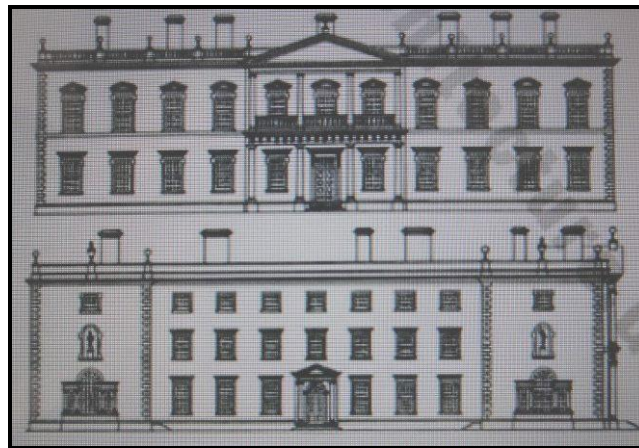
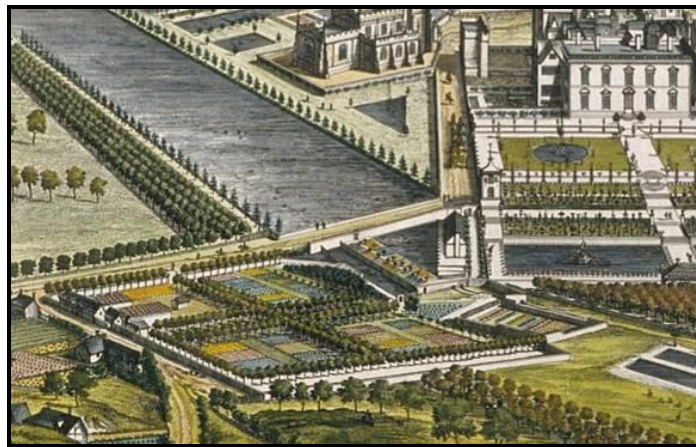


**A HISTORY STUDY ON THE ORIGINS AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STAUNTON HAROLD ESTATE
(INCLUDING A SUPPLEMENTARY HISTORY OF
THE RAGDALE & CHARTLEY CASTLE ESTATES)**



WRITTEN BY SAMUEL T STEWART – JANUARY 2020

PREFACE

Samuel T Stewart, a local amateur historian, has published several local social and industrial history books covering adjacent geographical locations to the areas covered in this particular book, and which are inter-related in many respects. For example, Coleorton Pottery, although in Coleorton Parish, was situated just across the road from the Hamlet of Lount. The Beaumonts of Coleorton, and the Shirleys' / Earls Ferrers of Staunton Harold were both one of the few families whose roots go back to "William the Conqueror" and they were both heavily involved in coal mining in the area.

The aim of this book is to bring together various fragmented research material into a format that will hopefully provide a platform for those wishing to research certain individual subjects in more depth.

It should also prove useful to genealogists, as names and photographs of people living at the time, have been included wherever possible.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thanks to Mr and Mrs John Blunt of Staunton Harold Hall for their contribution and allowing us to carry out field walking research on their land and to publish our findings.
- We are grateful for the permission granted to publish an excerpt from "The Buildings of Peter Harrison Cataloguing the Work of the First Global Architect, 1716-1775" © John Fitzhugh Millar by McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640.
- Thanks to Twickenham Museum for granting permission to include information on Heath Lane Lodge etc, in relation to the 1st Earl Ferrers & George Shirley.
- The author acknowledges the Trustees of the William Salt Library for giving permission to include the historically important painting of Staunton Harold Hall by the Rev. Stebbing Shaw.
- Thanks to Warwickshire Record Office for allowing publication of extracts of the love letters between George Shirley & Miss A Graham. Ref CR2131/16/53 & CR2131/16/56
- Thanks to Ashby-de-la-Zouch Museum for permitting certain photographs / illustrations and information from their archives to be used.
- Research information obtained from the Shirley and Ferrers papers at the "Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Record Office" etc has proved extremely helpful in significant areas of the book, and we appreciate them giving permission to publish this. Their catalogue references are prefixed LRO within the book where available.
- Information from the LAHS Transactions opened up many new avenues of research and has been acknowledged where appropriate.
- "Collins Peerage of England 1818", "Dugdale's Antiquities of Warwickshire", "Stemmata Shirleiana by E. P. Shirley 1873", "The History of Parliament-House of Commons", "Staunton Harold" by John Fox and old papers from the Leicestershire Archaeological & Historical Society records have proved extremely useful in carrying out the research for this book and have been acknowledged where appropriate.
- "The Mirror of Literature, Amusement & Instruction" 1836 proved key in establishing and confirming certain facts, as did John Throsby's "Select Views in Leicestershire".
- Information in Leicestershire Museum's Archaeological reports has proved helpful and been acknowledged where appropriate.
- Thanks to "Nottingham Tree-ring dating laboratory" for allowing information to be published.
- Sincere apologies for anyone or anything we have mistakenly omitted to acknowledge within the book.

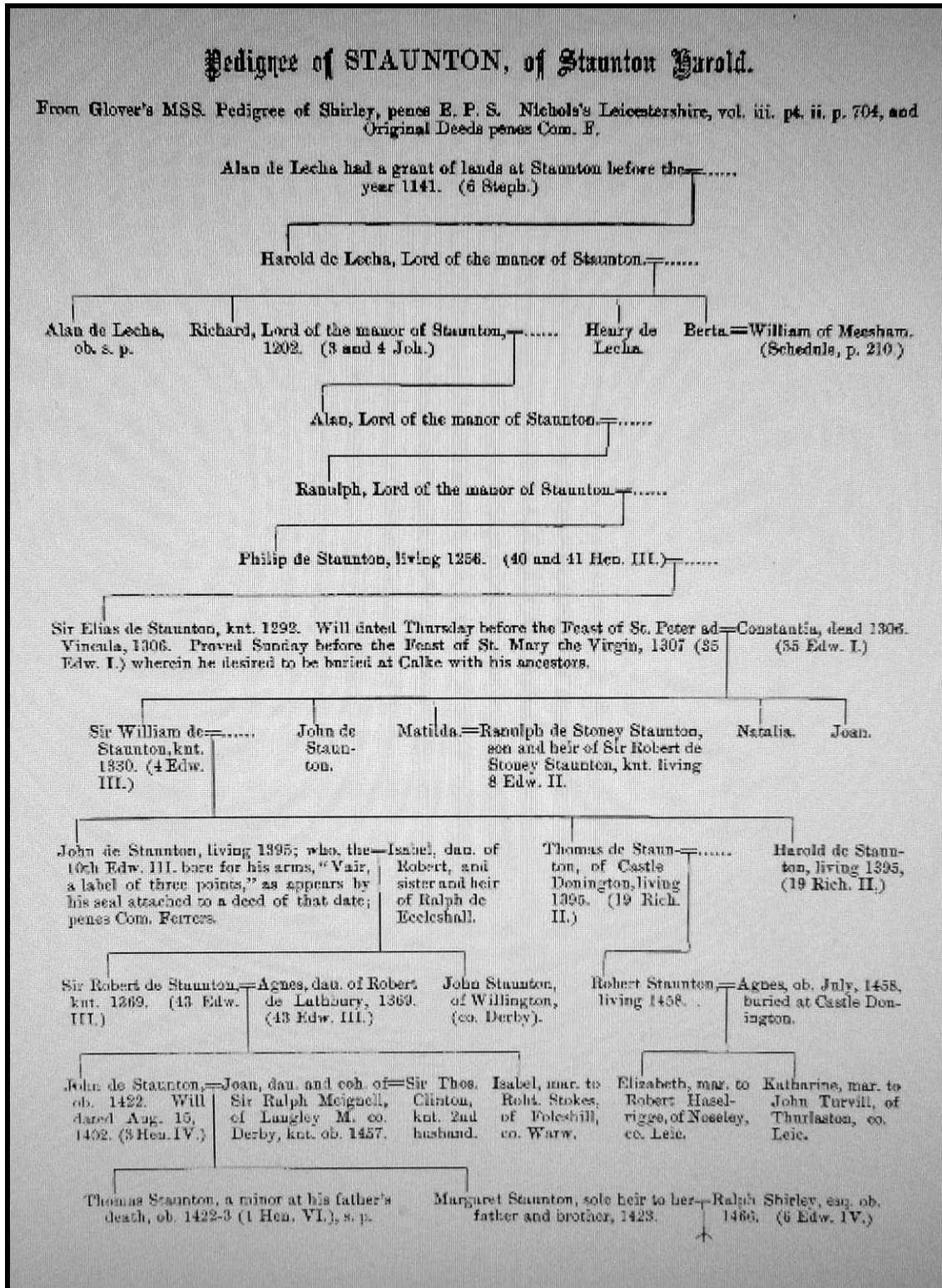


GIRDWOOD'S 1859 STAUNTON HAROLD ESTATE MAP.
The area of the land amounted to - 1986 Acres 0 roods 2 poles

The original is held at the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland record office (26D53/2179) and further information relating to the map is included within the book

FROM STEMMATA SHIRLEIANA BY E.P. SHIRLEY 1873

SUPPORTED TEXT IN VARIOUS AREAS OF THE BOOK



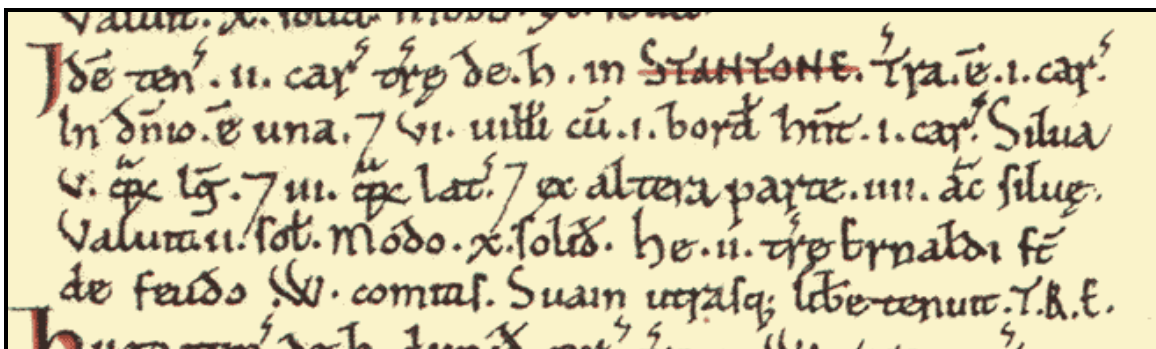
The Domesday survey of England was carried out in the years 1085 -1086 on the orders of William the Conqueror (William I / William of Normandy) 1066-1087. This followed the Norman Conquest of Britain in 1066 when Harold Godwin was defeated at the Battle of Hastings. The Domesday Book is a manuscript that records the great survey of much of England and parts of Wales, which was started in 1085 and completed in 1086. While spending the Christmas time of 1085 in Gloucester, William had deep speech with his counselors' and sent men all over England to each shire to find out what, or how much each land holder had in land and livestock, and what it was worth.

One of the main purposes of the survey was to determine who held what, and what taxes had been liable under Edward the Confessor. The judgment of the Domesday assessors was final—whatever the book said about who held the material wealth or what it was worth was the law, and there was no appeal. It was written in Latin, although there were some vernacular words inserted for native terms with no previous Latin equivalent, and the text was highly abbreviated.

Richard Fitz Nigel, writing around the year 1179, stated that the book was known by the English as "Domesday", that is the Day of Judgment. That is the spelling used in this book.

William decided to divide his lands in England between several of his more loyal followers, one of the more prominent being Henry de Ferrariis, who was granted circa two hundred and ten lordships scattered throughout the country including lands at Ovetone (part of what later became Coleorton) and also at Stantone (Staunton Harold). The following information comes from the free on-line copy of the Domesday Book with Domesday data created by Professor J. J. N. Palmer, Hull University:-

STANTONE:-



- **Hundred:** [Goscote](#)
- **County:** [Leicestershire](#)
- **Total population:** 7 households (quite small).
- **Total tax assessed:** 2 geld units (quite small).
- **Taxable units:** Taxable value 2 geld units.
- **Value:** Value to lord in 1086 £0.5. Value to lord c. 1070 £0.1.

- **Households:** 6 Villeins (a member of a class of partially free persons under the feudal system, who were serfs with respect to their lord but had who rights and privileges). 1 Bordar (A small-holder)
- **Ploughland:** 1 ploughland (land for). 1 lord's plough teams. 1 man's plough teams.
- **Other resources:** Woodland 5 * 3 furlongs & 4 acres mixed measures.
- **Lord in 1066:** [Swein](#).
- **Lord in 1086:** [Arnold of Sileby](#).
- **Tenant-in-chief in 1086:** [Hugh of Grandmesnil](#).

In order to gain some appreciation of how the name of Staunton Harold was derived, we first need to refer to the history of the villages in Nottinghamshire now known as East and West Leake. This settlement originally known as Leke, was referred to as Leche in the Domesday Book. This was possibly derived from an old Saxon word Leccian, to describe the passing of water by a brook for example, two of which are in E and W Leake. Another possible origin of Leake is Laeke, an old Norse meaning for a brook or stream.

Robert de Ferrariis, who became the Earl of Nottingham and Derby, and was the grandchild of Henry de Ferrariis from whom he had inherited his lands, gave Alanus de Leca in 1141, the town of Leche, where the mother church was, with all the appurtance, and twelve bovates of land, and in Stantun, as much as belonged to the said Earl's fee. Alanas de Leca is recorded as leasing "Stantun" to a feoffee Harald de Stanton c.1160, who was otherwise known as Heraldus de Leca, Harald de Leec, or Harald de Lecha. His name clearly relates to Leke (Leche) mentioned in the Domesday Book. This Family of Leke, changed their residence to Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire, and from thence eventually changed their surname to Staunton.

A fee or Fief (Latin feudum) was the central element of feudalism and consisted of heritable property or rights granted by an overlord to a feoffee who held it fealty (or "in fee") in return for a feudal allegiance and service, usually given by the personal ceremonies of homage and fealty. The fees were often lands or revenue-producing real property held in feudal land tenure: these were typically known as fiefs or fiefdoms. However, not only land, but anything of value could be held in a fee, including governmental office, rights of exploitation such as hunting or fishing, monopolies in trade, and tax farms. A bovat of land was 1/8th of a carucate (an area of c.120 acres of land).

In the feudal survey of England dated 1124-1129, Staunton Harold was recorded as **Stanton** in the Leicestershire section. We can start to see now, how the name of Staunton Harold as we know it today started to develop. Tun (or ton) was an old Saxon word relating to a farm, enclosure, settlement, village, hamlet etc., and if we add this to Stan (an old English word for stone) we get Stantun. Lime and iron-stone have been mined in the locality of Staunton Harold for centuries, and presumably the introduction of the word "Stan" (stone) suggests that mining of these materials was taking place even at these early times.

Sir Elias de Staunton Knt, born c.1292 d.1306 (see the preceding pedigree of Staunton, Staunton Harold) is mentioned in records held in the Berkley Castle Muniments BCM/G/1/4/2 as follows:-

Elias lord of Staunton Harold; and Robert Crane, his chaplain, and Hugh his son. n.d. [temp. Edw. I] Elias has granted to Robert and Hugh, for their lives, a toft in the **vill of Stanton**, 12½ a. of land, and 4 furlongs in the fields of Stanton (called le Hologate, le Parrokes, le Fordolegrene, and one in **le Lound**, beside the park of Esseby); rent 3s. a year; with successive remainders to Robert's son Henry and his issue, to Henry's brother Ralph and his issue and to Elias and his heirs. Witnesses: William de Ingwardby, William de Bredon, William Sawcheverel, Adam de Heton of Worthington, Richard son of Simon of the same, Adam Thurgunt of Newbold, Roger Petit of the same.

Berkley Castle Municents BCM/G/1/4/3 (22nd April 1324)

William de Staunton Harald, knight; and Geoffrey de Steynsby, Agatha his wife and Robert his son. Sunday before St. George, 17th Edward II.

William had leased to Geoffrey, Agatha and Robert a messuage and 1 Virgate of land in the vill of Staunton, viz. the messuage and virgate which William de Smyth (sic) formerly held of William; for their lives rent 10s. a year and 4 hens at Christmas and the work of making the hedge of William's park of Staunton and his fields as his villiens do.

Witnesses: William Pakemon of Worthington, William Honte of Bredon, William del Grene of the same, William Balle of Wilson, Thomas Grave of Staunton.

A record (LRO 26D53/491) suggested date 13th century, reflects on the demands of William, Prior of Breedon, against Sir William? (thought to be William de Staunton) for the increase of tithes due from **iron workings** (according to agreement) which the prior has not received for two years; tithes of young or offsprings of his packhorse, which prior has not received since judgement. For prior Robert also, tithes of **coal mine** for last year; also that Sir William ordains **Whetecroft Mansion** for Chaplain at Staunton according to agreement between predecessors of prior and Sir William. **This is important for several reasons, firstly it confirms again that iron ore and coal mining was taking place at this early time and that a mansion had been built for the Chaplain at Staunton.**

Considerable research has been carried out to establish where Whetecroft Mansion was, without any success.

Berkley Castle Municents BCM/1/4/1 1272-1307:-

Roger de Staunton and Steven de Segrave. 12th May (temp. Edward I)

Roger pledges his manor of Staunton and two roots of the herb called maundragon (i.e. mandrake) for the repayment within a year of £30 belonging to his master Stephen, which he had wickedly spent by his knavery and foolish company from the treasure which Stephen had entrusted to his care when he departed overseas; appointing as his surities, Roger de Verdoun and Gari Normand

Berkley Castle Municents BCM/G/1/4/4 (Late 14th Century):-

John of Gaunt duke of Lancaster and his 'bachiler' Robert de Staunton n.d.

Robert petitions the duke that whereas the duke's tenants of Melbume (Derby) and of Staunton (Leicester), with force of arms, wrecked Robert's enclosure at Stauntone, and the duke ordered his steward John Cokeyn to see that the grievance ended, his tenants have continued their malice against Robert's hedges and have cut down and taken away his trees, and he begs a remedy.

Witnesses: William Pakemon of Worthington, William Honte of Bredon, William del Grene of the same, William Balle of Wilson, Thomas Grave of Staunton.

There are several recordings of an early chapel existing in Staunton Harold:-

"The Leicestershire Archaeological Society" notes referring to buildings visited at the annual excursion in 1915, provides the following information:-

The Church of St. Mary and St. Hardulph, with all its appurtenances was given in 1144 by Robert Ferrers, Earl of Nottingham, to the prior and canons of the Augustinian Priory of St. Oswald at Nostell, Nr. Wakefield.

The gift included four virgates of land, all the demesne tithes belonging to Robert in Breedon, the tithes of his men in Tonge, Andreskirk and Wilson, **the dependent Chapels of Worthington and Staunton** with their lands, tithes and appurtenances, and the tithes of Newbold and Diseworth, as far as they belonged to his fee.

(The British History Online website, together with other references confirms the above).

A further example appears in Stemmata Shirleiana, which probably makes reference to a later chapel, as a different date is given:-

A chapel or chauntry was founded in 1202 by Richard, the son of Harold de Lecha. The sacraments were to be administered there, but the right of burial was confined to the mother church of Bredon (later Breedon on the Hill). In the year 1652, as appears by the schedule of evidences, there was a representation or "picture" of William le Despencer, a priest, to whom Sir William de Staunton in the fourth year of Edward III (1330) had created a letter of attorney to take possession of his lands, **in the north window of Staunton Chapel**.

From British History Online:-

Herald de Leec gave to the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, one Acre in Stanton. Richard, Son of Harald de Lecha, by the Consent of his Men of Stantune, gave to the Church of St. Arduls, of Bredon [a Cell of St. Oswald, of Nostell, in Yorkshire] certain Lands, that the Prior and Covent should always find, at their own Charge, a Chaplain, ministering at Stantune.

There are reasons to believe that a chapel was situated in the land known as "Scalacre" which is described in the following section.

An early 13th century agreement (LRO 26D53/409 transcribed) between Alan-la-Zouch and Philip-de-Staunton (living 1256) is of interest. This is for the clearing and improving heath and wood in Breedon. Alan is granted that heath and wood "Laluntsiche" except nearby meadow with the rights of ploughing, improving the hearth and clearing the wood. Philip the right of gleaning after corn cropped. Philip granted similar rights in that heath between "littilbrot" and "bredenbrigge de huntebuye". Alan also permitted to clear his wood and increase his park. Note - Alan la Zouche, Ranulph de Staunton and Philip de Staunton all appear to have succeeded to the manor of Staunton in that order, but available research

material is very limited during that period. Sir Robert de Staunton is recorded as holding the manor in 1368 (Cal.Pat.Rol 1367-70, 204).

