This is the second *Leicestershire Historian* which has been produced by the *Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*. The first seems to have been well received by members of the Society and by former members of the Leicestershire Local History Council. The Society will continue to publish the Leicestershire Historian; its future is secure.

In the year of a general election it is very appropriate that there should be two articles relating to earlier elections in the county, one in south Leicestershire and the other in Bosworth. We also have an in-depth article on the Titley family from the parish of Barwell written by Gerald Rimmington, as well as pieces which touch upon Wymeswold, Whissendine, Leicester and Thurnby.

The Editor is always seeking articles for future editions, in particular short pieces and news of local societies. If you have any ideas do please contact the Editor.

Helen Edwards has again done a magnificent job, with the help of Aubrey Stevenson and others, to list books and pamphlets published in 1996. Some we have briefly reviewed others just listed, but it provides and invaluable resource for those researching into Leicestershire’s past.

Alan McWhirr, Honorary Secretary, LAHS

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The Society is on the internet at:
http://www.le.ac.uk/archaeology/lahs/lahs.html

This edition has benefited from a grant from Leicester City Council for which the Society is most grateful.
Contents

'Hush-a-by Tories, don't you cry..' Thomas T Paget and the 1867 South Leicestershire By-Election
Jess Jenkins 2

The Significance of the 1927 Bosworth By-Election
G H Bennett 13

The Enclosure Commissioners
Alec Moretti 19

Below Stairs: Domestic Service in Nineteenth-century Leicester
J D Bennett 23

An unusual marriage ceremony 27

Whissendine Slipcote
Trevor Hickman 28

The Parish of Barwell and the Titley Family
Gerald T Rimmington 31

Charles Bennion of Thurnby - Entrepreneur and Environmentalist
J Mayberry 49

Recent Books
Edited by Helen Edwards 52

Contributors 68

Cover: An engraving from The Memoirs of the Town and County of Leicester, by John Throsby, Vol III, 1777, showing Leicester Abbey in 1775.
'Hush-a-by Tories, don't you cry..
Thomas T Paget and the 1867 South Leicestershire By-Election

Jess Jenkins

"Thomas Tertius Paget is dead! The patriarchal Liberal Champion, who had so often and gallantly fought the battle of Liberalism has passed away. Such is the painful message which must this morning create a profound sensation in both borough and shire . . ." Thus proclaimed The Leicester Daily Post of 17 October 1892 in sad and momentous tones before devoting almost ten columns to Paget's obituary. The Christian Life and Unitarian Herald was similarly moved: 'Another veteran member of our household of faith has passed away.' His death had 'removed from earthly scenes a man of strongly marked personality whose name was 'familiar as household words' not only in the town of Leicester, but throughout the county . . .' Until lately, it was on such obituaries that our memory of Paget would have had to rely. However, a recent deposit of papers relating to the Paget family at Leicestershire Record Office, which includes what are clearly the treasured souvenirs of Paget's early parliamentary career, has cast fresh light on the man. Amongst other political documents, a scrapbook of newscuttings and political ephemera, lovingly bound in leather and embossed with the initials 'T.T.P.' affords a vivid and fascinating glimpse into the occasion of Paget's first and probably most significant electoral success - the by-election for South Leicestershire in 1867.

Born in 1807, Paget was the elder son of a notable Whig politician, Thomas Paget. As one of a long line of Thomas Pagets, Paget always employed his full name Thomas Tertius in an effort (albeit only partly successful) to avoid confusion with earlier namesakes. The Paget family was originally a farming family with a long history in Ibstock. Thomas Paget had been born in the village and Thomas Tertius himself was to be buried in the family vault there. However, Thomas Tertius' grandfather had established, at the turn of the century, a bank in Friar Lane, Leicester, in partnership with Thomas Pares. His son Thomas Paget was taken into the bank, married Pares' daughter, and then set up in 1825 a bank of his own in Leicester High Street under the title 'Paget's and Kirby' (later known as Paget's Bank and subsequently purchased by Lloyds). It was this bank which was to provide the financial base for the political activities of both father and son.

Outside banking interests and politics, Thomas Tertius played an active role in Leicester life. From an early stage, he had shown an interest in the higher
education of the poor and had been involved in the movement to establish a Mechanics' Institute in Leicester. As a Justice of the Peace from 1853, he was active at Leicester Quarter Sessions and served on its Lunatic Asylum Committee. He became Deputy Lieutenant for the county in 1867 and served as Sheriff of Leicester in 1869. From the formation of the Trade Protection Society in 1850, he served as President until his death in 1892. In private life a quiet man, he was married in 1850 to Katherine Geraldine fourth daughter of Marcus McCausland of Co. Derry, Ireland but had no children and did not remarry after his wife's death in 1869. Although, unlike later members of the Paget family, he was not a prolific writer, he did publish a series of papers on the subject of divorce law, entitled 'Talbot v Talbot: the Facts in the Case' (1855) - an interest explained by the fact that Mrs Talbot was his wife's sister. His consuming passion appears to have been drama and music, a love most obviously demonstrated in his proprietorship of the Leicester Opera House which was lavishly furnished under his direction. Yet, despite his varied contributions to Leicester life, it is his political achievements for which he will largely be remembered. For Thomas Tertius very much followed in the footsteps of his father in his political career . . .

As a banker, Unitarian and member of the Great Meeting, Thomas Paget senior had been a prominent member of the Liberal elite in Leicester and had played a leading role in the fight for both municipal and parliamentary reform. Such was his standing among the reformers that after the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835 had swept away the old corrupt system he was chosen to serve as the first Mayor of the reformed corporation. Even before this he had made his mark in the politics of the county, when in 1830, he challenged the Tories' stranglehold over the parliamentary representation of Leicestershire and contested one of the county seats. For many years the two seats had been uncontested, the expense entailed in a county election having made it more attractive to the local gentry to arrange the shire representation between themselves. Since 1806, with only one brief interlude of two years when the Whig C.M. Phillips was a member, Leicestershire had been represented by Lord Robert Manners, a brother of the Duke of Rutland and G.A.L. Keck of Stoughton Hall - both traditional Tory gentry. It was the Tory ascendancy and, in particular, the dominance of the Manners family which Paget sought to challenge by standing. In the event, the combined support of the Whig Squires and freeholders was not sufficient to match the influence of the Duke of Rutland and the clergy, who regarded Paget's Unitarian beliefs with abhorrence, but it was not by any means an ignominious defeat. When the rejection of the Reform Bill led to another general election in 1831, Paget, supported this time by finance from the Leicester manufacturers, succeeded in securing a seat, on a notable occasion when reformers carried both seats in the borough and in the county. However, Paget's parliamentary career was to be
The writer of a "Scurrilous Handbill" speaking of Mr Paget enquires "Why such a man DARES to come forward as a Candidate for your suffrages?" I submit to you the following reasons:—

MR. PAGET "dares" to offer himself as a Candidate because 2,000 Freeholders of the Southern Division requested him to do so.

All whose request does Mr Pell come forward ?? Colonel Halsford, of Newton, Mr Brother-in-law !

MR. PAGET "dares" to come forward because his family have been residents in the County for centuries. His ancestors being Freeholders in the Southern Division nearly as far back as the time when the Venerable Wickliffe officiated in the Parish Church of this Town.

How long has Mr Pell boasted of his family connection with the County ?? About 20 years ! !

MR. PAGET "dares" come forward because he has discharged the duties of a County Magistrate nearly as many years as Mr Pell has months.

MR. PAGET "dares" come forward because of his intimate acquaintance with the Trading Interest of the County, one half of the Electors of the Southern Division being engaged in trades and manufactures. Mr. Pell's qualification in this important particular is mysteriously founded upon the ownership of small property in London ! !

MR. PAGET "dares" sollicit your Votes because he is deeply interested in the Agricultural Prosperity of this district, being the proprietor of Thousands of Acres; he has shown a practical sympathy with one of the greatest grievances under which the Tenant Farmers labour, viz: the destruction of his crops by Game, which under fines and penalties he dare not destroy.

MR. PAGET says "abolish the Game Laws."

Mr. Pell possessing not more than a few Acres in the County, only echoes the opinions of the Game Preserving Landlords, and will maintain them intact to the annoyance and at the cost of the Tenant Farmer.

Vote for PAGET, the Farmer's Friend!!

An Independent Freeholder
brief. When the passing of the Reform Bill occasioned a fresh general election in December 1832, Paget declined to stand again, perhaps intending to concentrate his attack upon the evils of Leicester Corporation. Despite the success of the reformers, the Tories were to enjoy representation of both the newly created divisions of Northern and Southern Leicestershire, largely unchallenged, for the next thirty-five years.

Young Thomas Tertius grew up amidst this political excitement. Educated largely at home by his father, with occasional help from the Reverend Charles Berry, Minister of the Great Meeting, he was imbued from an early age with the liberal ideals of his father and his associates. In 1831 he made his maiden political speech, seated by his father, at a public meeting summoned to congratulate the French people on the establishment of constitutional liberty in consequence of the Revolution of July 1830. With his father, he helped finally to achieve unity between radical and right-wing factions within the Liberal party in creating the United Liberal Registration Committee which sought to allocate seats to candidates fairly and prevent the Tories from benefitting from Liberal divisions. After his father's death in 1862, Thomas Tertius succeeded to much of his father's influence in the party and was the obvious choice to follow in his footsteps, by challenging the Tories in the county.

In 1867, one of the southern Leicestershire seats became vacant through the death of the Tory C.W. Packe. Emboldened by their new methods of organisation and recent electoral success in the borough, the Liberals now looked to challenge the ascendancy of the Tories in southern Leicestershire and invited Paget to stand as their candidate. His Tory opponent, Albert Pell of Haslebeach, Northants., was the son of the Judge Sir Albert Pell, and more significantly, the son-in-law of Sir Henry Halford of Wistow. As such he very much represented the interests of the Tory landowners. Supported on the hustings by men like Viscount Curzon, Sir F.T. Fowke and Sir A.G. Hazlerigg, Pell was clearly the candidate of the landed gentry and it was unsurprising that one of the strongest issues of contention to arise out of the election, as in 1830, was to be the power of the landlord over the franchise of his tenant. This was to be a continuing source of grievance until the advent of the secret ballot in 1872 finally afforded the tenant some protection.

To the disgust and concern of their opponents, the Liberals set about their task with a new and startling efficiency, collecting over two thousand signatures on a petition which requested Paget to stand as a candidate, promising votes and interest. This petition was to generate much controversy in the coming weeks, provoking claim and counterclaim about the methods in which the signatures were secured. We are fortunate in that the one hundred and seventy-five pages
PLEASE GIVE CLOSING CROSSED POLL:

All returns sent in

Majority 33 =
PAGET - 2300
PELL - 2267

Mr. Paget is warmly congratulated by you.

Please to Telegraph the above Message according to the conditions endorsed hereon; and forward such Message from the Terminal Station of the Company at ________ by me, ________, subject to the endorsed conditions, for which latter purpose I have deposited ________.

You are requested, before signing, to read the Conditions ________ of the Contract on the back.

The Company will not be answerable for Errors caused by Indistinct writing.
of signatures, presented to Paget at the Corn Exchange on 9 November 1867, were carefully preserved by him and survive amongst his papers. The petition suggests the care and attention which was to characterise the whole of the Liberal campaign. Many of the signatures were written in pencil and subsequently inked over. They had obviously been subjected to close scrutiny, for several of the names were marked ‘cannot be made out’ and one or two addresses were corrected with reference to the electoral register. At least one signature arrived late, for that of William Hill of 38 Silver Street was attached on a separate sheet with an embossed stamp, proclaiming ‘W. Hill. Plumber, glazier etc.’ presumably intended to lend further authenticity.

Paget happily accepted the invitation in a resounding address which puts modern ‘sound-bites’ to shame: ‘As I love manliness, sincerity and earnestness - as I would shun the plausible, the tricky, the versatile, as I would follow the enlightened patriot and accomplished orator to future success, rather than trust to the subtle tactics of the winner of a present triumph - will I adopt Mr Gladstone as my leader . . . ’ At the nominations of the candidates on 25 November, the castle yard in Leicester was packed with an excited crowd. The Tory Leicester Journal was unimpressed by the crowd’s obvious allegiance to Paget: ‘The Radical faction . . . seemed scarcely to comprehend the sparkling satire and fluent wit of Mr Pell’s address . . . ’ In his speech, Paget highlighted the issue of Ireland and disestablishment of the church there, referring to the recent murder of a policeman in Manchester by Fenians and calling for legislation to address the Irish problem, in words sadly as relevant in the late twentieth century as then. He attacked, too, the power of the landlords with particular reference to the gamelaws, concluding with a demand for a national rate to support a national education system. These were to be the opening shots in a by-election campaign which would attract attention far and wide. A newspaper cutting in German from a Cologne newspaper, carefully preserved in Paget’s scrapbook, testifies to the widespread interest at home and abroad.

Paget was supported in his campaign by a general committee of electors, composed of seasoned Liberal campaigners. His chairman, Joseph Whetstone had long been prominent in borough politics as a colleague of Paget’s father. Other figures included George Toller, a Leicester solicitor, E.S. Ellis of the Newarke and T. Corah of Scraptoft Hall. Manufacturers like the last were also to the fore in the district committees with the hosiery manufacturer Thomas Abell heading the Hinckley District Organisation. Paget launched himself into a tireless campaign, travelling throughout the southern Leicestershire countryside. A notice of meetings for 22 November, preserved in the scrapbook, shows Paget due to speak on one day at Earl Shilton, at 12 o’clock, Barwell at 1, Stoney Stanton at 3 and Sapcote at 4. Other election ephemera reflect the growing preoccupations of the election with bills headed ‘Tory
Landlordism and the Tory Screw’ and ‘Vote for Paget the Farmer’s Friend’. Amongst ‘Eleven Reasons Why a Freeholder supports Mr Paget’, the sixth was ‘Because many of Mr Pell’s friends treat their tenants as serfs, and Force them to Vote against their own consciences’.

Paget, himself a landowner in several counties, made great show of the freedom which he allowed his tenants in their franchise. Despite this, Tory accusations of abuse of his position and influence as landowner and important banker, were quick to fly, as also were attacks on the manner in which signatures for the petition had been collected. Controversy ensued when a Major Jones V.C. of Pool House, Groby published his letter to Paget in which he accused William Heygate, one of Pell’s supporters, of extorting the vote of a Lieutenant Wale of 20 George Street as recompense for money obtained by Heygate’s influence from the War Department. Wale had previously signed the petition in favour of Paget but the Tories claimed that he had been put under undue Liberal pressure. The dispute was to rumble on throughout the campaign with the unfortunate Wale caught in the crossfire.

When polling commenced on Thursday 28 November, the Liberal organisation was again in evidence when it was found that they had appropriated all available transport for conveying their principals to the headquarters. Although the election concerned a county seat, the electorate within the borough were also entitled to vote in the election - a source of much bitterness to the Tories. Polling booths were erected throughout the town and the central headquarters of both parties were located there. The absence of the violence and turmoil which had marked previous elections was a source of some comment on the day. It was noted with some relief that the boarding erected to protect the windows of St Mary de Castro was found to be unnecessary. Despite one reported attempt to poll in the name of a dead man, this was on the whole judged to be a remarkably orderly election. The Free Press noted with approbation on 30 November: ‘The working population of Leicester who were so grossly blackballed by The Telegraph some two or three years ago ... may now challenge all England to show an election which has passed off with such order, manliness and good humour as characterised the election for the Southern Division of the County of Leicester’.

