



# Our Heritage Matters

## Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society

When you cease to enquire, stupidity has you in its grasp.

Volume 11, Issue 11

January 2021

### Highlights of this Month's Magazine

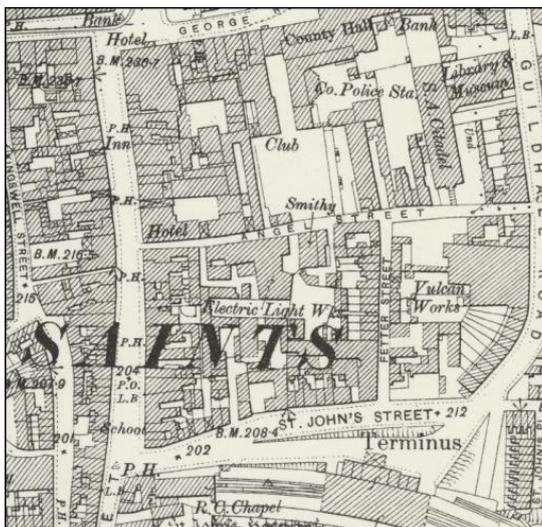
**Pub of the Month**  
**Scarlet & The Old Jolly Smokers**



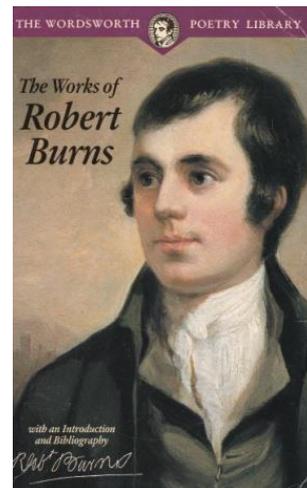
**The Culworth Gang and the Public Executions of 1787**



**The Northampton Electricity Company**



**Robert Burns and Northampton**



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## Notes from the Editor

If anyone has anything, they think would be of interest to our members either that they can create or would be interested in, then do let the chairman know as below. We would also really like a few extra helpers – you don't have to be on the Committee – to especially help with research to help produce this newsletter! Contact Peter Alexander (the Society Chairman) at [chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](mailto:chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk) or [enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk)

### Jon Bailey

Executive Editor: Peter Alexander  
Editor: Jon Bailey  
Chief Researcher: Robert Vaughan

### Society Meetings

Open to all: non-members just £4 including refreshments and members £3. The full programme can be found on our website [www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](http://www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk) Planned meetings are listed on page 38.

## January 27th Heritage Society Remote Talk

The recent online talk by Ted Barnes was a success and so we intend to hold a number more until we can meet again in person. Our next presentation will be on January 27th at 7:30pm. Starting in February we will revert to our traditional meeting date on the second Wednesday of the month. The details of the link will be advertised nearer to the times of the meetings on the website and on local social media. To join the talk visit the Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society Website. All are welcome (members and non-members) to hear this free talk. Details of the link will be found on the society's website at [www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](http://www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk)

# Pub of the Month - Scarlet & The Old Jolly Smokers

Just think, in a century to come, one of our heirs will ask Mum or Dad “what’s a smoker?”

Whilst we might speculate on the demise of smoking, some would say that the clearance of The Jolly Smokers pub from the Mayorhold was the demise of ‘Old Northampton’. It stood at the corner of the Mayorhold and Scarletwell Street (incidentally, if you have been paying attention for the past 9 months, you will recall that Mayorhold is a corruption of Mare Hold, the place where Mares were penned ready for sale in Horse Market).

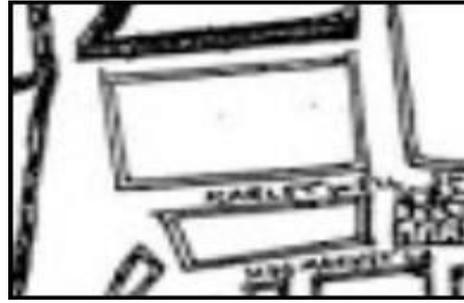
A map from 1841



Down the end of Scarletwell Street, close to the river, was a well (indicated on the map) which greatly contributed to the reputation and wealth of the town. Water from Scarlet Well had particular properties with its mineral content which made it especially good for dyeing cloth to scarlet, hence the name of the street. Its repute was known in the reign of Henry III and a charter of 1239 mentions cloth being sent to Northampton from London. Common English dyes were black, brown and red, with scarlet cloth usually being dyed in The Netherlands. Only the finest cloth was dyed scarlet, and it could easily go badly wrong and end up a very muddy colour.

Scarlet was a colour of some importance – and great expense. Various 15<sup>th</sup> century minutes from around the land refer to Mayors and Aldermen wearing scarlet gowns and it was both the official colour for those deputed to rule and administer as well as a regal colour used by judges when exercising powers formerly held by kings.

John Speed map of 1610



It is also understood that, prior to 1300, the Town Hall stood at the end of this street. But not a hint of its importance and its glorious past these days (I think the well is just behind this street sign).



As mentioned above, the town hall was reputedly at the end of Scarletwell Street and the Mayorhold. Does that explain how Mare and Mayor somehow later got swapped? However, there used to be a general market there prior to

1575 and it had a market cross – this was before the present Market Square was built and it has also been referred to as Market Hold, and the Mayor allegedly lived just nearby, although this seems incredulous as the housing was pathetically squalid for the chief magistrate of the town. Anyway, the reputed site of the town hall is where the Jolly Smokers was located.



It is unclear when it was built but, on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1883, it was advertised as a place to let. The description 'now in full trade' implies it was recently opened.

TO BE LET,  
WITH IMMEDIATE POSSESSION,  
**THE JOLLY SMOKERS' PUBLIC HOUSE,**  
now in full trade, situate in the MAYORHOLD,  
NORTHAMPTON. The Stock and Brewing Utensils to  
be taken at a fair valuation. For particulars apply on the  
Premises.

Somewhat oddly, the new tenant also seems to run a courier business, and it has been pointed out that to keep to his advertised timings he must have been using a throughbred racehorse.

Saturday 27 July 1833

J. POLLARD,  
*Newsman to the Northampton Mercury, and Carrier,*  
**R**ESPECTFULLY announces that he has TAKEN the  
PUBLIC-HOUSE known by the sign of THE  
**JOLLY SMOKERS,** in the MAYORHOLD, NORTH-  
AMPTON.  
J. P. starts as usual from the Woolpack, in Bridge-street, at  
Six o'Clock on Saturday Mornings, to Newport Pagnel; leaves  
Newport at Two, and returns to Northampton at Seven the  
same Evening.—J. P. leaves the above Inn, at Six o'clock on  
Mondays, for Dunstable, through Woburn and Hockliffe;  
arrives at Dunstable at Seven, and leaves that place at Seven  
on Tuesday Morning on the same route, and returns Home  
the same Night.  
All Parcels and Messages entrusted to J. P. will be punctu-  
ally delivered.  
Goods forwarded from Northampton to all parts of the  
Neighbouring Counties.

A few years later, Mr Barrett is selling the courier business to Mr Robins.

- Saturday 16 April 1836

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**JOHN ROBINS**

**R**ESPECTFULLY informs his Friends and the Public, that he has taken the business of BEDFORD and POTTON CARRIER and NEWSMAN for the NORTH-AMPTON MERCURY, in the place of Mr. WM. BARRETT, and that he intends leaving the Woolpack Inn, and **Jolly Smokers,** Mayorhold, Northampton, on TUESDAY MORNINGS, at Six o'clock, through Turvey and Bedford, to the Swan Inn, Pottou, the same evening. He leaves Pottou the next morning at half-past six, for Biggleswade, which he leaves at half-past eight for Bedford; leaves Bedford at two, and returns to the Woolpack Inn on Wednesday evening. He also leaves the Woolpack Inn, and **Jolly Smokers,** Northampton, on Saturday Mornings at five o'clock, and arrives at the Red Lion, Bedford, at twelve, and returns the same day.  
N.B. All Parcels entrusted to his care will be delivered with punctuality and dispatch.

In 1871 the Jolly Smokers was up for sale along with a considerable amount of adjoining property.

NORTHAMPTON.  
ELIGIBLE FREEHOLD BEER HOUSE,  
TWO COTTAGES, and a PLOT of BUILDING  
GROUND,  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
By W. J. PEIRCE,  
On FRIDAY, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 1871, at the STAG'S  
HEAD INN, ABINGTON-STREET, NORTHAMPTON, at Seven  
o'clock in the Evening, subject to such conditions of Sale  
as will be then produced,  
**A**LL that eligible Freehold MESSAGE or Dwelling  
House, now used as a Beer House, and known as "The  
**Jolly Smokers,**" situate and being on the MAYORHOLD, in  
the town of NORTHAMPTON, containing four bedrooms,  
parlour, bar, taproom, kitchen, cellar, yard, wash-house,  
brewhouse, coal-house, and out-offices thereto belonging, and  
now in the occupation of Mr. Edward Henman, at a yearly  
rental of £25.  
Together with all those THREE MESSAGES or Tene-  
ments, situate and being Nos. 2, 4, 6, on the north side of  
SCARLETTWELL-STREET, in the town of NORTHAMPTON afore-  
said, and now in the occupation of Messrs. D'Arcy, Wade,  
and Roseblade, at rents amounting to £16 18s. per annum.  
And, also, all that Large YARD, adjoining the before-  
mentioned Property, having a gateway entrance thereto from  
the Mayorhold aforesaid, with the Wheelwright's Workshops,  
Sheds, Dwelling Rooms, &c., erected thereon, now in the  
occupation of Mr. Bazeley, at a yearly rental of £22; and a  
MACHINE SHOP and Appurtenances, occupied by Mr.  
Adams, at a yearly rental of £10.  
To view the Property, apply to the Tenants; and for  
further particulars, to Messrs. Gates and Percival, Solicitors,  
Peterborough; W. Brooks Gates, Esq., Solicitor, or the Auc-  
tioneer, both of Dergate, Northampton.

It comes up for sale again on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1875 but by now seems to have become The Old Jolly Smokers.

**"THE OLD JOLLY SMOKERS,"**  
MAYORHOLD, NORTHAMPTON.  
Genteel and Useful HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,  
Capital 5-motion BEER ENGINE and PIPING,  
PEWTER MEASURES,  
116-gallon BREWING COPPER, as fixed;  
Excellent BREWING PLANT,  
Cellar of Sound and Sweet ALE BARRELS,  
Six Hogshead of Prime OLD ALE,  
One-and-a-half Pockets of first-class HOPS, &c., &c.,  
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,  
By W. J. PEIRCE,  
**O**N TUESDAY, 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 1875, on the premises  
as above, by order of Mr. EDWARD HENMAN (who is  
leaving),  
Sale to commence at Eleven o'clock.  
Further particulars next week and in handbills. A43

But this reference as 'Old' doesn't crop up again until the 1930s and the use of 'old' was probably a sales-pitch attempted implication as very well established.

Inevitably, for a town centre pub, it has a fair share of unfortunate incidents.

Northampton Mercury - Saturday 03 September 1887

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about. — Each man was ordered to pay his own expenses. *A Withdrawn Summons.*—Henry Baker, "The Jolly Smokers," Mayorhold, was summoned for being violent and quarrelsome in the "Crispin Arms," Scarletwell-street, and refusing to quit when so requested by the landlord.—Mr. J. Banks, on behalf of complainant, asked that the summons might be withdrawn as defendant had expressed his regret at what had happened.—The Bench granted the application, warning, however, the defendant that the offence was a very serious one, which would be dealt with more severely in case he came up again.

By 1956 it had gained a reputation for ghosts and also being built over underground passages built by monks! (Tall stories to drum up trade?)

**Ghosts of monks bring new aroma to the ale house?**  
*They seem friendly, says licensee*

**A**N OLD ENGLISH PUBLIC HOUSE IS THE LAST PLACE ONE WOULD EXPECT TO CARRY AN AROMA OF BURNING INCENSE.

But that is what happens at The Old Jolly Smokers, which stands at the corner of Mayorhold and Scarletwell Street, Northampton.

Mrs. Margaret Sherwin, the present licensee, who moved in a few years ago with her daughters—Ann (age 13), Theresa (11), and Elizabeth (8), and Kim, the Alsatian dog, soon found other mysterious things about this particular inn.

On many occasions she has had her bedspread pulled off at night and piled neatly on the floor.

**EERIE NOISES**

Unexplained and eerie noises come from the disused attic, nicknamed the "Red Barn", which lies above her bedroom.

Pictures have fallen from the walls and been found in another part of the house.

A flowerpot was crushed into small pieces on the stairway one night. Latched doors connecting with the cellar open and close by themselves.

Kim frequently whines in terror at night, and when Mrs. Sherwin goes down to console

him he cowers in a corner and refuses to go near certain parts of the house. This mostly occurs at night-time.

In an article in the Northampton Chronicle and Echo, Mrs. Sherwin is reported as saying:

"Often when I am upstairs alone I feel something (or somebody) brush past me, and all of a sudden I get that icy-cold, scared feeling that I am not alone."

**FACE TO FACE**

But she believes the ghost is quite friendly. On one occasion she actually met him face-to-face

"I was walking along the passage leading to the wine store, when suddenly, appearing out of the darkness for a brief moment, I saw, quite vividly, a white figure.

"It appeared to have a monk's habit on, but it was gone before I could see any more detail," said the licensee.

She treats the whole matter objectively. "He hasn't done us any real harm and seems quite friendly enough," she said.

The house stands in a part of Northampton which in the twelfth century was the flourishing town centre.

This particular building is reputed to stand over a honeycomb of underground passages built by Northampton monks in a bygone age.

as noted above, the last remaining ancient building around the historic, thriving hub of community activity.



What an improvement.



Robert Vaughan.

Based on information in the book Last Orders by Dave Knibb.

PS no hint found of how the pub name arose



Maybe ghosts scared the trade away as it ceased trading in 1960 and became a cafe for 6 years until the council pulled it down for Improvements -

# The Culworth Gang and the Public Executions of 3rd August 1787 at Northampton

By Richard Blacklee

Continuation from chapters 1-3 published in December 2020 edition

## Chapter Four-The Arrests and The Confessions

The end of the Culworth Gang's crimewave came after two of their number, Richard Law and William Petifer, alias Peckover (Petifer acted under the alias Peckover) were overheard bragging at a Towcester Inn one evening after a successful robbery.

