Brigstock at the turn of the Century
The Garfords of Easton-on-the-Hill
A Northamptonshire Poet-Parson

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST & PRESENT

Drawn by Dudley Brown

THE TITHE BARN, WELLINGBOROUGH

Journal of
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY
DELAPRE ABBEY, NORTHAMPTON, ENGLAND
1969/70

VOL. IV PRICE 2s. 6d. No. 4

Ancient and MODERN

. . . . large or small. Fine building is synonymous with Robert Marriott Ltd., a member of the Robert Marriott Group, famous for quality building since 1890. In the past 78 years Marriotts have established a reputation for meticulous craftsmanship on the largest and smallest scales.

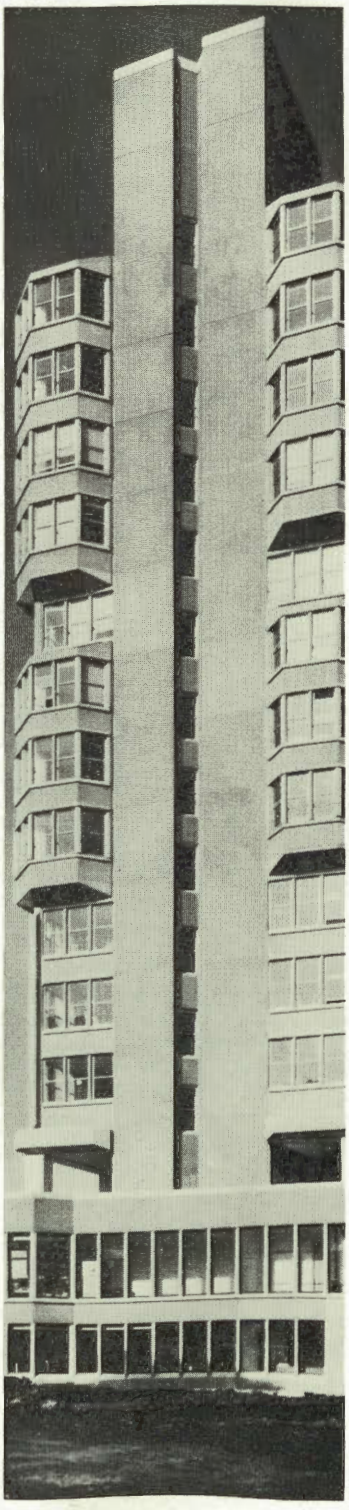
Whether it is a £7,000,000 housing contract near Bletchley, a new headquarters for Buckinghamshire County Council at Aylesbury (right) or restoration and alterations to Easton Maudit Church (left) Marriotts have the experience, the expertise and the men to carry out work of the most exacting standards and to a strict schedule.

In the last century Marriotts made a name for itself by the skill of its craftsmen employed on restoring buildings of great historical importance. A remarkable tribute to the firm's founder, the late Mr. Robert Marriott was paid in 1948 by Sir Albert Richardson, later President of the Royal Academy, when he said: "He was a master builder of the calibre of the Grimbolds and other famous country men. He spared no pains and placed ultimate good before financial gain. No mean craftsman himself, he demanded similar excellence from his helpers."

Three-quarters of a century later Marriotts' highly specialised Small Works Department displays the same inherent skills in the same delicate work on buildings throughout the county. To date Hatfield House, Long Melford Hall, Suffolk, the branch library at Earls Barton, the restoration of Castle Cottage at Higham Ferrers and currently, Easton Maudit Church, Harrowden Hall and Woburn Abbey, bear witness to the craftsmanship of Marriotts.

While building for the future, Marriotts are maintaining the glories of the past.

ROBERT MARRIOTT LTD.
A member of the Robert Marriott Group
Rushden, Northamptonshire



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PAST AND PRESENT

1969/70

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Particulars of the Society	ii
Institutional Members of the Society	ii
Notes and News	197
Memories of a Villager. *J. E. Bailey*	199
John Claypole	208
The Garfords of Easton-on-the-Hill. *Frank Hance*	209
Ladies' Cricket Match at Courteenhall, 1883. *Joan Wake*	214
The Virginia Washingtons and Newton Bromswold. *George Washington*	215
Thomas Percy and Hannah More. *Constance I. Smith*	220
A 17th Century Poet-Parson of Northamptonshire. *J. R. S. Whiting*	223
A Midlands Horse Fair. *R. Forder Dennington*	235
Battle for the Mace. *V. A. Hatley*	239
The First Two Bassetts of Weldon. Part one. *William T. Reedy*	241
A Sequel to the Shoe Industry Dispute of 1887. *J. M. Swann*	247
Excavations at Lyveden, 1969. *J. M. Steane*	249
Book Reviews: Peter Eden, *Small Houses in England 1520-1820*	240
J. H. Gleason, *Justices of the Peace in England, 1558-1643*	253
Abington Museum, A Short History	254
Sir Frederick Scopes, *The Development of Corby Works*	254

ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
The Tithe Barn, Wellingborough	*Front Cover*
Horse and cart with members of the Bailey family in Brigstock in 1905	199
Carrier's Van at Brigstock, 1900	202
John Claypole, by an unknown artist	208
Mary (Garford) Viscountess Grandison, from a sketch of a painting, made by Sir George Scharf	210
A Ladies' Cricket Match at Courteenhall in 1883, from a sketch by Sir Herewald Wake, 12th Bart.	214
A Sample Boot	247
Excavations at Lyveden, 1969	249

All Communications regarding articles in this issue should be addressed to the Editor, Sir Gyles Isham, Lamport Hall, Northampton

Published by the Northamptonshire Record Society

VOL. IV 1969 No. 4

PRINTED IN ENGLAND BY DALKEITH PRESS LIMITED, KETTERING, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

(FOUNDED IN 1920)

DELAPRE ABBEY, NORTHAMPTON

President:
SIR GYLES ISHAM, BART., M.A., F.S.A.

Chairman of Council:
C. V. Davidge, Esq.. M.A.
Little Houghton House
Northampton

Hon. Secretary:
Miss R. M. Marsden, B.A.
Delapré Abbey
Northampton

Hon. Treasurer:
C. E. G. Mumby, Esq., M.A.
3 Spencer Parade
Northampton

AIMS AND OBJECTS

The objects of the Society are the furtherance of the science of history and of historical literature by the publication of historical records relating to Northamptonshire, and the stimulation of interest in historical studies by exhibitions, lectures, etc.

MEMBERSHIP

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION for Individual Members is TWO GUINEAS, and for Institutional Members, THREE GUINEAS. Associate Membership, up to 25 years of age, is 10/- p.a. These subscriptions, payable each January, entitle members to free copies of publications issued for the period in respect of which they have subscribed and give the right to attend meetings and lectures. Forms of application for membership will be gladly sent on request to the Hon. Secretary, Delapré Abbey, Northampton.

Institutional Members of the Society

EUROPE

ENGLAND

Allen, A. H. & Co. (Engineers) Ltd., Northampton
Allen-Lyman Bureau, Northampton
All Souls' College. Oxford
Society of Antiquaries of London
Ashby, R. Sterry, F.A.I., Northampton
Ashby Estates, Ltd.
Banbury Public Library
Bedford Public Library
Berry Bros. & Bagshaw, Kettering
Billingham & Son, Northampton
Birkbeck College, University of London
Birmingham Public Libraries
Birmingham University Library
Bletchley Public Libraries
Boughton Estates Ltd., Weekley, Kettering
Brackley High School for Girls
Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
Bristol University Library
Buckinghamshire County Library
Burnham Son & Lewin, Wellingborough
Corby Grammar School
Corby Historical Society
Corby Natural History and Archaeological Society
Corby Secondary Modern School for Boys
Cottingham School
The Courtauld Institute of Art
W. T. Cox & Co. Ltd., Kettering
Dalkeith Press Limited, Kettering
Daventry Secondary School
Deacon's School, Peterborough
Durham University Library
East Anglia University Library
Exeter University, Roborough Library
Frames Tours Ltd.
Society of Genealogists
Gotch, Saunders & Surridge, Kettering
Guildhall Library, London
Guilsborough Secondary School
Hertfordshire County Council Records Committee
Hull University Library
Huntingdon County Library
Huntingdonshire County Record Office
Inner Temple Library, London
Institute of Historical Research
(University of London)
John Lea Secondary School, Wellingborough
John Rylands Library, Manchester
Kettering Grammar School
Kettering Industrial Co-operative Society Ltd.
(Education Committee)
Kettering Public Library
Kettering Secondary School for Girls
Kettering Technical College
King's School, Peterborough
Leeds University Library
Leicester City Libraries

Leicester University Library
Leicestershire County Council Archives Department
Leicestershire County Library
Lincolnshire Archives Committee
Liverpool City Public Libraries
Liverpool University Library
London Borough of Newham Library Service, Stratford Reference Library
The London Library
London School of Economics & Political Science
University of London, King's College
University of London, Westfield College
University of London Library
Loughborough Technical College
Magdalen College Library, Oxford
Magdalen College School, Brackley
Manchester Public Libraries
Manchester University
Marshman & Warren, A/A.R.I.B.A., Northampton
Midland Secretarial Bureau and Employment Agency, Rushden and Wellingborough
National Central Library, London, W.C.1
New College, Oxford
Newton Road Junior School, Rushden
Northampton Business & Professional Women's Club
Northampton Centre, Leicester University Library
Northampton Grammar School for Girls
Northampton Grammar School
Northampton High School
Northampton Photo Engraving Company
Northampton Public Library
Northamptonshire County Council
Northamptonshire County Library
Northamptonshire Newspapers Ltd.
Notre Dame High School, Northampton
Nottingham Central Public Library
Nottingham University Library
Oundle School
Oundle Secondary School
Overstone School for Girls, Northampton
Oxford City Libraries
Oxfordshire County Library
Paten & Co. (Peterborough) Ltd.
Peterborough Dean and Chapter
Peterborough Museum Society
Peterborough Public Library
Peterborough Technical College
Public Record Office, London
Reading University Library
Rothwell Public Library
Royal Historical Society
Royal Institute of British Architects
Rugby Public Library
Rushden Secondary School for Boys
Rushden Secondary School for Girls
St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton
The Samuel Lloyd County Modern School, Corby
Scott Bader & Co. Ltd., Wollaston, Wellingborough
Sheffield Central Library
Sheffield University Library
Soroptomist Club of Northampton
Spiro Engineering Co. Ltd.
Stamford High School
Sponne School, Towcester.
Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., London, W.1
Thrapston & District Historical Society
Timsons Ltd., Kettering
Trinity Grammar School, Northampton
University College Library, London
Wallis's Garage Ltd., Kettering
Warwickshire County Library
Welding Improvements Ltd., Northampton
Wellingborough & District Archaeological Society
Wellingborough County High School
Wellingborough Grammar School
Wellingborough Public Library
Wellingborough School
Wellingborough Technical College Library
Westfield Secondary Boys' School, Wellingborough
Westminster City Public Libraries
Westwood House School, Peterborough
Wilson & Partners, Kettering
Wilson & Wilson, Kettering
Woodford Halse Historical Society
York University Library

N. IRELAND

Belfast Public Libraries
Queen's University Library, Belfast

SCOTLAND

Aberdeen University Library
Edinburgh University Library
Glasgow University Library
St. Andrew's University Library

WALES

Aberystwyth College, University of Wales
Swansea College, University of Wales

DENMARK

Royal Library of Copenhagen

SWEDEN

Lund University Library, Sweden

AFRICA

Johannesburg City Public Library

AMERICA

CANADA

Bibliothèque de la Législature, Quebec
Canadian Branch Genealogical Society, Alberta
Carleton University Library, Ottawa
Huron College Library, Ontario
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario (Mills Memorial Library)
Manitoba University Library, Winnipeg
Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario
Toronto University Library
Windsor University, Windsor, Ontario

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Boston Public Library
Cache Genealogical Library, Utah
California University Library, Los Angeles
California University Library, Berkeley
California University Library, Davis

Chicago University Library
Cleveland Public Library
Colorado University Libraries, Boulder
Columbia University Library, New York City
Congress Library, Washington, D.C.
Connecticut University (Wilbur Cross Library)
Cornell University Library, Ithaca, New York
University of Delaware Memorial Library
Duke University Library, Durham N.C.
Emory University Library, Georgia
Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.
Geisel Library, St. Anselm's College, Manchester, New Hampshire
General Theological Seminary, New York
Georgia University Library, Athens
Harvard College Library
Harvard University Law School Library
Haverford College Library, Pennsylvania
Henry E. Huntingdon Library, California
Illinois University Library, Urbana
Indiana University, Bloomington
Iowa State University, Iowa City
Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.
Johns Hopkins University Library, Baltimore
Kansas State University Library
Los Angeles Public Library
Michigan State Library
Michigan University Library
Minnesota University Library, Minneapolis
Missouri University Library, Columbia
Newberry Library, Chicago
New England Historical and Genealogical Society
New York Public Library
New York State University at Binghampton
Notre Dame University Library, Indiana
Ohio State University Libraries, Columbus
Pennsylvania State University (Pattee Library)
Pennsylvania University Library
Pittsburgh University Library
Princeton University Library
Rice University Library, Houston, Texas
Rochester University, New York
Rutgers University Library, New Brunswick
St. Edward's University Library, Austin, Texas
St. Vincent College Library, Latrobe, Pennsylvania
Santa Clara University (Orradre Library).
Seabury Western Theological Seminary Library, Evanston
Smith College, Northampton, Mass.
Stanford University Library
Tennessee State Archives and Library, Nashville 3
Tennessee University, Knoxville
Texas University Library, Austin 12
The Genealogical Society of Utah
Utah University Library, Salt Lake City
Virginia Historical Society, Richmond
Virginia State Library, Richmond
Virginia University, Alderman Library
Wake Forest College Library, Winston-Salem, N. Carolina
Washington University Library, Seattle
Wayne State University, General Library, Detroit
Wisconsin University Library
Yale University Library

AUSTRALASIA

AUSTRALIA

National Library of Australia
Sydney University Law School Library, N.S.W.
University of Western Australia
Victoria State Library, Melbourne

NEW ZEALAND

Alexander-Turnbull Library, Wellington

Thanks are due for photographs reproduced in this issue to the Director and Trustees of the National Portrait Gallery, Mr. J. E. Bailey, Miss Joan Wake, the Director of the Northampton Art Gallery and Museum and Mr. J. M. Steane.

OUR COVER DESIGN

is from a drawing by Mr. C. Dudley Brown of Kettering, to whom we are much indebted for permission to reproduce it.

Notes and News

At the time of the Annual General Meeting on 10 May 1969 our President, Sir Gyles Isham, was unfortunately abroad. It was a pleasure to have the Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, Lt. Col. Chandos-Pole, in the Chair. Mr. Clive Rouse gave a lecture on The Meaning and Purpose of English Mediaeval Wall Paintings, illustrated by a fine collection of slides taken from all parts of the country, particularly from the churches and houses of Northamptonshire. His expert interpretation of the signs and gestures shown in these pictures threw a new light on the subject for many of his audience, enabling them to look at examples in our churches with added interest and comprehension.

On 18 October Mrs. J. Howarth, who has recently moved from Girton, Cambridge, to St. Hilda's, at Oxford, spoke on Northamptonshire County Politics in the late Victorian Age. She has recently been reading the extensive correspondence preserved at Althorp in the time of the 5th Earl Spencer, and this helped to make her lecture a fascinating one, showing both how near we are to, and how far away from, the Victorian Age. The interest of the audience was shown by the number of questions asked, and Mrs. Howarth was always satisfying in her answers.

A happy event this year has been the publication in November '68 of Vol. XXIII, Dr. P. A. J. Pettit's book on the *Royal Forests of Northamptonshire in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries*. We congratulate him on this excellent work which has been much enjoyed by our members and has brought in a number of orders from others. Also, in January 1969, Sir Gyles Isham published a delightful pamphlet on *Easton Mauduit and the Parish Church of Saints Peter and Paul,* sold at 4*s*. to members and 5*s*. to others, the proceeds going to the Church's Restoration Fund. It may interest our readers to know that over £22 has been added already to the Fund by this means.

Miss Ruth Marsden, who became Hon. Secretary in 1966, and has held office for three years, has resigned this autumn.

The Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Hubbard (now Mrs. Lewis) married on the 11th September and so has resigned, much to our regret. The Officers and Council of the Society showed their appreciation of her work in the gift of a cheque as a wedding present. They, and all members, would like to thank her for her hard work and devotion, for her unfailing kindness, and for all she has done for the Society in the last eighteen years. We give her our good wishes for the future, and are glad that she will still be in Northampton. Her presence at the Autumn Lecture was noted with pleasure.

The financial year has begun well with subscriptions raised for individuals and institutions. It has been sad to lose some members on this account and we would remind these that a confidential application may be made to the Council, to continue membership at their previous rate, by those who feel that their circumstances warrant this.

In addition to subscriptions, the Society owes its prosperity to donors and benefactors, and it is a delight to record an anonymous gift of £5,000 to our funds this year. At a time when individual support of cultural societies and of others run by private funds is becoming rare, we are especially grateful for this magnificent gift. R.M.M.

Knowing the great interest taken and help given by our members in preserving the architectural heritage of the past, it is serious news that the principal churches in the towns of Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering are all in need of major restoration work. The church of SS. Peter and Paul (Kettering), and All Saints (Northampton) are unusual in that they are in the main products of a single period, the first of the second half of the 15th century, the second of the second half of the 17th. Kettering is justly famous for its spire which still dominates a far larger town than its builders can ever have guessed would surround it. Northampton is a rare example of what Sir Edwin Lutyens used to called "Wren-naisance". It is now generally thought that Henry Bell of

King's Lynn designed it, and clearly had Wren's St. Mary-at-Hill in the city of London in mind when he did so. Although the 19th century restorers treated neither church with due respect, they are both still fine examples of their period. At Northampton a rescue operation has already been carried out on the dome, where Death Watch Beetle had attacked some of the beams, but, shortly, more work will have to be done, and on a very extensive scale.

The church of All Hallows at Wellingborough, part of which is 600 years old, is a large parish church of many periods, distinguished by three remarkable modern stained glass windows by Patrick Reyntiens to the designs of John Piper. If any readers of this paragraph care to send a donation for the repair of these churches, marking them by the name of the town they wish to benefit, to the Editor of *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, at Lamport Hall, Northampton, he will be pleased to transmit these to the proper authority.

Two more restoration projects are under way, which will appeal to our members. The first is the Tithe Barn at Wellingborough, the only reminder in this rapidly expanding town, that it was once the property of the Abbey of Croyland. An illustration of the Tithe Barn as it was at the time appears in Vol. VIII of the Society's publications, *Wellingborough Manorial Accounts, 1258-1323*. It has been allowed sadly to deteriorate since 1932, and is in need of urgent attention. By permission of the Council, all our members were circulated with the appeal issued by the *Wellingborough Tithe Barn Campaign*, and there has been a generous response. Our readers may like to know that on 16 October, at Wellingborough Technical College, Miss Virginia Isham and Sir Gyles Isham gave a dramatic recital on the life of Queen Henrietta-Maria, the tercentenary of whose death falls this year, in aid of the Tithe Barn Campaign, and that the proceeds exceeded £100. Queen Henrietta-Maria visited Wellingborough three times to take the waters there, so the choice of her as the subject of the Recital was very appropriate.

The last project is the Appeal for Old St. Johns' Hospital, Northampton, in Bridge Street. This is the oldest secular building in the town, although since 1882 it has been used as a church! When the Midland Railway bought (and demolished) the old Master's House, and other buildings, Dr. Amherst, then R.C. Bishop of Northampton, bought the Chapel and domicile, and the whole building is now used as a church. In course of time the building, particularly the stonework frontage in Bridge Street, got into a dangerous state, and extensive repairs have been undertaken at an estimated cost of £15,000.

No apology is made for drawing attention to these buildings and their needs. The Northamptonshire Record Society has an impeccable record, and, as is well known, but for our efforts, Delapré Abbey would now be level with the ground.

It is, after all, public opinion that matters, and future generations may well be grateful that the Society has not only in word, but in deed, supported the efforts that are being made to rescue our architectural heritage for the benefit of posterity.

THIS year's *Northamptonshire Past and Present* contains a larger number of articles by new contributors than usual. Mr. J. E. Bailey, Mr. J. R. S. Whiting, Miss Constance Swann, Mr. Forder Dennington, Mr. Frank Hance, and Mr. W. T. Reedy have never previously contributed. Mr. V. A. Hatley, Mr. George Washington and the Editor represent the old Brigade, as it were. Mr. Bailey, Miss Swann and Mr. Hance are all residents of Northamptonshire, and members, and we are particularly grateful for their help. We are no less pleased to record our thanks to the other contributors, who write about our county from outside its boundaries — a tribute to the widespread readership of *Northamptonshire Past and Present*.

Mr. W. T. Reedy is Assistant Professor of History at the State University of New York, Albany, U.S.A.; he is a Ph.D. of Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Forder Dennington lives at Slough, and Mr. J. R. S. Whiting at Gloucester. Miss Swann is, of course, Assistant Curator at the Guildhall Road Museum, Northampton; Mr. Hance teaches at Easton-on-the-Hill, about which he writes.

We regret to record the death on 9 November, 1969, of Mr. H. St. J. B. Paten, at his house at Castor Hill. He was the founder of the Peterborough Society, and very actively concerned with the preservation of historic buildings in the Soke.

We regret that the Competition announced in our last number for an imaginary account of Dr. Johnson's visit to Castle Ashby attracted no entries.

Memories of a Villager

I was born in Brigstock—or as the Domesday Book calls it—Kings Brigstoc, at the end of last century. Despite new housing developments, it still remains a typical stone-built Northamptonshire village, and in the sixteenth century was reckoned to be the most populous in the Royal Forest of Rockingham. Thanks to its central position, it was also the hub of the Forest's considerable timber trade, and had a thriving market, granted by King Edward IV, as well as fairs, licensed by the same King, and King James I. Adjacent to the village are two groups of fields, known as Brigstock Parks, the larger of which covers 1462 acres, and the smaller, 775 acres. These were granted by Queen Elizabeth I to Sir Robert Cecil in 1602; a grant later confirmed by King James I, on the understanding that they were well stocked with deer 'for the King's recreation'. In 1612, however, the parks were de-afforested, enclosed as fields, and the deer driven into the surrounding forest. And it was in some of the pastures so formed, that my Grandfather Elliott grazed his herd of cows.

So it is, that among my earliest recollections, are the many trips I made with my dour old Grandfather to fetch the milk and collect the eggs from his hovel, (as it was always called), in the parks. Off we would go, my Grandfather gazing as intently and fiercely ahead, as though he were some ancient outdated Roman charioteer. Yet, despite his intense and grim concentration, ours was a gentle uphill progress. Nor could it well be otherwise, with our slow-stepping old mare, and heavy low-slung milk float. But, our jobs done, we would jog-trot briskly down-hill, and so home, the old mare spurred on by a lively anticipation of the feast to come. Yet not everyone

A. E. Elliott, L. J. Bailey and J. E. Bailey (the author), April 1905

was lucky enough to be able to do the job so comfortably and in such style. For I well remember a couple of small-holders, who, having milked their two or three cows, brought home the milk, two buckets each, suspended from wooden yokes around their shoulders. A mighty slow game it was too. Yet, although they had five fields to cross, and five styles to climb over, it was commonly said that neither of them had ever been known to spill so much as a drop of the precious liquid—a feat which impressed me greatly, until I woke up to the fact that by floating on the milk round wooden discs, loosely shaped to the inside rims of the buckets, my two milkmen effectively prevented the milk from slopping over.

Fields and cows, milk and eggs, were however only side lines for my Grandfather. For besides being a dairy-farmer, he was also the village wheelwright—a word that seems to have covered a multitude of activities. Around the courtyard, in which stood his plain stone house, there were, therefore, not only stables and coach-houses, cow sheds, and a spick and span dairy run by my Mother, but also the wheelwright's shop, a smithy, a farrier, and carpentry and painters shops. Above these were a hay loft, a timber store, and another carpentry and general workshop, where my Uncle used to turn cart-wheel hubs, do his lighter woodwork, and fiddle about with a variety of clocks, which he delighted to take to pieces and repair.

These old and slightly ramshackle buildings, and the many activities which took place in them had, for me, an unfailing attraction. In particular, I had a very soft spot for the upstairs carpentry shop, with its two lathes. The larger of these, (to turn wagon wheel hubs), was driven by a rope belt from an 8 ft. wheel, operated by two men. The smaller, however, was a nice handy, treadle-operated, one-boy power affair, which I found very much to my liking, and with which I soon learned to produce wooden egg-cups and spinning tops, driving hob nails into the small ends of the latter, to ensure their 'spinnability'; early essays in manufacture which soon earned me a flattering popularity among other small boys.

Another favourite place was the smithy. I loved the sizzle and smell of burning hoofs, and I never tired of watching, as the iron rims for the cart wheels were shrunk on to the wooden fellies. First, the blacksmith placed each rim in turn on blocks in the yard, surrounded by a heaped up fire. Then, when the rim was red hot, two men, armed with huge long handled tongs, would take it off the fire, and place it over the wheel, while others doused it with cold water, to shrink it on. And so effective was this process, that it was then impossible to dislodge the rim until it was completely worn out. But much as the work of the blacksmith and his mates fascinated me, it had one serious drawback. It left me with no scope. Not for me to make the anvil ring and to hammer and twist the red hot iron into fanciful shapes, known only to myself. All I could do was to stand and watch. Far different was the paint shop, where a small boy could indulge his primitive desire to daub himself and everything else within reach, whatever my Uncle or my Mother might say or do. With its drums of turpentine and linseed oil, and its chest of drawers, in which the various coloured paint powders were kept, (for every paint was home made), it was a constant temptation quite beyond my power to resist. So there, at cunningly chosen moments, I would happily give full vent to, (did I but know it), my own peculiar ideas of abstract art!

