

A TRIBUTE TO EDWARD G. WAKE ON THE 150TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE PUBLICATION OF HIS BOOK  
'THE HISTORY OF COLLINGHAM AND ITS  
NEIGHBOURHOOD'

November 2017

REDISCOVERING  
E. G. WAKE M.D.  
(1829-1895)

Edward George Wake M.D.

1829 -1895

Surgeon for North Collingham c 1853 – 1877

& author of

*'The History of Collingham and Its Neighbourhood.'*

Edward Wake came to North Collingham in about 1854 to take over the North Collingham medical practice of the previous surgeon, George Harwood Fletcher MD, who had died the previous year. Wake stayed in Collingham for almost a quarter of a century during which time he married, raised a family, served as the 'surgeon' (the term 'GP' came later) for North Collingham and pursued his interest in local history.

In 1867, *The History of Collingham* was printed by Charles Ridge of Bridge Street, Newark. A reprint, known as the 'Cheaper Edition' followed in 1869.

*The History of Collingham* remains the definitive history of the village and the following notes are to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its publication.

HP Nov. 2017

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## 1. Introduction to *The History of Collingham and Its Neighbourhood*

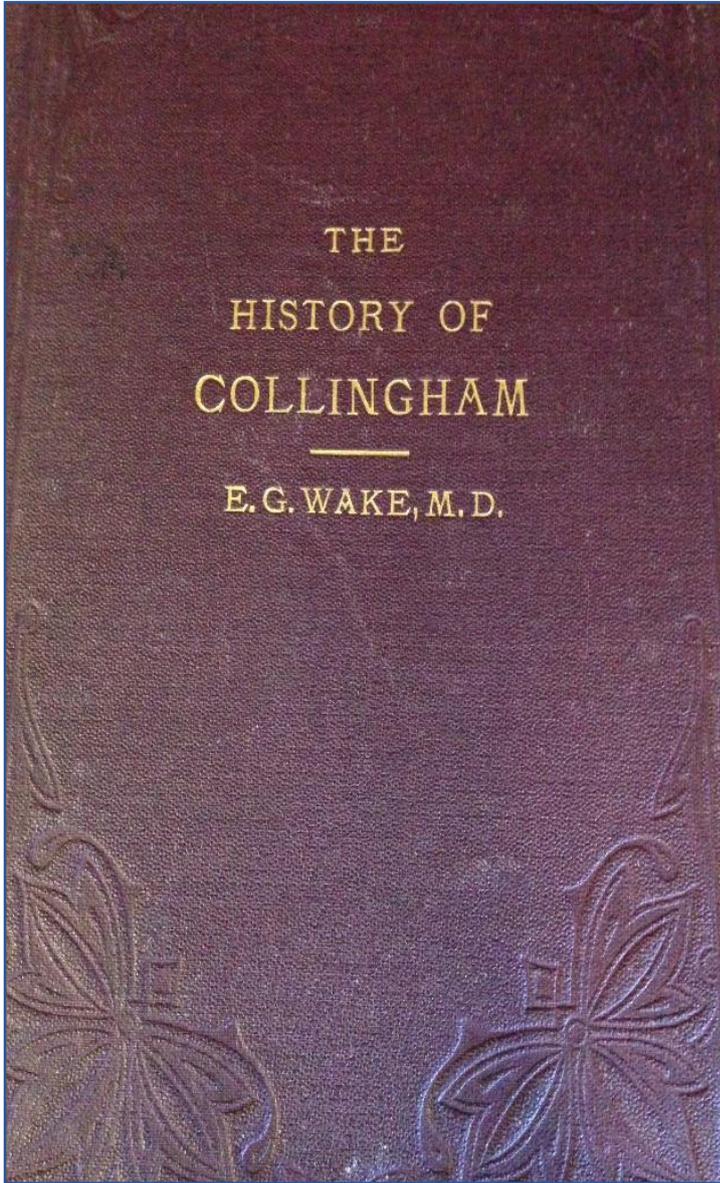


Figure 1 Image of the original edition of *The History of Collingham* c/o Collingham and District Local History (CDLHS) Society (URN VH/XX1a)

Edward Wake's book is a slim volume of work, the main body of which, excluding the preface and appendix, is 96 pages long. Of that, 32 pages are dedicated exclusively to Collingham<sup>1</sup>; the rest provides brief histories of the neighbouring villages 'within the northern half of the Newark Hundred'<sup>2</sup>.

*The History of Collingham* focuses primarily on the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, covers the Domesday Survey entries of 1086 and the Civil War skirmishes in the district (1643-46). Wake goes into great detail about church architecture, as many local histories did at the time, but spends less time on the immediate past (1700-1860), unless something out of ordinary happened, such as the flood of 1795 (p92) or the

discovery in 1840 of 60-70 skeletons found near Potter Hill, all with broken thigh bones (Wake p 42).

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<sup>1</sup> 'Collingham', unless otherwise stated, given to include both parishes of North Collingham and South Collingham

<sup>2</sup> See 9.1 for a definition of the Newark Hundred

The book also includes his thoughts on how the River Trent changed course and the effect that had on the landscape. There are also short accounts of notable families such as the Disneys of Norton Disney and the Nevilles of Thorney. Sometimes Wake uses stories from local residents and it's these authentic voices which prevent the book from being a dry, scholarly exercise.

Brough, with its well-documented Roman station (Crococolana), is the most detailed account of the other villages mentioned.

## 2. The Four Editions

There are four editions of *The History of Collingham*. The first was a Royal Octavo size (25 x 17 x 1.4 cm). clothbound hardback.

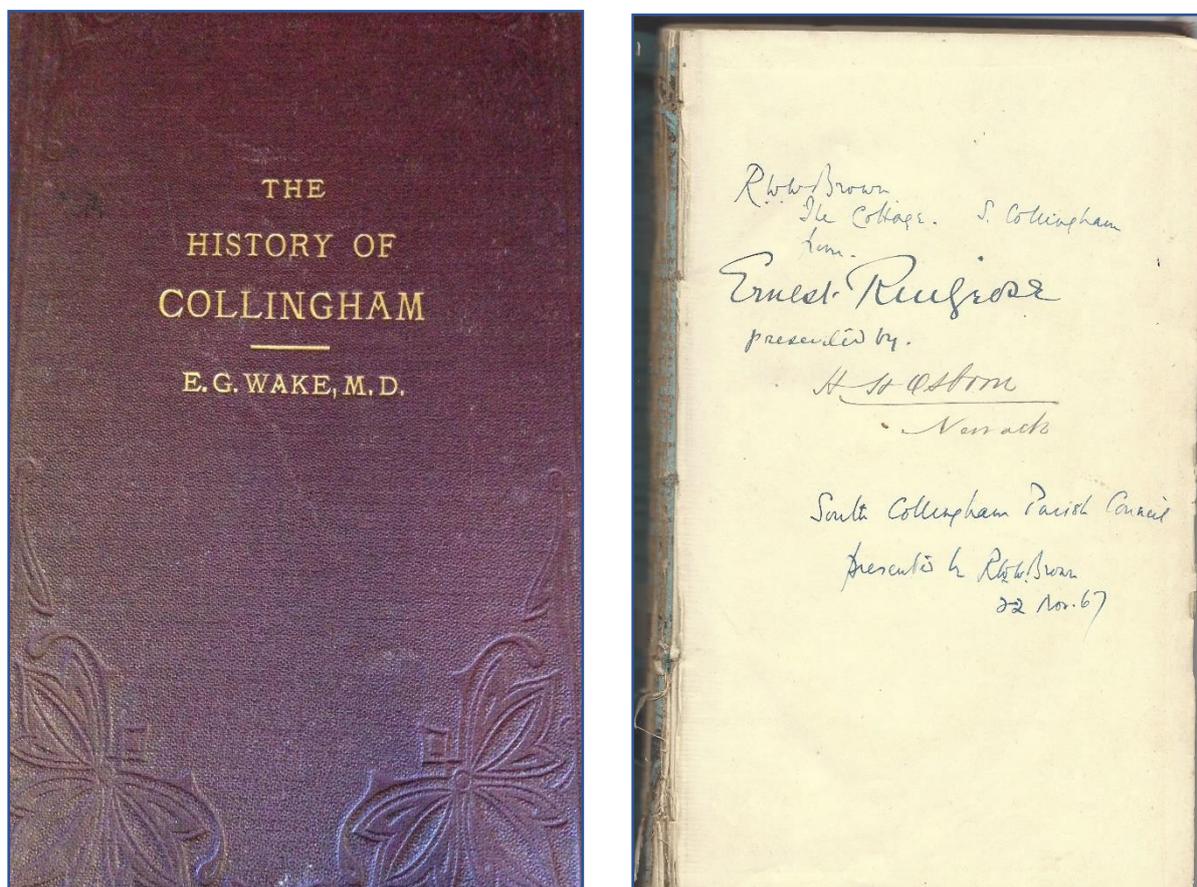
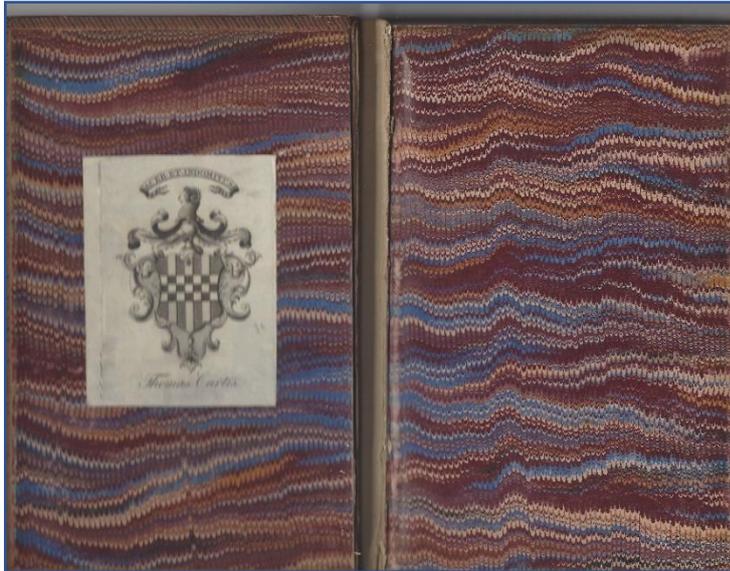


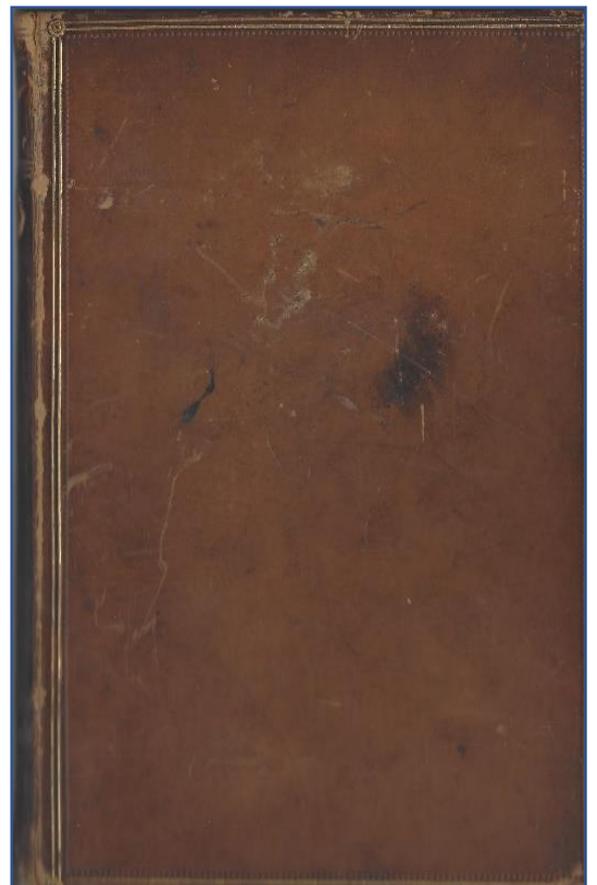
Figure 2 Above left the clothbound cover with gold lettering in Algerian typeface of the original edition. The spine is plain. Above right the handwritten dedications inside the copy donated by South Collingham Parish Council either to or by Dr Brown on his retirement in 1967. However, this date (Nov 1967) suggests it may have been a centenary gift. The book was originally presented by H H Osborn of Newark to Ernest Ringrose. Images c/o CDLHS URN: VH/XX1a

## The Second 'Cheaper Edition' 1869

This was again printed in Newark by Charles Ridge on Bridge Street. It was slightly smaller – 21 x 14 x 1.4 cm – with a brown hardback cover and gilt edging. The title is printed on the spine in this edition.

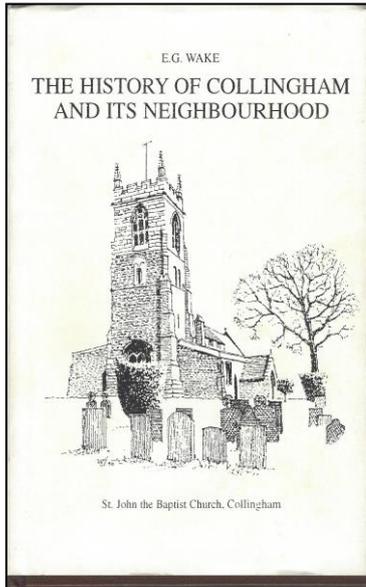


*Figure 3 (above) CDLHS copy: The marbled end papers of the 'Cheaper Edition' with an original bookplate 'Thomas Curtis'. There were several Thomas Curtis's around so it isn't clear which one originally owned this particular copy. It then came into the possession of Canon Rupert Stevens (1912 -1990), vicar of All Saints from 1956 to 1984, who donated it to Collingham Museum Committee (now CDLHS URN: VH/XX1a).*



*Figure 4 Right: Image of the 'Cheaper Edition' held in CDLHS archives.*

NB: This second edition is significant because it is the only edition which includes Appendix K, added information about the Black Book of Peterborough. See section 10.5 page 46



### Third Edition: Reprint 1998

Nottinghamshire County Council together with Collingham Parish Council and Collingham Medical Centre reprinted Wake’s book in 1998 and again in 2004. They used the size of the ‘Cheaper Edition’ as a template but included the map (in black & white) from the first edition. This edition kept to the original letterpress typography, too, and added a dust jacket.

This edition is still in print and available to buy from Collingham and Newark Libraries for £4.50.

*Figure 5 Nottinghamshire County Council 1998 special edition*

ISBN 0902751 30 1

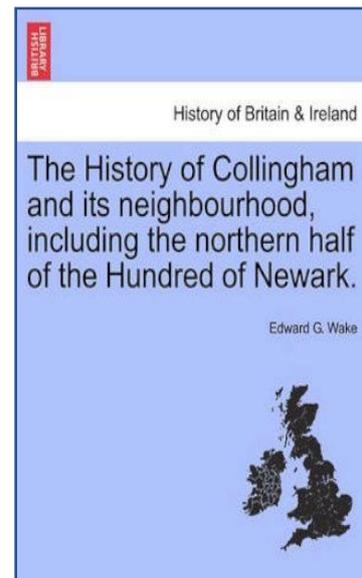
*dust jacket design by Bill Foster of Nottingham*

### Fourth Edition: March 2011

The British Library has teamed up with an American company, Brightsolid (founders of Find My Past) to digitise and print out-of-print books. A paperback edition of *The History of Collingham* is one of the titles in the British Library’s Regional Histories series.

ISBN-10 : 1241319227

Price on ebay (October 2017) £20.90



*Figure 6 Cover image of British Library edition*

## 3. Wake’s Background

Edward Wake left behind very few clues about his background. There is no photograph of him to include here or known archive of personal papers to pore over. Even as far back as 1924, the historian Robert Mellors, trying to find information for Wake’s entry in *Men of Nottingham and*

Nottinghamshire', was told by Canon Reginald Gould, then vicar of All Saints, that: 'There is no information locally obtainable'.<sup>3</sup>

The genealogy website Ancestry.co.uk didn't reveal any direct descendants to contact, either, although there is always the chance something might emerge at a later date. My starting points, apart from the book itself, were the online census returns, Newark Library's collection of trade directories and the diaries of Collingham land agent Thomas Smith Woolley Jr.<sup>4</sup> (1819 -1888). These slim pickings lead to further information, providing at least a basic profile of the man behind the book.

Edward George Wake was born in the Sculcoates district of Kingston-upon-Hull in July 1829. He was the second of twelve children born to Robert Wake (c. 1804 – 1862), a Whitby-born merchant, and Mary Wake née Hardey (1811 - 1888).

