



Our Heritage Matters

Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society

When you cease to enquire, stupidity has you in its grasp.

Volume 12, Issue 1

March 2021

Highlights of this Month's Magazine

Pub of the Month

Halfway House, Kingsthorpe



Delapre Abbey 1954



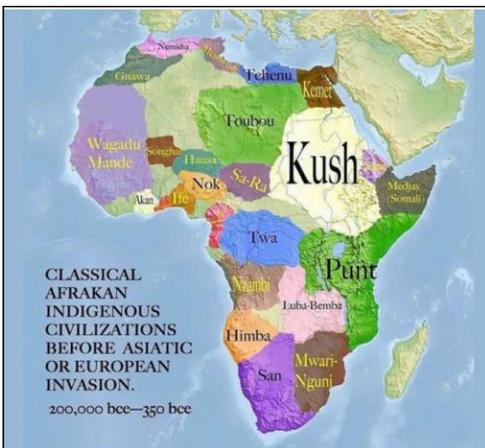
Parish Workhouses and the Old Poor Law



Northampton Iron Foundries



The Untold History of Africa



The Drill Hall



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Notes from the Editor

If anyone has anything, they think would be of interest to our members either that they can create or would be interested in, then do let the chairman know as below. We would also really like a few extra helpers – you don't have to be on the Committee – to especially help with research to help produce this newsletter! Contact Peter Alexander (the Society Chairman) at chairman@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk or enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk

Jon Bailey

Executive Editor: Peter Alexander
Editor: Jon Bailey
Chief Researcher: Robert Vaughan

Society Meetings

Open to all: non-members just £4 including refreshments and members £3. The full programme can be found on our website www.cogenheheritage.org.uk



Cogenhoe and Whiston Heritage Society



AGM followed by Pictures of old Northampton



**Join our free Zoom talk by Richard Deacon
on Wednesday 10th March at 7.30pm**

We have a short Annual General Meeting and then Richard will present a talk and selection of photographs of Northampton in years gone by, evoking memories for many, of the 1950s and 60s. They have been seen before, but not by the Society, nor in this format, plus some exciting plans for the development of the town centre.

**The Zoom link will be published on
www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk**

Zoom on Churches

On 10th February, Douglas Goddard gave a Zoom presentation on Northamptonshire Churches.

Medieval Churches of Northamptonshire



We heard how churches can sometimes be the evidence for lost villages, moved villages and the good quality stone found in Northamptonshire – indeed we saw a Roman era Limestone quarry which provisioned not just Northamptonshire but also Oxford and Cambridge.

The glorious evidence of churches and their interiors shows the huge wealth of religious establishments -which eventually came into the avaricious focus of Henry VIII.

The very special Saxon church of the 900s at Brixworth has Roman bricks 'borrowed' from Leicester, and the Saxon church tower at Earls Barton is probably the best example in the country.

Hands up if you knew that our Holy Sepulchre church can show the origin of the saying '*the weakest go to the wall*' If you are curious about this, then you can watch the recorded presentation on YouTube at these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGWhJltPN5I>



It's worth watching just for the brilliant photographs. Well done Douglas.

You can find out more about Northamptonshire's churches at this website:

<https://www.northamptonshiresurprise.com/crm-categories/things-to-do/churches/>



Zoom into the AGM 10th March 2021



**Cogenhoe and Whiston
Heritage Society**

Proceedings to be conducted by Peter Alexander.



The AGM will be *acceptably brief* and precede the monthly talk at 7.30pm.

It is important that as many members as possible 'attend' please to receive the officers reports, elect committee members and make decisions about the society

See our website for Zoom link details. Paperwork will be made available prior to the meeting.

<http://www.cogenhoeheritage.org.uk/>



Pub of the Month - Halfway House, Kingsthorpe, Northampton

The Half-Way House was an odd pub in some ways. It is unclear how the name was derived as it wasn't half way between any seemingly identifiable locations and not really in Kingsthorpe. Plus no one knows when it came about except the earliest mention found is 1839. Not to be confused with The Half-Way house up the next road (Welford Road) or the next Half-Way House further on the journey at Crick (regular readers will remember that Crick was where the villian was caught in the article on the *first police car chase*). However, matters are these days somewhat clearer as Half-Way House, Kingsthorpe is demolished, Half-Way House, Welford Road is now The Windmill, leaving just the Half-Way House Crick – except that, unfortunately, the pub has also gone and seems doomed to just remain commemorated as a bus stop.



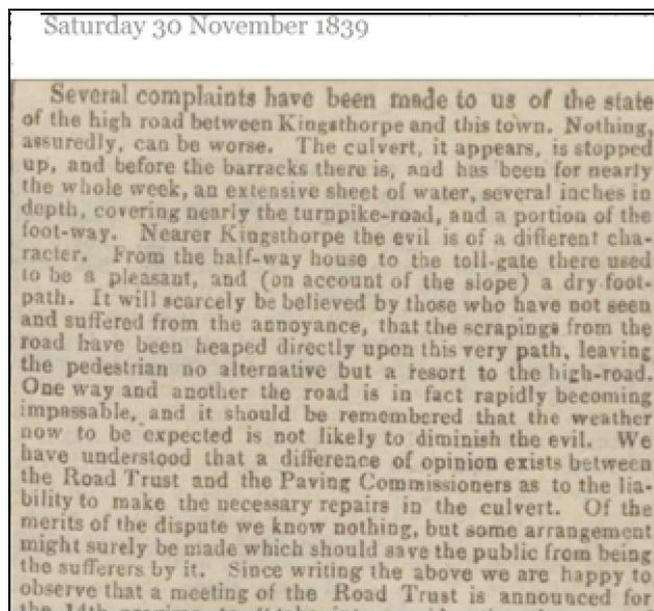
Maybe there is a vacant niche in the market here to be exploited?

Anyway, this was the Half-Way House Kingsthorpe in 1968.

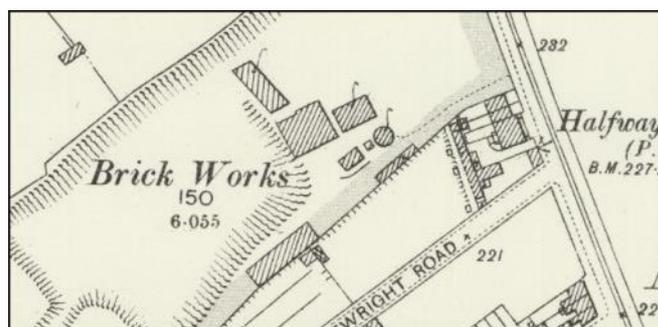


At this time, it was a Watney's house and they owned the residential house next door. In the early 1970s I remember borrowing the keys and having a look and speculating whether, if I bought that house, would the landlord let me fit a hatch or pipe for personal beer service! Looking now at stonework in this photo, I would be inclined to date it as 1700s.

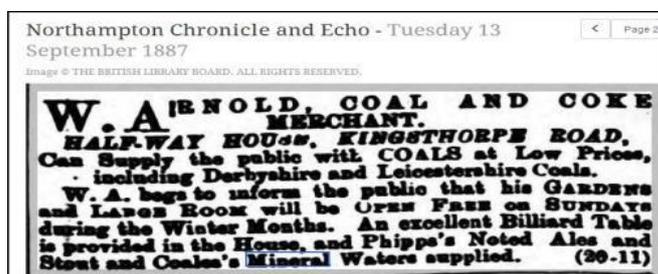
However, this is the first reference that can be found in newspapers. Unfortunately, this is in the nature of a long complaint about the condition of highways and footpaths in that locale. And then the problem, still prevalent in modern times, of 'authorities' not wanting to volunteer to be the responsible body.



There had to be some reason for a pub of that considerable size, but without the settled population being able to sustain itself. It was in a considerable plot, and whilst that was its ultimate downfall for redevelopment, it provided grounds for use as sports and entertainment.



Though in 1887, it also seems to be the home of a coal merchant.



The area at the rear was developed into substantial gardens in 1860, like Franklins Gardens, and it came to prominence for events such as running and boxing.

The *assault at arms* mentioned in this report means a public contest in which individual boxers, wrestlers and fencers of various weights and classes are matched.

Saturday 20 April 1889

RUNNING AND BOXING AT THE HALF-WAY HOUSE.

On Saturday an assault-at-arms and the second round and final of a 200 yards handicap took place at the Half-way House. Mr. Maris officiated as handicapper and starter, and the duties of referee were discharged by Mr. T. Mawby. The heats were won as follows:—Heat 1: 1 G. Payne, Harpole, 25 yards start; 2 A. Hewlett, 25½. Won by six inches.—Heat 2: 1 H. Ekins, 34; 2 W. Faulkner, Harpole, 34; 3 T. Faulkner, 36. Won by a yard and half.—Heat 3: 1 T. Smith, 39; 2 J. Leeson, Harpole, 34½; 3 P. Worth, 30. Smith won easily by about two yards.—Heat 4: 1 A. Fritty, London, 18½; 2 O. Slater, 34. This was also won easily.—In the final Fritty won by about two yards, Ekins and Smith being separated by about half a yard, while Payne brought up the rear. The prizes were—1st, £2; 2nd, 12s. 6d.; 3rd, 5s.; and 4th, 2s. 6d.—The boxing contest under Marquis of Queensberry's rules, was between A. Bradshaw and R. Gordon, the prize being a purse given by a well-known sportsman. Bradshaw was slightly the heavier of the two, but Gordon had the advantage in height. The boxing was very severe throughout, and in the fifth round Gordon was brought to "earth" by a heavy blow on the nose. He got up very dazed, and Bradshaw was declared the winner. There was a good company present throughout the afternoon.

Named the Albert Running Grounds, they were of great repute and known nationally from 1877 through to 1914 with substantial prize money on offer. It attracted top athletes from around the country and there were many weekend events with brass bands and firework displays.

- Saturday 17 January 1880

ALBERT RUNNING GROUNDS, HALF-WAY HOUSE, KINGSTHORPE ROAD, NORTHAMPTON.

Mr. R. C. Tooby (the proprietor) will give £10 to be run for in an all-England 125 yards foot handicap, on Saturday and Monday, February 7 and 9. Entries, 1s. each, to close Wednesday, January 28 (no acceptance), at Mr. E. Fitzhugh's, Duke of Clarence, Mercer's-row; Mr. T. Smith's, Old Black Lion, Humberstone Gate, Leicester; or at the grounds. Strangers entering should send a card.

Northampton Chronicle and Echo - Wednesday 22 August 1888

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ALBERT RUNNING GROUNDS, AND HALF-WAY HOUSE GARDENS.

Proprietor.....Mr. W. ARNOLD.

This desirable Pleasure Resort is now in splendid order, and Visitors will find both the House and Grounds replete with every Comfort and Convenience. Best Bicycle Track and Running Grounds in the district. Gardens and Large Room now OPEN FREE ON SUNDAYS: Phipps's Noted Ales and Stout and Coales's Mineral Waters supplied. (29-9)

- Saturday 04 September 1880

THE ALBERT RUNNING GROUNDS.—The preliminaries having been duly settled for a match between J. Phillips and T. Garrett, *alias* Cox, who had engaged to walk two miles for £5 a side, the money was duly staked with Mr. Tooby, and on Monday the backers and friends of the men assembled in good force at the above grounds. Phillips had been taken in hand by Mr. C. Hough, of the Horse and Jockey, who selected C. Jones as trainer, while "Tinker" Cox, as he is usually called, hailed from Mr. W. Gubbins's, the Cricketers' Arms, Hervey-street, J. Jeyes being the trainer. The men were on the mark at the time, six o'clock, but no referee had arrived. One of the staff of the *Sporting Life* was expected, and, in fact, the articles were drawn up with the cognisance of that paper. How it was that no one attended to fulfil the duties of referee, and no explanation was offered, we cannot say. Of course, to the spectators it was a great disappointment that the event could not be brought off, and all that Mr. Tooby could do under the circumstances was to repay his patrons the money they had paid for admission.

460 spectators plus runners were indeed a good customer base for a pub.

Chronicle and Echo - Monday 13 December

SENSATION HANDICAP AT THE HALFWAY HOUSE.—Messrs. Maris, Frewin, and Seamark's great sensation half-mile handicap came off at the Albert running grounds, on Saturday last, in the presence of about 450 spectators. Sixty-two runners went to their respective marks. Praise is due to the officials for the way in which they got so large a number in position. The following started:—J. Bownling, 50 yards start; J. Haslop, 63; H. Guttridge,

By 1916, it had turned to a different sport, no doubt influenced by call-up for the war. Just look at the interesting names of the dogs.

- Monday 24 April 1916

Albert Grounds, Northampton.

A 150 yards dog handicap attracted a large company to the Albert Running Grounds, Northampton, on Saturday, and provided capital sport. Details:—

First round.—Heat 1: Bill's Jumbo, 6, 1; Dick's Six, 16½, 2. Heat 2: Old's Brimstone, 23, 1; Denton's Also, 19, 2. Heat 3: Charlie's Handy Girl, 17, 1; Dick's Don, 14, 2. Heat 4: Fred's Nancy, 22, 1; Page's Mayflower, 18½, 2.

Not many years after the war, the ground was sold for development. It limped on as an ordinary pub but in decline.



It did look a bit spruced-up at closure but, sadly, was then demolished during the 1990s.

Robert Vaughan (with core pub information based on the book *Last Orders* by Dave Knibb)

Delapre Abbey 1954

A few years ago, when we were allowed outside for social events (do you remember those times?) the Society had a trip to Delapre Abbey, which has been a major location in our history for 900 years.

But in February 1954, it wasn't as rosy as the following picture might suggest. The Abbey was in very poor shape and the Council took a dim view of the liabilities of what it had acquired and had neglected since 1946.



This was the newspaper report in **February 1954**, at which time it was suggesting that resources should be prioritised elsewhere.

DELAPRE ABBEY GETS A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE

NORTHAMPTON'S Delapre Abbey was given a temporary reprieve on Monday night. The Town Council after hearing a plea from Alderman Frank Lee, who had been the only dissenting member of the finance committee when it had decided to recommend its demolition, agreed that the matter should be deferred until every member had been given the opportunity of reading the report on the building by the chief investigating officer of the Ministry of Works.

Alderman J. V. Collier, chairman of the finance committee, "willingly" accepted Alderman Lee's motion referring back the committee's recommendations. "There is no need to rush this matter," he said.

