

OLD CESTREFELDIANS' TRUST

TOUR OF HOUSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE FOUNDERS AND

BENEFACTORS OF CHESTERFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 24 JULY 2019

These tour notes are taken mainly from draft text prepared for planned future volumes of the Victoria County History of Derbyshire, which will cover the history of Chesterfield and adjoining suburbs and villages. The footnotes giving full references to sources have been removed for present purposes, but it may be worth saying that the architectural descriptions of each house are based mainly on the statutory lists prepared by Historic England, not on my own fieldwork. Some details about property in the town centre are taken from *Chesterfield Streets and Houses*, published earlier this year by the Derbyshire VCH Trust, which is on sale at the Visitor Information Centre in Rykeild Square at £20.

Founders and benefactors

All living former pupils of Chesterfield Grammar School will recall the Commemoration Service at the end of the summer term at which the school captain read out a list of 'founders and benefactors', and will also remember which 'house' they were in, of which they may have ended up as a house prefect, vice-captain or captain, or represented in inter-house sports competitions. These houses, like the mock 'coat of arms' used by the school, were the creation in the late 1890s of James Mansell, headmaster between 1894 and 1921. There were originally five — Clarke, Foljambe, Heathcote, Large and Lingard — to which James Larkin, who was briefly headmaster at the end of the Second World War, added a sixth, Bradley, named after a former pupil, Henry Bradley (1845–1923), who attended the school between 1855 and 1859 and later became an editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Of the five original houses, only Foljambe was strictly speaking named after the founder of the school, although Cornelius Clarke has a good claim to be seen as a 'second founder' in the late seventeenth century. It was the (genuine) arms of these two major gentry families which were combined to make up the school 'coat of arms'. In both cases it is possible to visit houses in the out-townships of the parish of Chesterfield on the site of those built, or occupied, by the two families. This

is also true of the Heathcote family.

On the other hand, the connection with Chesterfield of James Lingard, who in 1612 left money to the corporation for both the poor and the Grammar School, is not entirely clear. The family name is well-attested in the town in the sixteenth century, mainly in connection with the cloth industry. In the 1580s a dyer named James Lingard was renting the tenement at the west end of Beetwell Street (in modern times Yeoman's shop) which ran down to the Hipper. The benefactor of 1612 was said to be a member of Brasenose College, Oxford, and could have been this man's son. The surname itself may be a variant of Linacre. There was a medieval gentry family of this name in Chesterfield, whose name derives from the place-name Linacre in Brampton.

Thomas Large, whose will is dated 1664, left his own house at the corner of Packers Row and Vicar Lane, another house on Low Pavement (on the site of the modern Tontine Road, now the entrance to Chesterfield Library), and land and buildings elsewhere in and around the town, to the corporation. The income was to be used to build Chesterfield's first almshouses (in the churchyard, later transferred to Saltergate, and today represented by St Helen's Lodge, off Newbold Road), to augment the vicar's stipend, and to increase the endowment of the Grammar School.

Godfrey Foljambe of Walton

The Foljambe family moved to Walton, one of the out-townships of Chesterfield parish, at the end of the fourteenth century, when Thomas Foljambe married Margaret Lowdham. Her family had inherited Walton from the Bretons, who had been lords of the manor since the eleventh century. The Foljambes continued to buy land in and around Chesterfield and by the late sixteenth century were by far the wealthiest gentry family in the district. When Sir Godfrey Foljambe died in 1585 he left £10 for the stipend of a grammar school master, and required his son, also Godfrey, to carry out his instructions. The younger Godfrey died in 1595, before he had time to do so, and reiterated his father's gift in his own will. Both men were buried

in Chesterfield parish church, beneath very fine alabaster monuments. The school was probably not established until 1598, when the burgesses of Chesterfield obtained a charter of incorporation from the Crown, which included a clause allowing them to set up and administer a grammar school.

