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Lambley Almshouses

Robert Weatherall - schoolarship boy

Building Lowdham Grange

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Nottinghamshire Local History Association

The Nottinghamshire Local History Association was formed in 1953 to bring together organisations and individuals interested in all aspects of local history in the county. For individual members the Association aims to keep them in touch with current developments in local history. 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. As part of its aim to promote local history on a county-wide basis the Association has produced a series of publications, details of which are available from the Secretary. Most local history societies in the county are members and the Association aims to help them in any way it can.

Membership of the Association is open to everyone. The annual subscription is currently £10.00 for individuals, £15 for societies. Applications for membership and further information should be sent to the David Anderson, Membership Secretary, NLHA, 35 Sycamore Road, East Leake, Loughborough LE12 6PP.

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The Editor will be pleased to receive articles, especially from individuals or groups who have not previously gone into print.

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What has happened to Susan?

You may have noticed that after 24 years Susan Griffiths' name no longer appears on the inside cover of The Nottinghamshire Historian.

At the end of 2016 Susan stood down after being responsible for the layout and design of the Association's journal from Issue 50 in 1993 to Issue 97 in 2016 – 48 issues in total. During this period Susan worked with three editors (Sheila Cooke 1992–96; Grace Fyles 2000–2015 and Sarah Seaton 2015–16). Between 1996 and 2000 Susan edited eight issues herself.

It was Sheila Cooke who asked Susan to help create a new look Historian. Susan was able to draw on her experience as Editor and designer of Local History Magazine. In 1997 Susan launched the first NLHA website and a few years ago redesigned the website so that other Association officers could be directly responsible for sections.

Susan's involvement with NLHA goes back to the mid-1970s and her appointment to the post of Assistant Curator at Mansfield Museum & Art Gallery in 1973. A year later Susan became the museum's curator, where she stayed until 1982. She soon found herself attending NLHA day schools and other events encouraged and supported by Vernon Ratcliffe, then Curator of Newark Museum and very actively involved in NLHA.

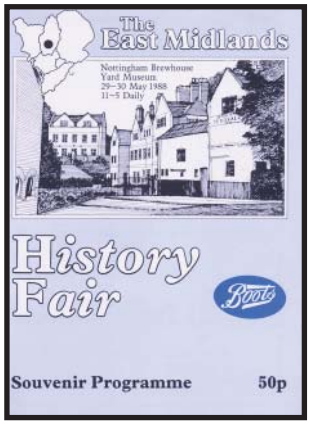
At various times she has served on the NLHA Committee, but is happier working behind the scenes as her involvement with the Historian shows. By any measure Susan has been a NLHA stalwart and there are others we need to acknowledge, so 'watch this space' as they say.

At the end of last year, Susan's husband, Robert Howard, another NLHA activist, was waiting to have open heart surgery at the very time Issue 97 was about to be produced, so Susan decided to stand down (Robert has since made a full recovery).

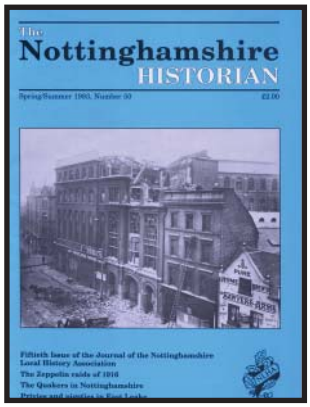
Susan's links with Nottinghamshire began in 1969 when she came from Tipton in The Black Country to Nottingham University as a student to study history and archaeology. For the first two years she lodged at Chilwell Vicarage and, as chance would have it, was offered her first job by the then Mansfield Borough Council. In 1980 she and Robert moved to Lenton where they lived until retiring to Beeston in 2014.

On behalf of NLHA I would like to thank Susan for all her work on our behalf.

John Parker, Chairman, NLHA.



The 1988 East Midlands History Fair in Nottingham was the second such fair, the first being in Leicester in 1986. They were pioneering events at the time. Susan designed and oversaw the production of the programme, which included the cover and four other illustrations by the late John Severn, a well-known Nottingham architect, historian and active NLHA member. Sheila Cooke, then the city's Local Studies Librarian and NLHA Secretary, organised the Fairs with Kate Thompson, Leicestershire's County Archivist



Susan's first issue for Spring/Summer 1993, no.50, listed 36 member societies and just 25 meetings in the Diary of Events. Among the contributors were the late Geoffrey Oldfield with 'Privies and Pigsties' and Cliff Voisey was listed as Secretary of Lenton Local History Society, so some things do stay the same forever!

DIARY OF EVENTS

Due to lack of space the usual Diary of Events has had to be ommitted from this issue. However, if anybody would like a copy then please email treasurer@nlha.org.uk or telephone David Anderson on 01509 820067 and a copy will be emailed or posted to you.

Building Lowdham Grange. The first 'open' Borstal.

Jeremy Lodge

In 1895 a Home Office Committee chaired by Herbert Gladstone (son of Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone) envisaged a new type of institution for juvenile offenders who would otherwise find themselves in the harsh adult Victorian penal system. They described it as:

> *'... a halfway house between the prison and reformatory. It should be situated in the country with ample space for agriculture and land reclamation work. It should have penal and coercive sides according to the merits of particular cases. But should be amply provided with staff capable of giving sound education, able to train inmates in various kinds of industrial work, and qualified generally to exercise the best and healthiest kind of moral influence.'*

Marching into Lowdham Village. May 1930. Courtesy of Nottingham Evening Post

However, it was to be some 35 years before this vision was realised. The Borstal system had started in 1902 when a group of Lads were marched in chains and under armed guard from London prisons to Feltham in Middlesex. Until 1930 the Borstal system had consisted of converted sections of prisons or reformatory schools for boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one years. In 1926 the three existing institutions at Borstal, Feltham and Portland were overcrowded and a fourth was needed. The Home Secretary was forced to seek external funding for this and failed; finally the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Winston Churchill, allocated £129,000 in the 1929 prison estimates for a new borstal. This triggered a search for a suitable place, the final shortlist included Castle Donnington, Whittingham (near Leicester) and Lowdham Grange – some 8 miles east of Nottingham.

Lowdham Grange, nestled on a hilltop between Lowdham, Epperstone, Woodborough and Lambley was described in its sale details as a house and estate which was ...

> *'approached by a long carriage drive (from Epperstone Road) and occupies a commanding position with park like views over the surrounding countryside ... with pleasure gardens, bordered by the Dover Beck at Epperstone which gives some of the best trout fishing in the county ... splendid partridge country and the woodland is most suitable for pheasant rearing ... there is a good supply of both on the estate which is also grand hunting country ... Ploughman Wood is one of the best coverts in the county.'*

In line with Prison Department policy the borstal was to be built by the boys under the guidance of skilled instructors. However, the Treasury raised the issue of the displacement of unemployed building labourers by the 'forced labour of the boys'. There then followed a debate as to whether this was an issue for the Ministry of Labour or the Home Office. Home Secretary, Robert Clynes supported by Minister of Labour Margaret Bonfield, enabled the Prison Commissioner's to continue as planned.

Opposition then arose from a group of Labour MP's and the National Federation of Building Trades who stated:

> *'It appears that the law-abiding citizen is deprived of employment or condemned to pass his life-time in an unskilled trade, customarily recognised as such, whilst detained persons are trained at the expense of the State and given proper employment.'*

Agreement was finally reached with the Trades Union who would supply instructors for all trade groups of inmates (including road-builders, carpenters, bricklayers and painters).

Another delay followed as Treasury Officials argued that construction should be undertaken by the Government Office of Works instead of inmate labour. Initially the Treasury agreed to only the roads, the officer's village and estate work being undertaken by thelLads. Finally, in 1929 the Borstal Association reminded the Prison Commissioners that the main need of borstal boys on release was industrial rather than agricultural experience hence the planned use of inmate labour and the inclusion of more workshops in the plans.

The main body of forty Borstal Lads arrived in May 1930, after marching for 10 days with an unarmed escort of 10 officers. They spent their nights on the march sleeping in village halls then their next few years living in tents and wooden huts next to Grange House.

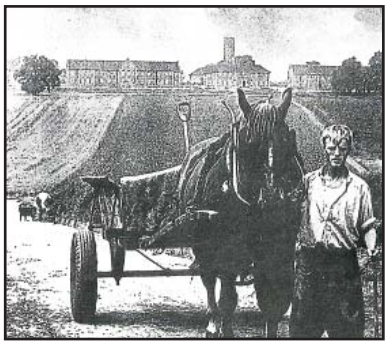
The Borstal Institution was to consist of a central administration building flanked on each side by two 'Houses' each of which was designed to provide accommodation for 60 Lads. On one end of the row would be a hospital and a secure block (for Lowdham Grange was to be an 'open borstal' with no fences, walls or secured doors) at the other end would be a Gymnasium. These would line the brow of the hilltop commanding the view over Lambley Lane. Behind these would be ancillary buildings, workshops and sports fields.

In addition two existing farms were to be incorporated into the Institution and a housing estate for the Officers and their families was to be built.

George Stafford's family recall that he was the first workman employed to build the borstal and that each 'Free Workman' had two Lads assigned to be trained and to work alongside him.

Another of the first local 'Free-Workmen' to be employed was Edmund John Bird. Edmund was born in Sibsey, Lincolnshire in 1908. He told his daughter that after World War 1, the flu pandemic killed at least one member of each family in the village. His father was a Railway Signalman and Edmund did his seven year apprenticeship as a builder; at the end of which due to the economic depression, he could get no work. Edmund's father sent his sisters to London to find work in service. And, Edmund was sent to Nottingham where he lived in a single room at the Vicarage in Carlton. Edmund found work as a builder supervising the Lads at Lowdham Grange from its beginning to the outbreak of World War 2. He cycled from Carlton to Lowdham Grange and back every day, when he couldn't cycle due to the snow; he walked.

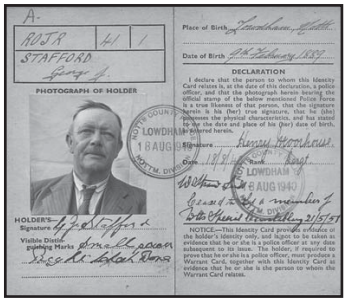
The building work was hard and



Working the Fields, photographer unknown. 1940s This shows the Administration building with its clock tower and the whole of one and part of two of the four 'houses' which flanked it. Note this was a clock tower, not an observation or guard tower; but it probably had a similar psychological impact.

his photographs show the wooden scaffolding poles bound together with rope and the rails with the trucks that were pushed by the Lads or pulled by horse.

He enjoyed his time working at Lowdham Grange and thought that many of the Lads had more sense than he had – as one had robbed the Co-op and stashed the money ready for his release. There was a lot of fun, teasing and tormenting and in cold weather the Lads would break their tools so



George Stafford's ID Card. 1940. Courtesy of his family.

they couldn't work so would be sent inside. Edmund got frost bite on his ears. A few of the Lads ran away. After Edmund got his own house in Carlton, Lads used to visit and may have stayed overnight.

Albert Smith who died in 2001, was another 'Free Workman' who helped to build the borstal. Albert and his 2 lads worked on finishing

Administration building and tower. Photograph Edmund Bird. Courtesy of his daughter

Tented camp at Lowdham Grange 1930/31. Photographer unknown

Paterson and Warner houses, also the Hospital. By 1947 the Officer's Houses on the Green, Long Meadow and Hill Syke had been built and Albert, with his Lads helped to build the rest.

Other Free Workmen included Sid Williams and Bill Starbuck (Bricklayers), Bill Cross (Painter and Decorator) and Arthur Cox (Plumber). Bill Slack (Lorry Driver) also farmers Harry Wainwright, Maurice Jamson and Harry Willis. Mr Sneeth built the Boilerhouse chimney. John Knowles remembers that a relative George Keller from Carlton was a Free Worker who built many of the houses on the estate.

