

THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Nottinghamshire's History and Archaeology Society



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Thoroton Society **Issue 106 2021/2022**



These stunning alabaster Flawford figures are rare survivors of Henry VIII and the Reformation and are on view in Nottingham Castle Craft Gallery.

The Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire

**The County's Principal History and Archaeology
Society**

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

THOROTON SOCIETY NEWS

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Like its predecessor, 2021 will probably be remembered for the continuing impact of the COVID pandemic on our lives and world. However, there are promising signs of a 'return to normal' and the Thoroton Society continues to work to maintain its usual programme of events and activities. The recent Annual Lunch, which will be reported on in the Annual Report next Spring, was a very welcome chance to renew acquaintances with Thoroton members on a personal basis.

However, the year has not been without its wider significance, in terms of local history, heritage and archaeology. The highlight has undoubtedly been the re-opening of Nottingham Castle, after a £30m transformation project which has been in train for several years. Many Thoroton members will know the frequently-expressed desire to make the Castle a more engaging visitor experience. As someone closely involved in the development of the new 'Rebellion Gallery', I have been delighted to see how successful the Castle transformation has been and to see a very welcome re-engagement with this crucial visitor destination and local landmark by audiences drawn from far and wide.

This issue of the newsletter rightly places the Castle centre-stage, with special pieces on each of the new elements of the site.

Looking ahead, 2022 marks the 125th anniversary of the Thoroton Society. We have a number of events planned and are working with our friends in FONA (Friends of Nottinghamshire Archives) on a week-long celebration which commemorates our support for heritage preservation and archives. Part of this involves opportunities for Thoroton Society members to highlight an aspect of their own research, based on the collections at Nottinghamshire Archives. The prospective dates fall in the week of 9-15 July 2022. If you are interested in contributing, please contact me at richard.gaunt@nottingham.ac.uk with a brief outline of your proposal.

Wishing you all a peaceful end to another challenging year and with warmest good wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year!

Richard Gaunt (Chair of Council)

A MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

I have been notified by our bank, HSBC Ltd, that with effect from 1st November this year, our bank account, which has hitherto been free of bank charges, will attract charges. These will be a monthly standing charge of £5.00 and a charge of £0.40 for each cheque paid into the account. Looking at the accounts for 2019, our last 'full' year of activities, the Society would have incurred bank charges of around £170 if the charges had been in place in that year. In order not to spend money unnecessarily, I would ask that as many payments as possible be made by bank transfer, to our account – sort code 40-35-18, account number 61818929.

This includes for excursions and functions such as the Annual Lunch and Spring Meeting/AGM. Obviously if you do not do internet banking then by all means send cheques as before. It will soon be time for membership subscription renewals. If you currently do NOT pay your subscription by standing order and would like to do so, please send me an email and I will forward a standing order mandate to be sent to your bank. Finally, as I am approaching the ripe old age of 80, I am hoping to pass on the role of Treasurer to a younger person in the not-too-distant future. If you are interested, please send me an email or contact me by telephone. I would add that I have always found the job very interesting and very social – the treasurer gets to know most of the members.

John Wilson Hon. Treasurer

treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk

0115 926 6175

A MESSAGE REFERENCE THOROTON LECTURES

We are still investigating alternative venues, as the Mechanics is not available on a Saturday. We will let members know about lectures, via the E. Bulletin, as soon as arrangements have been made for a venue for Thoroton Saturday lectures.

David Hoskins

(Vice Chair and chair of the Events Committee)

THOROTON RESPONSE GROUP UPDATE

The proposed solar farm on land around the conservation village of Halloughton was refused by Newark & Sherwood DC – the applicant, Pegasus, has appealed, adding what the company itself called “minor amendments.

Many respondents noted the fact that the “minor amendments” were indeed very minor. Representations addressing the appeal on behalf of the Society were prepared and sent to the Inspectorate - the outcome is awaited. The application for an “animal rendering plant” at the important Roman site at Villa Farm, Norton Disney, has been withdrawn. This follows considerable objections, including from the local Norton Disney History Society and our own Thoroton Society. More recently an application for a Sainsburys Food Hall overlooking the very special town of Southwell was made. This would have been visible from the iconic stretch of road down towards the town and been what would have been called “a blot on the landscape”; it would also have compromised the archaeology of the field where it was proposed to site it. Once again, a representation was made and we await the decision of the District Council. Please remember that if you have concerns about proposed developments or works at historic or archaeological sites please let the Response Group know and we will see if we can make a case against whatever it is.

Barbara Cast, Response Group co-ordinator
barbaracast @btinternet .com

THOROTON RESEARCH ONLINE

We have set up an online forum for those researching the history and archaeology of Nottinghamshire . This provides a space for researchers to make contact with others, present work in progress, ask for and offer assistance to others, and relay news and advertise events.

Those interested in joining this forum can do so via this link:

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=THOROTON-RESEARCH&A=1> . If you would like more details please email me (rlcj1@le.ac.uk)

Richard Jones
Chair of Publications Committee

THOROTON AND GEOFFREY BOND RESEARCH AWARDS.

Research project

Social History of Nursing in Nottinghamshire - recipient Val Wood.

The history of nursing has been dominated by scholarship which is either national in scope or London-centric in its focus. There has been little analysis of the developments in the nursing profession within provincial England. To date, there has been no published material in academic journals, books or local history publications detailing how nursing evolved in the city and county, nor on the specifics of nurse training and education, the exception being nursing experiences during WW1. This was an absence which came into sharp focus during a period of celebration to mark 2020 as the year of the nurse and midwife, the bicentenary of Florence Nightingale's birth (1820-2020) and the commemoration of the centenary in 2019 of the campaign for nurse registration, which resulted in the introduction of the 1919 Nurse Registration Act. This resulted in a small group of locally based historians sharing ideas and knowledge of known local nursing history revealing, through discussion, a significant and untapped number of resources and potential for scholarly study.

The funding provided by the Thoroton and Geoffrey Bond Research Award has enabled us to formally constitute a small group dedicated to researching the history of nursing in Nottinghamshire. Despite the limitations arising from the Covid 19 pandemic which has impacted on several of the anticipated outcomes, we have been able to meet regularly. After initial face to face meetings, we have used zoom to maintain continuity, with two outdoor garden meetings when the lockdown was lifted and a community bank account opened. The latter in anticipation that we may be successful in obtaining further funding for our research. We have been able to establish digital platforms including Twitter and Facebook and established a dedicated website. The website includes pages on the life and work of Ethel Gordon Fenwick (1857-1947), who spent her formative years in Nottinghamshire and commenced her nursing career at Nottingham Children's Hospital. Information sheets about nursing in Nottinghamshire prepared by the group are available to download.

They are free from the website www.nottinghamnursing.wordpress.com

We have significant interest from nursing staff in the local hospitals, some of whom have contributed by writing blogs for the website and providing personal stories and photographs. Retired nurses have been in contact with our group, and we plan to collect nursing memories and testimonies through oral history recordings. The group has also established links with national and international nursing history groups and academics working in the field.

The group has submitted a book proposal to Palgrave Macmillan, receiving positive feedback, and members of the group are currently working on their respective chapters.

The pandemic has prevented planned talks and events, and these are now rescheduled for autumn 2021 and early 2022 including, in September, a talk for Radcliffe Local History Society relating to the development of nursing in Nottinghamshire 1830–1914 entitled “From Servants to Sisters”, speaker Val Wood; in October David Stewart to Nottingham Women’s History Group; and in spring Rosie Collins will be discussing the Asylum Nurses Strike at Saxondale 1922 for Notts and Derbyshire Labour History Society. Papers submitted and accepted for the UKAHN (Association of Nursing History) Colloquium will be rolled over to the 2022 conference. The group also supplied a powerpoint presentation for the INSPIRE digital platform to promote local history in May this year.

