

Rutland Record

No 19 (1999)

Journal of the Rutland Local History
& Record Society



Rutland Local History & Record Society

The Society is formed from the union in June 1991 of the Rutland Local History Society, founded in the 1930s, and the Rutland Record Society, founded in 1979. In May 1993, the Rutland Field Research Group for Archaeology and History, founded in 1971, also amalgamated with the Society.

The Society is a Registered Charity, and its aim is the advancement of the education of the public in all aspects of the history of the ancient County of Rutland and its immediate area.

Registered Charity No. 700273

PRESIDENT

Prince Yuri Galitzine

CHAIRMAN

J Field

VICE-CHAIRMEN

P N Lane

HONORARY SECRETARY

P Rayner, c/o Rutland County Museum, Oakham, Rutland

HONORARY TREASURER

Dr M Tillbrook, 7 Redland Road, Oakham, Rutland

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Mrs E Clinton, c/o Rutland County Museum, Oakham, Rutland

HONORARY EDITOR

T H McK Clough

HONORARY ARCHIVIST

C Harrison, Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

HONORARY LEGAL ADVISER

J B Ervin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers of the Society and the following elected members:

M E Baines, D Carlin, Mrs S Howlett,

Mrs E L Jones, Professor A Rogers, D Thompson

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

M E Baines, T H McK Clough (convenor), J Field, Prince Yuri Galitzine,

R P Jenkins, P N Lane, Dr M Tillbrook

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

D Carlin

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs E L Jones

HONORARY MEMBERS

Sqn Ldr A W Adams, Mrs O Adams, Miss E B Dean, B Waites

Enquiries relating to the Society's activities, such as membership, editorial matters, historic buildings, or programme of events, should be addressed to the appropriate Officer of the Society.

The Society welcomes new members, and hopes to encourage them to participate in the Society's activities at all levels, and to submit the results of their researches, where appropriate, for publication by the Society.

The address of the Society is c/o Rutland County Museum,
Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, telephone Oakham (01572) 723654.

Rutland Record

No 19 (1999)

Journal of the Rutland Local History
& Record Society

- 370 Editorial
- 370 Contributors to this issue
- 371 A Country Wife: Anne Barker of Hambleton,
Rutland (1646-47)
Sue Howlett
- 382 Exton and the Noel Family
Jenny Clark
- 400 Did Rutland save England's Bacon?
Jo Harrop
- 403 Rutland History and Archaeology in 1997-98
Edited by T H McK Clough
- 411 Note - An Uppingham family emigrates to
Australia
T H McK Clough

Editor of this issue: T H McK Clough

Contributions and editorial correspondence should be sent to the Honorary Editor, Rutland Local History & Record Society, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW.

COVER ILLUSTRATION: Chromolithograph of Exton Hall (see pp 385 and 387).

Published by the Rutland Local History and Record Society. Copyright (c) RLHRS and authors 1999.
ISSN 0260-3322. ISBN 0 907464 26 2.

Printed by Leicestershire County Council's Central Print Services, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester,
from camera ready copy prepared by T H McK Clough using Cicero word processing.

Bugged by the Millennium?

It has always struck your Honorary Editor that history, like archaeology, resembles a chest of drawers. Everything is neatly labelled with cultural tags by the historian as belonging to this, that or the other period and context, and parcelled away in a drawer, ready to be pulled out and inspected. When that time comes, sometimes we find that moths have got in and eaten holes in the fabric of theory, or that silver fish have devoured the glue that held the labels in place. Even worse, the handles may come off the drawer and it proves impossible to open it at all, in which case the only way in is to open the one above or below and ferret and fumble around in the dark. For this to be possible, we have to allow that the maker of the drawers in question omitted to fit them with bottoms or dividers, substituting a flimsy lining paper instead. Indeed, one of the secrets of studying history is the realisation that, however deep or shallow the drawers appear to be, in effect they are merely fronts, and that within the chest there is a continuum of time and a constant merging of one aspect with another, punctuated by events which stand out as greater or lesser landmarks. One such perceived landmark is almost upon us.

What, then, of The Millennium? How will 1st January 2000 differ from 31st December 1999, save that we will all be a day older and more than the usual number of people will have a headache? Not much, one may venture to suggest. However, the turning over of new leaves seems set to provide opportunities to rattle some of the drawers in that old chest, and even fetch out the contents and give them a good dust down. Some of this will be happening in Rutland.

Rutland County Council has secured a substantial grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Millennium Festival Fund programme to provide history trails through the county over a twelve-month period. This Society intends to publish a definitive account of time-recording in Rutland, in conjunction with an exhibition at the Rutland County Museum which will include the bell-frame from Brooke church. The museum itself is planning a major development aimed at improving access both to the building and to the resources it contains. The Public Record Office is using the tithe maps of Rutland as a pilot study in a project designed to make the information these contain available on CD-ROM. There is research waiting to be published, both archaeological and historical, either in *Rutland Record* or as occasional publications, over the next year, and the appearance in 2000 of *Rutland Record 20* will prompt the preparation of an Index to *RR 11-20*.

Much work of this kind has been going on for years, and to be properly valuable it is seldom done in isolation. The reports which form a regular section of each *Rutland Record* demonstrate the interplay between all the different organisations and individuals which contribute to it, whether voluntarily like the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust or more formally like the sections of Leicestershire Museums which work to joint arrangements with Rutland County Council to provide specialist services to Rutland. In all these cases, one suspects, ringing in the new year, and the new millennium, will be seen in the context and perspective of time past: never mind the next millennium and all its nascent problems for humankind, what can we learn from the last two or three? That way, to borrow a phrase from *1066 and All That*, we may prevent history from coming to a .

Contributors to this issue

Sue Howlett gained an MA degree in Historical Studies as a mature, part-time student of the University of Leicester. Having taught English for many years in secondary and further education, she has recently become a WEA tutor, offering adult education classes in literature and local history.

Jenny Clark works as University Archivist at both Loughborough and Leicester Universities. As a

part-time Assistant Keeper at the Leicestershire Record Office from 1989-94 she was responsible for cataloguing the Exton MSS.

Jo Harrop, who has taught courses in local history at the Rutland County Museum, recently completed a detailed study, at Oxford, of medieval Oakham. She is currently working at University College, Cork, researching medieval Anglo-Irish trade.

A Country Wife: Anne Barker of Hambleton, Rutland (1646-47)

SUE HOWLETT

Close to the shore of Rutland Water stands the isolated Hambleton Old Hall. While Civil War raged it was home to the Parliamentarian High Sheriff of Rutland, Abel Barker, and his new wife Anne. Separated from her Royalist family, Anne wrote intimate letters telling of billeted soldiers, Twelfth-Night cakes, new fashions from London, and her ambition to present her husband with a son. Tragically, Anne's married life lasted only eighteen months; the child she expected with such hopeful joy brought her unexpected death. Her letters survive to paint a vivid picture of the daily concerns and human emotions of a vanished age.

The Manuscripts

Over a century ago, "in a scholar's studious chamber to which the sea breeze comes over a fine sweep of Sussex downs", a member of the Historical Manuscripts Commission found himself engrossed in the domestic preoccupations of seventeenth and eighteenth century Rutland. Hundreds of papers relating mainly to the Barker family of Hambleton and Lyndon had passed into the hands of the Reverend Edmund Field, MA, of Lancing College. The Commissioner, John Cordy Jeaffreson, observed: "The fittest resting place for these memorials would be the old muniment-room of the stately house which Sir Abel Barker built towards the end of his life in his native country." (HMC, *Appendix to the Fifth Report*, 387). Such hopes were indeed fulfilled when Edmund Field wrote to E N Conant, who had inherited Lyndon Hall in 1862: "You will find, if you survive me, that [the papers] are bequeathed to you if you are willing to accept them with the understanding that they are to be kept as heirlooms." The Conant family more than fulfilled this trust. In 1907 the Barker Manuscripts were bound by the Public Record Office in a series of handsome volumes, which in 1966 were generously deposited on indefinite loan in the Leicestershire Record Office.

Concluding his detailed account of the Barker Manuscripts, Jeaffreson noted: "It would be well for students of our Commonwealth history, and all readers who take especial interest in the affairs of Stuart England, if one of our archaeological societies would undertake to publish Mr Field's 17th century papers, and engage him to edit them" (HMC V, 404). Sadly, Mr Field is no longer available as a potential editor. Readers of *Rutland Record* will already be familiar with much of the eighteenth century Barker archive from the publication of Thomas Barker's *Weather Journals*, edited by John Kington (1988), but the seventeenth century Barker papers still await editing and publication. In one

volume alone, Abel Barker meticulously transcribed into his private letter book (LRO DE 730/4) copies of over 300 letters written by himself and family members, including his first wife, Anne. In other volumes, many original letters and family papers are preserved. These include a single original letter from his first wife, and a series of lively, spontaneous and erratically spelled missives from his second, Mary Noel, written before and after the Restoration, testimony of a very different world from that experienced by her predecessor.

The Barker Family

The letter which opens the first volume of Barker manuscripts is starkly and tantalisingly abrupt. An isolated survival from the preceding generation, this letter from Abel Barker's grandmother to his father, also Abel, suggests a family feud for which there is no other evidence or explanation. Writing in 1604 after the death of her husband, Baldwin Barker, Elizabeth addressed her son in bitter tones. [In this and all subsequent letters the spelling and punctuation are modernised.]

*Dear Son,
Harp not so much upon my death. I desired your life much, before I had you, and God gave me you for my comfort, I hope still. Therefore, I pray you, understand my intent, for I will have a habitation of my own to dwell in, if God so please. Therefore I pray you, provide me one, according to your father's good intent, or else buy me some house, or sell me some place for a house, according to the proportion of my money which was due to me at last Lady Day and yet unpaid, and that of Mr Greene's which he should pay. I hope you will get it ere long. Pray do this for me which I desire. I have done as much for you as a mother. Do you as much now for me like a most loving son and I shall ever pray for all happiness and comfort to you and yours and shall remain,
Your upright and honest mother,
Elizabeth Barker.* (DE 730/11)

Forty years later, family relationships were more amicable as a second Elizabeth Barker set about arranging an advantageous marriage for her son, the second Abel Barker. Born in 1618, Abel Barker inherited from his father the property of "Henbecke" in Hambleton, a property whose locality has so far eluded discovery. Through his tenancy of additional lands, rented from Sir Kenelm Digby, Sir Edward Harington and Thomas Waite, he was able to amass

sufficient wealth to purchase in 1634 the recently built "Old" Hall of Hambleton (fig. 1). His mother's determined financial negotiations resulted in Abel's marriage in 1646 to Anne, eldest daughter of Sir Thomas Burton of Stockerston and seven years his senior. Anne's married life was tragically brief: she died shortly after giving birth to an heir, Thomas. The widower's second marriage was to Mary, daughter of Alexander Noel of Whitwell. Since Parliament's abolition of the Prayer Book, this was a civil ceremony solemnised by Evers Armyn, Justice of the Peace: the marriage certificate survives among Abel's papers.

Healthy profits from sheep-farming, a sharp eye for business and political adaptability brought Abel Barker to increasing local prominence. His support for the dominant Parliamentarian faction brought its reward. On 20th June 1645, the *Journal of the House of Commons* recorded the addition of his name to the membership of the Rutland County Committee, responsible under Parliament for civil and military administration. Other names on the committee included two future signatories of Charles I's death warrant: Thomas Waite and Thomas, Lord Grey of Groby. In 1646, Abel Barker was appointed High Sheriff for Rutland. This new responsibility evoked an ironic comment from his Royalist father-in-law, Sir Thomas Burton: "I doubt not but he will in a thrifty way discharge it [his office] for it is out of fashion to be prodigal in these troublesome times."

Having openly collaborated with the enemies of Charles I, though never bearing arms in the Civil War, Abel Barker astutely recognised the advantages of a restored monarchy and contributed to a "voluntary present from the loyal gentry and clergy of the county to the King" (HMC V, 396) in 1661. Serving as Member of Parliament for Rutland under both Cromwell and Charles II, Abel Barker continued to receive the rewards of dependability with a baronetcy, bestowed in 1665. His position assured, Sir Abel was able to purchase, with his brother, the manor of Lyndon. He began to build the handsome Lyndon Hall (fig. 2), into which his family moved shortly before his death in 1679.

In the letters of Abel Barker and his two wives, we look in vain for significant personal insights into social or political issues. Instead we are given a vivid picture of family concerns and daily preoccupations. In a world of political, religious and military tensions, Abel Barker's most strongly expressed opinions were to complain of the financial hardships occasioned by uncooperative landlords or military demands. Although Anne Barker's father and brother were committed Royalists, her letters express no conflicting loyalties. Indeed, military activities are referred to as an inconvenience added to the problems of the weather, disrupting communication and family visits.

The selection of letters given below leaves aside

hundreds of documents from a largely masculine world, recording the minutiae of business dealings and daily concerns. The focus here is on the brief marriage and early death of Anne Barker. From Anne's letters we gain a vivid impression of a dutiful daughter, affectionate sister, warm-hearted kinswoman and attentive wife of a rising member of the Rutland county community, in the brief interlude between the first and second English Civil Wars.

An arranged marriage

In the early months of 1646, Elizabeth Barker wrote to Sir Thomas Burton of Stockerston, Leicestershire, proposing a marriage between their children. Originating from Tolethorpe, the Burton family retained strong Rutland connections, and were firm Royalists. Anne's brother, also Thomas, "distinguished himself in the Civil Wars on the part of the king and was in the first Commission of Array for co. Leicester, in 1641, suffering sequestration and imprisonment" (*Complete Baronetage*, I, 205). Sir Thomas, who had been made a baronet by James I, had recently married, at the age of 60, his third wife, Frances Turville of St Andrew's, Holborn. Sir Thomas's address for the war years was "at his house in the upper part of Holborn near the elm tree". Although her son was closely involved with the Parliamentary leadership within Rutland, Elizabeth's main concerns were not current political differences but long-standing social connections and the more pressing financial requirements which her second letter boldly addresses.

For Sir Thomas Burton knight & baronet etc.

Worthy Sir

The distance of place denying opportunity of personal conference, makes me presume upon so small acquaintance to make these lines messengers of my desires unto you, which are that you will be pleased to grant unto my son that he may with your consent and approbation prosecute that affection which he bears to your daughter Mistress Anne Burton. Sir, if upon enquiry made of him and his estate you shall vouchsafe to gratify me with a line or two in answer hereof, I shall be ready to give you such further satisfaction therein as you shall desire from your humble servant,
Elizabeth Barker. [undated] (DE 730/4 40)

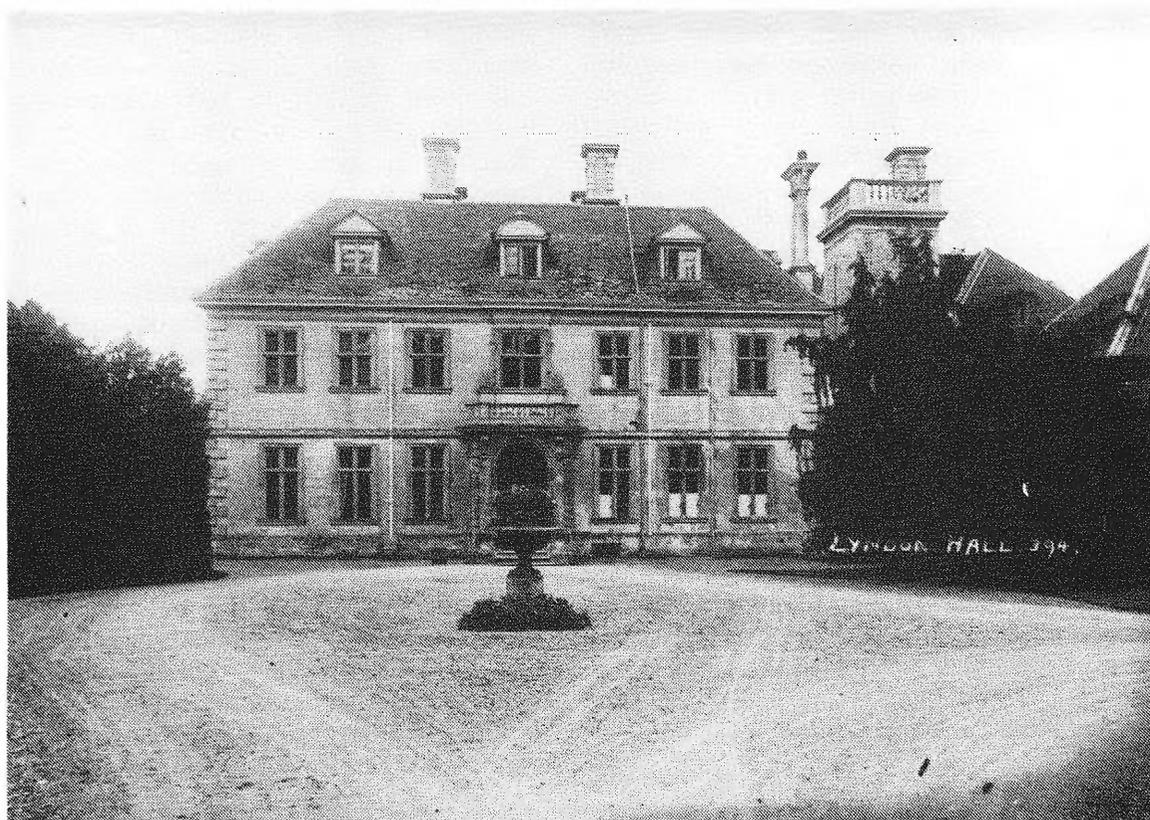
For Mrs E.B. at Hambleton

Mrs Barker,

I have received your letter and understand your desires, but they are of so great consequence that I think you do not expect a sudden answer. But I have heard so well of your self and your son, and have that confidence in my daughter (she having been ever a dutiful and obedient child) that I will refer your



*Fig. 1. Hambleton Old Hall, purchased by Abel Barker in 1634
(Rutland County Museum).*



*Fig. 2. Lyndon Hall, built for Sir Abel Barker between 1665 and 1675
(Rutland County Museum).*

desires to her, it being her own business. Yet not out of any neglect to her for I love her well, and it shall appear so, and will give her content in this or in any thing else that is fit, she having never offended me in all her life. I am sorry for the occasion of this distance of place now betwixt you and me, but I hope the times will amend and quickly, that we shall not need to have letters to be messengers betwixt us. I think you knew me in my youth, and will be glad to renew that acquaintance when it please God I may come with safety into the country. In the interim, I leave your desires to my daughter's will, and rest your assured friend to serve you,

Thomas Burton.

London, 26 February 1645.

[1646 New Style Calendar] (DE 730/4 41)

For Sir Thomas Burton, knight & baronet, etc.

Worthy Sir,

I have hitherto deferred my answer to your letter, in respect you was pleased therein to refer me to your daughter's pleasure. But because I could not expect satisfaction from her in that which more properly concerns your self, I have presumed once more to address myself unto you. Sir, I suppose by this time you have informed yourself of my son and his estate, and (if you esteem him worthy), I hope I shall not seem offensive in desiring what your pleasure is to give in portion with your daughter, and what you will be pleased to require in jointure for her. The good character yourself have afforded her in your letters hath prevailed with me to ask no more than £1500, and will, I hope, prevail with you to grant no less. Sir, I shall here be sparing in repeating my son's deserts, in that I am his mother, desiring rather you should know them from others, yet I have had such experience of his obedience toward me in matters of less consequence, that I do not doubt of his observance in this. That former acquaintance which you are pleased to remember, I humbly thank you for, and shall account it my happiness if I may become known unto you in a nearer relation; in the interim my request is these lines may present my own and my son's service to yourself and your lady, from her that desires to rest your most affectionate friend to serve you,

Elizabeth Barker.

Hambleton, 2 April 1646.

(DE 730/4 42)

As a postscript to the foregoing arrangements, we have one solitary letter between Abel Barker and his new bride, although it could scarcely be called passionate or romantic!

For Mistress Anne Burton at London

Mistress Anne,

Though the distance of place denies us our accustomed communication, yet the intercourse of letters may, if

you be so pleased, supply that defect, wherein, that you may not judge me oblivious of our forepassed amity, I have presumed to break the ice, in confidence that you will not disdain to wade after, and impart your present condition of your affairs. For change of place cannot alter the mind of yours you know who and how.

Hambleton, 25 June 1646. [unsigned] (DE 730/4 43)

The New Wife

Only one letter survives, undated, in the handwriting of Anne Barker (fig. 3). Her remaining nine letters exist only in her husband's subsequent copy. In the summer of 1646 she wrote in a clear italic hand to Henry Heron, relative of her late mother, regretting the lack of his "sweete company" at her recent wedding. Written during a visit to her brother's home at Stockerston, Anne's next letter is addressed to her sister Jane, in London with their father and step-mother. The letter mingles yearning for her sister's lively company with practical arrangements for the purchase and delivery of family gifts.

To my dear sister Mistress Jane Burton

Sweet Sister,

I thank you for your pains in buying my things, but I rather wished you had danced with me in the dining room than about the streets, who infinitely wanted your company. I would entreat you to buy bone lace and satin for a gown and kirtle, and a laced handkerchief and cuffs made and starched, and a love hood. I pray, good sister, do me the favour to buy for my father and my lady, my Lord Cobham and my lady and your self and my cousin H. Heron and Walter Calverley the best fashionable gloves you can get. I pray do you present my father's and my mother's and W. Calverley's, and get Wat to present the rest together with Mr Barker's service and my own. Mr Barker's man will give you money for the gloves. Mr Barker presents his service to you, wishing you in the like condition with myself, and in the mean time hath caused me to subscribe myself your assured loving sister,

A Barker.

Stockerston, 15 Aug 1646.