Lowdham Grange Borstal was an internationally famous innovation in penal history. It received many visits from dignitaries and study groups from across the globe and was still spoken about by academics and others at conferences and in articles decades later. The borstal system was closed in 1982 and these institution buildings were demolished in the mid 1990s; to make way for a modern, secure prison. At the time, local journalist, Heather Bennett wrote:

> *'Tumbling brickwork, dark empty passageways, broken beams and decaying dormitories...for five years, one of the world's most historic prisons has been left to the elements and the vandals.'*

The officers estate remains but is in private hands.

Lowdham Grange is the subject of a recently published book which informed this article. The book 'Lowdham Grange. Borstal!' by Jeremy Lodge can be obtained through Amazon.co.uk, the Bookcase (Main Street, Lowdham) or directly from the author at www.jeremylodge.co.uk or the address below.

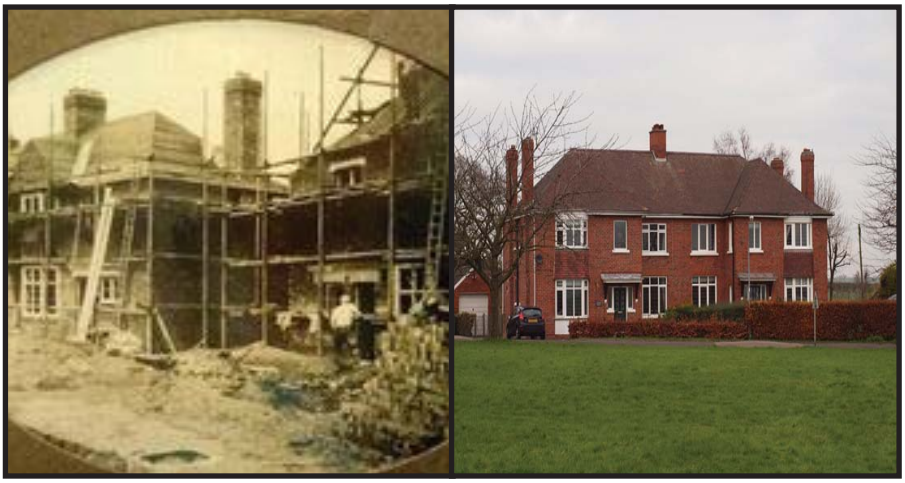
The author would be interested should any of our readers have any material concerning Lowdham Grange Borstal or the people who lived and worked there. He can be contacted by email at jeremylodge@yahoo.co.uk or by writing to Jeremy Lodge: 15 Satterley Close. Witham St Hughs South. Lincoln. LN6 9QB

Edmund Bird building the Clock Tower, with the playing fields and woods in the background. Note the wooden scaffolding poles tied with rope. Courtesy of his daughter

Administration building completed. Second house being built in the foreground. Photograph Edmund Bird. Courtesy of his daughter.

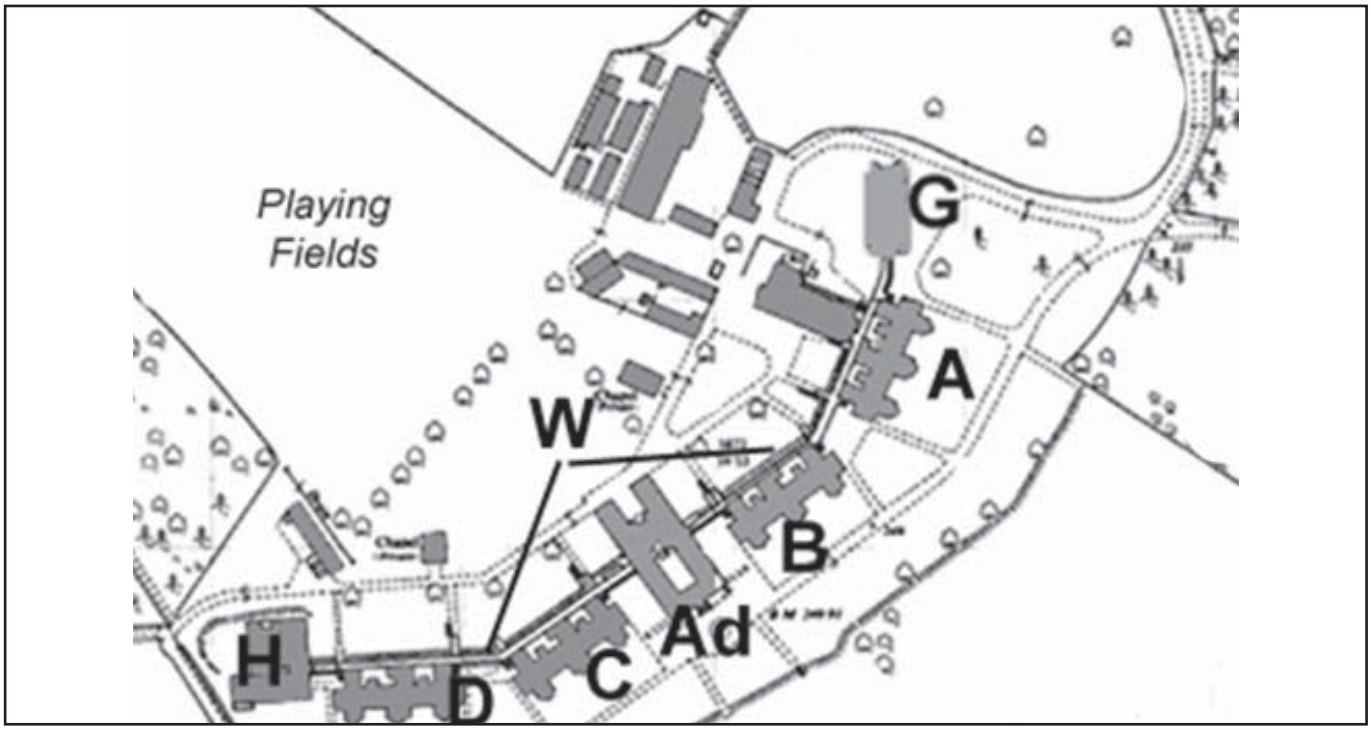
Building the second house. Completed Administration to the right (W.W. Llewellin 1933)

Building the road to the officers quarters. 1930 .
Photograph H.H.Holmes courtesy of his granddaughter



Left: Some of the officers houses being built in the early 1930. Staff houses were built to different specifications according to the rank of their intended occupants. Photograph H.H. Holmes courtesy of his granddaughter

Right: An officers house as it is today. Source: Author



Layout of the Borstal as built:

Ad is the Administration building with its tower
A,B,C &D are four Houses - accomodation for the lads
H is the Hospital
G is the Gymnasium
W is a covered walkway which ran the length of the Institution

The other buildings are mainly workshops

Lambley Almshouses

Chris Weir

Lambley almshouses sit on Woodborough Road in Nottingham, near the junction with Hungerhill Road, St Anns. The almshouses date back to 1897 though they have a much longer history that dates back to the seventeenth century. It certainly seems strange they are nowhere to be found in the village or parish of Lambley but the reason is to be found in their origin.

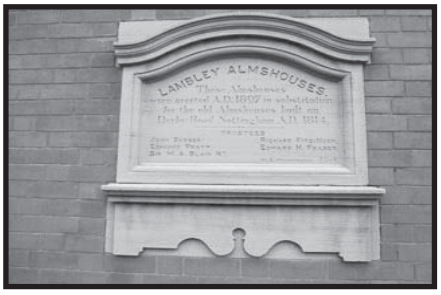
Photograph: Chris Weir

The name of the almshouses is itself a clue to how they evolved. The origin of the almshouses can be traced back to a title deed in Nottinghamshire Archives (CA 5603) which is part of a collection of records relating to the Lambley Charity. The title deed is dated the 24th May 1655 and under its terms a total of 104 acres of land in Lambley was to be conveyed from Elizabeth and Edward Willoughby to John Parker, Mayor of Nottingham, William Drury and William Bayley for £600. Edward and Elizabeth Willoughby were descendants of a Thomas Willoughby who was a 'Citizen and Skinner' of London. At first, the rents and profits from this land were to be applied, through the Lambley Charity, by the Corporation for the apprenticeship of the sons of 'poor Burgesses'. Burgesses were citizens of the town who conducted crafts and trades, held rights in the common fields and who could stand for public office.

A map of the land in Lambley is included in an account book of the early 1800s (CA 5640). The plots of land included Upper Little End, Round Hill, Great Lane End and Near Hunts Coppice.

However, during the early 1800s, moves within the Common Council of the Corporation led to a decision to end the apprenticeships and to find a site to build Lambley Charity Almshouses 'for the support of decayed burgesses'. A site was eventually found on Derby Road (just off the hill leading in/out of Nottingham, an area known as the Sandhills) and this provided 22 dwellings for poor burgesses or their widows. One list (CA 5636/2, 1815)) reveals that Sarah Milner, aged 59, who lived on the ground storey, centre wing, was the widow of Thomas Milner, the Town Crier. The Derby Road houses had been opened in 1814 but the land had been expensive and the Charity carried a considerable burden of debt. At the turn of the century it was therefore decided to sell the Derby Road site and move to the present position on Woodborough Road.

The new Lambley Almshouses were built in 1897 and at this site



they have resided over the years, with mixed fortunes, until their recent restoration and a brand new lease of life. There doesn't appear to be a building plan in the building control series of plans at the Archives, possibly because the Corporation took a major role in the administration of the houses and often did not submit plans through its own control procedure. A handsome stone plaque, now cleaned, records the origin of the almshouses in Lambley parish.

On Tuesday 6th December 2016 Lambley Almshouses received a 'Commendation' from the Nottingham Civic Society for the building's restoration by Pelham Architects for the Nottingham Community Housing Association. The restoration was first class and fully respected the original form and building materials of the original 'houses'. The Civic Society Award was presented by Hilary Silvester, Joint Chair of the Civic Society and Chris Weir attended as a Board Member of the Civic Society and as President of the Lambley Historical Society.

Life in Beeston in Stuart times.

Stephen C. Wallwork

When the Stuart period dawned in 1603, Beeston had just about recovered from a visitation of the plaque that had hit the village in 1593. About 140 people had died and estimates of population[1] show that those who died represented about a third of the total. Apart from all the personal tragedies, this meant that labour was in short supply. The village at that time was mainly agricultural, so one way of compensating for the shortage was to shift the emphasis from arable farming to pastoral - milk and meat, and sheep for the very profitable wool trade. To this end, around 1612, a group of landowners decided to enclose the Nether Field - one of the open fields in the three-field system of agriculture in which two fields are cultivated and one is allowed to lie fallow each year, in rotation. The Nether Field occupied about a third of the area between the village and the River Trent, flanked on the village side by the commonly held pasture and on the river side by the common meadow. Enclosure allowed for land to be broken up into smaller hedged fields, thus enabling the keeping of individual flocks of sheep and herds of cows, which was less labour intensive than arable farming. However, this change was challenged in the court[2] about 50 years later by the Duke of Devonshire, who owned the tithe of corn (a right to a tenth of the corn harvest) at that time, which had been much diminished by the change. From the statements by witnesses, we know who were the major land owners at that time.

The most prominent was Nicholas Strey, the lord of the manor, as were his forebears from Elizabethan times and successors up to the start of the nineteenth century. Then there was Thomas Charlton of the family that owned land in both Beeston and Chilwell. Then Edward, Richard and Christopher Levis (members of related, prominent Beeston families), Leonard Bostocke (another Beeston family, continuing to this day), and ten others.

