

GREATER WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
White Gate Lodge, 97 Newton Lane, Wigston Magna, Leics.

**BULLETIN 97**



RMS Titanic by Linda Forryan  
The subject of our September talk by Derek Seaton

**PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – NOVEMBER 2013 TO AUGUST 2014**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Sex, Lies and Parchment – Jess Jenkins

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013**

Christmas Social with picture quiz and street views – Mike Forryan  
(Light refreshments, please bring £2 on the night)

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

Wartime Farm – Dr. John Martin

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

AGM followed by Newsreels from 1929

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Royal Lifeboat Institution – Derrick Young

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

My Life as a Tiller Girl – Margaret Hudson

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014** (Normal Evening Outing using own transport – Booking Required)

Guided walk in Market Harborough – Rosalind Willatts, followed by meal at The Sugar Loaf  
Meet 5.45p.m. Paddock Street Car Park to share transport. (Note 6.30p.m. start from the Grammar School)

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2014** (Normal Evening Outing using own transport – Booking Required)

Visit to The Manor House, Newton Harcourt, viewing Goddard Architectural Archive & St. Luke's Church – Anthony Goddard. Followed by meal at Dog & Gun, Kilby  
Meet 5.45p.m. Paddock Street Car Park to share transport. (Note 6.30p.m. start at Manor House)

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2014**

A Walk through Victorian Leicester – Derek Seaton

7.30p.m. The Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

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The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1<sup>st</sup> March, July and November. Articles etc., (which are always welcome) should be submitted to the Editor, Tricia Berry, three clear weeks before publication date please.

Society's website: [www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

Chairman, Mike Forryan's e-mail: [chairman@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk](mailto:chairman@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

## **JULY 2013 EXTRA MEETING**

Wednesday 17 July turned out to be one of the warmest days of the year and the evening was perfect for a coach tour around south Leicestershire and north Northamptonshire. Not that the intrepid explorers on the coach knew where we were going, and neither did the coach driver, as he was directed at each road junction by our knowledgeable and expert guide, Duncan Lucas, who as we have come to expect, gave us a highly entertaining evening.

We left Paddock Street and headed round the ancient square road pattern of Long Street and Moat Street before leaving Wigston southwards on the Welford Road, the former A50 and the old main road to London. Dare we give it its modern number of A5199?? Passing Mill House at the top of the hill we stopped briefly outside the rugby club where Duncan explained one of the first projects that our Society undertook, an archaeological dig in the field between the layby and the rugby pitch. All sorts of material was found including Roman, Iron Age, early Saxon and some post holes. We were assured that this is a haunted spot with groans and screams heard and old warriors seen near this former burial ground.

Kilby Bridge came up next where there were two pubs at one time (now only the Navigation). The bridge itself was of course originally humpbacked and called the Stanbrig. The old road was a toll road and even then bypasses were built to avoid Arnesby and Shearsby. On the left we could see Kilby church near to the much older Manor House. In Saxon times Kilby, Great Glen, Foston and Countesthorpe, were one very large estate which was split up and sold off overtime. Notably when Leics. County Council bought much of Kilby after WWI. On the left was the new wood planted recently to commemorate the 500 years since the founding of William Wyggeston's hospital in Leicester. The Wyggeston family is believed to have come originally from Wigston.

Turning right we entered Arnesby and passed the windmill renovated and lived in until recently by local builder, the late Tom Wheatcoft. There were excellent long distance views from this road, clearly a good site for a windmill. Then came the first test, the road on the right to Peatling Magna proved too narrow and twisting and the driver expertly reversed us back to the wider road and we took the 'pretty way' to Peatling Parva, waving to residents enjoying a drink outside in the evening sun. On the way those small triangular pieces of grass often seen at country road junctions were explained as 'God's Cheeses' where criminals were buried in unconsecrated ground. Peatling church contains memorials relating to the local Clarke family who after donating the font to All Saints' church in Wigston went bankrupt, a generation or two later, for £35,000. We saw black sheep and were reminded that their wool cannot be dyed white.

Our route then took us to Bruntingthorpe, past the proving ground, home to the cold war aircraft collection, and then by Shearsby Bath Hotel, before rejoining the main road to Husbands Bosworth. This village is exceedingly interesting with many architectural features in its buildings as is Welford which we came to later after passing through North and South Kilworth and by the N.E. tip of Swinford reservoir.

