

Stapleford and District Local History Society



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29 October 2013

A VISIT TO THE NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM AND THE CITY OF YORK

By Colin Rowland

Between October and November 2013 a unique moment in railway history took place at the National Railway Museum at York – a chance to see not only one of the most famous locomotives in the world, but also to see the six surviving examples of the original 35 locos of its class that were built ie the A4 Pacific Class.

The occasion was to mark the 75th anniversary of the record breaking run between Grantham and Peterborough when, on 3 July 1938, *Mallard* became the fastest steam driven locomotive in the world, reaching a speed of 126 mph, breaking the record held by Germans of 124 mph set in 1936.

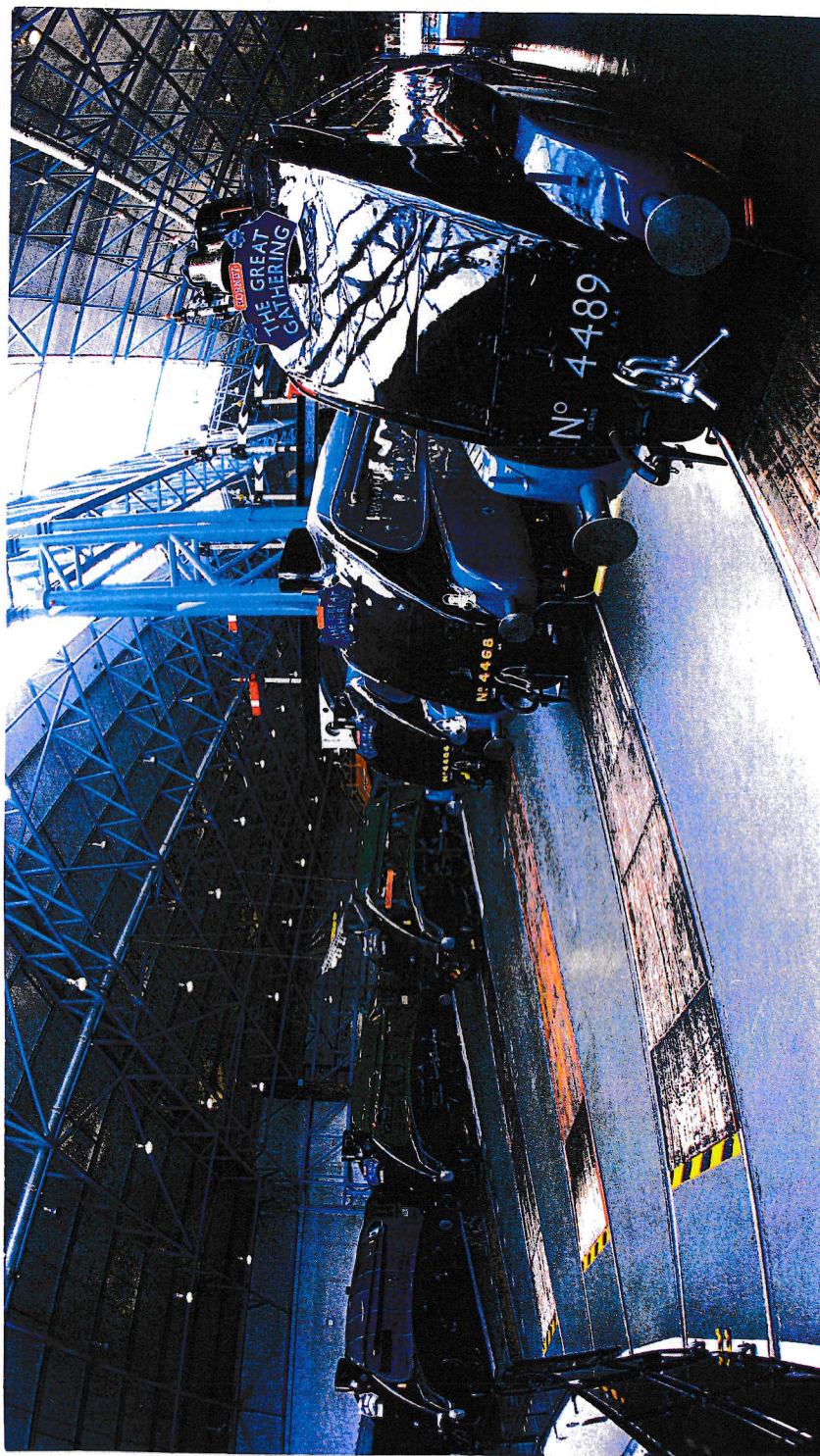
It involved a mammoth operation to bring all the engines together, as two of them were in North America. The *Dominion of Canada* (original name *Woodcock*) was brought over from Montreal, whilst *Dwight D Eisenhower* (original name *Golden Shuttle*) came over from Wisconsin. They joined the star of the show *Mallard* with *Bittern*, the *Union of South Africa* and *Sir Nigel Gresley*.

No 4468 *Mallard*, built at the LNER's Doncaster Works in 1938, was chosen as the ideal locomotive for the world speed record attempt, because it was the first of its class to be fitted with a double chimney.

Due to the subsequent evolution of the diesel engine and the outbreak of World War Two, *Mallard*'s record still stands and will do so forever.

In May 2013 the Museum launched a search to find drivers and other crew members who manned the footplates of these streamlined giants in their final decades. To date, 90 former crew members have come forward to tell their tales.

A visit to the Railway Museum is a truly exciting day out for the railway enthusiast. Opened in 1975, it has the largest collection of railway locomotives and rolling stock in the world, telling the story of



The Great Gathering (Courtesy of the National Railway Museum)

4489 Bittern, 4468 Mallard, 4489 (60010) Dominion of Canada,
4488 Union of South Africa, 4496 (60008) Dwight D Eisenhower, 4498 Sir Nigel Gresley

railways from the early 19th century to the present day, ranging from a replica of *Rocket*, originally built in 1829 by George Stephenson, to the *Evening Star*, the last steam locomotive to be built in Britain in 1960.

On display is the *Shinkansen*, better known as *The Bullet Train*, which can easily travel at 200mph and is the only bullet train outside Japan.

Also in the museum is the special carriage built for Queen Victoria.

By far the largest locomotive on display is the one built in Britain for the Chinese Railway, which is too wide and too high to run on our network.

It is safe to say that it would take a lot of words and many pages to describe all the exhibits in the museum, and it is a place you could visit time and time again.

Those who wished to do so could take a five minute walk into the city of York where you can spend hours wandering round its narrow streets, its ancient walls and impressive sights.

I'm sure a good day was had by all.

Thank you Alan.





On Tuesday 29th October 2013 I had the pleasure of visiting the National Railway Museum at York, thanks to Alan Clayton having arranged a visit there. On arrival our group split up to visit various areas of the museum. For me, it was a trip back in time to 50 years ago to when I worked on the railway back in the 1960s as a Fireman on steam locomotives and later on, diesels and electrics. The Railway museum is housed on one of the old roundhouse engine depots, (sheds as we called them), and just walking in brought back all those memories. The high building, railway lines, turntable, the echoes, the smell of cleaning oil etc. To my surprise as I walked in, there stood before me was steam engine 92220, Evening Star, a class 9 Freight engine. I last saw this engine 50 years ago when I worked at Willesden loco depot, London. My Driver Fred Morgan and I took this very engine from Willesden to Crew, hauling a very heavy goods train. What a lovely sight to see her after all these years, and to see her again in all her splendour. After numerous requests from people nearby it was a pleasure to tell the story I remembered about her, what a lovely day out. Many thanks Alan.