The Foljambe family sold Walton in 1634, partly because the last Godfrey's widow and other members of the family engaged in a great deal of litigation, which badly weakened them financially. Later generations lived at Aldwarke in south Yorkshire and in modern times at Osberton, near Worksop. The Walton estate was dismembered and the Hall and the lordship of the manor, having passed through various hands, were acquired in 1813 by the Hunloke family of Wingerworth. In 1821 the Hunlokes sold the Hall (but not the lordship or most of the land they acquired in 1813) to the Turbutt family of Ogston Hall. The land in Walton was included in the sale of the Hunloke estate in 1920, which led to the modern residential development of the district.

Walton Hall was by far the largest gentry house in the parish of Chesterfield in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In 1606 it was said to contain 42 principal rooms, or 72 rooms including offices. A recently discovered plan of the Walton estate, made by William Senior in 1622 (now on display on the public tour at Renishaw Hall), shows the Hall as large quadrangular range of buildings. It appears to have decayed after the sale of 1634 and in 1648 was said to be 'utterly ruined, plucked down and sold, no material, it is reported, left'. In 1812 Walton Hall was described an 'ancient mansion house', formerly the residence of Sir Paul Jenkinson, a lead merchant, which suggests that he may have built a new, smaller house on the site of the Foljambes' house in the second half of the seventeenth century. The house appears to have been assessed on thirteen hearths in the Hearth Tax of 1670.

In 1817 it was said that 'the remains of Walton-hall' had been fitted up as a farmhouse. Plans of Walton Hall of 1812 and 1821 show an H-plan house, with two parallel ranges to the front and back linked by a cross-wing. There was an outbuilding in front of the house and another immediately to the south, with other buildings a little further away to the north. The grounds included three ponds (two of them described as fishponds), an orchard and a wilderness.

The main front range of the present house on the site of Walton Hall is a three-storey, three-bay building with a stone-flagged roof, dating from 1788, according to a datestone over the front door. The walls are of ashlar gritstone with a moulded eaves cornice, coped gables with moulded kneelers

and ashlar gable stacks. The present plan is T-shaped, with a lower range to rear. There is a central main doorway within a slightly advanced ashlar surround. Above the door is a rectangular overlight beneath a deep, plainly moulded head, and a shallow cornice mould. Flanking the doorway are stacked windows, diminishing in height from ground floor to attic, and formerly with glazing bar sashes throughout. The sills to the ground- and first-floor openings are each linked by plain bands.

The lower, two-storey range which projects at right-angles to the rear, containing mullioned and transomed windows, is clearly older than the front portion, and must be the cross-wing shown on the plans of 1812 and 1821; the rear range shown there was evidently taken down when the new front was built. The house has cellars which are said to be older than the present front range and contain blocked openings that suggest they may be the remains of more extensive cellarage that underlay a larger house on the site. The outbuildings that stood near the house in the early nineteenth century have all disappeared and those to the north were converted to become The Gables on Greenways in 1999. These also appear to date from the Jenkinsons' time and are shown on the plans of 1812 and 1821.

The Clarkes of Somersall

In 1690 Cornelius Clarke of Norton, between Dronfield and Sheffield, made a major benefaction to the Grammar School, providing for the appointment of an 'usher' (an assistant master) and the establishment of a 'petty' (i.e. preparatory) school, both of which Chesterfield had previously lacked. Clarke should therefore really be seen as the 'second founder' of the school. Cornelius belonged to the branch of the family which owned (and appears to have built) Cutthorpe Old Hall, but the home of the senior line of the Clarke family for over two centuries was Somersall Hall.

The Clarkes emerge in sixteenth-century Chesterfield as leading innkeepers and also strong opponents of the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury, the lord of the manor. It is not surprising that Ralph Clarke should have been chosen as the first mayor of Chesterfield after the granting of the charter of 1598.

