Michael Tedd
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EDITORIAL NOTE

This, the second number of "The Leicestershire Historian" includes a new section "Miscellany", which incorporates notes, members' queries and advertisements; please make good use of this new item - I shall try to find answers to your questions, and be pleased to include requests for information, such as the one which appears in this issue.

Although material for the Autumn number of "The Leicestershire Historian" is already beginning to accumulate, I should welcome comments and suggestions as to the future content of the magazine: I should also, of course, welcome your contributions, which should be addressed to me c/o Leicestershire Record Office, 57 New Walk, Leicester.

Richard Potts.
Village Exhibitions are rather like spinning tops - give them a whip-up to get them going and before you know where you are they are gyrating at such a pace that everyone is left breathless.

This was certainly the case at the two Village Exhibitions encouraged by the Leics. Local History Council in recent months, one at Walton by Kimcote and one at Waltham on the Wolds. I think I can truly say that no one was so surprised as the organisers at the response, not only from the visitors, but from the village exhibitors. Treasures rolled in from every side.

My experience of Village Exhibitions began a long time ago, before they became the fashion - in 1949 I believe - in Desford. I had become interested in my village's history and was a keen Institute Record keeper. I was fortunate to have a colleague who was Desford born and bred and who knew everyone and could tell me just the people to ask for old photographs, pictures and bygones. In those days all, but with, of course, a good deal of hard groundwork, we had a Hall full of exhibits and a fascinated audience. Since then we have put on two or three more Exhibitions at intervals of a few years, each bigger and better than the last. Our material has increased as the number of scrap books, photographs and other treasures multiply as the years go by. A large notice at our first attempt said "These exhibits have been lent or given to Desford Village Record. You may have similar things at home. Please let us borrow them or keep them for you in our Village Record." Many things were, in fact, given to us and we are hard put to it to house our Village Record and this is a problem to be faced one day.
However, the point I wish to make is that for the first Exhibition we made a careful list of exhibits and where they came from, so that we could be sure that each treasure was safely returned. This list, luckily, we left, and so for future occasions we know exactly where to go to borrow again. It also enables us to keep an eye on things. If an old person dies and it is known that there is someone who would like those old photographs which no one else wants—well, sometimes they come our way, though the utmost tact is needed in approaching the bereaved family, of course!

I do feel that it is very important that a Village Exhibition, stuffed with things of local interest, should not be allowed to end there and I would urge all organisers to try to make a simple Inventory of things borrowed with name and address of lenders and any information that comes to light as a result of the "Fy Questions" session, which has so successfully followed the Local History Council's two exhibitions. This is not an easy task, of course, as everything happens at a great speed towards the end of the preparations and a constant watch must be kept on exhibits, but if it could be done I am sure that the very great deal of hard work done by the organisers would be so much more worth while and lasting.

We hope to encourage many more exhibitions in the future—indeed we have quite a queue of interested villages anxious to have a go—and if these could produce at the end, either to keep in the village or to deposit in some central place, a Record of the Exhibits, we should then be doing a really worth while piece of Local History.

L.H. Dickson.
NATURAL Curiosity will prompt many people to investigate their own ancestry and their prime objective will be to trace their male line as far back as possible. By so doing, they are engaging in what is termed pure (or simple) genealogy. However, certain basic rules must be respected if satisfactory progress is to be made. First, always work backwards from the known to the unknown, one generation at a time, beginning with the earliest direct forbear you can positively identify. Secondly, never attempt to cover up 'gaps' or incomplete or unproved details in your pedigree: vital primary records that would assist you may not survive and you must then turn to the less helpful secondary sources. Finally, never prepare your family tree until you have the details reasonably complete: alternatively, provided the generations are clearly separated, family history may usefully be built up concisely in tabular or narrative form.

Even a relatively uncommon surname may be reasonably common over a restricted area, and you may find a number of families with the same name. You cannot immediately claim relationship with all of them: any connecting link (and there may be none) may be centuries ago. Some old Leicestershire names, such as Astill, Gamble, Herrick and Hutt, derive from Danish settlers more than a thousand years ago, but there could have been more than one settler with a particular name. Knott and Hutt both originated from Cnut, and Tuckey/Tooke also had a common derivative.
A common Leicestershire name, Lewin (probably from the Saxon Leofwin) is found at Littlethorpe in the twelfth century, and the name occurs twice in my collateral ancestry. If there were two original settlers called by the same name, there would be two distinct 'tribes' of Lewin, thus illustrating that Genealogy covers something wider than family history in its narrowest sense. This is apparent from the Greek origins of the word.