A brief overview of the proposed book’s content is:

- A Social History of Nurses and Nursing in Nottingham City and its County,
- 1830-1948: Essays exploring nursing in a provincial context.
- Nottingham General Hospital and the evolution of nursing care practice: a provincial perspective 1830–1914.
- Nursing in Poor Law Institutions in Nottinghamshire, 1830-1914.
- Nursing Associations and the emergence of District Nursing – two locality case studies: Beeston and Radcliffe on Trent.
- Nottinghamshire’s Red Cross Nurses and the First World War
- From Workhouse to City Hospital: the development of nursing in a municipal hospital 1913- 1939.
- Nottinghamshire County Asylum and the Nurses’ Strike of 1922.
- Nursing in Sherwood Forest 1914-1948 – Harlow Wood Orthopaedic Hospital and Ransom Sanatorium.

On behalf of the Nottinghamshire Nursing History Group, I would like to express our thanks to the Thoroton Society for the funding made available through the Thoroton and Geoffrey Bond Research Award. This has enabled us to successfully establish ourselves as a group and achieve some of our goals. We will be reflecting the research award in the forthcoming book and acknowledgement of the award is clearly stated on our website.

Val Wood

A REMINDER ABOUT OUR RESEARCH INTO THE EARLY MEMBERS OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY

2022 sees the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Thoroton Society. It is of interest to look back at our early members, like those who can be regarded as Founder Members, who attended (or sent apologies for) the inaugural meeting in 1897. Some went on to be significant names in the history of the Society. Others were faithful, if relatively undistinguished, members for many years.

Up until 1958, the Society in fact published the names and addresses of all members in the annual *Transactions* (unthinkable nowadays with data protection concerns).

John Wilson has prepared a database of early members who were in membership for a significant number of years, to act as a resource for future research. Hopefully, we will have the biography of an Early Member, so far as it can be traced, in future issues of the Newsletter.

I am looking for a contribution for the Summer 2022 Newsletter. If any member would be interested in researching the life of an early Thorotonian, please contact John Wilson who will give you details of the database.

A reminder that the Spring Annual Report will include a few pages of Thoroton Society News at the end of the Annual Report. The next full Newsletter will be the Summer Edition.

Paul Baker

THOROTON SOCIETY VISITS REPORTS

(Photographs from these visits are on the back cover)

24th August 2021. Visit to Creswell Crags

At last, after several weeks of uncertainty about whether any visits would be allowed depending on the Covid -19 restrictions a group of 17 Thoroton members visited Creswell Crags on 24th August 2021 after taking last minute Covid-19 lateral flow tests. Creswell Crags, lying on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, is a limestone gorge famous for its caves and the only cave art in Britain known at present. It is a SSSI for geology and holds Scheduled Ancient Monument Status. It is also on the UNESCO shortlist for World Heritage Status. Members gathered at the entrance to Creswell Crags to be greeted by the Education team and taken to the Education Room which had been reserved for our exclusive use during the visit complete with tea, coffee and soft drinks. The visit started with an illustrated talk by Jen, the Learning Officer which was very interesting and erudite. Jen explained the geology of the region and how the variation in climate over millennia had affected the fauna and flora, from the semi-tropical of 120,000 years ago when hippopotami enjoyed the water and lush vegetation, to 70,000 years ago when extreme cold was not compatible with life, to 40,000 years ago for a brief period of Neandertal presence until abandoned 22,000 years ago at the glacial maximum, then up to 12,000 to 13,000 years ago when human presence resumed in a tundra-like environment with hyenas and mammoths. The humans were *Homo sapiens* – just like modern humans but possibly with darker skin like Cheddar Man who was found by a DNA analysis to have the genes for dark skin and blue eyes. Evidence came from excavation although the early excavations from the 1870s onwards lacked modern precision with no published reports and collections of finds having disappeared.

The excavators discarded material that now would be assessed so it is possible that in the spoil heaps that early diggers piled up at the cave entrances, there are treasures awaiting future archaeologists. The landowners used the area as a leisure facility, the Robin Hood cave had been used as a boathouse and the river dammed to provide a boating lake for example. The talk concluded with a demonstration of reconstructed clothing, modelled by one of the Education Team, that has been suggested was worn when the caves were inhabited by semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers of the late Pleistocene. Evidence came from Creswell Crags and other similar sites of pierced stones that may have been used for decoration and bone needles indicating that sewing was used. The costume was reminiscent of the traditional clothing made from reindeer leather worn by the Sami people. During the talk, members were able to handle some artefacts (or reproductions) including worked flints, an atlatl and the inevitable mystery object which may have been a spear straightener. After the talk and questions, the pre-ordered lunches were brought to us. Members had some free time to wander round or visit the museum before dividing into groups to visit the Robin Hood Cave. Groups were small to keep to social distancing guidelines. Members were issued with hard hats and lights and sallied forth into the dark. The cave guides explained the geology, what had been found, the remnants of the Victorian excavators and their attempts to "improve" the caves by levelling the floor. We were shown graffiti in the form of witchmarks added from the 17th century onwards to ward off demons and evil spirits. Clearly, if more excavation was allowed, answers to questions about our early neighbours could be possible. This excursion has differed in format from previous years: that we are still in the midst of a pandemic made arrangements uncertain until the last minute. The decision to ask members to travel under their own steam was a wise precaution and avoided any risk that might have occurred from gathering in a coach. The Creswell Crags visitor team were very adaptable and made our visit run as smoothly as possible. Visiting caves would normally have meant that visitors and staff were in close proximity. The guides and Jen were extremely knowledgeable, inserting humour as appropriate and made the visit interesting. The Creswell Crags staff are to be congratulated about how they are managing visits in a safe manner at this difficult time.

Ruth Strong

Wednesday 22nd September -Newstead Abbey and gardens

Leaders: Pete Smith and Philip Jones

We were favoured with a beautiful autumn day when a small but very select group met with Pete Smith outside the main entrance to Newstead Abbey. Pete began, facing the Abbey front, by explaining which parts were original and for what purpose they were used, and when later additions were made. As we progressed round the inside of the building some idea emerged of the detective work that has been necessary to piece together which parts were built or altered when and by whom. There was far too much information given to summarise, all of it fascinating, much of which is presented in *Newstead Abbey, A Nottinghamshire Country House: Its owners and architectural history 1540-1931*, (2014), by Rosalys Coope and Pete Smith. But, of the many items which could be singled out, it is worth saying that the several wonderful painted overmantels were even more striking in real life than in the book illustrations, as were the beautiful eighteenth-century white marble fireplaces. Two nuggets of information are worth a mention. Some painters employed specialist lace painters to whom they left the completion of the lace details, the named artist having done the main parts of a portrait. After the French Revolution, Sevres had a huge excess of china plates which had been manufactured, but most of their usual customers had been executed. So they marketed them unpainted for people to finish, and Maria Wildman (sister of Colonel Wildman of the Abbey) painted scenes on several of them – rather skilfully as well. After a swift lunch at the café, Philip Jones joined us for a tour of the gardens. Again, an enormous amount of interesting and sometimes esoteric information. For example, the special Watsonian Patent Fern Bricks, patented in 1860 and manufactured in the early 1870s, were made specially to allow ferns to be planted in a wall, in a little dish that would fit into them. Newstead is the only site known to have 15 of them in good condition set in a wall in the Fern Garden which was laid out in 1874. Philip has seen to it that they and the wall they are set in have been Grade II listed.