They had told the landlord they were returning from a cock fight at Blakesley (off Banbury Lane) and were carrying game cocks in their bags. As it was late, the men arranged to stay the night. The landlord, Mr Duffin inspected the bags after the men had retired, perhaps to check that the birds had sufficient food and water. He found smocks and masks, but no fowl. Being aware that a local gang wore a kind of uniform of farm labourers' smocks of faded fawn material, and black hoods and masks to terrify victims, Duffin summoned the Constable.

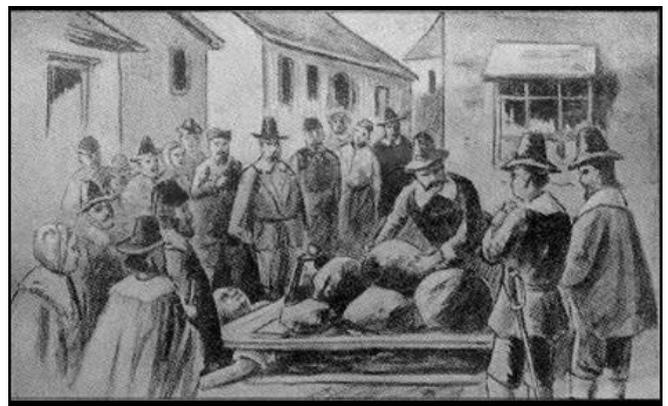
The Constable decided that, discretion being the better part of valour, he would do nothing other than to await further events. Shortly afterwards the Mayo's farm house near Blakesley was broken into. The landlord and the constable provided information to the Justice, and the two men were arrested on suspicion of burglary.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 1787 Richard Law and William Petifer, alias Peckover, were committed to Northampton County Gaol by Justice Rev. M. O'Clare. They were to be held pending trial at the Northampton Summer Assizes on the charge of breaking into the house of William Mayo and his wife at Sewell in the parish of Blakesley. Despite vehemently pleading their innocence, the two men feared their chain of connection to fellow gang members, whom they knew to be actually responsible for the Blakesley robbery under the leadership of William Bowers, might lead to their conviction anyway.

Only two years earlier an innocent man called James Tarry, or Tarvey, a labourer from Chipping Warden, was tried at Northampton Spring Assizes. He was hung on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1785, for the highway robbery of Mr W Adams near Chipping Warden. Messrs Law and Petifer were well aware

that the Adams robbery had in fact been carried out by their own gang's leader John Smith the Elder, accompanied by his son William Smith, and Thomas Malsbury. Mistaken identity was quite a frequent occurrence.

Beesley's 1841 account says Law and Petifer confessed after '*being strongly pressed*'. This basic form of torture involved prisoners being stripped and laid spread-eagled on their backs on the floor of a low dark room in the prison. Wrists and ankles were pulled and attached by cords to chain rings, and great weights of iron and stone stacked onto their chests.



(pressing in the 1690s Salem Witches trials)

The prisoner's diet, until either confessing or dying, was '*three morsels of barley bread the first day, and if he lives beyond it he has nothing daily but as much foul water as he can drink*'.

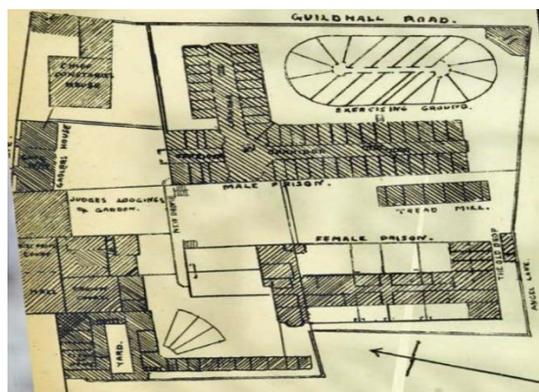
Perhaps, wrongly, assuming that they were not suspected of being leading figures in the Culworth Gang and would be leniently treated if they cooperated, Law and Petifer confessed their knowledge of thirty crimes with which they had been personally involved, spanning back at least fifteen years.

The two impeached several of their accomplices in the gang whose names were published shortly afterwards in the Northampton Mercury.

Those named were John Smith the Elder, his two sons William and John Jnr, William Bowers, William Abbot, Thomas Malsbury, John Tack (possibly a cousin of the Smith boys as John the Elder had married Elizabeth Tack of Culworth in 1761), William Tyrell, and a man called Gilkes. The newspaper article referred to the accused as all being members of 'The Culworth Gang'.

Following the confessions Constables swooped on addresses in and around Culworth. On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1787 John Smith the Elder, his son William Smith, and William Tyrell, were arrested, initially on the sample charge of being among a group of seven who robbed John Richardson the Northampton-Oxford carrier on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1785 at about 8pm near Brackley. They stole money and goods to the value of £140 (equivalent to about £22,000 today). Benjamin Smith, possibly a relative, was arrested 'for receiving part of the said goods, knowing them to have been stolen'.

These men were also committed to the county gaol by Justice Rev. M. O'Clare to await trial at the Summer Assizes.



Northampton gaol around 1800. Note the male prison and the female prison, the old drop where hangings could be witnessed by the public from a meadow, and the more private new drop. Also, the dreaded punishment tread mill. A new drop was first used at Newgate prison in 1783 after boisterous crowds attending hangings became completely out of hand.

An Oxford newspaper reported the arrest of the men 'with pleasure' as it was one of their carriers who had been robbed. The newspaper report says 'the Villains drove his Cart under a Hedge some Distance from the Road and plundered it of Goods and Money to the Amount of One Hundred and Forty Pounds'. Although Richardson had his son and a fierce dog with them, Richardson was hit on the shoulder with a pitchfork and held by four men whilst the other three plundered his wagon. The proprietor made a public appeal in the Mercury for subscriptions to enable him to pay compensation to his passengers.

Further arrests swiftly followed. William Bowers, on suspicion of stealing several pieces of velverets, and other articles of the value of forty shillings and upwards, being the property of Mr James Rylance of Manchester. Elizabeth Tyrell (Bowers' girlfriend), charged with stealing, receiving and concealing goods to the value of five pounds, the property of Mr Rylance, and others. Charles Dixon, on suspicion of stealing,

receiving and 'secreting divers goods' of the value of forty shillings, the property of the said Mr Rylance.

A quantity of stolen property was recovered during the raids and an inventory was made by Justice Rev. M. O'Clare. John Smith Jnr, Thomas Malsbury, John Tack, and Gilkes fled before they could be apprehended.

The arrests caused serious repercussions for friends and relatives of those confined to the Northampton gaol, for they were expected to pay for a prisoner's board and lodging.

However, unlike today, there were no lasting prison sentences designed to reform the unreformable. Prisoners lingered in goal for only as long as it took to bring them to trial, and if pronounced guilty of a capital offence, committed to hang, or to transportation.

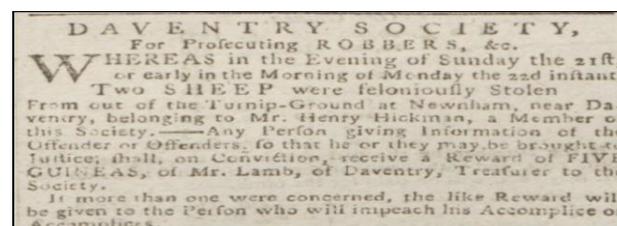


William Abbot, shoemaker, and flamboyant Clerk of Sulgrave Parish, turned King's Evidence after his arrest and confessed

his knowledge of a further seventeen crimes in which himself and confederates were concerned. This brought the total number of charges against the suspects to forty-seven. Following Abbot's confession, Sulgrave church was closely searched and a cache of stolen goods recovered from a vault beneath the floor, and even from within the church chest.

Wm Abbot reputedly carried loaded pistols about his person wherever he went, even during his sacred churchly duties. Although this might sound unlikely, it could be true. He might as well have carried weapons, for the penalty for being caught in possession was no worse than stealing a lace handkerchief for instance, the sentence of death.

The advertisement columns of the Northampton Mercury had for some time printed announcements on behalf of 'Societies for the Prosecution against all Depredators on their Property of Robbers,' requesting intelligence



which might result in the arrests of those responsible and the recovery of stolen items.

Justice Rev. M. O'Clare was said to have been obsessive in his pursuit of the gang, almost to the extent of having a vendetta against them. He made an inventory of the recovered items after the police raids. He listed the items on hand bills and took advertisements in the Mercury hoping further victims would come forward, to enable him to bring additional charges and arrest additional suspects. Apparently O'Clare was completely unsuccessful in his quest, despite offering a huge reward of ten guineas.

Incidentally, the high price of the Mercury would have put it outside the affordability of the average commoner. A more affordable and popular penny broadside, and a half penny 'confessions sheet,' were also published by The Mercury. The newspaper would be folded over several times to save on postage costs. The Mercury's newsman, William Cotton, mentioned in the introduction was robbed on the Banbury Lane near Hunsbury Hill in Northampton in November 1784.

## Chapter Five-The Summer Assizes and the final charges

The Northampton Summer Assizes of 1787 were held at the Sessions House in George Row.



The Northampton Mercury reported the following sample charges brought against the four men from the Culworth Gang:

**John Smith** the Elder, labourer, aged about fifty-three, and considered a very old offender, for robbing Mr Lemm of Foxley in the parish of Blakesley on the highway in the parish of Greens Norton, of a silver watch and fifteen shillings in money.

**William Bowers**, age about thirty-six, labourer, of Culworth, for breaking into the house of William Mayo and his wife of Sewell in the parish of Blakesley with others, between eleven and twelve

o'clock on Thursday night 5<sup>th</sup> April, disguised in smocks and with handkerchiefs over their faces, armed with a pistol and bill hook, and stealing fifteen shillings in money, a gold ring, silver stock buckle, a coat and hats, several shirts shifts and stockings, a women's gown, a piece of new linen cloth, a flitch (side) and a half of bacon, and several other articles.

**Richard Law**, age about thirty, carpenter, born at Culworth, for robbing Edward Jackson on the highway near Towcester of a silver watch.

**William Petifer**, alias Peckover, age about forty, labourer, born at Chalton by Newbottle, for robbing the son and servant of Mr Warren on the highway near Chipping Warden of four guineas and some silver.

The four were 'convicted upon the clearest evidence' and no further charges needed to be brought to secure convictions.

John Smith the Elder was several times strongly importuned to disclose what he knew of the 1785 robbery of Mr Adams, mentioned above, as well as other robberies with which he had been concerned. He refused making any discoveries, as was also the case with Bowers, 'and in this resolution they both persisted'. Indeed, Smith the Elder and William Bowers refused to make any discoveries right to their last moments. Bowers was described by the Northampton Mercury as '*the most hardened and abandoned that can be conceived, swearing and cursing upon every occasion*'. When a witness testified, Bowers declared loud enough to be heard in all parts of the court that '*a man hath no more chance here than a cat in hell without claws*'.

John Smith the Elder, William Bowers, Richard Law and William Petifer, alias Peckover were sentenced to death by hanging.

Although capitally convicted for his crimes, Abbot was afterwards reprieved, and sentenced to transportation to Australia for life. He was one of the first convicts to be sent there after the American War of Independence had closed off America for convicts. Abbot missed the first convoy of eleven prison ships which had departed from Portsmouth on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1787. The Prisons were so overcrowded he was detained at sea during His Majesty's Pleasure on a renovated ship known as hulk whilst awaiting the next convoy. No murderers or others convicted of a violent crime were sent to Australia. Convicts comprised ordinary people forced to turn to crime in order to survive. Many refused to work in the harsh conditions found in Australia when they arrived.

William and Benjamin Smith, and Elizabeth and William Tyrell, were 'delivered by proclamation' which means they were released without trial or verdict, perhaps through lack of evidence. It must have been a huge relief for them to be released from the stinking gaol, ravaged by often lethal fevers. Corruption and bribery were rife in the legal system during the eighteenth century so there are any number of reasons why an accused person might be released. A favourite get out for women was to 'plead their bellies' when they became pregnant in gaol.

Gaolers sold access to prisoners to anyone willing to endure the stench, and risk of catching something. The prison chaplain, or Ordinary, would publish the confessions and final words of any notable prisoners in order to sell at the hangings, even if he had to make them up himself in time for them to be printed!

## Chapter Six- The Final Letters

Whilst awaiting execution the four men spent their time reading and praying.

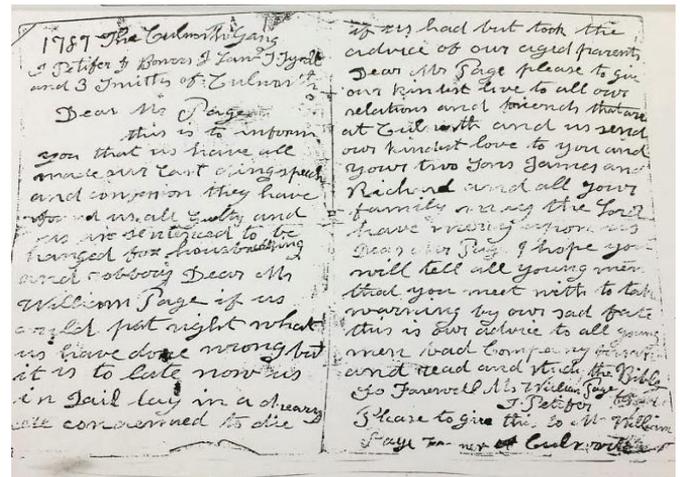
They composed a letter to Mr William Page, a Culworth farmer from their cells. Although many poor people were illiterate, some had been taught to read and write after the English Wars. Although farmer Page had been a victim of the gang's attention himself in the past, losing some geese, a poem supposedly written by Smith Snr at the time apologised.

