

# THE Nottinghamshire HISTORIAN

No. 103, Autumn/Winter 2019



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

# THE Nottinghamshire HISTORIAN



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## Nottinghamshire Local History Association

The Association was formed in 1953 to bring together organisations and individuals interested in all aspects of local history in the county. Meetings are held twice a year in the form of a seminar or one-day school and members are charged preferential rates.

The Association publishes The Nottinghamshire Historian twice a year and members receive a copy of each issue, the price being included in the annual subscription.

Membership of the Association is open to everyone. Details of membership can be obtained from our website or by email from: [treasurer@nlha.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@nlha.org.uk)

The cover image is Hilda Butsova (née Boot) by Bassano Ltd., whole-plate glass negative, 13 September 1923 NPG x26643 © National Portrait Gallery, London

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**A bi-annual magazine of news, views  
and articles concerning  
Nottinghamshire local history and  
conservation**

# Editorial

Welcome to our latest edition of the Nottinghamshire Historian. After a short absence, I am delighted to return as editor and hope that you will continue to enjoy and celebrate the amazing history that our county has to offer.

We have a fabulous poem from our poet in residence Di Slaney and I have introduced a small selling section for those of you who have Nottinghamshire based items to sell, we also take a look at some useful internet websites for the history researchers out there.

Howard Parker has contributed a detailed record of the members of the prominent Forman family and John Parker

tells the story of a young dancer from Nottingham with humble beginnings who became a prodigy of the famous ballerina Anna Pavlova. Living in Brooklyn at the height of the gangster era, Hilda eventually started her own dance school.

Finally, if you enjoy our magazine and would like to contribute, please get in touch with me to discuss details.

If you have any suggestions about articles that you would like to see featured, let us know.

I would be pleased to receive articles, especially from individuals or groups who have not previously gone into print.



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[editor@nlha.org.uk](mailto:editor@nlha.org.uk)

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## **Nottinghamshire Local History Association**

invites you to its Autumn Meeting  
**Historic and Sustainable Transport**  
Saturday 19th October 2019 10-00am - 4-15pm  
at the Village Hall Ravenshead

### **Programme**

George Rogers - The Cromford Canal  
John Vanags - The Mansfield and Pinxton Railway  
Professor Michael Wilkinson - The History of Motor Car Manufacturing  
in Nottinghamshire  
Bob Massey - "A Road by Any Name" - How the Development of Roads  
Through the Ages Changed Society

Fee: £8.00 for NLHA members and £9.00 for non-members  
Please contact David Anderson, 35 Sycamore Road, East Leake, Loughborough LE12 6PP  
or telephone 01509 820067 to secure your place or for more information.  
Attendance is possible without booking, although it is helpful to the Association to know how many are coming.

# The Forman Family History

Howard F. Parker

## Thomas Forman (1819 - 1888)

The 1851 census lists Thomas, 32, as a bookseller and printer in Long Row employing 34 men, his birthplace confirmed as Louth in Lincolnshire. As well as his wife Caroline and young sons John Thomas, Arthur, and Jesse Robert, there were two male live-in assistants and three live-in indoor female servants - already demonstrating the family's prosperity.

More children followed viz Caroline Louisa in 1852 and son James in 1855. By the time of the 1861 census they had a yard named after them for their address was 1 Forman's Yard, Long Row. Thomas, 42, was then listed as a bookseller and printer employing 23 men and 11 apprentices. The youngest two children were still at home, along with two male apprentices and two female domestic servants.

By the 1871 census their address is given as 14 Long Row, Thomas, 52, being described as a newspaper proprietor and general printer employing 55 men, 51 boys and 11 girls - thus making a total of 117. Sons John Thomas, 23 and Arthur, 22, are described as working in their father's business while Jesse Robert, 20, is described as an undergraduate student at an Oxford College. Daughter Caroline, 19, was also still at home, and again living with them were two female domestic servants. Unfortunately daughter Caroline Louisa died of typhoid fever on 15th June 1872 aged 20 years. She was the only daughter of Thomas and Caroline Forman.

By the 1881 census the family had moved to Castle Grove in the Park. Thomas, 62, being listed as a newspaper proprietor and Justice of the Peace. (He was appointed a JP in February 1875). With him and Caroline were sons Arthur, also described as a newspaper proprietor, Jessie likewise and a 'Master of Arts' and James is listed as a salaried clerk and B.A. Two female servants were again living in the household.

Thomas died at their house in Castle Grove on 26th July 1888. His will was proved on 17th January 1889 by all of his sons who were all described as newspaper proprietors and printers. Caroline Forman survived until 1902 when she died aged 81 on 15th May 1902.

## John Thomas Forman (1847 - 1916)

John Thomas was born in Bedford on 24th May 1847, the eldest son of Thomas and Caroline Forman. He continued to live with his parents until his marriage to Jane Elizabeth Brown in Harrow, Middlesex, on 18th May 1872. She was a native of Nottingham, born in 1849, and the daughter of a wine merchant named John Brown. He in turn was a son-in-law of the late Thomas Bailey of Nottingham, a local historian and former proprietor of the Nottingham Mercury newspaper, who had died in 1856.



John Thomas Forman.

John Thomas Forman. Source: Author

The couple went to live in The Park in Nottingham where in 1873 their eldest son Thomas Bailey was born - so no surprise who he was named after! Two daughters followed; Caroline Arundel Jane in 1876 and Dorothea Kate in 1879. All are listed together in the 1881 census by which time they were living in 'White Lodge' in Town Street, Bramcote. At that time John Thomas Forman was listed as a newspaper proprietor and general printer. With them were a 19-year-old governess, a cook and a housemaid.

## Thomas Forman

The founder of the Forman newspaper business, Thomas Forman, was born in Louth in Lincolnshire on 19th January 1819, son of Thomas Forman, miller and baker, and his wife Susan. On leaving school in 1832 he was apprenticed in the printing trade to the firm of Jacksons, a printer and bookseller in Louth Market Place. This would have been completed when he was 21 in 1840, and at the time of the 1841 census he was still living with his parents in Eastgate, Louth, and was working as a bookseller's journeyman, while his younger brother Richard was a bookseller's apprentice. He stayed with the firm until 1846.

At the age of 27 he moved to Bedford where he went into partnership with Thomas Laurence who had a bookshop in the High Street. Shortly after he returned briefly to his native Lincolnshire to marry Caroline Hewison, a farmer's daughter from Harrington, who's birthplace is recorded as Mawthorpe. Caroline was baptised 17th April 1823 in Willoughby, Lin-



colnshire, her father was John, her mother Susannah. The marriage took place by licence (rather than by Banns) at Harrington parish church on 19th March 1846.

They returned to Bedford and set up home above the shop. The following year their first son John Thomas was born on 24th May 1847. In 1848 Thomas Forman decided to sever the partnership with Laurence. The family moved to Nottingham where he took over the business of Beverley Samuel Oliver, a printer, bookseller, stationer, hosiery and glove box manufacturer at 14 Long Row East. Their second son Arthur was born there that same year, followed in 1850 by Jesse Robert.

By the 1891 census they had moved to the very noble address of Colwick Hall (former seat of the Musters family and famously attacked during the Reform riots of 1831). Like his late father John Thomas was listed as a JP as well as being a newspaper proprietor, with wife Jane Elizabeth and all three children still at home listed as scholars.

Living with them were four indoor female servants; a cook, a housemaid, a lady's maid and a kitchen maid. They also employed, a coachman, who lived in a separate house and a farm bailiff who lived in the aptly named 'Forman House.'

Later during the 1890s they moved to Wilford House, which was to become long associated with the Forman family. This was the late home of the Smith family of bankers. Sadly daughter Caroline died there in January 1901 aged 26 years and was buried at Wilford church on 26th. The 1901 census records the rest of the family at Wilford House, along with five indoor servants; a ladies maid, a cook, two housemaids and a kitchen maid.

