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All material for 'The Leicestershire Historian' should be sent to the Editors, V Lacey and A J Wait, c/o County Record Office, 57 New Walk, Leicester. Contributions for consideration for the Autumn 1969 issue must be in the Editors' hands by 31st July, 1969.
HISTORY OF KEGWORTH
The Kegworth Local History Group

A number of classes in Local History are being promoted in the north of Leicestershire by the Workers' Educational Association and the Nottingham University Department of Adult Education, based on Quest House, Loughborough. Between 1955 and 1960 a group in Kegworth under the supervision of Mr M W Barley and Mr P J Madgwick prepared a history of the village, and the following paper is the first of three chapters from this History which will appear in 'The Leicestershire Historian'.

Members of the group: M W Barley (Tutor), Miss W Dullforce, Mrs Hassall, Miss Hassall, P J Madgwick (Assistant Tutor), Mrs O Madgwick, Miss A Nowell, Miss N Rhodes, H Rickman, Mrs D Stein.

KEGWORTH ROADS

Much of the paper has been derived from material in the Kegworth Parish Chest, particularly the Surveyors of the Highways Account Book.

As Kegworth lies in the low lying belt of country between the high land of Charnwood and the river Soar, the existence of Bronze Age tracks is uncertain. These tracks tended to follow the high land and it was only after the partial clearance and draining of the lower ground that tracks radiating from the
Bulwarks at Breedon Hill and the high ground of Charnwood are likely to have started. After clearance hill top camps and centres of population gave way to new centres at navigable points or crossings of rivers, and roads developed between the new settlements.

The close proximity of two rivers, the Trent and the Soar, no doubt had its effect on the road system of Kegworth in early times. The barrier of the Trent was in time overcome by the establishment of Willen (or Wilne) ferry, and a bridge over the Soar at Kegworth was in existence by 1316 when a grant of bridge tolls for five years was made for its repair. The Derby-Loughborough road is not shown on a 14th century road map (Gough map) now in the Bodleian library, but by the time of John Ogilby (1675) it was part of one of the great roads of the country, carrying traffic from London to Manchester and Carlisle. This does not mean that the Derby-Loughborough road was not in existence in the 14th century, but simply that it was not thought important enough to show.

Kegworth bridge carried traffic from Coventry and the west via Ashby to Nottingham and other places in the Trent Valley besides serving local traffic between Kegworth and the villages on the eastern side of the Soar.

The internal road system of the village gradually developed as it became necessary to obtain access to neighbouring villages and the open fields. The roads radiated from the centre of the village much as they do today, one due north (Long Lane), one to the north-west to Derby via Wilne ferry,
one south-west to Diseworth, two to the south
to Long Whatton and Loughborough and one east
to the bridge over the Soar. Long Lane presumably
served the low-lying meadow land and gave
access to the ford at Ratcliffe-on-Soar. The
development of a road leading to this fording
place of the river is possibly prehistoric
or was at least developed before the bridging
of the river at Kegworth. The roads to Diseworth
and Long Whatton would have served also as
access to the village's open fields.

The surviving major footpaths were of more
importance than they are now, notably the one
which leaves the Ashby road near the position
of the old Kegworth mill across the fields to
Lockington, Hemington and Castle Donington.

During the middle ages the parish was
responsible for the maintenance and repair of
roads, but no records are available. There
is no doubt that the roads were very rough,
and to try to improve their condition, an Act
of Parliament was passed in 1555 ordering each
man in the parish to work four days a year
(later changed to six) on the roads and each
farmer had to supply carts and horses, according
to his land-holding. All roads were maintained
in this way until the early 18th century, but
as traffic increased it became necessary to
supplement this statutory labour by paid labour
and this was provided for by the levying of
a Highway rate. The earliest available accounts
of the Surveyors of Highways for Kegworth are
for the year 1769 when the total income was
£31 19 2½d and the total disbursed £28 17 1½d.
Besides the income obtained from the Highway Rate, Kegworth surveyors also received after the Enclosure Award in 1779 the money from letting the lanes for grazing, and also for letting the two plots allotted in 1779 for gravel for roads. In 1880 the amounts received were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lane</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dyke Lane</td>
<td>£1 1 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatton Lane</td>
<td>£2 4 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loughborough Roads</td>
<td>£2 2 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flash and Bridge Lane</td>
<td>16 0 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratcliffe Lane to Gauge Lane</td>
<td>£3 0 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derby Road</td>
<td>£1 3 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel Bed</td>
<td>£1 3 Od</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gravel Pit Close</td>
<td>£6 16 Od</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One of these, Gravel Bed, is referred to in 1770, and must already have been in use as a parish gravel pit.

