

MALPAS HISTORY

NUMBER 7

DECEMBER 1986

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MALPAS HISTORY

NUMBER 7

DECEMBER 1986



A magazine for the Malpas area including the townships of
Agden Bickerton Bickley Bradley Broxton Bulkeley Chidlow
Cholmondeley Chorlton Cuddington Duckington Edge Egerton
Hampton Iscoyd Larkton Macefen Malpas Newton Oldcastle
Overton Stockton Tushingam-cum-Grindley Wigland and
Wychough (all in the ancient Parish of Malpas) and Threapwood

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH: William Henry Reeves' ("Billy Henry's") shop which stood in the High Street on the site of the entrance to the modern car park. Older residents have many tales to tell of Billy Henry - of how he sold sweets and paraffin but seldom washed his hands, and of his cat that slept among the goods in the window, among others.

" THE MIKADO "

<p style="text-align: center;">CAST :</p> <p>THE MIKADO OF JAPAN JOHN PROBIN NANKI POO (his son, disguised as a wandering minstrel and in love with Yum Yum) ISAAC EVANS KO-KO (Lord High Executioner of Titipu) WILLIAM PROBIN POOH-BAH (Lord High Everything Else) WILLIAM ELLIS PISH TUSH (a Noble Lord) WILLIAM SHENTON GO TO (a Noble Lord) JAMES PARSONAGE ATTENDANT BRYAN PROBIN YUM YUM } Three Sisters, JEAN MEREDITH PITTI SING } Wards of KATHLEEN PROBIN PEEP BO } Ko-Ko SYBIL M. YATES KATISHA (an elderly lady, in love with Nanki Poo) LAURA VICKERS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LADIES' CHORUS OF SCHOOL GIRLS :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sopranos :</p> <p>Lilian Allman, Maureen Barlow, Doreen Cornes, Jane Edge, Marion Goff, Oriol Mercer, Edith Mellor, Betty Pace, Patricia Paton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Contraltos :</p> <p>Sylvia Bradley, Shirley Bradley, Vera Botteril, Avis Doughty, Kathleen Shenton.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GENTLEMEN'S CHORUS OF NOBLES, GUARDS & COOLIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tenors :</p> <p>Alfred Egan, Howell Evans, Valentine Jones, Clive Moulton, Joe Roberts, William Wainwright.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Basses :</p> <p>William Moulton, Frank Pugh, E. J. Richards, Philip Steed.</p> <p>ACT I : Courtyard of Ko-Ko's Official Residence. ACT II : Ko-Ko's Garden.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRODUCER : JOHN C. PEBERDY</p> <p>Stage Manager and Stage Carpenter Granville M. Jones Assistants D. Shepherd and G. Peters Wardrobe Mistress Minnie Peberdy Assistants Evelyn Meredith and Isobel Edge Make-up Jack and Miriam Paterson, Dot Bailey and Edith Jones Lighting Richard Harrison Programme Stewards Sybil G. Yates and Thelma Thomas Front of House Bert Rich Assistants S. Allman and A. Mercer Prompters Annie Shenton and Winifred Goff Box Office Manager Alan Stott Ticket Steward Kathleen Shenton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ORCHESTRA :</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Violins :</p> <p>May Hatton (Leader), Leslie Thorley John Hughlow and Alberta Ellis</p> <p>Viola Pryce Hughes Cello Frank Jones Bass J. Hinkinson Clarinet Frank Hardern Trumpet E. P. Martin Drums Noel Bradley Piano Mena Chesters Assistant Pianist Marion Goff</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MUSICAL DIRECTOR : HERBERT C. YATES</p>
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BACK COVER: Photograph of the full cast for the Malpas 'Festival of Britain' production of 'The Mikado' by members of the Malpas Evening Institute (1951). The full cast list from the programme is shown above. No prizes for matching names to faces!

PICTURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Back cover: Mr J Peberdy p.3: H.M.S.O. p.9: Mr R Hughes
p.11: Mrs N Chesworth pp.15,16: Mr J Peberdy p.17: Witchchurch Herald p.21: Mrs R Cook, Mr R Pearson pp.22,23: Mrs R Cook p.25: Mr F Moore Dutton p.26: Mr A E H Heber-Percy
Inside Back Cover: Chester Chronicle

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EDITORIAL

It has been said that we are now living in the 'post-industrial' society - in the countryside, one sign of this is a revival of interest in crafts such as those of the blacksmith and thatcher which, not so long ago, seemed to be in danger of disappearing. Alongside this there is a mushroom growth of 'craft workshops' housing every conceivable kind of craftsman, from potter to puppet maker. Two of the articles in this issue remind us that the countryside has always been a breeding ground for craftsman. Richard Hughes, who is working on a book about the clock makers of the Whitchurch/Malpas area, has produced an account for us of the Callcott family of clock and watch makers who appear to have arrived in Malpas in the late 1700s. Another more recent craftsman, subject of a newspaper article reproduced here, was George Hopley of Cholmondeley and Malpas, from whose home-made 'cello the strains of the 'Old Hundredth' floated over Cross'o the Hill earlier this century.

Even in Norman times the smiths and millers were active in the area, as shown by the local entries in Domesday Book. With the excellent coverage given to the occasion, particularly by the BBC, few can have remained unaware that 1986 is the 900th anniversary of the compilation of our first true public record. We could not let the year slip away without mentioning it in 'Malpas History' and Margaret Barker has taken Domesday Book as the subject of our article on 'Sources for Malpas History'. Study of Domesday Book is fraught with difficulties but Margaret has provided a very succinct account of the Malpas area as represented in its pages. This provides a useful basis for future research and she has even attempted to answer the question "Where exactly was Depenbech?". All praise to the parish councillors who pressed for the name 'Depenbech Close' in order to perpetuate a fragment of our local history, rather than the bland and suburban 'Foxley Grove' proposed by the developers!

There are many factors which have caused families and individuals to migrate, at all times in history - Earl Robert may have come from Normandy for the rich pickings in 1066 but economic necessity has more often been the reason. William Bradshaw examines the family of itinerant tinsmiths who moved from Bickerton to the U.S.A. and back in the 19th century, while the Pearson family, now dispersed around the country, are temporarily re-united in our pages as they reminisce about Malpas in the 1930s.

It was the threat of war which forced Mr John Peberdy and his young charges to migrate from Merseyside to Malpas in 1939 and, like many others including my wife and myself, Mr Peberdy was captured by the atmosphere of the town and chose to make it his home. Since then he has repaid the welcome he received, by taking a very active part in the life of the community - in the church, as parish councillor, at the Sports Club and not least as tutor for the Malpas Evening Institute in the 1950s. How many will recognise themselves in our back cover photograph of his 1951 'Festival of Britain' production of 'The Mikado'?

It was 160 years ago that our most famous migrant died, in India. Three years earlier, the forty year old Reginald Heber, then Rector of Hodnet, had been offered the 'job of a lifetime' as Bishop of Calcutta and went to the sub-continent with his family. The story of his life has now been told in a modern biography by Derrick Hughes. 'Bishop Sahib' is a very readable book and is recommended to anyone who would like an objective and carefully researched account of Heber's life, from his birth in Malpas Rectory to his death at Trichinopoly.

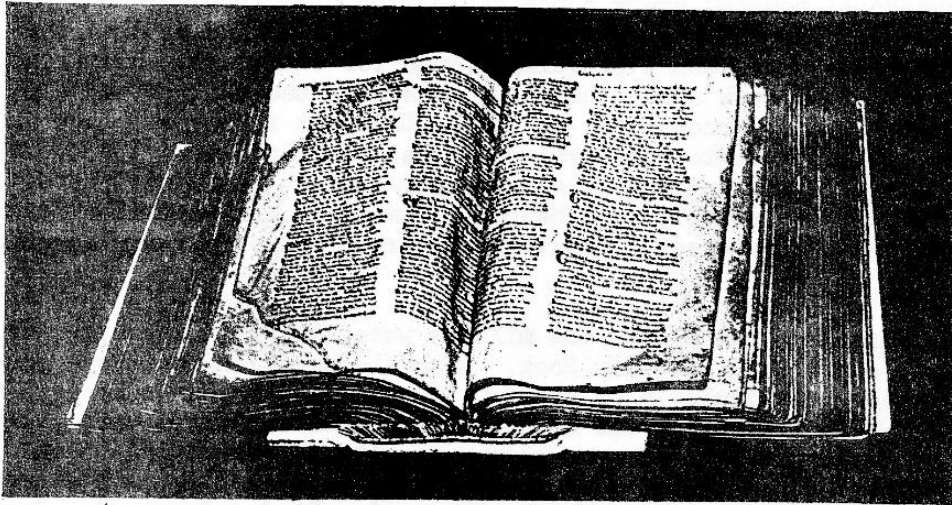
Finally a bit of romance for Christmas reading - 'Highwaymen at Hampton Post' and Bonnie Prince Charlie! We hope that you will enjoy 'Malpas History' 7.

David Hayns

Sources for Malpas History 2

DOMESDAY BOOK

Margaret Barker



GREAT DOMESDAY BOOK

(Crown Copyright photograph Reproduced by permission of HMSO)

The great Domesday Survey was produced in 1086 at the instigation of Duke William of Normandy who had conquered England in 1066.

In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for 1085 it is written that William sent his men all over England 'to each shire'. He wanted to find out exactly the extent of the lands that he had conquered, how many people lived on them and what kind of animals they kept. The King, as Duke William had become, wanted not only to know what he possessed for taxation purposes but also to compile a complete register. It would be useful if disputes over land occurred and through it he could identify future troublespots.

The whole project was carried out very quickly, possibly taking only a year in all. Commissioners were sent all over England with a set list of questions to ask, these being:

- What is the manor called?
- Who held it in King Edward's time and who has it now?
- How many hides are there and how many ploughs of the demesne land?
- How many men? How many villeins? How many cottars and slaves?
- How many free men? How many socmen?
- How much wood and meadow and pasture?
- How many mills and fishponds?
- Any changes?
- How much is it worth?

The information was required for three dates:

1. The time of King Edward
2. When William granted it after the Conquest.
3. The time of the enquiry.

Each commissioner had a circuit to visit, gathering the information which was then listed under Hundreds. All the information used was taken on oath from the Sheriff (Shire Reeve), the Barons, Priests, Reeves and six villagers from each village. The information was taken to Winchester where

BETTISFIELD

Beddesfeld

In dudestan h̄.