The first bulletin on the voting issued at 9 o’clock suggested a strong lead for Paget with 266 votes against Pell’s 74. However, as the day progressed, the gap narrowed and successive bulletins suggested a very close contest. The concern of the Liberals is reflected in the states of the poll preserved in Paget’s scrapbook. One return for Narborough recording 42 votes for Paget and 93 for Pell is marked with the gloomy prediction ‘+ the next will be worse from Narboro’. Such was the confusion that by 8 o’clock Mr Pell’s committee rooms
issued a return which claimed a majority for Pell of four votes. So enthusiastic
was The Leicester Journal at this apparent Tory success that its second edition
proudly proclaimed a victory for Pell. The Liberals, however, were apparently
in less disarray and by the end of the day, declared a majority of 33. A draft of
the telegram which Paget immediately dispatched to his London supporters
conveys some sense of the excitement and triumph: ‘Close of Poll. All returns
sent in. Majority 33. Mr Paget M.P. warmly congratulates you’; In fact the
majority was to be confirmed as 39. A final state of the poll which records also
in a note in the margin the promised votes for each area, shows how close the
Liberals came to disappointment. In all areas except Leicester, where Paget
polled 1428 votes instead of the promised 1402, he had secured fewer votes
than promised. In Hinckley alone did the figures tally. The figures showed
clearly how great was Paget’s dependence upon Leicester and the more
industrial areas for support. In rural areas such as Hallaton and Market
Bosworth, Paget was heavily defeated.

Paget’s dependence upon the Leicester vote was quickly seized upon by the
disappointed Tories. A letter to The Standard from ‘A Tory Non-Elector’ was
typical: ‘With the majority of 550 polled by Pell in the county swamped by the
majority for Mr Paget (obtained with the two Parliamentary Borough and
County Bank Screws) Leicester is therefore virtually represented by three
members. How long will the county constituency put up with such injustice?’
Recriminations in the Tory press attributed their defeat to the superior
organisation of the Liberals and looked forward to an early general election to
avenge their wrongs. Bells Weekly Messenger could not disguise its
disappointment at ‘the temporary Liberal triumph’ blaming, with not a little
cynicism, the Radical party in Leicester and their careful attention to the
registration of votes: ‘the increase of paltry freeholds being particularly
conspicuous in the recent election’. No opponent, they felt, was so formidable
as bankers: ‘they alone - our pleasant friends, the solicitors, being perhaps
excepted - possess the true key to the hearts and consciences of their fellows’.

The newspapers had enjoyed the scope for political lampoons throughout the
campaign. An early misguided attempt by Pell to claim star-like qualities led to
predictable abuse of the rhyme ‘Twinkle twinkle little star’ at every opportunity.
Other nursery rhymes suffered a similar fate, the following being a typical
example:

‘Hush a by, Tories, don’t you cry
I’ll get into Parliament by and bye
When the Bank breaks, Paget will fall
In will go Albert, Tories and all.
Even *Punch* had a comment to make on yet another of Pell’s unfortunate images: ‘A Political Gem . . . Mr Albert Pell in one of his speeches, said that he hoped the electors would find him a Little Diamond. We don’t hint that he was flawed, but he has to wait to be set’.

On Saturday morning in front of the Castle in Leicester, Paget was declared elected and addressed the assembled crowds with emotion: ‘this is the proudest day of my life and the proudest day Leicester-shire has seen since the year 1830.’ Attacking the influence of the Tory landlords over tenants-at-will he declared: ‘The whole energy of the Tory party has been called forth from ‘Burbage Wood to Easton’s lonely Vale’ and there has not been a cottage in which resides a vote, which has not been ransacked . . .’ He went on to quote his own father’s words when he was elected: ‘I will attempt what no man has done - to set free the independence of the County’ and declared that he would adopt his father’s words in 1830 as his own in 1867, to loud applause. In the crowd, reported a newspaper account, a broken wooden screw painted blue, was held up to wide amusement.

The celebrations occasioned by this victory continued for several days, with sheep roastings held around the town. In Belgrave, the Reverend Charles Berry gave a dinner and tea to his servants whilst at Hinckley the workers of Mr Abell, the hosier, were entertained at tea and supper served by Mrs Abell, followed by dancing and singing until 11 o’clock. Although Pell had tried to fight the election on the issue of the union of church and state and attacked Paget’s nonconformity, several clergymen had been conspicuous in breaking ranks and
supporting Paget. Amongst them, the Reverend E. Tower of Earl Shilton so delighted his parishioners that forty working men proceeded to his church to thank him. Possibly more significant for the local children there, were the actions of the Landlady of ‘The Nelson’ who gave away 300 buns in order that they might remember the occasion. The great hope and optimism expressed in these celebrations is nowhere clearer than in the banner put up at a dinner in Market Harborough bearing the words: ‘Freeholders arise and liberate the serfs’.

Ironically the election had been held just a few days before the 1867 Reform Act was due to take effect. Paget himself estimated that the reforms would gain his cause a further 200 votes in the county where the franchise was due to be extended but his words on election indicate his awareness of the landlords’ continuing dominance. Whilst there was still open voting, the influence of the landlord over tenancy was to be a decisive factor. The point was to be proven all too soon. The parliamentary reform carried out by Disraeli, necessitated a speedy test and a general election was called in November 1868. In a hard fought election, Paget this time was the loser. His scrapbook in which he kept so meticulously newspaper cuttings concerning the divisions of Parliament in which he voted, comes to a sudden end. Whilst steadfastly resisting the attraction of a safer seat in Leicester Borough, Paget fought unsuccessfully in elections in Southern Leicestershire in 1870 and 1874. Although he was finally to be re-elected there in 1880, there is no scrapbook to record the occasion or his subsequent career in parliament. He is recorded as speaking in the House on only a few occasions but he was to be most conspicuous in his opposition to the lash, game laws and capital punishment and in his loyalty to Gladstone. It is perhaps significant that there survive amongst his papers two letters from Gladstone, the one congratulating him on his victory of 1867 and the other on that of 1880. There is no other political correspondence. After the extension of the franchise in 1885 and the reorganisation of the county into four single-member divisions, Paget stood for the Harborough seat and won in the general election of the same year. By now an old man, he seemed eclipsed by the more radical politics of his associates and in 1886 he announced his retirement due to ill health. In the draft of his resignation speech to his electors, he wrote ‘As your Representative I have supported our great leader through many a struggle ending in a glorious and beneficient issue. I have proved by my vote in this the shortest Parliament on record that my confidence in him is in no way shaken. I had hoped to have been at his side in one more great success and though this may be denied to me I trust that a large majority will be with him in perfecting a final measure which, while strengthening on a cordial basis the Union of the nations, may bring Peace to England and Prosperity to Ireland.’ He was, of course, to be disappointed on both counts.
Paget was to die peacefully at home in Humberstone Hall as his father had before him. Despite the length of his career and his many and varied contributions to Leicestershire life, it is probably as victor of the 1867 South Leicestershire by-election that he would best like to have been remembered. In overturning a Tory domination in the county of over thirty years, the Liberals had broken new ground and set new standards of electoral organisation. In many ways the election was a watershed between the old political world and the new. The allocation of parliamentary seats by gentleman’s agreement, without contest, was at an end and the voice of the independent elector had made itself heard in such a way that it could never be ignored again. Paget himself was well aware of the efficiency of the party organisation which had secured his first victory. When he thanked his electors he referred in particular to the petition which requested him to stand as ‘that magnificent requisition which will go down as an heirloom in my family’. We are fortunate indeed to have inherited that heirloom.

Sources
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DE365/299 Correspondence re Talbot divorce case, 1854 - 1859

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I am grateful to R.H. Evans for his helpful advice concerning this article.
The Significance of the 1927 Bosworth By-election

G H Bennett

The Bosworth by-election of 31 May 1927 was seen at the time as being the most significant by-election of the 1924-29 Parliament. The Observer proclaimed it 'A Turning Point in Politics', and it was seen as the most significant of six by-election victories for the Liberals during the second Baldwin government. Bosworth followed a Liberal victory at Southwark North on 28 March 1927, and it would be followed with gains at Lancaster in February 1928, St Ives in March 1928, and both Eddisbury and Holland with Boston in March 1929. Liberal victory at Bosworth created a momentum within the Liberal party that was widely regarded as evidence of Liberal revival and a portent of the general election that was to follow. Bosworth seemed to herald a reversal of the apparent emergence of Conservative/Labour two-party politics. As the Annual Register recorded: 'The general inference to be drawn from the by-elections of this period, especially that of Bosworth, was that the Liberal party was recovering lost ground in the country'. Some writers speculated in the aftermath of Bosworth that the Liberal party might even gain a parliamentary majority. Yet in the 1929 general election the re-emergence of the Liberals as a sizeable third force in British politics failed to occur. Their number of seats increased from 40 to 59. Bosworth was a false dawn for the Liberal party. Yet why was this so? Why was the significance of the Bosworth result so over-estimated?

The constituency in 1927 was remarkably diverse. The local economy was dependent on agriculture, hosiery, clothing, boots and coal. This economic diversity seemed to make the result of the by-election especially significant. It would serve as a testing ground for party policies in the aftermath of the General Strike. Labour was in the midst of drafting a new programme, and the Liberal party was defining its policy through publications such as Coal and Power, Land and the Nation, and Towns and the Land. Key Conservative policies, such as the Trade Disputes Bill restricting the rights of unions to pursue their industrial and political goals, would be put to the test. Indeed, the Bill received the Royal assent in the course of the campaign.

If the nature of the constituency made the by-election result significant then the atypical nature of the contest for Bosworth should have made people guarded in their assessment of the result. Throughout its electoral history the seat had been hotly contested, having been won by the Liberals in 1918, the Conservatives in 1922, the Liberals in 1923 and the Conservatives in 1924. In
the 1924 general election Captain Robert Gee V.C., M.C., had gained the seat with a majority of 358 votes. The 1924 result was especially interesting because of the closeness of the three parties:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. Gee</td>
<td>Con</td>
<td>10,114</td>
<td>34.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Ward</td>
<td>Lib</td>
<td>9,756</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Minto</td>
<td>Lab</td>
<td>9,143</td>
<td>31.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj</td>
<td></td>
<td>358</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The strength of Liberalism in the constituency was in contrast to the fortunes of the party elsewhere in the county. At the 1924 general election the Liberal party had not even bothered to contest Leicester East and had come bottom of the poll in the remaining five Leicestershire seats. In the three-cornered party fights that took place at Leicester South, Loughborough and Harborough the Liberal party had averaged 22.87% of the poll. In the two-cornered fights between the Liberals and Labour in Leicester West, and the Liberals and Conservatives at Melton, the Liberal vote averaged 44.95%. In Leicestershire, as elsewhere in most of England, three-cornered contests would relegate the Liberals to a poor third place. Bosworth went against that trend and thus in 1927 it could be regarded as a marginal seat by all three parties. A by-election there could theoretically be claimed as a key test of party fortunes, but the reality was rather different.

The reliability of Bosworth as an indicator of party fortunes nationally was impaired by significant local influences. A by-election had arisen there out of the strangest circumstances. In the autumn of 1926 Gee, under threat of a libel action from the RSPCA, had disappeared, to the considerable embarrassment of the Conservative whips. He later re-emerged in Western Australia where he announced his intention to settle. Gee’s conduct was extraordinary and it could not fail to make an unfavourable impression on constituents. The behaviour of the sitting Member also had the effect of making the Bosworth campaign remarkably drawn out. Within the constituency party workers accurately forecasted that it was only a matter of time before Gee resigned. It was not until Friday 13 May, however, that the deputy returning officer received the writ for the by-election. From late 1926 onwards Sir William Edge, the prospective Liberal candidate and a former member for Bolton from 1916 to 1923, was actively canvassing for support. His Labour counterpart, Councillor Minto, had contested the seat in 1924, and was well known and respected as a councillor on Leicester City Council. He was similarly gearing up for a fight after Gee’s departure.

In these circumstances the Bosworth Conservatives’ choice of candidate was
interesting. The *Coalville Times* reported on 14 January 1927 that the local association had unanimously adopted Edward Spears, a retired brigadier-general, as its candidate. The choice of an ex-military man to replace Gee was sensible and Spears’s war record was remarkable. He had been mentioned in dispatches five times, had been wounded four times, had won the Military Cross, Croix de Guerre, Etoile Noire, Grand Cross of the White Eagle of Serbia and the Czechoslovak Croix de Guerre. From 1917 to 1920 he had headed the British Military Mission to Paris. His war record was astonishingly distinguished and in 1927 this remained a valuable attribute for any aspiring parliamentary candidate. However, in other ways Spears was a less than ideal choice. From November 1922 to October 1924 he had sat as National Liberal member for Loughborough. He had been defeated in the 1924 general election and joined the Conservative party in 1925. Spears argued that anti-socialism was ‘the chief plank’ of his political philosophy and that the Conservative party, ‘the chief opponent of Socialism, had adopted Liberal principles’. Quite how the local association came to adopt a turncoat Liberal from a neighbouring constituency is not revealed by the records deposited by the Bosworth Conservative Association in the Leicestershire Record Office. However, one has to suspect the influence on the selection process of Churchill, a friend of Spears and another former Liberal who had joined the Conservative party. In the fluid state of British party politics in the mid-1920s the general’s apparent lack of consistency was not unique, nor was it necessarily damaging to his chances of re-election. Even so, it could not react well with a Bosworth electorate already scandalised by Gee’s behaviour. G.W. Winterton, the prospective Labour candidate in Loughborough publicly claimed that if Spears ‘thought it would help him into Parliament the General would probably be reincarnated in the future as a convinced supporter of Labour principles’. Spears’s performance in the campaign was lamentable with the Daily Herald commenting, ‘The Tory candidate cut a pathetic figure’. Cuthbert Headlam, the Conservative member for Barnard Castle, who came down to speak on Spears’s behalf on 30 May at Coalville, commented in his diary for that day: ‘A feebler performance I have seldom heard - he can’t win’. In the circumstances the local and county press remained fairly neutral.

The neutrality of the local press ensured that the key campaign tactic adopted by Spears would not succeed. Important Conservative policies such as the Trade Disputes Act, which the opposition parties styled as an attack on Trades Unionism, could only antagonise sections of the Bosworth electorate such as the miners of Coalville. Indeed, so great was this antagonism that the campaign was marked by the threat of civil disorder. At Coalville the police resorted to posting notices that anyone convicted of disrupting a political meeting could be subject to a £100 fine and disenfranchisement for five years. The Trades Disputes Bill hung like an albatross around Spears’s neck. He was aware of the
negative impact that the Act was having on his campaign but he could not try and avoid it. All three parties considered it a vote winner for themselves and it was the central theme of Baldwin’s public letter of endorsement of 23 May.¹⁰ With there seemingly being no way to win back support among broad sections of the working classes, Spears concentrated on mobilising middle class support. He resorted to the tactics of 1924 and use of the ‘Red Scare’. Edge, the Liberal candidate, jeered: ‘Spears goes about in red-tinted spectacles seeing Bolshies behind every bush’.¹¹ With Churchill sending a letter of endorsement to Spears, expressing views that ‘the socialist extremists’ within the Labour party would institute a regime of ‘violence’ and ‘terror’ in Britain if the electorate gave them the chance, there was undoubtedly an attempt to portray the Labour candidate at Bosworth as the vanguard of the revolution.¹² The Labour government of 1924 having been kept in power by the Liberals, it seemed only too easy to portray them as potential accomplices of the Labour Bolsheviks. However, such tactics could only backfire: Spears’s credentials as a Conservative were less than convincing; Edge had a long record of service to his country; and Minto was a respected civic figure. For a turncoat Liberal from a neighbouring constituency to attempt to portray Minto as anything other than a moderate socialist lacked all credibility.

The general’s campaign tactics were helped by outside events. On 12 May Scotland Yard raided the London premises of the All-Russian Cooperative Society (ARCOS), amidst allegations that it had been a front for communist subversion. The raid led to the severing of trading relations with the Soviet Union. ‘Do you love your country or Russia?’ asked Joynson-Hicks, the Home Secretary, of the Bosworth electorate.¹³ However, ARCOS could not rescue Spears from the inadequacy of his tactics. As Minto noted: ‘The Tory scare about Arcos is having no effect on the constituency at all: people look on it as another Zinovieff Red letter’.¹⁴

The Conservative campaign was completely outclassed by the Liberal and Labour camps. On 27 May Lloyd George began a barnstorming tour of the constituency in which he spoke at Hinckley and Coalville as well as visiting smaller places such as Sutton Cheney, Stapleton, Barwell and Earl Shilton. Labour matched him with senior figures such as Arthur Henderson and A.J. Cook, secretary of the miner’s union.

