

# *Beckingham & Sutton*



*Based on the research of D.A.Litchfield  
edited by Brenda M. Pask  
with additional material by Patricia Allen &  
Beckingham History Group*



# *Beckingham*

&

# *Sutton*

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*The Beckingham Highways Trust  
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*Best wishes  
Brenda M. Pask*

*3<sup>rd</sup> November 2001*

*This book is dedicated*  
*To*  
D.A. 'Tony' Litchfield

*1930-1996*

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The former home of Tony Litchfield on Hillside.

## **Foreword**

### **By Mrs W. Litchfield**

Preservation of the past was always an abiding interest of Tony Litchfield. Born in Nottingham in 1930, he attended the Henry Mellish School. He travelled Britain extensively during his working life and developed a real love of history, especially English Churches and Villages. He researched the development of village life and was compiling notes, records and maps to write a book in his retirement. Unfortunately, he died suddenly six weeks after his retirement.

Many of his friends, especially Pat and Stuart Loscoe-Bradley, recognised the value of his research, which has led to this publication. This is a tribute to his efforts.

Win Litchfield.

## **Preface by the Editor**

When I was first shown Tony's work I recognised that here was someone with the same love of local history as my own. I am glad to have had a part in the preservation of his work and am very grateful to the members of Beckingham History Group for all their help and especially to Pat Allen for all her additional research. Most of Tony's work was concerned with the earlier history of Beckingham and Pat approached the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with the same attention to accurate detail as his. I think he would be pleased with the result.

I should like especially to thank the following:

Gill Green for hosting the project-meetings at her house and for producing the poem 'Celebrations'.

Chris Green for acting as treasurer of the project.

Pat Allen for her drawings, additional research and proof-reading.

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Science and Society Picture Library

The research and recording of more recent events has been greatly enriched by the access to the memorabilia, photographs and recollections of present and former residents of Beckingham and we wish to record our acknowledgement of the contributions made by the following:

Chris & Gill Green, Bill Halliday, Monica & Derek Ingleton, Bruce & Lois Jordan, Jean Martin, George Millhouse, Christine Munford-Gibbs, Andrew Newstead, Sam Scott, Tom Sleight, Ann Smithson, Mollie Stokes, Maureen Wade, David Webb, Sue Wills, Peter Wright.

**Brenda M. Pask, Editor.**

## ***Beckingham and Sutton***

### ***Early Times***

The area now forming the parishes of Beckingham, Fenton and Stragglethorpe has been inhabited from Roman times. Evidence of this is provided by Roman pottery found at the beginning of the bridle road running from the junction of Sutton Lane and the road linking Beckingham and Fenton. In addition, a stone (now in Lincoln Museum) discovered at Stragglethorpe Grange is thought to have been part of a Roman altar.

### ***Saxon Times***

According to the Domesday Survey of 1086 the manor of Holme (now Holme Spinney south of Sutton) had been held by Ulf Fenisc, one of the largest landowners of pre-Norman times. He had 12 carucates<sup>1</sup> of land in demesne (i.e. retained for his own use) and 12 carucates of soke land with as many plough teams.

Beckingham, Sutton and Fenton are not mentioned by name in the Domesday Book so must have been of less importance than the settlement at Holme. Nor is Stragglethorpe mentioned though there may have already been a settlement here for Pevsner<sup>2</sup> describes the west wall of St Michael's church as 'Saxo-Norman' because of '*side alternate quoins at the north west corner of the original aisleless nave*' and '*the blocked triangle-headed west doorway visible inside.*'

### ***Norman Times***

The Domesday Book shows that by 1086 the manor of Holme had been granted to Gilbert de Gant in return for services rendered to William the Conqueror. His estate contained land for four plough teams on the demesne holding and land for 14 teams on the soke. There were 28 sokemen,<sup>3</sup> 28 villeins<sup>4</sup> and 3 bordars.<sup>5</sup> There were also two priests serving two churches ( these would be at Beckingham and Stragglethorpe) and a mill ( the latter yielding a tax of 13s 4d ). In Saxon times the estate had yielded £10 annually to the king and had continued to do so after the Conquest.

The western boundary of the estate was chiefly the old course of the River Witham and the eastern one was the River Brant.

Soon after 1066, on a mound to the south of the hamlet of Sutton, a fort had been built by the Normans. This was the manor house of Gilbert de Gant, fortified by a wooden palisade and a moat. The land on which it stood was called the 'holm' or 'island'. Gilbert's son, Walter, gave the demesne tithes to Bardney Abbey and his grandson, Gilbert de Gant II,

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<sup>1</sup> Carucate=varied between 160 and 180 acres-as much land as an 8 ox team could cultivate.

<sup>2</sup> *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire*, Penguin Books 1964, reprinted 1990.

<sup>3</sup> Soke,sokemen=a free tenant

<sup>4</sup> Villein=unfree tenant

<sup>5</sup> Bordar=an unfree cottager

created a new manor centred on Fenton and this was granted to the de Gants' constable, Herbert, son of Adelard (later Orby). The rest of the estate (Holme with Beckingham and Sutton) was granted after Gilbert de Gant's death to Elyas Foliot whose wealthy family held land in the shires of Northampton, Huntingdon and Cambridge.

### **The Manor of Holme**

During the thirteenth century the manor of Holme was the subject of legal proceedings between Henry de Braybroc and his wife Christiana on the one side and Rolfe de la Bruer on the other. The matter was settled by a duel fought on the Monday fifteen days after Easter. Henry and Christiana offered to prove their case '*by the body of one free man, William son of Roger le Champencis who offers himself for a duel with the knowledge and agreement of this father, Roger*'. Rolf was represented by Gaufrid le Criur who was defeated. Whether an actual fight took place is uncertain but as Tony Litchfield points out, there was an area near the castle in Lincoln called '*le Batail place*' and Roger's surname suggests taking the part of champion may have been his profession. Compensation was given to Ralf the following year in the form of 20 librates<sup>6</sup> of land in Edenham.

Henry and Christiana gradually regained control of the demesne lands from the tenants to whom they had been sublet. After Henry's death Christiana married Gerard de Furnival and by this marriage produced a son, Gerard, and three daughters. In 1245 she granted the manor of Holme and two bovates of land in Sutton and Beckingham to Gerard, with reversion in the event of his death without lawful heir, to John de Braybroc, her second son by her first marriage.

Gerard supported the rising of Simon de Montfort as did William de Eylesford, whose son married one of Gerard's daughters. Gerard was tried in London and was fortunate that it was decided that '*the king will not imprison perpetually or cause loss of life or limb, not withstanding any trespass he made in the late war, even though he ought to incur loss of any lands he acquired hereafter*' and was pardoned at the end of 1266.

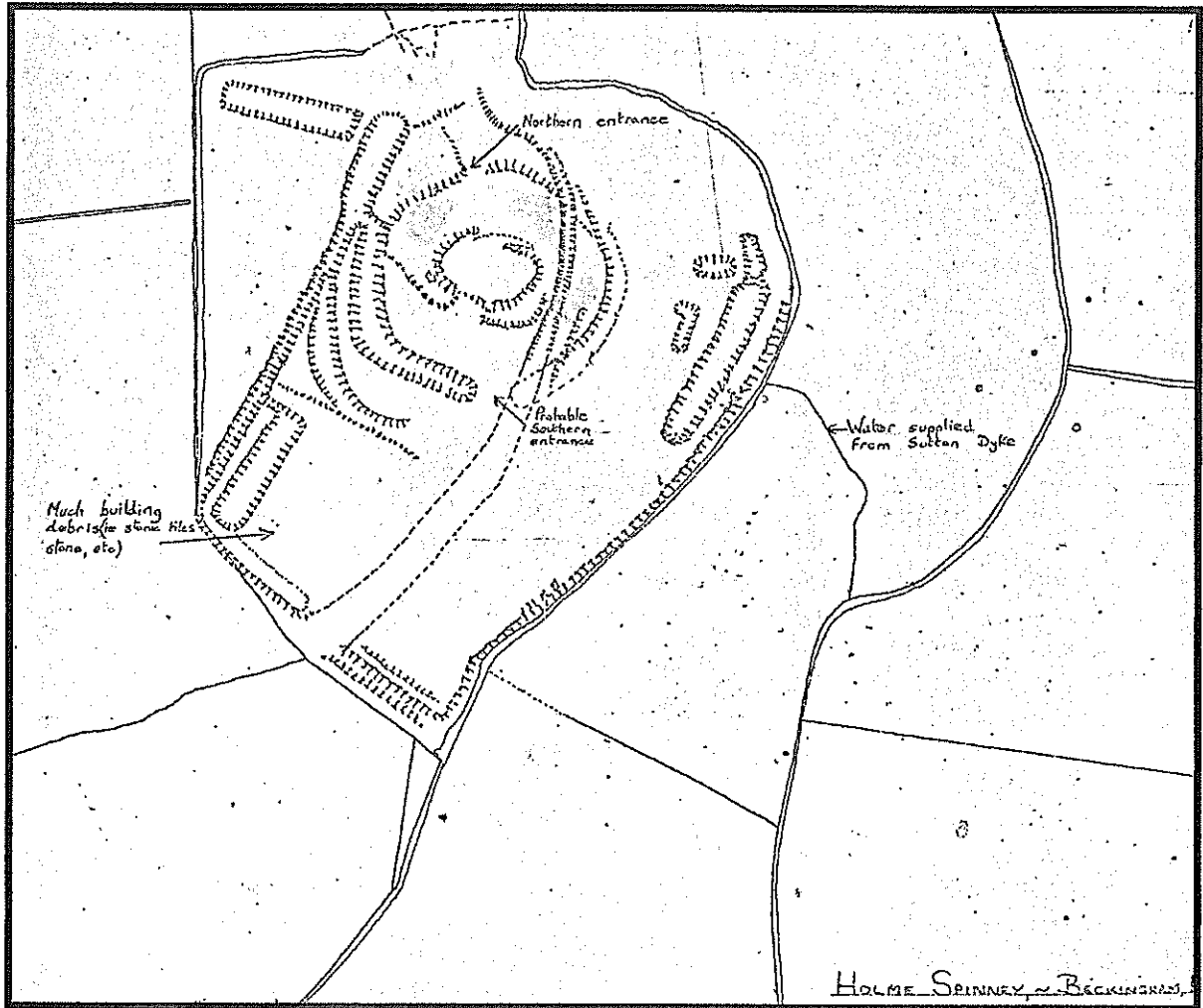
In 1270 Gerard granted land in Beckingham, Sutton and Holme for the support of a priest to say mass in the manorial chapel of St. Leonard at Holme for the souls of himself and his mother Christiana, and Tony Litchfield suggested that the effigy of a lady now under the tower of Beckingham church may be from Christiana's tomb in the chapel at Holme. According to the Inquisition Post Mortem Christiana died in 1271.

The manor house at Holme was abandoned in the early fourteenth century and apparently some of the stone was used to build local churches. By the twentieth century all that remained was a grassy mound 3-4 metres high in the area known as 'Holme Spinney'.

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<sup>6</sup> librate=an amount of land worth £1.





Excavations at Holme Spinney, 1971.

An Ordnance Survey plan, surveyed in 1964, recorded a motte and bailey type of fortification. In 1971 the owner of the land, Mr Arthur Snipe, an arable farmer, engaged a contractor to level the field. The lias clay mound was evidently used to fill a pond about 50 metres to the northwest. At this point Newark Archaeological and Local History Society attempted to '*obtain as much information as possible by excavation before ploughing further obliterated evidence*'. The following information<sup>7</sup> was produced by the excavation:

The defended area covered about 12 acres and the centrally positioned mound and inner bailey were defended by a series of ditches, originally containing water. The main entrance was from the north- the main route from Newark to Sleaford lay about 200 yards away in this direction.

Fragments of green glaze pottery dating from 1250 or later were found and a large piece of an earlier grey cooking pot. Many nails, a large iron ring for tethering a horse to a wall and a pair of scissors 6 inches long were also found.

### **St. Leonard's Chapel.**

The earliest reference to the manorial chapel at Holm is in a quitclaim to Bardney Abbey in the time of Henry de Braybroc and his wife Christiana. They granted the right of entry and exit through their court to the monks of Bardney for the purpose of carrying their tithes. This was granted in return for the abbot agreeing to Henry appointing a chaplain to serve within his chapel of Holme-by-Beckingham. The date of the document seems to be about 1230 but the chapel appears to have been in existence for some time. In 1270 a further grant by Gerard de Furnival ensured the chapel would be permanently served by a chaplain supported by the rents of two messuages, arable land and meadow, with right of common pasture. The chaplain was to provide wine, wafers and a competent clerk to perform divine service and the donor and his heirs were to be responsible for the upkeep of the chapel and if necessary for its rebuilding. The document recorded that a chalice, books, vestments and other ornaments together with a double candle holder for four candles and a lamp were in the chapel.

The following served as chaplains of Holme Spinney:

William Russel 1310

Laurence Dantre 1336

Thomas Otrynham of Kneveton 1396

Thomas Aylef

By the end of the fifteenth century the chantry had been transferred to Beckingham church and the following were appointed as chaplains:

Richard Pierson 1494

Richard Croft 1501

John Redworth 1506

Robert Lemyng 1516

Roger Tomlynson 1529/30

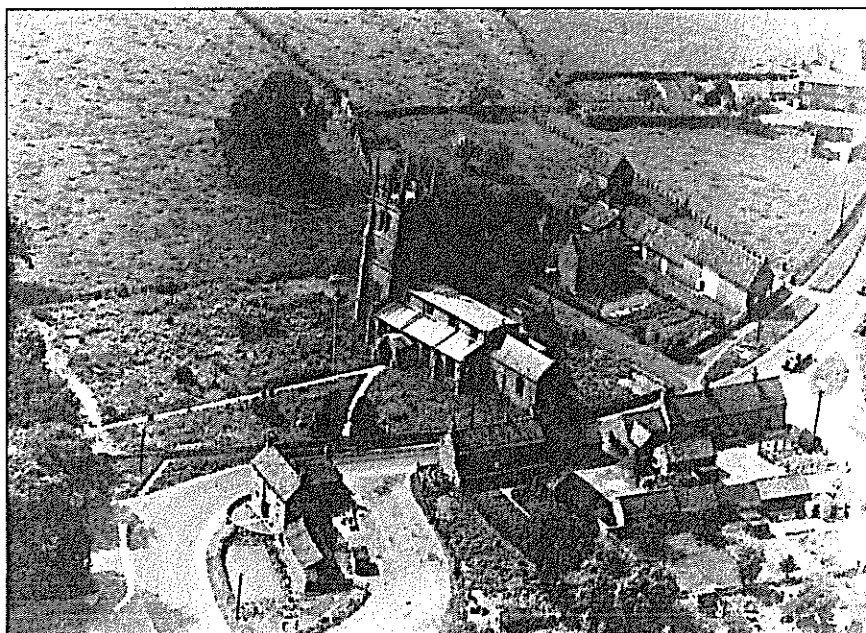
The chantry was dissolved at the Reformation.

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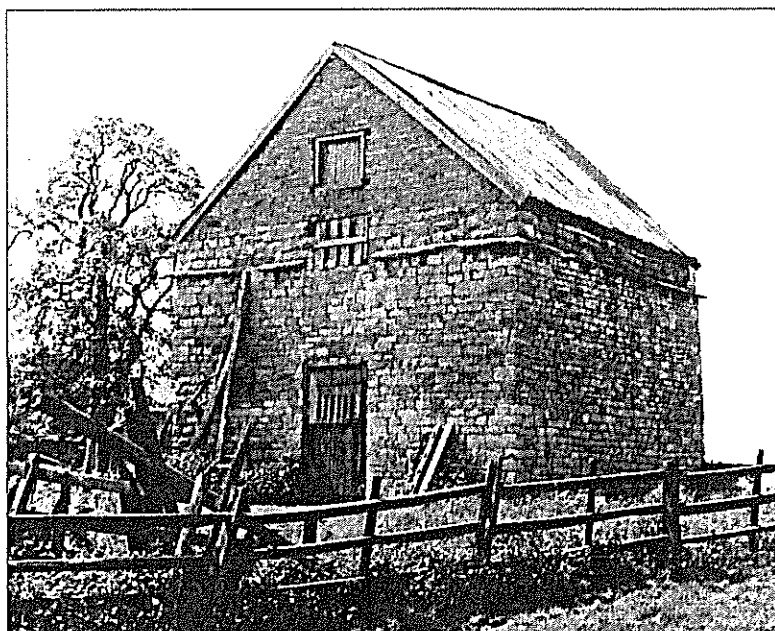
<sup>7</sup> Report by B.D.Fox.



*The effigy of the Lady, possibly Christiana de  
Furnival,  
now under the tower of Beckingham Church.*



Aerial view of the Church with the Corner House Café in the foreground and the dovecote in the background (right).



Beckingham Dovecote. Thought to date from Mediaeval times this stone and brick structure used to stand in what is now the garden of *The Barn*, Hillside. The photograph was probably taken in the 1960s. The dovecote was demolished in the 1970s.

*Lincolnshire County Council Education & Cultural Services Directorate: Museum of Lincolnshire Life (D.L.Roberts Collection).*

## *The Medieval Village*

The Lay Subsidy of 1332<sup>8</sup> contains a list of the inhabitants of the village with the sums of money they were charged in taxation:

### 1332 De Villata de Bekyngham

Geoffry Antani		20 1/2d
John Schaterham		12d
Robert Neuill	2s	9 1/4d
Robert Notebroun	2s	0 1/2d
John son of Elie	4s	6d
Adam Frankys		17 1/2d
Thomas the Miller		9d
Walter Teband	4s	1d
William Catur	3s	7d
William son of Gilbert		12 1/4d
John de Gateford	3s	7d
Isold Schephyrd	3s	8 1/4d
Adam de Hampton	2s	
John de Cybthorp	4s	6 1/2d
Alan the Miller	2s	6d
John Curtays		10 1/2d
Adam de Codington	3s	6d
William the Smith		16 3/4d
Thomas Capoun	3s	6d
William Puppe	2s	6d
Robert Frankych		12d

### 1332 De Villata de Suttoun

Dna Margery de Ailesford	7s 4d
William de Lound	8s 4d
Dno. William Capello	4s 6d
Christiana de Sutton	4s 6d
Walter de Codington	10d
John Caret	5s
Ada Hamelyn	9 1/4d
Matild Englays	14 1/4d
William de Barneby	16d
Agnes de Codington	3s 2d
Adam son of Radus	5s 1d
William son of Radus	2s 3d
John son of Radus	12d

If we multiply the 34 persons on the list by 4.5 ( a frequently used multiple for this period) we gain some idea of the size of the settlements of Sutton and Beckingham in the fourteenth century. Together they must have contained over one hundred and fifty people.

At this time the lands of Sutton and Beckingham were divided into a number of open fields cultivated by rotation of the crops and each field lying fallow in turn. The villagers would survive on the produce of their own strips of land scattered among the fields and in addition would have to work on the land of the lord of the manor. They would have the right to pasture their animals on the common land and would be strictly regulated by the manor court.

The lord of the manor also had a dovecote which was approximately twenty feet by nineteen feet and contained five hundred and forty six nesting places. Built of stone it survived into the twentieth century and can be seen in the photographs on p. 10.

<sup>8</sup> L.A.O. 135/15 Kesteven Lay Subsidy.

<sup>9</sup> J. Whitaker: *The Medieval Dovecotes of Notts*

## ***Fourteenth Century Crimes***

Taken from Lincoln Assize Rolls.