Editor.

MEETING REPORTS

13 November 2013

THE STORY OF HOPWELL HALL

by John Shaw

John opened his talk by making sure that everyone knew that Hopwell Hall is near the Notts/Derbys border, visible from the A52 Brian Clough Way, just past Risley. He told us that traceable Hopwell history goes back to the Domesday Book and we were shown a slide of the actual Domesday entry, and a translation.

John explained his difficulties in trying to trace Hopwell's ownership during the early Norman period and how he had partially solved them. He found that, very soon after the Domesday entry, Hopwell came to be owned by the very rich and powerful Sacheverell family, who had large land holdings in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. We saw pictures of tombs of various members of the family in several local churches.

The Sacheverell ownership of Hopwell eventually ended in 1661, when Ferdinand Sacheverell left Hopwell to Henry Keyes. There are hints that Henry was an illegitimate descendant. Again John explained the difficulties off the research, not helped by the 1912 fire in Church Wilne church, where records were kept. However, we saw pictures that were probably Henry Keyes (father or son) and his wife.

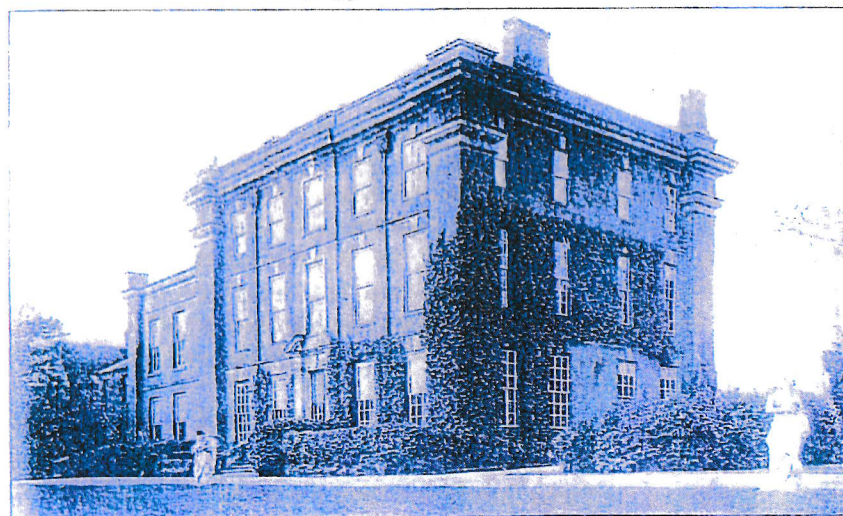
It was during Henry's ownership, in 1720, that Hopwell Hall was built. There had been an earlier house but there is very little information about it.

Henry sold the house to Bache Thornhill who only kept it for three years before selling it to Sir Bibye Lake. Sir Bibye was a traveller (Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, Canada, for many years) and it is questionable how much time he spent at Hopwell. However, there is evidence of his wife, Lady Jane Lake, having dealings in Ockbrook, so the house was not completely abandoned by them. Sir Bibye passed the house on to his grandson, Sir James Winter Lake, who sold it in 1796 to Thomas Pares.

The house was in the care of the Pares family for 123 years and was passed down in the family – four Thomases, a John and then an Edward. We were given some details about the Pares family and their interests, especially their



Thomas Pares (1716 – 1805) of Hopwell Hall
The Pares family owned Hopwell Hall for 123 years



Hopwell Hall 1910

artistic interests. They were bankers and merchants in Leicester, were local JPs and magistrates and one of the Thomases was an MP for part of Leicester. The Pares family sold it to Edward Elsey, a lace factory owner from Nottingham, but he only lived for a year after buying it.

The house then ceased to be a family home and by 1921 had become a residential school (owned by Nottinghamshire County Council) for boys with special needs.

After World War Two there was a demand for the school's expansion. The enlargement was started in the 1950s but the plans were halted by a fire in 1957. The old 1720 house was damaged irreparably, but the school was still needed, so a new building was constructed in the same place, using the CLASP building technique.

In 1973 the speaker, John himself, became a teacher at the school. It was still a residential school and had expanded to take 120 boys, all with various learning problems. John showed some pictures and explained various routines and practices in the school.

John left in 1986 and the school continued until 1995, when it was sold to Mr Ivor Jacobs, of Coldseal Windows fame. He spent a few million pounds on rebuilding. All the CLASP building was replaced by proper brick walls. John showed us pictures of the interior and exterior of the new Hopwell Hall. After nearly 100 years as a school, Hopwell had become a family home again. Mr Jacobs sold the Hall in 2005 for about £6 million, having bought it in 1995 for £355,000.

Here John ended the story. He said that it seemed too nose to research the present owners. However, he had recently been invited to the house and had been shown around the much changed interior.

This was a well researched and well illustrated talk. There was a lot of information but, as John said, there are still a lot of questions.

So, if you are coming up the M1 towards junction 25, or going along the Brian Clough Way to Derby, and you see a house on the hill floodlit with green light, you now know it was owned for a very long time by the Sacheverell family about 600 years ago, that it spent about 100 years as a boys' residential school, and is now a family home again.

John Shaw

8 January 2014

CATHERINE CROMPTON'S DIARY
by Stephen Flinders

What was going to be revealed in this diary that was so interesting? What secrets were to be unveiled after a century? Why was she of note? The well-known speaker would ensure that we were in for more than a list of events of the nineteenth century. And so it proved.

Catherine Mee married George William Crompton at St. Luke's church, Chelsea, on 1st August 1865. Both of them gave the same address in London. She was listed as having been born in Nottinghamshire; he came from the prominent Midlands Crompton family, with its bank, and its many interests in industry, including the Stanton Iron Works. There were numerous branches of the bank and George carried responsibilities within it. The couple already had a child, George, aged one, and in fact Catherine was heavily pregnant with another child at the time of the wedding, which was born 19 weeks after the ceremony.

They were to stay in London for fifteen years. Their various homes had been tracked down by Stephen and the result was a series of slides illustrating how they moved into larger premises as their family increased. Their home from 1869 was in Maida Vale, a suitably large villa next door but one to the innovative engineer Joseph Bazalgette. The couple had 11 children at intervals of around two years or less on average.

It was in July 1867 that Catherine began her diary, which she kept until her husband's death in 1897. It is of a simple pattern, recording daily happenings, rather than an in-depth account of the inner thoughts of the owner, or comments on what was happening in the wider world. Some of the most poignant entries in the diary are the stark details of the deaths of her children. At least five of her children died as babies or young children, not uncommon in those days even in wealthy families. A typical entry: 1874 Henry Bell born 9 am - bout of illness - baby died 11th April - baby buried. George, her husband, was often away soon after, or even when, she was confined. Her diary frequently carries the entry "George to Wellingborough" where the family business had interests in a quarry.

