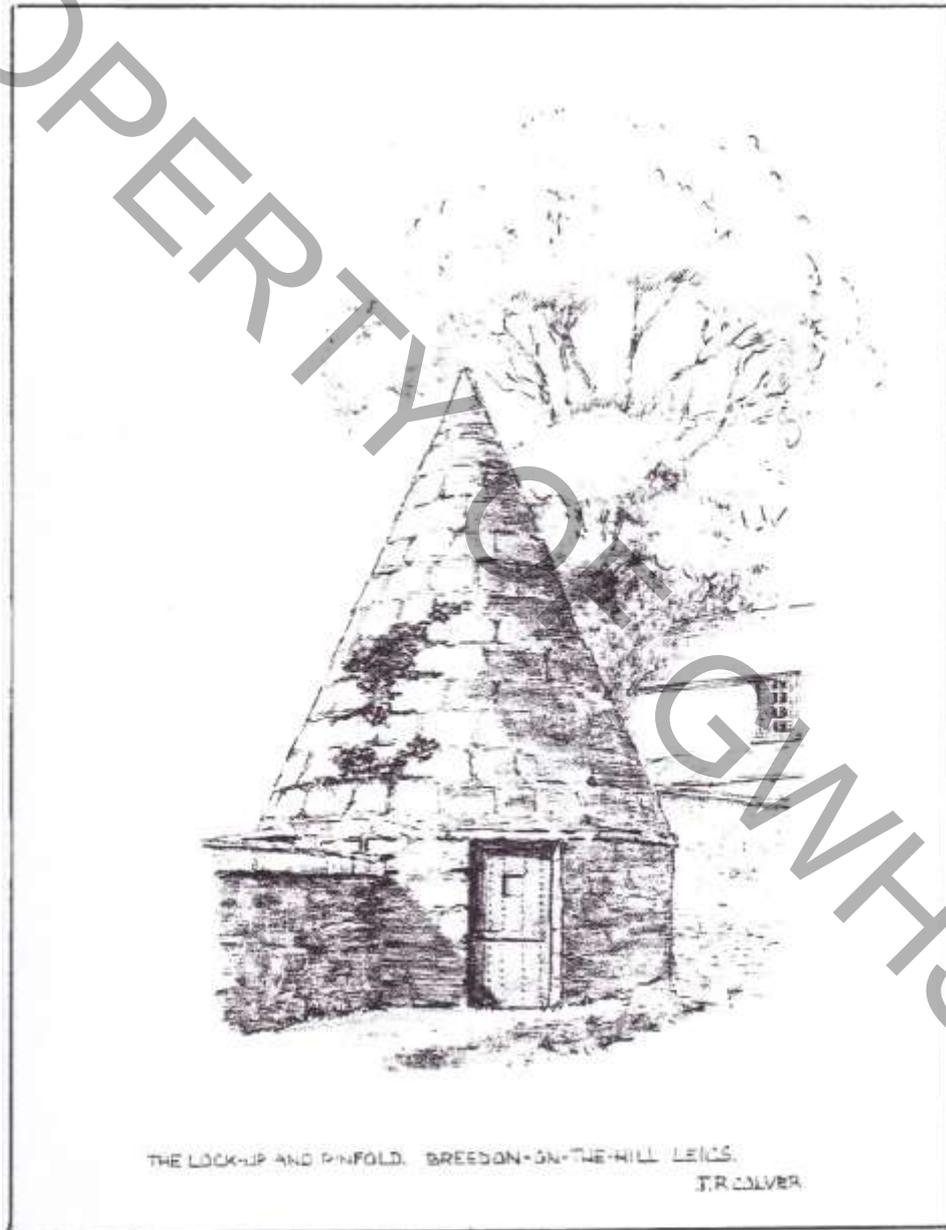


Greater Wigston Historical Society

White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna
Leicestershire



BULLETIN 61



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS - OCTOBER 2001 TO FEBRUARY 2002

Wednesday 17th October 2001

History & Development of Wallpaper - R. Maes
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 21st November 2001

Queen Victoria - (A look back in this centenary year of her death) - D. Lewin
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 19th December 2001

Christmas Social with supper, quizzes & raffle
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 16th January 2002

King Richard III - Diane Courtney 7.30p.m. U.R.
Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

Wednesday 20th February 2002

Some History of my Home Town & its parallels to Wigston - Tony Lawrance
7.30p.m. U.R. Church Boys' Brigade Rooms.