Certain conditions were laid down for the letting of the lanes. In 1820 it is recorded that 'The highest bidder to be the taker and the Money to be paid Immediately or the Lot to be put up again. The Respective taker of every lot to engage to mow the Thistles and other weeds when required by the Surveyors or they will be mowed by the Surveyors and the Expenses to be paid by the taker. Any person taking a lane or grounds are not to relet the same or Joint stock to persons not belonging the Parish. If done the Lane or Grounds to be taken away from them and the money forfeited'. From 1816 onwards the Kegworth surveyors received rents for the letting of gardens and in
1808 the overseers John Hardy and Thomas Smith sold to a Mr John Gadsby of the Parish of Lockington one piece of ground called Bridge Lane Piece for the sum of fifteen pounds fifteen shillings, which money went towards the upkeep of the roads.

The main payments made in the accounts were for labour and materials. The most usual payment for labour was one shilling per day but in 1776 it was as low as eightpence and in 1814 as high as two shillings and sixpence. In 1792 stone was bought at ninepence per ton and in 1809 gravel at two shillings and threepence per ton. Besides these main items, many other things were paid for out of the highway accounts. In the accounts for 1769, one pound was paid out for four weeks crowtenting (crow-scaring), in 1773 five pounds of powder cost six shillings and threepence and eleven pounds of shot one shilling and tenpence. Payments were paid at various times for 'crying the lanes' (probably announcing the letting of the grazing), branding the cows, hiring the cowherd, catching moles and mending the pump.

An idea of the condition of the roads in the parish may be got from an entry in the minutes of a Vestry meeting held on the 20th July, 1829. This states that, 'Complaints having been made of the general bad state of the roads in the parish owing to the want of proper attention, it was resolved unanimously that it is the opinion of the meeting the Surveyors for the time being Mr William Pepper and Mr Robert Osbourne having allowed the roads to go out of
order for want of due attention; that they be required to remain in office the year next ensuing in order to repair the damage that has arisen in consequence of their neglect or in case of their refusal to comply that such a fine be levied upon them as the magistrates may think proper'.

Road traffic began to increase in the 17th century and in the 18th the increase was even more marked. The problem of main roads could no longer be left to parish officers. By private Act of Parliament commissioners were set up empowered to levy tolls to maintain important roads; these bodies were known as Turnpike Trusts.

In 1726 leading men of the county and borough of Leicester obtained an Act of Parliament to collect tolls for a period of 21 years to repair the main London road from Market Harborough to Loughborough and in 1737 the turnpike road was extended from Loughborough to Derby, Ashbourne and Brassington. Another Act was passed in 1743 for the Loughborough-Brassington road and then in 1759 the trust was divided into three. The division of the trust which included the road running through Kegworth started at the south east end of a bridge on the Derby road in Loughborough, near the Rushes, and thence to Cavendish Bridge at Shardlow.

The formation of the turnpike road through Kegworth and the opening of Cavendish Bridge in 1771 to replace the old ferry across the Trent at Wilne, increased the amount of traffic through the village considerably and it became part of
a busy coaching route. Early 19th century Trade Directories tell us a little about this traffic. There was a regular daily service of coaches from London to Derby and in 1829 the journey took about 15 hours. There also grew up a regular carrier service from the village to the nearby towns of Loughborough, Leicester, Nottingham and Derby. In 1846 Robert Mee was running a regular service to Loughborough on Thursdays and Saturdays, to Nottingham on Wednesdays and Saturdays and to Derby on Fridays. The Mail Cart left for Derby each evening at six from the 'Flying Horse' and there was a daily omnibus service to Castle Donington and to Kegworth station.

The coming of the railways brought disaster to the turnpike trusts and also to the coach firms. The Midland Railway was opened in 1840 and this took much of the traffic which had hitherto been carried by the roads. The abandonment of the Manchester-London coach business involved the fall in tolls of about £2,000 in the total toll revenue of £6,000. The Loughborough-Derby trust was renewed at intervals until 1866 when it was amalgamated with the Ashby-Loughborough and Coleorton-Rempstone road and was finally repealed in 1885.

In spite of this however there must have been considerable local traffic and a new road, the present Derby Road, was constructed during the first half of the 19th century. Thus through traffic no longer had to go along High Street and Packington Hill which had previously been the main road. At this time also there was concern about the open sewers which existed in the parish and on 10th November 1847 a general meeting of the churchwardens, overseers,
waywardens and other principal inhabitants was held. A survey of the parish was undertaken with a view to cleansing and rendering wholesome and convenient that portion of it particularly which lies on the side towards the river. At this meeting it was agreed that Mr. Pepper should undertake on specified conditions to remove existing nuisances on the road leading to the bridge on conditions of appropriating to his own use the waste land which would be thus acquired. It was also unanimously agreed that all the nuisances should be removed between the foot of Dragwell and the Long Lane.

With the passing of the County Councils Act of 1889 the roads came under the control of the Leicestershire County Council and soon after this the development of the internal combustion engine made roads important again as trunk routes. As a result Kegworth became just one of the many bottle-necks on what became the A6.