By this date, however, the family had begun the familiar progression from townsmen to landowners, via the legal profession. In 1578 Godfrey Shawe (whose family also used the surname Somersall, the estate in Brampton which they had owned since at least the fourteenth century) sold to Nicholas Clarke an estate of 700 acres centred on the mansion at Somersall, where Nicholas was

already living. When he died in 1589 Nicholas left all his lands to his son Godfrey, as well as his interest in his chamber in Clement's Inn, although his other sons, so long as they practised the law, were to have convenient rooms in the chamber. Godfrey, who married Jane, daughter of Michael Grundy of Thurgarton in south Notts., died in 1634, holding tenements in 'Howley' (i.e. Holymoorside) and Brampton, premises in Chesterfield called Chantry Closes, and the capital messuage called Somersall Hall. Godfrey had made a settlement of these premises when his son Gilbert married Helen, daughter and heir apparent of John Clarke of Codnor, in 1614. He also held another messuage in Brampton called Frith Hall, which he and Ralph Clarke, late of Chesterfield, deceased, had purchased in 1609 from William Dean and Thomas Newton. Gilbert was 42 at the time of his father's death.

Somersall remained the home of this branch of the Clarke family until the late eighteenth century, when Sarah, the daughter and heiress of Godfrey Bagnall Clarke, married Job Hart Price, who took the additional name of Clarke. The Price family's two main residences were Chilcote in south Derbyshire and Sutton Scarsdale in the north-east of the county, which was where they mainly lived.

J.H.P. Clarke also left a sole daughter and heiress, Anna Maria Catherine, who married Walter Butler, earl (later marquess) of Ormonde. In 1817 Somersall Hall was described as a farmhouse belonging to the marchioness of Ormonde as the representative of the Clarke family. After Lord Ormonde died, heavily in debt, a private Act of Parliament was obtained in 1824 for the sale of his estates in England, including land and buildings in Chesterfield, Newbold, Brimington, Brampton, Walton, Ashover, Harewood (in Beeley), Morewood Moor (in South Wingfield) and Wheatcroft (in Ashover), as well the whole of the Sutton cum Duckmanton estate centred on the mansion at Sutton Scarsdale.

What was described as the 'lordship of Brampton' (i.e. the former Clarke estate centred on Somersall Hall) totalled 1,128 acres, out of 8,261a. for the whole of Ormonde's English lands. This included farms at Chanderhill, Woodhead, Upper Leadhill, Brookside and elsewhere; a colliery (from which ironstone was also being won); and numerous other houses, cottages and smaller parcels of land. The Somersall Hall estate itself, including an adjoining farm with land in Brampton and Walton, extended to 126 acres; the mansion was then occupied by Samuel Lancaster and had the benefit of a pew in the church which seated eight or ten people. It was pointed out that this lot could be enlarged by the purchase of Park Hall

nearby, which was on sale by another vendor at the same time.

At the auction, the Ormonde lands in Brampton were sold to several different purchasers. In 1839 Somersall Hall was owned by Samuel Johnson and in the same period was the home of the Revd Matson Vincent. Johnson himself was in occupation in the 1840s and 1850s. Mrs Elizabeth Johnson (presumably his widow) was living there in 1860. By 1870 it was in the hands of Thomas Greaves, who remained the owner and occupier in 1895.

Before the Second World War Somersall Hall was the home of John Milward, a consultant surgeon at the Royal Hospital in Chesterfield, and his wife Rosemary, a noted local historian. The Milwards later lived at Barlow Woodseats. Mrs Milward wrote very thorough accounts of the Clarke family and of her own family's two Derbyshire homes.

The present house at Somersall dates mainly from a rebuilding in 1763, although part of an older seventeenth-century house can be seen to the rear. The eighteenth-century house is built of coursed rubble with coped gable ends and a stone-flagged roof. The main eastern front is of three bays and three storeys. The windows are generally sashed but there is a nineteenth-century canted bay to the southern ground floor. The central main door has a glazed ornamental fanlight, a Gothic clustered columned stone porch, an ornamental entablature and battlements. There is an early nineteenth-century two-storey extension to the north. The rear elevation of the main house has plain stone mullioned windows. The seventeenth-century wing is of 1½ storeys with two stone mullioned, three-light windows.

