

# Herrick Family Association

Founded in 2001



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## **Message from the President:**

**Dale E. Yoe, HFA #062**

Happy March and, of course, St. Patty's Day! This year has started off with a decrease in Covid- so I hope this finds all well and off to a good start. I am interested in hearing stories about your genealogy travels and finds- so please let me know. I have mentioned before that, through DNA I found a way to break through my "brick wall" and I hope to hear many of you have been having breakthroughs as well. I have also, after 4 years of research, been able to become, as many of you also have, a member of the Mayflower Society and have been elected for a second term as a member of the Councilor Board of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS).

I have not heard from many about any changes or new finds in the HGR3 but continue working on the addendum for future reference. I also have a new line of searching. NEHGS will be starting soon a new project and I have volunteered to be a part. It is called the "10 Million Names Project" and will be trying to find the names of as many of the nameless men, women and children listed as slaves in the 1850/1860 census, to tell their stories and find possible descendants. This is exciting for me as I live in Maryland, near Virginia, where there were many slaves. I always love to do research and this will be a wonderful opportunity for me.

I am hopeful that soon we will have information on the 2024 meeting of the HFA. If you have paid your dues for 2023- I thank you and if not- please get in touch with Jim Hilton. The state of the HFA is strong,, but will only remain strong with your help. Take care and stay safe.

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## Just a Few Updates to Let You Know The Progress at Leicester Cathedral

By Irene Turlington, HFA Honorary Member

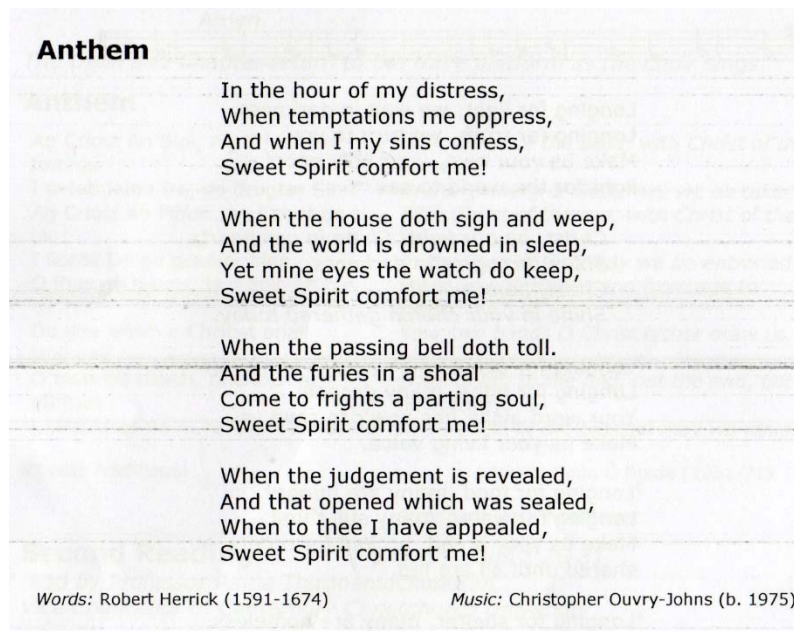
David Monteith left as Dean of Leicester at the end of November. He was inaugurated as Dean of Canterbury Cathedral on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Robert and I went to David's Service in Canterbury on one of the coaches from the Cathedral. David knew about his appointment some time ago but had to keep it quiet until it was officially announced by the Prime Minister. The Queen agreed to David's appointment, but because of the Platinum Jubilee and then the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the news could not be officially announced. He will be very much missed at Leicester. It was pity he couldn't have stayed until all the Cathedral restoration and the new Heritage and Learning Centre was completed, but appointments like Dean of Canterbury do not come up very often, so David had to go for it when he did otherwise, he would have lost the opportunity.

In the service, Leicester Cathedral Choir sang the words to The Litany of the Holy Spirit by Robert Herrick the Poet. The music was a new setting written by Dr. Christopher Ouvry Johns (the Music Director at Leicester Cathedral) published in April 2022 on behalf of the Church Music Society by Oxford University Press.

Also I enclose the link to the update on the Leicester Cathedral Project. Matthew Morris leading the archaeological dig, expects they will be working on the site until at least the end of February/March. It is all very exciting.

<https://leicestercathedral.org/project-updates/>

Hope you All have a Good Year in 2023.



**Anthem**

In the hour of my distress,  
When temptations me oppress,  
And when I my sins confess,  
Sweet Spirit comfort me!

When the house doth sigh and weep,  
And the world is drowned in sleep,  
Yet mine eyes the watch do keep,  
Sweet Spirit comfort me!

When the passing bell doth toll.  
And the furies in a shoal  
Come to frights a parting soul,  
Sweet Spirit comfort me!

When the judgement is revealed,  
And that opened which was sealed,  
When to thee I have appealed,  
Sweet Spirit comfort me!

*Words:* Robert Herrick (1591-1674)      *Music:* Christopher Ouvry-Johns (b. 1975)

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## **Tucson Festival Of Books**

### **By Michael Herrick #118**

As some of you know I self-published a book in 2019 on Herrick family history, documenting what I knew at the time of English Herricks and my line of Joseph Herricks. The book is called Echoes of the Past: A Family Story. I entered the book in a competition of Inde Authors to be presented at the Tucson Festival of Book on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Over 150 authors submitted books judged by book reviewers and my book was one of those selected for presentation. I am certainly honored. I plan to speak about Herrick family genealogy, plus the methods I used to compile the content. I look forward to questions for aspiring amateur genealogists like myself. More on the results of this in the next newsletter.

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## **English Place Names**

### **By Michael Herrick, HFA #118**

Including pictures and maps printed as submitted by Michael Herrick

The English Place Name Society at the University of Nottingham is a valuable resource for researching our Herrick ancestry. Since 1923, the society has conducted surveys of place names throughout England. The work is now finished and compiled in 91 volumes by parish and by county. Interestingly, the most recent volumes are from Leicestershire, from which seven volumes have been published by the society. All the Leicestershire volumes were surveyed and compiled by Barrie Cox. I have joined the English Place Name Society and have purchased four of the Leicestershire volumes. After going through the books, I found Herrick related information in each volume.

The word hundred is used frequently in the place name volumes. It has nothing to do with a number. A hundred is an administrative division that is geographically part of a larger region. In England those larger regions are shires or counties. The number of divisions or hundreds in each county varies widely. Leicestershire has six hundreds (up from four at Domesday),

### **The Borough of Leicester, Vol. 75, Part One**

Unspecified Lands 1400-1499:

*Eryke Grounds* 1493 Terrier. CF. *Johanna Eryk* 1492 SR.

This reference is fascinating since Johanna Eryk was the wife of William Eyrick (or Eryke) grandson of Sir William Eyrick de Stretton. Also, a Johanna Eryk was the mother of Robert and Sir William Eyrick de Stretton in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. According to researchers at EPNS, CF means that there is a connection between Eryke Grounds and Johanna Eryk in 1493 when the document was attested. SR means Subsidy Rolls, so subsidy rolls are the documents from which this reference comes. A logical next step might be to find out who was titled for Eryk Grounds in 1493, where it is in the Borough of Leicester, and how Johanna Eryk was associated with it.

I asked both Peter Liddle and Michael Wood about this reference. Peter said, *"I think Eryke Ground would be difficult to pin down. I'm not familiar with the 1493 terrier but it looks like a list of properties only identified by family names and we know there were Herricks in Leicester by then. John Herrick was in Leicester by 1471, for example.*

Michael Wood has this to say about the reference, *"In terms of trying to trace your family root, I would have thought it was likely that the Herricks were another of those Leicestershire families like the Iliffe's (who I discuss at length in my book on Kibworth) whose name comes from Old Danish Iolfr- one of the names Barry Cox thinks represent the first phase of the Danish settlement of the 870s."*

## Guthlaxton Hundred, Vol. 88, Part Five

### Wigston Magna: Field Names

*Herrick's Hedge* (e) 1661. 17 (v. Hecg: with the surname *Herrick*, from the ON masc. pers. N. *Eirikr* (ODan Erik), fc. *Clara Herrick* 1853 Census of Wigston Magna).

