



Repton Village History Group Newsletter

Summer 2022



www.reptonvillage.org.uk

Membership matters:

We are sad to have to report the death of Jeanette Griffiths who will be much missed as a committee member and, along with her husband Ron, as a regular attender at meetings. She also frequently helped with refreshments in the kitchen.

On a happier note, we were pleased to be able to organise a proper AGM this year and to have Robert Mee to speak to us again. He has given us a number of talks over the years - and his MA dissertation on the Societies for the Prosecution of Felons drew on our own archive material. His talk on lock-ups was very good and he included Russell's excellent sketch of the court leet, the stocks and the lock-up in Repton. Sadly the meeting was not well attended and has caused us to be cautious about re-starting regular talks.

John K built our test pit at the Village Party (fete) again and scores of children came and trowelled for jewels and gold coins in the sand.

Our next group meeting is planned for Tuesday 20th September in the URC School Room at 7.00pm.

Archaeological proceedings:

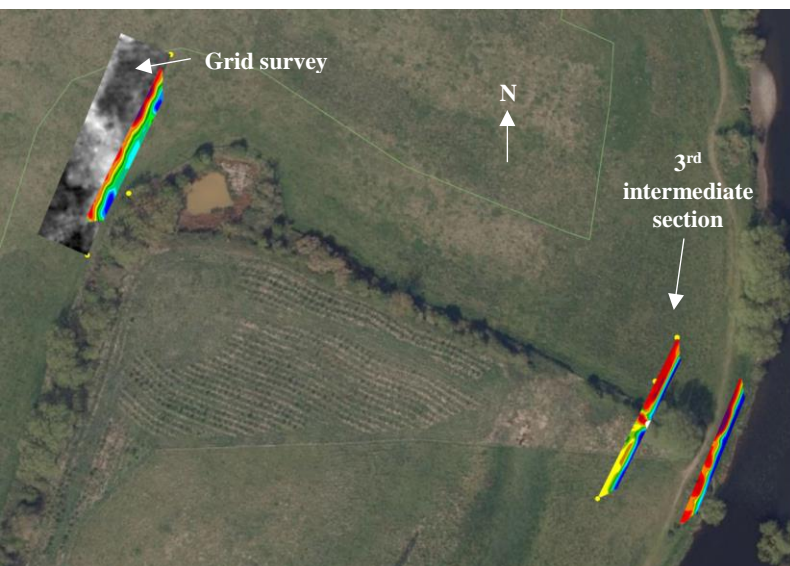
Test pits 1: (see the end for Test Pits 2)

This year we took out the more expensive insurance that covers us for archaeology and so have re-launched the test pit survey with an information board at the Village party (now in the village hall) and an item in the Village News. This time we are encouraging people to dig their own pit in their gardens and we will provide some up-front explanations, lend them the necessary kit if needed, and provide them with a recording pack. We will provide hands on help too - even to digging it for them. At an appropriate point we will dig into the coffers and get a proper archaeologist - or maybe even the PAS officer - to come and look at what everyone has found. Hopefully some finds will be old and dateable and help ascertain the location of the Anglo-Saxon settlement and the extent of the medieval village. We might also establish the rate of development of it and subsequent settlement up to the point where maps and written records will do that. Even "nothing here" tells us something about the village's past.

Via Devana:

As reported in the Spring Newsletter, we carried out some resistivity surveying to try to confirm the route of the Via Devana Roman road where it crossed the Trent between Barton Turns and Branston.

We decided the results were sufficiently encouraging to carry out another long section between the previous two and to do some grid surveys at the west end of the site where one of the earlier sections had been surveyed.



This time we were delighted to have Paula P and Hugh helping out and lovely summer weather rather than cold blustery wind. It's quite a walk over rough ground to get to the site and so we were grateful for the ride with our equipment in an elderly short wheelbase Landover that felt every tractor rut, bump and lump. Congratulations to Hugh who rode shotgun on the running boards on the way back.

The hope was that the third intermediate section would confirm that the high resistance features in the original sections ran all the way between them and that the grid surveys would add to the understanding of the area of the western section. The areas to the north and

west of the ditch had gravel extracted in the late 70s but a photograph and the LIDAR strongly suggested it finished well short of the ditch. Ash from the Trent Valley power stations had been used as the infill and the

whole re-covered with topsoil. We know the strip beside the river had not been excavated - else the river would have escaped! We also know that there had been no extraction south of the ditch - one of the palaeochannels is still in water in the winter. Incidentally, the pond contains salt water.



