

STAFFORD



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER N^o 7

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This has been a productive period for the Society with increased membership and larger numbers of people attending our meetings. There were sixty present at the Risley talk, an all time attendance record.

We mounted displays at the Celebrating Stapleford event on 3 July at the Arthur Mee Centre and at St Andrew's Flower Festival in September. Our exhibits attracted a lot of interest and, as well as information at the time, promises of loans of photographs and interviews with elderly Staplefordians anxious to pass on their memories. We are also delighted to have recruited our Member of Parliament, Dr Nick Palmer, as a member of the Society. Warm thanks to all members who helped to operate our stand at the two events.

All the chapters for our 'Stapleford at the Dawn of the 20th Century' book have been completed and handed in, together with relevant illustrations, and are being edited and prepared to go to the printers. Please keep your fingers crossed for success in our application to the Millennium Festival Awards for All Scheme for funding. We are also applying to Broxtowe Borough Council for a small Community Services grant to add to that already given by Stapleford Town Council.

Barbara Brooke
Chairman

Do not forget the Society's Christmas Meeting
Monday 13 December 1999
A wonderful time will be had by all!
Programmes for next year will be available.

Mr. W. Mellows
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottinghamshire



Early post in Stapleford.

Stapleford Grocer Left £12,966
Mr. John Arthur Skinner, of 168, Brookhill-street, Stapleford, grocer and beer-off proprietor, who died on July 1, left £12,966 12s. 9d. net value. (Duty paid £1,028). He left £50 to James Smedley, of 164, Brookhill-street, family bequests, and the remainder of his property specifically to his wife and daughter Jean.

Stapleford and Sandiacre News 20 Oct 1961.
Alan Clayton.

MEETING REPORTS

ASPLEY HALL by Tony Horton

Tony Horton made a welcome return visit to the Society in May when he gave a talk on Aspley Hall. An unknown abbot of Lenton Priory had made a hunting park with a lodge at the southern edge of Sherwood Forest and some two miles north west of the priory.

In 1554 twenty years after the dissolution of the monasteries Asshepley Halle is described as 'sore decayd and almost utterly ruynyd', but by 1567 the hall and 50 acres of woodland had been sold to Francis Willoughby of Wollaton. After rebuilding, the hall was used as a dower house for Wollaton Hall from time to time, being rented out when not required by the family and remaining in their hands until 1925.

The most famous inhabitant was Sir Nesbit Willoughby, Admiral of the Blue, whose naval exploits in the early 1800s were legendary. He displayed immense courage in battle and was gazetted for his gallantry six times as well as receiving awards for bravery from the Patriotic Fund. For his many severe wounds, including loss of an eye, he was granted an annual pension of £550. He is said to have been the model for the literary hero Horatio Hornblower.

Among those who leased Aspley Hall were William Charles Boden, lace manufacturer of Derby, a founder of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce, Richard Birkin, founder of the well known Nottingham lace firm, Birkin & Co Ltd, then his son Richard Michael Birkin JP and T Stanley Birkin, founder of Notts Rugby Club and High Sheriff of Nottinghamshire in 1915. In the 1890s William Lockwood, another lace manufacturer, lived there for a short time, followed by Edward W Field, Managing Director of Nottingham Brewery and Mr Forman Hardy, the newspaper publisher was born there.

Eventually in 1925, at the time of the Wollaton Hall and Park sale, Aspley Hall, farm, cottages and woodland were sold to Councillor G E Taylor who tidied up parts of the hall which had been added on 'higgledy piggledy' by various lessees. When he died in 1965, his son tried desperately to sell or lease the hall, but to no avail and it was demolished in 1968. Despite the fact that most of the fabric dated from about 1600, there was no objection from any quarter and the land was sold for housing. Some of Tony's slides showed the retention of old walls and trees and the farmhouse of about 1600 in the new development.

Barbara Brooke

VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN JEWELLERY by Andrew Bates

Andrew Bates is a Fellow of the Gemmological Association and holds the Diploma of the National Association of Goldsmiths. He is a partner in the long established firm of William Taylor, Jewellers, of Hockley, Nottingham.

By the time Victoria ascended the throne in 1837 the flamboyant clothes of wealthy men of earlier centuries had given way to the sober business attire of the industrial era. Men now showed their wealth, position and status by the clothes and jewellery worn by their wives. Charles Dickens spoke of the social climber's need for 'a bosom to hang jewels on'.

In the romantic period of the young Victoria's reign jewellery was often worn in sets or suites of twin clasp bracelets, earrings and a tiara and a large brooch, called a stomacher, which covered much of the bodice of a dress.

Though Queen Victoria was not usually a style setter, her visit to Balmoral with Prince Albert started a fashion for Scots pebble jewellery to enhance the new tartan fabrics. Heraldic and Celtic forms were widely used and matching sets of earrings and brooches made from grouse claws were popular.

In the 1850s 9, 12 and 15 carat gold were added to the 18 and 22 carat already in use and gold fashioned in ancient Etruscan styles was fashionable. This involved various finishes such as granulation, shot work and 'bloom' on the surface, achieved by dipping a piece in nitric acid.

Large scroll type brooches, to which could be added chains and drop jewels, were worn with the wide crinolines of the 1860s and iron pyrites was cut and faceted to produce marcasite which was usually set in silver.

The strong Indian influence and the status of tiger shooting were shown by mounting tiger claws in gold for brooches, earrings and bracelets and ivory carved in Dieppe and Switzerland was also fashionable. A plastic substitute, named celluloid, was introduced in 1865 which allowed cheaper variants for the less well off.

Whitby jet, a form of lignite, somewhat like coal, was the essential material for all fashionable items of jewellery after the death of Prince Albert in 1861. This was often trimmed with vulcanite made from hardened rubber invented by Mr Goodyear.

Earring styles changed to complement the way hair was worn, longer when hair was worn around the face, smaller as hair was drawn back and in the nineties small studs when hair was worn high on the head.