1305 ROBERT THE COWHERD OF CLAYPOLE WAS TAKEN FOR THE MURDER OF ALAN DE RODEMERTHWOAYTH, BUT IT WAS LATER FOUND THAT THE MURDER WAS COMMITTED BY ROBERT BROUNCASTY OF SUTTON.

1345 RICHARD DE DRYNTON LIVING IN BECKINGHAM INDICTED OF THE BURGLARY OF THE HOUSE OF WALTER GUNNE OF BECKINGHAM AND SUSPECTED OF MANY OTHER FELONIES.

1366 JOHN ATTE HALL OF BECKINGHAM STOLE 6s 4d FROM ROBERT SON OF ANDREW OF FENTON. JOHN WAS PARDONED OF THIS OFFENCE BUT IN 1371 HE WAS INDICTED FOR MURDER OF JOHN DE CLIFTON OF BECKINGHAM BUT THE VERDICT WAS SELF DEFENCE AND HE WAS PARDONED. HE WAS AGAIN BEFORE THE COURT FOR HOMICIDE IN 1377.

1368 WILLIAM A RELATION OF JOHN DE NEWTON RECTOR OF BECKINGHAM KILLED JOHN HOWE OF BECKINGHAM NEAR BECKINGHAM ON THE TUESDAY AFTER THE FEAST OF St. MICHAEL.

1369 A SOLDIER NAMED WILLIAM GYMOUR KILLED JOHN DE HAGH OF BECKINGHAM WHO WAS A TAILOR. WILLIAM WAS DECLARED AN OUTLAW BUT APPARENTLY WENT ABROAD WITH HIS COMPANY AS IN 1370 HE WAS PARDONED AT THE REQUEST OF HIS COMMANDING OFFICER ROBERT DE KNOLLES "FOR GOOD SERVICE IN PARTS BEYOND THE SEAS"

1370 HENRY RAUEL, CHAPLAIN OF THE CHANTRY OF BECKINGHAM, BEAT JOHN SWINEHEARD OF BECKINGHAM WITH A STICK IN THE FIELD OF CODDINGTON SO THAT HE DIED WITHIN A FORTNIGHT.

1370 WILLIAM SON OF JOHN HOWMAN STOLE NEAR BECKINGHAM FROM ROBERT CARLTON OF CLAYPOLE.

1375 JOHN TASKER OF SUTTON SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A DESPERATE CHARACTER. HE "THREATENED MANY TIMES JOHN SON OF RALF DE SUTTON IN LIFE AND LIMB, WHEN JOHN WAS MAKING READY FOR HIS JOURNEY TO NEWARK" AND IN THE SAME YEAR WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE JUSTICES TOGETHER WITH RICHARD AND JOHN DE HAMPTON FOR ATTACKING AND BEATING LAURENCE DE SUTTON OF BECKINGHAM.

1376 HENRY TASKER AND JOHN BURNLEY OF BECKINGHAM WERE SERVANTS TO SIR WILLIAM AND MAUDE CANTILIQUE, AND WERE CHARGED WITH ABETTING WITH MAUDE TO MURDER HER HUSBAND.

1396 ROBERT WARDE OF STRAGGLETHORPE WAS PARDONED OF THE DEATH OF ROGER ATTE GRANGE OF STRAGGLETHORPE AS HE KILLED HIM IN SELF DEFENCE.

## *Beckingham Church*

In the churchyard of Beckingham is the shaft of an ancient cross which was probably the meetingpoint of the Christian community there before the church was built. A terrier of 1609 records such a cross sited at the junction of Chapel Street and Hillside but it is impossible to date the cross shaft for it bears no carvings which might have provided a clue. By 1086, however, we know from the Domesday record of Holm that a church had been built at Beckingham and a field chapel at Stragglethorpe and each had its own priest. We include here Tony Litchfield's own account of Beckingham church at the end of the twentieth century:

*Part of the chancel walls at Beckingham, the mother church, may date from Saxon or early Norman times, and the Norman doorway now in the north aisle was possibly the doorway in the south wall of the nave of the earlier church. The lancet windows in the North and South walls of the chancel, although replaced in the Victorian era are of similar style to the thirteenth century originals. Originally there were three equally spaced windows in both the north and south walls, and what we see today as the middle window of the south wall was transferred from its position as the most eastern of the three at the time of the Victorian restoration. The East window of the chancel, again a Victorian replacement of a thirteenth century style, previously depicted in the glass the Furnival coat of arms and it was probably a member of this family as lords of the manor that replaced the earlier Norman or Saxon with contemporary lancet windows. The family records suggest that the work was carried out during the second half of the thirteenth century by Gerard de Furnival, his wife Christiana (whose tomb effigy may now be in the tower of the church having been brought from the family memorial chapel) or their son who was also called Gerard. The columns between the aisle and the nave are also of the same Early English style and it is probable that at the same time as he inserted the new windows in the chancel Gerard also built the first aisles. These would have been narrower than the ones we see today and a portion of the early aisle, including some coping stones of the gable, can be seen in the east wall of the south aisle today.*

*The present aisles were built in the second quarter of the fourteenth century retaining the earlier thirteenth century columns. It would have been at this time that the Norman doorway, which may have been used up to then as the south entrance, was rebuilt in the north aisle. The roof line can be seen on the west face of the tower and would have descended at that angle in single planes to include the new aisles. The south porch, which is inscribed with a scratch dial, is contemporary with these aisles, but the walls have been heightened at a later date resulting in a far less steeply pitched roof than original. There is a scratch dial on the east buttress of the porch, and included in the masonry over the south doorway, which from the chevron moulding may be a little earlier than the porch itself, is part of an early gravemarker.*

*Holles in his church notes made between 1634 and 1642 mentions the Furnival coat of arms in the chancel window, and that it was recorded in a north window of the nave that 'Thomas de Sibthorpe parson of this church built and endowed this chapel'. In addition he mentions a marble tomb of Simon Yates, rector 1504-1529, and goes on to describe him as an over zealous rector who carved two 'Y's over the chancel. As none of these features can be seen today or any that record events prior to the Civil War it may be hazarded that this was the result of the depredations of the Commonwealth period: there was a tradition in the village that the lead from the church roof was stripped to make ammunition during the siege of Newark.*

In the eighteenth century it was necessary for the church to undergo a major refurbishment. The Archdeacon of Lincoln, following his visitation, ordered *'a good deal of repairs to be done to ye inside of Beckingham church & whereas ye building is a very antiant structure & very much decay'd in many parts thereof, particularly ye roof which is so ruinous as to be in some danger of falling.'* (L.A.O. Mis Dep 146/4/1-17)

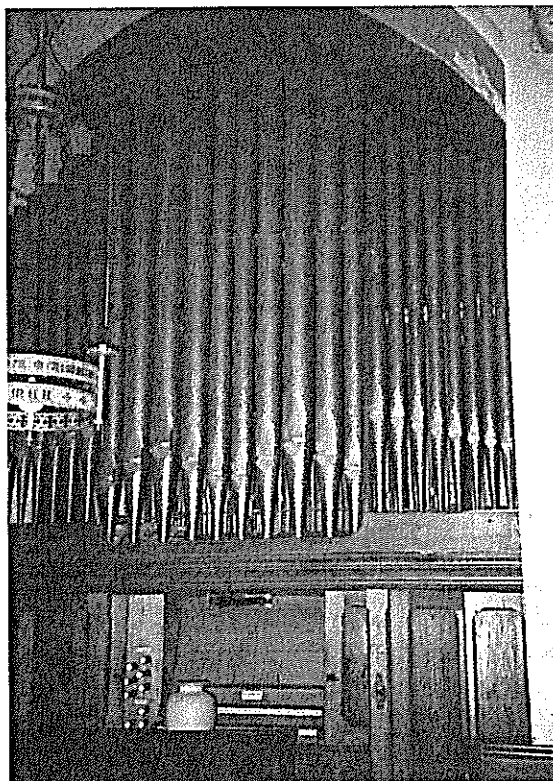
It was proposed to lower the roof and the expected cost was £100, which it was said *'ye inhabitants are badly able to bear ye expence being chiefly tenants at rack rent & burdened with a very numerous poor, besides all this there is at this time a very heavy expence upon ye parish from ye County Rates on account of ye Rebuilding ye County Goal.'*

The appeal made to the landowners in 1787 produced the funds recorded on p. 35. After the renewal of the roof attention was turned to the re-pewing of the church and a list of the old seating survives at Lincolnshire Archives. The plan of the new seating is reproduced opposite p. 36 for the sake of family historians. A new singing loft was installed at the same time at the west end.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the population of the village had outgrown the eighteenth century seating (which provided for 220) and it was decided at a vestry meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1857 to take down the pews and provide open seats, allowing fifty four extra sittings.

The work was supervised by C.Bailey of Newark. The stonework was cleaned and 'new seats of a simple design' substituted for the 'hideous old pews' and a 'beautiful lectern' was presented by a member of Lincolnshire Architectural Society.

In 1892 a fund was started to provide a new organ for Beckingham and the old one was to go to Fenton church.

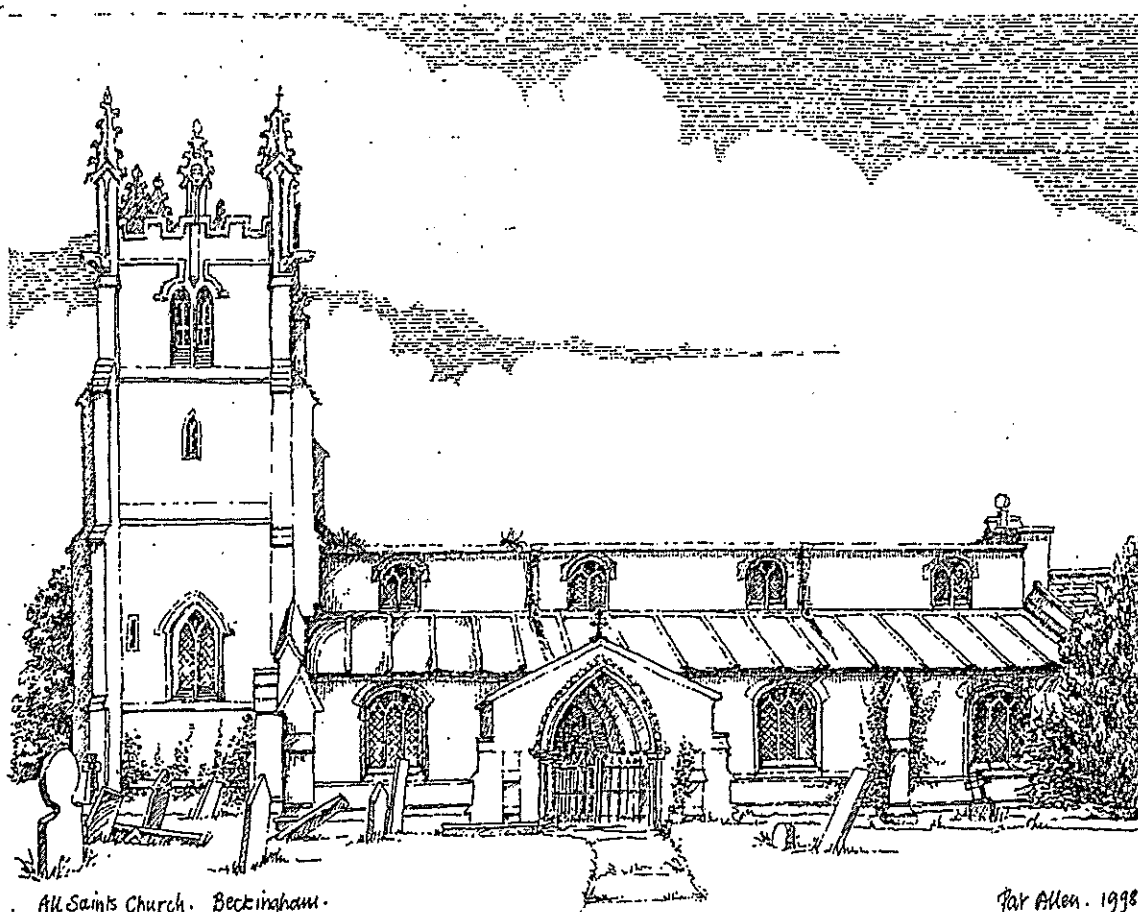


The Organ in the Church at the end of the twentieth century.



### Rectors of Beckingham

Iwareby W. de	resigned pre 1220		
Sancto Laudo W. de	before 1220	Williamson Th.	1626
Michael	c. 1219-1227	Burnett Th.	1639
Cusin Robert	1221-2	Thurston Jn.	1653
Newton John de	d.c.1264	Stillingfleet Jn.	1661
Aston Adam de	1264	Stillingfleet Jn.	1688
Bek John	1307	Greswold Marshall	1721
Sibthorpe Th. de	1325	Hacket Rob.	1729
Brembre Th. de	1351/2	Lamb Rob.	1734
Bury Rd. de	1355	Hacket Rd.	1763
Usflet Jn. de	1374/5	Moody Rob.	1810
Aghton Wm.	1411	Marsland George	1837
Bozun Hugh	1423	Rynd Jas. Wm.	1874
John Henry Ap	1468	Fitzgerald Fred.	1878
Yates Simon	1504	Whittaker Rob.	1886
Burdon Wm.	1528	Becke Jas. Hen.	1891
Lynnell Roland	1549	Hibbert Edw.	1911
Flower Jn.	1568	Gay Jn.	1923
Barefote Jn.	1582	Steedman A.W.	1949
Hebblethwayte Rob.	1602		



All Saints Church. Beckingham.

Pat Allen. 1998.

### ***Thomas de Sybthorp, Rector of Beckingham, 1325.***

By Tony Litchfield

The Sibthorps were a wealthy and influential family resident in the village of Sibthorpe in Nottinghamshire, a few miles to the east of Newark. Thomas de Sibthorp had a distinguished and energetic career as a civil servant being described as "king's clerk" throughout the records. In 1322 he was appointed with Robert de Hoton to put in order the charters and deeds of Pontefract, Tutbury and Tonebrigg castles and the Tower of London, and two years later was made keeper of the Hanaper of Chancery (the department into which were paid the fees for sealing charters and deeds), a post which he held until 1326.

His career was jeopardized by the political troubles of the time and his connection with the Dispenser faction. Hugh le Dispenser the younger, a favourite of Edward II, appears to have been Thomas' friend or patron, for he acted as Hugh's attorney and was authorised to collect money on his behalf from the inhabitants of Sudbury.

Thomas acted as attorney for numerous people over the years, not only for those who were probably friends or colleagues like the parson of Boston, but also for the royal physician whilst he was abroad with the king, and for the Earl of Kent and his wife.

He not only organized the collection of taxes from both the laity and the abbeys and priories in Lincolnshire and the lands of the "Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England beyond the Trent", but also dealt with those tax collectors who had accepted bribes or withheld the money collected. His many and varied duties concerned the subsidy towards the cost of the marriage of the king's sister Eleanor; the levies for the wars with Scotland, and the subsequent non arrival of "ships arrested for the king's last passage and mariners and archers chosen", the custom duty on wool in Boston and Kings Lynn and the keeping of the 'coket seal'. He served on commissions concerning an assault on the controller of customs at Lincoln; good money being sent out of the country and base money being brought in, and the export of uncustomed wool and armour to enemies of the state; the prevention of piracy and the protection of foreign merchants, and the question of excess tonnage being charged at Boston. He reported on the forstalling of goods being taken to Nottinghamshire markets and the prevention of excessive charges; surveyed rivers and waterways from the Trent to the Fosdyke, and saw that the banks and bridges were maintained. He witnessed charters and acted as King's Proctor at the convocation of York; surveyed and repaired Lincoln Castle, which was in such a condition that it was feared the prisoners would escape.

Although his numerous activities must have meant much absence from the parish, Thomas de Sybthorpe did not neglect affairs at Beckingham. He was no doubt assisted here by his brother John, the Rector of Collingham, who is included in the taxation returns for the village, whereas Thomas' name is absent as he was probably taxed in the London returns.

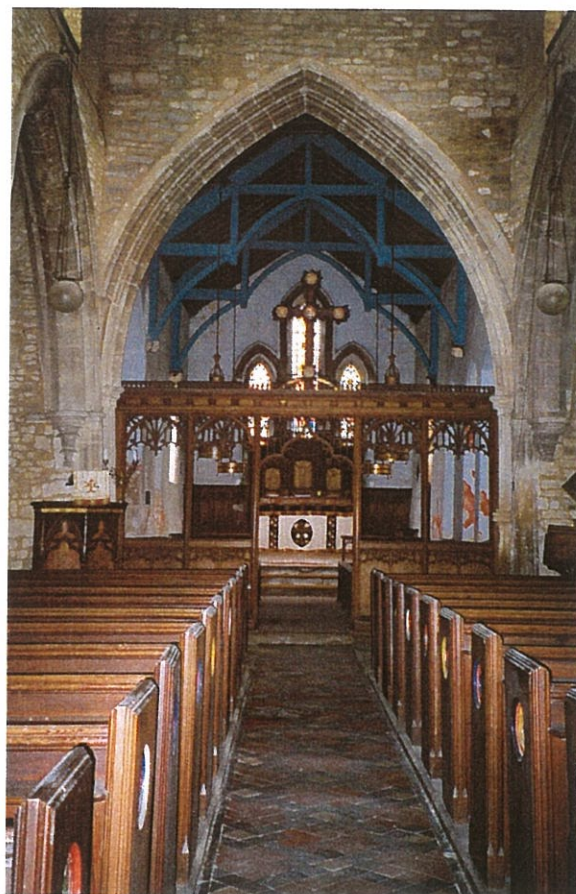
He leased from the Knights Hospitallers property in Wellingore and the manor of Flawford, across the river from Beckingham, which included houses and land in Barnby-in-the Willows and also the two watermills in Beckingham, at a rent of £4.13.8d per annum.

In 1327 there was a commission of oyer and terminer to enquire into "who broke the houses of Thomas de Sybthorp, parson of Beckingham, at Beckingham, Stapleford and Wellingore and took away 10 horses, 5 mares, 10 colts, 20 oxen, 12 cows, 10 calves, 200 sheep and 20 swine, belonging to him, worth 100 marks, cut his corn and grass and carried away his goods". The accuracy of the figures may be doubted, but the following year there was a similar incident concerning Thomas' manor at Flawford, when Hugh de Eland was cited as responsible. About the same time Hugh was suffering a raid on his property in Yorkshire.

Thomas, jointly with his brother John leased from Notley Abbey the manor of Stragglethorpe, which included the Sempringham lands, the two holdings being farmed for the abbey by Adam le Boude. Among other leases was one to Thomas from Rufford Abbey granting him property in Coddington for life at 14s per annum, and another jointly with his brother from John Hussy of Hougham, knight, of lands in Beckingham and Sutton.