Paula dodging roses. The field has been seeded with meadow grasses and, for some reason, roses. They are a nightmare with the cables and lines. Margaret on the wires.



Hugh in action – slightly easier patch

The grid survey to the west revealed a patch of higher resistance (lighter grey) but it is ill defined and patchy. We noted large amounts of fused ash and clinker on the surface and so we conclude that we were seeing a buried deposit of ash over spilling from the infill. The third intermediate section was carried out in two parts, one each side of the ditch. The southern part gave a result exactly as might be expected from the natural countryside just there, but the northern side showed a very high resistance feature over its entire length. Again we had to conclude that this was probably overspill from the infilling or that the extraction came much closer than we thought.

So while the first two sections done back in March produced a result that would fit with the presence of the agger of a Roman road, we could not back that up with further evidence and it will be problematic approaching the owners (St Modwen's Homes), the leaseholder and the farming tenant for permissions to put in a trench.

We may be able to help with a watching brief when the river bank is re-profiled. Sadly they plan to introduce recreational lagoons, but will annihilate the palaeochannels and the Via Devana route in the process.



Thanks to the farming knowledge of our drone pilot, we did learn how to manage a small herd of young and very inquisitive bullocks. They kept picking up our tapes and cables in their mouths - cow slobber - Ugh! They were no

respecters of our marker canes either and we now have quite a few slightly shorter ones.

Vicarage garden and Anchor Church:

There are occasional references about the trench that has been open for several years in the vicarage garden, being worked in again this month (July). Funding was an issue but our offer of local crowd funding was declined. At last contact, Cat was seeking a knowledgeable osteoarchaeologist because they believe that there is a row of ancient graves to exhume, possibly earlier than the Anglo Saxon monastery. We are unlikely to be involved this time which is a pity because an increasing amount of Roman material has been turning up there and this could be the location of the high status Romano British building we have long suspected must be here somewhere.

There is also a plan by Ed Simmons (who wrote the Anchor Church report last year) to dig within the caves in July, but it seems they still haven't identified the owner. It surely must be the Church Commissioners who own just about all the other land around there.

Repton Studies:

We have been trying to establish who inherited the copyright of the 3 booklets written and privately published by Dr Harold Taylor in the 1970s and 80s. They contain his conclusions about the architectural development of St Wystan's church. They are now out of print but the contents are an important record that needs to be accessible to future generations. The easiest way of achieving this is to have a small stock available for people

to buy. Although they contain the statement that all proceeds will go to St Wystan's church, the copyright remained as part of his estate. We have approached Keele where he was chancellor but they could not help much. We obtained a copy of his will in order to identify his 4 children, approached the publisher of his major work on Anglo Saxon churches and scoured Ancestry and Find My past for information. We have identified his eldest son but have no information on him. Richard Finch has traced Taylor's manuscript notes to the archive of the National Monuments Record at Swindon. Taylor had actually left a note with his will with a non-binding request for them to go to Keele. So another step is to visit Swindon - they may have the manuscript notes for the booklets and might claim the copyright.

They also hold a huge stock of aerial photographs which we could study at the same time - we have never found evidence of Bronze or Iron age activity here and crop marks might be revealed.

6 to 12 Milton Road:

Sadly we are likely to lose part of the early street scene on Milton Road. There is a little courtyard once surrounded by 5 cottages - three at right angles to the road and two with their back to the road. The original toilets were at the bottom of the communal garden area. There is a proposal to demolish the roadside cottages and build a large detached house away from the road. The sellers suggest the remaining cottages might be restored but they have fallen into poor condition.

Within the conservation area, Brook End is one of the last remaining areas of "old" Repton. Very much a working area with clog makers, blacksmiths, farmers, basket makers, shoe makers and agricultural labourers.



All the buildings shown are more or less contemporary.

The cream coloured building on the left (now converted into a dwelling) included a barn and smithy and is clear on the 1829 map. The brick building is 10 and 12 Milton Rd and may be the building shown on the 1762 map. Next is the white cottages - 6 and 8. Originally 3 cottages (Repton didn't get house numbers till the 1920s or later) and became two before 1911. Then comes the white house, once a farm house for which 6 to 12 may well have been farm workers dwellings. Then there is the white house on the corner and across the road the brick building which is the smithy and next to it on the left (out of sight) Brook End Farm. So the buildings represent an important part of the social fabric of Repton



