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The Leicestershire Historian, which is published annually is the magazine of the Leicester Local History Council, and is distributed free to members. The Council exists to bring local history to the doorstep of all interested people in Leicester and Leicestershire, to provide for them opportunities of meeting together, to act as a co-ordinating body between the various Societies in the County and to promote the advancement of local history studies.

A series of local history meetings is arranged throughout the year and the programme is varied to include talks, film meetings, outdoor excursions and an annual Members' Evening held near Christmas. The Council also encourages and supports local history exhibitions; a leaflet giving advice on the promotion of such an exhibition is available from the Secretary.

The different categories of membership and the subscriptions are set out below. If you wish to become a member, please contact the Secretary, who will also be pleased to supply further information about membership and the Annual Programme.

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EDITORIAL

We start this issue on a congratulatory note with Mrs Dickson's article on the tenth birthday of the Leicestershire Local History Council. The appropriate drawings were done by Mr Dickson to adorn the Council's birthday cake. Readers will recognise a couple of the cover motifs from the second volume of the Historian and the studious fox which appeared on the cover of each of the issues of the first volume.

As promised we include another entry from the Leicestershire Historian reminiscences competition, this time the vivid recollection of a Leicester girl's first day at work in a hosiery factory.

The article on Lutterworth in 1509 is a summary of a study undertaken by the Local History Section of the Lutterworth Town Study Group which first started meeting in 1973.

The design on the cover is taken from a Simpkin & James Limited paper bag.
TEN YEARS
Mrs E M Dickson

We have been together now for ten years and I think 'together' is a good operative word for the life of the Leicestershire Local History Council. It seems impossible to believe that it is so long since our president, Professor Hoskins, addressed our first meeting in the Guildhall, and I do not propose to list here all the things that we have done together, but to suggest that we have not been wasting our time.
First of all I think we have had great friendship and a feeling of ‘family’ at our meetings. No formality has been necessary because we know each other so well, and new members soon become one of us. Then we have been through some sticky times together. As a result of a low subscription we have been able to welcome just those people we hoped to reach, but this has meant a lot of subsidising and ‘efforts’ for which we have had the most excellent support from our members – ourselves in fact. As a family we know some of the struggles we have had to produce the Leicestershire Historian, but how worthwhile that has been.

I think back on some of our family occasions – our cheerful Christmas parties, with hot punch to keep out the Guildhall chill, often enlivened by our own contributions to the entertainment – on our great Treasure Sale, the Shell Guide party, our many outings to places of interest, our Prize draws, our rummage sales.

These are internal sides to our work; but we also have our most important public side. We are known in the County and beyond and our advice on local history matters is sought. We can look back with pride on our work in helping with village exhibitions, on our continued production of the Leicestershire Historian, on our county wide Leicestershire Historian reminiscences competition for senior citizens, and many other activities. The talks we have had at meetings have been outstanding, given so generously by many different people, including our President, Vice Presidents, important public officers and our own members.

We belong, of course, to the national body, the Standing Conference for Local History and are represented at its meetings each year. In our coordinating role we have links with the Libraries, Museums and Record Office, the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, the Vaughan Historical Society, the Police History Society, the Industrial History Society, the Civic Society, ‘Rescue’, the Women’s Institutes and, of course, through our Secretary, now Chairman, Tony Stuart, with Radio Leicester. We are now represented on the Archaeological Advisory Committee of the County Council, which may open up new avenues for us.

I cannot even begin here to express our thanks to the many people at all levels who have helped us on our way. Our debt of gratitude is enormous and I hope our progress is some reward. We began life under the Rural Community Council ‘umbrella’ and now that we are walking a little out of its shade we must give special thanks to all members of that organisation for their support and help.

Let us look forward now to the next ten years of pursuing the fascinating study of local history together.
On 10th November 1970 the Leicester Mercury announced to its readers that Simpkin & James, the oldest grocers in Leicester, was shortly to close. The reasons given were falling profits, rising operating costs, a failure to increase turnover, taxation and parking restrictions. The news came as a shock to many people, whether customers or not, who looked upon Simpkin’s as a much loved local institution. The disappearance of old established, locally owned shops from the centre of Leicester was a process which had started in the late 1950’s, as one by one firms like Morley’s, Lea’s, Pochin’s and the Beehive closed down, victims of rising overheads and the coming of the supermarkets, or like Raiment’s and Joseph Johnson’s were taken over.

In the local press and indeed in the firm’s last annual report, Simpkin & James was said to have been in existence since at least the beginning of the 19th century. This was not so (1). Its beginnings can in fact be dated exactly — to 21st August 1862, when Joseph Simpkin of Narborough bought the business of a retiring grocer, James Kirby, of 41 Market Place, for £3200 at an auction sale at the Three Crowns Hotel, Horsefair Street (2). In the announcement of the impending sale in the Leicester Journal, Kirby was described as having been in business here ‘upwards of 45 years’ (3). His premises stretched from the Market Place to Horsefair Street (a distance of 67 feet), with frontages to both. In addition to the shop accommodation, there was a kitchen and parlour on the ground floor, two large bedrooms on the second floor, and an attic above that, while underneath the shop itself was a bakehouse.

Joseph Simpkin had previously been a partner in the firm of Sarson & Simpkin, grocers, of 11 Hotel Street, and first appears as such in the 1846 Leicester directory. The partnership was still in existence in 1860, but by the following year appears to have been dissolved, and Joseph Simpkin prematurely retired to Narborough (he was then only forty-five) (4). In the deeds relating to 41 Market Place dated 1st January 1863 he is described as ‘gentleman’.

A joint notice appeared in the Leicester Journal on 6th February 1863 from James Kirby on his retirement, thanking the public for their support, and his successors, Joseph Simpkin & Son, announcing their intention of conducting the business as before, ‘with the addition of such improvements as the present age requires’. Then followed a short list of some of the innovations they had in mind — ‘chrystalized (sic) foreign fruits, Italian foods, and wax, sperm and other patent candles’. The son in the notice was Joseph Guy Simpkin, then aged nineteen. The new business first appears
SIMPKIN & JAMES,
Tea Merchants, Family Grocers,
AND ITALIAN WAREHOUSEMEN,
IMPORTERS OF WINES, SPIRITS, & CIGARS,
The Leicester & Midland Counties' Supply Stores
MARKET PLACE & HORSEFAIR STREET,
LEICESTER.

The only establishment in Leicester or Midland Counties where Groceries, Wines and Spirits, can be obtained at London Co-operative Stores' prices.

INDIAN TEA FROM DARJEELING,
per 2/6 lb.
THE ONLY TEA WORTH DRINKING.

THE CELEBRATED FRENCH COFFEE,
Per lb. Canister, 1/4; 2lb Canister, 2/8.
A PERFECT LUXURY.

The Grand ST. EMILION CLARET, 16/- per doz.

Jameson's very old Irish Whisky.

THE CREAM OF SCOTCH WHISKY.

THE "GEM" DINNER ALE,
The Best 1/- Bitter Beer in Leicester.

THE CELEBRATED GUINEA SHERRY

Detailed Lists of Groceries, Wines, Spirits, &c., free on application:

from Spencer's Illustrated Leicester Almanack 1887
in the Leicester directory the following year, from which it is clear that
Joseph Guy Simpkin was installed at the shop, while his father continued
to live at Narborough.

