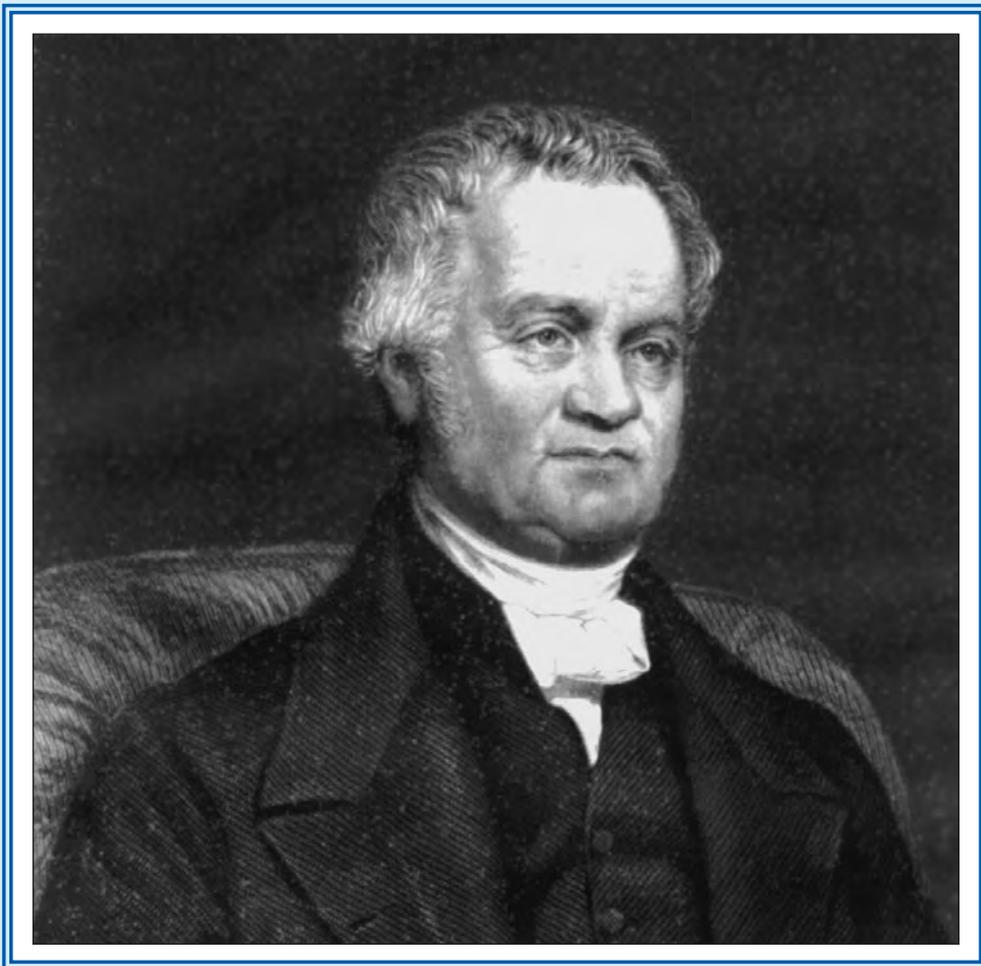


Rutland Record 29

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 & 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.

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Front cover illustration:
The Ven Thomas Kaye Bonney (Michael J Lee)

Back cover illustration:
Old Hall Farm, Martinsthorpe, from the south-east (Nick Hill)

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Editorial : Royal Recognition



HRH The Duke of Gloucester unveils a sixteenth-century deed bearing the Great Seal of Elizabeth I (photo: Ryan Corbyn Design).

establishment of the museum in the 1794 indoor riding school of the Rutland Fencible Cavalry. Fifty years and nearly £200,000 later, they could show off a wide range of exhibits purchased by them for the collections in premises whose purchase and fitting out they had helped to finance. Many of these purchases have featured in the museum's annual reports in *Rutland Record*.

The Duke, himself no stranger to farming interests, after visiting the Rutland Show spent well over an hour touring the museum and its agricultural and rural life collections, guided by the Friends' President, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Kennedy, and many other members of the Friends and museum staff who had the honour of being presented to him. Also present were committee members of the Rutland Local History & Record Society, which remains closely linked with the museum and its work.

Before he left, The Duke of Gloucester unveiled a rare sixteenth-century deed for the manor of Ketton bearing the Great Seal of Elizabeth I, newly loaned to the museum by Hanson Cement: we hope to report more fully on this important document in due course.

In his farewell remarks, His Royal Highness made it clear that museums of this kind deserved to be valued, supported and encouraged as fulfilling an important role in modern society. Rutland's Friends are in no doubt that their continuing support will be invaluable in helping to maintain the service in the face of economical pressures on the local authority, and the Local History & Record Society takes a similar view. But there was much to celebrate as all concerned gathered round the anniversary cake.

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Dr Gerald T Rimmington was Professor of Education, Mount Allison University, Canada, until 1981, when he resigned to enter the full-time Anglican ministry. He retired as Rector of Barwell, Leicestershire, in 1995. He is now an Honorary Visiting Fellow in the School of Historical Studies at the University of Leicester and Chairman of the Committee, Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society.

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Clerical Incumbents in Early Victorian Rutland

GERALD T RIMMINGTON

Even though the changes in Rutland in the early nineteenth century were not as far reaching as in the industrial areas of England there were nevertheless changes in agriculture, in population and in society

that affected the clergy. This article examines the manner in which clerical incumbents were appointed, their qualifications, their incomes and the way in which some of them related to their parishes.

The early Victorian incumbent clergy of England were faced by rapidly changing conditions. The population of the country more than doubled between 1801 and 1851. Canals and railways were increasing communications between various parts of England. Developing professions and trades were reducing clerical responsibilities in law, policing, medicine, education and charity administration, so that clergy were able to concentrate more on their spiritual role. The Bishop of London, C J Blomfield, noted that 'in character, habits, attainments, social position and general reputation, the ordinary clergyman of 1860 is a very different being from the clergyman of 1810'. 'A decent performance of Divine Service on Sundays' was good enough in 1810; in 1860 there was a greater concern for preaching and pastoralia (Brown 1953, 147).

For members of the clerical profession at that time Rutland ought to have been an idyllic location. Its 148 square miles of undulating countryside, 'consisting of ridges of high ground running east and west with rich valleys between', determined that it would be primarily agricultural (*VCH Rutland*, I, 239). Apart from the extraction of oolitic limestone, for example at Ketton, and the construction of the railway line from Syston to Peterborough that passed through Oakham (1846-48), there was little to disturb the tranquil landscape (Simmons 1996, 116). Population had increased slowly, from 16,300 in 1801 to 22,983 in 1851. A note in the 1851 Census indicated that a 'decrease of population in some parishes [was] attributed to emigration, and in some instances to the pulling down of cottages'. A decrease in the population of Greatham was put down to 'typhus and people fleeing the village'. Even the county town of Oakham was little more than an enlarged village, with a population in 1841 of 2,762. The only other town, Uppingham, was important only because it was the venue for a developing public school. Its population was little more than 2,000 in 1841.

As if to help the incumbents with their pastoral duties the villages were strongly nucleated, with, in

most cases, the church in or near the centre. This may have enabled those parsons to be more attentive to their parishioners than in dispersed settlements, though there is no evidence for Goodwin's suggestion that this was a factor in inhibiting dissenting growth in the county (Goodwin 1993, 118).

For some incumbents the situation in 1846, as White's *Directory of Leicestershire and Rutland* shows, was indeed idyllic. All of the parish churches were well-established. There were no new buildings. Incumbencies were not difficult to fill. Yet even a small rural county experiences change. Clerical incumbents had to cope with developments. A number of questions come to mind. How were the clergy appointed? What were their qualifications? What were their stipends? How did they cope with their pastoral duties? This article will attempt to answer these questions about the early Victorian incumbents in England's smallest county.

Patronage

The system of clerical appointments throughout England and Wales was basically the same as it had been since the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century. Within each parish there was a patron who was responsible for the exercise of the advowson (the right to present a clergyman to a living). Originally patronage had been held by the lord of the manor. By 1291, however, most of the Rutland manors had been acquired by religious houses (*VCH Rutland*, I, 145), the abbots in the process also appropriating the advowson. With the dissolution though, great tracts of land became available to new owners, many of whom also acquired the patronage of the associated livings. Patronage became a marketable commodity, enabling landowners and professional people to purchase them and present their own relations and friends as incumbents. Rosemary O'Day states that 'significant numbers of the lesser gentry, yeoman and husbandman classes acquired patronage, which they used in favour of kinsman and acquaintances' (O'Day 1988, 77).

Of 46 advowsons in Rutland in 1846 no fewer than 27 were in the hands of great landowners, sixteen being held by titled people, like the Earl of Gainsborough and Sir Gilbert Heathcote. As White's *Directory* (1846) notes, at Cottesmore the Earl of Gainsborough was lord of the manor and patron of the living. At Teigh the Earl of Harborough was lord of the manor, owner of most of the land in the parish, and patron. At Pilton Sir Gilbert Heathcote was lord of the manor, owner of most of the parish, and patron. The patronage of Normanton was also held by Heathcote, who owned nearly the whole parish, including Normanton Hall. Here the Park had been considerably enlarged about sixty years earlier, when the village had been swept away and its inhabitants moved to Empingham. The medieval church had been rebuilt at least partially in baroque style, its small size being sufficient for a population which by 1841 consisted of only 28 people.

In some cases the ability of the great landowners to exercise patronage in their own family's interest can be seen. The Honourable Charles Compton Cavendish, lord of the manor, owner of most of the land and patron at Little Casterton, was able to ensure that a member of his family 'is to be the incumbent as soon as he has taken holy orders'. In the meantime the pastoral duties were being performed by T N Twopeny, the son of a former rector, who was expected to give way at the appropriate time. At Oakham the patron, George Finch, MP, of Burley on the Hill, made sure that the incumbent was his kinsman, Heneage Finch. Similarly at Exton the patron was the Earl of Gainsborough (whose family name was Noel), while the incumbent was the Rev the Hon Leland Noel. At Market Overton and Tickencote the patron was J M Wingfield, while the incumbent was E O Wingfield. John Fludyer, for instance, was not only rector of both Ayston and Thistleton (with a combined income of £312), but also the third son of George Fludyer, MP, of Ayston Hall. After George's death, John was to inherit the Hall and, in 1876, succeeded his cousin as fourth baronet. He was thenceforth able to perform his clerical duties at Ayston from the comfort of Ayston Hall; Thistleton rectory was relinquished in 1870, though the advowson was retained.

In 1846 incumbents were conscious that they were living in the shadow of the Pluralities Act 1838, which was part of the post-1832 government reforms, aimed at stamping out the holding of multiple benefices (which had been notorious in the eighteenth century), and the resultant absenteeism of incumbents. This measure prevented new incumbents from the holding of more than two benefices if they were more than ten miles apart, if the value exceeded £1,000, and if the population exceeded

3,000. Absentee incumbents either had to be exempt by reason of being college fellows or cathedral prebendaries or holding similar posts or licensed (because of ill-health). This legislation soon became highly effective in reducing the number of non-resident incumbents. By 1853, it is noted, 3% of incumbents in nearby Lincolnshire appointed after 1838 were non-resident by exemption (Cocks 1993, 40).

In Rutland there were seven absentee incumbents in 1846. At Lyndon, a village with a population of only a hundred, where the patron, Edward Brown, was himself a clergyman, there was little indication that the rector, Thomas Kerchever Arnold, ever lived there: he suffered from ill health which repeatedly drove him away and led him to appoint a curate (*inf* Paul Reeve). *Alumni Cantabrigienses* described him as a 'distinguished educationalist'. Apparently, at least from 1838 until his death in 1853, 'he applied himself to the preparation of schoolbooks, which procured him a very wide reputation'. Between 1848 and 1853 he edited 'in twenty-five volumes, portions of all the chief Latin and Greek authors'. He was also 'equally voluminous' as a theological writer (*DNB*, 1896, 118-9). At Manton, William Smyth, the rector, was a kinsman of the patron, E W Smyth.

Landowners:		
Titled	16	(39%)
Non-titled	11	(27%)
Incumbents	2	(5%)
Bishop	6	(15%)
Church officials	2	(5%)
Colleges	3	(7%)
Trustees	1	(2%)
Total	41	(100%)

Table 1. Church patronage in Rutland in 1846 (source: White 1846).

Martinsthorpe was a decayed parish, with only one house. The patron, the Duke of Devonshire, appointed the Reverend J Kendall, who was paid £66 per annum but never lived there. At Bisbrooke, where the Duke of Rutland was the patron, the non-resident vicar was Samuel Bloomfield, a Cambridge doctor of divinity, described as a 'theological author', who paid the incumbent of Laxton in Northamptonshire to officiate for him. At South Luffenham, the patron and incumbent was the non-resident James Bush, who employed a resident curate to officiate. At Pilton, the incumbent was Gregory Bateman, who was resident at his other parish of Easton in Leicestershire. William Turner was paid to officiate for him.

The problem of clergy absences, as already indicated, was being addressed by the Pluralities

Act, which allowed for legal absence by licence or exemption. Licences were given for ill-health or infirmity. Provision was made for financial penalties to be imposed upon those who persisted in non-residence without permission; there was an ultimate sanction of sequestration and the voiding of the living (Knight 1995, 120). There is no record of sanctions being imposed upon Rutland clergy. When W C Magee became Bishop of Peterborough in 1868 there were still 33 absentee incumbents in his diocese (Rimington 1998, 125). It is possible that the legislation was not applied with as much vigour as it might have been to protect successful and popular curates-in-charge who would otherwise have lost their positions. At Tickencote and Market Overton, for example, the absentee rector, G Wingfield, resided at Glatton, Huntingdonshire, where he was also rector. His place in the Rutland parish was filled by Frank Gretton of Stamford, who seems to have performed capably. At South Luffenham and Glaston there were resident curates who lived in rectories, and, for a salary which is unlikely to have been more than £100, performed all the duties of a rector.

Some Rutland incumbents were exempt legally, because they held academic or cathedral positions. William Hodgson, a doctor of divinity, who was Master of St Peter's College, Cambridge, described in *Alumni Cantabrigienses* as being 'universally popular, being a man of extreme courtesy and great generosity', did not even go to his parish of Glaston for induction. He relied on the residency of his curate, William Purdon.

Some incumbents were presented by cathedral prebendaries. The latter were supported by the great tithes, leaving the vicars (as distinct from rectors), whom they presented, to the small tithes. This system, however, was in process of abolition. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners at this time were anxious to increase the support they gave to the incumbents of poor parishes. Despairing of any direct state subsidy, their only other additional resources were the rich endowments of English cathedrals (Chadwick 1987, I, 132). Redistribution from cathedrals, which at the time were poorly integrated into their dioceses, and were infamous for 'the occasionally scandalously nepotistic disposal of chapter patronage', was their only hope for much-needed funds (Burns 1999, 143). Their efforts had culminated in the Dean and Chapter Act of 1840, which 'suppressed all non-resident prebends (about 360)' (Chadwick 1987, 137). The Dean and Chapter at Lincoln Cathedral had held prebendal lands at Empingham, Ketton, Caldecott, Hambleton, Lyddington, Lyndon, Manton and Tixover (Ryder 2006, 17). By 1846, however, there were only vestiges of the system in Ketton, Empingham and Lyddington,

and these were about to disappear.

White's *Directory* notes that 'the Prebend of Ketton has been endowed with the great tithes, and the patronage of the united vicarages of Ketton and Tixover, since the 12th Century'. It was also noted, however, that after the decease of the prebendary, Dr Richard Stevens (who was also Dean of Rochester), the prebend would be abolished, and its revenues appropriated by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At Empingham the abolition had already taken place, and the Commissioners had taken over the lands, selling them eventually to Sir Gilbert Heathcote (who already had them on a long lease). The Bishop of Peterborough became the patron, in accordance with the Commissioners' policy to give more power to the diocesan episcopate. The Commissioners had also taken charge of the prebendal lands at Lyddington, and were in process of passing on the advowson to the bishop.

In one benefice, however, the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln Cathedral had become the patron. At Hambleton this had been accompanied by the impropriation of rectorial rights and responsibilities (which were henceforth lost to the parish), the incumbent thereafter being a vicar, entitled only to the small tithes.

At Uppingham, where there was no undisputed aristocratic leader because, although the Earl of Gainsborough was lord of the manor, most of the land was divided between the Marquess of Exeter, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, the Reverend William Belgrave and several others, it had been agreed that the Bishop of London should become the patron. The advowson was later transferred to the Bishop of Peterborough, thus, along with the former prebendal advowsons, beginning the process whereby diocesan bishops began to gain some control over appointments, an important step in the professionalization of the clergy (Rimington 1998, 126).

One of the problems of clergy appointments was that they provided no career structure for many able men, some of whom never progressed beyond being a curate-in-charge for an absentee incumbent. As Knight says, preferment was frequently given to the 'squire-patron's brother' (Knight 1995, 161). A way round the problem for aspiring (and moderately wealthy) clergymen was for them to purchase an advowson and present themselves. In Leicestershire (an archdeaconry in the same diocese) in 1846 there were twenty-one incumbent-patrons and sixteen livings where incumbent and patron shared the same surname. In Rutland, however, as we have noted, there was only one living, South Luffenham, where James Bush presented himself for appointment as (absentee) rector. There were five other parishes, though, where the rector shared a surname with the

patron, so that 15% of parishes showed family connections: higher than the 11% in England as a whole, but lower than in Leicestershire (18% in 1846). It was a practice which offered a reasonable means, within a system that was much less than ideal, by which a clergyman, who might otherwise remain a curate for the whole of his working life, could pursue a desirable career objective (Rimington 2002, 101).

Qualifications

Alan Haig has shown that ‘in the 1830s and 1840s, Oxford and Cambridge men comprised over 80% of new clergy’ in England. Between 1834 and 1843 some 4,383 ‘Oxbridge’ men were ordained, but between 1854 and 1863 there was a 9% reduction to 3,978, as opportunities for graduates in other fields began to open up (Haig 1984, 29; Virgin 1989, 132).

It is not surprising, therefore, that in any English county there was likely to be a preponderance of Oxford and Cambridge educated incumbents (Rimington 2002, 102). For instance, in nearby Leicestershire in 1846 there were 75% of ‘Oxbridge’ graduate incumbents. Rutland itself had 95% of ‘Oxbridge’ graduates, with Cambridge supplying 87% of these. This dominance by Cambridge can be explained, at least partly, by location, Oxford being more difficult to travel to for men from eastern England, many of whom preferred to be appointed to posts in or near to their native areas. There were also the predilections of bishops. John Kaye, as Bishop of Lincoln, and a former Cambridge academic, had a definite preference for Cambridge graduates. In 1829 72% of men ordained in his diocese were from Cambridge (Virgin 1989, 263). George Davys, Bishop of Peterborough from 1839 to 1864, within whose diocese Rutland had lain since 1541, followed Kaye’s lead. William Magee (1868-91), who followed the brief episcopacy of Francis Jeune (1864-68), as a Dublin graduate, had no particular preference, but he liked clergy ‘trained in broad daylight, and under the influence of the broad free thought and life of a great university’ (Knight 1995, 110). As late as 1881 some 81% of Rutland clergy were ‘Oxbridge’ graduates, 25 (61%) of whom were from Cambridge. That there were none trained in developing theological colleges, like St Bees, Lampeter, Chichester and Wells, in 1846 is an indication that Rutland, like neighbouring Leicestershire, had no difficulty in attracting graduates from the ancient universities.

The preponderance of ‘Oxbridge’ graduates is also an indication that the majority of clergy were unlikely to have been well-prepared theologically. Oxford graduates were likely to have read classics, while at Cambridge undergraduate studies were

mainly in mathematics. At both universities the specific training for ministry was limited to ‘attendance at a dozen or so undergraduate divinity lectures and the perusal of a handful of theological works’ (Knight 1995, 110). At both Oxford and Cambridge a voluntary examination in theology was instituted in 1842. At Oxford only seven men passed it between 1844 and 1863. The Cambridge examination fared a little better. By 1865 Bishop Browne of Ely was saying that ‘the examination, though not ideal, had been extremely helpful in weeding out unsuitable candidates before he examined them himself’. For ordination candidates in Ely diocese the examination had in effect become compulsory. Others were soon to follow (Knight 1995, 111).

Graduates:		
Cambridge	34	(87%)
Oxford	3	(8%)
Non-graduates:		
Some university attendance but no degree	1	(2.5%)
No qualification given	1	(2.5%)
Total	39	(100%)

Table 2. *Qualifications of Rutland clerical incumbents in 1846 (source: White 1846).*

In Rutland it meant that the wealthier clergy were prepared for life as what Heeney has called ‘status professionals’, men of ‘high social status, closely associated with the governing landowning class, able to live a leisured and cultured life’ and ‘equipped with a good (but entirely general) education’. Even in the eighteenth century, however, the heyday of status professionalism, changes were beginning to occur. The influence of the Evangelical Revival encouraged the acquisition of more theological knowledge, and increasing technical, pastoral and homiletical skills. With the growth of the Oxford Movement, known initially as Tractarianism, this was intensified and the ‘occupation professional’ began to appear (Heeney 1976, 4). There was no-one in Rutland like W H Anderdon, the Tractarian vicar of St Margaret’s, Leicester, appointed in 1846, who ‘eschewed the gentlemanly life-style of most of his contemporaries’ to live simply, to visit the sick and the poor, and to conduct daily services, but there were some incumbents in the smaller county who could not afford the lifestyle of the ‘squarson’ (Rimington 2002, 106-7).

