

Rutland Record 37



*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:

Advertising poster for an episode of 'Lightning Bryce', 1919 (Wikipedia)

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Editorial: Of magpies and housewives

When your Editor was young and in his prime – we won't tarnish the image by revealing just when this was – he was obliged to write an essay, under examination conditions, discussing the proposition that a curator was 'a cross between a magpie and a housewife'. Although his essay seemed to him a pathetic submission, the examiners evidently thought otherwise: not only was the diploma awarded but the essay was one of two selected for publication that year.

The proposition itself still has something to commend it. The original implications of course were that the magpie is an indiscriminate hoarder of glittery things randomly and untidily clustered into a scruffy nest, whilst the housewife (and for the sake of equality we might interpolate the househusband) keeps everything neatly and tidily organised and instantly knows where everything is. Curators certainly like glittery things – witness some of the many items purchased for the Rutland County Museum by its Friends, most recently the gold pendant whose discovery is reported on p328 of this issue – but they assess their value in the context of their collections and do not acquire them indiscriminately. They certainly look after the collections but manage and document them in a much more profound way than might even the most proud housewife, never mind putting them on display and making them available for study. They do so for a purpose, often with local interests at heart, and in the expectation that their collections will be maintained in perpetuity, even those ephemeral items that might otherwise have been lost. The same might be said, too, for librarians of special collections and for archivists, even allowing that the latter often have in their care the records of families which have been deposited rather than given.

We might, then, widen the scope of this present essay beyond that of curatorship, for it is those families that make history – or, indeed, history that makes families. We have only to look at virtually any issue of our publications and those of our fellow societies to find examples: witness in this current number the impact of the Johnson family on Rutland's charitable and educational establishments, and the rise and fall in economic terms at least of the Lowthers – a story of fortunes made and lost, and with them estates and great buildings. Such studies have been made possible through access to historical sources, some on the grand scale, others very modest and even unlikely. Today, that access is often – though by no means always – made easier and investigation more rewarding through the medium of the internet, but at the same time the presence of that source introduces a potential vulnerability, in that there may be a perception that once scanned or digitised the original somehow becomes less important.

Not so. We can never be sure that we have discovered everything that there is to know from an original, whether this is a document, an archaeological artefact or some skeletal remains, or that errors have not been introduced. There has been many an argument over the selective retention of representative material. Should those letters sent home from school and carefully kept by mother now be weeded out? Should those thousands of waste flint flakes from some Mesolithic occupation site or featureless potsherds from a Roman kiln complex be reburied? What new techniques might some day be applied to analyse the medical condition of skeletons from a medieval burial ground, with consequent benefits for modern medical science? We need to take care that the ever-increasing speed of technological and scientific progress does not out-run history and what we can learn from it, and does not separate our families from our past.

It seems, then, that those magpies, and those housewives, still have and will continue to have a very important role to play in safe-guarding, recording and interpreting our social history for the benefit of all of us. They are, if you like, our current anthropologists, working as far as possible dispassionately, without the distraction of conflicting ideologies and other destructive elements. We are grateful to them for squirrelling away the evidence – and for not forgetting where they put it.

Notes on Contributors

Tim Clough is the Society's Honorary Editor. He went to Uppingham School, and was Curator of the Rutland County Museum from 1974 to 2002. He has a degree in prehistoric European archaeology from the University of Edinburgh, and has written and edited many works on local history, archaeology and numismatics.

Alan Crosby has been the editor of *The Local Historian* since 2001. He has published many books and articles on aspects of social and landscape history, especially relating to North West England.

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Sheila Sleath is a retired primary school teacher and lives in Rutland where she was born and bred. She is a member of the Society and has a particular interest in her own family history. With Robert Ovens, she was joint author of *Time in Rutland* and joint compiler of *The Heritage of Rutland Water*, both published by the Society.

The contents of *Rutland Record* reflect the views of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Society or its Editor.

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The Hereditary Trustees of the Archdeacon Johnson Foundation

BRIAN NEEDHAM

In 1584 Archdeacon Robert Johnson, Rector of North Luffenham, founded a free grammar school (now Oakham School and Uppingham School) and a Hospital of Christ (an almshouse) in each of Rutland's two major towns, which acts were confirmed in 1587 by the Foundation Grant from Elizabeth I. This Foundation was consolidated by the Statutes and Ordinances of 1625, and in them

Archdeacon Johnson ensured that his male heirs would be the Patron (or Hereditary Trustee) of his Foundation. This article traces those who fulfilled the role down to the present time. Separately, Johnson re-founded William Dalby's moribund Hospital of St John the Evangelist and St Anne in Oakham. All of these charitable foundations are still in being.

Robert Johnson was born in 1541 in Stamford, the second child of Maurice (or Morrice) Johnson, a Master Dyer and Alderman of the town who served as one of its two Members of Parliament. Robert attended King's School, Peterborough, and went up to Clare Hall, Cambridge, before migrating to Trinity College, having been awarded a scholarship. Becoming a Fellow of Trinity, he was ordained into the Anglican ministry and held various positions until in 1574 he was appointed to the living of North Luffenham in Rutland, where he was to remain for the next half-century. For the last seventeen years of his ministry he was Archdeacon of Leicester, then in the diocese of Peterborough. Thomas Fuller wrote in his *Worthies of England*, published in 1662:

Robert Johnson ... was beneficed at Luffenham in Rutland at what time that little County was at a great losse for the education of the Children therein; and Mr. Johnson endeavoured a remedy thereof. He had a rare faculty in requesting of others into his own desire, and with his arguments could surprise a Miser into charity. He effectively moved those of the Vicinage, to contribute to the building and endowing of Schools, Money or Money worth Stones, Timber, Carriage, &c. not slighting the smallest gift, especially, if proportionable to the Givers Estate. Hereby finding none, he left as many Free Schools in Rutland, as there were Market Towns therein. One at Oakeham, another at Uppingham, well faced with buildings and lined with endowments. Hitherto he was only a Nurse to the Charity of others, erecting the schools aforesaid, ... who afterwards proved a fruitful parent in his own person, becoming a considerable Benefactor to Emanuel and Sidney Colledges at Cambridge (Fuller 1662, 169).

Archdeacon Robert Johnson died in 1625 and is buried in North Luffenham church.

The Foundation Grant of 1587 (in legal fact actually a Licence of Mortmain by Letters Patent granted by Queen Elizabeth, which was necessary so

as to allow the Governors to purchase land for the purposes of endowing the Foundation) confirmed the establishment by Archdeacon Robert Johnson of two hospitals and two schools, one of each in Oakham and Uppingham:

A graunte from hir majesty to Robert Johnson, Clarke, to erecte two grammer schools and two Hospitalls in Okeham and Uppingham with an incorporation of the Governours and Licence to purchase lands for the mayntenaunce of the same schools and Hospitalls not exceeding fower hundreth markes by the yeare ... We would deign to erect found and establish one grammar school within the town of Oakham in the same County and a second grammar school within the town of Uppingham in the same County of Rutland for the better education training and instruction of boys and youths dwelling and sojourning in the aforesaid places and round about the neighbouring parts. And also in order that in some measure fit provision might be made for the relief and sustenance of certain poor and indigent dwelling and sojourning within the aforesaid county one hospital within the town of Oakham for electing twenty four poor within the three hundreds called Okeham Soke Alstoe and East Hundred in the same County, also another hospital within the town of Uppingham for electing twenty four poor within the two hundreds called Martinsley and Wrangdike in the same county, and also that in some measure fit provision might be made for the relief and sustenance of certain poor and indigent scholars proceeding from the same schools to the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford.

The Foundation Grant continued:

And that Our intention may take better effect, and that the goods chattels lands tenements rents revenues reversions hereditaments annuities and other profits to be granted assigned and appointed for the sustenance of the same schools and hospitals, and for the relief of the poor and the indigent scholars aforesaid, We will grant and ordain for us our heirs and successors that henceforth for ever there be and shall be twenty four

discreet and reputable men to be nominated elected and assigned according to the order contained and declared in these our Letters Patent, who shall be and shall be called, in the Latin tongue, 'Gubatores bonorum possessionum et revencionium Liberarum Scholarum Grammaticalium Roberti Johnson, Clerici, et duorum Hospiciorum Christi in Okeham et Uppingham in Comitatu Rutlandie', and in the English tongue 'The Governors of the goodes possessions and revenues of the free grammer scholes of Robert Johnson, Clarke, and of the two hospitals of Christe in Okeham and Uppingham in the County of Rutland'.

Uppingham School's historian, Bryan Matthews, sums up:

The general administration of the Foundation was to be carried out by twenty-four Governors, all named, seven of whom were ex officio – two Bishops, two deans, two masters of Cambridge colleges and an archdeacon. The rest of the twenty-four were local lords and gentry, mainly of a markedly protestant leaning, no less than four of whom were Harringtons of Rutland. The last named governor was Abraham Johnson's ten year old son (Matthews 1984, 10).

Abraham, then, was the first of the Hereditary Trustees of the Foundation to succeed the Founder.

The Statutes and Ordinances of 1625, signed by the Founder only seven weeks before he died, devoted the first chapter to the Governors. Oakham School's historian, John Barber, writes:

The Letters Patent [The Charter] allowed for seven ex officio Governors and seventeen by election, but Johnson also named his male heirs as ex officio in their capacity as Patrons (Barber 1983, 30–1).

Bryan Matthews comments on this 1625 list of Governors:

All but two of the Governors Johnson had appointed in 1587 were dead by 1625; only Lord Zouch and Abraham Johnson were still alive. The seven ex-officio positions remained as before – two Bishops, two deans, one archdeacon and two masters of Cambridge colleges. But there was a great change in the other seventeen. As the country gentlemen had died, Johnson had replaced them with local clergy, especially those who shared his Puritan views, and he now added his grandsons Isaac and Samuel to the list (Matthews 1984, 13).

Then:

By 1643 only Abraham Johnson of the original list of Governors appointed in 1587 still remained in office thanks to the fact that he had only been 10 years old (and still the apple of his father's eye) at that time ... It might seem surprising that Abraham Johnson, Patron of the Foundation since his father's death, attended no meetings at all in the last six years of his life, but there were some good reasons for his absence apart from his unpredictability. He was in his late 60s, living in Cambridge, and travelling in the years of the Civil

War was not easy. In February 1643, for instance, the Assizes were discontinued 'by reason for the present miserable distraction and the being of armed forces in all parts' (ibid, 22).

An important change came centuries later in 1875. The Endowed Schools Commission of 1864 led to the Endowed Schools Act of 1869 which in turn led to a protracted wrangle in Rutland which called into doubt the whole future of the two Schools. Oakham's first historian and one-time headmaster, W L (Tom) Sargant, pulls no punches in his history of the School in describing the situation when Dr William Spicer Wood, the Oakham Master, attended the first meeting of the Headmasters' Conference, called by Dr Thring at Uppingham:

The very object of the conference was to protect the rights of schools, yet the convener [Thring] favoured the degradation to second rank of the school [Oakham] of one of its members [Wood]. Thring had in an amazingly short time succeeded in transforming a typical Grammar School into a great Public School in opposition to the wishes of his own Governors, and he alone had virtually succeeded in overriding a trust deed [the Charter]. But he was an ill neighbour. Even in 1855 he had wished to organise Oakham as a preparatory school for Uppingham, and now he favoured the plan by which it should become a second grade school, normally keeping boys until the age of sixteen only and teaching no Greek. Thus the School was to be deprived of its one boast, its Exhibitions, its Scholars, its connection with Cambridge. A scheme on these lines was prepared by the Charity Commissioners. They were supported by a section of the townsfolk; they were opposed by the Governors headed by Mr George Finch and Mr Gerald [sic, recte Gerard] Noel, Members [of Parliament] for Rutland. The scheme would in fact have been carried out [despite the strong opposition of the Governors, expressed in a communication to the Endowed Schools Commissioners in February 1874, threatening to take all steps provided by law for the opposing it in its future stages so as to bring it more in conformity with the intentions of the Founder] but that the Government went out of office. Their successors were more sympathetic: a later leaving age by consent of the Trustees was allowed; Greek was to be optional [and the teaching of Modern Languages and Science encouraged] (Sargant 1928, 40–1).

Thus in 1875 the new 'Scheme for the Management of the Schools and Hospitals of Christ, the Foundation of Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, in Oakham and Uppingham and of the Endowments thereof, inclusive of the gift of Timothy Helmsley' came into operation. By this scheme the management of the trust and its application to the relief of poor persons remained in the hands of the Governors, but they were required to hand over the School buildings and two-sevenths of the annual income to each of the schools, which have since been governed by a

separate body of Trustees, on which the Governors are fully represented. Thus, by a somewhat confusing inversion of terms, the Governors continue to administer the Trust, while the Trustees govern the School (Sargant 1928, 42). From 1875, each of the two schools, Oakham and Uppingham, has had its own independent Board of Trustees, and on each Board has sat the Hereditary Trustee until 2009 (see below).

The 1875 Scheme established a Managing Body for Oakham School, hereinafter referred to as the Board of Trustees. The number of Trustees was established as fifteen – the Hereditary Trustee, two ex-officio (the Bishop of Peterborough and the Dean of Peterborough), nine representative (five appointed by the Governors of the Foundation, one by the Vestry of Oakham, one by the Vestry of Uppingham, one by the Board of Guardians for Oakham Union and one by the Board of Guardians for Uppingham Union), and three co-optative. The Uppingham Board of Trustees was very different: that Board consisted of nineteen – the Hereditary Trustee, four ex-officio (the Bishop of Peterborough, the Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, the Dean of Peterborough, and the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of the County of Rutland), eleven representative (two chosen by the neighbouring Members of Parliament, five by the Governors of the Foundation, one by the Hebdomadal Council of the University of Oxford, one by the Council of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, and two by the Headmaster and Assistant Masters of Uppingham School), and three co-optative.

Slight amendments to the scheme for Oakham School were made in 1881, 1894 and 1901, and then in 1909 came a major change as Oakham School applied for and gained Direct Grant status. The number of Trustees remained at fifteen, being the Hereditary Trustee, two ex-officio trustees (the Bishop of Peterborough and the Dean of Peterborough), nine representative trustees (five appointed by the Governing Body of the Foundation, one by Oakham Parish Council, one by Uppingham Parish Council, and two by Rutland County Council), and three co-optative trustees.

Oakham School's decision to revert to full independence in 1970 brought into being further changes. A new Scheme made by the Secretary of State for Education and Science under Section 18 of the Charities Act 1960 was sealed on 22nd November 1973. The Governing Body of the Foundation was to consist of between seventeen and twenty-one members: one was the Hereditary Trustee ('being the right male heir of the Founder, if he be of full age and not subject to any disability'); three were ex officio – the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Rutland, and the Dean of

Peterborough; five were Representative Trustees to be appointed by the Governing Body of the Foundation of Robert Johnson; and not less than eight nor more than fourteen co-optative trustees to be appointed by resolution of the Trustees for the time being in office.

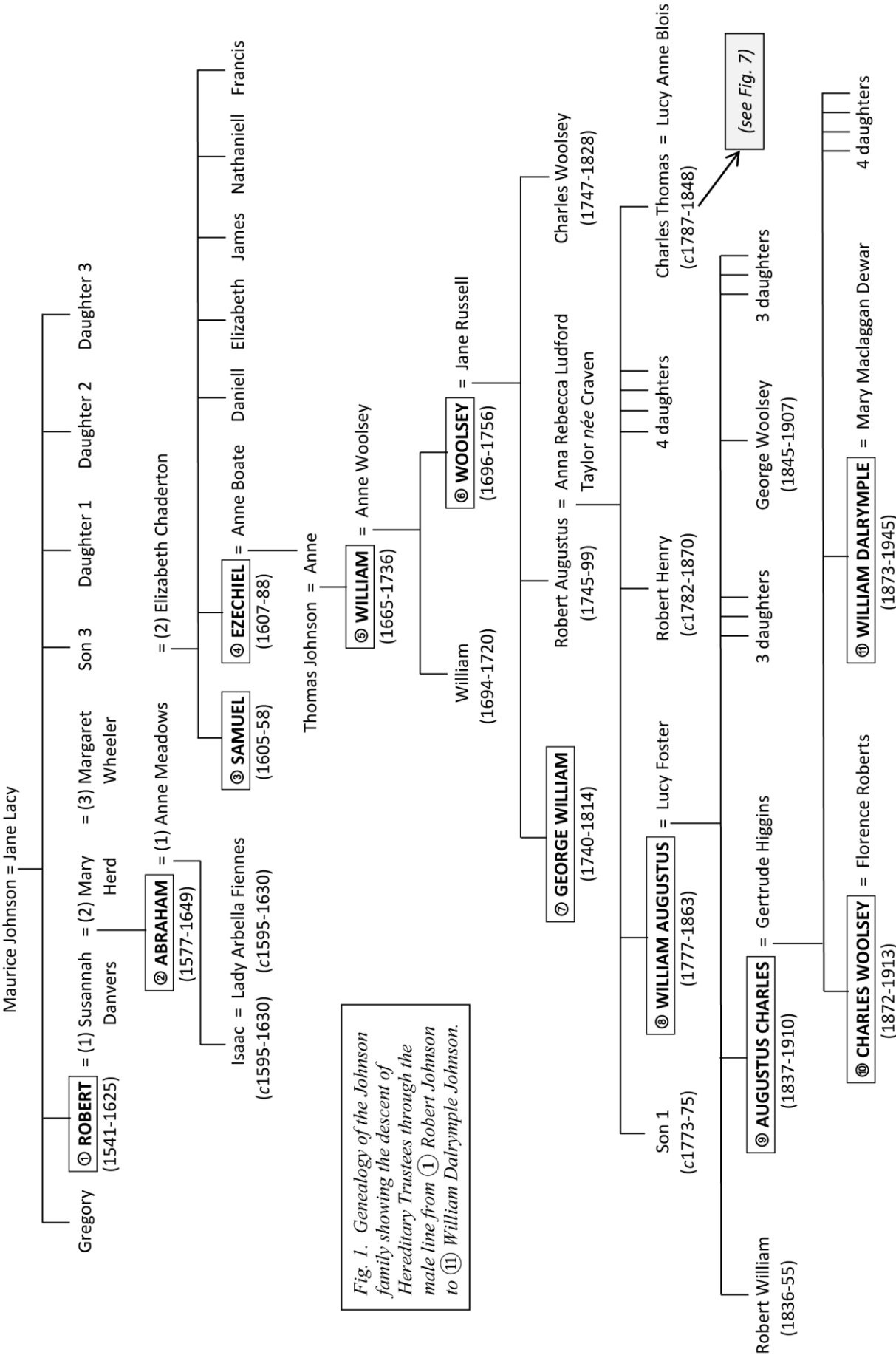
In 2009, right at the end of J A F (Joe) Spence's headmastership, Oakham School was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee. The Memorandum of Association established the Objects of the Company but it is the Articles of Association of a Company Limited by Guarantee that add flesh to the bones of the Memorandum. In them 'the number of Trustees shall be no fewer than 12 and not more than 21 individuals', with the same three ex-officio members (the Lord Bishop of Peterborough, the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Rutland, and the Dean of Peterborough), with all the others being simply co-optative trustees other than the need for Oakham School to request nominations for up to two suitable persons to serve as trustees of Oakham School from the Trustees of Archdeacon Johnson's Almshouse Charity. It is worthy of note that the Hereditary Trustee is not named nor given any position on the Board and he no longer appears in the list of trustees published termly in the Red Book, the school's termly calendar that contains much other information of note and for which Uppingham has an equivalent (although he did up to and including 2013). Nor does the present published list of the governing body of Uppingham School, which itself went through a procedure similar to that its sister foundation, include the Hereditary Trustee.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that in 2011 the charity running the Hospital of St John and St Anne in Oakham and the charity running the Hospitals of Christ in Oakham and Uppingham (split off from the running of the two schools in 1875, as mentioned above) amalgamated, and are now known as Archdeacon Johnson's Almshouse Charity.

The Patrons / Hereditary Trustees

It has been seen, then, that from 1584, the Patron of the Foundation was the senior male descendant of the Founder, the Hereditary Trustee:

from the Statutes and Ordinances of me, Robert Johnson, Clerk, Archdeacon of Leicester, for and concerning the ordering, governing, and maintaining of my free schools, and of the hospitals of Christ, in Oakham and Uppingham, in the County of Rutland, whereof I am Founder and Patron, I do also ordain that after my decease, my right male heir, from time to time, forever, shall be called Patron of my said Schools, and of the said Hospitals, and that such my right male heir from time to time, if he be of full age when his next ancestor died, and that there be a governorship void, shall be then actually a Governor of the goods, possessions, and revenues aforesaid,



and shall be then nominated, chosen, and confirmed one, by the Governor (1625 Statutes and Ordinances, Cap 1: Of the Governors).

The sequence of hereditary trustees, which is set out in the accompanying family trees (figs. 1 & 7), is as follows:

① 1584–1625

The Venerable Archdeacon Robert Johnson, MA, DTh – Founder

Born 1540/41 in Stamford, Lincolnshire, Robert Johnson was the second son of Maurice Johnson (Morris ap John of the Welsh Marches on the Shropshire border), master dyer, freeman of the borough, alderman of Stamford in 1513, 1529 and 1539, and MP in 1523, and Jane *née* Lacy, daughter of another Stamford alderman and MP. On his father's death in 1551 Robert lived with his aunt (his father's sister) and her husband Robert Smith at Stanground, near Peterborough. He was educated at King's School, Peterborough, 1551–58; he matriculated at 16 as a sizar from Clare Hall, Cambridge, in the Lent Term 1557/8, migrated as Scholar to Trinity College, took his BA in 1560/1, his MA (from Trinity) in 1563/4, became BD in 1571 and DTh in 1572; he was elected a Fellow of Trinity 1563/4 and Steward of Trinity College. Then he obtained a royal licence to travel abroad to France for three years for the purpose of study where he came under the strong influence of the Huguenot Protestant insurrectionists. He was ordained deacon (Peterborough) on 27th June 1568, and then went briefly to Ireland; he was ordained priest (London) on 23rd December 1568, age 27; he became Chaplain and Chaplain Examiner to the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, Sir Nicholas Bacon, living at his great house at Gorhambury; he was University Preacher at Cambridge 1568, Prebendary of Peterborough (1569–73), Prebendary of Rochester (1569–87), Prebendary of Norwich (1570–76), and Prebendary of Windsor (1572–1625). He was suspended in 1571 by Archbishop Parker over religious scruples about the Elizabethan Prayer Book, but eventually conformed although he remained a convinced Puritan and a prominent anti-establishment figure. He was a foundation Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge (1571), was created Canon of the Royal Chapel of St George at Windsor in 1572, and became a foundation Governor of the Queen Elizabeth School in Barnet (1573). His benefices included the Rectory of North Luffenham, Rutland (1574–1625), from the age of 34, and he became Archdeacon of Leicester (1591–1625). A coat of arms was granted in 1592 (fig. 2). He married first Susanna Danvers, who died after just a year with no issue; then secondly Mary Herd, who bore him his only child Abraham; thirdly



Fig. 2. The coat of arms of Robert Johnson.

Margaret Wheeler *née* Lilley; he died in 1625 and was buried at North Luffenham on 25th July 1625, aged 85 (for a fuller biography, see Matthews 1981).

② 1625–1649

Abraham Johnson (1577–1649), only son of the Founder

Abraham was born on 5th July 1577, and went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1591; he took his BA in 1594 and was created MA on James I's visit 1612/13; he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn on 11th May 1594 and qualified as a barrister. He bought property in South Luffenham, and was High Sheriff of Rutland in 1618. He married first Anne Meadows, with sole issue Isaac, and secondly Elizabeth Chaderton (daughter of the Master of Emmanuel, a good friend of Robert Johnson) with issue Samuel, Ezechiel, Daniell, Elizabeth, James, Nathaniell and Francis. He fell out with his father over his son Isaac's marriage to Lady Arbella Fiennes, of which he disapproved but of which his father approved, and was disinherited (but received £100 in his father's will, with £20 being left to his wife Elizabeth and to each of their seven children); the bulk of the inheritance (£20,000) was left to Isaac (Robert and his third wife Margaret having raised the boy from a young age, his mother Anne dying giving birth to a second child); Abraham died in 1649. Uppingham's historian, Bryan Matthews, wrote:

Upon Abraham, the only child of his three marriages, Robert Johnson had poured the practical results of his deep interest in education; in the end he produced a young ass who had not the wit nor strength of character, nor the common sense to put to good advantage all the learning lavished upon him. Abraham himself has described how he was taught Latin, Greek, French, Italian and Spanish; how he was trained in rhetoric and logic, and instructed in music and singing. On top of this he had a writer master who 'taught him to write fair the Secretary, Court or Chancery Hand, Text Hand and Bastard Hand, all these both in small letters and the great or capital'. A thorough education indeed, but not, perhaps, very much more than any intelligent young man endured in the Elizabethan age; certainly Robert Johnson's old employer's son, Francis Bacon, underwent as severe a

training, but he had the nous to turn it to good effect, whereas Abraham was a prig and a crank, who called himself a 'philosophical engineer', which meant an inventor of ingenious devices, for the building of which he was often begging money from his father. The estrangement between father and son has its roots in the father's disenfranchisement with his son's eccentricity; nevertheless Robert might have borne with his son's idiosyncrasies but for an unseen and unplanned event. Abraham had married (at his father's behest) a 17 year old girl who produced a son called Isaac and a year later died in giving birth to a daughter. She was not yet 20 years old, and Abraham was overwhelmed with genuine grief which he consoled within a year by marrying the daughter of Dr Chaderton, the first Master of Emmanuel College, an old Puritan friend of his father's. Elizabeth Chaderton was more successful as a mother and in time produced seven more children for Abraham. But – and this was the fatal mistake – Isaac was sent to live with his grandparents at North Luffenham. In Isaac Robert Johnson found all that he had missed in Abraham, and in due course heaped upon him much of his extensive property, so that by the time he made his will Robert left his son only £100 out of a total of some £20,000, most of the rest being settled on Isaac. The relationship between Abraham and Robert had been exacerbated in the last few years of Robert's life over the matter of Isaac's marriage. Isaac had fallen in love with the Lady Arbella Fiennes, a daughter of the 3rd Earl of Lincoln. Abraham bitterly opposed a marriage between them as being 'overhigh', but Robert encouraged it, and to Abraham's fury settled upon Isaac his recently purchased Manor of Clipsham in Rutland as a wedding present. The income from it amounted then to about £600 a year. Finally Robert, suspecting there would be trouble after his own death, worded his will so that the pittance he was proposing to leave to Abraham and his other children would lapse if Abraham disputed the will (Matthews 1984, 14).