*Dear Mr. Page  
Don't get in a rage  
We bought your geese  
For a penny apiece  
And left the money  
with the gander.*

It is not recorded why the gang should write to Mr Page. Perhaps he was the only person they could think of in the village who could read. It is thought Mr Page's two sons, James and Richard, may have been slightly involved with the gang. Previously there had been a notorious country boy highwayman with the same name, William Page, but he was hung thirty years earlier in 1758. It is not known whether the two were related.

William Petifer underwent conversion to religion in the gaol. He, like Smith Snr, could read and write. He was the author of the following letter written on behalf of the four convicted gang members.

Throughout this article, the spellings of names have been used as they appear in this letter. As might be expected, various other spellings of the surnames appear from time to time in various newspaper articles etc. He signed himself J Petifer rather than W. Perhaps his given name as used at the time of his arrest, whereas he actually preferred using a nickname. Nicknames were frequently used so that real names couldn't be extracted under duress by the authorities. For instance, Petifer generally used the alias Peckover.



Copy of the original letter written by the condemned men (by permission of Northampton Records office)

Letter to William Page of Culworth, farmer  
1787 The Culworth Gang  
of Petifer, Bowers, of Law & J Tyrell and 3 Smiths  
of Culworth.

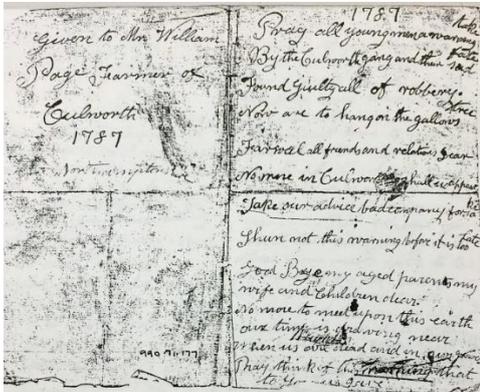
*Dear Mr Page  
This is to inform you that we have all made our  
last dying spechand confession they have found  
us all guilty and us are sentenced to be hanged  
for housebreaking and robbery.*

*Dear Mr William Page  
if us could right what us have done wrong but  
it is too late now us is in jail lay in a drear ycell  
condemned to die  
if us had took the advice of our aged parents*

*Dear Mr Page  
please give our kindest love to all our  
relations and friends that are at Culworth and us  
send our kindest love to you and your two sons  
James and Richard and all your Family and may  
the Lord have mercy upon us*

Dear Mr Page  
 I hope you will tell all young men  
 that you meet with take warning by our sad fate  
 this is our advice to all young men bad company  
 forsake and read and study the Bible  
 So farewell Mr William Page  
 J Petifer

Please to give this to Mr William Page farmer at  
 Culworth



Letter given to Mr William Page Farmer of  
 Culworth

Pray all young men a warning take  
 By the Culworth gang and their sad fate  
 Found guilty all of robbery.  
 Now to hang on the gallows tree  
 Farewell all friends and relations dear  
 No more in Culworth shall we appear  
 Take our advice bad company forsake  
 Shun not this warning before it is too late  
 Good Bye my aged parents my  
 Wife and children dear  
 No more to meet upon this earth  
 Our time is drawing near  
 When us are dead and in our graves  
 Pray think of this warning that to you us gave.

John Smith the Elder left a beautiful letter for his  
 wife. He asked his son William make him a coffin,  
 and begs

*'of my children to take warning from my unhappy  
 end, that they may turn to the path of virtue, and  
 beg of them to beware of bad company and  
 Sabbath breaking, which is the wish of their dying  
 father'.*

He added in a PS:

*'My dear, desire my son John to marry Elizabeth  
 Beere and beg of him to be good to her and the  
 child, and take warning by me that they may live  
 in comfort. I desire you will take care of these  
 lines and cause them to be read to all my children  
 every Sabbath Day, and I hope that God will give*

*them grace to take warning' – it is the prayer of a  
 dying father.*

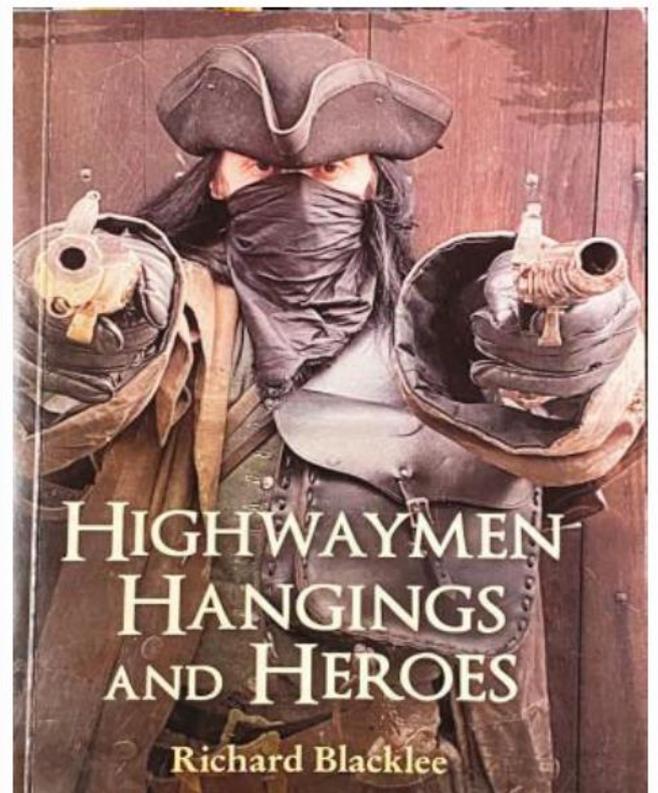
Petifer's last letter written shortly before the  
 execution was an admission of his crimes. He  
 admitted that the gang had robbed scores of  
 houses which 'us all do repent'.

**To be continued next month, chapter 7: THE  
 HANGINGS!**

Richard Blacklee 2020

*PS by Robert Vaughan*

Richard is a retired surveyor who lives at Grendon. He  
 has written this entertaining and extremely interesting  
 book which touches on the Culworth gang as his family  
 line includes Bowers' and that was a name in the  
 gang! His book focussing on family history can be  
 purchased at the Jeyes shop in Earls Barton or via  
 ourselves for just £8.99.



# Mysteries! All Families Have Them

By Ann Alexander

My husband Peter (pictured here) had such a mystery in his family. He had no idea who his paternal grandfather was. The only clues were the name Dudley and the Canon of Coleraine.



His grandmother, Retta, refused to discuss the past. We knew that she had travelled to India and lived there for many years, but that was it.



Let me go back to the beginning when Peter's father, Claude, died suddenly in 1962, aged 49, from peritonitis. This was a total disaster for the family, but eventually life carried on. Then, in 1963, a letter arrived from the Salvation



Army, but we never found out what it was about because Peter's mother destroyed it... Whatever it contained really upset her. "Past family issues are best left in the past." That was the end of the conversation.

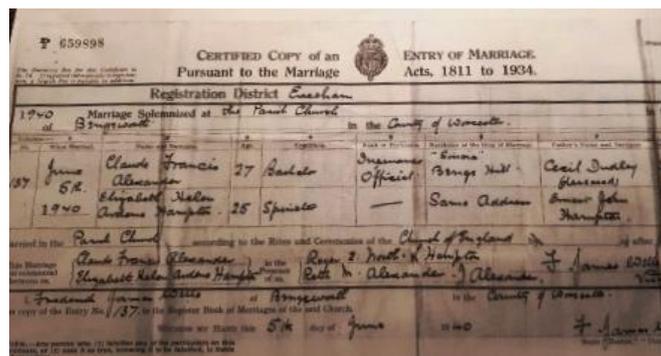
When the programme "Who Do You Think You Are?" arrived on the scene, I became fascinated about how much information could be found on the Internet.

I decided to give Peter a DNA testing kit for his Birthday and several weeks went by before the results came back with his genealogical profile. The surname Dudley kept appearing but got me no further forward in finding out the whereabouts of the missing grandfather!

I decided to change tack and joined Ancestry.com. After many hours of searching passenger shipping lists to India, I found out that his grandmother had travelled to India in 1905. She was aged 20 and a music teacher.

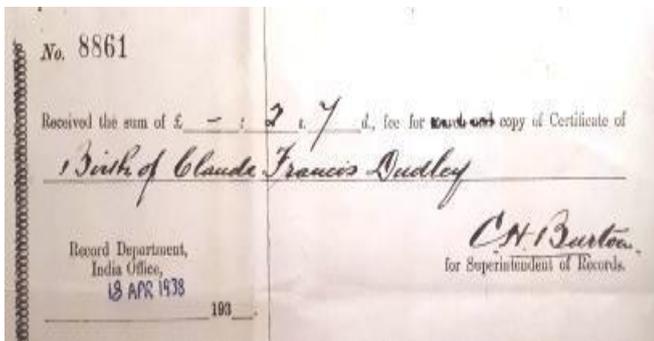


The next clue to surface was a receipt from the India Office in 1938 for a copy of the birth certificate for a Claude F Dudley born in 1913. I knew that Peter's father had been born in India, but surely he was an Alexander. Who was this Dudley? After more research, it came to light that, on Peter's parents' Marriage Certificate, the father of Claude was named as Cecil Ensor Dudley, *deceased*.



I decided to pursue this lead and found out that Cecil had travelled to India in 1901. He had already run up debts to the tune of £200, which was a lot of money then - circa £12,000. I think that he was packed off to India as a lot of "black sheep" were in those days. He took exams for the Indian Police and came out top in that year. However, his career was brief when he was thrown out for drunkenness, gambling and debauchery. It was rumoured that he had an affair with an English girl and that a son had been born. The son turned out to be Claude, but at this point I had no information to prove it.

Cecil then vanished, leaving Retta alone with her son. They lived in India for several years; however I could not find a Marriage Certificate for Retta and Cecil, but found a Birth Certificate for Claude Dudley that was registered in Poona, India in 1913.



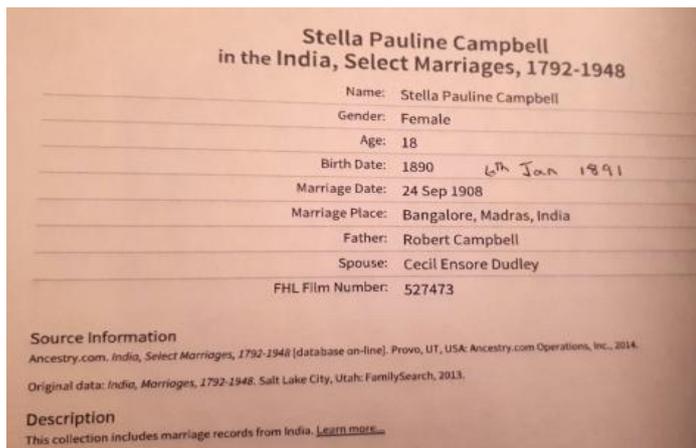
Eventually I found a Marriage Certificate for Retta, registered in Bradford in 1922 when she returned to the UK from India to marry a J.J. Alexander. Hence the family surname.

I now needed to find out more about Cecil's lineage. He was born in County Coleraine and was the eldest of four brothers, Harold, Walter and Claude. As soon as I read the name Claude, my pulse quickened. This was the same name as Peter's father! Harold became the Canon of Coleraine.

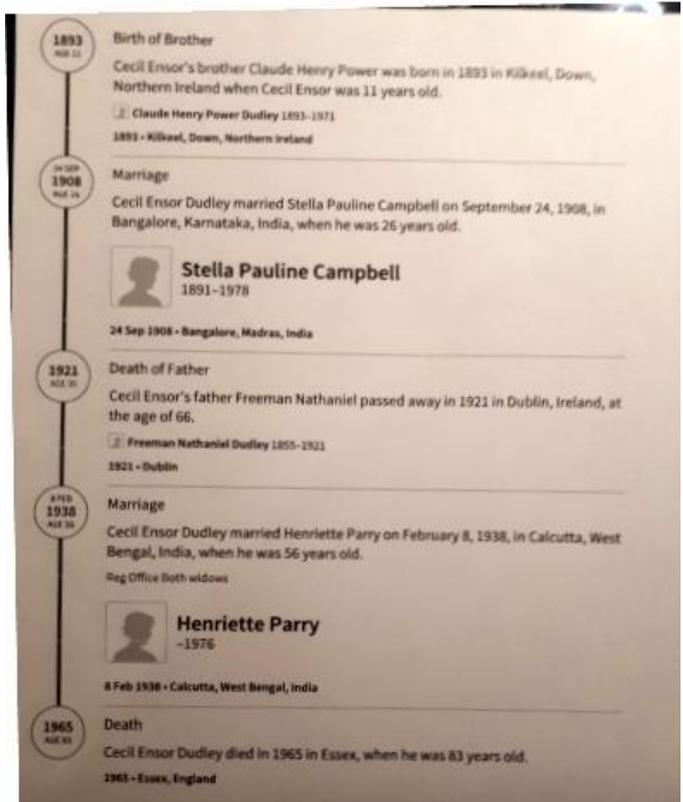


I knew very little about Cecil at this point, just his name on Peter's parents Marriage Certificate which stated that he was deceased.

Cecil married a Stella Campbell in 1908 at Bangalore, India which I found in the India Records, and then seems to have disappeared again leaving her with a daughter.



Records show he resurfaced in 1938 when he married a Henriette Parry. At this point *he was still married to Stella!* Cecil returned to the UK with Henriette when his health began to fail and lived out his final years in Brentwood, Essex. He died in 1965.



Did that original letter that Peter's mother refused to discuss with the family contain a request from Cecil to find the whereabouts of his son? I will never know. All I knew for sure was the statement on the Marriage Certificate. Perhaps that would explain the reason for Peter's mother wanting to forget all about it, as she knew that Cecil had vanished years ago.

The clues were there but they didn't add up, so once again it was back to more research. I found a family tree that mentioned Cecil's name, which led to me contacting a family member who put me in touch with a possible lead. I telephoned him and we had a delightful conversation. They had no idea of what had happened. They were only aware of rumours that Cecil had fathered a son.

We subsequently met up in London and swapped photos and stories. The resemblance between Claude and Cecil was strong. They had the same ears and strong chin. Then out of the blue came the information that stunned me!