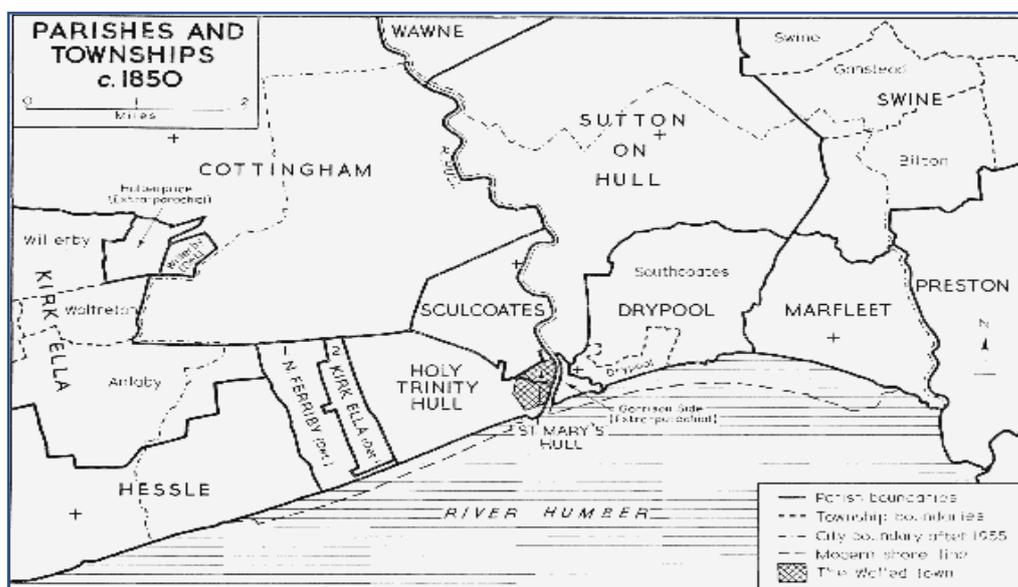


Figure 7 Map showing the Sculcoates district of Hull 1850.

The 1841 Census shows Robert and Mary Wake living on Wright Street with their eight surviving children (of ten) and three female servants. A further two children are born later: Frederick (1843-1891) and Walter (1848). Walter died in infancy.

By the next census (1851) Edward, 21, was living in Kensington, London, with his parents and younger siblings. His older brother, Robert Jr (1828-1897), had stayed behind on Wright Street in charge of the rest of the family. This arrangement probably allowed Edward to undergo training and

<sup>3</sup> See Nottingham History website: [antiquarianshttp://www.nottshistory.org.uk/monographs/mellors1924/historians.htm](http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/monographs/mellors1924/historians.htm). Canon Gould had been vicar since 1906.

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Smith-Woolley diaries from 1842 – 1870 are held in Nottinghamshire Archives Accession no 6821

gain his licence to practice medicine (LSA) from the Society of Apothecaries. At that time the Society stipulated students had to live within a certain distance of Apothecaries' Hall in Blackfriars.

A scan of Wake's licence (right) kindly supplied by the archives at The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, shows that he trained from 1845 to 1851, thus was 16 when he started and 21 when he finished. He was apprenticed to Mr Edward Wallis. Interestingly, an 'R. Hardey' is given as the Midwifery Lecturer. This was Edward's uncle, his mother's brother, Robert Hardey MRCS LSA (1803 – 1866), a lecturer at the Hull and East Riding School of Medicine and a governor at Hull General Infirmary.

NB: The term 'surgeon' rather than 'doctor' is generally used in this period. The LSA was a recognised qualification for those wishing to go in to general practice. Those who could afford the higher fees attended one of the seven London teaching hospitals such as Guy's or St Bartholomew's.

Wake's entry on the 1861 and 1871 census shows he gained further qualifications and became a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons (MRSC) and a doctor of medicine (MD).

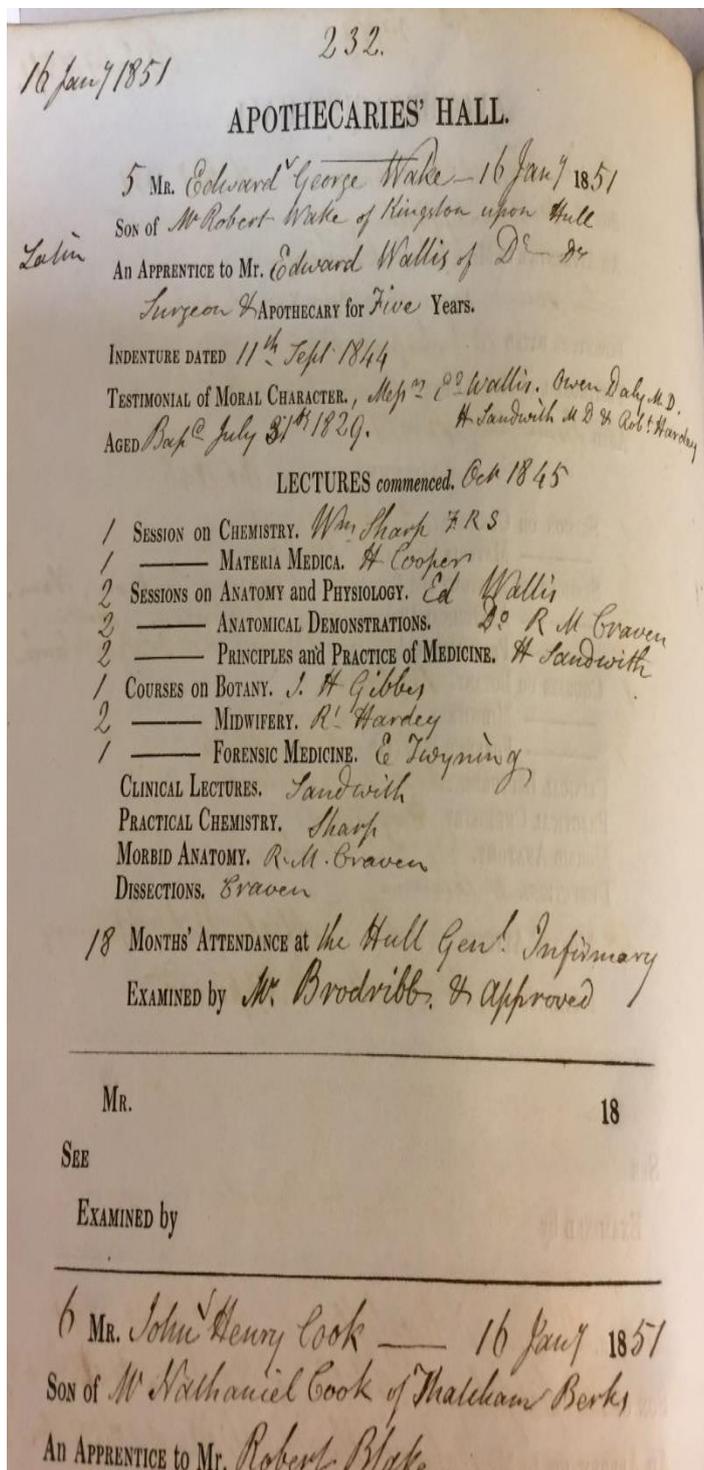


Figure 8 A scan of Edward Wake's licence.

The precise date Wake came to Collingham is unknown but is likely to be sometime in 1854. The



Figure 9 Surgeon George Harwood Fletcher's grave in All Saints' Churchyard seen here in the middle with his three pre-deceased children's headstone to the left and wife and son, William's (1844 – 1857) to the right. Photograph taken Oct. 2017 (HP)

previous surgeon of the North Collingham practice, George Harwood Fletcher MD, died in July 1853, aged 53. Mr Fletcher, much esteemed in the village and founder member of the Collingham Farmers' Club<sup>5</sup>, left behind a wife, Elizabeth (1811-1857), and five children. The youngest, Charles, was less than a year old.

According to Thomas Smith Woolley Jr's diary, an interim surgeon, a Frenchman called Dernek (sic) who, despite being a 'clever, amusing fellow'<sup>6</sup> had apparently hastened the death<sup>7</sup> in December 1853 of the 'poor railway porter at Collingham' through 'inexperience and neglect.' The Frenchman isn't mentioned again.

Wake was certainly in the village when an outbreak of cholera claimed six lives between the end of September and beginning of October, 1854.

Again, we have Woolley's diary<sup>8</sup> entry (September 30<sup>th</sup>) to thank for informing us that: 'Wake and other one reputed to be ill.'

Whether this was ill with cholera or something else is unknown. It was left to John Broadbent MD, (1824-1901) the surgeon for South Collingham and Woolley's then brother-in-law<sup>9</sup>, to deal 'single-handedly'<sup>10</sup> with the outbreak in North Collingham.

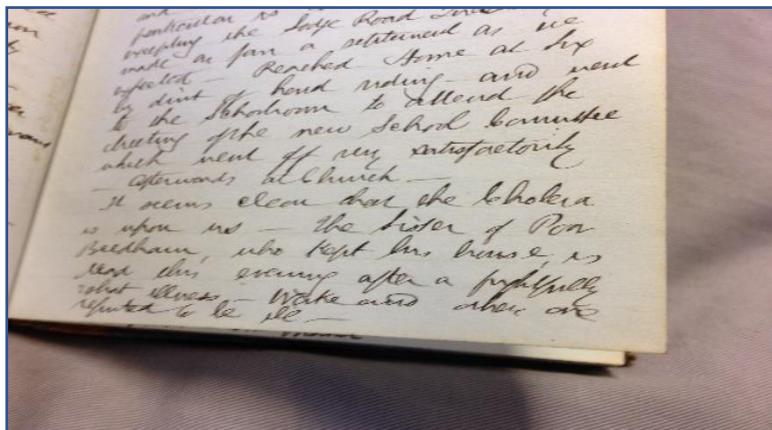


Figure 10 Bottom of the diary entry of Sept 30<sup>th</sup> 1854: 'It seems clear that the Cholera is upon us – the sister of Tom Beedham, who kept his house is dead this evening after a frightfully short illness – Wake and other one reputed to be ill.'

Photograph of Thomas Smith Woolley Jr's diary Accession no 6821 c/o HP with permissions from Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives

<sup>5</sup> Collingham Farmers' Club first met in 1841. It is now more usually referred to as 'Collingham Show.'

<sup>6</sup> Thomas Smith Woolley Jr diary entry August 8<sup>th</sup> and Fri Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1853 Nottingham Archives Accession no 6821

<sup>7</sup> Woolley's entry suggests the doctor could have been charged with manslaughter.

<sup>8</sup> Thomas Smith-Woolley Jr's diaries date from 1842 to 1870.

<sup>9</sup> Broadbent married TSW's sister, Alice Sophia Woolley, in 1851. She had died in complications leading from childbirth in April 1854. Broadbent went on to marry again (twice). His grave is next to the Smith Woolleys in South Churchyard.

<sup>10</sup> See John Broadbent's tribute from the Newark Advertiser in Collingham Archives URN: BU/C/12

In 1858, Wake married Pricilla Jane Randall, a prosperous brewer's daughter<sup>11</sup> from Great Dunmow in Essex. It isn't clear where Wake lived as a bachelor but on the 1861 census, the couple are residing in the Old Hall on Low Street with their firstborn son, Edward Baldwin (b. 1860), a cook and a nursemaid.

By 1864, when, according to his preface, Wake delivered a lecture to members of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society, he was almost 35, had been in Collingham for about ten years and married for six. Edward Jr now had two brothers; Hereward Randall (b. 1861), and Alfred Hugh (b. 1863)<sup>12</sup> all baptised in All Saints' Church, North Collingham.

The Old Hall, was, and still is, one of the village's most significant houses, and is reputedly the birthplace of composer Dr John Blow (1649-1708). The Wakes probably moved into the house after Hannah Lesiter, the previous occupant, purchased nearby Rutland House sometime after the death of her husband, the Rev. Charles Lesiter, in 1858.



*Figure 11 The Old Hall, Low Street in 2005. The building has been much altered over the years and is thought to have been the site of the original manor house for North Collingham.*

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<sup>11</sup> Pricilla's father, Richard Randall, died in 1869. His probate shows he left effects of 'under £16,000' – a considerable sum.

<sup>12</sup> Altogether, the Wakes had 8 children, all born in Collingham.

## 4. Wake as a Local Historian

Where Wake's passion for history came from is unknown. Perhaps he had been a member of an archaeological and architectural society when he lived in London. These societies were very much in vogue during the nineteenth century. Their popularity was partly due to a reaction to the speed of urbanisation swallowing up the countryside, partly in protest at the neglect of many churches and historical sites and partly as a result of the growing status of history as a professional and academic subject. They were also a way for enthusiasts to meet and discuss their subject with like-minded people<sup>13</sup>.

Wake refers several times to owning 'celts' (prehistoric arrowheads or cutting tools), suggesting he was already a collector of such things. Moving to a district where Roman coins were ploughed up with such frequency they were known as 'Brough pennies' must have delighted him.



Figure 12 Newark Siege tokens. The Thomas Ridge token was similar to this. One was donated by Collingham Museum Committee to Millgate Museum in the 1980s. Image c/o R Peacock on the Our Nottinghamshire Community History website

He would have been intrigued, too, when Sam Turner, the vicar of North Collingham, showed him currency of a different sort - a Thomas Ridge halfpenny - one of the few remaining tokens Ridge, a grocer, minted in Collingham in 1644, when Newark was under siege during the Civil War. (Wake p37). Being a native of Hull would have meant Wake was familiar with this period in English history<sup>14</sup> and he would have heard no end of anecdotes from locals, not only in Collingham but also surrounding villages such as Besthorpe, where a large sword was found in the Mons Pool.<sup>15</sup>

Add to this the existence of two ancient churches, two rivers, a market cross, gallows, skeletons with broken thigh bones and a myth of pious nuns cutting off their noses to prevent themselves being assaulted by Danes<sup>16</sup> and it is easy to imagine Wake being incredulous that none of this had been recorded. Why

<sup>13</sup> Philippa Levine's 'The Amateur and the Professional – Antiquarians, Archaeologists and Historians in Victorian Britain' pub. by CUP in 1986 is excellent on this subject.

<sup>14</sup> The Governor of Hull, Sir John Hotham helped precipitate the Civil War when he denied King Charles entry to the city in 1642.

<sup>15</sup> See foot-note on p 48 Wake. *Stories persist that Cromwell's men set fire to the thatched roofs of houses on Low Street as punishment for some occupants being alleged Royalist sympathisers. The late Mr Reg Golland (b. 1927) was convinced the burnt timbers in the central roof space of the Little House (16 Low St) where he lived, were evidence of this. The property belonged to the Manor and parts of it date back to 1460. Source: Oral history interview with R Golland c. 2007.*

<sup>16</sup> See Wake p 12. The house called 'The Nunnery' on South End helps perpetuate the myth that Collingham had a nunnery but Wake found no evidence to support it.

had no one ever attempted to write a comprehensive history of the village? William Rastall for example?

William Dickinson Rastall (1756-1822), had lived in the Old Hall for a short time before the Lesiters. More generally known by his middle name of 'Dickinson', Rastall, a law graduate, was, among other things, a notable local historian. He moved in to the Old Hall around 1789 – 90 until the



Figure 13 William 'Dickinson' Rastall from an engraving by W P Sherlock c. 1800

extension to Muskham Grange had been completed. Wake refers to one of Dickinson's books, *'The Antiquities and History of Newark'*<sup>17</sup> several times but Dickinson, like others before him, had not written anything in depth about Collingham, finding Brough much more interesting.

So, if nobody else was willing to rise to the challenge, Wake must have thought he would have a go himself; it would be a stimulating way to spend his spare time. Better still, it was a way of giving something back.

We already know Wake was incapacitated during the outbreak of cholera soon after moving to Collingham and that John Broadbent had stepped in and prevented it spreading further. We also learn from Wake's preface that in the aftermath, *'... many papers of great interest relating to North Collingham parish were burnt, lest they should perpetuate the*

*disease...'*<sup>18</sup>

As the medical practitioner for North Collingham who believed in *'contagion theory'* – i.e. the prevalent yet mistaken belief that cholera was airborne (p 107), Wake may well have had a hand in agreeing to the documents being destroyed. It is not inconceivable that Wake's decision to compile a history was his way of compensating the people of Collingham for the loss of these 'papers of great interest.'

Whatever the reason, Wake set about his task with enthusiasm and by 1864 had gathered enough material to produce a paper on the history of Collingham. This, however, was only the start of it. As any writer or researcher will tell you, once all that effort has been made, all those hours spent on gathering information, making notes and putting those notes into some cohesive form, there follows a need to find an audience with whom to share those findings. And what better audience could Wake hope for than the prestigious Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society?

