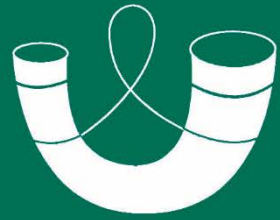


THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society
Issue 91 *Spring 2018*



Winding the clocks at the British Horological Institute Museum of Timekeeping, Upton Hall. Winding all the clocks takes two people half a day each week. See page 15.

Visit the Thoroton Society website at: www.thorotonsociety.org.uk

LECTURE REPORTS

The Nottinghamshire History Lecture 2017

Hannah Nicholson, 'Print and Politics in the Nottinghamshire Constituencies, c.1790-1832'

Just in case we thought that modern election contests are something invented in recent times, Hannah Nicholson demonstrated how in the three Nottinghamshire Parliamentary boroughs (Nottingham, Newark, East Retford) either side of 1800, electoral politics were already alive and very well. Hannah is part way through her Ph.D. thesis, and has been studying newspaper reports, handbills, flyers and other ephemera which circulated during election contests.



Although many of the people who participated in electoral politics did not have the vote (including women) this did not stop contests being fought with considerable vigour and, of course, in this pre-secret ballot era 'inducements' including food, drink and other entertainment. Hannah explained to the audience how electoral contests worked, the material generated, canvassing, hustings, songs, addresses, poems and various forms of print. Nottingham had more voters than Newark and Retford, and for that reason alone elections were lively events with music, speeches and various other forms of entertainment. At the end of this fun, candidates were elected, bundled off to Westminster and largely forgotten until the next time a prime minister called an election.

Hannah's lecture, richly illustrated with examples of handbills and election squibs, will be published in *Transactions*. Meantime we wish her well as she completes her doctorate in the next twelve months.

John Beckett

The Neville Hoskins Lecture 2017

Dr Clare Hartwell, 'Revising Pevsner's *Nottinghamshire*'

This year's Neville Hoskins Lecture was given by Clare Hartwell who is at present revising Nikolaus Pevsner's *Buildings of England* volume for Nottinghamshire. Originally published in 1951, it is one of the earliest volumes to have been completed and the only one surveyed entirely by Pevsner himself. This volume was expertly revised in 1979 by Elizabeth Williamson and is now undergoing a further revision to bring it into line with the new larger format published by Yale University Press which includes colour photographs. Dr Hartwell attempted to give a flavour of Pevsner's original working methods as well as her own work of double-checking existing entries and making revisions in the light of new research, plus hunting for other buildings worthy of inclusion.

Clare Hartwell concentrated her attention – whilst valiantly fighting the recalcitrant technology – on the medieval churches of the county and in particular re-examining the role played by 19th century

restorers. Usually derided for their often cavalier attitude to original medieval fabric, she instead suggested that these architects may in many cases have been their saviours, for these long neglected churches were often by that date in desperate need of significant structural repair. In some cases, these restorations even revealed lost medieval fabric such as that carried out by T C Hine who restored the former Thurgarton Priory church in 1852-53. Whilst at St Mary Magdalen's church in Newark Dr Hartwell not only marvelled at the size and quality of the medieval fabric, which clearly reflects the comparative wealth of the county in the later medieval period, but also gave us an example of how a re-examination of the fabric can suggest new interpretations of a building's development.

At Southwell Minster on the other hand she was captivated, as Pevsner had been, by the quality of



Nikolaus and Lola Pevsner

the original carving left untouched by the careful restoration undertaken by the architect, Ewan Christian, in the 1880s.

Clare Hartwell admitted that her previous work for Pevsner in the north-west – Lancashire (2004), Cheshire (2011) and Derbyshire (2016) – had not prepared her for assessing the very different brick vernacular architecture found in Nottinghamshire. She was particularly interested in the plethora of prominent dovecotes which are such a feature of many of the county's farmsteads and villages. Various members of the Society were able to give her advice on sources and published material to assist her with this important aspect of the county's architectural heritage.

Dr Hartwell finished with an illustration of a most interesting contemporary house in Southwell which she is considering for inclusion in the forthcoming volume, and a plea for information concerning the whereabouts of other similar buildings - or any other type or style of building - which members of the audience know about and which might be worthy of consideration.

Pete Smith

Anyone who has corrections for the present Pevsner volume, new information about existing entries or buildings which they think might qualify for inclusion in the revised volume should send their information to:-

Clare Hartwell, 702 Stockport Road, Manchester M12 4GB or clare@clarehartwell.co.uk

The Norah Witham Lecture 2018

Valerie Wood, 'Vote 100: Centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918'

The January Lecture is always given in memory of Miss Nora Witham, a long time member and a former Vice President of the Thoroton Society.



Florence Paton, MP for
Rushcliffe 1945-1950

Valerie Wood's lecture considered the impact of the Representation of the People Act of 1918 which enfranchised all women over the age of 30 (subject to certain conditions) and to all men over 21 years. The Act also afforded women the right to stand for election in local city and borough council elections and in the elections for national government. In the immediate period afterwards many women sought representation on local councils, but it was not until 1945 that a Parliamentary seat in Nottinghamshire was won by a woman. Florence Paton won the Rushcliffe seat in 1945 for the Labour party with a majority of over 6,000. Following electoral boundary changes in 1950, Florence stood for the new Carlton constituency and lost to Conservative Kenneth Pickthorne by only 395 votes. She did not win another Parliamentary seat.