From 1874 Joseph Simpkin’s name disappears from the voting lists for 41
Market Place, and from 1875 the shop appears in directories as Joseph
Guy Simpkin, tea merchant, grocer, Italian warehouseman and wine and
spirit merchant. Joseph Simpkin’s disengagement from the grocery
business after so many years may have been because of his interest in a
firm of hosiery manufacturers at Hinckley called Wileman & Simpkin, in
which his younger son, Samuel John Simpkin was a partner. This subse­
quently became Simpkin, Son & Smith, of which Joseph Simpkin was des­
cribed as head at his death on 5th March 1886, at the age of sixty-nine.
Three hundred workpeople from the firm attended his funeral in Narborough
churchyard four days later (5). He left almost £20.000; one wonders how
much of this derived from the grocery trade.

On 6th July 1883 the business became known as Simpkin & James, when
Joseph Guy Simpkin took his manager, Henry George James, into Partner­
ship with him (6). Nine years younger than Simpkin, James came from
Gayton in Staffordshire and had been employed as manager since at least
1880, living at that time on Aylestone Road. By 1884 Simpkin had moved
to Narborough, and James had taken over the living accommodation at 41
Market Place. Four years later he too had moved, to a house at Oadby.

From the entry of Henry George James into the business dates the expan­
sion which was to make Simpkin & James into one of the most successful
retail business in the county. First about 1890 came the acquisition of
39 Market Place, formerly occupied by Raithby & Lawrence, the printers,
and extensive alterations to the premises. Three years later, by an agree­
ment dated 28th July 1893, Simpkin withdrew from an active involvment in
the firm and became a sleeping partner (7). Like his late father he too
had other business interests — the family hosiery firm (this later changed
its name yet again to Simpkin, Son & Emery) and also the Enderby & Stoney
Stanton Granite Company, of which he was chairman (8). In 1894 came
the first branch — a florist’s and Fruiterer’s at 94 (later 106) Granby Street.
By the turn of the century the firm was no longer limited to Leicester; there
were branches at Loughborough (9) and Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and by 1905 one
at Hinckley also. The main Leicester premises expanded yet again about
1904, when 37 Market Place, the old Leicester Advertiser office, was ac­
quired.

Simpkin & James represented a new departure in retailing. It was a store
rather than a shop (in the nineties it was actually called the Leicester and
Midland Counties Supply Stores) which brought together under one roof
from Leicester in 1891 Illustrated (above)
and Official Guide to Leicester 1913 (right)
such commodities as tea and coffee, groceries (including tinned foods), provisions (cheese, bacon, butter, eggs, items not previously sold by grocers), wines and spirits and toilet requisites. Furthermore it was a multiple store, with four branches by the early 1900's. Its customers were the gentry, clergy, and commercial and professional classes, many of whom had previously shopped by post at the large London stores established in the seventies and eighties. The social composition of these did not really change much until after the Second World War.

A detailed picture has survived of the business as it was in the early nineties (10). The Market Place end of the shop contained the tea and grocery and provisions departments, the Hoursefair Street end the wines and spirits department, and the principals’ office; housed in the middle were the clerks’ offices and order room. A six horse-power gas engine worked a lift, as well as the tea and coffee mills and fruit washing machine. Extensive cellars under the shop were supplemented by stores in Pocklington’s Walk, where there was a bottling plant, and further stores and stabling in Colton Street. Quarterly price lists were issued (these were ninety pages long, an indication of the size of stock), and goods were delivered in the Leicester area on appointed days of the week. They not only blended their own teas, from India, China and Assam, rather than rely on packet teas from ‘speculating Metropolitan tea dealers’, but had secured the entire output of a tea plantation in Ceylon. Their provisions department included ‘Irish and Wiltshire bacon, English, American, Canadian, Westphalia and Irish hams, Bath chaps, special prize dairy Irish and Danish butter, Leicestershire, Cheshire, Cheddar, Parmesan, Gruyère, Gorgonzola, Stilton and other varieties of cheese, lard, eggs, sausages’. The wines and spirits department was equally well stock: ‘Ports, sherries and clarets, mellow old Irish and Scotch whiskies, old Cognac, Hennessy’s and Martell’s brandies, liqueurs, and a choice selection of aerated mineral and table waters. Guiness’s stout, Bass’s ales, the “Gem” dinner ale, hop bitters, Pilsener and Wrexham lager beers and other high-class beverages’. Tinned foods had come to be accepted by this time, and included such items as salmon, lobster, boars’ heads, brawn, soups, beef and mutton, and pâté, ‘brilliant in their multi-coloured wrappings’.

The partnership between J G Simpkin and H G James was dissolved when the firm became a limited company on 28th November 1905 (11). Simpkin withdrew on repayment of his original capital of £6000; whether he subsequently became a shareholder in the new company is not clear, though it seems likely. The three original directors of Simpkin & James Ltd (the number was increased to five after the First World War) were H G James himself (chairman), W H Herbert of Whetstone and D J Williams, manager of the Market Place shop. There was a nominal capital of £60,000 in 60,000 £1 shares.
The strain of running an expanding business on his own since 1893 evidently proved too much for H G James, and in July 1908 he suffered a mental breakdown. Less than two years later, on 23rd February 1910, he died at his house at Oadby, at the age of fifty-seven, after a long illness. ‘He was a kind and considerate employer, and won the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact’ said his obituary in the Leicester Chronicle (12). Married three times, he left ten children, of whom three sons were in the business. He had taken no part in the public life of the town; his interests were rural rather than urban — shooting, angling and horticulture. It seems curious that the list of mourners at his funeral on Welford Road cemetery three days later did not include his former partner (13).

J G Simpkin now reappeared on the scene to become the new chairman. As it turned out, this was not a long lasting arrangement, because he died on 16th January 1913. He was sixty-eight, and had lived at Narborough since the eighties, a keen churchman and staunch Conservative, and a former chairman of the Leicestershire Agricultural Society (14). A special train brought over four hundred employees of Simpkin, Son & Emery to the funeral at Narborough cemetery (15). He appears to have had no children, and with his death the link with the Simpkins was broken, but members of the James family continued to serve on the board of directors till the end.

No further shops were opened in the period between the two world wars; in fact the Granby Street branch was closed about 1923, and the fruit and floristry department transferred to Horsefair Street. All the same the business was continuing to grow, as the wages book for the period shows (16). In March 1922, when the firm had five shops, they employed a total of eighty-two staff. Forty-six of these were employed in Leicester – twenty-eight in Horsefair Street (fourteen in the shop, nine in the office and five in the cellar), four in Granby Street, nine in the warehouse and five in the stables; only five of them were women. By September 1928, when there were only four shops, the total number of staff had risen to one hundred and thirty-nine, of whom ninety-four worked in Leicester. At least fifty-eight of these were at Horsefair Street – thirty in the shop, twelve in the office and sixteen in the café, which had opened in 1926; the location of the eight who worked in the bakery is not clear. The number in the warehouse had risen to twenty-two, two travellers had been engaged, and there were now four ‘motormen’. The number of women employed had risen to thirty-one which is partly accounted for by the existence of the café. The weekly wages bill for the Leicester employees for the week ending 25th March 1922 was £111.13.6; the highest wage was £6.2.6, the lowest 10/-.

The weekly wages bill for the Leicester employees for the week ending 15th September 1928 was £204.18.0; the highest wage then appears to have been £6 and the lowest 12/-.
The end of rationing in 1954 and the rise of the affluent society are reflected in the firm's annual reports. In 1950 the profits were just over £11,000; by 1960 they had risen to £25,000. Another period of expansion seemed on the way, and by 1963 three more branches had been opened – at Allandale Road, Oadby and Wigston. By 1965 profits had risen to £32,000, but that was the peak year and after that they slumped dramatically – to £19,000 in 1966, £15,000 in 1967 and £14,000 in 1968. Closure of the unprofitable Ashby and Wigston branches in 1968 made no difference, and in 1969 profits reached an all time low of £2500 (only half the figure for 1903, without taking into account the enormous difference in the value of the pound). 1970 was little better, and a voluntary winding-up of the company was agreed at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the shareholders held on 24th May 1971.