③ 1649–1658

The Rev Dr Samuel Johnson, MA (1605–1658), Abraham's second son and first child by his second wife: the Founder's grandson

Born in Stamford in 1605, Samuel was Abraham's eldest son by his second marriage and elder brother of Ezechiel, who had been Master of Uppingham. Samuel went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge in 1619/20, took his BA in 1623/4, his MA in 1628, and gained his DD in 1641. He served as Rector of Ashdown (Essex) 1640–58; there is no record of a marriage or of any issue; he died on 19th July 1658.

[Samuel succeeded as Hereditary Trustee because his elder half-brother Isaac (ordained priest in 1621, having graduated BA / MA from Emmanuel College, Cambridge) (fig. 3) had emigrated in 1630 as one of the founders of Massachusetts with his wife, Lady Arbella née Fiennes



Fig. 3. Isaac Johnson.

(married 1623). Lady Arbella died in the colony at the end of August that same year, followed by the death of Isaac on 30th September, so predeceasing his father.]

④ 1658–1687

The Rev Ezechiel Johnson, MA (1607–1688), Abraham's third son: the Founder's grandson

Ezechiel was born in 1607; he went up to Emmanuel College, Cambridge; he took his BA in 1625/6 and his MA in 1629; he was Master of Uppingham School 1631–41, Governor of Oakham School, and Vicar of Paulerspury in Northamptonshire (1631–37) but from which he was ejected for 'delinquency' (not being sufficiently Puritan); he was Rector of Cranford St John (1640–c1656) and Lord of the Manor of Clipsham in Rutland. He married Anne, daughter of John Boate of Killingworth, by whom he had one daughter, Anne.

For twenty years more [from 1660 when he had been one of the 46 nobility and gentry of Rutland to present Charles II with an address of humble congratulations] Ezekial [sic] Johnson had been assiduous in his attendance at the Governors' Meetings, and with the experience he had gained in his early years as Master of Uppingham he must have been difficult to confute. By 1696 he was old and frail; a letter written to the Bishop of Peterborough in that year describes him as 'under so much weakness of body and decay ... that he will not be in a capacity for public business'. He was dead 18 months later; and as there was no son as 'right male heir' to inherit the office of patron, it passed to his grandson, his daughter Anne's son William Johnson (Matthews 1984, 29).

Ezechiel died on 25th February 1687, aged 81, and is buried at Olney in Buckinghamshire.

⑤ 1687–1729

William Johnson (1665–1737), son of Anne Johnson, the daughter of Ezechiel: the Founder's great-great grandson



Fig. 4. Thomas Johnson of Olney.

Thomas Johnson of Olney, Anne's husband and William's father (no relation, so it is by good chance that Johnson remained the surname of the Hereditary Trustee), was a wastrel who had run through his patrimony in Olney. He had been imprisoned for debt, only to be rescued on more than one occasion by his father-in-law, Ezechiel, who had been forced to sell the manor of Clipsham for £10,000 to cover the debts. Their son William was born in 1665 but his exact birthdate and place are unrecorded; there is no record of him having attended Cambridge or Oxford; he married Anne, the daughter of John Woolsey, Archdeacon of Northampton, and died in 1729.

[It is not known why the position of Patron was not passed on to any of Ezechiel's four younger brothers (Daniell, James, Nathaniell, Francis) rather than to his grandson William – perhaps they had all predeceased him – or any of their own male heirs, the normal male descendant route at the time; there is no record of Daniell, James or Nathaniell attending Cambridge, but Francis entered Emmanuel in 1633 and took BA (1637) and MA (1644).]

⑥ 1729–1756

The Rev Woolsey Johnson (1696–1756), William's son: the Founder's 3 x great grandson

Woolsey was born in 1696 and baptised in Olney (Buckinghamshire) on 19th June 1696; he lived at Witham-on-the-Hill, Lincolnshire, was educated at Uppingham School, admitted pensioner at Clare College, Cambridge, on 19th May 1714, matriculated in 1715, took his BA in 1717/18 and his MA 1721. He was ordained deacon at Peterborough on



Figs. 5 & 6. Jane and Woolsey Johnson.

25th September 1720. He was Rector of Wilby, Northamptonshire, 1729–56, Vicar of Olney, 1735–53, Vicar of Witham-on-the-Hill, 1753–56; in 1752 he built the Manor House and enclosed the Park at Witham; he died there on 21st April 1756, aged 59. He married Jane Russell and had three sons (George William, the Rev Robert Augustus, and the Rev Charles Woolsey).

[Woolsey's elder brother William (1694–1720) attended Clare College, Cambridge, in 1711; he died young, predeceasing his father, and was buried on 9th March 1720.]

⑦ 1756–1814

George William Johnson (1740–1814), Woolsey's eldest son: the Founder's 4 x great grandson

George William was born on 24th June 1740 in London and baptised on 27th June – in one record at Olney (Buckinghamshire) but in another more likely at St Andrew's, Holborn; he was educated at Rugby and only 16 when his father died and he became Patron, but he was not allowed to become a Governor until he reached 21; he was admitted pensioner at Clare College, Cambridge, on 2nd December 1757 and matriculated in the Michaelmas Term 1757, but there are no details of his having taken any degrees.

[He] had been a Governor since he came of age over 51 years ago. During most of that long time he had been a constantly attentive and canny Patron, careful of the Foundation's income, but not obstructive to good ideas from the Masters of the schools (Matthews 1984, 51).

George William died in February 1814, unmarried and with no known issue; the office of Patron thereby passed to his nephew William Augustus, the son of his younger brother the Rev R A Johnson (who had predeceased him) who himself had been educated at Uppingham.

[The third and youngest son of Woolsey Johnson, the Rev Charles Woolsey (1747–1828), was born on 10th March 1747, educated at Uppingham and Rugby, went up to

Clare College, Cambridge, in 1766, taking BA in 1770, MA in 1773 and becoming a Fellow in 1773; he was ordained deacon in 1770 and priest in 1771; he was Vicar of Witham (1772–1828), Rector of Whitnash, Warwickshire (to 1828) and of Datchworth, Hertfordshire (1785–1828); he died on 30th November 1828.]

© 1814–1864

Lieutenant General William Augustus Johnson, MP, DL (1777–1863), George William's nephew, the Founder's 5 x great grandson

William Augustus was born on 15th and baptised on 17th October 1777 in Kenilworth, the second but oldest surviving son of George William's younger brother, the Rev Robert Augustus Johnson and Anna Rebecca Ludford Taylor *née* Craven. William Augustus married Lucy Foster (1815–1890) on 17th February 1835. He served in the campaign of 1808–09 in the Peninsular War as Major in the 32nd Regiment and was present at the battles of Roliça, Vimiero, and Corunna, then served through the Walcheren expedition in 1809; he inherited the Witham-on-the-Hill estate in Lincolnshire from his uncle George William in 1814 and left active duty on half-pay to run the estate. In 1837 he and others received substantial compensation in respect of his interest, possibly as a trustee, in Vernons estate in Antigua (www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/40849). He stood many times for Parliament and served as Member of Parliament for Boston (1820–26) and for Oldham (1837–47); he was a Magistrate, Deputy Lieutenant of Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire, and High Sheriff of Lincolnshire for 1830 (and for a detailed account of his active parliamentary and political career – he spoke often in debates – see <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/johnson-william-1777-1863>). He and Lucy are known to have had three sons (Robert William, b1836, who predeceased him in 1855; Augustus Charles, 1837–1910; and George Woolsey, 1845–1907, a naval officer who married and had a son, Captain William Inglis Johnson, killed in the First World War) and at least six daughters (Jane Anna Lucy, 1838–1928; Mary Georgina Louisa, b1840; Selena Barbara Maria, 1842–1931; Ethel Harriet Matilda, b1847; Henrietta Julia Caroline, b1850; and Anabella Margarite Dorothea, 1854–1944). William Augustus died on 26th October 1863 at Witham-on-the-Hill, aged 87, after a fall that resulted in a broken thigh and complications.

As has been seen, he had warned Uppingham's Master Edward Thring against the scheme put forward by Thring and Wood of Oakham in 1856:

If I understand your intentions rightly, it is to make Uppingham a first-class school and Oakham a

second-class or minor one. You will never be able to obtain the Governors' sanction to such a distinction. You are not aware of the very strong local feeling, not only of the Governors but of the two towns of Oakham and Uppingham and of the jealousy which has always existed between them (Parkin 1898, I, 83).

Even so, he had fought to support Thring's expansionist aims at Uppingham, disassociating himself from the rest of his colleagues, commenting that some of them

had not the interest of Uppingham School at heart and were quite as tenacious of the public money of the trust as they can be of their own, and they do not see long before them (ibid, I, 87).

On the General's death in 1863, Thring wrote:

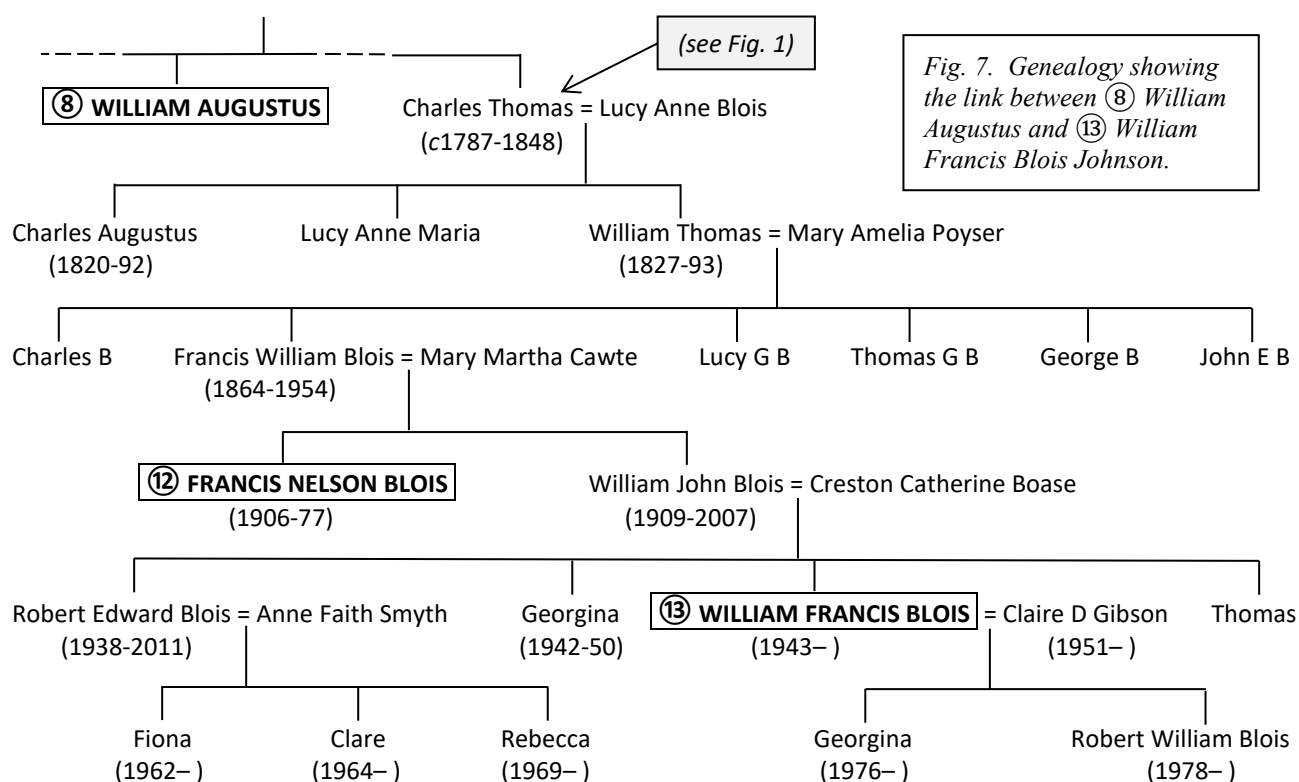
It is not given to all to see in weak beginnings a good cause or thing of public interest in an obscure and small seed. But his generous and earnest mind instinctively took the part of a bold effort, and he cheered by his kindliness the hard beginnings, He gave his good word when a good word was scarce indeed (Uppingham School Magazine 1863).

The anonymous separate obituary in the same edition commented that

Neither age, nor infirmity, kept him from any meeting where his presence was needed; illness scarcely held him back; even when ill his thoughts were busy to support the good of the school ... His name must ever be connected with the rise of this great school ... Let then the memory of General Johnson be enshrined in the hearts of the school, for well has he deserved it at their hands (ibid, 286–7).

[William Augustus's father the Rev Robert Augustus Johnson had been born in 1745 at Olney, but there is no record of his having gone up to either Cambridge or Oxford; he had married Anne, her second marriage, in 1773. Their first son, born c1773/4 but whose name is unknown, died in 1775; their second son was William Augustus, above; their third son was Robert Henry, born in 1782, since he matriculated at Brasenose, Oxford, aged 17 on 12th October 1799 (BA 1804, MA 1806, Rector of Lutterworth from 1816) and died in 1870, presumably without any surviving male heirs in his line for there is record of one son (William Thomas, born c1828) and one daughter (Maria Louisa, born 1821) from his marriage to Caroline Rouse Broughton in 1808; finally their fourth son, Charles Thomas, was born c1787 since he went up to Brasenose College, Oxford, aged 17 on 15th March 1804, taking his BA in 1807 and MA in 1810, becoming a clergyman like his father. It is from him that twentieth century Patrons are descended (see fig. 7).

Charles Thomas was Rector of Enborne and of Hampstead Marshall in Berkshire from 1816 until his death on 29th June 1848; he married Lucy Ann Blois in Marylebone, London, on 25th September 1817 and they had three children, at least: Charles Augustus, Lucy Ann



Maria and William Thomas. Charles Augustus was baptised in 1820, followed his father to Brasenose, Oxford, on 5th March 1839 aged 18 (BA 1843, MA 1846) and succeeded his father as Rector of Enborne in 1850 until his death in 1892; he had married (Sophia Anne Turner) late in life in 1877 but had no children. William Thomas was baptised on 1st January 1827 and entered the Indian Army, rising to the rank of Major; he married Mary Amelia Poyser in 1860 and they produced at least six children – Charles Blois, Francis William Blois, Lucy Georgiana Blois, Thomas Gordon Blois, George Blois and John Ernest Blois. He died in 1893 and the succession continued through his second son, Francis William Blois, since his eldest, Charles Blois, had died in 1925 without (apparently) a male heir (he and his wife Gertrude, married 1899, had but one child, presumably a female). Francis William Blois had been born in 1864 and was baptised on 26th May; he married Mary Martha Cawte in 1903 and had at least two sons, but he died in 1943 and so the succession went to his elder son, Francis Nelson Blois, before eventually being taken by the second son of his own younger son, William John Blois – see below.]

⑨ 1864–1910

Augustus Charles Johnson (1837–1910), William Augustus' second son: the Founder's 6 x great grandson

Augustus Charles was born on 25th January 1837, the second but oldest surviving son of General William Augustus Johnson of Witham-on-the-Hill and baptised on 27th January at Witham. His elder brother Robert William, an undergraduate at Cambridge and a Captain in the Royal South Lincolnshire Militia, died

aged 19 on 29th April 1855 in Portsmouth, thereby predeceasing his father. Augustus followed his brother to Trinity Hall, Cambridge, but is not recorded as having taken a degree. He was appointed Justice of the Peace, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire (1869) and Deputy Lieutenant of Lincolnshire. He married Gertrude *née* Higgins, and had issue: Charles Woolsey, William Dalrymple, and four daughters; he died in London on 24th October 1910, aged 73.

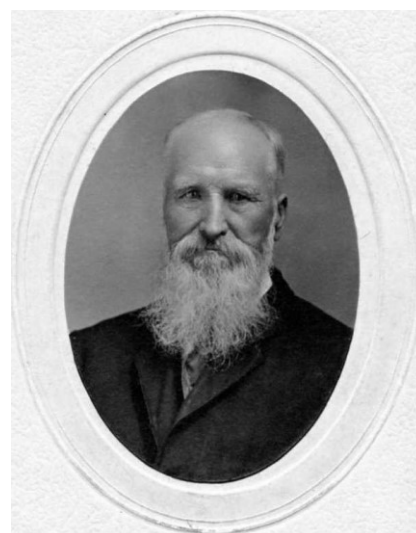


Fig. 8. Augustus Charles Johnson.

The *Oakham School Magazine* reported:

Archdeacon Johnson died in the year 1625 at the age of 85 and ever since his descendants have carried on his work. General Johnson, Patron from 1814–64, will

always be remembered for the sympathy and help he gave to Edward Thring at Uppingham, and his son Mr Augustus Charles Johnson lived nearly long enough to carry on his work for another fifty years. He saw Uppingham firmly established and he saw Oakham, after passing through a crisis in the seventies, take a new lease of life. When he became Patron there was but the Old School and a small part of the present School House. He lived to see the School grow to its present size [106 in 1910] and in every detail of its growth he took the very keenest interest. To say that he scarcely ever missed a Trustees' Meeting is to say far too little. He never failed to come the day before the meeting and to master thoroughly any difficult questions likely to arise. It generally happened, too, that after the meeting there were questions left for him to deal with, often entailing much correspondence, and he always brought to bear on these questions a singularly open mind, shrewdness in choosing the right solution, and tact in carrying it out. Mr Johnson seldom appeared at Speech Day, and came so quietly to the School that although he was often here he was hardly known by sight to the majority of the present boys; yet, even the week before his death, he has visited the School on three or four occasions, presiding at a Trustees' Meeting, inspecting the new Junior House and examining the plans for the completion of the quadrangle with great care. So he died in harness, busied with the details of the trust, and he was laid to rest at his old home, Witham-on-the-Hill, under the shadow of the church which he himself had done so much to restore. He is succeeded by his eldest son, Mr Charles Woolsey Johnson, born in 1872 and educated at Uppingham School (Oakham School Magazine XXVII.1, 1911, 5–6).

The *Uppingham School Magazine* printed in full the obituary that appeared in the *Grantham Journal* in October 1910, which included,

This important office [Hereditary Trustee] he filled with conscientious thoroughness and was seldom absent from the Governors' meetings, where his shrewd capacity for business and his whole-hearted devotion in the welfare of the Schools will be sorely missed (Uppingham School Magazine, xlviii.382 (Nov 1910), 202).

The magazine itself commented (loc. cit.),

He was a hearty supporter of Edward Thring who was always ready to acknowledge the valuable aid and encouragement which he received from the Patron during the early years of his great achievements in the development of the School.

⑩ 1910–1913

Charles Woolsey Johnson (1872–1913), Augustus Charles' second son: the Founder's 7 x great grandson

Charles Woolsey (variously spelt Wolsey / Wolsley) was born on 24th April 1872 at 3 Chester Place, London to Augustus Charles Johnson and his wife

Gertrude Augusta; he was educated at Uppingham School. The 1891 Census records him as aged 18, born Pimlico, a boarder (for whatever reason) at Glebe House with the Rev William J Harvey, Curate of Arnwell Church in Hertfordshire. He emigrated to Canada in June 1906, having left Liverpool on the *Baltic*, en route to Chicago. Quite why he was not living at home in 1891 and why he emigrated to Canada is not known. He married Florence *née* Roberts on 26th November 1906 in Ontario. He died on 6th September 1913, aged only 41. His heirs, all living in Canada, declined the position of Hereditary Trustee, which passed to his younger brother.

⑪ 1913–1945

Captain William Dalrymple Johnson (1873–1945), Charles Woolsey's brother: the Founder's 7 x great grandson

William Dalrymple was born in 1873 (he was aged 7 in 1881 Census) in Witham-on-the-Hill, younger brother of Charles Woolsey Johnson, whom he is recorded as visiting at Glebe House in Arnwell in Hertfordshire in the 1891 Census. He attended Uppingham School and on leaving went into the City (the Stock Exchange – see 1891 Census) but then was commissioned into the East Kent Regiment (The Buffs) at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914; he was badly wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Loos, having reached the rank of Captain. He married but had no children. He was Chairman of the Oakham Board of Trustees 1913–35; he was a frequent visitor to the School, and enjoyed attending cricket matches on Doncaster Close. In 1923 he is recorded as being engaged on a round trip from Southampton to the Far East on the *SS Fiona*, unaccompanied, and his home address is given as The Orchard in Ketton. His relationship with Uppingham, his *alma mater*, was less happy in his last years, for he was one of three Uppingham Trustees who had voted against the secret offer by the Headmaster and Chairman to host Kingswood School for the duration of the Second World War, and after being defeated in a motion of censure of this action by the Headmaster (J F Wolfenden) and the Chairman (Bishop Blagden) in September 1939 he never again attended an Uppingham Trustees meeting. He died in 1945 with no heirs.

⑫ 1945–1977

Lieutenant Commander Francis Nelson Blois Johnson, MBE, RND, RNR, MSc, AInspP, JP (1906–1977), son of Captain Francis William Blois and Mary Martha Johnson: great-great-grandson of the Rev Robert Augustus Johnson, and the Founder's 8 x great grandson

William Dalrymple Johnson had no heirs and, other than his already deceased elder brother Charles Woolsey whose own heirs lived in Canada and had already declined the position of Hereditary Trustee, his three uncles (Robert William, Augustus Charles and George Woolsey) had produced only daughters. As a result the succession now went to his third cousin once removed, for his third cousin Captain Francis William Blois Johnson (b1864), who had served in the First World War as a Lieutenant in the Royal Army Service Corps and was a direct descendant of Charles Thomas Johnson, the younger brother of William Augustus Johnson (see figs. 1 & 7), had died in 1943 – and so the honour and duty went to his son. That son, Francis Nelson Blois Johnson, born 21st October 1906 at Seaford in Sussex to Francis William Blois (1864–52) and Mary Martha (whom Francis William had married in 1904), was educated at Oakham (1920–23, a boarder in School House) and became an Officer in the Mercantile Marine and a lecturer in meteorology. His father, Francis William Blois, had himself had a sea-going career, passing out as Second Mate in the Merchant Shipping Service aged 19 in 1883, First Mate in 1886, Master in 1891 and Master of a Foreign-Going Ship in 1904. Francis Nelson Blois served as a Lieutenant in the RNVR in submarines (Mentioned-in-Despatches in 1940) and then at the Admiralty, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. In his last years he lived in The Cottage, Salterns Lane, Old Bursledon, Hampshire. He died unmarried and without issue on 24th January 1977.

John Buchanan, Oakham's headmaster 1958–77, wrote:

For most of my time the Johnson family was represented by the ebullient Lieutenant Commander F N Blois Johnson. The Commander, as he was known to all, led a particularly active retired life at Seaford [in Sussex] where, amongst his other occupations, he lectured on Chemistry at the local College of Further Education, ran a thriving Nursery Garden, and was active in local government, rising one year to the mayoralty of Seaford. Because his greenhouses could not be left overnight, the Commander would set out from Seaford in an open car in the early hours of the morning and would reach Oakham after a five hour journey talking volubly and with a bobbled Tam

O'Shanter atop his bald head. The meeting over, he would immediately set forth on the return journey still sprouting merrily and full of the joys of life. Against all the distance odds he maintained an ardent commitment to his ancestor's foundation and his contributions to trustee debates were always original and stimulating (Buchanan 1984, 188–9).

©1977 – present

William Francis Blois Johnson (1943–present), Francis Nelson Blois Johnson's younger nephew

William John Blois Johnson (23/10/1909–05/02/2007 – see below), was the younger brother of Francis Nelson Blois Johnson; he declined the position of Hereditary Trustee, passing it directly to his younger son, William Francis Blois Johnson. So the last Hereditary Trustee (see above) is the great-great-grandson of the Rev C T S Johnson (the younger brother of Lt Gen W A Johnson); he married Claire D Gibson in 1973 and has a daughter, Georgina (born 1976) and a son, Robert William Blois Johnson (born 1978), the Founder's 10 x great-grandson.

[William John Blois Johnson was at Oakham 1923–27 (Greylands, School Prefect in 1926, Cricket and Rugby Colours). He was an engineer; he married Creston Catherine Boase in 1935 and had four children: Robert (1938–2011), Georgina (1942–2005), William (1943–) and Thomas (1951–); he went to Malaya in 1936 as a colonial civil servant attached to the Ministry of Agriculture in the post of canning officer; he became a Lieutenant in the RNVR; he was severely wounded in his leg at sea in escaping from Singapore to Ceylon via Sumatra. Later he was to take up a civilian government appointment. He died in Dorset on 5th February 2007, aged 98. His eldest son, Robert E B Johnson (1937–2011) was educated at Uppingham, had three daughters and no sons, and declined the post of Hereditary Trustee on the grounds that he was not a wholehearted supporter of independent education (Oakham School Trustee Minutes, 10th March 1977), but he did accept Hereditary Trusteeship of the Almshouses, in which position he is now followed by his daughter Clare, and he participated in the 600th Anniversary celebration of the Foundation of the Hospital of St John the Evangelist and of St Anne in Oakham, held in Oakham Parish Church of St Mary on 21st May 2002; it is worthy of note that in 2011, as mentioned above, the almshouse charity amalgamated with the charity of St John and St Anne.]