Outside his usual, but very varied work, the greatest interest of my Uncle was undoubtedly organs. For these he had what amounted to an obsession. Whatever he could collect, which in any way related to them, gave him enormous pleasure. He was particularly proud of the fact that he owned the old barrel organ, which long ago helped to enliven the services at Dingley Church, near Market Harborough. He also collected individual organ pipes of which he had a large number, ranging in length from 6 inches to 6 feet. And sometimes, we boys would amuse ourselves by trying to play three small pipes simultaneously; with what musical results I do not pretend to recall. So my Uncle loved organs, played organs, played with organs, and finally, made organs. I seem to remember that he even built one for a Church as far away as Clare, in Suffolk. However that may be, he certainly built two organs for the village. One of these, in the late eighteenth century Congregational Chapel, he himself played, Sunday by Sunday, for fifty years, for some of which, until electric power put an end to the hidden race of organ blowers, I myself did my stint as one of them. The other was for our Parish Church of St. Andrew, famous for its Saxon Tower, and the fine mediaeval oak screen, said to have come from long demolished

Pipewell Abbey. Famous too, at least locally, was the so-called 11 o'clock bell. According to the *Historical Guide to Brigstock and its Parish Church,* (Rev. L. G. Davies), a certain John Barton was one of 'the plaintiffs against Sir John Zouch, who were trying to recover their common rights in the Common at Benefield. Sir John Zouch threatened to ruin Barton if he persisted in his claim. Barton replied that he would leave behind him a 'cow', which, being pulled by the tail, would low three times, and would be heard all over the Common----------'. In 1647, therefore, Barton was as good as his word, and gave a bell to the Church, with instructions (and sufficient money) to ensure its being tolled at 4 a.m., 11 a.m., and 8 p.m. each day. In later years, however, it was only rung at 11 a.m. (until it stopped altogether in 1960), partly no doubt, because the villagers hardly relished being awakened at an unearthly 4 a.m. each day, and partly, too, because of a dearth of ringers prepared to perform at such peculiar intervals.

With all these matters, however, my Father did not much concern himself. Pipes and organs, clocks and bells, as he said, were not for him. Nor, although he lived almost literally surrounded by them, were cows and horses. But pigs (as we shall now see) were a different matter. Grandfather and Grandmother Bailey lived in an old stone-built thatched cottage in High Street. At the back of this was a small workroom, where my Grandfather and Father made clothes by hand, (and how well, the overcoat I still wear, testifies) sitting cross-legged on a bench, facing the window. Behind the workroom, in turn, was a small garden at the end of which my Grandfather kept two little pigs in a stye. And I well remember going one Sunday with my Father to see my Grandparents, when, looking out of the window into High Street, we were startled to see two little pigs running amok. Grandfather said "Boy, my pigs are out". So we all rushed into the street, and after a struggle, caught the two little pigs and carried them, squealing and protesting, through the cottage and back to the stye, only to find Grandfather's little pigs still safely in it. Grandfather said "Open the garden gate", and out went the two little pigs into the lane, to find their own salvation as best they might, and we never saw or heard of them again. For some reason or other, this little episode greatly amused my Father, and nothing pleased him more than to recount it with whatever suitable and imaginative embellishments happened to spring to his mind. Then, having said his piece, he would always end by saying with mock solemnity, "and here, my friends, endeth the story of the two little pigs and their dash for liberty". But little pigs were not my Grandfather's only sideline. In a shed at the back of his cottage, he made and sold large quantities of mushroom ketchup. For at that time Brigstock Parks were renowned for the quality and quantity of their mushrooms. My Father, too, bought tons of mushrooms and, in the season, would send as much as a trolley load a day to Corby Station for shipment to a firm in Manchester.

II

ALTHOUGH my Grandparents' cottage was typical of hundreds of others in the county, and so, in this sense was commonplace, yet every detail of its interior remains firmly etched in my mind; the steep narrow stairs; the general living room (combining the functions of sitting room, dining room, and part kitchen) with its low ceiling and wide snug ingle nook; the good country-made bureau, (at which I am now writing), the arm chairs under the great beam spanning the ingle nook; the chairs around the table, and the old fashioned American clock, then most popular in village homes, the top half of which showed the clock face, and the lower half, a crude coloured picture of some rural scene. (These clocks, however, were notable, not so much for their appearance as for the maddening loudness of their endless tick-tocking and the resounding gong-like booms as they struck the hours on a coil of strong steel wire).

Cosy and inviting as such a home was on a cold winter's night, it was no place in which to idle and doze on a warm summer day, when the work was at last done. Especially for such as my Father, too often cooped up in his small workshop from morn till night. So, on Sundays, or weekdays when the weather was fine, he would like to stretch his legs—and mine, too—and go for long walks. He would say "Let's go round Stephen's Oak Riding". And off we would go, along the footpath over Fisher's Hill to Sudborough Greens, as he told me story after local story, from his inexhaustible store. Then on we would go to Cherry Lap Wood and along to the Riding and back home, down the lane known as Harley Way. And it was along this Riding that the

CARRIER'S VAN, BRIGSTOCK 1900

Great Oak once stood from which, according to tradition, King Stephen shot a deer, thereby giving his name to both the tree and the Riding. Although King Stephen's Oak has long since gone, we know, at least, that it was still standing in the early eighteenth century. For at that time it was the curious and uncomfortable custom of the villagers, when they 'beat the bounds', to see how many small boys they could squeeze into the great hollow of the tree.

Another favourite walk was through the Straight Riding, Old Dry Bushes, Harry's Park Wood, and Bear's Lane to Weldon. And as we walked through the last field before the Wood, my Father would look across the shallow valley and say "That's where the lost village of Hale stood. All its people died of a plague, and the village fell into ruin and completely disappeared". As a small boy, I always wanted to know more about Hale and its history, but all I have discovered during the intervening half century is that it had a Church or Chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas and that in the thirteenth century, a certain Alan de Hale lived there, whose duty it was to attend the King in person for forty days each year, well armed with bows and arrows, all at poor Alan's own expense. Sometimes too, with other small boys, I would set out in search of the bows and arrows which, according to legend, Robin Hood is said to have hidden by the Bocase Tree. But all in vain. For as I have since learned, the Bocase Tree has nothing to do with Robin Hood and his Merry Men. Bocase is, in fact, a Saxon word and probably signifies the place where, in Saxon times, Forest Courts were held. The original Bocase Tree has, of course, long since disappeared. But engraved with the words, "In this place grew Bocase Tree" and below them the words, "Here stood Bocase Tree", the Bocase Stone still marks, as it had done for over three hundred years, the place where the tree once flourished.

Odd as it may seem, but as the last two or three paragraphs may suggest, up to at least 50 years ago, walking was regarded as an obvious and natural pleasure. Even as youngsters, therefore, we thought nothing of walking the nine miles to Kettering. First we would cross the field known as Cockerhead, and then follow the path through Brigstock Great Park to Geddington, with its lovely Queen Eleanor Cross, and so on by Boughton House and Weekley to Kettering. Or else we would trudge along the Drift Road, known as Clay Dick, to Geddington Chase and then make straight for Kettering. Nevertheless, we did not always walk. I had relations in Kettering, and sometimes I would visit them by carrier's cart, an ancient one horse, four wheeled covered van which, for all its slowness, provided a regular and reliable service for goods and one or two occasional passengers. But on Fridays, (Market Day), things were different. Then, at least

according to my standards in these matters, we really did the job in style. Drawn by two well groomed horses, with their polished harness, twenty or more of us would sit in two facing rows in the huge glossy brake, as it clattered along, covered in the Winter, like a 'prairie schooner', but wide open to all the winds and rains of heaven in the Summer. To be dressed in my Sunday best and to ride in such a swift and magnificent conveyance was, for me, as exciting as a jet-flight for a modern child.

But there were other horse-drawn trips too, even although none excelled the splendour and speed of the two-horse brake. If, for example, we had visitors, and wanted to take them for a drive, we would bring out the sociable, (a low kind of trap with a door at the back and two seats facing each other), and more often than not, take them for a picnic tea among the ruins of Lyveden New Build, off the road from Brigstock to Oundle, about 2½ miles from Brigstock. This superbly built 'architectural conceit', (as Alfred Gotch called it), was begun by Sir Thomas Tresham in 1594 and was never completely finished—although perhaps more nearly so than is traditionally supposed. Built in the form of a Greek Cross, three stories high, (including the kitchen basement), and embellished with a band of fine carving emblematic of the Passion, it is a remarkable expression and symbol of the Catholic and religious zeal of its designer. Nearby this truly unique building is a keeper's lodge and the so-called 'Old Build' which, being lived in, (to perpetrate an unintentional pun), has, paradoxically, the appearance of being a much newer structure than the New Build. Then, round and about, making an ideal playground for us children, are the mounds and depressions which are all that now remain of the courts and terraces of what was once no doubt a splendid and intricate Elizabethan or Jacobean garden—or, as Alfred Gotch calls it, 'Water Orchard'.

Another and very different kind of horse-drawn jaunt to which I looked forward during the Summer holidays, was in the fellmonger's van. We would start from his yard, next door to Grandfather Elliott's, as early as 6 a.m., (for we had a long round before us), to call at butchers' shops and slaughter houses in Corby—then just a small village—Oakley, Desborough, Rothwell and on to Kettering, to have our mid-day meal before going to the New Inn, where the hides were salted and tied up in bundles ready to be taken to the Railway Station for delivery to the leather dressers. From Kettering we would then set course for home, picking up fresh skins from Geddington and Stanion en route. On arrival, these were immediately sorted and put into pits so constructed as to allow the water from Harpers Brook to flush through and wash the skins before workmen scraped off the wool. These skins or pelts were then put in the lime pits and later, like the wool, packed up in bundles and sent to Corby Station in a large waggon, whose barge-like slowness seemed to me but poor compensation for the long hours of the double journey.

Free rides or no free rides, however, fellmongering was then one of the props of our village economy. For at that time villages with their rural industries had not yet begun to lose their identity by becoming dormitory off-shoots of near-by towns. Their well-knit community life—despite the rather too sharply cut division between Church and Chapel—was still supported by a varied and apparently soundly based economy. So, in Brigstock, in addition to farming and those auxiliary agricultural activities which my Grandfather Elliott and my Uncle seemed to manage so well, there were not only, (as we have just seen), fellmongering, but a couple of timber yards, milling, and more surprisingly, a clothing industry, (housed in a remarkable stone building known, by reason of its peculiar proportions, as the 'Match Box'). Of these industries, only one timber yard, and the clothing factory still continue to thrive, and when I was a boy, the timber was brought to the yard on drugs (four wheeled carts which could be adjusted to carry almost any length of tree trunks) each drawn by a team of three fine horses which, when unharnessed at the end of the working day, were turned loose into High Street, to wander off on their own to Horse Brook, (now dried up), to refresh themselves with a pint or two before being stabled for the night. And, for me, it was a sorry day when these splendid, docile, and obedient animals were exchanged for the chugging and ubiquitous tractor. But not even tractors or any other mechanical toy seemed able to save small privately owned mills from extinction. Already, when I was but a tiny child, the old windmill at the entrance of the village on the south side of Stanion Road, had long since been out of action. Only its broken sail-less tower still stood as a reminder of the long

years of its usefulness. And even this was completely demolished in 1905, for £12, and its stones taken away for the foundations of what is now called New Town. (For this operation, incidently, the carter received 15*s*. a day and the labourers 3*s*.; a pretty commentary on the changed value of money). The water mill, however, was still in working order in those days and I liked to go over the mill-race to watch the water thundering down as it turned the great wheel and the large stones ground the grain. But, alas, today even the water mill is no more. "The old order changeth------". Yet the factory, fitting nicely into the new order, still busily remains.

III

WITH the decline of village based and village owned small industries and the developments of modern utility services, there went too, at long last, not only oil-lit street lamps, but also that famed institution, the parish pump itself. Or to be more accurate, the parish pumps. For prior to the opening of the water works in 1905, there were several public pumps and wells in the village; at the bottom of Chapel Hill on Hall Hill, near Mauntley House, (now demolished), and at the end of Latham Street. Then, where Stable Hill, Lyveden Road, Kennel Road, and the Syke meet, there was an arched well in a wall, suitably named, (I have no doubt), Cackle End. Nor are these necessarily all. There may, of course, be others of which, so far, I have found no record.

But as the economic structure of the village gradually changed, the horse giving way to the lorry and the car, the electric light displacing the old oil-lit lamps and the pumps and wells falling into disuse and being sealed up, so, inevitably, did habits, manners, and customs change, too. Up to the outbreak of the Second World War, there was, for example, the Sunday Dinner Trek, when as happened in many villages in the County, it was the custom of the villagers to take their Sunday joint and Yorkshire pudding, (but why *Yorkshire*?) to be cooked in a bakehouse—thus giving to the complete stranger the impression of a village where everyone was crazily rushing around exchanging meals with everyone else. Some would leave their tins, with their appetising contents, on the way to Church or Chapel, and some after service, (and by the same token, robbed themselves of any excuse for absence from either). The baker who cooked our dinner, however, refused to draw, (i.e. take the dinners from the oven), until he had enjoyed the first, and as he regularly affirmed, the best pint of the day. Happily for him, and for us, his bakehouse was exactly opposite his favourite pub, and so, on the stroke of opening time he would very slowly, (for he was very fat), and coatless, but wearing a white apron, walk across the road, down his pint, and then solemnly return to his bakehouse to draw the dinners. In this all important business, however, he enjoyed no monopoly. For at that time there were two other bakehouses in the village, one of which had a faggot oven. In this, the wood faggots were first burnt in the oven, then white-hot ashes pushed around the sides. The baker then cleared the floor of the oven with a cloth tied on the end of a long pole, ready to receive the tins and their contents. And never were there such golden Yorkshire puddings, rich with the juices of the meat, as those cooked in the old village bakehouses. Most truly then, do I, for one, lament their passing.

Another custom which I shall never see again, was regularly observed on Plough Monday, (the second Monday in January), when men and boys, with their faces daubed red, would go round the village in old smocks and battered hats, calling out as they went, "Pity the poor Plough Boy". And if by chance their plea was unheeded, they would make a big red mark on the door of the offending villager. On May Day, however, gentler tactics were the order of the day, and garlanded boys and girls would go round the village in small groups of twos and threes. But nowadays, and since about 1910, the school organises May Day festivities. The May Queen is crowned on the steps of the old Market Cross, erected in 1466, and small boys and girls dance around the Maypole on the ancient Market Place, now known as Hall Hill. Later, the May Queen and her attendants ride in state round the village, the rest of the children accompanying them, to join together for tea and games in a meadow lent for the occasion. Sadly different, however, from the carefree May Day frolics, was the custom that then marked the feast of St. Thomas, (21 December). For it was on that day that the poor widows of the parish would go from house to house, hesitantly perhaps, but not in vain, to beg for alms.

IV

MOST people whose memories go back so far would, I think, agree that in those now long distant days there appeared to be many more characters and strong individualists than there are today. Certainly there was no dearth of them at Brigstock. And outstanding amongst them was that picturesque, out of his time Regency 'Buck', Lord Lonsdale, with his 70 chestnut hunters, his yellow crested conveyances and his apparently inexhaustible supply of golden guineas and half sovereigns. But I am too young to have seen him in his Brigstock heyday or to remember now the many stories told about this fabulous prince of sportsmen. But I do recall my Father telling me of the Sunday, when a coachman, who had driven a visiting clergyman over, inadvertently sat in the great man's private pew. A fierce glare of unmistakeable distaste having failed to dislodge the stranger, the noble Lord wrote on a piece of paper, "Do you realise whose pew this is?", and passed it to the coachman, who immediately turned it over and handed it back with these words written on it. "Yus, and a very nice pew, too",—which, as my Father used to say, was a very neat 'tit' for a very aristocratic 'tat'. My Father also delighted to tell me of the occasion when Lord Lonsdale, (who at the time, had a broken collar bone), chanced to meet in the woods, a Brigstock man, named Cuckoo. Touching his cap and pointing to Lord Lonsdale's arm in its sling, Cuckoo put up his fists and jokingly said "I'm a-top on you now, my Lord". "You better try" replied his Lordship, and they began to spar. But Cuckoo's two fists proved no match for his Lordship's one, and he soon found himself flat on his back. As the fallen Cuckoo ruefully picked himself up, Lord Lonsdale presented him with a golden half-sovereign and said, "You can have another go tomorrow, if you like". "My Lord", said Cuckoo with a grin, "If you're going to give me that tomorrow, you can knock me down again today, and kick my backside into the bargain".

What brought Lord Lonsdale to Brigstock was the fact that he happened to be Master of the Woodland Pytchley Foxhounds, whose kennels were, as they still are, in the village, adjacent to my own garden. The Hunt was for some time part of the Pytchley Pack founded in 1750. But the Pytchley, finding its country too large, decided to form the North Pytchley to hunt, (as its name implies), the northern area. And it is this hunt which, in 1874, was re-named the Woodland Pytchley. For us youngsters, the great day of the Hunting Season was Boxing Day, when hounds always met on Hall Hill—as they still do—making a brave medley of well-groomed horses, of hunting 'pink', of shining 'toppers', of slim women mounted side-saddle, in well-cut habits, of crowds of eager spectators, and of a feathery mass of gaily wagging tails. "Boy", my Father would say, "you'll never see a finer sight than this in all England". Then, when the church clock struck eleven, the whole 'field' would move off and a crowd of men, boys and girls would follow on foot, often in the same woods as King Stephen, King John, and King James I once hunted. And I can well remember one Boxing Day when, from Snape's Wood we went on to Grafton Park Wood, then to Old Head Wood, and so, at last, to Geddington Chase, where we lost hounds and were lost ourselves, till at length we espied, like a light-house on the horizon, the slim steeple of Stanion Church to guide us home. I should think that on that day we trudged and walked and ran at least twelve miles.

At the opposite end of the social scale from Lord Lonsdale was another well-known local character: Solomon, the mole-catcher. When I knew him he was a cantankerous old scoundrel, at least 90 years of age, and still working. And if you wished to upset him, as too often we did, you had only to ask, "Caught any white moles today?" This innocent question made him exceedingly angry, as did any attempt to take his photograph. All the same, I was determined to snap him. So, one day, proudly armed with a new box camera, I saw old Solomon, resplendent in his moleskin waistcoat, coming down the street. 'Click' went my camera, and I had his photograph. And off I went to brag to the other boys about my great scoop. But some days later came a knock on the door, and there stood the old mole-catcher, fiercely demanding to see his photo. Wondering what his reaction might be, I handed it to him, whereupon he tore it to shreds and threw it on the ground shouting, "That's the end of *that*". And angrily, but well satisfied, strode off, not reckoning that the little boy, with his film, still outwitted him. Another village character at that time was no less a person than the Vicar himself, the Reverend J. P. Sandlands. Of him it can

perhaps be fairly said that although by all accounts a good parson, he was even more adept at healing bodies than saving souls. A vegetarian, total abstainer, and non-smoker, he was widely known as a Nature Healer and throat and chest specialist, who pioneered in speech therapy. What treatment he gave his many patients, in addition to a fresh fruit diet and a course of sun-bathing, I was never able to discover. I only know that when I walked through the churchyard, and by the Vicarage, the air was often filled with strange and mystifying noises. I would stop and listen, but could never detect any clue to their meaning. The mysterious noises for ever carried, inviolate, their secrets beyond the reach of my ears.

There were, of course, many more characters than the three I have named. For the state of social and economic development which the village had then attained, provided a rich soil in which individualists had full scope to multiply and flourish. Indeed, looking back, it seems to me that almost every adult I knew was by way of being a character. My dour old puritanical Grandfather Elliott, who insisted on *sung* grace before every meal, regarded a basin of bread and milk as his chief gastronomic delight, and steadfastly refused to heed the parson's sermons, saying he had come to service "to worship God, not to listen to a man's opinions"; my bearded, bachelor and generally eccentric Uncle, with his staccato clipped voice, his pawky sense of humour, and his highly unorthodox views; my Father, with his endless fund of stories about himself, his own youthful escapades, and all the other characters of the village and district, and my Mother, a gay, high-spirited rural Peter Pan, who joyously laughed and sang her way through life. Tiny, home-spun, and completely unaware of anything that could be described as fashion, her personality nevertheless shone around and enlivened whatever company she happened to be in.

Then there were others; old Mr. Viccars, with his impressively slow-speaking voice, his dignified bearing, his round low-crowned black hat, and Inverness Cape, looking for all the world like some splendid survival of Cromwellian days. Greatly respected, dogmatic, and above all things, a man of peace, he earned himself a short-lived unpopularity when he chose to celebrate the return to the village of South African War Veterans, by ostentatiously flying a large black flag from his house.

Very fresh in my memory, too, is the saintly looking Mr. Collier. He and his wife were a gentle and truly beautiful couple, in whose fields we used to go crab-appling down the hedgerows, finishing up at his thatched stone farmhouse in Brigstock Great Park, to eat a tremendous tea of ham and eggs, cakes, and bread and butter and jam. And then, too, there were the nameless ones, the town-crier—large, flat-footed and slow, who, clanging his heavy bell, would steadily march through the village announcing we could never quite tell what; the little man with his huge dancing bear, which frightened us out of our wits, and the jaunty organ-grinder, with his lively little red-coated monkey, whose antics were a never failing source of entertainment.

All these, and many others—not forgetting the heat-paled but mighty blacksmith—I pass in review through my mind. And despite my encounter with the angry mole-catcher, despite too, that sixty years ago, social distinctions in the countryside were more rigid than they are now, yet there seems to have been very much more mutual understanding and tolerance of each other's foibles than there are today. For one thing, there was no pretence; no 'keeping up with the Joneses'. Each one seemed to have a genuine respect for the others. And that respect, and the easy good manners that were its natural accompaniment, was therefore but rarely confused with servility. There was, in fact, a widespread instinctive recognition that, whatever their differences, all were members of the same close-knit community. Nor was there any in-rush of town-bred strangers, with their different habits and standards to destroy the traditional balance. Apart from poaching, therefore, we were, on the whole, a God-fearing, law-abiding happy community, and if we did not have much money, we had, at least, more of those precious things money can never buy. Not that there ever seemed to be any noticeable lack of money at either of our two 'big houses'.

V

A LITTLE to the left of a line drawn from our outbuildings to the Church, but hidden from view by a high fence, is the Manor House, the smaller of the two 'big houses'. The oldest part of this

beautiful building is undoubtedly the Great Hall, which was built sometime during the twelfth century. But in 1550, large additions were made and the entire building re-modelled. And so it remained until 1868, when still further additions were made to be followed by yet another renovation in 1887. Curiously enough this lovely house, set in its attractive garden, seems never to have been very long in the ownership or tenancy of one family. On the contrary, it has been at various times a farm house, a Royal Hunting Lodge, a hunting box, a family home, and as Alfred Gotch puts it, a 'place of rest and recuperation for wearied film stars'. Now, today, and more surprisingly still, it has been converted into Head Offices for Stewarts and Lloyds (Minerals) Limited: a fate which, by ensuring its preservation, may well prove to be a very happy one. Be that as it may, it remained for us children a mysterious and enchanted domain which we were for ever denied an opportunity to explore.

On the other side of the village, but a few fields beyond its confines, is another and even larger house, Fermyn Woods Hall, formerly known as Farming Woods. Originally built as the Lodge for the Head Archer of the Brigstock Bailiwick in the Royal Forest of Rockingham in the reign of King James I, it has since been considerably enlarged on several occasions. So much so, in fact, that little if any of the original remains visible. Architecturally undistinguished, it is nevertheless a pleasant house, and stands well in its spacious park, through which the public road from Brigstock to Oundle passes. From this road, incidently, can clearly be seen the fine 'strapwork' gateway, which was taken from Lyveden and now leads into the stable yard.

When I was a boy, the then occupant of the Hall used to provide an excellent cricket pitch in the park for the village club, and after each match he delighted to entertain the home and visiting teams to a generous 'spread' in a large marquee, thus making freely available a perfect setting both for the game itself, and the eating and drinking which invariably followed it and in which we boys generally managed to have our unauthorised share. All in all, then, and as I now realise, as pleasant and as peaceful an English scene as you could find anywhere.

All this and much else beside, was Brigstock at the turn of the century. With its farms and local small scale industries, its oil-lit streets, its muddy Winter and dusty Summer roads, its ancient habits and customs, its inconveniences and hardships, even its poverty, it was nevertheless fundamentally a gentle and therefore a pleasant place in which to live. True, today we have more material comforts, better roads, better drainage, better lighting and water supplies, and less poverty. We have, too, a part-time farrier, a timber yard, a clothing factory, plenty of new houses, plenty of new faces, and plenty of little pigs. Nevertheless, for me at least, these can never compensate for the fact that with all our so-called modern improvements, there are today no wheelwrights, tailors, or blacksmiths, no fell-mongering, no bakehouses, no mill and horse brook, no ploughboys or old widows begging alms, no horse-drawn vans and carts and drugs, no fallow deer in Fermyn Woods, no mole-catcher, no gated roads, and few paths.

'the old order changeth, yielding place to new-------'.

And perhaps a little too swiftly for peace of mind and the pleasant harmonies of the rural scene.