We have not found any conclusive evidence of when the first manor house was built at Staunton Harold, however, the following suggests that it may have been built by William de Staunton, knt. He is shown as the father of John de Staunton who married Isabel in the preceding pedigree for the Stauntons' of Staunton Harold. A charter held at the LRO, ref 26D53/494 and dated 23rd April 1324, includes the statement that:- **Sir William covenants to build a principal house and a Grange by March next.** Details of the complete charter are included under a later feature entitled "The Great medieval Deer Park at Staunton Harold", as the grange could be referring to the first lodge built in Staunton Park. Weight is added to the theory that William de Staunton built the first manor house at Staunton, as information in the Leicestershire "Poll Tax Rolls" for 1379 shown below, suggests that John de Staunton, Knt, who was William de Staunton's son, had a substantial property there.

Edward III's death in 1377 was followed by the succession of the 10 year old Richard II, and as a result, England was ruled for the next 3 years by a series of regency councils which lacked the firm will to divert the country from its ruinously expensive wars with France. One expedition alone in December 1379, under Sir John Arundel cost £15,000. Therefore, the crown demanded extra funding. Traditionally, the King relied on "lay subsidies" for funding, assessed at around 6% of a household's moveable property, which raised correspondingly more money from the rich. In 1377, Parliament voted a poll tax of 4 pence from every male and female over the age of 14 irrespective of income. This raised £22,000, and there was no apparent widespread resistance to it. In Vol 3 of the "History of Leicestershire", it is recorded that in the 1377, Poll Tax Receipts for Staunton Harold, there were 69 payers. In 1379, a second poll tax was approved by Parliament, and levied according to an elaborate set of rules that included 50 gradations, with Dukes at the top paying £6 and barons 50 shillings, down to the poorest at the bottom paying 4 pence. These latest rules were thought to have applied to the following poll tax records, due to the knight's contribution of 20 shillings. Poll taxes were raised even higher with the poor paying 12 pence per head over the age of 15. These higher taxes eventually triggered "**The Peasants Revolt**", and by June 1381 England seemed on the edge of a revolutionary change, as rebels, angered by the imposition of the heavier poll tax, had marched on London and threatened to unseat the Government. The killing of a rebel leader soon squashed the revolt and King Richard II's powers were restored.

LEICESTERSHIRE POLL TAX ROLLS - 1379

An attempt at transcribing the wordings in the "1379 poll tax rolls" has been made, in order to simplify them for the reader. Certain people below can be found in the preceding Staunton pedigree:-

NAME	PAYMENT TO THE KING
John de Staunton, knt	20 shillings
Wife - Isabella de Staunton	4 pence
Agnes (servant of Knt) wife of Robert de Staunton, Knt	4 pence
Thomas (brother of John de Staunton, Knt)	

Isabel Palmer (single)	4 pence
Johnna Kyng (Servant)	4 pence
Margareta (servant) probably of Joannes Franceys?	4 pence
Thomas Peyl	4 pence

Thomas (brother of John de Staunton) was not shown as paying any tax. He was given in the Staunton family tree as being of Castle Donnington and living in 1395. On checking the Castle Donnington records, we find that he was paying his tax there, so he must have just been visiting, or staying at Staunton Harold at the time the enumerator visited. **These records suggest that there would probably only have been a maximum of six messuages plus John de Staunton's manor house at Staunton Harold at this time.**

In an inquisition at Leicester on 19th November 1405 (Inquisitions Post Mortem, Henry IV Writ 7th September 1405) **John de Staunton** held the manor of Staunton Harold in his demesne (Demesne, Demesue was generally referred to as those lands held by the Crown at the time of the Domesday Book) as of fee, of Robert Fraunceys, knight, as a third part of a knight's fee, annual value £8. He died on 4th September last. Thomas, his son and next heir is aged two years and no more. For some reason, his son Thomas is not shown as inheriting the manor in the preceding Staunton Pedigree, so we can only assume he died at a young age, and the manor passed to his son Robert de Staunton who married Agnes and then to his son John de Staunton. This was the John de Staunton who married Joan, the daughter of Sir Ralph Meynell of Meynell Langley (a Derbyshire Country Estate and Manor House). They had issue of both a son Thomas and daughter Margaret who became sole heiress to the Staunton Harold estate due to Thomas dying shortly after the death of his father.

LRO 26D53/487 and 5D33/1938 describes the basic manor house at Staunton as follows in 1422. **This clearly follows the death of John de Staunton in 1422:-**

- A hall, two chambers, a kitchen, a stable, two barns, and a dovecote.
- The manorial estate consisted of:-
 - 15 Messuages (3 shillings yearly each)
 - 16 Virgates arable (5 shillings yearly each)
 - 2 Tofts at 6 shillings yearly each - (The site of a house and/or outbuildings)
 - 20 acres meadow (6 pence per acre yearly)
 - Pasture "Mallefield" (worth 20s. for great cattle)
 - 1 close "le rydnee" (10s. yearly)
 - An enclosed park worth nothing beyond outgoings
 - A wood worth 12 pence yearly
 - 13 shillings of rent passage (?) yearly manor

A virgate, was a former English unit of land measure, varying greatly in size, but most commonly equal to 30 acres.

The above record is extremely important, in that it establishes a modest manor house existed on the Staunton Estate in 1421, which was most likely a development of the house originally thought to have been built by William de Staunton c.1324. Also the number of messuages has increased to 15 from a maximum of 6 in 1379. However if we look at the

Berkley Castle Muncents BCM/1/4/1 1272-1307 featured earlier, it may be that some form of manor house was there in the 13th century.

The following, transcribed from a LRO 26D53/509 lease document dated Oct 3rd 1571 confirms that a Chapel existed at Staunton Harold in 1571:-
Staunton Harold.

Counterpart of lease from Dorothy Shirley, widow and executrix of Francis Shirley, to Robert Brokesby of Shoby, Francis Beaumont and Henry Beaumont of Gracedieu, of all tithes from town, park, fields, etc., of Staunton. For 7 years from Annunc., next, paying yearly £3; **leasees to find priest to serve cure of Staunton chapel**; Crown lease of 17 Feb. 1560/61 to Francis Shirley of tithes of Worthington, Newbold, Staunton and Wilson, rehearsed.

Dorothy Shirley's (nee; Giffard) husband Francis Shirley died in 1571 coinciding with the above counterpart lease.

HOW THE SHIRLEY FAMILY CONNECTION WITH STAUNTON HAROLD DEVELOPED

The main source of information for the following is Collin's *Peerage of England 1818*, Dugdale's *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, and *Stematta Shirleina* by E. P. Shirley 1873.

The Shirleys' were one of the few families, like the Beaumonts of Coleorton Hall, who descended from the time of William the conqueror, and their pedigree is clearly established in both "Collin's *Peerage of England*" Vol 1V 1812 by Sir Egerton Brydges K.J. and in "Stematta Shirleina" by E.P.Shirley 1873. Please note that variations of the following names have been recorded, and some of these have to be left open to conjecture.

It began with a certain Sasuwallo or Sewallas *de Ettington*, who Dugdale, in his *Antiquities of Warwickshire*, argues him to be of the old English stock and he residing at Nether-Ettington, Warwickshire during the reign of King Edward the Confessor, which had been the seat of his ancestors, as there is reason to believe, for many generations before. Sewallas/ Sewallis de Ettington apparently held the lordship of Ettington in the county of Warwickshire as a sub-tenant of the house of Ferrars (Ferrers), and he founded and endowed the church of Nether-Ettington. After the conquest, the lordship of Ettington had been given to Henry Earl of Ferrars, in Normandy, who was one of the principle adventurers with the Norman Duke William. Sewallas is recorded as holding six lordships in England. He is recorded as dying about 1085 and he was clearly an eminent gentleman based on his large possessions in the counties of Warwickshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Derbyshire. Prior to the conquest, he would no doubt have been regarded as a Saxon thane commonly used to describe either an aristocratic retainer of a king or nobleman in Anglo-Saxon England. With regard to his possessions in Derbyshire, the *Shirley Village Archive* tells us that Sewallis held Shirley prior to it being granted to Henry de Ferrers by King William, and his son Fulcher Fitz Sewallis was the first to hold land at Shirley. His son, Sewallis de Shirley, was the first to use the name *Shirley*. Between 1220 and 1254, Shirley was apparently the principle seat of the Shirley family.

Following several male descendants of Sewallas, we arrive at Sir James Shirley, who married Agnes de Walton, the daughter of Simon de Walton, Bishop of Norwich. They had issue of a son and heir Ralph. Sir James was obliged to appeal to the King for the restoration of his manor of Ettington, which his son Ralph Shirley had laid his hands upon, and even pulled down his father's chateau, sold his goods and lifted his cattle whilst his father was overseas. This dispute was settled on James' death c.1278, and Ralph Shirley continued to have lawful possession of Ettington. Ralph was ultimately knighted, and became of great importance in Warwickshire, and was the first knight to be returned to parliament in 1294. This Sir Ralph married Margaret, daughter of Walter de Waldeshief, of Fairfield, Derbyshire. They had issue of a son Thomas and daughter Isabella. Sir Ralph died in 1327, and his son and heir Thomas, became known as the "Great father of the Shirley's" and was famous in his time for his great valour and services rendered to the King. Sir Thomas had issue of a son and heir Hugh Shirley with his wife Isabella, who was the daughter of Ralph Basset, son and heir of Ralph, Lord Basset of Drayton. Thomas Shirley died in 1362, and his son, Hugh Shirley inherited his father's lands and possessions and married Beatrix de

Braose. He had issue with her of a son and heir, another Sir Ralph Shirley, and three daughters Elizabeth, Joan, Isabella and Nicholaia.

When reading the following, please note the later feature entitled - "A Synopsis of the Shirley / Earls Ferrer's History in Relation to the Manor/Estate known Anciently as Ragdale / Rekedale / Rekedale and in more Modern Times as Ragdale".

Ralph, Lord Bassett of Drayton, was the proprietor of the manor of Rakedale (Ragdale), in the reign of Richard II when he died in 1389 without issue. In his will he entailed Rakedale and the adjacent Lordship known as Willows or Willowes upon his nephew Sir Hugh Shirley, Knight, the son of his sister Isabella, who had married Sir Thomas Shirley. This was on the condition that he assumed the name and arms of Bassett. This Sir Hugh Shirley declined to do so, possibly considering his own lineage superior, and a protracted legal dispute ensued. Following over thirty years in litigation, the dispute was finally settled in 1423 by King Henry VI, when the feoffees of Ralph, Lord Basset released the manor to Sir Ralph Shirley, Knt., (b.1392), the son of Sir Hugh Shirley. **Although Ralph Shirley had established his seat at Staunton Harold after his marriage to Margaret de Staunton, several generations passed before Staunton Harold once again became one of the *main* seats of the Shirley's in Leicestershire.**

Sir Hugh Shirley died at the battle of Shrewsbury on July 22nd 1403, on the eve of St. Mary Magdalen whilst fighting for his sovereign. This circumstance is mentioned by Shakespeare in the first part of King Henry IV., act five, scene four, where Douglas fighting and nearly worsting the King, is thus accosted by King Henry:-

"Hold up thy head, vile Scot! Or thou art like
Never to hold it up again. The Spirits
Of Shirley, Stafford, Blount, are in my arms:
It is the Prince of Wales that threatens thee:
Who never promiseth, but he means to pay".

Sir Hugh Shirley had been Constable of Castle Donnington from c.1400.

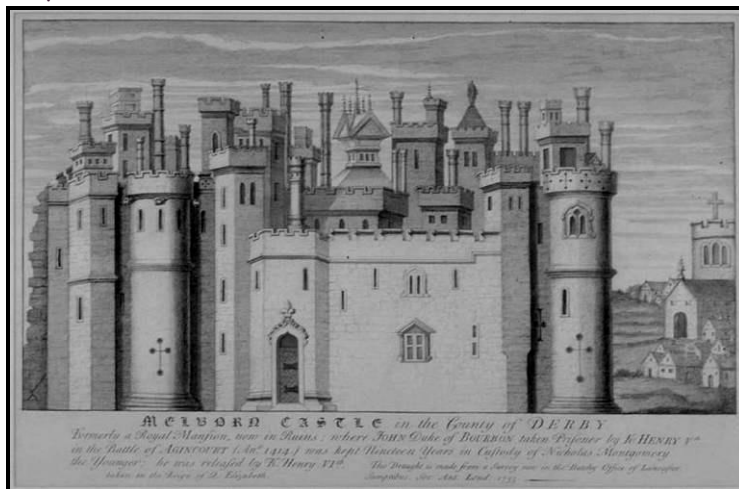
Sir Ralph Shirley (son of Sir Hugh) was born on St. George's day April 23rd 1392, and was only 12 years old when his father fell at Shrewsbury. The custody of the family estates, as well as his own wardship was granted by the King to his mother, Beatrice. When he attained his majority, Beatrice conveyed to him the manors of Shirley, Hope, Houn and Hollington (Derbyshire), Ettington (Warwickshire) and Barnham (Suffolk), on condition that he would pay her 100 marks a year for the rest of her life. She also held a lease from Lord Basset's feoffees of four of the Basset manors in Leicestershire, on the expiry of which, in 1414, these, including Radcliffe upon Soar, Colston Basset, Rakedale and Willowes, Radcliffe upon Wreke, Barrow upon Soar, Watton (all in Leicestershire) also passed to her son. According to the "History of Parliament-House of Commons 1386-1421", A valor of Ralph's combined Shirley and Basset holdings (at least 14 manors) made that same year (1414), showed a yield of £385 15s.6 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. gross, from which after £104 8s.10 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. had been deducted for repairs, the expenses of collection and fees for his officials and council, he had £281 6s. 8d. clear.

To this he added shortly afterwards, revenues from manors at Thrumpton, Nottinghamshire and Swebstone, Leicestershire.

Sir Ralph was knighted before he reached the age of twenty one, and married his first wife Joan, the daughter and heir of Thomas Basset, of Brailsford, Derbyshire, with whom he had issue a daughter Beatrix and a son and heir, yet another Ralph (whilst still a minor). In September 1408, Henry IV granted Sir Ralph and his wife Joan the farm of Brailsford (held of the duchy of Lancaster) for 40 marks a year. Sir Ralph Shirley followed Henry V., into France and was present with his retinue of six esquires and eighteen archers at the siege of Harfleur. He was one of the chief Commanders at the battle of Agincourt. He apparently lived principally at his manor at Radcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire.

Sir Ralph was made Master Forester of the Duchy of Lancaster, honour of Leicester on 22nd of January 1414. He was returned as an M.P for the constituency of Leicestershire in 1420. He was also Sheriff for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire from 16 Dec. 1420 to 1st May 1422, and was Justice of the Peace for Leicestershire from 18th Feb 1415 till June 1418, and from 3rd July 1420 till 1423.

In 1430 he was appointed Steward and then Constable of the castle of Melbourne and keeper of the Royal Park there. Melbourne Castle was the prison for many years of John, Duke of Bourbon, who was captured by Ralph Fowne at Agincourt. Apparently, three years before the Duke died in 1433, he had been entrusted to the care of Sir Ralph. There appears to be some argument as to which Shirley this applies to, but the author believes this is the correct interpretation.



Melbourne Castle (A medieval fortified manor)

The above is a 1773 draft impression made from a survey taken in the reign of Elizabeth II around 1580.

Sir Ralph died during his government abroad about 1443 and his body was carried back to England and he was buried in the Lady Chapel within the Collegiate Church of the Newark at Leicester.

The Shirley family, which had held the manor of Nether Ettington in Warwickshire in the male line since the conquest, is one of the few that can authentically claim that distinction. As explained previously, they took their surname from another of their manors, Shirley in Derbyshire, which they had held as early as the 12th century, and at various times, this branch of the family had also held extensive estates in the counties of Derby, Gloucester, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Stafford, Warwick and Wiltshire. The Shirley connection with Staunton Harold in Leicestershire began in 1423 as explained below. The Shirley's also had earlier connections with Leicestershire because several of Ralph's ancestors had married heiresses, adding land at Dalby on the Wolds and the manors of Radcliffe on Soar, Barrow on Soar, Ragdale, Willowes, Ratcliffe on the Wreake, and Long Watton, some of which feature later in the book.

Although the "Stauntons" had long been in possession here, the Staunton Harold estate came into possession of the Shirley family, when Ralph Shirley, son of Sir Ralph Shirley (b.1392) and his first wife Joan Basset, married Margaret de Staunton, daughter of John de Staunton. Sir Ralph, like his father, was Constable of Melbourne Castle, and also of the castle in the Peak of Derbyshire (Peveril?). At various times, the de Stauntons' had also owned extensive properties and lands in the counties of Leicester, Nottingham, Derby and Warwickshire, all of which Margaret de Staunton inherited on the death of her father and brother. Margaret was sole heiress of her brother Thomas Staunton esq, who died as a minor aged two, shortly after the death of his father in 1422. Ralph would have been no older than fifteen years of age when he married Margaret, (LRO 26D53/254). Research suggests that he had been born before August 1408 whilst his father was still a minor. Custody of young Ralph's inheritance was retained by his mother and father until he came of age in about 1429. Various dates are recorded for Margaret's birth date, but she was probably barely eighteen when she married. Ralph and Margaret were 4th cousins, and as such, his father had to obtain a papal dispensation from the Pope, Martin V., before the marriage could take place (April 2nd 1423). The marriage was solemnized on September 23rd 1423. Following their marriage, Ralph Shirley established his seat at Staunton. This meant that all his wife's inherited properties and lands now fell into the hands of the Shirley's. They had issue one son named John, who features later. Following the death of his wife Margaret c.1435, Ralph Shirley married again to Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir John Blount. His third marriage was to Lucia, daughter of Sir John Ashton, Knt. Ralph Shirley died on December 26th 1466, siesed of the manors of Shirley, Hope, and Brailsford in Derbyshire and was buried in the church of Brailsford, Derbyshire.

In his book entitled "A Gentry Community: Leicestershire c.1422 - c.1485", Eric Acheson tells us - "*The Shirley family was undoubtedly one of Leicestershires most wealthy Knightly families, nevertheless, after the death of Sir Ralph Shirley (b.1392 died c.1443), no members of the family assumed the dignity of Knighthood (S.S. p.43), preferring instead to accept distraint for failing to do so.*

Other research material has confirmed this statement.

ANDRESCHURCH (ALSO REFERRED TO AS ANDRESKIRK OR ANDRESCHIRCH) AND SCALACRE

A document at the LRO No. 26D53/487 refers to a charter issued by Richard, son of Harold de Lecha (Harald de Stanton) awarding the priors of Bredon (Breedon-on-the-Hill) a piece of common pasture called "Shallacre", except for one rood. Shallacre was also recorded as (Scalacres & Skalakre). The suggested date was between 1175 & 1196. Basically, this award was made on the condition that the priory provided a suitable chaplain for Staunton Harold. It also gives confirmation of an earlier grant of one virgate for a chapel. We have not been able to find out where this chapel was situated.

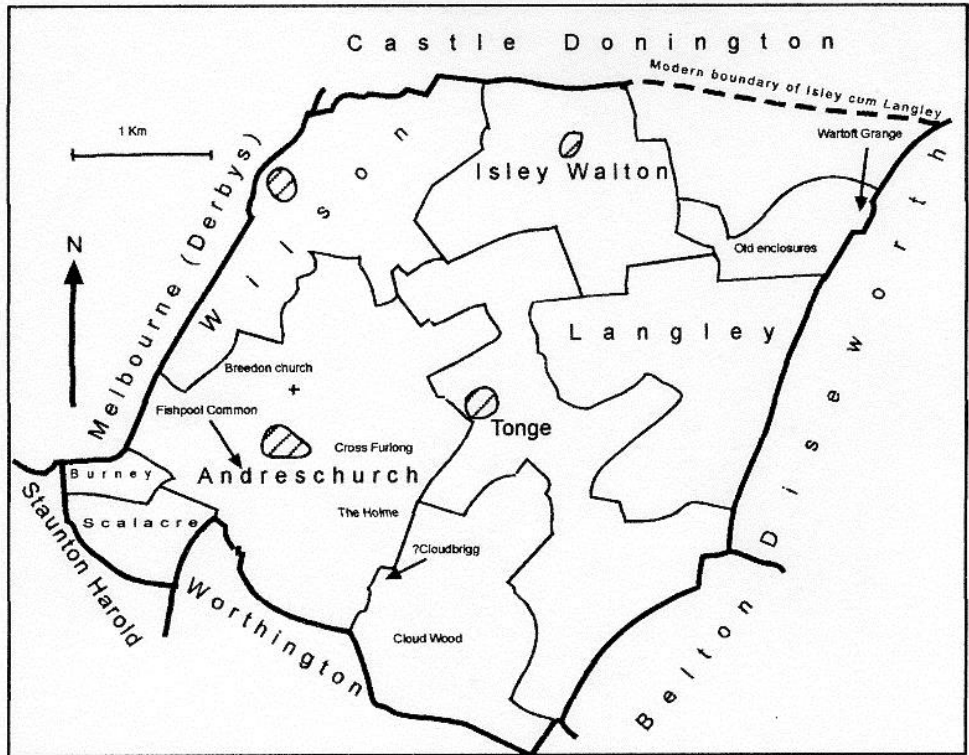
Scalacre is described in the paper entitled "Andreschurch" by A E Brown - Leics Archaeology & Hist. Soc., 76 2003 (**copyright owned by the originator**) as being situated between Staunton, **Andreschurch** and Worthington, and its suggested location is shown on the following map, taken from his paper. Andreschurch was also recorded as Andreskirk & Andreschirch.