Acknowledgements

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The Lowthers at Cottesmore and Barleythorpe: a Victorian aristocratic family in the hunting shires

ALAN G CROSBY

During the nineteenth century the Lowther family, Earls of Lonsdale, were the wealthiest and most influential aristocratic landowners in Cumbria, but they much preferred to live in Rutland, where they could enjoy the hunting which for most members of the family was a passion. Their connection with the county goes back to the 1780s, and in 1825 the 1st Earl of Lonsdale bought the Barleythorpe Estate for his younger son, Henry Cecil Lowther. From then until the mid-1920s this was the family's favoured home, particularly during the long tenure of Hugh Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale, known as 'The Yellow Earl'

or more affectionately as 'Lordy'. He spent most of his time at Barleythorpe, and was a familiar figure in the area, as well as being a national celebrity loved by the popular press. The family archive held at Carlisle includes a good deal of material relating to Rutland. Eventually, however, the Earl's profligacy with money led to impending financial disaster. In the late 1920s almost all the Rutland estate, including Barleythorpe Hall, was sold, in an attempt to offset mounting debts, and the Earl spent the last fifteen years of his life at Stud House, on the edge of Barleythorpe village, where he died in 1944.



*Fig. 1. Barleythorpe Hall
(Rutland County Museum, Jack Hart
Collection 2002.6.0287, postmarked
20th April 1904).*

On 13th April 1944 Hugh Cecil Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale, died at Stud House, Barleythorpe, just outside Oakham. He was 87 years old and for almost seventy years had been among the most celebrated, and sometimes most notorious, members of the aristocracy. Inheriting the earldom in 1882 on the death of his dissolute older brother, for 62 years Lowther had lived life to the full, relishing the many and varied pleasures which his fabulous wealth had made possible. The ancestral estates which were the source of that wealth lay far away, in Cumberland and Westmorland, but Lowther much preferred to live in Rutland, where he had been able to enjoy the foxhunting which was his greatest passion. But his legendary extravagance had brought about the financial collapse of the estate. Widely known as 'The Yellow Earl' because of his obsession with the colour – he had a fleet of yellow Rolls Royces, his servants wore yellow livery, and as founder-president of the

Automobile Association he was responsible for the black and yellow colours which it still employs – he spent money with astonishing ease and reckless disregard for the future.

In 1928 he had been forced to sell Barleythorpe Hall, the family home for a century (fig. 1), and his death in 1944 ended the connections between the Lowthers and Rutland which had continued without a break since the 1780s. For several generations of Lowthers the focus of existence had, in very many ways, been Barleythorpe and the hunting country of Rutland. The county was not a 'second home': it was their preferred location. Their huge estates in Cumbria were visited occasionally, out of duty and necessity rather than choice and preference. This paper looks at the Lowthers in Rutland, focusing on the estate at Barleythorpe and considering the lifestyle which they, like other aristocratic hunting families, enjoyed in the county.

Background

In *Peculiar Privilege*, his brilliant and pioneering study of the social history of English foxhunting in the century and a half from the 1750s, the American historian David Itzkowitz (1977) emphasised the fundamental changes in the nature and context of the sport which took place after the middle of the eighteenth century and again from the 1840s, first as residence in ‘the shires’ became socially desirable and then as the railway network expanded. His work highlights the emergence of the hunting shires as the heartland of the new forms of the sport, as it made the transition from vermin control to elite recreation, and charts the emergence of the pattern of hunts across, in particular, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. He argues that the railway was a fundamental influence upon the development of the sport, because although it produced opposition (for example, the fears that horses and hounds would be frightened, and the more realistic concerns that railways represented impassable barriers to freedom of movement across country) it also allowed men to combine hunting with serious business in the capital, as well as enjoying its metropolitan social pleasures.

While this meant that the city-based huntsman could take an early train to the shires, enjoy a day’s sport, and return to the metropolis in the evening, it also allowed the opposite. The huntsman living in the country – for example, in Rutland – could readily go down to London for a day or two and conduct business, attend a social engagement, or visit a different type of sporting event. Furthermore, there were also special hunt trains, where the whole hunt – horses, hounds and people – would embark at, for example, Oakham, for a day’s hunt many miles away. For families such as the Lowthers, geographically isolated on their immense estates in Westmorland and Cumberland, this was a major advantage. Hunting was of course not unknown in the Lake Counties – after all, the most famous of all English hunting songs, ‘D’ye ken John Peel’, is Cumbrian – but in that area it lacked the aristocratic cachet. John Peel (1776–1854) was a coarse yeoman farmer from Caldbeck and he, like others in the area, often hunted on foot: ‘The field varies from half-a-dozen to two score of pedestrians, according to the population of the district. Horsemen seldom venture, as the bogs and fells would be too much for them’ (<http://blencathrafoxhounds.co.uk/Origins.htm>).

Furthermore, socially-equal resident aristocrats were very thin on the ground in Cumbria, so the geographically and socially close upper-class sporting network which so successfully supported the hunts of the Midlands was absent in the North West. In Westmorland the terrain was less congenial, the hunting more rough, the local social dimension more

restricted, and the likelihood of fellow-aristocrats making the long journey to the far north for country house long weekends was very limited. Rutland, in contrast, offered all the advantages which the eastern Lake District lacked – no wonder, therefore, that once bitten by the bug of hunting the Lowthers chose to spend as much time as possible in the county.

The Lowther family

The Lowthers were fabulously wealthy. They traced their ancestry back to the eleventh century in the parish of Lowther in Westmorland from which they took their name: the history of the family from the eleventh century to the late twentieth has been described in detail by Hugh Owen (1989). Over the centuries different branches of the family built up considerable estates there and in the nearby parishes of Bampton, Askham, Crosby Ravensworth, Morland, Shap and Orton – indeed, this is the district where, despite the financial difficulties considered below, their descendants still have extensive estates in 2017. With the exception of a modest amount of stone-quarrying, these estates were entirely agricultural, with vast areas of sheep-grazing on the moorlands and mountain fringes, and rich pastures and meadowland on the lower slopes and valleys leading down to the River Eden. But separately, another branch of the family developed extensive landholdings in west Cumberland, centred on the coastal parish of St Bees, and there in the seventeenth century the exploitation of coal and iron ore began to transform their fortunes. A younger son of the Lowthers of Lowther, Sir Christopher Lowther (1611–44) inherited the Whitehaven estate in 1637 and was made a baronet in 1642. His son, Sir John Lowther (1642–1706), the 2nd baronet, was responsible not only for the dramatic expansion in coal-mining on his estate, but also for the development of Whitehaven, England’s first planned new town of the modern era. The new harbour at Whitehaven was linked to the collieries by tramroads – coal for export to Ireland could be sent straight to waiting ships, and by the 1720s this was the sixth largest port in Britain. The result of these commercial developments was that Sir John’s fortunes eventually eclipsed those of the senior line back in Westmorland.

His son, the 3rd baronet, Sir James Lowther (1673–1755), was known as ‘Farthing Jemmy’ because his spectacular wealth was matched by legendary meanness. He died childless, his huge fortune passing to a second cousin, William Lowther, who died only a year later. The heir to his West Cumberland estates was his cousin, another Sir James Lowther (of Lowther), who in 1751 as representative of the senior line of the family had already inherited

the Westmorland estate. In 1756, therefore, this Sir James – already a wealthy man – became the sole owner of almost all the estates which had been built up by several different branches of his family over the previous 150 years. He was thenceforth one of the richest men in the kingdom, and in 1784 was accordingly ennobled as 1st Earl of Lonsdale. By this time the family's regional wealth, power and influence was almost without parallel – the Earl of Lonsdale was lord of no fewer than 93 manors in Cumberland and Westmorland, controlled most of the ten parliamentary seats in the two counties, was by far the largest landowner, was de facto hereditary lord lieutenant of both counties, and absolutely dominated the upper echelons of Cumbrian society. In his youth a dashing figure, he married Lady Mary Crichton-Stuart but they had no children. He had a string of mistresses, but was widely unpopular in his two counties, being known variously as 'Wicked Jimmy', the 'Bad Earl', the 'Gloomy Earl' and 'Jemmy Grasp-all, Earl of Toadstool' (a reference to a standing joke about the 'mushroom electors' who suddenly appeared in his pocket constituencies overnight, voted, and then disappeared again) (Caufield 1981, 1220).

The earl died childless in 1802, but in his lifetime had made provision for the inheritance. He had no close male relatives at all, so the immense wealth and vast estates passed to his third cousin once removed, Sir William Lowther of Swillington near Leeds (fig. 2), who assumed his relative's other title of Viscount Lowther and in 1807 was ennobled as 1st Earl of Lonsdale of the second creation, the earldom having died out with the demise of 'Wicked Jimmy'. Although it was generally known that Sir William would inherit the title of Viscount Lowther, and would succeed to the Westmorland estate, it seems that there was great uncertainty about the destiny of the much richer West Cumberland estate. Indeed, initially there was doubt as to whether the earl had left a will, but when the document was found it was revealed that William had inherited both. By this time, thanks in large measure to the exceptional mineral wealth of West Cumberland, the estate was producing an income for its owner which according to some estimates was as much as £100,000 per annum, or perhaps £20 million in modern terms. This was the background to the 150-years' residence of the Lowthers in Rutland.

The Rutland connection:

William Lowther and Cottesmore

The connection with Rutland is allegedly much older. Michael Clayton, writing on the website of the Cottesmore Hunt (*CH history*) suggests that the Hunt's origins 'may be traced back to 1666 when



Fig. 2. William Lowther, 1st Earl of Lonsdale (second creation) (mezzotint by Samuel William Reynolds, after John Opie, 1806).

Henry, Viscount Lowther made the long journey by road with his own pack of hounds from Lowther Castle in Westmorland to Fineshade Abbey in Northamptonshire. The Lowthers had family connections in the Midlands, and they wished to hunt the widespread forests of Rockingham centred on the Castle overlooking the Welland valley on the borders of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The Lowther family were to prove instrumental in the Cottesmore Hunt's later development, but they sold their pack in 1695 to Mr Thomas Noel on behalf of the Earl of Gainsborough'. This account is historically not entirely accurate, since there was no Viscount Lowther in 1666: Sir John Lowther became 1st Viscount in 1696, and his son Henry (later 3rd Viscount) was not born until 1694. Furthermore, the connection with Fineshade was much later than the Restoration period. I have not been able to establish the source of this story, which is repeated verbatim in every printed and on-line source without attribution (other than Traylen 1977).

The real origins of the connection are therefore apparently somewhat later. Sir William Lowther of Swillington, who inherited the fabulous fortune, was born in 1757 and educated at Felsted, Westminster and Cambridge. Although his family's estate was in the West Riding of Yorkshire, he was part of the great Lowther clan and so maintained an association with Cumbria. Labouring under the often difficult and burdensome patronage of Viscount Lowther (from 1784 the 1st Earl) he was successively MP for Carlisle (1780–84) and Cumberland (1784–90).

From 1794 until 1814 he was a half-pay officer in the Army (that is, he was on the reserve list but did not see active military service), but after 1790 he was in reality biding his time as his inheritance beckoned. In 1781 he married Lady Augusta Fane, eldest daughter of John, 9th Earl of Westmorland (she was described by the reprobate MP George Selwyn as ‘pretty and has £10,000’). The family seat of the Earls of Westmorland from 1617 to 1904 was Apethorpe in Northamptonshire, and this link with the heart of the ‘hunting shires’, together with William’s love of hunting, seems to have prompted the couple to make their home locally.

William was a passionate huntsman throughout his life, and for him there could have been no better area in which to live. This is, I think, significant, because even though, after inheriting the vast Cumbrian estates in 1802, he spent lavishly on rebuilding Lowther Castle, the family seat near Penrith, in a fashionable Gothick style, he actually passed most of his time – at least seven months of the year – in Rutland. In this context it is perhaps relevant that the Lake District was still not necessarily thought of as a desirable place to live: it was very distant from London, though road improvements were reducing journey times; it did not have quite such a congenial climate; and its landscape was only slowly becoming acceptable to those of intellectual taste and aesthetic discernment (a category which did not necessarily include the Lowthers). Add to that its inadequacy in hunting terms, and the decision to base the family in Rutland seems eminently logical.

After their marriage William and Augusta lived for six years at Uffington by Stamford, where three of their children were born (the eldest, Augusta, was born in London in 1782), and from 1787 to 1796 their home was Stocken Hall in Stretton, birthplace of the next three children. In 1796 they moved house again, to Cottesmore Hall, which was rented from the Earl of Gainsborough. The Lonsdale archive at Carlisle includes an assignment of a lease, dated 18th May 1795, between Sir Horatio Mann of Egerton, Lancashire; the Earl of Gainsborough; and Sir William Lowther of Stocken Hall, Rutland, recording that on 16th February 1790 the Earl had let the capital mansion and other land at Cottesmore to Sir Horatio Mann, including a piece of meadowland and the New Close (totalling 30a 3r 8p) and Dam Close (6a 1r 17p). By the assignment the lease was reassigned from Mann to Lowther, for a term of ten years at £63 8s per annum (CACC D/Lons/L5/1/61/1/4). This was followed in March 1805 by the release and lease of all his life interest in

the Cottesmore Estate from Sir Horatio Mann to Gerard Noel Noel, the nephew and devisee of the Earl of Gainsborough (CACC D/Lons/L5/1/61/1/6), and on 8th May the same year Noel leased the entire estate to William, Viscount Lowther, for fifteen years at a rent of £230 per annum (CACC D/Lons/L5/1/61/1/7).

In 1788, while he was living at Stocken, William – already an enthusiast for the hunt – had himself bought a pack of hounds and in the same year became master of the Cottesmore Hunt, serving in that office from 1788 to 1802. Having secured a long-term interest in the Cottesmore estate, he built stables and kennels there for his pack and hunters. In between hunting, travelling and enlarging his family and their estate, he re-entered politics and in 1796 was elected unopposed as MP for Rutland, his adopted county, and continued in that role until his fortunes changed and he became Viscount Lowther in 1802. The rebuilding project undertaken in 1806–14 at Lowther Castle included the construction of stables where he kept fifty hunters because, as the architect Robert Smirke commented, ‘his private amusement is hunting’ (quoted in Owen 1989, 356), but it is abundantly clear that Lowther regarded Cottesmore as his home, paying only out of hunting season visits to Westmorland. As already noted, in 1807 Lowther was made 1st Earl of Lonsdale of the second creation, and in the same year he resumed the mastership of the Cottesmore (and held it thenceforth without a break until he retired from the field in 1842).

There were six surviving children,¹ all of whom considered Rutland to be their home and for whom Westmorland was perhaps no more than somewhere to spend holidays. Cottesmore was where Lonsdale entertained – the Prince Regent visited him there in 1814 – and where his family grew up, and during this period he actively expanded the estate, even though he did not own it, by taking leases from the Noel family on additional land in the area, assisted by the longer terms of the leasing. The 1805 lease expired in 1820, was renewed, and then on 1st March 1824 Sir Gerard Noel Noel granted a new lease to Lonsdale, for £722 7s per annum, involving a total of just under 232 acres, the field names such as Fox Cover and Ranksborough Cover emphasising the importance of hunting in the landscape itself:

the Cottesmore demesne of 17 acres;
a house at Cottesmore and land totalling 1a 0r 4p;
3 cottages in Cottesmore in the occupation of John
Hutching, Robert Slack and Thomas Walker;
the Homestead containing 3a 0r 20p;
a dwelling house in Cottesmore containing 2r 13p;

¹ Elizabeth (1784), Mary (1785), William (1787), Anne (1788), Henry (1790) and Caroline (1792); Augusta had died aged 7 in 1789.

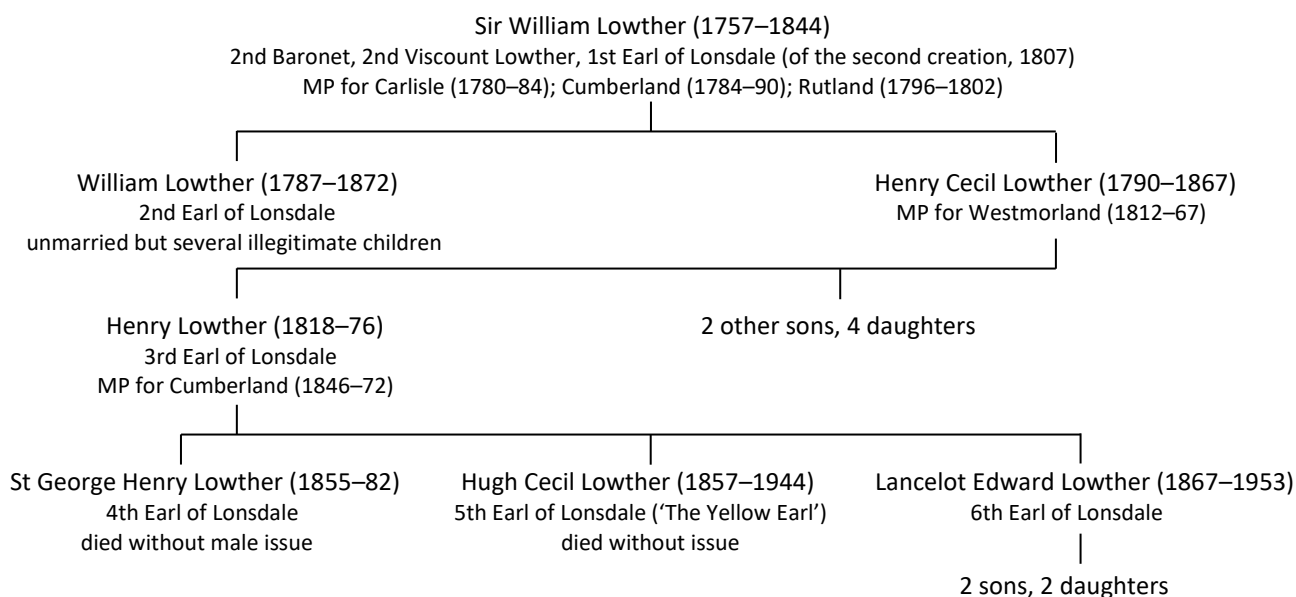


Fig. 3. Family tree of the Earls of Lonsdale (second creation).

and closes in the occupation of William, Earl of Lonsdale as follows:

Horse Pasture East 10a 0r 24p;
Horse Pasture West 10a 1r 9p;
New Close Lane 0a 3r 12p;
Crosswells 19a 1r 38p;
Mill Close 17a 1r 38p;
New Close 30a 3r 21p;
the Warren and Seed Close 87a 0r 12p;
the Fox Cover 2a 1r 29p;
Wainton Close 15a 0r 11p;
Ranksborough Cover in Langham containing 16a 0r 9p
(CACC D/Lons/L5/1/61/1/13)

Since they lived most of the time at Cottesmore, it was natural that the Lowthers, although not lords of the manor or even owners of the estate, should perform the role of the resident aristocracy. They exercised suitable charity and patronage, and provided valuable business for local retailers. The Lowther family and estate archive at the Cumbria Archive Centre Carlisle includes a considerable quantity of material relating to the Rutland estate. For example, there are the estate account books for expenditure on the house, stables, kennels and farm between 1824 and 1843, and Lady Lonsdale's account books which record the outgoings not only in the form of servants' wages at Lowther, Whitehaven and Cottesmore, but also the payments for the poor at the same three estates, clearly indicating that Cottesmore was one of the focal points in the family's world.²

Henry Cecil Lowther and Barleythorpe

Growing up at Cottesmore, the two sons of William, 1st Earl of Lonsdale were imbued from birth with

the values and the mores of the hunting world, which was not only their inheritance but was also assumed to be their natural milieu. Their father's obsession with foxhunting to some extent distorted his priorities. The destiny of the eldest son, William, seemed assured: he would in due course succeed his father in the earldom and the family estates (fig. 4). Whether he was suited to do so was of course irrelevant, since he had no choice, but while everybody knew that William would one day be among the richest men in England, and could therefore potentially play a major role in politics, contemporaries had reservations. Although 'he was at Harrow School and Trinity College, Cambridge [he] seems to have received little education at either place, because when he was a boy his father had hopes of him becoming "the best rider in England" '.

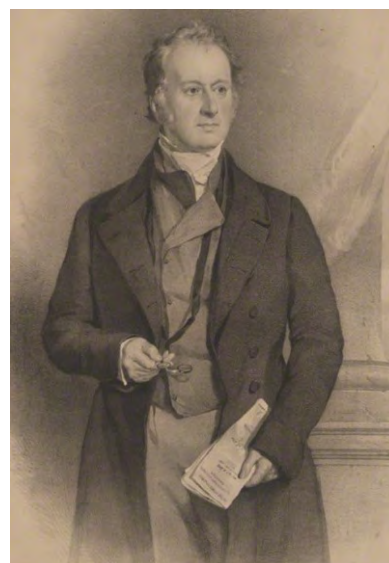


Fig. 4. William Lowther, 2nd Earl of Lonsdale (engraving by Vincent Brooks after portrait by Sir Francis Grant, circa 1850).

² D/Lons/L3/5/138 & 139, account book and cash book for expenditure at Cottesmore 1824–43; 159, Lady Lonsdale's account book.

Lady Harriet Cavendish, who knew him well as a young man, described him as ‘very young and very good humoured and seems endeavouring to retrieve by reading and good company, the harm that a neglected education has done him. There never was certainly any creature sent out into the world so unfinished’ (Leveson Gower 1940, 214–15). Disraeli fictionalised Lowther as his character Lord Eskdale, in the novels *Coningsby* (1844) and *Tancred* (1847), stating that he was ‘the best judge in the world of a horse or a man’ which, if true of William, was a more positive judgment but did not imply talents that would equip him for the potential burdens and responsibilities of high office (Disraeli 1844, 23).

Given these circumstances, it was perhaps no great surprise that William did not fulfil the role for which his birth had destined him, although he occupied a succession of relatively minor government posts in the 1820s and 1830s, culminating in being lord president of the council in 1852. He succeeded his father as 2nd Earl of Lonsdale in 1844, but never married and therefore did not carry out his dynastic responsibilities. An attractive and elegant man, he was a collector of paintings and porcelain, greatly enjoyed travelling, and was not an active participant in the hunting world despite his father’s fervent hopes. In adulthood he indulged aesthetic tastes which surely alarmed many of his hearty contemporaries – in particular, he became a passionate enthusiast for opera. Lest it should be supposed that this cast doubts on his sexuality, it has been observed that as well as being ‘a patron of the opera, he was also a great collector of opera singers, whose charms did much to reconcile him to his state of life-long bachelorhood’ (Sutherland 1965, 15). Indeed, William had (and freely acknowledged) at least three illegitimate children by different mothers, each of whom was an opera singer. Tim Clough points out that ‘In this ... we find a nice parallel with the 6th Earl of Harborough of Stapleford and his relationship with the actress Sarah Love’ (pers. comm. August 2017), the 6th Earl being the brother-in-law of Lowther’s younger brother Henry Cecil.

As time went on, it became clear that the 2nd Earl would not produce an heir – or at least, a legitimate one – and therefore his younger brother, Henry Cecil Lowther (born 1790) became an increasingly important figure (fig. 5). Henry was raised as a sportsman, spending much of his time on the hunting field, but also saw active and genuinely effective service in the army. On 16th July 1807 he was posted as a cornet in the 7th Hussars, was promoted to lieutenant in 1808 and captain in 1810, and served with them in Spain, including the battles



Fig. 5. Henry Cecil Lowther
(mezzotint by George Henry Phillips (1831)
after 1818 portrait by Sir Thomas Lawrence).

of Mayorga, Sahagún, Benevente and the celebrated retreat to Corunna. From 1812 until 1814 he was in Wellington’s army and was made a major in the 10th (Prince of Wales’s Own) Hussars in November 1815. He received the Peninsular Medal with three clasps after the war. After 1815 he remained on half-pay through into the 1830s, but returned to the sporting life: from 1817 to 1823 he played cricket for the MCC, Hampshire and Surrey. His interest in cricket would have been welcome to another Rutlander, George Finch, 9th Earl of Winchilsea, who had been instrumental in founding the MCC (Tim Clough pers. comm. August 2017). Rather as a sideline, Henry Cecil was also member of parliament, having been elected unopposed for Westmorland, one of the family seats, in 1812: he remained an MP for the county continuously until 1867 (when he was Father of the House), being known in parliamentary circles and beyond as ‘the silent colonel’ because during that 55-year period he spoke so rarely in the House of Commons – there is no record of his having spoken at all in the first 19 years of his period as an MP, and he made only one complete speech in the whole of the time he sat.³

However, although he was a serious and courageous soldier and also a member of parliament, Henry had no independent status within the family – he was simply the younger son, though until such time as William produced a son he was also heir presumptive to the earldom. The solution chosen by

³ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/lowther-hon-henry-1790-1867>.

his father, the 1st Earl, was not untypical of aristocratic planning in such circumstances. He decided to set Henry up as a country gentleman in his own right, by the outright purchase of the Barleythorpe Estate in 1825 and its conveyance to his son in the same year. In 1825 Henry was 35 years old and had been married for eight years to Lady Lucy Eleanor Sherard, daughter of Philip, 5th Earl of Harborough of Stapleford Park in Leicestershire. Lucy Eleanor's mother was Eleanor Monckton, daughter of John Monckton of Fineshade – this is perhaps the origin of the story about the Lowther family connection with Fineshade which appears on the Cottesmore Hunt website. Philip had been MP for Rutland in 1795–96, immediately preceding Henry's own father. When they moved to Barleythorpe in 1825, Henry and Lucy had five children, and another two followed.⁴ In due course the second daughter, Augusta Mary (born 1825), married Gerard James Noel, thus linking the family with the Noels who were their landlords at Cottesmore for over 120 years – there were Lowthers at Cottesmore (although not continuously) from 1796, when William and Augusta took up residence, until 1917, when Emily Susan Lowther, the dowager countess (widow of the 3rd Earl) died there. Lucy Eleanor Lowther attracted mixed reviews from contemporaries: 'His wife had a reputation for showing off at society gatherings; and Mrs. Arbuthnot, who met the couple in January 1830 at Cottesmore, where Lowther led the hunt, described her as "a fat ugly woman of seven or eight and thirty" flirting with a dandy, while he "does not seem to care"'.⁵

In the mid-1840s Henry Cecil Lowther extensively rebuilt Barleythorpe Hall (fig. 1) in a contemporary 'Elizabethan' style, although keeping some of the older house as a service wing behind the new mansion. The much-enlarged house, set in extensive landscaped grounds west of the Oakham and Melton Mowbray turnpike road, has been described as 'a hunting lodge on a princely scale', but was intended as the seat of an aristocratic dynasty: by the mid-1840s there was little serious doubt that Henry's son would eventually inherit the earldom (Sutherland 1965, 14). Shortly afterwards, in 1847, a minutely detailed inventory of the furniture was made (CACC D/Lons/L23/1/82). This lists most of the rooms (though not, for example, the kitchens), and these can be divided into two lists as follows:

<i>Family rooms</i>	<i>Servants' and work rooms</i>
White Room	Housekeeper's Bedroom
Red Bedroom	Ladies' Maid's Room
Red Dressing Room	House Maids' Room
Young Ladies' Room	Pantry
Lady Lucy Eleanor	Housekeeper's Room
Lowther's Bed Room	School Room
Hon. Colonel Lowther's	Miss O'Meara's Bedroom
Dressing Room	[she was the governess]
Drawing Room	Nursery
Dining Room	Kitchen Maids' Room
Entrance Hall	Lumber Room
Colonel Lowther's Sitting	Butler's Room
Room [Stable Yard]	Servants' Hall
Mr Arthur Lowther's Room	Valet's Room
Mr [Henry] Lowther's	Footman's Room
Room	Laundry Maids' Room
	Houseman's Sitting Room
	Brushing Room
	Landing Closet and Front
	Hall
	'Odd Room'

Three years later, in August 1850, the estate at Barleythorpe was valued by William Hill of Easton-on-the-Hill;⁶ his inventory and valuation gives a clear picture of the scale and organisation of the property which Colonel Henry Cecil Lowther owned, and of the improvement work which was being undertaken. The park and demesne land totalled 167½ acres, centred on the 'capital newly erected stone and slate mansion, offices &c &c an old house adjoining, yards & garden' (2½ acres). The yard, coach-house, stables and stalls stood next to the turnpike road, and nearby were 'cowhovels, beast sheds, piggeries and a yard'. South of Barleythorpe Street, however, were further 'newly erected stables and chaise houses with granarys [*sic*] over old outhouses yards and garden'. The park, which was used as a hay meadow, and the plantation woodland covered almost 26 acres, and there was also a kitchen garden of ¾ acre, an orchard of half an acre and a private gasworks. Of the remainder of the demesne land, about 44 acres were arable, and the pasture, meadow and grassland accounted for some 85 acres. In addition, the estate had 29 tenanted properties, ranging from small cottages and yards in Barleythorpe village, to three modestly-sized tenant farms: Thomas Adcock had a farm of 55a 2r 4p, Sarah Pearson one of 14a 3r 13p, and

⁴ Henry (1818), Arthur (1820), William (1821), Eleanor Cecily (1822), Augusta Mary (1825), Constantia (1831), Sarah (1832–33).