The inadequacy of the Conservative campaign was evidenced by the poll on 31 May:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Votes</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. Edge (Lib)</td>
<td>11,981</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Minto (Lab)</td>
<td>11,710</td>
<td>37.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Spears (Con)</td>
<td>7,685</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maj</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
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</tbody>
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The Liberal victory might have been narrow but they were to retain control of Bosworth until the Labour landslide of 1945. For Spears and the Government the defeat was humiliating.

Bosworth was seized upon by Lloyd George and the National Press as evidence of a turn around in Liberal fortunes. ‘It is an illuminating election’, proclaimed the Daily Express on 2 June. The Liberal Daily Chronicle and the Westminster Gazette heralded Bosworth as a turning point for the Liberals. On 2 June Sir Herbert Samuel, head of the Liberal party organization, made a speech at Birmingham in which he argued that on top of the Liberals retaining Leith and gaining Southwark North, Bosworth was indisputable evidence of Liberal revival. The Observer on 5 June predicted that the Liberals would gain ‘well over a hundred seats’. Given the seemingly terminal decline that the Liberals had entered during the First World War it was unsurprising that any hint of revival should be seized upon, no matter how dubious the evidence. Indeed, the early part of 1927 had seemed to be the absolute nadir of party fortunes. The electoral appeal of the party as evidenced by by-elections seemed to be evaporating, despite the revamping of Liberal policies by Lloyd George. The journalist and future Liberal M.P. Robert Bernays recorded in his memoirs: ‘There was a time in March 1927 when the party seemed doomed to swift extinction’. The defection of Wedgwood Benn to the Labour party had seemed to sum up the future prospects for the Liberal party. When a vacancy had arisen in the old Liberal seat at Leith it had proved almost impossible to find a candidate to contest it on behalf of the party. Thirteen Liberal candidates had turned down the offer to fight the old Liberal seat, but the fourteenth, Ernest Brown, had managed to hold it by 111 votes on 23 March 1927. Another victory at Southwark North five days later had seemed to indicate that Liberal prospects were improving, and optimists would view Bosworth as vitally needed confirmation of this apparent trend.

However, beyond the public rhetoric at the national level there was an appreciation that the Bosworth result was not really conclusive evidence. The Leicester Mail could not but view with scepticism victory by 271 votes in a seat that, despite its recent volatility, had been Liberal for 38 of the preceeding 42 years. Tactical voting was also seen as a significant factor in the Liberal victory. Even in the aftermath of victories at Lancaster and St.Ives, Lloyd George remained painfully aware that three-cornered contests would prevent the Liberals gaining a significant number of seats at the next election. In June 1927 J.C.C. Davidson, the Conservative Party Chairman, dismissed talk of Liberal revival as ‘preposterous and fantastic’.

Davidson had a more accurate appreciation of the Bosworth result than most of his contemporaries. Bosworth had been the first of many press-constructed
dawns for the Liberal party which would subsequently be proved to be false. But Bosworth did have significance in that it restored some confidence to a party that had seemed to have no future.

1. The Observer, 5 June 1927.
5. Spears to Lloyd George, 29 April 1925, Lloyd George papers (House of Lords Record Office) G/30/4/17.
7. The Daily Herald, 2 June 1927.
10. The Times, 26 May 1927.
12. The Times, 30 May 1927.
15. Summary of the National and Local Press, Leicester Mail, 2 June 1927.
16. The Times, 3 June 1927.
18. Leicester Mail, 3 June 1927.

Ed. Since this article was written a work on the life of Spears has appeared. Under two Flags: the life of Major General Sir Edward Spears by Max Egremont, published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson. ISBN 1 297 81347 1
The Enclosure Commissioners

Alec Moretti

It is generally realised that the enclosure of much of the countyside of England brought about a most radical change in the appearance of the land about us. Whilst examining the Parliamentary Enclosure of Wymeswold in North Leicestershire, I began to wonder who were the people who had carried out the actual process of creating the new fields with their associated hedges and ditches as well as the newly aligned roads. Presumably much of the work of ditching and hedging was done by the farmers and their labourers, but following the instructions of the Commissioners, who had been appointed by Parliament for the enclosure of their parish or township.

Most of the enclosures of the period between 1750 and 1850 were undertaken by private Acts of Parliament for each parish which established the rules to be followed and which appointed a group of Commissioners to supervise and carry out the process. According to W.E. Tate in his *The English Village Community and the Enclosure Movement* the people appointed as Commissioners usually fell into two types, the first being those with some local background such as country landowners, perhaps being magistrates or even clergymen. They usually acted as Commissioners in only one or two parishes in their locality, and no doubt appreciated the value of the enclosed fields as opposed to strip farming. The others could be called 'professionals' with legal or surveying experience and qualifications. Some of these seem to have made a lucrative business out of enclosure work, acting in several cases, and it has been suggested that some old established firms of solicitors and estate agents owe their origin to this type of work laying out the new fields and applying the conditions of the Act of Parliament. The size of each group of Commissioners varied from as few as three to as many as twelve depending on the number of interests with a claim on the land in the parish in question, the idea being that each Commissioner represented one of those interested parties such as the Lord of the Manor or the impropriators of the tithes as well as the Rector or Vicar. The other landowners would also be represented. The task of the Commissioners would necessitate the appointing of a clerk and a surveyor, and sometimes these were named in the Act, but not in the case of Wymeswold where the Act was passed in 1757. The names of the Commissioners for this parish were included in the Act which may be seen in Leicestershire Record Office. They were: -

Thomas Crane of Melton Mowbray, Esquire;
Morris Camm of Shoby, gentleman;
William Wild of Costock, gentleman;
Thomas Oldknow of Nottingham, gentleman;


William Wyatt of Seney Park in the County of Stafford, gentleman;  
William Elstobb, junior of Cambridge;  
The Reverend Mr. Stephen Whisson of Trinity College, Cambridge.

This group was fairly typical with varied qualifications and experience, and a  
look at their background shows that they fit into this twofold classification. The  
first three were landowners from the surrounding area but with no claim on the  
land in Wymeswold. The next three in the Wymeswold list are what might be  
called ‘professional’ Commissioners like estate managers and surveyors, whilst  
the last named is the odd man out, representing Trinity College, whose interests  
started when Henry VIII granted the college the advowson of Wymeswold and  
over 200 acres of land in the parish in 1546. As the tithes were to be commuted  
by the Enclosure Act, Trinity College, as the receivers of the great tithes, needed  
to ensure that they received an adequate replacement income, so the Reverend  
Mr. Stephen Whisson was there to act in their interests. He was the Senior  
Bursar of the college as well as the Vicar or Rector of several parishes in  
Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. As the son of a dissenting publican in St. Neots  
he had made good progress in his career.

Not much is known about the Commissioners who were landowners from the  
Wymeswold area but they all seem to have been average country gentlemen  
whose wills show that they were reasonably well off. Morris Camm was a  
freeholder of land in Shoby and Asfordby according to the Poll Book of 1741. He  
died in 1769 and by his will left a messuage and land to his brother Andrew,  
and 21 acres to his nephew Thomas, whilst his nieces received £500 as well as  
the interest from a further £900 in trust. In addition he left money for a teacher  
in Asfordby and small sums for the poor of Shoby and Asfordby as well as  
Saxelby and Grimston.

Thomas Crane of Melton Mowbray was a freeholder there in 1741, but by  
1775 the Poll Book showed him as a freeholder in Kegworth and when he died  
there in 1784 his two sons received his land. Besides acting as a Commissioner  
for Wymeswold he acted for four other parishes, three of which were in the  
Wreake Valley. As a magistrate he was one of those who “enrolled the award”  
for Hoton in 1760.

William Wild of Costock in Nottinghamshire seems to have come from a family  
with plenty of links in the South Nottinghamshire area, and in 1761 he received  
82 acres at the enclosure of Costock. At his death in 1783 his wife, Alice, and  
his son Quinton inherited his property except for £600 for his daughter, Jane.

Of the ‘professional’ Commissioners Thomas Oldknow was based closest to  
Wymeswold, being a member of a Nottingham family which served the area
An ACT for Dividing and Inclosing several Commons or Wastes, and also several Common Fields, Meadows, Pastures, and Waste Grounds, lying within the Manor of Wymeswold, in the County of Leicester.

from about 1746 until nearly 1900 as sheriffs, mayors and aldermen of Nottingham. The Thomas who acted as a Commissioner for Wymeswold was described as an experienced land surveyor and the Index in the Local History Library in Nottingham says that "he had been Commissioner for more acts of enclosure than anyone else in the Kingdom." Even if this is not strictly accurate he certainly acted for at least 27 parishes in Nottinghamshire and 14 in Leicestershire. Besides this work he undertook other public duties such as acting as adjudicator in the case of the assessment of the poor in Beeston in 1769.5

William Elstobb junior of Cambridge appears in the Dictionary of Land Surveyors and Local Cartographers 1550-1850 edited by Peter Eden. This reports that he was associated with work in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Leicestershire, and Cambridgeshire Record Office have several maps and surveys by him. His name appears on the title cartouche of the Wymeswold Enclosure Map so we can assume that he was the surveyor there, and he is named as a Commissioner for Hoton Enclosure in 1760. In addition he was a teacher of mathematics and an engineer.

William Wyatt became another experienced Commissioner for enclosures, who, starting at Wymeswold undertook at least 14 others (including Hoton) in Leicestershire. The family came from near Lichfield and William lived at Seney Park (now called Sinai Park on the outskirts of Burton on Trent) and he became a land agent to Lord Pagett. Showing the family link William's son Samuel was
a Commissioner for Walton on the Wolds in 1796 and a few other Leicestershire parishes. One of William’s brothers became an architect, the first in a line of Wyatts who were architects on a national scale from the mid eighteenth century to the late nineteenth century working on buildings like Leicester Royal Infirmary, Belvoir Castle, Chatsworth, Windsor Castle and Woollaton Hall amongst others. Other brothers became known as inventors (weigh bridges, screw cutting machines etc.) and artists (who produced carvings etc. for their architect relatives). This was an accomplished family whose twentieth-century descendants have included R.E.S.Wyatt, an England Test Cricketer, and Woodrow Wyatt, an M.P. and writer.

Looking at other Enclosure Acts we can see that the Commissioners on the one hand, were largely men of similar standing, mostly being local landowners who no doubt appreciated the value of enclosing the open fields. The other Commissioners were those with legal and surveying experience who could ensure that the new fields and roads would be laid out according to the conditions made in the Acts of Parliament. These Commissioners were not always popular and Arthur Young, a writer on agricultural affairs in the 18th century, described them as “hackneyed sons of business” having neither integrity nor abilities and as “being vested with despotic powers known in no other branch of industry in this free country.” Small landowners were sometimes forced to sell up as they could not afford the cost of enclosing their land. In spite of this and other opposition the enclosure movement was carried through and the landscape that we see around us and take for granted was created by such men as these Commissioners.

1. Enclosure Award and Map for Wymeswold, DE1728/147 in Leicestershire County Record Office (L.C.R.O).
2. Printed “Act for Dividing and Inclosing...Wimeswould”, L.C. R.O.
3. Wills in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Records Offices.
5. Local History Library, County Library, Angel Row, Nottingham.
Below Stairs: Domestic service in nineteenth-century Leicester

J D Bennett

Domestic service was a predominantly female occupation and in the last century provided the largest single employment for women in this country. This was not the case in industrial towns like Leicester, where there was a growing number of alternative forms of employment, in factories and later in offices and shops; but even here servants accounted for around $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the population. They were an essential feature of all middle-class households, as well as a necessary status symbol.

In 1831, the first year for which relevant statistics are available, there were 1,319 persons (265 males and 1,054 females) employed as domestic servants in Leicester; there were then 8,348 inhabited houses, and a population of 38,904. Thirty years later, when there were 14,595 inhabited houses and the population had reached 68,056, the number of people in domestic service was 2,696 (116 males and 2,580 females). When the 1891 census was taken there were 5,271 domestic servants (114 males and 5,157 females), by which time the population had risen to 174,624 and the number of inhabited houses to 35,705.¹

The number of servants kept varied, as the following examples for the 1871 census show. The historian William Kelly, who lived at 130 London Road and was Secretary of St Martin’s Savings Bank, had only one servant. This was not typical of that area, where two were more usual. The retired draper Richard Morley, at 123 London Road, had a housekeeper and a general servant; and William Kempson, a hosiery manufacturer, at 86 Regent Street (now Regent Road), had a cook and a housemaid. Households with three servants were fairly commonplace: a frequent combination was a cook, a housemaid and a nursemaid. Homes where these were employed were those of Edgar Cooper, a banker’s clerk, of 157 London Road, and Frank Hodges, an elastic web manufacturer, of 62 New Walk. Four servants were not unknown hereabouts: Mrs Rawson, a widow, at 34 Regent Street, employed a cook, a housemaid, an undermaid and a groom; and Charles Smith, a solicitor’s and lawyer’s agent, at 64 London Road, kept a cook, a housemaid, a nursemaid and a general servant. Most impressive was the house of Rev Robert Burnaby, whose establishment at 4 Prebend Street of a footman, a lady’s maid, a cook, a housemaid and a nursemaid was perhaps slightly too grand for the area.

The 1861 census provides a detailed analysis of the servant population of Leicester. In that year there were 116 male general servants. The rest of the
The largest group consisted of 1,830 general servants. In addition there were 223 housekeepers, 189 housemaids, 179 nursemaids and 159 cooks.²

According to Mrs Beeton’s *Book of Household Management*, published in the same year, female general servants could expect to earn between £7 10s and £11 a year, housekeepers between £18 and £40, housemaids between £10 and £17, nursemaids between £5 and £10 and cooks between £12 and £26. A lady’s maid could earn between £10 and £20 a year and an undermaid between £6 10s and £10. Male servants such as footmen commanded wages of between £15 and £25 a year and grooms between £12 and £20. This was, of course, in addition to food and accommodation, and usually uniforms or the appropriate allowance.

The *Leicester Advertiser* seems to have been the newspaper most often used by employers looking for a servant, and by servants looking for a place. Examples from the relatively small number of advertisements inserted by employers, for different types of servants, indicate the qualities sought:

**Man-servant wanted.**
Wanted, in a gentleman’s family, in Leicester, a young active indoor SERVANT. One who has been under a butler preferred. Good character and knowledge of his work indispensable. - For address apply to Mr SALISBURY, chemist, Market Street, Leicester.³

Wanted, immediately, in Leicester, a good general SERVANT, not less than 22 years old. Good wages given. Apply to Mrs Riley, New Street, Leicester.⁴

**Wanted, a HOUSEMAID, one who has had some experience in service.** Must be a good needlewoman. Address no. 815, Advertiser office.⁵

Advertisements by servants seeking a situation are more frequently found:

**Wanted, by a domesticated person, a situation as Housekeeper, where a servant is kept.** - Apply 62 Southgate Street, Leicester.⁶

A young person, who understands millinery, dress-making, and hairdressing, desires a situation as LADY’S MAID. - Address ET, care of Mr Hewitt, bookseller, Granby Street.⁷

**Wanted, a situation as Footman, single-handed or under a Butler.** Good character. Age 26 years; height 5 ft 9 in. Address GC, Mr Joseph Mee, Evington, Leicester.⁸
Another method was to use a servants' registry office. Originating in London in the seventeenth century, these had begun to appear in provincial towns by the middle of the eighteenth century. (The first one opened in Birmingham in 1752.) Servants were charged an entrance fee, often according to the position sought, and then a commission, usually a shilling in the pound on the first year's wages, when a place was found. Facilities were sometimes provided for employers to interview suitable applicants; alternatively servants might be interviewed by registry staff, before being sent along to see a prospective employer. The quality of servants' registries varied a good deal.9

There were a number of them in nineteenth-century Leicester, though they were often combined with other trades. Elizabeth Eames, whose 'original register office' in Gallowtree Gate is listed in Fowler's 1815 Leicester directory, was also a milliner, though Amy Towndrow, whose 'register office for servants' in Granby Street appears in Pigot's 1835 and 1841 directories, is not shown as having any other calling. Of the eight listed in White's 1846 directory, only one was a full-time registry office. One of the others was operated by none other than Thomas Cook, from his printing and bookselling establishment at 26 Granby Street. Similarly in 1863 nine of the eleven offices then in existence were run in conjunction with other businesses. The same situation applied in 1877, when only two out of eight were full-time registries. By 1888, however, all four of those shown in a directory of that year were full-time registry offices, suggesting that by then, with the population of the town well into six figures and the number of servants around five thousand, there was enough work to make them viable.