A E Brown tells us that Andreschurch in the earlier middle ages, was the name given to the village now known as Breedon-on-the-Hill. There was a gradual change in favour of the present name, which had always been used for ecclesiastical and manorial matters, from the mid to 14th century. This gathered momentum during the 15th century, so that by the 16th century Andreschurch had largely fallen out of use. **For readers interested in learning more about Anderschurch it is recommended that they refer to A. E. Brown's paper.**

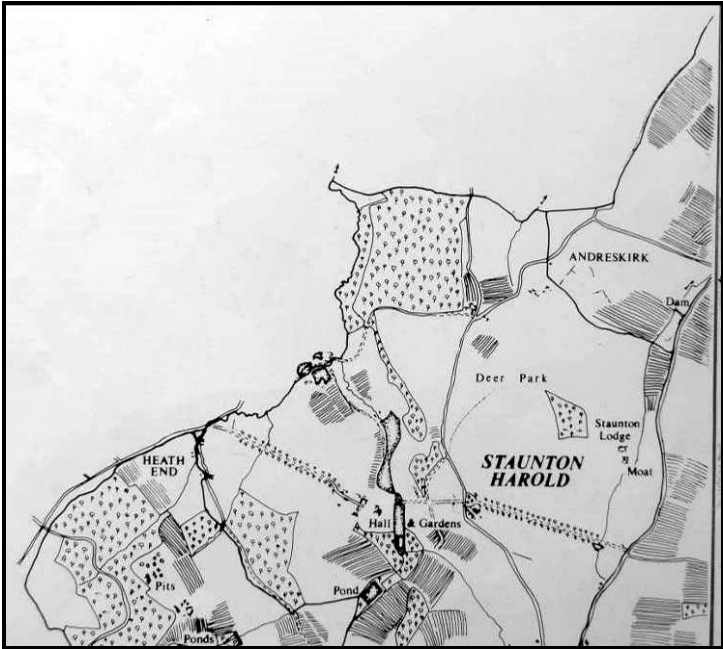
The Leicestershire Museum's Archaeological Report No.9., states that the vanished settlement of Andreskirk had a church at one time, which seems to be confirmed by the settlement's name.

Stemmata Shirleiana mentions that an old and ruinous chapel or chantry existed there, and this was founded by Richard, the son of Harold de Lecha in 1202. The sacraments were to be administered there, but the right of burial was confirmed to the mother church of Bredon (Breedon on the Hill). In the year 1652, as appears by the schedule of evidences, there was a representation or "picture" of William le Despencer, a priest (to whom Sir William de Staunton, in the fourth year of Edward III, had created a letter of Attorney to take possession of his lands) in the north window of the present Staunton chapel of the Holy Trinity.

Andreschurch had disappeared from the records by the mid-fouteenth century, an event perhaps not unrelated to the "Black Death" of 1348. Howard Usher proposed in 1982, that a likely spot for the site is at SK391223. A "homestead" is marked near here on the 1758 map of Breedon and two more homesteads survive immediately to the west.



Map showing suggested location of Scalacre & Andrechurch by A.E.Brown©



Part of a sketch map taken from Leicestershire Museum's Archaeological Report No.9. 1984© which shows a suggested location of Andreskirk between Staunton Harold and Bredon on the Hill

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THE SUCCESSION OF SHIRLEYS' FROM JOHN SHIRLEY (c.1429-1485) TO SEWALLIS EDWARD SHIRLEY, 10TH EARL FERRERS (1847-1912) AND INCORPORATING SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON:-

- THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND IN STAUNTON HAROLD AND THE WILLOWES'
- THE GREAT MEDEIVAL DEER PARK
- THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY'
- AN INTERESTING DEBT ACCRUED BY THE 5TH EARL
- THE RAGDALE AND CHARTLEY CASTLE ESTATES

JOHN SHIRLEY (c.1429-1485)

The Staunton Harold estate was subsequently inherited by Sir John Shirley of Ettington Hall (son of Sir Ralph Shirley and Margaret de Staunton), on December 28th 1466, two days after the death of his father. John Shirley was born at Staunton Harold and he married Eleanor Willoughby who was the daughter of Sir Hugh Willoughby of Wollaton, Notts. Sir John died in 1485 and was buried in the Abbey Church at Garendon.

RALPH SHIRLEY (c.1461-1516/17)

Ralph Shirley, the son of the above John Shirley of Ettington Hall, was born c.1461, and was next to inherit the Staunton Harold estate. At twenty-six years of age, he was made a Banneret for his valour in the battle of Stoke, 16th June 1487. In the seventh year of Henry VII, he was retained to serve the King in his wars overseas for one year. He also became Sheriff of Leicester in 1493. Howard Usher in his book entitled "Castles in the Air" states that Sir Ralph Shirley of Staunton Harold was bailiff/ constable of Melborne Castle and park. This position is mentioned earlier as being occupied by his grandfather also, but there is some confusion with respect to which Shirleys' were actually constable of the Castle at different times. Ralph Shirley was married four times, and it was by his last wife, Jane, daughter of Sir Robert Sheffield, Knt., that he had issue, an only son and heir Francis, born c.1515. There can be no doubt that it was the endowments of his four wives that principally enlarged the future wealth of the Shirley families. Ralph died on January 6th 1516/17 and he, like his father, was buried in the Abbey Church at Garendon.

We are very fortunate that old records which relate to the **Staunton manor house** in the early 16th century still exist. An inventory of the goods at Staunton Harold manor, after Ralph Shirley Knt, lord of Ettington, died in 1516/1517, was carried out by the Archbishop of Canterbury's assessor John Rudding who made an inventory of Shirley's goods and chattels, for the purpose of probate. The complete translation is included in Stemmata Sherleiana for anyone who wishes to research this further, but it is not possible to include everything here. However, the following extracts, paint a picture of the house of a gentleman of the early 16th century only enjoying a fairly basic standard of life with not much comfort. John Rudding, clearly an educated man, has provided us with a clear picture of what the interior of the manor house would have been like. The great hall was hung with a piece of imagery of "beyond-sea work", which was old and torn together with its old sey

hangings. Like other parts of the house, it was sparsely furnished, containing only a cupboard, four small tables and seats. Ten rooms are listed in the manor house, including a counting house. Normally this was where estate business took place. Below the house there appeared to be a great chamber. There was a great parlour with a Flemish carpet and sey hangings and a trestle table. An inner parlour was also listed. These were presumably the family's private rooms. There were feather beds in four of the rooms, and basic wooden pallets in four others, plus a "little chafer of laten like a lyon" (cradle) in the wardrobe chamber. In addition to the above, there was a kitchen, pantry, buttery and larder house, a great parlour for the servants, and a chamber for the weynemen (waggoners?).

If we compare this to the inventory of the manor house carried out in 1422 after the death of John de Staunton, we can see that extensive new building work had been carried out. At this time, the Shirleys' would have been considered as part of the gentry family fraternity in Leicestershire. The gentries in this period were converting to pastoralism in the form of sheep farming, but when one considers that the entire flock of sheep at Staunton Harold only consisted of 140 sheep (LRO 26D53/1949), this did not compare with much larger flocks held by other gentry families. Ralph Shirley also grazed 60 steers at Staunton (LRO 5D33/172).

THE ENCLOSURE OF LAND IN STAUNTON HAROLD AND WILLOWES (A HAMLET OF RAKEDALE IN LEICS) BY SIR RALPH SHIRLEY (1461- 1517) - SEE ALSO THE LATER FEATURE ON RAKEDALE / RAGDALE

The reason for the inclusion of this article at this point, is that it features land enclosed by Ralph Shirley 1461-1517, but will also provide the reader with an insight into the activities of the "gentry" at that time. A book featuring enclosure of lands in Leicestershire from 1485-1607 is held at the LRO Ref L333, which may be of interest to the reader also.

Over the course of a few hundred years, much of Britain's land had been privatized — that is to say, taken out of some form of collective ownership and management and handed over to individuals. This involved the subdivision and fencing of what was originally common land into individual plots which were allocated to those people deemed to have held rights to the land enclosed. The definition of the term "Enclosure (Inclosure)" was appended in the instructions to the "Enclosure Commission" in 1548 as follows:-

"But first to declare unto you what is meant by this word inclosure. It is not taken where a man doth enclose and hedge in his own proper ground, where no man has commons, for such inclosure is very beneficial to the common-wealth; it is a cause of great increase of wood: but it is meant thereby, when any man has taken away and inclosed any other men's commons, or has pulled down houses or husbandry and converted the lands from tillage to pasture. This is the meaning of this word and so we pray you to remember it". (Tudor Economic Documents edited by R. H. Tawney and E. Power, Vol 1, page 41).

Coal had been mined in the north west of Leicestershire at Swannington and Worthington since the end of the 13th century, and pits at Coleorton and Oakthorpe had also been developed before the end of the 15th century. In fact, opencasting of the Coleorton "Lounge" site in the area of Smoile Wood near Lount between 1985 and 1983, demonstrated pillar and stall working of coal reached by shafts had taken place between 1450 and 1600. The Beaumonts of Coleorton were leading coal prospectors at the end of the 16th century and the Shirley's/ Earl Ferrers worked coal on the Staunton Harold estate to a lesser extent. The Earl Ferrers and Beaumonts seemed to have had a good relationship.

Denudation of Leicestershire woodlands by the beginning of the 16th century is reflected in the use of coal as fuel in remote parts of the county, and the scarcity of timbered houses at this time.

In the 16th century, the average Leicestershire farm was between 30 and 40 acres, and the proportion of that given over to arable varied, but was generally 70% to 75% of the total acreage. Leicestershire, during this period was generally speaking, open field country, given over especially to the growing of peas, beans and barley. **In the main, it was devoid of woodland.** Nevertheless, "enclosure" had already started to make an appearance, **the main purpose of which was to turn arable land into woodland.**

In the 15th century, Leicestershire underwent a movement in large scale imparkation (disparking). Although much later, an example of this was "The Great Medieval Deere Park" at Staunton Harold which was disparked by Sir Henry Shirley, 2nd Baronet, in 1623. This is expanded on elsewhere in the book.

Society in Leicestershire at the beginning of the Tudor period was already characterized by great economic inequality in both landed and personal estate. Although the freeholders formed a large percentage of the population, the ownership of land was primarily vested in the higher social classes: the nobility, the squirearchy (the social, economic, and political class formed by the landed gentry) and the monastic houses. Large scale sheep farming was restricted at the beginning of the Tudor period to the Squirearchy and the monasteries; the small farmer kept only what his pastures and his stint in the common pasture could maintain, which averaged some 34 sheep and 6 head of cattle. Oxen and Steers were kept for draught (the act of pulling a load) purposes, as the employment of draught horses on the land did not become common till after 1530.

The accession of the Tudors in 1485 co-incided with a rapid increase of enclosures in Leicestershire. There were two waves, the first gathering strength in the opening years of Henry V11's reign which reached its peak by 1500 to 1510. Between 1485 and 1550 more than 13,812 acres of land had been withdrawn from common husbandry of the open field and turned into enclosed pasture for cattle and sheep (estimated by E. F. Gay).

In 1495 in the Leicestershire Wolds, Willowes, a hamlet of Rakedale / Ragdale suffered the fete of enclosure at the hands of its Lord, Ralph Shirley. However, the enclosure commissioners recorded that in November 1495 he destroyed five messuages (a dwelling / farmhouse together with its outbuildings, curtilage, and the adjacent land

appropriated to its use) and a cottage. He enclosed and converted two hundred acres of arable land into pasture in Rakedale / Ragdale and Willowes. The greater part of these acres must have been in Willowes. From a village of perhaps ten households in 1317 and still as populous in the mid 15th century, Willowes disappeared from the landscape at the beginning of the 16th century. Ralph is declared to have put down five ploughs and evicted thirty people as a result of his enclosure. When he made his will in 1513, he spoke simply of the close called Willowes Field in the parish of Rakedale. Ragdale itself was enclosed by his great grandson at the end of the century. According to Nichols Vol III, Pt 1, Page 711.....When proceedings began at the exchequer against Francis Shirley, son and heir of Ralph Shirley, the defense pleaded in Michaelmas term 1542, that the five messuages and one cottage had been re-built sufficiently for husbandry by July 28th 1542, and that the two hundred acres of land had been tilled since this time by farmers living in the re-built houses. The court ordered commissioners to view Ragdale and Willowes. They did so on the 29th April 1544 and upheld Shirley's plea. Neighbouring farmers swore on oath to the truth of their report and Shirley was acquitted (L.T.R.V. Rolls, Michaelmas 30 Henry VIII. E368/3120). (As is often the case with these legal proceedings, I am inclined to think that doubt must be cast on the genuiness of the restorations seemingly accepted, and it is difficult to imagine that the farmers would not have agreed with Francis Shirley, as doing so would have endangered their livelyhood).

In November 1506, Ralph Shirley, who had enclosed Willowes (a hamlet of Rakedale / Ragdale) 11 years earlier, enlarged his estate at Staunton Harold in the north west of the County on the Derbyshire border by means of enclosure. To do so, he withdrew from tillage 80 acres of arable land. 72 acres were in Staunton Harold and the other 8 in Worthington. On the land which the author is assuming was on the Staunton estate, there were four messuages and three cottages. It is recorded that the farm houses and cottages were destroyed, and twenty four people evicted from their homes.

FRANCIS SHIRLEY (1515-1571)

(SEE ALSO THE LATER FEATURE ON RAKEDALE / RAGDALE)

The following is a synopsis of the memoirs of Francis Shirley taken from Stematta Shirleiana:-

*Francis Shirley was the only son of Ralph Shirley by Jane Sheffield his 4th wife, and was but a year old at his father's death, being born at Staunton Harold on the 26th of January 1515. He was ward to Sir William Compton Knt., who executed by deed dated December 10th, 1530 that his estates be assigned into the custody of Sir John Gifford, of Chillington, in the County of Stafford. In the year 1535, Francis Shirley, being yet underage, married Dorothea Giffard, daughter of his guardian Sir John Giffard and had issue of four sons and four daughters, the eldest son John was born at Staunton Harold in 1535 and although he would have continued the line, **he actually died within the life of his father on September 12th 1571**. In 1542, Sir John conveyed to Francis Shirley, probably as his daughter's portion, the manor of Ednaston in Derbyshire, which had been granted to him by Henry VIII in 1540. Following the granting by lease for 100 years on April 28th 1541 of the whole of Sir Francis's ancient Warwickshire property to Edward and Thomas Underhill, a long and complex series of law suits ensued, involving Sir Francis and the Underhills. These are far too complex to record here, but they do reveal however, an important piece of history regarding the old manor house at Staunton.*

Francis Shirley was made Sheriff of the Counties of Warwickshire and Leicestershire in 1557.

It seems that the re-building of the ancient manor house of Staunton Harold took place c.1566 and can be assigned to Francis Shirley. According to Stemmata Shirleiana page 64, in an indenture of the 22nd of March (8th year of Elizabeth) 1566, there is mention of "The new manor house of Francis Shirley at Staunton Harold". This was also recorded in Dugdale's antiquities of Warwickshire, 1st edition. This "Mansion House" was undoubtedly a fine specimen of the architecture of the time. "Throsby's Leicestershire" tells us that it had, "two turrets, and Gothick gates at the entrance, and possessed that gloomy grandeur, which it seems is the dread of the present age". We do not know for sure, but it is highly probable that the old manor (described in the earlier feature on Ralph Shirley) was incorporated within the new one. The 1st Lord Ferrers, at the latter end of the 17th century, pulled down and re-built the northern front, which he converted into a library, and all traces of the ancient manor house structure were obliterated when the 5th Earl Ferrers planned and started the re-build of the present house c. 1762. But more on that in the later feature on the 5th Earl.

It is worth mentioning that Francis Shirley purchased Breedon Church from Henry VIII after the reformation, as a burial place for himself and his successors. The priory had fallen into disrepair by the 16th century and the local parishioners subsequently petitioned that it should become their parish church, which was accepted. The inquisitions taken on the death of Sir Francis Shirley Esq., in 1571 showed that he died seized of the following lands, the total value of which amounted to £250 5s 7d. :-

Leicestershire

The manor of Staunton Harold

The manor of Ragdale

The manor of Willowses (*note - this was only a hamlet of of Ragdale*)

Divers (various) lands and tenements in Ratcliffe upon Wreake

Derbyshire

The manor of Shirley

The manor of Braylesford

The manor of Howne / Hone?

The manor of Ednaston

Warwickshire

The manor of Etington

The manor of Newton

Nottinghamshire

Divers (various) lands and tenements in Sutton Bonnington

In his will, Sir Francis left "A ring of Gold of the value of XXs for a token" to his good neighbour Nicholas Beaumont. He was in fact, lord of the manor of what eventually became Coleorton from 1538 to 1585.

JOHN SHIRLEY (1535-1570)

(SEE ALSO THE LATER FEATURE ON RAKEDALE / RAGDALE)

Sir John Shirley was the eldest son of Sir Francis Shirley (1515-1571) and Dorothea Giffard above. He inherited certain estates when he married Jane Lovett in 1558, with whom he had issue a son George. This marriage resulted in several additional manors being inherited by the Shirley's, such as:- Astwell in the county of Northampton, South Newington (Newton), in the county of Oxford, Dorington in the county of Gloucester, and St. Botolph's Bridge in the county of Huntingdon. Sir John died within the life of his father and following his death, he was buried at Breedon on the Hill. John Shirley established Rakedale (Ragdale) as his main seat, which was owned by his father at that time.

Due to the fact that John Shirley died within the lifetime of his father, the title and estates were inherited by Sir Francis' grandson Sir George Shirley below.

GEORGE SHIRLEY, 1ST BARONET (1559-1622)

(SEE ALSO THE LATER FEATURE ON RAKEDALE / RAGDALE)

George Shirley, 1st Baronet (of Astwell, Northamptonshire), was the son of John Shirley of Rakedale (ragdale) Leicestershire, and Jane Lovett above. John Shirley had died in 1570 before his father Francis, thereby leaving Francis' grandson George to inherit the title together with Staunton Harold and the other estates in 1571, plus Astwell (on the death of his Lovett grandfather) in 1586. George studied at Oxford University (Hart Hall) from 1573. After a number of years in education, including being at Gray's Inn in 1602, he served

as Sheriff of Leicestershire c. 1603. **He was made a Baronet in the first institution of that dignity in May 1611 and was buried with his father at Breedon on the Hill in 1622.**

George married a lady by the name of Frances Berkeley 1587, daughter of Henry Lord Berkeley, with whom he had four sons, two of these dying as infants. See the following section on Sir Henry Shirley. His second marriage was to Dorothy Wroughton but there was no issue.

Like many others of his contemporaries, he made sure of his monument in his lifetime, and raised the fine two storied alabaster memorial of himself in Breedon Church.

It appears from accounts of 1592-1595 that he invested in Staunton with rich furnishings and tapestry. The accounts details show how these elaborate furnishings were done actually on site, and portray a manor house now contrasting greatly to its neglected condition in 1517. It has been suggested that George Shirley may have been responsible for the enlargement of the Elizabethan manor house at Ragdale in the reign of James I., with the substitution of red brick as a building material, in the place of timber. The authors view is that the main enlargement of the manor house should be attributed to his son Sir Henry as 100,000 bricks were delivered to Ragdale four years prior to his death in 1633 (Stemmata Shirleina).

The arms of George Shirley were confiscated for about four years on suspicion of his involvement with the Catholic religion, although outwardly appearing to conform to the teachings of the Church of England. He appears to have died a Catholic.