Edward Levis caused a list[3] to be made of the strips that he held in the Nether Field in February 1611/12, which would no doubt be used to claim entitlement to land after enclosure. He recorded 57½ 'lands' totalling about 16 acres.An acre is 0.4047 hectares or 4047 square meters.) The inconvenience of strip farming is exemplified by the fact that these strips were distributed among 12 furlongs or other defined areas. Interestingly, the owners of strips adjacent to each of Levis' strips are also recorded and they are the same as the defendants in the court case, with the addition of William Smalley who owned 12 adjacent strips. He was a member of a highly educated family, sending various members to Cambridge. Another pre-enclosure list[4] (probably of Charlton lands in Beeston) throws light on the rights of owners or tenants of land. It quotes areas in both acres and oxgangs. An oxgang was theoretically the area that could be cultivated throughout the year using one ox. So it varied, depending on the heaviness of the soil. In this document, it appears to correspond to seven or eight acres. And the 'stint' or grazing right in the common pasture for every oxgang of land held was for four beasts and 20 sheep.

The social status of the Nether Field land owners and the other inhabitants can be estimated in various ways. An obvious one is wealth. For this group, their assessments for the lay subsidy[5] of 1689 is a good indicator at a date fairly close to the enclosure. The money was levied by the crown at two shillings in the pound of rateable value, mainly to fund the war against France. It is not a surprise that the nine highest assessments (between £8.2s. and £4.1s., from individuals sharing seven surnames) refer to four of the same surnames as the Nether Field land owners. It must be remembered, though, that at 77 years since the enclosure, the individuals were of a later generation of each family. Most of the rest of the 63 assessments were less than £1. The title Mr or Esq in this document also indicates higher status.

A further measure of status, which also gives us an idea of the degree of comfort in peoples' homes, are the hearth tax records (the number of fireplaces). The 1674 list[6] for Beeston survives in full and there were 24 higher status properties owned or tenanted with more than one hearth out of the 60 people listed. There were three people with six hearths, including the lord of the manor, John Strey. Of the rest, there were three people with four hearths, four with three hearths, fourteen with two and 36 with only one, including three occupiers discharged from payment. That was usually because of poverty.

Yet another indication of status is literacy. The ability to write can be judged, rather inaccurately, from whether the person signed his or her will, or as the witness to someone else's, or just made a mark. This is unreliable, however, because the testator may have been too ill to sign even if he or she would normally have been able. A better indication is the protestation return[7] of 1642 which was to be signed by all the males over the age of 18. Its purpose, shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War, was to protest against an 'arbitrary and tyrannical government' (that of Charles I) by demanding pledges to defend both the king and the 'Power and Privileges of Parliament' and the 'true Reformed Protestant Religion'. A few people in each community were able to sign their own names, otherwise they were written by the officer appointed to collect the names and sometimes the person concerned added their mark. It is not surprising that literate status is demonstrated for seven people or

their descendants involved in the 1612 enclosure. Other signatures were the vicar, Walter Kinnersley, the curate John Rocket, and also Richard Ryder and Antony Shrigley.

To obtain an indication of what life was like in the village for all its inhabitants, we can see first of all what was the range of occupations. We are fortunate that from 1668 to 1727 occupations were recorded with each event in the parish register[8], together with an occasional comment. These have only been analysed up to 1722 but that is sufficient to give a general impression. Not surprisingly for an agricultural community, occupations relating to farming dominate. Taken in order of status, out of 78 individuals mentioned, there were three gentlemen (including Nicholas Strey, the lord of the manor), five yeomen (probably owning their farms), seven husbandmen (tenant farmers), one farmer and sixteen labourers (almost certainly agricultural labourers). But, to be as self-sufficient as possible, the village has to have an essential range of tradesmen. In fact, there were thirteen framework knitters supported by a framesmith. These would make mainly hose and shawls and, with such a large number of operatives, some of the produce would be for sale. Also producing textiles were two weavers (one of them called a webster) and two tailors. Completing the provision of clothing were two shoemakers (noted as cordwinders, a corruption of cordwainers, meaning that they could probably turn their hands to any sort of leather work), Essential for shoeing horses as well as producing all manner of ironwork were two blacksmiths, probably father and son. Making the most of the availability of willows that still grow profusely by the River Trent were three basket makers. House construction and maintenance was represented by one housewright (who would deal mainly with timber frame houses), one masoner, and one locksmith. The food trade was represented here only by one butcher but there were also bakers and brewers, as is shown below. There were seven servants, including one in the household of Henry Constable, one with Will Cripple and one with Mr Rickards. Two people were noted as parish clerks. The vicar of Beeston from 1663 to 1711, Henry Watkinson, deserves special mention, because

Beeston Manor House, a seat of power in Stuart times. Source: Author

notes in the register show that he and his family suffered sad losses - his wife Sarah dying in 'child-bed' together with the baby in 1709 and two other members of the Watkinson family had died a few months earlier of smallpox. The disease had also claimed at least a couple of his parishioners. Finally, a surprise from the parish register is that seven people were noted as 'vagrant'. Migration has always taken place!

Further detail about the way of life of some of these people and other contemporaries is provided by the inventories[9] of their possessions at the time of their deaths. Almost all the gentry, yeomen and husbandmen seem to have been involved in both arable and pastoral farming. They were assessed for corn and hay in the fields at amounts varying from about £8 to Richard Strey's £118, and also for cattle from 10 beasts to 28. Only some of this farming community seemed to have sheep as well, though John Strey had 75 in 1697, assessed at £15, and Edward Pearson junior, in 1719, had 11 at £4 and 88 at £20. The variety and quantity of crops is illustrated by a couple of inventories, first that of Edward Attenborough in 1698, who had 10 acres of winter corn (valued at £15), 5 acres of barley (£6), 13 acres of pease and oats (£6.10.0) - pease may be peas or a mixture of peas and other pulses), 8 acres of fallow land (£2) and a further 2 acres of barley (£3); then that of Edward Pearson in 1719 which listed 15 acres of barley wheat and rye (£30), white corn and pease at Chilwell (£22), and pease and oats at Beeston (£10.15.0). Even when crops had been harvested, farmers were assessed for the stubbles. Then the unusual mention of fallow land confirms that the crop rotation method of rejuvenating the soil was in use in Beeston at this time.

As would be expected, the farmers had various pieces of farm equipment such as ploughs, harrows, carts, gears (harness) and two are even assessed for manure - an important commodity in the days before artificial fertilisers! Hugh Barnes had a store of barley, presumably most of it for converting to malt for brewing, and a cheeseboard and press. John Strey had £35 worth of malt. Butter and cheese making was a common activity, mostly for own consumption, though the yeoman, Edward Pearson, had 40 cheeses in the 'cheese chamber', which is surely more than domestic requirement.

The framework knitters were, of course, assessed on their knitting frames and that of Antony Buxton specified a worsted frame. Profit from the sale of wool is one of the factors that prompted the Nether field enclosure, so it is not surprising that John Strey and three of the husbandmen carried stocks of wool, Richard Strey having £10 worth. Three of the husbandmen possessed spinning wheels and Mary Mackrill (noted as a spinster but almost certainly a widow) had three. The farmers and their families often had a second occupation in the form of spinning, weaving or framework knitting. The husbandman, Robert Barlow, for example, had three spinning wheels, one listed as a wool wheel, and a reel for winding yarn.The tradesmen seemed to be also part-time farmers by having a few cows and pigs,

probably partly for home consumption. The (presumed farm) labourer had the highest assessment for sheep at £30.10s. Horses were, of course, a necessary possession, both for transport and for work on the farms. They were only included in the assessments, however, for the farmers. Perhaps horses essential for tradesmen's livelihood were not recorded.

Home utensils made of metal were expensive, so poorer families managed with wooden plates and dishes. Higher up the social scale, pewter was the norm, then brass. The Beeston inventories nearly all mention both pewter and brass. John Strey had brass fire standards, pans, pots, and candle sticks. He also had pewter plates, dishes and chamber pots. The other metal that featured widely in the inventories is iron in the form of fire irons. These would be basically a grate in the open hearth and a bar in the chimney opening from which to hang cooking pots. Hooks for this purpose were often recorded. Sometimes further iron work is also recorded - a shovel and tongs for handling the fuel and, in one case, a spit which would have a mechanism whereby falling weights would rotate the meat as it cooked.

A few luxury items are mentioned - a looking glass or mirror in the basket maker's home, clocks owned by John Strey (gentleman), Edward Attenborough (husbandman) and Edward Pearson (yeoman), a few references to books, and one of jewellery - two little gold rings, a silver spoon and an old watch that had belonged to John Coddington, gentleman. The book references are interesting. It is not surprising that John Strey, the lord of the manor, had the most books but, what is surprising is that the assessors recorded how many of each size - 19 folio, 24 quarto, 80 octavo and some old books - total value, together with a chest, chair and table, £6. Another surprise is that 'some books' are noted in the inventory of Barnham West, a framework knitter, a trade noted for its poverty. An unexpected detail is that the books assessed for the husbandman William Wild in 1704 were two Bibles, value three shillings. The Bible only became readily available in English with the completion of the King James version in 1611.

There are a few mentions of coal, a material that was extensively mined in the Nottingham area only from the sixteenth century, particularly by the Willoughby and Strelley families. So the inventory references may well have been to the mined mineral but otherwise it may have meant charcoal. Mary Mackrill even had a coal house among her outbuildings. In some households at least, burning embers were put to good use in shallow warming pans which then warmed the beds. An unusual item, mentioned only in the inventory of Mary Mackrill is 'some assballs'.which should be written as 'ash balls'. These were balls made by boiling wood ash with oil or fat to make soap.

Another feature of interest is the lending of money. Of the inventories studied, four of the five estates valued at over £100 appear to have money owing. Thus, Thomas Dowsland in 1698 has an item 'moneys owing upon bond £100', and John Strey in 1697 has an interesting list: 'money due upon bond good £179.14.0; money due upon bond bad £41.0.0; due upon mortgage good £123.0.0; due upon mortgage bad £100.0.0'.

Before leaving inventories, it is interesting to see who were their assessors, since these people would be ones that could be trusted and respected. Those whose services were called on most were John Moore (12 times out of the 24 inventories studied), John Oldershaw (5 times), William Mackerill (4 times), Jarvas Bostock (twice) and John Levis (twice). This trust appears to have little to do with social status. Of the few assessors whose occupations are known, we have the blacksmith, a couple of framework knitters, a couple of husbandmen, and a farmer, as well as the lord of the manor and the vicar, who acted once each. Not surprisingly, some of the assessors were among those whose possessions were later assessed. Only three had the same family names as land owners at the time of enclosure of the Nether Field.

The behaviour of Beeston's citizens was controlled by two local courts - that of the Honour of Peverel[10], that was a manor court covering several manors and which was concerned with social and occupational misdemeanours and maintenance of the land and village, and the church court of the Archdeaconry of Nottingham[11] that dealt with matters of morality and church maintenance and discipline. Their records have only been studied for a few years mainly prior to the Stuart era but the pattern of cases would almost certainly continue into the Stuart period. There would also be a less formal meeting of inhabitants, known as a vestry meeting, so called from where originally it was held, but its Beeston records have only survived from a much later time..

The most frequent cases in the manor court were charging local bakers and brewers with 'breaking the assize' i.e. selling below standard products. They were usually fined four pence, which may be compared with a labourer's weekly wage that was often six pence. Many of the offenders appeared under the same charge in subsequent court sittings, so they were clearly regarding the fine as a normal regular expense. The other frequent case was that of affray, where two people had come to blows. This normally resulted in a fine of twelve pence but it was more if blood had been drawn. The other type of case that was presented frequently was that impinging on the agricultural life of the village. There were regular edicts concerning the scouring of ditches. This was important as contributing to the drainage of the agricultural land. There was occasionally even a similar edict addressed to all the inhabitants. Non-compliance would be fined at 3s.4d. Pastoral farming was regulated by penalties for grazing more animals than the entitlement on the common pasture. A related matter was that stray animals were locked in a pinfold, supervised by a pinder, who exacted a fine when the animals were reclaimed.

