

The Cestrefeld Journal

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Welcome to our annual publication. We have had a busy year since the last publication was issued. People all around the country, including of course Chesterfield, were involved in celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was all good fun and although the weather didn't help with some of the arrangements, in typical British tradition, we carried on and enjoyed ourselves. There were Union Jacks everywhere and lots of television programmes covering all the various events that had been arranged for the Queen. The people who "run the country" were responsible for all the major events down in London but all over the country there were smaller events organised by the Queen's subjects. Personally I thought that it was brilliant that so many "ordinary" people wanted to mark the occasion and it was one of those occasions when I felt proud to be British. My grandchildren received a coin from the school to mark the occasion and we had a little discussion that evening about how important it was to save the coin so that they could tell their grandchildren that they had helped to celebrate the occasion. To be honest I don't think they appreciated the fact that it was an occasion that does not happen very often but hopefully one day when they are older and come across the coin at the back of a drawer they will stop and think about the day they celebrated and what occasion it actually marked. We are lucky to have marked such an occasion in our lifetimes and so lucky to have such a Queen.

Staying on the same subject, did you know that the televising of the coronation on the 2nd June 1953 was the first broadcast event that was planned as a recording made for posterity by the BBC? In February 1952 King George VI died and his daughter Princess Elizabeth became Queen. The coronation took place at Westminster Abbey, 400 years after Mary I became the first Queen to rule in her own right. The coronation was the first time many people had watched an event on television and it prompted many to purchase their first set, causing a nationwide surge in television sales. The televisions had to be ordered six months before the coronation to ensure delivery in time, George VI's coronation in 1937 was broadcast on the radio but the Queen herself requested that her coronation be televised so that as many as possible could watch. An estimated 27 million people in Britain watched the ceremony on television and 11 million listened on the radio. There were more than 2,000 journalists and 500 photographers from 92 nations on the coronation route. In the Abbey were 8,251 guests and 129 nations and territories officially represented at the service. The BBC planned to broadcast the ceremony to France, Brussels, Holland and the then Western Germany. Sound commentary was sent from London and fed direct to Paris. Dutch and German commentaries were given from studios in Brunssum in Holland and Cologne, Germany. Television recordings of the procession to the Abbey and the service were flown to Canada in sections by three RAF aircraft, leaving at intervals so that the Canadian and American networks could transmit the same evening. Many people thought that the coronation brought communities together, the women baking cakes and sandwiches and trestles and chairs were set up in the middle of streets and school halls.

It will be a long time before a Sovereign can celebrate a Diamond Jubilee again and we must remember that we have witnessed a very historic event.

Another important event during the past year was the Olympics. Didn't we do well? The games originated in Greece around 3,000 years ago, dedicated to Zeus and was an all male affair. These ancient games ceased in 394AD when they were banned by the Emperor Theodosius. The modern version dates from 1896 when they were held for male athletes only. In 1896 they were held in Athens. 14 nations and 241 athletes competed in 43 events. The winners received a silver medal, an olive branch crown and a diploma; second place received a bronze medal, laurel crown and a diploma. In 1900 in Paris women were allowed to participate for the first time (about time too!) The first female winner was Charlotte Cooper of Great Britain in singles tennis. In 1904 in St. Louis, Missouri, the gold, silver and bronze medals were introduced. The 1908 games were to have been held in Rome but in 1906 Vesuvius erupted and they were held in London when the stadium at White City was built. For the first time there was a parade of nations at the opening ceremony. In 1912 in Stockholm the photo finish was used for the first

time. The 1916 games planned for Berlin were cancelled and in 1920 at Antwerp, the Olympic flag was introduced. For the first time the games revisited a city – Paris, when the first radio transmissions were made. In 1928 in Amsterdam women were allowed to compete in track and field events. A results board was also installed for the first time, allowing spectators to see the winners immediately. Photography rights were sold for the first time and Coca Cola became the first official sponsors. There was also the revival of the burning flame throughout the games. In 1932 the stop watch and filmed finishes were introduced. In 1936 Hitler used the occasion as a showcase for his Aryan, Anti-Semitic views. He was not pleased that non-Aryans such as the 4 x gold medal winner, American athlete Jesse Owens was triumphant. These games also saw the beginning of a torch relay. The 1940 games for Tokyo and 1944 games for London were cancelled. In 1948 they were held in London at Wembley Stadium and Germany and Japan were excluded. In 1952 a team from the USSR competed for the first time and quickly dominated the medal tables. In 1956 they were held in Melbourne, the first games held in the Southern Hemisphere and the first time for live transmission. In 1964 they were held in Tokyo, the first time results were stored in computers. 1968 was the turn of Mexico City and the first doping and gender tests. The games in 1972 in Munich saw a terrorist attack, leaving 11 Israeli athletes and coaches dead. In 1976 the Queen opened the games and Princess Anne was in the equestrian team. In 1980 in Moscow 21 per cent of the competitors were female and in 1984 at Los Angeles professional sports people became eligible. In Seoul in 1988 table tennis was introduced. In 1992 in Barcelona we saw the end of South Africa's suspension for its apartheid policy. In 1996 in Atlanta the first Olympic Games website went live, attracting 189 million hits. In Sydney in 2000 Aboriginal athlete Cathy Freeman won gold in the 400m. In 2004 in Athens the reverse of the medal was redesigned to feature a Greek venue rather than a Roman one which all medals had shown since 1928. The 2008 games in Beijing were the most expensive Olympics so far, costing around £20bn. In 2012 the Olympic torch travelled through Chesterfield on its way to London. It is the first city to hold the modern Games three times. And in 2016 they will be held in Rio do Janeiro. Well, what do you think people will remember the 2012 Olympics for?

Well, having bored you with all that, please settle down and read some interesting articles.

Jo Gott

Editor



Spital Lodge stood at the junction of Spital Lane and Valley Crescent. The Spital Lodge Estate was not part of the Spital and Hasland property offered for sale in 1800, although plots surrounding it were, so it would appear that the land had already been acquired by John Bower before the sale and a house built on it.

John Bower is described as a gentleman and attorney of Chesterfield. He was mayor of Chesterfield seven times but I cannot be certain that it is the same John Bower each time. John married Isabella Bradley and they had four children, Isabella, who died young, Elizabeth, Thalia and Lucy. Isabella Bradley was the granddaughter of Job Bradley, who was Chesterfield's postmaster, a bookseller and mayor of Chesterfield six times in the early 18th century. Her brother Job likewise had been a bookseller, postmaster and mayor (twice).

John Bower was also the agent for French prisoners of war in Chesterfield. Napoleon sent an army to San Domingo to reassert French authority and re-introduce slavery. The army was led by the brutal General Rochambeau. The army was decimated by yellow fever and a revolt of the natives led by

General Dessalines. In September 1803 Dessalines intended to destroy the St Marc fort garrisoned by over 800 French soldiers under the command of General d'Henin. Captain James Walker of HMS Vanguard agreed with Dessalines that, if the French surrendered, he would take off the French, who were starving and existing on horse meat. D'Henin negotiated the surrender and became a prisoner of war.

General Francois Nivard Charles Joseph D'Henin to give him his full name (usually called Charles), was granted parole and came to Spital Lodge, where he stayed with John Bower. He was well liked in Chesterfield because of his pleasing manner. He married Eleanor Dixon, a beautiful Scottish lady in 1806. A daughter, Sophia Anne Hamilton, was born in Chesterfield before he was exchanged and recalled to France in 1811, where three further children were born. He probably wished he had stayed in Chesterfield as in September 1812 he took part in the Battle of Borodino. It is not known if he took any further part in the advance and retreat from Moscow but he fought at Waterloo; where he lost a leg. It was felt in some quarters that he was not whole-hearted about the fight, which would have been understandable, as his life had been saved by the English and he had lived in Chesterfield for several years. After the exile of Napoleon, d'Henin supported the monarchy. In 1836 d'Henin, his wife Eleanor and their daughter Adele visited England for several months spending several hours in Chesterfield on the way to stay with the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth. D'Henin died in Paris in 1847 aged 76. The French king was deposed in 1848 and Eleanor returned to England where she died in 1851. Adele also came to live in England, where she took her place in high society; she was a friend of Lady Lucy Cavendish. She died in 1885 and left a personal estate of £22,233 2s 11d.

John Bower died in 1815: his wife Isabella had died three years earlier. His surviving daughters were now married. Elizabeth married Joseph Wilson a solicitor in Alfreton; Thalia married Thomas Longhorns of Reeth in Yorkshire and Lucy married Thomas Hough, another solicitor, from Middlesex.

The Houghs lived at Spital Lodge after the death of John Bower, Lucy died in October 1919, aged 35, either in childbirth or soon after the birth of her second son. Sadly both children died young, Spital Lodge was advertised as being available to let in the *Derby Mercury* in November 1819. It was advertised as:-

'a newly erected and genteel residence together with a new coach house, stables and upwards of 16 acres of land' and commanding, beautiful views to the west,

The house comprised:-

'an entrance passage, breakfast parlour 15ft by 14ft, dining room: 24ft by 13 drawing room 24ft by 16, with a store room on the ground floor; four good sized bed rooms two smaller ones and attics for servants; the kitchen, servants hall, cellars and other conveniences underneath are capacious and convenient, and the whole is in excellent repair

In March 1820 the entire contents of Spital Lodge were sold at auction. A full description of the furniture and contents appeared in the *Derby Mercury* 23rd February 1820.