The further back you go in your searching, the more difficult will be the problems you will encounter - not only does handwriting and spelling become a problem but records become sparser and less accessible. Before you surrender in despair, it may be a worthwhile diversion to try tracing your ancestors on all sides - at any rate, for a few generations - two parents, four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents: these four generations will take you back to around 1800 and this type of research, of Continental origin, is termed seize quartiers. You can complete the full picture - of those who file 'Birth Briefs' - this basis with the Society of Genealogists only about one in ten succeed. It is an advantage to have a high proportion of great-great-grandparents born within a small radius, preferably within the same county. Twelve of my sixteen came within this category, but the gain, seemingly, was countered by a large number of non-conformist marriages, which can be a positive curse to the genealogist. One can, of course, progress to more distant generations - to the thirty-two great-great-great-grandparents, as the next step. If you go back ten generations - about 300 years - you will find yourself confronted and probably confounded by no fewer than one thousand and twenty four of your antecedents: enough to daunt the most assiduous searcher from even entertaining the prospect!
For the sake of simplicity, my remarks will be mainly confined to the tracing of a single family line at something well below the Landed Gentry class: for this reason, it is assumed that no printed Family tree or armorial bearings are in existence. Probably something between a third and a half of those reading this were not born within the confines of Leicestershire: before they can start their researches, they will first have to trace their county of immediate origin and look for relevant records there. Fortunately, the process of using local records is, thanks to the national network of County, Diocesan and other Archive Offices, basically the same in other counties.

Family sources should naturally be exhausted before turning to other local records. If your surname is one of the commonest, domestic papers will assume considerable importance since they may pinpoint specific names, dates and places, which might otherwise never be identified with certainty. Family Bibles (or usually their fly-leaves), particularly common in the nineteenth century, are the best-known source. Rarely complete for more than two or three generations, the information given should be used with caution, where, from the uniformity of the handwriting, it is suspected entries were written up 'en masse' at a later time. As many details as possible should be proved from other records, though a random check will generally give a fair idea of overall accuracy. Scrapbooks, photograph and post-card albums, visitors, baby and birthday books will all provide some background information and the numerous names of relatives, sometimes with both dates and addresses. However,
because your forbears have omitted to identify all those photographs by the simple expedient of writing who they portray on the back, many will remain anonymous. Inscriptions in old books will often mention not only a relative but also a date or event. Letters (sometimes also of interest for early post-marks) and diaries, quite apart from their humorous content, reveal much about the day-to-day living of the writer and the times and environment in which he found himself. Family traditions and relatives' memories may also be useful, though dates and facts become easily distorted by the passage of time: written substantiation is often a reassurance.

Recent generations should be within personal knowledge and the marriage of your grandparents should be your starting-point. There is a general assumption that the eldest child was born within eighteen months of marriage (but remember that 'older' children may have died in infancy). A standard five year search at Somerset House should track down the marriage certificate: this will give the ages of the parties so that next it will be easy to trace in turn their birth certificates and, assuming it occurred after the commencement of Civil Registration on 1st. July 1837, the marriage of your great grandparents and the certificates should give some indication of their Parish of origin. Somerset House though not a local source, is by means of postal searches at ten shillings a time, within the use of all.

For earlier information, it is usual to turn to the Parish Registers, but Census Returns should also be consulted at this stage. Those for 1841-51-61 are the only three at present readily available and of use to the genealogist.
Leicester Museum Archives Department have micro-films of the Leicester and Leicestershire returns (originals in Public Record Office). In practice, the 1851 Census will generally be of greatest value; each individual's exact age, place of birth and relationship to the head of the household is given. A practical problem will illustrate the way in which Census information can be linked with other records. William Tyler, son of Jonathan (a carpenter) was born at Queniborough in 1845; it was known too that Jonathan, son of John (a bricklayer) was baptised there in 1819. But where was John born? The 1851 Census for Queniborough shows him to be aged 60 and his place of birth as South Croxton. Reference should now be made to the Museum's collection of Bishop's Transcripts, (certified copies of the Parish Register entries), which theoretically had to be filed annually, though there are many 'gaps' before 1730. The series for South Croxton includes a complete run from 1732 to 1814, except for the single year 1790, which, as luck has it, is the one year you want since the marriage of William Tyler and Elizabeth Leake of Twyford did not take place until November 1789 and the child baptised in 1791 was not named John.

Fortunately, the Parish Registers of South Croxton are deposited in the County Record Office, a few hundred yards further up New Walk, and there you immediately find the baptism of John on 28th February 1790, and one draws the obvious conclusion from the closeness of the event after marriage. Many printed, typed and manuscript transcripts of both Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts are available in the Museum, although the standard of accuracy varies (for example, the Leake marriage mentioned above appears as Teake).

Parish Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials should date from 1538, but only one in twenty of our local Registers do so and few are fully complete,
though some deficiencies can be made good by reference to the relevant Bishop's Transcripts where these exist. Some omissions, particularly in the years around the troubled Commonwealth Period (1649-60) can never be filled. More than a quarter of the Leicestershire Registers are now deposited in the Record Offices and the number is increasing each year. Enquiry as to the whereabouts of particular Parish Registers should be made at the County Record Office (or at the Museum for the City Parishes.)