Simpkin & James' original shop closed on 6th February 1971, and was demolished in August of that year. The Hinckley and Loughborough shops closed at the same time, the Oadby shop was already closed, and the Allandale Road branch remained open about another week.

'The Shutters go up on Simpkin & James' was the title of the Leicester Mercury's report on the closure, which went on to highlight some of the shop's special features – the cheese counter which stocked a hundred different varieties, the exotic foods like kangaroo tail soup, quails' eggs, caviare and chocolate-coated ants' eggs, the willingness to obtain items not in stock, deliver and give credit, and the fact that they made their own chocolates and confectionary (17).

It was also the subject of a television programme on ATV call 'The Passing of Simpkin & James' on 13th April 1971. The cameras filmed the last day at the Leicester shop, hardly a typical one, with the crowds of last-minute bargain hunters. Not thought to be very satisfactory, it made no attempt to explain why it was happening (18). What was significant, as Jack Simmons has pointed out in a recent book, was that the film was made at all; the end of Simpkin & James was felt to be an event of more than just local interest (19).
References:

1. The error has undoubtedly arisen from the survival of a grocer’s day book for the period 1804–1808 (5D 71/1), now among the Simpkin & James records in the Leicestershire Record Office. Nothing to do with Simpkin & James, its provenance is unknown, though it might relate to a grocery business carried on at 41 Market Place by one of their predecessors.

2. Deeds relating to Simpkin & James premises (21D 71/58) in Leicestershire Record Office.

3. *Leicester Journal* 15th August 1862


5. *Leicester Chronicle* 13th March 1886

6. Simpkin & James Ltd file no 86640 at Companies House, London EC1

7. *Ibid*

8. Reflected in his will – he left over £33,000; H G James left less than £10,000.

9. The manager of the Loughborough branch was Tom Mayo (1849–1930), seven times mayor of Loughborough and originator of the Boxing Day meet of the Quorn Hunt in Loughborough Market Place.


11. Simpkin & James Ltd file no 86640 at Companies House

12. *Leicester Chronicle* 26th February 1910

13. *Ibid* 5th March 1910

14. *Leicester Daily Post* 17th January 1913

15. *Ibid* 21st January 1913


17. *Leicester Mercury* 6th February 1971
18. *Ibid* 14th April 1971

I am a Diamond Jubilee baby, born by candlelight (no gas laid on upstairs) in a five shilling per week rented six roomed terrace house on the 25th of December 1897. My parents had no idea of factory life, but on December the 27th 1911, two days after my fourteenth birthday, I was taken to a nearby well known hosiery place to start work. My hours were from 8 am to 7 pm weekdays, 8 till 1 on Saturdays. My wages four shillings per week. One hour off for dinner, and fifteen minutes allowed to eat our tea. My mother had made me a ‘Dorothy’ bag, a little woollen bag with draw-strings to carry my eatables in, and a blue enamel can with a cork in to contain my tea. No flasks in those days.

I was put on a box (not enough stools for youngsters), the open end of which housed my tea-bag. My can I could place in the cutter’s waste bag to keep hot until a quarter to five. My job? Well, jersey bodies were knitted in a dozen strip, as were the sleeves, with a cotton thread which, when drawn out, separated each individual piece. I was supplied with a button hook with end cut off and pointed, like a stiletto, to pull up threads. I was a nervous, timid small child and was apprehensive about how to tackle the work. Consequently I was told off for talking to my neighbour and moved to be placed under the stern eye of the forelady. The morning seemed endless, the smell of oily jerseys, and the ironers, each with bucket of water and cloths, who were pressing garments with gas irons, made me feel sick. Afternoon, and tea time. I fetched my can which had been tipped out of waste bag, along with many more, but oh horrors, my dear little tea bag had been gnawed by mice and my sandwiches all ruined.

Next day I took my own mousetrap, baited it, and caught my own mice, which were released by the engine driver. A decrepit old gas engine supplied light and power for the factory. Occasionally this would splutter to a standstill and lights would go out and machinery stop. The linkers, however, had handles on their machines and I can still hear the raucous voice of the ‘old girl’ (forelady) yelling ‘All yo wi handles, tun em’.

After six months of pulling-off work, I was put on my own time felling jersey collars (hand stitching). I hated factory work and seemed always to be in trouble. The work was on the next upper floor, and if I happened to get hold of a kind that was more pence a dozen, i.e. better paid, I was often knocked about and bigger girls would take it from me, leaving me the poorer type of work. I was often in tears on reaching home, but my mother would say ‘Well you will get used to it in time’. I never did and after twelve months and losing weight and interest in life I was taken away and put to more congenial work in a blouse factory, where the conditions were
excellent and I was treated as a rational human being.

One thing I have omitted. There were no time-recording clocks in those days and on entering the factory, the first one I worked at, brass checks, numbered and with a hole in, were hung on a board. If you were five minutes late the box you had to put your check number in was locked and your check went back on the board. Threepence was stopped out of our wages for every five minutes late, and you can imagine the rush and scramble as all were anxious to get their numbered checks off the hook and into the box. Ah well, I've survived but I wouldn't like to go back to those 'good' old days.
Comparing the structure and appearance of a place at different dates helps in discovering how it developed and in judging what influences brought about its development. The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw an increase in the population and in the internal trade of the nation and were an important period in the development of the English market town. It is very rare, however, for a map of a small town to have survived from before the eighteenth century, so that it is usually impossible to make any 'before and after' study of its emergence from the middle ages. We are fortunate in being able to reconstruct a plan of Lutterworth as it was at the beginning of this period from a detailed Terrier of the town and fields prepared for the lord of the manor in 1509 (1). The description of the town is in the form of a perambulation building by building along each street, making it possible to trace out a street diagram without 'cheating' by referring to the present layout. This has, however, led us to conclude that, apart from the nineteenth and twentieth century extensions to the town and recent changes, the street plan has remained practically unaltered since the middle ages, with the main focus of trading being all the while at the present market centre.

Since our plan is a schematic diagram rather than a scale map and is not settled in every detail, to reproduce it would be difficult and misleading. We decided, therefore, to write a direct comparison between the town in 1509 and in the present, following this early 'town trail' and using our impressions of the appearance and functions of the different streets.

We were mainly interested in those details in the Terrier which distinguished Lutterworth as a town. The description of the town itself, however, takes up only a small part of the document, the rest being a listing of the hundreds of 'lands' or strips in the fields. Like any open field village, the town was a compact settlement of houses facing onto the streets and backed by yards, gardens, crofts and home closes, beyond which lay the common fields.