This too is a fascinating reference. The 'e' abbreviation simply means "early", and 17 means the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The 'v' means to see or recognize Hecg, which means "hedge", typically between townships. When a surname is attached like *Herrick's Hedge*, it means a boundary between personal property. The 'fc' means that Clara Herrick is connected to *Herrick's Hedge*.

This is a fairly recent reference, but interesting information might come from checking it out. I'd guess that we would need to check out the 1853 census or tax rolls for Clara Herrick to find out who she is and where *Herrick's Hedge* is. We do know from this reference that it is Wigston Magna, which is located only a few miles south of Stretton Magna, where HFA visited in 2014 with Peter Liddle. There we saw the location of Robert Ericke's (Robert de Stretton) manor house and moat and St. Giles church. Again, I asked Peter and Michael about this reference in Wigston Magna. Peter replied, "*I am really not surprised by Herrick's Hedge in Wigston. There were Herricks documented here from the 1250s. I think that you are familiar with 'The Midland Peasant' by W.G.Hoskins. If not, it is well worth looking at. There are multiple references to the Herricks of Wigston. Although this was first published in the 1950s, it remains a valuable work. Apparently, St. Wistan's was the family church.*"

Michael responded, "*The place names you give are too late (1661) to be of any help. The most important thing is to trace the family back as far as you can and to try to pinpoint where the family came from as early as possible. I'd guess the Herricks came from a similar background: as their name doesn't survive as a village name. You'll have to find out how far back the name can be traced. You need then to go through carefully George Farnham's Leicestershire Medieval Villages Notes (6 volumes 1929-33), the key to the early medieval poll taxes etc: if the Herricks are in say the 14th century tax rolls anywhere in Leicestershire they will be in Farnham.*"

What I get out of Peter's and Michael's comments are that a lot of work is involved in tracing the family back into medieval times with complete certainty. Below is a map of Guthlaxton Hundred with Wigston Magna highlighted.

I have conducted a Google search of Farnham's volumes that Michael referred to and discovered they are only available at the British Library in London and the LDS library in Salt Lake City. I contacted both libraries, and they both said that the volumes are not digitized and they are only available for viewing at the library in hard copy. Farnham also published a book called *Leicestershire Medieval Pedigrees*. This book is also not digitized but is available for viewing at four libraries in the US – Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Chicago, and the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, IN. I called the Allen County library and they searched for Herrick or any spelling variations of Herrick in the index. The only surname close was Herdwyk in the 14<sup>th</sup> century in Lindsey, a village near Leicester.



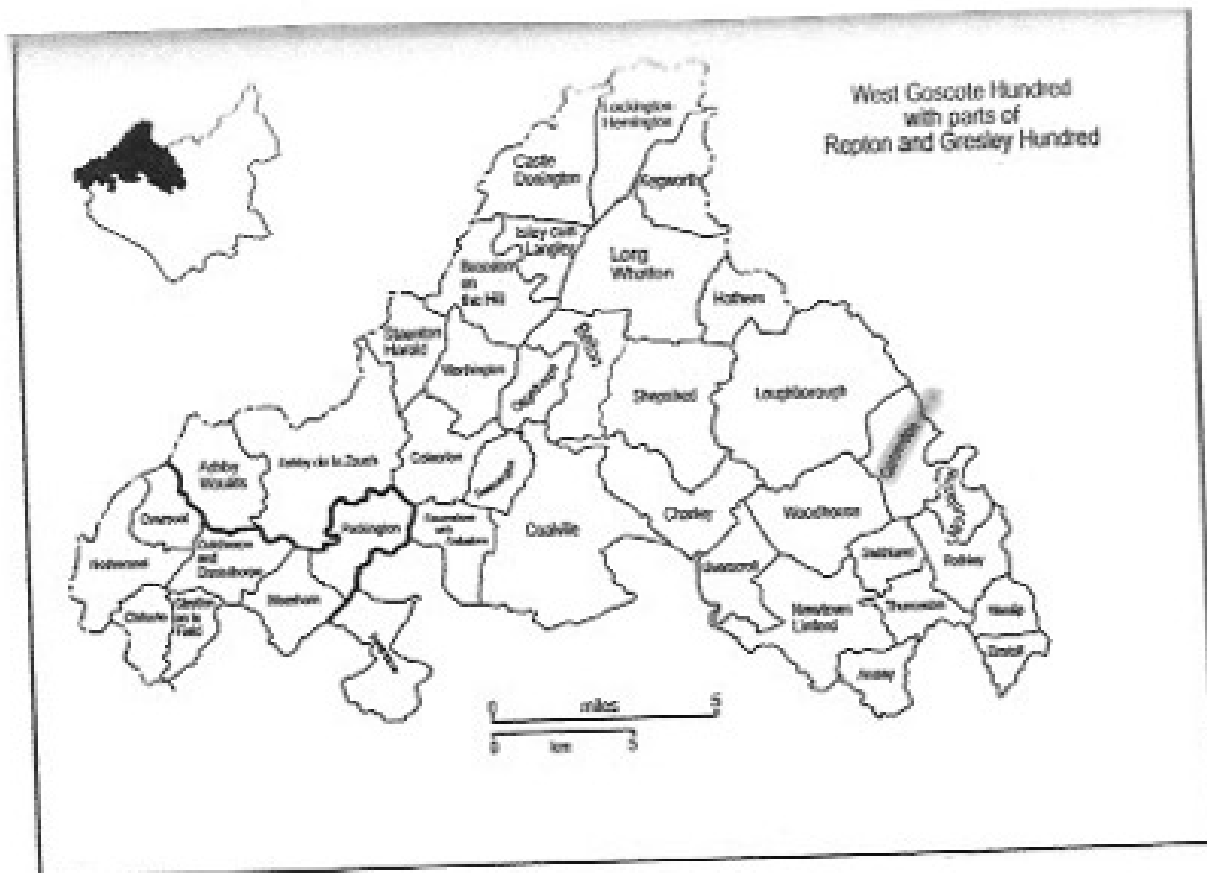
GUTHLAXTON HUNDRED

### West Goscote Hundred and the Leicestershire Parishes of Repton and Gresley Hundred, Vol. 91 Part Seven

#### Quorndon: Field Names

Herrick's CI (with the surn. *Herrick*, from the ON masc. pers.n. *Eirkr* (ODan *Erik*), very much a local surn., cf. *Johannes Eirich* 1211 RFL, *Nicholas Heyryke* 1524 ib, *John Eryke* 1568 ib, *William Herrick* 1597 Rental (specifically of Quorndon) and *Edward Hericke* 1620 RFL; note *William Herrick* 1877 Census of adjoining Mountsorrel parish).

Quorndon parish is located adjacent to Longborough and Woodhouse. See map below with Quorndon highlighted. RFL means Register of Freeman of Leicester, 1927-33.



**Gartree Hundred, Vol. 84, Part Four**

What is significant about Gartree Hundred is that it is the location of Stretton Magna, which was the location of the manor house of Robert Ericke de Stretton and the location of St. Giles church. Peter Liddle guided HFA there in 2014. Below is the entire section treating Stretton Magna, which no longer exists as a village, and a map of Gartree Hundred with Stretton Magna highlighted.