HENRY SHIRLEY, 2ND BARONET (c 1588-1633)
(SEE ALSO THE LATER FEATURE ON RAGDALE / RAKEDALE)

George Shirley, 1st Baronet, was succeeded by Henry Shirley 2nd Baronet, his eldest son, who married Lady Dorothy Devereux (d.1636), who was the youngest daughter of Robert Devereux, the 2nd Earl of Essex. They were married at the church of St. Lawrence Pountney, London. Henry was one of four children born to his father George and his wife Frances Berkeley. Henry's oldest and youngest brothers George and John respectively, died as infants. His surviving older brother Thomas Shirley was born 1590 and died in 1654. He was recorded as living at the manor of St. Botolphs Bridge, Huntingdon. In 1628, Henry was a prisoner in the Fleet for scandalizing the Earl of Huntingdon. In 1633, the year of his death, he was busy rebuilding the manor house of Ragdale in Leicestershire, an estate inherited from the Bassett family by marriage with the Shirleys. **Sir Henry was a great lover of genealogy as well as heraldry; as by his directions, the fine family pedigree (formerly preserved at Staunton Harold Hall) was completed in 1632.**

THE PRIVATE CHAPEL IN THE HALL, AND THE CONSORT ORGAN WHICH WAS MADE FOR HENRY SHIRLEY

Evidence of a private chapel still exists within Staunton Harold Hall and John Fox in his book entitled "Staunton Harold" which was published in 2001, tells us:- *Sir Henry Shirley the second Baronet who died in 1633, was a devout Roman Catholic and had a private chapel in the Hall. This chapel still exists and was clearly part of the old Hall. It has twelve portraits of saints, probably copies of works by Flemish artists who painted the originals between the 15th and 18th centuries: the copies may have been painted by a local artist around 1790. There is also a frieze of cherubs' heads, unique, except that the same design was used on Sir Henry's "high pew" of 1627 in Breedon Church. In 1614, Sir George Shirley was granted permission to hold Courts Leet (i.e. yearly or half yearly courts of record) in Leicestershire and Derbyshire, and at one time, this little chapel was used as the Justice Room, where the Earl would act in a magisterial capacity to settle matters concerning the estates and tenants.*



An old photograph showing the chapel as it was within the hall

The author has been in contact with Mr. Dominic Gwynn of Goetz and Gwynn, and he has given permission for the following paragraph and photograph to be included in the book:- *Goetze and Gwynn are makers and restorers of quality organs, and they show on their internet website "A Harm Vellguth New Consort Organ in 17th Century style" which they have made. This organ was made for playing with viols. The author has learnt from them that an organ of this style (commonly known as a chamber organ) was made for Sir Henry Shirley, 2nd baronet (c.1588-1633) for the above chapel in about 1630. He apparently employed the celebrated William Lawes (1602 - 1645) as his professional musician, who compiled "the Shirley Part Books" for the household's viol playing. This manuscript book, of his own and other people's music for viol consort, survives in the British Library still. It seems that this chamber organ was re-furbished and moved to the Chapel of the Holy Trinity probably early in the 1660's. It was re-furbished in 1686 by one of two nephews of the celebrated organ maker Bernard Schmidt, either Christian or Gerard, with some new pipes and a case front with painted dummy front pipes. Most of the pipes and the windchest for this organ survive now in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. The pipes are all made of pine, with oak blocks, tuning stoppers and caps.*

The following is taken from a paper given by Walter Knight Shirley (1864-1937) 11th Earl Ferrers F.S.A. to "The Society of Antiquaries of London" in 1913 and appears in the 2nd series Vol. 26 (27th Nov 1913 to 25th June 1914).

The gallery holds the choir and the very sweet-toned little organ, without pedals, by Father Schmidt. This has been moved eastwards at some time, possibly to give more room in the belfry, but the organist and singers are now severely cramped. There is no question as to the genuineness of the organ. Mr. Francis Burgess, the well known plainsong expert, wrote as follows after examining it: 'the organ stands in its original case in the west gallery, and is now practically the same as when it left the builder's hands some two centuries and a half ago. It contains the usual specification of the period (Open and Stopped Diapasons, Principal, Fifteenth, and Sesquialtera), most of the stops being drawn in two halves, a convenient device for a one-manual instrument. The original pipes, entirely of wood, are somewhat the worse for wear, but they still show signs of superb craftsmanship of the maker. The tone is "small", but by no means ineffective, as the organ is well placed in a splendidly resonant building'.

A "consort" is a small instrument ensemble for playing music composed before c.1700. Consorts of viols were found at courts as well as in homes from the early 16th century. Historically, the viol has many shapes and sizes, and while it is not a direct ancestor of the violin, there is some kinship between the two instrument families. The viols were bowed instruments with frets and usually had six strings. They were usually played held downwards on the lap or between the legs (see the following picture). By the 16th century, a standard shape for the viol did emerge with broad ribs, and a fairly flat fretted neck.





A Harm Vellguth New Consort Organ in 17th Century style by Goetze and Gwynn, and commonly known as a Chamber Organ. It is based on the organ made for Sir Henry Shirley in about 1630, for his Staunton Harold manor house.

**AN INTERESTING ABSTRACT FROM THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF HENRY SHIRLEY**

I give unto my daughter Læta or Lettis the full sum of £3000, to be paid unto her at the age of 18. Unto Robert Shirley one of my sons £3000 at the age of 18. To every other child which I shall have (except my son and heire), £3000 to be paid unto them at his, her, or their several ages of 18 yeares. All other sums which shall remain from the profits of the said lands,* until my said heire male shall accomplish the age of xxiv yeares, to be equally divided among my younger children. If all my younger children shall happen to die, then the profits of the said lands to be paid to my said heir male, when he shall accomplish the age of xxiv yeares. And I do further will and appoint that my executors of this my last will and testament, hereafter herein named, shall sell all my goods, chattels, cattel, household stuff, plate, jewels, not in this my last will given, willed, or bequeathed to any person or persons, to pay all debts of mine and my late father's, as shall remain unpaid; the surplus to be equally divided among my younger children, to be paid to them at the age of 18 yeares. Provided always, and my will is, that if any of my younger children be advanced by me in marriage, or otherwise by me provided for, that then he, she, or they, shall take no benefit from any legacy, &c. bequeathed to them in this my last will and testament. Item, if it shall fortune that all my younger children shall die before they or the survivor of them shall have received his or their parts, remainder to my nephew Henry Shirley. Item, I give and bequeath unto Dame Dorothy my dear and well beloved wife all my jewels, plate, household stuff, utensils, household goods, and chattels, and other things which at the time of my decease shall be in the chamber over the hall, commonly called the Wardrobe chamber, in my dwelling-house in Staunton Harold, and in which chamber there are two presses. Item, I give and bequeath unto my son Charles Shirley the full sum of £1000, to be paid unto him at the age of 18 yeares.

unto my son Charles Shirley all my books of what kind soever they be, and all my arms and furniture for the wars, and the seals of arms which I have, and which were belonging to me, or any of my ancestors, remainder to my son Robert Shirley, remainder to the next heir of my name. Item, I give unto my said son Robert Shirley all such plate of silver and gold, or of whatever kind, as was given to him by his godfathers and godmothers. Also I give and bequeath to my said daughter Læta one jewel of diamonds of the value of 100 marks; and if I have no such jewel, I will that my executors shall buy her one jewel of 100 marks price, and deliver the same unto her at the age of 15 years. Item, I give and bequeath unto Clifton Ashton, my trusty servant (if he shall be found in my service at the time of my death), all my wearing apparel that shall be made of silk or stuff, and such other apparel only as are

past my wearing, except all my cloaks, which at the time of my death shall be lined with satin, velvet, or plush, and my velvet gown and my best linnens, and except such other my apparel and linnens as my said executors or the greater part of them shall not agree he shall have. Item, I give and bequeath unto my faithful servant Edward Lovett £10. Item, unto Mr. John Collyns of Staunton Harralt, Batchelor of Arts (for the love I have him, and for a remembrance by him), a ring of £5. Item, unto every one of my household servants a year's wages, &c. I do hereby make and appoint Thomas Lord Brudenell, Edward Stanford, of Perry Hall, in the county of Stafford, esq. and Robert Hewett, of Millbrook, in the county of Bedford, esq. my three executors of this my last will and testament.* I give and bequeath unto Thomas Lord Brudenell a horse of thirty pounds price, or thirty pounds in money to buy him a horse; unto my other executors twenty pounds a piece. Item, unto the poor of the parish where I shall die £10, to be disposed of according to the direction of my executors. And last of all, I do hereby revoke, disannul, and make void all former and other wills by me heretofore made, not doubting that my said executors, according to the trust reposed in them by me, will do their endeavours to see this my will performed.

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal, the day of the year above written, 1629.



The seal and signiature of Henry Shirley, 2nd Baronet
(Note the Saracen's Head) - from *Stemmata Shirleiana*

THE 'GREAT MEDIEVAL DEER PARK' AT STAUNTON HAROLD

According to Nichols Antiquities of Leicestershire, "a great deer park" had been established at Staunton by 1324, although the author has not found any other conclusive evidence to support this. However, the following charter has a reference to Staunton Park, and to the building of a principal house and grange, the latter could well refer to a lodge in the deer park (see later information on this) and a manor house. The charter held at the LRO, ref 26D53/494 and dated 23rd April 1324, states the following:-

Staunton Harold

*Charter indented of William, Lord of Staunton Harold, Knt to "Walter Cloune of Melbourne and Agnes wife" of one messuage, one virgate of land in Staunton Harold to hold for lives paying yearly 10s. 4d., hen at Christmas, work of hedging in **Staunton Park** for all services particularly for measures of ale. **Sir William covenants to build a Principal House and a Grange by March next.***

The William referred to was William de Staunton, knt. He is shown as the father of John de Staunton who married Isabel according to the pedigree for the Stauntons' of Staunton Harold which features at the beginning of the book. He is shown as dying in 1330. This William de Staunton and Walter Cloune appear to be shown in Lay Subsidy Rolls 1327 below, although spelt somewhat differently.

LEICESTERSHIRE LAY SUBSIDY ROLLS 1327

Name	Payment
	s. d
Will mo de Staunton	iiij
Walt de Clonne	iiiij
Rob to Crane	iiij
Will mo off Towneshend	xij

The possession of a deer park, was a mark of social distinction of course, but had the unfortunate effect of replacing land previously used for cultivation or pasturage by the local peasants.

Eric Acheson in his book entitled "A gentry Community; Leicestershire c.1422-c.1485" tells us that Sir Ralph Shirley, who married Margaret de Staunton (see earlier details of this), distributed in 1444, sixteen deer among his relatives, friends and acquaintances. His grandson Ralph Shirley (1461- 1517) granted his mother Eleanor (wife of his father John Shirley) the right to hunt for two does every winter, and two bucks in summer for life. They hunted red or fallow deer here. Besides providing venison for the Shirley's own household, their deer park was of course a source of grace and favour (see Stemmata Shirleiana also).

As mentioned earlier under the feature on "The Enclosure of Land", Ralph Shirley in November 1506, who had enclosed Willows (a hamlet of Rakedale / Ragdale) 11 years

earlier, enlarged his estate at Staunton Harold in the north west of the County on the Derbyshire border by means of enclosure. To do so, he withdrew from tillage 80 acres of arable land. 72 acres were in Staunton Harold and the other 8 in Worthington. On the land which the author is assuming was on the Staunton estate, there were four messuages and three cottages. It is recorded that the farm houses and cottages were destroyed, and twenty four people evicted from their homes. **It is mentioned in "The Medieval Parks of Leicestershire" by L. M. Cantor that this was an extension of the deer park, but we have found no actual proof of this.**

During Francis Shirley's ownership of the estate from 1516 (aged one) to 1571, S.S. page 63 records 'that Francis Shirley did not meddle in the government of his estate, other than with his horses, hounds and deer in his park at Staunton, wherein he took great delight, and basically left everything to his wife Dorothea and her friends, other than the letting of leases for his lands and possessions'. Francis Shirley had married Dorothea Giffard, daughter of his guardian Sir John Giffard, in 1535. John Fox tells us that Francis Shirley built the keeper's lodge shown in the following photograph in 1566, but again we have no factual evidence of this.

The Staunton Estate then came into the possession of George Shirley, 1st baronet (1559-1622). In 1584, a grant for a term of forty years was awarded to Joseph Crispe, Gent, for the "Parkershippe of my park at Staunton" by George Shirley. This was effectively a "Park Keeper's License" to kill deer. One can presume he was living in the lodge at this time.

When the Staunton Harold estate came into the hands of Henry Shirley in 1623, "The Great Medieval Deer Park" at Staunton Harold was disparked by him in that year, presumably immediately after George Crispe's lease had come to an end.

There follows an old engraving of the "Staunton Moated Lodge" located within the Great Medieval Deer Park. The area in which the lodge was situated is centered on SK390215. It was to the East of the current Melbourne Road, and the location in relation to the surrounding area is shown on Prior's 1777 map which follows also. The Prior map also depicts the 1.5 km long straight elm-tree lined avenue heading eastwards from Hilltop House, through the former Great Park till it met the Ashby to Breedon road.

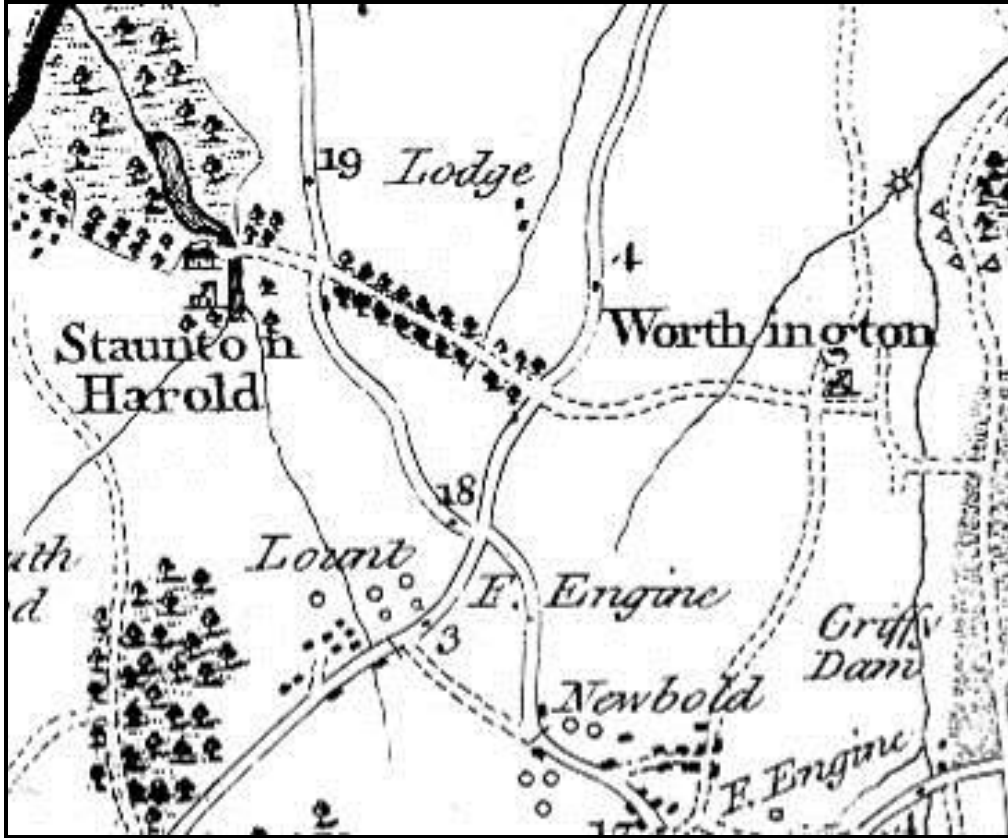
The Lodge almost certainly became the residence of the park keeper, and the moat was possibly added around the time of the Civil War in order to defend the building from attack. The English Civil War (1642-1651) was a series of armed conflicts and political machinations between Parliamentarians ("Roundheads") and Royalists ("Cavaliers") over, principally, the manner of England's government. There is an example of former similar moated house at Stordon Grange, Osgathorpe, a history of which is contained in the book entitled "Methodism and Social History in Coleorton and the Locality" by Samuel T Stewart.

The deer park was eventually split up into farms, and Staunton Lodge was on the site of what is now known as Staunton Lodge Farm, but it is likely that the current farm house is one of two or three built or re-built on the site.

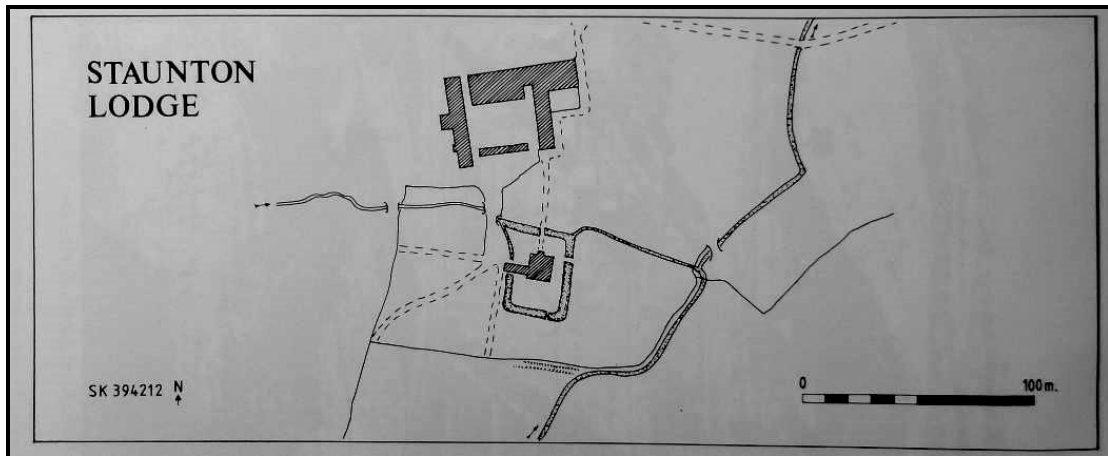
"Nottingham Tree-ring dating laboratory" carried out tree-ring analysis on timbers obtained from the roofs of the current Lodge Farm. *In their report, it is described as a double pile timber-framed house of quality, perhaps built for the keeper of Staunton Harold Great Park. They conclude that "all the dated timbers of the roof were cut as part of a single programme of felling, which is likely to have taken place some time between 1650 and 1655".* (Permission to use information from the Tree-ring analysis report was given to the author by Ms. A. J. Arnold 14.02.17)



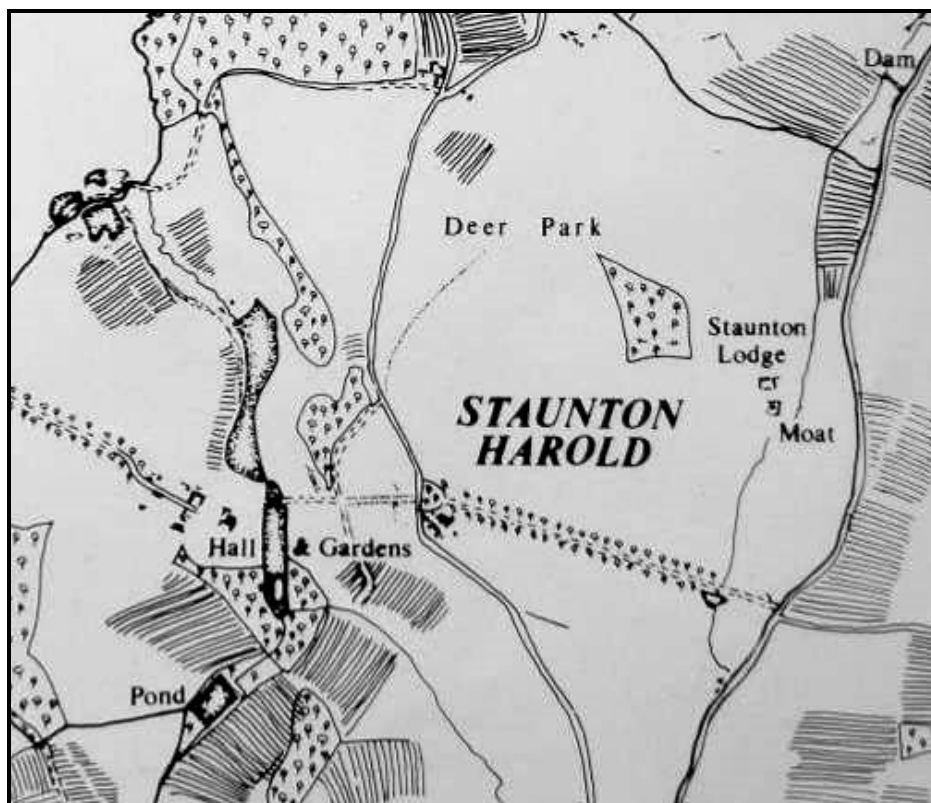
From *Stemmata Shirleina*



Prior's 1777 map showing the location of Staunton Lodge



Above is a schematic plan of the moated lodge and what are thought to be adjacent farm buildings. This is taken from Leicestershire Museum's Archaeological report No.9. 1984.



The above hand drawn map shows more clearly than the Prior map, the suggested full extent of the Great Deer Park, and also depicts the 1.5 km long elm-tree lined avenue heading eastwards from Hilltop House, through the former Great Park till it intersected the Ashby to Breedon road. This of course was an extension of the original front entrance to the hall.

The plan is taken from Leicestershire Museum's Archaeological report No.9. 1984.

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CHARLES SHIRLEY, 3RD BARONET 1623-1646

The title of 3rd Baronetcy was then inherited by Henry's eldest son Charles, who was then only ten years of age, having been born on September 9th 1623. He was placed under the guardianship of his uncle, Robert Devereux, third Earl of Essex. In 1639-40 Charles was entered on the register of matriculations at Merton College, Oxford University aged 16, where Lord Essex himself had been educated.

