

An Inventory of ancient, holy and healing wells in Leicestershire

by James Rattue

Leicestershire is not perhaps the best county for which to attempt a survey of old and named wells. It seems to have missed out badly so far as the common sources, such as Anglo-Saxon charters, investigations of folk-traditions, and the attentions of the English Place-Name Society are concerned. There have been three studies devoted to Leicestershire wells, but all have drawbacks and are far from complete. L. Richardson's *Wells and Springs of Leicestershire*, 1931, is one of the Geological Survey volumes. Though he was interested in folklore and named springs, and his volumes on Somerset and Herefordshire are most informative, the Leicestershire volume is mostly concerned with actual or potential sources for the public supply, or spas. Nonetheless he names ten wells which cannot be linked to other sources. Clive Potter wrote an article on Leicestershire and Rutland holy wells in the short-lived journal devoted to the subject, *Source*, but it is mainly a compilation of details from Nichols and a few other writers, and he misunderstood a number of them (see under Loughborough in the Inventory). Trubshaw's recent 'mystical' survey repeats these errors, but does contain some new facts. Palmer's book on Leicestershire and Rutland folklore (1985) also mentions four wells not cited elsewhere, but gives no sources. This list is therefore the first comprehensive account of named wells in the county. A general introduction to the subject from an historical point of view is difficult to make, again because so little work has been done. The majority of well-surveys are either purely folkloric, or mystical. The usual position is that the holy well is essentially a pagan site converted by early missionaries, and even those few historians who take any notice of the well accept this picture:

Holy wells were relatively common in Western Britain, and in the area of Celtic Christianity, and are generally believed to have been places of pagan veneration which were dedicated and perhaps adopted as baptismal foci during the Christian Conversion.¹

Of course this is true for a good many sites, and we do have a story of St Columba converting a well.² In the same way the well at Ratby may have been converted because of its proximity to the hillfort, which might have been thought a pagan site. But it is not true for many others; there are a few sites where the succession of placenames actually shows an unnamed, ordinary spring becoming a Christian one. Welton (East Yorks.), for instance, is *Wealletune* in Domesday, 'tun of the spring'. This spring later becomes St Anne's Well, but probably not before the fourteenth century as her cult had barely penetrated England until then.³ There is also a demonstrable link

1. W.R. Rodwell, 'Wells: Cathedral and City', *Current Archaeology*, (1980), p.39
2. *Nora Legendae Argliaec* (ed. C. Hootmann) (1901), i 201.
3. A.H. Smith, *Place Names of the East Riding of Yorkshire*, pp.219-20. Cambridge: University Press, 1937; R. Morris, *Churches in the Landscape*, pp.89-90. London, 1989

with minster churches which is normally ignored. In Dorset (though this remains as yet unpublished) only one of a likely ten minsters has no holy well, at 90 per cent a proportion seven times as great as that for ordinary parishes. It may be that these minster-wells were the original converted pagan springs.

I have partly discussed these issues with regard to Oxfordshire,⁴ but in general historical approaches to holy wells can be found only in France. J. Hubert's 'Sacred Springs and Holy Wells' in *Memoriales Publiées par la Société de l'Ecole des Chartes*, Geneva, 1977, concludes that while many springs were converted from paganism, others, particularly those at old cathedrals and near saints' tombs, were often deliberately created. M. Roblin's 'Holy Wells and Ancient Cemeteries' in *Revue d'Histoire de l'Eglise de France* (1976) reaches few firm conclusions but does note that well-chapels often predate parish churches. Whether Leicestershire displays any of these trends remains to be seen. As the Inventory makes clear, much relies on the fortuitous interest taken by John Nichols in old wells. The lack of research apart from this is unfortunate, for even given these restrictions, the list yields a total of one well per 6.6 square miles, a figure easily comparable with that of Derbyshire and not so far behind those of Dorset or Oxfordshire, suggesting that we should modify any idea that the exclusive stronghold of the holy well is the Celtic West. The list that follows, then, is fairly complete but intended only as a basis for future local research or field study. Some arbitrary decisions, such as the exclusion of spas or mineral springs with no local healing reputation, have had to be made, and the comparison of old maps with modern ones is always hazardous. The possible translation of *wiella* as 'stream' is also a constant danger. Readers are asked to bear these limitations in mind. The inventory follows the scheme: township (and civil parish where different); well name; map reference; date of first (yet) known record; and other information.