Memorial jewellery made from plaited, twisted or woven human hair and cameos made from shells, carved in the Naples area and mounted in gold were to be found in most women's jewellery boxes. Symbolic sentimental jewellery incorporating love birds, forget-me-nots, heart shapes and ivy leaves made from silver mined in the USA was a new fashion, cheaper machine tooled versions now widely available.

The influence of Art Nouveau from France and the dawn of the elegant Edwardian era brought stylised flowers and scrolls, diamonds, amethysts and peridots in tiny settings appeared to float on fabric, as well as costume jewellery available for the masses. Queen Alexandra wore a collar of six rows of diamonds at her coronation with thirteen brooches adorning her dress. An Edwardian lady's crowning glory was her hair, worn piled high on her head and decorated with a long pin set with jewels and a long egret's feather.

Afterwards we were all able to examine the jewellery, with which Andrew illustrated his talk, at close quarters. We had all learned much about 19th century jewellery and about the many techniques and developments in its manufacture.

Barbara Brooke

MURDER, MISFORTUNE AND MYSTERY by Peter Hammond

Peter spoke of many causes of death in times past recorded in various types of document, coroners' inquests, calendars of prisoners and their crimes, newspaper reports, constables' accounts, church registers and other miscellaneous documents.

Coroners' inquests, many surviving from the 17th century, were the main source of information. They were held in a local public house on the day of the death or the following day and the members of the jury were drawn from nearby villages.

The causes of death varied widely from the relatively usual (falling down a well or from a horse, freezing or starving to death, overdose of laudanum, clothes set on fire by candles, scalding) to the strange (killed by a windmill, visitation of God, consuming 4 quarts of ale in five minutes, could not be sick, died two days later, killed by quoits and a judge who died in a brothel).

A travelling jeweller, who gave an account of his own demise, languished in hospital for two days after stooping in an archway while riding on the outside of a coach and being caught on the stonework.

Elizabeth Towle of Stapleford was found to be insane and committed as a lunatic for the manslaughter of James, a two year old child. She had incorporated rat poison for the mill in the gingerbread she baked and gave to the child.

In 1789 Thomas Radford, baker of Stapleford, fell off his horse and was killed instantly and in 1808 a newspaper reported John Greasley, of the Plough Inn, Stapleford, had been burned in a neighbour's house and died.

Many of the accounts were made poignant by detailed descriptions of individuals' clothes and personal effects and verbatim reports of their depositions.

An unusual and fascinating glimpse of history.

Barbara Brooke

THE CIVIL WAR IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE by Tom Leafe

In the first part of his talk Tom Leafe gave a brief resume of the Civil War setting it in its 17th century political and religious context.

He then described the local action from King Charles raising his standard in Nottingham on 22 August 1642 to start the war to his surrender after a night at the Saracen's Head in Southwell on 23 August 1646 to end the main part of it. The war locally consisted mainly of chance encounters, sieges and skirmishes based on fortified and garrisoned house of the gentry.

Whilst Nottinghamshire was mainly Royalist, the town of Nottingham was for Parliament, the castle being garrisoned under Colonel Hutchinson. Royalist forces from Newark infiltrated Nottingham and used the tower of St Nicholas' church to bombard the castle, but were eventually driven out. The castle was demolished by Col Hutchinson at the end of the war so that it could never be used for warfare again.

Newark, in a strategic position where the road to the north crosses the River Trent, declared its support for the king who was a local landowner and frequent visitor and endured three sieges involving bombardments, shortages of food and water, severe overcrowding and an outbreak of plague. Towards the end of 1645, after the king's defeat at the battle of Nazeby, it was decided to capture local garrisons before a major offensive on Newark.

Shelford Manor, belonging to the Earl of Chesterfield, was held for the king by the Earl's son, Col Philip Stanhope, with a garrison of 180 men. They were defeated, Col Stanhope killed and the house burned.

The Parliamentarians next marched to Wiverton Hall near Bingham, which belonged to Lord John Chaworth. Its governor, terrified by what had happened at Shelford, surrendered on terms but the house was demolished.

Welbeck Abbey was the Earl (later Duke) of Newcastle's principal seat which became a Royalist garrison held by his daughter, Lady Jane Cavendish, while he was away leading the army in the north. It surrendered in 1644, was briefly recaptured in 1645, and was then disgarrisoned.

Newstead Abbey was the home of the seven Byron brothers who all declared for the king and acquitted themselves well in posts of responsibility in the war. Newstead was abandoned and plundered by the Parliamentarians. Only Sir Richard Byron, who had been governor of Newark, survived the war but lost all his fortune. He was eventually able to recover much of his property after the restoration of the monarchy.

Some Nottinghamshire families suffered the tragedy of being divided in their loyalties, such as the Hacker family of Colston Bassett and the Pierreponts of Holme Pierrepont.

The two most important local Parliamentarians were Col Hutchinson of Owthorpe and Henry Ireton of Attenborough, who became Cromwell's son-in-law.

Nottinghamshire was at the heart of the Civil War, a period of destruction, loss of life and bitterness but which, nevertheless, inspired great courage, determination and loyalty.

Barbara Brooke

THE STORY OF RISLEY by Margaret Cooper

The name Risley, meaning 'Rushes in the meadow', was recorded in the Domesday Book as having five villagers and 30 acres of land, worth sixteen shillings though it had been worth thirty two shillings before the Norman Conquest, suggesting that the farming was not being done properly. The land went to the Peverils, who built Nottingham Castle, then to the Paveleys who died out, the land eventually ending up in the hands of the Willoughbys of Wollaton.

Hugh Willoughby, who was priest at Risley, had several children by a local woman and sent a letter to the Pope for a special dispensation so that his children could inherit. In the 1500s Michael Willoughby set up a school for nearby children which he financed by letting off land to six local men.

The present church was built in 1593, but by this time Sir John Willoughby had inherited and he preferred the church at Wilne. Thus the church was consecrated after his death. All that is left of the Tudor Risley Hall, following a disastrous fire, are the external stone steps.