However, beside her domestic life, Catherine would record events of a dramatic nature, especially those in London. In 1869 she attends the opening of the Holborn Viaduct. She goes to a Spiers and Pond Restaurant

– restaurants at railway stations for the 'more discerning' traveller. In February 1872 she has a seat to see Queen Victoria processing to St Paul's to give thanks for the recovery of Prince Edward from sickness. In 1874 she records the fire at the storage facility called the Pantechnicon, supposedly fire proof, but burned down, taking many people's possessions with it. Also in 1874 there was a severe explosion in Regent's Park, that could be heard up to 25 miles away, and caused devastation in a 2 mile perimeter. (Old newspaper photos gave some idea of the damage). A barge carrying gunpowder and petrol through the canal had exploded. Three people were killed and the law about what could be carried by barges through built up areas was tightened up.

After 15 years in London, Catherine and George returned to Stanton Hall, Stanton by Dale, where they participated in the local life. However, Catherine yearned for London and when her husband died in 1897 it was not long before she returned there, living in a property close to Regent's Park, well-provided for. When she died, her estate was valued at £65,000 (between £9 and £10 million in today's equivalent). So, on the surface, this seems to be the story of a typical middle class Victorian couple, with a large number of children, succeeding through hard work and prudence.

But then Stephen took us on a journey, through a series of documents, birth certificates, marriage certificates and census records, worthy of the programme 'Who do you think you are?', which showed an extraordinary life. Born, out of wedlock, in the Nottinghamshire countryside, she was raised by her grandparents in Scarrington. After her mother married she went to live with her and her new husband, Joseph Bacon. Her mother died of typhus in 1860, when Catherine was 21. Her step-father wished to marry again, so sought the help of George's father to supply employment for his step-daughter. He obliged by taking her on as a servant in his household.

This was the turning point for Catherine. By 1864 she had borne a child to George and, when she was pregnant again, they moved to London and married. It was not unusual for 'masters' to make use of their servants. What was noteworthy was that George married Catherine, and from these beginnings they built a strong and lasting marriage. Catherine had the skills to 'rise above her station' and finish her life a very wealthy woman, living in a state above the wildest dreams of her mother.

Meg Oliver

12 February 2014

VIC HALLAM – ONE MAN AND HIS COMPANY
by Robert Mee

Vic Hallam was born in Marlpool, Derbyshire on 15 November 1898, the son of John, a miner, and his wife, Clara. He had two brothers and three sisters.

In those days Marlpool had a pool and the first picture we saw was of Vic and his brothers in a boat on that pool.

He joined the Army in 1918 (Coldstream Guards) by which time the First World War was over. He became a miner, but more important in his story was his hobby – poultry keeping. He built a lot of poultry-sheds and at times his shed building became so successful, and he got so many orders, that he had to take time off from his mining job. Eventually he left the pit and began full time poultry-shed building. He used the land area of the then filled-in Marlpool Pool. His first type of Poultry House was called the 'Nulli Secundus' – doubly clever because not only does it mean 'Second to none' but also it is the motto of the Coldstream Guards.

In the 1920s he started taking on staff and by 1933 he had 33 employees. By 1936 he had 90 employees!

His business system was that the components for the sheds were built in Marlpool and then taken by workers to various places where they were erected. One of the biggest early contracts was to build the Derbyshire Miners' Camp at Skegness (a rival to Butlins). It was to have room for 1000 people and was opened in 1939.

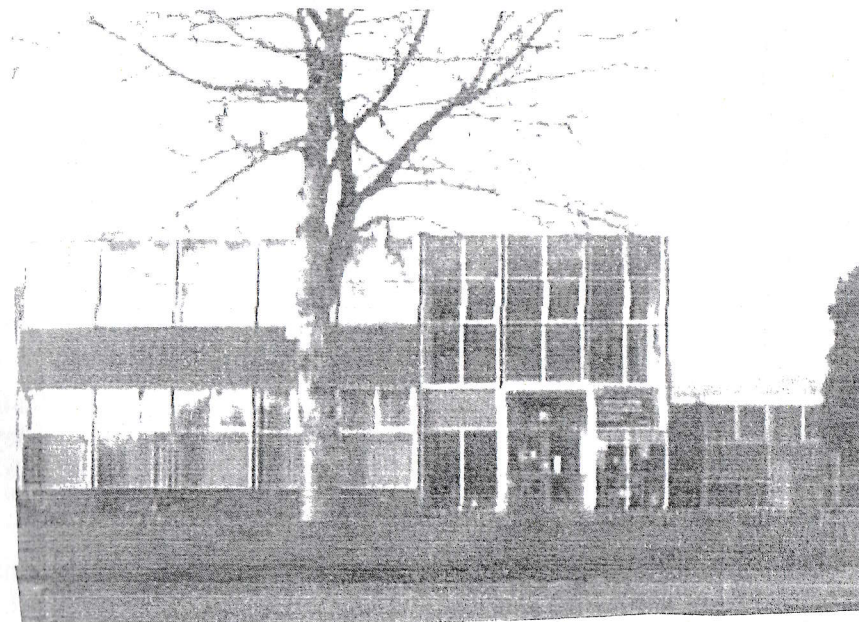
The Vic Hallam business was soon growing so quickly that he had New Valley Works built at Langley Mill in 1939. This factory was no sooner finished than it was requisitioned by the Government for munitions manufacture. (The Holiday Camp at Skegness became an Army Camp.) The upshot of this was that the Government noticed how good the factory buildings were.

During World War Two he served as a Major in the Home Guard.

When the war was over in 1946 Vic Hallam Ltd moved into the New Valley Works. The business continued to expand and diversified into the building of components for post war 'pre-fab' housing. This side of the firm grew rapidly and soon Vic Hallam Ltd was building housing estates and flats and some factories (one example is the Pork Farms factory on Queen's Drive in Nottingham). We were shown pictures of examples of all these products. They even started making classrooms, and in 1951 the Clifton Primary School was built using his 'modular system'. He also made the desks and chairs!



Vic Hallam, 1898 – 1991



Heanor Library by Vic Hallam Ltd

By 1956 he had 200 men working on constructing various buildings and they built the first ever Motorway Service Station, at Keele.

He called his house building system 'Sectional Housing' and Vic Hallam Homes were built all over England and Ireland. A lot of these houses were wood based, but he also started building conventional brick built housing estates.

At the same time as all this (in fact from 1946 onwards) he had started making furniture cabinets for TVs and radios. The furniture side of the business grew as well.

He did eventually stop making sheds but made chalets and portacabins and the roadside offices used by the AA.

In 1972 he started Hallam Plastics and this is the only part of the firm still in existence.

In 1963 the company had an annual turnover of about £2million and it was very much a family firm. They hit various financial difficulties in the 1970s. The family lost control (taken over in 1972), they became The Hallam Group and went into the red.

In 1991 Vic Hallam died, aged 91.

In 1995 The Hallam Group company closed.

This was a very well illustrated and very clear, though detailed, talk. There were pictures of all aspects of the Company and Robert Mee made it into a very interesting story.

I came to Nottinghamshire in 1973 and knew the name Vic Hallam, but only as a furniture manufacturer, so the whole talk was a real eye-opener. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

John Shaw

12 March 2014

HISTORY OF NOTTINGHAM HOSPITALS

by Paul Swift

Paul began by saying that he would concentrate on Nottingham's three main hospitals and explain the differences in their foundation and the way they developed - The City Hospital, Nottingham General Hospital and the Queen's Medical Centre.