We left the main road again wending our way towards Cold Ashby but first topping Honey Hill with magnificent views in all directions. We were approaching Naseby country and civil war connections and could imagine the rival army scouts surveying the land from such a high point. We reached the A5199 again at Thornby taking us southwards before turning left to the beautiful village of Cottesbrooke. Our journey then led us to Brixworth and the ancient church there with the finest Saxon memorials north of the Alps. Duncan related the story of the Stewarts and

Lloyds steel works at Corby and Knights of Old, the haulage company whose lorries we often see on the motorways. Our driver then negotiated a gated road with Duncan and our Chairman Mike opening and closing the gates before reaching Hanging Houghton (fancy having that village as your address). Then via Maidwell we reached Naseby village where we took a break at the Royal Oak, sampling their great beer and tasty pork pies. Here Duncan explained the family heritage behind the shields often displayed outside some of the older public houses, such as the Halfords of Wistow, who owned the Greyhound in Great Glen.

On the way home in the darkening late evening we passed the Battle of Naseby (1645) memorial stone before again crossing the A14 and joining the old A50 back to Wigston. All in all a fabulous summer outing full of interesting information, stories (and jokes) from Duncan. Thank you Duncan; a comfortable well driven coach from Woods (an old established Wigston firm) and good company.

### **AUGUST 2013 MEETING**

For our first meeting of the new season we welcomed Alan Norman of the Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation to talk about its history and work.

The Foundation came about as a result of an idea that local businessman and former racing car driver, David Clarke (1929-2002) had, for providing a meeting place for local people in North West Leicestershire, who were housebound through illness.

David was a businessman and entrepreneur and was the third generation in his family firm, Clarkes Boxes. However, his passion was transport which came from his involvement with his firm's lorries, but this developed into motor racing both as a driver and a fan. He took part with Bob Gerrard in the 1953 Le Mans 24 hour race but retired after 136 laps. He raced alongside such famous drivers as Bob Surtees, Stirling Moss and Enzo Ferrari. However he was involved in a serious crash while racing in the Isle of Man in 1954 and retired from the sport to set up a film unit based in Loughborough to film big car races, the result being used in films such as The Green Helmet starring Bill Travers. This project ceased in 1963 when he opened a Ferrari dealership in Loughborough which lasted until 1986 after he had sold his own racing car for £5.5million the year before.

He used the cash to buy Ulverscroft Grange, a 250 year old farmhouse with 50 acres of grounds on the Markfield to Copt Oak Road, with the idea of creating a place in the country where housebound people could retreat for a change of scene and some company. The Foundation was formed on a charitable basis taking its name from David himself and his Mother's maiden name of Shuttlewood.

The Grange had been used as a small school and then from 1929-1949 it was owned by the Healey family when it remained without mains water, sewerage or electricity. The bore hole to supply water is still in use today. During the war Czech evacuees were billeted there and in 1952 the Hercocks built two houses in the grounds for local ex-service men.

In 1991 David purchased the nearby Ulverscroft Cottage Farm and promptly changed its name to Ulverscroft Manor. The sale was conducted by the old established Leicester firm of Shakespeare McTurk and Graham who had previously conducted the sale of the same property. The farm had been built between 1820 and 1866. The 1881 census showed that the Lillingston family lived

there and that the farm was at the centre of a very large estate. This family now owns the biggest stud farm in Ireland.

The internal layout of the building remains the same but repair works have revealed some interesting architectural features. The grounds and woodland have many original features and some interesting tools and equipment have been found. Since its formation some 120,000 people have visited the site with currently about 3,500 per year attending the many activities and facilities available. Groups come from such places as residential homes, stroke clubs and learning difficulties clubs for a luxury day out and a change of scene in the lovely Charnwood Forest countryside.

The Grange ran along the same lines until 2010 when a shortage of income forced a change of policy and it now welcomes 300-500 members of the general public each week for a 'spa' type day out.

There is a staff of 28 and about 120 volunteers to run the place and there is even a retired volunteers club!!! The Foundation has developed many indoor and outdoor activities to suit all ages and abilities, there is a model railway, a yurt for outdoor relaxation and creative thinking, and business use facilities.

### **SEPTEMBER 2013 MEETING**

A full house of Members and visitors welcomed our friend, local Historian and author, Derek Seaton to talk about 'The Sinking of the Titanic and Local Connections'. Derek commenced by reminding us that 2012 had been a momentous year when we hosted the Olympics and Para Olympics and celebrated the Diamond Anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. However, there were other momentous events which had occurred 100 years ago in 1912 which filled our minds too. These were the fatal expedition to the North Pole by Captain Scott and his team and the sinking of the 'unsinkable' ship, the Titanic.

