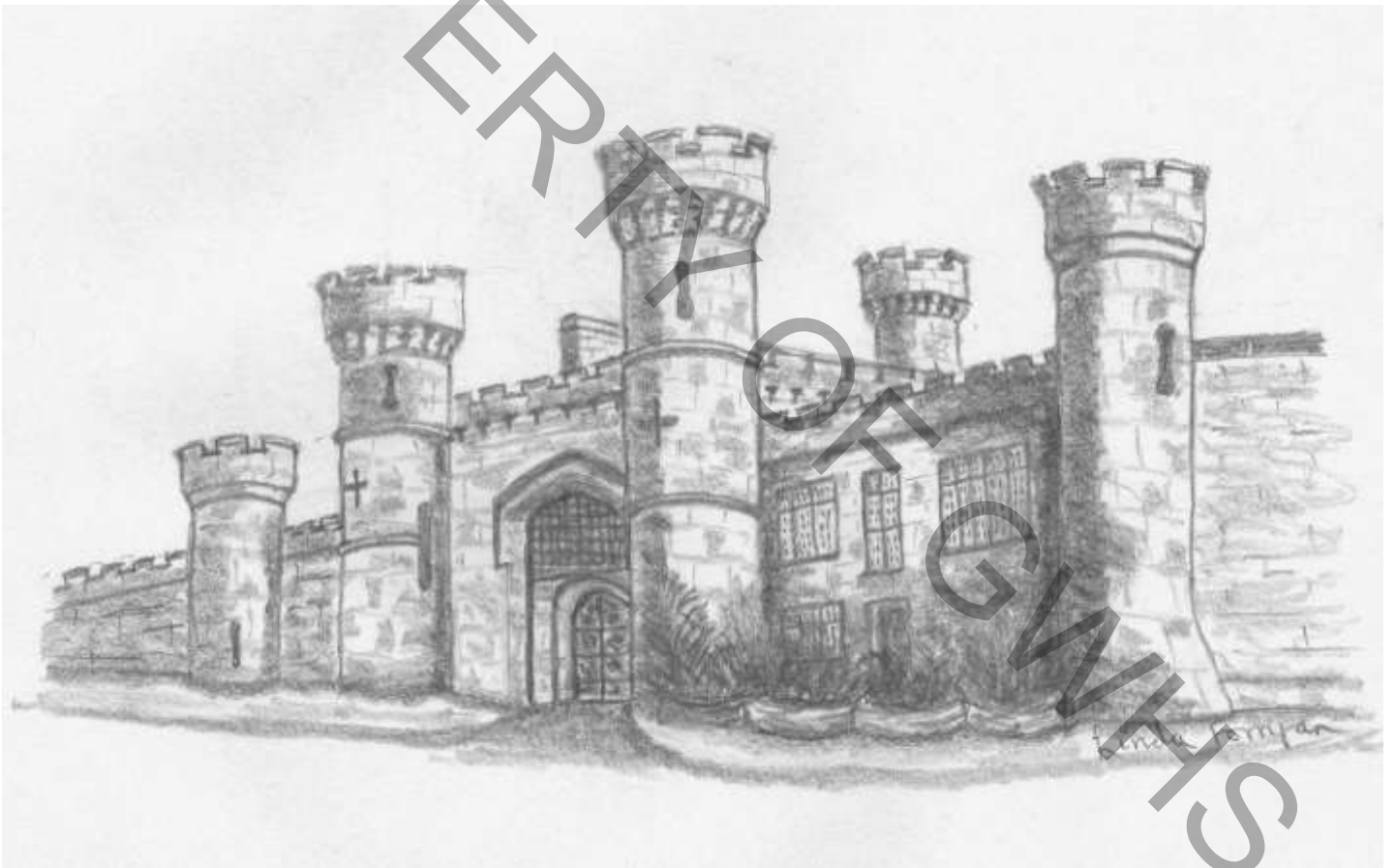


GREATER WIGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
White Gate Lodge, 97 Newton Lane, Wigston Magna, Leics.