The new tenant was Richard Gillett a coal master at Brampton. Richard married Martha Calvert of Marchington near Uttoxeter in 1824 and their eldest son, Francis Calvert, was born at Spital Lodge. Francis commenced business as mining engineer consultant in Chesterfield in 1850, and in 1857 he surveyed the grounds for Spital Cemetery. From Chesterfield he moved to Derby where he became Consulting Mining Engineer to the Midland Railway Company.

Richard Gillett was still in residence in 1832 when the estate was offered for sale at the Angel Hotel in Chesterfield but it was evidently not sold. In January 1834 there was a new owner of Spital Lodge.

Elizabeth Bower married Joseph Wilson, a solicitor at Alfreton, who acquired Carnfield Hall by dubious means. One version is that John Bower lent him £18,000 to buy it, another version is that he persuaded the owner, Sir John Eardley Wilmot, that Carnfield Hall was a doubtful asset in a semi-decayed state and

no one would want to buy it. Wilson moved in but there is no evidence that he paid for the property. He and Elizabeth had a daughter, Isabella, who married Thomas Radford in 1829. It was Thomas Radford who bought Spital Lodge Estate by lease and release in January 1834. This was a device which avoided paying tax on the sale Bower's executors leased the estate to Radford for a nominal period of 6 months or a year, but not the freehold. The following day the freehold reverted to the Thomas Radford for a payment equal to the value of the property, thereby avoiding paying tax on the purchase price of the property. Two days after Radford had acquired the property he took out a mortgage of £8000 with Henry Cox of Derby with property, including the Spital Lodge estate, as security.

In February 1834 the property was offered to let once more. Gillett offered unwanted furniture and farming implements at auction on March 17th 1834 so presumably he moved out then. He moved to Marchington Woodlands, which could have been a Calvert family property.

The furniture comprised:—

'a handsome mahogany sofa, sideboard, eight and two armed mahogany chairs, mahogany dining and card tables, two rosewood tables, set of handsome drab moreen drawing-room window curtains with poles and pins complete, Brussels carpet nearly new, 24ft by 16, sets of drawers, night commodes, child's crib, wire blinds, large buffet cupboards, mangle, linen press, kitchen chairs, flower stands, tubs, barrels, buckets, and a variety of useful kitchen requisites.'

The farming implements

'consist of two broad-wheeled carts, ploughs, harrows, winnowing machine, side saddle, rakes, forks, riddles, three stone cisterns, garden roller, manure, glass frame 32 feet by 12, heated with 4 inch metal piping, a quantity of choice plants, 400 yards of edge stones, cucumbers frames and sundry other effects.'

The next tenant was Thomas Holmes, a gingham and cotton goods manufacturer, as his son John, aged 6, was born in Hasland in 1835. In 1871 John appeared in the census as a M.D. having obtained his qualification at Kings College, Aberdeen and he was a MRCS but was not practicing. The family was living at Whitecotes, where Thomas died four years later. Thomas's widow Ann and eldest daughter Eliza evidently continued the business as lace makers and at the time of the 1881 census they were visiting Ashover Hydropathic Establishment. Sarah the youngest daughter was retired (aged 47) and living at Saffron Walden in Essex. John then took up positions in Birmingham and his sisters moved with him.

The sale of Spital Lodge to Thomas Radford was probably because Joseph Wilson's clients were by now having doubts of his honesty and solvency. In 1840 a Sheriffs Warrant was obtained by an aggrieved client and Wilson was lodged in Derby jail. His debts were £29,951 15s 10d and his assets £11,747 17s 8d. Thomas Radford deposited a bond to cover the deficiency and to obtain his discharge, but Wilson died before that happened, so presumably Radford was left to discharge his debts. It is hardly surprising that Radford failed to repay the mortgage on the due date and sold property (not the Spital Lodge estate) to the value of £3200 to offset against the debt. On 25th March 1845, at the request of Radford, Cox sold the Spital Lodge estate to Lt John Roberts RN for £1900 for a further reduction in the debt.

John Roberts was born in Chesterfield and, after an adventurous time in the Navy returned to Chesterfield where he married Hannah Bradley in 1823, thus becoming the town's postmaster

The post office at the time stood at the junction of the High Street and Packers Row, where he also carried on the business of bookseller, printer, stationer and public library. In 1828 he founded the *Chesterfield Gazette*, which became the *Derbyshire Courier* the following year.

Thomas Holmes moved out and in July 1845 it was once more offered to let and was probably taken by Henry Phillips, farmer although the tithe map of 1846 says that it was still owned by Bower's executors.

This time the lodge was said to have *'a pleasant lawn in front of the house and behind it an excellent kitchen garden, well stocked with fruit trees and in a high state of cultivation.'*

Maria Brackenbury lived at Spital Lodge at the time of the 1851 census. There were four generations of the family living there. Born in Ireland, Maria was described as the widow of an officer, which would have been her second marriage. She remained at Spital Lodge until early 1854 when her daughter died and she moved to Middlesex. In August 1854 land was exchanged with the Duke of Devonshire and a further strip of land purchased from the Rev Boyer a month later, which suggests that the Roberts were in residence by then. John Roberts died in 1856 and Hannah carried on the business with her younger son John.

Hannah Roberts was a remarkable lady. When Job Bradley jnr. died the business was taken over by his brother Henry – Hannah was his daughter and she ran the business after the death of her parents when she was just 20. She was the niece of Isabella Bradley, who was the wife of John Bower; she would have most likely visited Spital Lodge as a child and would have known d'Henin. In the 1840s she wrote an article about the French prisoners of war for the *Derbyshire Courier*.

Surprisingly the Chesterfield and Tapton Burial Board offered the two fields which were on the northern boundary of Spital Lodge for sale in 1859 and they were purchased by Hannah Roberts.

Hannah Roberts died in 1867 and the property passed to the eldest son Henry Bradley Roberts, who had a distinguished career in the army before retiring in 1873. Following the death of her mother Hannah's daughter Isabella sold the contents of the Lodge and a full catalogue of the contents can be found in the *Derbyshire Times* 25th April 1868. Isabella had at some time been the editor of the *Derbyshire Courier*. She left Chesterfield and spent many years travelling in Europe before returning to live in Chelsea not far from her brother Henry.

The property was let again, this time to Barbara Russell, who ran a small boarding school for girls until it was taken over by Mrs Lightfoot in 1876.

In March 1877 the estate was sold to Messrs G.A. Rooth, Edward Eastwood and A. Payton, who were trustees of the Chesterfield Benefit Building Society, for £5,500. Landowners were often reluctant to sell small parcels of land and so societies like the Chesterfield Benefit Building Society acquired the estate, and divided them into individual plots for their members who paid a monthly contribution towards the cost and charges for road making. New roads were laid out and the estate offered for sale to members of the Society in 157 lots in July 1877. Purchasing a property gave the opportunity for working men to get the vote as householders, which was impossible if they were renting property.

Stanley Street, Spital Road and Alexandra Road were 'calculated for a superior class of private residences: Hartington and Quarry Bank Road for an intermediate class of houses and Valley Road for a humbler class'. Five shops were to be erected for the convenience of inhabitants, but no Public-House, Beer-shop, or place for the sale of intoxicating liquors would be permitted on the Estate. The cost of the houses to be erected on each plot was specified ranging from £120 on Valley Road, £140 on Hartington Road, £200 on Quarry Bank Road and £300 on Spital Road and Stanley Street. Houses on Alexandra Road were to cost the most, £300, £350 or £450. Spital Lodge was withdrawn from sale at £1000 and all but 17 lots were sold. Those remaining (but not Spital Lodge) were offered again in the following March.

Spital Lodge was purchased by William Tom Jones solicitor, who was in partnership with John Middleton (the partnership became Banner, Jones and Middleton, now Banner Jones), who lived there until a few months before his death in 1911. His partner John Middleton was Town Clerk of Chesterfield during a period of great change.

His eldest daughter Winifred was a militant suffragette. In October 1909 she threw a stone through a window at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle on the occasion of a visit by Lloyd George.

Lady Constance Lytton was another of the demonstrators and in her book *Prisons and Prisoners* she described the episode and its aftermath.

I was the 'hooligan' if there were one amongst them. One I specially remember. She was pretty, with a

great deal of fair hair. She had not, I thought, the look of determination of silent, unhesitating determination which gave an air of inflexibility to the others, She leaned forward and asked many questions about the wardresses, would they, too, be disagreeable, would they pull down her hair and tear out the tortoise-shell combs? One somehow knew from her voice that she was not ready, she asked her questions as if something of a nightmare was in her mind, they were asked quite simply, but seemed to say, "Oh save me from this!" ... Not long ago Mrs Pethick Lawrence had met her, it was at a bazaar. She wore a big hat and looked as remote as it is possible to look from stone throwing. She expressed the greatest admiration for the militants. "There is only one thing," she said, "which I cannot think worthwhile – that they should go to prison."

The next morning October 9th ... The organizer ... was sending each one to a different place. She said, "There is a stone wants to be put through the door of the Palace Theatre in the Haymarket. ... A firm voice said: "I'll go." ... She picked up two or three papers to sell, and was out in the street before any of us knew what she was doing. Lady Lytton went after her as she felt she was too young to do the work. "That was last night; today is quite different".