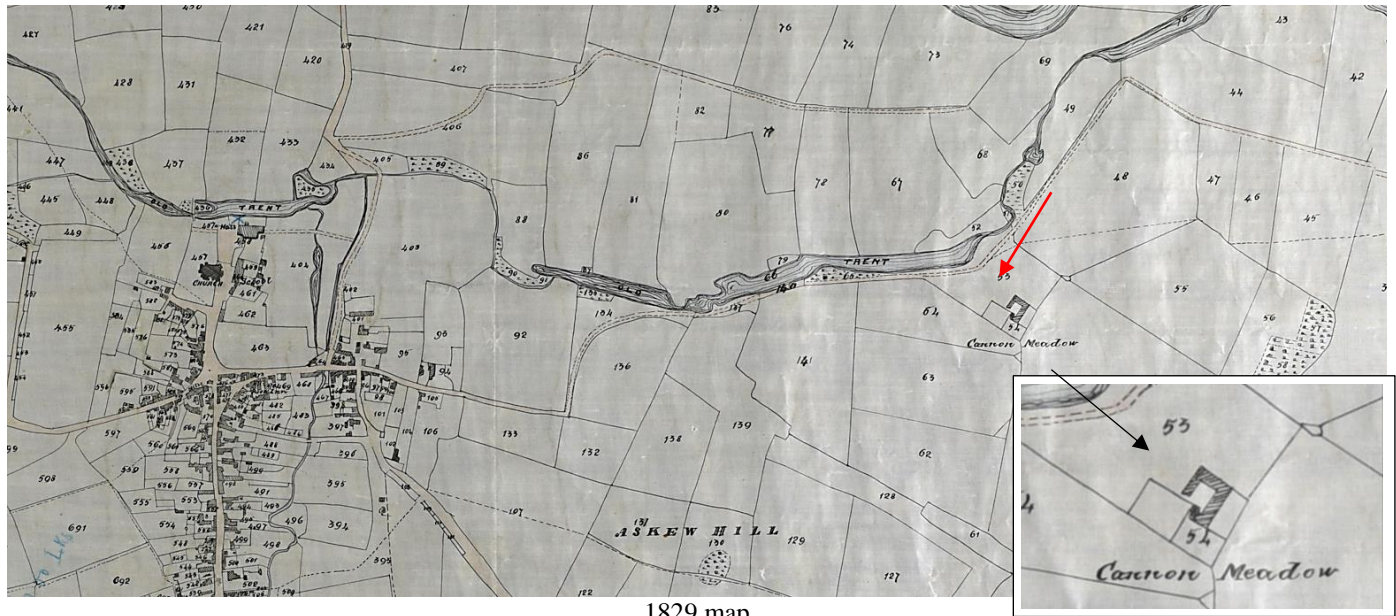
Google Earth in 1999



1762 map

Charles has researched the site and found it was owned by Henry Harpur and rented by the Eaton family for several generations. One reference in 1795 is to Sir Henry holding pew 28 [in St Wystans] by right of an ancient message in Repton in possession of William Eaton.

Meadows Farm 1:



1829 map

There is an area of land besides the footpath from Monsom lane to Twyford (Repton Marsh Road) referred to by various names over the centuries - but they all include “meadow” – Chanons Meadow, Canons Meadow, Cannon Meadow, Johnsa meadow, Johnny Meadow.... So it’s not surprising that the farm down there was Meadow Farm or that Monsom Lane was once Meadow Lane. Charles has researched the history of the farm and the results follow. However, he does point out that flooding was a problem and it eventually led to its abandonment when John and Eleanor Goodwin farmed there. Mick Shepherd worked there from when he was just 16 and was almost part of the family as was revealed in the eulogy read at his funeral. Here is an extract:

“Flooding was a way of life at the Meadows Farm and the late John Goodwin was an expert in reading the angle of approach of the water, and moving cattle to the homestead for safety. One year however, the flood was larger than normal and the Meadows Farm was cut off from the village. With supplies running low thankfully the telephone was still working and an SOS was sent out for supplies to feed those stranded. Mick and Fred Hoos borrowed the Mallender’s boat and set off for the farm with supplies. This was a one way trip until the water subsided, the currents being so strong that a return journey was impossible. It is an indication of Mick’s character that despite only being married for one week, he volunteered to take the boat down to the farm with Fred. Margaret as a new bride was left alone whilst Mick was marooned at the Meadows. The journey was dangerous and the boat had to be caught at the cattle grid at the bottom of Monsom Lane, otherwise it would have been swept on by the current into the main flow of the river. Mick was very brave to attempt the trip and placed his trust in the family and co-workers at the farm to catch the boat.