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<sup>17</sup> See page 38. Dickinson also wrote *'The History of Southwell.'*

<sup>18</sup> *The History of Collingham* preface p. vii

The Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society (LDAS) was founded in 1844 to ‘*promote the study of ecclesiastical architecture, antiquities and design, the restoration of mutilated archaeological remains or of Churches or parts of churches which may have been desecrated.*’ Patrons included such luminaries as the Duke of Rutland and its president was the Bishop of Lincoln. The vast majority of members were vicars from the various diocese of Lincolnshire<sup>19</sup> but there was a smattering of men of social standing, too, including Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Members could be ‘honorary’ or ‘ordinary’ and new members needed to be forwarded and seconded by existing members to join.



Figure 14 Insignia of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society

Thomas Smith Woolley Jr. appears on the list of members from 1861 and it could have been Woolley who arranged for Wake to give his talk at one of the meetings on Silver Street in Lincoln.

Unfortunately, there is no mention in the LDAS’s 1864 annual report of the talk. The numerous reports, bound in oxblood-red leather tomes and held in Lincolnshire Archives only detail the lectures given on the annual three-day summer excursions, not the lesser events.

By sheer coincidence (or perhaps not?) the venue for the summer excursion in 1864 was Nottingham, where the Society was warmly greeted by the Mayor of Nottingham in the Exchange Hall<sup>20</sup>. Worth mentioning as an aside is that on show in the Exchange Hall were ‘*exhibits including John Pym’s sword and other articles exhibited by Mrs Lesiter*’<sup>21</sup>. As Hannah Lesiter’s maiden name

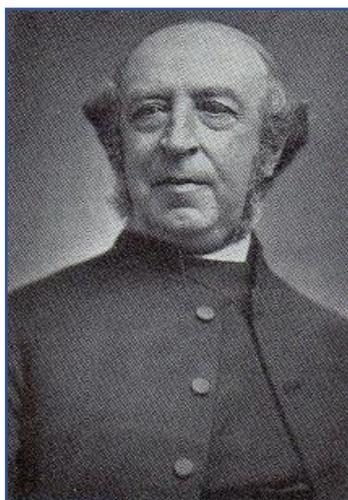


Figure 15 Edward Trollope

was Pym, this strongly suggests a link to John Pym (1584-1643), the famous parliamentarian who helped trigger the English Civil War. The Old Hall in Collingham has certainly had many notables residing there in its time!

The upshot of Wake’s lecture was that he was asked to publish his findings. One who encouraged this idea appears to have been the Venerable Archdeacon Edward Trollope (1817-1893).

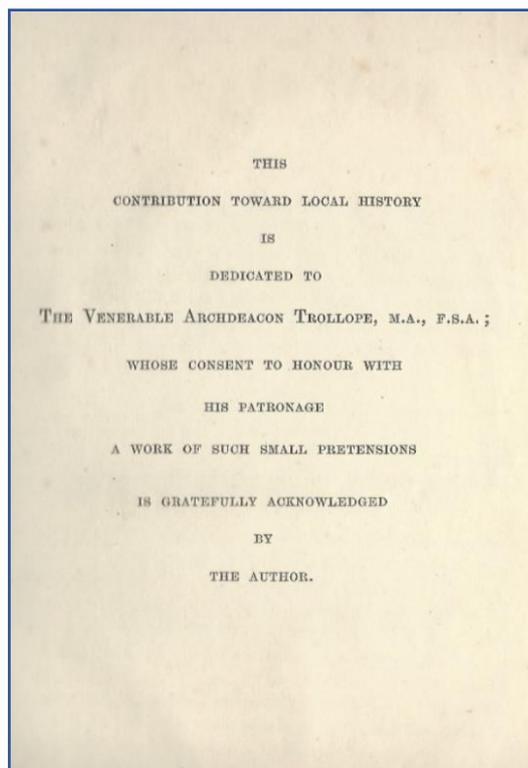
The much-respected Trollope was a leading light in the Society and in 1867, the year the book was published, was the Chairman. Transcripts of Trollope’s lectures, published in full in the

<sup>19</sup> Nottinghamshire was part of the Lincoln Diocese, so many of the vicars and rectors were from the Newark Hundred and beyond.

<sup>20</sup> The Exchange Hall is now called The Council House

<sup>21</sup> LDAS Report Vol 7/1xxxiii

reports, indicate he was an extremely knowledgeable and prolific writer, especially on matters of church architecture and Early Christianity in England.



*Figure 16 Wake's dedication to Edward Trollope whose: 'consent to honour with his patronage a work of such small pretensions is gratefully acknowledged.' Whether Wake used the word 'patronage' meaning 'mentor' or because Trollope actually funded the printing of Wake's book is unknown.*

## 5. Researching the Book

It took three years for Wake to turn his lecture notes into a book ready for publication. He explains the long delay, given the modest size of the work, on *'the routine of medical life'* (p vi) but points out this at least meant he could add more information. What he doesn't say is that during that time, his wife Pricilla gave birth to two sets of twins; daughters Aimee and Bertha at the end of 1865 and sons Charles and Frederick in June 1867. Tragically, only Charles survived. Aimee and Bertha both died at ten weeks and were buried on February 28<sup>th</sup> 1866 and Frederick was buried on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1867 at seven weeks.

Although death in infancy was common in the nineteenth century, losing three out of four babies in such close proximity must have been a difficult time for the family to say the least. Perhaps

Wake, like Dickinson, used the study of local history as an escape from his personal problems<sup>22</sup>. It is clear that Wake threw himself into his task. Despite the lamented burning of documents during the cholera outbreak, he still found plenty of primary source material to keep him occupied, including the parish registers of St John the Baptist's (South Collingham) and All Saints' (North Collingham), which would have been kept in Collingham<sup>23</sup> at the time. He used the registers, which dated back to 1558, to good effect; for example, analysing the data on burials to deduce 'spikes' caused by epidemics such as the plague (Wake Appendix p 98-106).

The memoranda in the back of the registers also provided information of general interest, e.g.: the fact that in November 1579 a storm killed three people – Bartholomew Adamson, Cicilie Cresswell and Dorothy Sandwith – as they walked from Swinderby and were 'crushed to death in the fields' (Wake p 104)

Edward Trollope guided Wake throughout. He advised him on features in the two Collingham churches<sup>24</sup>, with Wake mentioning on page 30 that he sent Trollope photographs of two sepulchral slabs found in the eastern end of the north aisle of All Saints during restoration in 1860, hoping he could shed light on their age and origin, which he duly did. It is Trollope, too, whom we can thank for dating our village cross to 'sometime during the fourteenth century'. The Archdeacon may have helped in other ways, such as loaning Wake some of the reference books he needed; the Society had a library in their rooms on Silver Street overseen by librarian Arthur Trollope Esq, Edward's brother<sup>25</sup>.

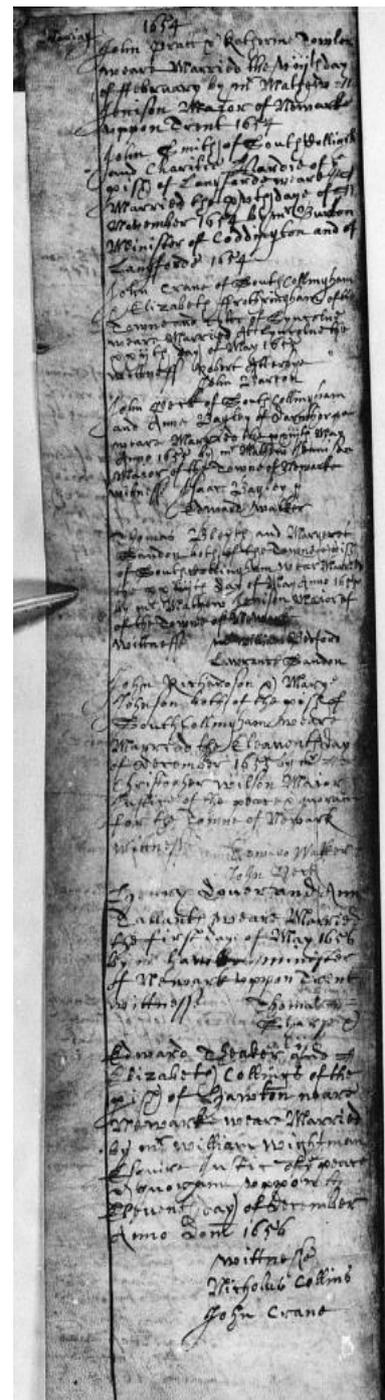


Figure 17 Entry for 1654 St John the Baptist Register. This is a typical densely-written entry Wake would have had to transcribe.

Image courtesy of C Hasman (with permissions) from microfiche held in Nottinghamshire Archives

<sup>22</sup> 'Overwhelmed by Calamities...' the turbulent life of William Dickinson' by Adrian Henstock published in the Nottinghamshire Historian No 67 (2001) Available in Newark Library.

<sup>23</sup> Collingham's parish registers are now in Nottinghamshire Archives, although Newark Library has copies on microfiche

<sup>24</sup> Wake goes into great detail about the architecture of the two parish churches but gives little clue as to the design of the Baptist Church or Wesleyan chapels. PJA Levine in her book *The Amateur and the Professional Historian* (1986) notes this was common practice.

<sup>25</sup> Source: Edward Trollope and the Lincoln Diocese Architectural Society by T R Leach pub SLHA Ed C Sturman 1992



Figure 18 Thomas Smith Woolley Jr (1819-1888) from an original portrait donated to Collingham and District Local History Society and now in the Jubilee Room, Collingham.

Other sources Wake used included Protestation Returns<sup>26</sup>, Overseers' Books<sup>27</sup>, Account Books, Writs, William Attenburrow's Pre- Enclosure Map of 1790 and various other 'old documents'.

One such 'old document' (Appendix J) dating from 1593 was provided by 'Captain Woolley' who '*...obliged the writer with the copy of a document which tends to show that Langford is less populous now than it was 300 or 400 years ago.*' 'Captain Woolley' is, of course, Thomas Smith-Woolley Jr who, as a land agent, would have had access to many articles such as deeds, plans, maps, conveyances and indentures. Woolley's title of 'captain' came from his commanding role in the 'F' Co. Notts Rifles which he founded in 1859.

Wake also wrote to the Dean of Peterborough Cathedral, '*...believing that the library must contain some documents illustrating the history of Collingham*<sup>28</sup>.' The Dean, we learn, '*was kind enough to hand the note to the Librarian, Js Cattel Esq. From that gentleman's communication it appears all the old papers belonging to the Dean and Chapter were destroyed during the Civil War ...*' More papers destroyed! Wake must have been so disappointed. The only thing Cattel<sup>29</sup> found on Collingham was an extract from monastic accounts relating to *tallage* on 'Wharf-lane' (Trent Lane) dated 1524-25<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> Protestation Returns 1641/2 – men over 18 were forced to swear allegiance to the Protestant faith.

<sup>27</sup> The Guardians of the Newark Union (workhouse) appointed an 'Overseer of the Poor' in every parish. Collingham had several overseers over the years, including Tom Beedham, the first to die of the cholera outbreak in 1854. The Newark Union's Minute Books are in Nottinghamshire Archives.

<sup>28</sup> The district has a long connection to the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral. Collingham's Domesday entry of 1086 shows that the Abbot of Peterborough already had lands here and 'presented' the rectors of both churches from 1262 onwards. Peterborough was an abbey up until the Dissolution of the Monasteries and became Peterborough Cathedral in 1541.

<sup>29</sup> James Cattel (sometimes found with -ll) d. 1877.

<sup>30</sup> See page 41 for further background by David Barker, Archivist at CDLHS

## 6. Publication & Beyond

How Wake's book was received immediately after publication is unknown but if his aim of writing *'The History of Collingham'* was to 'earn his spurs' as a local historian, it worked. From 1867, Wake appears as an 'ordinary member' of the Lincoln Diocese Architectural Society and by 1870 he had worked his way on to the committee. No doubt he had a hand in bringing the annual excursion in 1871 to Newark, during which he read a paper on the Sieges of Newark. He got a chance to show off his celt collection, too; the report noted that '*...exhibitions included various bronzes, chisels and axes for which they were indebted to Dr Wake and others.*'<sup>31</sup>

Edward Wake and his family stayed in Collingham for about ten more years. During this time, he and Pricilla went on to have an eighth child, daughter Lucy Mabel, born in 1870, a sister for their four surviving boys. Wake continued as the surgeon for North Collingham alongside Broadbent in South until around 1877 and he was also involved in parochial matters. In 1876 he was appointed Vice-Chair of the new Collingham Board School, set up to replace the National School system. Shortly after this appointment, however, the Wakes moved to North London. A new surgeon, William Edward Luscombe, appears in the 1879 White's trade directory.

Why Wake left, like so many things to do with the man, is a mystery. It might have been connected to the death of Hannah Lesiter in 1876. If she had actually owned the Old Hall<sup>32</sup>, the tenancy agreement probably expired with her death, though this does not explain why the Wakes left the area entirely. It's reasonable to suppose Wake may have found another practice or wanted to move nearer family – he had three brothers and a sister in London and Pricilla's siblings were still in Essex. Or perhaps burying a fourth child in All Saints' Churchyard was too much for them and they wanted a fresh start.

In January 1875, sons Edward (15) and Hereward (13) had enrolled at Epsom College in Surrey. Epsom College was then called The Royal Medical Benevolent College, and had been established in 1853 specifically for 100 sons of '*duly qualified medical men for £25 a year.*' In May 1875, five months after starting, Hereward died there. Elizabeth Manterfield, Archive Assistant at Epsom College kindly looked into the archives and wrote (via email):

*'I have been unable to establish the cause of Hereward's death other than it was a "very short illness". The Epsom College Council minutes note his death but not the cause. However, the following month there was a review of medical care and*

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<sup>31</sup> LDSA Records Vol 10-11 Lincolnshire Archives Ref: AS/1/A

<sup>32</sup> Uncertainty surrounds the ownership of the Old Hall in this period. Mr Marc Woods, current owner of the Old Hall, understands the deeds were thought to have been destroyed during WWII when the Brighton bank in which they were being kept was bombed.

*procedures to improve the speed and vigilance provided for sick boys. I would guess that it might have been meningitis as it was a very swift demise, but only the death certificate could confirm that. Interesting to note that his father wasted no time in seeking a refund of the school fees.'*

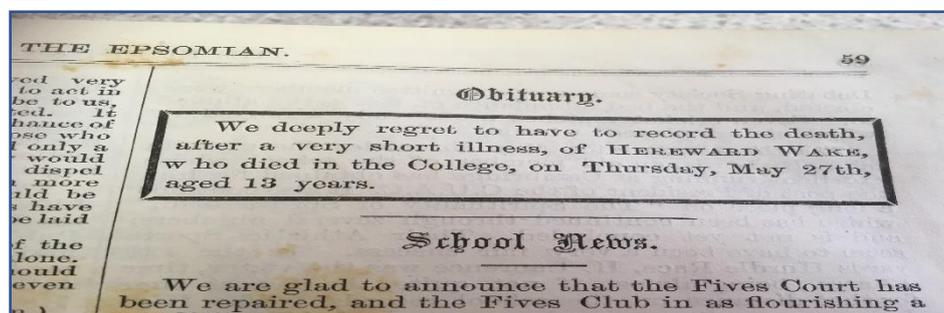


Figure 19 Hereward Wake's Obituary Notice in *The Epsomian* 1875 kindly supplied by Epsom College Archives

In fact, the cause given on Hereward's death certificate was not meningitis but '*inflammation of the liver and bowels.*' Elizabeth Manterfield's point about Wake not wasting any time seeking a refund of the school fees is intriguing. Does this reflect a stinginess on Wake's part or could be another reason? Given that Epsom College had been established because the medical profession was 'the worst provided of all professions and callings' did he simply need the money?

Despite living in the Old Hall, Wake's income was probably not excessive. Surgeons had no fixed salary or guaranteed income, their earnings came from the fees they charged for treating patients and prescribing medicines. John Broadbent, as Collingham's Medical officer for North and South, had an extra source of revenue from the Newark Union<sup>33</sup>, treating the poor in the workhouse. Wake didn't have this benefit. As for accumulating wealth through inheritance, although Pricilla's father had left 'effects of under £16,000' in his will in 1868, she hadn't necessarily gained from this. Her two brothers appear to have continued as brewers in Great Dunmow and may well have been the chief beneficiaries. Wake's father, Robert, had died in 1862 but there is no record of a probate. What money was left would have been passed on to his widow, Wake's mother<sup>34</sup>.

Hereward's untimely death did not prevent the Wakes sending Alfred to Epsom the following year. He left in August 1878. Further heartbreak was to come in July 1880, when Edward Jr died in South Africa, aged 20.

