



Greater Wigston Historical Society
White Gate Farm, Newton Lane, Wigston Magna Leicestershire

BULLETIN 39



PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS JUNE 1994 TO FEBRUARY 1995

Wednesday 15th June 1994

Visit to Thrumpton Hall, Notts., home of the Fitzroy-Seymour family.
Guided tour & refreshments.
Coach from Wigston Liberal Club Car Park. Meet 6.30p.m.

Wednesday 17th August 1994

Visit to Uppingham School. Guided tour & refreshments. Coach from
Wigston Liberal Club Car Park. Meet 6.30p.m.

Wednesday 21st September 1994

George Henton, Leicester Artist - Amanda Wadsley (Keeper of Fine Art,
New Walk, Museum).
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 19th October 1994

A Wistow Evening- Bernard Elliott. 7.30p.m. Wigston
Liberal Club

Wednesday 16th November 1994

**The History of Lighting - Dr. Jim Coaton (former Technical Director at
Thorn Lighting).**
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 21st December 1994

Christmas Party.
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 18th January 1995

The Grantham Canal - Richard Harrison.
7.30p.m. Wigston Liberal Club.

Wednesday 15th February 1995

A.G.M. followed by short talks from our own members. 7.30p.m.
Wigston Liberal Club.

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

Mrs. Chris Smart, 48 Evington Valley Road, Leicester. Mrs. Tricia Berry, 7 Wensleydale
Road, Wigston.

FEBRUARY MEETING

The Society held its A.G.M. & members evening with about 55 people present. The
evening commenced with:-

- 1) The Chairman, Edna Taylor, reading the minutes of the last
A.G.M. which were agreed & signed as correct.
- 2) The Treasurer, Brian Bilson, explaining the year end accounts.
He reported a balance in hand of £999. 74. In view of this it was decided to leave the

subscriptions unchanged, these remain £5 & £3 concessionary. Brian raised the point that as a fair sum of money was now involved perhaps an Auditor should be appointed. Whilst the mood of the meeting was united in believing this quite unnecessary it was also thought to be good practice & Colin Towell was appointed Auditor. Brian also raised the question of what should be done with the surplus funds. It was agreed to donate £50 each to the Framework Knitters Museum & the Wigston Folk Museum, the rest to be retained to help finance several books which are in course of preparation. It was pointed out that the Leics. Arch. & Hist. Soc., will at their discretion make donations towards the cost of publishing local history work.

3) The Chairman opening her report by putting on record the Society's congratulations to the President, Duncan Lucas, for his appointment as Chairman of Leics. County Council & the near completion of a highly successful year in office. Also the publication last May of his book 'One Mans Wigston'. She reported a very successful year for the Society with a rising membership. Meetings were well attended & speakers enthusiastically received. The summer trips were enjoyable & provided a small surplus for the funds. The Christmas Party was very good except that the room was too cold. A new book 'Up Wiggy' by Doreen Boulter had been published. The Bulletins continued to be produced 3 times a year with Jim Colver providing the covers. She suggested that the Who's Who series should be published as a book when a sufficient number of articles have been prepared.

4) The Membership Secretary, Stella Tweed, reporting that 12 new members had joined during the year (mostly married couples). This made the total 85 compared with 75 last year. The average attendance at meetings had increased by 10 explaining why we are rather crowded at times.

5) The present officers & committee being re-elected unopposed.

John Warden wished to record the thanks of members for the work put in by the committee throughout the year. This was gratefully acknowledged.

Members were reminded that renewal subscriptions were now due & should be paid tonight if possible.

The second part of the evening was the usual members spot with the theme this year being family history research.

Bob Wignall described his own experiences when looking into the Wignall family. He showed how easy it is to make assumptions which subsequent research proves to be incorrect. Double checks by seeking another source should always be the rule.

Bernard Elliott told us about some of the more unusual names he has come across when examining the Wigston Census Returns. Some of these names seem to be very local to this area such as Cawthorn & Boothaway. What about Boatfish, Bernard?