Once a family has been traced to a parish in pre-Industrial times, it would often remain in that vicinity for generations, though locally perhaps only one in ten remained in the same place for three centuries. In Leicestershire, a flat compact county with the county town far bigger than the next largest place, there was a tendency not only for gravitation towards Leicester itself, but for less restricted movement than in larger, hilly counties. For example, the Bradleys reached Belgrave, via Thurmaston, from the Whitwick area during the course of three generations. Conversely, remember that Leicestershire was rich in its number of small land-owners who, for centuries, formed a small nucleus of settled families in many parishes. Reference, particularly after 1750, to Non-Conformist records may also be necessary, and both the County Record Office and the Museum have micro-films ofRegisters deposited in the Public Record Office, and many other records of the numerous local chapels. Marriage bonds and allegations are housed at the Museum, and a printed index exists for these prior to 1729. There is an annual card index thereafter. The existence of a bond simply means that permission for a marriage by licence was granted, not proof of a subsequent marriage. Additional information, age, occupation and parish, may nonetheless be usefully extracted from them.
The extensive use of Swithland Slate for gravestones in many Leicestershire churchyards is of practical value for it weathers well and in some cases several 18th Century family series of headstones remain legible and details of relationship and place of birth can be extracted from them. Often details are inaccurate and there are local instances of a burial entry in the Registers occurring before the date of death on the inscription. Remember too that churches have outside as well as inside walls. At St. Peter's, Belgrave, the South Porch, built by William Bradley in 1826 for £100 over his Family vault, has tablets to members of his family on the outside walls.

A fine series of Wills and Administrations proved in the Leicester Archdeaconry Court and the small Peculiar Courts from the late Fifteenth Century to 1858 are in the County Record Office, as are copies of later wills proved in the District Registry. Indexes to these wills exist at the County Record Office - printed to 1750, and manuscript for the period 1750-1906. Wills proved at the Prerogative Courts of Canterbury and York should also not be overlooked, particularly where it is known a person owned land in two places under different Ecclesiastical authorities. The information provided by wills includes occupation and parish, family bequests, land holdings and sometimes field names. Where an inventory of the testator's effects survives, this may provide an interesting insight into his possessions and mode of living. Those for the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries are the most numerous and the best detailed. When considering wills, do not forget that more people probably died intestate than died leaving a will.
Poll Books basically give a list of landowners parish by parish and Leicestershire has eighteenth century books for 1719, 1741, and 1775. A printed volume, arranged by counties, of a return to Parliament in 1873 of owners of more than one acre of land is in the County Record Office. These may be of use in searching for an elusive ancestor, as may be the series of nineteenth Century Commercial Directories, provided they are never regarded as a full list of Householders. For the County, White's series of 1846, 1863, and 1877 are among the earliest; the first reasonably full Leicester directory is Fowler's of 1815, but Street Directories, listing occupiers in house order, street by street, occur only after the 1850s. The Sketch-books (in Leicester Museum) for the 1828 Leicester map provide earlier identification, as also may Parish Rate Books, where these survive. Newspapers, to be found in Leicester Reference Library, despite limited local space, are always interesting. After 1850, the Births, Marriages and Deaths column is used more. Details of Coroner's Inquests, subscription lists, trade advertisements and sales of houses in newly-laid out streets can all provide background information. Biographical details can be obtained not only from published Apprenticeship & Freeman lists but from School and University Registers where appropriate.

When your research is well-advanced and you have experienced not only some of the subject's fascinations but also some of its frustrations, you may not have a finished story but you should have compiled a succession of completed or part-completed chapters.

J.E.O. Wilshere.
"HORSES DRAW'D ALL IN ROPES"

On a winter day of 1856, Thomas Kemp, blacksmith, signed his name and laid down his pen. Twenty-four pages he had laboriously filled of a small cashbook, writing down all he could remember of the stories told to him in years long past.

"In the middle of the day, my father and my brother James and me sat on an old coffer, and he told us what happened in his day, and his father's day, and his father's. Now my brother could remember nothing. I can remember it (at 74) as well as if it had been told me yesterday, so if my brother James wanted to know anything about my family he came to me, and I could tell him as well as if I had it in a book before me."

On the first of these now yellowed and stained pages begins the story of the James Kemp who was born in 1672 in the Leicestershire village of Hose, near Melton Mowbray, in the Vale of Belvoir. When James was old enough he was apprenticed to a blacksmith in the neighbouring village of Harby, and his chronicler, Thomas, recalls the door of the old smithy, imprinted all over with letters from the branding irons. The smiths always tested them on the door to make sure that the letters would be clear and well-shaped. This smithy, which was demolished and rebuilt in 1857, had a roof of thorns.

After serving his seven years' apprenticeship, James left Harby and went to Southwell, in Nottinghamshire. His new master, who was known as Red Hot Tom, whether from his nature or his calling we are not told, taught him to make gears and chains. At that time (1694) "horses draw'd all in ropes", so this was a great innovation.
"Almost night and day at that time there was never a waggon, never a clock, nor a pump, nor a poor man. The shaft horse had nothing but a cart saddle, no breech. The cart sides came all the length for shafts. Four inches from the end there was a three-quarter hole bored and a pin of wood to fit it. They had a staple put into the Hame* and a piece of white leather to fit the shaft, so they put this leather ring on the shaft and then the wood pin through. This was called the towpin. When they took the horse out they took the pin out and the ring came off".

After a year, James's first master died, and he returned to the smithy at Harby, where he at once began to make gears, the first in Leicestershire. He married the late blacksmith's widow and they had two sons, the elder of whom, born in 1700, eventually learnt the trade. The business prospered exceedingly, keeping four of them fully occupied - James, his son and two young men whom they employed.

