



# Repton Village History Group Newsletter

## Summer 2021 (21<sup>st</sup> June 2021 – 4.31 GMT)



### Membership issues:

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2021. It's been an interesting year but we have mostly not seen much of each other. Some of us managed to get together on the Maple Tree Cafe lawn as the first lockdown relaxed and we have finally just had a face to face committee meeting in a garden - even if we had to retreat under an oak tree to avoid a few drops of rain.

It was surprising and very pleasing that we have had a good ongoing conversation and lots of new information on a range of topics right through the year. And it was really good that by using emails and the "reply all" function, even those who cannot get to meetings could take part. We do hope to get back to proper meetings every 2 or 3 months, but would like to keep the email bit going as well.



### The ongoing programme:

We had expected to be able to have a proper AGM in May or June. The plan is to make it a social event outside with afternoon tea (sandwiches and cakes...) and a short business meeting. We will send out the minutes and reports in advance. It now looks probable that we cannot keep to our latest plan of 2<sup>nd</sup> July unless we risk the weather, as under the current rules there would be too many of us to be indoors.

The visit to St Hardulphs at Breedon on the Hill will go ahead as planned on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July and Richard Stone will concentrate on the fascinating history of the site if the rules prevent us from going in. However, we could make a second visit.

We have tentatively set our first proper meeting date for the evening of Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September and hopefully we will be able to report back on some geophysics near Finney's Dock and the lumps and bumps nearer the Buries as well as discussing how we move forward.

Aimee is going to represent us at the meeting about the Queen's platinum jubilee celebrations in 2022. She has in mind something to do with royalty in Repton – perhaps starting with Icel, Cnebbe, Cynewald, Creoda, Pybba, Cearl and so on up to her majesty's visit in 1957. The Village party (Fete) will be on the Saturday afternoon of that celebration and we have agreed to bring a stall and our test pit again. This is really a metre square sand pit with buried treasure. This time we will try to avoid builder's sand which left some children a strange, faint, colour.

### Our Archaeological activity:

Social distancing and lockdowns made it very unlikely that we would be able to dig any test pits or do much geophysics so we dropped our archaeological insurance for a while. We did offer to run the Archaeologists Badge for South Derbyshire Scouts, but it seems the County Scout Team plan to handle this themselves. We are in the process of renewing permissions from landowners and farmers so we can do some resistivity grid surveys in the fields by the Trent. We think we can do this whilst keeping our distance from each other. Adam is searching for signs of Finney's Dock and the warehouse and Russell remembers a well close to the Buries and an orchard and buildings for milking and suspects there may have been a dwelling somewhere there at some time.

### Helping with Enquiries.:

We had an enquiry about the Hibbert and Bamford families from someone whose maternal grandmother was Ethel Hibbert. He had traced the family to Milton and Repton and had found a Repton marriage link to the Bamford Family who we had researched before in a joint effort with Lindsay C. So we put him in touch



## **Playtime in Repton**

A chat with our Vice Chairman, Ivor, led us to children's games. He recalls playing cricket across Main Street with Tony Collier - the stumps being drawn on the roadside wall of Morley's Yard. This lack of traffic - just post war - also enabled them to play rounders in the Square. Ivor remembers that the base was just up Pinfold Lane from the post box, with various gateposts and lamp posts as the other bases. He remembers the players included Marian Sears, Barbara Jarvey, Beaty Collier, Tony Collier, Sheila Jones, Ted Canner, Dorothy and Margaret Adams, Christine Pearson and Alan Crawshaw.

Marjorie Boddice (née Pett) was brought up at Wood End - a self sufficient hamlet save for the Doctor and School. She remembers they used to play a game called Washington. The Wood End Mission had a stone bearing a large "W" and the game was to go to the end of the village, hide somewhere and then sneak back to the Mission without being caught by whoever was "on" and shout "Washington One two three" - a local version of Lurkey Lurkey. She remembered playing with the Baker children and the Swannicks.