Now the 1960s have seen yet another transformation with the driving of the M1 Motorway through the parish, and much of the commercial traffic has deserted the village streets again. The development of the East Midlands Airport and the planning of the new Motorway intersection in the parish probably means still more significant changes in Kegworth's roads in the future.
Early cricket in England was centred in the South-East, and one origin of the word 'cricket' is thought to be from 'cricc' - the old word for a shepherd's crook; it is known that shepherds were particularly keen on an early form of the game, and the wicket gate of sheep enclosures probably gave the sport another word. The earliest reference involving a County side was the Kent v. London match in 1719. It was not until 1744 (the year the first known Laws of Cricket were enacted) that there is any evidence of cricket being played in Leicestershire, when 'Gentlemen Cricketers of Barrow' are mentioned. This was the first time the game was found north of a line from Northampton to Cambridge. At this date cricket was played with only two stumps and overs were of four balls, bowled underarm.

Cricket in Leicestershire may be said to have 'come with the Hunt' since the earliest local matches almost certainly originated in the Shirehunting boxes, particularly around Melton Mowbray, Mountsorrel and Barrow. It is therefore not inappropriate that the County Club (which had its beginnings in 1820, but was not to receive first-class status until 1894) adopted a running fox as its emblem. One of the best grounds was at Burley-on-the-Hill in Rutland, the seat of George Finch, Earl of Winchelsea and chief founder of the M.C.C. Until his death in 1816 aged 64 years, many
of the early matches for money were played here, the most important of which was in 1790 when All England and Hampshire played for 1,000 guineas. In later years, there were several matches involving representative England, M.C.C. and County sides. Unfortunately many of the old Burley cricket records were destroyed by fire in 1908.

The Local Press did not provide much cricket coverage in the early days - in 1776 a notice refers to 'A great match at cricket betwixt Barrow and Mountsorrell' and four years later The Leicester Journal reports 'a Match at cricket was played at St. Margarets Pasture betwixt 11 Young Men of Leicester and 11 of Loughborough which was won by the latter by more than 50 notches'.

Until the opening of the fine Wharf Street Ground in 1825, all the major matches were played on the Pasture and local clubs continued to use it for a further sixty years. A Public House in Churchgate has retained the name 'The Cricket Players' since before 1794; cricketers found it conveniently placed on the direct route to and from the town centre.

Important local derbies' were between Leicester and Nottingham, but relations between the sides were sorely strained due to intense rivalry, and disputes over trivial incidents and partial umpiring were of frequent occurrence. Some years the sides did not meet at all and in 1789 progress of the match was delayed a month (until as late as 2nd November) due to disagreement over Nottingham 'following on'.
It was then customary that when the side batting second was behind on the first innings, it was required to go in again. Leicester ultimately won by one notch, and the match attained a certain notoriety as the 'Odd Notch Match'.

In 1787 there was a scene of bloodshed in Hinckley, for after Leicester had beaten Coventry, the team was set upon by some miners. However Leicester won this match too and were feted when they reached their home town with its streets specially illuminated in their honour. After such a show of strength, the team became known as 'Nick's Roughs' because many of them came from St. Nicholas' parish.

The lack of village green cricket in Leicestershire was probably partly due to the number of county seats possessing cricket grounds. Country house cricket probably reached its zenith in the 1860s when grounds were found at such places as Bosworth, Coleorton, Donington, Exton, Gopsall, Goscote, Gumley, Launde, Lindridge, and East Langton. Villages nevertheless had cricket teams at a far earlier date, for example, Ullesthorpe played Lutterworth in 1789' with the strictest attention by both parties and indeed with the greatest harmony'.

Lest it be thought that cricket was solely a man's game, it may be mentioned that in 1792 11 girls of Rotherby beat 11 girls of Hoby during Rotherby Feast Week. Since Hoby (with 60 houses) was ten times larger than
its near neighbour the victors were 'placed in a sort of triumphal car, preceded by music and flying streamers and thus conducted home by the youths of Rotherby'.

LEICESTER GOLDSMITHS 1200-1650
W de B-P Batty-Smith

In common with most mediaeval towns of importance, there are records of Goldsmiths in Leicester going back to very early dates. If we accept the fact that, in the 13th and 14th centuries, the surname 'Aurifaber' or 'Goldsmith' described the bearer's occupation, the earliest record is in the roll of Freemen for 1206-7, when Hugo Aurifaber was made free. The first definite reference is in 1219 - 'Ivo aurifaber, fil Wilhelmi de Aula' is listed. From then until 1650, the period under review, there are almost continuous records of the activities of goldsmiths in the town.

Although the Borough records give many details of most of the principal trades, together with some of the rules governing their activities, no details are given of the goldsmiths. Our main sources of information are therefore the lists of Freemen, Borough Accounts and Church Accounts. In the latter two cases references are, of course, in connexion with payments made to the goldsmiths for work carried out.