Alderman Collier recalled that on completion of the purchase of the estate in 1946, the then finance committee (of which Alderman Frank Lee was chairman) inspected the building and ground. One and all were appalled at the conditions they saw, and he did not think he was wrong in saying that all were of the opinion that there was only one thing to be done—to sweep the whole thing out of the way and start afresh.

Alderman Lee said he had a special position in the matter. He was chairman of the joint committee which represented the Northamptonshire County Council, the Soken of Peterborough, and the Town Council which had been given the job of looking after the archives of Northamptonshire—a priceless heritage.

At the present time, these were at Lamport Hall, and this was an inconvenient and unsatisfactory situation.

The committee would, within the next decade, require to move from Lamport Hall if only to find premises. The committee had considered this problem, and had even considered "starting afresh" with a new place. He wondered what sort of flunge the council would be prepared to endorse for the building of such a place. £20,000 would not be enough.

Delapre could be made satisfactory for the archives committee at the very reasonable cost of from £3,000 to £5,000, according to the county architect. This figure included the adaptation of part of the building as a flat for the resident archivist—a flat which would be so attractive that the county architect would be very pleased to live in it himself.

For example, Cherry Orchard Secondary Modern School cost £50,000, and the new Technical High School over £100,000. That was the kind of financial magnitude to think about when considering phrases like "the demolition of Delapre Abbey" and particularly—"starting afresh."

The schools were pre-fabricated structures. But if they demolished Delapre Abbey and then wanted to start afresh and build again in stone it was more likely to cost £200,000.

The buildings could only be worthy of preservation on two points—(1) historical importance, and (2) architectural merit.

It was with these points in mind that they had the report of the former Borough architect, Mr. J. L. Womersley. And try as one might, one could only read into it vague references of "what might have been."

The committee had strained their imagination almost to breaking-point to see if there were any reasons at all for the buildings to be preserved. With the excep-

tion of one, the committee was unanimous that there were not. Economically, it would be a dead loss to the town to preserve the whole building, which in an only "patchwork" way would cost £20,000, apart from the upkeep which might cost from £2,000 to £3,000-a-year.

Alderman Frank Lee said that as the minority of one he realised the formidable nature of his task. Delapre Abbey, he said, was a very big building, and he suggested the council should think, as a measuring-rod, of the case of the

Northampton Borough Council has, these days, a much regretted history of demolishing historic buildings, particularly from the 17th Century, and indeed much earlier. Fortunately, by the 21st Century it was taking a different view and joined forces with the public in 2006 to bid for and achieve funding which has now splendidly restored the Abbey. So, judging by the April 1954 article maybe the public might for once forgive the council for failing to deliver one of its earlier promises, albeit that the same council disappears in a few weeks as part of a new Unitary Council.



Just consider how different is the view shown in the above three photographs.

When social trips can once again be enjoyed, the Society will organise a second trip to Delapre Abbey to explore original and unrefurbished parts, not normally open to the public

Robert Vaughan

However, then came another meeting in **April 1954** which seemed to seal the Abbey's fate.

09 April 1954

DELAPRE ABBEY DOOMED

DELAPRE Abbey is doomed, Northampton Town Council after a debate lasting 70 minutes, voted in favour of its complete demolition.

A suggestion by Alderman Frank Lee that the council should consider "sympathetically" a scheme from "a suitable body" for the substantial preservation of the Abbey was rejected by 27 votes to 16.

He moved this as an addendum to the finance committee's plan for demolition. He did not specify the body concerned.

Speakers opposing his plea included several from the Labour side of the council. One of these Alderman W. Lewis, said he could view the demolition "without" a single aesthetic twinge.

The Town Clerk (Mr. C. E. Vivian Rowe) read out a letter from Northamptonshire Records Society.

Northampton Iron Foundries

Adapted from an article by Eric Instone of the Industrial Archaeology Group, April 1970

The Iron Age in Britain commenced around 800 BC, so it might seem surprising that this area abounds with high quality iron stone, but the first known foundries were early 19th century. The answer, of course, lays with the need for huge quantities of fuel which wasn't available cheaply until the canal arrived – first by horse-drawn rail downhill from Gayton in 1805 and then by full water canal with 17 locks on 1st May 1815 - taking a 72ft narrowboat, which gave a 30 ton load of coal from the Midland's coal fields.



Gayton Junction



The Northampton Arm falls 109 feet (33.5metres) over 4.5 miles from the Grand Union main line at Gayton Junction, through 17 locks to the Nene at Far Cotton, and carried steady traffic until the end of commercial carrying in the late 1960s. The canal changed Far Cotton in many ways, as industries, including breweries, timber yards, storage wharves and foundries grew up around the waterside.

It is not known for certain when the first iron foundry was established in Northampton town, although it seems likely that Thomas Grundy had a foundry in Bridge Street before September 1823 as, in September 1823, Grundy and Co. Iron and Brass Founders, Engineers and Millwrights, Bridge Street, placed an advertisement in the Northampton Mercury in which they thanked their friends for the support they had received since the 'Establishment of their Foundry'; also, they

gave notice of the erection of a new "Foundry" at the bottom of Kingswell Street leading into Bridge Street, opposite St. John's Hospital. Probably it was this foundry which gave its name to Foundry Street.

A Grundy casting on the A5130 in Woburn Sands



Three weeks later another advertisement, dated 27th September 1823, appeared in "The Mercury" under the sign of an Eagle. In it, Brettell and Barwell informed their "Friends and the Trade in General" that they had "Erected an Iron and Brass Foundry at the bottom of Bridge Street". A footnote added, "Best price given for old cast and wrought iron--" for, of course, cast iron goods had been on sale in the district for many years. In 1809 cooking ranges and stoves were on sale at Stony Stratford and that was over a century after the new Iron Age had been heralded by the first iron oven to be made with coke as fuel.

Soon after the first of the foundries appeared, the town was lighted by gas, a venture which keenly interested iron founders, for supplies of cast iron pipes would soon be needed. Indeed, Thomas Grundy was closely connected with The Gas Light Company from the outset.

In 1830, Eagle Foundry had a change of owner, for Brettell had parted from Barwell in order to erect his own foundry. Advertisements appeared in "The Mercury" on May 25 and June 5 1830, which make it clear that John Brettell felt he had been badly treated by Edward Harrison Barwell. John Brettell opened his BEEHIVE foundry in September 1830, probably in Cow Lane (now under the Derngate Theatre), where, until recent times, there remained a Public House of that name. Later, Brettell renamed his foundry LION, thus reversing the verse from "Judges", for out of the BEEHIVE came strength and the LION foundry prospered.

Mr. Barwell, in the meantime, seems to have found a good partner in Thomas Haggar, although their partnership was dissolved on May 31 1833. Three years after The Municipal Corporation Act had been passed, Thomas Haggar became Mayor of Northampton; four years later he had the pleasure of proposing Edward Harrison Barwell for that office. Mr. Barwell, like Dick Whittington of old, was Mayor three times, 1842, 1843, 1844, and his old partner followed him into that office once more in 1851. It will be seen that iron founders, Barwell and Haggar, had a great deal to do with the early prosperity of the town.

By the time that Mr. Barwell was being put forward as principal citizen, Northampton had gained another newspaper, namely "The Herald"; the Editor made no secret of his feelings toward the young iron founder in his report on the Mayor making. As the article has a strong foundry atmosphere, a sample from it is quoted - **"We have shown him up as a Whig Chartist and county contractor to some purpose - we hope and trust his new worship though as hot as his own furnace, and as snappish as his cast-iron, shall we add as empty as his own bellows?, will learn - now that he is moulded into a Mayor, the Christian virtues of patience and coolness"**. Even "The Herald" in the end, had to admit to Barwell's obvious virtues, not least the Christian virtues. Barwell was first among many of the iron founders who were directly connected with organised religion in the town. It was Barwell, too, who later reorganised the town's police force.

By 1850 John Brettell had been joined by William Roberts at the Lion Foundry but, in 1852, Roberts had taken over the foundry, although the ironmongers shop in Mercers Row continued to trade as Brettell and Roberts until 1858. There is still much cast-iron



Lion Foundry cast iron Seasons seat ...

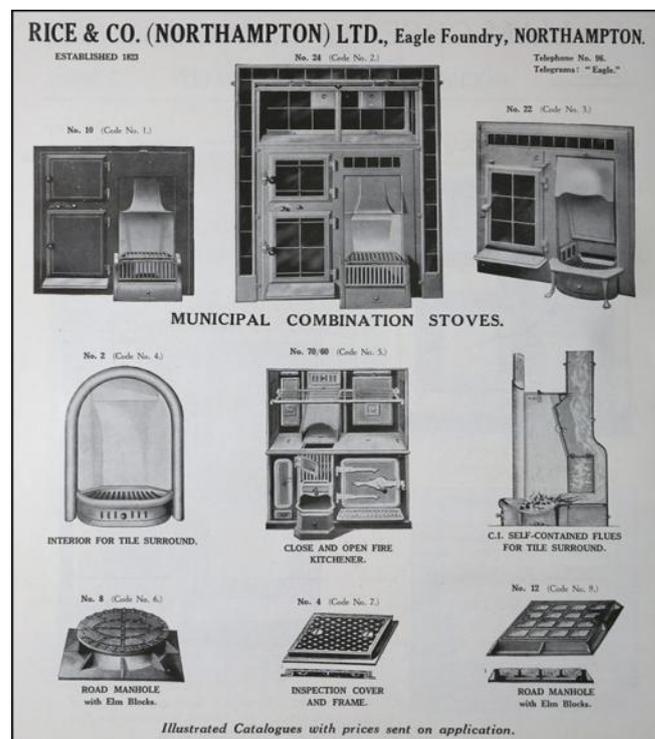
from the Lion Foundry in Northampton, notably the Corn Exchange gates now preserved in the Abington Museum. Brettell also specialised in Stoves and Ranges; a drawing is preserved at

Delapre of the Kitchen Range he supplied to Canons Ashby House. (NOTE: records now moved to the new Records Office at Mere Way)

Almost all of the Northampton Foundries seem to have made stoves and grates at some period in their existence, but the foundry of Duley and Son was of more than local fame. Duley's address in 1845 was in St. Giles Street; in 1864 Duley and Son, of St. John St. could boast of three medals awarded for Patent Cooking Stoves, the first being awarded at the Great Exhibition 1851, the second at the Paris Exhibition 1855 for a new mode of heating and purifying oven, and the third awarded at the International Exhibition of 1862.

For the first time we have mention of foundry interests ranging beyond domestic needs, for Duley's Phoenix Foundry was patronised by 'Her Majesty's Board'

Even as early as 1864, Eagle Foundry was supplying the needs of the Shoe Industry. Taylor's Northampton Directory illustrated a hand screw press and boot and shoe wrinkling apparatus made by Barwell and Co. Soon, Eagle Foundry and Phoenix Foundry would come under the common direction of Rice and Co. and begin to export to the Continent.

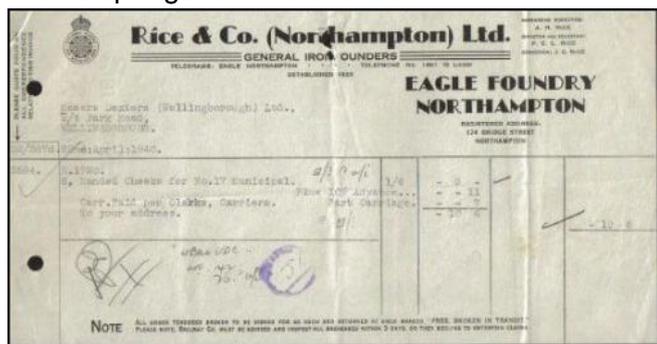


For more than sixty years, Rice and Co. continued to make a full range of combination stoves, ranges, mantels and interiors.

From 1870 onwards, all the Northampton Foundries made engineering castings, developing, all the time, special skills in thin section work - from experience in the stove and range work - which now show themselves in the manufacture today of sectional cast iron tanks, etc. It seems likely too that the art of making iron gates and area railings is not entirely divorced from ***the manufacture of piano frames, which as we shall note later, is unique in England to Northampton.***

For a long time, Northampton Foundries had a reputation for hollow cylinders which were made under contract for engineering works in Leicester and Bedford. In view of the ability of the Northampton foundries to make good steam engine cylinders – from the mid nineteenth century onwards - one wonders if moulders from the Wolverton Locomotive Works moved to Northampton instead of to Crewe when locomotive work was transferred to Crewe in the 1870's. Certainly, moulders from Northampton went to Wolverton when the foundry there expanded in the early part of this century.

Eagle, Phoenix and Lion Foundries were, of course, foundries for iron, first and foremost, but all three did a certain amount of wrought iron and general engineering work. There were engineering works also which included an iron foundry in the factory area, Wm. Allchin's Globe Works springs to mind at once.

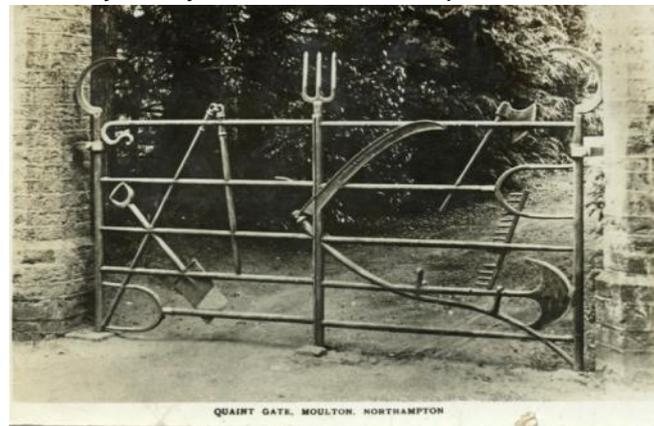


The original Globe Works in Augustin Street was so small that it is a marvel that so great a reputation could be established in such cramped quarters. Established in 1847, the foundry was closed in 1929 when the last foundry apprentice, Mr. A Spiller, was running the foundry at South Bridge Road single handed.

The Allchin factory closed in 1931. Every steam enthusiast seems to have heard of the Globe Works, but Allchin's were very good iron founders also. Some extremely purposeful fence standards

support the railings overlooking Castle Station car park, they bear the modest Allchin label.