BULLETIN 106

1st NOVEMBER 2016



The Prison, Welford Road, Leicester by Linda Forryan

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – NOVEMBER 2016 TO AUGUST 2017

Wednesday 16th November 2016

Leicester in World War II, Hidden Histories – Vince Holyoak
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

***Wednesday 21st December 2016**

Victorian Christmases in Leicester – Cynthia Brown
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

Wednesday 18th January 2017

Rise & Fall of Leicester's Trams – Malcolm Riddle
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

Wednesday 15th February 2017

AGM followed by a Quiz - Virginia Wright, Leicester Blue Badge Guide
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

Wednesday 15th March 2017

Belgrave Churchyard, Living Memories – Sandra Moore (in costume)
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

Wednesday 19th April 2017

The Victorian Army, the men & campaigns – Jed Jaggard (in costume)
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

****Wednesday 17th May 2017**

Day outing by coach to Newark, Notts – Visit National Civil War Centre, free time afterwards
Booking essential

****Wednesday 21st June 2017**

Evening Guided Walk around Uppingham, followed by a bar meal at The Vaults
Booking essential

Wednesday 16th August 2017

Pictures of Wigston & area – Mike Forryan
7.30p.m. the Dining Room, Age UK, Paddock Street, Wigston

*Please bring £2 on the night towards the cost of refreshments, guests will be charged £3.

**Our Secretary, Ann Cousins, will take bookings, note menu choices, collect payments & arrange if people need a lift to Uppingham at the March & April meetings.

The Bulletin is published three times a year on 1st 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

Chairman, Mike Forryan's e-mail: chairman@wigstonhistoricalsociety.co.uk

AUGUST 2016 MEETING LEICESTERSHIRE PHOTOGRAPHERS

For the first meeting of the new season we welcomed Mark Gamble to talk about photography and local photographers. Mark began by pointing out that just as we marvel at the ability to send images around the world at the press of a button today, the Victorians were just as amazed about the ability to make images of people, objects and places on paper. Photography was the wonder of the Victorian age as processes were developed to the stage of the box camera, a version of which many of us can recall from our younger days. Photography became a science and an artform, practised by amateurs and professionals alike, the latter earning their living with the new technology.

Many of us have searched through old family photographs but sadly found no information on the back to indicate who the subjects are, or when and where the pictures were taken. Photos were sometimes formally posed, often presented in an oval format, and sometimes clearly taken by an amateur and not well posed or focussed. It needs to be remembered that the earliest equipment was bulky and heavy and it was often easier for the camera to remain in a fixed position and the subject to be moved around with different backcloths.

It is, in fact, 180 years since the first photographs were taken. Scientists had realised that light projected through a pinhole into a dark place would reflect the source of the light onto a wall or screen. This simple box developed into a 'camera obscura' firstly with the light coming through a hole in the wall, reflected on the opposite wall, and then through a central hole in the ceiling using mirrors like a periscope. Artists often used to colour an image to make an accurate picture of the scene. The problem was that the picture was not captured permanently, it was only there while the light source was on. Scientific experiments with chemicals revealed that some chemicals reacted when exposed to light and an image of the projection occurred. But the image faded quickly until further experiments by a Frenchman, Joseph Nicéphore Niépce, led to the discovery of the fixing process. He and Louis Jacques Mandé Daguerre developed the process further and invited the public to pay to see their photographs.

At about the same time at Laycock Abbey in Wiltshire, William Henry Fox Talbot was beginning to develop images of natural things such as leaves using the 'calotype' process, he even took a picture of a window in the Abbey (this is now owned by the National Trust and there is a very good exhibition of photography there). But the disadvantage was that the process of arriving at the exposure on paper was very slow.

The Daguerreotype process was the first non paper based photograph method to be made available to the public. This was very costly and beyond the means of most people, it was also dangerous because it used mercury. The French government decided to purchase the process and then offered it to the public free of charge, but before this happened Daguerre patented the process in Britain so people had to buy it in this country. It was still a slow process and subjects had to remain still for long periods. Nevertheless the Victorian inventors soon developed optics and engineering processes to improve the situation and by 1844 there was a Daguerreotype photography studio in Leicester near to the Corn Exchange. The owner was Thomas Chapman Browne who was already well known in higher social circles in the town. He employed Walter Moon as his assistant. People wanting their photograph taken often wished to look like famous people of the day and were dressed and made up accordingly.

In 1851 a new process using transparent glass negatives was introduced by Englishman, Frederick Scott Archer. It was called the Wet Collodion process and was much faster and more

sensitive. It was patented in America under the name Ambrotype and this is the name more generally used. Many studios were opened and having your photograph taken became more affordable.

The first war photographer was Roger Fenton who took a horse drawn van for his dark room to the Crimean War in 1855. The resulting exhibition revealed scenes never seen before by the British people and the public became educated through photography.

Early prints were very small and could not be 'touched up' (photoshopped!!). Local firm Rank Taylor Hobson was improving lenses and equipment became lighter, smaller and more portable allowing the general population to take photographs without being in a studio. The new Collodion process allowed stereoscopic images to be taken and viewed through a 'viewmaster'.