The fields did not, in fact, cover the whole parish. Moorbarns, an area extending from the end of Woodmarket out to the Watling Street, was enclosed and, no doubt, used as a private sheep pasture. Not far from Bransford Bridge, which carries the Watling Street over the river Swift, stood the manorial water mills, the Lodge Mills. The Horse Mill and the Common Bakehouse, both in Bakehouse Lane, also belonged to the manor. So, apart from the manorial courts and the market tolls, the lord of the manor had a large stake in the running of the town. He had, however, no castle or manor house in the town. There was one manor house, belong-
LUTTERWORTH in 1509

A SKETCH DIAGRAM SHOWING PRINCIPAL FEATURES

KEY

1. CHURCH
2. HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN
3. CHURCH BARN
4. COMMON CANTABILUM
5. SCHOOL HOUSE
6. RECTORY
7. MANOR HOUSE
8. THE SWAN INN
9. THE CROWN INN
10. THE BULL INN
11. THE SARSON'S (SARACEN'S) HEAD INN
12. THE PANNIER INN
13. COTTAGE CALLED "WESTMINSTER HALL"
14. DRAPERY
15. FLESHAMILLS (SHAMBLES)
16. COMMON BAKEHOUSE
17. HORSE MILL
18. LODGE MILL (WATER)
19. SPITTLE MILL (WATER)
20. BRANSFORD BRIDGE
21. SPITTLE BRIDGE
22. WOOD BRIDGE
23. HORSE POOL
24. HIGH CROSS
25. STONE CROSS
26. PEDLAR'S CROSS
27. SCAFFOLD
28. SHOPS

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ing to the Feilding family; but they owned only a subsidiary manor and the house was not their principal residence. Another thing which suggests that the town was not entirely under manorial control was the existence of the Town Estate, properties left to the town community and administered for purposes like the maintenance of the bridges, the roads and the school.

There were also a couple of guilds in the town and a guild chapel in the parish church. The church was obviously the most important one in the area and the rectory was probably a large establishment, as it had several cottages belonging to it. The Hospital of Saint John had been founded in the early thirteenth century for the accommodation of poor travellers. It stood just across the river Swift from the town and the bridge, the Spittle Bridge, was named after it. Its grounds were outside the manor and were enclosed and it also had its own water mills. It seems to have had its own chapel there too; but in 1509 its accommodation for poor and for travellers was in the town, in the form of cottages for widows and the Swan Inn (2).

The parish church dominates the town and the countryside around and in 1509, with its tall spire, it would have been even more conspicuous. Church Street is in the centre of the town and leads from the gates of the church yard to the market place. The shorter section, nearer the church, was in 1509 a cluster of cottages. On the north side the cottages belonged to the Rectory, which stood back from the street. On the opposite side the cottages belonged to the Hospital. The School House and the Church Barn stood 'in the corner of Bakehouse Lane', probably along the edge of the church yard, so that the former may have been on the site of the building inscribed 'Reading Room 1876' and used at present as a class room. This end of the street is still mainly residential, the cottages on the north side being from the nineteenth century with narrow frontages and the houses on the south being earlier and wider. One of the timber framed houses on the south side was an inn until recently, but is now being restored for use as dwellings.

In 1509 George Street was called Hartshall Lane. Apart from crofts and gardens, it contained only two buildings, a cottage on the site of the later Workhouse, now a car park, and a barn in a croft called Coppye Croft. There was a garden 'above the corner', where the Memorial Garden now is. The latter was laid out on the site of a house which used to face onto Church Street and the terrace of houses, Marston Terrace, was built on the house's garden. So the whole east side of this street used to be occupied by one property and the frontages opposite have only recently become important for shopping. A reason for this street being so little developed in 1509 could be that the main road out of the town to the west was along Woodmarket, leaving Hartshall Lane carrying no more than local traffic to
the villages.

On the longer section of Church Street there were eight cottages with gardens on the north side, but on the south only four. In contrast this is now the main shopping street in the town and there are few buildings in it which are not shops. There is one dwelling house near the Garage and a pub on the corner with Bank Street. Some of the shops are old buildings with new shop fronts, but it appears that the development of this section into the main shopping street has happened since 1509 and that the narrow frontages are not medieval but represent later crowding.

In 1509 the road leading north from the centre of the town was called Neats Market (i.e. Cattle Market). Starting from the High Cross by the end of Church Street, the first house was a cottage called Westminster Hall, perhaps a humorous name for a small market hall for the control of the town’s market business. Further north there was a house with several shops and various other houses, including farms. On the east side, starting from the Gilmorton Road, then called Shottes Lane (i.e. Pig Lane), there were several cottages and farms, ending up with one of the town’s two important market buildings, the Shambles for butchers, called the Fleshamills. An island of premises, where the central car park now is, contained half a dozen cottages and three shops.

The west side of this street still has an interesting mixture of dwellings and shops of different ages and sizes. The Greyhound, once a coaching inn, is notable; but in 1509 there were no inns on this street. The early Police Station stands at the junction with Gilmorton Road and on that road are the Court House, the Fire and Ambulance Station, the cottage Hospital and the Health Centre. On the eastern side of the street there are several small scale houses near the Gilmorton Road. Further south a large site has been cleared to build a block of flats to replace the former street frontage. An imposing three storey house faced in white plaster is an important feature as it is from here that the road widens out into the market place.

At the southern end one of the most conspicuous buildings facing onto the market place, black and white timbered and thatched, houses a butcher’s shop, very possibly on the site of the Fleshamills. The area of the market place was very much enlarged in the mid 1950’s by the clearing of all the premises on the island site, so that the old market place looks more like a section of the main road and the new market place serves, except on market days, as a car park.

Ely Lane, now called Station Road, led from the centre of the town to the fields only. It was crowded with farms and cottages on both sides and quite far out. At the inner end, however, it started with four shops on the
north side and on the south side, near the corner with High Street, stood the town's other important market building, the Drapery. The change in name commemorates the fact that from 1898 to 1972 the street led to the town's railway station. In spite of this it remains largely residential, especially at the outer end, with shops and offices concentrated at the town end. There is one farm left.

The High Street in 1509 contained only one shop, but it was presumably a market street and its importance as a principal through route is shewn by the fact that it contained two of the town's five inns, The Swan on the corner with Church Street and the Crown on the east just below Snellsgate. Above the Crown nearly all the buildings were cottages, the one at the top nearest to the Drapery being the one shop. Below the Crown there were only a farm and a cottage. On the west side, from the Swan downwards, there were mainly cottages, but also some larger houses, including two farms. One of these was the Feilding family manor house, which later became a coaching inn, the Denbigh Arms (3).

In contrast with other streets in the town, the High Street is lined by premises with quite wide frontages. Several of them have handsome facades and the western side in particular, as the roof lines show, has a complete frontage of buildings from the nineteenth century and earlier. Notable is the Hind Inn, which must have developed since 1509. On the other hand the wide frontages seem to be an early feature; on 1509 there were eight premises from the top of the street to Snellsgate, which corresponds exactly to the present number. The High Street is an important shopping street and contains the Town Hall, the Post Office, the two main banks and the two largest inns. Recently, before the market place was opened out, the weekly market used to stand on either side of it.

Roughly parallel to Ely Lane, another lane, called Snellsgate, ran off the High Street to the fields. In 1509 it contained no buildings, merely various crofts and closes, some of the ones to the north running through from Ely Lane and those on the south running down to the river. In the nineteenth century the name of the lane was changed from Hog Lane to Gas Street to commemorate the town's gas works which stood at the end of it. Recently, when the first new houses were built there, it was renamed Misterton Way. It is still not a through road, but leads to Rye Hills from where a footpath winds to Misterton Church.

In 1509 the Small Lane leading from Church Street to Woodmarket served as the back lane for the premises on the west side of the High Street so that there were no houses or buildings listed as on its east side. On the other side, however, there were three cottages and two crofts, one of them called Kiln Yard. Presumably this supplied what bricks and clay tiles
were used for building at that time. To-day this lane, called Bank Street after the town's first bank there in the nineteenth century, still looks like a back lane on its eastern side, with buildings fitting into the back yards of the High Street premises. The other side, however, has been considerably built up. In the last century it included solicitors' offices and the Court House and recently shop premises spreading down from Church Street.