The church courts' most frequent cases were those involving illegitimate sex. The failure to pay tithes or church dues also generated many cases. Church attendance was expected and absentees could be fined, especially if they worked on the sabbath. It was not always the people in the pews who were disciplined. The church wardens were charged if they failed to keep the church in good repair and the incumbent was criticised if he did not maintain the vicarage or did not preach the statutory number of sermons. The sanctions available to the court were fines, excommunication and penance. Excommunication meant being forbidden to take com-

munion for a specified period. It had serious implications in that it was believed at that time that failure to take communion regularly meant exclusion from heaven after death.. Penance was psychologically probably the most serious of the three types of punishment. It involved standing in a prominent position during a church service, barefoot and dressed in a white sheet. The misdemeanour was read out and a public apology had to be made, with a plea for forgiveness. That form of punishment was generally reserved for sexual offences. Illegitimate births often increased the cost to the parish of supporting the poor, so they had to be forcefully discouraged.

Life in Beeston must have been affected in various ways during the period of the Civil Wars (1642 - 1653) but most of the documents studied in the preparation of this account were outside that period. That may, of course, be partly due to the wars causing gaps in the production or retention of the documents. Those that have been studied and show the effect of the wars are the parish registers. There are few entries from 1642 to 1653 and during this initial Commonwealth period, marriages were carried out as civil contracts, usually conducted by Thomas Charlton in his capacity as Justice of the Peace. A new parish register volume was started in 1653 and registration returned to normal. There was a slight difference in the early years, in that dates of birth were recorded rather than baptismal dates. I think we can assume that life for ordinary citizens of Beeston returned to normal at this point also.

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From Laxton Village to Eaton College:

The story of Robert Weatherall - scholarship boy

Jenni Dobson

During a family history foray around Laxton church yard, I discovered a gravestone for Robert Weatherall, born 1899, buried 1973, and which stated "once a master at Eton College". The Weatheralls were a well-established Laxton family. Five generations of Weatheralls had been tenant farmers in the village by the time Robert was born. Also, like a number of other families, they owned some freehold land. So they weren't poor – yet how did this son, from the kind of farming family typical of their period, become a master at Eton College?

In the process of uncovering his story, I discovered the minutes of Nottinghamshire County Council Higher Education Sub-committee which are held at Nottinghamshire Archives. The minutes date from 1903-1929 and could be of interest to local historians as well as family historians. Using these records I began to explore how the county scholarship system created a wonderful opportunity for a young village boy to become an eminent master at a leading national college.

It may be easy to think that we have always had the education system which is in place today but that isn't the case. Education in Robert's day was largely the result of several key Acts of Parliament.

The 1870 Education Act provided for the education of children up to the age of ten years. It took place mainly in board schools, so called because each was run by a board composed of locally respected persons, such as the vicar and landowners, and these are not to be confused with 'boarding schools'. By the end of the 19th century it became apparent that Britain needed a better educated work force, in particular, that we were lagging behind the USA and the rest of Europe in engineering and scientific education.

The Education Act of 1902, passed on 18 Dec 1902 and often termed the Balfour Act, abolished existing school boards and created local education authorities (LEAs) based on the county and county borough councils which had been set up by the 1888 Local Government Act. With the school leaving age raised to 12 years, a national system of secondary education was to be developed by these LEAs comprising municipal or county secondary schools and the older endowed grammar schools (such as the Magnus at Newark-on-Trent) which now received grant-aid from LEAs.

A further section of the Act addressed Higher Education, requiring LEAs to consider the educational needs of their area and to supply or aid provision for education other than elementary. It also empowered LEAs to support teacher training colleges, which until then had been mostly church-owned, though some teacher training existed at universities. The Act required that these education committees were to have a majority of council representatives and must include women. This specific requirement seems unexpectedly far-sighted, given the contemporary limited opportunities for higher education for women and the campaigning activities of the women's suffrage movements. Maybe having women on the committees was intended to be a step towards widening opportunity for female pupils.

It appears possible that the power to support teacher training triggered the establishment of separate county scholarship schemes, though as will be seen below, scholarships weren't only available to pupils intending to make a career as teachers.

Robert in WW1 uniform, Leics Regiment; by kind permission of a family member.

The first set of Higher Education Sub-committee Minutes at Nottinghamshire Archives are dated 1903-1906, (Ref. CC 3 12/13/1). This set includes an uncorrected proof copy of a leaflet, to be sent to schools, detailing the County Scholarship Scheme for 1904. It outlined the qualifications for eligibility and the nature of scholarships to be won by examination. These included 32 Junior scholarships to attend secondary schools, at least half of which were to be allotted to those intending to become elementary school teachers (today's primary school teachers) and which were to be fairly distributed over the county. There followed details of intermediate and senior scholarships, which might permit attendance at university.

Robert's family left Laxton in the early 1900s, moving to a farm at Weston. The village school which he attended still stands and some of its records are also held in Nottingham-

shire Archives. Robert's father, George, died in 1909. It may be that the school realised he was an intelligent child who fitted the scholarship scheme's requirements because his widowed mother would be unable to provide him with higher educational advantages. Robert gained a scholarship to attend the Mount School in Newark-on-Trent 1910-1911, followed by another to attend the Magnus School in the town from 1911-1917. To retain his scholarship place which also covered the cost of his books, Robert would have had to pass examinations every year.

A further Act of Parliament in 1907 had enhanced existing scholarship schemes, particularly for those intending to teach. It seems reasonable to suppose that Robert had declared himself as wishing to become a teacher and he may well have taken the Cambridge Entrance Examination during his final year at Magnus. Though his education was interrupted by conscription resulting in a period with the Leicestershire Regiment during WW1, he took up a scholarship place at Christ's College, Cambridge in 1919.

My correspondence with the Christ's College archivist confirmed that in 1922 Robert gained a first in Natural Sciences, plus a Cambridge Diploma in Agriculture – maybe suggesting that he expected to return to his home county to teach, where agriculture was still a significant element in the local economy.

The Nottinghamshire Higher Education Sub-committee records continue until 1929 and show how the scheme developed, offering more places annually, perhaps because the resulting benefits of the scheme were beginning to be seen. However it was the clause requiring the LEAs to consider the educational needs of their area which may hold most interest for local historians.

The range of subjects for which Nottinghamshire scholarships or bursaries could be won was extremely diverse, ranging from mining to travelling dairy schools. Even more interesting is that the Minutes regularly include lists of names of the successful scholarship winners.

At a family history level, therefore, they could offer the possibility of confirming oral traditions of scholarship holders existing in families. However, for community researchers, they provide a way to trace the development of training opportunities for those employed in specific fields. For example, not every county would offer scholarships in trades associated with coal mining but its extent in Nottinghamshire must have put this high on the list.

The village school, Weston, which Robert Weatherall attended; author's photo.

With half the Junior scholarships available to intending teachers, teacher training is another potential research area. A further area offering valuable research opportunities is public health, including nursing and midwifery, ambulance work and school hygiene. The importance of agriculture in Nottinghamshire is also reflected in the County scholarship scheme. Agricultural scholarships enabled students to apply for a place at the Leeds Agricultural School and two places were offered through the scheme at the Midland Agricultural and Dairy Institute (later Brooksby College). This establishment also conducted experiments and trials, such as concerning the manuring of crops in which Laxton appears to have participated.

I venture to suggest that this record set, the title of which I admit doesn't sound particularly promising, is an over-looked resource with the potential to inspire varied projects, such as the study of scholarships in specific areas of employment or the creation of a database, containing names, subject and dates of scholarship. Alternatively, identification of a specific individual in a community who benefited from the scheme could be studied to focus on the outcome resulting from the provision of such educational opportunity.

In Robert's case, the Eton College archivist was able to supply the information that he had taught briefly at Rugby School before taking up a post teaching sciences at Eton, where he remained until his retirement. An item in the Old Etonians magazine elicited some favourable memories from former pupils of his. He was active in the Windsor and Eton area and his death was reported in The Times. Robert's scholarship gave him an opportunity which in turn allowed opportunities for his descendants: for example, his son Robert was able to attend Eton and successfully pursued an academic career of his own, culminating in a position at an eminent US university (information via his obituary). It is with the approval of his descendants that Robert's story appears here.

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What if the Duke of Newcastle had died in 1817?

Richard A. Gaunt

Two hundred years ago this summer, the 4th Duke and Duchess of Newcastle celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary.[1] To have been together for a decade is an important milestone in the lives of any couple, but for Henry and Georgiana Pelham-Clinton, it was an especially poignant moment. Only two months earlier, in April 1817, the family survived a severe outbreak of typhus fever, which spread through the household at Clumber, affecting several of the Newcastle children, the servants and, most seriously of all, the Duke himself. So grave was Newcastle's condition, at this time, that his London solicitor was summoned to Clumber, together with four physicians, including Sir James MacGregor. In later years, the Duke recalled 'the year in which we were all so nearly swept away in fevers' and remembered his eyes being 'so weak that I could scarcely make out what was doing'.[2]

Regular bulletins concerning the Duke's health were issued in the newspapers.[3] Initially, the cause was attributed to the prevalent theory of miasma – or diseased air – resulting from improvements being undertaken at Clumber:

> *There are some extensive lakes in the neighbourhood, from which some large fish ponds, near the house, are fed, one of which has been lately emptied, and the soil from the bottom thrown up, and spread upon the banks. It is supposed that the exhalation from the agitation of this mud and water has tainted the atmosphere, and produced the disease with which this noble family is afflicted.*[4]

At this time, work was going on to clean the lake close to Clumber House, in order to 'render it fitter for carrying a sailing vessel, and much slime had been heaped up, near the banks'. The vessel in question, *The Lincoln*, took its place on Clumber's lake alongside another boat, *The Salamanca* – both of which reflected the Duke's well known love of naumachia.[5] However, it was established subsequently that the Duke had caught a severe cold in the middle of the night, whilst helping to extinguish a fire which had broken out in one of the plantations at Clumber, rather than succumbed to the consequences of foul air from the lake.[6] Newcastle's life was clearly in the balance, with the press in little doubt that he was in grave danger. He was saved by what appears to be incredible means. Many years later, in conversation with Lady Clanricarde, the writer Henry Reeve was given a full account:

> *News came from Clumber that the Duke of Newcastle was dangerously ill with typhus fever. [Sir Matthew Tierney] was sent down as fast as post-horses could carry him…and when he arrived he was informed that the Duke had been dead about two hours. Shocked at this intelligence, he desired to see the corpse, which was already laid out. At his first glance he thought he was dead. At the second he doubted it. At the third he cried out, "Bring me up a bucket of brandy!" They tore the clothes off the body and swathed it in a sheet imbibed with brandy, and then resorted to friction with brandy. In rather more than an hour symptoms of life began to manifest themselves, and in two hours the Duke was able to swallow.*[7]

The story is confirmed by contemporary press reports which revealed that, by being placed 'in brandied sheets, as the last means of producing perspiration', Newcastle's fever had been abated by 'a profuse perspiration'.[8]

During the same week that her husband was fighting for life, Duchess Georgiana safely completed her ninth pregnancy, producing the couple's sixth son, Lord John, on 23 April 1817. Tragically, he died within eighteen hours of his birth.[9] Several weeks later, as the family slowly recovered their health, the villagers of Tuxford, Bothamsall, Houghton, Walesby, East and West Markham, Gamston, Elksley, West Drayton, Milton and Bevercotes competed to outdo one another in demonstrating their 'attachment [to] the Duke of Newcastle and his amiable family'. There were flags and music, rustic sports and toasts, all liberally accompanied by roast beef and plum pudding. The reports concluded with a hope that the family would live long 'to experience proofs of affection and gratitude from a respectable and populous neighbourhood!'[10]

Georgiana - Duchess of Newcastle

But this was not to be. Having had a near-miss with death in 1817, the Duke and Duchess of Newcastle were, unbeknownst to them, two-thirds of

the way through their married life. After three further successful pregnancies, in the years 1818-20, and a respite the following year, the family reached the fateful year of 1822. In May, the couple's first-born child, Anna Maria, died at the age of fourteen. This was followed in September by the death of the Duchess herself and two children, a stillborn daughter and an infant son who lived long enough to be christened George.[11]

But what if the Duke of Newcastle had succumbed to typhus fever in April 1817 whilst the Duchess had survived? In spite of the loss of her new-born son, John, Georgiana's life was never reported to be in peril to the same extent that her husband's was.[12] All such speculations are of course dangerous, and completely counterfactual. However, there is enough contextual knowledge to suggest that the history of the Newcastle family would have turned out very differently, had events taken another direction two hundred years ago.