There is also a Victorian grotto, which is unusual enough to be a Grade 11 listed. Most Japanese gardens were started around 1910 after an influential exhibition, but Newstead has one that was laid out in 1899 by Ethel Webb, of the Webb family who were then the owners of the Abbey. As Philip has noted in last year's Autumn newsletter (*Autumn 2020, issue 101*), Ethel was also responsible for the Japanese room in the house. In 2022 there is to be a Japanese Exhibition at Newstead, which will include paintings and drawings on loan from Kew. It was a wonderful day with two of the most expert guides, and the Japanese Exhibition next year must be an excuse for another Thoroton excursion, surely!

Rosemary Muge

Wednesday 8th September 2021 Members Visit to Nottingham Castle

The visit to Nottingham Castle had been very well managed by Ruth Strong and all who attended were able to enjoy a fascinating discovery of how the castle had been transformed. I am sure that all left having enjoyed the visit. Our first tour was of various Galleries and from magnificent medieval alabaster figures such as those shown on the front cover, to the magnificent Art Gallery our guide was able to pass on a good deal of valuable historical knowledge. The medieval alabasters were stunning. Our guide explained how artworks such as the alabaster figures, stained glass windows, paintings and sculptures helped to spread Christian beliefs to many people who were unable to read or write in medieval times and how the parish church was central to everyday life. She explained how Nottingham was an important centre for alabaster carvers in the 14th and 15th centuries and how the alabaster was available in the Chellaston Hills of Derbyshire and easily transportable to Nottingham. Evidence has been found in Nottingham of workshops and disposal pits which are associated with alabaster carvers. We also learnt how Nottingham potteries were owned by two families the Morleys and the Wyers and how the Morley's apprentice

Richard Wyer had opened the Boot Lane Pottery in the 18th century and how we knew dates through pottery being dated by these potteries. From this gallery we moved on to the Lace Gallery. The story of the growth of the Nottingham Lace Industry and the magnificent displays were appreciated and we now entered the Art Gallery which was the centerpiece of the former Midland Counties Art Museum. This was, I thought, inspirational with historic art works. Paintings of well known historic characters such as 'Benjamin Mayo, The Old General' and a painting of the Goose Fair by Arthur Spooner were among the paintings that caught my attention but many others in the Long Gallery were studied and admired. The whole idea of mixing together paintings, sculpture, drawings, ceramics, textiles and jewellery from different historical periods organised around themes worked for me. There was then time for members to have lunch in the Terrace Cafe before our visit down to a Cave. It was a pity that we were unable to see Mortimer's Cave but our well informed guide gave us tales about the intriguing caves. As Brewhouse Yard was closed we were unable to travel on the Land Train and see what is advertised as 1,000 years of history as you travel from Brewhouse yard to the Ducal Palace. Instead we had Robin Hood to look forward to. It is interesting how Thoroton members suddenly reverted to childhood as we watched the story of Robin Hood and played on the digital interactives in the Robin Hood Experience area. One of the real pluses for visitors are the very good information boards that allow all visitors to absorb the history of the castle and the people who were part of its history. In between the organised times to visit galleries there was time for some of us to explore the Rebellion Gallery and other features, which were not in our itinerary. A big thank you to Ruth Strong for organising this excursion and it is good to see the Castle open again. A most enjoyable visit to Nottingham's most famous landmark.

Paul Baker

Nottingham Castle- Rebellion Gallery

Nottingham's history is often said to be one of rebellion, and it is this, which is the focus of the Castle's new Rebellion Gallery. The Gallery begins by briefly outlining the medieval origins of the Castle, built on the orders of William the Conqueror during his northern campaign of

1067-68, before showing how the Castle developed over the next 500 years. However, it is three specific moments in Nottingham's rebellious history which is the main focus of the Gallery- the role the Castle played in the British Civil Wars, Luddite activity in and around Nottingham, and the fight for Parliamentary Reform in the early 1830s.

On 22nd August 1642 Charles I raised his standard at the Castle, marking the start of the Civil Wars. The Rebellion Gallery tells of how Nottingham became a stronghold of the Parliamentarians, despite numerous Royalist attacks. The Gallery focuses on one of these attacks in 1643. Based on the memoirs of Lucy Hutchinson the exhibition describes how the Castle came under fire from Royalist troops who had occupied the tower of nearby St Nicholas Church. After the end of the Civil Wars, the Castle was demolished on the orders of Lucy's husband, Colonel John Hutchinson. During the early nineteenth century, industrial and economic depression meant that framework knitters in Nottinghamshire were suffering from falling wages and rising food prices. As a result, many were living in poverty. In response to this, between 1811 and 1816, there were numerous Luddite disturbances in Nottingham and surrounding villages. This part of the Gallery focuses on one such attack in 1814 when Luddites broke into the home of the Matthews family and smashed several of their frames. The Gallery also focuses on the fate of individuals such as Jeremiah Brandreth, Daniel Diggles, and John Blackburn whose sabre used during Luddite attacks is on display in the Gallery. Finally, the Gallery tells the well known story of the Nottingham Reform Riots. In October 1831, the second Reform Bill was rejected by the House of Lords. The fourth Duke of Newcastle, the owner of the Ducal Palace, was among those who had voted against the Bill. In response, rioters broke into the Palace, setting fire to the building. The burnt out shell of the Palace remained, left by the Duke as a rebuke to the people of Nottingham, until it was restored in 1875 by T.C.Hines. In the past, visitors have sometimes been disappointed that the Castle is no longer a motte-and-bailey castle. The Rebellion Gallery not only focuses on three key moments of Nottingham's history, but shows how the building that stands has been shaped by Nottingham's rebellious history.

Hannah Nicholson

THOROTON SOCIETY ASSOCIATION WITH NOTTINGHAM CASTLE.

A LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE CASTLE

The Thoroton Society has a long association with Nottingham Castle. It has promoted the history of the site, but through archaeological fieldwork in the first half of the 20th century, the Society made many discoveries of national significance. In the Society's early years, in 1903-4, excavation of Richard's Tower, which was attached to the castle but is now only accessible from a property on Castle Grove, began. Being in the garden of the keen antiquarian and Society member F.W. Dobson excavation proceeded for several weeks and continued in 1908. The tower was largely erected during the reign of Edward V but completed during the short reign of his brother, Richard.

The excavations exposed much of the plan of the tower, which was found to have walls almost 3m thick. Evidence was also uncovered for a spiral staircase and a well. Reports of these excavations can be found in volumes 8 and 13 of the Transactions. In 1936 the Thoroton Society Excavation Section was founded, to enable the excavation of archaeological remains in the county although most excavations took place within Nottingham itself. Its first year was a particularly busy one, with numerous excavations including at the castle. Excavations that year included further work at Richard's Tower. A cave, commonly known as the Northwestern passage but obscurely also referred to as Davy Scot's Hole, was also rediscovered at this time. This cave, which is blocked at the Middle Bailey where it would have exited, was accessible from Castle Grove and has been considered to be the actual passage used in 1330 in the capture of Roger Mortimer.