The poorer clergy, like those with incomes less than £200, despite their education, could hardly compete with their wealthier colleagues. As Virgin comments, ‘poor clergy were forced into social

isolation' (Virgin 1989, 99). Curates who acted for non-resident incumbents were particularly poor. In nearby Lincolnshire in 1832 there were 85 curacies valued at £50 per annum. Only 12% of the curacies were valued in excess of £100. Elsewhere, notably in Buckinghamshire and Nottinghamshire, the expected income was up to £100. There is no reason to believe that things were any different in Rutland.

Income

Peter Virgin, commenting on the Tithes Commutation Act of 1836, stated that for the first time clerical income was secure. Instead of being paid in kind the clergy could look forward to a relatively fixed income. Tithes were abolished and in their place 'either a straight cash compensation was negotiated, or a corn rent agreed upon, or a portion of land allotted' (Virgin 1989, 40). In Rutland, where most of the enclosures predated the Commutation Act, the tithes had already been replaced with grants of land. Ryder notes that by 1806 many villages 'operated some form of local commutation system', with some tithes being exchanged for glebe (Ryder 2006, 18). The situation, however, is fairly confused, and there is a need for further detailed research in this area. Examination of glebe terriers, land rentals and tithe rates for individual parishes could be revealing. Because the Enclosure Acts could not be accomplished without the agreement of incumbents, the clergy were often treated quite generously in the allocation of glebe (Ryder 2006, 18). The result was that some of them gained income from both the commutation of tithes and the renting of glebe. At Teigh, for instance, the tithes were commuted for £315 per annum and there was also income from 60 acres of glebe. At Morcott in 1839 there was an award of 21 acres of glebe, while the tithes were commuted for £388. Some clergy were awarded only glebe. At Bisbrooke the tithes were commuted in 1796 for 132 acres of glebe. At Wing the tithes were commuted in 1772 for 190 acres of glebe. At Ryhall 176 acres were awarded. In rarer cases there was little or no glebe, the preference being an annual cash payment in lieu of tithes, as at Tickencote, where £162 per annum was awarded. At Greatham the tithes were commuted for cash at the enclosure in 1763. At Normanton the incumbent opted for the tithes to be commuted for corn rent of £87 16s (White's *Directory*).

Although incumbents' incomes were less affected by the vagaries of the weather they could not be completely protected. The amount of rent that could be secured by the letting of glebe was obviously dependent on harvesting. Although agricultural production was rising up to the 1870s (despite the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846), this did not bring

as great an increase in clerical income as might have been expected. Incomes fluctuated considerably throughout the nineteenth century, peaking during the Napoleonic Wars, declining after 1815, rising again during the 1840s, stabilizing during the 1850s and 1860s, before a series of poor harvests and the influx of cheap American wheat brought severe depression from the 1870s onward. Clerical income, therefore, was increasing in early Victorian times, but not spectacularly. What was gained was the removal of social friction that tithe collecting had tended to engender. This gave the wealthier clerical incumbents 'respectability and greater social standing', though at the same time it further distanced them from the poorer clergy (Mingay 1989, 92, 843.)

Noting that the wealthier clergy in England were in the process of developing social aspirations, Virgin states that other benefits followed: 'The magistracy, hedged about with property qualifications, was open to an increasing number of clergy; so too were the arms of more magistrates' daughters. The clergy became more affluent, more socially accepted, and more locally powerful' (Virgin 1989, 58).

More than £500	8	(20%)
£300 to £499	12	(29%)
£200 to £299	9	(22%)
Less than £200	12	(29%)
Average income	£344	
Median income	£287	

Table 3. Net incomes of Rutland clerical incumbents in 1846 (source: White 1846).

This was not entirely true, as already noted, because there were many incumbents who struggled. Indeed the figures suggest that at least half of Rutland incumbents found difficulty in maintaining what they considered to be a gentlemanly lifestyle. Forty-nine per cent of Rutland clerical incumbents in 1846 (see Table 3) had incomes exceeding £300, which Alan Haig has suggested was a benchmark pointing to prosperity (Haig 1984, 304). Those with net incomes above £300 were believed to be able to live comfortably, while those below that amount tended to struggle to maintain a respectable middle-class appearance (Knight 1995, 131-2).

Another factor in the distribution of income was whether the incumbent was a rector or a vicar. Originally rectors were entitled to both great and small tithes, while vicars received only the small tithes. The great tithes were incomes received from corn, hay and wood, while small tithes accounted for anything not included as part of the great tithes, especially wool and annual increases in farm stock.

Even though the tithing system was largely superseded, by 1846, by cash payments and glebe rental, the distinction between the two types of incumbent was maintained. Ian Ryder provides some Rutland evidence of the relative size of great and small tithes in the 1836 commuted tithes of Thorpe by Water in the parish of Seaton; they were 84% and 16% respectively (Ryder 2006, 17). One would expect, therefore, that there would be a considerable difference in the incomes of rectors and vicars.

The 1846 incomes did indeed show some such differences. The rectors' incomes consisted of an average of £364 (with a median income of £350), while the vicars' incomes were an average of £277 (and a median of £265). Yet this was not as great a difference as Ryder's research suggests. This is partly because the highest vicarage income, higher than any of the rectorial incomes, was £1,074 at Oakham (where the vicar had to pay three curates out of his stipend). If the Oakham figure is excluded, the vicars' incomes are reduced to an average of £204 (median £258). There was, however, a considerable overlap between the two sets of incomes. This had much to do with factors like the size of parishes and the quality of the agricultural land. Seven of the rectors received incomes lower than £200, while five of the vicars exceeded £200 (White's *Directory*).

It is fairly easy to pick out the wealthier incumbents. For instance at Uppingham it was noted that the rector, John Giles Dimock, whose net income was £661, 'has a good residence and a rectorial manor'. At Morcott, Robert Hustwick, whose net income was £377, had 'a handsome residence in the Elizabethan style, which was rebuilt in 1830, by the Rev. E. Thorold, the late patron and incumbent'. Michael Hutton, of Seaton and Belton, whose income was £645, had 'a good residence in the old Scotch manse style'. Charles Henry Swann of Stoke Dry, whose income was £420, had 'a handsome Rectory house, in the Elizabethan style, erected by him at considerable expense, in 1841' (White's *Directory*). They were clearly among the socially ascendant clergymen.

There were others, however, who were much less fortunate. The rectors of Thistleton (£120), Ayston (£192), Edith Weston (£162), Normanton (£157) and Lyndon (£187) all had incomes below £200, which Haig has suggested was the line separating a modest from an impoverished benefice (Haig 1984, 304). Some were content with their lot because they either had private incomes or additionally held other parishes or had both. As we have already seen above (p332) John Fludyer, for instance, was not only the rector of both Ayston and Thistleton (with a combined income of £312), but was also soon to

inherit a baronetcy as well as Ayston Hall. At the bottom of the scale were men like William Purdon, MA, who functioned as the resident curate in Glaston, where the (absentee) rector would have paid him from the £200 stipend. One can only speculate on the amount that Purdon actually received. It is known that in Lincolnshire in 1853 most curates still received £50, while in Nottinghamshire most of them were paid about £100. Whatever Purdon received it would not have given rise to any expectation of social advancement (Knight 1995, 128).

A measure of affluence and status is the number of live-in servants employed, as indicated by the Census Returns in 1851. It is worth noting that, while Nonconformist ministers employed few servants, it would have been unthinkable for even the poorest of incumbents to have been without one or two live-in servants. Middle-class status demanded it. Some Nonconformist ministers were caught up in the employment of servants, though few were able to afford them. Alexander Mackennal, who was minister of a prosperous Congregational church in Leicester, and was paid £410 per annum, could afford three servants, but this was unusual (Rimington & McWhirr 1999, 14-15). Henry Whitlock, the 34-year-old Baptist minister in Belton, was more typical in affording only one servant. This contrasted with Thomas Yard, the incumbent of Ashwell, whose clerical income was £435 and whose family consisted of himself, his wife and three children; he employed five servants. John Dimock at Uppingham, on the other hand, employed only two female servants. However, he was 78 years old, with an ailing 67-year-old wife. There was no one else at the rectory. Mark Garfitt (£300) at Stretton, a widower with two small sons, employed a groom, a footboy, a housemaid, a cook and a nursemaid. At Market Overton, Edward Wingfield (£551), a bachelor, with two resident middle-aged sisters, had a male gardener, a housekeeper and a house servant. George Orme (£162) at Edith Weston was unmarried and had only two female servants. For men like Orme the possibility of becoming a 'squarson' or aspiring to become a justice of the peace was extremely remote.

Clerical incomes in Rutland, as elsewhere in England, need to be kept in perspective. W J Coneybeare asserted in 1854 that few clergymen actually lived on less than £500 a year, implying that for most of them there was a private income (Haig 1984, 308). Knight (1995, 133) has commented that an incumbent living on £500 was in a similar bracket to an assistant clerk, who did not have the same expenses as a clergyman, who faced payment of rates and the cost of any curate he employed.

Community relations

The way in which incumbents were appointed, the kind of qualifications which most of them achieved, and the social aspirations which were encouraged by the passing of the Tithes Commutation Act, made social relations within the communities which they served somewhat problematical. Identification with the aristocracy and the gentry might well have increased the social gulf between some wealthier incumbents and ordinary parishioners. On the other hand there was much less friction with local farmers when tithes no longer had to be collected in kind. At least some of the clergy had difficulty in relating to people in their parishes, and were, therefore, less effective than they might have been.

There were some instances which suggest that all was not well in some parishes. For instance, Dr Weller at North Luffenham had to face the fact that many of his parishioners preferred to attend meetings of a fundamentalist sect, the Brethren, who had the habit of 'interlarding common conversation with Scripture phrases' and who believed that salvation was 'an ascertained certainty, quite out of the reach of any adverse contingency whatever' (Weller 1856, 29). Thomas Lovick Cooper at Empingham, despite a clerical income of only £216, was able to afford, according to Census Returns, the services of a footman, a coachman, a lady's maid, a cook-housekeeper, a housemaid and a kitchen maid to serve a family of five. Moreover he stubbornly remained in the parish for more than 60 years even though some villagers boycotted his services, smashed windows in the vicarage and even hung a black-gowned effigy of him in a tree. Heneage Finch and his parishioners at Oakham quarrelled about the introduction of a heating system, so that 'many have been deterred from going to church due to the coldness'. The organ had also become defunct, so that 'now there is only an inefficient choir aided by the notes of a violoncello'. The situation was hardly inspirational (Traylen 2005, 69, 97-8).

A more quantifiable measure of poor relations between incumbents and parishioners is the strength of Nonconformity. This was more in evidence than one would expect in a small rural county, where a high proportion of the patrons were also sole landowners in the parishes, and, therefore, in a position to hamper the operations of Dissenting bodies. It is significant that where landownership was in the hands of one person (a 'closed' parish) Nonconformity had little chance of developing. Such landowners were usually unwilling to sell a portion of their land for a chapel site. Moreover, where there was harmony between the incumbent and the village community there was much less incentive to resort to Dissent. At Morcott, where the population, because of a recent influx of labourers

employed in railway construction, had increased from 364 in 1801 to 667 in 1851, and landownership was dispersed among 80 people (so that a chapel site could easily have been found), the incumbent noted that he had no difficulty in counting my people: '... I keep a regular register of the numbers' (Tomalin 2002, 75). With such an assiduous minister there was little interest in Nonconformity.

In Rutland 78% of the parishes were 'closed', compared with 52% in Leicestershire, 43% in Derbyshire and 57% in Cambridgeshire. The average for England and Wales was 59% (Snell & Ell 2000, 375, 443). Nevertheless between them the Independents, Baptists and Methodists had 36 places of worship in the county in 1851, according to Horace Mann's Religious Census. Out of 11,386 church attenders on the census day, March 30th, 4,518 were described as Protestant Dissenters. Most of the chapels were small; while there was an average of 252 sittings (seating accommodation per attender) in the parish churches, the three main Nonconformist denominations had an average of 141 sittings. Altogether there were 11,564 (70%) Anglican sittings compared with 4,898 Nonconformist sittings. Seating was available for 73.4% of the population, 38.8% of it in the chapels (Tomalin 2004, 169-74). In the towns of Oakham and Uppingham the Nonconformists, with 61%, had more sittings than the parish churches, 39%. Attendance on the census day was also higher among the Dissenters. There were 36.5% attenders in the parish churches and 63.5% in the chapels (Tomalin 2002, 51-86).

Where Dissent gained a foothold it was at times because all or most of the pews in the parish churches were rented out, often to the dismay of the incumbents. At Whissendine, for instance, where there were congregations of Baptists and Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists, Henry Applebee reported to the 1851 census enumerator that there were 400 rented pews in his church, but no free ones. At Empingham T L Cooper reported that 'a very large proportion of the Parishioners have rented pews ... and though many pews often be vacant the absentees ... refuse to allow their "appropriated" seats to be occupied by others who have none'. It is no wonder that even though the vicar declared that there was 'ample room for the whole population in the church', there was nevertheless a small Wesleyan congregation in the village (Census 1851: Rutland, 137-142).

The Nonconformists suffered from the disadvantage that most villages were too small to support more than one viable congregation. Indeed many of the parish churches were able to seat all or most of the inhabitants of the village. In 1851

Ayston had seating for 300 in the parish church for a population of 118. Barrow similarly had 144 seats and a population of 134. Lyndon had 130 seats for 106 people. Preston had 471 seats for 328 people (Tomalin 2002, 51-86).

Conclusion

It is clear that, where they could afford to do so, the clerical incumbents of Rutland in early Victorian times lived like country gentlemen. Among the effects of the Commutation Act of 1836, which gave them cash in hand rather than raw agricultural produce, was the encouragement of upward social mobility. Where their incomes were sufficient they identified with the landed aristocracy and the gentry, to whom some of them were related, by whom they

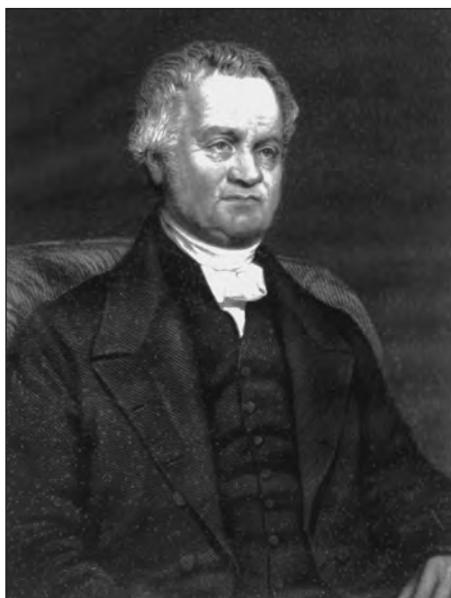
were appointed, and with whom many of them shared a general education at an ancient university. Perhaps even more important than the Commutation Act, as the century progressed, was the Pluralities Act 1838. As the legislation was not retrospective some incumbents continued to enjoy the benefits of multiple appointments to benefices. By the 1870s, however, there were more incumbents, with less absenteeism and fewer curates left in charge of parishes. As the agricultural depression of the late nineteenth century began to bite there were to be many incumbents who found themselves with lower incomes. Some of them would look back to the earlier part of the century as a golden age. In the meantime some of them lived in a situation that was as idyllic as the landscape surrounding them.

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The Venerable Thomas Kaye Bonney (1782-1863)

PAUL REEVE



The Venerable Thomas Kaye Bonney achieved a rare Rutland combination, longevity as resident Rector of Normanton from 1814-63, senior preferment in the Church, and appointments of trust and authority in civil affairs. This article will show how his personal qualities flowered inside and outside the Church of England, within and beyond the boundaries of Rutland.

*Fig. 1.
The Ven Thomas Kaye Bonney
(Michael J Lee).*

On Christmas Day 1816 William Henry Fox Talbot (1800-77), future photographic pioneer and polymath, wrote to his mother Lady Elisabeth Theresa Feilding. He was staying at the great house at Burley on the Hill, Rutland, with his step-father Captain Feilding. They were guests of George Finch, 9th Earl of Winchilsea (1752-1826), uncle of Captain Feilding. In the letter (fig. 2) Fox Talbot mentioned that Captain Feilding had called that day on Mr Bonney, Rector of Normanton, Rutland, with whom Fox Talbot would stay for much of 1817 before going to Trinity College, Cambridge. The following gives a short account of the life of Rector, later Archdeacon, Bonney (fig. 1).

Thomas Kaye Bonney was born on 20th June 1782 at Tansor, Northamptonshire. He was baptized the following day. He was the third of five children, four of whom survived to adulthood (Bonney family records):

Charlotte Bonney, born and died at Tansor May 1779
Henry Kaye Bonney, born at Tansor 22nd May 1780
Thomas Kaye Bonney, born at Tansor 20th June 1782
Henrietta Bonney, born at Tansor 9th June 1784
Charlotte Sarah Bonney, born at Tansor 28th May 1786

The *Dictionary of National Biography* entry for the elder brother, Henry, originally stated that his father was Rector of Tansor. The parish registers, however, show that the father was curate of Tansor acting for an absent rector. To understand how the family came

Burley,
Christmas Day, 1816.

My Dear Mamma,

I have burned your note, in order that none of the Servants may read it - I assure you that I have not yet been once too late at either breakfast or dinner, which I hope you will consider as symptoms of incipient reformation -

The party here has been increased by M^r Finch Hatton, & L^y Charlotte Hatton, and the Dowager Duchess of Rutland - & M^r Baker, & M^r Raikes, the Commercial Dandy - L^d & L^y Lonsdale, with L^{ys} Mary & Ann & Major Lowther dined here the other day - from Cottesmore -

I believe I shot a Woodcock yesterday in Burley wood, but we could not find it as it fell among the bushes - which was vexatious, inasmuch as I don't know whether I killed anything else in the course of the Day - I missed a squirrel up in a high Tree - Tomorrow we are to shoot in Hambleton wood - You know Hambleton church, you see it from the windows - If my box of books arrives from Castleford during my absence, pray do not open it, but leave it for me to open. Have you had my mosses franked to M^r Hooker? and what news of an astronomical note? M^r F. called on M^r Bonney today, he is to dine here some day soon, & I shall see him then - I have had several very good games of Chess with Miss Finch, & I think on the whole, with success -

Yr Aff^{te} Son
W. H. F. Talbot

Fig. 2. Transcript of letter from W H F Talbot to his mother, 1816 (Talbot Correspondence Project, <http://foxtalbot.dmu.ac.uk>, Doc No 735 (extract)).

to Northamptonshire, it is necessary to go back to Thomas Kaye Bonney's grandfather, Thomas Bonney.

According to family records Thomas Bonney, the grandfather, was the second son of Charles Bonney of Reading, Berkshire. He matriculated at Magdalen College, Oxford, on 7th March 1729/30, aged 18, and was admitted BA in 1733 and MA in 1738. Entering the church, he was appointed Clerk in Holy Orders at St James's, Westminster, in 1738 and Vicar of Effingham, Surrey. He became Rector of Ockham, Surrey, in 1752. From 1762 to 1764, when he died, he was also Rector of St Andrew Under-shaft with St Mary Axe, London.

He married Grace, daughter of Christopher Key or Kaye of King's Street, Westminster, Bailiff and Collector of Rents for the Manor of St James's, Middlesex. Through Christopher Key, his father-in-law, Thomas Bonney began to enjoy the friendship and patronage of Thomas Fane, 8th Earl of Westmorland (1701-71) (Kaye 1863, Memoir, 1). The patronage of the Earls of Westmorland and their association with Apethorpe, Northamptonshire, would continue to help the Bonney family in the next two generations.

Like his father Thomas, Henry Key Bonney, the eldest son surviving to adulthood, went to Oxford University, matriculating at Pembroke College 8th July 1763, aged 17. He moved to Worcester College where he took his BA and MA degrees. He was ordained priest in December 1770, becoming Chaplain to Elizabeth, Dowager Countess of Westmorland. In 1771 he was appointed Vicar of Nassington in Northamptonshire, and in the same year was recorded as curate of the church at Tansor. He continued as curate at Tansor until 1791. In that year, he became Rector of Kings Cliffe, Northamptonshire, a living in the gift of the Earls of Westmorland. He gave up his curacy at Tansor and moved to the rectory of Kings Cliffe, living there until his death in 1810 (Longden II (1938) 155; Tansor Parish Registers).

In 1777 Henry married Bridget, the daughter of John Morgan, Vicar of Warmington, and Master of the Grammar School at Fotheringhay, both in Northamptonshire. It is unclear why Henry and Bridget preferred to live at Tansor where he was curate rather than at Nassington where he was vicar. But this was their choice and so it was that Thomas Kaye Bonney and his brother and sisters were born at Tansor.