Had the numerous visitors and well-wishers on the family's recovery, proved, instead, to be condolence calls to the Duchess on her husband's death, history would have been repeating itself.[13] In May 1795, the 3rd Duke of Newcastle had died after a violent reaction to treatment for the whooping cough. His widow, Anna Maria, became Dowager Duchess of Newcastle and the formative influence in raising her family of two sons and two daughters. The eldest child, Henry, who became the 4th Duke of Newcastle, was only just ten, and the family estates were held in trust on his behalf until he reached his majority, at the age of 21, in January 1806.

A parallel situation would have occurred in May 1817. Georgiana would have become Dowager Duchess of Newcastle and her eldest son, Henry, earl of Lincoln, would have inherited his father's title as 5th Duke of Newcastle. But as he was only just about to turn six, the estates would have undergone a fifteen year hiatus in which Georgiana could have acted as a stabilising influence. Whether Georgiana would, eventually, have remarried, is harder to judge. We know that Newcastle himself never seriously contemplated re-marriage until the 1840s, by which time he was in his sixties. But in 1817, Georgiana, as a woman who was not yet 30 years old, a wealthy heiress in her own right, and the mother of eight children, the eldest of whom was only nine, would have been an attractive proposition for any suitor. Her father, Edward Miller Mundy, who lived until 1822, would have been a decisive influence upon her. So too would her mother-in-law, Anna Maria, mother of the 4th Duke. Anna Maria had re-married, five years into her widowhood, when the Duke was only fifteen years old. The effect upon the family was widely regarded as negative. The Duke was never demonstrably close to his step-father, Sir Charles Gregan-Craufurd, who died in 1821. Nor was Newcastle particularly solicitous for Craufurd's relations, each of whom wished to be provided for. In marrying Anna Maria, Craufurd had clearly seen himself as achieving a level of influence, and status, which he had not previously enjoyed, commenting to a senior member of the government in 1800 that, as a result of the marriage, 'the management of all the Duke of Newcastle's affairs and interests of course devolves upon me, jointly with the Duchess, during his minority'.[14]

If the danger of an unsuitable second marriage would have been a topic of serious concern for the 5th Duke's advisers, we can probably conclude that the built landscape of Clumber would also have been quite different. Without the 4th Duke of Newcastle, it is unlikely that the parterre gardens and Lincoln Terrace, the gigantic marble fountain, the pleasure grounds and Lime Tree Avenue, would have been created, or at least created in the way which bore the unmistakable imprint of the Duke's deep personal interest in those developments. Nor would Nottingham Castle have been set on fire by an angry mob in October 1831, because the Duke would not have been alive to cast a hostile vote against Parliamentary Reform.[15]

In May 1832, the 5th Duke of Newcastle would have reached his 21st Birthday, come into his inheritance, and immediately entered the House of Lords. He would still have entered the Conservative governments of the 1830s and 1840s, as he turned out to do as an MP in the House of Commons. However, a much longer record of service in the Lords, prior to 1853, may have marked him out to serve as Prime Minister, rather than Secretary of State for War, at the time of the Crimean War. It would certainly have spared him the indignity of being opposed by his father in the South Nottinghamshire by-election of February 1846. But in any case, he would still have been a firm friend of Mr Gladstone.[16]

View of the South and West fronts of Clumber House
William Collins (1788 - 1847)

As an incoming Duke, he would, like his father before him, have had to find a suitable match, and quickly, in order to secure the inheritance for the future. The 4th Duke had married Georgiana within eighteen months of his 21st birthday; his son married within six months of attaining his majority. So in either scenario, it is likely that Lincoln/the 5th Duke would have married Susan, daughter of the 10th Duke of Hamilton, because the match would have seemed as fitting to an incumbent Duke as it did to a presumptive heir to the title. The crucial difference between these different scenarios would have been the influence of the 5th Duke's mother Georgiana. Had she lived to see this

event, she would still only have been in her early forties, whilst his grandmother, Anna Maria (who lived until 1834) would certainly have been a guiding influence. In the absence of the 4th Duke, their opinions on the marriage would have been decisive.[17]

None of this, of course, came to pass. After May 1817, with only occasional periods of indisposition, the 4th Duke retained a remarkably robust constitution for the remaining thirty four years of his life. It was Georgiana, Newcastle's wife of fifteen years, mother to fourteen children in twelve pregnancies, ten of whom were living at the time of her death, who succumbed five years later, decisively changing the course of the Duke's life and those in the close family circle they had built around them.

Perhaps the most striking observation to be made about an alternative future where Georgiana lived and the Duke died is that the Mausoleum at Milton would never have been built because, quite simply, without its originator and its motivator, there would have been no reason for creating it. As it was, from the moment that Georgiana died, on 26 September 1822, Newcastle was determined to create a fitting memorial to his deceased wife and children and to establish a place where future generations of the family could be laid to rest. In July 1827, on visiting the half-completed vaults of the mausoleum, Newcastle 'could not help reflecting upon the futility of all human arrangements'. It was a decade since his own near-death experience from typhus fever and he recognised that 'families more numerous than mine have all been swept away even before manhood'.[18]

On 27 December 1833, the new Church and Mausoleum was consecrated by the Archbishop of York. It had been completed, over the course of a decade, at a cost of some £10,000, in the Doric style favoured by Sir Robert Smirke, who was widely regarded as the leading architect of his day. Two and a half years later, Newcastle observed in his diary that 'the loved and honoured remains of my dearest wife and 4 children and my dear sister Charlotte', had been moved from Bothamsall to the Mausoleum vaults. In doing so, they joined the remains of Newcastle's mother, Anna Maria, who had been buried there in October 1834. 'It is an ease to my mind [Newcastle remarked] to think that this, the last act of honor to their memories and beloved remains, has been properly executed'. All that remained, in December 1839, was for the installation of Sir Richard Westmacott's long-projected memorial to Georgiana, which had been fourteen years in execution. Had she lived, Georgiana would, by then, have been fifty years old.[19]

Important as Clumber was to the 4th Duke, the Mausoleum evoked another aspect of his character – one which has been too often neglected but was undoubtedly sincere – his devoted attachment to the woman he described at the time of her death as 'my beloved and amiable Georgiana, my wife, my companion and my friend'. Indeed, so inextricably is the Mausoleum bound up with Newcastle's devotion to Georgiana that, had he predeceased her, it is unlikely that the Mausoleum would ever have been built. But the Mausoleum was built. It stands today, with a noble and generous history. It was founded in love – one man's earthly love for his wife and companion and the unbearable grief to which the loss of that love gave rise. It was his Taj Mahal, his expression of the grief wrought out of love. But, as it has sometimes been observed, 'grief is the price we pay for love'.

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Toton unearthed - A project in Toton, Nottinghamshire

Gillian E. Morral

Toton, situated close to Long Eaton, Derbyshire with the Rivers Erewash and Trent on the western and southern borders, has a long but undistinguished history. It was, though, a source of lucrative income for the absentee landlords (notably Greys of Codnor castle, and Stanhopes of Shelford and Elvaston and later the Warrens) via the valuable agricultural land. From an agricultural Manor, Toton has become a series of housing estates and is now the focus once again of planners for more houses and a new railway station (HS2).

Toton Unearthed, an archaeology project funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, ran from 2014 – 2015. It was run and organised by Friends of Toton Fields with the aim of discovering information about the watermill (demolished/or collapsed at the beginning of 20th century) and the Manor House which was demolished circa 1952. Toton itself is mentioned in the Domesday Book (which records Toton with 2 mills, land under plough, meadows, willows and half a church) so it seemed likely that archaeology could shed some light on the life of a manor House and watermill.

A T shaped evaluation trench was dug on the site of Manor Farm. Three weeks of digging and scraping by volunteers under the eagle eye of archaeologists from Trent & Peak Archaeology gave us some tantalising finds. Artefacts included a glazed medieval ridge tile, a small fragment of medieval window glass & lead and a few pieces of medieval pottery which were discovered close to stone foundations of a possible Manor House. There was also a square plinth thought to be medieval as it sat beneath 17th century brickwork. Later Georgian and Victorian changes included a barrel vaulted cellar and box drain.

Following the practical investigation, documentary research began in an effort to reveal more of the development of the site and surrounding manorial estate. A mental picture of a medieval feudal system is beginning to emerge from studying a variety of texts such as the Court Rolls, Court Leets,

Manor House exploration 2014 looking towards Long Eaton. Source: D. Bullock

Source	Date	People	Offence/ Action	Amercement/fine
Mi M 90	27th Sept 1294	Geoffrey son of Rose	Took dung from Lord's cornfield	2d
	22nd Jan 1295	Adam Brewer Peter Stare	Chickens in Lord's cornfield the same	missing
Mi M 91	30th April 1296	John of Papplewick Geoffrey son of Ralph	Essoins – excuses himself Beasts in Micklemoor	 4d
	May 22nd 1296	William of Stanton Robert Nas	Trespass of beasts His sheep with those of the Lord	4d 3d
	9th July 1296	William of Stanton Robert Blikes	Horse in the meadow Geese in the pasture of the Lord	4d 3d

Medieval Court Rolls

Manorial records (Rentals) leases, Indentures, wills and inventories.

The Court Rolls for Toton Manor[1] date from 1294 and exist with many gaps until 1424. Whilst there are few references to buildings, evidence of habitation and social lives appear. Fines were given out to those who trespassed with or without their animals. The selling of ale before and after the sign went out (after hours drinking bouts), and non attendance at court, appear in the proceedings of both the Great and the Small court. Other offences included taking dung from the Lord's field (important for fuel), for fishing in the mill stream[2] debt, or taking geese from the marsh, all of which were given a monetary fine.

The Medieval Open field system was in operation. One of the open fields was Micklmoor or Mucklemoor. This appears to be part arable and part meadow. The tenants tilled the strips, then called seliones[3] and grew wheat, rye, and barley. Later references show East field as the other open field.

The medieval farming system continued into the 16th and 17th centuries. This period was a transition period from medieval to modern farming practices. In 1554 the description of the Manor in an expired lease shows the medieval structure still in existence. *Manor Towton in the parishe of Addenburgh .... all the mes(s)uage, mylnes, dovecots, gardens & landes tente (tenements) pastures, mores (moors) marisshe (marsh) woods and underwoods, rentes, rev(er)cious, (rivers?) herotte (heriot) courte leetes, ... strays wards & marriage reliefs (relicts = widows) & warrons (warrens) conegrees, fishing, fowling ..... in Towton aforesaid.*[4]

Medieval limestone plinth Manor House. Source: R.Parker - Trent & Peak Archaeology

This lease was between Nicholas Thorpe (tenant) and Richard Whalley (owner of the manor for a short time in 16th century). As a condition for leasing the messuage, land, meadow and 4 oxgangs of land, Nicholas had to promise to serve his Lord and the Queen and to do bowman service. He was not allowed to use the Great Tymber (oak) and paid a monetary rent and a capon rent twice a year on Lady Day and Michaelmas. Other leases show similar practices.