Cutthorpe Old Hall

The early seventeenth-century house which stands on the north side of the main road running through Cutthorpe, roughly in the middle of the village, is traditionally said to have been built by the branch of the Clarke family to which Cornelius Clarke of Norton, the benefactor to the Grammar School, belonged.

Ralph Clarke, who was buried at Chesterfield in 1660, described himself in his will as of Cutthorpe, where he is said to have lived in a house built either by himself or his father c.1626. In 1663 Samuel Clarke of Cutthorpe traced his descent from his great-grandfather, Ralph Clarke of Ashgate, who married Frances, the daughter of Thomas Barker of Dore. He was succeeded by his son, also named Ralph and also of Ashgate, who married Constance Beresford and died in 1598. It was their son, a third Ralph, who died in 1660. He

married Frances, daughter of George Blount of Eckington, with whom he had two sons and five daughters. The elder son, Samuel, died without issue in 1669, leaving a widow Bridget, the daughter of Gilbert Nevile of Grove, near Retford. She was assessed on seven hearths in Brampton in 1670, but the Cutthorpe estate passed next to Samuel's brother Cornelius, who was assessed on 12 hearths. This figure appears to include the family's other house in Brampton at Ashgate, since he is listed only once in the assessment. Cornelius lived mainly at Norton Hall, where he was assessed on 18 hearths and where he died in 1696. He was twice married but left no issue. His five sisters therefore became his coheirs, although Norton and the bulk of his estate passed to Robert Offley of Norwich, the son of Stephen Offley, who married Ursula, the eldest sister.

Ralph's second daughter, Elizabeth, was twice married, first to Edward Harris of Stretton (near Clay Cross) and afterwards (in 1655) to Henry Bright of Whirlow (near Sheffield). It has been stated that the Cutthorpe estate passed to Elizabeth and Henry. They died in 1688 and 1694 respectively, having had three sons and three daughters, of whom the only son to survive his parents was another Henry, born in 1664. He later sold the Whirlow estate and 'reduced himself and his family to want'. If Cutthorpe Old Hall did pass with Whirlow, it was presumably sold *c.*1700. Nothing further appears to be known of the estate until the 19th century, when it belonged to the Sitwell family of Renishaw. In the late 1820s Sir George Sitwell owned 250 acres in Cutthorpe.

It has also been said that from 1752 the Old Hall was tenanted by the Botham family, who farmed the land belonging to it and purchased the property from the Sitwell estate in 1910. Willis Botham was the farmer at the Old Hall in 1922; he had been succeeded ten years later by Alfred Botham, who was still there in 1936. The last member of the family to live at the house, Sydney Botham, is said to have died in 1952.

Cutthorpe Old Hall dates from the early seventeenth century, with some late seventeenth-century additions and nineteenth-century and later alterations. The main range, built of coursed Coal Measures sandstone with ashlar dressings and quoins, beneath a stone-flagged roof, is of three storeys with attics. Each storey is delineated by continuous string-courses, which step up over doorway and window openings as hood-moulds. The window openings have chamfered mullions, some with drip-moulds. The main range is of two-cell plan, with an attached stair-tower at the south-west corner. Three of the elevations, and the tower, are gabled, and there is a single stone gable

stack to the north-west gable. A two-storey range continues to the rear of the three-storey range, and there is an 18th-century single-storey addition to the north-east. Inside, the main range has moulded plasterwork to the ground and first floor rooms, with cornices and moulded spine beams. The stair-tower retains a framed and boarded newel staircase. The ground-floor and first-floor hearths have moulded stone surrounds.