Beddesfeld. f. hugonis t̄ri de h̄ugone Beddesfeld. Edm̄i tenet. lbi. vii. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. viii. cap. In d̄nio. e. una 7 ii. serui. 7 iii. uilli cū. i. cap. lbi. dim̄s ad p̄ra. Silua. iii. leuū t̄g. 7 ii. lac̄. In hac t̄ra h̄nt. iii. milia. f. iii. cap. in d̄nio. 7 x. uillos 7 v. bord̄ 7 ii. serui. 7 iii. hōc̄ aliof. h̄nt om̄s h̄nt. iii. cap. s̄r̄br. h̄nt. i. cap.

Tōt. T. h. e. uall̄. xxiii. lib. 7 xvii. sol̄d. 7 iii. den̄. Wast̄ fut̄. Modo int̄ t̄ot̄ uat̄. iii. lib. hoc̄ s̄nt p̄ Silua h̄nt. ii. leuū t̄g. 7 unū lac̄.

BURWARDESTONE (Iscoyd)

Burwardestone

De hoc s̄nt calūniat̄ ep̄s de cestre. ii. hid̄. q̄s tenet̄ s̄ cedo app̄nua reḡis. sed ex t̄o usq̄ in se plangit̄ amissio.

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Burwardestone. Edm̄i tenet. lbi. v. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. xxiii. cap. In d̄nio. e. una. 7 xii. uilli 7 ii. bord̄ cū. iii. cap. 7 unū miles h̄nt. i. cap. lbi. 7 i. miles t̄ri dim̄s h̄nt que p̄ced̄t ei. xii. sol̄d. lbi. silua. de. xxiii. sol̄. T. h. e. uall̄. vi. lib. 7 iii. sol̄. Modo. l. iii. sol̄. Wast̄ muen̄. hoc̄ s̄nt h̄nt. ii. leuū t̄g. 7 unū lac̄.

WORTHENBURY

Hurdingberie

De hoc s̄nt calūniat̄ ep̄s de cestre. i. hid̄ 7 dim̄s. 7 iura saluū.

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Hurdingberie. Edm̄i tenet. lbi. v. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. x. cap. In d̄nio. e. una. 7 unū serui. 7 iii. uilli 7 iii. franc̄g 7 unū padman̄ cū. iii. cap. lbi. molin̄ nouū. 7 una ad p̄ra. De hoc s̄nt t̄ri unū miles. i. hid̄ 7 dim̄s. 7 lbi. h̄nt. i. cap. cū hōib̄ suis. T. h. e. uall̄. xxii. orat̄ q̄s uilli redd̄t. Modo uat̄. xxx. sol̄. Wast̄ muen̄. h̄nt in t̄g. ii. leuū t̄g. 7 i. m. lac̄.

DEPENBECH (Malpas)

Depenbech

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Depenbech. Edm̄i tenet. lbi. viii. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. xxiii. cap. In d̄nio. s̄nt. iii. 7 i. bord̄. 7 dim̄s ad p̄ra. De hac t̄ra tenet̄. i. milia. de Roberto. v. hid̄ 7 dim̄s. 7 lbi. h̄nt. iii. cap. 7 vii. uillos cū. ii. cap. 7 dim̄s. lbi. ii. ad p̄ra. Tōt. T. h. e. uall̄. xii. lib. 7 iii. sol̄. Wast̄ postea fut̄. Modo int̄ t̄ot̄ uat̄. l. ii. sol̄. h̄nt. ii. leuū t̄g. 7 unū lac̄.

TILSTON

Tillestone

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Tillestone. Edm̄i tenet. lbi. iii. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. viii. cap. In d̄nio. e. una. 7 ii. serui. 7 iii. uilli 7 ii. bord̄. 7 iii. padman̄ 7 p̄posit̄ 7 fab̄ 7 molinari cū. iii. cap. int̄ om̄s. lbi. molin̄ de. viii. sol̄d.

De hac t̄ra tenet̄ Rannulf̄ dim̄s h̄nt de Roberto. p̄t̄. vi. sol̄ 7 iii. den̄. Tōt. T. h. e. uall̄. vi. lib. Modo. xxx. sol̄. Wast̄ muen̄. h̄nt. i. leuū t̄g. 7 alia lac̄. restituc̄o ex do ep̄ici sua.

CHRISTLETON

Cristetone

De huī s̄nt t̄ra calūniat̄ ep̄s de cestre dim̄s h̄nt. sed comitat̄ non.

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Cristetone. Edm̄i tenet. lbi. viii. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. xxiii. cap. In d̄nio. e. i. cap. 7 ii. analle. 7 xii. uilli 7 v. bord̄. 7 ii. p̄posit̄ cū. viii. cap. lbi. molin̄ de. xii. sol̄. 7 ii. padman̄ ibi. De hoc s̄nt t̄ri Rannulf̄ de Roberto. ii. hid̄. p̄ced̄t ei. xii. den̄. Tōt. T. h. e. uall̄. vi. lib. Modo. uat̄. iii. lib. Wast̄ muen̄. h̄nt. ii. leuū t̄g. 7 una lac̄.

CHOLMONDELEY

Calmundelei

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Calmundelei. Edm̄i tenet̄. lbi. h̄nt. i. hid̄e geld. t̄ra. e. iii. cap. Edm̄i 7 Drogo tenet̄ de Roberto. In d̄nio est. i. cap. 7 v. serui. 7 unū uilli 7 iii. bord̄ 7 unū p̄posit̄ 7 fab̄ cū. i. cap. 7 Silua. i. leuū 7 dim̄s t̄g. 7 una lac̄. lbi. iii. haȳ. T. h. e. uall̄. xxii. sol̄d. Modo. vi. sol̄d 7 iii. den̄. h̄nt dim̄s leuū de plano.

EDGE

Eghe

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Edge. Edm̄i tenet̄. adhuc tenet̄ de Roberto. lbi. h̄nt. i. hid̄e 7 dim̄s geld. t̄ra. e. i. cap. Drogo s̄nt. i. In d̄nio. e. una cap. 7 iii. serui. Silua. ii. ac̄ t̄g. 7 una lac̄. Wast̄ fut̄ 7 muen̄. Modo. iii. sol̄d.

HAMPTON

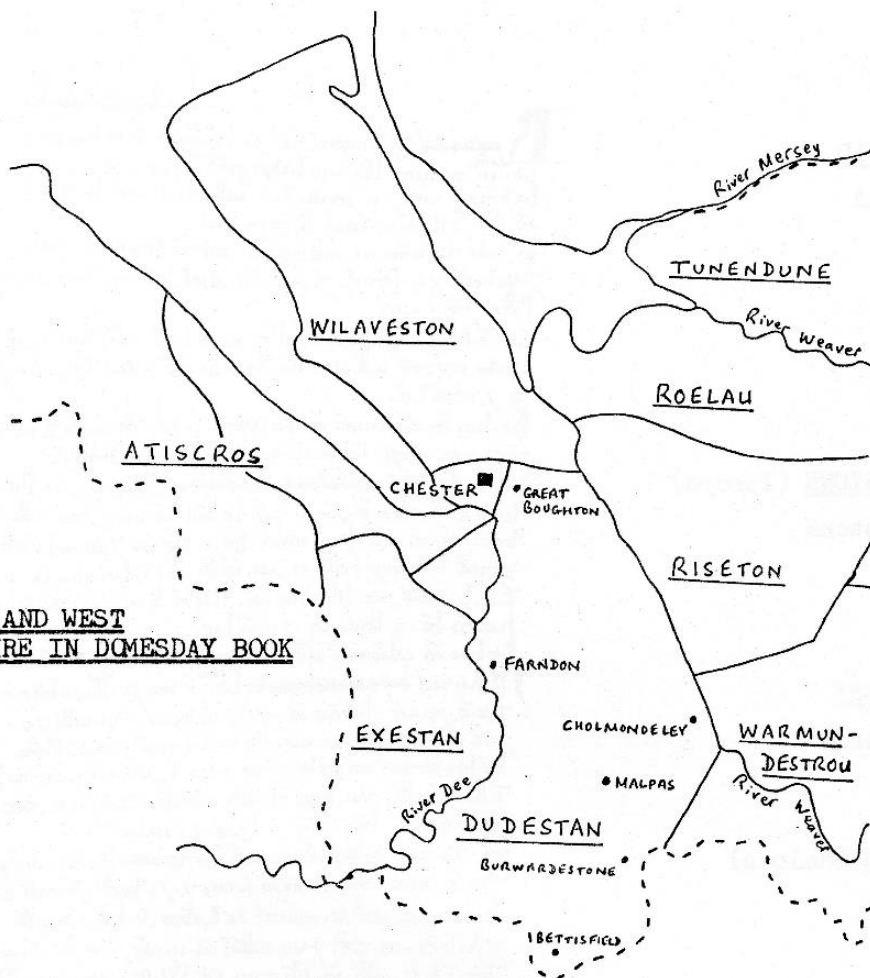
Hantone

Ist̄ Ro. tenet̄ Hampton. Edm̄i 7 Drogo de co. Ip̄se Edm̄i tenet̄. lbi. h̄nt. i. hid̄e. t̄ra. e. iii. cap. lbi. s̄nt. iii. hōsp̄at̄ n̄l. h̄nt. lbi. Silua. v. ac̄ t̄g. 7 ii. lac̄. Tōt. T. h. e. uall̄. v. sol̄. Modo. ii. sol̄ 7 unū s̄p̄cuar̄iu p̄ced̄t.