*Chancel lamp*

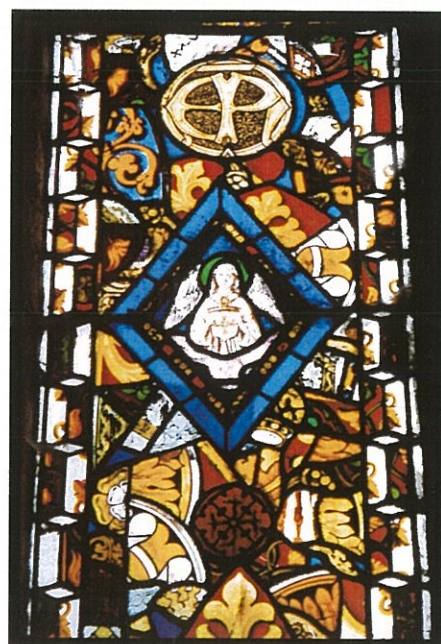


*General view inside Beckingham Church*



*Lectern*

*Beckingham Church*



*Chancel window containing  
Fragments of earlier glass.*



It was during the ministry of Thomas de Sybthorp that the rectory grounds were enlarged by his purchase of the three properties between the rectory and the river. The properties were a toft belonging to John Beck, an acre of land purchased from Walter Teband with the assent of his wife Isolda and their son William and an acre and a half of land owned by Robert Nevyll. As the extension entailed closing the road between the old grounds and the newly acquired property, permission was obtained from William le Latimer, the lord of the manor, and a licence was granted from a court held at Nottingham, provided that another convenient way was made. A new road was made to the east of the rectory which is called Rectory Street today.

The most obvious evidence of Thomas' incumbency are the aisles of the church. He founded these as two chapels, the one on the North side dedicated to the Virgin Mary and on the South to St. Anne. At least seven prayers were to be said every day, with mass on Sundays and numerous feast days, for Edward III and other kings, the bishops of Lincoln, Thomas himself, Thomas de Baumburgh, John de Sybthorp, and Ralph de Gunthorp, clerks: also for the souls of William and Matilda, Thomas' parents, Edward II, Robert de Bardelby, clerk, Adam son of Ralph de Sutton and Margery his wife, the lords of the manor of Holmspyne and other feudal lords who had made grants to the chantry, and the rectors of the church.

The Beckingham chaplains were to be appointed from those at Sibthorpe by the warden, and were to provide every year seven wax tapers, each of which was to weigh two pounds; five in the chapel of St. Mary, to represent her five special feast days, and two in the chapel of St. Anne in honour of her and her daughter, and placed in front of the images and altars. They were to be lit at first and evening vespers, matins and mass on the feast days mentioned, and on Sundays and other feast days whilst the mass was being sung. On the anniversary of Thomas' death the chaplain was to celebrate with the solemn ringing of bells and a mass for Thomas and those to whom the chantry was dedicated, and to distribute to thirteen of the poorer men and women of the parish seven silver pence; to the most needy woman one penny and to the rest a halfpenny. The chaplain was to reside in Beckingham, and to have "reasonable allowance for his food and clothing and for his suitable condition". On his admission he was to make an inventory of the chantry's possessions in the presence of the rector, the chaplain of Holmespyne and two honest men of Beckingham, and to render an account to the Sibthorpe warden annually.

Early in 1351 Thomas was on a commission to survey the metes and bounds of "Miden Dyk" from Welland to Witham between Kesteven and Holland, and make clear the boundary crosses which were causing disputes. In March he requested an exemplification of the properties of the Beckingham and Sibthorpe chapels, most likely due to the death of John Cousyn, the cantarist at Sibthorpe and the appointment in his place of Gilbert Notebroun who had been holding the same office at Beckingham. In May he received a commission to visit the hospital of St. Leonard's at Derby, but by October he was dead.

The circumstances of his death remain a mystery. Doubtless he was murdered as a pardon for homicide issued 26<sup>th</sup> October 1351 excepts the deaths of Sir John Eland, knight, and Thomas de Sybthorpe, and the pardons for the next eleven years continue to make these exceptions. There is no indication that the two deaths were connected, but Sir John has the same surname as Hugh de Eland who was accused of robbing Thomas in 1327.

### ***The Plague***

*There is evidence that the people of Stragglethorpe complained that it was impossible in 1349 to transport the bodies of plague victims to Beckingham church for burial, because of the waterlogging in that area. The result was that the corpses remained un-buried for several days 'to the infection of the living'. (Graham Platts: History of Lincolnshire Vol IV 'Lands and People in Mediaeval Lincolnshire', p.168.)*



## *Beckingham Rectory*

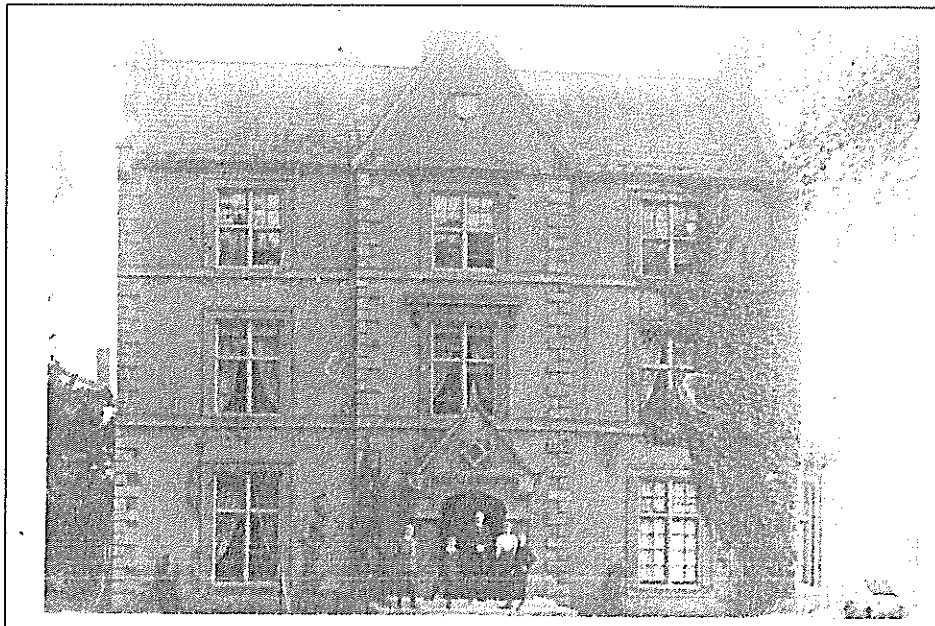
Based on an article by Tony Litchfield published in the Parish Magazine.

Beckingham Rectory has occupied roughly the same position in the village since before the Domesday Survey of 1086. Up to the second quarter of the fourteenth century the site included what today is Rectory Street and a road passed to the west of buildings and continued between the church and what is now Beckingham House. This road was part of the route from Sutton to Beckingham and followed the line of the present public footpath. Cottages and land which lined the old road opposite the rectory were purchased in the second quarter of the fourteenth century by the then rector Thomas de Sybthorpe, in order to extend the rectory grounds down to the river. He was allowed to do this provided he made a way to replace the road he was enclosing in his extension; the new road was made on the opposite side of the site and forms what is now Rectory Street. The earliest descriptions of the rectory occur in the sixteenth century and the second quarter of the seventeenth century and it would not be significantly different from that of de Sybthorpe's time.

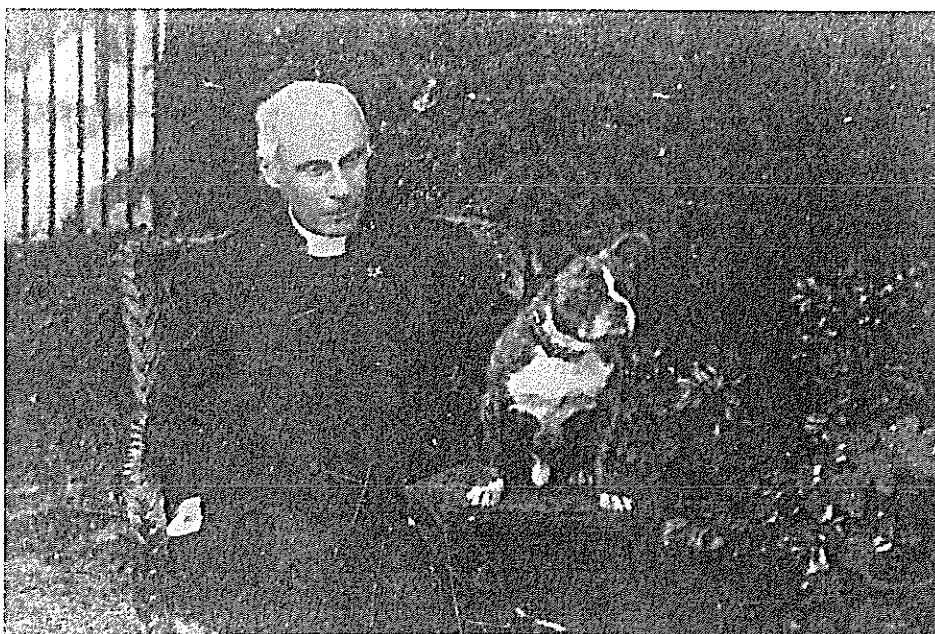
Separated from the house itself there was a kitchen, dairy, bakehouse and brewhouse, stable and several large barns, in which would be stored the rector's tythes. All the buildings were timber framed and thatched except for the house which was by this time covered with tile and slate. The inventory taken in 1639 on the death of Thomas Williamson, the rector at the time describes the house as having a panelled parlour and hall, the latter except for the kitchen the only room with a fireplace, a closet and study, buttery and cellars. Upstairs besides the Great Chamber there were the Green, Yellow, Blue and Little Chambers, also the maids' and the servants' chamber, each containing three beds. Apart from a new parlor mentioned in 1687 and the addition of fireplaces in what is termed the best parlor and some of the bed chambers, little change appears to have been made to the house.

By the middle of the eighteenth century the range of farm buildings would seem to have been reduced and the property was probably in a poor state of repair. It is most likely that it was Richard Hacket, the rector from 1763 to 1810, who built what today is the older brick rear part of the building. During his time under the Enclosure Award of 1770, the land round the house was extended north towards the church to include what had been part of the village green.

The present building is the result of extensions prior to the incumbency of George Marsland who was rector between 1837 and 1874, and had 12 or 13 children. Notes found in an old door in the hall during the recent restorations read "This building was erected in the years or our Lord 1834 & 5 by Thos. Shelburn carpenter & Edward Willis bricklayer both of North Collingham, being the property of Thos. Marsland Esq. M.P. for Bolton Lanc. Erected for his son the Revd G. Marsland of Beckingham Linc." and "This was wrote by Geo. Shelburne on the 14th day of Sept 1835, these doors was made by Geo. Shelburne aged 18 years and Sam' Hall aged 21 of Collingham'. The additions to the house were rendered and new coach houses built adjoining Rectory Street. Whilst the property was waiting to be sold by the church, thieves broke in on more than one occasion and stole pine cupboards from the kitchens and a fine marble fireplace from the room immediately to the right of the front door.



Beckingham Rectory



Rev. J.H. Beck, Rector of Beckingham, 1891.  
By kind permission of N.K.D.C.





## *The Sixteenth Century*

### *The Reformation*

During the Sixteenth century Beckingham was affected like the rest of the country by the Reformation. In 1536 the smaller monasteries were closed by Thomas Cromwell on behalf of Henry VIII and by 1539 the larger ones had also been dissolved. Bardney Abbey which held land in Beckingham was closed in 1538.

In 1548 the chantries, a symbol of the 'superstition' of the Old Religion because they existed solely for intercession for the souls of the dead, were suppressed. The certificate issued in 1548 recorded that the incumbent of the 'Chantry of Blessed Mary of Beckingham' was William Slater, aged 60 years and 'by no means fit to serve the cure'.<sup>10</sup> At this time there were apparently 180 parishioners communicating there.

In 1552 some of the chantry property and land in Beckingham and Sutton was sold to Edward Braye and the rest to William Riggles of Stragglethorpe and his wife Anne and John Goodale gentleman. The property included the cottages and gardens rented by Alice Howarde, widow, Thomas Williamson, William Naylor, Thomas Wright, Robert Pydde and Stephen Hychebone. William Slater received a pension<sup>11</sup> of £2-4-8 per annum; the same as his stipend. Roger Tomlynson, incumbent of the Chantry of St. Leonard in Beckingham Church received 77s 6d – the same as his previous stipend.

So Beckingham lost the two chantry priests who must previously have provided some support to the community at a time when there were no Social Services to aid the needy and when the presence of a person who could read and write was an asset. In addition the services of Beckingham Church would have changed. By the end of the century all statues of the saints and other trappings of Catholic worship had disappeared and the services were no longer in Latin but English. Although the new legislation must have caused much soul searching by some, there is no surviving evidence that Catholicism lingered in the village though the later lords of the manor, the Lacons of Shropshire, were registered as holders of Popish estates. Indeed there is strong evidence, as we shall see, that in this area the pendulum was swinging the other way- towards Protestant Non-Conformity.

### *Parish Registers*

In 1538 a decree was made that baptisms, marriages and burials were to be recorded. They were made on separate sheets of paper or parchments and were often lost. Copies of the records were also to be sent to the Bishop and we are fortunate that some of the sixteenth century Bishop's Transcripts for Beckingham and Sutton have survived. They begin at 1561 with gaps at 1566-75, 1577/8, 1583/4. In 1598 Queen Elizabeth ordered that the registers were to be kept in parchment books and old registers were to be copied up. Beckingham's registers begin at 1558.

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<sup>10</sup> C.W.Foster & A.H.Thompson: The Chantry Certificates for Lincoln and Lincolnshire.No. 107, p. 63.

<sup>11</sup> L.R.S. 53:The State of the Ex-Religious & Former Chantry Priests, 1547-1574, from returns in the Exchequer. P.24.

Beheadingham in  
 Weddings, burials, marriages, with the witness of  
 the church of St. Michael, Loughborough  
 in the year of our Lord 1587  
 the churchwardens in the year of our Lord 1587

John Holme } churchwardens  
 John Mattison }

October 1	Agnes daughter of Robert Holme married
October 2	John son of William Swift baptised
October 10	John daughter of Robert Holme baptised
October 12	Robert Mattison & Catherine Matlock married
October 15	Thomas Andrews servant buried
October 17	John daughter of Robert Holme buried
November 10	Margaret daughter of Robert Holme buried
November 15	Agnes son of Thomas Holme baptised
November 17	Thomas daughter of Thomas Holme baptised
November 20	John son of William Swift buried
December 1	John daughter of Robert Holme baptised
January 10	Thomas & Catherine Holme married
February 1	Michael Gilbert & John Holme married
February 15	William son of John Holme married
March 1	Thomas Holme husband buried
March 15	Agnes son of Thomas Holme buried
March 17	John daughter of Thomas Holme baptised
April 1	Agnes son of Thomas Holme baptised
April 15	Agnes son of Thomas Holme buried
April 17	Robert son of William Holme baptised
September 1	John daughter of Robert Holme baptised
September 15	Margaret daughter of Robert Holme baptised
September 17	John daughter of William Holme buried

In witness whereof I have signed this book  
 the 15th day of June 1587  
 John Holme  
 John Mattison

1587  
 146/2

Bishop's Transcript for 1587 showing baptisms,  
 marriages and burials.  
 Reproduced by kind permission of the Diocese of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Archives.

### *Sale of the Manor*

In 1557/8 half the manor of Beckingham and the advowson of the church were sold by Sir George Cornwall to William Riggs of Stragglethorpe for £600.

### *Village Life in the Sixteenth Century*

In addition to the church records the other group of documents throwing light on the village in the sixteenth century are the wills and inventories of which a considerable number survive for Beckingham and Sutton. While the wills bear witness to the relationship of the villagers, the inventories, which are more detailed in the sixteenth century than later, show us the very fabric of their homes. From them we learn their occupations, the number and type of rooms in their houses, the wealth or poverty of their possessions and the details of their everyday life.

As a typical example we include the inventories of Thomas Pide (Pidd) 1565, whose family were later to become Quakers and of Thomas Sheperd of Sutton, labourer, in 1594.

### *Inventory of Thomas Pyde<sup>12</sup>.*

1565 March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Inventory of Thomas Pyde of Beckingham. Taken by: Anthony Wilson, Richard Richardson, William Hatfield, Thomas Carter, Edmund Kitchen.

In money	3- 4
All his apparel	4- 0
5 pewter platters, 5 dishes, 1 saucer, 3 salts of pewter	3- 0
4 candlesticks & 1 chafing dish	2- 0
5 brass pots	20- 0
3 pans, 1 kettle, 1 skellete pan	13- 4
1 cupboard	3- 0
1 pair of splintes	12
The hangings in the Hall & the table with forms & stouiles & other tromre	5- 0
1 lead	3- 0
5 pairs of linen sheets, 4 pillow bearers & a table cloth	2- 0
2 coverlets & 2 mattresses	9- 2
6 yards of plain white cloth	2- 0
4 arks & 2 bedstocks	5- 0
The hangings in the Parlour	6
1 horse, 3 mares, 4 foals	£ 4-10- 0
4 kye, 2 steers, 3 calves	£ 5- 6- 8
79 sheep (3 score & 19)	£ 9- 0- 0
5 holding swine & 5 pigs	13- 4

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<sup>12</sup> L.A.O. INV 44/5

the waine & waine gears, the cart & cart gears, the plough & plough gears	£ 2-13- 4
the wood about the hovels	10- 0
the peis of the other hovels	10- 0
the hay	20- 0
the rye & the wheat	22- 0
3 quarters of barley	20- 0
5 quarters of malt	20- 0
11 acres of wheat & rye	55- 0?
12 acres of barley	48- 0
8 acres of peas	32- 0
All the poultry in the yard	3- 4
Total	£38- 6- 4

### *Will of Thomas Pide<sup>13</sup>*

In the Name of God, Amen. The xviith daie of marche, the yere of Our Lord God, 1564. I Thomas Pide of the parishe of Beckingam, sicke in bodie but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks bee unto almightie god, makes constitutes and ordeines this my last will and testamente in manuor and formes followinge First I bequethe my soule to almightie God my maker and redemer and to all the hollie companie of heaven and my bodie to be buried within the churche yard of all hallowes of Beckingam aforesaid against the steaple so nye to my friendes as convenie(n)tlie may bee and for my mortuarie as the lawe will requier. Item I bequethe for tithes forgotten vid. Item I Bequethe to Our Ladies woorkes of Lincoln vid. Item I bequethe to the poore people of Beckingam and Sutton vis viiid the one half of yt to bee distributed at the daie of my buriall and the other half so shortlie as maie bee. Item I will that Richard my sonne shall fetch a lode of the greateste stones that he canne gett of the pittes where thei fetch stone and to laie some of theim at the fowle pece of roaid at the churche stile and some of theim at the other fowle pece of waie aneuste (near) Pattinson wiefs house and the residue in other places betwixte my house and the church wher most nede is. Item I bequethe to Elizabeth Holforth my servaunte one busshell of wheat and one busshell of barlie. Item I bequethe to Marie Tailor my servaunte one lambe. Item I bequethe to Thomas Pide my kinsman one lambe, the beste he canne choose amonge my shepe. Item I bequethe to my brother Johnne childerne one lambe amonges theim. Item I bequethe to my brother Willm. Childerne one lambe amonges theim. Item I bequethe to Francis and Anne Wilsonne one lambe betwixte theim. Item I bequethe to Richard my sonne thre kye, one yocke of oxen legacie of the late decessed Alice Carter my sister in lawe. Item I bequethe to Richard my sonne one graie horse for a horse wch I folde of his. The residue of my goode not geven nor bequethed my debts paid and legacies performed, my funerall charges deducted and my bodie broughte honstlye to the grounde this my last will and testamente distcharged I give and bequethe to Richard Pide my sonne whome I make my full executor of this my last will and testament he to dispose for the healthe of my soule and all christen soules as he shall thincke meete by the advice of Mr Anthonye Wilsonne and Richard Richardsonne whome I will to bee supervisors of this my last will and testamente to se my debtes paid and legacies performed and to have for their paines xiid. Theis beinge witnesses Sir Thomas Warde curate Willm Hatfeld thomas Carter with others.