There is little detail about Thomas Kaye Bonney's early life. His elder brother Henry was the obvious beneficiary of patronage. The records of Charterhouse School list his admission in 1793 as a scholar on the nomination of the Earl of Sandwich, almost certainly John Montagu, 5th Earl of

Sandwich (1744-1814). Nothing is known of the younger brother's schooling.

The records of Clare Hall, Cambridge University, show that Thomas was admitted as a pensioner on 13th June 1799 and that he held two scholarships there. The university records him as second Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos for 1803, that is he was second in the second class (Historical Register of the University of Cambridge to the year 1910, with Index to Tripos lists 1748-1910). It is likely, based on his later tutoring, that he also studied Classics but this subject was not examined until 1824 (*inf* Ms Ann Francis, Archives Department, Clare College). Thomas graduated BA in 1803, MA in 1806, and was a Fellow of Clare Hall from 1805-16. In 1811 he held the university post of Proctor. He was ordained priest in 1805.

On 14th November 1814 the *Stamford Mercury* reported that Thomas Kaye Bonney would be Rector of Normanton, Rutland, and Rector of Coningsby, Lincolnshire, succeeding the late Rev Dr Tait. The patron of both livings was Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 4th Baronet (1773-1851), of Normanton, Rutland. A testimonial dated 16th November 1814 from Clare Hall relating to the Coningsby living survives, signed by the Master, John Torkington, and a number of the Fellows. It refers to Thomas as 'one of the Senior Fellows of Clare Hall' and to 'his residence among us for the three years last past' (Lincolnshire Archives, DIOC/PD 171/52).

As far as is known, Thomas lived in Northamptonshire up to 1799 and from then until 1814 was based at Cambridge. From 1815 until 1863 he lived at Normanton Rectory, Rutland. His



Fig. 3. St Matthew's Church, Normanton, as it was when the Rev Thomas Kaye Bonney was appointed rector in 1814 (Canon John R H Prophet).

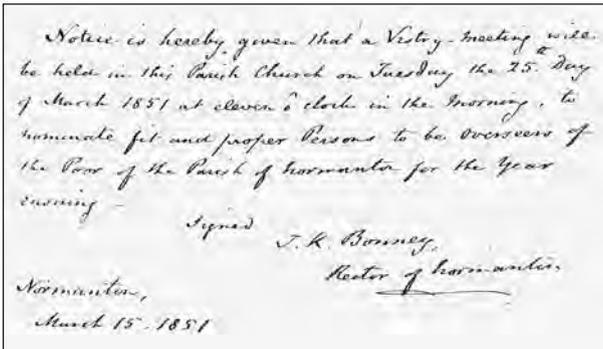


Fig. 4. The Rev T K Bonney's handwritten notice of a vestry meeting 1851 (ROLLR DE 1579/7).

activities in this last period need to be considered under a number of different headings and will show that he was a man of many parts.

Thomas was an active rector. His signature appeared in the parish registers for Normanton until he was past 75. It was a rare birth, marriage or funeral at which he did not officiate. He was also heavily involved in the administration of Normanton parish. As early as 1815 he was noted in the parish records as Overseer of the Poor (ROLLR DE 1579/6). One of his last duties was to record the Vestry Meeting appointments on 27th March 1861 when he was 78 (ROLLR DE 1579/7). In 1836 his signature appeared in the parish Highway Accounts as Surveyor of Highways (ROLLR DE 1579/7).

At Normanton the rector also acted, as required, for the Heathcote family of Normanton Park (fig. 5).



Fig. 5. Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 4th Baronet, and his second wife, Lady Charlotte, c1830, by Philip Reinagle (1749-1833) (Grimsthorpe & Drummond Castle Trust).

In 1851 the rector, by then archdeacon, officiated at the funeral service for Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 4th Baronet. In 1825 he did the same for Lady Catherine Sophia Heathcote, Sir Gilbert's first wife. In 1842 he officiated at the funeral of Sir Gilbert's second wife, Lady Charlotte Heathcote. The place of abode at time of death was Grosvenor Square, London, for Lady Catherine and Durdans, Epsom, Surrey, for Sir Gilbert and Lady Charlotte. According to family custom they were brought back to Normanton for the funeral service and burial (Normanton Parish Registers).

However, the funeral services of Sir Gilbert and Lady Charlotte must have varied from that of Lady Catherine. Between 1826 and 1829 major changes were made to the church of St Matthew at Normanton (figs. 3 & 6; Pevsner 1984, 488). A new tower was erected at the west end of the church together with a portico. The church was now entered from the west end by passing through the portico into a vestibule and from there to the nave. A double staircase led from the vestibule to a gallery overlooking the nave (*VCH Rutland* II, 87). If the actual building work began in 1826, it anticipated formal permission as the faculty was not granted until 18th January 1827 (Irons's notes).

After the deaths of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 4th Baronet, in 1851, and of Lady Charlotte, in 1842, their remains were interred in a vault accessible from the vestibule, the old vault under the chancel having been closed. Monuments to Sir Gilbert and Lady Charlotte were set up in the new vestibule (*Stamford Mercury*, 10th May 1861).

In 1815, during his first year in Rutland, Thomas took on further responsibility for the church at Empingham, Rutland, acting as curate for an absentee vicar for the next ten years. Later, he had two separate periods of several years as curate of the church at Edith Weston, Rutland, together with many other times where he signed the Edith Weston registers as Rector of Normanton. There are occasional register entries in his name for the churches at North Luffenham and at Whitwell, also in Rutland. It is clear that Thomas gave a vast amount of help to local parishes in Rutland. This continued during the later stages of his career, even when he had been advanced to a senior position in the church (Parish Registers of Empingham, Edith Weston, North Luffenham and Whitwell).

As early as 1815 he had been specially licensed to preach throughout the diocese of Lincoln, a particular mark of the bishop's favour (Clergy of the Church of England database, Record ID: 18441).

As absentee Rector of Coningsby, Lincolnshire, Thomas was obliged to appoint curates. He was fortunate (or wise) to appoint three long-serving



Fig. 6. *St Matthew's Church, Normanton, in 1839. The new tower and portico were added between 1826 and 1829. It was designed by Thomas Cundy and modelled on St John's Church, Smith Square, Westminster. Behind is Normanton Hall, the home of Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 4th Baronet, who commissioned the work (Uppingham School Archives).*

curates who between them covered most of the period 1815 to 1863. His letters and the Coningsby parish registers identify specific visits to Coningsby. In a letter dated 13th August 1847 to Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Thomas wrote that he was about to leave for Coningsby that very day to take the duty of the next two Sundays there (Lincolnshire Archives, 3 ANC 7/20/27). In 1818 Charles Roberts, curate of

Coningsby, signed the parish register of Empingham. It is certain that many more visits took place to and from Coningsby which did not involve signing of registers.

Most Coningsby affairs would have been dealt with locally. However, some items like the lease of church land would have entailed the direct involvement of the rector. The will of Thomas Boucher of Coningsby, dated 29th March 1852, refers to a farm and lands held as tenant of Sir Gilbert Heathcote Baronet and the Reverend Archdeacon Thomas Kaye Bonney (Lincolnshire Archives, 3 CHAT 2/3). Within the church itself (fig. 7) a wooden wall plaque details two parcels of church land totalling thirteen acres and their yearly rent, applied to the repairs of the church. The board carries the name of Archdeacon Bonney, Rector, together with the names of two churchwardens and the date 21st December 1841 (fig. 8).

In 1823 Thomas was appointed Prebendary of Welton Beckhall, Lincolnshire, in the Cathedral of Lincoln (Longden II, 155). Welton is a small village a little to the north of Lincoln. A special Order in Council dated 16th December 1848 (Lincolnshire Archives, DIOC/OC/79), issued at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, substituted a money payment of £94 per annum to Thomas Kaye Bonney, Prebendary of



Fig. 7. *St Michael's Church, Coningsby, Lincolnshire, in 2006. The Rev Thomas Bonney was absentee Rector of this church from 1814 to 1863. He appointed three long-serving curates to cover most of this period (© Richard Croft, licensed for re-use under the Creative Commons Licence).*

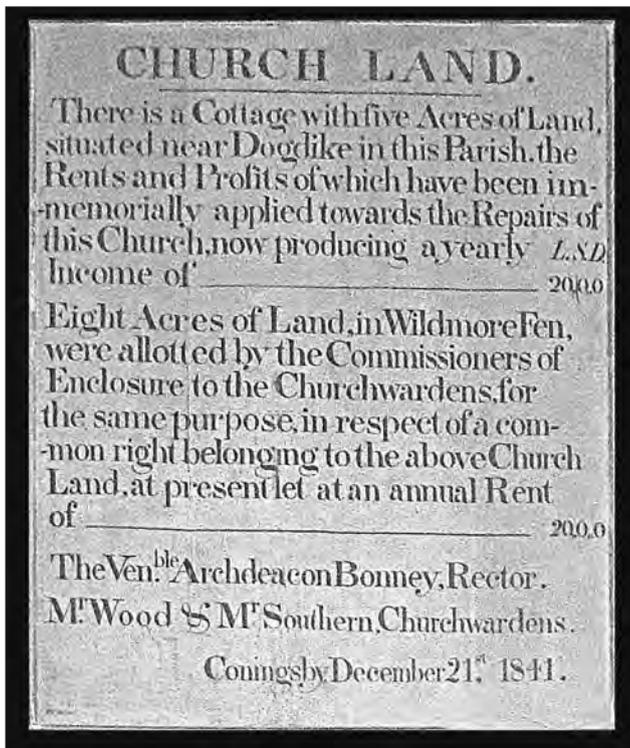


Fig. 8. Details of church land on a board in St Michael's Church, Coningsby. It carries the name of Archdeacon Bonney and the land was rented out to fund church repairs (photo: author).

Welton Beckhall, for the property of his prebend. Thomas could have continued to enjoy the prebendal property until his death or resignation but came to earlier agreement with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to exchange for monetary payment. From 1823 to 1863 there was only one change of vicar at St Mary's Church, Welton, according to the list of incumbents displayed within the church. So the prebendary was not overtaxed by new appointments and, generally, his prebendal duties do not seem to have been onerous.

Promotion to Archdeacon of Leicester followed in 1831 under John Kaye, Bishop of Lincoln (Longden II (1938), 155). Writing to William Henry Fox Talbot on 1st July 1820, Thomas referred to John Kaye as 'my friend'. This was certainly true but the bishop's closer connection was with Thomas's brother Henry. John Kaye and Henry had studied together at Christ's College, Cambridge, and remained close friends in later life. Henry's friendship with the bishop and the fact that he had been an active Archdeacon of Bedford since 1821 may have contributed to Thomas's cause as a suitable appointee to the archdeaconry of Leicester. More importantly, Thomas had the experience and abilities a discerning bishop might seek.

What an archdeacon did and what he should do at this time taxed more than one parliamentary commission and is not easy to explain briefly. His

responsibility or that of his archdeaconry might range from inductions to vacancies, from new churches to church alteration, from dealing with non-residence to subsidies of clergy. The archdeacon's court dealt with marriage, probate, surrogation, visitations and corrections and so forth. Much of this was handled by the archdeacon's officials, the Registrar, the Proctors and others.

It was more specifically the task of the archdeacon to make visitations or tours of inspection of churches, their contents, practices and personnel, and to instruct corrections or changes, if needed. He would also summon clergy and churchwardens to annual general assemblies or meetings.

Archdeacon Bonney's most obvious legacy was his concern with the human and structural fabric of the church and his methodical recording of this in his visitation reports. These tours of inspection were recorded in nine volumes running from 1832 to 1842 (ROLLR 245'50/1-9). There are approximately 700 visitation reports. The basic template for his reports included the church visited, date of visit, population, patron, incumbent, services, sacraments, fabric, furniture, books, vestments, vessels, benefactions, churchyard, minister and residence, parish library, extra services, school, parish clerk, observations, orders, signature. On 18th July 1832 he visited Rearsby, Leicestershire, and recorded population as 503; the patron was the rector and the incumbent was Rector Nathaniel Morgan. He found that 'This church is in excellent order, all lately done up' (ROLLR 245'50/4). He omitted to note that through his late mother, Bridget Bonney, *née* Morgan, he was related to the rector. In 1835, 1838 and 1842 he made further visitation reports on Rearsby (ROLLR 245'50/7 for 1835/1838 and ROLLR 245'50/9 for 1842).

This form of careful, methodical, written report was exceptional for the period and these reports have since proved a goldmine for local historians. The *Victoria County History* for Leicestershire drew on them in several volumes, commenting on Leicester's 'excellent archdeacon'. It continued, 'No one could read his reports of visitation from 1832 to 1842, without being struck by the minute care with which he surveyed the fabric of every church committed to his charge ...' (*VCH Leicestershire* I, 396-7). In volume V it made several references to visitations of Leicestershire churches in the 1830s, including Stockerston in 1832 (*VCH Leicestershire* V, 307), but indexed them in error against H K Bonney, Archdeacon of Lincoln. As an aside, the written similarity between the brothers H K Bonney and T K Bonney and their father H K Bonney can easily lead to misreading or misunderstanding.

A summons to attend an archdeacon's general

assembly was known as a monition. It was a binding command to attend, carrying the archdeacon's seal, and signed by the registrar. In the first half of 1849 monitions were signed by John Stockwell Hardy, a long-serving registrar. In the second half of that year registrars were Mr G H Nevinson and Mr T Nevinson (ROLLR 1D41/17/XIX). The Nevinson brothers, nephews of Thomas, were well known Leicester solicitors. Was the appointment nepotistic?

Some church historians see the Archdeacon of Leicester as part of a broader canvas. Frances Knight, in the *The Nineteenth-Century Church and English Society* (1995, 174), writes that Bishop Kaye's archdeacons all had High Church leanings, those he inherited on coming to Lincoln in 1827 and those he appointed. Certainly, a bishop with change and improvement on his agenda would want to appoint archdeacons of a sympathetic mindset. Thomas's relinquishing the property of his prebend, before he was legally obliged to, may indicate such willingness to embrace change or not to obstruct it.

The Diocesan Revival in the Church of England c1800-1870 by Arthur Burns stresses the emergence of a more energetic and professionally minded class of archdeacon (Burns 1999, 65). The conscientious, written visitation reports of Thomas and his brother

would be characteristic of this task-oriented approach. Burns also mentions the development of a corporate awareness among the archdeacon's clergy, particularly citing the meeting of clergy called by T K Bonney in response to the 1838 Pluralities Bill (Burns 1999, 45).

Further evidence of a businesslike approach is a leaflet issued by the archdeacon in 1846, giving a printed scale of visitation charges (ROLLR 1D41/40/47) to be used uniformly. Characteristic of the writer is that he explained the rationale behind his pricing and the market soundings he had taken to arrive at a reasonable price structure.

Some duties as archdeacon were more joyful and celebratory. The *Stamford Mercury* of 21st October 1836 reported on the consecration of the new St Michael's Church at Stamford, Lincolnshire. The ceremony was performed by the bishop, supported by the Rev T K Bonney, Archdeacon of Leicester and the Rev Dr H K Bonney, Archdeacon of Bedford and Dean of Stamford. At the meal which followed, the bishop and his archdeacons each presided at one of the tables. The bishop had spent the previous night at Kings Cliffe, staying with Henry Kaye Bonney, his college friend.

As well as holding the above positions, Thomas



Fig. 9. The Rev Thomas Bonney's view from the pulpit at St Matthew's Church, Normanton, after 1829. The gallery was removed when the nave and chancel were rebuilt in 1911 (RLHRS).

was also a Rural Dean in Rutland. In August 1854 he wrote that he needed to visit North Luffenham in this capacity to deal with urgent matters (Lincolnshire Archives, 3 ANC 1/40/11/1/13). Most probably he was appointed Rural Dean before his appointment as Archdeacon in 1831 but this has not been confirmed and there is a dearth of detail about his activity as Rural Dean.

When Thomas died on 7th April 1863 he was still Rector of Normanton and Archdeacon of Leicester. A natural successor as rector was Thomas Bentley Brown, Rector of Pilton, Rutland, since 1858. He was already serving as curate to Rector Bonney at Normanton (Normanton Parish Registers). At the time of the 1861 Census he was a house guest at Normanton Park of Gilbert John Heathcote (1795-1867), who succeeded as 5th Baronet in 1851 and was created 1st Lord Aveland in 1856. Lord Aveland was patron of the living at Pilton and, if apprenticeship were needed, the rector in waiting had served his time. He stayed at Normanton until his death in 1897.

In the *Stamford Mercury* of 17th July 1868 there was an article about the 53rd Archdeacon of Leicester. The Rev J H Hill wrote of T K Bonney that 'He was buried at the west end of Normanton church, in the county of Rutland, where there is a marble tablet with the following inscription: "In memory of the Venerable Thomas Kaye Bonney, A.M., Archdeacon of Leicester, Prebendary of Lincoln cathedral, during forty-eight years Rector of Coningsby, in the county of Lincoln, and of this parish, and for a long period a Magistrate for the county of Rutland. He died April 7th 1863, aged 80 years."'

On the death of Leicester's archdeacon, the Leicester newspapers had an obvious interest in his successor. The *Leicester Journal* of 10th April 1863 praised the late archdeacon but opined that a resident archdeacon was needed in the town or neighbourhood. The bishop was expected to take some time over a new appointment. However, eight days later the *Leicester Chronicle* of 18th April reported the appointment of the Rev Henry Fearon, Rector of All Saints, Loughborough, Leicestershire, as the new archdeacon. The *Leicester Chronicle* went on to say that the appointment had given general satisfaction. Possibly so, but probably not to the journalist of the *Leicester Journal*.

The new Rector of Normanton seems to have been quickly accepted into the social life of Rutland. At Christmas 1815 the *Stamford Mercury* of 22nd December reported 'a most splendid ball and supper on Tuesday night at Burley-on-the-hill, near Oakham, the seat of the Earl of Winchilsea'. The Rev Mr Bonney was among the guests listed.

When Sir Charles Noel, 3rd Lord Barham, later

1st Earl of Gainsborough (1781-1866), celebrated the coming of age of his eldest son in 1839 at Exton, Rutland, the Venerable Archdeacon Bonney was again one of the guests (*Stamford Mercury* of 20th September 1839). He was now listed at the head of the attending clergy, enjoying festivities on the lake, an oriental marquee and 'a dejeuner of the most recherché description'. Did the archdeacon stay for the fireworks and did he go on to the ball?

Sir Gilbert Heathcote soon appreciated the reliability and acumen of his new rector. In 1820 the rector accompanied Sir Gilbert's son Gilbert John Heathcote to Boston, Lincolnshire, where Gilbert was a candidate in the general election of that year. Rector Bonney wrote to Sir Gilbert of his son's success in coming top of the poll conclusively but without excessive expense. Gilbert had been chaired around the town but had not felt quite so well the following morning (Lincolnshire Archives, 3 ANC 9/7/52).

That Sir Gilbert sought the rector's counsel and help on various issues was shown by events in 1847. Sir Gilbert had been having trouble with the Rev Lovick Cooper of Empingham. Allegedly, Lovick Cooper wanted to use funds from a local charity, Forster's Charity, to appoint a schoolmaster to the school in Empingham founded by the Heathcote family. Sir Gilbert was not happy about this intervention.

The rector believed that Lovick Cooper wanted to appoint himself master, receive the stipend and depute a curate to do the work. His advice was short and lucid. Sir Gilbert should appoint a schoolmaster and pay him a stipend. Scholars should pay, as at North Luffenham: one penny a day for a poor person's child, three pence a day for a tradesman's child and six pence a day for a farmer's child. The remainder of the stipend should come from subscriptions as at Coningsby. The Reverend Cooper would then have no opportunity to interfere. There had been a similar dispute at Langham, Rutland, between the 1st Earl of Gainsborough who had built a handsome schoolroom and house and Heneage Finch, Vicar of Oakham, Rutland, who had tried to appoint himself, or one of his curates, schoolmaster via Forster's Charity. Lord Gainsborough had not liked the interference (Lincolnshire Archives, 3 ANC 7/20/27).

At local level, Rector Bonney served as a Commissioner of Taxes in Rutland and his signature appears on several surviving assessments for 1822 (ROLLR DE 843/48). In June 1822 he had to audit the expenses of the Oakham Enclosure Commissioners but when writing to Fox Talbot on 10th June he did not anticipate this would detain him too long.

Parties outside Rutland recognized in Thomas Kaye Bonney the qualities needed by a trustee or an

executor. The *Gentleman's Magazine* (26 (1846), 526) reported on the building of a new church at Deeping Fen, Lincolnshire, dedicated to St Nicholas. Funds for building and endowing the church had been left by two brothers, formerly of Stamford, William and Nicholas Clarke Stevenson, under the trusteeship of Thomas Kaye Bonney. The octagonal font was decorated with the arms of the see of Lincoln impaled with those of Bishop Kaye on one side, and on three other sides with the arms of the two brothers and of their trustee. The Bonney arms can still be recognized on the font today, argent on a bend azure three fleur-de-lis or (fig. 10).



Fig. 10. The Bonney arms (argent on a bend azure three fleur-de-lis or) on the octagonal font at St Nicholas's Church, Deeping Fen, Lincolnshire (photo: author).