The change from medieval strip farming to fully enclosed fields appears to be gradual. Some land was enclosed by the late 16th century. One of the first enclosures was probably Swan Nest close[5]. William Ireton (1598) leased a part of Toton from John Stanhope which included "one lande lying and being in a close called Swannest close in Tawton (Toton) aforesaid containing by estimation one rood be it more or less now or late in the occupation of one Edmund Comyn". Also included in the indenture[6] was "two leys containing ...three roodes ....also by the name of Swannest close now or late in the occupation of Richard Boote and another in the occupation of Francis Jaques". The Swan Nest close was over 40 acres in total. Mr Gibson was paid to look after the swans during the first half of the 17th century[7].

By 1665 John Jaques rented 16 acres and Francis Smalley another 14 acres in Swan Nest close showing the progression from small strips contain-

Date	Name	Description	Rent paid
1620 Lady Day	Francis Cooke	Micklemore Close	11 shillings
	John Coddington	His close Micklemore	8 shillings 6d
	George Jaques	8 leyes & 1 oxgange in Micklemore	20 shillings
	George Jaques	Upper end of Micklemore	10 shillings
	John Smalley & Thos Trowell & Thos Smalley	Nether end Micklmore close	£3 10s
	Thomas Chambers	His close Micklmore	13 shillings 3d

Selected references to Micklemoor field from Rentals DD 39/4 Notts Archives

ing less than an acre to an amalgamation of land. In the 1660s the Swan Nest close was split into two parts – a pingle (small part) in Swan Nest and the new Swan Nest plot[8]. Changes continued. By 1847 (Tithe award survey)[9] records show First Swan Nest, Second Swan Nest, Lower Swan Nest, Over Swan Nest and Little Swan Nest. The Swan nest enclosure was originally part of Mucklmore/Micklemore parts of which were rented by many Toton tenants over the centuries. These families also rented lands in Eastfield and had separate areas for their few animals.

Farming was a community activity regulated by the Court Leet which met twice a year. From the period 1597 to 1607 common issues such as fencing, scouring the ditches, setting the mear stones (marker stones) mending the roads and the bridge were addressed as were offences such as encroaching the land by ploughing or land that was taken from the Common land without permission.[10]Many men were fined for not repairing their fences which could either be hedges or post and rails.

In the survey of 1660 (the year that Arthur Warren finally took possession) the Mucklemore meadow consisted of 11 acres and 1 rood while Mucklemore field consisted of 118 acres and 2 roods. Tenants of Mucklemore in this survey included Richard Coming (6 acres) Richard Cripple(4 acres) Francis Smalley (5 acres) John Jaques (3 acres) and John Coddington (2 acres) among many others. Eastfield the other open field showed a similar trend with strips/lands being in the tenancy of various farmers in the late 16th /early 17th century to few in late 18th/early 19th century. One of the tenants in 1665 was John Gooding who rented his house, homestead late of Thomas Taylor(1 acres) East Field close (8 acres) Milne Holmes beside the reed bed (4 acres) in the Moore (1 acre) his water mill with four cow pastures at 13 shillings and 9d and paid a total of £17 15 shillings in rent.

Another aspect of the Toton Unearthed archaeology project was to search for the remains of the water mill mentioned above. This period of activity took 5 weeks in the summer of 2014. The later 19th century surfaces were revealed very quickly only a few centimetres from the surface. Brick floors, cobbled surfaces and various

Water mill floor revealed 2014. Volunteers & archaeologists at work.Source: Author

walls appeared within the first week. Within these discoveries were particulary long bricks, a feature of the period when the brick tax was in force. Documents in Nottingham archives date this construction period to 1840 when the mill underwent repair as Toton Manor passed into the hands of the grandson of Sir John Borlase Warren. As a Minor the estate was managed by Trustees who carried out repairs to Toton watermill.[11] These repairs included new wheels (pin wheel, crown wheel), new hook stones, new gudgeon hoops, and the replacement of 3 pair of stones and brass for the machinery. Many bricks were purchased including 100 kiln bricks and 600 common bricks and 50 long bricks. The mill with it's new roof and fittings was still not a great success and a new waterwheel was requested later that same year.

An arm of the excavation, between the ball court and a hawthorn tree, revealed evidence of the water management system and wheel pits with their brick floors and exterior stone wall. The excavation revealed evidence of a stone structure of Medieval date. Dry stone foundations and wall remains, with a posthole and possible beam slot, which were observed below the material on which an 18th century mill was subsequently built

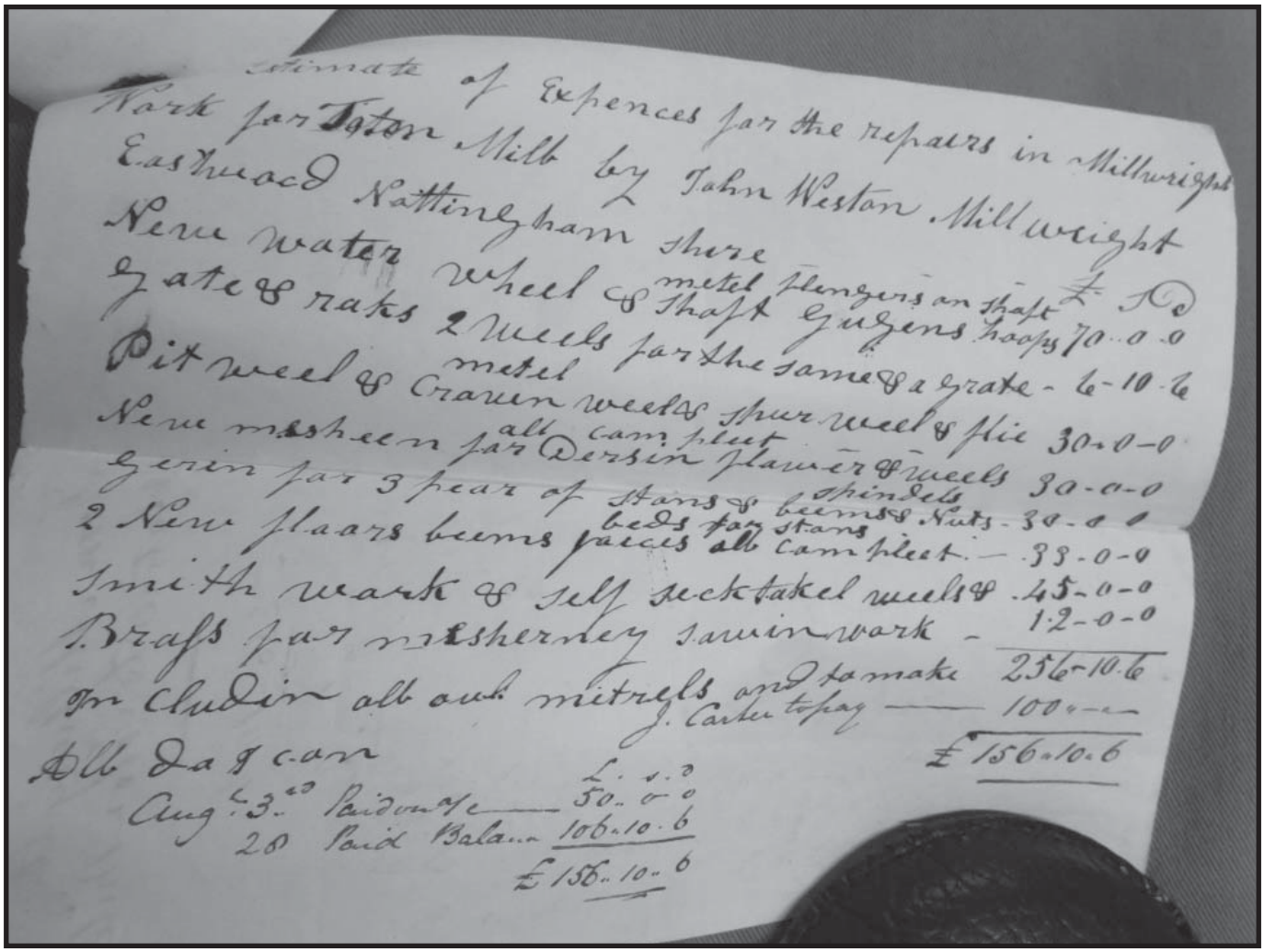
The most exciting find came on the very last day when two pointed oak timbers were pulled from the black mud of a former mill pond. Dendrochronology dating ascertained that these were produced from trees felled at some point between 1210 and 1235 AD and between 1231 and 1256 AD respectively. These felling dates give a *terminus post quem* for the construction of this as of yet unknown wooden structure.[12] Further investigation is needed to ascertain the purpose of these vertical stakes.

The search for details of Toton's water mill continues though documentary study. Reference to millers begin in 1296 with Reginald and Robert and continuous through the centuries up to George Fortescue in 1905 who was

Water mill - water management system. Source: Author

the manager of the glue factory which used the building following the closure of a flour mill, and subsequent transformation to a bone and soap works at the end of the 19th century.

The water mill would have been very important to the Manor of Toton. During medieval times the tenants and cottagers would have had to use this mill to grind their corn in order to make bread. The Court Leets of 1600 record the medieval practice of residents required to use the Lord's mill and being fined for not doing. *Joseph Jefferson did not have his grain ground at*



Letter concerning costs of mill repairs DD 53/6 Notts Archives

the Lord's mill - fine 12d.(October 1600) Thomas Chambers did not grind his grain at the Lord's mill on six separate occasions and refused without a good reason (April 1601)[13]

Thomas Keywood was the miller at this time. He leased his land and the mill with it's belongings which passed to his son (another Thomas) following his death in 1615. The millers were farmers as well as millers. They did not live at the watermill but leased a croft or house, along with the mill. An inventory 1702 shows that they were not wealthy folk. Robert Stafford lived in a single storey building owning one bed, one coffer, one table, one kneading trough and two mares.

Changes in farming practices and land ownership continued apace. In 1802 leases were renewed with a new landlord. John Hubbard now rented the mill which stood by the River Erewash. Also that water mill standing upon the River Erewash with the Geers (gears) tackle dressing mill pecks, mill bills, mill stones, clothes and appurtenances thereto belonging. Also all those several close or grounds inclosed of arable meadow and pasture ground ..... containing together by estimation thirty six acres and three roods or thereabouts.[14]

The archaeology has now been covered over and the recreation ground is back to its former state. There are still many records to study; in particular the Medieval court Rolls, If anyone wishes to join a group to read, translate and transcribe this fascinating glimpse in our local history they should get in touch with Friends of Toton Fields or G. Morral.

References:

1 Court Rolls kept at King's Meadow Manuscripts & Special collections Nottm University. Translated and transcribed kindly by Dominic Johnson (historian) & Jo Peet archivist Nottinghamshire Archives

2 Mi M92 King's Meadow Manuscripts & Special collections Nottm University

3 Seliones notes in Lease Mi D 1133 Ralph son of Robert Miller to Henry de Grey 1296

4 Vernon collection doc DDe 3/ 106 held at Chester Archives

5 Indenture 1597

6 Indenture between William Ireton & John Stanhope Chester Archives Vernon collection

7 DD 39/5 Rental (1631) Nottinghamshire County Archives

8 DD 39/6 Nottinghamshire County Archives

9 Tithe Award PR 8205 & Toton AT138 Nottinghamshire County Archives

10 DD 39/1 Nottinghamshire Archives

11 DDWN 53/6 Nottinghamshire Archives

12 Dendrochronology dates annual growth layers of wood (tree-rings), particularly oak, to their exact year of formation. This allows timbers, wooden artefacts, and upstanding buildings, to be dated very precisely.