The Dudley family tree went back to Robert Dudley, First Earl of Leicester and favourite courtier of Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> and beyond.



A book had been published by Dean Dudley 1823-1906 called History of the Dudley Family: with Genealogical Tables, Pedigrees, & C Volume 6. Of course I

ordered it and on page 504 and 152 was the name I knew so well, Cecil Ensor Dudley!

To sum up, both Cecil and Peter's grandmother Retta were teachers at private schools for the sons of Indian hierarchy. Perhaps they were at the same school? Once I met Peter's second cousin, things fell into place very quickly, as family members on his side had already researched the Dudley family and I was able to fill in the gaps in their research.

Robert Dudley was the favourite courtier of Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> and it was rumoured that he was her secret lover. Indeed, after her accession, the Virgin Queen moved Robert Dudley's bedchamber next to her private rooms. However, she resisted his desire to turn their lifelong friendship into marriage. In 1560, when his first wife Amy Robsart died after falling down a flight of stairs, it was suggested that Robert had arranged it. The cause of her death was never established beyond belief and the rumours followed Robert all of his life.

It has been said that near the end of her days Elizabeth said that her only true love had been Robert.

Robert was the fifth son of John Dudley, the Duke of Northumberland. John Dudley was the virtual ruler of England during the latter part of the reign of Edward VI. On July 6th 1553 Edward died and four days later Lady Jane Gray was declared Queen of England. She had married John Dudley's son, Guildford. It was an attempt to keep England protestant. A few days later she was imprisoned in the Tower of London and eventually executed. Her father-in-law was condemned for treason and on August 23rd he was executed. The challenge had cost Jane her life and her head. She was only sixteen and was Queen for only nine days.

John Dudley had persuaded the dying King to will the Crown to Lady Jane Gray who just happened to be his daughter-in-law. The country rose up in favour of the direct and true line and the council proclaimed Mary as Queen nine days later.

All the information is out there on the Internet. However, I did not expect the result to be so interesting.

**Cecil Ensor Dudley**  
1882-1965

When Cecil Ensor Dudley was born in 1882 his father, Freeman, was 27 and his mother, EVANGELINE, was 26. He married his first wife, Stella Pauline Campbell, on September 24, 1908, in Bangalore, Karnataka, India. On February 8, 1938, he married his second wife, Henriette Parry, in Calcutta, West Bengal, India. He died in 1965 in Essex, at the age of 83.

No known children

- Cecil Ensor Dudley
- Freeman Nathaniel Dudley
- Stella Pauline Campbell
- EVANGELINE GOULDING

**1882**  
Birth  
Cecil Ensor Dudley was born in 1882 to EVANGELINE GOULDING, age 26, and Freeman Nathaniel Dudley, age 27.  
1882

**1884**  
Birth of Brother  
Cecil Ensor's brother Harold was born in 1884 in Coleraine, Londonderry, Northern Ireland when Cecil Ensor was 2 years old.  
Harold Dudley 1884-  
1884 - Coleraine, Londonderry, Northern Ireland

**1885**  
Birth of Brother  
Cecil Ensor's brother Walter was born in 1885 in Colorado when Cecil Ensor was 3 years old.  
Walter Dudley 1885-  
1885 - Co Down

**What is in your family tree?**

1950 Northampton



# The Deacon Teas

For many years one of the traditions in the village each January was the Deacon Tea. They were begun by my great grandfather Josiah. He left sums of money in his will for this annual treat.

The setting up of this foundation was recorded in the Northampton Mercury on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1906.

## “FOUNDATION OF JOSIAH DEACON

**Josiah Deacon of Little Houghton, who died on April 15<sup>th</sup> 1905, left the following codicil to his will**

*“A Memorandum of what I wish and desire should be done after my decease that the school children of Little Houghton shall have the interest of £100 for a tea or treat of some kind each Christmas time. And the Cookhoe schoolchildren, also the interest of £100 for the same purpose. And the widows of both villages, living in our houses who have paid up their rents, the interest of another £100 equally amongst them. The £300 to be safely invested for ever (Consols perhaps). The above to be carried out by my son David or his heirs and the Vicar and Rector at the time being of each parish”. It is proposed to pay the legacies to the official Trustees of Charitable Funds for investment in Consols”.*

The teas were held annually both in Little Houghton and Cogenhoe, demonstrating the strong links between two villages, and true to form, his wishes were administered by Josiah's son, my grandfather David, and then by Dad from 1939 and always with the help of the vicar and rector at the time, and my mother, of course. I remember these in the 1950s, but think by then they were held in alternate years in each village as the interest from £100 pa didn't cover the costs of the event. In the end of course, the interest was clearly inadequate as to make them unviable and the foundation was wound up and the teas were no more. It was probably just as well as children were getting more sophisticated and a free tea and games had lost its appeal, a far cry from Edwardian times. In their heyday, the teas were an important enough event to be reported in the local papers with even a photograph or two.

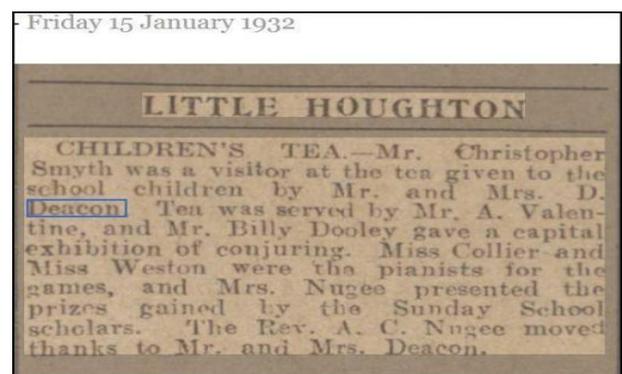
Further searches of the Mercury, revealed this article of 4 July 1902:

**A sensible and generous Coronation gift has been given by Mr J Deacon of Little Houghton to the children of his village and Cogenhoe. He has given each child between the age of 6 and 12 a Post Office savings book with 1s, credited to each holder, and the children of Little Houghton have also been promised a penny for every shilling saved during Mr Deacon's lifetime. This thoughtful encouragement to thrift is an idea which might well be copied by other generous gentlemen.**

Two years later, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1904, the Mercury reported the Commendable Generosity of Josiah Deacon of Little Houghton “that on Monday last he visited the Cogenhoe schools to present to the scholars his Coronation commemoration gifts. During the last 12 months the scholars who have bank books have saved about £9 as against £15 the previous year. A few words encouraging the children to form habits of thrift were spoken by Mr Deacon, and then his little grandson handed to each child his book with the gift added. The thanks of the children to Mr Deacon for his kind generosity were briefly voiced by the Head master (Mr R Clarke), who also expressed a hope that next year the total savings would be much greater”.

Sadly, this was to be the last visitation by Josiah as he died the following April. The little grandson isn't named. It would have been either David, then aged 6 or Reginald [Thomas Josiah] aged 2. David was killed in France in 1918 and Reggie died aged 8 in 1911.

Richard Deacon



We are grateful to Jon Bailey for extracting these further snippets from the Parish Magazine as supplied by Liz Hopes:

#### January 1906

The late J Deacon of Little Houghton left the sum of £100 to be invested in the names of his son, Mr D Deacon, and the Rector of Cogenhoe-the annual interest to provide a Christmas Tea every year for the children of Cogenhoe. The money has not yet been invested, but Mr D Deacon and his sisters, not wishing the first Christmas since their father's death to pass without the Tea being given, have kindly undertaken to provide it themselves for this time. The tea will be given on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, in the Church Room at 5pm. All children attending the Council School will be invited; also their teachers and the Church Sunday School teachers. This annual event will keep green the memory of Mr Josiah Deacon, to whom the children owe many acts of kindness during his lifetime.

#### February 1907.

Mr Deacon's tea to the children took place on January 9<sup>th</sup>. There were over one hundred children present and also the Council School and Sunday School teachers. We have to thank not only Mr David Deacon and his sisters for providing the 'wherewithal' but the ladies who so kindly came and helped; also Mr Arlidge, of Hardingstone, who at much personal inconvenience came and gave a magic-lantern entertainment after tea. Among the pictures he shewed were excellent portraits of the late Mr Josiah Deacon and Mr David Deacon.

#### February 1907

Mr J Deacon's annual tea to all the children took place on January 8<sup>th</sup>. There were 99 children, and with teachers and helpers there were altogether 128. After tea, Mr Arlidge kindly gave a magic lantern entertainment, which was much appreciated.

#### February 1908

Mr Deacon's tea for the children took place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. About 120 young and old enjoyed both the tea and lantern entertainment.

#### February 1909

Mr Deacon's tea for all the children attending the Council School and Church Sunday School was held on Jan 14<sup>th</sup>. After tea a capital entertainment was given by Prof Stanley of Northampton whose ventriloquism was much enjoyed by all.

The tea was held in January 1910 and 1911 with great success.

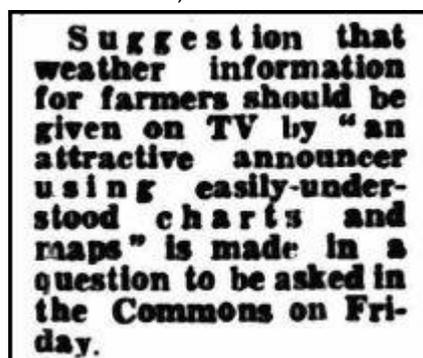
#### December 1911

Mr Deacon's Tea in this Parish is fixed for Wednesday December the 27<sup>th</sup>. The Children's Entertainment will unfortunately have to be postponed to January or February, as diphtheria has stopped their practices

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#### ANOTHER SELECTION OF SNIPPETS FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

A suggestion from 1952 (who did they have in mind as not attractive?)



**Suggestion that weather information for farmers should be given on TV by "an attractive announcer using easily-understood charts and maps" is made in a question to be asked in the Commons on Friday.**

A suggestion from 1900 – probably not a good one in 1990, but now...



**BLUNT'S**  
HAVE HAD  
MANY YEARS  
REPUTATION  
FOR BEING THE  
BEST  
BRITISH  
WINE  
AND  
MORE  
WHOLESALE  
THAN  
COMMON  
FOREIGN.  
**BRITISH WINES**  
AND  
9d. per Bottle  
IS THE PRICE.  
—  
GINGER, ORANGE,  
COWSLIP,  
RAISIN, &c.  
—  
**BLUNT'S**  
**GREAT STORES,**  
2, PARADE,  
NORTHAMPTON

# The Laws of Whiston

This is an account related to Robert Vaughan by Gerald Law who was born in the Moat House, Whiston, in 1932, and now lives near Feltham, Middlesex, but you might know his sister, Jean Lee who presently lives in Cogenhoe.

First of all, Gerald says the Moat House had a reputation for being haunted, and having looked up historical information, I see that the origins of the manor go back to at least the 10<sup>th</sup> century so it's had plenty of time to acquire such a reputation.



Secondly, Gerald assures me that the family is not related to the Laws who ran a bus service as described elsewhere in this month's magazine!

Gerald has read our book, Century of Change, which on page 93 mentions the Home Guard and shooting competitions at Castle Ashby. His father was Sgt Sid Law, and a crack-shot, a skill likely honed shooting rabbits whilst working as foreman on Charles Tompkins' farm. Sid retained this cup on demobilisation.



This is a photograph of the Home Guard, Whiston & Castle Ashby platoon, with Sgt Sid Law in the centre background keeping an eye on things

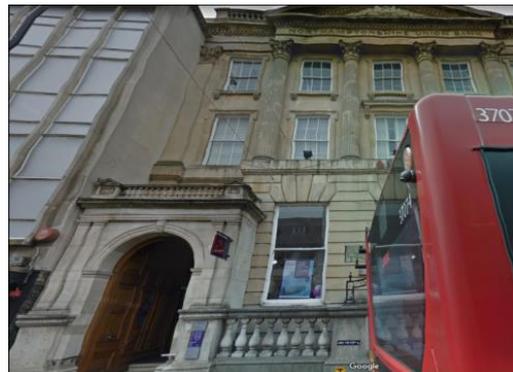


Other family treasures are a military gas mask and an ARP whistle with lanyard.



Our own Terry Coles has research information on Benjamin Law whose grave is in Cogenhoe churchyard and refers to a ship lost in November 1914, but again this has no linkage recognised by Gerald or his brother David.

Gerald and I exchanged stories about the NatWest branch in The Drapery, Northampton, as we both had some work connection to that,



and both recalled the outbuildings (former stables in College Street) with pile upon pile of very dusty voucher boxes he once had to spend many hours ploughing through (unsuccessfully) when historic cheque evidence was required for a court case.



(the rear outbuildings with upper door to the hay loft)

In 1948, the manager was Mr H Talbot-Butler who lived above the branch. By the time of his retirement in 1989, Gerald was the manager, albeit living in his own house.

We all know of the line of Poplars along the edge of the playing field and Gerald says his father planted them between 1950 and 1952 and thought it was sad to see them now severely lopped – having consulted Jon Bailey I was able to reassure Gerald that these quite elderly trees had needed such treatment for safety reasons as reported by an arboriculturist - the seeds for the playing field grass having been supplied from Tompkins' farm.

In a recent edition we showed a photograph of 3 Land Girls and Gerald worked with all of them. There was also an influx from the land army hostel in Denton at busy times, as well as the prisoners of war and conscientious objectors. Two other land army girls came to Tompkins' from Northampton, one was named Emily and was the seamstress at the Northampton Repertory Company.

These two wedding photographs are from the archive which the society holds, and Gerald was able to add that they show the wedding of his eldest daughter, with his two other daughters and two sons. Plus 'so many' nieces and nephews



Lastly, Gerald recalls when Steven Hollowell lived in Whiston, at the top of the hill, and in 1953 half the village crowded around his very small, blurry, black and white television to watch the Queen's coronation. Apparently it was the only location that could get sufficient TV signal.