The City Hospital

The City Hospital had its foundation in the Poor Law 1834 which caused the growth of Workhouses all over England. The City Hospital evolved from the New Workhouse and Infirmary which had been forced to move from York Street in Nottingham because of the construction of the Great Central Railway line and Victoria Station. It moved to its present site and in 1903 was renamed and re-opened as the Bagthorpe Workhouse and Infirmary. It was

designed by architect Arthur Marshall and built on land owned by the Vicar of Basford. Included were the buildings of The Garden Hospital, which had helped smallpox victims in the 1870s, and Bagthorpe Isolation Hospital.

We were shown pictures of these and a map of the farmland on which they were built. Paul had a very interesting selection of 'Then and Now' photographs which added a lot of interest to the presentation.

During World War One it was used as a Military Hospital. In 1925 a 'modern' operating theatre was opened and Dr Robert Hogarth did some major pioneering work on radiotherapy. In 1930 it was named The City Infirmary and in 1935 became The City Hospital, with the City Hospital Farm occupying the area of the present very large car park. During World War Two it again became a military hospital and it is said that Vera Lynn sang in the Lister Ward in 1943.

Nottingham General Hospital

This hospital was based on very different principles. It was, from the start, dependent on charity. In 1773 John Key from Fulford Hall in York left £500 for a hospital in Nottingham. The bequest was dependent on others raising the rest of the money needed. Money was collected from such notables as Sir Henry Cavendish and Sir Richard Arkwright, and in 1781 the foundation stone was laid. The hospital opened the following year. The patients were expected to bring their own clothes, cups and spoons etc.

The hospital grew and in 1897 the Jubilee Wing was opened, adding another 66 beds. All expansion of the hospital came from charitable gifts. Paul pointed out that most of these gifts came from industries that nowadays would be regarded as questionable ie cigarettes and beer (Players and Shipstones). There was a Shipstones Operating Theatre and in 1927 a new children's ward was added, funded by William Goodacre Player.

Paul then showed us a succession of pictures of the buildings (wards, laboratories, offices, clinics, nurses' accommodation and even an impressive chapel) that were added to the General Hospital right up until 1973, when the Trent Wing was added, because of delays in building the QMC. The 'Then and Now' photographs worked very well here, showing modern usage of the old hospital buildings.

The Queen's Medical Centre

In July 1977 Her Majesty the Queen opened the Queen's Medical Centre. The main reason for the positioning of this building was to bring it near to Nottingham University, in order to facilitate medical research and teaching.

The chosen site was a housing estate in 1969 and there were many strong objections. The idea was conceived in 1965 and building began in 1971.

We were shown pictures of the building in progress and the Queen's visit in her Jubilee Year. Paul proudly showed us a picture of the original Royal Charter which, he said, is now in his archive.

Paul Swift is obviously the expert on the History of Nottingham Hospitals. It was a privilege to listen to him. I don't think he even scratched the surface of his knowledge in this talk. His enthusiasm and excellent illustrations made it a very enjoyable and informative evening.

For anyone wanting more details and information Paul recommended his website:- www.nottinghamhospitalshistory.co.uk and various YouTube videos (put in – Paul Robert Swift).

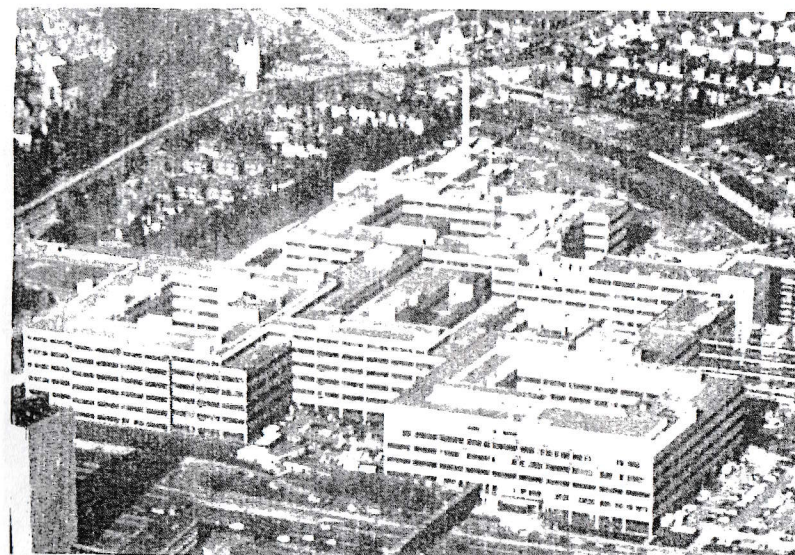
John Shaw



Bagthorpe Workhouse, now part of Nottingham City Hospital



Nottingham General Hospital, 1872



The Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham

AUDREY CHOULERTON, 1928 – 2013

Audrey, who died on 10 December 2013 at the age of 85, was a keen and devoted member of the History Society for many years. She was always happy to help in any way to promote the Society, either loaning family photographs for our various publications, or wearing period costume on our stalls at different events around the town. She was free with her advice and vast knowledge of Stapleford events and residents, as she had lived in Stapleford all her life.

Audrey Aileen Choulerton was born on 17 August 1928 at 32 Nottingham Road, Stapleford. Her mother was Sarah Elsie Choulerton, formerly Dobson, and her father was Charles Frederick Choulerton, a social club steward at the Crown Social Club, 102 Nottingham Road, Stapleford. Audrey was from a well established local family. In fact, through her paternal grandmother, Anne (nee Atkin), she could trace her family right back to a Moses Atkin, who was born about 1660 and was buried at Stapleford in 1709. Moses married Elizabeth Jackson of Stapleford on 16 November 1686. Audrey's great grandfather, John Atkin, born in 1834, was bandmaster of the Stapleford Town Band, and her grandfather, James William Choulerton, was the organist and choirmaster at St Helen's Church.



Sadly, Audrey's mother died in 1934, when Audrey was only 5 years old, and her father died four years later in 1938. She was looked after by her father's elder sister, Aunt Annie, and husband George, who lived at 28 Nottingham Road. Some of our more mature members will remember that address as the newsagent at the corner of Nottingham Road and Cliffe Hill Avenue.

Aunt Annie took over the ownership of the Crown Social Club and, when she died in 1971, Audrey inherited the Club and it was rented out. In 1987 Audrey had it converted into a bungalow where she made her home. Audrey attended St John's Church of England Primary School and later worked in the office at Sail Brothers.

Audrey was a sociable person, enjoying the company of her friends and family, and liked nothing better than sharing a drink or a meal with them. She enjoyed music and would occasionally play the piano. She enjoyed the company of her pet cairn terrier, which she took on holiday to her caravan at Skegness. Family and friends were often invited to stay there with her too.

Sadly, in 2005, Audrey suffered a stroke, which left her severely incapacitated, and she spent her remaining years in Bramcote Nursing Home.

Audrey will be missed by all who knew her over the years.



Stapleford's Street Names

The student of local history gets very excited about old field names, but the modern equivalent of street names is equally interesting. I have been looking at the development of social housing in Stapleford and the way in which streets were named on the new housing estates. I thought it might be a good idea to use the local knowledge of members of the Society and try to establish the source of some of the street names in the town. Who were Cyril, Horace, Edward, Harriett and Frederick? Victoria and Alexandra are obvious, as are Church, Mill, Manor and Pinfold. Here are a few I have discovered:

Anthill – local family

Archer – named after Fred Archer who owned Seed Farm on which Eatons Road estate was built

Arthur Mee – Stapleford's second most famous inhabitant

Baulk Lane – the parish boundary unploughed strip

Bessell Lane – Bee's hill. Enclosure map gives both

Birley – headmaster of St John's School

Borlace – Sir John Borlase Warren (note the misspelling!)