The next morning Winifred was charged with having damaged a plate-glass window in the Palace Theatre about 11 50 am on October 9. She pleaded "Guilty" and said that her action was dictated by political motive against the government. She was sent to prison for 14 days with hard labour. Lady Lytton was charged with doing £4 damage to a car (her second offence) was bound over. Mrs Brailsford who struck a barrier with an axe was bound over and released after two and a half days. Winifred (a first offender) was charged with doing £1 damage to a window and was sentenced to 14 days hard labour. The women were committed to Newcastle jail, where they went on hunger strike. Lady Lytton was discharged after two days, the reason given being that she had a weak heart, which annoyed Lady Lytton who wrote a letter to the *Times* complaining that she and Mrs Brailsford had been released whereas Winifred had been jailed for a first offence and a lesser crime.

Winifred was back in Chesterfield in June 1910 where she chaired a meeting addressed by Adela Pankhurst who visited Spital Lodge to take tea.



The following November she was again arrested and charged with willful damage of 10 and 11 Downing Street for which she was fined £5 3s 6d or one month in jail.

Usually suffragettes faced with paying a fine or going to jail chose to go to jail. However her father was unwell and she may have paid her fine instead. Although her obituary, which contains

inaccuracies, says that she was committed to Holloway, it doesn't mention the imprisonment at Newcastle and the photographs of her, wearing her suffragette badge, taken at Batheaston show only one bar for going on hunger strike whereas if she had gone to Holloway she would have had two.



From the website Bath in Time. She is wearing black in mourning for her father who died on January 13th 1911. The photograph was taken by Colonel Linley Blathwayt of Eagle House Batheaston, home of refuge for suffragettes between 1908 and 1912. Suffragettes planted a tree marked by a plaque. Sadly developers tore down the trees and destroyed many of the plaques.

The obituary also says that her Suffragette medal and her Holloway Prison Badge (which showed she was regarded as an ordinary prisoner and not a political prisoner) were exhibits in a Suffragette Museum in London. The obituary also says that her Suffragette medal and her Holloway Prison Badge (which showed she was regarded as an ordinary prisoner and not a political prisoner) were exhibits in a Suffragette Museum in London but The Museum of London, which has the major suffragette collection does not have them.

By now Mrs Jones was not well and she left Spital Lodge to live with her daughters in Chelsea in March 1912 until she died a year later.

In 1912 the *Derbyshire Courier*, carried an article with the heading 'Chesterfield Lady's Banned Play' about 'Edge o' Dark' by Gwen John saying that it was the pen name of a Chesterfield suffragist; Gwen John was the pen-name of Winifred's sister Gladys.

In 1928 a brief news item in the *Times* reported the unveiling of a statue of Queen Elizabeth in a niche above the vestry door of St Dunstan's in the West on Fleet Street, by Dame Millicent Fawcett and mentioning the assistance given by Gwen John and Miss Jones. Given the link with Millicent Fawcett, and Mrs Pethick Lawrence (later Lady Pethick Lawrence) it is possible that Winifred changed from a militant suffragette to a suffragist who used non-violent methods of protest.

The two sisters had a flat in Lincoln's Inn Fields and a country cottage in Burford, Oxfordshire. However they were buried in the family vault in Old Brampton churchyard. When Winifred died her will was in the *Times* she left £44,000! (I think she was the last of the family, they had no brothers.) She left £2000 to the RSPCA subject to the society taking charge of her pets or animals and placing them in country homes. After the rest of her bequests, the residue was left to the Distressed Gentlefolks' Aid Association.



When Spital Lodge was valued about 1910 for the Inland Revenue and Valuation Survey the surveyor was not impressed.

Stone built and grey slated residential house in poor condition and unsuitable situation. Containing small hall, drawing, dining and sitting room on the ground floor, cellar floor contains store, 2 servants' kitchens, pantry and butler's wine cellar. 1st floor 4 bedrooms and bathroom and dressing room, 2nd floor 2 servants' and two store rooms, Outbuildings. Wooden stable now used as a store and wooden coach house now used as a motor store. Very inconveniently designed house.

The property was valued at £1140 of which the buildings were worth £565 and the land £575. No wonder the Jones sisters left.

On 12th September 1911 Captain Sydney McIlree Lomer of the King's Royal Rifle Corps was gazetted Adjutant to the 4th Battalion Sherwood Foresters. He was a wealthy young man with a love of fast (chauffeur-driven) cars, whisky, cigars – and handsome young men!

He made his home at Spital Lodge after Mrs Jones left, and could not have been there for very long when a tragic event occurred. A young rifleman, Robert Buchanan of the 60th Rifles (the King's Royal

Rifle Corps), was found shot dead on June 12th 1912. Buchanan had been staying at the Lodge during a spell of leave. The proceedings of the inquest raised more questions than they answered. There were powder marks from the gun on Buchanan's left hand although he was right-handed. The evidence from the valet and the constable called to the scene differed over the position of the gun. Buchanan was shot through the forehead, a somewhat awkward manoeuvre for a suicide; shooting through the temple would be easier; and no-one seemed to have asked whether the suicide message, which was written



in soap on a mirror, was in Buchanan's writing. No one heard the shot and no mention was made of Lomer's homosexuality, which would have been illegal at the time, and which would no doubt could have caused tensions in a male dominated household. The verdict at the inquest found that he had committed suicide not wishing to return to duty the following day.

Large crowds turned out for the funeral at Spital cemetery. Preceding the gun carriage was a detachment of the Notts and Derby Regiment (Territorials) with arms reversed, clearing a way for the regimental band playing the *Dead March* in Saul. The coffin, on the gun carriage, was draped in the regimental colours. It was followed by Buchanan's father, a veteran, and four brothers all from the same regiment. The committal followed a short service; three volleys were fired over the grave and the last post sounded.

Also at the funeral was a close friend of Lomer, Lionel Charlton, who rose to become to air commodore in the RAF. Writing in 1930, four years after the death of Lomer from throat cancer, Charlton related the devastation felt by Lomer and the distress caused by rumours which circulated afterwards.

Lomer remained at the Lodge as in 1914 he paid for a sumptuous tea served to about 220 children between the ages of 4 and 14 years at the mission church.

He accompanied the regiment to France but was soon forced to return to England having contracted pneumonia. His war service once he had recovered was somewhat varied. Following attachment to the staff of the Sudan Administration (1916-17), he became the 1st Commandant No 2 Officer's Technical Training Wing RFC (1917-18) before he became medically unfit. Finally he commanded 52nd Graduated Battalion K.R.R.C. before finally relinquishing his command March 1919 due to ill health, by which time he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

He translated and published a volume of Ancient Greek erotica under the pseudonym Sydney Oswald and two of his own poems under the same pseudonym were published in an anthology, of WW1 poetry, '*SoldierPoets: songs of the fighting men*'.

He appears to be the last occupant of Spital Lodge. The property was offered for sale October 1937. It was advertised as a

Stone built residence ... situated in grounds, nicely timbered with beech, elm, sycamore and other trees on a corner site having valuable building frontages'. It was probably demolished soon afterwards, some of the stone used to build the houses on Valley Crescent, which replaced it. What stories those stones could tell!

The Great Ejection as experienced in Chesterfield

Rodney Ward

If you go into the Spire and look at the Board inscribed with names of previous incumbents, you will see the name of John Billingsley against the year 1662. After Billingsley's name you will see the word "intruded". Billingsley was counted as an intruder and was one of 2,000 clergy ejected from the Church of England on August 24th 1662, St Bartholomew's Day, known because of this as Black Bartholomew's Day. Along with Billingsley Thomas Ford or Forth was also ejected. He held the office of Lecturer at the Church, Lecturers being appointed by Puritans to propagate their views. In London by 1600 about 100 sermons a *week* were preached by Lecturers (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church p808).

We can find out more about these men from a book written by Dr Edmund Calamy, which gives details of the ejected ministers. This book has been republished as *Calamy Revised* by A. G. Matthews. It is the chapter of his *Abridgement of Baxter's History* entitled *A particular account of the Ministers, Lecturers, Fellows of Colleges, etc, who were silenced and ejected by the Act for Uniformity; with the characters*

and works of many of them (ODCC page 219). Calamy was a Presbyterian who in 1653 *informed Cromwell that public opinion would not support him if he took supreme power* (Barrow p60). He was one of the first to refuse to comply with the Act of Uniformity, and in 1663 was in Newgate prison, *Newgate Street (being) blocked with the coaches of his visitors* (Barrow p67),

From Calamy we learn that Billingsley was born at Chatham in Kent in 1625. He went to Exeter College, Oxford and St John's College, Cambridge, and was made a Fellow of Corpus College, Oxford in 1648. He was ordained by presbyters (that is, not by a Bishop) in 1649, became vicar of Farringdon, Berkshire and then went to Addingham, Cumberland in 1652. This was described as one *of the remote and dark corners of the kingdom to preach the gospel* (DNB p157). Here he instituted catechising and *joined a county association for revival of the 'scriptural discipline of particular church'*. (DNB p157).

Billingsley came to Chesterfield in 1653. He was one of a number of ministers who held disputes with James Naylor, the Quaker in Chesterfield, on 3rd January 1654. Immanuel Bourne, who had been Rector of Ashover, wrote about it in *A defence of the scriptures*, in 1656. There is a portrait of Bourne in *The 'Saints and sinners' of Ashover* (page 52). Billingsley was married to his daughter Mary (Orchard p43).

