Friends of the Department of English Local History

NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER NUMBER 1 • AUGUST 1989

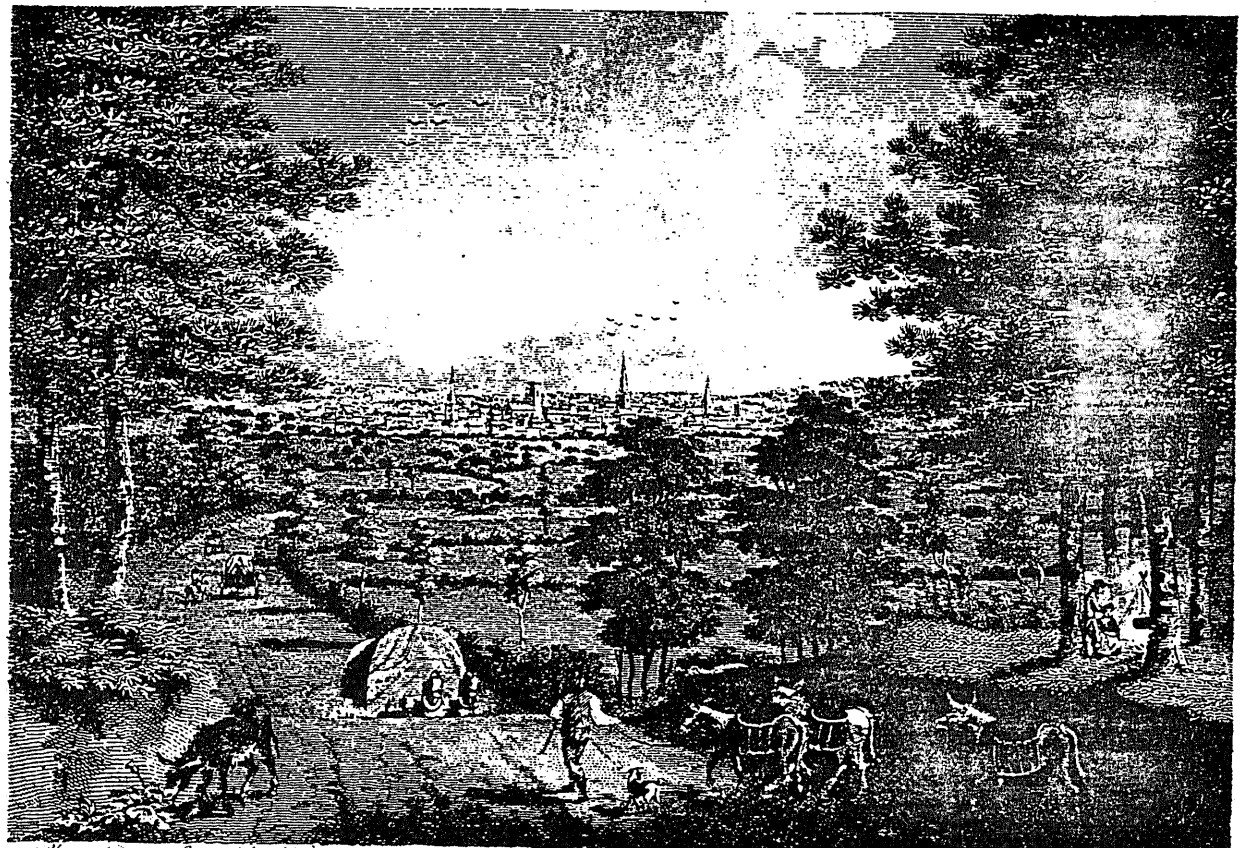

Plate 33. Drawn & Engraved by J Walker

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LEICESTER.

Your membership is welcomed by the Friends of the Department of English Local History. We are a relatively informal body of local historians comprising current members of the Department, staff and students alike, former members and any other person who has the interests of the subject at heart. Our aim is to provide social and academic contacts between members, to spread news and information and to further the standing of the subject generally. The Department was founded in 1948, with W.G.Hoskins as Reader in charge, and has become well known through its pioneering work, by staff and students, on the cultural, topographical, economic and social history of many parts of England. It has recently moved to splendid new premises at Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, substantially renovated through the generosity of the Marc Fitch Fund. The two most important resources in the House are the Map Room (with good coverage of England, and especially Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, at basic Ordnance Survey scales, a large collection of facsimiles of old maps, and original eighteenth- and nineteenth-century maps of many counties), and the Marc Fitch Fund Library (especially strong on London, Sussex, Essex and Oxfordshire, and on genealogy, family history and City of London livery companies but also containing general works on many facets of English history). Friends receive the following.

1. An annual Newsletter circulated in October.
2. Free admission to an annual Friends Lecture, given by a historian who has made a substantial contribution to local history; the first lecture will be given in May 1990.
3. An informal opportunity to meet other Friends in the House after the Lecture.
4. Advance notice of the Department's series of seminars, held on some Thursdays in the autumn and spring terms, and access to the seminars (subject to availability of space; prior notice of attendance should be given).
5. Access, by arrangement, to certain facilities in the House.

Much of your subscription will go towards the cost of the Newsletter and its circulation, and to the costs of the Friends Lecture. Any small surplus at the end of the year will be spent on academic and non-academic amenities in the House over and above those which the University and (for the Library) the Marc Fitch Fund might reasonably be expected to provide. For the moment organization is in the hands of Anne Mitson (acting secretary), Harold Fox, Margery Tranter and Chris Thornton (Newsletter), Nan Hume and John Goodacre. Evelyn Lord also helped with this Newsletter. A more formal constitution will be adopted later.