At Moulton Holly Lodge is a pair of unique cast-iron gates, appearing at first sight to be composed of twelve farming implements. The two gates were cast in iron to the design of Philadelphus Jeyes and were made at the Globe Foundry by Mr. A. Spiller's father.



Almost contemporary with the early Globe Works was the Vulcan Works of W. Butlin; in fact, Melville's Directory contains advertisements for both works in 1861, in which almost identical portable engines are shown. (These portable engines look like a traction engine except that the wheels are simply heavy wooden cart wheels. They were drawn into place by horses).

W. Butlin's Vulcan Works was in Weston Street but the Vulcan Works occupied by Mobbs and Co. in 1884, was, and still is, in Guildhall Road. The illustration which appeared in Robert's Northampton Directory shows a building easily identified with the present premises now occupied by Phipps-Faire Components Ltd. W. Butlin was listed as an iron founder in 1852, probably with premises in Weston Street, so that it will be seen that all the foundries at this time were very close to the Canal Branch from Gayton. For example, there were, or had been, foundries in Augustin Street, Bridge Street, St. John's Street, St. John's Lane, Swan Street (Cow Lane) and Commercial Street.

The foundry in Commercial Street was taken over by David Ogg in January 1842, after he had dissolved his partnership with Thomas Grundy who, as we have already noted, had his first foundry in Bridge Street. David Ogg must have preserved a cordial relationship with his former partner, for we find the two corresponding over business in connection with the Northampton

General Cemetery in 1847. It has been remarked that Thomas Grundy had an interest in the Gas Light Co.; he was also closely connected with the Cemetery venture from the outset in 1846-7, being chairman of the Company until 1861 when Wm. Rice of Eagle Foundry took over that office.

Thomas Grundy received tenders for the Cemetery gates from David Ogg. All was not well with the Cemetery Lodge in 1847, for an order was given for the cast-iron ribs to be removed from the roof so that new cast shoes could be made. It would seem that Mr. Grundy could not escape from the world of iron at that time. Escape he did in the end, as Wm. Rice remarks in 1861:

"The committee sincerely hope that your removal to a milder locality will be conducive to a lengthened term of health and happiness".

Undoubtedly many families in Northampton owed good health to the "Newtown" promoted by Thomas Grundy and no doubt their happiness was assured by owning their own homes through Mr. Grundy's efforts towards founding the first Building Society (now the Nationwide Building Society). Not that the ex-iron founder was disinterested in his own welfare, since he was both house builder and brick maker.

In 1861 John Duley was still thriving in St. John's Street, William Roberts had Lion Foundry within easy reach of his house in Albion Place and Eagle Foundry was doing well with Barwell's two sons in charge. William Barwell had become a lieutenant in the Northampton Rifle Volunteers and so must have taken a lively interest in the great fountain being made in the foundry for the Market Square. Tradition has it that the Barwell's made two fountains, one for Australia which was sunk on voyage. (see article in the June Magazine)

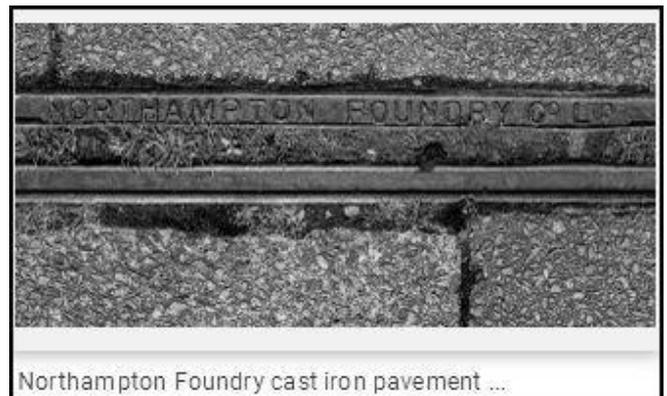
In 1870, Edward Harrison Barwell died at the home of his son-in-law; he is buried under a cast iron grave slab in St. Giles Churchyard. His one disappointment was that he did not receive the accolade when Queen Victoria passed through Northampton in his year of office as Mayor. The visit of the Queen, with Barwell in attendance, is sculpted in the porch of the west door of the Town Hall.

From 1870 onwards, we see the rise and fall of a number of small foundries, e.g. Normanton Merrill in Bridge Street, Harrison and Clayton, Cotton

End. Some would be completely forgotten, but one, that of Absalom Bassett, would become a household word.

In the 1870's, Bassett was making kitchen ranges and tubular boilers for greenhouses in Kingswell Street. In 1903, Central Works was being run by J.T. Lowke (later Bassett and Son) and of course Bassett Lowke the Model Makers have since made Kingswell Street famous the world over. In 1877, Central Works still had a cupola, but in later years Bassett Lowke obtained castings from foundries in the town.

At this point, a word of caution is needed to those who, too readily, ascribe castings to the works whose name they bear. Almost all foundries will cast, in easily read letters, any name the pattern owner cares to ask for; in fact, one can see patterns in Northampton foundries today with the names of well known and respected engineering firms boldly displayed on them. Manhole covers with builders names on them are easily identified, but care is needed when examining the cast-iron seat frames in the Borough. Many have the names Mobbs, Snow and Wood, who were ironmongers, on them though it seems more than likely that they were cast in Mobbs' Lion Foundry. Similar castings are made when required in the Balfour Road Foundry of Northampton Machinery, although foundries outside the town have also made identical frames.



It seems likely that two Ironworks in the town also produced iron castings. Certainly Stenson Street, formerly Foundry Street, is named after the owner of Stenson's Scrap Forge. Established in St. James End in 1852, the forge was bought from Stenson and Co. by Henry Billington Whitworth for £16,754. Stenson's appear to have had a rail link with Hunsbury Hill Furnaces; the works closed near the turn of the century. Only the Foundry Man's Arms Public House remains as a reminder of this great Iron Works.



The location of the other works, Storey's Orchard Ironworks, is not at present known. Hunsbury Hill Furnaces made thousands of tons of pig-iron but little seems to have been used for iron castings in Northampton. Allchin's did use a little, and of course Hunsbury Furnaces made lift balance weights for Smith, Major and Stevens. To this day Express Lifts still patronise the local foundries.

The Hunsbury Hill Coal and Iron Co., who had offices in Sheep Street, were also makers and repairers of wagons, and brick makers; nevertheless, in the 1880's they were in low water. In the end, Mr. Pickering Phipps, who for many years had supported the company, took over from the shareholders. Later he sold the large stocks of pig-iron when the price rose; some 80,000 tons realised nearly £15,000 in 1889.

St. Matthew's Church is a memorial to Mr. Pickering Phipps; it was built by his son.

A search for Northampton's foundries is not made easy by the directories available - some are misleading, but in the end information can be wrung from them. Quite a sizeable foundry was situated in Cattle Market Road in 1899. The premises had two cupolas but the owners, Sargeant and Co. Ltd., were listed in Kelly's 1903 Directory as Agricultural Implement Makers. It is possible that Sargeant and Co. Ltd. took over the foundry owned by Adams and Co.

In Cattle Market Road is a bollard with the name Fitzhugh. Edward Fitzhugh owned the foundry in Angel Street, adjoining the north side of the much larger Vulcan Works, in 1890; in the same year, Adams and Co. owned the foundry in Cattle Market Road.

In 1898 J. Potter had the Angel Street Foundry and he was followed by Haymer. Potter specialized in cast-iron furniture and highly decorative panels which could be introduced - suitably painted and stained - into wooden furniture.

This technique sidelights a forgotten use of cast-iron namely simulated carved wood panels, framed by conventional stiles and rails, in gates and doors. Traditionally, the iron panels in the doors on the east side of the Newspaper Office in the Newlands were made by J. Potter. Examples of other gates with iron panels are at the "Plough Hotel" and "The Cedars", Cliftonville. Little is known about Grose Norman and Co. Engineers, Reliance Works in Weston Street although they re-hung St. Peter's bells in 1893. It is believed that they had a foundry.

It has been said that H. Cooch also cast iron at his Wagon Works in Commercial Street, but of course the ability to make iron castings was well within the compass of any fully trained engineer; such endeavours would not, however, merit the claim to be iron founders.

Just before the Great War a new name appeared on the town map - that of the Crown Foundry Co., Towcester Road. Now, Crown, with its near neighbour in Main Road, Falcon, is owned by M.L. Holdings Ltd.

Falcon was originally owned by Cox Jones and Co. (Northampton) Ltd. Crown had at one time been owned by Mobbs and Co. and so, in a way, is in direct descent from Brettell's Beehive Foundry. Mobbs used the Lion trademark on castings and patterns until the Lion Foundry closed in 1929. Northampton Machinery Co. had premises in St. Michaels Road and Balfour Road. The foundry in Balfour Road opened in 1926 and was rebuilt in 1946. Northampton Machinery Co. still absorbs one third of the output of Northampton Foundry Co. which remains capable of producing castings up to 2 tons weight.

An indication of the status of Northampton's foundries today is given by the tonnage they produced in 1966. The combined output was around 5,000 tons.

Balfour Road specializes in sectional cast-iron water tanks and jobbing castings. Rice's Eagle Foundry is now a leading producer of repetition sand castings and shell moulded castings, while Crown and Falcon are the leading producers of finished piano frames in Europe, exporting frames all over the world.

In this short survey may be errors and omissions. Corrections will be welcomed.

There is much to be learned - who made the magnificent porches in Derngate and Spencer Parade, the balcony railings in Barrack Road, Langham Place, the window guards in Market Square, Derngate and elsewhere? Were the verandas at Nine Springs, Albion Place and Barrack Road made in Northampton? We know the cast-iron tram shelters were not made locally, but diligent scraping at the base of one column of the battered portico of the Repertory Theatre would confirm the town of manufacture.

These are the names to look for on local cast-iron:- Barwell, Rice, Brettell, Roberts, Mobbs, Duley, Grundy, Ogg, Merrill, Howard, Fitzhugh, Potter, Haymer, Stenson, Whitworth, Bell, Cooch, Dover, Allchin, Sargeant, Adams, Cox, Jones, Butlin, Lowke, Bassett, Collier, Harrison, Clayton. **The foundries:-** Eagle, Beehive, Lion, Phoenix, Crown, Falcon, Globe, Vulcan, Reliance, Central, Grand Junction, Midland.



ADDENDUM

Garden railings of houses bordering the racecourse have castings with names. With grateful thanks to Frances Marie Peacock, whose eyes are keener than mine, these can be interpreted: **Dunn Whitesmith** (a Whitesmith works with lighter metals than a Blacksmith!)



Mobbs Northampton. Being Henry Mobbs of Vulcan Foundry



This one remains to be interpreted!



Parish Workhouses and the Old Poor Law

Steven Hollowell

Introduction

When one looks back into history to consider how society dealt with the sick, the poor and the needy, particularly before there was a welfare state, the establishment of workhouses springs immediately to mind. This may be in part because of the continuing influence of 19th century writers such as Charles Dickens but possibly also because of the inherited sense of horror and social injustice passed down from the earlier generations who experienced them. Even today, there are still people who were born in workhouses. However, to understand how such places came into existence and the effect that they had on local communities such as Cogenhoe and Whiston, it is necessary to delve back to the Middle Ages to examine their origins.

There were a number of distinct steps in the way that society grappled with the problems presented by the poor and destitute and most of these were triggered by national events – particularly by the introduction of new laws. Because of this, it is convenient to group these steps into two phases – the Old Poor Law, dating from the mid-16th century through to 1834 and beyond and the New Poor law dating from 1834 to the mid-20th century. This article concentrates on the Old Poor law which, as we shall see, consists, not just of one statute but of a body of Acts and measures introduced by the Crown and Parliament as they struggled to find solutions to deal with poverty and social neglect.

There were three aspects to the Old Poor Law which are of interest to the local historian. First was meeting the needs of the poor and vulnerable; second were the issues which arose from settlement and the movement between parishes of the poor and third was the presentation of illegitimacy cases often heard in the Church courts and commonly known as bastardy cases. Illegitimacy, of course, was not just a moral issue – although it was often presented as such, but more importantly, it had financial implications for the local community who might have to support the mother and child if no father came forward.

Early Measures

Prior to the reformation of the church in England, there were a number of safety nets for the poor and needy often referred to as 'paupers'. The first

arose indirectly because of the fear of Purgatory, an invention of the medieval church. Following death, it was while traversing this place of dread that souls were held to account for their sins when on earth. There were two ways in which a medieval man (or, rarely, a woman) could secure a relatively smoother passage through Purgatory – performing acts of piety while still on this earth and intercession following death.

Acts of piety included performing good deeds or including money or alms to the poor in their will. So it was that in February 1531, Henry Coks (Cox) left 8d to the poor of Cogenhoe.¹

Intercession mostly consisted of persuading other people to pray for your soul after you had died. So, for example, when Sir John Alyson, the parson of Cogenhoe ('Sir' was a self-appointed honorary title often adopted by the clergy at that time) drew up his will in December 1501, he left his house in Ecton to his brother, William Alyson, but only on condition that he held an annual obit on the anniversary of his death and that he gave 3d for his soul.² It is not clear quite how this latter transaction would have worked in practice.

Later, when local farmer, John Welford drew up his will in November 1523, he asked that a trentall (30) of masses should be sung in Cogenhoe church '...for the welth of my sowll & all crystens:' This was accompanied by several bequests to the church.³

A back-stop in the care of the poor and needy was sometimes offered by one of the local religious orders. Although some of the monastic houses were effectively closed to secular society, others, including the Friars, sometimes offered refuge and medical treatment to those in need. Within 5 years of Henry Cox's modest legacy, all of the religious houses had been dissolved and their property sequestrated and sold off to the King's cronies. This act of wanton destruction led to the collapse of local economies which relied on the large monasteries and convents for trade but also, former brothers received little in the way of pensions and so wandered the countryside seeking shelter and support whereas before, some at least had helped the needy by way of giving shelter or medical assistance.