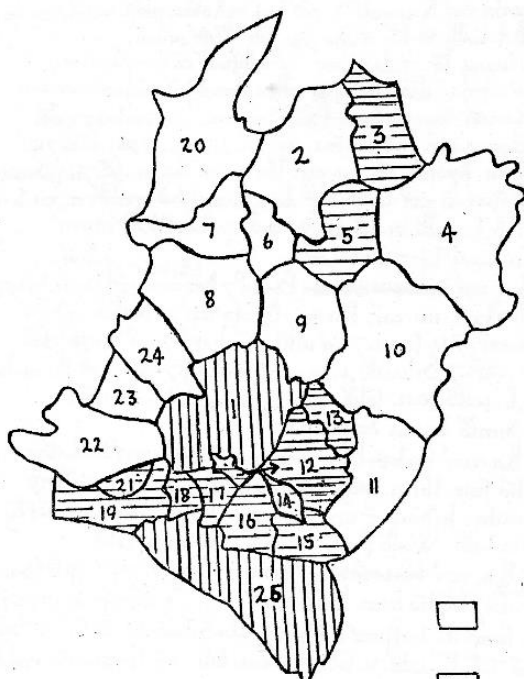
EXCERPT FROM GREAT Domesday Showing Part of the Holding of Robert, Son of

Earl Hugh, in Dudestan (Broxton) Hundred




MAP 1
SOUTH AND WEST
CHESHIRE IN Domesday Book



MAP 2 MALPAS IN Domesday Book



- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1 Malpas | 14 Chidlow |
| 2 Bickerton | 15 Agden |
| 3 Bulkeley | 16 Wigland |
| 4 Cholmondeley | 17 Wychough |
| 5 Egerton | 18 Stockton |
| 6 Larkton | 19 Oldcastle |
| 7 Duckington | 20 Broxton |
| 8 Edge | 21 Newton |
| 9 Hampton | 22 Cuddington |
| 10 Bickley | 23 Chorlton |
| 11 Tushingham | 24 Overton |
| 12 Bradley | 25 Iscoyd |
| 13 Macefen | |

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
|  | Mentioned by name in Domesday |
|  | Not mentioned in Domesday |
|  | Mentioned under another name |

it was corrected and abbreviated then the information from most counties written up into one volume which today can be found in the Public Record Office in London. A monumental task for its time, today it provides an invaluable record of a past society. For many hundreds of years afterwards there was nothing to equal it and it is unique to England. The problem lies in understanding it. Some of the placenames have changed. The technical terms used are not familiar and its Latin text is greatly abbreviated. The main volume is known as 'Great Domesday' but there is a second volume known as 'Little Domesday' which contains surveys of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. Two other counties, Durham and Northumberland, also London were not written up. The old counties of Westmorland and Cumberland were not included because they were not then part of England.

The information was arranged in Hundreds, the Hundreds being the main administrative districts, of which there were several in each Shire. Within the Hundreds were the villages and around these were the manors, which could be small farms or large holdings. The information for the Cheshire section in Domesday was taken as part of the western circuit and included parts of Wales and South Lancashire between the Ribble and the Mersey. Lancashire as a county did not exist in 1086. Cheshire is closely linked with Shropshire. Within the Cheshire section we find the entries for the area of South Cheshire which is now represented by modern Malpas. It is entered under the Hundred of Dudestan, part of which was later called Broxton Hundred. Dudestan Hundred extended from Great Boughton in the north to Bettisfield in the south; Farndon in the west and Cholmondeley and Bickley in the east. Why it was called Dudestan and where Dudestan itself was is not known (MAP 1).

For the area around Malpas there are entries for Worthenbury, Tilston, Christleton, Cholmondeley, Edge, Hampton, Larkton, Duckington, Broxton, Overton, Cuddington, Shocklach, Tushingam, Bickley, Bickerton and Burwardsley, but no mention of the names 'Malpas' and 'Iscoyd' (MAP 2).

There are, however, two entries that are puzzling; one is 'Burwardestone' and the other is 'Depenbech'. They have no modern equivalents but research has resulted in Depenbech being identified with Malpas and Burwardestone with Iscoyd. One way of reaching this conclusion has been by tracing the 'circuit', that is the route, taken by the commissioners according to Domesday. Since the entry for Burwardestone immediately precedes that for Worthenbury it would seem logical that it is Iscoyd and that from there they travelled to Depenbech and then to Tilston. 'Depenbech' means 'a deep stream'. There is no such stream in today's Malpas. If we look for the nearest deep stream it is at the Hough about a mile to the south of modern Malpas. Was this the site of the original village? The area around the Hough is not mentioned separately in Domesday. The entry for Depenbech gives its extent as 2 leagues long by 1 league wide. A 'leuga' is a measure of length equivalent to about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, which makes Depenbech 3 by $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. If we take an area 3 by $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles with the Hough near its centre then it is possible to conclude that Depenbech included the townships of Oldcastle, Wychough, Wigland, Bradley, Macefen, Chidlow, Agden, Stockton and Newton as well as Malpas township. Certainly the extent of all these townships combined is approximately 3 by $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

If we look at the entry for the Malpas area, what can it tell us about the region in 1086? The land had been given by William the Conqueror to Robert, the son of Earl Hugh. Hugh was William's nephew and Robert was made Earl of Chester in 1071. He was Viscount of Avranches and held Cheshire directly from the King. As a result he had considerable power, although it is

unlikely; that he paid much attention to Malpas. It had belonged previously to the Saxon Earl Edwin, ruler of Mercia, but after the Conquest he lost most of his land. The value of Malpas was put at 52 shillings in 1086. Before 1066 it had been 11 pounds 4 shillings. Between these times it became waste. This could mean that it was land that was not being used for one reason or another, or maybe it had been deserted by the death of its population by an epidemic of disease. More likely it meant that the area around Malpas was destroyed by the Normans when large areas of the North were burnt or pillaged when they tried to establish control - the notorious exercise known as the 'Harrying of the North'. It is encouraging to see that by 1086 land was beginning to regain its value. Some areas remained waste for much longer; some did not recover for up to 100 years.

Of the local villages, Tushingham, Cuddington, Little Edge, Edge, Duckington, Tilston, Iscoyd, Bickley and Burwardsley had been described as 'waste' between 1066 and 1086 but in many of them recovery was apparently taking place. However, in the cases of Cholmondeley, Hampton, Larkton, Broxton, Overton, Shocklach and Bickerton 'waste' was never described. Is it possible that these villages were not affected by the 'harrying'?

Malpas was said to have 8 hides paying tax. A hide was a measurement of land believed to be about 120 acres, making old Malpas 960 acres; Tushingham is put at 120 acres paying tax, Tilston at 480 acres paying tax. "There is land for 14 ploughs" the commissioners estimated in 1086, yet there are only 3 ploughs belonging to the lordship, 3 belonging to the 5 men at arms and 7 villagers having $2\frac{1}{2}$ ploughs (i.e. plough teams) between them, making a total of $8\frac{1}{2}$ ploughs listed. Perhaps that means that the arable land available in Malpas was still being underused as a result of being laid waste. There were $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow, although 'acre' does not necessarily the same size as today's English acre, or even an old Cheshire acre. It had originally meant the amount of land that a yoke of oxen could plough in a day. There is no mention of any woodland in which pigs could graze in old Malpas but in Cholmondeley woodland $1\frac{1}{2}$ leagues (3 miles) long and 1 league ($1\frac{1}{2}$ miles) wide is listed.

The population is said to be 1 smallholder (or bordar), 5 men at arms and 7 villagers, a total of 13 men. There is no mention of slaves in Malpas, as there is in other areas. Villeins were the most numerous in the community. All they held belonged to the lord of the manor and they had to work several days a week for him. A smallholder or bordar was below a villein in social rank and had smaller holdings. The 5 men at arms were knights of the lord and held their land directly from Earl Robert himself. Is it possible to estimate the population of Malpas in 1086 from the given facts? There have been many attempts by historians to calculate figures but there is no certain answer. One suggestion is to multiply the number of men by 4 or 5, which may give the size of an individual family; 13×4 gives a population of 52, 13×5 gives 65 for Malpas. This is however tentative, to say the least. The population of the other villages around Malpas can be estimated from similar information and it is therefore possible to build up a picture of the whole area.

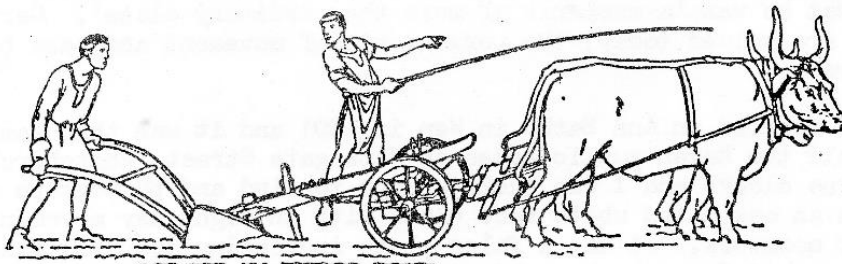
Hampton has an entry for 3 settlers who own nothing. B M C Husain in 'Cheshire under the Norman Earls' describes these as "hospites or colonists who had been invited to settle on reclaimed or newly won land on the Welsh Border". Tilston had a mill valued at 8 shillings and a miller (who is the only one mentioned for the whole of Cheshire, although there must have been others). Worthenbury had 3 Frenchmen, probably sergeants rewarded for their services by gifts of land. Iscoyd had a salthouse valued at 24 shillings

which was claimed along with 1½ hides by the Bishop of Chester. Cholmondeley and Tilston both had smiths mentioned, yet it is likely that there were considerably more than these two in the area; the others were probably included as villeins. Hampton had a sparrowhawk included in its valuation. Hawks were a valuable commodity used in hunting small game. There are two entries for Edge, in modern translation now described as Edge and Little Edge. Both were held by Edwin, who was a freeman. Overton was held by Wulfrwy, a freeman, and Shocklach was held by Drogo. These are Saxon names, suggesting that the area was not placed entirely in the hands of the Normans. Cholmondeley was held by Edwin and Dot, both freemen and thanes, and it consisted of 2 manors. It may be that the name 'Dot' was to become 'Dod'.

This has been a very brief excursion into Domesday Book. Whilst it is not possible to reconstruct the area in 1086 with certainty, the survey is more informative than for many other regions. There has been much publicity this year for Domesday - which means 'Judgement Day' - because it is the 900th anniversary of its compilation. Perhaps we shall never really know what it is really telling us but nevertheless it makes fascinating reading.

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- HUSAIN, B M C : Cheshire under the Norman Earls 1066-1237
(Cheshire Community Council 1973)
- MORGAN, Philip (ed.) : Domesday Book - Cheshire (Phillimore 1978)
-



ELEVENTH CENTURY PLOUGH TEAM
Based on the Bayeux Tapestry

TWO CENTURIES OF CALLCOTTS

Richard Hughes

The old established Callcott family of clockmakers, who traded in Wem, Whitchurch and Malpas, had roots in the business stretching back nearly as far as those of the Joyce family, whose business still continues in Whitchurch.

To trace the family back takes us to 1719 in Wem. At this time the son of John and Lydia Callcott was baptised Richard, at Edstaston. Later Richard married a local girl from Wem and had a family of a boy and a girl. Richard attended to the church clock at St Chad's, Prees, for seventeen years from 1746.

Here, however, it starts to get more involved as this was just one side of a local family and Richard had a nephew John Callcott, who was also working in the family business. I have a white faced clock with moonwork, made by this man, which I think was a 21st birthday present to an ancestor of mine who farmed at the Barhill, Tushingam, from 1798 until around 1840, when he retired into the old farmhouse there (see 'Malpas History' No. 5, page 10).

Should this be the case the exact date would be November 1794. At any rate it is close to this date and had a 'false plate' by Wilson of Birmingham. This firm started as Osbourne and Wilson in 1772 and Wilson carried on alone from 1777 until his death in 1809. The white faces were very popular and by 1790 had completely taken over from the brass faced clocks.