When Ann Willoughby's husband, Thomas Aston, was killed in the Civil War, she married a member of the Grey family of Bradgate Park, Leicestershire. Her daughter, Dame Elizabeth Grey, who was brought up at Risley, wanted to carry on Michael Willoughby's educational work and built a Latin House for masters of the school which provided a classical education for boys only. This very successful venture resulted in a Latin School being built, with a special department for girls. Although the school was closed in 1913, the funding still carries and is used for further education.

The Fitch family briefly took over the baronial hall which was built in the 1790s as stables. This was purchased by Mr Hooley, the entrepreneur, in 1880 and when he died in 1939 the hall became a reformatory school and is now the exclusive Risley Hall Hotel.

The very earliest artifact connected with Risley is a Roman silver tray or lanx turned up by a local ploughman, depicting hunting and countryside scenes and the inscription on the back records its gift by a bishop Exsuperius to a named church Ecclesiae Bogiensi. The tray was given to Lady Ann Aston at Risley Hall in the 17th century, but later disappeared. However, an 18th century replica survives in the British Museum.

On this occasion we were pleased to welcome some Risley residents to our meeting and all were delighted to have learned something new about their village.

Barbara Brooke

Look out for the publication of our millennium book

STAPLEFORD AT THE DAWN OF THE 20TH CENTURY

on sale from April 2000



day excursion to BLACKPOOL

Saturday 18th September 1965

FROM	OUTWARD Times of Departure	RETURN FARES Second Class	ARRIVE BACK
NOTTINGHAM Midland ...	08 05	25/-	(19th) 03 04
BEESTON	08 14	25/-	02 55
LONG EATON	08 25	23/6	02 44
STAPLEFORD & SANDIACRE ...	08 32	23/6	02 38
TROWELL	08 38	23/6	02 32
ILKESTON JUNCTION & COSSALL	08 43	22/6	02 27
LANGLEY MILL & EASTWOOD	08 50	21/-	02 19
PYE BRIDGE	09 00	21/-	02 10
ALFRETON & SOUTH NORMANTON ...	09 09	21/-	02 03
WESTHOUSES & BLACKWELL	09 13	21/-	01 57
BLACKPOOL North ... arrive	12 44	Passengers return same day at ...	22 35

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THIS TRAIN IN EACH DIRECTION.



**FOR DETAILS OF LATE BUSES
ON RETURN AT NOTTINGHAM
— See overleaf**

Note: Stapleford & Sandiacre Station closed to passengers on 2 January 1967

From the Ilkeston Pioneer, 5 January 1900

THEFT OF MONEY

Arthur Brown aged 16 years, labourer, was charged with stealing 6s.8d (33p) from the person of Lily Wright, a little girl of Stapleford, on December 23rd. Ada Wright of Sandiacre deposed that at about 4pm on Saturday afternoon last she gave her daughter three florins, a sixpenny piece and two penny pieces, and despatched her on an errand to Stapleford. Her daughter came back at about 6pm the same evening without the money and without the articles sent for. PC Mitchell deposed that the day after the theft he charged the prisoner with knocking down Lily Wright and stealing 6s.8d from her. Prisoner replied 'That's cold'. On the road to the police station, prisoner said 'I took the money, but I didn't knock her down. I took the money and spent it on pork pies, sweets and other things'. Prisoner now pleaded guilty. The Chairman said the Bench considered the case a bad one and, as there was a previous conviction, the accused would be sent to prison for one month with hard labour.

Submitted by Michael George

STAPLEFORD G.T.C. FESTIVAL.

Once again members of Stapleford Girls' Training Corps distinguished themselves at the annual Midland Festival of Training held at Posse Girls' School, Leicester, on Saturday.

The Company were placed second and brought home the shield for squad drill.

Certificates received were:—

First: — Skipping, mime, squad, drill, advanced drill, National dancing, knitting, Cadet Judith Lovett; photography, Officer Cadet Dorothy Gregson and A. S. L. Jill Oldershaw; essays, Cadet Ann Simkins.

Second:—Emergency aid, photography, Jill Oldershaw; knitting Dorothy Gregson.

Third:—Knitting, Miss Karen Morley; verse speaking, Dorothy Gregson.

The squad drill was taken by Assistant Officer J. Ayre.

Beeston Gazette and Echo

19th June 1959.

Alan Clayton.

WARREN FOR EVER!

In the last issue I looked at items from old journals in the late 1820s; now is the turn of the early 1820s, in particular the year 1822. Why this year and why the above title? The answer lies in the following obituary which is from the *Nottingham Journal* of 22 March 1822. It gives a good account of much of the life of one of Stapleford's most illustrious men from the past.

THE LATE SIR JOHN BORLASE WARREN, BART.



Sir John Borlase Warren was descended from an ancient family, whose estates were situated in Buckinghamshire and Nottinghamshire. He derived the name of Borlase from his great grandmother, who was the heiress and daughter of Sir John Borlase, Bart. of Bockmore, Buckinghamshire, Lieutenant Colonel of the famous Lord Vere's regiment, that served in the Palatinate to protect the Elector King of Bohemia; afterwards placed under the Prince of Orange, in the Low Countries, during the wars in Flanders and Holland.

The name of Warren is of Norman extraction. Sir John was related to the family in Cheshire, and was descended from the ancient Earls of Warrenne, belonging to the Plantagenet family. He married, in the year 1780, Caroline, youngest daughter of General Sir John Clavering, K. B. by Lady Diana West, third daughter of John, thirteenth Lord and first Earl Delawarr, by Charlotte Macarty, daughter of Donogh, fourth Earl of Clancarty, by Lady Mary Spencer, aunt of Charles, Duke of Marlborough, by whom he had one son, in the Foot Guards, who was unfortunately killed while landing troops in Egypt; and Frances Maria, married, August 25, 1802, to Charles George Sedley, Esq. eldest son of the (then) Hon. Henry Sedley, now Lord Vernon. Sir John was elected Member for Marlow, in 1774 and 1780, and for Nottingham, in 1796 and 1802 (the latter distinguished as the riotous election.) He was appointed Post Captain R. N. April 25, 1781; Rear Admiral, February 14, 1796; Vice Admiral of the Blue Squadron, November 9, 1805; and subsequently he was promoted to the rank of Admiral of the White.