Cutthorpe Hall

The other large freehold in Cutthorpe (known as Cutthorpe Hall to avoid confusion with the house on the main road) was one of several in the Chesterfield area owned by different branches of the Heathcote family, although (like Cutthorpe Old Hall) it also has connections with Cornelius Clarke. The Heathcote family, whose name derives from a hamlet near Hartington in the Peak District, were butcher-graziers, lead merchants, iron merchant, bell-founders and tanners in Chesterfield in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, before becoming landowners with estates near the town. The bell-foundry was on Saltergate, on the plot (now beneath the Donut roundabout) that ended its days as a corporation highways depot. The tannery was on the south side of Beetwell Street (where the police station now stands), with access to water from the Hipper at the bottom of the plot.

One branch of the family owned and lived at 2 St Mary's Gate, an early seventeenth-century house near the east end of the parish church. An earlier house on the site was the home of the bailiff of the dean of Lincoln's Chesterfield estate in the Middle Ages. 2 St Mary's Gate was modernised by the Shentall family in the late nineteenth century, after it became the headquarters of their wholesale greengrocery business, but some early panelling is said to survive inside.

The connection between the Heathcote family and the Grammar School is indirect. In the early eighteenth century Ann, the widow of Gilbert Heathcote, and four of her sons gave a total of £900 to establish a charity, the income from which was to be used to apprentice poor boys of Chesterfield either to a trade or to learn the art of navigation at sea. By the mid-nineteenth century the charity had resources far in excess of what it could spend on these objectives, and its aims were modified to suit changing circumstances. This included the provision of scholarships to cover fees at the Grammar School for boys who had attended local elementary (i.e. primary) schools. Although the need for these fell after the 1902 Education Act enabled the county council to fund free places at the school (which it did on a generous scale), a small number of Heathcote scholarships continued

to be awarded by the governors until fees were abolished by the 1944 Education Act.

Cutthorpe Hall, a late sixteenth- or early seventeenth-century house which stands on Green Lane, to the south of the main road near the centre of the village, is traditionally said to have been purchased, with the surrounding estate, in 1614 by George Heathcote, the eldest son of George and Agnes Heathcote of Loads, in the south-western corner of Brampton. The first member of the family to own land at Loads was another George Heathcote, the grandfather of the purchaser of Cutthorpe, who was a Chesterfield butcher-grazier and died in 1559. The vendor in 1614 is said to have been a member of the Foljambe family, one of whom had previously leased Cutthorpe in 1580 to the Beresford family. In fact, Godfrey Foljambe of Walton, in his will of 1595, recited that 'his good friend' Edward Beresford held of him a capital messuage called Overholme at 'Cutthe' in Brampton, in which Edward then dwelt, with lands belonging to it, for a term of years, of which the reversion belonged to Godfrey and his heirs. Godfrey bequeathed the reversion to Edward and his heirs, with the unusual remainder (presumably in default of heirs) that the estate should pass to such woman as Edward should marry with the consent of Godfrey's wife Isabel, or after her death with the consent of later owners of Walton Hall. He also left Edward a gold ring worth 20s. to wear in his memory. Beresford died in 1599, leaving a short nuncupative will which made no mention of the lease from Foljambe and left most of his estate to his brother Dennis.

George Heathcote of Cutthorpe married a woman named Dorothy (possibly Dorothy Renshaw) and died in 1628. His will disposed of property in Chesterfield, Brampton, Newbold and Tapton, at Bridgtown and Wensley in Darley, and at Bawtry, at the head of the Idle Navigation, which joined the Trent at West Stockwith, below Gainsborough. He left Cutthorpe and land at Upper and Nether Loads (in Holymoorside) to his eldest son, also named George. The son married Grace, daughter of Thomas Smith of Derby and a sister of William Smith, a London merchant. He died in 1636 or early in 1637, leaving Grace the use for her life of his 'chief house' at Cutthorpe, also known as 'Cutthorpe Hall alias Overholme Hall in Brampton'. Although George described himself as a 'yeoman' in his will, he left personal estate valued at £218 and also debts of £1,070. An inventory includes tools for making red lead and a well stocked farm.