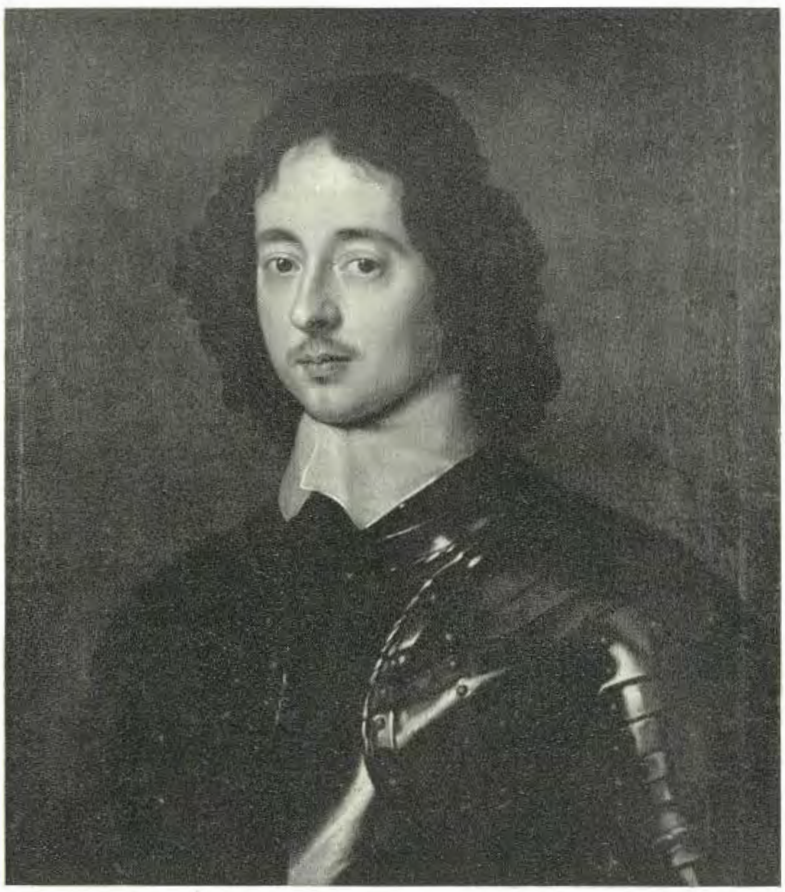
JOHN ELLIOTT BAILEY.
(Revised by W. Carey Wilson).

JOHN CLAYPOLE

THE National Portrait Gallery has acquired, during the past year, a portrait of John Claypole (1625-88). A full account of him, together with a photograph of the medallion of him in the British Museum appeared in *Northamptonshire Past and Present*, Vol. I, No. 4, pp. 23-33. As the writer (Mr. M. Urwick Smith) remarked, John Claypole of Northborough was essentially a man of peace, although he was in arms for the Parliamentary Army at the seige of Newark.[1]

He evidently wished to have a military portrait of himself when, in 1653, after his father-in-law, Oliver Cromwell, became Protector, he was appointed Master of the Horse. The picture recently added to the collection at the Portrait Gallery was probably painted about this time. It measures 28½ x 22½ inches. The name of the artist is unknown, but it is certainly in the style of Robert Walker, the rather insipid painter in favour under the Commonwealth, whose portrait of Cromwell (also in the National Portrait Gallery) is well known. John Claypole owed much to his father-in-law; his Mastership of the Horse, his membership of Parliament, and his appointment as Lord of the Bedchamber. In 1657 he was made a Peer in Cromwell's new House of Lords.

After his father-in-law's death, and that of his wife, poor John Claypole lost all his preferments, but he was not molested at the Restoration, and was allowed to retain all his estates. He gave refuge to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Cromwell, at Northborough, where she was buried in 1665. Financially John Claypole was not fortunate, and sold all his estates in 1682 to Lord Fitzwilliam, dying in obscurity in London in 1688.



JOHN CLAYPOLE (died 1688)

[1] See *Newark-on-Trent, the Civil War Siegeworks* (Historical Monuments Commission, 1964).

The Garfords of Easton-on-the-Hill

When Richard Garford the younger died in 1672 his extensive Will, made on 24 May, 1670, and proved in the P.C.C., provided for "the place where I was born". The Easton-on-the-Hill boy who became a wealthy London merchant, left 3 messuages or tenements in Crutched Friars, near Tower Hill, the rents and profits to be employed yearly "for the breeding and bringing up of four male children of the poorest inhabitants in the same parish of Easton to learning . . .". He further provided that these boys should be apprenticed.

With the passing years, overplus from the bequest accumulated so that a school could be established in the village, bearing his name. The history of this school from about 1690 to the present day is another story. Until this year (1969) the saga of Garford and his daughter Mary, has never been attempted. Yet it unfolds with increasing interest, especially when one treads the Royal background to the latter part of Mary's life.

At the time of the Armada, it would appear that most villages in the threatened areas were mobilised and very much on the alert.

It is recorded "Richard Garford, who arranged for a horse to be available from neighbouring Deeping Gate, in case of emergency, at the time of the Spanish Armada".

The following is a copy of an entry on parchment made by Robert Buddle, Vicar of Maxey near Peterborough 1585-1612.

"Semptimi 9 1587

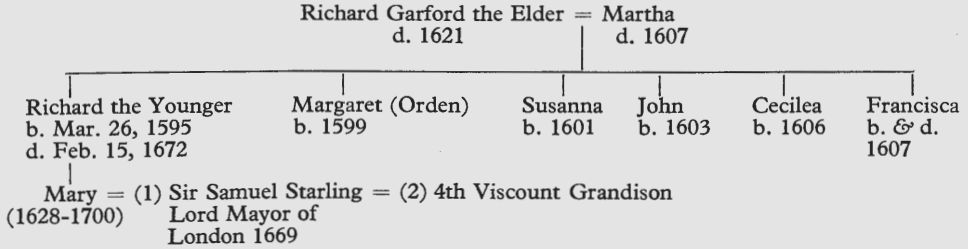
Names of persons obleyed to be meete for the warres, and of such as are assigned to find horses and harness.

William Clarke, Thos. Butler, Robert Horeson, Hugh Ffysher . . . Archers.
William Graunte, Will Turner, Will Northorn, John Collynham . . . Bylmen.
Richard Garford and Robert Hyde . . . Horse and Harness for a man.
Robert Brudenell and William Mesers . . . Horse for a man.

Robert Buddle and Tant Smyth.
Semptimi 1587"

Garford was in good company. The Hyde family is forever remembered in the name of a London park, and the Brudenells also in that one of its members led the Charge of the Light Brigade, and more usefully gave his name to the Cardigan!

The Garford, of course, was Richard Garford the Elder, who left Maxey for Easton-on-the-Hill in about 1590, to become a husbandman or small farmer. He and his first wife (Martha) are buried somewhere in the village churchyard.



When the elder Garford died he made the following bequests:—

Margaret Orden (eldest daughter, married)	5*s.*	
RICHARD	20*s.*	
Susan (Susanna)	£3	Probably in lieu
Sissile (Cecilia)	£3	of a dowry.
William Fetherston (brother in law)	20*s.*	

But to return to 1607. In the December of that year Martha Garford died, almost certainly in childbirth, and three months later young Richard Garford was on his way to London to be indentured as an apprentice.

The following is an extract from the Stationers' Company Apprentice Book.

"30th January 1608—6th Regis.

Richard Garford son of Richard Garford of Easton in the County of Northampton—Yeoman—hath put himself an apprentice unto Thomas Yardley Citizen and Stationer of London

MARY (GARFORD) VISCOUNTESS GRANDISON
from a sketch taken by Sir George Scharf from an original picture. It is now in the Collection of his sketches at the National Portrait Gallery. The present whereabouts of the original picture is unknown.

for the term of seven years from today". Thomas Yardley was the son of Richard Yardley who was in partnership with one Peter Short, as a printer and bookseller at the Star, on Bread Street Hill. Thomas succeeded to the business when his father died, and had seven apprentices on the premises at one time. Richard Garford was made free on 26th March 1616.

In course of time, this shop became the lynch pin in Garford's affairs. When he assumed control is not clear. That he eventually did so is evident. He remained a bookseller and printer for the rest of his life, but his interest became less and less active as he was increasingly involved as a Tallow Chandler.

In 1624 at the age of 29, Garford was admitted as a Liveryman of the Stationers' Company. This meant he was now established in his trade (printer), and was entitled to wear the distinctive hood of the Company. He was now a Freeman of the City of London. He made great use of his new status. Not that he was alone in this, for membership of a company was no sure indication of the eventual occupation of the member. With his Freedom, he had the 'Open Sesame' for trading in any sphere. He made most of his large fortune as a Tallow Chandler.

In 1625 Garford married Mary Motte, daughter of William Motte, master plumber. This was another important step in the progress of the former Easton boy, for his father in law became an Alderman of London three years later, the same year in which Mary, Richard's only child, was born. And progress for another reason too, for Mary Motte's sister Elizabeth married Thomas Foot, Grocer, who later became a most distinguished Puritan and lifelong friend of Richard. Knighted by Cromwell in 1657, he was a Councillor of State at the time of the Restoration. One of Sir Thomas Foot's daughters married the celebrated miser millionaire Sir John Cutler. On the 7th April 1659 Garford, Foot and Cutler were joint purchasers of the residue of a 500 years' lease on a parcel of waste ground at Whitechapel.

Easton's Garford now lived in the Minories, a residential street, south out of Aldgate to Tower Hill. In those days wide and tree lined, with spacious Town Houses on either side, it looked immediately on to open country where now is the East End of London. By 1630, Garford was in business as a Tallow Chandler with considerable warehouse and other property in Billingsgate, Whitechapel and the Tower Hill area. He is twice described as a Tallow Chandler once on the occasion of his first wife's death, and also on the remarriage of his only child, Mary, in 1674. Garford's first wife Mary Motte was buried at St. Botolph's, Aldgate, on 1 August 1630.

1634 was another good year for Garford. On April 4th he married again. His second wife was a widow, Priscilla Clement, "aged about 40 yeares". Although she is styled as of the same parish (St. Botolph's), the marriage was licensed to be solemnised at Little Ilford, Essex, E.12. The register entry is as follows:—

1634

Richard Garford de		Priscilla Clement	
S. Buttolphs	et	de eadem	4 Apl.
Aldgate, Stationer.		Wid.	

Maybe this second marriage gave Richard Garford the necessary capital for the expansion of his business interests. It seems unlikely that he would marry a penniless widow. On the contrary! There is no record of any children from this union, nor of the death of Priscilla. That she predeceased him is certain, for her name does not appear anywhere in Garford's lengthy will. In that year too, George Coxe, one of Garford's stationer apprentices at the Star, became free (5th May 1634). George, son of John Coxe of Dorney, Buckinghamshire, Wheelwright, was bound to Garford on 4th September, 1626. It is most significant that from this year (1634) Garford developed his interests both as a Tallow Chandler and as a man of property. It is reasonable to assume that George Cox(e) dealt with the Stationery business for his former master. Indeed they were firm friends, for not only did George act as a Trustee for Garford's Will (1672), but he was also a beneficiary. George Cox is written in it as a Stationer, and his signature appears on the original Trust Deed for the Easton-on-the-Hill, Garford's Charity.

It is highly probable that Mr. Garford, part time stationer, was a manufacturer of candles as well as a dealer in the raw material. His main source of raw materials was close at hand. If you turn right at the St. Botolph's end of the Minories you are in Whitechapel, and on the Mile End Road to Kent. Butchers' Row, Whitechapel, was perhaps the main London slaughterhouse district, receiving cattle, sheep and pigs driven in from the adjacent countryside. Although dealing in fat was the province of the butchers, it is possible that Garford was a provincial dealer as well as a manufacturer, for he acquired considerable 'small port' property in and near Faversham, Kent, as well as buildings in the Swale Creek hamlets of Ore, Ludnam and Tenham. He also owned similar estate at Gravesend, Milton, Wilmington, Sutton at Hone and Dartford.

In 1661 Mr. Garford bought well known Macknade Manor, near Faversham. This very old, stone built house on the London Road might well have been the headquarters for all his out of London activities. The Manor was rebuilt about 1750, and today there are a few of the original stones of the house visible, but only a small area of wall is involved. One would imagine Garford was fully occupied with his widespread commercial interests, but his career illustrates the old saying that goes: "if you want a job done well, give it to a busy man".

Having served as a common councilman and deputy Alderman of the Ward of Portsoken he was, on 8 July 1656, elected Alderman of Candlewick Ward. This Ward was centred on Candlewick Street (now Cannon Street), and appears to have derived its name from the concentration of Tallow Chandlers in the vicinity. That he should be selected to represent people in the same trade is sufficient tribute to the man, and also to his financial standing.

This story would be nicely rounded off had Garford become Lord Mayor of London, but it was not to be. The next best thing was for his daughter Mary to marry a man who did reach this eminence. But that is another story.

Mr. Garford died on 15 February 1672. He was nearly 77 years old, a great age in those far off days of elementary medicine and rough surgery. His body remained twelve days at his abode in the Minories, before being deposited in the Crypt of St. Botolph Without Aldgate Church, a long way from his simple beginnings, and his parents, at Easton by Stamford.

In March 1892, 369 coffins were brought to the City of London Cemetery at Manor Park E.12 from St. Botolph's. Among them were the Crypt Coffins.

There were three burials in St. Botolph's on 27 February 1672, the others being Hannah Hill and Barbary Whittal. They are just names in the Register.

Mary Garford, daughter and sole heir of Richard by his first wife, was married to an already well established and wealthy merchant at least twenty years her senior. He was Samuel Sternell alias Starling. The 'Sternell' is Old English for Starling. In fact it is not uncommon to hear country folk in the Easton area refer to a flight of starlings as "them sternels". Starling was a most distinguished civic leader. Alderman of Vintry Ward 1661 to 1664, and Portsoken Ward in 1664, he was elected Sheriff of London 1661-2 and knighted by Charles II in 1667, becoming Lord Mayor 1669-70. If Richard Garford didn't complete the Whittington story for Easton-on-the-Hill, then his daughter did her best! Samuel and Mary lived in Seething Lane, Tower Street, very near to Richard Garford in the Minories. They were neighbours of Samuel Pepys, who in his *Diary* (8 September 1666) describing the Fire of London says: "Alderman Starling, a very rich man *without children,* the fire next door to him in our lane, after the men had saved his home did give 2/6 among thirty of them, and did quarrel with some that would move the rubbish out of the way of the fire, saying that they came to steal".

Much earlier (1662-63) Pepys describes him as "a very rich man *with children,* and extremely parsimonious".

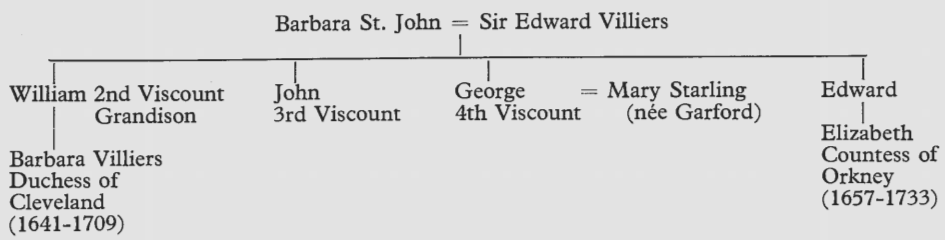
There is no conflict in these Diary extracts, for Mary Starling had two children, both dying in that dreadful September of the Plague year 1665. The following is an entry in the Burial Register of All Hallows, Barking.

"13th. Sept. 1665. Jane and Grant Starling".

Sir Samuel Starling was Magistrate in charge of the famous trial of William Penn, and is described thus by a contemporary: "He put the law in execution vigorously against phanatics, despite great difficulties and opposition, and was a person of good learning, a solid judgement and great courage, contemning all danger for the safetie of His Majestie's Government".

Sir Samuel provided a stained glass window for the North Aisle of All Hallows, Barking, and was buried in that church on 27 August 1674. Within months, his widow married George, 4th Viscount Grandison of Limerick.

An attractive widow she must have been, for not only had this Easton Yeoman's Granddaughter married a knight of the realm but she had now invaded the Peerage. By this marriage she became aunt to the notorious Barbara Villiers, and to Elizabeth, Countess of Orkney.



Mary, of the slate blue eyes and golden yellow hair, seemed to have a penchant for older men. George Grandison was her senior by eleven years.

Following her London wedding to George Villiers in 1674, she immediately settled Macknade Manor on him, and they both went to live at Brantfield, not far from Hertford. This place was known as Braintfield in 1820, and is now Bramfield. It is believed that the name means "sweet smelling field". Although Viscount Grandison was Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard for 25 years, it is unlikely that they resided in the Tower of London, except when attending court. Mary was his second wife, the first being Mary Leigh, great niece of the Duke of Buckingham.

One can surmise therefore, with some reason, that the daughter of an Easton born Tallow Chandler was now moving in Royal circles, for Barbara Castlemaine, her niece, was principal mistress for some years of Charles II. Moreover, another niece had similar tendencies and equal success. This was Elizabeth Villiers, mistress of William III (William of Orange).

After the death of the first Earl Exeter, son of Elizabeth's Chancellor—Lord Burghley, the turreted mansion at Wothorpe, between Easton and Stamford, became the residence of the Duke of Buckingham. This was in 1622. Wothorpe is about one mile from Easton. It would be too fanciful to speculate that our Mary Garford attended a Villiers house party in later years! The ruins of the house are still there, and silent but for the noise of the pigeons. A coincidence should be noted however in that the present Marquess of Exeter, and an Olympic gold medal winner, is Chairman of the Governors of the Garford's Charity!

The Rt. Hon. Mary Viscountess Grandison was buried in Brantfield (Bramfield) church on 8 March 1700, a year after the death of her husband. Control of the estate was granted to her stepsons Charles and George Villiers on 14 June 1700.

Though 46 years old at the time of her second marriage, did Mary have a daughter by George? There is an obscure entry at the bottom of a page in the Bramfield burial register.

> "Ye Lady frane (Frances?) - da (daughter?) from - of ye Lord Grandison was buried - August 1720".

The first Viscountess Grandison had ten children, but there was no Frances among them.

I would like to acknowledge the help and encouragement given me by Mr. P. I. King, Archivist at Delapré Abbey.

FRANK HANCE.

Ladies' Cricket Match at Courteenhall

23rd July, 1883

YOUNG people of today may flatter themselves that it is only in the present century that changes in fashions of dress have allowed women to indulge in games involving violent exercise. If so they are wrong, as the ladies' cricket match played at Courteenhall on 23 July, 1883, in bustles, and skirts reaching nearly to the ground, bears witness. The following spirited account of the match appeared in the *Northampton Herald* of 28 July. The above drawing (much reduced in size) is by Sir Herewald Wake, who stands as umpire behind the wicket on the right.

"A Ladies' Cricket Match—Miss Peel's v. Mrs. Fuller's eleven—was played at Courteenhall on Monday last, at which some very good all round cricket was displayed, some of the ladies showing extremely good form. For Miss Fuller's eleven in the first innings, Miss Alice Maul obtained the highest score in the match, viz 35 runs, consisting of one three, five two's and 22 singles. Miss St. Aubyn also batted well for 12 runs. In the 2nd innings Mrs. Fellowes obtained a total of 24 runs including one six, and five two's. Miss E. Handcock played a very good innings of 17 not out. For Miss Peel's eleven the bowling of Miss Ramsay was exceptionally severe and the fielding of her side was excellent but nevertheless Mrs. Fuller's team scored an easy victory by 69 runs.

Mrs. Fuller's Eleven		**Miss Peel's Eleven**	
Lady Wake	Miss Sewell	Miss Fanny Wood	Miss A. Wood
Miss Handcock	Mrs. Fellowes	Miss Harvey	Miss M. Ramsay
Miss A. Maul	Mrs. Burrell Fuller	Miss Ramsay	Miss B. Harvey
Miss St. Aubyn	Miss C. Maul	Miss Peel	Miss Williams
Miss Cadogan	Miss E. Handcock	Miss Dawson	Miss Hadden
Miss Swinhoe		Miss A. Peel	".

J.W.

THE VIRGINIA WASHINGTONS AND NEWTON BROMSWOLD

THE following document, preserved at the London Public Record Office, and which has hitherto been unknown to all writers on the Washington pedigree, reveals the remarkable fact that one of the Virginia Washingtons had actually succeeded *jure uxoris* to part of a manorial estate in Northamptonshire—the county whence the Washingtons originated—some forty years after the date of the family's settlement in America:

[Translation] "Final Concord made in the King's Court at Westminster within three weeks of Michaelmas, 9 William III. [1697], before the King's Justices there, between Geoffrey Jefferyes, Esq., plaintiff, and Francis Dade, Gent., and Frances his wife and John Washington the younger, Gent., and Mary his wife, deforciants, of the moiety of two messuages, two gardens, two orchards, a hundred and twenty six acres of land, fourteen acres of meadow, and thirteen acres of pasture, with common of pasture for all beasts, in Newton Bromswold and Rushden, Northants.; whereof a plea of covenant was summoned between them in this Court, viz., that the said Francis, Frances, John and Mary acknowledge the aforesaid lands to be the right of the said Geoffrey, as of their gift, and have remitted and quitclaimed the same to him and his heirs forever. Furthermore, on behalf of the heirs of Frances (Dade) and Mary (Washington), they have warranted him and his heirs in perpetuity against themselves and the heirs of the said Frances and Mary: and, in consideration of this grant and warranty, etc., the said Geoffrey has given them the sum of £160".[1]

The identity of the John and Mary Washington, named in the above final concord, immediately becomes evident both from the mention of Francis Dade and the reference to Newton Bromswold. For it is well established that Capt. John Washington of Stafford County, Virginia—the only son of the emigrant Lawrence Washington (1635-1677) by his second wife Joyce—married in 1693 Mary, the younger daughter and co-heiress of a Virginia neighbour, Col. Robert Townshend, whose elder daughter, Frances, became the wife of Francis Dade of Stafford County *circa* 1686. Moreover, Col. Robert Townshend's tombstone, which still exists at "Albion", formerly in Stafford, now in King George County, states that he himself had espoused Mary, "daughter to Mr. Needham Langhorne of Newton Brownshall [*i.e.* Bromswold], Northamptonsheire". Accordingly, there can be no doubt that the "John Washington the younger" and Mary, his wife, who in 1697 appeared in the King's Court at Westminster to record a sale of property at Newton Bromswold, were identical with Capt. John and Mary (Townshend) Washington of Virginia:[2] and such an identification has an added interest from the fact that Capt. John is known to have acted as guardian of George Washington's father, Augustine, during the latter's minority.

This is, of course, the first intimation we have had that Capt. John Washington was ever in England; for, although his half-sister, Mary (Washington) Gibson, lived all her life there, we know from one of Capt. John's letters to her written from Virginia on 22 June, 1699, that the two of them at that date had never met each other.[3] It is now certain, however, that in 1697 Capt. John and his brother-in-law, Francis Dade, both crossed the Atlantic in order to dispose of their wives' English possessions; and the problem which next confronts us is to discover how those possessions were acquired and what precise inheritance they represented.

[1] Feet of Fines, Northants., Michaelmas Term, 9 William III.

[2] Contemporary Virginia records regularly describe Capt. John Washington as "the younger" until after the death of his cousin-german, John Washington of Bridges Creek (second son of the emigrant Col. John, George Washington's great-grandfather), in 1698.

[3] cp. Henry F. Waters, *Genealogical Gleanings in England*, vol. I, pp. 558-59.

Obviously, any approach to this question must be made through that mysterious "Mr. Needham Langhorne of Newton Brownshall", who has already been mentioned as Frances Dade's and Mary Washington's maternal grandfather. Many years ago, an American writer suggested that Needham Langhorne was probably some descendant of the Langhornes of Bedfordshire, who recorded a pedigree in the Hertfordshire Visitation of 1634;[4] but up till the present nothing whatever has been ascertained about him. However, there is evidence that he was the fourth son of Robert Langhorne of Harrold Park, co. Bedford, and that through his mother, Margaret, sister of Sir John Needham (1565-1618) of Lichborough, Northants., Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth, he could trace direct descent from the Wests, Lords De la Warr, King Henry III, and John de Balliol, the founder of Balliol College, Oxford. Of the same family was Daniel Langhorne, the seventeenth century antiquary, and the well known Sir William Langhorne, baronet, of Charlton, Kent.