AB KETTLEBY: Holy Well, SK724199. 1989. Never dries; cured rheumatism (Trubshaw 1990, 5).

ANSTEY: Bake Well, SK 544080. c.1800. From *boc* = 'beech tree'? (LRO, Map of Anstey, DG 20/Ma/3/1).

ARNESBY: Kerbidge Well, approx. SP 616921. 1979. 'There seems to be no record of the origin of this name' (Kelly & Dilks, 1979, 17).

ASHBY FOLVILLE (Gaddesby): Lamb Well, approx. SK 715115. 1848 (LRO Ashby Folville Tithe Map Ti/10/1).

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH: (St?) Ann Well, SK 33951815. Modern. Near parish boundary; name as yet unexplained.

Holy Well, SK 351174. 1735, when called Holly Well. (LRO Description of Ashby de la Zouch, DG 30/Ma/249/9).

Lyon's Well, SK 345169. 1735 (*ibid.*).

Penny/Perring's Well, SK 362178? 1795. The variant 'Penny' is Potter's and therefore unreliable (Nichols 1795-1810, iii 615; Potter 1985, 17).

4. J. Rattue, 'Holy and Named Wells in Oxfordshire', *Oxfordshire Local History* 3:8 (1992), pp.332-7.

AYLESTONE: Holy Well, SK 574006. 1869. Tradition still recalled in 1920s (Dare 1924, 74).

BARWELL (Hinckley): Boar's Well, SP 443964. 1043 (Bourne 1981, 42).

BEEBY: Beeby Spring, SK 664084. Modern, but possibly the supposed 'Holy Well' (Palmer, 1985, 28).

BELVOIR: Well, SK 819342? 1795. 'Brackish', walled by John Duke of Rutland, 'but not much frequented' (Nichols, 1795-1810 ii 84).

BLACKFORDBY (Ashby de la Zouch): Blackfordby Spring /'St Margaret's Well'. Lost. 1813. Chapel (recorded 1220) rests on 'copious spring'; never froze, used for village supply (*Gentleman's Magazine*, 1813, ii 209; Hextall 1852, 83-4; Richardson 1931, 23).

BLASTON: Our Lady's Well, SP 823953. 1795. On site of Austin priory of St Mary (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 509-10).

BOTTESFORD: Craikell Well, lost. 1990. Children dipped on midsummer morning; cured blindness (Trubshaw 1990, 10).

BREEDON ON THE HILL: Tops Well, SK 421227. c.1770 (LRO Map of the Lordship of Tongue, DG 20/Ma/46/6).

BURBAGE (Hinckley): Camp Well, SP 442918 or 445911. 1795 (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 454).

Sketchley Well, lost. 1874. Sharpened the wits (Billson 1895, 20-21).

Soar Well, SP 434902 (just within Warwickshire today). 1787. Source of Soar, medicinal; bath built by Dr Aldridge (Nichols 1787, 349).

BURROUGH ON THE HILL (Somerby): Green Well, SK 746095. 1607 (LRO Description of the Town of Burrough on the Hill, PP 266).

Leeste Well, SK 758105. 1607 (ibid.).

BURTON LAZARS (Burton & Dalby): Holy Well, lost. 1931. Perhaps Potter's 'brick-sided pond', not on maps (Richardson 1931, 85; Potter 1985, 16).

Medicinal Well, approx. SK 764167. c.1740. Roger de Mowbray founded leper hospital by well post 1135; cured skin diseases, 'in high repute but gradually fell into disuse' and cross used to repair church, c.1740. Spa built 1760, rebuilt 1794, 1849. Rich in sodium chloride and hydroxide, ground nearby thought good for cattle with murrain (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 272; Richardson 1931, 85).

Stock Well, SK 772171. 1980. Never dries (Rothery 1980, 22).

BURTON OVERY: Roger Well, SP 675972? 1638 (Field 1961, 67).

CASTLE DONINGTON: Spital Spring, approx. SK 443227. 1931, but cf. St John's Hospital, founded 1220 (Richardson 1931, 45; Nichols 1795-1810, iii 770).

Long Well, SK 443272. 1990 (Trubshaw 1990, 12).

CHADWELL (Scalford): Cold/Chad Well, SK 784246. 1086. Called 'Chad' 1931,

but originally from *ceald* = 'cold' (Richardson 1931, 94; Bourne 1981, 34).