The remaining Wakes – Edward and Pricilla, along with Alfred, a solicitor, Charles, a doctor and Lucy - lived in North London until sometime after the 1891 census was taken. All three children married between 1891 and 1895.

<sup>33</sup> The Newark Union Minute books (NA) show Broadbent's payment for Jan. 1854 was for £22.10.0 (for vaccinations)

<sup>34</sup> Mary Wake's 1881 probate via Ancestry.co.uk showed a sum of £488.5s with Edward the chief executor

Edward George Wake, died on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1895, aged 66. Having lived in the St Pancras area of London since leaving Collingham, he must have moved to Deal in Kent sometime after 1891 and is buried in Deal Cemetery.

What is rather sad is that the only photograph that has so far surfaced is of Edward Wake's dilapidated grave, which appeared on the Find-a-Grave website only as recently as two months ago (September 2017).



*Figure 20 Edward Wake's grave in Sept 2017 (with the resting cross, centre of the picture) now lies neglected and broken in Deal Cemetery. Images used with kind permission of Sharon Curtis, contributor to the Find-a-Grave website.*



*Figure 21 Close up of Wake's grave. Only the last part of the inscription 'Wake MD aged 66 years' can be seen.*

After her husband's death, Pricilla went to live in Epsom with Lucy (1870 – 1924) and her son-in-law, Arthur Moore, a solicitor, and their two children, Gladys and Arthur Jr. Meanwhile Charles (1867 – 1937) emigrated with his wife, Rose, and two children to New Zealand in 1902. Tragically, Pricilla's only other remaining son, Alfred Hugh Wake, committed suicide in 1909, aged 43.

Pricilla Wake died in Epsom in May, 1915, aged 82, three months before one of her grandchildren, Hereward Wake (son of Charles and Rose), was killed in Gallipoli during WW1. She is buried close to her daughter Lucy in Epsom Cemetery.

On a brighter note, one of Edward Wake's brothers, William Henry Wake (1832 – 1899), a school teacher who had emigrated to Australia c 1852, began a fascinating lineage. He married Ann J Stephenson in Freshwater Creek, Victoria, in 1860 & later moved to New Zealand. They had nine children, one of whom was **Charles Augustus Wake** (born 1869). A journalist or gum trader and shopkeeper depending on different sources, he married New Zealander Ella Rosieur, who had part Maori heritage, in 1896. One of Charles' and Ella's children was **Nancy Wake (1912-2011)**, who



Figure 22 War heroine  
Nancy Wake

became famous for her exploits with the French Resistance during WWII. Her nickname was 'the White Mouse' because of her ability to simply disappear. Sebastian Faulks' book 'Charlotte Grey' was allegedly based on her life story. Her honours included the Croix de Guerre and the George Medal.

Another of Wake's siblings, his sister Emily, m. Benjamin Barry Wake (no relation), had a daughter, Margaret Eveline Wake (1867 – 1930), who emigrated to Canada in 1911. A graduate of the Slade School of Art and already an established artist in England, she became a recognised artist in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Edward Wake knew none of this, of course. Let's hope he *did* know that the Newark historian and editor of the Newark Advertiser, Cornelius Brown (1852-1907), had quoted from *The History of Collingham* in his 1891 work 'History of Nottinghamshire'. It's the least he deserved.

Another mention, in T M Blagg's 'Newark as a Publishing Town' (1898) came too late. Blagg described Wake's book as '*...a valuable addition to our information respecting that narrow strip of the county east of the Trent and North of Newark, a district which had much been neglected by Thorton and Throsby...*'. An apt description summarising everything Wake had set out to do. He'd have been pleased with that, I think.

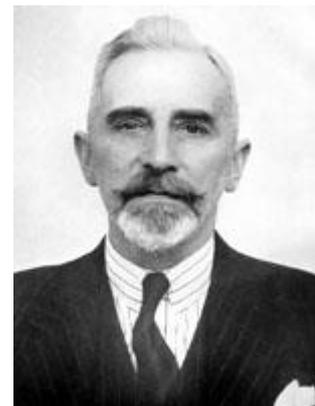


Figure 23 Historian Thomas M  
Blagg was born in Collingham in  
1875 Image c/o Tim Warner in The  
Newark Advertiser 1998

## 7. Edward G Wake's Timeline

- 1829** Born in Sculcoates, Hull, Yorkshire, second of at least 12 children of Robert Wake, merchant, and Mary Wake née Hardey
- 1845 - 1851** Attends the Society of Apothecaries, Blackfriars, London, to gain licence to practice medicine
- 1853/4** Moves to North Collingham, taking over from Dr George Harwood Fletcher.
- 1858** Aged 29: 17<sup>th</sup> June Marries Pricilla Jane Randall (born Sept 1832), daughter of Richard Randall, a brewer & merchant, and Jane Randall of High Street, Great Dunmow, Essex.
- 1860** Son **Edward Baldwin Wake** born Feb 28<sup>th</sup> baptised in North Church
- 1861** Aged 31 Census states EG Wake is 'Member of the Royal College'<sup>35</sup> living with his wife, Pricilla Jane, his son Edward, a cook and a nursemaid on Low Street (probably The Old Hall by now). Son **Hereward Randall Wake** baptised N Coll
- 1862** Father Robert Wake dies in Chorlton, Lancashire
- 1863** Son **Alfred Hugh Wake** baptised N Coll
- 1864** **March – delivers lecture on Collingham to Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society<sup>36</sup>**
- 1865** Dec: daughters **Aimee and Bertha Wake** (twins) born
- 1866** Feb 28<sup>th</sup>: daughters Aimee and Bertha buried, aged 10 weeks

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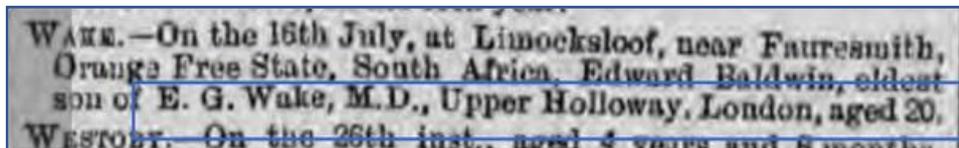
<sup>35</sup> Founded in 1800. Note he is not a 'Fellow' but it implies he has furthered his qualifications

<sup>36</sup> See Wake's preface

- 1867** June twin sons **Charles & Frederick** (twins) baptised  
 July Son Frederick dies at 7 weeks buried 1 July  
 November – ***Wake's History of Collingham and its Neighbourhood*** published. Wake is enrolled as a member of LDAS
- 1869** ***Wake's 'Cheaper Edition' in a smaller format is published***
- 1870** Daughter **Lucy Mabel Wake** baptised.
- 1871** Wake serves on the committee of LDAS (for 3 years) 22 June LDAS hold annual excursion in Newark. 'Dr Wake read a paper on The Sieges of Newark.'
- 1875** May 27th: Son Hereward dies suddenly, aged 13, while a pupil at Epsom College
- 1876** Wake listed as a physician and surgeon in Post Office Trade Directory for Collingham
- 1876** EG Wake is Vice-Chairman of the new Board (Girls') School

The Wakes move from Collingham sometime after 1876.

- 1880** Eldest son Edward Baldwin Wake dies in Limocksloof, Fauresmith, South Africa aged 20 (NB *before* the outbreak of the 1<sup>st</sup> Boer War).



- 1881** Census – Wake is 51 & living in Upper York Villas, Dartmouth Park Hill in district of St Pancras/Kentish Town. Also listed are Pricilla (49), Charles (13) and Lucy (11)
- 1888** Edward's mother, Mary Wake, dies.

- 1891** Census: Wake is 61, still in St Pancras area (Brookfield St. Anne) with Pricilla (59) Alfred (27) Charles (23, also a surgeon) and Lucy (21). Later that year Alfred (a solicitor) marries Stroud-born Caroline Edith Fisher on July 1<sup>st</sup> in Camden. Edward is witness.
- 1892** Grand-daughter Edith Mabel Wake born to Alfred and Caroline
- 1894** Son Charles marries Rose Cook in Swansea & daughter Lucy Mabel marries Arthur Moore. Esther, daughter to Alfred and Caroline, born.
- 1895** Edward George Wake dies aged 66 years June 8<sup>th</sup> address given as New Grove, Upper Deal, Kent. Probate: £1,997 19s 4d



## 8. Collingham Timeline 1853 – 1876

(covering Wake's known period in Collingham)

- 1853** Dr George Harwood Fletcher, North Collingham surgeon dies, aged 53.  
Collingham Rural Library established
- 1854** Sept/October – outbreak of cholera in North Collingham claiming 6 lives, 5 from the same family (the Beedham/Vesseys).  
Oct 25<sup>th</sup>: William Bacon (17<sup>th</sup> Lancers) of North Collingham, killed at the Battle of Balaclava (Crimean War).
- 1855** New Wesleyan Chapel built on High Street with a school room to rear
- 1856** Crimean War ends. Government calls for raising of local militia
- 1857** August: derailment and fatality near Collingham (the Lincoln – Nottingham line had been opened in 1846 by Midland Railway)
- 1858** Gas Works opens on Station Road funded by shareholders with a capital of £1750. The works had four retorts, 'capable of making 30,000 cu. ft of gas per week.' (Source: White's 1864)
- 1859** Thomas Smith Woolley Jr founds 6<sup>th</sup> Notts Rifle Volunteers in village. Rifle Range on the Manor grounds.
- 1860** North Church renovated. A windmill '*surmounted on rising ground between Besthorpe and South Scarle*' was blown down. Inhabitants gave its age at 400 years (Wake p 52)  
A Saving's Bank is established at the Post Office (White's 1864)
- 1861** Census reveals that North Collingham had 237 houses and 1010 inhabitants,

South Collingham had 200 houses and 863 inhabitants (1,873)

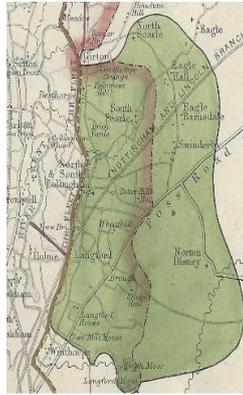
(Source: White's 1864 Nottinghamshire Trade Directory)

- 1862** Oak Tree planted in front of 'The Chestnuts' to celebrate engagement of Prince Edward and Alexandra. Birth of William Coape Oates, Besthorpe, who would go on to be awarded the DSO in WW1 when leading 2/8<sup>th</sup> Sherwood Foresters.
- 1863** Foundations of a large building found in The Manor's grounds '*at the site of the supposed nunnery.*' (Wake: footnote p 12)
- 1864** Railway Conveyance: 'There are 5 passenger trains and three luggage trains each way daily'. William Western and then his wife, Louisa Western (1831 – 1909), take over from George Crossland as post master/mistress 103 High St. Stephen Sneap is the Overseer of the Poor.  
(Source: White's 1864)
- 1865** Discovery of a 'rude box' or coffin during rebuilding of the Rectory (Wake: p 22)  
New school built for Baptist children on Baptist Lane.
- 1866** Outbreak of 'rinderpest' (cattle plague) – Swinderby worst affected with 11 farms 'visited' and 75 cattle dead or destroyed (Wake p.119)
- 1867** Wake's book published
- 1868** Samuel Burrell is Overseer of the Poor. William G. Midwinter, first Stationmaster at Collingham, retires.
- 1869** The 'Cheaper Edition' of The History of Collingham published
- 1870** 1870 Education Act leads to establishment of Board Schools.  
Hannah Lesiter's Infants' School opens in North Collingham

- 1871** Rev George Fosbery becomes new rector of South Collingham (until 1905).  
Census gives combined population of both parishes 1,735, a fall of 100.
- 1872** Death of Rev. John Henry Brown, vicar of Langford, aged 62  
(mentioned p82 Wake)
- 1873** Death of George Bealby (born 1803) founder of renowned *Bealby's Ploughs*  
c 1840 - of Brooke House, Besthorpe Road. Buried North Collingham
- 1874** A vicarage is built for N. Collingham vicars (now Copper Beeches Care Home)
- 1875** Birth of Thomas Matthews Blagg to Thomas and Margaret Blagg. Thomas  
M. Blagg (died Car Colston 1948) became '*one of Nottinghamshire's most  
distinguished historians*'
- 1876** Jan: Collingham School Board met for 1<sup>st</sup> time. Thomas Smith Woolley Jr Chair,  
Wake is Vice-Chair.  
Hannah Lesiter dies (late of The Old Hall and Rutland House).  
Horatio Bennett opens a private school in Rutland House sometime after this  
date.



## Rediscovering Wake Part 2



Wake states in the preface of *The History of Collingham* that his intention in writing the book was to:

*'...explain many things, well known to us all and yet but little understood either in their origin or their meaning.'*

Unfortunately, many of the things Wake takes for granted as 'well known to us all' in 1860 are not well known now. The following section is an attempt to give context to some of Wake's references that might be useful when reading Wake for the first time.



## 9.1 The Northern Half of the Newark Hundred

'The History of Collingham and Its Neighbourhood may be said to describe the northern half of the Newark Hundred' – Wake p 1

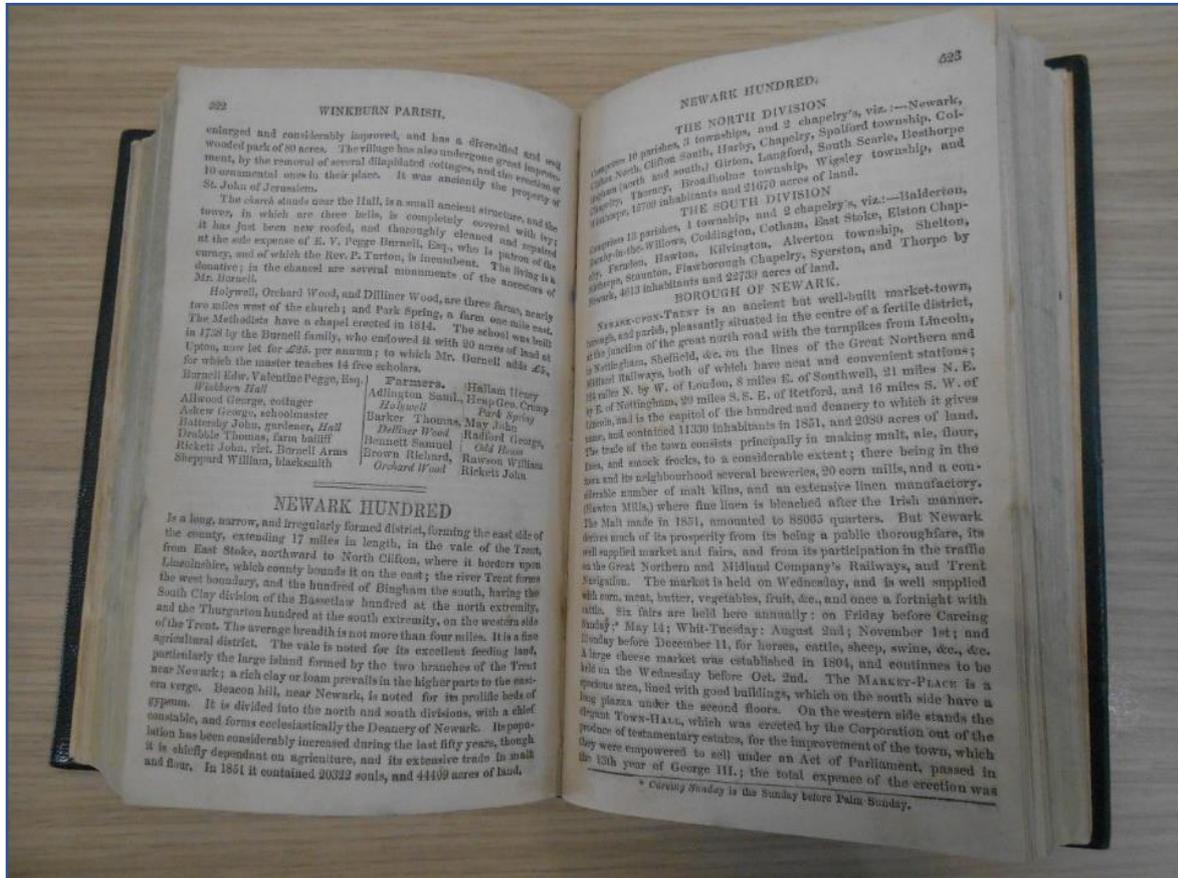


Figure 24 Above: 'The Newark Hundred' was always defined in early trade directories, such as this one of White's in 1853, held in Newark Library. Photo c/o Helena Pielichaty 2017

A Hundred was a way of subdividing a region into districts and was the Saxon equivalent of the Viking 'wapentake.'