At Michaelmas 1641, the Feoffees of the Earl of Essex (Sir Charles Shirley's guardian) took possession of the manor of Nether Ettington on the termination of the 100 year lease awarded to the Underhill family; and on Lady Day following, Sir Charles himself came to the manor, and entered into the lands of which his ancestors had been so long deprived.

During the upheaval of the Civil War, Staunton Harold escaped virtually unscathed due to its position and the character of Charles Shirley, who did not draw attention to himself. However, his brother Robert was of a totally different character.

Sir Charles died at the age of twenty three at Essex House in the Strand, London of smallpox on Sunday the seventh of June, 1646. Following his death, it was not until the 29th of the same month that his body was conveyed to Islington. From there he was then moved to St. Albans, and then to his manor at Astwell, Northamptonshire. On the following night, his body was taken to his ancient seat and manor at Staunton Harold. Following some repose there, he was conveyed to Breedon on the Hill Church for the funeral which was performed under the direction of the right worshipful Robert Shirley, 4th Baronet, his sole brother and heir. He was there interned with his ancestors in the north isle of the church that Francis Shirley purchased from Henry VIII after the reformation, as a burial place for himself and his successors.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT SHIRLEY, 4TH BARONET

1629/30-1656

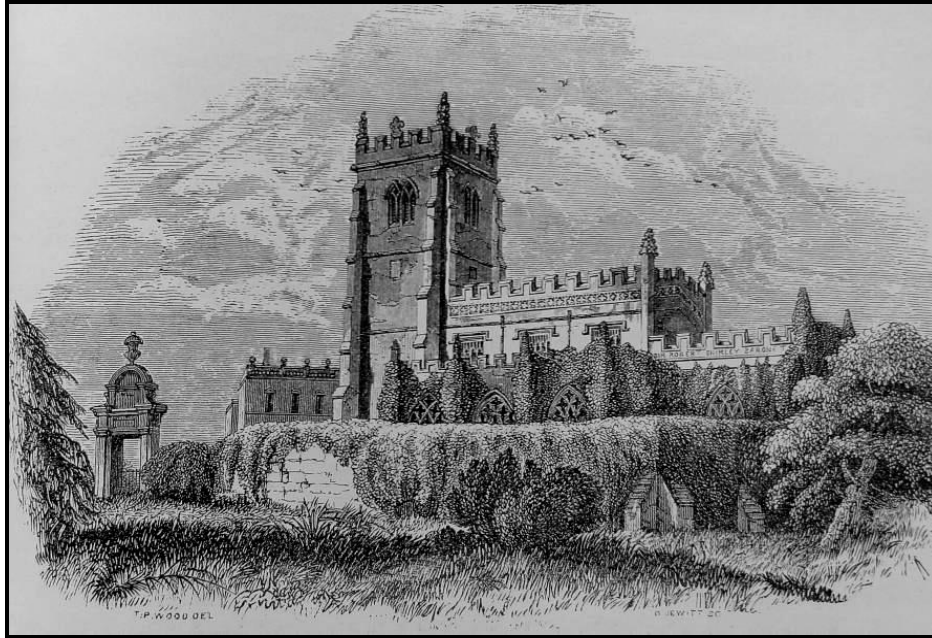
Sir Robert Shirley, the second son of Sir Henry Shirley, 2nd Baronet and the Lady Dorothy Devereux was born about the years 1629/30. Like his brother, he was in ward to his uncle, Lord Essex On the 12th of August 1645, he was admitted a fellow commoner of Corpus Christ College, Cambridge under the instruction of a Mr. Gardiner. He succeeded his brother Charles to the 4th Baronetcy, one year later at the age of about sixteen.

According to *Stemmata Shirleiana*, and the account of Sir Thomas Shirley (family Antiquary), it was very soon after his brother's death that Sir Robert entered into a hasty and improvident marriage, against the advice of his guardian and all his family, with Katherine, daughter of Humphrey Okeover, and sister of Ralph Okeover Esq., in the county of Okeover. Robert's uncle and former guardian Robert Devereux, 3rd Earl of Essex, died intestate, meaning that Robert succeeded through the right of his mother Lady Dorothy Devereux to various estates of the Devereux family, including the "Chartley Estate" (see later section relating to the "Chartley Castle Estate").

It was at the time of his uncle's death, that Robert apparently retired into the country and involved himself deeply into the sacred cause of his Sovereign and the Church of England, in whose communion he was educated by his mother Lady Devereux. The Devereux family had many years before renounced the principals of the Church of Rome to which Robert's father Sir Henry was sincerely attached.

The Right Hon. Sir Robert Shirley, 4th Baronet (b. 1629 d. 1656) commenced the building of the families private Chapel of the Holy Trinity in 1653, and still stands today, adjacent to Staunton Harold Hall. It was built during the time that Cromwell made it penal for any ministers to perform the offices of religion, or to use "The Book of Common Prayer", except to members of their own family. Oliver Cromwell and his puritan regime were causing havoc in churches up and down the land - smashing stained glass windows, throwing out organs and church bells and defacing all interior decoration. Sir Robert died in the Tower of London on November 28th 1656, and according to Smith's Obituary printed for the Camden Society, he died of the small-pox. His body was brought into Leicestershire and deposited at the ancient priory of Bredon on December 22nd (Nichols). He was finally buried in the old family vault under the chancel of the chapel in 1661 according to an account which Dr. Hammond gave to Archbishop Dr. Sheldon (taken from *Stemmata Shirleiana*). At his funeral we are told, a sermon, evidently by Archbishop Sheldon, was preached from Luke vii. Verse 5: "He loved our country, and hath built us a synagogue".

The building was finally completed by the guardians of Sir Robert's nine year old son and heir Sir Seymour Shirley, 5th baronet (1647-1667) in 1665, and the accounts for this are apparently held at the Warwickshire Record Office.



A 19th century engraving of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. Adjoining the south-western side of the chapel yard is a stone gateway dated 1681, which is discussed in more detail in the following feature on the 1st Earl Ferrers.



From "The Mirror of Literature, Amusement & Instruction" Vol 27 - 1836

In the Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Chronicle part 2 there is an extract from Thomas Stavelly's "History of Churches". Thomas Stavelly, esq. was born at East Langton in 1626, and after completing his academicals education at Peter-House, Cambridge, was admitted of the inner temple, July 2 1647, and called to the bar June 12, 1654. he married, Dec 31 1656, Mary, the youngest daughter of John Onebye, esq., of Hinckley; and in 1662, succeeded his father-in-law, as steward of the records of Leicester. His "History of Churches" was published in 1712. There follows an extract from his writing on Staunton Harold Church:-

.....It being told the Usurping Powers then reigning, that Sir Robert Shirley had built a Church, they directed an order in Council to him to fit out a ship, saying, "He that could afford to build a Church, could no doubt afford to build a ship". And thus he and other good men were endeavoured to be frightened from doing any works of piety.

Sir Robert Shirley died in the Tower after being seven times imprisoned there, in the very prime of his life (his 28th year), Nov 6 1656, not without suspicion of poison; and at his death, a funeral sermon was preached, from Luke vii. 5. - "He loved our Country and has built us a Synagogue".

The Church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, consists of a beautiful embattled tower (in which are six good bells, inscribed "Sir Robert Shirley, founder 1653); a nave and two aisles, separated by three arches; over which are clerestory windows; and a very handsome chancel, parted from the nave by elegant wrought iron gates, on which are the family arms, supporters and coronet. The ceiling is painted; and the ascent to the altar is by three steps of bluish marble. The chancel is paved with marble. The furniture of the church is purple velvet, with rich gold fringe and embroidery. The communion plate, which is gilt, remarkably fine, ancient and costly, was given to the Church by Sir Robert Shirley, the founder. The organ is the production of the celebrated Bernard Schmidt (1630-1708), and is extremely sweet toned and melodious.

He went on to say "that the church was compleat for workmanship, plentiful and honourable for the furniture, ornaments and endowment; but most admirable for the time wherein the same was undertaken and finished, it being when the roofs of our cathedrals were generally pulled down, and the foundations of all churches undermined", by which beneficence he continues "the devout founder, both heir and ancestor of hereditary devotion and loyalty, hath not only built a church, but in his example and memory hath left a sermon to be preached there to all posterity, of piety towards God, and charity towards men; whilst himself is gone, we doubt not, to take his place in that church triumphant above".



A recent photograph of the organ on the west wall. See note in bold above



Photograph of organ c.1912.

Note the walls are unplastered as the distempered plaster had become cracked and was removed just before this time



A section of the splendid wrought iron screen between the chancel and the nave, which was made by Robert Bakewell, the famous ironsmith of Derby c.1711. On the top are the family arms, supporters and a coronet. Robert Bakewell also made the fine example of a wrought iron arbour (known as the birdcage) at Melbourne Hall.

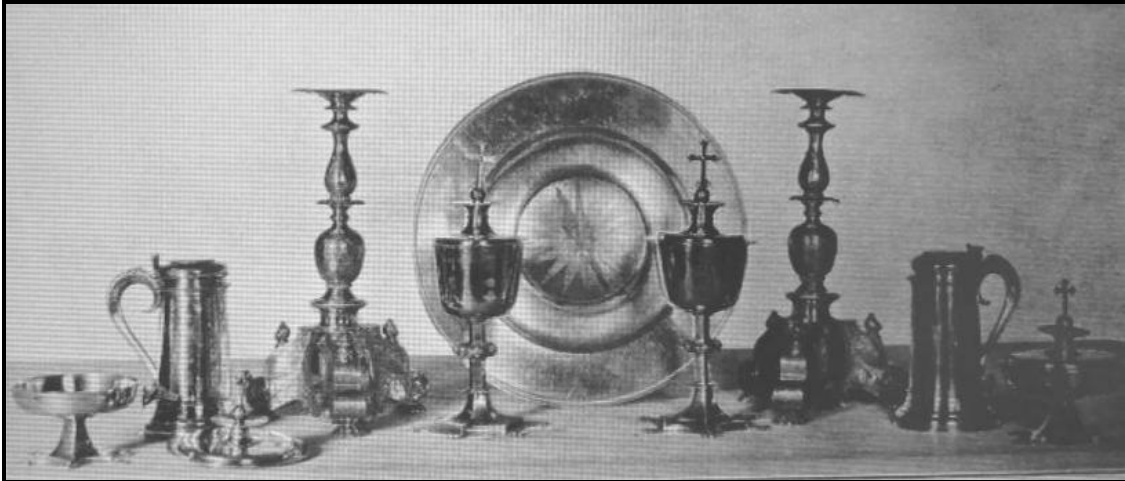
Part of the painted ceiling representing the creation story from the book of *Genesis*, entitled 'from chaos to order' can be seen above the screen. There follows a descriptive extract from a paper given by Walter Knight Shirley (1864-1937) 11th Earl Ferrers F.S.A. to "The Society of Antiquaries of London" in 1913 which appears in the 2nd series Vol. 26. pg.125 (27th Nov 1913 to 25th June 1914).

The roofs are boarded and almost flat, and are painted in a most uncommon way with a representation of the Creation. Clouds are the predominating feature, while the sun and moon are in evidence in the nave; and just before the entrance to the chancel, within a 'glory', is the Sacred Name of God יהוה. This is a noteworthy example of the very superficial knowledge of Hebrew in those days. *Vau* (ו) is so clumsily written as to be more like *rēsh* (ר), while the first letter ought to be *yōd* (י) and not *vau* at all. Moreover, the insertion of the pointing of the *k'ri* (what is read) *Adonai*, would have been thought out of place by anybody who knew that the word *Jehovah* was formed accidentally from the vowels of *Adonai* (the Lord) being combined with the *A'thiv* (what was written), namely the tetragrammaton J H V H.

On the chancel ceiling, just over the altar, is the word *Θεός* surrounded by a circle of winged heads represented alternately as singing 'Halleluiah' and 'Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus'. The chancel is on the same level as the nave, with no step either up or down, and is quite empty, without stalls of any kind. There is an ascent of three steps to the presbytery.



**The marble tomb in the chancel commemorating Robert Shirley (1673-1698)
who was the great grandson of Sir Robert Shirley 4th Baronet**



There follows a descriptive extract from a paper given by Walter Knight Shirley (1864-1937) 11th Earl Ferrers F.S.A. to "The Society of Antiquaries of London" in 1913 which appears in the 2nd series Vol. 26. (27th Nov 1913 to 25th June 1914). The description refers to the contents of the above photograph.

The above altar ornaments only appeared at the Communion. These consist of two very fine candlesticks, a large and handsome alms-basin, two flagons, two chalices with covers, two standing patens with covers, and two knives (but these are modern). In accordance with medieval custom, these are all set out upon the altar by way of decoration, even when all are not required for use. The covers to the chalices and patens are surmounted by crosses. The flagons have 'Holiness to the Lord' on their lids, while the body is engraved with the crown of thorns surrounding the words 'The Blood of the New and Eternal Restament'. Each chalice has engraved upon its side a figure of the Good Shepherd carrying a lamb upon his shoulders, while one has also the inscription 'My blood is drink indeed', and on its cover 'My flesh is meat indeed'. On the paten-covers are the words 'My love is crucified', and on the patens themselves 'This is the true bread that comes down from heaven'. The plate is dated 1640 and 1654, and has been dealt with more fully in Trollope's 'Church Plate of Leicestershire'

The historian, Dr. Andrew C Lacy wrote a paper entitled "Sir Robert Shirley and the English Revolution in Leicestershire" for the transactions of "Leicestershire Archaeological History Society" in 1982/3 volume 58; There follows an interesting account from this paper, of the fine local craftsmen who contributed to the building of the Church of the Holy Trinity. This is followed by a synopsis of Robert Shirley's experiences during the Civil War, taken from the same paper. A bibliography was included with Dr. Andrew Lacy's paper.

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Staunton Harold Church is a fine example of a "Gothic Survival", built throughout in a late perpendicular style. It reveals the high standards skilled local craftsmen could work to, particularly in the painted ceiling in the nave, executed by the Leicestershire brothers Zachary and Samuel Kyrk, and the fine wooden fittings, these being the work of a local joiner William Smith. Smith worked at Staunton between about 1655 and 1667, thus in 1662 he was paid £74. 18s. for the Communion table and for boarding fifty-four seats and the pulpit; he also made the wooden canopy for the font and a desk under the pulpit for which he was paid £1. 19s. But his major works were paneling the walls and the pillars, and the organ loft which is a clear indication of the sophistication of local craftsmen as it is executed in the best Jacobean style.

Although very few of the architects have been identified, a local stonemason named Goodyer Holt does appear frequently in the accounts. Holt does appear to have been responsible for the environs of the Church, thus he was paid £6. 18s. 8d. in 1661 for bricks, stone, lime and workman's wages. The following year he received £31 for the "Church Vault", but his main concern appears to have been outside of the Church, providing the building materials, organizing the work force, building the Churchyard wall, all of which came to the princely sum of £155. 3s. 2d. in 1662. His other duties included pointing the walls for the painter, "hewing and laying" a path from the church door to the Churchyard gate and setting up the ornate surround around the west door which contains Shirley's dedication. This task included 1s. paid to someone to stand guard over the Church at night before the doors were finally put in place.

The building of the Church presents a fascinating insight into the workings of local craftsmen, away from the fashionable centres and it indicates the skill of Smith, Holt, the Kyrk brothers and their like who spent ten or fifteen years working on Shirley's Church. On a wider scale it also demonstrates that the Shirley estates did not suffer to any great extent during the Commonwealth, even though he was a known Royalist, and even though the estates were sequestered in 1650 and Shirley was fined on numerous occasions. The accounts for the four years between 1656 and 1660 suggest that the estates were being smoothly administered. Lady Shirley was provided with £260 p.a. for her own and her children's maintenance and Seymour appears to have been recognized as the fifth Baronet Shirley from the moment of his father's death. Then there is the obvious fact that the Church continued to be built and furnished throughout the 1650's and that Pestell continued to read the Prayer Book service, which suggests that even when the relative isolation of Staunton Harold is taken into account, the ban on "prelatism" as distinct from Anglicanism was not rigorously enforced.

**PAYMENTS MADE FOR THE CHAPEL OUT OF THE ESTATE OF
SEYMOUR SHIRLEY, 5TH BARONET 1647-1667**

Payments for work done between 29th September 1658 and 23rd February 1659

Paid William Smith for perfecting the screen in Staunton Church £10 0s 0d

Payments for work done between 25th March 1659 and 28th September 1659

Paid Mr. Smith in full for his work done at screen £11 1s 0d

Paid Hassard his bill for nailes for the screene £1 3s 10d

Paid Henery Greene for getting stone for the churchyard £11 0s 0d

Paid Mr Rolleston for leading 67 loads thereof £2 15s 0d

Paid Thomas Evatts for leading 74 loads thereof £2 15s 6d

Payments for work done between the 25th March 1662 and 29th Sept. 1662

Paid Richard Shepheard for finishing the Battlements of the Church £60 0s 0d

Paid for lead and carriage thereof by him used there £5 19s 6d

Paid Wilkins the Smith for iron cramps & pins used there £3 2s 0d

Paid Mellor for making 20 hurdles for scaffolds there £0 8s 4d

and for felling of scaffold poles and for carriage thereof £0 15s 8d

Paid for cords and neales & setting them up £2 10s 11d

Paid Mr Lovett for Clouding (cladding) the Iles in church £26 0s 0d

Paid him for erecting Kings arms and ten Commandments £36 0s 0d

Paid him for Clouding the Chancell £25 0s 0d

Paid for Spanish white and carriage thereof from London £2 13s 6d

Paid Ra Richardson for workeing up the same £3 10s 0d

Paid for painting the walls and other worke before the painter £0 6s 6d

Paid Goodeir Holt for makeing the vault in the church £31 0s 0d

Paid Wilkins for iron worke there £0 8s 4d

Paid Durant the Carpenters bill there £0 15s 3d

Paid Bewley towards the lead worke and pipes at the church £70 0s 0d

Paid for twelve loades and quarter coles for the plumber £2 17s 2d

Paid for carriage thereof and getting them in £0 16s 4d

Paid for 4 days cuting holes to sett up the pipes there £0 4s 0d

Paid Wilkins for cramps and other things for Pulpit £1 0s 8d

Paid for cutting holes to sett up the pulpit £0 4s 1d

Paid Wilkins upon his bill for Iron worke at the Church £3 9s 3d

Paid Smith the joiner for the bel frame, Screene, the Pulpitt, boarding the 2 Iles, boarding

54 seats, a communion table, and other worke as by his bill £74 18s 0d

Paid for getting 60 loads of Stone for Foundation of Churchyard Wall £1 12s 0d

Paid for 2 loads lyme and 10 loads sand for the same £1 19s 0d

Paid Holt upon his bill for lyme, carriage of stone and workemens wages upon the foundation of the Churchyard wall £9 10s 10d

Paid him upon another bill for the like £15 1s 0d

Paid him upon another Bill for the like for stone and workeman ship £155 3s 2d

Payment for work done between 25th March 1663 and 29th September 1663

Paid Mr. Lovett to guilding the lead Cesternes at the Church £1 0s 0d

Paid William Smith the Joyner for waynscoateing the pillers and Bellffrey in the Church by bill £20 0s 0d

Paid him for Chest under the pulpit and cover for the faunt £1 19s 0d

Paid him for makeing the organ loft by bill £30 0s 0d

Paid the Stone cutter of Nottingham for the Portratures and his worke above Church doore £35 0s 0d

Paid for a white marble Stone for the same work £20 0s 0d

Paid Goodier Holt for setting up the Stone Cutters worke and turning a new arch over the doore £30 0s 0d

Paid him for getting hewers and laying paviers betwixt the Church doore and Church-yard gate £7 0s 0d

Payment for work done between 29th September 1663 and 25th March 1664

Paid Wilkins the Smith his bill for worke done at the organ loft, the Aulter and other things £3 4s 5d