Many women in Nottingham had been suffragists, rather than suffragettes, from the 1880s and had worked hard to persuade politicians to support their cause. One of these was Lady Laura Ridding, wife of Dr George Ridding, the first Bishop of Southwell. Lady Lara had organised a conference in Nottingham in 1885, which resulted in the founding of the National Union of Women Workers, now called the National Council of Women. In the early 20th century, Asquith, who was originally opposed to the movement for votes for women, began to see the need to compromise. Lloyd George was more sympathetic, and eventually women's suffrage became Labour party policy. Following the first election in which women could vote, there was concern that most women voters seemed to support male candidates. It appeared that those Nottinghamshire women who had been prominent in the fight for suffrage had failed to find a strong identity for themselves after the vote was won. After 1928, when women were fully enfranchised, there was a change in feminist causes.



L to R: Ald. Mrs Joan Case JP, first female Lord Mayor of Nottingham; Kenneth White, Manager of the Nottingham Co-Operative Arts Theatre; Jenny Lee MP, Minister for the Arts, October 1968

This was a fascinating lecture about a most significant event in women's history. The number of questions from the audience after the lecture emphasised the importance of commemorating the centenary of the Act.

P.A. Messenger

MEMBERS' RESEARCH

This extract from *Noble Prospects: a History of the Hamiltons* by our member John Hamilton is particularly apposite after this year's Norah Witham Lecture – Ed.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY:

Apart from temperance work, the family was much engaged politically: it could be said politics was in the family's blood. Where William had picked up his interest is not known, but political matters were

high on everyone's agenda at this time. Whether it was the question of Irish independence, votes for working-class men and for women, the veto powers of the House of Lords – arguments about all of these continued not just for years but for decades. And this was before the rise of German industrial power and the country's consequent military assertiveness came to the fore, to say nothing of major political unrest in Tsarist Russia and its far eastern war with a Japan, like Germany, newly aggressive following its similarly newly acquired industrial might.

Hattie's eldest brother Will had become the Conservative Member of Parliament in 1892. He called himself a "Unionist", that is a supporter of all Ireland remaining part of the United Kingdom. It was claimed of him that he could have become a Minister in the government if he had supported the party line more often. But he was too independent-minded to do that, perhaps because the family tradition as non-conformists was to vote Liberal – the Church of England was known as the Conservative party at prayer. Even earlier than that their mother Charlotte had long had an interest in politics as her diaries make clear. But since 1882 this had been directed to the Temperance movement, in which she established herself as a significant promoter nationally (see *Glad for God* pp 139-142), rather than with the now more famous Suffragettes' struggle for votes for women. She was, however, sufficiently sympathetic to their aims to go on a demonstration with Hattie in London in 1911 (when she was 83 years old). In comparison with the more violent tactics used by some of the movement's supporters, this was a rather genteel affair.

"I have almost forgotten to note I took part in a great Suffragist (sic) Demonstration in the middle of last July, organised to march in procession from Portland Rooms to the Albert Hall for a monster evening meeting. I accepted an invitation to accompany the party from Nottingham and, as I thought, join other ladies in a carriage to take part in the procession. Hattie was with me. To our great annoyance we found a line of brakes that could each hold at least some 20 persons" After taking their seats in the first unfilled one, they waited for two whole hours then "by slow means we arrived at the Embankment, thence made such slow progress that when near Hyde Park, we only just had time to get back to Marylebone for our return journey home. My only and last demonstration!" (Diary Dec 2nd 1911)

Although, as non-conformists, general support for Liberal Party policies was standard in the Bousfield household as Hattie grew up, the family was not directly involved in the party. Hattie's involvement came about because of William Robert, and rather late in the day from the available evidence. It is only in January 1909 that her mother wrote in her diary that "her husband indoctrinates her in politics." (Diary Jan 25 1909) This claim seems to arise from the fact that to an extent it took Hattie away from the cause that most engaged Charlotte herself – temperance – rather than her actual politics being unacceptable to her mother, who goes on to note that "which to please him to a great extent she takes public interest as President of one of the Liberal Women's Wards in this city".

Politics at this time occupied a much higher level of public interest than it generally does now. With no television, public meetings were the main means of enthusing the electorate: "The whole country is now agitated by continual political meetings by both parties" In the election campaign held either side of New Year 1910, Hattie went with her mother to a rally at Nottingham's Albert Hall. This was "in every respect most satisfactory to the Liberals. The building crammed from floor to the highest seats close to the roof." One of the candidates present was Arthur Richardson, for whom William

acted as manager for the campaign. He was a man much after Charlotte's heart: "A man of the people... as a Primitive Methodist preacher he has both eloquence and character. Would that there were many more like him in the House of Commons." (Diary Dec 17 1909)

Hattie's leading role among the women in the local Liberal party was evidenced by the part she took in this Election. A couple of weeks after the Albert Hall meeting she went again with her mother "to a meeting of the Liberal electors of this (parliamentary) division to the nomination of Sir Henry Cotton as candidate. Some 300 people were present, amongst them a sprinkling of ladies. The Chairman, Mr Goodall, presided over a most orderly and unanimous gathering, not a single hand being held up in opposition of the ground on which the coming contest will be fought. Little was said about tariff reform. Lords or Commons domination was the main topic. (Diary Dec 30 1909)

Hattie was one of only two ladies asked to speak: "My daughter Hattie," her proud mother wrote "who as Liberal president of the Women's Union of this ward, was expected to be able to give her sentiments on the political situation, which she did in a short but earnest and sensible speech." The meeting highlighted the difficulty the Suffragette movement had in getting even left-wing male politicians to put votes for women high on their agenda. "Both (women speakers) kept the women's suffrage in view as belonging to Sir Henry's political programme, but made no attempt to put it in more than a secondary place. Hattie spoke of herself as a 'patriot', putting no detail in an important place, in the present constitutional crisis. But Sir Henry has to thank her for the support of the Suffragists, for he would willingly have left their case out entirely; but discovering it had no place in his Election Address, she at once communicated with him, announcing that no Liberal women would canvass for him unless he continues true to the pledges on which he was before elected. He is still unfortunately ill" (ibid).