Before assessing the quality and standard of
the work of the Leicester craftsmen it will be advantageous to give an outline of the rules governing the working of gold and silver during this period. In 1300 a law was passed requiring gold and silver to be of a certain standard. In addition, all work was to be assayed by the Wardens of the Guild and, if of the correct standard, stamped with the Leopard's Head. Other towns and cities in the country were to send a representative to London with their work for assay. In 1363 it was required that every goldsmith stamp his work with his own 'mark' after assay. In 1425 York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Lincoln, Norwich, Bristol, Salisbury and Coventry were also appointed as assay offices with their own assay mark. Subsequently, between 1550 and about 1690, also during the 'boom' period for church plate after the Reformation, many other towns and cities used their own unauthorised assay marks, probably in an effort to overcome the hazards of sending pieces of plate to the nearest official assay. The 'date-letter', so called because it refers to the year of assay, was regulated by the Guild Wardens and not by Parliament. It commenced in London in 1475 and at later dates elsewhere. It must be remembered that a large number of pieces of plate were either partly or unmarked, particularly during the Reformation, but nevertheless can be fairly accurately ascribed to a period.

It can be seen, therefore, that the works of the Leicester goldsmiths should, from 1300-1363 be marked with the Leopard's Head. They would be indistinguishable from pieces made elsewhere
unless there was available documentary evidence tying down a specific piece to a Leicester goldsmith. From 1363-1425 there would, in addition, be the maker's mark. This mark would be recorded in London since the pieces would be assayed there, but would be identifiable with a Leicester goldsmith. Unfortunately the Goldsmith's Hall records of Maker's marks were all destroyed prior to 1697 and so this source is lost to us. To a great extent this does not matter because the quantity of pre-Reformation plate in existence is minute. From 1425 it would be more logical for the Leicester smiths to send their work to Coventry, Lincoln or Norwich. Virtually all the records of Coventry are lost. Fortunately the names of goldsmiths registered in London are largely preserved and so it is possible to check if any Leicester goldsmiths did register there, and also at Lincoln and Norwich.

At the end of this paper I have listed chronologically the names of all Leicester Goldsmiths I have been able to find referred to in various records, together with the source of information. On checking these with the list given in Sir Charles Jackson's 'English Goldsmiths and their Marks', which was compiled largely by R C Hope, Esq. F.S.A., only three Leicester names appear in other towns. -- Lowth and Richard Lowth appear as Leicester Freemen in 1491-2 and 1492-3 respectively. They may, in fact, be the same person. -- Lowth appears in London in 1516. In 1591-2 John Woodward, a stranger (i.e. from out of Leicester) was made free. A John Woodward was apprenticed to Thomas Turpyne in Lincoln from 1577-85. There
is, unfortunately, no work attributable to either of these men.

The third name is by far the most interesting. John Carswell was made a Freeman in 1525-6. A John Carswell is recorded in London from 1528. It is a fairly unusual name and I suggest that there is little doubt that they are one and the same person. A number of pieces identifiable as being made by him including a St Nicholas spoon in 1528-9, were assayed in London. This is an exceptional spoon and when sold at Christies in 1902 fetched the (then) record sum of £690. It is said to have been used at the Abbey of St. Nicholas at Abingdon. Other pieces made by him and mentioned in Jackson are a standing mazer at All Souls College, Oxford, 1529-30 and a St. James the Greater spoon 1531-2. Cripps, in 'Old English Plate' refers to a spare cup cover for 1530 at All Souls College. It is quite likely that he set up in business in London shortly after being made a Freeman of Leicester. Here, then, we have identifiable pieces of plate made by a Leicester goldsmith of the early 16th century. As a matter of interest his mark, an orb and cross between IC, is the earliest London mark definitely related to an individual goldsmith.

What of the others? Examination of the various accounts and records indicates that nearly all the payments made to Leicester goldsmiths were for repair work. Some examples from these accounts:-
Chamberlain's Accounts

1541 pd Thomas Goldsmith for mending the Town Waytes collars ...... 3s 4d
1547 pd Robert Hutchinson, goldsmith, for mending the Chamberlain's staves ...
1568 pd Nicholas Gillott the goldsmith for garnishing the silver tops of the chamberlain's staves .... 15s, 10d
1576 pd to Dodd the goldsmith for 15 oz of silver for the Waytes collars and mending and making them new £5 10 0d
1593 pd to John Woodward, goldsmith, for mending and gilding the old mace... 13s 4d
pd to him for making and gilding two of the lesser maces ...... 16s 0d

On certain occasions there are references to the making of articles but, with one exception, it almost certainly means making new or mending.

St. Martin's Churchwardens' Accounts

1554 pd to Robert Goldsmith for a patten of a chalice ....... 11s 3d

St. Mary's Churchwardens' Accounts

1500 for making the silver candlestick ... 10d
1509 for making the silver candlestick ... 6d
1663 paid to Mr Turville for the Communion Cup and Cover ... £4 2s 0d
(This would be John Turville who was also a Churchwarden of the church. This cup weighed 13.8oz in the 1775 inventory but was disposed of prior to the 1832 one.)
Whenever a major piece of plate was required, either by the Corporation or the Churches, it was apparently always purchased from elsewhere.

St. Martin's Churchwardens' Accounts

1567 sold by Mr William Manby by consent of the Parish one Chalice weighing 15½ oz at 5s 4d the oz amounting to £4 4s 4d. And also bought by the said Mr Wm. Manby one Communion Cup with cover double gilt weighing 21½ oz at 6s an ounce amounting to £6 9s ...