George's heir was his elder son, also named George, who was only nine when his father died. The boy went on to marry Lydia, daughter of

Ralph Clarke of Chesterfield. In 1696 Lydia became (with her four sisters) a coheirress of Cornelius Clarke of Norton. George Heathcote, who was assessed on eight hearths at Cutthorpe in 1670, died in 1677, leaving an eldest son and heir, also George (1662–85), who was within age. At about this time Cornelius Clarke, as his nephew's trustee during his minority, had the Cutthorpe Hall estate surveyed. It then extended to 157 acres.

The younger George died without male issue, leaving as heir his brother Gilbert (1664–1719), who became a physician in London and also a Quaker. In 1690 he married Frances, a daughter of Sir Frances Rodes Bt of Barlborough, a union which led to his descendants becoming heirs to that estate. George and Frances's eldest surviving son was Cornelius (1694–1730), who also became a medical practitioner and married Elizabeth, the daughter and heir of Robert Middlebrook of Thorne in the West Riding. Their eldest son, Gilbert, in 1743 became heir to his great-uncle, Sir John Rodes Bt, under the provisions of whose will he took his name and arms, but he himself died unmarried in 1768. He was succeeded by his nephew, Cornelius, the son of his younger brother John, who died in 1758, and his wife Millicent.

Cornelius Heathcote was born in 1754 and in 1776 assumed the name and arms of Rodes. Cornelius Heathcote Rodes died unmarried in 1825, when the male line of the Heathcotes of Cutthorpe came to an end. His heir was his nephew, Cornelius Heathcote Reaston, the only son of his sister Elizabeth Reaston and her husband, the Revd Peter Aclam Reaston, rector of Barlborough. At his uncle's death, Cornelius, who was also in Anglican Orders, had Royal licence to add the name Rodes after Reaston and to quarter the arms of Rodes. Also in 1825 he married Anna Maria Henrietta, the daughter of William Gossip of Hatfield House (near Doncaster). The Revd Cornelius Heathcote Reaston Rodes of Barlborough Hall, who was said in 1829 to own about 250 acres of Cutthorpe, died without issue in 1844, leaving the Barlborough and Cutthorpe estates to his nephew, W.H. Gossip of Hatfield, who took the surname De Rodes.

From at least the time of Gilbert Heathcote, the London physician, if not before, Cutthorpe Hall was presumably let to tenants. From c.1790 it was the home of William Wright, the second son of Robert Wright of Great Longstone, who was for many years captain of the Chesterfield Yeomanry Infantry and generally used the title 'Captain Wright'. He married, in 1790 at Ripon, Bowes, the daughter of Anthony Dawson of Azerley, near Ripon. Wright was buried at Brampton in 1839, aged 75, and there was a sale of his household and

farm stock the following year. It was said a century later that Wright died by his own hand. By the end of 1840 the tenancy had passed to Thomas Irving, a Chesterfield corn miller and tillage merchant, and the founder of the business which continues today under his name. He left in 1844, when there was another sale of household and farm stock.

In the same year, following the death of C.H.R. Rodes, the Hall and about 200 acres of land were put up for sale; indeed, it seems likely that Irving was given notice to enable Rodes to offer the property with vacant possession. The purchaser appears to have been John Brown, then agent to the Hunloke estate at Wingerworth, who was near the start of what proved a very successful career as an investor in land and companies. In 1845 Brown advertised Cutthorpe Hall to let, with a farm of 70 acres. The tenancy passed to Joseph Drabble, a farmer who during this period bought the Angel Inn in Chesterfield. He stayed until 1850, when the house was to let again. A medical practitioner named Hugh Wood was living there in 1854, as was Mrs Hannah Alsop in 1860.