Probate: Sleaford 2 April 1565.

<sup>13</sup> L.A.O. Wills 1565/42

*Inventory of Thomas Sheperd.*

Inventory of Thomas Sheperd, labourer, of Sutton, 28 October, 1594.<sup>14</sup>

Imprimis his purse and his apparell	12s
Itm. 3 chests, 2 paire of heminge shets, 2 paire of harden shetes, 1 lynnene shete, 2 pillowes & a bedstead	6s 8d
Itm. table clothes and 4 towells	2s 0d
Itm. halfe a rooke of coles	2s 6d
Itm. a spineing wele, with other implements in the parlor	12d
Itm. halfe a pot of butter with other implements in the chamber	2s 0d
Itm. certayne chesees in the parlor	3s 0d
Itm. 8 shepe	26s 0d
3 kyne	£3 6s 8d
Itm. pease in the kilne howse	2s 0d
Itm. wood in the yerd	12d
Itm. 2 piggs	3s 4d
Itm. 1 sythe with certayne implements in the neitherend	12d
Itm. 2 capons, 4 hens & a cok & 2 swyne troughes	2s 6d
Itm. 2 pans, 2 potts with other litle pans	20s 0d
Itm. 1 cupbord with the puter thereon, 1 candlestick	6s 8d
Itm. a brandrith, a fryeingpan, a land iron, potthookes, reckinges & a hattchitt	3s 4d
Itm. a litle bord, a chare, formes, stooles & cussings	12d
Itm. 3 kitts, boules and dishes	2s 0d
Itm. a chirne, a dishstaffe & 2 flackitts	12d
Itm. a rooke of coles & 6d dew by Thomas Greene	6s 8d
Sum. Totalis	£8 13s 4d

William Carter Symon Burt  
John Okes Symon Lawe

*Over leaf: Inventory of Thomas Sheperd of Sutton, 1594.  
Reproduced by kind permission of the Diocese of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Archives.*

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<sup>14</sup> L.A.O. Inv. 85/117

I have Inventory Indenture and many lps & binding  
 of October, the 5th 1599 of all lps, goods and  
 vassals, & of some shopped of Sutton lps in lps  
 of the 13th of the 15th laborer & vassals, and  
 finished by these men William Vassals, John de la Symon  
 and Symon Vassals.

William Vester, Symon Buel  
John Oles } Symon Talbo //

Invenimus decessisse die Octobris 1394  
 die glorie Inventario

## *The Seventeenth Century*

### *The Civil War*

After the Reformation the next great upheaval in the lives of the people of Beckingham was caused by the Civil War. Nearby Newark was a Royalist stronghold and as such endured three sieges enforced by the Parliamentarians.

In July and August 1644 the Earl of Manchester, while based at Lincoln, sent '2,000 horse and 150 foot to lie at Beckingham and Claypole.'<sup>15</sup> The aim was to control the Royalist raiding parties which had been troubling the Parliamentarians in Tuxford, Sleaford and Grantham, and to cut off supplies to the Newark garrison.

In 1645 troops were again quartered at Beckingham and Claypole, under the leadership of Colonel Rossiter, Major Lebunts and Major Heynes.<sup>16</sup> Mention has already been made of the tradition that the lead from Beckingham church roof was used to make shot for the Parliamentary forces and there is evidence that many of the occupied villages suffered in other ways. The Parliamentary troops were constantly short of money and relied on what they could extract from the villagers for their maintenance. Nor were the villagers' sufferings only imposed by the occupying army. There is evidence that a considerable number of Beckingham and Sutton villagers were suffering during the seventeenth century from religious persecution.

### *The Quakers*

The Quakers or to give them their correct title 'The Society of Friends' had made their appearance in the Beckingham area by the middle of the seventeenth century and the Quaker records bear ample witness to their sufferings. The first Quaker meeting in Beckingham was attended by the following:

James and Mary Wadeson, Robert and Mary Parker and Richard and Mary Pidd, all of Beckingham, William and Katherine Massey of Sutton, and John and Ann Pidd, Henry Carlton, George Lucas and John Trueblood of Barnby-in-the-Willows.

In 1654 and 1655 Elizabeth Hooton was imprisoned in Lincoln castle 'for bearing her testimony to the truth in the place of public worship at Beckingham'. Both imprisonments were the result of intervention by the rector, Joseph Thurston (George Fox, the Quaker preacher evidently records meeting Elizabeth Hooton during his journey in Nottinghamshire.) Also in 1655 John and Richard Pidd were imprisoned in Lincoln castle and James Wadeson and William Massey were deprived of goods.

In 1658 Arnold Trueblood was committed to Lincoln jail for not paying his tithes and died there leaving a widow (who eventually married William Burditt, another Quaker) and two sons (William who died in London of plague in 1665, and John who emigrated

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<sup>15</sup> Cornelius Brown: History of Newark, Vol.2, p.75 quoting pamphlet 'A continuation of true intelligence from the army under the command of the Earl of Manchester..printed by Th. Underhill.

<sup>16</sup> Op. Cit. P.98.

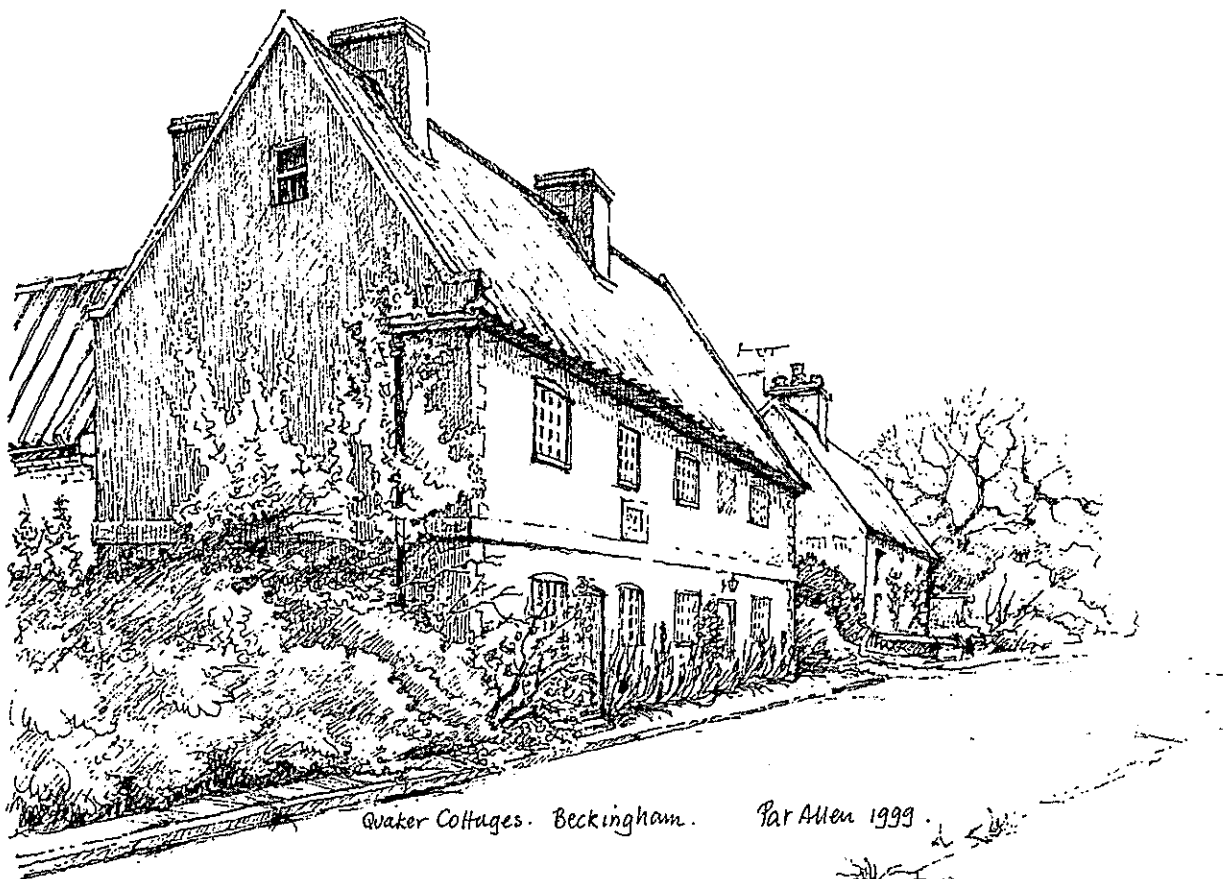
to America). The same year John and Richard Pidd were again imprisoned, together with James Hutchinson and John Johnson.

On 25 May 1670 a group of Friends were heavily fined for holding a meeting in the house of Richard Pidd. Richard Pidd was fined £20 in household goods and barley. Richard Burditt and his wife were fined 10s., a pewter flagon and five pewter dishes. William Burditt and his wife were fined 10s., a coverlet and 3 pewter dishes, while Mary Parker lost nine pewter dishes, John Green and his wife lost goods to the value of 22s. George Lucas of Barnby lost two coats, John Trueblood and his sister one brass pot, a brass pan and some pewter, John Pidd lost a brass pot, Henry Carlton pewter worth 7s., Mary Sharpe a blanket and Hugh Ridmill, a poor man one coat.

It seems that the poor of Beckingham refused to benefit from the fines of the Quakers, returning charity money and goods to those from whom they had been taken. The Quaker document declares 'Thus doth the witness of God arise in people's hearts to testify to the innocence of Friends.'

In 1677-8 a number of Friends were fined bullocks and sheep but because no one could be found willing to buy them they were returned to their owners.

In general the Friends had nothing to do with the 'steeplehouse' as they called the church, and in 1681 Thomas Parker was buried in his brother's garden as the group did not acquire their own burial ground until 1682. In that year Richard Burditt died and left his house and yard and outhouses after the death of his wife, to be used as a Meeting House and Burial Ground for the Friends of Beckingham. The trustees were Richard Pidd and Joseph Frotheringham of Wellbourne. The Meeting House was located at the south end of Rectory Street and was sold to Joseph Johnson in 1869.



Quaker Cottages. Beckingham.

Par Allen 1999.



### *Village Life in the Seventeenth Century.*

Unfortunately the Protestation Returns of the 1640s, giving the names of those over the age of 18 who swore the oath to uphold the Protestant religion, do not survive for Beckingham and Sutton but we are fortunate to have the Hearth Tax documents which give us a record of the householders of the villages in the second half of the century.

### *Hearth Tax Records*

The Hearth Tax records for 1665 give the following list of the inhabitants of Beckingham and the number of hearths on which they were taxed:

Mr Stillingfleet (Rector)	6	Richard Johnson	1
Thomas Alvey	1	Richard Burkes	1
Thomas Palmer	2	William Burdit	1
John Pattison	2	Robert Smyth	1
Thomas Brickhead	2	John Layne	1
John Parker	1	Tymothy Kempe	1
Robert Pierpoint	1	Richard Kempe	1
Mary Watson	2	Katherine Layne	1
Randolph Pattinson	1	John Dawes	1
Anthony Parker	1	John Bunbye	1
John Keirke	1	William Whitbye	1
Robert Parker	1	Jane Balye wid.	2
Robert Lane	2	Elizabeth Glaster wid.	1
John Carter	2	Thomas Shores	1
Thomas Smythe	1	William Pidd	1
Richard Pidd	2	Not formerly mentioned	
Robert Crosbye	1	Robert Reynolds	1
John Pidd	2	Firmary Cheetam	1
John Pattison	3	Robert Parker sen.	1
Susanna Farthinge vid. (widow)	1	William Martyn	1
William Massey	3	Henry Reynolds	1
William Burt	5	Robert Lyn	1
Randolph Reynes	1	James Alvey	1
Thomas Parker	1	<b>Poor &amp; not able to pay:</b>	
Thomas Burt	1	Elizabeth Catterson	1
Widd Ellis for an empty		Widow Roger	1
ruinous house	1	John Clarke	1
Thomas Headley	1	Elizabeth Johnson	1
Symon Holmes	1		
Raph Hutchinson	1		
James Kempe	1		

The 1671 Hearth Tax records show nine of the houses with an increase in the number of hearths and that there were at this time two forges in the village, held by Thomas Johnson and Robert Hutchinson. John Hutchinson and William Burt had newly built houses and Simon Holmes now had five hearths (previously one).

To give some idea of the quality of life of the villagers we include two typical seventeenth century inventories. The first, from the first half of the century, is that of Thomas Kitchen.

**Thomas Kitchen, yeoman**, taken by Thomas Pidd, John Lane and William Kempe, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1631.<sup>17</sup>

His purse & appurel	20-0
2 pairs of linen sheets & 3 pairs of course sheets	12-6
4 pillowbeares	2-6
1 boardcloth & 2 towels	5-0
4 coverlets	12-0
4 pillows	2-0
2 mattresses	4-0
2 bedsteads	2-0
4 chests	7-0
All the wooden vessels	4-6
The pewter	4-6
All the brass	16-0
1 old cupboard	3-0
a table & a form	5-0
2 chairs & cushions	16
1 fireiron, 1 reckeon, tongues, brandreth, pestel, hatchet, pot hooks with other implements	18
2 fliches of bacon	14-0
1 cow & 2 horses	£4-6-0
Barley & pease	£5-0-0
Hay	40-0
2 ladders, 4 hovel props	5-0

£17-9-6

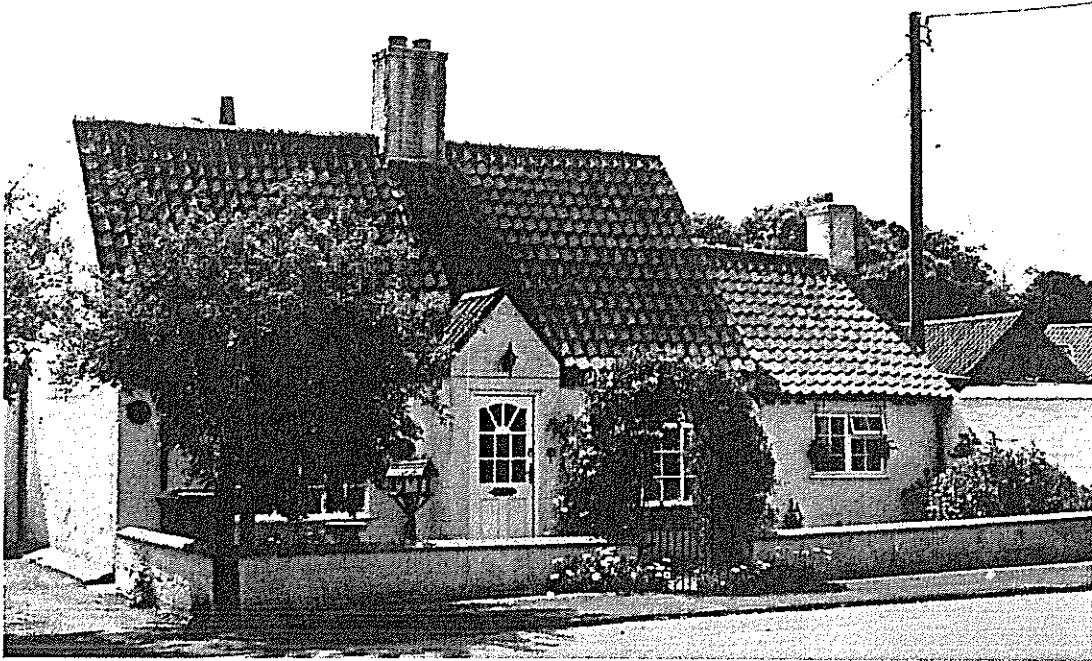
The second inventory is that of **Thomas Burt of Beckingham, labourer**, taken by John Wadeson, Thomas Headley and Thomas Birkhead, 30 May, 1681.<sup>18</sup>

His purse & apparel	£1-16-8
<u>In the House</u> : a cupboard, a table, 2 forms, a counter, 2 chairs	18-0
<u>In the Parlour</u> : two bedsteads, a livery cupboard, a trunk, a chest	
A form, a table, a cradle & a box	£1-13-4
2 coverlets, 2 blankets, a mattress & a bolster, 4 cushions	13-0
1 pair of linen sheets, 3 hempten sheets, 3 harden sheets, 3 pillowbearers	
3 towels, 2 tablecloths, 4 napkins, 2 hemton pillowbearers	£1- 6-2
<u>In the Chamber</u> : 6 strikes of barley, 3 strikes of wheat,	
A winnowing cloth, 2 spinning wheels, 2 blankets, 2 hecks, ½ stone of wool	£1- 9-6
Unwet cloth:- 16 yards hempten, 10 of harden	£1- 2-4
A Bible	2-0
<u>In the Kitchen</u> : 10 Pewter dishes, 1 little flagon, 2 little pewter cans,	
1 candlestick, 1 chamberpot	19-0
1 brass pot, 3 brass pans	13-4
5 Irons, land iron, frogs, gallow tree, 2 running hooks, a pair of tongs	2-0
Coals, a little brewing lead	18-0
<u>In the Dairy</u> : 3 kits, 3 milk bowls, 2 kimlins, 1 pantion, 1 chire, 4 barrels	
A sough, 3 pipins, pots, butter & cheese	18-5
<u>In the Yard</u> : A little hay, a small swine, poultry, a pigtrough	£1- 0- 0
5 cows, 3 yearlings, 3 stake calves	£14- 3- 4
10 sheep & 4 lambs	£ 2-18-6
Crop on the ground	£ 7-10-0
Things unseen & forgot	(Total =£38- 6-11)

Thomas Burt and his brother William were the first two members of this family to have Quaker leanings but after some wavering Thomas became definitely Anglican in 1674. He died in 1681 and was buried in Beckingham Churchyard, to be followed three months later by his young son. His second wife was Ann Archer who after Thomas' death married Thomas Crosby.

<sup>17</sup> L.A.O. Inv. 138/47.

<sup>18</sup> L.A.O. Inv. 182/29



Reputedly the oldest house in Beckingham.



The Corner of Chapel Street and School Lane.



### *Constables' Accounts*

The duties of the Constable included the keeping of the peace, attending at the swearing in of other parish officers, supervising the use of the stocks, dispensing charity to vagrants, making payments for the destruction of vermin and collection of various taxes. To pay for these expenses he collected a levy twice a year from the inhabitants of the parish. For every oxgang of land held 1s. (5p) had to be paid and for every horse or beast owned 1d and for every 20 sheep 4d. In 1672 his total collections were £16-1s-1d and his disbursements £16-7s-10d.

### *Pattinson's Charity*

In addition to the parish rate another provision for the poor was by charity donations. In 1691 Randolph Pattinson bequeathed to the poor of Beckingham and Sutton 10s. and to the poor of Barnby 10s. In addition Beckingham and Sutton received  $\frac{1}{4}$  oxgang of land, called 'Brown Land'. This was enclosed in 1770 and is known today as the 'Poor Gardens'. Broughton poor received 10s. and  $\frac{1}{2}$  oxgang of 'Brown Land'.

### **Randolph Pattinson's Will<sup>19</sup>**

In the name of God, Amen. I Randolfe Pattinson of Beckingham in the county off Lincolne, yeoman, beeing sicke in body but of good & perfect mind & memory, blessed bee Almighty God for the same & duely considering the certainty of death & the unsertainty of the time & maner therof & beinge desirous to know the longing of pease and quitenes to & amonst my relations & friends to that end & purpose doe & make this my last will & teastement in manor and form as followeth. First I resine my soule to Almighty God my maker & Jesus Crist my redeemer by whose death and passion I hope to bee saved & my body to bee buried in Christian buriall att the discesion of my executors here after nominated & as touching my estate that God of his goodness hath bestowed on me I dispose as followeth.