The visiting card (or Carte de Visite) size photo was in use from about 1860 having a photo of the person named on the back. Photography began to be used in advertising and to promote politicians as well as in the press to break up the very detailed reports. Photos were even taken of people, often children, 'post mortem' and used in sympathy cards.

At the end of the Victorian period the dry plate image was invented, this allowed night time photography and enlargements to be made. A change of the law in 1900 allowed postcards to be sent through the post, thereby creating the picture postcard we still buy on holiday today.

Mark's talk ended with a scene outside London Road station in 1919 with the King and Queen arriving for a royal visit. The interesting feature was a man standing facing the royal visitors with a camera fixed to a tripod, he was in fact using a very early example of a movie camera.

Altogether a very interesting talk on the history of photography and of photographers in Leicester.

SEPTEMBER 2016 MEETING THE HISTORY OF LEICESTER PRISON 1828-2012

For this meeting we welcomed Richard Foster, a retired prison officer whose early career was spent at Gartree before transferring to Welford Road, Leicester, where he continued until his retirement in 2012. His talk was divided into three parts: the place, the prisoners and the staff.

The Borough Council, which along with other towns in those times was responsible for its own police force and law enforcement, had to build a new prison in 1823/4, because their existing one in Highcross Street was too small and could not be altered to comply with recent laws requiring more living space/segregation/washing facilities etc. The castle like design chosen is known as neo classical and was the work of local architect William Parsons. It was on similar lines to the recently completed Derby Gaol. It was constructed on a three acre site and was surrounded by a 40ft high wall, built with 2 million bricks. This confirms what I was told as a boy that these walls are the highest prison walls in the country. The design was of a central hub containing the Governor's House with offices, a chapel, hospital and general assembly area, with 6 detached radials, like spokes, which contained the cells. The entrance consisted of the great stone castellated gatehouse we see today, which is sometimes mistaken by tourists for the local castle! The prison was designed to hold up to 131 prisoners, and opened in 1828, having cost £20,000, a vast sum for those days.

At the time of opening it was estimated that there were 35 debtors and 20 female and 65 male prisoners plus 3 in solitary confinement/condemned, 2 under kings evidence and 6 in the hospital.

There were in fact 4 gaols in Leicester prior to this: The County and Borough Goals (two separate prisons) in Highcross Street; the Bridewell in Oxford Street and the Borough Bridewell in Freeschool Lane.

Between 1844 and 1847 two of the six spokes were demolished and the traditional cell block on four floors which is still there today was built. Also built at that time was a house of correction for women who continued to be housed there until 1918. In the mid 1840s and in 1890 the two buildings we still see each side of the gatehouse were built, these were for a governor's residence on the county side and a residence for the chief officer on the city side. The architect making an excellent job of matching the new buildings with the existing gatehouse.

There are few pictures of the inside of the prison for obvious reasons, but what we do know is that there was (and still is) a small flower garden with a fishpond leading from inside the entrance gates to the main central block. The bell to be seen near to the pond dated 1849 is the original prison bell probably used like a ships bell to mark the main events of the day. Around the base of the inside of the walls can be seen markers of the graves of executed prisoners up to 1922. It was pointed out that the lower part of the perimeter wall was painted white on the outside to make it easier to identify people moving around at night.

In 1878 the Prison Commissioners took over the running of all prisons and it was decided that Welford Road could accommodate both city and county prisoners in future.

There were 22 executions at the prison, the last one taking place in 1856. The last hanging was of Joseph Christopher Reynolds in 1953. A further hanging was about to take place also in 1953 but a late pardon was issued by the Queen and the case was made into a film in 1997 called Intimate Relations.

Early cases were for murder, horse stealing and highway robbery which were all capital offences. In 1832 after a particularly gruesome murder was committed 30,000 people watched the execution (more than watch a Tigers rugby match today). In this case the guilty man's body was then exhibited in a gibbet at the junction of Saffron Road and Aylestone Road, but removed three days later. It was the last time a body was displayed in this way. The iron gibbet was kept for many years at the Guildhall, Leicester but is now in the police museum at Newbold, Nr. Rugby, with a replica at the Guildhall. The longest period for which a body was gibbeted was 30 years when it disappeared into dust. In 1880 executions were better planned as in the past death had not been instantaneous. This was done by taking the height and weight of the condemned man and calculating the length of rope and the drop needed. Technically a hangman was guilty of murder so he was charged, fined 1/- and released. A report was made about the hangman's behaviour during an execution.

There have been 39 governors at the prison since 1828, often retired military personnel. Although women were allowed to work in prisons, if they married they had to leave and this happened in Leicester in 1914.