It is quite difficult to report on this meeting because as many of us know, Derek's style is to read his script in lecture format. For some this may not be an interesting way to impart knowledge of a subject, but in Derek's case this is definitely not true. Every line of his lecture contained facts about this fascinating subject which he must have spent many months researching and writing up. Personally, I have never known, at our monthly meetings, such a silence when the audience seemed to be hanging on every word and waiting with baited breath for the next fact to emerge, which as I say was not long in coming. This is not to say that previous speakers have not been interesting and factual but Derek's talk was exceptional. Consequently, I am going to be very selective on the facts that I repeat here and concentrate on the local connections, which we had probably not heard of before, whereas many of us will have heard the basic facts about the ship and the disaster.

The lecture was divided into four parts: how the Titanic came to be built; local connections; the sinking and the aftermath.

Despite the hype that has gone with the film versions and many books on the matter it must be remembered that this was an avoidable tragedy in which 1523 people died in awful circumstances and many families would never be the same again. In towns such as Southampton, which supplied many men for the crew, there were many fatherless families.

The White Star Line, owned by the John Pierrepont Morgan Trust (a name we recognise today as JP Morgan), built the Titanic and her sister ships the Olympic and the Gigantic to gain the upper hand in the race for supremacy in travel across the Atlantic from Europe to the United States. Rival ships built at the time by Cunard were the Lusitania and the Mauritania. The Titanic was slightly slower than the Cunard ships but far more opulent. She was built at Harland and Woolf's huge yard in Belfast where 6000 men were employed on Titanic alone with another 9000 men on other ships. During the construction of the ship 8 people died and 254 were injured. A local man Thomas Andrews was the designer. There were 9 decks, 3 engines and 159 furnaces and 4 funnels, one of which was a fake to replicate the Cunard Line's ships which always had 4 funnels. The ship sailed on 10 April 1912 after the newly appointed Captain, Edward John Smith, had relieved his second officer of his post and brought in an old colleague in a senior ranks reshuffle, which caused resentment among the remaining officers. The 4 junior officers being inexperienced.

The three local connections were:

The Leicester based Dryad Company, founded by Harry Hardy Peach which made the cane furniture for the ship. The furniture may have helped save the lives of some people who clung to it, as it floated in the sea, until they were rescued.

Denzil John Jarvis, who lived at 358 London Road (now the Regency Hotel). One of 27 children, he had worked his way up to become joint managing partner of Wadkins. He was on a £13 second class ticket to America for a business trip. His body was never recovered but a memorial service was held for him at St Mary's Church in Knighton and there is a stone to his memory in the churchyard.

Walter Thomas Boothby originally from Docking in Norfolk who was married at Brooke in Rutland. He was a second class steward and had already survived three sea accidents, one of which occurred when he was on the Olympic which was rammed by HMS Hawk on which his brother was serving. His body was identified and buried at sea, his wife received a weekly allowance from the British Titanic Relief Fund.

Amongst the crew were 8 workers from Harland and Woolf on board to deal with any last minute construction problems; 8 musicians and 2 wireless operators from Marconi. However, some crew members, including three brothers, fortunately, missed the ship when it sailed from Southampton. Astonishingly, surviving crew members were sacked by the White Star Line on their arrival in New York on the rescue ships. Captain Smith went down with the ship.

In Wigston, a memorial ceremony was held on the Bank, Charles Moore's Wigston Band played (he knew one of the musicians on the ship) and local clergy and residents attended.

As a result of the two official enquiries that were held, among many recommendations, the practice of 'speed to get through ice' was abandoned, bulkhead construction in ships was improved, ice patrols were set up and there was a legal requirement to have sufficient lifeboats for all persons on board. There have been no ships sunk as a result of collisions with an iceberg since the Titanic.

## **OCTOBER 2013 MEETING**

For our October meeting we welcomed back regular speaker, Brian Johnson, who gave us the

benefit of his excellent and detailed research on various high profile Leicester residents and the homes in which they lived. There is not room in this article to detail all the houses mentioned but here is a selection.

**244 London Road, Thorncroft:** this property is on the corner with Elmfield Road and was built as the retirement home for Thomas Cook in 1879. He is, of course, famous for starting world tourism when he hired a train to take people to a temperance rally from Leicester to Loughborough in 1841. He even printed his own posters for his trips. Other Leicester buildings associated with Cook are the former Temperance Hall at 63 Granby Street which became the Essoldo cinema eventually being demolished. The property next door was his hotel and printing works, now converted to the shop it is today. The former Thomas Cook offices on Gallowtree Gate nearer the Clock Tower with the distinctive travel mural above the shop front was actually built by his son, after Thomas had died in 1892.