⁵ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/lowther-hon-henry-1790-1867>.

⁶ CACC D/Lons/L/8/101, Valuation of the estates of the Honourable Colonel H Lowther MP at Barleythorpe in the County of Rutland by William Hill of Easton, Stamford, 2nd August 1850.

William Priestman 8a 1r 17p.⁷ The total area of the estate was 248a 1r 10p, and its annual rental value £1592 0s 6d.

Lady Lucy Eleanor Lowther had died in 1848 and the 1851 census for Barleythorpe recorded only three of the family living at the Hall: the widowed Henry Cecil (59), his son William (27) and daughter Augusta Mary (23), together with three visitors. They were attended to by seventeen staff (a butler, an under butler, a footman, a housekeeper, a valet, a ladies' maid, two laundresses, three male general servants, and six female general servants). Only three of the seventeen were born in Rutland. The presence of an aristocratic household did not necessarily guarantee employment opportunities for the local population, as was also shown by Kate Cooper in her article on population trends in Rutland: at South Luffenham Hall in 1881 none of the seven servants was born in the county (Cooper 2015, 221). Henry Cecil Lowther died at Barleythorpe in 1867, leaving the estate to his eldest son Henry (born 1818). In the following year Henry became lord lieutenant jointly of Cumberland and Westmorland, a position which had been held by his uncle, the 2nd Earl, since 1844. This signalled the beginning of a handover of duties and roles which culminated in the death of the 2nd Earl in 1872, and Henry's succession to the earldom. The 1871 census for Barleythorpe records Henry, aged 53 and just before he came into the title, simply described as 'M.P.' with his wife Emily Susan and children Sybil Emily (8), Zerena Maud (5) [*sic*: her name was in fact Verena] and Launcelot Edward (3). The elder sons, St George and Hugh, were away at school.

In 1873 the *Return of Owners of Land* showed that Henry, 3rd Earl of Lonsdale, was not only one of the richest men in the country, but also held one of the largest estates:

	<i>acreage</i>	<i>annual income</i>
Cumberland	28,228a 1r 38p	£42,818 15s
Lancashire	115a 0r 18p	£ 123 15s
Rutland	493a 0r 14p	£ 1,251 2s
Westmorland	39,229a 0r 32p	£27,141 10s
Total	68,065a 2r 12p	£71,335 2s

He was not a great landowner in Rutland – his estate of 493 acres (which included Barleythorpe, land in Langham and Cottesmore, and other parcels in Oakham) amounted to only 0.52 per cent of the county's 93,480 acres (Clough 2010) and the income from it was trivial compared with the coal wealth of

Cumberland, but there is no doubt that the Rutland estate had an emotional and social value which was infinitely greater than its small size implied. Henry, the 3rd Earl, was as much a huntsman as his father and grandfather had been – perhaps even more so, since ever since his childhood he had adored horse-riding, and being Rutland-born and bred he was steeped in the mystery and magic of the chase. In 1870 he became Master of the Cottesmore Hunt, and in 1872 spent £1,300 on a new pack of hounds bought from William Ward Tailby of Skeffington, Leicestershire, who had his own hunt 'country' in the area around Whissendine. To accommodate the pack he built huge new stables, and kennels on a grand scale, at Barleythorpe in 1872–74. This was the 'golden age' of the hunt: as the Cottesmore notes on its website (*CH History*), 'Sport became faster, and the stiffly enclosed fly fence and timber country posed a challenge that leading horsemen were eager to take on. Many visitors took rented hunting boxes in Leicestershire and Rutland. The Cottesmore benefited from a growing number of wealthy newcomers who enjoyed living near Oakham and Uppingham and purchased properties for permanent residence. The Cottesmore was known to be "more residential" than its neighbour, the Quorn'. The leader of that 'residential' element was Henry, 3rd Earl of Lonsdale ... although the reality was that his ever-increasing girth meant that he could no longer ride. At the time of his death at Barleythorpe in 1876 he weighed over 22 stone.

The succession of Hugh Cecil Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale

Henry Lowther had married Emily Susan Caulfield in 1852 and they had four sons and two daughters. The eldest son, St George Henry Lowther, succeeded his father as 4th Earl in 1876 at the age of 21 and died of alcoholism and pneumonia in 1882, when he was only 27, leaving a daughter but no son. His younger brother, Hugh Cecil Lowther, thus became the 5th Earl in a way which few would have anticipated. St George had been very keen on horse-racing but less so on hunting, partly perhaps because his own frail health made participation in an active field sport less feasible. Indeed, St George sold the pack of hounds which he had inherited from his father, to the Cottesmore Hunt itself. Hugh, in contrast, had a magnificent physique, was fanatically dedicated to sports of all sorts, loved the hunting field, rode insatiably, and revelled in the thrill of

⁷ The names of all 29 tenants are given, with details of their holdings. They were (with spellings as given) John Abbey, Francis Adcock, Thomas Adcock, Widow Adcock, Thomas Allen, Thomas Almey, Henry Austin, William Austin, John Berridge, Benjamin Brown, Francis Bursnall, William Chadd, Frances Ellingworth, George Elliott, Joseph German, John Greg, William Grey, Robert Grigg, John Hart, Sarah Pearson, John Pitt, John Pitts senior and junior, Joseph Priestman, William Priestman, John Rimmington, William Rippin, William Smith and Elizabeth Thomas.

competition and the publicity which accompanied it. Under his influence Rutland not only continued to be home for the Lowthers, but also saw their interests and landholdings expanded. The Cumbrian estate, the source of Hugh's prodigious wealth, was left in the hands of a succession of hardworking and devoted agents. Uninterested in the business of running a great estate, Hugh was content simply to accept the ceaseless flow of money from the North West down to the Midlands, a one-way traffic in wealth which seemed to him, as it must have appeared to many, as inexhaustible: as his biographer noted, in the 1880s the estate had 'a prodigious, tax-free income of almost £4,000 a *week*' (Sutherland 1965, 3: this work, from which much of the information about Hugh is taken, is the definitive biography of the 5th Earl).

The list of sporting activities in which Hugh was involved is lengthy. Described as 'England's greatest sporting gentleman', he was an enthusiastic motorist, competed in first motor race at Brooklands, in 1907, and was founder and first president of the Automobile Association. He was also a founding member and first president of the National Sporting Club, for many years a director of Arsenal Football Club and in 1936 its chairman; senior steward of the Jockey Club; first president of the International Horse Show at Olympia; and a passionate boxing enthusiast, and a talented boxer himself – in 1909 he donated the original Lonsdale Belts, the eponymous boxing trophy. At the Derby and Ascot he was a familiar figure, a hefty man 6 foot 2 inches tall with a fresh gardenia always in his buttonhole and a splendid top hat, beneath which invariably jutted one of the specially-made 9-inch 'Lonsdale' cigars which he chain-smoked (fig. 7). The newspapers – especially the popular press – loved him, because he was photogenic, colourful and with a 'larger than life' personality, and they made him into a media celebrity whose name was known to millions, and who freely spent millions (which was another rich source of press coverage).

His personal life was marred by sadness. In 1878, when he was a young man of 21 without prospects and merely the younger brother of the 4th Earl, he had married Lady Grace Cecilie Gordon, the third daughter of Charles Gordon, 10th Marquess of Huntly. Her parents strongly disapproved: he was a penurious wastrel, in their view. Barleythorpe was, at least officially, the property of the 4th Earl, so the young couple lived at Cottesmore Hall, which was once again being rented from the Noel family and was now the home of Hugh's mother, the dowager countess, Emily Susan Lowther. Grace, like Hugh, was passionate about foxhunting, at a time when it was increasingly acceptable for women to participate in the sport. David Itkowitz wrote that 'it was rare to

find women, especially of good family, in the hunting field in the first half of the nineteenth century [and] the propriety of women hunting was the great controversy of the 1850s ... Women took up hunting in increasing numbers throughout the fifties and sixties, led by women of such unquestioned social prominence as the Countess of Yarborough, Lady Grey de Wilton, and the Dowager Marchioness of Westminster'. In 1878, the year of the marriage of Hugh and Grace, the Empress Elisabeth of Austria came to hunt with the Pytchley, giving unmatched social cachet to the sport (Itkowitz 1977, 55–6).

In 1879, soon after her marriage, Grace was hunting while pregnant with her first child. She fell from the horse, was badly injured, lost the baby, and thereafter was unable to have children, as well as being 'something of an invalid'. This disaster clouded both their lives. Hugh, with his vigorous energy and powerful personality, and in 1882 unexpectedly succeeding to the earldom, knew that he was not likely to have an heir. His biographer Douglas Sutherland and the family's biographer Hugh Owen both argue that his wildly extravagant expenditure was at least in part because he thought of himself 'as the "Last of the Lowthers" and [hence] to disregard the preservation of his inheritance. He had no sons to succeed him and chose to forget that he had a younger brother, nephews and cousins to continue the family line' (Owen 1989, 405).

He and Grace remained devoted to each other, at least in public, but Hugh had many affairs, some well-publicised, and year after year threw himself into the social and sporting world which centred on Rutland and foxhunting. Despite his family's close connections with the Cottesmore, he was Master of the Quorn from 1893 to 1898, although regarded this as something of an interim occupation, the Cottesmore being his real ambition. The latter's history states that 'The 5th Earl was keen to take the Cottesmore Mastership and he let the Barleythorpe kennels to the Hunt on an understanding that he would be Master in two years' time'. The social tensions and rivalries within the hunting world could be considerable, however, and Hugh's dominant personality was a deterrent for some: 'the [Cottesmore] Hunt's success made the committee more independent, and they chose to build new kennels and stables [at] Ashwell ... to accommodate 100 couple of hounds, 50 horses, and most of the Hunt staff of some 40 grooms and kennelmen'. Hugh persisted, but was thwarted: in 1900, when he 'sought the Mastership, there was some opposition to him, largely due to his explosive, autocratic Mastership of the Quorn from 1893 to [18]98. Hugh Lonsdale stood aside with grace'.

Hugh, for whom opposition was a very rare event, was not to be defeated: 'after Evan Hanbury resigned

in 1907 ... the Cottesmore Mastership was finally in the hands of the Yellow Earl, but only until 1911. His autocratic style as Field Master was much resented by many in the Cottesmore country, and his Mastership ended amid some acrimony [but] the First World War put the Hunt into great difficulty, although limited hunting continued. Lonsdale showed his true worth by generously taking the Mastership, not bearing any grudges, from 1915. He kept the Hunt afloat financially and provided excellent leadership for the next six years, ensuring its survival and continuity after 1918. Still a great horseman and foxhunter, the Yellow Earl continued as Master until 1921 when he retired aged 63, and never hunted again' (*CH History*).



Fig. 6. Hugh Cecil Lowther, 5th Earl of Lonsdale: a caricature by Leslie Ward ('Spy') entitled 'Horses', published in *Vanity Fair* on 10th July 1886.

A sense of the lifestyle of the earl and countess can be gleaned from the 1901 census. Hugh and Grace were at Barleythorpe Hall, with one visitor, Henry Chaplin, the rector of Rydal in Westmorland. No other family members were there: they were otherwise alone. There were, however, 62 living-in servants, divided exactly equally between the house and the stables: no fewer than 31 were young unmarried men recorded as 'Stable Man Domestic'. Only two of the 62 were born in Rutland and only five were from Cumbria: the earl's household was drawn from across the British Isles and beyond.

The finances of the Lonsdale Estate

From 1882 onwards the estate was actively involved in the land market in Rutland and adjacent counties, both buying and selling in order to consolidate its holdings, but there is some evidence of uncertainty about the policy, with certain speculative purchases apparently producing a financial loss. For example, in 1885 over £4,100 was spent on the purchase of land at Brigstock in Northamptonshire, and the enfranchisement of the copyhold part of that acquisition, but in 1887 and 1895 the Brigstock properties were sold for only £2,400. Between 1891 and 1907 there were nineteen separate purchases of land and property in Oakham and Barleythorpe, at a cost of £52,500 including the fees for the simultaneous enfranchisement of copyhold properties. Much of this property comprised agricultural land bordering the existing estate at Barleythorpe, but there were also cottage properties in Oakham town and, for example, the *Horse and Groom* public house in Barleythorpe village, which was bought for £3,000 in January 1893. The rationale for these purchases is not recorded, but it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the 5th Earl, via his agents, was simply building up a property portfolio in the Oakham area with no underlying financial or management planning. Indeed, some of the properties were only held for a matter of months before being resold: in 1899–1909 there were four sales of properties in Oakham, realising a total of almost £1,500.⁸ The estate also held land at Glaston, which had possibly been brought by marriage: Henry Cecil Lowther's mother-in-law had been Eleanor Monckton of Fineshade Abbey, and the Monckton family were lords of the manor of Glaston in the mid-nineteenth century (*VCH Rutland*, II, 182–8). The Lonsdale accounts record the receipt of £175 for the 'sale of materials at Glaston Hall' in 1890, and then £5,833 2s 4d as the proceeds of land sales in Glaston in March 1911.

These transactions must be seen against a background of major upheavals in the management and financing of the estate as a whole. Despite its apparent buoyancy, there were serious problems, partly because of mortgaging, partly in consequence of the 4th Earl's short but troubled tenure, and partly the result of succession duties. In 1880 the Lonsdale Settled Estates Act enabled the appointment of trustees to supervise the estate's affairs. They were created under the terms of a settlement of 24th May 1881, and originally were intended to work in conjunction with the 4th Earl, but his early death the following year gave them added responsibility. The priority was to reduce the mortgage, for building projects and high levels of expenditure – not least on

⁸ CACC D/Lons/L Box 886 Bundle 3, Schedules of sales and purchases.

the leisure pursuits of the family – had long outstripped the annual income of about £75,000. Interest payments were increasingly burdensome, and between 1882 and the end of 1919 expenditure on reducing the mortgage totalled no less than £138,926, the money being raised largely by selling property and other disposable assets, rather than by husbanding existing resources more carefully. The latter would have required prudence and self-restraint on the part of the 5th Earl, and those were qualities which were completely alien to his exuberant and egotistical personality.



Fig. 7. Caricature of Lord Lonsdale with his cigar, as depicted on a Player's cigarette card.

The consequence was that the Earl and his trustees were almost continuously at loggerheads, particularly after the death in 1904 of his cousin James Lowther, a trustee who had exercised a restraining hand on Hugh's extravagance. In the fraught financial and commercial world of the post-war period the wild extravagance of the Earl became even more burdensome: his cigar bill alone amounted to more than £3,000 a year (fig. 7). As a result, paying the interest on the mortgages became ever more problematic, and could only be met by further sales of property. Between the beginning of 1920 and the end of 1933 the costs of mortgage reduction, together with the estate duty payable for the dowager countess (who had died in 1917) and others, totalled £235,206. This required the sale of a wide range of heirlooms and valuables, including books and a Holbein portrait: these raised £116,868, mostly in 1921–22. Sales of treasures continued after 1933: a Reubens and King Henry IV's psalter fetched almost £25,000 in 1936–38. But even this was quite inadequate: the only answer which the trustees and the land agents could see was the sale of land, which not only raised cash but also reduced costs. Maintaining land and buildings in good condition was costly, and so the estate began to move towards a policy of selling outlying properties, sometimes to tenants but also on the open market.

The high water mark of the Rutland Estate was the mid-1920s, before the financial realities impinged and after Hugh had consolidated the property as his main residence. On 8th December 1926 the trustees of the Lonsdale Estates transferred the landed assets of the family to a new company, Lowther Estates Limited, pursuant to the provisions of the Settled Land Act 1925. All landed estates followed a similar policy, which had legal and tax advantages. What was described as 'The Rutland Collection of the Estates' was itemised in precise detail in the settlement and conveyance document. It comprised 703 acres of land, mostly in Barleythorpe but with some land in Langham and a range of small properties in Oakham. The lands in Barleythorpe and Langham were mapped in detail, giving us a clear picture of the impact of a century of property purchasing, ever since William, the 1st Earl, had bought Barleythorpe Hall for his son Henry in 1825 (figs. 8 & 9).

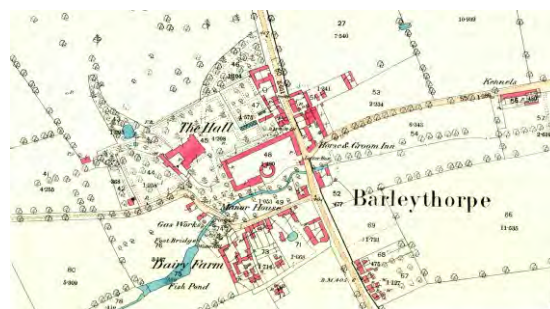


Fig. 8. Barleythorpe Hall as depicted on the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" map of 1886 (Rutland sheet V.13).

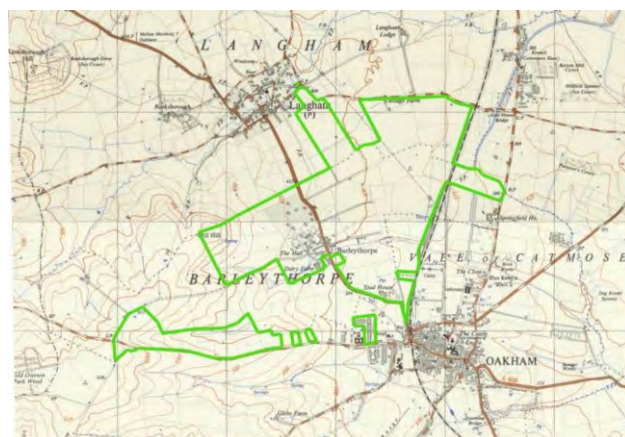


Fig. 9. The Barleythorpe estate as it was in 1926, over Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 sheets SK80 & 81 (1954/1950).

When seen from the perspective of urgent questions of financial management and averting insolvency, the Rutland estate was clearly an unaffordable luxury: it produced small returns and incurred great costs. Even though it was Hugh's home, his favourite residence and the place closest to his heart, Barleythorpe was simply unsustainable. The last purchase of land in Rutland had been in

1907. On 31st December 1925 the estate spent £3,376 (including agent's fees) on buying the detached property known as 'The Woodlands', which stood in 4¾ acres of grounds on the north side of the Oakham road a few hundred yards south of Barleythorpe village. The vendors were the executors of Ellen Royce, mother of David Royce, the Oakham estate agent and auctioneer. Later renamed 'Stud House', this was to be the new home of Hugh and Grace. Four years previously, the first sale of land at Oakham had taken place, and this was followed by nine further sales of property in Oakham and Barleythorpe between 1922 and 1927, realising in all some £15,340. Two more sales, in 1929 and 1933, brought in a further £800.

Between these came the crowning humiliation – the sale on 24th February 1928 of Barleythorpe Hall and its estate of 156 acres to Kathleen Joan, the wife of Major Lawrence Kimball, soon to be Conservative MP for Loughborough (1931–45) for £17,000. The Kimballs lived there from 1928 onwards, and their son Marcus, Conservative MP for Gainsborough from 1959 to 1983, grew up there. By the end of 1933, with the exception of Stud House and a few other small properties, the Rutland estate of the Earl of Lonsdale had been liquidated. The available figures suggest that the sum raised amounted to about £34,000, compared with the £52,000 which had been spent on land purchases in the county during the two decades before the First World War.

Sales such as this were not uncommon between the wars – the combination of taxation and death duties, agricultural depression, much higher running and management costs, and a completely changed social context, meant that many owners retrenched, selling up or downsizing. Another particularly important local example was the sale of the Gainsborough Estate in 1925: 'The auction comprised land and property in Langham, with lesser amounts in Braunston, Brooke Leighfield, Manton and Ridlington ... those who could afford it were able to buy their tenanted land [but] a considerable amount of land and property in Langham was purchased by Owen Hugh Smith, a wealthy merchant banker who had maintained a hunting lease in Langham since the latter part of the 19th century' (<http://www.langhaminrutland.org.uk/gainsborough-sale.htm>). But the Barleythorpe sale was an extreme instance of a self-inflicted disaster. It had been owned by the family for 103 years, and had been the place which Hugh loved above all others. His personal extravagance, his absolute lack of self-control, and his flat refusal to restrain expenditure was bringing about his ruin, but it also meant the loss of his favourite home.

Dissolution

Over a period of four days before the sale of the house was completed, Messrs Royce of Oakham conducted a grand auction of 'a Portion of the FURNISHINGS of the MANSION'. The printed sale catalogue gives a vivid impression of the lifestyle and tastes of the 5th Earl, though not necessarily those of his countess. The house was crammed with objects, furniture, paintings, engravings and 'stuff', including two full-sized stuffed alligators which were bizarrely fixed vertically to the banisters of the main staircase and landing. The sale catalogue listed a total of 702 separately identified pictures, paintings, engravings and prints, the great majority of which were of horses, dogs and hunting scenes. Wherever one looked, one was reminded of Lord Lonsdale's mania for the hunt and the chase. In the dining room were two small watercolours entitled 'Chow' and 'Lions'; five oil paintings of hunting scenes and horses ('Bessborough', 'Hunting', 'Beagles', 'Horse' and 'Horse in Stable'); and two coloured engravings ('The Earl of Derby's Stag Hounds' and 'Hunting'). The housekeeper spent her quieter moments in a room decorated with seven oil paintings of horses, two of terriers, four watercolours of dogs, nine small coloured prints (five of them depicting monkeys) and a woolwork picture (subject unspecified). Even Lady Lonsdale's dressing room was adorned with four coloured engravings collectively entitled 'Grand National', the horses being identified; another set of four similar engravings; an engraving of a horse called 'Signorina'; five coloured engravings of horses and jockeys; and, for light relief, two mountain scenes. There was no escape: in the Green Bathroom were seven coloured engravings of horses, in the Yellow Bathroom six hunting prints.

The sale catalogue provides a fascinating image of the collapse of an existence, part of a protracted dismantling of an estate much of which had been nurtured for centuries by Hugh's forebears. Already, in 1921, Whitehaven Castle, the family's rarely visited West Cumberland seat, had gone, to be sold and converted to the local hospital. Sales of outlying properties were gathering pace, and Hugh's personal financial position became extremely unstable. The sale of Barleythorpe meant much more than any of this: it marked the end of his dynamism and splendour, the recognition that the manic exuberance and spectacular public prominence of the past fifty years had come to an end. He now visited Cumbria as infrequently as possible, hating the vast and lonely emptiness of Lowther Castle. Rutland was his world. Still a celebrity, but by now in his 80s, he took the decision in 1936 to close the Castle, the ancestral home in Westmorland: there was no spare money left. He and Grace had downsized: his empire

was now the 4³/₄ acres of Stud House.

Grace died at Stud House on 12th May 1941. Hugh accompanied her coffin by train to the family mausoleum next to the ancient parish church in the magnificent park at Lowther. Having seen it lowered into the grave, he caught the next train home – to Oakham. He never went to Westmorland again. Rutland was where he belonged, and Rutland was where he died, on 13th April 1944. Almost exactly a year later his executors sold Stud House, the Stud Farm, the kennels and all the remaining lands in Barleythorpe and Oakham to Mrs Mary Straker and the 6th Lord Rossmore (CACC D/Lons/L5/1/61/7/8). The story of the Lowthers in Rutland had come to an end.