There are no Herrick (or Eyrk) references in this section, but there are references to “a former manor house of which the substantial moat remains”. This must be the manor house of Robert de Stretton. In describing Stretton Magna, Barrie Cox states, “The farmstead, village on the Roman road... Only the church (St. Giles) remains standing amid a large area of medieval earthworks of the former village.”



regranted their four virgates of land to the Wykyngestons, who held them in 1301 of John de Harcourt, lord of Bosworth, by the service of one barbed arrow.<sup>1</sup>

The small Domesday estate of Robert de Buci—two virgates on the Wigston side of the boundary and five on the Oadby side—seems to have come into the hands of the free peasants also before the end of the thirteenth century. We can trace its descent through various medieval Midland families (Basset, de Bosco, Dyve) but in actual fact the property (which also included four virgates in Evington, the next village beyond Oadby) was held in the last resort by peasant freeholders. Some time in the fifteenth century the original Buci estate came into the hands of the Brooksbys of Oadby, and in the following century (through one or two intermediaries) to the Waldrams or Waldrons of the same place. A rental of John Waldron's lands in 1580 shows that the Wigston portion of his estate was then let to two freeholders of Wigston, John Cartwright and one Coulman, at an annual rent of 3s. each.<sup>2</sup> They must have held a yardland each.

#### THE FREE PEASANTRY

So far we have been mainly concerned with the larger free tenants, holding directly under the chief lords. These, as we have seen, regranted the greater part of their estates in Wigston to smaller men—peasant families most of them—though some, with smaller estates, like the Bails, lived on them and kept them mostly in hand for their own farming.

We must turn now to the native peasantry of the village, whose names occur repeatedly in the period 1200-1500 among the Wyggeston Hospital charters, often as grantors and grantees of small pieces of land, ranging from single selions up to a virgate or more, and more frequently as witnesses to such grants. We may presume the freedom of any man who attests a charter. This is certainly true at Wigston where many of the witnesses to thirteenth-century charters themselves grant or receive grants of land or are otherwise known to have been free tenants. Further,

<sup>1</sup> Nichols, 374-9.

<sup>2</sup> B.M. Add. MS. 6702, fo. 120. The Wigston men probably held a lease for years, paying a substantial fine on entry and a nominal reserved rent per annum thereafter for the term of the lease.

says Stenton, there is a 'general probability that the native witness of the twelfth century represents, in the second or third generation, a sokeman of the age of Domesday'.<sup>3</sup> This, too, is suggested by the earliest Wigston charters (though these fall into a rather later period, c. 1200-c. 1260), in which Scandinavian personal names are still to be found. In a grant which may be dated as not later than 1202, we find Rannulf the clerk receiving 'the virgate which Ketel held' and 'the half virgate which Turbertus held' and a grant of c. 1250 is witnessed by Henry Eyryg and Ada Toki, among others, both of whom derive their surnames from Danish personal names. 'Fridai', which appears from the late twelfth century onwards, may be a Scandinavian name also. In charters of the second half of the thirteenth century we find the names of Robert Gamel (c. 1270), Roger Swan (1271) and John Wyking (1273), descended ultimately from Gamel, Swain, and Viking.<sup>4</sup>

The early charters also make it clear that native Englishmen survived as landowners in the village. Not only do we read of land 'held of the Englishmen' in Wigston in the twelfth century but there are such Old English personal names as Godric, Godwin, Edwin, Alwynne, all of whom must have been alive in the late twelfth century as their sons witness charters or appear as landholders in the early thirteenth. In a late thirteenth-century grant we read also of 'those 2½ virgates which William Hengle sometime held'.

It is clear that the free peasantry of Wigston, as we find them in the thirteenth century, were descended from both native English and Scandinavian landholders, but the evidence is too late and too meagre to draw any conclusions from them as to the respective numbers and importance of the two peoples.

The most important of the native Wigston families who held land freely probably descended from one of the two knights from Frenchmen mentioned in the Domesday record as possessing land here. This was the Wykyngeston family, who took the

<sup>3</sup> *Domesday Charters*, ciii.

<sup>4</sup> *W.H.R.*, no. 865 (ind.). Turbertus is rendered as Tharbern in no. 872.

<sup>5</sup> *W.H.R.*, nos. 857-89, passim. On the formation of Leicestershire surnames in the thirteenth century from Scandinavian and Old English personal names see my 'Leicestershire Yeoman Families and their Pedigrees', in *T.L.S.*, 1931.



come Richard Randolff, grocer, of Leicester, making the transition from the land to commerce that was made by others from his native village also.

Other families whose names occur in every generation in these early Wigston records are the Herricks (far ancestors of the poet), the Smiths, and the Cooks, though we have few details of their lands as, unlike the Wykyngeston and Randolff property, they did not become part of the Wigston Hospital endowment. The Herricks appear in the middle decades of the thirteenth century with Henry Byrig or Eyrek as a witness to several grants of land.<sup>1</sup> There can be no doubt that the family were numbered among the free peasantry of the village, for they witness many charters in common with other families of the same class: the same family names occur again and again as witnesses in every century. Every grant or charter was witnessed by an aristocracy of peasant families in Wigston, if one may employ such a term for a class which nevertheless had not cut itself off in any way from the common life of the village but always formed an integral part of it.

It seems likely that the Herricks could trace their ancestry back to one Erik, one of the original Danish settlers, perhaps, of the last quarter of the ninth century in the same village; and they may well have occupied the same piece of land since that distant date knowing what we do of the immense continuity of village ownership in Wigston in medieval times. They above all emerge into recorded village history from the mists of pre-Conquest days, from the Danish army of the ninth century and the soke-men of the eleventh, and we find them flourishing vigorously in the village when Henry VIII came to the throne. We shall indeed find them in every subsequent century, too, down to the twentieth, having lived more than a thousand years in one village.

Like the other families of the same class, the Herricks made the familiar migration into trade and commerce. John Herrick appears in the Leicester borough records in the 1470's<sup>2</sup> and from that time onwards the family played an important and influential part in the affairs of the town. Nicholas Herrick, goldsmith, became mayor in 1552, and John Herrick in 1557; and in 1588 Robert Herrick represented the borough in Parliament. The

<sup>1</sup> e.g. *W.H.R.*, nos. 873, 875, 886-91, etc.

<sup>2</sup> The earliest mention of the name at Leicester is in 1471 (*W.H.R.* no. 649).

*White Hart* in Leicester, just outside the East Gate, belonged to the Herricks from 1570 onwards, in which year it had been conveyed to John Herrick for the term of 1,000 years for the annual rent of a rose flower.<sup>3</sup>

Besides the John Herrick who migrated to Leicester, probably shortly before 1470, as Richard Randull had done some thirty years before him, there was another John Herrick who migrated to London about the same time, where he became a citizen and carried on the trade of skinner until his death in 1494. In his will<sup>4</sup> he left 100 shillings or 10 marks to the building of an almshouse in the churchyard at St. Wistan far away in his native Wigston, the little church which lay at the north-eastern end of the village in the Duchy fee, and which was the family church of the Herricks, as their wills disclose in the sixteenth century.

Like the Herricks, the Smiths appear as witnesses in the earliest records and afterwards in almost every generation up to the end of the period we are now discussing, and far beyond. They take their name from the occupation of a distant ancestor, an occupation which was pursued by father and son for at least four generations, and probably many more, in conjunction with a small property held freely. John the smith (*Faber*) of Wykyngeston is named as a juror in an Assize roll of 1247. 'John the smith' witnessed a grant made between 1260 and 1274, the other witnesses all being prominent people in the village—clerks, chaplains, etc. There is no doubt that the smith ranked with these as a personage. Then, after John's death, we find 'Henry son of John the smith' witnessing a grant dated 20 December 1269; elsewhere he is called 'Henry the smith'. For forty years between 1269 and 1309 he was called in to witness transfers of property in the village, and then he too died and his place was taken by 'Robert the smith', who witnessed several grants between 1318 and 1321.

'William le Smyth' witnessed a grant in 1342, and is so referred to in another grant in 1376, suggesting that he carried on the occupation of his forefathers into the fourth generation at least, but after this date we have no further reference to the trade. There are, however, many references in the records indicating that the Smiths were possessed of lands of their own in Wigston,

<sup>3</sup> Billson, *Medieval Leicester*, 30.