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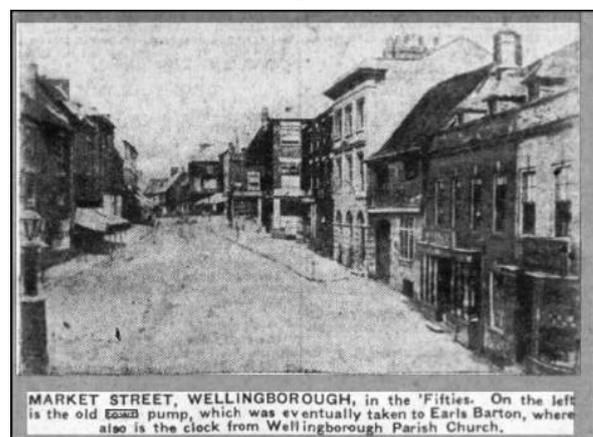


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### Another snippet from the Northampton Mercury

IT'S GORN!

**So where has it gone? Recent enquiries to Earls Barton Parish Council have failed to establish the fate of this old town pump. They also had the clock from the church, but again, whereabouts**



MARKET STREET, WELLINGBOROUGH, in the 'Fifties. On the left is the old pump, which was eventually taken to Earls Barton, where also is the clock from Wellingborough Parish Church.

# The Northampton Electricity Company

Northampton had its own power station using coal to generate electricity. The location was off Nunn Mills Road on the River Nene opposite Midsummer Meadow.

The plant was built in 1919 to replace a much smaller facility once based in Angel Lane – part way down Bridge Street. The Northampton Electric Light and Power Company Ltd was established in 1889 and originally could only operate within the town boundary but obtained permission in 1904 to operate outside.

You can see on this map the original Electricity Works in the centre, with the Vulcan iron foundry to the east and St John's Railway terminus to the south. Quite a toxic mix for a town centre



From 1893 to 1897 the works grew from a supply to suffice 4600 8-candle power lights to 11,084, and the Corporation tried to purchase the company in 1904, just as it had tried with the Gas Company. However, it was a while later before the town's street lamps became electric instead of gas.

By 1913 the growth was so vast that a new plant was commissioned, and was completed, as stated above in 1919. Initially it had low pressure boilers, then Intermediate and finally converted to high pressure in 1956.

For the technically minded, this is the specification after much further expansion in 1959:

Boilers:

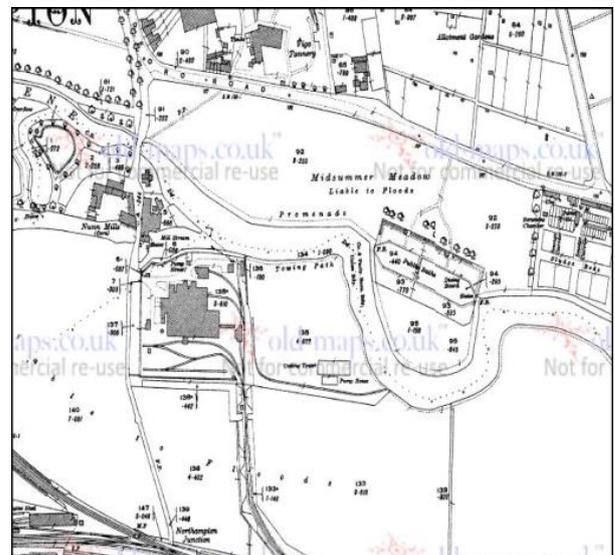
- 2 × 45,000 lb/hr (5.67 kg/s) Stirling boilers, 210 psi at 650°F (14.48 bar at 343°C)
- 2 × 60,000 lb/hr (7.56 kg/s) Stirling boilers, 210 psi at 700°F (14.48 bar at 371°C)
- 4 × 150,000 lb/hr (18.90 kg/s) Stirling boilers, 425 psi at 810°F (29.31 bar at 432°C)
- 2 × 175,000 lb/hr (22.05 kg/s) Simon Carves boilers, 425 psi at 825°F (29.31 bar at 441°C)
- 2 × 150,000 lb/hr (18.90 kg/s) Bennis boilers, 625 psi at 860°F (43.1 bar at 460°C)

Turbo-alternators:

- 1 × 10 MW Metropolitan Vickers
- 1 × 12.5 MW Metropolitan Vickers
- 3 × 30 MW Parsons
- 1 × 30 MW Brush

In Angel Lane the power supplied was Direct Current and that continued and overlapped the new plant for some years albeit that the new supply was Alternating Current.

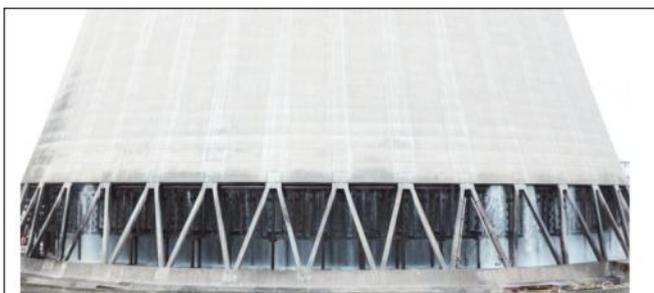
This 1926 map shows the location of the new plant in Nunn Mills Road – incidentally, the street name commemorates the flour mills once operated there on behalf of the nuns from Delapre Abbey just to the south. The modern Nunn Mills are also shown.



Electricity generating stations need a vast amount of water to cool the generators and so are generally located by rivers – nuclear stations need even more and so in this country, tend to be on the coast. It would be disastrous to pump large amounts of hot water back into the river and so cooling towers were developed, generally of this design.



These are known as natural draft wet cooling towers. The Venturi effect causes air across the top to 'suck' air up the tower and then water drops down over a vast scaffolding of timber to get naturally cooled. Lattice vents at the base allow air free passage into the tower.



The structures at Northampton were dwarfed by the cooling towers at the Kalisindh power plant in Rajasthan, India, the tallest in the world. Each stands an impressive 202 metres tall – twice the height of the tower housing Big Ben and just a touch taller than the UK's joint fifth tallest skyscraper, the HSBC Tower at 8 Canada Square in London's Canary Wharf.

Northampton had two cooling towers. There was one Mouchel and one Moss concrete cooling tower. Each had a capacity of 2 million gallons per hour (2.53 m<sup>3</sup>/s) with a cooling range of 20°F

(11°C). Despite this cooling, the river along that stretch was known locally as the *Warm Water* and not only did it provide good fishing grounds for us lads, it also made the ideal location for a public open-air swimming baths [elsewhere these have the posh name of a Lido] – this can also be seen on the map, next to the local sewage works as described in the December edition of our magazine. Except in midsummer, the description of *warm water* would likely fall foul of the Trade Descriptions Act these days.

Plants needed vast amounts of coal and so there was always a handy railway nearby. Later, plants tended to become very large and efficient and based at coal fields e.g. Nottingham's vast complex at Ratcliffe on Soar.

So, it was somewhat inevitable that Northampton would close, and it did so in 1976, nearly 30 years after Nationalisation. The site then remained an eyesore with the towers used as grain silos. It has finally been redeveloped and majors as a campus for The University of Northampton.

This photo from our Cyril Penn collection is his attempt to capture the 1979 demolition. He was a bit slow on the trigger and just captured a cloud of dust!



Fortunately the engine shed from the railway has been retained and after significant restoration is now the HQ for the students union.



Robert Vaughan

# The Mann's of Cogenhoe - A Few Fragments of History

Members of our society will be aware of the historic association that Cogenhoe has with the Mann family and their business of manufacturing shoes in the village.

Fragments of the story keep arising but, as of now, there is no comprehensive account ... but maybe one day!

These are some interesting elements that have come to light from recent research in local newspapers.

For a start, it is widely known that Manchester House, along Whiston Road on the edge of the village, was built by the Mann's, and occupied by the son who managed the business and gained its name to commemorate their business foundations in Manchester.



However, there is little explanation of the 'Manchester' business. But this notice in The London Gazette from 13<sup>th</sup> February 1883 puts more flesh on the bone.

**NOTICE** is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, Thomas Claridge Mann, John Mann, Joseph Mann, George Mann, and William Charles Mann, carrying on business at Cogenhoe, in the county of Northampton, Shoe Manufacturers, and at No. 12, Cross-street and 123, Market-street, both in the city of Manchester, as Boot and Shoe Dealers, under the style or firm of Mann, Son, and Brothers, has been dissolved, by mutual consent, as and from the 1st day of January, 1883. All debts due and owing by the late firm will be received and paid by the said Thomas Claridge Mann and William Charles Mann, who will continue the business as T. C. Mann and Son.—Dated this 10th day of February, 1883.

*Thomas Claridge Mann.*  
*John Mann.*  
*Joseph Mann.*  
*George Mann.*  
*William Charles Mann.*

The 'new' factory, the one that burnt down in 1909, was opened in 1877 and the occasion was noted in the Northampton Mercury. Inevitably the

notable local families of Deacons and Sharmans are also mentioned. My money would have been on Sharman being the builder but here we can see different.

**COOKNOE.**—A TREAT to the employes of Messrs. Mann, Son, and Brothers was given on Tuesday, the 17th inst., on the occasion of the opening of the new factory, recently built by Mr. J. Deacon, of Little Houghton. Between 50 and 60 sat down to a substantial repast, provided (in consequence of the unpropitious weather) in a barn belonging to Mr. Sharman, of that village. The cloth having been withdrawn, several toasts were given and responded to in an able manner, including that of "Success to the Firm." A very pleasant afternoon was spent by those present, several of the company singing songs. About eight o'clock in the evening the cloth was again laid, and they sat down to supper. This having been done full justice to, the tables were set aside, and dancing commenced, to the strains of a brass band engaged for the occasion, and the company separated at an early hour, all feeling grateful for the liberality with which they had been served, having first given three hearty cheers for their master's future success.



It was worrying times in 1916 but, thankfully, the son Drummer Mann, survived that conflict. And Cogenhoe has achieved the spelling that henceforth remains constant.

Northampton Mercury - Friday 17 March 1916  
 Image © Johnston Press plc. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.

**MANN, DRUMMER A. E., D Co., 7th Northamptonshire Regiment.**  
 Drummer Mann has been in hospital with pneumonia, and is now at the Edinburgh War Hospital, Bangour, West Lothian, Scotland. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Mann, of Manchester House, Cogenhoe. When in France he served as a stretcher bearer.

The termination of shoe production in Cogenhoe is also something not widely documented. In the September magazine edition it was speculated that the rise of enormous factories, such as Manfield's in Northampton might have been



## Northampton Infirmary 1777

This cross-references the Cogenhoe Militia list 1777 with Infirmary records of that time.

The English Militia Lists for 1777 cover the whole county of Northamptonshire except the Soke of Peterborough. The men named in the lists were raised to defend the country against invasion or rebellion, but not for service overseas, and were required to carry out 28 days training every year. The Northamptonshire lists recorded the names of 13,741 men.

The Cogenhoe Militia List for 1777 contains the names of the following 20 men of the parish as listed by John Paine the constable.

Thomas Ashby, Henery Attewell, James Bedford, Richard Cox, Thomas Devenshire, Joseph Dunn, John Faulkner, Samuel Flindel, Willm Garner, Will Gayton, Danil Higgins, Hugh Higgins, Willm Higgins, George James, Willm Molton, Joseph Moris, Willm Moris, Thomas Palmer, Steven Spencer, Thomas Valintine.

Most men aged between 18 and 45 who were deemed able-bodied were included in the list. So how fit and able were the listed men?

Northampton Infirmary was founded in 1743, opening in a large house on George Row in the centre of Northampton, opposite All Saints Church. Subscribers or benefactors to the Infirmary, paying one guinea or more annually, were entitled to write a letter of recommendation for an ill patient to be admitted for treatment. It was incumbent on the patient that they should be so poor as not to be able to pay for their treatment themselves. Generally, the admission day was a Saturday.

Consulting the inpatient registers for 1777 and one year either side, the following Cogenhoe men fitting the age profile for the Militia List can be found.

Joseph Morris, 30; Thomas Palmer, 18; Steven Spencer, 27; these three men were entered on the Militia List.

The next four persons were not on the Militia List. John Busby, 32; Joseph Palmer, 23; Thomas Spencer, 21; John Sturman, 29; and, therefore, probably not fit and able-bodied. However, all four

were relatively young men so would they have fitted into one of the exemption categories, e.g. poor with several children. Further research into the parish registers would be necessary to answer this question.

Joseph Palmer was admitted to the Infirmary on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1776 suffering from a Sprain, which had lasted three months; he spent 14 days in the Infirmary and was discharged on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1776, cured.

Joseph Morris was admitted on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1776 with a sore finger. Joseph was an inpatient for 91 days (so presumably something more serious than just a 'sore finger') and was discharged cured on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1776.

Thomas Spencer, admitted on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1777 with a sprained wrist which he had suffered with for four years, was in the infirmary for 28 days and was discharged 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1777, cured.

John Sturman was admitted on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1777 suffering with pain of the bowels. He was an inpatient for 120 days and discharged 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1778, cured.

Thomas Palmer was admitted on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1778 with a fever. Thomas was an inpatient for 42 days, then made an outpatient on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1778, and discharged cured on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1778.

John Busby was admitted 26<sup>th</sup> September 1778 with a lacerated wound to his arm. He was in the infirmary for 56 days and discharged on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1778, cured.

Steven Spencer was admitted on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1778 suffering from cutaneous eruptions (eruptions of the skin, like dermatitis, eczema, etc.). Steven was an inpatient for 14 days and discharged on 28<sup>th</sup> March, cured.

All seven men were pronounced cured upon discharge from the Northampton Infirmary. Only John Sturman was in the Infirmary at the time the Cogenhoe Militia List was compiled which would, presumably, exclude him from the list; interestingly he was also the longest inpatient.

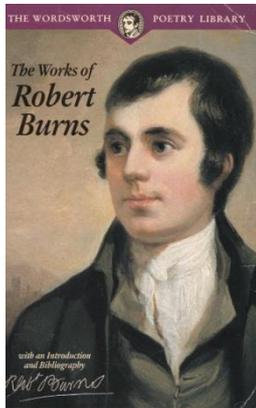
By Fred O'Dell  
Archive and Museum Service  
Northampton General Hospital

# Robert Burns and Northampton

It's that time of year  
fatted Haggis is to  
and grown men  
to drink whisky and



again when the  
be sacrificed  
put on a skirt  
tell tall tales.