But not only Sir Henry was ill over the next few weeks. Both Hattie and her mother were also soon laid up with bronchitis or colds. As a result, their canvassing work for him of "addressing his New Year good wishes with his portrait to be delivered by others" lasted only two days. Meanwhile William and Lottie's husband Alex were acting for the other Liberal candidate Arthur Richardson. But all to no avail: "Our two good Liberal members are both out" (Diary Jan 20th 1910) Although the Liberals with the help of the newly established Labour party as well as Irish MPs remained in power nationally, it took another General Election in December with the same result to persuade the Lords to back down. This at last enabled the Government to put in place key legislation to give the Commons full precedence over the House of Lords for the first time. It had taken several hundred years to achieve this.

The Nottingham Brewery affair of 1908 highlights William Robert's position as a leading Liberal in Nottingham. As one obituary put it: "In politics he was a staunch Liberal, and filled posts of honour and responsibility under the banner of the Liberal cause". (High Pavement Chapel and Christ Church Chronicle Aug 1916 p.390) The date of his first involvement in politics is not known, but it must have been during his time in London and his association with Octavia Hill. This is confirmed by Hattie's description that he took up "social work" during his time in London. In Nottingham he three times stood unsuccessfully for the City Council, and was secretary of the Southern Division Liberal Association. It was in this capacity that he acted as agent for Arthur Richardson during the three General Elections between 1906 and 1910. As Jim was to record much later in life: "I never met

Richardson to speak of, but I remember being taken to one of his meetings in a hall in the Meadows (a suburb of Nottingham). I felt very grand sitting on the platform beside my father, and I remember Richardson's thundering speech." (Letter to Cecil Roberts 27 Dec 1957).

In October 1908 William Robert gave a talk at Burton Joyce on the subject of Liberalism and Social Reform. The fact that he kept these notes would suggest that he felt they were an important summary of his political beliefs. One sentence from them is also preserved separately in his papers and may therefore perhaps be taken as his fundamental political philosophy: "It is the duty of the State to secure to all its members, and all others whom it can influence, the fullest possible opportunity to lead the best life".

In his talk he summarised the past attitude of the Liberal Party as a mixture of i) Get rid of bad, ii) Let things alone, iii) Recognise necessity for regulation. He listed a number of Acts as instances of these principles, including the Children's Bill of 1819, the Reform Acts of 1832, 1867 and 1885, the Factory Act of 1847 and the Education Act of 1870. But they had achieved little: "So many efforts after the best life; so poor a result." The problem was the distribution of wealth: "1/3rd of income goes to 1/30th of the people. 2500 people own over half the country." While the Conservatives represented vested interests and individualism and Socialism would put all in the control of the State, Liberalism could unite individuality and community.

"We see differences not based on worth, ability or need. Equality of opportunity" was required, and "the State can help with this. But the State is made up of individuals: one does not gather grapes from thorns. Vote Liberal and act Liberal. Be a good citizen. The best life comes through liberty by regulation – having liberty. Do nothing" he finished "to hinder others attaining that liberty we ourselves so dearly prize." (WR Hamilton: Liberalism & Social Reform. Burton Joyce 26/10/1908)

His political beliefs informed his choice of outside activities. He joined the Eighty Club in London. This was a London gentleman's club, named after the year of its foundation – 1880. It was strictly for members of the Liberal Party, having the future Prime Minister HH Asquith as its first secretary, while David Lloyd George, another Prime Minister, was a one-time President. It was fairly exclusive, having only 600 members in 1900, compared to the mass membership of the National Liberal Club. William Robert perhaps found it useful to stay there when visiting the capital, but he also frequently lectured for the club around the country.

"Amongst the philanthropic and other bodies in which Mr. Hamilton was especially interested were the Charity Organisation Society, The Social Guild, the Nottingham Convalescent Homes and the Nottingham Scottish Society." (The Accountant 26 August 1916). The first two of these were distinctly political and an interesting mixture. The British version of the Charity Organisation Society (there were also societies in Germany and the U.S.A.) was founded in 1869 and led by Helen Bosanquet and Octavia Hill and it must have been through the latter that William Robert became involved. It was founded on the belief that the need for "poor relief" – that is, benefits – arose from social conditions rather than personal failure, and claimed that "giving out charity without investigating the problems behind poverty created a class of citizens that would always be dependent on alms giving.... It supported the concept of self-help and limited government intervention to deal with the effects of poverty....It claimed to use "scientific principles to root out scroungers and target relief where it was

most needed." The society still operates as Family Action, a registered family support charity." (Wikipedia; Charity Organisation Society)



Harriet ('Hattie') Mary Hamilton

It all sounds like an extract from the Conservative Party manifesto of today and not the defining philosophy of an organisation that an "advanced Liberal", as The Accountant called William Robert, would support. On the other hand, while he was without doubt emotionally affected by the misery of the poor, it is no surprise to find that he sought to use his great intelligence to solve the underlying problems that gave rise to it. His support for the Social Guild was connected to this, and it was an activity he shared with his friend Alex Morton and subsequently with Lottie too. "Lottie begged me" her mother wrote "to go with her to an evening class which she takes every Monday for the benefit of young men and women of the working class. Her class is called the Recreation class, and I am sure she endeavours to give it as high a tone as possible by introducing temperance talk with good music, singing

etc." Charlotte, however, was not amused to discover that there was also a billiard room and four card tables, which attracted much interest among the men and youths there: "gambling was not allowed but who can tell how many of these youths were being trained for such after-use of the knowledge acquired?" (Diary 16 March 1892).

