



Derbyshire Miscellany

Local History Bulletin | Derbyshire Archaeological Society



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Welcome

I am very pleased to welcome you to this new-look *Derbyshire Miscellany*. When the publication was first launched in 1956, John Bestall wrote 'We hope to see it established as a link between people who are exploring the county's past... Its overriding aim must be to advance our knowledge of Derbyshire history'. *Derbyshire Miscellany*, it seems, remains relatively rare as a local history publication in that it contains longer, detailed, well-referenced, original research but without the formality of a journal.

Whilst it is important to maintain this, I should also like to include a range of shorter and more informal pieces to promote that link between members and non-members exploring the county's rich history. Perhaps short anecdotes and reminders of Derbyshire's past or queries about your own research that other members may be able to offer assistance with or comment on. To echo John Bestall's 1950s plea, do send 'as many notes and queries as possible, please'.

Becky Sheldon
Editor

ON THE COVER

Map by Michael Drayton in *Polyolbion or Chorographical Description of all the Tracts, Rivers, Mountains, Forests and other Parts of the Renowned Isle of Great Britain*. Published 1612, enlarged in 1622. Engraver: William Hole.

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Fig. 1 The Meynell Langley hunt at Aston Hall, 1900s (Maxwell Craven collection)

THE HOLDEN FAMILY OF ASTON HALL AND THEIR ARCHIVES: Part 2

By MIRIAM WOOD
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The Holden family of Aston are one of the many lesser land-owning families in Derbyshire whose family archives may be found at Derbyshire Record Office.

In the previous issue, the first part of this article charted the growth of the estate from Henry Houlden (d. 1610) through Robert Holden (1594-1660), Samuel (1637-1692), another Robert (1676-1746) to Mary Shuttleworth, nee Holden (d. 1791), and her son, the Reverend Charles Holden (1750-1821). Now, the story continues with his son Edward Anthony, and considers the variety of other subjects illuminated in the family's archive.¹

The estate, founded in 1648 by Edward Anthony's ancestor Robert and substantially extended by another Robert in the 18th century, was now to be greatly enlarged in Aston until it encompassed about three-fifths of the modern parish, but at the cost of the loss of the Halstead property. This was, however, to be the last chapter in the history of the Holden family in Aston although the estate outlived them until its demise in 1924 – and their Hall still stands, now perhaps at least 280 years old.

Enlarging the estate 1821-1865

Edward Anthony Holden (1805-1877) was a minor when he succeeded, aged 16, on the death of his father the Reverend Charles in 1821. He succeeded to an estate a little smaller than that of Charles as

set out in 1797.² The Long Eaton lands had been sold and the property in Little Wilne and Sawley is not heard of again; but there still remained 564 acres of land in Aston, 111 in Weston, 204 in Shardlow and Wilne and 485 in Halstead, Leicestershire, as in the 1797 terrier. There are no figures giving his income but the information available from his father's latter years suggests that it was over £2,000 a year.³ His income was therefore a comfortable one, and when he married Susan Drummond Moore of Snarestone Lodge, Leicestershire, in 1832, he married a wealthy woman.

Their marriage settlement of November 1832 shows that she had been left £40,000 by her father and in 1834, having reached her majority, she transferred £10,000 to her husband.⁴ Moreover, his wife was to receive the proceeds of the investment of the rest of her money. Perhaps it was this marriage which enabled him to embark on a spending spree from 1833, and by 1839 he had spent over £11,000 on property – though he had made a small purchase in 1828.⁵ From then until 1865 he bought some thirty properties, most small, but including a few larger purchases and, last of all, one of 356 acres. These are documented in more than 460 deeds and an account book.⁶

Deeds relating to E. A. Holden's purchases

The larger properties included a messuage and lands bought in 1833, itself an amalgam of lands bought over the years by William Hickinbottom an Aston farmer,⁷ Garner's Farm in 1834, and a messuage and lands between 1847 and 1849.⁸ The deeds give field names much more than in earlier centuries because, after the enclosures of the 18th century, farms consisted of named, enclosed fields instead of yardlands made up of generally unnamed strips of land (although there had always been some named closes or areas of land). The personal names in the documents relating to the larger purchases are likely still to be of yeomen or, as became more common over the years, 'farmers', or others such as the merchants John and James Cowlshaw of Shardlow in 1828, who were no doubt involved in trade on the canal.⁹

The many smaller purchases of messuages and cottages, sometimes with a little land attached, are more likely to name craftsmen or tradesmen – or even, in 1796, somewhat unexpectedly, William Kirkman butler to Sir Robert Wilmot of Chaddesden.¹⁰ This is also noticeable in some of the deeds for Edward Anthony Holden's earlier purchases, where there are references, for example, to Samuel Mather cordwainer in 1726,¹¹ Lucy widow of the late William Clarke shoemaker in 1796,¹² John and William Smedley wheelwrights and carpenters in 1797¹³ and Thomas Astle wheelwright in 1843.¹⁴ Then there was a dynasty of Da(y)kins, 1785-1839: Thomas, William and Robert, all blacksmiths.¹⁵ Another member of the family, George Daykin, was, however, a schoolmaster, as mentioned in 1826 and 1839.¹⁶

There is also much else to illuminate life in Aston, especially regarding housing. The deeds of these smaller purchases show that properties were being subdivided and new houses built, not only in the 19th century but earlier and sometimes the builders of the new houses are named. The farm bought by Mary and James Shuttleworth in 1767 included a house already subdivided into several dwellings by 1760 and there was a messuage and adjoining shop as well (the tenants' names are given and include Thomas Whitehead, shoemaker).¹⁷ It appears that the seller was in financial difficulties and presumably subletting helped with his problems. Rather different was the case of George Redwood tailor, said to have built a house before 1778 upon part of premises he had bought in 1750, which by 1786 was divided into four dwellings although only two of them were occupied in 1800.¹⁸

In 1838 is recorded the sale of a messuage with outbuildings 'now divided' and used as seven dwelling houses, giving the tenants' names.¹⁹ The reference to outbuildings and the number of

dwellings suggests that this may once have been a farmhouse with its barns and yard. In the following year Holden agreed to buy from William Daykin of Aston, blacksmith, five houses in Aston where again a new building is mentioned and, unusually, the agreement names the rooms in each house.²⁰

Each has a house place (see below) and in addition, the first has a parlour and chamber, the second two chambers, the third a pantry and two chambers, the fourth a pantry, two chambers, a garden and privy and the last (on Aston Moor) a parlour, two chambers, and a large garden. Two of the cottages had been built by William Daykin and were additions on the land on which the others had been built long before. The house place is presumably what we would call the living room, but it must also have been where the cooking was done. It is also of some note that there are parlours in two of the houses.

In 1841, a recital of deeds dividing 10 houses between the five children of Lovat(t) Frearson, shows that six had been built on the site of a messuage and land purchased by Frearson from John Locker, labourer and three on a plot purchased from John Gee together with the existing house.²¹ Frearson was a joiner, but there are also references to the bricklayers John and William Halladay between 1809 and 1838.²² The Halladays reappear later, in 1853, when the family conveyed a messuage with a blacksmith's shop, pump, well and privy, formerly a coal house, to Edward Anthony Holden.²³

In 1846, a freehold property put up for sale at the Old White Hart Inn in Aston included a farmhouse in the centre of Aston occupied as two dwellings which 'may at trifling expense, be converted into small Tenements' while it is suggested that the rest of the property is 'well adapted for the erection of Villa Residences'. Tenements were presumably to be built for the less well-off, but villa residences for the better-off suggest the early beginnings of Aston becoming a suburb for Derby.²⁴

Other deeds may sometimes tell us of other aspects of Aston. There is reference to a schoolroom in a deed of 1837 involving a close with five cottages and a schoolroom 'standing thereon' (as well as four other cottages though whether on the same close is not clear).²⁵ It was about this time that the schoolmaster George Daykin was mentioned in other deeds (see above). The 1853 conveyance above mentioned for the blacksmith's shop, also involves the trustees of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Aston.²⁶

The White Hart Inn (see above for the Old White Hart Inn) and The Coach and Horses appear as venues for auctions of properties in 1832 and 1833 respectively.²⁷ The Coach and Horses was itself for sale in 1845, for which there is a series of deeds beginning in 1646, when only a cottage was involved.²⁸ There are few 18th century deeds but

the cottage (or other buildings replacing it) probably became an inn between 1764 and 1810 when John Whitmore, late of London, hackneyman, but then of Aston victualler, bought a messuage, brewhouse, stable and yard in Aston, 'now used as a public house known in the name and sign of the 'Coach and Horses'.²⁹ In 1814 he is called an innholder and in 1835 it was agreed that Margaret Whitmore, his widow, was to sell the premises to Francois Braissant of Derby, innkeeper. Later Braissant called himself John Francis rather than Francois and it appears from his letters of denization of 1845 that he was an 'alien born' in Leissy, Switzerland. Others in the same letters include Joseph Louis Robin from Brest, a teacher of French in Ashbourne.

Deeds may show families selling up because of financial problems as was often the case in the early 18th century when Robert Holden II was buying, but there were others who prospered, to different degrees. One family which did so in a modest way was the Whyman family. In 1712 a John Whyman, labourer, bought three acres of arable land dispersed in Aston's common fields; then in 1765 John Whyman the elder, 'stockiner' [stockinger], settled on his son John the younger, land surveyor, two messuages and a close of four acres, all in Aston. Later still, schoolmaster John Whyman of Aston's will of 1799 shows him leaving four dwelling houses to his family as well as the house in which he lived and the close in which it stood and a garden.³⁰ There is also more on the later generations of the family who appear to have moved to London. In his will John Whyman left books and mathematical instruments to a son appropriately named Euclid. Euclid appears earlier as the maker of maps of Holden lands in 1795 and 1798 and perhaps was once the agent for Mrs Shuttleworth.³¹

There are deeds relating to a further 11 purchases and an exchange of property made by Edward Anthony Holden in the 1840s and nine between 1853 and 1863, many of them of messuages and cottages, often bought in twos or threes.³² There were also some purchases of land amongst these. The many names mentioned include families already noted above, with the series of deeds for a property usually beginning in the 18th century, but with a few dating back to the 17th century.