January 25<sup>th</sup> is  
commemorated throughout  
the land as the birthday of  
Robert Burns, the national  
hero and poet of Scotland.  
Events are held to celebrate  
and often there are readings  
from his works.

Robert Burns was born 25th January 1759, into a desperately poor farming family and those hard years contributed to his early death from heart failure on 21st July 1796 in Dumfries aged just 37.

In his short life he wrote 550 poems and songs, a number about Elizabeth Burnett – not his wife – but one of the four women who bore him 12 or 13 or 14 children depending on which author you believe.

One work not often quoted is *The Souters of Selkirk*, and *that* is the link to Northampton. *What?*, I hear you ask with some incredulity. . Well, here is the piece written to the bravery of the Souters on the fatal battle field of Flodden.

*"Up wi' the Souters of Selkirk,  
And down w' the Earl of Home;  
And up wi' a' the braw lads  
That sow the single soled shoon"*

The Souters are *shoemakers* and their patron is St Crispin: The Saints Crispin and Crispinian (twins) are the Christian patron saints of cobblers, curriers, tanners, and leather workers. They were beheaded during the reign of Diocletian; the date of their execution is given as 25 October 285 or 286.



So, Northampton, with its shoemakers and Crispins Hospital, is *inextricably* linked to Robert Burns. If you would like to celebrate with more vigour than usual then this may assist: -

## How to Grow Your Own Haggis

Haggis is best grown from cuttings from the parent tuber than from seeds. Make sure that you buy your haggis tuber from Scotland. Beware French or Romanian imitations.

Take a sharp knife - my aunt used her tongue, but I wouldn't recommend that on hygiene grounds - and cut cubes of the haggis tuber 5cm square.

Take an old cup and fill it with sheep dung. Water liberally. After a week, dust the bottom (the cutting's, not yours) with a rooting hormone powder. Buy the best 'Robbie Burns' compost and plant the cuttings in the compost. Place them on a radiator so that they get bottom heat.

After ten days, your haggis cuttings should sprout little white fingers. Transfer them to your conservatory; if you haven't got a conservatory, a garage works fine. At the end of December harvest them, and put them in a dark cupboard for about 3 weeks. On Burns day cut open your Haggis and fill with a lamb's stomach, oats, deer liver and a chopped onion. The final secret ingredient is a leg - it's your leg which I have just pulled!

Robert Vaughan

Try this if your stomach finds the Haggis a little unsettling



## Little Houghton, Militia List 1777

Northamptonshire Militia Lists exist for 1758–1831. The Militia was a part-time voluntary force organised by county. These militias were created by the Militia Act of 1757 and they became the Special Reserve in 1908. Every parish in England and Wales was obliged to create lists of males aged 18 to 45, and to hold a ballot to choose those who had to serve in the Militia.

Two lists were created each year from 1758–1831:

- militia lists (of all men)
- militia enrolment lists (of men chosen to serve)

The lists should provide an annual male census for the local area, giving details about men and their family circumstances. They are held in local archives but the coverage of the country is not complete. In 1881, the army was reorganised and militia regiments were attached to units of the regular army, taking on the new regiment's name in the process.

Of the several series of militia lists that exist for Northamptonshire, those for 1777 are the only ones to cover the whole of the county except for the Nassaburgh Hundred (better known as the Soke of Peterborough so, they are rather unique).

This is the list for Little Houghton. It was always a larger village than Cogenhoe. Richard Deacon has highlighted an apparent anomaly as Robert Deacon is described as a labourer and yet it was a Robert Deacon who purchased the Little Houghton estate. Not yet clear if there were two 'Roberts' or if he won the lottery. Hopefully, Richard will be able to clarify in due course.

LITTLE HOUGHTON	
The militia list of Little Houghton, 1777.	
George Manning, gent.	Francis Freear, dealer
WYMERSLEY HUNDRED	
213	
William Manning, farmer	Richard Dodd, labourer
John Collier, farmer	John Buckler, labourer
Simon Collier	John Feary, servant
John Pacey	Thomas Spensor, servant
William Roe, farmer s	Charles Adkins, servant
Thomas Collier, farmer	Joseph Law, labourer
William Blunt, farmer s	John Ashby, labourer
James Marriott, farmer b	Edward Perkins, labourer
Thomas Harris, farmer s	Thomas Kay, seepherd
Thomas Pike, baker	William Gibbs, labourer
William Law, gard.	Robert Deacon, labourer
William Wareing, malster	Thomas Clark, labourer
Samuel Monk, miller s	John Yorke, servant
Thomas Dillow, ale keep	Thomas Walker
John Gayton, shoemaker	William Knight
Joseph Hensman, shooma	<Thomas Battisson>
William Laurance, labourer	<John Edmonds>
William Walker, servant	<Daniel Perkins>
Thomas George, servant	<Richard Robinson>
Richard Walker, servant	} drawn afore
	Robert Harris, constable.

We have now published lists for Cogenhoe, Whiston and Little Houghton. If there is another Northamptonshire Parish you would like to know about then please let us know.

Robert Vaughan

# Bygone Buses: The Laws of Brafield

Extract from a pamphlet, with kind permission of the author, Roger Warwick.

## Bygone Buses of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

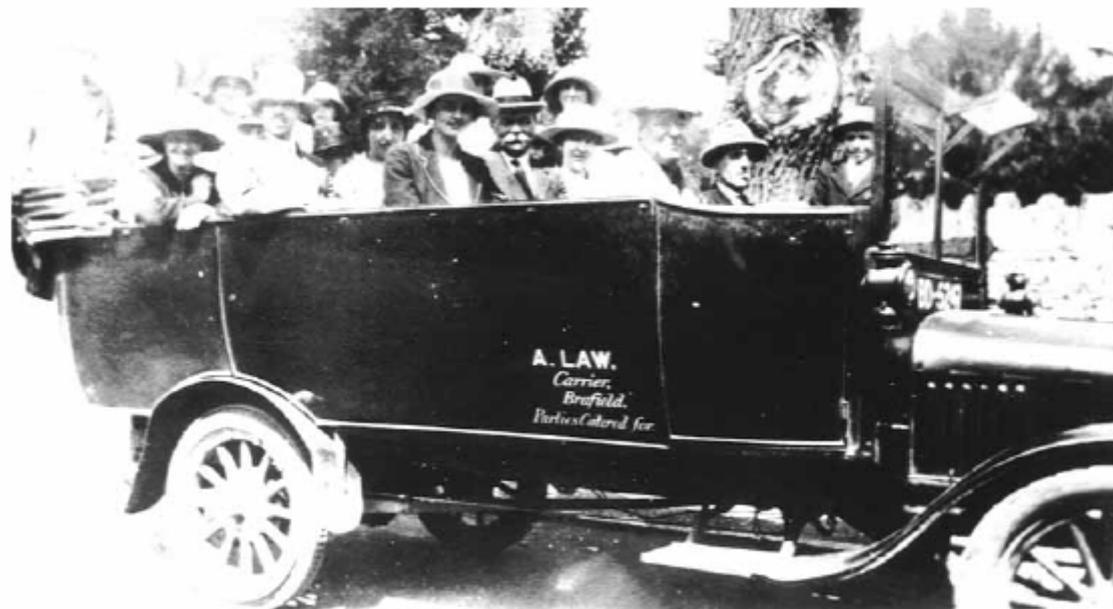
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Page 1

### LAW. Andrew & Sons (later trading as J, M & A Law) Bridle Path, BRAFIELD

It was in 1864 that Andrew Law entered this world and later in life he operated a carrier's business from his home in Bridle Path, Brafield, using horse-drawn transport. Andrew and his wife Mary had two sons, the eldest being James and the youngest Charles William. For some reason Andrew was always known as "Tan" Law and his sons as "Jim" and "Bill".

Tan Law's first motor vehicle was a model T Ford which became registered BD 5247 on 10th January 1921. Tan bought only the chassis and mounted the box van body from his horse-drawn carrier's vehicle onto the Ford chassis. After operating this vehicle for a few months Tan Law approached Ben Hasker of Northampton to build a charabanc body to fit the Ford T chassis, so that it could be used for both passenger and goods work as the occasion demanded.



*Andrew Law's first motorised passenger vehicle was this model T Ford registered BD 5247 in January 1921 and bodied by Ben Hasker of Northampton.*

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.

#### LAW. A & Sons, BRAFIELD

During 1921 Tan's youngest son Bill joined his father in the business and he obtained a Hackney Carriage driver's licence on 16th January 1922. In the mean time Tan Law had applied to Northampton Borough Council Watch Committee to be granted a Hackney Carriage Licence to pick up and set down passengers in Derngate, Northampton and this was granted with effect from 24th February 1922. It can be assumed that it was at about this time that Tan and Bill Law commenced a passenger service between Brafield and Northampton on Wednesday and Saturday market days only.

Tan Law's eldest son, Jim, also joined the business at some stage prior to 1925 and on 16th April 1924 a Fiat saloon bus with twenty-seater Hasker body was purchased and registered BD 9150. This vehicle carried the name "Mary" on its sides and subsequently there was usually a "Mary" in the fleet, named after Andrew Law's wife. In 1925 a REO was added to the vehicle stock and this was again believed to have carried a 20-seater Hasker body. It was registered NH 6382 in June 1925 and was named "Renown".



*Not much of the Hasker bodied Fiat - BD 9150 - can be seen on this photograph but it is better than nothing at all. The young girls are Molly and Maud Law, daughters of William Law.*

It was probably when the Fiat was acquired that the Laws decided to operate workers' journeys from Brafield to Northampton and in 1925 consultations took place with Charles Knight of Denton with a view to starting the route from this latter village. As Knights' were not contemplating a workers' service at this stage, Laws' peak time route was operated from Denton.

In 1925 Bill Law and his wife Maud moved from Brafield to Centre View, Station Road, Cogenhoe but sadly, just a year later, Bill died at the age of thirty-seven and his share of

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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## LAW. A & Sons, BRAFIELD

the business passed to his wife Maud. Although the business originated and traded in the father's name - A Law - it seems that when sons Bill and Jim joined, a formal partnership was not established. Instead, the three acted more as a co-operative, with each partner buying vehicles either singly or jointly and each operating parts of the local service timetable and retaining the revenue from their labours. After Bill's death, Maud ran her husband's former share and Maud's brother, Frank Gibson, drove for the firm. In later years the business traded as J, M and A Law.

With regard to the local bus service, the original operation was from Grendon, Castle Ashby, Whiston, Cogenhoe, Brafield, Little and Great Houghton to Northampton. The first terminal in Northampton was the Black Boy Hotel yard in Dychurch Lane, the bus also picking up in Derngate. The terminal was later moved to Derngate but in 1928 the Council altered the stopping point to be Becket's Well in Bedford Road. By the summer of 1927, at the latest, the service has been pushed further east to serve the villages of Easton Maudit and Bozeat. At December 1930 the timetable shown pages 5 and 6 was in operation when, particularly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, a quite intensive service was being provided on this rural route, taking three vehicles to cover the operations. It will be seen that the terminus in Northampton at this time was Cheyne Walk, presumably near its junction with the Bedford Road.

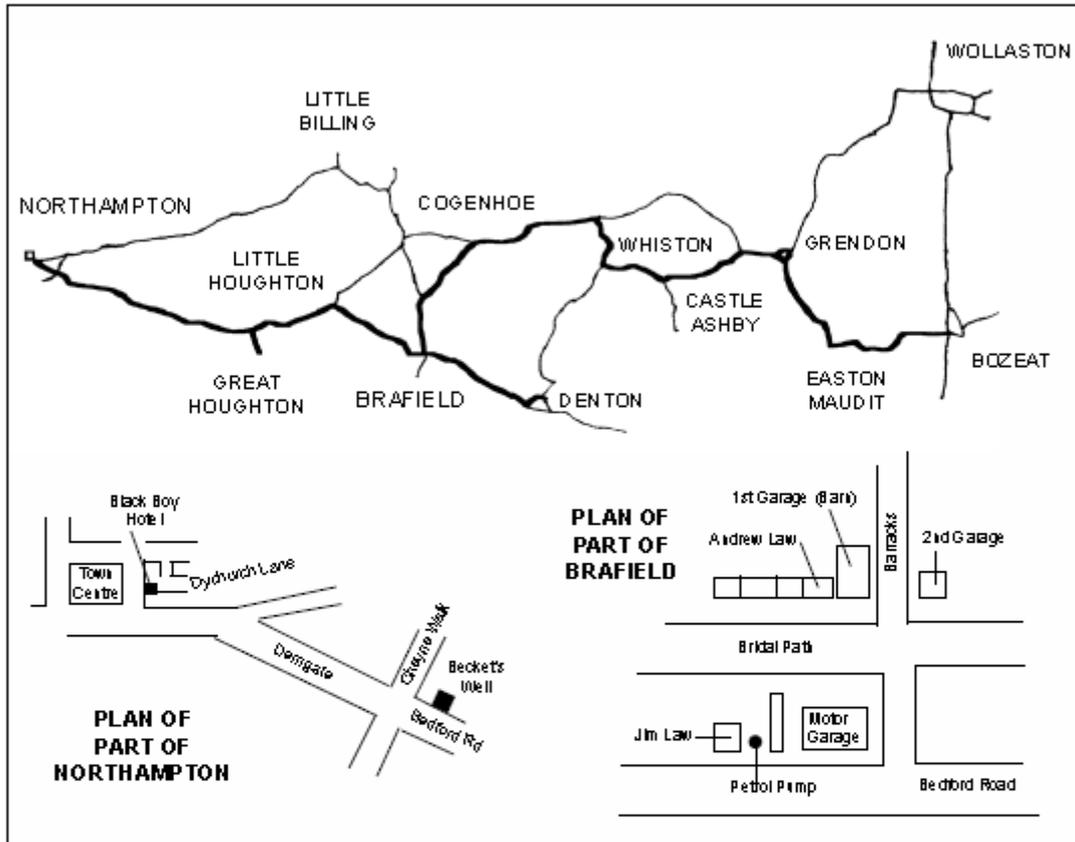
Returning to the subject of vehicles, the next acquisition is likely to have been a Graham Bros registered RP 2081 on 19th January 1926. At an unknown date a second-hand Dodge registered XN 9692 was acquired and this event may have happened during 1926. On 17th

January 1927 a Laffly (French) single-deck twenty-seater bus was bought and registered RP 3662. This latter vehicle, a make rarely found in Northamptonshire, carried the name "Queen of the Road" on its sides.