It sounds like a working-man's club, but the Social Guild was much more serious in its aims. It was definitely socialist in its philosophy. Unlike communism and mainstream socialism, however, which sought the end of capitalism through the state ownership of the means of production, the Social Guild believed in the empowerment of the workers through the local ownership and control of the businesses they were working in. "They sought an end to the commodification of labour whether under the capitalist or the collectivist state. They sought economic democracy as a means to a classless society, rather than industrial democracy for the working class alone. A core concept of guild socialism was the promotion of 'all corporate work to the level of vocation', uniting in real fraternity all those whose industrial destinies are intermingled. From the outset guild socialists demanded nothing from industrial capitalism. Rather they explored the potential for the construction of a viable alternative." (Brian Burkitt & Frances Hutchinson: *The Political Economy of Social Credit and Guild Socialism*. p.14) It is not difficult to see that this appealed to William Robert.

After two elections in one year, the family's political activity died down. The re-emergence some three years later of the conflict over Home Rule for Ireland, as the call for independence was known, though much recorded in Charlotte's diary, does not seem to have roused either Hattie or William to get involved. But Hattie continued to be active for the local Liberal party: "Hattie was not quite so fortunate with a much larger company as regards the weather. She entertained nearly 200 to hear Lady Victor Horsley and others give addresses for the Liberal Women's suffrage." (Diary July 23rd 1914)

People mentioned above:

William Robert Hamilton, my grandfather

Hattie - Harriet Mary Hamilton, nee Bousfield, my grandmother

Charlotte Bousfield, her mother

Lottie – Charlotte Morton, Hattie's elder sister, married to Alex Morton.

Jim – James Hamilton, my father, elder son of William Robert and Hattie

Will – William Robert Bousfield QC/KC FRS, Hattie's eldest brother, MP 1892-1906

WHY DID HATTIE NOT CONTINUE WITH HER POLITICAL ACTIVITY AFTER 1918?

I do not recall any mention of political involvement by my grandmother in the aftermath of WW1, and this was probably due to personal circumstances. She lost both her father and her husband in the summer of 1916, and was left with three children to bring up on her own, though the two eldest were about to finish school at that time. There were no Hamilton relatives to speak of, but my father and eight of his Bousfield cousins served in the Army in WW1, and happily all survived. But in 1920 Hattie lost her two other brothers (not Will). From 1917 she had her mother Charlotte to live with her, sharing her care with Lottie, who lived in the other half of a large semi at the far end of Alexandra Park. After WW1 the three children all continued to live at home for many years, and her mother lived on until 1933, dying at the age of 105. Hattie also took up her temperance work again for the CofE. It could well be that the loss of her husband made her feel a loss of status and so less inclined to put herself forward publicly, but this is only speculation.

John Hamilton

[John's grandparents, William and Hattie Hamilton, were members of the Thoroton Society from 1903 – Ed.]

Gibbet Hill, Shelford

Gibbet Hill is named after a mound which stands on the edge of the Malkin Hill ridgeline, lying just within Shelford's parish boundary with extensive sight lines across and along the Trent Valley. Excavations here in the early 1970s (1) discovered sherds of Romano-British pottery in the natural soil level below the mound suggesting it was post-Roman in date. The mound was apparently created by throwing soil up from the surrounding land as no evidence of a ditch was found which appears to rule out the mound being the remains of a motte or round barrow. The proximity of Spellow Hill near to the Radcliffe/Saxondale/Shelford parish boundaries probably also rules out the mound as a moot-site. The excavation came to the conclusion the feature was probably a gallows mound from the beginning of the medieval barony of Shelford held by the Norman Geoffrey Alselin, although there is no actual evidence that hangings took place there.

No thought appears to have been made that the mound could have been constructed as a pre-Conquest look out point. There is evidence from the civil defence systems of Wessex that our Anglo-Saxons ancestors created mounds to aid the look-outs overlooking specific important locations. There is every possibility then that after the re-conquest of the Five Boroughs by Eadward the Elder in 920 and again later by King Edmund in 942 that similar structures were constructed when they began to install the civil defence system down the Trent Valley.

Shelford along with Stoke (Bardolph) on the opposite bank of the river in 1066, were held by Toki, son of Auti the Moneyer, the shire's second senior ranking thegn listed behind Ulf Fenman in Nottinghamshire Domesday. The ford between Shelford and Stoke (Bardolph) appears to have been one of the fords in the area utilized by the late Anglo-Saxon route known as the Herryway.

(continued on Page 12)



Plate 1. View looking north from Gibbet Hill, Shelford, looking down on the Shelford to Stoke Bardolph Trent crossing. The actual fording site lies adjacent to the houses in Stoke just visible below the wind turbine and a little upstream of the Ferry. The burh or enclosure at Burton Lodge Farm, from which Burton Joyce was named, and possibly the next watch-site downstream, lies conveniently above the next river bend on the ridgeline, centre picture. The manor at Burton Joyce although recorded in the Domesday Book as being held by the thegn Swein, was listed along with Toki's Shelford and Stoke estates that were inherited after the Conquest by the Norman Geoffrey Alselin. The probable reason for this was that Toki in fact held Burton Joyce and Swein was his tenant.



Plate 2, View of the mound at Gibbet Hill



Plate 3, Panorama view looking southwest from Gibbet Hill, Shelford. The plume of smoke/steam left of centre marks the site of the gypsum factory on the East Leake ridgeline at Hotchley Hill; to its left lies the Costock ridgeline, to its right Court Hill at Gotham. The Beacon Hill range at Charnwood can just be made out through the haze far distance behind the gypsum factory. Sharp Hill at Edwalton lies on the skyline on the right of the picture.



Plate 4, Continuation of the panorama from Plate 3 looking south-west from Gibbet Hill, Shelford.