During the floods the milk lorry could not reach the farm and Mick would take churns containing milk to the cemetery at the top of Monsom Lane for collection. Two days of churns would be left in case the water got too high even for a tractor to negotiate. As time moved on, churns were no longer an option for milk and a bulk tanker was required. With the constant flooding problem causing disruption in access for the milk tanker, the Goodwin family and Mick moved to Brook Farm.”

Meadows Farm 2 Charles’ research:

Meadow Farm 1538 – 1900

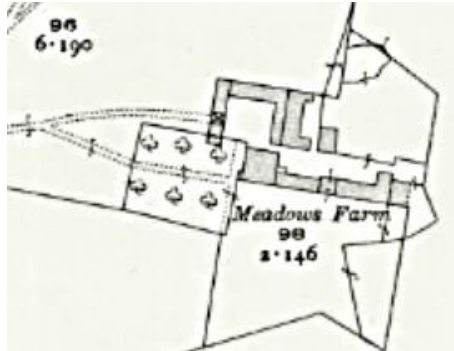
The Meadows Farm stands on the Trent flood plain to the N.E. of Repton, adjacent to the course of the Old Trent. Whilst the 1762 Repton map¹ tells us very little about the farm other than a dot indicating a possible farmhouse, the 1830 one² gives us a clear picture of the farmhouse & buildings whilst the 1920 O.S. map shows the later additions.



1762



1830

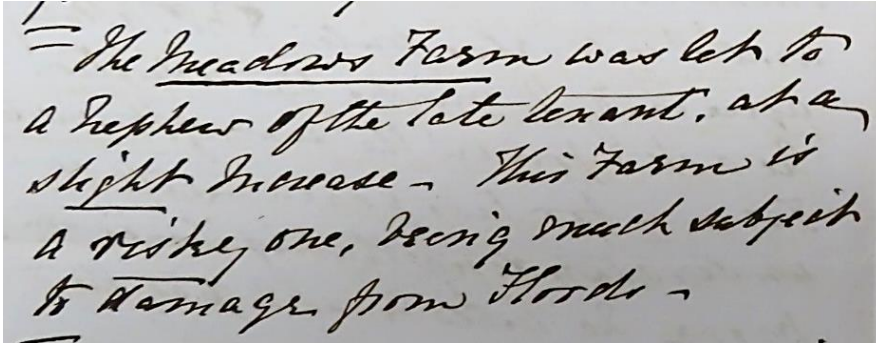


1920



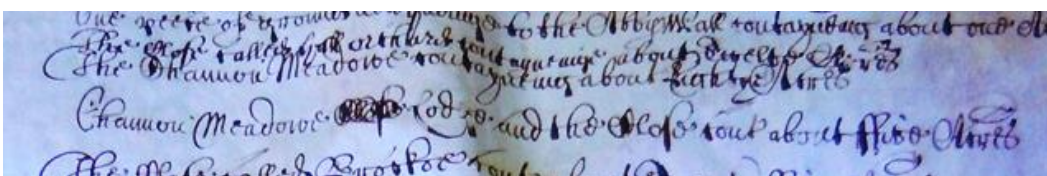
C 1950

The Burdett estate survey of 1890³ gives a detailed description of the roughly 200 acres farmed by Clifford Burnett. The proximity to The Trent was a problem in the 20th century but it was probably always an issue as indicated by the letter extract from the 1881 Burdett land agent⁴.



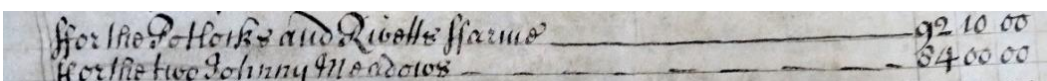
"The Meadows Farm was let to a nephew of the late tenant, at a slight increase. This farm is a risky one, being much subject to damage from floods."

Meadow Farm is now a rather neglected site with little visual evidence of its long history but it provides a good example of the wide range of documentary evidence available to the Repton historian. Named Cannon (many variants) or Johnny (more variants) until the 1880s, Meadow Farm is first recorded in a 1539 deed⁵ noting the sale of former Priory properties to Thomas Thacker. It appears to have been a meadow with no dwelling noted but by the time of Thomas Thacker's IPM in 1548⁶ it is noted as 'le Chanon meadowe' & 'Chanon meadowe logge'. Cameron in his Place Names of Derbyshire⁷ notes that 'loge' was Middle English for a hut or small house. The 1639 deed⁸ shown below lists Thacker properties in Repton whilst the 1715 list of Gilbert Thacker's lands on his death in 1708⁹ notes Rivett's farm & the two Johnny Meadows.