Sir John entered the Navy at an early age, notwithstanding many urgent persuasions to the contrary, he entered on board the Alderney sloop of war, then commanded by Capt. James O'Hara, stationed at Yarmouth and Shetland to protect the Fisheries. He continued in the Alderney sloop, and the Marlborough, to which he was afterwards appointed, nearly three years, under the immediate patronage of the late lamented Lord Howe; and afterwards, at the request of his friends, went to Emanuel college, Cambridge, when he pursued his academical studies under Dr. Farmer, and having taken the degree of M. A. left the University on a tour through some of the most interesting parts of the Continent.

At the commencement of the American war, Sir John, who had previously been elected a Member of Parliament, still glowing with the same zeal for the British Navy, returned to its professional duties, and during the year 1777, embarked in the Venus frigate, commanded by Captain Williams. This ship being soon ordered to join his old patron, Lord Howe, on the American station, Sir John was next placed by him in the Apollo frigate, in which he continued until the usual period of service was complete: being then appointed fourth Lieutenant of the Nonsuch, of 64 guns, Sir John was present in the fleet when the gallant Lord Howe was opposed to the squadron under D'Estaing. Upon his return to England, Lieut. Warren was appointed first of the Victory, with Sir Charles Hardy's flag on board, and on the 16th of July in the same year was advanced to the rank of Commander, and appointed to the Helena sloop of war. In April, 1781, he received his commission as Post Captain, and in the Ariadne, of 20 guns, sustained an action of 50 minutes with L'Aigle, French frigate, of 44 guns, fitted out as a privateer from Dunkirk; at the close of which, the latter, after losing many of her crew, hauled her wind from the Ariadne, and by superior sailing reached St. Maloes in safety. Capt. Warren was afterwards appointed to the Winchelsea frigate, of 32 guns, attached to the fleet in the North Sea. The Winchelsea took three privateers, and at the cessation of hostilities in 1783, Sir John returned to the domestic comfort of his family.

When the late eventful war commenced in the year 1793, Sir John was commissioned to the Flora frigate, 36 guns, at Deptford, and, in company with the Inconstant frigate, escorted two convoys, of 97 sail, to Oporto and back. In the course of this service, Sir John chased a French frigate into L'Orient, and took four or five prizes.—In November, the Flora received on board Admiral M'Bride's flag, and with four or five other frigates, and a proportionate number of transports, proceeded with 6 or

7,000 British troops, and some French corps, to Guernsey and Jersey, in order to assist the Royalist army, which had penetrated to Granville, opposite the above islands. Four thousand men were landed in Guernsey, and continued on the island for two months, when they were brought back to the Isle of Wight, without accomplishing any thing. Admiral M'Bride subsequently removed his flag to the Cumberland, of 74 guns, and the Flora, Crescent, La Nymph, Druid, and Fury sloop, were sent on a cruise, off the coast of France. The Flora continued for some months attached to the squadron of Admiral M'Bride, cruising off Cherbourg, &c. While on this service, Sir John was dispatched with several frigates, as Commodore, in pursuit of a French squadron, which had come out of Concale bay, and had captured many British merchantmen. This squadron was composed of the best sailing and most powerful frigates in the French Navy. On the 23d of April, 1794, before day-break, the British squadron, under Commodore Warren, fell in with the enemy, when an engagement took place, which lasted nearly three hours, and terminated in adding to the British Navy La Pomone, one of the finest frigates ever built in France, of 44 guns, and 400 men; L'Engageante, 34 guns and 4 carronades, and 200 men; La Babet, 22 guns, and 200 men; and another frigate, La Resolue, escaped by outsailing the Melampus and Nymph, who chased her into Morlaix. The French Commodore was killed by the second broadside from the Flora.—His Majesty, soon after this action, was pleased to create Sir John Warren one of the Knights of the Bath.

Soon after the preceding event, the Flora, with the Arethusa, and Melampus frigates were detached on a cruise off the Western coasts of Brittany. They at one time were obliged to steer through a part of the great convoy bound from America to France, laden with provisions and corn, and this at a period of the enemy's principal distress. The three British frigates were pursued by three French line of battle ships and three frigates for several hours; and although Sir John Warren passed within hail, and some of the ships spoke the rear of the enemy's convoy, he escaped at length from so superior a force.

In the month of June, 1795, Sir John hoisted his broad pendant in La Pomone, 44 guns, as Commodore of an expedition that had been planned against the French coast. Fifty sail of transports were attached to the squadron, consisting of three line of battle ships and six frigates, having on board nearly 3000 emigrant troops, under the command of Comtes de Puysaye and D'Hervilly. In Quiberon bay, a French fleet of 12 sail of the line, eleven frigates, &c. was descried by Commodore Warren, who immediately threw out the signal for the whole convoy to

14 wear, and the line of battle ships and frigates to form in the rear, and sent information to Lord Bridport, who, early on the following morning, the 23d of June, came up with, and attacked the enemy off L'Orient, and would have taken or destroyed the whole of their fleet, had it not been for their proximity to the land, which enabled them to take shelter under the batteries. This action, which terminated with so much glory to the British Navy, added three more of the enemy's line of battle ships to the list of British captures. Commodore Warren pursued his course to Quiberon bay, where the whole emigrant force was landed, and for the space of a fortnight the squadron was employed in landing arms and ammunition for 16,000 Royalists. At length an attack was made on the peninsula of Quiberon, and the post was carried in a gallant style; but in the subsequent operations the Royalists suffered a defeat, and General D'Hervilly being wounded, numbers of the emigrants deserted to the enemy, and the fort having been surprised and taken by treachery by the Republican General Hoche, the object of the expedition was entirely frustrated. By the exertions of the ships of the squadron which kept up a spirited fire on the beach, on the advancing enemy, 1,100 troops and 400 Royalist inhabitants were brought off and re-embarked. Thus terminated an expedition, which at first promised to strengthen the cause of the Royalists, and to arrest the career of the general enemy. Every thing that valour or perseverance could effect was attempted both by the British squadron and the officers and the main body of the emigrant force. The event, however, was melancholy and unsuccessful.