This, the first, special, issue of the Newsletter has been financed through donations and through the proceeds of a booksale held after the last meeting of the Department's seminar series, in March 1989. Another booksale will be held in March 1990. Please send unwanted books to 'Friends' care of the Department's address. This first Newsletter is being sent free to ex-students (many of whom in the past have felt 'cut off' after leaving Leicester) and to other people known to be friends of the Department, in the hope that they may become Friends. Please do pass it on to others. Ex-students may have up-to-date information on the addresses of those with whom they studied in Leicester; the acting secretary would much appreciate any such information, especially from postgraduates who studied here before 1980.

The Newsletter will contain reports of events in the Department, abstracts of recent publications, abstracts of theses and dissertations (provided by the authors themselves) and short pieces such as those in this issue by James and Miriam Moir and John Stedman, ex-students who now make a living by the practice of local history. Items of this length will be welcomed. Please send them to: the Editor, 'Friends', Department of English Local History, Marc Fitch House, 5 Salisbury Road, Leicester, LE1 7QR. A future newsletter will carry 'News of ex-students': if you wish to be included please send a line or two to the same address.

EVENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT

From the Ivory Tower...

On the misty morning of Friday October 14th 1988, from 7 o'clock onwards, the very last possessions of the Department of English Local History were moved from what had always seemed rather incongruous premises, on the highest, eighteenth floor of the Attenborough tower block, to its new home at Marc Fitch House, 5, Salisbury Road. This was the last stage in a long process of planning and preparation stretching back several months. The contents of the Map Room (including all of the furniture) and of some offices were moved on the previous day, the whole operation - much complicated by highly restricted space in the Attenborough lift - being in the hands of Messrs E.E. Lapworth, removal contractors. Packing maps between flat boards had occupied Margery Tranter and Pauline Whitmore for many days in the late summer. Even earlier, members of the Department had spent much time in consultation with Richard Green, the University's Building Surveyor, and with Ian Saker, Senior Administrative Assistant in charge of furnishings, both of whom ensured that no small details were overlooked in the substantial renovation, restructuring and part re-furnishing of the premises at Salisbury Road. So much expert assistance meant that when Dr. Marc Fitch made his annual visit to the Department on October 17th, the premises were substantially in order - although on that day nobody could deny the presence of a small army of residual carpenters... and painters... and furniture deliverers... Teaching and day-to-day administration continued throughout the period of the move.

As some readers of

the Newsletter will know, what lies behind the Department's change of premises is Dr. Fitch's idea, first outlined in 1986 during a conversation with Maurice Shock, that the substantial historical library then kept at the Marc Fitch Fund's house in Woodstock should be moved to Leicester. Neither the Attenborough Building nor the main University Library had space for the collection. At Maurice Shock's quick suggestion, therefore, and with the consent of the Council of Management of the Fund, it was agreed that the University and the Fund should join forces in providing property (and a grant to renovate it) not only to house the library but also to provide new accomodation for the Department. Two solid Victorian urban houses have been converted into an elegant single unit with facilities - Marc Fitch Fund Library, Map Room, archives, computing room, seminar room and common room - which make it a unique resource-centre for Local History. With the authorization of the Fund and the approval of Dr. Fitch the house has been adorned with a series of Fitch family portraits and a classical bust of Marcus Aurelius (after whom he was given his fore-name). The facilities and works of art contained within the house will be described in detail in future Newsletters.

Meeting of Midland Medievalists

The 1988 meeting of Midland Medievalists was hosted by the Department in May when Angus Winchester of the University of Liverpool delivered a lecture entitled 'Man and the landscape in medieval Cumbria'. Dr. Winchester gave an overview of the development of Cumbria between 1066 and 1558. His main themes were: types of territorial organisation, colonization and settlement of waste on the uplands, the impact of Scottish raids and the development of industries such as textiles. He concluded that the 12th and 13th centuries were crucial for the conquest of the uplands and forest. Shielings and transhumance were replaced by peasant sheep farmers and demesne vaccaries. The north, impoverished by Scottish raids, failed to develop on the scale found in the south. Dr. Winchester's paper was followed by a lively discussion. The relative importance of ecclesiastical and of administrative units on the one hand, and the pattern of baronies, on the other, was discussed and it was suggested that there was a late medieval economic and building revival in northern Cumbria. In addition, it was suggested that evidence of sub-division of holdings and of people without land in western Cumbria indicates the lack of severe population decline in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

Ralph Weedon

Local History Qualifications

A day conference on this theme, run jointly by CORAL (The Conference of Teachers of Regional and Local History in Tertiary Education) and ALHT (Association of Local History Tutors), was held in Marc Fitch House on 11 March 1989 and was attended by over forty local historians from as far distant as Exeter and Newcastle, Norwich and Aberystwyth. After a warm welcome from Charles Phythian-Adams, conference members were shown round the department. The accommodation and the resources made many of us envious. The rest of the day was divided into workshops followed by a plenary session.

The first of the workshops to choose from were on 'MAs' and on 'Certificates & Diplomas'. After a number of concise papers there followed a lively discussion. The workshops raised the question of what is an MA, a certificate and a diploma as well as who should be accepted and with what background. The question of standardization was faced; there were fears that this could lead to a stifling of individuality. Those in the MA discussion tried to identify the magic ingredient that made a course work, while those in the other group agreed that they were not too sure of the differences between a certificate and a diploma.

After a fine lunch in the Charles Wilson Building the next two workshops faced the questions of 'Local history and vocational and historical training' and 'How do the courses interrelate?' The latter group also discussed A-level and GCSE courses. The first group on vocational and historical training felt that local history should be given more time in undergraduate courses as well as at PGCE level. It was also felt that courses in librarianship should give a good local history background as librarians were often called upon to help local historians. It was also recognized that the heritage industry relies heavily on local history and as such there should be a strong input into any training in that area.

The last workshop heard about a GCSE course for mature students and had an opportunity to look at some projects done for the AEB 673 A-level course. The standard of these was thought by some to be near MA quality. There was a brief description of fieldwork courses run for schools. This group also discussed problems related to course standardization and whether it is possible to have common elements in courses so that students can transfer from one to the other. The possibility of modular courses was discussed.