In the meantime, from the parish registers of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London, we learn that on 31 May, 1630, "Needham Langhorn of Puddington [Poddington], co. Bedford, Gent., and Marie Bostocke of St. Dionis, Backchurch, London, Maide", were married by licence. Frances, daughter of "Nedom Lankhorne", was baptized at St. Dionis, Backchurch, exactly two years later. Mary (Bostock) Langhorne seems to have been the daughter of Charles Bostock of London, who was most likely a cadet of the knightly Cheshire family of that name. The first few years of her married life were doubtless spent at Poddington; but in 1644 her husband, Needham Langhorne, purchased from Francis Negus and Susan, his wife, for £200, the whole manor of "Drewells", *alias* Newton Bromswold,[5] Northants., with two messuages, one cottage, one dovecote, two gardens, two orchards, a hundred and twenty acres of land, eight acres of meadow, and sixteen acres of pasture in Newton Bromswold aforesaid.[6] The old manor-house at Newton became henceforward the family seat; and in 1661 Needham Langhorne, gent., in consideration of £200, formally surrendered "the manor of Newenton, otherwise Newton Bromswold, otherwise Newton near Higham Parke"—with one messuage, two cottages, three gardens, three orchards, a hundred and twenty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and twelve acres of pasture—to the use of his only son, William Langhorne, and his issue.[7]

Further information is disclosed by the following entries in the unpublished Newton Bromswold registers, which are of particular importance in that they not only show the marriage of Robert Townshend and Mary Langhorne, but also the actual baptism of Mary Townshend—Needham Langhorne's granddaughter—who later married Capt. John Washington of Virginia:

1653. Mary Langhorne [*née* Bostock], the wife of Needham Langhorne, Gentleman, was buried June 11th.

1665. Robert Towsend and Mary Langhorne were married the sixt day of Aprill.

1665. Thomas Wildman and Anne Langhorne were married the twenty-first day of Aprill.

1669. Mary Townesend, the daughter of Robert Townesend and Mary his wife, was baptized the fifteenth day of July.

1673. Needham Langhorne was buried the 19th day of August.

The will of Needham Langhorne "of Newton Bromswold, co. Northampton, Gent.", was dated 2 November, 1670. He devised his close of land at "Betteles Grene" and property at Rushden, Northants., to his wife "Barbary" (Barbara) Langhorne for life, with remainder to "my two daughters, Mary Townsen and Anne Wildmane". To the poor of Newton Bromswold he left 20*s.* and to Edward Trott, "rector of our parishe of Newton", 20*s.* for a ring. He also left to "my son Bottiler and his wife Frances Bottiler" 12*d.* apiece. All the rest of his goods, etc., were to be

[4] See *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. 11, pp. 146-47.

[5] Newton Bromswold manor was sometimes known as "Drewells" from the fact that the estate had been held by the Drewell family from the fourteenth century until 1529.

[6] Feet of Fines, Northants., Trinity Term, 19 Charles I.

[7] *Ibid.*, 13 Charles II.

divided between his wife "Barbary" and "sons" (*i.e.* sons-in-law) Robert "Tounsen" and Thomas Wildman, and these three were appointed joint executors. The will was witnessed by Nathaniel Alexander and (the Rev.) Edward Trott, and was proved at Northampton by Thomas Wildman (one of the said executors) on 10 June, 1675.[8]

The testator's spouse "Barbary" was, needless to say, a second wife and not the mother of his children; the first wife, Mary (Bostock) Langhorne, only died, it will be recalled, in 1653. "Barbary" appears to have married Needham Langhorne about 1656, when she presented a silver alms dish inscribed "per Barbare Langhorne" to Newton Bromswold church. The Frances "Bottiler" [Butler], whom the testator described as the wife of "my son Bottiler", was presumably his eldest daughter, Frances Langhorne, baptized in London in 1632. It will be noticed that the actual manor of Newton Bromswold is nowhere mentioned in the will; but this omission can be explained by the fact that the testator had previously transferred the entire estate to his son, William Langhorne, in 1661. Quite possibly William himself was alive in 1670, the date when the will was drawn up; for he would not necessarily have been included as a legatee, since, owing to his father's surrender, he had already been amply provided for. But be that as it may, both William and his elder sister, Frances (Langhorne) Butler, must have been dead without issue by 1675, when Anne Langhorne, wife of Thomas Wildman, occurs as the owner of half the Newton Bromswold property:

Final Concord, etc., between Richard Walter, plaintiff, and Thomas Wileman [*sic*], gent., and Anne his wife, deforciants, of a moiety of the manor of Newenton, *alias* Newton Bromswold, *alias* Newton next Higham Parke, *alias* Drewells manor, and of one messuage, one cottage, one dovecote, two gardens, three orchards, a hundred and twenty acres of land, ten acres of meadow, and twenty-four acres of pasture, with common of pasture for all beasts, etc. Warranted to the said Richard and his heirs against Thomas and Anne and the heirs of Anne for ever. Consideration, £160.[9]

Anne (Langhorne) Wildman could scarcely have been in possession of one half of the manor if her brother William and each of her two sisters were still living; and the inference is that, owing to the deaths of William and of Frances (Butler), the estate had at that period become divided between Anne and her youngest sister, Mary (Langhorne) Townshend. This inference is fully supported by an inspection of the Final Concord of 1697, quoted at the beginning of the present article, where both the property itself and the price paid for it (£160) correspond almost exactly to the description of Anne Wildman's moiety given in the Final Concord of 1675.

Hence, we may safely conclude that in or before 1675 Needham Langhorne's two surviving daughters, Anne Wildman and Mary Townshend, had succeeded as co-heiresses to the manor of Newton Bromswold. In 1675, however, Anne Wildman sold her share of the inheritance to Richard Lawrence; and I have been unable to recover any further trace of her. Possibly her husband was the Thomas Wildman, "late of St. Bride's, London, deceased", whose widow Isabel, perhaps a second wife, was granted administration of his effects on 14 January, 1697-8,[10] since no other Thomas Wildman appears in the records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury between 1675 and 1710.

Mary (Langhorne) Townshend, meanwhile, appears to have returned with her husband to Virginia; for we know from his tombstone at "Albion" that the latter died there in September, 1675, which accounts for his failure to join with Thomas Wildman in proving Needham Langhorne's will. By Col. Robert Townshend, Mary Langhorne left three children, viz., an only son, Robert Baldwin Townshend—who was living on 10 January, 1675/6, but died young,—besides the two daughters, Frances (Dade) and Mary (Washington), already enumerated. Probably Frances and Mary both married their husbands in America. Certainly this was so in the case of Mary (Washington); and very likely it was true of Frances (Dade) also. At all events, the latter's

[8] Archdeaconry of Northampton, 3rd Series, D.30.
[9] Feet of Fines, Northants., Hilary Term, 26/27 Charles II (1675).
[10] P.C.C. Admon. Act Book, 1697, fo. 9.

marriage must have taken place prior to 9 September, 1687, when "Francis Dade and Frances, his wife" sold land in Stafford County to John Withers.[11] It has been asserted that Francis Dade himself died in 1694;[12] but the final concord of 1697 sufficiently proves that he survived for at least another three years. His death evidently occurred in 1697 or very soon afterwards, since his wife, Frances (Townshend), had found time both to marry and bury a second husband, Capt. John Withers, by 1699, and on September 20th of that same year is named in the Stafford records as married to a third husband, Col. Rice Hooe of "Barnsfield".[13] Entries in the register of St. Paul's Parish, Stafford County, show that Col. Rice Hooe died 19 April, 1726, and that his widow, Frances, died on April 26th—just seven days later.

Mary (Townshend) Washington's own marital career was far less chequered than that of her elder sister. As has been seen, she was baptized at Newton Bromswold, Northants., on 15 July, 1669. On 10 September, 1690, "Francis Dade and Frances his wife, one of the daughters and co-heirs to Robert Townsend, late of this [i.e. Stafford] county, deceased, and John Washington, as guardian and next friend to Mary Townsend, another of the daughters and co-heirs to the said Robert Townsend"[14] are mentioned in the minutes of the Stafford Court as claimants to part of the Townshends' Virginia property.[15] Mary Townshend's marriage, however, did not take place until over two years after this; since an old page, bound into the back of the first volume of Westmoreland County deeds and wills, contains the following extract: "An acct. of Lycenses for marriages granted per Ao. Dni. 1692 . . . Jno. Washington, junr., & Mrs. Mary Townsend. Capt. Law. Washington and Mr. Jno. Washington, Security". According to the Lund Washington MS., the precise date of the wedding was 15 March, 1692 [*i.e.* 1693, New Style]: and a month later, 11 April, 1693, "John Washington, junior, of Westmoreland Co. in the Colony of Virginia, Gentleman, and Mary my now wife, daughter of Coll. Robert Townsend", appointed Capt. Lawrence Washington as their attorney to convey various lands in York County to "Madam Mildred Warner of Gloucester County".[16] Capt. John Washington, the husband of Mary Townshend, died in Stafford County between 14 May, 1718, and 24 April, 1721; and his wife, Mary, who survived him, died on 1 April, 1727.[17]

As for Mary (Langhorne) Townshend, her history after the decease of her husband Col. Robert Townshend in 1675, remains uncertain; but the fact that there is on record in Virginia a power of attorney from her dated at "Newton Brownshall",[18] suggests that a portion at least of her last years were spent at her English home. Moreover, on 7 November, 1694, letters of administration on the English estate of Mary Townshend, widow, "late of Newton Bromswold, *alias* Higham Ferrers, co. Northampton, but at Virginia deceased", were granted to Geoffrey Jeffreys, esq., and John Jeffreys, esq., her "principal creditors".[19] Mary (Langhorne) Townshend thus died at some period before November, 1694, while on a visit to America: but it is significant that she is officially described as late of Newton Bromswold in the grant of probate—and even more significant that Geoffrey Jeffreys should have acted as one of her administrators. For this is the same Mr. "Jefferyes" who three years later, in 1697, acquired the remaining moiety of the manor of Newton Bromswold from Francis Dade and Capt. John Washington and their respective wives (*vide supra*). He and his family, all of whom were eminent London merchants, had long

[11] Stafford County Deed Book, 1722-28, p. 430.
[12] *Tyler's Quarterly Magazine*, vol. 16, p. 160.
[13] *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. 4, p. 427.
[14] The John Washington here mentioned was probably John Washington of Bridges Creek, who, along with his elder brother, Capt. Lawrence Washington, George Washington's grandfather, stood as security for his cousin and namesake at the time of the latter's marriage to Mary Townshend in 1692/3 *(vide infra)*. For Capt. John Washington of Stafford County, Mary Townshend's husband, was only born on 2 August, 1671, according to Lund Washington's MS. (Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.), and hence in 1690 would have been still in his minority.
[15] *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. 45, p. 25.
[16] York County Deeds, Book I, pp. 580-81; *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. 45, pp. 247-48. "Madam Mildred Warner" was Capt. Lawrence Washington's mother-in-law. Capt. John Washington, who is here described as "of Westmoreland Co."—he served as under-sheriff of Westmoreland in 1692,—did not remove to Stafford County until some time afterwards. On 12 August, 1691 he had asked to be excused from being appointed one of the justices of Stafford, since he was not yet resident there.
[17] *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, vol. 3, p. 471.
[18] *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. 11, pp. 146-47.
[19] P.C.C. Admon. Act Book, 1694, fo. 205.

been associated with the affairs of Col. Robert Townshend's half-brother, Col. Cadwallader Jones.[20] In 1690, indeed, part of Col. Cadwallader Jones' plantation in Stafford County was actually occupied by a tenant of "Jeffrie Jeffries and John Jeffries, the heirs and executors of John Jeffries, late of London, Esq., deceased".[21] It should be added that the above-named Virginia holding, as well as the moiety of Newton Bromswold, were apparently vested in Geoffrey Jeffreys at the time of his death in 1709.[22]

The subsequent history of the Newton Bromswold estate is obscure. In 1811 a settlement of a third of the manor was made by Edward Disborough and Edward Cromwell Disborough, his son.[23] No real information is available until the middle of the last century, when Newton Bromswold passed into the ownership of Frederick Urban Sartoris of Rushden Hall. At present, the sole relic that exists of the Langhorne tenure of the manor is the silver alms plate, previously referred to, presented to Newton Bromswold Church by Mrs. Barbara Langhorne in 1656. The Church itself has been completely whitewashed inside; and any early inscriptions and monuments, etc., have long ago disappeared, with the exception of an inscription of 1729 commemorating a member of the family of Lambe. Of the ancient manor-house, once the residence of Needham Langhorne, and, it may be, once even the residence for a brief space of the Washingtons and the Dades, not a single stone remains. Yet the whole neighbourhood, curiously enough, is redolent of Washington memories. For the village of Newton Bromswold lies immediately adjacent to Higham Ferrers, Chelveston, and Caldecote,[24]—all of them places intimately connected with the original Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave, who in 1530 got large interests there through his wife Elizabeth Gough. Indeed, for some time Higham Ferrers, rather than Sulgrave, seems to have been used as Lawrence's principal residence. Surely it is an odd coincidence that Capt. John Washington of Virginia should, thanks to his own marriage, have acquired possessions in the same district of Northamptonshire where his ancestor, Lawrence, had gained lands *jure uxoris* so many years before.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

[20] *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. 30, p. 325.
[21] Stafford County Orders, Book I, 1689-93.
[22] P.C.C. 247 Lane. Geoffrey Jeffreys, who became agent for the Virginia Colony in London in 1691, had been knighted in 1701.
[23] Recovery Roll no. 157, Michaelmas Term, 52 George III.
[24] Since 1927, the ecclesiastical living of Newton Bromswold has been amalgamated with that of Chelveston.

A ZEALOUS PASTOR

RICHARD DAVIS, a Welshman born in Cardiganshire about 1658, became Pastor of the Congregational Church at Rothwell in 1690, and remained minister there for twenty-five years. In this time 795 members were added to the church, 668 from nearby towns and villages.

He was the third Pastor of the church, founded in 1656, and "through his labours the church became famous, and in the eyes of many, notorious". This was because he made his church a centre of aggressive evangelism; he regarded "neither the parish churches as true gospel houses nor did he accept the common view of Dissenters in the area that a minister should confine himself to his own neighbourhood, and that lay preaching was not to be encouraged".

When he went from London to Northamptonshire to take up his duties, he was accompanied by Sir William Langham of Walgrave, who had been M.P. for Northampton, and, like his brother, Sir James of Cottesbrooke, was a friend to Dissenters. Sir William "expressed some surprise that he should leave the advantages of London to embrace the mean prospect he must have at Rothwell amongst such a poor number of Dissenters, to which Mr. Davis replied 'that according to God's word he was to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness' ".

A good account of this zealous, if hardly tactful pastor, appeared in *The Evangelical Magazine* for December 1966 by Mr. Peter Toon.

We are grateful to Mr. H. G. Tibbutt for having drawn our attention to the article.

G.I.

Thomas Percy and Hannah More

As a postscript to the interesting article, "Thomas Percy and Samuel Johnson" (*Northamptonshire Past and Present*, vol. IV, no. 3), it may be worth while recording two references made to Percy by, respectively, a sister of Hannah More, and by Hannah More herself.

Hannah, teacher, dramatist, poet, and a successful writer in other veins also, was one of Johnson's circle, and a close friend of two of its members, David Garrick and his wife. She was, intellectually, "a giant in her own day",[1] and it was through her literary prestige together with her entry as a young woman into the fashionable world of London that she became acquainted with Percy. Their first meeting took place at the house of Sir Joshua Reynolds and is mentioned as follows by Hannah's sister: "London, 1774. We have paid another visit to Miss Reynolds. She had sent to engage Dr. Percy (Percy's Collection, now you know him) who is quite a sprightly modern, instead of a dusty antique, as I expected".[2] Percy was then incumbent of Eastern Mauduit and forty-three years old. It is nice to know that in his social life he impressed a young observer as "sprightly".

In 1777 Hannah's tragedy of *Percy* was produced in London. This event brought her one of the pleasantest of her literary experiences. She wrote to her sister: "Gerrard Street, 1777. Yesterday morning Dr. Percy was announced to me. When he came in he told me he was sent by the Duke of Northumberland and Earl Percy to congratulate me on my great success, to inform me of the general approbation, and to thank me in their names for the honour I had done them; that the duke and my lord were under much concern at not being able to attend the play, both father and son having the gout. They sent, however, each for a ticket, for which they paid as became the blood of the Percies; and in so genteel and respectful a manner that it was impossible for the nicest pride to take umbrage at it. I am the more flattered with the honour this noble family have done me, because I did not solicit their attention nor would I even renew my acquaintance with Dr. Percy, on coming to town, lest it should look like courting the notice of his patrons".[3]

Clearly, Percy transmitted the Northumberland appreciation, both verbal and pecuniary, without detriment to the gentility and delicacy shown by the noble family. It is of interest to find him figuring so gracefully in the context of the general acclaim which characterized the reception given to the production of *Percy*.

Constance I. Smith.

[1] Doris Mary Stenton, *The Englishwoman in History* (London, 1957) 296.

[2] *Life of Hannah More; with Selections from her Correspondence* (London 1856) 14.

[3] *Ibid*; 47.

Don't install Central Heating

before consulting

A. H. ALLEN & Co. Ltd.

St. James' Park Road
NORTHAMPTON 52264

Specialists in Oil, Gas and Solid Fuel Systems

CREATIVE PRINTERS LTD

Designers, Colour Printers
Manufacturers of up-to-date
packaging for a wide range
of products ··· maybe yours!

We specialize in every form of printed and folded box

DENINGTON INDUSTRIAL ESTATE WELLINGBOROUGH

Collet's

Peterborough Bookshop

Suppliers to Public Libraries, Colleges, Schools,
Education Authorities and Industry.
We will be pleased to arrange an exhibition
of books of interest on your own
premises if desired,
contact the Manager at

3 Westgate . Peterborough

Telephone: OPE 3 - 62075

Business Founded 1806

Telephones: Northampton 37438-9 and 44147

W. G. Ward Ltd.

Funeral & Cremation Directors
& Certified Embalmers

30 Wood Street . Northampton

PRIVATE CHAPELS OF REST

DAY & NIGHT SERVICE

A 17th Century Northamptonshire Poet Parson

The Revd. Nathaniel Whiting, M.A. (1612-1682) was one of a number of my ancestors who, as ordained clergymen, found they could not accept the teachings of the Church of England and turned to nonconformity. Nathaniel's grandfather was the Rev. Giles Whiting, Rector of Pansfield in Essex, who favoured the Scottish-Presbyterian form of puritanism in the late 16th century and early 17th century. Nathaniel's uncles included the Rev. Dr. John Whiting, Rector of St. Martin le Vintry, 1611-24 and 18th Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral. He made his name by extracting confessions from those on trial for the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury in the Tower of London. Although he served the Establishment for most of his life, he was suspended for a while in 1623 after preaching a sermon at Hampton Court on "the idol of the mass" at a time when Prince Charles' Spanish marriage negotiations had just broken down. Another of Nathaniel's uncles, Rev. Timothy Whiting, held a number of livings in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, carrying out his duties without hindrance. His son, Rev. John Whiting, Rector of Lexden, who was Nathaniel's cousin, is remembered solely by the form of his death, of which R. Josselin wrote in his diary, "Hear of Mr. Whiting's death . . . by putting his finger into a man's mouth, whose throat was ill with a 'squinsey' and non compos mentis, he bit it vehemently, on which it gangrened and killed him about eight days after". A more distant relative of Nathaniel's was the Rev. Samuel Whiting who abandoned his living in Lincolnshire to go to Massachusetts in order to pursue his Puritan ways.[1] Although the Whiting family tree is not complete the coat of arms (Gyronny of four azure and ermine overall a leopard's face and in chief 3 bezants) has enabled me to link up the various sections to some extent. In this way I have traced Nathaniel's family back to Thomas Whiting, Chester herald of the late 15th century.

Nathaniel went up to Queen's College, Cambridge, as a pensioner at Easter, 1629. He was awarded his B.A. in 1631 and his M.A. in 1635. His tutor was Stubbins. Although he was entered as a pensioner, the college accounts for 1630-3 list him as a scholar, receiving the respective annual payments of 12*s.* 6*d.*, 16*s.* 3*d.*, 19*s.* 7*d.*, and 15*s.* 10*d.* The full income of a scholar was then about £2. It was probably about this time that he secured the friendship of Sir William Fleetwood of Aldwincle Manor, as a later letter to Sir William shows: "I am not ashamed (Right Worshipfull) to tell the world how ancient and how affectionate a Maecenas you have been to me; that I received many encouragements from you when I was a student in the universitie; how ready I have alwayes found you to lay forth your power and Interest for me . . . and how much I have found the favour of a Patron, and the affections of a friend (I might go higher) for the space of many yeares".[2] Nathaniel's first opportunity to publish some of his poems came in 1633 when he submitted two Greek and two Latin poems for a booklet published by the University to mark the birth of James, Duke of York, afterwards James II, called "Ducis Eboracensis Fasciae a Musis Cantabrigiensibus raptim contextae". His poems were strongly royalist, and from their position on the book indicated something of his standing in the University as they come at the head of those produced by graduates and immediately after those by dons. Nathaniel's first one was:—

Ad Reginam
Horrores, gemitus, tremor, susurri
Suspensi populi dolore partus,
O Regina, tui, preces, odores,
Arae, mascula thura, quantacunque,

[1] See "A Massachusetts Immigrant", J. R. S. Whiting; Church Quarterly Review, Vol. CLXVI, no. 361 (1965).
[2] "Notes and Queries", April, 1953.

Hac mercede placent; Resurgis una
Casu fortior; ut gigantis ardor
A tellure novus cadendo, victor
Alcidis prope; Tu resurgis unda
Ut Sol Hesperia, Tuaeque lucis
Praecursor face sed minore, verum
Ingens Phosphorus, hic tenellus infans.
Dum Phoebus simul et verenda Phoebe
His pergunt simlies creare stellas,
Num vates fuit, an Poeta, dicens,
Contentus minima Britannus umbra?

A modern translation of which is: "Your people's fearful cries and anxious speculation, their sad suspense about the birth, their prayers and heartfelt offerings to heaven, all now have their reward. You rise again, stronger from your fall, as the giant who nearly vanquished. Hercules found his energy renewed from his fall to earth. You rise like the sun from the western wave, and this tender little infant like the precursor of your radiance, the morning star, his brightness less than yours but mighty yet. While Phoebus and honoured Phoebe proceed to create stars like these, surely no prophet or poet of Britain has been content to keep back from the brightness of your glory".

His Greek poem may be translated as follows: "It is not good to have many kings. There is one king, Charles, over all the English. It is not good to have too few children. As one man may have more children, so does the English King Charles.

The eldest son rules the warlike Welsh, the second rules the northern tribes. I beseech you, God, grant more children, that each region may have its own satrap".

He was ordained at Peterborough Cathedral on 9 June, 1639. His first known living was as rector of Lowick, which he obtained in July, 1645. It seems that he replaced an ejected rector, as Robert Lingard who preceded him demanded his right to one fifth of the annual value of the benefice as ordered by Parliament for ejected ministers. It appears that Nathaniel was reluctant to pay at first, but on 19 November, 1646, he agreed to pay £60 p.a. Fortunately for Nathaniel, Lingard died the next year.[3] During his time as rector, Nathaniel's standing as a scholar can be gauged from Sir William Dugdale's Correspondence. For example, on 10 May 1651, Sir William's friend, Roger Dodsworth wrote: "I have been furnish'd by Mr. Whiting (who came up last weeke but is gone today) with rare Historical notes out of several Registers he found in Suffolke, touching St. Edmundsbury; as the charter of Edmund Ironside, succession of the Abbots . . .".[4] On 4 May, 1650 Nathaniel's name appeared as "minister" at Aldwincle where he was an intruding minister. He was officially instituted to the living on 20 March, 1652. The visit of Sir William Fleetwood to his Aldwincle manor in April, 1651, was partially to see that Nathaniel was settling in there. Nathaniel noted how "freely and speedily" Sir William had secured him the living and how important to him was "the favour of a Patron". Nathaniel was able to show his gratitude by dedicating his book *Old Jacob's Altar Newly Repaired* to Sir William. It is subtitled, "The Saints' Triangle of Dangers, Deliverances and Duties" and was published in 1659. It is a puritan book of some 260 pages, in which he writes of the time when "the Episcopal monopoly lasted", and when quoting St. Anselm drops the title "St.".

The church account book of All Saints, Aldwincle, notes that Nathaniel sold the early English font in 1655 for 4*s*. 6*d*., and paid 6*d*. "for a basone". As soon as Nathaniel was ejected in 1662, it is noted that Goodman Garrot was paid 5*s*. 6*d*. for "setting up the font", while the plumber was paid 20*s*. for leading it. Unfortunately Garrot placed the supporting shaft upside down and damaged it in the process. In 1657 he became an assistant to the Northamptonshire Commission, but in 1662 he lost not only his living but his post as headmaster of the local Grammar School. After his ejection he gathered a church round him at Cranford and secured a license as a congre-

[3] "Notes and Queries", May, 1953.

[4] "Notes and Queries", May, 1953.

gationalist at his own house and that of Lady Pickering's at Titchmarsh, Northamptonshire.[5] He was one of 375 Congregationalists to be licensed when the 1672 Declaration of Indulgence licensed 1,434 break-away clergy. In his book, *State of the Ministers ejected or silenced, Bartholomew's day, 1662, in Northamptonshire,* Edmund Calamy wrote (p. 213), "Aldwinckle, (R.£100), Mr. Nathaniel Whiting, M.A., of the university of Cambridge. After his ejectment he gathered a church at Cranford. He was not so eminent for his learning, as for his holiness and heavenliness. He was a very useful preacher, and had many converts. He brought many to worship God in their families, and be strict and solemn in it, who before were utter strangers to such things. Not only in the pulpit, but from house to house in his visits, he discovered a great concern for the souls of his hearers. He had a singular gift in comforting the sick. He had a plentiful estate, and made good use of it. When he was presented in the ecclesiastical court, God raised him up friends; and likewise many of his enemies to be at peace with him, or at least stilled their rage against him. After he had been in some trouble, the Earl of Peterborough sent him two letters, assuring him that if he would but conform, he had such a value for him, that he would give him the choice of three livings that were in his disposal. But he could not satisfy his conscience to accept his offer. He used to say, 'the door is too narrow for me to enter in'. He was ejected from the free-school at Aldwinckle, as well as from the living. As he had no portion with his wife, tho' her parents were wealthy, she often complained of this to her husband; when he used to reply, 'We have no need of it; it will come perhaps when we need it more'. And it pleased God in his providence to order matters so, that the old folks died and left them all, much about the time of his ejectment. He afterwards dying without children, was a considerable benefactor to the said school, from which he had been ejected. He lived in expectation of a sudden death, as several of his relations died suddenly; accordingly as he went to bed, he was seized with a violent fit of the wind, to which he was subject, and died before morning. Mr. Willes preached his funeral sermon, in which, among other things, he said, 'He had often heard him mourn, but never heard him murmur; and that he was much taken up in admiring the goodness of God' ".