1639 deed

IPM= the inventory taken upon his death.



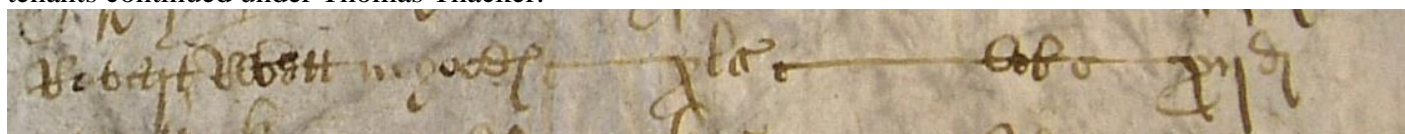
1715 listing of Gilbert Thacker's lands in 1708

"For the Potclocks and Rivetts Farms.
For the two Johnny Meadows."

The numbers are the acreage.

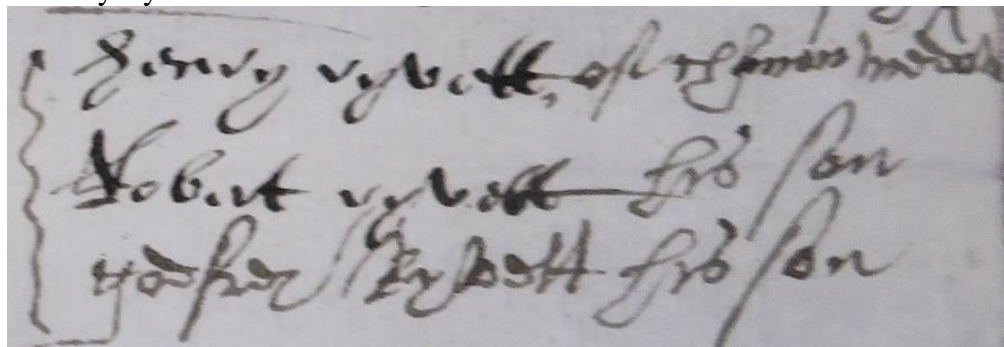
Cannon Meadow was a Thacker property until the early 18th century when the male line died out and Jane Thacker, daughter of Gilbert Thacker married Thomas Stanhope of Elvaston. After much legal wrangling between Burdetts & Stanhopes, Meadow Farm became the property of Thomas Stanhope Earl of Harrington. [*The Burdetts gained the Priory*]. Thomas passed the property to his brother Charles¹⁰ who in turn, on his death in 1760, left his Repton lands to his nephew William Stanhope, 2nd Earl of Harrington¹¹. A conveyance at Matlock¹² notes the sale of the farm in 1805 by Charles and Jane, Earl and Countess of Harrington of ‘Jonna or Cannon Meadow’ to Samuel Bristowe of Twyford. The Burdetts bought Meadow Farm from Bristowe; it first appearing in Burdett rentals in 1827¹³. The Burdetts held Meadow Farm for the next century, eventually selling to the Prudential Assurance Company in 1940¹⁴.

As is usually the case, identifying the tenants of the farm is more difficult than the proprietors but they can be identified for much of the last 500 years with three families dominating the story. A 1538 indenture¹⁵ notes Thomas Thacker leasing to Robert Ryvet his weir called the Convent Weir, the under fishing of his small water, and the house and close at a rent of 26s 8d and half a stick of eels. *The Rivett Family* by Douglas Rivett-Carnac¹⁶ gives a detailed history of the Rivett family of Convent Wear & Cannon Meadow. He assumes Convent Weir & Cannon Meadow are coterminous which appears from the map to be a reasonable assumption; Cannon Meadow is very close to the course of the Old Trent. Robert Revett appears in a 1524 Repton tax return¹⁷ and may have been the Convent Weir tenant before the priory was dissolved; many of the Priory’s tenants continued under Thomas Thacker.



[*The term Weir often referred to a fish trap. One was found in the Old Trent Water near to Meadow Farm by John Goodwin Snr. Bunty Marshall arranged for the timbers to be carbon dated. The results were not straightforward but it was diagnosed as medieval*]

A 1589 Repton Manor court roll¹⁸ notes Henry Ryvett of Channon Meadow, Robert’s son and Robert & Godfrey Ryvett his own sons.