Still in Bottom Repton and opposite Bankhouse Farm, is a field known as Marble Close. Tony Collier recalled frequent ad hoc games of football played there with the older players disappearing to the Pub afterwards. Marjorie recalls big magnificent bonfires and some fireworks there from time to time. She also remembered the gate across the road at Wood End (aka Park End) and having to stop and open this would have slowed traffic down. Sometimes the lads would open the gate for passing traffic in the hope of a tip.

## **From the Archives:**

Charles has a huge collection of photographs of old documents relating to Repton and was pleased to find some of the Constable's Accounts in Repton School's archive. Here, however, he explores his transcriptions from the Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor.

In the days before Parish Councils, the administration of the parish was conducted by the Vestry Meeting. This was for all property owners (and thus payers of the land tax), was chaired by the Vicar and administered by the Parish Clerk who was the only one paid a stipend. The Vestry Meeting appointed Church Wardens, the Constable, someone as Overseer of the Poor, a Surveyor of Highways to organise road repairs and someone to assess and collect land tax. At the time of the accounts that Charles writes about below, the Parish Clerk was Samuel Hanson. Samuel was Clerk for over 60 years, was a weaver at what later became the flour mill on the way to Burton and lived at Church End in one of the thatched cottages.

### **Charles writes:**

"I have been looking at Repton Overseers of the Poor Accounts. They exist at the County Record Office for most years from 1752 to 1822. They are very detailed giving a real insight into the lives of local families. The page below lists the expenditure from October 20<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup> 1787 by George Measam & Richard Marbrow, Overseers for that year. The Overseers were drawn from the better off tenant farmers and tradesman, serving for one year. They were also likely to serve a year as Constable, Highway Surveyor and Church Warden.

Typical payments are those to Mary Bryon for making shirts for Mary Shaw's child. Such payments are very frequent in the accounts with paupers' shoe repairs a very common, and surprisingly expensive, item. Payments were made to a range of inhabitants in need ranging for the long term support of the old, through paying part or all of their rent and the supply of coal in winter, to short term support for the sick and unemployed. Housing assistance also included repairing the houses of those in need; the general quality of the housing stock was very low in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The first item in the accounts details payment for wood for William Roberts' house with payments in later weeks for thatching.

The rent payment on the 21<sup>st</sup> for Wilkinson of Ticknall illustrates the point that the Overseers were responsible for all those with settlement rights in Repton wherever they happened to live. The last item, postage from Chesterfield, relates to those, originally of Repton, in need there. It also explains why the Overseers were so keen to deny newcomers settlement rights in Repton.

The rest of the page concerns John Capewell. The full story will have to wait until I have seen the relevant paperwork at the Record Office; i.e. his settlement examination and certificate. John Capewell of Breadsall, widower, had married Ann Meakin of Repton on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1787 but there was clearly a story to tell as on November 12<sup>th</sup> the Overseers gave 1s to 'Parker's man of Barrow for intelligence of Capewell'. The accounts note various payments to lawyers and JPs and the November 2<sup>nd</sup> payments to Richard Mousley (publican at The Boot) and to George Ford for 'tenting' Capewell suggest that he had in effect been arrested. Christopher Jowett, the Constable for that year, also got involved as he also claimed expenses for taking Capewell to Derby. A journey to Derby in the Constables Accounts usually means Derby gaol.

I will try to find out more of John Capewell for the next newsletter."

	P. M <sup>r</sup> Taylor's Bill for wood	10 5
	for W <sup>m</sup> Roberts House	
	P. W <sup>m</sup> Measham half a years	
	Rent for W <sup>m</sup> Meakin Due	7 6
	Michaelmas last	
21	P. Wilkinson's Rent of Tichm <sup>r</sup>	
	Due Michaelmas last	10 0
	Gave Mary Woolstone in want	6
	Gave Roger in want	1 0
27	For going to Barrow to take	
	John Capewell	1 6
28	For going part of the to Derby	
	with In <sup>r</sup> Capewell	1 6
29	P. M <sup>r</sup> Hutchinson on account	1 13 6
	of In <sup>r</sup> Capewell	
	P. M <sup>r</sup> Goodall & the Clarke	7 9
	For going to M <sup>r</sup> Monday's for	
	a Warrant for In <sup>r</sup> Capewell	1 6
	P. for the Warrant	1