CHURCH LANGTON: Paddock Well, SP 720941? 1638. From OE *pada* = 'toad' (Field 1961, 181).

St Anne's/Saddington Well, SP 727939. 1638. Preserved at Enclosure, half in glebe. Church dedicated to St Peter (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 659, 664; Field 1961, 183).

COTESBACH: Broad Well, SP 539813. 1850 (LRO Cotesbach Tithe Map, Ti/82/1).

CRANOE: Our Lady's Well, SP 761951. 1867. Church dedicated to St Michael (Hill 1867, i 174; Nichols 1795-1810, ii 155).

CROXTON KERRIAL: Black Well, SK 850303. 1931. 'Good spring' (Richardson 1931, 33).

Halliwell, SK 833289? c.1110. In endowment roll of Croxton Abbey, *temp.* Henry I (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 151).

EARL SHILTON (Ashby de la Zouch): Cold Well, approx. SP 486966. 1835 (LRO Map of Earl Shilton, Ma/93/1).

EAST NORTON: Holliwell, SK 774015. 1841. On parish boundary (LRO East Norton Tithe Map, Ti/95/1).

EASTWELL: East Well, SK 775285. 1086. Called Washpond, 1847 (Bourne 1981, 36; LRO Eastwell Tithe Map, Ti/97/1).

Town Well, SK 778288. 1931 (Richardson 1931, 86).

EDMUNDTHORPE: Norwells, SK 685168. 1795 (LRO Map of Edmundthorpe Lordship, DG 27/Ma/99/1).

Woodwell Head Spring, SK 880176. 1931, when it supplied the Hall; close to parish boundary (Richardson 1931, 87).

EVINGTON: Pink Well, SK 627029. 1761 (as Finch Well). 100 yards from church (Field 1961, 84).

FLECKNEY: Well, lost. 1951. Locals tried to build village at Well Wattering, but fairies removed stones nightly to present site (Badcock 1980, 36).

FOXTON: Tunny Well, lost. 1755 (Field 1961, 93).

FRISBY: Nynewells. 1638. No multiple springs survive in parish (Field 1961, 101).

GADDESBY: Harewell, approx. SK 707122. Modern farm name.

GILMORTON: Broad Well, SP 581886. 1674. Hard, cures eye diseases (Bloxson 1918, 1-2).

Little Wells, SP 564870. 1674 (*ibid.*, 157).

GLENFIELD: Woodcock Well, SK 552072. 1889 (Ordnance Survey). On parish boundary.

GREAT BOWDEN (Market Harborough): Lacon Well, lost. 1475 (as

Longlakynwell). 'Stream abounding in channels'? (Field 1961, 36).

Stinkhorne Well, lost. 1638. Ref. to toadstools (*ibid.*, 57).

GUMLEY: 'St Helen's Well', SP 680902. 1960. Well and pump by church; therefore possible liturgical use (VCH Leics., v 116).

HALLATON: St Morel's Well, SP 781988. 1675, but probably the same as Stowe (holy/meeting place) Well, 1318. Cf. the Hermitage, 1588; (Field 1961, 134, 139). Suggested site is at Moor Hills Farm.

HARSTON (Belvoir): Cutwells, SK 829315. 1840 (LRO Harston Tithe Map, Ti/137/1).

Denton Wells, approx. SK 846324. 1840. By parish boundary, named after next village, and cf. Socketwell just within Lincolnshire (*ibid.*).

HINCKLEY: Barwell, SP 437935? 1849. Cured eyes (Patterson 1849).

Christopher Spa, approx. SP 433942. 1782. Possibly originally St Christopher's? (Nichols 1782, 62).

Cogg's Well, SP 443948. Petrifying, chalybeate (*ibid.*, 62; Richardson 1931).

Holy/Our Lady's Well, SP 433940. 1755. 'Exquisitely clear and good'; 6 nobles of c.1350 found here 1755; rebuilt 1757 after it dried during gravel digging; place of popular assembly into the 1840s; pump removed c.1895; dedication may have been lost at Reformation (Nichols 1782, 62; Richardson 1931; Palmer 1985, 28).

Priest's Well. lost. 1782? Possibly an error for Nichols's 'good waters in the Priest Hills' (Nichols 1782, 62; Potter 1985, 16).

Stock Well, approx. SP 426941. 18th cent. Town stocks here, also street name (Francis 1930, 114).