Billingsley was a moderate Presbyterian. Calamy says that he *Prayed publicly for the King, when it was hazardous to do so. He was summoned before Council to answer charges of misdemeanour 17 September 1659 and Presented at Quarter Sessions, 16 July 1661, for neglecting to read common prayer.* Up and down the country the ejected ministers preached farewell sermons, Billingsley getting into trouble for his. Hackett who was the Bishop of Lichfield, Chesterfield being part of that Diocese, wrote to the Bishop of London on 29th September 1662 saying, *At Chesterfield, the minister Billingsley I convented before me in a Consistory. I convicted him by sufficient witness that in a farewell sermon, August 23, he said, that the prelatical Ministers (Bishops), at least some, were put out for murder, drunkenness, whoredom &c - but such as himself, for being too holy and too careful of Religion.* Hackett says that he disproved this and having rebuked Billingsley, *in fine many tears came down from him and he has given me a very humble confession of his fault.* As this happened after the ejection it would seem that Billingsley was still seen as a minister of the Church of England, otherwise what hold would Hackett have had over him?

Hackett was no doubt right in his reproof but we can feel the hurt that ministers like Billingsley must have felt when they were ejected. Billingsley had been offered preferment, friends urging him to leave Chesterfield, but *he would not yield to a thought of leaving that people, who were dear to him as his own soul, and it was in his heart to live and die with them* (DNB p157). One Farewell Sermon is that by Richard Alleine preached *to the congregation that he had served for over twenty years.* He says that he had to put conscience before anything else and then he says, *This morning I had a flock, and you a pastor; now behold a pastor without a flock, a flock without a shepherd; this morning I had a house, but now I have none; this morning I had a living, but now I have none. 'The Lord hath given, the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord'.*" ("Preaching...")

We know less about Thomas Ford (or Forth) – if that was his name. Douglas Robson gives his name as James Ford. He was a Chesterfield man having been educated at Magdalene College, Cambridge. He became Lecturer on 2nd January 1656 and was Congregational or Independent in his sympathies. Calamy says that he was *Of a melancholy Temper and much inclined to silence; but his Silence was not unfruitful; for his few Words were usually of Worth and Weight. He needed much Intreaty to be brought to his Preaching-Work; but when he was engaged, he made amends to those who had bestow'd Pains to persuade him.* The fact that he was Congregational whereas Billingsley was Presbyterian was a possible source of conflict but Calamy says that he *ever behaved himself with all Meekness, and the highest respect to Mr Billingsley, who was of a different judgement.* We are told that he saw the Bartholomew storms coming and sought to warn his congregation in his sermons preaching on Isaiah 5 verse 6, *I will command the clouds that they rain no Rain upon it.* His sermons were taken down in shorthand and kept

by those who valued them. *He committed all his Sermons to Memory; never using any Notes.*

Similar stories could be told around the country. In Derbyshire 29 ministers were ejected, four of whom later conformed. Most of the ejected ministers were Presbyterian, around 400 being Independents, and 26 Baptists (Underwood p95). At Old Brampton for instance it was Robert Moore who was ejected. At Sheffield the ejection of James Fisher, vicar of Sheffield led to the formation of Upper Chapel, At Selston it was Charles Jackson. At Great Hucklow the Unitarian chapel has its roots in the ejection of William Bagshaw. We remember that the original impetus was Presbyterian and it was only later that some of them became Unitarian. The Act of Uniformity to which they refused to comply demanded *unfeigned assent and consent to all and everything contained and prescribed in and by the book entitled the Book of Common Prayer* (Routley p112-3). Assent to this had to be between May 19th and 24th August. Any who were not ordained by a Bishop by that date *shall be utterly disabled, and all his ecclesiastical Promotions shall be void, as if he was naturally dead* (Routley p113).

What had led up to this point? The story goes back at least to Henry VIII when the Church of England underwent a reformation. This however, didn't satisfy the Puritans emerging in the reign of Elizabeth. An activist movement within the Church of England, they wished to rid the church of things that were not consistent with the Bible. Under Mary Tudor, many leading reformers were martyred. Under Elizabeth, Protestantism was re-established but she passed an Act of Uniformity in 1559 making the use of the Prayer Book obligatory (ODCC p1408). This was not rigidly enforced and many Puritans stayed in the Church until 1662 believing they could influence it. Other Puritans under Elizabeth's reign were more radical, some being Presbyterian and others Separatist. The Separatists called for *reformation without tarrying for any* and were persecuted under Elizabeth (*This Month...* p2). When James I came to the throne things looked more favourable for Puritans but it turned out differently. (Fry p 129) and in 1604, James having come to the throne in 1603, Canons in force led to the expulsion of 300 clergy for failure to comply, among them being John Robinson (Stonehouse p2). Charles I's reign led to the Civil War and his execution in 1649.

Under the Commonwealth from 1649-1660, including Cromwell's Protectorate from 1653-8, and Richard Cromwell's from 1658-60, ministers were appointed in the Church who had not been ordained by a Bishop. Billingsley was ordained at the beginning of the Commonwealth in 1649 and came to Chesterfield in 1653 at the beginning of the Protectorate. In 1660 with the Restoration, Charles II came to the throne and in 1651 The Savoy Conversations were held between Puritans and the Church of England, at the Savoy Palace Only two years before Puritans had drawn up the Savoy Declaration of Faith and Order, giving *a comprehensive plan for the new Church of England derived from the Westminster Confession* (Routley p106). But now this was forgotten and it was the Book of Common Prayer that was the centre of discussion (Routley p106). *Instead of producing peace acrimony was the result and the Conversations broke up in disorder* (Routley p111-112).

In all of this we have to remember that Puritans were more of an ethos than an ideology.

At its centre *was a profound experience of divine grace* (Punshon p11).

This makes the point that *puritan* isn't the opposite of *hedonist* as if the only point of being a puritan was to be a killjoy (*English Dissenters* p3). Punshon says there was *"no consensus among the Puritans as to what actual pattern of church government should replace episcopacy. Some wanted one united national church to which everyone would have to conform but not on an Episcopal pattern. Some wanted 'comprehension' a degree of latitude or toleration, but within this national institution. Others were prepared to accept such arrangements so long as toleration was granted to them outside the national institution ... The Cavalier parliament in 1660 finally settled the point by driving the successors of the Puritans, including Friends, wholly outside the establishment and giving them the status of a permanent minority of dissent, rather than an integral part of national religious arrangements* (p23).

Many of the ejected ministers were not silenced by their ejection, but continued to preach in fields and

homes, as did Billingsley. Consequently the Conventicle Act of 1664 made it a crime not to attend the Parish Church, and for more than five people to assemble for a service, other than a Prayer Book Service. Then in 1665 came the Five Mile Act forbidding a nonconformist minister to come within five miles of any place where he had ever preached, or within five miles of any city or corporate town (Vallance p4). As a result, Billingsley went to live in Mansfield, which wasn't a corporate town.

Because it wasn't corporate eight nonconformist ministers lived there. Calamy says, he *Liv'd in hearty Love and Concord with his Nonconforming Brethren at Mansfield, and other ejected ministers, as he and all of them did with the worthy Minister of the Place, John Firth, who was vicar from 1654-99, who counted it no schism for them to endeavour to help his People in their way to Heaven, as they by their friendly Converse with him, and frequent hearing of him manifested they had no Design of lessening him in their Esteem or Affections.* James Ford didn't go to Mansfield but was in close contact with Billingsley until he died of consumption before he was thirty. Billingsley used to come to Chesterfield once a fortnight to preach and visit the sick, which he did secretly at dead of night. As a result of the fatigue and exposure to all weathers his health was undermined and he died in 1684 at the age of 59. He asked that no funeral address should be given but a consolatory address was preached to his family on the following Sunday.

During all this time after 1662 the Dissenters had no place of worship other than private houses. Things were made easier after Charles II had granted the Declaration of Indulgence in 1672, which allowed five private houses in Chesterfield to be licensed as Conventicler or places of worship, two being Presbyterian and three Independents. One of the houses was owned by the Independent Thomas Ogle who became the first minister of Elder Yard chapel, and another by the Independent George Poynton who was one of the six original trustees (Vallance p5). Thomas Ogle was minister from 1681 to 1703, so he took over from Billingsley before he died, Billingsley probably having to retire early due to ill health. The interesting thing is that by 1694, the date of Elder Yard chapel, Robert Ferne was minister alongside Ogle and he was a Presbyterian. He was also there till 1703. So we have established a joint Presbyterian/ Independent ministry.

1689 was significant because of the Toleration Act passed under William and Mary. We know that at the Revolution House in Old Whittington the plot to oust James II had been hatched, and James was deposed in 1688 (Vallance p4). This meant that Cornelius Clarke of Norton was able in 1692 (just three years later) to set about providing nonconformists with a permanent meeting house. Clarke was the son of Ralph Clarke, first mayor of Chesterfield under a charter of Elizabeth I. Cornelius was High Sheriff of the County of Derby in 1670 and died in 1696. He was able to buy a *parcel of land in or near a place Ellar Yard ...with intent to erect a new building thereon to be a place of Meeting for Dissenting Protestants for Religious Worship* (Vallance page 6). According to Ford's History the cost was £229 10s. 0d. The building was completed in 1694 and certified at the Quarter Sessions at Derby on 17th April 1694, under the Toleration Act of 1689, the original Certificate still being in existence (Vallance page 6).