When all the groups had reported it seemed that what was being highlighted was a certain degree of confusion as well as a rich diversity. The following were suggested as ways into the future.

a) A pooling and sharing of materials and staff.

b) Lists of MA and certificate dissertations to be drawn up and circulated.

c) CORAL to persuade members to submit what they feel should be in a common core for all certificate and MA courses. This could form the basis for future discussions.

d) Course details to be

shared. These could show the way to a common core.
e) Institutions might like to share residential courses that form part of MAs. This may make the residential parts more interesting as well as helping to share resources.

For someone who is not employed in an institution of tertiary education the day was both interesting and enlightening, if at times a little confusing. It showed that Local History is alive and well, with an exciting future.

David Short

Departmental Seminar Programme 1988–1989: Autumn Term

Gervase Rosser (University of Birmingham) has observed a repeated pattern in the way medieval urban conflicts were resolved and in his paper 'The church in the medieval town: conflict and conciliation' he illustrated how a dispute would be brought to a head in some demonstration which, despite threatening disorder by appealing for support from the populace, paid attention to ritual procedures. Such publicity allowed the expression of grievances even by those elements of the community with no franchise or other access to justice. The aim was to secure, before much actual damage or injury was inflicted, a formal compromise agreement which could regulate the situation for a time and reassert the identity of interests of the whole community. One result of the repeated appeals to ancient precedent by both sides, such as the Dean and Chapter and the tenants of the King's fee in the uniquely well-recorded disputes at Hereford, was the creation of city histories with visions of former ideal harmony.

This was not the only paper to deal with the origins of different types of history and the uses to which they are sometimes put. Evelyn Lord (University of Leicester), in her paper 'Stones and water: the examination of a myth in time and space', concentrated on the recurrent figure of the hero whose death was only a sleep from which he would return to save his people. The historic 'discovery' of King Arthur's gigantic skeleton may have been an effort to prove he had really died and so to disqualify his name as a rallying call for popular unrest. After discussing the oral and literary transmission of the myths she examined their topography - the way their distribution across the country may be related to regional scenery.

Archaeologists are inclined to hide behind the technicalities of their subject and to avoid committing themselves to a historical stance and it is therefore encouraging to see how illuminating a local history approach to archaeology can be. The talk by Peter Warner (Homerton College) on 'The landscape and local history of Sutton Hoo' was a refreshing first meeting in our new premises, illustrated with excellent slides. He was engaged as the local historian to support the recent excavations close to the famous ship burial and worked on the whole area near Woodbridge and the Deben estuary. The two vivid images I retain both concern the apparently unimpressive siting of the burial. For the overland traveller this would be the point from which to spot the state of the tide and thus to decide which of the two ferry points to aim for; for sea travellers this reach of the estuary is still the graveyard of retired hulls. The burial ship itself was old and patched.

David Austin (St David's University College, University of Wales) in his paper 'The archaeology and history of Bodmin Moor' was likewise appealing for a more inter-disciplinary and contextual, rather than site-specific, approach to archaeology. The site studied is a complex of basins and mill buildings resulting from medieval tin-working. The context is the settlement pattern of the whole parish of St Neot (Cornwall). A re-current theme in recent studies has been the contrasting use made of different landscapes, whether regions, pays or areas within the territory of one settlement. St Neot parish is typical in straddling geological and land-use zones. David Austin warned that the archaeological sites most often chosen are likely to yield more information about settled and arable farming than about nomadic or pastoral land-use which, nevertheless, may have left concentrated traces in the form of herding pens and shelters on the uplands. He showed a very striking aerial photograph of a Welsh landscape illustrating this contrast either side of a definite line around the hills.

Mark Bailey (Gonville and Caius College) dealt with similar contrasts in his well-rounded paper 'The concept of the margin in the medieval English economy'. He questioned the views that medieval population expansion necessitated the new cultivation of what was intrinsically unsuitable 'marginal' land as a last resort and that the abandonment of this land led the subsequent decline. We should rather think that these areas supported a land-use contrasting with the more densely populated areas and that a more sensitive indicator of the decline was the use made of 'marginal' areas within the latter. Indeed he emphasized the contrasting economies of different regions and their inter-dependence almost to the point of anticipating the effects that Joan Thirsk has associated with the expansion of the late-sixteenth century.

John Goodacre

(A report of seminars given in the Spring term will be included in Newsletter no.2)

STAFF CHANGES

David Postles

David Postles was appointed to the Department in October 1988 as its third Marc Fitch Research Fellow and Director of the English Surnames Survey succeeding Richard McKinley and Margaret Camsell. His connections with Leicester were already close: he was

born there, attended the City of Leicester Boys' School, and worked for a time at the Leicester Record Office; his Ph.D was awarded in 1975, for a thesis on Oseney Abbey supervised by G.H.Martin. Moreover, his wife Suella, a museum curator by profession, possesses a University of Leicester diploma in Museum Studies and completed an M.A. on the village of Barkby under Alan Everitt. David comes to the Department with many qualities which will enhance its activities in teaching and research. He received a training in archive administration at the Bodleian Library. Before joining the Department he was Archivist at Sheffield City Library. His published work includes papers on estate administration, agricultural history, marketing and monastic history - in The Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, The Agricultural History Review, The Journal of Transport History, Midland History, The Derbyshire Archaeological Journal and in other periodicals. He is a committee member of the Derbyshire Record Society and a council member of the British Records Association. David and Suella are both interested in landscape history and social history and met when excavating the Upper Palaeolithic site at Creswell Crags in 1969. They have just moved house, with a small and varied menagerie, to East Leake, close to the Leicestershire-Nottingham shire border.