For many, this was a matter of deep regret. ‘Lordy’, the 5th Earl, had been a real local character for decades. With his exuberant personality, showmanship and dominating physical presence, he had made his mark on Rutland and, while maybe not loved, was regarded with great affection and pride. He had been a willing and generous patron and supporter of the community in Langham and Barleythorpe: ‘Langham Institute started as a Reading Room for the men in the village in 1885 and its numbers increased such that the cottage room in which it was held became too small. Major Brocklehurst (later to become Lord Ranksborough) presided at an AGM of the Institute which decided to secure a site for a suitable building. Plans were drawn and the Earl of Gainsborough provided a site ... The Deed of Grant, dated 14th September 1891, shows the Earl of Lonsdale ... the Earl of Gainsborough and Major Brocklehurst as the initial Trustees under the 1853 Charity Trust Act’ (<http://www.langhaminrutland.org.uk/institute.htm>). The Earl provided a new billiard table for Langham Institute; was president of Langham Cricket Club in the 1890s; and was a member of the first Langham School committee in 1878. Many people remembered his larger-than-life character: Dolly Palmer (1917–98) recalled that ‘When the Cottesmore Hunt held races at Burton Lazars, Lord Lonsdale would go from Barleythorpe

Hall on a Sunday afternoon to inspect the course for the races held on the Monday. We children waited on the Cold Overton Road corner to watch him go by; he was sometimes in a carriage and sometimes in a twelve cylinder Daimler Silent Knight (www.langhaminrutland.org.uk/publications/palmer-story.pdf). Rita Duffin remembered that on ‘May Day – We paraded around the village and Ranksborough Hall, singing; after dinner we went to Barleythorpe, where the housekeeper for Lord Lonsdale would reward us with cake and lemonade’ (http://www.langhaminrutland.org.uk/publications/look_back.pdf). He was much missed, and there was a sense that not just a life but also an era had ended.

Astonishingly, Hugh was succeeded by his younger brother, Lancelot Lowther, who became the 6th Earl. St George had inherited the title as 4th Earl back in 1876. Now in 1944 came a third brother, who died in 1953. In between them, Hugh had wrecked the finances of the estate. Two lots of death duties, less than ten years apart, were simply unaffordable. James, the 7th Earl, Lancelot’s son, unroofed Lowther Castle and sold the entire West Cumberland estate at knock-down prices, to pay the bills. Hugh’s profligacy had brought about the destruction of much of his family’s inheritance. In that sorry tale of the 1950s, Rutland was a forgotten footnote ... but for a century and a half, from the 1780s to the 1940s, it had been the emotional heart and the dearly-loved home of the Lowther family.

Acknowledgments

I should particularly like to thank Tim Clough and the members of the Langham Local History Group for their very helpful comments on the draft of this paper. An early version of it was given in a talk at Lyddington in March 2017, and it is a pleasure to acknowledge my good friend Rosemary Canadine and the audience at the Lyddington Manor History Society for their support on that occasion. The staff of the Cumbria Archive Centre Carlisle were very helpful, as they always are.

Abbreviations

CACC Cumbria Archive Centre Carlisle

CH History <http://www.cottesmore-hunt.co.uk/chhistory.html>

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What's in a hut?

A WWI prisoner of war hut surviving as an Indoor Bowls Club in Uppingham

SHEILA SLEATH

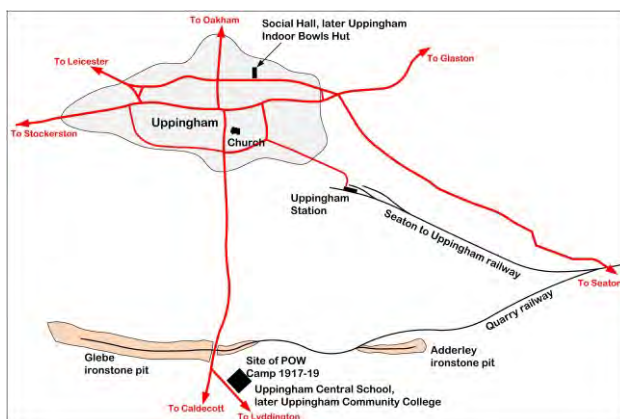
As a long-term member of Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club, the author was aware that the hut which the members played in probably had an interesting history. She decided to research this by accessing the British Newspaper Archive website. This rich source confirmed that the 100-year-old hut had started life on the outskirts of Uppingham as part of a First World War prisoner of war camp. After its purchase at auction from the Ministry of Munitions in 1919, it was re-erected in the town and

became a vibrant new entertainment centre for the local inhabitants. Over the years, the wide range of social activities enjoyed there included dances, concerts, plays, horticultural shows, political meetings, auctions, jumble sales, whist drives and more, and for seventeen years it was also the town cinema. It was first used for indoor bowling in 1937 and that use continues today, albeit in a much-refurbished venue.

On the south west corner of Tod's Piece, a grassy sports and play area in North Street East, Uppingham, is a large, wooden hut (fig. 1). This building, although much altered, has survived here for a century. It has been well used during that time and today is home to Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club. The original hut was one of several erected at Uppingham by the Army to house German prisoners in the First World War.



Fig. 1. Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club in 2017 (Robert Ovens).



Uppingham Prisoner of War Camp

Army huts were erected on the present site of Uppingham Community College on London Road, and three newspaper reports imply that they were built in the spring of 1917:

At a meeting of the Uppingham Urban District Council on 4th April 1917, 'It was decided that the use of the Council's scavenging cart be allowed at a weekly charge of 4s at the local German prisoners camp' (*GJ* 7th Apr 1917).

A large number of German prisoners have arrived at the internment camp on the London road. They are to be employed in the ironstone pits. They are under a guard of some 50 men of the Royal Defence Corps (*SM* 4th May 1917).

On Monday the Military Hospital Y.M.C.A. Pierrot troupe, members and friends, gave an entertainment at the German prisoners' guard Y.M.C.A. tent. A good programme was greatly enjoyed (*SM* 14th May 1917). [This tent was located at the Military Hospital site on the Leicester Road, formerly the Uppingham Workhouse, and now Constables, an Uppingham School boarding house.]

At an Uppingham District Council meeting, held on Wednesday 2nd May 1917, a complaint was made by Belton Parish Council, '... concerning stone heaps on the road sides. Mr T. Northern (surveyor) attributed it to shortage of labour. A suggestion was made that German prisoners might be obtained. – Mr. J. M. Northern: We could manage any ten of them with a steam roller. – Decided the roads be repaired as soon as labour became available' (*SM*, 4th May 1917). It hasn't been determined whether

Fig. 2. The location of the Social Hall (later Uppingham bowls hut), Uppingham Central School (later Uppingham Community College) and the ironstone pits c1917 (Robert Ovens).

these men were in fact used to address the problem but it seems a possibility according to the following reminiscence of Ernie Marlow of Uppingham who was born in 1909. In *The Marlow Papers* (Rutland Times, 3rd Sept 1993, 6) Ernie described some locals dressed in their military attire and continued, 'In contrast there were the grey uniforms of the prisoners going about their various jobs all over the town'. He could also remember 'listening to their songs and accordions from the camp at nights'.

Uppingham ironstone quarries, 'Glebe' and 'Adderley', were located on either side of the London Road about half a mile south of the town (fig. 2). A quarry railway, running beneath the road and linking both pits to a junction near Uppingham Station, was constructed c1913. The first quarry to open was 'Glebe'. This was followed by 'Adderley' which was opened to meet the anticipated increased wartime demand. The German POW camp was erected on field 282 (Ordnance Survey 2nd ed 25" 1904) which was part of the Adderley Estate in Uppingham leased to James Pain Ltd of Kettering for iron ore extraction. This field became the site of Uppingham Central School, after an underlease had been signed in November 1920 (ROLLR DE 3663/192/4). Uppingham ironstone pits closed temporarily in 1921 and finally mid-1925.

The following extract recalls further local memories of the German prisoners at Uppingham:

German prisoners-of-war worked in the quarries and were housed in huts alongside the Lyddington Road, as recalled by Mr. R. Southwell, while in his letter of 9th November 1984 Mr. Hugh Reilly relates very vivid childhood recollections of seeing the prisoners 'pushing the trucks of stone under the road'. They were being pushed downhill, so perhaps UPPINGHAM [the quarry steam engine] merely brought up the empties, the full wagons being taken down at least part of the way manually, with the help of gravity. In his letter of 10th November 1984 Mr. Southwell mentions 'wagons being loaded from wheelbarrows pushed over the wagons on planks'. The prisoners worked in both pits (Tonks 1989, 17-18).

No reports have been located to suggest that these German combatant prisoners caused any alarm in Uppingham or the surrounding locality. However newspaper articles report several escapes by prisoners at the nearby Corby camp, thought to be located along Gretton Brook Road, and when an escape was reported under 'UPPINGHAM' in the *Grantham Journal* on 28th April 1917, around the time that the Uppingham camp was erected, one can imagine the consternation and concerns amongst Uppingham's inhabitants upon reading this. The good news was that the two prisoners were quickly captured.

A salutary lesson may have been learnt by locals from an incident involving a Rutland man who consorted with alien prisoners from the Corby


internment camp. The *Grantham Journal* of 25th August 1917 reported, 'The Kettering Police-court on Wednesday presented an unusual scene, when thirteen men, ironstone and furnace labourers, from the Corby and Gretton district, were brought up in custody on remand charged with committing breaches of the Public Stores Act by having in their possession certain garments, part of his Majesty's stores, and which were unlawfully obtained on various dates from an aliens' internment camp'. A Rutland man, Joseph Tee Boon of Caldecott, one of the defendants, was charged with buying a great-coat, jacket, and pair of boots from 'alien prisoners' whilst working in the Corby ironstone pits but it appears that he was fortunate to be fined only £2 0s 6d, for according to a report of this story in the *Northampton Mercury* (24th Aug 1917), 'Inspector Dunn had reminded the Court, the defendants may have faced charges of "trading with the enemy" which would have resulted in up to "... 7 years imprisonment as well as being liable to a fine of £5,000" '. A lucky outcome for Joseph! No such incidents have been found involving prisoners from the Uppingham camp.

A Swiss Legation carried out an inspection of the Uppingham camp and in response to their report dated 4th February 1918 the German Government made the allegation that certain unsatisfactory conditions prevailed at 'the working camp for Combatant Prisoners of War at Uppingham'. One such complaint alluded 'to the 60 prisoners having no bedsteads and who have consequently to place their mattresses on the cold floor. This the more surprising that, in spite of repeated representations on the part of the camp commandant, this abuse has not been abolished by the British Govt.'. Correspondence from the Foreign Office dated 30th April 1918 states, 'The report on this camp, upon which the German N.V. is based, says there were "no complaints at all" & that the camp leader stated that the prisoners were generally satisfied and that a good spirit prevailed in the camp'. The British Government's response continued, 'The 60 men referred to are well off with a straw mattress & 4 blankets especially as the Report (p2) says the flooring in the huts is especially good' (TNA FO 383/432, Uppingham Prisoner of war camp conditions).

Extracts from an article in the *Lichfield Mercury* (24th May 1918) state in general that, 'Enemy prisoners of war in this country are well fed, well clothed, and kindly treated'. Rations for prisoners of war were laid down by the Government and any person assisting a prisoner to break the rules was liable to imprisonment. 'Shopkeepers and others are warned against having any unauthorised dealings of any sort with any prisoners of war or their escorts as any such dealings would lead to trouble'. However,

it is reported that the Uppingham prisoners 'would walk to the Post Office to collect black bread sent from Germany through neutral sources' (uppinghamheritagetrail.org.uk).

With the conclusion of hostilities in 1918 prisoner of war camps no longer served their original purpose and the *Tamworth Herald* (6th Sept 1919) reported that the repatriation of German prisoners was to take place as soon as possible after 28th August 1919. As a consequence the Ministry of Munitions ordered the sale of buildings and associated furniture, fittings and equipment. The *Grantham Journal* (15th Nov 1919) advertised the 'Sale of Uppingham Prisoner of War Camp buildings' to be held on Wednesday 19th November 1919 at twelve o'clock (fig. 3). Twelve wooden sectional 'Well-Erected Huts' and fittings, including kitchen ranges, boilers, sinks, tanks and stores, were up for sale. The present Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club building was originally one of these huts.

G.  R.

MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS,
BY DIRECTION OF THE DISPOSAL BOARD (HUTS AND
BUILDING MATERIALS SECTION).

SALE BY AUCTION OF
Well-Erected Huts.

AT BLASTON LANDING GROUND, UPPINGHAM & NORMANTON PARK PRISONERS OF WAR CAMPS.
On WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th, 1919,

AT UPPINGHAM PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP,
Rutland, One Mile from Uppingham Station,
precisely at TWELVE o'clock.

12 WOODEN SECTIONAL HUTS,
viz.:—Guard Two-compartment Hut, 90ft. x 15ft.;
Sleeping Hut, 60ft. x 15ft.; two Kitchen Huts, 90ft.
x 28ft. and 30ft. x 15ft.; two Bath and Ablution
Huts, 41ft. x 10ft. 6in. and 82ft. x 10ft. 6in.; four
Prisoner of War Sleeping Huts, each 90ft. x 15ft.;
Hospital Hut, 50ft. x 15ft., with Lavatory and Bath
Annexe, 15ft. x 15ft.; Officers' Sectional Hut, 80ft.
x 28ft., partitioned into 15 rooms, and lined through-
out with Asbestos, together with their

F I T T I N G S.
comprising—Two 6ft. Kitchen Ranges, with two
Ovens, Flues, &c., complete; one small Kitchen
Range, 14 Heating Stoves, 18-gallon Family Boiler,
30-gallon Bullshead Boiler, 5 Earthenware Sinks, 3
Wash Basins, and two Enamel Baths with Piping,
Flushing Tanks, Shelving, &c.; Boiler Cylinder Tanks
for Baths, Wooden Coal and Wood Store, 10ft. x
15ft.; Corrugated Iron Store, 15ft. square; 3 Wooden
Latrines, 1 "Horsfall" Destructor, No. 3 type, with
wooden covering; 1 Set of 3in. Hot Water Piping
and Heating Boiler.

Fig. 3. Advertisement detailing the sale of the Uppingham Prisoner of War Camp huts and fittings (GJ 15th Nov 1919).

Uppingham Social Hall

An application was made by the Uppingham branch of 'The National Federation of Discharged and

Demobilised Sailors and Soldiers' (NFDDSS) – a British veterans' organisation – to Uppingham Parish Council asking to rent a piece of ground on Tod's Piece for the purpose of erecting a hut to provide a social club. The intention was to purchase an army hut and use it as club premises. The Council granted the request on condition that consent was granted by the Earl of Gainsborough, the landlord of Tod's Piece, and that 'the proposed Social Club should be thrown open to the townspeople; that not less than one third of the Committee would consist of townspeople who were not members of the Federation; and that a nominal rent of £1 per annum be paid' (*SM*, 21st Nov 1919).

At their annual meeting, held on 12th January 1920, the Federation reported: 'A Social Club is now being formed to which all ex-Service men and the public will be invited to become members. The purpose of the club will be to run a cinema, dances, etc., also games rooms, reading rooms, and hot and cold shower and sponge baths' (*SM*, 16th Jan 1920). The army hut, purchased from the local prisoners' camp by the local branch of the Federation, was placed on Tod's Piece, and was almost completed by the end of that month. The Federation confirmed that it would be used as their headquarters and as a Town Club. On 27th January 'representatives of the Federation met a committee of the Parish Council and townspeople, with the view of forming a town committee to manage the hut' (*SM*, 30th Jan 1920). From the dimensions of the wooden sectional huts for sale, it seems that the hut erected on Tod's Piece was the larger of the two kitchen huts (90ft x 28ft).



Fig. 4. Part of the oblique aerial photograph c1927 showing Uppingham Social Hall on Tod's Piece. It has been outlined to make the image more distinct (RCM, Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.1835).

An oblique aerial photograph of Uppingham c1927 (RCM, Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.1835) (fig. 4) shows the Social Hall on Tod's Piece. Although



Fig. 5. A large crowd gathered on Tod's Piece c1931 when the new 'fixed amusements' for children were installed alongside the Social Hall (Bruce McClellan).

the image is indistinct it does reveal a lean-to structure, attached to the west side of the former POW hut at the north end. It is about a quarter of the length of the hut and appears to have a door and window facing south – it may have housed a toilet. On the same side but nearer the front is a boxed structure rather like a pump housing. There appear to be two chimneys or ventilators on the apex of the roof towards the rear.

The building was initially called 'The Federation Hut' or 'Fed', but officially advertised as the Social Hall. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Federation merged with other similar organisations in 1920 and became the British Legion. As the Uppingham Branch of the British Legion used the Social Hall for its headquarters the hut was often referred to locally as 'The Legion' during the 1930s and beyond. Over the years it has also been known as the 'Cosy' and the 'Bowls hut', for reasons that will become clear.

It appears that money had been loaned to the NFDDSS, in order to buy the ex-army hut, for at the 'Legionnaires Social at Uppingham', Mr J E Payne, the Uppingham branch secretary of the British Legion, informed those assembled that '£36 had been paid back to members who held shares in the Uppingham Social Hall' (*GJ*, 9th Feb 1929).

Two newspaper articles in 1932 confirmed that at least two local businessmen were instrumental in securing this building for the purposes of providing a Social Club for the inhabitants of the town. Ernest Martin Kernick's obituary states, 'He was one of the originators and guarantor for the erection of the Social Hall, the British Legion's quarters in North-street, and which is also the Cinema' (*GJ*, 23rd Jan 1932). Mr Kernick was a haulage contractor and cycle dealer of North Street, Uppingham. The *Grantham Journal* (19th Mar 1932), in reporting the announcement of Charles Edward Barnett, a tailor, being appointed a magistrate, recorded that, 'He was a member of the Uppingham Military Tribunal, and president for two years of the Soldiers' and Sailor's

[sic] Federation, and it was greatly through his efforts that the Social Hall in North-street was erected'.

Following the erection of the 'Fed' on Tod's Piece in the spring of 1920, it became a vibrant new entertainment centre for the inhabitants of Uppingham, and the following comment sums up its success: 'The social hall committee, which has only been in existence a few months, has lost no time in catering for the needs of the present day population, and they are to be congratulated on the enterprise they have shown as regards the arrangements at the new hut, on Tod's piece' (*SM*, 20th Aug 1920).

Dances in the Social Hall

Possibly the first dance to be held in the new Social Hall and organised by the Social Club Committee was on Friday 5th March 1920. This dance and others held during the 1920s were obviously very popular, with attendances ranging from sixty to one hundred and ninety. The majority were organised by the Uppingham Branch of the British Legion which had elected an Entertainment Committee and a Social Hall Committee. Apart from their regular dances the British Legion organised 'Fancy Dress', 'Carnival', 'Victory', 'Feast' and 'flannel' dances. A flannel dance gave the opportunity for men to wear casual dress, such as an open flannel shirt and flannel trousers. Profits from the British Legion dances went towards their own or the Social Hall funds. Dances were also organised by other clubs and individuals. The Uppingham and District Tradesmen held a dance in March 1928 and about a hundred attended. There were dances for bachelors and spinsters and dances for the married, and the profits went to various causes such as the Uppingham District Nursing Association and Oakham Cottage Hospital (more generally known as the Rutland Memorial Hospital).

Newspaper reports of dances held in the Social Hall give an insight into what one could expect when attending a dance there. They were obviously very well organised and the music was provided by local people. At the dance held on Tuesday 25th May 1920 the music was provided by Mrs Hodgson at the piano and Sergeant-Major East on the cornet. Mrs Hodgson (fig. 6) was the regular pianist at the dances. Two years later, in October 1922, the music was provided by a band consisting of C H Thorpe (violin and conductor), J S Thorpe (double bass), the Rev W Ashburner (cello) and Mrs F G Hodgson (piano). On this occasion, as on others, refreshments were provided and the hall was decorated in light and dark blue material lent by the Hockey Club, and by flags furnished by Col Jones (*GJ*, 29th May 1920 & 22nd Oct 1922). The report in the 29th November 1924 edition of the *Grantham Journal* on the Hockey Club's invitation dance held in the Social Hall gives a



Fig. 6. Mrs Hodgson was the regular pianist at the Social Hall film shows and dances (RCM, Jack Hart Collection 2002.6.2242).

vivid description: 'The Hall was draped with art muslin in the Club's colours of light and dark blue, and was also effectively decorated with plants, streamers, balloons &c. Collinson's orchestra, of Nottingham, was engaged to supply

music.' The popularity of newly formed dance bands was not ignored by the organisers of Uppingham's dances, for amongst those hired from 1923 were the Stamford Bijou Orchestra, the Stanleigh Dance Band from Leicester in 1927, and Mr Frank Smith's Syncopated Band from Leicester in 1928, and in 1929 the Cabaret Players provided the music. This last group consisted of Mr C Mayes (violin), Mr Hefford (banjo) – both of Leicester, Mr F Payne (piano) and Mr J Newton (drums) – both of Uppingham.

The number of dances held in the Social Hall waned during the 1930s mainly due to the opening in the High Street in 1932 of the new William Southwell Church Room (now Uppingham Town Hall) which offered a more suitable and comfortable venue for social events. However, the British Legion continued to hold some dances in the hall including their annual 'Victory Dance' which continued until November 1937. The last dance that they promoted before the outbreak of the Second World War was possibly at the end of July 1939; the music on this occasion was provided by 'The Harmony Twins' of Kirby Bellars (GJ 5th Aug 1939). A Valentine dance promoted by the Red Cross took place in the Social Hall in February 1939. It attracted 190 dancers and the proceeds were in support of the Junior Red Cross (Leicester Daily Mercury, 16th Feb 1939).

Social Hall Cinema

Uppingham Social Hall was the first permanent venue for film shows in the town and the first cinematograph licence was granted on 7th June 1920 by magistrates at Oakham Castle. This was on condition that no film was shown until certain alterations, presumably to the hall, were completed. The licence was granted to Henry Samuel, an Uppingham grocer, who had applied on behalf of the Social Hall Committee (GJ, 11th June 1920). By

mid-August the 'Electric Cinema' had been 'up and running' for several weeks and was evidently 'proving very attractive' (SM, 20th Aug 1920).

The licence was renewed annually to Henry Samuel up to 1932. His early association with the cinema is confirmed in a newspaper report of 1922. It was at the 'annual meeting of ex-Service and Social Club' that Henry Samuel was appointed treasurer, and with six others elected to the Cinema Committee (GJ, 4th Feb 1922). *Kelly's Directories for Leicestershire and Rutland* (1922, 1928) refer to the cinema in Uppingham as the 'Social Club Cinema' which advertised its films under the 'Electric Cinema' (fig.8). In 1932 the licence was granted to Mr Bert Joseph Wilson, cinema proprietor, who continued to show films in the Social Hall for the next four years. *Kelly's Directory* (1932, 1934, 1936) records this commercial enterprise as the 'Cosy Cinema', hence its nickname 'The Cosy'.

The late Ernie Marlow of Uppingham collected memorabilia and wrote fascinating accounts of local people and events that were part of his life in the first decades of the twentieth century. His memories of the cinema in Uppingham conjure up vivid and entertaining 'pictures' of what this new entertainment centre had to offer. The following extract is from *The Marlow Papers* (Rutland Times, 10th Sept 1993):

A committee was formed of ex-servicemen and businessmen forming the first local "British Legion". An ex-prisoner of war hut was purchased and placed on Todds [sic] Piece and made into the original cinema. This again was a great step forward. The Stocks Family and the Samuels (Grocers) were the projectionists. Rows of wooden forms were installed and a stretched sheet set up on a stage. Entrance was through doors each side of the screen. Accompanying musical effects were provided by a Mrs Bowley, the pianist, Charles Thorpe, the violinist, and George Wignell on drums and concertina – great fun! Much merriment. Sometimes during the show, if the door was open, the sheet rippled, creating distortions and much merriment.

Also, a matinee ran for us on Saturday afternoons for a few pence and this was the point of my involvement which was hilarious but alarming. A new plywood screen was installed and I, with another lad, provided primitive advertisements using pieces of glass smoked over a flame and using a knitting needle, wrote or printed - "Henry Samuel, family grocer", "Frisbys Family Butchers", "J. Dalton Provision Merchants" and so forth, thereby gaining a free seat. Great silent films.

After a while, wonder of wonders, came those great silent films with Charlie Chaplin, Harold Lloyd, the Keystone Cops, Chinese Serials and Cowboys. One such hero of ours, with his dashing white horse, was a Ranger named "Lightning Bryce" (fig. 7). During this particular matinee amongst great excitement, he dismounted, sat down on a rock and was enjoying his chow when an Apache appeared with his tomahawk raised. I thought instantly, "No, you don't", drew my catapult and let fly.



Fig. 7. Poster advertising episode 4 of 'Lightning Bryce'. This 15-part American Western film serial was released in October 1919 (Wikipedia).

Yes I claimed that redskin, but in doing so split the screen. This sudden impulse cost me dear. Instant pandemonium. The Ride of the Valkyries stopped abruptly. I slid down under the seat but to no avail and I was unceremoniously kicked out, and of course banned for some time and lost my printing job. I was severely dealt with at home of course, and the consequences were even more alarming. I was collected by Inspector Plant in his new motorcycle and sidecar, and taken in front of Sir Arthur Fludyer, the Chairman of the Bench in Ayston Hall. I will never forget that interview with that bewhiskered, eagle-eyed, monocled aristocrat. He scared me stiff, especially when the butler opened those doors. I put a lot of daylight between that place and Uppingham in a very fast time, very scared. Thus ended a stupid but, looking back, hilarious prank, and my first brush with the law. Some little time elapsed before being allowed back, very, very repentant, into the cinema world.'

Additional memories of the cinema were recorded by the Uppingham Local History Study Group in their publication *Uppingham in Living Memory* (2007, 50). Dora Allibone of Uppingham adds her memories to the following recollections recorded by Dolly Holland and Nina Tilley.