Dorothea Kate Forman married William Ebenezer Hardy at Wilford parish church on 20th July 1910. He was born on 25th November 1867 in Greasley. At the time of the marriage he was 42 living in Bilborough, Dorothea was 30 living in Wilford. They had two children - Elizabeth Ann born on 28th April 1915 and Thomas E. Forman Hardy, born on 30th August 1919. William Ebenezer Hardy was a Freemason, being initiated into the Duke of Portland Lodge No. 2017 on 22nd January 1891. He died on 4th July 1926 aged 58 years while Dorothea Kate died at her home Little Belvoir on 29th December 1955. Their daughter Elizabeth Ann died on 7th October 1934, aged 19 years, at Ruddington Hall. All were buried in Wilford churchyard.

The 1911 census confirms that John Thomas Forman, 63, and his wife Jane Elizabeth, 59 were still at Wilford House, along with son Thomas Bailey, then 37, still at home and unmarried.

John Thomas Forman died on 15th May 1916 aged 68 years; the probate of his will being granted to his brothers Arthur Forman and James Forman and to his son Thomas Bailey Forman on 9th February 1917. He was buried in Wilford churchyard. His widow Jane Elizabeth died two years later on 28th September 1918, again aged 68 years, and was buried with her husband.

### **Thomas Bailey Forman**

Thomas Bailey Forman, who was the son of John Thomas and Jane Forman, was born 15th November 1873. In 1908 he became the second generation to enter the business as a newspaper proprietor. He did not marry and lived most of his life with his parents.

He died 2nd January 1939 aged 65 years. His death was reg-

istered in Marylebone and he was buried with his parents in Wilford churchyard.

### **Thomas Ebenezer Forman Hardy**

Thomas Ebenezer Forman Hardy born 30th August 1919 was the son of William Ebenezer and Dorothea Kate Hardy. He was therefore the grandson of John Thomas Forman and great-grandson of the founder. The 1939 census lists Thomas, then 20, as a newspaper proprietor living at Ruddington Hall, Loughborough Road together with his mother Dorothea K Hardy (now a widow) and other relations.

Living with them were six indoor servants; a children's nurse, a cook, a chauffeur mechanic, an odd job man, a house boy and a kitchen maid.

Upon the outbreak of war he joined HM forces and rose to the rank of Colonel. Following retirement from the army he returned to the newspaper business to eventually become Chairman of the newspaper group in October 1962.

He married Marjorie Senior Edgar who was born in Nottingham on 28th May 1907 making her 12 years older! They married in Marylebone, London on 2nd March 1946. Incidentally Marjorie's father was a journalist and became manager of the Guardian in 1940, a post he held until his retirement in 1946 (the year his daughter married Thomas E. Forman Hardy).

Thomas E. Forman Hardy died on 14th September 1989 aged 70; his address being Car Colston Hall, Bingham, Notts. Probate Oxford 23rd March 1990. His wife Marjorie died 16th May 1996 in the Rushcliffe area and was buried on 24th May 1996.

## Arthur Forman

Arthur Forman, born in 1848, was the second son of Thomas and Caroline Forman. He married rather late in life, on 23rd February 1897 to Amy Marguerite Lawson, who was born 9th January 1874 and baptised 20th February 1874 at St. Mary's, Nottingham. By then he was 48, his wife was much younger, aged 23. In the 1901 census their address is given as 13 Lenton Road, The Park. The 1911 census states they had a son Thomas Vivian Forman who was 10 months old, having been born 29th May 1910. Both census show they had three or four live-in servants.

Thomas V. Forman never married. In 1929 he is shown on a passenger list coming back from the USA when he was then a scholar, aged 19. His address was given as Fairholme, The Park, Nottingham. A newspaper article dated 7th November 1930 states he was a student at Trinity Hall, Cambridge when he was fined for throwing a firework! We believe he eventually became a stockbroker. On 29th July 1931 he gained a flying certificate at Nottingham Flying Club in a D.H. Moth Cirrus 111 85hp. He died in 2001 in New York.

Arthur and Amy Forman's second son, William George Forman was born 8th June 1911 in Nottingham. In 1937 he married Margaret Alexandra McArthur who was born 12th February 1916. A newspaper cutting from 1937 states that Thomas V Forman was best man to his brother William G Forman when he married in Glenfield, Leicester, where his mother was then living.

The 1939 Census shows William G. Forman is living in Glenfield Frith Hall together with his wife Margaret A. Forman and his mother Amy M. Forman, widow. In 1946 a newspaper article appeared about

William's divorce (Nottingham Evening Post 13th November 1946) which is shown opposite. He went on to marry Joan Taylor in 1951 in Nottingham. His first wife also remarried Thomas Bell in 1952 in Leicester. We believe William died in 1973 but this cannot be confirmed. Arthur and Amy Forman also had a daughter, Marguerite H. Forman who was born and died in 1903.



Arthur Forman

*Arthur Forman. Source: Author*

Arthur Forman died 28th August 1920. The probate of his will being granted on 28th June 1921 to James Forman printer and publisher, Thomas Bailey Forman newspaper proprietor and Dudley Perry Forman printer and publisher. His widow Amy M. Forman died 25th August 1962 at St. Francis Hospital, London Road, Leicester. (Vol 3a 528). She lived at 'Overdale Lodge', 45 Spencefield Lane, Leicester. Probate was to Thomas E. Forman Hardy.

## Jesse Robert Forman

Jesse Robert Forman, born in 1850, was the third son of Thomas and Caroline Forman. As stated previously, the 1871 census describes Jessie Robert, 20, as an undergraduate student at an Oxford College. The 1881 census describes Jesse as a newspaper proprietor and a 'Master of Arts'.

He did not marry and died 4th December 1892 at the age of 43 years having suffered from failing health for some time.



Jesse Robert Forman

*Jesse Robert Forman. Source: Author*

## James Forman

James Forman was the youngest son of Thomas and Caroline Forman. Like his brother John Thomas he had continued to live with his parents until his marriage in 1886 to Ethel Perry, born 21st September 1862.

The couple had two known children; Dudley Perry Forman who was born on 13th May 1887 and Margaret born 2nd August 1891. So at the time of the 1891 census, held in April, the family comprised of James, 35, wife Ethel, 28, and son Dudley, 3. They were also employing two indoor female servants; a cook and a housemaid. At that time they were living at 54 Forest Road West, but by the 1901 census they had moved to Cavendish Crescent North in the Park. Son Dudley was then away, probably at boarding school, while at home was their daughter Margaret, 9 and again two female servants (apparently two sisters).

They were still at the same address in the 1911 census when James was 55 and Ethel 48. Both son Dudley and daughter Margaret were still at home, along with four live-in servants; a cook, a housemaid, a parlour maid and a kitchen maid. James was listed as a newspaper proprietor and printer. Like his late father Thomas and brother John Thomas, James was also a Justice of the Peace.

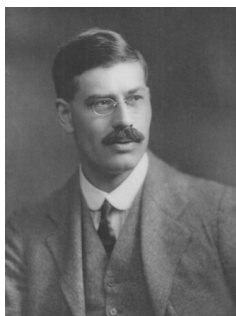
James Forman died on 20th

June 1931 aged 75. The probate of his will was then granted on 22nd December to his widow Ethel, his son-in-law William A. Potter (retired Lieutenant Colonel HM army) and a solicitor named William Noel Parr. His wife Ethel died on 7th April 1942 aged 79 (Vol 7b 325), and is buried in the Nottingham General Cemetery. On the 1939 Register she was living with the Potter family in Lambley House, Woodborough.

## Dudley Perry Forman

Dudley joined the printing business of Thomas Forman & Sons immediately after leaving university. He was already a territorial soldier and during the war he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the war he continued in the territorial unit eventually to become commanding officer of the North Midland Divisional Signals.

Dudley was a Justice of the Peace of Nottingham and in 1921 received the Freedom of the City of London.



*Dudley Perry Forman. Source: Author*

He married Margaret Mary Mackie, who was born in Nottingham on 5th June 1885, at All Saints, Ockbrook, on 30th September 1920. Dudley died in a horse riding accident ten years later on 30th April 1930 aged 42. They were living on Wollaton Road, close to the park in which he had his morning canter on horseback.

Dudley was a member of the Federation of Master Printers and was to be elected as Vice President on the day following

his tragic death.