*Left: This bus is believed to have been the second-hand Dodge acquired by the Law's and registered XN 9692.*

LAW. A & Sons, BRAFIELD



*Route diagram of Laws' service and plans of Northampton termini and Brafield.*

On the last day of January 1928 another Graham Bros twenty-seater saloon bus was purchased new and registered RP 5335. It is possible that the first Graham Bros vehicle - RP 2081 - was traded in part exchange although this is not certain. In the following year a twenty-seater Bean was bought and registered RP 8957 in May of that year. From photographic evidence it seems most likely that Willowbrook of Loughborough supplied the body for this vehicle which was the latest in the fleet to carry the name "Mary".

The Laws' final new vehicle was a Bedford WLB supplied and bodied by Grose of Northampton. It was registered NV 611 on 8th September 1931 and once again seated twenty passengers.

In the early years there was no standard livery for the buses but as the firm became longer established the colours of red and brown were adopted.

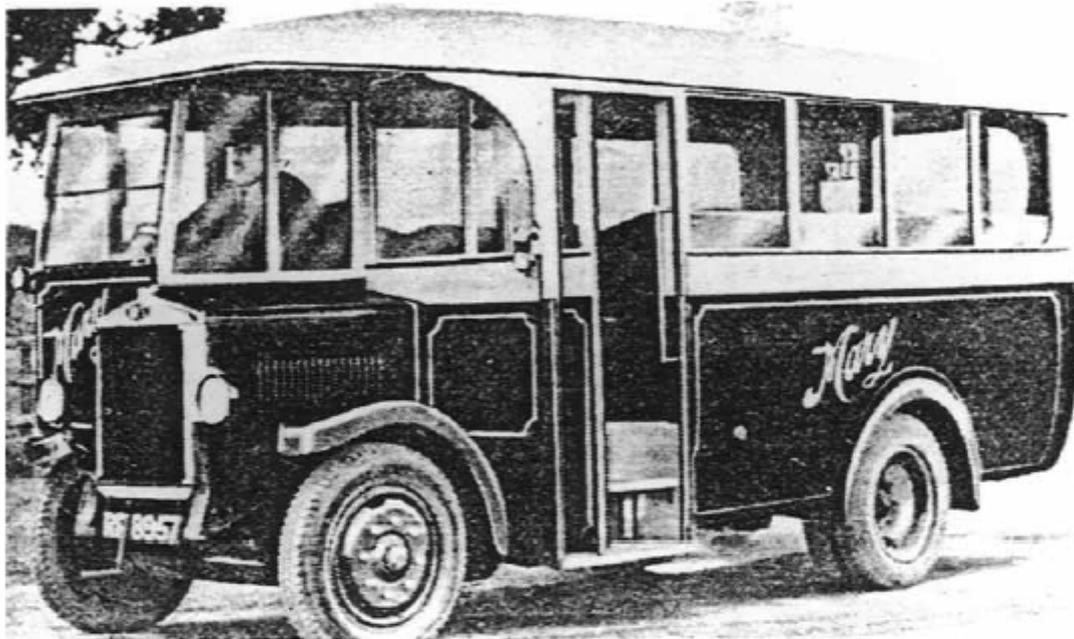
# Bygone Buses

of  
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LAW. A & Sons, BRAFIELD

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*RP 8957 was a Bean carrying what is believed to be a Willowbrook body. The photograph of this attractive bus was taken soon after the vehicle was new in 1930.*

*(Photo courtesy Northampton Independent).*

When Andrew Law first started operating his Ford T he garaged it in a barn which was adjacent to his house in Bridle Path. The barn could accommodate two vehicles and when the fleet exceeded this number a second shed was erected nearby, on common ground, and it was clad with corrugated iron. Jim Law lived in Bedford Road, Brafield where he ran a firewood business and at which property a petrol pump was situated which was used for refuelling the coaches.

With the passing of the 1930 Road Traffic Act, J, M and A Law applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road service Licence to continue the service of stage carriage operated by them between Bozeat, Easton Maudit, Grendon, Castle Ashby, Whiston, Cogenhoe, Brafield, Little Houghton, Great Houghton and Northampton. This was duly granted in November 1931.

By 1933 Andrew Law was 69 years of age and ready to retire. The service was subject to a considerable amount of competition, with York Bros running from Wollaston via Grendon and Cogenhoe to Northampton on a partially common route and Knight of Denton and Eastern National operating between Brafield and Northampton. Andrew, James and Maud Law therefore decided to sell their business to Frederick and George York of Cogenhoe.



An unidentified Law's bus. Mary Law is the lady in the white blouse in the back row, left of the rear nearside window.



This photograph depicts Jim Law standing to the nearside of his Ford timber lorry NV 3400. To the left of the picture is a 19th century railway carriage used by Jim Law.



This is an additional photograph, owned by and reproduced with permission of Steven Hollowell. It shows Tan Law, Bill Law's father who started the carrier business.

## Northampton had its own Crapper

A follow up to the December article on Thomas Crapper

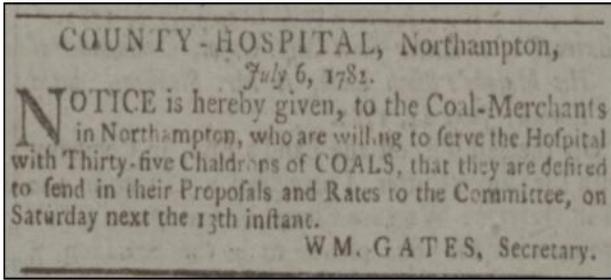
### Northampton Mercury - Friday 14 July 1916

Image © Johnston Press plc. Image created courtesy of THE BRITISH LIBRARY BOARD.

**CRAPPER, C. SERGT-MAJOR G., Rifle Brigade.**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Crapper, of 16, Fetter-street, Northampton. He died of wounds in hand, chest, face, thigh, and legs. His right leg had to be amputated. He was ten years with the Colours, and was in the South African War in the Sherwood Foresters. After leaving the Army he became landlord of the Woolpack, Bridge-street, and later went to Canada, from where he returned when the war broke out.

# 1782 & A Chaldron of Coal



The chaldron was used as the measure for coal from the 13th century, measuring by volume being much more practical than weighing low-value, high-bulk commodities like coal. It was not standardized, and there were many different regional chaldrons, the two most important being the Newcastle and London chaldrons. The Newcastle chaldron was used to measure all coal shipped from Northumberland and Durham, and the London chaldron became the standard measure for coal in the east and south of England.



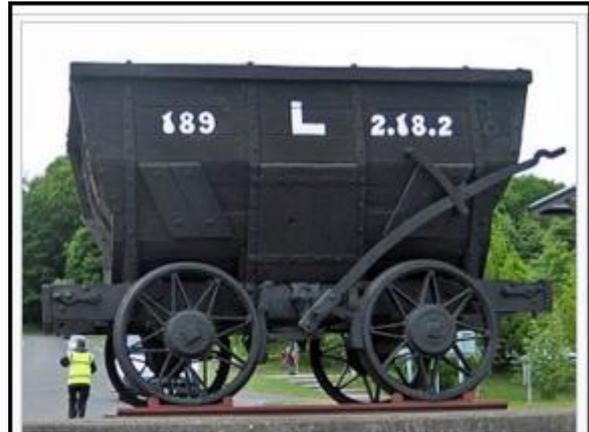
John Blenkinsop's pioneering locomotive pulling several chaldrons (1813)

Many attempts have been made to calculate the weight of a Newcastle chaldron as used in medieval and early modern times. Coal industry historian John Nef has estimated that in 1421 it weighed 2,000 lb (907 kg), and that its weight was gradually increased by coal traders due to the taxes on coal (which were charged per chaldron) until 1678 when its weight was fixed by law at 52 1/2 long hundredweight (5,880 lb; 2,670 kg), later increased in 1694 to 53 long hundredweight (5,940 lb; 2,690 kg).

A London chaldron, on the other hand, was defined as "36 bushels heaped up, each bushel to contain a Winchester bushel and 1 imperial quart (1.14 L; 1.20 US qt), and to be 19 1/2 inches (495

mm) in diameter". This approximated to a weight in coal of around 28 long hundredweight or 3,140 lb or 1,420 kg.

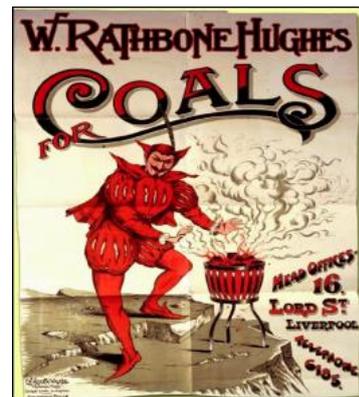
The chaldron was the legal limit for horse-drawn coal wagons travelling by road as it was considered that heavier loads would cause too much damage to the roadways. Railways had standard "chaldron wagons" which were about 10 ft (3.05 m) long and around 6 ft 3 in (1.91 m) high.



Chaldron wagon at Beamish. The long brake lever is for control when running down to the staith by gravity. Note that the perspective of this photo makes the chaldron seem much larger than it is.

The value of a chaldron of coal depended on the size of the lumps of coal and also their water content. Unscrupulous merchants would purchase their coal in lumps as large as possible then sell them in smaller sizes. This was abolished by the Weights and Measures Act of 1835, which legislated that from January 1836 coal was only to be sold by weight.

Robert Vaughan



# Our Heritage Matters – March 2009

An article from a previous edition

## Whiston Manor Court

Manor Courts, (in the early modern period, going under various names and combinations of names such as: the Court Baron, the Court Leet or the Customary Court), were held in some manors right up until the 20th century. Their origins have been lost in time but are usually attributed to William the Conqueror. By the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, their main purpose was the management of the copyhold land market and the regulation of the open and common fields.

There are no known surviving records of the Cogenhoe courts but there is one surviving roll from the Whiston Court. Rolls were simply the minutes of a court hearing with their decisions. The Whiston Court in question was held on 14th April 1648. A significant date, being in the middle of the English Civil War. Charles I was captured and executed the following year.

The Manor Court, which was called to discuss more local issues, was held in the name of the Lord of the Manor – George Catesby. The Homage or Jury, consisted of 10 men; Walter Cockerill, Robert Johnson, Robert Styles, Richard Lancaster, Thomas Wright, Thomas Phipp, Daniel Dauges, John Gillet, James Allen and John Chapman.

There were other important parish offices. Of the Homage, Robert Johnson together with one other, George Mobb, was listed as Parish Constable. Thomas Wright and Daniel Dauges were also listed as Counters of Cows and Sheep. The Hayward was Thomas Warwick and Walter Cockerill and Robert Styles were also listed as Afeerer or fines assessors.

The purpose of holding the 1648 Court Baron was to draw up new field orders which all commoners were obliged to obey. The seven rules or Orders agreed were as follows:



Harvesting from the Luttrell Psalter

1. *Imprimis it is ordered that all hogges shall be kept ringed from St Luke untill C<sup>t</sup> Lady Day\* [25th March] upon paine for every default iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>.*
2. *Itm. itt is ordered that noe person shall plowe up the common after it is sett forth by the jurye upon paym<sup>t</sup> for every default iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>.*
3. *Itm. it is ordered that noe gleaner\* shall gleane upon any land before the graynes be shocked and raked upon paym<sup>t</sup> for every default iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>.*
4. *Itm. it is ordered that no persons shall cart other any mans graine before the same be shocked and raked upon paym<sup>t</sup> for every default iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>.*
5. *Itm. It is ordered that the landholders shall abate the fourth part of their beast commons for this present year 1648 and the cottiers and others that have odd beast to keep their old rate and stints payeing therefore to the landholders for every cowe xii<sup>d</sup> upon paym<sup>t</sup> for every default iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup>.*
6. *Itm. It is ordered that no person shall keep anymore cooeples then they have cowes commons belonging to their howses & upon paym<sup>t</sup> for every cooople soe offending xii<sup>d</sup>.*
7. *Itm. It is ordered that the money agreed to be paid by the cottagers & those that have odd beast shall be paid the third daye after the heard goeth to pasture.*

It would seem that there was a shortage of grazing, usually caused by putting more land to the plough to grow grain – perhaps in this case, a product of the war. This shortage of grass meant that the farmers could not take up their full grazing rights, which were called cottage cow common. Instead they were forced to forego a quarter of their rights. This rationing out of grazing was called, stinting. Incidentally, iii<sup>s</sup> iii<sup>d</sup> or 3 shillings and four pence was a sixth of a pound or half a noble.

Constable- The Cornfield 1826



Extract from the *Cogenhoe Parish Magazine*, February 1903.

## The New Year: 1903 Style

(Or, a cast of thousands!)

A capital social evening was held in the School on the last day of the old year. Proceedings commenced with a tea, to which over 120 people sat down. The following ladies kindly presided at the tables:- Mrs Burnham, Mrs M. Clayson, Mrs Crowder, Mrs Friend,, Mrs Griffen, Miss Lane, Mrs Livermore, Mrs T.C. Mann, Miss Mills, Miss Poole, Mrs F. Robinson, Mrs J. Sharman and Miss M. Sharman.

After tea, some enjoyable music was furnished by Miss Lane, Mabel Rainbow, Maggie Farey, Lucy Farey, Messrs. Joseph, Harry and Percy Farey, followed by an amusing dialogue, entitled, "Snowball's Emporium" acted by Messrs. A. Mills, J. Taylor, E. Griffen, H. Busby, Lucy Farey and Mabel Rainbow.