Imprimis I give to William Turner my neffew tow hundred & fifty pound to be paid to him in twelve months time. Itt. I give to Dorothy Gilbert my servant 60 pound to be paide within six months after my desease. Itt. I give to Dorothy Gilbert halfe an oxgang of land called by name the Brown land, to her & her heirs for ever, to enter to the following at my desease. Itt. I give to John Pid of Barnby, Stephen Hall of Broughton, Christopher Wray of Fulbeck the fourt part of an oxgang of land with the apurtenants there to (be)longing being called by the name of Browne land, to theire ... four ever to enter to the follow after my desease. Itt. I give to Robert Parpoynt & Margret his wife the fourt of an oxgang of land with the apurtinants ther to belonging being called by the name of Browne land to enter to the following at my desease and to hould it for the term of six yeares & then to return to the poore of Beckingham & Sutton for ever. Itt. I give to the poore of Beckingham & Sutton ten shillings to bee paid (by) my executor. Itt. I give to the poore of Barnby ten shillings to be paid by my (executors). Itt. I give to the pore of Broughton ten shillings to be paid by my executors (& I) give to the pore of Broughton half an oxgang of land with the apertinents thereto belonging (called) by the name of Brown land to the use of the pore for ever to enter to the follow att my disease. All the rest of my goods & chattels undisposed I give to my brother Richard Pattinson whome I make my sole executor of this my last will & testement in witness hereof I have hereunto put my hand and seall the 31 of March 169(1).

Witness Thomas Smyth  
His mark  
James Wadeson

Randolf Pattinson

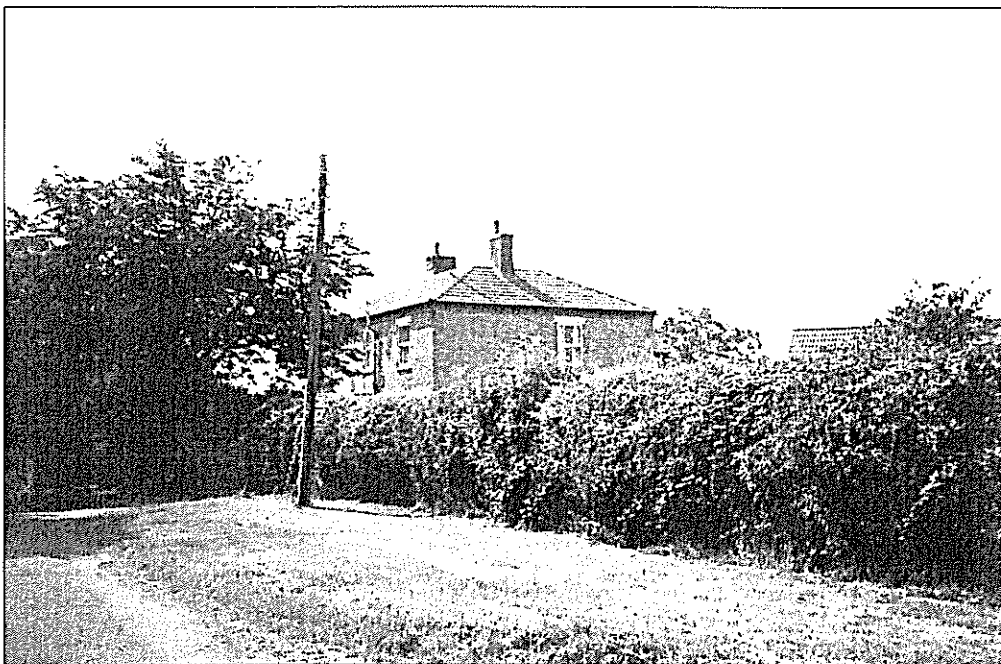
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<sup>19</sup> L.A.O. LCC Wills 1691/11/251

Sutton



Apricot Hall



Nineteenth Century 'Fairview Stud'.

## *Eighteenth Century*

### *Enclosure Award*

The most important single event during the eighteenth century for Beckingham was the enclosure of the parish. Until 1770 the parish land had been cultivated in a number of open fields in which most of the villagers had strips. The crops were rotated in sequence with one field being left fallow each year. In addition the villagers had rights to pasture their animals on the common land.

In 1770 an act was passed for 'dividing and enclosing the open fields, meadows, common pastures and waste grounds in Beckingham and Sutton in the parish of Beckingham'<sup>20</sup>. The commissioners appointed to undertake the enclosure were William Pritchard of Monmouth, John Watkinson of Loughborough, Richard Metheringham of Frieston, William Handley of Newark and John Kerchevall of Balderton 'gentleman'.

At this time Richard Lacon was Lord of the Manor, Andrew Hacket the younger was patron of the rectory and parish church, Revd. Richard Hacket was rector and entitled to the great Tithes except those from the Bardney lands, and to all the Small Tithes, while Sir George Smith was proprietor of the tithes of corn and grain of the Bardney lands and of hay in Beckingham.

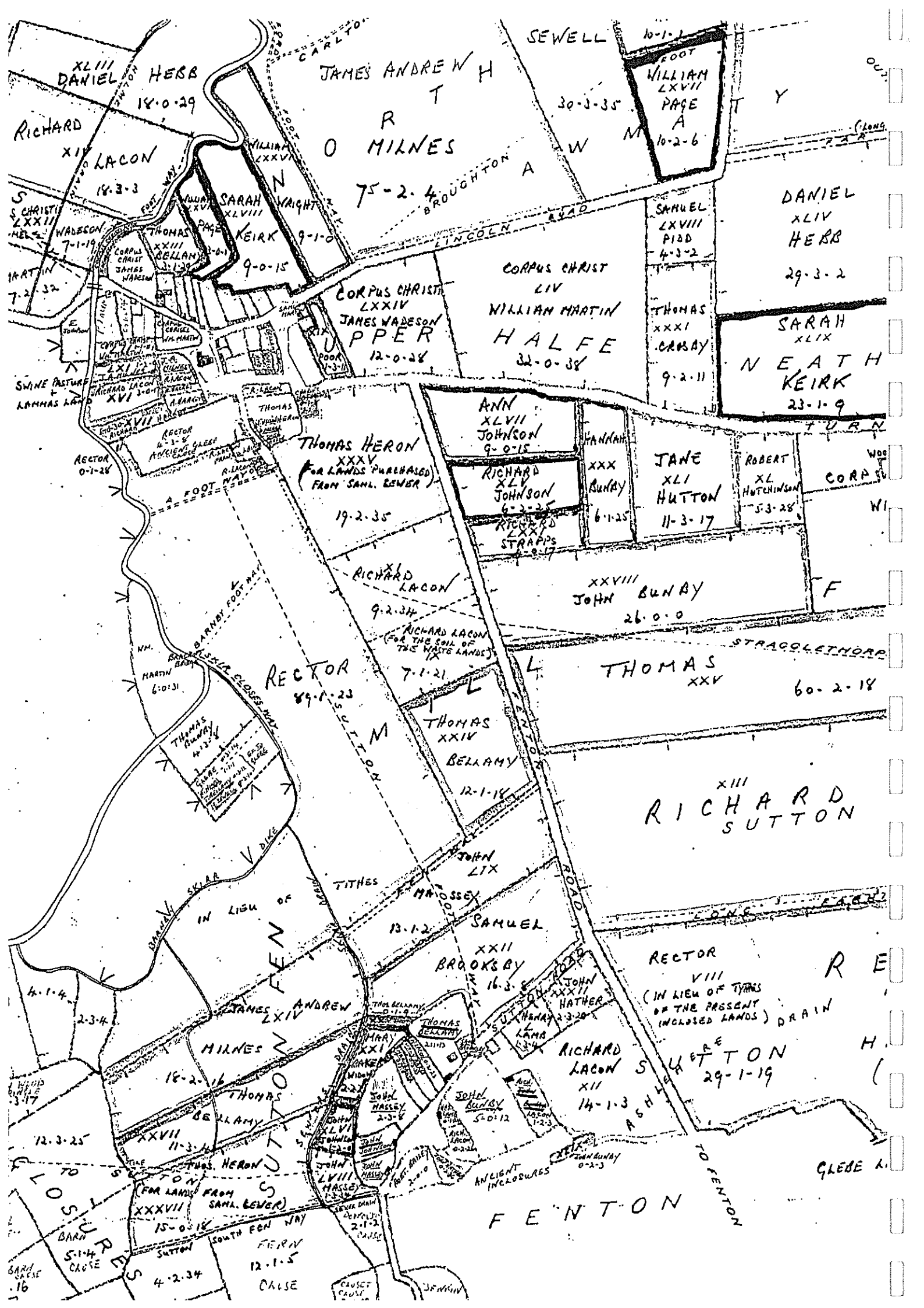
At the time of enclosure the open fields of Beckingham were called 'North Field', 'Awmiy Field' (that is a moiety or half field) with the Upper and Nether Half Fields and part of the Mill Field. Sutton had the other half of the Mill Field together with Sutton Little Field and Sutton Hedge Field.

The following received allotments in the enclosed fields:

Richard Hacket	Richard Johnson	James Wadeson
Sir George Smith	John Johnson	William Wright
Richard Lacon	Ann Johnson	
William Archer	Sarah Kirk	
Mary Baker	Henry Lamb	
Samuel Brooksby	Charles Matthews	
Thomas Bellamy	William Martin	
John Bunby	Robert Martin	
Hannah Bunby	Thomas Markhall	
Thomas Crosby	John Massey	
John Hather	Robert Massey	
John & Jane Lane	James Andrew Milnes	
Thomas Heron	William Nelson	
John & Millicent Holmes	William Page	
Robert Hutchinson	Samuel Pidd	
Jane Hutton	Henry Sewell	
Edmund Hynde	Thomas Smith	
Daniel Hebb	Richard St(r)apps	

---

<sup>20</sup> L.A.O. Kesteven Award 88/2; Beckingham PAR CO Award & Plan.



XLIII DANIEL HERB 18-0-29

JAMES ANDREW H MILNES 75-2-4

SEWELL 10-1-1  
WILLIAM LXXVII PAGE A 10-2-6

RICHARD XIV LACON 18-3-3

SARAH KEIRK 9-0-15  
THOMAS KEIRK 9-0-15  
CORPUS CHRIST LXXIV JAMES WADESON UPPER 12-0-28

CORPUS CHRIST LIV WILLIAM MARTIN HALFE 32-0-38

DANIEL XLIV HERB 29-3-2  
SARAH XLIX NEATH KEIRK 23-1-9

THOMAS HERON XXXV (FOR LANDS PURCHASED FROM SAM. LEVER) 19-2-35

ANN XLVII JOHNSON 9-0-15  
RICHARD XLV JOHNSON 6-3-25  
RICHARD LXXX STRAPPS 6-0-17

JANE XLI HUTTON 11-3-17

ROBERT XL HUTCHINSON 5-3-28

RECTOR 0-1-26  
THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

RICHARD LACON 9-2-34  
RICHARD LACON (FOR THE SOIL OF THE WASTE LANDS) 7-1-21

THOMAS XXV 60-2-18

THOMAS XXV 60-2-18

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS XXIV BELLAMY 12-1-14

THOMAS XXIV BELLAMY 12-1-14

THOMAS XXIV BELLAMY 12-1-14

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

SAMUEL XXII BROOKSBY 16-3-8

SAMUEL XXII BROOKSBY 16-3-8

SAMUEL XXII BROOKSBY 16-3-8

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

THOMAS BUNAY 11-3-17  
RECTOR 0-1-26

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

JOHN LIX 13-1-2

JOHN LIX 13-1-2



### *Debts and Disasters*

In 1712 John Heron, Steward of the Manor, ordered the Bailiff to collect fines and distrain the goods in the Manor if need be of

Elizabeth Lane, William Pid and Richard Swan for 'annoying the highway with a dunghill' (2d).

Richard Strapps (8d), Robert Hattfield (2d), John Hutchinson (9d) and Thomas Smith (2) for making a way over the Common.

John Hutchinson for his geese (3s 4d), horse and beast (6s 8d) trespassing on the Common.

\*\*\*

The Parish Register records

'The distemper amongst the horned cattle broke out in this Parish about Christmas in the year 1746 whereof great numbers died.

It likewise broke out again in the year 1754 and was more fatal than before.'

\*\*\*

'1776 December 17<sup>th</sup>. Warrant to the constable of Beckingham and all constables in Kesteven to apprehend Henry Coupland of Beckingham, charged with begetting a bastard child on Frances Graves of Beckingham, which is likely to become a charge on the parish.'

\*\*\*

'April 27 1783. Richard son of John and Elizabeth Straps unfortunately slain by approaching too near the sails of ye windmill.'

\*\*\*

The Enclosure Map annotated by D.A. Litchfield

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### *Inventory of John Hutchinson, 1722.*

To provide a glimpse of Beckingham life in the eighteenth century we include the inventory of John Hutchinson, a yeoman farmer.<sup>21</sup> It was assessed on the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1722 by Thomas Parker, John Wadeson and William Hammond.

Imprimis His purse & wearing apparel	10- 0- 0
Item. The goods in the House at the value of	5- 0- 0
- Parler	10- 0- 0
- Parler Chamber	6- 0- 0
- Best Chamber	10-10-0
- House Chamber	5- 0-0
- Kitchen	1-10-0
- Deary	2-10-0
- Kitchen Chamber	2- 5-0
Item for corn in Patrick Wallhead Barn	15- 0-0
Corn in the Church Barn at the value	20- 0-0
Hay & Coles in the Kilen House at.	5- 0-0
2 pease stacks at the value of	35- 0-0
A Hay stack in the yard at the value of	3-10-0
Wagens, plows & carts & harrows in the yard	19- 5-0
2 Swin Hoggs in the sty & 4 Swine	6- 5-0
Sheep in Sutton fen at the value of	20- 0-0
Sheep in Braycroft at the value of	4-10-0
Sheep in the Fallow Field at the value of	32- 0-0
Paster Hogs in Barnby Holmes	20- 0-0
6 Cows at the value of	10- 0-0
2 haystacks in the Swine Ground	5- 0-0
Paster Sheep in Broughton Field	
For Sheep in Flat Furlongs at the value of	20- 0-0
3 cows at the value of	9- 0-0
7 yearlings at the value of	14-10-0
12 calves	12-10-0
12 A Hay Stack	5- 0-0
Sheep in Woodgate Close at the value of	14- 0-0
A Hay Stack in the same Close	3-15-0
9 mares at the value of	75- 0-0
Colts at the value of	13- 0-0
3 foals	7-10-0
1 stoned Horse at the value of	15- 0-0
the Cloats in the Open Field	32- 5-0
things seen and forgotten	1-10-10
Total of this Inventory is	£ 516- 5-10

<sup>21</sup> L.A.O. Wills O 2847

***Restoration of Beckingham church.***

The following document<sup>22</sup> records the contributors to the cost of renovation:

**GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS THE REPAIRS OF BECKINGHAM CHURCH, in 1787.**

	£	S	D
Sir George Bromley, Bart.	10	10.	0.
Richard Lacon Esq., Lord of the Manor and considerable Proprietor	10	10.	0.
Andrew Hacket Jnr. Esq., Patron	10.	10.	0.
The Rev. Richard Hacket, Rector	10.	10.	0.
Thos. Heron Esq., Proprietor	5.	5.	0.
John Hacket Esq. (A free gift)	5.	5.	0.
The Rev.. Dr. Milnes, considerable Proprietor	6.	6.	0.
Mrs. Keirk, Proprietor	2.	2.	0.
Mr. James Wadeson, Proprietor	1.	11.	6.
Mrs. Wadeson (a free gift)	10.	6.	
Mr. Daniel Hebb, Proprietor	2.	2.	0.
Mr. Waddington (a free gift)	2.	2.	0.
Mr. Thos. Southerington, Proprietor	1.	1.	0.
Mr. Timothy George (a free gift)	1	1	0.
Robert Martin Esq., Proprietor	1.	1.	0.
Mr. S. Brooksby, Proprietor	2.	2.	0.
Mr. J. Wood,	1.	1.	0.
Mr. Salmon, Flawford (a free gift)	1.	1.	0.
Mr. Archer, Proprietor	1.	1.	0.
Mr. Thos. Smith	1.	1.	0.
Mr. Nelson	1.	1.	0.
Mr Ben Heale	1	1	0.
Mrs Page	1.	1.	0.
Mr Wm. Straps	1.	1.	0.
Mr Geo. Smith	1	1	0.
Mr. Robt. Johnson, Reversionary Proprietor.	1.	1.	0.
Mrs Wm. Lamb (a free gift)	1.	1.	0.
Mr. Sheppard, Proprietor		10.	6
Mr. John Crosby, Reversionary Proprietor.		10.	6.
Mr. Thos. Wood, Proprietor		10.	6.
Mr. Robt. Baily		10.	6.
Mr. Birkets	1.	1.	0.
-----			
Subscriptions for the year 1787 amount to			
In all	87.	3.	0.
To Pd. Sheppard and Browns on Acc.	70.	0.	0.
To pd. Slater for painting the outer walls of the Church Thrice over	3.	3.	0.
	73.	3.	0.
<b>Remainder in Hand</b>	14.	0.	0.

<sup>22</sup> L.A.O. Faculty Book 1771-91.

The rector's working papers for the re-pewing of the church survive and the following list gives the names of the inhabitants and the numbers of the pews they were allotted at a meeting in the church on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1789 they refer to the plan <sup>23</sup> on p.37.

- |                                |                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Rectory House               | 27. Charles Mathews               |
| 2. Mr Wm. Johnson tenant       | 28. John Allen                    |
| 3. Mr James Wadeson & Geo. Pid | 29. Mr John Andrew                |
| 4. Mrs Kirk                    | 30. Mr Rd. Pass                   |
| 5. Jos. Tongue                 | 31. Mr Rd. Straps & son Jn.       |
| 6. Mr Wm. Nelson               | 32. Mr Thos. Southerington        |
| 7. Me Rich. Johnson            | 33. Mr W. Wood (Pack Horse)       |
| 8. Widow Horner                | 34. Alex. Palmer                  |
| 9. Mr Wm. Archer               | 35. Mr James Wadeson (Black Swan) |
| 10. Mr Wm. Straps              | 36. W. Bursdale & W. Sutton       |
| 11. Widow Smith (Sutton)       | 37. Mr S. Birkets                 |
| 12. Mr Robt. Hutchinson        | 38. Mr Thos. Smith                |
| 13. Mr Joseph Martin           | 39. John Crosby                   |
| 14. The Clerk's Seat           | 40. Mrs Johnson                   |
| 15. Mrs Page                   | 41. Mr Rd. Strap                  |
| 16. Mr George Smith            | 42. Widow Smith                   |
| 17. Ben. Brown                 | 43. Jos. Horner                   |
| 18. Mr Rich. Lamb              | 44. W. Moore                      |
| 19. Mr Wm. Lamb                | 45. Wm Broughton                  |
| 20. Mr Wm. Archer              | 46. H. Lamb                       |
| 21. Mr Wm. Howard              | 47. Mr J. Robinson                |
| 22. John Baker                 | 48. Rich. Bowles                  |
| 23. Robert Hunt                | 49. Widow Straps                  |
| 24. Mr Wm. Simon               | 50. Gibbins Southerington         |
| 25. Mr Robt. Baley             | 51. Mr John Darcy                 |
| 26. Mr Wm. Else                | 52. Mr Robert Johnson             |

#### Plan for the re-pewing of Beckingham Church.

Reproduced by kind permission of the Diocese of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Archives.