“Henry Ryvett of Channon Meadow

Robert Ryvett his son

Godfrey Ryvett his son”

Henry died in 1594 with his son Robert taking over the farm and fishery. Robert died in 1622 and his probate inventory describes him as ‘Robert Ryvette of Channone Meadowe in the parish of Repingdon fisherman’¹⁹. The inventory shows him to have been both fisherman and a small-scale farmer with a boat as well as three kine. Robert’s son Godfrey was tenant until his death in 1657 being succeeded by his son, also Godfrey, who died in 1693. He is described as a yeoman of Channell Meadow in his probate inventory²⁰ and all mention of fishing has disappeared. His son, another Godfrey, took over but he died aged only 41 in 1708²¹. His two sons, who both appear in the Repton School Register²², were too young to take over the tenancy so the Rivett connection to Cannon Meadow came to an end. Nothing remains of the farmhouse but it is likely to have been a modest thatched single story dwelling of two rooms with wattle & daub walls. The 1662 Hearth Tax returns²³ note it had just one hearth when over thirty Repton houses had two or more. By the time of Godfrey’s inventory in 1708²⁴ it had been improved with two chambers over the original house & parlour.

After the last Rivet departs there is a gap in the documentary record until 1771²⁵ when the Earl of Harrington leases ‘Canon or Johna Meadow & the Rivolt tenement’ for 31 years to Mr Newton, grazier, and Thomas Newton, currier. The Newtons were an old Repton family and may have been tenants prior to 1771. Unfortunately few Harrington rentals have survived but one that does, records John Jowett & Thomas Newton paying £52 10s each from 1782 – 85²⁶.

Repton		
John Jowett	52	10
Thomas Newton	52	10
	105	

To be SOLD,

At the RED LION INN at BURTON-UPON-TRENT, in the County of Stafford, on Monday the 20th Day of September next, (if not previously disposed of);

ALL that **GRAZING FARM**, with a Messuage-Houfe thereon newly erected, situate within the Liberty and Priory Manor of **Repton** in the County of Derby, and Tythe-free, containing 206 Acres, and now in the respective Occupations of Mr. Thomas Newton, junior, and Mr. John Jowett, by virtue of their Leases, 23 Years of which are unexpired at Lady-Day next.—The above Estate is greatly underlett: The Tenants will shew the Premises.

For further Particulars Enquire of Mr. SEVERN at Elvafton, near Derby; or of Mr. FROGATT in Lisle-street, Leicefter-Fields, London.

We do know that the farmhouse had been rebuilt, presumably in brick & tile at this period, from a Derby Mercury advert²⁷ of August 1779, although the farm remained in Stanhope hands.

A Jowett or a Newton or both remained as tenants until 1827, although the relationship between the two families remains unclear. The Land Tax returns²⁸ note Thomas Newton & John Jowett as tenants from 1780 through to the late 1790s but by 1800 Henworth Newton is the sole tenant and he retained the tenancy when the Stanhopes sold the farm to Samuel Bristow in 1805. Henworth Newton died in 1828²⁹ and that year saw both a new owner, Sir Francis Burdett, and a new tenant in William Bull junior. The 1828 Repton survey entry³⁰ shown below relates to Channon Meadow Farm.

Bull William Burdett Sir F. Bart. Homestead

William was only 27 when he took over the tenancy but he came from a very long established and prominent Repton farming family. He paid £272 rent in 1828 for the homestead & 103 acres³¹. In 1843 William Astbury, while visiting Repton, recorded: “On to Bulls farm yard of the Meadows - milks 33 cows. Mr Samuel Ward says in the winter the house is often surrounded by water, it frequently runs through Bull’s garden, Mr Bull is a martyr to rheumatism! William appears to have prospered with the 1851 Census listing five children & four farm or household servants. William Bull died in April 1871, his wife Ann had died the year before³², and the tenancy went to his son George. George Bull died aged only 48 & childless in August 1881³³ and was succeeded by a nephew, Clifford Burnett. Clifford Burnett is still tenant in Kelly’s Trade Directory of 1904 but by the 1911 Census Alfred Mortimer from Devon had taken over. Documents yet to be examined in the Burdett archives, especially the post 1890 rentals & estate correspondence from the 1820s, should provide additional information & I am hoping to discover more from the voluminous early 18th century Chancery records of the Stanhope -Burdett legal disputes.