(DE 730/4 46)

Figure 4 illustrates some of the items requested in this letter. "Bone lace" was made on bone bobbins, while the "kirtle" was the underskirt revealed beneath the gown. A "love-hood", according to OED, was made of "a kind of thin silk stuff". Lord and Lady Cobham were the parents of Anne's mother, Philippa, whose first husband had been Walter Calverley of Yorkshire (*Complete Baronetage*, I, 204). The Walter Calverley mentioned here may be a step-brother, as is the Henry Calverley addressed in later letters.

Noble Cosen

(1)

I am sorry that I could not see you at my weddinge for truly I wrote for you although I did not then know the certaine day, I chose rather to have had you lost your labour then to have wanted your sweete company. but now my suite is that you would be pleased to come to Hambleton and solemnize my weddinge there, pray doe me the fauour to present my humble duty to my Lord Cobham & my Lady, and my service to your sisters when you see them, hoping you will be pleased to honour with your presence in Rutlande

m^r Barker presents his
service into you.

yo^r humble servant & kin^d man

Anne Barker.

To my noble cosen Henry
Herne esq; these bee
presented

Fig. 3. Letter from Anne Barker to Henry Herne [Heron], 1646 (Leicestershire Record Office DE 730/1).



Fig. 4. Engravings by Wenceslaus Hollar, showing the dress of an English gentlewoman, c.1640 (Leicestershire Record Office 730/9).

Establishing her own household at Hambleton brought new concerns to Anne Barker. The next letter demonstrates her desire to ensure a good reference for a potential servant. In December 1646, she wrote to her father's cousin, who, according to Wright's *History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (1684, Additions, 11), had married John Booth, gentleman of Oakham. Oakham Church contains a memorial to John and Mabella Booth, noting that Mabella was sister to Andrew Burton, recommended in a letter from Sir Thomas Burton as a friend and adviser to his son-in-law.

For Mistress Mabella Booth at Oakham

Good Cousin,

I would have waited upon you before this, had not the unseasonableness of the weather prevented me. When it shall please God to send fair weather I shall be glad to see you here. In the mean time, I pray do me the favour to send me word whether you think Mrs Ross's daughter of Edith Weston will be a fit chambermaid for me. I must put her to wash clothes and if you think her not fit for me, I pray let me know if you can commend any other to me. Thus with my service to yourself and your husband, and my cousin Burton and all hers, I rest your faithful cousin and servant,
A Barker.

Hambleton, 17 December 1646. (DE 730/4 50)

Writing to her father, Anne remarked on the problems of communication, made worse by the weather and effects of civil war. In this case as in others, much use was made of John Musson, Abel Barker's cousin and agent, to deliver letters, parcels and payments on his regular journeys to the capital.

For Sir Thomas Burton knight and baronet at his house in the upper part of Holborne near the elm tree, these:

Sir,

I am sorry that your letter miscarried, for I received it not until Wednesday night last (and then not by my cousin Burton but your carrier), otherwise I had sent you what you write for before this. But I have sent it now by [the] Uppingham carrier so soon as I could. I hope it will not come too late. But for the soldiers I had sent it you by John Musson without writing. I am very glad to hear you are all well at London, where the foulness of the way and illness of the weather (though I think they was never worse) should not have kept Mr Barker and me from waiting upon you and my lady before this time had we not lived in daily expectation of troopers whom we have had already quartering with us almost these three weeks, and my maid having the green sickness and gone away we could no ways leave the house in safety. I hope you and my lady will be pleased to excuse us and not

impute it to any neglect of you. And now that Mr Barker is by reason of his office to reside in the country, we should be glad to see you at Hambleton. Sir, Mr Barker wrote to you when John Musson came last from London to acknowledge and give you thanks for that kindness which he then received, and I have written to you since, but I fear the letters have miscarried, because I cannot perceive by your letters that you have received any of them. I shall now desire only to present Mr Barker's and my own most humble duty to yourself and my lady, and our love to my brother Thomas and my sister Jane and all our other worthy friends at London, and so rest your dutiful and obedient daughter till death,
A Barker.

Hambleton, 23 December 1646. (DE 730/4 47)

The object which Sir Thomas Burton had requested his daughter to send is noted in his letter of 9th December, retained among the Barker manuscripts: "In the interim and presently (you know the cause) I desire you would send me the Leopard[?], the time grows near I should use it." Anne's next letter, as copied by her husband who presumably remembered the occasion, repeats the mysterious word more legibly as "Leopard", a reading confirmed by HMC V (390). Whether this is a correct reading, and if so, what form the "leopard" might have taken, remains an intriguing question. Dictionaries of obsolete words and dialects offer no explanation, unless the "leopard" were some form of ornament, such as a tapestry. A tempting alternative, given the warlike times, might be "halberd". However, in the light of Abel Barker's transcription of the letter below, the puzzle awaits solution.

For Mistress Jane Burton, etc.

Dear Sister,

I hope my father hath received his Leopard safe which I sent by Uppingham carrier the last week. I have made bold to send my Lady a country cake to choose king and queen with. You shall find the pea and the bean where two little sticks be. Sister, I give you many thanks for your many favours and pains for me. And so, hoping my father and my Lady be in good health, and wishing you all a merry new year, I rest your assured loving sister,
A Barker.

[P.S.] Sister, Mr Barker presents his most humble duty to my father and my Lady and his love to your self.

Hambleton, 31 December 1646. (DE 730/4 49)

The gift sent by Anne to her step-mother ("My Lady") is more easily explained. According to Bridget Henisch in *Cake and Characters* (Henisch 1984, 18-19):

The cake is one of the two special elements in the Twelfth Day festivities ... The person who found a bean or coin in his piece was the lucky king for the night. Sometimes he picked his own queen, sometimes chance chose her for him, and a pea secreted in the cake conferred the honour on its finder ... The cake, the bean and the pea were emblems of fertility and harvest, health and prosperity.

It is ironic that Anne, wife of a Parliamentary supporter, sent Lady Burton such a cake at the very time when Parliament was about to abolish Christmas and such "pagan" festivities. However, these traditional Twelfth Night celebrations were revived and elaborated after the Restoration, as testified by Samuel Pepys' Diary for 6th January 1669:

I did bring out my cake - a noble cake and there cut it into pieces, with wine and good drink: and after a new fashion, to prevent spoiling the cake, did put so many titles into a hat, and so drew cuts; and I was the Queen; and The. Turner, King - Creed, Sir Maring Marr-all; and Betty, Mrs Millicent.

(Everyman edition, 1906, II 607)

From the next letter it is clear that Sir Thomas Burton was able to make the journey to Rutland to stay with his daughter in the spring of 1647. Jane Burton, aged 29, was about to be married (although neither Wright nor Burke give her name or that of her prospective husband). There is an interesting, perhaps even ironic tone in Anne's comment: "all the happiness that can be expected in a husband" [HMC V, 390, mistakenly reads "expressed"].

For Mistress Jane Burton at London, these:

*Dear Sister,
I desire you would do me the favour to give the bearer hereof, John Musson, my little gilded trunk and my fur box and if you can find the cloth that went about the cake, sew it about the trunk. I thank you for your care of them. I shall now have use for them in the country. I pray remember my husband's and my most humble duty to my lady (my father I thank God is very well) and our love to yourself and your servant when you see him. Wishing you all the joy and happiness that can be expected in a husband. I shall be glad to know, if it be no prejudice to you, when your wedding is, though I can do you no other service if it be in London but to send you a bride cake. I pray you send my love to Mrs Cokayne and the two Nans, and to all others that ask how I do. I hope I shall see my lady and you in the country this summer and have the happiness to enjoy your company at Hambleton where you shall be very welcome to your assured loving sister,*

A Barker.

Hambleton, 10 April 1647.

(DE 730/4 51)

Whatever the degree of her married happiness, Anne's pride in her new husband is confirmed by the following letter of December 1646, from her uncle, Thomas Farbeck, Rector of Ketton (fig. 5). Included for its insights into some very human relationships, this letter contains a poignant reference to Anne's desire to provide her husband with an heir, which was soon to be so tragically fulfilled:

To the worthy, and his very loving cousin Mistress Anne Barker at Hambleton:

Noble Cousin,

In your pleasant mirth, I have heard you ask of God two things: the one that your husband might [be] High Sheriff, the other that you might bring him forth a son. Though you said these in jest, the one proves true and so I hope will the other, and I pray for the accomplishment thereof.

Good cousin, these two saucy boys will needs come over to see you, and if they durst, they would present their best service to Mr High Sheriff. My humble request to you is, to take notice of their silent desires and, if you please, to stand their friend in the cause. The little boy is somewhat confident in your favour, but I say no more for them but leave it to you to do what you please. My wife with myself remember our service to you, and if we may be so bold, to Mr High Sheriff also, to whom with your self I offer my service to preach before you the next Sabbath, or next to that, if you please to accept therefore, and then out of your love to send a horse that I may bring your aunt along with me.

*Cousin, I am bold with you, your good nature hath emboldened me, and so I pray excuse me, and thus with my love and best respects remembered to you both, with hearty prayer to God for your good, I humbly take my leave. From Ketton this 28th of December, 1646, Your daily orator,
Thomas Farbeck.* (DE 730/1 22)

By the late spring of 1647, Anne Barker was pregnant. A respectful letter to her step-mother looks forward to the promised family reunion, one year after Anne's marriage:

To the much honoured Lady the Lady Frances Burton these present with my humble duty:

Madam,

I had waited upon you before this to have given you thanks for your many favours to me, had not Mr Barker's extraordinary occasions, and my own sickness prevented me. But now that your ladyship is near coming into the country (which I am glad to hear) I hope you will be pleased to do me the honour to see Hambleton, whither you and all your good company shall be very heartily welcome to Mr Barker and me; and in the mean time that you will be pleased to

22

(Noble Cozen) in your pleasant mirth, I have heard you
 aske of God two things; the one y^e your husband might
 High Sheriffe, & other y^e y^e might bring him forth at some
 tho y^e sayd these in test, yet the one proves true, and soe
 I hope with y^e other, and I pray for the accomplishment
 thereof. Good Cozen these two fancy Boys will needes
 come over to see you; and yf they durst they would
 give you there best service to m^e High Sheriffe, my hum-
 ble request to you is to take notice of there p^{re}sent de-
 sires, and yf you please to stand there friend in the
 cause. the little boy is somewhat confident in y^e favour
 but I say me more for them by^e leane it to you to doe
 what you please; my wyfe with my selfe remember o^r
 service to you, and yf wee may bee so bold to m^e High Sheriffe
 also to whome with your selfe I offer my service to p^{re}ach
 p^{re}ach before you y^e next sabboth, or next to y^e; yf you
 please to accept yof, and then out of your love
 to send a horse y^e I may bring your friend along
 with me. Cozen I am to bid you your good nature
 haith emboldenid me, and so I pray excuse mee
 and thus with my love and best respects remembre
 to you both, with hartly praer to God for y^e good
 assembly take my leane. from Ketton this 20th
 of December 1676



Th^e dayly Prator
 Tho: Farbeck

36

To the w^{or} and his boy
 Loung. Cozen Mrs. Anne
 Barker of Hambleton
 Glos. Esq^r.

Fig. 5. Letter to Anne Barker from Thomas Farbeck, Rector of Ketton
 (Leicestershire Record Office DE 730/1).

accept the presentation of our most humble duty to your self and my father, and our best love to my sister Jane, wishing her as happy a bride, as your dutiful and obedient daughter till death,

A Barker.

Hambleton, 26 June 1647.

(DE 730/4 35)

On the same day Anne wrote a more spontaneous letter to a friend, acting as her agent in London. The furnishings at Hambleton needed renovation, while medicines, unobtainable in Rutland, were required from a London druggist.

For Mr Augustine Crofts at the Nag's Head in the Old Bailey near the Pump there.

Mr Crofts,

I thank you for all your favours, and I would desire you to buy me twelve ells of a deep watchet sarcenet for a bed, and a slight fringe for it of the same colour, not above five yards and a quarter long, and a small fringe for the top of the bed. I pray you buy me five dozen of small silk buttons and a set of prints suitable to this enclosed pattern and send them down. And I desire you would do so much as go into Lombard Street to one Mr White a drugster and buy me an ounce of his best parmacity and six grains of beaten bezoar. Mr Barker will return you the money by the first opportunity: he sent you the last by Mr Woodcock; I hope you have received it before this. I pray you remember my love to my [step-]brother Calverley if he be in town. I should be glad to know how he doth and how his business goes forward, and thus with my love to your self and your wife, I rest your truly loving friend,

A Barker.

Hambleton, 26 June 1647.

(DE 730/4 36)

The luxurious new bed-curtains were to be made from twelve ells (12 x 45 inches) of "watchett": pale bluish-green, "sarcenet": a thin soft silk textile with slight sheen (Cunnington et al). "Parmacety", or spermaceti, obtained from the sperm whale, was recommended in Jane Sharp's *Midwives' Book* of 1671 as a cure for smallpox. "Bezoar" was a term for an antidote, or various medicinal preparations (*Shorter Oxford English Dictionary*). The successful delivery of these orders was paid for with a "bill of exchange", precursor of the banking system which was to make trade so much easier by the end of the century.

For Mr Augustine Crofts, etc

Mr Crofts,

My best love remembered unto you with many thanks for your pains taken in buying my things, all which I have received by Sewell the carrier. I have sent here enclosed a bill of exchange for your money. Mr

Woodcock, who is to pay it, will be in town before you can receive this letter. I pray present my love to my brother Calverley and my sister, from your assured loving friend,

A Barker.

Hambleton, 14 July 1647.

(DE 730/4 37)

Birth and Death

No further letters from Anne survive to give news of the progress of her pregnancy. Early in the New Year, her step-brother, Henry Calverley, wrote an anxious letter to Abel Barker:

For his honourable brother, Abel Barker and his at his house at Hambleton near Oakham in Rutland, these present:

Good Brother,

I writ both you and my dear sister two several letters to enquire of your and her health and welfare, but hearing no answer I address by this messenger to be satisfied. I hope to see you in the spring here. You shall have homely but welcome entertainment. Thus, wishing you good report to my desire, with my best love to you and my sister, I rest, Sir, your loving brother to serve you,

Henry Calverley.

Calverley, 9th January 1647[8]

(DE 730/1 22b)

Abel's reply was bleak:

For his honoured brother Henry Calverley Esquire at Calverley, these:

Good Brother,

Had I received your former letters I should with more willingness have answered the same than I shall now acquaint you with the greatest affliction that ever I endured in the loss of a most loving and dearly beloved wife. It is my unhappiness which to others is a comfort in misery "tot socios habuisse doloris" [to have had so many companions in grief] wherein as I am not ignorant of your large proportion, so I have nothing at present to offer in allay to the same, more than that it hath pleased God to bless me with a pledge of our love. I mean a young son, which I hope is likely to live and be a comfort both to you and me. I beseech God he may hereafter be as like his mother in condition, as he is now in complexion.

Sir, I shall desire herein to present my best love and respects to your self and my sister, with an acknowledgement of many thanks for that great affection which you have always expressed both to me and my wife: I hope that, though it hath pleased God to take to his mercy the first occasion thereof, yet you will be pleased still to continue the same for her sake that was so near and dear unto us both. And I do assure you that you shall find in me all offices of love that can be

expected from your sorrowful but most affectionate brother,

A Barker.

Hambleton, 17 January 1647[8]. (DE 730/4 75)

A more detailed account of the event was provided in the following sequence of letters from Abel Barker to his father-in-law. These moving lines demonstrate how rapidly the expectation and joy of the child's arrival was transformed to desolation at the mother's loss.

For Sir Thomas Burton knight and baronet at Holborn

Sir,

I had before this time saluted you with my letters had I not been in expectation to have writ you the news that my wife was laid on her mending side[?], but that good hour is not yet come though daily expected. She is very well, thanks be to God, and hath had Mrs Kneeland with her, almost these three weeks. We desire both to present our duties to your self and my lady, and our loves to all our friends at London, and particularly to Mrs White, and to give you both thanks for your many favours to us. We should be very glad to hear you were got free from such an ill companion as a cough. My wife desires you would keep liquorice in your mouth at night if you can abide the taste of it, for she hath lately had a cough and finds it hath done her much good.

Sir, I have nothing more at present worthy your knowledge, but that my brother Walter and my sister are safely arrived with your obedient son, A Barker. Hambleton, 21 December 1647. (DE 730/4 70)

For Sir Thomas Burton knight and baronet at Holborn

Sir,

I shall now take the boldness to present you with that news which in my former letter I could not, that it hath pleased God to bless us with a son, which after a sharp but short (if not too short) conflict was born this day about 2 of the clock. My wife, thanks be to God, is very hearty, and Mrs Kneeland tells me she doubts not but will do well. We shall both make one request unto you, that yourself and my lady will be pleased to be two of the witnesses to the baptism, that you was pleased to promise us at Stockerston. In hope whereof, our duties being first represented, I shall rest in haste, your obedient son,

A Barker.

Hambleton, die solis [Sunday] 26th December, 1647. (DE 730/4 71)

For his ever honoured father, Sir Thomas Burton knight and baronet at Holborn

Sir,

I believe before this you have heard the report of that

heavy affliction which it hath pleased God to lay upon me, in the loss of my dearly beloved wife. I know not what secondary cause to impute, more than her own fears, and the too much haste of a hardhearted midwife. Dr Boles went from her but the day before she died and was with us the day after, yet could see no outward signs of death in her. Had it not been for my indisposition, I had sooner given you account of these sad tidings, though God knows they come now too soon, having nothing wherewith to assuage the same, more than the remembrance of that sweet pledge of her love, your Godson and grandson, which, though at first bruised by the midwife, is now (thanks be to God) recovered and very well. I pray God he may hereafter be as like his mother in goodness and virtue as he is now in favour and complexion, that so he may be the object of your favour and affection, as he is now of your pity and compassion.

Sir, if the length of the way and your other occasions do not prevent you, I should desire I might enjoy your presence at her funeral which I intend upon Tuesday the 8th of February. And in the interim to present my most humble duty to yourself and my lady and to give you thanks for your many expressions of love and affection to me. I hope, though it hath pleased God to take to his mercy her that was the first and most beloved cause thereof, yet you will be pleased still to continue the same for her sake, than which nothing can be of greater comfort and more acceptable to your sorrowful son,

A Barker.

Hambleton, 26 January 1647[8]. (DE 730/4 76)

Further letters from Abel Barker, regarding his wife's funeral, were addressed to relatives, clergymen and friends. These included Thomas Farbeck, to whom he sent: "five yards of Spanish cloth, which I desire you would be pleased to make into a suit and cloak, and wear it as a sad remembrance of her who was so great a lover of you and me." The Rector of Stockerston was invited to bring neighbours from Anne's birthplace to the funeral with him, and five shillings apiece given to the poorer villagers who could not afford to make the journey.

Finally, a diplomatic letter from Abel Barker to his late wife's step-brother provides details of her arrangements for the care of the child.

For his ever honoured brother, Henry Calverley Esquire at Calverley:

Good Brother,

I have always found such real expressions of your true love and affection to me, and have such affiance of your care and well wishes for that dear relic and pledge of our love, my young son, that I shall be very ready to accept of any whom you shall commend to be his governess, to initiate him in virtue, from which I hope he will not be averse, if he participate as much

of his mother's disposition, as complexion. But because as yet his tender age is neither capable of understanding good or evil, and his being in the town with a nurse of his mother's own choosing, and being very well, as this bearer can relate unto you, it may perhaps be prejudicial to him to be removed, which makes me defer the acceptance of so great a favour until I see you. It was his mother's desire he should be named Thomas after his grandfather and Godfather, and I was willing she should have her desire; her deserts have obliged me not to deny her a greater request than that.

Sir, I know not whether I shall have leisure to wait upon you at Calverley this spring as I intended, if not I shall take the first opportunity I can to visit you. I hope you will be pleased to see your little nephew and me at Hambleton, whither you shall be very heartily welcome. Now that I know where your letters were left I shall not fail to send for them if they may be had. In the interim, I desire to present my best love and thanks to yourself, my good sister and kind cousins and so remain, good brother, your sorrowful but most affectionate brother and servant,

A Barker.

Hambleton, 18 February, 1647[8]. (DE 730/4 81)

Anne's hopes and intentions for her child were to be fulfilled. He would grow up to inherit, as Sir Thomas Barker, the substantial estates of Hambleton and Lyndon, and to follow in his father's footsteps, in 1681, as High Sheriff of Rutland. Subsequent letters written by Abel Barker record his young son's progress, for example, on 11th August, 1649, when he ordered a coat for the eighteen month old child who "hath newly begun to go" ((DE 730/4 106). After initially expressing a reluctance to remarry, Abel Barker made at least one unsuccessful proposal to obtain a step-mother for the child. In July 1655, when he was already negotiating for the hand of Mary Noel of Whitwell, Abel Barker received a letter from "Rebekah Parfett alias Partesoyle" of London:

... I did question that your desire was rather from your friends' persuasion than any inclination or affection of yours, which now doth appear, as concerning a settlement ... I cannot think of committing myself and

estate into the hands of any man upon the terms you desire, more especially, your condition considered, as you have a son.... (DE 730/1 41)

On 6th September 1655, Abel Barker married Mary Noel. Her surviving letters, all addressed to her "Dear Heart", chart occasional resentment at his frequent absences in London; requests for fashionable purchases recommended by Lady Mackworth; constant anxieties about the health and material welfare of their three daughters; reports on the farming activities of her stepson and frustration at her exclusion from her husband's plans to buy and build at Lyndon. The testimony of these letters, with their tone of human insecurity and wealth of historical insights, must await a subsequent article.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Sir John Conant for his support in this work on the Barker Manuscripts, which I hope will become part of a larger project. Thanks are also due to the Leicestershire Record Office for providing facilities for research, and allowing me to reproduce extracts from the Barker manuscripts and illustrations to accompany this article.