Muriel Phillips

The initial personal contact between the Department and students, visitors and staff from 1966 onwards was through Muriel and it quickly became obvious to all that the smooth running and the atmosphere of the Department owed much to her friendliness, warmth and efficiency. With her husband, Leslie, and their daughters, Muriel had moved from Surrey to Leicester and when she joined the Department (initially as a temporary secretary when Professor Hoskins was Head) she brought with her knowledge and expertise gained through her years in an old-established family legal firm in the City of London. Together with her subsequent experience in dealing with people and finance in posts in Leicester, with her technical skill, accuracy and the interest which she developed in local history, this knowledge proved a great asset to the Department during the twenty years she was part of it. Muriel retired in May 1987, sadly not to share her leisure with Leslie who had died suddenly some eighteenth months earlier. In retirement she has been able to resume some of the active pursuits for which she has not had time in recent years, but the highlight has been a visit to Japan at the invitation of Professor Higuchi and his family - a 'thank-you' from them for the painstaking help and the friendship which she gave them during their year-long visit to the Department in 1984-5.

Pauline Whitmore

Mrs Pauline Whitmore was appointed secretary to the Department in April 1988. She was educated at King Richard III Girls' Secondary Modern School, Leicester and studied shorthand and typing at night-school. Pauline has worked in a variety of offices covering insurance, the Law, hosiery, the dairying industry, an advertising agency (where she also did some photographic modelling) and accountancy. Pauline has been married for just over 25 years and has lived in Anstey since her marriage. Among her interests are yoga, keep-fit, dancing, dress-making, cooking, the theatre, social eating and travel. In her first year in the Department, Pauline has had to cope not only with the pressures of a new post, but also with all the stresses and hiccoughs which attended the move to new premises. Her cheerfulness, humour and efficiency throughout contributed not a little to the speed with which Marc Fitch House has quickly become 'home' and we look forward to further years of co-operation with her.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

J. Alldridge

'Loyalty and identity in Chester parishes 1540-1640', in S. Wright (ed.), Parish, Church and People: Local Studies in Lay Religion 1350-1750 (Century Hutchinson, 1988) pp.85-124.

J.A. Kissock

'Archaeology and its place in the primary school curriculum', Archaeological Review from Cambridge, 6(1987), pp. 119-28.
This paper is one of a number on the theme of archaeology as education and draws on the author's three years of experience as a teacher. Archaeology in education ought to introduce children to 'heritage' (now a major leisure pursuit), to the pre-historic past when agriculture developed and the first state societies evolved, and to the essential unity of mankind which is taken as the main precept by multi-cultural and anti-racist educationalists. But archaeological interpretation cannot be value-free: teachers do not teach historical facts but present children with ready-made opinions. The paper argues that teachers should not adopt a didactic approach to the 'whats' and 'whens' of the past but should help their pupils to develop the skills which are necessary to understand the nature of the evidence about the past.
'Gower Field System', Archaeology in Wales, 27(1987), p.69.

M.C.H.Nix

'English ships' registers: a source for genealogists', The Genealogical Helper, 12(1988), pp.9-11.
In 1786 the British government introduced the statutory registration of merchant vessels. Six years later, the Americans implemented an almost identical type of system. Registration documents provide much valuable information for genealogists on both sides of the Atlantic as they include the names of owners (with their places of residence and occupations) and of ships' masters and surveying officers. An examination of the early ship

registers of Bideford and Barnstaple forms the core of the paper. The importance of kinship ties to the security of a ship-owning venture is highlighted in the case of one family, the Maines. Although not one of Bideford's most wealthy merchants, Robert Maine was a ship-master; three of his daughters married into other ship-owning or ship-building families; his only son followed in his father's footsteps. A consideration of the geographic distribution of the parishes of residence of the owners of the brigantine Albion is discussed and the problems of part-ownership are also briefly referred to in connection with the Fishley brothers, both potters, who owned the Sparrow jointly and with others. Finally, the paper comments on the interesting information on the kinship structure of a port which can be elicited from a study of ship registers.

C.V. Phythian-Adams
Re-thinking English Local History, Department of English Local History Occasional Papers, 4th series, 1 (Leicester University Press, 1987), 58pp.
Since H.P.R.Finberg first defined the concerns of English Local History as an academic discipline in its own right in the introductory paper to the first series of Occasional Papers, there has been no extended discussion of the changing nature of the subject. Thirty-five years on, and at the outset of this new series, it seemed timely to review the manner in which the relationship between the study of local history and national history has altered, with especial reference to the various units of analysis commonly adopted by the local historian. The argument here presented is that the outlines of a possible new conceptual framework for the subject are already visible. Reviews of this paper (in the Agricultural History Review and the Economic History Review respectively) have described the Department as 'the great think-tank of the subject' and as a 'centre of excellence in local history'.

K.D.M.Snell
Annals of the Labouring Poor: Social Change and Agrarian England 1660-1900, 2nd edn (Cambridge University Press, 1987), 464pp.
This collection of inter-connected essays is concerned with the impact of social and economic change upon the rural labouring poor and artisans in England, and combines a sensitive understanding of their social priorities with innovative quantitative analysis. It is based on an impressive range of original sources, and its significance arises from the pioneering use of a largely neglected archival source - that of settlement records - to address questions of central importance in English social and economic history in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Levels of employment, wage rates, poor relief, the sexual division of labour, the social consequences of enclosure, the decline of service in husbandry and traditional apprenticeship, and the quality of family life are among the issues discussed in a profound re-assessment of a perennial problem: the standard of living (in its widest sense) of the labouring poor during the period of industrialisation. The conclusions challenge much of the prevailing orthodoxy, and the extensive use of literary and attitudinal material is closely integrated with the quantitative restatement of an interpretation that owes much to the older tradition of the Hammonds' Village Labourer. Annals of the Labouring Poor, first published in 1985, was the winner of the Royal Historical Society's Whitfield Prize for that year.