Cutthorpe Hall, was advertised to let in 1867 (by which date John Brown had moved to Rose Hill in Chesterfield, the mansion on the site of the Town Hall which had once belonged to the Heathcote family) and the outgoing tenant's household and farm stock were sold the same year. John Crookes was the tenant for a few years around 1870, when he was farming 170 acres. He had left by the beginning of 1872, when Brown advertised the Hall, gardens, orchard and a farm of 60 a. to let. The next tenant was Thomas Sutcliffe, who moved to Halifax in 1880. He was followed briefly by a man named Dixon, who left early in 1881. The Hall was advertised to let in 1883 with 43a. of grass and 19a. of arable, following the departure of Mrs H. Dudley. On this occasion enquiries were to be directed to Christopher Thorpe of Rose Hill, who in 1884 was living at Cutthorpe Hall himself. Although he held a sale of farm stock that year, he failed to let the Hall and stayed there until 1886, when another sale was announced. A fresh attempt was made to find a tenant in 1887, when Thorpe was practising as a land agent on Packers Row in Chesterfield. On this occasion Thomas Gilling took the Hall and farm, although only until about 1891. In the 1890s James Wood, a retired Sheffield grocer, lived at the Hall. After the death of his first wife there in 1902, Wood remarried and moved to a house in Ashgate Road.

During the years in which Wood lived at Cutthorpe Hall, the farm appears to have been in the hands of Frederick John Butcher. He was the only son of Frederick Butcher and his wife Mary Katherine, who was in turn the only child and heir of

John Brown of Rose Hill. After James Wood left Cutthorpe, the Butchers moved into the Hall and the farm was let. The family continued to live at the Hall until after the Second World War. Frederick John Butcher died in 1946, leaving estate (other than settled land) valued at £154,409.

Cutthorpe Hall dates from the late sixteenth century or early seventeenth, with mid-eighteenth- and nineteenth-century alterations and additions. It appears to be impossible to be certain whether it was built by the first George Heathcote to live there, or whether he bought (and perhaps enlarged) an existing house. An inventory drawn up in 1637, after the death of the purchaser's son, describes what is presumably the core of the present house, including a hall, dining parlour, kitchen, dairy, brewhouse and malthouse downstairs (with cellars beneath), and a corn chamber, a gallery and eight bed chambers above. All the living rooms were well furnished and the service rooms well equipped with tools and utensils.

The Hall is built of coursed Coal Measures sandstone with ashlar gritstone dressings. It is of two storeys and attics, the latter incorporated into advanced gabled wings to the front and rear elevations. The plan of the modern house is complex, but is arranged around a linear seventeenth-century core. The east elevation has a principal range of four bays, with an added or remodelled nineteenth-century bay at the south end. An off-centre doorway is set against a ridge stack. Most of the windows (except where they have been altered) are millioned. To the north stands a 2½-storey advanced wing, once free-standing, which has itself been extended, apparently in the eighteenth century. The interior is said to contain oak panelling to some of the rooms, early seventeenth-century decorative plasterwork, and an attic gallery.

Hipper Hall

I am including this note on Hipper Hall at Holymoorside, since it is to be included in today's itinerary, but I have to say that, as far as I can establish at present, it has no connection with either the Foljambe or Clarke families. Having said that, I cannot as yet trace its history further back than mid-nineteenth century.

The early seventeenth-century house on the south-east side of Holymoorside to the north of the centre of the modern village of Holymoorside, known (from its proximity to the river) since the 1870s as 'Hipper Hall', was owned in 1840 by William Peach, the perpetual curate of Brampton, when it was a tenanted farmhouse. Nothing has been discovered of its previous owners, nor any earlier name for the house. William was baptised at All Saints', Derby, in 1796, the son of Henry

Peach (1754–1833), also an Anglican minister, and his wife Mary. He graduated from St John's College, Cambridge, in 1820, was ordained in 1820–1, and was appointed perpetual curate of Brampton in 1826. On his father's death in 1833 William inherited a share of his substantial estate in various places around Ripley (where Henry owned a quarter of the manor) and in south Derbyshire (but not in the north-east of the county). This may have enabled William to buy the farm at Holymoorside. He died at Brampton in 1867, leaving effects valued at £7,000. His elder son William Henry Peach died at his home at Waingroves Hall (in Ripley) in 1875.