Whether Calamy was right in saying he was a considerable benefactor to the school is rather doubtful. Nathaniel's will[6] reads: "I, Nathaniel Whiting of Cranford in the county of Northampton, clerke, being through the good providence of God in a sound disposing mind and memory considering my fraile state doe make and ordaine this to be my last will and testament. Ffirst I doe declare my owning of and my faith in the everlasting Gospell, whereof through Grace I have been a preacher and professour for many years and doe seale to it as the word of truth and gospell of my salvation, next I resinge my spirit unto the hands of the father of spirits the God and ffather of our son Lord Jesus Christ resting my faith alone upon his . . . righteousness and mediation for the free and full forgiveness of all my sins big, small and actual and for my . . . unto eternal life and blessednesse. I leave my body to be interred as my dear wife shall judge fitt persuading myself of its resurrection unto a state of glory and . . . at the greate day. And for my outward and tempourall estate withall my Leased goods and chattells of whatever nature and kind soever I do give and bequeath the same and every part of them to my deare and beloved wife whom I have ever found most tender and carefull of me . . . and do constitute and appoint her my sole executrix . . . I wish her to observe those private instructions I left with her leaving my whole estate in her hands . . .". Possibly these last words refer to some gift to the school. A letter written by the Rector of Aldwincle, Thomas Edward, to his bishop on 17 October, 1720,[7] reporting on the charitable status of the school, says, "Fifty shillings was given by Mr. Whiting, minister of my parish, who quitted his benefice at the Restauration, whose wife at her decease gave £5, which was payd out upon the repairs of a schoolhouse". In fact Judith Whiting's will,[8] left £5 for Aldwincle's poor. Describing herself as the "relict of Nathaniel", she gave over £1,000 to some 20 people, of which £300 went to Richard Farshall, a baker of St. Andrews, Holborn, whom she made her sole executor.

As a writer, Nathaniel's main work was *Le Hore di Recreatione, or, the Pleasant Historie of*

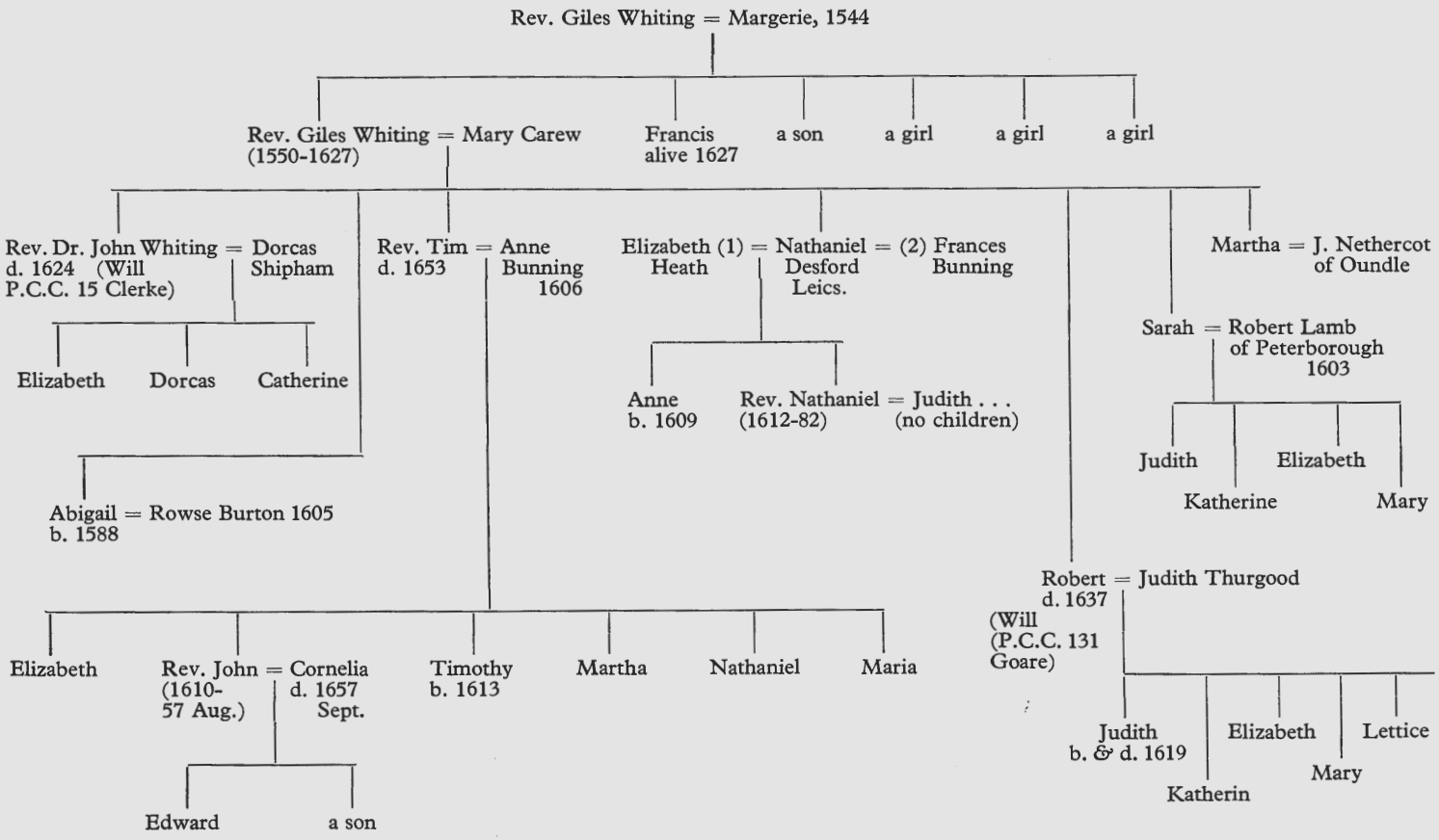
[5] S.P.D. Vol. 37; Isham Longden Vol. 15; "Calamy Revised".

[6] P.C.C. 141, December 31, 1674; proved 27 November, 1682.

[7] Lansdowne MS. 1028.

[8] Northants will K52(6), 25th October, 1681.

Sketch Pedigree



Albino and Bellama; Discovering the Severall Changes of Fortune in Cupid's Journey to Hymen's Joyes. To which is annexed, Il Insonio Insonadad, or a Sleeping-waking Dreame, Vindicating the Divine Breath of Poesie from the Tongue Lashes of some Cynical Poetquippers and Stoicall Philo-prosers, published in 1637,[9] and dedicated to John, Lord Loveliss, Baron of Hurley. In 1921 (and reprinted in 1968) it was printed in vol. 3 of "Minor Poets of the Caroline Period" by George Saintsbury who "discovered" it. Professor Saintsbury claimed that it was in that class of Heroic Poem which he particularly wanted to bring to the notice of his students. There are three points to note in studying this work. The first is that it is a fore-runner of the novel enmeshed in poetic forms and language conventions. When the author becomes excited by the rush of events at the end of the poem, poetic strivings diminish. Secondly one should note how the actions and thoughts of the characters reflect contemporary attitudes. Thirdly, one will find that Nathaniel's position as a poet is that of a mediocre one, reflecting a broader taste of the period rather than Donne and the metaphysical poets, whose frequent use of the sparing construction of rhyming couplets and simpler, more direct vocabulary are in marked contrast to Nathaniel's elaborate stanzas, fantastic vocabulary and elaborate, and often obscure, metaphors. His learning is paraded but not fully digested, and shows an overwhelming Italian influence. Although it is ironic considering Nathaniel's undigested "foreign-isms" to find these words:

"We scorn our mother language and had rather
Say Pater noster twice than Our Father".

Nathaniel's work is unusual in its degree of mock-heroic style. He can never lightly suggest anything, but always presents his points explicitly. What would be sensuous in Donne is vulgar in Whiting. Nevertheless Prof. Saintsbury wrote of this work that "in spite or perhaps to some extent because of its defects, (it) is a really valuable document for the history of English Literature".

The book opens with a number of introductory pieces by various friends of Whiting, and includes one poem by his kinsman, John Whiting of Clare Hall, Cambridge (Rector of Lexden), in which he says:

"When first I view'd the travails of thy quill,
I lik'd, approv'd, admir'd thy nimble skill . . .".

The story is of a rich heiress, Bellama, who refuses to marry Don Fuco, whom her father wants her to marry. The first hundred lines are of a classical nature paying homage to her beauty, "Where nature's wealth locked up in a face", and showing that she has a rather romantic 19th century idea that the sanction of marriage is love:

"But still Bellama faults and vows that gold
Shall never force her love to have and hold".

Bellama was taken off to a nunnery by her father, and Whiting's puritan attitude to monastic establishments is made clear at once. The prioress mistakes Bellama's father for an angel:

" 'My lord', quoth she, 'excuse my fond mistake (line 709)
For o'er my sight I wear a darkish glass' ".

Still, Bellama was now safely installed: (line 806)

"The wandring wheeles be-stud with Ironknobs,
Posted Bellama to the Virgin-tower".

There she was soon enveloped in the life of the nunnery and attended the chapel: (line 880)

". . . where gaudy superstitution was
Saints, altars, store of crucifixes gay,
Whose stately worths my weak expression pass.
Scare was there known a canonized saint
Which carving did not there beget, or paint".

[9] Bodleian Library, Arch Af 68.

The arrival of Albino, one of the holy men who visited the monastery, was soon to lead to a love affair. One line (line 912) is curiously interesting for it says of Albino that:

"His great grandfather of Glastonbury primate was and Prince".

Nathaniel may well be referring to Richard Whiting, the last abbot of Glastonbury.

"Oft on Bellama would he fix his eye, (line 939)
And she to him would answer glance for glance.
They gaz'd so long and oft, till they did tie,
Their hearts together only by the eye".

After a while he talked to her of love in spite of her protests. Nathaniel's presentation of these scenes is direct and to the point: (line 1040)

"He oftentimes with trembling thumb would press
Her dancing vein, way to her heart to find,
Whilst conscious she her looks with red would dress
Fearing her pulse was traitor to her mind.
For 'tis entruthed by some that by this vein
We may the knowledge of affections gain".

The prioress seems to have realised something was developing between them and took steps to find out: (line 1341)

"The jealous matrone from her tow'ring loft
O're-lookt th'ambitious trees which hemmed them in;
O'erheard their vows, their sighs, and language soft;
And saw how Cupid leapt from skin to skin,
The traffic of their lips, and how thin balms
Did glue and cement fast their melting palms".

When challenged, Bellama denied the charge, but "Love on her cheeks in bloody letters writ". Breaking off the narrative for "an invective against Cupid", the author showed the typical 17th century fascination with death and "momento mori": (line 1732)

"We'll pack into our graves
And in our silent beds of earth will court
The slender waisted worms and with them sport".
(contrast Marvell: "The worms shall try
That long preserved Virginity")

Although Oxford and Cambridge were slow to accept the new scientific and philosophic discoveries of the Renaissance, it is noticeable that Nathaniel is among the few who have heard and appreciated them.

"Copernicus his tenets verified
The massy globe does 'bout its centre ride" (line 1,844)

Returning to the story, the author told how Bellama's "Dad" came to fetch her away: (line 1,980)

"When some kind planet moved her loving dad
To fetch her thence his frosted age to cheer,
Hence, virgin vow, away black vestments hurled,
Bellama's born again into the world".

Albino, in despair, disguised himself as a Spanish heiress called "Phaeliche" or "Felice" and having entered the nunnery, attempts to leave it by bribing the porter with "pseudo-gold". That night, things were not going to go according to plan: (line 2326)

"Her frostied limbes she heaved out of bed
And sheld her body in her night apparell
Arming her hands with pistols stuft with lead.
Which anger firing, with the aire did quarrel

And groping in the dark her foot did slip
Which out o' th' barrels made the bullets skip".

This forced the porter to give the alarm, and "she" has to beg entrance to the nunnery, saying "she" wished to become a nun. Once accepted "she" quickly took the opportunity to sleep with all the nuns in turn: (line 2386)

"Next night she chose another, then another;
Her curious palate so to novels stood,
That every one had hope to be a mother,
And near of kin, united in one blood.
But yet, alas! this pleasure lasted not;
Their virgin-girdles could not keep their knot".
Not many fortnights after they had took
These physic-portions from their doctor's reins,
One told her folly by her meagre look,
Another had more blue than on her veins,
Others were qualmish, and another longs:
All spake their pleasures, yet all held their tongues.
One long'd for citrons, and another grapes,
That grew on Alps' steep height, others for peaches;
One strongly did desire the tails of apes
Steeped in juice of myrtles, holms, and beeches.
Some palates must be fed with implumed quails,
And nothing must approach this tongue but rails".

"The jealous matron with suspicious eye (line 2416)
Did read their common ill in every face;
Espied the breach of their virginity,
And feared a plantage with an infant race.
Yet still suppressed her knowledge, till at last,
Their heaving bellies kissed their thick'ned waist".

An enquiry by the visiting abbot and prior followed, but in spite of the prior's fears the matter remained a mystery: (line 2430)

"The prior feared lest one of his square caps
Should guilty be of those upheaving laps".

"Feliche" told the nuns to attribute their condition to an angelical man: (line 2440)

"But they should say, and to that saying seal,
With strong asseverations that 'Into
Our fast-locked room a youthful blade did steal,
And with the best of wooing did us woo.
Our cases are the same with Merlin's mother:
We think our lover was his father's brother.
'Twas one man's act, or, clothed with human shape,
He was angelical; and this we thought
Because there was no semblance of a rape.
We gave him our assent as soon as sought' ".

The visiting monk-confessors reported these confessions to the abbot, who rejoiced at this heavenly "visitation of nuns": (line 2458)

"The abbot at this news did much rejoice,
Since with a kind aspect the Virgin Lady,
Viewing this nunn'ry, did ordain this choice,
And for the issue did appoint this daddy,
They shall be prophets, priests of high renown,
And virgins which shall keep their bellies down".

The suspicious abbess questioned "Felice" as to why she alone was not pregnant and received the reply that "she" was barren. Prayerful rejoicing followed for the heaven-sent pregnancies: (line 2494)

"They sung canzones ere the sun could rise,
And Ave-Maries out of number said,
Lucina wond'red at this strange disguise,
That nuns and monks to her devoutly prayed.
All beads were rattled, and all saints invoked,
Some squealed, some tenored, and some hoarsely croaked".

"With this conceit, Felice frolic grew,
And sported bravely in the silent hours.
Her bed-mates call'd her Angel; yet none knew
That 'twas Albino which had cropped their flowers".

Then the abbess succeeded in finding out what was going on by pouring "Quiris" on the nuns which made them talk in their sleep. She reported her findings to the monks: (line 2584)

"Their chantings dead, the abbotess began;
'Brethren, you see what sad misfortune haps
Unto my virgins by the oil of man,
Witness the heaving of their spongy paps.
We of an angel dreamed, but if he was
He shall hereafter for an evil pass.
I made their slumbers vocal, so they told
'Twas Folco's duke's supposed daughter's work' ". (i.e. Felice)

The unsuspecting Felice was taken to a cell and locked in. But in a short while "she" seduces Conrad, "her" confessor who does not know that "she" is a man: (line 2920)

"The monk gave ear unto her winning prate
And gazed on her beauty masculine,
Whose feature might delude a wiser pate,
Assisted only by a tallow-shine.
(For by an unctious salve she kept her chin
From the hair-mantle of an aged skin)".

"She" promised him that if he would help "her" escape, "her" father the duke, would make him a duke as "she" is the duke's heiress: (line 2950)

"Then did she circle with ensphering arm
Conrado's neck and amorously him lipp'd,
Which did the amorist so strongly charm
That he with haste out of his vestments skipped,
And bade Felice change: for in good deed
He should full well become her virgin weed".

"She" quickly put his clothes on and disguised "her" face. The next morning Albino, disguised as Conrad, tries to get the porter to open the gate but he recognized him; Albino promptly knocked him out! After a struggle with the various keys, Albino got away to some woods and stopped a "roister" who was trying to rape a "nymph" who was in fact Bellama come in disguise to find him. Neither Bellama nor Albino saw through each other's disguises. Having driven off her attacker, Albino says he is transfixed with her beauty, but she resists him, proclaiming her love for a monk called Albino. On hearing this Albino says that Albino is dead. He then asks a tearful Bellama if she would marry Albino if he was alive. On receiving an affirmative reply, he marked out two circles with some beads and told her not to be frightened. Then he sprinkled holy water and invoked "the infernal crew": (line 3420)

"When from his lips these words had ta'en their flight,
A shuffling whirl-puff roared amongst the trees,
Th'affrighted leaves took flight, the grass looked white,

The quaking poplars fell upon their knees.
Jove's sacred tree stood cringing unto it,
And bowed his head, else 'twas in sunder split.
Then from the breaking cloud, a sheet of fire,
Encircled them, and dashed against an oak,
Ush'ring a thunder, whose untamed ire
Like dreadful tyrants naught but terror spoke.
And as unwilling to depart from them
His ireful cracks the trembling grove did hem".

Albino said he saw a man coming from the mountain and told her to go and meet her lover. As she ran off, he took off his disguise and circled round to meet her as his true self: (line 3453)

"Meanwhile Albino doffs Conrado's face,
And set upon his looks Albino's dye;
So, imped with love, unto the mount did fly".

Bellama's love is charmingly declared: (line 3662)

"My heart is thine which till death close mine eye
With steely thumb, thy bosom shall retain".

Albino tells her that a fee is needed to buy his freedom and she promises him an earldom! After an exchange of adventure stories, they went to a farmhouse for what turns out to be a revolting country meal. Instead of the usual romantic pastoral spread which one would expect Nathaniel to describe, one is faced with a collection of awful details more suited to today's kitchen sink realism: (line 3702)

"Next came the mumping hostess and set down
A lusty dish of milk - sky-coloured blue,
Crumbed with the ludgets of the lusty brown, (ludgets = lumps of bread)
Which two months since was piping hot and new;
'Yet 'tis', says she, 'as savoury in good law
As wheaten trash which crams the ladies' maw'.
This good old crone was troubled so with wind,
Her coats did dance to th' music of her belly,
Next came a barley dumpling whose harsh rind
Was oiled o'er with a fine tallow jelly,
Brought by a mincing Marget, passing trim,
Whose juicy nose did make the pudding swim.
Last, a tough cheese must lock the stomach's door,
Milked from a cow that fed on naught but burrs,
Had lain five winters on a spongy floor,
To gain an harness and a coat of furs;"

"Qualmish Bellama could not eat a bit". However the woman gave them a room for the night: (line 3770)

"Night's middle age invited to their pillows,
But tell I dare not how the lovers rested,
Whether co-sheeting was allowed as fit,
Monastic vows dispensing well with it.
But this I say, there was but one guest-room,
Hanged with a pentice cloth spoke age enough;
The spiders here had one continued loom:
Here rats and mice did play at blind man's blough.
Their bed had many tasters, but no tester,
Their bedding ushered in thin-sided Easter".

(line 3798) "Nay, he ne'er tempted, nor attempted once
To scale the fortress of her virgin-tower,

For her chaste noes and vows did guard the sconce,
That 'twas impregnable, not forced by power.
And though he did ensphere her naked waist,
Yet durst my faith and oath conclude her chaste".

The next morning the monks came to get him and he attempted to disguise Bellama and himself. The monks were only momentarily fooled but feign sleep in order to let them escape! They ran off to the nearest town and got married by a Carthusian with a service which was a mixture of a religious and classical ceremony! (line 4240)

"Some marrow-lancing eye perchance may quarrel, . . .
Because my lines tread not upon the common path
Of fortune, issue, and appeasing wrath" . . .
"For having screwed them in firm embraces,
I will not awaken hate or rouse disgraces".

Nathaniel made no attempt to conclude with moralizing; in fact, his ending is suggestive of a modern woman's magazine article!

In "Il Insonio Insonnadado" which completes the book, Nathaniel shows that he is well versed in English poetry.

"Amongst the moderns came the Fairy Queen,
Old Geoffrey, Sidney, Brayton, Randolph, Greene,
The double Beamont (i.e. Francis and John), Drummond, Browne
Each had his chaplet and his ivy crown" . . .
"Old Geoffrey's language was not fit for plea.
Drayton on's brains a new moon-calf was getting.
And testy Drummond could not speak for fretting.
I knew the Roscian's feature, not his name;
Yet 'tis engraven on the shawm of Fame".
"Donne was a poet and a grave divine,
Highly esteemed for the sacred Nine
That aftertimes shall say whilst there's a sun
'This verse, this sermon, was composed by Dun' ".

These lines are perhaps a fitting end for an article on a 17th century cleric with a taste for poetry.

J. R. S. WHITING.

Works consulted: H. Isham Longden's "Northants and Rutland Clergy" vol. 15; "Calamy Revised"; Ep.Reg.Peterborough; Lansd.MS.,1028,9; Calamy 1495.640; Duke of Portland's MSS.; Lord Montague of Beaulieu's MSS.; "Notes and Queries", December, 1968; K. Saintsbury "Minor Poets of the Caroline Period" vol. 3 (published, 1921 and 1968).

CORRIGENDUM

Northamptonshire Past and Present, Vol. IV, No. 3, p. 148, "The Poor in Rothwell".

"Rates amounting to 2/6 in the pound were levied at Rothwell during 1802-3".

For "2/6" read "21/6".

Rothwell's figure was, therefore, well above the Northamptonshire average (4/7*d.*) not below it.

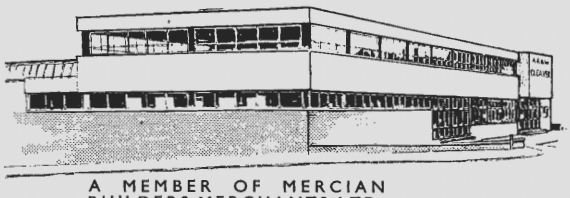
CLEAVER

the name that means everything in Home-making

No better place to plan a home improvement than Cleaver's. Here there are scores of ideas for brightening or converting your home. Bathrooms with beauty, kitchens with practicality, decorating ideas with flair . . . you'll find all these in Cleaver's showrooms. Walk round anytime. You won't be worried by salesmen and there's no obligation of course. The advice you can get is well worth taking. And we'll give it to you gladly. Call in and see us one week-end. We're open all day Saturday . . . and there's ample parking space too.

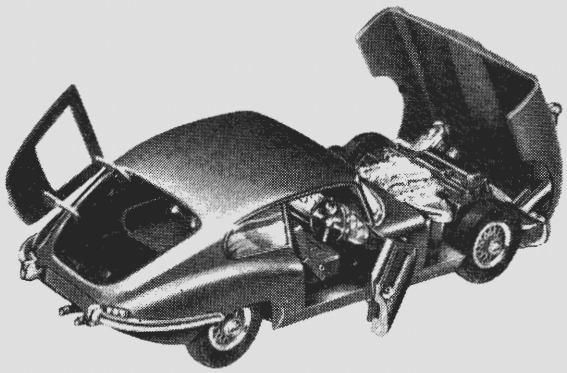
LOWER HARDING ST.
(off Grafton Street)
NORTHAMPTON

Branches throughout the Midlands



A MEMBER OF MERCIAN BUILDERS MERCHANTS LTD.

Open Champion

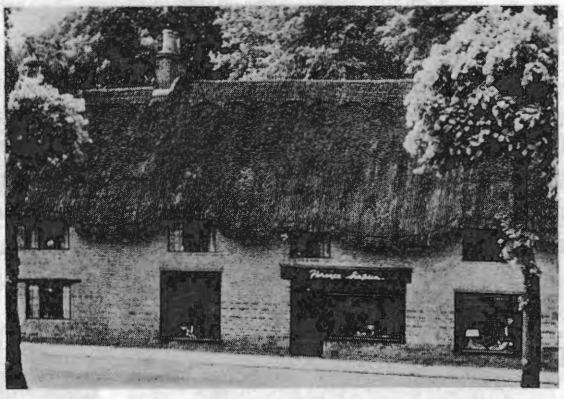


CORGI TOYS

THE JAGUAR 'E' TYPE 2 + 2 is just one of the superb Corgi Toys range of die-cast models, which includes saloon, sports and racing cars, commercial vehicles, circus equipment and agricultural machinery.

THE METTOY CO. LTD., LONDON · SWANSEA · NORTHAMPTON

Florence Simpson LTD



The
Ladies' Exclusive
Fashion House

YOUR COMPLETE
OUTFIT FOR EVERY
OCCASION

Personal attention our
Speciality in relaxed
picturesque 16th century
surroundings

22 High Street South, Rushden, Northants (on A6) Tel. 2666

TIMSONS LIMITED

Known the World over for

ROTARY PRINTING MACHINES

Presses made in

KETTERING

are now working in

FORTY-EIGHT COUNTRIES

TIMSONS LIMITED, KETTERING AND LONDON

A Midlands Horse Fair at Boughton Green, 1627

This article gives a few notes on the fair held at Boughton Green, Northamptonshire at Midsummer, 25 June 1627 together with a transcript of part of the manuscript. A facsimile of the manuscript has been lodged with the Northamptonshire Record Office at Delapré Abbey. The author has compiled the following indexes:

1. *Index of place names with numbers of sales.*
2. *Alphabetical names of all who dealt at the fair, with parishes, counties, and whether buyer or seller.*
3. *Full transcript (typed) of the MSS. transactions.*
4. *Map of sellers at Boughton Green Fair by parishes and map of buyers by parishes.*

All these have been deposited at the County Record Office, where they may be consulted by students requiring more information.