	P. for the Warrant	1
	P. a man for taking the <sup>warrant</sup> <del>Warrant</del>	0 6
	to M <sup>r</sup> Monday to be sign'd	
30	Self & Rich <sup>d</sup> Marlrow going	
	to M <sup>r</sup> Monday's with Capewell	3
	P. for the Examinations Copy	2
	Expences that Day	3
31	P. Mary Bryon for making	
	2 Marks for Mary & Shaws Child	0 8
Nov 2	P. Rich <sup>d</sup> Mousley's Bill on	
	Capewell's account	1 5 2 1/2
	P. Geo Ford tenting In <sup>r</sup> Capewell	3 6
	P. Joseph Banton for D <sup>o</sup>	2
	P. James Louclou	1
	P. Joseph Purnlain - <sup>field</sup>	1
5	P. for a Letter from Chester	0 5
		<hr/> 5 18 5

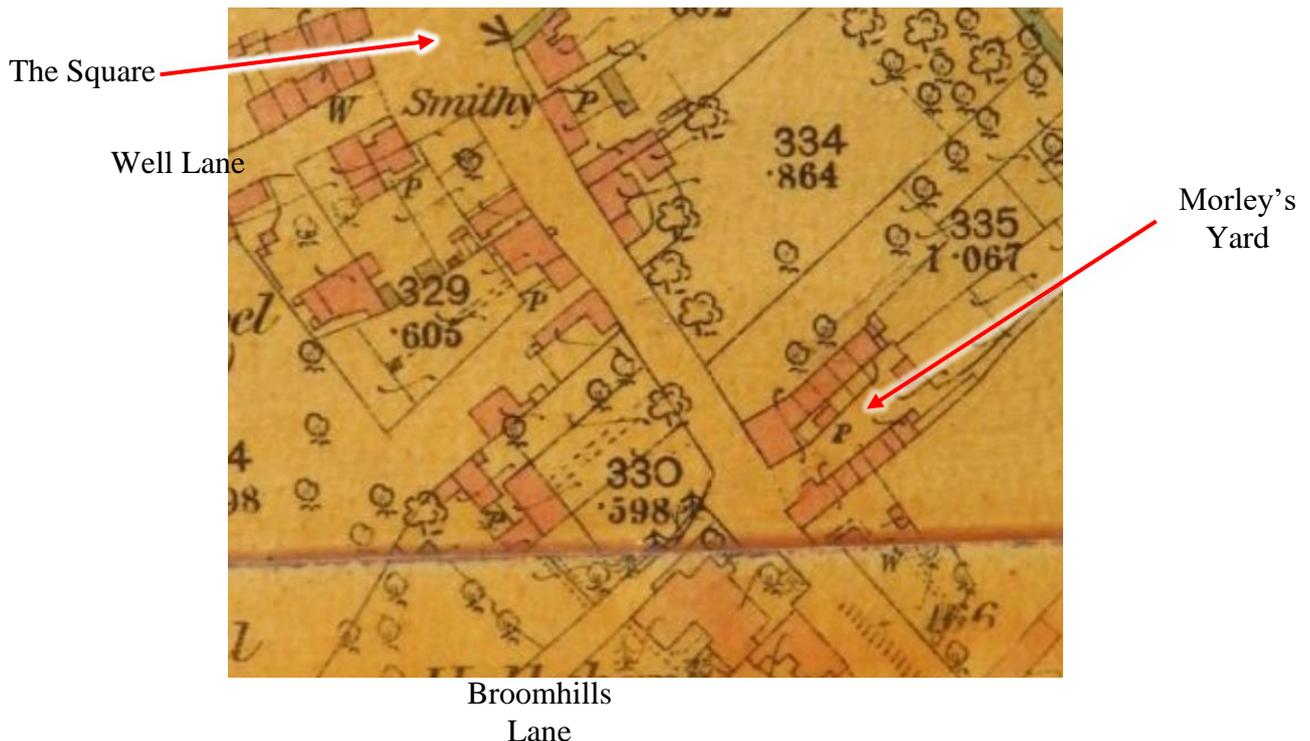
From the accounts of the Overseers of the Poor 1752 - 1822

**Morley's Yard** - where Ivor, our Vice Chairman, grew up.

There are a number of places in Repton which carry someone's name. Examples include Pegg's Well and Matthew's Jitty. Morley's yard is another. It runs at right angles to Main Street and although very unlikely to have medieval origins, does fit that street pattern. It is almost opposite Broomhills Lane and is now just 3 properties: Spring Cottage and its neighbour, then - going south - comes the yard and one more house.