Probably the best known servants' registry office in Victorian Leicester was that at 18-20 Loseby Lane, founded by Mrs Mary Hall and continued by her two daughters, Mary Louisa and Harriet Measures Hall. Mrs Hall was operating her registry as early as 1846, though she does not appear in the list of offices in the directory for that year. Sometimes she advertised in the local newspapers, presumably when she had no one suitable on her books:

Wanted, a Nursery Governess, thoroughly competent to take care of a little boy age 6 years. - Apply to Mrs Hall, Register Office, Loseby Lane, Leicester.10

By 1877 she had either retired or died and her daughters were running the business. Theirs was the only one operating in 1888 which had been in existence for more than ten years.

Newspaper advertisements and registry offices were not the only means of finding a servant. There were also charitable institutions designed to train
orphans, girls who had fallen by the wayside, or simply the poor, for useful domestic work. Leicester had several of these. The oldest was the Female Asylum in the Newarke, established in 1800, which admitted poor girls at the age of 12 and for the next four years trained them for 'domestic servitude', a depressingly apt description. The Infant Orphan Asylum on Fosse Road, built in 1854, took in 'poor female orphan children' between the ages of 6 and 12 and trained them in 'such habits of virtue, industry, and usefulness as may best qualify them to become valuable domestic servants'. They also remained till they were 16. The Home for Penitent Females, originally in Blue Boar Lane but moved to new premises on Stoneygate Road in 1881, had as its aim the reclamation of women who had 'departed from the paths of virtue'. They remained here for two years, 'employed in washing, sewing and general household work', after which they were sent home or 'placed in suitable situations', which in most instances meant domestic service.11

The end of the nineteenth century saw increasing reluctance on the part of young girls to go into domestic service and as a result servants became more difficult to get and retain; what was to be known as the 'servant problem' became a staple ingredient of upper and middle-class conversation and magazine articles. The age of domestic service was drawing to a close.
2. Ibid., 1861.
3. Leicester Advertiser, 5 October 1861.
4. Ibid., 7 December 1861.
5. Ibid., 3 June 1871.
6. Ibid., 29 July 1871.
8. Leicester Advertiser, 26 August 1871.
9. Servants' registry offices are described in Frank Dawes, Not in Front of the Servants, 1984, and in Pamela Horn, The Rise and fall of the Victorian Servant, 1990; also in Samuel Mullins and Gareth Griffiths, Cap and Apron, 1986, although this is mainly concerned with twentieth-century conditions.
10. Leicester Advertiser, 19 August 1871.

An unusual marriage ceremony

Cynthia Brown of the Living History Unit, Leicester City Council, sends the following extract from page 263 of J Throsby's The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Town of Leicester 1791.

In the marriage register (of St Martin’s church, Leicester), in the 18th year of the reign of Elizabeth, is inserted the following:

"February the vth day, Thomas Tilsey and Ursula Russell were maryed; and because the said Thomas was, and is, naturally deafe, and also dombe, so that the custom of the form of marriage used usually amongst others which can heare and specke, could not for his part be observed; after the approbation had from Thomas the Bishope of Lincoln, John Chippendale, Doctor in Lawe and Comissary; as also of Mr Richard Davye, then Mayor of the towne of Leicester, with others of his brethren, with the reste of the parishe; the saide Thomas, for expressinge of his minde, steade of words, of his owne accorde, used these signes; Firs, he embraced her with his armes, and tooke her by the hande, put a ringe upon her finger, and layde his hande upon his harte, and upon her harte, and helde up his hands towards heaven; and to shew his continuance to dwell with her to his lyves ende, he did it by closinge of his eyes with his hands, and digginge out the earthe with his fote, and pullinge as though he would ringe a bell, with diverse other signes approved."
Whissendine Slipcote
*Trevor Hickman*

In this age of product accreditation within the E.E.C. for such foods as Stilton Cheese, one wonders what the reaction from French farmers would have been if a dairy in Leicestershire or Rutland had registered a Slipcote cheese as the English Camembert? Rutland gained a reputation as a centre for the manufacture of Stilton Cheese by farmers who grazed their herds in the Vale of Catmose and on the hills of Leighfield. Supplying milk to specialised farmhouse dairies operating in the many parishes from the mid eighteenth century until well into the twentieth century. Cheese of course would have been made by all farmers from the Neolithic period onwards, one of the earliest types was a form of slipcote. Milk from Rutland cows is still being made into cheese. Friesians grazing in the fields at Whissendine produce milk that is conveyed from this village to the worlds largest Stilton Cheese manufacturers at Long Clawson in Leicestershire, so maintaining a system that stretches back in time, before Rutland became a county.

Just over 100 years ago, the farm dairies in and around Whissendine produced an equally famous farmhouse cheese, Slipcote. This is a cheese that closely resembles Camembert, it was a connoisseurs’ cheese enjoyed by the gourmet of the fox-hunting fraternity for their hunt breakfasts and served in some London restaurants, gaining a national reputation as a great English cheese. French imports ensured its demise after closer trading ties were created with France in 1904 through efforts of King Edward VII in establishing the *Entente Cordial*. Local farmers devoted their energies to producing Stilton, there was no French equivalent, it stored well and was portable at various stages of maturity, unlike young cheese such as Slipcote etc. so finding a wider market.

Slipcote: *slipa* possibly derived from the Norwegian word slime, a soft semi-liquid mass of curdled milk! *Cote* a word for a shed where produce is stored! A very soft cheese stored for a short period of time before being eaten. This cheese was a popular cheese during the medieval period possibly being introduced from Scandinavia by the Vikings, who certainly introduced a breed of cattle that eventually devolved into the strain known as Lincoln Reds, dual purpose cattle noted for their size, beef production and high seasonal milk yields. The main areas of production for this type of cheese were in Yorkshire and Rutland. The local recipe in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was: six pints of warm milk fresh from the cow were placed in a container (vat) and allowed to stand for half an hour, then a pint of fresh spring water was added along with a wine glass full of rennet. The mixture was allowed to stand until the milk had curdled and become a solid mass and the curd had separated from
the whey. The curd was then passed carefully through a hair-sieve into a linen cloth; it was then wrapped as a parcel and worked into the required shape with the back of a knife. Then the curd was allowed to settle for half an hour, the cloth was removed and the curd was placed in a shallow mould (often referred to as a press) and a half-pound weight was placed on it for two hours. The weight was removed and the curd was salted, wrapped in a clean cloth and placed back in the mould under a two-pound weight for twelve hours. The solidified curd was now removed from the mould, unwrapped and placed on drying shelves in the maturing room, turned regularly for three days, being supported by green grass or rushes. When it no longer required support the cheese was laid between layers of grass or rushes to ripen and was normally ready to be eaten after eight days. Depending on the county, there were many alternatives to this recipe, one such recipe involved the soaking of the curd with hot whey prior to salting and maturing the cheese on a bed of stinging nettle leaves.

During the late nineteenth century a slipcote cheese was being produced in large quantities in the village of Whissendine especially by such farmers as Ann and William Fowler at the Manor House Farm near the church of St Andrew. A simpler recipe to the one described above was used. The milk was curdled by adding rennet, it was then strained into a vat so removing the whey, sufficient curd was then placed in a wooden mould. (A Slipcote mould/press is on display in the Carnegie Museum at Melton Mowbray). It
was allowed to drain until it was firm, around twelve hours and was then turned onto a linen cloth and sprinkled with salt, wrapped in cabbage leaves and placed on a shelf in the maturing room, being turned daily for about seven days; the cabbage leaves were replaced after each turning. After one week the cheese was ready for eating. The Whissendine Slipcote cheeses were either round or square, one to two inches thick, four to six inches in diameter or approximately six inches square, closely resembling camembert with a similar crust. Unfortunately they ripened quickly and soon began to dry out so good transport arrangements to the consumer were essential. This became a viable proposition when Wymondham Midland station was opened in 1848 on the Nottingham Peterborough railway line, with its connections to London. This station was named Whissendine in 1878.

For a short period of time during the late Victorian age Whissendine Slipcote was one of the most respected specialist cheeses of England and had possibly been produced to a variety of recipes throughout the shire counties since before the Norman conquest.

*The Closet of Sir Kenelm Digby Knight opened, 1669*
*A Complete Body of Husbandry, T Hale 1756*
*Leicester and Rutland, W White, 1877*
*Dairy Farming, J P Sheldon, 1884*
*V.C.H. Rutland, 1908, 1935*
*Cheeses of the World, A L Simon, 1956*
*Cheese and Cheese Cookery, T A Layton, 1967*
*The History of Stilton Cheese, T Hickman, 1995*
The Parish of Barwell and the Titley Family

Gerald T. Rimmington

Visitors to the Barwell Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin are usually impressed by the various inscriptions of the Titley name. There is a family vault outside the east end of the building. There are three stained glass windows and two plaques in the chancel dedicated to members of the family. The pulpit has the name of a Titley carved on it. The list of rectors on the west wall includes the names of two members of the family who between them served the parish of Barwell with Stapleton and Potters Marston continuously from 1865 to 1942. The fiftieth rector, working his way round the parish in the early 1990s was left in no doubt that older parishioners considered the Titley era a golden age in the life of the church.

The Reverend Richard Titley, son of Edward Titley of Gorton in Lancashire, was born on the 24th August 1830. He was educated privately at home before entrance to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1852, from which he graduated in 1856. Ordained deacon in Lichfield diocese on leaving university, and priest in the following year, he served curacies at Tamworth (1856-59) and Liverpool St. Nicholas (1859-65). In the meantime, in 1856, he had married Mary Ellen Gardner, daughter of a wealthy merchant and former Lord Mayor of Liverpool.¹

By 1865 Titley was thirty-five years old, a married man, with three children.² A curate's stipend in perpetuity was not attractive. He had been an assistant curate for nine years, and it had begun to look as if he was to be like so many curates of the time, spending the rest of his working life in penury. The Reverend J. J. Halcombe, rector of Balsham, Cambridge, informed the Church Congress held in Leicester in 1880 that 'although we have confessedly far fewer clergy than we require, and although the increase in the rate of ordination has failed to keep pace with the increase of our population, we nevertheless have more clergy than we can provide for....very many live and die as curates receiving a stipend which....reaches a maximum of £140 a year at the end of 20 years' service'.³ For many clergymen, however, even the acquirement of a benefice did not necessarily improve matters. Of 10,251 benefices in England and Wales in 1835 some 4,882 (47%) had at that time incomes which were below £150.⁴ In Leicestershire there were 24 livings with incomes below £100 in 1851. The median income in the county was £260 in 1861.⁵ C. K. F. Brown concluded that 'the curate who was not blessed with outstanding ability or means or family influence stood a poor chance of promotion',⁶ if by promotion
was meant acquiring a living with a reasonable income. Apart from the fact that he graduated four years after his entrance to Cambridge, nothing is known of Titley’s academic ability. He was a well-educated man, but was not notable as a scholar. He made no contributions to knowledge. None of his sermons was ever published, in an age when many sermons appeared in print. Concluding, therefore, that, though very capable, he was not sufficiently outstanding to be able to secure one of the relatively few livings in the gift of a bishop or to gain admittance to the staff of a cathedral or to become an Oxbridge college fellow, it was obvious that the only means of advancement was through the wealth of his and his wife’s family. In some parishes the advowson, giving the right to nominate the incumbent, had become a marketable commodity. Some of those who purchased them were aspiring clergymen. Of the 6,228 livings in private patronage in 1878, 753 (12%) had clergymen who acted as both patron and incumbent. Another 599 had patrons and incumbents with the same surname. In a profession where the career structure was uncertain it offered a reasonable, if disputed, means by which a clergyman could pursue his career objectives.

The advowson at Barwell had changed hands a number of times. From 1756 to 1803 it was in the hands of the Ashby family, wealthy landowners, one of whom had built Quenby Hall. William Ashby of Thorpe Sachville presented his sons Richard (1756) and Samuel (1756-1778) in turn. Thereafter Samuel Ashby’s widow Elizabeth presented Matthew Bloxam (1779-1786), James Chambers (1787-1790), Simon Adams (1790-1803), before giving the advowson to George Mettam (1803-1853) as a dowry on the day of his marriage to her daughter Frances. Mettam sold the advowson for £14,000 to Christopher Barrow, Esq., in 1840. On Mettam’s death Barrow duly presented his son Christopher Brome Barrow to the living, and signed over the advowson to him in 1862.

Barrow, though married twice, appears to have been childless. The 1861 Census Returns show him, a man of 47 years, with a wife, Caroline Isabella, aged 31 years, living in the rectory with his retired parents and six servants. It was not important, therefore, to keep the advowson in the family. It is possible that he became depressed by the economic and social problems in Barwell, and decided to return to Somerset whence he came. It was probably more advantageous to sell the advowson, re-investing the money in property, while acquiring another incumbency. For a man who was a Scholar at Cambridge during 1831-3 it was not difficult to gain preferment to another living. The facts show that he sold the advowson to Richard Titley in 1865, and removed himself to the living of Langridge, where he remained as rector until retirement in 1878.
Richard Titley was fortunate to be able, as patron, to present himself as rector of Barwell with Stapleton and Potters Marston. The annual value of the living at the time was £1,100. In the whole country there were no more than 184 livings (1.8%) with incomes over £1,000. In Leicestershire there were no livings with incomes higher than that at Barwell. Thus it was possible for Titley to make adequate provision for his growing family. The 1871 Census Returns show him as a man of forty years, with a wife and six of his seven children ranging in age from ten to two years. He employed a nurse, a cook, a waitress, a housemaid and a nursery-maid, all of whom lived with the family in the rectory.

Titley was also fortunate in that the pastoral situation had been improved over the past sixty years. During the eighteenth century there had been several absentee rectors. Matthew Bloxam (1779-1786) never lived in Barwell, which he held in plurality with Bourton-on-the-hill (Gloucestershire). Moreover, neither of his immediate successors, James Chambers (1787-1790) and Simon Adams (1790-1803), appeared to have had much interest in the parish other than as a source of income. The former was also rector of Stretton-in-the-field; the latter held Ousden in Suffolk. Mettam, regarded as a personal friend by the historian John Nichols, and who held Arnesby in plurality, lived in Barwell in the rectory built in 1764 by his wife's kinsman, William Ashby, for the whole of the fifty years of his incumbency.

Three years after his institution he became a justice of the peace. By the time of his death in 1853, in his 85th year, he was clearly a very substantial landowner in Barwell; as late as 1870 the Trustees of his estate were still listed among the chief landowners in the parish. His successor, Barrow, seems also to have been a faithful pastor during his twelve years in the parish. He saw that the parish church was 'thoroughly restored and much improved in 1854'.

Titley may have felt himself fortunate also in that the feudal structure of the village had practically disappeared. There was for a time a titular Lord of the Manor, Colonel T. H. Pearson, but he was no longer among the principal landowners. The Manor House was occupied by Jabez Dalton, a farmer. Beyond 1870 the directories no longer mention the Lord of the Manor. This gave the rector the prime position in Barwell society. It was not long before he found himself a justice of the peace, a responsibility which he much valued and continued to exercise for the rest of his life.