That same year, an entrance to a cave was exposed on the western side of the castle rock. Once the area had been made safe, excavation of the cave began and it was found to be a substantial passage known today as the Western Passage. On the opposite side of the Castle Rock, on Castle Road, caves were also investigated in 1936 and one of these began to be used as a lecture theatre and headquarters for the Section. Work continued in 1937 and following a further major rock fall another cave was exposed, and was investigated by Campion who swung on a rope to get close to the cave, which was approximately 8m below the top

of the Castle Rock. It is unclear which cave this was, although it is my belief that the hole gave access into what is known as Romylowe's Cave.

Having had a dream about the discovery of a cave at the base of the castle rock, over the course of three nights, Campion decided to excavate land to the west of Mortimer's Hole and he did indeed discover a cave. This cave, known as the Water Cave, has been the subject of one of my previous newsletter articles.

The emphasis of the Section's work quickly became the investigation sites as they were being developed and so much work took place across much of the city centre and also Lenton and Broxtowe. However, in 1939 there was once again the opportunity to investigate a cave on Castle Road, where a decorative carved building stone from the medieval castle, a monastic token and post-medieval pottery dating to the 'Stuart period' were found. Eventually the Excavation Section became a separate entity from the Thoroton Society and so with a change of name it became the Nottinghamshire Archaeology Society. Most of its members continued to be members of the Thoroton Society, and the Society continued to take an interest in the archaeological work. The Second World War put a halt to investigations and the castle, and its caves, with work resuming in 1949 under the newly formed Peverel Archaeological Research Group. Although in recent decades the Thoroton Society has not taken a direct role in excavations at the castle, it has continued to take a great interest in archaeological work and it published the report of excavations directed by Christopher Drage in the 1970s and 1980s, with a special volume of the Transactions published in 1989 (reprinted in 1999).

**Scott Lomax,
(City Archaeologist)**

EARLY MEMBERS OF THE THOROTON SOCIETY

Cock Fights and Cattle Drovers: Notes on the life of CHARLES HAWLEY TORR (1838 to 1923)

A founding member of the Thoroton Society; he was present at the Inaugural Meeting in 1897 and remained a member until 1912. Charles Hawley Torr was born in 1838 to Lott Torr and his wife Eliza Hawley.

The family were grocers who lived on Clumber Street, Nottingham. The business seems to have prospered as the 1851 census records that they employed a domestic servant aged 22, although Lott's father John had died in the Basford Workhouse in 1850. Lott died in 1861, and in 1862 the whole family except for Charles Hawley emigrated to New South Wales, Australia. Their emigration was sponsored by the eldest son, John, who was a carpenter.

Charles remained in Nottingham and must have received some education as he eventually became an accountant and insurance broker. In 1863 he married Helen Ann Patterson, the only daughter of the late Mr John Patterson, of Old Lenton. At the time of the marriage, Charles was living at High Pavement, Nottingham.

However, *The Nottinghamshire Guardian* of Friday 5 December 1879 announced: 'On the 28th ult., at Percy-Street, Hull, [died] from exhaustion after a severe operation, Helen Ann, the wife of Charles Hawley Torr of Park-Row, Nottingham and only sister of Douglas John Patterson, of Mansfield, Notts. Many kind friends will please accept this intimation.' Charles and Helen had no children.

Charles did not remain alone for long. *The Worcester Journal* of Saturday 21 May 1881 reported on the marriage that had taken place on 12 May between Charles Hawley Torr of Nottingham and Sarah Ann Heywood Hadfield, fourth daughter of the late Thomas Hadfield of Liverpool. The marriage service at the Priory Church, Great Malvern, was conducted by the Rev Walter Senior, BA, Vicar of St Thomas's, Nottingham. Thomas Hadfield, who was Sarah's father, had been a manufacturing chemist in Southport. He died in 1879. By 1897, when the Thoroton Society was founded, Charles and Sarah were living at St Alban's Tower, Sherwood, as recorded in the membership list of the Thoroton Society. This was number 447 Mansfield Road, on the corner of Devon Drive.

At some point in the 20th century, number 447 was merged with number 445 and renamed Warwick Towers [1]. The premises are now occupied by CDF Estates Ltd, a property management company. Charles had various interests, and in particular the issue of cruelty to animals. He was for many years a member of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

This society had been set up in 1824. Amongst its founders was William Wilberforce, who had fought for the abolition of slavery to be brought into law. The Society enjoyed the patronage of Queen Victoria, who in 1840 allowed the title of 'Royal' to be used. Charles was occasionally called on to assist in prosecutions for animal cruelty. In 1871, there was a prosecution for leaving shorn sheep in extreme cold and wet at the Nottingham Livestock Market, at which Mr Torr was an important witness.

The Nottingham Journal for Wednesday 16 June 1875 reported on a prosecution for cock fighting in Nottingham, when six men were charged with this offence. Mr R Marsh, an officer of the RSPCA, went with Mr Charles Hawley Torr and Detective Coleman to Mr Skinner's brewery in Plantagenet Street, where a cock fight was found to be taking place. Several men were apprehended by Mr Torr, Inspector Marsh and Detective Coleman. Mr Torr 'detained the weights and scales and other equipment [found at the cock fight] on his own responsibility'. Five men were found guilty and fined £5 each. One man was acquitted. On Tuesday 22 July 1879, *The Nottingham Journal* reported that the RSPCA had been very critical in a report on the Nottingham and District Tramways Company Ltd, regarding cruelty to the horses used by the company. A letter from Mr J Gilpin, the Chairman of the Company, responded vigorously to the criticisms, stating that Mr Torr's remarks were 'full of inaccuracies'. Not all of Charles' activities with the RSPCA resulted in prosecutions or unpleasant letters in the press. On Wednesday 10 September 1873, *The Nottingham Journal* published a letter from CH Torr, secretary of the Nottinghamshire branch of the RSPCA, regarding a cattle drovers' tea at the Arboretum. A number of cattle drovers were invited to the tea and given a talk on caring for the beasts in their charge whilst conveying them to the market. The tea was deemed to be a great success,

In his professional life, Charles was an auditor for various companies, such as the Nottingham Lace Manufacturing Company Ltd. He was also involved in various bankruptcy cases, in which he was made the Trustee of the bankrupt person's assets. He stood as a candidate for Byron Ward in the 1873 elections for the Town Council, but in spite of his involvement in community affairs, was unsuccessful.

The Aberdeen Free Press for Thursday 13 August 1885 reported that at the forthcoming meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held at Aberdeen, CH Torr (Nottingham) 'intended to be present'. Charles died on 23 September 1923, and his wife Sarah just a few days later, on 4 October 1923.

At the time they were living at 35 Burlington Road, Sherwood.

John Wilson

Notes1 My thanks to Terry Fry for this information.

Other sources used – British Newspaper Archive; Ancestry.com

HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTICLES BY THOROTON SOCIETY MEMBERS

DOES BELVOIR CASTLE SIT UPON THE WENDELBERG?

This research started out looking at the origins of the name of Wensor Bridge, today a brick-built structure crossing the River Devon in the Nottinghamshire parish of Shelton. The English Place-name Society (EPNS) records the name's earliest attribution as being *Wendelforthbrigge* in 1330. By 1775 the name had become corrupted to the Wensor of today. The EPNS suggests that it originally means "*Wendel's* or *Waendel's* ford", where our "*Wendel*" is considered to be the name of an individual.⁽¹⁾

As is so often the case, this line of enquiry has led in an unexpected direction and we must bid the bridge farewell for now.

Ethnonym, patronym or mythonym?