Bibliography

- Burke, J & J B, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England* (London 1838)
- Cokayne, G E, *Complete Baronetage* I, 1611-1800 (Exeter 1900).
- The Conant MSS, Index prepared by Rutland Record Society (1985).
- Cunnington, C W, Cunnington, P, and Beard, C, *Dictionary of English Costume* (London, 1960).
- Diary of Samuel Pepys II* (Everyman, London, 1906).
- Hensch, B, *Cakes and Characters* (London, 1984).
- Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Appendix to the Fifth Report* (London, 1876).
- Oxford English Dictionary* (2nd edition 1989).
- Shorter Oxford English Dictionary* (3rd edition 1983).
- Sharp, J, *The Midwives Book* (London 1671).
- Wright, J, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (1684, republished 1973).

Exton and the Noel Family

JENNY CLARK

The Exton MSS deposited in the Leicestershire Record Office are a rich source for the history of the Noel family, illustrating the development of their position and influence in Rutland through the consolidation of a considerable landed estate based on Exton. The Noel's country house, Exton Hall, was the emblem and expression of their standing and the focus of local life, for it provided employment, entertainment, leadership and social support. Extensions and improvements to house, gardens and parkland and the social and cultural activities which took place there reflected and underlined the family's natural authority within the county.

Possession of a landed estate was the basis of the status, power and involvement of the great county families in their local communities. Like many another family the Noels of Exton over the years extended, consolidated and developed their landed estates not just in Rutland but beyond the bounds of the county too. To lands inherited were added acres acquired by judicious marriage or astute purchase. But the seat of the Noels' influence and authority remained in Rutland and at the heart of it from the mid seventeenth century onwards was Exton, where their country house, Exton Hall, was located. Such a country house was the expression and the emblem of a family's standing, the centre of much of the life of the locality and the hub of a "considerable complex of social and business responsibilities" (Beckett 1986, 337).

The Noels were first associated with Exton when Sir Andrew Noel of Brooke, Sheriff of Rutland and MP for the county in Elizabeth's reign, married Mabel, the daughter of Sir James Harington of Exton. The Haringtons had possessed the manor of Exton since the beginning of the sixteenth century and it was probably Sir James who built the original house. However, Exton was soon to pass into other hands. Mabel's brother John, the first Lord Harington of Exton, incurred such debts as a result of his care and custody of King James's daughter Elizabeth, subsequently Queen of Bohemia, that his heir was compelled to sell the manor in 1613. The purchaser was Sir Baptist Hicks, a wealthy London silk merchant who was later created Viscount Campden. When he died in 1629 the title of Viscount Campden and estates in Rutland, Gloucestershire and London went to his daughter's husband Sir Edward Noel, Lord Ridlington, the son of Andrew and Mabel Noel. Thus the Noels came to establish themselves at Exton Hall. By the end of the seventeenth century they had acquired the title of Earl of Gainsborough, though this became extinct in little over a hundred years on the death without heirs of Henry, 6th Earl of Gainsborough. He was succeeded in the Rutland

estates by his nephew Gerard Noel Edwards who owned estates in Leicestershire, London and Ireland. The nephew took the surname of Noel, becoming Gerard Noel Noel, and hoped that the Earldom of Gainsborough would be recreated and bestowed on him. This was not to be, but his son Charles did become 1st Earl of Gainsborough of the second creation in 1841 and so the title has descended to the present Earl (Noel 1910, *Rutland Magazine* III, IV).

There is abundant evidence among the family papers, many of which are now deposited in the Leicestershire Record Office (DE 3214), of the building up of a large estate based in Rutland in general and centred on Exton in particular. When Sir Edward Noel succeeded to Sir Baptist Hicks's title and estate in the right of his wife Juliana in 1629 he acquired an extensive landholding and substantial seat in Exton. Deeds and evidences of title to the manor and to other lands in Exton go back to the twelfth century and provide many details of the medieval village community (DE 3214/198/70). In 1339, for example, we know that Exton had a cobbler's shop, for there is a lease from Alan Sutor to his father, also Alan Sutor, of "schoppam officii sutoris" (198/46). In 1417 there is mention of Estthorpe Street in Exton when a messuage "before the cross" changed hands. The deed records the land that accompanied the dwelling, listing the strips in the open fields and giving the names of neighbouring owners. Location names include "Plashyholme", "New Myll", "Ovirparksty", "le Seeke", "Synfulhadelonde", "Assewellegatishende" and "Parkedyk" (200/1). This mention of the ditch round the deer park records a long established feature of the Exton landscape, for a park is known to have existed there from at least 1185 (Cantor & Squires 1997, 10). Sir Edward Noel, as Viscount Campden, wasted little time after he succeeded to the Exton estate in enlarging the park. In 1631, for instance, he relinquished the tithes on land in Exton fields to Noel Dracott of Exton in exchange for Dracott's common of pasture in Armeley field "lately taken for a park and impaled" (338/34).

Thus the consolidation of a significant land holding in Exton and its vicinity gave the Noels position and influence in the local community and, of course, "with the family estate went the family house, the physical expression of the standing of the family and the tangible repository of its traditions" (Habakkuk 1967, 3). Exton Hall, the Noels' country house, set in parkland and bordered by its dependent village, was the heart and symbol of their authority. Before Exton was established as the family seat the Noels had had houses at Dalby in Leicestershire and Brooke in Rutland, and these reflected the growing

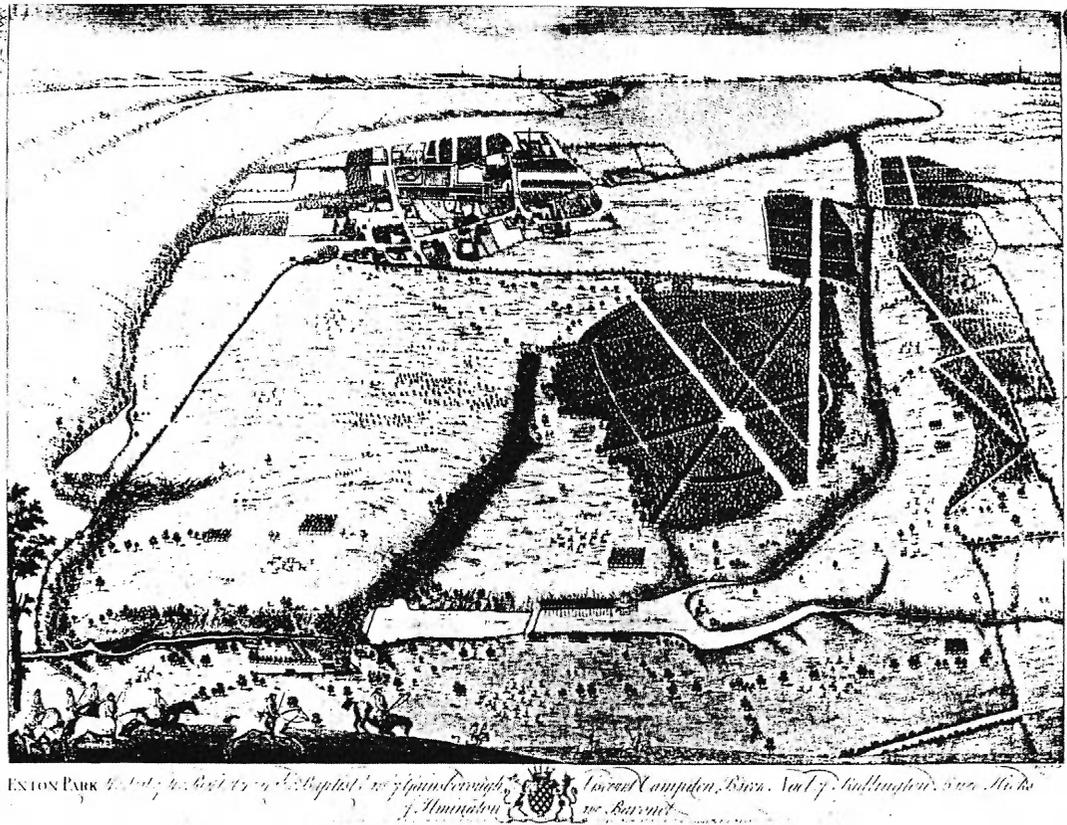


Fig. 1. Prospect of Exton Park by Thomas Badeslade c.1730s, showing the old hall and gardens, the adjoining park and park "pond" (copyright British Library; reproduced in Victoria County History of Rutland II, 128).

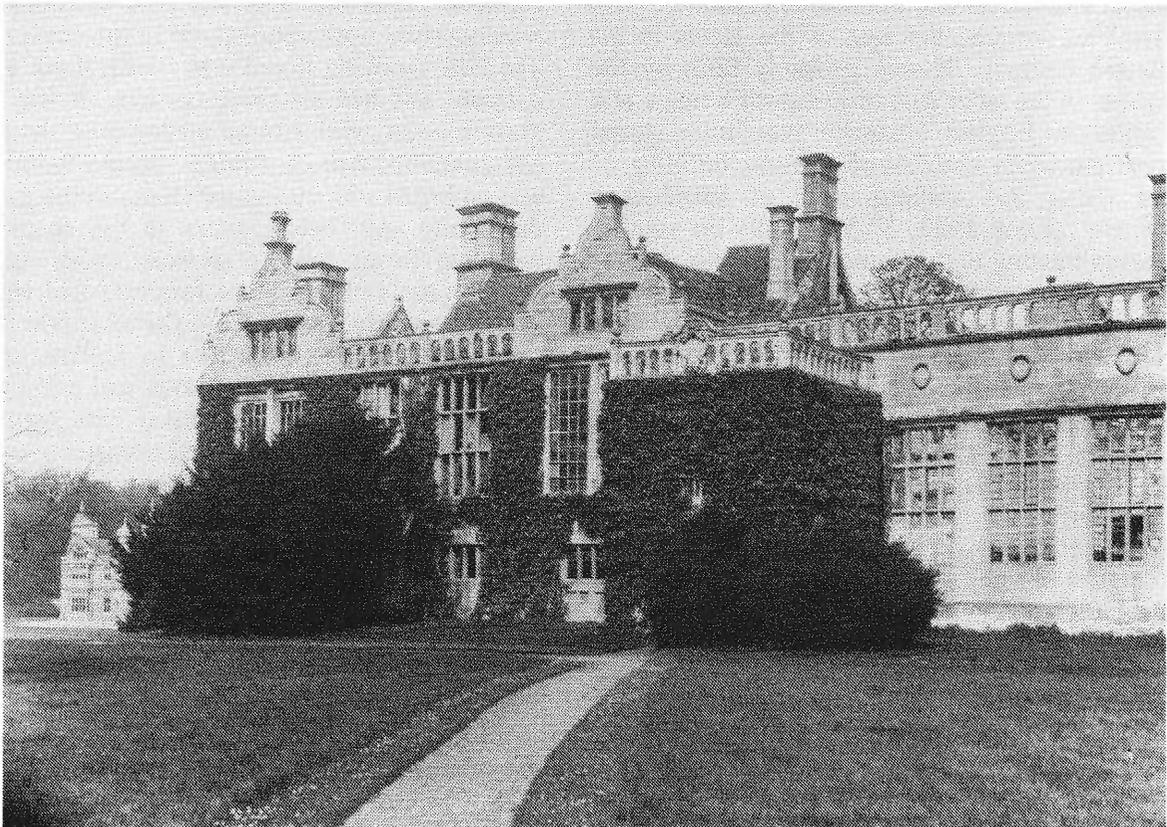


Fig. 2. The ruins of Exton Old Hall, photographed by Henton in 1916 (Leicestershire Record Office).

status of a coming county family. We can see this from the probate inventories listing their goods and chattels taken in 1563 on the death of Andrew Noel of Dalby, Sheriff of Rutland and MP for the county in 1553 (171/2), and in 1607 for his son Sir Andrew Noel of Brooke (171/3).

Andrew Noel's goods, for instance, were worth altogether £459 7s 0d, including plate worth £202. The goods are listed room by room and the furnishings of the Great Chamber were particularly rich - tapestry hangings embroidered with flowers, crimson and white damask bed hangings, chairs upholstered in black velvet "wrought with needlework", silk cushions, red and blue window curtains. This kind of comfort was obviously paid for by Andrew Noel's success as a farmer: 600 sheep are also listed. His son, Sir Andrew Noel of Brooke, who, as we know, married Mabel Harington of Exton, was even more wealthy. At his death in 1607 his total inventory amounted to £6166 3s 6d. The inventory lists huge numbers of sheep in each of his fields at Dalby as well as 2715 fleeces worth £400. At Brooke there was a clock in the Hall, and there were virginals in the Dining Chamber and in another room and "a pair of wind instruments at the stair head". There were books worth £5 in the closet, and Sir Andrew's apparel must have been rich - it is valued at £210. There was £843 in ready money in the house and very large debts owed to him, mostly for sheep sales, are listed. Among other rooms specified were the Nursery Chamber and the School Chamber.

Exton Hall became the seat of the Noels in the seventeenth century. It was probably built by the Haringtons in the latter part of Elizabeth's reign, at a time when the English landscape was "transfigured by an extraordinary outburst of domestic building ... by the rising and shifting class of Elizabethan landowners" (Cook 1980, 57-59). Sadly no significant papers relating to the house and estate in the late sixteenth or seventeenth century have survived amongst the Exton collection in the Leicestershire Record Office, but there is quite a lot of information on the development of the house and park in the eighteenth century. Enlargement and embellishment of a country house and the extension and improvement of its park was another sign of a family's growing confidence and assertiveness. We can see how Exton Hall looked at various stages from the engravings in Wright's *History and Antiquities of ... Rutland* (1973, 49), a plan of the park in about 1700 (Clark 1993, 119), later eighteenth century engravings of house and park - particularly Badeslade's well known view (fig. 1), and a photograph of the ruins taken by Henton in the early part of this century (fig. 2).

One document for the early eighteenth century which tells us a good deal about Exton Hall and the family that lived there is an inventory of household goods drawn up in 1717, only three years after the

death of Baptist, 3rd Earl of Gainsborough (357/1). He died young, aged only 29, leaving six children under the age of six years. Mary, the baby, was only five months old when he died. In the inventory the goods are listed room by named room and the presence of a young family is immediately apparent: "Lady Mary's Nursery", "Lady Katherine's Room" and "The Nursery" are recorded. While the description of the furniture is limited to basics - "1 sacking bottom bedstead, curtains, vallance, bases and curtain rods", "1 armed chair and 3 stools", "6 cane chairs", "1 looking glass, 1 table and 2 stands", and there are few details of fabrics, decoration or colours such as we found in Andrew Noel's inventory, it does provide quite a good picture of the degree of comfort which the family enjoyed. Most of the rooms were hung with tapestry and had window curtains and fireplaces. The bedchambers were well-equipped with feather beds, blankets, pillows and quilts, and pictures and prints were hung throughout the house.

The family's public rooms, like the Great Dining Room and the Great Hall, were more lavishly furnished and it was here that the family portraits were hung. The Great Dining Room had full length, half length and quarter length family pictures on its walls and in the Great Hall, in addition to 23 assorted family pictures, there were "1 Great piece of Painting of a Horse" and "1 Great Clock with Pallas does about it." In the Great Dining Room the eighteen chairs had blue and gold cushions and the window seats were upholstered in the same material. The Best Drawing Room was "hung about with blue damask" and had matching curtains. It was lit with glass sconces, had a huge mirror over the fireplace and contained two card tables. In the family chapel was an organ with cushioned chairs in the gallery for the family and "below stairs in the chapel" there were ten forms for the servants to sit on. In the working parts of the house furniture and equipment is painstakingly listed, from the chamber pots and close stools in the Stillroom to kettles, chocolate pots, coffee pots, chafing dishes and patty pans, as well as coppers, cleavers, bread bins, egg stands, pepper boxes, salt barrels, and saucepans and plates of all kinds in the kitchen and larders. The cellars were equipped with barrels and bottle bins, and the outhouses include the "Venyson Room", Milking House, Wash House, Brew House and Bake House.

In the 1730s and 40s, in the time of the energetic young 4th Earl of Gainsborough, there are numerous bills for the purchase of pictures, sculptures and ornaments for the Hall (221/1). There are lists of pictures purchased for the Earl at various sales and auctions in London. These included works by Veronese, Old Griffier, Lely, Alberti, Baptista, Panini, Agnese, Horizonti, Vandervelde, and Hans Hyssing. In the 1740s the rising English portrait painter Arthur Pond painted full length portraits of the



*Fig. 3. Chromolithograph of the new Exton Hall
(Rutland County Museum).*



*Fig. 4. A view of the beautified park and lake in 1749 showing the pond house and "cascades"
(copyright British Library; reproduced in Victoria County History of Rutland II, frontispiece).*



Fig. 5. Stepping stones and a waterside walk in the grounds of Exton Park (Rutland County Museum).



Fig. 6. A pleasure party at Fort Henry on 11th August 1898 (Stamford Museum/Rutland County Museum).

Countess of Gainsborough and Lord Campden. The well known craftsman Sefferin Alken was employed to carve picture frames and chimney pieces both for Exton and for the family house in London. Etchings were bought from Joseph Goupy and sculptures were purchased from Peter Scheemakers. Plaster busts of Newton and Handel by the famous sculptor Louis F Roubiliac were also bought for Exton Hall. The estate accounts can obviously tell us much about decorating and furnishing the house and about the development of the gardens and park at Exton. The vouchers or receipted bills are full of information on all manner of "repairs". In 1765, for instance, a "new room", to be used as a billiard room, was added and the "green stucco paper" ordered from London at this time was probably intended for this room (212/6).

The house that was furnished in this fashion was not the present Exton Hall but the Old Hall, which was seriously and fatally damaged in a fire which broke out in May 1810 (237/1). While the house was not completely destroyed, it was never rebuilt and over the years mellowed into a picturesque ruin adorning the grounds of the new Hall (fig. 2). Shortly after the fire Charles Noel Noel wrote to his father about "the accident which has befallen the old Chateau", enquiring whether the picture of "Old Tom Noel" had been saved (212/16). It so happened that at the time of the fire Sir Gerard Noel Noel was in the process of having the family pictures at Exton and Ketton cleaned and repaired. Thomas Hill's bill for this work includes a later section of repairs to pictures "in consequence of the fire". Pictures "superficially cleaned and taking out bruises etc" included one of Lord Moira. Seven "heads" by Cornelius Janson were also repaired and varnished, as was Sir Peter Lely's picture of Lady Berkeley. Tom Noel's picture, it seems, was not affected by the fire, though it was cleaned. The fire repair work came to £47 5s 6d out of a total cleaning and repair bill of £886 13s 9d (351/7).

The new Hall was begun by the architect John Linnell Bond in 1811 (499/45) but the present building (fig. 3) dates principally from 1851-53, the work of the architect Henry Roberts (Pevsner & Williamson 1984, 469-70). Roberts was a close friend and associate of the Earl's younger brother, the Rev Baptist Wriothlesley Noel, a leading evangelical and one of the founders of the Evangelical Alliance in 1846. Roberts was undoubtedly influenced by Noel's evangelical aims and enthusiasms and through him and other Noel family connections secured many commissions, including the extensions at Exton (Curl 1983, 16-26, 47-8). Interestingly enough, while the Earl of Gainsborough moved to embrace Rome at this time, his brother moved in quite the opposite direction, becoming a Baptist minister of radical and outspoken opinion.

Just as the country house signified a family's

status and authority, "so the setting in which the house was viewed, the surrounding parkland and gardens, emphasised the power and prestige of the landowner" (Beckett 1986, 9). While the Noels do not appear to have employed any of the great eighteenth century landscape gardeners like Capability Brown or Humphrey Repton, they went ahead in a more modest fashion of their own to create a park and garden befitting their status as a great county family. The house was set in carefully planned and lovingly tended gardens among parkland well stocked with deer, just as a nobleman's park should be. In 1760 Lord Gainsborough's accounts record the payment of four guineas to "Lord Fitzwilliam's gardener for a brace of deer to improve the breed in the Park" (211/1), and in 1776 the Park Keeper was sent to Newstead Abbey "to view some deer" (440/1). Stocking the park and providing for the deer could be expensive. The following year the auditor of the Earl's estate accounts comments that the building of a Deer Shed and Lodge "make these payments so unusually large" (215/3). There are numerous bills for providing hay for the deer and for "knocking down haws" and "browze" for the deer to eat (214/17).

In the 1750s and 60s we also find many references to making "cascades" in the grounds (281/1, 280/16), and at this period too there was much work on the pond in the Park. As can be seen from an engraving of the late 1740s (fig. 4) this was an especial feature, and there is much information on the beautification of the Park (fig. 5). In 1741 George Portwood of Stamford, a well known master mason, was employed to build a boat house at the Pond in the Park (362/8), and there are regular bills over the years for repairs to this and for the purchase of boats and tackle (85/7). In 1761 Lord Gainsborough paid for a boat to be brought from London to Stamford via Spalding (211/1), in 1778 a gunning boat was bought (216/14), and freight was paid for bringing a new boat from Peterborough to Wansford (220/14). In the 1780s tench were purchased, presumably to stock the pond (217/14), and in 1781 there is a bill for the carriage of a turtle from London to Exton (446/14). Whether this was for the Park Pond or the soup tureen, however, is not clear!