Payments for work done between the 29th September 1664 and 25th March 1665

Paid to Greene for watching the worke when the doores were done £0 1s 0d

Paid Goodyere Holt for Finishinge the Church doores £5 0s 0d

Payments for work done between the 25th March 1665 and 24th September 1665

Paid Mr. Smith the joyner for worke done at Staunton Church by bill £10 10s 0d

Payments for work done between the 29th September 1665 and 25th March 1666

Paid goodyeare Holt for workes done att the Church (by bill) £12 3s 0d

**A SYNOPSIS OF SOME OTHER IMPORTANT POINTS FROM
Dr. ANDREW C LACEY'S PAPER:-**

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*Shirley's final imprisonment began in June 1655, two years after the church was begun, either the authorities were unaware that a large Anglican church was being built on the estate of a man who was already suspected of involvement in the Royalist movement, which is unlikely; or his arrest was **not primarily concerned with the church**.....One of the few constants which emerges from the religious policy of Parliament and Commonwealth is that there was generally a wide measure of toleration as long as that toleration was not a threat to the regime or state. It is for this reason, that the building of Staunton Harold church contributed to Shirley's final imprisonment without being the major cause, because it was a clear indication, a political statement of his opposition to the Commonwealth regime. It is thus not only a monument to Shirley's Royalism, but also to an age when religious allegiance and political allegiance were absolutely intertwined.....Sir Robert Shirley was seventeen when he succeeded to his brother Charles as the 4th Baronet Shirley in 1646. Apart from Staunton Harold, the Shirley lands included Chartley in Staffordshire and seven other manors in Leicestershire, Warwickshire, and Derbyshire, providing an income of approximately £5,000 per annum, which principally came from rents and mining. Thus Shirley inherited the position of a wealthy country gentleman. His immediate ancestors had been marked by their Roman Catholicism. It had been Shirley's father, Sir Henry Shirley, who had finally broken the recusant link, although he was attended by a priest on his death bed in 1633. Both Charles and Robert were brought up by their mother as Anglicans, although it is interesting to speculate to what extent Catholicism still influenced the Shirleys after Sir Henry's death. Perhaps this is one of the factors which encouraged Robert Shirley to embrace Laudian Anglicanism, the nearest Protestant equivalent to Roman Catholicism, and such a "Catholic survival" may have contributed to his Royalism.....During the upheaval of the Civil War, Staunton Harold escaped virtually unscathed due to its position and the character of Sir Charles Shirley, who did not draw attention to himself. However, his brother Robert was of a totally different character. If he had remained quietly at Staunton Harold like Charles, he would have probably been able to survive the Commonwealth without too much interference. But given his High Church views, his family tradition of religious nonconformity, his character and the unsettled nature of the times, such a course of action was highly unlikely. In the ten years between 1646 and his death in 1656, Sir Robert Shirley was a constant source of irritation to the Parliamentary and Commonwealth authorities. In 1648, he was involved in a fight before Ashby Castle which was then in Parliamentary hands. In 1650 he was imprisoned in the Tower of London after being provoked by an agent provocateur, and his estates were sequestered. Two years later he was defending himself before the Council of State, having been denounced by some of his tenantry as a malignant Royalist landlord, and after that he appears as one of the leaders of the Royalist underground in the East Midlands, which, it is suggested, was the principal reason for his second imprisonment and death in the Tower in 1656, rather than the building of Staunton Harold Church.....When looked at as a whole, Sir Robert Shirley's life was in one sense a failure. He backed the losing side in the Civil War and died at a time when any possibility of a Restoration appeared to be very remote.*

His fight in front of Ashby Castle was easily crushed, he was tricked into signing an incriminating document, which resulted in six months imprisonment in the Tower, he was denounced by some of his tenants; the planned rising of 1655, in which he was involved, failed, and resulted in his final imprisonment. Even his plans for a remodeled Royalist party were not acted upon.....Robert Shirley conceived Staunton Harold Church as a visible demonstration of the way in which the Royalist cause had become identified with Laudian Anglicanism and the book of common prayer. Shirley would probably have needed little encouragement in such views. He was brought up in a family with strong Roman Catholic connections and he appears to have maintained contacts with the High Church community of Little Gidding; the ladies of Little Gidding embroidered the cover of the Shirley bible and probably worked the alter cloth in the Church. Throughout the Commonwealth period, Staunton Harold was a refuge for Anglican clergymen who had either left their livings because they refused to accommodate themselves to the new regime, or had been forcibly ejected. He sheltered future dignitaries of the Restorian Church such as Gilbert Sheldon, Henry Hammond, Peter Gunning, and Dr. Robert Mapletoft later Dean and Bishop of Ely respectively, as well as William Pestell who was vicar of Coleorton and had been ejected in 1654. Pestell officiated at Staunton Harold and was paid £20. p.a. for doing so.....

Sir Robert was clearly a brave and loyal cavalier who was probably worthy of a better sovereign than the second Charles, but he remained a devoted Royalist, and the Church / Chapel was clearly erected in defiance of Cromwell. After the restoration of the monarchy, an inscription to the memory of Robert Shirley's work and defiance of Puritan rule was set up above the main entrance to the church for all to read on entering. This was written by Gilbert Sheldon, the Archbishop of Canterbury, mentioned by Andrew C Lacy as one of the dignitaries he sheltered at Staunton during the Civil War:-

*In the year 1653
when all things sacred were throughout ye Nation
either demolisht or profaned,
Sir Robert Shirley, Barronet
Founded this church;
whose singular praise it is
to have done the best things in ye worst times,
and
hoped them in the most callamitous.
The righteous shall be had in everlasting remembrance*



Sir Robert's death meant that the family were in mortal danger of losing all their possessions and even their lives, especially if there was seen to be any contact with the Royal family.

The following rather poignant statement was made in Sir Robert's will, written on the 20th November 1654, and proved at London on June 11th, 1657:-

"I give of one thousand pounds to be disposed of unto such distressed persons as have lost their estates in the service of the late King Charles, in manner as my executors hereafter named shall think fit." He also bequeathed legacies to several distressed clergymen.

A year after Sir Robert's death on October 20th 1657, King Charles II wrote a letter of condolence from Brussels, whilst in exile, to Sir Robert's widow Lady Katherine Shirley (nee. Okeover) promising redress in better times. The letter reads as follows:-

"It hath been my particular care of you that I have this long deferred to lament with you the greate losse that you and I have sustained, least insteede of comforting I might father expose you to the will of those who will be glad of any occasion to do you further rejudice but I am promised that this shall be put safely in your hands, though it may not so soone as I wish; and I am willing you should know which I suppose you cannot doubtte, that I beare a greate parte with you of your affliction, and whenever it shall be in my power to make it lighter, you shall see I retayne a very kind memory of your friende by the care I shall have of you and all his relations; and of this you may depende upon the word of

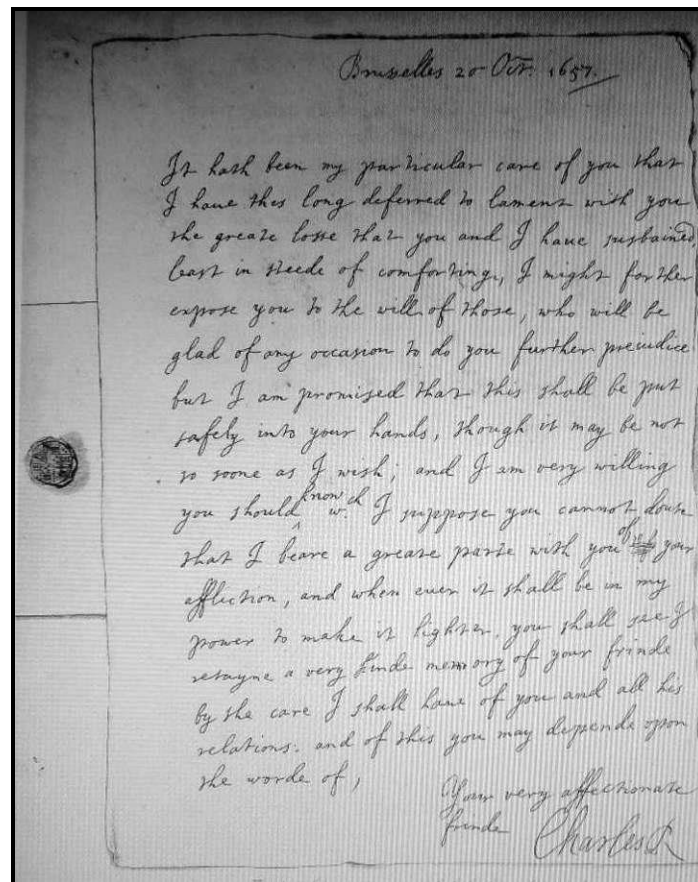
your very affectionate friend.
Charles

The following was included in "The Mirror of Literature, Amusement & instruction" Vol 27-1836, and is also mentioned by John Throsby following his visit in 1790:-

In a book at Staunton, wherein were kept a number of official letters, signed by Charles I., to one of his lordship's ancestors, there was also included a letter of condolence from Charles II. This letter was pasted within the cover of the book: underneath, apparently in the hand-writing of a female, is written:-

"A letter writ from King Charles ye 2. to the Lady Shirley, upon the death of her husband, Sr Robert Shirley, who died in the Tower after seven times being imprisoned there, suspected to be poizon'd by the Userper, Oliver Cromwell".

In spite of these protestations in the letter, all that Charles did for the family on his restoration, to recompense their losses sustained in the cause of his father, was to create the next Master of the Horse and Steward of the Household to his Queen Katherine of Spain; and make him a present of his own portrait, (a small, full length, highly finished), and five other pictures, commonly called King Charles's Beauties, being duplicates of the portraits of ladies of his court, by Sir Peter Lely.



A copy of the original letter from Charles II, from John Throsby's book "Select Views in Leicestershire.....", after he visited Staunton Harold in 1790, in which he states:-
"the annexed engraving is a fac fimile (facsimile) of that letter, given to the public at the expence of his Lordship".

Sir Robert's wife Dame Katherine, who resided at Rolleston, Staffs and Astwell, Northants following his death, died on October 18th 1672. In her will, she requested to be buried in the family vault at Staunton between her dear husband and her son Seymour.



An example of the seal and signature of Robert Shirley

SEYMOUR SHIRLEY, 5TH BARONET (1647-1667)

ROBERT SHIRLEY, 6TH BARONET (1667-1669)

The estate and titles were subsequently inherited by Seymour Shirley, 5th baronet, followed by his son Robert Shirley, 6th baronet, who died in infancy.

ROBERT SHIRLEY (1650-1717), CREATED 7TH BARONET OF CHARTLEY IN 1677 - BECAME 1ST EARL FERRERS AND VISCOUNT TAMWORTH IN 1711



The estate and titles were then inherited in 1669 by the 4th Baronet's youngest son, Sir Robert Shirley (1650-1717), who was only six years of age on the death of his father. He was elevated to to the Barony of the Ferrer's of Chartley in 1677, by King Charles II, who in this way recognized the great services of his loyal parent. The claim to the Barony of Ferrers, it should be stated, was based on the young baronet's descent from his grandmother, Dorothy Devereux. He was created the 1st Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth in 1711 by Queen Anne.

He married his first wife Elizabeth Washington by whom he had 17 children. These were listed in the register of the chapel of Staunton Harold (see later listing). Elizabeth died on the 2nd of October 1693, and was interred in the vault at Staunton Harold on the 3rd of October.

The 1st Earl was admitted to the Privy Council on May 25th 1699, the same year he received an M.A. at Oxford, and was retained in the Privy Council of Queene Anne. He was Lord Cupbearer at her coronation. In page 100 of John Macky's "Memoirs of the secret services of John Macky Esq during the reigns of King William, Queen Anne and King George 1", a work undertaken by the direction of the Princess Sophia in King William's time, he was described as:- *Lord Robert Ferrers is a very honest man, a lover of his country, a great improver of gardening and parking; a keen sportsman; never was yet in business, but is very capable; a tall fair man, towards sixty years old.* 1699 was a busy year for the 1st Earl, as this was the year he married his second wife Selina Finch, but more about this marriages and his proliferation of children later.

An interesting lease held at the LRO and dated Dec 26th 1671 two years after Sir Robert's inheritance, at the age of eight, states that*Robert Shirley of Staunton Harold, bart., leases to Sir Joseph Sheldon of London kt., and William Pargiter of Greatworth (Northants.,) esq., the manors of Astwell and Falcutt and all other lands adjoining in Astwell, Falcutt, Wappenham and Syresham, (Northants.,) the manors of **Staunton Harold**, Ragdale, Ratcliffe, Sileby and Willowes, and lands and property in the above and in Thrussington (Leics.,) and manors of Shirley, Brailsford and Ednaston with lands and property in Ettington, Oxhill, Fulready and Whatcote, (Warks.,) and the manor of Sutton Bonington with all lands and property there (Notts.,) for term of 1 year. Consid: 5s. Peppercorn rent.*

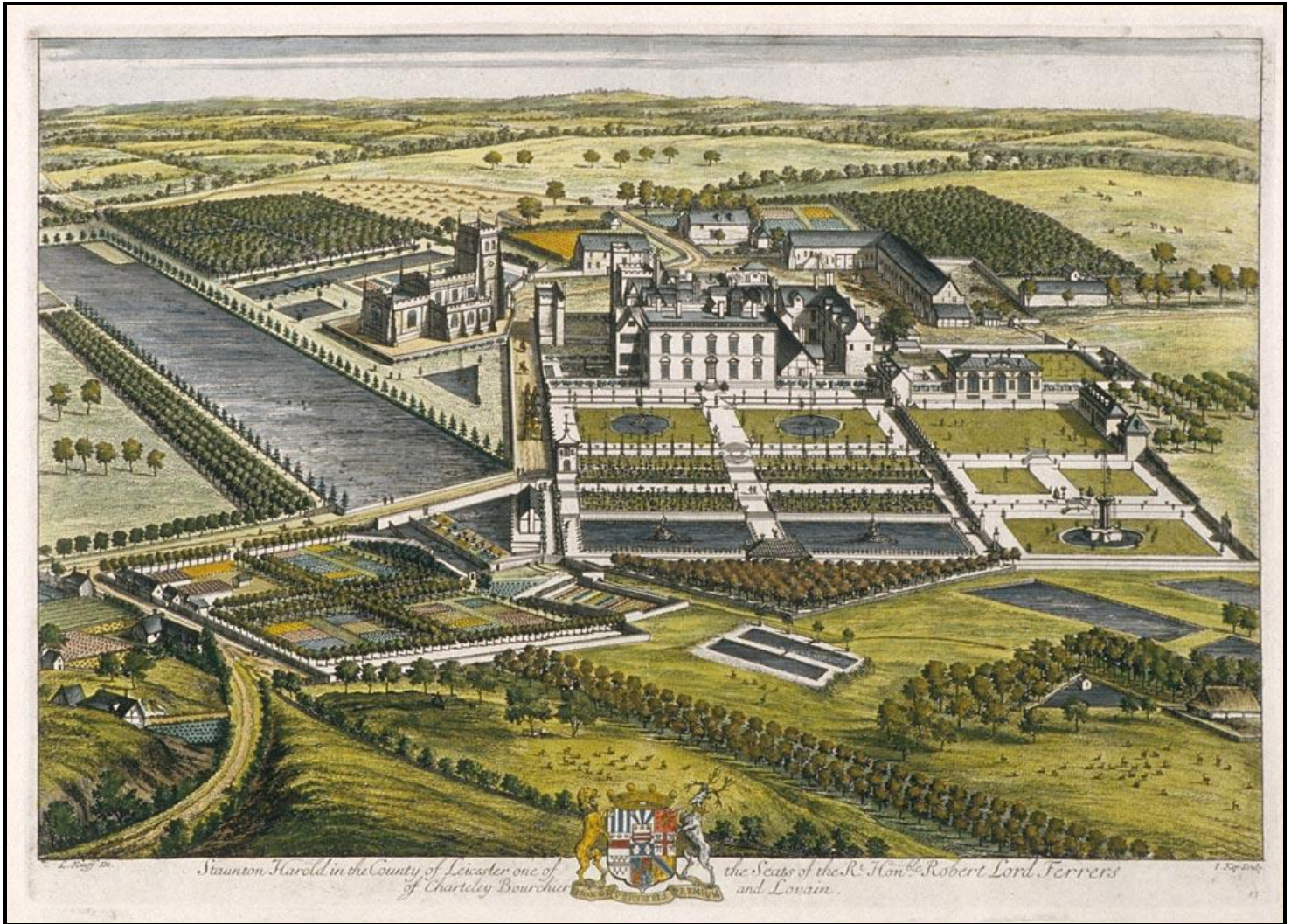
The 1st Earl was responsible for the re-building of Staunton Harold Hall (former site of the manor house), to which he added a new north-east front, and laid out the extensive formal gardens as depicted in the following coloured print. Few changes were thought to have been made over the next 60 years. This is based on an original etching by Johannes Kip (1653 - 1722) c.1702., who was a Dutch draughtsman, engraver, and print dealer who was active in England. The coloured version is by Leonard Knyff (1650 - 1721) who was a Dutch draughtsman and painter, who collaborated with Johannes Kip to produce coloured views of country houses and gardens for publications, based on Kip's original engravings. Their signatures are in the bottom left and right hand corners. This is preserved in "Le Nouveau Theatre de la Grande Bretagne", and was first published in 1707.

John Fitzhugh Millar, the American architectural historian, records in his book entitled 'The buildings of Peter Harrison: Cataloguing the work of the first global architect'... ' *The ancient house was rebuilt in the 1670's with a classical wing and garden pavilions designed by Elizabeth, Lady Wilbraham*. Elizabeth, Lady Wilbraham, née Mytton (1632-1705), was a member of the English aristocracy, who traditionally has been identified as an important architectural patron.

George London (c.1640-1714) was a famous English garden designer working in partnership with Henry Wise. Listed amongst the ostentatious gardens for aristocratic clients that he and Wise were involved with, was Melbourne Hall and **Staunton Harold**, as depicted in the following Kip and Knyff illustration. (from 'The Oxford Dictionary of Architecture').

An account of the gardens at Staunton Harold was provided by Wolley, the Derbyshire collector in 1711:- *Staunton is a noble old seat, becoming the antiquity of the family to which it belongs; it has a noble new front towards the gardens, which are large and good, and on one side thereof are well watered with fountains and canals, and very good averies and a decoy, and a great many exotic fowls; the park and woods about it are large and good, but being seated on a clay soil, it is somewhat dirty; on the south east side is a very handsome stone church; the east end of the church abuts on a very large canal, the biggest in all the country; the gardens lie on the north west side, consisting of several parterres of easy descent from the house, which add a gracefulness both to the one and the other.*

A parterre is a formal garden constructed on a level substrate, consisting of plant beds, typically in symmetrical patterns, which are separated and connected by paths.



It is well recorded that the stone gateway of 1681 (shown in the following photograph), was moved from its original position, to the north-west corner of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, when the formal gardens were swept away by the 5th Earl. It is also been recorded that the gateway originally stood on the north-west edge of the main formal gardens, although the author is not aware of what factual evidence this is based on. There is a suggestion on Kips engraving that, it may have been the entrance gateway to the formal gardens to the north-west of the chapel, and if that was the case, then it was possibly removed when these gardens were swept away by the 5th Earl, and then put back in its original position. As the gateway is clearly not shown on the engraving dated c.1795 in Nichols History of Leicestershire, this suggests that it was moved to its present position at sometime after that date, and perhaps at the same time the golden gate piers were moved to the causeway bridge, post 1836. When, as rumour has it, the gateway was placed in its current position, it became known as "the gateway to nowhere".

The gateway was originally designed in a Baroque manner, the rectangular panel above entrance being carved with foliate swags, eagles and cornucopia buttresses, and surmounted

with a pediment and urn on the top. The gateway is shown in the old engraving of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity in the previous feature on Robert Shirley, 4th baronet.



A recent photograph depicting the gateway to the right of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity.

Robert Shirley, 1st Earl Ferrers, married Selina Finch, his second wife, in 1699, six years after the death of his first wife Elizabeth. Selina was the daughter of a London merchant, George Finch and his wife Mary described as "a young girl who has no portion" and she bore him five sons and five daughters, although "it is said", that he fathered up to thirty children out of wedlock also. See the later listing of their children.

At this time, the 1st Earl and his second wife's principle residence was Staunton Harold, although they held land and properties at Tamworth, Warwickshire; Chartley, Staffs; Ettington, Warwickshire and an estate in Ireland amongst others. **According to the Twickenham Museum website (the following information is the copyright of Twickenham Museum)**, he purchased in 1711, Heath Lane Lodge (reputed to be an enormous mansion, the largest in Twickenham), which came with 24 acres of land. Earl Ferrers extended the estate further by buying the meadow across the road (Cross Deep) at the southern end of his garden and running along the riverside, in 1716. This 1½ acre piece cost him £960, a high price, perhaps reflecting competition for riverside land in Twickenham. Following his second marriage Lord Ferrers reputedly lived for the most part at his Twickenham residence. The Earl died on Christmas day 1717 in Bath, and was interred in the family vault at Staunton Harold on January the 13th, 1718. In about 1719, Selina built a summerhouse facing the river. The earliest picture of this building is on Peter Tillemans' "A Prospect of Twickenham" painted in about 1725 and shown below (**copyright Twickenham museum**).