The origin and apparent popularity of the personal name "*Wendel*" in English place-names would seem to be connected to the Germanic tribal name Vandal.⁽²⁾ The medieval *Confraternity Book of the Abbey of Reichenau* records forms in the German region of Swabia such as *Uuentil*, *Uuentila*, *Uuandalgarius*, *Uuentilger*, *Uuantalmar* and *Uuentilmar* confirming a continental usage too.⁽³⁾ There is also the possibility that both personal name and the tribal name are connected

with the mythological character *Orvandil*, who as the Old English *Earendel* is associated with the dawn and the planet Venus as the Morning Star.⁽⁴⁾ The name *Wendel* is also associated with a number of hillforts and folknames, names which might reasonably originate with individuals, tribal groups or mythological figures. There are several fortifications called Wandlebury across Eastern and Southern Central England.⁽⁵⁾

The Wendel Edges

Another recurring feature of a number of *Wendel* names is their location on escarpment slopes. Margaret Gelling notes the existence of two place-names *Wendelsclif*, one in Berkshire and one in Gloucestershire, in which *clif* is used in the sense of escarpment. Gelling distinguishes between cases of *Wendel* as a personal name and those “in which *Wendel* may be suspected of being a mythological character, and the two instances of *Wendelsclif* should perhaps be classed with these.”⁽⁶⁾

The village of Kingston Winslow lies at the base of the west-facing edge of the Berkshire Downs running south-west to north-east between Ermin Street and the White Horse at Uffington. The Ridge Way and Icknield Street share the same route along the top of the edge and the Neolithic long-barrow, Wayland's Smithy sits close by. Early forms of Winslow are *Wendelesclivam* (c.1150), *Wendelcliva* (1189) *Wend(e)lesclive* (1242–3) and *Wendesclive* (1264–5), becoming *Kingston Winscliffe*, *alias Winslowe* by 1713.⁽⁷⁾

Cleeve Cloud in Gloucestershire is a limestone outcrop on the Cotswold Edge at Bishops Cloud overlooking Cheltenham. It is the highest hill in the Cotswolds and like Kingston Winslow is part of a monumental landscape, with a hillfort on the western slope and the Belas Knap long barrow close to the summit. Gelling notes that the Cleeve Cloud *Wendelsclif* is mentioned in a charter of circa 780. In this charter, Offa of Mercia and Ealdred, the sub-king of the Hwicce, grant an estate to the minster and church of St. Michael at Bishops Cleeve (“aet Clife”).⁽⁸⁾

The estate being granted to the monastery is described as being “under the rock of the hill which is in the old vocabulary called *Wendelsclif* on the north side of the stream called *Tyrl*”.⁽⁹⁾ It is tempting to interpret the location of a monastery and the use of the term “in the old vocabulary” as referring to the re-purposing of a site of pagan importance to one of Christian worship.

A Mythical Context?

There does seem to be a common quality in which a sense of height and boundary are important features for locations associated with a possible mythical *Wendel*. This liminal context is shared by those escarpments and hillfort ramparts which may bear his name.

River Devon & the Wandilberwdike

The River Devon begins life in the Leicestershire village of Eaton, above the Vale of Belvoir on the Belvoir Edge. EPNS shows *Wandilberwdike* to be a minor place-name for the parish of Eaton, presumably the “stream by *Wendel*’s hill (*berg*) or fort (*burh*)”. Another Wandlebury? ⁽¹⁰⁾

EPNS notes that one possible derivation of the river-name Devon is the British **dubno-*, meaning “deep” and referring to the steep ravine in which the upper Devon runs. Another liminal quality? ⁽¹¹⁾

Whether or not *Wandilberwdike* refers to what becomes the River Devon is not certain. However, it is interesting that further downstream there is a bridge over the Devon with an early attested *Wendel* name. Could the river have had an alternative name for a while? We know that at least one of Nottinghamshire’s rivers has had a documented name change. The British river-name *Clun*, which gives us the place-names Clumber and Clowne, was replaced at some stage by Poulter, an English name which is probably a back-formation from the Derbyshire place-name “Palterton”, where the river rises near Bolsover. This name change may be comparatively recent, with *Palter* first being recorded in 1589, whilst the term *Clumber River* was used as late as 1707. ⁽¹²⁾ Presumably there was a period of coexistence before Poulter became the dominant name. Might the British river-name Devon once have had a less successful Old English competitor for a while which was associated with *Wendel*? Or is the name of the bridge a coincidence?

Wendelsora and Windsor Hill

Like the “Wendel Edges” noted above, Eaton sits upon the prominent escarpment of the Belvoir Edge. Facing towards the north-west, this runs in a south-easterly direction along the southern side of the Vale of Belvoir. So, a mythical *Wendel* name might be well-suited to a location along the top of the Belvoir Edge. The River Devon leads the way once again. After leaving Eaton, the river heads north-east and through the grounds of Belvoir Castle, skirting the base of Windsor Hill.

The EPNS on-line survey gives the earliest recorded forms as *Winsore Hill (1601)*, *Wynser Hill (1605)* and *Winser Hill (1612)*. Even with Belvoir Castle being a ducal seat, “the transferred name of royal Windsor seems unlikely and the generic may be the Old English *ōra* meaning “a bank, an edge”.⁽¹³⁾ If *Wendelescliffe* has become “Winslow” and *Wendelsforth* is now “Wensor”, might a similar transition occur at Eaton / Belvoir? Could the slope above the *Wendelberwdike* be a *Wendelsora* which becomes “Winsore ” by 1601? Is this another Wendel Edge?

The Wendelberg

If Eaton has a stream associated with *Wendel's* hill, where is that hill? The high ground on which Belvoir Castle is built would seem to be the most likely candidate. In the context of both local liminal topography and place-names it has many of the qualities of those similar sites in Gloucestershire and Berkshire. The Belvoir Edge of today is perhaps not so clearly the monumental landscape that it may have been for the Early English who settled there, though it would have been more so if there had been a hillfort where the castle now stands. Does Belvoir Castle sit upon the *Wendelberg*?

Nick Molyneux

Sources:

- (1), (11) & (12): *Place-names of Nottinghamshire*; J.E.B. Gover, Allen Mawer and F M. Stenton (1940, reprinted 1999); English Place-name Society; Nottingham.
- (6)&(9): *Place-Names in the Landscape*; Margaret Gelling (1993); J.M. Dent; London. *EPNS Website*; <http://epns.nottingham.ac.uk>:
- (3): Tealby, Walshcroft Wapentake, North Riding of Lindsey, Lincolnshire.
- (2), (4) & (5): Wensdon Hill, Aspley Guise, Manshead Hundred, Bedfordshire.
- (7): Kingston Winslow, Ashford, Shrivenham Hundred, Berkshire.
- (10): *Wandilberwdike*, Eaton, Framland Hundred, Leicestershire.
- (13): Windsor Hill, Belvoir, Knipton, Framland Hundred, Leicestershire.
- (8): *The Electronic Sawyer - online catalogue of Anglo-Saxon charters*; S 141 <https://esawyer.lib.cam.ac.uk/charter/141.html>.

A LITTLE HISTORY OF BLEASBY STATION

It was Midland Railway which constructed the rail route from Nottingham to Lincoln, opening it on 4th August 1846. The railway came to Bleasby two years later in December of 1848 when our station was opened, then named “Bleasby Gate”.