Commodore Warren next proceeded to take possession of the Isles of Iledic and Houac, in the bay of Quiberon; in order to refresh the troops, and subsequently a body of 2,000 Chouans were landed, at their own request, near L'Orient, and penetrated into the adjacent country. The British squadron was afterwards joined by several transports with 4,000 British troops, and his Royal Highness Monsieur (Comte d'Artois) and suite; and after examining Noirmoistier Island, they took possession of Isle Dieu. In this position several efforts were made to open a communication with the Royalists in La Vendee, but without success, and ultimately the whole army was withdrawn, and safely brought off.

From this period Sir John Warren was employed as Commodore in continual and successful cruises off the coast of France, from the port of Falmouth, under the immediate orders of the Admiralty. The situation of this port, at the entrance of the Channel, was of the utmost importance to the trade of Great Britain. The enemy's convoys destined to bring provisions,

ammunition, and supplies for the French fleet in Brest, were thus continually intercepted: from the success of this squadron, the French fleet were often kept in harbour, for want of stores, and L'Etoile and many merchantmen were taken. For the protection the trade and commerce of Great Britain had thus received from the squadron under Sir John Warren, the Committee of Merchant Seamen for the encouragement and capture of the enemy's privateers, presented the Commodore with a sword of the value of one hundred guineas. The following is a correct statement of the loss which the enemy sustained by the ships under Sir John Warren: 23 neutrals detained, and part of each cargo condemned; 87 merchantmen captured; 54 merchantmen destroyed; 25 ships and vessels of war captured; 12 ships and vessels of war destroyed; 19 vessels re-captured. Total, 220.

During the year 1797, Sir John Warren was appointed to the Canada, 74 guns, which was attached to the Western squadron, under Lord Bridport. At the close of the glorious year 1798, after having destroyed five brigs and four chasse mares, bound from Bourdeaux to Rochefort, and given chase to, and driven on shore a French frigate, near the river Garonne, where she bilged and was abandoned by her crew, Sir John was dispatched by Vice Admiral Gardner with the Robust, Foudroyant, Mag-nanime, Ethalion, Melampus, and Amelia, in search of an enemy's squadron, which had escaped from Brest. On the 11th of October, being off Black Sod harbour, he descried the squadron under Monsieur Bompert, consisting of one ship of the line, the Hoche, eight frigates, a schooner, and a brig, with troops and ammunition on board, destined for Ireland. Sir John immediately made the signal for a general chase, and to form in succession as each ship arrived up with the enemy, whom, from their great distance to windward, and a hollow sea, it was impossible to come up with before the 12th. The chase was continued in very bad and boisterous weather until five o'clock in the evening, when the enemy bore down and formed their line in close order upon the starboard tack; at seven Sir John made the signal for the Robust to lead, which was obeyed with much alacrity, and the rest of the squadron formed in succession in the rear. The action commenced at twenty minutes past seven o'clock, and at eleven, the Hoche, after a gallant defence, struck, and the frigates made sail with the intention of effecting their escape; but the signal being given to pursue, in five hours afterwards three of them were compelled to haul down their colours, viz. La Resolue, mounting 40 guns, and having 500 seamen and troops on board; L'Immortalite, 44 guns, and 600 seamen and soldiers; and the Bellone, 36 guns, having 300 soldiers on

board, besides her crew. All the ships were obstinately defended: they were entirely new, and full of troops and stores, with every necessary for the establishment of the enemy's views and plans in Ireland.—On the 16th of October La Loire, mounting 46 guns, one of the French frigates that had escaped, was taken by the Anson, after a second spirited resistance.

Sir John Warren, on his return from the coast of Ireland, was honoured with the freedom of the cities of London and Derry, and received the Thanks of both Houses of Parliament.—In the following year he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral, and hoisted his flag on board the *Temeraire*, of 98 guns, in which he joined the Channel fleet, and was eminently successful in preventing the Spanish fleet getting into Rochefort. Sir John afterwards served with the Western squadron under Sir Alan Gardner.—Subsequently, after an arduous pursuit, he captured the Marengo French line of battle ship, and Belle Poule frigate.

Sir John was afterwards appointed Ambassador to the Court of St. Petersburg; and the last of his public services was in the capacity of Commander in Chief of his Majesty's naval forces on the North American station.

Such is a brief sketch of the life and public services of the Right Hon. Sir John B. Warren, Bart. who departed this life on Wednesday the 27th ult. at the apartments of Sir Richard Keats, at Greenwich Hospital (not at Chelsea, as mentioned in our last.) He was a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath, Admiral of the White Squadron of his Majesty's Fleet, D. C. L. F. S. A. Groom of the Bed Chamber to his Royal Highness the Duke of Clarence, one of his Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and a Justice of the Peace for the county of Nottingham.

⊗ We have not been able to ascertain the precise period when Sir John was born, but we are inclined to believe that his age was about 70.

After the rebellion in Ireland, in the year 1798, had been crushed by the firmness and energy of his Majesty's land forces, and all hopes of its revival annihilated by the decisive victory gained by Sir J. B. Warren over the naval armament of France, the town of Nottingham was splendidly illuminated in honour of the event: many appropriate devices were exhibited, and shouts of "Warren for ever!" rent the air.

[⊗ Note. He was born at Stapleford Hall on 2 September 1753 and baptised at St Helen's Church on 5 October that year. He was 68 at the time of his death. - A.L.C.]

In the next Newsletter I hope to quote a number of extracts from papers of the 1790s when naval news of Sir John was literally being read 'hot from the press'.

What else can we glean from the press in 1822? Here are just a few snippets, some regional, some from further afield beginning with *John Bull* of 7 January:

MANSFIELD.—A dreadful accident occurred last week at Farnsfield, to a person named Key, who had accompanied Colonel Taylor, a shooting. By some accident, the Colonel's gun went off, and lodged the contents in his head; one of Key's cheeks, his eye, and part of his nose were carried away. There is no hopes of his recovery.

