zigzags, animal and human heads. It is an exhilarating experience to work it all out for oneself.

Many churches remain to be seen and a brief note of them is given below, with the intention of providing an outline for planned visits and interesting research on arrival:—

**Ashwell** (St Mary): Decorated to late Perpendicular. Without clerestory. Restored 1851. See monument of knight, c.1320.

**Ayston** (St Mary): 12th to 16th century, but chiefly Perpendicular. Window of the 15th century. 18th century font. A model for all small village churches.

**Barrow**: A Chapel of Ease, with double bell-cote, built 1831. Fell into disuse and pulled down in 1974.

**Barrowden** (St Peter): Norman to Perpendicular, with 19th century restoration. Broach spire. Monument of 1588.

**Belton** (St Peter): c.1200 to 16th century. The attractive village seems to gather naturally round the church on the hill top.

**Bisbrooke** (St John the Baptist) Norman and medieval but rebuilt completely in 1871.

**Braunston** (All Saints): Norman traces within but otherwise restoration in the 18th and 19th centuries of Perpendicular work. Wall paintings of medieval date. Mass dial. Brass monument, 1596. A curious stone figure in the churchyard, possibly a fertility idol, once turned upside down and used as a doorstep.

**Burley-on-the-Hill** (Holy Cross): Norman to Decorated but extensive restoration in late 19th century. Chantrey's white marble monument to Lady Charlotte Finch, a sorrowful effigy of the early 19th century.

**Caldecott** (St John Evangelist): Norman traces. Perpendicular tower, spire and clerestory. Ancient font. 19th century restoration.

**Clipsham** (St Mary): Norman with much decorative evidence, to Decorated. Broach spire.

**Cottesmore** (St Nicholas): Norman to Perpendicular. Broach spire. Ancient font.

**Edith Weston** (St Mary): Norman, Decorated and 19th century.

**Egleton** (St Edmund): One of the best Norman churches. Later Perpendicular features. Famous tympanum with wheel motif between beasts — Norman, above south doorway.

**Empingham** (St Peter): Earliest part seems to be 13th century. Later Perpendicular features. Tower probably 14th century, with tall broach spire. A large, impressive church. Contains sedilia and piscina of 13th century.



*St Peter's, Empingham*

*(Hartshorne collection, Northampton Record Office)*

**Essendine** (St Mary): Thought to have been the chapel of the (destroyed) castle. Chiefly 13th century with 19th century restoration, but Norman tympanum above south doorway. Double bell-cote.

**Glaston** (St Andrew): Early English to Perpendicular. Broach spire.

**Great Casterton** (St Peter and St Paul): Early English with notable battlements. Norman font. Marriage of John Clare took place here.

**Greetham** (St Mary): Norman traces, Early English lancets, Decorated windows, Perpendicular tower and clerestory. Broach spire.

**Hambleton** (St Andrew): Norman to Perpendicular. 19th century chancel restoration. Broach spire.





*St Mary's, Essendine (Richard Adams)*

**Little Casterton** (All Saints): Norman tympanum. Early English lancets. Perpendicular clerestory. Piscina. Wall paintings of 13th century. Double bell-cote.

**Manton** (St Mary): A most appealing church with obvious stages of growth from the late 12th century. Decorated and Perpendicular additions. Chancel dated 1795/6 with typical windows. Double bell-cote. Norman font.

**North Luffenham** (St John the Baptist): 13th and 14th centuries to Perpendicular. A good place to see tracery of the 14th century. Highly decorated sedilia, also 14th century. Wall monument to Archdeacon Johnson (1625), founder of Oakham and Uppingham schools.



*South door, St Mary's, Essendine (Richard Adams)*

**Pickworth** (All Saints): Church of 1821 built to replace destroyed Medieval church, of which one arch stands forlornly in a nearby field.

**Pilton** (St Nicholas): Small, with double bell-cote. Lancet windows imply Early English period.

**Preston** (St Peter and St Paul): Norman with arcade, piers and decoration. Later work is Decorated and Perpendicular, with sedile of former period. Graceful spire from battlemented tower.

**Ridlington** (St Mary and St Andrew): A general impression of the 13th century but with a Norman tympanum, and much 19th century restoration. Monument of 1613 to James Harrington and his wife and children. Musical instruments in a glass case as used for services until 1860.

**Ryhall** (St John the Evangelist): 13th century to Perpendicular. Sedilia of the 14th century. Broach spire.

**Seaton** (All Hallows): Norman to Perpendicular, but chiefly of the 13th century. Sedilia and piscina of latter time. Clerestory of 19th century. Broach spire of unusual form.

**South Luffenham** (St Mary): Late 12th century to Perpendicular. In 1861 much restored by G.E. Street (who incidentally built the little church at Blaston just over the old County border; it stands alone in a field and looks like an upturned boat).

**Stretton** (St Nicholas): Norman to Perpendicular. Sedilia and double piscina of the 14th century. South chapel of c.1600 (unusual). Ancient font.

**Thistleton** (St Nicholas): Tower of the 14th century. Remainder c.1879.

**Tinwell** (All Saints): Early English to Perpendicular. Saddle-back tower of 13th century.

**Tixover** (St Mary Magdalen): An isolated situation because of depopulation. Norman tower, later work is 13th to 17th centuries, with 19th century alterations.



*St Andrew's, Glaston (Richard Adams)*

**Wardley (St Botolph):** For a small church, much diversified. A tall building with tower of early 14th century and broach spire. Norman traces to Perpendicular clerestory and 19th century chancel.

**Whissendine (St Andrew):** A very large church in an imposing situation above the village. It has a 14th century tower but the exterior is otherwise chiefly Perpendicular. Contains the screen from the former chapel of St John's College, Cambridge.

**Whitwell (St Michael):** A pleasant little church with double bell-cote. Everything is 13th and 14th century Decorated, including a window in the chancel.

**Wing (St Peter and St Paul)** Norman and 12th century arcades. Chancel rebuilt in the 19th century, when the spire was removed.

In this abbreviated and therefore inadequate account of our churches in Rutland, it is hoped that sufficient has been said to remind readers of their high qualities and to provide an impulse for more detailed exploration. Visits will provide an experience which cannot fail to arouse affection for the churches themselves and also for the places where they stand, in that peaceful countryside which is Rutland's gift to us.

A strong recommendation is made to carry Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's *Leicestershire and Rutland* in the Penguin Buildings of England series. *The Victoria County History*, vol 1 (1908) and vol 2 (1935) are valuable in detail. For further background consult *A Bibliography of Leicestershire Churches*, ed. David Parsons, planned in three parts (1978- ). Also *Rutland Churches Before Restoration*, Barrowden Books, 1983.

## BARROWDEN BOOKS



On October 28th Barrowden Books will publish a remarkable record of all Rutland's churches in the mid-19th century. *Rutland Churches Before Restoration: An Early Victorian Album of Watercolours and Drawings* reproduces all 52 drawings full page, 8 in full colour and 44 in duo-tone. On each facing page there is a commentary on the church then and now, with a present-day photograph. In the Foreword Peter Burman, Secretary to the Council for the Care of Churches writes: 'The drawings have two immediately attractive characteristics. One is a Repton-like charm which with their foreground figures and artfully arranged trees, they draw the church into a sense of harmony with its setting... the other is the care with which the architectural features are delineated, so that the drawings are truly useful for architectural study'. The artist was probably Alicia Wilkins, daughter of William Wilkins, designer of the National Gallery.

**£22.50 (plus £1.50 p&p) SPECIAL PRE-PUBLICATION OFFER £18.50. Orders to Rutland County Museum, Oakham, from where copies may be obtained.**

# Church Orientation in Rutland

RICHARD DAVIES

## The Problem

Most of the churches in Rutland were built between the tenth and the thirteenth centuries and all have chancels which face roughly eastwards. The builders cannot have used magnetic instruments for aligning the foundations, but must have used the Sun to indicate the direction in which to point the chancels.

That churches do not all point due East has kindled the curiosity of a number of people over the years, and one explanation can be found in a publication called *Bygone Sileby*: Parish Church Guide number 14. On page 5 the suggestion is made that the alignment of a church was determined by the point at which the sun arose above the horizon on the day chosen for that church's dedication.

We chose to investigate the orientation of the churches in Rutland first because they formed a statistically viable sample within a well defined boundary and second because it was likely that written information about them would also be collected together into discrete blocks in any works of reference, making the research more manageable.

## The Hypothesis

In any church the alignment of the chancel coincides with the direction of sunrise on the Saint's Day to which that church is dedicated.

## The Method

Three sets of information had to be gathered. First the alignment in degrees magnetic of the chancels of the churches; second the direction of sunrise (the sunrise amplitude) on the first day of each month during the year; third the saint to which each church was dedicated together with the day of dedication.

The alignment of the chancels was measured using four military prismatic compasses made by T.G. Company Limited, London in 1940. Usually the nave and chancel were both aligned in a straight line, but sometimes they were not and the alignments could differ by as much as 15°. The mid-point of the chancel step was found using a measuring tape and a bearing was taken from here to the point of the arch over the East window; a back-bearing was also taken to the point of the arch over the West door; four readings were recorded in each case. Once when we were not able to get into the church, we measured the back-bearing along the outside wall of the chancel; we later checked the method at other churches and found that the reading did not vary from those taken inside the chancel.

Information on the direction of sunrise at latitude 52° 40' N was supplied by J.M. Steward Esq., whose help we solicited because he had had a career as a navigator in the Royal Air Force.

Research in Oakham Library provided information about the saints to which the churches were dedicated, and their days of dedication.

## The Results

### Alignment of Chancels of Rutland Churches

Church	Saint	Saint's Day	Magnetic bearing (°)	Chancel Nave
Eggleton	Edmund	20 Nov	100	103
Oakham	All Saints	1 Nov	107	
Langham	Peter and Paul	29/30 Jun	75	
Teigh	Trinity		95	
Mkt Overton	Peter and Paul	19/30 Jun	75	73
Cottesmore	Nicholas	6 Dec	78	79
Thistleton	Nicholas	6 Dec	77	
Ashwell	Mary	15 Aug	105	
Whissendine	Andrew	30 Nov	89	
Braunston	All Saints	1 Nov	92	
Hambleton	Andrew	30 Nov	98	101
Stretton	Nicholas	6 Dec	89	86
Clipsham	Mary	15 Aug	100	108
Edith Weston	Mary	15 Aug	63	
Nth Luffenham	John Baptist	27 Sep	104	
Barrowden	Peter	29 Jun	79	
Lyndon	Martin	11 Nov	98	102
Ayston	Mary	15 Aug	94	
Wing	Peter and Paul	29/30 Jun	96	90
Belton	Peter	29 Jun	73	
Pilton	Nicholas	6 Dec	108	
Wardley	Botolph	17 Jun	103	
Morcott	Mary	15 Aug	84	
Uppingham	Peter and Paul	29/30 Jun	95	
Tinwell	All Saints	1 Nov	89	
Lyddington	Andrew	30 Nov	78	
Ketton	Mary	15 Aug	68	76
Caldecote	John Evangelist	27 Sep	76	
Sth Luffenham	Mary	15 Aug	74	76
Stoke Dry	Andrew	30 Nov	83	
Ryhall	John Evangelist	27 Sep	108	113
Manton	Mary	15 Aug	87	
Essendine	Mary	15 Aug	103	
Glaston	Andrew	30 Nov	103	88
Whitwell	Michael	6 Dec	98	102
Bisbrooke	John Baptist	27 Sep	108	
Empingham	Peter	29 Jun	85	
Seaton	All Hallows	1 Nov	99	
Greetham	Mary	15 Aug	105	110
Tickencote	Peter	29 Jun	94	
Exton	Peter and Paul	29/30 Jun	113	111
Gt Casterton	Peter and Paul	29/30 Jun	73	
Tixover	Mary Magdalen	22 July	95	
Lt Casterton	All Saints	1 Nov	65	
Brooke	Peter	29 Jun	114	
Preston	Peter and Paul	29/30 Jun	85	
Ridlington	Mary and Andrew	15 Aug/30 Nov	76	81

### Sunrise amplitude on the first day of each month during the year

Month	Magnetic bearing (°)
January	125
February	118
March	105
April	88
May	74
June	63
July	62
August	70
September	85
October	99
November	114
December	126

## Discussion

The churches do not all point East, but they do point towards that part of the horizon where the sun rises for much of the year (Fig 1).