<sup>4</sup> An abstract of his will is given in *T.L.A.S.*, vi, 127.

died and the said Adam enfeoffed a certain John Weston chaplain in the lands, etc., to the disinheritation of Richard Baker, the eldest son of the said Emma, for which the said Richard Baker by night killed the said Adam; for which reason the chief lord Sir John Fryday recovered the said messuage and virgate of land by the writ of estreats against Alice Grendon, widow, the sister of the said Richard Baker, made 20 May, 20 Henry IV [1442].

One wonders how many more murders there might have been for the same motive: why Adam Herrick killed Simon the clerk of Wigston, a crime for which he was pardoned in May 1299. Or why John Swan killed John Symon a few years later; and why Alice, the daughter of Roger de Walton of Wigston, killed Adam Godwin about the year 1343. And in July 1336, Richard Astel had killed William de Kylby of Wigston in the meadows of Newton Harcourt. William, with an accomplice, had attacked Richard, by reason of 'an ancient grudge' he bore him, but the latter had struck in self-defence and had killed his assailant. In all these instances, without exception, the protagonists in each incident were members of peasant landowning families.<sup>1</sup> Normally, things did not reach this pass; but there were many lawsuits concerning pieces of property. The Plea Rolls are full of them, not only squabbles over whole virgates, or over 'waste and destruction' of tenements demised for life, but over single acres or even less. Thus in 1316 'the assize came to recognize whether John Fryday and Adam Fryday of Wigston disseised Amabel Fryday of Wigston of her free tenement in Wigston, to wit a messuage and three roods of land. Amabel recovered her seisin'.<sup>2</sup> And in 1318, Rose, widow of William de Whetstone, demanded in the King's Bench, against Henry Balle of Wigston and his wife Emma, one acre of land and half a rood 'as her right by a writ of entry'. There are dozens of such suits for one village alone, buried in the mountains of the Plea Rolls.<sup>3</sup>

The life of the medieval villagers did not consist entirely of work; nor were their lives entirely wrapped up in their tenements and all the legal wrangling that they involved. Wigston lay on the main road in medieval times between Leicester and Northampton, with great men constantly passing through its streets on business far beyond the wit of the peasantry who watched them ride by.

<sup>1</sup> 'Murder and Sudden Death in Medieval Wigston', *T.L.A.S.*, xxi, 175-86.

<sup>2</sup> Assize roll, Hilary to Edward II (Farnham MSS.)    <sup>3</sup> Farnham MSS.

Sometimes the king himself passed through; and there was the memorable Tuesday morning of 13 December 1300 when King Edward I actually halted in the village and transacted some royal business.<sup>1</sup> Edward II also came this way and doubtless other monarchs on their way to and from Leicester.

Every year there was the Rogationtide procession of all who could walk round the village fields, blessing the growing crops at intervals, and traversing once more the boundaries of the parish so that they should never be in doubt. The Rogationtide procession is vouched for in the earliest surviving church-wardens' accounts (early seventeenth century), but was ancient even then, going back to pre-Conquest days in open-field country.<sup>2</sup> In Whitsun week there was another great procession, as far as the streets of Leicester itself, which led to trouble with another village in the year 1313. 'In Whitsun week the men of Wigston and [blank] came to Leicester with their procession and in the lane which leads to St. Margaret's a quarrel broke out between the said townships. Blows were struck with swords and with ash-sticks made like fists. The offenders fled. Chattels unknown'.<sup>3</sup> One would give a good deal to know more about this procession and the details of the fight.

Then there was the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Wistan in the smaller of the two churches at the top end of the village. This we only learn about by chance in an Elizabethan enquiry into 'concealed lands'.<sup>4</sup> George Amery and William Pawley, both villagers with a long ancestry in Wigston, deposed before the commissioners that St. Wistan's church had been largely, if not wholly, maintained by the annual pilgrimage. 'There was an image called St. Wistans,' said Amery, 'to which men used to come on pilgrimage,' their offerings being delivered to the churchwardens, presumably on St. Wistan's day (June 1st).

Apart from the regular excitement of these annual processions and pilgrimages (and doubtless others of which we now have no

<sup>1</sup> Edward reached Leicester on 6 December 1300 and stayed a week. He left on 13 December, sealed various documents at Wigston the same day and probably stayed the night at Mowsey, a few miles farther on.

<sup>2</sup> Homans, *English Villagers of the Thirteenth Century*, 368.

<sup>3</sup> Bateson (ed.), *Leicester Borough Records*, i, 375.

<sup>4</sup> P.R.O., Exch. Special Commissions, E. 178. no. 1230. Dated June 14 Eliz. (incomplete). Wistan was a local saint, grandson of Wiglaf, King of Mercia. He is said to have been murdered in 849, probably at Wistow (Wistan's town) only three miles or so from Wigston.

rick occupied the messuage and one yardland with a dovecote, an annual rent to the hospital of 18s. 8d. This property was subject to a chief rent of 1½d. per annum to 'Master Turvell', which serves to identify it with part of the Balle property as far back as the middle decades of the thirteenth century.<sup>1</sup> Henry Eyryk, probably a direct ancestor of Richard, was occupying the farm in 1463, possibly by a lease from John Love who was then lately dead (*W.H.R.* no. 1041).

The fourth farm, consisting of a messuage, a close and half a yardland in the fields of Wigston, was held by John Freer in 1522 at a yearly rent of nine shillings. It can be identified with part of the medieval farm of John Faukes, which came eventually to the Pennes and from them to John Love, bailiff of the Oxford manor, whose daughter and heir sold it to William Bulwardyne, who resold to William Wigston. In 1442 it was described as 'a tenement and lands of the said Richard (Penne) situated in the street of Moseho in the town of Wykengeston, and lately called Faukes land or Gudwyns land. . .'.<sup>2</sup> Its history can be traced more or less continuously, as we have seen, from the late twelfth century.

Whether or not the four leaseholders under the Hospital in 1522 were farming any lands in addition we do not know for certain. We know that Herrick, Wallis, Watts, and Freer were all names of freeholders at this date, but there were two or three related families under each of these names and one cannot assume that the freeholder was identical with the leaseholder. In the case of Richard Herrick there is a possibility that he was both, for he

<sup>1</sup> A grant dated 9 November 1318 speaks of 'three halfpence worth of rent issuing from three parts of a virgate with the appurtenances (in Wigston) which Simon Balle and Joan his wife hold.' (*W.H.R.*, no. 937.) The rent can be traced back to the third quarter of the thirteenth century, when Ralph Balle granted to his daughter Alice a toft and croft, together with a selion of arable and a small piece of meadow, she rendering 3s. a year to Nicholas de Champayne, the chief lord, for the toft and croft, and for the land 'a halfpenny at Michaelmas, saving as much foreign service as appertains to the said land, and a penny for relief if it is appurtenant'. (*W.H.R.*, no. 881, n.d. but 1260-74 from internal evidence.) This apparently became consolidated as a chief rent of 1½d. per annum and was subsequently paid to the Turvilles as the inheritors in due course of the Champayne property in Wigston. As a matter of antiquarian interest the rent can be traced yet another stage farther back (docs. 876-9) when Ralph Balle bought five selions of arable and a piece of meadow from Alexander, son of Thomas of Wykingeston, who held his lands of the Champaynes.

<sup>2</sup> *W.H.R.*, no. 1022.

was one of the witnesses of a grant in 1516, but of the others we cannot be sure.

In the early years of the Hospital leases these farms changed hands fairly frequently; later they tended to become the prerogative of one family which hung on to them for generations. Thus the large farm occupied by 'gud wyff Watts' in 1522 continued in the hands of Richard Watts between 1526 and 1539. Then for a few years John Sawford (not a native) had it; then, for about ten years (c. 1547-57) Harry Hugglescote, followed by William Mould (1557 to his death in 1574) and his widow up to the late 1580's. Thus the Moulds farmed it for close on thirty years: when he died in 1574 William Mould left the largest personal estate in the village next to Robert Freer (died 1557). It is possible that the Freers took the lease when 'widow Molde' died and sub-let to Thomas Sampson (again not a native) as in 1589 the rental records 'Thomas Sampson for freers' under this property. Thomas Sampson, gent., who held a lease for three lives, sold his interest in the estate to Francis Brett in 1602. The Bretts occupied the farm for more than thirty years until Francis Brett, yeoman, sub-let it to a newcomer, William Lewis, late of Foxton, yeoman, in 1636.