Amongst the famous people of the time was Sir Walter Scott and this extract is from the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of 9 March. It is part of a lengthy report on the Golden Jubilee Dinner of the Juridical Society. Sir Walter was one of its distinguished members:

"The health of "Sir Walter Scott, and the other honorary members present," was then proposed, in an excellent speech, by Mr Donaldson, and received with great applause.—Sir Walter, in a delightful reply, to which no report can do justice, returned thanks for himself and his brethren, and the other honorary members, saying, with much good humour, that it perhaps was quite right that he, who had earned his nomination by no legal distinction, and to whom the honour was thus the greatest, should be the first to acknowledge it. "For myself," said he, "I must honestly admit, and with such blushes as a thirty years connexion with the bar leaves me the power of mustering, that I perhaps have been rather a truant son of the law:" adding, that he had, however, a great affection and respect for the profession, and not a little for our own national law itself, which possessed a peculiar faculty of accommodating itself to all the varying circumstances of society, and had, indeed, at a very early period, exhibited a refinement and foresight, which were scarcely to be paralleled in that of any other country. He then proposed to drink to "the Law of Scotland," remarking, that "she had been a kind mother to us all, and did not even forget her truant sons, for whom she occasionally reserved a snug place to comfort their latter days."

Sir Walter's speech, which was long and loudly cheered, was followed up by toasts to the Lords President, Justice Clerk, Chief Baron, Chief Commissioner, and the other absent honorary members—

There is an intriguing reference to Napoleon's Will in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of 25 February:

BONAPARTE'S WILL.—The cause pending between M. JACQUES LAFITTE, the banker, and Counts MONTHOLON and BERTRAND, the bearers of the note written by NAPOLEON BONAPARTE, in which he desires M. LAFITTE to pay into their hands, six months after his decease, the sum of five millions deposited with him in the month of July, 1815, at the time of his departure for St Helena, was, on the 10th instant, called on before the First Chamber of the Tribunal of the First Instance. M. LAFITTE declared that he could not pay over the money except in presence of the guardians of BONAPARTE's heir, or those duly authorised; but in the mean time he offered to place the money in the chest of the office for deposits. A serious difficulty also arose from the claim of interest for five years and a half, at the rate of five per cent. M. LAFITTE contended that no stipulation had been made as to that point at the time the five millions were remitted to him; and that, considering them as a sacred trust, he had made no use whatever of the money. M. DUPIN was ready to state the case on behalf of the plaintiffs; but on account of the number of causes already commenced, and the pressure of business before the Court, the trial was deferred to the 23d of this month.—*Journal des Debats.*

The 15 April *John Bull* reported these three items:

LEICESTER.—At our Assizes the Grand Jury found a true bill against the Rev. W. Towne, for the wilful murder of Miss Wright, at Bottesford. Mr. Towne has fled the country, and will be outlawed, unless he surrenders for trial.

Sunday se'nnight, as the Hope coach was on its way from Mansfield to Chesterfield, one of the wheels came off, which caused the coach to upset, by which accident one gentleman, a Mr. Harrison, from Brightside, near Sheffield, was killed on the spot, and the guard and several passengers severely injured.

At the cotton-mill of Messrs. Hopper and Co. at Linby, on the 30th ult. W. Long, while engaged in brushing the dust from a certain part of the machinery during the time the works were in motion, his apron was caught by an iron pin that goes through the driving shaft; he was thrown with great force and violence several times over the shaft, and received such severe bruises on various parts of his body, as to cause his death in the space of forty minutes afterwards.

I'll finish this piece with an item from *John Bull* of 7 July. Oh those Londoners wanting everything to revolve around the capital!

We perceive that it is proposed to erect a monument to SHAKESPEARE at Stratford-upon-Avon, and that HIS MAJESTY's name appears as patron of the subscription.

That a national monument should be erected to the honour of one of the most illustrious of our countrymen seems but just to his memory, and honourable to the feelings of those who have chiefly been promoters of the scheme; but our national monuments should certainly be in the metropolis; and to say that SHAKESPEARE lived and died at Stratford, and that therefore the public memorial is to be erected in that place, is a mistake, and we are convinced that thousands who would subscribe to the honour of the immortal bard, were the monument to grace the capital, will withhold their contributions to the adornment of a dirty country town.

Suppose the DUKE of WELLINGTON (as might have been the case) had been born at Ballyochmahauagh or Killcrotheroddy, in Ireland, should we have been satisfied if the splendid monuments which are to commemorate (if such monuments be useful) his Grace's glorious achievements, had been placed in either of those rural and romantic villages? A national monument to PITT at Burton Pinesent; or to NELSON at Burnham Thorpe, would have been equally out of place.

If the inhabitants of Stratford themselves felt a sufficient enthusiasm to erect a tribute to their townsman in their own town, most proper would be the situation—the testimonial would be suited to the site, and the offering would be gratifying to the admirers of the Bard; but building a national monument in a country town is like placing a gold plateau upon a cottager's table. Besides, SHAKESPEARE is not considered merely or abstractedly as a native of Stratford by those who venerate his name; he is the immortal Bard of ENGLAND, and neither his fame nor his honours can be confined within the limits of his obscure birth-place.

We would recommend the Subscribers and Committee,

who have the thing at heart, to consider this suggestion. In the magnificent improvements daily taking place in the metropolis, a suitable situation might be found for such a work, and if it were agreed upon that London should contain it, and that the execution of the monument should be open to competition, we have no doubt the subscription would soon enable the Committee to proceed to work.

One thing we notice which appears very extraordinary in the nomination of the LONDON Committee. Perhaps our readers think we mean seeing the name of MR. BARRY CORNWALL there, alias MR. PETER PROCTOR; this is droll enough, we confess; to have selected such a specimen of British dramatists as the metropolitan patron of SHAKESPEARE is whimsical; but it is not *this*—it is the finding the name of MR. WASHINGTON IRVING in the same list.