Notes on sources:

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Staffs Record Office | D516/M/8/16 | 17. National Archives | E179/92/174/2 |
| 2. Derbs Record Office | D638/A/PO/588 | 18. Derbs Record Office | D2375/A/D/5/1/4) |
| 3. Derbs Record Office | D5054/18/3 | 19. Staffs Record Office | Robert Rivett probate 1622 |
| 4. Wilts Record Office | 2872/133 | 20. Staffs Record Office | Godfrey Revett probate 1693 |
| 5. National Archives | C109/87/20 | 21. Repton Parish Registers | Nov 16 th 1708 |
| 6. National Archives | C 142/86/25 | 22. Repton School archives | |
| 7. Place Names of Derbyshire, 1959, by K Cameron, p741 | | 23. National Archives | E179/94/378 |
| 8. Derbs Record Office | D2375/D/D/36/2/15 | 24. Staffs Record Office | Godfrey Rivet probate 1708 |
| 9. National Archives | C 11/749/29 | 25. Derbs Record Office | D518/ME/105 |
| 10. National Archives | PROB 11/637/281 | 26. Derbs Record Office | D518/MF/170-184 |
| 11. National Archives | PROB 11/854/306 | 27. Derby Mercury | Aug 13 th 1779 |
| 12. Derbs Record Office | D518/MT/446-52 | 28. Derbs Record Office | Q/RE/6/R/1780 etc. |
| 13. Derbs Record Office | D156/M/A/7/1-12 | 29. Leicester Journal | Feb 29 th at Sutton Bonnington aged 57 |
| 14. Wilts Record Office | 2872/271 | 30. Derbs Record Office | D589,ZPO,3 |
| 15. National Archives | C109/87/20 | 31. Wilts Record Office | 2872/49 |
| 16. Rivett Family of Repton & Derbyshire, 1980, by Douglas Rivett-Carnac | | 32. Repton MIs: (D58) | |
| | | 33. Repton MIs: (D61) | |

Meadows Farm 3:

In our digital archive is a newspaper article written by Maude E Mugliston who was a journalist born in Douglas Street, Derby in 1869. The Muglistons were an old Repton family. She brings the story of Meadow Farm up to date explaining how the Burdetts sold the land to the Church Commissioners. As a young girl, her visit would be around 1880 and she probably wrote the article around 1950 by which time the Goodwins

were tenants. Wilfred and Annie moved to Meadows Farm around 1935 and stayed until 1951 when their son John William Goodwin married Eleanor Goodall and moved into the farmhouse. John and Eleanor remained at Meadows Farm until around 1970 when they moved to Brook Farm. Farming was switching from churns to bulk tanks for milk and the Church Commissioners would not modernise Meadows Farm to accommodate a bulk tank, as in times of flood the milk tanker would not be able to access the farm. Meadows Farm was subsequently demolished by the Church Commissioners.

DERBYSHIRE CHEESE-MAKING SEVENTY YEARS AGO

(By MAUDE M. MUGLISON)

*Seventy years ago, Annie,
Seventy years ago.*

It was Tennyson's "Grandmother" who used to say this when she was telling stories to "Little Annie" about the days of her youth.

The story I am telling to-day is of cheese-making in a Derbyshire farm-house, when I was a little child.

The Meadow Farm—it was always called "The Meadows," when I used to spend happy holidays there—is at Repton, over the Monsom Hill, on the banks of the Old Trent, a backwater, that spreads from behind Repton School to Foremarke and Anchor Church.

When I knew it, the farm belonged to the Foremarke estate, but Sir Francis Burdett sold it and it now belongs to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Life on a dairy-farm is always full of interesting happenings, but I think I liked watching the cheese-making best of all.

Every morning, directly after breakfast, I used to go with my aunt and "Mary"—the dairy-maid—into the brewhouse. This was near the kitchen—the nicest old farm-house kitchen you could imagine, and a covered way led from the kitchen door to the brew-house. On the floor was a huge vat into which the men had emptied the new milk as they brought it from the cowsheds.

A wooden ladder was laid across the vat and on this was placed the "sile-bowl," or strainer. Then rennet was put into the milk, and, by the time we got into the brew-house, the milk was set into a solid mass of curd.

In those days rennet was not bought in the form of essence or tablet as it is now—it was just the dark dried skin of a calve's stomach, which was kept nailed on the kitchen wall, with a piece of newspaper behind it to keep it from marking the paint.

Each evening, a piece was cut off, and soaked in water overnight and it was this water that was poured off into the new milk.

The first process was the



breaking-up of the curd. This was done by a long-handled plunger, the base of which was formed of crossed wires.

When the curd was thoroughly broken up, the ladder was replaced over the vat and a round sieve, lined with a large piece of muslin—or cheese-cloth, as it was called—was placed on it. The curd was then lifted out in bowls and placed in the sieve. The ends of the cloth were gathered up and tied over the cheese, which then had heavy weights put upon it.