FRONT COVER

Jim Colver's front cover drawing this time features the lock-up at Breedon-on-the-Hill on the Leicestershire/Derbyshire borders. It is situated within the village south of the church and dates from the seventeenth century. Built of stone its circular shape and interesting conical roof make it a most attractive sight though wrongdoers confined within its walls probably had a different opinion!

The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1 st February, June and October. Articles etc. (which are always welcome) should be submitted to either of the Joint Editors three clear weeks before the publication date please.

Joint Editors: Mrs. Chris Smart, 197 Queens Road, Leicester.
Mrs. Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale Road, Wigston.

JUNE MEETING

On Wednesday the 20th of June the Society met to travel by coach to Donington-le-Heath Manor House in the north west of Leicestershire. An employee of the Museums' Service, who was to be our guide for the evening, met us on arrival. He was dressed in a costume of the thirteenth century. The Manor House had been in agricultural use before being bought by the Museums' Service in the 1960s. He began the tour by giving a description of the exterior of the building. Building was commenced in the late 13th century, many alterations and additions have taken place since and without further excavation of the site it is not clear what form the building originally took. Although it seems likely that there was some sort of building occupying the space in front of the present day entrance because of the filled in doors visible on the upper floor from outside. Inside the building shows much evidence of alteration, and the original purpose of some of the rooms is open to speculation. The interior is furnished with items from various periods in its history. Upstairs is the upper hall or main room of the house. This room is large and spacious and open to the roof. Originally the roof space would have been enclosed and a place for servants to sleep. Some of the windows were remodelled in the 17th century. Off the upper room is a small room containing the alleged bed that Richard the III slept in when he spent the night in Leicester on his way to the Battle of Bosworth. Parts of the bed have been dated and much of it is in fact much later, however it is possible that part of the frame could date to the period of Richard III. When the bed was in use the mattress rested on a web of ropes threaded through the frame. The ropes could be adjusted to the preference of the sleeper hence the expression 'sleep tight'. After the tour finished we went to the cafe where an excellent buffet supper was provided. Many thanks go to the organisers of this interesting and enjoyable event.

AUGUST MEETING

For this month members gathered at St Margaret's Church in Leicester for a look around this lovely building. Our guide, Janet Bass, is one of the churchwardens and her pride and affection for the place were very apparent. She explained the present building dates from 1110-1168 but there was considerable alteration and enlargement even in the first 200 years. It was constructed on the site of an earlier Saxon church the foundations of which can be viewed through a glass panel in the floor. This first church was consecrated in 653AD and is thought to have been the first Christian Church in Leicester. More notable alterations occurred, in 1436 when the chancel was extended and largely rebuilt in the Perpendicular style and the South porch added, and in 1440-1444 when the central tower was replaced.

St. Margaret's was named after a popular saint in both England and France, St. Margaret of Antioch. The name has since been used for St. Margaret's Way and as the symbol of the well known local knitwear company Corah's. The church has been associated with three dioceses - Lincoln, Peterborough and Leicester and the arms of each are carved on the back of the chancel screen together with Canterbury, but this last had to be removed when an organ console was fitted in 1954. When Leicester was granted its own diocese in 1927 both St. Margaret's and St. Martin's were considered for the role of cathedral but in the end St. Martin's was selected.

The parish was densely populated and also covered a huge area, stretching as far as Knighton, where St. Mary Magdalene was once a daughter settlement. It was eventually split into 13 separate parishes.

The church was linked to nearby Leicester Abbey and Bishop Penny its first abbot was buried there in 1520 at his own request. His alabaster monument is in the chancel and curiously depicts the Bishop with one foot longer than the other. Was this artistic licence or was he actually disfigured in this way? The Bishop had the wall built around what is now Abbey Park and his initials and the date picked out in a different colour of brick can be seen when the creeper is not in leaf.

Other notable people associated with St. Margaret's are Cardinal Wolsey who preached there in 1508. It is also the last resting place of the noted Leicester needlewoman Mary Linwood and her parents who are commemorated by large plaques on the wall. In the churchyard there is a tomb structure to Lord Rollo, a Scots Peer and military man, who saw distinguished service in North America and the West Indies and died in Leicester on his way to Bristol.

The evening concluded with a welcome cup of tea and the Chairman, Edna Taylor, then thanked all concerned for a most enjoyable evening.

[Not learned on this visit but never-the-less relevant to St. Margaret's is a little piece of family information which Mr. Anthony Wessel recounted during a recent speech at the FWK Museum. Mr. Wessel is a grandson of Mr. Corah the managing director of Corah's Knitwear. The company made large quantities of goods for Marks and Spencer. One day Mr. Marks visited Mr. Corah and the two wandered through St. Margaret's churchyard discussing business. Mr. Marks said he was trying to think of a suitable brand name for his merchandise. Mr. Corah said "we are St. Margaret's why don't you be St. Michael's" and so was created one of the best known brand names of all time.]