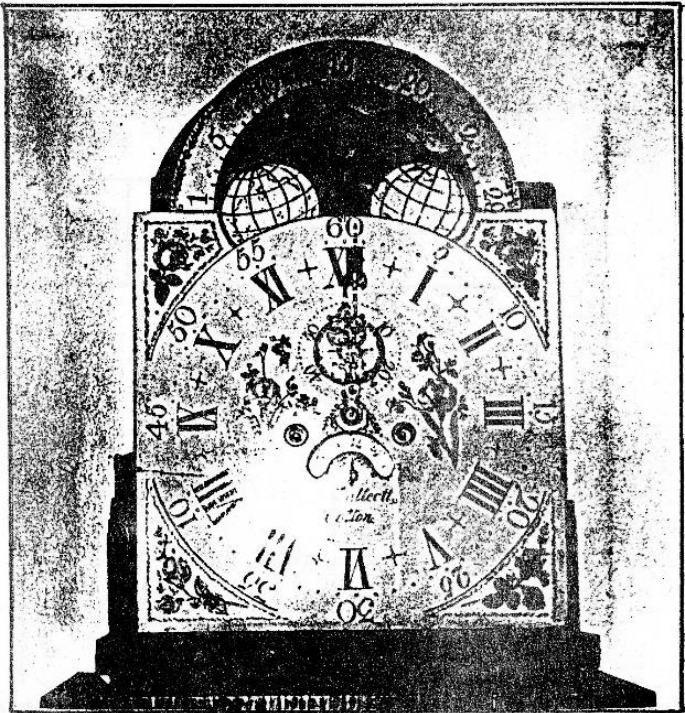
However, to get back to the family, John Callcott was the son of Arthur and Jane and was born in 1753 so would be 41 when he made my clock, if the dating is correct. In 1776 he married a Sarah Bradley and a year later his son was born. This child was baptised John on 21 September 1777 and later was to take over his father's business. Old John Callcott died in his 78th year after a long illness. The 'Salopian Journal' of the time records in 1830 that he was 'a mechanic of more than ordinary class'. Certainly his clocks are valued today, the workmanship of movement and case being of a high order.

John II married an Ann Batho in Wem in 1801 and it was this family which in 1809 held the Raven public house in Watergate Street, Whitchurch. He also made fine clocks and I was lucky enough to find and photograph one. This also is an oak cased white face clock with an eight day movement but without moonwork. It has a false plate indicating the dial was made by Finnemore and Son, which would give a date of between 1828 and 1835, and the whole of the clock is indicative of this date. This case again shows refined cabinet work and the restrained use of stringing and inlay. John II lived to be 75 and was buried at Edstaston.

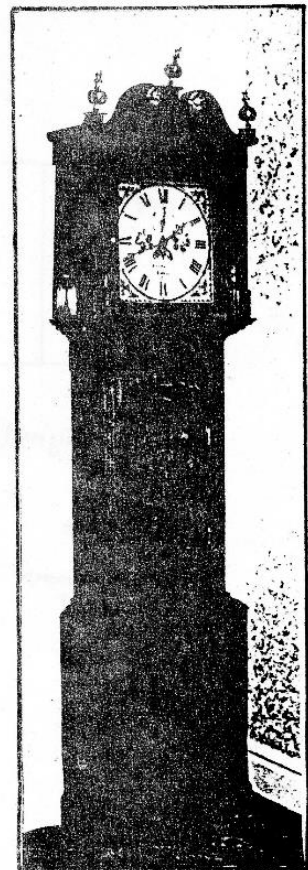
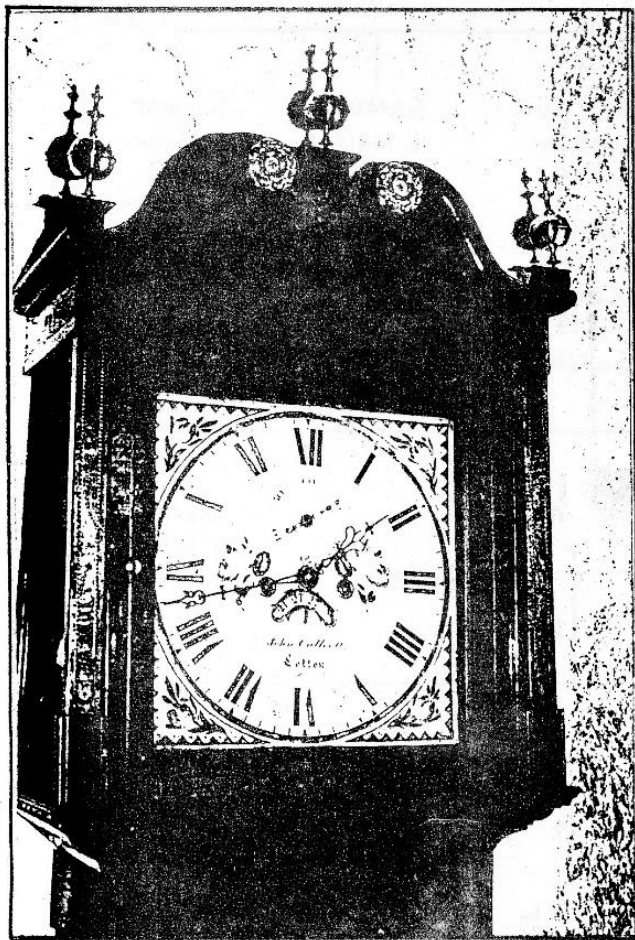
Another member of the family John III could possibly be the son of John II. He is recorded as a clockmaker living in Prees and he made a sundial for St Chad's. He had married Ann Hadley in 1825 and had three daughters. From 1832 until 1850 the directories record a Callcott shop in Wem High Street. John Callcott II at the age of 75 would have died in 1852 so this could have been his shop, or possibly shared by John III. However, the Whitchurch directory gives a John Callcott having a business in the High Street from 1840 until 1851, so two shops were running together for a period but more research is needed to clarify the situation.

However, some members of the family were moving around. Thomas Callcott first appears in Well Street, Malpas, in a directory of 1822/3. Afterwards

RIGHT: Clock, circa 1794, by John Callcott I of Cotton (1753-1831). This clock has an early example of a white face. It was probably a birthday present to the author's ancestor, William Hughes of the Barhill at Tushingham.

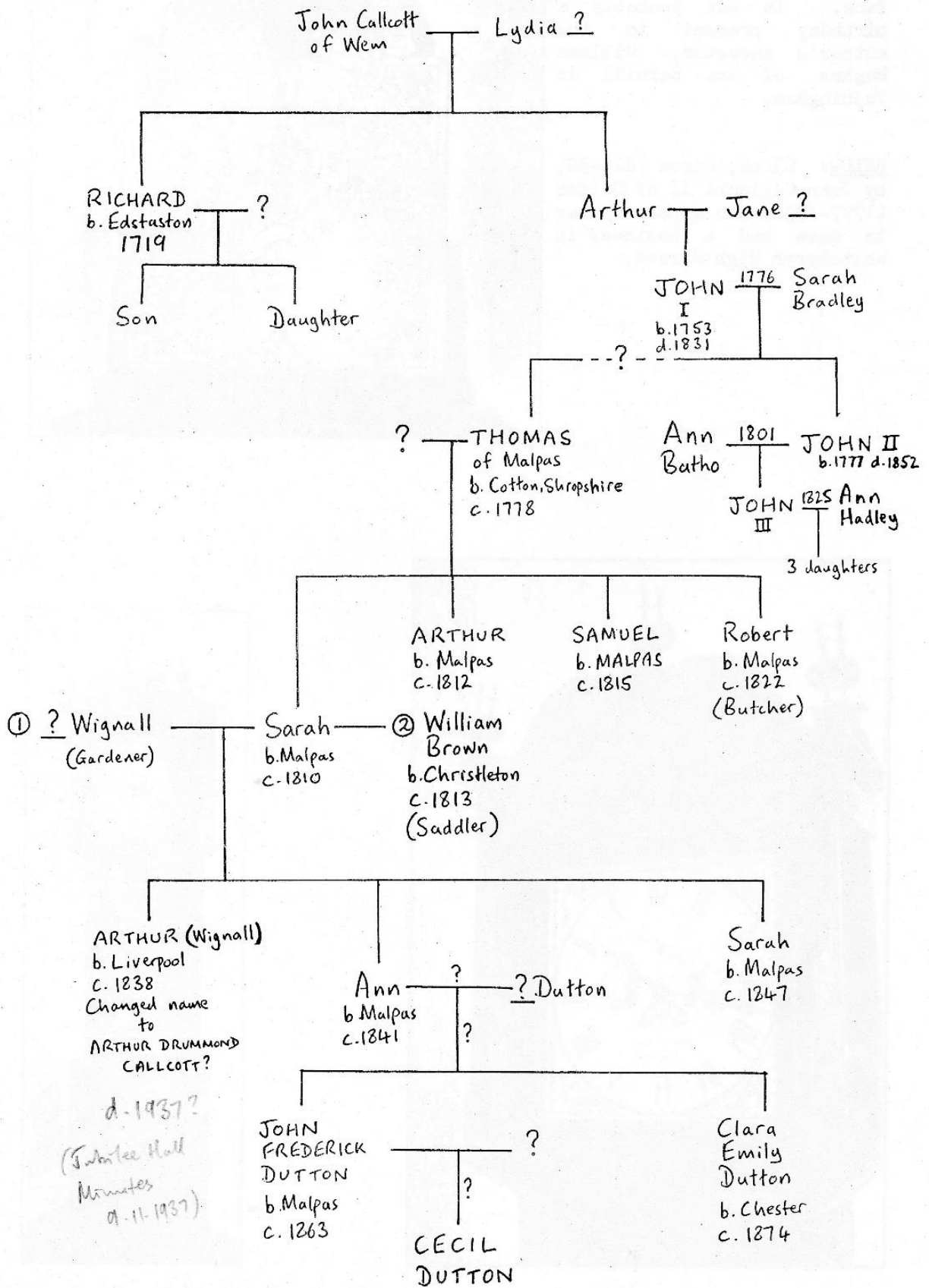


BELOW: Clock, circa 1820-30, by John Callcott II of Cotton (1777-1852) who appears later to have had a business in Whitchurch High Street.



THE CALLCOTT SUCCESSION

A Possible Reconstruction



d. between 17.3.1955 and 18.1.1955 / Jumblee

he appears in directories for 1828 and 1834 as a watch and clock maker in Old Hall Street, Malpas. However, clockmakers have a habit of scratching cleaning marks on clocks that they attend to and this leads us on to a Samuel Callcott who on 16 May 1866 cleaned a Joyce clock which I have examined. Then again I found another scratch mark by Samuel in 1874 in a Whitchurch long case clock by George Bradshaw.