<sup>23</sup> L.A.O. Faculty Book 1771-91, Plan 10/17. Reproduced by kind permission of the Diocese of Lincoln and Lincolnshire Archives.

from Johnson old  
road removed

43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
								4 3 1	7 5 3

The North side side 3 feet broad

Seats for the poor - men	Seats for the poor - women
No - men	No - men

42	41	40	39	38	37
36	35	34	33	32	31
30	29	28	27	26	25
24	23	22	21	20	19
18	17	16	15	14	13
12	11	10	9	8	7
6	5	4	3	2	1

The middle side 5 feet broad

Seats for the poor - men	Seats for the poor - women
No - men	No - men

36	35	34	33	32	31
30	29	28	27	26	25
24	23	22	21	20	19
18	17	16	15	14	13
12	11	10	9	8	7
6	5	4	3	2	1

The Cross side from the South door

The South side side 3 feet broad

30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22
21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13
12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
3	2	1						

Men Servants Seats  
Men Servants Seats

side 3 feet broad

15	16	17	18
			18
			17
			16
			15

A cross

19	20	21

The Chancel



# *The Nineteenth Century*

*By Patricia Allen*

## *The Milnes of Beckingham Hall*

On Wednesday, June 5th 1918, the Newark Advertiser carried a report of an important sale at Newark which consisted of the entire estate left by Mr Charles Gery Milnes of Beckingham, Lincs, after his death in 1854. He left no direct heir to the estate, but the terms of his will created some dispute in the correct interpretation of who should inherit, and this led to the matter being referred to the Court of Chancery and a delay of over 60 years before the judgement was finally given.

The report described Beckingham Hall as, "the dilapidated remains of the home of Hercules Clay", but, although evidence shows that the Milnes family, who built and occupied Beckingham Hall in the first half of the 19th century, did indeed claim ancestry with the Clay family,<sup>24</sup> it later proved to be through John Clay of Kelham, brother to the famous Hercules. Nevertheless, some items inherited from the Clay family did exist at Beckingham Hall and the well-known "Hercules Clay Bible", which was recovered from a London bookseller in 1907 by Thomas Blagg, does contain Charles Gery Milnes' bookplate.

It is sad that this house, described in the sale as, "a Mansion with Drawing room, Dining room, Library, Study, Ballroom and 8 Bedrooms", and containing "marble mantelpieces and about 50 tons of oak in its panelled walls and ceilings", had been allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that, when it was sold in 1918, it was on the condition that it be demolished within 12 months. Not a trace remains on its former site behind Beckingham church, where the present Beckingham House now stands, and there is only one photograph existing showing the back of the Hall. However, the large, columned portico from the front facade, and the smaller semi-circular portico from the rear were both saved from the demolition and re-erected on the front and rear of nearby Stubton Hall.

The Milnes family can be traced back to medieval times, based in Newark, where they became wealthy on the profits of milling corn. In due course they acquired lands and properties in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, took their place in the affairs of the town and became Aldermen and Mayors of Newark. According to William Dickenson ("History and Antiquities of the Town of Newark" 1806), the Milnes had owned many properties on Millgate, earlier known as Milnegate, amongst them a "mansion of considerable magnificence" built by John Milnes in 1667 and which, almost certainly, was the building known as "The Dutch Houses", demolished only in the 1960s and now the site of the Tax Office.

From the attached family tree the descent from this John Milnes to the John Milnes of Beckingham can be seen. The lands at Beckingham, which he inherited in 1795, had been in the family for some time, and are mentioned in the will of Thomas Milnes<sup>25</sup> in 1761. The site where John Milnes built Beckingham Hall around 1806, is identified on the Enclosure Award of 1770, located behind the church and having "an ancient homestead" on it. Whether this homestead was demolished or incorporated into the building of the new Hall is not known; the only photograph of the Hall does appear to have a central

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<sup>24</sup> Dickenson Wm., *History & Antiquities of the town of Newark*, pub. 1806.

<sup>25</sup> L.A.O. PSJ 3/7/2-3

element not entirely symmetrical in the rear facade, but since no account has been found of plans or of the building, this cannot be certified.

In 1796, John Milnes married Mary Selina Gery and his brother, Thomas, married her sister, Elinor Gery. A third sister, Hester, had married the Rev. Hugh Wade of Newark. All three sisters were the heiress daughters of William Gery of Bushmead Priory, Bedfordshire. John and Mary Selina came to live in Beckingham late in the 1790s and seven of their children were baptised at Beckingham church between 1798 and 1806.<sup>26</sup> Three of the daughters were given Beckingham as their middle name; one son had the Gery name, and the youngest son's middle name was Hercules - the Clay connection. The eldest son, John, died at the age of 13, the rest all grew to adulthood.

In the Bedfordshire Archives Office there exists a wonderful collection of over 300 family letters, of which there is an abbreviated version in the Lincolnshire Archives Office.<sup>27</sup> The letters are not only between the Milnes and Wade-Gery families but include correspondence with a wider circle of relations and friends, and they help to form an insight into the local family and social life of the times. The boys attended school in Southwell, while the four girls were all boarders, along with some cousins, at Middlemore School in Grantham. In time, all four daughters were married in Beckingham church; Anne, the eldest, married her cousin, William Hugh Wade-Gery, son of her aunt Hester; Catherine married Captain Thomas Raynes of the 42nd Regiment of Foot, and spent several years abroad accompanying her husband on his military postings. Dorothy became the second wife of the Rev. Thomas Brown of Leadenham, and Mary Charlotte, the youngest, married Dr Darwin Chawner, of a quite notable medical family from Staffordshire. One letter, written in 1832 from Dorothy to her sister Anne, related how their father, John, had walked late one winter's night from Beckingham to Coddington in order to help fight a stack fire at Jalland's farm - the work of deliberate arson - "and was plying the engines up to the ankles in water till one in the morning".

There are accounts of their visits to local Balls : the Lincoln Stuff Ball, the Newark Dispensary Ball, the Nottingham Cricket Ball and many more. Dorothy wrote of her presentation at Court in 1831, as well as news of the village and people who lived here. A quantity of letters were written to Anne as she travelled extensively throughout Europe in the years before her marriage.

John Milnes died in 1833, his wife, Mary Selina having pre-deceased him in 1819, and this is when the ownership of Beckingham Hall passed to his eldest surviving son, Charles, then aged 30. He never married and he continued to live at the Hall, looked after mainly by a manservant and a housekeeper until his death in 1854. He was remembered as "a quiet, pleasant old gentleman of retiring habits" though he was only 51 years of age at his death. Charles had had his will prepared in October 1854, just a few weeks before his death. As neither he nor his brother, Thomas Hercules, had any children, Charles had opted to leave the estate in its entirety, aside from some annuities left to his brother, sisters and servants, in trust for one of the children of his sister Anne Wade-Gery's two sons. Over the ensuing years there was dispute between the brothers as to the interpretation of the will and thus the identification of the individual who would inherit. The matter was referred to the Chancery Division of the High Court where it languished

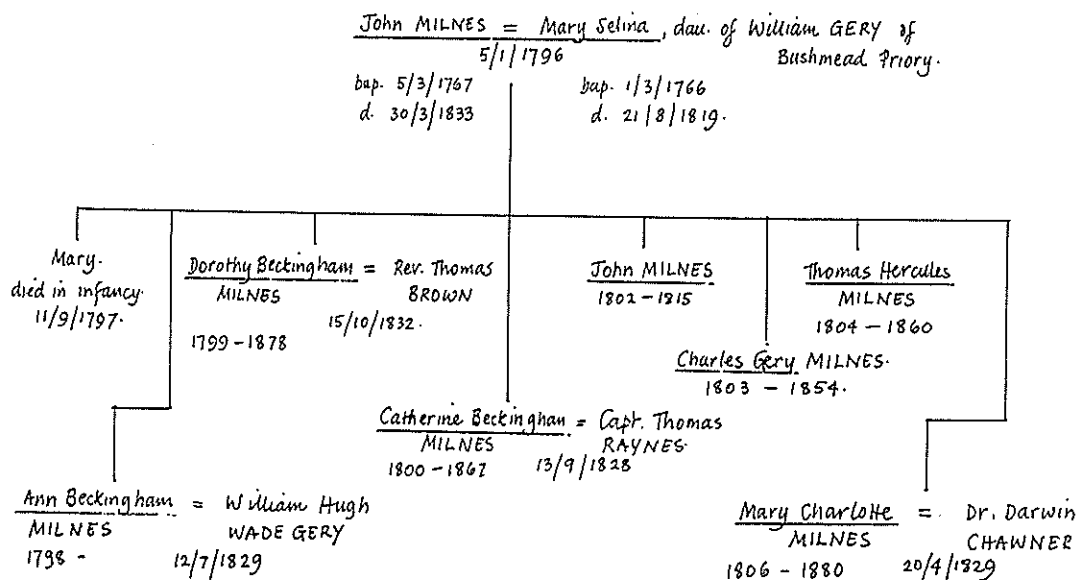
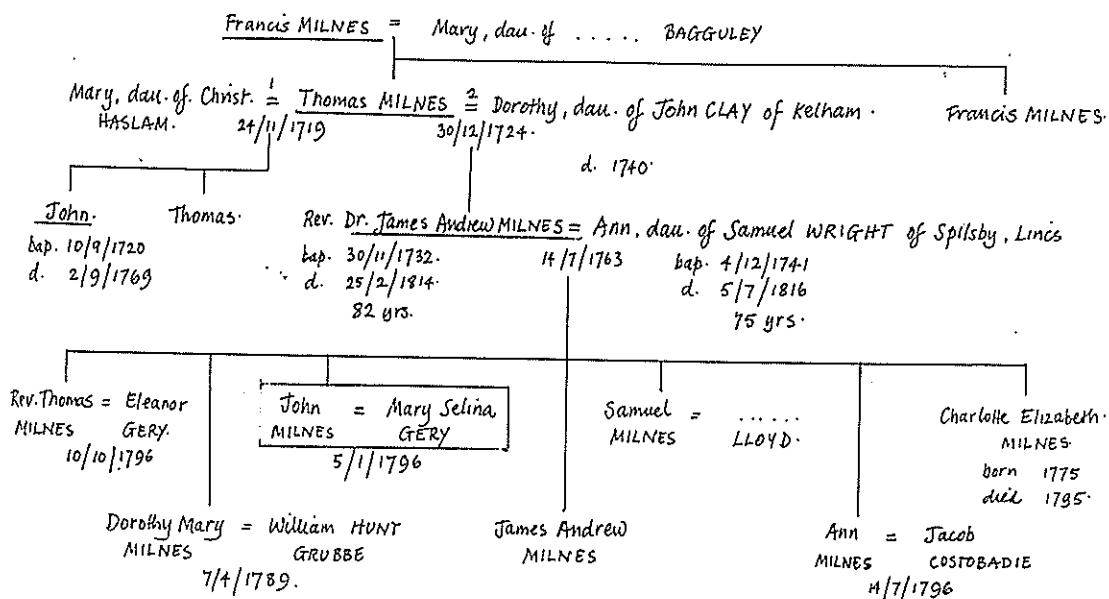
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<sup>26</sup> L.A.O. Beckingham Parish Registers.

<sup>27</sup> L.A.O. MCD 668



## Milnes Family Trees





Beckingham Hall  
By kind permission  
of N.K.D.C.



The Portico, Stubton Hall, formerly  
at Beckingham Hall.

for decades. Although Charles Milnes had appointed Trustees to his Will and made financial arrangements for the care, maintenance and upkeep of his "mansion and pleasure gardens", as the years went by caretakers came and went, two Trustees died and the third, at the age of 82, asked to be discharged from his duties. In 1896 the furniture and contents of the Hall were sold off, and finally, in 1918, with the dispute in Chancery at last resolved, the whole estate was put up for sale.

Unlike his parents and grandparents, who occupy a family tomb in Newark Parish Church, Charles was buried in Beckingham churchyard and so, in time, was his sister, Dorothy. Although she died near to Southampton in 1878, she had specified in her will that she wished to be buried in a lead-lined coffin in Beckingham churchyard. She also left a bequest of £500 in Government Stocks to the village, the interest from which was to be used annually for educational purposes.



Silhouette of Charles Gery Milnes, 1827.

### *Census Records*

The story of the Milnes family provides an interesting insight into the life of a Beckingham family with money, education and position in society, but what can be learnt about the average villager in the 19th century? Fortunately, as the century progresses, more and more material becomes available, to a large extent due to the National Census, a Government Survey introduced in 1801 and conducted every 10 years from then on, its purpose being to provide information on the population and employment details of all adults throughout the country. The early census returns give only generalised information but, by 1851, the information taken from each house-hold showed the name, address and age of everyone present on the night of the census, together with their occupation and place of birth, and this helps to build up a much broader picture of this rural community. The progress of individuals can be followed each decade through census records and these together with the Parish Registers (detailing baptisms, marriages and burials) provide an invaluable source for Family and Local historians.

As the population figures for Beckingham and Sutton show (see alongside), there was a steady growth from the beginning of the century to a peak in 1841 then a gradual decline through to the end of the century. A comparison with our present time (the Electoral Roll for 1999 lists 214 adults over the age of 18) reveals a population size of only half that of the mid nineteenth century. This does not imply that the village was geographically any more extensive than it is at present, but rather

#### Population figures

1801 —	357
1811 —	392
1821 —	430
1831 —	401
1841 —	462
1851 —	452
1861 —	431
1871 —	390
1881 —	346
1891 —	282

that it was more densely populated. Not only were families larger than is the norm today, but also the general pattern of housing was for a greater number of small cottages in groups or clusters which, over the years have been demolished and replaced with fewer larger houses.

Early 19th century maps, large enough to show the locations of the houses are few and far between and the Census, in this respect, is not always helpful. Mostly one finds that individual farms and public houses are identified by name but few give any street or road names in the village. However, the exception here is the 1851 Census which identifies the following street names in Beckingham:— High St.; Rectory St.; Church St.; Low St.; Chapel St.; New Road; Town End; Sleaford Rd.; and Woodgate Lane. School Lane is not given although the school had been built in 1840, which prompts the question, 'How do street names change?' Is it by local authority edict or by common usage?

The census also shows the change in the nature of employment from an almost totally agricultural community in the early years of the century, when about three quarters of the population were working the land in some capacity, to a much more occupationally diverse population by 1851. In a rural community such as Beckingham, lying 5 miles from the nearest town of Newark and with only slow and very limited forms of transport (for many people walking was the only option), there had to be a large degree of self-sufficiency. The many trades and services operating in the village at that time included

butchers, bakers, grocers and higglers (itinerant dealers) domestic servants, housemaids, housekeepers, cooks and gardeners; carpenters, joiners, plumbers, glaziers, wheelwrights, bricklayers, blacksmith, carrier and miller. There were also boot and shoemakers (cordwainers), dressmakers, a tailor and a hatter; a roadman, postmen, victuallers, the clergy and the schoolteachers.

When the school was opened in 1840 it boasted some 120 scholars, according to Whites' Directory for 1842. The censuses list 71 scholars in 1851, 87 in 1871 and 33 in 1891, though it's hard to imagine how they all fitted into the building.

Since all the Censuses from 1851 onwards record each individual's place of birth, this gives a guide to the social mobility of the population in the second half of the 19th century. A comparison has been drawn between 1851 and 1891 looking at the villagers' place of birth which indicates that our ancestors were more mobile than is often thought:

	1851	1891
A. Those born in Beckingham and Sutton	52%	34%
B. Those born within 5 miles	16%	20%
C. Those born within 10 miles	12%	14%
D. Those born within 15 miles	7%	7%
E. Those born within 20 miles	2%	4%
F. Those born more than 20 miles away	8%	16%
G. Unknown or not identified	3%	4%

Further research has looked at family surnames over the 40 year period between 1851 and 1891 and it has been found that 28 surnames recur in each of the censuses indicating a measure of stability of settlement. Those names are: Alcock, Clarke, Coulby, Dickinson, Dykes, Elliot, Else, Hewitt, Hunt, Hutchinson, Jackson, Johnson, Marshall, Matthews, Mitchell, Moore, Ogden, Pass, Pikett, Pogson, Powell, Ridley, Robinson, Savidge, Strapps, Taylor, Thompson, Watson, some, of course, with alternative spellings. One remarkable example is the name Johnson. In 1851 there were 14 Johnson households recorded. By 1891 this had fallen to 4. A name which occurred frequently in the 17th and 18th centuries was Pattison or Pattinson — a notable example being that of Randolph Pattinson, a Quaker. In his will of 1691 he bequeathed 1/4 an oxgang of land to the village, the annual income from which was to be distributed among the poorer members of the village, and which is still known as the Randolph Pattinson Charity (see p. 29). By the time of the 19th century censuses the name had died out in the locality as a surname but occurs twice as a Christian name in Pattinson Elson and Pattinson Johnson which may be due to the name descending through the female line, or perhaps the families had been recipients of the Charity.

## Trade Directories

Trade Directories also became more readily available as the century progressed. These were commercially produced guides to all the cities, towns and villages throughout the country. The example shown from White's Directory for 1882 shows the general description of the village, the major landowners, the gentry and some of the tradespeople. The Lord of the Manor is named and the Church is described as "a large Gothic structure". As has been noted earlier (p.26), the Society of Friends' Meeting House had been sold in 1869 to Joseph Johnson for £105, though Quakers from the village may have attended the Meeting House in Brant Broughton. However, a growing force was the development of Wesleyanism and Primitive Methodism and in 1835, a Wesleyan Chapel was built in Beckingham and it soon became involved in the provision of school facilities for the local children. The Church of England, too was working hard to establish day schools throughout Lincolnshire and in 1839 formed a Diocesan Board of Education. This may have prompted the Rector of All Saints Church, the Rev. George Marsland, to have erected, at his own expense, a day and Sunday school, which opened in 1840 with the large number of schoolchildren already referred to. One cannot ignore the fact that there was rivalry between the Non-Conformists and the established church over the provision of schools, and in Beckingham it seems that the Wesleyan school did not survive for many years.

As can be seen from the Directory entry, All Saints Church underwent a restoration in 1857 when the old pews, installed around 1790, were superseded by "neat open benches" and an "elegant oak screen separating the nave from the Chancel" was erected. More restoration work was begun in 1870 and appears to have carried on intermittently to the end of the century.

## WHITE'S DIRECTORY 1882

BECKINGHAM is a well-built village, pleasantly situated on a gentle acclivity, on the east side of the river Witham, on the borders of Nottinghamshire, 5 miles E. of Newark. It is in the Parts of Kesteven, Newark union, and county court district, Loveden wapentake, Spittlegate petty sessional division, Broughton polling district of South Lincolnshire and Loveden rural deanery, and Lincoln archdeaconry. Its rateable value is £3634. Its parish contained in 1871 388 inhabitants, and has 2200 acres of land, including the hamlet of Sutton, 1 mile S. of the village. The soil is fertile, and the pastures, glebe, and others near the river are excellent feeding grounds. The Rev. George Marsland is lord of the manor, but a portion of the soil belongs to the Trustees of the late C. G. Milnes, Esq., who are owners of *Beckingham Hall*, now unoccupied. Here are also several smaller freeholders, among whom are the families of Johnson, Handley, and Oliver. About 155 acres of land belong to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. The Church (All Saints) is a large Gothic structure, consisting of nave with aisles, chancel, south porch, and fine tower containing six bells and a clock. It was efficiently restored in 1857, when the old pews were superseded by open benches, and an elegant oak screen, separating the nave from the chancel, erected. The benefice is a rectory, with the curacies of Fenton and Stragglethorpe annexed, valued in K.B. at £41 6s. 8d., and now at £900, in the patronage and incumbency of the Rev. Frederick Fitzgerald, M.A., who has 422 acres of glebe, mostly allotted at the enclosure in 1770, in lieu of tithes, with a modus of £45, and a good residence. Here is a small Wesleyan Chapel, and also a handsome National School, built by the late patron and rector, in 1840. In 1691, Randolph Pattinson left to the poor the fourth part of an oxgang of land, which was exchanged at the enclosure for 1a. 3b. 11r. of land, let for £7 per annum, now made into gardens for the poor. Post Office at Mr. John Tebb's. Letters arrive at 7.10 a.m., and are despatched at 6 p.m., via Newark, which is also the nearest Money Order Office and Railway Station.