An enquiry in 1854 found that 50% of all floggings in prisons were at Leicester. This was related to the use of the 'crank'. Here a prisoner was punished by having to turn a wheel a certain number of times as a punishment. If he didn't achieve the required number of turns (the officer would tighten the screw to make the effort needed to turn it harder) then the prisoner was flogged. This said something about the regime at Leicester resulting in the record number of floggings. It was also the origin of the slang word 'screw' for a prison officer.

In 1970 there were 450 prisoners and 100 staff but the staff numbers have since been reduced without a decrease in inmates.

Richard concluded by explaining that there were a number of social clubs and activities for the staff (not prisoners) such as football, golf and photography.

OCTOBER 2016 MEETING: LEICESTER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB

As we approach the end of British Summer Time and the evenings get darker and colder (although lately being brightened by a super moon in clear skies), we gave a seasonal welcome to John Hutchinson, the Historian and Archivist for Leicester City Football Club. John is a retired Head Teacher with a history degree so he is well qualified to talk about the history of the club to a group of like-minded people.

John's problem was where to start after last season's tumultuous events, but clearly he needed to start at the beginning which was 130 years ago when the club was founded and has since become embedded in the lives of many Leicester citizens.

Firstly John explained he became involved soon after his retirement in 2005 when he saw an article in the press about a disgruntled fan who had lent memorabilia to the club which they subsequently mislaid. An apology was issued but John wondered if the club needed someone to help with its archives. It did and he 'volunteered'. The club had recently moved from Filbert Street to the new stadium and lots of its collection of memorabilia had been misplaced or been sold, so having taken advice on how to set up an archive from the City's museums service, he created a database of over 40,000 items. Fortunately the new stadium had storage facilities available (four rooms were needed) equipped with appropriate temperature control.

An offer to create a paid position for John was delayed because of the club's cash flow problems at the time but eventually this did happen in 2010 when the current owners took over and it became a full time job. Initially he was asked to write a heritage page in the programme and set up a web page. However the new owners wanted more and he now writes several pages in the programme and for the home game in the Champions' Cup on the night before his talk he had provided a 20 page heritage section. He was also involved in the recent exhibition at the New Walk Museum visited by nearly 100,000 people. During the 2015/16 league winning season John did many interviews for the worldwide media and in doing so discovered that Leicester was the only club in the country to have a full time paid historian, many others have good part time volunteers.

One of John's projects has been to research the 15 players who died in WWI together with the 50 others who had fought and survived. This resulted in a film called Foxes Remembered and a visit to the battlefields, joined by Alan Birchenall and Nigel Pearson who both have a great interest in the subject. Another player, Adam Black, was awarded the DCM during the war and joined the club afterwards, playing for 15 years.

An anecdote which caused some laughter was the occasion at the end of last season when he was invited to the training ground to receive an award to mark his ten years of service. On arrival he noticed the well publicised line up of expensive cars given to the players and thought that his luck was in. His gift turned out to be an expensive engraved pen, which he emphasised was actually very much appreciated.

Another project has been to create an oral archive of interviews with past and present players from 1929 onwards. This includes one with Wigston resident Howard Riley who played in the cup final appearances in the 1960s. John works closely with Dave Smith who has a complete statistical archive from day one of in excess of 1,000 men who have played for the club over the years. In addition there is an autobiographical archive for these players. The club has agreements with both the Leicester Mercury and the University of Leicester to use the former's picture library which is now included within the latter's special collections.

The oldest item in the club's possession is an 1880s clay pipe. Usually these are very common and were thrown away after use, but special football pipes were made with the faces of current players on the bowl and some appropriate words on the stem. This one was made in Leicester for the club. There is an 1894/5 season ticket for when the club was promoted to division two, this shows a plan of the ground at Filbert Street when crowds of 3,600 to 6,700 were expected. There was also a very unusual lady's ticket for 1895/6 when crowds were almost exclusively men. The oldest photo is of the 1889/90 team when the club was named Leicester Fosse because it had first been formed in a shed behind a house in Fosse Road which still exists, although the shed has disappeared. Club colours were then chocolate brown and light blue. (see note below).

John showed a photo (the original is too valuable) of a 1908 promotion medal when the Fosse went up to division one, only to be demoted again the next season when they lost the final game to Nottingham Forest 12 – 0. A connection to South Wigston close to our hearts was the minutes of a board meeting in 1908 when Orson Wright was a director. In 1920 King George V was present when the club played at Chelsea, this was the year that Leicester town was raised to CITY status. In 1925 city played Port Vale on Christmas Day and won 7 – 0! with six consecutive goals scored by Johnny Duncan. A relative has recently donated a ball commemorating the occasion but when John picked it up it rattled with the hard bits of the degenerated bladder inside the leather ball. At this time players earned £8 per week during the season and £6 in the summer.