**360 London Road, The Crest, now the Regency Hotel:** this property was originally a pair of semi detached houses with number 360 being occupied on completion by Denzil John Jarvis who we had heard of at our September meeting as having died in the Titanic disaster. At the time he was Managing Partner of Wadkin and Company. There is some confusion as to why he was travelling to America, was it to show machinery to Henry Ford or to General Motors or was it to sue an American company for breach of Wadkin's patents? We do not know.

**Westcotes Grange, between Narborough and Hinckley Roads:** this house was occupied by the Harris family who also occupied the nearby Westcotes Hall. The real interest in this property is that it was once a maternity hospital in which both the Chairman and Treasurer of the Society were born in the 1940s! The Hall and much of the surrounding land were sold for housing in what is now the Barclay Street area. (Was it the old Midland Red L1 or L2 service to Braunstone that went up Barclay Street?).

**44 Princess Road (on the corner with De Montfort Street):** this distinctive Italianate style house was built by Richard Morley of R. Morley & Sons. The company traded as drapers at Morley Arcade which runs between the Market Place and Gallowtree Gate, and as carpet and house furnishers and undertakers at Market Place and Cank Street. At the former shop premises in Market Place, the elevation is still in place and the company logo appears on the floor of the arcade.

**100 Regent Road:** this was the last house occupied by the well known local artist John Flower (himself the subject of one of our meetings some time ago). John had been recognised as a very good artist early in life and had been taken under the wing of Leicester embroidered picture legend Mary Linwood, who arranged for him to go to London to train under an artist friend of hers, Peter de Wint. On his return to Leicester he lived in houses at Marble Street, Southgate Street and at 104 New Walk where the long top floor window to his studio can still be seen. His numerous drawings and paintings of Leicester scenes are particularly valuable as they provide the only record of what Leicester looked like in pre-camera days. A wonderful resource for local history buffs today.

**58 London Road (on left just after the railway station):** lived in by Arthur Wakerley, architect, who is well known for such iconic buildings as the Synagogue, Singer Building and Turkey Café. He based his designs for the North Evington area on garden city principles and was keen to add adornment to his properties, especially on the bigger 'managers' houses. He erected

artisans' workshops in rear gardens typified by archway entrances between houses in a terrace. He provided local amenities such as a fire station (in Asfordby Street) and an hotel, The Imperial, but without a drinks licence. He donated 63 acres of ground to the Poor Law stewards to build what is now the General Hospital. He designed the chalet style semi detached house we see throughout Leicester which was originally sold for the very low price of £299. This design was adopted in many cities throughout the country as a form of cheap housing. He was Mayor of Leicester (the youngest ever at age 35) and Wakerley Road was named after him. He later moved to Crown Hill House on Gwendolen Road, a refurbished half timbered house which is still to be seen today (on the right going up Gwendolen Road). He is buried in Welford Road Cemetery.

Other properties which Brian talked about were: 266 London Road (Brookfield), lived in by Thomas Fielding-Johnson; Park House, near Knighton Park Road, lived in by J.Herbert Marshall; 118 New Walk (part of Belmont Hotel) lived in by Ernest Gimson; Gotha House in Gotham Street, lived in by Dr. Mary Royce; Park View (corner of New Walk and Granville Road) lived in by George and Katherine Light whose son Ronald was accused and acquitted of the 'Green Bicycle murder'. (The subject of another of our meetings some time ago).

There was so much to say about all these dwellings and occupiers which led to a fascinating talk, well presented.

All reports by Colin Towell

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### **Archive Update September 2013**

The Society Archive is growing with the help and support of both members and the general public who are contributing items.

#### The Photographic Section:

South Wigston	0601 Pictures
Wigston Magna	2358 Pictures
Oadby	0036 Pictures
Newton Harcourt	0003 Pictures
Kilby Bridge	0127 Pictures
Glen Parva	0056 Pictures
Fleckney	0001 Pictures
Countesthorpe	0001 Pictures
Blaby	0025 Pictures

In addition we have 5 Audio Recordings and 638 document files.

A selection of these photographs and files can be found on the Society web site under the members section.

We have had a number of people in August lend their photographs to us for scanning. Our thanks go to these people. In addition John Stevenson has provided us with 82 pictures of South Wigston which were donated by a family friend of his.

We would still like more photographs for the Archive. If you have any of people, places, events etc. we would love to borrow them, scan them, and return the originals to you.