Andrews George, farmer and grazier, Rectory farm, Sutton	Elliott William, wheelwright & joiner	Newstead Andrew, plumber, glazier and grocer
Arnold Mrs Rebecca	Fell Joseph, cottager	Ogden William, shopkeeper
Berry Jph. parish clerk & schoolmaster	Fewkes Robert, joiner and grazier	Oliver William, grazier, Sutton
Bourne Rev Stephen Eugene, B.A. curate, Sutton	Fitz-Gerald Rev Fredk. M.A. rector & incumbent of Fenton and Straggle- thorpe	Pogson Mrs Hannah, farmer & grazier, The Lodge
Burrows Robert, vict. Pack Horse	Greensmith John, butcher	Roberts Thomas, farmer
Cartledge Henry, blacksmith	Hunt John, cottager	Rossington John, farmer, Sutton
Coddington Robert, tailor	Johnson (James) & Roe (Thomas), machine owners	Sewards Thomas, bootmaker
Clark George, horse dealer	Johnson Richard, shopkeeper	Taylor George, victualler, Black Swan
Crosby John, baker and flour dealer	Johnson Mr Robert, landowner	Tebb John, grocer and postmaster
Crosby John, sen. farmer	Lamb William, grazier	Torry John, farmer and grazier; and at Broughton Clays
Crosby Thomas, cottager	Marshall Jph. (in charge), The Hall	Woolf Robert, cottager
Dickinson Benjamin, farmer	Mee Mark, farmer and grazier	Worthington George, besom maker
Dixon Thomas, farmer, Sutton		

### *The Windmills*

There were several windmills in the area serving the needs of the people of Beckingham and Sutton. One mill stood to the east of the village, just south of the Turnpike road (now the A17) on land which was owned by the Highways Trust. There are some leases referring to the letting of this land between John Massey and "Richard Straps, Miller", dating as far back as 1731 and continuing into the 19th century. The land is described as "in the Mill Field, in certain places called Broad Sike, Sandy Gate and Little Hill". The 1770 Enclosure Award allocated this plot of land to John Massey, for the purposes of the Highways Trust which is clearly identifiable on the map. In 1842, there was a Robert Straps, Miller, who may well have been continuing work in the same Mill as his ancestor.

A second Mill, also identified on the Enclosure Award, stood on the land of Richard Lacon in the Mill Field lying on the west side of the present Fenton Rd., about halfway between Beckingham and Sutton. This too, may have been operating well into the 19th century but had fallen into disuse in the late 1830s. Details of a land sale in 1844, of the lands of the late Daniel Hebb, describe Lot 3 as 'rich pasture land, situate at Sutton, known by the name of the Mill Field' with the nearby road referred to as Mill Road, and a note at the foot stating that, 'The materials of the Wind Mill standing upon this Lot will not belong to the Purchaser of the Lot'.<sup>28</sup>

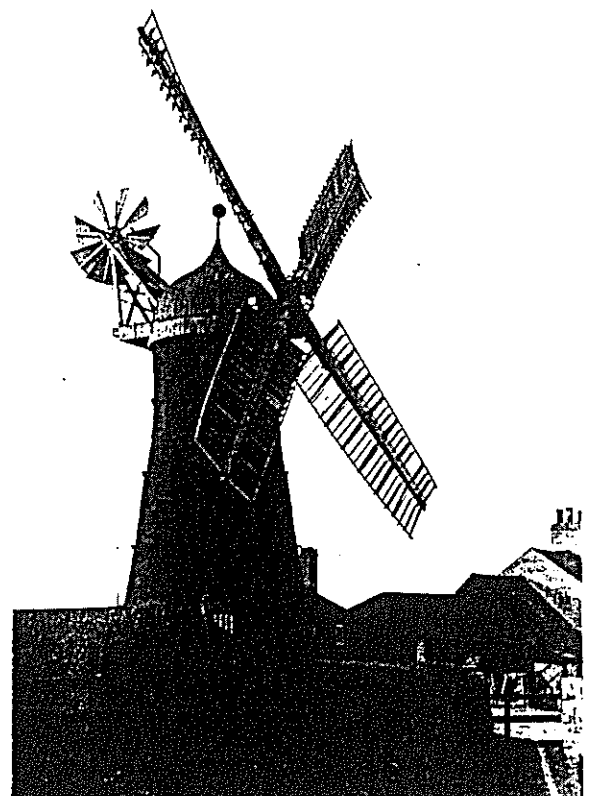
A third Mill, probably of later construction, stood on land to the north of the village, 'about a 1/4 mile from the Black Swan' according to the 1891 Census. This was a tower Mill, as can be seen in the photograph below, and was certainly still standing in the 1930s when the photograph was taken. It was demolished when the land was purchased by the Ministry of Defence for the construction of the Camp and Rifle Range. Although there is no documentary evidence, there may also have been a fourth Windmill at Sutton standing on the rise in the land on the south side of the main street and sometimes referred to as the Mill mound. This could well have been an early Post Mill.

Identified Millers with dates of reference are:

- 1731 — 1770 Richard Straps
- 1842 Robert Straps, Thomas Rimington
- 1849 John Squires
- 1851 John Squires, Richard Johnson
- 1856 Horace Rimington
- 1863 Joseph Law
- 1868 John Hunt
- 1871 Thomas Hunt
- 1872 Thomas Hunt
- 1891 John Newcombe, William Newcombe

The Windmill, *Science & Society Picture Library*.

<sup>28</sup> Lincoln Library, Catalogue of Land Sale.



### ***The Black Swan***

The Black Swan is situated on the site of a watermill dating as far back as the Domesday survey of 1086; some five centuries and considerable changes later, it was replaced by a windmill. The main block of the building possibly dates from the 15th century as there are three pairs of upper cruck beams on the first floor. Originally this would have been an attic, used mainly for storage and entered by means of a ladder.

‘The name Black Swan is first mentioned in the 1780s, when the landlord, James Wadeson, was allotted a pew in the church. The family had farmed in the parish for the past 100 years, the first Wadeson coming as a curate to Beckingham church. In 1815 the property was bought by Richard Johnson, who was then the landlord from the manor estate, for £400. It was sold to Warwicks, the Newark Brewers, in 1886 by Thomas Dickenson. The tenants of the brewery from then were:

Mrs Taylor 1887, Mr Porter 1887-99, Mr Bond 1899-1900, Mr Kennet 1900-1907, Mr Burrows 1907-1911, Mr Kidd 1911, followed by his son-in-law William Millhouse until the property was sold by the brewery in the 1960s. The property was then modernised and used as a private house until its conversion into the Black Swan Restaurant some seven years ago.’ *Written by Tony Litchfield for the Beckingham Parish Magazine, Winter 1992.*

Audrey Cooper also wrote in the same edition about the alleged “presences”:  
‘There have been some most peculiar happenings, particularly in the room we call the back room (the one that juts out towards the road). Candles have apparently blown themselves out and in one corner of the room, always the same corner, customers have complained of feeling cold when, in the rest of the room, coats and cardigans are being shed faster than we can collect them. A previous employee swore that she was accompanied by a certain young lady in grey when she was setting up the tables in THAT room’.

#### **A List of the Licensed Victuallers at the Black Swan (BS) and the Pack Horse (PH) and independent beersellers named in Trade Directories**

1842	Richard Johnson (BS) William Pogson (PH)
1849	Samuel Blackshaw (Sutton IB) Richard Johnson (BS) William Pogson (PH)
1851	Thomas Dickinson (BS) George Darcy (IB)
1856	Thomas Dickinson (BS) Mary Clarke (PH) Samuel Blackshaw (IB) George Darcy (IB)
1863	Thomas Dickinson (BS) Mary Clarke (PH) Mary Blackshaw (IB) George Darcy (IB)
1868	Thomas Dickinson (BS) Mary Clarke (PH) William Andrew (IB)
1871	George Taylor (BS) John James Pakes (PH)
1872	John James Pakes (PH)
1882	Robert Burrows (PH)
1891	Elizabeth Taylor (BS) Robert Burrows (PH)

Op. Page: The Black Swan in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*From the Local Studies Collection, Lincoln Central Library, by courtesy of Lincolnshire County Council, Education & Cultural Services Directorate.*



### *Leisure Activities*

Whilst the working men of the village might have found sufficient in a visit to the pub to fulfil their social needs, the village as a whole had to create its own events and entertainments. Nearby towns such as Lincoln and Newark would have benefitted from visits of travelling theatre companies, fairs and race meetings, while the gentry, such as the Milnes family, would go off to a Ball in Lincoln, Nottingham or Grantham in their coaches. For the ordinary villagers, entertainment had to be on their home ground and much of what was offered would have been initiated and organised by the churches and chapels. According to the Parish Magazine copies of the time, we know that by the end of the 19th century Beckingham was supporting a Football team, a Cricket team, a Parish Library and Reading Room, Church outings for the the Choir and the Sunday school, Flower shows, Harvest Festivals and Suppers and other feasts, and frequent concerts and entertainments, and sometimes a visiting band. National events such as Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 were, of course, occasions for a general village celebration.



## *The Twentieth century*

*By Patricia Allen*

### *The Platts of Barnby Manor*

Sometime in the early 1880s the Platt family came to live at Barnby Manor and one might have assumed that they would focus their interest and activities on nearby Barnby village and church but, in fact, they appear to have given their wholehearted allegiance to Beckingham village and church.

Nor were they local people. Mr Frederick J Platt, a wealthy and influential man - J.P. for Nottinghamshire and the North Riding of Yorkshire, and Deputy Lieutenant of Hereford — was born in Oldham, Lancashire, the third son of Mr John Platt M.P., while his wife Florence came from Middlesex. Their three children, Algernon, Cecil and Brenda had all been born in Yorkshire and they must have moved to the Newark area late in 1880 or early 1881, for the family appears on the 1881 Census at The Hall in Balderton when their daughter was only a few months old. By 1891 they are to be found on the Census at Barnby Manor.

Thanks to an extensive collection of Parish Magazines dating from 1892 -1902<sup>29</sup> it is possible to observe month by month how deeply and generously the whole family joined in the Beckingham activities and contributed to whatever causes arose in the community. Their support was moral, practical and financial. Mr Platt and his children all took part in the village concerts with music and comic songs; there was active support for the Cricket Club, an annual donation of beef, ham and rabbit pies for the Harvest Supper, flowers and plants from the Manor for the decoration of the church at Harvest Festival. Childrens' treats were held each year in the Manor grounds with up to 100 children from Barnby and Beckingham schools taking part in games, sports and tea, with a present for every child. The Platts provided the Marquee, Band and coconuts at the Flower Show, and, each Christmas, gave a gift of money to the village, plus clothes and provisions for the elderly residents.

In 1904 Mr Platt rebuilt two of the old Poor Houses on Sleaford Rd.<sup>30</sup> This was done on parish land belonging to Beckingham Poor, and using some parish materials, but the building costs were Mr Platt's contribution. Their gifts to the church included the four brass lamps in the Chancel, substantial donations towards the new organ, a reredos and a stained glass window in memory of their younger son, Cecil, who died at Ladysmith at the age of 22.

For, fortunate as the family may have seemed, it had its share of tragedy. After Cecil's death from enteric fever in January 1900, his mother, Florence, died in April of the same year, having suffered ill health for some time. After a short postponement because of these two deaths, the elder son, Algernon, married the following month, but he too was only to survive until 1912. After a period of ill health, Algernon died at North Uist at the age of 36. He left a widow and 3 young children.

His father, Frederick J Platt had died in 1906, aged 58. His obituary in the Newark Advertiser records that, in addition to his public appointments, he was also Lord of the

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<sup>29</sup> Copies of Beckingham Parish Magazines kindly made available by Andrew Newstead and Sue Wills.

<sup>30</sup> Beckingham Parish Meeting Minute Book 1900-1958.

Manor of both Barnby and Beckingham; that he had been an ardent supporter of Agricultural Shows and a famous breeder of prize cattle and other stock. He was also very fond of horse-racing and had kept a training stable at Barnby Manor.<sup>31</sup>

Frederick, his wife Florence, and his son Algernon are all buried in the family grave in Beckingham churchyard. Cecil was buried in South Africa but is also commemorated here.

A capital sum of money, known as the Platt charity was donated to the village so that the annual accrued interest could be distributed to local people.



Beckingham at the beginning of the twentieth century.

By kind permission of N.K.D.C.

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<sup>31</sup> Newark Advertiser, 26 September 1906.

## ***Census Records***

At present, the census records for the twentieth century are not available in the same fully detailed format as in the nineteenth century, but general data such as population figures have been extracted so that it is possible to follow through the numerical decline in the village.

A similar trend is shown to that of the nineteenth century in that there is a slight rise mid century and a falling off towards the end, but all in all, the population size is fairly stable, albeit about one third smaller than the previous century.

### **Population figures**

1901	272
1911	245
1921	269
1931	292
1941	
1951	279
1961	240
1971	232
1981	223
1991	263

No census was taken in 1941, due to the war.

No doubt these lower figures can be attributed to the fact that employment dependent on agriculture continued to decline with the coming of greater mechanisation, and people were moving into the towns where there were more employment opportunities. Like all other communities, Beckingham reflects the impact of technological progress and rapid change, which is the story of the 20th century except that, in this rural community, modern amenities sometimes took a little longer to arrive.

## ***Trade Directories***

Trade Directories continued to be produced up to 1938 and here can be detected the onset of change. Up to 1923 millers are still identified; first Henry and then Frederick. Hopkinson were described as millers and bakers and it is likely that they worked the tower mill just north of the village. After that, grain would be sent to the industrial grinding mills in the nearby towns, and the mill would have fallen into disuse, perhaps used for chickens or as a store- house, though the sails were kept on until the early 1930s.

The reading room and library, run by Mr Singleton, the schoolmaster, continued until 1919. In 1909 there is the first indication of the Beckingham Dairy Company, which was run by the Scott family.

The Newstead family, who are noted in the 1891 census as painters and plumbers, diversified into a variety of trades and services. The Kelly's Directory for 1905 lists Alice Newstead, Dressmaker; Jane Newstead, Cowkeeper; Ernest Newstead, Joiner; and Frederick Newstead, Plumber. Mr Newstead the joiner was also the coffin maker for the village and his account books, still in the possession of present members of the family, record the details of the costs and services he provided. For example, in 1928 he made an elm coffin with electro brass fittings, attended the funeral and arranged for the digging and refilling of the grave, and fees for the clergy, the sexton, the bearers and the tolling of the bell for a total cost of £7.15.00. For a similar funeral in 1946, the costs had risen to £25.17.06.

The blacksmith's trade had been run by the Andrews family in the mid 19th century in premises between the Post Office and the Pack Horse, and latterly by Henry Cartlidge in another smithy built behind the Pack Horse, where the present car park lies.

Mr Cartlidge continued into the early 1900s to be succeeded by 1913 by John Chapman. The last Directory note of a village smithy was in 1937 when it was being run by George Underwood, who was also the licensee of the Pack Horse.

"Motor Omnibus from Lincoln to Newark passes through 3 times daily", announced Kelly's 1926 Directory, and the development of vehicular traffic on what was the main road from Newark to the east led to the opening of other village enterprises. From 1933, Mrs Nellie Blyton is listed as keeping Refreshment Rooms, probably the beginning of the Corner House Cafe. By 1937, the Pack Horse also offered teas and refreshments and early in the 1930s the garage business opened. In 1930, Harold Keightley was described as a confectioner but by 1933 he had become a motor engineer and that was the start of the garage. He must have continued, in part, in the catering business because he is remembered for the delicious ice cream which he sold in the shop next door.

### ***Parish Council***

Although no census was taken in 1941, the parish minutes reveal that by 1947 the population of the village had risen to over 300, the highest total in the 20th century, thus entitling the village to apply for, and gain, Parish Council status, with 5 elected Councillors. Up to 1947, Parish meetings were held every quarter, open to all residents. Early in the century their concerns were with the annual appointment of 6 Parish Constables, 2 Overseers for the Poor, plus an assistant, and the Parish Molecatcher. The "Coals and Doles" charities were administered; an extension of the Burial Ground was agreed in 1926, and there was discussion in 1928 about a proposed water supply to the village but, after a general vote, this was rejected on the grounds of cost and the villagers had to continue to be dependant on wells and on the three or four village pumps. In 1938 a series of stand pipes was provided with large lion heads for spouts. The internal, house to house, supply did not become available until 1946, and it is likely that the main electricity supply was installed around the same time. Prior to that, however, the enterprising Mr Keightley generated an electricity supply from the rear of his garage, using four Morris Cowley engines. His assistant, Mr Maxted, positioned the necessary poles, cables and meters to houses in the village centre. On-going concerns for the newly elected Parish Councillors in the second half of the century were: the upgrading of the water and electricity supplies; street lighting; sewerage and the by-pass. Street lighting was debated as early as 1949 and requested several times from the District Council, but it was not until 1978 that seven lights were erected and finally switched on. Sewerage problems continued to cause concern until the system was installed in 1969.

After the closure of the village school in 1968, there was no available meeting place for the council or the village as a whole; use was made of private houses and, occasionally, the Rectory, but the provision of a Village Hall was becoming a priority. The possibility of buying the School was considered but the likely cost was a deterrent. However, in 1972 another opportunity presented itself when the Methodist Chapel became redundant and, on this occasion and with the aid of sundry grants, it was bought for the village.

### ***Beckingham at War***

A small paragraph in the Newark Advertiser dated June 30th 1937 reported that Officers of the Northern Command were inspecting sites in Nottinghamshire 'suitable for a range on which not only rifles but also machine guns of all types, and also trench mortars, can be fired with safety,' and were looking at

a site near Stapleford Woods. 'The site,' it reported ' will have to be at least. a mile long by 1000 ft wide, and as far removed as possible from houses and roads.' The decision to adopt the Beckingham site must have followed very shortly for the range and camp were in existence and occupation by 1939, and their use continues up to the present day. For a short time, in 1981, the camp was used as an over-spill prison to accommodate 300 low risk prisoners following the riots in Brixton, Liverpool and elsewhere.