The Wallis farm, on the other hand, showed great stability of tenancy. William Wallis occupied it until his death in the 1530's, followed by 'mothar Wallis'—presumably his widow. In 1565 a new lease was made to another William Wallis, husbandman, 'of a messuage, a little close, and three farthings of land with meadow, pastures, and commons appurtenant in Wigston', he to allow his mother Margaret Wallis to enjoy half the messuage during her life. He also agrees to replant hedgerows and spinneys as needful and to fetch one cart-load of wood and coal each year for the hospital in Leicester. William Wallis died in 1605, having farmed there for forty years, and the lease passed to the Jacksons after more than eighty years in the Wallis family. Dennis Jackson had married Elizabeth Wallis in 1603 and probably acquired the lease of the farm as part of the marriage settlement. We find other leases being transferred for this reason, the property being treated almost as if it were a freehold possession. The Jacksons held the farm, generation after generation, until they finally surrendered the lease in 1823.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wyggeston Hospital rentals and leases, loc. cit.

The Herrick farm had probably been leased by them in pre-Hospital days, Henry Eyrk holding it as far back as 1463. The family continued to occupy it until 1540 or shortly after; then, in 1543, the Cartwrights appear in Wigston and take the farm which they occupied for over half a century, up to 1596. They also held Hospital property in Oadby, the neighbouring village to the north-east, where they originated: no doubt this was the cause of their coming to Wigston to settle. In 1594 William Johnson married Joan Cartwright, and three years later William Johnson held the lease, again probably as a result of the marriage. By 1610, however, the farm had come to Richard Davenport.

Both the Wallis and the Herrick farms, under the Hospital, showed on the whole great stability of tenure, but the last of the farms, that occupied by John Frere in 1522, passed through a rapid succession of tenants until 1596 when it came into the hands of the Brabsons who continued to occupy and farm it down to 1755. There is no point in tracing the early succession of tenants in detail. For about twenty years (1539 to c. 1559) William Herrick occupied it; then it came to Harry Smyth for ten years (1559-69). Gilbert Becket, a newcomer, had it during the 1570's, and Robert Whyte alias Smyth from 1580 to 1587. The lease by the Hospital to Robert Frere, dated 8 March 29 Eliz. (1587) is still extant and its provisions became common form in all the Hospital leases subsequently. The property is described as a messuage or tenement 'wherein one Robert Whyte als Smyth now dwelleth', a close of pasture and half a yardland in the fields, with all the appurtenances belonging thereunto except great trees and timber trees, which are reserved to the Hospital. The term of the lease is for the three lives of Robert Frere, yeoman, Elizabeth his wife, and Alice their daughter, and the longest liver of them. The rent is nine shillings a year, payable at the two usual feast-days of Lady Day and Michaelmas,<sup>1</sup> and there are the usual clauses of

<sup>1</sup> There is no mention of a fine in any of these leases up to the nineteenth century, nor do any records survive among the Hospital muniments of the fines received from their properties, which extended into several parishes. It is quite certain that large fines were paid by leaseholders on entry. The reason for the silence of the records on the subject is known. Although under the original statutes of the Hospital all fines and profits arising from the leasing of its properties were to go to the use of the Hospital, by Elizabethan days the Master was appropriating the fines on renewal of leases or insertion of new lives to his own use and no record was, naturally enough, ever kept. The income derived from fines by the Master (who eventually became non-resident also,

re-entry if the rent is 28 days in arrear and regarding repair and maintenance of the property. Further, the lessees are to fetch and carry at their own costs and charges, with William Wallis and his assigns jointly—he occupied the adjoining house to the south—one load of coals measuring three 'quartrons' from the Leicestershire pits at Cole Orton or Newbold, which are to be paid for at the pits and brought to and laid in the Master's house in Leicester. Lastly, the lessees are to plant every year 'two plants or setts of oak, ash, or elm in meet and convenient places' and are to yield two good capons yearly or two shillings in money at the feast of the Circumcision.<sup>2</sup>

In 1595 Miles Brabson, husbandman, married Alice, daughter of Robert Freer. The Freer lease was thereupon surrendered and a new one made to Miles Brabson, Alice his wife, and William Brabson (a kinsman of Miles) on the same terms and conditions, and thereafter the farm continued to be occupied by the Brabsons until 1755.

The Wigston Hospital lands formed a valuable reservoir of leasehold land, available to local men, over and above the freehold farms of the village, nearly all of which were occupied by their owners. Apart from the Hospital land the only other fairly substantial source of rentable land was that held by the Waldrams, who lived at Oadby. John Waldram owned two farms of one yardland each in Wigston, which in 1580 he was leasing to John Cartwright and one Coultman, both Wigston farmers, at a reserved rent of three shillings a year.<sup>3</sup> As we have seen, Matthew Waldram gent. of Oadby had bought a 90-acre farm in Wigston in 1593 from Ralph Freman, so increasing the Waldram estate there by another three yardlands and bringing its total area to rather more

in spite of the statutes) eventually reached a prodigious level. One Mr. Selwin, Master from 1793 to 1823, appropriated £24,440 during that period, an average income of over eight hundred pounds a year.

<sup>2</sup> Eighteenth-century leases dwell more lovingly on the capons, as we might expect. A lease of 1755 specified 'one Couple of good Fat and well Fed Capons'. By the same date, what is more important, the provision for the planting of timber had been tightened to 'six setts of oak, ash, or elm and six setts of willow every year', a reflection of the desperate shortage of timber and wood of all kinds in Leicestershire by that date.

<sup>3</sup> B.M. Add. MSS. 6702, fo. 110. These two yardlands formed part of the manor of Brokesby in Oadby which overflowed into Wigston. It can be identified in fact as the Domesday holding of Robert de Buci in Oadby and Wigston under the countess Judith. It was bought by John Waldram in 1550.

services on a larger farm for the use of cart, plough, and harrow on his own holding, and it is possible that he sometimes exchanged his labour for crops such as hay, of which he could not grow enough. Money played only a marginal part in such an economy. But some cottages carried very little or no land in the open fields, and here the occupier, more truly a labourer, found it necessary to work more consistently for a money-wage, without which he could not live at all. His small piece of land merely supplemented, though in a vital way, his money-income. We find hints of both systems side by side in Wigston, as it must have existed to a varying degree in most villages.

The extent to which money entered into his economy, then, was largely determined for the cottager by the size of his holding, and it is not easy to discover any general rule at Wigston. At Saxelby and Grimston, two villages not far from Melton Mowbray, we find a series of leases between 1600 and 1615 relating to cottage property on Robert Brokesby's estate. There are ten such leases. Only one is of a cottage without any land attached; the remaining nine have from five acres up to a virgate going with them. Four cottages had a bovate (probably twelve acres here) going with them; four others had 5, 8, 10 and 10 acres respectively. At Grimston and Saxelby, then, a cottage usually had attached to it a holding in the open fields ranging from 5 to 12 acres.<sup>1</sup>

At Wigston we find leases and conveyances of cottages with a 'quarter of land', i.e. six to eight acres according to the size of the yardland. Richard Danne's 13½ acres in 1577 went with a cottage (so called in the conveyance) but as a general rule the cottage holding was a quarter-yardland and could be anything down to an acre or two, or even no land at all. Again, one gets the impression that cottage holdings at Wigston were generally appreciably smaller than they were in less populous villages in the deep country farther out from Leicester.