Other artefacts are a loving cup given to all clubs in division I to drink a toast at the first game of the season to celebrate the coronation of King George VI in 1937, and a picture of a badge showing a fox and crop first used in 1948/49. This was the first time images had been sewn onto shirts.

John's fascinating talk included many amusing anecdotes, and interesting illustrations from the club's vast collection which is still growing. There are donations coming from relatives of players and the public and gifts given by opposing clubs at high profile matches today.

NOTE: Did members see the recent TV programme about the Wigston firm named Admiral Sportswear? The factory was based in Long Street in Wigston and was the first to make replica football team shirts for sale to the public. This became an international and famous business. During the programme it was stated that a strip had been designed for a club with the colour

brown in the design. This was not popular and was soon discontinued by the club concerned. Coincidentally, the factory which has been empty for a number of years was severely damaged by fire just two days after the programme was broadcast. Previously a planning application had been made to convert the buildings into 27 flats, a subsequent variation on this application was recently (after the fire) approved by the Council.

All reports my Colin Towell

LAUNCH OF NEW DVD

Mike Forryan's second historical DVD, Bridge to Bridge, follows the pattern of the first one, taking the form of a walk starting this time to the south of Wigston on Welford Road where the bridge crosses the River Sence. It takes in Kilby Bridge, Welford Road, Cooks Lane, the Cemetery, Horsewell Lane, Gas Lane, Newgate End, Bushloe End and finally Station Road, ending at Spion Kop railway bridge. Like the first DVD there are hundreds of old photographs and an excellent commentary by Dave Andrews from Radio Leicester. The cost is £10 which includes £2 in donations on each sale. £1 to AgeUK and £1 to Rainbows at the request of Dave Andrews in lieu of any payment. They are available at meetings and are also on sale at AgeUK in Paddock Street, or you can contact Mike Forryan 07711 083227 or Peter Cousins 0116 2884638. They make excellent Christmas presents for people interested in Wigston's fascinating past.

EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM 2016

After a break of a few years our member, Evelyn Brooker, decided to enter this year's Oadby & Wigston Borough Council's Pride of the Borough Floral Display for the best front garden. It forms part of the Borough's entry into the East Midlands in Bloom Competition 2016. Having been very successful in the past she has not lost her skill and won again this year, very many congratulations!!

THE MUSINGS OF DUNCAN

I note with great pleasure the archaeological excavations uncovering the past history of Bradgate Park and the story it tells. I indulge in a wry smile when I remember the friction between the Trustees and nearby villagers when the latter declared that Bradgate should be solely for the pleasure and enjoyment of the people, as Charles Bennion the donor had stated, which of course it should be by and large, but they wanted everything free, no attempts to raise money to manage it and nothing to be disturbed.

I was a Trustee and Chairman for many years and visited residents in their homes to achieve joint co-operation. I remember the Jousting Displays we had for the Millenium, which sadly were poorly supported.

We adjusted car parking charges and very nearly made the Trust self supporting from the City and County councils when they had to reduce their funding as a result of the financial situation. Very shrewdly we built up the Deer Barn complex to create a visitor centre giving the Leicester Rotary Club the space to display an exhibition on the history of the park. We tried to raise an endowment fund but were unable to attract a worthwhile amount. The late Michael Harrison land agent for so many years, laid the foundations of today's progress.

What have these musings to do with Greater Wigston Historical Society? Well we all love Bradgate Park and Michael Harrison was a Wigston lad.

CAPTAIN CHARLES HOLLAND BADDELEY (1790-1863)

Charles Holland Baddeley was baptised on 23rd May 1790, at St. Nicholas Church, Newport, Shropshire. He was the 6th child in a family of seven, four boys and three girls, who were born to Thomas Baddeley, the local surgeon, and his wife Martha nee Holland. Newport was and still is a pleasant and busy market town with a wide main street, this was necessary to avoid congestion as it was a turnpike road on the route to Chester and beyond.

Charles received a classical and mathematical education at the local free school, before deciding at the age of 21 to follow one of his older brothers, William Holmes Baddeley, and join the East India Company. The two young men may well have been influenced in their choice of career by the famous 'Clive of India' who had been a native of Shropshire. Robert Clive (1725-1774) was born and educated in Market Drayton, only ten miles from Newport. He had a glittering military and administrative career and returned with a huge fortune to live at Clive House, Shrewsbury and represent that town in parliament.