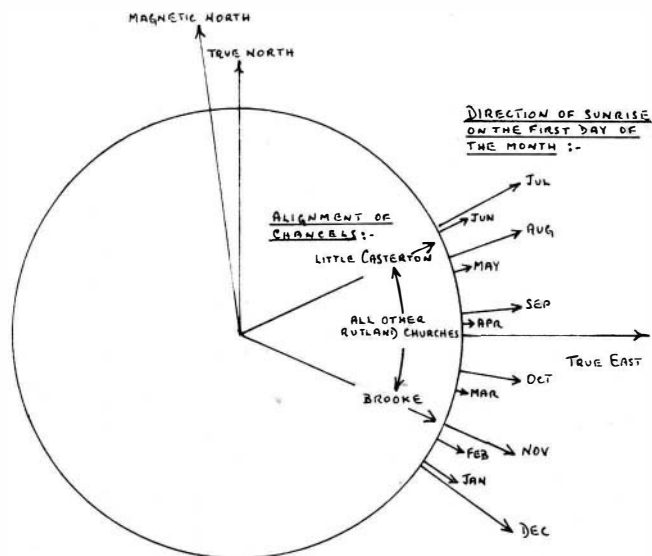


Fig. 1  
Alignment of Rutland churches correlated with the direction of the sunrise.

There seems to be no correlation between sunrise amplitude on the saint's day of dedication and the alignment of the chancel in the church dedicated to that saint (Fig. 2).

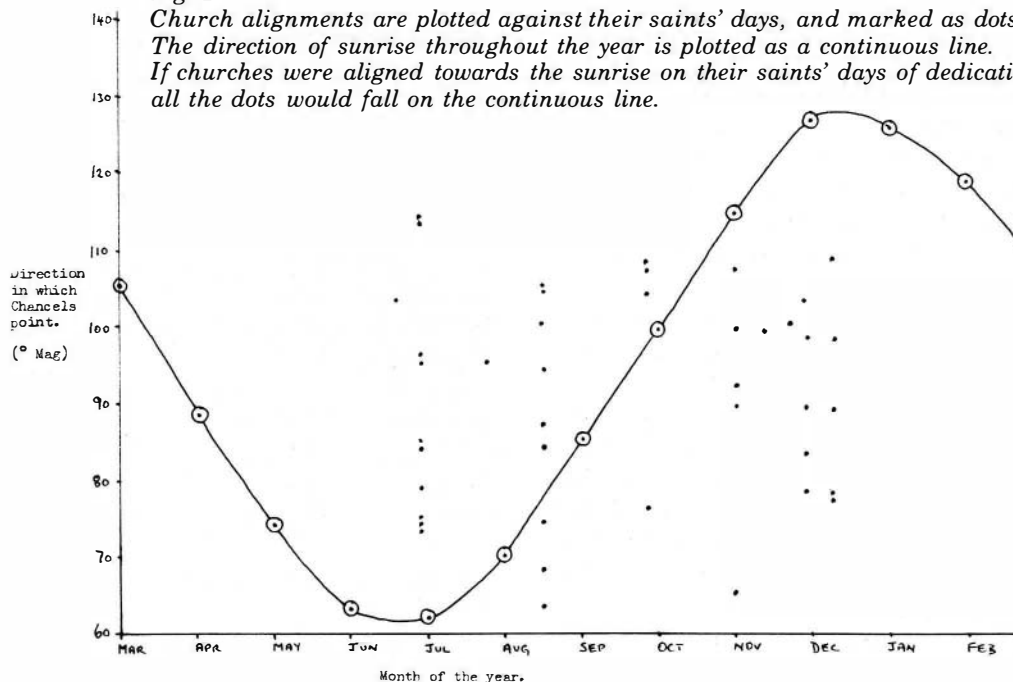
## Conclusion

A number of questions still puzzle us and are suggested as starting points for further research:

- Why do the saints' days of dedication all occur during the second half of the year?
- These churches were all built, and presumably dedicated, before the Reformation. There are 26 St Peters, 9 St Pauls, 5 St Nicholas, 5 St Andrews and 11 St Marys, and all 56 saints have different days of dedication. Could the Reformation have led to rededication? Could saints of similar name have been confused (or altered surreptitiously) after the Reformation? If so, how might these affect the hypothesis?
- Why do no churches point to sunrise amplitude during November, December and January?
- Could sunrise amplitude have been affected by anomalies of horizon such as hills, woods and valleys?

Fig. 2

Church alignments are plotted against their saints' days, and marked as dots. The direction of sunrise throughout the year is plotted as a continuous line. If churches were aligned towards the sunrise on their saints' days of dedication, then all the dots would fall on the continuous line.



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*Dedication dates* — Lincoln Cathedral Archivist  
 'The Church points the Way', Sidney Searle, *New Scientist*, 3 Jan., 1974 and related correspondence in 17, 24, 31 Jan., 7 Feb. issues.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The research was carried out by sixth formers at Oakham School over a period of two years.



# The Painters of Burley-on-the-Hill

ELIZABETH M. DICKSON

John Painter (my great-great-grandfather) took over the tenancy of Cow Close Farm, Burley-on-the-Hill about 1814.

Family tradition has it that he took over the tenancy from some uncles called Jowett, who were well-known sheep breeders and from whom he obtained his stock.

John had arrived in Leicestershire from Littleover in Derbyshire (where he was born about 1772) and started to farm in Blaby in 1806, where he married and his first four children were born. The Blaby farm was over 300 acres and when he moved to Burley he left a tenant there until his eldest son was old enough to take it over.

At Cow Close John formed the Burley flock of Leicester sheep and he soon began to win prizes at Smithfield and other shows. Three more children were born to him at Cow Close and he continued to farm there until he retired. He died in 1849 and was buried at Blaby, where his eldest son, William was now farming 362 acres and employing 18 labourers.

John's second and third sons, John and Robert, took over at Cow Close, but retired in 1862, leaving the youngest son, Benjamin, to carry on. He began at once to introduce fresh blood into the flock, giving more size, condition and wool, and he continued to improve his stock and to win many prizes until his death in 1897.

He was succeeded by his son who became the Ben Painter well-known in farming circles in Rutland and beyond. Not only did he take prizes at countless shows for sheep and cattle, but was a familiar figure in the judging ring in Leicester, Yorkshire, Northampton, Peterborough etc, but above all at The Royal.



*Ben Painter*



*Ben Painter with Longwools, Lincolns and Leicesters*

Ben Painter farmed about 350 acres at Burley, with fields varying in size from 5 to 40 acres and he lived in the farmstead in the centre. He never married.

The water supply on the farm was good, with a running brook forming part of the boundary. He said "There are springs on the farm which have never been known to dry in the memory of man. We wash and drink out of the same well here. It is very good water and we do not know what it is to see a slated kettle." Ben and his father planted nearly three miles of 'young quick' to improve the fencing, and the gates, of riven oak, were made on the farm.

Sheep were Ben Painter's specialty — Longwools, Lincolns and Leicesters. He says "I hope to keep up the reputation of the oldest breeder of Leicesters in the country. My belief in the good qualities of Leicesters is unshaken. I do not think there is any better mutton, and I am a pretty good specimen of what Leicester mutton can do." (Ben stood over six feet high and weighed 23 stone 5lbs!) His chestnut horse was over 16 hands and it could carry him for over 10 hours when he rode to hounds. Shire horses were used on the farm and pigs (Large Whites) and poultry kept for the house. Wheat, barley, oats and root crops were grown and often won prizes also.

Ben was also very conscientious about passing on his skills and spent much time teaching young boys shearing and hedgecutting and he often judged the Trials. He was Secretary of the Rutland Agricultural Society for 16 years, receiving a silver salver and a purse of 200 sovereigns when he retired in 1893.

In 1913 Ben retired from farming owing to ill health. He went to live with his sister at Hambleton Vicarage, where he died in 1915 and is buried in the Churchyard there.



# Portrait of a Village: Belton-in-Rutland

ANNE KANTER

As a direct result of the Industrial Revolution and two world wars there have been dramatic changes in rural communities. Belton, the subject of this article, has changed very little with regard to actual physical aspects. Photographs of the time show that the buildings, many of Rutland stone or 18th century brick look much the same as they did at the turn of the century. In living memory, however, the blacksmith, one public house, the baker and seamstress have disappeared. There still remain, however, several public buildings; a public house, a garage, the village shop and post office, a play school housed in the old village school, the parish church, the Baptist chapel and a separate church hall.

The countryside surrounding Belton is very pastoral in nature, with typically small, regularly shaped fields and high ancient hedgerows. Belton parish was enclosed in 1794,<sup>1</sup> but remained mainly pasture land due to the heavy soils of the liassic clays which are expensive to plough.

There are also still many examples of ridge and furrow in the surrounding fields of Belton and this area is often referred to as 'four-horse land'.

Given this seeming unchanging quality of Belton and its countryside, is this also true of its people? Are they the same or do they differ from those say of one hundred years ago?

To throw some light on this question the 1871 census for Belton has been analysed and contrasted with the present day population of Belton. The results are presented further on in this paper.

What was Belton like one hundred years ago? From census figures<sup>2</sup> through the nineteenth century it would appear that Belton, following Rutland<sup>3</sup> and the country as a whole, showed an increase in population during the period from 1801 to 1851. The advantages of ploughing up grasslands and falling mortality rates contributed to this. After 1851 Rutland lost population, continuing to do so until after the second world war when an influx of new housing and manufacturing industry combined to boost population figures to higher points. After 1861, in Belton the total population figure also began to fall and it is only in the 1970's that Belton's total seems to be on the increase.

Evidence of demolished houses and condemned cottages which must have been one of the main reasons for the villagers having to leave Belton in the period after 1861, is now a lot less obvious;<sup>4</sup> some gaps still exist, for example on Nether Street. There are several examples, some on Main Street of recent 'in-filling' of previous gaps with new houses. The hamlet of Littleworth (included in the Belton census and situated only a quarter of a mile from

Belton) consisted of six households in 1871 and of only one in recent years. The gap between Belton and Littleworth has been vastly reduced quite recently with several new bungalows.

The following details of the 1871 population of Belton were obtained from the 1871 Census Enumerator's manuscripts in the Leicester County Record Office. These tell us the number of people in each household, the age, sex, occupation and place of birth of each individual.

Comparable information about the present rural population has been collected by use of the electoral roll and personal contacts with members of the village in the summer of 1979. This resulted in a 100% enumeration. Comparisons have been made between total numbers, household size and male and female occupations.

**Total numbers.** The 1871 enumerator records for Belton and Littleworth show a total population of 405. This compares with a count of 303 in 1979.

**Number of households.** The number of households in 1871 was 95 compared with 106 in 1979.

**Composition of households.** Figure 1 shows that there has been a considerable change.

Fig. 1 Size of Household 1871		Size of Household 1979	
%	No. in household	%	No. in household
14	One	21	One
16	Two	33	Two
17	Three	12	Three
15	Four	22	Four
8	Five	5	Five
13	Six	5	Six
6	Seven	2	Seven
5	Eight		
6	Nine		

Total of households - 95                      Total of households - 106

Under one third of households in 1871 contained only one or two members, compared with well over half in 1979. The average number of people per household also changed: 4.26 in 1871 compared with 2.85 in 1979. These changes are due to two obvious reasons; there are fewer large households in existence in 1979 and also there is an increase in single people and couples without children living in self-contained households.

**Place of Occupation.** Changes associated with place of occupation have been dramatic in the village. Figure 2 shows that for both men and women employment is now more likely to be outside the village.

