

# Nottinghamshire Family History Society



**Annesley Hall 2020**

## PROGRAMME 2021

Date	Speaker	Title
20 January	Gay Evans	Annoying Ancestors (via Zoom)
17 February	Sam Millard	The Rufford Park Poachers 1851 (via Zoom)
17 March	Judy Cooper	A Miller and his Mill (via Zoom)
21 April	Steve Zaleski	Carl Huslett & Ellen Maria Beaver (at Archives)
	This will be an alternative speaker if we are still not meeting.	

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### Journal

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**The deadline for the next issue is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

### PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

Monthly Talks	4
Charles Gray Hill	7
Members Interests	13
Help Wanted	15
AGM Reports	16
George Hovey Brookes	21
Mellors of Nether Langwith	25
Introducing the Cripwells	26

The observations and opinions expressed in the various articles and notices in this Journal are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the Society.

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## Nottingham Family History Society Annual General Meeting 2021

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the NFHS will be held on Wednesday 19 May 2021 commencing 7.00pm. Venue and meeting format to be confirmed nearer the date. Please see website for further information nearer the date

The business of the meeting is to receive reports from the Honorary President and Honorary Secretary; to receive a report, including a financial statement, from the Honorary Treasurer; and to elect an Honorary President, an Honorary Secretary, an Honorary Treasurer and 6 Council Members for 2021-22.

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

### **From the President**

As I write this 2020 is drawing to a close, and as you read this we are beginning with a hopefully much more positive 2021 – with vaccines having now been successfully trialled and being distributed. Hopefully within the next few months we will return to some sort of normality and will be able to revert to our normal monthly meetings at Nottinghamshire Archives. Watch this space.

In the meantime, we will continue with our successful zoom meetings. I must say it has been a delight to welcome members and friends from far and wide to these; I have been staggered by the support from members as far as Australia, America and Canada – and many other places – as well of course from all over the UK. You could say this has been one of the few plusses that has resulted from the circumstances that have been thrust upon us. Likewise, as a member of another distant family history society in the UK myself I too have been able to ‘attend’ and participate in their meetings, which I would normally be unable to do, and I am sure the same applies to other readers too. So, thank you for your support and forbearance during this difficult period.

Again, as with many of you no doubt, I have now treated myself to a subscription with a well-known genealogical website as well as a historical newspaper website, and having to spend more time at home at least the time whizzes by while browsing, researching, and writing up aspects of family and local history. You could say this has been another positive from the restrictions we have faced with; we all know how important it is to keep active – both physically and mentally! Our editor Tracy tells me that more of you have sent in articles for this Journal – perhaps as a result of having more time on your hands – so many thanks for this. As I have said several times before it is only by writing up aspects of family history research that you then discover more questions!

**Peter Hammond**

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### **From the Editor**

As Peter has mentioned above it was a delight to see so many people at the zoom meeting, some familiar faces, some not. The plus factor is so many of you can join in and get to hear the speaker first hand, the down side is we cannot have a cuppa and chat together before the meeting.

I have been delighted to have new ‘authors’ sending in articles for the journal, thank you to everyone. It is lovely to be able to showcase your research and knowledge to others. Always room for more though so please give it a go.

I managed to get out to a couple of churchyards when the lockdown briefly finished here, although it didn’t seem five minutes before Notts was in Tier 3! A couple of members have offered their services transcribing MI photos and this is going well, and we are halfway towards transferring all the MIs from the Record Series books onto the database.

My own family research into my Smith family has thrown up some interesting occupations. I have recently found some photographers from Lincoln. To date any photographers have been on my maternal grandmothers side but these are from the maternal grandfathers family. As usual the odd brick wall has appeared – well it wouldn’t be much fun without some brain teasing would it. I could do with looking at some marriage fiche now though so lets hope things do get better soon.

**Tracy Dodds**

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### **Members Meetings**

If any member has not received an invitation to the November/December Zoom meetings, please email [membership@nottsfhs.org](mailto:membership@nottsfhs.org) to be added to the lists for any future meetings.

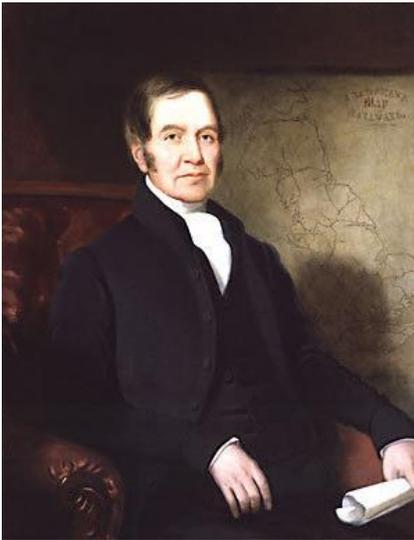
## Bradshaws Guide and An early railway tour

### Robert Mee – November 2020 Talk

This was the first time we had used Zoom to present a Notts FHS meeting, and only the second time for the speaker so it was especially wonderful to welcome so many members from around the world.

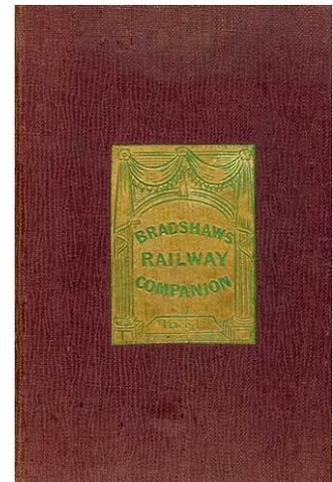
Robert told us that this talk would be in two parts. First he would be looking at the history of Bradshaws timetable and guide and then we would be taken on a history mystery tour using the Bradshaw timetable of summer 1922. We started off with some apologies as Robert did say that this talk was not going to be about trains, also we wouldn't be seeing that other well known Bradshaw enthusiast, Michael Portillo.

21 May 1801 Act of Parliament was the first official approval given for a railway – the Surrey railway did not yet have locomotives (as they hadn't yet been invented) and the wagons were pulled by horses. The first steam loco came in 1804 when Richard Trevithick demonstrated his engine although this was never followed up. But after the Surrey Railway Act on 29 July 1801, in the town of Pendleton near Salford, Lancashire George Bradshaw was born, the only son of Thomas and Mary Bradshaw. They sent their son away to school in Overton and afterwards he was apprenticed to an engraver named Beale in Manchester. In 1820 George and his parents moved to Belfast and around the same time he became a member of the Society of Friends. George set himself up in Belfast as an engraver and printer, but as there wasn't enough work to be had, he returned to Manchester. By 1827 he decided that he was going to specialise in maps. In 1830 he published a map of the canal network in central England. It was a large scale affair and would have cost £1 11s 6d to purchase on a sheet. The detail was intricate and every individual lock was shown. He then produced two further maps which covered the entire inland navigation.



In 1825 Stephenson built Locomotion for the Stockton and Darlington railway and its first trip did include a carriage carrying people. That was only for the one occasion as this was primarily a goods line. The first real passenger line was the Liverpool and Manchester railway which opened in 1830. This first line just linked two major towns in the same county and other similar lines started springing up around the country. The breakthrough came in 1837 when the first trunk line opened linking the Liverpool-Manchester line with Birmingham allowing people to stop at several towns in between. The following year Birmingham was also linked to London. 1838 was also a major year for George as he decided to go into letterpress printing. He went into partnership with William Blacklock who had been his apprentice, forming Bradshaw and Blacklock. 1838 also saw George Bradshaw's entry into producing timetables. They took information from posters and condensed this into a format suitable for "a waistcoat pocket". Sadly no copy of this first timetable has survived.

In 1839 the edition was reprinted, initially using the Quaker format of dating which did not give the name of the month because a lot of these were named after heathen gods. This practice didn't last. The first timetable only covered the northern railways and included maps of Lancashire and Yorkshire and plans of Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds. A few days later a separate booklet was published covering the southern railways. Both Editions cost 6d. On the same day a third booklet came out entitled Bradshaw's Railway Companion, priced at 1s, combining the first two books. Initially monthly update sheets were produced so an addendum could be then stuck into the book when the timetable changed, but this was phased out by 1841 as it was not very popular. By then the Companion had been superseded by the new monthly publication called Bradshaw's Railway Guide which first came out in 1841. It came out at the beginning of each month and gradually the railway companies were persuaded to update their timetables only on the first of the month. Timetabling also became much easier after 1847 when all companies agreed to use Greenwich mean time. With over a 150 different railway companies eventually the publication grew and grew. The 1841 guide had just 8



pages, which had increased to 32 pages by 1845, and the 1922 edition had 1166 pages and it no longer fitted in your waistcoat pocket!

This book was not just timetables. It was stuffed with adverts, particularly for hotels. These were done in alphabetical order of location, so after Nottingham you got Oban. In 1847 Mr Bradshaw published the first edition of his continental railway guide which continued until 1914. This, along with his philanthropic work for the Quakers, meant that George travelled abroad. In 1853 he took a trip to Christiana, (now called Oslo) in Norway where he sadly contracted cholera and was dead in a matter of hours. He was buried near Oslo Cathedral. Not that it stopped the publications – his work went from strength to strength. Both of his sons worked for the company although the publishers were rapidly renamed Henry Blacklock & Co, with their headquarters in Manchester. The product kept its original name – Bradshaws. This had never been the only available timetable but they cornered the market in the nineteenth century. They made it possible for people to work out cross country train times although it wasn't easy. An unexpected offshoot of trade as a result of the Bradshaws was an increase in trade for opticians because the print in the books was extremely small.

In 1923 the remaining smaller railway companies were grouped into what became known as the Big Four. This meant there were fewer timetables being produced by individual railways but Bradshaws continued. The Blacklock firm gained the contracts to publish three of the four timetables. After nationalisation in 1948, Blacklock & Co gradually lost the contract to publish the regional timetables and by 1961 a copy of the monthly Bradshaw would cost 12s 6d whereas you could purchase full set of BR timetable for 6s. The last edition of Bradshaw was published in May 1961, but Bradshaw had become a word in its own right in the English speaking world. In Australia the Railway News of 1864 proudly declared that their country had two Bradshaws, they meant that they now had two National timetables, neither of which was called Bradshaw, and neither was anything to do with the Blacklock publishing company. The name had become synonymous for the word timetable.

We were then treated to a mystery tour on the railway using Bradshaw's timetable of 1922. This was the last year that there were a lot of little railway companies still around plus it is also easy to get a facsimile of this edition with which to reconstruct the tour. Robert did explain that whilst the tour was possible in 1922 the pictures he was using to illustrate the tour might not be from that time. Also this was a trip that would probably not have been done in reality but was totally possible using the Bradshaw timetables.

We start early in the morning at 7.19am departing from Langley Mill in Derbyshire, using the Great Northern railway and catching our train at the Eastwood & Langley Mill Station – this has long since disappeared as part of the Beeching cuts. Somewhat ironic as the Great Northern line was a quicker route to Nottingham than the Midland railway which still has a presence at Langley Mill. Our train takes us over the magnificent Giltbrook viaduct, sadly demolished in 1973, and a short distance further we reach Kimberley, another location with two stations. Essentially any location that had enough trade for a railway line, another company would try and push their way in to take the trade. They were in stiff competition. From Kimberley we pass through Bulwell, Basford and New Basford before arriving at Nottingham Victoria Station at 7.46am. We now have a 44 minute wait for our next train which means we could perhaps grab a bite to eat or nip to the WH Smith kiosk and buy a magazine. WH Smith's took advantage of the railway boom by setting up chains of stores at railway stations around the country. They were the first chain store in the world. Nottingham Victoria had only opened in May 1900 and it wasn't owned by a railway company but by an independent firm called the Nottingham Joint Station Committee, and it was used by both the Great Northern and Great Central railways but not the Midland.