Mr Wm. Manby was a grocer, made Free in 1536-7 and Mayor in 1556-7 and 1568-9.

Minutes of the Common Hall

1572 Silver-gilt salt bought of Mr James Clark of Leicester for use by the Corporation ..................£10 Os Od.

Mr James Clark, mercer, was a Freeman having been Mayor in 1569-70.

Corporation Accounts

1584 Pd Mr Nic. Heyricke of London, goldsmith, for a new silver-gilt mace, 92½ oz. .................£18 Is 3d.

At this point it is appropriate to comment upon the Heyricke brothers. Nicholas, the elder, was articled about 1556 to a goldsmith in Cheapside and settled in London. He died in 1592. His younger brother William was apprenticed
to him in 1573. He was one of the finest silversmiths of his time and was appointed Court goldsmith. He was knighted in 1605. Both he and Nicholas were born in Leicester and William subsequently returned there and bought Beaumanor, where he retired about 1624. Neither of the Heyrickes can really be considered as Leicester goldsmiths since their training and work was all carried on outside the town.

There are a number of further entries in the first half of the 17th century relating to the purchase of major items in London or elsewhere.

From these various records it would appear that, although there was at all times a goldsmith or smiths working in Leicester, the quality of their work was not high. In the main they were employed in repair work, although a few simple articles might have been made. The one exception to this is John Carswell.

Names of Leicester Goldsmiths:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1206-7</td>
<td>Hugo Aurifaber</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1211</td>
<td>Yvo Aurifaber, senex.</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1219</td>
<td>Ivo Aurifaber, fil'Willelmi de Aula</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1258</td>
<td>Rob.de Eston, aurifaber</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1258</td>
<td>Pet. fil Yvonis, Aurifabi</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1271</td>
<td>Hen. Aurifabro</td>
<td>Tailage list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1286</td>
<td>Roger the goldsmith, judged by inquest</td>
<td>Tailage list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1288</td>
<td>Bart. Aurifaber</td>
<td>Freeman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1318</td>
<td>Will Aurifaber</td>
<td>Tailage list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1351-3</td>
<td>William Goldsmith, Mayor</td>
<td>Tailage list</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1352-3 Will. Goldsmith junr. Mayor's Accounts
1354 Ric. le Goldsmith Tallage list
1356 John Sabyn, goldsmith Merchant Guild Pleas.
1425 John Goldsmith, goldsmith De Banco Roll
1491-2 Lowth, goldsmith Freeman
1492 Hen. Goldsmith Subsidy Roll
1492-3 Richard Lowth, goldsmith Freeman
1517-8 Gilbert Swanburn, goldsmith Freeman
1525-6 John Carswell, goldsmith Freeman
1534-5 Thomas Gulson, goldsmith Freeman
1534-5 Thomas Oldfield, goldsmith Freeman
1541-2 Thomas Goldsmith (Perhaps one of the above)
  Corporation Accounts
1546-7 Robert Goldsmith St. Martin's Church Accounts
1547-8 Robert Hutchinson Corporation Accounts
1553 Nicholas the goldsmith
  St. Martin's Church Accounts
1568-9 Nicholas Gillott Corporation Accounts
1570-1 Thomas Dodd, goldsmith Freeman
1581-2 Miles Rcos, goldsmith, a stranger,
  disenfranchised Freeman
Alexander Bend, goldsmith, a stranger,
gone out of the town to dwell.
  Freeman
1589-90 Henry Fenne, goldsmith, a stranger Freeman
1591-2 John Woodward, goldsmith, a stranger Freeman
1600-1 Barnaby Turville, goldsmith Freeman
1608-9 Robert Orpwood Corporation Accounts
1638 John Turville Corporation Accounts
Last summer we had a local history exhibition in the village. The horse-pistols, the account books, the warming-pans were interesting enough. More interesting were the relics of trades that have passed rapidly into obscurity. As we sorted them out and labelled them, that collection of oddly-shaped pieces of wood and rusty iron became less bewildering. They recalled a pattern of life by no means veiled in the mists of history. George, a fairly elderly man, still farming, could remember using most of the things. Two tools, like small, long-stemmed bombs with handles, turned out to be bean-dibbers. The man went ahead using these like a pair of crutches to drill holes and his helper came behind, putting four beans in each. 'One for the mouse, one for the crow, one to rot and one to grow'.

When George held up two pieces of wood in their correct position, they could be recognised as hames. In his memory of such things, George was, naturally, not alone. Most of the helpers in the village hall, though not yet his age, could join knowledgeably in a discussion of harness and tack and traps and floats and carts. It was the same with the old, iron-bound keg.
Their beer all came from the brewery but they had not forgotten the days when a man took along his flat keg of home-brewed ale to help him with his mowing.

But what was that large hook with the piece of crumbling wood riveted to it? A thatcher's neave. What was that and how did it work? Simple, really. The piece of wood had been a platform. You put the bottles of thatch on it hooked on to a convenient spot on the roof and your thatch was there ready to hand. It saved you climbing up and down the ladder all the time. George could remember using one. There were probably quite a few about.