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On Wednesday the 19th of September the society met to hear Robert Gregory speak about Crime and punishment in Leicester before 1914. The talk and accompanying slides focused on four places in Leicester where either justice was paid out or crimes were paid for. The first of these places is Leicester Prison on Welford Road, often mistaken for Leicester 'castle' it is one of the older buildings of the city. Building commenced in 1825 on land purchased from the Borough of Leicester. It cost £25,000 to build and at that time it was situated in open countryside. The last public execution was held here in 1846. The site of the condemned cell still exists in one of the towers on either side of the entrance. A window in this tower was originally a door which led directly from the cell to the scaffolding that had been built especially for the execution. Executions were very popular for spectators. When James Cook was executed 20,000 people were said to have come to witness it at a time when the whole population of Leicester was only 16,000 people. Lancaster road on the south side of the Prison was originally known as Cavalry Road. The road was used to take horses from the Barracks in the Newarke up to the racecourse, then on the site of Victoria Park, for

exercise. The walls around the prison, at 40 ft., are the highest in the country. They are 16ft. thick at the base and 6 ft. thick at the top. The walls are constructed from 2in. brick from local brickyards. In the old days it had some severe forms of punishment within its walls, including a treadmill and a crank. Excessive sentences were passed at that time too. for instance, 14 years imprisonment for stealing 41/2d. was recorded. It was built to house 170 people. It has had as many as 440 people inside and today houses 220. Two people have escaped by jumping over the wall but both were quickly recaptured. The second place described was Leicester Town Hall. It was built in 1875 and had two courtrooms situated on either side of the main entrance. Number one court was an Assize court for crimes to be tried by the circuit judge. The holding cells for the criminals were situated beneath the courtrooms accessible by steep narrow stairs. The heavy wooden panelling made the courtrooms intimidating. In those days when prisoners were often deported or sent to prison for long periods for quite minor misdemeanours, the contents of the Poor Box was often dispensed to the families of the convicted. Thirdly we moved on to Highcross Street where the remains of the County Gaol can be seen sandwiched between a shop and a factory building. The previously mentioned shop, dated 1712, is the only surviving building of the old main street of Leicester. The County Gaol saw many famous people pass through its gates. Daniel Lambert was the gaoler there. George Davenport of Wigston was imprisoned there and Lord Ferrers, the last peer to be executed also spent time there. It is said that when the gaol was demolished the stones were used to build houses in Milligan Road, and certainly some of the houses in Milligan Road are built of stone and look quite different to their red brick counterparts. Further down Highcross Street is the site of a murder. The Blue Boar Inn, demolished in the 1850s, was situated in Blue Boar Lane. Here Richard III spent the night before the Battle of Bosworth in the alleged bed that can be seen at Donington-le Heath Manor House. About 150 years after Richard's stay the bed was moved by the then landlord of the public house a Mrs. Clarke. She was said to have discovered a hoard of money hidden in the bed and she drew attention to herself by spending freely. As a result she was robbed and during the robbery she died as a result of choking on her own night-dress which had been used to keep her quiet. The robbers were tried and hanged for the murder and their accomplice, the landlady's servant, was burnt at the stake. Fourthly, we moved on to the Cathedral churchyard where there is a unique gravestone which has the word 'murder' engraved on it and the inscription is a bitter indictment of the judicial process. In 1778 a framework knitter, James Fenton, got into an argument with a Frenchman and a duel with pistols was the result. During the duel James's brother John was accidentally killed. The Frenchman was pardoned of the crime and the family had the gravestone erected. During renovation of the Cathedral churchyard some years ago it was ensured that the gravestone remained in a prominent position. And finally to the Guildhall. The guildhall was the Town Hall for 500 years and therefore served as a place for justice to be dispensed. The last civil trial, for witchcraft, was held there in 1717. The building is a complex one as a result of development over the years. Part of the back of the building, not visible from the street, is the policeman's cottage built in 1836 on the former Guildhall kitchens. It was built for Leicester's first Chief constable, Frederick Goodyear. Unfortunately at this point time had begun to run out and we very rapidly heard about the statue of Ethelfloda, Tankey Smith's many disguises and houses and whipping toms in the Newarke. Forty-five members were gathered for this entertaining talk which finished at about 9.15 p.m. Many thanks to Robert Gregory for his wealth of anecdotes and interesting slides.