Our wait over we climb aboard the 8.30am to Grantham and this is a faster train so we have a brief stop at London Road High level station, then Radcliffe on Trent, then on to Grantham, arriving here at 9.12am, where we will be changing again. Grantham was and still is the busiest Lincolnshire railway station as it is on the East Coast main line. We will now be travelling across country and Robert provided us with snippets of history for many of these places on our route.

The Womens Police Service founded in 1914, was staffed entirely by volunteers with no powers of arrest. In August 1915, at Grantham, Edith Smith became the first Woman Police Constable in the country with full police powers.

Continuing our journey we catch the 9.30 train to Boston, a Great Northern local train which stops just about everywhere, until at 10.33 we change again at Boston. Another slow train again stopping at many local stations until at 11.35am we reach our first destination – 'Nottingham by the Sea', Skegness. The well known 'Jolly Fisherman' poster now known for advertising Skegness, originally started life as a Great

Northern railway poster. We will be here for about 4 hours so plenty of time to enjoy fish and chips. Skegness was originally a small fishing village but the arrival of the railway increased visitors and the principal landowner, the Earl of Scarborough, worked with the railway company to maximise visitor numbers which resulted in the town increasing in size and amenities. At the beginning of the twentieth century the local population was about 2000 but by 1922 they were having up to 350,000 visitors a year just arriving by train. This was due to the changes made to the town such as tree lined promenades, parks and gardens and all modern amenities for the visitors. The Pleasure Gardens were laid out in 1873, later renamed the Tower Gardens, then there were the Marine Gardens and a pier was opened in 1881. There were all sorts of activities for people to enjoy, roller skating, donkey rides even a roller coaster at the time of our visit. 1922 was also the year the Tower Cinema opened.

Time now to continue our journey as we return to the railway station. In reality anyone coming to Skegness would get a special which ran every weekend from Langley Mill and took you direct to Skegness. We are going to return by a different route and pull in a little more sightseeing, although initially we have to back track as this is the end of the line. We catch the 3.20 local train and get off at Firsby when we reach the main line, where we have a 45 minute wait for our connecting train, again another local train which stops everywhere and initially heads towards Boston. We then take a branch line to the west which no longer exists arriving at 5.29pm at Lincoln Great Northern station which still remains today. There was also the Midland station, Lincoln St Marks, but which ever one you arrived at they were both at the bottom of the city. To get to all the tourist bits such as the Castle and the Cathedral you had to walk up the hill. We cross High Bridge, the oldest surviving bridge in the country that still has buildings on it. Lincoln cathedral was built shortly after the Norman conquest although much of the building was destroyed in 1185 by an earthquake. Over the succeeding centuries the building has been rebuilt and enlarged and many changes have been made. At one point there was a large spire on top of the main tower which made this the tallest building in the world at that time. This unfortunately collapsed in 1549 so it lost that claim to fame. For centuries the Cathedral held one of the four original copies of the Magna Charta, the Bishop of Lincoln having been one of the signatories, but this is now held in the Castle. The Castle is Norman and was built on the site of old Roman fortifications. In the eighteenth century a prison was built within the walls, and the castle grounds also contain the remains of the city's Eleanor Cross. When Eleanor of Castille, wife of Edward I died in 1290 at Harby, near to Lincoln, her body was embalmed and transported to London. This was a journey of 12 days and subsequently the King had a cross raised in each place where the body stopped. Only three survive although a replica has been put up in Charing Cross.

We need to make a move now back down to the Midland station this time to catch the 8.07pm train which fortunately is a quick one stopping at Collingham then Newark Midland station (now called Newark Castle). A quick stop at Rolleston Junction but then we go straight through to Nottingham Midland station. It has taken us less than an hour to get here at 9.03pm. This station was built in 1904 but was on the site of the Midland Counties station. We have an hour to wait here so perhaps off to the pub to have a pint, or a small sherry for the ladies in the snug. The 10.10 from Nottingham Midland stops at Beeston first. Even here they had a WH Smith kiosk. Then we stop at Long Eaton but this should not be confused with today's Long Eaton station which used to be Sawley Junction and is some way from the town centre. Our Long Eaton station was right in the middle of town on the main line from Trent Junction up to Clay Cross. After two further stops we then pull into Ilkeston Junction & Cossall station at 10.48pm, and here we sit for fifteen minutes. We are waiting for the local train to go to Ilkeston Town station and back possibly only carrying a couple of people to connect with our train. Everyone blame the Beeching cuts for the reduction in train lines etc but that isn't always true. Many little lines such as this were being closed all the time as they were not being used and didn't pay their way. We finally move on again and reach our destination of Langley Mill Midland station at 11.09pm. The journey from Nottingham has taken us 59 minutes compared to the 27 minutes this morning on the Great Northern line.

It has been a very long day with our train journey totalling 183 and a quarter miles, using seven different timetables. Bradshaw told you how long each journey was but sadly didn't give ticket prices so we cannot say how much this trip would have cost. It has been an interesting trip with a mix of sightseeing, history and nostalgia.

## **Charles Grey Hill** **John Hill**

Charles Grey Hill was one of the four (surviving) sons of my 3x great grandfather, John Hill (1803 – 1884). He was born in Lenton to John and Susannah (nee Ball) and baptised 27 May 1832. He was named after the reformist Prime Minister (1830 – 1834), Charles Grey, the Second Earl Grey. John Hill was at that time a framesmith in the lace industry.

Charles Grey Hill married Anne Cooke 14 May 1857 at Sneinton St.Stephen parish church. He was described as a lace manufacturer. Anne had been born in Cambrai, France in 1839 to William Cooke, a Cambrai lace manufacturer. Cambrai was a major centre of lace-making – much of the machinery imported from Nottingham.

Although Charles was already an established and successful lace manufacturer in Nottingham, he entered into a separate short-lived partnership with his father and his brother Edwin which was wound up on 4 November 1858 because of losses incurred by Edwin, leaving John and Charles to settle Edwin's liabilities. Charles began specialising in frilling in 1857. By 1862 he was the owner of a large factory and warehouse in Commerce Square, Nottingham, engaged in making bonnet fronts.

Charles improved methods of lace production through his own inventions and patents. One innovation was the subject of a High Court hearing in 1881 when he sued another manufacturer for breach of patent. A complicated case – it seems a lace fabric machine was patented by Charles Grey Hill, when unknown to him, another machine existed which did a similar job. Charles claimed that his invention was superior and was sufficiently different to be regarded as a protected patent and, accordingly, brought an action against the other manufacturer (Hill v Toombs). The Court held that the differences between the machines were marginal but found for Charles Grey. That the distinction was not of great significance was reflected in the defendant, Toombs, having to pay all the costs but Charles Grey was awarded only 12s 6d in damages. The defendant was one Toombs (jnr) but the invention, which was concerned with the design of feeding rollers, guides and pressing rollers, was referred to as Webster's patent. I am not clear why.

### **1863 Children's Employment Commission**

An investigation into children's employment in 1863 took evidence from Mr. Charles Gray(sic) Hill during a visit to his lace warehouse in Commerce Square, Nottingham. Also interviewed were young girls working at bonnet front making from age 8 (2/6 per week) to 16 (7s.per week). He employed a large number of girls "and would prefer older girls but it was often difficult to get them, particularly at busy times. The girl employees start work at 8.am, until 7.pm, but sometimes up to 9.pm. They have one hour ten minutes for dinner and 40 minutes for tea."

Working conditions were considered hot and oppressive and the investigator found the girls to be suffering as a result. Some had their throats wrapped in flannel because of "the tic". The investigator could not speak to the girls apart.

The above extract that I have from the Children's Employment Commission 1863 which conducted the above Enquiry does not contain any particular criticism of Charles Grey – probably the working conditions were fairly typical of the time.

The warehouse covered the area from Commerce Square to Lower Marsh, being eight stories high on that side. On 11 October 1866 it caught fire and the top four floors were gutted, up to 15000 boxes of bonnet fronts being destroyed and the lower floors, being used as dwellings, were damaged by water and removal. Charles distinguished himself by escaping through the roof and then re-entered the building to turn off the gas supply, before escaping through the cellar grate. The warehouse is today a listed building and has been converted into a complex of luxury flats, penthouses and offices known as Kings Court and Commerce Square

Maybe it was partly because of this act of heroism, but the following November (1867) Charles Grey was elected Sheriff, at the age of 35 and was re-elected November 20th the following year – the only man to have been elected more than once to the Office at that time.

The factory of C G Hill & Co was in Plantagenet Street and Charles built up the business with his business partner, John Wightman, who subsequently purchased the business on the dissolution of the Partnership. The company also operated out of Great Alfred Street and Sabina Street.

Charles Grey maintained an interest in the company machinery however, being “an inventor and patentee of many years standing”. In 1900 the Plantagenet Mills were the largest manufacture of frilling in the world: the length of its four sides being a quarter of a mile, and employing 700 girls besides male labour and producing 3000 boxes of lace frilling “of every variety and quantity”. C G Hill & Co also had warehouses in London, Manchester, Glasgow and Paris. C G Hill & Co won the highest award for frillings in Paris in 1889. The Company later passed to John Wightman’s son Charles George Wightman who was the owner of the Company until 1930. I was in correspondence with the then proprietor, Mr C T Scott in 1975. I visited Nottingham the following year, C G Hill & Co Ltd, incorporating Ceetee Textiles Ltd being at that time then a small specialist enterprise occupying only a small corner of the original factory building at 14 Plantagenet Street.

March 1867 – Charles purchased land at the south-east corner of Market Street, Nottingham. In 1867 his father, John Hill, purchased sixteen plots of land and houses and gardens at Dimple, Matlock, Derbyshire, in trust for Charles Grey Hill. I do not know what subsequently happened to these properties.

Charles Grey Hill was also in partnership with Kinsey, Norton, Hill & Co.

27 Jan 1869 (London Gazette)

Debtor: Henry Kinsey of the Robin Hood Works, Canal Street, Nottingham, Machinist and Engineer.

Surety: Charles Grey Hill, Bonnet front manufacturer.

9 August 1870 (London Gazette 19 August 1870)

Partnership dissolved between Charles Grey Hill, Bonnet front manufacturer and Frank Norton of Beeston, Nottingham, Engineers, Machinists and Ironfounders. The firm of Kinsey, Norton, Hill & Co. will continue to carry on by Charles Grey Hill.

Charles’ engineering skills would appear to have been shared with his brother, John (1824 – 1893) who trained as an engineer in the railway works at Crewe and emigrated to New Zealand in 1859, where he built the steamship “Expert” and assembled most of the early wool presses before becoming an hotelier. Charles’ other brothers, Thomas and Edwin were not so gifted, Thomas being a draper and, after another failed attempt at lace production, Edwin went on to become a tea dealer and grocer.

Charles is recorded in the censuses of 1841, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901. He is not in the 1851 census – possibly he was in France. His future wife Anne Cooke was not in the 1851 census either so might well have been resident in Cambrai until meeting Charles.

Charles and Anne were living at 17 Villa Road, Nottingham in 1871.

The 1881 Census shows Charles Grey Hill (Magistrate for Nottingham and Lace Manufacturer) and Anne living at Arnot Hill with five servants and with a family of gardeners in a separate dwelling at that address. At the time of the 1881 census Charles and Anne may have been tenants as the owner seems to have been John Scott Wells, a hosier. Charles purchased Arnot Hill House for £4100 by Deeds of Conveyance dated November 1881 and June 1882.

Charles proceeded to spend considerable sums of money on works at Arnot Hill – the influence of the Nottingham architect, Thomas Stafford is in evidence. Charles is said to have substantially rebuilt the house, greatly improved the grounds and carried out major landscaping. He introduced black swans to the enlarged lake/fishpond and rebuilt stables, cottages and a new boat house.