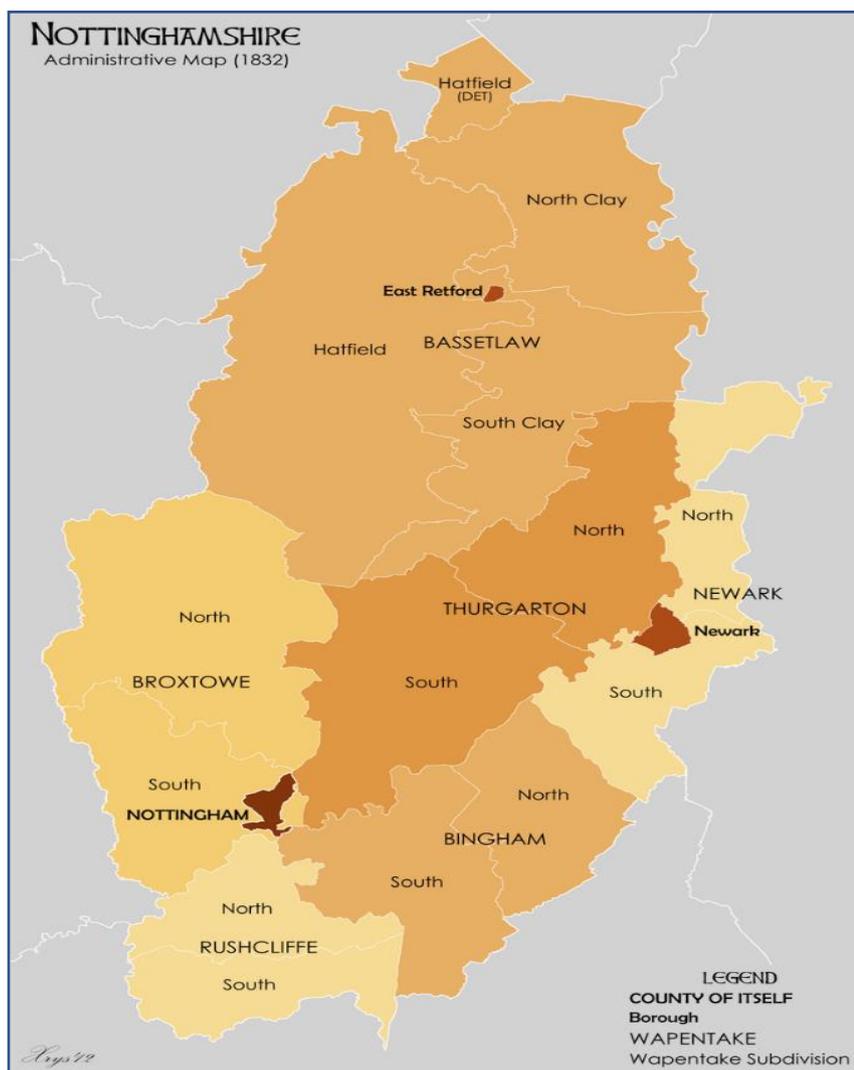


Figure 25 A simplified image of the Wapentakes (Hundreds) of Nottinghamshire in 1832

Source: Kain, R.J.P., & Oliver, R.R. (2001) "Historic parishes of England and Wales". Unit names from Vision of Britain website (copyright-free image via creative commons)

The Northern Division of the Newark Hundred comprised of: ‘...11 parishes, 3 townships and 2 chapelries, viz: Newark, Clifton North, Clifton South, Harby (Chapelry), Spalford (Township), Collingham (North and South), Girton, Langford, Meering (formerly extra parochial), South Scarle, Besthorpe (Chapelry), Thornley, Broadholme (Township), Wigsley (Township), and Winthorpe, which together comprises 22,989 A (acres).2R (roods).24 P(perches) of land.’ – White’s trade directory 1852

To confuse matters, Wake includes other villages outside the northern division such as Sutton-on-Trent, Torksey and Tuxford.

Holme, surprisingly, fell within the Thurgaton Hundred. Dr Dennis Mills explains that: ‘...even after the Trent changed its course about 1580 when it found itself on the east bank. Hitherto the whole of Holme parish had been on the west bank of the Trent, which then flowed in the present course of the Fleet and the Slough Dike.’

## 9.2 The Map

Wake does not include any plates or illustrations in his book. The first edition, however, does contain a full colour map in the frontispiece. There is no date but it must be from after 1846 as the railway line is shown running parallel to the Fosse Way.

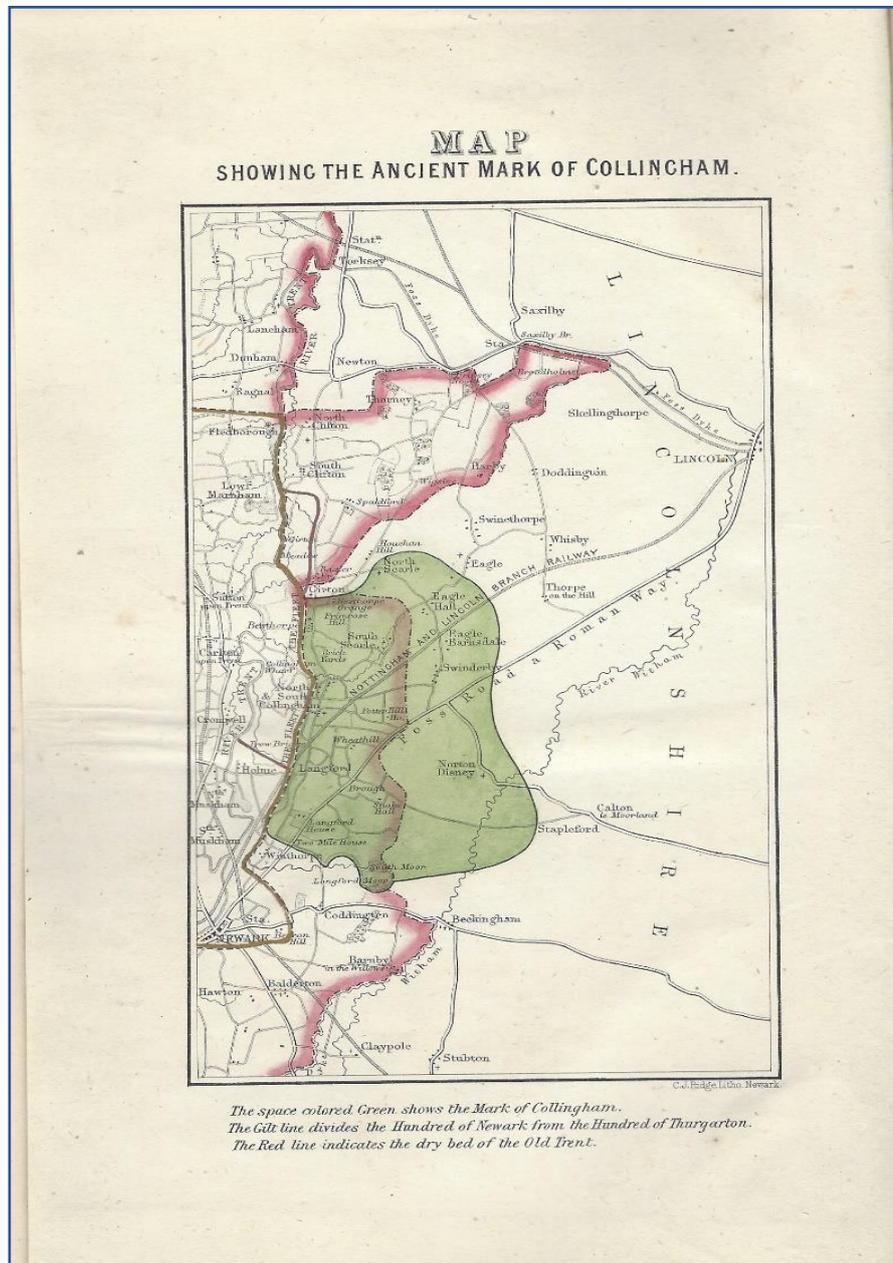


Figure 26 Image of the map in the first edition of *The History of Collingham*. The writing beneath the map states: 'The Gilt line divides the Hundred of Newark from the Hundred of Thurgarton. The Red line indicates the dry bed of the original course of the Old Trent.'

[Note the red line is that indicated east of Low Marnham then down to Girton, not the pink shading which is the border between Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.]

### 9.3 'The Mark of Collingham'

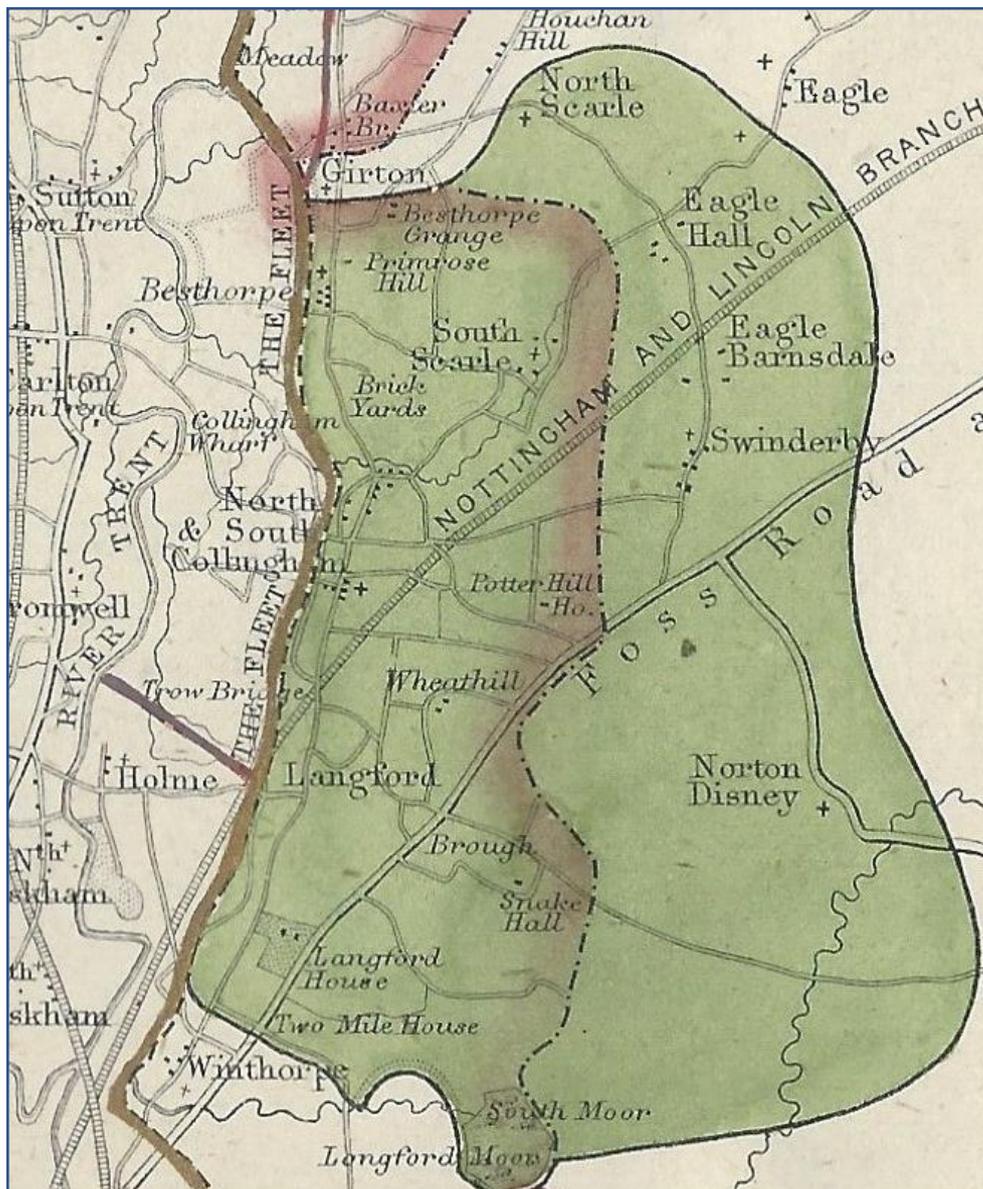


Figure 27 Enlarged detail of the printed map in 'The History of Collingham' 1867 edition 'C J Ridge litho.'

The area in green shows the 'Mark of Collingham'. 'The area was called a mark because the arable land near the (Saxon chiefs') houses was 'marked off' from uncultivated land beyond.' (Wake p.10)

## 9.4 Wake's Bibliographical References

Whatever criticisms we might have of Wake's prose, he certainly read up on his subject, quoting notable antiquarians and historians such as John Leland, Robert Thoroton, 'Dickinson' and William Stukeley,<sup>37</sup> to name but a few. He also tries valiantly to put key events into wider context by briefly summarising the various invasions and the impact they had on the East Midlands.

We do not know where Wake found such a wealth of reading matter and can only hazard a guess that some books were his own, the rest borrowed from libraries or loaned by Edward Trollope or like-minded associates.

**J Ridge and Co**, Wake's printer in Newark, had a second-hand book department and a subscription library. *The Newark Illustrated* magazine of 1892 made it sound like a haven for readers and book-lovers: 'No one can remain in his house for five minutes without noting this fact. As a bookseller, Mr Ridge is well known – he keeps a wide and interesting assortment of standard works...' Although this article appeared twenty-five years after Wake's publication was printed, there is nothing to suggest that Ridge's was any less inviting during Wake's time.



Figure 28 J Ridge's premises from an engraving in TM Blagg's book 'Newark as a Publishing Town' showing the original entrance. Ridge became famous for publishing Lord Byron's first collection of poetry. Image c/o Newark Library

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<sup>37</sup> See 9.5 p. 33 - 40



*Figure 29 J Ridge's as it looks today with Porter Provisions on the corner. John Ridge died in 1829 but his sons Charles and William continued with the business in to the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Photo HP 2017*

Closer to home, the Rev. Charles Lesiter (1778 – 1858) may have left some of his book collection intact at the Old Hall after his death. Wake quotes conversations he had with him several times and must have known him fairly well, albeit for a short time.

Collingham also had its own rural lending library, based in the National School<sup>38</sup> on the High Street. This library was established in 1853 by John Broadbent and, according to White's trade directory held 960 volumes in 1864, rising to 1000 by 1868.



*Figure 30 The National School, Collingham, was built by subscriptions and opened in 1839. Photograph of the school c 1950s c/o CDLHS.*

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<sup>38</sup> After 1870 the National School became the Board School and later the Girls' and Infants' School.

## 9.5 Notable Historians Mentioned in ‘*The History of Collingham*’

Many of the names mentioned in Wake’s book may be familiar to keen historians but presumably don’t mean much to those of us who bought a copy of *The History of Collingham* simply because we live in Collingham, Girton or Besthorpe! Hopefully this section might help explain who was who and what was what.

Up until the eighteenth-century history books tended to be *annals* (a record of events year-by-year), *itineraries* (where the historian or antiquarian travelled from place to place recording their observations) or *chronicles* (recording facts and events in chronological order). Most of Wake’s references to early works fall into these categories. Some key historic texts of note he references are:

- ***The Antonine Itinerary***, a register listing all the Roman roads and stations in Britain, dating back to around 200 AD
- **John Leland’s *Itinerary*** published between 1538 – 1543. In 1533 Henry VIII ordered a ‘stocktake’ of everything held in the libraries of all the religious houses. Leland extended his ‘Library Tours’ into his famous ‘*Itinerary*.’
- **William Camden’s *Britannia***, an early county-by-county history of Great Britain (1586) which used much of Leland’s information.
- **Dr John Horsley** (1685-1731), famed for his ‘*Britannia Romana*’ (pub. 1732) is mentioned a few times, especially as Horsley actually visited Brough.

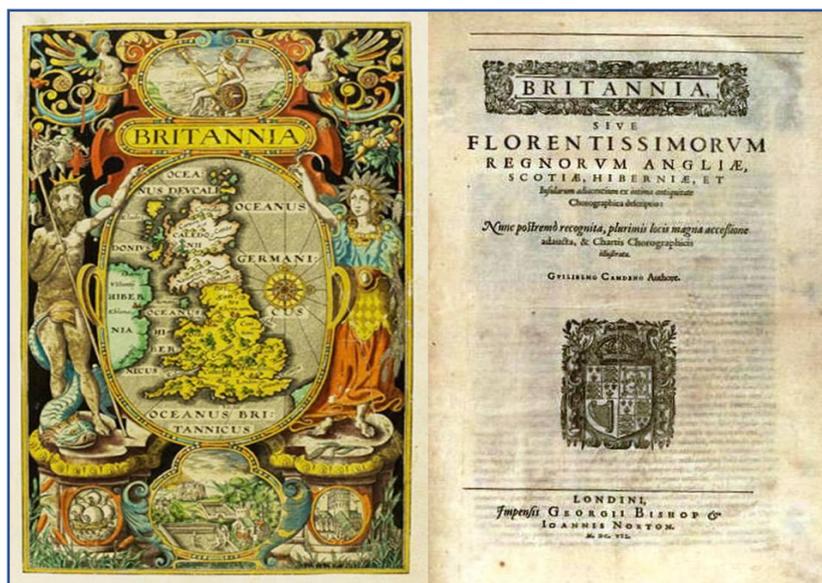


Figure 31 A spread from ‘*Britannia Romana*’ by William Camden

However, the three names Wake constantly refers to throughout the book are Thoroton, Stukeley and Dickinson and they deserve a closer look.