The screen had its back to the door as you entered the hut from North Street and you paid your money (2d) at a cash desk positioned on the left. Opposite was a cloakroom. The projector was placed at the

back of the hall and here was not a good place to sit for the loud 'whirr' of the reels distracted from the viewing! The position of the projector must have been critical for there was a large stove in the hut which had a chimney pipe going out through the roof. The stove was stoked by Sam Trace. Seating was on wooden forms but these were evidently made more comfortable when red padding was later attached. Children usually sat at the front and cowboy films were shown on Saturday mornings. When the silent black and white movies 'rolled', background music was played on the piano by Mrs Hodgson. Dolly particularly remembers seeing *The Scarlet Pimpernel* (release date 1934) and she recalls 'running out when the women were knitting round the guillotine'. When Dora was a child c1925 she lived in Preston and on Saturday mornings she used to walk to Uppingham with her mother, Mrs Snow. They would meet up with Mrs Marsden who lived in Ayston Road, do some shopping and often go to the cinema. Dora clearly recalls seeing '*Ben-Hur*' (release date 1925). Unlike Dolly, she remembers the cash desk being on the right as you entered the cinema and the cloakroom being on the left. No doubt changes were made over the years. The cinema was usually well patronised.

ELECTRIC CINEMA, UPPINGHAM.

THREE DAYS ONLY.

"DAWN,"

With SYBIL THORNDIKE as
NURSE CAVELL.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY,
JULY 26th, 27th, and 28th.

8 o'clock each night.

Special Matinees,
Thursday and Saturday, at 5.30 p.m.

Popular Prices.

6d., 1/., and 1/6 (including tax).

Fig. 8. An advertisement for 'Dawn' at the 'Electric Cinema' (GJ, 14th July 1928).

The 'Cosy' closed on Saturday 16th January 1937 and the last film shown was 'Strike me Pink' starring Eddie Cantor (Hornsey 1994, 12). A newly built cinema, on Ayston Road, opened the following Monday. Referring to the old premises, which he described as being located 'just round the corner', Mr Wilson thanked patrons for their support in the past and everyone who had helped him secure the new premises. Mr Wolfenden, Headmaster of Uppingham School, who opened the new cinema, declared, 'I am glad that the claims of Uppingham have been rightly recognised in the title which has been given to this cinema ... and that we are not content with just being "cosy" ... We are "The Rutland Cinema"' (GJ, 23rd Jan 1937).

Entertainment in the Social Hall

The *Grantham Journal* reported on a variety of entertainments held in the hall, particularly during the 1920s (fig. 9). They conjure up images of very lively gatherings:

14th April 1923: 'On Monday, a concert was arranged in the Social Hall by the local Branch of the Women's Unionist Association, and there was a large audience. The platform was profusely decorated with flowering plants sent from Ayston Hall by Lady Fludyer, and attractively displayed ...'. The songs rendered were greatly enjoyed 'and encores were vociferous', and stories were 'rapturously encored'. A poem was 'brilliantly recited' and the response to songs demanded 'an undeniable recall'.

5th March 1927: 'A large gathering in the Social Hall ... immensely appreciated the dramatic entertainment given in support of Uppingham Golf Club'. The items performed were 'Box and Cox', a drama by F C Burnand and Arthur Sullivan and a comedy by Gertrude E Jennings titled 'Poached Eggs and Pearls'.

25th June 1927: 'For the benefit of the Uppingham Branch of the British Legion, an excellent variety entertainment was given in the Social Hall ... A couple of capital sketches were performed'. Humorous songs gained 'deserved encores', a monologue was given and, 'The party together rendered a chorus and a concerted item'.

2nd March 1929: The operetta 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast' given by the Uppingham Choral Society was performed in the Social Hall.

15th February 1930: A concert and dramatic entertainment was given by the 'Uppingham Star Entertainers', the proceeds going to the Hockey Club.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.—In the Social Hall, on Tuesday, the Glaston Amateur Dramatic Society gave an exceedingly good entertainment, but the attendance was disappointing. The sketch, "Mixed Pickles," was taken by the Misses Elsie Barnett and M. Baines, and Messrs. W. Woods and R. Browett; another, "The New Servant," by the Misses M. Martin and M. Thurston; and a third, "Box and Cox," by Miss A. E. Barnett and Messrs. G. Gray and G. Dams. Songs, &c., were interspersed by Miss D. Barnett and Miss Edith Barnett (accompanist). The proceeds were for the Social Hall Funds.

Fig. 9. A 'Dramatic and Musical Entertainment' held in the Social Hall by the Glaston Amateur Dramatic Society. The entertainment was good but the attendance disappointing (GJ, 29th Apr 1922).

Other events in the Social Hall

Some of the other events in the Social Hall prior to World War II as reported by the *Grantham Journal*:

Whist drives organised by the NFDDSS and British Legion from March 1920 to at least 1937 (fig. 10).

Meetings held during the 1920s by local branches of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Parties, some of which

became very disorderly.

The Gainsborough Estate Sale in 1925. An auction of household goods in 1927.

Monthly meetings of The Women's Institute held from 1927 to 1932.

Mothers' Union teas in 1928.

A five-day course in butter-making held in the Social Hall in 1928. Those who attended were hoping to qualify for the Challenge Cup competition at the Rutland Agricultural Show.

The sixth annual horticultural show held on 'Feast Saturday', 29th July 1929, by the Uppingham Cycle and Athletic Club. Exhibits included flowers, vegetables, cakes, eggs and trussed chicken.

British Legion dinner and smoking concert in 1930.

Jumble sales in 1933.

The Sisterhood's New Year 'treat' for the poor and pensioners in 1932 and 1933.

The Guides and Brownies Fancy Dress party and dance in 1936.



Fig. 10. This 1930 British Legion Whist Drive ticket was found when the hut was being refurbished in 2000. It has 'Mr Kernick' on the back (Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club).

The Social Hall Committee formed in 1920 seems to have disbanded c1932. However, the Uppingham Branch of the British Legion continued to use the hut as its headquarters and by the beginning of November 1937 the Social Hall had been 'reconstructed' as noted in their 'DON'T FORGET' advertisement for their annual dance (GJ, 6th Nov 1937). As part of the reconstruction, a new heating system providing 'instantaneous heat' and 'comfortable conditions' was installed in the 'British Legion Hall' by the 'Uppingham Gas, Light & Coke Co Ltd' (GJ, 4th Dec 1937), possibly using infra-red heaters.

A regular attender at the British Legion's annual dinner submitted a small article in the following week's newspaper under 'Uppingham Enterprise'. The evening, 'constituted what almost might be regarded as a "red-letter day" in the history of the branch for not only was there a remarkably fine muster of ex-servicemen — approaching the 200

mark – but the event was noteworthy by reason of the fact that it was the first official function in the Legion hall since the completion of the new heating system – a unique installation' (GJ, 4th Dec 1937).

Uppingham Indoor Bowls Hut

After the cinema moved from the Social Hall in 1937, bowling was introduced by the Legion as a new social activity for its members. It was probably because of the intended use of the hall for indoor bowling that the branch committee realised that internal alterations needed to be made. As a consequence the Legion Hall became the only local venue where the indoor game could be played and this remained the position until the Stamford and Melton indoor venues were established c1990. The *Grantham Journal* reports on both indoor and outdoor competitions played by the 'Uppingham Legion' during 1939 and the club had a 'highly-successful season' (fig. 11). The rinks inside the hut were said to have been extended in 1939 but these were not full length, as is still the case in 2017.

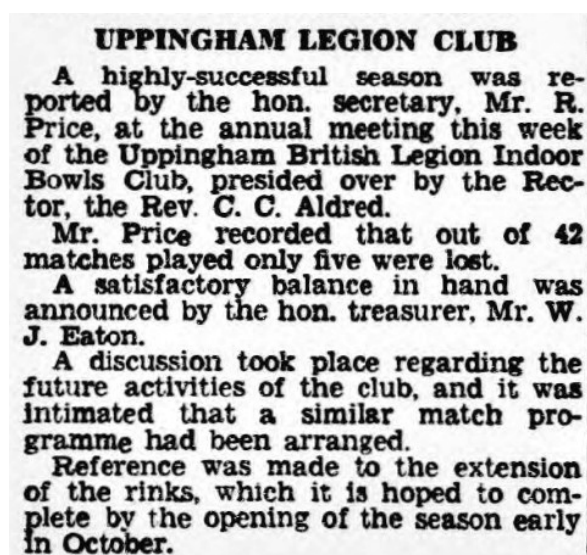


Fig.11. The Legion's Indoor Bowls Club reports on a 'highly successful season' (GJ, 12th Aug 1939).

Bowling activities ceased during the Second World War and it is believed that the hut wasn't used for social functions during this period. Michael Baines of Oakham, formerly of Uppingham, remembers that the hut billeted the army c1941 and before the Uppingham Football Club had its own clubroom on Tod's Piece, it used the bowls hut as a changing room. After the war the Uppingham Branch of the British Legion continued using the hut, commonly known as 'The Legion', as its headquarters. However the branch was evidently on the decline and it moved its headquarters c1951. The Committee arranged an auction to sell 'useful furnishings & miscellaneous effects' in the 'British

Legion Hut' on Wednesday 29th August 1951 (GJ, 17th Aug 1951) (fig. 12). As a consequence, by 1950 some members of the former Legion bowls team had set up a separate Bowls Club playing both outdoors and indoors. Indoor bowling continued to be played in the former 'Legion hut' which ultimately became known as 'the bowls hut'. This newly formed club continues to use the hut in 2017 as the Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club.



Fig. 12. The furnishings and miscellaneous effects to be auctioned in the British Legion Hut in 1951 (GJ, 17th Aug 1951).

As a child c1953, Roy Hathaway of Uppingham played football on Tod's Piece, and he clearly remembers the windows and double doors on the side of the hut that faced the recreation ground. There were three concrete steps leading into the building. If these doors were opened the children would 'leg it' to avoid being asked by the bowlers to roll back the dusty coconut matting. Roy was caught on a couple of occasions! The two narrow mats, which covered much of the wooden floor, were

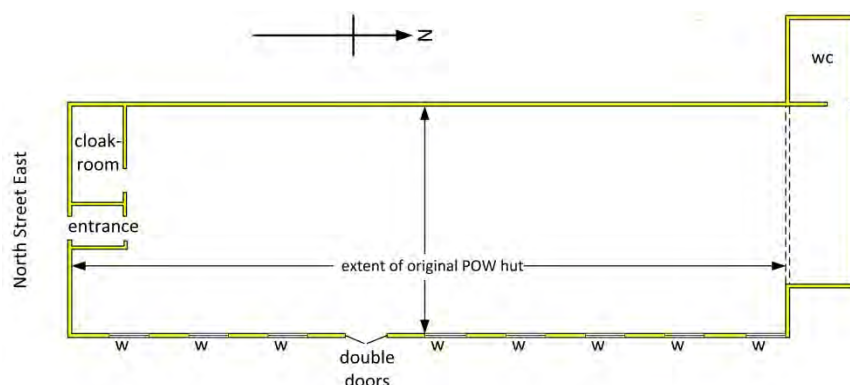


Fig. 13. A conjectural plan of the bowls hut as it was up to about 1980, based on available drawings and photographs. The windows, marked 'W' on the east elevation are shown in their original positions, although it is known that they had been boarded over in 1971 (Robert Ovens).

rolled up and left, one at each end of the hut. Roy also remembers the hall being used for flower, produce and pet shows.

No details have been found regarding the condition of the hut up to 1969 but an Uppingham Bowls Club account book (1969-1982) gives some clues as to possible alterations made. From 1971-77 the club incurred costly bills for numerous 'repairs to hut'. Details are sparse as to what these were other than 'Repairs to end of hut' and 'Boarding Windows' in 1971, and 'Floor repairs' in 1976. Plans were made for drastic improvements in 1978 when there was reference to '1st stage alterations' which included a 'new floor in hut'. This may have seen the replacement of the original army hut floor. The lean-to extension at the north-west end shown in the c1927 photograph (fig. 4) was almost certainly removed about this time.

The footprint of the bowling hut as shown on a plan of March 1980 by architect John Wilcox (Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club) shows that the hut had been extended to the north by about ten feet which included a lean-to extension to the west for a toilet (cf fig. 13).

The expenses for later in 1980 included floor and roof repairs, hire of a JCB and the purchase of large quantities of timber, all of which imply that again there were extensive alterations. These are believed to have been the widening of the hut to its full width at the north-east corner and an extension of the lean-to to roughly a third of the length of the building on its west side. This lean-to accommodated new toilet facilities and a refreshment area, both of which were accessed by doors leading directly from the bowling green. Additional purchases of a sink unit, a water heater, an additional electric fire, wallpaper and paint during 1980 must have utterly transformed the hut, greatly improving the playing experience and comfort of the bowlers.

A 28-year lease, dated 25th March 1980, drawn up between 'Uppingham Town Council' and the trustees of the 'Uppingham Indoor Bowling Club' states that it was the responsibility of the Club, 'To repair and keep the demises premises and every part

thereof and all other buildings and erections which anytime during the said time may be upon any part of the said premises in tenable repair throughout the term hereby granted' (Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club). This obligation must have put a strain upon the members' resources as the hut, because of its age, continued to require expensive repairs right through to the Millennium.

Following an injection of new members in the early 1980s it was decided that the wooden floor to the 2-rink bowling area was unsuitable and in 1982 it was removed and replaced with concrete. However, the new bowling area floor proved to be very uneven. As a result bowlers would often place wads of paper under the new and expensive coir matting which had been purchased the previous year. At this time there was a string down the middle to divide the carpet into two rinks. The roof of the hut was repaired in 1985, and major electrical work, which included the repositioning of fluorescent lights, was completed in 1988. A further improvement was made when the wooden floor in the lean-to was taken up and replaced with concrete.

In the early 1990s the gable wall on the north side to the lean-to was removed and replaced with a breeze block wall, as was the internal dividing wall to the hut extension. Internal cladding and skirting were also installed which greatly enhanced the internal appearance. The rinks were resurfaced and re-carpeted, new heaters installed and insulation was improved by installing a suspended ceiling. Unfortunately, the new carpet, although more suited for an indoor bowling green, did not completely cover the concrete floor. In an attempt to rectify this, small pieces were placed on either side of the main carpet. Trying to avoid these hazardous areas tested the bowlers' skill to the limit! However, although the hut structure and rinks had been improved at considerable expense it was unfortunate, despite high energy bills for heating, that the building's age and timber construction resulted in members complaining of considerable discomfort during cold weather.

As shown in fig. 13, when entering the hut through its central south door there was a passageway leading

into the main body of the hall. On the west side there was a closed-in cloakroom, and on the east side there was an open area where the bowlers congregated before playing. A wooden fender separated these areas from the rinks. At the north end of the rinks there was another fender in front of a narrow seating area. All this was to change in the next major refurbishment.



Fig. 14. Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club's sub-committee members, Derek Spence, Robin Ellis, John Southwell and Andy Lammie in front of the entrance door to the hut c1995 (Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club).

By 1995, Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club members had ceased playing outdoors in the summer, and indoor bowling had become an all-year-round sport. By then the structural condition of the bowls hut had deteriorated to such an extent that it seemed the former prisoner of war hut was doomed. An Uppingham Bowls Club Development Committee (fig. 14) was formed to consider and determine its future. The options seemed to be a new timber or brick building on the same or a different site on Tod's Piece. Ideally, the replacement building would be large enough for standard length rinks with better refreshment, cloak-room and toilet facilities. However, the committee's proposals were rejected by Uppingham Town Council, but a suggestion was made that the club could make use of the strip of land along the west side of the hut, which it was already leasing and using for car parking.

As a result of this suggestion, plans were drawn up to refurbish the framework, cladding, floor and roof of the old PoW hut, and to extend it along the whole of the west side to provide a larger viewing and refreshment area and kitchen. A huge fund-raising effort over the next five years (fig. 15) meant that by August 2000 the hut could be closed for work to start.

The east side of the building, apart from the main frame, was completely renewed with external cladding, insulation and internal panelling. As a consequence, the double doors leading onto Tod's Piece were removed and an emergency exit door to the south end inserted. The existing lean-to on the west side, installed in the 1980s restoration, was extended to the full length of the hut and this side was opened up to the playing area by removing the hut side and inserting steel beams and columns (figs. 16–18). New floor joists were laid over the existing concrete floor in the main body of the hut and overlaid with

plywood flooring to provide a level playing surface. The lean-to extension meant that a new front was required to the hut. The central entrance of the original PoW hut disappeared and a new door was inserted to the west of it.



Fig. 15. Club members organising a jumble sale to raise money for the 2000 renovations. The players waiting area, entrance passage to the front door on North Street and part of the door to the cloakroom are in the background (Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club).

By including the former viewing area at the south end and the extended area at the north end it was possible to increase the rink length by some four metres to about 29.5 metres (nearly 100ft), not quite to the Bowling Federation's minimum standard length which is 32m. Further expense was incurred for a new 'first class' carpet, new benches and ditches at both ends, overall decoration and all that was entailed in fitting out the toilets, locker room, kitchen, and refreshment and viewing area. The refurbished and extended hut was opened in February 2001. The Bowls Club committee and members were to be congratulated on their determination to give Uppingham an indoor bowls venue to be proud of.

In 1995, John Glover, the then President of the Indoor Bowls Club, talked of 'the hut's grim exterior'. A true observation, but to be fair it had stood there for a long time – 75 years to be precise! How much of the original prisoner of war hut's structure remains in 2017 is unknown. Very little one suspects, but this building retains an interesting history that merits recording. Its survival is remarkable considering early reports on the condition of other huts from the same camp.

Uppingham Central School

Uppingham Central School opened on 15th November 1920 on the site of the former Prisoners of War Camp on London Road. Two huts from this camp which had remained in situ were used as classrooms for the new school. Reports on the state of these huts make interesting reading and it 'beggars belief' that anything remains of the sister hut erected on Tod's Piece.

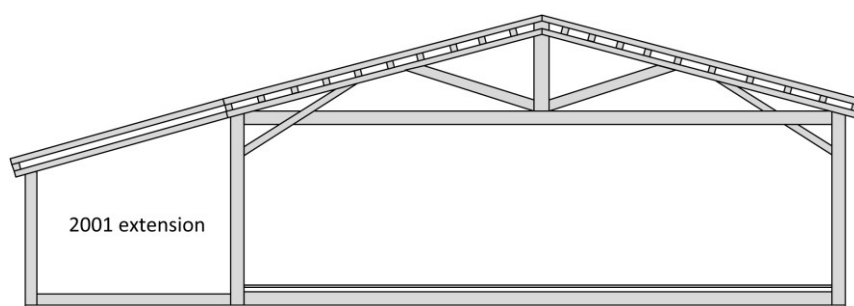


Fig. 16. A section of the original PoW hut looking north with the later floor and west side extension (Robert Ovens).

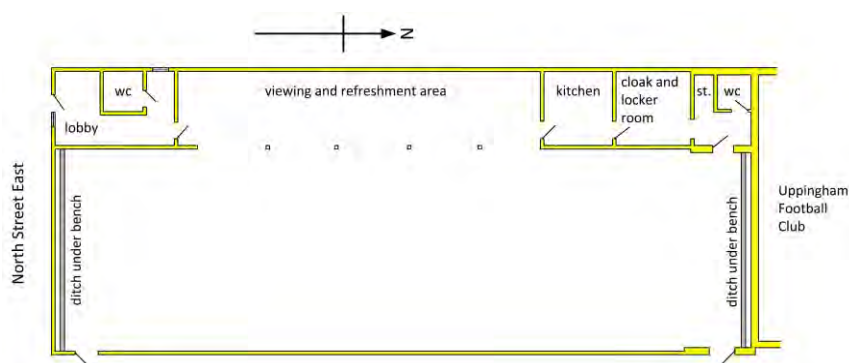


Fig. 17. A plan of the Uppingham indoor bowling hut in 2017 (Robert Ovens).



Fig. 18. Inside Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club in 2017, looking towards the viewing area and kitchen (author).

The Rutland Education Report of 23th October 1924 stated that the buildings were ‘suffering many of the disadvantages of such housing. There have been from time to time the customary difficulties in getting them warm enough in winter and cool enough in hot weather. The necessity for repairs of one kind and another have been frequent’ (Whight, unpublished).

The *Grantham Journal* reported on the state of

these classrooms on 23rd July 1932: ‘So far as structural condition is concerned, the huts have served their useful life; they are now uneconomical to maintain, and will become increasingly so... At considerable expense, they could, no doubt, be patched up and repaired to carry on for a few more years but their defects can never be remedied and they could only be regarded as makeshifts’. The huts were replaced when a new school was erected on the site in 1939.

Taking into consideration that the original huts of Uppingham Central School were from the same batch as the Social Hall erected on Tod’s Piece in 1920, it is remarkable that it survives at all, albeit very much repaired and altered.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Tim Clough for editing my draft article and taking it forward to publication, Robert Ovens for preparing images and sub-editing, Uppingham Indoor Bowls Club for allowing access to documents, photographs and trophies, and all others who have helped with and shown an interest in this project.

Abbreviations

GJ *Grantham Journal* SM *Stamford Mercury*
 ROLLR Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

RCM Rutland County Museum
 TNA The National Archives

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Rutland History & Archaeology in 2016

Edited by T H MCK CLOUGH

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

The following abbreviations are used, especially in sections I and II:

Allen	Allen Archaeology, Whisby Lodge, Hillcroft Business Park, Whisby Road, Lincoln, LN6 3QL	PAS	investigationS Portable Antiquities Scheme
Albion	Albion Archaeology, St Marys Church, St Marys Street, Bedford, MK42 0AS	RCM	Rutland County Museum (MDA code: OAKRM)
HI	Historic Investigations (Carole Bancroft-Turner & Debbie Frearson), www.historic-investigations.co.uk	RLHRS	Rutland Local History & Record Society
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fun	ROLLR	Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland
MOLA	Museum of London Archaeology, Bolton House, Wootton Hall Park, Northampton, NN4 8BN	RR	<i>Rutland Record</i>
NH	Neville Hall Archaeological Services, 38 Finnerley Road, Lincoln, LN6 0UP	ULAS	University of Leicester Archaeological Services, University Road, Leicester, LE1 7RH
OASIS	Online Access to the Index of archaeological	WA	Wessex Archaeology, Unit R6, Sheaf Bank Business Park, Prospect Road, Sheffield, S2 3EN
		WorcsA	Worcestershire Archaeology, The Hive, The Butts, Worcester, WR1 3PD

I – Archaeological Fieldwork and Discoveries during 2016

Short reports, arranged in alphabetical order by parish

Note: Where appropriate, archives are expected to be deposited with Rutland County Museum under the accession number shown.

North Luffenham, St George's Barracks (SK 46752710)

A 46-trial-trench evaluation by WA, in advance of the redevelopment of St George's Barracks, uncovered pits and ditches containing pottery dating to the Middle/Late Iron Age, suggesting a possible farmstead settlement of this period, though no definite structural remains were identified. A single pit dating to the Late Iron Age / Romano-British period suggests some continuity of occupation. Undated ditches and gullies were also recorded. Despite the nearby presence of a known Saxon cemetery, no remains dating to this period were uncovered. RCM 2015.18

Jamie McCarthy

Ridlington, '100 Acres' (SK 850020)

Part of the '100 Acre' field south of the village of Ridlington was field-walked by the RLHRS Archaeological Team over the winter of 2015-16. This project was a continuation of the survey of the adjacent field to the west of Lees' Barn (SK 845024) where six flint 'blades' from amongst over 400 struck pieces could be Upper Palaeolithic (Lynden Cooper, ULAS pers. com), and as this area is only some 4 km E of the nationally important Upper Palaeolithic site at Launde on the Leicestershire/Rutland county boundary their presence adds to the bigger picture.

The high north side of '100 Acres' on the hard porous Northampton Sand Ironstone at c160mOD dips southwards down to the Whitby Mudstone at c125mOD and the Ayston/Ridlington parish boundary along the 'Thornham (?) Brook' mentioned in the AD 1046 Saxon Charter for Ayston.

During our survey we found medieval pottery indicative of the common field system – perhaps Ridlington's 'South Field'. Medieval pottery is not common in this corner of the

world and appears to be absent within the Royal Forest of Rutland. The common fields of Ridlington were enclosed during the 17th century (Ryder 2006, 66-7).

Of the potsherds found, 96 attributed to the Romano-British period – but some were difficult to distinguish from Stamford wares. Although the sherds were a general scatter with no evident concentrations, they probably relate to the Iron Age and Roman features found along the Wing to Whatborough water pipeline easement excavated by ULAS in 1996.

The 270 medieval potsherds comprised wares from Stamford and Lyvedon/Stanion (and possibly Nottingham and Bourne) as well as Midland Purple and Cistercian and later material. The pottery indicates possible manuring of the common fields from the 10th–11th century and before the establishment of the encompassing Royal Forest by the Normans.

Some 720 struck flints were recorded. Of the 176 'blades', the densest spread was on the upper south-facing slope near Lees' Barn between the 150-160m contours with little on the exposed plateau at the top of the field. This 'blade' scatter could relate to the excavated pit containing Mesolithic flint found on the Wing to Whatborough water pipeline. Some of the 'blades' were so heavily patinated as to suggest a very early date – suggesting that this could be more evidence for the Upper Palaeolithic here.

The 550 flint 'flakes' of the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age were, like the 'blades', densest around Lees' Barn on the upper slopes but avoiding the plateau. Scrapers, knives and the 'butt end of a big beautiful tool' identified by Tim Clough were amongst the 142 retouched pieces identified. Some of these tools were found further downhill on the lower slopes nearer the brook marking the Saxon boundary

and suggest that, perhaps, the Ayston boundary could be much earlier than AD 1046.

Spring came to '100 Acres' and we were obliged to retreat with the job half done...yet just to the N of '100 Acres' lies a small 'bailey-shaped' 5-acre field right by the village at SK 848025, which the Team examined in October 2016. A concentration of iron slag, presumably a smelting site, lay in the northeast corner of the field above Holygate Road. The cutting of the road 1-2 metres deep exposed a section below the slag but any stratification is now overgrown with nettles and other verge plants. Four fragments of early medieval glazed floor tile made in Lyvedon-Stanion (c1100-1399AD) were the only clue to the dating of the slag. RLHRS Archaeological Team unpublished archive reports R130, R131, and R135.

Ryder, Ian E, *Common Right and Private Interest: Rutland's common fields and their enclosure* (RLHRS Occasional Publication 8, 2006).