The son, also called James, became friendly with a young man of the same age, named Thomas Gregg, and they married two sisters. "James Kemp's wife was Elizabeth (Betty), and Thomas Gregg's wife was Catherine (Kate). Their father was a farmer who had a house and land of his own at Harby. He gave the two daughters a fortune, leaving the house and land to his son John at his death.

"Thomas Gregg was a shepherd and lived in his own house. He and Catherine had four sons, Thomas, Richard, John and Henry, all brought up as shepherds".(and here the writer used a quaint phrase) "watching their fleece care".

*Hame - one of the two curved bars to which the traces are attached in the harness of a draught horse.
"The estates of James Kemp and Thomas Gregg joined together, and they lived in unity all their lives. When they were stricken in years, betwixt 70 and 80, there was a great election betwix Hungerford and Putchin for the County of Leicester, such a one as never was before nor never since. The Duke of Rutland gave Esquire Putchin his Interest. All of them as could not ride on horseback they fetched in Coaches and Chaises. There was Flungar, Barkstone, Redmile and Bettesford, all went throw Harby. This Mr. Kemp and Mr. Gregg as the Duke called them, for he came a-canvasing himself, gave him their votes. Mrs. Gregg and Mrs. Kemp told their husbands as they would never fetch such old men as them. This is 75 years since.

"The day before the election they let them all know to get ready at 8 o'clock on the next morning. Mr. Gregg and his wife came to our house about 7 o'clock. In a little while a man came and told them as the Coaches was against Whittle's and they might come. Directly Mr. Gregg and my Granfather got up, and he said How Betty, you said they would never fetch us. Then Betty and Kate cried.

"They got into the Coach and there was such Huzzas, Putchin for ever. Old Mrs. Harwood's mother and Mr. Julian's mother, as they had no votes pulled off their Caps and twirld them over their heads and shouted Hungerford for ever, Huzza!

"There was never seen so many in the nether street before, for Coaches was seldom seen in those days. Mr. Gregg was a very stout bulky man and Mr. Kemp was very stout. There was a man, his name was Richard Hawley, a very deformed little man, Humpd Back but full of consequence. He was put into the Coach with Mr. Gregg and Mr. Kemp. They crushed, he cried and would not ride. He would come out but they snap the door to and away they went. By Cousin Dickey said they would keep him very warm."
"There was Open House at Helton, and the Duke, Lord Granby, Hutchin, and all the Nobility met them on the road, almost two miles to welcome them into the town. There was so many Carriages and Horses that they reached a mile. The Gentlemen rode first. There was such a show as Leicester had never seen. They were well treated, vines, Rum, Brandy, and anything as they wished to drink. Esq. Hutchin came to their Inn to see if the Old Gentlemen were good care taken of. Hungerford was voted in. They were brought home to their own door, their Hats all over Ribbons, pleased enough to tell Betty and Kate as they were better looked on there than at home. All these things was before my day as my Father was 40 years older than me".

The borough election concerned was a bitterly fought contest between John Peach Hungerford, Tory, and William Fochin, Whig, the former being elected by a majority of only 120 votes.

Thomas continues:- "The fields was open at that time. It was Inclosed in the year 1790, before the Inclosure it being almost all plowed, so we was at work betime in the morning and late at night. We often had 20 pair of plow irons to be done by 6 o'clock in the morning". It was then that they rested in the middle of the day on the coffer, and young Thomas listened enthralled to his father's stories of bygone days.

"When I was 3 years and a half old my Granfather and Mr. Gregg used to sit under a crab tree upon some trees as lay under it, their long staffs in their hands, and one time Mr. Rouse of Hose about their age all sat under this large tree. He was an old Companion of theirs, all with their long staffs, about 2 yards long. This puts me in mind of their keeping their staffs in their hands, as long as I live."
"Mr. Rouse was telling them as when he was first married he went to Nottingham with the Team and he brought a peck of taters, the first as come into Hose. They went again soon after and told the man to bring a strike* and the Mrs. said they should not for they should not Eate them, whilst they were good". Thomas used the word "whilst" in its local meaning of "whereas". Mr. Rouse would evidently have enjoyed more potatoes.

Then Thomas records something that evidently made a deep impression on him: "Mr. Rouse lighted his pipe with a glass by the sun". What an interesting picture this conjures up, the three men chatting peacefully, the child listening and watching, storing it away in his retentive memory.

"It was their last meeting. My Grandfather was taken ill and soon died. At his Funeral Mrs. Gregg stopped at home with my sister Mary and me, she was about half a year old. Mrs. Gregg I remember knocked her stick on the hearthstone to quiet Mary, and said Churn, butter, churn. Mr. Gregg lived but a few months after. He gave his son Henry his Estate, to take care of his widow" (Thomas's Aunt Kate). I have heard my Mother say as she was well taken care of and well used. My Aunt Kate oft times came to drink tea with us, she was a great favourite of my Father's. My Father and Mother was at her Funeral, and I hope they are all gone to Happiness.

"And so adieu," concludes Thomas Kemp, with an obviously tiring hand, "January 4th, 1850. I have seen 74 Christmas Days."