K.D.M.Snell and J. Millar
'Lone-parent families and the Welfare State: past and present', Continuity and Change, 2 (1987), pp.387-422.
This paper examines the incidence of lone-parent families over the past three centuries, relating historical findings to the recent rapid increase, and compares the transfer payments made to such families in the early nineteenth century with those of today. It is found that the historical incidence of such families was commonly higher than is now the case. Further, it emerges that the relative value of the social-security or poor-law benefits paid to this group has declined considerably over time in relation to average manual earnings. In view of this, discussion is centred upon the impact of the New Poor Law, and some assumptions concerning the 'rise of the Welfare State' in the twentieth century are called into question.

E.M.Tranter
Weston-on-Trent: an Illustrated Guide (Weston-on-Trent Local History Society, 1987), 12pp.

P.Warner
Greens, Commons and Clayland Colonization, Department of English Local History Occasional Papers, 4th series, 2 (Leicester University Press, 1987), 66pp.
This paper explores the origins and development of green-side settlement in the distinctive regional landscape of East Suffolk. Historical, archaeological and topographical evidence is combined to argue for the early origin of some clayland greens and commons, and for the continued development of an attenuated settlement pattern around them from late Anglo-Saxon times to the fourteenth century. The versatile and variable nature of local soils forms a background to this detailed study. The rise and fall of medieval populations is a central theme while the Domesday evidence sheds new light on the characteristic social structure of East Anglian tenements. The first chapter concerns the topography of clayland commons in East Anglia and is subdivided into a summary of previous research, an outline of the underlying solid and drift geology and a discussion of the origins of the greens themselves. This leads into a consideration of clayland colonization in the late Saxon and early medieval periods including an examination of Domesday woodland and the social background of eleventh-century Suffolk. The third chapter analyzes the

anatomy of greenside settlement, the development of tenements and settlement decay. The conclusion summarizes the 'leap-frog' settlement pattern of clayland colonization that has left such a distinctive mark on the East Anglian landscape and on other clayland areas of Britain. A methodology and a model are offered which can be tested elsewhere. The appendix, devoted to the historical problems inherent in the type of detailed tenurial surveys known as 'dragges', sheds much new light on the interpretation of these documents.

S.J.Wright
Ed. Parish, Church and People, Local Studies in Lay Religion, 1350-1750 (Century Hutchinson, 1988), 242pp.
The common theme of this collection of papers is intimated by Sue Wright when, in the introduction, she states that 'the local parish church acted as a communal focus'. In the introductory essay David Palliser relates the parish to the community as a whole, looking at local loyalties, change and continuity. Gervase Rosser, on the other hand, examines intra-parochial relationships within a specific community - that of the medieval guild. The theme of parish structure in the spiritual life of the community is continued by Clive Burgess in a paper on the idea of purgatory in late-medieval England while Donald Spaeth, John Tuffit and Sue Wright examine different aspects of liturgical observances within the context of the life of the community. Sue Wright analyzes the role of liturgy in the spiritual life-cycle, Spaeth studies popular observances in Restoration Wiltshire and Tuffits's essay widens the picture by considering the divisions within the community wrought by Presbyterians and other dissenters in eighteenth-century Devon. The political tensions described in Tuffit's paper are echoed in the two remaining essays. Nick Alldridge writes on loyalty and identity in Chester parishes prior to the Civil War, while Jonathan Barry examines the role of the parish in civic life in Bristol between 1640 and 1740. The volume is a valuable contribution towards a deeper understanding of local identity in the past.

RECENTLY COMPLETED THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

R.A. Davis
'Community, parish and poverty: Old Swinford 1660-1730' (Ph.D thesis, 1987).
To what extent can an administrative unit be described as a community? To investigate this question a case study of the West Midlands parish of Old Swinford was undertaken making use of parish registers, poor law records, family papers, probate records, quarter sessions documents and consistory court records.

Economic forces bound the parish into the wider North Worcestershire/South Staffordshire locality, thus circumscribing Old Swinford's individuality. Moreover, the parish exhibited considerable social and spatial differentiation. Giving the parish its unity, however, was the poor law. This provided the basic framework for the parish's social hierarchy, and created a web of obligations and rights enveloping the unit as a whole (save possibly Amblecote settlement). It is further suggested that the poor law intimately affected the parish's demographic structure - in particular, nuptiality, bastardy, migration and household structure. Parochial power was unequally distributed and, indeed, became more concentrated over time. Nevertheless, positions of power were not entirely monopolized by the economic elite, and such power was used with considerable discretion, with neither material nor ideological motivation. The degree to which Old Swinford constituted a cohesive ritual field is assessed through the study of religious conformity and ritual activities within the parish. While opportunities existed which allowed the parish to celebrate its uniqueness, it nevertheless has to be accepted that Old Swinford's ritual life meshed it closely into the wider locality. The parish is found to have been a real focus for the social and kinship networks of parishioners. Communality was, moreover, seemingly aided by the interweaving of networks throughout the social hierarchy, the low level of inter-personal conflict and the lack of development of any alternative culture. The conclusion is reached that, on balance, the notion of Old Swinford as a community is justified.

Anne Mitson
'Social, economic and kinship networks in rural south-west Nottinghamshire c.1580-1700' (Ph.D thesis, 1987).
An examination is made of a rural area of south-west Nottinghamshire in the late sixteenth and the seventeenth centuries. The study is based on family reconstitution, supplemented by the extensive material in the Middleton Collection, by wills and inventories, together with a wide range of other miscellaneous sources.