The estate at its height and its demise 1865-1924

There is no extant deed for Edward's largest purchase which is recorded only in a cash book between 1865 and 1868 in a somewhat complicated transaction, ultimately completed when his wife received a substantial legacy from an uncle in 1866.³³ Holden bought Aston's glebe land, described as 362 acres, from the

Ecclesiastical Commissioners, costing him £26,700, financed at first by two mortgages: one of the glebe back to the Commissioners for £16,000 and the other of the Holdens' estate at Tilton in Leicestershire for £10,000. Six acres (worth £600) were given to the Rectory for glebe land. The mortgage on Tilton was repaid by his wife's legacy, after which it became possible to sell the property to pay the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' mortgage. A few small purchases were added to the Aston Hall estate before it was sold, in 1898 in its entirety, for £96,232 (net rental £3,500), by Edward Charles Shuttleworth Holden, Edward Anthony's grandson and heir, to William Dickson Winterbottom, a book cloth manufacturer from Manchester, who was already living at Aston Hall.³⁴ The sale documents include a comprehensive schedule of the estate, even including such details as drains, ponds and orchards as well as information relating to the gypsum works.³⁵

We do not know why E.C.S. Holden decided to sell. He had made the army his career and may perhaps not have been attracted to the life of a country gentleman, but he may also have found the generous settlements his grandfather had made on his large family (originally 12 children, though his eldest son died in the Crimea, aged only 18 and leaving no dependents) a burden at a time of difficulty for agriculture.³⁶ Moreover, 79 acres of land in Aston and some Leicester land had been mortgaged in 1871 but the mortgage had not been repaid when the sale was being negotiated in 1898.³⁷ It was an abrupt ending to the ownership of the estate by the Holden family. Aston Hall and its lands remained in William Winterbottom's hands until 1924, but after his death it was broken up with equal abruptness and sold, just over three centuries after Robert Holden I began the career which was to lay the foundations of the modern Aston Hall estate.³⁸

Family and Friends

In addition to the title deeds there are many other and more varied documents, but only one is truly personal: the memorandum by Henry Holden, son of Robert I mentioned in part 1, which shows his hurt at what he felt was unfair treatment from his father.³⁹ Some 17th century papers, however, do give a personal slant on the family's activities, as we find them often buying cloth in the late 1650s and early 1660s.⁴⁰ In particular, there is an account of small payments, some for 'sister Buxton', Robert I's daughter Mary, and 'sister Nanny' probably a pet name for his second daughter Anne.⁴¹ Perhaps in 1661, money was laid out for 'our new geares' that is three hides of 'whit leather', buckles and 'work' and certainly in 1661, a tailor was paid for a suit and two coats for John Houlden.⁴² An account in 1664 refers to owing for a gown and 'Peticoat' (a skirt

worn under or over a gown), presumably for women of the family.⁴³

Other documents undoubtedly had a personal impact for those involved: for example, the formal records relating to Alexander's apprenticeship in London.⁴⁴ The several marriage settlements would have been of the greatest importance to wives who became widows and to younger children; the former having assurance for a livelihood and the latter for their portions on which good marriages and a start in life depended.

Some illuminating papers concern the negotiations for the marriage of Lemuel Lowe and Esther Perkins in 1685, in the collection perhaps because the Perkins family may have been related to Samuel Holden's first wife.⁴⁵ A Mary Leves (or Leues) reports that 'the party', presumably Lemuel, is a man of good report and a very good husband, i.e., looks after his affairs prudently. She does not hear he has land of his own but he lives 'very fully'. For his part, he sets out what his estate was really worth. Esther's mother writes that she cannot object to Mr 'Low' and marriage articles were drawn up in 1685, almost certainly by Samuel, who was to act as Esther's father on the marriage day. The articles were concerned with the financial arrangements for the marriage.

Wills also figure in these records and in these we see members of the family disposing of their goods and money, though often their property was otherwise dealt with in settlements.⁴⁶ The wills often show real care and affection for their families and contain donations to the poor or to a servant. In the names of executors and overseers, their wills and related papers may tell us much about their wider family and their friends. Robert Holden I's will of 1660, as one instance, mentions his brothers in law, whilst papers involving payments by his executors name members of the Holden family living in or near London.⁴⁷ These include Edward, citizen and merchant tailor of London and Griffin Houlden of All Hallows, Barking, draper.

Something of the households run by the family can be seen in wills, for instance the will of Robert Holden II,⁴⁸ but also in the rentals and accounts of 1797-1814 recording personal and domestic payments.⁴⁹ There are, for instance, in 1800 references to materials for a hot house and green house and in 1812 payments to wine merchants, a tailor, hosier and an Italian warehouse. In the same year arrears of subscriptions to the Derbyshire Infirmary 1809-1811 were noted and Charles Holden's contribution to the Napoleonic War effort is seen in payments for Volunteer hats in 1804 and towards the Provisional Cavalry, 1798-1799. The accounts also show that Charles Holden was sometimes in Bath, for money was sent to him there and a 1798 plan of a house (almost certainly Aston Hall), gardens and 106 acres in Aston and Weston lordships belonging to Holden, shows the property

to be in the occupation of Josh. Walker esq.⁵⁰ They must have been let out, so the Holdens were not living there at that time.

The settlements, marriage or otherwise, and wills, concerning the family's affairs are to be expected in a collection of this sort, but there are also some unexpected documents amongst the more personal of the Holdens' records. They include a copy of the will made in 1804 of Robert Holden of Darley near Derby esquire (a descendant of Samuel Holden), a man of some wealth, with property in York, Newark and other places in Nottinghamshire, as well as the manor of Darley and his mansion house. Although the relationship with the Aston Holdens was becoming a little distant, a number of bequests were made to them and to the Shuttleworths, and he was also very generous to his servants.⁵¹ The unexpected item, however, is a book marked 'Inventory of Heirlooms at Darley Abbey', containing a room-by-room inventory of the household furniture with values, and lists of plate, books (sub-divided by size), pictures and prints of the late Robert Holden Esquire.⁵²

Other unexpected records relate to Larges Hospital for clergymen's widows at Nun's Green, Derby which it appears are here because Charles Holden was the only surviving trustee of the Hospital under the codicil to the will of his late uncle Robert Holden II of Aston and it had fallen to Charles to nominate clergymen's widows to the Hospital. It would not be unusual for a person of Robert's status, particularly as he was a lawyer, to have become a trustee of such an institution, but it is fortunate that, as a result, important records of the Hospital should have survived here. They include two volumes of rentals and accounts 1797-1810, a booklet relating to accounts and rentals 1815-1817, a conveyance in trust of 1817 which details the trust's estate and a lease, with sketch maps, of 1820 by the trustees of land near Nun's Green on which buildings are to be erected.⁵³

The manor of Weston

With one exception, it is only when the manor of Weston was on the brink of irrelevance that there are court papers surviving of its proceedings. The exception is a list of presentments and amerancements (fines) made at the two courts in 1659.⁵⁴ From 1749 to 1776, however, there survives a near-complete series of court proceedings.⁵⁵ The courts met twice a year and the papers name the steward and members of the jury and record the appointment of the constables and pinners, who impounded straying animals in the pinfold, giving a little insight into the everyday life of those farming lands within the manor and of the villagers generally.

At all times, except in the very last years, the courts were much concerned with fining transgressors of the regulations which governed the operation of the open fields. The courts of 1659 also fined those who broke the assizes of ale and bread (which regulated their quality) and dealt with a case of affray and bloodshed, but these types of offence do not appear in the 18th century papers. Other, offences include not scouring a watercourse, not making a fence, not making their part of the common pinfold, animals trespassing in particular fields at times they are not allowed to be there, or pigs not being rung, i.e. through the nose.

Some of the business related to what we might call local government issues. In 1759, for instance, there is a presentment for neglecting to take care to get a certificate for one that is to settle in 'our Town'. This presumably is a reference to a settlement certificate naming the place to which an incomer could be returned if he became chargeable to a Weston manor township. The fine for this offence was much higher than normal. In 1763, a constable was fined for not keeping stepping stones in repair; at other times villagers were fined for placing a dunghill in the town street and there were objections to dogs being taken into church in 1768. In 1754 the jury settled the mere or bound stones in the common fields and in 1756 marked the limits of a piece of ground in Wilne. We find that there were town meetings, as referenced in 1749 and 1773, so these manorial papers show a lively society in the townships of the manor.

The Parliamentary enclosure of Aston and Shardlow Moors in 1757 and the other lands in Aston, chiefly arable, in 1763, brought the end of communal regulation of farming but not overnight. The award set out what land each owner was to have, but actually marking out the fields and new roads took time and it is evident that the same offences were still being committed for a few years after the enclosure awards. The court records of presentments and ameracements continued until 1776, but offences in the later papers tended to be about horses loose in the lanes, or fences and hedges being damaged, whilst appointments of officers became irregular, until in May 1776 there were no presentments of offences, although three constables and two pinners were still appointed. The jury otherwise simply presented 'All Well'. No later record of manorial courts survives and it is likely that no further one was ever compiled.

Also, for 1749 to 1776 there are suit rolls, listing those who were required to attend the courts, noting who did or did not do so.⁵⁶ The numbers of names given are in the forties for each of the three townships in the earliest suit roll, but rising quickly to, and remaining in, the fifties for Weston and Wilne and Shardlow and the seventies for Aston. They are mostly, but not exclusively, men and sometimes include notes such as 'dead', 'left town' and very

occasionally note a weaver or butcher. It is perhaps surprising that so many people should have been bound to pay suit of court, but leaves a source rich in names for past residents of the townships.

The Holdens and their estate

The 17th century records relating to the activities of the Holdens were discussed in Part 1. They relate to their cattle dealings with legal papers concerning their disputes and bonds relating to their loans in mid-century. In the 18th century we might have expected some documentation relating to the administration of their estate, but there is little until the end of the century on whether, for instance, they leased out farms they had bought and on what terms or for how much rent.

There are, however, a few leases as well as other documents relating to some of the family's initiatives giving us information on what was happening in Aston, Shardlow and Wilne and some details of the Holden property.⁵⁷ In 1709, for instance, Robert Holden (already denoted esquire) leased out fishing in the Derwent and Trent and in ponds within the manor, the fishponds in Holden's orchard excepted, and the liberty of fowling within the manor. Endorsements let the gravel beds in the two rivers and an osierback, and allow the lessee to have the bulrushes in certain pools.