A TESTIMONIAL TO THOMAS INGRAM ESQ.
OF HAWTHORN FIELD, WIGSTON MAGNA - ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY. 31ST MARCH 1900

A sumptuous Testimonial and List of Subscribers, bound in Maroon leather, decorated with Gold Leaf. The inner pages depict small paintings of All Saints' Church, Hawthorn Field House and many decorated items, all contained in an equally decorated box.

Thomas Ingram was a well known Leicester solicitor, a principal landowner in Wigston and a dedicated churchman who was described as Wigston's greatest benefactor.

A widower, he died in March 1909, in his 100th year and having no children, Hawthorn Field came into the possession of his nephew. The Rev. C. F. Mortlock, who re-named it Abington House, now the site of Abington School in Station Road.

TO THOMAS INGRAM
HAWTHORN FIELD
WIGSTON MAGNA.

31st March 1900

We, the inhabitants of the Parish of Wigston Magna, desire to offer you our Sincere and Hearty Congratulations on this the Ninetieth Anniversary of your Birthday, and beg your acceptance of the accompanying Silver Inkstand and Candlesticks, as a small token of our Esteem and Regard. At the same time we would take the opportunity of expressing our Grateful Appreciation of the very valued services you have rendered. The many gifts you have bestowed and the active and kindly interest you have ever exhibited in all that concerns the well-being of the Church and Parish, we trust that for some time longer you may still be spared to us, and that the remembrance of a life spent in the service of God and for the good of your Fellow Men may add peace and brightness to your declining years.

Signed on behalf of the Committee and 270 Subscribers.

Henry J Mason, Vicar. J.R. Smith, Churchwarden.
H.R. Brigg, Curate. F.H. Freckingham, Churchwarden.
Committee:- A.H. Barnley, T. Goodin, F. Harrington, C.W. Hurst, A. Ladkin,
S.A. Ross, W.H. Sharp, J. Hurst, W.H. Vann, W. Wilde.

Thanks to Jim Colver for transcribing this item for us. The Testimonial is at Leicestershire Record Office. Ref: DE470/123. It is a beautiful object and is a sort of Parish autograph book because all the donors have signed in person.

AN EVERYDAY STORY OF COUNTRY FOLK

While writing the article for the last Bulletin about our bit of old hedge, I looked up several accounts of the enclosure movement and the agricultural revolution. In a summer when our attention has been very much on farmers and farming, I thought that a few notes on Wigston's agriculture in the 18th century might be of interest. It's the Archers' 50th anniversary this year as well, so there's a good enough excuse.

Up until the late 18th century, farming had followed the open field system whereby the peasants, some serfs, some freeholders, cultivated strips of land scattered through the three great fields of Tythorn, Goldhill and Mucklow. In these fields, in rotation, were grown peas and beans in one, barley and wheat in another, while the third lay fallow⁷ for a year. In among the crops were strips of sown grass, or leys, for fodder (hence Water Leys). Permanent grass for pasture was available for all, along the Old Mere, and common meadow land along the River Sence and Knighton Brook.

This system had carried on unchanged for many years. However, some changes were taking place in the 16th century, in the form of peasants exchanging strips of land in order to consolidate them into a block. It can be imagined that in a big parish of 3.000 acres, an individual farmer with land in all three fields would spend a lot of time walking, say, from Shackerdale to the Old Mere off Newton Lane, then on to the River Sence pastures near Crow Mill.

Once they had their holdings more compactly side by side, they might fence them off with hurdles and grow grass for grazing. It was grass and sheep that earned wealth in Tudor times, English trade having moved to exporting manufactured cloth as well as raw wool. These sorts of movements were called 'Voluntary' enclosures. Those that required an Act of Parliament to enclose all the fields were called 'Parliamentary' enclosures and came 200 years later.

Open-field farming had much to commend it. In 1700 open fields provided nearly everyone with enough food and even the poorest had some land. The villagers farmed land on a co-operative basis, sharing oxen, ploughs and tools, grazing animals on the common land and gathering firewood, nuts and berries from the woodland. Wigston was well served by this system until two changes came together to sweep away the open fields. These were a rising population and more efficient farming practices.

Large numbers of people had been drifting into the village looking for work since the 1670's. They came from surrounding parishes that had been enclosed and put down to grass, which required far less labour. Wigston had been able to resist enclosure for longer, because of its higher proportion of free peasants and absentee landlords. These incomers hoped to find work in the open fields and in the newly established framework knitting industry.