1, Sharp Hill, Edwalton. **2**, Wilford Hill, along with Sharp Hill were held by the Countess Gytha in 1066. This ridgeline is a favoured location for Eadward the Elder's 2nd burh lying directly opposite to Nottingham, ideally located to control the routes to the West Bridgford and Wilford fords. **3**, Radcliffe on Soar Power Station. **4**, The Clifton Estate flats **5**, The Clifton Woods ridgeline, site of the pre-Conquest comital manor of Clifton, although held by the Countess Gytha, the Earl still held his jurisdiction over Clifton and its estate in 1066. **6**, Toton Hill promontory. **7**, Trent Building, University of Nottingham, possible site of Morcere's Newbold manor along with its Lenton sokelands in Broxtowe Wapentake. **8**, Queen's Medical Centre, Lenton. **9**, Colwick Hill; the western part of the hill was part of Sneinton parish falling under the jurisdiction of Nottingham. A watch site, Warde Forlonge, was located at the top of Colwick Hill.

Ideally located, a look-out point on this site satisfies two main criteria. First, it overlooks the Trent crossing between Shelford and Stoke (Bardolph) having sight lines to both of these settlements to which it was attached, in addition to Stoke's sokelands at Carlton, Colwick and Gedling.

This capability ensured control of the access routes to the ford. Somewhere on the opposite Gedling ridgeline, lay the 14th century names of the *Bernepit upon Wulfhowe* and *The Brende* (2). Whether these names had any signalling connection with Gibbet Hill in control of the routes to the ford or have been coined perhaps from some industrial use is not known. Other similar ridgetop names are known from the same north bank of the Trent in the area around Nottingham, Brentwood from Sneinton and the Burnt Hills at Bramcote.

The second criteria is that Gibbet Hill connects into the greater lookout and beacon system down the Trent Valley. Connection to Newark and Southwell was possible via Mickleborough Hill (3) in Averham Parish, connection with Nottingham hidden behind Colwick Hill possibly went the Sharp Hill / Wilford Hill ridgeline, or via the watch site on top of Colwick Hill (4). Addition sight lines from Gibbet Hill to the comital manor of Clifton; the site of the Domesday manors of Warborough in the vicinity of Hoe Hill on the Clipston ridgeline; the Costock ridgeline where the then London to York road first comes within view of both the borough of Nottingham and the comital manor of Clifton Ramsdale Hill in the royal manor of Arnold; the Flintham beacon site and the Beacon Hill ridgeline at Charnwood.

Notes:

- 1 An Excavation at Gibbet Hill, Shelford. – Stanley Revill – Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire Vol LXXV, p59-67, 1971.
- 2 The Brende – 1330, Bernes Pit – 1335/36, Bernepit upon Wulfhowe – 1346. - Records of the Borough of Nottingham.
- 3 It may or may not be a co-incidence that the only two instances of the name Mickleborough Hill in the county in Averham and Ruddington parishes are a) on sight lines with the only two Domesday boroughs in the shire, namely Nottingham and Newark; b) both had important pre-Conquest routes running over or around their flanks, the then London to York road over Mickleborough in Ruddington and the Mansfield to Newark route over Mickleborough in Averham, giving them the capability of control over these routes. The names in both cases are said to have derived from O.E. *Micel* and *Beorg*, big hill.
- 4 Warde Forlonge Sneinton, 1518, - Nottinghamshire Archives Ref No M24/297.

Ivan Morrell

Wyvill School and Murder

Last September I received a letter out of the blue from Professor Rene Weis, who teaches English at University College, London. He had discovered a piece by me online about Sherwood in Nottingham which included information about Wyvill School. It features in a book he is researching, although he did not offer the subject. I was curious and able to help by sending him all I knew about the school from my slim volume, *The History of Sherwood*, as follows:



'Augustus Wyvill Hancock, a partner in Hancock and Son, blouse manufacturers, lived at Linden House, 4 Peel Street, Nottingham and it was at his family home that his daughters, HM and GE Hancock first established Wyvill School in 1925. They were joint headmistresses of this private, fee-paying school until c.1936, when Hilda Hancock became the sole head. By this time the school had moved to its permanent home on Private Road, Sherwood. It remained a boarding school until the 1950s with about 100 to 120 pupils (girls and small boys) who wore distinctive red and grey uniforms.

Hilda took in Jewish children fleeing from Nazi Germany in the 1930s and in later years ignored the fact that some parents could not pay the fees. The school was closed in 1967 after Hilda Hancock died in January that year, and the building was demolished shortly afterwards.'

Professor Weis replied promptly and explained his interest in the school. One of its pupils was

Elizabeth Drummond, the 10-year-old daughter of Sir Jack Drummond and his wife Anne, of Spence House, Nuthall. Sir Jack had been the first chair of Biochemistry at UCL, then the chief adviser on nutrition during the Second World War. Amongst his introductions were orange juice and cod liver oil. He also saved thousands of lives by devising a suitable liquid food, rather like porridge, for those liberated from the concentration camps. He was knighted in 1945 and appointed Director of Research at Boots in Nottingham in June 1946.



Sir Jack Drummond; Elizabeth; Lady Anne Drummond

In late July 1952 the Drummond family drove around south east France on holiday. They reached a spot near Lurs, a village in the remote Basses-Alpes, and camped by the road. Early next morning a local farmer found all three Drummonds murdered. Sir Jack and his wife had been shot and Elizabeth clubbed to death as she tried to escape over a bridge. The only items stolen had been their passports and other means of identification, but one of Elizabeth's Wyvill School exercise books provided a means of identifying the family.