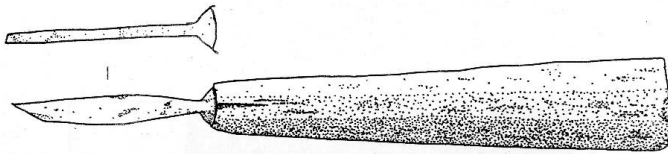
Arthur Drummond Callcott apparently first appears in the 1871 Census returns for Malpas. The term 'apparently' is used because it has been generally assumed that he was the son of the Arthur Callcott who appears in the 1851 Census returns as son of Thomas (see family tree). However, further examination of the Census returns suggests that Arthur Drummond Callcott was the son of Thomas' daughter Sarah and was born in Liverpool as Arthur Wignall and was therefore the first Arthur's nephew. It seems that he probably changed his name to Callcott when he took over the business from his uncle. Therefore the Arthur born in about 1812 (son of Thomas) was probably the last actual Callcott to own the business.



THE CALLCOTT SHOP IN MALPAS HIGH STREET

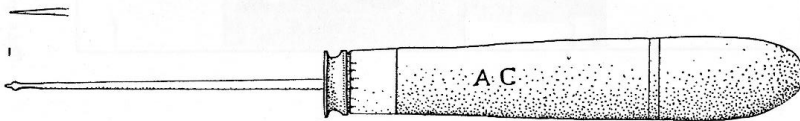
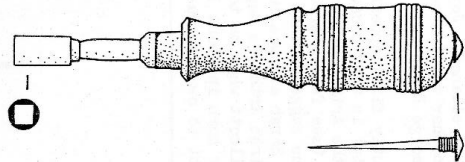
This photograph was probably taken in 1897, the arch being part of the town's decorations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. Can anyone identify the men standing outside? Presumably one of them is Arthur Drummond Callcott.

TOOLS ORIGINALLY IN THE POSSESSION OF MR CECIL DUTTON OF MALPAS



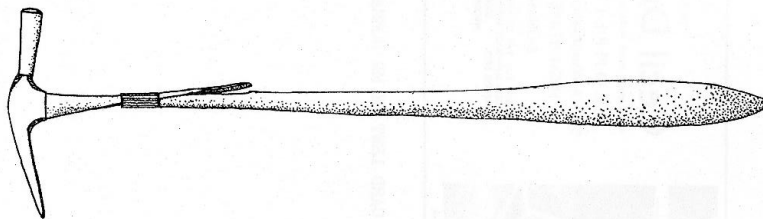
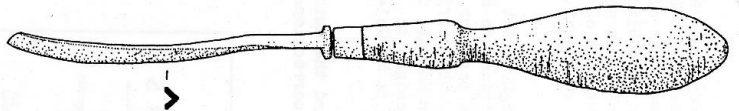
PROBABLY A TURNING TOOL FOR USE ON A WATCHMAKER'S LATHE OR MAY HAVE BEEN USED FOR SCRIBING SHEET BRASS

A TOOL FOR 'HOLDING' THE CLOCK ACTION WHILE MAKING ADJUSTMENTS. THE NEEDLE TOOL CONTAINED IN ITS HANDLE, WHICH HAS A SQUARE CROSS-SECTION, MAY BE A REAMER FOR ENLARGING HOLDS OR A TOOL FOR MAKING SCRATCH MARKS TO SIGN WORK



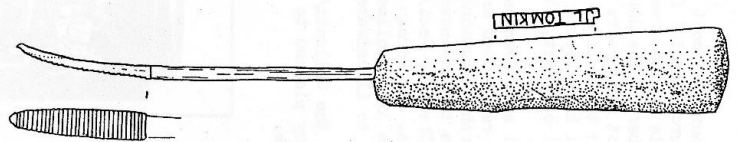
MODIFIED SCREWDRIVER? THE PURPOSE OF THE 'PULLEY WHEEL' NEXT TO THE HANDLE IS A MYSTERY

CABINET MAKER'S GOUGE FOR INLAY WORK ON CLOCK CASES



WATCHMAKER'S HAMMER, SHAFT REPAIRED WITH A SILVER COLLAR

A RASP PROBABLY USED FOR ROUGH SHAPING BRASS



Arthur Drummond Callcott will be remembered by older Malpas residents and in the 'Whitchurch Herald' for 3 January 1931 he appears in a feature on the oldest people in the area. Of him the article says that he was 'the oldest founder member of the Jubilee Hall, and having a great record of public service. Not many years ago he made a particularly fine clock (case and all) which graces the hall of one of the Malpas doctors'. No doubt most of our readers will have become familiar with that particular clock while waiting for the call of "Next, please"!

The Callcott shop eventually moved from Old Hall Street to High Street where it has been re-fronted and now serves as an office for the Nationwide Building Society. Arthur Drummond Callcott appears to have remained a bachelor and from him the business passed to the family of his sister, who married a Dutton. The late Cecil Dutton, last of the line to work in Malpas, died in the 1950s. Mr Norman Coles remembers him and had the foresight to acquire from him a collection of his tools - we are grateful to Mr Coles for allowing us to illustrate them here.

Research on the Callcott/Dutton story is far from complete and the author would be very pleased to receive any further information or corrections to this article.



WITH
Cecil Dutton's
DIPLOMA HONOURS IN THE BRITISH HOMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE EXAMINATION
COMPLIMENTS
Clock & Watchmaker, Jeweller & Optician
HIGH STREET, MALPAS
Established 1796
AGENT FOR THE GUARDIAN INSURANCE CO.
ENSIGN SNAPSHOT SERVICE AND THE LEADING
WIRELESS SETS JONES SEWING MACHINES
MECCANO
E. S. & A. Robinson, Ltd., Bristol.

BUSINESS CARD LENT BY MR NORMAN COLES

FROM MERSEYSIDE TO MALPAS - THE EVACUEES

J C Peberdy

THE DATE: 3 September 1939

THE PLACE: Sefton Park Junior Boys School, Smithdown Road, Liverpool

The Staff are congregated in the Staff Room listening to the wireless, there was no television in those days. Outside in the yard the pupils are standing about, each with their small cases holding personal belongings. It is a boys school but there are girls with them. It has been arranged that rather than split families sisters may accompany the boys.

What are we waiting for? Is it war or peace? Time moves on then as eleven o'clock strikes the Announcer says briefly, "The Prime Minister", and in a quiet unemotional voice the dreaded words are spoken. "I have to inform you that as from 11.00 a.m. today we are in a state of war with Germany." The wireless is turned off and quietly we walk down the stairs into the yard. We marshal the children into line and set off to Wavertree station. There we board a train after many tearful goodbyes.



EVACUEES FROM SEFTON PARK, BILLETED AT 'THE BOLLING', MALPAS

Where are we going? No-one knows. We are leaving Liverpool, a possible target for enemy bombers, for an unknown destination. Eventually the train pulls into Chester station. Is this it? No. The train backs out. Are we going back to Liverpool? No, it soon turns off and we watch for the stations. Waverton, Tattenhall, Broxton and eventually stop at a place called Malpas - most of us had never heard of it. The instruction to disembark comes through. We shepherd the children into the yard where many people and vehicles are waiting. We are asked to board the vehicles and are transported into Malpas where we stop outside a hall which we later find is called the Jubilee Hall. Up the stairs into a large room. There many people are waiting and slowly the children are taken in ones, twos etc., until sometime about 9.00 p.m. they have all been found a home, something like 200 children offered sanctuary by the very kind people who live in Malpas and the surrounding villages.

Next morning we meet again. It has been arranged that we share the Alport School with the local children for alternate morning and afternoon sessions. This goes on for some months until the Jubilee Hall has been made ready and we set up our school there. Two classes upstairs, two down and one in an outside building.

Slowly we settle in and adapt ourselves to a new life with the great help, generosity and kindness of the people in this rural area - a life so different from that in the city but none-the-less enjoyable. Eventually all the men, with one exception, return to Liverpool and I am left with a staff of very efficient lady teachers.

There are problems. Some children prove rather too much for their 'foster parents' and a small school for unbilleteable children is set up in the 'Beeches' in Tilston Road. Once a month a certain organisation holds an evening meeting in the Jubilee Hall which has to be got ready during the day so that the school has to move out and we spend the day in nature study, that is wandering round the countryside praying that the weather will be kind - our prayers are not always answered.



EVACUEES EXPLORING THE COUNTRYSIDE WITH MR PEBERDY

The expected bombing did not take place and a few of the children during the first year return home. Then came the blitz on Liverpool and there is a second evacuation. Once again the people of Malpas and district rise to the occasion and the children are found homes.

This very enjoyable life continued for me until September 1941 when I was called up and joined the Army. Mr Glover came out from Liverpool and took over. During the following year or so there were no more blitzes on Liverpool and many of the children returned home. Finally it was decided that evacuation was not necessary and all the children returned to their own families.

The children went away with very pleasant memories of their 'foster parents' and when they grew up many returned to visit the people who had been so kind to them. Even this year, 1986, some 46 years later I had a visit by an ex-evacuee accompanied by his wife. His 'foster parents' were Colonel and Mrs Rimmer. They all speak so kindly of the people who cared for them during those difficult years. Personally I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Malpas, joining in the activities - not least as a member of 'Dad's Army' under the command of the late Mr Wycherley. I enjoyed it so much that after the war Malpas became my home.

THE TRANSATLANTIC TINSMITHS OF BICKERTON

William Bradshaw

The following intriguing entry appears in the '1861 Census returns for Bickerton, headed 'List of Persons in Tents':

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION IN FAMILY</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>WHERE BORN</u>
Patrick	DOBERTY	Head	36	Tinsmith	Fermanagh, Ireland
Bridget	"	Wife	35	Wife	Fermanagh, Ireland
John	"	Son	16	Tinsmith	Bickerton, Cheshire
Bridget	"	Dau.	14	-	Chester
Catherine	"	Dau.	11	-	Nantwich, Cheshire
Patrick	"	Son	9	-	U.S.A.
Hugh	"	Son	7	-	U.S.A.
Rose Hannah	"	Dau.	2	-	U.S.A.
Mary Dod	"	Dau.	5	-	U.S.A.

(Note: The order above is as in the Census return)

This tinsmith/tinker must have had a strong attraction to this area of Cheshire to have been over in the United States for up to 10 years and then to have returned - consider the costs of the two-way passage! I wonder why they named their daughter Mary Dod? This has strong local connections, especially in respect of the single 'd' ending.