His wife Margaret Mary Forman died on 28th November 1975 aged 90 at Woodthorpe (Convent) Nursing Home, Nottingham. They are both buried in Wollaton Cemetery.



*Dudley Forman grave. Source: Author*

## William Allen Potter (1888 - 1953)

James Forman's daughter Margaret married William A. Potter, who was born in Daybrook, Nottingham on 17th June 1888, at High Pavement Chapel, Nottingham, on 8th February 1917.

They had a son Thomas Forman Potter, born in 1922 (Basford Registration District - March quarter).

William A Potter, DSO, was a Lt. Colonel in HM army who served in the RASC from 1914-1920. Following the death of James Forman in 1931 he joined the printing business and became chairman of Thomas Forman & Sons Ltd.

He died on 11th March 1953, aged 64, his address being Lambley House in Woodborough. His widow, Margaret, of the same address died on 9th December 1954.

## Thomas Forman Potter (1922-2011)

Thomas Forman Potter married Mary Elizabeth Taylor in 1952 (Last quarter). She was born in 1918 and died in the January quarter 2007, aged 89,

(Basford Registration District).

Thomas Forman Potter died on 16th December 2011, also aged 89. Their address was 'Woodsend', Bank Hill, Woodborough, Notts.

Thomas Forman Potter took over the printing business as chairman in 1953 following the death of his father William Allen Potter.

Thomas's interests lay mainly in farming and so in December 1960 the business was sold to Mardon Son & Hall, Bristol.

He was therefore the last surviving member of the Forman family to be engaged in the printing business.

## William Allen Potter

Thomas Forman Potter's son William, is a farmer, living with his family at Bank Hill, Woodborough.

## Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge with grateful thanks the research and information provided by Peter Hammond, FONA Programme Secretary and June Cobley, a FONA member, for their valued assistance.

## Sources

General Register Office (GRO) Indexes via

[www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk) and  
[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Nottinghamshire Family History Society's Index of Births, Marriages, and Burials

Census Returns via

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

National Probate Index via

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Howard F. Parker, January 2019. Errors and Omissions accepted Thomas Forman Preservation Society



# NLHA Spring Day School 2019



Saturday 23rd March 2019

at

The Village Hall

Ravenshead

Nottinghamshire

NG15 9BN

10:00am to 4:00pm



**A Political Hot Topic** - We think of open fires as simple and practical areas of buildings – intended to provide heat, light and something to cook food on. However, in the late mediaeval period the carved sculpture of fireplaces offered an opportunity to demonstrate family connections, sacred messages and political allegiances at a time of growing civil unrest. Using examples from a variety of castles, houses and religious buildings, this talk builds up to a discussion on the use of fireplaces at Nottingham Castle as a vehicle for showing partisan loyalties during the Wars of the Roses.



**200 Years of the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway** - The Mansfield & Pinxton Railway opened 13th April 1819 on a 7½ miles route from Mansfield Wharf, over the viaduct at Kings Mill, past Kirkby Hardwick, over the Summit, through Kirkby, Portland Park and New Selston before arriving at the Pinxton Wharf. It brought coal into Mansfield, and exported sand, stone and malt, amongst other items, via the Cromford Canal link at Pinxton Wharf. The line has been in continuous use since 1819, now with the Robin Hood Line closely following the Kirkby to Mansfield section, this makes it the oldest continuously operating railway line in England.

**Flooding from the River Trent in Nottingham** - Gary Watson is a recently retired civil engineer and a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) with a particular role in Flood Risk Management. The River Trent is the third-longest river in the United Kingdom. Its source is in Staffordshire on the southern edge of Biddulph Moor. It flows through and drains most of the metropolitan central and northern Midlands south and east of its source north of Stoke-on-Trent. The river is known for dramatic flooding after storms and spring snowmelt, which in past times often caused the river to change course

# Time Hop...

## Looking back through the Nottingham Date-Book we have recorded some events that occurred in the Nottinghamshire area.

September 22nd 1761 – The Coronation Day of George the Third and Charlotte his Royal Consort. The people of Nottingham embraced the festivities. The morning began with the ringing of bells and at 10am a packed congregation at St Mary's Church listened to a specially composed coronation anthem created by the organist Mr Wise and sung by a large choir. At noon the Mayor and Alderman, in their scarlet robes led a procession from the Exchange, followed by Sheriffs, Chamberlains and Common Council in their corporate gowns and the clergy in their canonicals. Following on were gentlemen on horseback and the very eye-catching numerous body of wool combers who had streamers and a band of their own playing music. They were dressed in Holland shirts, black breeches, white stockings and woollen wigs, with sashes and cockades of the same sheepish material. One of them was on horseback and dressed as Bishop Blaize, the patron saint of wool combers, dressed in his episcopal robes, every now and again he would stop and mimic the saint, handing out his oratorical powers. Local Inns had provided banquets and some of the people went to them, others sat out in arbours, which had been erected in the streets even the poor were catered for by donations from the towns wealthiest. Several sheep were roasted whole in the Market Place and when darkness

fell the town lit up with lighting all around the streets. At the end of the evening a firework display brought extra illumination to the town.

20th October 1761 – The ancient and magnificent manor house at Worksop, the seat of Edward, the ninth Duke of Norfolk was almost totally destroyed by fire. All that remained was the chapel and a part of the east wing. The stately home had about 500 rooms, in those rooms destroyed were a valuable gallery of paintings, the library along with pictures, many of the old Arundelian marbles, and numerous other precious fine antiques and objets d'art were destroyed. At the time of the fire the house was undergoing improvements which cost the Duke £22,000. The ancient Greek marbles that came from modern-day Turkey had been collected by an ancestor in the early seventeenth century.

On 22nd October 1875 there was a flood in the city of Nottingham which was reported as the greatest flood of the century. The water reached it's height just before midnight. Viewed from the Castle terrace, whichever way you looked, the south part of the town resembled a great sea with trees, factories and blocks of buildings standing out. To the left of the castle, people were moving around on planks of wood or hastily constructed rafts to retrieve their

belongings from their homes. Queen's Walk was unpassable, many houses there had six feet of water in them.



*Saint Blaise confronting the Roman governor- scene from a stained-glass window from the area of Soissons (Picardy, France), early 13th century. Source: Marie-Lan-Nguyen/Wikimedia Commons*



*Worksop Manor in Nottinghamshire, England. The phrase "the late Seat" suggests that this print was published shortly after this version of the house burned down in 1761. Source: Wikipedia*



# Poet in Residence

## Di Slaney

Di Slaney lives in a listed 400-year old farmhouse in Blastopore, Nottinghamshire and runs livestock sanctuary Manor Farm Charitable Trust which cares for over 170 rescued and removed animals. Di is also a marketing consultant, publisher and artisan yarn producer. She owns Candlestick Press, and her poems have been widely published and commended. Her second full poetry collection *Herd Queen* is due from Valley Press early in 2020, and she is currently Poet in Residence at Nottinghamshire Local History Association.



*Di Slaney. Source: Di Slaney*

## The Will of John Barton of Holme by Newark

10th December 1490

I am tired now, not just of age and sickness but of the constant quarrels here in my house at Holme. My sheep shout across cold fields tonight; I hope the Thomases have reckoned to give them the good hay for which I paid much this last harvest, they must make best weights for lambing and keep full fleeces, all.