* a bushel

Nora Blaze.
Some Aspects of Cosby before Enclosure

F.W. Haitland remarks in his Domesday Book and Beyond, "Much remains to be done before we shall be able to construe the testimony of our fields and walls and hedges...." This comment has, especially to the local historian, much more significance than one might at first suppose. The rapid growth of our present society and the threat of its continual and inevitable encroachment on the landscape, means, that much of the topographical evidence, referred to by Haitland, and vital to our understanding of the pattern of social and economic development of the community is in danger of being irretrievably lost. This threat is not confined to those areas adjacent to the larger towns and cities which already are being gradually swallowed by the ever expanding suburbia. The identity of the village and the surrounding landscape is also in danger, the former, as a result of "dormitory building" and the latter, in the interests of modern farming efficiency.

A great deal of topographical information has already been recorded in the form of the early ordnance survey maps, not to mention the aerial surveys of 1948 and 1964. Also the availability of estate maps, pre-enclosure maps, enclosure maps and tithe maps for some parishes enables the local historian to trace, with a greater degree of certainty, the pattern of development of the community throughout the ages. Unfortunately, much of this type of information is not available and the reconstruction of maps illustrating the changing pattern of our countryside must be carried out by a combination of documentary research and field work, while the landscape can still yield its secrets.
In carrying out a study of the history of the Parish of Cosby and Littlethorpe during the last two years it has become increasingly apparent that in the absence of any maps relating to the parish other than the ordnance survey and a very limited tithe map of Harborough of 1846 (part of the tithes of Cosby and Littlethorpe were payable to the Parish of Harborough) the reconstruction of both enclosure and pre-enclosure maps is of the utmost importance. The enclosure award for this parish of about 2,500 acres names three principal fields viz Hillfield, Brookfield and Coal Lane Field, not to mention various other meadow lands and ancient enclosures referred to in the document. It has not been possible on the basis of the enclosure award alone, accurately to locate the position of many of these ancient enclosures in the parish. A systematic search of various documents is in progress at the moment and it is hoped that finally it will be possible to construct reliable enclosure and pre-enclosure maps of this parish. So far a provisional pre-enclosure map has been constructed on the basis of an examination of many documents, a few of which are now described.

The earliest record of named lands in the Parish of Cosby and Littlethorpe is found in a terrier of 1360 relating to some 65 acres 1½ roods of demesne arable land belonging to Leicester Abbey and divided as follows: 19 acres in Guthlaxton Field, 10 acres 1 rood in Methhorsfield, 18 acres 2½ roods in Brookfield and 17½ acres in Stanlandfield. In the year in which the terrier was made Guthlaxton field lay fallow, Methhorsfield and Brookfield bore a spring crop while Stanlandfield bore a winter crop. In a De Banco Roll of 1397, "pasture land called Chestrewry, extending from the Fosse as far as a wong which is called Haloughtheine," is mentioned as is an ancient enclosure in the same area called Cockhull Field. This latter named field is
mentioned as Cockhill Close or Cockhill Field in many later documents relating to land in the parish and is in fact still used to this day. Deeds of the Bent family dated 1555 and 1584 refer to land in the parish known as Hore Land, Passar Land, Kynseman Close, Halyday Close, Halyday Land or Broughton Land, Asshby Land, Sere or Sore Land and Lady Close. Only the last named of these pieces of land is mentioned in the enclosure award where it is described as "an ancient enclosure within the ring of the town of Cosby". As in the case of the aforementioned land known as Cockhill Close, Lady Close is readily identified in the village to this day. An indenture dated 30th. January 1605 between Richard Bent of Cosby and John Leonard of Wigston Magna (purchaser) names not only twenty six separate pieces of land within the three principal fields of the parish but also names five separate meadow lands. One interesting aspect of this particular deed is that payment for the lands, namely £190, was to be made "by the said John Leonard, his heirs, executors etc... at or within the South porch of the Church of Cosby at and upon the day hereafter mentioned limited and appointed. That is to say fifteen score pounds thereof at and upon the lyne and twentieth day of September 1651 and the other hundred and ten pounds, the residue of the one hundred fifteen score and ten pounds at and upon the eleventh day of November 1652". An interesting insight into the practice of deferred payments in the early 17th. Century. An indenture of 26th. December 1676 refers to a place called Stonyland in Cole Lane Field while a terrier of the same date mentions a furlong called Wesseninge in Hillfield and a furlong called Butt Leyes in Brook Field or the Kether Field. The place referred to as Stonyland in this document may be in fact the Stanlandfield of the 1360 terrier but in the absence
of any other documentary evidence this must at the
moment remain in considerable doubt. In 1684, a deed
between George Bent of Cosby, Gent. and John Beresford
of Hartley, Derby, Gent. describes not less than
fourteen pieces of land in the three main fields of
Cosby together with three meadow lands. Many of the
fields named in this document are also named in the
terrier of 1605. Furthermore in 1684 there is an
enclosure in hillfield named Westringe, which is clearly
the furlong referred to as Wesseninge in the terrier of
1676. A deed dated 22nd. April 1723 between William
Charleton of Cosby and Thomas Bent of Cosby relates to
the sale of "All that Cogthers paire of pasture grounds
with appurtenances lying in Broughton Hearn within the
precincts of Cosby aforesaid at the end of a lane called
Hobble Lane and also one cow pasture or depasturing for
one cow to be had and taken in the open fields of Cosby
aforesaid and Littlethorpe in the County of Leicester
and now in the occupation of the said William Charleton,"
for the sum of £10:10:6. The deed further states that
the land described formerly belonged to the estate of
Thomas Grantham who sold it to James Sykes, who willed
it to James Ball who finally sold it to William Charleton.
It is additional information such as this that often
enables the identity of a piece of land to be finally
established from a sequence of further documents. A
deed of 1742 refers to the sale of a farm known as Poters,
a messuage formerly called James house and various named
pieces of land by Allen Brown of Cosby to Sampson
Woodland and Job Lansfield. This particular document
is of considerable interest in its mention of a furlong
in Windmill Field called Fflax-Lands shooting up to the
Hill. The 1605 terrier also refers to "a wood ley neer
the hill" in Hill Field. The actual site of the hill
has not yet been established but the evidence gleaned
from these documents has considerably narrowed the search
area since the location of the fields known as the Flax
lands is accurately known today. Finally the enclosure
award itself mentions in addition to the principal fields of the parish some twenty-four ancient enclosures together with eight meadow lands. In some instances the names of these enclosures have been found in pre-enclosure documents and in some cases the names are still in use today.