Countess Ferrers remained at Heath Lane Lodge for the next 45 years, dying there on March 20th, 1762 in her 80th year. She is buried beneath a plain brick altar tomb on the north side of the churchyard of St Mary's, Twickenham, with the following inscription:-

Here lieth
The Right Honorable SELINA
COUNTESS DOWAGER FERRERS,
who departed this life
March 20th, 1762 in the 80th year
of her age

In the Earl's will, he left to George (b.1705 d.1787), the eldest surviving son of his second marriage to Selina, £1,000 for the erection of a monument to himself and Selina, but this was not commissioned till sixty years later. Following the refusal for it to be placed in the Chapel at Staunton Harold by the 5th Earl, its eventual resting place became the Shirley mortuary chapel at Ettington, Warks which was restored as part of the ruined Parish Church in 1825. Details of the fascinating inscription are given in *Stemmata Shirleiana* for anyone who wishes to read this. On the north side of the monument is a small tablet, which explains why it was not erected at Staunton Harold, but in the south isle of the church of Lower Ettington in Warwickshire, the ancient burial place of the family:-

This monument to the memory
Of ROBERT Earl FERRERS, and his Countess SELINA,
Was intended and prepared to be erected in the church
Of Staunton Harold, in the county of Leicester,
Where he was buried,
By the consent of WASHINGTON Earl FERRERS,
But (after being finished)
Was refused to be placed there.
It is erected in the church at the expense
Of the Hon. GEORGE SHIRLEY
The centre figure in the monument.



**Pictures of the monument described in the preceding text
in the restored church at Ettington**

1. Robert Shirley, eldest son of the aforesaid L^d Ferrers, borne the 4th of September A.D. 1673.
2. Elizabeth Shirley, born the 25th of November A.D. 1674.
Madam Elizabeth Shirley, 1st daughter of y^e R^t. Hon^{ble} y^e L^d Ferrers, dyed 10 October, A.D. 1677.
3. Katherine Shirley, borne May the 31st, A.D. 1676.
Madam Katherin, 2^d daughter, dyed 18 of August, A.D. 1679.
4. Washington Shirley, 2^d son, born June the 22nd A.D. 1677.
5. Elizabeth Shirley, borne June the 20th, A.D. 1678.
6. Anna Elianor Shirley, borne the 12th of November, A.D. 1679.
7. Katherine Shirley, borne the 17th of February A.D. 1680.
8. Charles Shirley, 3^d son, borne the 9th April A.D. 1682.
Mr. Charles Shirley, 3^d son, dyed the 28th of May A.D. 1682.
9. Dorothy Shirley, borne May the 25th A.D. 1683.
10. Charles Shirley, 4th son, borne the 21st of June A.D. 1684.
Mr. Charles, 4th son, dyed the 12th of September A.D. 1685.
11. Lewis Shirley, 5th son, borne the 13th of July A.D. 1685.
12. George Shirley, borne October y^e 21st 1686.
Mr. George Shirley, 6th son, was buried Novemb^r y^e 17th 1694.
13. Barbara Shirley, borne February the 5th 1687.
14. Ferrers Shirley, 7th son, was born April 23; christned May 4th A.D. 1689.
The Hon^{ble} Mr. Ferrers Shirley, dyed y^e 20th of June, and was buried in y^e vault at Staunton Harrold y^e 26th of June, 1707.
15. Water Shirley, 8th son, was born May the 27th, baptized June y^e 3rd A.D. 1690.*
16. Henry Shirley, born and baptized November the 14 A.D. 1691.
17. Laurence Shirley, born and baptized September 26th A.D. 1693.†

Children of Robert Shirley & Elizabeth Washington

1. Robert, born May 27, 1700.‡
2. Selina, the daughter of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born July the 2d, and baptized the 12th of July, 1701.
2. Mary, the daughter of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born on November y^e 20th, and baptized the 30th of November, 1702.
4. George the son of y^e Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his^m Lady Selina, was born August the 18th, and baptized August the 27th 1704.
The Hon^{ble} Mr. George Shirley dyed December y^e 21st, and was buried in the vault December y^e 23^d 1704.
5. George, the son of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born October y^e 23^d, and baptized y^e 4th of November 1705.
6. Frances, the daughter of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born y^e 5th of May, and baptized the 22^d of May 1707.
7. Anne, y^e daughter of y^e Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born May y^e 24th, and baptized June y^e 6th 1708.
8. Sewallis, the son of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Lord Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born October y^e 19th, and baptized November y^e 8th 1709.
9. Stuarda, y^e daughter of the Right Hon^{ble} Robert Earl Ferrers and his Countess Selina, was born August the 19th, and was baptized September the 4th 1711.
10. John, the son of the Right Hon^{ble} Rob^t. Earle Ferrers and his Lady Selina, was born at London the day of 1712.*†

Children of Robert Shirley, & Selina Finch

The above were taken from the register of Staunton Harold Chapel
and recorded in Stemmata Shirleina

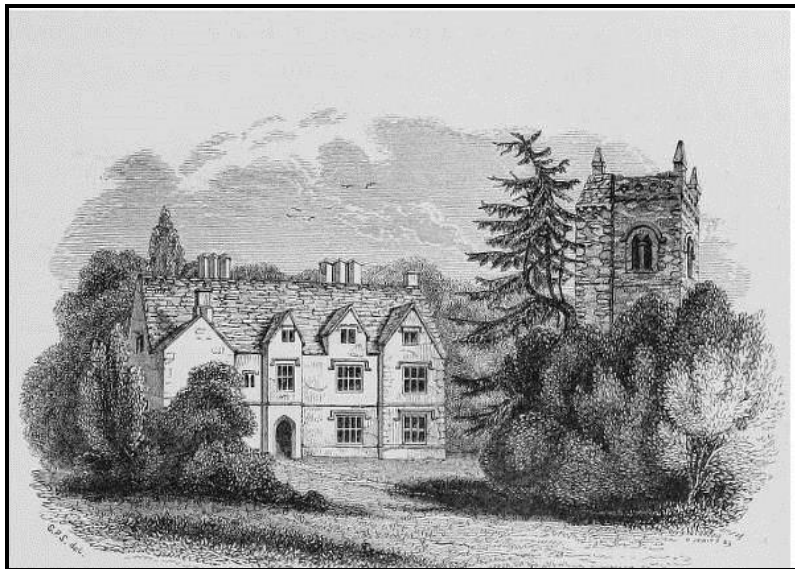
GEORGE SHIRLEY (b.1705 d.1787)

NOTE - GEORGE SHIRLEY DID NOT INHERIT STAUNTON HAROLD HALL OR THE ESTATE

George Shirley was the third son of Robert Shirley, 1st Earl Ferrers and his second wife, Selina Finch, and was born at Staunton Harold in 1705 as we can see from the preceding records. In fact, he was the 22nd child of 27 with his father's two wives Elizabeth and Selina!

He actually had the honour of attending Queene Anne as a page. When he was sixteen, a commission of Ensign in the elite First Regiment of Footguards (now known as the Grenadier Guards) was purchased, and he was with the Guards at the siege of Gibraltar in 1727. Like many other soldiers, he caught yellow fever there, but fortunately survived. Only wealthy aristocratic families would have been able to purchase a commission and this is where many of the Guards officers were drawn from of course, bearing in mind they would also be well educated.

Following the death of his brother Robert (b.1700 d.1738) in 1738, unmarried and without issue, George left the Footguards and moved to Ettington, Warwickshire, to become Lord of the manor and take up the Shirley family seat there, which of course was a much less dangerous occupation. His step-brother Henry (son of the 1st Earl Ferrers, who died in 1717, and his first wife Elizabeth) was Lord of the manor of Staunton Harold at this time. The photograph below, depicts Ettington manor house and the church as it was when George Shirley moved there c.1738. George married Mary Sturt in 1749.



Ettington Manor House & Church 1738.

When George's mother Selina died at Heath Lane Lodge in Twickenham in 1762 in her 80th year, this was inherited by George (see the previous feature on the 1st Earl for more details on Heath Lane Lodge).

In Stemmata Shileiana, we are told that a descendant described George Shirley as follows:-
 "in his youth, he was much distinguished for his personal appearance, his activity, and his pedestrian feats".

The Twickenham Museum website tells us that George Shirley was clearly a man of forceful personality, and a strong sense of status, and he liked to have his own way. He had many brushes with the Twickenham community when he moved there which started when the parish surveyors removed the paving in Heath Lane which had for many years provided a visual connection between his frontage and his land across the lane, to the north. They sent him the bill for the work, and he took legal advice about paying which, although reassuring was probably more expensive. This was only the start, and those wishing to know more about his many disputes, are recommended to visit the Twickenham Museum website.

A SECRET ROMANCE BETWEEN GEORGE SHIRLEY & MISS A GRAHAM

Should you ever see it with all your power
 I should believe you perhaps. I must enclose
 this little billet for I am not in a humor
 for writing my spirits are too low, & I protest
 to you I can't read what I've writ, since
 I hear Mr Shirley. I must tell you that if you
 wish my health and happiness as much
 as you pretend to do you would write often
 to your obedient servant
 G.S.

I am in a violent passion and you may see
 you would have me worse for it. I imagine you are
 out a knocking every day. I should like to have
 every boy that walk with a little, but that
 was ill; I have almost pick'd myself out
 of this world for while I was at Aunt
 W... I was a little else. Pray give
 me a little comfort you know nobody else can

9
 Kildbrook Hall Monday August 22th 1740

and can Mr Shirley forgive me if I send him his letter the first
 post after I received it. I'll see by my letter, and tell him it gave me great
 satisfaction to find him well, and that he had received my letters, which
 I hope convinced him that I did not receive the approach he sent me
 to my shame. but by the bye Sir, how happens the letter I writ you in
 June not to see you before this time? that is a sort of mistake to me;
 I flatter myself this went to so fast, & that it will find you out before this time
 you may keep to see me such a little bit, if he is answer you will
 prefer to be going out, but I can't think of such a thing, I assure you; &
 could I take pleasure in revenge? would that you in spite of those that
 envy you, but I can't help to take you too much to heart, you that are so good
 in what I tell you so I will be kind to you now & wish you as little as possible
 me but I shall expect an answer to it, as long as from Kildbrook to London shall
 be who you should write at your address, & who was the Belle, for I have long
 you and him in a Country Battle of Blood. Cousin Mainwaring had
 me from home to provide Kildbrook where I saw two prodigious pretty Women, but
 a bit, both names, & he was the richest man that was ever seen with
 money. Billy Fougiers wife was my beauty, & indeed I think her figure

Thanks to Warwickshire Record Office for allowing publication of extracts and transcriptions from two of the seven love letters exchanged between George Shirley & Miss A Graham. Ref CR2131/16/53 & CR2131/16/56 respectively

The writer signed all but one of her letters as 'A:G' or 'A. G-m'. It is only from one letter which is signed 'A. Graham' that Warwickshire Record Office have a clue to her identity. Born in c. 1722, Ann Graham of Suffolk was the youngest of five daughters. Her mother and father died in 1736 and 1737 respectively. Ann's mother and aunts were the heiresses of Holbrook Hall, Suffolk, where she writes some of her letters from. This, along with the names, dates and places mentioned in the letters are strong evidence that she is the writer.

RELATIONSHIP

Perhaps owing to their 17 year age gap, the relationship appears to have been a secret one. Throughout her letters, Miss Graham takes measures to conceal it. She uses code names for Mr Shirley and asks him to burn her letters. Unfortunately, we do not have his replies and can only see that Miss Graham was often unsatisfied with his letters:-

[...] you're very [crass] to send me such a little dab of ten lines. I wish you would send me a little of your hair be it ever so grey it will be valuable to me, but as I desire it I know you won't let me have it .

Despite this, she appeared to be realistic about their relationship.

I never expected conjugal affection from you [...] I know you are happier now than you would be were we more nearly allied, and that consideration will make me so. [...] I have often been told that an affection easily obtained is never valued, and that men only aim at inspiring with a passion they never intend to feel themselves and if they succeed they despise us for it.

THE LETTERS

Love letters were an important part of 18th century courtship, and they sometimes included tokens such as pieces of hair, as Miss Graham asks for.

The letters displayed here are two of seven that have survived.

In the first (CR2131/16/53), she chides Mr Shirley for the shortness of his letters, but is still light hearted, asking:

[...] tell me who you danced with at your [assizes], & who was the Belle, for I dare say you don't live in a County Barren of Beauty [...] I saw two prodigious pretty women, but o! sad, both married and to [...] the ugliest men that was ever seen [...]

At the end of her letter, she even jokes:-

I hope it won't shock you to hear I am married to a Mr Hale. Under the assumption that this is Ann Graham, she was not married to a Mr Hale.

In contrast, the second letter (CR2131/16/56) is much more serious, apparently unhappy at Mr Shirley's lack of response and that he hadn't attended Bury Fair.

I writ you an age ago, is wither at London still, or else miscarried, for that would please me better than to hear your silence [...] I suppose you will say you never had mine or you wou'd certainly have been at Bury Fair, should you say so, nay, should you swear it with all your [might] I shouldn't believe you perhaps [...] I am in a violent passion and was you near me you wou'd fair the worse for it.

AFTER THE LETTERS

In c. 1745, Ann Graham married Sir Walden Hanmer, a barrister. She died in 1778 at the age of 56.

George Shirley married Mary Sturt in 1749. He died in 1787, at 82 years of age.

WASHINGTON SHIRLEY (1677-1729), 2ND EARL FERRERS

Following the death of the 1st Earl, he was succeeded by his second son Washington Shirley, 2nd Earl (1677-1729). The 1st Earl's eldest son Robert (b.1673) died of small-pox at the age of 21. Washington was born at Staunton on June 22nd 1677. In 1693 he entered Trinity College, Oxford for three years where he matriculated. In 1703 he married Mary Lavinge, the eldest daughter of Sir Richard Lavinge, Baronet of High Park, County Westmeath, Ireland. He had a second daughter named Selina, b. 13.08.1707 (presumably named after the 1st Earl's second wife) She married Theophilus Hastings, the 9th Earl of Huntingdon on June 3rd 1728 and with him she had four sons and three daughters. He lived at Donington Hall, only a few miles from Staunton Harold.

According to *Stemmata Shirleiana*, the 2nd Earl only received a moderate proportion of the paternal inheritance. Most of the property and estates were split between him and his surviving three brothers. The Northamptonshire property was the only one he inherited in "fee simple". The Warwickshire estate and the mansion at Twickenham (after the death of the Countess Selina), went to the eldest son Robert (b.1700) by his second marriage. The Irish estate was equally divided between the four sons of his second marriage. **The first Earl's second widowed wife Countess Selina, received a jointure of £812 per annum, arising out of the family property in Leicestershire.** The Wiltshire estate was settled on Laurence Shirley (b.1693), youngest son by the 1st Earl's first marriage and his issue in tail-male. The division of property gave rise to numerous disputes and was the cause of sundry Chancery suits between the two branches of the family which were not finally settled till the year 1737, when a final agreement was entered into on June 3rd.

The 2nd Earl must have later gained, perhaps under trust, the Staunton Harold property and estate, as Macky in his tour through England in 1723, notes Washington 2nd Earl Ferrers, and his house at Staunton in the following terms:-

The Earls seat at Staunton Harold, is a noble seat, as big as a little town, and the gardens adorned with statues very entertaining. This noble lord is of an exceeding eminent and ancient family. He keeps as hospitable an house, and entertains as nobly, as any peer of the realm. His lordship has experienced both fortunes, and was no more depressed with adversity, than he is elevated with prosperity (Macky's journey through England, vol ii, page 189).

The 2nd Earl died on 14th April 1729 in Clarges Street, London, and was buried in the vault at Staunton Harold, on the 3rd of May 1729.



Selina, who became Countess of Huntingdon, was the daughter of the second Earl Ferrers

John Wesley, during his travels, visited and preached at Melbourne (in fact, the day after visiting Tamworth, of which the Shirley family were lords of Tamworth Castle for over two and a half centuries) and then went on to Donington Hall in 1740 and 1741 to see Selina, who was the daughter of the 2nd Earl then Countess of Huntingdon. Although an Anglican, in the summer of 1739, she underwent a deep religious experience and was converted. Thereafter, she devoted her life and considerable money to furthering what is known as "The great awakening of the 18th century". In the same year, her coachman, David Taylor, had also been converted, and was sent out on evangelical missions by the Countess in the locality. In view of the foregoing, one would have expected Methodism to spread like wildfire from Donington Hall and Derbyshire into the surrounding areas. That it did not was due to various reasons. On the death of Selina's husband in 1746, Donington Hall passed to the eldest son and was vacated by the Countess who for the rest of her life, resided in various parts of the country including London, Bath and Brighton. She was pulled by the Calvinistic brand of Methodism, but like Wesley, remained an Anglican until compelled by necessity to break away and form the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion which still exists today. When she died at her home in Spa-fields, near London at the of 84, she had been a widow for 45 years.

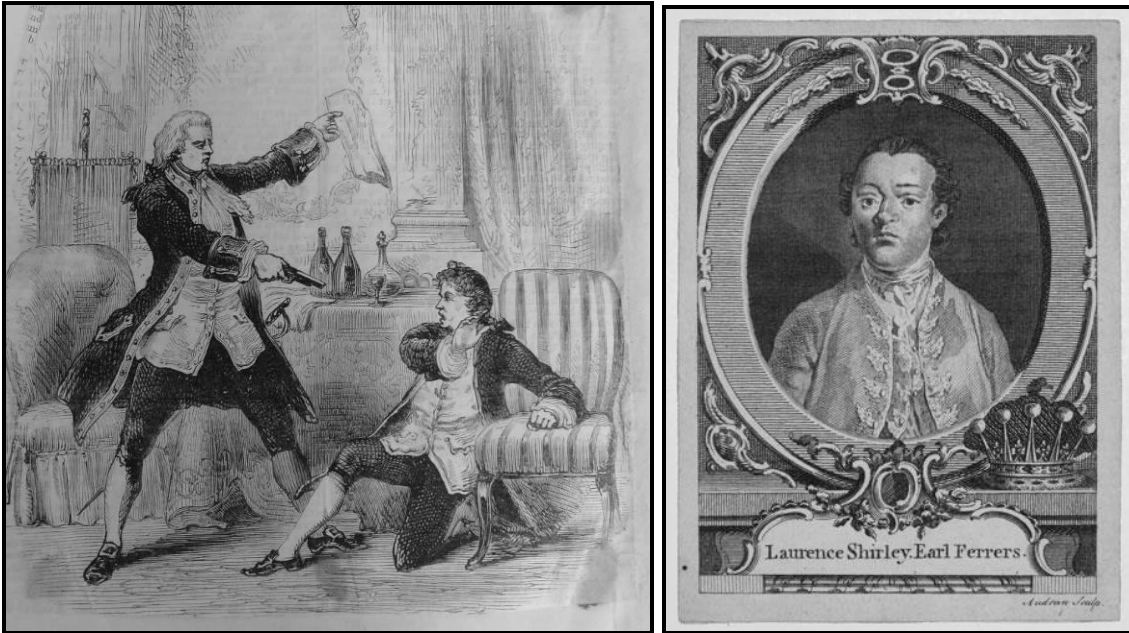
Eventually, Methodism did arrive in the area, including Lount. See the later article, and the book by Samuel T Stewart, entitled "Methodism and Social History in Coleorton and the Locality".

HENRY SHIRLEY (1691-1745), 3RD EARL FERRERS

The estates and titles were then inherited by the 2nd Earl's Brother, Henry Shirley, 3rd Earl Ferrers (1691-1745) who was an English nobleman and renowned lunatic. Shirley was the ninth, but second surviving, son of Robert Shirley, 1st Earl Ferrers. His mental disorder led his younger brother, Laurence, to obtain a commission of lunacy against him. However, Henry's condition improved and he regained control of his estates in October 1730, the year after he succeeded his brother Washington in the earldom. While well enough to accept the offices of Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum in 1731, he again relapsed into insanity, although he was not removed from office until 1742. He was confined during the last years of his life, and died in Kensington Gore in 1745 (from Wikipedia). He was unmarried, not surprisingly. The 3rd Earl was then succeeded by his nephew Lawrence Shirley, 4th Earl (1720-1760), who became the black-sheep of the family when he was hanged for the murder of his steward John Johnson of Lount.

THE STORY OF LAWRENCE SHIRLEY, 4TH EARL FERRERS (1720-1760) MURDER OF HIS STEWARD - JOHN JOHNSON OF LOUNT

John Johnson lived in the Hamlet of Lount in a cottage which still exists today. It is known as "Rose Cottage", which is shown on a later map of the hamlet. The graves of John Johnson and his wife Anne are in Breedon on the Hill Church graveyard.



The 4th Earl by Audran Sculp

The research for this article has come from **numerous** sources, including articles entitled - "Old Leicestershire" which appeared in the Leicester Journal on the 29th of August 1879 and was part of a series of papers on the antiquarian and historical miscellanea of the County of Leicester, and another in the Leicester Chronicle dated 8th October 1881 entitled "Romantic Tales and Historic Sketches" by William Andrews, F.R.H.S. "The Newgate Calendar" and the the book entitled "The Kirkland Papers 1753-1869" have also been an important source of information.



Laurence Shirley, 4th Earl Ferrers (August 18, 1720 - May 5, 1760) was a descendant of an ancient and noble family, and had Plantagenet blood in his veins. He was brought up with all the advantages of belonging to an aristocratic family. He was the eldest of six sons born to the Hon. Laurence Ferrers and his wife Anne. He was a younger son of Robert Shirley, 1st Earl Ferrers, who was a descendant of Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex. He also had six sisters. He went on to earn the distinction of being the last nobleman, and last member of the House of Lords to be hanged in Britain. He had inherited his title from his insane uncle in 1745, together with his estates in Leicestershire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Northamptonshire.