Let us, however, examine such evidence as we have for the Wigston cottager in the sixteenth century. We have only three inventories of people who can be certainly identified as cottagers or labourers: Robert Jarvice (1581), William Bradshaw (1586), and John Winter (1603). The first left an estate valued at only £4 2s. 8d., mostly his meagre furniture. He had no land in the fields as the inventory, taken on 14 March, does not refer to any crops either

<sup>1</sup> Farnham, ii, 82-4, 348.

growing or sown; but we find a pig, 4 hens, and a little hay and straw. There is not much doubt that Robert Jarvice was a wage-labourer on someone else's farm. William Bradshaw was a similar sort of man, though even poorer: his total estate came to 35s. 10d. But he had half an acre of barley and half an acre of pease in the two fields, worth 13s. 4d., and to that extent he was better off than Jarvice.

John Winter, on the other hand, though he is described as 'labourer', was much more the sort of prosperous cottager or labourer one finds in a number of villages in Leicestershire. It is true there are not many of these flourishing labourers in any one village; they are not typical of their class, but they do show, nevertheless, what possibilities were open to the man who was modestly ambitious, however lowly his start in the village. John Winter's estate in 1603 amounted to £17 13s. 8d. His two-roomed cottage, with outhouses attached, was altogether more comfortable than the cottages of Robert Jarvice and William Bradshaw: there were hangings on the walls of the hall, pewter and brass on his cupboard shelves, flaxen sheets and towels in the parlour (the Leicestershire name for the bedroom from the early sixteenth to the early nineteenth century); and in the outhouses there were peas and hay, and all the hurdles, rails, cowstandings, pig-sties, and other gear of a small-holder. He had a heifer and 15 sheep (though it was the depth of winter—early February—when the valuation was made) and he had sold sheep to John Cartwright, a large farmer, who owed 40s. 'at May Day next'. We do not discover whether he had any strips in the fields, since none is mentioned in the inventory. It is possible that John Winter had no land going with his cottage. If this is so, he must have been supplied with grazing for his stock and with winter feed for them by the man for whom he worked.<sup>1</sup>

There are various hints in the Wigston records of this kind of exchange between master and man. William Herrick of Queniborough deposed in the tithe dispute of 1574 that 'when he was of the age of xvj yeares dwelling w<sup>th</sup> his father (Richard Herrick of Wigston) he dyd carrye one lode of tythe hey in cookes out of

<sup>1</sup> He may also have rented another man's commons from time to time. In 1642 for example, we find that William Kerkham of Muston, labourer, had let his sheep commons to Thomas Warren for that year for 10s. (Inventories, 1642, no. 14).

Since the middle of the twelfth century they had turned the water-wheel at Crow Mill, and from time out of mind they had yielded a few precious fish, the only fishing water in the whole parish.

Wigston was not exceptional in practising this high economy of all its natural resources, nor was it by any means exceptionally endowed. It was, indeed, less fortunate than a great number of other parishes, for it lacked building stone, coal, a sufficiency of large timber for building purposes, iron for farm implements and gear, and the inevitable salt; and most of these things had to come in from elsewhere, though usually not far.

Where stone was required for more important buildings, for which wattle-and-daub or plain mud were not suitable, the tough granite-like rubble of Enderby was brought in from about five miles away. The two churches and the water-mill were mostly built of this, and so, too, were one or two of the larger houses in the village.<sup>1</sup> The local fuel supplies of the village were also inadequate, and the larger farmers had long been in the habit of fetching coal in their carts and wagons from the Swannington and Coleorton pits, about eighteen miles away to the north-west.<sup>2</sup> Wood was much too scarce all over Leicestershire to burn: the poor used furze, 'shreddings', and dried bean-haulms, and so, too, did the bakers and ale-brewers who found coal unsuitable for their purpose. As for the lack of large timber, which was felt all over the eastern side of the Midlands by Elizabethan times, it was met by economising strictly in the use of what was available, and by the sensible provision in some leases that tenants should plant timber every year. Thus the Wyggeston Hospital required all its tenants at Wigston, from the sixteenth century onwards, to plant 'two plants or setts of Oake Ashe or Elme like to grow and prosper' and to 'nourish and presurve them'.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Davenports' 'manor-house', which formerly stood on a moated site to the south-east of the parish church, was said by Nichols to have been built largely of unwrought stone. This can only have been rubble masonry of Enderby stone.

<sup>2</sup> Swannington coal was reaching Leicester before the end of the thirteenth century, and was being burnt in villages all over Leicestershire by the early sixteenth century. *Calpit* appears as a name in Goldhill Field at Wigston in 1393, and in later records as Coalpit Way. It is safe to conclude that some coal was reaching Wigston from the Leicestershire pits before the end of the fourteenth century, though possibly only for the use of the village smiths at first.

<sup>3</sup> Wyggeston Hospital lease dated 30 November 1596 to Miles Brabson, husbandman. A lease of the same farm in 1755 to George Ross, hosier, of Wigston, specifies 'six setts of Oak, Ash, or Elm, and six setts of Willow' to be planted every year.

The local shortage of fish worried no one: it was not a diet for people with hard physical work to do, and there were few in the village outside this category. But the blacksmiths had to buy all their iron from outside: there was no substitute for it and no going without it, especially as the use of iron in farming implements and carts was extending greatly in the seventeenth century. Most of the iron was bought in Leicester, coming perhaps from some great fair like Stourbridge.<sup>1</sup> Some of the ironmongers of Leicester, from the later years of the sixteenth century onwards, were men in a large way of business, who made not insubstantial fortunes and rose to high civic rank.<sup>2</sup> They must have regularly supplied hundreds of village blacksmiths over a wide area round about.

Much of what has been said above may seem obvious, a great deal about trifles; but these trifles, down to the pebbles under the clay or the bee-hives in the garden and the feathers on the goose's breast, were the very foundation of that old peasant economy which thought all the time in terms of goods and services and not of money. And unless one has a proper understanding of this peasant or thrift economy, of the foundations on which it was built up, the way they thought about it and the way it worked in practice, one cannot begin to understand the economic and social history of a good deal of rural England between the sixteenth and the nineteenth centuries. It was this economy, which lived almost entirely off its own resources, that enabled the peasantry of all classes from the yeoman down to the cottager and labourer not only to stand up to the catastrophic rise in prices of the later sixteenth century but even, for many of them (labourers included), to improve their position; and it was this same economy which enabled the village to withstand for so long the disintegrating effect of parliamentary enclosure and not to collapse at the first blow. The tenacious cement that bound it

<sup>1</sup> The east of Rutland's iron for the resident farrier at Belvoir was, however, bought at Boston at this time. It was Danzig or Spanish iron at £18 a ton. (*Hist. MSS. Comm., Rutland MSS.* vol. IV, 484. *Treatise on the Provision of Supplies at Belvoir*, 1611.)

<sup>2</sup> Most notable of these were the Herricks, who were ironmongers for about a hundred years (1534-1633). They provided mayors for the town on six occasions in that time—1557, 1572, 1584, 1593, 1605, and 1619. A younger son of the second generation of ironmongers was William Herrick, who became a wealthy goldsmith in London, and returned to buy the Leicestershire estate of Besumanor from the representatives of the earl of Essex in 1595. He was knighted in 1605, and his descendants continued to hold this estate until 1915.

Many clues about who the Herricks were in Leicestershire from the 13<sup>th</sup> century on can be found by researching more into English place names and Farnham's volumes. If anyone is interested in joining me in this search, please contact me at [herrickresearch@me.com](mailto:herrickresearch@me.com).

## The Herricks Move to the Ohio

By Kevin Duane Fronk and Amanda Kae Fronk, HFA #227

For nearly 200 years, the Herrick family had lived in or near New England, first in Beverly, Massachusetts, then Ira, Vermont, and then Central New York. Amos Herrick (HGR ID# 179) and four of his brothers had fought in the American Revolution<sup>1</sup>. Some forty years later, Amos (72), his wife Eunice Searle Herrick (55), and their 20-year-old son Ira traveled by wagon 370 miles from Hamilton, Madison County, New York, to Hiram, Portage County, Ohio. They settled near Amos's brother Lebbeus (68).