In December 1882 he acquired a further four acres to the north of Arnot Hill Park, which was not then incorporated into the Estate and which was subsequently purchased by Arnold UDC on 31st Oct 1912 to create a recreation ground. Charles Grey also owned other parcels of land close by the estate and these played a part in Charles’ later mortgaging and borrowing deals. They were subsequently incorporated into the grounds when the estate became a public park in 1919.

17 Villa Road became the home of Charles' business partner, John Wightman. He was there in the 1881 census, having purchased the house from Charles Grey who was living at Arnot Hill.

31 Dec 1884

The partnership between Charles Grey Hill and John Wightman was dissolved and Charles sold his share to John Wightman.

A momentous year, as earlier in the year Charles' father John died and Charles proceeded with the purchase of the 1500 acre Brickendonbury Estate at Hertford. John's Will distributed his estate equally between his four sons but Charles' purchase of Brickendonbury must surely have been influenced by John's passing. It might appear that Charles financed the purchase from money released from a previous mortgage against the freehold of Arnot Hill in December 1882.

Charles continued to be active in the lace industry after the partnership with John Wightman ended in Nottingham and Arnot Hill House should have been grand enough for him and Anne to continue living there, (they had no children) so it is not at all obvious why he should have sought out a mansion and large estate so far away and with no rail link to London or the north.

After he bought Brickendonbury Charles disputed the true acreage of the estate and, using his Nottingham solicitors, entered into High Court proceedings against the vendor (Hill v Charsley). The case was withdrawn when the solicitors for Mr Charsley and Others realised that all the years the lawyers had represented the owners of the estate, they had never undertaken an accurate survey of the land and farms. It transpired then that the total acreage was, in fact, a little smaller than they had always believed. Charles Grey Hill clearly showed that he could be a shrewd businessman.

I cannot find any evidence that Charles and Anne were involved with the life or activities of Hertford and the 1891 census shows them at Arnot Hill Mansion while Brickendonbury recorded the staff and employees of the estate. There is a reference to extensive restorations being carried out 1885/86 but in 1893 Charles sold the house and land to George Pearson for £30,000 plus timber. About the time of the sale there is notice of an auction in the Hertfordshire Mercury of 14 October 1893 of quality bedroom, dining room and drawing room furniture, a pianoforte, cabinets, clocks, china, valuable oil paintings and watercolours, together with many other household items, a nearly new buggy, a wagonette, dog cart and harnesses etc. plus a valuable nag, a sow and pigs etc.

Charles had already sold the farms on his Brickendonbury estate through an auction announced in the Barnet Press, 24 Sept 1892, ie: Brickendonbury and Dunkirk farms including all "Live and Dead Stock", ploughs, carriages, harness, etc.

Having just purchased the Arnot Hill Estate in 1881 and commencing rebuilding and landscaping, why would he then proceed, three years later, to purchase a large house and estate in Hertford and then carry out alterations there? He was heavily engaged in his Nottingham factory and civic responsibilities. I do not believe he could have been acting entirely rationally at this time. Were there particular business or personal problems affecting his decisions or state of mind?

In 1895 Charles Grey Hill of Arnot Hill, Nottingham, J.P. was one of three trustees of the estate of Richard Birkin decd., J.P. of Regents Park, London and Nottingham.

The London Gazette 28 December 1900;

Extraordinary General Meeting of the Holwell Iron Company held on 1 December 1900 at the Midland Grand Hotel, Saint Pancras Railway Station, London. Subsequent Meeting on 22 December Special Resolutions were confirmed:- Company to be wound up voluntarily and Charles Grey Hill of Arnot Hill, Daybrook in the County of Nottingham appointed Liquidator.

Charles Grey Hill, as Liquidator, is authorised to consent to the registration of a new Company to be named the Holwell Iron Company Limited.

C G Hill, Chairman.

(The list of assets comprising John Hill's Trust Fund when it was wound up in 1910 included £6750 of 5 ½% Debentures in the Holwell Iron Company, Melton Mowbray).

The new owner of Brickendonbury, George Pearson, was a civil engineer who built the Great North and City Underground Railway and the City to Hertford line, which passed through part of the estate. A piece of

music, "The Brickendonbury March", was written for George Pearson, and later the poet Stevie Smith (1902 – 1971) penned her poem, "Brickendon, Hertfordshire".

George Pearson further extended the house and stables and today it is the headquarters of Tun Abdul Razak Research Centre, being offices and rubber research facilities for the Malaysian Government. When I visited some few years ago they kindly showed me around much of the house but I do not know what features would have been there during Charles Grey's residence and what George Pearson might have changed.

Later, the house and grounds were used as Stratton Park School, a private preparatory school for boys. The school was accommodated at Brickendonbury from 1933 to 1940

In 1940 it became Station 17 of the Special Operations Executive. Czech partisans planned the assassination of the Nazi Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich, there because the ¾ mile drive so closely resembled the drive to Heydrich's headquarters. The destruction of the heavy water plant in Norway was planned at Brickendonbury and it was the S.O.E. centre for sabotage training.

In the 1970s it was the setting for the childrens' television series, Catweazle

Charles Grey Hill and Anne continued to live at Arnot Hill but it appears that from then on he was concerned with a long process of complicated loan repayments, roll-overs and postponements of debt. £53000, plus interest was outstanding at one time and may well have represented the mortgage advance on the purchase of Brickendonbury after the death of his father in 1884. In 1901 £48000 was repaid, leaving £5000 outstanding. Other movements took place involving land and property deals in Nottingham

11 Jan 1904 Henry Edward Thornton and Frederick Wadsworth and the Nottinghamshire Banking Company became mortgagees of the Estate and on 30 June that year Arnot Hill House was transferred to Edward Vessey Machin but as it remained Charles Grey's address until his death he must have continued to live there. In fact the transfer may have been some sort of temporary security and Machin may only have established a legal Charge over the property. This transfer was in respect of £11000 paid by Machin to the Nottinghamshire Banking Company on which Charles was to pay interest half-yearly.

John Wightman died 3 July 1908 age 77, having been in the lace industry for 63 years, leaving a net estate of £64789, adjusted to £69002 possibly because it was revised to include the credit potentially due to the Estate representing a loan made to Charles Grey.

It appears that John Wightman had lent money to Charles Grey - the principal sum being £4000 - but his Will stipulated that if his late partner, Charles Grey Hill, had not discharged his indebtedness to him at his death, his Trustees were not to take legal proceedings to recover the debt until after the deaths of both Charles Grey and his wife Annie (sic). Any money still owed and recovered should be split, one half to daughter, Letitia and one quarter to daughter Edith. The balance to be applied to the existing Trust Fund. This was a promise John had made to Charles when he lent the money. This arrangement was successfully challenged by Letitia and Edith.

William Thomas Cartwright of Freeth, Rawson and Cartwright were acting for Annie Hill, the executrix of the deceased Charles Grey Hill against her plaintiffs Charles George Wightman and Job Nightingale Derbyshire. This Action was advertised in the London Gazette of 12 July 1910. Charles Grey Hill was described as being late of Trafalgar Place, Harrogate, York and formerly of Arnot Hill, Daybrook. Anne lost and "paid £5995 9s 8d to Transferors" in 1912 through the agency of the Trustee, Job Nightingale Derbyshire. A timely settlement for the plaintiffs as Anne did not die until 1929.

Job Derbyshire was the lifelong friend and Chartered Accountant of both Charles Grey Hill and John Wightman.

In 1906 Charles owed £5604 to W T Cartwright, a partner in Charles' solicitors, Freeth, Rawson and Cartwright. This debt had increased to £6131. And it was not until two years after Charles' death that it was repaid by Anne on 7 December 1912. At the time she paid the Wightman Estate.

Arnot Hill Estate was conveyed to Charles George Wightman (the son of John) and Job Nightingale Derbyshire, chartered accountant, on 28 Feb 1912 when both Anne and the estate and effects of Charles Grey Hill were released from all claims.

The above are not all the various, mortgages, borrowings, repayments and roll-overs involving Arnot Hill and other pieces of land filed at the Nottingham Archives but they give an idea of the financial juggling to which Charles was reduced.

On 8 June 1914 Messrs Wightman and Derbyshire sold the House and grounds to the Council for £3668. During the Great War the House became a convalescent home for soldiers. The other parcels of land around Arnot Hill Estate were purchased and the grounds opened as a public park on 10 June 1919 by Mr. J N Derbyshire.

One further, link between Charles Grey Hill and Hertfordshire is that during the time of his trusteeship of the Trust Fund set up on the death of his father, on 22nd April 1904, the trustees, Charles Grey Hill and John Wade, paid to A G Stubbs £4000 against the mortgage of an "Estate at Ware, Hertfordshire". I have no knowledge of the estate, nor of A G Stubbs, and I cannot imagine why the Trust Fund would need to pay out money in this way as Charles was 72 at the time and the Trust Fund money had to be responsibly managed. Charles was Tenant for Life of the Trust Fund and, as such, collected income from it. Maybe the payment was in settlement of an earlier advance dating back to the business affairs of his father, John, but the other trustee must have sanctioned the transaction. There were doubtless other records and correspondence which no longer exist. The size of the Trust Fund suggests it could have provided Charles with a very comfortable income but he was clearly living well beyond his means.

Although Charles was no longer a proprietor or Director of C G Hill & Co. he remained actively involved, and in 1905 he was on the Nottingham list of non-acting Nottingham magistrates.

In January 1910 – the coldest for the previous twenty years – Charles and Anne travelled to Harrogate, to 3 Trafalgar Place, (now 15 York Place). It is possible that they went there for the medical and health facilities provided by the Spa, but, perhaps more specifically, that they had an appointment with a specialist consultant there. Charles died at the lodgings within days of their arrival of apoplexy and exhaustion. His demise was reported in the Deaths column of the Nottingham Express and the Yorkshire Post but I cannot find an obituary other than a news item in the Nottingham Evening Post of 21 May 1910 reporting the settlement of his estate.

Anne's niece, Maud Clarke, was the informant and may have been called by telegram to hurry to Nottingham but three days was no time in which to arrange a proper funeral.

Charles' burial may have been arranged so speedily after his death because, among the other visitors at the lodgings were a Dr. A and Mrs MacDonald and their daughters from Edinburgh. If he was a medical doctor and present when Charles suffered his stroke there should have been no need for an inquest and formalities could have been pushed through very quickly. A Dr. J W Smith signed the death certificate and the Registrar informed and a death certificate was issued 28 January.

The plot was dug and Charles was interred the following day. A clergyman must have officiated but I imagine that the burial was attended by only Anne and Maud Clarke. He died aged 78 on 26 January 1910 and was buried on a freezing 29 January in Harlow Hill Cemetery, Harrogate. He lies in Plot 88, Section E. There is no headstone.

I have been unable to trace any likeness of Charles Grey Hill, neither at the offices of the Sheriff, nor in contemporary biographies held at the Nottingham Record Office, the Nottingham City Library, nor in the Nottingham Picture Library. Charles and Anne had no children, so no photographs or pictures have been handed down through the family direct. Thomas Mellor's "Men of Nottingham" records the lives and likenesses of his contemporaries:- Charles Hose Hill J.P. and Thomas Hill J.P, but of Charles Grey Hill, J.P. there is no mention!

The existing documents and records relating to Charles' financial dealings are not comprehensive and are unaccompanied by any correspondence so a full understanding of his situation is not possible. I do not know what he paid for Brickendonbury and neither can I trace what he might have sold C G Hill & Co. for. I would normally have expected him to have ended up a very wealthy man had he not become so heavily indebted, but I have been unable to discover the actual Net Worth of the Company at the time he sold out to John Wightman or if that settlement may have taken into account any existing indebtedness to his partner.