## Robert Thoroton (1601-1673)

Author of: 'The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire' published in 1677

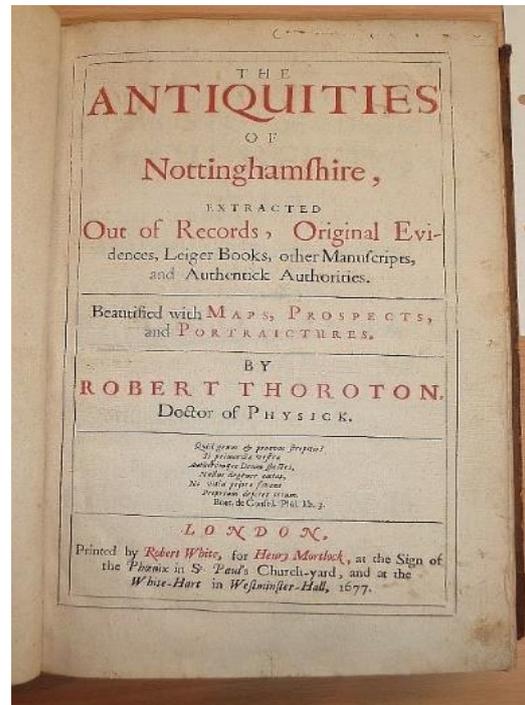


Figure 32 Portrait of Robert Thoroton and the original cover of *The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*

Of all the historians Wake mentioned, Dr **Robert Thoroton** is probably the one most people interested in Nottinghamshire's history will be familiar with, as his name lives on today in the thriving **Thoroton Society**, founded in 1897. The Society's website provides the following information on Thoroton:

*'Robert Thoroton was a country gentleman, descended from a long line of Thorotons, and lived at the family's ancestral home, Morin Hall, in Car Colston, Nottinghamshire. His eldest son, Dr Robert Thoroton, inherited the Car Colston property, which ultimately passed to the More-Molyneux family of Loseley Park, Surrey. Dr Thoroton was an antiquary and historian, and author of the 'History of Nottinghamshire', published in 1677. The ancestor of the Thorotons of Screveton and Flintham was Robert Thoroton's younger son Thomas Thoroton.'*

- Source: Thoroton Society website ([www.thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://www.thorotonsociety.org.uk))

J V Beckett<sup>39</sup> describes Thoroton's *'The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire'* as *'the first and greatest county history'* and Thoroton as *'one of the first generations of county historians.'* Wake, however, was less than enamoured with the esteemed doctor:

Greatly as Thoroton enriched the annals of our county, he seems to have bestowed less than his usual care upon that part of it which has engaged my attention. Indeed, nothing contained in the famous History of Notts leads us to believe that this district was ever visited by the author. Thus only can we explain his silence respecting the many heraldic shields in its churches, for the record of such is an essential element of the work. Thoroton's omission affords me the privilege of being the first to make their existence known to the public.

Figure 33 Scan from Wake's preface, paragraph 3

Not that this prevented Wake from using Thoroton when discussing the Domesday Survey of 1086. Thoroton's publisher, the historian John Throsby (1740 – 1803), who updated *The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire'* in the 1790s, is liberally quoted, too.

All three volumes of *'The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire'* have been fully digitised and can be downloaded from the British History Online website at [british-history.ac.uk/thoroton-notts/](http://british-history.ac.uk/thoroton-notts/). Collingham's entry is in Volume 1.



Figure 34 William Stukeley

William Stukeley (1687 – 1765)

*'Itinerarium Curiosum'*

**William Stukeley** receives numerous mentions throughout Wake's book. Also known as *'The Father of Archaeology'*, Stukeley was born in Holbeach and specialised in the study of ancient archaeological sites such as Stonehenge and Avebury. He was a close friend of Sir Isaac Newton and later became Bishop of Stamford. Stukeley was an able draughtsman, having been taught to draw at Holbeach Free School by his teacher, Mr

<sup>39</sup> J V Beckett 1997 'A Commemoration of the first 100 years of the Thoroton Society' via TS website

Coleman, who had 'a mighty knack of drawing with his pen.'<sup>40</sup> This 'mighty knack' was passed on to the young Stukeley as we can see from his sketch of *Crocolana* (Brough) below.



Figure 35 Sketch of Brough (*Crocolana*) from Potter Hill by William Stukeley dated Sept 7<sup>th</sup> 1722 featured in 'Itinerarium Curiosum or An Account of the Antiquities and Remarkable Curiosities in Nature or Art Observed in Travels through Great Britain' published 1776 (posthumously)

Wake reveals that Stukeley visited Brough in 1722, and quotes from his report that: '... *no Roman remains are visible, but of the remarkable straightness of the road and by-lanes thereabouts.*' (Wake p 3)

This was Stukeley's '*Itinerarium Curiosum*', an early type of travel writing which he enhanced with topographical sketches and detailed notes of Ancient British sites. Stukeley's itinerary between 1721 and 1725 was mind-boggling, given the limitations of transport and the state of the roads in the 1700s.

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<sup>40</sup> William Stukeley an Eighteenth-Century Antiquary by Stuart Piggott (1950)

upon as beside himself.<sup>1</sup> *Stonehenge* was not, however, to appear until 1740, and *Abury* three years later. By then his mental temper had vastly altered from that of twenty years before—it was no longer Doctor Stukeley writing, but the Reverend William Stukeley, a divine engaged in religious controversy, and Hearne's splanetic criticisms were in a fair way to becoming justified.

## APPENDIX

RECONSTRUCTED JOURNALS OF THE TOURS,  
1721-5

The following Journals have been reconstructed from the dated drawings either in manuscript or engraved as plates in the *Itinerarium Curiosum*, I and II,<sup>2</sup> and serve to give a chronological framework to the text as published in this work. They are also complementary to the Topographical Index of Stukeley's drawings printed here as Appendix D.

## 1721

- August 14. Drew Reading Abbey Gate (IC (1), 23, 26; Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 5).  
 August 15. Drew Marlborough Mound (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 7).  
 August 16-18. At Avebury and Stonehenge (see separate journals).  
 August 20. Drew gardens at Wilton House (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 10).  
 August 23. Copied Roman inscription at Cirencester (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 14).  
 August 24. At Gloucester, drew Black Friars (IC (1), 22); White Friars (IC (1), 32); cloisters (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 15).  
 August 30. At Worcester, drew gateway (IC (1), 23; Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 18).  
 September 2. At Malvern, drew gatehouse (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 19).  
 September 7. At Hereford, drew view of city (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 22).  
 September 9. Made plan of Kenchester (IC (1), 85).  
 September 14. Drew Leominster Priory (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 29).  
 September 16. Drew view of Ludlow (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 30).

<sup>1</sup> Hearne, *Collections*, x. 339. Entry of 3 Oct. 1730.

<sup>2</sup> Abbreviated to IC (1) and IC (2), followed by the number of the plate, in the references given below.

- September 21. Drew monuments in Tenbury Church (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 20<sup>v</sup>).  
 September 23. Drew Blackston Cave (IC (1), 13); Hermitage (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 33).  
 September 30. Drew Littlechester, Derby (IC (1), 86; Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 39).  
 October 1. Drew view of Derby (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 39<sup>v</sup>).  
 October 3. Drew Nottingham Castle (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 40).  
 October 7. Drew monuments in Tuxford Church (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 46<sup>v</sup>).  
 October 10. Drew view of Newark (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 47).  
 October 12. Made drawings at Grantham (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, ff. 48-51); at Great and Little Stukeley (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 58).  
 October 13. Drew Colsterworth Church (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 13, f. 51<sup>v</sup>).

## 1722

- July 23-August. At Avebury and Stonehenge (see separate journals).  
 August 1. Drew Sarum Cross, Broughton, and Wallop River (Bodl. Top. eccles. d. 6, f. 87); drew view and made plan of Old Sarum (Bodl. Gough Maps 229, 56; IC (1), 65).  
 August 4. Made plan of Silchester (IC (1), 61).  
 August 5. Drew Silchester (IC (1), 45).  
 August 20-1. Drew Hobson's Conduit (Cambridge) (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 14, ff. 5, 5<sup>v</sup>); made plan of Chesterford (IC (1), 59); drew Roman Camp at Littlebury (Walden) (IC (1), 45).  
 August 23. Drew Ivy Cross, Sutton St. James (Bodl. Top. eccles. d. 6, f. 80).  
 August 26. Drew Holbeach Church (Bodl. Top. eccles. d. 6, f. 32<sup>v</sup>).  
 August 28. Drew Spalding Town Hall (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 14, f. 6).  
 August 29. Drew Boston Stump (IC (1), 19).  
 September 1. Drew 'Banovallum' (IC (1), 89).  
 September 3. Drew Newport Gate, Lincoln (IC (1), 54).  
 September 4. Made plan of Lincoln (IC (1), 88); plan of Roman Lincoln (Bodl. Gough Gen. top. 15, 59).  
 September 6. Drew view of Newark (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 14, f. 6<sup>v</sup>).  
 September 7. Drew 'Ad Pontem' (IC (1), 90); drew 'Crocolana' (near Newark) (IC (2), 21).  
 September 8. Drew Burrow Hill, Leics. (IC (2), 22); Nether Broughton (IC (1), 91), Leicester Roman Wall (IC (2), 23); Bowbridge at Leicester (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 14, f. 7); made plan of Leicester (IC (1), 92); drew Long barrow at Cassington, Notts. (Bodl. Top. gen. b. 53, f. 14<sup>v</sup>).  
 September 9. Drew Raw Dykes (IC (2), 27); drew 'Bennonis' (Bodl. Top. gen. d. 14, f. 73) and made plan (IC (1), 93); drew Bowbridge (IC (1), 94); view of Bowbridge (Bodl. Gough Gen. top. 15, f. 32).

Figure 36 In September 1722 Stukeley, then living in London, visited Lincoln, Newark, Ad Pontem (East Stoke) 'Crocolana' (or 'Crococolana', now Brough), Leicester, Raw Dykes, Leicester Bowbridge. Sept 11: Dunstable, 14 Leominster, 20: Claremont, 22: Earthworks at Pinner. The schedules for 1723-5 were no less busy.

Source: 'William Stukeley an Eighteenth-Century Antiquary' by Stuart Piggott pub. Clarendon Press 1950

## William Dickinson Rastall (1756-1822)

According to the Rastall Pedigree in Dickinson's book *'The History and Antiquities of the Town of Newark'*, the family descended from a Norman knight in the *'train of William the Conqueror.'* As mentioned earlier, William Dickinson Rastall lived at the Old Hall for a time but is more closely associated with North Muskham and Southwell. Nevertheless, the Rastall family had many connections to Collingham and Winthorpe. Wake mentions John Rastall Esq., who *'died here in 1699'* and that his descendants had property in this village *'within the last few years.'* Quite valuable property, too, if it included the Old Hall, as the 1790 Pre-Enclosure map indicates. In addition, a Rastall – William or otherwise - had at least three closes of land in North Collingham, the largest being on Woodhill Road which covered the whole area of the former Woodhill Secondary School and Rio Drive estate.

Another local connection was Dickinson's second cousin, the Rev William Rastall (1754 - 1826), Rector of Winthorpe from 1778 -1818 and one of three Rastalls to hold that position. However, it is Dickinson's *'History and Antiquities of the Town of Newark'* published in 1805 Wake was most interested in.

*'The History and Antiquities of Newark'*<sup>41</sup> is a handsome book with high quality illustrations and several pull-out pages of family pedigrees. At first glance, the contents do seem to be more a case of style over substance; Dickinson does not have Stukeley's eye for drawing and he admitted that he had *'recourse to the study of architecture and antiquity only as a relaxation from more fatiguing pursuits.'*<sup>42</sup>

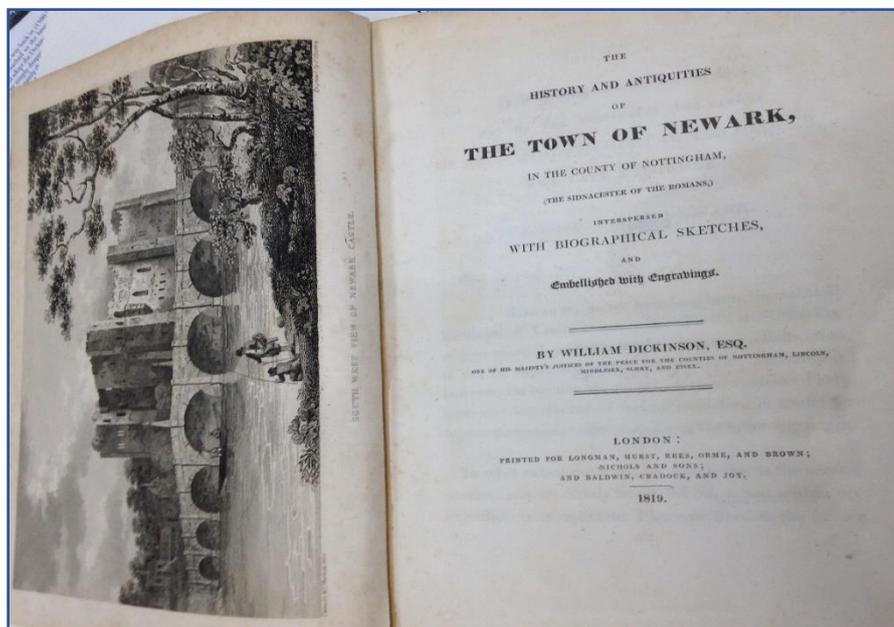


Figure 37 Photograph of the title page of Dickinson's book by kind permission of Newark Library

<sup>41</sup> Newark Library has an 1819 copy in its Local Studies section

<sup>42</sup> See Adrian Henstock's piece 'Overwhelmed by Calamities...: the turbulent life of William Dickinson, historian of Newark and Southwell.' Nottinghamshire Historian No 67 (Newark Library)

That is not to say Dickinson's work should be dismissed; he was serious historian and like Stukeley was particularly interested in the Roman site at Brough and visited many neighbouring villages such as Danethorpe and Holme (Wake p 91). From Dickinson we learn, among other things, that: *'In the summer of 1792, the Trent was so low in its bed as to reveal the foundations of an immense bridge, near Winthorpe. The bridge is thought to have been Roman...'*

As with Thoroton, Wake again felt bold enough to find fault, this time regarding where the name of Collingham originated. Dickinson, (writing around 1803), proposes the name comes from 'Collis' meaning 'placed on a hill' (which Collingham isn't). Wake prefers another historian's theory, that of the more contemporary 'Mr Kemble'.

John M Kemble's *'The Saxons in England'* was published to great acclaim in 1848. Wake

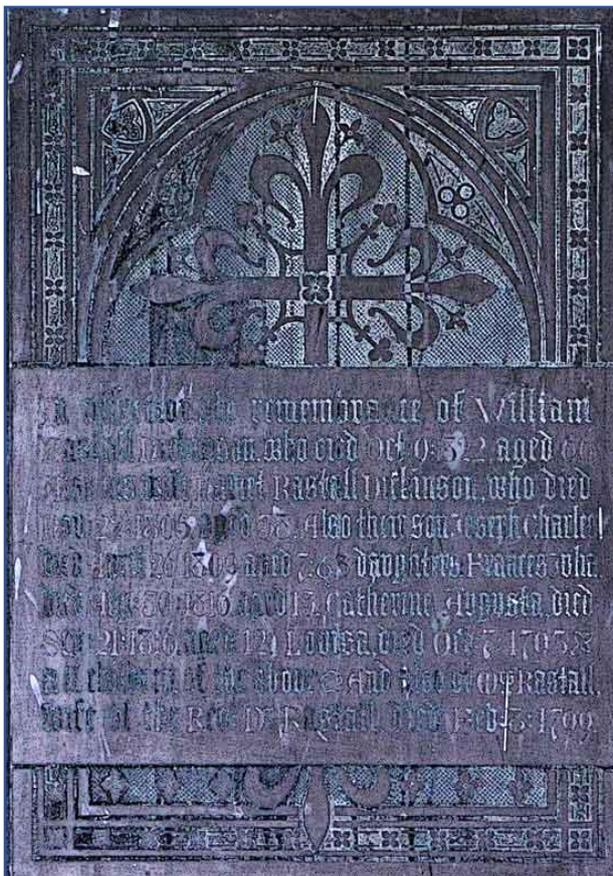


Figure 38 Image of the brass memorial plaque in St Wilfrid's Church North Muskham to Wm Dickinson Rastall c/o Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project website.

obviously admired Kemble's book and called it *'...learned and most original (p10).'* According to 'Mr Kemble', Collingham was supposed to have been founded: *'.... by one of the Colingas, a family who came over from Germany in Saxon times. Collingham is therefore 'the home of the Colingas.'* (The *-ham* suffix denoting 'home' or a settlement).