More people meant a greater demand for food and higher prices. Farmers seeing the likelihood of making large profits would want to use modern farming methods to make their land more productive. The larger landholders, that is, for by 1750 the picture of landholding was one of extreme inequality, with about 70 peasant farmers owning less than one fifth of all the land, and a select dozen families at the top, owning three fifths.

The latter group bought up land and might, on their business journeys or visits to agricultural shows, learn of Jethro Bull's seed drill and horse-drawn hoe, Lord Townsend's Norfolk four-course rotation or Robert Bakewell's selective stock breeding at Dishley Grange near Loughborough. The trouble was that these new methods were not compatible with open-field farming. The bigger landowners pressed for enclosure.

In 1764, a petition was presented to the House of Commons from several proprietors of the open fields of Great Wigston saying they wanted to bring in a Bill to enclose and divide these fields and re-allot the lands of the owners in a more convenient form. Signatures of a majority were required, but not a numerical majority. It was a majority by acreage or land tax value. Not a democratic start. Within three months the Bill was passed as no-one had opposed it. In late 1766, the award (or allocation of land) was made, by which each claimant was to have land in proportion to their previous holding of arable land and common rights.

Between three and seven commissioners, usually land agents or surveyors, drew up a map showing the new enclosed fields, roads and paths. The costs were enormous and involved heavy legal fees and commissioners' fees. New roads had to be made, hedges to be planted immediately round the fields, and barns and sheds put up. Not only that, but the Duke of St. Albans' and the vicar's lands were to be fenced, hedged and ditched at the cost of the others. The Duke, Lord of the Manor, got one eighth of the common fields plus much more to replace the great tithes.

The immediate effect of parliamentary enclosure was the conversion of the greater part of the arable land to permanent pasture. For some time, there was not enough corn to feed the villagers. Rich farmers enlarged their farms and became richer as the price of grain went up. Many peasant farmers had to sell up and take jobs in the framework knitting industry. Some became landless labourers. There was a calamitous rise in the poor rates.

Dr. Hoskins writes feelingly, in the last chapter of his book, about the extinction of the peasant economy and co-operative way of life. I cannot equal his lament for the old values, and can only recommend you read it. Yet this was the tide of history, and the money economy, industrial expansion and education for the masses had to come.

Today, only the village of Laxton in Nottinghamshire retains the open fields, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, as a living museum of the country's agrarian past. It would be worth a visit some time.

Edna Taylor

Sources: *The Midland Peasant* by W.G. Hoskins, *Social and Economic History* by S. Mason, *An Economic and Social History of Britain since 1700* by M. W. Flinn

ARCHIBALD TURNER - ELASTIC WEB MANUFACTURER

There was in Leicester, as elsewhere during Victorian times, a notable group of entrepreneurial characters who can be said to have laid the foundations of Leicester's once proud boast of being the second most prosperous city in Europe. Often from a humble background, they combined skill, hardwork, and determination, with good luck (being in the right place at the right time) to raise themselves and others associated with them to positions of undreamt wealth and influence. Such a one was Archibald Turner 'the king of elastic web'.

Elastic web could be a woven or knitted fabric, very strong and usually made in fairly narrow strips, incorporating rubber thread which enabled it to stretch and then return to its original size and shape. It came to be used extensively in the boot and shoe trade and also for gloves, braces, belts and in upholstery. The process was invented by a Caleb Bedells who was partner in Wheelers & Company of Abbey Mills and manufacture was commenced about 1846. Archibald Turner was a leading employee of this firm who later left to start his own business. It was not a case, though, of capitalising on someone else's idea. Archibald modified and improved the process and the fortune he made came from the sale of patents as well as the production from his factory. Expanding along with the booming Leicester boot and shoe trade he became the biggest manufacturer of elastic web in the country.

He was born in Cheadle, Staffordshire to Luke and Dorothy Turner and baptised at the parish church there on 16/12/1808. Some twenty years later on 6/5/1828 he was married at St. Mary de Castro church to Lydia Limester a young widow about five years his senior. Both were described as "of this Parish". There were four children, the first one Hannah baptised at Bishop Street Wesleyan Chapel the following year. Then came a son Luke and a second daughter, Harriett, who was baptised in April 1835 at St. George's church. At this time and also in September 1837, when the fourth child, Archibald, was baptised at the same church, the family were living in Marble Street and Archibald senior is described as a weaver.