Charles' Will and Codicil were dated the 27 August 1903 and all his property went to his wife, Anne, without any bequests of personal possessions or legacies going to anyone else. The Will was drawn up by solicitors in Margate, appointing Richard Dagleish, of Melton Mowbray (ironmaster), Arthur Clarke (a relative of Anne), and Anne as executors. Probate was extracted by his Nottingham solicitors, Freeth, Rawson and Cartwright.

Probate shows the Gross value of Charles' estate to have been £ 34383 10s. Net value of Personal Estate NIL.

Charles Grey Hill's purchase of Brickendonbury would have started his slide to overspending and death as a bankrupt, and I wonder if this contributed to his being (apparently) airbrushed from his life in Nottingham. Anne lived to be 90 and died in 1929 in a modest house in Nottingham, the home of a niece on her side of the family. She did not own her own house after Charles' death and she left relatively very little in her Will. A sad end to the one-time chatelaine of Arnot Hill and Brickendonbury.

In April 2012, I was shown round Arnot Hill House by the Leader and Deputy Leader of Gedling Council. A listed building with some rooms used as offices but generally with the original features untouched. Other rooms, normally closed to the public were opened up to me and there is the entrance to an underground tunnel (now sealed) that was intended for tradesmen to visit the House from an approach road beyond sight of the house and the landscaped grounds.



There was another Charles Grey Hill, also born 1832, who was a Victualler and a member of a London Lodge of Freemasons. Surprisingly, I cannot find Charles Grey Hill having been a Freemason in Nottingham.

John Hill Member 3587

## Updated Members Interests

The following is a random selection of the Members Interests recently submitted or amended in the Surname Interests lists held by the Society. A further selection will be published in future Journals as space permits.

Members may be contacted through the Society Website <https://notts fhs.org/members-2/members-contact/>.

### Wherever possible kindly acknowledge any assistance received from fellow members

ID	NAME	LOCATION	DATES	ID	NAME	LOCATION	DATES
3214	Ainsworth	Cheshire	1700-	5932	Collington	Nottinghamshire	Any
5576	Appleyard	Leeds WRY	circa 1800	5922	Cooley	Sandiacre DBY	17 & 1800's
5215	Atchinson	Cropwell Butler	1800+	5182	Cooper	Wirksworth DBY	1700s
0756	Attenborrow	Ruddington	1700-1800	5855	Cooper	Nottingham	All
0034	Baggaley	Mansfield	pre 1800	5751	Coulton	Chilcote DBY	Before 1815
5576	Baker	Cheslyn Hay STS	1700s	5747	Coup	Nottinghamshire	Any
4044	Ball	South Normanton DBY	1697	5922	Cowley	Sandiacre DBY	17 & 1800's
5069	Barker	Walkeringham	1700 - 1800	5954	Crepel	Nottinghamshire	Prior to 1800
5203	Barlow	Chesterfield Area DBY	Pre 1920	5954	Cripwell	Leicestershire	Any
5203	Barlow	Church Warsop	1918 on	5954	Cripwell	Nottinghamshire	Any
4422	Barton	Suffolk	1750 - 1900	5851	Dallison	Any	All
3563	Barwell	Nottingham	1700 - 1800	5851	Darlison	Any	All
5037	Baxter	Essex	1600 - 1850	5864	Darney	Retford	1760 on
4078	Bayley	Colston Bassett	Any	5877	de Grey	Codnor DBY	1450 - 1550
4078	Bayley	Barrowby LIN	Any	5864	Dernie	Worksop	1760 on
5660	Beardall	Calverton	1800 on	5243	Dethwick	Nottinghamshire	1700 - 1850
5886	Beeston	Derbyshire	17 - 1900's	5779	Dunstan	Clarborough	1600 / 1700
5886	Bethel	Lancashire	18 - 1900's	5660	Ellis	Nottingham	pre 1900
0033	Bettney	Derbyshire	Any	5923	Ellis	Staffordshire/Birmingham	pre 1822
5660	Bilbie	Nottingham	1750 - 1830	5075	Elsom	Blidworth	1800-1930
5858	Binns	Yorkshire	1600 - 1950	3214	Evans	Chester CHS	1780-
5624	Bird	Newark	1800 - 1950	2611	Failes	Arnold	1850's
5899	Blackbourn	Skegness LIN	1780 - 1975	3384	Farrands	Nottingham	1800's
5069	Booker	Walkeringham	1600 - 1750	5576	Fell	Hucknall	pre 1700
5779	Booney	Treswell	1700's	5182	Fewkes	Flintham	1700s
5922	Botham	Old Brampton DBY	Mid 1700's	5182	Finney	Radbourne DBY	1600s
5922	Botham	Sandiacre DBY	1820 - 1850	4078	Flinders	Hoveringham	Any
5941	Boulby	Nottingham(shire)	1702 on	4078	Flinders	Gedling	Any
5941	Boulbee	Nottingham(shire)	1702 on	4078	Flint	Sutton In Ashfield	Any
5941	Boulby	Blackwell DBY	1702 on	1999	Foster	Derbyshire	pre 1800
5941	Bowlsby	Blackwell DBY	1702 on	4422	Fow	Lincolnshire	1800 on
2416	Bradbury	Selston	Any	4044	Freeman	Long Crompton WAR	1820
5075	Brallsford	Blidworth	1700 - 1900	5182	Fukes	Flintham	1700s
0589	Bromhead	North Wheatley	1550+	5855	Fulcher	Kent	All
1170	Brown	Abbots Bromley STS	pre 1880	3105	Gamble	Basford	pre 1870
5904	Brown	Nottingham	17 & 1800's	5747	Garton	Nottinghamshire	Any
5922	Buckley	Stapleford	Late 18-1900's	5907	Gascoyne	North Nottinghamshire	Any
4078	Bull	Derbyshire	Any	5037	Gauntley	France	1800 on
1999	Burton	Nottingham	pre 1800	2889	Gee	Lincolnshire	19th - 20th C
3214	Butler	Derbyshire	1700-	5860	Gibson	Nottinghamshire	18th - 19th C
5922	Butler	Stapleford	1800's	5945	Gill	Stapleford	1800 to pres
5904	Carnell(e)y	Nottingham	17 & 1800's	0014	Goodenough	Norton St Phillip SOM	1800
5899	Carrott	Nottingham	1550 - 1945	5899	Grady	Nottingham	1805 - 1931
2416	Castledine	Notts (Particularly Bingham & Selston)	Any	5886	Gratton	Moreton DBY	17 - 1900's
5934	Chadborn	Nottingham	1800 - 1830	5852	Graves	Newark	17th. C
2611	Chappell	Woodborough / Arnold	c1800 & prior	5877	Gray(e)/Grey	Arnold	1500 - 1750
5779	Charlesworth	Hayton	1700 / 1800	5243	Green	Flintham	1700 - 1800
4044	Chisel	Codnor Park DBY	1802	5922	Gregory	Leicestershire	17 - 1900's
5751	Clamp	Donisthorpe, Moira LEI	All	5473	Hale	East London	1800 - 1850
5837	Clarke	Greasley	c. 1700	5182	Hall	Gedling	1600s
4044	Clayton	Nottingham	1881	5182	Hallum	Colwick	1600-1700s

## Updated Members Interests

Wherever possible kindly acknowledge any assistance received from fellow members

ID	NAME	LOCATION	DATES	ID	NAME	LOCATION	DATES
4044	Clayton	Croston LAN	1811	5838	Hamilton	Nottingham	1700 - 1900
4044	Clayton	Wittle-le-Woods LAN	1811	3455	Hankin	Hucknall	pre 1900
5852	Clayworth	Newark	18th - 19th C	3214	Hare	Crowland LIN	1860-1930
3105	Colhoun	Donegal IRL	pre 1880	3214	Hare	Gosberton LIN	1700-1900
3214	Harrison	Boston LIN	1800-	5945	Mills	West Leake	1800 to pres
5473	Harvey	Dorset	1700 - 1850	5855	Moore	Leicestershire	1700 - 1800
5576	Harvey	Kent	pre 1700	5944	Morley	Nottingham	1740 - 1840
4044	Hawkins	Eastwood	1788	5751	Mortimer	Appleby Magna LEI	Before 1850
5751	Hays	Pilsley, North Wingfield DBY	All	5855	Mulinder	Kent	All
5950	Hennell	Newark	1800's	5855	Mulinder	Sussex	All
5886	Hepworth	Sheffield YKS	18 - 1900's	5855	Musson	Nottingham	All
2416	Higton	Nottinghamshire	Any	5855	Musson	Derbyshire	All
0014	Holdstock	London	1800	5907	Nicholson	North Nottinghamshire	Any
5907	Holmes	NE Lincolnshire	Any	5855	Noakes	Essex	All
4044	Holt	Dudley WOR	1782	5855	Norman	Derbyshire	All
5947	Hornbuckle	Plumtree	1590 - 1650	3384	North	Nottingham	1700 - 1800
5885	Horsepool	Bingham	Any	5899	O'Grady	Nottingham	1805 - 1931
5182	Houghe	Bottesford LEI	1500-1600s	5182	Oliver	Bingham	1600-1800s
5892	Humberstone	Nottingham	Pre 1900	2889	Pacey	Elston LIN	19th - 20th C
5542	Hunt	Nottingham	1700 - 1900	4044	Parker	Brinsley/ Greasley	1781
5855	Hutchinson	Nottingham	All	4044	Parker	Beckingham LIN	1714
4044	Huxley	Tattenhall CHS	1819	4422	Parker	Worksop	1800 on
5950	Inocent	Lodge on the Wolds	1750 - 1800	5779	Parker	Gringley on the Hill	1600 / 1700
5950	Inocent	Kinoulton	1700 - 1800	5907	Parkin	South Yorkshire	Any
2518	Jackson	Nottingham	17 - 1800's	5542	Parramore	Nottingham	1700 - 1900
5775	Jackson	Nottinghamshire	All	5542	Parrowmore	Nottingham	1700 - 1900
5779	Jackson	Cropwell Butler	1800's	5945	Payne	Wysall	1890 to pres
5660	Jacques	Long Eaton DBY	1800 on	4078	Pearson	Barrowby LIN	Any
0589	Jepson	Scrooby	1700 - 1800	5243	Pearson	Flintham	1700 - 1800
1170	Jones	St Martin in Fields	pre 1890	5779	Pettinger	Hayton	1700 / 1800
5938	Keeble	Essex	Any	5923	Plummer	Nottingham	All
5542	King	Nottingham	1800 - 1900	3384	Porter	Nottingham	Any
5215	Kirkland	Nottingham	1901+	5950	Predging	South Collingham	1700 - 1800
5886	Lamb	Derbyshire	18 - 1900's	5950	Pridgern	South Collingham	1700 - 1800
5660	Lane	Long Eaton DBY	1900 on	5947	Pritchett	Hickling	1590 - 1650
5945	Lester	Stapleford	1810 to pres	5660	Prowett	Leicestershire	1830 to pres
0014	Lines	Marsworth BKM	1800	5576	Pullein	Yorkshire	pre 1750
5922	Longdon	Radford	1870's on	5069	Py(e)cr(o/a)ft	All	All
5923	Lynch	North Ireland	pre 1827	5215	Pyket(t)	Cropwell Butler	1800+
3214	Maltby	Nottingham	1780-1900	5950	Randall	Lodge on the Wolds	1750 - 1800
4078	Maltby	Kelham	Any	5751	Redfern	Overseal, Walton-On-Trent DBY	Before 1850
5886	Marshall	Sheffield YKS	18 - 1900's	5934	Revill	Nottingham	1800 - 1830
5852	Mason	Newark	18th - 19th C	2416	Richards	Selston	Any
5751	May	Hinckley, Sutton Cheney LEI	All	5938	Roberts	Yorkshire	Any
5923	McCloskey	North Ireland	pre 1870	5938	Roberts	Derbyshire	Any
4044	Mee	Brinsley/ Greasley	1829	0014	Robertson	Ayrshire	1800
5922	Mee	Stapleford	1750's on	5473	Rogers	Grantham LIN	1800 - 1900
5907	Merrills	North Notts	Any	5473	Rogers	Peterborough CAM	1850 - 1950
0589	Metcalf	North Lincolnshire	1600+	2889	Rose	Newark	19th. C
5764	Metcalf	Nottingham	1500 - 1900	5182	Rouls(t)on(e)	Radcliffe-on-Trent	1600-1800s
4078	Middleton	Marston On Dove DBY	Any	4044	Rowarth	Scarrington/ Aslockton	1668

### **E-Journal Members**

**Please note**, it is the responsibility of the Member to ensure that the E-Journal Administrator is kept updated regarding your email account. Any changes to your email address should be sent to Peter Banham, E-Journal Administrator at [membership@nottsfhs.org](mailto:membership@nottsfhs.org)

### **Membership Renewal**

**Please note:** When your Membership is due for renewal, a reminder form will be sent to you. If you do not renew on time your journal will cease.