These data have provided an opportunity to uncover some of the important myriad of networks - economic, social and kinship - utilised by some of the inhabitants. Many of these links suggest the existence of 'neighbourhood areas', small groups of parishes sharing common interests and allegiances. Of particular relevance, and probably of direct consequence for the neighbourhood areas, were the numerous dynastic families found throughout the study area. These families were long-established in either a single parish or over a group of parishes, very often confined to a specific neighbourhood area. Such families represented stability throughout the period studied and comprised some 25% of the population. A further, very significant proportion of the total population was considerably more mobile and in consequence has left fewer indications of any networks that might have been created. By studying

a group of contiguous parishes rather than a single community this study has made some contribution to the growing body of evidence on rural networks.

John Stedman
'"A very indifferent small city": the economy of Carlisle, 1550 - 1700' (Ph.D thesis, 1988).
This thesis sets out to unravel the economy of Carlisle over 150 years. The wide range of sources used includes administrative papers, court records and accounts of the corporation of Carlisle; gild records; parish registers; state papers, taxation records and other documents generated by central government; and the records of the Dean and Chapter of Carlisle.

Carlisle was the largest town in Cumberland until c. 1690 when it was overtaken by Whitehaven. The city's population reached a peak of just under 2000 in 1597, then fell, then climbed back to 2000 by 1700. Its economy rested on its functions as garrison, county, market and cathedral town, but tanning was an important industry before the Civil War. These rather special functions gave the town an unusually high proportion of lawyers, clergy and soldiers amongst its inhabitants, but otherwise its occupational structure was essentially that of a market town, and its economic hinterland was surprisingly restricted. Specialization within trades was limited and secondary occupations were very common, especially farming and victualling.

Carlisle was the most important town of a poor region, and this poverty was reflected in lack of specialisation in the economy as a whole and in individual economic activities. It benefited little from the economic changes which affected early-modern Cumberland, or from the diminution of Border violence, and the early seventeenth century may have been a period of economic difficulty. It was small in comparison with towns of similar status and relatively poor, with old-fashioned housing. Carlisle was economically backward, and insofar as its economy was typical of small towns, reveals a weakness of the pre-industrial economy.

M.A.Dissertations for 1987

Michael Clifford
'Fifteen Leicestershire villages: a study in morphology and location'.
This study of Leicestershire village morphology comprises three sections. The first part is a study of similarities in form and siting among villages which have a Grimston-hybrid type of place-name. Secondly places whose names incorporate the Old English element burh such as Burton are examined. The evidence indicates some similarities in form which may well have been related to the former existence of defensive enclosures. The final section attempts to tackle settlements which formed part of the multiple estate centred on Church Langton. Here it was found that much of the original plans of the settlements has become obliterated, although there is some indication that each village may have performed a specialised function within the estate.

J.A. Crompton
'The pattern of dissent in Staffordshire:1851'.
This study of Staffordshire is based upon an analysis of both statistical and qualitative evidence concerning dissent in 1851. It concentrates in particular on the relative position of the Church of England and the Methodist connections. The aim is to explore this relationship not only through the quantitative data available from the 1851 Religious Census, but also to expand the investigation through the use of miscellaneous contemporary parliamentary reports. To this end the study is divided into two sections concerned with each type of source. Within each section the evidence has been considered in the light of previous theory, such as that expounded by Everitt in The Pattern of Rural Dissent: the Nineteenth Century. The overall result is a clearer understanding of how the relationship between the established church and dissent had been arrived at, and the factors which may have been responsible for it, or at least influential in its success or failure.

R. Delong
'Women, widows and witches'.
The effect of death on the living, examined through parish records, wills and probate inventories and a unique seventeenth-century pamphlet on witchcraft in Huntingdonshire, is the subject of this study of four closely-grouped agricultural communities in Huntingdonshire between 1630 and 1650. Special attention is paid to the status of women in the community. Demographic analysis showed that the critical limiting factor on family size and therefore on population size was feminine death, particularly in childbirth. The high rate of maternal deaths highlighted one aspect of women's vulnerability. The surviving spouse was, however, likely to remarry but this was not the case when the wife outlived her husband. The wills indicated that many husbands placed restrictions on re-marriage, whilst the fate of poor widows in the communities was often that of being accused of witchcraft.

P.S. Ell
'A quantitative analysis of variables allegedly influencing the pattern of religious observance in 1851: a case study in Warwickshire'.
The 1851 Religious Census has been used by historians of religion as a tool in the examination of patterns of religious observance for many years. Little attention, however, has been paid to quantification although this is a source which lends itself to such an approach The dissertation examines patterns of dissent and conformity in Warwickshire at the parish level. A detailed data base was constructed containing 39 variables. Some were religious indicators taken from the 1851 census, others from a number of sources which described the social and economic environment of each parish. With help from the statistical technique of regression analysis these variables are examined in an attempt to establish

the reasons for patterns of observance. Anglicanism is found to be weak in areas of high, dense population, and also in parishes whose acreage is large. In general Non-conformity is correlated with the occurrence of open settlements and Anglicanism with closed villages. The distinct pays identifiable in Warwickshire were found, even in the nineteenth century, to have had a significant impact on the patterns of religious observance. In the Felden areas Anglicanism was dominant; in Arden, an area of late colonization and settlement, Non-conformity was far more prevalent.

J. Harrison
'The composite manor of Brent, 1189-1307'.
This study of four contiguous manors which belonged to the Abbey of Glastonbury endeavours to answer questions posed by documentary and topographical evidence. What did the evidence of medieval surveys reveal about demesne husbandry, the structure of land-holding and the demands on the tenantry? If the 13th century was a period of population growth was this evident in Brent, and what were the responses to it? Did seigneurial demands and population growth grind the tenants deeper into poverty? How much of the landscape was created between 1189 and 1307; was it sufficient to cope with the growing population? How did the manors fit into the wider context of the Glastonbury estate and the county? Irrespective of the national political situation and economic trends, was this a period of economic growth, of stagnation or even of depression in Brent?