Other early 18th century deeds are private agreements allowing Robert Holden to enclose small areas of land in Shardlow, discharged of all right of common, in return for a payment to the freeholders and others in Shardlow (1728) and Shardlow and Wilne (1729-1730). Another deed relates to the enclosure in Aston of five acres of land formerly common in 1747.⁵⁸ Such piecemeal private agreements may well have occurred at other times but, if so, they do not survive. There are also detailed articles of agreement in 1735, whereby the freeholders, leaseholders and other inhabitants of Aston on the one hand and of Wilne and Shardlow on the other, settled their disputes concerning rights of common on Aston and Shardlow Moors, which include references to the perambulation bounds or marks of Aston, and each renouncing claims on the other's common.⁵⁹

It was common to invest in lending on mortgages and indeed property bought by Robert Holden II was sometimes mortgaged to him before he bought it and there is other evidence of his involvement in this kind of investment. This is seen in the complicated deeds in which it appears that the Lowes of Park Hall, Denby, borrowed from Holden in the 1740s in order to raise money to discharge debts and to provide portions. In these is a description of some of the Lowe's property, including tenants' names, and with reference also

to coal mines at Nether Eastwood, Nottinghamshire.⁶⁰

Of particular interest are leases and other documents showing how the river and the canal were driving development in the area – and who was becoming involved. In 1765, James Shuttleworth leased to John Heath of Derby, banker, 32 acres of land in Shardlow and a warehouse and other buildings lately built thereon, which Heath is to maintain together with other buildings which may be erected there and the banks adjoining the Trent used as a wharf.⁶¹

Eight years later, in 1773, Mary Shuttleworth and her son James leased to John Chambers of Wilne, yeoman an acre of the same lands and the sawmill, warehouse and other buildings erected at Chambers' cost.⁶² A memorandum, possibly dated 1781, remarks on the condition of the warehouse, its favourable position on the 'forsaken' navigation of the Trent River (forsaken presumably because the Trent and Mersey Canal had reached Shardlow in the 1770s), advising its removal to where a neck of land between the canal and the river adjoins the turnpike road.⁶³ An unsigned lease of a narrow piece of land, from the Reverend Charles Holden to James Sutton of Shardlow esq. in 1817, may well refer to the same land, but on it Sutton with his father, Thomas, has built a large cottage, another cottage and a salt warehouse.⁶⁴

Other documents show developments on the Derwent at Wilne. There is a sketch map, c. 1770s, of an intended 'pen' and new cut near Wilne Mills and the adjacent lock.⁶⁵ In 1793, an agreement describes how there has been a wooden bridge for horses and foot passengers across the Derwent near to Wilne Mills which became ruinous and was taken down in order to build another at the expense of (among others) Joseph Thacker of Wilne Mills, miller. However, it is agreed that it would be more convenient to realign the bridge and the way to it, and details of its intended new position are given.⁶⁶

The most direct involvement of the Holdens with industry relates to the extraction of gypsum (which may be referred to as alabaster or plaster, but usually the latter). It had been extracted in Chellaston from the medieval period, but nothing is known of its mining in Aston until the 17th century and then very little. The conveyance of the Aston Hall estate by John Hunt in 1630 includes liberty to dig and sink pits in the 'plaister delf', paying 20s a year and two loads of plaster annually to the new owner of the property.⁶⁷ Later, in 1717, there is mention of 'Coopers plaster pitt' and land at the plaster pits.⁶⁸ Whether the pits were operative in 1717 or whether this refers to a place where there had been workings in the past we do not know. It is not until 1795 that there is further reference to plaster, when a map shows the position of pits on Holden property.⁶⁹

Estate accounts for 1807-1814 record a receipt for the sale of plaster at Aston in 1809, payments to John Moorley on account of the plaster pits in 1809-1810 and an allowance to Mr Moore on account of the railway to be made to the plaster pits by desire of Mr Holden in 1810.⁷⁰ In the following year are recorded payments for the railway 'now making' to the plaster pits and 'the last payment on account of the Railway'. Later, in the account for 1812-1814 a further payment to Moorley for the plaster pits is recorded for 1812 and, separately, a receipt from Humphrey Moore for £100, the final payment of the £600 agreed to be paid on account of a railway from the canal near Shardlow to Holden's plaster pits at Aston, which Moore rents from Holden.⁷¹

In 1818, the Reverend Charles Holden leased to John Brookhouse 'plaisterer' and Joseph Johnson coal dealer, both of Derby, a mine or quarry of 'plaister' in a field called the Aston Hills, with liberty to dig the plaster and to use the railway from the mine to Hickins Bridge over the Grand Trunk Canal. They were to be able to 'wharf' the plaister on Holden's land on the canal bank, to maintain the railway and might erect a kiln for plaster burning near the mine or to the line of the canal. An advertisement for property to be sold at the Old White Hart Inn in 1846 (see page 106) claims that the property had rich beds of plaster.⁷²

Later material about the plaster industry includes a plan showing an area of plaster works at Chellaston to accompany a lease to Messrs Pegg in 1866, leases of plaster mines in 1888 and 1893-4, a lease in 1919 to the Derby Plaster Company Limited of Chellaston and details in the sale catalogue for the sale of the Aston Hall estate in 1924.⁷³ The lease of 1919 shows considerable development, with reference to a plaster mill, offices, engine houses and shafts in Aston near to Chellaston and to the value of the plaster to be produced. The sale catalogue for the estate in 1924 includes the Glebe or California Mine in Chellaston and its mining equipment in the occupation of the Gotham Company Ltd. The somewhat confusing references to Aston and Chellaston suggest that the pits straddled the boundaries of the two parishes.

There have been a number of references made to Charles Holden's rents and to his spending on the garden of the Hall, the Cavalry and Volunteers during the Napoleonic Wars and the plaster pits in particular. This information is found in a series of rentals and accounts for the estate 1797-1814 in which the income of the estate in the form of rents is recorded together with accounts of payments out.⁷⁴ Payments include small expenses for the prebendal lands, payments to the curate, schoolmaster, divinity lecturer and sacrist, as well as the more substantial rent for the lease. There is also a general statement of the Reverend Charles Holden's rents in 1809,⁷⁵ but otherwise the only

rentals are for 1847-1877 and 1911-1920, by which time William Dickson Winterbottom owned the estate.⁷⁶

Making money

Although the Aston estate was founded on trade in the 17th century and expanded from the profits of a law practice in the 18th century, there is little in the family's records about either. What little we know about Robert Holden I's activities has already been mentioned in discussing the rise of the family whilst Robert II's work in the law is largely unrecorded in the Holden archive. There are, however, a few documents which just possibly, but not certainly, relate to his work. They consist chiefly of small groups of deeds and related documents that, if they do indeed relate to his work, suggest it was often in litigation concerning property.⁷⁷ Otherwise, the Holdens made money from their property, partly in the form of rents paid by their tenants and tithes due under their prebendal lease, but also by exploiting the position of some of their land near the Trent and Derwent and the Trent and Mersey Canal and the gypsum deposits to be found on their property. These have been referred to above.

William Dickson Winterbottom, the last owner of the Aston Estate had made his money in manufacturing book cloth, but there is little about him or his business in these records except a memoranda book and a few papers relating chiefly to bleaching and dyeing, 1875-1895.⁷⁸

The unexpected

As so often in a family archive, there are some documents which fit into no obvious category or for whose presence there is no or, at best, a possible but uncertain explanation. One document whose connection to the Holden records may be easily explained, but is nevertheless particularly unexpected, is the quittance in 1634 from a Roll of Recusants in Kent to Anthony Roper of Eltham for the forfeiture he paid as a recusant.⁷⁹ Perhaps this was mistakenly included in the deeds relating to the sale of the manor of Weston in 1648 to Robert Holden.⁸⁰

More notable, in the Holden records there is a bundle of 29 deeds relating to the Bowden family, generally described as of Bowden in Chapel en le Frith, and to Kinder, New Mills, Milton, Bowden, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Glossop, beginning as early as 1484 and continuing until 1690, together with a subsidy roll for Scarsdale Hundred dated 1588.⁸¹ Nicholas Bowden esquire is described as receiver for the county and city of Chester in 1684. These documents would be of the greatest value to anyone interested in the Bowden family and its

property, but the explanation for their presence here is uncertain. Cautiously, it may be suggested that the last three deeds, relating to a mortgage of property in Bowdenhead to Mary widow of John Buxton of Derby gentleman (1687-1690), may explain why these documents are in the Holden records: Mary, daughter of Robert I, had married John Buxton of Alport in 1659.⁸² Mary and John were very common forenames and Buxton not a rare surname, so it could just be coincidence, but whatever the explanation the documents remain a valuable historical source for a family and area of Derbyshire for which one would not have expected any record in this archive.

There are also papers dated 1642-62 concerning the affairs of Robert Persevall [sic] citizen and iron monger of London, later of Hannington, Hampshire.⁸³ He may be connected to the Robert Percivall of Hannington, gentleman, who is named as a trustee in Samuel Holden's first marriage settlement.⁸⁴ Like the quittance to Anthony Roper, their presence may be explained, but is still unexpected.

The end of the Aston Hall estate

The latest documents in the archive are not part of the Holdens' papers as they relate to the sale of the estate in 1924, some 26 years after it had been sold to William Winterbottom. Nevertheless, they complete the story of the Holdens as they document the end of the estate which was their creation, for it was not sold as a whole, as it had been to William Winterbottom, but broken up to be sold piecemeal. The sale catalogues include maps which show an estate which was probably much as Winterbottom had bought it from E C S Holden in 1898.⁸⁵ It was described as 1,561 acres chiefly in Aston, but with some land in Shardlow and Chellaston and 'near Weston'.

The estate included eight named farms described as dairy and stock farms, six in Aston and two in Shardlow, together with 727 acres (and also a home farm). There were 737 acres of accommodation meadow, pasture and arable, which were not part of any named farm. The nature of farming in the area had evidently changed as only a small proportion of the land for sale was described as arable and the small number of farms compared to the number in earlier times is notable. The two largest farms were Rectory Farm at 149 acres and Aston Hill Farm 150 acres – both part of the glebe lands bought by Edward Anthony Holden in 1865 (see above), and big by the standards of most farms in earlier centuries. There were also 14 smallholdings, perhaps to supply Aston itself and Derby's growing population, and occasionally property in the sale is suggested to be suitable for a smallholding. Included in the sale was Aston Hall itself with its buildings, park and Home Farm, in all 88

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Fig. 2 Sale catalogue for the Aston estate, 1924 (ref: DRO, D779/E/17/1)

acres, plus manorial and fishing rights and the lordship of the manor or reputed manors of Weston and Aston, hunting with three packs, a large house called Alderslade House, (named from one of the old open fields of Aston) with 16 acres of land and Brickyard Plantation six acres, the greater part of

the village of Aston including 64 cottages, the village hall, post office, shops, the White Hart Inn, Malthouse Buildings in Derby Road and blacksmith's shop. Glebe or California Mine in Chellaston including the plaster mill, engine house etc (with a detailed description of the mill and

mining equipment), and mining rights for gypsum, alabaster and plaster underlying 100 acres of land were also part of the sale.

The Hall and its grounds were described over several pages, generously illustrated with photographs. It was described as an 18th century building in origin, with an added wing containing a ballroom and a few bedrooms. (The added wing was possibly built by Edward Anthony Holden).

The social rooms, bedrooms, servants' quarters, domestic offices and separate laundry, all described at length, are to be expected, but there were other amenities which might not necessarily be in every house even of this social status. There was electric light throughout supplied by a light and power plant, central heating, modern sanitation, an abundant pure water supply, gas laid on for 'cooking purposes etc.' and there were bathrooms (even for the maids) with hot and cold water and W.Cs. It seems likely that the modernisation of the Hall was undertaken by Winterbottom but there is no evidence to corroborate this.