Opposite the south end of the Small Lane, where there is now a grass bank, there was another island of premises, with their backsides sloping down steeply to Stoney Hollow, called the Wellegriffe in 1509. This island contained three cottages and, probably towards the Woodmarket end, six shops. Between the Wellegriffe and the river there was only one house. Indeed it is clear that the High Street was considered as continuing not down towards the river, but round the sweep of Regent Street, which has been replaced by the footpath above the grass bank. On the other hand, of course, the road down to the river and over the Spittle Bridge was an important through route.

Some time before 1509 a scaffold had been erected near the eastern end of Woodmarket. There were several farms and cottages along the inner section of the street and the larger closes on the south side ran right down to the river. The western section was lined with closes only on both sides. Considering, however, its name, its great width and the presence of the six shops mentioned at its eastern end, it was very likely an important part of the town's market area. It contained, moreover, the remaining three of the town's five inns; so it was probably very busy as the main thoroughfare out of the town to the west towards Coventry.

Woodmarket now contains an interesting variety of houses, ranging from an elegant Queen Ann house on the north side, to late Georgian town houses, thatched cottages and some modern in-filling. The character of the Street, however, is mainly residential, although it has recently been opened up at the eastern end to make it more convenient for through traffic. In the nineteenth century, indeed, it seems to have been the only smart residential area in the town and it was here that the town's first truly suburban residence, Lutterworth House, until 1974 used as the Rural District Council offices, was built in 1821. To become a quiet backwater, therefore, the street must at some time since 1509 have lost its importance both as a market centre and as a through route.

Bakehouse Lane, now called Baker Street, runs from the church yard down into Woodmarket. In 1509 it contained, at the northern end on the east side, the Common Bakehouse with its cottage. Opposite this was the Horse Mill, probably used for grinding malt. Thus it was an important part
of the town for the preparation of bread and drink. On the western side was Hall Orchard, where there stood a building called the common cantabili
cantabilum, presumably some sort of chantry house or choir school connected with the church and town. Otherwise there was no other building on this side; and on the other side, below the Common Bakehouse, only four cottages.

Baker Street is now built up with an almost continuous frontage of houses on either side. Apart from the new blocks of flats at the north end, most of the houses appear to date from the nineteenth century, although the narrow frontages suggest that the street may have been built up earlier. Many of the houses have been restored or altered recently, but within memory the street was run-down and some of the houses still shew that they were once small shops. So at some time after 1509 the street was transformed from a lane with five cottages into a crowded back street area.

To sum up our impression of the town in 1509, there were farms scattered throughout, even facing onto the main market areas; but it is clear that commercial activity was centred around the market place where the Neats Market met the High Street. It was at this point that the town’s market cross, the High Cross, stood. Nearby were the two important market buildings, the Fleshamills for the sale of meat and the Drapery for the sale of cloth. Here too was the little Westminster Hall, although there was no proper Town Hall until the nineteenth century. Most of the shops in the town were clustered round this area. Going down the High Street and round into Woodmarket there were also shops above the Wellegriffe. It may be, therefore, that marketing activity of one sort or another stretched more or less continuously from the northern end of the Neats Market right through the town to the Stone Cross at the outer end of Woodmarket, at least at annual fairs, if not on weekly market days. Whatever the extent of the market, however, it is certain that its most important business was centered round the area where the present Thursday market stands and where, no doubt, it has stood continuously since 1214.

So although the town was in many respects an open field village, it already had the main features of a town. In fact, apart from some changes in emphasis, its central layout had changed surprisingly little by the nineteenth century, and even to-day is quite recognisable. This must mean that the great changes of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, for all their effect on the town and its inhabitants, took place very much within the structure of the town which existed in 1509 and which had, very possibly, been established two or three centuries before.
References:

1. The Terrier is preserved among the Feilding family papers. We are grateful to the Earl of Denbigh for permission to publish our study based on the document and the staff of the Warwickshire Record Office for making it available for inspection.


3. Named after the title which the family took in the early seventeenth century, when they also became lords of the principal manor of Lutterworth.
The nineties were a period of unsettlement. The nation was out of health. Thus, a modern historian (1) has described the period covered in this article; and the reason for this disturbance lay to some extent in the field of politics. Home Rule for Ireland had so split the Liberal party that in these years it was suffering from 'a deep-seated internal disintegration'(2). But the Conservatives also had their problems: with the arrival of Joseph Chamberlain and the Liberal unionists in their ranks, Lord Salisbury had all his work cut out to satisfy the extremists on his right wing and his new allies. Only by fine tact and skill did the Prime Minister succeed.

The Liberals in Loughborough were deeply divided over Home Rule, though most of them favoured Gladstone's policy. The town in the two last decades of the nineteenth century was growing fast: its population increased from 14,611 in 1881 to 18,196 in 1891 and to 21,508 in 1901 (3). So, in twenty years the number of inhabitants increased by nearly fifty per cent. One reason for this growth was undoubtedly the prosperous state of Loughborough's industries. In the 1870s its hosiery trade had recovered and was now continuing to do well, to which was added in the 1890s a flourishing engineering trade with the arrival in 1889 of the Brush Electrical Engineering Company and in 1900 of Herbert Morris's, so that at this time 'the character of Loughborough was transformed from a bovine market town into a prosperous manufacturing centre'(4).

The growth of Loughborough affected education in several ways, one of which was an increase in the size of the school board. The Education Department decided the number of members a board should have according to the following ratio: districts with a population of less than 5,000 had 5 members, with a population less than 15,000 7 members, with a population less than 14,000 9 members (5). So, in 1889 Loughborough school board was increased from seven to nine members.

The first two school board elections in Loughborough (those of 1875 and 1878)(6) had been fought with great keenness by the two chief parties, the Anglicans and the Nonconformists. The outcome had been a tie, with each party holding three seats and the Catholic priest having the casting vote. This balance of parties so satisfied the people of Loughborough that they did not wish to alter the status quo—hence the triennial elections of the 1880s (1881, 1884 and 1887) were not contested, the members of the school board being simply nominated.

The first of the triennial elections of the 1890s in Loughborough was also
not contested, but for a different reason. The Conservatives wished to maintain the coalition of the two parties and so, since the number of board members was now nine, nominated four candidates, expecting the Liberals to do the same. But the Liberals were opposed to continuing the coalition and selected five candidates. This meant that unless they withdrew one of them a contest was inevitable. Meanwhile, the Conservatives still hoped that the Liberals would fall in with their plans and 'waited until the last moment in the hope that a Liberal candidate would be withdrawn, but in this they were disappointed and thereupon the decision was taken to withdraw all the Conservative candidates' (7). Their action meant that no contest need now be held, that there were three vacant seats on the board and that the Liberals had control of the board for the next three years. The action of the Conservatives is somewhat difficult to understand. The reason they gave — the desire to save the town the expense of a contested election — is only partially true. A more convincing answer is that the Conservative-Anglican party was no longer interested in the work of the school board. As Henry Godkin, a successful Liberal candidate, said: 'The undenominationalists must of necessity have more interest in Board Schools than any other party, but he regretted that the representatives of the denominational party did not see fit to help the board' (8).

The Liberals tried hard to persuade Conservatives to serve on the board. They approached six members, but all refused to accept office on some pretext or other. Their intransigence, however, had one good result: it led to women serving on the board for the first time. Unable to persuade the Conservatives to fill the vacant seats, the Liberals successfully invited two ladies to serve, Mrs Gadsby and Mrs Walker.