The English East India Company is the best known of several Chartered Companies which were set up in the 17th and 18th centuries to develop trade with distance countries. Merchants would band together and supply their own ships and capital, the Government would then grant them a charter entitling them to certain privileges and facilities to protect them from rival countries. Payment for goods was either by exchange with English exports or Pieces of Eight which were a common currency at this time. Although intended to be purely a trading concern the Company evolved into something much more. When the English arrived in India they needed a safe anchorage for their ships and a permanent base on land to live and store goods in transit. India at the time was an unsettled place with different regions each governed by their own Raj. There were often conflicts between neighbouring states and the English made agreements with these leaders to create settlements and to maintain a military presence to protect their interests. Such bases were established at Madras, Bombay and Bengal, which together with their surrounding territories became known as Presidencies.

In 1811 Charles applied to join the military arm of the Company, with a particular request to be posted to the Madras Infantry, if possible, to be nearer to his brother. His application was accepted on 31st March 1812 and he is believed to have set sail on 5th April 1812 on the 'Harriett' bound for India. In those days before steam it normally took about four months for an East Indiaman (company ship) to make a one way voyage. This could be increased to as much as eight months in unfavourable weather. On 11th June while still at sea he was commissioned an Ensign. On 7th August the 'Harriett' docked at Madras and a week later he was 'Admitted to

the Establishment' and on the following day posted to the 1st Battalion, 6th Native Infantry in Madras.

After his initial posting to the 6th Native Infantry he was transferred in fairly quick succession over the next fifteen months to the 13th, 24th and then the 16th Native Infantry. Whilst still attached to the 16th he took part on 21st December 1817, in the battle of Maheidpoor, a town and district in Indore State, Central India. This battle formed part of the last war against the Marathas. He shared in the prize for the capture of this town with the rank of Lieutenant although the date of the commission was not until the following year, suggesting he may have been hastily promoted perhaps as a result of his part in this offensive. He became entitled to some of The 'Deccan Prize Money' (the proceeds of the booty captured) which was to be paid in four instalments.

Charles' brother William Holmes Baddeley had also attained promotion to Lieutenant when he tragically died whilst serving in the 2nd Battalion, the 21st Native Infantry. He was buried with a service conducted by Brigade Major Godley at Secunderabad, the military cantonment for Hyderabad, on 15th May 1818. It is unlikely Charles was able to attend the funeral. The cause of death is not recorded in reports of casualties in the East India Register nor on the burial certificate. As death in action was usually noted it is most likely he succumbed to a tropical disease an ever present hazard before the days of vaccination and modern drugs.

After six years of active service Charles' next posting was an administrative one when, showing he had learned the native language, he was appointed on 31st May 1819 Interpreter and Quartermaster to the 25th Native Infantry. He apparently became unwell or had suffered an injury because on 10th October 1821 he was granted sick leave and went to the Malabar Coast for three months. This area on the south west side of the country had a cool refreshing climate much more suited to Europeans than the very hot interior. He then continued with his duties and on 4th June 1824 was appointed Quartermaster, Interpreter and Paymaster to the 49th Native Infantry.

Later the same year on 8th December Charles became a father when Edward Adams Baddeley was born at Belgaum to a native lady named Laul Bhee. The little boy was officially illegitimate but clearly acknowledged from the beginning by his registration as a British Subject and the choice of his names. His second name of Adams was a Baddeley family one which had also been given to Charles' sister Elizabeth. The most likely circumstances of this rather surprising birth are described thus: "It was quite common at that time for Europeans of all classes to take a native 'wife', recognised by a local ceremony but not by the Church or the Company, to acknowledge their children and have them baptised, and for the better off to have them educated in the U.K.there were few European women in India in the late 18th and early 19th centuries...."

In January 1826 Charles was again unwell and given sick leave to Belgaum for a month. In May of that year he transferred to the Bombay European Regiment where he worked as an interpreter until October when he was appointed Adjutant to the 52nd Native Infantry. On 11th June 1827 he was commissioned a Captain and five months later his little boy, by then aged three years old, was given a Christian Baptism in Bangalore. In July 1828 he was granted two and a half months leave to Poona.