Elaine Jones

Tickencote, Tickencote Lodge Farm (SK 83091400)

Allen undertook a 20-trench evaluation to identify the nature and extent of archaeological remains and to help inform plans for a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS). The evaluation revealed probable Bronze Age activity in the form of a ring barrow ditch with a possible inner ring. Anglo-Saxon pottery was found in the upper fills of the ditches and it is likely this is from a nearby settlement, identified during the construction of a pipeline in 1990. RCM 2016.24.

Chris Caswell

Uppingham, Leicester Road (SK 85800012)

Following geophysical survey and trial trenching, Albion excavated two areas totalling c5ha in March and April 2016, in advance of residential development (fig. 1).

Area 1 contained a large middle Iron Age ditch, which was extensive enough to suggest that it may have formed part of a boundary rather than an enclosure. A scatter of small pits was present alongside the ditch; these are thought to have been contemporary with it, although dating evidence is restricted to a handful of middle Iron Age pottery sherds. Four of the pits had been lined with clay, which suggests that they were used for heating or collecting water.

Area 2 contained a pit alignment. No firm date can be given for its construction, but its backfilling at least occurred in the middle Iron Age, with some suggestion in the northernmost pits of nearby domestic activity. The alignment's relationship with the ditch in Area 1 is uncertain, as any physical relationship between the two lay outside the development area.

There was no evidence for an associated bank, or for the pit alignment's function, although the pits' progressive northward increase in depth appeared to relate to the level of the water table. It is unclear, however, whether this was to keep the pits dry in summer, or wet in winter. Two four-post structures and a number of other post-holes, pits and gullies were also revealed. Most of these are assumed to have been broadly contemporary with the line of pits, although one was stratigraphically later and contained sherds from a late Iron Age vessel. Later features were restricted to the remnants of medieval furrows and a small amount of modern activity. No earlier features were identified, but two residual flints and possibly a sherd of pottery indicate early prehistoric activity in the area. RCM 2016.2. OASIS albionar1-246176.

David Ingham
Mike Luke

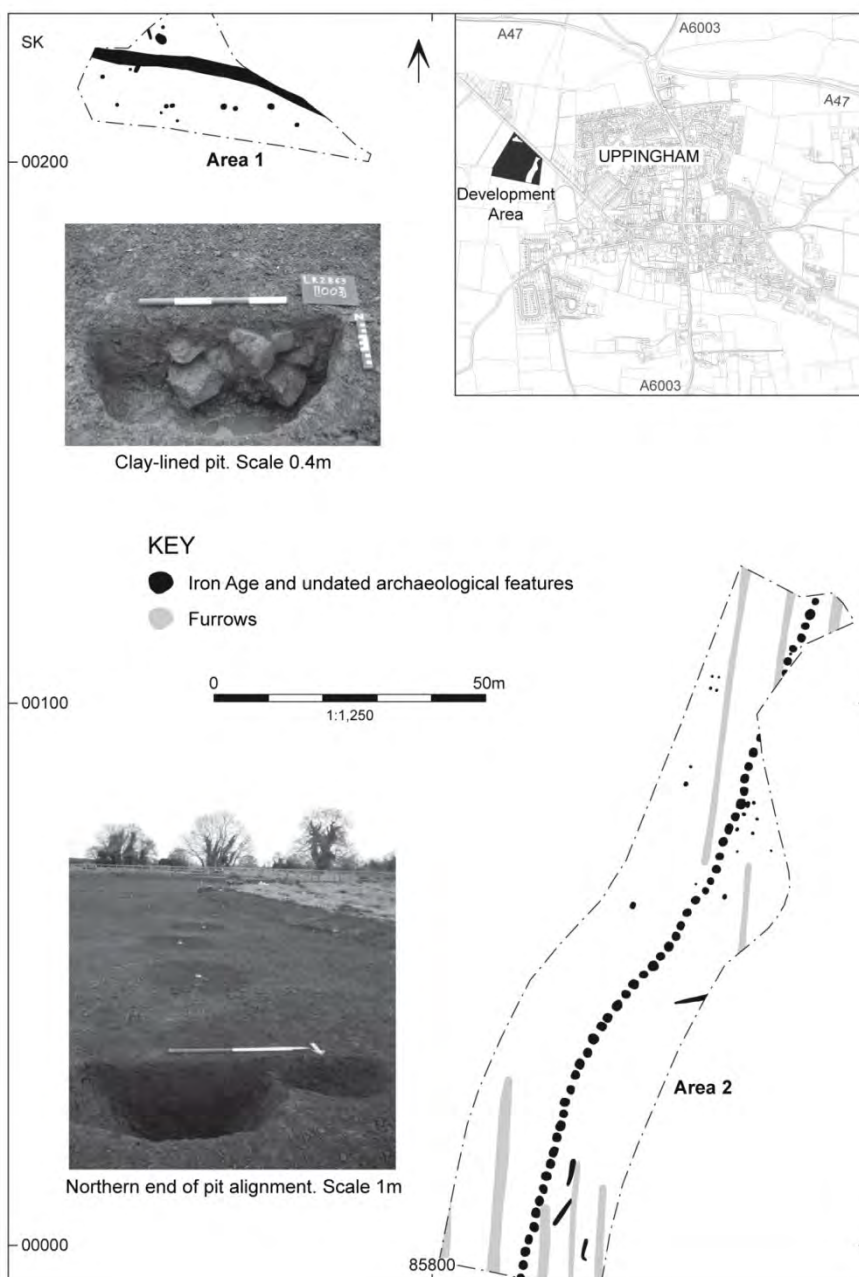


Fig. 1. Archaeological features revealed during excavations at Leicester Road, Uppingham (illustration: Albion Archaeology).

Negative archaeological watching briefs and evaluations in Rutland

Market Overton: 17a Bowling Green Lane (SK 88901636), by NH.

Oakham: Catmose College Campus (SK 85264 09223), by MOLA.

Oakham: Land at the former Lonsdale House (SK 85410932), by WorcsA.

Artefacts recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme

The 20th Anniversary of the Treasure Act has been celebrated during 2017. The important role of Treasure has been highlighted by flagging up Treasure cases on display in museums across the country, promoting those which have changed our knowledge of British archaeology. Rutland County Museum has some interesting Treasure cases on display, so readers are encouraged to support the museum by re-visiting them.

Since the initial report on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) in Rutland (Scott 2016), the scheme has recorded 122 objects and 62 coins in 155 records for Rutland. Roman artefacts and coins remain the most numerous finds reported, closely followed by medieval coins.

Scott, Wendy, Artefacts recorded with the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland, *Rutland Record* 36 (2016), 277-8.

Treasure

Three cases were reported and are described here; two of them, which Rutland County Museum hopes to acquire, are of considerable importance. For full descriptions see the relevant find records on the PAS database, <https://finds.org.uk>.

Gold buckle (2016T636 LEIC-47843A) (fig. 2) and associated copper alloy hanging bowl from Rutland



Fig. 2. Gold buckle from Rutland
(Wendy Scott/Portable Antiquities Scheme).

These artefacts were found during a 'club dig' jointly held by the Leicester and Melton clubs in August 2016. They are of national importance, hence the find spot not being published. Only three similar buckles have been found so far – one at Finglesham, Kent, depicting a standing figure, thought to be Odin; one at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk, part of a splendid burial array, now in the British Museum; and, most recent, and providing the closest parallel, from Prittlewell, Essex. The last has a similar bronze hanging bowl and was part of a 'princely' furnished burial. The Rutland buckle and associated material (see next entry), suggest a previously unknown high status cemetery. Such finds were once thought the reserve of the south-east, as the parallels for this find clearly show.

Filigree gold pendant, found in association with the above buckle, Rutland (2016T637 LEIC-47932A) (fig. 3)



Fig. 3. Seventh century pendant from Rutland
(Wendy Scott/Portable Antiquities Scheme).

Dating from the seventh century, this pendant, decorated with a filigree cross-like motif, is a high status object. Along with the above and a similarly dated Salin style 1 mount (LEIC-4199B9) it forms a very significant assemblage. Only nine similar pendants have been recorded by the PAS and they are largely distributed across eastern England. More are known from excavations, but they remain an uncommon 7th century find. The find spot is being investigated and so far, geophysical survey has revealed a probable barrow cemetery of some significance. The results of fieldwork will be reported once it is completed.

Silver gilt sword pyramid mount, Rutland (2016T28 LEIC-4BFA72)

This stunning object with gilt and niello decoration dates to the early 7th century and is one of a growing group of such mounts (thought to secure a sword in its scabbard) which attests to the wealth and status of our early medieval ancestors. The object has now been acquired by Rutland County Museum, purchased by the Friends of Rutland County Museum & Oakham Castle, after the finder generously waived their reward.

Other reported finds

Early Neolithic ogival arrowhead (LEIC-B31DBC)

This leaf shaped arrowhead is the star find in a scatter of flint from south of Uppingham. Another noteworthy object is a late Neolithic oblique arrowhead LEIC-2823E6, the others being late Neolithic to early Bronze Age scrapers, a plano-convex knife and other arrowheads.

Roman silver denarius of Hadrian, Ridlington (LEIC-B2A320)

This coin, minted in Rome in 127AD, is quite rare. It has a reverse which shows die error or damage. The moon should be flanked by seven stars but this example only has six.

Post-medieval token halfpennies (LEIC-5462A8 and LEIC-BA4827)

Token halfpennies issued in the 1660s during a national shortage of small change. In Stamford the Borough issued its own, the reverse appropriately showing a woolpack, with the legend 'CHANGED BY YE OVERSEERS'.

Wendy Scott,
Finds Liaison Officer (FLO)
for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

II – Historic Building Recording during 2016

Lyddington Manor Project

Buildings in the villages of Caldecott, Lyddington, Thorpe by Water and Stoke Dry were investigated as part of Lyddington Manor History Society's 'Historic Buildings and People of a Rutland Manor' project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (www.hlf.org.uk), including dendrochronology by Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory. This report is the final one for the project, whose achievements are recorded in its publication Buildings and people of a Rutland Manor: Lyddington, Caldecott, Stoke Dry and Thorpe by Water (2015). The total number of buildings surveyed in the four villages (including brief surveys, not reported here) was 72.

Nick Hill & Robert Ovens

Lyddington, Fern Cottage, 43 Main Street (SP874972)

Although it contains several anomalies and various features of older appearance, the main block of this house, set well back from the street, was a new build of the earlier 19th century, as confirmed by historic map evidence. The building incorporated an unusual traceried window of alabaster and some fine re-set Jacobean panelling. The projecting front wing was previously a small separate house, but was absorbed as part of the main house in the earlier 19th century. An adjoining pair of houses to the south was demolished in the mid-20th century, and the space was taken over as the garden of No 43. The whole building was much altered in the 1950s, with further works carried out in 2012-13, after this survey was undertaken.

Lyddington, Poplars Farm, 2 Stoke Road (SP874972)

This house dates principally from the 17th century, with a

good set of stone mullioned windows. The variety of moulded cornice types suggests that work was undertaken both earlier and later in the century. However, there are indications that the house has earlier origins, with a front north wall of unusual thickness. The central room also has side wall plates carrying the floor joists, which may point to the insertion of a first floor into an open hall. Tree-ring dating of one A-frame roof truss, which otherwise appears to be of standard 17th-18th century type and *in situ*, produced a surprising date of 1454-79. Another roof truss gave a date of 1523-48. The timber here was clearly re-used, but suggests a 16th-century building phase, which may have included a re-set pyramid-stopped floor beam. The 17th century plan form is unclear, but was of three cells, probably with a cross passage. A fine stone barn was built in the 18th century, as well as an outbuilding – perhaps a stable – attached to the main house.

Other historic building surveys undertaken in 2016

South Luffenham, 3 The Square (SK 93945 02007)

This is a two-storey stone cottage. It is now a single dwelling but the original form was four cottages. The building as well as the surrounding wider context of the landscape was researched by HI. It is highly likely that this area of the village formed a small manorial complex which includes an early 15th century cruck frame building (The Durham Ox, for which see *RR36* (2016), 282 and *RR35* (2015), 224). Documentary evidence lists the cottage within a large farm complex known as West Farm. West Farmhouse itself is Grade 2 listed and dates from the late 17th / early 18th century. By 1911 the Spring family were living in the cottages along with 17 children. The cottage was the victim of a huge fire in 1913 when many buildings in the village were destroyed; charred beams still survive in the roof today. Local newspapers dramatically report that the fire was caused by a spark from a railway engine from the London & North Western Railway's special train conveying the Stamford Town football club players and supporters on their way to Market Harborough. Thousands of people from Stamford and district came to watch the fire and made a collection for those affected. Local folklore suggested an earlier fire also occurred at this property in 1874, but this research established it was to the south of the village instead. Documentary evidence of estate maps, letters and the census enabled a small window of social history to be opened from this investigation, and the cottage has now been re-named 'Spring Cottage'.

Carole Bancroft-Turner and Debbie Frearson

Uppingham, Manor House (Thring Centre), 10 High Street West (SP866996)

This is a good quality house built in the first half of the 17th century, unusually set well back from the main street, on a

very large plot. The property seems to have been the location of the capital messuage of Scarlies manor, the lesser of the three Uppingham manors. Edward Fawkener (who served as sheriff of Rutland in 1628) bought Scarlies manor in 1623, and the Fawkener family probably built both the Manor House and nearby Tudor House.

The house has a main range of cross-passage plan form, with kitchen/service to the west, hall to the centre and parlour to the east. There was an original service wing behind the kitchen. The fine moulded stone doorway (now in an added front porch) probably formed the original entrance. Two good quality fireplaces with four-centred arched heads survive on the first floor, an indication of a high quality house at this date. Remains of a stone-mullioned window to the rear service wing indicate that the original house would have had a full complement of mullioned windows. Much of the original roof structure survives, with tenoned collars and purlins, and squared oak rafters, probably designed for a roof of Collyweston slates rather than thatch.

An additional wing was added around 1800 to the north-east and the service wing extended, before a very large Victorian block was added to the north between 1839 and 1858. Further major alterations were made for use by Uppingham School in the later 20th century, but enough survives to indicate the key features of the original house.

Nick Hill

28-30 High Street West, Uppingham (SP865996)

This house was built in 1787 by Thomas Baines, one of the leading farmers of Uppingham, who had served as sheriff of Rutland in the previous year. Its fine front carries a date stone of 1787, with the initials TB. The house was substantial, with three rooms on the ground floor (hall, parlour and kitchen), three bedrooms on the first floor (two

with fireplaces), and attics. The main front has high quality masonry, including arched window heads with keystones, a style typical of the later 18th century in Rutland villages, though rather old-fashioned for a leading citizen of a town. It seems likely therefore that the lower courses of large brownstone ashlar to the front wall and the asymmetrical 3-unit cross-passage plan with offset doorway probably represent the form of an earlier house of 17th century date on

the plot. The original oak roof structure of 1787 survives in complete form, with trusses of tie-beam and collar type, carrying Collyweston slates. The staggered butt purlins are integral with the construction of the hipped dormer windows which light the attics. A series of extensions and service buildings was added to the rear in the early and later 19 century.

Nick Hill

Other building surveys undertaken in 2016

Pickworth: Taylor's Farm, Casterton Lane (SK 99072 12489), by ULAS.
Little Casterton: Frith Farm, Ryhall Road (TF 01981190), by NH.
Market Overton: The Wharf, Teigh Road (SK 88101611), by Trigpoint Conservation & Planning Ltd.
Oakham: Friends Meeting House, 59, South Street (SK 85940869), by The Architectural History Practice Ltd.
Uppingham: Uppingham School (Meadhurst & The Thring Centre) (SP 86528 99943 & SP 86571 99774).
Whissendine: Grange Farm, Horton's Lane (SK 83091400), by Archaeological Building Recording Services.

III – Archive, Museum and Society Reports for 2016

*Note: Records under 100 years old containing personal information may be subject to access restrictions.
Please contact the appropriate Record Office for further information or advice on specific items or collections.*

Lincolnshire Archives

Lincolnshire Archives, St Rumbold Street, Lincoln, LN2 5AB.
Tel: (01522) 782040. Fax: (01522) 530047.
Website: www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/archives.
E-mail: lincolnshire.archives@lincolnshire.gov.uk.
Please check opening hours and search room reader ticket and

booking systems before making a journey.
Opening times: Tues-Sat: 10am to 4pm; closed on bank holidays and at Christmas and New Year.
Latest time for requesting original documents on the same day is 1½ hours before closing time or 12 noon on Saturdays.

Rutland Accessions 2016

Stamford and Rutland Methodist Circuit:
Circuit Youth Council minute book 1956-1977.
Reminiscences of a Local Preacher, by Percy Smithson, 1989-1990.
Ryhall Methodist Church Trust and Church Council minute book 1958-2011; property papers 1992-2002.

Ketton Methodist Church Council minute and property papers 1982-2002.
Uppingham Methodist Church: Trust account book 1965-93; Church Council minute book 1974-91; Trust minute book 1968-75; quotation for organ work 1971.

Adrian Wilkinson, Collections Access Officer

Northamptonshire Record Office

Northamptonshire Record Office, Wootton Hall Park,
Northampton, NN4 8BQ.
Tel: (01604) 362513.
Website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/heritage.

E-mail: archivist@northamptonshire.gov.uk.
Opening times: Tues, Wed, Thurs: 9am to 5 pm; first Saturday in month only: Apr-Oct 9am to 4 pm, Nov-Mar 9 am to 12.30 pm.

No new accessions relating to Rutland were acquired during 2016-17.

Record Office for Leicestershire, Leicester & Rutland

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

Email: recordoffice@leics.gov.uk.
Opening times:
Mon, Tues, Thurs: 9.15am to 5pm;
Wed: 9.15am to 7.30pm; Sat: 9.15am to 12.15pm.

This has been a busy and significant year for the Record Office in terms of its work for Rutland. The collection, conservation and dissemination of the county's records has continued apace (as it always does) but additionally the Record Office has taken on training of Rutland County Council staff and taken in probably its most significant single deposit, in the form of Rutland County Council records, since the receipt of the papers of the Noels of Exton.

Training

At the end of the year Jenny Moran, Senior Archivist

(Access and Information) delivered two training sessions to County Council staff on redaction and release of sensitive information to Rutland County Council staff. This may have been every bit as exciting as it sounds, but compliance with the Data Protection Act (1998) is dear to the hearts of everyone who keeps personal data. Not only can the Information Commissioner impose heavy fines, but the inappropriate release of sensitive data can cause great distress and even destroy lives. It is therefore vital that skills be honed and knowledge kept up to date. Such advice is available from the Record Office for any group which would

benefit from training on data protection, freedom of information, copyright law or record-keeping in general. The training also facilitated the deposit of the large and significant collection of local government records described below.

Outreach

The most significant piece of outreach news is that the Rutland parish registers and wills are now online as part of the project with Find My Past. This project has taken two years to complete and now 3.5 million names in the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland records are now searchable and have attached images. The resource can be viewed free of charge at the Record Office, as well as throughout Leicestershire and Rutland libraries. Happy hunting!

We have also been making more of our social media and using our Twitter feed for promotional purposes and to highlight local and national events. This has been very successful and our re-creation of the battle of Jutland (concentrating on local participants) in live tweets generated over 18,000 impressions. We have also been diligently promoting Rutland events such as the 20th anniversary of the local government changes. We highlighted one of our earliest Rutland documents as well as re-tweeting the events in Oakham. The Record Office may readily be followed: our Twitter 'handle' is @RecordOffice – but any on-line search will find us.

Conservation

This year, in addition to the general preservation work and superintendence of archival storage carried out by the Record Office Conservator, a total of 45 Rutland items received specific conservation treatment. The bulk of these were from the papers of the Noel Family of Exton. Several large items were also encapsulated. The extensive records received from the Rutland County Council are still receiving treatment to repair minor damage, to remove dust and provide suitable packaging for long-term storage and preservation.

Records received

This was truly a bumper year for Rutland accessions. The receipt of a significant consignment of its own records from the Rutland County Council would alone have exceeded, in terms of bulk as well as significance, all the deposits for the last decade or more. The Council Minutes alone numbered some 379 volumes, let alone six cartons of electoral registers (the absence of which at the Record Office has long been a source of disappointment and frustration for both users and staff) as well as many volumes of cemetery and other records which are still being sorted and conserved at the time of writing.

Rutland Accessions 2015

- DE9122: Records from the Stocken Hall Estate and Home Farm, Stretton, 1907-40.
- DE9132: Leicester & Oakham photographs & ephemera, 1900-2000s.
- DE9152: Records of Barrowden Parish Council, 1890-1992.

University of Leicester Library Special Collections

University of Leicester Library, PO Box 248, University Road, Leicester, LE1 9QD
Tel: 0116 252 2056.

No new accessions relating to Rutland were acquired during 2016-17.

- DE9157: Records for the Melton Mowbray Methodist Circuit, including Place of Religious Worship Certificates for Ashwell, Cottesmore, Lyddington, Wing, as well as South Croxton and Wymondham in Leicestershire; Ashwell Methodist Church extension papers, 1965-72; Wing Wesleyan Methodist Church chapel accounts, 1841-1948, baptisms 1948-88, trustees' and leaders' minutes, 1949-85, 1986-89 and trustees accounts, 1841-1924.
- DE9158: Records of Leicester Diocesan and Uppingham Archdeacon Johnson's Charities, 1938 and 1955.
- DE9185: NADFAS report on Whitwell Parish Church: with plans, photographs &c, on the memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, library, windows &c, at the parish church of St Michael & All Angels, 2016.
- DE9194: Leicestershire & Rutland High Sheriffs', Bailiffs' & JPs' Allegiance and Judicial Oaths, 1997-2016.
- DE9199: Innocent family of Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland portrait & other photographs, late 19th and early 20thC.
- DE9216: Leicester and Loughborough Water Schemes and Empingham Reservoir Plans; including Welland & Nene (Empingham Reservoir) and Mid-Northants Water plans and sections, including OS plans, Nov 1968.
- DE9266: Notebook of the Rev C C Aldred, Rector of Uppingham, concerning church plate, records, churchwardens, &c, and letter from James M F Fletcher, Librarian at Salisbury Cathedral, concerning the education of the Rev John Giles Dimock (whose MA was omitted from the list of rectors at Uppingham), 1938.
- DE9264: Uppingham Baker's Apprenticeship, Correspondence, etc., including apprenticeship indenture of William Snodin with William Innocent, miller and baker, 23th Feb 1846; notes from Joseph W Y Thorpe, of Uppingham, butcher, to Pte F W Snodin, 3rd Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, concerning keeping open his job until his discharge, 31st Oct 1918–28th July 1919; licences to slaughter animals of F W Snodin of Uppingham, 1936-37; and a bundle of miscellaneous receipted bills for variety of goods including a coffin, bicycle equipment &c, 1912-1940s.
- DE9309: HM Coroner (for North Leicestershire and Rutland) Register of Deaths Reported, listing full particulars of the deceased, with cause of death and verdict at the inquest (if held), 1953-74.
- DE9315: Cash book of John or William Seaton, of Egleton, grocer, and of George Seaton, carpenter and undertaker, recording daily sales of soap, groceries, &c, in 1852; reused from 1864-69 to record work on church roofs, manufacture of coffins, &c. Partially covered with cuttings of poetry and associated pictures from newspapers. With interleaved ephemera (including a calendar for 1892), spellings lists, &c.
- DE9326: Rutland District Council and County Council Records; including Minutes of Council, sub-committees and cabinet, 1973-2010. With electoral registers from 1945, cemetery records, &c.
- DE9329: Copybook, exercise and notebook of Thomas Harrison, of Clipsham. The volume contains the couplet: 'His my name and England is nation Clipsham His my dwelling place and Christ is my Salvation' and many mathematical exercises linked to trade, 1766 & 1804.

Jenny Moran & Robin P Jenkins, Senior Archivists

Website: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/library/find/specialcollections>.
E-mail: specialcollections@le.ac.uk.
Opening times: Mon to Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm.

University of Nottingham Manuscripts & Special Collections

King's Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham, NG7 2NR.
Tel: (0115) 9514565 Fax: (0115) 8468651
Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss.

E-mail mss-library@nottingham.ac.uk.
Opening times: Mon to Thurs 9am to 6pm, Fri 9am to 5pm.

No new accessions relating to Rutland were acquired during 2016-17.

Belton History Society

Website: beltoninrutland.co.uk

Perhaps the main thrust of the society's activities during the past year has been to continue photographing archives relating to Belton, and to that end visits have been made to the National Archives and to record offices at Leicester, Northampton, and Lincoln. Steady progress continues to be made in transcribing the photographed documents with the aim of putting them online in the future.

The Society promoted a talk by Debbie Frearson and Elaine Jones of the RLHRS Archaeological Team about their field-walking survey in Ridlington Park and adjoining areas. Many archaeological specimens were provided for the audience to handle, inspect, and discuss.

During the summer a further cruise was taken on the river Nene and as last year the weather was again near

Contact: secretary@beltonhistorysociety.org.uk

perfect for our guided tour of Fotheringhay church followed by a picnic on the river bank. Thanks to all who contributed to this enjoyable evening, especially Matt Wyatt for making his boat available.

Following Audrey Walker's article in *Journal 6* about the Rudkin family and their emigration to America from Belton more than a century ago we were very pleased to receive a visit from Terry and Rita Rudkin from California. The latter still live on and work the same farm where their ancestors originally settled, growing citrus fruits, avocados and other crops. It is planned that the society will publish *Journal 7* during 2017 and several varied articles are in course of preparation.

Ian Broughton, Chairman

Cottesmore History and Archaeology Group

Website: thelivingvillage.co.uk

The group was formed some 8–10 years ago with about 12 to 15 members. From initially just a talking shop developed an annual programme, the first element of which was to produce the Cottesmore Round, a leaflet taking a walk around the village highlights and its 27 listed buildings.

The second project (financed by the HLF) was more ambitious, to describe how the village has developed since the middle of the 19th century. This covered buildings, people, trades, communications and WW1. The outputs were a website, thelivingvillage.co.uk, plus a number of publications about the people, the buildings and farming. One notable person highlighted was Janet Erskine Stuart, daughter of the Rector, who became the world-wide head of the Sacred Heart religious order.

Our latest project, 'How Old Is Cottesmore?', also financed by the HLF, has just been completed and is a more detailed study of the village going back to the 17th century.