A. Hemming
'A study of social relationships in late Victorian London: the diaries of Hannah Cullwick and Arthur Munby'.
The two concepts of community and society are examined in this study through the diaries of two people polarized by position, yet intimately connected. An understanding of how community was perceived and how people categorized and enacted social relationships was sought. Community was found to be defined by the perception of localism; psychological space was more significant to interaction and interdependence than was geographical proximity. Society, however was found to be a fluid structure dependent upon the enactment of its relationships, and thereby on a common language of interaction. A vocabulary of relationships was isolated, incorporating visual, verbal and physical elements, whereby each individual in the society could be categorized. Internal analysis of the life of the community and society is thus shown to be essential to an understanding of the reality and functions of these concepts.

J. Laughton
'Prolegomena to a societal history of late-medieval Chester'.
Based on the books of Chester's mayors and sheriffs for the years 1453-1506, this M.A. dissertation aims to demonstrate the potential of the source. The mayoral records are largely concerned with the privileged members of the community, those of the sheriffs with various categories of outsider. The juxtaposition of the two sets of documents illustrates both the divisions and also the inter-relationships which operated within Chester's urban society. A chapter on the mechanism of government charts the cursus honorum and reveals a characteristically high correlation between family wealth and influence and political power and privilege. That dealing with the urban landscape allows for a tentative identification of distinct 'villages' within the walls, each with its own individuality. Finally, consideration of the urban economy highlights the importance of the unregulated labour force and also suggests that assessments of occupational structure based solely on freemen's rolls are misleading. This dissertation remains, however, nothing more than a prologue.

S. Morris
'An investigation into an early industrial neighbourhood - its status and its nature'.
This dissertation aims to outline the nature of a particular area within Sheffield. It is an attempt to assess the reasons why the area was colonized in the first place, and its status once it had been colonized. Sheffield, with its topography of hills and river valleys, provides difficulties for any would-be developer of the early industrial age; problems such as transport were only resolved by the electric tramways and the powerful steam locomotives of the later nineteenth century. This meant that a low-lying area such as that around West Bar would be colonized as part of the first overspill from medieval Sheffield. The resulting overcrowding was accentuated by the steep hills on either side. Although much of the housing has gone the roads, certain public houses, and some traces of old housing remain. It is possible, through trade directories, to reconstruct the houses, shops and trades within each street; patterns of sub-urban settlement can be traced, the differing nature of thoroughfares identified and analysed and the role of the beerhouse, public house and off-licence assessed.

R.L. Weedon
'Howdenshire: early territorial organisation in the East Riding of Yorkshire'.
This work grew out of an earlier study of the place-names in the East Riding, and of the concepts of shires and of multiple estates. The substantial settlement of Howden north-east of the confluence of the rivers Derwent and Ouse and Howdenshire, the name given to the medieval and later wapentake, formed the basis of the study. The area was held by the Bishops of Durham, probably from 1080/96 onwards, although the extent of their liberty varied over time. The aim of the study was to try and establish, through the use of archaeological, place-name, topographical and documentary sources, the territorial organisation on which the bishops' liberty was

based, its origins and its evolution. Helen Cam has suggested that the bounds could not be established but the results of this study, although necessarily incomplete, indicate that Howdenshire was an important pre-Conquest territorial unit, probably with a minster church. As such it may be compared with parallels further north such as Allertonshire.

ANNUAL FIELDCOURSE, 1988

On a bright St George's Day nine hardy travellers together with their tour guide departed from Leicestershire and proceeded in a northerly direction - this was the start of the Cumberland field-course. Fortunately the weather, notoriously unreliable in this area, was to remain favourable throughout the week.

Viewing Cumbria from the prosperous south-east many people might regard the region as a comparatively remote and unimportant corner of the country, but its former strategic importance and its turbulent military history can still be witnessed today through the Roman legacy of Hadrian's Wall and Hardknott Fort, through imposing fortresses such as Carlisle castle and through the large numbers of peel towers and bastle houses such as that at Glassonby.

Stamina was an essential ingredient: several hundreds of miles were covered during the week as we sought to encompass the great range of contrasting landscapes to be seen within Cumbria - from the Pennine Edge to the western coastal strip, and from the Lakeland Dome to the Solway Plain and the Scottish Borders. Within these limits we noticed that the towns varied as greatly as the landscapes. They ranged from the administrative centre of Carlisle to the bustling market towns of Penrith and Cockermouth, from the tourist centre of Keswick to the rather depressed atmosphere of Whitehaven haunted by the ghosts of its industrial past. Among the highlights of the course must be numbered the artistic splendour of the Bewcastle and Gosforth crosses, the intrigue of the Dacre bears, the bishop's massive tithe barn at Carlisle, a picnic on the shores of Crummock Water, and the secluded quiet of Watendlath.

Our accommodation was at Hudscales, an old yet comfortable farmhouse which, as its name suggests, was situated high up on the very edge of the fells between Caldbeck and Hesket Newmarket. Cooking and domestic duties were evenly divided and the cuisine varied from the exotic delights of dishes from India and Singapore to the more traditional local fare of Cumberland sausages. Additional drama was provided by the fact that a member of the party was an expectant father. Steve's patience was eventually rewarded when the news reached us from Stroud of the birth of his son. It can be safely said that everyone who participated in the field-course found it a most memorable, enjoyable and enriching experience.

Adrian Autton

PUBLISHING LOCAL HISTORY

Sooner or later every local historian faces the problem of how to publish material he or she has written. If it is an article, the appropriate journal is usually obvious. If it is a book, however, there is the choice of using a publisher or publishing it oneself. Here I hope to explore the options, and explain something of the publisher's approach.

Books on local history fall into two groups: those which will support their own publication and those which will not. In the case of an academic book, obviously what matters are the quality and originality of the work and the reputation of the author; the place which it deals with is largely irrelevant. With general local history books - textbooks, manuals or reference books - the same factors are significant, but additionally the number and quality of rival publications is important. With books on a locality, originality is not so important as long as they are reasonably written and the research is sound. Rival publications are also a problem, but the most significant factors are the size and character of the place and how specialised the book is.