By the 1780s the old boat house at the pond had become, if not dilapidated, at least not grand enough for its owner. At this point Lord Gainsborough engaged the local architect William Legg of Stamford to build him a new pond house in the gothic style (Colvin 1995, 607). This was what came to be known as Fort Henry, an "arched and pinnacled lakeside pleasure house" (Casson 1963, 81). Legg's day book and building vouchers provide detailed information on its construction and decoration (Clark 1993, 120). Fort Henry, actually in Horn parish, became a firm favourite with the family for picnics and parties and local celebrations (fig. 6), as we

shall see. William Legg was also responsible for the gothic dovecote and arcaded cowhouse built in the park in 1792-3 (127/1, 439/2 & 6, 218/13) and for alterations and improvements for Sir Gerard Noel Noel at the Hall and at the Falcon Inn in Uppingham, which the family also owned. Half a century or so later another rustic building was constructed a little way up the bank above Fort Henry. In a report on the wedding of Lady Louisa Noel from the *Chronicle* for 21st August 1846 there is a reference to "the fairy temple now in the course of erection" (457/4). This was the "Bark Temple", so called because it was constructed of wood and covered with bark and moss. Drawings for this edifice were also located among the Exton papers (fig. 7).

The gardens of Exton Hall were developed with an equal degree of interest and enthusiasm. As a later writer tells us, "a love of nature appears to have been the heritage of generations of the Noels of Exton". Lady Elizabeth Noel (1731-1801) was "a botanist of some distinction" and an able botanical artist who contributed to Sir J E Smith's *English Botany*. Her younger brother Henry, 6th Earl of Gainsborough, also exhibited a particular interest in plants and had developed a special botanic garden by the 1790s. He gathered specimens, formed a herbarium and exchanged botanical information. In 1788 he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Linnaean Society (Horwood & Noel, cclxxii-iii). His botanic notebook, probably dating from the 1780s, lists plants for the garden and where they are planted (351/5). Between them Lady Elizabeth Noel and Lord Gainsborough did much to beautify the garden and the park. Between 1764 and 1768 there are many bills concerning the building of a hothouse in the garden - in 1768, for instance, for stucco work at the greenhouse (212/1, 213/1). In 1765 Lord Gainsborough bought 300 pots from Nottingham especially for the hot-house (212/17). There are also bills for the purchase of plants and seeds for the gardens, and tradesmen used included the well known London firm of seedsmen, Hewitt & Smith of Brompton. The Hewitts adopted the method of personal travelling as a means of obtaining large orders from many great estates. Perhaps they visited Exton to secure Lord Gainsborough's custom. In 1771 pineapple plants were bought from them for the hothouse, as well as trees and bushes for the garden like Cedar of Lebanon, Arbutus, Balm of Gilead, almond, peach, pear and pomegranate trees and weeping willows (214/7). Lord Gainsborough also used a more local firm of seedsmen, Jacob & Garrett Ordoyno of Newark. In 1781 he purchased various conifers from them for a new nursery at Hughes Bridge in the Park and also something called a "tooth ach tree" (362/16), almost certainly a North American species such as *Xanthoxylon fraxineum* or *Aralia spinosa*.

Thus Exton Hall, set in opulent gardens and parkland, reflected the status and influence of its family,

the Noels, Earls of Gainsborough. But Exton was not just their home: it was an important local focus too. The country houses of the great families "were not merely homes, they were also centres of consumption and employment, of entertainment and community cohesion" (Beckett 1986, 9). From the household accounts we can see the range of goods and services supplied to the house by local tradesmen and craftsmen. There are bills from all manner of men for all manner of things. Immediate and straightforward requirements were provided in the village, more specialised goods and services were acquired from further afield, generally from the market towns of Oakham and Uppingham or the larger nearby centre of Stamford. The 1809 bill of William Newbold for tailor's work for Sir Gerard Noel Noel is revealing in other ways too (78/1). As well as making garments for Sir Gerard's numerous offspring - mostly breeches and trousers for the sons, for instance - the bulk of the bill seems to be for mending the servants' livery and work clothes which came in varying degrees of splendour. There are velveteen breeches, a riding jacket, box coat and a silk striped waistcoat for the coachman, and livery coats and scarlet waistcoats for the postillion and other servants. Sir Gerard always had a keen appreciation of the necessary outward display of family wealth and status. William Newbold's family all contributed to their father's tailoring business - Newbold records payments for work not just by himself but by his daughter and son as well.

This bill shows us how the great family provided both business and employment in the locality. Not only were William Newbold and his family in work through the provision of tailoring services to the Noels, but other local men and women were also employed as servants at the Hall, often finely attired in livery or special work clothing. Local people also worked as labourers on and around the estate. Building work and repairs at the Hall itself required carpenters, painters, thatchers and slaters. The stables needed stable lads, grooms and blacksmiths, the home farm needed all kinds of agricultural labourers, the Park and gardens required gardeners, hedgers, ditchers, general labourers and gamekeepers, the plantations needed woodmen and sawyers. A page from a wages book lists servants employed at the Hall 1751-67 and the wages they were paid (81/2). For example, William Tyler the shepherd was paid £8 in 1751. Over a century later the Monthly Report of Exton Hall Labourers' Work in September 1881 shows in detail the kind of work done and how much the workers were paid (193/14). Robert Buckle, for instance, must have been a specialist stable hand, for he worked the whole month in the stables and was paid £3 15s 10d. On the other hand, the time that William Senescall worked in September was divided between binding, stooking and stacking corn at Home Farm and at

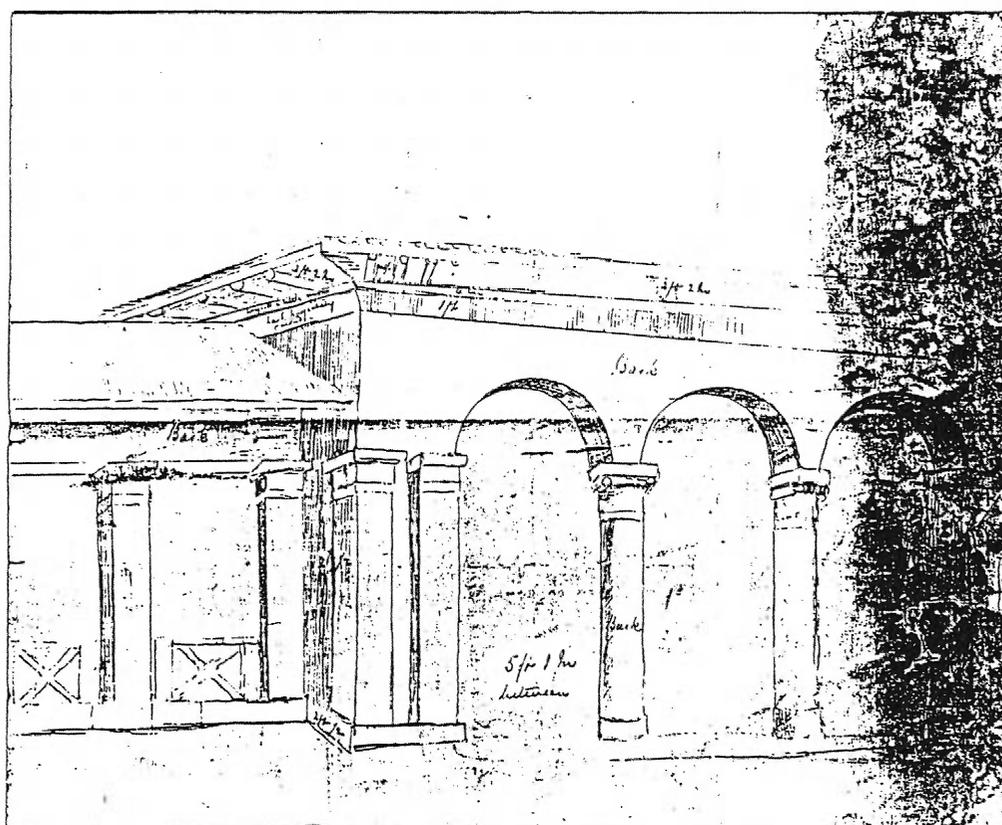
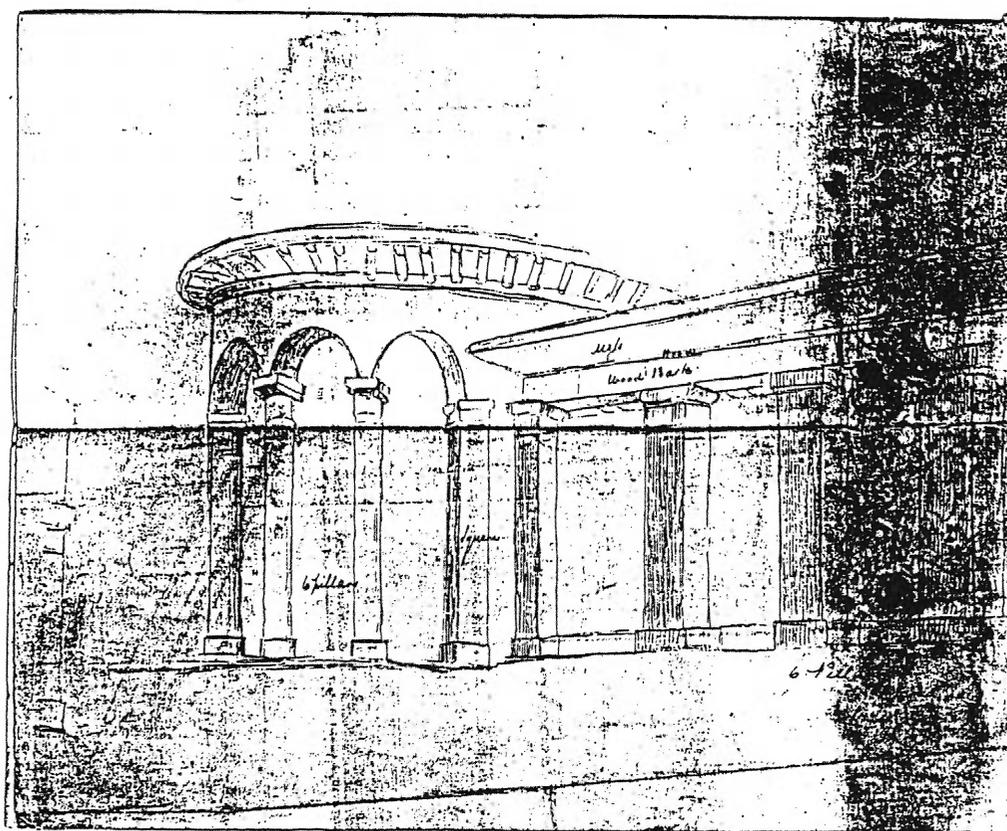


Fig. 7. Sketches for the rustic Bark Temple in Exton Park, c.1840s
(Leicestershire Record Office DE 3214/306/7).

The large Shew of

STOCK,

AND

Ploughing Match

At Exton,

Is post-poned until the 11th day of March, 1812,

When the Premiums already advertised will be given;

And in order still further to promote emulation in

Breeders of Stock,

Colonel Noel,

Proposes the following Premiums to be given at a Shew of

Stock, at Exton, on Tuesday October 22d.

	£	s	d
FOR the best Bull of some distinct breed, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best Cow ditto, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best Ox ditto, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five long-wooled Ewes, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five two-shear Wethers, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five shearling Wethers, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five wether Lambs, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five South-down Ewes, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five South-down two-shear Wethers, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five South-down shearling Wethers, - - - -	2	2	0
For the best pen of five wether Lambs,	2	2	0
For the best pen of five Marino Ewes,	2	2	0
For the best pen of five Marino two-shear Wethers,	2	2	0
For the best pen of five Marino shearling Wethers,	2	2	0
For the best pen of five wether Lambs,	2	2	0
For the best Boar,	1	1	0
For the best Sow,	1	1	0
For the best fat Pig,	1	1	0
For the best new invented Implement in Husbandry,	1	1	0
For the best conducted Experiment, or Essay on Husbandry,	1	1	0

EXTON, October 14th, 1811.

JOHN SNODIN, PRINTER U.KHAM.

Fig. 8. Poster for a Ploughing Match and Stock Show at Exton in 1812 (Leicestershire Record Office, DE 3214/351/2).

Exbrook, Grange and Hall Farms, general carting work at the Hall and gardens, and two days' labour at the gas works. The rate he was paid for each part of this work is carefully recorded: by the end of the month he had earned altogether £3 10s 0d.

The efficient organisation of such a labour force and the management of the family's lands, not just in Rutland and Leicestershire but in Gloucestershire, Kent and London too, depended largely on the energy and acumen of the family's steward or land agent. The agent was "the pulse the owner could feel in order to discover the health of his estates and tenants" (Beckett 1986, 143). He was responsible for the house and park, the home farm, satellite farms and woodlands, and relationships with tenants. He let farms, collected rents, surveyed the estate, authorised estate repairs and expenditure and kept the accounts. He was invariably involved in the wider role of the family in the community - acting as an electoral agent or representing family interests in local schemes of improvement like turnpike roads and canals (Spring 1963).

While the landowner might well be interested in agricultural improvement - and Sir Gerard Noel certainly was (fig. 8) - it was often his agent who was an active agricultural innovator in his own right. The longest serving agent of the Noels in the nineteenth century was Richard Westbrook Baker of Cottesmore, who served them for nearly forty years. He was well known in the county and beyond as an agricultural innovator and philanthropist, and evidence of this survives in abundance among the Exton papers. It was Baker who instituted the Rutland Ploughing Meeting and invented the Rutland Plough. He was a renowned stock breeder, winning prizes at Smithfield for his champion shorthorn cattle (81/5). On Sir Gerard Noel's estates in Rutland he set up a scheme - the Small Allotment System - to encourage village labourers in economic, efficient and successful cultivation (85/10), and he was intimately involved in the formation of both the Rutland Agricultural Society (Clough 1981, 70-7; 190/6) and the Rutland General Friendly Institution (190/11). So highly was he regarded locally that a special subscription was raised and he was presented with a collection of silver plate, some of which is now in the Rutland County Museum (White 1846, 610). After Baker's death in 1861 the Earl of Gainsborough's half brother, the Hon Henry Lewis Noel acted for a time as his agent and exercised a close care over all aspects of estate management. Even before Baker's death Henry Noel was acting in a supervisory capacity for his brother. It seems he visited many local tenants and made careful notes on the state of their farms and their fortunes and abilities as tenants (361/9-21). One especially sad case he recorded concerned Sharpe Barfoot, who held a farm of Lord Gainsborough at Langham, and who committed suicide in 1850. Though Barfoot had

had a substantial inheritance it seems to have been quickly dissipated, the farm had gone downhill, and the man's wife and daughters dying of the fever a couple of years previously had completed his decline.

Great landowners like the Noels were also often involved in local schemes of improvement in communications, which were likely to bear much on their own interests. Sir Gerard Noel Noel, for instance, was involved in the Oakham to Stamford canal project. He was a substantial share holder in both the Oakham Navigation and the later Stamford Junction Navigation (219/14, 15/16) and in later years his agent, Baker, was an assiduous member of the Committee (Tew 1984, 10-11, 19-21, 41-3). The family papers include a MS copy of Robert Whitworth's 1786 proposals (ultimately rejected) for the original Melton to Oakham project (285/1), as well as a draft signed by Thomas Telford himself, of the engineer's report to the Committee of Proprietors of the Oakham Canal on its condition in 1810 (285/2). Telford travelled twice along the length of the canal to examine locks, bridges, aqueducts and culverts, the general situation of the canal and the supply of water to it. To calculate depths he had to rely on previous plans and the knowledge and experience of the lock-keeper and another person employed on the original construction as ice prevented him from using a boat to take soundings. He reported favourably on the quality of the original canal work, recommended repairs and improvements for which he gave an estimate of £6,855, and calculated that the work might "be executed in the course of two Seasons without interfering with the trade".

The country house was a vital ingredient in the social cohesion of the community, for what went on in and around it touched the lives and interests of all members of the local community. Not only were many villagers dependent upon it for their livelihoods, they naturally looked to the family and the big house for leadership, protection, entertainment and social support. Events at the big house came to involve, directly or indirectly, the whole community. Family events like births, birthdays, weddings, funerals and comings of age were the concern of all, just as the celebration of public events like coronations or royal birthdays, annual ritual occasions like harvest suppers, or local sporting events like the hunt or the cricket match reached out to embrace the whole community.

To celebrate a birth or a birthday or a marriage at the big house the family might provide ale or a supper or a dance for villagers. Fort Henry and later the Bark Temple provided an ideal setting for such *fêtes champêtres*. When Lady Louisa Noel married Andrew Agnew in August 1846 the celebrations included a lavish dinner by the lake near Fort Henry for the Earl of Gainsborough's tenantry (about 250 persons) on the day before the wedding, a repast of



*Fig. 9. The elaborate procession for a family funeral
(Rutland County Museum).*

roast beef and plum pudding and ale for the estate labourers on the afternoon of the wedding, and tea for the schoolchildren at the Coach House on the day after the wedding (457/4, 306/7). The other side of the coin was that the local community was expected to make the right gestures in return. When Viscount Campden celebrated his 21st birthday in 1871, tenants and villagers subscribed to a piece of plate to be presented to him and the subscription list was printed so all could see who had contributed (619/6). In 1882 when the new Earl and Countess of Gainsborough entered the county for the first time after succeeding to the title, they were presented with a loyal address by the tenantry (324/1). Villagers would turn out in force for public spectacles involving the family, not just for weddings but for funerals too (fig. 9). Family funerals were especially important as it was not just the immediate village community who were involved, but other local gentry too and even notables from outside the county (Clark 1993, 120-1; 67/3, 220/9).

In a similar way public events were also celebrated by family and local community together. The Exton estate vouchers for 1814 include bills for providing ale at "the Prince of Wales passing through Whitwell" and for a dance in his honour (70/2, 69/5). A few years later the birthday of the Prince of Wales was celebrated by Sir Gerard Noel Noel throwing a huge party at Fort Henry for local people. A scrap of paper in Sir Gerard's own handwriting records a

"festival of beer and bread and cheese given away at the Boat House ... to 1000 persons" (292/1). Similarly it was customary for tenants to partake of their landlord's hospitality on other local or ritual occasions. The harvest supper was one such event and the provision of tenants' dinners at rent day or on special occasions was, as we have already seen, regularly recorded in the estate bills (281/6).

Sporting events could also involve both family and local community together. Cricket matches, for instance, were played on the ground at Exton Park from the latter part of the eighteenth century (304/41). In the summer of 1772 Lady Jane Edwards wrote to her son Gerard at Eton: "the servants will by practising cricket, get the ground in order for you. This being Exton Feast, a great match is to be played on the horse course in Exton Park tomorrow ... it was at first intended that my brother [Lord Gainsborough] should attack the townspeople of Exton, but it is now settled for them to play promiscuously, servants and townspeople mixed on both sides, as my brother could not muster up eleven fit to play" (Noel 1910, 81).

It was the hunt, however, that was the most spectacular communal occasion. Those locals who had horses could ride to follow it, while many others might follow on foot. There was no legal bar, as there was with shooting, to lesser folk taking part. At Exton, of course, fox hunting was a way of life. In the second half of the eighteenth century the pack

run by Tom Noel and the Earl of Gainsborough was renowned and from it originated the Cottesmore Hunt (Simpson 1926, 151-69). The Exton MSS include bills for the expenses of running a pack of hounds and stable of hunters over many years (113/2-3). It was an expensive business. As far as can be judged from surviving vouchers, the cost of keeping the hounds in 1777-78 was getting on for £1000 a year. Oatmeal was bought in to feed the hounds from Burley, Whitwell, Barleythorpe, Market Overton, Cottesmore, Barrow and Greetham, and something like 300 carcasses of horse flesh were needed to feed them too (362/20). The stables employed huntsmen, stablemen, grooms and labourers. In 1777 Catherine Toon was paid 8s 6d for milking the cow for the young hounds for 17 weeks. Other costs included spaying the bitches and cutting the hounds, drugs for hounds and horses, payments to the smith and the saddler and to men for stopping earths in Exton, Empingham, Pickworth, Tilton, Owston Woods, the "Dukes Park", and other places (446/14). There were numerous payments to local people whose sheep had been worried by the hounds or who had caught and brought back hounds that had strayed (fig. 10). A batch of later foxhound bills for 1783 record the expenses of a trip to "Frieston shore" on the Lincolnshire coast with several lame hounds to take advantage of the beneficial effects of sea bathing (187/5). The local seaside economy obviously did well out of such visits judging by this entry: "Paid for liquors and ale the time we was there having occasion for 6 people beside our selves to assist in bathing hounds - £8 0s 0d".

Lord Gainsborough eventually relinquished the hounds in 1788. In a letter to his nephew Gerard Noel Edwards (later Noel) he explains, "I thought you had perfectly known that if the Prince of Wales declined, which he did in a very polite message, they were to go to the hammer and whoever bought them was to have the country. In short the hounds and country were to go with each other. That event has now taken place and Sir William [Lowther] has bought them at 1020 guineas" (492/92).

The social role of the family in the local community, in binding it together, extended further than the provision of hospitality or entertainment.

Arthur Abbey's bill to the use of Gainsborough
 2nd June 1784th p^d Mimmington Newston for the flesh of horse
 5th gave to a hupers scort from G. life forest for } 2:1:6
 2nd Brace of Cottes sent to W. Cott by L. Nutwood } 5:4:0
 22nd p^d Mr. Robison Ashwells for a horse flesh } 0:7:6
 p^d Mr. Mayworth Assisted for him ordering & getting
 the riding to be cut in the Little woods } 4:1:0
 2nd June p^d the tolls bar man at Burling for
 horses going thro on L. Gainsborough's business } 4:2:0
 29th Dec^r p^d for the Hound Darling lost & brot }
 from Haled the man said he bought: Bredly mead for her } 4:1:0
 19th Nov^r p^d for the same Bitch lost & brot from }
 Mr. Mayrills at Langton it being very sorry } 0:7:6
 weather the man being out two days }
 p^d for a hound lost from L. & brot from firs side } 2:1:0
 8th March 1785 p^d: Expence of W^m Hather going } 2:1:6
 to Deeping & Peatrick to seek for horse flesh }
 14th April p^d John Jackson Ashwells for the flesh of } 0:7:6
 a large horse bringing it whole }
 19th p^d Mr. Mayrillion for the flesh of a } 0:7:0
 large horse }
 £ 2:15:6

19 April 1785
 This bill was paid to Arthur
 Abbey by
 Winnes my hand
 James Abbey

Fig. 10. A bill from Arthur Abbey for foxhounds' expenses 1785 (Leicestershire Record Office DE 3214/113/3).