Isobel says I care more for the sheep than her and all our children together. Tonight I will put this right, but the two older boys fight as they always have, and my sheep are calm and good and certain – they have never let me down. Since I first bought and paid for four strong ewes, a young farmer with nothing for myself except an eye for fine wool and appetite for something more than fields, they have been all and everything for my fortune. When the men around bickered and dealt me low, sheep were my passage across the sea - their fleeces have built these walls, lined my wife's best cloak, paid

A sestina is a traditional French verse form, usually unrhymed, consisting of six stanzas of six lines each and a three-line 'envoy' or 'tornada'. The end words of the first stanza are repeated in a different order as end words in each of the subsequent five stanzas; the closing envoy contains all six words. This formal verse with its repeating pattern of words seemed appropriate for the weighty recognition of imminent mortality, and it builds to an interesting turn as John's 'will' is revealed to have double meaning. The six words chosen are abridged from the epigraph "it is the sheep hath payed for all"

for everything my boys crave and covet. They say I paid  
for my family with the staple, as if I should be ashamed for  
that, but while my body falters in this bed like an ailing tup, all  
my thoughts are as proud and strong as my best ram, him the  
animal I leave to the church for mortuary and my soul. Sheep  
would agree together as my heirs cannot, would have  
the sense to be content and quiet around a dying man - they have  
a dignity I could not buy, and my boys will not earn. Debts paid  
by their wool are honestly waged, something to be thankful for  
in these ungracious days when what remains of my work is all  
the items here on this parchment. They will wear my coats in the  
days to come, stroking my mink and velvet while denying the sheep  
their part, pretend their father merchanted anything but sheep,  
as if cordwainers and vintners were a cut above. They have  
much to learn, my querulous flock. They think I have paid  
the notary to write this out tonight on a whim, but they take me for  
a lesser man if they believe I would leave them this house and all  
my chattels without condition. First they must agree, or the  
whole subdivides into smaller parts. Heaven lies  
in the detail, and while I thank God, and always shall,  
the sheep have paid for all. My will be done.

John Barton, who rebuilt Holme Church near Newark, Nottinghamshire, rose from being a simple farmer to become a leading wool merchant and Mayor of the Staple of Calais. He died in 1491, leaving his wealth and chattels in a detailed will. It is apparent from the wording of the will that there was discord between his children (four sons, two daughters) and his wife. A self-made man, he built his fortune in the wool trade at a time when English wool was the most sought after in Europe, and there were around three sheep to every human being. Bishop Hall of Norwich, the poet and satirist, observed in 1612: "There were wont to be reckoned three wonders of England, ecclesia, foemina, lana— churches, women and wool." It is said that the windows of John Barton's house in Holme carried the inscription:

*"I thank God, and ever shall,*

*It is the sheepe hath payed for all"*

# A Victory For Hucknall Heritage Society

Maureen Newton

## Working alongside Ashfield District Councillors and Conservation Officer Hucknall finally has a conservation area

Hucknall Heritage Society members are absolutely delighted that a conservation area for Hucknall has come to fruition. Councillors have shown that the idea is essential for the interest of future townspeople and development of the town. It shows that the present local community cares about the town's future and will add value for tourists who come to visit Byron's tomb and that of his daughter the 'enchantress of numbers' Ada Lovelace.

It is some years since the idea of a conservation area was put to Hucknall Heritage Society members and was embraced with great pleasure. Last year after studying the area Simon Britt who was the conservation officer produced a map, Heritage Society members spent an afternoon walking the town with him, pointing out important buildings which were not included.

It was fifteen years ago in 2004 when members of the Heritage Society drew up a list of what was thought to be important historic/heritage buildings in Hucknall. It was hoped this would enable local councillors to make wise decisions at future planning meetings and would be of benefit to the local community.

However it is distressing to realise that already several of those buildings have been demolished and others are at severe risk. Now - with the new conservation officer Aimee Dobb and a conservation area in place; we can look forward with confidence that historic buildings will not be demolished out of hand but perhaps repurposed with another use.

Finally a message to all Ashfield councillors. Thank you so much for passing the plan unanimously. Our town of Hucknall is a very special place to the current community with so many significant buildings some of which will hopefully survive to be passed on to Hucknall's yet unborn population.

Members of the society are pro-active in the community. They are always looking out regarding important buildings coming up for sale questioning local councillors and council officials; they offer support to schools with history demonstrations and images; provide research help at Hucknall Library for local and family historians; show exhibitions in the library; have meetings and presentations at Central Methodist Church and other

venues and annual local/family history days in the town centre. Campaigns have been instituted and sometimes lost, regarding Zachariah Greens house and the cottage on Station Road (possibly the oldest secular building in Hucknall) which is still ongoing.

Over the years Hucknall Heritage Society has been in existence it has achieved much for the local community which is not always noticed.

The list is quite impressive:- the brown signs directing visitors to Hucknall church; the weathervane on top of the library of the horse Golden Wonder; a memorial to Co-op employees and the tiles around the sensory garden in the churchyard; sculptures on the bypass islands; Byron's statue was put back in his niche; plaques have been placed on the Red Lion pub, the pinfold, and in Central Methodist Church garden; the stone formerly on the nurses home has been set in the wall near the site.

There are probably more not listed here. Hucknall Heritage has sometimes worked with other groups or received donations towards projects for which grateful thanks are due.

# **Nottingham Castle Set to Rival Top London Attractions**

With a thirty million pound makeover and a new chief executive, Sara Blair-Manning, the Nottingham Castle Trust hope to make Nottingham Castle one of the leading attractions in the country. Sara aims to get between 350,000 to 400,000 people through the gatehouse each year with the focus entirely on the visitors experience.

Art galleries will be restored and a new cave experience will showcase the castles caves. A new Robin Hood gallery will help to bring the famous mythical medieval outlaw back to life for the masses.

There has been a long standing friendly feud between Yorkshire and Notts, both laying claim to the outlaw. It is refreshing to see that Nottingham has been able to claim it's stake in the story of Robin Hood.

Hopefully, when the Castle re-opens in 2021, it will still be affordable for the Notts public to be able to make regular visits to one of its most iconic and historic places.

## **The Field Detectives**

The Field Detectives seek opportunities to survey fields that can tell us more about how our farming landscapes evolved. By sharing the stories that we uncover from our field survey activities we hope to inform a better understanding of how our farming landscapes evolved over the centuries.

On completion of the field

survey activities, a field survey report is produced. One copy is presented to the landowner, and a further copy is sent to the relevant County Historic Environment Record where it is allocated a unique reference number and then a copy is sent on to the relevant Finds Liaison Officer to ensure that all related findings are uploaded on to the National Portable Antiquity Scheme Database. Once the field survey reports have been processed, the artefacts, coins and pottery are assembled as a Landowner Collection where they are safeguarded for further research and study. A community presentation is arranged where the information is shared and an opportunity is provided for the local community to get involved in future developments

By submitting the completed Field Survey Reports to the County Historic Environment Record and by working closely with our Heritage Sector colleagues, we are providing a growing set of historic collections which are held by the respective landowners who act as custodians.

## **The Langar Lead Bullets**

### **Justin Russell - Lead Shot Consultant**

The Field Detectives came across an unusual design of lead shot while carrying out a detailed three field block survey for Samworth Farms at Langar, South Nottinghamshire in 2018. The lead shot were found in arable fields north of Langar Hall, adjacent to the Hall wall boundary. The field survey included a process of recording the locations of other musket balls and lead shot. The summary of their findings will be featured in the final field survey report and it is envisaged that this study will then be made available to ex-

perts in the field of lead projectiles at the Newark Civil War Museum, David Harding, Justin Russell and the Royal Armouries Museum, to see if a more detailed examination of the find locations and the related artefacts can tell them more about what was happening on the fields during the post medieval period.

The lead shot found at Langar represent an interesting and almost forgotten branch in the development of small arms ammunition. The only known documentary sources so far uncovered, relating to projectiles of a similar nature, lead back to the 1855 publication by J. Schon (accessed by David Harding) who in 1855 recognized the example held in the museum at Dresden to be in the vicinity of 100 years old (circa 1750s). The 1939 book by Hassler and Bihl gives a date of 1604 to a projectile of similar form. How such a specific date was arrived at is unclear and it places the shot 150 years earlier than Schon.

Rifling was a science known about from the 16th Century, perhaps earlier, but this generally involved spherical shot engaging with rifled barrels, to produce stability in flight. Cast rifling studs on projectiles add in an extra dimension of complexity to lead shot (the moulds require a high precision of manufacture and loading the shot requires a higher degree of care) and they are distinctly uncommon.

The seven examples are all in the realm of .480 inches diameter, though examining similar shot (37 examples in total) it can be seen that diameters up to .751 inches exist. By comparing these known examples, a minimum of six varieties in type can be distinguished (information relating to the Portable Antiquity Scheme examples is partial only and as a result cannot be included in the typology.





NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION

# ANGEL ROW HISTORY FORUM

Nottingham Local Studies Library

1st Floor Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham on Tuesday

5th November 2019, 10:00 to 12:00

## “This Manor hath been the inheritance of lawyers”

Excavating a lost mediaeval fortified manor house at  
Strelley Hall, Nottinghamshire



## A History of Strelley Hall

James Wright FSA is an archaeologist, lecturer and author

Tea/coffee from 10:00 the talk will start at 10:30.

Forum meetings are FREE and normally take place four times each year.

You can pre-register at the Local Studies Library

phone 0115 9152870

email [Local\\_studies.library@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Local_studies.library@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)



**Nottingham**

**City Council**

NLHA Angel Row History Forum\_Poster November 2019



# Website Reviews

The NewHistorian & Forgotten Books

[www.newhistorian.com](http://www.newhistorian.com)

[www.forgottenbooks.com](http://www.forgottenbooks.com)

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

We aim to bring you a diverse range of history through our recommendations

Our first website is called **The New Historian** and based in London. The website has many interesting feature stories as well as latest news items.

Themes range from the Holocaust, to Blackbirding in the slave trade. Blackbirding was used to describe Polynesian workers who were tricked into providing cheap labour on sugar plantations where they became little more than slaves. Some of the interesting articles cover a prostitute turned pirate who banned rape amongst her 50,000 crew members and Colour Symbolism in Viking Culture.

One third of the page is dedicated to advertising so if this is a pet hate of yours then steer clear, it appears to be the way that the website is funded, which is reflective of the world of history today.

There is also no search button, which I found frustrating as you can only read the content that they decide to flash at you with its ever-moving display.

**Forgotten Books** has over one million books available online covering a broad range of subjects such as *The Book of Witches* by Oliver Madox Hueffer, *The Mythology of Ancient Britain and Ireland* by Charles Squire, *The Magic of the Middle Ages* by Viktor Rydberg, *Ireland in Pre Celtic Times* by Robert A. Stewart Macalister Litt, *Ancient Castles of England and Wales Engraved by William Woolnoth, From Original Drawings, With Historical Descriptions* by William Woolnoth and E. W. Brayley and *English Costume (Middle Ages)* by Dion Clayton Calthrop.

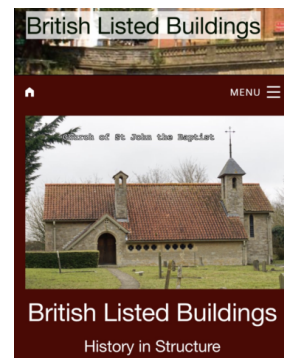
Readers are given choices to pay a nominal fee and have full access to the books or to continue as a guest, for the latter choice, every now and again, a page is locked out but there is still enough of the book available to use as a reference when writing a thesis or articles etc.

You can also open them up in Amazon where some are free to read.

Our final website is the **British Listed Buildings** website. A hugely interesting site for those who appreciate historic properties.

Did you know that the place with the most listed buildings in Nottinghamshire is Newark with 366? Followed by Southwell at 244 and Mansfield at 216. There are several who have just one, such as the Chilwell West ward, Colwick and Woodthorpe.

Each area is clickable and brings up a map showing the listed properties along with detailed information regarding each listing. Further reading is also suggested. Some listings have photographs of the properties. A great source of reference for anyone wanting a history filled day out.



# Book Reviews

## Nottingham Pubs by Dave Mooney

Nottingham has long been famed for its pubs. In the Middle Ages the city was already a prosperous centre of trade for the East Midlands, and three of its pubs date from this era – Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, the Salutation and The Bell Inn.

The city continued to grow during the Industrial Revolution, attracting many new industries such as lace making, bicycle manufacture and tobacco, and many new pubs were opened.

The city continues to thrive and is today the largest city in the East Midlands. Dave Mooney takes the reader on a fascinating journey through some of the city's most interesting, oldest or most famous watering holes, following nine walks around different parts of Nottingham and nearby areas.

Many of the pubs have retained features and traditions of previous ages, and the variety of Nottingham's pubs today is revealed here, including the characters that have frequented or run the public houses, for which Nottingham is justly renowned.

The pubs are plotted on a map, with many colourful pictures throughout should you wish to use the information as a pub crawl of 'Nottingham's drinking history. Images show the wide variety of drinking places that are on offer. The book opens with a ballad about Nottingham Ale which was said to have been written by a naval officer known simply as 'Gunthorpe'.

His brother was landlord of the Punch Bowl in Peck Lane and Gunthorpe penned the ballad after being sent a barrel by his brother. Sung to the tune of 'Lilly Burlero' it appeared in an edition of the Gentlemen's Magazine back in 1752. You can listen to the ballad sung by The Virginia Company via YouTube.

A great addition for the carouser or history buff's bookshelf.

### 'Nottingham Ale'

*Fair Venus, the goddess of beauty and love, Arose from the froth which swam on the sea; Minerva leapt out of Cranium of Jove, A coy sullen dame, as most authors agree, Bold Bacchus, they tell us, The prince of good fellows, was a natural son- pray attend my tale; But they that thus chatter, Mistake quite the matter, he sprung from a barrel of Nottingham Ale.*

*Chorus- Nottingham Ale, Boys, Nottingham Ale, No Liquor on earth like Nottingham ale.*

*And having survey'd well the cask whence he sprung, For want of more liquor, Low spirited grew!, He mounted astride, And away to the gods and goddesses flew, But when he looked down, and saw the fair town, To pay it due honours, Not likely to fall, He swore that on Earth, 'twas place of his birth, And the best and no liquor like Nottingham Ale. Chorus. Ye bishops and deacons, priests, curates and vicars, When once you have tasted you'll own it is true.*

*That Nottingham ale is the best of all liquors; And who understands the good creature like you?,*

*It speaks every vapour-save pen, ink and paper; And when you're disposed the pulpit to rail, 'twill open your throats-you may preach*

*without notes, When inspired with a bumper of Nottingham ale.*

*Chorus.*

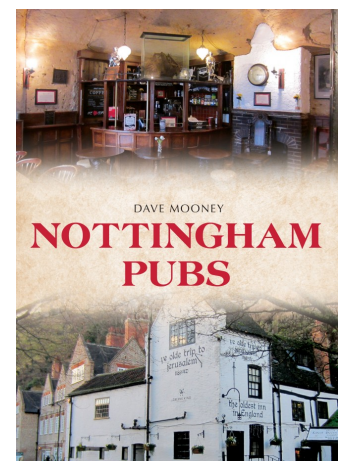
*Ye doctors, who do more execution, with powder and bolus, with potion and pill; Than hangman with halter, or solider with gun, Than miser with famine; or lawyer with quill; To dispatch us the quicker, you forbid us malt liquor, Till our bodies consume, and our faces grow pale; But mind it, What pleases, and cures all diseases, Is a comforting dose of good Nottingham ale.*

*Chorus.*

*Ye poets, who brag of the Helicorn Brook, The rector of gods, and the juice of the vine; You say none can write well,*

*Except they invoke the friendly assistance of one of the mine, Here's liquor surpasses the streams of Parnassus, The nectar ambrosia, on which gods regale, Experience will show it nought make a good poet, Like quantum sufficit of Nottingham ale.*

*Chorus- Repeated twice.*



## Homes and Places - A History of Nottingham's Council Houses by Chris Matthews

A captivating book covering the development of council housing in Nottingham. As you turn the pages, many of the images are so familiar, it is almost like a book that tells of our experiences as children. Whether you grew up on a council estate, or merely lived nearby one, you are reminded of the past and the people who lived in each type of property. The book celebrates a centenary of council housing in the city from the removal of the masses out of the slums in the early 20th century to the energy efficient new builds of today.



*Price is £9.99 and a 'must have' item for your bookshelf!*

Older houses also benefit from upgrading and it is interesting to see the ever changing face of the housing stock.

The book is full of images, plans, maps, ephemera and interesting information all relating to our wonderful city. It is highly recommended, not only for the Nottinghamians out there but for anyone with an interest in social history.