Boughton Green fair will be within the memory of many residents of Northamptonshire as it was an annual event up to the First World War. In 1916 the horse sales were transferred to Northampton Town and held on Saturday, 24 June and afterwards on the Saturday nearest to the same date.[1] The charter for the fair was given by Edward III in 1350 for a three day fair on the vigil, day and morrow of the feast of St. John the Baptist. As this was the dedication of the Parish Church, it is likely that the charter merely recognised a custom which had been carried on from time immemorial.

In 1627, Boughton Green fair was held on 25 June for the sale of horses which was only three weeks after the horse fairs at Rothwell and Daventry and yet there were one hundred and seventy horses sold. Northampton itself had big horse fairs in April, May, June and August.[2]

The sale of horses at this time was governed by the laws of Philip and Mary and of Elizabeth. Mary's laws required a book-keeper to record the names of sellers and buyers with some mark of the horse whilst Elizabeth added the requirement of a voucher who should be known to the book-keeper if the seller himself were not known to him.[2]

With these rules in operation, the sellers could only be local people and it is not surprising that there was no record of Welsh ponies being sold as was the case in later years.[3] At Boughton Green in 1627 there were no big sellers at all. Three horses were sold by Mr. Graye of Whittlebury and several others sold two horses. As this record gives no indication of the occupation of the sellers we cannot tell if they were breeders or dealers.

The record of the sales in 1631 at Adwalton near Bradford[4] show a different picture. It shows two 'Chapmen' living in the district sold more than one quarter of the horses in the fair.

The distribution of sellers at Boughton Green is shown in Map I and it can be seen that they came from the area to the North and West of Northampton up to a distance of fifteen miles from Boughton Green across the uplands into the borders of Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

[1] *Northampton County Magazine*, June, 1929.
[2] Owen's *New Book of Fairs*, London, 1808.
[3] *English Fairs and Markets*. Addison. London, 1953.
[4] *Foals of Epona*. Dent and Goodall. London, 1962.

The buyers came from much further afield and some of them were in business in a big way. Over forty per cent of the horses were sold out of the county with twelve of the better horses going to London. These London buyers came from St. Pulcher's (Holy Sepulchre) parish which was at Newgate where, Stow[5] tells us in his 'Survey of London', a Horse market was held every Friday. The horses bought for the London Market were mostly above average price for their kind and this is particularly noticeable if we include St. Saviours in Surrey, now Southwark, in the London area. From this parish came Richard Cannon to buy the finest horse on sale at Boughton Green. This brown bay horse at thirteen pounds was more than three times the average price for horses. His other purchase was the third best horse, a gray stoned horse at just under eight pounds.

There were two large buyers, Richard Howe of Finchampstead in Windsor Great forest, some sixty miles to the South and Mr. William Jesson of Coventry who later became Sir William and Mayor of Coventry. Mr. Howe bought seven horses and paid average prices for nags and fillies. The purchase of fillies may indicate that he had forest grazing and was able to breed. William Jesson bought ten horses at very low prices, mainly geldings probably for use as pack horses as we know that his occupation when he became mayor was as a dyer. Other buyers came from the neighbouring counties and Hertfordshire, their distribution being shown in Map II where the importance of the old Roman road known to us as Watling Street is clearly evident.

With one hundred and seventy recorded sales, the number is sufficient for the price structure to be examined in some detail. There were only four fillies which is too small a number to be averaged and the following table gives the price range and average for the other categories.

PRICE DISTRIBUTION

CATEGORY	No.	AVERAGE	LOWEST	HIGHEST
Mare and Foal	12	£3 19	£2 4	£5 12
Mare	18	3 14	1 10	6 16
Colt	19	4 4	2 0	6 0
Nag	20	3 16	1 13	6 6
Horse	38	4 19	1 6	13 0
Gelding	55	3 16	1 5	7 15
Overall	—	4 2		

From these figures it can be seen that there is not much difference between the categories when the poor quality animals are compared and that the greater differences shown for the better animals are not reflected very clearly in the average figures. The best animals are to be found among the Horses and Geldings where also are found the very poorest.

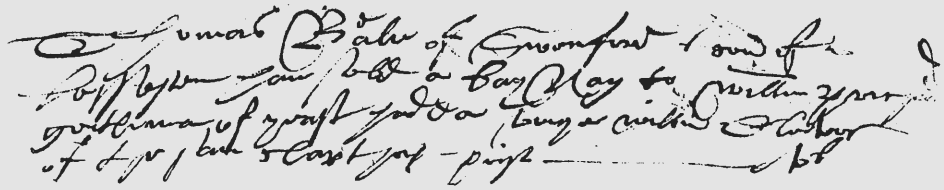
The categories of horse that were offered for sale at Boughton Green and at Adwalton were very different. At Adwalton[6] there were no horses and only two colts and two geldings. One of these geldings was the best horse in the fair selling for seven pounds odd and coming from Milnrow in Lancashire, twenty miles away. Fillies, Mares and nags were the categories on offer and of these, the chapmen sold mainly fillies and a few mares. The range of price in each category was much less at Adwalton and the average prices also: Mares - £3. 3*s*., Nags - £2. 8*s*. and fillies £3.

It is clear that these two horse fairs although only four years apart were serving quite different markets and price comparisons are difficult in the absence of any information on the purposes for which these horses were purchased.

[5] *A Survey of London 1598*. Stow Ed. Morley. London, 1890.

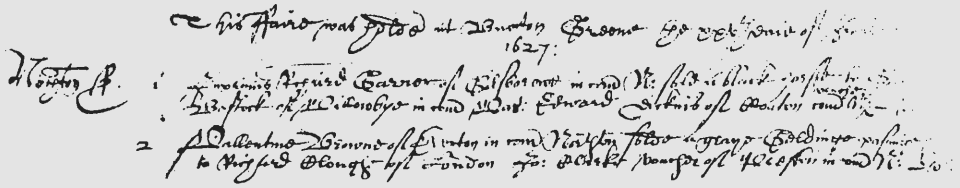
[6] *Adwalton Fair, 1631*. Bradford Antiquary, 1927.

The entries in the Boughton Green record were made by two very different men: the one, very neat and tidy whilst the other had an irregular, scrawling hand. The senior scribe can be identified from the scribbling on the parchment cover as Walter Curtis probably of Overstone which is given as his parish in one sale where he was the voucher although there are twelve other sales in which his parish is not given. The handwriting of the two scribes is compared in the illustration. Walter Curtis, neat and tidy, using fragments of latin, numbered his transactions in arabic numerals although using Roman for his prices, and bound the sheets together in a parchment cover with the untidy man's sheets in the middle and his own at the front and the back. The other scribe was trained in a very different school. Much of it is almost illegible because of the size, thickness and irregularity of his handwriting, but the difference in his background is shown also by his use of English where the senior scribe would have used a little Latin. He would use 'of the same' where the senior used 'de ead'.



Thomas Beale of Swinford town of Lessester hau sold a bay nag to Willm prichard gentleman of Heast Haddon vucher willm Oliver of the sam clarthorp pris - vl

In the illustration, the untidy man has recorded a sale by 'Thomas Beale of Swinford town . . .'. This is the only reference to a town in the record but the inconsistency of this scribe is seen by comparing this entry with other entries by the same scribe for the same person where Swinford is not entered as a town. In this illustration, the scribe has entered the voucher as being 'of the sam clarthorp' for which no explanation can be found.



This ffaire was helde at Bucton Greene the xxvth daie of June Ano 1627:

Northton sh. 1. Imprimis Richard Garner of Gilsborowe in com N: sold a black horse to Grigorie Bostock of Willowbye in com War: Edward Dickens of Coaton com N. Voucher - - - - - - vli

2. Vallentine Browne of Everton in com Northton solde a graye geldinge passinge to Richard Clough of London Jo: Clarke voucher of Preston in com N: - - - vli vs

For an example of the tidy man's writing, the illustration shows the heading and opening transaction and this shows one of the few doubtful transliterations in this man's work. The seller's name has been taken as Garner although it could be 'Garren' whilst a search of the records of Guilsborough shows nothing nearer than 'Gardner'.

Another problem in the tidy man's entries, is the name 'Howcatt'. The name first appears in entry 25, where the seller is Jo. Howcatt of Bychwell, Leics. In 29 and again in 55 he is voucher for Jo. Hardiman. Entry 43 however reads—'Ed. Howtton of Howcatt' as a seller. Howcatt may be identical with Holcot, Northants, the traditional pronunciation of which is Ho-cut or in dialect,

Howcut; it is known as a family name in Bitteswell where a John, son of John was baptised in 1612. Even if Howcatt is really a spelling for 'Holcot' we do not know of the surname 'Howtton' at this parish. It is possible that the surname and village have been accidentally transposed and that the entry should read 'Ed. Howcatt of Howtton' which would be more acceptable if there were some record of a family of 'Howcatt' at any of the Houghtons in the neighbourhood. His voucher was Tho Campion with no parish reference other than the uninformative phrase 'of the sam'. This surname is known in Holcot at the end of the century and so the probability of Howcatt being a spelling for Holcot is increased.

This record of a 17th century Horse Fair giving some four hundred names of people living in over one hundred Northamptonshire parishes provides a cross section of the life of the rural area. The foregoing notes are only a very small part of the interesting information that can be extracted and an index of the surnames has been compiled to assist in further research.

Acknowledgement must be made to the help and encouragement given to me by Mr. P. I. King of the Northamptonshire Record Office at Delapré Abbey and to the staffs of the Record Offices in the neighbouring counties.

R. FORDER DENINGTON.

WHEN THE WOMAN SWALLOWED AN H'ALLIGATOR

The following story has been sent to me by Mr. George Wallis, a well-known and much respected member of a family long resident in Weedon Bec, who was for many years the establishment officer at the Ordnance Depot there, and who is still the bailiff of the manorial court of Weedon Bec (the office has never been abrogated although the court has not met since about 1923).

> 'The story of the woman at Weedon Bec who died many years ago as the result of a live perch jumping down her throat, brings to mind another strange but true story which happened over seventy years ago, and which I will call "When the woman swallowed an h'alligator". This story is based on Everdon where a Mrs. Sarah Ann Smith was a carrier who used to journey to and from Northampton with a horse van two or three days a week —this was a hard occupation, and Mrs. Smith one day complained to the landlady of an inn which she used to visit, saying "I have a terrible pain in my innards, missus; I feel as if I have swallowed something and its moving about inside me". As a result of further complaints from Mrs. Smith saying she was sure there was something alive and moving inside her, she was advised to go to Northampton hospital, which she did, and was given an emetic which made her violently sick, and it was then discovered she had brought up a small newt which was still alive.
>
> How to account for this strange sickness? On investigation it was found that Mrs. Smith had eaten watercress in which the newt was concealed and remained unnoticed. So she had swallowed it alive, and alive it remained until she brought it up again.
>
> Mrs. Smith was given the newt in a specimen bottle which she used to produce for inspection when relating the story. "Yes, my dears" she would say "I swallowed an h'alligator and am still alive, and (*producing the bottle*) here is the little gentleman!"
>
> This is a true story which may seem to some to be unbelievable, but it can be vouched for'.

Mr. Wallis tells me that, as a boy, he was himself privileged to view Mrs. Smith's newt in its bottle ("I can see the old girl now, flourishing the bottle in front of my grandmother" he recalls). A Mrs. Sarah Ann Smith is recorded as a farmer at Little Everdon in directories of 1869, 1874 and 1877, and a William Smith (perhaps her son) as the carrier between Everdon and Northampton in directories of 1890 and 1894. Mrs. Smith probably drove her van on behalf of William Smith.

V.A.H.

Battle for the Mace!
An Incident in the Council Chamber at Northampton, 1836

Was there ever a time when English town councils were free from political strife? Probably not. A search through provincial newspapers published during the last hundred or so years seldom reveals aldermen and councillors without party labels; indeed, our municipal forefathers often waged party warfare with a ferocity almost unknown in local government today.

In 1835 an Act of Parliament dissolved the ancient municipal corporations which held sway in most of the larger towns in England and Wales, and replaced them by elected councils. The municipal corporation at Northampton had not differed from the general run of municipal corporations elsewhere; it recruited its members by co-option, and its outlook was solidly Conservative in politics and Church of England in religion. On 26 December 1835 elections for councillors were held for the first time in Northampton, and the new council inherited the government of the town at midnight on 31 December.

All the eighteen seats on the new council were contested, and the result of the election was a dead-heat, nine Conservative and nine Liberal councillors. At their first meeting the councillors were required to choose six aldermen; councillors and aldermen would then meet to elect a mayor for 1836. The Liberals, so it seems, were prepared to accept three aldermen from each party, with the mayor chosen by drawing a name out of a hat. On the other hand several of the Conservatives were determined to gain a majority on the council, and had no intention of compromising with their opponents.

At a few minutes before midnight on 31 December, the councillors began to assemble in the Northampton Guildhall (an inconvenient and very old building on the corner of Abington Street and Wood Hill, demolished in 1864), and when the clock at nearby All Saints' Church chimed the hour, nine Conservatives and eight Liberals were in session. The ninth Liberal, Mr. Samuel Percival, a banker, was hurrying towards the Guildhall, which he reached at about four minutes past twelve o'clock.

As the last chime died away, Mr. Charles Markham, a Conservative lawyer, jumped to his feet and proposed that the chair should be taken by Dr. Archibald Robertson, a Conservative physician. Dr. Robertson was seconded by another Conservative and, despite violent Liberal protest, he assumed the chair. A breathless Mr. Percival entered the chamber at this moment but, uncertain what the uproar was about, did not vote against Dr. Robertson. The Conservatives had won the first round; they had gained the chairman, and were in a strong position to impose their will on the Liberals.

Noisy and undignified argument followed. The Liberals refused to recognize the authority of Dr. Robertson, and in his place they voted Mr. George Peach, a Liberal wool-stapler. The result was utter confusion; to quote from a newspaper account of the meeting:—

> 'Question upon question was put, and decided by each party in its own favour—both chairmen giving a casting vote. Thus they proceeded for several hours voting that "the meeting do adjourn", "that Dr. Robertson do leave the chair", "that Dr. Robertson is not the chairman of this council", etc., while the other party voted the contrary. There were about fifty resolutions moved, seconded, and carried unanimously, by each party.'

An attempt by some of the more level-headed councillors to negotiate an agreement failed completely. The Liberals retired to another room, but neither party would accept the terms offered by their opponents. So the councillors re-assembled in the chamber, and the angry controversy began all over again. The Conservatives proposed the names of six Conservatives as aldermen, and the Liberals, following suit, proposed the names of six Liberals. Dr. Robertson

and Mr. Peach duly gave casting votes on behalf of their respective parties. It was now five o'clock in the morning and Mr. Theophilus Jeyes, the elderly and experienced town clerk (he had served the old corporation for nearly forty years in that capacity), at last decided that he must intervene in the dispute.

Thus he warned the councillors that unless they were able to agree mutually, the matter would have to be resolved by an action in the Court of King's Bench. The costs would fall on the losing party. This information seems to have sobered the hotheads, Conservative and Liberal alike. After further consultation among themselves, the Liberals accepted a solution put forward by the Conservatives: the parties to divide evenly on the aldermen, the Conservatives nominating the mayor. This was done. The compromise was unpopular with some of the rank and file of Northampton Liberalism, and one of the councillors, Mr. Thomas Hallam, a shoe manufacturer, was criticized for what was regarded as his readiness to accept the Conservative terms. The excuse was made for him that he gave way only after six hours of non-stop wrangling.

Perhaps the Conservatives were entitled to their triumph, for at the next election the Liberals won a majority on the council, and Mr. George Peach was at once elevated to the mayoral chair. Never before had a nonconformist Liberal—Mr. Peach worshipped at King Street Independent Chapel—attained the high honour of becoming the Mayor of Northampton. As a symbol of victory, the town mace was displayed from an upstairs window of Mr. Peach's house in Bridge Street on the day of mayor-making. (The *Northampton Herald*, a Conservative newspaper, asked its readers 'Is it not true that Mr. George Peach had the mace placed beside him in bed, on the night of his being appointed the Mayor?'). In any case he was only the first of a long line of Liberal mayors; not until 1855 did the Conservatives secure a majority of seats on the town council of Northampton.

. . . . . .

This account of the first meeting of the elective town council of Northampton is taken almost entirely from the *Northampton Chronicle* of 2 January 1836, which stated that 'we have obtained our information of the proceedings from [Liberal] gentlemen present, and we are confident that our readers may rely on its general correctness'. VICTOR A. HATLEY.

BOOK REVIEW

SMALL HOUSES IN ENGLAND 1520-1820

by PETER EDEN

(Historical Association, 1969, 6*s*., or 4*s*. 6*d*. to members of the Association)

This interesting pamphlet has recently appeared as No. 75 in the Series 'Helps for Students of History' published by the Historical Association. The author is Senior Lecturer in English Topography at Leicester University and a former Principal Investigator to the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England). He is therefore very well equipped to introduce this subject. The study of so-called vernacular buildings has been growing in popularity since the war, and Dr. Eden's paper should do much to further it.

This pamphlet is, however, much more than an introduction, for in it Dr. Eden outlines a possible method of classifying small houses which could be the starting-point for a new systematization of the abundant material which survives, not least in our own County of Northamptonshire. He puts forward his suggested classification with due caution and concludes that we should 'hasten slowly' in the task of classifying the complex data involved. Nevertheless, his suggestions are of great value and would repay the close attention of all local historians who have recognised the importance of the evidence presented by surviving farmhouses and cottages (not to mention the town houses which, as Dr. Eden observes, have so far received much less attention).

Dr. Eden's paper is itself in highly concentrated form and it would be inappropriate to attempt a summary in a short review. But for anyone at all interested in the subject it constitutes essential reading. MALCOLM SEABORNE.

THE FIRST TWO BASSETS OF WELDON— *Novi Barones* of the early and mid-twelfth Century

PART ONE

BOTH amateur and professional students of toponymy may well wonder about the historical origins of a number of modern English place-names which end in the still surviving surname of Basset, e.g., Sutton-Basset, Northants., Colston-Basset, Notts., Charney and Letcombe-Basset, Berks., Dunton-Basset, Leics., Drayton-Basset, Staffs., Thorpe-Basset, Yorks., and Compton-, Wootton-, Winterbourne-, and Berwick-Basset, all in Wilts. The Bassets were in fact a very famous medieval family, one which played an important role in the administrative and judicial history of England during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The family first emerged on the national level as *novi homines* during the reign of Henry I (1100-1135). Professor Southern has recently stressed again Henry I's use of such *novi homines*, men who rose from relative feudal obscurity to become *via* the king's service members of the baronage.[1] The great Ralph Basset (d.1127-9 at Northampton) and his famous son Richard (d.1144-46) were among the *novi homines* who helped forge the English common law *temp.* Henry I as justices in eyre during the earliest years of that crucial institution.[2] The late J. H. Round believed this so-called "great Ralph" to have been the founder of all the various branches of the Basset family in England.[3] Certainly Ralph was the first famous member of the family; although a Ralph, a William, and a Richard Basset all occur as landholders at the time of *Domesday Book* (1086),[4] their exact relationship to the great Ralph who flourished under Henry I has not been discovered. After Ralph and Richard, the Basset family, in its various branches, produced such notable figures as William of Sapcote, Leics., and Thomas of Compton, Wilts., both justices in eyre for Henry II;[5] Simon fitz William of Sapcote, who helped collect a royal tallage, 1196-7;[6] the brothers Thomas and Alan, royalist barons at the time of Magna Carta, and witnesses to that document as counsellors to King John;[7] Fulk Basset, bishop of London, d.1259;[8] and Sir Philip Basset, d.1271, the last man to carry the title *capitalis justiciarius*.[9] The purpose of this short paper is to examine some of the problems of doing research on the earliest generations of the Bassets, i.e., for the great Ralph, his son Richard, and Richard's eldest son and heir, Geoffrey Ridel II (neé Basset). The main problem is to decide whether and how a new baronial family has in fact emerged from the family of a lesser feudatory. Ralph, though he was made a minor tenant in-chief by Henry I, and though he was a very powerful curial official for Henry I—possibly even the Great Justiciar,[10] died as only a mesne or honorial baron within the honour of Wallingford and a minor tenant-in-chief. As will be seen below, it is only just barely possible that Ralph died a baron by tenure. It is of course true that Ralph, as an important royal official, almost certainly would have been regarded by the king as one of his *barones* in this early period of English feudalism, even though Ralph did not hold an honour (barony) as a tenant-in-chief. But while Ralph was probably not a baron by tenure himself, he

[1] R. W. Southern, "The Place of Henry I in English History", Raleigh Lecture on History to the British Academy, 1962.

[2] See article by the present author, "The Origins of the General Eyre in the Reign of Henry I", *Speculum* (October, 1966), pp. 688-724.

[3] D.N.B., article "Ralph Basset" by J. H. Round, pp. 1305-6.

[4] *Domesday Book* (Record Commission, 1783) i., p. 149 b1, p. 137 b2, p. 213 a2, and p. 215 a2.

[5] See Pipe Rolls 14 Henry II through 28 Henry II for many references to the *placita* of Thomas and William Basset.

[6] *Pipe Roll 9 Richard I*, p. 150.

[7] D.N.B., article "Alan Basset" by J. H. Round.

[8] *Ibid.*, article "Fulk Basset", by T. A. Archer, pp. 1298-1300.

[9] *Ibid.*, article "Philip Basset" by J. H. Round, pp. 1304-5.

[10] Doris M. Stenton, *English Justice, 1066-1215* (Philadelphia, 1964), pp. 60-2.

worked to get such a position for his descendants; down to at least the end of the twelfth century the main ambition of lay servants of the crown was to raise their descendants to permanent baronial rank. It was comparatively easy to acquire temporary control over extensive landed property through wardships, but achieving permanent baronial rank for one's posterity was quite another matter, possible only by acquiring baronial forfeitures or by marrying rich heiresses in the king's gift. Ralph lived to see his son Richard elevated to permanent baronial rank, *iure uxoris* Matilda Ridel, who at the king's command brought to her husband the honour of Great Weldon, Northants.[11] Richard's eldest son and heir, Geoffrey, took his mother's maiden name Ridel for his own surname, apparently because he inherited Weldon; we know that he inherited Weldon from the evidence of the *carta* he sent in to Henry II in 1166 to report on the knights' fees enfeoffed within the honour.[12]

At this point it may be instructive to remind the non-professional reader of the extreme scantiness of extant evidence for the writing of the history of the first century of English feudalism, ca. 1066-1166. The problem of finding evidence for the period which intervenes between *Domesday Book* (1086) and the *Cartae Baronum* of Henry II (1166) has led to those decades being called the darkest age in the history of English feudalism. And it is often very difficult to collate the evidence from *Domesday Book* with the evidence from the *Cartae Baronum*, the returns made by the king's tenants-in-chief to the first formal feudal inquest ever made by a king of England. *Domesday Book* gives the names of manors and estates and their holders in 1066 and 1086, the assessment of the land to danegeld (i.e. in hides or carucates), and the evaluation of the land in terms of estimated annual money return, but *Domesday Book* says nothing about the relationship of all these figures to knights' fees; the *Cartae Baronum* give figures for knights' fees and the names of many of the holders of fees, but the *cartae* seldom give names of manors and estates. Thus it is often difficult if not impossible to trace the fortunes of individual manors and estates from 1086 to 1166, a very disturbed period for landholding in England. As evidence for the period between 1086 and 1166, there are only a few royal "surveys" for the reign of Henry I, made up apparently as supplements to *Domesday Book*; royal writs and charters, sometimes in the form of loose originals or loose copies of originals but more often in the form of cartulary copies; occasional statements by chroniclers; a few so-called lawbooks and meagre accounts of law cases (*placita*); the pipe roll for the exchequer year 1129-30, i.e., regnal year 31 Henry I, and the continuous series of annual pipe rolls which begins with the roll for the second regnal year of Henry II; finally, private (i.e., non-royal) charters, again some of which are extant as loose originals or loose copies of originals but more often in the form of cartulary copies. While many of the extant cartularies have now been printed, many remain unprinted.[13]

Royal and private charters, whether in the form of cartulary copies, loose originals, or loose copies of originals, constitute the best evidence for English feudal history between 1086 and 1166. The importance of charter evidence has been stressed again recently by H. A. Cronne.[14] All of the royal charters extant in any form for the period from 1066 to 1154 have now been either calendared or printed in full in the *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, (Oxford, 1913-1968), 3 vols., eds. H. W. C. Davis, H. A. Cronne, Charles Johnson, and R. H. C. Davis. Cartulary copies of private charters are fairly numerous even for the early and mid-twelfth century, but

[11] B. M. Sloane Roll xxxi. 4, no. 47a; Sir Frank Stenton, *The First Century of English Feudalism* (Oxford, 1961, 2nd edn.), p. 35 and n. 4; *Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, Charles Johnson and H. A. Cronne, eds., (Oxford, 1956), vol. ii, no. 1389; I. J. Sanders, *English Baronies* (Oxford, 1960), p. 49; General George Wrottesley, *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, pub. William Salt Archaeological Society, iii, pp. 187-88.

[12] *Cartae Baronum*, printed in *Red Book of the Exchequer*, Rolls Series no. 99, vol. i, pp. 329-330.