The motive for this terrible crime was never discovered. A local farmer, Gaston Dominici, was tried and sentenced to death but later pardoned by General de Gaulle. He was released in 1960 and died in 1965. No one knows for sure if he was guilty, but many other theories have been put forward. In particular, Professor Weis wants to put paid to dishonourable notions about Jack Drummond's alleged



Elizabeth Drummond with her pony

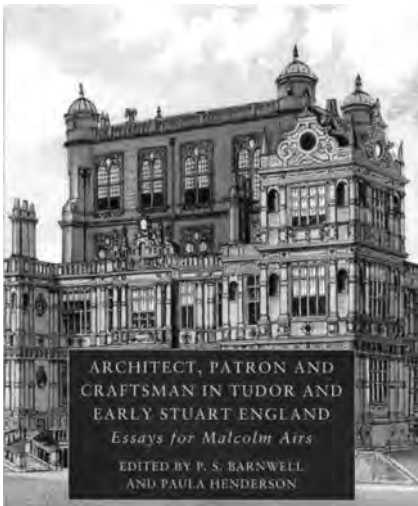
life as a secret agent and industrial spy. What he intends to do, which French writers cannot do so readily, is to clarify the Drummonds' lives by access to their files at UCL, the Wellcome Trust and The National Archives. Meanwhile, about every five years the French come up with another conspiracy theory. Orson Welles was one of the first to make a documentary, in 1953, about the murders.

In France, whenever the story crops up some people ask why it persists and the answer I always 'la petite, quand-meme la petite' (Elizabeth would have been 75 in 2017). Professor Weis became interested in the murders after coming across the Drummond graves in Forcalquier, a small town near Lurs. Apparently it is a most moving sight and scrupulously cared for to this day by the local *Mairie*. Currently, discussions are being held about erecting a monument to the Drummond family, near the entrance to the bridge across which Elizabeth fled that night.

Terry Fry

[Pictures by courtesy of Tony Horton]

NEWS



Pete Smith has published a paper on 'Wollaton Hall and New Hardwick Hall' in a volume entitled *Architect, Patron and Craftsman in Tudor and Early Stuart England*.

Continuing the great series of Rewley House Studies published by Shaun Tyas (2017) this new volume of essays is dedicated to Malcolm Ains. The essays were from papers read at a conference held at Rewley House in 2016. The book is 208 pages long (vi + 202), is printed in colour throughout and bound in sturdy boards covered in real cloth, with a handsome colour dust wrapper showing a Victorian print of Wollaton Hall.

ISBN 978-1-907730-62-7. The normal retail price is £40 and the book can be obtained from Shaun Tyas, 1 High Street, Donington, Lincolnshire, PE11 4TA, UK; telephone 01775 821542; email: shaun@shauntyas.myzen.co.uk

Further information from Pete Smith at pete21smith@gmx.com

Clipstone Colliery Headstocks

We have heard from Sir Neil Cossons, one of our Vice-Presidents, that a group of Industrial Archaeologists has been awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Foundation for a detailed survey and feasibility study of Clipstone Colliery headstocks. Heritage England are also providing a grant in

support. The Clipstone Colliery headstocks are Nottinghamshire's most important 'building at risk' and so this funding is timely, and progress can now be made towards their conservation. We hope to bring more information in a future *Newsletter*.

Historic towns atlas

This very useful and interesting website is intended to provide, in due course, a set of maps for each town and city in England. So far, twenty-two towns are included, one of which is Nottingham.

The Nottingham section begins with an extensive article on the history of Nottingham written by Prof MW Barley and IF Straw. There is then a series of seven maps from various times, covering Nottingham in the 9th to 12th centuries; Nottingham c.1800; Nottingham's mediaeval street names, and the Nottingham boroughs, parishes and wards in the 18th century. The site is easy to use, very informative and well worth a visit, at www.historictownsatlas.org.uk

Atlas of Hillforts

Another website of possible interest is the Atlas of Hillforts of Britain and Ireland, published by a consortium including the universities of Oxford and Edinburgh, and the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The atlas consists of an interactive Google map of the British Isles, with all known hillforts marked with a small circle. Pointing the cursor at one of the circles brings up a box with standard information on each site. There is an interesting cluster of eight hillforts to the north of Nottingham, including Camp Hill near Kirklington, Burgage Hill at Southwell, Dorket Head camp and the well-known Oldox camp near Oxtun. One wonders why the area was so heavily fortified. There are two more camps further away to the west. The atlas can be found at <https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk>.

Clock-winding at the British Horological Institute Museum of Timekeeping

Have you ever wondered who has the job of winding the several hundred clocks at the Museum of Timekeeping at the British Horological Institute at Upton Hall? Apparently it takes two people half a day each week just to wind clocks. Intrepid as ever, your Editorial Team, who are Friends of the Museum, went to Upton Hall



This clock resents being moved and will 'sulk' for days if it is moved even slightly when being cleaned.

recently to observe the winding. The two 'winders' were Ellie the Museum Manager and Alex the Collections Officer. Wednesday each week is 'winding day' and the winders were equipped with a variety of winding keys. Most were modern, and not the originals, as keys become worn and can damage the mechanisms.



Your Editor's favourite long-case clock

As they lovingly wound each clock, the two ladies talked about the clock and its characteristics, sometimes its eccentricities (some clocks complain loudly if they are moved even a fraction of an inch) and any special precautions taken when winding. Many clocks are weight-driven and the clock weights are supported by the winder's free hand as the clock is wound. This reduces the strain on the mechanism of the clock.

Future events planned at the Museum include a second Winding Day on Wednesday 21st February 2018 between 10.30am and 12.30pm. The cost is £5 per person, but free to Friends of the Museum.

There is a special celebration of the clocks going forward one hour to British Summer Time on Sunday 25th March, the Museum's Summer Show is on Sunday 1st July and the 'Fall Back' Day to mark the return to GMT is on Sunday 28th October. Further information can be obtained from www.bhi.co.uk.

A note from your Editor – in my view, the term 'Grandfather clock' is an ugly Americanism. An English clock is a Long Case Clock!

John Wilson

ANNIVERSARIES

100 years ago

If you would like to hear more about the 1917 escape of German prisoners of war from Sutton Bonington, go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029zc5c>. Two of our members, Christine Drew and Richard English, discuss the breakout and what happened next.