Many more documents exist dated prior to enclosure referring to land in the parish but of all the documents so far examined only those just described name and broadly indicate the position of land. With the information available to date, obtained from various deeds, indentures, terriers and wills, together with the enclosure award, it has been possible to construct a provisional pre-enclosure map of the parish. Many documents have yet to be examined in this work, including five terriers known to exist at Lincoln archives Office and it is hoped that these will contribute to our present ideas concerning pre-enclosure in this parish. Most of the work to date has been concerned with the records but much remains to be done in the field where it is hoped in the near future not only accurately to map the ridge and furrow in the parish but also establish the site of the mill.

References:
1. Octby Enclosure Award 1767. Leics. Record Office.
3. G.F. Farnham, Quorndon Records, no. 554.
5. Bray and Bray H.S.S., L.R.O. Indenture & terrier 1605
6. Ibid. Indenture and terrier 1676.
7. Ibid. Deed 1684.
8. 9 D 43/64 - 3. Leicester Museum. Deed 1723.

A. Strang.

This series of family letters of the Leicestershire branch of the Noel family settled at Kirkby Mallory form an interesting account of the domestic circumstances of the three Noel sisters, Elizabeth, Judith and Sophia, their brother Thomas, Viscount Wentworth, and their aunt Mary Noel, who had lived with them at Kirkby after their mother's death. The letters describe their domestic lines in great detail - their illnesses, their friends and the Whig gossip of the period. Local affairs, despite their fondness for Kirkby, are seldom mentioned, though there are references to local elections, and near neighbours such as the Dixies of Bosworth. Judith Noel, Mrs. Hillbankes, was the mother of Anne, Lady Byron, and these letters were finally preserved by her and form the first part of the Lovelace collection. As background material to the social life of the period they have considerable interest.

The illustrations include a reproduction of Isaac Cruikshank's cartoon of the Duke of Bedford's party escaping from a fire at Quorn.


This book describes a hundred years in the life of the school and its buildings. The Girls School was founded in Kibworth by Mrs. Betsy Islip, the wife of a Congregational minister and it was not until after
his death that she moved her school of about thirty pupils from the manse in Kibworth to the Headmaster's House and boarding accommodation of the defunct Collegiate School in Leicester. The Collegiate School had been founded in Leicester in 1835 as a Church of England School for boys, in specially designed buildings - a Gothic Hall flanked by classrooms, a headmaster's house with boarding accommodation on the top floor - later to be extended, in what was then open country on the edge of the town. The school prospered until 1865, when money could not be found to redeem the mortgage, the school was closed and the property sold to a Leicester builder, Joseph Swain. The original school hall became a chapel and the headmaster's house, and later the fourth side of the boys' school became the new school for young ladies.

The authors trace the history of the Girls' School from a school for young ladies, the introduction of a Froebel department and training school, to a modern grammar school with a wide range of courses for young women. It became a maintained grammar school in 1922, and after 1944 lost its junior school.

HOSKINS, M.G. FIELDWORK IN LOCAL HISTORY. Faber, 35sh.

Although in the author's words this is "primarily a book about the problems and methods of fieldwork, about techniques and sources," there is nonetheless much here to interest the general reader.

Professor Hoskins, in addition to expanding some of his older themes (expressed in earlier books such as "Local History in England," "Provincial England," and "The Making of the English Landscape"), adds much new matter on such subjects as topography, farmsteads, roads, and the dating of hedges and walls. In fact, he covers more than a thousand years of local history by embracing topics as diverse as Anglo-Saxon landscapes, medieval forests and Victorian urban street patterns.
Readers of "The Leicestershire Historian" will doubtless examine this book for local references and they will find such things as a detailed survey (1708) of Claybrook Vicarage, a useful note on the siting of Melton Lowbray, brief mention of the moated homesteads of Old Hays, Appleby Lagna and Potters Harston, and comments about the deceptive Scandinavian place names in the Wreak(e) valley. On page 115 the date of the founding of Wyggeston's Hospital (1513) is wrongly given as 1521.