Bridgend – field name

Brookhill – derives from Brock Hill (badger's hill)

Crawford – Crawford Hillis – vicar and councillor

Ewe Lamb Lane – probably derived from Yule Holm

Gibbon – land owner

Harrison – councillor

Hillfield – open field before enclosure

Langdon – a family name of the Sherwins

Northwood – councillor

Parker Gardens – Walter Parker, Stapleford's VC winner

Pasture Road – field name

Peatfield – councillor

Revill – farmer and councillor

Ryecroft – old field name

Starch Lane – later renamed Ilkeston Road – after the starch factory

Sherwin – local family from Bramcote

Taylor – farmer and councillor

Towle Avenue – later renamed Warren Avenue – local family

Wadsworth – land owner

Welch – J T Welch, chairman and councillor

There are many others. If you know the source of any of the street names in Stapleford, particularly if you have 'inside' knowledge, share it with the rest of us.

Keith Goodman

PROGRAMME

11 June Spinster of no occupation? Mary Ellen Shaw, 1859 – 1926
Rowena Edlin-White

9 July Stapleford in World War II
Barbara Brooke, John Shaw, Nigel Brooks

13 August Strelley Village
Tony Horton

10 September Yesterday on film (Long Eaton in 1930s)
Wyvern Amateur Video Enthusiasts (WAVE)

8 October The History of Cromford Canal
Barrie Lings

12 November Murder, Misfortune and Mystery
Peter Hammond

10 December Christmas Social Event

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Society has once again had a good year with interesting and stimulating talks at our monthly meetings. It is great that members are willing to give some of these talks. 'The History of Toton Marshalling Yard' presented jointly by our member Phil Burton, with Brian Amos, attracted an audience of almost a hundred. John Shaw told the thousand year story of Hopwell Hall, where he once taught, and Nigel Brooks showed 'Views of Old Stapleford'.

From these photographs and others taken recently from more or less the same places, Nigel has prepared 'Stapleford Past and Present', an attractive full colour book, with pages suitably captioned. This is now with the printers and will be launched at Stapleford Library on Saturday 10 May between 10am and 12.30pm at a cost of £6.00. We have priced this as cheaply as possible, so please tell your friends and neighbours about it so that it sells well.

The Society mounted displays at Sawley & District Local History Day in May, at Erewash Museum's Heritage Open Day in January and in St Helen's Church, Stapleford, as part of the National Heritage Open Days weekend in September. Eileen Bloor and I led two walks round Stapleford Town Trail, one as part of the National Heritage Open Days weekend and the other as part of Broxtowe's Guided Walks programme. I gave my usual talk on the history of Stapleford to George Spencer Academy year 7 students and another to Beeston Ladies Probus Group. Nigel, John Shaw and I gave a power point presentation to Bramcote History Group about our 'Stapleford in World War Two' book. We shall repeat this to our Society at the July meeting.

During the last year members have enjoyed taking part in the Beeston Society's outings to Brodsworth Hall in South Yorkshire, to Berkeley Castle and town in Gloucestershire and to the National Railway Museum and the city of York. Unfortunately, through ill health, Alan Clayton is no longer able to organise these outings, but those of us who have taken part in any of the 40 plus 'days out' have really appreciated the effort, care and attention to detail which have made them so interesting and enjoyable.

Following on from his research last year into the stories of the nearly 200 Stapleford men who fell in World War One, Malcolm has now created a comprehensive mobile display showing his results. This also includes the story of Albert Keeling, who was the first local man to die in September 1914. This will all be shown adjacent to the actual war memorial in the chapel in St Helen's Church every Saturday morning from August to November 2014

between 10am and midday, when the church is normally open. Nearby will be information about the various organisations; web sites and other sources that would be helpful to anyone wanting to carry out their own research. Someone from our Society will be on hand each Saturday morning to help and advise any such visitors.

For well over four years our Society has been part of the Southern Broxtowe Blue Plaques Group, working with Beeston and District Civic Society, Beeston and District Local History Society and the Bramcote Old Church Tower Group to commemorate interesting people and places in this area. It is interesting and rewarding, but sometimes frustrating, work and we are pleased to be nearing the end of our project. As you know, we already had two plaques in Stapleford, to commemorate Arthur Mee and Admiral Sir John Borlase Warren.

During the past year two more blue plaques were unveiled, the first on the wall next to the front gates of St. John's Church of England Primary School on Nottingham Road, as part of a special day celebrating the school's return to its own premises after a major refurbishment, and its 175th anniversary.

The second plaque, on the wall by the former Wesley Place Methodist Chapel, records the fact that the chapel was built near the place where John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, preached to the people of Stapleford on his visits in 1774 and 1780.

Sadly, I have to report the deaths of several members, firstly a former Society member, Audrey Headland, who lived in Toton, who had been ill for some time.

Very shortly after last year's AGM, the death took place of Alderman Tom Martin C de G at the age of 95. For many years he served on Stapleford Town Council and Broxtowe Borough Council and was mayor of the town and the borough. He was a tireless worker for the town and its residents and served on many community committees, one of which, Stapleford Core Group, commissioned the seat in his memory, recently installed in front of the library.

Audrey Choulerton died in December at the age of 85. She was a much valued committee member of this Society and, as a lifelong Stapleford resident, had a vast fund of knowledge about local people, places and events. Sadly, following a stroke in 2005, she spent her last few years in Bramcote Nursing Home. Nigel has written an obituary which will be included in the Spring newsletter.

We have had three committee meetings during the year when we take an overview of the Society's activities, and the archives group continues to work steadily on sorting and cataloguing our material about Stapleford.

It is now time for me to record, on your behalf, thanks to all those who do the important work that contributes to the smooth running of our Society, Pat Hodgkiss, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary, ably assisted by husband John, Nigel Brooks as Programme Secretary, producer of the Society's popular cards, and in charge of publicity, Malcolm Jarvis, Newsletter Editor and researcher for local articles, Pat Kelly, our librarian, helped by Dorothy Prentice, Eileen Bloor who runs the sales stall and all those who produce reports on meetings and outings and articles about the local area. Our thanks go to Robert Butler for arranging to have our accounts audited by C J Lucking and Company and to Lillian and Tony Britton for serving refreshments, and to everyone who helps in any way with the Society.

We all enjoy and appreciate our membership, but, as the Treasurer will tell us shortly, membership is down and some people are finding it difficult to get to meetings through ill health or frailty, meaning that the Society is finding it hard to balance the books, and we need some new members. Can you persuade friends or neighbours to come along to a meeting and give us a try?

Thank you for your friendship and I look forward with confidence to the successful future of our warm, lively Society.

Barbara Brooke
Chairman and Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Once again we had a reasonably good financial year helped out by some well attended talks. The cost of speakers proves to be more expensive but the quality usually shines through

A donation was given towards the Wesley Place Chapel plaque which is the third plaque the Society has helped to fund, a lasting legacy for Stapleford from our small, but enthusiastic, group.