150 years ago

On 1st January 1868 there was a 'tremendous gale in Nottingham and throughout the county, which did much damage'.

On 13th April 1868, Easter Monday, the Nottingham Free Library was opened. The Nottingham Naturalists' Society had suggested, in 1863, that a Free Library be opened in Nottingham but nothing was done for several years. By 1867, the Artizans' Library, based in Thurland Street, was in financial difficulty and the library was purchased by the Town Council. The Nottingham Naturalists' Society offered their library and museum to the Town Council and the offer was accepted. The Free Library was set up in the former premises of the Artizans' Library and the library was opened by the mayor, Alderman John Barber, who borrowed the first book.

In April, the Free Grammar School moved from its premises in Stoney Street to its handsome new building on Arboretum Street, and its name changed to Nottingham High School. The foundation stone had been laid in October 1866.

200 years ago

On 4th February 1818, at a public meeting of the Gentry of the town, it was resolved to establish the Nottingham Savings Bank.

In March, at the Crown Assize Court, 'an unusual number of prisoners were condemned to death'. Their number included several convicted of burglary. Lucy Wain, aged 40, was condemned for uttering a counterfeit shilling in payment for half a pound of butter and William Goode aged 16 for stealing a scarf from a shop. Eventually, all but two were reprieved. The latter two had committed numerous

robberies. One, George Needham aged 21, had been discharged from the employ of a clergyman in Newark and had been obliged by his master to enter the Marines in lieu of being reported. Needham had deserted from the Marines and with his colleague William Mandeville aged 22 had embarked on a life of crime. The pair were hanged on 3rd April. Mandeville appeared sincerely contrite, but his companion was 'as hardened and insensible as can well be conceived'.

April 1818 saw the opening of the Salem Chapel on Barker Gate, built at a cost of £2,000. The occupation of the chapel did not last long, and after a debt of £900 was 'pressing down upon the energies' of the members of the chapel, it was let to a group 'known as the Arminian Methodists'. In 1839, the building was sold for £824 to a group who established the chapel as a meeting place for a group of Baptists who called themselves the 'New Testament Disciples'.

250 years ago

In 1768, Richard Arkwright, who had been born in Lancashire, became a resident of Nottingham. His invention of the 'spinning frame' had occurred at around the same time as that of the 'spinning jenny' by Hargreaves. Having been driven out of Lancashire by a 'lawless mob', Arkwright set up a small mill in Nottingham, on a piece of ground between Woolpack Lane and Hockley. The mill was worked by horses. However, the use of horses proved to be too expensive, and steam power was in its infancy, so Arkwright moved to Cromford in 1771. Here he built his famous water-powered mill, and Nottingham 'lost the benefit of being the cradle of his invention'.

300 years ago

In 1718, the Rev Humphrey Perkins, rector of Holme Pierrepont, left in his will £30, to be held by the rector and Churchwardens of Holme Pierrepont, and the interest to be distributed each Christmas Day to the poor of Holme Pierrepont.

Marmaduke Pennell was appointed Mayor of Nottingham in 1817; Richard Smith and Jonathan Truman, sheriffs.

350 years ago

In 1668, Henry Stone left £300 to be settled in trust by his executors, for the foundation of a Jersey spinning school in Newark, and for the employment of poor people. In that year, John Parker was appointed Mayor, and Joseph Clay and Edward White, sheriffs.

400 years ago

Mr Rockett, who had been disenfranchised for not paying his fine, or making a sheriff's dinner, submits himself to the censures of the company, and is therefore restored to his burgess-ship, and to all his former privileges.

[The above information is taken from the Nottingham Date Book – Ed.]

YOUR SOCIETY

Excursions 2018

The first two excursions this year are:

Tuesday 15th May – Broughton Castle and All Saints' Church, Earl's Barton.

Thursday 14th June – a tour of the churches of Barton on Humber and the remains of Thornton Abbey. Flyers for these two excursions are included with this issue of the Newsletter. Please return promptly to Alan Langton. Please note also that members are encouraged to invite non-member friends to join them on the excursions. Let's fill the coaches!

The next two excursions will be:

Thursday 12th July – Marston Hall, Stragglethorpe Church and Brant Broughton Church.

Thursday 13th September – Middleton Hall and Stoke Golding Church.

Watch out for the Spring Meeting/AGM mailing. The Spring Meeting will be at Calverton village hall on Saturday 28th April 2018. Full information and a return slip will be in the mailing.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members, and hope they will enjoy their membership of the Society:

Ordinary Members

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Mrs Ruth Strong | Carlton |
| Mr John Hess | West Bridgford |
| Mr David Fitzsimons | Farnham, Surrey |
| Ms Sue Groves | Kettering |

Ordinary and Records Member

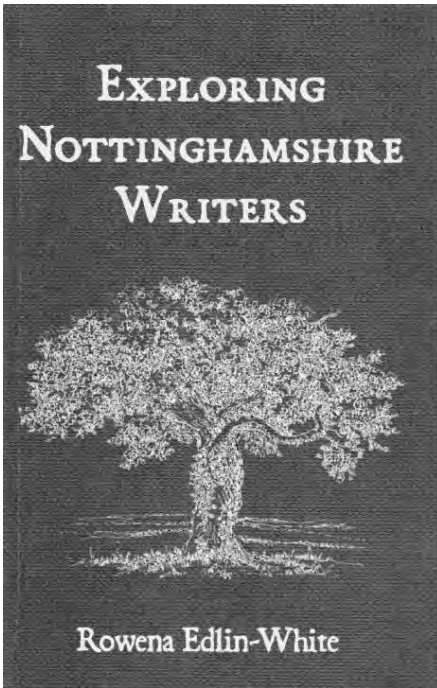
| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Mr Ralph Middlemore | Nottingham |
|---------------------|------------|