After about a quarter of an

hour, the weights were removed and the cloth was untied. Then the curd was cut into slices with a knife, and worked with the hands until it was in very fine crumbs. It was then salted, and again tied up and a circular band of metal was slipped between the cloth and the sieve. This was to form the shape of the cheese.

"THE QUEEDLE"

And then, to me, began the high light of the process. The cheese was removed and put on a perforated board, and it was "queedled." The queedle was

made of strong plank which was held by four metal bolts fixed into slots in the wall. The plank was placed under this and a dairy-maid and often a farm-lad or two, sat on the loose end of the plank, which went up and down, like a see-saw.

It was a great delight to me to be put on the queedle and there for the performance, which was intended to squeeze the last drop of whey out of the cheese.

When they were satisfied that this was done, the cheese was taken out and put under the stone cheese press and wedged down. This press had several weights attached to the top and was worked with a screw, on the same principle as a clothes press.

The press would hold several cheeses and as a new one was added in, an older one was taken and carried to the plastered garret to which steps led from the kitchen.

Every morning the dairy-maid used to sweep the cheeses in this garret with a clean soft brush for the purpose, and about a week the cheeses had to be turned over.

When they stayed there until the buyer came with his cart and they were taken away.

The Meadow Farm is now in the occupation of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Goodwin, by whose courtesy the picture with this article was taken by our staff photographer.

Mrs. Goodwin tells me the old farmhouse is no more. It was pulled down to make room for their modern dairy from which 150 to 200 gallons of milk is sent every day to Burton.

There is no cheese-making done there now, but they were pleasant days that I remember. And in those days, dairy-maids and farm servants were hired at the Statutes Fair held at Repton each Michaelmas. A girl received her shilling and was engaged for a year, and if she was satisfactory and it was a good "place" she turned up at the Statutes every year and took her shilling again. But my memories, as I said, are of "seventy years ago."

Article from about 1950

Test Pits 2:

We dug a couple of test pits a few years back - one close to the Crescent which found post war bits and pieces, one off Burton Rd which found the land had been raised and in the infill was a medieval floor tile and some gypsum which may have come from a floor of a building under the telephone exchange and thought to be Norman.

Now Hugh and his dad have just finished digging a test pit which has some interesting features. It contained the remnants of a buried post set in fairly modern concrete (1930s?) which is sitting on a rough block of lime mortar which in turn is sitting on a surface under which is a layer of leaves - really well preserved. But there was also clear evidence of another surface. At the moment the theory is that it is a gate post which replaced an even earlier one. Various interesting finds emerged and are being studied. There were the ubiquitous clay pipe stems, pottery through the ages, signs of a bonfire, bits of bone and glass and a couple

more interesting finds from some 60cm down which are worth taking to the Portable Antiquities Officer at the museum. It is all being documented now and the plan is to include more detail in the next newsletter.

Studies of the maps indicate that there was nothing there in 1829, but by 1881 there was a small building. The Repton School property register records that it was a stable and carriage house belonging to James Green which they bought in 1891 and converted it to a dwelling in 1916. Perhaps the building stabled horses connected with the tannery – kept at the top of the rather steep hill.



Non-ferrous item found between the two “floor” surfaces - some 60cm down.



Part glazed wheel thrown pot sherd from a similar depth

Programmes of talks: Here are the programmes of historical talks from other local societies that we are aware of:

Barrow - St Wilfreds. 7.00, £3.00. Free parking. 07841480691
 3rd August Vikings in the East Midlands - Dr Rebecca Gregory
 7th September The alabaster men of Burton - Moira Acker
 5th October Saints and Rogues in Barrow on Trent

Chellaston History Group - St Peter's Church hall, 7.30pm
 30th August Last English Peer to be hanged for Murder (4th Earl Ferrers) - Gay Evans.
 27th September Medieval Medicine - Gareth Howell.
 25th October A History of Melbourne - Philip Heath
 29th November World War One - Ashley Waterhouse.

Hilton History Group - Hilton House Hotel 7.30pm £3.00 - hiltonhistory@gmail.com
 1st September Derbyshire holders of the Victoria Cross - Paul Newsham
 6th October Mary Queen of Scots (final instalment) - David Templeman
 3rd November Sudbury gasworks

Aston On Trent History Group - Memorial Hall 7.30 4th Tuesday.
 27th September Derby's other railway -Ken Anderson
 25th October Regenerating Aston Hall Lake - Steve Deakin
 22nd November The Mummer's Play -Tony Razzell.

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 or visit our website.