The grounds included a park, gardens, tennis lawns and a bowling alley with a tea house, a lake and boat house, dovecote and a 'fine statuette of Mercury'. There was a garage for three cars and stabling with electric lighting throughout, a coach house or corn chamber, a separate garage for four cars and an underground oil tank, a men's W.C., and a private fire station with a pump powered by an electric motor. A Head Gardener's house, a Lodge, two slaughter houses and a 'Farmery' completed the complex of 88 acres. Both the Head Gardener's house and The Lodge had W.Cs and the latter, in particular, which had more rooms than other houses, and various amenities including a bathroom, copper and sink and a galvanised coal pen, were superior to all other houses on the estate except for Alderslade House and some of the farmhouses.

Alderslade House with its 16 acres of land was very much a middle-class house, with its study and office. It had a scullery and kitchen, a bathroom and W.C., and gas was laid on, but even so it was dependent on a well and a cess pool. Cottage Farm, one of the larger farms in the parish, had a kitchen with range and sink '(h. and c.)', a back kitchen or scullery with copper and sink and a bathroom and W.C. It was supplied with gas, but water came from a pump in the scullery. Each farmhouse was different; they might or might not have a gas supply, they might have an outside closet or, as in the case of Manor Farm, a bathroom

and W.C. and just one, Rectory Farm, obtained its water supply by windmill. It did also have a pump in a pump house.

With the possible exception of Aston Lodge, which was not part of the Aston Hall estate, no other house in Aston could compete with the Hall. The gulf between it and even the larger houses in the parish such as Alderslade House and the larger farmhouses was great. It was not simply that these did not have tennis lawns or a lake with a boathouse, the kind of social amenities which were not essential for a comfortable life, but rather that more practical services were often not available. Only the Hall had electricity or central heating though most (but not all) had gas laid on by 'the Company'. What is not generally evident is what people's cooking arrangements were. Sometimes ranges are mentioned but not all houses had one and it may be that the better-off tenants had bought a gas cooker and that others rented one. Those without a range or gas possibly still cooked over the fire. Water was mostly only available from pumps although many houses had their own, and were therefore not dependent on a village pump. Except for the houses mentioned above, no-one had a bathroom or W.C. but many had 'E.Cs', presumably earth closets.

There were, however, signs of improvements, although we cannot be certain of when these were made. All houses seem to have been built of brick with tiled roofs, most had a gas supply, most had their own wash houses although some houses had to share one with others, many houses had their own pumps and perhaps the earth closets may have been better than earlier arrangements. The White Hart Inn even had a public E.C. Edward Anthony's title deeds refer to new buildings as noted above but much more must have occurred unrecorded to replace the wattle and daub and thatch of the past. There are some hints, too, in a rental of Winterbottom's that improvements to properties were being made.⁸⁶ Aston, however, still awaited amenities such as an electricity supply, running water and modern sanitation, to be generally available even to the better-off.

We have here a snapshot of the estate caught at the moment when it was about to be broken up, and valuable not only for what it tells us about the estate and especially the village, but also about a place where different people had to live in very different circumstances at that particular time. The catalogue and maps relating to the break-up of the estate are also a final reminder that a family archive can be about so much more than the family concerned, its property and its activities.

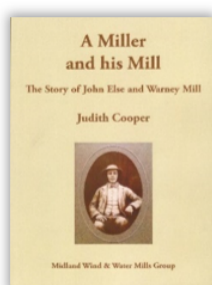
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A Miller and his Mill: The Story of John Else and Warney Mill by Judith Cooper

Summary by Midland Mills Group

Published by the Midland Wind & Water Mills Group, this book describes the life and times of John Else and the mill he rebuilt in 1860 miller at Darley Dale. The author is the great-great grand daughter of John Else, and she draws evidence found in the papers inherited from him. The book paints a picture of the life of a rural miller in the mid-19th century, the people he worked with and his position in the local community.

There are documents relating to the time Warney Mill was completely rebuilt, giving information about the process of building a mill in Victorian Britain, items illustrating how

John Else's milling business expanded to include two other local corn mills, and information about the products he produced and customers he supplied. As a window onto the miller's social life, the book gives a glimpse into the lives of the workmen who built and operated the mill at a time when the railways were changing all their lives. Although John died at the early age of 42 in 1869, the book also covers the Else family's struggle in the last quarter of the 19th century due to the massive changes taking place in the milling industry. The family successfully operated Warney Mill until after the Second World War and in the late 1950s the mill was fitted with modern roller milling plant. Although the mill building still stands today, it is no longer used as a mill.

A4 softback, pp 132, 120 illustrations. ISBN 978-0-95177-946-0. Price £15 + £3.50 p&p. Send cheque (payable to Midland Mills Group) to: 14 Falmouth Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 3BH, or contact: warneymill@gmail.com

Deincourt family

of Park Hall, Morton

By GLADWYN TURBUTT

The manors of Morton, Pilsley, Holmesfield, Elmton and Stony Houghton were granted to Walter de Aincourt by William the Conqueror. This account of the junior branch of the family, who were resident at Park Hall in Morton, considers the descent of the estates at Morton, Pilsley and North Wingfield.

The family of Deincourt came originally from Aincourt in Normandy.¹ In England their name was spelt in a variety of ways, e.g. Aincourt, Eyncurt, Deyncourt, but the spelling Deincourt gradually became the most commonly accepted form. Walter de Aincourt or Deincourt, who accompanied William the Conqueror to England, was granted extensive estates in the counties of Lincoln, Nottingham and Derby, for which he owed the King the service of 40 knights, and the seat of his barony was at Blankney in Lincolnshire. In Derbyshire he held only five manors with their appurtenances, which had been held in pre-Conquest days by Swein Cilt, the younger: Morton, Ogston and Wessington; Pilsley, Oldcotes and Williamthorpe, with soke in North Wingfield and Tupton; Holmesfield; Elmton and Stony Houghton.

In addition, he held a single manor, Brampton and Wadshelf, formerly owned by Wade, and clearly, from the terms of the Domesday entry, a post-Conquest transfer from Henry de Ferrers. Morton, Ogston and Pilsley, had been given c. 1002-1004 by the Mercian thegn Wulfric Spot to his new foundation Burton Abbey, but during the political turmoil of the early years of that century these lands were lost by the monks and had fallen into Swein's hands by the time of the Conquest. No under-tenants are cited on any of Walter's Derbyshire manors, but it is apparent that a junior branch of the family, the Deincourts of Park Hall, Morton, farmed the Morton and Pilsley manors in demesne as a single estate from their manor at Park Hall, midway between the vill of Morton and North Wingfield.

Walter's Descendants

See Fig. 2 for an abbreviated genealogy of the family.

Walter, a cousin of Remygius, bishop of Lincoln, died around the turn of the 12th century, and was almost certainly buried in Lincoln Cathedral. From him were descended the later barons of Blankney; his heir, Ralph had founded Thurgarton Priory in Nottinghamshire in c. 1130, to which house he bequeathed many of his benefices, including those of Elmton and Langwith (probably part of the Deincourt manor of Stony Houghton).

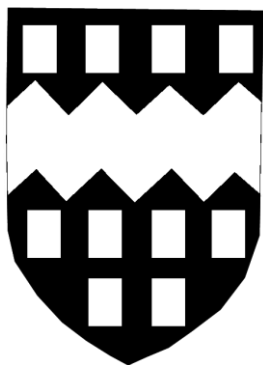
There is considerable uncertainty about the interest of **Thurgarton Priory** in North Wingfield. J. C. Cox suggests that Ralph (liv. 1156-1165), son of Roger Deincourt, gave the church of North Wingfield to the Priory,² but this cannot be correct since he also notes that as early as 1301 the patron was John Deincourt, followed by later members of the family.³ Yet the Priory must have been given land in Pilsley at an early date since the Valor Ecclesiasticus, 1536, records that the house was then in receipt of a pension of 15s from Pilsley, from which deductions were made to the two joint lords of the manor.

The senior line of the family became extinct in 1422 on the death without male issue of William, Lord Deincourt of Duston, Northamptonshire, and his sisters became his co-heiresses. The younger sister, Margaret, married Ralph, Baron Cromwell of Tattershall, Lincolnshire (the builder, incidentally, of Wingfield Manor in Derbyshire) who died without issue c. 1456. The elder sister, Alice, who became the ultimate heiress of the Deincourt estates, married William, Baron Lovell of Minster Lovell. The latter's grandson, Francis, Viscount Lovell, was attainted after the battle of Bosworth (1485) and his lands, including the Deincourt inheritance, were given to Sir John Savage of Clifton, Cheshire (whose family had held the nearby manor of Stainsby since the 13th century) for his services to Henry Tudor at Bosworth. This accounts for the presence of the Savage coat of arms (*fusilly in pale*) on the terminals of the hood-moulds on the south aisle of North Wingfield church, which was probably re-built by Ralph Savage, joint founder of a chantry in the church in 1489, and which was again re-built in 1860.⁴

As noted above, a group of the family's Derbyshire manors was held of the senior line by a junior branch of the Deincourts who were resident at Park Hall, Morton. This branch appear to have been descended from Roger Deincourt of Holmesfield,⁵ a younger son of Walter, and the tinctures of their coat of arms were clearly differenced from those of the senior branch.

Fig. 1 Arms of Deincourt of Park Hall, Morton

Thus the Deincourts of Blankney bore: Azure, a fess indented between ten billets or, four in chief and six in base; while the Deincourts of Morton bore: Sable, a fess indented between ten billets argent, four in chief and six in base (Fig. 1).



The **Savage connection** with North Wingfield may be learnt from the former existence of armorial stained glass in the windows of the church. Sir John Savage, knighted at the battle of Agincourt, had a large family, and a younger son, Arnold, settled in North Wingfield. Cox believed that he had had an illegitimate son, Ralph (whose arms, with a *'bend sinister'* overall, featured amongst the heraldic arms in the church), who succeeded to this property and who founded the chantry in North Wingfield church in 1489. Savage's daughter Elizabeth married John Leake (d. 1505) of Sutton whose descendant, Sir Francis (d. 1626), later acquired the manor of Park Hall (see below).

Five generations later, another Roger Deincourt of Park Hall is noted in 1242/3 as holding Morton for one fee of Oliver Deincourt, Baron of Blankney. He was a benefactor of the abbey at Welbeck and Darley, and gave to Welbeck Abbey land in North Wingfield, excluding the bovate on which Park Hall was situated and the advowson of the church.⁶ Welbeck Abbey's holding must have been substantial (and included the right of free warren), since a manor court was held there on behalf of the Abbey until 1518.⁷ It no doubt passed to the holders of the manor at the dissolution of the monasteries.