MR. WASHINGTON IRVING is the author of a publication called the *Sketch Book*, (which, under the auspices of that Lord Chamberlain of the Muses, MR. MURRAY, who regulated its costume of wove paper and wide margin, and introduced it to the Beau-monde, after it had lain mouldering for months unnoticed in minor shops, has been very popular with light readers at the west end of the town,) and of a work called "KNICKERBOCKER'S" History of New York, very full of fun and quaintness; and moreover, MR. WASHINGTON IRVING is a very pleasant and gentlemanly man, modest, quiet, and unassuming, and therefore it is painful to find him published in this list; but MR. WASHINGTON IRVING is an American; at least, all the success of his works has arisen from the wonderment excited that a Yankee could have written so well. Now, really, what an American Sketcher can have to do in a London Committee, formed to commemorate SHAKESPEARE, we cannot see. If it is meant as a compliment to the Americans, which we suspect it to be, it is paid at too great a sacrifice. We repeat, we have no personal feeling against MR. IRVING; far from it—we are prepossessed in his favour; but as a general question, we certainly must say, that it does appear that a national monument could have been raised to SHAKESPEARE without selecting as a Committee-man, a member of a republic which has denationalized itself.

Alan L Clayton

POSTSCRIPT To add to the article in the previous Newsletter, here's another gem from the late 1820s:

At Nottingham, last week, one butcher sold his wife to another, for half a gallon of ale. As soon as the ale was drank, the obedient wife was delivered over to her purchaser, with whom she is now living.

(John Bull 11 December 1826)

If any male reader might be tempted to follow this example, he will have to be answerable to the Society's Chairman!

A. L. C.

A99/R(S/Adex)



SUTTON-ON-SEA

AND

MABLETHORPE

**Bank Holiday Monday
30th August 1965**

FROM	OUTWARD Times of Departure	RETURN FARES Second Class	ARRIVE BACK
WESTHOUSES & BLACKWELL	09 20	17/6	23 40
ALFRETON & SOUTH NORMANTON ...	09 24		23 37
PYE BRIDGE ...	09 30	16/6	23 26
CODNOR PARK & IRONVILLE	09 34		23 21
LANGLEY MILL & EASTWOOD	09 40		23 12
ILKESTON JUNCTION & COSSALL ...	09 48		23 04
TROWELL ...	09 52		22 58
STAPLEFORD & SANDIACRE ...	09 58		22 51
LONG EATON ...	10 05		22 43
BEESTON ...	10 18		22 31
SUTTON-ON-SEA ... arrive	12 37	Passengers return same day at ...	20 17
MABLETHORPE	12 46		20 07

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THIS TRAIN IN EACH DIRECTION

FOR DETAILS OF EXCURSION FACILITIES FROM THESE STATIONS TO SKEGNESS
ON SUNDAY & MONDAY, 29th & 30th AUGUST—see separate announcements.

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Further Information may be obtained from stations, Official Rail Agents or Divisional Commercial Manager
Alan House, Clumber Street, Nottingham. Telephone: 48531 Extn. 36.



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SIGNATURES FROM THE PAST

I invite readers to tell the editor if they have original documents bearing the signature of some well known person connected with Stapleford in the past and to send a copy of that signature for publication.

To start things off, here's my contribution. All are actual size.

- 1) From a letter to my father, Arthur Clayton, dated 22 April 1942:

*Yours sincerely
Arthur Mee*

- 2) From two of several speakers' programmes of the Stapleford Men's Sunday Morning Adult School 1909-1913:

G. Spencer

G. Spencer.

- 3) From another letter to my father, dated 8 August 1945. Lewis Richmond was the editor of the Nottingham Journal for a long time and I include him because he was a regular speaker at the Stapleford Adult School:

*Yours sincerely
Lewis Richmond*

- 4) The 'prize' has to be for this, which is from a Masonic document to which I have access, dated 16 November 1802:

John Borlase Warren

Alan L Clayton

NEW SCHOOL

Work is expected to begin soon on the new secondary modern school which is to be erected at the top of Toton Lane, Stapleford. The school will be near to the route of the proposed new by-pass.

School extension

Two new classrooms are being built at the Stevenson Primary School, Stapleford. The work is hoped to be finished during the course of the school year, which began this week. The classrooms are being built to deal with overcrowding at the school.

Peggy COOPER
(nee FERN)



1953/4
The first school crossing warden
at Stapleford.
(William Road)

Joseph E. Mills



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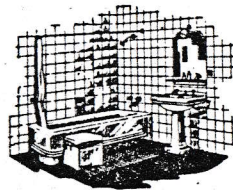
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Power failure hits pub —clock hits customer

SERVICE at two public houses in Stapleford was thrown into confusion on Tuesday evening when the electricity supply failed.

The failure was caused by a low voltage cable fault in Nottingham Road, Stapleford, near Mount Street.

The supply went off just before seven o'clock and was restored to several of the four or five consumers affected after about an hour and 20 minutes. Repairs to the fault were completed on Wednesday.

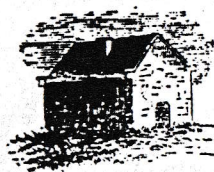
Mr. Ted Evans, licensee of The Horse and Jockey on Nottingham Road, said: "I just didn't know what to do. I could hardly see in the till and I could not find any candles because of the alterations that are in process on the premises.

"Eventually I was able to borrow a portable fluorescent light that works on a battery and we could see by that."

At the Chequers Hotel the electric clock on the wall stopped. A customer went to alter it—and was 'crowned' by the clock when it became unhooked and fell on his head. Fortunately, he was not hurt.

Ilkeston Pioneer

4th September 1959.



THE OLD WESLEYAN CHAPEL, STAPLEFORD.

The first Wesleyan Chapel in Stapleford was erected in the year of our Lord 1773, it was a small low building, with a flat roof, and was only used as a place of worship about four years.

In the year 1782, the Rev. John Wesley, our Venerable Founder, laid the Foundation of the second place of worship, one of the Members now living was present on the occasion, upon whose shoulder Mr. Wesley laid his hand whilst preaching the first sermon. The wood cut at the head of this page is a good representation of the Chapel then erected; at that time there was no Gallery, and the Methodist of those days considered this a noble effort; in after years the Gallery at the end was erected, afterwards the side Galleries. In consequence of the old Chapel being so very low and inconvenient, the friends have for a long time felt the great necessity of a better place of worship. It was at length resolved to enlarge and improve the Building, which has been done at a considerable expense, and the *present neat and commodious* Chapel is the result.