BOOKSHELF

Exploring Nottinghamshire Writers By Rowena Edlin-White

Five Leaves Press paperback £12.99 ISBN 978-1-910170-35-9 2017

This fascinating book is a 'dip-into' rather than 'read cover to cover', as it is intended as a reference work on Nottinghamshire writers. Some are well-known local authors (Alan Sillitoe, Lord Byron, DH Lawrence, Helen Cresswell), some have only a tenuous connection with Nottinghamshire (JRR Tolkien, JM Barrie and Graham Greene) and some are unknown to most people. Some of the writers will be well-known to Thorotonians (JV Beckett) and to members of Bromley House Library (Rose Fyleman). Dr Edlin-White includes herself as well, and why not - she is a prolific local author and the book would be the poorer without a reference to her many works (e.g. *Spinster of no Occupation? - Mary Ellen Shaw; The Revenge of the Christmas Fairy* and her editorship of *The Quill*). Each author gets about 500 words, along with notes on local places connected with them that readers can visit.

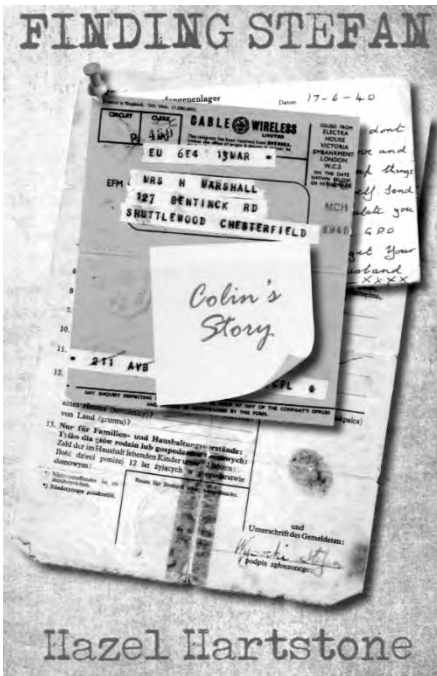


Amongst the authors who are unlikely to be known to most readers would be Mary Bailey, for whom there are no dates, just 'early nineteenth century'. Mary was a poor woman who lived in Sneinton and traded in old clothes. However, she must have been self-educated, as she wrote poetry, some of which was published. A copy of her *Poems, Humorous and Sentimental* is held at the Nottingham Local Studies Library.

Rowena is to be congratulated on bringing such a fine collection of writers to our attention. However, like all such compilations, the work is never finished. No doubt there are, even now, more authors coming to light and there will probably be a second edition eventually. In the meantime, this book is fully recommended for all those who love literature, especially local writers, and represents excellent value for money.

Finding Stefan By Hazel Hartstone

Fast-Print Publishing paperback. ISBN 978-178456-283-0 £8.99 201



After her mother died in 2008, Hazel Hartstone, who lives in Arnold, found a collection of documents tucked away in a cupboard. They were the life story of her father, Colin Marshall, which he had written out some years before he died. Along with the manuscripts were various documents such as letters, postcards and photographs from Colin's life in Poland.

Colin came from a poor background and initially went into coal mining. Eventually he tired of mining and joined the Army, just in time for the Second World War. He was captured at Dunkirk and sent to a prison camp in Poland, from where he escaped. He spent the remainder of the war living with a Polish family on a remote farm. He obtained identity papers, in the name of Stefan Wysocki, which stated that he was 'deaf and dumb' so that his speech would not give him away. Although he learned to speak Polish, any German soldier would have been immediately suspicious. After the war he returned to the UK and was reunited with his wife Nancy in 1945. Colin and his family returned to

Poland in the 1960s to find the families who had sheltered him at such risk. A most moving and fast-paced story.

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President: Adrian Henstock BA DAA FRHistS

Chairman: Professor John Beckett BA PhD FRHistS FSA

Secretary: Barbara Cast BAHons Little Dower House, Station Road, Bleasby, Nottingham, NG14 7FX
email: barbaracast@btinternet.com

Treasurer: John Wilson BPharm MPhil FRSPH email: wilsonianus@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: Judith Mills BAHons MA PhD email: membership@thorotonsociety.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual Ordinary membership £25.00

Associate member (at the same address) £6.00

Student/Under 21 £6.00

Individual Record Section membership £15.00

Combined Ordinary and Record Section £35.00

Institutional Ordinary membership £25.00

Institutional Record Section £20.00 (non-UK £24)

RESEARCH GROUP

Meets twice a year. Contact for details: John Wilson email: wilsonianus@btinternet.com

RESPONSE GROUP

The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County.

If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group Co-ordinator, Barbara Cast - contact details above.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

A group of researchers continuing the VCH of Nottinghamshire. For information and to join the group contact the County Editor, Philip Riden at philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* volume which is distributed to all members.

The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section. They are also available for purchase by other members and the general public.

Quarterly Newsletters are circulated to every member.

LECTURES

Lectures, unless stated otherwise in the programme booklet, are held at the Nottingham Mechanics, 3, North Sherwood Street, Nottingham, NG1 4EZ, commencing at 2.30 p.m. with the Bookstall open from 2 p.m.

DEADLINES for Newsletter items are 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November of each year.

Copy should be sent to the EDITOR, John Wilson, 38 Stuart Close, Arnold, Nottingham NG5 8AE
email wilsonianus@btinternet.com

Items can be handwritten or typed in Word format, either suffix .doc or .docx. Pictures, diagrams and maps are all most welcome to illustrate an item. Images can be submitted on CD, DVD, as an email attachment or sent for scanning. Preferred size 300dpi JPEG. Images will be adjusted to suit the publication.

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