Sadly Lydia died in 1845, aged 42 years, and was buried at St. George's. The family were then living in Humberstone Gate and Archibald described as a fancy hosiery manufacturer. By 1849 he had entered into a partnership with William Pegg and the two traded from Hill Street as India Rubber Manufacturers. Both lived in Belvoir Street and William Pegg also had a tailoring and woollen drapery business there. At the 1851 census Archibald was living at 53, Belgrave Gate and by the 1861 census he had moved to Bow Bridge House, a large residence on King Richards Road abutting the River Soar where he was described as an elastic web manufacturer. He was still a widower, his children had left home, but he shared the house with Eliza Taylor, his twenty three year old housekeeper and had a three year old granddaughter staying there. It was close to this house that he had built the impressive Bow Bridge Works, described as designed like a Venetian palace with castellated turrets.

By the 1871 census he had married Eliza and moved to 'Westleigh' Narborough Road, a house then in a country setting with a huge garden where he could indulge his passion for horticulture. He collected rare plants from all over the world often paying

large sums for the best specimens. He entered competitions and won many cups and medals both locally and from the Royal Horticultural Society.

Of Archibald's four children, two died young, and the others. Harriett and Luke, married and had their own families. There is no evidence he had any children by his second wife.

Archibald and Luke appear to have disagreed over business matters and Luke established his own highly successful elastic web company based in Deacon Street. Archibald ran his company with three key employees, James M. Padmore, the cashier, Richard Taylor, the warehouseman (who also incidentally was brother of his second wife Eliza) and William Pegg who was the general manager. Archibald died on 10/11/1876 and was buried in Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester. His second wife appears to have pre-deceased him as there is no mention of her in his will. He left instructions that his house was to be kept going for six months and his housekeeper and gardener paid accordingly or to have their wages in lieu. It was then to be sold and the proceeds divided between Luke and Harriett. Other personal items mainly photographs and his cups and medals and some jewellery were left to them and named grand children. Showing him to be of a very methodical nature all were numbered and labelled to avoid any possible confusion. The three key employees were appointed executors and the business was basically left to them. They were to continue to run it for the following seven years and take the profits, after which they were to get it valued by a named local business man and and buy it jointly if they wished otherwise offer it at the same price to Luke. They did retain it but eventually, in the hands of successors after WW I, it declined and continued so until it was put into voluntary liquidation in 1963. The handsome factory building was demolished two years later. The grounds of 'Westleigh' have long been developed to accommodate the expanding town and Westleigh Road is a reminder of what was once there.

And so would have ended the research on this project except for a chance discovery when reading an 1855 church rate book for Wigston. Imagine my surprise and interest when I stumbled upon the following entries:

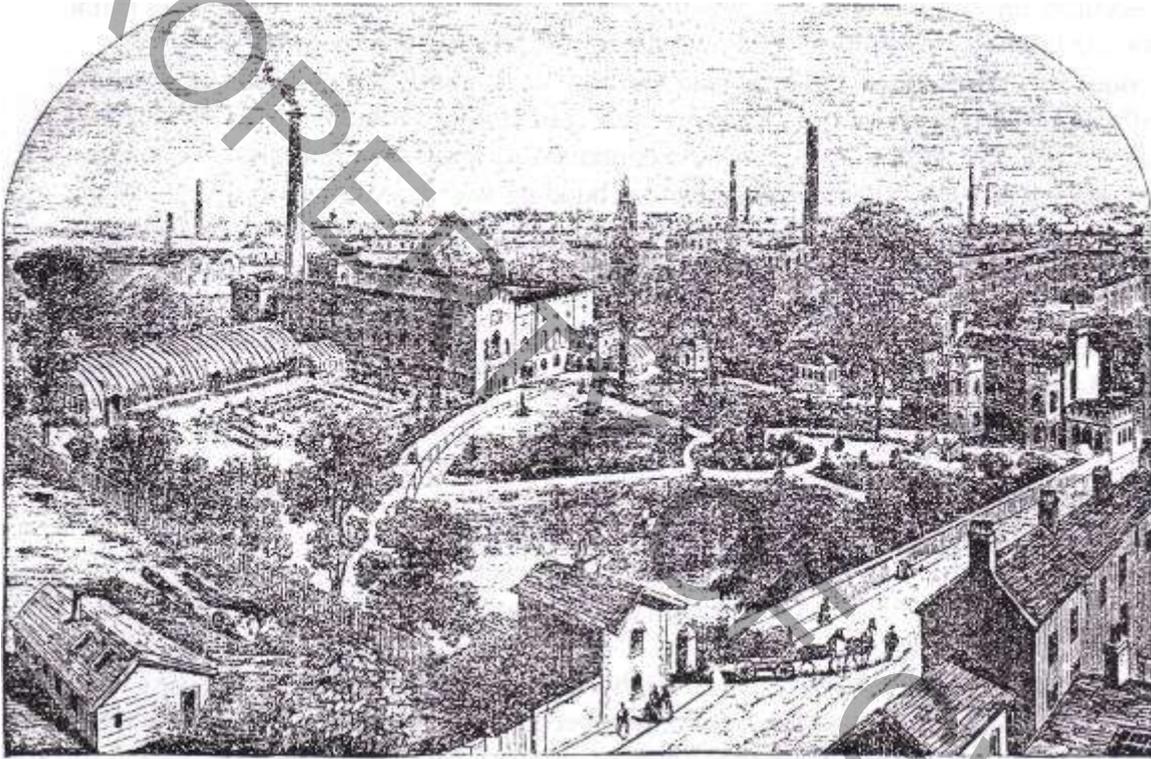
Occupier	Description	Address	Rateable Value
Archibald Turner	House & Land	Blaby Lane	£20 0 0
	Land	Newgate End	£18 00
Turner & Pegg	House & Factory	Newgate End	£24 1 8 4