The family at the big house saw that it had a social duty to the local community and its welfare in the spheres of religion, education and charitable benefaction. Churches in the villages on the estate had to be kept in repair, and the estate bills record slating, glazing and general repairs throughout the later eighteenth century (207/16). In 1779 the Earl of Gainsborough made a donation of 30 guineas to repair the middle aisle of Cottesmore church "damaged by a very high wind" (487/5). In 1843 Exton church was damaged by lightning, and subsequently the tower and spire were virtually rebuilt.

A few years later there was major restoration and rebuilding and it was the Earl of Gainsborough who was the prime mover and principal contributor to the repair fund (86/6). Repairs to Exton school and the granting of leases and funds for other village schools are well documented. In 1860 Lord Gainsborough granted a lease to the Rev the Hon Leland Noel of "the Boys School House" in Exton and school premises at Whitwell, Cottesmore, Langham and Pickwell "for the instruction of pupils of the Protestant religion" (122/19). After the conversion of the Earl of Gainsborough to Catholicism in 1850, the family had also provided a Catholic school in Exton and accounts for this have survived among the family papers (145/28).

Charitable giving had long been a duty and responsibility of the family at the big house. The benefaction of Lady Anne Harington, one of the forebears of the Noels, made in 1616 to the poor of Exton and neighbouring villages, was administered through the estate. An account book for Exton meticulously records the names of recipients and special reasons for payments, like that in 1648 when Anthony Miller received 15s 0d "in regard his house was visited with the small pox", John Ward £1 0s 0d "in regard of his wife's blindness", John Clark £1 0s 0d "towards his house building" and William Richardson, "in prison", 10s 0d (80/1). Later involvement in local charities by the Noels included the setting up of the St Martin's Clothing Club in the 1870s, whereby villagers saved small sums which could later be spent on goods from Furley & Hassan in Oakham (118/78). Broth and milk tickets were issued through the estate office at about the same time and a coal club was also functioning by the 1880s (109/1). Regular donations to specific charities or for specific purposes, both local and national, were made. In 1850, for example, the Earl of Gainsborough gave a donation towards Daniel and Arnold Buckle's expenses in emigrating to Australia, and the following year he again gave money to assist five villagers to go to America (85/12, 520/3).

The informal dispensing of pennies or shillings here and there to the needy or deserving as occasion warranted is also recorded among the Noels' papers and bills. An example of this found in one of Lord Gainsborough's bills for 1793-4 is particularly interesting for the light it sheds on local tradition and custom (fig. 12). The bill records expenses paid out by Lord Gainsborough's man Stephen Messing in the winter of 1793-4 and is full of information on the Earl's attitudes and tastes, relationships in the village, and local custom and tradition. The first item, for 26th December, Boxing Day, is for nineteen Christmas boxes, the traditional gifts, usually cash, handed out by local worthies to the tradesmen and others who had supplied them with goods and services throughout the year. From Lord Gainsborough they got half a crown apiece. On the same

day he gave a guinea to the "church singers". Was this after a Christmas service in the church at Exton or did the church choir come and sing carols at the Hall door or the Chapel or in the Hall itself? A later item relates to Valentine's Day when Lord Gainsborough gave 2s 6d to the children. It is not clear whether these were village children or his great nephews and nieces, the family of his nephew and heir, Gerard Noel Edwards.

Another entry relates to an ancient country custom which was especially strong in Rutland and Leicestershire. Plough Monday was the first Monday after Epiphany (6th January), so called because it was the first day after Christmas that ploughing was undertaken again (Cherry 1903-4, 195-9). Half a crown was given by Lord Gainsborough "to the witches on Plough Monday". It was the custom for the ploughboys to dress up and blacken their faces with soot. Some, the "plough bullocks", would pull the plough and three or four others, known as the "plough witches", dressed in white women's dresses and tall hats, would go from door to door collecting money and playing tricks on those who were reluctant to pay up. Sometimes they danced. In some places a play was performed (Palmer 1985, 86-90). John Clare the poet, who had strong Rutland connections and married a Great Casterton girl, wrote about the custom in 1825, telling us that at the end of the day "the bullocks and witches meet together in a sociable party ... buying their supper of cake and ale" (Palmer 1985, 88). The tradition was still going strong in Rutland more than a hundred years after Lord Gainsborough paid up. A photograph of the Plough Monday gang from Greetham in about 1900, dressed up in all their grotesque finery, is reproduced in the first volume of *The Villages of Rutland* (fig. 11).

The family's own social life and cultural activities were also important in the wider community for the maintenance of its prestige and credibility. The entertainment of friends and social equals, the patronage of music and the arts, the pursuit of fashionable interests and ideas, and the exercise of "taste", displayed to the local community the family's own social prominence and distinction and reinforced their natural claim to authority. The literary and scientific tastes of members of the Noel family in the eighteenth century can be discerned from bills for the purchase and binding of books. Lord Gainsborough's bill from his Stamford bookseller for 1748-49 lists works by Molière, Defoe, Dryden, Pope, Steele, Holinshed, Isaac Walton's *Compleat Angler*, and Fielding's *Tom Jones* (351/34). A later bookbinder's bill for Henry, 6th Earl of Gainsborough, in 1786-89 reflects the interest in botany which we have already noted in the building of the hothouse. Among the botanical works, for example, was Pulteney's *Botany*. Richard Pulteney was almost a local man for he was born in

Loughborough, and worked as a surgeon and apothecary in Leicester. Lord Gainsborough also had books by Linnaeus, John Evelyn's *Sylva*, John Latham's *Synopsis of Birds*, Benjamin Franklin's *Electricity*, Berenger's *Horsemanship*, and many other works (218/5). The taste of Lord Gainsborough's heir, Gerard Noel Noel, seems to have run more to the historical and antiquarian, for he welcomed the

Quiet & Retirement". On that occasion a performance of "Comus" took place in the gardens at Exton and the masque was followed by a great firework display. It was performed again when Handel visited in August 1748 in a "theatre" in the garden where raised benches had been set up. Lord Gainsborough was Comus; his brother James also took part, as did the Earl's three young daughters



Fig. 11. *The Greetham Plough Monday gang c.1900 (A R Traylen; reproduced in The Villages of Rutland I).*

historian Thomas Blore to Exton to work on the family papers and when the first part of Blore's *History and Antiquities of ... Rutland* was published in 1811 it was dedicated to him. Blore acknowledged that he was not only indebted to Gerard Noel Noel for "the manly and ingenuous confidence with which he has indulged me in a fine inspection of all his charters and evidences" but also for "a patronage to this work which has not merely been liberal but absolutely unlimited" (43/2).

We have already seen how Baptist, 4th Earl of Gainsborough, for instance, was a keen purchaser of pictures, sculptures and furnishings by contemporary artists and craftsmen as well as "old masters". He was also much interested in music as London bills for the purchase of sheet music by Corelli and Handel in particular confirm (67/3). In addition, the same Stamford bookseller's bill for 1748-49 which we have just considered, includes numerous references to binding scores: "binding Handel's Joshua ... binding Israel in Egypt ... binding 11 music books ...". It is known that Handel visited Exton in the summer of 1745 and again in 1748 (Matthews 1959, 261-8, 406-7). James Noel, Lord Gainsborough's brother, wrote to his brother-in-law Lord Shaftesbury in June 1745 that Handel was at Exton "for

Elizabeth, Jane and Juliana, and his son and heir Viscount Campden was "a little Bacchanal".

Among the Exton estate vouchers for 1749 is a carpenter's bill for making a stage in the hall and also for making "scenes" for the hall and gardens (362/5). It is tempting to think that perhaps the scenes mentioned had been made for the performance of "Comus" in Exton gardens in the summer of 1748. Summer concerts at Exton seem to have taken place regularly at this time. A single sheet of paper recently found among the Exton MSS chronicles musical events over a week in August and September 1750 (492/2). On Tuesday when the unknown writer arrived he records: "that evening went in to the park. Had music as you passed by in three different trees. Returned and had a concert by the whole Band". The next day there was a concert after breakfast and "Alexander's Feast" in the evening. On the next three days the oratorio "Sampson" was performed. On Saturday "in the evening the gentlemen bowled till dark and then a concert of music till 9 o'clock. Supped and went in to the garden which was illuminated and fire works displayed till past 12 o'clock". On Sunday there was to be "the Queen's Funeral Anthem and other proper music in the chapel". This was the Anthem for the Funeral of Queen Caroline

Earl of Gainsborough

1792.

To Mr. Mufson?

	L.	S.	D.
Dec: 26. To 19 Christmas Boxes at 2/6 each.....	2	17	6
To the Church Singers.....	1	1	"
1794. To a Militia Man going to Dover.....	"	5	"
To the Witches on Plough Monday.....	"	2	6
To a Man who came after the Posters place.....	1	1	"
Feb 11. To the Children on Valentine Day.....	"	2	6
To a Girl finding the point off the stick.....	"	1	"
To Edw. Barnhead for Sunday jobs &c.....	"	5	"
To Revator Water as P ^r Bill.....	2	2	"
To carriage of D ^r as by Bill.....	1	5	"
To Mr. Timpton making Prints &c as by Bill.....	4	4	6
To W. Lowenmarking Paper as by Bill.....	"	5	6
	<hr/>		
	L	13	2 6

April 18. 1794.

This Account Settled by allow.

Mr. Mufson

18-2-6

Fig. 12. A bill listing payments made on Lord Gainsborough's behalf, including one of 2/6 to the witches on Plough Monday 1794 (Leicestershire Record Office, DE 3214/352/5).

written by Handel in 1737. One London bill for Handel's music, receipted by Christopher Smith, Handel's amanuensis, includes "12 printed books of Sampson" purchased only a fortnight before these summer performances at Exton and possibly expressly for them (67/3). Lord Gainsborough's country bills for the same time also provide information on Exton's musical season, for they include payments for concert playing and bellringing (351/34).

The period of the 1730s-40s was a time of great family activity in the widest theatrical sense. As well as the performance of Handel's music by members of the family and their summer music festivals, the Noels obviously enjoyed putting on plays of all kinds. The bills for 1749-50 also include some for making curtains and costumes for plays (362/5). The costumes made included ones for Sir Toby Belch and Sir John Falstaff. In addition some member of the family tried his or her own hand at play writing. There survive among the family papers a MS play entitled "Amphitheatra or Majesty in Liquor" and its sequel "The Wedding of Weddings or Limberhambus Noos'd" (270/1). These are not great literary works, purely a bit of family fun, being of a rather rough and farcical nature. There are frequent local references thrown in. In "Amphitheatra" one of the characters declares to another: "Our realms would put too little in thy cup, thou wouldst drink Lincolnshire and Rutland up!" There is also a fragment of a play on foxhunting in the locality which seems to portray disputes over hunting country (351/14). A complete MS copy of this play, dated c.1745, belonging to Mr J Parry-Wingfield, is entitled "Cato in Boots - A Tragedy". The *Dramatis Personae* include Cato (Tom Noel), Sempronius, "a senator and hare hunter" (James Noel), Syphax, "formerly a fox hunter but now being of another opinion is at the head of a pack of Beagles" (Lord Gainsborough), Portius and Marcus, Cato's huntsman and whipper in (John and William Abbey), Lucius, "a senator and fox hunter" (Lord Sherrard Manners), and Decius (Lord Robert Manners).

The basis of the Noels' position, power and authority in the local community was, as we have said, the ownership of land and as great landowners they were, just like the other great county families, the natural governors of that community. They were foremost in the holding of local office, and principal in the parliamentary representation of Rutland. Thus they served as Lords Lieutenant, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace and Members of Parliament. Members of the family represented Rutland in parliament from the reign of Elizabeth to that of Victoria. Some of the Noels, notably Sir Gerard Noel Noel in the early nineteenth century, were also involved in parliamentary contests at Stamford (Thorne 1986, 255-8). Evidence of this involvement is found among the family papers in the form of poll books (322/2), correspondence, election bills (213/18, 69/5,

322/12), and papers concerning voter registration (38/16, 361/18). The Rutland elections of the 1840s are especially well covered.

There is early evidence of the work of a local justice in some surviving examinations of cases of witchcraft taken before Sir Andrew Noel and fellow JPs in January 1587 (172/14). One case concerned the death of George Cheselden who "languished away and died within 10 days" after being tapped on the shoulder in Uppingham Church by one John Lambert. The other case involved Agnes Allett who was accused by one woman of praying on her knees that "there might so many plagues and pestilences light upon this examinant and her household as there was grasses and dew drops upon Uppingham Brand". One of the examinations concerning Agnes Allett was taken before Sir Andrew Noel at his house at Brooke and is in Sir Andrew's own hand. The examinant, Richard Watson, describes how several years ago he was afflicted with "extreme aches and pains" that made it difficult to walk and how he struggled one night with a thing on his chest like "a great dog or cat" which eventually escaped through the window. When his wife woke he told her he had "had a witch in his arms if he could have held her". "Mother T" (alias Agnes Allett) was supposedly responsible for this too.

Sir Andrew was also one of the Commissioners for Recusancy appointed by the government in Rutland in 1592 and several papers relating to this task have also been found among the Exton MSS, including lists of recusants and examinations of some of them before the Commissioners (150/17-23, 172/9 and fig. 13). Prominent among those suspected for not coming to church were Mistress Anne Digby of Stoke Dry, and her daughters Ursula and Bridget. Anne Digby sent a letter to the Commissioners explaining they would not attend the enquiry as her daughters did go to church and she herself was "not able to go forth of my chamber". This was supported by a certificate from several worthies of Stoke Dry declaring that Anne Digby was "so weak that this twenty months to our knowledges she hath not comen out of her chamber but as she hath been carried in a chair". Other suspected recusants were Jane, wife of John Flower of Whitwell, and Thomazin Royden her "waiting gentlewoman", who admitted not going to church and said they would not, Elizabeth, wife of William Freeston of Ryhall who had already been indicted for non-attendance and "standeth outlawed thereupon", and Isabell, wife of Anthony Harrison of Leigh Lodge in Uppingham, keeper, who told them "her conscience will not suffer her" to go to church. Isabell Harrison was also questioned about mysterious visitors received by her husband, "a great book with red letters", a "Jesus psalter" and a "paper picture" he possessed. Rutland's best known recusant, John Lyon, butcher, of North Luffenham was also presented before Sir

Andrew Noel and his fellow commissioners in February 1592 for not attending his own church or any other for the past two years. Lyon was subsequently hanged, drawn and quartered at Oakham in 1599 (Rayner 1998, 348). Besides interrogating local people the Recusancy Commissioners were also charged with tracking down any seminaries who might be active in the area and Sir Andrew Noel and his colleagues were anxious to apprehend the Jesuits

It was stationed at Brighton 1794, St Albans 1795, Montrose 1796, Aberdeen 1797 and Perth 1798. It was finally disbanded in 1799. Some papers relating to the regiment survive in the family collection, including a muster roll for the Colonel's Troop for the autumn of 1798 when the regiment was stationed at Perth barracks (158/3). Its Colonel, by then known as Gerard Noel Noel, is noted down as absent with leave as he was a Member of Parliament,

Recusants in Rutland / Exton.

- 1 Elizabeth ffreston wife to William ffreston of Exton
- 2 Mr James Digby gentleman to
John Lyon Burgess of North Luffenham
- 3 Mrs Anne Digby
John Digby Esq
John Digby servant to John Digby
Digby no go commits not to go
of Stokelys
- 4 Jane fflower wife to John fflower of North Luffenham
- 5 Foyden late maide servant to Mrs Jane fflower to enquire how far road enlarged and how far road and how far begants for life

To enquire by all good means of how far begants from Exton and whether they be any more objects

Fig. 13. A list of Rutland recusants in 1592, including John Lyon of North Luffenham (Leicestershire Record Office DE 3214/150/17).

John Howlett and Henry Orton, "very lately come over the seas" and suspected of being harboured just over the border in Northamptonshire.

The Noels were also prominent in the local militia and volunteer regiments (Traylen 1978, 70-110; Stepler 1992, 67-70). As a young man Gerard Noel Edwards had first served with the Rutland Militia when it had been embodied in 1778-83. It was attached to the artillery, serving mostly in forts and batteries on the south east coast. The Rutland Militia was again called up in 1793 but before long Captain Edwards resigned his commission in order to raise his own regiment of volunteer cavalry. The Rutland Fencible Cavalry, which consisted of six troops of light dragoons, was raised by Gerard Noel Edwards on 25th March 1794 and included many local men.

and several men were on furlough. However, the troop was sixteen men short and in addition Private Thomas Russell was recorded as a deserter. In the following year we have also an account of the court martial at Perth of Trumpeter John Green of Lt Colonel Noel's troop, charged with drunkenness and neglect of duty. Green was found guilty of neglect of duty in "refusing to sound for Stable Duty" and was reduced to the ranks (295/4). While Gerard Noel Edwards had thrown himself into raising the regiment with typical flamboyant enthusiasm, he soon found it an expensive exercise. In 1794, only months after the regiment had been raised, he had written from Brighton where the Fencibles were quartered to his uncle the Earl of Gainsborough asking asking for a loan, for "my Regiment has cost me more than I

expected from the various incidentals of it ... my imprudence, misfortune, madness or what you please to term it of Catmose Lodge and the last grand folly of the Riding House ... makes this demand for money to be raised very necessary" (492/38). Detailed bills for the construction of the Riding House of the Rutland Fencibles in Oakham, now the Rutland County Museum, have also survived among the Exton papers (Clough 1995, 213-7). Not surprisingly, Colonel Edwards was unable to continue to support the Rutland Fencibles at his own expense but he did subsequently become involved in the local Rutland Volunteer Regiment. This also necessitated his digging into his purse, though nowhere near as deep as he had had to for the Fencibles. For the early years of the nineteenth century there are among his papers numerous local bills for the purchase and repair of military equipment - like repairing the guns of the Langham volunteers in 1803 or "to writing 6 tins for Infantry Waggons 96 Letters at 1d each" in 1804, not to mention ale and dinners and "treats" for the Volunteers. That held in Oakham in May 1809 provided for 206 men in five public houses at the not insignificant cost of £41 18s 0d (76/11).

The picture that we have drawn from the family papers of the Noels of Exton shows us how from the early seventeenth century the family consolidated itself at Exton, the centre of a considerable landed estate. There, the confidence of a rising county family was displayed by the extension and embellishment of their country house and the development of the surrounding gardens and parkland in the eighteenth century. The family's own social and cultural activities, as observed in the local community, served to emphasise and reinforce their social prominence and to underline their natural claim to authority. Thus Exton Hall itself was more than just the home of the Noels. It was the focus of the locality, providing employment, entertainment, social support, and leadership in every aspect of country life.

Acknowledgements

This article is based on a talk given to the Friends of the Rutland County Museum on 8th January 1998. I should like to thank Lady Campden for permitting me to publish this paper before the Exton MSS are generally available; Mr John Parry-Wingfield of Empingham for bringing to my attention his complete MS copy of the foxhunting play; and those who have provided the additional illustrations.

Primary Source

Leicestershire Record Office: Exton MSS (DE 3214).
References in parentheses are to documents in this series.

Bibliography

- Beckett, J V, *The Aristocracy in England 1660-1914* (Oxford 1986).
 Blore, T, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (Stamford 1811).
 Cantor, L, & Squires, A, *The Historic Parks and Gardens of Leicestershire and Rutland* (Newtown Linford 1997).
 Casson, H, *English Follies* (London 1963).
 Clark J, *Family Annals, Rutland Rec* 13 (1993) 118-24.
 Clough, T H McK, *The Formation of the Rutland Agricultural Society, Rutland Record* 2 (1981) 70-7.
 Clough, T H McK, *The Riding School of the Rutland Fencible Cavalry, Rutland Record* 15 (1995) 213-27.
 Colvin, H, *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840* (London 1995).
 Cook, O, *The English Country House* (London 1980).
 Curl, J S, *The Life and Works of Henry Roberts 1803-76* (Chichester 1983).
 Girouard, M, *Life in the English Country House* (New Haven 1978).
 Habakkuk, H J, *England*. In: A Goodwin, ed., *The European Nobility in the Eighteenth Century* (London 1967).
 Harris, J, *The Artist and the Country House* (London 1979).
 Horwood, A R, & Noel, C W F (Lord Gainsborough) (ed.), *The Flora of Leicestershire and Rutland* (Oxford 1933).
 Matthews, B, *Unpublished Letters concerning Handel, Music and Letters XL* (1959).
 Noel, E F, *Some Letters and Records of the Noel Family* (London 1910).
 Palmer, R, *The Folklore of Leicestershire and Rutland* (Wyndham 1985).
 Pevsner, N, & Williamson, E, *The Buildings of England: Leicestershire and Rutland* (2nd ed, London 1984).
 Pulteney, R, *Historical and Biographical Sketches of the Progress of Botany in England* (London 1790).
 Rayner, P, *The Oakham Gallows, Rutland Record* 18 (1998) 342-8.
 Rutland Local History Society, *The Villages of Rutland I* (Oakham 1979).
Rutland Magazine and County Historical Record.
 Simpson, C, *Leicestershire and its Hunts* (London 1926).
 Spring, D, *The English Landed Estate in the Nineteenth Century* (Baltimore 1963).
 Stepler, G A, *Britons, To Arms!* (Stroud 1992).
 Tew, D, *The Melton to Oakham Canal* (Wyndham 1984).
 Thorne, R G (ed.), *History of Parliament 1790-1820: House of Commons II, Constituencies* (London, 1986).
 Traylen, A, *The Services of Rutland* (Oakham 1978).
Victoria County History of Rutland II (1935).
 White, W, *Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland* (Sheffield 1846).
 Wright, J, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* (1684, republished Wakefield 1973).