Books are available from Five Leaves Bookshop, 14a Long Row, Nottingham NG1 2DH

[www.fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk](http://www.fiveleavesbookshop.co.uk)

## The Forgotten Chess Clubs of Nottinghamshire by Phil Morgan

There are many disbanded and forgotten chess clubs in Nottinghamshire. Many teams were Works teams of large employers e.g. Raleigh, Boots, Jessops, Ericssons, Plessey, British Celanese, Mansfield and Nottingham Mechanics, Mansfield Electricity. Nat West Bank and Notts Police fielded teams in the League, as did Staythorpe Electricity, Hoveringham Gravels and RAF Newton, who played in a large mess-hall.

The works-linked teams would have enjoyed the benefit of no-cost premises. Some teams were based in different kinds of training or housing units e.g. Sutton Bonington, Wilford View, YMCA. At least 2 teams represented national identities - Latvians and Ukrainians.

The Nottingham Boys Brigade played in the League and there have been Notts Junior teams, as well as individual club junior teams.

Other League clubs included Welbeck Colliery Village, Ollerton and Bevercotes, Whitwell, St. Joseph's in Ollerton and Rainworth. While some teams and clubs have folded, others have changed their names, often linked to changes of playing venue.

The Sophists intrigued me - I surmised they might have been a University Staff team, but although they had teachers in their ranks, they were a club in the Gedling area who later played as Gedling House, Carlton Forum and were the fore-runners of the current Nottingham Nomads club.

Players may have moved between the Hucknall, Bulwell and Phoenix Clubs

I joined Sutton Chess Club, which briefly became the Sherwood House before settling on our current Ashfield identity. Mansfield Chess Club briefly played as a Sherwood Colliery team.

I'm less familiar with teams from the City e.g. Albion Knights, Castle, Albany Knights, Cosmos, White Knights, Dark Horses although I understand some of these were linked to the Oxclose group of players. Clifton, Plumtree and Keyworth were League teams in the South of the County.

This is not a full list. Apologies if I've omitted the team you played for. If it has ignited your curiosity, you can research further in the Archives section under NCA Competitions.

The works-based Chess Club has all but vanished in the region, with the single, notable exception of Roll-Royce in Derby. Is this model beyond revival?

The Nottinghamshire Police last played Notts League Chess in 1969. I'll draw a veil over their performance. That was in the age when Dixon of Dock Green was still plodding the beat, pre- The Sweeney and long before Morse introduced us to the cerebral, crossword-solving officer.

The Notts Police has just under 3,200 officers and staff supported by hundreds of Special Constables, cadets and volunteers. Some may be chess-players.... Can we hope for a Notts. Police team re-entering the League after a 50 year absence !?



## Historian's Classified Ads

We are pleased to offer our readers the chance to buy and sell their Nottinghamshire based memorabilia, selling through us ensures that your item stays within the area for many more generations of Nottinghamians to enjoy.

Please note that due to the Historian being published on a bi annual basis, sale will not be immediate, if you urgently want to sell an item, we suggest some of the popular online platforms. If you wish to sell an item through us, there is no charge. Brief description plus up to 3 images and contact details can be sent to [editor@nlha.org.uk](mailto:editor@nlha.org.uk).

Images must be in jpeg format and descriptions sent via email or word document. If you are selling an item with a history behind it, we would love to hear the story.

## For Sale

Sherwood Forest Map (Framed) size 18 1/2 inches by 23 inches. Rare map by Bob Sharman £50. Email

[editor@nlha.org.uk](mailto:editor@nlha.org.uk)



## Volunteering Opportunities

A new venture in North Nottinghamshire is looking for dedicated volunteers to be part of a heritage project.

Situated 7 miles north of the city centre, the grade II listed sites (2 of them) are places of both medieval and monastic interest.

One site encompasses the remains of a fortified medieval manor house, the other a potential monastic grange. You do not need any previous experience but must have a willingness to learn.

There is no upper age barrier but we welcome children 14+ accompanied by a volunteer adult as we are keen to offer work experience to those wishing to enter the world of heritage/history.

We are an inclusive organisation and welcome everyone.

Roles include: -

Volunteer Liaison

Gardeners

Researchers

Heritage Guide (on site)

Heritage Guide (walking tours)

Archaeology Assistants

General office work

Movers and Shakers (to help arrange, clean and organise)

If none of the above roles are of interest to you but you would still like to be involved, or if you would like to discuss anything further please send an expression of interest to:

[greasleycastleproject@gmail.com](mailto:greasleycastleproject@gmail.com)

## John Player & Sons - Friends of Cricket

2019 marks the 50th anniversary of Sunday League cricket, which for the first 18 years was sponsored by John Player & Sons.

We would like to celebrate this milestone by remembering the various links between one of Nottingham's biggest employers and the sport of cricket in general – and we'd like you to get involved:

Did you play cricket for any of the John Player teams, or in any of the company's competitions?

Did you play against Players, at their company sports ground on Aspley Lane?

Did you watch any Nottinghamshire matches or benefit matches at "Players' Rec"?

Have you got any John Player cigarette cards featuring famous cricketers?

Did you go to any Sunday League matches at Trent Bridge during the 'John Player era'?

If you have any memories you'd like to share, or any photographs, scorecards or other memorabilia that we could see, we'd really like to hear from you!

Please email your name and phone numbers to

[heritage@nottsccc.co.uk](mailto:heritage@nottsccc.co.uk)

and we'll contact you for more information.

# Hilda Butsova

John Parker

In the early 20th century a young dancer from Nottingham with humble beginnings became a prodigy of the famous ballerina Anna Pavlova and named as one of the greatest classical dancers of the world. Living in Brooklyn at the height of the gangster era, Hilda eventually started her own dance school.

At the Queen's Hall in Upper Regent Street, London, during the long hot summer of 1921 Anna Pavlova and her company were presenting a series of short dances and solos. The audience gave a special welcome to one of the dancers, Butsova, who was popular and greatly admired as much for her strong technique as for her personality and the ease and charm with which she danced; however, the gallery whispered:

*She's English you know  
Pavlova has given her the ballet  
"Magic Flute"  
Her real name's Boot  
Comes from Nottingham  
Must be related to the cash  
chemists  
Oh, yes, a daughter of Sir Jesse  
Boot, I believe*

She was born on 11th July 1896 in Nottingham but not related to Sir Jesse Boot the chemist, although this story and the insistent claim that she was formerly a sweet seller were often repeated in the local and national press. The Derbyshire Times report of a performance at Chesterfield on 18th July 1923 referred to Hilda as 'the daughter of a well-known Nottinghamshire philanthropist, who has business connections with this county. An indication of her real name is found the phonetic spelling of

her stage name'. Neither the Northern Whig nor the Birmingham Daily Gazette could resist the temptation to refer to her supposed past as a sweet seller. Hilda was four years old at the time of the 1901 UK census which shows her as living at an address at 62 Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham. The head of the household was her widowed grandmother Sarah Boot, 67 years old, a confectioner by trade, born in Nottingham. Also shown are Albert Boot, Sarah's son and Hilda's father, aged 25, a confectionary worker, born in Nottingham; and Elizabeth Boot, Sarah's daughter-in-law and Hilda's mother, aged 25, also a confectionary worker, born in Leicester.