Tricia Berry told some of her discoveries about the Broughtons, her surname before marriage. How they arrived in Wigston in C1831 from Narborough via Oadby, their connections with cricket & the hosiery industry. She then outlined the life of her great grandfather, J.D. Broughton, his rise from framework knitter to company director, his involvement with various Wigston organisations & his long association with Moat Street Methodist Chapel once he had "Seen the Light".

Mike Forryan gave an update on his research into the Forryan family. This one name study grows all the time & he now has some 300 individuals worldwide to investigate & link together. It is fortunate that he works with a computer! He has produced a fascinating A4 booklet entitled 'The Forryan's of Wigston, 1808 to 1900' copies of which he is happy to give to anyone interested.

The meeting closed about 9.45p.m.

MARCH MEETING

About 45 members gathered at the New Walk Museum to be greeted with a cup of coffee and welcomed by the Keeper of Fine Art, Amanda Wadsley. She explained that our tour was to be divided into 4 sections comprising, Future Plans, Conservation, Storage & Contents, each led by a different member of staff. We separated into 4 groups & set off in different directions, meeting up later to exchange guides.

Future Plans - The Museum is currently undergoing extensive interior re-furbishment & the opportunity is being taken to arrange displays in a very different, more modern way, making them easier to understand and more enjoyable. The upstairs picture gallery previously arranged by era & style will in future have one third devoted to technique with explanations of how the exhibits were produced. Another third to ideas i.e. colour, light, movement & pattern & the remaining third will be for temporary displays and with an activity facility where visitors can experiment for themselves. The Egyptology section is also to be re-arranged as is Natural . History where hands-on tables are to be provided and certain exhibits meant to be touched. The re-opening is scheduled for 25th June & we were invited to visit afterwards & see what has been achieved. Leicester is one of the first museums in the Country to try this new approach.

Conservation - We saw the department which undertakes conservation of easel paintings. There were various pictures in course of cleaning & repair. The area is equipped with ultra violet examination facilities, a spray booth, surgeons' microscopes & a bonding table etc. Work is carried out not only for Leics. but all the East Midlands. The oldest picture worked on by our guide was 'St. John the Baptist entering the Wilderness' by Lorenzo Monaco C1370-C1425.

Storage - Down in the basement under heavy security & with humidifiers maintaining a constant environment we saw racks of art in store. Some was the Museum's own works not currently needed for display & some belonged to others and was awaiting restoration. There were also many drawings (some by John Flower) & prints carefully stored in racks in special protective boxes.

Contents - The Museum's Victorian Gallery is based on a collection started by the Literary & Philosophical Society which they donated when they founded the Museum in 1851. Among the wonderful works on display is a typical John Ferneley Hunt Scene & 2 pictures depicting scenes from Shakespeare which were originally commissioned by Isambard Kingdom Brunei. Later additions embrace the 16th Century to the present day. They are mostly British but there are some from the Danish School & an important modern German collection founded on art brought out by Alfred Hess & family when they escaped from the Nazis & came to settle in Leicester.

After a quick hello to The Director of Museums, Mr. Tim Schadla-Hall, who was present for part of the time but not involved in our visit, our Chairman, Edna Taylor, warmly thanked all the staff for a very interesting evening. We departed about 9.30p.m. with plans to return when the workmen have finished.

April meeting

On Wednesday the 20th of April, Mr. Jim Pickering of Hinckley, an enthusiastic amateur since the 1930s, spoke to the Society about Aerial Photography. His interest started in the days when amateurs employed professional archaeologists, quite different from today where many excavations rely heavily on the efforts of volunteers.

Mr. Pickering flies regularly with a leading aerial archaeologist. Aerial archaeology is used to identify sites for further investigation and to provide a permanent record of any marks observed from the air.

Aerial archaeology relies on the identification of crop-marks. Where the soil has been disturbed in the past, the amount of moisture retained within the soil is consequently altered and as a result cereal crops grown there afterwards mature at slightly different rates. If these fields are photographed from the air the differences show up as crop-marks. From their shapes the aerial archaeologist is able to identify and date the structures that once stood there.