Ira (HGR ID# 445) was anxious for his 25-year-old brother Lemuel (HGR ID# 444) to join them. In March 1817, he wrote a letter<sup>2</sup> to Lemuel in Cambria, Niagara County, New York:

*I at last found a farm in the town of hiram joining nelson not being able to get any further[.] I took it to work upon shares then I got the old people on to the Hldoe [illegible] the best way I could[.] it would be to teagous [too tedious] told how but on our way we hapend [happened] to fined uncle Lebbeudes and staid one night at his hous[.] this farm is but fourteen miles from ucles[. . .] you must leave yor family [. . .] and you must come as soon as possible you can and whether you come to not you must send a letter as soon as you get this for we are vary anchcious [anxious] to no [know] how it is with your family[.]*

Not hearing back, Ira sent another letter one month later, this time to both Lemuel and his wife Sally Judd Herrick and containing more details about the benefits of moving to the Ohio, including a job already lined up for Lemuel:

*I have took a place of a man in the town of Hiram joyning Nelson to work upon shares[.] I took it for you and me to [too.] There is as much as fifty acres under improvements and it will be impossible for me to improve it all myself and it will be damage for you and me to [too] if you can't come & meditly [immediately] to help[.] You can leave your family to come with Mr. Judd<sup>3</sup>[.] I want you to be shure and get hear time anuff [enough] to plant corn[.] it is a very excellent country the best of land and all kines [kinds] of wild creturs [creatures] and all kines [kinds] of wild things goes [grow] that anybody could think of and one can get land now for about three dollars an acre[.] The town is a settling very fast and the sooner we by [buy] the better for it is riseing[.] I have bought a cow and she has calved[.]*

What Ira couldn't have known was that Lemuel and Sally's three-year-old son Clinton had died March 22, a day before Ira had written his first letter. The young couple were mourning this loss while caring for 18-month-old Eliza Ann and preparing for another baby to come, Alonzo Tarquin, in September 1817. All the groundwork Ira had set up would have to wait.

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<sup>1</sup> See "Amos Herrick: Revolutionary Patriot, 1775–1777" in the December 2022 HFA Newsletter.

<sup>2</sup> Original spelling and punctuation has been preserved in the letters cited in this article. Some punctuation and words have been added in brackets to support readability.

<sup>3</sup> Nathaniel Judd (1766–1843) is Sally Judd Herrick's father. The 1820 census lists him and his family of nine in Ravenna, Portage County, Ohio, 20 miles south of Hiram.

Lemuel, Sally, and their two living children don't arrive until the summer of 1818. A pioneer history of Hiram, Ohio, notes the arrival of Ira, Amos, and Eunice in 1817 and elaborates on the population rapidly increasing to 120 by the end of 1817.<sup>4</sup> Another early history notes that "Lemuel Herrick came and moved in with his brother, Ira, [in lot 33,] afterwards settled on lot 25 or 26."<sup>5</sup>

The Herricks quickly joined the heart of the Hiram community. The Hiram history notes that the "first regular Lord's Day meetings were carried on by three Methodists women[:] Old Mrs. Herrick, Mrs. Ryder and Mrs. Hinckley in the summer of 1818, at the south schoolhouse."<sup>6</sup> In 1818, there were only two Mrs. Herricks in Hiram: Lemuel's wife, Sally Judd Herrick (26), and Amos's wife, Eunice Searle Herrick (56). Eunice taught with Marilla Ryder (43) and Susannah Hinckley (35), who all lived on the same country lane near the schoolhouse.

Two years later, Ira started his own family, marrying Sarah T. Hopkins on October 31, 1820. Ira and Sarah had six children: Clarissa, Celinda, Benjamin, James Riley, Ira Jr., and William Hobart. Ira Jr. carried on the legacy of military service, dying as a Union soldier during the Civil War.

In 1825, Amos died at age 80 in December 1825 in Hiram. Ira Herrick Sr. lived out his days farming in Ohio. He died not far from Hiram in Nelson, Ohio, on September 3, 1852.

Lemuel, Sally, and their children, along with Eunice, on the other hand, had a lot of journeying ahead of them after they joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Eunice died nearly 800 miles away from Hiram in Far West, Missouri, on September 6, 1838, at 75 years old. Sally died on November 17, 1841, in Nauvoo, Illinois, more than 600 miles from Hiram. Lemuel died the furthest from Hiram (1,750 miles) in Ogden, Utah, on September 1, 1861, more than 2,150 miles from his birthplace in Charleston, New York.

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<sup>4</sup> Charles H. Ryder, "Pioneer History: Early Settlement of Hiram," MS 1864 & 1874, p. 17, <http://sidneyrigdon.com/RigdonO3.htm>. Charles H. Ryder (1853–1883) was the grandson of Symonds Ryder of Hiram. His writings on Hiram, Portage Co., Ohio, are preserved at Hiram College and at the Portage County Historical Society.

<sup>5</sup> Alvah Udall, "Early History of Hiram," *The Journal* (Garrettsville, Ohio), July 1, 1880, part 5. <http://sidneyrigdon.com/RigdonO3.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> Ryder, "Pioneer History," p. 23.



## Quincy Abbot, HFA #068, Member since 2002



### Quincy Sewall Abbot

April 24, 1932 - January 03, 2023

Quincy Sewall Abbot, 90, of West Hartford passed away peacefully on January 3, 2023, in the company of his daughters Jayne and Sue, at Seabury in Bloomfield from complications of Covid combined with advanced pancreatic and prostate cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 66 years Zelia Gillam Abbot, his four daughters, Elizabeth Abbot Segnalini of Rome, Italy; Susan Abbot Pelletier of Groton, MA; Rebecca Abbot of Windsor, CT; and Jayne Abbot of Asheville, NC; grandsons Andrea Segnalini of Trento, Italy, and Matteo Segnalini of Paris, France; and great-grandsons Elia and Luca Segnalini, Trento, Italy.

He also will be greatly missed by his extended family, including sons-in-law Massimo Segnalini, Robert Pelletier and Stan Cross; step-grandchildren John Pelletier and wife Natalia, and Claire Pelletier Nizzardo; step-great-granddaughters Isadora and Antonella Pelletier, and relatives from many branches of the family tree. His wit, wisdom and wordplay also will be missed by the many people in the advocacy community he worked with since the 1970s, as well as his friends in faith at the First Church of Christ in West Hartford, of which he was a long-time active member.

The son of Theodore Sewall Abbot and Alice Howell Abbot of Kingston, PA., he was an avid genealogist who was proud of his New England heritage. Among his many interesting ancestors were Judge Samuel Sewall of 17th century Boston, Joseph Hale, brother of the patriot Nathan Hale, and three of the four first settlers on Cape Ann, MA. Drawing on a collection of family papers and books dating back to the 18th century, he wrote and in 2013 self-published *From Schoolboy to Soldier: The Journals and Correspondence of Edward Stanley Abbot*, about his great uncle who died from injuries incurred during the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg. A member of the American Antiquarian Society, he belonged to the Connecticut Landmarks Society, New England Historic and Genealogical Society, Historic Beverly, Connecticut Historical Society, and Massachusetts Historical Society.

In addition to his love of family history and genealogy, he had a long and successful career that began with his graduation from Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School in 1950, where his father taught Latin and French, and from Williams College in 1954 where he majored in mathematics. Upon graduation, he joined the actuarial student program at Connecticut General Life Insurance Company. In 1955, he received a direct commission as 2nd. Lieutenant in the United States Army and was later promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He served three years in the Contracts Branch of the Office of Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in Washington, DC, where he reviewed pension and group insurance costs charged to the Army under cost-type contracts. Upon completion of his Army service, he returned to Connecticut General where he became a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in 1963.