DOMINION LINE



ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS.

S.S. SARNIA, OREGON & VANCOUVER
have Saloons and State-rooms amidships.

SHORTEST ROUTE TO CANADA & WESTERN STATES.
Lowest Inland Fares. Free Farms of 160 acres of
fertile land.

SAILING from LIVERPOOL weekly and from
BRISTOL fortnightly. The steamers of this line are
replete with every modern comfort. Fares from 10 to
15 guineas; Intermediate 6 guineas, Steerage £4. As-
sisted Passages £3. — Apply to FLINN, MAIN, and
MONTGOMERY, Liverpool and Bristol.

Could Patrick Doberty have been tempted by an offer like this?

He must have sailed to the United States in the early 1850s. This advertisement is actually from a slightly later period, having appeared in the 'Whitchurch Herald' for May 1887.

BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE AND MALPAS.

Is there a link?

The following is taken from a press cutting which appears to have come from the 'Oswestry Advertiser' around 1870. It is an account by J.B. Minshull, which does not seem to have been published elsewhere. Is there any truth in the story? We would welcome further information.

MINSHULL OF MALPAS AND THE PRETENDER

A ROMANTIC STORY

In March 1870, I visited Wrexham, Oswestry, Whitchurch and Malpas, and obtained the following account of Richard Minshull, of Malpas Hall, Cheshire, from Mrs Richard Johnson, of Tybroughton Hall, Flintshire, formerly Miss Vernon, of Tushingham House. She had married Richard, nephew of Robert Nevill Johnson, who had married Mary, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Richard Minshull and had heard that old Mr Richard Minshull was a very strange and singular man. He was courier to the Pretender, who lived with him in his house for some time under an assumed name. It was here that the heads of the families who assisted the Pretender used to assemble disguised as farmers or countrymen. Mr Richard Minshull entered the army at a very early age and was abroad so many years that his friends and family in Manchester believed him to be dead in those troublous times. He attended the Pretender during his stay abroad and after he had been in Malpas some time people wondered how he lived in such affluence, knowing the land attached to Malpas Hall was of so few acres that he could not live upon its produce. In those days, be it remembered, the mode of travelling was very different from what it is now. He used, at times, to



CHARLES EDWARD STUART

tell his man servant to get one of his horses saddled, and with pistols in holsters and with a belt round his waist, in which there were two other pistols, he would ride away and not return for weeks; but when he did he always brought several bags of gold with him. Some thought he was connected with a band of highwaymen; however, he kept his secret until just before his death. He said his grandfather was beheaded and his head placed on Temple Bar, that he (his grandfather) was taken for a nobleman in mistake and, rather than betray his friend, he suffered death. The nobleman got clear away to France, the secret was never divulged to the authorities, and Richard had an annuity from the nobleman's family.

Richard Minshull assisted Prince Charles Edward and proclaimed his father king at Perth in 1745. On the 20th September he fought at Preston Pans, when victory crowned the Prince's arms. He had the honour of being with the Pretender at the ball at Holyrood House, the evening before the above battle. On the 13th January 1746 Charles Edward obtained a victory over part of the English Army at Falkirk, and here Richard Minshull was wounded, but he assisted at Culloden. After all was lost Charles Edward rode off with a few of his friends and followers, whom he soon dispersed and then led a wandering life attended by Richard Minshull and another for full five months. At one time Richard Minshull took the Pretender to Chorlton Hall, Manchester, the residence of his family, and there the Prince lived for some time under an assumed name, and it was there that he expressed his deep obligation to his servant and friend. At last he found means to get on board a French Privateer under the shelter of a thick fog, and thus passed through the English squadron and landed at Morlaix in Bretagne. The Prince assumed the name of Count d'Aldany and died in 1784.

The Cardinal of York, brother of Prince Charles Edward, visited Richard Minshull once at Malpas Hall. King George II offered £30,000 to anyone who would seize the Pretender, but for all this Richard Minshull was faithful to the Prince who he could easily have betrayed. He used to say that he could at any time, by producing his papers and pedigree claim the Chorlton Hall and Garrett Hall estates in Manchester. He said his pedigree could take him back nearly a thousand years; he showed it once in 1787 and again in 1803. Dr John Minshull of Liverpool went to see him on purpose to have a sight of it, but he stoutly refused to show it to anyone. A short time before he died he called his daughters and told them his whole history, stating that he intended to burn and destroy all his letters from the royal family, together with all other writings and even his pedigree. His family tried in vain to prevent him, for he said that if the papers fell into the hands of some parties they would implicate nearly half the nobility and that every family of consequence in Cheshire and Lancashire would suffer also; he said that if he had but a son, they should not be burnt. He received yearly very handsome sums from the noble families in the surrounding counties rather than they should be exposed. At his death nearly a cartload of guineas was found in the vaults of Malpas Hall, together with quantities of armour. With these treasures his sons-in-law purchased Agden Hall and estates, Tybroughton Hall and estates, and estates in Newcastle-on-Tyne.

I myself (J.B. Minshull) spoke to an old man between 80 and 90 years old, who knew old Richard Minshull well and was at his funeral. It is said that the father of Richard was Thomas Minshull of Chorlton Hall, Manchester. The above Richard Minshull was called "The dreadful, dark, mysterious, old Minshull." Once, when riding through the country, he pointed out several trees under which, he said, some of the Pretender's soldiers, who had been killed by the enemy's troopers, were buried. He used to joke at times by stating how many heads of county families, he could at one time, if he so pleased, have placed on London Bridge or Temple Bar for their treasonable correspondence which he possessed, forgetting that his own head would perhaps have borne them company.

We are grateful to Mr John Wycherley for the above and for the article on George Hopley, the Malpas 'cello-maker, both of which come from the scrapbook kept by Mr J C Wycherley, his grandfather.

THE PEARSONS REMEMBER....

Since the last issue of 'Malpas History' we have heard separately from three members of the Pearson family who used to live in West End Cottages in Wrexham Road. In the late 1920s the Red House next door was owned by Mr and Mrs Cecil Fane, who later moved to High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire. Ruth Pearson's sister Bessie and Lizzie Coffin moved with them, in 1929 or the early 1930s, to work 'in service'. When Bessie married, Ruth, now Mrs Ruth Cook, went down to live with her at the age of 16½ and still lives in High Wycombe.

Reg Pearson, who provides the contribution on Old Hall Street, now lives in Sandycroft on Deeside and his brother Jeff, from whom we have also heard, lives at Forthcawl in South Wales.

MAGGOTS IN THE CHEESE

Mrs Ruth Cook (née Pearson)

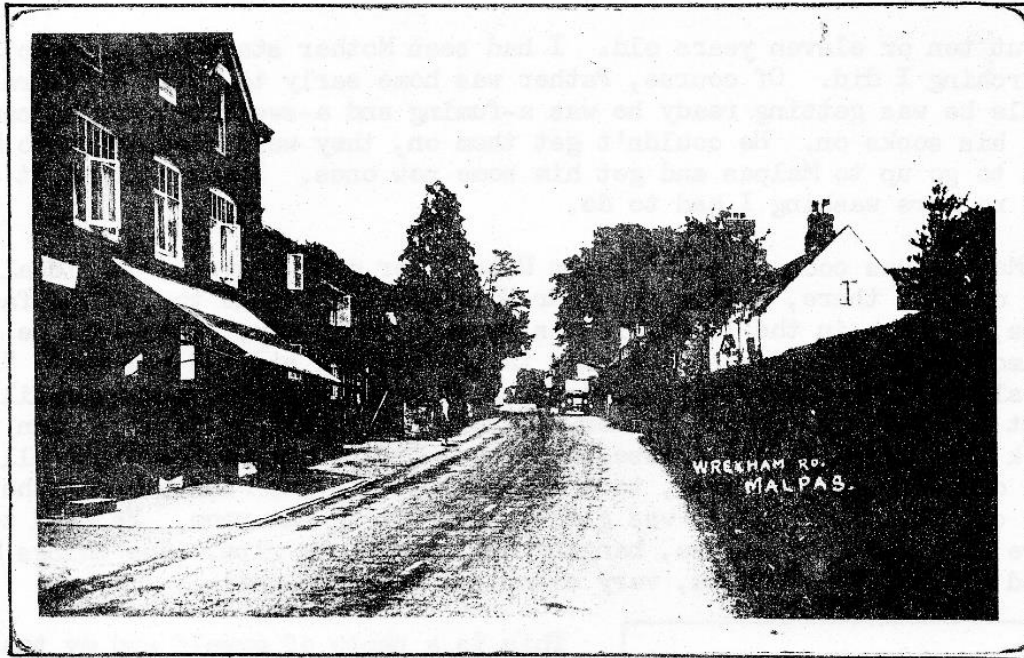
My memory goes back to the Tentry Field down the lane by Boughey's old shop. They used to have the Malpas football ground there and my Mother did the refreshments for them at half-time. My Dad and I would watch the match and before half-time slip and fetch the large jugs of coffee or tea for the players. Sometimes we would see old Red Harry under the hedge down by the stile and would give him a cup of tea. He loved that - he was a nice old tramp and wouldn't hurt a flea.

There was once a terrible thunderstorm and Mrs Hodge fetched my Mother and myself into her house as we didn't like storms. Then Mother sent me back to our house and as I opened our front door there was a great flash of lightning and a big red ball of fire landed in the bottom of the Tentry Field. It missed the Smithy Lane cottages but fell and uprooted a lot of trees. You could put a bus in the big crater it made.