Mr. Pickering used an interesting collection of slides to illustrate his talk. Firstly he showed us slides of various sites in the U.K. and the range of crop-marks to be seen. The rest of the slides showed European archaeological sites, in particular, those found in Germany.

To take the slides Mr. Pickering uses a standard camera, film and commercial processors. Copies of his slides are deposited in a central repository.

Approximately 64 members and friends met for this meeting which closed at around 9.45 p.m. Thanks were extended to Mr. Pickering for a most enjoyable and informative evening.

May meeting

On Wednesday the 18th of May, Mr. Robert Gregory of Market Harborough spoke to the Society on the theme of "Upstairs, downstairs - a social history". He talked about his life as a gardener in service to some of the great houses of England, particularly during the inter-war period.

His father and grandfather were both head gardeners to houses in the North of England. Mr. Gregory was born in Barnard Castle and has been a gardener all his life (he is now 82 years old).

However, he started his working life in the office of a steel works because his father had insisted that there was no money in gardening. After three years in the office and after the General Strike of 1926 there was a slump in industry and many steel works were closed down.

Robert Gregory then went to be a journeyman gardener at Stoke Bruerne Park in Northamptonshire. This was a showpiece garden designed by Capability Brown and laid out in a grand style. Contrary to what he had been told, he found the job to be well paid. The single gardeners lived in bothy on the Estate and only had to cook for themselves at weekends and do their own washing.

Mr. Gregory went on to become a head gardener and to work at such places as Luton Hoo where they employed no less than 56 gardeners. At Luton Hoo, with its royal connections, they entertained in a lavish way. The gardeners were expected to provide cut flowers and flowering plants for year round indoor display.

Gardening in those days was quite different to today. The gardeners made all their own composts and used complicated techniques not heard of today. It was not unusual for a large estate to have glasshouses (containing peaches and vines), cold frames, lakes, ponds, kitchen gardens and pleasure grounds.

Mr. Gregory continues to garden today. He has five allotments, still "double digs", helps other people with their gardens and speaks to groups such as ours.

Fifty three members met for this evening that closed about 8.45 p.m. Thanks were extended to Mr Gregory for a most interesting and enjoyable talk.

My talk on the local hosiery company J.D. Broughton & Sons Ltd., in February brought back memories for Doreen Boulter (Wiggy Maggy) who worked there for a number of years. She penned some of her recollections in a letter to Edna Taylor which we thought very funny and deserving of a wider audience. With her permission the letter is reproduced on Page below.

Doreen says the time would be the early 1950's. What a difference from the ruthless cut and thrust of business today.

Tricia Berry

Dear Edna,

Referring to the interesting talk on J.D. Broughton & Sons at the A.G.M. I thought you might care for this anecdote.

Both Broughton's Hosiery Factories were known simply as D.D.'s or A.H.'s by Wigstonians.

D.D.'s offices overlooked Bell Street; a rabbit warren of passages, stairs, landings, crooked floors, steps and nooks and crannies. They were once cottages, I was told.

My first morning in the office, I was confronted with an ancient typewriter placed on a wobbly kitchen table; a straight back chair, and the old switchboard with the handle at the side. There was no filing system, just piles of paper work stacked on the high wooden counter that was fixed around the wall of the inner office where Alcar Robinson reigned. Mr. E.H. Raouson occupied an office at the back of this office, down two well worn wooden steps.

Mr. Alfred and Mr. Edwin Broughton occupied separate offices, one off the main landing, and the other downstairs through the passage.

Answering the telephone, I announced the Firm in the right and proper manner only to have a muttered exclamation and the phone put down. Two minutes later I again answered the telephone. An incredulous voice said "UHO?" The following dialogue ensued:-

"J.D. Broughton & Sons" - can I help you?" said I briskly.

Voice: "Are you sure? you don't sound like J.D. Broughton."

Me: "Indeed it is, how can I help you?"

Voice: "But you're a woman".

Me: "So I am".

Voice: "Well, I wanted to speak to Mr. Broughton".

Me: "Mr. Alfred or Mr. Edwin?"