In writing to Sir Gilbert in 1847 about the Lovick Cooper problems, the rector mentioned in passing that his late friend Mr Fountayne Wilson had left him £500 and appointed him one of the executors to his will. When he died in 1847 Richard Fountayne Wilson of Melton Park and Ingmanthorpe Hall, Yorkshire, was one of the wealthiest commoners in England with estates in several counties. The starting point for this friendship may have been Cambridge University where Richard matriculated on 20th October 1800 as an undergraduate at Trinity College. The brevity of the reference in the letter to Sir Gilbert implies that the baronet was already aware of Fountayne Wilson.

In 1863 the mourners at the funeral of Archdeacon Bonney at Normanton, identified in the *Leicester Chronicle* of 18th April 1863, included 'Andrew Montagu, Esq.'. What the article did not say was that Andrew Montagu (fig. 11) was the son of Richard Fountayne Wilson. His surname had been changed to Montagu in 1826, so that he might inherit Papplewick Hall, Nottinghamshire, and its estate, left to his father by a Montagu relative.

The Papplewick Parish website (www.papplewick.org), citing an unpublished history of the village, *A Place like Papplewick*, states that 'Andrew Montagu took charge of 1,758 acres in Papplewick during 1840 and moved into Papplewick Hall from his home at Normanton, Rutlandshire'. So when he attended the funeral of his father's friend in 1863, it was apparently not his first visit to Normanton.



Fig. 11. Andrew Fountayne Wilson Montagu of Normanton and Papplewick Hall, Nottinghamshire. Drawn by Spy for *Vanity Fair*, 28th August 1886.

From soon after his arrival in Rutland Thomas Kaye Bonney held positions of civic responsibility. He was appointed early on, certainly by 1816, a magistrate of the Rutland bench (*Stamford Mercury* 18th October 1816). He continued to sit until 1837, when he resigned. The *Stamford Mercury* of 1st September 1837 explained the circumstances. There had been 'a strange and violent tumult' at Langham, Rutland, following the attempt by Heneage Finch, Vicar of Oakham, to enforce ancient tithes by distraint of property. Bad feeling and civic disturbance had ensued. The newspaper went on to state that 'One of the magistrates (Rev. T K Bonney, Archdeacon of Leicester) has lately retired from the bench for Rutland, greatly to the regret of the whole county; and his withdrawal is supposed to have arisen from disgust with proceedings which sometimes he could not prevent'.

Rector Bonney's abilities as a chairman were not limited to the parish of Normanton. In 1830 he advertised as Chairman the annual meeting of the Rutland Society for Industry for the distribution of prizes (*Stamford Mercury* 11th June 1830). In 1845 he was chosen to chair a special meeting of the Architectural Society of the Archdeaconry of Northampton, held at the National School, Uppingham, Rutland (*Gentleman's Magazine* (24 (1845), 175). Heneage Finch, Vicar of Oakham, was Secretary! In 1855 he was again chosen to chair the founding meeting of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, held at the Town Library, Guildhall, Leicester. He was by then in his seventies (*Gentleman's Magazine* (43 (1855), 166).

When a new bank for Rutland was proposed in 1818, the rector was asked to be one of the many managers, seemingly an honorary position (*Stamford Mercury*, 27th February 1818).

This degree of prominence in Rutland brought its own responsibilities. When George IV died in 1830, to be succeeded by William IV, Rector Bonney was one of the leading citizens calling on John Eagleton, Sheriff of Rutland in that year, to convene a 'County Meeting' to express condolences on the death of King George and congratulations on the accession of King William (*Drakard's Stamford News*, 30th July 1830).

Similarly, public generosity was both expected and forthcoming from the rector. He was a handsome contributor to the Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the County of Rutland, known as the Rutland School Society (*Stamford Mercury*, 22nd December 1816). Shortly after this, he gave ten pounds for bread for the poor of his parish of Coningsby in Lincolnshire (*Drakard's Stamford News*, 3rd January 1817). Public generosity was a consistent trait. There was also private generosity, not publicly recorded. After the rector's death in 1863, his nephew, the Rev Charles Nevinson of Stamford, met a beggar woman known as Betty Nancy. She lamented the loss of the rector (by then archdeacon), saying, 'The very gypsies are weeping'. Appropriately, the tale was recorded by Charles Nevinson's son, the Rev Thomas Kaye Bonney Nevinson (Leicester University Library, MS 52).

The rector's background and his early appointment to public office made him an ideal candidate to be a governor of Oakham School, a position he held from 1825 to 1863 (Sargant 1929, 57). By coincidence or arrangement, his cousin's son, Thomas George Bonney (1833-1923), attended Uppingham School from 1848 to 1852 (*Uppingham School Roll 1824 to 1905*). T G Bonney was later to be a very famous geologist and writer. It is disappointing that his autobiography, *Memories of a Long Life* (1921),

so informative about his schooldays at Uppingham, made no mention of his father's cousin a few miles away at Normanton.

Thomas Kaye Bonney's credentials for appointment as a school governor would have been enhanced by his practical experience as a private tutor. Like many clergymen at this time he supplemented his income by taking a small number of private pupils. His letters to William Henry Fox Talbot give some indication of his teaching involvement.

His first readily identified pupil was William Henry Fox Talbot himself and the arrangements for his tuition were no doubt discussed when Fox Talbot's step-father and Rector Bonney met on Christmas Day 1816. The rector may have been recommended by the Earl of Winchilsea. Certainly, Fox Talbot's mother was aware of the longstanding connection between the Bonney family and the Earls of Westmorland (Letter Lady Feilding to W H Fox Talbot 17th February 1817). Terms must have been agreed for Fox Talbot was receiving letters addressed to Normanton in February and had quite probably moved to Normanton in January. He remained there until October 1817, when he left Rutland to begin his studies at Trinity College, Cambridge.

From letters exchanged with his family during his stay at Normanton, Fox Talbot's tutoring by Bonney may be conjectured as a relaxed combination of instruction, reading and leisure activities (foxtalbot.dmu.ac.uk). He read widely and indulged his interest in botany and astrology. He had his



Fig. 12. William Henry Fox Talbot, photographic pioneer and polymath, from an early daguerreotype. In 1817 he was a private pupil of the Rev Thomas Kaye Bonney at Normanton Rectory. He stayed here for much of the year before going to Trinity College, Cambridge (Wikimedia).

own garden. His letters gave no indication of homesickness or lack of stimulation. He clearly enjoyed the company of the rector and his sister Henrietta and enjoyed meeting the rector's brother, Henry, whom he described as 'a great Antiquarian'. He was not so fond of the rector's visiting cousin whom he found, with youthful frankness, 'repulsive' but thought the rector 'a very good classic and mathematician'.

Fox Talbot had the use of his own pony while staying at Normanton rectory, making a number of trips in Rutland and further afield. He visited Fotheringhay and Apethorpe Hall in Northamptonshire, doubtless in the company of Henry Kaye Bonney of Kings Cliffe, whose writings on both places survive. He visited the stone pits at Ketton in Rutland, specifically those of Lord Northwick. He already knew John Rushout, 2nd Lord Northwick (1770-1859), from his days at Harrow school and had visited him several times at his Harrow property (Letter W H Fox Talbot to Lady Feilding 13th June 1815). He made further excursions to the vicinity of Barleythorpe, Rutland, and to Murray's Lodge, a Cecil property with a commanding view and an unidentified location.

With the rector as companion, he went as far as Crowland Abbey in Lincolnshire. He kept up his contacts with Burley on the Hill as he went to a number of cricket matches there. These were itemized in contemporary newspaper accounts but he was not recorded as a player. At Christmas 1816 Fox Talbot went shooting in the woods at Burley and nearby Hambleton (fig. 1) and the following May, while at Normanton, he shot 'a leash of rooks'. His social engagements included dining with Sir Gilbert Heathcote of Normanton Park, with the family of William Lowther, 1st Earl of Lonsdale (1757-1844), at Cottesmore, and with Samuel Barker (1757-1835), of Lyndon Hall, all in Rutland.

The charges for his tuition and accommodation at Normanton are not known. In 1836 T K Arnold, Rector of Lyndon, Rutland, had thirteen younger pupils at 100 guineas a year each (Letter T K Bonney to W H F Talbot 24th October 1836). Lower down the scale, Mr Henry Halford advertised tuition and board at his school at Barleythorpe, at twenty pounds a year, in the *Stamford Mercury* of 28th March 1817. Presumably, Mr Bonney's charges were closer to the higher figure. More than mere board and tuition was involved. Fox Talbot may have left Normanton in October 1817 but his pony was still stabled there at the end of January 1818 awaiting collection (Letter T K Bonney to W H F Talbot 31st January 1818).

Rector Bonney never seems to have had more than two or three pupils at a time and not

continuously. His pupils included both the pre-public school and the pre-university age group. Later, he sometimes referred in letters to their progress in parliament and other activities (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 5th January 1850). In 1829 he had as pupil a 'son of Lord King', possibly maintaining an old family connection (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 10th December 1829). The rector's grandfather, Thomas Bonney, rector of Ockham, Surrey, was recorded in one family paper as 'Chapn. to Wm. Lord King', 4th Baron King of Ockham (1711-67). As late as 1836, the rector, by then archdeacon, had two pupils (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 24th October 1836).

However, Fox Talbot and Bonney struck a special chord. The former pupil came back to Normanton several times. In 1822 he stayed for a week (Letter W H Fox Talbot to Captain Feilding 29th June 1822). They continued to correspond, certainly until 1850 when the rector was 68. Fox Talbot sent copies of several of his published works to Normanton on political matters, mathematics and etymology. The rector sent him personal news but also details of Fox Talbot's student friends now living locally, including Thomas Kerchever Arnold (1800-53), Rector of Lyndon and a famous educational writer (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 5th January 1850).

Rutland clearly stayed in Fox Talbot's memory. In 1862, more than thirty years after his stays at Burley and Normanton, he wrote of the '*Pulsatilla vernalis*' (the Spring Pasque flower) that he used to find in 'Rutlandshire' (Letter W H Fox Talbot to W T H F Strangways, 22nd August 1862).

What can be said of the rector's other activities and his personal life? He probably moved into the rectory in late 1814 or early 1815 not long after his appointment was announced. In early 1817 the rector petitioned the Bishop of Lincoln for permission to pull down a poorly built breakfast room extension added by the previous rector, the Rev Dr William Tait. The petition stated that the main body of the house comprised a dining room, drawing room, library, common parlour, eight bedrooms and sundry other rooms. A small commission of enquiry confirmed the poor state of the breakfast room, dimensions 31ft x 18ft, and permission to demolish was granted on 5th March 1817. The commission affirmed that the main house had been built by Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 4th Baronet, in 1799 (Irons's notes).

The rectory survives at Normanton as Bracknell House, a private house (fig. 13). Even allowing for later changes, it must have been a rectory of handsome proportions, shared by the rector and his unmarried sister, Henrietta. There were servants to



Fig. 13. Normanton Rectory, now Bracknell House. The Rev Thomas Kaye Bonney was Rector from 1814 until his death in 1863 (Rutland County Museum: Jack Hart Collection).

perform house, garden and stable duties and to help entertain visitors (Normanton Census Returns 1841-61).

Curiously, Normanton rectory was not Mr Bonney's first involvement with property in Rutland. Documents show that in April 1811, three years before his appointment as Rector of Normanton, Thomas Kaye Bonney bought for £130 a messuage, barn, building and yard at Manton, Rutland (Lincolnshire Archives, 5 ANC 1/6/60/5). At that time, he was a Fellow of Clare Hall and a Proctor of Cambridge University, with no known attachments to Rutland. In October 1816 he sold the same premises for the same £130 to Lionel Edward Heathcote, styled Lieutenant of the Royal Horse Guards Blue (Lincolnshire Archives, 5 ANC 1/60/6). The reason for these transactions is not known.

Thomas Kaye Bonney had several sources of income to support living at Normanton. First, he had his income as Rector of Normanton and absentee Rector of Coningsby. In his earlier decades he had occasional further income as a stipendiary curate at Empingham and elsewhere plus earnings from his tutoring work. Once appointed, he enjoyed income as prebendary from 1823 and as archdeacon from 1831. In addition, accumulated cash generated loan interest. In 1842 he and a fellow clergyman made a substantial mortgage loan of £2,800 at 4% allowing them to share an annual £112 gross and he may well

have had other investments of this type (ROLLR DE 5516/34). Collectively, these earnings allowed a comfortable lifestyle for a rural rector.

Even in those days, there was a need to pay taxes and local precepts (figs. 14 & 15). A rare survival from 1822 is the Rector of Normanton's tax assessment for servants, horses and other articles of his establishment. He was assessed for two servants, one riding horse, one dog and armorial bearings, a total including duties of £16 10s 1½d yearly, payable in two instalments (ROLLR DE 843/48).

If Rector Bonney had the confidence of the Heathcote family, this did not imply that he saw them on a daily basis. There were times when none of the family was at Normanton Hall and in 1830 the rector wrote to Fox Talbot that Sir Gilbert Heathcote and family were expected back after an absence of two years (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 30th March 1830). It will be recalled that Sir Gilbert Heathcote's county of residence at death in 1851 was not Rutland at all, but Surrey.

At times, Bonney may have seen as much and more of other leading local families. He was particularly close to the Lucas family of Edith Weston and Great Casterton, Rutland, enjoying the company of the grandfather and father but not, apparently, that of the grandson. He was frequently involved with Samuel Barker of nearby Lyndon Hall. His cooperation with local clergymen testifies

Form of renewed Contract of Composition for Assessed Taxes.

AMOUNT OF DUTIES.	
Windows, Number	
Rent, Amount £	
Total Amount of Duties	
Composition Duty of £5 per Centum	
Total Amount of Composition £	

Know all Men, That we, Two of the Commissioners acting in the Execution of the Acts in relation to Assessed Taxes for the Division of Rutland in the County of Rutland have contracted and agreed with The Rev. T. K. Bonney of Normanton in the said Division, in pursuance of an Act passed in the Second Year of the Reign of His present Majesty, for the renewal of the Composition of his Assessed Taxes, as stated in the Margin hereof, namely,

Upon Dwelling House, with the appurtenances therewith occupied, situate in the said Parish on the amount expressed therein.

And also upon Servants, Horses, and other Articles of his Establishment on the Amount expressed therein, together with the additional Rate granted by the said Act.

Which several Amounts are to be paid to the Collectors of the said Parish by Two Instalments, viz.

1st Instalment on or before the 10th Day of October,

2nd Instalment on or before the 5th Day of April,

and so yearly during the respective terms of Six Years and Five Years, from the 5th Day of April 1822, mentioned in the said Act.

ESTABLISHMENT.	AMOUNT OF DUTIES.
2 Servants C. No. 1	10 4 -
Servants C. No. 2	
Four Wheel Carriages D. No. 1	
Two Wheel Carriages D. No. 2	
Taxed Carts D. No. 4	
1 Horses for Riding E. No. 1	2 17 6
Race Horses E. No. 2	
Other Horses, if not used for Trade F. No. 1	
1 Dogs G.	- 14 -
Hair Powder H.	
Armorial Bearings K.	1 4 -
Composition Duty of £5 per Centum under Act 59, of Geo. III.	15 14 5 1/2
Total Amount of Duties	15 14 5 1/2
Composition Duty of £5 per Centum by 2nd Geo. IV.	15 8
Total Amount of Composition for Establishment	16 10 1/2
Ditto for House	2 - -
Total Amount of Composition £	16 10 1/2

THE CONDITION of the above Composition is, that the above-named Rev. T. K. Bonney shall duly pay or cause to be paid to the Collectors for the said Parish or one of them on or before the Days above-mentioned, upon demand, the yearly Sum of £ 16. 10. 1/2 by Two Instalments in even portions, taking their or his Receipt in writing for the same, otherwise the said Composition shall be levied on the goods and chattels of the said Rev. T. K. Bonney or used for and recovered by any of the Ways and Means by which the Monies due on Assessments may be sued for and recovered

Witness, Robert G. Estall Clerk, J. Garker Commissioner of the within Division.

Witness, Robert G. Estall Clerk, Thomas Kaye Bonney The Party hereto.

N. B. With the Consent of the Commissioners, the Collector of the Parish may witness the Signature of the Party to the Contract.

Fig. 14. The Rev T K Bonney's Tax Assessment for 1822 (ROLLR DE 843/48).

Highway Rate of 6d in the £ being the Rate for the Year commencing Michaelmas 1834.

Rentals		£	s	d
770.0	Rev. Gilbert Heathcote, B.A.	19	5	0
138.0	The Rev. T. K. Bonney	2	9	0
22.0	Allen William		11	6
17.0	Alexander Thomas		8	6
19.0	Alexander John		9	6
38.0	Coag, Joseph	19	0	0
19.0	King Benjamin		9	6
5.0	Kirston Nicholas		2	6
10.10	Lyon Mr. Junr		5	3
62.0	Lunn Thomas	1	11	0
19.0	Lunn Francis		9	6
2.10	Uazey Joseph		1	9
1124.0		28	2	0

Fig. 15. The Highway Rate for Normanton in the year commencing Michaelmas 1834 was 6d in the £. The Rev Thomas Bonney's contribution was £3 9s 0d (ROLLR DE 1579/7).

to good working relationships. He particularly enjoyed his meetings with Rector Thomas Kerchever Arnold of Lyndon when they could reminisce about Cambridge days and talk about mutual friends, including Fox Talbot. It was Arnold who wrote in 1849 of the falling off in Bonney's closeness to the Lucas family (Letter T K Arnold to W H Fox Talbot 16th January 1849). One Rutland rector who outdid Bonney in longevity was his friend Charles Spencer Ellicott. When he died in 1880, a memorial tablet in Whitwell church stated that he had been Rector there for sixty years.

Thomas Kaye Bonney was a clear thinker and writer but without his brother Henry's commitment to research and publication. There are few clues to his tastes in reading but he must have had some interest in poetry. His name appeared as a subscriber to a volume of poetry by Samuel Messing of Exton, Rutland (*Poems on Various Subjects*, Stamford, 1821). Fox Talbot's praise of Bonney as 'classic and

mathematician' has already been mentioned.

In its obituary of 10th April 1863 the *Leicester Journal* described the archdeacon's conduct as 'quiet and unobtrusive'. He disliked immoderate behaviour, disapproving in 1818 the gambling and duelling of Robert Sherard, 6th Earl of Harborough (1797-1859) (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 2nd December 1818). He criticized in 1820 the intemperate political speeches in Northamptonshire of George William Finch-Hatton, later 10th Earl of Winchilsea (1791-1858) (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 9th May 1820).

Conversely, when Sir Samuel Romilly (1757-1818), legal and parliamentary reformer, committed suicide in 1818 after the death of his wife, Bonney wrote to Fox Talbot that he was a great admirer of Romilly (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 2nd December 1818). In writing this, did he also recall his uncle, John Augustus Bonney (1763-1813), an attorney and reformer, who had been sent to the Tower in 1794 for his political opinions? Augustus had eventually been released without trial or conviction. His views and affiliations may have been contrary to the wishes of the government but they were not found contrary to the law.

Quietness and moderation, deference to rank, did not mean that Bonney could not be firm when needed. As chairman and trustee in different fields, he needed to show firmness as well as tact. His resignation in 1837 from the Rutland bench, following the unhappy title litigation of Heneage Finch, witnessed to his sense of principle. In 1854 he wrote several times in short succession to Sir Gilbert Heathcote requesting urgent action to placate the villagers of North Luffenham, who were very unhappy about the administration of a local charity (Lincolnshire Archives 3 ANC 1/40/11/1/10-15). Receiving four letters within a few days of each other, telling him that no time should be lost, that the people of North Luffenham had broken the church organ, that new trustees were needed without delay, Sir Gilbert would have clearly understood the need for action.

The Rector of Normanton did not travel far from Rutland. His church responsibilities entailed short stays at Coningsby in Lincolnshire and attendance on the bishop took him at different times to Horncastle (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 11th July 1818), to Stamford and no doubt to Lincoln. He was present at the 1820 parliamentary elections in Boston, also in Lincolnshire (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 22nd March 1820). As Archdeacon of Leicester, he needed to deal with his officials there and in the early years travelled widely in the county on parochial visitations. He visited his brother and other relations over the county border at

Kings Cliffe in Northamptonshire (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 11th July 1818). In 1818 he wrote of a journey to London, possibly meeting his sister, Mrs Charlotte Sarah Nevinson, who was living in Hampstead (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 31st January 1818). In 1810 he had attended Charlotte's wedding in London to Edward Henry Nevinson, a cousin. The parish register for St James's, Westminster, recorded her brother Henry performing the ceremony and her other brother Thomas witnessing it. Thomas would surely have been in London for his brother's wedding in 1827. But generally there is little suggestion of long personal journeys or holidays away from his Rutland base. Where a proposed journey was alluded to, as in early 1830, he did not make it because of the terrible winter weather (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 30th March 1830).

The apparent dearth of long journeys did not mean that he was sedentary. In 1855, in his early seventies, he chaired a meeting in Leicester. In 1850, he wrote to Fox Talbot of having met Rector Arnold of Lyndon in a railway carriage (Letter T K Bonney to W H Fox Talbot 5th January 1850).