Oliver's son and heir, Sir John Deincourt of Park Hall, held the manor of Morton and was patron of the churches of Morton and North Wingfield until his death in 1322.⁸ He was succeeded by his son and heir Sir Roger Deincourt of Park Hall who, in 1329, claimed the privilege of free warren in Morton and his other manors by a charter granted to his father John in 1310, and he claimed also by prescription the right to have a park,⁹ the jurisdiction of infangentheof and the right to have a gallows at Morton. Both claims were allowed. Like his father he was patron of both Morton and North Wingfield churches. In 1155, the Deincourts were granted the manor of Walton after the Peverel estates had escheated to the Crown; and thereafter were regarded by the Breton family of Walton as their overlords, as per a fine of 1319.¹⁰

The Longford and Bussey families

On the death of Roger c. 1350 without male issue the Deincourts of Morton became extinct and the family estates passed to his two daughters Alice and Joanna. Alice married, first, Sir Nicholas Longford (d. 1356) of Longford, and secondly (it is believed) Oliver de Barton. Joanna married, first, Sir John Revell (d. 1347) of Newbold Revell, Warwickshire, but there were no children of this marriage;¹¹ the alliance was Sir John's second marriage and is usually ignored in most pedigrees, but it convincingly explains the otherwise puzzling appearance of this Warwickshire family in Derbyshire in the 14th century. She later married Sir Philip Neville (d. c. 1351) of Scotton, Lincolnshire, whose grand-daughter and heiress Matilda married Sir John Bussey of Hougham, Lincolnshire, a former Speaker of the House of Commons who was attainted and executed in 1399.

The families of Longford and Bussey, the descendants of the Deincourt co-heiresses, inherited moieties of the manors of Morton, which by then had lost the original appendages of Ogston and Wessington but had gained the former Deincourt manor in Brampton; North Wingfield, which was the successor of the original Deincourt manor of Pilsley with its appendages; and Knapthorpe, Nottinghamshire as well as the alternate presentations to the churches of Morton and North Wingfield. The freehold estate of Ogston, which had been linked to the manor of Morton since pre-Conquest days and continued to lie within its parish, appears to have been inherited by the descendants of Sir John Revell.¹²

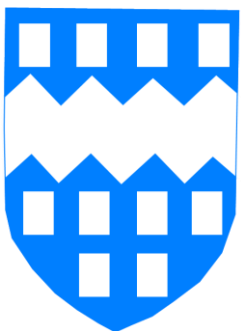
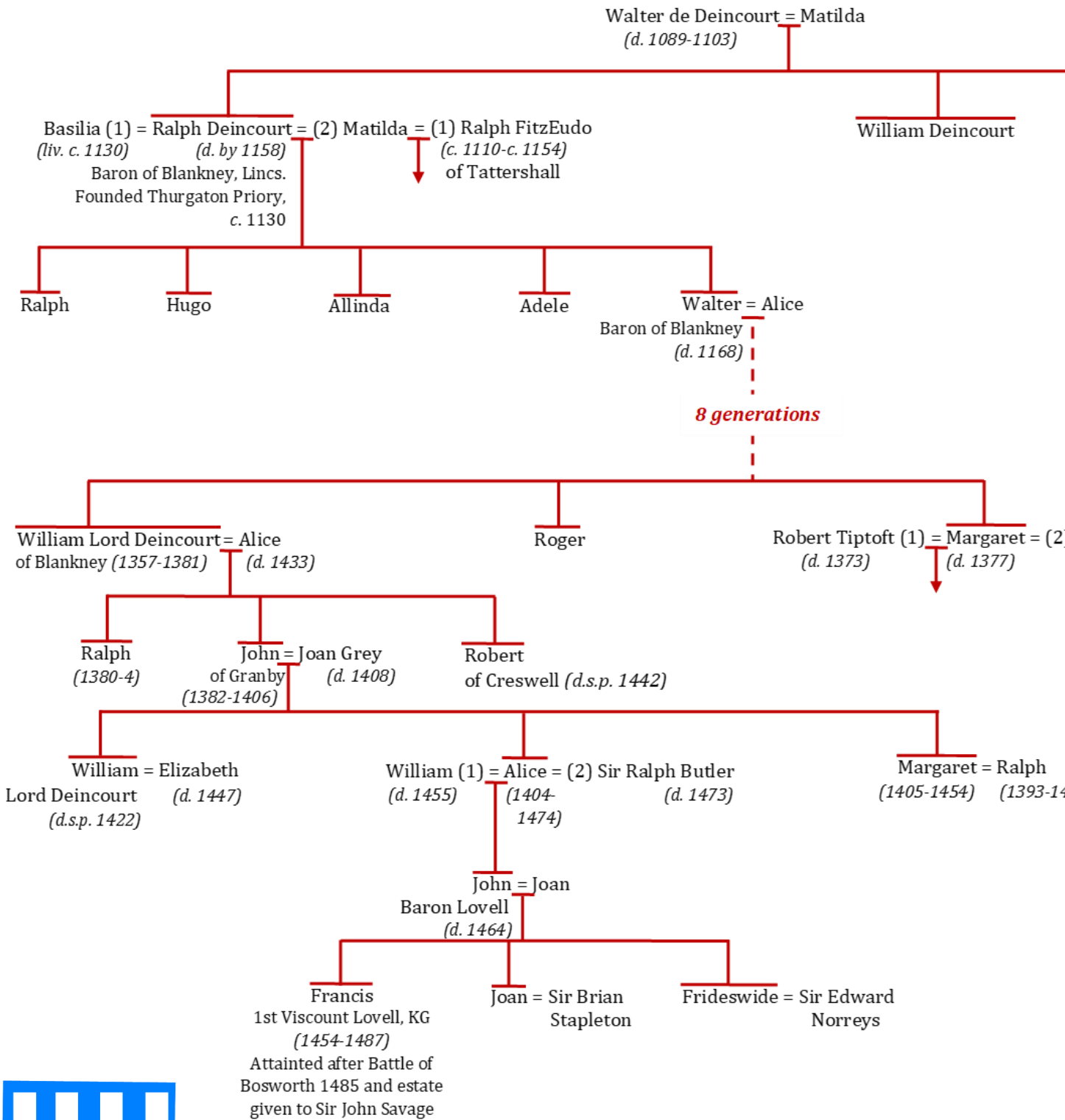
The Longford moiety of the manors and advowsons was granted in 1535 by Sir Ralph Longford (d. 1543) to trustees for his son Nicholas (d. 1610). Nicholas was a recusant and sold his share to Sir Francis Leake (d. 1626).

The Bussey moiety passed through Agnes, daughter and heiress of John Bussey, to Sir Edmund Brudenell, who in 1581 was lord of the *'manor of Parkhall'* but who died without issue, whereupon this moiety was also purchased by Sir Francis Leake. He, therefore, became possessed of the manors of both Morton and North Wingfield which passed in turn to his son Francis (d. 1655), a fervent royalist, who was created Baron Deincourt of Sutton in 1624 and Earl of Scarsdale in 1645. The title became extinct in 1736 on the death without issue of Nicholas, 4th Earl of Scarsdale.¹³

Alas, William Senior's 1621 map of Sir Francis Leake's estate called *The Platt of Parkhal* does not give a drawing of the house as such because it would presumably have disappeared well before that date.¹⁴

Fig. 2

Deincourt of Blankney and



Deincourt of Blankney

The estate after 1736

Thereafter, the manor of Morton was sold to Henry Marshall of Chesterfield and others. In 1749 it was purchased by Francis Sitwell, from whom it passed to the Wilmots who afterwards assumed the additional name of Sitwell: E.S. Wilmot Sitwell was lord of the manor in 1936.

The advowson of Morton, which had formerly rested with the lords of the manor, was purchased in 1736 from the executors of the Earl of Scarsdale by Godfrey Heathcote. In 1765, he sold it to the Rev. William Burrow who presented his brother, Benjamin, to it. After the death of William Burrow in 1794, the advowson passed alternately to his two nieces who had married William Turbutt and John Holland, respectively. Mrs Holland sold her half share in 1817 to St John's College, Cambridge, while Richard B. Turbutt (d. 1964) presented his alternate appointment to the Bishop of Derby.

The manor of North Wingfield passed from the Leakes to the family of Greaves, who held it until the early 19th century. In 1758, Rev. William Burrow had also purchased from the Leakes the advowson of North Wingfield, and thereafter it passed through the Collett and Barrow families.

The manor of Pilsley (of which North Wingfield had originally been part) was purchased from the Leakes (1743) by Richard Calton of Chesterfield, whose family sold it (1799) to Thomas Wilson. It subsequently passed through several families and Pilsley Old Hall survived until it was demolished in 1969, despite its Grade II* listing.¹⁵

Pilsley Old Hall

Sir Francis Leake (d. 1626) had purchased both moieties of the manor of Morton from the Longford and Brudenell (inherited from the Busseys) families, and it is probable that he had built this hall c. 1600 as a more convenient dwelling house than the medieval Park Hall down in the valley, and it was subsequently reconstructed and increased in size by later generations.

Disposal of the other Deincourt manors in Derbyshire

That Park Hall was considered to be the seat of the manor of Morton is clear from an Inquisition on the death in 1373 of Sir Nicholas Longford when he was found to be possessed of a moiety of the site of the manor of Morton called *Parkhalle*, with two carucates of land, six acres of meadow, a moiety of a water mill, and £10 rent, held of Lord Deincourt [sic] as of the manor of Elmton by knight service.¹⁶ This indicates that, so long as the senior line of the Deincourts remained feudal landowners, the Derbyshire manors of Morton, Pilsley, North Wingfield, etc. owed allegiance to their Derbyshire manor of Elmton. After the confiscation of the

Lovell holding of their inherited Deincourt lands following the battle of Bosworth in 1485, and their subsequent grant to Sir John Savage, Morton, Pilsley and North Wingfield became independent estates under the Longford and Bussey families holding directly from the Crown. The other Deincourt manors which had passed to the Savages were gradually sold off:

Elmton: sold by Sir John Savage in 1586 to Judge Francis Rhodes (d. 1589) of Barlborough Hall,

Holmesfield: sold the same year to Sir John Mannners (d. 1611) of Haddon,

Stony Houghton, Brampton and Wadshelf: sold to the Leakes, who by then had also acquired the manors of Morton and Pilsley, and were to be ennobled as Barons Deincourt and Earls of Scarsdale.

The site of Park Hall and Deincourt park

The Deincourt mansion of Park Hall may be identified with some precision: about two miles south of the present-day Parkhouse Farm on a small ridge overlooking the river Rother. Nearby was situated an old mill, powered by the river.