13 DD 39/1-3 Nottinghamshire County archives

14 DDWN 67 Nottinghamshire Archives

The origin of almshouses.

Anne Earl

An almshouse is said to be a house maintained by private endowment or public subscription where certain poor aged people are housed and provided for.

The origins of almshouses are found in the early religious institutions such as nonasteries and nunneries which included an infirmary where the sick and elderly were tended to. Many of the early 12th. Century institutions were Lazar houses (housing lepers). These institutions were called hospitals as they provided hospitality to people going on pilgrimages to places like Canterbury.

St. Leonard's in Newark was founded in this century by Bishop Alexander and is still a substantial charity with a great number of almshouses. They were also in Blyth and East Stoke. John de Plumptre founded a hospital in Hollowstone in the 15th century. It had a chequered history eventually closing on Canal St. in the 1960s.

The Church introduced a series of indulgences whereby a person's soul could be eased through purgatory by a payment for prayers and masses. The monasteries became very rich through this which did not go unnoticed by Henry VIII. After the destruction of these refuges the wealthy began to found almshouses thus showing their piety, benevolence and wealth. They started to have distinctive architecture but were still close to a church. The Newark Bedehouse was built for William Philpott for 5 old men who had fuel and clothing in exchange for saying 3 paternosters, 3 ave marias and 1 creed AUDIBLY in the chapel. Willouoghby's hospital in Cossall built in 1694 has distinctive architecture with lattice windows, a central doorway and a double wall was for 4 men and 4 women

One of the most well known in Nottingham was Abel Collin's in Park St off Friar Lane thought to have the finest Georgian architecture in the town founded in1704. It had 24 houses, a nurse's home and a chapel. Abel wanted to help his fellow man in misfortune. Abel Collin is still a substantial charity on Derby Rd. Almspeople were given distinctive clothing such as Ann Darwin's grey coat with a badge in red cloth of AD. Sir William Stanhope in Shelford had a purple coat faced in white flannel.

As Nottingham grew wealthy industrialists like Sir John Robinson built houses further out of town. Jesse Boot founded homes in Wilford in which he himself could be comfortable. Mary Elizabeth Hardstaff's houses were for widows and orphans of miners, the funding coming from mines. Ann Burton, whose father was a wealthy saddler founded 24 houses on London Rd which was said to be the prettiest route into Nottingham.

Abel Collin's almhouses - Park Street, Nottingham
Reproduced by kind permission of Picture the Past

Hanley almshouses, Wollaton Street, Nottingham. Reproduced by kind permission of Picture the Past

Willoughby's Cossall Almshouses
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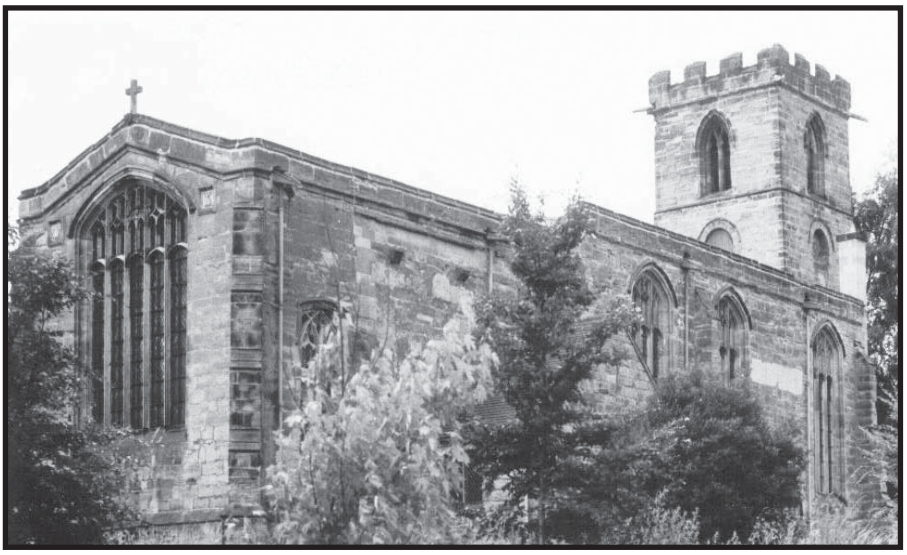
Nottingham topped Manchester in its provision for almshouses. My research which only goes up to 1919 has found about 70 almshouses.

A few facts and personal observations on Sir Ralph de Cromwell (1393-1456), Treasurer of England .

Patrick Burrows



Lambley church - 1980's

Sir Ralph is perhaps the most eminent individual to emerge from the village of Lambley. He is, unfortunately, sometimes confused with the notorious Oliver Cromwell (1599 to 1658) or Thomas Cromwell, but there is no connection.

Ralph is reported to have been born and lived as a young boy, in the Lambley Manor House, just to the south of Lambley Church, in the Pingle Field. At this time, the Cromwell Family seemed to be well known in the 'County Set' but not quite at the 'Top Table'. The family name of Cromwell was derived from an early association with the village of that name which is 14 miles to the North East of Lambley on the banks of the River Trent. This village and the family were originally called Crumwell but it was changed at some early point in history. The first born son of the family was always called Ralph and it was the seventh Ralph whose family lived in The Manor at this time and it was his son, the eighth Ralph (3rd Baron) who rose to the pinnacle of English politics.

This Ralph lived in the Manor during his early years but for some reason he was chosen to join The Court circles when still a boy. It is thought that he was required to be a companion to a young person at court, but it is not clear who was the young person and it may be confused with his role later in life. He was placed under the care of Thomas, Duke of Clarence, younger brother of reigning King Henry 5th(why such a senior chaperone ?). It must have been a considerable shock for the boy to move from the tiny village of Lambley into the lofty circles of The Court but he appeared to thrive and must have received intensive tuition in political and military ethics and procedures. At the age of 19 years he served under Thomas in various skirmishes over in France (100 year war) and when he was 22, they both took part in the historic Battle of Agincourt in 1415, (so Lambley was represented)

In this battle, the exhausted and bedraggled army and long bowmen, rained thousands of arrows (the sky was darkened) down onto the conventionally equipped French army when they were still too far away to retaliate. The French attempted to respond using the cavalry, both men and horses protected with burnished armour, but heavy mud and some inter- battalion rivalry (in addition to the arrows),thwarted their efforts . It was a very, bloody, affair! The French had in mind a little more hand to hand combat, of course cried 'Foul' and demanded a red card but nevertheless, the English were victorious and the course of history made a small change.

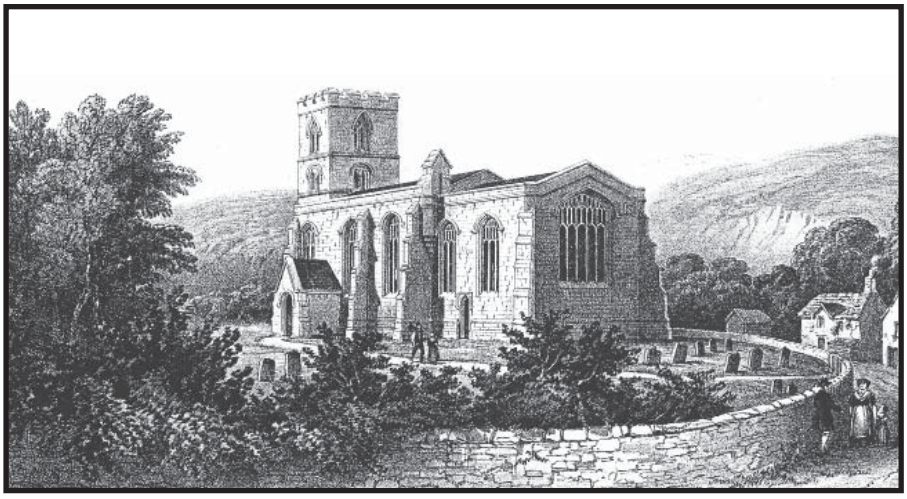
During these engagements with the French, Ralph proved to be a very brave and competent soldier and this, no doubt, did him no harm on his return to Court, since he was awarded his knighthood. It was around this time in 1419 that he inherited Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire and his political life really began to change.

King Henry 5th was on the throne during the above period but, following serious illness, he died in 1422 and his infant son was crowned Henry 6th at the age of 9 months. It didn't take them long to realise that he would need some help and the Council of Regency was formed to advise and act on his behalf. Sir Ralph was appointed to The Council and to Parliament as Privy Councillor. He also became Chamberlain of the Household which he held until 1432. He married Margaret Deyncourt in 1424 but their marriage was childless and she passed away in 1454.

Sir Ralph continued to be involved in the high level politics of the coun-

try and in 1431, he was appointed as King's Chamberlain at the coronation of King Henry 6 in Paris (Henry is only 10 years of age). In the same year he appears to have been directed to witness the execution of Joan of Arc who was 'burned at the stake' in Rouen. What a way to go !

Joan must have been a remarkable young woman (or just a pesky teenager) ; at the age of only 17 years and urged on by visions, she persuaded the French power house lead by Charles (due to become King Charles 7th), to allow her to lead the French Army against the English at Orleans. She defeated them! By this time she was a very mature 18 years old but events went against her and the reward from the English was gastly death at the stake(aged 19) and finally from the French, a sainthood.



Lambley church - line drawing - 1850-51

In 1433, Sir Ralph became Lord Treasurer of England and this appointment opened the door to many new opportunities. He was granted the rights to land in this Midlands region and began renovation and rebuilding work at South Wingfield Manor, Colliweston and Tattershall along with ownership of estates at Wymondham in Norfolk. In 1436 he became Master of the King's Mews and Falcons. In 1439 he was given the King's permission to create the collegiate church at Tattershall dedicated to The Holy Trinity. He built the central brickwork Grand Tower which, today, is regarded as one of the finest example of early brickwork in the country. During this period he was endowed with considerable power and wealth, but his responsibilities must have been enormous. Remember that during this period of history, the 100 year war with the French,(English attempts to reign over France) was ongoing and had to be financed from a hard strapped budget which resulted in a greatly increased crown debt. In this time at the Treasury, he created his personal badge of office which comprises a leather money bag with a clasp through which are entwined stems of the Gromwell plant, (is the similarity to the family name a coincidence ?) This is a hairy plant, often regarded as a weed, which can bear small yellow, white or blue flowers and minute nuts. This badge adorns all the buildings associated with Sir Ralph, including Lambley Church and most fittingly, a similar design has been adopted as the logo by Lambley Historical Society. His motto was 'Nay ie droit' meaning 'Have I not the right' , perhaps this sums up his view on life!

Sir Ralph seemed to visit his properties on an irregular basis. During a recent tour of South Wingfield Manor, the guide led us to an upper floor window with good views down the hill.

When a visit was expected, a lookout would be stationed at the window to give warning of the first sign of movement at which the huge 'welcome routine' would swing into action. Sir Ralph would no doubt be up front with his standard flying, leading a column of many soldiers and staff who would attend to his security, comfort, hygiene and culinary needs. He would present an impression of almost frightening power and authority as befitted his position in Parliament!

In 1443 Sir Ralph resigned as Treasurer, perhaps related to the rising influence of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, who became the most influential adviser to the King. In `1445 he was appointed Constable of Nottingham Castle and Warden of Sherwood Forest.

In 1449, Sir Ralph became embroiled in a local dispute with William Tailboys, a Lincolnshire squire and a supporter of the Duke of Suffolk. In November of that year, Tailboys attacked him and eventually ended up in the Tower of London. Suffolk himself, fell from favour and was murdered during a crossing to France! The death of Suffolk unleashed a flood of jealousies which included a bitter dispute over land between Sir Ralph and the Duke of Exeter. These events, and others, give the impression that he was not a man to be crossed. In 1450 he was reappointed Chamberlain of the Household.