Did Rutland save England's Bacon?

JO HARROP

A fourteenth century document has been discovered in the depths of the Public Record Office which provides valuable information about life in medieval Rutland as well as throwing a new light on England's success in the Hundred Years War.

An extremely interesting document came to light recently at the Public Record Office which does not appear to have received the attention due to it until now. The manuscript (E 101/584/2) is of course listed in the usual calendars, but what is not often realised is that these calendars only give the most basic details. It is probable that the original lister did no more than read the top line of any document to get a rough idea of what it was about. In this case the calendar entry dated from c.1347 and read: "Expenses, Oakham Castle". Several manuscripts are thus described, and most relate to repairs carried out to the fabric of the building. Not this one.

The document tells a fascinating tale and throws valuable light on Rutland's daily life in medieval times. An account prepared by the then sheriff, Thomas de Swyneford, it sets out the details of a purveyance order. These orders were made when the king or central government decided that the army needed provisioning, and sent out orders to various parts of the kingdom for the kind of supplies they could furnish. Some counties provided corn, others oats, some wool and some beef. The document under discussion shows that Rutland had been marked down for a hundred sides of bacon. This implies that there was a large investment in pigs in the county at that time and moreover that this was well known in London. The extensive woodlands which clothed the region would certainly have provided excellent feeding areas for herds of swine.

The hundred sides of bacon were obtained from different households throughout Rutland at a claimed cost of 4s each. Details on a small attached leaf (E 101/584/3) suggest that in fact 3s was the price agreed with the suppliers and that 110 sides were collected rather than 100. J R Maddicott, in *The English Peasantry and the Demands of the Crown* (Maddicott 1975, 55), advances the theory that local officials often seized the opportunities provided by purveyance orders to make private profit, and this seems borne out by the Rutland documents. There is, unfortunately, no way of being certain whether or not the local people were ever compensated for their losses. An official government price being agreed is not at all the same thing as actually receiving payment in hard coin.

The supplies were transferred to Oakham by cart, the whole collecting exercise taking four days and being charged at 15d a day. There is more than a

suggestion that the exercise was not looked upon with favour by local Rutlanders since a secure building had to be commandeered (at a cost of 2s) to store the foodstuffs whilst in the county town. After all, these were hard-won and vital family rations which were being removed so arbitrarily.

The bacon was then loaded on to four carts and taken to a place called "Jakesle" where it was loaded on to a boat and shipped to "Lenne" (modern King's Lynn). The time taken to reach "Jakesle" (one day each way) and the final destination on the east coast identify the embarkation point fairly conclusively as modern Yaxley, near Peterborough, and the river as the Nene. Interestingly, the return journey to and from Yaxley is claimed as 48 leagues. This matches pretty closely with today's mileage and is therefore support for F M Stenton's theory that the medieval league was roughly equivalent to the modern mile (Stenton 1936). Again the carts were charged at 15d a day each and the sheriff made sure to charge for the return journey as well ("two days, going and coming"), bringing the total cost of carting the bacon from Oakham to Yaxley to 10s. The charge for the journey from Yaxley to Lynn, however, a distance of 60 leagues, is only 5s. This may point to a marked difference in cost between transporting goods by road and by water in 14th century England and would accord with current theory on this topic; it could, on the other hand, indicate that a boat might only be hired for a one-way journey, its master being expected to pick up other freight at the coast for transport to the Midlands.

It is also of interest to note that the sheriff felt it necessary to send the bacon under guard all the way from Oakham to Lynn. His record notes the charge for "one man and his horse" for a total of 24 days at 12d a day, making a total of 24s. If therefore we deduct two days for the Oakham leg of the journey, both going and coming, and halve the remainder, it suggests that it took some 11 days for the boat to travel from Yaxley to Lynn, or possibly longer since it could reasonably be assumed that a lone horseman would make faster time on the return journey.

Apart from its local interest, which is considerable, the document has a wider relevance because, unusually, the specific historical circumstances under which the purveyance order took place and the precise final destination of the provisions can be identified.

In the winter of 1344, as part of the preliminary skirmishes of the Hundred Years War, a small advance party led by the Earl of Derby was sent across to Gascony to recapture the English crown's lost lands there. At first they were successful, but by the spring of 1345 John of Normandy was taking the

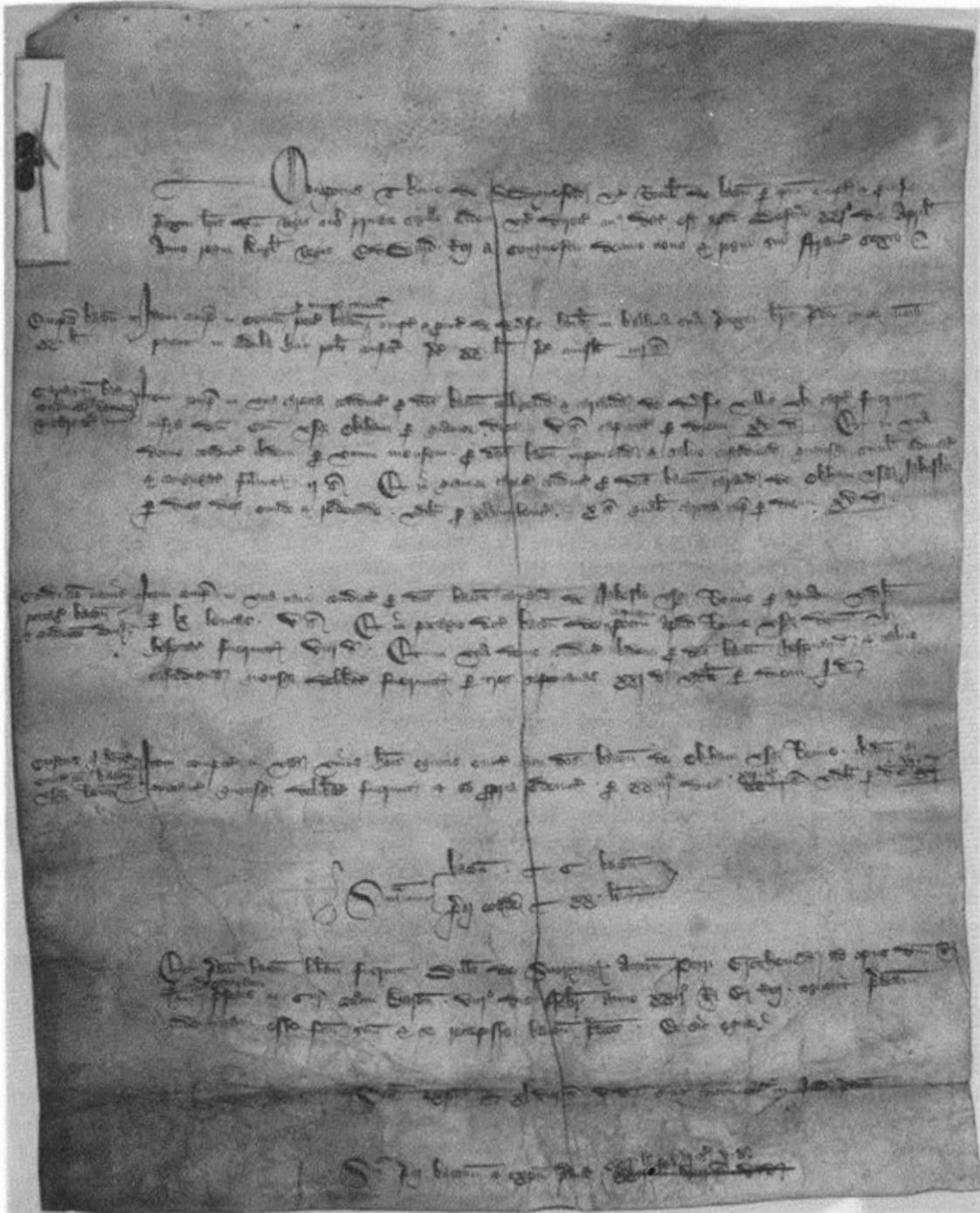


Fig. 1. The fourteenth century record of Rutland's contribution of bacon for the English army (PRO).

offensive and the English force had to retreat to the coast, in severe straits. An urgent appeal was sent back to England in April for aid and supplies (McKisack 1959, 132). The Rutland document refers specifically to the king's order made at Westminster in April 1345. There is thus little doubt that the Rutland bacon was intended for the Earl of Derby and his men, stranded in Gascony.

The "bacon bill" gives us a rare insight into some aspects of daily life in medieval Rutland. We learn the daily hire rate for a cart and for a boat, what a side of bacon fetched, and what an armed guard might expect to be paid (always bearing in mind that the Crown might have its own ideas about what

constituted a fair price). The time and money it took to travel by road can be compared with those by water. We also get a hint of how local people might have felt about bureaucracy seizing their domestic food supplies, since secure storage and armed guards were necessary throughout the operation.

Perhaps most interesting is the route chosen for the carriage of the bacon. One might well have expected the load to be transported to Stamford and thence taken by the Welland to Boston. It may be that the choice of Lynn as the collection point for stores for France dictated the route, but a short coastal journey from Boston to Lynn would have caused little difficulty. Perhaps the Welland was not easily navigable

at Stamford by the 14th century and Yaxley was the most reliable embarkation point. Or it could be that going via Stamford would be venturing into hostile territory where it would be less easy to enforce the king's rule on the highway. Whatever the reasons, it certainly places a hitherto undistinguished village in a more interesting light and suggests further research in Yaxley.

There is also scope for more research on the Rutland document itself. Time did not allow for detailed study of the second sheet, mentioned briefly above (E 101/584/3), which appeared to be the sheriff's own notes, listing those who (grudgingly or otherwise) handed over their winter stores to feed the king's army, in greater numbers and for less compensation than that claimed from the Exchequer. To identify these individuals and locate them, and their roaming herds of pigs, within the Rutland countryside, would contribute much to our knowledge of medieval farming practices in our county. It is hoped that others will continue the work introduced by this article.

It is pleasant to consider that there may well be those living in England's smallest county today who

can reasonably claim that their ancestors helped to win the Hundred Years War by sending the army out on a good breakfast. Perhaps the last line of Shakespeare's famous speech did not read "God for Harry, England and St George!" but actually ran "Thank God for Rutland bacon and St George".

Acknowledgements

The author acknowledges the kind permission of the Public Record Office to reproduce Document E 101/584/2 within this article. Sincere gratitude is also due to John Harrop of the University of Liverpool for assistance in deciphering the original manuscript.

References

- McKisack, M, *Oxford History of England 5: The Fourteenth Century* (1959).
 Madicott, J R, *The English Peasantry and the Demands of the Crown* (Past & Present supp I) (1975).
 Stenton, F M, The road system of medieval England, *Economic Hist Review* VII.1 (1936) 11-14.

Appendix - Transcript of PRO E 101/584/2

Compotus Thome de Swyneford vicecomitis Rotel' de baconis per ipsum emptis et provisus [2] pretextu previs domini Regis sub privato sigollo eidem vicecomiti directi cuius dat' est apud Westm' xxjo die Aprilis [3] anno regni Anglie Regis Edwardi tercij a Conquestu decimo nono et regni sui Francie sexto.

Empcio baconi xx. li.

[4] Idem computat in centum porcionibus bacon [per minus centum] emptis et provisus de diversis hominibus in balliva sua pretextu brevis predicti quorum nomina [5] patent in cedula huic rotula consuta. precij xx. li. precij cuiuslibet iiij s.

Cariagium baconi conduccio domorum et carectarum

[6] Item computat in una carecta conducta pro dictis baconis colligendis et cariandis de diversis villis ubi capti fuerunt [7] infra dictum Comitatum usque Okham per quatuor dies. v s. capitenti per diem xv d. Et in una [8] domo conducta ibidem per unum mensem pro dictis baconis imponendis et salvo custodiendis quousque simul adunati [9] et congregati fuerunt. ij s. et in quatuor carectis conductis pro dictis bacon cariendis de Okham usque Jakesle [10] per duos dies eundo et redeundo. vicelicet per xlviij leucas. x s. qualibet carecta cap(iente) per diem xv d.

Conduccio navis portagio baconi et conduccio domus.

[11] Item computat in una navi conducta pro dictis

baconis cariendis de Jakesle usque Lenne per aquam videlicet [12] per lx leucas. v s. Et in portagio dictorum baconorum de [...] apud Lenne usque domum ubi [13] hospitati fuerunt. viij d. Et in una domo conducta ibidem pro dictis baconis hospitandis et salvo [14] custodiendis quousque deliberati fuerunt per tres septimanas xxj d. videlicet per diem j d.

Custus j hominis euntis cum baconis usque Lenn'

[15] Item computat in vadiis unius hominis equitis euntis cum dictis baconis de Okham usque Lenne. ibidem que [16] morantis quousque deliberati fuerunt et ad propria redeuntis. per xxiiij or dies [xxiiij s.] xij. s. videlicet per diem [xij] vi. d.

[17] Summa bacon' C. baconi
 [18] precij eorundem xx li.

[19] Et predicti baconi liberati fuerunt Willelmo de Snoryng' attornato Petri Grethened' ad opus domini Regis [20] [per indenturam] qui presens in Curia coram Barone. viijo die Februarii anno xxijo Regis Edwardi tercij. cognovit predictam indenturam esse factum suum et se recepisse baconis predictos. Et sic eque.

[21] Summa expensi - xlviij s. v. d. sicut continetur in Indentura predicta.

[22] Summa precij baconorum et expensi predicti [xxj. li xvj. s. v. d.] xxij li viij s. v. d.

Rutland History and Archaeology in 1997-98

Edited by T H McK CLOUGH

BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY UNIT

Oakham, Burley Road (SK 869096)

An archaeological excavation was carried out S of Burley Road throughout September 1997. The principal features included part of an enclosure on the W side of the trench of possible middle to late Iron Age date with a later extension to the E dated to the late Iron Age to early Roman period. A number of features associated with habitation and use of the settlement were identified. Finds of pottery, worked flint and animal bone were associated with these features. Part of the site was sealed by a layer of colluvium. Overlying the colluvium were features possibly representing the truncated remains of later Roman or medieval activity. The upper levels of the site had been severely eroded by ridge and furrow ploughing of late or early post-medieval date, and further damage had been caused by at least two distinct phases of post-medieval drainage systems. A full analysis of the finds and environmental information will be included in the final report.

Mark Hewson and Roger White

LEICESTERSHIRE MUSEUMS, ARTS & RECORDS SERVICE

Braunston, 40 Church Street (SK 83420669)

A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of foundation trenches for a single dwelling adjacent to 40 Church Street. A possible well, undated, was revealed in the centre of the site, and late 18th-20th century rubbish deposits in the SW corner. Sherds of early medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered, together with a single prehistoric struck flint fragment (Rutland County Museum A26.1998).

Empingham, 5 Audit Hall Road (SK 94860840)

Topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a single dwelling adjacent to 5 Audit Hall Road was watched. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered, and finds were restricted to sherds of 16th-20th century pottery. The site lies some 100m NE of the moated manorial complex at Hall Close (Leicestershire & Rutland Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) 90NW.K). Archive: Leicestershire Museums.

Langham, 9 Manor Lane (SK 84051118)

A watching brief was undertaken on the excavation of foundation trenches for the southernmost of three dwellings to be built on the S side of Manor Lane. The Jurassic geological sequence of Marlstone Rock Bed over Middle Lias grey clay was observed, but no archaeological deposits were revealed. Pottery finds comprised Cistercian-Midland Black ware (late 15th-17th century) and post-medieval English stoneware and earthenware. Archive: Leicestershire Museums.

Market Overton, The Stables, Woodhead Close (SK 889161)

The excavation of a foundation trench for a house on the S edge of the historic village core was observed. This trench cut across a demolished stone building, but failed to reveal any foundations of the latter, which was presumably a surface-built structure entirely removed prior to topsoil stripping. No significant archaeological deposits were recorded and no finds made. Archive: Leicestershire Museums.

Seaton (SP 904983)

Evidence for an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was summarised in *Rutland Record* 17 (1997) 314-15. A further inhumation was revealed during gardening in June 1998, and its position recorded. It lay within the area of burials previously defined. No grave goods were encountered, but only parts of the body were exposed. The head and shoulders lie in the adjacent property and were not accessible. The orientation, as with the two skeletons previously excavated, was broadly W-E. Evidence supporting the hypothesis that the burials are of pagan Anglo-Saxons of about 5th-7th century date was revealed when the landowner recovered an iron spearhead of a form appropriate to the period from the topsoil. This has been submitted to the University of Leicester's School of Archaeological Studies for analysis.

South Luffenham, Church of St Mary the Virgin (SK 941019)

The excavation of a trench in the churchyard dug to provide a new gas supply for the church was watched. A "mole" was used to pass under the boundary wall. Digging of an inspection pit in the NW corner of the churchyard revealed a barrel-vaulted brick chamber. This is aligned N-S and is built against the W wall of the churchyard, with a span of c.2.0m, and bricks generally 8½ x 4 x 3 inches in size without a frog. The brick size suggests that the structure post-dates 1850, when the duty on bricks was repealed. The chamber has a minimum length of 4.5m, as shown by the presence of rotten timbers possibly marking an entrance and bricks 60mm below the turf opposite the tower. The chamber was partly filled with brick rubble, and it was not possible to enter it. It is to be backfilled for reasons of safety, the vault having been breached by the inspection pit. Its width would permit the laying out of lead coffins on an E-W axis, but there is no tradition of a burial vault having been constructed; the incumbent was unaware of its existence. Archive: Leicestershire Museums (SMR 90SW.AG).

Tixover, Church of St Luke (SP 970997)

Provision of oil-fired heating at the church necessitated the excavation of a pit to take the oil tank and a service trench, in the churchyard of the 12th century church. The work was watched. The tank pit is situated in the NW corner of the churchyard, from which the pipe runs S, passing the W face of the tower. It turns to run parallel to the S face, entering the church in the angle formed by the tower and the S aisle. The pit was excavated to a depth of

730mm, the trench to 700mm at its N end, reducing to 450-500mm at its S, and to a maximum of 600mm S of the tower. A 300-400mm thick deposit of plaster, limestone and Collyweston roofing slate was revealed below 300mm of topsoil in the pit, containing sherds of medieval pottery and tile. The pottery appears to be Stanion-Lyveden type ware, possible LMARS fabric LY5, with very coarse shelly inclusions: a coil-built unglazed vessel with vertical appliqué ribs, probably 13th to 14th century. The ridge tile is green-glazed, in Bourne B Ware, also of 13th to 14th century date (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 255-9).

Two skulls were exposed in the E section of the pipe trench, 500mm deep, N of the tower. No indication of grave pits or coffins was observed. Whilst these burials were being recorded, the machine cut through an oolitic limestone coffin in the angle of the tower and the S aisle. There was no lid; the top of the coffin itself lies 200mm below the ground surface. Disarticulated vertebrae and fragments of lower mandible were present in the disturbed fill. A second stone coffin was recorded to the W, in the section of the trench S of the tower. Two stones were present, one possibly a lid to the other; the upper lay 120-300mm below the ground surface.

The deposit of structural materials in the pit could relate to the 13th century work which saw the erection of the aisles. The presence of at least two stone coffins in the SW angle formed by the church tower and the S aisle is matched by that of four exposed 13th/14th century slabs in the angle formed by the N aisle and the chancel, with a fifth in the angle of the S aisle and the E wall of the late 15th century porch. These five slabs are all Listed Monuments, Grade II, and coped. Not enough of the slab in the pipe trench was exposed to show whether it too was coped, or flat. The two stone coffins revealed by the excavation were not covered by the Listing; the damage done to the lidless one is to be regretted. Archive and finds: Leicestershire Museums (SMR 99NE.G) pending completion of the full report; ultimately to be lodged with Rutland County Museum.

Bibliography

McCarthy, M R, & Brooks, C M, *Medieval Pottery in Britain, AD 900-1600* (Leicester 1988).

Richard Pollard

LEICESTERSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

1997 was a notable year for the Record Office on two grounds. Firstly it saw the achievement of unitary status by Rutland and the inception of a formal joint agreement for the care of Rutland archives by the Record Office. Secondly it marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of a Record Office for the County of Leicestershire in 1947. In many ways the new agreement is merely the latest form of a long association by which the Record Office has provided care for Rutland archives. This relationship long predates the last reorganisation of local government in 1974 - indeed the first significant group of Rutland family records (the Conant/Barker of Lyndon MSS) was deposited in the Record Office as long ago as

1949. It is interesting to reflect that any expenditure by Leicestershire County Council on this and subsequent Rutland deposits (including the nationally important Finch of Burley on the Hill MSS) was probably technically illegal before 1974!

As one might hope against such a background, the joint arrangement has continued to evolve satisfactorily. The Record Office has continued to provide a broad range of services both to Rutland's archives and to the many researchers who wish to use them. Close liaison has been maintained between the staffs of the Record Office and the Rutland Libraries and Museums Service. Especially valuable have been discussions on the potential for using Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to provide wider and more flexible access to Rutland source materials. In part this initiative has originated within Rutland Libraries and Museums as part of thinking around proposals for renewing the Rutland County Museum. Rutland has also been fortunate to be chosen as the pilot area for an initiative by the Public Record Office to generate digital copies of parish tithe maps. The impending availability of this key local studies data via CD-Rom or the Internet has opened up a wide field of possibilities for its use (eg in education) and for supplementing it by networking other sources (eg other maps, photographs etc). We are looking forward to exploring these further.