Access to Park Hall lay along a track, known today as Hallgate Lane, leading westwards from the village of Pilsley. This track passes alongside the present-day Hallgate Farm and ends at Bushypark Farm, the name derived from the Bussey family. Between the two farms the track struck westwards, the line of the present footpath, to Park Hall. From the old house, the track would have run northwards towards Parkhouse Green and then along Church Lane to North Wingfield church.

The former Clay Cross Company's *Parkhouse Colliery* was situated virtually on the site of the old house, which must have totally disappeared many years earlier. When sinking a shaft for the new colliery in 1867 the excavators encountered foundations and floors of the old building, and later (c. 1906) during further excavations for an electrical plant, the site of the kitchen midden appears to have been struck and numerous animal bones, such as the antlers and jawbones of deer, and boar tusks, were found.¹⁷ The whole site has now been cleared and levelled.

The boundary of the Deincourt park has been determined by Mary Wiltshire and Sue Woore in their book *Medieval Parks of Derbyshire*.¹⁸ South of Park Hall there was formerly a large wooded area divided into three compartments. Nearest to Park Hall was Bussey Park, now represented by Bushypark Farm; south of this was Padley Wood, represented by Padleywood Farm, and Cotes Park, to the west of Padley Wood. Close to the vill of Morton there was another area of former woodland known as Gosnett Hagg, now represented by Hagg House.

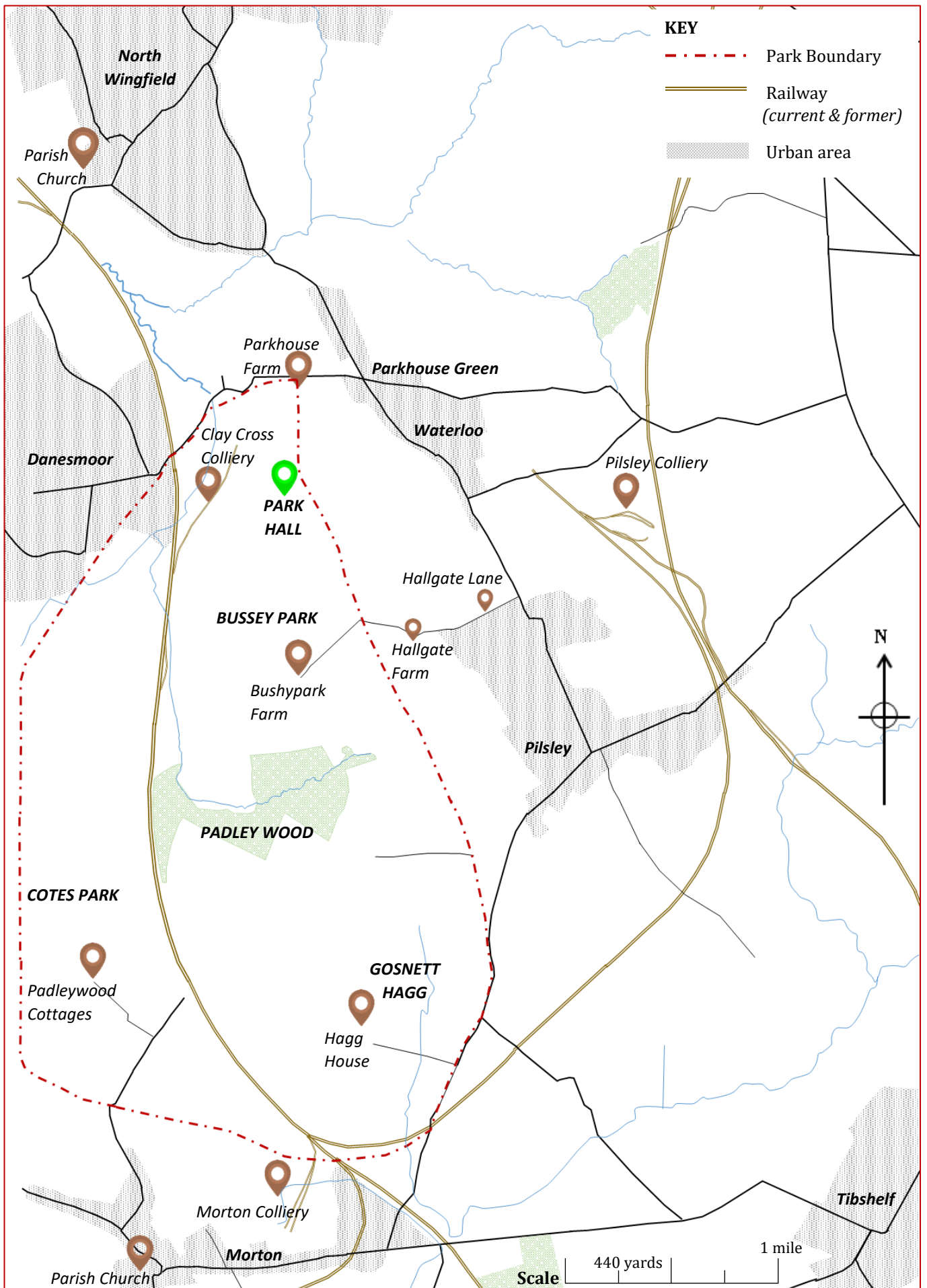


Fig. 3 Map showing location of Park Hall and boundary of medieval park¹⁹

Deincourt effigies at North Wingfield

As a consequence of the track towards Parkhouse Green and onto North Wingfield church, the latter was more accessible than Morton church, and was seemingly adopted by the Deincourts for family burials, as is testified by the remains of the figures of two medieval knights in the church. Thus in a recess in the north chancel is to be found the remains of a cross-legged knight with his feet on a lion (Fig. 5). His shield bears no visible heraldic markings and it is impossible to identify this figure: it might be the effigy of Sir Roger Deincourt of Park Hall (d. c. 1240) or perhaps Sir John Deincourt of Park Hall (d. 1322).²⁰

A poem about the siege of Carlaverock Castle in 1300,²¹ gives details of the nobility present on that occasion together with details of their heraldic arms. The Sir John Deincourt mentioned therein was regarded by Lawrence and Routh as the Sir John Deincourt of Park Hall who died in 1322. However, the arms described as being borne by the Carlaverock warrior, '*... ki porte dance e bilettes de or En assure ...*' are those usually attributed to the senior of Blankney rather than junior line of Park Hall (Fig. 2). There was in fact a Sir John Deincourt of Blankney then living who had died by c. 1317 during the lifetime of his father Edmund (d. 6 January, 1326/7). It was the Sable arms which were described by Wyrley as being on the shield of a, now vanished, military effigy in Chesterfield church in the 16th century, namely, '*whyte, a danc and billets sables*'.²² It seems to me therefore doubtful whether the North Wingfield warrior was in fact the Deincourt present at the siege of Carlaverock, but he could well be the Sir John Deincourt of Park Hall (d. 1322). Cox speculated that the North Wingfield knight might be Oliver Deincourt who was killed at the battle of Lincoln in 1202.²³ But this is highly unlikely because Oliver was a member of the senior line of the family who would not have been buried in the church of the junior branch.



Fig. 4 Tomb in exterior south chancel wall of North Wingfield church, possibly of Sir Roger Deincourt (d. c. 1350)



Fig. 5 Deincourt tomb in North Wingfield Church: perhaps Sir Roger (d. c. 1240) or Sir John Deincourt (d. 1322)

The other effigy of a medieval knight, now almost completely eroded away, is to be found under an ogee arch let into the exterior south wall of the chancel (Fig. 4). The position of this effigy is extraordinary. Cox thought it had been moved here from the interior of the church, or, indeed, from Chesterfield church (where there is a record of three effigies existing in the 16th century, all of which have disappeared).²⁴ On the other hand, it is possible that there was formerly a chapel south of the chancel and that this monument was once within it. Possibly this effigy could represent the remains of Sir Roger Deincourt of Park Hall, the last member of the junior branch of the family who died in c. 1350, after whose death the Deincourt estate passed to the husbands of his two co-heiresses, Alice and Margaret (see above). There are a number of other ancient tombstones in the church which may belong to members of the Deincourt family. There are no Deincourt monuments in Morton church.

Derbyshire's historic Deincourt inheritance passed to the Leakes of Sutton, whose beautiful Sutton Scarsdale home still stands as a sad but defiant ruin a few miles from the original Deincourt seat.

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Anglo-Saxon Mysteries: a review of *Pecsaetna*

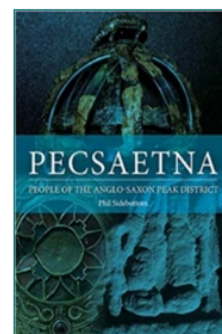
Pecsaetna: People of the Anglo-Saxon Peak District, by Phil Sidebottom

Windgather Press/Oxbow Books, 2020. ISBN 978-1-91118-868-1. 144pp, incl. bibliography. No index.

Adrian Henstock writes: It takes a brave person to write a whole book about an obscure tribe who occupied a small landlocked mini-state in central England during the so-called 'Dark Ages', especially when there are only two documentary references to its very existence and these are some 300 years apart. This is what Phil Sidebottom has done for the *Pecsaetna* – the people who lived in the Derbyshire Peak District between at least the 7th and 10th centuries. A specialist in local medieval sculpture, he has assembled all the relevant documentary, archaeological and place-name evidence from existing studies by scholars such as David Roffe, Audrey Ozanne, and Kenneth Cameron,¹ and added his own interpretations. Inevitably the dearth of solid evidence for the Anglo-Saxon period means much depends on speculative hypotheses.

The first written reference to the *Pecsaetna* comes from the 'Tribal Hideage' of c. 650-700 AD, a list of all the tribes in the country with their wealth measured in 'hides' (taxable households occupying land of around 120 acres). The only other reference is from a rare land charter whereby King Edgar granted property at Ballidon to a faithful supporter called Æthelferth in 963 AD. This contains the significant statement that Ballidon was located 'in pago Pecsaet', i.e., 'in the district of the *Pecsaetna*'.

The name 'Pec-saetna' or *Pec-set* is akin to other regional names such as *Dor-set* or *Somer-set* and means literally 'Peak-settlers' or 'sitters.' The name appears in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 924 AD as '*Peac-lond*' ('Peak land') which seems to imply a hilly region of several peaks rather than one specific 'peak'.



The author claims that it was the topography and geology of this upland area that set the district apart from its lowland neighbours, especially the carboniferous limestone landscape which we know as the 'White Peak'. This very literal interpretation excludes land 'off the edge' of the limestone, even though the district included the gritstone country around Stanton-in-Peak, as mentioned in a royal charter of 968 AD, Darley (Dale), and the Hope and Derwent moors in the far north.