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Orientations of Anglican Churches in North Derbyshire David Edwards

In theory at least, ancient churches are oriented east-west lengthwise, with the main altar in the chancel at the east end. However, many churches in fact deviate from that ideal, as at Ashover, where the long axis of All Saints is noticeably directed north of east (see below). This example suggested that it might be interesting to look at the orientations of other churches in north Derbyshire.

For this purpose I used the second edition, revised in the late 1890s, of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch mapping, in the digitised version available through the County Library. To define the north of the county for this exercise I took National Grid northing line SK 40 as my southern limit. I included all parish churches that clearly had a medieval origin or were rebuilt on medieval foundations, referring to Pevsner's *Buildings of Derbyshire* if in doubt.

Using the crude method of applying a protractor against the computer screen, with the image of each church magnified four times, I estimated the angle of the long axis to the baseline of the OS sheet, which I assumed to lie exactly east-west. With this method it was hardly possible to read the angle more closely than to the nearest 5 degrees, but that was adequate for the present purpose.

Of sixty-one churches thus examined, I found sixteen aligned fairly accurately east-west (within one or two degrees). They are shown in Table 1,

A further twenty-eight churches deviated from true east by 5 to 10 degrees, leaving seventeen deviating by 15 degrees or more, as shown in Table 2.

Table 1. North Derbyshire churches aligned practically east-west

Bakewell	Beeley	Bradbourne	Clowne
Dronfield	Eckington	Glossop	Great Longstone
Kirk Ireton	Matlock	Monyash	Parwich
Pentrich	Pleasley	Sutton Scarsdale	Taddington

Table 2: North Derbyshire churches deviating most from east–west (angle in degrees and direction of inclination)

Ault Hucknall	15 N
Darley Dale	15 N
Killamarsh	15 N
Pinxton	15 N
Thorpe	15 S
Tissington	15 N

Barlow	20 N
Bonsall	20 N
Eyam	20 S
Hathersage	20 N
Hope	20 S
Brassington	25 N

Kniveton	25 N
Youlgreave	25 N
Ashover	30 N
Beighton	30 N
S. Wingfield	30 S

Of the churches looked at with deviations of 5 degrees or more, twice as many were inclined northward as southward. Figure 1 shows two of the extreme examples: Ashover and South Wingfield.

A sample of four other churches in the south of the county revealed similar variations: Melbourne due east; Norbury 5° N; Repton 10° N; Ashbourne 10° N. Small-scale plans of four English cities showed that even cathedrals are not immune from misalignment: those at Canterbury and Exeter appear to face due east, but Norwich is inclined northward and Winchester even more markedly southward.

Among more modern churches, examples can be found where the east–west tradition has been abandoned altogether, as in the rebuilding in the 1890s of St Werburgh, Derby, where the altar is now on the north and the old chancel is merely a side-chapel, and in the 1960s extension at Wingerworth, which also runs north–south.

There may be various reasons why some churches do deviate so much from east–west, such as the particular topography of the ground or a restriction imposed by neighbouring buildings. Either of these might explain the Ashover situation, but the latter hardly seems likely at South Wingfield, where the church – at least, as it now stands – is quite isolated.

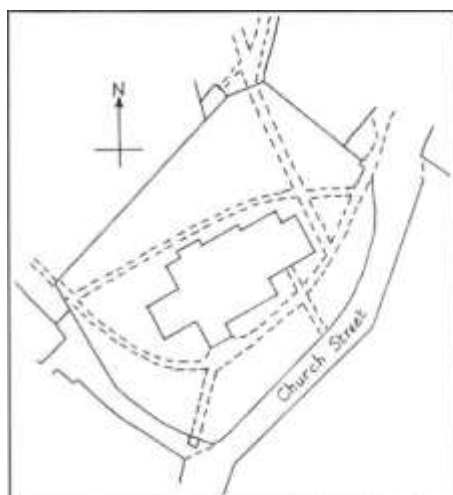


Figure 1 a. (far left) Outline plans of All Saints' church, Ashover (above, scale c. 1:1100) And Figure 1 b. (left) All Saints' church, South Wingfield (below, scale c. 1:1550), from OS 1:2500 survey, 2nd ed., Derbyshire sheets XXX-9 and XXXV-10 respectively

**Mr. Robert Eyre, Manufacturer & Wholesale Merchant,
Ryland Works : Ironmonger and Hardware Dealer.**

Contributed by Doug Spencer

It is generally admitted on all hands, that during the next few decades the commercial status of Chesterfield is likely to increase by leaps and bounds. Mr. Robert Eyre, with whose business we have now to deal, appears to have anticipated this advance by about ten years, It is little more than that time since he first commenced business in a small way in Knifsmith Gate, since which a sketch of his career affords all apt illustration of what it is possible to achieve out of small beginnings. At the first commencement he adopted "Forward" as his motto and trade mark; a perusal of these lines will shew that it has been an appropriate one. From time to time as business increased small additions to stock and premises were made, but still they were all too limited to admit of real expansion; the outcome of this was the design and building of the fine premises now known as Ryland Works, Church Walk. These consist of a very handsome block of buildings having a large double-frontage of 60 feet in each direction. They are situated close to the Midland and M.S.L. Railway Stations, and serve to impress a visitor on first arrival with a fair idea of the importance of Chesterfield's commercial enterprise. Each floor of the building is devoted in entirety to a special line of goods, sufficient space being afforded, not only for an elaborate display, but for a careful inspection by would-be purchasers. The basement is entirely devoted to wood-ware, matting, and kindred articles, an enormous stock being kept of door-mats in every variety; shovels, brooms, buckets, &c., &c. On the first floor is shown what can be done by a single firm in pushing the sale of shoe-brushes, cloth-brushes, painters' brushes; also wire-netting, paint in tins, and other special goods; something like one thousand pounds' worth of brushes is about the average stock here in this particular line, and as it is continually being exhausted and replenished, it is easy to form some idea of the general spirit of activity which prevails, The tin works introduces us to Mr. Eyre's manufacturing premises, Here the din is incessant, and the place represents a perfect hive of industry. The whole of the tin ware sold by Mr. Eyre is manufactured on the premises, and to this end all the most modern appliances in the way of machinery adapted to the saving of labour have been utilized. On the second floor a much brighter scene is presented, fancy goods of all descriptions being literally stored by thousands. Not the least of these are the Vienna regulator clocks, clocks also from America, France, Germany, and other countries, all imported direct from the manufacturers. It does not speak well, perhaps, for English production that nearly the whole of these articles owe their origin to foreign nations, at the same it shows enterprise on the part of those merchants, who, failing to satisfy public requirements in the home market, are content to lay the whole world under requisition. In the matter of ornaments, for instance, Bohemia supplies the greatest portion, and Mr. Eyre recently informed an inquirer that though similar articles might be procured in England it would be at greatly increased prices, and that the only way in which he could give satisfaction to his customers was to import them from abroad, his reward, he is stated to have added, comes in the fact that he disposed of something like a thousand pounds worth of these goods within two months. From this it would appear that cheapness is a key to a large sale, and certainly the prices at which the various articles are quoted cannot fail to commend them to moderately filled purses. For all this, English manufacturers are not overlooked, and amongst the other goods we find a large assortment of fenders and stoves from Dudley, in the black country, miscellaneous articles from the Manchester manufacturers, and cutlery from the leading works in Sheffield; also a comprehensive selection of the well-known Bilston cannon hollow ware, for which goods Mr Eyre holds the sole agency for a large district. The top floor is devoted to lighter goods, amongst which, clothes-baskets and other household requisites form an essential part.

The great show, however, in this department is of lamps; these are in every possible variety home-make

and foreign, some, indeed, of mixed nationality, as, for instance, where West Bromwich stands are united to Bohemia glass reservoirs, while the chimneys are natives of Austria, Belgium, or Germany. It may be a pity perhaps, that glass reservoirs are still to be in lamps used for the consumption of oils, but it can scarcely be avoided as long as metal reservoirs are beyond the reach of the working man. It is true Mr. Eyre minimises this defect as much as possible by using the burners manufactured in Birmingham, which are made with a view to ensuring safety as far as possible. One other line we may mention is petroleum and other oils, stored in immense quantities, a speciality being made of "White Rose Oil" the highest grade of lamp oil produced from petroleum, which, whilst the safest oil in the market, is also the only one that can really be said to be entirely free from all objectionable odour. It would be in vain to endeavour to estimate the number or value of lamps included in Mr Eyre's stock, something like thirty tons we were told at the time of our visit. Of course these are not all the cheap kinds alluded to above, many of the most exquisite designs being found amongst them. There are many other varieties of article in stock to which we have not alluded, such as albums, drawing room and mantel-piece ornaments, brackets and children's slates, the latter being by no means an un-important item. They are ordered direct from the manufacturers in Wales, and Mr Eyre has frequent consignments of not less than two or three tons at a time. In going over the works we hardly know which to admire the most, the spirit with which Mr Eyre appears to manufacture for himself those articles or portions of articles which are costly to obtain elsewhere, or the facility with which he avails himself of the products of other manufacturers. Nothing is too large or too small to escape the attention of such a man as this, and it has only to come to his ears, through his travellers or otherwise, that such and such an article would find ready acceptance among his customers for it to be at once added to the stock.