Hipper Hall remained in the ownership of the Peach family until 1919, when it was purchased at auction for £720 by the tenant, James Shemwell Botham, who bought another 5 acres of land for £725 at the same sale. Earlier tenants, from 1840, included Joseph Cundey, James Anthony, George Anthony, who died in 1884 and whose daughter-in-law Eliza gave up the farm in 1890, Edward Buckley and Frederick Moody Milner, who was also licensee of the Gate Inn at Mastin Moor (in Staveley) and left in 1902. The farm was about 80 acres during George Anthony's tenancy and he described himself as a cattle dealer as well as a farmer.

J.S. Botham died in 1921, when the farm was taken over by his son, also James Shemwell. After the elder Botham's widow Annie died in 1958 the farmland and house were sold separately, and Hipper Hall became a private residence. It was purchased by Mr and Mrs R.A. Hyde, who restored the property and lived there until 1971. The following year it was bought by Dr and Mrs J.D. Sterland, who carried out further work on the former farm buildings.

Hipper Hall, which was altered and extended in the early eighteenth century, is built of coursed Coal Measures Sandstone with ashlar dressings and a stone-slatted roof. It has a double-pile plan, formerly with a lobby entrance to the rear pile, replaced in the 18th century with an entrance between the gables at the south-west end, which was in turn superseded in 1959 by an entrance at the north-east end. The house is of three bays and two storeys and attics. Both ranges have been raised. At the north-east end of the rear pile is a single-bay gable wing of two storeys. Some of the windows have chamfered mullioned and transomed surrounds. The north-east elevation was substantially remodelled in 1959. Internally, the spine wall between the two piles may have been timber-framed. The central hearth in the rear pile retains a seventeenth-century stone surround. Some first-floor rooms have seventeenth-century

square panelling, and the staircase has newel posts with polygonal finials. The roof is carried on upper-cruck trusses, with single side purlins and a ridge purlin.

To the south-east of the Hall stands a seventeenth-century outbuilding, of four-bays, built of coursed rubble gritstone with a stone-slatted roof. Inside two cruck trusses survive, with tie beams and yokes, formerly wind-braced, supporting single side purlins and a diagonally set ridge purlin. Other former farm buildings to the south-west of the main house date from the late sixteenth century, with seventeenth- and nineteenth-century alterations. The range is timber-framed and was later encased in coursed rubble sandstone, with weatherboarding to parts of the upper floor and a stone-slatted roof. The buildings are of storeys and two bays, with the lower walls of two former bays, and the remains of the north-east gable wall surviving from a partial collapse in 1990. The remaining two bays include one complete framed partition wall, supporting the queen-strut roof truss, which itself carries a braced single-purlin roof, with a diagonally set ridge purlin. The bay at the south-west end is an addition, with a stone partition wall, and incorporates a single cruck truss.

In 1976 it was said that five panes of leaded window glass had at some date been discovered 'built up in a window' (i.e. a blocked opening) at Hipper Hall. The glass had been moved for safe-keeping during restoration work (presumably that of 1959) but could not then be located. The glass was said to contain two inscriptions, one dated 1607, and the names Godfrey Foljambe and Hercules Foljambe in a hand of the same period. These appear to be the sons of Godfrey Foljambe of Moor Hall (in Barlow) and Plumbley (in Eckington), of whom the elder (Godfrey) inherited Moor Hall in 1573 and died there, without issue, in 1591. His brother and heir Hercules sold Moor Hall in 1600 to Elizabeth, dowager countess of Shrewsbury, and her second son William Cavendish, and died at Rotherham in 1632. There appears to be no other evidence to connect Hipper Hall with the Foljambe family, and in 1610, when the former Foljambe estate in Chesterfield and adjoining townships, then owned by William Lord Cavendish of Hardwick, was surveyed in great detail by William Senior, it included only half an acre of land in Brampton.

Philip Riden
County Editor, Derbyshire
Victoria County History
Department of History
University of Nottingham

July 2019