William Dickinson Rastall's personal and business life were, as Adrian Henstock pointed out in his biographical piece for the *Nottinghamshire Historian*, 'tumultuous'. As a result, in 1809 he was declared bankrupt and his assets, including Muskham Grange, were auctioned off in the Clinton Arms in Newark in 1810<sup>43</sup>. Afterwards, in ill-health, he moved to London where he continued to write and publish books on local history and law until his death in 1822.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid footnote 37

## 9.6 Other References in Wake:

### **'The Tales of Gideon Giles the Roper'** by Tom Miller

published in 1841 by Wm Nicholson and Son

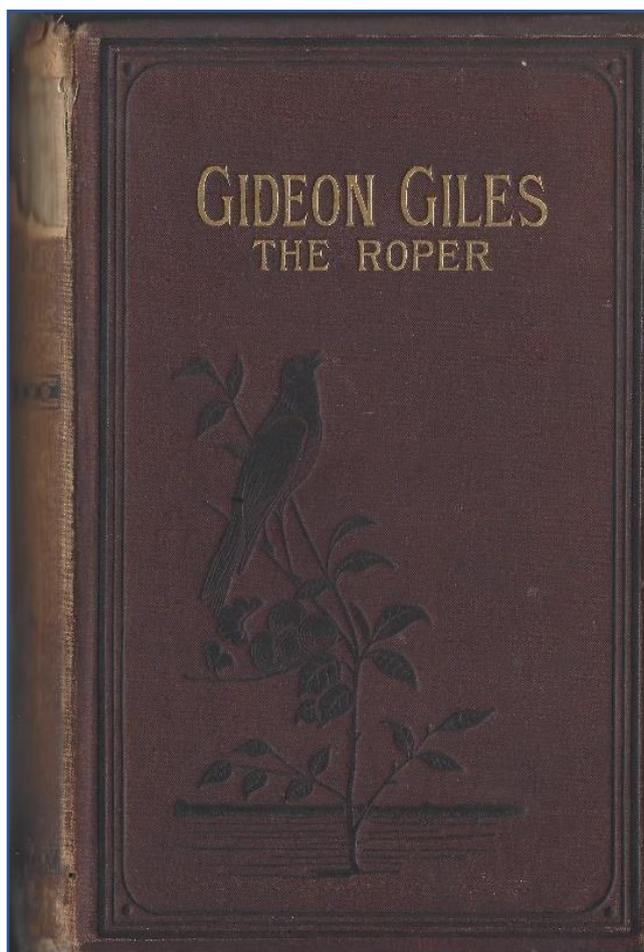


Figure 39 Cover of *Gideon Giles the Roper*. This edition sourced from Old Chapel Lane Books, Burgh Le Marsh, Lincs PE24 5LQ

***Gideon Giles the Roper*** is the only fiction book Wake mentions. It is quoted on page 45 in the section on Besthorpe, because one of the characters, Ben Brust, traveling from Newark to 'Burton Woodhouse', dines in the village hostelry – The Black Horse. The Black Horse no longer existed in 1867 when Wake was writing but did in 1840 and was 'but a hundred yards to the north of the Lord Nelson' (a pub that does still exist).

***Gideon Giles the Roper*** is a significant book in its own right as it was written in protest against a 'cruel English law' - not specified but dating from the late 1830s or 1840 - which prevented peddlars or 'hawkers' from selling their goods outside their own parish boundaries. 'Such is the law of England this very hour; and there are hundreds now living who have suffered under it.'

Worth pointing out is Miller calls Collingham by its variant of *Long Collingham*:

*'There's no coach along the Low-road now sire,' answered the man '...there's Turner the carrier but he doesn't go above two miles an hour and stays to bait a long while at Newton. To be sure, there's the landlord of the Black Swan will be past here about ten in his gig, but he only goes as far as Long Collingham...'* (p9)

## 9. *The History of Collingham's* Appendix:

The appendix is where Wake demonstrates his skills as an amateur historian. Rather than simply relying on other historians' texts, he uses original documents and analyses them. The appendix is divided into subcategories A- J in the original edition and A-K in the 1869 'Cheaper Edition'. Wake includes tables for the first time and detailed extracts. David Barker, current archivist of CDLHS, has kindly offered insights in to the significance of a selection of the documents Wake mentions.

### 10.1 Appendix D (referenced from p34 in the main body of the text) (p 107 – 109)

**Document:** *Account of John Averej, Bailiff from 1524 – 1525.*

**Wake's Source:** The librarian (James Cattel) at Peterborough Cathedral

'Here Wake reproduces the full extract from the Account of John Avery, Bailiff from 1524 – 1525 sent to him by James Cattel, librarian for the Dean and chapter of Peterborough Cathedral. In the early 16<sup>th</sup> century much of the land of Collingham was owned, before the Dissolution of the Monasteries, by the lord of the manor, the Abbot of Peterborough Abbey, situated in Northamptonshire. After the dissolution the books and records of the former abbey were taken over by Peterborough Cathedral where they were still kept in Wake's time. Hence his application to the cathedral librarian for information. These days the library, though still existing, is much reduced with the bulk of material now held in the rare books collection of Cambridge University Library, (4,500 volumes and 60 early printed books) However since Peterborough is in Northamptonshire there are also significant numbers of old records held in Northampton Record office, particularly manorial records for Collingham.

The bailiff's account in this appendix is a comprehensive document listing all the farmers owing rent, what toll they had to pay (tallage) and how much land they farmed. Of interest it mentions the £10 received from Thomas Meyring, of the important Meyring family, for the rent of his manor and windmill. To put it in context by the 1500s rents from the Abbey's property and land were collected by salaried officials working for the Abbot. At manorial level these were brought in by the Collector or Bailiff such as John Avery. 'Rents of assize' were fixed in ancient times and not subject to change. 'Rents of Farm' were fixed for particular periods, e.g. annually, and could be changed at the end of the period. The arable land detailed in the account is measured in 'bovates', one bovate was

normally equivalent to about 15 acres in the East Midlands. 'Roods' were another measure of land, about one quarter of an acre and 'selions' were strips of land in an open field system, Collingham still being unenclosed at the time of the account.

Monastic documents of this period were invariably written in Latin. It seems someone has produced a skilful translation into English for Wake to use as his Appendix D.'

## 10.2 Appendix E

**Document:** *'Extract from the Parliamentary Survey taken in 1649'*

**Wake's Source:** James Cattel, at Peterborough Cathedral.

'These surveys were put in hand by Oliver Cromwell to evaluate the potential of the lands he had confiscated. Mostly they centred on Crown or Church estate lands and as the primary landlord of Collingham was by this date the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral, Collingham came under his scrutiny. The surveyor wanted know the name of the major landowners how much each landowner held and how much rent they paid. A valuation of the worth of each holding was made in order to put the manor up for sale.

The purpose was to use the sale proceeds to fund Cromwell's Model Army. Another source of manorial income was the "Boon-days" By the 17<sup>th</sup> century the feudal work services owed by the copyhold tenants to their manorial lord, namely the Boon-days, had long been bought-out and commuted to a money payment to avoid doing the work. This constituted an income for Collingham's landlord worth £9 per annum and Cromwell was after it. Interestingly however, the archaic titles of the services were still in use to detail the expected payments and this extract for Collingham provides five examples, among them 'Plow-boondays', 'Threshing-boondays.' - DB

## 10.3 Appendix F

**Document:** *Abstract from the Enclosure Map of North Collingham.1790*

**Source:** Likely to be in All Saints' 'Parish Chest' at the time, usually kept in the vestry (now held in Nottinghamshire Record Office)

'In this abstract Wake sets out all the provisions contained in the original parliamentary act of George 3<sup>rd</sup> dated 1790 for the enclosure of North Collingham.

This is all in amplification of his discussion on page 41. As he shows in this appendix, the act covers in great detail what the appointed enclosure commissioners were required to do and the sequence and manner in which the work was to be carried out. In similar vein Wake takes three pages to abstract and cover the major provisions of the Act.

At the conclusion of their work the Commissioners were required to produce and publish the final Enclosure Award, all in writing, setting out and locating in extraordinary detail the new fields along with their new ownership. New roads, ways and footpaths to be made across the new fields are also scheduled. The award runs to 108 handwritten copper-plate pages. A bound volume is held in the Nottinghamshire Record Office. In concert with the Award the commissioners were required to survey, draw up and make available for public inspection a large map of North Collingham parish depicting all the new fields.

This map is also held in the Nottinghamshire Record Office, and a smaller copy is available in the CDLHS archive. The map covers the entire North Collingham parish and also shows all those acres that had already been enclosed in an earlier private agreement in 1567, the so-called Customary Enclosure.'

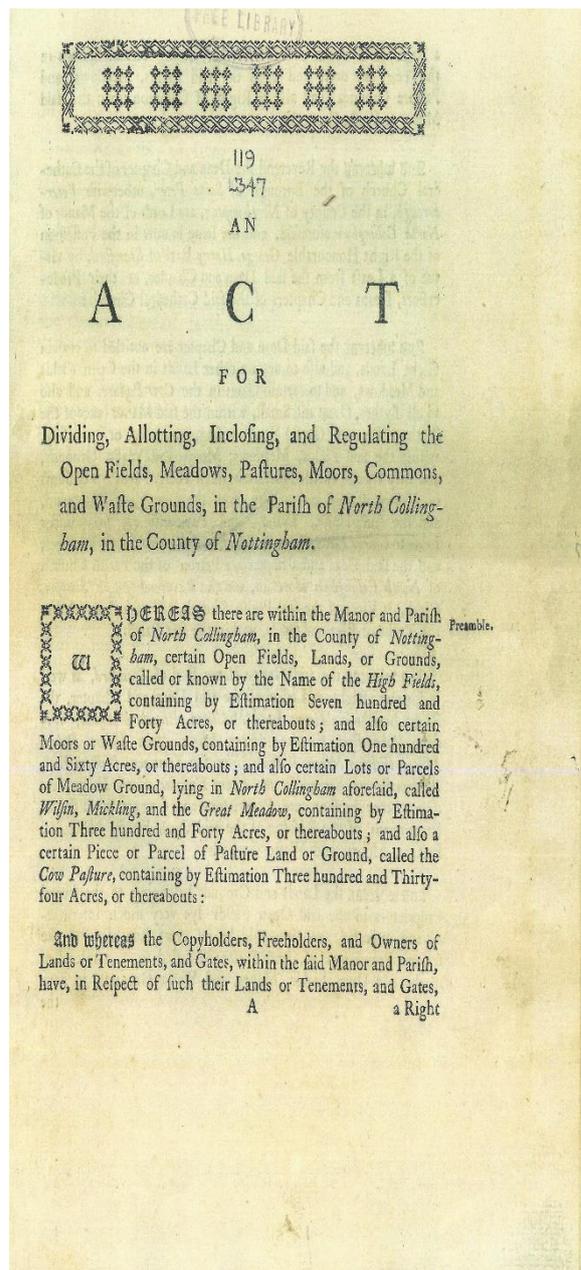


Figure 40 Page 1 of the Abstract to Enclose – a copy can be found in Newark Library Local Studies Section on Collingham Ref: 119 L347

- DB

NB: Readers might be interested to note that Dr Dennis Mills undertook a detailed study of Attenburrow's map in 1987. His notes, sketches and copies of the map are in CDLHS archives.

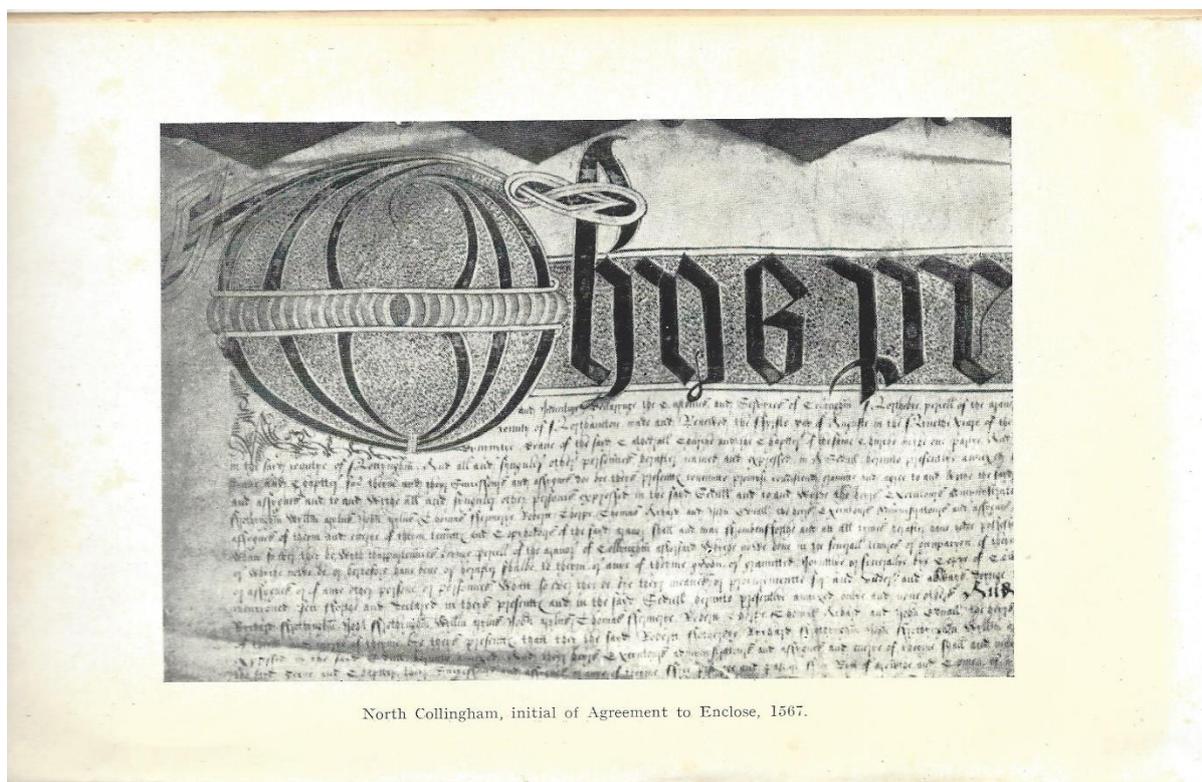


Figure 41 Detail of the village centre on the 1790 Attenborough map showing the older enclosures from 1567 in green to distinguish them from the 1790 new enclosures which are left uncoloured.

Photograph c/o David Barker with permissions from NRO

As David Barker mentioned, there existed an earlier Agreement to Enclose for North Collingham dated 1567. Although he alludes to it, Wake does not appear to have actually seen the document, held at the time in Hodgkinson’s solicitor’s office in Newark, even though Thomas Smith Woolley Jr. knew of it as far back as 1853<sup>44</sup>. It is a significant document in that it lists the main landowners and tenants of the time as well as giving topographical detail of the land and field names in Tudor times.

In 1945, Blagg transcribed the agreement in full<sup>45</sup>. Copies can be found in Newark Library Local Studies section and CDLHS archives (Ref: VH1axx). According to Blagg, an original copy of the agreement was donated to Newark Museum in 1925.



North Collingham, initial of Agreement to Enclose, 1567.

Figure 42 A black and white photograph of the original document appears in T M Blagg’s transcription. The historian provided this useful description of the document:

*‘The main document is written on two large skins of parchment each measuring approximately 26 inches in length by 35 inches in breadth, the first skin indented on upper edge, and attached to one another by a pendant seal tab with remains of a seal in green wax, which once bore the impression of the common seal of the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough. Between the two skins of the Customary is attached the Schedule of individual tenancies which comprises six smaller skins about 20 inches long by 9 ½ inches wide. As the second skin of the agreement is signed on the dorse by the Dean and some of the Prebends, this copy is presumably that belonging to the copyholders; the other copy which would be signed by them, remaining with the Dean and Chapter in their muniments at Peterborough.’*

<sup>44</sup> Blagg opens his introduction with this information gleaned from Woolley’s diary entry of April 13<sup>th</sup> 1853.