[13] The present writer is making a collection of unprinted cartularies on microfilm for the use of students in the U.S.A. For information as to which cartularies are in print and which ones exist only in ms., see the catalogue by G. R. C. Davis, *Medieval Cartularies of Great Britain* (London, 1958).

[14] H. A. Cronne, "Charter Scholarship in England", *University of Birmingham Historical Journal*, vol. viii (1962), pp. 26-61. The only book on the diplomatic of private charters which has appeared since Thomas Madox's seminal *Formulare Anglicanum* (London, 1702) is the late Sir Frank M. Stenton's *Transcripts of Charters Relating to Gilbertine Houses*, Lincoln Record Society Publications, vol. 18 (1922).

extant loose private originals are exceedingly rare for this early period. Hence the importance of the three charters executed c. 1155-60 in the name of Geoffrey Ridel II which are analysed at the end of this paper. Almost all known extant loose private charters executed during the early and mid-twelfth century have found their way into the large collections at the British Museum or the Public Record Office; only a negligible number are known to be still in private hands or in the possession of local historical societies, although a somewhat larger number still repose in the archives of some ancient foundations and in the various libraries and archives at Oxford and Cambridge. A fairly complete check of the English repositories of ancient charters reveals no extant loose originals executed in the name of the great Ralph Basset or his son Richard Basset I, the first baron of the house of Basset of Great Weldon, but there are three charters in the British Museum executed in the name of Richard's eldest son and heir, Geoffrey Ridel II, the second baron Basset of Weldon, and it is these three loose originals which are analysed at the end of this paper.[15]

Considerable work remains to be done on the Norman origins of the Bassets, but they appear to have come from three villages located near each other in the countryside round Falaise. The great Ralph held a "small fee" at Montreuil-au-Houlme, because Orderic reports that Richard his son built a stately keep on his father's lands there.[16] Mr. Loyd comments that "Montreuil is 35 kilometres NW by W of Domfront, and it is possible that Ralph Basset the father first came to the notice of the future king [Henry I] when he was lord of Domfront in the reign of William II".[17] The great Ralph donated to the Norman monastery of St. Evroul from a "Fontanias" in 1113;[18] this place is apparently the modern Fontaine-les-Bassets. Finally, the name of the village of Ouilly-le-Basset suggests a feudal connection between the families of d'Oilly and Basset in Normandy. The two families were certainly connected feudally in England from an early time after the conquest; at the time of Domesday a Ralph Basset held Marsworth, Bucks. (Missevorde) and Tiscot, Herts. (Theisescote) from Robert d'Oilly I,[19] and a Richard Basset held ½ hide in Thurleigh, Beds. (Lalega) of the same overlord.[20] Because the great Ralph held Marsworth and Tiscot as demesne manors *temp.* Henry I, it seems quite possible that the "Radulfus" who held them in 1086 was the same man as the future justiciar of Henry I, or at least that the Domesday undertenant of d'Oilly in these places was the father of the great Ralph. As Robert d'Oilly I was the overlord of two Bassets who occur in *Domesday Book*, he may well have been their Norman overlord concurrently, and this theory is strengthened by the place-name Ouilly-le-Basset. It is difficult to estimate the value of the Norman estates of the early Bassets, but ca. 1150 land in Normandy which had been held by both the great Ralph and Richard his son was thought to be worth the price of two English manors in exchange.[21]

It is interesting to analyse the rise of the Bassets to "national" prominence from the point of view of what the late Professor Sidney Painter used to call "baronial" history. Did the great Ralph become a baron by tenure by the close of his career? Certainly he did not hold one of the recognised baronial honours. However, Painter counts as a barony *any* tenure in chief of five or more knights' fees.[22] Is it possible to show that Ralph held in chief enough estates, both in demesne and subinfeudated, to constitute at least five fees held by him *in capite*? Despite the fact that Ralph died before the pipe roll of 1129-30 was made up and hence remissions of dangeld on his demesne do not appear in the roll, we know, from a cartulary copy of a charter of Archbishop Theobald the names of all or most of Ralph's demesne manors.[23] Many of them were held by

[15] These charters are B. M. Harley ch. 55 d. 8, Wolley ch. i. 42, and Lansdowne ch. 691.

[16] Orderic Vitalis, *Historiae Ecclesiasticae* (ed. A. le Prevost and Delisle), V, pp. 68-9.

[17] Lewis C. Loyd, *The Origins of Some Anglo-Norman Families* (1951), p. 12.

[18] Orderic, V, p. 198; *Regesta* ii, no. 1019.

[19] *Domesday Book*, p. 149 bl, p. 137 b2.

[20] *Ibid.*, p. 215 a2.

[21] Wrottesley, *Collections*, iii, pp. 188-9. Wrottesley prints here a private charter showing Richard's eldest son and heir, Geoffrey Ridel II, exchanging the manors of Witherley, Leics. and Patingham, Notts. with Geoffrey's brother Ralph Basset II for "terra in Normannia" which had belonged to both their paternal grandfather and their father.

[22] Sidney Painter, *Studies in the History of the English Feudal Barony* (Baltimore, 1943), p. 26.

[23] *Cartulary of Oseney Abbey*, ed. H. E. Salter (Oxford, 1936) vi. p. 130; Stenton, *First Century*, p. 85 and n. 2.

Ralph as an honorial baron within the honour of Wallingford,[24] but estates in four of the vills concerned were apparently held by Ralph in chief. In Oxfordshire, it is certain that Ralph held of the king all of Mixbury (D.B.: Misseberie, p. 158 bl, 17 hides evaluated at £15). In the same county, he held part of Wilcot (D.B.: Widelicote, p. 156 al, 1 hide evaluated at 40*s*.) and part of Newton Purcell in chief, though we cannot tell whether these two estates were kept in demesne or were sub-infeudated.[25] I have not been able to find out where Newton Purcell was in 1086 or what it was worth, but Ralph's holding there could not have been very large. Mixbury, on the other hand, was an enormous manor, and its devolution is very interesting as evidence for Henry I's policy towards his *novi homines*. In 1086 Roger d'Ivri had held all of Mixbury directly of the crown, but the d'Ivri line died out early in the twelfth century, Mixbury escheated to Henry I, and the king was able to bestow it on Ralph Basset to hold in chief. The other three demesne manors which Ralph held in chief were Quiddenham, Norfolk, and Stoney Stanton and Peatling, both in Leics. In 1086 Quiddenham (Cuidenham, p. 127 b) was a royal manor comprising one carucate of arable evaluated at 30*s*. It can reasonably be assumed that Henry I alienated it from the royal demesne to Ralph for him to hold in chief. As for Stoney Stanton, in 1086 Robert Dispensator held all the six carucates there (Stantone, p.234 b2) evaluated at 20*s*., and he held this manor directly of the crown. There is no evidence for how the vill passed to Ralph, but it seems quite likely that he held it in chief just as its Domesday tenant had done. The identification of Ralph's holding at Peatling is somewhat more complicated. In 1086 there were two Peatlings in Leicestershire, Peatling Magna in Guthlaxton wapentake and Peatling Parva in Gosecote wapentake. Robert de Buci held 3 carucates in Peatling Magna (Petlinge, p. 234 a), and the Countess Judith held four carucates in the same place (Petlinge, p. 236 a2). Hugh de Grentemesnil held 3½ carucates, evaluated at 20*s*., in Peatling Parva (alia Petlinge, p. 232 b1), and William Leuric held of Adeliza Grentemesnil 8½ carucates, evaluated at 40*s*., in the same place (alia Petlinge, p. 236 b2). Which one or more of these Domesday estates did the great Ralph hold in chief *temp*. Henry I? Geoffrey Ridel II, Ralph's grandson by his son Richard, reported in his *carta* to Henry II in 1166 (the *carta* that he returned as lord of the barony of Great Weldon, Northants.) that estates in both Peatlings had been held by his father Richard Basset in chief *de veteri*, i.e., *ante* 1135.[26] What were these estates, and had Richard inherited them from his father? It is certain that in ca. 1130 Richard Basset held in chief in Peatling Magna the Domesday estate of the Countess Judith,[27] and Richard almost certainly held the Domesday de Buci estate in Peatling Magna too, because as baron of the honour of Weldon in ca. 1130 he had possession of virtually all of the de Buci Domesday barony of Weldon. It is possible that the great Ralph could have preceded his son Richard as tenant-in-chief in the Countess Judith's Domesday part of Peatling Magna, but Ralph certainly would not have preceded his son in any part of the de Buci barony of Weldon, which came to the Bassets for the first time when Richard received it *iure uxoris* in 1123. So it seems virtually certain that Ralph's demesne manor of Peatling would have been in Peatling Parva, probably both parts, as they were both Grentemesnil property in 1086 and it is inherently very likely that Henry I would have bestowed part of the 1102 Grentemesnil forfeiture on Ralph. Unfortunately there is no information on Peatling Parva in the Leicestershire Survey, ca. 1130, to link Richard's name with this vill, but the estate(s) Ralph held in chief there must have passed to Richard, because we know from Geoffrey Ridel II's aforementioned 1166 *carta* that his father had held in both Peatlings. In short, the Grentemesnils had held Peatling Parva in chief at the time of Domesday, Richard Basset's holding there before 1135 according to the 1166 *carta* was part of Richard's holding in chief, and so the great Ralph must have held Peatling Parva in chief after the Grentemesnil forfeiture and then have passed the vill on to his son Richard.

The question arises as to whether on the basis of this evidence the great Ralph can be called a baron by tenure. It is possible that he held still more estates in chief, but, because he had subinfeudated them, they do not appear in the charter already cited which mentions his demesne

[24] H. E. Salter, Appendix II to the *Boarstall Cartulary* (Oxford, 1930), entitled "The Honour of Wallingford".

[25] *Regesta ii*, no. 1668 and p. 369.

[26] *Red Book of the Exchequer*, i, pp. 329-30.

[27] C. F. Slade, *The Leicestershire Survey, ca.* 1130 (Leicester, 1960), p. 29.

manors by name. No *servitium debitum* figure is known for Ralph, but he held in chief, as seen, estates in six vills; these estates were evaluated in 1086 as at most £23 10*s*. and comprised about 38 hides and carucates of arable. It is well known that for this early period of English feudalism there was no such thing as a standard knights' fee of, say, 5 hides or 5 carucates. Knights' fees varied greatly in their acreage content. They also varied in money value, and it is difficult in any case to say what the lands worth £23½ in 1086 would have been worth during the reign of Henry I. The evidence is not convincing enough to enable us to say with any conclusiveness that these estates Henry I gave to Ralph to hold in chief constituted even 5 knights' fees, a very small barony by tenure. It is just barely possible on the basis of the extant evidence that Ralph was a baron by tenure, but there is nothing approaching proof. But if the great Ralph was not a baron in the landed sense of the word, certainly his son Richard was, who will be treated in the second part of this article.

To be continued.

A VISIT TO COURTEENHALL

SIR THOMAS MYDDELTON (1586-1666) was the leading Parliamentarian general in the Civil War in Wales. He was Sergeant-Major General (to give the correct and full title) for North Wales in 1643, and finally crushed the Royalists at Montgomery the following year. However, by 1660, he had become a Royalist himself, although when he took up arms for Charles II, he was defeated by Lambert.

His niece Mary (third daughter of Timothy Myddleton of Stanstead Mountfitchet, his half-brother) married Sir Samuel Jones of Courteenhall. Sir Samuel Jones, a wealthy merchant, had a sister Susan, his heiress, who married Sir Dru Drury of Riddlesworth, Norfolk. The daughter of this marriage, Diana Drury, married Sir William Wake, 3rd baronet of Piddington, and it was by this means that the Courteenhall estate came into the possession of the Wake family, who still own it.

By the kindness of Miss Joan Wake, and Sir Hereward Wake, we are able to record a visit of Sir Thomas Myddleton to his kinsman by marriage, Sir Samuel Jones at Courteenhall in 1653. The visit lasted five days 24-29 March 1653. Sir Thomas was returning to his seat in North Wales, Chirk Castle, from London and his route took him through Luton to Courteenhall.

The details of this visit were recorded in the Chirk Castle accounts, kept by a Mr. Prichard, the steward of the estate. They have been "privately printed" by the Manchester University Press, but are not generally known, and have been kindly communicated by Mr. John Hills. It is felt that the details of the "tips" given to the staff at Courteenhall will be of particular interest.

[1652/3] *March*	At Courtinghall in Northamptonshire paid for 6 Bushells of oates for one horse at xxx^{d} p bushell	0	15	0
24th	Paid at Northampton for our 2 horses iiii^{d} & for a flagon of drinke ii^{d}	0	0	6
	At Cortinghall, to the Butler ii^{s} vi^{d}, to the Cooke ii^{s} vi^{d}, to the Chambmaide ii^{s} vi^{d}, to the Groome ii^{s} vi^{d}, to the maide that made the fires there ii^{s}, to the maide of the kitchin ii^{s}, to the boy of the Buttery i^{s}, to the boy of the stable i^{s}, to the ffalconer ii^{s} vi^{d}, to the workmen aboute the new stable ii^{s}	1	0	6
	To the man that brought us in our way from Cortinghall to Coventry	0	2	0
	paid for beere and bread at hillmarton	0	1	0
29th	At Coventry paid for a paior of white stockins for yo^{r} selfe		3	8
	Paid for our nine horses there one night at 6^{d} p night ...		4	6

Some of the Trades and Trader Members of

THE NORTHAMPTON CHAMBER OF TRADE

BOOKSELLERS & STATIONERS

		'Phone
W. Mark & Co. (1935) Ltd. (Established 1745)	*27 The Drapery*	39400

BUILDERS & CONTRACTORS

W. E. Cockerill & Sons Ltd.	*7 Milton Street*	33429

BUILDING SOCIETIES

Anglia Building Society	*85 Abington Street*	34800
Northampton & Midlands Building Society	*60 Gold Street*	37422

BUTCHERS

G. J. Douglas	*12 Abington Square*	39208

CHINA STORES

Church's China Stores	*10 & 11 The Parade*	38082

CONFECTIONERS

J. Lawrence & Co.	*35 St. Giles Street*	37939

CORSETRY SPECIALISTS

Contessa (The Corset Shop)	*63a Abington Street*	38346
E. & G. Ward (Est. over 50 years)	*21 Abington Square*	38312

DEPARTMENTAL STORES

Northampton Co-operative Society Ltd.	*64 Abington Street*	34866

FINE ART DEALERS

York Studios Gallery (Prop.: John A. Tysom)	*20 York Road*	31509

FIREPLACE MANUFACTURERS

A. Bell & Co. Ltd.	*Kingsthorpe Works*	37501

FLORISTS

Jack Haddon Ltd.	*51 St. Giles Street*	31368 33024

FRUIT, VEGETABLES, GROCERY & FROZEN FOODS

Gordons	*58 St. Giles Street*	36343

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Ann Bonham & Son	*71 St. Giles Street*	34368/9

HOUSE FURNISHERS

Hemmings Brothers (Northampton) Ltd.	*26 Abington Square* *27 York Road*	32334 30849
Jeffery Sons & Co. Ltd.	*Gold Street*	39351
Phillips's Northampton Ltd.	*15 Abington Street*	37446/7
A. Watts & Sons Ltd.	*80 Abington Street*	38212

LADIES' OUTFITTERS

Dust Northampton Ltd.	*18 St. Giles Street*	36008

MEN'S & BOYS' OUTFITTERS

Berrills	*20-22 Abington Sq.*	38973

MOTOR ENGINEERS

Beard & Son (Motor Engineers) Ltd.	*34-42 Abington Av.*	35455/6

NEWSAGENTS & TOBACCONISTS AUTOMATIC CATERING

Sidney Childs	*332 Wellingboro' Rd.*	37986

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & TYPEWRITERS

Bransons (Northants)	*34 St. Giles Street*	36708

PHOTOGRAPHERS

H. Cooper & Son	*8 George Row*	36849

PRINTERS

Guildhall Press (Northampton) Ltd.	*St. Katherine's St.*	37734
J. Stevenson Holt Ltd.	*20 Newland*	36747
Mercury Press (Northampton Mercury Co. Ltd.)	*The Parade*	34777
Xpres Printers Ltd.	*18-22 Bearward St.*	38703

RADIO & TELEVISION

County Radio Co.,	*22-24 St. Leonards Rd.*	61946
F. A. Goode Ltd.	*5 Towcester Road*	61201
	30 Kingsley Park Ter.	39139
	10a Harborough Rd.	38247
Service Factory	*Rothersthorpe Cres.*	62591

REMOVAL & STORAGE CONTRACTORS

Hamp & Sons Ltd.	*32 Sheep Street*	39566

RESTAURANTS

Lawrence's Coffee Shop	*37 St. Giles Street*	37939

SHOE RETAILERS

W. H. Bonham (Established 1856)	*33 St. Giles Street*	36147

SOLID FUEL MERCHANTS

Wiggins & Co. Ltd. (Incorporating G. T. Durant)	*6 Abington Street*	36258 36259 36766
		Towcester 423
		Wellingboro' 2136

WATCHMAKERS & JEWELLERS

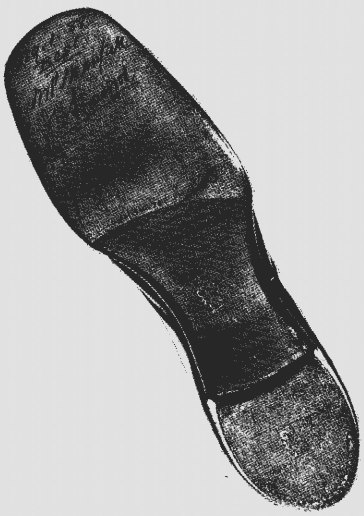
E. Brugger	*8 Abington Square*	34367
A. E. Prouse & Son	*64 St. Giles Street*	39484

WOOL, ART NEEDLEWORK & BABY WEAR

A. & J. Edmunds	*36 St. Giles Street*	37768

A sequel to the Shoe Industry Dispute of 1887

As a sequel to the article by Jeffrey H. Porter on the Shoe Industry Dispute of 1887 (*Northamptonshire Past and Present*, Vol. IV, No. 3), students of the Northamptonshire shoe industry will be interested to know that most of the samples which it was "hoped to have prepared by which the work might be classified" (page 153) were indeed made and are still in existence.



According to the "Boot and Shoe Trades Journal" 7th January 1888, "it was unanimously resolved that a case of samples should be provided of each quality from bests to sevenths, to be kept, for the exclusive use of the Arbitration Board, at the Chamber of Commerce, in a box or case with two different keys—one to be held by the Secretary of the Employers' Association, and the other by the Secretary of the local branch of the Men's Union. It was decided to ask Mr. G. M. Tebbutt[1] to prepare the men's and youths' in all qualities as statement; Mr. H. Sharman,[2] three classes of glacé kid; Messrs. Bailey & Wills,[3] best to fourths in calf kid button; Mr. Seaby,[4] Church Lane, fifths to sevenths; and Mr. A. Stanton,[5] girls' qualities in 11 - 1. The question as to whether there should be a boot and an upper was referred to the Arbitration Board".

[1] The firm was founded by Thomas Tebbutt in King Street, Northampton, in 1843. By 1873 George M. Tebbutt was listed as a shoe manufacturer in Robert Street, moving to Grove Road in 1889 and Clare Street in 1931. It is now known as Tebbutt Taylor Ltd. George Tebbutt was a founder member of the Manufacturers' Association.

[2] Henry Sharman is listed in the Northampton directories as shoe manufacturer, in 1885 at Spencer Road, by 1889 at Shakespeare Road and Cowper Street, becoming Sharman & Son in 1910 and also listed as such in 1914.

[3] This firm is listed in the 1889 Northampton Directory as Bailey Wills & Co., shoe manufacturers of Talbot Road. The heels of their boots are stamped "B.W. & Co". In 1890 the firm in Talbot Road had become Payne & Wills.

[4] William Seaby is listed in the 1884-89 Northampton directories as boot and shoe manufacturer of Church Lane, moving to Broad Street in 1894 and remaining there until 1910.

[5] Arthur Stanton is listed in the Northampton directories as boot and shoe manufacturer, in 1884 at 59 Louise Road, and from 1885 in St. Andrew's Street, becoming a company in 1894 and not listed subsequently.

The attached table shows that, in fact, some uppers were made. Many of these boots and uppers are now in the shoe collection of Northampton Museum. They are all black, rather substantial leather boots in plain styles, the men's and youths' front-lacing Balmorals (see photograph), the women's and girls' 9 or 11 button boots, two of the girls' also being in the Balmoral style. The greater part of these were given in a large collection of footwear by the Northampton Town Footwear Manufacturers' Association in 1962, and restored by the museum. Subsequent additions have come through the Northampton College of Technology from Messrs. Manfield & Sons. There are further samples also in the Leicester Museum, where they were sent under the terms of the bequest of the late Ernest Bordoli, former Secretary of the Northampton Town Bootmakers' Association, in 1938.

All are immediately recognizable by the inscription on the sole or on the lining of the upper. Each has the date of manufacture, between January and May 1888, the classification, e.g. best, and is signed by M. P. Manfield (then President of the Northampton Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association) for the manufacturers. In addition, the women's and girls' are signed by J. D. Hawgood, "a woman's man", and the men's and youths' by F. Inwood President of the Northampton branch of the Union), "a man's man". (See photograph). If any reader has similar samples, the writer would be very grateful for details. The table shows the missing samples, though I suspect the full range may never have been made.

J. M. SWANN.

ARBITRATION BOARD SAMPLES, 1888

	Men's, by G. M. Tebbutt		**Youths', by G. M. Tebbutt**
Bests	Boot D.153/1962.82		
2nds	„ Leic. 7'1938	Upper D.153/1962.73	
3rds	„ „ „	„ „ „ 75	Boot D.153/1962.77
4ths	„ „ „		„ „ „ 83
5ths	Boot D.153/1962.81		
6ths	„ Leic. 7'1938	Upper D.153/1962.72	
7ths	Boot D.153/1962.76	„ „ „ 74	

	by Mr. H. Sharman 3 classes of glacé kid	**Women's by Bailey & Wills Best—4ths in calf kid button**	**by Mr. Seaby 5ths - 7ths**
Bests			Upper (glacé) D.153/1962.71
2nds		Boot D.153/1962.79	
3rds	Boot D.153/1962.70		
4ths		Boot D.153/1962.80	
5ths			Upper (calf) D.36/1967.22
6ths			Boot Leic. 7'1938
7ths			

Girls', by Mr. A. Stanton

Bests	Boot (glacé) D.153/1962.78	Boot (calf kid) D.153/1962.78
2nds	Boot ? Girl's/Woman's, Leic. 7'1938	„ „ „ D.36/1967.43
3rds		Upper D.36/1967.44
4ths		
5ths		
6ths		
7ths		

The numbers refer to Northampton Museum's accession numbers, except where preceded by Leic. for Leicester.

Excavations at Lyveden, 1969

The existence of a deserted medieval settlement and pottery making site at Lyveden has been known since 1965. Excavations by Kettering Grammar School Local History and Archaeological Society from 1965-8,[1] followed by an extension of their work in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works revealed late medieval occupation and pottery and tile making on both sides of the stream south of the Harley Way connecting Brigstock and Oundle (SP 984861).[2] Field walking by the boys of the school during the winter and spring 1968-9 revealed that the

Lyveden 1969

At the top (facing west) a 3 bay potters' workshop aligned E.W. with stone lined pits; to the right (N) of this building 2 pottery kilns are visible, one only half excavated (four flue) and the two flue apsidal ended kiln cut through by a modern field drain. In the centre a peasant's long house (?) aligned N.S. and five bay barn of stylobate construction running E.W. built over.

Photograph taken from top of a 100 ft. turntable lent by Kettering Fire Brigade.

early medieval settlement pattern in the valley was considerably more scattered and extensive than had been thought.[3] Excavation resumed in August 1969 revealed a three bay potters workshop, ten stone lined pits connected with puddling clay and a five bay barn or drying shed of stylobate construction overlying an earlier building which may have been a peasant long house. The workshop was associated in its earlier phase with a four flue oval kiln producing a variety of wares, including bowls, cooking pots and storage jars. It had been shortened at a later period when a

[1] Journal 2 Northampton Museums and Art Gallery December 1967.

[2] Bulletin of the Northamptonshire Federation of Archaeological Societies No. 3 April 1969, pp. 24-26.

[3] Bulletin *op. cit.* pp. 19, 20, 27, 29.

double flue apsidal ended kiln whose pot bank lapped over the former east end of the workshop was built. The potter's croft was bounded on the west by a long wall. Traces of earlier occupation of the early medieval period were found in lower levels associated with Stamford ware sherds.

Among the finds this season were a bone chessman, a bone flute, bone potters' tools, bronze buckles, belt fastenings, strap ends, hawk bells, a spiral headed pin, a fine collection of mica schist hone stones, the material of which derives from Central Norway,[4] a pivot stone for the bearing of a potters wheel, iron arrowheads, ox shoes, knives, a spur and three silver coins; a Henry IV penny, York mint; a Robert III of Scotland (1390-1406) halfpenny; and a farthing of the E R Anglie type of Edward I *c.* 1300.[5]

Help was received from many quarters. H. R. H. Prince William of Gloucester for permission to dig; the labour force was derived from the senior boys of Kettering Grammar School with help from other young people from Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. The diggers camped at Churchfield Farm, Oundle, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Michael Berridge. The Kettering Fire Brigade lent their 100 ft. turntable from which the accompanying photograph was taken. R.A.F. Wyton provided an aerial photographic survey of the whole of the Lyveden valley from Brigstock to Oundle. They also conducted low level flights, recording the excavation in its later phases. Mr. Bruce Adams of the Bradford College of Technology took charge of the pottery classification. Mr. Brian Dix and Mr. William Hornsby surveyed and planned the site and its structures. The dig was supervised by Mr. Geoffrey Bryant of the Workers Educational Association, Mr. John Aveyard and Mr. John M. Steane of Kettering Grammar School. A full report of the 1968 excavation is appearing in Journal 5 of the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery. A similar report of the 1969 excavations will appear in the same journal next year.