## **Help Wanted**

Please keep your entries as short and concise as possible. Entries that are too long or confused will be edited or omitted. Do try to explore the usual sources such as GRO Indexes, Censuses and IGI etc. before using this page. Will members responding to these requests please send me a copy of their reply so that they may be published in the journal. Please print or type clearly with all surnames in CAPITALS and send to:-  
The Editor, 39 Brooklands Drive, Gedling Nottingham NG4 3GU.

### **HORSEPOOL**

From the Nottingham Post 27 Mar 1895

Public Notice John Horsepool of New York deceased. Wanted husband or children, if any, of Sarah Horsepool, deceased, James Horsepool, his widow or children, the widow and children of Rowland and William Horsepool, deceased. The above may learn something to their advantage by applying immediately to Thorpe and Perry Friar Lane Nottingham to James K Averill, Temple Court, New York.

The possible beneficiaries appear to be the Horsepool family in Bingham but I have been unable to identify John's relationship with the family (or any Notts family). I would be grateful for any information (and especially antecedents) about John of New York. John Horsepool was buried Trinity Cemetery 540 West 155th St. New York (b 1 Jun 1821, d 1895)

Malcolm Noble Memb 5885 Email: [malcolmnoble@rocketmail.com](mailto:malcolmnoble@rocketmail.com)

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## **Some Seasonal Cheer from The Nottingham Date Book 1884**

### **December 23**

Mr Councillor John Robinson (as has been his custom during the last eight years) gave his annual treat to eight hundred aged men. The dinner consisted of good old English cheer – rounds of beef and mutton of the best quality, with plum pudding and ale. After dinner an entertainment was given by vocalists of great merit from Lincoln and other towns, in addition to the local talent, and a most enjoyable evening was had.

### **December 24**

Mrs John Robinson gave her annual treat of a meat tea, with plum cake and wine, to about eight hundred aged females, when a similar entertainment to the above was given. On the platform were a number of friends of Mr John Robinson, amongst whom were Mr Councillor Samuel Robinson and Sir James Oldknow, who presided.

### **December 27**

Mr Councillor John Robinson, Mrs John Robinson and Mr Robinson Junr, gave a treat to all the aged men and women in Arnold, Mr Robinson's native village.

## **Nottinghamshire Family History Society President's Report 2019 to 2020**

As usual I am very grateful to all of you for your continued enthusiastic support.

Our meeting venue at Nottinghamshire Archives still continues to work well and is welcomed by many local members. We have sole use of the research facilities from 5 p.m. on meeting nights prior to the meeting proper commencing at 7.00 p.m.

As usual I would particularly like to pay tribute to all those people who have worked hard for the Society in the past year – namely:

- Our Treasurer and Membership Secretary Peter Banham, who keeps meticulous records of our accounts and membership renewals and payments.
- Our Secretary Mary Ellis who very efficiently takes the minutes of the Council meetings and attends to general correspondence in her ever-cheerful manner.
- Our Journal Editor Tracy Dodds who has continued to work tirelessly to produce our Journal to a high standard. We always look forward to reading it!
- To Gary Stephenson for continuing the role of Bookshop Manager, and for promoting the bookstall and the Society at various Local History and Family History fairs through the year, aided by various other members of the Society.
- To Stuart Mason and all the team for ongoing transcribing and indexing.
- To all the various volunteers who have been regularly helping to man the Research Room at the Galleries of Justice and deal with enquiries there, and also Margaret Watt for continuing to administer the Society's Library holdings and archives.
- And all other council members and society members for their continued support and also to A W Lymns who still very helpfully provide a room for the Society's Council meetings.

Our website helps to promote interest in the Society and is a brilliant forum for publicising what we do. Remember as members you can register to gain access to more databases on there.

We also continue to run our very own Research Room within the National Justice Museum in High Pavement. Details of current opening times are always published in the Journal and on the website. As usual we had a summer social walk, this time being a tour of Newark town centre. Unfortunately, the poor weather deterred some members and friends from attending, though I am pleased to say that in the end the rain was not that bad. We were led in two groups by guides from the Civil War Centre, the walk also including a visit to the interior of Newark's magnificent Georgian Town Hall.

This year the Society has used some of its reserves by making a substantial purchase of three metal trolleys for Nottinghamshire Archives to help with the transportation of documents, as some of their old trolleys had worn out.

We have as usual also had an interesting range of talks at our monthly meetings, so a sincere thank you to the local members who regularly support these. For those of you who live too far away to attend our meetings thank you for subscribing – as always, we really appreciate your continued support.

Our final meeting of the financial year – March 2020 – was cancelled at the last minute because of the rapidly developing covid-19 virus situation at the time, and since then more of our meetings have also been cancelled, the speakers kindly agreeing to fit in the same slots in 2021. The safety and health of members and visitors is paramount and the Society is reviewing how to proceed in the future. It may be some time before our meetings can revert to anything like they were before.

Peter Hammond, June 2020

## **Nottinghamshire Family History Society Annual Report for the year 2019 to 2020**

Nottinghamshire Family History Society is a registered charity (registration number 515898), whose objectives include the promotion of family history with particular reference to Nottinghamshire.

The officers of the Society (collectively known as the Society's Council and elected by the Society's Membership at the 2018 Annual General Meeting) for the year were:

Honorary President – Peter Hammond (correspondence address 17 Lady Bay Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 5BJ)

Honorary Secretary – Mary Ellis

Honorary Treasurer – Peter Banham (also Membership Secretary)

Council Member – Tracy Dodds (also Journal Editor)

Council Member – Gary Stephenson

Council Member – Peter Duke

Council Member – Stuart Mason

Council Member – Peter Townsend

Council Member – Patricia Evans (co-opted)

The Society is administered by the Council in accordance with the constitution of the Society approved on 17th November 2010 and revised and ratified at the EGM on 20th November 2013. The Council has met six times during the year and the minutes of the meetings are held by the Society's Secretary.

The financial situation of the Society is judged by the Council to be excellent. The details can be found in the accounts prepared by the Honorary Treasurer.

The Reserves Policy of the Council is to hold approximately twelve months' worth of expenditure in reserve. This reserve at 31 March 2019 includes twelve months' worth of rent for the room at the National Justice Museum and twelve monthly meetings together with four editions of the Journal.

The current reserves (£38,000) although higher than required will be held until a suitable purpose can be found to utilise them. During this year the Society spent some of these reserves by purchasing three metal trolleys for the transportation of documents for Nottinghamshire Archives as well as some more 19th century Trade directories for the Society's Library.

The Council confirms that all of the activities of the Society are in accordance with the aims of the Society; are of public benefit, particularly in regard to the advancement of education and to the advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science and are widely available to the general public.

In the past year, a programme of monthly Wednesday evening meetings has been held, most with a guest speaker presenting a topic related to the Society's aims of promoting family history, genealogy, and local history. As from January 2017 the Society changed the meeting venue from the Nottingham Mechanics on North Sherwood Street to Nottinghamshire Archives in Castle Meadow Road. This has continued to prove a successful strategy for we also have sole use of the research facilities there from 5.00 p.m. prior to our meeting proper commencing at 7.00 p.m.

The Society's quarterly Journal has been produced by the Journal Editor and distributed to the Society's members. Of 539 members, 130 receive their Journal by e-mail, the remainder by post – 389 in the UK, 2 in Europe and 18 in the rest of the world. Currently 286 members Gift-Aid their membership subscriptions.

We are continuing with the remaining baptism, marriage and burial transcriptions for various parishes in Nottinghamshire and digitising MIs.

The project to put all of the Record Series (currently in book form) and the all the Memorial Inscriptions (currently on fiche) onto CD for ease of access is also continuing.

During the past year, the Society has visited Family and Local History Fairs at Mansfield (Local History Fair), Hucknall (Heritage Day), and Buxton (U3A conference). A guided tour of Newark town centre was also arranged for members last August.

A team of volunteers continue to run and administer the Research Room within the National Justice Museum, which is open to members and the general public around two days per week.

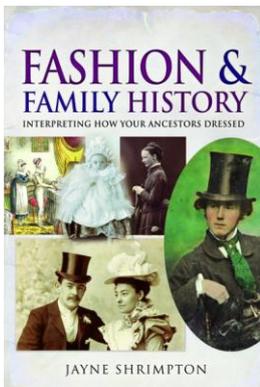
The website continues to be up and running and has additional material available to registered members. The site has an integrated e-shop that is working well.

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## Book Reviews

To obtain any of these books please use the contact details given with the relevant item. Not all are available from our Bookstall, but, please ask the Bookshop manager as he may be able to obtain them. It may be possible to order items quoting an ISBN number from your nearest good bookshop. NO enquiries should be directed to the Editor. Prices are correct as at time of printing but do not include postage costs. Copies may have been donated to our library.



### **Fashion and Family History – Interpreting how your ancestors dressed.**

**By Jayne Shrimpton.**

**Published by Pen & Sword**

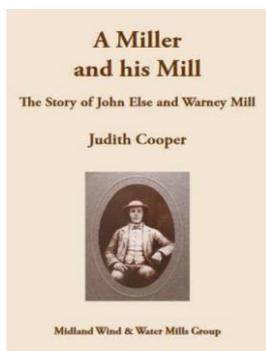
**ISBN: 9781526760265**

This is hot off the press by a lady who is well known in family history circles for her fashion dating knowledge. Jayne has appeared at many events across the country as well as in magazines answering queries and giving advice on dating photos.

The book is divided into easy sections and features photos of everyday people as guides to what to look for over the years from 1800 to the 1950's. Initially we are given an overview of Women's, Men's and children's clothing but further chapters look at regional differences, occupational clothing, sport and leisure as well as caring for clothing and related industries. There is also a good bibliography covering

fashion and related occupations. The book is full of interesting notes about the types of materials used, when chemical dyes started to change colour schemes, and the different influences upon clothing during this time. Whether you are a family historian looking to identify those many unnamed photos we all have, or just interested in fashion as a whole this is a very good overall view of fashion through the years.

Price £14.99 paperback.



### **A Miller and his Mill – The story of John Else and Warney Mill.**

**By Judith Cooper.**

**Published by Midland Wind & Water Mills Group**

**ISBN: 9781526760265**

The author is the great great granddaughter of John Else and she has used the unique material, papers and Time Book left by John Else. John detailed a picture of rural life as a miller in the mid nineteenth century in the Derbyshire area north of Matlock. He wrote about the craftspeople who helped rebuild the mill and also worked there but John was also a local Tax Assessor and Pillar of the local community which enabled him to see life of both rich, poor and those inbetween.