Mike Forryan

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### **WILLIAM (the younger) WYGGESTON 1467 – 1536**

The spelling of Wyggeston the family name and Wigston the place must be connected. The first evidence of the migration of the family to Leicester is in 1208 when Richard Wikengson was admitted into the Gild Merchant as a free burgess in Leicester. There were many different spellings of the family name in succeeding documents but in 1432 there is a record of a transaction of a parcel of land described as 'lately known as Wygstonland'. In 1514 William the younger purchased this land with a farmhouse, cottage, arable and meadow land together with 'three messuages, four crofts and four yardlands of arable belonging thereto'. May these have been to support his charitable hospital venture?

This hospital, The Wyggeston Hospital (or as we would know them today, Almshouses) was founded by William Wyggeston in 1513. It was built in Leicester near to St Martins church for 12 infirm men. Later accommodation for a similar number of infirm women was added. The hospital now stands on the corner of Fosse Road South and Hinckley Road and is the second building of this name to stand on that site. The hospital should not be confused with Trinity Hospital built much earlier.

The wealth of William's family had already been established and was made in wool. With wool goes the connection with Calais (in France) which was owned by the English Kings for many years who appointed the mayor. Calais was a Staple Port named so because in order to control international trade the King required foreign traders in goods such as wool, leather and some metals to conduct their business with England through designated market towns and ports known as Staple Ports. In this way levies or taxes could be controlled more easily. William the younger was reputed to have been elected Mayor of the Staple of Calais four times but only one of these occasions in 1514 is officially recorded.

William was also Mayor of Leicester twice, the second time in 1510 when Henry VIII stayed at Leicester Abbey. He was parliamentary burgess for the Borough in 1504. He was married twice, firstly to Isabella who had no children and then to Agnes Pysford of Coventry who had two daughters by her previous marriage but none with William. The family were the richest in Leicester and William himself probably the richest individual person the town has ever bred.

Apart from the visit of Henry VIII, William would have been in Leicester in 1485 when King Richard III left the town to fight Henry Tudor at Bosworth Field and of course for the return of his body two days later to be buried in haste in the Abbey of the Grey Friars. The Augustinian Abbey of St Mary in the Meadows where Cardinal Wolsey died in November 1530 was situated outside the city wall to the north. Clearly William was around at a momentous time both nationally and in the life of the town of Leicester.

Apart from the hospital William was responsible for a chantry chapel which was built as part of the collegiate church of Our Lady of the Annunciation in the Newarke. The chapel and church

were destroyed as part of the dissolution by Henry VIII but there are remains of the walls in the depths of the Hawthorne Building, the original part of De Montfort University.

Shortly after William's death his widow and son began establishing the Free Grammar School which initially operated from St Peters church which lasted until 1573 when the church was dismantled and a new school was built in High Cross Street behind the hospital buildings. This building is still in use today.

The Wyggeston Hospital Schools were founded in 1873 using the surplus income from the original hospital estate and built on land in High Cross Street with the site of the old hospital becoming the playground. The name is continued today in the Wyggeston and Queen Elizabeth I VI Form College.

One of the events to mark the quincentenary of the foundation was a service at All Saints Church in Wigston in July when the choir from Guthlaxton College sang and a new hatchment (a square painting of a shield hung in diamond shape) designed and painted by a pupil from the College was dedicated. A long term commemorative event has been the establishment of a wood on land to the east of the A5199 just south of Kilby turn. There will be a further service in St Martins Cathedral in November to remind us of this amazing man and his legacy.

Colin Towell

With acknowledgement to *William Wyggeston and his World* by Jill Bourne (2013) and Cecily Nisbet's article in the FWK newsletter.

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**NO: 13 BLABY ROAD, SOUTH WIGSTON – PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIO TO  
STATIONERY SHOP**

a family story of Primrose Wray by her daughter Mary Herbert

My maternal grandmother Mary Jane Harratt was born in 1880, and lived in the Belgrave area of Leicester. She was a member of the congregation of St. Mark's Church on Belgrave Road. Her ambition was to be a missionary, unfortunately her educational grades were not enough for her to qualify. Her Godmother, a prison officer, suggested she should join the prison service, so in May 1907 at the age of 27, she was assigned to Manchester prison as an assistant wardress. In September 1907 she was moved to Shrewsbury prison, still as an assistant wardress.

In December 1908 she was sent to Leicester prison, still at the same grade. In October 1913 she was promoted to wardress II. In August 1914 William George Hall, born in 1889 in Twickenham, moved from Hull prison to Leicester prison as warden II. He met Mary Jane and on Boxing Day 1914 they were married at St. Mark's Church, and went to live at 44 Filbert Street. Mary Jane had to resign the service and was awarded £39 1s 3d as a marriage gratuity. A daughter, Primrose Mary was born in 1916, and William joined the Queen's Westminster Rifles in 1917. In 1920 another daughter Nancy was born.