But Mr Eyre does not confine himself to the manufacturing or even wholesale branches of trade, having a large retail house at Knifesmith Gate and Cavendish Street where every article either manufactured or stored, may be procured, That these shops are well stocked goes without telling, the stores from which the articles are drawn being so inexhaustible as practically to leave nothing to be desired on this head. Then, again, Mr Eyre's methods of business, his knowledge of the markets, enable him to afford even the smallest purchaser cash advantages which a tradesman in a smaller way of business would be quite unable to compare with. Mr Eyre occupies several public offices in the town, and his future success is a matter of public importance.

Taken from "Chesterfield Illustrated, its History, Trade and Commerce" published c1892 by Robinson, Son & Pike, 38 Duke Street, Brighton

The Women's Land Army 1939-1950: Forgotten Heroines *Ernest Burdis*

In September 2012 members of the Society enjoyed a talk by Betty Bowler, who told of her time in the Women's Land Army. However she gave us little background information about the Land Army. The following is an article which appeared in the Journal of the Friends of Bushey Museum in Autumn 2000. As I was editor of the Journal at the time I have given permission for it to be reproduced here! (Janet Murphy)

At the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, 70% of Britain's foodstuffs were imported. There were some 700,000 agricultural workers, many of whom would be called up into the armed forces. German U-boats were targeting ships in the Atlantic and early in the war, in one month alone, 275 merchant ships were sunk. Against this background and the Government's requirement for 50,000 agricultural workers, the Women's Land Army was reborn on 1st June 1939; reborn, because it had already been established during World War I, when 23,000 women worked on the land. It came under

the Women's Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture and set out to recruit young women between the ages of 17½ and 40 years. This was met by prejudice from the farmers and trade unions and the Government's failed to counter negative publicity in the farming press – "Women are unsuitable for land work".

The first Director was Lady Denman and she organised the Women's Land Army on county lines by appointing chairmen and establishing its headquarters at her grand home at Balcome Place, Sussex. By the end of 1939, some 17,000 volunteers had enrolled and 4,500 were placed in work. One criticism of the recruitment drive was that the posters urging enlistment were over-glamorised and did not show the real dirty and heavy work to be done. Britain's agricultural industry was run down and primitive. Fewer than 50% of farms had piped water and only 25% electricity.



The girls came from many and varied backgrounds, secretaries, factory workers, hairdressers, domestic servants etc. but rather than be conscripted into other services, they chose the outdoor life of the Land Army. Although at first many were shocked at the unexpected conditions they faced, they soon settled down and most were never to regret their choice, many looking back now with happy memories.

All volunteers had to sign a 'Form of Undertaking' to promise to hold themselves available for service on the land for the period of the War and wherever they were required to work. The slogan "Stick to it" came to reflect the importance of the war effort in the fields.

By May 1940, 6,000 volunteers had been placed in the south of England; there was far less prejudice from farmers there than in the north. Many girls came from Lancashire and Yorkshire and particularly from the cotton mills.

A minimum wage of 28s (£1.40 in today's coinage) for a 48 hour week was set with 8d (3p) per hour overtime. This rate was 10s (50p) below the male rate, 13s were deducted for accommodation. As a comparison with the girl's former earnings, secretaries were paid about £4 per week in London and domestic servants (in living-in posts) 7s 6d per week.

At first uniform was in short supply due to other services having first priority on materials, but at some stage girls received a free issue of mackintosh, overcoat, two fawn shirts, corduroy breeches, green pullover, three pairs of fawn stockings, heavy brown shoes, gum boots, a brown felt hat, green armlet with a red royal crown on it and a badge. Girls who worked in harsher climates received a windcheater jumper! Volunteers had to give up 10 of their own clothing coupons each year.

After initial training, either at agricultural college, farm institute or on a farm (not all girls received

this), the work undertaken ranged from milking, milk rounds, fruit growing, market gardening, poultry farming, tractor driving, sheep farming, land reclamation, forestry, threshing, thatching, rat catching to general work including mucking out and muck spreading.

Volunteers lived in hostels (30/40 in each one), or were billeted on the farm or with private landladies. By 1944, 696 hostels were set up for 22,000 volunteers. Accommodation and treatment varied from place to place and the wardens had their own ideas about rules, discipline and welfare. Food was good, bad or indifferent and quantities not always generous. Beetroot was a common and regular ingredient in sandwiches to be taken for lunch.

Some accommodation was in Nissen huts with only one stove for heating and drying clothes. Lighting was by oil lamps, baths a luxury and difficulties with laundry part of everyday life. However there was some fun and social life for those girls in better hostels in terms of parties and entertaining boyfriends on site. Towns and villages also held regular dances and there was the cinema if you could get back before curfew or otherwise you'd be locked out! If there was no bus, cycles were used, a hazardous journey in the dark because of the blackout regulations.

Each county had a secretary, who was responsible for general welfare, assisted by a local representative who was supposed to pay regular visits to the workplace to check on the girl's wellbeing. If complaints were serious enough the farmer could lose Land Girl help for the duration. However well intentioned, visits did not always take place and girls were sometimes badly treated on farms for long periods, some becoming ill and forced into hospital or leaving the Land Army.

In July 1942 the county minimum wage was set at 32s (£1.60) per week for 48 hours. During this period it is revealing to note that farmers' incomes were rising rapidly. From 1939 to 1942 they rose 207%.* The Land Army minimum wage rose from 32s to 48s over five years but 20s were deducted for accommodation.

In April 1940 the *Land Girl* magazine was launched with a circulation of 21,000, at 3d per copy. It ran until the last issue in March, some seven years later. The magazine was a very effective way of communicating with volunteers throughout England, Wales and Scotland, with reports from each county, news from HQ, tips on making things, make do and mend, spit and polish, care of hands, tips on tractor driving, rallies and messages from government ministers of the day.

A special section of the Land army called the Timber Corps was formed in 1942. At that time 90% of Britain's timber was imported. 6,000 volunteers were recruited. Between 1941-6 almost a third of Britain's trees were felled. Every volunteer saved 50 tons of shipping a year. Timber provided pit props, telegraph poles, ships masts, newsprint etc.

Exhaustive efforts were made by Lady Denham to improve the conditions of service for the girls as it was clear that they were unfairly treated compared with the other services. Winston Churchill and the Cabinet continually refused to make any concessions on war gratuities and a disappointed Lady Denham resigned her position as Director in June 1945.

Little has been said about accidents which occurred amongst Land Army Girls: some fatal, others disabling with long-term effects. It seemed that any publicity was discouraged and any compensation was hardly considered or felt necessary. Girls were exposed to real danger in some parts of the country. During the summer of 1940 and the Battle of Britain, girls worked in fields during dog fights overhead in the triangle between Romney Marsh and Dover. Casualties amongst the Land Army girls were thankfully few.

Altogether 200,000 volunteers served for varying periods in the Land Army. The peak was reached in 1943 at 83,000 in work. From November 1945, the Government allowed those who wished to stand down, but it was soon realised that 30,000 new volunteers were required. Some men from the armed forces never returned to the land either by choice or because they had become casualties; and prisoners-of-war in this country were being repatriated. The Women's Land Army was to be

needed at least until 1948. The Land Army took part in the Victory Parade in July 1946. On 30th November 1950 the Land Army disbanded after 11 glorious years and the girls marched to Buckingham Palace for the King's inspection and expression of the nation's gratitude.

After the war was over the Queen Mother became the patron and reunions were held at the Royal Albert Hall before moving to Birmingham. On the day that the Queen celebrated her Golden Wedding, she awarded the Defence Medal to all those who had worked in the Women's Land Army.

*This does not mean that all farmers were wealthy! Farm incomes during the twenties and thirties were very low. During the twenties, many small farmers were made bankrupt and much land went out of cultivation. My grandfather's farm survived, partly because it was a mixed farm, and partly because no one was employed as his two sons worked on the farm —without wages! There was little surplus income to pay off the debts or to invest in new machinery. In 1929, cereal prices fell yet again to be followed by other prices, reaching their lowest point in the early 1930s. At this time, Russian wheat was being bought for use on the farm at eighteen shillings a quarter (of a hundredweight) so that the farm's own could be sold at nineteen shillings a quarter. A great deal of wheat was carried by the two boys for just a shilling a quarter profit.

The Late Alderman Spooner's Estate

From the Derbyshire Times 26th July 1919

Contributed by Alec Jackson

Various properties belonging to the estate of the late Alderman W. Spooner situate in different districts of Chesterfield were offered for sale by Mr. E. S. Mitchell at the Hotel Portland Chesterfield on Thursday. A shop and dwelling house with stable, outbuildings and a close of grassland situated at the corner of Storforth Lane and Warwick Street in the occupation of Mr S, Wynne at a yearly rent of £29-18-0d the tenant paying the rates on the house and outbuildings sold to Mr. T. S. Wilcockson for £600.

A shop, dwelling house, stable and yard at the corner of Storforth Lane and Warwick Street let to Mr. E. Binns, producing a yearly income of £20-16-0d landlord paying the rates was sold to Mrs. H. Dickens for £300

Two semi-detached houses with stable, pig-cote and outbuilding situate at the corner of Storforth Lane and Rothervale Road at a rental of £33-16-0d per annum went to Mr. W. N. Randall for £350.

No 76/78 Rothervale Road producing a yearly income of £28-12-0d realised £280 Mr. Oliver Kirk being the purchaser.

Two similar houses 72 /74 Rothervale Road producing £28-12-0d per annum to Mr. H. Dolman for £290.