The mill continued working until after the Second World War and is still standing although no longer operating as a mill.

Price £15 plus p&p the book is available from the MMG website [www.midlandmills.org.uk](http://www.midlandmills.org.uk) or direct from the author at [warneymill@gmail.com](mailto:warneymill@gmail.com)

**Nottinghamshire Family History Society**  
**Income & Expenditure Account Year ended 31 March 2020**

	Last Year		Current Year	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Book Shop</b>				
Sales		3505		3776
Less Purchases, Books Fiche, etc.		-1823		-2540
Less Expenses (Note 1)		<u>-435</u>		<u>-1172</u>
<b>A</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<u>1247</u>	<b>Surplus</b>	<u>64</u>
 <b>General Account</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions		6599		6099
Searches		25		30
Tax refunds		918		904
Royalties - Federation Web Site		8436		8112
Research Room		20		25
Other (Refund)		39		1075
Bank Interest		<u>54</u>		<u>63</u>
		<u>16091</u>		<u>16308</u>
 <b>Expenses</b>				
Hall Rent	720		720	
Research Room Costs (Note 2)	1923		1960	
Journal Printing	2940		3127	
Journal Dispatch	2376		2424	
Speakers Expenses	605		490	
FFHS subscription & insurance	536		536	
PayPal Charges	239		229	
Fairs & Conferences	271		983	
Postage	242		332	
Stationery	439		434	
Computer/Web Maintenance	423		152	
Sundry	299		953	
Depreciation	402		401	
Less Bookshop expenses	<u>-435</u>	<u>10980</u>	<u>-1172</u>	<u>11569</u>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<u>5111</u>	<b>Surplus</b>	<u>4739</u>
<b>Total Surplus / Deficit A-B</b>	<b>Surplus</b>	<u><u>6358</u></u>	<b>Surplus</b>	<u><u>4803</u></u>

Note 1: Book shop expenses are, postage, stationery, travel to fairs etc.

Note 2: Research Room costs are Room Rent. Internet and stationery etc.

**Nottinghamshire Family History Society  
Balance Sheet 31 March 2020**

	Last Year		Current Year	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Equipment as 31 March			1203	
Additions	1605			
	1605		1203	
Less Depreciation (SL 25%)	-402	1203	-401	802
Library as 31 March	0		0	
Additions	0		0	
	0	0	0	0
Less Depreciation (SL 25%)	0	0	0	0
Fiche Masters as 31 March	0		0	
Less Depreciation (SL 10%)	0	0	0	0
<b>Fixed Assets Total</b>		1203		802
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Bookstall Stock	3701		2465	
Debtors	0		0	
Bank Balance	34798		41238	
		38499		43703
<b>Less Creditors</b>		0		0
<b>Net Assets</b>		39702		44505
<b>Represented by:-</b>				
Members Funds Last Year		33344		39702
Surplus/Deficit for the year		6358		4803
Funds at end of financial year		39702		44505

## The memoirs of George Hovey Brookes – My Great Grandfather

Alison Kelso



To my son Edwin Stanley Brookes, I George Hovey Brookes write these memoirs and remembrances of my early life. I was born on March 12th, 1842 in Castlegate, Nottingham, England. Nottingham was a walled town until about the sixteenth century, having gates leading from the different streets, many streets at the present time such as Bridlegate and Hownd's gate. A picture that I drew and painted when I was at Standard Hill academy at the age of near 14 years of age (which I wish you to have) of the old Castle Lodge. I am told it is just the same as when I left in 1862. A public road to the right of the picture leading through the Nottingham Park, divides the academy from the Castle grounds. No one was allowed to go through the keep gates without showing a ticket for a guinea, a coloured one with the Nottingham coat of arms upon it, the colour changing each year. The grounds were kept beautifully around the parade ground with flowers. On the rising ground beyond was the ruins of the castle belonging to the Duke of Newcastle. Beyond in front of the castle was a flagstone, rather wide promenade with a low wall on the edge of a precipice. At the bottom was the river Leene, where the entrance to a subterranean passage was Mortimer's Hole (that is called) which he used for entrance to the castle to meet

Isobelle, mother to King Edward the Second I believe. She had a small guard house where soldiers held guard, just below the small parapet is the rock. Time and people using the passage has filled it in many feet. The picture in my history of Nottingham is just as it was 60 years ago and I suppose it is just the same now. The castle was the headquarters of the Robin Hood Rifles which was just upon 1,000 strong. Once a week a full dress parade took place for battalion drill during the summer months. There were 10 companies of 100. My brother Edwin and I were in No. 3 Company or the Forest Company with our headquarters at the Arboretum, which had a glass pavilion in the shape of a half moon, where we could do Company drill. When battalion drill was on we marched in Company order to headquarters, our Company's headquarters belonged to the corporation. I remember that No. 10 Castle Company was in a large wool shed. When the battalion met at the castle there was room for the men to stand in line and march round the parade ground, the band and staff officers in the centre. In front of the castle was a fine view of the meadows which stretched for a long distance to the river Trent, on the right was the old ferry, a very large flat bottomed boat with two rollers at the head and a chain between fastened at each side of the river. The boatman with a hook every few yards, the current force the barge over. On holidays it was crowded by picnickers for the Wilford Village Green with its large spreading oak in the centre. Clifton Grove ran from Wilford to near Clifton Hall. The grove ran between massive beech or ash trees. All lodges, churches and others held their festivities there or on the Village Green. Another view from the castle on the left was the London Road and a bridge of many arches, several hundred years old.

When about 5 years old I went to private schools till I was about 10. At one school I remember well the schoolmaster. He had a hump back and had to use a crutch, one leg being bent. I must have been young but when I couldn't say my tables properly I had to stand with my back to him and the first mistake made, swish came the cane down on my back. He used to frighten the life out of me. I was not long at that school. I think I was staying with an Aunt out of Nottingham as I can't in memory locate the school. About 9 years of age I went to the People's College near the Park. When about 12 father moved to Loughborough, Leicestershire, and I went to the High School, Dr. Gordon being the principal. All the masters were capped and gowned. Outside the building was more like a college than a school, and the grounds were laid out nicely.

To go back to my early days, my mother's father was fairly wealthy, a kind of squire at the village of Stapleford, near Nottingham. I can just remember going there in a carriage with Mother and seeing someone taking honey out of a hive in the garden and having some for tea. Shortly after I remember him dying by

seeing Father going home with a wide hatband and a long streamer down his back, and a wide scarf over his shoulder with a large bow at his side. Mrs. White, my eldest sister, said Mother was young when a runaway match took place and after marriage went home and no-one knew for some time. Mr. Bradbury said Mother was a beautiful girl when young, he knew her well. He came from Nottingham and opened a store at Port Albert. I have her portrait in oils and father's hanging in my room as I am writing in 1926.

Father's mother was a lovely woman in her old age, all we children adored her to the last. Father was very good to her, her only son. In her younger days she was head housekeeper to Lord Stanley, Earl of Derby. Father as a boy was an apprentice to the firm of Hine and Mundella, a large hosiery warehouse. Years afterwards it became Hine, Mundella and Company, Father being the Company. I remember when very young seeing Mother, Father and Mr. Mundella coming down the wide stairs, well dressed, going to some big function. Since we came out Mr. Mundella was Minister of Education in the Asquith ministry. Speaking of Mundella, he said to Father "Edwin, I'll get to the top of the tree, no matter how, I'll get there." I thought of Father when I read of him being one of the British Cabinet. I was young when he retired from the hosiery and bought a tailoring business of three shops in Peck Lane, Nottingham. He did a good business, he got another shop at No. 1 for my sister, millinery, etc. While in the tailoring business he built Rock Cottage. It was a barren piece of land. I remember as a boy seeing a donkey grazing on it, being a sandstone rock. The Derby Road (main road) from Nottingham had been excavated about 10 feet alongside of it. That point was the only piece of freehold land all round. Earl Manvers was on one side, the Duke of Newcastle and the park on another. On the other side of the road were fields. Now I hear Mansi, Lord Wollaston is I believe the owner. When looking at the photo of the house there will be seen a wall round the garden. From a slight ascent of the left corner was an arbour with a good telescope on a swivel stand. Being on the highest point we had a magnificent view of the valley below where the railway line, also a canal ran through, and also a splendid view of Lord Middleton's seat, Wollerton Hall and park, and in summer the couples walking through the corn and grass fields on Sunday afternoons. The fields had stiles and pathways through. The small town of Lenton was about half a mile in the valley below, which had an old priory and church with a subterranean passage from the priory under the park to the castle. In the castle vaults the passage is bricked up. I understand they have built a museum, library and reading rooms there for the Robin Hoods. Father's sister married Mr. Fox. There were two sons and two daughters, all of a religious turn of mind. The son, Sam, was educated for the ministry. He married a titled lady, he being vicar of St. Mary's Church of England, Sydney. Edwin, the younger brother was in a Sydney bank and died some years ago. Sam came over to see Father, and occasionally my wife when he was in Wharehine. I being in Auckland, my first year with Uncle Sam White. Mother's father must have been an influential man as he was granted the Freedom of Nottingham. I have in my possession his charter of the Freedom of the city which you must have. My sister had Grandfather and Grandmother's oil paintings which I could have had for asking but did not. I sometimes regret as the four large oil paintings should be together. Your cousin Minnie White has possession of them, in her life time I do not think she would part with them but in the next generation they may not be valued and might be purchased. I have in my possession Father's indentures which you must have. About the year 1853 Father, having sold his business a few years, acquired the rights of a patent concerning the hosiery line. The machines were about 7 feet to 15 or 16 feet long by about 6 feet high and very intricate. He took in a friend of the inventor's as a partner, sold the house and removed the machinery to Loughborough, Leicestershire. I left the People's College, Nottinghamshire and went to the High School. Father bought an old manor house in the main street with a portico and massive pillars abutting on to the pavement. At the back were three gables of brick, three storeys. When entered from the front by a massive door one entered a large square hall with large square flagstones. On the left was a library room, next a drawing room, very large, then near the door a wide marble staircase. On the right was a couple of rooms then stairs leading upstairs and a side door leading to the kitchen. In the centre of the hall was a fair sized round stove. When going upstairs one fairly got lost, so many twists and turnings. People said the place was haunted. There was a good piece of land and orchard. On the right Father built a factory but after a time things did not go well so Father paid off his partner and sold out, taking a small model farm about a mile and a half from town. I think that was the happiest time of



my life. The house was bricks or plaster, the coach house, stables, barn, cowshed and sty the same as the house. There was a fine running brook.