Voice: " That's good, I like that, yes, he'll do."

Me: "I'll put you through to Mr. Alfred," said I, winding the handle vigorously, and wondering where I'd come.

One day, the old typewriter's carriage return mechanism packed up, but ingenuity and improvisation saved the day.

Alcar Robinson produced a piece of strong wide elastic (No, I don't know where from) fixed one end to the typewriter carriage and nailed the other end to the wall. I worked that typewriter with me laggy carriage for weeks on end, until a new / secondhand typewriter was procured.

Everything in those days was in short supply, in other words you couldn't get 'out, so we all had to do the best we could with what we had.

I have worked in many offices during the ensuing years, but J.D.'s will always remain a special memory for me. The people who worked there; the works outings; and the days when the Dray was Decorated for the Annual Infirmary Parade. There was much competition among the various factories. Oh! we did have some laughs.

FRONT COVER ILLUSTRATION

Jim Colver's drawing for this issue of the bulletin features the Shoulder of Mutton Inn. This old building, demolished in 1895, was situated in Long Street, on the site of the 'Devil House'¹ now the business premises of Lawson West & Co., Solicitors.

The 1846 White's Directory lists a Joseph Cooper as living at that address and gives his occupation as innkeeper & maltster. In the 1863 version John Cooper (a son?) is the innkeeper. By 1877 John Cooper is again mentioned, but is described as a butcher, maltster & grazier. It seems this public house had a tradition of brewing its own beer.

A BIT OF A CLANGER?

Did anyone notice odd, discordant, sounds coming from the bell tower of All Saints' Church about 11.45a.m. on 7th May? No, it was not one of the regular bellringers having a brainstorm but a small group of visitors, myself included, accepting an invitation to try our hand at bellringing. It was not easy - even making some of the bells 'talk' involved more than merely pulling on the rope.

I had decided to take advantage of the open day, as had several other Society members whom I met there. It was lovely to wander round at will, admiring the pictures, embroidery, statues and memorials and the impressive architecture. Visitors were encouraged to explore and complete a quiz sheet. There was a clever 3D display called Images of Gargoyles by church member, John Royley, exhibited as part of the Oadby and Wigston Arts Fortnight.

When Richard Carter arrived with the belfry key and invited anyone interested to take a look it was too good an opportunity to miss. The spiral staircase was steep and narrow and open so you could see to the ground below. "Hold on to the rail and don't look down" was his helpful advice.

We arrived in a small room where the bell ropes hung. One rope had an extension which passed through a hole in the floor so it could be operated from below. On the walls were various plaques commemorating special bellringing occasions and listing the ringers who took part. One wall was reserved for recording the peels to celebrate Royal occasions.

The pendulum of the clock protruded through the ceiling and was protected by a wooden box but the movement could just be seen through a gap at the top. A ladder led to a trapdoor in the ceiling. We were told James Freckingham made this hazardous journey about twice a week to wind the clock.

A very pleasant morning. I was there 1½ hours and I had only intended to pop in for a few minutes to note the details on a memorial for a future Who's Who article!

Tricia Berry

Richard Carter has asked me to mention that some of the bellringers are getting on in years and replacements are being sought. If anyone feels they would like to learn please contact him at 145, Station Road or Rev. Green at The Vicarage.

WIGSTON WHO'S WHO NO: 8 REGINALD

ALFRED KING F.R.C.S., Q.B.E.

Reginald Alfred King was born on 22nd June 1901 in Cambridge. He was the son of Alfred King a chemist and his wife Lilla Eleanor nee Rangel. The couple already had a daughter, Lilla Merial, some 3 years older. Alfred King was a Leicester born man who had moved to Cambridgeshire to train for his profession. This involved working under instruction from a doctor which was the normal method at the time. It was while he was in this area that he met his wife. In about 1903 he took his new family back to his native county and took up employment in South Wigston. By 1908 he had moved to 50, Long Street, Wigston and opened his own chemists shop.