On 24th December 1862 his brother, Henry Kaye Bonney, died at Kings Cliffe. Thomas was not present at the funeral which took place on 1st January 1863 (*Stamford Mercury* 9th January 1863). On 19th February 1863 his sister Henrietta died. The funeral service was conducted by the Rev T B Brown, Rector of Pilton, who by then was acting as curate of Normanton. Thomas Kaye Bonney died at Normanton on 7th April 1863 and was buried there on 14th April. The Rev T B Brown again performed the service.

The mourners included three nephews, Charles Nevinson from Stamford and George Henry and Thomas Nevinson from Leicester. Sir Gilbert Heathcote, 5th Baronet, now Lord Aveland, was there, together with Lionel and Henry Heathcote. Also there were Rector Ellicott of Whitwell, the sadly maligned Richard Lucas of Edith Weston and W F J Kaye, Archdeacon of Lincoln and son of John Kaye, late Bishop of Lincoln.

Mrs Charlotte Sarah Nevinson of Hampstead, the surviving sister, now in her late seventies, was not there. Now that Henry, Henrietta and Thomas had died in the space of four months, Mrs Nevinson was the sole survivor of the brothers and sisters. Henry left the bulk of his estate, valued under £14,000, to his siblings. Henrietta died intestate with an estate valued under £9,000. Thomas left his entire estate, valued under £14,000, to Henrietta who predeceased him. The outcome of these events was a substantial inheritance for Mrs Nevinson who died in 1868.

Henry's will itemised a number of properties in

Huntingdon and in Kings Cliffe. Thomas's will gave no hint of a property portfolio. However, it turned out that he owned an occupied property with land at Haconby, Lincolnshire. Property and land passed to his sister Charlotte who sold them to Lord Aveland in early 1864. For calculation of succession duty, land and appurtenances were valued at £125 and the annual rental was £6 (Lincolnshire Archives, 5 ANC 1/4/1/6-12).

In retrospect, dealing with Thomas Kaye Bonney's will should have been relatively straightforward but this was not the case. In December 1913, fifty years after letters of administration were granted to Mrs Nevinson, a further grant was made for trust property value £5,000, implying an error in the 1863 estate valuation of under £14,000. The second grant gives no further detail.

When Thomas Kaye Bonney died at Normanton in 1863, unmarried and without children, it seemed as if the Bonney name had disappeared from Rutland. This was not the case. His nephew, the Rev

Charles Nevinson of Stamford, called one of his sons Thomas Kaye Bonney Nevinson. This latter day Thomas was Rector of Lyndon, Rutland, 1889-1909 and Rector of Medbourne, Leicestershire, 1909-29, retiring to Cambridge where he died in 1930 (Biographical Archive, St John's College, Cambridge). He had a son and two daughters and maintained the Bonney association by calling his son Humphrey Kaye Bonney Nevinson. Humphrey attended Oakham School, Rutland.

Second Lieutenant H K B Nevinson, aged 23, was wounded at Gallipoli and died on 5th June 1915. He is remembered on the village war memorial at Medbourne and also by a memorial tablet in Medbourne church where his father was rector when he died. Visitors to Oakham School Chapel will see his name incised on the outside surrounds of the entrance door. Exactly one hundred years before Humphrey's death, in 1815, Thomas Kaye Bonney was in his first year as Rector of Normanton in Rutland.

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Old Hall Farm and Martinsthorpe House

NICK HILL

Old Hall Farm is the only surviving building at the deserted settlement of Martinsthorpe. It has been thought that it was the stables to Martinsthorpe House, and that the house and stables were built in the early seventeenth century. A new detailed study of Old Hall

Farm shows that it was instead originally a service range, providing cooking and storage facilities for the main house. Further study of the records of Martinsthorpe House suggests that both the house and service range can probably be dated to 1666-70.



Fig. 1. Old Hall Farm and the site of Martinsthorpe House from the east (author).

Martinthorpe lies on a broad ridge just over a mile to the west of Manton in Rutland. Extensive earthworks, grazed by sheep, surround the lone building of Old Hall Farm (Fig. 1). The medieval village of Martinthorpe, which once probably had 40 houses and a church, was deserted by 1522. The manor was owned by the Feilding family from the mid-fifteenth century. In 1607 it was inherited by Sir William Feilding, who became Earl of Denbigh in 1622, though the principal family seat remained at Newnham Paddox in Warwickshire. The 5th Earl of Denbigh sold Martinthorpe in 1720 and Martinthorpe House is said to have been demolished in 1755. The ground floor room to the north-east corner of the house, which contained the chapel, was retained when the main house was taken down. The tradition that Old Hall Farm was originally the stables to the main house goes back to Laird, whose survey of Rutland states that when Martinthorpe

House was demolished in 1755 the ‘stables were turned into a tenant’s house’ and that, in 1818, there was at Martinthorpe no ‘vestige of ancient habitation, except the remains of the stables, now inhabited by a shepherd and his family’ (Laird 1818, 129). The chapel saw occasional religious use into the early nineteenth century, but lost its roof in 1885 and had been demolished by 1910. The last occupants of Old Hall Farm left in 1950 and it is now disused, with the windows and doorways blocked up.

A detailed study of the history of Martinthorpe was carried out by Sheila Sleath and Robert Ovens, leading to the publication of an article in *Rutland Record* in 1994. Sleath and Ovens also carried out a preliminary study of Old Hall Farm, using drawings made by Peter Ellis in a measured survey of 1970 (Fig. 2). The current study builds on this earlier research, with particular reference to the architectural history of the buildings.

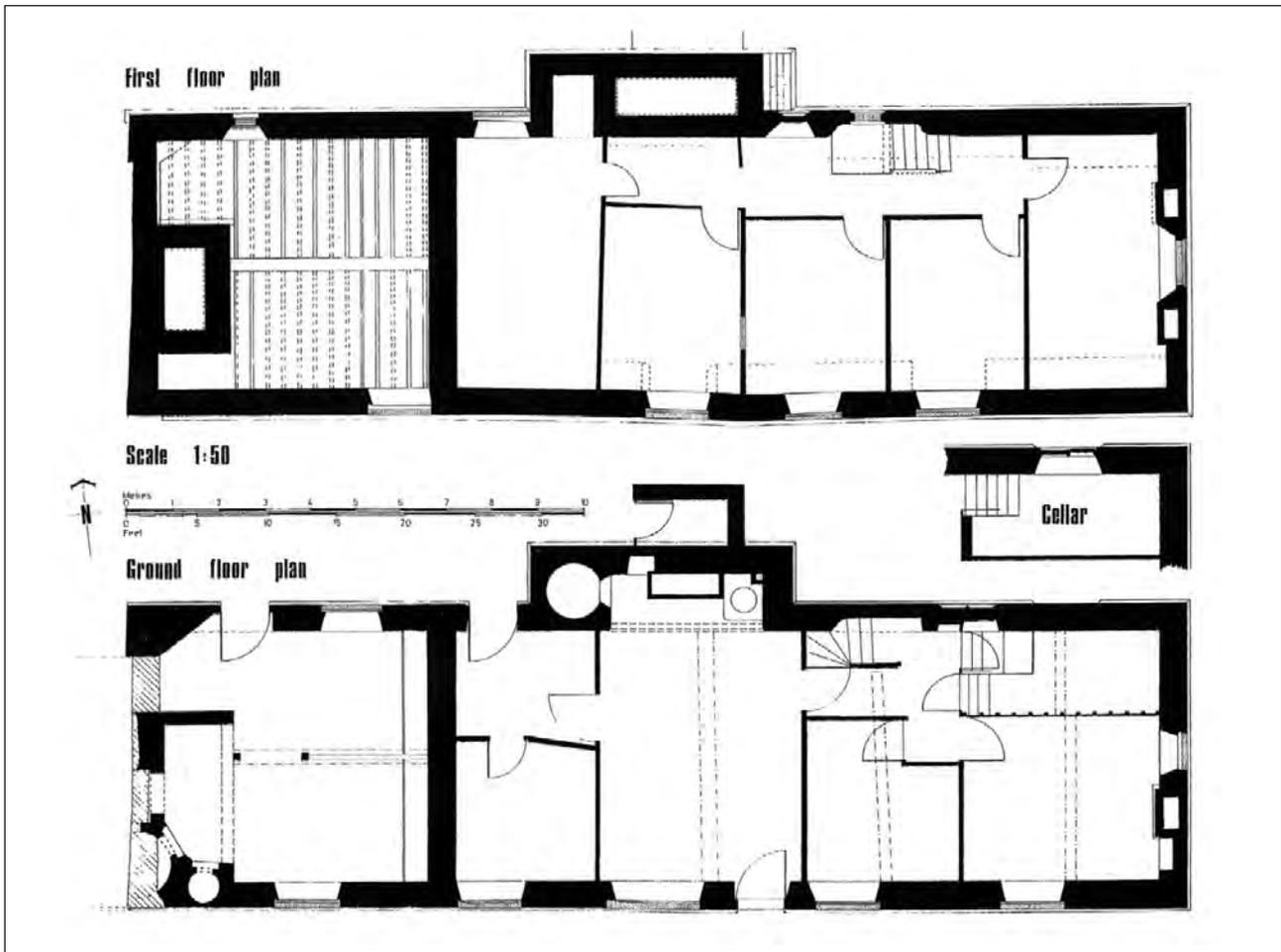


Fig. 2. Plans of Old Hall Farm from a survey in 1970 (Peter Ellis).

Old Hall Farm

Old Hall Farm forms a single building block of quite sophisticated design, with high quality detailing to the stonemasonry (Figs. 3 & 4). The walls are built of finely dressed and very neatly coursed limestone rubble, with dressings of limestone ashlar. Most of the ashlar is fine-grained, of Ketton stone, but there is also a proportion of a very shelly limestone, more similar to Clipsham type. As Sleath & Ovens (1994) note, the Earls of Denbigh owned quarries at Ketton. Around the whole of the south front, east gable and north walls there is a continuous chamfered plinth, and also a hollow-moulded string course at first floor height. Many openings have been blocked, with the loss of various features such as mullions, but enough original details generally survive to indicate the original design.

The south front has a stone doorway offset a little to the right, with five blocked window openings which would have had mullioned windows. Above are three finely detailed matching gabled dormers for the first floor, also originally mullioned. The east gable now has a rough blocked opening to the ground floor, but a photograph of 1915 (Fig. 5)

shows this window with its former stone surround. Above it on the first floor is a wider two-light mullioned window. The gable is finely built, with a gable parapet and moulded stone chimneystack. The stack has an unusual detail in that the gable coping is taken up to a pointed apex, rather than the usual fashion where the coping forms a horizontal seating. All three chimneystacks in the building are treated in this way. The rear north side is dominated by a massive projecting lateral stack, an unusual feature in Rutland buildings, serving the main kitchen inglenook fireplace inside. Near the east end, a low-level window originally provided light to a part-cellar. A small window set at the level of the first floor marks the location of the original stairs.

The west gable differs in character from the rest (Fig. 6). The 1915 photograph shows that there was formerly a barn attached here, and it is clear that this west gable was never intended to be exposed to view. A doorway to the left, now blocked, used to link the barn to the main building. At the north-west corner, the arrangement of the quoins and the string course show that the barn was set back from the main building alignment by around 250mm. At the



Fig. 3. Old Hall Farm from the south-east (author).



Fig. 4. Old Hall Farm from the north-west (author).



Fig. 5. Old Hall Farm in 1915, with the barn still attached to the west end (ROLLR, Henton Collection 1066).

south-west corner, the barn was on the same alignment as the main range, and the Collyweston slate roof originally ran across both buildings, as seen in the 1915 photo. However, when the barn was demolished in 1965, the parapet copings were taken from the barn's west gable and a new coped parapet was built up to the south slope of the main building gable. Inspection of the 1915 photo suggests that the barn itself is not original, as the masonry of its front wall does not match that of the main building, and the string course is not carried across. The offset to the north wall suggests that there was formerly a range at right angles here, running southwards to form the service courtyard. Presumably this was lost during the period of demolitions, and the barn was built in its place in the later eighteenth or early nineteenth century. At the top of the gable is another fine stone chimneystack. Although there is only a single large inglenook fireplace inside, the upper part of the stack has been given two flues to improve its appearance. The 1915 photograph shows that the chimneystack on the north wall, which has now lost its top, was treated similarly.

Inside, the south front doorway led into a main central room. This has a large inglenook fireplace with a neatly formed stone arch. An integral feature of the chimneystack, occupying a large area to the left side, is a bake oven. The ingle now has a chimneybreast of late nineteenth century brickwork within it, together with an iron range. To the east, past the stairs, is the small cellar, with a flagstone floor about 1m below ground. The south side of the cellar retains an original partition of oak studs, with reed and plaster. The original ground floor partitions

were probably all of this type, but were replaced in brick in the late nineteenth century. The south-east room had its own original small fireplace.

The existing stairs up to the first floor probably date from the later eighteenth or early nineteenth century, but are in the original location. The building



Fig. 6. The west gable, where a barn was formerly attached (author).

evidence suggests that there were in fact two staircases, one rising each side of a first floor partition housing the tie-beam of a roof truss. On the first floor, the east end had another room with its own small fireplace. The main central area probably formed a single space with no partitions originally. Stud partitions (as shown on the 1970 survey) and ceilings were added around the later eighteenth century, but have subsequently been removed. The west end forms a separate compartment, with a stone cross-wall which never had any connecting doorways to the main building on either the ground or first floor. The cross-wall is well-bonded to the main north and south walls, indicating that it is not a later insertion. The west room has another very large inglenook fireplace, with an ironstone jamb and large, cranked beam. The fireplace has, unusually, two bake ovens, both formed with outer steeply pointed arches. The ironstone of the door arches is deeply reddened from repeated firing. Access to the first floor may have been by narrow ladder only, between the joists, as there is no trimming for a stair. The first-floor room is lit chiefly by the southern dormer window. Although this is oddly squeezed into the corner of the room, it does appear to be the original arrangement, not a result of later alterations. The west room has been used in late years as a cow house or stable, with stalls and troughs.

The building retains most of its original roof timbers. The roof truss by the stairs location has a tie-beam at its base, but the remaining four main trusses are of an unusual form with a high tenoned collar and lower collar, forming an A-frame, in order to allow headroom. The lower collars are dovetail-lapped, presumably to prevent roof-spread.

This study of the details of the building shows that Old Hall Farm was all of a single build and carefully planned. The masonry detailing is consistent throughout, as is the roof structure. The high quality features of the string course, dormer windows, chimneystacks and overall quality of the stonemasonry all indicate a building of quite high status, dating from around the mid-seventeenth century. The building design is carefully controlled throughout, and clearly built for a very specific purpose.

In terms of the original building's function, it is immediately clear that it could not have been built as a stable. Stables built for country houses in the seventeenth century have been the subject of detailed study (Worsley 2004) and conform to a regular building type. Such stables have a rectangular form, with doors and windows in the front wall. Inside, there is usually a single large, rectangular space, subdivided only by timber stall divisions. The horses had their heads against the rear wall, so there

were never any windows at lower level here. There may be minor fireplaces at the gable ends for blacksmithing, harness rooms, or grooms' accommodation on the first floor, but there would be no fireplaces within the central stalls area. Old Hall Farm, with its many windows, inglenook fireplaces and bake ovens, was clearly not a stable.

On the other hand, the building is quite unusual in terms of its plan form and function, quite different from the standard type of local farmhouse. Although most of the existing partition walls are not original, the layout of the principal rooms can be deduced. The ground-floor central room seems to have served as a major kitchen, with large inglenook fireplace and integral bake oven. The separate room to the west, with a second inglenook and two bake ovens, clearly formed another kitchen/bakehouse space. At the east end there is a small room with a minor fireplace, which looks more like a servant's room than the parlour room of quality which would be expected in a higher status farmhouse. The service function of the east end is further emphasised by the part cellar on the north side, which the basement window shows is clearly an original feature. The cellar must have provided cool storage with its sunken floor and north-facing window. The first floor had only one heated room at the east end, though the western area would no doubt have been warmed by the large kitchen underneath. It seems likely that a higher status servant had the east room, with the area to the west for lesser servants, or perhaps only storage use. The room over the west compartment seems to have had only ladder stair access, and was probably used for storage.

The front door seems to lead directly into the central kitchen, with no separating passage. The back door from the main part of the building also exits from the central kitchen. The eastern rooms and the whole of the first floor seem therefore only to have been accessed via the kitchen. A circulation pattern of this type would be highly unusual in a domestic context, but quite appropriate for use by servants. The complete separation of the western compartment from the rest of the building is further evidence that this is not a normal dwelling house structure. Early photos (figs. 5 & 10) show that the lost building to the west had two rows of nesting boxes for doves under the eaves to the left of its large barn-type doorway.

All this evidence indicates that Old Hall Farm was built not as a stable, but as a service range to the major residence of Martinsthorpe House. The surviving building, with its plethora of service facilities, and lack of normal domestic accommodation, was clearly not designed to function as an independent residential unit, but as subservient to

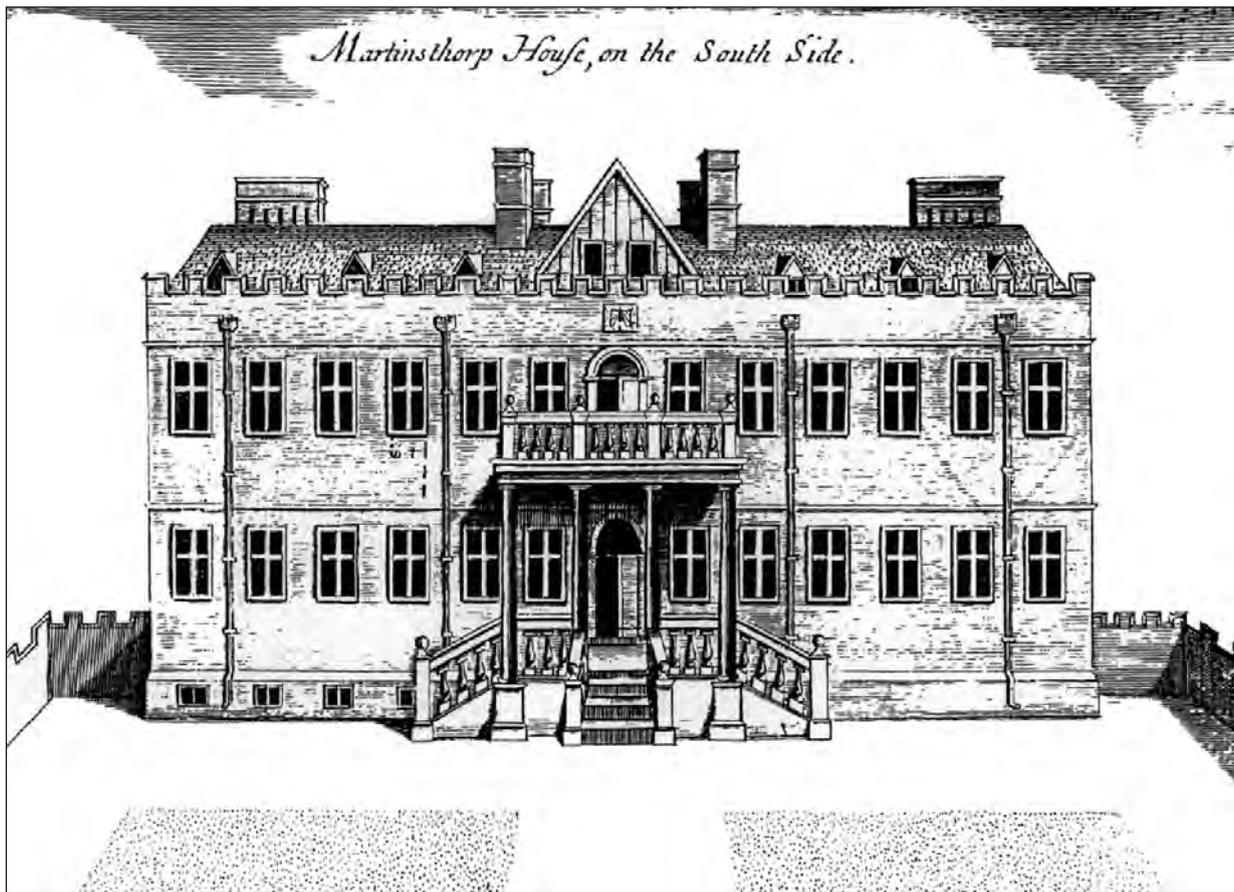


Fig. 7. Martinsthorpe House in 1684 (James Wright, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland*).

the main house. The tradition that it was a stable, dating back to Laird's account in 1818, may relate to other adjoining buildings, now lost. Martinsthorpe House would certainly have had a stable block. It seems likely that there was an extensive service yard to the west of the house, which would have included the surviving service range, stables, other service buildings such as a laundry and brew-house, as well as various agricultural buildings – all necessary adjuncts to a country house.