HOLWELL (Ab Kettleby): Holwell Mouth, SK 738236. 1086. From *holh* = 'hollow', but called Holy by 1795 when had a stone table and was 'formerly much frequented'. Land called Well Dole granted to Vicarage 1403. Source of Smyte; chalybeate; curative. 10s p/a paid in 1790s for its upkeep (Bourne 1981, 42; Nichols 1795-1810, ii 12).

HOUGHTON ON THE HILL: Thermal Spring, SK 674031. 1795 (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 613).

HUNGARTON: Holy Well, SK 691054? (Conduit Spinney) or 689078, 688086. 'Medieval'. Le Holywelldale in Seagrave Cartulary (*ibid.*, iii 280).

KIBWORTH: Cross Pump, Lost. 1939. Never failed (Woodford 1939, 59).

KILBY: Red/Reed Pool, SP 602944. Modern. Chalybeate spring. Cf. Reedfield, Foston, 1850 (LRO Foston Tithe Map, Ti/106/1).

KING'S NORTON: 'St John the Baptist's Well', SK 689004. 1990. Well in churchyard wall, possibly holy (Trubshaw 1990, 19).

KNIGHTON: Clerkewell, SK 606005? 1334. Owned by St Mary de Pratis, Leicester (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 237).

LAUGHTON: Kicklewell, SP 656877. Modern. Possibly from Old Norse *kikall* = 'winding'.

LEICESTER: Blank Well, lost. 1303. Probably Richardson's Planke Well (Bateson 1905, i 367; Richardson 1931, 131).

Cank Well, SK 585044. 1350-51 (Richard le Canke) (Bateson 1905, ii 75). Goose Well, approx. SK 589046. 1305. Gosewellgate, outside East Gate (*ibid.*, i 288).

Merrie/St Mary's Wells, SK 583060. 1892. In grounds of St Mary de Pratis (D.W. in *Leicestershire & Rutland Notes and Queries* 2 (1892), iii 246).

St Augustine's/Tosting's Well, SK 580004. 1666. Owned by Augustinian Abbey, but cf. pre-Conquest church of SS Augustine & Columba. Built up with brick and stone; restored by Corporation 1666 (or 1688?) for £2 14s. 8d., but destroyed in 18th-century road-widening (Nichols 1795-1810, i 6, 300, 434

'St Margaret's Well', SK 585051. 1557-8, when Corporation paid 3s 5d to clean it; at church, reputedly site of ancient cathedral (Nichols 1795-1810, i 558; Bateson 1905, iii 93).

'St Martin's Well', SK 585044. 1557-8, when Corporation paid 5s to clean it, and 10s to repair it, 1584. 'Covered' by 1795. Cathedral probably site of Roman temple. Hooded ghost here predicts death for passersby (Nichols 1795-1810, i 591; Bateson 1905, iii 93, 201; Cutting 1981, 22).

St James's/St Sepulchre's/Pulcre Well, approx. SK 588037. 1458, but chapel of St Sepulchre/James (also 'The Hermitage') mentioned 1338-9. Extra-mural hermitage chapels often occur in minster towns (Nichols 1795-1810, i 303, 308; Bateson 1905, ii 46, 266; Hope 1893, 86).

LITTLE DALBY (Burton & Dalby): Chalybeate Spring, SK 772137. Owned by Vicar (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 160).

LODDINGTON: Eye Well, SK 772026 or 793014. 1795. Petrifying, cured eyes. Too heavily tainted with Epsom salts to be drinkable (Nichols 1795-1810, iii 330; Jones 1930, 13).

LOUGHBOROUGH: Holy Well 'of Holywell Haw', SK 508180. c.1130. Hermitage here owned by Garendon Abbey temp. Ranulf of Chester; Legend of Lady Agnes pursued by Red Comyn and taking refuge with the Hermit of the Well does not appear in Nichols and so is probably modern. Potter's 'Monk's Well, Garendon' is an error for one at a London hermitage also owned by Abbey (Nichols 1795-1810, iii 122; Palmer 1985, 29; Potter 1985, 15). N.B., Billson's 'St John's Well, Loughborough' is an error for Lutterworth (Billson 1895, 23).

LUBENHAM: St Mary's Well, approx. SP 688869. 1795, when had cistern and was 'formerly in some repute' for eyes. Stains yellow. Papillon Hall site of lazar-house; church dedicated to All Saints (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 701, 709; Potter 1985, 15-16).