Reginald Alfred attended Alderman Newton's School in Leicester. At that time a scholar of average ability he had set his heart on following a career in medicine. The first step towards this goal was not easy and he had to re-sit his entrance examinations for medical school. Once he had gained a place at St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, though, his true potential was apparent. He consistently achieved first or second place in the entire country in his examination results, alternating with a student called Porrit who went on to be a surgeon to the Royal Family. While at St. Mary's he gained M.R.C.S. England, L.R.C.P. London 1927, M.B.B.S. London 1929 & F.R.C.S. England 1931.

He met his Irish wife Mary O'Leary at St. Mary's Hospital where she was also training to be a doctor. The couple married on 14/1/1932 at St. James's Church, Spanish Place, London. They had one son Richard Alfred Patrick. Mary King had a distinguished medical career herself ending as Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Wembley.

Reginald Alfred became a top surgeon and consultant at St. Mary's Hospital and had consulting rooms in Harley Street. He was also surgeon at the Princess Louise Hospital for Children at Kensington and Croydon and at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Baling. During World War II he joined the R.A.M.C. as a Lt. Colonel and was awarded the O.B.E. for his involvement in the North African Landing in 194?

He retired from surgery in 1966 and went to Canada with his wife where he practised at Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan with his sister's son, Dr. Alan Matthews, who had settled there. His sister had married Mr. Leonard Matthews, headmaster of Ashby Grammar School. As well as Alan the couple had a daughter, Merial Joyce.

The Kings returned to England in 1970 and retired to live in Kent. Reginald Alfred died on 23/7/1975 and is buried in Wigston Cemetery. His widow now lives quietly in Hampshire near their son.

Mrs. Dorothy Stella King nee Laundon, the well respected local school teacher who died in February was his step mother - being the second wife of his father Alfred King.

Tricia Berry

I would like to thank Mr. Patrick King of Hampshire (son) & Mrs. Joyce Dunn of Beverley, Yorks, (niece) for their help with this article. Other sources consulted: The Medical Directory 1971. Gravestone at Wigston Cemetery. The memories of the late Mr. E.A. Broughton.

OADBY IN 1891

In 1891, the census of England and Wales was held on Sunday 5th April, when the two census enumerators of Oadby, Jonathan Goddard and George Edward Goddard, visited every house in their enumeration districts to pick up the schedules of all householders. Some

time before the census was taken, the two enumerators presented every householder in his district with a schedule, which informed the householder how to enter the details required, which were his name and address, whether married or single, if married his wife's name, the names of the children, his occupation, names of other people in the house, their relationship to the head of the house and where everyone in the house was born and if anyone suffered from medical disabilities.

On the Monday after census Sunday, the two enumerators went round Oadby collecting these schedules. Then they copied the householders' schedules into their enumerators' books and a few days later they sent their books to the local registrar, Robert Barnes, and Barnes in turn sent them on to a P. A. Shires, the Superintendent Registrar. The latter then sent the enumerators' books to the Census Office in London, whose clerks then went through the books to correct any more errors and after that the books were closed to the public for one hundred years and so it was only on 1st January 1992 that they became once more available to the public.

The enumerators' returns give a detailed picture of Oadby in 1891. At that time 1865 people lived there, some 30% of its inhabitants being under thirty years of age. The average number of children was five and the largest family in Oadby numbered eleven children, which belonged to Samuel and Elizabeth Clark. The ten years between 1881 and 1891 saw a great growth in the boot and shoe trade in Oadby. In 1881, 139 inhabitants worked in the trade, but in 1891 that number had increased to 299, including three manufacturers, 34 clickers, 76 riveters and 36 shoemakers. At the same time the hosiery industry was somewhat on the decline. In 1881, 284 people earned their living in the hosiery industry, but by 1891 that number had dropped to 203. The agricultural depression was still affecting Oadby, for in 1881 some 86 people still worked on the land, but by 1891 that number had dropped to 58. But Oadby was increasing in size. In 1881 there were 359 houses in the village, but by 1891 that number had increased to 407, new houses being built in Oadby Street (Regent Street), Cross Street, Beaumont Street and Spencer Street.