By this time there was considerable opposition to the combination of clergyman and law officer, not only from dissenters and radical politicians, but also from the clergy themselves, many of whom deemed it improper for a parish minister 'to mediate both the forgiveness of God and the punishment of the State'.

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Charles James Blomfield, the incumbent of Dunton, became a magistrate in 1813; it was said that ‘the farmers of the parish long remembered how his union of magisterial and ministerial authority had kept them in order’. But later, as a bishop, he was to repent of his previous activity and to disapprove of the combination of roles in other clergy. On the other hand, one has to recall that in the 1850s and 1860s, following the publication of Marx and Engels’ *Communist Manifesto* (1848) and Marx’s *Zur Kritik der Politischen Ökonomie* (1859) there was considerable fear that there would be a serious breakdown in law and order. Indeed, there was so much fear of insurrection that Bertrand Russell’s grandfather, lying near death in 1869, interpreted a commotion in the street outside his London home as the beginning of the revolution. It is to Titley’s credit that, though he always championed the cause of law and order, being frequently on the bench at Hinckley and Market Bosworth, he nevertheless identified in various ways with people who suffered because of economic depression. However, it is likely that his combination of roles, as well as his political activity, was responsible for his failure to achieve any further preferment, other than the rural deanship, to which he was appointed when over 70 years old.

Titley had a genuine concern for the poor, and it may have been the challenge of a depressed community that was at least partly responsible for his entrance upon the Barwell scene. The traditional staple industry in the Hinckley Urban District was framework knitting. High densities of population in Hinckley, Barwell, Burbage, Earl Shilton and Sapcote were attributable to this source of income. For most of the century the industry had been in recession, and the numbers engaged in it had tended to be retained by workspeading, the custom by which hosiers shared out the work among framework knitters in order to gain the maximum income from frame rents, to the detriment of the workers’ incomes. Since the Hinckley area specialised in cotton hosiery it was particularly hard hit by the ‘cotton famine’ caused by the American civil war. The whole area was plunged into poverty. People were tending to emigrate from Barwell if they could. The population of the village declined from 1,613 in 1861 to 1,303 in 1871.

Titley responded to the situation in a number of ways. It has been commented that the majority of Victorian country parsons ‘rejoiced in the fact that their parsonage was a hive of activity, the centre and focus point of the entire village community committed to their charge’. Even in the semi-urbanised village of Barwell this was true of Titley and his formidable wife, Mary Ellen, whose ‘rectory became a centre for the social life of the area’. It was said of the rector that ‘he was always careful to relieve and alleviate others in their sorrows. He would cheer and comfort, and console others needing his help’. Dr. H. A. James, the headmaster of Rugby School, who was a personal friend, added that
'he held the emoluments of his living as a trust for his people' and that 'the doors of that hospitable house were ever open to parishioners and friends'.

James also, however, emphasised that Titley was neither 'a mere philanthropist' nor 'simply a faithful priest', for 'sympathy with him was never suffered to over-ride common sense', and that 'he showed the mind, within the limits prescribed by circumstances, of a statesman'. Titley decided that, in order to change matters for the good of his people, he would need to enter politics. He was elected to the Board of Guardians, the Hinckley Urban District Council, the Parish Council, and, after the formation of the County Council in 1889, he was appointed to the position of alderman.

Through his position as a member of local government councils Titley was able to give practical help to some of the poorer members of the community. Many of the cobbled pavements and paths were built or repaired by workless men. Through his initiative a water supply was laid on to the village and drainage installed. Where necessary, however, he was prepared to finance some projects himself. Several cottages were built for homeless people at his own expense; he sold them later on a non-profitmaking basis.

Titley also gave encouragement and active support to the Harwell Co-operative Society, which he helped to found in the early 1870s, and regularly to preside at its annual meetings. In 1904 he was able to speak 'of the progress of the movement since its establishment in the village....during which time he had lent it his heartiest support'.

Probably the greatest achievement of Titley's ministry was the building and setting up of the National School, which also has to be seen as another means of helping the poor and maintaining law and order. On his arrival in Barwell there was a free school in existence, built after public subscription in 1845. It had been set up under the terms of the Alderman Newton's charity, from which £20 16s was received annually for the education of twenty poor boys, who were 'clothed in green, once in two years'. Thomas Jelley, the master, who had Mary Clamp, a market gardener's wife, as his assistant, was allowed to take in other pupils, who had to pay a fee. This school was probably adequate for the village before 1870.

The Elementary Education Act 1870 changed everything. Every town and parish was required to make plans for the education of every child between three and thirteen years. Schools could be voluntary (normally administered by the Church) or they could be opened and administered by an elected school board where the Church could not make adequate provision. There were few school boards in Leicestershire villages. In 1896 there were 247 voluntary...
schools with 44,961 pupils, but only 61 board schools with 32,072 pupils. Titley was determined that, since the existing school was not satisfactory, the new school would also be a voluntary school under church auspices. Anticipating the legislation he bought 1,224 square yards of land on the High Street, where there was a house divided into two tenements, for £200 on the 6th October 1869. Two years later he sold it to the parish for a school, at which 'the principal officiating minister ....shall have the superintendance of the religious and moral instruction of all the scholars attending such School....and may use or direct the premises to be used for the purposes of a Sunday School under his exclusive control and management'. Two years later the school was open, providing accommodation for 400 children, under the tutelage of Thomas Newton. The school was enlarged in 1885 and 1895, so that accommodation was increased to 480. By 1900 the school had an average attendance of 180 infants and 320 older pupils and was in the charge of John Batty Elwell, a highly rated teacher who remained at the school for 42 years. All of this was superintended by Titley, who acted as correspondent and made himself responsible for its finances.

The school was a source of great pride to the rector, whose relationship with Elwell was one of mutual respect and friendship. In 1897 Titley distributed certificates and prizes to the Science and Art class, stating that it showed Barwell 'was taking a leading line in the direction of social improvement and intellectual development....Mr. Elwell was an enthusiastic art teacher; his qualifications in that branch of education were such as few teachers in the country could boast, and he had the knack of imparting the same enthusiasm to his pupils. Hence their success'.

In addition, however, Elwell was a faithful servant of the Church. When he was presented with a clock and purse of £20 to recognise his 25 years as headmaster, Titley acknowledged with gratitude 'the very valuable voluntary assistance you have rendered in superintending the Sunday School, in playing the organ, and in the practical interest you have taken in the musical services of the Parish Church'.

Richard Titley had a number of advantages. A father figure, with an impressively long beard, and a face which, even in sombre moments, appeared to be ready to break into a smile, he was physically strong, so that 'he was able for many years to discharge his duties in the parish and in the county with courage, perseverance and success'. Despite all his many activities he was able nevertheless to relax. He was said to be a gifted artist, who produced many sketches of merit. He was well read, and enjoyed poetry. He visited 'most of the countries in Europe'. Moreover he was able to rely upon good work habits; 'his diligence, punctuality and regularity were proverbial'.
He was also able to call upon a great deal of support. There were always assistant curates to help in pastoral work. In 1870 there was one assistant, the Reverend W. Y. S. Ison, B.A.\textsuperscript{43} Five years later Ison had been joined by two others, Charles Vaughan and Edward M. David, B.A.\textsuperscript{44} For the last twelve years of his ministry he could call upon the services of his youngest son, Alfred.

The family members were the principal supporters in parish and community. There were five sons and two daughters. The eldest son, also named Richard, became Railway Chaplain in Lahore, and died of typhus when only thirty-one years. Lionel Gardner Titley became vicar of Westacre (Norfolk). William is believed to have become a businessman in Liverpool. By 1900 four children remained in Barwell. Charles Edward, who was 33 years old, had been described in the 1891 Census Return as an ‘unadmitted solicitor’. He does not appear to have been gainfully employed. The two daughters - Lilian (39) and Louisa (36) - were also supported by their father, but were towers of strength within parish and community. Lilian, in particular, was very active. On New Year’s Day, 1895, she was presented with a ‘pearl and diamond necklet, a diamond and sapphire bracelet, and a letter’ to make the ‘completion of your tenth year of devoted and earnest work in connection with the organ and choir’.\textsuperscript{45} She and Louisa were also involved in the Sunday school and the Girls’ Friendly Society. Both sisters were concerned as well with the work of the Barwell and District Nursing Association, which Lilian had been the leader in forming and developing. She had become honorary secretary when the association was formed in 1898, and continued in that position for fourteen years, during which she claimed that ‘it (the association) had done incalculable good....in saving life and alleviating suffering’. An illuminated address presented to her in 1912, when she became honorary secretary of the Leicestershire Nursing Association, confirmed that she had been the moving spirit, and that many parishioners remembered her visits ‘as rays of sunshine in the hour of darkness and need’.\textsuperscript{46} Louisa, who took over her sister’s role vis-a-vis the Barwell and District Nursing Association, was always in evidence when flower arranging was needed.\textsuperscript{47} Alfred John Gardner Titley, the youngest member of the family, as has been mentioned, became his father’s assistant curate.

The Titleys were not alone, of course, in their work for the parish, but, because they worked so hard and enthusiastically themselves, others were inspired. Mention has already been made of the schoolmaster Elwell. There was also Geoffrey Geary, manager and secretary of the Barwell Co-operative Society, who taught in Sunday school for many years. Alex Beale and Henry Frisby were capable churchwardens who served for many years.\textsuperscript{48} Even more important was the parish clerk, John Needham, who served throughout Titley’s long ministry, and was an invaluable assistant. A presentation made to Needham in his 95th
year, recognised his 75 years of service to the parish, 51 years of which were as parish clerk, during which time he had officiated at over 3,000 baptisms, 600 marriages and 2,600 funerals, and had never been known to be late.49

Unlike his predecessor, who had experienced economic depression that became even worse during his time, Titley was fortunate in that during the final decades of the nineteenth century the situation changed completely. In 1865, as herald of the changes, Corah's opened the St. Margaret's hosiery factory in Leicester, using steam power that competed satisfactorily with the stocking frame.50 This ensured that stocking frames throughout the county were phased out as other new hosiery factories began to appear. There were 29 such factories in Leicestershire in 1877.51 By 1900 there were two hosiery manufacturers in Barwell, employing mainly female labour.52 The gap left by the gradual disappearance of the framework knitter was, however, filled by the development of the footwear industry, which was mainly a workshop industry until after 1890, when the bulk of the boots and shoes were made in factories.53 By 1881 it had overtaken hosiery in terms of numbers employed, and had begun to spread beyond the confines of Leicester.54 The first shoe factory in Barwell opened in 1877.55 By 1888 there were eight shoe manufacturers, two of whom described themselves as wholesale manufacturers.56 The number had increased to sixteen in 1900, and Kelly's Directory for that year states that 'boots and shoes are largely manufactured here'. Titley observed, with obvious relief, in 1903 that 'the staple trade of our village is and is likely to continue very active, and all engaged in it are fully employed.... We have cause for great thankfulness to Almighty God, and we cannot shew our gratitude better than by constant attendance to our religious duties, by the moderate use of the good gifts he has given us, by maintaining a charitable disposition towards all men and in all things, and by the consistency of our lives'.57

This increasingly favourable economic climate enabled Titley to turn his attention more to the improvement of St. Mary's Church. He and the churchwardens had had to take action in 1877 when the tower was found to be in urgent need of repair. Yet the opportunity was taken to go beyond repair, and to install a new clock and to increase the ring of bells from four to six. The cost of £700 was met by donations from Titley himself (£150 guineas), Mrs. Titley (£50 guineas) and Mrs. Titley's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Gardner (£75), and many smaller donations from parishioners. At the dedication of the new bells Titley was pleased to be able to state that 'the working classes have contributed freely towards these improvements'.58

A further improvement initiated by Titley was the re-equipping of the chancel with new choir stalls in 1905, a project which aroused great interest in the parish, because all the carving which embellished them was executed by
members of the church, in county council classes conducted by Mr. Birch of Leicester. Among those contributing to the carving were not only the churchwardens and other prominent church members, but also three members of the Titley family, Alfred, the assistant curate, and his two sisters. At the dedication it was noted that the stalls were ‘made to harmonise with the style of the windows, and are carved with a frieze in front, of a vine pattern, with oak and acorns between’, and that they were ‘exceedingly well carved’.  

As far as services were concerned Titley was not a great innovator, though he moved with the times. By the 1860s most clergy who officiated in substantial communities where there were also dissenting chapels were careful to have at least two Sunday services, morning and evening prayer, partly in order to discourage parishioners from dividing their religious observance by attending the parish church in the morning and the chapel in the evening. Like most industrialised villages Barwell had its chapels. Titley had arrived to discover that there were already Primitive and Wesleyan Methodist chapels in existence. Soon after 1900 the former was rebuilt with 500 sittings; the latter was rebuilt also with 700 sittings. ‘Double duty’ was, therefore, very important.

The pattern of quarterly communion was also in process of change. By the 1860s it was becoming normal to have monthly communions. By 1903, when the parish magazine was initiated, the pattern was to have morning and evening services at 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., with communion celebrated twice a month, on the first Sunday at 11 a.m. in conjunction with morning prayer, and on the third Sunday at 8.30 a.m. There was a children’s service on the first Sunday in the month at 3 p.m.

Little is known of Titley’s ability as a preacher. C. K. F. Brown has suggested that ‘not much can be said of the....sermons preached from country pulpits....the art of preaching seems but rarely to have flourished, when the discourse was merely a routine part of the service’. It is perhaps significant that Dr. H. A. James, who conducted Titley’s funeral in 1909, did not mention his preaching at all, though he alluded to many fine characteristics of the man. The newspaper obituary summed up his preaching in one enigmatic sentence: ‘His sermons were logical and convincing, based on the Bible, and his strict and unflinching adherence to true reverence prevented him from introducing the anecdote or any other artifice as an aid to effect or to gain popularity’.

Three years before his death Richard Titley made his will. It is possible that he had some doubts about his youngest son. Or there may have been family jealousies. For although Alfred had already served as his assistant curate for nine years he did not entrust him with the advowson, instead bequeathing it to his widow, Mary Ellen, who was to remain as patron until her own death. Alfred
had to be content to be left the sum of fifty pounds, like his siblings. Nevertheless Mary Ellen nominated Alfred as rector, and presented him at the induction 28th July 1909.

Alfred himself also must have had some doubts about his own capacity to succeed his father. Writing at the time of his induction he admitted that 'it must be some time before I can hope to win anything approaching the personal affection and trust so freely bestowed upon my esteemed Father. I ask for your prayers.' These doubts never quite left him.

In fact Alfred was very well qualified to succeed his father, as his inductor, the Reverend W. P. Hurrell, vicar of Hinckley, acknowledged. He said that 'it was a happy condition for the parishioners to have sent to them a son of such a worthy father, whose ministry during a period of over 40 years had produced such happy and fruitful results. The son had grown in their midst from childhood; he had been well proved and tested during the years he had carried out the sacred duties to his father, and they might rely upon the work being continued exactly as before.'

Alfred had in fact a number of advantages. He was well educated, having attended Bury St. Edmunds and Rossall Schools and Pembroke College, Cambridge, graduating in 1890. He had served as an assistant Curate at Selhurst (Surrey) from 1891 to 1897. So that by the time he became rector of Barwell with Stapleton and Potters Marston he was a man of 41 years with eighteen years of pastoral experience. Moreover he was endowed with a magnificent physique; he was a tall man with a robust constitution like his father's. He had a sterner face, but was nevertheless affable, and easily broke into a smile.

Alfred was also a capable preacher, particularly on matters of practicality. The parish magazine noted that on July 14th, 1912, the morning sermon 'was preached by the Rector, who in his usual vigorous and convincing style pleaded for support for our schools, which guaranteed to each child an education in

Canon Alfred Titley, the first Barwell-born man to become Rector of Barwell.
moral and religious training which was the only sure foundation of character and virtue'. On another occasion, in response to a fever epidemic he assured parishioners that 'we may rest assured God will so rule the future events of our lives that they will be good for us both in this life and in the life to come, if we will put our trust in Him. For we have the greatest assurances of His love and care for us.... He sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him'.