In 1921 William resigned the prison service, where he had been the prison photographer, due to ill-health. The family moved to South Wigston and took over Porter's photographic shop at 13 Blaby Road. In 1923 a son William (Billie) was born. William, senior, continued the photography, and also travelled the county by train, taking photographs of war memorials in various villages. Quite a few of these photographs are now in the Imperial War Museum in

London. Also he formed a dance band with friends (he was an accomplished pianist), named 'The Wendouree'. In 1928 whilst on a family holiday on Hayling Island, William suffered a heart attack and died, aged 39.

Mary Jane was left with a young family aged twelve, eight and five years and also a shop to run. She continued with the photography helped by twelve year old Primrose. A studio and darkroom were situated at the bottom of the garden at the back of the shop, so they did their own processing as well. In 1933 Primrose met and married Cyril Wray from Nottingham, a soldier stationed at Glen Parva Barracks. They had a daughter Mary. They took over the shop and continued with the photography. Mary Jane, Nancy and Billie moved to a flat over Worthington's Cash Stores on Blaby Road. In 1937 a son George William was born to Primrose and Cyril, and Mary Jane and family moved across to 4 Blaby Road. This house stayed in the family until 1996, 59 years.

At the beginning of the war Primrose and Cyril split up. Primrose continued with the shop as P.M. Wray. She still took photographs, going to venues on her bike, with the plate camera and tripod strapped on the back. Gradually she introduced other things into the shop, such as stationery and greetings cards. She was a very busy woman. As well as the shop, there were the children, and she was a member of the women's section of the British Legion and for many years the Standard Bearer. She was also the poppy organiser for South Wigston. She continued with the photography until the 1950s (she could not get the hang of modern cameras). She became a member of Wigston Urban District Council and later Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, becoming Mayor in 1981-82 with myself as Mayoress. She ran the shop until her death in 1987. It was left to her children, myself and brother George and I ran it with George's wife Rita until I retired in 1993. George and Rita continued to run it until 2002. The shop had been in the family for 81 years.

Mary Herbert

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### **ANOTHER MISSION!**

You will recall from previous articles in this bulletin that I was given a mission by Colin Towell a couple of years ago to put together a talk on local family history based on the family of Orson Wright, and what an obsession that became!! The research is still carrying on, the book about his life and achievements was published in April 2013, and by the time you read this I will have been to Salt Lake City in Utah to meet many descendants of his Mother's family the Greenwells who were converted to the Mormon faith and travelled to Utah in the 1850s to the 1870s.

Well Colin Towell has done it again! He gave me another project to look into the family and business history of Charles Moore, the leader of the Wigston Silver Prize Temperance Band, in time for the lecture evening for the Wigston Civic Society on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Not quite an obsession this time, but nevertheless very interesting.

The Moore family history provided some twists and turns with records that are available, including census returns and business records, and of course the Internet. I managed to trace his family roots back to 1805, and also looked into the business records of the County Music Depot in South Wigston which the Moore family ran for 60 years. Along the way I have amassed quite a collection of photographs of Charles, his family and the Band.

Like the Wright family, the research is on-going, and may probably result in a small book sometime in 2014.

A report of the lecture evening with photographs and some video footage is available on the Civic Society website at: [www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.wigstoncivicsociety.org.uk)

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### AUNTIE'S PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM

In 1924 my aunt, Edith Emma Broughton, then aged 23, was invited to accompany her uncle, John Alfred Broughton, his wife Margaret nee Matthews and their eldest daughter Margaret Elizabeth on a visit to Canada. Auntie took photographs of their travels and arranged them into a special album she bought in Canada which featured Niagara Falls on the cover. She added captions explaining each image.

The trip was primarily made for business reasons. John A. Broughton and his two brothers Ernest and Bertram were at this time the directors of J.D. Broughton & Sons Ltd., Bell Street. Like many companies they were kept busy with Government Contracts (socks for the troops) during WWI, but orders declined rapidly after the Armistice and finding other customers in the severe depression which followed was not easy. It was necessary to encourage repeat orders and seek new customers from Commonwealth countries whose economy was not as badly affected as that in the United Kingdom.

There was however the opportunity for sight-seeing. The party sailed from England on 16<sup>th</sup> May, arriving on 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Quebec. They visited Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto, crossed Lake Ontario to Niagara Falls, and then on to Winnipeg. From there they headed west towards the Rocky Mountains, to Calgary and Banff with its National Park. Then returned to Quebec for the voyage to Southampton landing on 25<sup>th</sup> June, a total of 41 days.