¹ Henry Coks, Northamptonshire Record Office (NRO), Will, Ser. 1, D, 357 (21/2/15310)

² Sir John Alyson, NRO, Will, Early Ser. F. 140 (11/12/1501)

³ John Welford, NRO, Will, Ser. 1, B, 156. (13/11/1523)

By the reign of Edward VI, it was no longer held that the performance of good deeds could help gain a quick passage to the Holy City but rather, it was believed that whether you arrived or not was already pre-ordained. This did not help the problem of dealing with the poor. So, by 1547, Cogenhoe Church had installed a poor box into which financial contributions could be deposited. Poor boxes were common but few, including the Cogenhoe one, have survived. They came in a variety of styles but typically, they were carved and hollowed out of a large log or tree trunk and fitted with a pad-locked, iron-bound lid. They were then set into the floor of the church so as to make it more difficult to steal them, see Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: Poor Box with two hasps – to hold two padlocks – presumably, one for each of the overseers so that both had to be present when the box was opened.

Apart from cash donations by regular church-goers or travellers passing through the area, bequests to the poor box were also made from time to time. Typically, the bequest was modest – in 1561, John Cherie (Cherry)⁴ left 6d to the Cogenhoe poor box, but other people such as Richard Fisher,⁵ in 1572, left 5 shillings – a not inconsiderable sum for the day. The Cogenhoe poor box saw service for at least 25 years but with an apparent lull in bequests for the first 14 years. Fisher's 1572 donation was the fourth known bequest and the last one to be recorded.



Figure 2. Carved, Tudor Poor Box screwed to the floor of Burton Latimer Church

⁴ John Cherie, NRO, Will, Ser. 1, L. 205 (5/5/1561).

⁵ Richard Fisher, NRO, Will, Ser. 1 T, 53 (20/2/1572).

Alongside the income from the poor box, direct bequests to the poor of Cogenhoe, (sometimes politely referred to as 'cottagers' and once as 'cottiers'), resumed after Elizabeth I came to the throne. Of these bequests, the first was that of the Cogenhoe curate, John Carter, who left a series of bequests to the poor of several parishes with which he had connections.⁶ Apart from Cogenhoe, he also included in the list, Turvey, Cold Brayfield, Rushden and Brafield (on-the-Green). He was particularly generous towards the poor of his current village – Cogenhoe, because everyone who attended his funeral was to receive 12d. To the poor who had no workable plough, he left another 12d and interestingly, he left 3 shillings to the 'Poor Herd'. This is the only known reference to the Poor Herd. It may refer to the common herd which consisted of all the cattle in the village owned by each individual farmer or small-holder and which were taken out each day to graze together in the common meadows in the valley. Alternatively, it might have referred to a smaller number of cattle, part of the common herd, which were kept specifically to generate money to be used for the support of the Cogenhoe paupers.

A single bequest of 6d made by Robert Proppe in 1598, was to the Cogenhoe almshouse.⁷ It's whereabouts is not known nor how many people it housed nor the necessary qualifications for entering it nor whether this might have been a proto-workhouse.

From Henry Cox's bequest in 1531, through to John Gillet's donation to the Cogenhoe Poor of 5s shillings in 1665,⁸ 23 Cogenhoe people died leaving formal wills. Of these, 11 made bequests of one sort or another to the Cogenhoe poor. Of the 11, at least 8 were either farmers or were involved in farming. Of those, John Gillet was a substantial farmer. In the period before the English Civil War he held land in 3 parishes (Cogenhoe, Brafield and Denton) hence his ability to make the generous bequest. The timing of Gillet's will – the making of it prior to the civil war and the proving of it after hostilities ceased - is interesting but is discussed elsewhere.

What is clear, even from this limited sample of wills, is that the cost of meeting the needs of the poor fell principally upon the farmers. This was to be expected in a pre-industrial community because the farmers – even with farms of only 15

⁶ John Carter, NRO, Will, Ser. 1, R, 57 (13/11/1559)

⁷ Robert Proppe, NRO, Will, Ser. 1, W, 19. (2/10/1597)

⁸ John Gillet, NRO, Will, Ser. 4. vi, 17. (21/2/1645)

to 30 acres and distributed in strips across the common arable fields, pastures and hay meadows, were the wealth generators of the village.

One final point to note on this period is the actual delivery of bequests to the poor and how it was organised. The clue lies in the instructions of Christopher Neale in his will dated 20th October 1600. His occupation is unknown but he was head of a substantial household where he was the father of 8 children. After the usual bequests, he left 3s 4d ($\frac{1}{6}$ of a pound or $\frac{1}{2}$ of a noble) to the poor of Cogenhoe which was to be distributed at the discretion of the overseers. In most cases, the surviving widow was named as the executor but at least two others were named as overseers or supervisors and others would be named as witnesses. In the case of a deceased farmer, the overseers were usually also farmers and so were in a better position to manage the farm in the short term and then distribute all of the bequests to the heirs. Sometimes the parson was appointed as an overseer and sometimes, as in the case of Neale, he was one of the witnesses so that whatever the case, the Church was often in a position of influence at such times of personal tragedy. (These 16th century overseers of wills were not the parish overseers of the poor appointed in the following century).

The 1597 and 1601 Acts

So, by the end of the 16th century, provision for the poor was an *ad hoc* arrangement and badly in need of reform. While traditional charitable donations were in decline, inflation and unemployment were on the rise. There were several Acts to address these social problems including the 1597 Act for the Relief of the Poor which was amended 4 years later by a 1601 Act of the same name. These two statutes are usually treated together. They were concerned with assisting what was seen as a number of distinctly different groups of pauper but mainly:

the elderly

widows

children

the sick and disabled

the unemployed

Initially, the responsibility for supporting paupers lay with their families for, as the Act said:

“...the Father and grandfather, and the Mother and Grandmother, and the children of every poor,

old, blind, lame, and impotent person, or other poor person, not able to work, being of a sufficient ability, shall at their own charges relieve and maintain every such poor person in that manner...”

In want of other family members, the parish were expected to meet the costs of caring for the poor by way of a poor rate levied on the inhabitants of the parish, according to their ability to pay. The poor rate was originally a form of local income tax, but over time evolved into a rating system or a property tax based on the value of real estate. In general, the poor rate was paid by the tenant of a property rather than its owner. Failure to pay the poor rate would result in a summons to appear before a Justice of the Peace who could impose a fine or the seizure of property, or even prison.

Collection of the poor rates was carried out by the parish overseers, a new role supported by the 1597 Act. They were unpaid and elected annually by the parish vestry who, until the late 19th century, were responsible for both civil and ecclesiastical matters in the parish. The overseers' job was never a popular one. If, for example, they missed a vestry meeting (usually held monthly), they could incur a hefty one pound fine.

The Impotent Poor

Paupers who were unable to work because of age or infirmity were termed, ‘the impotent poor’ and the 1601 Act allowed for them to be cared for in an almshouse or a poor house. These poor houses were to be built with the consent of the lord of the manor on his wastes or commons. Many parishes had such areas – often towards the parish boundaries, away from the main village but there is no record of any wastes at Cogenhoe at that time.

The costs of erecting such poor houses or workhouses was to be met either by the parish, or the hundred (a group of 10 or later, 20 parishes) or by the county by way of taxation.

However, the able-bodied poor were to be set to work in a house of industry with materials such as

‘... a convenient stock of flax, hemp, wool, thread, iron, and other necessary ware and stuff... provided for them to work with.’

By bringing them all together under one roof, the parish workhouse overcame the problem of supervising the work-shy and so they became increasingly common after the early years of the

18th century. Whereas Cogenhoe only provided some sort of almshouse, to which Robert Proppe had left 6d in 1598, some other local villages provided parish workhouses. The most striking feature of these early workhouses is that, as the Act prescribed, they were and looked like, normal houses – if a little larger than normal. Figure 3 shows a house, now 3 cottages, in Wareing Lane, Denton which is supposed, according to anecdotal evidence,⁹ to have been the parish workhouse.

Figure 3: Apparently the Denton Parish Workhouse



Figure 4: Little Houghton parish workhouse (far, centre) in Meadow Lane, looking south towards the Church. Little Houghton, Meadow Lane, 1870, by Mrs H.L. Loyd. Copied 20/6/2002 by S.R. Hollowell. NRO; p 614.

Figure 4 shows the Little Houghton parish workhouse in the 1870s when it was painted by Mrs Loyd of Overstone Hall. In 1829 the site, consisting of two large buildings and an open space between them, appeared on the inclosure plan of Little Houghton as a malting yard and premises owned by the squire, William Tyler Smyth. It would seem that it was at some point after then that it became a parish workhouse. Later still, after its life as a workhouse ended, it

⁹ Anecdotal evidence supplied by the late, Mrs Pat Finney who, with her husband Don Finney, on their return from America after the Second World War, lived in part of this house and were told its history by Denton locals.

reverted to a large barn but had disappeared altogether by the time of the first edition, Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of the area, having been demolished down to boundary wall height. Local anecdotal evidence handed down from the 19th century suggests that the inmates of the Little Houghton workhouse spent their time productively, chopping sticks and other firewood for sale around the village.¹⁰

Figure 5 below is a modern photograph taken near to the same spot where Mrs Loyd had set up her easel. The old Little Houghton parish workhouse has all but disappeared but the roadside wall at the far end may be all that is left of the northern wall. The Church can now be seen in the distance.

Figure 5: Meadow Lane, Little Houghton.



Out Relief

The aim throughout was to give employment to the employable rather than money. This was embodied in the Protestant work ethic – if you were fit and healthy, you were expected to work. If you did not work, this reflected on your character and so, it became a moral issue and in some counties, unemployed beggars were whipped and chased out of town. In Northamptonshire, 2 men were employed (at £35 per quarter) to convey vagrants to the County boundary. The Act allowed for anyone regarded as the 'idle poor' or 'vagrants' could be sent to the county house of correction. Pauper children were intended to receive a basic education and then entered into apprenticeships. Some parish workhouses were operated by parish officials, while others were put out to third parties. Some

¹⁰ Anecdotal evidence supplied by the late, Mr Robert Deacon of Little Houghton whose father (David Deacon Sen.) could remember the workhouse in its final days as a farm barn.

were too lax and very little work was done by the inmates while others were too severe.

Some parishes, and Cogenhoe was one of them, did not have a parish workhouse but instead, gave relief to the poor in other ways. This was called out relief and it took several forms. It could have simply consisted of cash payments of a few pennies a week to the needy – whether in work or not. Some parishes operated a roundsman system whereby men without work were sent around the local farmers to offer themselves for work, their wages being paid by the parish. Of course, it was still the farmers who were amongst the main contributors to the poor rates so they may have made good use of the extra labour.

A variation of this was what became known as the Speenhamland System which was introduced in about 1795 at Newbury, Berkshire by local JPs. Using a graduated system based partly on the price of grain, agricultural labourers were entitled to a sum of money which was either earned or subsidised from the poor rate. However, it lost favour after the French wars because some claimed that it had the effect of reducing everyone to paupers

Out relief was open to abuse with 'paupers' travelling to parishes that were known to be generous. In order to discourage this, the first of a number of Settlement Acts was introduced in 1662. The aim was to tie paupers to their own parish and was enforced by Quarter Sessions. Overseers would seize newcomers who looked as though they might, at some time, need support and take them to the Justices for removal back to their home parish. Some travellers offered, as their principal defence against this, that they possessed 10 shillings and so were financially solvent and could apply for a settlement certificate which exonerated their new parish from offering relief. Those less fortunate were ordered back to their home parish where those overseers would often appeal against the order to have them back. In this way, the paupers were treated as pawns while the two groups of church wardens and overseers battled it out in court. In some rare cases, a family who had moved about the area could find themselves with children who had different home parishes than themselves or each other.

Whether support for paupers was given by way of a workhouse or by out relief, they were paid for out of the poor rates which were sometimes supplemented by income from endowed land and later in the 18th and 19th centuries, parliamentary inclosures often included a small parcel of land,

sometimes known as the Poors Land, which was awarded to the overseers so that rental income could be generated to subsidise the poor rates. At Cogenhoe, in 1829, just over an acre and a quarter was awarded by the inclosure commissioners for that purpose and called the allotment, Town Land. (See Figure 6).

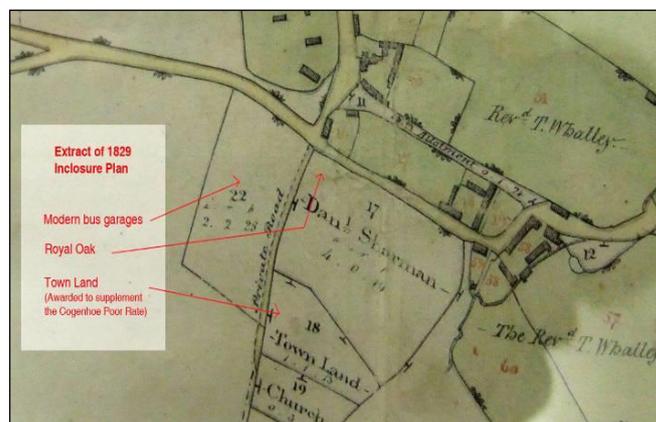


Figure 6: Extract of Cogenhoe Inclosure Award Plan, 1829, showing Town Land off Short Lane.

The Gilbert Act

Thomas Gilbert was an 18th century Parliamentarian who devoted much of his time to helping the poor. In 1782, he succeeded in steering The Relief of the Poor Act through Parliament such that it later became known as the Gilbert Act. The purpose of the Act was to allow parishes to combine their resources to provide union workhouses for the elderly, the sick and orphans which also led to considerable financial savings. The able-bodied poor were to be provided with out relief in their own homes.



Figure 7: Thomas Gilbert MP

The Gilbert Act also introduced important changes in workhouse administration. Instead of the workhouses being managed by overseers, a Board of Guardians were to be appointed from each of the member parishes, and the workhouses could be visited by an independent Visitor.

Together with a set of standard rules under which all workhouses were to operate, the Gilbert Act allowed experimentation and laid the foundations for further changes in the 19th century.

19th Century Problems

With the 19th century came a series of national problems. It had started with the costly French wars but then, after 1815, a deep economic depression set in. The cost of caring for the poor had been rising steadily. In 1784, poor relief had cost the nation £2m but by 1815, it had risen to £7m and some people already saw that this was likely to spiral further out of control.