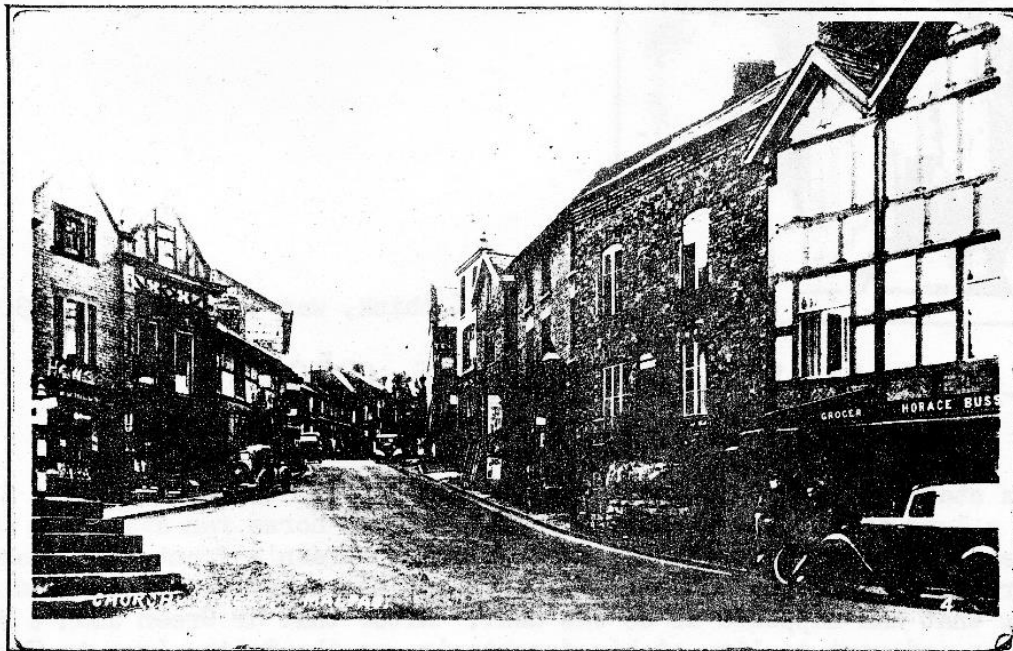
Billy Henry's shop (see cover picture) brings back memories as we always got our sweets and chicory bars there. We used to go to the top chapel up High Street and my friends Lizzie and Phil Turtle, Nancy Rich, Beatrice Lawrence and I used to have a penny to put in the collection box so we put a halfpenny in and kept the other halfpenny for after the service. In the summer months we used to go to Billy Henry's shop and buy five Wills cigarettes then go for a walk as far as Hampton Heath and smoke away, getting home before 8 o'clock so our parents couldn't smell our breath.

I noticed Mr George Harris in one copy of 'Malpas History' (inside back cover No.5) and remember him well. My brother Jeff used to be under gardener with him at the Bolling, he and his wife were very nice. I went to Guides in the Bolling stables and I've got an idea that the Bolling was a hospital very many, many years ago. Mr and Mrs Rimmer came there to live and Miss Rimmer in the cottage opposite the Tithe Barn. She lived there with a housekeeper, Mrs Clough. Miss Rimmer was a lovely painter. I used to go and sit many hours with Mrs Clough while Miss Rimmer was away and ran errands for her, also for Mrs Jones the coalman's wife. The money I collected I saved to go on the Sunday School outing to Rhyl, once a year.

My Father was a joiner who worked for Mr Huxley and also for a Mr Parker of Cuddington. They used to make the coffins and I shall always remember this - my Father was a bearer for Mr Parker. One day I felt I would help my Mother while she was out at work so I did the washing for her. I was



The Pearson's parents, Vincent and Sara Ann, outside their home at West End cottages in the 1930s, waiting for Mr Jones the coalman



CHURCH STREET IN THE 1930s

Going up on the right hand side: Bussey's shop with Mr Wilson the plumber's house above, the Pearson's grandfather's house up the steps, Walgate and Leake, Wycherley's and the Wyvern Hotel. Mrs Pearson is standing outside the Wyvern, where she was cook.

about ten or eleven years old. I had seen Mother starching the clothes, so starching I did. Of course, Father was home early to go to a funeral and while he was getting ready he was a-fuming and a-swearing when he came to put his socks on. He couldn't get them on, they were so stiff. So Mother had to go up to Malpas and get him some new ones. I never lived it down and no more washing I had to do.

My Mother was cook at the 'Wyvern Hotel' for many years. She did all the big dinners there, mainly for a Mr Hutchinson. He had the cheese factory made, I think in the 1920s, it was Hampton Heath way. One night he called my mother aside before the dinner in the evening started and said, "Pearsy", he always called her that, "I don't want the cheese to come in until the last thing." Of course, Mother did just that and took it in - when they took the cloth off the cheese there were little maggots crawling all over the dish and he came over, took a chunk and ate it. That was how he liked his cheese. Poor Mother was glad to get out of the room. He used to have hare and venison the same, hanging till they were ripe. The things Mother used to come and tell us, very creepy we kids thought!



This is a photo of myself and my teacher's little boy who I used to mind, Billy Stanfield. The girl by me is Beatrice Brown and her cousins Marion Carter and Ronnie. It was taken on Tontine Day with their fancy dress wands. It was a day we all looked forward to. I wonder if they still live in Malpas?

This, I think, was taken in the 1930s.

OLD HALL STREET IN THE 1930s

Mr Reg Pearson

I am starting with 'The Nest' and the old house. A Mr Green lived in it for a long time. One evening a coal lorry and horse ran away down Old Hall Street, mounted the steps and knocked out Mr Green's front door, part of the door and part of the window. Mr Green sat there having his tea and didn't know what had happened as he was deaf. After that Mr Green didn't stay much longer and went to live at his daughter's, up the Smithy Lane in Church Street.

Next to follow Mr Green were Mr and Mrs Jennings, I think they were German. And she started the Scouts and would have us marching round and round the joiner's shop of Mr Huxley, nearly opposite to where they lived. And I think Miss Salt built two houses. She kept about six goats and used to take them up to the top of the recreation ground and tie them up with a long rope for the day.

Following this was an old gentleman named Mr Reeves, then Mr and Mrs Sam Lightfoot. Mr Lightfoot and his son George both worked for Mr Wycherley at the saddler's shop in Church Street. Next up was Mr and Mrs Tom Bebbington's cake shop. Before it was a cake shop it was an old building in which Mr Huxley kept his cement and all sorts of stuff. Underneath the top door was a platform on which to pull things up and then into the building. I remember Mr Lloyd George coming to Malpas and giving a political speech standing on that platform and a little Welsh woman shouting "Go and get your hair cut!"

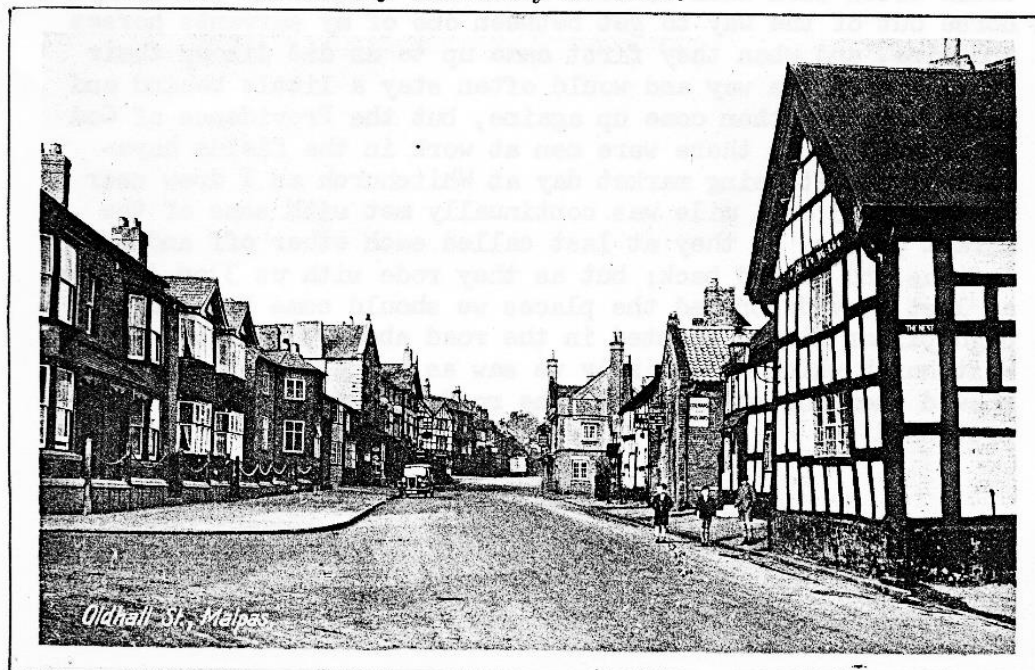
Next up was Mr and Mrs Levi Edge's house and the district nurse lived there too, and a Mr Jack Richard. Mr Edge later lived and went to live up Church Street opposite the church and started a tailor's shop down the entry next to Mr H Powell's. When I used to deliver papers there, for Mr Bill Barlow, I would see Mr Edge and his workmate, Mr Dan Wynne of Sunnyside, sitting there with their legs crossed, working away at the breeches they were making. The shop would be like a furnace and one would be glad to get out for some fresh air.

Still in Old Hall Street and next to Mr Edge were Mr and Mrs Hewitt. He kept a shoe shop and repaired shoes. Next to them, I just can't remember, but I think it was Mr Stan Allman then Mr E Bradshaw.

Now we come to the 'Red Lion' and the King's Chair. Well, I often saw the chair but never had the luck to sit in it, since we used to dash into the 'Red Lion' each Saturday selling the 'Sentinel' football paper, as we did in the other pubs, the 'Vaults', the 'Wyvern Hotel' and the 'Crown Hotel'.

Notice the gas lamp on 'The Nest' and there was one on the 'Crown' as well. That was Mr Stan Allman's job, him and his two small sticks with wire at the end and the top of the wire would be bent to pull the chains on and off. He would start at about 5 p.m. and would put them out again about 10 p.m. If ever he wanted anyone to do the job, I was the one he would come to and I think I could still take you round or tell you where each lamp was - I think there were twenty three of them.

There used to be a man who would set up a stall next to the 'Crown Hotel' and lower down to where Mr Challinor lived. He would be selling cups, saucers, plates, etc. "Tea pots with spouts and some without!", that's what he would say. He would have a row of plates right up his arm, throw them up in the air and hardly break any of them.



THE HIGHWAYMEN AT HAMPTON POST

David Hayns

'Ride a cock-horse to Banbury Cross
To see a Fiennes lady ride on a white horse...'

No, it is not really a misprint in the second line, since the old nursery rhyme originally referred to Celia Fiennes (pronounced 'Fines'), a gentlewoman from Banbury in Oxfordshire. During the latter part of the 17th century she travelled, side-saddle, throughout the country and kept a diary of her travels. G M Trevelyan, in his 'Illustrated English Social History', refers to it as 'this delightful and important record ... composed on tours made partly in the reign of William III, partly in that of Anne. Miss Fiennes was a lady of means and a dissenter. She was the sister of the Third Viscount Saye and Sele. She rode through England on tours of pleasure and curiosity'.