His career at Connecticut General, which later became CIGNA, involved the establishment and direction of the Tax Departments. He played a major role in Congressional tax reform of the life insurance industry in 1984 and the casualty insurance industry in 1986. He retired as a Senior

Vice President of CIGNA in 1992.

His daughter Becky, who was born with intellectual disabilities, inspired his avocation as an active advocate for people with disabilities. As President of the Connecticut Association for Retarded Citizens, he played a significant role in negotiating and implementing a 1982 consent decree in CARC vs. Thorne which resulted in the development of Connecticut's community-based system for persons with intellectual disabilities. As Chair of the Litigation Committee for The Arc of CT, he participated in negotiation and implementation of a Settlement Agreement with the state in 2008 that resulted in a significance reduction in the waiting list for services for persons with intellectual disabilities. He was the first President of the Corporation for Independent Living, formed to develop group homes in the community after the 1982 Consent Decree. It now is now a developer of affordable and accessible housing throughout CT and MA.

As President of The Arc of the United States (1994-1996), he initiated a process of change that resulted in the move of the offices from Texas to Washington, D.C., and an updating of operations including a new mission statement, core values, position statements, and affiliation agreements with state and local chapters as well as updating Mental Retardation to Intellectual Disability.

More recently, he focused on cross-disability advocacy in CT, including development of the CT Olmstead Plan and CT's Long Term Care Plan. He chaired the Steering Committees of Money Follows the Person federal grant to facilitate the transition of individuals from institutions into the community and the Steering Committee for Connectability, a \$25,000,000 federal Medicaid Infrastructure Grant to increase the employment in CT of people with disabilities. In addition, he served as an Interim Executive Director for The Arc of the United States and for three local chapters of The Arc of CT.

He earned a number of awards for his advocacy work, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Conference of Executive Directors of The Arc in 2002. In 2018, The Arc of CT established its Abbot Lifetime Achievement Award, of which he was the first recipient.

A service to remember and celebrate his life will be held at a later date. In the meantime, please share your thoughts and memories at [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com). The family also would welcome donations in his memory to The Arc of CT, 200 Research Parkway, Meriden CT, 06450; The Arc of the United States, 1825 K Street NW, Washington DC 20006; Windsor Independent Living Association, P. O. Box 908, Windsor, CT 06095; or Wyoming Seminary, 201 North Sprague Ave., Kingston, PA 18704.

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## **More From Dr. Cat Jarman**

### **By Michael Herrick HFA #118**

Last June, many of you participated in the live zoom call with Dr. Cat Jarman, the preminent bioarchaeologist and field archaeologist specializing in the Viking Age. In the last summer's HFA newsletter, I posted a summary of that zoom call and mentioned podcasts that Dr. Jarrman has produced, called Gone Medieval. Over 100 podcasts on Gone Medieval are presented in the link below. Many of them are featuring Cat Jarman as the expert historian and archeologist. One of the podcasts features Phillippa Langley who led the King Richard III Society in England and advanced the theory that Richard III was buried under a car park and under Robert Herrick's gardens. As it turns out, she was right.

[https://podfollow.com/gone-medieval/view?fbclid=IwAR04RNy0gi5VIC\\_hkJF7AP4h4PDgQ2e\\_Pf-9bAdu-uMFlq00GLAGbzdwnwKA](https://podfollow.com/gone-medieval/view?fbclid=IwAR04RNy0gi5VIC_hkJF7AP4h4PDgQ2e_Pf-9bAdu-uMFlq00GLAGbzdwnwKA)

Recently, Dr. Jarman led an archaeology team to Althorp, the ancestral home of Princes Diana and her brother Charles Spencer. The purpose was to discover more about the earliest occupants of the Althorp estate. I think this episode speaks to the search that all of us, no matter who we are, have about who our ancestors are, where and how they lived, and what we can learn about our legacy. This archaeological dig at the Spencer estate was featured in an episode of Secrets of the Dead on PBS. Below is the link to that episode. It runs about 50 minutes.

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/archaeology-althorp-preview-je0rnr/6278/>

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## **THE LEICESTER GUILD HALL**

### **A Short History And Guide**

**Welcome to Leicester's Historic Guildhall.**

**Leicester is very privileged in having one of the best preserved wooden halls in the country, dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Guildhall is an historic building of national importance, and is the city's oldest domestic building still in use. It is protected by Government as a grade 1 listed building of architectural and historical interest, and has been the scene of many significant events in Leicester's history.**

**The Guildhall has had many uses and lives, including the Hall of Corpus Christi Guild, the civic centre of Leicester, a judicial centre for court sessions, the home of Leicester's first police force and the home of one of the oldest town libraries in the country.**

**The Guildhall has seen many phases of building from Mediaeval times through the Tudor, Jacobean and Victorian periods to the renovation programmes of 1922-26 and 1991-93.**

**The great hall was built in about 1390 as a meeting place for the Guild of Corpus Christi (the body of Christ) who were a powerful force in Mediaeval Leicester. The Ordinances of 1477 gave the two masters of the guild precedence over the Mayor and the council. Around 1450 the guild increased its membership and with an improved financial position they extended the original hall by a further two bays.**

**After the dissolution of the ministries and the religious guilds in the 1530's, including that of the Corpus Christi who were dissolved in 1548, the Guildhall was purchased by the corporation in 1563 and used as a town hall up until 1876 when the new town hall was opened.**

**In 1632 the town library was moved to the east wing of the Guildhall from St. Martin's Church and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest public library in the country. The library includes many rare volumes; of the 803 books on display the most noticeable is the 15<sup>th</sup> century New Testament in Greek known as the Codex Leicesterensis. There is also the New Testament translated into American Indian for the propagation of the Gospel for the American Indians in New England.**

**At about the same time the ground floor of the west wing was refurbished as the Mayor's parlour. The room was panelled in oak and beautifully carved and painted overmantel was installed over the fireplace. The Mayor in office, Richard Inge presented the town with a new mayoral chair, above**

which is the Royal Arms of Charles 1<sup>st</sup>. The great hall was often used as a courtroom and a jury room was created above the Mayor's parlour.

The Guildhall was also used regularly for theatrical performances, banquets and civic events. In 1588 the hall was used to host a feast to celebrate the defeat of the Spanish Armada. For perhaps this greatest of all civic banquets, it is recorded that the hall was newly decorated for this occasion.

When Leicester's first police force was formed in 1836, (the third oldest in the country), the Guildhall became the first Borough police station. A five bedroomed cottage was built for the chief constable on the south side of the courtyard and police cells were installed on the ground floor of the east wing. The new borough police force was staffed by 50 officers including five sergeants, 45 constables and the chief constable.

Drunkenness was common amongst both the townspeople and the police force. According to a letter in Leicester Chronicle in 1856, six constables had between them "been up 40 times before the watch committee for cases of drunkenness." In 1872 a law was passed requiring that hotels in public houses closed at 11pm. On the night before the act was put into operation, seventeen drunken people were locked up in one of the small cells at the Guildhall police station.

During the early 1920's due to the state of neglect, local businessmen considered the building to be an eyesore and asked the Council to demolish it. However, after being petitioned by the Leicestershire Archaeological and History Society, the Council in 1922 began a thorough restoration programme. On May the 19<sup>th</sup> 1926, the Mayor and Corporation met again in the Great Hall to mark the complete restoration work and to declare the building open to the public as a Museum.

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The Guildhall is managed by Leicester City Council. If you have any enquires please contact:

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We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Leicester's Guildhall and look forward to seeing you again.

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Message from the Editor:

Nancy Johnson, HFA #212

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I would like to thank our members, Dale E. Yoe, HFA #62, Irene Turlington HFA's Leicester Friend and Honorary Member, Michael Herrick HFA #118, Kevin Duane Fronk HFA# 227 and Amanda Kae Fronk, for contributing to this newsletter.

I'd like to remind everyone that I'm happy to accept articles and stories for the next newsletter at any time.

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