It is Professor Hoskins' pioneer work in the exploration of deserted villages that is his greatest contribution to Leicestershire fieldwork. In a book written "towards the close of a working life" he reminisces on his first accidental discovery of a deserted village - Knaptoft, about which there are several references.

This writer's usual readable style, aided by a number of maps and diagrams, makes this well produced book enjoyable to digest, though a few aerial photographs might have enhanced its usefulness since only five plates are included. A chapter by chapter bibliography might also have relieved occasional overloading of an already detailed text by valuable source references, but this is small criticism in a book which illustrates that "the beauty of local history and of the fieldwork connected with it, is that it involves so much close detail."

J.E.O. Wilshere.


This new edition of a popular descriptive guide book to Leicestershire and Rutland retains with minor alterations the text, style and arrangement of the first edition published in 1937.
The number of illustrations in the new edition has been reduced, but the new illustrations include different views of Belvoir Castle, Stapleford Park, Staunton Harold Church and the maze at Wing.


This new facsimile edition of 'A Walk through Leicester' which first appeared in 1804, was published by Thomas Combe of Leicester. It was one of the first guide books to an industrial town ever to be printed, and even today gives a clear and popular account of the remaining antiquities of Leicester.

She began her walk in Gallow Tree Gate at the Three Crowns Inn, now the site of the National Provincial Bank, and takes the reader on a circular tour, including Humberstone Gate, Belgrave Gate, St. Margaret's Church, St. Nicholas' Church, St. Mary's Church, the Newark, the New Walk, with its view across the meadows, to return to look at St. Martin's Church, the Guildhall and Town Library and the Market Place. The town is concluded with a brief note on stocking manufacture in Leicester, and a map showing Leicester in 1804.

Readers may also like to know of two recent books on the hosiery industry, both of which have Leicestershire references:


KIRBY, D.B. The Saxon Bishops of Leicester, Lindsey and Dorchester.
This article traces the fate of the bishoprics, which in the ecclesiastical re-organisation after the Danish wars of the 9th. and early 10th. centuries were amalgamated into a single diocese, the largest in England, administered at first from Dorchester, and then from Lincoln.

JACK, Sybil. Monastic lands in Leicestershire and their administration on the eve of the dissolution.
This article describes the area of monastic lands, belonging both to Leicestershire and other houses on the eve of the dissolution, the efficiency of the running of their estates and the part played by lay administrators in the organisation of the monastic economy in Leicestershire. A note is given of the fate of the monastic records, and the table shows the land holdings of the monasteries in Leicestershire.

SIMMONS, Jack. Mid-Victorian Leicester.
The author briefly describes the changes and development which took place in the shape and form of mid-Victorian Leicester, when the city moved its centre of gravity, changed its architecture, and the basis of the industry, and built the familiar landmarks - the Town Hall, the Clock Tower, the Royal Opera House - notable banks and factories, established the beginnings of the City Museum, the Public Library and the Colleges of Art and Technology. The citizens who created this new Leicester from the country county town of the 1820's, truly lived through a revolution.
SWIFT, Eric. Inns and Inn Signs of Leicestershire and Rutland.

This account of our local inns gives many interesting facts about a traditional institution which has always played an important part in the life of even the smallest community. If the number of inns recorded has fallen between 1877 and today it merely reflects the fact that modern men, with more comfortable homes, spend less time in them than their predecessors. In the towns of Victorian England the local inn became the local club and other inns were adopted by various groups of tradesmen and hence the Plasterer's Arms, the Gardeners Arms and many more. Leicestershire has only a few remaining eighteenth century coaching inns, but the canals and railways brought their own, the Union Inn at Blaby, the Hope and Anchor, the Sailors' Return - were associated with waterways, whilst the many railway inns, like the Midland Arms or the Engine became railwaymen's clubs.

Leicestershire county families show their colours in their arms on inn signs - the Hastings crest, the Harrows arms in the Peacock at Redmile and Croxton Kerrial, and the Black Boy at Hungarton symbolises the Buxbys - and these form an interesting group of signs. Inn signs with their wide variety still form an interesting record of our social heritage.


The author describes the material found in the documents preserved by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in the Parish of Evington, from 1606 to the early part of the twentieth century. The earliest document dated 1606 is a request for payment to Thomas Read of Leicester of 20d. towards freedom from a toll, and there are other records of collections made for charitable and other purposes.
The majority of papers are concerned with poor relief payments to paupers, apprenticeships for pauper children and disputes over individual settlements. Apprenticeship documents relate to many trades. Premiums paid to masters for pauper apprentices varied from ten shillings to ten pounds. Children were apprenticed usually at 9, 10 or 11 years, boys to trades, to which they were bound until the age of 21, girls to housewifery until the age of 19 or marriage. The signatures on the documents record the names of many local families, Beaumonts, Burnabys, Coultons, Hesilriges, Pochins and Winstanleys; the poor were less notable if more prolific, the Peggs for example appear several times.


Stearne, J. Building materials used in Northamptonshire and the area around.