Within the album is a picture of a gravestone in Lakeside Cemetery, Peterborough (in Ontario, North of Toronto) with fresh flowers laid at its base. The words Jane Loveday, late of Wigston, Near Leicester, England can be deciphered. A few pages further on there is a picture of a middle aged man with his son and daughter who are described as friends at Calgary, Mr. O. Hurst and children. This visit to the grave and meeting with Mr. Hurst were obviously planned, so who were these people and what was their connection to the family and to Wigston?

Jane Loveday, born on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1848, was the youngest child of George Loveday and his second wife Mary nee Willson, who lived at 42 Leicester Road, Wigston. George was born in Kibworth and is variously described in succeeding censuses as a woollen hosier (1841), hosier and shop keeper (1851), grazier 25 acres and manufacturer of woollen jackets (1861), and hosier (1871). Jane's sister Elizabeth Loveday had married Samuel Broughton Matthews, a painter and decorator, plumber and monumental mason, also of Leicester Road. Samuel and Elizabeth Matthews were the parents of Margaret Broughton nee Matthews. Therefore Margaret Broughton (John A. Broughton's wife) was taking the opportunity to visit the grave of her Aunt Jane Loveday.

Jane Loveday did not marry, she trained as a teacher and in 1871 was living and working at Oxford House School, a small private establishment in Bicester. By 1878 she had returned to live with her widowed mother and was running a small school of her own in Leicester Road, probably in part of the family home. In 1882 she decided to go to Canada, arriving in Quebec on 10<sup>th</sup> July. She was at this time 35 years old. She visited England during 1892, arriving back in Canada on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, in the same year she also became an official Canadian citizen. In 1901 she appears on the Canadian census for the Peterborough, Ontario district, living with 8 other school teachers and other staff. She made another visit to England in 1903 leaving Liverpool on 23<sup>rd</sup> September for Montreal. She died on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1906 aged 57.

Mr. O. Hurst turns out to be Oswald John Hurst, born 1882 in Wigston, a son of local builder Charles Hurst and his wife Caroline of 12 Bell Street. Oswald trained as a carpenter, but at the age of 23 decided to emigrate to Canada with two friends. They left London on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1906 bound for Halifax, Nova Scotia. A fair number of other passengers on the voyage were also single young men, and many had the words 'British Bonus Allowed' rubber stamped against their names, suggesting perhaps they were part of some assisted passage scheme by the Canadian Government. All three appear to have initially travelled on to Calgary, Alberta.

Oswald settled permanently in Calgary. He married Jeanette who was also an immigrant, having been born in Scotland, and they had two children, Muriel and Charles. From being a carpenter when he arrived, he started his own business and his occupation in Canadian records is consistently given as Contractor. Over the years he made a number of trips back to the UK to visit family and friends, the last one noted being in 1959 when he was 76 years old.

One of Oswald's friends was Frederick William Clay who was also born in 1882. He was a son of Alfred Clay of 105 Blaby Road, South Wigston, a baker and corn dealer. Frederick worked as a draughtsman having trained in an architect's office. Two years after emigrating to Canada (by 1908), he had made a return visit to the UK because on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1908 he arrived in New York on the Lusitania having travelled from Liverpool. He later returned to Calgary and in January 1910 married Edith Parker. Sadly just a year later he died, aged only 28, in Evington where his parents had by that time moved. Edith later remarried in Canada and two children.

The other friend was Leonard Owen Sibson who was born in 1885, and lived at the Cradock Arms, Knighton, where his father John was the landlord. His grandfather, also named Leonard Sibson, worked for many years as a gardener and beer house keeper in Leicester Road, Wigston Fields. This beer house later became the Royal Oak, which may soon have a change of use and become a Sainsbury's local, according to a recent piece in the Leicester Mercury. Leonard O. Sibson worked as a clerk in a hosiery warehouse. Two months after his arrival in Canada he is listed in that country's census as living-in and working as a farm hand for another English ex-pat in Assiniboia, a pretty remote community in central Canada in the province of Saskatchewan. In 1911 he returned to the U.K. for a visit, leaving Halifax, Nova Scotia, bound for Bristol where he arrived on 19<sup>th</sup> January. The only other record so far discovered is his death on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1945. He is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Saskatoon.