In the 1880s there were 2 ranges of cottages separated by the yard - each with a bigger house by the road. On the northern side it was what is now Spring Cottage with a timber framed house on the southern side. In Ivor's time there were just 4 families there: Edith and Alice Smedley and Mrs Emma Wood in Spring Cottage, the Sandars next to them and the Colliers beyond with George Smedley across the yard. In 1881 there were 10 or 11 dwellings with the two larger ones against the road, one on each side.



The 1829 map is not so clear but does have plot numbers that relate to the 1830 and 1842 land tax surveys so we can see who owned it and who was living there at the time.



1829 map

We find that plot 723, recognisably Morley's Yard, was owned by Thomas Morley in 1830 and occupied by Joseph Bull, John Greaves, William Hallam, Sam Johnson (a stonemason), James Meakin, Robert Osb, and William Sturgess.

In fact Thomas Morley lived at plot 722 which is described as House, Barn, Yard and Garden and so he was presumably in what we now know as Spring Cottage.

12 years later (1842) he is still there in plot 722 but with the Osb family in part of it. However, Robert Morley (Thomas's brother) is now listed as owner of 723 with William Sturgess and James Meakin occupying it. Robert actually lived across the road and nearer the Square.



1901 map

The 1901 map shows little change from 1881. Ivor was not there until just after the war.



Interestingly, the layout on the 1762 map is slightly different, but the southern building by the road has the same shape as on the 1881 and 1829 maps - with a porch or square bay sticking out. We have a photo of a corner of it from before it was demolished and it is of timber frame construction. So just possibly it was there in 1762.

Morley's yard

The timber framed house on the southern side by the road - which may have been there in 1762. Note the bay or porch.

1762 map.



The photo on the left is taken looking up towards Main Street and shows the timber framed house on the southern roadside corner.



Another view

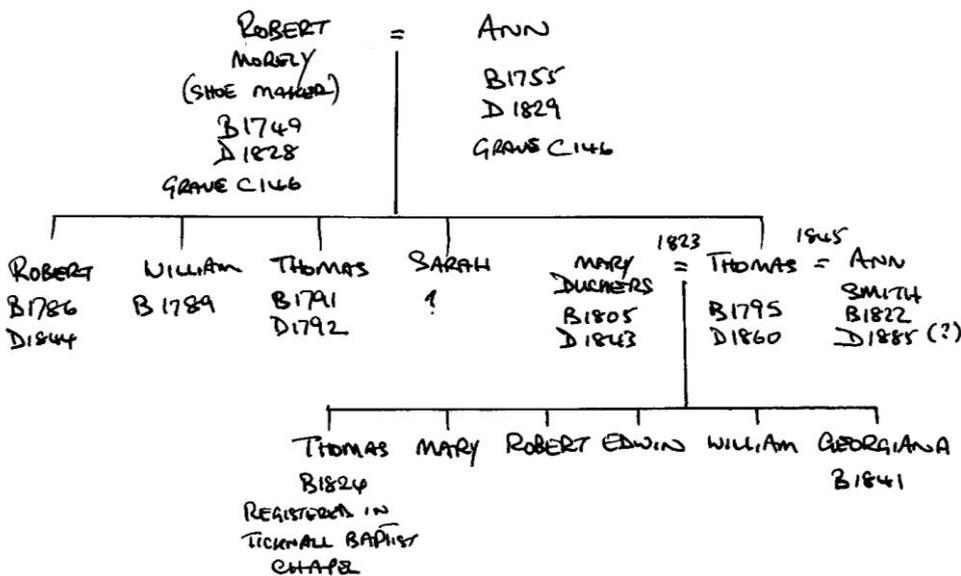


Demolished!