There were still to be found in Oadby in 1891 a number of craftsmen, such as wheelwrights, carpenters, house painters and blacksmiths. Between 1881 and 1891 the number of shopkeepers increased. In 1881 there were some 25 shopkeepers, but by 1891 that number had increased to 40. As for gardeners, their number increased slightly. A few men had turned to other occupations from gardening, others had turned to gardening from other occupations.

There was still only one school in Oadby in 1891 and that was the Board School in the middle of the village. Several half-timers attended the school and while a few started their school life at 3, most children left at 12, though a very few stayed on until they were 13.

In 1891 the vicar of Oadby was the Rev. Walter Kurd, but there were in Oadby at that time as many nonconformists as Anglicans. Possibly the strength of nonconformity in Oadby meant that there was no increase in the number of public houses between 1881 and 1891, only 6 being found in either date.

In 1881, men over the age of 21 gained the vote and in 1885 a Redistribution Act was passed which placed the electors of Oadby in the Market Harborough constituency, as they still are one hundred years later.

Bernard Elliott

The Properties of the Shires of England.

The properte of every shire

I shall you tell, and ye will hear

Herefordshire shield and spear

Worsetshire wring pear

Gloucestershire shoe and nail

Brisowe ship and sail

Oxenfordshire gird the mare

Warwykshire bind bere

London restore

Sowtherey graet bragere

Esex full of good hoswifes

Middlesex full of strives

Kentshire hot as fire

Sowseke full of dirt and mire

Hertfordshire full of wood

Huntingdonshire corn full good

Bedfordshire nought to lack

Bokinghanshire is his make

Northhamptonshire full of love beneath the girdle and not
above

Lancastreshire fair archere

Chestreshire thwakkere

Northumbreland hasty and hot

Westmorland tot for sote

Yorkshire full of knights

Lincolnshire men full of mightes

Cambridgeshire full of pikes

Holand full of great dykes

Norfolk full of wiles

Southfolk full of stiles
I am of Shropshire my shins be sharpe
Lay wood to the fire and dress me my harp
Notinghamshire full of hogs
Derbyshire full of dogs
Leicetershire full of beans
Staffordshire full of queans
Wiltshire fair and plain
Barkshire fill the wain
Hampshire dry and wete
Somersetshire good for wheat
Devenshire mighty and strong
Dorseteshire will have no wrong
Pinnockshire is not to praise
A man may go it in two days
Cornewaile full of tin
Walis full of goote and kene
That Lord that for us all did die
Save all these shires Amen say I
Anon date unknown.

Thanks to Shirley Hensman for sending in the above very ancient poem.

Isaac Barradale - a Leicester architect

Isaac Barradale was born in 1845 and his work spans the period 1874-1891. His building designs are typical of the "Domestic Revival" style. In the 1880s he was the first architect to design houses in this style locally. It is a style which many were to follow and is much seen in the affluent suburbs of south east Leicester.

He was articled to the local architect William Flint (1810-1862), and commenced practice in 1870. His name is first mentioned as an architect in the Leicester directory of 1870, where he is described as an architect and surveyor in practice in Stanley House Chambers, Gallowtree Gate. In the 1871 census he is found living in Braunstone, at that time a pleasant and undeveloped village; a desirable place to live. He is a lodger with Mary Bloxham a widow aged 64. In the household was another lodger and a female domestic servant. He was aged 26 and had been born in Leicester. A directory of 1870 is more specific and gives his address as Braunstone Terrace.

By 1875 he is still in practice in Gallowtree Gate but has moved his residence to 25, Lower Castle View, The Newarke. He was still resident at Castle View four years later, when he is elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects on the 9th of June 1879. His Fellowship was proposed by Joseph Goddard, William Millican and F.W. Ordish. Sometime between 1876 and 1880 he designed no.5 Greyfriars which was known as St. George's Chambers and was to become his own office. For many this is his best building. Boldly Domestic with two big rough cast gables and long roofed oriels on the upper floors, it was unique in the city at that date. It is not clear if he designed the building and then had it built for his own occupation or if he moved there at a later date. In White's directory of 1877 he is still in practice in Gallowtree Gate and living in the Newarke but by 1881 he is described as an architect, of St. George,s Chambers, Greyfriars.