The rest of the evening was spent in dancing, for which Mrs Burnham, Mrs Friend, and Miss Mills kindly played the music. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close at 11-00pm by all joining hands and singing "Auld Lang Syne". We must not forget specially to thank Miss Mills and Mr S. Brawn for their admirable arrangements and Mr M. Clayson and Mr W. Sharman for putting up the tables. The receipts came to £3 4s 11d and expenses to £1 19s 8½d leaving a balance of £1 5s 2½d. The ringers afterwards rang out the old year and rang in the new year in.

A metal token recently found by metal detectorists in farmland of a nearby village



# Cogenhoe in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

## A report on our recent talk.

Driven by the circumstances of Covid-19, December saw the launch of a new service for members with a presentation via ZOOM on the internet. It was with some trepidation and scepticism that we took this step. But, what a success! No doubt aided by the subject matter and the ever-popular Ted Barnes. The evening commenced with lots of chatter as people, also new to this style of communication, exchanged greetings, and in that way it was like being back in the Village Hall.



**Cogenhoe and Whiston  
Heritage Society**



**A JOURNEY DOWN  
MEMORY LANE**  
Cogenhoe in the 18th Century



**Join our Zoom talk by Ted Barnes  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm,**

**Join our Zoom talk by Ted Barnes  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm,**

What was your village like two hundred years ago? Who was Lord of the Manor and who was the Rector? Who owned the land and who farmed it? What was the social pecking order in the pews in the church each Sunday? Some of the villagers were farmers, a few were craftsmen, some were servants, nearly half were children under 10 and at least one was a murderer.

Find out who our predecessors were and how they shaped the village we know today.

**The Zoom link will be published on  
[www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](http://www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk)**

We had 26 connections log-on to the presentation which meant that some 35 people were attending. This is as many as we've had to any talk over the past few years for which we have record.

So, a big 'very well done and thank you' to Ted for whom this was also a new step forward in The Brave New World. And, of course, none of this would have been possible without our Director Of Broadcasting, Jon Bailey, 'the man with his finger on the button'!

The technical glitches were minor, but just as we go to print, I am able to report that the recording has been modified to make blurred the feature of some people in their homes watching the show, which had raised privacy issues. This was a learning experience and next time the glitches will be ironed-out.

**Yes indeed, there is going to be a next time so pencil-in 27<sup>th</sup> January to ZOOM again. Full details in due course. In fact, it is now likely that the majority of 2021 presentations and the AGM will be via the internet.**

The video of the presentation can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HE48kSYz2Hw>

Or via this QR code



**Peter Alexander, Chairman  
Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society**

This writer must have had Bridge Street on a Friday night in mind .....in 1888

Nothing would do so much for the prosperity and happiness of the race, through time or eternity, as the Temperance movement, and one had only to walk through the streets of Northampton to see the havoc and misery which the drink was causing. He hoped that in that hall many men would be re-claimed from the slippery paths of wretchedness to rightness of mind, and have strength to overcome temptation.

Sometimes, you just have to laugh in the face of adversity..

 Horse manure may protect us from the Corona Virus 🦠 ....

~ Take fresh horse manure & rub your hands with it. It has the following actions:

1. It prevents you from touching your nose, eyes, mouth.
2. People will keep at least 6 feet away from you.
3. No one will want to shake your hand.
4. You will safely wash your hands well, before going to lunch.

~ We promise, it works.



## NEWS FROM NORTHAMPTON MERCURY JANUARY 1952

**F**ARMERS' concern at the steady loss of land to agriculture was expressed at the annual meeting of the Northamptonshire Branch of the National Farmers' Union, held at Northampton Town Hall.

Following an address by Mr. F. R. Scott, deputy president of the N.F.U., Mr. A. R. Heygate, of Bugbrooke, complained that in rural districts houses were limited to eight to the acre and in fact were "whittled" down to six to the acre, which was "extravagant waste."

He believed the N.F.U. should seek an assurance that more houses would be built to the acre instead of providing very large gardens, many of which were not cultivated.

Mr. Scott replied that the N.F.U. had made its voice heard on this question. It was another example of the extravagant policy which had been adopted in this country since the war.

Save the tops of your CLOZONE PACKETS

CLOZONE  
CLOZONE

Clozone  
The  
Original  
OXYGEN  
SOAP

they can help you to win a  
FREE AMBASSADOR  
TELEVISION SET

**C**OUNCILLOR Sidney J. Ward, chairman of Northampton Highways Committee for the past three years, died suddenly at his home, 21, Victoria-promenade, Northampton, early on Monday. He was 64.

He had been in his usual state of health overnight but had a fatal collapse as he was getting out of bed.



Coun. S. J. Ward

Only last week Councillor Ward gave a dinner party to welcome the new Borough Engineer (Mr. F. J. Cave).

Until his retirement ten years ago Councillor Ward had been in partnership with his father in the firm of Messrs. J. Ward and Son, asphalters

and tar-sprayers.

### W.I. re-formed after 24 years' lapse

Collingtree W.I. was re-formed this month after a lapse of 24 years. Sixty-eight members were enrolled. Mrs. Groome (Earis Barton) and Mrs. Jennings (Wootton) organised the election of officers. Mr. H. Crowe and Mr. G. Douglas acted as tellers. Mrs. Bagnall was elected president, Mrs. Barnes and Mrs. Goldsworthy vice-presidents, and Mrs. Berril secretary.

Refreshments were served under the direction of Mrs. Wise. The social half-hour was spent in community singing, and a monologue was given by Miss Howard.

**Saturdays, 26 January and 2 February:**

<b>LONDON (Euston)</b> . . . . .	13/8
CASTLE depart 9.55 am	
Return 5.46 pm, 9.35 pm or 12.2 night	
<b>LONDON (Euston)</b> . . . . .	9/6
CASTLE depart 2.1 pm	
Return 9.35 pm or 12.2 night	
<b>COVENTRY</b> . . . . .	3/3
CASTLE depart 4.38 pm or 5.40 pm. Return 10.30 pm.	

### Ware potatoes

**A**LL restrictions on the marketing of certain varieties of ware potatoes were removed on Monday.

These restrictions, imposed on October 1 in order to delay the marketing of potatoes of better keeping quality, affected among others, growers in the Soke of Peterborough.

### OPEN VERDICTS ON VICTIMS OF FOOD POISONING

**O**PEN verdicts in both cases where people died from acute food poisoning after eating meat pies supplied by the Blisworth Bacon Company shortly before Christmas, were returned after a two-and-three-quarter-hours' hearing at Northampton Courthouse.

A few hours before his death Councillor Ward was putting the finishing touches to his model of The Rocket—Stephenson's engine and tender—which was to be the sixth in a series, five of which are already at the College of Technology. The tender of the model was finished but the engine has still to be completed.

## Adnitt Bros.

**A**N Agreement has been entered into between Adnitt Bros. and Debenhams Limited (London) whereby the resources of the latter Company and its associated businesses have been placed at its disposal.

This arrangement in no way affects the policy of this business which for convenience sake will be formed into a Company called Adnitt Bros. Ltd., and Mr. S. C. Adnitt and Mr. R. F. Adnitt will be two of the Directors with Mr. S. C. Adnitt acting as Chairman, and the present Staff will be continued.

Messrs. Adnitt are of opinion that the arrangement will add considerably to the advantages the business is able to offer to its large and valued clientele.

# News from January 1721

## NEWS FROM JANUARY 1721

On Tuesday died Mr. Joy, a Merchant in Mincing-Lane, said to be worth 300000 Pounds. He was Father to the Deputy-Governor of the South Sea Company, and Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital:

(value in 2020 about £50m)

Items to be published next week, price 2d

**L**ost about Dudington in Northamptonshire, the 14th or 15th of December last, a black Spaniel Dog, about 14 Inches high, a white List down his Breast, and has but one Eye. Whoever brings him to Mr. William Chamberlain of Stamford in Lincolnshire, or to Mr. Goode, Rector of Weldon in Northamptonshire, shall have Five Shillings Reward, &c.

**T**his is to give Notice, That the Sale of Plate by voluntary Subscription, will be drawn at the White Hart in Spalding Lincolnshire, on the 9th and 10th Days of February next.

- VIII. The Worth of a Penny: Or, Friendly Advice how to Value Money. Shewing the ordinary Causes why Men are so often without, and the many good Uses a Penny may be put to, together with the Vertue of Frugality, &c. — Price 2 d.
- IX. Female Policy detected; Or, The Arts of designing Women laid open. In Maxims proper to be observ'd by all, especially by Youth, to Arm them against bewitching and deluding Harlots, &c. — Price 2 d.
- X. The Fifteen Pleasures of a Virgin. A Poem. In Answer to the Fifteen Plagues of a Maidenhead. — Price 1 d.
- XI. The Rise and Fall of Madam Coming-Sir; or, An unfortunate Slip from the Tavern-Bar into the Surgeon's Powdering Tub. — Price 3 d.

Paris, December 30.

The Inhabitants of Provence are still afflicted with the Plague, for no sooner does the Contagion cease in some Places, but it breaks out in others; wherefore, as it is not possible to know how far it may spread, tho' it is still very distant from us, several Families here are laying up Provisions, that they may not be destitute if that Calamity should reach us. Our wealthiest Missippians are compounding under-hand with the Government, to prevent the setting down of their Names in the Lists that are drawing up for laying a Tax on their Estates. The Duke Regent has been so favourable to Madam de Chaumont and Mr. Andre, as to regulate their Tax himself.

## CASUALTIES.

Cut his Throat at St. Giles without Cripplegate 1. Drowned in the Tower-Ditch at St. Catherine by the Tower 1. Excessive Drinking 2. Kill'd 2. One accidentally with a Knife at St. Ann in Black-Fryars, and One by a Fall down Stairs at St. Leonard in Shoreditch. Overlaid 3.

# Society Publications

The Society has publications for sale (the cd will be free with any book purchase). Please ask a committee member or email [enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk).



## Cogenhoe's Fallen Heroes

*The story of the men from Cogenhoe who fell in the First World War*  
Price £15

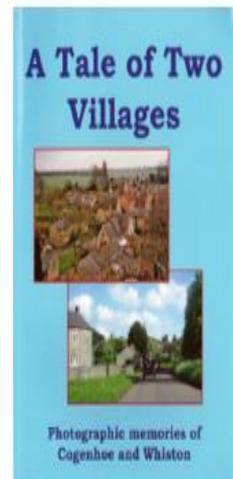
The War Memorial Project was born out of a fervent wish to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by the young men of Cogenhoe in the Great War.. This book is a tribute to those men.

*An addendum detailing further research has been published and can be obtained from members of the committee.*

## A Tale of Two Villages

*Photographic memories of Cogenhoe & Whiston*  
Price £10

A pictorial record of the two villages showing people and places through the past and based on the first photographic exhibition held by the society during April 2008. Since then in 2010 a second exhibition was held.

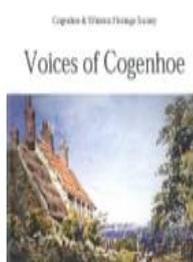


## A Century of Change *Cogenhoe 1901 - 2000*

This hardback book was produced from the interviews of over 50 people from many walks of life who had their memories recorded. Some were born in the villages, others worked here and still more came to live here.

## Voices of Cogenhoe

CD £3.00



This CD based on the interviews is an opportunity to listen to the memories and recollections of the many people who lived in Cogenhoe and Whiston. In all over 40 villagers contributed over 60 hours of taped interviews and this was condensed into a double CD with a running time of about 120 minutes.

# Planned Meetings

Please See website for details of January meeting.

## Wednesday 10 February 2021 - The Home Guard - Chris Bazeley

The talk considers the national and local scene with anecdotes from former members. What led to the formation of Dad's Army and what did they actually achieve?

## Wednesday 10 March 2021 - Annual General Meeting followed by The History of Country Houses since 1900 - Neil Lyon

This illustrated talk traces the changing fortunes of the principal houses and landed estates over the past century. It is not a story of decline and fall; on the contrary, it is the story of survival and the renaissance of our local country houses.

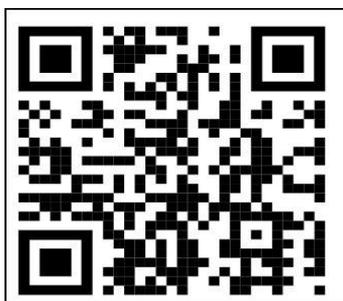
# Answers to the December Bumper Quiz

The quiz took two pages to set out the 100 questions and so it was thought that it would unreasonably dominate this edition to include all the questions and answers. So, for this month the answers will be published as a document on our website under the PUBLICATIONS tab. However, this will be towards the end of January to give all readers a fair chance to complete the quiz and submit their answers for our competition! Something challenging to do during the restrictions in our new Tier. Hence no new quiz this month as you haven't completed the last one yet!

# Society QR Codes

Just a reminder of three QR codes which your smart-phone should recognise and take you easily to various websites. Just point the phone camera at it.

Society Website



The Green Plaque Heritage Trail

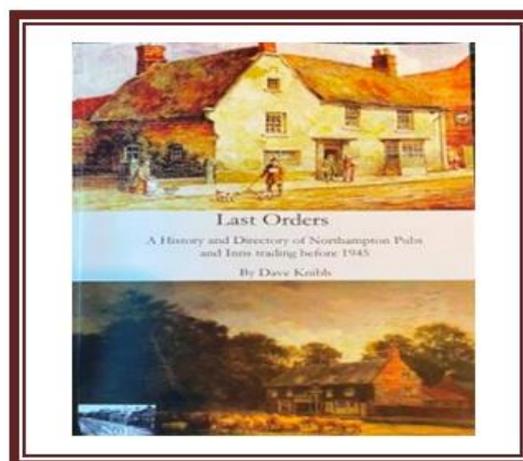


Facebook Page



## NORTHAMPTON PUBS

This series of articles is mostly based on work by Dave Knibb whose book on 570 Northampton pubs is still available priced £17.99 – and he does deliveries. It's a hefty A4 sized very-glossy publication full of interesting facts about local history and heritage. Dave has very kindly given permission for the Society to reproduce his findings. Contact Dave at [emmaadamknibb@hotmail.com](mailto:emmaadamknibb@hotmail.com)



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