By the time the next triennial election, that of 1893, came round, the Conservatives had changed their attitude to the school board. Various factors, particularly the financial difficulties facing many church schools, caused them to seek once more participation in the work of the board. Hence they approached the Liberals with a view to continuing the old arrangement between the two parties so that no contest would be necessary. The ruling Liberal caucus in Loughborough, known as the Hundred and Twenty, this time agreed with the Conservatives to maintain the former coalition and held a ballot to select its four candidates. Into it went the names of all serving members, plus those of two newcomers. In the ensuing draw the two ladies did not gain a place, and one male member, J Adcock, also failed to qualify. He had of late displeased many working men and so was dropped as an official Liberal candidate. Adcock, however, took his defeat badly and proposed to stand as an independent. His decision led another independent, J F Hodson, a terra cotta manufacturer, also to stand. The intervention of the two independents meant that a contest was unavoidable-
able unless they could be persuaded to withdraw. In an effort to bring pressure to bear upon them, a coalition meeting of Conservatives and Liberals was held in Loughborough Town Hall, when William Moss, who presided, said: 'He felt Mr Acock's conduct had been rather dishonourable and would tell him so if he was present'. Adcock, who was at the back of the hall, cried out: 'He is here, sir, get on' (9). But the meeting failed to make the independents change their minds and so, after uncontested elections, Loughborough had its third school board poll in a snow storm.

The result of the election fully justified Adcock's decision to stand - he came second in the poll, being defeated only by J Peer, an official Liberal candidate and a most popular figure in Loughborough, 'one of the best friends the working man has ever had' (10). The three other Liberal candidates were also returned and so the Liberals continued to dominate the school board as they did the Parliamentary elections in the Loughborough division (11). But Adcock's victory indicated that Liberal disunity in the town ran deep, for he must have had many plumpers (12).

Of the 1893 election it was said: 'a less spirited contest never took place in Loughborough' (13). But the next triennial election, that of 1896, reversed this attitude and generated as much keenness, bitterness and enthusiasm as had the first election over twenty years ago; and the reason for this change was the reappearance of two religious issues that had seemed settled - rate-aid for voluntary schools and the type of religious teaching to be given in the board schools.

Throughout the 1880s the costs of education were rising. In 1880, the Government spent £2,481,168 on elementary education, which had increased to £6,661,640 by 1895. In 1880 the cost per child in a board school was £2.1.11½ and in a voluntary school £1.14.7½; but in 1895 it cost £2.10.1½ for a child in a board school and £1.18.11¼ for a child in a voluntary school (14). In 1891, Salisbury's Conservative Government made elementary education free in order to help the voluntary schools (15), but this gain was offset by the Liberal Government when it came into power in 1892. The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education, A H D Acland, was determined to improve conditions in both voluntary and board schools and with this end in view issued Circular 321 to the inspectors of schools, asking them to report on the facilities and buildings of every school they inspected. But behind this innocent-seeming request there lurked a real danger, as the managers of voluntary schools knew: unless their school conformed to certain sanitary and building requirements, they could not claim their grant. Hence, it was vital for the voluntary schools to raise sufficient money to meet these new conditions.

Faced with the possible extinction of their schools and in their desperate
financial situation, the denominationalists sought the help of the Conservative party. For the Anglicans, this was not a difficult move, but for many Catholics, particularly the Irish, to vote Conservative posed a dilemma: it meant putting concern for their schools above their desire for Home Rule. So, in the general election of 1895, the Anglicans and Catholics combined to put a Conservative Government into power (16). In November of the same year, the Primate personally led a deputation of denominationalists to the Prime Minister in a firm request for their reward. So, in March 1896, Sir John Gorst, the new Vice-President of the Education Department, introduced into Parliament an Education Bill which increased the grant to voluntary schools, exempted educational institutions from the payment of rates and made provision for denominational instruction in board schools.

In the very month that Sir John Gorst introduced his controversial bill, the next school board election for Loughborough was due. So inevitably the contest centred round the bill. All thoughts of a coalition were dropped and both sides prepared for the coming struggle. The Anglicans and Catholics, who joined forces with the Conservatives, naturally campaigned in favour of the bill and put up six candidates, including the Catholic priest. Their opponents, the Liberal-Nonconformist party, put up five candidates and strenuously opposed the bill. As in the 1875 election, they made a tremendous effort to win. They disliked the idea of more public money being given to the voluntary schools, but what touched them to the quick was the possibility that, after years of unsectarian religious teaching in the board schools, it might now be changed in favour of denominational instruction. Their point of view was well expressed by one of their candidates, Dr Pike, at a meeting in Loughborough: ‘They did not want state schools to produce either Wesleyans, Baptists, Church of England, Roman Catholics or sectarians of any description. They simply wanted to teach the children the elements of education, to open their minds and to leave denominational instruction in the hands of their pastors, Sunday-school teachers and parents . . . If anyone wished to run denominational schools, they ought to run them solely by their own voluntary contributions’ (17).

As well as the official nominees of the two chief parties, a number of independents also stood, including the Liberal J Adcock. There was a danger therefore that he might repeat his previous victory and so steal votes from the official candidates, thereby endangering a Liberal success. To offset this possibility, the Liberal candidates issued strict instructions to their supporters on how to use their cumulative vote. As J Peer said: ‘They must be loyal to these instructions issued to them . . . If they voted as they would be asked to, then all their candidates would win’ (18).
The 1896 election was the heaviest of all school board polls in Loughborough, over 24,000 votes being recorded as against 11,000 in 1893. Presumably, the Liberal supporters carried out their party’s instructions, for three of their number topped the poll and in all five Liberals were returned, the remaining four seats going to the Conservatives (19). So no independent was successful, a fact which suggests that the local party organisations operated efficiently. For the Liberals, the victory must have proved a real fillip: liberalism was going through a bad time in the country from the disunity caused through Home Rule and the rising surge of imperialism. But nonconformity was particularly strong in Loughborough and this enabled the Liberals to win the 1896 election. Thus, ‘Loughborough had ranged itself on the side of Nottingham and Cardiff and other towns in an unmistakable and emphatic protest against the pushful sectarians and in a decided demand for a complete system of public elementary education untainted by and freed from all state-endowed denominational teaching’ (20).

The general hostility shown to the Education Bill of 1896 caused the Government to drop it, but the Conservatives were determined to help the voluntary schools and so, as a first measure, passed in 1897 the Voluntary Schools Act, which exempted the voluntary schools from the payment of rates and gave an added capitation grant of five shillings per pupil to voluntary and necessitous board schools. Then in 1902 Balfour’s Education Act placed the voluntary schools on the same financial footing as the board schools by making them rate-aided. At the same time, the Act replaced school boards by the councils of the counties and county boroughs, acting as local Education Authorities.
References:

3. Victoria County History, Leicestershire, vol III, p 192
5. G Sutherland, Policy making in Elementary Education 1870–1895, (1973), p 84–5
6. v The Leicestershire Historian 1975, p 10
7. The Leicester Advertiser 22.3.90
8. The Leicester Journal 2.5.90
9. The Loughborough Herald 16.3.93
10. ibid

11. In the general election of 1892, Johnson-Ferguson, the Liberal candidate, defeated his Conservative opponent, Edwin de Lisle, and repeated this success in 1895—Victoria County History, Leicestershire, vol II, p 137

12. In a school board election, each voter had as many votes as there were seats on the board — the cumulative vote. A 'plumper' was a voter who cast all his or her votes for the same candidate.