The label for that long, rusty blade just said that it was an edging knife. We surely needed to write down a few words about that. What did it edge? It was used to cut the sides of a stack square so that rain off the straw eaves would fall clear and not soak the hay. Then again there were four large leather objects, stiff and green with mildew and age. They looked like elephants' feet hollowed out. They were actually horse boots. One thought of protective coverings, like giant finger-stalls for injured hooves. But that was wrong and their real purpose was very practical - even obvious when you know about it. When lawns or cricket pitches were being mowed the boots prevented the shoes of the horse from damaging the grass.

Other things, bullet-moulds and powder-measures, did not require much explanation. We had all seen a yoke and could recognise a scythe blade.
Two long stout lengths of wood hinged together looked a bit puzzling at first. At the end of one there was a thick semi-circle of iron. But when George named them as a cart jack we knew what he meant.

By now all the implements were set out with their labels and notes of explanation. They filled in the picture of a past age. One could have sentimentalised about them but it seemed that their true importance was much larger than that. They represented a way of life that had gone on for hundreds of years and then had completely changed. It was a sudden change, too, in that it had happened within living memory. But it had happened smoothly and without a lot of disturbance.

During the past fifty years there had been no wrecking of combine harvesters, no burning of grain driers, no demonstrations against progress. Farming had taken its swift industrial revolution in its stride. An economy established for centuries on human muscle and the horse had adjusted quickly and without stress to the machine. That argued flexibility and responsiveness to new developments.
Robert Raikes is usually given the credit for establishing Sunday schools. Certainly there were such schools before his, notably one at High Wycombe run by Miss Hannah Ball, who in 1769 was teaching the Bible to 'a wild little company', but these were few in number. The impulse to start Sunday schools can be dated to 3rd November 1783 when Raikes, pleased with the success of his three-year old school in taming the wild, ignorant, and illiterate creatures of the streets, printed an article about it in the Gloucester Journal. This caught the attention of The London Chronicle who reprinted it and so gave the idea national notice.

In little more than a year William Fox, who, on coming into possession of Clopton Manor in Gloucestershire had clothed the poor there and had founded a free school, was appealing, in the Baptist Monthly Magazine (May 1785) for 'some plan whereby the children of the poor might receive a Scriptural education by being taught to read the Bible'. He corresponded with Raikes, and with help of Jonas Hanway, William Wilberforce and others set up The Society for Support and Encouragement of Sunday Schools 'to prevent vice, to encourage industry and virtue, to dispel the darkness and ignorance, to diffuse the light of knowledge, to bring men more cheerfully to submit to
their station'. In September 1785 the Society sent a letter to all clergy, stating the value of Sunday schools 'The Sunday, too often spent by the children of the poor in idleness or play or in contracting habits of vice and dissipation, is by the children of these schools employed in learning to read the Bible and in attending the public worship of God, by which means they are trained up in habits of virtue and piety, as well as industry, and a foundation is laid for them to become useful members of the community'. The Sunday school movement, which in thirty years was to produce a school in almost every parish in the country, was started.

In the Society's letter we see the twin objects for founding Sunday Schools clearly expressed - the need to end the rowdy behaviour of children in the streets, and the desire to further Bible reading both as a means to this and as a way of ensuring that children were being brought up in the faith of their fathers. This latter was a particular aim of the Nonconformists as shown in the minutes describing the origin of the Baptist Sunday School in Blaby in 1798: 'Not being satisfied with the preaching at our church in Blaby we therefor took it into consideration, that our children might be instructed, to erect a Sunday School and take by turns to teach every Sabbath gratis our own and our neighbour's children'.
Which motive moved the Congregationalists of the 'neat, well built town' of Market Harborough with its 'one principal street, two short streets and four lanes' to establish a school we do not know, since the records of its foundation are lost, but we do know that it was an early school of its type since William Pool in his Brief History 1886 reports that the first then existing entry in the Minutes was dated 8th April, 1794 when the subscribers meeting, obviously not for the first time, at The Rose and Crown resolved 'that the subscriptions for the use of the children of the Sunday School shall be continued as usual, viz 6d a month, till it is ten pounds when it shall be laid out for the use of the children'.

Management of the school was vested in a board of subscribers who met quarterly, deciding the rules of the school, laying down details of internal organisation, and appointing and controlling the two paid teachers. This control was typical of the time. It is equally typical that voluntary teachers were soon introduced; by 1812 there were thirty such; by 1818 it was decided that the paid teachers could be dispensed with. This led in turn to the voluntary teachers demanding a share in the running of the school. They eventually gained complete control in 1824 when the Society was reconstituted.

The existing records are not sufficient to enable us to build up a history of the early school but there still remain the rules drawn up by the subscribing managers on 31st March, 1809
together with notes on the running of the school from which we get a picture of the school in being.