The house and land in Blaby Lane is surely Bushloe House, there was nothing else with that address which it really could have been. Other properties in the vicinity but nearer to Wigston centre were then, as now, listed as being in Bushloe End. We know the house had been built cl 850 and then let by the Fry family prior to purchase by Mr. H.A. Owston in 1866. The House and Factory and the Land in Newgate End were situated at the far end of that lane on what was until recently the Council depot, plus adjoining land stretching to Horsewell Lane. It had a carriage drive approach up what is now Cedar Avenue. It had been bought in 1809 by John Blunt, the surgeon, who ran a lunatic asylum there, and was still in the ownership of his family in 1855.

It is not known whether Archibald Turner moved his entire manufacturing concern to Wigston for a time or whether it was run more as an extra branch. Perhaps he outgrew or had to leave his Hill Street premises and came to Wigston while the Bow Bridge Works was constructed. Whatever the circumstances it must have been an important part of his business for him to move out of town himself to be close to it. Strangely Luke Turner was occupying the Council Depot site and adjoining five and a half acres in 1872. It is not clear whether he worked from there or just lived there.

Tricia Berry

Sources: Various Parish Records. I.G.I. Various directories. Census Returns. *Modern Leicester* by Robert Reid. Wigston Church Rate Book for 1855, LRO DE384/44. Will of Archibald Turner LRO 1877/PR66. An account of Archibald Turner & Co. LRO 18D58. Old deeds of former Council Depot at 0 & W B.C.



Messrs. A, Turner & Co., Bow Bridge Works.

WIGSTON WHO'S WHO NO: 30

CHARLES HOLLAND BADDELEY

There can be few more interesting and colourful characters to walk the streets of Wigston than Charles Holland Baddeley. He was born in Newport, Shropshire and baptised in the parish church there on 23/5/1790, the sixth child in a family of four boys and three girls. His parents were Thomas Baddeley who was the local surgeon and Martha nee Holland.

After a classical and mathematical education at the local free school he followed his brother William into the military arm of the East India Company. This choice of career could well have been prompted by the fact that the well known Clive of India lived in nearby Shrewsbury. The East India Company had been established in the 1600's to import goods from the East, notably India, for which there was a huge demand in England. Such items as tea, coffee and rice, spices and drugs, saltpetre for use in gunpowder and the beautiful colourful Indian cottons and silks. To protect their interests from rival countries who also traded in the East and internal quarrels between the different Indian Rajs the company established its own military presence. It was to join this army as a cadet that the young Charles Holland set sail from East India Docks, London on 4/5/1812 for the four month journey to the Presidency of Madras.

He was initially attached to the 1st Battalion the 6th Native Infantry but was later transferred to other divisions. It was while serving with the 16th Native Infantry that he fought in the Battle of Mahidpore in Central India helping to capture the town on 21/12/1817 and receiving a share of the 'booty' amounting to 1445 Rupees, about £131. He was promoted to Lieutenant the following year and having learned the language was then appointed Interpreter and Quartermaster. Other appointments followed and in 1826 he moved to Bombay as Interpreter, Quartermaster and Paymaster of the 1st Bombay European Regiment. He was then appointed an Adjutant and on 11/6/1827 was promoted to Captain. He appears to have suffered bouts of ill health or perhaps had received an injury because he was granted sick leave on several occasions.