There is considerable debate about the ethnic origins of the population, discussing how far the indigenous Britons survived the invasions by Angles, Scandinavian Vikings and Hiberno-Vikings (from Ireland). Covering a period of some 500 years much of the debate is inevitably inconclusive.

Archaeological evidence derives mainly from the high-status grave goods found in 'barrows' or burial mounds of the 6th and 7th centuries. These are mainly located near the Roman road called The Street between Buxton and Wirksworth, the best known of the finds being the Benty Grange helmet. It has been suggested that they commemorate a wealthy Anglian elite who were ruling a largely British population.

The author comes into his own when discussing the standing monuments of the period, mainly churchyard crosses; although, by his own admission, dating based on iconography is 'contentious'. He identifies a specific 'Peak' style with Christian symbolism on the crosses of Bakewell, Bradbourne and Eyam as well as the famous Wirksworth sarcophagus and attributes them to the 8th or 9th century, noting the difference to the crosses of Norbury, Ashbourne, Ilam and Alstonefield which have 10th century Mercian iconography of the 'Trent Valley' type.

Valuable retrospective documentary evidence of the tribe's territory is derived from the *Domesday Book* of 1086. The inclusion of the owners and value of all the estates, known as manors, in the time of Edward the Confessor, the last Anglo-Saxon king, (r. 1042-1066) helps to identify likely larger estates from preceding centuries, especially as many have satellite 'berewicks' or dependent hamlets.

In this context, East Midland historians owe a great debt to David Roffe who expertly cracked the codes of *Domesday Book* and made sense of its complex financial basis. He shows that the king had secured direct control over the seven neighbouring estates of Ashbourne, Parwich, Wirksworth, Darley (Dale), Bakewell, Ashford and Hope with their dependent 'berewicks'. In the north, Ashford had twelve dependencies, Bakewell had eight, Darley three and Hope six and a half. In the south, Wirksworth had seven, Ashbourne six and Parwich three.

Domesday Book also contains the first mention of the shires (counties) and the smaller administrative districts into which each was divided, both probably established in the 10th century. Derbyshire was divided into five districts, known as 'wapentakes' as they lay within the former Viking-controlled Danelaw; one of which 'Hammenstan' or 'Hamelestan' Wapentake covered virtually the whole of the modern Peak District.

Within 100 years, *Hammenstan* had been split into two, called High Peak and Wirksworth Wapentakes. According to Cameron, the former had been named Bakewell or Blackwell Wapentake in the 1190s, but seems to have been amalgamated with another, called 'Aslakestow' from the 1170s, based around Hayfield and Glossop. The new name of 'Peak Wapentake' first appears in 1208, becoming 'High Peak' after 1219. He also cites three references in the 1270s to '*the Wapentakes of Wirksworth and Esseburn*',² the use of plural suggesting to this reviewer that the new Wirksworth Wapentake may have been a similar amalgamation of two smaller units centred on Wirksworth and on Ashbourne.

By comparison with the Lay Subsidy returns of 1334 Roffe was able to assign all the *Domesday* settlements within the county to a specific wapentake³ and concluded that '*almost all of the area known as the Peak – the later Wapentakes of High Peak and Wirksworth – had belonged to four great estates centred on Bakewell, Hope, Ashbourne and Wirksworth which had all been held by Edward the Confessor in 1066*'.⁴ This is supported by other documentary sources for churches and their ecclesiastical parishes, especially those with dependent chapelries or which had broken away from their mother parishes over the centuries; parish boundaries appearing to have been well established by the 10th century.

Christianity was adopted in Mercia from the late 7th and early 8th century and both the later shires of Derbyshire and Staffordshire became part of the new diocese of Lichfield. Missionaries were sent out to cover the diocese, working from district churches known as 'minsters'. Those serving the Peak were at Ashbourne, Bakewell, Wirksworth, and possibly Alstonefield to the west of the River Dove. Parishes were grouped into deaneries, with the Peak divided between the deaneries of High Peak and Ashbourne; Roffe states that their boundaries largely '*follow the lines of administrative divisions which are identical with the wapentakes*' of High Peak and Wirksworth respectively.⁵

Unfortunately, there is one anomaly which does not fit neatly into this structure: the existence of a separate sub-estate based on Bradbourne, probably originally held by a high-status Anglian,

as suggested by the early 'Peak' style sculptured cross in its churchyard. This large parish included the chapelries of Atlow, Ballidon, Brassington, and Tissington,⁶ *Domesday Book* shows that in 1066 the five villages were listed as separate but insignificant units in Hammenstan Wapentake. Atlow had the same owner as Bradbourne but each of the other three were in different hands. Furthermore, King Edgar's charter granting property in Ballidon in 963 AD⁷ does not imply it is part of a larger unit, suggesting that those three had already broken away and built their own churches well before this date.

The author obviously believes that this estate was of such importance that he changed Roffe's words, replacing 'Ashbourne' with 'Bradbourne' in four places, including the accompanying map! The only reason offered is that 'Ashbourne was arguably outside the jurisdiction of the Peak and in fact the parishes within Ashbourne deanery by the 12th century were all outside of the limestone Peak and within the Triassic sandstone to the south'. He later returns to the same theme, stating that 'We can discount the church at Ashbourne from a strictly 'Peak' provision since it is located off the limestone...'.⁸

In fact, the town is only four miles away from the spectacular limestone gorge of Dovedale and, as Cameron records, from the mid-13th century to the 18th century it was frequently described as Ashbourne-in-the-Peak.⁸ Moreover, Ashbourne Deanery extended over the whole of Wirksworth Wapentake, including Bradbourne, reaching as far north as Hartington and Matlock, strengthening the case for the integrity of Pecsætna territory. Its four parishes immediately to the south of the town had, as Roffe points out, been added at a later date as being earlier daughter churches.

A concession is made in acknowledging that Ashbourne's church is dedicated to the late 7th century St Oswald, King of Northumbria, which is

not without significance in this context. This dedication certainly dates back to 1241, when it is inscribed on the unique brass still extant in the church after its medieval rebuilding.

A more reasoned summary of Ashbourne's ancient minster status can be found in *Derbyshire – A History* by David Hey, the latest and most authoritative history of the county. He writes: 'Ashbourne was the mother church of Alsop, Bradley, Edlaston, Fenny Bentley, Hognaston, Kniveton, Mappleton, Parwich and Thorpe, and this enormous parish was partly bisected by the parish of Bradbourne, which included the townships of Atlow, Ballidon, Bradbourne, Brassington and Tissington, it is likely that they too belonged to Ashbourne, originally'.⁹

Another subject which many will find debatable is the author's suggestions for possible sites for King Edward's 'burgh', or fortification. This is described in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 925 AD as 'in the neighbourhood' of Bakewell, one of several built during his successful campaigns to drive out the Danes. One suggested site is in the hamlet of Burton, 'Burgh-ton', on the edge of Bakewell,¹⁰ although others, including the author and this reviewer, feel that 'in the neighbourhood' may literally mean just that. The author's two projected locations are both a considerable distance away: the fortified hilltop of Carl's Wark near Hathersage or Navio, the site of the former Roman fortification at Brough near Hope. This reviewer's alternatives would be the domed hilltop of Peak Tor at Rowsley which overlooks the valleys of both the Derwent and Wye, or Ashford where the Portway crossed the Derwent.

In conclusion, despite occasional errors and unlikely hypotheses, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the early history of the Peak District. The author makes out a good case for the area to have been the tribal region of the Pecsætna, whatever their origin.

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A fashion for naming houses

Long Eaton around 1900

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Feverish building activity gripped Long Eaton at the turn of the last century. Electricity had just arrived. Industry and commerce thrived in an economy driven by the manufacture of highly fashionable lace. Shops and offices were being built in the town centre and factories and houses were being built in all quarters.

Within the first decade of the 20th century at least a dozen architects were in practice and there were many local building firms (see below). During the second half of the century and in the present one, housing developments are mainly carried out by large companies, many of them operating nationwide, George Wimpey springs to mind. It was not so a hundred years ago.

Back then, development was not as strictly controlled by planning regulations as it is today and everything was done piecemeal. The 1875 *Public Health Act* allowed, but did not require, local authorities to control the way in which houses were built with particular regard to drainage and ventilation. The Long Eaton Local Board of Health required anyone building a house to submit a plan which showed drainage arrangements, size of rooms, etc. The actual layouts of streets could be controlled by width and layout of sewers. It was not until the *Town & Country Planning Act* of 1947 that local authorities were required to decide whether or not a development could take place.

Local lace manufacturers, architects, solicitors, builders and private individuals would often combine to form a Land Society which would buy a promising area of land, set out streets with numbered plots and offer them for sale. Founders of



A small selection of Long Eaton house names

the societies usually bought one or more plots but they were often randomly spread and this has led to many streets having an interestingly varied appearance. Once all the plots had been paid for, the societies would usually wind up – but this often took many years because some plots were sold on the never-never. The Barn Farm Land Society, which developed land in New Sawley, sold its 100 plots by contributions of between 2s 6d (12½p) and 8s (40p) at three-weekly intervals.¹ How strange! People who bought plots usually built houses on them, either for themselves to live in, to rent out or to sell on.

Wages in Long Eaton varied a lot. When trade was good, a skilled operative in the lace trade was earning exceptionally high wages for the period but when trade fluctuated, men were laid off. In the late Victorian and Edwardian period, a twelfthand could be earning £3 weekly,² when those in the safe employment of the Midland Railway might only be earning less than half that amount.

All this building activity coincided with a fashion for naming houses. Not the *Chez Nous* in individual letters screwed to a board and hung on chains in the porch, but much more permanent names. These builders' and developers' names, given to a house as it was constructed, are usually carved in stone lettering set into the front brick work (and it is always brickwork in the case of Long Eaton). Sometimes names are found on gate pillars and some are lettered on cast iron plates, like street names.

Who were the people hooked on this fashion?

And fashion it was because houses had been given numbers by 1880.³ Most names relate to more than one house, either a semi-detached pair or a terrace, so it was obviously the developer's choice in these instances.

1. In the custody of Sharp, Bond & Partners, solicitors (now Rothera Sharp, 43 Market Place, Long Eaton) c. 2000.
2. Sheila Mason (1994) *Nottingham Lace: 1760s-1950s - The Machine-made Lace Industry in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire*, pp. 169-174.
3. Derbyshire Record Office, D5624, Long Eaton Urban District Council Building Regulations Plans and Registers.



GORMAN & ROSS

4

Walton Street, built c. 1902

This architectural practice, whose partners were Scottish, designed some of the town's best buildings. Only one of their houses still bears a name – a detached villa called *Myrtle House* in Walton Street. Incidentally, the nearby *Lynwood* was occupied by the town's telephone exchange from 1928 to 1962.