Fig. 2	Male %		Female %	
	1871	1979	1871	1979
Occupations in the village and immediate surrounds	100	34	100	46
Occupations in and out of the village and surrounds	—	11	—	—
Working outside the village	—	55	—	54
Total employed	94	99	39	48

**Traditional Occupations compared.** In 1871 men worked at service type occupations (shoemakers, baker, butcher, chimney sweep, wheelwright, coachman, general servant, groom, to name a few) or agricultural labouring jobs. Women in 1871 were lace-makers, hat makers, helping their husbands with their trades in inn-keeping or tailoring, or they were engaged in domestic work as servants. Figure 3 shows how these traditional occupations compare with employment in the same type of jobs today.

*Fig. 3 Traditional Occupations*

Male	1871	1979
Farmers	3	6+ partners
Smallholders*	1	4
Farm servants	6	—
Agricultural labourers	43	7
Service occupations	41	16

\* under 5 acres

As these figures show there has been a large decline amongst the number of men engaged in local manufacturing and service occupations in Belton; services (shoe-making, ready-made clothing) which have now been taken over by towns and mass manufacturing or jobs (groom, coachman) which are no longer needed. The agricultural worker is another group which has declined in size, again due to the increased mechanization offered by the urban way of life. In 1871 over half of the men were occupied on the land compared with less than one in five today. Although this is a tremendous change it is still well above the national average of 3% engaged on the land (for Rutland the figure is 9%).

This loss of agricultural workers from the village is balanced by a large gain of 'adventitious workers'<sup>5</sup> or in other words, workers who are obtaining employment outside the village. They have jobs which have no bearing on the everyday life of the village and are often at over twenty miles distant.<sup>6</sup>

Surprisingly, women play an important role in the employment picture. In 1871 they accounted for nearly half as many of the men in paid employment (see figure 2). In 1979 they are even more important in contributing to family incomes, and a high proportion find work which keeps them at home in the village.

**Class and status comparisons.** By using W.A. Armstrong's five classifications<sup>7</sup> and applying them to the villagers' occupations the following picture emerges:

*Fig. 4 Socio-economic Groups*

	Male	
	1871	1979
A	2	19
B	5	31
C	31	35
D	55	13
E	1	1
Total employed	94	99

There has been a dramatic shift from a semi-skilled working population to a more professional, small business and therefore more middle class population. The skilled population stays about the same. In sum: not only do over half of the working population now find employment outside the village but they are more likely to be middle class: a very different picture from that of the 1870's.

Interesting though these changes in employment are, it would appear that there are more significant changes here. In the past there was very little choice as to where one lived. In Belton certainly it was economic needs and the effects of the industrial revolution which finally led to people leaving the village. In contrast, today there appears to be an element of choice and desire to live in Belton, despite the obvious lack of twentieth century occupations.

This paper obviously does not include all the graphs and details of the Belton population study<sup>8</sup> but is meant to be a summary with some speculative comments.

What conclusions can be drawn from this small study? It would certainly seem that a more middle-class and mobile population appearing in such a parochial environment would necessarily affect the character and possibly the commitment of twentieth century villagers to their village. Is this true of Belton?

Although losing its village school as a result of local authority decisions Belton, due to a very active and caring school committee, has managed to keep a play school in operation in the old building, providing a shared experience for the village's youngsters. Belton promotes activities which draw people together; fund raising coffee mornings for the childrens' Christmas party, wine and cheese suppers for a new roof for the play school, a table tennis group for teenagers in the village school hall, the annual garden and produce show, the harvest supper, organised sports for children on special occasions, and many others.

Belton has also shown a spirit of independence and self-identity, qualities very often associated with the unchanging nature of a rural population. The villagers have petitioned the Rutland District Council for a change of name from Belton to Belton-in-Rutland. Of the 220 people on the electoral roll only 7 of the 198 contacted refused to sign.

The problems with mail delays, although the ostensible reason for signing the petition (Which unfortunately failed to pass the council) brought forth much resentment against bureaucracy and specifically against the incorporation of Rutland into Leicestershire. People said that bigger has not proved to be better, things are worse since the change. Trash is uncollected, streets are messier and there is a suspicion that Rutland is paying for facilities such as parks and bus services which are

increasing in the inner city of Leicester but it is felt are on the decrease in Rutland.

Belton villagers also mentioned the pride they feel for their old county and that they like to see ways of preserving the name.

In March 1982, Belton achieved its desire for a change of name and officially became 'Belton-in-Rutland'. A plaque (bought with money raised by the village) commemorates the day, and a Town Crier hired for the occasion proclaimed the event for everyone to hear.

The feeling of support for the village's identity

and for its place in the ancient county of Rutland are as strong today as they might have been 100 years ago even though there have been dramatic changes in the population structure. It may be that Goldsmith is wrong when he wrote in 'the Deserted Village'

*E'en now methinks,  
as pondering here I stand*

*I see the rural virtues leave the land.*

It can be argued that at least a rural virtue of independence is still alive and well in one small village in Rutland.



*Unveiling Belton's new name*

*Leicester Mercury*

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# Landowners and Farmers in Nineteenth Century Greetham

CAROL HASWELL DEBNEY

## The Structure of Land Ownership

In 1846 White's *Directory of Leicester and Rutland* listed the most important landowners in Greetham as George Finch, Esq., the Lord of the Manor, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bart., Matthew Laxton, Esq., the Reverend W. Buckby and a number of smaller freeholders (the latter were not named).

The most important of these, as far as the village was concerned, was undoubtedly George Finch of Burley-on-the-Hill. The Finch family had been prominent at both national and local level since the seventeenth century when Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham and Winchilsea purchased the estate at Burley and made it his principal seat. The Finch estates in Rutland were located at Burley, Egleton, Hambleton and Greetham and in 1873 consisted of 9,181 acres of land, the rental of which provided a substantial income estimated at £15,096.<sup>1</sup>

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the Earl of Winchilsea was considered to be a model landlord. The tenants on his estates had the use of cow pastures in common, most possessed a cottage and a good garden, and kept at least one pig.<sup>2</sup> The Finch papers of the early nineteenth century confirm this description. For example, in Greetham 57 acres of land were rented out as 'cow commons' in 1812. This contained 40 cow commons each of approximately one and a quarter acres which were rented for £2 per annum.<sup>3</sup> The designation 'commons' indicates that the cottagers possessed a right to graze cattle on this land, which may have been a relic of the pre-enclosure era. A field to the north of the village is still known as 'cow pastures' which suggests that this practice continued to a late date.

In addition, much of the land rented was in small quantities which ranged between a few perches to ten acres, the rental being in the region of £2 per annum per acre. Only four sizeable farms are recorded in 1812, and their acreage varies between 135 and 460 acres. Lord Winchilsea's land in Greetham totalled 1,445 acres from which he received rent of £1,655.<sup>4</sup> There is no reason to suppose that the extent of Finch land in Greetham had decreased by the 1840s and, assuming that it had not, George Finch was by far the largest landlord, and owner of approximately 50% of the parish.

Sir Gilbert Heathcote of Normanton owned extensive lands in Lincolnshire as well as Rutland. In Rutland, Heathcote lands exceeded 13,000 acres and produced an estimated rental of £19,700 in 1873.<sup>5</sup> The extent of his land in Greetham, however, was considerably less than that of George Finch. Surveys of Heathcote lands taken in 1830 and 1853 each record 525 acres in Greetham parish.<sup>6</sup> The

Tithe Map of Greetham, dated 1839, is also useful for the identification of Heathcote land, with which it is chiefly concerned. Most of the tithes had been commuted at enclosure in 1763 and the agreement of 1839 was a tidying-up operation which dealt with the remainder.<sup>7</sup> As the Tithe Award states, "The whole of the lands of the said parish except the above mentioned 450 acres are exempt from payment of Tithes by an Act passed in 1763 for enclosure".<sup>8</sup> Tithes were commuted on 444 acres of Heathcote land compared with only four acres belonging to George Finch. Some of the Heathcote land on the tithe map is marked 'not Tithable', and this presumably provides the difference between the 444 acres of the tithe map and the 525 acres of the estate surveys.<sup>9</sup>

These two men headed important and influential county families and, in addition to their roles as important landlords, wielded considerable power and influence in a wider sphere. By the 1840s Sir Gilbert Heathcote was approaching the age of seventy and was less active in public affairs. However his son, Gilbert John Heathcote of Stretton, was one of the Members of Parliament for Rutland. The second Member of Parliament for the county was George Finch, who was elected in 1846. In addition, both men were county magistrates and thus involved in the affairs of the county at every level.

Matthew Laxton Esq., the third landowner, was described in the 1851 census as "Farmer and occupier of 700 acres". Born in Morcott, Rutland, he migrated to Greetham before 1820, acquired his estate, married and settled in the village of which he must have been the most prominent resident.<sup>10</sup> Greetham House, the Laxton residence, remains the most substantial house in the village.

The fourth freeholder named above, the Reverend W. Buckby, does not appear in any of the village records consulted by the present writer, and presumably was an absentee landlord. A Reverend R. Buckby of Pembroke is recorded in the *Return of Owners of Land, 1873*, as owning 82 acres in Rutland, but it is not known if any of this land was in Greetham.

The unnamed small freeholders comprised an important element in the parish, but they are also a puzzling section of the community; the problem is chiefly concerned with the extent of the land they owned. The three largest landowners between them accounted for 2,670 acres, or 87% of the parish. The remaining 411 acres or 13% were in the hands of the small freeholders. There were probably at least twenty such men but the extent of their holdings is not known. Most of the cottage farmers listed in

Figure 1 are likely to have owned their cottages and gardens and perhaps a few acres of land. Some tenant farmers similarly may have been landowners. The difficulty is that both categories of farmer rented land, and it is impossible to determine the proportion that was freehold. Reference to the *Return of Owners of Land, 1873*, does not clarify the issue, since only two residents of Greetham are recorded in this work, and it seems that by the 1870s freehold land in Greetham was either less than one acre (in which case it would not have been recorded) or had descended in the female line, and was held by non-resident owners.

A clue to the identity of the freeholders can be found in the early parish registers which record the continuity of many village names over a long period. Such names as Wing, Collin, Draycott, Sharman and Messam were recorded from the sixteenth century, and were still common names among the farmers and cottagers of the mid-nineteenth century. These families were almost certainly descendants of the old pattern of peasant farmers which had existed in the parish before the enclosure of 1763 revolutionised their lives, and as such were representatives of a traditional independence which was of considerable importance to the character of the community.

### **A Quasi-open Parish**

Although the greater part of the land was in the hands of only three important landowners, Greetham does not have all the characteristics of a closed village. It does fit into Dr Mills' criterion of a closed village in which an absentee landlord held at least half the acreage, but it also has many of the characteristics of an open village.<sup>11</sup> Neither of the largest landlords were resident in Greetham, nor does there appear to be a resident Bailiff representing their interests. The proximity of the landlords may have made this unnecessary. The Finch residence at Burley-on-the-Hill was only four miles from Greetham, and Gilbert John Heathcote was the resident squire of Stretton, one of the parishes bordering Greetham. Supervision by the estate officers of these landlords was therefore not difficult. The living of St Mary's Church, Greetham, moreover was in the gift of the Lord of the Manor, George Finch, and the vicar is likely to have represented Finch interests within the parish. In 1863 the living was worth £180 per annum, which was a comfortable income.<sup>12</sup>

In the absence of other resident landlords, Matthew Laxton, the vicar and the larger tenant farmers were the most important inhabitants of the village. The names of these men appear in the vestry

books, and their status in the community would have been commensurate with their importance as prosperous farmers and employers of labour.

Nevertheless, the existence of the cottage farmers was the vital factor which prevented the domination of the parish by these greater men, and enabled it to maintain its quasi-open character. The names of many cottage farmers and craftsmen are also recorded as members of the vestry, and it is obvious that these small but independent men were also involved in the organisation of village affairs.