Membership was slightly down, but this, I suppose, is to be expected due to the fact of age. We must try our best to recruit new members to swell our numbers and bring in some younger blood. Last year we had 55 members, but this year we have only 49, which brought in £301 in annual membership fees. We need £288 per year to hire the Maycliffe Hall and then we have to rely on monthly meeting charges, sales etc to cover the cost of speakers and printing. Occasionally we don't manage to cover the cost of the speaker! Some of our members cannot attend meetings, but we are grateful for their subscriptions to help fund our activities. Average attendance was 28.

My thanks go to members of the committee for their continued support and to C J Lucking and Company for auditing the accounts.

Pat Hodgkiss
Treasurer and Membership Secretary

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Colin Rowland had indicated his wish to resign from the Committee and our thanks go to him for his service. All other members had indicated their willingness to continue, so they were automatically re-elected for a further two years: Eileen Bloor, Nigel Brooks, Malcolm Jarvis, Pat Kelly, Meg Oliver, John Shaw. Two nominations for additional Committee members had been received – Margaret Watt, proposed by Pat Kelly and seconded by Dorothy Prentice and John Hodgkiss, proposed by Eileen Bloor and seconded by John Cordon. They were unanimously approved.

ARCHIVE MATERIAL ACQUIRED 2013/2014

Large photographs:
Stapleford Brookhill Football Club 1920/21
Johnson & Barnes Football team 1925/26
Johnson & Barnes Ladies Football team 1921
Firemen with Trophies 1941
Letter of commendation re winning pump competition 1944
170 Engineers Freedom of Entry Parade, 4 May 2013 – poster, programme and photographs, cutting re shop window competition
Walter Parker VC Commemoration Service sheet
Heritage Open Days leaflet, 12/15 September 2013
Various cuttings re 1360 Squadron (Stapleford & Sandiacre) ATC
Hemlock Stone Nottm University Geospatial Institute project
Cuttings -Meeting Place opens, Police move to Meeting Place
Broxtowe's new Mayor
Cuttings re Stapleford Community Group
S&S News 29/12/1967 – complete page including a reminiscence on Stapleford's history and many local adverts
S&S News 16/08/1952 – interesting potted history of Stapleford
Broxtowe BC Civic Service, St Helen's Church, Stapleford 06/10/2013
St Helen's church – photos of some stained glass windows
Photo Taylors Farm, Hickings Lane 1947/8, closeup of farmhouse

Photo Hickings Lane/Ilkeston Road junction
 Cutting S&S News 1969 – Stapleford Manor House and Lord of the Manor
 Photo of Stapleford Youth Mayor & another with Broxtowe Mayor
 Cutting about restocking of canal with fish

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY 2013/2014

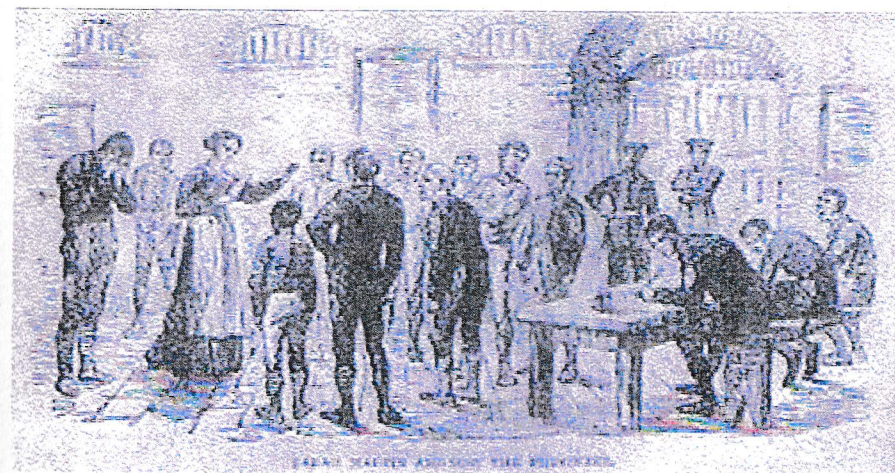
Basford Bystander, April/May no. 157, June/July no.158, Aug/Sept no.159, Oct/Nov.no.160, Dec/Jan.2014 no.161
 Local History News, Spring 2013 no.107, Summer no 108, Autumn no.109
 The Local Historian, Volume 43 - May 2013 no.2, Aug no.3, October no.4
 Ilkeston & District Local History Society Newsletter – Sept/Oct 2010 no.5, Jan/Feb 2011 no.7, Dec/Jan 2013 no.17, Feb/March/April 2013 no.18, May/June/July 2013 no.19, Aug/Sept.2013 no.20
 Beeston Echoes, 40th Anniversary Edition 1972-2012
 Nottinghamshire Historian, Autumn/Winter 2013 no.91 (interesting article on a) 500th anniversary of Nottingham High School and on the school's founders, the Mellors family, b) development of The Park.
 'The Lacemakers' by Edward Jarvis, the story of English Lace
 'The Green – A Journey through Time' by Basford & District History Society
 Arthur Mee's 'Derbyshire'
 'Labour of Love – Embroidery's Tribute, Chapter House exhibition at Southwell Minster, marking 60th anniversary of Coronation of HM the Queen
 'Stanton, Gone but not Forgotten', by Stephen Flinders and Danny Corns
 'Nottingham – Then and Now' by Douglas Whitworth
 Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Railways – Past & Present' by Chris Banks
 'The Wharncliffe Companion to Nottingham – An A to Z of Local History' by Geoffrey Oldfield
 'Nottingham in Focus' – Evening Post – Frank Stevenson

STAPLEFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOCAL STUDIES RECENT ACQUISITIONS

The Westbrook Affair by A R Dance (a novel)	L85
The King's Revenge by Don Jordan and Michael Walsh	L90
The Devil's Beat by Robert Edric	L85
Toton Engineman by Woolley	L38.5

The prisoner's friend.

Sarah Martin, who will ever be distinguished for her philanthropic efforts for the reform of criminals and the education of the poor, was born in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth in 1791, and supported herself by dressmaking. She began her career by requesting permission to read the Scriptures to prisoners in the jail at Yarmouth. Then she took to instructing them in reading and writing, giving up to this work one day in eve3ry week. To this day other days were afterwards added, and thou she lived by her labour, "the loss", she says, "were never felt". In the end, however, all her time was given up to the care and education of the prisoners, her means of livelihood then consisting of the interest of two or three hundred pounds inherited from her grandmother. And a small grant made to her from the borough funds of Yarmouth. Her success in her self-imposed task was wonderful. Having first made a moral and religious impression on those she took in hand, she strengthened it by every means in her power. Idleness was their great ban, and she, the art to make them love labour, and was ingenious in finding them work. Martin died in the 43rd year of her age.



From an 1898 Almanac
 Editor.

Evening News 10th January 1900
Stapleford vinegar Brewery Ltd.

This company has just been registered with a capital of £20,000 in £10 shares (725 "A" Preference, 500 "B" Preference. And 725 Ordinary) to acquire from Edward W. Field certain freehold premises at Stapleford in the county of Nottingham, and to carry out the business of vinegar brewers, pickle makers, manufacturers, importers of wholesale and retail dealers in any food, commodity, article, or thing of the nature of or allied to food for human consumption, manufacturers of casks, bottles, jars, pots, and receptacles, etc. The subscribers are:-

Edward W. Field. Cloud House, Sandiacre, Derbyshire, brewer.