Most of his notable designs are still standing and can be seen. On the corner of Stanley Road and London Road are two big houses with bold roof lines, built in 1878. At the top of Stoneygate Road and built in 1879 is De Montfort Court, nos.2-8, designed by Barradale in a predominantly Queen Anne style with moulded string courses and a big roof with a cast iron parapet, coved cornices and a central half-timbered bay. Other houses in the area were nos. 43-53 Stoneygate Road and nos. 10-20 Alexandra Road built in 1887. No.29 Stoneygate Road was built in 1881 and is distinguished by big timbered gables and a slightly Flemish look.

The building that is now Fenwicks was designed by Barradale and built in 1880 and extended in 1884 its upper stories are typical of his style.

He continued to practice from St.George's Chambers for the remainder of his career. He was not, however, the sole occupant, in 1888 Isaac Barradale, Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects shared the building with Augustus Cufande Palmer & Co., chartered accountants; J.H. Straw & Co., stock brokers; Geo. S. Callow, draughtsman; Joseph Murphy, civil and electrical engineer and the Society of Artists with Charles J. Adams as its secretary.

His buildings were not confined to the City of Leicester. In 1881 Hambleton Hall in Rutland was built to Barradale's design. In the Domestic Revival style with gables, half timbering and tile hanging it is a typical Barradale building. At the time it was the seat of Walter Gore Marshall Esq.. It was set in grounds of 7 acres and made of stone with stables in the same style (now I believe a restaurant).

Around this time the roads to the east and west of London Road in the Stoneygate area were developing rapidly; houses on a grand scale were being built to accommodate Leicester's wealthy industrialists now moving from the centre of the town. In Knighton Park Road just south of the park, one such house was the Hawthorns of 1882.

Ernest Gimson, an architect of more than local importance, was first articulated to Isaac Barradale in the 1880s. Gimson was the son of a wealthy Leicester engineer, he and his partner Ernest Barnsley were the leading exponents of the Arts and Crafts style. Gimson specialized in furniture design, but his red brick Inglewood of 1891-2 and the White House of 1895-7 (both in the Clarendon Park area) are probably two of the best known.

The Cottage Homes at Countesthorpe were built in 1884 by Isaac Barradale for the Leicester Board of Guardians to house pauper children. They line the Drive, a crescent, which now separates Countesthorpe College and Leysland High School. They are one of the earliest and most complete examples in the county of the Cottage Homes experiment in child welfare. The ten houses are designed in the Domestic Revival style each one slightly different to its neighbour. The school building was in the centre and the infirmary and boiler house were at the west end. The buildings were designed to hold about 200 children and various associated staff. In 1887/8 he designed the former Free Library in Station Road Hinckley and its extension in 1903.

In Kelly's directory of 1888 he is resident in Stoneygate Road and still practising from St. George's Chambers. No.29 Stoneygate Road, 1891 (built when Isaac Barradale would have been 45 years old) appears to have been his last building. He died in March 1892 and was succeeded in practice by Amos Hall.

Chris Smart

1. Architectural details have been taken from:-

Pevsner, Nikolaus Leicestershire and Rutland. 2nd ed. revised by Elizabeth Williamson. (Buildings of England series).

2. Census details from records held at the Leicestershire Records Office.

3. Other information gathered from various directories held in the English Local History collection of the University of Leicester.

Compiler's note - this research is incomplete, I hope to be able to do further research on Isaac Rarradale's later years and therefore complete this study.

TOMBSTONE TERRITORY

A tombstone is intended primarily to convey information of a factual variety, such as name, age, date of death and such-like. But strolling through churchyards while on holiday we often see right at the bottom of old tombstones a few verses, not usually very great poetry, but often amusing or touching. The eighteenth century was the hey-day of these rustic

verses. Most people have a particular favourite they like to repeat. Here in the churchyard of All Saints we have several tombstones with verses dating from this time.