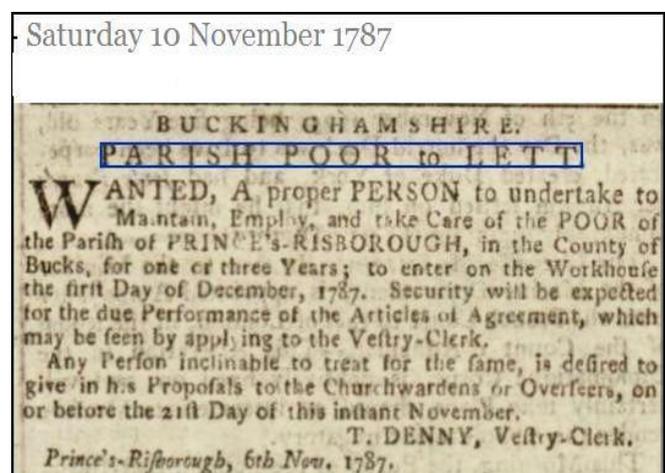
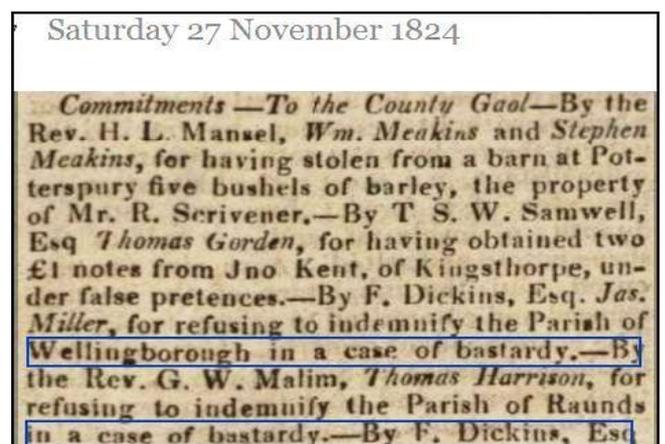
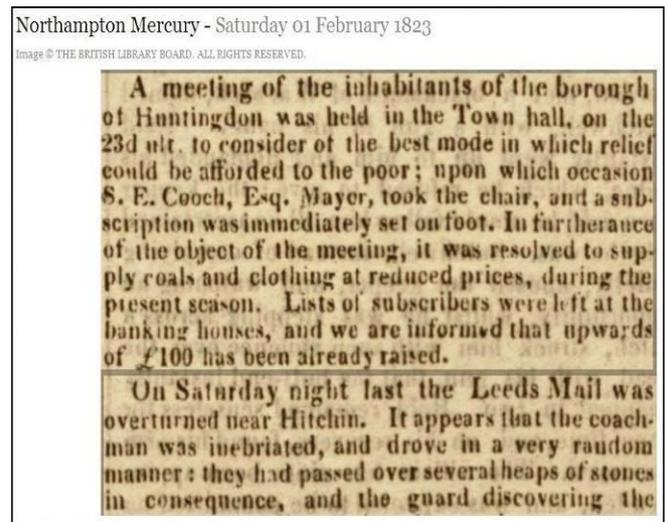
The depression continued but a poor harvest in 1829 led to increases in the price of bread and then civil unrest. By the following year, there was an outbreak of animal maiming and arson attacks on farms which came to a head with the Swing Riots (so named after threatening notes received by a number of farmers in Southern England and signed, 'Captain Swing'.) Some farmers claimed that they were being coerced into paying higher than market wages despite the continuing problems with the economy. Not only were they paying above market wages, but they were also supporting the poor rates.

And so, after the Swing riots in the early 1830s, opinion moved steadily towards recognising the need for more changes in the system of poor relief. While elements of the old poor law continued, a Commission of Inquiry set up by the Government in 1832, changed the whole approach to poor relief and nothing was to be the same again.

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Some snippets from the Mercury which illuminate the points made in Steven's article.

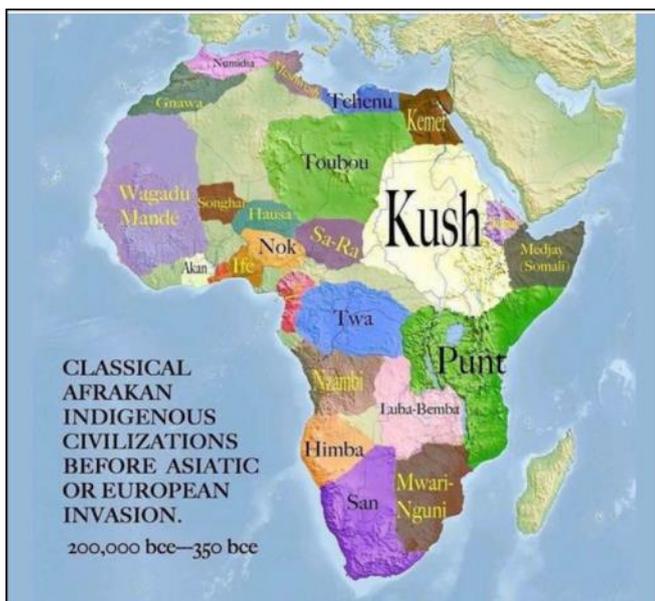
Robert Vaughan.



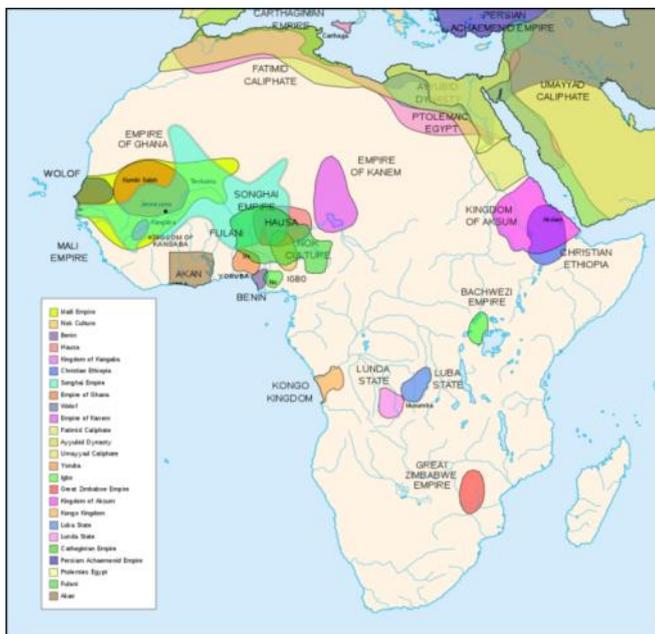
The Untold History of Africa

Traditionally the history of Africa has tended to be explained from a Colonialist perspective – albeit with a bit thrown in about the origins of mankind. But there is far more to Africa than life after the colonies. This is but just a brief outline.

For millennia, as an independent continent, there were many indigenous civilisations approximately shown here.



This gave rise to great empires.



These are seven of the most influential.

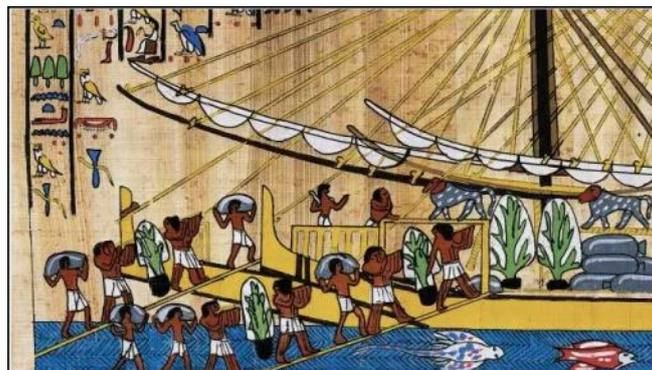
1. The Kingdom of Kush



Meroë is an ancient city on the east bank of the Nile app. 200 km north-east of Khartoum, Sudan.

Though often overshadowed by its Egyptian neighbours to the north, the Kingdom of Kush stood as a regional power in Africa for over a thousand years. This ancient Nubian empire reached its peak in the second millennium B.C. when it ruled over a vast swathe of territory along the Nile River in what is now Sudan. Almost all that is known about Kush comes from Egyptian sources which indicate that it was an economic centre that operated a lucrative market in ivory, incense, iron and especially gold. The kingdom was both a trading partner and a military rival of Egypt—it even ruled Egypt as the 25th Dynasty—and it adopted many of its neighbour’s customs. The Kushites worshipped some of the Egyptian gods, mummified their dead and built their own types of pyramids. The area surrounding the ancient Kushite capital of Meroe is now home to the ruins of over 200 pyramids—more than in all of Egypt.

2. The land of Punt



Papyrus showing preparations for an Egyptian journey to Punt.

Few African civilizations are as mysterious as Punt. Historical accounts of the kingdom date to around 2500 B.C. when it appears in Egyptian records as a “Land of the Gods” rich in ebony, gold, myrrh and exotic animals such as apes and leopards. The Egyptians are known to have sent huge caravans and flotillas on trade missions to Punt—most notably during the 15th

century B.C. reign of Queen Hatshepsut—yet they never identified where it was located. The site of the fabled kingdom is now a hotly debated topic among scholars. The Arabian Peninsula and the Levant have both been proposed as potential candidates, but most believe it existed somewhere on the Red Sea coast of East Africa. In 2010, a team of researchers tried to zero in on Punt by analysing a mummified baboon that its rulers once gifted to the Egyptian pharaohs. While their results showed that the remains most closely matched animals found in modern day Ethiopia and Eritrea, the precise boundary of the Land of Punt remains unclear.

3. Carthage



Carthage in Tunisia

Best known as ancient Rome’s rival in the Punic Wars, Carthage was a North African commercial hub that flourished for over 500 years. The city-state began its life in the 8th or 9th century B.C. as a Phoenician settlement in what is now Tunisia, but it later grew into a sprawling seafaring empire that dominated trade in textiles, gold, silver and copper. At its peak, its capital city boasted nearly half a million inhabitants and included a protected harbour outfitted with docking bays for 220 ships. Carthage’s influence eventually extended from North Africa to Spain and parts of the Mediterranean, but its thirst for expansion led to increased friction with the burgeoning Roman Republic. Beginning in 264 B.C., the ancient superpowers clashed in the three bloody Punic Wars, the last of which ended in 146 B.C. with the near-total destruction of Carthage. Today, almost all that remains of the once-mighty empire is a series of ruins in the city of Tunis.

4. The Kingdom of Aksum



Coins from Aksum.

During the same period that the Roman Empire rose and fell, the influential Kingdom of Aksum held sway over parts of what are now Eritrea and northern Ethiopia. Surprisingly little is known about Aksum’s origins, but by the 2nd and 3rd centuries A.D. it was a trading juggernaut whose gold and ivory made it a vital link between ancient Europe and the Far East. The kingdom had a written script known as Ge’ez—one of the first to emerge in Africa—and it developed a distinctive architectural style that involved the building of massive stone obelisks, some of which stood over 100 feet tall. In the fourth century, Aksum became one of the first empires in the world to adopt Christianity, which led to a political and military alliance with the Byzantines. The empire later went into decline sometime around the 7th or 8th century, but its religious legacy still exists today in the form of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church.

5. The Mali Empire



Depiction of Mansa Musa.

The founding of the Mali Empire dates to the 1200s, when a ruler named Sundiata Keita—sometimes called the “Lion King”—led a revolt against a Sosso king and united his subjects into a new state. Under Keita and his successors, the empire tightened its grip over a large portion of West Africa and grew rich on trade. Its most important cities were Djenné and

Timbuktu, both of which were renowned for their elaborate adobe mosques and Islamic schools. One such institution, Timbuktu's Sankore University, included a library with an estimated 700,000 manuscripts. The Mali Empire eventually disintegrated in the 16th century, but at its peak it was one of the jewels of the African continent and was known the world over for its wealth and luxury. One legendary tale about the kingdom's riches concerns the ruler Mansa Musa, who made a stopover in Egypt during a 14th century pilgrimage to Mecca. According to contemporary sources, Musa dished out so much gold during the visit that he caused its value to plummet in Egyptian markets for several years.

6. The Songhai Empire



Tomb of Askia, emperor of the Songhai Empire at Gao, Mali, West Africa

For sheer size, few states in African history can compare to the Songhai Empire. Formed in the 15th century from some of the former regions of the Mali Empire, this West African kingdom was larger than Western Europe and comprised parts of a dozen modern day nations. The empire enjoyed a period of prosperity thanks to vigorous trade policies and a sophisticated bureaucratic system that separated its vast holdings into different provinces, each ruled by its own governor. It reached its zenith in the early 16th century under the rule of the devout King Muhammad I Askia, who conquered new lands, forged an alliance with Egypt's Muslim Caliph and established hundreds of Islamic schools in Timbuktu. While the Songhai Empire was once among the most powerful states in the world, it later crumbled in the late 1500s after a period of civil war and internal strife left it open to an invasion by the Sultan of Morocco.

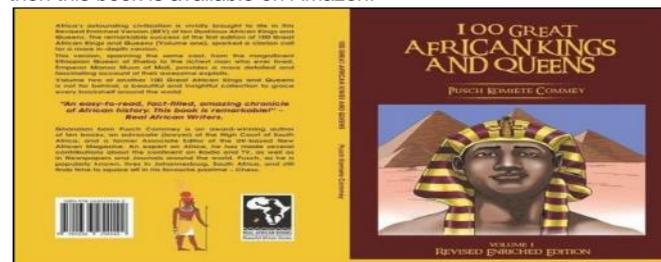
7. The Great Zimbabwe Empire



The great enclosure courtyard, Great Zimbabwe.

One of the most impressive monuments in sub-Saharan Africa is the Great Zimbabwe, an imposing collection of stacked boulders, stone towers and defensive walls assembled from cut granite blocks. The rock citadel has long been the subject of myths and legends—it was once thought to be the residence of the Biblical Queen of Sheba—but historians now know it as the capital city of an indigenous empire that thrived in the region between the 13th and 15th centuries. This kingdom ruled over a large chunk of modern day Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. It was particularly rich in cattle and precious metals, and stood astride a trade route that connected the region's gold fields with ports on the Indian Ocean coast. Though little is known about its history, the remains of artifacts such as Chinese pottery, Arabian glass and European textiles indicate that it was once a well-connected mercantile centre. The fortress city at the Great Zimbabwe was mysteriously abandoned sometime in the 15th century after the kingdom went into decline, but in its heyday it was home to an estimated 20,000 people.

If you would like to learn more about the African peoples, then this book is available on Amazon.