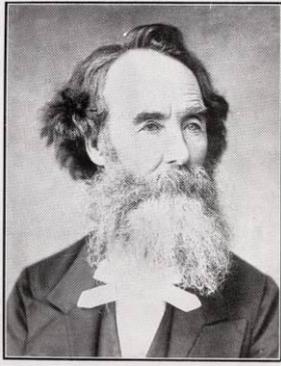
I knew the principal boys at the school, one lived in the town. I remember being often there, it was called the Grange having a moat surrounding it, and it was in the centre of a large field. The Doctor was considered the big man of the town. His son came one day and asked if I might come to a party as his parents said to ask me, and his friends were going to have a cricket match and he would like me not to miss it. The doctor lived about a mile out of town and had a nice house in a valley with a good deal of land. It has all come back to me, me promising to come, then my eldest sister bustling me into my best clothes and fastening on my neck a clean collar. I started off on a country road. At the end was a large gate. I looked down at the house about half a mile away and couldn't see anyone. I got shy and couldn't muster courage to go on. My sister scolded me for giving her the trouble and promising the chubby faced boy with red hair, which I believe was the same colour as his father's. This was before we left Church Street. The large old church was only a couple of hundred yards above the manor house. If we were to go up on the steeple top you would find the foot marks cut in the lead with a small round chisel with my initials G.H.B. and another of my brother Edwin E.S.B. On the model farm there was a weir built across the brook and we had races in the wash tubs. In summer we had plenty of fruit. One day Edwin and I were in the farm yard (Mother had some choice fowls). I said "See me hit that rooster". I picked up a small pebble not much larger than a finger nail. I was never more surprised in my life to see that rooster flapping round like a weather vane, then falling down flapping his wings. Edwin said "You've killed Ma's best". I went and lifted him up. I saw a little flutter and he opened one eye. I put him down, he tried to walk sideways and fell like a drunken man. At last he seemed to steady himself and then walked away. I could not think I was such a good shot but I never tried it again as my prestige would fall. There is one little incident comes to mind when having a game of marbles with some boys in front of our house on the road in Church Street just before we left for Nottingham. I was very intent in the game when the Doctor came up and spoke to me. I felt I would like to drop through the road and I was so ashamed of him seeing me playing like a gutter boy in the street. He spoke to me so nicely, no allusion to the game.

We left Loughborough about the end of 1854. The machinery was well tied with canvas for the journey to Nottingham, about 16 miles. It took a good number of trips, being a patent someone went with every load. I went with one, some very steep hills we had to ascend and descend. The machinery arrived safely in due course and was installed in the factory at Radford suburb adjoining the city. Father repurchased Rock Cottage and enlarged it from a photo I have from a drawing of Uncle Edwin's. Father prided himself on his garden. In front was a fair sized oval lawn, at the end two shell shaped beds and gravel paths, and lawn banks with paths down to the wall on the Derby Road side. All down on both sides of the road to Lenten are gates and avenues about 8 feet wide. Extending some chains long fenced in allotments by thorn hedges of about a quarter acre with doors and locks. Most of them have brick summer houses. On our allotment was a 2 roomed summer house, fairly furnished, also a few yards off a wash house, a woodbine and another arbour. There was also a boat swing for the children on four good poles painted green with good ironwork. There are some hundreds which are let to the citizens. Most people have their summer garden as the hours of light are long in England. The owners must get a good income from them. Each allotment has fruit trees. We had some very good fruit. When we returned to Nottingham I went to Standard Hill academy, leaving there to be



an apprentice to the Lace business I entered the firm of Thurst, Adams and Company. It would take too long to go through the process although very interesting. Mr. Adams engaged a Church of England clergyman who officiated each morning to about 500 girls, 60 apprentices, also assistants and heads of departments. The church was on the basement floor with pews, hymn books, choir and a large organ.

George Hovey Brookes (in pale suit) with wife Jennie (nee Cutler) and their family at their home Balmoral Rd, Mt Eden, Auckland.



George Hovey Brookes was born 12 March 1842 at Castle Gate in Nottingham and died 13 July 1931 at Onewhero, New Zealand. He was a pillar of society in early colonial life in Auckland, where he was on the Devonport Council for many years.

George was the son of Edwin Stanley Brookes (left) (bn 28 Nov 1811, Harstaff Derbyshire -died 22 May 1899 Wharehine, New Zealand) and Jemima Hovey (right) (bn 9 Oct 1810, Nottingham - died 9 Aug 1894 Wharehine, New Zealand). The family went to New Zealand in 1864 and Edwin then became a Baptist Minister.



Edwin Stanley and Jemima Brookes with their family in Nottingham c1862

George's paternal grandparents were George Brookes (bn 5 July 1779 Tibshelf, Derbyshire - died 22 Feb 1822 South Littleton, Worcestershire) and Ann Stanley (bn circa 1786 Ripley, Derbyshire - died 22 June 1862 Evesham, Worcestershire).

His maternal grandparents were George Hovey (bn 26 Dec 1737 Gaddesby, Leicestershire) and Elizabeth Stevenson (bn 13 Dec 1764 Newark on Trent - died Oct 1840 Radford).

Alison Kelso Email: [takelso@xtra.co.nz](mailto:takelso@xtra.co.nz)

## Directory Dipping

### ANNESLEY

#### Extract from Kellys 1881 Directory of Nottinghamshire

Post & Money Order Office & Savings Bank, New Annesley – Samuel Trevitt Postmaster. Letters through Nottingham arrive at 7am; dispatched at 8pm.

National School – William Treece, master

Carrier to Nottingham – Leivers Wednesday & Sat.

Co-operative stores – Samuel Trevitt, Manager, New Annesley

Gelsthorpe William – farmer & miller

Walker Elizabeth (Mrs) - farmer



## **Mellors of Nether Langwith**

### **Clifford Hughes**

The two English villages named Mellor are in the North-West, but Mellors is in fact an old Nottinghamshire surname: nearly half of the UK's Mellors lived in the county in 1881. There were 3 men with this name in Langwith as early as the 1641 Protestation Returns. The interest of the Langwith Mellors is the light they shed on the development of the community in the 19th century. The first detailed information is in the 1841 Census, when Paul Mellors, living on Langwith Lane, had 3 daughters, all working as cotton spinners. Langwith was one of a number of villages in the west of the county where small water-powered cotton mills had been set up in the 18th century. Cuckney had one as early as 1723, and Langwith's dates from the 1780s. The manager's house survives.

However most of the cotton mills were not very long-lived. By 1851 none of the Mellors were involved in that industry, but new forms of work had appeared locally. Robert Mellors (whose birthplace was either Langwith or Houghton, depending on census!) lived at the houses around Langwith Mill but was a stone miner. His sons too seem to have worked in quarrying: Charles was an excavator, Thomas (18) a stone mason, and William, although only 15 yrs old, was a stone miner. The Magnesian limestone of west Nottinghamshire has been quarried for a long time, but no doubt the demand for stone for building and construction increased as urban and other developments gathered pace in the Victorian era. It is not possible to say which quarry these men worked in, but Google tells me that a quarry opened at Nether Langwith as recently as 2001!

In fact there is a possible alternative explanation for the occupation of Charles Mellors, as the reclusive 5th Duke of Portland excavated and built large-scale underground rooms at Welbeck Abbey near Langwith, employing, amongst others, my own gr gr grandfather Samson Allwood, an excavator from Warsop. However the Duke did not start this massive undertaking until 1860, whereas Charles was an excavator many years before that, and is listed as a quarry labourer in 1871, so it seems likely that his excavating work took place in quarries.

Despite working in hard and dangerous conditions in stone quarries, the Langwith Mellors men were a long-lived race. In the 1911 census Charles was 98, and Joseph was 78, both living at "Cotton Mill". Others lived into their 80s.

The period from 1850 to 1880 seems to have been the heyday for quarry employment in Langwith. For much of the time there were 3 or 4 Mellors households getting, cutting, breaking, and possibly carving, stone. Even little Charles Mellors, only 9 yrs old in 1871, was working in a quarry. Stone quarrying seems to have died out by 1900, although in 1901 Joseph, who had spent years in stone quarries, had turned his hand to working as a sand quarryman.

Stone getting gave way to coal getting. Shafts were sunk at Langwith Colliery in 1876. In 1891 Charles the excavator had 2 grown-up sons who were coal miners and who worked as hewers for many years. The biggest contribution to the mining workforce came, though, from the family of Geoffrey Mellors, in 1901 and 1911. He was a colliery locomotive driver, adult sons Geoffrey and Charles were surface labourers at a colliery, and 18 year old Henry was a stationary engine driver.

It is interesting that all the employed members of large families tended to work in the same industries. In 1841 it was Paul's 3 daughters in the cotton mill, at the beginning of the 20th century it was Charles' and Geoffrey's sons at the pit, and in between several large households had all the adult males working in quarrying. This suggests 2 things to me. Firstly that children developed a certain familiarity with their father's working life, and preferred to start work in a job they knew a little about. Secondly, parents and older siblings put in a good word for their children and siblings, and helped to get them work in the places where they themselves were employed.

It is not as if there were no other options - agricultural work was available, of course, in this rural location. Work providing services to the local community could also be done, such as carting (leading, in the local dialect). When the pits opened, carter John Mellors became a coal dealer too. Others worked with horses - in 1911 Arthur Mellors had moved to Ollerton to be a groom at hunting stables. However, the overall picture presented by these families is one that reflects the changes to the local economy of this particular corner of Nottinghamshire.

## Introducing the Cripwells

### Paul Cripwell

This is my first contribution to this newsletter, and I hope that readers will find some interest in our family history.

When I joined the Notts FHS the first thing I did was scan the list of surnames of interest. I was somewhat surprised that our family surname was not listed. Yes, this surname is listed as rare and unusual, but I had hoped that one or more of the local historians would have come across the name and mentioned it somewhere. Therefore, it is my pleasure to introduce my surname, and family history, to the society and provide some of my research.

The Cripwell surname is believed to have evolved from Crepel, and possibly from someone who was crippled. The name being changed to provide a more positive view.

Many years ago, we had a heraldry search done for the Cripwell family name and the coat-of-arms on the right is from that search. The family motto is "Esse quam videri" which translates to "Be what you seem", though we have interpreted this as, if you are going to do something, go all in!

Searching English surnames reveals that the origin of the Cripwell surname stems from Thomas Crepel who was born in Barton in Fabis in 1575. He moved to Bunny and married Ann Longley in 1602 and died in 1634. For our family history, I have assumed that Thomas was a farmer and left Barton in Fabis since his older brother Richard would probably have taken over the family farm there.

The family history continues in Bunny for four generations and then moves to other towns. The assumption that they were all farmers continued, and the moves to other towns were because the younger sons would not inherit the farm.

Though another Cripwell did return in the 20th century. George Ernest Cripwell (1905-1979) was married to Edith Mary Gunn (1909-1979) and they farmed at The Grange in Bunny. There is no indication, yet, of children.



By far the largest concentration of Cripwell's grew up in Ruddington, presumably with the development of the lace industry, as many Cripwell's were listed as framework knitters, or other occupations within the industry. This branch of the family continues to this day in Ruddington, though many offshoots had moved to neighbouring counties, including Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire as well as other towns in Nottinghamshire. In fact, the family has spread from here around the globe with known branches in South Africa, Canada, Australia, and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

In all three Cripwell sons moved to Ruddington and there was one family that moved and settled in Costock. The Costock branch, my research indicates (but not fully verified), began with William Cripwell (1741-1781) who was married to Elizabeth Bowley (1741-1833). This slender branch of Cripwell's lasted for barely two generations in Costock.

The story at the end of the Costock period for the Cripwell's was probably a sad one. Richard Cripwell (1811-1882), the grandson of William and Elizabeth married Elizabeth Sawbridge in 1842. They had one son, James (1842-1929), before Elizabeth died in 1843. Around the time of her death Richard sold his farm in Costock and moved away. He re-appears in the 1851 census just before he married Francis Singlehurst from West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, and they end up living in Eathorpe, Warwickshire. Meanwhile young James is absent from the 1851 census, but appears in the 1861 census in West Bromwich, Staffordshire where he is working for the railway. James Cripwell is my great-grandfather. He married Harriet Sturgess Reynolds and they had twelve children. My grandfather Frank married Laura Cecily Parkes and they had three children including my father Frank James (Jim) who was the only grandson to James. Through my grandmother Laura Parkes I have a connection to Packwood House in Warwickshire, through her parents. This stately home, now part of National Trust, belonged to George Oakes Arton, whose daughter, Edith Arton, married Ebenezer Parkes and there are wedding photos in front of Packwood House.