13. The Loughborough Herald 16.3.93
14. G Sutherland, op cit, p 361
15. W H G Armytage, Four Hundred Years of English Education, (1965), p 156
16. ibid, p 179
17. Leicester Daily Post 11.3.96
18. ibid

19. For the first time in the history of the Loughborough School Board, the Catholic priest failed to gain a seat. He lost the support of the Liberals since Catholics were instructed to vote Conservative.

20. The Loughborough Herald 23.3.93
BOOK REVIEWS
Mrs G K Long, J Goodacre

LEICESTERSHIRE CANALS : BYGONES IN CAMERA
John Anderson The author, 29 The Fairway, Blaby 1976 75p

This is a neatly produced booklet on all the canals which passed through the county. It contains thirty contemporary photographs taken when the canals were still in commercial use and others taken to-day, with a brief history of each canal and descriptions of the photographs.

The accounts of the less familiar disused canals are of special interest; the Grantham Canal, closed to traffic in 1929, and the Melton Navigation and the Oakham Canal, together linking the two towns to the Leicester Navigation, but soon succumbing to railways competition.

Those who use the quiet stretches of the Ashby Canal may not realise that it was built to carry the coal from Ashby Woulds to the West Midlands, via the Coventry Canal. Measham, once a busy loading point, has lost its canal through subsidence, and to-day the canal begins outside the mining area at Snarestone.

G K L

THE TOWN HALLS OF LEICESTER
Jonathan Wilshere Leicester Research Department of Chamberlain Music and Books (1976) 60p

1976 marks the centenary of the opening of Leicester's Town Hall. This new Town Hall was at least the fourth in the series of buildings in which the affairs of the town had been conducted. The medieval town halls were closely linked with the town's guilds, first the Guild Merchant and then the Guild of Corpus Christi. The main part of the building we know as the Guildhall was built by the latter in the late fourteenth century, the Mayor's Parlour being added in 1489 and rebuilt in 1636. After 1876 it was almost lost to the city, being at one time used as a cookery school; but the work of restoration of one of modern Leicester's most attractive buildings was undertaken in the 1920's.

Much discussion surrounded the choice of the site, the architect and the plans for the present Town Hall, which was finally built on the site of the former cattle market to the design of F J Hames. The choice of the Queen Anne style was an innovation. To Sir Israel Hart we owe the gift of the opulent fountain and therefore the preservation of the Town Hall Square as an ornamental garden, although it is a little too small to set
off the building to best advantage. To-day, a hundred years on, the facade of the Town Hall, the garden and the fountain combine to provide one of the most pleasant towncapes in the City.

G K L

THE INNS OF LEICESTERSHIRE
Eric Swift The Leicester Research Department of Chamberlain Music and Books (1975) 80p

In a thirty page essay, illustrated with nearly twenty of his own photographs, the author has brought together a great variety of facts and fables about surviving Leicestershire and Rutland inns. This is loosely arranged by topics — mainly the different types of inn sign. At times the style is ‘chatty’ and some of the speculation about the role of the inn in the past is offered without supporting evidence. The author makes some surprising statements, such as ‘everyone drank beer because the purity of the water supply was often in doubt. No period before the nineteenth century is seriously dealt with; but the account follows through to the present, mentioning ‘the olde worlde treatment’ and the fact that with a central serving system one man can serve several bars. Also in shewing the changing popularity of signs, nineteenth century trade directories are compared with 1974 Telephone Directories. Although this does not add up to an overall account of the county’s inns, the wide range covered helps to illustrate how important they have been both socially and economically and in how many aspects of local history they feature.

J D G

THE FRAMEWORK KNITTERS AND HANDLOOMS WEAVERS: their attempts to keep up wages Eight pamphlets 1820–1845 New York Arno Press 1972

The first four of these pamphlets, now available in this reprint edition, are a useful addition to the printed sources for the study of the industry in Leicestershire. The first two, though anonymous, are the work of the Rev Robert Hall, the famous Baptist preacher, who lent his help and advice to the hard-pressed knitters. From 1810 onwards, especially after 1815, low wages and lack of employment had reduced them to such a state that, in his plea for support for the funds of the Framework-Knitters Friendly Relief Society, he said ‘but to dwell in a situation where every house has become such (i.e. a house of mourning) is a state to which nothing but utter irresponsibility can be reconciled’. Much local sym-
pathy, from the hosiers themselves as well as the gentry and framework knitters, helped to aid the fund. Despite the legislation restricting workmen’s combinations, the funds helped knitters withholding their labour in an attempt to fix piece rates to give a living wage, as well as those unemployed through a slump in the trade. The second pamphlet, in defence of the framework knitters’ actions, is a reply to William Cobbett, who misunderstood their plight.

The third pamphlet is an address to the framework knitters in 1833 by William Jackson. He was an experienced knitter himself and a determined advocate of a policy to enable every framework knitter to own his own frame. The aim was to enforce fair rates of pay and fewer deductions by unscrupulous employers who undercut hosiers who wished to maintain fair standards within the industry.

The last pamphlet is by William Felkin, the historian of the trade, and is a reprint of a paper given to the Royal Statistical Society in 1845. It gives a detailed picture of the declining industry, summarises the trade situation and the specialities of each district. It then goes on to detail all the abuses prevalent in the industry, payment in kind, alteration of sizes, and excessive frame rents. One can hardly wonder that discontent was rampant, since he found that a common level of net earnings among the knitters, was 4/6 a week, for very long hours, and that most families were left with less than one shilling a day per week to spend on food, even though this was a family industry in which everyone played a part. This is perhaps the best brief summary of the situation found in the industry as revealed in the evidence given to the Commission on the Conditions of the Frame-Work Knitters, whose Report was published in 1845. The pamphlet includes a simple drawing of the stocking frame, reduced from the larger drawings and diagrams printed in the original report.

LYDDINGTON : AN APPROACH FOR THE FUTURE
D C Higgins for the Lyddington Society

This is a brief survey of the past, present and future of this interesting village. Though written in planner’s jargon rather than plain English, it gives a good historical account. The old village we see to-day exhibits the local styles of building which gave rise to the modest but solid houses of a prosperous middle class in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The street by street description of the village to-day, illustrated by line drawings, gives a good picture of the village and ends with recommendations on the control of new buildings and on the changes which continually take place in a living village.
BYGONE LOUGHBOROUGH IN PHOTOGRAPHS

Volume 1  Borough of Loughborough  1973  £1.50
Volume 2  Leicestershire Libraries and
            Information Services  1975  £2.75

These two volumes together include over 300 photographs and about 40 other pictures. The standard of reproduction is consistent, although never startlingly clear. The captions are brief and clear in the first volume. For the second the compilers have been more ambitious, starting off with several maps, a 'chronology' and some general accounts of the town. The decision to include many more facsimiles of printed and manuscript sources (often without credits) in an effort to produce a more thematic exposition has resulted in a scrappy and unbalanced presentation. Pages are overloaded with printed texts and discursive captions, some confusingly referring to illustrations on other pages, so that the pictures are in danger of being reduced to secondary importance. This volume, which has 40 more pages but only about the same number more photographs, is more securely bound, using staples. Many of the pictures, however, are needlessly positioned so close to this binding that they disappear into it and it is impossible to see them flat. It is layout design run amok to divide across the binding pictures which could have been kept whole simply by shifting them half an inch to the left.

These comments do little to detract from the fact that this is a fascinating collection of pictures, something for the town to be proud of. The credit for its publications goes to a cooperative venture involving many people in the town, including members of the College of Art and Design and a local printer.