Martinsthorpe House

Nothing now survives above ground of Martinsthorpe House, so it is known principally from the engraving in James Wright's history of Rutland of 1684 (Fig. 7). After the demolition of the house around 1755, there are also two views dating from 1797 and 1839 of the remaining north-east corner which served as a chapel, as well as a photograph taken in c1905 before its demolition (Figs. 8-10).

Martinsthorpe House has been thought to have been built as a mansion by the 1st Earl of Denbigh in the early 1620s. Sir William Feilding inherited in 1607 and married Susan Villiers, the sister of George Villiers, of Burley on the Hill. George Villiers became the favourite of James I from 1614,

rapidly rising to become Duke of Buckingham. It was presumably through this connection that Sir William Feilding became Viscount Feilding in 1620 and Earl of Denbigh in 1622. It has therefore been assumed that Martinsthorpe House was built in the early 1620s, as the Feilding fortunes prospered.

However, the surviving illustrations of the house strongly suggest a rather later date. The 1684 drawing in Wright shows the front elevation with a highly developed symmetrical arrangement. The use of regular rows of 'cross' windows, with tall, rectangular proportions, a single mullion and high-set horizontal transom, is characteristic of the later seventeenth century. Analysis of the various illustrations shows that the building must have formed a completely regular, rectangular block of 'double-pile' construction, that is of two rooms in depth. The 1684 drawing suggests that the roof had hipped ends to the west and east, an arrangement which would have allowed the parapet to be taken around all four sides of the house. This well-developed, compact plan type, with the main floor partly raised over a basement, makes a date earlier than 1650 extremely unlikely. Such houses were only being introduced at the highest level from this time by leading architects, such as Sir Roger Pratt. Coleshill House, Pratt's

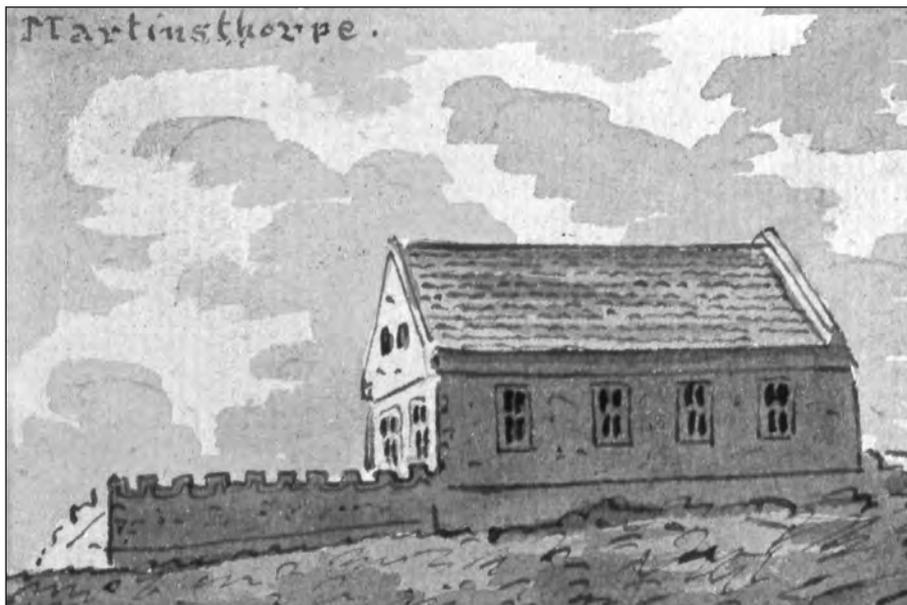


Fig. 8. Martinsthorpe Chapel in 1797; the ground floor chapel was retained when Martinsthorpe House was demolished in 1755, with a new gabled roof built over it. (Rutland County Museum).



Fig. 9. View of the Chapel and Old Hall Farm in 1839, attributed to Alicia Wilkins (Uppingham School Archives).



Fig. 10. The Chapel in c.1905; the gable wall here shows that the original house had walls of high quality, finely-jointed ashlar limestone (Rutland County Museum, Jack Hart collection postcard, 2002.6.1220).

masterwork, was built in the 1650s, as also were two architecturally advanced ‘double-pile’ houses by Peter Mills, Thorpe Hall, Peterborough, and Wisbech Castle, Cambridgeshire. The fully developed version of this ‘double-pile’ design is seen in Rutland in the late seventeenth century at Lyndon Hall (1671-77) and South Luffenham Hall (c1695).

While the design of Martinsthorpe House included various features which came into fashion in the later seventeenth century, it also has some peculiar characteristics which suggest a date in the third quarter of the century rather than the last quarter. The front portico, with its first floor balcony and three sets of steps, is particularly odd. The awkwardly slender columns, if accurately drawn, suggest it must have been made of timber rather than stone, though one would expect the turned balustrade details to be of stone. Above the portico, there is a gable to the roof, set behind the parapet, its steeply pitched roof crowning the classical façade in a very incongruous manner. Again, the material of this is unclear, the vertical lines suggesting timber rather than stonework, which might have been necessary if it was not placed over the load-bearing masonry below. Both of these features suggest a designer not yet at ease with the new style. Another unusual feature is the castellated parapet, which is also employed for the wall surrounding the front court. The standard ‘double-pile’ design had a large eaves cornice, not a parapet. One of the few parallels for the use of a parapet is at the stable block of Nevill Holt, Leicestershire, dating from shortly after 1661. Set in the centre just below the parapet is a sundial.

The south elevation chosen for the 1684 illustration, with its dominant portico, was presumably the principal entrance. In front of the house is a walled court, with indications that it was laid out as a rectilinear parterre garden. The wall was castellated, matching the parapet of the house, and is shown as still surviving on the drawing of 1797, though this drawing also indicates that the courtyard was considerably wider than shown in Wright’s 1684 view. One would expect this front courtyard to have been entered by a main gateway on the central southern axis. The portico steps led up to the main ground floor, set over a basement on the west side only. The ground plan would have been bisected by the major west-east wall, which contained multiple chimneystacks. Wright’s drawing shows further chimneystacks to the centre, so there were two further north-south walls which divided the house into three parts. One would expect the ground floor to have a central hall inside the front door and a parlour for family dining, as well as the chapel to the north-east. On the first floor, the central arched opening leading onto the balcony over

the portico suggests there was a great chamber here, used for formal dining and entertaining. The suites of principal bedchambers would also have been mainly on the first floor, with servants’ bedrooms in the attics.

In the compact ‘double-pile’ plan, the kitchen and services were generally located in the basement. However, the basement at Martinsthorpe was restricted to the west side of the house, and even here was very low-set. The kitchen and adjoining service area in the house must have been quite cramped. Clearly, this aspect of the design is directly linked to the need for a separate service range, where more spacious facilities allowed much of the food preparation, some cooking and all of the baking to be done.

Only two clues remain to indicate anything of the house’s interior. The early twentieth century photograph of the chapel (Fig. 10) shows a surviving fireplace on the south wall, which must have served one of the rooms along the south front. The fireplace is of stone with a four-centred Tudor arch, a rather old-fashioned design, but one that remained popular in the locality until the later seventeenth century.



Fig. 11. Panelled door stored in Old Hall Farm, probably from Martinsthorpe House (author).

The other clue is a fine door now lying on the first floor joists in the west end of Old Hall Farm. The door is of five-panel type with small projecting bolection mouldings to both sides (Fig. 11). The large single top panel has four square moulded projections into the main panel on the front face. The panels are also raised on the face side. The door

is only 30-35mm thick, so was clearly an internal door. It is constructed of pine, not oak, and has shaped 'H-L' hinges, fixed with nails. It seems rather unlikely that such a high quality door would have been fitted internally within a service range building, so it was probably taken from Martinsthorpe House after it was demolished in c1755 and re-fitted in Old Hall Farm. The door is of a well-recognised type which can be confidently dated to after 1660, and probably no later than c1690. The house presumably contained a full set of such doors originally. It is likely that some of the rooms also had bolelection-moulded panelling of similar type, as commonly found at this period.

The Hearth Tax evidence and dating

Examination of the hearth tax records in fact proves clearly that Martinsthorpe House, together with Old Hall Farm, date from after 1665. The Rutland hearth tax assessment of Michaelmas (29th September) 1664 (PRO E179/255/9) has the following entry for Martinsthorpe:

iiii [shillings] The old Mannor house iiii [hearths]
Empty Basil Earle of Denbigh y^e owner

The 'old Mannor house', with four hearths, is the only entry for Martinsthorpe. The up-to-date design of Martinsthorpe House as shown on the 1684 engraving, with at least sixteen flues to its chimneystacks, is clearly not the four-hearth 'old Mannor house'. Examination of the 1665 Rutland hearth tax shows that it is very complete and gives reliable details of other greater houses in the county, of which there were 40 with nine or more hearths. The hearth tax also carefully lists a total of eleven houses which are noted as 'empty' and with no tax payable, but the number of hearths is still given, as it is at Martinsthorpe for the old manor house. So it is clear that, even if Martinsthorpe House was standing empty, it would have been included in the hearth tax list.

Old Hall Farm does, of course, possess four hearths. However, with its unusual service range accommodation, it could also never be described as an 'old manor house'. The hearth tax assessment of Lady Day (25th March) 1665 (PRO E179/255/11) has similar details, though the previous description as 'old Mannor house' is now given simply as 'Martinsthorpe house':

iiii [shillings] Martinsthorpe house iiii [hearths]
Empty Basil Earle of Denbigh owner

The Michaelmas 1665 entry (see Bourne and Goode, 1991) is similar, except the building is not described as empty. It can be concluded that both Martinsthorpe House and Old Hall Farm must have

been built after 1665, which accords with the architectural evidence noted above.

The description of the 'old Mannor house', a detail not previously noted in studies of Martinsthorpe, is particularly interesting. This certainly implies a building of some age in 1664, surely one constructed prior to the seventeenth century. At Leighfield, the 1664 Michaelmas hearth tax includes a four-hearth 'Mannor house', with no reference to being 'old'. The evidence of the 1522 Military Survey (Cornwall 1980) suggests that the medieval village of Martinsthorpe was probably deserted by that time. But at some date in the sixteenth century it seems the Feildings must have built, or re-built, a manor house, of which no trace now remains. It could be that it was located on the same site as Martinsthorpe House, but it seems more likely that it was further to the west, amongst the earthworks of the medieval village, perhaps on the earlier manorial site. In 1589 the rector of Martinsthorpe was presented for having no service or sermon in the church (*VCH Rutland* II, 85). This suggests that there was still, or had until recently been, a church in Martinsthorpe, no doubt serving the manor house. Sleath & Ovens (1994, 168) note that a letter of 1616 was addressed to 'Sir William Feilding, knight, at Martinsthorpe', so he was presumably staying at the old manor house at the time.

Sir William Feilding, the first Earl of Denbigh, fought on the King's side in 1642 and died after being wounded in a skirmish in 1643. His son Basil joined the Parliamentary side, but supported the Restoration of Charles II in 1660. The hearth tax references suggest that the manor house was only occupied intermittently in the 1660s, as it is twice described as 'empty'. However, unlike all the other houses noted as 'empty' in the hearth tax records, tax was still payable at Martinsthorpe, suggesting that the house was still occasionally occupied, and certainly not abandoned.

Following the Restoration, Basil, the second Earl of Denbigh, was created Baron St Liz in 1664-5. It was probably at this time of reviving fortunes for the family that he built Martinsthorpe House, between 1666 and 1670. Basil's third wife died at Martinsthorpe in 1670, and it seems most likely that she would have been staying in the completed great house, rather than a small, old-fashioned manor house. As the great house required a service range to be able to function, Old Hall Farm must have been built at the same time, together no doubt with the service courtyard, stables and gardens. The old manor house was probably demolished at this time, though it is possible that it survived into the eighteenth century.

When built, Martinsthorpe House would have

been amongst the largest country houses in Rutland, containing at least sixteen and probably twenty hearths in the main house, with a further four hearths in the service range. Only North Luffenham Hall, with 38 hearths in 1665, and Exton Hall with 32 were substantially larger. Besides the service courtyard, the mansion would certainly have been surrounded by the extensive formal gardens popular at the period, and Sleath & Ovens (1994, 167) note that there was a walled park of 75 acres. The house is sited prominently on the crest of a ridge, probably on a new site, with extensive views to the south and north. The rectangular earthwork enclosures to the north of the house may be part of the gardens, rather than features dating back to the medieval village. Sleath & Ovens note that the large enclosure to the north-west, which has been thought to be a medieval moated site, is identified on an 1844 tithe map as 'garden'. As noted in Hartley's survey of 1983, the sloping ground means that this site could never have been fully moated, so it seems more likely that it was a garden feature.

The second Earl died in 1675 without issue, despite being married four times. He was succeeded by his nephew William, who clearly continued to hold his uncle's house in high esteem, as Wright's *History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland* notes that the 'Right hon William Earl of Denbigh gave the plate of Martinsthorpe house', one of only six houses to be illustrated. On Robert Morden's county map, which accompanied Wright's *History*, an enclosed park is indicated at Martinsthorpe, one of only four he shows in Rutland.

William died in 1685, just after the publication of Wright's *History*, and was succeeded by his son Basil. At this point the Feildings seem to have given up direct occupation of the house, as 'the Parke & House' were rented out from 1686 until 1715. William Feilding succeeded Basil in 1716, and died in 1755. He sold Martinsthorpe in 1720, and by 1758 it was owned by the Duke of Devonshire. Laird, writing in 1818, states that the mansion was demolished in 1755. This fine house seems therefore to have had a life of less than 100 years, with only around twenty years of occupation – on an

occasional basis – by the Feilding family. Laird's description of the site as an 'ancient abode of mirth and hospitality' of the Earls of Denbigh seems to be a romantic exaggeration.

As a final note on this review of the buildings of Martinsthorpe, another small detail can be reported. A small excavation was carried out at Martinsthorpe in 1960, and an account of the findings was published (Wacher 1960). Amongst the archaeological finds was a fragment of limestone, identified as a piece of sculptured cornice. It was found lying on the surface of a cobbled floor, thought to be an agricultural building of the sixteenth or seventeenth century, perhaps serving as stables or an outbuilding to the mansion. Examination of the record drawings (Wacher 1960, Fig 9.2) shows clearly that this was a piece of ballflower ornament, set in a hollow moulding. Ballflower ornament forms a globular flower of three petals enclosing a small ball, usually set in a hollow moulding. It is immediately recognisable, firmly dated to the first half of the fourteenth century and found quite commonly in churches, though very rare in houses. Evidence for a church at Martinsthorpe has so far rested only on references to rectors, who have been traced back to 1258 (Sleath & Ovens 1994, 167) and a medieval bronze crucifix found at the site (Rutland County Museum 1997.67). The fragment of ballflower provides strong evidence that there was a church in Martinsthorpe in the fourteenth century, and indicates that it was a good quality building with some well-formed architectural detail. Presumably the church became ruinous during the sixteenth century after the medieval village was deserted, and the ballflower fragment was incorporated within the later buildings.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath for their previous research on Martinsthorpe and for assistance with illustrations. Dick Matthews, who farmed at Martinsthorpe, kindly arranged access, and Tim Clough provided perceptive comments on the draft text.

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Rutland History & Archaeology in 2008

Edited by T H MCK CLOUGH

The Editor is grateful to all those who have provided information and reports for this section. Organisations whose work is not reported here are invited to contact the Society so that it may be considered for inclusion.

The following abbreviations are used:

APS	Archaeological Project Services, The Old School, Heckington, Sleaford, Lincolnshire, NG34 9RW.	ROLLR	Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland.
NA	Northamptonshire Archaeology, 2 Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN3 8BE.	RR	<i>Rutland Record</i> .
OASIS	Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS.	TCP	Trigpoint Conservation & Planning, 29 Kingfisher Way, Loughborough, LE11 3NF.
RCM	Rutland County Museum (MDA code: OAKRM).	TPA	Trent & Peak Archaeology, Lenton Fields, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RD.
RLHRS	Rutland Local History & Record Society.	ULAS	University of Leicester Archaeological Services, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH.

I – Archaeological Fieldwork during 2007

Short reports, arranged in alphabetical order by parish

Ashwell, The Old Hall (SK 865138)

Further investigations (see *Rutland Record* 28 (2008), 320), carried out by APS for Ancaster Properties Ltd, were undertaken at the Scheduled Ancient Monument of medieval settlement remains at Ashwell during development and tree planting. Ditches, pits and probable backfilled wells were identified and most were of medieval date. In particular, some of the ditches and one of the wells contained numerous large fragments of 11th-13th century pottery including Stamford and Stanion-Lyveden wares, suggesting the proximity of occupation of the period. The second probable well was undated but was sealed by the subsoil and hence is unlikely to be recent. A probable pond, backfilled in the 17th century, was also revealed. Archive: RCM 2007.55.

Neil Parker

Beaumont Chase (SP 8499)

Arable fields on the hillside at King's Hill (RR27, 263, site 17) have continued to be walked by the RLHRS Archaeological Team led by Elaine Jones. Beaumont Chase is yielding substantial scatters of stone age flint material from the surface of the plough soil. However pot sherds from later periods, Roman and medieval, are negligible – as is to be expected from 'forest' and 'chase'. This is in contrast to the quantities of medieval and earlier pottery collected around the Eyebrook Reservoir only a mile to the S (see below).

On the 'Miry Quarter' (SP 845991) flint material was abundant, with a concentration of over 200 Neolithic-Early Bronze Age pieces including a Late Neolithic scale-flaked knife, often associated with grave goods, which could point to a possible ritual area of 'transient activity'. The reworked middle section of mid-Neolithic polished stone axe, of a volcanic tuff macroscopically definitely like the Group VI rock from the Great Langdale area of Cumbria (Tim Clough, *pers. comm.*), was also found.

More than 80 Mesolithic-Early Neolithic pieces were also found, and included a 'laurel leaf' and a 'Mesolithic-Neolithic pick with later re-knapping reuse as a core tool' (Lynden Cooper, ULAS, *pers. comm.*). Amongst 16 possible Palaeolithic pieces (which require further specialist identification) were four upper Palaeolithic-Early Mesolithic blades.

Just to the S of the 'Miry Quarter' on the upper hill slopes of 'King's Hill' (SP 845985 – site 17), a small scatter of 12 Mesolithic-Early Neolithic and 45 other flints of the Neolithic-Early Bronze Age were collected, three undated rhyolite and granodiorite stone pieces amongst them. Further down the slope on 'Mountjoy's Thicket' at SP 840985 (RR27, 264, site 18), over 400 possible Neolithic-Early Bronze Age flints and a saddle quern were found in November 2008 (but this material has yet to be properly identified). Archive: RLHRS R75, R82, R65 & R87.

Elaine Jones

Belton-in-Rutland, Gough's Lane (SK 815011)

On behalf of Brown and Shaw (Builders) Ltd, APS carried out a watching brief during development at the S edge of the village and near to ridge and furrow earthworks. No archaeological remains were clearly revealed though variations in subsoil depth may indicate vestigial remains of ridge and furrow. Post-medieval artefacts were recovered. Archive: RCM 2007.57.

Paul Cope-Faulkner

Belton-in-Rutland, The Old Hall (SK 81550137)

APS undertook investigations at the 17th century hall, thought to be on the site of a medieval manor. Test pitting within the building indicated that all the present floors were insertions of 19th-early 20th century date. Another test pit on the N side of the W wing indicated that the wing previously extended further to the N but was cut

back in the 18th-early 19th century. An adjacent outshut containing a staircase was altered, or perhaps even built, when the W wing was shortened. Examination of the staircase indicated that it had previously gone to a higher level. Blocked windows were examined: the infill of one contained brick, suggesting a date of about 1800 for the closure. Documentary research suggested many of the alterations were perhaps the work of William Kemp, the occupant of the hall between 1786-1821. Archive: RCM 2008.48.

Gary Taylor

Braunston-in-Rutland, All Saints Church (SK 831065)
A trial trench evaluation was conducted by NA on land to the W of All Saints Church. Two trenches, totalling 40m in length, were excavated within the 0.6ha application area, but no features or artefacts were found. Extant medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation was observed on the site. Archive: RCM 2008.105

Paul Kajewski

Cottesmore, Lilac Farm, Mill Lane (SK 90221387)
Investigations were carried out by APS, on behalf of Hereward Homes, close to the historic core of Cottesmore. Some slight evidence for prehistoric activity at the site was provided by a small quantity of Neolithic flint and fragments of an Early-Middle Bronze Age bucket urn recovered from a ditch. Another ditch, containing a 4th century Roman coin, was identified, and further indications of Roman occupation in the vicinity was presented by a second 4th century coin and a sherd of greyware pottery. A fragment of Early Saxon pottery was recovered but occupation seems to have commenced in the Late Saxon period and continued to the 14th century. A trackway was recorded, together with a number of drainage or boundary ditches, parallel and at right angles to the route. Several pits and postholes were also noted. Iron smelting slag occurred moderately abundantly across the site and implies the production of iron close by during the medieval period. Some time after the trackway became disused it was crossed by a stone wall, perhaps part of a building or boundary, and likely to be post-medieval. Archive: RCM 2008.1.

Russell Trimble

Eyebrook Reservoir (SP 855950)
During the winter of 2000-01, the Eyebrook Reserve Warden for the Corby Water Company invited the RLHRS Archaeological Team to walk the shores of the reservoir while the water level was low for maintenance. Although no structures or foundations of houses or settlements were seen, the shores were liberally covered with pottery and worked flint.