WILLIAM ALFRED WALLIS

5

Cranmer Street, built c. 1903

This local solicitor was also a property developer and speculator, developing the Highfield Estate in College Street as well as plots in several other areas. Between July 1902 and October 1903, Wallis developed 3 adjoining plots in Cranmer Street, each with a semi-detached pair of villas, which he named *Nelson Villas*, *Glendoran* and *Cranmer Villas*. Another pair he built in the same street is named (on the gate pillar) *The Gables*, a very odd choice given that the building has none.

JACOB and ALFRED SMITH



7-17 King Street, built 1883

6

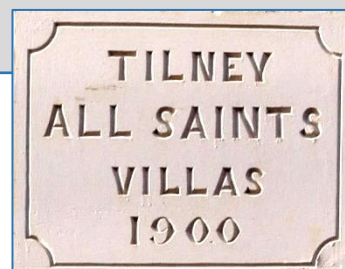
One name, derived from a biblical source, seems to epitomise the bizarre way in which some names are given. In King Street is *Mizpah Terrace*, perhaps financed by Jacob Smith a silk hosiery and built by his son Alfred. For the sake of the majority of people who read the name without knowing its meaning it is thus: in Genesis a stone is named *Mizpah* (a watch tower or look-out) as a memento to the covenant 'The Lord watch between me and thee when we are absent from one another'. A fine sentiment, whatever one's religion. So, let not *Mizpah Terrace* be re-developed without keeping its name.

GEORGE ALLEN

3

Upper Wellington Street, built 1900

There is no doubt about the origin of *Tilney All Saints Villas 1900* in Upper Wellington Street. This pair of semi-detached houses was built by Allen, a railway guard, who was born 50 years earlier in Tilney All Saints, a Norfolk village 5 km west of Kings Lynn. George and his wife Hannah had a 22-year-old son who had been born in Long Eaton, so George was perhaps remembering his happy, bucolic youth? He let the other half of his semi to a fellow railway guard.



ELLERSLIE

JOHN BUTLER

In 1910 Butler, a lace draughtsman, bought plot 34 in Douglas Road and employed a Nottingham builder to erect a pair of semi-detached villas which he named *Ellerslie* and *Esville* – who now knows why? Butler occupied *Ellerslie* himself and rented the other one out, a common practice in those days.

ESVILLE

2

Douglas Road, built c. 1910

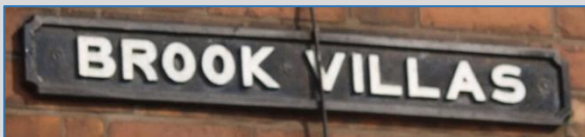


8 10
GEORGE YOUNGMAN

ABOVE: Craig Street, built 1901

Youngman was a bricklayer who came to Long Eaton in 1862 to build *Brook Terrace* in Stanley Street. This terrace had a cast iron sign but the name would have been chosen by the developer, Joseph Orchard, who lived nearby in *Brook Cottage*. Both the terrace and the cottage were demolished about 1980 but sited between them survive *Brook House* and *Brook Villas*, each with its cast iron plate. George Youngman & Son continued building well into the twentieth century. Tommy, the son, lived in Draycott and was well known as one of the first owners of a motor car in the district. In Craig Street and Lower Brook Street Tommy built *Exeter Villas* and *Burleigh Villas* and in Walton Street, *Walton Villas* – obviously short on imagination.

BELOW, LEFT: Stanley Street, built early 1860s



Sawley (now Tamworth) Road, built 1898

11
JOHN SHELDON

An architect, surveyor to the local council, an estate agent and developer, with his sons in the practice, he was certainly the most prolific building designer in town and at least one of his buildings (the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Bank, on the corner of Regent Street, now NatWest) is notable. In 1898 he designed a detached villa on Sawley Road (now called Tamworth Road for reasons no one has ever explained) for another William Wallis, this one a lace machine manufacturer. The house is called *Key West*, and being in a prominent position is well-known to locals. The name is also memorable: perhaps Wallis had visited the USA? There is certainly a likelihood he had been there because at that time the lace industry in Rhode Island which had strong ties to Long Eaton. Had he combined business with pleasure by travelling down to Florida?



Architects and Builders in Edwardian Long Eaton

The following lists are created from *Kelly's Directories of Derbyshire* (1887-1916), John Corah & Son (1913) *Long Eaton Street Directory*, and W. S. Cooper (1928) *Long Eaton Street Directory & Year Book*.

Architects

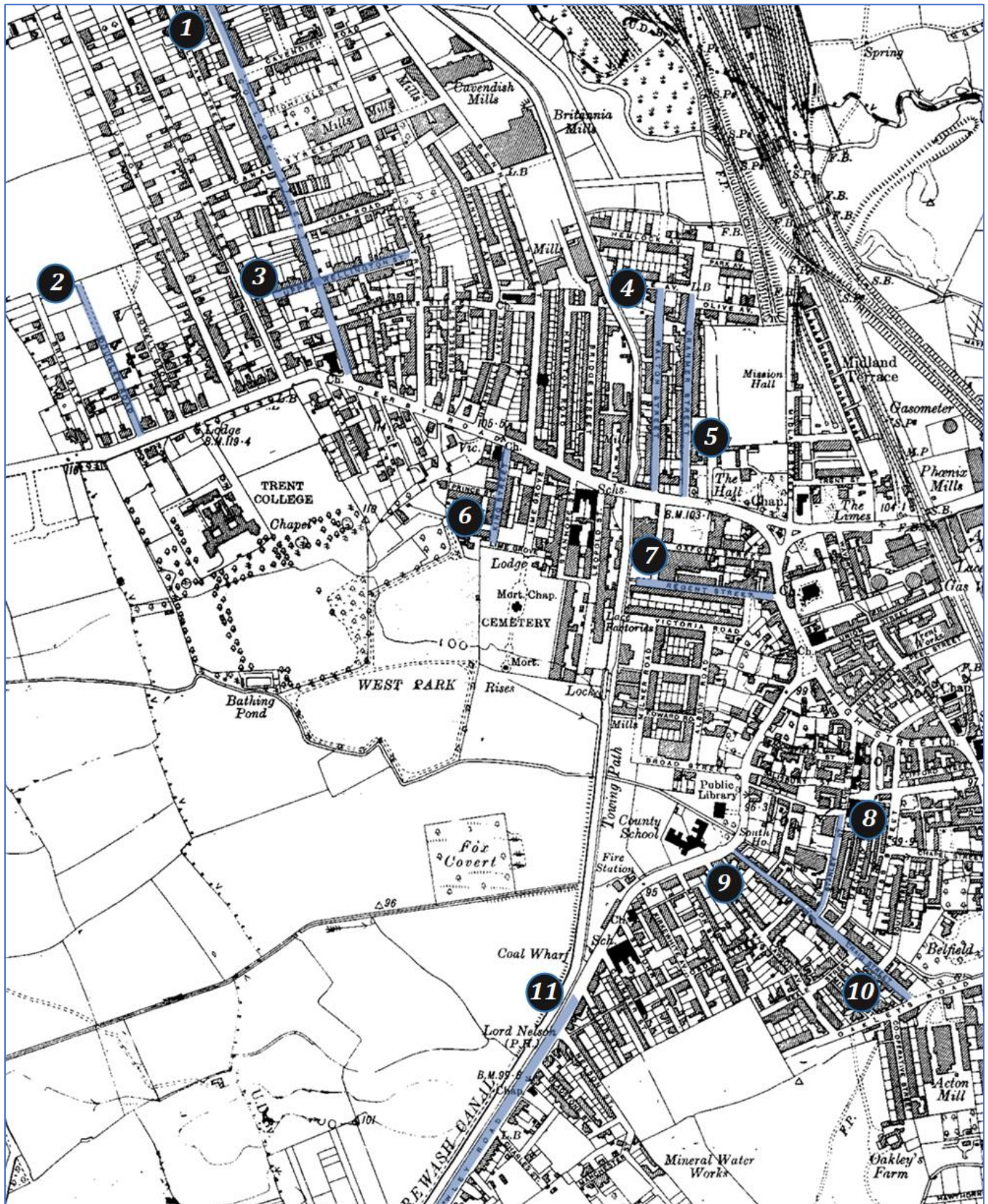
- Ridgeway (1882-1907)
- Sheldon (1882-1910)
- Haughton (1882-1902)
- Keating (1882-1886)
- Dodd (1896-1910)
- Child (1896-1900)
- Hooley (1898-1910)
- Redford (1898-1904)
- Gorman & Ross (1900-1907)
- Hearn (1902-1910)
- Woods (1903-1910)
- Plackett (1909-1910)
- Osborne Moorhouse Thorp (1910-1915)

Builders

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Brown, John & Sons | Poxon & Rice |
| Bull, John | Redford, Joseph H. |
| Bullock, William | Sheldon, John |
| Fullalove, Goulding | Shelton, N. |
| Jervis, J.E. | Stevens, E.E. |
| Marshall, Charles | Stocks, Elijah |
| Merritt, John | Warren, R. J. |
| Perks, F. & Sons | Youngman, T.W. & G. |

See www.reedman.org.uk for full list of all Long Eaton house names

Long Eaton Unearthed



Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map of Long Eaton, 1921

Location of Streets mentioned in the text

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. College Street | 5. Cranmer Street | 9. Lower Brook Street |
| 2. Douglas Road | 6. King Street | 10. Craig Street |
| 3. Upper Wellington Street | 7. Regent Street | 11. Sawley, now Tamworth, Road |
| 4. Walton Street | 8. Stanley Street | |

Derbyshire Archaeological Society

The Derbyshire Archaeological Society, formerly the Derbyshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, was founded in 1878 to encourage interest in the County's archaeology and natural history.

Sections (*Special Interest Groups*)

The Society has four active sections – Archaeological Research Group, Architectural Section, Local History Section and Industrial Archaeology Section. Each group is responsible for its own programme of lectures during the winter months and visits during the summer months, which are open to all members.

Publications

The ***Derbyshire Archaeological Journal*** has been published annually since 1879. Copies available up to 2016 from the Archaeology Data Service, <https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archive>

Published twice a year, ***Derbyshire Miscellany*** provides a less formal forum for shorter local history articles. Copies are available online up to 2016. See the Society's website (www.derbyshireas.org.uk) for details of ordering printed back copies.

Members of the Society also receive a Newsletter twice a year.

Library

Housed at Strutt's Centre in Belper, the Society's library contains books and other publications relating to Derbyshire as well as an extensive collection of national and local archaeological society journals. All items may be borrowed by members of the Society. Search and view the catalogue online at www.derbyshireas.org.uk.

Membership

See www.derbyshireas.org.uk for current membership rates. To join, complete the Membership form available online or from The Membership Secretary, Mr K. Reedman at 107 Curzon St, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, NG10 4FH.



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