J G

TOURING GUIDE IN RUTLAND
Rutland Local History Society  1976  30p

This admirable little leaflet packs a good deal of useful and historical information, five maps and nearly twenty photographs into fifteen pages. The only thing it lacks to do it justice and to bear the coloured photograph on the front is a card cover.

J G
This is a handlist of all known Leicestershire and Rutland church brasses, whether surviving or lost. The compiler has added brief notes and descriptions, references to Nichols' *History* and other publications, analyses of dates and types and an index of names. It is clearly set out, neatly printed and illustrated with half a dozen of Nichols' engravings of brasses that have since been lost.

J G

This ambitious publication sets out to list those people who 'have made some sort of contribution to the history of Leicestershire'. In other words the criteria for inclusion are vague. There are 960 entries, but the two centuries before 1700 are only represented by about 70 names. Should the compiler have declared his predilection for cricketers (52 entries) and monumental masons (68)? Why only one ironmonger, one tennis player and one footballer (Rugby)? His apology that 'inevitably there are omissions' does not shew that he is aware that by casting his net so wide he is almost bound to catch a very odd selection of fish.

The layout in two columns to a page does not make for easy reference and is wasteful of space; on average a page carries only 15 entries of half a dozen words each.

The main value of the publication will be that in many cases sources of information have been cited. But we need some indication of how the sources have been used. Have, for instance, all the Leicestershire men who appear in the *Dictionary of National Biography* been listed here?

J G
LEICESTERSHIRE CLOCKMAKERS: Directory of Watch and Clock Makers working in Leicestershire before 1900
John Daniell Leicestershire Museums 1975 £1

In the twenty five years since his pioneering article 'The Making of Clocks and Watches in Leicestershire and Rutland' in Vol XXVII of the Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society, the author has been well known as the expert in this field, so that he has been able to amass additional information as a basis for this new historical directory. The makers' names are in bold type making it easy to refer to, but in eight cases the name is annoyingly set at the foot of one page with the entry at the head of the next. The twenty photographs are disappointing; it is possible to shew brass dials and movements without parts of them disappearing into pools of blackness.

Apart from being an invaluable directory for collectors, this will provide the starting point for any enquiry into the origins of clockmaking in the county and the role of the families of clockmakers in the towns and villages. There is a concise historical introduction which includes a first-hand account of the discovery of the famous Deacon workshop. The real strength of the book is that it is founded on a personal knowledge of the surviving work of the makers, many of the pieces being in the Leicestershire Museums Collection.

ANGLO-SAXON AND VIKING LEICESTERSHIRE including Rutland
T H McK Clough Ann Domier R A Rutland
Leicestershire Museums 1975 £2

This is a gazetteer of all known finds and sites ascribed to the Anglo-Saxon and Viking periods, giving brief descriptions and full biographical references. There is a location map and a coloured plate. Over fifty black and white illustrations are unattractively laid out, but should be useful for reference. Each is given its gazetteer number but only one of them is referred to in the text of the gazetteer. On the other hand most of them are referred to in the introductory notes which set out to place the objects in a historical context.
A TOWN TRAIL IN SEARCH OF AN ARCHITECT: ARTHUR WAKERLEY
Leicester Town Trail No 2  Leicester City Council  (1975)  10p

This folding leaflet provides a brief and lively account of one of the City's 'urban squires': Wakerley not only designed city buildings like the Turkey Café and the Singer Building but was also closely involved in the attempt to make North Evington into a comprehensive development of housing, shops, services and factories. The trail starts at the unsuccessful Market Place and ends at his own house, Crown Hills House, passing on the way the three streets named after his daughters and in one of which the Society for the Blind building was erected. His response to the housing shortage after the First World War was the £299 house, a semi-detached design still serving well in various parts of the City.

J G

THE LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
TRANSACTIONS  Vol XLIX  1973–4

i) The Trinity Hospital, Leicester
Florence Skillington

Founded by Henry, Earl of Lancaster in 1330–1 as a hospital to care for the spiritual and physical needs of fifty poor and infirm folk, the building was enlarged twenty five years later to provide for one hundred sick and then formed part of his New College. This was the first of a number of changes in the foundation, the last in 1970, which have enabled it to change with the times and yet, six hundred years later, still retain the original aim of the founder. When the New College was disbanded at the time of the Reformation the Hospital remained and was still financed by the Duchy of Lancaster. In 1614 it obtained a new Charter from James I which made the Mayor the Warden, thus linking the secular affairs of the Hospital with the interests of the Borough. Of the original building only the Chapel remains and photographs of the interior and exterior of the Hospital are included in this article. The foundation attracted many benefactions from local people and a list of these is given in an appendix. Another appendix lists all the lands and properties held by the foundation. This account, concerned entirely with the material aspects of the Hospital, gives an interesting picture of changing times and changing relationships with the inhabitants of Leicester.

ii) Thomas Cook of Leicester
Jack Simmons

Thomas Cook was the only nineteenth century Leicester citizen to win and keep an international reputation long after his death. For almost a century Cook’s Tours were recognised as a reliable and safe way to see the world.
at moderate cost. In this article the author describes how Cook became the true originator of the ‘package tour’ and the contribution he made to his adopted city. His first excursion, in 1841, took 570 Temperance visitors by a special Midland Counties Railway train from Leicester to a Temperance fete at Loughborough at the cost of one shilling each. In the same year he moved to Leicester, setting up as a printer and arranging further excursions. In 1846 a more ambitious trip to Edinburgh was the first package tour. His reputation grew quickly and in 1851 he organised all the Midland Railway’s passenger traffic to the International Exhibition in London, some 165,000 passengers. The peak of his working life as a tour operator was the first tour to Egypt and Palestine in 1868.

Cook began with few advantages. He was a convinced Baptist, a Temperance Reformer and a fluent, if lengthy speaker. Perhaps the secrets of his success were his capacity for taking pains, exemplified in the detailed handbooks prepared for his early tours, his capacity to grasp opportunities and the integrity of an old fashioned Liberal non-conformist. After reading this article one would like to know much more about Thomas Cook.

iii) Nineteenth-Century Building Plans in Leicester  
G A Chinnery

The realisation of the sanitary causes behind the high mortality in the expanded towns led to the passing of the first Public Health Acts in 1848. Leicester was among the towns which ‘adopted’ the Acts so as to control some of the worst hazards to public health and in August 1849 the first officers of the Leicester Board of Health were appointed. The Board required plans of all new buildings for approval before work was permitted to commence. Leicester is fortunate in that the file of these plans is virtually unbroken from 1849. The plans shew essential dimensions, but rarely the details of the elevation, matters of art and not good hygiene. This very interesting material has been transferred to the Museum’s Archive Department and one wonders if similar material has been preserved in Hinckley and Loughborough.

iv) Sir Isael Hart  
Aubrey Newman

This paper was written to mark the centenary of the founding of the official Jewish congregation in Leicester, when Israel Hart was its President. He came to Leicester in the 1850’s and built up his fortune in a manufacturing business in partnership with Joseph Levy. This was the foundation of his public career as a benevolent Liberal. He gave the town the somewhat baroque fountain in the Town Hall Square, on the condition that the Square remained an open ornamental garden, and its first branch library, in Garendon Street, on condition it was maintained at public expense. After serving four years as Mayor he resigned in protest over the town’s
water undertaking, as he considered that 'this socializing of municipal things had its limits'. Shrewd as he was in business he must have shewn his fellow councillors a more expansive style in the conduct of municipal affairs.
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