In general, open villages tended to have greater populations than the closed villages, and this is an additional characteristic in which Greetham resembles the open village model described by Dr. Mills.<sup>13</sup> Furthermore, the expansion of population which occurred during the 1840s does not suggest the control of population growth which is known to have occurred in closed communities.<sup>14</sup> The numerous craftsmen and tradesmen who existed suggests that Greetham provided a service centre for the immediate area. The neighbouring parishes of Stretton and Thistleton exhibit signs of closed communities, and probably availed themselves of the services offered by Greetham. A further indication of the existence of an independent element within the village is the presence of a non-conformist chapel. The tendency for such chapels and sects to flourish in open communities is well known,<sup>15</sup> and it is noteworthy that whereas Greetham possessed such a chapel, the parishes of Burley and Stretton, which were dominated by the residences of George Finch and G.J. Heathcote, did not.

Greetham, therefore appears to be a parish which cannot be classified as either open or close, but which contained elements common to both types of community. That the open characteristics of the parish were so marked, despite the predominance of the three large landowners, is indicative of the importance of the small freeholders which was sufficient to be of significance to the character of the community.

### **Farms and Farmers**

"The farms are not in general very large, greater in the inclosures than in the uninclosed parishes, but not rising to the great amounts they do in some counties. There are also a great many cottagers, by which I mean occupiers of small portions of land just sufficient for them to keep one or two cows without preventing them from working constantly as day labourers; this custom does not prevail in all the parishes but wherever it does the benefit of it is felt by the cottagers themselves in the greatest degree...



these small portions of land are generally well managed and made the most of.”<sup>16</sup> The above description was written at the end of the eighteenth century and referred to the County of Rutland as a whole. Nevertheless, it is of some relevance to the agricultural life of Greetham half a century later. John Crutchley, the author of the work, was a resident of Burley and had an intimate knowledge of Lord Winchilsea’s estates in Rutland. His reference to the cottagers undoubtedly refers to the parishes in which the Finches were major landlords. This is substantiated by H. Rider Haggard in his book *Rural England*. In his section on Rutland he writes, “The system of cottage holdings was introduced about a hundred years ago on the Burley estate... It is in force in the parishes of Burley, Eggleton, Hambledon and Greetham. In 1901 there lived in those parishes 43 small occupiers whose acreage varied from five acres to forty acres... Originally there were many more...”<sup>17</sup> Standing as they do as the beginning and end of the nineteenth century, John Crutchley and H. Rider Haggard enable us to perceive a way of life which continued in these parishes for more than a hundred years.

From this it is clear that two distinct groups of farmers existed in Greetham; the large tenant farmers and the cottagers. The former were richer than the latter, but in some respects were of no greater importance. It has already been suggested that the cottagers were often descended from peasant families which had resided in Greetham for generations; as such they were ‘core’ families, rooted in the parish and an inherent part of the community. Their prosperity may have been modest by comparison with the large tenant farmers, but ownership of their cottages and small pieces of land gave them independence.

The Census of 1851 is the first which contains information relating to the acreage of land holdings, and this reveals great variation in the size of farms in the parish. The farmers and cottagers recorded in this Census have been listed according to the acreage they held (see Fig. 1). Those who recorded land holdings of 50 acres and above have been classified as farmers, and all who held less than 50 acres as cottage farmers. Throughout the censuses the cottage-farmers described themselves indiscriminately as both farmer and cottager, but as they were notably different from the large tenant farmers, the designation cottage-farmer has been used to distinguish them.

Of the 31 farmers and cottagers, some of whom also combined another occupation with agriculture, eight farmed more than 100 acres, five farmed between 50 and 100 acres, six farmed between 14

Fig. 1 *Farmers and Cottagers, 1851*

Name	Acreage	Name	Acreage
Matthew Laxton	700	Scotney Thorpe	30
John Bosworth	520	Robert Hayes	25
Thomas Godfrey	280	John Dobney	24
William Bosworth	275	Ann Ashton (W)	20
John White	152	William Healey	14
John Sharman	132	Mary Collin (W)	14
William Rimmington	130	Thomas Eyrs	10
John Fryer	120	William Osborne	9
William Walker	96	Charles Garfoot	8
John Ballaers	75	Samuel Wing	7
John Spring	58	William Eaglesfield	7
Robert Jackson	52	James Mills	7
Charlotte Draycott (W)	50	John Garfoot	5
Sophia Rimmington (W)	--	James Messam*	5
		Thomas Messam*	5
		John Reville	5
		John Eyre	-

W = Widow

\* The brothers James and Thomas Messam may have farmed five acres each or five acres between them. It is not clear from this Census in which they are recorded as head of household in a dwelling which is shared.

and 30 acres and ten farmed up to 10 acres. No details of acreage are recorded for two farmers. The first of these, Sophia Rimmington, was the mother of William Rimmington described in the Census as “farmer and partner in 130 acres”. This partnership is likely to have been with his widowed mother since he was resident in her household in the Census of 1841. Accordingly, Sophia Rimmington has been included in the list of farmers.

John Eyre, the second farmer who stated no acreage, is unlikely to have held much land. He was recorded as an agricultural labourer in 1841, as a farmer in 1851, and as a cottager in the Censuses of 1861 and 1871, but his acreage is never stated. It seems likely that he was a small freeholder who perhaps inherited his land during the 1840s. He has been classified as a cottage-farmer and included in the number of those who farmed up to ten acres of land.

The unfortunate lack of estate maps relating to Greetham prevents the identification of the farms, and the censuses do not record farm names and addresses consistently. Nevertheless, something can be gleaned from the available sources.

With the exception of Matthew Laxton, the farmers fall into three categories: the large tenant farmers, the cottage-farmers and the farmers who combined agriculture with another occupation. Matthew Laxton was the only resident of Greetham in 1851 who can justly be described as a gentleman-farmer. His position as the owner of a 700 acre estate, the grandest house, and other properties in the parish, place him in a category apart.<sup>18</sup>

Among the tenant farmers the largest farm was that of John Bosworth which extended over 520 acres. He must have been a prosperous man and his

way of life may have been little different from that of Matthew Laxton. Although he employed labour in 1851, the number of employees is unfortunately not recorded. It may have been similar to the 17 labourers he employed in 1861. Nothing is known of the name or situation of his farm.

Slightly more is known of Thomas Godfrey who was a Chief Constable of the Hundred and a man of standing in the parish.<sup>19</sup> His farm consisted of 280 acres in 1851 and he employed six labourers. This farm is known to have belonged to the Finch estate and can be identified with the farmhouse in Main Street still known as Godfrey's Farm.<sup>20</sup>

Another farm which can be identified was occupied by John White in 1851. This is the farm known as Woolfox Lodge, the area of which can be reconstructed from the Tithe Map of 1839. It is one of the farms which belonged to Sir Gilbert Heathcote. A survey of the Heathcote estates dated 1853 recorded that John White rented 152 acres, 3 roods and 34 perches of land at Woolfox.<sup>21</sup> This agrees with the acreage recorded by both the Tithe Map and the 1851 Census. It is also interesting to note that the acreage of this farm had not altered between 1839 and 1853 whereas, to judge by the Finch Papers and the census returns, quite frequent changes in the size of other farms occurred as tenants acquired or relinquished land. Although the Census of 1851 contains some information regarding employees, no information is recorded for the majority of farms. Only seven of the 31 farmers and cottagers stated the number of men they employed and, in view of the numerous labourers recorded at Greetham,<sup>22</sup> it is likely that the 36 employees recorded by these farmers underestimates the number of labourers employed on Greetham farms.

The cottage farmers were less likely to employ many labourers and only two men in this category were recorded as employers in 1851 and both of these were engaged in dual occupations. This group was more likely to rely on the help of their families for labour, or perhaps they assisted each other and employed casual labour only when absolutely necessary.

The extent of these small farms varied between five and thirty acres and it is impossible to know how much land was owned and how much was rented by the cottagers. The surnames of cottagers appear in rentals of the early nineteenth century and the same families seem to have been renting land for half a century.<sup>23</sup>

Both farmers and cottage farmers engaged in dual occupations. Among the tenant farmers this was often a combination of inn-keeping and farming. Two of these inns were the Oak Inn and the

Winchilsea Arms (or Ram Jam Inn, as it came to be called).<sup>24</sup> Both of these were situated on Horn Lane and isolated from the village proper.<sup>25</sup> A third the Crown and Anchor, was situated in the village Main Street, and was a more modest house than the other two. William Bosworth, landlord of the Oak Inn, was also one of the largest tenant farmers. He was probably related to John Bosworth since both men were born in Great Glen, Leicestershire, but the exact relationship is not known. He died in Oakham in 1883 and was buried in Greetham Churchyard where the monuments to this family are solid and well-carved, evidence of their prosperity.

John Spring, the landlord of the Winchilsea Arms, farmed a much smaller acreage than William Bosworth. Like the Oak Inn, this inn was also well placed to receive travellers along the Great North Road, and was a well known hostelry.<sup>26</sup> As the name signifies, the inn was originally owned by the Finch family.<sup>27</sup> The land on which it stands, however, appears on the Tithe Map of 1839 as belonging to Sir Gilbert Heathcote. If, as seems likely, the ownership had changed by that date, it explains the indiscriminate use of both names by which the inn was known at that time. The Spring family remained at the inn throughout the period. After John Spring died his daughter took over the innkeeping, and his son continued to run the farm, as was recorded in the Census of 1861.

The third innkeeper/farmer was Charlotte Draycott at the Crown and Anchor. In 1851 she had recently been widowed but continued to farm her husband's holding. She did not remain in Greetham long after his death and by 1855 Scotney Thorpe had taken over the inn.<sup>28</sup> Scotney Thorpe was the largest of the cottage farmers with 30 acres in 1851 when he was recorded in the census as a butcher and farmer. Ten years later he was recorded as a cottager and publican. He appears as a member of the Vestry and his two sons, John and Samuel Thorpe are the only residents of Greetham recorded in the *Return of Owners of Land, 1873*, when they owned nine acres and one and a quarter acres respectively. These amounts are small but they are compatible with the status of cottage farmers in this village. Scotney Thorpe represents the modest success which could be achieved by industrious cottage farmers who were able to combine agriculture with a variety of trade and craft skills thereby maintaining their traditional independence.

The existence of this small section of the population had great significance for the character and vitality of the village community which retained its strongly open characteristics despite the

*Continued on page 153*

# Thomas Crapper and Manhole Covers

JOHN L. BARBER

Thomas Crapper was born of sea-faring parents at Thorne on the River Don in South Yorkshire in 1837, the year of Queen Victoria's accession, and he died in London, where he spent his entire working life, in 1910. What role, therefore, the enquiring reader might well be expected to ask, has such a man to play in Rutland and in a journal devoted to the history and archaeology of this small corner of England. Let me explain briefly the fortuitous manner that first brought his name to my notice.

On 31st January 1982 there appeared in the *Sunday Telegraph* a paragraph headed 'Well met by manhole', in which it was related how a Mr Ernest Crapper, a civil engineer from Carterton in Oxfordshire, and a Dr Andy Gibbons, a history professor from the University of North Colorado, had met over a manhole in Westminster Abbey. 'They were both taking rubbings of it. Both men are enthusiasts for the work of Thomas Crapper (no known relation to Ernest), who cast the manhole and is known as "the father of modern sanitation".' The writer, who is wrong in referring to Thomas as 'no known relation to Ernest', goes on to point out that Dr Gibbons is currently engaged upon a book about the Crapper family. By way of an aside, I have since written to North Colorado, and Dr Gibbons has shown great interest in my discoveries about Crapper in Oakham.