During her 'Grand Tour' in 1698 Celia travelled from Tarporley to Whitchurch. Her route would not have followed the present A.49 road, which was not built until the 1830s, but ran through Tarporley, Beeston, Peckforton, Bickerton, Ashton's Cross, Hampton Post, Nomansheath and Tushingam to Whitchurch. The following extract is from her diary, published in 1947 as 'The Journeys of Celia Fiennes' (ed. Christopher Morris):

From Sandy Lane Head where I baited to Whitchurch is 16 long miles, over a long heath for 4 or 5 mile then to Bestonwood (Beeston) and came by Beeston Castle on a very high hill the walls remaineing round it, which I left a little on my right hand just at the foote of the hill and so I crossed the great Road which comes from Nantwich to Chester being then just the midd way to either being 7 mile each; and here I may think I may say was the only tyme I had reason to suspect I was engaged with some Highway men; 2 fellows all on a suddain from the wood fell into the road, they look'd truss'd up with great coates and as it were bundles about them which I believe was pistolls, but they dogg's me one before the other behind and would often look back to each other and frequently juttle my horse out of the way to get between one of my servants horses and mine, and when they first came up to us did disown their knowledge of the way and would often stay a little behind and talke together then come up againe, but the Providence of God so order'd it as there were men at work in the fields haye-making, and it being market day at Whitchurch as I drew near to that in 3 or 4 mile was continually met with some of the market people, so they at last called each other off and soe left us and turned back; but as they rode with us 3 or 4 miles at last they described the places we should come by, and a high pillar finely painted in the road about 3 mile off of Whitchurch which accordingly we saw as we pass'd on, which shew'd them noe strangers to the road as they at first pretended'.



Reference to John Ogilby's road map of 1675 (left) shows that the 'high pillar finely painted in the road about 3 mile off of Whitchurch' was almost certainly Hampton Post, as marked on the map. Comparison of Celia Fiennes recorded mileages with modern measurements shows that her miles were indeed 'country miles' and that her '3 mile off of Whitchurch' is acceptable as an equivalent to the 5½ modern miles from Hampton Post to Whitchurch. It has to be remembered that at this time the state of the roads left much to be desired and that when one road line became impassable travellers would simply make a diversion. Where obvious landmarks, such as Beeston Hill, did not exist, 'way posts' would be set up to help to guide them. At the time that Celia Fiennes was travelling the first turnpike trusts had only recently been formed, in order to improve the main roads. Stage coach travel was still in its infancy.

The placename Hampton Post still survives, of course, although there are conflicting ideas about the derivation of the name. Confusion has been caused by the fact that the inn at Hampton Post (shown as the 'Black Griffon' on Ogilby's map) later became the delivery point for mail to Malpas and was also possibly a horse changing point for horse travellers 'riding post'. However, Ogilby's map seems to provide convincing evidence that the name derives from nothing more than a painted post set up to guide travellers.

Ormerod agrees with the explanation in his 'History of Cheshire' where he states that Hampton Post is:

'so called of an old tree standing in the road of Chester way, from Whitchurch, and reckoned for a mark for Passengers travelling that way and another way, which there crosseth that and leadeth from Malpas into the other part of Cheshire'.

The 'Black Griffon' probably belonged to Lord Cholmondeley, as did the former 'Gryphon' in Church Street, Malpas, the black gryphon being the crest from the Cholmondeley family arms.

The extract from John Ogilby's road atlas reproduced here is part of the map of the route from Bristol to Chester. The maps are an invaluable source of historical information, showing many features which have since disappeared, such as the windmill at Hampton. However, 'ye signe of ye bel' is still doing good business at Tushingham - perhaps Miss Fiennes stopped there for refreshment!

'Rings on her fingers and bells on her toes
She shall have music, wherever she goes'

Book Review

BISHOP SAHIB by Derrick Hughes

BISHOP SAHIB: A Life of Reginald Heber (Churchman Publishing 1986 £6.95)
Paperback 204 pages Illustrated ISBN 1 85093 043 0



Many of our readers will remember the weekend festival held in April 1983 to mark the bi-centenary of the birth of Reginald Heber in Malpas Higher Rectory on 21 April 1783. On the Friday evening Derrick Hughes gave a fascinating talk, based on the new biography of Heber that he was researching at the time.

The biography has now been published and is very welcome since no full scale account of Heber's life has appeared since 1895. Mr Hughes' book uses much new material which has become available since then.

The early chapters tell of Reginald's boyhood in Malpas and at Whitchurch Grammar School, followed by boarding school in Neasden, North London. Then Mr Hughes charts his progress through Oxford University and his successful

attempts at writing poetry and prose, for which he won a number of prizes. Chapter 2 tells of his involvement with the local unit of Volunteers raised by his brother Richard at Hodnet during 1803. During the following summer Reginald found himself in charge of the unit, while Richard was away in Yorkshire. - not a very successful time for Reginald, since it ended with the soldiers rioting in Shrewsbury! The book finally puts paid to the story which seems to have arisen, that Reginald raised a band of volunteers in Malpas - he never did.

The next chapter provides a fascinating account of Heber's travels in Russia during 1805 and 1806, in company with his old school friend John Thornton. Following this he returned to Oxford to take his M.A. and in 1807 was ordained and appointed as Rector of Hodnet. Chapters 6-9 tell of his time as a country parson, his domestic life, his writing of both prose and hymns, for which he is so well remembered, and his growing interest in overseas missions.

The second, and major, part of the book describes the final three years of Heber's life, a period of intense activity following his appointment as Bishop of Calcutta in 1823. From Chapter 11 ('Sailing to India') onwards, one can feel Derrick Hughes' love of India coming through. At one time Mr Hughes worked for the British Council in India and, before he retired in 1983, he was General Secretary of the Oxford Mission (formerly the Oxford Mission to Calcutta). It was while working in India that he became interested in Bishop Heber, to whose life and work he found memorials in many places. Although Heber's 'Indian Journal' was published in 1828 (a copy is in Malpas Library), it is fairly heavy reading and Mr Hughes has produced a very readable summary of its contents.

The final chapter tells of the shocked reaction to the Bishop's untimely death at Trichinopoly in April 1826. After a short account of Trichinopoly and the Heber memorials there, as observed by him on a recent visit, the author concludes with Heber's own words, that summed up his whole philosophy towards his mission:

".... the only distinction of persons recognised by the Gospel is between those that we love and those that we ought to love."

THE 'CELLO-MAKER OF MALPAS.

89-YEARS-OLD CRAFTSMAN AT WORK.

A PEEP INTO HIS WORKSHOP.

(Special to the "Chronicle.")

On a stool in a small workshop, in the midst of a confusion of shavings, saws, chisels, mallets, and all the paraphernalia of the woodworker's craft, sat an old man on the threshold of ninety years playing with the gentlest and surest touch imaginable the Cheshire version of the "Old Hundredth" on a home-made 'cello. It was late afternoon, and as the notes of the "Old Hundredth" merged into a melancholy bar of "The Lost Chord," the sun went down behind the tower of Malpas Church, and the shadows crept into the workshop. The musician laid aside his instrument, and, resuming his tools, put the last touch to an exquisite Tudor rose carved in relief on an oak cabinet.

That is a little pen-picture of a scene this week in the workshop of Mr. George Hopley, of Malpas, who at the age of 89—he will be 90 in January—pursues the woodworker's art as a hobby. An artist in wood, he makes all sorts of beautiful objects, and all his work is conceived in the style of those great craftsmen, whose work is still to be found in the old churches and old houses of the country. When Mr. Hopley sees a striking or original piece of carving or ornamentation, he makes a copy of it. Church screens, old oak chests, and the furniture and panelling in old Cheshire houses have provided him with copies, and his "den" is a curiosity shop of all the ages. Originally the property of some Cheshire homestead, a strip of wood, blackened with age and bearing the devices of the mediaeval carvers, is nailed above the bench, and this serves as Mr. Hopley's inspiration. In these days of machinery and time-sheets he is surely one of the last of those who take pride in the work of their hands.



Mr. Hopley is to be found any day working at the rear of his bungalow on the stretch of road beyond Well-street. This bungalow he designed and built on his retirement in 1917.

Mr. Hopley discussed his hobby with a "Chronicle" representative.

"I am working on a corner cupboard," he said, "and using as a model an old Court cupboard which used to be in a farmhouse near Nantwich. Another little piece of work is a china cabinet I am making from the leaves of an old mahogany dining table. A copy of the carving of an old Malpas dower chest, which I restored, has been useful to me. In 1925, a year before my wife's death, I made a full-size 'cello to commemorate our diamond wedding. For my young grandson I made a three-quarter size 'cello and fitted the strings myself."

Mr. Hopley disappeared into his bungalow and returned with the diamond-wedding 'cello. He produced a pitch-pipe, whistled the "A" note, tuned his instrument, and played the "Old Hundredth," "Auld Lang Syne," "Annie Laurie," "Ye banks and braes," and "The Lost Chord" without pausing.

Mr. Hopley was born at the Pipe Farm, Bickley, in 1841. He attended Bickley School, and at the age of 16 was apprenticed to a wheelwright and carpenter at Norbury, with whom he served five years. Afterwards he was employed on the Cholmondeley Estate from 1861 to 1870, when the second Marquis died. Mr. Hopley worked on the Peckforton Estate until 1880, when he returned to Cholmondeley under the third Marquis. In 1886 there was a change of agency and Mr. Hopley was appointed Clerk of Works to the late Lord Cholmondeley, in whose service he continued 31 years. He has followed his hobby as a woodworker over many years and Cholmondeley Castle contains some artistic examples of his work.

MARQUIS OF CHOLMONDELEY AS A SCHOOL-MANAGER.

Mr. Hopley's father assisted at the building of the original Bickley Schools in 1827. The schools were built and partly maintained by the first Marquis of Cholmondeley. An infant school was added some years later by the second Marquis, who personally interested himself in the daily progress of the scholars, one of whom was Mr. Hopley himself. In fact, the Marquis and Marchioness were their own school-managers and inspectors, and they would frequently visit the schools and catechise the children, the Marquis being especially fond of history "posers."

Mr. Hopley recalls an incident in his school-days. "During the dinner-hour on a certain day," he says, "the fox-hounds made their appearance in the vicinity of the school and away went half-a-dozen boys after the chase. They returned very late in the afternoon, and at three o'clock, before closing the school, the school, the master ordered the classes to form in single file round the school. The six culprits were ordered to parade round the class-room on all fours, with the master and his cane at one corner, and when passing him they received a sharp reminder with the cane on their most prominent feature. This continued for half-a-dozen rounds, and so the punishment was made to fit the crime."

In those days education was on a different basis; instead of the Government making a maintenance grant to the parents—as the new School Age Bill proposes—the parents made a "grant" to the Government. The children of farmers paid 4d. per week and the children of cottagers 1d. Articles of clothing were distributed among the cottagers' children at Christmas.

The new schools at Cholmondeley were built by the third Marquis and the old schools were converted into cottages.