There are excellent Family Pews and other sittings, to be let at a moderate rate, but the principal feature of the interior, on which the Trustees rely for the assistance of a discerning and benevolent public, is the ample provision made for the accommodation of the *Poor*, in the shape of good *substantial rail-back Benches*, which occupy the entire centre of the Chapel. Besides the alterations already described, a large and *commodious* Room has been erected at the back of the Chapel, for the two-fold purpose of Sunday School Room and Vestry.

For particulars of the Opening Services see the next page.

Can you name the year these changes were made?

MOVEABLE VILLAGE FEASTS AND STATUTES

The Proprietor does not hold himself responsible for the exact dates.

Annesley, nearest Sunday to 1st Nov.	Hoveringham, Sunday after 11th Oct
Annesley Woodhouse, Sunday nearest the 1st November.	Keyworth, Whit Monday.
Arnold, Sunday after the 19th Sept.	Kimberley, Sunday nearest 20th Octo
Aslockton, Trinity Sunday.	Kinoulton, Sunday after St. Luke's I
Attenborough, first Sunday in Oct.	Kirton, Sunday after Whitsuntide.
Bastford, 2nd Sunday in October.	Lambley, Whit Sunday.
Beaston, Sunday before St. Peter's Day, or on that day when it falls on Sunday.	Langar, second Sunday after Whitsun, de
Beasthorpe, Sunday after 11th Oct.	Langley Mill, Sunday after 9th August.
Bilborough, Sunday before All Saints' Day, or on that day when it falls on Sunday.	Langwith, Sunday after 14th September.
Bleasby, Sunday after 19th of September.	Leverton (South), Last Sunday in Sept.
Brumcote, Old Michaelmas Day.	Linby, Sunday nearest to 11th October.
Broughton—Nether, Sunday after the 19th of September.	Long Eaton, last Sunday in August.
Broughton—Upper, second Sunday after the 11th of October.	Lowdham, first Sunday in September.
Bulcote, Trinity Sunday.	Mansfield, Statutes first Friday in Nov.
Bulwell, Sunday after the 5th November.	Mansfield Woodhouse, first Sunday after the 10th of July.
Burton Joyce, Sunday after 11th October.	Muskham (North), Sunday after the 12th of September.
Calverton, Sunday after 22nd October.	Nuttall, last Sunday in October.
Car Colston, Sunday after 15th June.	Orston, Sunday after the 19th September.
Carlton, first Sunday in November.	Oxton, Sunday after 10th of July.
Caythorpe, Sunday after 19th September.	Papplewick, last Sunday in August.
Clifton, first Sunday in November.	Plumtree, Sunday after Trinity.
Collingham (North and South) last Sun. in October.	Radcliffe-on-Trent, Sunday after the 19th of September.
Colston Bassett, Whit Sunday.	Ridding, last Sunday in July.
Cossall, Sunday nearest 25th November.	Ruddington, first Sunday in July.
Costock, third Sunday in September.	Sandiacre, first Sunday after Sept. 12th.
Cotgrave, first Monday in November.	Sawley, first Sunday after 11th Nov.
Cromwell, Sunday after 12th, September.	Scarrington, Whit Sunday.
Cropwell Bishop, Sun. after the 12th of Sept.	Scroveton, Sunday before 18th October.
Cropwell Butler, Sunday after 18th Oct.	Selston, Sunday before 10th July.
Cuckney, second Sunday after 29th Sept.	Shelford, Sunday after 29th June.
Dale Abbey, Sunday nearest 5th Nov.	Skegby, Sunday after 10th of July.
Eakring, Easter Tuesday.	Southwell, Statutes for hiring servants and held at Old and New Candlemas and Martinmas.
Edingley, Sunday after 13th September.	Stapleford, last Sunday in October.
Edwinstowe, Sunday, after 13th, Sept.	Stoke Bardolph, Sunday after 18th Oct.
Elston, Sun before Midsummer Day.	Stoke (East), first Monday in June.
Elton, Sunday after 11th of October.	Strelley, Sunday before All Saints' Day, or on that day if it falls on Sunday.
Epperstone, Sunday after 1st November	Sutton-in-Ashfield, second Sunday after the 10th of July.
Farneden, Sunday after 29th June.	Sverston, Sunday after first August.
Farnsfield, Sunday after 11th October.	Thrumpton, Whit Sunday.
Fiskerton, Trinity Sunday.	Tollerton, Sunday nearest 29th June.
Flawborough, Sunday after 29th June.	Trowell, Whit Sunday.
Flintham, Whit Sunday.	Watnall, Sunday after 2nd October.
Godling, Sunday after all Saints' Day, or on that day when it falls on Sunday.	Whatton, Sunday after Whitsuntide.
Gonalston, Sunday after 26th September.	Widmerpool, first Sunday in July.
Gotham, first Sunday in October.	Wilford, Sunday before St. Luke's Day, or on that day when it falls on Sunday.
Gronby, Sunday after 11th October.	Willoughby-on-the-Wolds, Sunday after the 11th of November.
Gringley-on-the-Hill, Sunday nearest the 20th of June.	Wollaton, Sunday nearest 6th Nov.
Gunthorpe, second Sunday in October.	Woodborough, Sunday after 2nd July.
Hallam, Sunday after 11th October.	Wysall, Trinity Sunday.
Heanor, Second Sunday in August.	

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From a 1900 Nottingham Almanac

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Malcolm Jarvis
(Contact via Stapleford Police Station)

Tel: 0115-943 0999 Extension 5761

CHAIRMAN - Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979

SECRETARY - Barbara Page 0115-939 2573

The deadline for submission of items for the next

Spring 2000 issue of the Newsletter is 30 March 2000.

Material can be given to any of the above named.

This is YOUR newsletter!

We should love to hear from you!