The following year on 7th May 1829, he received the first instalment of his prize money, 116.8.6. Bombay Rupees (about £19. 9. 0¾). Then apparently still troubled by illness he was granted a furlough (extended leave) on a Sick Certificate Order dated 28th July 1829, and on 3rd November after an absence of seventeen and a half years he sailed for home. During his time in India he had travelled the length and breadth of the country. The 'Bombay Gazette' for Wednesday 4th November records:- "The 'Child Harold', Captain W.W. West, in Command, took her departure yesterday for the Isle of France [Mauritius] and London. The following is a correct list of her passengers.....Captain Baddely and Master Baddely [sic]. It is not possible to determine what happened to Laul Bhee. As she was not a legal wife she had no status and does not feature again in the company records. She may have died by this time or remained behind, as his departure was not intended to be permanent, or she could have been one of the four servants who travelled with him according to a report of the same departure in the 'Bombay Courier'. They would have celebrated Christmas, New Year and Edward's fifth birthday en route.

Voyages between India and England, laden with valuable cargo, had to be armed against attack from pirates or even rival countries. The rich assortment of cargo could include rolls of cotton, satin, silk, colourful chintz and damask fabrics plus spices, pepper, rice, sugar cane, tobacco, indigo, saltpetre (for use in gunpowder) and opium which was taken to China in exchange for tea (it being illegal to cultivate opium in China at the time). By 1829 the volume of trade was in decline but Officers travelling home were permitted about two tons of luggage, so it is likely that Charles brought back some of these items for his family to enjoy.

Once the Captain had disembarked at the East India Docks in London, and reported to the company's head quarters at East India House he would be free to visit family and friends. He would go to Newport where his brother Thomas Bernard Baddeley had taken over from their father as surgeon in the town. He would also go to Peatling Parva Hall, Leicestershire, the home of his late sister Catherine Martha Clarke nee Baddeley. Catherine had very tragically died in 1818, leaving her husband John Clarke with five young children. John had since remarried but there would surely have been a visit into Peatling Church, to show Charles the incised floor slab under which she was buried, and handsome memorial tablet on the north wall, near the altar. He would also renew his acquaintance with John Clarke's two sisters, Elizabeth who had married William Worthington many years previously and lived in Peckleton, and Ann who was unmarried and lived alone, since the death of her mother, at the family home in Long Street, Wigston.

It was this Ann Clarke that the Captain married on 15th May 1831 at All Saints' Church, Wigston, slightly more than a year after his return from India. At that time he would have been aged 41, and Ann somewhat older at c.46. It was a marriage with great benefits for both of them, Charles having no proper home, no great income or wealth, though very well connected, not in the best of health and with a small child to bring up. And Ann, a mature single lady, very wealthy, but probably lonely living alone with only servants for company. The couple enlarged and re-furbished Ann's home to make the mansion known as Wigston Hall, which stood on the site of the present Elizabeth Court flats. Some accounts maintain the hall was actually built by Captain Baddeley in 1832, but a clever conversion seems more likely, because in more recent times when the house was divided, one part was known as The Old Hall and the other part Wigston Hall. Also a guest at the house in c.1912 was told at that time that it was "three hundred years old".

The Captain was nicely settled in Wigston, the family having a footman, housemaid and cook living in. It was hardly surprising he did not want to return to India. His furlough was extended for 12 months, and then by another 12 months. He was then requested to send a medical certificate and granted yet another 12 months, this time cautioned as to the consequences of failing to arrive in India by April 1834. Still he did not return, so he was permitted to retire on the half pay of a Lieutenant being 4/- shillings per day, and informed that "his request for some addition to his retiring pay cannot be complied with".

1843 must have been a worrying year when Ann Baddeley's brother John Clarke was declared bankrupt. He must have been the legal owner of Wigston Hall because this was advertised for sale along with much other property John owned. Fortunately the Baddeleys managed to save the situation, it is believed by using Ann's own money to buy it back from the liquidators.

The Captain played a full part in Wigston life, in 1844 he served as a churchwarden of the parish together with Thomas Withers. He was on the Parish Council for 15 years and was its leader for part of that time. He founded Baddeley's Charity which consisted of a gift of £60 which was invested in 23/4 consuls. He received the remainder of his prize money from the East India Company in three instalments, in 1830, 1834 and the final one not until 1847. His son Edward was educated at Oakham School, and then Jesus College, Cambridge from where he matriculated in 1846. He then decided to study law and was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1848.

It must have been a great blow to the Captain when his wife Ann Baddeley died in 1851, aged 66. After the funeral at All Saints' Church on 29th May she was buried in a family vault, probably under the floor of the chancel. The Captain commissioned a new East Window in her memory which local directories state cost £200. It consists of five panels each of which depict a different scene from the bible, and the whole design is liberally decorated with the letter 'B'. On a dark night when the interior of the church is illuminated it is a truly wonderful sight when viewed from Newgate End.