During his time in India he took a native 'wife' recognised by a local ceremony but not by the Church or the Company. This was quite a common occurrence in a part of the world where there were very few European women. A son, Edward Adams Baddeley was born on 8/12/1824 at Belgaum, and registered as a British Subject. He received a Christian baptism at Bangalore on 30th November 1827 when the entry describes him as illegitimate and names his parents as Charles Holland Baddeley and Laul Bhee. Two years later the Captain was granted a furlough (leave) and on 3/11/1829 sailed from Bombay for home, travelling with a military colleague, Master Baddeley and four servants. They would have arrived back probably during February 1830. It is not known what happened to Laul, whether she remained behind, had died or even travelled with them merely recorded as a servant due to her unofficial status.

Much had occurred during the 17 years absence. His brother William had died in India and his oldest sister Catherine Martha Clarke had died back home, her husband John

Clarke, the subject of Who's Who Number 29 having lately remarried. But the Captain would still surely have made a journey to Leicestershire to visit John at Peatling Hall and to renew the acquaintance he must have had with John's sister Ann who lived at the family home, Wigston Hall. The following year on 18/5/1831 at All Saints Church the Captain and Ann were married, he quite legally described as a bachelor, then aged 41, and Ann, spinster, a few years older at 46. Thus a brother and a sister married another brother and a sister even though at the time one of the parties had passed away.

The Captain's furlough was not intended to be permanent and letters were issued by the E.I.C. requesting his return or to supply medical proof that he was not fit. The Captain however, now happily settled in Wigston. had no wish to do this. His leave was extended by a year three times over and then a caution issued as to the consequences if he was not back in India by April 1834. Eventually agreement was reached that he should retire on the half pay of a Lieutenant i.e. 4/- per day. The Captain played a full role in local life. He was a churchwarden in 1844 and served on the parish council for 15 years, part of the time as its leader. The couple did not have any children of their own but lived at Wigston Hall with Edward and three indoor servants, a cook, housekeeper and footman. They held it on a joint lifetime lease from John Clarke. In 1843 due to John's bankruptcy the Hall had to be sold but John, acting jointly with Barwell Ewins Bennett, a lawyer who lived at Marston Trussell Hall, bought the Hall back again in their capacity as Ann's trustees, using her money.

Edward grew up and settled into English life. In 1851 aged 26 he was a law student at Lincoln's Inn. The same year his step-mother Ann Baddeley died aged 66 and was buried at All Saints Church on 29th May. In her will she left the Captain a lifetime interest in Wigston Hall and after his death it was to go to her nephew John Clarke son of her brother of the same name. She also left her husband other assets outright as she did Edward whom she refers to as her son-in-law showing how the meaning of words and phrases can alter over time. Three years later on 12/2/1854 Edward also died aged only 29 and was also buried at All Saints. It was probably at this sad time that the Captain gave the beautiful East Window in the church. It has five panels each of which depict a different scene from the Bible. The whole design is liberally decorated with the letter 'B'. Viewed from outside on a dark night when the interior is illuminated it is a truly wonderful sight. Directories state it cost £200 and was erected by the Captain in memory of his mother and son but it is much more likely to be his wife and son, his mother having died some 45 years previously, before he went to India. There are some names at the base of the window, but they are very difficult to read properly because of the large screen placed in front.

The Captain appears to have found life in Wigston without his family very lonely, because he moved to Devon, where he lived with the Rev. James Sandby Padley, curate of Holcombe Burnell on the coast near Dawlish. While there he engaged a firm of Exeter solicitors and made his will dated 28/7/1861, a simple document leaving everything to Rev. Padley. Later when the Rev. Padley moved to be vicar of Rampside, Nr. Barrow-in-Furness, Lancashire, the Captain moved with him, and it was there that he died aged 71 on 30/3/1863. His body was returned to Wigston for burial with his family. His name in due course being added to the memorial window.

The name Baddeley is commemorated by Baddeley Drive off Aylestone Lane, the area once part of the Wigston Hall estate.

There was living in Wigston, at The Chestnuts, Spa Lane between about 1860 until his death in October 1881 another Charles Baddeley, farmer, also born in Newport, Shropshire. This was a nephew of the Captain, son of his elder brother Thomas Bernard Baddeley.

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Sources: Local Directories. Wigston Parish Records. Newport, Shropshire Parish Records. Will of Capt. Baddeley from York Probate Office. *Abstract of Title to an Estate at Great Wigston* LRO: Misc 934. Cadet Papers & Record of Service from British Library, India Office Library & Records: L/MIL/11/42 + 125, plus assistance with research & interpretation of records by Official Research Agent, Mrs S. Hoffrnan (BA Cantab).