A plot of building land consisting of 519 square yards situated in Storforth Lane was purchased by Mr. J. Cauldwell for £31, whilst another plot of 820 square yards at the corner of Rothervale Road and King Street went to Mr. Fretwell for £47-10-0d.

Two semi-detached houses No. 13/15 King Street producing a gross yearly income of £29-18-0d went to Mr. Cauldwell for £440.

Messrs H. E. Ward and Co. for £510 purchased 15 Lincoln Street with outbuildings and a close of grassland in the occupation of Mr. H. E. Cowley at a yearly rent of £23. A close of grassland consisting of 4 acres and 28 perches off Rothervale Road at a yearly rent of £15 realised £380 to Mr. T. S. Wilcockson.

No. 1/3 Valley Road and 10 Spital Lane were sold to Mrs. Dickens for £515 the annual rental is £65.

Six houses No's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Spital Gardens off Alexandra Road went to Mr. M. H. Dolman for £660 the

yearly income is E65-16-0d.

A building site consisting of 456 square yards at the corner of Hasland Road and Hampton Street was sold to Mr. W. H. Brown for £120 whilst a plot of building land with outbuildings off Boythorpe Road of 570 square yards went to Mr. T. S. Wilcockson for £90 the annual rent being £6-10-0d.

The residence at Gold Well Bank, Ashgate Road, with outbuildings, gardener's cottage and garden remained unsold the highest bid being £2,425. Other lots withdrawn were No's 7, 9, 11, 13 Lincoln Street and the Main Road farm situated on Derby Road with buildings all within an area of 18 acres.

Wingerworth's Quarter-Milestones

David G. Edwards

The parish of Wingerworth possesses a number of stone mile-posts standing by the roadside which bear simple numerals, inscribed without any lettering. Some of the figures are whole numbers, others are a whole number plus a fraction: $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$. They obviously mark distances in multiples of a quarter of a mile from some point or other. The question is: exactly which point? And when were the posts erected, and for what purpose?

I did not discover answers to the first and third of these questions until 1977, a whole decade after I had begun historical research on Wingerworth. Early that year I notified Derbyshire County Council of the existence of eleven such stones, for inclusion in the County Treasures Survey.¹ Their positions are shown on Map 1 (they are not marked on any OS map, incidentally). Later in 1977 I noticed that one of them, inscribed with the numeral 2, had been dumped in the ditch on Longedge Lane, at the end of the drive to the former Woodside Cottages. That pair of cottages, at one time attached to Lydgate Farm, lay next to Upper Speighthill Wood and had been demolished in 1972-3. At my behest, the Council recovered the stone and re-erected it on the opposite side of the road, where it now stands.

To mark that event, the Council issued a press release, resulting in a report in the *Derbyshire Times* of Friday, 9 September² incorporating the photograph shown in Figure 1. I also had an interview with BBC Radio Sheffield, broadcast on the Tuesday the 6th. This publicity elicited three responses, only one of which proved to be relevant; the others merely referred either to boundary posts or the well-known story about the French prisoners of war invited to Wingerworth Hall.

The one relevant response was a letter to the County Council from Mr Henry Norman of Highfields Farm, Walton, who remembered what his father – a lifelong resident in Wingerworth – had told him about the quarter-milestones. According to him, they were erected to assess payments due for the cartage of cinders from the Wingerworth Iron Company's works on Storforth Lane (Map 2) and used to repair the roads and lanes in Wingerworth. The carters, or maybe the company itself, were presumably paid either by the Hunlokes or out of the parish rates (Re Map 2, note that by 1898 the works had been taken over by the Markham concern. hence the name Broad Oaks.)

I had previously located a possible point of origin of the distances at the junction of Jawbones Hill on Derby Road with Baden Powell Road, but there seemed no particular reason for that and Mr Norman's explanation, that the zero point was the ironworks, appeared much more sensible. And it was supported by the fact that Wingerworth Iron Co. did advertise the availability of 'cinders' (presumably crushed blast-furnace slag and the like) for road-mending.

One small problem remained as to the exact point of origin: careful measurement along likely routes through the village to the milestones showed that the numerals they display are somewhat greater than the distance to the junction of Derby Road with Storforth Lane, at which corner was the main

entrance to the works, as seen in Map 2a any rate as shown on the second edition, 1898, of the Ordnance Survey 25-inch mapping (which incidentally does not mark the quarter-milestones). The discrepancy varies from one stone to another, between one-third and two-fifths of a mile, more than the distance along Storforth Lane to the eastern boundary of the works. However, it could be accounted for if the cinders had first to be conveyed along a circuitous route through the works or if the cinder dump was some distance beyond.

There remains the second of the three questions posed in the first paragraph: when were the stones erected? Wingerworth Iron Company was established about 1845 by James Yates Rotherham, ironmaster, who formed a partnership with his brother-in-law Thomas Carrington of Holywell House, Chesterfield. We therefore have an earliest date for the stones. The fact that three of them were situated on the Birkin Lane turnpike (Temple Normanton to Buntingfield Nook) suggests that they postdate 1884, when that turnpike trust was wound up. On the other hand, it is more likely that they were installed well before the County Council was established in 1889, either during the 'interregnum' in Hunloke rule, 1856-1864 –when several improvements were made to property on the Wingerworth estate, or at the behest of Frederick and Adelaide when they succeeded to the estate in 1864. Unfortunately that supposition cannot be confirmed from the available estate or parish records, but at least no relevant payments appear in the only existing Hunloke account book, that for July 1864 to March 1865.

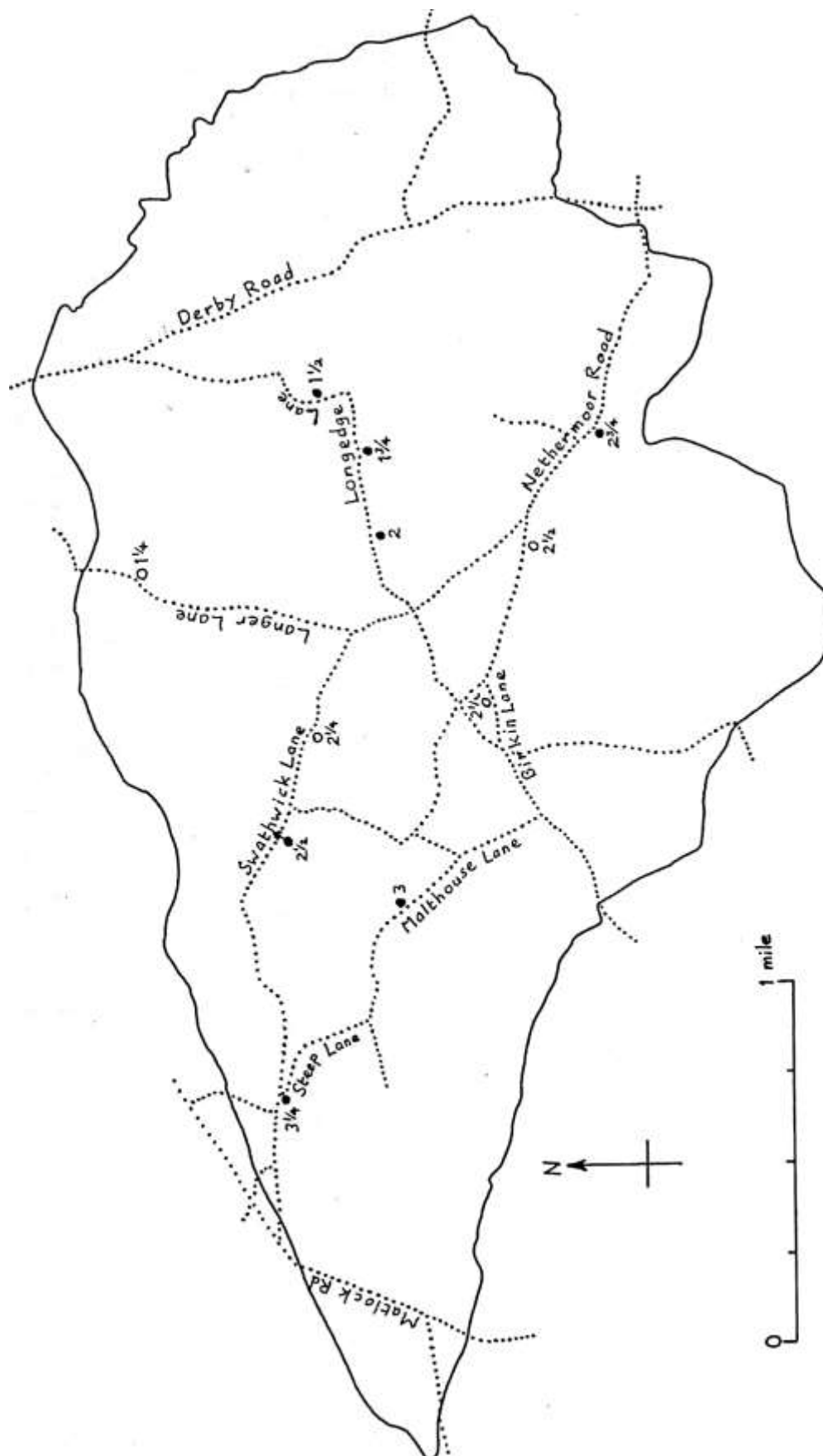
The quarter-milestones were no doubt fashioned at the stone sawmill on Pearce Lane in Wingerworth, operated by the stone merchants who lived at Bole Hill Farm. In succession, these were Jesse Rutherford (d. 1858), his son William (departed in the 1870s), James Margereson (census 1881), and Booth Waddington (censuses 1891 and 1901). The stone used appears to be the fine-grained sandstone of the Wingfield Flags as quarried at Bole Hill.