Tricia Berry

## WIGSTON IN 1895 – AN ACCOUNT TAKEN FROM WRIGHT'S DIRECTORY

Wigston Magna or Great Wigston is a populous and improving parish, situated on the main line of the Midland railway, at its junction with the branch to Rugby, and with the lines to Hinckley, Nuneaton and Birmingham. It is in the Harborough Parliamentary division, and division of Wigston for the County Council, hundred and rural deanery of Guthlaxton, Blaby union, and Leicester County Court district, 3½ miles South from Leicester, and 94 from London. The Union Canal passes through the parish. The village has been called Wigston-two-steeples, from there being two churches. One of them St. Wolstan's, was long disused, and was gradually falling into decay, but was restored in 1853 at a cost of £6,000. All Saints' Church is a stately well proportioned fabric of the Decorated period, with 14<sup>th</sup> century work. The south aisle has been re-roofed at a cost of over £500. There is a stained window at the east end, the gift of Captain Baddeley. In 1883 Mr. Ingram presented a magnificent organ of three manuals, built by Mr. S. Taylor, of Leicester. The Registers date from 1571. The living is a discharged vicarage of the yearly value of £200, with residence in the gift alternately of the Haberdashers' Company, and the Governors of Christ's Hospital. There are National and Board Schools, the former erected 1869, the latter in 1872; an Infant Board School having been added in 1881. There is a good Parochial Library. The cemetery of four acres, with mortuary chapel, was opened in 1882. The Village Hall, erected by a Limited Liability Company, is used for concerts, lectures and public meetings; *Secretary*, Mr. Saml. B. Matthews. There are several sick societies including Oddfellows' (M.U.), and Victoria Friendly Society. There is a handsome Independent Chapel built in 1841, on the site of an old one, at a cost of £1,070. There are also Gospel Preaching Room, Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist, and Calvinistic Chapels. A handsome Wesleyan Chapel was built in 1885, at a cost of £1,200, from designs of Messrs. Redfern and Sawday, the builder being Mr. O. Wright. A new Primitive Methodist Chapel, situated at the bottom of Moat street was opened in 1886. Almshouses were endowed by Mrs. Clarke, a former resident, with £174 a year, for the reception and support of eleven inmates. In 1771 Mrs. Catherine Palmer bequeathed thirteen acres of land and a house in Leicester for prayers to be said by the resident minister on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. There are several charities producing £90 a year, half of which is distributed in bread, the remainder in fuel and clothing. The village is lighted by gas supplied by a local company, small consumers being charged 3s 4d per 1,000 cubic feet. The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the hosiery trade. Here are extensive engine sheds, belonging to the Midland Railway Company, and employment is found for nearly 300 hands. The Hall is a handsome mansion, and is placed in the midst of extensive and well wooded grounds. Sir Henry St. John Halford is lord of the manor. The principal landowners are the Trustees of A. Cooper, Messrs. Robert Lowe G. Vassal, J.G. Pochin, T. Ingram, Richard Haymes, Tyler Bros. (Leicester), and Thomas Geo. Langham (London). The parish contains 2,931a 1r 17p of land; rateable value, Urban District £22,997 6s 6p, East Wigston £4,489 18s 6p; area 1,131a 1r 8p; and the population in 1881 was 4,299, and in 1891 numbered 4,413. The feast is on the first Sunday after 1<sup>st</sup> November.

All Saints' Church - *Vicar*, Hy. J. Mason, *Wardens*, Dr. A.N. Barnley & Mr. F.H. Freckingham; *Organist*, Mr. Edward P. Cooper; *Sexton*, H. Vann. St. Wolstan's - *Organist*, Mr. W. Sampson. Independent Chapel - Rev. T.C. Deeming; *Organist*, Miss Nellie Matthews; *Keeper*, Mr. Thos. P. Johnson. Wesleyan - *Keeper*, Alfred Smart. Primitive Methodist - *Keeper*, Mr. Merrick. School Board - Mr. John Wignall (chairman), Rev. T.C. Deeming, Messrs. A.N. Barnley, G. Ross, W. Dunmore, A. Taylor and J. Gamble, *Clerk*, Mr. J.T. Proctor. Urban Council - Messrs. H.A. Owston (Chairman), J. Walker (Vice Chairman), W. Atkin, H.J. Barwick, J.D. Broughton, J. Bruce, J. Cooper, W. Dunmore, W.G. Forryan, F.H. Freckingham, T.H. Johnson, G. Ross, J. Snowden, R.H. Warren, J. Walker and O. Wright. *Clerk*, J. Proctor. Post, Money Order & Telegraph Office at Mr. Shipp's, Bell Street, collection boxes at Wigston Fields & the Station.

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