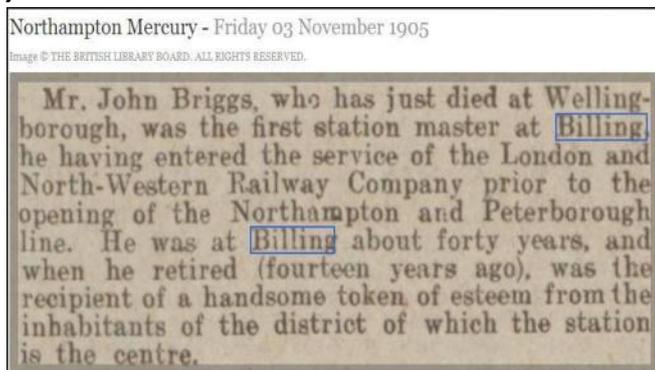


Robert Vaughan

Long Serving Billing Station Master and Death on the Line

By Richard Deacon

An article in the Mercury from 3rd November 1905 was passed to me recently by Robert Vaughan recording the death of the first station master at Billing Station, Mr John Briggs who had served for "about" 40 years having retired "14 years ago". To me, the maths didn't add up. Billing Station opened in 1845 and therefore 40 years service would have seen him retiring in 1885, but he had only been retired 14 years and yet died in 1905, meaning he retired in 1891. There were some missing years somewhere or was it just slack journalism?



Coincidentally, I was looking through some Little Houghton references, sent to me by a friend, from the Newspaper Archives from September 1889, reporting a death on the railway line between Billing Station and Little Houghton Crossing on Monday 23rd September.

A well known retired farmer and Little Houghton Mill owner, Mr Samuel Monk, aged 55 had visited Mr Robert Whitworth (Yes THE Whitworth family) at the mill and was returning home to Northampton in the early evening. Rather than walk back along the road to Billing Station to catch the train, for some unknown reason, he decided to walk along the line to the Station. At the Inquest held at the Station next day, attendees, including Rev Christopher Smyth and the local Little Houghton policeman, and a local jury, concluded that he was struck and stunned by one train and fell onto the other track and was killed by a train travelling in the opposite direction some minutes later. The report did not hold back on the description of the injuries, with body parts including spilt brain, being everywhere including up the sides of the grass bank. First on the scene was Thomas Rickard returning to his home at Lt Houghton Crossing after his shift as signal man at Billing. On discovering the body he returned to

Billing Station and reported to the Station Master, Mr J Briggs who also attended the scene. Despite the appalling injuries to his head and face, after moving pieces of loose skin about, Mr Briggs recognised that it was Mr Monk whom he had known for a number of years. Mr Thomas Rickard senior, crossing keeper, had known Mr Monk since he was a boy and Rev Christopher Smyth said likewise.

Procedures following accidents, now called incidents, have radically changed. The two railwaymen, on discovery of the body, immediately moved it to the side to prevent another train running over it and then gathered the body parts up and carried them on a board back to the station. Today the line would be closed for days as a crime scene and the area crawling with forensic experts in white overalls. Bearing in mind the tragedy was in the evening, an inquest was held next day. A remarkable achievement bearing in mind the lack of telephones, mobiles etc., to gather everyone together at such short notice.

The verdict was "accidentally killed on the railway". We now know that John Briggs was still in post in 1889 making 44 years rather than 40 as reported which does close the gap somewhat on the "missing" years. One wonders if the shock of the accident precipitated his retirement or whether he carried on. Another anomaly is that the report stated he entered the service of the London & North Western Railway Co prior to the opening of the Northampton and Peterborough line. That was not possible as the line opened in June 1845 and the LNWR was not formed until July 1846! More journalese! Perhaps he wasn't the first Station Master after all!

Since writing the article I have been looking at the 1851 to 1881 Census' for Little Houghton as the station house is in that parish. No part of Billing station, or goods yard was ever in Billing parish! In 1851, the station master was Andrew Dunleavy. Mr Briggs then appears in the 1861 1871 and 1881 Census. The mathematics now make more sense. He died in 1905, having been retired 14 years meaning he retired in 1891, after "about" 40 years service means he arrived at Billing c1851 but after the Census. So he *wasn't* the *first* station master on opening in 1845. But

was he? The Census led to another investigation trail. Up to the 1871 Census, both he and his predecessor were described as either police constable or railway policeman! In the 1881 Census he was described as station master. So, he WAS the first station master, officially, by name, although he had been carrying out the duties of one under another job description.

My research on railway policemen is the subject of another article.

Richard Deacon

SNIPPETS FROM THE NEWSPAPERS

Robert Vaughan

Saturday 07 September 1889

A NORTHAMPTON MAN AND HIS CIGAR.

At York Police-court, last week, John F. White, gun manufacturer, Northampton, and George Milne, Newmarket, gentleman, were summoned for having assaulted P.C. Addison, of the N.E. Railway Company's force, in the first-class refreshment-room at York station.—Mr. Meek appeared on behalf of the railway company to prosecute.—Addison stated that on the previous evening he found the defendants smoking in the first-class refreshment room at the station. He called their attention to the notices forbidding smoking, and asked them to desist. They refused to do so, and smoked harder. He then asked them to leave, and on their declining he proceeded to eject them. White went out quietly, but Milne resisted, and struck witness with a stick. White then returned and attempted to rescue Milne, and struck witness on the head with his fist.—Two of the waiters in the room gave corroborative evidence.—The defendants now said they bought cigars and matches in the room. White said he merely argued with the policeman on the anomaly of selling them cigars and forbidding them smoking them. He simply returned into the room, when he saw the police using his friend roughly, and, if he struck the policeman, he did so in a moment of excitability. Milne, who is an elderly man, denied the assault with a stick.—The Bench fined the defendants 10s. and the costs each.

Warning: those of a nervous disposition may not wish to read further about the late Samuel Monk

Mr. Samuel Monk Killed.

A shocking fatal accident occurred on the Northampton and Peterborough branch of the London and North-Western Railway on Monday evening, the scene of the occurrence being about 300 yards from Billing Station. Mr. Thomas Rickard, signalman at Billing, was walking up the line about ten minutes after eight from Billing, to go to his father's house at Little Houghton crossing. When about 300 yards from the station, he was startled to see something lying in the up four-foot. At the time it was almost dark, and, thinking that it was a man lying there, he spoke. Receiving no answer, he bent down and felt the legs of a man's body. Having no light with him, he was unable to discern anything further; so he returned to Billing Station, and, in company with Mr. J. Briggs, the station-master, went back to the spot with hand-lamps. They now discovered the body of a man lying face downwards across the up line, and in a frightful state. The top of the skull was completely cut off, the skin being left hanging. The brains

were scattered about the line for 20 or 30 yards, and were picked up and placed in the skull. The hat and umbrella were lying about 30 yards from where the body was found. Mr. Rickard at once went for P.C. Stanley, of the county force, stationed at Little Houghton, who quickly arrived on the scene. Having nothing on which to remove the body, it was moved out of the way of any train which might be passing. Returning again to the station, a notice board was obtained and taken up the line, and with the aid of Mr. Briggs, Mr. Rickard, P.C. Stanley, and P.C. Allen (who in the meanwhile had arrived on the scene), the body was placed upon it and conveyed to the station, where it was placed in the weighing office. On picking the body up the loose skin of the skull fell over the face, and it was impossible to clearly identify the deceased, although Mr. Briggs, who had known the deceased for a number of years, had little doubt as to who the unfortunate man was. On getting the body to the station it was searched, and amongst other things, was found an envelope addressed:

S. Monk, Esq.,
Brockhall Parade,
Northampton.

With this additional means of identification, Mr. Briggs was enabled to recognise the deceased as Mr. Samuel Monk. How the deceased came on the line is not known, but it is surmised that Mr. Monk was walking down the line from Little Houghton Mill, where he had been calling on Mr. Whitworth, although not having come down from Northampton by train to travel by the last train back to Northampton, and was caught on the side by a Midland train which leaves Northampton about a quarter past seven, and knocked by the force of that on to the up line and stunned. Another Midland train runs through Billing from Wellingborough soon after the down one has gone through, and it is thought that this must have gone over the body and caused the fatal injury, as Mr. Monk was lying right across the line. On the body being looked at at Billing, further injuries were seen, the boots of the deceased being cut through, the wrist broken, and an apparent injury to

the hip. The train leaving Billing at 7.59 must also have gone over the body, but the mischief would have been done by the Midland train about thirty minutes previously. Mr. Monk lived at Little Houghton Mill for some years, from whence he removed to Moulton. He left there some time last year to take up his residence in Northampton. The inquest was held this afternoon by Mr. W. Terry, County Coroner.

The Drill Hall, Northampton



The Drill Hall is in Clare Street, right near Military Road – and you can guess how that street came by that name.

Militia in England were set up by Charles II in 1660 under several acts which empowered Lord Lieutenants of each county to raise a militia force. They were locally funded and, as a military power, their effectiveness declined until 1757-1762 when they became centrally funded although still locally organised. There was a further reform in 1852 which caused a new Militia Stores to be built in open fields to the east of the town in 1859 at the end of Great Russell Street which, at the time, had no buildings and ran right to the Mounts. Standing on its own, surrounded by fields it would have made an impressive sight.

of the building, together with a hospital for twelve patients. In 1880 it became the Drill Hall and, after a major refurbishment in 2015, it became the home of 118 Recovery Company of 104 Battalion, Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. It remains an active Army Reserve Centre today.

As well as the militia, the Household Cavalry (Blues) was based in the town for over 120 years until they moved to Windsor. They also built the very first army riding school in England in the town. The Blues were frequently used as a sledgehammer to suppress the many riots that took place in the town during the late 1600s and throughout the 1700s.

Whilst the original hall still stands, a large part of the grounds is now used for a variety of military purposes, including the Air Training Corps. To the west of the hall on the map is a large black building, my old primary/junior Military Road School – now a housing estate. Further over to the west is shown the Barracks, in Barrack Road. It was vacated and became the post office sorting office which relocated to Billing when it burnt down. The site is now Northampton International Academy.

One thing that hasn't changed is the wee building next to the Drill Hall. Except it's been closed for



But you can see by this map just 40 years later, that aggressive urban expansion in the Victorian age had already taken the fields.

It was originally built as the headquarters of the 1st Northamptonshire Rifle Volunteer Corps to provide a secure and defensible store and was intended to act as a focus of local pride. The picturesque fortified gothic revival style has a double-depth front barrack and store range with rear drill hall and housed twenty-one staff sergeants, whose accommodation was at the rear



for decades. It was quite a relief for passing school children of my era – and you could climb up and look over the wall at the Military.

Robert Vaughan (adapted from an article by Mike Ingram)

Then, Then and Still Now

This is an old article in Heritage Matters of 2007. It refers to the house named The Elms in Station Road of 1875, which was just the same in 2007.



The Elms.

October 1875. We compared the Cogenhoe Poor Rate Book with the 1885 Ordnance Survey First Edition map of Cogenhoe. We managed to place only a few definite names – the obvious ones like the Reverend C.H. Burnham at the Rectory and A.H. Anthony at Cogenhoe Mill (which at that time was owned by the Squire, the Reverend J.C. Whalley. More of that in the next edition though. In the meantime, anyone wishing to attend the House History sessions is very welcome. We are trying to set up an email 'ring' so contact Steven Hollowell on 890346. If we can find someone to help, we might also revert to announcing the meetings by poster.

The property is still the same in 2021 - minus the Elm trees, but plus electricity – which dates the original photograph to pre-1927 and likely about 1920.



Just a general observation that the allegedly “un-owned” Beech hedge, further along, does look splendid when kept short and trimmed.



The Census of 1660

The Compton Census

An account taken of the Archdeacons Easter Visitation April 10th to 19th, 1676 upon three enquiries sent out before the Visit according to an order sent for my Lord Archbishop by the Bishop of London to my Lord Bishop of Peterborough and by him to the Archdeacon.

Name of Deanery	Families	Persons young and old	Popish Recusants	Obstinate Separatists
Preston deanerie				
Blisworth	65	300	0	12
Brayfield		230	0	12
Cosgrave	76	450	0	12
Cogenhoe	30	150	0	4
Collingtree	28	140	0	3
Courteenhall	44	185	0	0
Castle Ashby		116	0	0
Furthoe	8	20	0	0
Poddington	25	107	0	2 a man and his wife
Kettering	300	1350	0	300
Wellingborough	560	2520	2	193
Northampton All Saints		1594	0	38 of which 30 are Quakers

Note at end.

Adendum. That from many towns the account included all under 16 x 80 I let the number stand here, unless it was expressly said in the bills. or appeared by the number of families that the children were included, and then I added half so many more (viz. for 2 I counted 3) To a family of account 4 persons one with another. This account was sent to my Lord Bishop of Peterborough April 25 1676.

Compiled by John Palmer (Ecton in 1660)

In 2021, the Cogenhoe population is about 1500 with around 632 households. However, the Parish Council has been unable to confirm how many current residents are Popish Recusants or Obstinate Separatists.

Popish Recusants were people who did not attend a local place to hear Divine Service.

Popish Recusants Act 1605



The Popish Recusants Act 1605 was an act of the Parliament of England which quickly followed the Gunpowder Plot of the same year, an attempt by English Roman Catholics to assassinate King James I and many of the Parliament. [Wikipedia](#)

As to *Obstinate Separatists*, there does not seem to be a formal definition and Revd. Eddie Smith and I feel it is likely a definition, maybe somewhat biased, created by the census taker. I find it odd that there are no Recusants but there are Separatists.

Revd. Eddie informs me that Recusants could have been fined the equivalent today of several tens of thousands of pounds, and many chose that on principle. Quakers in particular would not swear oaths and did not believe in sacraments.

I particularly like the report for Poddington of Obstinate Separatists as man and wife. In those times, women hardly counted for anything so this must surely have been a woman with very forceful and obstinate religious views. Good on her, I say.

Who would have thought that a census could provide such amusement?

Robert Vaughan

Zoom into Material Uncertainty

Not yet a Heritage subject but, it is laying something down for future generations to ponder.

I attended a Zoom seminar with 25 other fellow property professionals. (Some days I need a reason to get out of bed early and shave).

The core of the seminar was about how to value commercial properties in these uncertain times of Covid. The advice from the RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is quite clear:

- There is Material Uncertainty, and clauses have been drafted to reflect this which may go into reports
- However, valuers *must not give an Uncertain Valuation*.
- Material Accuracy must be maintained.