He was always well-prepared. He used notes. On the few occasions when the sermon was longer than usual, Robert Martin, the village policeman, who was also a member of the choir, began to jingle coins in his pocket when ten minutes had elapsed. His obituary writer referred to 'the strong resonant voice, which he could modulate so beautifully, the quality of clarity of thought and expression in his sermons from which one always brought away something really striking and helpful'.

Despite the Reverend W. P. Hurrell's expectation that the younger Titley's ministry would proceed 'exactly as before' there was really no likelihood of that happening. For times had changed. A succession of bad harvests in the 1870s, and increased competition from imported American wheat depressed agriculture and ensured that the financial stability of the clergy was undermined during the final decades of the nineteenth century. So that even before Richard Titley's death the clerical income at Barwell had been reduced. In 1881 it was reckoned to be about £900; by 1900 it was about £700. In 1905 the churchwardens decided for the first time that the Easter offerings would be given to the clergy.

Consequently Alfred Titley's life was never lived on the same scale as in his childhood. Whereas Richard had been a 'gentleman' driven around by his coachman, Charles Belton, Alfred was more often seen on his bicycle. For a few years, until 1916, he was surrounded by family members, but after his mother went to live in Leamington, taking Lilian, Louisa and Charles with her, there was only a small nuclear family, consisting of himself, his wife Constance Fetherston Wolseley of King's Norton (who had been courted for twelve years before their marriage in 1902), and their only child, John. In place of the three live-in servants employed by Richard in 1891 (a reduction from five in 1871) Alfred managed with Miss Kate Cox, a very capable housekeeper, and Charles Belton, Richard's coachman, who was wholly employed as the gardener. The maintenance of the rectory, by then a crumbling edifice, only half inhabited, must have become a considerable burden.

Alfred's pattern of operations had been determined mainly by his twelve years as his father's assistant. While Richard had been much occupied with council meetings and his work on the magisterial bench as well as performing his ruridecanal duties, Alfred had been patiently working in the parish, conducting
services and engaging in pastoral work. It was probably this, as well as his marked unwillingness to be involved in the political arena, which suggested to his father's successor as rural dean that the parish would continue exactly as before. Perhaps also there was the realisation that Alfred had been de facto priest-in-charge during the period of illness that preceded Richard's death.

Even during his curacy, however, Alfred was not entirely without innovation. For it was he who initiated and edited the parish magazine from 1903. It was not an original idea, but it was an important one, for it kept in touch many people no longer able to attend services because of age and infirmity. It is also, in the present day, an invaluable source of information for the historian. Alfred also initiated a Men's Bible Class, which met every Tuesday evening in his own home.

His wife, Constance, was also an initiator. She not only assisted Mary Ellen Titley with the newly instituted Mothers' Meetings in 1903, but was certainly the instigator and organiser of them, as well as being the founder of the Mothers' Union branch. She also began a Girls' Recreation Class for girls over sixteen years of age, which met initially in the room over the Coffee House fortnightly on Thursdays at 8 p.m., and which was so successful that in one month it had acquired 60 members and had had to change its venue to the school.

The year after Alfred's induction there was a perceptible quickening in the life of the parish. He initiated the first Sunday School Treat, as a means of taking the church to the people. A contemporary account states that 'they assembled to the number of nearly 500 at the schools, at 3 p.m., and headed by the Hinckley Excelsior Brass Band, paraded the village. At convenient places hymns were sung very sweetly by the children, and at 4 p.m. the younger members adjourned to the Rectory lawn, and the older members to the Co-operative Hall.
for tea'. Thereafter there were sports from 6 p.m. till nightfall in the High Close.84

In the following year there was a presentation of Stainer’s ‘Crucifixion’ on Good Friday.85 Plans were also made for a new organ, to be supplied by Nicholson and Lord of Walsall at a net cost of £550, the rector’s committee coming to the conclusion ‘that the new organ ought to be built on the newest and approved lines, with tubular pneumatic action throughout’ and that it should be ‘splendidly balanced, rich in tone, and in every way worthy of the honourable position it will occupy’.86 A bazaar was held to raise money for the project, at which ‘Mr. Church’s Quadrille Band had played on the first day’ and all stalls had sold out an hour before the end; it raised more than £300.87 The organ was dedicated by the Bishop of Peterborough in 1912.88

So many activities had developed since Alfred had become the rector that there was a need for premises other than the school, which could not accommodate them all. In 1913 Alfred called a meeting at the school, which was well attended, to discuss a proposal for a church institute. He had laid his plans well. A site had been chosen opposite the school. The land belonged to the living. His mother as patron had given her consent. He was prepared to give the land for this purpose. He had even been to London to see the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and ‘he had been furnished with a Form or Legal Document which would arrange the formalities of the bequest’. He explained that, although the site was intended as a free gift, he had to make a nominal charge of £5. In response to Alfred’s offer the schoolmaster John Elwell remarked that ‘in a flourishing place like Barwell, where land centrally situated was worth a high price, it must have been a great temptation to place the land on the market and get the highest value for it. It was refreshing to feel that there were still men who were prepared to make sacrifices for the good of the community’.89

The outbreak of war in 1914 prevented the immediate building of the institute, but in 1920 Mary Ellen Titley, then an octogenarian, laid the foundation stone in memory of her husband, while the rector’s sister Louisa laid a second stone in memory of fifteen members of Geoffrey Geary’s senior class lost in the war.90 The institute hall doors were opened in 1921.91 Alfred summed up his efforts by declaring that ‘the biggest joy in my life is to do something well’ 92

Alfred endeared himself to parishioners through the institute and several other things. He was sympathetic to people in trouble. He visited hospitals to see people who were sick.93 He and his wife accompanied 87 church members on an outing by train to Skegness in 1922.94 Moreover, he was not afraid to urge the responsibilities of church membership. In 1921 he appealed for Sunday schoolteachers, saying that ‘surely there are members....who could give up an
hour each Sunday to this splendid work, and who, at the present time are doing nothing to help the Church’s work in the parish’.\textsuperscript{95} In the following year, faced by necessary church repairs and redecorating, he wrote, on behalf of the parochial church council, to everyone on the electoral roll to ask each person to contribute an additional shilling each month, stressing that ‘the Council appeal for your support and assistance in their efforts, and trust you will realise that privilege of membership carries with it the duty of responsibility’.\textsuperscript{96} In 1923 Alfred attended to the dedication of the village war memorial, and it was commented that ‘his address, clearly and carefully enunciated, was worthy of the day and the occasion’.\textsuperscript{97}

Like his father, Alfred added little to the liturgical arrangements. Apart from extending the number of communions, so that there was one every Sunday, the service times remained as they had been earlier. He was, however, particularly keen to remind parishioners each year, as he had done when he was the assistant curate, ‘of the rubric requiring parishioners to communicate at least three times a year, one of which should be Easter’. He advised them also to use the opportunity of Lent to get ready: ‘Prepare carefully. Thank God afterwards. Find out what your faults are. Fix on one and try to correct it’.\textsuperscript{98} Lenten preparation was further encouraged by ‘lantern services’ on Wednesday evenings through the season, on topics like ‘The Voice of the Prophets’, ‘The Voice of the Martyrs’, ‘The Voice of the Church’, ‘The Voice of Ourselves’, and ‘The Voice of the Earth’.

There can be no doubt that he set a high standard in worship. It was said that ‘there was a beauty, orderliness and dignity in the services which compelled reverence and helped the worshippers to feel that they could and did “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness”’.\textsuperscript{100}

Whereas Richard Titley had never been without one or more assistant curates Alfred’s financial situation was such that for the whole of this thirty-three years as rector he had no ordained assistance. At times there was concern about his health. In 1915 there were 250 communicants at the Easter services, and it was noted that ‘the Rector, who conducted all the services, as well as those at Stapleton Church, must have had a very exacting time’. It was hoped ‘that his physical fitness will suffer no loss from the efforts that he puts forth in the manifold calls that are inevitable on the powers of the Rector of a large and important parish’.\textsuperscript{101} Consequently he welcomed help from time to time, as when there was an eight-day visit by Captain Williams, ‘a young man of wonderful energy’, with the Peterborough Division Church Army van. The mission ended on a Sunday evening, when ‘the whole congregation marched down from the church four abreast, headed by the choir, to the top of the village, where in the large open space a massed service was held, illustrated by lantern pictures’.\textsuperscript{102}
Alfred’s greater concern for church activities brought him more recognition than his father had enjoyed. At a confirmation service near the end of the first world war, Dr. Norman MacLeod Lang, the Suffragan Bishop of Leicester, paid tribute, in his sermon, to ‘the many evidences of earnest Church services; the healthy Church activities and hearty co-operation with other churches to foster and develop the religious life of the community, especially in the successful efforts…on behalf of war duties and responsibilities’. After the creation of the Diocese of Leicester in the post-war years he was rewarded by appointment as an honorary canon of Leicester Cathedral in 1934.

With Alfred’s death in 1942 at the age of 74 years came the passing of an age. For the first time in 77 years the rectorship would not be in the hands of a member of the Titley family, though the (non-resident) patrons would continue to be descendants. Richard Titley had seen Harwell through from poverty and a measure of depopulation to prosperity and an increasing population as the footwear industry developed. It was perhaps a fitting symbol of the conclusion of his social concerns that the year of his death was also the year of the commencement of old age pensions, which he regarded as ‘a provision by the State of which all who require it may justly, and without hesitation avail themselves of’. Alfred Titley, faced by general prosperity that was neither interrupted by the first world war nor by the inter-war depressions, was able to use his pastoral gifts to the full. After his death it was remembered that ‘for everyone he met he always had a cheery smile and greeting’, that ‘he was always happy among the children’, and that as chairman of the parochial church council ‘he was always genial, with a humorous eye on the clock in order to expedite business, and he kept the peace magnificently’.

The conclusion of Alfred Titley’s ministry was also the passing of an age in another sense. The Benefices Act of 1898 had already made the public auctions of advowsons illegal, except where they attached to an estate of at least one hundred acres close by, and strengthened the rights of bishops to refuse to institute clergy presented by patrons. An amendment of the Act in 1923 specifically abolished the right of clergy patrons to present themselves to a living. This meant in Barwell that the Titley experience was unique; it could never be repeated.
Notes and references

The author acknowledges with thanks the assistance given Mr. Howard Green, Mr. Thomas C. Belton and Mr. Richard J. W. Titley.

2. Census Returns, 1871.
10. *Crockford's Clerical Directory* (1870) shows that the patron of Langridge was Col. Blathwyk, presumably a relative of the previous patron and incumbent, W. T. Blathwyk. Net income was about £115, the population 101. Also *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*, 169.
13. Thompson, 262.
27. Hall and Green, 45.
30. Hall and Green, *loc. cit.*

34. Leicestershire Record Office DE 29/3 Richard Titley - party to deed re land in Barwell, 6.10.1869.

35. Leicestershire Record Office DE 29/2/1. Richard Titley party to deed re land in Barwell. 11.9.1871.

36. Directory (1875), 34.
39. H. Green's newspapers cuttings, 30.1.1897. Mr. Green's scrapbook contains many cuttings with useful information, but often without the name of the newspaper.

40. Hinckley Echo, 5.1.1904.
41. Hinckley Times and Bosworth Herald, 24.4.1909.
42. Leicester Journal, 23.4.1909.
43. Directory (1870), 379.
44. Directory (1875), 34.
45. Hinckley Echo, 5.1.1895.
46. H. Green's newspaper cuttings, 1916.
47. Barwell Parish Magazine, January 1903.

48. Frisby has a west window in the parish church dedicated to him in recognition of his long service. Beale resigned in 1919 after 38 years as rector's warden. See Ibid., May 1919.

49. H. Green's newspaper cuttings. From 1793 until 1961 the parish clerkship was in the hands of a member of the Needham family. Thomas Needham died in 1828 at the age of 77 years after 35 years as parish clerk. One of his sons, Joseph, died in 1836 at the age of 41 years after eight years as clerk. Another son, John, died in 1857, aged 73 years, after 21 years in office. Thomas's grandson, John, died in 1903, after 51 years as clerk, at the age of 96 years. The sequence was broken in 1961 with the demise of Joseph Needham. The details for those who served from 1793 to 1903 are inscribed on a tombstone in the parish church.


51. Chandler, 120.
52. Kelly's Directory (1900), 33.
55. Thompson, 90.
58. Hall and Green, 45.
59. H. Green's newspaper cuttings.
60. Frances Knight, The Nineteenth-Century Church and English Society (Cambridge University Press, 1995), 76-79.
61. Directory (1861), 177.
63. Knight, 80.
64. Barwell Parish Magazine, January 1903.
65. Brown, 158.
68. Hall and Green, 49-50.
70. From a conversation with the late Miss Kathleen Belton.
71. H. Green’s newspaper cuttings.
73. *Barwell Parish Magazine*, January 1912.
74. Information supplied by Mr. Thomas C. Belton.
75. *Barwell Parish Magazine*, June 1912.
77. *Kelly’s Directory* (1881), 33, and *Kelly’s Directory* (1900), 487.
79. Census Returns, 1871 and 1891, and information supplied by Mr. Thomas C. Belton.
80. Alfred Titley was, however, never in quite the unhappy situation of the rector of Slapton, who complained in 1833 that he had been ‘brought to a condition of absolute ruin by being compelled to rebuild his parsonage’. Quoted in Knight, 137.
81. For instance, the new parish of St. Peter’s in Leicester had a parish magazine as early as 1879, five years after its formation.
82. *Barwell Parish Magazine*, October 1903.
84. *Ibid.*, August 1910
104. *Alumni Cantabriqiensis*, 196.
105. H. Green’s newspaper cuttings, 1.1.1909.
107. Knight, 162.
108. Chadwick, 213, n.2.
Charles of Bennion of Thurnby - Entrepreneur and Environmentalist

J Mayberry

Charles Bennion was a product of the Victorian era. However, his donation of Bradgate Park to the people of Leicestershire has ensured his place in the pantheon of the county's great. A modest man, he refused all public honours and continued to work at his desk in the British United Shoe Machinery offices in Belgrave until his death in 1929. What were the factors which brought him to Leicester and led him to control much of the shoe machinery industry in the first part of the twentieth century?

Early Life

Charles Bennion was born on October 18th 1856 in Cheshire. His father was a farmer and in his 40s at the time of Charles' birth. During those early years the young boy spent much of his time with the local blacksmith tinkering with machinery. At the age of 14 he left Audlem Grammar School and took on an apprenticeship with the London & North Western Railway at its Crewe works. From there he went to work as a journeyman with a marine engineers in Greenwich. This led directly to his going to sea and acquiring a Board of Trade certificate as a second engineer. His time at sea was short but had a profound effect on Charles. He was to refer to it often throughout his life and described sea conditions as being "a dog's life." In later years as an employer he was always interested in the personal welfare of his employees and their families. This was to include the provision of recreational facilities and the encouragement of a credit union.

Into Business

Charles did not enjoy his time at sea and soon returned to a partnership in an engineering company in Cheshire. It was not a success and at the age of 26 he set out for Leicester. The choice

Portrait of Charles Bennion by Grenville Eves.
seems to have been opportunistic following a chance encounter with a friend on the streets of Nantwich. Thomas Bennion bought his son a partnership in a small engineering firm but Charles had over-valued the company and it could so easily have been another failure. However, within a year his partner was dead and Charles became sole owner of Merry & Bennion. He moved the shoe machinery manufacturing company to Blue Boar Lane. Over the next twenty years he was to convert the firm into one of the leading engineers in Leicester and make it part of a powerful multi-national company.