On a more earthbound, but equally important level, a significant amount of conservation work has been undertaken on Rutland deposits at the Record Office. One of the conservators' two major projects during 1997 was the encapsulation of some 2112 letters from the Finch MSS covering the period 1537-1691, and including important correspondence of the Lord Chancellor, Heneage Finch, 1st Earl of Nottingham. Once encapsulated the letters were bound into guard files, thus offering greater protection in use and improving their physical security. This work was suspended during 1998 while subsequent letters were prepared for publication by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, but will recommence once editing is complete. The influx of Anglican parish records noted in previous reports produced more work for the conservators, who treated registers or other records from Ashwell, Clipsham, Hambleton, Ryhall and Whissendine. They also found time to attend to the Emingham enclosure map and 46 plans from the Exton MSS.

Finally it is pleasant to record a visit by the Friends of the Record Office to Lyddington Bede House in September 1998. After visiting Owston church and abbey site on a very wet day, we were pleased to take shelter in the Bede House and enjoy both the historic building and English Heritage's fascinating recorded tour.

Rutland archive accessions received 1997

Parish Council records

Cottesmore parish council minutes, 1981-1997 (DE 5260).

Court and legal records

Final declarations of burglars hanged at *Oakham*, 1813 (DE 5155).

Anglican parish records

Ashwell: additional parish records (including churchwardens',

overseers' and constables' accounts, 1689-1837), 1689-1951 (DE 5199).

Ayston: additional parish records 1906-1973 (DE 5241).

Barrowden: additional parish records 1837-1994 (DE 5217).

Bisbrooke and Lyddington Common: enclosure award and plan 1795-1798 (DE 5166).

Brooke: additional parish records 1918-1996 (DE 5103).

Caldecott: additional parish records 1901-1990 (DE 5272).

Cottesmore: additional parish records 1837-1982 (DE 5200).

Exton: additional parish records (incl overseers' and surveyors' of highways accounts, 1818-1848, rate books 1838-1882) 1818-1899 (DE 5242).

Greetham: additional parish records 1813-1977 (DE 5187).

Lyddington: additional parish records 1837-1996 (DE 5271).

Lyndon: additional parish records (1580)-1996 (DE 5163).

Manton: additional parish records 1886-c.1960 (DE 5183).

Market Overton: additional parish records (incl census of poor families, 18th C) 18th c-1991 (DE 5207).

South Luffenham: additional parish records 1960-1994 (DE 5218).

Stoke Dry: additional parish records 1917-1924 (DE 5273).

Stretton: additional parish records 1813-1996 (DE 5189).

Thistleton: additional parish records 1813-1994 (DE 5159 & 5188).

Uppingham: additional parish records 1974-1993 (DE 5240).

Whissendine: additional parish records 1867-1979 (DE 5097).

Non-conformist church records

Wing: Methodist chapel accounts 1949-1987 (DE 5238).

Charity records

Normanton Tower Trust: records 1970-1995 (DE 5150).

Family and estate records

Blueprint for boiler-stokers at *Stocken Hall, Stretton*, 1938 (DE 5069).

Letters patent of *Charles Noel* as Baron Noel of Ridlington, Viscount Campden and Earl of Gainsborough 1841 (DE 5077).

Johnson family papers, incl deeds of properties in Rutland and other counties, shrievalty papers, &c, 1607-1930 (DE 5122).

Deeds of title &c

Deeds to the *Rutland Canteen, Belton*, 1933 (DE 5078).

Deeds to properties in *Greetham, Ketton, Edith Weston, Oakham, Braunston* and *North Luffenham* 1587/8-1835 (DE 5109).

Deeds to property in *Ridlington* and *Preston* c.1818 (DE 5178).

Deed to land in *Braunston* 1739 (DE 5283).

Photographs

Cottesmore Hunt and *Capt Forester MFH* c.1905-c.1919 (DE 5154).

Lack of space precludes listing a number of books and videos published in 1997 and earlier [details are available from the Record Office - *Ed*].

Carl Harrison, County Archivist

original documents was open to the public to show off the documentary treasures preserved by Lincolnshire County Council. Highlights were the earliest documents, a writ of William the Conqueror dated approximately 1072; an Exchequer tally stick for 1293; a series of diaries beautifully and wittily illustrated by a Dr Freer of Donington in the mid-nineteenth century; sketches and plans of estate parkland by Capability Brown; letters from Sir Joseph Banks and Matthew Flinders; a stereoscopic photographic print of Lincoln High Street from about 1875; and a Lincoln Castle visitors' book from 1884 when admission was 2d per person. The day was also marked by reminiscences given to an appreciative audience of depositors, users and staff by Dr Dorothy Owen, former archivist, and Dr Dennis Mills and Mr Bob Kershaw, long-standing users of the service.

Looking back to the archives service of 50 years ago makes us realise the huge steps forward in enabling greater public access which have been taken in terms of a greatly improved site and, most recently, through the use of IT to make guides and catalogues more widely available. Lincolnshire Archives now offers three CD-ROM titles for sale at £16.00 each (plus £1.00 p&p): *Guide to Collections (Archivists' Reports and Accessions 1948-1997)*; *Indexes, Genealogical Resources and Foster Library Catalogue*; and *Indexes of Wills 1700-1900*. The Web site also offers more than ever, with listings of the parish registers and bishops' transcripts, Poor Law records (Stamford Union included several Rutland places), and some of the Brownlow family records.

The Brownlow records are still in the process of being listed, but the collection is sufficiently well sorted to make it possible to isolate records relating to particular areas. There are a number of Rutland references which may prove useful to local researchers.

A holding of just two acres in Essendine, intermingled with a field just over the boundary in Carlby, Lincolnshire, constitutes the only piece of Rutland land actually administered by the estate. The original deeds for this land are not in the collection, but there is an abstract of title for the Carlby estate which suggests that it was in the hands of the Tigh family until 1728. John Everell purchased it from Robert Tigh and four years later sold it to Sir Richard Cust. There is a certificate of redemption of land tax on this plot dated 1865, and records of lessees or occupiers, while rent accounts, surveys and other subsidiary items may also be found.

During the seventeenth century, the Custs were involved with the Barker family of Hambleton and Lyndon. John Barker purchased the manor of Couthorpe, near Creeton, from the Stace family of Castle Bytham in 1638. He died in 1640, and there was an exchange of land with Brown's Hospital, Stamford. By 1662 Couthorpe was in the hands of Abel Barker, who conveyed it to Pury Cust of Stamford in 1681 for more than £4000. The Barkers also figure in trust documents of 1662.

One other Rutland item in the collection worth mentioning is the Ryhall Enclosure Act, published in 1800 [the Enclosure Award and Map of 1806 being in the Leicestershire Record Office - *Ed*]. In the nearby town of Stamford, the Belton, Lincolnshire, estate included the substantial Blackfriars estate (look for Brownlow Terrace). Ryhall may have appeared an attractive purchase proposition at one time. There were also Brownlow and

LINCOLNSHIRE ARCHIVES

On 1st July 1998 Lincolnshire Archives celebrated 50 years as a county-wide archive service. A vast display of

Cust estates in most of the neighbouring counties, particularly Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Nottinghamshire.

Another relevant deposit was that received in November 1997 from a firm of solicitors based in Bourne, consisting of a small quantity of coroner's inquest papers, &c, which had been preserved by Mr V G Stapleton, who had been Coroner for both the Stamford and South Rutland districts. The papers relate to both districts and cover the years 1894-1910 (acc no 1997/126).

Details of how to contact Lincolnshire Archives and make appointments remain as set out in *Rutland Record* 18 (1998) 363.

Christopher Johnson, Archives Administration Manager
Susan Payne, Reader Services Manager

RUTLAND COUNTY MUSEUM

The Rutland County Museum was transferred to Rutland County Council District Council on 1st April 1997, and now forms part of the authority's Libraries & Museums Service, within the Chief Executive's Department. It retains its special interest in the history and character of the historic county of Rutland, and having made the adjustment to its new position in local government is now actively planning its future. Now no longer part of a larger museum organisation, the museum has applied for Registration in its own right. However, Rutland has a number of Joint Arrangements with Leicestershire Museums, whereby specialist services such as archives, archaeology and the natural sciences are bought in so as to ensure their continued availability. This system has worked well.

The museum is also a member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Museums Forum, and participates in its activities, and the Curator now has a more formal link with the Rutland Railway Museum in acting as its curatorial adviser for Registration purposes.

The museum also provides a contact point under the Treasure Act 1996 for the reporting of potential finds of treasure: a medieval gold finger ring was found on the outskirts of Oakham in 1998, the first local find to be covered by the new legislation, which replaces the ancient law of Treasure Trove.

Rutland Record 18 (1998) contained the fruits of research on the Oakham gallows by Philip Rayner, the museum's Senior Technician, and the restored gallows formed the subject of a very successful exhibition. The late 16th century ballad commemorating the martyred Rutland recusant, John Lyon (*see* p.348 of that issue and p.397 above), was set to music and performed by Peter Wittchell of Oakham School during the exhibition.

Amongst acquisitions of special Rutland interest from April 1997 onwards may be included the following:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| H33.1997 | Ashwell Estate sale catalogue 1912. |
| H42.1997 | <i>Memoirs & Records of the Northamptonshire & Rutland Militia</i> (London 1873). |
| H45.1997 | Early 13th century Limoges enamel reliquary found at Brooke Priory c.1805. |
| A67.1997 | Medieval bronze crucifix found at Martins-thorpe. |

Amongst these, pride of place must go to the Brooke Reliquary, purchased by the Friends of the Museum with generous grant-aid from the Museums & Galleries Commission/Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund and the National Art Collections Fund. The proceeds of a fund in memory of John Barber, late Chairman of the Friends, will be expended on a suitable display case for the reliquary. A full description and report on this marvellous object will be prepared for a future issue.

T H McK Clough, Curator

RUTLAND HISTORIC CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST

The need for roof maintenance continued to be a major reason for churches to approach the Trust during the financial year 1997-98. The north face of the roof of Oakham Meeting House had been affected by storms, and the vestry roof of St Andrew's, Hambleton, required repairs, as did part of the roof and ceiling of the Baptist Chapel at Barrowden and the south aisle roof at All Saints, Braunston. In addition, rewiring was found necessary both at St Mary the Virgin, Ayston, and at St Mary the Virgin, Greetham; a churchyard wall required rebuilding at St Andrew's, Lyddington; the heating system of St Mary the Virgin, South Luffenham, needed renewal; and woodworm was discovered in flooring near the organ at St Peter and St Paul, Uppingham.

These nine churches and chapels were promised grants of £18,500, and further interest-free loans of £3500 were offered to two of the applicants. Almost all works were put in hand within the year, a tribute to those who care for Rutland's churches and chapels.

All grants and loans were made out of income from the Invested Capital Reserve, from donations, and by fund-raising. Support was given by fourteen Parochial Church Councils, which was greatly appreciated. Rutland County Council no longer gives a grant to the Trust for onward transmission, but it is understood that assistance has been received directly by several churches which have approached the Council.

Canon Michael Wilson and the Rev Brian Nicholls, who have both greatly helped the Trust, stood down during the year. The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev Ian Cundy, was welcomed as Vice-President, and Richard Adams as a Trustee.

The sixth biennial sponsored Bicycle Ride was held on 13th September 1997 in conjunction with neighbouring counties. At least 200 people took part, and over £12,750 was raised, of which half was returned to sponsored churches. Six riders each visited over 50 churches in and around Rutland, and one, who reached 65 churches and chapels all within Rutland itself, was awarded the Davenport Cup. The Trust is most grateful to everyone who rode, walked, stewarded, provided refreshments or gave sponsorship.

So far, assistance has always been given to places of worship which have problems with repairs. Four more applications were received in Spring 1998, grants totalling a further £9500 were promised, and further requests are in hand.

The Trust continues to need support. Towards this end, Richard Adams offered to present in October 1998 an evening of slides and music entitled "Rutland and More", kindly hosted by All Saints, Oakham, and the next Ride will be in September 1999.

Linda Worrall, *Honorary Secretary*

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Membership numbers remain satisfactory and the continuing interest of our members is attested by excellent attendances at meetings. Other activities of the Society include the popular annual visit paid to one of the villages of the county. The 1997 visit, to Belton-in-Rutland, revealed a village that, in addition to its other qualities, had more than enough features of historical interest (including colourful characters and local catastrophes) to hold the attention of all those taking part and to stimulate much further research. The Executive Committee is currently reviewing the programme of these excursions, particularly to ensure that all parts of the county receive proper attention. We wish to maintain the quality of these events, which regularly include displays of local documents &c, and to develop our stock of equipment and materials so that these and similar exhibitions may be seen in libraries in the County.

Some of our members are regularly involved in the work of the Archaeological Group. A report of the Group's activities is given below.

The Society, through its Historic Environment Committee, plays a significant part in protecting buildings of historic and architectural importance in the county. The large amount of new development places considerable burdens on Mrs Betty Finch and Mr David Carlin, whose tasks are not limited to visits and inspections, but also include holding a watching brief on planning applications, interviewing officials, attendance at meetings and the making of representations when appropriate.

Following the publication of *Stained Glass in Rutland Churches*, which has received several favourable reviews, preparation is continuing on several other works intended for publication. *Rutland Record* 18 (1998) was issued during the year, under the capable supervision of Tim Clough. This number included, amongst other articles, a study of the important Oakham gallows and an account of Peter de Neville, the forester, who was one of Rutland's more colourful historical characters.

Thanks to the efforts of officials and committee members of the Society who have, individually and jointly, made important contributions at various functions and meetings, there is every reason to expect that the successful work of the past twelve months will enable the Society to go on to even greater prosperity in the future.

John Field, *Chairman*

RLHRS Archaeological Committee

Fieldwork 1997-98

Ashwell, Home Farm, Water Lane (SK 86751350)

Pot fragments found in the garden by Mr and Mrs Dunn

include Stamford wares (10th-12th century), a shelly ware sherd (AD 850-1400), Stanion-Lyveden wares (AD 1200-1400), Cistercian ware (AD 1475-1550) as well as post-medieval earthenwares and potsherds dating from the 16th to the early 20th centuries. This material has been identified by Dr Richard Pollard of LMARS.

Barrowden, 4 Tippings Lane (SK 94740013)

Garden pond construction by Mr and Mrs Richard Clarke produced fragments of Saxo-Norman and early medieval pottery which included calcite gritted sherds (c. AD 850-1400), Stamford wares (c.900-12th century), and Stanion-Lyveden sherds (c. AD 1100-1399).

Belton-in-Rutland, Godfrey's House (SK 81600123)

No archaeological features were seen during a watch on site levelling for a new dwelling in the gardens of Godfrey's House. Only two struck flints and four potsherds were found.

Egleton (SK 8607)

Fieldwalking by the Group produced: a) Iron Age pottery (with a "Belgic" wheel-thrown cordoned bowl rim of the mid 1st century BC-1st century AD and three fragments from coil built coarse grog-tempered fabric vessels); b) 100 sherds of Roman pottery (with mortaria rims dating from the 2nd-4th century AD); c) Saxo-Norman Stamford wares and early medieval pottery as well as later medieval and post-medieval material; d) over a hundred struck flints, mainly Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. Finds are with the Society pending transfer to Rutland County Museum (A62-63.1997).

Martinsthorpe Fieldwalking Survey

The survey continues to be directed by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath. After an absence of 12 months due to a fast-growing kale crop, fieldwalking resumed in October 1997 in the area immediately to the S of Old Hall Farm (SK 867044). This field was originally the southern half of Martinsthorpe Park, created by the first Earl of Denbigh when he built Martinsthorpe House here in the early 17th century. An early 1950s photograph of the northern part of the target field, taken before it was first ploughed in modern times, indicates that it then contained earthworks associated with the medieval village. The rest of the field was ridge and furrow, and the village boundary was thus clearly marked. Although full identification has yet to be completed, it is evident that there is, as expected, a concentration of medieval potsherds in the former earthworks area, and these are mainly Stamford (10th-12th century) and Stanion-Lyveden (11th-14th century) wares.

An area to the SW of the former village boundary produced 122 Saxon potsherds. Most of these are in good condition with little sign of weathering, and some are decorated. There was also a concentration of Roman pottery as well as a large quantity of slag from iron smelting. Other finds included ox shoes, a lead ampulla, and a medieval door stud (LMARS A144.1995).

Towards the end of the season, the next field W of Martinsthorpe Park and S of the track to America Lodge was walked (SK 862046). Again the finds have yet to be identified, but it is evident that there is a concentration of Roman potsherds in the NE corner.

Oakham parish fieldwalking survey (c SK 8408)

1998 saw the completion of the field walking of Oakham's ploughlands with five fields walked during the winter.

A Romano-British occupation site is indicated S of the Cold Overton Road, where 44 potsherds were found near a rectangular enclosure previously recorded on RAF vertical photographs (Leicestershire & Rutland SMR 80NE.AF; RCM A60.1997).

At the top of Brooke Hill, next to the Gorse Field, over a hundred struck flints from the Mesolithic and Neolithic/Early Bronze Age were found. Of note were an early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead (fig. 1) and two Early Bronze Age thumb-nail scrapers (RCM A64.1997).

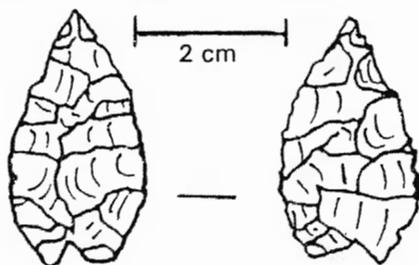


Fig. 1. An Early Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead from Oakham.

The new Bryant Homes development at Springfield disturbed the pastureland and left heaps of topsoil from which the Group gleaned flint material and potsherds. Evaluation trenches by the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) produced Mesolithic flints as well as some Saxon and medieval pottery (Rutland County Museum A3.1998).

All archive reports for over 30 fields in Oakham parish have now been completed and the writing up of a synthesis of the Survey is now under way in the hope that the results will be published by the Society.

Uppingham, 16 High Street East (SP 86729967)

The excavation of foundations to the rear of the Lake Isle Hotel was watched by the Society for LMARS. Nothing of archaeological interest could be seen and no datable

finds were recovered. Archive: Leicestershire Museums (SMR 89NE.V).

Uppingham, Market Place, Church of St Peter and St Paul (SP 886996)

During internal repairs at the W end of the church, a decayed ironstone block was exposed which had been cut away to accommodate the construction of the 14th century quatrefoil pier. It is just possible that this could point to a remnant of the earlier Norman church. Archive: Leicestershire Museums (SMR 89NE.AK).

Whitwell excavation (SK 92450870)

The pottery and tile recovered during the excavation has now been identified by Deborah Sawday (free-lance post-Roman pottery specialist) and awaits publication in the site report. In her conclusions, Ms Sawday notes that the date range of the pottery associated with the drains, yard and walls suggests occupation of the site from at least the Saxo-Norman period, with activity continuing into the 16th if not the 17th century. The assemblage is typical of the period and locality in terms of the vessel forms and fabrics present, the latter reflecting the essentially local nature of most of the medieval and early post-medieval pottery distribution patterns. The pottery is essentially domestic in nature, but the predominance of bowls and jugs may reflect the importance of dairy processing in the agrarian economy.

The following simplified table of the pottery (fig. 3) has been abridged from Ms Sawday's report (her Table 6) and shows that of the 4014 sherds identified, most came from Stamford (22%) and included the earliest coarse fabric dating from the 10th and 11th centuries, Stanion-Lyveden (21%), Bourne (23%), while Midland Purple wares, made either locally or in Bourne, Lincolnshire, or Ticknall, Derbyshire, represented nearly 18%.

Other Activities

This year the Archaeological Group gathered for the Christmas Dinner at Skillington in Lincolnshire. Later, in



Fig 2. Members of the Society's field-walking group on the Martinthorpe ramble.

PROVENANCE/FABRIC	SHERD TOTAL	WEIGHT (grams)	DATE RANGE
Stamford (ST1, 2 & 3)	888 (22.1%)	3716 (8.8%)	c.900-13th
Lincoln/Lincs Saxo-Norman shelly ware (L11/2)	1	12	late 9th-11th c.
Torksey type ware	1	6	c.10th-12th cent
Stanion/Lyveden, Northamptonshire (LY 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)	860 (21.4%)	9803 (23.4)	c.1100-1400
Oxidised Sandy/Reduced Sandy Splashed Ware	5 (0.1%)	26	?12-13th cent.
Calcite Gritted	4	31	? medieval
Nottingham Ware (NO, NO1, NO3)	161 (4.0%)	1769 (4.2%)	c.1200-1350
Chilvers Coton (Warwickshire)	6 (0.1%)	20	c.1200-1400
Medieval Sandy (MS 3/MS) ?local/Ticknall	17 (0.4%)	299 (0.7%)	c.14-15th cent.
Bourne Ware (BO 1 & BO 2)	936 (23.2%)	11626 (27.8%)	13th-16th cent. +
Midland Purple (MP) ?local/Bourne/Ticknall	708 (17.6%)	9720 (23.2%)	c.1375-1550
Cistercian & Midland Black Ware (CW/MB) (?Ticknall, Derbyshire)	200 (4.9%)	1199 (2.8%)	c.1475-1750
Midland Yellow (MY) (?Ticknall)	101 (2.5%)	1534 (3.6%)	c.1500-1725
Raeren/Frechen (RA/FR) Rhineland	20 (0.4%)	215 (0.5%)	16th-17th cent.
Earthenware (EA 1) ?Ticknall	50 (1.2%)	805 (1.9%)	c.1500-1750
Earthenware (EA 2 & EA 6) ?Ticknall	52 (1.2%)	955 (2.2%)	17th-18th cent. +
Brown Salt Glazed Stoneware (SW 5)	4	33	post-med/modern

Fig. 3. Summary table of pottery types from the Whitwell medieval settlement site (Deborah Sawday).