So, Material Uncertainty is not to be confused with Material Accuracy.

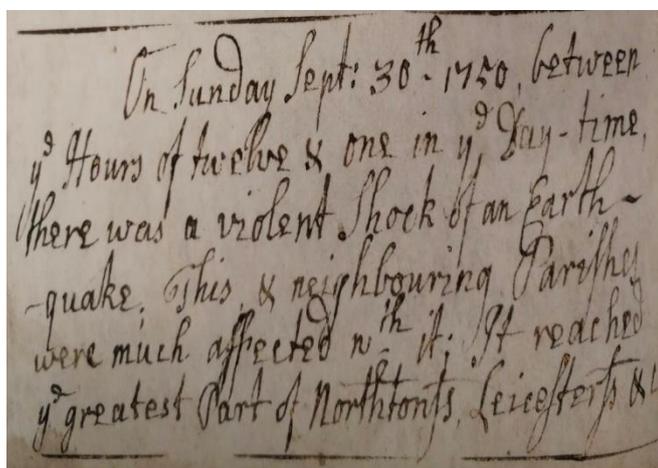
What will future generations make of this when they look back at the archive of our magazine?

Ponder on.

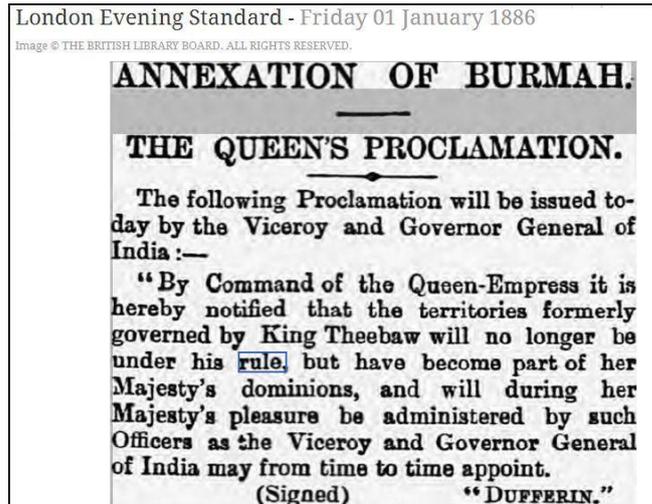
Personally, I am not unhappy to be retired.

Robert Vaughan

1750 Quaking Northamptonshire



Annexation of Burmah & Cogenhoe



Well, 135 years on this hasn't gone too well. For a start the British named it Burma not Burmah.

Countless years have been spent debating the country's name, with "Burma" being labelled as a colonialist invention by some whereas, in the Burmese language, both Bama and Mirma/Myanma meant the same thing. The 'Bamas' in the 9th century entered the area to found a kingdom and called themselves Mranma.

Today the name is Mranma in Burmese but the rest of the world uses the more phonetic Myanma.

Naming got horribly mixed up with ethnic conflicts and stress after independence. That conflict still brews in the form of Military overthrow [as at Feb 2021].

The issues about the name(s) and etymology reminded me a bit of Cogenhoe. This is now my latest list of 8 names which are needed in internet research to make sure nothing is missed:

- Cucknoe
- Cookenhoe
- Cooknoe
- Cogenhoe
- Cugenhoe
- Cogenho
- Cokenalle
- Cogenhoo

Robert Vaughan

February 1949 : A Snapshot of Northamptonshire Just 4 Years After the War

February 1949: a snapshot of Northamptonshire just 4 years after the war



DECAY THREATENS "STATELY HOME OF ENGLAND"

ONCE one of "the stately homes of England," Fawsley Hall, on a acres of beautiful park-land dotted with lakes, is in danger of slipping through sheer neglect. Marauders have stripped lead from its roof, and ceilings are crumbling. Its 70-odd rooms echo hollowly as one walks, for the Hall has been empty since troops billeted there left in 1944. Notices on doors still bear witness to the last occupants - "Common Room," "Sergeants' Quarters," "Company Office."

Fawsley Hall survived and is now a 4* hotel and spa

"HAD A BAD TIME DURING THE WAR"

"I CANNOT stand the pains much longer and I don't want to go away." So began a letter which was left behind by Edmund Sidney Fox (39), aluminium worker, of 13, Gorse-road, Woodford House, who was found dead in a gas-filled room on Sunday. Part of the letter was read at the inquiry into his death held at Woodford House, on Tuesday, when the Coroner for Mid-Northamptonshire (Mr. T. Feukner Gammage) recorded a verdict of suicide while the balance of the mind was disturbed.

Last year nearly 300 children appeared before the Juvenile Court magistrates at Northampton. Here is a cross-section of them: There was the boy who stole so that he could go to the cinema (he liked to go every night); the girl who would not do as she was told; the boy who would not get up to go to school in the morning; the girl who was continually being helped and who responded by getting drunk; the three 10-years-



MOTHER OF SEVEN STOLE £1 NOTE

Annie Rose Green (32), married mother of seven, of 12, Silver street, Newport Pagnell, was fined £2 or in default 14 days' imprisonment at Newport Pagnell Magistrates' Court, yesterday, after she had pleaded guilty to stealing a £1 note.

HEDGING CONTESTS REVIVED

PLOUGHING and hedge-cutting competitions organized by the Farmers of Daventry and district are to be revived. At a meeting attended by farmers from Yerriswell, Crick, West Haddon, Edcote, and...

COUNCIL TO BUILD DAVENTRY SHOPS

LAY-OUT FOR 36 NEW HOUSES

DAVENTRY Town Council are to apply to the Ministry of Health for approval to erect shops complete with living accommodation on their new Braunston-road housing site. The Housing committee in making this recommendation at Monday's meeting of Daventry Town Council, stressed that the shops should be built by the Council and not by private enterprise.

THE BUCKBY DITCH

Daventry Rural Council on Tuesday decided to clean out a ditch formerly used as a public sewer for Long Buckby and leave it in the same condition as it was before it was used as a sewer. Then they found that it had been so used for over 100 years and "no-one remembers what it was like before that." Mr. J. O. Adams, owner of the ditch, had complained to the surveyor, C. H....

DEANSHANGER ?

Deanshanger may get a new public house. Towcester Magistrates on Tuesday granted a provisional licence for a new inn to be built in Puxley-road Deanshanger. The decision must be approved by the County Licensing Committee.

The New "FOWLER" DIESEL CRAWLER TRACTOR MARK VF

The Authorized County Dealer:
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An attack of 'flu will generally knuckle under to Phenisc - surprisingly quickly. That is how Phenisc gained its great popularity - by its ability to get the better of 'flu. Phenisc relieves the burning pain behind the eyes, the aches in the limbs, the distracting headache. Phenisc helps to get the temperature down and its mild diuretic (kidney) action is an aid to the removal of toxins from the system. You may take Phenisc with perfect safety - for it neither harms the heart nor upsets the stomach. Supplies everywhere: 4d., 1/6 and 2/6, including Purchase Tax.

Everyone has someone worth saving for

invest in

NATIONAL SAVINGS

News 200 Years Ago in 1821

NEWS 200 YEARS AGO IN 1821

There are now living in the village of Denton, in this county, in perfect health, three brothers, whose united ages amount to 256; viz.:—John Rainbow, 89; William, 87; Thomas, 80.

COOKNOE near Northampton.

To be SOLD by AUCTION,

In one or two Lots, at the George Inn, in Northampton, on Thursday the 28th Day of June, 1821, unless a suitable Offer is made and accepted in the mean Time, of which Notice will be given.

ALL those capital WATER CORN MILLS, situate upon an excellent Stream of Water, at COGENHOE otherwise **COOKNOE** now and for many Years past in the Occupation of the Proprietor, who intends retiring from Business; comprising four Pair of Stones, and capable of working upwards of 100 Quarters of Wheat in a Week; good Granaries,

THE OXFORD COACH

will, in future, leave the Ram Inn, Northampton, at Eleven o'Clock, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Morning, through Towcester, Brackley, and Middleton, arrive at the Mitre Inn, Oxford, at Five o'Clock; return every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Morning, at Half-past Eight, and arrive at the Ram Inn, Northampton, at Half-past Two.

Performed by

ELWORTHY, CARRUTHERS,
THOMAS.

Ram Inn, Northampton, Oct. 25, 1821.

Fancy Ball Dress.—A round dress, composed of pink gauze over satin to correspond; at the bottom of the skirt is a wreath of full-blown roses, placed at the edge; above this wreath is a row of shells, embroidered in silver at irregular distances; they are surmounted by bouquets of roses, which are also placed irregularly, with considerable spaces left between. The *corsage* is rather long in the waist; it is cut square round the bust, but is not so low as usual; it fastens behind; a blond tucker or *cefant* goes round the bust, and is headed by a very full wreath of blond shells edged with pink satin. Full sleeve of pink gauze over satin; it is disposed in a row of full puffs, which are surrounded by gauze bands edged with satin to correspond; these bands are fastened by small bouquets composed of roses and honey suckle: a narrow gauze *ruche*, set on very full, terminates the sleeve. The hair is disposed in full soft curls at the sides of the forehead; it is dressed very low behind. Head dress, a pearl tiara, placed rather far back, and a full plume of white ostrich feathers; they are put at the left side, almost at the back of the head, and droop over the forehead. Ear-rings and necklace, pearls; the flatter is a *neglige*, with a knot of pearls depending from it. White kid gloves, white *gros de Naples* slippers, with satin quillings and roseites.

Death of the Infant Princess Elizabeth.

The infant Princess Elizabeth died on Sunday morning at one o'clock. It will be recollected that she was prematurely born; but notwithstanding this circumstance she was rapidly gaining health and strength till the sudden changes of the weather began to affect her. On Thursday night she was a little feverish, and on Friday morning Sir Henry Hallford and Sir Wm. Knighton held a consultation with Sir Andrew Halliday: after which they remained in attendance the whole of that day and of Saturday.— Though she was not supposed to be dying, yet the disorder appeared so serious, that the physicians did not separate till past eleven o'clock on Saturday night, and Sir Andrew Halliday did not go to bed at all. A little before one a change was observed to have taken place, and Sir Andrew was called: he found the Princess in a convulsive fit, in which she expired about ten minutes after one o'clock. The Duchess of Clarence was called in time to see her only child expire: she then fainted in the arms of the Duke, who expressed himself perfectly resigned.

A New Comet.—From the Paris Papers received last Night.—M. Nicollet, Astronomer of the Royal Observatory, discovered in the evening of the 21st instant, a very small Comet, emitting a feeble light, and without any apparent nucleus, but having a small tail of about half a degree. It is not visible by the naked eye. Its position was in the square of *Pegasus*, near the star *Gamma* in that constellation. The rising of the moon prevented him from making very accurate observations. At eight hours, 16 min. 15 sec. of mean time, it had 0 deg. 36 min. 29 sec. of right ascension; and 16 deg. 59 min. 36 sec. of Boreal declension.

EAST INDIA COMPANY'S TEAS.

THESE TEAS are secured in sealed Packages of quarter, half, and one Pound, pure and unadulterated, as received from CHINA, may be had of the following Agents in this Vicinity:—

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Mr. WATSON, Silversmith, Cambridge

Mr. ISLIP, Draper, Kimbolton

Miss JENKINSON, Kettering, &c. &c. &c.

CAUTION.—only one Agent in each Town is supplied with these Teas.—Daventry, Towcester, Wellingborough, Oundle, Brackley, Buckingham, Newport Pagnell, Aylesbury, Warwick, Rugby, and a few other Places—Vacant.—Booksellers, Chymists, and others (Grocers excepted), will find the established Sale of these Teas a handsome Addition to their Business, and free from Risk or Trouble.

Applications, Post paid, LONG & COMPANY, Old Bond Street, London.

Then and Now, Northampton in pictures

Raglan Street, along the Wellingborough Road – the policeman was standing between the two white vans



Northampton Castle Station (many readers may recognise the Victorian building but without the canopy)



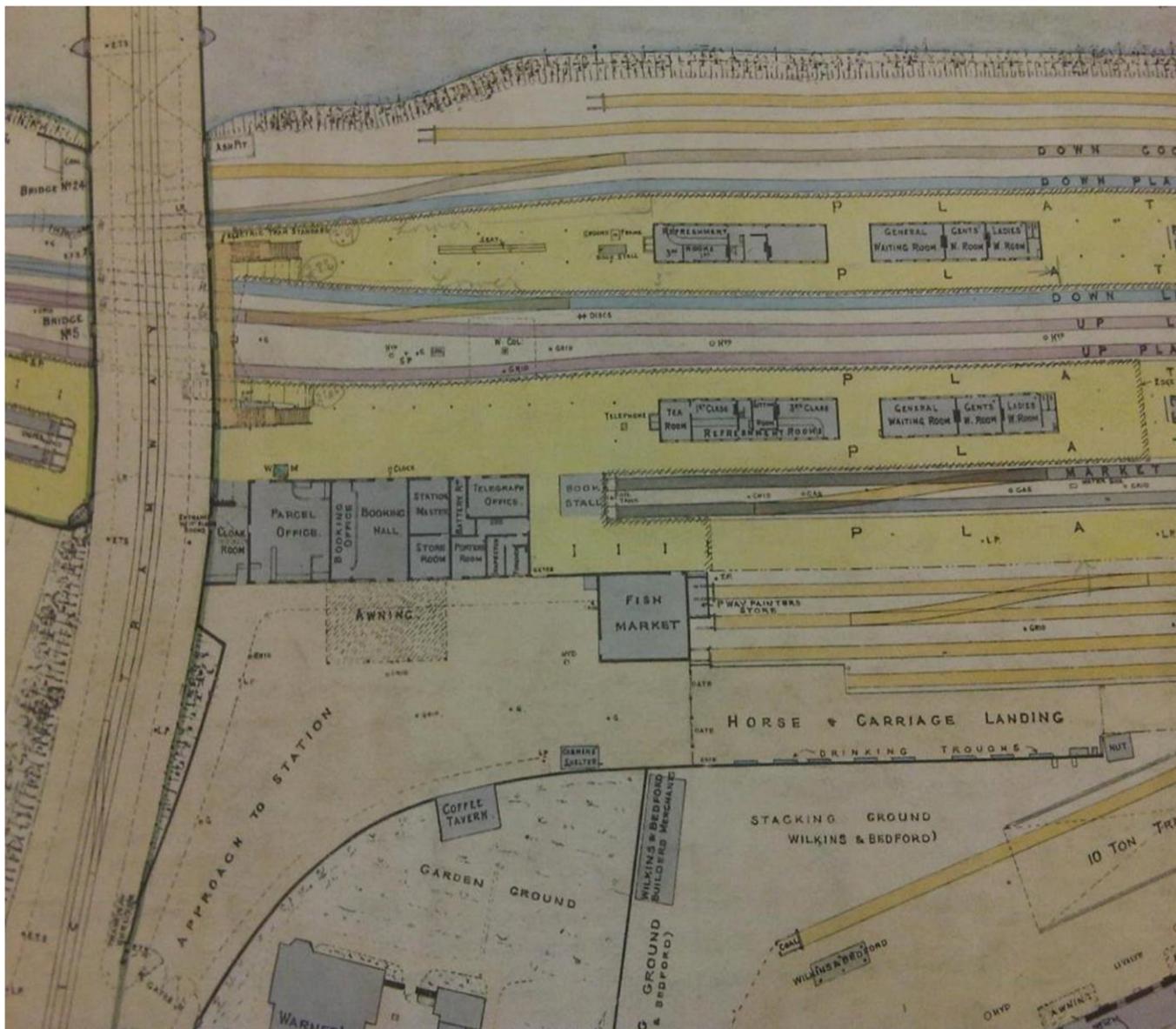
Cotton End, near ASDA. Trains long gone. Later there was a pedestrian bridge over the crossing.