This paragraph was read by a former colleague of mine at Oakham School, now living in Somerset. It brought back to his mind a small incident in 1927, when as a junior master he was taken by one of his senior colleagues, 'in the exalted state of one who has made an exciting discovery', to Bank House quad, Oakham School (now known as Hodge Wing quad) and shown a rectangular manhole cover with the maker's name in relief, none other than T. Crapper. He recalled that the appropriateness of the name had appealed greatly to his senior colleague's sense of humour, and the incident had remained at the back of his mind for over fifty years. He described to me the location of the manhole with such accuracy that I discovered it with the greatest of ease.

That, however, is not the end of the story, for I discovered not *one* Crapper manhole cover in Hodge Wing quad, but *five*, whilst subsequent research in Oakham has revealed no less than *twelve* in all, located as follows: five in Hodge Wing quad, three in School House quad, one in Market Street on the very threshold of Hodge Wing, one in Penn Street outside the Drill Hall, one in Burley Road close to the Dawn Discount store, and one to the north of the old U.D.C. offices, now acquired by the Rutland County Museum, in Catmose Street. The latter, however,

has been accidentally smashed during work on the new Car Park. Made of cast iron, they conform to three general patterns (only one of which has ventilation holes — there are two of these in Oakham), they all carry the maker's name, and all but three of them it will be noted are on property belonging to, or adjacent to, Oakham School.

My supposition is that in Oakham the Crapper manhole covers were used (probably by Nichols Bros. Builders) in the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth. They would no doubt be bought from the Crapper company (Marlborough Works, Chelsea) in exactly the same way that a modern contractor buys and installs in the houses that he builds such things as proprietary brands of washbasins, baths, lavatories, sinks etc. etc. A little later the local builders and plumbers began to have manhole covers made with their own name upon them, and we find them bearing the names of Nichols themselves, Higgs, Thornton, Draycott and Stimson, Ellis and Everard and so on.

Thomas Crapper was the archetypal example of the poor boy, who, leaving his humble provincial birthplace, made his fortune in the 'Great Wen'. In 1848 he walked the 165 miles from his home in South Yorkshire to London, and as 'the victim of the vicious child labour system' of those days, was apprenticed to a London plumber in Robert Street, Chelsea, at the age of eleven. He lived in an attic nearby, and was paid four shillings a week: he



Thomas Crapper 1837-1910

suffered much with chapped hands and chilblains, and kept himself warm at night by taking to bed with him a hot brick wrapped in flannel. However, in 1861 (the year in which Prince Albert died of typhoid) after thirteen years of hard toil, he was sufficiently well established to set himself up as a sanitary engineer at Nos. 50, 52 and 54 Marlborough Road, now Draycott Avenue). It was a good year in which to start, as London had just got its first two main sewers, which in the next four years were extended to a network of some 83 miles. There was plenty of work for plumbers in London, particularly in the well-to-do borough of Chelsea. Crapper soon prospered: his firm was appointed Sanitary Engineers to King Edward VII and later to King George V. The former as Prince of Wales even had one of Crapper's 'removable armchairs' fitted into Leighton House in West Hampstead for the 'Jersey Lily' (Lily Langtry). He was responsible for the plumbing at Sandringham and at Westminster Abbey, and his manhole covers can still be seen at both these places.

Crapper was not only the pioneer of manhole covers, but of many sanitary installations which we now take for granted. It was he who invented the flush tank as we know it today ('Crapper's Valveless Waste Preventer') with its faultless syphonic action, and in conjunction with the still famous name of Twyfords of Stoke-on-Trent the 'pedestal closet'

(known nowadays by the more prosaic name of lavatory pan!). Unfortunately almost all his indoor toilet fittings, like the cast-iron high level tank with its usually temperamental chain and pottery finial, have long since been replaced by more modern low level plastic versions, and it is chiefly his more durable manhole covers that survive out of doors.

Crapper died in London at the age of 73, and is buried alongside his childhood sweetheart from Thorne, Maria, who died some eight years before him, in the cemetery at Elmers End, beside the railway line from London to the coast of Kent. It is a point of some interest that in the selfsame cemetery lie the mortal remains of the greatest cricketer of all time, the famous Dr W.G. Grace.

It seems extraordinary that, when the visible remains of Crapper's inventiveness are so comparatively few, a small town like Oakham should be able to claim no less than twelve of his manhole covers. We may not be able to place his memory on a 'pedestal', but he is still there beneath our feet with no effort of excavation on our part — a small but fascinating facet of industrial archaeology. On this account, like Wallace Reyburn in his little book about the man, Oakham can perhaps be modestly *Flushed with Pride*.

*(If anyone knows further examples of his work in this area, or indeed elsewhere, please let me know.)*

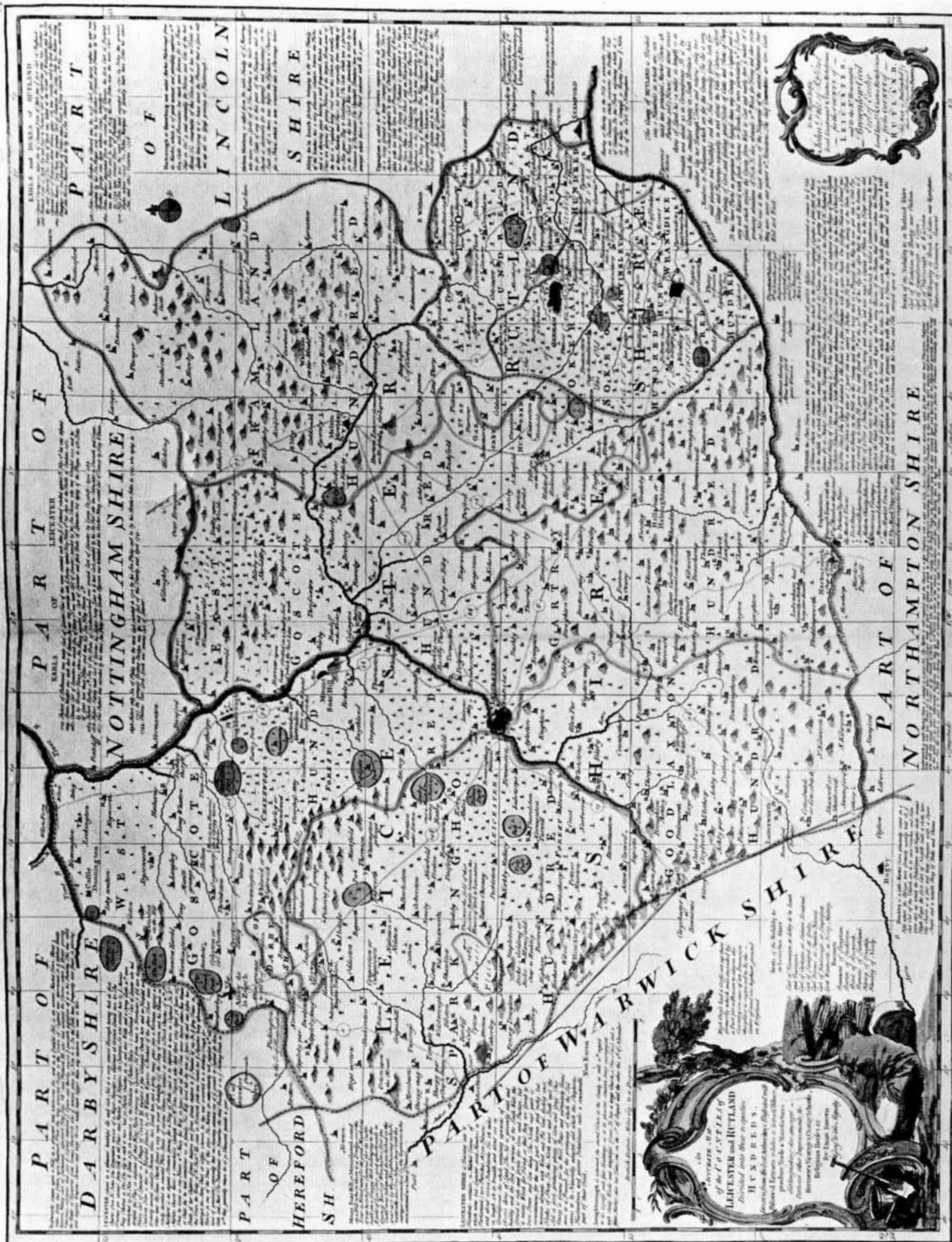
*Continued from page 151*

presence of the major landowners. Yet the importance of the Finches and Heathcotes must not be underestimated. As landowners, employers and dispensers of patronage, their influence and power was undeniable. Nevertheless, their control over the community of Greetham was counterbalanced by the presence of the small freeholders. Doubtless many of these men depended upon the landowners to a considerable degree, yet, as long as they retained possession of their cottages and land, they were free to live and work as they chose.

#### REFERENCES

1. *Return of Owners of Land, 1873*, II, Rutland, p.2
2. J.L. Hammond and Barbara Hammond, *The Village Labourer, 1760-1832: a study in the Government of England before the Reform Bill*, 1924, p.131.
3. Leicestershire Record Office, Finch Papers, DG7/1/99, 1812, (Henceforward LRO).
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Return of Owners of Land, 1873*, II, Rutland, p.1. By 1873 these estates were listed under Lord Aveland.
6. Lincolnshire Archive Office, Ancaster Papers, 3 Anc4/15 1830, 9 Anc 1/B/5/5, 1853. (Henceforward LAO).
7. Unfortunately, no copy of the Greetham Enclosure Map is known to exist.
8. Northampton Record Office, Tithe Map, T.274 Greetham, Rutland, 1839. (Henceforward NRO).
9. *Ibid.*
10. Matthew Laxton first appears as a member of the vestry in the Church Account Book for 1819, in Greetham Parish Church.
11. D.R. Mills, 'English Villages in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries: A Sociological Approach', *Amateur Historian*, 6, 1963-1965, p.272.
12. W. White, *Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland, 1863*, p.788. (Henceforward White's *Directory*).
13. Mills, *op.cit.* p.276.
14. *Ibid.*, p.275.
15. Mills, *op.cit.* p.277; Alan Everitt, *The Pattern of Rural Dissent: the Nineteenth Century*, Department of English Local History, Occasional Papers, Second Series, No.4, 1972, p.20.
16. John Crutchley, *A General View of the Agriculture in the County of Rutland, 1794*, p.8.
17. H. Rider Haggard, *Rural England, being an account of Agricultural and Social Researches carried out in the years 1901-1902*, II, p.260.
18. Part of this estate was sold by Messrs. Royce, Estate Agents of Oakham in 1889. The catalogue, containing details of the estate, is in the possession of the Rutland Record Society.
19. White's *Directory*, 1846, p.604.
20. In 1948 the Finch properties in Greetham were sold to the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol. This property is still in the ownership of this Society, as are several other farms.
21. LAO, Ancaster Papers, 9Anc 1/13/5/5, 1853.
22. Agricultural labourers formed the most numerous group within the working population of the village. The censuses record 77 in 1841, 94 in 1851, 113 in 1861, 84 in 1871.
23. For example, such names as Ashton, Collin, Eaglesfield, Messam and Wing all appear in a document of 1812 — LAO, Finch Papers, DG7/1/99.
24. The Oak Inn is now known as the Greetham Inn.
25. *Victoria History of the County of Rutland*, I, p.87. Horn Lane was the name given to the stretch of the Great North Road between Greetham and Tickencote.
26. White's *Directory*, 1846, p.616.
27. *VCH*, Rutland, II, p.134.
28. Kelly and Company, *Post Office Directory of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland*, 1855, p.141.





**Emanuel Bowen 1760** From *The Large English Atlas*.

This was perhaps one of the most interesting maps of the County to be prepared in the mid-eighteenth century. Although the map itself is not an original survey, the copious notes surrounding the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland provide a wealth of valuable information. There are a number of inaccuracies, the most obvious of which is the inclusion of Herefordshire between Derby and Warwick!

From the collection of Mr. Mike Goldmark, Uppingham.