It seems to have followed fairly closely the rules laid down by Lancaster in his Improvements in Education. Thus there were seven classes, the best class the 7th and the Alphabet class the 1st. From this 1st class the children should be removed 'every one as soon as he is able to read them (the letters) backwards and forwards'. In class 2 words of two letters were learnt; then on the class 3 where 'his attention may be called to the easiest of Scripture reading as also of the spelling of three letters'. Not much progress in reading was to be expected, so the children were to be removed from this class when they could spell the words of the class. Here the instructions for the school stop, but presumably the progression continued as Lancaster had directed:- four letters in class 4, five or more in class 5, the Testament in class 6, and the Bible in class 7. Reading was taught on the same principle; the First class reading 'words of one syllable and so forward according to merit'.

The timetable was laid down. Children assembled at nine o'clock and the day opened with reading, singing, prayer and call over. At half past, spelling took over and continued until ten, when there was reading until a quarter past, at which time the children were taken to chapel. The afternoon meeting began at 1.15 when hymns and catechism were said before going to chapel at 1.30. The 'Evening Course' began at 4.30 with singing, spelling till 5, reading
to 5.15, then call over, exhortation, singing, prayer and dismissal.

The children were kept under almost military discipline with simple movements carried out in unison by order. Thus, for prayers 'Turn to the wall'; then 'Front. Sit down'; in preparation for a lesson 'Turn, To the wall, Form circles, Hands behind'. Their feet were to be placed in an exact order i.e. 'Close together, to prevent their shuffling them about'. There was to be no 'looking behind or about the school'. Misdemeanours and the crimes of lying, stealing and swearing were to be punished and the orders describe useful punishments:-

1. Place a child on a form before the school. To increase it, request him to put his first two fingers in his mouth. Reprimand and expostulate.

2. Take tickets away from him. Withhold rewards.

3. Place a Boy or Girl in one corner of the room with face towards the wall.

4. Boy placed on a stool at the door when the children are dismissed may have a good effect.

But if the children were kept tightly in control they were also rewarded for good work. 'In order to stimulate the children' say the rules
to greater diligence and attention to their lessons and induce them to behave well during the hours of School and while attending public worship' a system of tickets was introduced. These tickets were valued at one half penny, the money for these coming from a weekly subscription of one penny from the teachers and fines collected from teachers for various faults in attendance. The children gained other rewards; the 6d a week from subscribers added to a penny a week from children was used to supply clothing, while for the girls to wear during Divine Service, there were kept in the school white caps and tippets for the summer, and straw bonnets and grey tippets for the winter. Certain scholars too whose names were called over after morning service went Sunday by Sunday to dinner at the houses of some six to eight of the subscribers.

The rules determined not only the conduct of the school for the teachers but also their own attendance. To be more than five minutes late brought a forfeit of sixpence as did a failure to provide a substitute in cases of absence, a rule that was still enforced by some of the School Boards in the last quarter of the century.

The impression that is left by the records that still exist is of a school typical of its time, run strictly but not severely.
MISCELLANY

QUERIES

1. Two readers have sent in recollections of pattens:-

'My father, aged seventy-eight, can remember these being worn by members of his family in the 1890's to the turn of the century. The ladies wore them over their boots in bad weather when going visiting. He mentioned that one could hear them coming along, rather like a horse'.

'Our old house in Loughborough had a large kitchen with a red brick floor. This was frequently swilled out with buckets of water which was finally brushed out of the back door and across the pavement towards a grate in the yard. During the operation our char kept high and dry by clanking about in pattens of which we had several pairs, which kept her foot gear above water level'.

2. A member has supplied this information on the place-name 'Griffydam'.

'At the Enclosure of Worthington parish in 1802 three commons or waste grounds are mentioned. Griffydam was one of these. (About 200 acres.) Mediaeval references are scanty, but by the 18th century an alternative name was Griffith's Dam, though this is probably of little significance. The place-name evidence
suggests that Griffydam derives from 'Gryfia'. (Old Norse, possibly influenced by Old English 'graef') meaning 'hollow or pit' plus dam, which means just that. A chalybeate mineral stream flows through Griffydam and there is a large pool near the south east extremity of Worthington parish near the Coleorton boundary. Indeed, the parish boundary passes through this pool. It seems likely that the mineral spring was dammed so as to form a pool in an existing hollow: the place-name can therefore perhaps be put in the field-name category',

3. Does anyone know why Robin-a-Tiptoe (the hill in Tilton) is so named?

4. Why was there such a high proportion of pot carriers in Coleorton Moor during the eighteenth century and what were their routes?

REVIEWS

The Editors welcome new publications for review. All publications reviewed are readily available through your local public library.


This diary which describes his childhood, boyhood and youth in Nottingham, was written by the author in his old age in Loughborough, where
he spent the last years of his life and was intimately connected with the Woodgate Baptist Church. The account he gives of his life as an apprentice cabinet maker and of the customs of the craft is exceptionally interesting. The publication of the diary was encouraged by the Folklore Department, University College, London who last year appealed for the preservation of this type of material in "New Society". Perhaps one of our readers possesses a similar diary or papers compiled by a Leicestershire tradesman.