Most local history books are bought in the place about which they are written; crudely, therefore, the larger its population, the more likely it is that the book will recover the cost of its production. Moreover, the effect is cumulative: the more copies of a book that are likely to be sold, the longer the print run can be and thus the lower the costs of producing each volume, the cheaper the book can be priced, so encouraging sales. Since print runs of local books are relatively short and the cost of preparing for printing is fixed, marked reductions in the cost per book can be made in this way. Conversely it is impossible to sell a viable quantity of a non-academic book on somewhere as small as, say, Hallaton, no matter how good or relatively cheap it might be.

The problem of the size of the potential readership also affects the approach to the subject. It is possible to sell a book on Tudor London, but there would be problems with one on Tudor Leicester. Outside the very biggest towns publishers prefer local histories to be as unspecialised as possible, covering broad periods and all aspects of a place's history: a microlith to microchip approach. Moreover the more illustrations the book has the better. Most potential purchasers are non-historians, and pictures are popular and now cheaper to include. As a result the local historian has wonderful opportunities to use visual evidence.

If a publisher cannot be found to publish your book at risk, there are essentially two alternatives. Grant aid can be found, from public or private sources (most archaeological reports are

published in this way); or there is the pre-publication offer, in which subscribers pay in advance for a copy of the book, receiving it at below the publication price with their name in the back. Naturally the two approaches can be combined.

What is the point of using a publisher, especially if the publication has to be subsidised? The advent of computer typesetting has led to a revolution in self-publishing and it has always been possible to hand a MS directly to a printer. Some services a publisher provides are obvious: professional design skills, making the book more attractive (important since few people will buy a book which looks cheaply produced no matter how brilliant the contents); a critical eye, since every author is blind to his own grammatical infelicities and the editor may make useful comments about the content. Other advantages are less obvious. It costs thousands of pounds just to print a modest book, money which may not be recovered for several years but which will usually be provided by the publisher. The publisher will be able to buy paper more cheaply and to negotiate better terms with printers. He will provide storage space: books are heavy and bulky. There is also the important question of marketing. A book will not sell and be read unless bookshops can be supplied with it at their convenience and unless the potential readership is made aware of its existence; publishers have the staff and expertise to ensure a book is available not only in the place about which it is written, but elsewhere too.

If, then, you have a project of any type, academic or 'popular', that you want published, before opting to publish it yourself it is worth approaching a publisher (preferably Phillimore!) at an early stage. Do also, if possible, type it with a word processor however it is to be published. Word processors greatly ease the tasks of editing for both the author and editor. The disks will provide the basis of the typesetting, substantially reducing the likelihood of typesetting errors as well as lowering the cost of production and allowing the book or journal to be priced lower. It hardly matters what sort of computer is used - material produced on the cheapest of home computers can readily be translated for the very sophisticated machines now used by professional typesetters.

John Stedman

(The author is now a publisher with Phillimore)

LOCAL HISTORY IN THE WILD

"There's a letter here asking us to write an article for the first newsletter of the Friends of the Department of English Local History"

(Fact No.1: Chiltern Open Air Museum was founded in 1978. Fifteen historic buildings, which would otherwise have been demolished, had already been erected on its 45 acre site. These form the nuclei of meaningful groups - e.g. a farmstead, village, town, etc.).

"We could pretend that things only got moving when we arrived as Project Managers on a job-share basis"

(Lesson No.1: Job-sharing is a misnomer for "two for the price of one").

"That would hardly be fair to all the volunteers who warden the site, dismantle and re-erect buildings, make tea, serve in the shop, give talks, guide school parties and demonstrate craft skills"

(Fact No.2: There are over 200 volunteers involved in the Museum in one capacity or another).

"But that makes it sound as if we are superfluous. We could tell them about all the buildings that we've supervised and helped with dismantling since we arrived at the Museum"

(Fact No 3: Over the last two and a half years the Museum has dismantled a slaughterhouse, a pre-fab dating from 1947, a late-nineteenth century village hall, and most recently, a butcher's shop, coachworks and bake-oven. The last three involved a total of 1600 hours of stripping out, surveying and numbering).

"But that would give the impression that we just take buildings down"

(Lesson No 2: Buildings can be dismantled much more quickly than they can be put up).

"Surely it would sound more positive to talk about what was new at the Museum?"

(Fact No 4: A toll house, a visitors' centre, furniture factory, new storage building and offices, a sixteenth-century hay barn, a late nineteenth-century cart-shed and a reconstruction of a Saxon house, have all been completed since 1986. An experimental medieval field system is already sprouting its first crop of wheat and a coppicing programme is under way in our 20 acres of woodland).

"The other thing we could stress is that re-erecting buildings and improving the site takes a long time because we have to raise the finance first"

(Fact No 5: Finance is raised from grants and sponsorship - the Museum has no regular local authority or government funding. Re-erecting buildings is not cheap - the hay barn cost £32,000. The fourteenth-century tithe barn will cost a quarter of a million).

"Another angle could be to step into the typical visitor's shoes and to describe a walk around the site"

(Fact No 6: Last year the Museum attracted 32,000 visitors).

"But what do you call a typical visitor? There's no such variety"

(Fact No 7: Visitors come in all shapes and sizes, and for a variety of reasons, - in families or in parties - from schools, W.I.s, Local History Societies - and there are those who may be

interested in one of the nine special events held annually at the Museum such as the Transport Festival or the Sheep Dog Trials).

"We could describe a typical day at the Museum....."

(Lesson No 3: There is no such thing as a typical day!).

James and
Miriam Moir

(The authors also run the J. and M. Moir Partnership, Museum and Historical Services, at Pond Cottage Bungalow, Common Road, Chorley Wood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5LT)