Contact: Chris Whitton, tel: (01572) 812016

The idea was to choose 8–10 buildings in the village, attempt to date them more accurately, and look at their social and economic uses. To this end we chose a range of buildings to encompass the breadth of the village. We chose two farms, four workmen's cottages and two grander houses. We also included St Nicholas's church although there was a good history already available.

Sources of information have included the Exton Papers at ROLLR, a Treasury Valuations survey at The National Archives, and dendrochronology work. The outputs include a book on these properties, an exhibition and a video. An exhibition and presentation of our findings including a launch of the video in the village hall were planned for July 2017, as also was a visit to Cottesmore in September by the RLHRS. New members are welcome.

Chris Whitton

Langham Village History Group

Website & contact: www.langhaminrutland.org.uk

Our year began with research for the exhibition at Rutland County Museum entitled Life in Langham 1914–1919 which was scheduled for May/June. The initial doubts, expressed by some members, that sufficient material would be found for the planned fifty information boards, proved unfounded as sixty-three boards were completed. The boards, along with artefacts and 'comforts for the troops' knitted from original patterns, easily filled the Museum's exhibition area.

We were fortunate in having in our archive a number of childhood memories of the era, including a detailed account of a family who bought a small-holding in Langham at the outbreak of the conflict. Letters, cards and a diary which brought together the lives of three neighbours added another truly personal note, especially as the dress worn by the writer

to wed her sweetheart, on leave from the Front, had been lovingly preserved. The School Log Books, Parish Council Minutes and local press reports were invaluable.

The local reporter for the *Grantham Journal* at the time was Dick Baker (grandson of Richard Westbrook Baker) who chronicled village life from the normal social activities to the various fund-raising events in support of the troops and of the Belgian refugees. Having himself served in the Boer War, the reports of Langham's casualties and the subsequent memorial services were particularly poignant. Dick kept all his press cuttings in a scrapbook with a note of his payment for each one.

Opened by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Col Robert Boyle, and attended by the High Sheriff of Rutland, Dr Sarah

Furness, Councillor Adam Lowe (in appropriate military uniform), and other invited guests, the exhibition formed part of the Lord Lieutenant's Commemoration of WWI.

Casterton College made good use of the display boards, after the event, for a student project and we were also pleased to be able to assist Langham Primary School pupils with their researches into World War II. The life of Langham's evacuees is well documented on our website and, in addition, we were able to provide eye-witness accounts of life during the Blitz.

The summer was marked by the death of Ken Grimmer, a keen member of our group, who is sadly missed.

Mainly due to our website, we continue to welcome visitors seeking their ancestors and to give help and guidance

whenever possible.

Members continue their general and personal research, share their findings at our meetings, and add data to our archive and website. During the year, we have learned about; the Cheseldyne family, Langham's mills and millers, local maternity services, lace schools, cattle plague and the restoration of the church.

Our entry for Langham's Christmas Tree Festival was our own version of 'Horrible Histories', seeking out the more bizarre and unusual events from our archive.

The year ended with the decision to take part in the East Midlands Branch of the Council for British Archaeology Parish Boundaries Project.

Gillian Frisby, Secretary

Lyddington Manor History Society

Website: www.lyddingtonhistory.org.uk

Contact: info@lyddingtonhistory.org.uk

Talks are usually held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7.30 pm in Lyddington Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

No report has been received since the completion of the Lyddington Manor project (see under Section II above).

Rutland County Museums Service & Local Studies Library

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

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

Websites: www.rutland.gov.uk/museum; .../familyhistory, .../castle.

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

Opening times:

Rutland County Museum: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 10am to 4pm;

Oakham Castle: Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am to 4pm.

Closed at Christmas, New Year and on Good Friday.

Oakham Library, Catmose Street, Oakham, LE15 6HW.

Tel: (01572) 722918. Fax: (01572) 724906.

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

Email: libraries@rutland.gov.uk; history@rutland.gov.uk.

Opening times: Mon-Fri: 9.30am to 5pm; Sat: 9.30am to 4pm.

Displays and Exhibitions

The Museum's regular programme of exhibitions continued through to December 2016. From 21st December, due to extensive maintenance works at Oakham Library, the exhibitions area, the Col Noel suite, and part of the Riding School were occupied by public library facilities, including adult fiction, children's books, and an ICT suite. Although this has temporarily reduced the space available for Museum purposes, we have benefitted from an increase in footfall; a trend which we hope will be sustained when the library moves out again in the late summer of 2017. The following exhibitions were staged:

7th May–11th June: Life in Langham 1914-18 (Langham Village History Group).

20th June–27th June: Rutland CAMRA Beer Festival.

9th July–Sat 1st October: 1966 and All That – Football, Fashion, Politics & Pop (Rutland County Museum).

15th October–17th December: Oakham and Melton Canal (Melton & Oakham Waterways Society).

(20BC–AD10), Roman denarius of Septimius Severus

(AD194–195), sixpence of Elizabeth I (AD1575). Purchased by Friends of Museum.

Also, the 4th century Roman mosaic from Thistleton, found during excavations on the villa site during the 1960s has been purchased from Tata Steel, and is currently undergoing conservation.

Collections

Work has continued on a collection review of both the main hall store and the South Street archaeology store. The stores have been re-organised and work continued on consolidating inventory information.

Work started on the Oakham School collection of archaeological material. This collection is being condition surveyed, photographed, and records updated and prioritised for conservation work.

Education and Learning

The Intern Project funded by Arts Council England successfully concluded with all three interns gaining employment in the museum sector.

The outreach provision has continued to be developed. This has included reminiscence sessions at Oakham Hospital, Age UK, VAR and Rutland Reminders. A First World War display consisting of artefacts and interpretation panels also toured around local libraries and a display was created for Oakham Hospital using photographs from the collection.

Although the reduced space has affected the learning programme, a range of school learning sessions for reception, KS1 and KS2 pupils has continued to be provided. 625

Acquisitions

Notable acquisitions to the Museum have been:

2016.25: Post-medieval gold finger ring. Believed to be late 16th to early 17th century. Found near Ridlington. Purchased by Friends of Museum through Treasure.

2016.7: Coloured print 'The South East View of Okeham Castle'.

2016.8: Pen and ink drawing by Frederic W Woodhouse 'Oakham. Lane to Castle Gate'.

2016.20: English silver pocket watch, c1895, from Charles Payne, Clockmaker and Watchmaker, Oakham.

2017.8: Iron Age gold stater (20BC–AD10), Iron Age silver unit

pupils and teachers took part in workshops during 2016/17.

The popular holiday craft sessions for families have also continued with 1,500 participants in 2016/17.

Oakham Castle

Following the completion of the main stage of Heritage Lottery funded works, public interest in the site and activity programme has boosted visits to over 41,000 in 2016-17, our highest number of visits since Rutland's return to county status in 1997. The Castle has continued to be a centrepiece for civic events, including the 20th Anniversary celebrations of Rutland's independence, which featured music and dance in the Castle, and a grand firework display finale. Throughout the works, the University of Leicester Archaeology Service has supervised excavations, and their full report on the works is expected to be published later this year. Archaeologist Leon Hunt delivered a talk on the recent investigations at the Castle as part of the Festival of Archaeology on 17th July.

Rutland Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Contact information:

Email: rhcptrust@googlemail.com.

Website: www.rhcpt.co.uk.

The Trust exists to provide financial assistance to all churches and chapels within the County of Rutland, whenever they may need help for conservation and maintenance. All of these places of worship, fine buildings, have been inherited by our generation to use and to care for, and to pass on to the next generation, diligently preserved, as we have received them.

Our new income for this year has come from kind and generous donations from the Rutland Parochial Church Councils of Belton, Stoke Dry and Tixover, to all of whom we acknowledge our sincere thanks. In addition we received donations from eight individuals including a most generous gift from the designer of our local calendar. To all of these supporters we extend our sincere thanks.

The Finance Sub-Committee continues to keep our Reserves and Investment Policy closely under review. In response to the continuing climate of very low interest rates for cash investments the Trustees are cautiously developing a policy of increasing the proportion of our investments which are held in the COIF range of recommended equity funds suitable for Charities, and at the same time we are exploring opportunities to harvest a small proportion of these funds annually in order to increase our grant giving capacity whilst, at the same time, inflation-proofing our investments over the long term.

During the past financial year the Trust has paid grants totalling £30,000 to Oakham Meeting House, Whitwell, Eggleton, Lyddington, Thistleton and Ashwell. Previously approved grants which have not yet been paid because work is still in progress amount to a further £21,500, most of which is likely to be paid out during the coming financial year.

Wardley Church, which was vested with the Churches Conservation Trust in April 2016, is now undergoing restoration and conservation. The nave roof re-covering is nearing completion and the chancel has been re-roofed in Collyweston slate. Alarms have been fitted. Our Trust is very grateful for the excellent work of the Churches Conservation

Rutland County Libraries Local Studies Service

Rutland Library Service continues to offer a Local Studies Collection and children's local studies collection at all branch libraries and Rutland County Museum. The library has been operating from Rutland County Museum during essential maintenance work at Oakham Library. The service experiences a steady demand in terms of local studies and family history enquiries from within the UK and abroad, with access to Ancestry Library Edition being our most popular database. The libraries volunteer-led Family History IT training sessions continue to be over-subscribed.

Partnership work with the Record Office for Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

The Service works closely with the Record Office particularly with the scanning of Rutland newspapers onto film. This year saw the microfilming of the *Rutland Times*.

Robert Clayton

Registered Charity No 211068.

Give As You Earn Reg No 000101080.

Inland Revenue Identification No NAK 60 JG.

Trust in our County.

We wish to record our sincere gratitude to Lady Kennedy who has served as a Trustee since 2002 with special responsibility for the Uppingham Benefice Churches. Her constant and active support and counsel will be greatly missed, as she proposes to retire from the Trust at our 2017 AGM. Responsibility for her churches will be passing to Sue Thomas, who was appointed to the Trustees in June 2016 and to whom we now offer a very warm welcome.

We also warmly welcome, as a new Trustee, Pat Morley, who joined the Trust in November 2016. Pat has a well-known record of public service in Rutland and we look forward very much to working with her.

Preparations are now well under way for the Ride & Stride sponsored fundraising event for our Trust on Saturday 9th September 2017. This is our main fund-raising event of the year and takes place in Rutland every other year. In 2015 over £20,000 was raised, half of which was returned to the PCCs nominated by the participants. So our endeavour for 2017 will be to exceed that figure. This year, the Ride & Stride website has the benefit of a new Facebook link which will be updated with news as the date for the Ride & Stride approaches, and will also enable participants to communicate with Trustees and the R & S organising team.

As and when their Church Quinquennial Reports are issued we are encouraging parochial church councils to contact us for financial help, if they need it, so that they may complete the recommended work promptly, thus avoiding any unnecessary deterioration to their church fabric.

The Trustees wish to take this public opportunity of thanking all of our supporters, sponsors and donors for all they have contributed during the past year. During the coming year, as in the past, we confidently look forward to receiving the continuing favour of our benefactors, and to providing all necessary support to our beautiful Rutland churches.

Clifford Bacon, Honorary Secretary

Rutland Local History & Record Society

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

As Chair, I am again grateful for the expert efforts of the Executive Committee in ensuring the smooth running of the Society. Our remit to promote research and publish the results was achieved this year through the publication of *Rutland Record* 36 with articles on Isaack Symmes' 17th century Ridlington sundial; Belton (Rutland) and the medieval Blount family; Vale of Catmose villages in the 18th century; and finally the report on the rare Neolithic jade axe from Martinthorpe. The publication also contains data recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Rutland and the History and Archaeology reports for 2015, from projects carried out by commercial and community archaeologists, as well as local museum, record office and society reports. As always we also published a *Newsletter*, prepared by Robert Ovens, providing a means of engaging members and the public with short research projects, book reviews and information which is not included in the *Rutland Record*. We had a second print run of *John Barber's Oakham Castle and its Archaeology*, which tied in with the successful re-opening of the Castle in May 2016 after the extensive Heritage Lottery funded restoration project. As our publications go out of print these are being made freely available on our website, notably this year the *Heritage of Rutland Water*. Thanks indeed should go to the committee members who arranged for this resource to be viewed digitally.

The high standard of web presence continues as we promote the heritage of the county and provide an umbrella hosting service for local interest groups. This facility is not a static resource: it is constantly being added to and further refined, and we remain abreast of technology as it advances.

This year we took ownership of an archive from the Stamford Historical Society which was being curated temporarily by the Stamford Mercury Archive Trust. Not only were there local books within this library, but 'various papers'. 'Various papers' turned out to be a Rutland historian's dream resource. There are photograph albums from the early 20th century, one showing the demolition of the Stamford castle bailey, another with brass church plaques which no longer are in situ. Other documents include scrap books, which contain 17th century papers. There are surveys of Oakham Castle, and of various Rutland Roman sites drawn in the 1850s. Included in the papers are field notes from V B Crowther-Beynon, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, who carried out various archaeological projects in Rutland. The documents are being catalogued and recorded at Rutland County Museum before being transferred to the appropriate archive facility. We are very grateful to Philippa Massey as custodian who offered these to the society.

The subjects of our public lectures, meetings and events remain diverse. This year our earliest era was the Romans in Rutland, while the more modern day covered the Suffragettes which focused on Leicestershire including Rutland. All of our lectures remain extremely well attended and receive publicity through a variety of media. The village visit in September was to Morcott. We were grateful to receive help from Tricia Williams and our newest committee member Tony Martin; their archive of the village was so extensive we could have held a permanent exhibition.

Elaine Jones continues to co-ordinate our active archaeology team, which has increased in numbers over the year. We are continuing to survey the fields of Ridlington,

Website: www.rutlandhistory.org.

Email: enquiries@rutlandhistory.org.

but were disappointed to learn of a development which destroyed part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument there.

The George Phillips and Tony Traylen awards ceremony took place in January, thankfully without the usual snow. The newly restored Castle and its adjoining rooms proved to be an excellent venue. Our thanks to the committee members involved and the Rutland County Council team without whose recommendations and coordination of the judging the process would be untenable.

The Society monitors planning applications and where appropriate we advise and assist the authorities with our resources to ensure that the preservation and conservation of buildings and the landscape is to the best standard available. We were advised by Elizabeth Bryan, our committee member who was the former Buildings and Conservation officer at RCC, that the role of Conservation Officer was now being fulfilled by a part time person from outside the county. This 'salami slicing' of heritage resources in the built environment is of concern to the Society, because the historic buildings of Rutland are very significant for the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of the county. Without an adequate resource there is a risk that this could result in lack of protection for sites and places during development. When Rutland achieved its present county status, the then English Heritage was adamant that a conservation officer should be in post.

Committee members who continue to provide a valuable service to the Society are; Edward Baines, Tim Clough, Mike Frisby, Robert Ovens, Carole Bancroft-Turner, Audrey Buxton, Paul Reeve, David Carlin, Robert Clayton, Hilary Crowden, Michael Hinman, Jill Kimber, Ian Ryder, Lin Ryder, Tony Martin and Elizabeth Bryan.

Through the professionalism and commitment of the volunteers on the Committee and the support of the members, the Society continues to be one of the most active and public-engaging in the region.

Debbie Frearson

Website

The Society's web presence still attracts a wide variety of visitors and users of its data. Behind the scenes, site development continues but, intentionally, the main look and feel of the site remains the same.

A decision to store more of its data securely in a digital format and to make these data readily available for use whilst negating the need for more physical space, has required a review of reliable, cost effective and easy to use solutions. Some material is available via our website and some on request.

As postal costs increase, the use of web and email becomes ever more cost effective. Postage and packaging costs often outweigh the value of the material being sent. However, we must appreciate that many members still very much value printed information and there are a few who do not have a computer or smart device.

Mike Frisby, Webmaster

Acknowledgements

Our Society can boast one of the best archaeological field walking teams ever! Linda Dalby, Iain and Marion Drake, Debbie Frearson, Jane Greenhalgh, Jo Holroyd, Elaine Jones, Jill Kimber, Jasmine Knew, Andrew Mills and Liz Saunders

walked the 2016 season. The farmers and land-owners Mr Trevor Howkins of Parker Farms and Mrs Moubay and Mr

John Turner kindly permitted our 'exploration' of their land.
Elaine Jones

Uppingham Local History Study Group

Website & contact: www.uppinghamhistory.org.uk.

The group, which has over 20 members led by Vivian Anthony, meets on the first Monday of the month, apart from January, in the Taylor House Common Room, St John and St Anne Almshouses, Johnson Road, Uppingham. We welcome new members and visitors to a full programme for 2017.

2016 began with a talk by member Lawrence Fenelon on the Development of the Railways in and around Uppingham. In March we had a members' evening: Sarah Ross spoke about the history of her home, Deva House on the High Street – parts of the original building date to the 1600s; Helen Hutton told members about her study of the Log Books from the National School on the corner of Spring Back Way and London Road; Margaret Stacey read from the memoirs of Norah Stocks who went to school in Uppingham – she left school at 14 and went on to be a land girl at the age of 17; Anne Mayo detailed her research into the early settlers who went out to South Africa in 1819; The evening concluded with Ros Anthony telling the group about her research into her own family history.

Dr Ian Ryder spoke to our April meeting about common fields and their enclosure, the subject of his RLHRS

publication *Common Right and Private Interest*. In May we welcomed back the founder of ULHSG, Professor Alan Rogers. Alan's talk was on Village Crafts & Industries on the eve of the Reformation. In June Peter Lawson, a former High Sheriff of Rutland, told us about the 'Derivation of the Role of High Sheriff and Current Practice in Rutland. In July we had a talk by Malcolm Tozer, author of *The Ideal of Manliness: The Legacy of Thring's Uppingham*, on 'The Magnetism of Edward Thring'.

In August we had a guided tour of the Bede House at Lyddington, and in September Robert Ovens gave an illustrated talk on lost buildings of Rutland. In October Mike Frisby spoke to us about the village of Langham during the First World War. Margaret Stacey, who has researched Nonconformity in 19th century Uppingham, was our speaker in November. Finally, Nigel Richardson spoke to the group in December about the typhoid outbreaks in Uppingham town and public school for two years from June 1875.

Synopses of these talks are available in the Group's full annual report.

Helen Hutton, Secretary

IV – Rutland Bibliography 2015–2017

A bibliography of books and pamphlets relating to Rutland, compiled by Emily Barwell

- Anthony, Vivian, *History of Uppingham: a principal town of Rutland by 1800* (Uppingham Local History Study Group, 2015, £15.95).
- Beardmore, Andrew, *Leicestershire and Rutland: unusual & quirky* (Wellington: Halsgrove, 2016, £19.99, ISBN 9780857042743).
- Canadine, Rosemary; Doe, Vanessa; Hill, Nick; Ovens, Robert; & Thornton, Christopher P, *Buildings and people of a Rutland Manor: Lyddington, Caldecott, Stoke Dry and Thorpe by Water* (Lyddington: Lyddington Manor History Society, 2015, ISBN 9780993482106).
- Chase, Ella March, *The Queen's Dwarf* (New York: St Martin's Griffin, 2015, £11.99, ISBN 9781250061362) [historical fiction featuring Jeffrey Hudson].
- Clough, T H McK, *Oakham Lordship in 1787: a map and survey of Lord Winchilsea's Oakham estate* (Rutland Local History & Record Society Occasional Publication **12**, 2016, £10.00, ISBN 9780907464556).
- Dickinson, George, *Sims family genealogy: compiled by George Dickinson, Anne Maden and Derrick Sims*.
- Fraser, Ian, *A list of immigrants to Australia from the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland in the years 1840 to 1867* (2016, plastic ring bound).
- Harrop, Andrew, *Rutland Butterfly Atlas 2013-2016* (Syston: Book Printing Online, 2017, £12.00, ISBN 9781910181393).
- Manners, Emma, & Pruden, Jane, *Capability Brown & Belvoir: discovering a lost landscape* (Nick McCann Associates, 2015, £35, ISBN 9780951689165).
- Mason, Joseph, *Froggy Meadow: a quiet tongue* (Hunstanton: K J Mason, 2016, ISBN 9780956820013) [local author].
- Nason, Mike, *The Empingham Poachers: three brothers one hanged at Oakham two sentenced to transportation for a crime in Empingham Old Wood, 1833* (Empingham: Mike Nason, 2014, £5.00).
- Ovens, Robert, *Rutland Record: index of numbers 21-30 (2001-2010)* (Oakham: Rutland Local History & Record Society, 2015, ISBN 9780907464549).
- Rutland Natural History Society, *50th Annual Report – 2014* (Rutland Natural History Society, 2015).
- Rutland Record 35: Journal of the Rutland Local History & Record Society* (Oakham: Rutland Local History & Record Society, 2015, ISBN 9780907464532).
- Rutland Record 36: Journal of the Rutland Local History & Record Society* (Oakham: Rutland Local History & Record Society, 2016, ISBN 9780907464563).
- Stebbing, Will, *Tess of the Dormobiles* (Create Space, 2015, ISBN 9781515235057) [local author].
- Thompson, Ian, *Victorian Church Restoration* (Scunthorpe: Bluestone Books, 2017, £6.00, ISBN 9780993150968) [contains entries on St John the Baptist, North Luffenham].
- Tozer, Malcolm, *The ideal of manliness: the legacy of Thring's Uppingham* (Truro: Sunnyrest Books, 2015, ISBN 9781329542730).
- Webster, Bob, *Memories of a Cold War Boy* (Ketton: Bob Webster, 2015, no ISBN) [Ketton author].

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700273

The Society's printed publications, with their main contents, are currently available (October 2017) as follows:

Rutland Record

Rutland Record 18 (£1.00). Earthworks at Belton-in-Rutland; Peter de Neville; Oakham gallows; Buckingham's house at Burley

Rutland Record 19 (£1.00). Anne Barker; Exton and Noel family; 14th century; Rutland bacon; Emigrants to Australia

Rutland Record 20 (£1.00). Rutland castles; Medieval site at Barrowden; Mompesson and Rutland inns; George Phillips

Rutland Record 21 (£1.00). Mary Barker letters; Anton Kammel, musician; Uppingham School and Borth, 1875-77

Rutland Record 22 (£1.00). Religious Census of Rutland 1851 (pt 1); Exton churchyard

Rutland Record 23 (£1.00). Tinwell Roman coins; Ridlington Park; Lord Ranksborough; *Notitia Parochialis* 1705; annual reports

Rutland Record 24 (£1.00). Medieval wool trade; Ketton quarries; Religious Census 1851 (pt 2); annual reports

Rutland Record 25 - *Rutland in Print: a bibliography of England's smallest county* (£1.00) by J D Bennett: full bibliography to 2005, subject index, index of publishers

Rutland Record 26 (£1.00). Rutland and the Gunpowder Plot; Uppingham's typhoid outbreak; Rutlanders in the 1851 Census; annual reports

Rutland Record 27 (£1.00). Rutland Militia; Railways in Rutland; Hunters & gatherers of Uppingham Plateau; annual reports

Rutland Record 28 (£1.00). Late 15th century wills; Lady Charlotte Finch; Thos Hotchkin of Tixover; shorter notes; annual reports

Rutland Record 29 (£1.00). Victorian clerical incumbents; The Ven T K Bonney; Martinthorpe House; annual reports

Rutland Record 30 (£1.00). Haringtons of Exton; Vincent Wing; Robert Gouger; annual reports

Rutland Record 31 (£4.50, members £3.50) Medieval woodlands; Education in Victorian Rutland; annual reports

Rutland Record 32 (£4.50, members £3.50) Ice Age at Glaston; Fox Talbot and Rutland; Oakham's masters and ushers; Mid-Victorian Uppingham School; annual reports

Rutland Record 33 (£4.50, members £3.50) George Villiers & Katherine Manners; Early Victorian Rutland; Wilkershaw Cowpasture; *Time Team* at Oakham Castle; annual reports

Rutland Record 34 (£4.50, members £3.50) Early Market Overton; Leighfield Forest in the 16th & 17th centuries; Rutland resources at Leicester University Library; annual reports

Rutland Record 35 (£4.50, members £3.50) Preston Manor House; Witch bottle from Exton; Population in Rutland 1851-1911; Lost public houses; annual reports

Rutland Record 36 (£4.50, members £3.50) Isaack Symmes & Ridlington sundial; Belton & the Blount family; 18th century Vale of Catmose villages; Jadeitite axe from Martinthorpe; Portable Antiquities Scheme; annual reports

Indexes: Rutland Record 1-10 (by John Field) (1994) (£1.00);

11-20 (by Robert Ovens) (2011) (£1.00);

21-30 (by Robert Ovens) (2015) (£4.00, members £3.00)

Issues of Rutland Record not mentioned above are out of print:

Nos 1-5 and 8-10 can be consulted freely on the Society's website.

Rutland Record Series

1. *Tudor Rutland: The County Community under Henry VIII* ed Julian Cornwall (1980). The Military Survey of 1522 & the Lay Subsidy of 1524, with introduction (OP)

2. *The Weather Journals of a Rutland Squire* ed John Kington (1988). Thomas Barker's 18th century weather, farming and countryside records, with introduction (OP)

3. *Stained Glass in Rutland Churches* by Paul Sharpling (1997). Complete survey & gazetteer; introduction; lists of glaziers, subjects, dedicatees, donors, heraldry (OP)

4. *Time in Rutland: a history and gazetteer of the bells, scratch dials, sundials and clocks of Rutland*, by Robert Ovens & Sheila Sleath (2002). Definitive account of dials, clocks and bells of Rutland (OP)

5. *The Heritage of Rutland Water* ed Robert Ovens & Sheila Sleath (2nd rev imp 2008). History, archaeology, people, buildings, landscape, geology, natural history of Rutland Water area; sailing, fishing, flora, birds, fauna (OP, can be read on the Society's website)

Occasional Publications

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

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

3. *The Rutland Hearth Tax 1665* ed Jill Bourn & Amanda Goode (1991). Introduction and transcript (OP)

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

5. *Lyndon, Rutland* by Charles Mayhew (1999). Guide to the village and church (OP)

6. *The History of the Hospital of St John the Evangelist & St Anne in Okeham* by David Parkin (2000). The 600-year old charity: history, chapel, trustees and beneficiaries (OP)

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