Details of the stones are shown in Table 1, and illustrations of the seven that have survived to 2012 in Figures 1 to 7. As can be seen from the photographs, the stones are chamfered at the top in two directions: at the front and the sides, but not at the rear. The engraving of the numerals is not uniform in quality, that of the '1 1/2' (Fig. 4) being the neatest. The stones now protrude to various heights above ground, and their other dimensions also vary somewhat. Figure 8 is a dimensioned idealised sketch of the 2-mile post.

1. Derbyshire Record Office, D6939/2/3/1 73 (letter to the author from H. Cowley, County Planning Officer, acknowledging my information) [NB the file D6939/2/3 remains in the author's hands at the time of writing]
2. *Derbyshire Times* (1977), 9 September, 2
3. Derbyshire Record Office, D6939/2/3/1 79 (letter to the author from the late S. L. Garlic of Hasland)
4. *Derbyshire Times* (1977), 16 September, 2
5. Derbyshire Record Office, D6939/2/3/1 78; *Derbyshire Times* (1977), 30 September, 2
6. *Derbyshire Times* (1878), 20 November, 2
7. Derbyshire sheet XXV-10
8. Yates himself, see *Ivanhoe Review* (Rotherham Central Library magazine) (1991), no. 1, 26-33; for the factory workers)
9. D. G. Edwards, *The Hunlokes of Wingerworth Hall*, 2nd ed. (1976) (copy with annotations available for consultation on a CD at Chesterfield Local Studies Library)¹⁰Chesterfield Local Studies Library
- 10 Hunloke Collection, HUNS 5

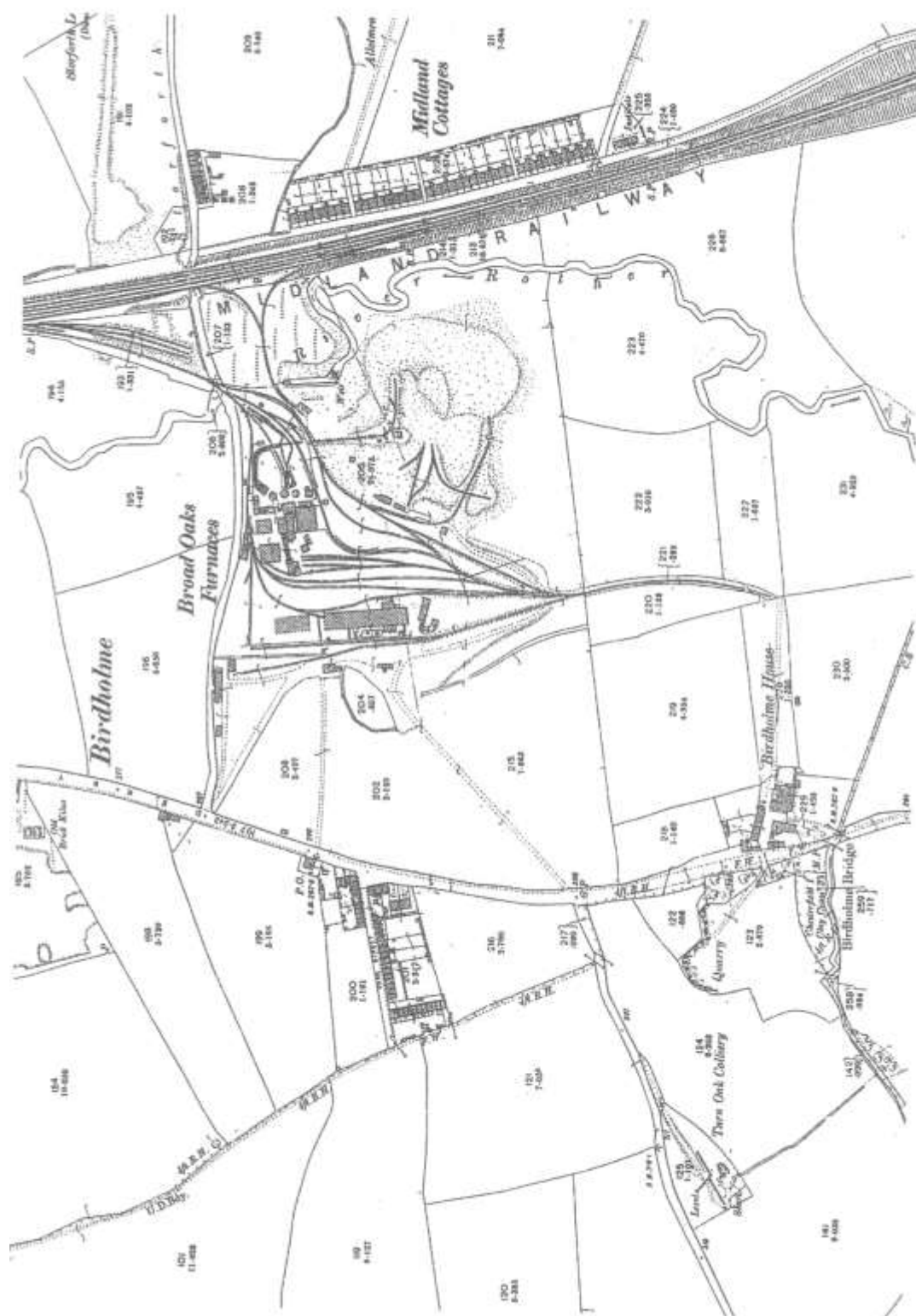
Table 1. Details of the Wingerworth quarter-milestones observed by the author

Stone	Mileage	Location	Comments
A. Still standing in 2012			
1	3¼	Top of Steep Lane SK 3517 6784	Figure 2
2	2¾	Outside Rose Cottage, 44 Nethermoor Road SK 3804 6644	Figure 3 Restored with steel pins by Phil Toft of Rose Cottage, after a vehicle had collided with it.
3	3	Malthouse Lane, N side between Great Pond dam and Stubbing Court entrance SK 3610 6715	Figure 4 Leaning to one side and often overgrown.
4	1½	Longedge Lane, E side, N of church lychgate SK 3³823 6767	Figure 5
5	1¾	Longedge Lane, S side near top of Black Hill, part of retaining wall SK 3798 6745	Figure 6
6	2	Longedge Lane, S side, E of Allendale Road SK 3762 6740	Figure 1 Originally on N side, at drive to former Woodside Cottages
7	[2½]	Swathwick Lane, N side, outside Swathwick Farm SK 3630 6785	Figure 7 Face spalled: mileage figure no longer visible.
B. Seen in the late 1960s but since disappeared			
8	[1¼]	Langer Lane, E side, c. 200 m s of Birdholme Brook SK 3747 6848	Face spalled: mileage figure no longer visible; stone disappeared during pavement renovation.
9	2½	Birkin Lane, S side, c. 100 m west of New Road junction SK 3758 6670	Brought to my attention by the County Planning Officer; disappeared when new entrance made to Belfit Hill Farm.
10	2½	Birkin Lane, N side, c. 70 m W of Pearce Lane junction SK 3685 6687	Leaning badly when last seen 1980s; might still be found
11	2¾	Swathwick Lane, S side, W corner of Wren Park Wood SK 3670 6770	Disappeared when Chartwell Avenue extended to this point.



Map 1. Plan of Wingerworth parish (pre-1935 boundaries) showing positions of quarter-milestones.

Key: ●, standing in 2012; ○, disappeared since late 1960s



Map 2. Part of OS 25-inch sheet XXV-10, 2nd ed., 1898, showing part of Birdholme including the ironworks formerly belonging to Wingerworth Iron Company on Storforth Lane (in Hasland parish at that time). Scale of this image: approx. 16 inches to 1 mile



Figure 1. The author with the re-erected 2-mile post on Longedge Lane in 1977 (photo: Derbyshire Times)



Figure 2. The 3¼-mile post at the top of Steep Lane (author's photo 1999)



Figure 3. The 2¼-mile post outside Rose Cottage, Nethermoor Road (author's photo 1999)



Figure 4. The 3-mile post on Malthouse Lane, south of the Great Pond (author's photo 1999)



Figure 5. The $1\frac{1}{2}$ -mile post on Longedge Lane, north of the churchyard lychgate (author's 2002)



Figure 6. The $1\frac{3}{4}$ -mile post on Longedge Lane, near the top of Black Hill (author's photo 2001)



Figure 7. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ -mile post on Swathwick Lane, outside Swathwick Farm (author's photo 1998)

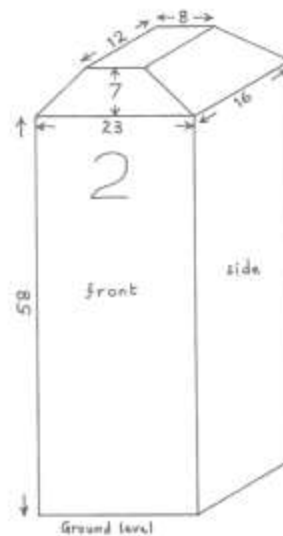


Figure 8. Idealised sketch of the 2-mile post, with dimensions in centimetres