We were equipped with a smart station building, including a waiting room, and an attractive station house (still standing). The crossing was paved with granite setts (one wonders what happened to those). There were some losses – Bleasby Gorse, otherwise known as the Goss, was a notable fox cover which was disturbed by the works, so shortly after the railway was laid a new cover was established on Goverton Hill to replace the original and this, according to records, maintained the reputation of the original. From the surveyor's plans it can be seen that several fields were cut in two – in particular a triangular shaped field still bears evidence of that severance, with its larger part on the other side of the line. The surveyor was Paul Bausor, a man associated with the local workhouse in Southwell, and the plan is dated 22nd July 1846. The fact that Bleasby often flooded was noted and the line is raised up significantly going through our patch. An early employee of the railway was Charles Allen, described in 1851 as the "railway gate keeper"; and, in 1861 the "gatekeeper on railway", living in "Railway Gate House", was George Williamson, along with wife Ann, eight children and a grandson – George was still there in 1881, then termed "Station Master". It seems that the good people of Bleasby were not initially great train travellers and demand for rail travel to start with was so low that trains only stopped here on Wednesdays, Saturdays being added in November the next year. It was July 1863 when a full passenger service was provided. The Station Master and the Village Policeman lived close together in the early days – the policeman in one of the Station Cottages. Between them they appear to have kept a close eye on the comings and goings of train users! By 1889 the station's name was reduced to just "Bleasby". In 1891 the station master was James Palmer who lived at the Station House with his wife, Juliana, and their three children plus a lodger, Robert Hitchcock, who was a 16 year old railway porter. By 1901 there was a young station master in 29 year old Ebenezer Tagg, with his wife and 3 young daughters. 1911 sees George Stapleton as the Railway Station Master. During the Second World War the crossing gates were closed at night and continued to be for some considerable time after the war had ended.

If people wanted to get in or out of the village by car after midnight they had to wake the station master who, as also the crossing keeper, was responsible for ensuring the gates were opened and closed. Or it could be the station master's wife who came, having made sure she was fully clothed before descending the stairs. In 1939 however it was Florence Staunton who was in charge, described as the "female crossing keeper" – Harvey Staunton was the railway porter. Although during the Second World War all were urged to consider "Is your journey really necessary?" Bleasby Parish residents were lucky in having the railway running through the village – even though there were only three trains a day each way, all stopping at each station but, of course, no station names were displayed. By the time they reached Bleasby it was "standing room only" and people had to stand in the corridor and also between the seats, which were in those days in individual compartments. Fares were 1 shilling 3 pennies to Nottingham and 10 pennies to Newark. In the 1960s and early 1970s many an hour was spent on the station platform by schoolchildren in all weathers, some heaving around large musical instruments, waiting for the train to take them to school in Newark. The cold east wind roared down the line: the trains were often late, delayed by fog, accidents, industrial disputes, engine failure and virtually any kind of snow. If the length of the delay was known, the line could be crossed to take advantage of the cosy fire in the waiting room on the opposite side. In those days the station master was still always in attendance during the day and, as the signal man, opened and closed the gates. At night the crossing gates were kept closed and a bell had to be rung by drivers of vehicles in order to alert the family who lived in the Station House to open them. The station master was in 'collusion' with the village policeman, who by 1927 lived in the new police house further up the village (still called The Old Police House). The next morning the policeman would be made aware of all who had entered the village overnight. As all the main roads out of the village entailed going over other level crossings, also manned, Bleasby was a fairly safe place to live! It was December 1973 that automatic barriers were installed, half barriers, so that when they failed, drivers would tack across the tracks, often guided by well-meaning but reckless locals!

By then there were platforms on either side of the road and the station buildings had been demolished. In 2016 new full barriers were installed - the crossing was closed from September for several months until work was completed and that meant longer road journeys to reach Bleasby village, usually via Southwell.

It is much safer now in that it is not possible to cross the lines at all when the barriers are down - but there have been teething problems!

Currently, due to East Midlands Trains having various 'teething' problems, we have what is probably the worst service since the station was opened – two trains per day stopping each way and these are of little use for commuters or shoppers!

Barbara Cast

JOHN CAM HOBHOUSE, LORD BYRON AND SOME LOST MARBLES

Marbles bought:

John Cam Hobhouse had met Lord Byron when they were students at Trinity College, Cambridge. After university, they set off together on a Grand Tour leaving England on 2nd July 1809, arriving in Athens on Christmas Day by way of Portugal, Spain, Sardinia and Malta. The following February, Hobhouse recorded in his diary the purchase of marble statues which came from Aegina, an island about twenty miles south of Athens in the Saronic Gul

Sunday February 25th 1810: ... Sent Demetrius to Aegina for statues. ...

Monday February 26th 1810: .. Statues &c., bought for 880 piastres [about £50 sterling]

Tuesday February 27th 1810: ... Went with Byron to Piræus to see the statues

Piræus is the port of Athens from which Byron and Hobhouse left on the 5th March heading for Constantinople taking the marbles with them. On 14th July they left Constantinople on board HMS *Salsette* returning to Athens where Byron disembarked on 17th July.

Hobhouse remained on board as the ship continued to Malta.

Salsette also carried a consignment of marbles being sent to England by Lord Elgin.

Marbles lost:

Salsette arrived in Malta where Hobhouse spent nine days, leaving on 6th August for Caligari in Sardinia to join the fleet at Toulon.

On August 15th 1810 he wrote a grovelling letter to Byron:

Dear Byron

*This letter comes from Caligari from which place frankly I should not have written to you had it not been for one of the most stupid instances of forgetfulness on my part that I ever heard of. You must know then, that being as it were obliged to dine with Dr. Sewel, a name therefore for ever to be accursed by me, on the Sunday on which I left Monday (i.e. August 6) I absolutely forgot my boxes of marbles (henceforth to be ever accursed by you) until the instant before I set off to go to the damned Doctor's country House 50 miles off I fancy in the country. In vain did I send a note and two verbal messages to Mr Launder's Major Domo, (Launder himself being with a whore at his country house too) for when I came on board the *Salsette* at 10 o'clock at night the marbles were not come. I took to my bed immediately and never got up till next morning having in the night by way of punishing myself taken an oath against drinking wine - a resolution to which I have as yet adhered and which with the helping of God I intend to keep eternally. Now my request to your Ld. ship is that you will be pleased to increase my many obligations to you by taking a determination, and by ordering your man W. Fletcher to put you in mind, to take the said forgotten boxes three (or 4) with you to England. With the persuasion that you will not refuse me this favour I have taken the liberty to desire three several persons to put you in mind of my damned boxes which persons are Mr. Close, a very good humoured young fellow the Gen.'s Aide de camp, Mrs. Dickens and Mr. Launder in whose house I recommend you to live when you shall visit Malta.*

Salsette joined the fleet at Toulon and Hobhouse travelled to England in the packet *Nocton*, arriving at Falmouth on October 15th 1810. On his return he ended the five year long dispute with his father who agreed to settle his debts, which included £1,325 10s owed to Byron, on condition that he joined the Militia.

Hobhouse complied with this condition and joined the Royal Cornwall and Devon Miners Regiment later that year, serving at their garrison at Dover

Marbles found:

Byron continued his travels, hearing nothing from Hobhouse in spite of writing to him several times. He left Athens on April 22nd 1811 aboard the transport ship *Hydra* arriving at Valletta on April 30th.

On May 15th he wrote to Hobhouse saying that he had received the letter concerning the lost marbles and described his efforts to find them after they had been missing more than nine months.

I have looked, asked, and raved after your marbles, and am still looking, asking, and raving, till people think they are my own. – Fletcher was my precursor, -- Close, Lander, Mrs. D have all been examined and declared “Ignoramus”—And yet it is so odd that so many packages have vanished that I shall (in the intervals of my malady) search the surface of the Island.