The 835 pot sherds identified by the writer include possible Iron Age, Roman, and a little early Saxon material. But half of all the pottery was medieval, mainly from Stanion and Lyveden near Corby. Saxo-Norman Stamford wares and late medieval and early post-medieval material was also present but not so prolific, thus indicating the 'ebb and flow' of intensified land use during the Middle Ages where there is probably more stock pasture today than in the medieval arable open fields.

These finds would seem to verify historical documentary evidence, noted by W G Hoskins (*The Making of the English Landscape* (1955), 160-1), for the shrinking and desertion of the villages on the Eyebrook at Stoke Dry, Snelston, Stockerston, Holyoak and Great Easton.

The pottery from Stamford in Lincolnshire and Stanion/Lyveden in Northamptonshire also confirms documentary evidence in *Victoria County History* for early land control and ownership from these two counties (and the dioceses of Lincoln and Peterborough) rather than Leicestershire. Although the Eyebrook marks the Leicestershire-Rutland county boundary, and 'as far as is known there have been no changes in the composition of the hundred [of Gartree] since 1086' (*VCH Leicestershire I*), the pottery evidence implies a greater influence from our eastern 'Rutland' region into 'Leicestershire' in the past.

Stone age flint material was also collected from the shores and has been identified by Richard Knox (Leicestershire CC Archaeological Services). 110 pieces were assigned to the Neolithic-Early Bronze Age based on the degree of cortex as well as their technology (thus the blade-like flakes were given a later date because cortex was lacking). Three pieces were thought to be Upper Palaeolithic-Early Mesolithic, while eleven were probably Mesolithic-Early Neolithic. Thus here there is further evidence of prehistoric stone age activity on this stretch of the Eyebrook, like that on Beaumont Chase only a mile to the N. Archive: RLHRS R84.

Elaine Jones

Great Casterton, Casterton Business & Enterprise College, Ryhall Road (TF 00350953)

Although in very close proximity to previous discoveries of Roman features, including a villa, no archaeological remains were found during a watching brief, by F Walker of APS for GSS Architecture. There were indications that the W side of the site, near to existing college buildings, had previously been stripped to natural. Archive: RCM 2008.11.

Mary Nugent

Lyddington, 67-69 Main Street (SP 874972)

An evaluation undertaken by ULAS for Gadsby Estates recorded a possibly 15th century ironstone wall within the orchard, and two postholes and a gully sealed by 10th-12th century occupation along the street frontage. The latter was sealed successively by an undated clay layer, and a fragmentary stone wall and brick drain, probably of 19th century date. Archive: RCM 2008.36.

Andrew Hyam

Oakham, Vale of Catmose College (SK 85140925)

Evaluation of the sports field by NA, following geophysical survey, recorded ring ditches dated to the late 1st century BC. In addition there were a small number of other features, including an isolated Iron Age pit in the north-west of the site. The trenches towards the east and west of the site revealed ditches that were parts of two small groups of Roman enclosures. The eastern group may have been connected to a small trackway, oriented N-S along the line of the present field boundary. Ridge

and furrow was present in all of the trenches. Archive: RCM 2008.58.

Jim Brown

Oakham, 15-17 Gaol Street (SK 85960873)

Evaluation undertaken by ULAS, for M G Evans & Co, recorded a post-medieval pit containing pottery, and an undated post-hole. Archive: RCM 2008.57.

Steve Baker

Pickworth Wood (SK 97901500)

A walkover survey was carried out in Pickworth Wood by NA on behalf of the Forestry Commission. A number of features were noted, including an early enclosure system, a series of woodland earthworks, drainage ditches, areas of medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation, and quarrying. Archive: RCM 2006.2

Carol Simmonds

Seaton, Main Street (SP 90359825)

Excavation was undertaken by ULAS at Church Farm, following an evaluation which had uncovered evidence of a stone-built structure (*Trans Leicestershire Archaeol Hist Soc* **82**, 294). Excavation showed the structure to be a stone-built house with flagstone floors comprising two domestic rooms with gable fireplaces and possible evidence of a first floor. There was an apparently later extension on the western end of the building. It appears the building remained in use for less than 200 years before apparently standing derelict for some time before collapse or demolition occurred. As well as the earth-fast archaeological remains the archaeological evaluation observed evidence of standing building remains within the boundary walls of the proposed development area. Three buildings were identifiable within the eastern and northern-most boundary walls: the grandest consisted of polychrome coursed stonework and purple quoin work, recorded by photographic survey. RCM 2008.31.

Gerwyn Richards

Thistleton, Silverwood Farm (SK 910183)

An evaluation undertaken by ULAS recorded a number of

small gullies, one containing a sherd of late Iron Age pottery, which are likely to represent part of a Roman field system relating to the adjacent Roman small town. Archive: RCM 2008.52.

James Harvey

Wardley Woods (SP 84009998)

A walkover survey was carried out in Wardley Wood by NA on behalf of the Forestry Commission. A number of features were noted including a well-preserved square mound, a series of woodland earthworks, drainage ditches and an area of surviving medieval ridge and furrow field cultivation earthworks. Archive: RCM 2008.46.

Carol Simmonds

Welland Valley (SP 880950 – SP 877926)

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by NA during the excavation of a pipe trench through the Welland Valley, between Caldecott and Gretton, for the Anglian Water Services pipeline from Empingham, Rutland, to Hannington, Northamptonshire (see also *Rutland Record* **28** (2008), 320ff). This produced evidence of thick alluvial deposits within the River Welland floodplain overlying palaeogravels and silts. While no archaeological features were found, basal waterlogged deposits contained plant remains and animal bones suggesting the possibility of Mesolithic activity associated with the earliest sediments in the valley.

Jason Clark

Negative watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland

(undertaken by ULAS, unless otherwise stated)

Cottesmore: Dick's Cottage, 47 Main Street (SK 904137);

The Grange, Main Street (SK 902135);

Juniper Cottage, 24 The Leas (SK 904135), APS.

Greetham: Main Street (SK 925144), APS.

Market Overton: The Lodge, Main Street (SK 893164).

Preston: Glebe Farm (SK 87130233), TPA.

Uppingham: Uppingham School, Leicester Road

(SP 86109975).

Wing: Water Treatment Works (SK 900 026), NA.

II – Historic Building Recording during 2008

Note: Reports below submitted by Nick Hill result from an ongoing independent research programme on Rutland houses; detailed survey and analysis have been completed with the kind permission of the owners, and it is intended to lodge copies of reports at RCM in due course.

Barleythorpe, Barleythorpe Stud (SK 849098)

On behalf of Larkfleet Homes Ltd, APS recorded several buildings shown on 19th century maps. A domestic range, constructed of ironstone, was probably 17th century and had deeply splayed windows. In the 19th century the building was heightened with brick, and it was raised again in the 20th century. To the rear was a workshop of probable 18th century date. To the S was an L-shaped block of buildings, recorded as the Horse & Groom Inn on 19th century maps. This building was mostly of brick, and 19th century in date, though it incorporated a rear wall of coursed ironstone rubble of perhaps the 18th century. Part of this building seemed to have previously

been a stable or cartshed with double doors and a drainage channel in the floor. To the rear were stable ranges. One of the stables was early 19th century and had a ventilator turret and an upper storey fodder store. The remainder of the stable block was later 19th century and still in use, as was the 20th century barn. Archive: RCM 2008.53.

Neil Parker

Braunston, Wood Lane Farm (SK 833065)

The W two bays of this house, which contain two large inglenook fireplaces, probably date from around the mid-17th century. However, one roof truss is constructed of re-used timbers with smoke-blackening, probably from a

cruck-framed structure which pre-dated the 17th century house. In the 18th century, the E part of the house was reconstructed to provide enlarged accommodation, including a projecting cross-wing.

Nick Hill

Glaston, Glaston Grange, Wing Road (SK 896004)

Built in 1706 by Dennis Taylor (as recorded on a date stone), this is a building of some quality, demonstrating the aspirations of its owner. The stonework to the main front is very fine, with banded coursing, mullions, and a late example of a canted bay window. The plan form is basically of three-unit lobby entry type, with a central hall/kitchen, flanked by a parlour to one side and a service end with former dairy over a cellar to the other side. To the rear is a stair turret. By 1729 it was 'The Swan', and it was probably built as an inn. This would explain the extra doorway (later blocked) giving direct access to the parlour, as well as the cellar. A large kitchen wing was added in the early 19th century, followed by a wash-house. In the yard a full set of outbuildings also survive, with a late 18th century barn, a stable block of the early 19th century and a late 19th century open-fronted cartshed.

Nick Hill

Glaston, Coppice House, Manor Lane (SK 898005)

This is a substantial farm house built in 1696 by Richard Chiseldine, as recorded on a date stone in the gable. The house is in two parts, a main block of two and a half storeys with a fine frontage, and a lesser block to the E, of one and a half storeys. Although at first sight it appears the two blocks are of different dates, investigation has shown that they were both built in 1696, with the principal rooms in the main block and the kitchen in the E block. The plan form is of lobby entry type, with the front door opening against a chimneystack. Pre-dating the house was a large barn, of which the W gable is now incorporated in the E block, at a skewed angle. In the farmyard is a building which resembles a dovecote externally, though there is no evidence of nesting boxes inside.

Nick Hill

Glaston, Manor Farm, Manor Lane (SK 898005)

This is a large house with a cross wing facing N onto the street and a main hall range behind it. At the E end of the cross wing is another attached block, with a small granary/store adjoining. The building preserves a number of late medieval stone features, extremely rare in domestic buildings in the area. The hall range has a fine moulded stone doorway with a pointed arch, and set opposite this, in the thick rear wall, is a two-light hollow-moulded window. The cross wing also has an early thick front wall, with two windows which have cavetto and roll mouldings. These features suggest a high status house with a hall range and cross wing, dating from the late 14th to early 16th century. The house was largely rebuilt during the course of the 17th century, with the addition of the E block, and no other early features are visible. The granary/store was added around 1800. There is a fine 5-bay stone barn dated 1741 in the farmyard, together with a 19th century stable.

Nick Hill

Lyddington, 4 Church Lane (SK875969)

This house was originally a three-bay cruck building, dating from the later 15th or early 16th century. The central truss, which stood in the middle of a two-bay open hall, is one of the best quality surviving cruck frames in the area. Evidence indicates that the original external walls were built of stone or mud, not of timber. In the early 17th century, a first floor was inserted in the open hall and a large inglenook fireplace replaced the medieval open hearth. This fireplace makes use of a moulded and decorated beam, probably taken from the former Bishop's Palace. Above the stone-built inglenook, the chimney was of timber and daub, not masonry.

Nick Hill

Lyddington, 5 The Green (SP 87529714)

NA carried out an archaeological building recording and watching brief at 5 The Green. A footing trench uncovered the remains of a truncated stone-lined well that had been backfilled with rubble and overlaid by garden soil. The rear elevation of 5 The Green comprises two phases of building, the original 17th-century building with a chimney on what would have been the gable end, and a later extension against that gable. At ground floor level there is a small fireplace window fitted with a modern frame set beneath an oak lintel, and a former doorway, now half blocked and fitted with a modern casement window beneath the original oak lintel with a modern iron tie set just above it. This rear elevation combines a mixture of well-laid and dressed stonework where the original structure remains, and less well-laid stonework in those areas affected by later alterations, often set in cement rather than lime mortar. The rear elevation of the rear wing extension also contains a blocked doorway set beneath an oak lintel and has a small fixed modern window set within the former opening and a modern doorway set beneath a concrete lintel and fitted with a glazed door. This façade is more consistent, suggesting that the wing is of a single phase. The exposed end of an oak floor beam can be seen in the wall above the lintels of the two doorways. Archive: OASIS 55489.

Jason Clarke and Joe Prentice

Lyddington, 24 Main Street & 1 The Green

(SP 875971)

Also known as Market House, early photographs show that this building used to have a fine timber-framed frontage, a highly unusual feature in Rutland. The front wall was replaced in brick in the early 20th century, but parts of the timber frame survive inside. The building is of four bays, with the ground floor and both gable ends built of stone, the timber-framing being confined to the upper storey of the front and rear walls. The front wall had impressive arch bracing, but the rear wall had plain panels. Dating from around the early 16th century, the original building is of unusual plan form, with two first floor chambers of roughly equal size, and no clear evidence of an associated open hall. Each chamber formed a lofty room, with a central truss of clasped purlin type. It seems there was always a stone cross wall dividing the building into two, the wall also providing the location for one or more fireplaces. The unusual use of

timber-framing marks the building out as of higher status than the usual vernacular buildings of this period, so it was presumably connected to the Bishop's Palace in the village. The plan form suggests it may have been built as a pair of high-class lodging suites for members of the bishop's retinue.

Nick Hill

Lyddington, 11 Stoke Road (SK 874972)

The house contains the remains of a late medieval smoke-blackened roof. The roof is of an unusual type, with clasped purlins and dovetail-lapped collars, which suggest that the original walls were of stone. The original building may date from around the earlier 16th century. A pyramid-stopped beam in the former open hall suggests that this was floored in around the mid-16th century. Major alterations were made around the mid-17th century, when a fine front gable was added, with an unusual 2-storey bay window.

Nick Hill

Lyddington, Swan House (SP 875973)

This is a very fine building of 1674, as recorded on a date stone. There was probably a previous building on a different alignment, dating from the earlier 17th century. This seems to have been incorporated into the rear of the 1674 build, but was later rebuilt. The L-shaped 1674 building has a highly unusual plan form, creating a carefully integrated design with circulation centred on the entrance hall and stairs. A very fine staircase rises up to attic level, and retains an exceptional set of internal features, with many original doors and fittings. Documentary sources indicate that the building served as the Swan inn from the late 16th century, with a further reference in the early 18th century. The unusual plan form is no doubt related to usage as an inn, rather than a private house. The S end of the house was altered in 1849 to form a Wesleyan chapel, but the property was converted back to a single house again in 1973.

Nick Hill

Preston, Dower House (SK 87100278)

TPA was commissioned by architects Fowkes McIntyre for Mr and Mrs Micklethwait of Preston Hall to carry out an historic building assessment of the so-called Dower House, a Grade II listed Georgian building which stands within the grounds of the Hall, to which it is historically linked.

Documentation about the buildings of Preston is sparse. Historically, the Dower House is linked to the nearby Hall, which was probably built by a member of the Sheild family in the 17th century. In the Hearth Tax Returns of 1665 Mr William Sheild is listed as having by far the largest number of hearths in the village, 14 in two houses; these are likely to have been the Hall and the Manor House.

In addition to the Sheilds, another important Preston family were the Belgraves. In 1703 Mary Sheild, co-heiress to William Sheild, married the Rev Cornelius Belgrave, rector of Ridlington, thereby connecting the two families through marriage. Their son Jeremiah (1708-1802) was rector of Preston and fathered four sons. One

of these, George, lived at Preston Hall and in 1802 another son, William, at the time the wealthiest resident of Uppingham, is said to have retired to Preston Hall. The Hall was by then dated and small and William may have had the Dower House built. When his nephew, also named William (1792-1871), succeeded as rector of Preston and moved into Preston Hall, two of the elder William's spinster daughters were living at the Dower House. It was later occupied by the widow and later the daughter of another rector, H H Lucas, who married into the Belgrave family. Preston Hall, its estate and the Dower House were bought by General Alfred E Codrington in 1895. The general's grand-daughter, Mrs Micklethwait, still lives at the Hall.

The Dower House is a small to moderately sized two storey building consisting of a principal living section that is of double-pile plan (two room deep and with an M-shaped roof), and extensions to the rear W side. The main E part is built of coursed ironstone rubble, plastered and dressed with a plinth, string course and quoins on three sides. At the back there is a kitchen extension, which although not tied into the main building, is likely to be of the same date, implying that the Dower House was of L-shape plan from the outset. There are few features to help date the original structure but the building's form, internal brickwork and fittings such as fireplaces support a date of about 1800.

Both two and single-storey extensions were added to the W and S sides during the 19th century in three stages; an added conservatory and a bay window have since been removed. This part of the building has been much altered by the insertion of windows, doorways, an upper floor and changes to floor level. Changes now taking place primarily affect the same part of the building.

Richard Sheppard

Ryhall: Belmesthorpe, Shepherd's Walk, Bridge Cottage (TF 04251036)

V Mellor of APS undertook historic building recording, for Mr & Mrs King. An extension to Bridge Cottage, which is a 17th century Grade II Listed Building, was examined. The recorded wing butts against the 17th century cottage and is probably a mid-late 19th century addition: it is shown on the 1888 Ordnance Survey map. Presently in use as a kitchen, this wing may have originally been used as a pig sty. A horizontal timber set low in one wall may have been a lintel over the opening for a pig feeding trough and comparable examples of these have been observed elsewhere (*cf* Barnwell, P S, & Giles, C, *English Farmsteads, 1750-1914* (RCHME 1997)). Archive: RCM 2008.45.

Vicky Mellor

Other buildings recorded:

Belton-in-Rutland: The Old Hall: see archaeological reports, pp 363-4 above.

Lyddington: Orchard House Barns (SP 874974), Gadsby Estates Orchard Development Ltd.

Ketton: Kilthorpe Grange, Barrowden Road (SK 985034) Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd.

III – Other Reports for 2008

Lincolnshire Archives

Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB.
Tel: (01522) 525158 (search room appointments and enquiries); (01522) 526204 (other enquiries).
Fax: (01522) 530047.
Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/archives.
E-mail: lincolnshire_archive@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

No relevant Rutland material was reported for 2008.

Northamptonshire Record Office

Northamptonshire Record Office, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 8BQ.
Tel: (01604) 762129. Fax: (01604) 767562.
Website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/community/record+office.

No relevant Rutland material was reported for 2008.

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland, Long Street, Wigston Magna LE18 2AH.
Tel: (0116) 257 1080. Fax: (0116) 257 1120.
Website: www.leics.gov.uk/record_office.htm.
Email: recordoffice@leics.gov.uk.

Opening times: Mon: (Mar-Oct) 1pm-7pm, (Nov-Feb) 11am-5pm; Tues-Fri: 9am-5pm; Sat: 9am-4pm. Closed on UK public holidays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Appointments for microfiche viewers and study tables are necessary to ensure space in the search room.

E-mail: archivist@northamptonshire.gov.uk.
Opening times: Mon: 10.30am-4.45pm; Tues, Wed: 9am-4.45pm; Thurs: 9am-7.45pm; Fri: 9am-4.15pm; Sat: two mornings a month, 9am-12.15pm. Contact the office to confirm Saturday opening dates.

Opening times: Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.15am to 5pm; Wed: 9.15am to 7.30pm; Fri: 9.15am to 4.45pm; Sat: 9.15am to 12.15pm.

Archival Accessions

Some thirteen archival accessions from Rutland were logged in the period under review. They include two rare survivals from the Rutland Constabulary. One (DE7595) is a policeman's journal or day-book, recording his daily duties. It is a valuable record of routine rural policing. The other is the warrant card (and associated long service medal) of a special constable in Uppingham. Since warrant cards were routinely destroyed at the end of police service, this is possibly a unique survival. A full list of this year's accessions appears below.

All new accessions are added to our online archive catalogue, CALM, and full catalogues of collections appear there when completed. The online catalogue can be accessed via our website and is fully searchable for Rutland, and all other, documents, but users should be aware that we have many more Rutland documents than appear online! We have an enormous backlog of 'old-style' typed catalogues which remain to be shipped into CALM so do not assume we haven't got it if it's not online.

We have been preoccupied with storage issues this year. The strongrooms of the Record Office have, in effect, been full for some time. Weeding of collections and re-boxing had long ago been exhausted as solutions to the problem, as have creative storage methods and minor relocations of collections. An allocation of space equivalent to 1,800 archive boxes has been obtained at Leicester City Museums' store on Freeman's Common, and the transfer of collections has begun. This will provide us with perhaps three years' worth of space at no inconvenience to users of the Record Office; the collections moved off-site are either uncatalogued or closed because of considerations of data protection.

- DE7449: Seaton & Eggleton church drawings: drawings, with explanatory text, of carved stonework in Seaton and Eggleton churches, Rutland, by P K Rollings [published as an A5 booklet], 1996.
- DE7472: Somerby & Whissendine Methodist records: Somerby Women's Fellowship minutes, 1950-1983, and Whissendine 'East' Chapel Stewards' accounts, 1959-1995.
- DE7475: Papers from the collection of W T Thorp of Leicester, including a letter of Dr Guillotin, a Foxton sermon, and Oakham and Uppingham parish populations statistics, 1791-1935.
- DE7481: Wing & Tickencote church drawings: drawings, with explanatory text, of carved stonework in Wing and Tickencote churches, Rutland, by P K Rollings, 2007.
- DE7497: Oakham & District Wesleyan Methodist Register of Baptisms: Register recording Wesleyan Methodist baptisms, primarily in Oakham, in Rutland and Leicestershire (as far afield as Loughborough, Somerby, Twyford, Billesdon, Halstead, Saddington, etc.) and of people from Nottingham, Northamptonshire, Liverpool and London, 1837-1943.
- DE7522: British Medical Association Leicestershire & Rutland Branch Minutes, 1903-1986.
- DE7530: South Luffenham: Conveyance of land at South Luffenham by the Earl of Ancaster to the Air Ministry, 1954; with a notice of freedom from tithes, 1971.
- DE7574: Rutland Special Constabulary warrant card and medal of Edward D Ebdon of Uppingham, 1937.
- DE7579: NADFAS report on North Luffenham parish church, 2008.
- DE7593: Building preservation notice and associated papers for 17 Main Street, Lyddington: File, including preservation notice, map, photographs and correspondence, concerning the historic and architectural merits of 17, Main Street, Lyddington, 1979.
- DE7595: Rutland police journal: Policeman's journal, recording the time on and off duty each day, names and numbers of constables met, with places and times and a brief description

of duties undertaken. The volume has been reused as a stamp album, with countries and dates written in. Four Gold Coast stamps remain. 1948-1949.