Thos. I Birkin, Ruddington Grange, Nottingham, gent.

Phillip A. Birkin, Bestwood Lodge, Nottinghamshire, brewer. Son of Thos I Birkin (1869-1951).

Richard Challands, Clumber Road West, The Park, Nottingham, lace manufacturer (retired).

John Smith, Haddon House, Cavendish Crescent North, The Park, Nottingham, lace manufacturer.

John B. Wharton, Upper College-street, Nottingham, lace manager.

Samuel Bourne, The Park, Nottingham, cotton spinner.

The number of directors is to be three. The first are: - Edward W. Field (managing director).

Richard Challands, and Philip A. Birkin; qualification, £300; remuneration, £50 each per annum. Registered office, The Brewery, Stapleford, Nottingham.

Thomas Isaac Birkin (1831 - 1922), the son of Richard Birkin (1805 - 1870). Richard was the founder of the famous lace business. In 1855 Richard and Thomas built a warehouse on Broadway in the Lace Market, Nottingham designed by T.C. Hine. Thomas was created a Baronet in 1905 and when he died in 1922 left a fortune of £2.1 million (equivalent to £84 million today).

Nigel Brooks

THE LATEST HOME

FOR FAMOUS ALES



THE JAGUAR

HICKINGS LANE, STAPLEFORD

NOW
GONE.

HOME ALES ARE BEST

HOME BREWERY Co. Ltd., DAYBROOK, NOTTS.

Taken from "A History of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire"

By R. Penniston Taylor 1951 - 1956.

1705 and buried on 20th August 1767; Charles, baptised 9th August 1707, died 1748 and was at one time Rector of Ludgershall, Buckinghamshire; Katherine, baptised 20th June 1711 and buried on 12th February 1712; James, baptised 15th February 1713. He entered Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and took his LL.B. degree in 1738. He was Rector of Stratton Audley and Ludgershall in 1748 (probably in succession to his brother). And later on in life it seems that he retired to Stapleford, for on the 20th February 1769 John Langford and his wife Elizabeth, of Stapleford, sold to Rev. James Warren of Stratton Audley, a cottage and cowpasture in Stapleford for £60. (1) James died in Stapleford in 1773 and was buried on 23rd December; His sister, Frances, was baptised 17th January 1714 and died 27th July 1784; then came Dorothy, baptised 7th January 1715 and buried 10th January in the same year; Elizabeth, baptised 18th December 1715, died 13th March 1794; and lastly, Mary, baptised 15th April 1717, died 15th August 1783 at Risley, and was buried at Stapleford on 22nd August. Borlase Warren was buried 15th May 1747 and his wife five years later on 3rd April 1752.

Thomas Draper, servant to Borlase, was buried 29th December 1738.

THE WILL OF BORLASE WARREN

"I give my wife all her jewels and my best coach and six of my coach horses.

If my wife chooses to live at my capital mansion house (Stapleford Hall) rather than at Little Marlow. Whereas by my marriage settlement the sum of £10,000 is to be raised for the portions for the daughters and younger sons, the said sum is to be divided equally among them. I give to my son Arnold Warren over and above his portion one annuity of £100 for life.

I give Hannah Towle of Toton and her five children, John, Ann, Francis, Hannah and James, commonly known by the surname of Norford, £20 a year each for their lives.

I will my eldest son, or son in charge of my estate, to pay to the above children of Hannah Towle, £200 each at 21 years.

I give Hannah Towle a further annuity of £20.

I make my son Arnold and the said Hannah overseers and trustees of my will.

I give all my younger children £50 each.

The residue to my eldest son Borlase Warren (John Borlase Warren) and I appoint him executor.

Witnesses: Mary Firth; R. Holdew; L. Caleire.

Will signed 19th January 1746. (2)

Of the children of Borlase and Ann Warren, John Borlase is the one which concerns us most. He inherited the Stapleford and Little Marlow estates, and, like his father and grandfather before him, became High Sheriff of Nottingham. His term of office was from 14th January 1751 until 13th January 1752. On the 14th November 1752, at what was rather an advanced age for marriage in those days, he married Bridget Rossell at Risley.

Sources of information;

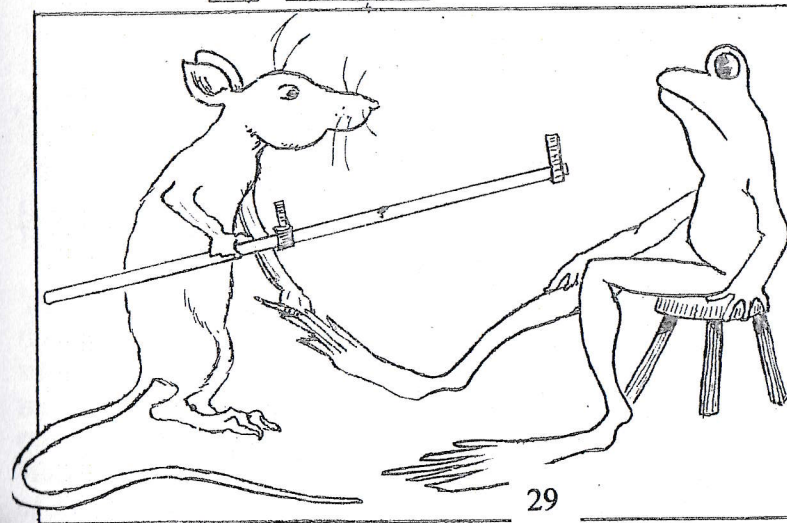
(1) Deed in Nottingham City Library.

(2) P.C. York.

The above is copied from pages 62 and 63 of the notes of Ralph Penniston Taylor for "A History of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire", 1951 - 1956.

With thanks to Keith Goodman who rescued all these documents for the Stapleford and District Local History Society after Mr Penniston Taylor died.

The Shoemaker



My smallest size
is twenty-four.

Your foot is
scarce nineteen

You've really got
the neatest foot

In all my life
I've seen!

Yours Very Sincerely,
Cousin
John
X-X-O-S

The Ilkeston Leader. Saturday January 4th 1862.

The number of Post Office savings banks now in operation throughout England and Wales is about 1700. It is to be intended that the system shall, in the month of February be extended to Ireland and Scotland. Several old savings banks have of late voluntarily discontinued business, and have assisted their depositors in transferring their assets to the Post Office banks. It may here be stated that henceforth, money orders to the amount of £10 are to be issued at all the money-order offices throughout the United Kingdom. The charge for a £10 order is 1s.

At the Shirehall Thomas Hardy was charged by Pc Hallam with wilful damage to a fence belonging to Mr Robinson of Stapleford. He pleaded guilty and was fined 10s 6d.

Concert: On Christmas Eve a concert was given by the Stapleford Sal Fa Association under the able tuition of Mr J Harrison, assisted by Mr Isaac Harrison of Nottingham, who presided at the piano, and also by Miss P. Harrison, who sung several pieces of music in which she was encored. The concert was given in aid of the library connected with the Methodist New Connection School. The attendance was very good, numbering between 300 and 400 and between them £3 and £4 was realised after all expenses.