Bernard Furness of the Nottingham Journal suggested that at five years of age Hilda was already 'tripping the light fantastic to the fascination of an audience at Farr's Dancing Hall in her native town' but her first proper performance was in the production of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" at the Savoy Theatre in 1910. Hilda moved from her home in Nottingham and had been living as a boarder with the family of William Chorley of 35 Camberwell New Road, Kennington Park, Lambeth,



*Hilda Butsova (nee Boot) by Bassano  
Ltd whole-plate glass negative, 13  
September 1923 NPG x26642  
@National Portrait Gallery*

London in order to study at Stedman's Dancing Academy where she appeared as première danseuse with fellow students in two ballets "Les Poupées" and "Les Saisons d'Amour" at the Court Theatre in 1912. She received further training from Pavlova's dancing partner Volinine and from Enrico Cecchetti the ballet virtuoso and acclaimed teacher and in 1912, after touring the country in the Lewis Carroll production, she joined Diaghilev's Ballet Russe at Covent Garden in London where she was spotted by Pavlova



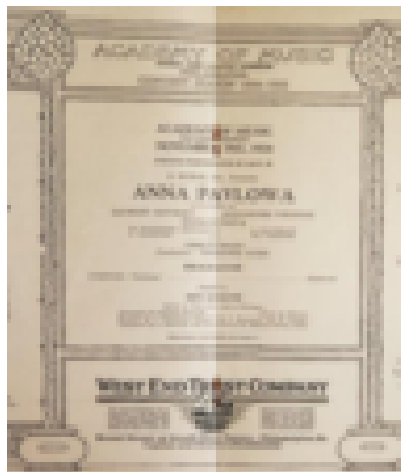
who invited her to join her own company which was shortly to go on a provincial tour starting in Bristol. Hilda was to be the replacement for another English girl, Hilda Bewicke, who left the company after a disagreement with Pavlova. Hilda apparently had an unhappy introduction as a result of the on-going upheaval resulting from Bewicke's departure but soon she was embraced by the company and worked every day with Pavlova.

It was said of Hilda that she made no pretence at sophistication, but her attributes stood her in good stead; she had shapely legs and feet and a natural facility, and before long she had a small part in the ballet "Coppélia". Both Diaghilev and Pavlova employed English dancers and disguised them with Russian-sounding names; Lilian Marks became Alicia Markova, Pat Kay became Anton Dolin, and in 1912 Hilda Boot took the professional name Butsova at Pavlova's suggestion.

The repertoire of Anna Pavlova's company was largely conventional. They danced excerpts or adaptations of earlier works such as "Don Quixote", "La Fille Mal Gardée", "The Fairy Doll", or "Giselle", of which Pavlova was the outstanding interpreter. Pavlova had a voracious appetite for performing, or perhaps for the adulation which came with each new success, and in order to expedite this she chose to establish a touring company so that she could reach as many audiences as possible. As well as the frequent London and UK provincial performances Hilda toured extensively with Anna Pavlova's company beginning in Berlin in 1912 then to Russia and the USA in 1914, although the Russia trip was not comfortable for Hilda who struggled with the food and the language and was bored and homesick.

In 1917 they visited Cuba,

Mexico, Central and South America, and Mexico and South America in 1918. In the Spring of 1920 Pavlova and the company undertook a major London and UK tour commencing at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. In 1922 they embarked on a far-eastern tour taking in Tokyo, Kobe, Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Hakata, Moji, Shanghai, Manila, Hong Kong, Singapore and Rangoon, continuing into 1923 to Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Cairo and Alexandria. Whilst in Egypt Hilda managed some sightseeing after which, she contacted her parents in Nottingham and sent them a photograph of herself taken near the Sphinx.



In the Autumn of 1923, there was another US Tour and Hilda danced in "The Toy Shop" and in "Voices of Spring" with Barté at the Manhattan Opera House before going on to Canada, Colorado Springs at Christmas, San Francisco and Chicago. In February 1924 she danced as Rhada in "Krishna and Rhada" at the Cadek Conservatory of Music in Chattanooga, then on to a tour of Middle-West USA, finishing at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York; in May they were back in England.

During the 1924 tour of the United States on one Friday Hilda rehearsed with the company from ten to six with an hour's break for lunch and at seven p.m. she danced in "The Magic Flute" with seven solos,

followed by a divertissement (a short dance or interlude within a ballet that displays a dancer's technical skill without advancing the plot or character development) in the second half. The next morning, she had to get up and catch a seven a.m. train so that in the afternoon she could dance "The Bluebird" (adagio, variation and coda) along with a divertissement, and in the evening the leading role in "Chopiniana" and again in "The Bluebird". Her only reward for all this was to be let off rehearsal on Sunday morning.

The US tours not only involved a lot of travelling, for the 1914 tour they commenced at the Bridgeport Park Theatre on November 2nd and by the time they left Des Moines on the 17th of December they had been in 36 different locations, but they were also intense with seldom less than eight performances a week and sometimes as many as eleven.



Hilda Butsova in one of her dance costumes. Source: National Portrait Gallery

Hilda seems to have accepted the rigorous schedules and extensive travelling and by 1923 she had become something of a confirmed globe-trotter, but she remained nostalgic about her home 'I love to get back to the green fields of England. I love London, but my heart is in the dear old Midlands. Clifton Grove'.

Hilda served throughout as Pavlova's understudy and had probably the most responsible position in the company of 70 performers in that role. *'The first time I had to go on for Madame Pavlova was when she was taken suddenly ill during a performance in Paris about four years ago,'* she said to a Mail representative in 1923. *'There are certain solos which it would be impossible for anyone to attempt follow her, and I should not trouble to rehearse them; but my own work, and the understudying entails a minimum of two hours practice daily.'*

Eventually in February 1923 it was reported that *'Madame Butsova, who known in private life Miss Hilda Boot, is a Nottingham girl who understudies Anna Pavlova and has been nominated her successor.'*

Hilda also developed as a dancer in her own right, in 1920 The Daily Herald called Hilda *'one of our most accomplished English dancers'* and in 1923 The Nottingham Journal called her *'one of the acknowledged leading classical dancers of the world'*.

She stayed with the Pavlova company until she married in 1925 *'news has just leaked out of a romantic marriage which took place in Mexico some months ago between Mlle Butsova, the famous English ballet dancer, and American impresario Harry Mills'* reported the Nottingham Post. As a parting gift Pavlova gave her a diamond Fabergé watch which had originally been a gift to Pavlova from a Russian prince. Hilda treasured it for the rest of her life.

In 1926, she joined the Mordkin touring company for the 1926-27 US season and achieved great success in particularly in Canada at His Majesty's Theatre in Montreal where an enthusiastic critic

wrote about the poetry of her dancing *'which not only captured the very essence of life, but also infused into it that added beauty which the perfect passage through any artistic medium brings in its wake'*.

Of her performance in "Aziade" it was said of Hilda that she displayed all the finished art which made her Anna Pavlova's chosen first associate, *'with wealth of feeling, emotional strength, and wistful charm'*. Another of her successes was in "The Sea Gull" in which she gave a finely restrained expression to the dramatic poem by Tchaikovsky to the interpretation of which *'she lent all the resources of her grace, her artistic range, which was great, and her impeccable taste'*.

In August 1927 Hilda returned to Nottingham for a holiday with her family before briefly re-joining Pavlova's company for the 1927-28 season in London. At the Covent Garden Opera House in September 1927 Hilda successfully deputised for Pavlova in "Chopiniana" which Hilda had not danced for five years, nor seen danced for two. She had only twenty minutes to get ready for it and rehearse.

In 1928 the company undertook another European tour taking in Holland, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland, finishing at Rome on May 10th before going on to Paris to dance for a week at the Champs Elysees Theatre and then returning to England for a holiday. In January 1929 Hilda featured in a performance at Tussaud's Cinema in Kensington where she danced with the Michael Arnaud company and later in the month, she danced at the Hotel Cecil in front of the members of the Chelsea Masons Lodge.

In February and again in

October she was in Blackpool before going on to Newcastle to perform in the musical comedy "Here Comes the Bride". At Christmas she was performing in "Aladdin" in Liverpool.

She returned to the USA in 1930 touring and appearing at The Capitol Theatre in New York City where she danced with some of the other Pavlova dancers including Ella Dagnova and Joyce Coles.

By 1930 it was becoming clear to critics in England and France that Pavlova was fading and ageing and approaching the end of her career. She spent Christmas quietly in Cannes before setting off for Paris on January 10th, less than two weeks later she had reached The Hague where she was taken ill and died at 1 o'clock on the morning of Friday 23rd January 1931 apparently from pleurisy brought on by influenza and exhaustion.

On 14th March 1931 the Nottingham Evening Post reported that during the course of a robbery at the Fox Congress Theatre, Brooklyn, New York, Hilda's timely intervention in alerting the police foiled the attempt but in the resulting affray her husband had a narrow escape, a gangster was killed, and one policeman was also badly wounded. Hilda told the story in a letter to her father.