# Rutland Records

## RUTLAND RECORDS IN THE LEICESTERSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

### New Accessions 11 August, 1982-31st March 1983

- DE 2395 Essendine parish records, 1600-1967  
DE 2417 Parish papers of Seaton and Thorpe by Water, 19th century  
DE 2425 Ryhall parish records, 1653-1946  
DE 2461 Preston parish records, 1560-1975  
DE 2473 Tithe apportionment for Oakham, 1944

Such village records are of great value in the reconstruction of life and landscapes as the recent publication of *Village History in Records*, Heather Broughton, Leicester Museums, 1982, shows. A detailed example of this for Preston follows.

Kathryn M. Thompson  
County Archivist

### Tithes in Preston

We know that payment of tithes in kind was a regular feature of country life until the early nineteenth century, and there are many surviving tithe accounts and items of correspondence to illustrate this. However, there is less evidence locally about the actual methods of calculating and paying tithe each year. Some light is thrown on this aspect by an interesting document which was deposited in the Leicestershire Record Office in January, 1983, as part of a collection of parish records from Preston in Rutland.

The document is a list of tithes and fees payable to the rector of Preston.<sup>1</sup> Also included is an inventory of church furniture, details of church and churchyard repairs, and a record of the parish clerk and sexton's wages. The list is written on a single membrane of parchment, and although undated, can be attributed to the first half of the eighteenth century.

The document, which is transcribed below, shows the calculation of tithe payments to be an elaborate process requiring a long series of rules. Precise information regarding the manner of payment of individual tithes is also of considerable interest. We learn, for example, that there was an appointed place where all Preston farmers paid tithe on their crops to the incumbent. This was 'ye 60th Cock in ye plains'. i.e. the place occupied by the sixtieth sheaf in the fields at harvest time. Clearly some tithes had already been commuted to a fixed cash payment in the parish, as in the case of Robert Watkins' close, for which the incumbent received annually the sum of one shilling.

There were rules to facilitate the collection of tithes. Each parishioner had to arrange his sheaves of grain in multiples of ten on every yardland which he farmed, reserving any odd sheaves for the end. The incumbent took a tenth of the crop, and if seven or more odd sheaves remained at the end, he was entitled to take one without proportionate compensation for the parishioner.

Some items, such as pigeons and fruit, were tithable in kind, irrespective of quantity. However, for larger animals special rules were applied. Parishioners who owned seven or more pigs, for instance, paid tithe in kind, with an allowance being made when one of between seven and nine pigs was taken by the incumbent. Those owning less than seven pigs paid tithe at a fixed rate of a halfpenny per pig.

The arrangements for paying tithe on sheep are perhaps most interesting of all. On shearing day each parishioner

was to lay his fleeces out in rows of ten. Once he had chosen the best two fleeces from a row, the incumbent was entitled to take one fleece from the same row as tithe, and the process was repeated with successive rows. In the case of lambs, the parishioner again had the choice of two animals before the incumbent took his tithe. The incumbent's lamb was marked and kept by the parishioner until Lammas day in return for an allowance of 2d towards the maintenance of each animal. We note that provision was also made for part payment in lieu of tithe respecting sheep which had died, or were bought and sold, between New Year's day and shearing day.

Tithes were commuted when the parish of Preston, was inclosed in 1774. This document provides a valuable insight into the workings of the system before that date.

**Item** Tho. Miles hath three Quarterns<sup>2</sup> yt pay all at ye 60th Cock in ye plains (viz) one Quartern/  
Called Matthew's Quartern, one Quartern Called Langton's Quartern & one Quartern of Tho. Miles

**Item** Tho. Webster hath one Quartern bought out of Cherry's Land pays att ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

**Item** William Berridge one yard Land Called Nicholas's yard Land pays at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

**Item** John Webster hath one Half Yard Land of Widdow Burdet's Land pays at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

John Sawbridge hath 3 Quarterns of one Yard Land yt pays at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

John Burdet hath one Quartern and one Half Quartern of a Yard Land pays at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

Richard Walker of Stockingson<sup>3</sup> hath one Quartern and one Half Quartern of a Yard Land pay at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

**Item** Francis Tilley hath one Quartern of a Yard Land Called ye Middle Quartern pays at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

**Item** William Miles hath one Quartern Called ye Middle Quartern yt pays at ye 60th Cock in ye plains/

**Item** Mrs Belgrave's Milln pays Seven Shillings Sixpence per Annum to ye Incumbent/

**Item** Robert Watkin's Close formerly Totman's Close pays one Shilling per Annum to ye Incumbent/

Mr. Basset's Close formerly Brown's Close pays four pence per Annum to ye Incumbent/

John Sawbridge's Close formerly Brown's Close pays four pence per Annum to ye Incumbent/

Ann Banbury's Close formerly Brown's Close pays 6 pence per Annum to ye Incumbent/

**Item** a Hempland in ye Town pays two shillings Sixpence per Annum to ye Incumbent/

All manner of grain pays at ye tenth & So many Cocks or Sheaves as Remain at one Land so many/

must be carried to ye next & if there remain Seven odd Cocks or Sheaves at last, ye Incumbent is to have/

one, & no allowance made to ye Parishioner/

Pigs are tythable at Seven, but for So many under the Number of Seven the Incumbent is to/

have So many half pence, and if the Incumbent takes one at the Number of Seven he is to/

allow the Parishioner three half pence or rateably if Eight or Nine./

Pigeons pay at the tenth & Apples at the tenth, Pears, Plumbs etc./

A New Milch Cow upon Warwick Fee<sup>4</sup> pays three half pence, and an old Milch/

Cow upon Warwick Fee pays one Penny/

Sheep settled upon the Common at New Years day, if they continue from thence/

till Shearing day pay Tyth in kind, but if the Parishioner sell any of those Sheep/

or if any of them die after New Years day and before Shearing day, for every Sheep/

So lost or Sold the Incumbent is to have one half peny, and if any Sheep be bought or/

brought into the Field for each Sheep So bought or

brought in the Incumbent is to have/  
 one half peny/  
 Lambs weaned in the Field if they continue till Shearing  
 day pay Tyth in kind/  
 at Shearing day the Parishioner having laid the Fleeces  
 by ten in a Row first/  
 chooseth two Fleeces out of one Row, and then the  
 Incumbent is to take one out of the/  
 Same Row, and then to proceed to the next Row  
 accordingly, and if there remain/  
 Seven odd Fleeces the Incumbent must take one and allow  
 the Parishioner three half/  
 Pence, or rateably if Eight or Nine, and if there remain  
 Six or any other/  
 number under Seven, the Parishioner must pay the  
 Incumbent a half Peny for/  
 each and so likewise for Lambs which are also tythable at  
 Seven/  
 At Shearing day the Parishioner having laid chosen two  
 Lambs, the/  
 Incumbent is to chuse his Lamb, and mark it, and the  
 owner or Parishioner must/  
 keep the Lamb for the Incumbent till Lammas<sup>s</sup> and the  
 Incumbent is to allow the/  
 Parishioner for keeping his Lamb two Pence.

### **The Surplice Fees**

It is customary for every Person at Easter that is Sixteen  
 Years of Age and/  
 upward to pay to the Incumbent two Pence & the  
 Incumbent is then to receive for/  
 every Hen two Eggs, and for every Cock three Eggs, he is  
 likewise to receive for/  
 Hearth a Peny, and for Garden a Peny, for Churching a  
 Woman four pence/  
 for publishing the Banns one Shilling, for Marriage two  
 Shillings and Six/  
 Pence, for a Funeral Sermon Ten Shillings, and the  
 Incumbent is allow'd for a/  
 Grave dug in the Church or Chancel, and Mortuaries are  
 paid.

### **An out Rent paid to the Crown**

Two Pounds 12 Shillings a Year. Tenths paid to the  
 Bishop is one Pound ten/  
 Shilling a Year. Synodals three Shillings and  
 Procreations<sup>6</sup> Nine Shillings/  
 a year paid to the Arch-Deacon.

### **Furniture in the Church**

There is one holland Surplice, one purple Cloth Cushion  
 for the Pulpit, one Hearse-/  
 Cloth, two Cloths for the Communion Table, one a  
 Kittermuster<sup>7</sup> the other a/  
 Diaper, One Silver Chalice weighing three Ounces and  
 three Quarters of an/  
 Ounce, two large pewter Flaggons, two pewter Plates, one  
 Bible in Folio, two/  
 Common Prayer Books in Folio, one Common Prayer Book  
 for the Clerk in/  
 Quarto, four bells and a Clock and a Bier to carry a dead  
 Corpse upon with a/  
 Book of Homilies.

Who are bound to repair the Church and Church Yard Fence  
 The Parishioners are obliged to keep the Church in good  
 repair, and the Minister/  
 the Chancel, the East and the South Fence of the Church  
 Yard with the Gates and/  
 the Stone wall and some Rails on the North side are  
 maintained by the/  
 Parishioners, but the remaining Fence on the North side  
 by John Sawbridge,/  
 and the Incumbent is to maintain the Fence on the West  
 side.

### **The Clerk and Sexton's Wages how paid**

The Clerk's Wages are customarily paid him as follows/  
 Land holders pay him yearly Sixpence a house, and  
 Cottagers four Pence a House/  
 for ringing the Bell for a Funeral four Pence, for making  
 a Grave a Shilling if/  
 they be Landholders or have a Coffin, but if they be  
 Cottagers or have no Coffin/  
 they pay him four Pence for ringing the Bell and four  
 Pence for a Grave, but if a/  
 Cottager have a Child die they pay him four Pence for  
 ringing the Bell, and/  
 three Pence for making the Grave. for Churching a  
 Woman the Clerk hath one/  
 Peny./  
 The Sexton hath four Nobles<sup>8</sup> a Year paid him by the  
 Church Warden.

### **NOTES**

1. L.R.O. Accession Number DE 2461/31.
2. i.e. a quarter of a yardland, approximately 7½ acres.
3. Stockerston.
4. In the reign of Edward IV Preston belonged to the Earl of Warwick.
5. 1st August.
6. Synodals and procurations were fees payable at an archidiaconal visitation.
7. Kerseymere, a fine woollen cloth, may be intended here.
8. A noble was worth 6s 8d.

Gill Parkes

Assistant Keeper of Archives

## **RUTLAND RECORDS IN THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE**

Few records relating to Rutland have been acquired in 1982/3. The Record Office bought a copy of the microfilm of the census books of 1881 covering Barrowden, Belmes-thorpe, Caldecott, Great and Little Casterton, Clipsham, Essendine, Glaston, Ingthorpe, Ketton, North and South Luffenham, Morcott, Pickworth, Pilton, Ryhall, Seaton, Thorpe by Water, Tinwell, Tixover, Tolethorpe and Wing. It also acquired a copy of the June 1981 Mormon (I.G.I.) microfiche index of Rutland baptisms, marriages and burials.

Mr Hardy has presented the office with a copy of his book 'A Family out of Rutland'. The Anglia Water Authority's deposit of Nene River records includes an official map marked to show boundaries determined by the Nene & Welland Fishery Order in 1928 and includes an annual report of the Board of 1948; also a quantity of newspaper cuttings and other papers of the Welland and Nene River Authority from 1964. There are in addition air photographs of the Welland outfall taken in 1944.

### **Glebe terriers in the Peterborough Diocesan records**

It was the practice of the bishop of the diocese to ask for a statement of the property of each benefice at times of visitation which in the diocese of Peterborough took place once every three years. Such statements in the form of terriers (or descriptions) of the glebe were evidently handed in fairly regularly every three years from 1702 for about a century. A great many earlier documents are alleged to have been lost in a fire in the early 18th century but it is evident that a file of terriers of varying dates in the early 1630s and one of 1684 survived. The last of the terriers handed in at three year intervals were received in 1823 but there was a special effort to get the whole diocese to return terriers in 1851 which were the last to come in on a regular basis. A short general account of glebe terriers by Dr D.M. Barratt of the Bodleian Library was published in *History* as the 13th of their series of Short Guides to Records (*History* Vol. LI no. 171 Feb. 1966, pp. 35-38).