Sentences at the Nottingham Quarter Sessions;

Burglary	18 months with Solitary Confinement.
Counterfeit Coin uttering	18 months hard labour
Theft	2 years imprisonment
Theft from employer (Midland Railway Company);	9 months imprisonment, each last week of
each month to be spent in Solitary Confinement.	
Theft of lead spouting	3 years imprisonment
House burglary	12 months imprisonment with the last
week of each month to be spent in Solitary Confinement.	
Theft of domestic rabbit	6 months imprisonment.

Law and Order.

Frankpledge was a system of maintaining peace and law and order whereby groups of ten men were grouped in tithings and stood surety for each other's good behaviour. Stapleford had four thirdborrows-a name derived from Frithborg meaning peace pledge-and they would appear twice a year before the Court of the Honor of Peverel and swear the oath of frankpledge and pay the Common Fine. They reported offences against the Assize of Bread and Ale, which regulated the price and quality of these two staples, but also other misdemeanours. In 1517 the four thirdbarrows, Richard Walker, Peter Chambers, Richard Storer and William Sidebothome, appeared before the Court, swore the oath and paid the Common Fine and presented the wife of John Jenynes as a common breweress of beer, (fined 2 pence), and Helen Wright as a baker of coarse bread and a breweress of beer. (fined 4 pence).¹ In 1587 the thirdbarrows appeared again before the Court and, in addition to infringements against the Assize of Bread and Ale they also presented that Miles Farrand made an affray against Anthony (-); penalty 4d. They presented that Richard Tow (Toule) made an affray and attacked John Dumnnes, a common vintner of Stapleford; penalty 2s.²

The thirdborrows were much in evidence in 1617 when a Deposition was made before the Exchequer Court in connection with a case concerning the payment of the Common Fine. Their duties and activities are recorded in great detail.³ However, by 1650 law and order appears to be in the hands of the parish constable and there is only one reference to the thirdborrows in 1667 when the constable records having spent 4d during the search for sheep with the thirdborrow. The appointment of the four thirdborrows was traditionally associated with certain farms in the village and the farms themselves in some instances became associated with certain families as they were passed on from father to son. The occasional appearance of familiar "thirdborrow" names assisting the constable could indicate that at this time the thirdborrows were regarded as the constable's assistants. e.g. Farrand and Wilkinson.⁴

The Constable's Accounts for Stapleford that run from 1650-1685 indicate the wide range of his responsibilities. If something wanted doing in the village it seemed inevitable that it would land at his door from paying the mole catcher, repairing the pinfold, collecting taxes, paying towards the carriage of the goods of the future James II when he passed through the village or arranging a bonfire in the Hall grounds to celebrate the coronation of Charles II.

A Lighting and Watch Committee was in existence when the Parish Council took over the non-religious business of the Vestry in 1894. It is not known when the Lighting and Watch Act 1833 was adopted or whether it had any affect on the appointment of the Parish Constable. This post was unpaid until this Act came into law when it became possible to levy a rate to pay the constable. Stapleford was always loathe to pay its rates and it can, perhaps, be inferred that it chose the cheaper option.

The County Police Act 1839 allowed the Justices in Quarter Session to appoint constables and levy a rate. Nottingham very quickly adopted the Act. In December 1839 the Quarter Sessions resolved to set up a police force consisting of a Chief Constable, eight Superintendents and 39 constables. This latter figure is based on one constable for every 4,000 population. Major Samuel Walker was appointed as Chief Constable on the 21st April 1840 and the new force was established on the 1st November 1840. After an enquiry into the operations of the force Major Walker resigned in January 1842. In spite of petitions against the continuance of the force from 43 parishes and a memorial from 17 of the justices the Quarter Sessions appointed on 14th February 1842 Peter Valentine Hatton as the new Chief Constable. He served for ten years and in October 1852 he was replaced by Captain John Henry Forrest.

Captain Forrest was replaced by Captain Henry Holden in July 1856. Holden served for 36 years retiring on the 30th November 1892. Known as "Hell-fire Jack", for part of that time he was secretary of the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club and achieved notoriety when he "forgot" to arrange lunch for the visiting Australian Test Team. He lived at Bramcote and his family were Lords of the Manor of Stapleford. Detailed personnel records of the early days of the county force do not appear to exist although later, when more detailed records were kept, some entries appear to have been made retrospectively. The first name recorded, whose personnel details show him to have been posted to Stapleford, was PC19, John Hallam, who is shown to have been in Stapleford from the 5th January 1860 to 22nd January 1862. However, the census for 1851 shows John Bostock as a police officer living on Nottingham Road and White's Directory of 1853 shows Thomas Hemsley as a police officer in Stapleford, John Bostock having moved to East Bridgford. For the early years only one police officer was posted to Stapleford. In November 1877 PC Edward Upton was joined by PC James Dobinson as a second officer. In June 1883

PC Thomas Henry Pepper was posted as the second officer and he remained in Stapleford for 25 years. He was promoted to Sergeant in August 1893. The number of officers posted to Stapleford continued to increase and in May 1895 Sergeant Pepper's personnel record shows that he was asked to share his gratuity with three other constables.

The county police force took over from the Parish Constable those duties which dealt with crime. The Parish Constable continued to be appointed, however, pursuant to a resolution of the Quarter Sessions who decided in January 1873 that it was necessary with a view to the proper discharge of public business in the county that one parish constable should be appointed for every parish in the county in which less than two county police constables are located. The Justices of the Quarter Sessions were mainly landed gentry and, not surprisingly, were keen to use the force to catch poachers. When PC Matthew Pilmer was being interviewed for the police force in April 1861 he was asked "Can you handle poachers?" "Will you go the Stapleford?"

It is not recorded whether or not he was issued with a cutlass. These were issued to any constable whose beat was so situated that, in the opinion of two Justices, it is necessary for his personal protection. Parish council minutes contain many requests to the police to take action on subjects such as Sunday trading, cycling on footpaths, football being played on the recreation ground on a Sunday, foul language and footballing in the streets and unseemly behaviour.

A purpose built police station was opened around 1908 and the first recorded use of the cells at the station was in March 1909. The station was vacated in June 2013 and the four beat officers now use "The Meeting Place" as their base. One of their concerns is rowdy nuisance behaviour.

Keith Goodman

¹ SC 2/196/77 (RPT)

¹ SC 2/196/84 (RPT)

¹ E 134/15Jas1/Mich2 and E 135/15Jas1/Trin7

¹ Constables Accounts 24 November 1660

PRICE LIST of items for sale at Society Meetings
At any other time please apply to the Chairman

Stapleford Town Trail £1.00

Stapleford Tea Towels £2.95

Leather bookmarks £0.80

Local views – framed priced individually

Local views – cards with envelopes £1.00

Pen & ink drawings by Jack Vernon £1.00

Full colour illustrated maps of Stapleford + Borlase Warren
Coat of Arms in gold frames (produced to order) £14.00

Society Newsletters – some back copies available at reduced
prices

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Malcolm Jarvis - 0115-932 3457
CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY– Barbara Brooke 0115-939 4979
TREASURER – Pat Hodgkiss – 0115-9469152

**The deadline for submission of items for the next Autumn
2014 issue of the Newsletter is 30 September 2014.
Material can be given to any of the above named.
This is YOUR newsletter! We'd love to hear from you!**

Front cover drawn by Nigel Brooks:
The Feathers Tavern, Church Street, Stapleford,
recently converted into apartments