*'All this happened about 12.30 at night. I had been over the theatre to see a picture. The manager left the theatre a little before us, and on his way to the tube station a man came to him and put a gun into his side and told him not to open his mouth but get into the car that had pulled up near him. They then drove back to theatre. In the meantime, Harry (who is the treasurer) had locked the theatre and had gone on home and started having supper.'*

The bandits made the manager open the theatre, and they all went into the office where they told him to open the safe; he said he didn't know the combination (which is true, only the treasurer knows it).

Well, they didn't believe him and started to knock him about, and he pleaded that if they killed him, he couldn't open it. So, they began to believe him and made him sit down and write a note to Harry telling him to come at once to a certain café.

The men then gagged and bound the manager, also hit him on the head and jaw, almost knocking him out, threw a coat over his head, pulled out the telephone wires, and then left and came over to our apartment—they found the address that was in a file that was in the office.

We had just finished supper and there was a ring of the bell. I went to the door and opened up the little look-out we have (luckily) in the middle of the door. A man was there, and he asked for Harry.

I said he wasn't home—thinking, maybe, whatever he wanted could wait until next morning. Anyway, the man said—I have a note here for him, it's from his manager and might be important so you had better read it.

So, I took it and we read it. Well of course we realised there was something wrong, but Harry said he ought to and see what the trouble was.

But first he would phone the café and see if he were really there and if I didn't hear from him, I should notify the police.

He went out with the man, and I went to the window to watch what was going to happen as I was very suspicious over the whole thing.

As they got outside the house Harry went across the road to phone, but the man followed him, after first going to the car and pulling out a gun and an overcoat, as he went after Harry. Harry left the shop as there was no phone there.

The man came up to him and took

hold of his arm and put the arm with the overcoat over it (with the gun under it concealed) into Harry's side.

I saw Harry give a step back, which confirmed my fears about the overcoat, and then the man took a very firm hold on him and pulled him into the waiting car.

I stood looking and just grabbed an overcoat and ran downstairs (after hearing the car door slam) and ran to look for policeman; very fortunately I found three not very far away—they were just off duty.

I told them that the theatre was being held up. Of course, they thought I was just crazy, or drunk, something, and wanted to know how I knew anyway!

I convinced them and we all got into a taxi and rode like mad to the theatre just in time to see the bandits making Harry open up the theatre—they both had a gun into Harry's side.

Two of the policemen happened to be in their street clothes having just come off duty. They ran up to the bandits and asked them what they were doing, and to stick up their hands, as they covered. The reason they said that was to give Harry warning, as they were not sure who was who.

The bandits, on hearing that, just turned around and fired at the cops, then started to run. The cops got one of them—he died a little later.

One got away, and one of the police is dying—they say that with a lot of luck he may pull through.

You can imagine how we all felt.

The manager was nearly suffocated when they got to him. It caused a lot of excitement and I had my picture on the front page of every paper the next day, as being the heroine.

I believe the insurance company are giving me a reward. There was \$1000 in the safe.

I feel all right now but have been quite nervous about the house for the last few days. I am hoping the firm will

give Harry a week's holiday - he really needs it. The manager has gone away for a week. Can you imagine anything so daring? It still seems like a detective story out of a book to me.

Harry's mother was worried, she heard the news of it over the radio at 8 o'clock this morning. The police kept us out all night, we got home at 6.45 in the morning. We were being questioned and taken to the Rogues' Gallery to see pictures of various bandits, etc. to see if we could identify the one who got away. At 9.0 all the Press were around for interviews and photos. What an experience!

*The Police caught the taxi driver who helped the bandit to get away. They feel sure they will find him, but don't think so.'*

In the mid 1930's Hilda opened her own school in Brooklyn, from 1932-1945 she taught at Chester Hale's Studio and from 1945-1960 at the Thalia Mara School, both in New York. She was generally recognised and celebrated as a master trainer of Russian classical repertory.

She lived with her husband at 340 West 72nd Street, New York, and died on Sunday March 21st, 1976 in White Plains Hospital, New York, after suffering a heart attack while staying with relatives in Scarsdale, New York.

Surviving besides her husband were a son, Alan R. Mills, and four grandchildren.

The information which forms the basis of this article was taken from Algeranoff, H., *My Years with Pavlova* (London: William Heinemann, 1957) and Money, K., *Anna Pavlova: Her Life and Art* (New York: Collins, 1982), supplemented by newspaper cuttings take from The British Newspaper Archive [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

Special thanks to Ericka Mills-Landolfi



## Your Local Lock-up

In 2018 Dr Rosalind Crone of The Open University launched the 19th Century Prisons database at

**[www.prisonhistory.org](http://www.prisonhistory.org)**

which has recently been updated and extended.

Alongside the 19th Century Prisons database

**[www.prisonhistory.org/19th-century-prisons/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/19th-century-prisons/)**

which provides a searchable list of 847 prisons and their archives, Rosalind Crone has developed Your Local Lock-Up; a public engagement project which aims to locate any structures used for temporary imprisonment or restraint.

These lock-ups might have confined the accused until they appeared before a local magistrate, when being moved between penal institutions, or when undergoing trial. Some lock-ups, like stocks, could also have been used to punish those 'behaving badly' in the local community.

Lock-ups have been almost entirely overlooked by penal historians, but they are essential for understanding criminal justice at the local level, and the use and experience of imprisonment in British history. Your Local Lock-Up at

**[www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/)**

is building a national database of surviving or demolished lock-ups and other places of local confinement.

This will allow us to explore various aspects of lock-ups' use, character and design, and enable us to complete the next

stage in the recovery of the penal landscape of historic Britain.

To do this, we now need the help of local historians! There are around 650 lock-ups in the database at:

**[www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/)**

but currently only 7 for Nottinghamshire. This is far from exhaustive, and we anticipate that there are countless others we know nothing about.

We are therefore calling upon local historians and members of the public to help us recover more lock-ups, and would be very grateful if you could tell us about any in your area. The project is compiling data on any place or structure used for temporary confinement between the 16th and early 20th centuries; including purpose built lock-ups, police stations, cells in town halls, courthouses, workhouses, stocks and even rooms in pubs used to detain prisoners.

You can easily contribute information on a new lock-up directly into the database through an online form at

**[www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/submit-lock-up/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/submit-lock-up/)**

Or if there are more details and photographs of somewhere already listed in the database please make any additions or corrections via the 'Anything to Add' button on each lock-up entry. We are also inviting anyone interested in lock-ups and penal history more generally to join our project team to help with research and the development of the database at [www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/become-a-contributor/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/local-lock-up/become-a-contributor/)

Your Local Lock-Up is interested in collecting many different types of evidence on lock-ups, and especially welcomes historic and present-day

descriptions of structures or their uses, and pictures. It need not be written evidence, either. We are equally keen to hear anecdotes about incidents involving the lock-up, the prisoners held there and the location of any that are now lost.

We are also collecting 'stories' of lock-ups or prisons for our new features page, some of which can already be seen at

**[www.prisonhistory.org/category/stories/](http://www.prisonhistory.org/category/stories/)**

To increase Your Local Lock-Up's usefulness to local history societies and communities, every lock-up entry in the database includes a 'print' button, which generates a ready-made pamphlet containing information and an image that can be displayed or distributed.

Please do let us know if this facility is of use and whether there are any additional features that you would find valuable on the site. We need your feedback to develop this resource further!

Finally, why not connect with Prison History UK on social media?

You can follow us on Twitter

**<https://twitter.com/prisonhistoryuk>**

'like' our Facebook page

**[www.facebook.com/prison-history-uk-2390455521218014](https://www.facebook.com/prison-history-uk-2390455521218014)**

and share material with us on Instagram

**[www.instagram.com/prisonhistoryuk](http://www.instagram.com/prisonhistoryuk)**

You can also subscribe directly to our mailing list at [www.prisonhistory.org](http://www.prisonhistory.org) to receive the latest project news and updates.

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