One of the first steps on this programme was amalgamation with William Pearson & Co., a company based in Leeds. Pearson & Bennion Ltd acted as agents for the main American producers of automated shoe machinery - the Consolidated Hand Lasting Machine Company. However, there were a number of other players in the field and Goodyear had its own operation in Northamptonshire. The threat to Pearson & Bennion was serious when the three main American companies came together in 1899 to found the United Shoe Machinery Company. Who would be their representative in Britain? Charles Bennion sailed to Boston, Massachusetts and completed negotiations with Sydney Winslow to form the British United Shoe Machinery Company. The majority holding was in the hands of the Americans but BUSM would function largely as an independent company under the direction of Charles Bennion.

*The Grange, Thumby, demolished in 1996.*
BUSM would **lease** rather than sell equipment. Shoe manufacturers paid according to the amount a machine was used and this was monitored by counters attached to individual pieces of equipment. The monopoly was strengthened by **Full Capacity and Tied Lease** clauses which restricted the purchase or hiring of equipment from other manufacturers. In order to maintain their lead in the field BUSM provided a high-quality service of the equipment that they leased to shoe manufacturers. Engineers were on standby at all times with depots throughout the country. Engineers were aware of the problems experienced by their clients and the company had an active research and development policy to overcome them. In addition Charles encouraged his son Claud to train in the law with Bristows, Cook and Carpmael, a firm of solicitors who specialised in patent law.

**Social Commitment**

Charles Bennion took an active interest in social welfare. In 1892 he became Conservative councillor for Newton ward in central Leicester. He supported the purchase of Western Park in the city, the building of an isolation hospital and the purchase of a tram system for the city.

On a personal basis he enjoyed being asked for advice on family matters by his 1250 employees, many of whom stayed with the company for the whole of their working life. He encouraged firm holidays and was a prime mover in forming the British United Athletic Club and also the British United Benevolent Fund.

In the 1920s Charles became particularly concerned by the threat to Bradgate Park. The Earl of Stamford had decided to sell the Park and there was a real danger that this 850 acre tract of land would be acquired by developers. After discussions with the Town Clerk he bought the property and presented it to the city and county for the use and benefit of the public. Nine trustees were appointed to ensure its long-term preservation from the hands of speculators.

From blacksmith's boy to international entrepreneur, we can only speculate what gave Charles his determination and his modesty. His epitaph is perhaps best written in the words of Mark Twain:

> It is better to deserve honours and not to have them than to have them and not deserve them.

[A more detailed account of the life of Charles Bennion entitled *From Belgrave to Bradgate Park - the story of Charles Bennion* by John F Mayberry has been published by Leicestershire Mental Health Service NHS Trust in support of the Bennion Centre and Bradgate Unit. It is available from them at Bridge Park Road, Thurmaston, Leicester, LE4 8PQ at a cost of £2.50.]
Recent Books

*Edited by Helen Edwards*

Chris Ashton, John Hinks, John Martin, Geoff Wright, Helen Edwards - Leicestershire Libraries and Information Service
Lois Edwards - Leicestershire Record Office
Carolyn Oldfield - National Youth Agency
Alan McWhirr - Leicester University

**LEICESTERSHIRE: GENERAL**

**A GUIDE TO LOCAL HISTORY SOURCES FOR LEICESTER AND THE COUNTY**

Bob Jarrett & Cynthia Brown - Living History Unit, Leicester City Council £9.00 1996 1952109093

Although aimed mainly at teachers, this unprepossessing (A4, plastic comb-bound) book is actually an invaluable starting-point for anyone embarking on local history research in Leicester. A very brief outline of the history of the city is followed by several thorough sections on source materials, including maps, newspapers, place-names, oral history materials and much more. Also to be found is a list of local history groups in the county, suggestions for field trips, brief biographies of notable local people and some extracts from typical documents. Although there is little here that will be new to the seasoned local historian, newcomers (either to the subject or the locality) will find this a mine of useful data brought together and organised clearly and helpfully. Despite the slightly misleading title (coverage of the city is considerably stronger than that of the county), this guide is highly recommended for use in schools and colleges as well as by local historians of all ages.

J. H.

**ANGLO-SAXON LANDSCAPES IN THE EAST MIDLANDS**

Jill Bourne (Ed.) Leicestershire Museums Arts and Records Service £19.99 1996 0850223946

Our understanding of Anglo-Saxon England has changed dramatically in the last quarter century, not least because of detailed study of the landscape evidence, following the pioneering approach of W. G. Hoskins. So much had been achieved, and re-thought, in the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon East Midlands, that a major conference was organised by Leicestershire Museums in 1991, the proceedings of which have now been published in this volume, ably edited by Jill Bourne, who also ran the conference.
With scholarly, but very readable contributions from experts such as David Parsons, Peter Liddle and many others, this is a very well-produced book, much more attractive than most conference proceedings. Amply illustrated with photographs, maps, line drawings and diagrams, this is not only a most useful update for specialist historians and archaeologists, but is also quite accessible for the interested layperson with at least some prior knowledge of the period. This title is highly recommended as a timely contribution to a most interesting field of study.

J.H.

Other Recent Publications

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND PAST: A GUIDE TO HISTORIC PLACES AND PEOPLE
D. Gerrard Alan Sutton £8.99 1996 0750910399

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND QUIZBOOK
Joyce Lee and Jon Dean S. B. Pubs £3.75 1996 1857701135

HANDLIST OF PARISH AND NON-CONFORMIST CHURCH REGISTERS IN THE L.R.O.
Leicestershire Museums, Arts and Records Service 33p £3.50 1996

LEICESTERSHIRE MARRIAGE INDEX 1700-1753. Vol. 2.
Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society 74p 1995 0907968589

LEICESTERSHIRE 1851 CENSUS INDEX
Vol. 25 Clawson sub-district
Vol. 26 Waltham sub-district
Vol. 27 Great Easton sub-district & Oakham (Leicestershire parts)
Leicestershire & Rutland Family History Society 1995

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORDS OF WAR SERVICE OF ROYAL NAVY WARSHIPS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COUNTY OF LEICESTERSHIRE
G. B. Mason Bristol the Author (unpublished typescript held in the L.R.O) 1995

NATIONAL INDEX OF PARISH REGISTERS Vol. 6. part 3.
Leicestershire & Rutland
Cliff Webb (compiler) Society of Genealogists 117p 1995 0946789657
LEICESTER CITY

DESIRABLE LOCATIONS: LEICESTER’S MIDDLE CLASS SUBURBS 1880-1920
Helen Boynton and Grant Pitches Living History Unit, Leicester City Council 96p £7.00 1996 1901156001

A beautifully illustrated, fascinating look behind the walls and over the garden fences of some lovely late-Victorian and Edwardian houses on the outskirts of Leicester. These leafy suburbs saw a large expansion during the period as wealthy manufacturers moved out of older properties in the centre of the town to gain ‘space, status and security’ in new houses designed by architects to personal specifications. Thus, although generally reflecting the fashions of the time, all demonstrate the individuality of the designers and owners shown in the details of decoration, materials and relationship of the building to the site.

Line drawings by Grant Pitches and photographs taken and collected by Helen Boynton, together with an informative, descriptive and reasoned text combine to produce a volume full of information and insight into these parts of the city. These suburbs are now, to a large extent, protected as conservation areas, but similar areas have, in the past, suffered from demolition and drastic change of use, altering the nature of residential streets. The history of these suburbs needs to be recorded and a book such as this is important both in raising awareness of the quality of such domestic architecture; and also in ensuring that the protection of conservation area status is continued and extended.

H.E.

LEICESTER CELEBRATES: FESTIVALS IN LEICESTER PAST AND PRESENT
Vernon Davis Living History Unit, Leicester City Council 108p 1996 0952109069

Covering events as diverse as Burns’ Night, Lammas, Passover, Diwali and St. Valentine’s day, this entertaining and informative book attempts to encompass a huge range of celebrations for a multitude of reasons. Themed sections include commemorations, new-year festivities, seasonal celebrations, social
get-togethers, Christmas and holidays. The book clearly reflects the multicultural nature of the city and makes the point that fifty years ago it would have been relatively straightforward to describe and explain the festivals celebrated in Leicester. Virtually all of them would have been nominally Christian, although with possible pagan origins, but since the second World War, Leicester has emerged as one of the major multicultural cities of Britain, with a richness of traditions and customs.

Well written and illustrated, this quality production from the City Council’s Living History Unit, provides an overview of the many ways in which the citizens of Leicester celebrate their beliefs and their feast days. The popularity of the Caribbean Carnival and the almost universal celebration of Christmas exemplify the cross-fertilisation of cultures, and the author draws attention to the common elements of seasonal festivals, the use of lights, fireworks, bonfires and processions which recur through time and across cultural boundaries.

H.E.

A THIRTIES CHILDHOOD: LEICESTER, THE WAR YEARS
Mike Green  Stylus Press  £3.95  [1996]

A collection of anecdotes, letters, reminiscences, newspaper snippets and contemporary advertisements. Very poorly produced, it consists of photocopied A4 sheets held in a plastic spine. There is no attempt at editing or arranging the material in any coherent way but as a source of raw data and reminiscence it may have some value and, to anyone who lived in Leicester at the time, it is probably quite a fascinatingly serendipitous read.

H.E.

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER: A HISTORY, 1921-1996
Brian Burch  University of Leicester Press  £9.95  1996  189848905x

The University of Leicester is celebrating two anniversaries this academic year. It is 75 years since the university was founded and 40 years ago it became independent and able to grant degrees. This event has been marked by the publication of a history of the university from 1921-1996 written by a former Librarian of the university, Brian Burch. This volume, mainly the work of the in-house graphics, printing and photographic team, is extremely well produced and a joy to handle.

Brian Burch has used Annual Reports and other official papers to compile this history and so it lacks some of the ‘cut and thrust’ of university life. He includes a large number of photographs, colour as well as black and white, so there is almost one on every page.
There is, however, one major drawback. The only index is an ‘Index of Persons’ which rather limits the use one can make of such a history as a reference book. Nevertheless it is a book well worth reading and one which will be of interest to those studying both city and county.

A.D.M.

Other Recent Publications

31 LONDON ST, LEICESTER: THE STORY OF A BUILDING AND THE FAMILIES INVOLVED
George William Bromley The Author 28p 1996

FRAGMENTS FROM THE TAPESTRY OF LIFE: SHORT STORIES FROM A WORKING CLASS CHILDHOOD IN THE ‘POOL’ [Newfoundpool]
G. E. Miles The Author 68p 1995 (1996 repr.) 0952777908

MORE FRAGMENTS FROM THE TAPESTRY OF LIFE: SHORT STORIES ABOUT A WORKING CLASS LAD FROM THE ‘POOL’ TRYING TO EARN AN HONEST CRUST
G. E. Miles The Author 1996 0952777916

PILLAR BOX TRAIL
Zelda Rubinstein Leicester City Council, Living History Unit 15p 1996

LEICESTERSHIRE TOWNS AND VILLAGES

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH AS I REMEMBER IT
Angela Hall (Editor) Leicestershire Libraries and Information Service £3.25 1996

The latest in this popular series, this book brings together reminiscences of people who have lived in the market town. The introduction is a very brief background to the town and its history. It is the people of Ashby who narrate the stories of the town up to 1960. The book covers all aspects of life, from childhood memories of school and visits to the ‘Statutes’, the annual street fair, to adult memories of work and industry. Although this book does not claim to be an accurate history as it is based on personal fallible memories, it is, nevertheless, a fascinating book which should appeal to people with an interest in oral history and those who know Ashby.

L.E.
GLENFIELD: LIVES AND TIMES REMEMBERED
Ken Russell (Editor) Leicestershire Libraries and Information Service £4.25 1996

This book is compiled from the reminiscences of the people of the village of Glenfield which were entered into a competition. The stories tell of life in the village, what it used to be like and how it has changed in more recent years. It is separated into sections that give personal memoirs as well as more general memories of the village and the immediate area. The book also includes short biographies of people who come from the village under the heading ‘Glenfield’s sons and daughters’. With photographs of people, locations and events from past and present, it all adds up to an interesting survey of time and place.

L.E.

BRADGATE AND ITS VILLAGES: A TIME LINE TO OLD JOHN
D. A. Ramsey Volcano Press 50p £1.95 1996 1898884056

BRADGATE AND ITS VILLAGES: BREAKFAST AT BRADGATE
D. A. Ramsey Volcano Press 96p £3.95 1996 1898884099

The first two in a projected series of five, these books look at Bradgate and its history. The first half of the first book is a list of dates, literally a time line, which details both events in the history of Bradgate and contemporary national events. The second half lists mills in the area and tells us about ‘Old John’ and the horse-racing associated with the tower. This book is disjointed in places but does contain some fascinating information.

The second title in the series contains household lists taken from original manuscripts that help to illustrate life in Bradgate House in the years 1679, 1680 and 1681. As with the first book the presentation is a little disconnected but it does give an insight into housekeeping in a big country house of the period.

L.E.

THE COUNTESTHORPE COTTAGE HOMES: A WORLD APART
Karen Saunders, Georgina Ambrose & Charlotte Payter
Countesthorpe Cottage Homes Project [£2.00] [1996]

The Cottage Homes were originally opened in 1884 for the Guardians of the Poor of Leicester Union. Housing in their heyday up to 250 children, the homes declined after the Second World War and finally closed in 1974. The
subtitle reflects how the children lived in a ‘world apart’ from the village of Countesthorpe, despite attending the village school and church. This slender booklet offers an insight into this world with a good range of reminiscences of former staff and residents and some interesting photographs. This is a fascinating read for local or social historians and is a valuable case-study of changes in child-care.

J.H.

EAST OF LEICESTER (Britain in Old Photographs Series)
Trevor Hickman Alan Sutton 160p £9.99 1996 0750914289

At first glance, a delightful book, positively oozing with nostalgia. Indeed, a casual flip through its pages whilst standing in the bookshop will do nothing to dispel that first impression but dig a little deeper and be prepared to be disappointed.

The publisher claims it to be ‘..a record of what man has achieved and changed in a unique area of England’ but I fail to see how numerous photographs of groups of schoolchildren, Boy Scouts, Boys Brigade, horse and hounds, and the like show that! For me, not knowing the area very well, the book failed miserably. Granted there is an interesting three page introduction by Mr. Hickman and the black and white photographs, maps, plans and prints (over 300 of them) are clear, but they do appear to form a hotch potch collection, covering every decade of photography up to the 1980s, that had been gathered together following a plea for ‘old photographs of the area’ in the local newspaper. Photographs are arranged under individual parishes or groups of parishes, twenty-one sets in all, but with no consistency of coverage. Marefield only warrants four photographs, the Walkers Crisp factory in Thurmaston also gets four, other villages have six, eight or ten but Quenby Hall has a staggering thirty-six!

The book tries to cover too wide an area and even those living ‘east of Leicester’ will be hard-pressed to know all of the places covered. Mr. Hickman has tried to set the scene with some of the captions saying what has gone or has changed since the photographs were taken, but for me the ‘then and now’ treatment showing a comparison with modern photographs works better. Either that, or give more coverage to fewer communities.

This is a book that will be bought by the local library service, for the local studies collections, and, at £9.99, few others, I suspect, except as Christmas presents.

G. W.
The Swannington Village Trail booklet covers a 5 mile trail through the village and the surrounding area. It is an excellent publication which gives a large amount of information about the development and industrial archaeology of this important coalfield village. The collieries and associated tramroad system are described in detail, with especial reference to the Swannington Incline Railway built by George Stephenson in 1832. The booklet contains clear, easily followed maps and is well-illustrated with present-day and contemporary photographs.

In contrast, the Mountsorrel Trail is a simple folded sheet covering the centre of the village and some 21 points of interest within it. There is a line drawing and a small amount of information about each of the buildings, bridges and sites of interest. The compilers make the point that, since the opening of the A6 by-pass, the character of the village has changed completely now that the centre is free from the erstwhile huge volume of quarry and through traffic. The village has been designated a Conservation Area and recent building and renovation projects have won several Charnwood design awards. A very useful and interesting guide for a superficial introduction to a newly discoverable Leicestershire village.