No Wigston tombstone however has the reputation of the one in the churchyard of Winchester Cathedral to Thomas Thatcher, a twenty-six year old Grenadier who died of a violent fever contracted by drinking small beer when hot.

"Here sleeps in peace a Hampshire Grenadier Who caught his death by drinking cold small beer. Soldiers be wise from his untimely fall And when ye're hot drink strong or none at all."

Some tombstone verses speak in the name of the deceased and may even carry on a bit of back-chat with the Almighty:

"Here lie I, Martin Elginbrod ;
Have mercy on my soul, Lord God
As I would do were I Lord God
And Ye were Martin Elginbrod."

That is a Scottish one as the style rather implies. Some verses choose to warn the reader to be wiser than the dead man:

"Under this stone a lump of
Clay Lies Uncle Peter Daniels
Who too early in the month of
May Took off his winter
flannels."

Some astute person even discovered that tombstones could be used for surreptitious advertising.

"Beneath this stone in hopes of
Zion Doth lie the Landlord of
the Lion His son keeps on the
business still Resigned unto the
Heavenly Will."

Our Wigston tombstones have nothing as good as this, but they are worth looking at just the same. A favourite verse seems to have been :

"Farewell my wife and children
dear I am not dead but sleeping
here My Debt is paid, my grave
you see Wait but awhile, you'll
follow me."

It appears amongst others on the tombstone of our curate's namesake, John Green, who died in 1752. The words, "wait but awhile", were likely to be only too literally true; the incidence of plague, sickness and sudden death in eighteenth century Wigston was very high. A random sample of twelve tombstones of this century gives an average life expectancy of thirty-seven years. Even this is much higher than the average, because the

people who could afford to pay for tombstones were not the poor. The life of the poor tended to be short due to (he poor housing, overcrowding and insanitary conditions of living; but the infant and child mortality rate was depressingly high among all Classes of Society. The tombstones reflect the period's attitude, which was a mixture of pious resignation and I a feeling that the child has saved himself a deal of trouble by dying young The tomb of little William Cuthbert, aged seven years, reflects this :

"... Then happy he who infant breath
resign And spotless seeks the realms of
Paradise".

Sickness was not, however, the only cause of death and sometimes we are told of other direct causes as on the tombstone of John Tailby dated 1782:-

"Tho' sudden death his life did
end By a tremendous fall We
hope his soul thru' t Christ is
blest Who dy'd to save us all".

But sometimes a few did grow old and die a natural death and this, loo, we find reflected in the tomb of Joseph and Ann hand who both died in 1731 aged respectively seventy-six and seventy five. They seem, from these verses, to have been very happy in their married life.

"Reader beneath these Moulds does
lie A pair as Happy as cou'd die ;
Who jointly did this Instance give
A pair as Loving as cou'd live".

On the whole the attitude towards death is a healthy one during the eighteenth century as seen in these verses. As the nineteenth century drawl nearer they become more self-consciously religious in tone. By 1704 we find on the tomb of Thomas Branson aged 2!) :—

"Farewell ye baubles here
below Ye airy toys from
hence adue To a dear
Saviour now I go And bid a
long farewell to you".

They also tend to become more morbid and were gradually abandoned in favour of Biblical text during the Victorian era. Nor in the eighteenth century were those verses often sentimental, as modern ones in the 'In Memoriam' columns of the local papers often are. These latter are in some ways a descendant of the tombstone verses but far more stereotyped and sugarily sentimental with a much less individual flavour. Verses on modern tombstones are unusual but there is an attractive suggestion for one by the transatlantic rhymester, Ogden Nash, which might provide an appropriate "epilogue" in the holiday season :-

"Beneath this stone
John Brown is
stowed. He
watched the ads
And not the road".

Thanks to Jim Colver for sending in the above article written by J.R.H. Here is another thought provoking one on the gravestone of Thomas Sharman who was buried in 1766 at Marston Trussell.

Remember man as you pass by

As you are now, so one was I

As I am now so must you be

Therefore prepare to follow me

Joint Editors