Three years later the Captain suffered a second bereavement when his son Edward died on 12th February 1854, aged 29. He was also buried at All Saints' in the family vault. Soon after this the Captain became a broken man, devastated by the loss of his family, getting on in age, and suffering more severely from the affliction which had troubled him from his days in India. After recording his death in 1863 that would have been the end of this story but for the chance discovery of what happened afterwards described in great detail in the press. A real storm erupted which was covered in newspapers as far away as Scotland, Wales and the length and breadth of England too.

It started thus: When Edward was at Oakham School he had a particular friend named James Sandby Padley. The bond between them was strengthened when the young men unknowingly found themselves both at Cambridge University, though in different colleges. Afterwards they kept in touch but went their separate ways, Edward going on to study law and James training for the ministry. They lived together for a while, and when both of them became ill spent time together at a health spa. James gradually recovered but Edward did not, and eventually had to return home to Wigston Hall. In early 1854 he realised he was dying and also that his father was getting very weak so he sent for his friend who was by then working as a perpetual curate in Lancashire and begged him to move to Wigston to live with his father "and look after him as a son would". James was now married and his wife Margaret was expecting a child, but they agreed to do this and moved into the hall. James did not have any official role within the

Wigston churches but did assist when needed. His name appears in the burial register on occasions as the officiating minister. The couple's daughter Elizabeth was born at the hall and also their son Charles Stone about three years later. Soon after this in about 1859 James was invited to become curate at Holcombe Burnell in Devon, and Captain Baddeley made it clear he wanted to go with them, declaring he would "go anywhere that they went". The hall was let, the rent from it being useful in paying for his maintenance, provisions, wine, spirits and the attendance of a man servant, plus medical attention when needed. While in Devon he contacted an Exeter solicitor and wrote a simple will leaving everything to James who was also the sole executor. In 1861 he suffered a stroke which affected his mobility.

In April 1862 James was offered a post at Rampside near Ulverston, Lancashire. This was in the area where he started his career and where he met his wife so they were likely to be very pleased to return. The Captain now a really sick man came with them. The local doctors described his illness as gout of the stomach which produced painful episodes for which spirit, a few drops of chloridine and opium tablets were prescribed. They were in the habit of leaving a supply of the medicines at the house so the Captain could be relieved quickly instead of having to wait while they were summoned and made the six mile journey to him. The household including the man-servant were given instructions as to the dose to be given.

The Captain died on 30th March 1863, aged 72 and James arranged for his body to be returned to Wigston and was present at the funeral and his burial in the family vault. There were a number of Baddeley relatives present who shook his hand and all appeared to be friendly, but this was not to continue. Six of the Captain's nephews, three of whom were surgeons, knowing of their uncle's lifestyle and that his close family had died, imagined they would be in line for a useful inheritance. So when they learned the Captain had left everything to James and named him as sole executor they were not happy. If they had made enquiries they would have known that it was the Captain's wife who was the wealthy one and she had left him a life interest, but after his death it had to be distributed according to her will. The Captain himself was of more modest means and had left this to James as a gesture of gratitude for the care he had received.

The nephews thinking they had been cheated accused James of poisoning the Captain and requested the Leicester coroner to exhume the body, so an inquest could be held, leading to a post-mortem, "to ascertain the true cause of death". The coroner sent a police superintendent to Rampside to interview James, his household, doctors and other locals, and reported back that "there was not the slightest reason for exhuming the body". Not satisfied, the six then applied to the Secretary of State requesting him to order the exhumation. One of the nephews then started writing letters to various newspapers putting their case, which was promptly picked up by other publications. James eventually brought an action for libel and the nephews began to realise their mistake and apologised in the court. James rejected any compensation only claiming his costs. Some reporters were also severely criticized for not going to Lancashire to find out the facts before printing such stories.

Baddeley Drive off Aylestone Lane and his name upon the beautiful east window in All Saints' Church are probably the only reminders left of the colourful Captain who once lived in Wigston.

Incidentally one of the Captain's nephews, also named Charles Baddeley, arrived in Wigston sometime between 1851 and 1860. He was a widower and lived at The Chestnuts, Spa Lane, with a housekeeper, and farmed 200 acres employing 5 men and 2 boys. He died, age 62 and

was buried in Wigston 25th October 1881. It is to be hoped he was not one of the six nephews mentioned above!

Tricia Berry

Sources: Grateful thanks to the India Office Library and Records Section of the British Library and their researchers for supplying the information about Charles Holland Baddeley's career in the service of the East India Company, and also explaining various words and abbreviations I did not understand.



Wigston Hall in the early 20th century