An examination of about one third of the surviving Rutland terriers (Ashwell-Exton) may indicate something of the interest of these documents to the local historian.

Glebe terriers are of value particularly where no other documents containing similar information have survived and in cases where there was substantial open field as the terrier in this case will give the names of the open fields and also of a large number of the furlongs in them. The largest openfield estate described is that of Cottesmore where there was over 100 acres and the incumbent also retained his rights not only to the small tithes but to great ones. When the parish was inclosed in the early 19th century his total allotment in lieu of ancient inclosures, openfield land and tithes amounted to an enormous estate of nearly 750 acres. In this case however the earliest 4 terriers (1631, 1702, 1720, 1724) do not describe the openfield in detail but this is done from 1728 onwards where the names of owners (or occupiers) of adjoining strips are given as a means to identify the exact position in the furlong of that being described. The fields however were named in the 1702 terrier when there were said to be 73 lands (or ridges) in Westfield, 78 in Woodfield and 69 in Heathfield. In 1767 39 numbered strips are described in Westfield, 41 in Woodfield and 25 in Heathfield. The decline in the number of strips does not mean that the average was less but it would be an interesting exercise to determine the relationship of the two sets of numbers. The Cottesmore glebe was unusual in that apart from the parsonage it included up to 13 cottages (1720, but described as 8 in 1631). The common rights appurtenant to the estate were also described in some detail: commons for 80 sheep, 24 cows, and 12 horses. In some other terriers such details are also described e.g. at Exton in 1634 there were commons for 4 kyne from 1 May to 1 August and for 6 from 1 August to 1 May, as well as for 4 horses and 40 sheep. Other parishes having openfield land included Ayston (in 1631 only, before inclosure, over 60 acres), Bisbrooke (about 60 acres), Burley (in 1634 only, about 60 acres), Little Casterton (about 60), Great Casterton (about 55) and less in several others down to a mere 4 strips of about 2 acres in Belton. In the case of Exton a terrier of 1726 states that over 30 acres of glebe had been 'lost' since the Great Civil War.

Of course a number of parishes were already enclosed before the 1630s and in these cases the descriptions of the closes occupy much less space than open field terriers. Even here the tendency to subdivide very large closes — there was one of 100 acres in Ashwell — can be discerned through the centuries.

Glebe terriers also normally describe the parsonage house, outbuildings, yards and gardens, sometimes in considerable detail. That at Clipsham for instance is said to have 4 rooms to a floor but in 1792 one learns it is intended to demolish it and erect another according to the designs of Mr Legg (William Legg, the Stamford architect). The Ayston rectory in 1720 contained a hall, boarded parlour, large kitchen, pantry and space, little parlour, cellar, chambers over the hall, the parlour, the kitchen, the pantry and little parlour, and two garrets over the hall and parlour and a study.

Barns, stables, yards, gardens and orchards are generally noted as existing near the parsonage and in many cases also a dovehouse. Malshouses and kilnhouses are mentioned in 1634 terriers of Ashwell and Edith Weston whilst coach houses appear at a later date, in 1733 at Ashwell for instance where the parsonage in 1807 is described as a modern brick house. Coal houses are also mentioned and a hop yard at Edith Weston in 1723. Finally in 1749 at Exton there was a chair house, the only instance I have noted.

In calling for glebe terriers the bishop's intention was to obtain information as to the value of each living. Hence he was also interested in details of money payments received by the incumbent. The returns of these however are far less complete and the range of what was recorded and the

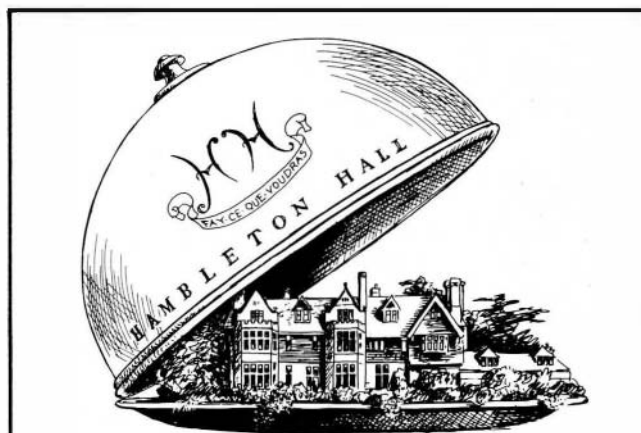
amount of detail wide. At Cottesmore for instance in 1728 at the end of the terrier of openfield land it was stated there was also 5 shillings paid for every wedding and 7d. for churching. At Burley in 1720 unquantified Easter offerings and surplice fees are entered whilst in 1736 it appears that Easter offerings consisted of 6d. from every housekeeper. Fees in 1736 at Braunston included 7d for each woman for churching but distinguish between 5s. due for marriages by licence from 2s 6d due for those by banns.

An important source of income were the tithes great and small and glebe terriers frequently refer to them. Tithes were often let in the 18th century and eventually all were commuted to money payments. At Cottesmore for instance in 1702 550 acres paid 1s 6d an acre in lieu of paying tithes in kind as the rest of the parish did. At Clipsham in 1708 there was an agreement to commute tithes at the rate of 2s in the pound for 3 years. The Barrowden terrier of 1720 refers to an agreement made in 1717 prescribing in great detail the way in which the tithes were to be reckoned and taken. It is not the great tithes of corn, hay and wood that usually needed detailing but the way the small tithes were to be chosen. At Barrowden it is stated how and when tithes of lambs, wool, cows, calves, pigs, pigeons, fruit and eggs are to be taken. At Essendine in 1702 stocks of bees and honey are mentioned as they are at Little Casterton in 1730 together with milk, chickens and foals. Geese, too, are noted in the 1744 Burley terrier.

A number of early 18th century terriers also include inventories of church 'utensils' as they are called. The Bisbrooke terrier of 1726 encloses a separate document listing a surplice, green cushion, green table cloth, white one, napkin, pewter flagon and plate, silver cup and cover, bible and common prayer book. To these the Clipsham inventory of 1708 adds to the surplice a hood and a chest for keeping them in, whilst in 1702 Essendine still had its Book of Homilies.

Finally in a few cases the incumbents seem to have interpreted the bishop's inquiry as extending to any land the income for which was applied to church repairs. Particulars of these for instance are given at Belton in 1633 and at Great Casterton in 1702.

*P.I. King  
County Archivist*



Recommended for students of  
twentieth century gastronomy in Rutland

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

## RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

Several items relating to the interests of the Rutland Record Society have been acquired by the museum in 1982-83, among them the following:

- 1982.45 Photograph: Rutland choral societies, at old school sanatorium, Uppingham, conductor Malcolm Sargent.
- 1982.46 Rutland Police Recreation Club rule book, c.1945.
- 1982.66 Twelve gold and silver agricultural prize medals, in an ornamental glazed brass display stand, all won by Richard Westbrook Baker, of Cottesmore in the mid 19th century.
- 1982.72 Rutland General Friendly Society insurance certificate, no.1099, Joseph Mann, Cottesmore, 1887.
- 1983.10 Carved stone advertisement door plate for Henry Hayes, mason, Somerby, late 19th century.
- 1983.11 Silver cup given by Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Bt., to Mr T.W. Fowler, owner of first prize plough, at Mr Baker's meeting 1844.
- 1983.12 Pub check, 3d., George Inn, Oakham (John Read, publican 1860-98).

Of these, the collection of R.W. Baker's prize medals, given by a grandson, is especially important and comes at a time when the museum is about to expand its agricultural displays into the Poultry Hall and is therefore particularly keen to build up its collection of background material. The silver cup, for example, also falls into this category.

Exhibitions have included one on medieval landscape in Rutland, arranged in conjunction with the Society's field meeting at Gunthorpe and Martinthorpe, and another on mineral railways in Rutland, based on the archive photographs of the Rutland Railway Museum. The various data and material amassed for these exhibitions are not lost when they are dismantled, since the labels, photographs, etc, are retained in the museum.

Conversion work in the museum's additional premises is well advanced, and the new storage and study areas will be coming into use as this report is published.

*Information supplied by T.H. McK. Clough  
Keeper, Rutland County Museum*

## LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS

### Archaeological Survey Team

The following Rutland sites are amongst those investigated in 1982-83:

#### **Ridlington** (SK 835019)

A flint scatter on the escarpment edge at Park Farm has again been walked. Definite occupation scatters have been localised and the Mesolithic dating confirmed, although Early Bronze Age material is also present (RCM 1982.28).

#### **Ryhall** (TF 048109)

A double-ditched sub-rectangular crop-mark enclosure was photographed from the air by Jim Pickering in 1965. Julian C. Temple watched the site during the stripping of top-soil for a gas pipe and recovered Iron Age pottery. Subsequently Leicestershire Museums archaeological staff undertook small-scale rescue excavations and recorded the boundary ditches and a possible circular house just visible on the aerial photograph. The material

has not yet been worked through in detail but appears to be Middle Iron Age in date.

#### **Tixover** (c.SP 973999)

The team have located a small flint scatter near the River Welland in the vicinity of a crop-mark ring ditch. Building material, slag and pottery from a Roman occupation site north of the church has also been recorded. The pottery ranges in date from the 2nd to the 5th centuries A.D., and there is also a sherd of possible Early and Middle Saxon date (RCM 1982.5).

#### **Tixover** (SK 972007 to 97007)

The team carried out a watching brief during re-alignment of A47 road, and recorded house platforms, wall foundations, iron-working structures and part of an enclosure ditch with entrance, north of the present village. The remains date from the Late Saxon and Early Medieval period (RCM 1982.4 and 1982.32).

#### **Tixover** (SK 973011)

The team confirmed the existence of a scatter of Roman pottery associated with a stone spread and slag (RCM 1982.31).

*Information supplied by P. Liddle  
Archaeological Survey Officer  
Leicestershire Museums*

## RUTLAND FIELD RESEARCH GROUP FOR ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

### Work of the Group during 1982-83

Excavation activity has again been concentrated on the medieval building remains at Whitwell. As the area of the site has been extended more wall remains have appeared and a considerable number of artifacts have been recovered. Stone items of interest include a possible Roman altar stone and half of a medieval carved stone mortar. The now familiar range of medieval potsherds and metalwork continues to appear, and also quite a number of worked flints. In 1983, the appalling weather prevented any detailed work until the beginning of June, but some more overburden has been removed.

Visits to other archaeological sites have been made, including the very important Roman/Saxon site at Stonea in Cambridgeshire. Other visits are planned for 1983/84. Members of the Group assisted at the DoE excavation at Lyddington in the spring of 1983 and others have been overseeing various development sites.

Action has been taken to initiate the formation of village or area field walking groups on the lines of those operating in other parts of Leicestershire, and it is hoped that these will commence work in autumn 1983.

The chairman continues to represent the Group's activities on the Leicestershire Archaeological Advisory Committee.

Work has continued on the documentary evidence for the Nether Hambleton report, and the small finds are in process of examination.

Social activities as a Group and in co-operation with the Friends of the Museum, Rutland Record Society and Local History continued in the form of Annual Dinner, Summer Picnic, Museum Lecture Programme etc. The Group has also continued to give full support to C.B.A. Group 14 lectures, day schools and reports meetings. Membership remains fairly static but we hope for expansion of the membership in the years ahead.

*Information supplied by Sqn Ldr A W Adams  
Chairman, RLHS*



## RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society continues with publication of its 'In Rutland' series in its endeavours to issue books on most subjects on Rutland. Volume 6, *Oakham in Rutland* (£5.25), and Volume 7, *Uppingham in Rutland* (£5.25), are in print and available at the Museum. All earlier volumes are reprinted from time to time and so should remain available for the foreseeable future. Although *Maps of Rutland* was intended to be the next volume, temporary problems have arisen in obtaining copies of very early maps, and there is some delay in obtaining information on 'Rutland' in Australia. It is likely that *Power Farming in Rutland*

may be the next publication. Much of this covers the steam traction engines in use in Rutland, and farming in photographs from the 1860s to the 1930s.