<sup>45</sup> Printed and published as part of the Thoroton Record Series Vol XI

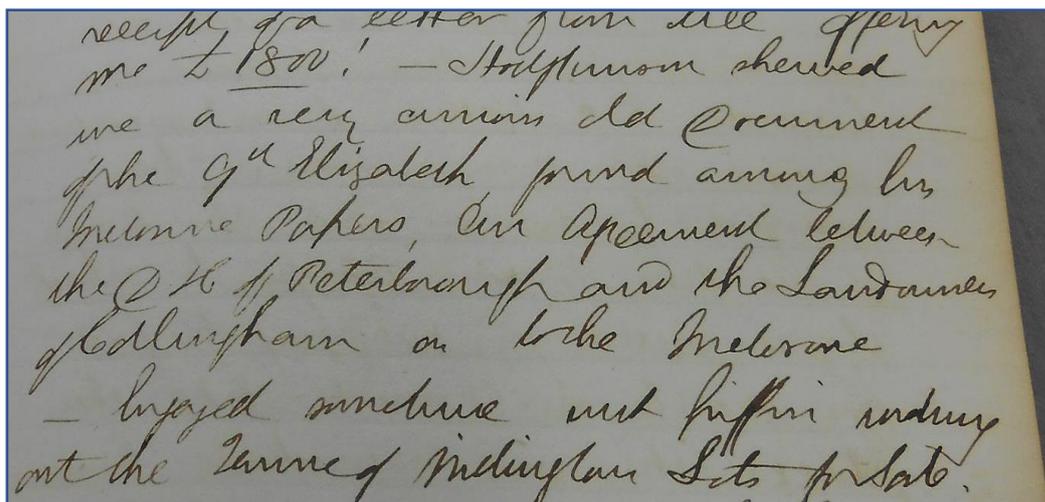


Figure 43 TSW diary extract from April 13<sup>th</sup> 1853 'Hodgkinson shewed me a very curious old document of the 9<sup>th</sup> Elizabeth found among his M ----- papers, and agreement between the D & C of Peterborough and the landowners of Collingham...' Photo HP c/o Inspire Nottinghamshire Archives Accession 6821

## 10.4 Appendix F (cond.)

Document: Extract of a presentment 1812

Source: Not specified

This extract deals with a presentment made by Sir John Bayley, Justice of the Assizes, Nottingham, in 1812. The word assize refers to the sittings or sessions (from old French *assises*) of the judges, known as "justices of assize", who were judges who travelled across the seven circuits of England and Wales setting up court and summoning juries at the various assize towns. The courts of assize (known as the assizes) were courts held in the main county towns and presided over by visiting judges from the higher courts based in London.

From the 12<sup>th</sup> century England and Wales was divided into six judicial circuits which were the geographical areas covered by visiting judges. The Midland Circuit comprised five counties including Nottinghamshire which held its county assize in Nottingham. This system of holding local assizes at the principal towns of each county remained the chief feature of the English system of justice until modern times. In addition to hearing criminal cases the assize was empowered to examine the failure of local communities to keep local roads and bridges in a good state of repair, as in this extract. - DB

## 10.4 Appendix H

Extracts from Old Account Books of Besthorpe Parish *'of sufficient interest to demand further notice.'* The entries date from about 1783 – 1797. One mentioned is that in 1783 the parish charged one penny for a corpse to be carried over Besthorpe meadow and in 1801, the overseer had to pay 2d to one of the parishioners for the corpse going over his close.

## 10.5 Appendix K

**Document:** Extract from **The Black Book of the Monastery of Peterborough** 1125 – 1128

**Source:** Not given. Perhaps James Cattell, the Librarian at Peterborough Cathedral?



Figure 44 Photograph of the Black Book of Peterborough taken when on display at the Magna Carta exhibition 2015 via Wikipedia Commons web page (copyright free)

Wake's write-up on this rare text appears in the 1869 Cheaper Edition of *The History of Collingham* only and did not appear in the first edition or the later modern reprints by Notts County Council & the British Library.

**'The Black Book of Peterborough'** (12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> century) is a miscellaneous composition of various written records of Peterborough Abbey. It includes a survey, of manors owned by the abbey, copies of early charters, and other material relating to the abbey's lands. Within it is a cartulary of the Abbey, which includes a list of books, lands, vestments etc. given to the Abbey by Bishop Æthelwold, a list of sureties for lands and a further five Old English documents. The manuscript's Latin contents, some charters and land tenure materials are seemingly copies of texts

dating from 7<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The rest of the manuscript contains charters and other documents in several different 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century hands, with some additions in the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

*The book was donated to the Society of Antiquaries of London by Brownlow Cecil, 9<sup>th</sup> Earl of Exeter (a Fellow of the Society) in June 1778. A transcript commissioned by the Earl is held by The National Archives at Kew.'*

## Appendix K.

### ***The Black Book of the Monastery of Peterborough***

Wake quotes the Collingham entry from the Black Book. He must have copied it out by hand.

'This is a description of the Manors of the Abbey of Burgh such as  
Walter, the Archdeacon, received and gave up to the King \*

#### *Extract from the same.*

'In Colingeham there are four carucates of land paying tribute to the King and one bovate of land—minus the fifth part. Also 20 villanes, who hold one plough and a half, and each of whom works one day a week throughout the year And in August there are three payments made by service (*praecationes*). And all these villanes carry from the wood sixty cart-loads to the lord's house, and also dig and carry twenty cart-loads of turf and twenty loads from the thicket. And these men ought to harrow throughout the winter seed-time. And they pay £4 per annum for house-rent (*de Gabulo*). Also 50 sochmen who hold two carucates and a half of land. And each of them works six days per annum according to custom. And in August each man works three days. And all these have fourteen ploughs; hence they plough three times in Lent. And the afore-said 50 sochmen plough 48 acres and do harvest work in August. And all these sochmen pay £12 per annum. And in the lord's domain are two ploughs for sixteen oxen and three cows and calves, and one beast of burden, and 160 sheep and twelve pigs.

Among the payments made by the several Manors, belonging to the Abbey, appears the following entry—

“ From Colingeham £20, for clothing the monks.’

Wake then goes on to explain:

*'The foregoing extracts are taken from the Appendix of the Chronicon and are given precedence here because of their earlier date; but another reference to Collingham, in the main narrative of the book, has great interest from its bearing upon the dispute between the Bishop of Lincoln and the Abbot of Peterborough, mentioned at page 26. It would thus seem that the prelate, in claiming his right to hang, did no more than*

*restrain the cruelty of a man who would not allow his victim the short respite of a journey from Nottingham to Collingham. By comparison of dates, it appears that this interdict was placed upon the Abbot only six years after the event described in the following note:’*

‘In this year (1280) The Lords John de Vaux, William de Sahan, John de Metingham, and Master Thos. de Suthington, Justices itinerant, sat at Nottingham from the morrow of All Souls (Nov. 3rd.) to Christmas Day, when the Lord Abbot appeared, having waited there three weeks; and in the presence of the said judges were read the charters of liberties and possessions, as well as the right of warren in Colingeham and Fiskerton; copies of which having been demanded and produced, the said grants were allowed. And one of the men of the Abbot of Dhornthrop, Richard Canting by name, who placed himself above his country, was accused by the officer, sworn to apprehend thieves, and was condemned to death; and being delivered by the Judges to the bailiff of the Abbot, for the purpose of being hung, and because it was then evening they were not able to take him to the gallows at Colingeham, but asked for the King’s gallows; and there he was hung, and his chattels were awarded to the Lord Abbot.’

A.D.,1294,

Thomas, son of Ralph Sorel, performed homage and fealty to Richard Lord Abbot of Peterborough, for a tenement which he himself held at Colingham, in the presence of Lord William de Wodeforde, John de Setford, monks, and many others.

\* Walter, Archdeacon of Oxford, furnished the above details to the newly made Abbot of Peterborough, A.D. 1128; and, as he had administered the affairs of the Abbey during the previous two and a half years, the document dates from A.D. 1125-1128.

- David Barker October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017

Glossary of terms in the Black Book:

- **Bovate** = one eighth of a carucate (about 10-18 acres)
- **Carucate** was the measure of land used for taxation. It usually referred to the amount of land a team of 8 oxen could plough each year – approx. 120 acres.
- **Demesne** = land the Lord of the Manor held for his own use
- **Sochman** – a holder of the Socage, a fixed payment a farmer paid to the Lord of the Manor

## 10. List of Key Dates in Collingham's History

(attributed to Edward Wake MD)

The following list of key dates has been compiled using the dates & information given in E G Wake's *History of Collingham and Its Neighbourhood* published in 1867

Period	Date	Event
<b>Neolithic/ Bronze Age</b>  <b>8300 BC - 751 BC</b>		The East Midlands was peopled by the Coritavi  (now named as the Corieltavi)
<b>Iron Age</b>  <b>750 BC – AD 42</b>		
<b>Romano – British</b>  <b>AD 43 - 409</b>		The Romans build a station at Brough (Crocolana)  Roman finds such as pottery, celts etc unearthed in S. Collingham & Potter Hill (p43)
<b>'Invaders' – Angles, Saxons, Danes</b>  <b>410 - 1065</b>	AD 627  AD 665  'Some time between 636 and 900'  928	Southwell Minster founded. Early Christianity in the district  Oswy, King of Northumbria, divides the Eastern regions of England into wapentakes  River Trent changes course  King Athelstan (1 <sup>st</sup> King of England) declares a 'thane' can only be ranked as such if he has a church with a belfry on his land. This suggests Manors

	<p>1016</p> <p>1042</p>	<p>of North and South originally belonged to 2 landowners who obeyed the law. Two churches were built and two manor houses, probably on the same locations as today.</p> <p>Brough is destroyed by the Danes</p> <p>Peter de Burgh, Abbot of Peterborough, is taxed for a Manor at 'Colingham'</p>
<p><b>Anglo - Normans 1066 - 1215</b></p>	<p>1086</p> <p>1120 – 1130</p>	<p>Domesday Survey of Collingham. <i>'Soon after that, both manors given to the Abbot of Peterborough by Turketil Hoche, grandson of King Alfred.'</i></p> <p>Earliest stonework of St John the Baptist's Church dated from around here.</p>
<p><b>The Middle Ages  1216 - 1347</b></p>	<p>1217</p> <p>1230 – 1250</p> <p>1241</p> <p>1250</p>	<p>The Battle of Lincoln. 'The Earl of Pembroke must have necessitated passing through Collingham'</p> <p>Later additions to St John the Baptist's Church</p> <p>Abbot of Peterborough granted 'free warren' – the right to hunt and fish - in Collingham</p> <p>All Saints' Church gains 'addition of piers and gothic arches'</p>

	<p>1262</p> <p>1269</p> <p>1286</p> <p>1316</p>	<p>Abbot and Convent of Peterborough presents Sir Gyles of Erdyngton as the first Rector of Collingham</p> <p>Hugh de Colingham rector</p> <p>The Bishop of Lincoln (who 'held the 'liberty' of the Newark Hundred) was in dispute with the Abbot of Peterborough over the erection of gallows on Potter Hill. The Bishop of Lincoln is made to take them down.</p> <p>All Saints has a new roof and chapel</p>
<p>Late Medieval period</p> <p>1348 - 1484</p>	<p>1350 – 60</p> <p>'during the 14<sup>th</sup> C'</p>	<p>Windows to North Aisle of St John the Baptist's Church</p> <p>The Cross was erected to denote a market place.</p>
<p>Tudors</p> <p>1485 - 1602</p>	<p>1498</p> <p>1558</p> <p>1567</p> <p>1573</p> <p>1579</p> <p>c.1580</p>	<p>Thomas Magnus Rector (later goes on to found Magnus Grammar School in Newark)</p> <p>Parish Registers begin</p> <p>Early Agreement to Enclose N Collingham</p> <p>Memorial slab to Frances, son of Sir Francis Mering (Lord of the Manor) laid in St John the Baptist</p> <p>A storm kills three people – Bartholomew Adamson, Cicilie Cresswell and Dorothy Sandwith – as they walk from Swinderby and are crushed to death in the fields</p> <p>R. Trent changes course again</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stuarts</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1603 - 1713</b></p>	<p>1613</p> <p>1642 -46</p> <p>1646</p> <p>1646</p> <p>1669</p>	<p>Date of oldest bell cast in All Saints' Church</p> <p>Civil War 'skirmishes' Cottage Lane.</p> <p>Civil War: Grocer Thomas Ridge makes his own tokens to replace coins.</p> <p>Plague in N Collingham and other parishes</p> <p>Presbyterians and Baptists set up meeting places in Collingham after the Act for the Suppression of Dissent becomes law.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Georgians</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1714 - 1836</b></p>	<p>1722</p> <p>1790</p> <p>1790s</p> <p>1795</p> <p>1792</p>	<p>Noted historian Dr Stukeley visits &amp; sketches Potter Hill</p> <p>Final Agreement to Enclose is drawn up for North Collingham by William Attenburrow</p> <p>Church lands are leased by Hon. Auchehill Grey, Earl of Stamford.</p> <p>Flood breaches All Saints' wall</p> <p>Historian John Throsby visits Collingham to update the Collingham entry for Thoroton's <i>'Antiquities of Nottinghamshire'</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Early Victorians</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1837 – 1867 (up to publication of Wake's book)</b></p>	<p>1840</p> <p>1852</p> <p>1854</p> <p>1860</p> <p>1865</p>	<p>60-70 skeletons found on Potter Hill &amp; reburied in All Saints' churchyard</p> <p>Flood</p> <p>Cholera outbreak kills 6</p> <p>Restorations on South Church</p> <p>Discovery of a 'rude box' (medieval coffin) during rebuilding of the Rectory</p>

## 11. Analysis of ‘*The History of Collingham*’

All in all, there is much to admire in Wake’s book and there is no doubt he took his task seriously. For a small volume, he certainly crammed a lot of information into his few short pages. It is a testament to him that nothing as substantial has been written since on the district and people still turn to it for reference<sup>46</sup>.

However, it can’t be denied Wake’s writing style is ‘of its time’. The text, while readable, does tend to jump from subject to subject and back again and can be pedestrian in places and florid in others. Archaic terms such as ‘heathens’ for non-Christians in reference to Romans and Saxons now jar.

It’s also a shame he doesn’t give his readers much sense of the appearance of the documents he handled – there are few indications of material, size, shape, condition, location or how and where these precious things were stored or looked after. Nor are there any sketches or illustrations to enhance and break up the text. If he could draw, we are not aware of it.

Wake is also guilty, on occasions, of being vague about dates and events, using terms such as ‘a few years since’ and ‘from other sources’ which most historians try to avoid. Some of his eye-witness ‘accounts’ stretch credibility, too. In his section on South Scarle, for example, this ‘eye-witness’ report reads like a ‘shaggy dog story’:

‘A highly-respectable inhabitant of Scarle was told by a late resident there, that her mother had heard an old man, named Richardson, speak of the consternation caused by the (Cromwellian) troopers scouring the neighbourhood for forage; the villagers meanwhile placing their valuables in the church. And of this her informant was an eye-witness.’

Wake, page 52

Nevertheless, it must be remembered Wake was not a professional historian or even a prolific amateur – the *History of Collingham* seems to be the only work to his name. It should also be recognised that he was researching and writing up his notes in his spare time, as well as running his practice, not to mention raising a young family and dealing with personal tragedies. The end result was a steadfast, competent local history. It proved successful enough to run out of its first edition and generate a second within two years. It is also still in print, which is a huge achievement. When he gave his lecture on *The History of Collingham and its Neighbourhood* all those years ago, Edward Wake could never have imagined his book would still be available to read a century and a half later.

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<sup>46</sup> Most recently in the 2001 English Heritage Nottinghamshire Urban Survey Archaeological Assessment Report on Collingham by Gill Stroud

## Acknowledgements & References

### Abbreviations:

CDLHS *Collingham and District Local History Society*

LDAS *Lincolnshire Diocese Architectural Society*

SLHA *Society for Lincolnshire History Association*

LA *Lincolnshire Archives*

NL *Newark Library*

NA *Nottinghamshire Archives*

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Nottinghamshire History website: [nottshistory.org.uk](http://nottshistory.org.uk)

East Trent Benefice genealogy database [easttrentgenealogy.co.uk](http://easttrentgenealogy.co.uk)

[Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)

The Thoroton Society: [thorotonsociety.org.uk](http://thorotonsociety.org.uk)

Find-a-Grave: [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)

Southwell and Nottingham Church History Project: [southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk](http://southwellchurches.nottingham.ac.uk)

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