H.E.

THE TIMBER FELLERS OF WHEATON ASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE: THEIR LONG HISTORY AND TRAVELS
Mary Weate Fritillary Press 34p £4.99 1995 0952658607

Although peripheral to the study of Leicestershire Local History, the story of the timber fellers of this Staffordshire village makes fascinating reading. A tree-felling industry grew up in this heavily wooded area, and as early as 1287, Edward I required Staffordshire to contribute woodcutters as well as fighting men to help to defeat a rising of the Welsh. The skills of local men were in demand far and wide and the fellers would regularly travel long distances to work, lodging away during the week if necessary.

The author, who writes of her own family's long involvement in the trade of tree felling, includes a wealth of detail in her booklet which takes the survey beyond the confines of a single industry in a small village. A huge amount of personal detail and reminiscence concentrating mainly on the first half of the
 twentieth century gives a good picture of rural industry and social life during this period - transport, tools, dress, social behaviour and customs are described. The information is presented in a slightly haphazard fashion with no clear arrangement; it also raises interesting questions that further research may answer - what, for example, was the social impact of the absence of many of the working men from the village during the winter months, and how was it economical to have these men travel so far to carry out their work - to a county as rural as Leicestershire in the early twentieth century for instance, which must have had its own timber workers, even if they lacked the top levels of expertise found in the men from Wheaton Aston?


Other Recent Publications

COALVILLE: A SHOPPING TRIP THROUGH TIME
Dennis Baker & Steve Duckworth Coalville Pub. Co. 72p 1996
187247926x

WIND OF CHANGE (MEASHAM MEMORABILIA)
Jack Buckley Moira Community Press 1996

MEMOIRS OF A CINEMA: 60 YEARS OF THE CURZON, LOUGHBOROUGH
Mervyn Gould (compiler) Mermic Enterprises 20p £2.50 1996

OLD HINCKLEY AND OTHER WRITINGS
Thomas Harrold (Ed. by David Knight) Hinckley & District Museum 79p £3.50 1996 0952147122

WARTIME MEMORIES OF THE PEOPLE OF FLECKNEY 1939-46
Mick Hodges The Author 21p 1996

THE HERITAGE OF NEVILL HOLT: A CONDENSED AND ILLUSTRATED HISTORY
R. D. Hopper The Author 21p 1996

BYGONE BARWELL: A NOSTALGIC LOOK AT THE 1920s AND 30s
Tom Johnson Earl Shilton & District local History Group 12p 1996

HINCKLEY FROM THE STONE AGE TO MEDIEVAL TIMES
David Knight Hinckley & District Museum 50p 1996
Reprints of documents play a key role in making original information readily accessible to the local historian or general reader, often conveying much otherwise elusive information and also, importantly, giving something of the ‘flavour’ of a period or topic. This book, first published by the Grand Union Canal Company in 1936, is no exception. The advertisements alone are worth the modest price but the main interest lies in the sectional plans of the Grand Union system, listing canalside factories and wharves. This is complemented by a list of boat-owners, lightermen and carriers, and a selection of maps and photographs.

One must, however, question the wisdom of publishing a straight reprint without the benefit of an introduction or explanatory notes. It is not even clear that this is a reprint; neither the original date nor the reprint date are shown. Nevertheless, although information on Leicestershire is fairly limited (as the book covers the whole of the Grand Union) this is a useful guide for anyone interested in the history of the last years of commercial canal carrying.

J.H.
RAILWAY CONNECTIONS: STEAM DAYS ON THE LEICESTER TO BURTON LINE
Ken Hunt  Coalville Publishing Co. Ltd.  £6.95  1995  1872479170

The Midland Railway Company was still in its infancy when the Leicester to Burton line opened in 1849, although part of the route had had a railway since the 1830s when trains carried a mixture of coal and passengers. The line, long reduced to freight only, finally closed in 1966. This is a useful collection of photographs of locomotives and long-gone stations, complemented by a brief introductory text and, of particular interest, a selection of extracts from taped reminiscences of railwaymen, recorded by the Leicester Oral History Archive. It is good to see in print some of the excellent material collected by the Archive in the 1980s. Concentrating on the last years of steam, this is a readable slice of railway history of interest to local and transport historians and to anyone who remembers the declining years of the railways to the west of Leicester.

J.H.

Other Recent Publications

LEICESTER TRAMS ON OLD PICTURE POSTCARDS
Mark Brown  Reflections of a Bygone Age  36p  1995  1700138042

LEICESTERSHIRE RAILWAY STATIONS (Including Rutland views on old picture postcards)
Brian Lund  Reflections of a Bygone Age  38p  £3.50  1996 0946245894

OCCUPATIONS

ALL PART OF THE SERVICE: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF LEICESTER'S SERVICE INDUSTRIES.
Joyce Mills (Compiler)  Leicester City Council, Living History Unit  
108p  £6.00  1996 1901156052

This publication brings together photographs to illustrate some of the different services provided in Leicester, both by private companies and public authorities, from the late-nineteenth century onwards. These photographs cover a broad range of developments affecting local people's lives, from health, housing and transport to the options available to individuals in...
choosing how to eat, drink, furnish their homes or spend their leisure time.

While the commentary on each photograph is limited, it is informative. A panoramic view of County Hall and its staff in 1921 reminds us how few employment opportunities were open to women at that time, for instance. Many of the photographs are formally posed, and as such offer what people understood to be a public record. Others provide unexpected glimpses into the past, such as the caption to a 1904 picture of a room at the Leicester Infirmary which informs us that the row of sinks was used by patients to soak their septic fingers and hands twice a day.

As with any publication of this type, the collection invites questions it cannot answer. Why, for instance, were Leicester people so uninterested in the theatre as to merit the saying that there were three disastrous weeks in theatre ‘the week before Christmas, Holy Week and any week in Leicester’. How successful was the Rev F. B. Meyer in his attempts to persuade newly released prisoners to lead a reformed life as he bought them a massive breakfast at a temperance coffee house on Welford Road? And, most intriguing of all for this reader, did the attempt to camouflage the electricity company’s cooling towers at Raw Dykes as a forest during the Second World War really work?

C.O.

Other Recent Publications

CORSETS TO ORDER: THE STORY OF A VILLAGE INDUSTRY
K. Yeaman Heselton Brinhurst Press 16p 1995 0951922769

BUTCHERS, BAKERS AND CANDLESTICK-MAKERS: TRADES IN A VICTORIAN STREET, LUTTERWORTH, LEICESTERSHIRE
Lynda Hill & R. Bailey Volcano Pubs. 132p £3.95 1995 1898884072

RELIGION

ST. MARGARET’S CHURCH, STOKE GOLDING
A. J. Collett The Author 154p £6.00 1996 0952788004

It is not often that one finds a one-hundred-and-fifty page book devoted to a single parish church, but that is what A. J. Collett has produced for St Margaret’s Church, Stoke Golding. This is clearly a labour of love brought about by a life-long association with the church and therefore a detailed knowledge of minutiae as well as major events.

Printing such a book as this is not easy as no commercial publisher is likely
to give it a second thought. So the author has had to rely on his own resources and ingenuity and publish it himself. Finding a suitable printer at a reasonable price is not always straight forward and in this case there have clearly been problems. The overall appearance is pleasing, but in my copy there were one or two problems. Some of the type at the bottom of pages ix, 2 and others, has blocked out; although still legible it looks messy. Page 14 was completely blank and this made me suspicious of page 21 where the text finished 2" from the top of the page with no full stop at the end. Was there more?

This book is divided into three sections: the first deals with the building and repair of the church; the second is a guide to the church, and the final section is 'on a number of aspects of the church and its history'. In addition there are a number of appendices.

Architectural historians always look for plans and it was surprising to find that the first detailed plan showing possible dates of walls did not appear until page 58. It could have featured earlier and, if turned sideways, have been enlarged so that one could see the differences in shading for the various periods more clearly.

The book is a wonderful achievement by a dedicated churchman. It will remain an essential reference work for St Margaret’s for many years to come.

A.D.M.

THROUGH THE MISTS OF TIME: A STORY OF ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Kenneth David Mackay  Ashby Museum 1996 £2.50 0950864951 80p

This is a very useful booklet which puts the development and growth of Nonconformity in Leicestershire into the national context. Following the Act of Uniformity (1662) and the Conventicle Act (1664) a number of ejected non-conforming ministers began to conduct services in private houses. Limited tolerance was granted to Non-conformist ministers after 1689 and Independent chapels began to be established - one of the earliest being at Barton outside Ashby.

The booklet traces the history of Ashby Non-conformism from its earliest Presbyterian origins though the development of Congregationalism to the present day. The publication also contains a lot of extra information about the ministers connected to the church, the development of associated local congregations in nearby villages, and extracts from the Church records and the Ashby School Charity Commission reports.

H.E.
Ewan Christian's impressive church of St. Mark, Belgrave Gate, has stood unused for a decade, yet it remains a prominent feature of the local scene and a much-loved building. This well-presented and inexpensive booklet offers a very readable account of the history and architecture of St. Mark's, illustrated with clear photographs of the exterior and interior of the church and its celebrated Christian Socialist vicar, Canon F. L. Donaldson. The publication of this delightful booklet is most timely, as thankfully St. Mark's does now seem likely to have a future, albeit in a secular role. The new owner, Mr Saeed Mohammed, has given his generous support to this publication and it is encouraging to note his determination to preserve the important architectural features of the church, not least its sanctuary murals of 'the Apothesis of Labour'. This is essential reading for local, architectural and ecclesiastical historians, for former parishioners and for all who share the view of the Victorian Society that architectural gems like St. Mark's must be preserved for future generations.

J. H.

Other Recent Publications

THE STORY OF ST. MARY & ST. HARDULPH CHURCH: A CRADLE OF OUR FAITH
Brian C.J. Williams Breedon, the Church 32p £1.50 1996

RECREATION

WATERWAY WALKS IN LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
Paul Biggs Sigma Leisure 1995 £6.95 1850584427

Nothing can be more relaxing in today's stressful times than to take a leisurely walk in the Leicestershire countryside, even better if that walk takes you past some water. This book has walks of this nature in abundance with clear directions and easy to-follow-maps.

It includes one of my favourite walks along the Grand Union Canal starting at the Dog and Gun in Kilby. The area is steeped in history. The Mercian prince, St. Wistan, was murdered at Wistow and Charles the First is reputed
to have sheltered at Wistow Hall after his defeat at the battle of Naseby. The walk also takes you through the unspoilt village of Newton Harcourt and through some of South Leicestershire’s most beautiful countryside.

C. A.


David Kirkby  Loughborough Echo Press  1996  68p  0951574922

By using contemporary accounts, David Kirkby traces the development of the club in the 1880s and their success in Midlands soccer which led to the club being voted into the Football League in 1895. He illustrates his story with original photographs, press reports and even a spoof ‘Ashes’ style announcement about the death of Aston Villa, defeated by the Luffs in the Birmingham F. A. Senior Cup in 1894. There is plenty of fascinating trivia in the book - for example, Town’s first home league match was against Newton Heath, who are now much better known as Manchester United. In 1895 they had the football world at their feet and yet it all went badly wrong. Why?

The author details the financial problems which beset the club, and the crowd problems which led to the ground being temporarily closed down. He shows how the club made strenuous efforts to keep its league status but fought a losing battle, finally bowing to the inevitable and folding in 1900. He produces a comprehensive statistical record, which must have taken considerable research, and produces press accounts of vital games to back up his narrative.

The use of advertisements and photographs adds interest to the story, and the overall result is a fascinating insight into the history of professional football. Without teams like Loughborough Town, the game could never have developed into the multi-million pound industry that it is today. The importance of those early Victorian soccer pioneers should not be discounted.

J.M.

A HISTORY OF THE COALVILLE AND DISTRICT CHARITY FOOTBALL CUP


After the excitement of last year’s Euro ’96 football championships, it was a pleasure to read Tony Moore’s book on the history of the Coalville and District Charity Cup, a small competition in comparison but with a longer history dating back to 1891 and still going strong to this day, contributing the
magnificent sum of £2,800 to charity in 1994-5.

The book is thoroughly researched with statistics, photographs and newspaper reports. It includes a report from a cup final in 1969 between Ibstock Penistone Rovers and the Old Edwardians which attracted a huge crowd of some 2,000 fans. It will be of interest to anyone interested in the history of sport in Leicestershire.

C.A.

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIRS

Recent Publications

JAMES HARLEY: A LEICESTERSHIRE NATURALIST 1801-1860
Ron Hickling Leicestershire Museums & Record Service 37p £5.50 1995 0850228911

ON THE WINGS OF THE MORNING: RAF BOTTESFORD 1941-45
Vincent Holyoak The Author 144p 1995 0952673908

FROM BELGRAVE TO BRADGATE PARK - THE STORY OF CHARLES BENNION
John Francis Mayberry Leicester Mental Health Service, NHS Trust 24p 1996

THE LOCAL LEGACY OF THOMAS COOK
Derek Seaton The Author 120p £4.99 1996 0952894807

RUTLAND

Recent Publications

AROUND RUTLAND (Britain in Old Photographs Series)
Trevor Hickman Alan Sutton 120p £8.99 1996 0750911743

RUTLAND: MUCH IN LITTLE: A PORTRAIT OF AN ENGLISH COUNTY
Words by W. G. Hoskins, pictures by Peter Ashley Sennen Gills 48p £4.99 1995 0952707802

STONE COTTAGE, NOS 2 AND 4 NEWTON ROAD, UPPINGHAM
Peter Lane Uppingham Local History Group 102p 1995
THE HISTORY OF THE BRIGGS’ PENSION CHARITY
David Parkin  The Author  49p (unpublished typescript)  1995

A HISTORY OF BYRCH’S CHARITY (COTTESMORE, BARROW, MARKET OVERTON & GREETHAM)
David Parkin  The Author  30p (unpublished typescript)  1995

HISTORY OF GIBSON’S HOSPITAL, MORCOTT
David Parkin  Rutland Local Historical & Records Society  40p  1995
0907464211

RUTLAND 1851 CENSUS INDEX
Vol. 1  Oakham Registration District (part)
Leicester & Rutland Family History Society  51p  1996  0907968600

RUTLAND LIFE: A RUTLAND MERCURY PICTORIAL HISTORY
Rachel Burkitt (compiler)  Rutland Mercury  1996

Contributors

G H Bennett is a lecturer in contemporary history at the University of Plymouth.

J D Bennett has contributed a number of articles to the Leicestershire Historian on various aspects of social and economic history.

Helen Edwards works for Leicestershire Libraries and Information Service and is currently Librarian at County Hall. Has an interest in local social and economic history.

Trevor Hickman was born and still lives in Wymondham and has had an interest in local history for many years. He started collecting pictures of the area when aged ten. Has recently produced six collections of photographs. More are on the way!

Jess Jenkins is Assistant Keeper of Archives at Leicestershire Record Office.

J Mayberry grew up in Cardiff and trained as the Welsh National School of Medicine. He came to Leicester as a consultant physician in 1989 and lives in Thurnby - the home of Charles Bennion.

Alex Moretti is a retired geography teacher with a strong interest in the landscape who now lives in Wymeswold.

Gerald Rimmington has written a number of articles in our Transactions and is currently on the committee of the Society.
If you are interested in the county’s archaeology, history, churches, historic buildings, architecture or heraldry then you will find that this society has something to offer you. Our annual journal contains a wealth of information on the county and is worth a great deal more than the annual subscription. If you want to keep abreast of the increasing archaeological activity in the county then the annual journal is a must for you. Back numbers of the journal are also available and so it is possible to build an authoritative library on Leicestershire’s past.

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Student Membership £3.
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Mr Geoff Clark-Monks, The Guildhall, Leicester, LE1 5FQ.
This publication has been supported by a community grant from Leicester City Council.