April showers, a small band met for the Martinthorpe Ramble around the meandering Chater (fig. 2) to see the 17th century bridge on the old road and hunt, unsuccessfully, for the remembered "plague" stone, and then onto a stage coach - now rusting in a hedge, but played in as a child by one of our members in the 1950s.

A pottery identification training day was held at the Rutland County Museum in June 1998 when Peter Liddle of LMARS used the Martinthorpe material to demonstrate the value of field-walking and give hands-on advice on describing the pottery to about a dozen members.

As the Society's Publicity Officer, Robert Ovens has designed an information leaflet on the Archaeological Group in order to increase membership. He has also produced a piece for the internet as part of the Rutland County Council's entry.

This year's summer picnic, held in Seaton Village hall in June, was organised by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath. Heavy rain meant that we were especially content to enjoy a demonstration of flint knapping by Bob Wells and his daughter Emma from the Lutterworth Archaeological Group. Following supper, provided by the good ladies, many of us walked around the village to All Hallows church with its Norman features and then on through pasture fields with the earthworks of the medieval village down to the watermill and nearby post mill remains in the Welland valley.

The annual Miss Linford Award for the best archaeological project in Leicestershire and Rutland was won by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath for their work on the water-mill at Belton in Rutland - published in *Rutland Record* 18 (1998) (fig. 4).



Fig. 4. Sheila Sleath, Robert Ovens and members of the Society with the Miss Linford Award (Stamford Mercury).

Acknowledgements

The Archaeological Group wishes to thank Mr Needham for permitting the Oakham Parish Field Walking Survey on Grange Farm again this year. Lynden Cooper (ULAS) gave specialist advice on some of the flint material from near the Gorse Field (R7). Dr Richard Pollard (LMARS) identified some of the Roman and the Iron Age pottery from Grange Farm (R3). Ms Deborah Sawday has provided her report on the pottery from the excavation at Whitwell. Peter Liddle (LMARS) instructed our pottery training day on the Martinthorpe material.

I would also like to thank the Oakham Survey Field Walking team, David Carlin, Sue Davidson, Clive Jones and Jenny Naylor, for this season's work.

Fred Adams and Maureen Dodds organised the Christmas Dinner. Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath directed the Martinthorpe project, organised the summer picnic, and got the Society on the internet.

Elaine Jones, Chairman, Archaeological Committee

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

The Rutland Water Fieldwalking Survey 1990-94

This report summarises the preliminary findings of a systematic fieldwalking survey of 25 fields in the parishes of Empingham and Hambleton surrounding Rutland Water reservoir. The work was undertaken by staff and students from the School of Archaeological Studies at Leicester University with initial input from Leicestershire Museums Archaeological Survey Team (LMAST). The survey was undertaken to complement the Rutland Water Project, an English Heritage-funded analysis of excavations undertaken in advance of the reservoir's construction between 1967 and 1973 (Cooper 1996 and forthcoming).

In 1990 a block of seven fields (1-7) were surveyed in the NW quarter of Empingham parish (SK 940 090). No occupation sites were identified but minor flint scatters of densities less than 20 pieces/hectare indicated transient Neolithic and Bronze Age activity. In 1991, field 8, split between Empingham and Normanton (SK 938066), revealed a large flint scatter indicative of occupation during the Neolithic or Bronze Age (comprising nearly 800 pieces and covering about 10 ha) as well as a Roman pottery manuring scatter, probably relating to the farmstead site partly excavated in 1973 immediately to the N in Renner's Park (SK 93620670, Cooper forthcoming, Site 6). Fields 9 and 10 (SK 952075 and SK 953078) on Bunker's Hill south of the village in Empingham parish revealed no new sites.

Work in the east of Empingham parish was undertaken in 1992 (fields 16-19) and 1994 (fields 20-24). Again, flint scatters in all fields indicated transient activity of Neolithic or Bronze Age date. Roman activity was indicated by a thin scatter of pottery in field 16 (SK 959086) coinciding with a dense scatter of Saxo-Norman Stamford Ware probably relating to infield manuring from the medieval closes recognised from earthwork evidence along Mill Lane (Hartley 1983, 14 fig.13). No other occupation sites were identified in the other fields walked.

Survey on the Hambleton Peninsula began in 1992

(fields 11-15 and 25). Field 11 (SK 919069) has previously been recognised as the site of a rectangular Iron Age enclosure (Pickering & Hartley 1985, 64 no.1). Traverse and stint survey of the field and a grid-walk over the cropmark yielded only a handful of scored ware sherds of Middle or Late Iron Age date, amongst a large assemblage of Romano-British pottery predominantly of 3rd and 4th century date (with a density of approximately 40 sherds/hectare over the cropmark using traverse and stint). The field also revealed a substantial flint scatter indicative of possible Neolithic or Bronze Age settlement with a density of over 100 pieces/hectare and coinciding with the area of the cropmark. The adjacent field 12, on sloping ground (SK 922068), was almost devoid of archaeological material other than flint (with density of less than 20 pieces/hectare) and would not appear to have been ploughed until recent times.

Fields 13 (SK 907073), 14 (SK 914072), and 15/25 (SK 911075) also produced minor scatters of worked flint indicative of transient activity (up to 20 pieces per hectare). The NW part of field 15/25 (SK 910077) yielded a substantial Romano-British pottery scatter over an area of about 4 ha with densities of 30 to 40 sherds per hectare and with a manuring scatter of 10 to 15 sherds per hectare over the remainder of the field. The presence of Roman occupation had previously been indicated by fieldwalking undertaken by Mr and Mrs Drake (Brown 1975, 14). A small scatter of Iron Age (single sherd) and early Anglo-Saxon pottery (six sherds) coincided with this concentration and future walking under more favourable conditions would probably confirm these as occupation sites.

A detailed analysis of the worked flint from the survey was undertaken by Nicholas Herepath (1993). All finds and detailed archive records are currently held at Leicester University. Thanks are due to the students who took part in the survey and the farmers who granted access.

Bibliography

- Brown, A E, *Archaeological Sites and finds in Rutland: A Preliminary List* (Leicester 1975).
- Cooper, N J, Anglo-Saxon Settlement in the Gwash Valley, Rutland, in Bourn, J (ed), *Anglo-Saxon Landscapes in the East Midlands* (Leicester 1996) 165-79.
- Cooper, N J, *The Archaeology of Rutland Water: Excavations at Empingham in the Gwash Valley, Rutland 1967-73 and 1990* (forthcoming).
- Hartley, R F, *The Medieval Earthworks of Rutland* (Leicester 1983).
- Herepath, N, unpublished MA dissertation, 1993, for Post-Excavation Skills, University of Leicester library.
- Pickering, J, & Hartley, R F, *Past Worlds in a Landscape: Archaeological Cropmarks in Leicestershire* (Leicester 1985).
- Nicholas J Cooper*

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Barrowden, Main Street Farm (SK 949001)

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken at Main Street Farm for the Burleigh House

Preservation Trust. The remains of a possible medieval building, including part of a beaten earth floor and rendered wall were revealed adjacent to Kings Lane. In the northern part of the site two pits were revealed, one small undated pit and the second a large, deep and steep-sided feature of likely medieval date. Archaeological excavation of the building was undertaken in January 1998 and a full report is being prepared (Rutland County Museum A2.1998).

James Meek

Empingham, 8 Church Street (SK 950086)

An archaeological watching brief undertaken for Mr J Margerison, during the groundworks for the construction of a new house at the rear of 8 Church Street showed evidence of footings for a 17th/18th century barn. No other evidence of archaeological remains was located.

Sally Warren

Great Casterton, Main Street (TF 001088)

An archaeological watching brief undertaken during the groundworks for a new church room in Main Street for the Rector and Wardens of Great Casterton Church showed no evidence of archaeological features or deposits.

Sally Warren

Great Casterton, Ryhall Road (TF 004094)

An archaeological watching brief undertaken for Anglian

Water Services during the laying of a new water main on Ryhall Road showed no evidence of archaeological deposits or features.

Sally Warren

Langham (SK 843109)

An archaeological watching brief for Mr G Noble during ground clearance associated with the erection of a new dwelling house on land located to the east of 10 Melton Road showed no evidence of archaeological deposits or features.

Sally Warren

Uppingham, 54-56 High Street East (SP 86859965)

Following evaluation by trial trenching in May 1997, a small scale excavation was carried out in September 1997. The footprint of a proposed dwelling house was excavated, revealing the remains of an oven or hearth of possible late medieval date and a post-medieval metalled path leading S from the High Street. Other features included a sandstone rubble make-up and a number of post holes or tree holes. Although most of the features were of post-medieval or modern date, residual pottery was recovered ranging in date from Roman through Saxo-Norman to medieval. A watching brief undertaken during the groundworks for drainage, access and garage revealed a scatter of features of a probable post-medieval to modern date (Rutland County Museum A12.1997).

Tony Gnanaratnam and Sally Warren

Note - An Uppingham family emigrates to Australia

T H McK CLOUGH

A letter home from Australia in 1840 gives details of what life was like in Melbourne, seen through the eyes of an emigrant couple from Uppingham, Rutland.

In 1840 an apparently young couple from Uppingham, Maria and Thomas Wade, emigrated to Australia. An enthusiastic account of their journey and arrival has survived in the form of a letter home (Leicestershire Record Office, Misc 914/2). The venture promises every success: Thomas would seem to have good prospects in learning to be a carpenter, perhaps a family trade, while Maria learns dress-making. Unfortunately, the name of the addressee, Thomas Wade's brother, is not shown, but further research may link Thomas and Maria with the long-established Wade family in Uppingham and identify the context in which they decided to take themselves on this adventure. The letter reads as follows:

*Melbourn, Australia
New South Wales*

July 18th, 1840

Dear Brother

We arrived at Port Philip on the 6th of May 1840 / a voyage of nearly 6 months: we had a very pleasant one tho'

a long / one, our Doctor was a nice man on which the comfort of the em/-igrants entirely depended: we staid at the Cape of Good Hope / 11 days: had nearly 300 on board, 2 deaths, & 6 births, on board: / I was very sick for the first month: my wife was very ill part of the / way, but now we are both in good health, I have got so fat you / would hardly know me the end of the voyage: = Port Philip is the / name of the Harbour: it is a beautiful Bay 50 miles long & 30 broad / with an entrance half a mile wide, it is considered one of / the best harbours in the world: Melbourn is the capital town of / Port Philip: 5 years ago it was on[ly] inhabited by the natives: now / it is a large town beautifully situated on the banks of a fresh / water River: Zara Zara is its name: it has been traced 200 miles / up the country, the streets are much wider than at home. in the principle streets of Melbourn land has been sold at 19£ a foot: / land in the town is very dear but 5 miles out reasonable so they / villages round are forming; newspapers are published twice a we[ek]: / there are 3 Banks, 2 Churches, English & Scotch, 3 Chappels, Independent, Methodist, & Roman Catholic, splendid Druggist, Grocer, & Drapers / shops: goods as good as any in England, Beef, & Mutton, 6d lb, Pork 9d, Flour 13 cwt, Milk 4d pt, Butter 2s 6d lb, Potatoes 2d lb Sugar 4d lb, Tea / 5s lb, Candles 9d lb, House Rent from 6s to a pound, a man & wife / may keep house for 30s well including rent: clothes as cheep

An Uppingham family emigrates

here as / at home: Colony Bricklayers & Joiners use the best 12s a day for each / trade and some 14[s]: an experienced hand can get a pound. [*] / Straw bonnets are very little worn: Labourers 7s per day: Dressmakers earn 2£ per week: Cleaning a bonnet 4s: Straw hats from 5s to a pound each: Indian Muslin / bonnets are most worn here except Tuscan which are from 17s to £3 each: it would not be wise to bring plat [= silver plate]: you must excuse me for not writing sooner / as I wanted to give a true account of the Colony: it is a beautiful / fertile country just like a park at home. Corn and vegetation flourish here: / I have seen beautiful Cabbage & turnips here, nothing to do but to dig / & sow: sheep & Oxen get fat on the grass: there are thousands in the enclosure: / sheep and beast are very cheep and those that keep them / in the interior make large fortunes in 2 years: know [= now] dear / Brother I have gave you an account of the colony you / may please yourself about coming but if you do come / bring as many tools as you can for sale as well as [page] for use for you may make double price: they are not / at all nice [= particular] what is in your boxes as you do not pay for / weight only for room: see that your boxes are well secured: / I have agreed with a carpenter to learn me the trade: I have / 7s per day for 2 months 8s for 4 months and 9s for 6 months / if I stay with him that time: I shall be hardly able to go / on my own account: know if you had come out you could / have 12s per day for journeywork and 1£ per day if on your own / account besides learning me which would have been / advantageous to us both: my wife is learni-/ng Dress making three months work for / learning: so that when both learnt we / shall be able to save mony God willing: / I should be very comfortable if I knew / my ttrade: I should like you to come out here / as soon as possible: you would [do] well: industrious / and sober people do well here but any other / as bad as at Home or worse: any one with/out a trade do not well such as clarks but / if any are inclined to be labour[er]s or shep-/perds thay may get 50£ per year and food: / Building is the most benefishial as it will pay / Rent per cent: th[e]ir is plenty of work for evry / one that coms both Men and Women and we-/ll paid. during our passage we had good food / and every accomodation that could be expected / on board a ship: you might bring some / flour as prehaps you will not be able / to eat biscuit while you are sick and / cheese or any thing you like: this is as / much as you will eat but you will not regres / as you may sell them for twice as much / as you gave but put them in booxes and / lock them: such things are so tempting. / tis just as well to go free as we had just / the same treatment as those who paid / their passage and as for been in bondage it / is just fals[e] as we are just as [page] when at home: you pays the Board which / is no inconvenience whatever: for your / youse [= use] you want a tin pint and plate spoon / knife and fork and take care of

the rest or you / will loos them: I bought my ship bed for / 12s: do not bye any extra clothing: bring what / linen you have: those articles that will pack / up close such as knives spoons watches candl-/sticks buy all you want before you get on / board or you will pay for them: a kook pot / for boiling any thing buy it at London / wash hand bason tin teapot bring no pots / whatever: thair are some of Noott[ingha]m People hear: / there is a bricklayer that came out 2 months / before me from Basford had not one pound when [he came] / is now worth [...] 150£ has bought some land / and put up two houses: I live in one himself in / the other: I pay 6s per week for rent: I intend / to write once a month or send a newspaper: hope / you will do the same if you do not come: I should / like my Mother and sister all of them your / wifes sisters and as many as will come thay / would like this place very well: remember me / to all inquiring friends: my wife is very desiri/ous you should all come: give best my respec[ts] / to my mother and to Aunt Sarah Aunt and / Cousings at Stamford your wife and sisters / my sisters and my wifes love to all /

We remain yours /
Thomas and Maria Wade /

direct for Thomas Wade Melbourn /
Port Philip Australia /
Felix or else / where /

Whatever letters you send / you must pay the / postage from up / to the ship or they / will not come [page] and I pay 1s 6d to go to Sidney to insure them / comming. July 22 1840: it is 5 oclock AM with you 8 PM

Note on the transcription

The letter, which consists of three full pages and a couple of lines over, is transcribed as written, with the addition of colons to assist punctuation, of which the original contains very little. The occasional missing letter or comment is supplied in square brackets. A new line is indicated by /. The letter is dated 18th July at the head and 22nd July at the foot, and does not appear to have been written all at once. The first 34 lines on page 1 are more neatly and more closely written than the remainder, which is rather loosely written. There appears to be a change of pen after the first 26 lines, at the point marked [*] in the transcript.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to the Leicestershire Record Office for enabling me to transcribe and publish this letter, and to Peter Lane for his notes on the Wade family.

Editorial Note:

Since the articles in this issue were submitted and the pages prepared for the press, it has been confirmed that the Leicestershire Record Office has changed its name, and is now known as the Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (ROLLR). References to the Leicestershire Record Office (LRO) should be amended accordingly.

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700273

The Society's publications, with their main contents, are currently available as follows:

Rutland Record 1 (£1.00 post free)

Emergence of Rutland; Medieval hunting grounds; Rutland field names; Illiteracy in 19th century Rutland

Rutland Record 2 (£1.00 post free)

Archdeacon Johnson; Thomas Barker's weather records; Rutland Agricultural Society; Rutland farms in 1871

Rutland Record 3 (OP)

Cropmarks; History of cricket; Ironstone in Rutland; Oakham School 100 years ago

Rutland Record 4 (OP)

Sharmans of Greetham; Churches of Rutland; Belton-in-Rutland; 19th century Greetham; Thomas Crapper

Rutland Record 5 (£1.50, members £1.00)

Westminster Abbey's Rutland churches and Oakham manor; History of Ruddle's Brewery; French Revolution

Rutland Record 6 (£1.50, members £1.00)

Transitional architecture in Rutland; Family of Rutland stonemasons; Restoration of Exton church

Rutland Record 7 (£1.50, members £1.00)

Rutland place-names; Rutland Domesday; Lords and peasants in medieval Rutland; Shakespeare in Rutland

Rutland Record 8 - Who was Who in Rutland (OP)

Rutland Record 9 (£1.50, members £1.00)

Hedgerows; Ryhall hoard; Repton and Burley; Churches; Catholicism; Ram Jam; Quarries; Southwell family

Rutland Record 10 - Burley-on-the-Hill (OP)

Rutland Record 11 (£2.00, members £1.50)

Rutland, Russia and Shakespeare; Industrial archaeology in Rutland; Lord Lonsdale in the Arctic

Rutland Record 12 (£2.00, members £1.50)

Deer parks; Preston records; Thring at Uppingham; Jeremiah Whittaker; Joseph Matkin; Cinemas in Rutland

Rutland Record 13 (£2.00, members £1.50)

Oakham Methodist Church; John Clare; Oakham 1851 Census; John Banton; Edith Weston clock; Convicts

Rutland Record 14 (£2.00, members £1.50)

Whitwell coin hoard; Parks of Rutland; Martinsthorpe; Morcott, Bisbrooke and Glaston; Trains at Oakham

Rutland Record 15 (£3.50, members £3.00)

Meadows at Seaton; 18th C Rutland elections; Rutland Fencibles' 1794 Riding School; Childhood at Stocken

Rutland Record 16 (£3.50, members £3.00)

Iron smelting; Saxon archaeology; Stilton cheese; Oakham in 1871; Rutland Hotel; notes and reports

Rutland Record 17 (£3.50, members £3.00)

Byrch's charity; Maj-Gen Robt Overton; 50-52 High St, Uppingham; White Hart, Uppingham; notes and reports

Rutland Record 18 (£3.50, members £3.00)

Earthworks at Belton-in-Rutland; Peter de Neville; Oakham gallows; Buckingham's house at Burley

Index of Rutland Record 1-10, compiled by John Field (1994) (£2.50, members £1.50)

Rutland Record Series

1. Tudor Rutland: The County Community under Henry VIII, ed. Julian Cornwall (1980). The Military Survey of 1522 and the Lay Subsidy of 1524, with introduction (now £4.50, members £3.00)

2. The Weather Journals of a Rutland Squire, ed John Kington (1988). Thomas Barker's fascinating 18th century weather, farming and countryside records, with introduction (now £7.50, members £5.00)

3. Stained Glass in Rutland Churches, by Paul Sharpling (1997). Complete survey and gazetteer, with full introduction and lists of glaziers, subjects, dedicatees, donors, heraldry (£15.00, members £12.00)

Occasional Publications

1. Domesday Book in Rutland: the dramatis personae, by Prince Yuri Galitzine (1986)(OP)

2. The Oakham Survey 1305, ed Allen Chinnery (1988). Medieval survey: population, occupations, topography, customs, and personal/place-name evidence (£3.50, members £2.50)

3. The Rutland Hearth Tax 1665, ed Jill Bourn & Amanda Goode (1991). Population and payment information, with introduction (£3.50, members £2.50)

4. The History of Gilson's Hospital, Morcott, by David Parkin (1995). The charity, its almshouse, trustees, beneficiaries, and farm at Screddington, Lincs; foundation deed, Gilson's will (£3.50, members £2.50)

In preparation

Lyndon, Rutland: a guide
The Hospital of St John & St Anne, Oakham
The Oakham Lordshold Survey of 1787

Postage and packing (Overseas charged at cost)

Rutland Record, Index, Occasional Publications:

60p each

Tudor Rutland, Weather Journals: £2.00 each

Stained Glass: £1.50

All orders for publications, with payment *in sterling including postage as shown above*, and trade enquiries should be sent to: The Honorary Editor, RLHRS, c/o Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW, England. Membership enquiries should be sent to the Honorary Membership Secretary at the same address.

The Rutland Bookshop Uppingham

NOT ONLY

an unrivalled selection of
Antiquarian and Second-Hand books
on Rutland and the locality

BUT ALSO

Interesting titles on a wide
variety of topics

Mr & Mrs Edward Baines,
13 High Street West, Uppingham, Rutland
Telephone (after 7.30 pm): Uppingham (01572) 823450

Rutland County Museum Oakham

*Rural life collections from Rutland in the
Riding School of the Rutland Fencible Cavalry*

The Volunteer Soldier Exhibition

The Colonel's Café, in the Colonel Noel Suite,
offers light refreshments

*Local reference collections, historical photographs,
books and microfiches of
Rutland parish registers can be consulted
by arrangement*

Admission free Opening Times
Monday-Saturday 10.00-17.00
Sunday 14.00-17.00 (Apr-Oct) 14.00-16.00 (Nov-Mar)

Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HW
Telephone & Facsimile: Oakham (01572) 723654



Pedigree[®]
chum[®]



whiskas[®]

Pedigree Masterfoods

A Division of Mars U.K. Limited.



Uncle Ben's[®]



DOLMIO[®]