Ivor has a notion that there was an early Baptist meeting house here, and it is interesting that the birth of Thomas's first born (also Thomas) is recorded in the register of Ticknall Baptist Chapel in 1824.

Thomas (senior) was one of three children we found for his father Robert (a shoemaker) and his mother Ann. Their first born was also Robert, a Thomas came next but died aged one and their third child was also named Thomas - the owner of Morley's yard in 1830. He (by now a farmer) married Mary Duckers from Bradby (Bretby) in 1823 and they had 7 children with Thomas (junior) as their first. Mary died in 1843 and Thomas (Senior) remarried 2 years later to Ann Smith (27 years his junior) in Derby where he seems to have settled and was a "proprietor of houses and land". He died there but was buried in Repton in 1860 aged 65.

MORELY'S YARD



He died there but was buried in Repton in 1860 aged 65.

Charles has transcribed the 1828 probate of Robert (Senior) and found another son William and a daughter Sarah. We can confirm William but we don't know where Sarah fits in the sequence.

Remembering Charles's notes above on the poor law, it is interesting to look through the census and note that several of the families and individuals in Morley's Yard were paupers. In 1851, there were Mary Boden (widowed) and her two young

boys, Dorothy Turner (widowed), John Greaves (widower and ex-soldier) and Hannah Chapman (widowed).

Others were farm workers, several lace runners, char women, and a couple of pattern makers. Lace runners were outworkers who took in machine-made lace and embroidered (or ran) “gimps” - borders in a heavier thread around parts of the patterns that the machines could not incorporate.

The Thorpe family appears close by in the censuses and by 1861 Georgiana Morley (Thomas Junior’s youngest child), her older sister Mary and Catherine Thorpe are in service in London. Head of the household is John Burbridge, Butler to Lady Ann Beckett.

The Morleys are an old Repton family and the earliest parish record we have is for Gilbert, son of Thomas Morley, baptised in 1592. So they were around a long time before the 1762 map and may have owned the premises shown on it where Morley’s yard is today. The Morley brothers inherited a lot of land and properties in Repton in 1828 when their father Robert (the shoemaker) died and Charles has many references to the family in various documents. There is an interesting story for another issue.

We have also been talking to Ivor about his memories, and his recollections of Morley’s Yard will be included in the next issue

**Lost at Sea:** Tim describes a stone in the Newton Solney churchyard - presumably part of a kerb - which remembers Ronald Lomas who was lost at sea by enemy action on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1939.



He writes:

“This was one week after the war started. Having researched this a little, there is lots on the internet. He was an experienced sailor (chief engine room artificer) and was aboard HMS Oxley, a submarine, sunk just off Norway. Apparently it was kept quiet at the time but in 1950 an enquiry confirmed it was sunk not by a U boat but by HMS Triton another RN ship.

Oxley had strayed off course, Triton issued friendly flares to confirm but got no reply from Oxley, 2 x torpedoes launched with devastating results. He is mentioned on one of the memorials also at RN Chatham in Kent. This stone is laid with his parents in 1958, 8 years after the enquiry, so maybe they didn’t know or chose to say enemy action and not friendly fire?”

**Anchor Church:** Detailed physical examination and the study of the few documentary resources available has resulted in a recent paper by Edmund Simon into the origins and history of changes at these caves. He concludes that they were entirely man-made, contained a number of rooms and seems to favour an early medieval (Anglo-Saxon) origin. He asserts that St Hardulph (thought to be King Eardwulf of Northumbria) used them as a Hermitage. The Burdett’s used them as a pleasance and are supposed to have dined there on summer evenings. This sits well with the example of the subterranean rooms built by Walter Burdett at Knowle Hill. Edmund argues that Anchor Church should be grade 1 listed (if they had been, there is a good chance the gravel extraction would not have gone ahead) but they have been so hacked about that it may not be successful. He hopes for an archaeological dig some time but permissions and funding will be needed.

Comments and more information about Repton and its occupants are always welcomed.  
For more information on the newsletter content or the History Group please contact us on 01283 702448 or [rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk](mailto:rvhg@reptonvillage.org.uk) or visit our website.