His efforts were later rewarded and on the wrapper of the letter he was able to add a note in Italian saying: *The marbles are found; after [searching] throughout the city, they were with the other marbles of Lord Elgin. They will be carried to---*

The note was damaged when the seal was broken but presumably Hobhouse was able to read the full version. Byron remained on Malta until June 3rd when he left on the frigate *Volage* bound for England. On June 18th when *Volage* was at sea, he again wrote to Hobhouse saying that he would arrange for his marbles to be left at Portsmouth. *Volage* arrived off Portsmouth on July 11th but the squadron was ordered to the Nore and Byron landed at Sheerness (Kent) on July 14th 1811 where the marbles were left at the Custom House.

Marbles restored

Byron wrote to Hobhouse, and they spent two days together at Sittingbourne, about ten miles from Sheerness. Hobhouse returned to his regiment at Dover and on the 24th, recorded in his journal that he had written ‘to Rochester about Marbles’. He underestimated the difficulties of the Naval and HM Customs bureaucracy because he again wrote to Byron on August 2nd - *Have you got your things from on board the Volage yet? I have heard from Rochester and Sheerness that no boxes of mine are landed and that the Frigate “is gone up the River”. What*

does up the river mean? up to where? The moment I know where the things are landed I shall apply to the treasury for an order of release.

Hobhouse's regiment left for Ireland on August 9th and remained there until February 17th 1812. Meanwhile the marbles were found by the Navy and sent to his father's house, Whitton Park, near Hounslow and he was reunited with them on March 11th 1812 more than two years after he first bought them. He wrote: *Went down to Whitton, where Mr. Westmacott dined and examined my marbles. He says I have done well, and that the marbles are of the third class.* A footnote records that the marbles were later presented to the British Museum. The on-line catalogue includes two statues which were purchased from Hobhouse's daughter, Lady Dorchester in 1898. One is listed as a figure 99 centimetres tall and has Acquisition Notes that read 'Found in Athens in 1811 and obtained by Lord Broughton through Lord Byron'. The other is 1.02 metres tall and is described as having been acquired in Athens. Its Acquisition Notes read 'The Lord Byron assisted J. C. Hobhouse by bringing this and [sic] Sculpture back to England'. Neither statue is currently on display in the Museum.

Marbles depicted:

Photographs of the two statues together with notes from the catalogue



Museum number 1898,0519.1



Museum number 1898,0519.2

Museum Number 1898,0519,1

Marble statue group of the goddess Aphrodite and Eros. The goddess is entirely naked, her arms crossing her body, the right hand missing. Her hair is tied up in a top-knot and then loose locks fall down onto each shoulder. By her side is a dolphin ridden by a tiny figure of Eros, his head missing. The dolphin has a cuttle-fish in its mouth. Waves are carved on to the left side of the plinth. The statue is well preserved with only a few abrasions and breaks. It follows the Capitoline type of Aphrodite.

Museum number 1898,0519.2

Marble statue of a naked Aphrodite of the Knidia type by the sculptor Praxiteles. The goddess stands, the weight on her right leg, the left bent, her left arm resting on drapery that covers a small pot. Her head turns towards her left, the hair parted centrally and then waving over the ears and secured in a bun at the rear. Her right arm crosses her body, the now missing hand would have tried to conceal her pubic region. The goddess wears an armband on her left upper arm. There is a strut reaching from the left leg to the drapery support. The statue has been damaged, broken and reassembled, with the missing lower right leg restored in plaster. The surface has been abraded by weathering and the facial features perhaps recut in the nineteenth century, prior to the statue's arrival in the British Museum.

Illustrations and descriptive text: copyright -the Trustees of the British Museum.

Ted White

REMEMBERING ETHEL GORDON FENWICK, SRN. (1857-1947)

On Thursday 30 September, the centenary of the opening of the Nursing Register, I attended a commemorative event for the achievements of Ethel Gordon Fenwick. Members of the Nottinghamshire Nursing History group joined with members of the Ethel Gordon Fenwick Commemorative Partnership to lay flowers on Ethel's grave in the churchyard of St.Helena, Thoroton. Reverend Tim Chambers, vicar of the Cranmer group of churches, officiated.

Since Ethel was a suffragette, the flowers were purple, green and white.

Ethel Manson (aged 21) of Thoroton Hall began her nursing training at Nottingham Children's Hospital in 1878 as a paying probationer. The hospital had 45 inpatients and over 200 outpatients. She then continued training at Manchester Royal Infirmary before becoming a Ward Sister at The London Hospital, Whitechapel.

Ethel then became matron at St.Bartholomew's Hospital. Ethel trained nurses and worked towards the professionalisation of nursing.

Ethel married Dr Bedford Fenwick in 1887 and had to resign her job. Together they founded the British Nurses' Association, which was granted a Royal Charter in 1893. Ethel worked for thirty years for the state registration of nurses. This met with Florence Nightingale's disapproval as Florence saw no need for registration.

In 1902 Ethel founded the Society for Registration of Nurses and in 1904 the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland. The Nurses' Registration Act was finally passed on 23 December 1919. Ethel Gordon Fenwick became the first State Registered Nurse. Ethel continued to campaign into the 1940s for standardisation of nursing training. Ethel died in March

1947 and was buried in Thoroton churchyard. A plaque and a written account of her achievements are on display inside the church.



.....**The Grave**



The memorial bench

Nottinghamshire Nursing History Group was formed just before lockdown. Our aim is to record the Nursing History of the county. We would welcome any written or oral memories and pictures from anyone who has nursed in Nottinghamshire

Jill Oakfield

Further details can be found on the website: nottinghamnursinghistory.com

Or by email: nottsnursinghistory@outlook.com

ANNIVERSARIES AND CORRESPONDENCE

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF DORIS, LADY STENTON FBA

29th December marks the 50th anniversary of the death of Doris, Lady Stenton. She attended University College at Reading, earning a first-class degree in 1916. As Doris Mary Parsons she was engaged in the transcription of Lincoln Cathedral charters and other Lincolnshire projects. In 1919 she married Frank Stenton, who held the first chair of history at Reading and was one of the foremost Anglo-Saxon scholars.

In 1949 Frank was knighted and they became Sir and Lady Stenton – both being esteemed for their historical studies and writings.

They both wrote continuously throughout their life together – but after his death Lady Stenton focused on the completion of the final edition of his *Anglo-Saxon England* and also a collection of his papers. She is buried with her husband in the graveyard of St James in Halloughton.

Barbara Cast

CORRESPONDENCE:

Between Dave Woodhead and Nick Molyneux regarding the article on Battle Bridge in the Thoroton Newsletter Issue 104 , Summer 2021.

From Dave Woodhead: I was reading online an article on “ battle bridge” near Upton where he mentions that the origin of the name is a mystery. There was an incident during the English Civil War that may relate to 22nd December 1644. A Royalist cavalry raid on Upton, led by Col Antony Eyre from Newark “ *fetched a compass round about the rebels’ headquarters and breaking down a bridge, then gallantry charged the rebels, who instantly fled towards that bridge. Four drowned and the remainder of two troops along with colours and arms were captured and taken to Newark* This account appears in *Mercurius Aulicis 6th January 1645*. I wonder if he already dismissed this as a likely explanation? I assumed there would have been a bridge over the River Greet at the bottom of Mill Lane and that would be where the Parliamentarians were driven to. Being the nearest river to Upton. I’m not sure when “Battle Bridge “ would have been over a water course sufficient enough to cause drowning.