ENGLISH HOUSES AND HOUSE KEEPING 1700-1960 by Barbara Megson
Routledge and Kegan Paul 1968 18s

Intended as a guide for C.S.E. Students, this introduction to the subject, with its survey of sources, guide to the study of illustrations, accounts of the 1920's, 30's, War and immediate postwar years, with notes on how to arrange and write up your work, may be as useful to the mature amateur historian as to the young people for whom the books in this series have been so carefully written.

MALCOLM SARGENT a biography by C Reid
H Hamilton 1968 42s-

Sir Malcolm Sargent remembering in 1960 his early days in London remarked 'I was always excited about my work' and it was this quality of enthusiasm and his life-long insistence on giving only the best to music, which enabled
him to bring fine music to so wide and varied an audience, and to act as an ambassador for British music throughout the world. The foundations of his career and his early days in music were laid in Stamford, his home town, and Leicestershire, where he was organist of St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray and Music Master at the Melton Mowbray King Edward VII Grammar School, and at his own old school, Stamford. Passing his Associateship of Organists at 16, he became a pupil of Dr. Keeton at Peterborough Cathedral, worked for his Bachelor of Music Degree from Durham, passed and became organist of St. Mary's Church, Melton Mowbray in 1941. Here he was famous for his organ playing, for the singing of the choir, and for the skill with which he welded together amateur musicians in choral societies, amateur operatic societies, local orchestras and brass bands. After a short period of war service, he returned to Melton, obtained his doctorate and threw himself whole heartedly into the musical and social life of the area.

In 1921 he conducted a professional orchestra for the first time playing his own composition, a variation on a Bach air sub-titled 'An impression on a windy day', specially written for this concert in the De Montfort Hall in aid of the blind. Later in the year he conducted it at the Proms. He formed and conducted the Leicester Symphony Orchestra, which gave a series of successful concerts in 1922, and which for the next twenty years he always managed to conduct season after season.
In 1924, Sargent moved with his wife from his home in Oakham to London, now fully launched on his professional career. The early chapters of this book give a vivid picture of the social and musical life of Stamford, Melton Mowbray and Leicester in the early years of the present century.

OLD NOTTINGHAM by Malcolm Thomis
David and Charles 1968 40s

This is an excellent study of Nottingham primarily concerned with its nineteenth century development from an important market town to a diversified industrial city. It is written to interest the amateur historian, and for this purpose the author regards Nottingham as an ideal town, for it has visual evidence to show its 1,000 years of history. He takes the reader on a walk round Nottingham, explaining the stages of its growth, and the factors which packed a population of 50,000 in 1830 into the same area as 11,000 in the gardenlike town of 1750. The book is well illustrated and documented, and it is interesting to compare the growth of Nottingham with that of Leicester during the same period.

SIX MUMMERS ACTS by Alex Helm and E C Caute
Guizer Press, Ibstock, Leicestershire 1967 6s

Mummers plays are akin to the Miracle and Mystery plays which made the Bible come alive to the non-literate majority of mediaeval society. This little booklet describes
surviving plays and includes an account of the Leicestershire ploughboy mummers of Ab Kettleby.

LEICESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Transactions Vol.XLIII 1967-68

Romano-British Pottery Kiln at Greetham, Rutland, by the late E G Bolton.

A Saxon-Norman Pottery Kiln discovered in Southgate Street, Leicester, 1964 by Max Hebditch.

Saxon and Mediaeval Pottery from Kirby Bellars by J G Hurst.

Hides, Carucates and yardlands in Leicestershire; the case of Saddington by C J Hughes.

Epidemics in Loughborough, 1539-1640 by N Griffin.

This historical account is based on the parish registers, and is concerned not only with the mediaeval plague, but also with a new illness called the "Great Sweat" - or in the phraseology of the 1551 register entry "the Swat called New Acquaintance alias Stoupe! Knav and know thy master". Unlike the plague this illness killed mostly the rich. The author concludes that more than 75 burials a year indicated an epidemic. The biggest epidemic in Loughborough was in 1609, and lasted for eighteen months.
It was reputed to have hit children and old people most heavily, and there are records of people dying whilst visiting friends.

Leicester and the Anti-vaccination movement 1853-1889 by D L Ross

Vaccination against small pox was the first effective step toward protecting children, and if regularly enforced, the community at large against this disfiguring, highly infectious and killing disease. It was made compulsory for all infants over four months by Act of Parliament in 1853. Opposition and doubt over the effectiveness of the Vaccination Laws so vigorously expressed in Leicester did much to bring the whole problem before the public and to secure the modification of the Act.


The implementation of a national system of secondary education derived from the 1902 legislation, the growth of technical education, changes in teacher training, the re-organisation of senior elementary schools in 1920's and 1930's and finally the beginnings of the changes envisaged in the 1944 Education Act. Sir William Brockington had a unique and phenomenal career which in its 44 years encompassed the major changes in the educational system of the 20th century.
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