Abington Street, junction with York Road



If you wondered what went on inside of Northampton Castle Station then you will find this 1905 engineers drawing very interesting. Note the Fish Market, the drinking troughs for horses, and the part of Warner's Hotel just appearing into view. Also note that the Trams came past on their way to the terminus at Franklins Gardens.

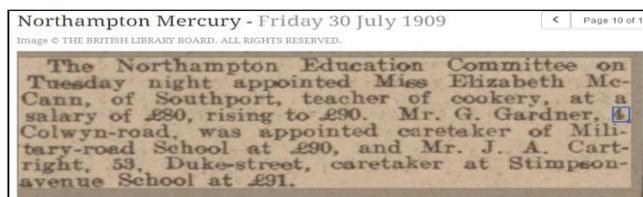
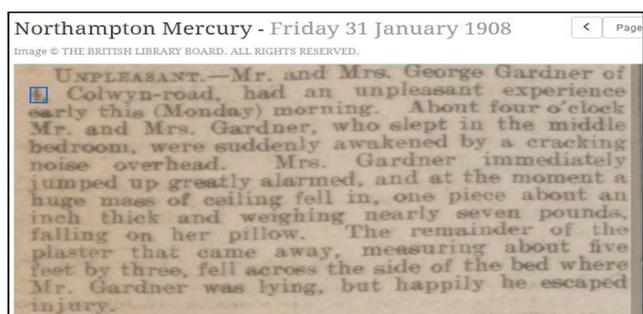
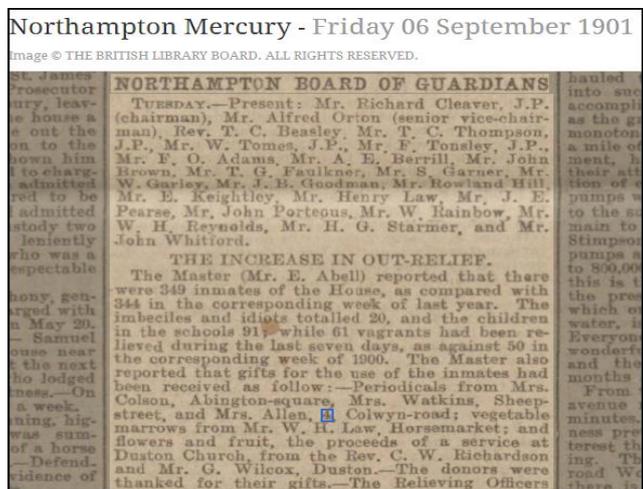


On this later photograph, Warner's seems to have gone and the building has become a removals business



4 Colwyn Road, Northampton

Colwyn Road is close to the Drill Hall that features elsewhere in the magazine and was developed in the last quarter of the 1800s. My friend recently purchased this house, and having spotted on an early map that the developer had originally named it High Street, I decided to see what the newspapers had to say about it.



The room with the 1908 ceiling collapse is now the bathroom, and my friend assures me it is thoroughly repaired and she bathes without apprehension!

Robert Vaughan

Answers to the February Football Quiz

- Which team started out with the name Newton Heath? Newton Heath formed in 1878 and became Manchester United in 1902
- How many teams are there in the English Football League (EFL)? 72 clubs
- Who are the current Championship champions? Leeds United
- What is the weight and pressure of a Regulation football?

A regulation football is 28–30 cm (11–12 in) long and 58–62 cm (23–24 in) in circumference at its widest point. It weighs 410–460 g (14–16 oz) and is inflated to 65.7–68.8 kPa (9.5–10.0 psi).

- Define the Offside Rule.
A player is in an offside position if: he is nearer to his opponents' goal line than both the ball and the second last opponent. *Simples!*
- What are the FA Regulation sizes for maximum length of a football pitch: 100M, 110M, 120M or 130M? It can be 90 to 120 m long
- What is FIFA minimum height for a flag post: 120cm, 140cm, 150cm or 175cm?

At least 150cm high

- What is the regulation size for a goal? (Jose Mourinho knows this by heart)
- What is the name of Jose Mourinho's wife: Maltide, Tami, Setabul or Faria?

Matilde Faria, nicknamed Tami, came from Setabul

- Who did Wanderers beat to win the first FA Cup in 1872?
Royal Engineers, match played at Kennington Oval

BONUS QUESTION:

In what league are Cogenhoe United?

United Counties League

Ladies Sports Quiz March 2021

1. For which sport did a women's team win a gold medal at the 2016 Olympics?
2. Which women's team won the FA cup in 2020?
3. How many titles has Maria Navratilova won at Wimbledon?
4. Which woman player is the only one to win all grand slams in her sport in just one year?
5. Who is the most handsome sportsman in the world?
6. When did the first women ride as a jockey in the Grand National and how many years was it before a woman actually reached the finishing line?
7. Do women participate in Sumo wrestling?
8. Who was the youngest female to sail solo around the world?
9. What is the Guinness World record for a female tossing the caber in 3 minutes?
10. What is the Guinness World record for fastest knitting?

BONUS QUESTION

Is there a Northamptonshire Women's Cricket Team?

Daventry Museum

A multiple-award winning museum. See their Cabinet of Curiosities online at museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

Or by this link



AN EXHIBITION ABOUT COLLECTING & COLLECTIONS. ONLINE & IN THE MUSEUM.

A VIRTUAL & VERITABLE CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

OPEN DAY
SAT 3 OCTOBER 10am-2.30pm
(closed 12-12.30pm for cleaning)
Booking required via email.

EXHIBITION OPEN
TUES 29 SEPT TO SAT 5 DEC 2020
Tues-Fri 10am-1.30pm
and 1st Saturday of the month

Daventrymuseum.org.uk
museum@daventrytowncouncil.gov.uk

WE'RE GOOD TO GO

A sports snippet from our local paper

Northampton Chronicle and Echo - Wednesday 26 November 1902

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and a fine of 5s. each indicted.
Football in the Streets. — Thomas Bullwright (15), errand boy, 5, Kettering-gardens, and Edgar Foster, errand boy, 11, Kettering-gardens, were summoned for obstructing the free passage of Abington-street by playing football there, on Nov. 17th.—Defendants admitted the offence, and were each fined 2s. 6d.

How to Kill a Witch – The Reigate witch bottle

What do you do if you find yourself bewitched? If you find you are constantly out of sorts, and you just know someone has put the evil eye on you? The answer is obvious: you must set about killing the witch who has bewitched you. But how do you set about killing a witch?



The Reigate witch bottle

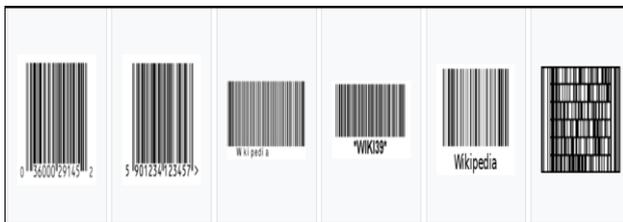
Well, the first thing you do is to get a witch bottle. Any old bottle will do – often they are made of pottery – the type known as bellarmines – but sometimes, as in this case, it is a wine bottle made of glass. In fact this was rather an old bottle, for it was made about 1685, but it was not buried till some time after 1720, so it was already some 40 years old when it was finally buried.

The Meaning of QR Codes

Bar codes are a means of representing data visually in a machine-readable format. Invented in 1951, it is based on Morse Code and the idea was patented although it took 20 years to be commercially successful.



There are now numerous variations.

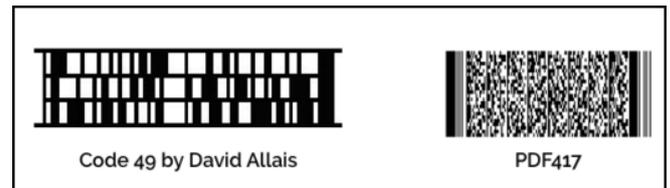


Barcodes, like those above in one-dimensional format, can usually hold a 14-length number which rises to 48 alphanumeric symbols in a version with closer lines.

However, this just isn't enough for the complexities of the modern world as one-dimensional barcodes have limitations:

- a. Unidirectional: Barcodes are one dimensional (1D) and store data in one direction only. If the scanner is not aligned in that direction, the barcode will not scan
- b. Storage Capacity: Barcodes can store up to 20 characters only
- c. Size: the more characters, the longer the Barcode. Printing a long barcode on a small product is a challenge
- d. Vulnerable: Barcodes stop working when affected by dirt or damage
- e. Encoding: Barcodes can only encode alphanumeric characters

In 1987, there was development of two-dimensional codes by David Allais.



This improved functionality but the whole scenario took off in 1994 when Toyota, not happy with barcodes used in their automobile factory, wanted more speed and an error free assembly line. The company assigned its sister concern, Denso Wave, to come up with a solution.

It was Masahiro Hara from Denso Wave who developed the Quick Response Code or QR Code.



Advantages of QR Codes over Barcodes

- a. Storage Capacity: QR Codes can store up to 7,089 numeric characters (without spaces) or 2,953 alphanumeric characters with spaces and punctuation
- b. Smaller Size: For the same data, a QR Code takes up less space compared to a Barcode
- c. Orientation: A QR Code is scannable from any angle
- d. Encoding: QR Codes can encode numeric, alphanumeric, binary, and Kanji characters
- e. Error Correction: QR Codes remain scannable despite wear and tear (up to 30%)

They can even be customised as marketing



Robert Vaughan

Society Publications

The Society has publications for sale (the cd will be free with any book purchase). Please ask a committee member or email enquiries@cogenhoeheritage.org.uk.



Cogenhoe's Fallen Heroes

The story of the men from Cogenhoe who fell in the First World War
Price £15

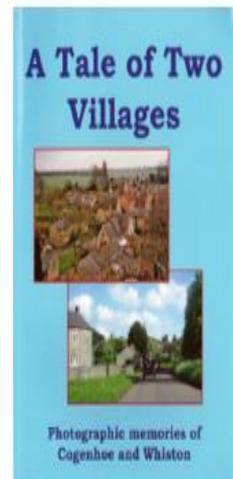
The War Memorial Project was born out of a fervent wish to remember the ultimate sacrifice made by the young men of Cogenhoe in the Great War.. This book is a tribute to those men.

An addendum detailing further research has been published and can be obtained from members of the committee.

A Tale of Two Villages

Photographic memories of Cogenhoe & Whiston
Price £10

A pictorial record of the two villages showing people and places through the past and based on the first photographic exhibition held by the society during April 2008. Since then in 2010 a second exhibition was held.



A Century of Change

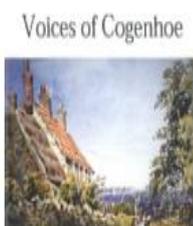
Cogenhoe 1901 - 2000

This hardback book was produced from the interviews of over 50 people from many walks of life who had their memories recorded. Some were born in the villages, others worked here and still more came to live here.

Voices of Cogenhoe

CD £3.00

This CD based on the interviews is an opportunity to listen to the memories and recollections of the many people who lived in Cogenhoe and Whiston. In all over 40 villagers contributed over 60 hours of taped interviews and this was condensed into a double CD with a running time of about 120 minutes.



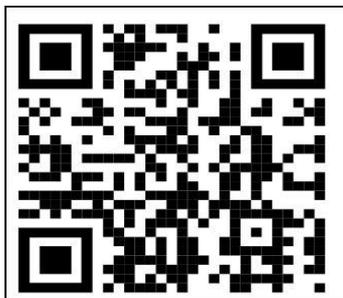
Planned Meetings

Please See website for details of Future meetings.

Society QR Codes

Just a reminder of three QR codes which your smart-phone should recognise and take you easily to various websites. Just point the phone camera at it.

Society Website



The Green Plaque Heritage Trail

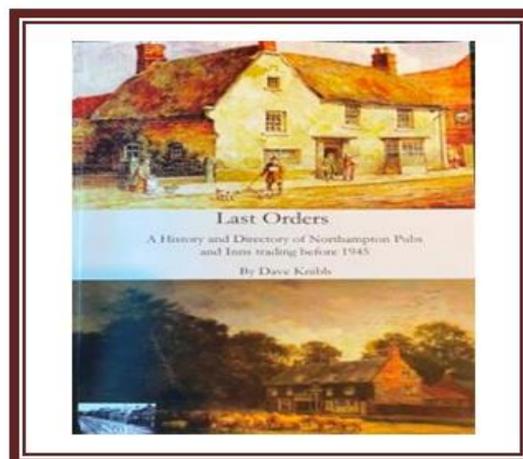


Facebook Page



NORTHAMPTON PUBS

This series of articles is mostly based on work by Dave Knibb whose book on 570 Northampton pubs is still available priced £17.99 – and he does deliveries. It's a hefty A4 sized very-glossy publication full of interesting facts about local history and heritage. Dave has very kindly given permission for the Society to reproduce his findings. Contact Dave at emmaadamknibb@hotmail.com



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