DE7598: NADFAS record of the church furnishings at St Peter's, Empingham, 2008.

DE7615: Brooke parish records: Faculty for roof and rainwater gutter repairs, 2008.

Local Studies Library accessions

Some 348 items relating to Rutland were added to the Library's stock during the period, including 23 books and pamphlets, 220 newspapers and periodicals, 20 items of ephemera and 75 microfilms. One 'highlight' was Nigel Richardson's *Typhoid in Uppingham*, which was inspired by an account of the migration of the staff and pupils of the well-known boarding school to the fresh air of Borth, near Aberystwyth, in order to avoid the perils of the town's three typhoid outbreaks in 1875-76 [see *RR21* (2001) 22-37 & *RR26* (2006) 195-213 – *Ed*]. At least 147 new Local Studies records have been added to the county online catalogue, TALIS (found by using the Record Office location and Rutland as a key search term), but this is probably an under-estimate of library resources for Rutland.

The next phase of the *Stamford Mercury* microfilming project is proceeding, with our early editions prior to 1800 now at the British Library for microfilming (covering 31st December 1719, 11th February 1720, 30th April, 4th June & 25th June 1741). The Record Office is due to receive microfilm copies of these, along with microfilms from the Project's other contributors.

Some reorganisation of the local studies service offered by the Record Office was necessary after Aubrey Stevenson, long-serving County Local Studies Librarian, left us in August 2008. Mike Raftery and Evie Wattam continue as part-time Assistant Keepers (Librarians), and Keith Ovenden, Assistant Keeper (Archives), has worked on the Local Studies collections as part of his remit. As far as our links with Rutland are concerned, we are maintaining regular contact via Emily Barton, based at Oakham library, at the monthly local studies book selection. A Local Studies email contact group has been formed, to exchange information about material ordered for Leicestershire and Rutland and about new publications by local authors. A Local Studies forum has been created to address issues of mutual concern to Local Studies librarians around the counties, and to offer advice and support with cataloguing, conservation and outreach from the Record Office. Talks and tours of the Record Office are available to all county library staff, to give them an insight into the considerable collections held in Wigston.

Conservation

This has been a difficult year in the Conservation unit, as at the end of August 2008 staffing went down from two to one when Bill Cochrane left after 40 years' service.

Rutland County Museums Service

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

Tel: (01572) 758440. Fax: (01572) 758445.

Website: www.rutland.gov.uk/museum.

E-mail: museum@rutland.gov.uk.

Karenna Fry, now Assistant Keeper (Conservation), is in sole charge of the unit, which will have an impact on the amount of work which can be completed, given competing demands. However, during the period of this report, 28 Rutland items were dealt with by Conservation, including the cleaning and flattening of 22 parchment pages of Langham's title award (ref DE1381/515; Ti/R24/1), and a portfolio made for the award. Five *Stamford Mercury* newspapers dating from 1715-1741 were surface cleaned and packaged for microfilming by the British Library. Three of these were a small broadsheet size of single folios which were flattened and placed in archival polyester in a supporting portfolio. The remaining two were earlier in date, two sheets and much smaller (c.A5 size) and sewn roughly together with a *Weekly Courant* of the same size. These were not separated for filming and because the pages are soft and fragile at the edges, a supporting portfolio was made for them. In this way the items were protected for the journey to Stamford and beyond to London.

One of the highlights of the year came when advice was sought by Rutland County Museum about a document owned by Ketton Cement. It is a grant of a licence to John Harrington by Queen Elizabeth I on 2nd September in the 36th year of her reign [ie 1594] and it has an intact Great Seal [c.14.5cm diameter]. Conservation has made a box to house the document and seal. The document was being held in a solicitor's safe in Peterborough pending transfer to the Museum. It will be on display at the Museum from June 2009, after being unveiled by HRH The Duke of Gloucester.

Outreach work

One of the Record Office's main exhibitions of the year trotted over to Oakham for summer 2008: *Horsing Around: a 2000-year-old love affair*, an exhibition about Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland's long association with horses and everything to do with them, was displayed at the Rutland County Museum during July and August, a very appropriate venue, given the building's former history.

The Cottesmore Local History Group came over to the Record Office in October to view a wonderful display of documents relating to their community, many from the Exton collection. Among several maps on display was one dating from 1650.

Emily Barwell, Local Studies Librarian at Oakham Library, has been invited to join the newly-established Education Forum group at the Record Office because she is developing school resources. We hope this will lead to better links and encourage partnership working with Rutland schools.

Margaret Bonney, Chief Archivist

Opening times:

Summer (April-October): Mon-Sat 10.30-5.00, Sun 1.00-

5.00; Winter (Nov-March): Mon-Sat 10.30-5.00, Sun closed.

Closed at Christmas, New Year and on Good Friday.

Rutland County Museum

It has been a year of change for the staff at the Museum. Simon Davies, Museum Services Manager, left in June 2008 following a restructure of the Cultural Services department. Bruce McClellan, Museum Officer (Education & Outreach), retired in January 2009. We welcomed some new faces – Emma Warren, Museum Officer (Collections), Felicity Edwards, Museum Officer (Education & Outreach), and myself, Victoria Newton-Davies, Audience Development Manager.

Work has focused on stabilising and building the service. The collections inventory has continued, with around 7,000 objects now catalogued, and Lorraine Cornwell and Emma are on course to have completed the full inventory by June. This will form an integral part of our application for Accreditation status with the Museums, Libraries & Archives Council in July 2009.

We have made excellent progress with our education programme. Lorraine and Felicity have established strong contacts with local schools. Consultation with teachers has led to a series of pilot education workshops that include Egyptians, Local History, Victorians and the Seaside. In addition to this, holiday and half term family workshops are now a regular part of the Museum events programme and are attracting a growing audience. Our 'Save the Bees' campaign in March 2009 had families planting bee-friendly plants, tasting honey and making craft bees. Alongside this we hosted a very popular talk on bee-keeping by local beekeeper George Shepherd.

The Live @ the Museum programme was a new venture for the Museum in 2008. Events continue for 2009 with a programme that includes the Beatles and Blues Brothers (or good tributes to) and we have welcomed The Rat Pack is Back!, Barry Cryer and The Knicker Lady to name a few.

Programming for the rest of 2009 has been key for us and we are excited about the Friends' & Museum's 50th & 40th Anniversary events in June and August as well as a host of activities to celebrate the National Archaeology Festival in July and a summer holiday packed with workshops from kite making to cake decorating. Top-To-Toe, the first of new programme of museum collections inspired exhibitions, attracted many visitors, and we have also hosted the work of several local artists. All of these events we hope will develop new audiences as well as draw back our regular and loyal visitors.

Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Contact information:

Secretary: Clifford Bacon (clifford_j_bacon@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: www.rhcpt.co.uk

For over fifty years the Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust has played a considerable role in providing financial assistance to places of worship in the county. Its funds are maintained by the generosity of individual and church donors, but principally by the many participants in the Ride and Stride event which is held in the county every other year. As mentioned in the report for 2007-08 (*Rutland Record* 28 (2008), 326-7), the Trust and the churches benefited from the last Ride and Stride event in 2007 by well over £20,000, and it is hoped that

We secured substantial funding from EMDA at the beginning of 2009 and this will result in developments this year at both the Museum and the Castle. We will be improving both shop areas, No 1 Court, and the Colonel Noel Suite, and installing a new temporary exhibition system, seating and projection equipment for events.

Oakham Castle

The Castle has suffered from several acts of vandalism recently which resulted in broken windows and roof tiles. However we have worked with the Police and the Community Services team to put preventive measures in place. On a brighter note the Castle has continued to attract many bookings for weddings and workshops. We have also welcomed a German film crew with falconry experts and took part in the Oakham Christmas celebrations. We have a number of outdoor events lined up for the summer including open-air theatre and re-enactors, and are supporting the Oakham Festival organisers. The new sound system, funded by the Friends, has been installed although we await permission from English Heritage to mount the speakers, and improved lighting has been fitted in the roof space.

Acquisitions

There have been some exciting additions to the collections, including a fantastic collection of Roman brooches and coins from the Thistleton excavations in the 1950s (2008.107) of which we will give visitors a sneak preview this summer before they are prepared for a special Roman exhibition in 2010. We have also had three tokens, already in the collections but on loan (1980.29.1-3), transferred to us permanently from the Grosvenor Museum in Chester – a copper halfpenny token by R M & J Potterill of Oakham and two farthing tokens by T Butler of Uppingham and R Munton of Uppingham. We have continued to attract donations from members of the public including a sugar 'Television Egg' which was given to a local resident for their first Easter in 1952! This object will be featured in a forthcoming exhibition exploring food. We have carried out a full conservation audit of our agricultural and wheeled collections which has prioritised objects that need conservation work. However we are pleased to report that the majority of this important collection is in good condition.

Victoria Newton-Davies
Audience Development Manager

Registered Charity No 211068

Give As You Earn Reg No 000101080

Inland Revenue Identification No NAK 60 JG

the 2009 event on 12th September will be just as successful – or even more so! We would take this opportunity to place on record our gratitude to all those PCCs, individual donors and Ride and Stride participants who have contributed to the Trust Funds; without their support our work would be severely reduced.

The support which the Trust has given over the last year has been relatively small, though there are a number of applications which are, effectively, on hold for various reasons. The Trust has made grants of £11,000 with the

proviso that should further assistance be required then favourable consideration may well be given. It is appreciated that PCCs and other bodies responsible for the upkeep of our churches may not always be aware of the help which the Trust can give. To this end an updated church porch poster has been prepared and circulated to every church in the county.

Another innovation has been the creation of a website for the Trust, the address of which is shown on a new poster and on the cover of the annual report. The site is, of course, in its infancy but provides basic information about the Trust and its work. There is a 'Members Only' section which will facilitate the dissemination of information between members of the Trust; another section lists churches which may call upon the Trust for help. Eventually it is intended to expand this section of the site to include photographs and brief descriptions of all the churches. Suggestions for items to be included on the site

Rutland Library Service

Oakham Library, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland,
LE15 6HW.
Tel: (01572) 722918. Fax: (01572) 724906.
Website: www.rutland.gov.uk/libraries.

Rutland County Libraries Local Studies Service

The year has been another busy one for the Local Studies Department, both in terms of research enquiries and acquisitions. The majority of the cataloguing backlog and duplicates in our reserve collection has now been processed due to the dedication and commitment of library staff, and completion of the project is expected in the next 12 months. There have been some significant changes within the service in the last year, not least of which is the result of a restructuring and subsequent appointment of the Extended Service Librarian to the Principal Librarian post, resulting in a reduction in the staff time available for specific Local Studies work. Despite this, there have been some significant developments on the Local Studies front, one of which is increased cross-working with the Rutland County Museums Service, resulting in work on a joint educational programme.

Cataloguing and Conservation

The vast majority of our Local Studies stock is now available for the public to search on our online catalogue, and our new off-site reserve is almost at capacity. A project to index and cross-reference our map collection is also very nearly complete. Steps have been taken to

Rutland Local History & Record Society

After the frenetic activity surrounding the publication of *Heritage of Rutland Water* in November 2007, 2008-09 proved to be a quieter year for the Society, yet one which saw the undertaking of much activity.

Rutland Record 28 was published and contained a wide range of articles, including a detailed analysis of late-medieval Stamford wills by the Society's academic adviser, Professor Alan Rogers, a study of Lady Charlotte Finch by J D Bennett and a reconstruction of the life and interests of Thomas Hotchkin of Tixover. The success of

are always welcome and should be addressed to the secretary.

On 4th February 2009 the Trust held a meeting at the County Council Offices in Oakham to publicise the Trust and, in particular, to draw attention to the Ride and Stride event in September. Details of the presentation slides which were used have been placed on the web site for the benefit, particularly, of interested parties who were unable to attend the meeting. Further, an attractive presentation highlighting a number of Rutland Churches was given at the meeting and has also been placed on the website under the Our Churches tab.

A sub-committee was formed to coordinate the arrangements for the Ride and Stride event on 12th September 2009. Its work is continuing and it is hoped that as a result an even greater sum will be raised for the continuing important work of this Trust.

David Houghton, Acting Secretary (until August 2009)

Email: libraries@rutland.gov.uk.

Opening times: Mon, Wed, Fri: 9am-7pm; Tues, Thurs: 9am-5pm; Sat: 9am-4pm (Librarian only until 1pm Saturdays).

reproduce our more delicate and well used antique maps to prevent damage to originals – this project is ongoing.

Education

In partnership with the Rutland County Museums Service, the Local Studies Department is producing a range of materials, resources, and activity sessions to satisfy the needs of the Local Studies element of the National Curriculum for Key Stage 2. Expected project outcomes over the next few years include Loan Boxes for teachers, Pupil Activity Sheets and other resources available digitally to be used in class, and an outreach programme. The Local Studies department is also assisting the Museum in producing a KS2 Local Studies workshop to be delivered on-site.

Acquisitions

Our expanded fiche collections from last year have been particularly well received and well-used. This year we have continued to purchase books, and other materials relating to Rutland and the surrounding area to complement our collections. In total over 175 items have been acquired, including some antique articles.

Emily Barwell, Extended Services Librarian

The Heritage of Rutland Water prompted the Society to order a reprint, for the first time in the Society's history.

Either on its own, or with the Friends of the Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle, the Society has staged a number of outstanding lectures which have continued to attract large attendances, although it was disappointing that the Society's keynote event, the Bryan Matthews Memorial Lecture, attracted only a small audience to Uppingham School to hear Professor Bernard Capp's talk on the Wing family of North Luffenham. On the other hand, it was

gratifying that the decision to hold a talk in the height of summer in 2008 proved to be so successful. In December the George Phillips and Tony Traylen Awards once again drew a good audience to Oakham to see the prizes presented by the Duchess of Rutland and to hear the talk on the evolution of the English country house by Dr Philip Lindley. It is with regret that the Society notes the passing of Councillor Rob Toy, who for several years had chaired the judging panel for these awards.

In September the village visit attracted a large number of members and guests to Ridlington. Also in September, the Society's guided walk, led by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath, took members round Pilton and the Luffenhams. Led by Kate Don, the Archaeological Group continued to brave the elements for their regular field walking activities, with excellent results concerning the range and value of finds. The Historic Environment Group, under the auspices of David Carlin and Chris Wilson, continued to monitor planning applications in Rutland in order to alert the local authority in the case of insensitive building or rebuilding, always a challenge even when economic conditions have resulted in a reduction in the demand for building projects.

Mike Tillbrook, Chairman

Archaeological Activities

In February 2008 Leighfield Primary School invited Kate Don to tell the children what an archaeologist does. They responded by singing her a delightful song about the Romans! In the same month Kate spoke to a somewhat more mature audience, the Old Oakhamian Parents Society, about the Romano-British town at Thistleton and the villa at Market Overton, and in September talked on the same subject to Uppingham Local History Society. In July Kate and Debbie Frearson, both volunteers at Rutland County Museum, helped to supervise children making pots and mosaics, as part of National Archaeology Week. Dr Jeremy Taylor of Leicester University, the Hallaton fieldwork group and Kate undertook a geophysical survey at Thistleton in August. The images of the temple site were breathtaking and an unusual ditch feature requires further investigation, hopefully in the form of excavation in 2009.

Without the permission of farmers and landowners the group would be unable to undertake the work it does and they have our grateful thanks. The hardy band of field-walkers are also to be thanked and admired for turning out in what can be pretty miserable conditions to further our understanding of the Rutland landscape.

Kate Don, Archaeology Convener

IV – Rutland Bibliography 2008

A bibliography of recent books and pamphlets relating to Rutland, compiled by Emily Barwell, Extended Services Librarian, Rutland Library Service.

- 20 Best Local Walks: spectacular walks around Stamford, Rutland, Harborough and the Nene Valley (Local Living Ltd 2008, £3.50, No ISBN).
- Baker, Ross, *Fable of Mythrian* (Melrose Press 2008, £13.99, ISBN 9781906050924) [Oakham author].
- Bench, N, *The Healing Garden: an introduction to herbs* (Grey House in the Woods 2007, £6.50, ISBN 9780954053185) [Thistleton Herb Nursery].
- Besse, J, *Sufferings of early Quakers: East Anglia and the East Midlands 1649-90* (Sessions Book Trust 2007, £12, ISBN 9781850723745).
- Boyes, John, *Project Emily* (Tempus 2008, £17.99, ISBN 9780752446110) [includes RAF North Luffenham].
- Dolby, Peter, *Rutland and her Diaspora* (Author House 2008, £16.49, ISBN 9781434319579) [author originates from Oakham, now located in the USA].
- Gaunt, Paul P, *Shadows of the Past: the story of WWII Wellington Bomber pilot W/O "Tubby" Gaunt RAFVR* (Fort Royal 2008, £10.95, ISBN 9780955751714) [subject of the book operated out of RAF Cottesmore].
- Gosling, Ian, *The Puppet Master* (Vanguard Press 2008, £14.99, ISBN 9781843863861) [local author].
- Hamilton, Geoff, *The Organic Gardening Book* (Dorling Kindersley 2008, £16.99, ISBN 9781405328531) [new edition, previously published in 1987 as *Successful Organic Gardening*].
- Hancock, T N, *Aircraft Crashes in the East Midlands 1914-2007* (T N Hancock 2008, CD-ROM, £30, No ISBN) [includes Rutland locations].
- Leicestershire & Rutland Heritage of Mental Health* (Recovery Resources Charity, No Price, No ISBN).
- Maitland, Lizzie, *If you do not lose everything: the life story of Lizzie Maitland* (Recovery Resources Charity 2008, No Price, No ISBN).
- Martin, Brian, illustrated by Oliver, Alan, *Rutland – Landscapes and legends* (Cottage Publications 2008, £16.95, ISBN 9781900935708) [local author and illustrator].
- Merchant, Rex, *Oswald Gotobed and the Cambeach Ghost* (Norman Cottage, £9.50, ISBN 9781902474199) [Oakham author – Book 5 of the Runford Chronicles].
- Oakham School, *Cookery Book* (Oakham School 2008, £6, No ISBN).
- Orchard, Adrian, *Joint Force Harrier* (Penguin, £16.99, ISBN 9780718153991) [RAF Cottesmore author].
- Paulton-Smith, Anthony, *Leicestershire and Rutland Place Names* (Sutton 2008, £12.99, ISBN 9780750950459).
- PSV Circle, *Current Fleets of Bus and Coach Operators: Leicestershire and Rutland* (PSV Circle 2008, £7, No ISBN).
- Richardson, Nigel, *Typhoid in Uppingham* (Pickering and Chatto, £60, ISBN 9781851969913) [author formerly a master at Uppingham School].
- Rollings, P, *The Orion Stone* (Self-published 2008, £3.14, No ISBN) [local author].
- Shelley, Alan, *The Colour was Red* (Book Guild, £17.99, ISBN 9781846242472) [Glaston novelist].
- Webb, Nigel, *Five Years in the White Man's Grave: an education officer in Nigeria, 1928-1933* (Legini 2008, No price, No ISBN) [Langham author].
- Hodges, Norton, *From Here to Here: d'ici à ici* (Malmaison 2008, No price, ISBN 9782953217537) [Oakham author – poetry].

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 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 12* (£2.00, members £1.50)
Deer parks; Preston records; Thring at Uppingham;
Jeremiah Whittaker; Joseph Matkin; Cinemas in Rutland
- Rutland Record 16* (£2.00, members £1.50)
Iron smelting; Saxon archaeology; Stilton cheese;
Oakham in 1871; Rutland Hotel, Wanganui
- Rutland Record 17* (£2.00, members £1.50)
Byrch's charity; Maj-Gen Robt Overton;
50-52 High St, Uppingham; White Hart, Uppingham
- Rutland Record 18* (£2.00, members £1.50)
Earthworks at Belton-in-Rutland; Peter de Neville;
Oakham gallows; Buckingham's house at Burley
- Rutland Record 19* (£2.00, members £1.50)
Anne Barker; Exton and Noel family; 14th century
Rutland bacon; Emigrants to Australia
- Rutland Record 20* (£2.50, members £2.00)
Rutland castles; Medieval site at Barrowden;
Mompesson and Rutland inns; George Phillips
- Rutland Record 21* (£2.50, members £2.00)
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