While the Costock line was short and slender, the Ruddington line was, and is, more robust. Of the three male Cripwell's that moved here, the first was Joseph Cripwell (1671-1739), followed by two of his nephews Gregory (1695-1775) and William (1697-1780).

Joseph married Elizabeth Barson (1687-1749) in 1702 in Ruddington, and they had four children, two boys and two girls. One boy, John, died in infancy in 1703 and the other, William (1700-1780), did not marry, or at least no records have yet been found.

The older nephew, Gregory, never married, nor are there indications of children.

This leaves only William to carry the family name in Ruddington, and he seems to have been quite successful. William married Mary Jagger (1693-1769) in South Wingfield, Derbyshire (she was from Mansfield, Derbyshire), and they possibly had their first two children in that area before moving to Ruddington for their third child, Ann, born in 1729. William and Mary had seven children, four boys and three girls. Two of the girls married and appear to have lived in Ruddington, while the eldest boy died in infancy and the other three went on to marry and live in Ruddington.

Further chronicles of these Ruddington Cripwell's may be covered in a later article. As with all family trees this is a complex and complicated thing to do, and I am still working out a method of conveying this information.

With such an unusual surname, a new research project developed focussed on the question: Are all Cripwell's in the world related to Thomas Crepel of Barton in Fabis?

I started testing this hypothesis by documenting all the Cripwell's in the 1841 Census. This may seem a daunting task, but there are few of us. The results that came back were interesting. In fact, I found four "orphan" Cripwell families from this census. I made new family trees for each orphan family and investigated both forwards and backwards in time.

Of these four trees, two of them produced nothing in either direction. This led me to believe that the 1841 census data was inaccurate and therefore unreliable. One tree produced some results and it remains unclear what should happen, though suspicions are that it is based on inaccurate data as well. The last tree exploded with data!

My investigation into this tree beginning with John Cripwell (1809-1866) and Ann Riste (1811-1865) is ongoing, but it appears it may link back into the main tree if I can figure out if John Cripwell (1804-1894) is the same person, or I have them mixed up. Help in this area would be greatly appreciated.

To continue my search for "orphans" I repeated the process for the 1851 and 1861 censuses and have discovered no new orphans. This is an encouraging result and may indicate that the answer to my research question is "yes".

As with all genealogical projects, this one is never-ending. My recent membership in this society is just one more avenue of research that has opened more avenues that I can pursue concurrently.

Travel plans include a trip to this area of Nottingham to continue this research and probably walk some cemeteries. I hope to visit the Society offices and get a chance to meet my fellow researchers. But that will have to wait for a better time.

To end this article, I will relate an early problem I had with my research, and I am sure my fellow genealogists will fully understand and sympathize.

With such a rare and unusual surname, I was rather naïve in my early work. Using the Ancestry application for the first time was probably also a factor in my work. My ancestors included a lineage of a Richard, having a son Richard, who had a son James. Well, I thought, this must be unique, between the names across the three generations and a unique surname, this must be the same family.

Was I wrong!

It turns out that there were two families, one in Bunny and one in Ruddington. The oldest Richard's were born three years apart but showed up on the 1841 census as the same age. It took me a month to realize my mistake and quite a bit of work to fix the tree!

To this day I use this example as a reminder of the coincidences that can occur in ancestry and that everything must be verified.

Paul Cripwell, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada Member 5954 Email: [jpaul3004@gmail.com](mailto:jpaul3004@gmail.com)

# Grave Issues

## Tracy Dodds

As a careful family historian you want to cross the T's and dot the i's with your ancestors so after hatching, (and possibly matching) and all the bits in between it would be wonderful to dispatch fully with not just the burial entry but hopefully a memorial of some kind. This can sometimes be the most difficult part to finish. So why might you have problems finding anything?

### No Memorial

The most obvious reason is that there isn't one. Not everyone could afford a memorial and some persuasions didn't agree with them. Those large green grassy areas in cemeteries are not just ornamental lawns (honest). There will be graves underneath – possibly the one you want.

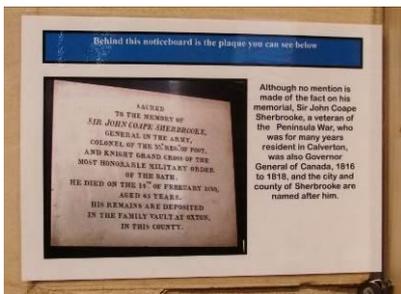
### Church closures

Unfortunately, as years pass, more churches and chapels are closing. It is possible that there was a memorial and if you are lucky it may have been moved, hopefully to another location. Sadly, not everyone has the same interest in such things as we do. A few years ago a friend of mine found a memorial on his doorstep with a note saying that it had been rescued from a skip as the builders were gutting the chapel it had come from. I do not know what became of the stone but I did manage to get a photo so it will be recorded for posterity.

### Renovations

Places of worship often need to make changes in their buildings to encourage usage and this can lead to items being hidden – this is very often the case with floor memorials as they are often covered by chairs or carpeting. A Chapel in Nottingham was recently undergoing restoration and it was felt that the memorial plaques cluttered the walls so they were removed to the basement. They are (luckily) still in the basement but as they refer to windows in the chapel, no-one now will know which windows these are.

The outside grounds can often suffer major changes and I have seen several churchyards where stones have been relocated around boundary walls, or relaid as paths or 'decorative' features.



### Location

Burial grounds may no longer be near the current church and not obvious to find. Several villages may use a local cemetery if their churchyard is closed for further interments. Conversely the churchyard may still be used when the church is not. Colston Bassett has two churches. St Mary was located outside the village on a hill and the newer church of St John the Divine was built during the late nineteenth century in the village. The roof was removed on St Mary leaving a very picturesque ruin but the church was never deconsecrated and burials are still allowed in the churchyard. Churches and Chapels within the town centres may not have a burial ground at all but that doesn't mean they



don't have memorials inside.

Burial grounds can be repurposed such as Carlton Burial Ground. The burials were exhumed and re-interred in the local cemetery and a large Tesco now stands on the original site.

Equally not all memorials are located in Churches, Chapels or burials grounds and cemeteries. The First World War saw a surge in memorials for the fallen the like of which had not been seen before. Memorials can be found almost anywhere, on Railway stations, in workplaces, schools and crash sites etc. Many people are now being remembered on such things as benches at locations they loved to visit or helped at such as Gedling Country Park.



### Miscellaneous issues

Some of the oddest missing memorial inscriptions I have seen are brass plaques within churches. Being inside you would hope they were more protected but ironically people love to polish brass and over the years they eventually polish out the inscription.

The memorial itself may not be durable – sandstone is very prevalent to weathering. Lead lettering falls out leaving enigmatic holes and some stones make the engravings very hard to read.

Ephemeral memorials such as wooden crosses placed on the grave shortly after a burial, may have the individual's name but a more permanent memorial may not be provided later. Vases and planters often have a name and dates but can and do get moved around the burial grounds. They also get broken and damaged more easily.

Plants are a wonderful way to remember a loved one on their grave – but not so much when the small rose several years later is now a huge bush and you cannot get near the stone to read it without being impaled on multiple thorns. Self-seeding trees especially holly are also awkward to negotiate. Grass can eventually hide complete stones or the grave can sink below ground level. In a couple of places I have found stones hidden under what is now the churchyard compost heap!



### There but not there

It is very possible that the family grave contains the family and has a stone that mentions several of the members – but not all. Whilst recording Woodborough cemetery I was chatting to the local funeral director who was looking at some of the graves and he mentioned a few cases where a spouse had been interred with their 'other half' but for whatever reason their name was never added to the headstone.

Memorials by their very nature can be situated anywhere, not necessarily at a burial location. It could mean that an individual may be named on several memorials for whatever reason





Memorial Inscriptions can add more to any family story, often showing information not easily found anywhere else. Many record relatives buried overseas or lost at sea or in wars. Occupations and addresses can be given and recently photos of an individual are being incorporated into more and more memorials.

It is precisely for these reasons that as a Society we need to ensure Monumental Inscriptions are recorded around the county for posterity. Recordings from the early twentieth century held in the archives stated at that time that stones were buried or unreadable or in some cases missing since they had last been recorded. That situation has not improved. Some of these early recordings are now the only record remaining as the burial grounds they record have long since been built over.

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## **Directory Dipping**

### **ANNESLEY**

#### **Extract from Kellys 1900 Directory of Nottinghamshire**

Post & M, O, O, S, B & Anuity and Insurance Office, New Annesley – Samuel Trevitt Sub Postmaster. Letters through Nottingham arrive at 6.30am; despatched at 6 & 8pm. The telegraph office is at the railway station.

National School (mixed and infants) – William Henry Renshaw, master, Mrs SE Sanley, infants mistress.

Railway station – Henry Robinson, station master.

Carrier to Nottingham – Whiteman, Wed & Sat & to Mansfield Thursday.

Cemetery – William Henry Gelsthorpe, clerk to the burial board.

Co-operative stores – Thomas Robinson, Manager, New Annesley

#### **Extract from Kellys 1922 Directory of Nottinghamshire**

Early closing day Wednesday.

Post & MO Office – Rupert Baldwin Sub Postmaster. Letters through Nottingham. The telegraph office is at the railway station.

Wall Box, Station Road.

Public Elementary School (mixed and infants) erected in 1872 at the joint expense of the colliery proprietors & the family of Musters, & enlarged in 1878. William Henry Renshaw, Master. Mrs SE Stanley, Infants Mistress.

Police – George F Clark, Constable in charge.

Railway Station – Henry Charles Bryant, station master



## **Subscriptions**

Individual UK/Europe £13, Joint Membership UK/Europe £16, Individual Overseas £16  
E-Journal Member (Journal sent via Email) £15 for 2 years  
All subscriptions and renewals should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

## **Meetings**

Monthly meetings are held at the Nottinghamshire Archives, Nottingham on the third Wednesday of every month. The archives will be open from 5pm for members on meeting nights. Speakers will commence at 7pm.

## **Research Room**

Located within the National Justice Museum, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Nottingham.

Access is free to members.

Opening Times: Please check the website ([www.notts-fhs.org](http://www.notts-fhs.org)) in case of changes

Wednesday and Thursday by appointment only (please see website).

Friday 10.15am – 4.00pm

First Saturday of the month 10am – 12.00pm

## **Bookshop**

Various books, maps, computer discs etc relating to genealogy and local history are available from the Society bookshop via the website at [www.notts-fhs.org](http://www.notts-fhs.org) or at the monthly meetings. The bookshop also attends Family History Fairs around the country, details of which may be found in the journal.

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## **Member Services**

The Society is unable to undertake personal research of any sort, but various searches are available. Postal queries can be sent to the members named below or ordered via the website bookstall at [www.notts-fhs.org](http://www.notts-fhs.org)

All relevant information should be provided and surnames given in CAPITALS.

Please ensure you send your requests to the correct person or delays will occur.

### **Parish Register Searches Nottinghamshire (Baptisms/Burials full transcription; Marriages Index only)**

**Postal queries only:** Specific individual from one type of register £4

Contact Mr Stuart Mason, 26 Acorn Bank, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7SH

**Email queries only:** Specific surname from one type of register. Results will be emailed. £2

Contact [www.notts-fhs.org](http://www.notts-fhs.org) and use the Searches button in the Shop.

### **Surname Interests**

A list of surnames being researched by members is available on the website. Use the Website 'Members Contact' link or contact the Membership Secretary and quote the relevant members number to obtain contact details.

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## **Useful Addresses**

### **Nottinghamshire Archives and Southwell Diocesan Record Office**

County House, Castle Meadow Road, Nottingham NG2 1AG

### **Nottinghamshire Local Studies Library**

Nottingham Central Library, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HP

### **The Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections (at Nottingham University)**

Kings Meadow Campus, Lenton Lane, Nottingham NG7 2NR

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