LUTTERWORTH: Moor Barns Spring, SP 536841. 1931, but cf. Moor Barns 1853. Produced 32,000 gallons per day (Richardson 1931, 56; LRO Lutterworth Tithe Map Ti/211/1).

St John's Well, approx. SP 545842. 1586. Cold, petrifying, cures eyes, but in 1810 soft enough to drink. Rose either where bone of John Wyclif fell from cart taking relics to be burned, or where man died after picking a bone from cart. But cf. St John the Baptist's Hospital, *temp.* John (Camden 1695, 443; Nichols 1795-1810, iii 257, 259, 263; Dyson 1913, 46-7).

MARKET BOSWORTH: Washing Well, SK 405032. 1592 (Foss 1983, 45, 226).

MARKET HARBOROUGH: Lady Well, SP 735872. 1776. Old church dedicated to St Mary; possibly minster town (Nichols 1795-1810, iii pl.CLII).

Saunt's Pump, SP 732874. 1886, named from Lewis Saunt, fl. 1830; in 1886, only well in town fit for drinking (Davies 1969, 138; Davies & Brown 1984, 85).

MEASHAM: Baptist Lane Spring, lost. 1931. Never failed (Richardson 1931, 23).

MELTON MOWBRAY: 'St Mary's Well', SK 753190. 1957. Very old pump within church. Church possibly a minster: had large parish and Bp. Gibson believed it to have been collegiate (Hunt, 1957, 19, 144-5; Nichols 1795-1810, ii 251).

MISTERTON: Buck Well, approx. SP 590838. Modern farm name.

MUSTON: Honey Wells, approx. SK 822388. 1849 (LRO Muston Tithe Map, Ti/226/1).

NAILSTONE: Lady Well, SK 404065. 1841. Church dedicated to All Saints (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 868; LRO Nailstone Tithe Map, Ti/227/1).

Warbridge Wells, approx. SK 413068. 1841 (*ibid.*).

NETHER BROUGHTON: 'St Mary's Well', SK 695262. Well at church, possible liturgical use .

NEVILL HOLT: Goldthorpe Spring, lost. 1960. Curative (V.C.H. Leics, v 241).

NEWTOWN LINFORD: Medicinal Well, SK 514108? 1795. 'Of late not much accounted of' (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 891).

NORMANTON LE HEATH: Bulwell, approx. SK 383135. Modern farm name.

Ninewells, SK 378121? 1848 (LRO, Heather Tithe Map Ti/237/1). Potwell, approx. SK 379126. 1848. Farm name (*ibid.*).

NORTH KILWORTH: Cawdewell, SP 618833. 1756. From *ceald* = 'cold' (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 204).

OAKTHORPE & DONISTHORPE: Salt Spring, SK 299133. 1795. On county boundary. Brackish, 'long been frequented by country people' on summer Sunday mornings; circumambulation site nearby. used against scorbutic disorders (*ibid.*, iii 998).

OLD DALBY (Broughton & Old Dalby): Chalybeate Spring, lost. 1795. 'Serves the whole parish for culinary purposes' (*ibid.*, iii 253).

PICKWELL (Somerby): Peak Well, SK 787113. 1086 (Bourne 1981, 52).

PRESTWOLD: Jacob's Wall Sisters' Well, SK 593229 1985. During drought *c.*1500

Lacey sisters discovered never-failing well in a dream (Palmer 1985, 29 Trubshaw 1990, 18).

RATBY: Holy Well, SK 502056. 1795. Cured scorbutic disorders; near Iron Age hillfort (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 879).

SADDINGTON: Salt Well, lost. 1795. Before Enclosure 'much recommended' for scrofula and scurvy, but by 1795 'useless in point of medicine' (ibid., ii 177).

SAPCOTE: Gold Well, SP 492938. 1795. Sulphuric, cured nervous complaints, consumption, scurvy, eyes; spa built 1806 by J. Turner for £600. 'Little resorted to' by 1853 (ibid., iv 897; Whitley, 1853, 73).

Sope Well, lost. 1795. Was close to parish boundary; washed without soap. 'Much used' before Enclosure but stopped up by 1795 (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 897).

SHARNFORD: Turpit Well, lost. 1795. Strong spring, before Enclosure (ibid., iv 917).

SHAWELL: Hipswell, SP 554807. 1839. Possibly from *hyppels* = 'stepping stones', as at Hipswell, North Yorks. (LRO Shawell Tithe Map, Ti/283/1).