Sir Ralph de Cromwell died on January 4, 1456 and most accounts state that this occurred at Colliweston but a least one Google item claims that his death was at South Wingfield; all agree that he was buried at Tattershall. Could it be that the wily old campaigner decided to slip quietly away from the political turmoil and spend his last few months with slippers and pipe in front of a log fire at the family home IN LAMBLEY??

Sir Ralph wrote two wills, the second included a codicil stipulating a £300 bequest to rebuild Lambley Church and an instruction to inter his Mother and Father within the Church. His heirs did not benefit greatly since much of the revenue from his land and estates went to charities.

Ralph was an incredible man whose achievements in military and political circles are difficult to believe. WE IN LAMBLEY SHOULD CELEBRATE OUR ASSOCIATION WITH HIM !!

So what remains in the Village to remember the great man? There is, of course, The Holy and Undivided Trinity Church with all the rich history, Ralph's parents under the Sanctuary Aisle and his twin badges of office, the Pingle Field, and most recently, Cromwell Crescent. His pipe and slippers have yet to be unearthed!!

Walking down the Nottingham-Loughborough turnpike in 1782: a German visitor describes an overnight stay in Costock.

Keith Hodgkinson

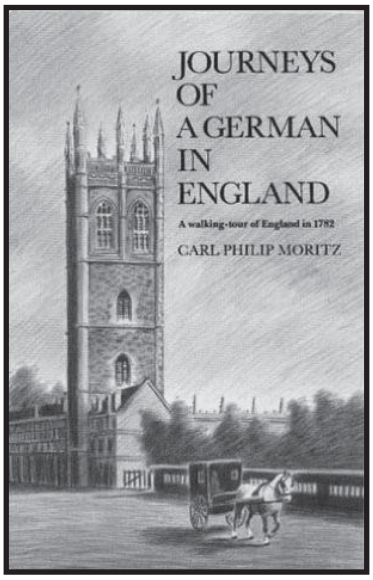
Last year we received a request for information about the inns of Costock in the late 18th century. The request came from a German writer by way of John Parker, chairman of the Nottinghamshire Local History Association. Hans-Peter Plass lives in Hamburg and was doing some research into a book – a diary or journal really – written in 1783 by a German traveller called Carl Philip Moritz.

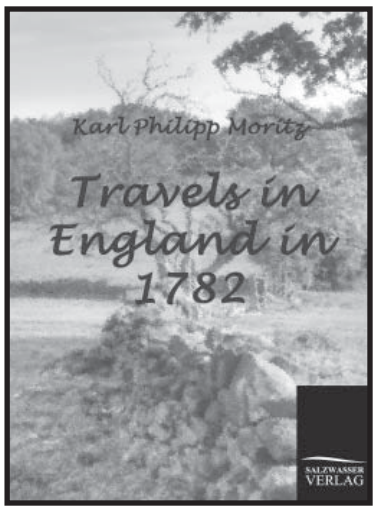
Carl Philip Moritz

The book is called 'Journeys of a German in England 1782' and is a description of a summer's walking holiday in England. It is based on a series of letters to a friend back home. It was published in German in 1783 with an English translation two years later. The book is still available here, and is occasionally reprinted.

Carl Moritz was a young Prussian Lutheran clergyman, a Pastor, travelling on a modest budget with little in his pocket besides a copy of *Paradise Lost*, which he meant to read in the Land of Milton. From his reporting of many verbatim conversations with and between English folk, we may safely guess that he must have been fairly fluent in English. After all, he came from the highly educated though probably lower middle classes in Germany where English had become popular as a second language following the Hanoverian succession – and George III was king of England at the time. Visits to other countries were of course popular among such people then, with English gentlemen and aristocrats joining their European counterparts on the European Grand Tour. Moritz himself travelled to Italy for instance where he befriended the multilingual Goethe.

These were the years immediately before the French Revolution. The king of Prussia was then Frederick II, better known as Frederick the Great. He was considered an enlightened ruler with interests in English as well as French law and philosophy, though, like most monarchs at that time, he was very suspicious of democracy. Carl Moritz himself admired England's relative freedom and was very interested in





our democratic system. When in London he made detailed notes on the House of Commons at Westminster. Here he was apparently amazed at the formality of procedures (doffing the hat to and addressing the Speaker, beginning each speech with "Sir") but also appalled at the very informal, even riotous "debates."

Moritz set off in late May and finished at the end of July. He travelled mostly by coach of course and seems to have spent most of his time in London before setting off to visit the Peak District by way of Eton, Windsor, Oxford, Stratford and Derby. His return trip took him back to London via Nottingham, Loughborough, Leicester and Northampton. In Derbyshire he abandoned the coach and decided to complete his journey on foot – perhaps he ran out of cash, or maybe he wanted to make more direct contact with ordinary working people. But he was often met with a rude reception. The Enclosure Acts had forced England's peasants to become employees of land-owners, and those who could not find employment became the "wandering poor" – thus anyone seen walking along the road was identified as a beggar or a thief. For this reason Moritz experienced considerable problems finding room and board, and was even run out of some villages simply for arriving on foot. But he was equally surprised at both the rough argumentative speech and the geniality shown towards himself by, for example, the Nottinghamshire colliers. He was staying in ordinary inns after all, and drank with the lads in the bar – though he found it paid him to offer the landlord a drink before negotiating terms for the night. And he hated the beer!

What is of interest here is the section from Nottingham to Leicester and firstly his description of Nottingham:

> "This, of all the towns I have yet seen, except London, seemed to me to be one of the best, and is undoubtedly the cleanest. Everything here wore a modern appearance, and a large place in the centre, scarcely yielded to a London square in point of beauty."

Here he is describing the old market-place, now Market Square, which was then as now a very large open space indeed.

> "From the town a charming footpath leads you across the meadows to the high-road, where there is a bridge over the Trent. Not far from this bridge was an inn, where I dined, though I could get nothing but bread-and-butter, of which I desired to have a toast made."

Almost certainly this was the Three Horse Shoes and Crown which later changed to the famous Trent Bridge Inn. The "Shoes and Crown" was established at the southern end of the bridge to provide accommodation for late-night visitors while the Nottingham gates were closed at dusk. The inn was then owned by the Musters family and was the only inn in this location. As for the "only bread-and-butter", perhaps our traveller had upset the landlord, or he had just arrived too late.

Moritz continued:

> "Nottingham lies high, and made a beautiful appearance at a distance, with its neat high houses, red roofs, and its lofty steeples. I have not seen so fine a prospect in any other town in England."

Here he is probably talking about the view of the original castle. From what is now West Bridgford he walked south along "the high road", the well-established Nottingham and Loughborough Turnpike Trust created in 1737-8 and now the A60. This went from Trent Bridge to Cotes, a total distance of 13 miles.

The old Trent Bridge Inn, 1885, originally the Three Horse Shoes and Crown

> "I now came through several villages, as Ruddington, Bradmore, and Buny, to Castol, where I stayed all night."

So he walked about 9 miles in one day, presumably carrying his personal baggage on his shoulders.

> "This whole afternoon I heard the ringing of bells in many of the villages. Probably it is some holiday which they thus celebrate. It was cloudy weather, and I felt myself not at all well, and in these circumstances this ringing discomposed me still more, and made me at length quite low-spirited and melancholy."

As a Pastor he would certainly have

Old Market Square c.1800

known if this had been a Sunday, so what "holidays" or other celebrations could there have been here in mid-July? On 16th of the month England signed a treaty with the new USA at Versailles – hardly a cause for celebration – and there are no important Church of England saints days at this time. So the reason for the disturbing bell-ringing "in many of the villages" must remain a mystery for now. The weather must have been fine and the road, though not yet tarmacked was therefore not much better than a well-maintained cart-track. But it must have been reasonably clean and flat to enable an easy 9-mile walk in one day.

"At Castol..."

We know that the old name for Costock was Cortlingstock,; perhaps Carl had slightly misheard the shortened form, "Cort'l". An alternative explanation is that, as the original name had been "Cortel", Moritz's "Castol" might have been a relic from Saxon times, slightly mis-spelt. Or was this a (very) local nickname? We shall probably never know.

> "At Castol there were three inns close to each other, in which, to judge only from the outside of the houses, little but poverty was to be expected. In the one at which I at length stopped...."

The first inn would have been the old Red Lion sited by the side of the turnpike. Along the road to East Leake there must have been at least one other "inn", probably no more than an ale-house without serious accommodation. It is most likely that our visitor stayed at the only other genuine inn, at what is now the Generous Briton.

> "... there was only a landlady, a sick butcher, and a sick carter, both of whom had come to stay the night. This assemblage of sick persons gave me the idea of an hospital, and depressed me still more. I felt some degree of fever, was very restless all night, and so I kept my bed very late the next morning, until the woman of the house came and aroused me by saying she had been uneasy on my account. And now I formed the resolution to go to Leicester in the post-coach."

Clearly he had a poor opinion of the other inn guests – or were they perhaps just playing up in the hope of some sympathy, and maybe a free drink?

> "I was now only four miles from Loughborough, a small, and I think, not a very handsome town, where I arrived late at noon, and dined at the last inn on the road that leads to Leicester. Here again, far beyond expectation, the people treated me like a gentleman, and let me dine in the parlour.
>
> From Loughborough to Leicester was only ten miles, but the road was sandy and very unpleasant walking. I came through a village called Mountsorrel, which perhaps takes its name from a little hill at the end of it. As for the rest, it was all one large plain, all the way to Leicester. Towards evening I came to a pleasant meadow just before I got to Leicester, through which a footpath led me to the town, which made a good appearance as I viewed it lengthways, and indeed much larger than it really is.
>
> I went up a long street before I got to the house from which the post-coaches set out, and which is also an inn. I here learnt that the stage was to set out that evening for London, but that the inside was already full; some places were, however, still left on the outside. Being obliged to bestir myself to get back to London, as the time drew near when the Hamburg captain, with whom I intend to return, had fixed his departure, I determined to take a place as far as Northampton on the outside [of the coach]."

The book ends with his return to London two days later, and then back home to Prussia.

References:

Leeds, S. (2013) *Victoria County History: Nottinghamshire: Costock*. Unpublished draft.

Moritz, C. P. (1783, English trans.1785) *Journals of a German in England in 1782: a walking tour of England.* Various publishers.

NLHA SERVICES

The NLHA offers a number of services to our members including:

Publishing

We offer a grant to cover not more than 50% of the publishing costs up to a maximum of £200 with the following requirements:

NLHA seeing a final draft (or for larger documents a significant portion) of the document;

An acknowledgment in the document, and any subsequent publicity, of NLHA support;

The document relating (in general terms) to Nottinghamshire heritage.

The document being of an acceptable quality.

NLHA will also provide ISBN's for use with the publication and will provide promotional activities through the newsletter, Facebook page, web page, *The Nottinghamshire Historian* etc.

Web Sites

We offer NLHA member societies the opportunity to have their web sites hosted within the NLHA hosting account for a charge of £30 per year (the cost would be £100 per year for a commercial service), this is in addition to the £15 NLHA society subscription. We will make available our experience and technical knowledge to help member societies set up or develop their own web sites

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'Kick Start' Grants

We may provide grants of up to £200 to help member societies either start or restart subject to the same sort of conditions that we apply to publishing.

For more information contact NLHA chairman, John Parker, 124 Churchill Drive, Ruddington, Nottingham NG11 6DG, tel: 07779082085, email: chairman@nlha.org.uk

View of the South and West fronts of Clumber House
William Collins (1788 - 1847)

Georgiana - Duchess of Newcastle