Nick Molyneux’s reply: Thank you for your interest in Battle Bridge and for getting in touch. Very useful information, which I think progresses the bridge story nicely. I was unaware of the *Mercurius Aulicis* reference to cavalry action at Upton and so had not deliberately discounted it. I couldn’t find any reference to it, though my research was on-line.

Had I known I would have quite cheerfully included it. It certainly seems to be the sort of thing that might have encouraged a change of name in the 19th Century and perhaps helps to explain that change. However, the name before and for long after the Civil War was Bartle Bridge.

Terry Fry also wrote to me, that recently he had been reminded about an article in the *Nottinghamshire Historian* that he wrote in the 2003 Spring /Summer edition, on Henrietta Carey, ‘a one woman social work department in Nottingham in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. He thought that this little piece below might interest members.

“As I checked up on a fact about her gleaned from ‘Men of Nottingham and Notts’ by Robert Mellors, I wondered why the title did not refer to women. In fact the contributions of no less than 37 women are included in the book. One of them, a Mrs Knight who died in 1918, is mentioned in a chapter entitled Men still living.”

In the introduction Mellors began by writing *‘My objection compiling the paper following is to bring together notes on the names and deeds of men and women in the County and City of Nottingham ...’* Mellors goes on to say that, *‘The number of women whose usefulness is here recorded is few, and that is to be regretted, because there are always more good women than good men but either through their self-effacement or the selfishness of men, the record is slight.’*

This was not improved by omitting their gender from the title of the book! So why did he do it? It is a great pity because this book and his others have been valuable works of reference for local historians.”

I am very happy to be sent any appropriate historical or archaeological correspondence for publishing in the Thoroton Newsletter at editorial discretion.

Paul Baker

BOOKCASE BOOK REVIEWS.

Some Nottinghamshire Surnames

By Cliff Hughes

**Published privately. Copies available from Cliff at
clifford406@talktalk.net. Price £6 plus £1.50 p&p**

This is a fascinating little book that comes from the author's long interest in the history and geography of surnames and is actually a compilation of a series of short articles originally written for the journal of the Nottinghamshire Family History Society. The book includes twenty-five surnames and the locations in which they are found in Nottinghamshire. Some of the names, such as MENSING (found in Cotgrave), WISHER (Cropwells Butler and Bishop) and DONCASTER (Bingham), are unusual. Many of the surnames are confined to quite small areas, often just a couple of villages which are adjacent to each other. MENSING sounds a bit 'foreign' and indeed the first British bearer of the name was William Mensing, a tailor, who originated from Hanover. William married a Cotgrave girl and after she died he remarried and had two sons.

The author is obviously a cricket fan, as he includes the history of Richard DAFT, a prominent Nottinghamshire cricketer. Richard came from humble beginnings in a family of framework knitters and in his early adult life he boarded with the Parr family of Radcliffe on Trent.

George Parr, eleven years older than Richard, was already a well-known cricket player and probably gave Richard much encouragement in his cricket-playing. In 1871 Richard succeeded George as captain of Nottinghamshire, and was occasionally captain of the national team. Even though the number of surnames is limited to twenty-five, the book is well worth buying for the intimate details given of local villages, such as Lambley, Woodborough, Eakring and Farndon. The book is beautifully produced by our old friends Adlards of Ruddington, who print the Thoroton Newsletter, and I can recommend it as a worthwhile purchase. I found only one spelling error, that of Willies spelled as Wiliies, and that unfortunately is on the list of contents. There are no Wilsons included in the book, but then we are ten a penny.

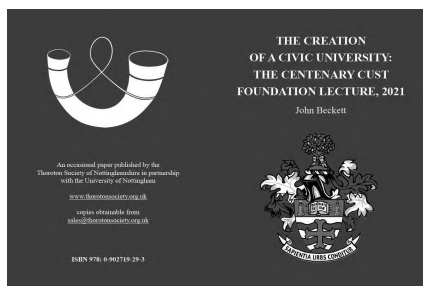
John Wilson

***Whose Memorial: The Restoration of the Lady Chapel, Worksop Priory.* by Robert Illett. (Robert may be contacted via email robertilett@btinternet.com or phone 01777869051).**

Dating from the 13th century, the Lady Chapel was constructed as part of Worksop Priory at the behest of Lady Maud de Furnival. However, as Illett explains, following the Reformation, the Priory and Lady Chapel were allowed to fall into disrepair. The buildings were despoiled, as well as the lead and timbers being looted and sold. Although the Priory was restored in the middle of the 19th century, the Lady Chapel remained in a ruinous state, with much of the original masonry gone. Illett's work centres on the rebuilding of the Lady Chapel. As he outlines, the idea of building a memorial to the Great War (as opposed to a memorial to those killed in it) was first mooted in December 1917. Much of Illett's pamphlet focuses on the subsequent difficulties in securing funding for the restoration of the Chapel, as well as those who were responsible for carrying out the work. This illuminating 14 page pamphlet would be of particular interest to those wishing to know more about the various ways in which tributes were paid to those who fell in World War One, and the types of memorials that were erected in their memory. It would also particularly appeal to those interested in the history of Worksop Priory. A copy of the work may be sought from Robert Illett in exchange for a suggested £5 donation to the Royal British Legion.

Hannah Nicholson

A NEW THOROTON SOCIETY BOOK



The very recent publication of Professor John Beckett's '*Centenary Cust Foundation Lecture*' is now on sale and can be bought by contacting Rob James

By this email below:

sales@thorotonsociety.org.uk

This will be reviewed in the Spring Annual Report/Newsletter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES are: Individual Ordinary membership £27.00, Associate member (at the same address) £6.00, Student/Under 21 £6.00, Individual Record Section membership £16.00, Combined Ordinary and Record Section £38.00, Institutional Ordinary membership £27.00, Institutional Record Section £22.00 (non-UK £26)

RESEARCH GROUP: Contact for details from John Wilson:treasurer@thorotonsociety.org.uk

RESPONSE GROUP: The Society seeks to respond to matters of historical and conservation concern which arise in the County. If members become aware of such matters please contact the Group Coordinator, the Hon Secretary Barbara Cast - contact details above.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY: For information and to join the group contact the County Editor, Philip Riden : philip.riden@nottingham.ac.uk

LECTURES AND EVENTS: Contact: dhoskins@talktalk.net Lectures and Excursions will be notified prior to the Event in the eBulletins and Newsletters with booking details.

PUBLICATIONS:The Society publishes an annual *Transactions* volume which is distributed to all members.The Record Section volumes are published from time to time and are distributed to members paying the extra subscription for this Section. They are also available for purchase by other members and the general public.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. The Spring Newsletter from the 2022 edition will be shorter and included at the end of the Annual Report. Deadlines for contributions to the Newsletter are: **1st February (and Annual Review deadline), 1stMay, 1st August, and 1st November each year** . Please send all contributions to the Editor by email. pb3448@gmail.com.

There is also the eBulletin which members can request to receive . If you do not already receive this you can sign up for it by contacting admin@thorotonsociety.org.uk . All copyright remains with the author and photographer. No item may be reproduced without the express permission of the author and the Newsletter Editor. Due regard to copyright issues must be given when sourcing items for illustration.

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The Editor, Paul Baker, is happy to advise on contributions to the Newsletter.

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PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THOROTON SOCIETY EXCURSIONS



A selection of photographs from recent Thoroton outings:

Top left: Members at Creswell Crags

Bottom left: The Japanese Garden at Newstead Abbey

Top right: Pete Smith, Penny Messenger and Margaret Trueman at Newstead Abbey

Bottom right: Art Gallery at Nottingham Castle