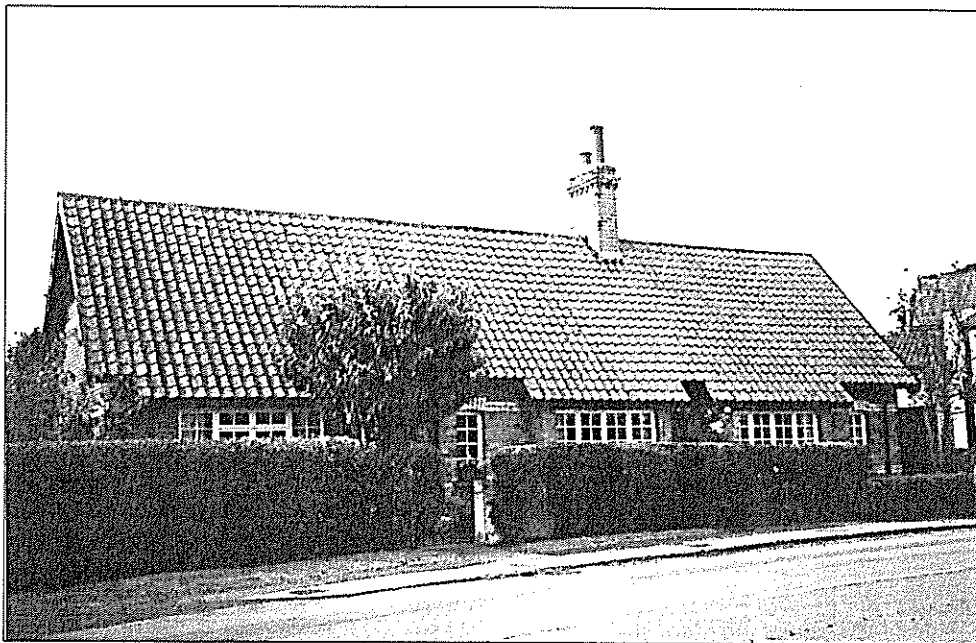
During the Second World War the camp, naturally, was used for the accommodation of troops. Mr Tom Sleight, who used to live on Rectory Street recalled some lively evenings in the Pack Horse. He remembered men from the 14th Army, just before they left for Burma, "made the rafters ring with their singing and dancing." Some of the soldiers from the camp joined in the local cricket matches. He especially remembered Maurice Leyland, a well known opening bat and spin bowler who had played for England, being stationed there. "I learned a lot from him...so much so that I once bowled him out!" Evacuees accommodated in the area swelled the school numbers up to 90 and the teaching staff rose to three. In order to produce their own food during the war, (the "Dig for Victory" campaign), most people had a bit of an allotment, some on the "Poor Gardens", others, Tom recalled, on "Little Lane", which was a footpath leading off from the end of Rectory Street down towards the river. Lots of people kept a pig and the rabbits were plentiful in the fields.

The two Wars brought their own anxieties and tragedies to the village, A memorial recording the names of those who served their country, and the four men who were killed in action, used to hang in the Church but is now being re-hung in the village hall. A brief journal, property of the Newstead family, poignantly records the deaths of five men, relatives and friends, who died in the first World War.

#### ROLL OF HONOUR 1914-1918

Killed in Action \*

ALBERT MOYSES *	ARTHUR R LEE
GEORGE ROGERS *	ARTHUR NEWSTEAD
SAMUEL B RODGERS*	HERBERT NEWSTEAD
ERNEST TOYNE *	JOHN W OGDEN
FRANK BLACKBOURNE	ROBERT PHILLIPS
SIDNEY BOND	DAVID PICK
JOHN W CODDINGTON	WALTER REDMAN
GEORGE CODDINGTON	WALTER ROGERS
CHARLES H CLARK	ERNEST SHARPE
SAMUEL W CURTIS	WILLIAM S SPENCE
GEORGE DODD	ALFRED VICKERS
CECIL DYKES	WALTER WAITE
ARTHUR JACKSON	JOHN T WALSTER
	CHARLES WORTHINGTON
	JOSEPH WORTHINGTON



The former Parish Houses built by Frederick Platt c. 1906.



The Village Hall, formerly the Wesleyan Chapel.





WAR MEMORIAL 1939-1945

JOHN ADDLESEE	FRED KEIGHTLEY
JACK BECK	DOROTHY KIDD
MARGARET BOND	BERT MARSHALL
JAMES BOND	DENIS NAYLOR
JACK BOND	JOHN NORTON
GLADYS BOND	ROY PATMAN
WILLIAM BROXHOLME	JAMES PATMAN
MAURICE CODDINGTON	ERIC PATTTER
ERIC CODDINGTON	HORACE PATTTER
REGINALD FILTNESS	ARTHUR RODGERS
AUBREY FREEMAN	ERIC ROYCE
BERNARD GILBERT	KENNETH RUDKIN
KENNETH HARWOOD	PETER RUDKIN
FRANK HEALEY	DENIS STARBUCK
GEORGE HOPKINSON	REGINALD TINSLEY
EVELYN JOHNSON	THOMAS WARD

**'RAF Pilot dies after Crash near Beckingham'**

An air tragedy occurred just a few weeks before the start of the Second World War when a Hawker Hurricane plane with a solo pilot came down in a field north of Beckingham, not far from Top Covert farm. Fourteen year old John Reckless ran across the field from the farm and tried to pull the semi-conscious pilot clear of the cockpit. Helped by men from the Beckingham Camp, the pilot was eventually placed on an improvised stretcher and conveyed to hospital by a tradesman's van which was in the area. Despite all efforts, however, the pilot died early next morning.

*Based on a report in the Newark Advertiser of 28 June 1939.*

### *The Coming of the By-Pass*

The opening of the A17 by-pass in 1976 was a major event for Beckingham and a great relief for its residents. The growth in the volume of motor traffic in the post war period created severe problems on the narrow A17 road as it led from Newark, through the heart of the village and out to Sleaford and the east coast. The sharp bend by the bridge over the River Witham, the crawl up Hillside and the bottleneck at the bend by the church were of daily concern to the residents, as well as fears for the safety of the children coming out of school. The parish minutes record constant collisions and damage to the fence, later the wall, outside the Parish Houses next to the garage. A former resident of Hillside recalled how they were often called upon, on busy weekends, to provide cups of tea, plasters and sympathy for victims of minor accidents outside their home.

Discussion, planning and promises of the by-pass had been taking place since the early 1950s. In the 1960s the District Council even introduced a one-way system around the village, but the fact could not be avoided that the by-pass was the only solution. The ensuing benefits were obvious; the roads reverted to peaceful village streets, the air was cleaner without the noxious exhaust fumes, the streets were safer, and it was so much quieter. For some people, though, the by-passing of the village meant a fall off in business. The garage, the two pubs, the post office and village shop no longer benefitted from the passing trade. The transport café had been sold in 1973 and became a private house again. Warwicks' brewery, which, by the 70s controlled both the public houses, closed down the Black Swan and it, too, reverted to a private dwelling until the 1980s when it re-opened as a restaurant.

### *The 'Corner House Café'*

Anyone who used to travel along the old A17 road to Sleaford and the east coast in the days when it wound its way over the bridge by the Black Swan and through the village of Beckingham, might well remember the 'Corner House Café' which stood on the corner of Sleaford Rd., opposite the Church and Rectory. With its ample car park, the café was popular and well used by cars and lorries, not forgetting the growing charabanc traffic to Skegness, throughout the 1950s & 60s. The café closed down as a business in 1973 and the extensive car park was sold off as building land. Two houses were built there shortly afterwards. The café reverted to a private house and, from the late 1970s, became known as 'Elsmar Lodge'. No one would guess from its simple exterior that the house and site have quite a history. As far back as 1538 there are records showing that this formed part of some of the lands owned by Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and the present house may well stand on the site of what was known in the 18th century as "College Farm". Due to its long ownership by Corpus Christi College and thanks to the College's meticulous record-keeping, we can identify the tenants of this farmstead continuously between the years 1510 - 1861, and it was in the occupancy of one family, the Wadesons, for just over 200 years. An inventory of 1703<sup>32</sup> describes the dwelling as having a Great Parlour, an Other Parlour, a Great Chamber, a Little Chamber, a Hall, a Kitchen, a Dairy and a Corn Chamber. A map of 1770, accompanying the Enclosure Award, indicates a long building opposite the church which could be this farmstead.

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<sup>32</sup> L.A.O. Inv. 197/206

The present structure is thought to be about 200 years old, i.e. built around 1800, but whether the old house was completely demolished, or partly incorporated in the present house is not known.

In 1921, Corpus Christi College decided to sell off some of its lands, including this corner plot, and the present owners have a continuous record of the deeds over the past 80 years. No doubt other cottages and sites have similarly long and interesting histories but lack the good fortune to be so well documented.



The Corner House Café.

## *Closures*

The village school, which had opened in 1840 and catered for children up to the school leaving age, and which coped with the influx of the wartime evacuees, began to falter in the 1960s. In February 1961, all children over the age of 11 years were transferred to the William Robertson School at Welbourn, leaving Beckingham as a one-teacher school for children aged 5-11. That year the number on roll dropped to 12 and the attendance became badly affected when there were outbreaks of mumps, chicken pox and whooping cough.<sup>33</sup> The school finally closed on December 18th 1968, having insufficient numbers to sustain it, and it was sold around 1970 to become a private house. The Methodist Chapel, which served the community from 1835 to its redundancy in 1972, was acquired by the Parish Council for a Village Hall.

The Rectory ceased to function as such after the retirement of the last resident Rector, the Rev A W Steedman in 1988 and was sold in the early 1990s for a private residence. The village shops gradually closed over the years, the last one being the Post Office and General Store when the last village Postmistress, Mrs Mollie Stokes, finally closed the business in December, 1993. Lastly, All Saints Parish Church, which in past centuries has been the focus not only of the spiritual but also of the social life of the village, became too costly for the declining numbers of attenders and parishioners to maintain. On February 12th 2000 the church's redundancy was sought and the building is now permanently locked as it is in an unsafe condition. Services now take place in the churchwarden's home or, at festivals such as Easter and Christmas, in the village hall.



Beckingham at the end of the twentieth century.

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<sup>33</sup> L.A.O. Beckingham School Log Book 1960-1968. Document SR 032/8/1

### ***Beckingham Church at the end of the Twentieth Century.***

By Gill Green, Church Warden

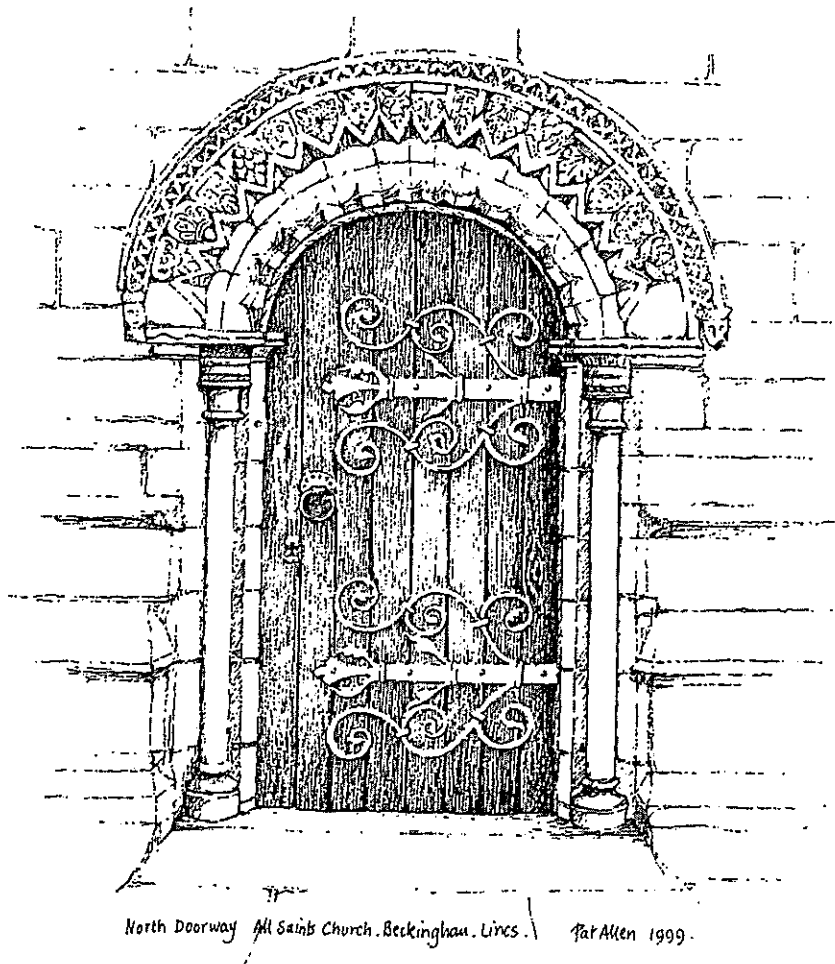
All Saint's Church Beckingham began its life in the 12th century. As we approach the 21st century there is some concern over how much longer it will survive. Dwindling congregations, diminished income and a long shopping list of expensive and extensive repairs and restorations make its future look grim.

However, in the latter part of the 18th century the situation was similarly bad. Following a parochial visitation, the Archdeacon of Lincoln, "ordered a great deal of repairs to be done to the inside of Beckingham church and whereas ye building is a very Ancient Structure and very much decayed in many parts thereof, particularly ye Roof which is so ruinous as to be in some danger of falling".<sup>34</sup>

It was decided in the 19th century, as the population of the village had increased to extend the church and replace the pitched roof with a flat one. The work undertaken then, effectively replaced the original Medieval interior with Victorian and resulted in the current blend of external architectural styles.

At the time of writing the implications of this are becoming more apparent. Having approached a body to repair and restore the church, it is in danger of being turned down for not being of sufficient historical value.

A very sad result of changing fashions and values.



<sup>34</sup> L.A.O. Mis Dep. 146/4/1-17

## *Celebrations*

What fun we've had in Beckingham  
At times of celebration,  
Diamond and Silver Jubilees,  
Not forgetting a Coronation.

When dear old Queen Victoria  
Had reigned for sixty years,  
A day was planned, and it must be right  
For someone so revered.  
The men had lunch at 2pm  
The women and children at 5,  
With cricket match, games, a concert,  
The festivities came alive.  
An English oak was planted,  
There were fireworks, a bonfire too,  
The village rang with joy and cheer  
For a sparkling Diamond Do.

When young Elizabeth took her throne,  
There was joy throughout the nation.  
After war and rationing, fear and loss  
We needed a celebration.  
A venue was sought where all could meet  
With ample room and space,  
The barn in Hillside, not yet a home,  
Was deemed the perfect place.  
The two huge doors were opened wide,  
The trestles laid with care  
A magnificent feast provided,  
For the whole of the village to share.

Then suddenly the years had flown  
And the flags could come out again,  
To celebrate with Elizabeth  
The twenty-five years of her reign.  
The children dressed up their bicycles  
Using treasures they had acquired,  
The liveries so bold and bright  
Cried out to be admired.  
A procession was thought the best way  
To display all this finery,  
The children set off with pride and aplomb  
For the whole of the village to see.  
A competition was also held  
"Paint a portrait of the Queen".  
The judges were vexed at standards so high,  
Quite the best they'd ever seen.  
What fun has been had in Beckingham  
Over years and on many occasion,  
When a village and all it's folk, joined hands  
And reflected the joys of a nation.

Gill Green

## ***Glossary***

Bord	table
Brandreth	iron tripod used to support a pot over the fire
Brewing lead	brewing vessel
Cussings	cushions
Dishstaffe	distaff or rod used to hold wool or flax for spinning by hand
Flackitt	flask or bottle
Frog	a ratchet found in fireplaces
Gallowtree	iron support for a pot over the fire
Harden	coarse fabric made from the coarser parts of flax or hemp
Heck	rack used for example for storing cheese
Heminge	fabric made from hemp
Kiln Howse	building used for drying grain for brewing
Kimlin	leaden dish used for curing bacon
Kitt	round wooden vessel like a pail or barrel
Kye	cow
Land iron	or andiron, horizontal bar on feet used to support burning wood on the hearth
Pillow bear(er)s	pillow slips
Potthookes	hooks to hold pots over the fire
Reckinges	iron hooks over the fire
Rooke	heap of coal etc.
Skellete pan	saucepan
Sough	or soe, a large tub
Steer	young ox, usually castrated
Stoned horse	uncastrated horse
Waine	wagon



Scene in Sutton at the beginning of the twentieth century.  
By kind permission of N.K.D.C.

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### The Crosby Family

On 24 November 1838, at the age of 27, Daniel Crosby of Beckingham sailed to South Australia on the ship 'Planter'. He had been the 16<sup>th</sup> of 21 children born to John & Mary Crosby. He had worked for some time in the Metropolitan Police in order to raise the fare to Australia. On board ship he met Emma du Rieu and they married in Australia 1 year later. Their family histories were recorded in *Voyage of a Lifetime* by Dalma Morgan & Harry Poole. A copy of the Crosby part of this book is in the Appletongate Museum, Newark, and gives an extensive genealogy of the Beckingham Crosbys going back to 1560.

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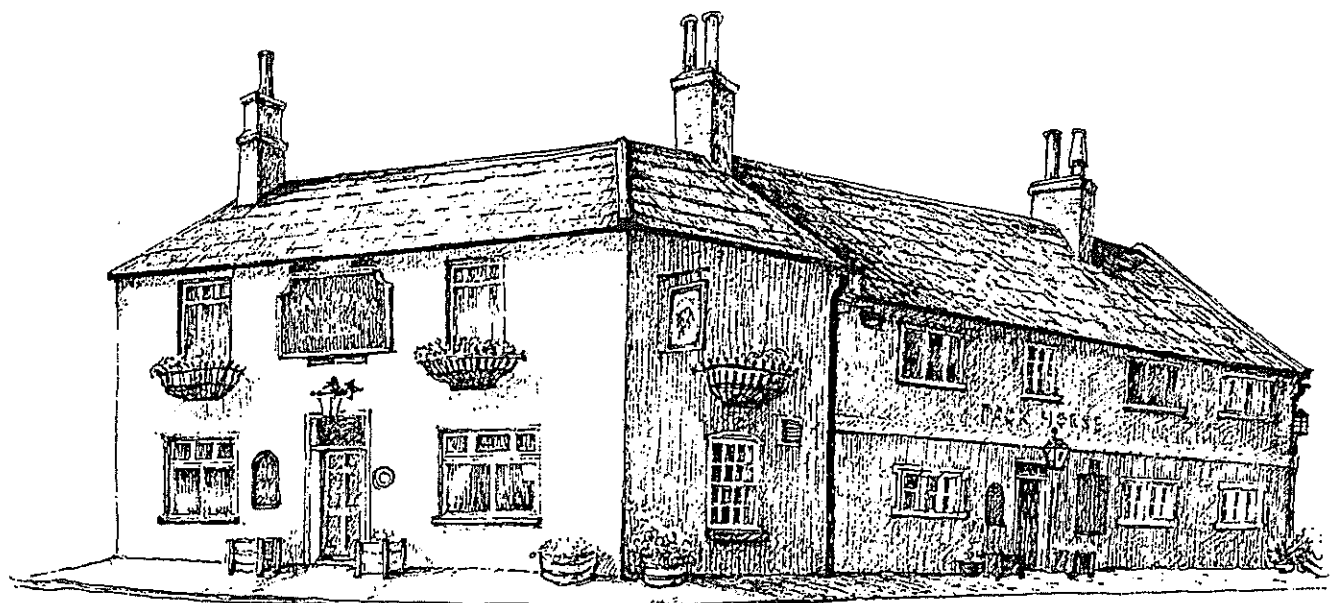
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**Some of the Modern Field names in  
 Beckingham & Sutton.**

Skerries	Timmy's Oaks	Barn Field
Cherry Down	Top Field	Big Field
Top & Bottom Olivers	Braytoft	River Field
Top Fen	Middle Field	Bottom Fen
	Bottom Field	



*The "Pack Horse" Beckingham*

*Par Allen 1999.*