This article gives an interesting account of the Northamptonshire building stones, including Collyweston slates, to be seen on some Leicestershire buildings, and Clipsham stone, from Rutland. The article includes a map of the principal quarries, illustrations of Clipsham and Weldon quarries, and of Collyweston slaters' wills.

PUBLICATIONS.

Church Guides


This brief guide describes the architectural development of this church, the main features of the interior, and a paragraph on its most famous Rector - John Wycliffe. The guide is illustrated with photographs, but has no plan of the church.
OUR Lady and St. Nicholas, Wanlip. Wanlip Parish Church Council, 1967. 2/6d.

This brief and clearly written guide gives a concise account of the church as it appears today, and of its former history. It describes the famous brass of Thomas Walsh and his Katrine, the earliest known brass to have an inscription in English. Reference is made to the Swithland slate memorials in the churchyard, and a list of parish priests and their patrons from 1220 to the present day is given. Well produced and a most attractive guide book.


A new edition, with a foreword by the Vicar, giving a brief description of the history of the Church, including chronological notes by the late F.C. Bedford. This is a commercial guide, poorly illustrated, and lacks a plan.

SMITH E.D. St. Darys Parish Church, Evington. 1967.

This beautifully produced and illustrated booklet gives in thirty pages an excellent description of a parish church and its setting. It describes the growth of the church from its foundation about 1200 to the present day, with a useful plan which shows the evolution of the church. The church plate, chest, bells, front and monuments are described and there is a photograph of one of its most interesting features, the fragments of mediaeval glass in the East Window. The list of vicars since 1200 recalls the names of many Leicestershire families and villages, and the guide concludes with a brief account of the parish and its people before it was absorbed by the growth of the City of Leicester.
Brownlow, J.E. Notes on the Melton Howbray Town Estate 1967. 2/6d.
This informative booklet includes extracts from the records of the Town Estate, and several interesting illustrations of Old Melton.

Canals

THE Old Union Canals of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire: their past and present.
Old Union Canal Society, 1967. 23 pp. 2/6d.

This booklet is a brief user's guide - with historical notes - on the stretch of the canal from Leicester to the junction with the Grand Union canal at Braunston. The canal is briefly described length by length, with notes of topical and historical interest - the inset diagram is a guide to the text. A nicely produced and informative booklet.

DISCELLARY

Since the advent of the first issue of "The Leicestershire Historian", one of the co-editors, Mr. A.G. Veysey, has left Leicester, following his appointment as County Archivist of Flintshire. We wish him well in his new county.

Members Ask:

1. When was the Riot Act last read in Leicester?
   The answer seems to be 1848 (Poor Law Riots).
2. When was the last witch burned in Leicestershire?
   "The Witches of Belvoir", Margaret & Philippa Flower, were sentenced to death in 1619, but it is not known whether they were burned.
3. Is there the remains of a Leicestershire gibbet on its original site?
A gibbet post still stands in situ one mile south of Congerstone on the Twycross road, and was first erected to hang a local murderer.

Field Name Survey - Can you help?

Women's Institutes are collecting the field names in some 120 Leicestershire parishes. This still leaves nearly 100 parishes (civil, not ecclesiastical) to be covered in order to make the Survey complete. If you would like to help in this interesting local history effort, would you write to the Leicestershire & Rutland Federation of Women's Institutes, 97 Regent Road, Leicester, LE1 7 DA. They will tell you if your parish is already covered. If it is not, they will brief you with all the necessary information and provide maps. The Survey when completed will be stored in the County Record Office.

The writer is interested in the family of Luxloe in Desford and elsewhere, and would be interested to hear of any mention of that name that local historians may come across in Parish Registers or any other records in the county. I am also searching for a marriage somewhere between a Buckley and a Chamberlain probably after 1760. Mrs. E. Dickson, 21 Dorchester Road, Leicester.

Following Mrs. P. Holl's article on "Leicestershire Monumental Inscriptions" in the first issue, Mr. Lockington Vial of Leicester has written to say that the article reminded him of the Parsons ("stabbed by wicked Lane") memorial at Braunstone, and the interesting Danvers tombstone on the boundary of Swithland churchyard, said to mark the burial place of a pet dog, not of course buried in consecrated ground, but in this case resting at his master's feet!
Another correspondent, Mr. A.G. Miles of Leicester, makes a plea for a census of Leicestershire gravestones, as so many are disappearing. He emphasises that such a survey could only be done with the approval of the incumbent concerned, but adds that where permission is granted volunteers for this scheme (already being undertaken in Staffordshire, incidentally) might list the names of the dead and take rubbings "where there is a specially artistic specimen", and also note the name of the engraver, if visible. Anyone (or any group) willing and able to make a census of the gravestones in churchyards within their locality is requested to contact the Secretary.

The Editor wishes to acknowledge with thanks the help of all concerned in the magazine's compilation and production.

FOCUS ON LOCAL LEICESTERSHIRE

We are organising a competition to arouse a visual and spoken interest in local history, by inviting our members to enter twelve coloured transparencies allied to a short script on any aspect of Leicestershire local history. There will be cash prizes. Closing date for entry - 1st. April. Closing date for production of slides and script - 5th. August.

All details from the Secretary at 133 Loughborough Road, Leicester.
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