Of our extraneous endeavours, and following on our publications in Hampshire and assistance in one in Surrey (Ryhall connections), we are now finalising our book on Barnwell in Northamptonshire, including the home of the Duchess of Gloucester. Much of the material has come from personal recollections of 1908 by a lady now resident in Rutland.

*Information supplied by A R Traylen  
Chairman, RLHS*

## Notes and Queries

The earliest Parish Magazines for All Saint's, Oakham, which at the time included Langham, Barleythorpe, Egleton and Brooke, date from 1895. In the fifth number (May 1895) the Vicar, Rev. Frederick Baggallay, writes as follows: 'St. John's Chapel is now ready for use, and we hope very shortly to re-commence services there.' This might almost apply to the present moment, when there are hopes of bringing the little Chapel into use again once the rebuilding of the Westgate site is completed. In the event the 1895 re-opening was postponed until Wednesday 25th October. *J.L.B.*

In a survey of twenty-two out of twenty-four magazines (two were missing) that were published for the combined parishes of Oakham, Langham, Barleythorpe, Egleton and Brooke in 1895 and 1896 it came to light that of the eighty-five deaths announced, 16.47 per cent died under one year of age, and 29.41 per cent under the age of six. In only three cases were the ages analysed not given. It is horrifying to contemplate that such statistics could exist less than 100 years ago. *J.L.B.*

Mr M.P. Bell of Exton has sent a correction to S.H. Beaver's article 'Ironstone in Rutland 1882-1982' as follows: 'The railway loop round Exton was not completed by 1951, I think it was more likely to have been 1961. I was employed around 1958 on the 5W dragline that drove the final cutting along by Fort Henry lakes linking up Exton Park north and south.... the large dragline operating in Exton Park was known as W1400 not 1600'. Readers will have had the chance to see the excellent exhibition on *Mineral Railways in Rutland* at Rutland County Museum in June and July, 1983, and to attend the events held by Rutland Railway Museum which add greatly to this topic.

The Society held a successful and enjoyable Open Day at Gunthorpe Hall on 7th May, 1983, and gratefully thank the Patron, Col. Haywood and Mrs Haywood for their hospitality and support. The theme was deserted villages and Mr Fred Hartley, Assistant Archaeological Survey Officer for Leicestershire lectured and demonstrated the site of Martinthorpe nearby. The occasion also marked the publication of Mr Hartley's book *The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland: a Survey*. Rutland County Museum mounted a display on the Medieval Landscape of Rutland. The next Open Day is planned to take place at Toilethorpe Hall in Autumn, 1983.



The Society's AGM was held on 19th May, 1983 and was very well attended. The individual subscription was raised to £4.50. Officers were re-elected and we welcome two new members of the Council, Mrs Joy Clough and Miss Christine Hill. The AGM was followed by 'Deeds Done at Hambleton', a lecture given by Mr Tim Clough, Keeper of Rutland County Museum.

The Society is grateful to Mr Charles Sharman for a donation towards the cost of *Rutland Record No.4* and also to the continued support of its advertisers.

Members attention is drawn to Gillian Dickinson's new book: *Rutland Churches Before Restoration* due out late in 1983 which consists of fifty-two remarkable sketches of Rutland churches made in 1838/39 before the great period of Victorian restoration. There is a full supporting text and photographs of the churches as they are now. We congratulate our fellow member on this fine and historic achievement.

There are still some copies left of the special issue of *Geographical Magazine*, March 1983, 'Rutland Does Exist' at £1.00 (inc. p&p). Please contact the Editor for your copy. Back numbers of *Rutland Records* 1 and 2 can be purchased at the reduced price of £1.50 each by members and copies of *Tudor Rutland* at £5.00 each (p&p extra). There are still a few copies of *Quaintree Hall* at £1.00 inc. p&p. Contact the Editor.

May we remind members of the Quatercentenary of Oakham and Uppingham Schools in 1984 and the publication of books by our colleagues, John Barber and Bryan Matthews in connection with the anniversary.

New storage and study areas at Rutland County Museum will be coming into use soon. The appointment of a Teacher-Leader (Rutland) based at the Museum will be a valuable addition to the Museum's educational role. Nearby, the public car park is finished.

Special thanks to Roger Thomas for his sketches and Richard Adams for his photographs. Despite intensive searching Mr John Barber has been unable to discover the owner of the copyright for the Thomas Crapper illustration which we have, however, acknowledged as far as we could.

# Book Review

## Archaeological Report No.5.

### Leicestershire Archaeology The Present State of Knowledge. Vol.2 Anglo-Saxon & Medieval Periods

By Peter Liddle, 1982, 59pp., maps, diagr., bibliogr., £2.00, ISBN 0 85022 1102

## Archaeological Report No.7.

### The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland: A Survey

By Robert F. Hartley, 1983, 68pp., maps, diagr., ill., bibliogr., £2.75, ISBN 0 85022 131 5.

### Village History in Records

By Heather Broughton, 1982, 24pp., maps, plans, ill., bibliogr., £1.50, ISBN 0 85022 1099  
Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Record Service.

Mr Liddle carries on his story of Leicestershire Archaeology so that we now have a review of the period from Prehistoric times to the end of the Middle Ages in volumes 1 and 2. He sets this well into the general context stressing again the theme of continuity. There is a series of most useful maps outlining historic landscape features such as moated sites, parks and deserted medieval villages. Rutland figures significantly.

He calls for more research in certain spheres

such as Roman roads in relation to -ham settlements; into multiple estates in Saxon times; and into forest areas, like Leighfield, especially with reference to assarting and the extension of open fields. Oddly, he does not deal with Rutland's special place as an entity yet it may well be one of the best examples in the area of a large Saxon estate with Royal connections. Nor does he remark on the absence of Danish placenames despite the nearness of the Danish Borough of Stamford. Why does he fail to refer to Professor Darby's *Domesday Geography of Midland England* which is such an indispensable source? Had he done so he would have been able to give a much better description of the eleventh century landscape over the whole county. Because he relies on Holly (1938) he misses Rutland.

He lays excellent foundations, however, for local historians to build on. We in Rutland are fortunate that his book is quickly followed by *The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland* which gives detailed surveys of most of our villages, showing historic landscape features. A short review of the components is followed by a gazetteer and site survey which includes some outstanding locations such as Brooke, Exton,

Pickworth and Tixover illustrated by fine maps. In addition there are aerial photographs of Oakham Castle, Braunston and Seaton which can be compared to the survey maps provided. The whole of Rutland is then covered by Landscape Maps which show ridge and furrow distribution, woodland and certain other earthworks. Mr Hartley is careful to record without too much interpretation though he does refer to documentary evidence. He has presented us with an excellent starting point for further research and deeper interpretation and it can be done on a village basis by groups or individuals. Surely just the right project for a combined team from our Society, the RFRG and the Rutland Local History Society?

*Village History in Records* adds the documentary dimension to complete the local historian's dream! Though this volume is too short and the price correspondingly too high it does give a brief coverage to indicate the type of sources available. One hopes that since this book has been so popular the editor of the series will consider asking the author to extend the text for the revised edition perhaps double including more local applications and case studies.

Bryan Wailes

# Rutland Bibliography

CHRISTINE HILL

*An annotated bibliography of recent books, pamphlets and journals relating to Rutland and the surrounding area.*

BEESE, Patrick — The Rhodmen of Rutland. Rhodbooks, Castle Bytham: £1.95 1982. An account of the history and customs of a mythical race of small people who live on, and around, the great lake known as Rutland Water.

BROUGHTON, Heather — Village History in Records. Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service: £1.50 1982. A guide to the documentary sources of village history. The theme of this booklet is 'what these documents are, where they are, and what they may have in them.'

ELLINGWORTH, Dolce — Little Rutland. D. Ellingworth: £0.60 1982. A brief history of Rutland and personal reminiscences of life in Oakham in the early years of this century.

GREENING, David — Steam in the East Midlands. Becknell Books: £5.95 1982. Contains 137 photographs of steam locomotives around the Nottingham, Derby, Leicester, Lincoln and Northampton areas. The section on Leicestershire Steam includes photographs of Manton Junction and the stations at Luffenham, Seaton and Uppingham.

HARTLEY, Robert F — The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland: A Survey. (Archaeological Report No.7) Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service. £2.75 1983. The intention of this booklet is to summarise evidence of archaeological earthworks in Rutland. It is hoped that by presenting a geographically broad treatment of the evidence it may help to balance the view of history in the area.

HENDRY, R Preston — An historical survey of selected LMS stations, layouts and illustrations. Vol.I. Oxford Publishing Company: £9.90 1982. Each station is covered by one or more illustrations, historical and operational details, and plans. Rutland stations included are Ketton, Luffenham and Morcott.

LEICESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY — Leicestershire Archaeology. The Present State of Knowledge. Vol.3: Industrial

Archaeology. Edited by Marilyn Palmer. (Archaeological Reports Series. No.6) Leicestershire Museums, Art Galleries and Records Service. £2.75 1983. This general survey of Industrial Archaeology in Leicestershire hopes to encourage the readers to go out and look at sites for themselves. Oakham Canal, Rutland Breweries and Rutland Railways and Windmills are among local places of interest included.

LEICESTERSHIRE'S Industrial Heritage — Leicestershire County Council, Department of Planning and Transportation. £0.90 1983. A guide to many of the relics of past industry in Leicestershire. The booklet is divided into classified sections, eg, Canals, Workshops and Factories, Food and Drink, with an outline history and brief description of the most interesting and important sites in each section. As many of these sites can only be viewed from the road there is a separate section on 'Places open to the public'.

RUTLAND WATER: decade of change: proceedings of the conference held in Leicester, UK, 1-3 April 1981. Edited by David M Harper and John A. Bullock. (Reprinted from *Hydrobiologia*; vol 88, no.1/2, 1982) Dr W. Junk, Publishers, The Hague: £15.00 1982. A multi-disciplinary conference that was held at Leicester University to bring together the events of the first decade in the existence of Rutland Water. It covered those features of the reservoir which have given it international recognition. The conference proceedings were divided into the following four parts:

- Part One: Rutland Water: The resource for Public Water Supply
- Part Two: The Reservoir in the Rutland Environment
- Part Three: Water Quality, Algal Ecology and Reservoir Management
- Part Four: Zoological Ecology and Reservoir Management

UPPINGHAM in Rutland — ('In Rutland' series Vol.7) Rutland Local History Society and the

Spiegel Press: £5.25 1982. A revised and expanded edition of a booklet published in 1975 which contained memories and photographs of old Uppingham. This edition contains additional photographs, and information on extra topics including 'Old Town Charities', 'Snippets from the Church Records and *Stamford Mercury* 1711-1901' and '17th Century Uppingham Tokens'.

## JOURNALS

BULLETIN OF LOCAL HISTORY: East Midland Region, Vol.XVII, 1982. Published by the Department of Adult Education, University of Nottingham.

EAST MIDLANDS BIBLIOGRAPHY, Vol.20, Nos.1-3, 1982. 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.

GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE, March, 1983. Contains a special colour feature entitled 'Rutland Does Exist' by Richard Adams, Peter Grange and Bryan Wailes.

THE JOHN CLARE SOCIETY JOURNAL, No.1, July 1982. The official Journal of the John Clare Society, published annually to reflect the interest in, and approaches to, the life and work of the poet John Clare.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE HISTORIAN, Vol.2, No.12, 1981-82. Published by the Leicester Local History Council.

LEICESTERSHIRE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY. Bulletin, No.6, 1983. Contains two articles which are of local interest. 'The Oakham Brewery, 1842-1980' by Michael Bone and 'Market Overton Wharf on the Oakham Canal' by J D Welding.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST AND PRESENT: the journal of the Northamptonshire Record Society, Vol.VI, No.6, 1982-83.

RUTLAND RECORD: the journal of the Rutland Record Society, No.3, 1982/83.



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