Shady Well, SP 542796 or 543799. 1086. Medicinal, but name possibly means 'boundary stream' (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 335; Bourne 1981, 55).

SHEEPY MAGNA: Pinwell, SP 307000. 1541 (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 463).

SHEPSHED: Finney Spring, SK 464178. On modern Ordnance maps.

SLAWSTON: Holliwell, approx SP 774947. 1637 (LRO Description of the Manor of Slawston, PP 267).

SOUTH KILWORTH: Bone Well, lost. 1756 (Nichols 1795-1810, iv 204).

Bride Well, SP 601813? 1697. name usually refers to fertility rites (ibid., iv 205).

SPROXTON: Hamwell Spring, SK 819261. 1909 (Wedd 1909, 61).

Holwell Spring, SK 821287. 1795. Source of the Eye. Both wells at deserted village of Bescaby (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 308).

STAUNTON HAROLD: Mineral Spring, SK 382214? 1795. Very cold. Bath, but only 'vestiges' remained in 1795 (ibid.,iii 718).

STATHERN: Dalliwell Pump, approx. SK 773309. 1931. Near church, never fails (Richardson 1931, 92).

STONESBY: Well, SK 820247? 1795. Never fails; at de la Fontaines' mansion, arched over with Latin inscription (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 362).

SUTTON CHEYNEY: King Richard's Well, SP 402000. 1813. Traditionally Richard III drank from it at Bosworth; cairn erected with Latin inscription by Lord Wentworth, 1813 (Foss 1983, 23, 224).

SWEPSTONE: Ninewells, SK 374105. 1839 (LRO Tithe Map, Ti/316/1).

SYSTON: St John's Well, lost. 1795. Church dedicated to St Peter (Nichols 1795-1810, iii 453-4).

THORPE ARNOLD: Spa, approx. SK 770200. 1848. 'Spa' often applied to local healing wells (LRO Thorpe Arnold Tithe Map, Ti/324/1).

TUR LANGTON: King Charles's Well/Carles Trough, SP 722949. 1795. Charles I watered horse here after Naseby; or possibly from *ceorl* (Nichols 1795-1810, ii 506, 673).

ULLESTHORPE: Cawdel Well, approx. SP 502872. 1791. Mineral, healing; Dr Wigley (fl.1590) built bath here. 'Cordlewell' in 1839 (Macaulay 1791, 122; LRO Ullesthorpe Tithe Map, Ti/339/1).

Chapel Well, lost. 1791. Traditionally chapel site (Macaulay 1791, 122).

WALTHAM ON THE WOLDS: 'Holy Well,' SK 803251. 1990. Spring-fed in churchyard wall, possibly holy, built by Duke of Rutland c.1875. (Trubshaw 1990, 27).

Cresswell Spring, SK 797262. c.1937. Healing; supposedly Druidical – originally Scaldes wall, then 'Christ's Well' – but probably from 'cross spring' (*ibid.*, 28).

WARTNABY (Ab Kettleby): Friar's Well, SK 709228. Modern. Manor never owned by any Friary.

WELHAM: Caudle (Well), SP 745932. 1844. (LRO Welham Tithe Map, Ti/349/1).

WHITWICK: Haunted Pool, SK 436162. 1985. Lady Askin drowned in castle pool c.1210 and haunts it (Palmer 1985, 205-7).

WIBTOFT (Claybrook Parva): Holy Well, SP 487877. 1843 (LRO Claybrook Tithe Map, Ti/70/1).

WIGSTON MAGNA: Holy Well, lost. 1972 (Field 1972, 106; original source and date unknown).

WISTOW: Church Well, approx. SP 643960. 1609. By church, resting-place of St Wistan; possible minster site (LRO Map of the Parish of Wistow, PP 101; Rollason 1981).

WOODHOUSE: Maplewell, approx. SK 413183. 1754. Farm-name; folk-derivation from 'May-pole well' (LRO Perambulation of Charnwood Forest, DG 9/Ma/66/1; Billson 1895, 29).

WORTHINGTON: Griffin's Well, SK 413183. 1985. Village supply supposedly monopolized by griffin until slain by knight - probably folk-etymology working on an old name (Palmer 1985, 29-30).

WYMESWOLD: Stockwell, approx. SK 606234. Street name, probably refers to a well. From the stocks, or *stocc* = 'tree stump'.

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My thanks to Mr John Field for permission to quote from his thesis on Gartree field-names.

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