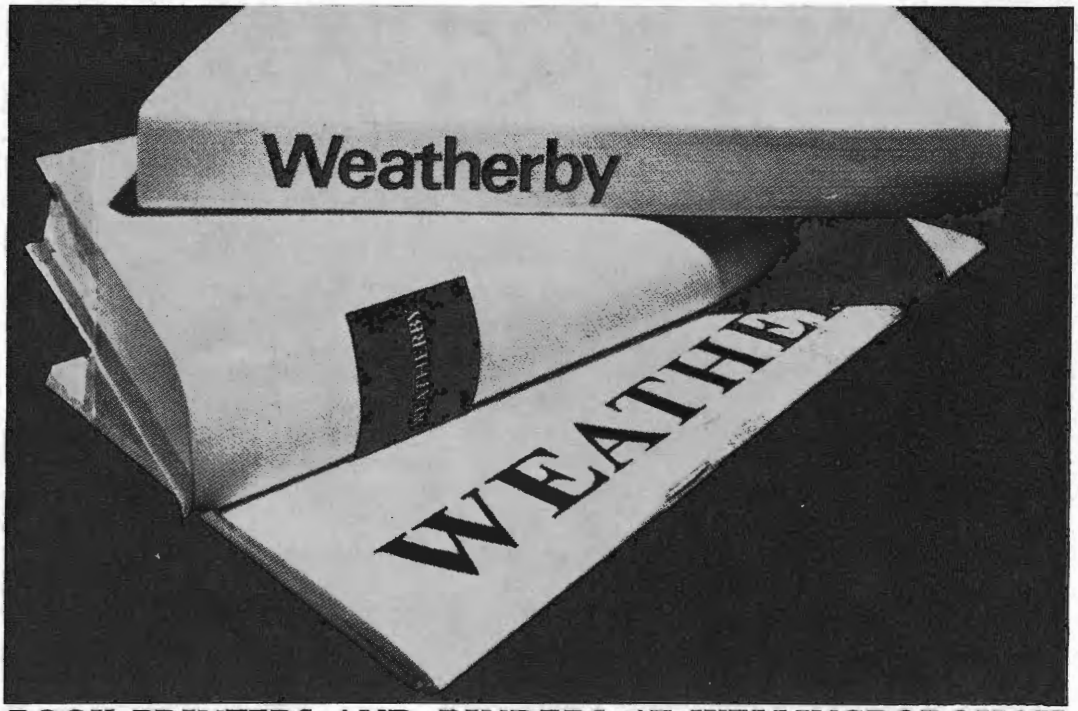
J.M.S.

The land lies passive as a veteran
waiting for operation;
photographs show features
clear as wrinkles
on an old fellow's face
that tell of years ago
loving and suffering—or how you'll interpret.
Diggers had prized out fragments
sherds from the topsoil
like shell splinters in flesh
warranting treatment;
they had stripped the skin to reach the bone
bulldozed subcutaneous fat
charted the tissue and the veins,
pumped the blood that fills the trench
stumbling over malformations
confusing half formed theories.
Age impairs what time maintains
and the inarticulate land conceals
how life went on in the cold bare wind
a thousand years ago sunk
like an old man's war tales in his children's yawns.

NINA STEANE

[4] S. E. Ellis: "The Petrography and provenance of Anglo Saxon and Medieval English honestones, with notes on some other hones". Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History) Vol. 2, No. 3, 1969.

[5] Letter from The British Museum Department of Coins and Medals, 1 September, 1969.



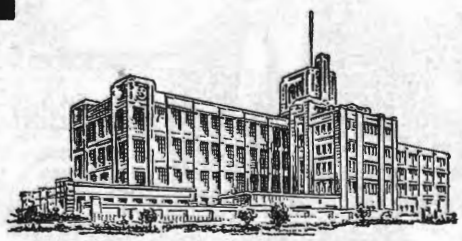
BOOK PRINTERS AND BINDERS AT WELLINGBOROUGH

TIMPSON

A FINE FACTORY

PRODUCING

FINE SHOES

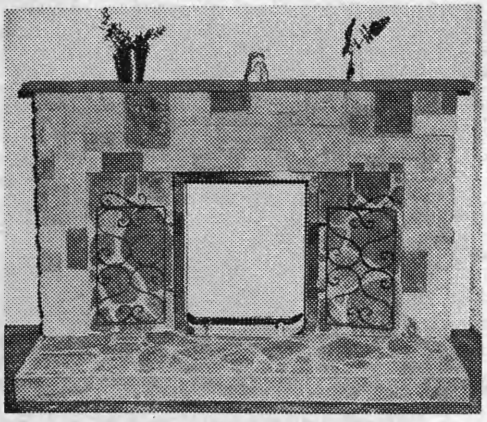


For over one hundred years TIMPSON have designed and made shoes, the reputation of which has carried them into the world market of the present day.
Besides earning valuable dollars, TIMPSON shoes are sold in a network of over two hundred and fifty shops throughout the country.

WILLIAM TIMPSON LIMITED

NORTH PARK . KETTERING . NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

STONE *will enhance the BEAUTY of ANY HOME OR GARDEN*



BUILDINGS or REPAIRS
OF ALL KINDS UNDERTAKEN

STONE FIREPLACES
A SPECIALITY
—supplied or fixed complete

TERRAZZO TILES, PAVING
AND PRECAST PRODUCTS
supplied and cut to size

Architectural & Monumental Lettering & Carving

Telephone 2113

W. T. COX & CO. LTD.
St. Peter's Avenue . Kettering

Join the Weetabix eaters in a morningsfull of nourishment!

Whole wheat nourishment.
That's what a Weetabix breakfast gives you.
That's why it's known as the big-value breakfast. Join the nourishment eaters.
The Weetabix eaters.

Weetabix
A morningsfull of nourishment

Book Reviews

THE JUSTICES OF THE PEACE IN ENGLAND 1558-1640

by J. H. Gleason

(Oxford: At the Clarendon Press, 1969 Price 63*s*.)

In choosing sample counties as the basis of his detailed study of Elizabethan and early Stuart Justices of the Peace, Professor Gleason has followed the method successfully adopted for W. K. Jordan's *Philanthropy in England 1480-1660* (1959). Professor Gleason's counties are Kent, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Somerset, Worcestershire, and the North Riding of Yorkshire. The welcome inclusion of Northamptonshire is due to the fact that it 'lies in the heart of the Midlands and borders on more counties than any other . . . It is blessed by an exceptional record society and local archive'.

Although G. M. Trevelyan called the Elizabethan J.P.s the 'most influential class of men in England', as the author points out, there has been too much generalization about the Justices, based on too narrow data. His aim is twofold: to compare the body of J.P.s—their status, length of office, diligence in the performance of their duties, and so forth—in the six counties between 1558 and 1640 and to assess the role of the Justices in national life during this period. From *pietas* towards the Kentish historian William Lambarde, whose celebrated treatise on the Office of the Justices was published in 1581/2, and of whom he has much to say, Professor Gleason has given his work the sub-title of A Later *Eirenarcha*.

The author's findings are the result of an exhaustive analysis of five *libri pacis* (lists of J.P.s in every county prepared for government use from time to time) belonging to the years 1562, 1584, 1608, 1626, and 1636. Roughly half the book is devoted to eight instructive chapters dealing with such subjects as the complexion of the commissions of the peace, the burden of the commission, the categories and the education of J.P.s, and the question of how far a man's religion or politics disqualified him from office—considerably less, it would seem, than has usually been thought.

While it is not difficult to distinguish the 'dignitaries' from the 'working' J.P.s, it is sometimes hard to determine to which category—Court, Law, Church, Commerce, or Gentry *tout court*—a particular Justice should be assigned: there was frequent overlapping of careers. What is certain is that 'much the largest category of justices—rather more than three-fifths—were county gentry'.

With the exception of the Kent *liber* for 1584, which receives a chapter to itself, the *libri pacis* are printed in six Appendices, in chronological order for each county: Northamptonshire is treated in Appendix C. The annotated lists, taken in conjunction with Professor Gleason's commentaries upon the individual rosters, make illuminating reading. Thus we learn that whereas under Elizabeth I the Northamptonshire J.P.s included a 'remarkable group of national figures', in the first quarter of the seventeenth century the county fell behind the other five in its proportion of well-educated Justices, although this defect had been remedied by 1636. It is the Northamptonshire commission of 1626 which hits the headlines. The story of this monster assemblage, headed by the Catholic Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Exeter, and 'including an unprecedented number of relative mediocrities', impinges upon one already familiar to readers of Mr. J. K. Gruenfelder's article 'The Parliamentary Election in Northamptonshire in 1626' (*Northamptonshire Past and Present*, 1968/9).

The Justices emerge with, if possible, enhanced prestige from this important book. Not least amongst its merits is the fact that, in spite of the thickness of the trees, we are never allowed to lose sight of the wood. The temptation to over-exploit the potential wealth of biographical

material has been deliberately withstood. Misprints appear to be few, but it is unfortunate that a wrong second initial should have been given to Mr. P. I. King, to whom Professor Gleason records an especial debt of gratitude. MARGARET TOYNBEE.

ABINGTON MUSEUM

A "Short History" of Abington Museum has this year been issued by the Curator, Mr. W. N. Terry. The guide book has been compiled by Alan C. Cox, the Assistant Curator. It is a great improvement on previous accounts, and is excellently illustrated. These include a photograph of the Hobby Horse from Yardley Gobion, used in traditional country dancing, a very suitable embellishment from the former home of Shakespeare's grand-daughter.[1]

A careful attempt has been made to disentangle the Museum's complicated architectural history. The Great Hall belongs basically to the rebuilding of Abington about 1530, and although later alterations have done much to disguise its character, it still remains a fine example of an early Tudor Hall.

The author attributes the alterations of the late 17th century to the Thursbys, who acquired the Hall from the Bernards in 1669. But in a document prepared for Sir John Langham before that date, who was, no doubt, considering its purchase, it is described as a "faire new built house",[2] suggesting that it may have been Sir John Bernard, and not his successor who carried out these alterations.

Incidentally, a little more might have been said about Sir John Bernard and his wife. He was certainly trying to borrow money in 1659 on the property, and in the deed of sale, his wife's claim to dower was barred. Of course, he had no heir, and the Bernards were providing for their old age, although Elizabeth lived only a short time after the sale.

The most extensive reconstruction was, however, that carried out by Francis Smith for John Harvey Thursby, and this is well explained. Francis Smith can have had little to do with the completion of the work, as he died in 1738 (not 1739 as stated in this booklet), and the date 1738 appears on the East Range water pipes.

It is quite true that in the 1820s the house was miscalled an Abbey, and let to various tenants. The Earl of Chesterfield is mentioned as one of these but not the fact that at the time he was Master of the Pytchley Hounds. This was in 1838-40, and Guy Paget in his *History of the Althorp and Pytchley Hunt* (1937) wryly comments, "Late nights, first at the Grand Hotel which Chesterfield rented for himself and his friends, and then at Abington Abbey, which he took from Mr. Thursby, did not conduce to punctuality at Misterton, Badby and Brigstock. Chesterfield's ideas, too, of the duties of a master were original; his day was perfect if he could get his huntsman down and go on without him"!

Abington has, indeed, seen varied scenes in its long history, and Northampton is fortunate in possessing such a setting for a museum largely devoted to the Decorative Arts and Folk Life.

G.I.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CORBY WORKS

(Stewarts and Lloyds, Ltd., 1968)

by SIR FREDERICK SCOPES

This volume is a study of the development of the Corby iron and steel plant up to 1939, written from the 'inside' by Sir Frederick Scopes, an employee and, later, director of Stewarts and Lloyds. The work, parts of which have already appeared in two articles in this journal, begins with the background to the initial development by the Lloyds Ironstone Company, before tracing the growth and ramifications of the policies of Stewarts and Lloyds which were to lead to the momentous happenings of the early 1930s.

[1] "For O, the hobby horse is forgot" (*Hamlet*, Act III, Sc. 2).

[2] N.R.O. Clayton MSS. 1-4 quoted in *N. P. & P.* Vol. I, No. 6, p. 44.

Although exploitation of the Northampton Sands' ironstone at Corby now seems an inevitable and logical stage in the general evolution of the British iron and steel industry, the events at the time often showed a less obvious pattern. The acquisition of the Corby site and surrounding ore reserves in 1920, for instance, came incidentally through the purchase of a West Midlands' firm which had recently taken over Lloyds Ironstone Company. Three years earlier the steel tube giant actually refused the approach of Lloyds Ironstone Company seeking to achieve for itself a logical link-up. Even more surprising was the acquisition of the North Lincolnshire Iron Company in 1918 and the persistence in the 1920s of the idea that here was the site for Stewarts and Lloyds' future capital expansion rather than in Northamptonshire. The considerable disadvantages of the North Lincolnshire site with regard to ore, water and power supplies as well as rail connections are clearly given by the author in an episode which he calls "the first step on the long road to Corby". Sir Frederick, incidentally, was appointed Stewarts and Lloyds' representative at Scunthorpe.

The essential drama of Corby is seen in the middle chapters dealing with the reports in the early 1930s of H. A. Brassert, the American company engaged to survey the locational and technical possibilities of rationalising the company's steel tube production in Britain. Extensive ore property was the deciding factor which gave Corby a comparative advantage over other alternative locations; accordingly the Brassert report of February 1930 recommended a plant of 625,000 ton steel capacity, costing £5.7M. The financial and industrial climate of the early 1930s, however, caused delay and considerable modification to the initial report. Agreement had to be achieved with the Bankers Industrial Development Company for the necessary finance, in the bargaining for which opposition of unknown strength from other steel manufacturers had to be overcome. Moreover, it apparently took time before all Board members within the Company itself were convinced by Brassert's proposals. As a result, the original scheme was reduced in size—to a steel ingot capacity of 430,000 tons in 1931 and then to 200,000 tons in Brassert's Scheme II in 1932, when the project was costed at £3.3M. Only a small part of this figure for the approved (November 1932) scheme was borrowed, however, because of the upswing in financial and trading conditions, assisted by protection of the government's Import Duties Act (February 1932). In fact, the growing confidence and conviction were such that during construction the scheme was enlarged to 290,000 tons capacity. The first blast furnace was lit in May 1934 and by January 1935 the project was regarded nationally as "a symbol of enterprise, high courage and progress" (*The Times*). In October of that year Brassert had produced a scheme to treble steel capacity by stages.

By the outbreak of the second world war Corby as we know it had been born. In seven years Stewarts and Lloyds had erected a large, highly efficient iron and steel plant; they had also created a new town. The considerable social costs in erecting some 2,000 houses and various amenities are described in the two concluding chapters. The generosity of the Company in fixing low rents for their tied housing had the inevitable but unfortunate result of severely restricting any complementary private development. Coupled with the separate development of East Carlton Park for staff housing, the Company unwittingly contributed to Corby's social imbalance.

Equal in length to the text are the 140 pages of valuable appendices, where one can consult the full details of relevant historical and technical documents. In the text the occasional comparison of proposed fuel-ore details with present technology adds to the readability of the work. From the point of view of format, however, an inset to distinguish clearly the frequent and lengthy quotations would be an aid. The subject matter itself varies in its relevance to the stated theme. Although the Corby plant has to be seen within the context of the company's overall policy, there can be little justification for devoting a whole chapter to the Oxfordshire Ironstone Company. The final chapter, entitled 'Ancillary Problems', reads as sundry notes on a variety of topics and is a poor conclusion to the drama of the preceding pages. In view of the topics covered in the last chapter, one might expect some treatment of the extensive recruitment and transfer of labour for the large plant. On the debit side also, is the incomplete bibliography. These points apart, however, the work is an authoritative review of the formative industrial growth of Corby and provides an interesting complement to the existing comprehensive surveys of the British iron and steel industry.

D. C. D. Pocock.

Index to Advertisers

	PAGE
Allen, A. H. & Co. Ltd.	221
Avon Cosmetics	256
Cleaver, A. R. & W. Ltd.	233
Collet's	222
Cox, W. T. & Co. Ltd.	252
Creative Printers Ltd.	221
Dalkeith Press Ltd. ...	*Inside back cover*
Marriott, Robert, Ltd. ...	*Inside front cover*
Mettoy Co. Ltd., The	233
Northampton Chamber of Trade ...	246
Scott Bader & Co. Ltd. ...	*Inside back cover*
Simpson, Florence, Ltd.	234
Timpson, William Ltd.	251
Timsons Ltd.	234
Ward, W. G. Ltd.	222
Weatherbys Printers	251
Weetabix Ltd.	252
White, John (Footwear) Ltd. ...	*Back cover*

Bound Volumes

OF

"Northamptonshire Past and Present"

Volume I (1948-1953)

The six parts bound in red cloth, complete with index

Price to Members, **£2.2.0**; Non-members, **£2.10.0**
(plus **6/-** for postage and packing)

Volume II (1954-1959)

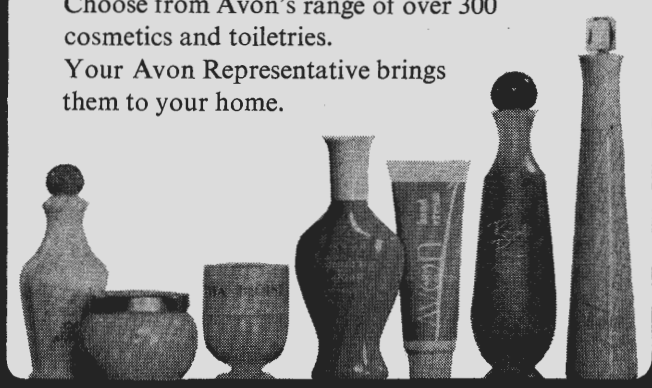
PRICES AS FOR VOLUME I

Volume III (1960-1965)

Price to Members, **£2.5.0**; Non-members, **£2.12.6**
(plus **6/-** for postage and packing)

Avon Cosmetics – brings you beauty

Choose from Avon's range of over 300 cosmetics and toiletries.
Your Avon Representative brings them to your home.



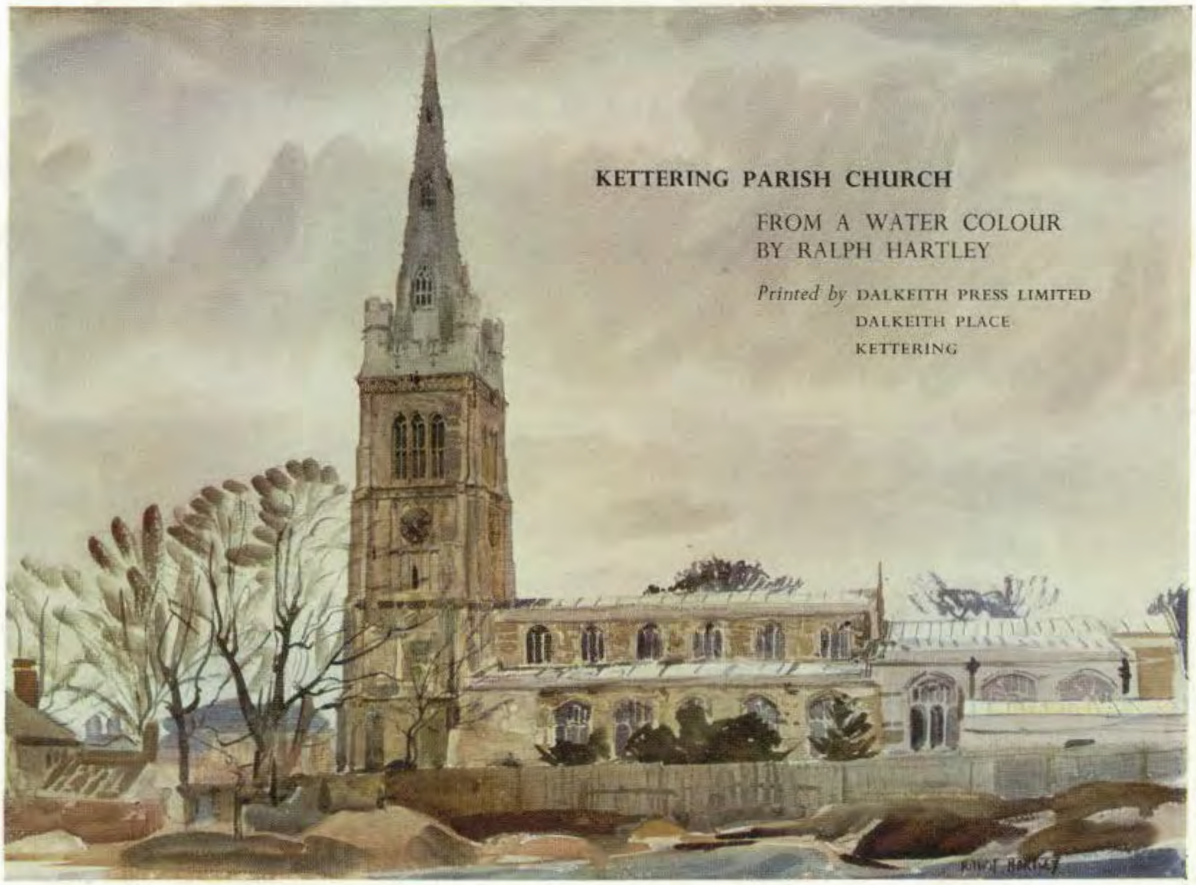
AVON COSMETICS
NEW YORK · LONDON · PARIS

The Home of Scott Bader

Wollaston Hall is the old setting of one of Northamptonshire's most lively young industries. Polyester resins, polymer emulsions and PVC plasticisers are made in these beautiful grounds. A communal ownership company welding past and present in the service of the future.

SCOTT BADER

SCOTT BADER & CO. LIMITED
Wollaston . Wellingborough
Northants. Tel.: Wellingboro' 4881



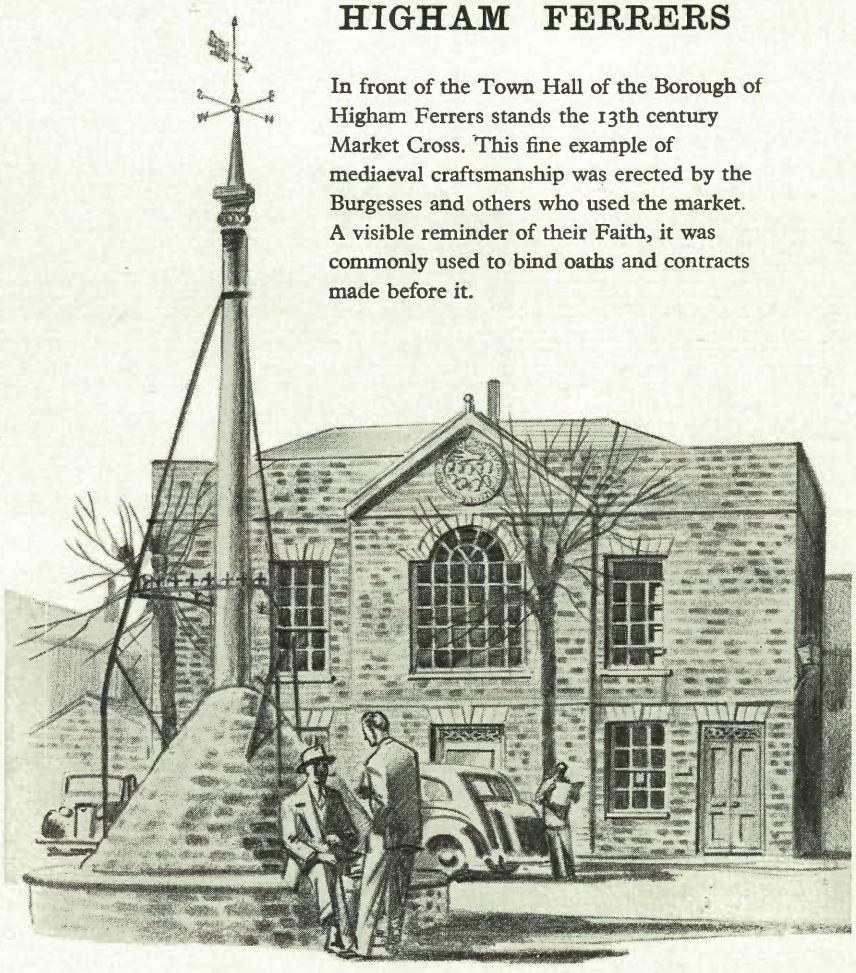
KETTERING PARISH CHURCH

FROM A WATER COLOUR
BY RALPH HARTLEY

Printed by DALKEITH PRESS LIMITED
DALKEITH PLACE
KETTERING

TOWN HALL AND MARKET CROSS
HIGHAM FERRERS

In front of the Town Hall of the Borough of Higham Ferrers stands the 13th century Market Cross. This fine example of mediaeval craftsmanship was erected by the Burgesses and others who used the market. A visible reminder of their Faith, it was commonly used to bind oaths and contracts made before it.



The Craftsmanship of Higham Ferrers thrives in the 20th century. For it is the headquarters of world-famous John White Footwear Ltd., founded by Mr. John White, an Honorary Freeman and former Mayor of Higham Ferrers. Here, where skill and experience are devoted not to stone but to leather, the spirit of service to the community is strong as ever.