The Earl and his family lived at Staunton Harold Hall at the time when the crime for which he was subsequently hanged took place.

In his earliest years, the 4th Earl appears to have exhibited many peculiarities, and is said to have possessed a temper which it was difficult to subdue, and which as he got older, became more uncontrollable. He was not the only member of the family who showed signs of mental disorder. His uncle, by whose death the coronet had been placed upon his head, had been under restraint for some time through insanity; and one of his aunts, the Lady Barbara Shirley, had likewise been confined as a lunatic. The Earl's aberrance was therefore hereditary. Amongst other eccentric performances we are told "he would walk hastily around the room, clenching his fists, grinning, biting his lips, and talking to himself, without having anything to ruffle his temper, and without being under the influence of liquor. He would also talk to himself incoherently for hours and hours after he had gone to bed. Nor was this all; he would entertain all sorts of groundless delusions and suspicions of those round him; he would go about secretly armed with a dagger and pistols; and when spoken to he was absent, and often would not reply; he would make odd mouths before a looking-glass, and spit upon it, and use all sorts of strange gestures as if he was bewitched.

At the age of 20, he apparently quit his estates and Oxford and went on what was called "The Grand Tour" at this time. This was intended to complete one's education, but he apparently involved himself in every available kind of excess, and contracted the habit of drinking strong liquors.

From Mr. Craddock's account of Lord Ferrers, who, with the Ladies Shirley, his sisters, frequented Leicester Races, and visited at my father's house. During the early part of the day his lordship preserved the character of a polite scholar, and a courteous nobleman; and I distinctly remember running upstairs to hide myself, when an alarm was given that Lord Ferrers was coming armed, with a great mob after him. He had behaved well at the ordinary; the races were then in the afternoon, and the ladies regularly attended the balls. My father's house was situated midway between Lord Ferrers lodgings and the Town-Hall, where the race assemblies were then held. He had, as was supposed, obtained liquor privately, and then became outrageous; for from our house he suddenly escaped and proceeded to the Town Hall, and after many most violent acts threw a large silver tankard of scalding negus amongst the ladies; he was then secured for that evening.

As he grew older, he developed an increasing taste and dependence on alcohol. When he was sober, he was apparently a fine fellow, but when he was "in his cups" he became a brute with a tendency to violence. One day he was beaten in a horse race, so he thrashed his groom unconscious. On another occasion he stabbed a servant for refusing to perjure himself and

say that a barrel of oysters had been bad when they had been delivered. Lord Ferrers at once flew into a violent rage, stabbed the servant in the breast with a knife, cut his head with a candlestick, and kicked him with such severity, that he was under the surgeon's care for several years afterwards.

On September 16th 1752, he married the youngest daughter of Amos Meredith Esq. She was reputedly a lady of great beauty and accomplishments, with a kind and affectionate disposition. All was well to begin with, but with such cruelty did Earl Ferrers behave to his consort, and she later became separated from him in 1758 by Act of Parliament. She was later re-married to Lord Frederick Campbell, but was accidentally burnt to death at Combe bank, Kent on December 14th 1791.

At Derby races in the year 1756, Lord Ferrers ran his mare against Captain M--'s horse for £50, and was the winner. When the race was ended, he spent the evening with some gentlemen, and in the course of conversation the captain (who had heard that his lordship's mare was with foal) proposed, in a jocose manner, to run his horse against her at the expiration of seven months. Lord Ferrers was so affronted by this circumstance, which he conceived to have arisen from a preconcerted plan to insult him that he quitted Derby at three o'clock in the morning, and went immediately to his seat at Stanton-Harold in Leicestershire. He rang his bell as soon as he awaked; and a servant attending, he asked, if he knew how Capt. M came to be informed that his mare was with foal. The servant declared that he was ignorant of the matter, but the groom might have told it; and, the groom being called, he denied having given any information respecting the matter. Previous to the affront presumed to have been given on the preceding evening, lord Ferrers had invited the captain and the rest of the company to dine with him as on that day; but they all refused their attendance, though he sent a servant to remind them that they had promised to come. Lord Ferrers was so enraged at this disappointment, that he kicked and horse-whipped his servants, and threw at them such articles as lay within his reach

During a visit of the Earl's brother to himself and the Countess at Staunton Harold, a casual dispute arose between the parties, and on Lady Ferrers going absent from the room, the Earl ran upstairs with a large clasp knife in his hand, and demanded of a servant, whom he met, where his lady was. The man replied, "in her own room", and having directed him to follow him thither, Lord Ferrers sternly ordered the servant to load a brace of pistols with bullets. This order was complied with, but the man apprehensive of mischief, declined priming the pistols. Lord Ferrers discovered this evasion, swore at the servant, and calling for powder, primed the weapons himself. He then threatened the now almost terror stricken servant, that if he did not immediately go and shoot his brother, he would blow his brains out. The poor man hesitated, and his lordship pulled the trigger of one of his pistols, but it fortunately miss fired. Hereupon, the Countess fell upon her knees, and implored her irate husband to appease his passion, but in return, he swore at her, and threatened her destruction if she opposed him. The servant now escaped from the room, and reported what had passed to his lordship's brother who immediately called his wife from her bed and they left the house, though it was then two o'clock in the morning.

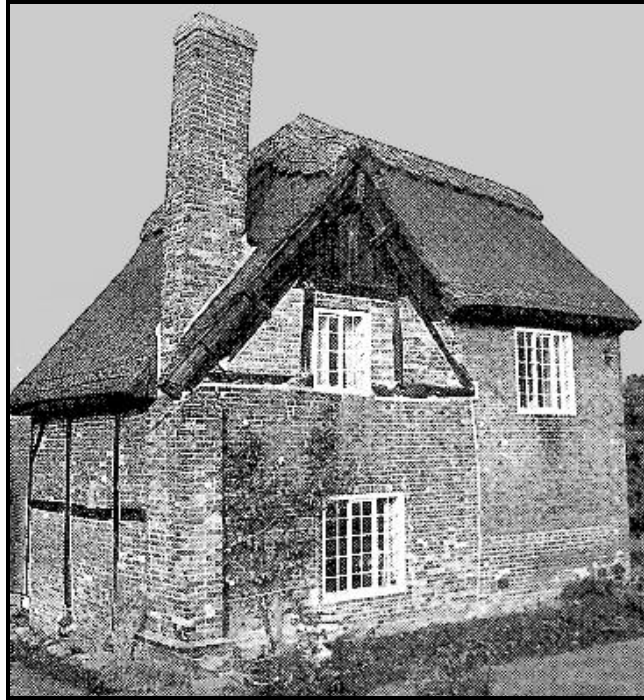
In 1758, his wife obtained a separation from the 4th Earl for cruelty, a rare occurrence at this time. The result of this was that she left him and returned to her family.

Soon after this the Earl engaged some lodgings at Muswell Hill, near Highgate and Hornsey, and went into extreme dissipation, associating with company of the lowest description. "He would drink coffee out of the spout of a kettle, mix his beer and porter with mud, and shave on one side of his face only. He threatened on more than one occasion to 'do for' his landlady upon the most trifling provocation in the world; and on one occasion he violently broke open on a Sunday a stable where his horse was locked up, knocking down with his fist the ostler's wife, when she asked him to wait a few minutes whilst her husband brought the key". The foregoing extract is from Mr. Walford's popular "Tales of our Great Families" wherein is given a very explicit account of this strange nobleman.

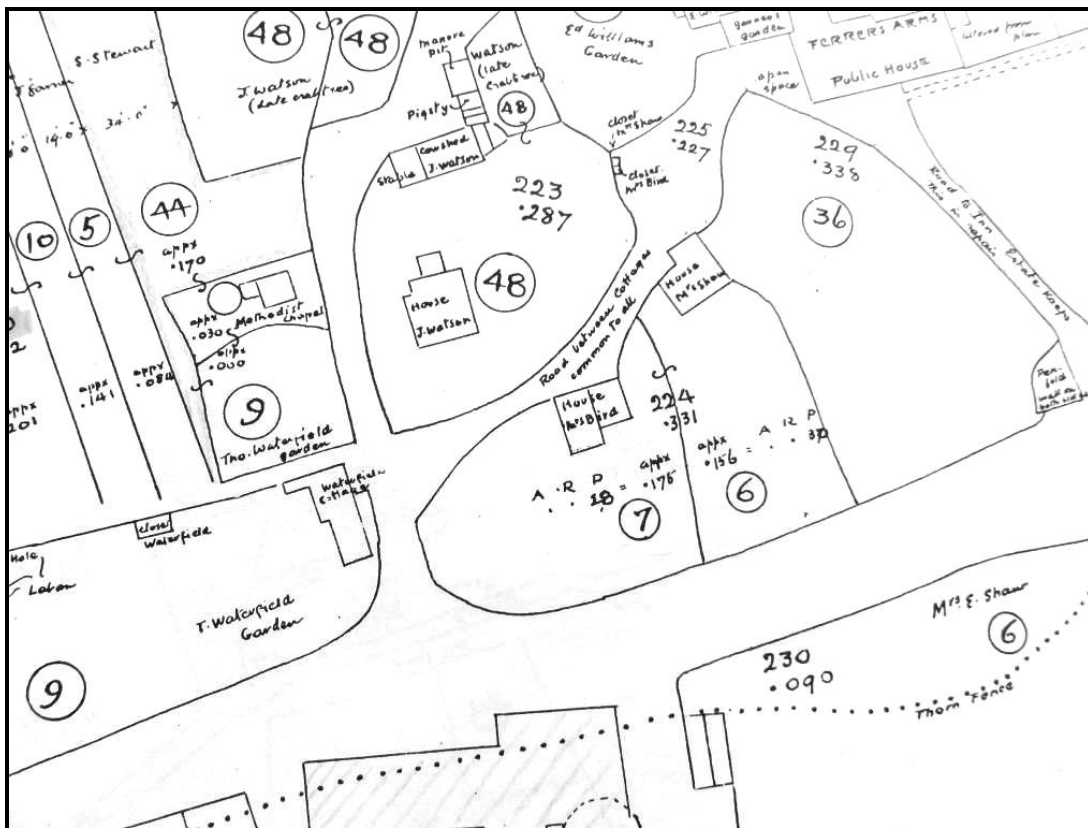
The 4th Earl's wife applied to Parliament for, and received, an order for maintenance. This came from a separate trust, and was administered by the Ferrers' old family steward, John Johnson, who was the collector of rents. It appears that at the time, Johnson stood high in his lordship's favour, but this state of feeling endured for a brief period only. The Earl soon conceived an opinion that his steward had combined with the trustees to disappoint him of a contract of some coal mines, and he came to a resolution, out of spite for this imaginary wrong, to put an end to Johnsons existence. The Earl's first displeasure was first evinced by his sending notice to Johnson to quit a beneficial farm which he held under him, but on Johnson producing a lease granted by the trustees, no further steps were taken in the affair. After this, Lord Ferrers behaved in so affable manner to Johnson that the latter imagined all thoughts of revenge had subsided. **We know from rent books held at the LRO, that John Johnson had been Steward to the Ferrers from at least 1724 till his death. One of the books for the years 1743 to 1755 is held at the LRO, and at the end of this feature, examples of the names of Staunton Harold and Lount tenants are listed.**

Ferrers' had secured Johnson's services to administer the trust, with the thought that he would act in his interests, rather than complying with the trustees' rules. The Earl quickly became disillusioned with his plan, as Johnson, who was presumably reluctant to take on the role in the first place, was seen to be diligently following the legal requirements of the maintenance order. The Earl therefore became convinced that Johnson was plotting against him. This naturally led to friction between the two parties. One particular bone of contention was that Johnson had paid the sum of £50 to his wife without the Earl's explicit approval.

On Sunday 13th January 1760, the Earl went to John Johnson's thatched cottage, now known as Rose Cottage, in the hamlet of Lount which he rented from the Staunton estate (see the following photograph) and, after a conversation with Johnson, ordered the man to come to Staunton Harold Hall on the following Friday at 3pm to discuss the matter.



John Johnson's house in Lount hamlet, and now known as "Rose Cottage", which is thought to be early 17th century & formally part of a farm known as "The Lount"



Extract from c.1900 Staunton Estate map which shows Rose Cottage marked No.48.

It was reported that Earl Ferrers had clearly premeditated the murder of John Johnson as he had the foresight to ensure that his mistress Margaret Clifford, with four of her natural children, and all the five male servants plus an old man and a boy, were absent from the hall. He desired his mistress and the children to go to the house of her father, at about two miles distant. Three maid servants were apparently still left in the house.

The steward attended at 3pm, and after a short wait, was called into the Earl's room and the door was locked. The Earl accused the poor man of various villainies and falsifying the accounts, accusations that were quite untrue. In about an hour after, a female domestic, hearing some high words, went to the door to see if she could discover what was going on. Listening, she heard the Earl say "Down upon your knees, your time has come, you must die!" and shortly afterwards she heard the report of a pistol. Then his lordship, apparently alarmed at the act he had committed, called for aid; and the servant on reaching the room, discovered the steward shot through the body weltering in his blood. Lord Ferrers under a momentary touch of compassion gave directions that the poor man should be led to bed, and that Mr. Kirkland, the surgeon, should be brought from Ashby de la Zouch. At the request of the wounded man a person was also dispatched for his children. Miss Johnson, the eldest daughter, immediately came and was followed by the surgeon, to whom Lord Ferrers said, "I intended to have shot him dead, but, since he is still alive, you must do what you can for him"

The Earl had been sober when the deed had been committed, but now took to the bottle. His rage became boundless, and at one stage he went to the room where the poor steward lay dying and seized him by the wig, called him a villain, and threatened to shoot him through the head. The Earl must then have felt some remorse, because he told Johnson's daughter that he would take care of the family if the steward died, so long as they didn't prosecute.

Mr Kirkland, the surgeon from Ashby, wanted the steward removed from the house, and after the Earl had retired to his bed around midnight, they made up a sedan chair and carried Johnson back to "the Lount". He died there about 9 o'clock the next morning.

A crowd of neighbours armed themselves and decided to apprehend the killer and set out for Staunton Harold. When they arrived at Staunton Harold, Lord Ferrers had just risen, and was going towards the stables with his garters in his hand. When he saw them he escaped back into the house. He covertly moved from one hiding place to another so it was some time before he was taken. He was apprehended by a collier named Curtis as he walked on the bowling green. He was armed with a blunderbuss, a brace of pistols and a dagger but gave himself up quietly. He was taken to a local public house in Ashby, and on the Monday after a Coroner's jury returned a verdict of willful murder against him, was taken to Leicester County Gaol, which was then situated in Blue Boar Lane. The Gaoler there was named James Lambert, the father of the well known character Daniel Lambert, who weighed 57 stone 11 lbs, who succeeded to the office. As a Peer, he could not be tried at the Leicester Assizes, so two weeks later, Ferrers was taken to London in his own landau and it is reported that his behavior on the journey evinced the utmost composure. He was lodged in the "Tower of London" near the drawbridge, and committed to the custody of "Black Rod" on the 14th of February to await trial. Two wardens constantly attended in his room, and one waited at the door. At the bottom of the stairs two soldiers were placed, with their

bayonets fixed, and a third stood on the drawbridge. The gates of the tower were shut an hour before the usual time, during his imprisonment. Mrs. Clifford took her four children up to London, and occupied lodgings in Tower Street; sending messages to his lordship. To these he at first replied, but the communications became so troublesome, that the correspondence was much restricted. Whilst in the Tower, Lord Ferrers lived in a regular manner. His breakfast consisted of a muffin and a basin of tea, with a spoonful of brandy in it; after dinner and supper, he drank a pint of wine mixed with water. His conduct in general was becoming, but he sometimes exhibited evident proofs of discomposure of mind. His natural children were permitted to see him several times, but Mrs. Clifford was denied admission after repeated applications.

The Earl made a will during his imprisonment, leaving £60 a year to Mrs. Clifford, a thousand pounds to each of his natural daughters, and thirteen hundred pounds to the children of his murdered steward. The latter legacy, which should have been the first to be discharged, was for some reason or other never paid.

"The trial of Laurence Earl Ferrers, for the murder of John Johnson, was held before the the House of Peers. in Westminster-hall, in full Parliament, on Wednesday the 16th, Thursday the 17th, and Friday the 18th of April, 1760: on the last of which days, judgment for murder was given against him

The full text of the trial was digitized by the Internet Archive in 2014 and is available on line.

The Earl spent two months in the Tower before he came up for trial. His defense was one of insanity, however, this failed, and he was found guilty, although in his defense, which was conducted by himself with some ability, the insanity claim was supported with considerable evidence. His Lordship petitioned to be beheaded within the Tower; but as his crime was so atrocious, the King refused to interfere with the sentence of the law.

He was sentenced to be hanged on Monday 21 April 1760, at the gallows in Tyburn, but in deference to his rank, the execution was postponed until Monday 5 May 1760 so that he might get his affairs in order.

Through the influence of his family, however, he was not swung off into the eternity from a common cart, as had hitherto been the practice with plebeian culprits. A new method of hanging was introduced by the use of a three feet square trap door in a platform, covered in black baize, which was raised about eighteen inches above the scaffold. The illustrations below would have been typical of the arrangement below. After hanging the lords instructed that his body should then be handed over to the anatomists at surgeon's hall for dissection. He had also asked to be hanged by a silken chord which befitted his rank and status in life, but again this request was denied.

Ferrers wore the same white suit with silver trimmings that he had worn for his wedding. When he put it on, he said, "This is the suit in which I was married, and in which I will die". He set out from the Tower, to meet his fete at nine o'clock in the morning, amidst crowds

of spectators. He travelled from the Tower to Tyburn in his own carriage, nonchalantly chewing on tobacco as he waved to the crowds, and was accompanied in the carriage by Mr. Humphries, the Chaplain of the Tower, and Mr. Valliant the Sheriff. Ferrers said "He was much obliged to him, and took it kindly that he accompanied him". First went a large body of police, preceded by one of the high constables; next came troops of grenadiers and foot soldiers; then the Sheriff in a chariot and six; and next Lord Ferrers, in his landau and six, guarded by a strong escort of cavalry and infantry. The other Sheriff's carriage followed, succeeded by a mourning coach, drawn by six horses conveying some of the Earl's friends. Last of all went a hearse, provided for the purpose of taking the corpse from the place of execution to Surgeon's Hall. Apparently, the crowds were so dense that it took two and a half hours to reach the site of the hanging. During the passage, his lordship conversed very freely Mr. Sheriff Vaillant, the officer expressing to Lord Ferrers how disagreeingly he felt his position in having to wait upon him on so awful an occasion; but promised to do all in his power to render his situation as little irksome as possible. The Earl replied, "the apparatus of death, and the passing through such crowds of people, are ten times worse than death itself; but I suppose they never saw a lord hanged, and perhaps they will never see another". When the horse of a cavalryman that was escorting him got his leg caught in the wheel of the coach and unseated his rider, Ferrers remarked: "I hope there will be no death today but mine".

Upon the Chaplain of the Tower, who also occupied a seat in the landau, observing that the public would naturally be inquisitive about his lordship's religious opinions; the Earl returned answer that "he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he always believed in one God, the maker of all things; that whatever were his religious notions he had never propagated them; and that all countries had a form of religion by which the people were governed, and whoever disturbed them in it he considered as an enemy to society". Respecting the death of Mr. Johnson, he said, "he was under particular circumstances, and had met with so many crosses and vexations, that he scarce knew what he did". He declared, however, that he had no malice against the unfortunate man.

Once during the journey, Lord Ferrers desired to stop to have a glass of wine and water; but upon the sheriff remarking that such a proceeding would only draw a greater crowd around them, the Earl replied, "that is true, by no means stop". Shortly afterwards a letter was thrown into the carriage; it was from Mrs. Clifford, to tell him that it "was impossible on account of the dense crowd, for her to get up to the spot where he had appointed she should meet and take leave of him; but that she was in a hackney coach of a certain number". The Earl begged Mr. Vaillant to order his officers to endeavour to get the hackney coach up to him. "My lord", said the gentleman, "You have behaved so well hitherto that it is a pity to venture unmaning yourself". To this the Earl answered, "if you, sir, think I am wrong, I submit". After which he gave the sheriff a pocket book, containing a bank-note, with a ring, and a purse of guineas, which were afterwards delivered to the unfortunate woman.

At the place of execution, the procession was met by another party of horse-soldiers, who formed a circle around the gallows. His lordship walked up the steps of the scaffold, with great firmness; There were two black cushions placed on the scaffold platform for Mr.

Humphries, the Chaplain and the Earl to kneel on and say "The Lord's Prayer", which he called a fine composition; he spoke the following words with great fervency:- "O ! God, forgive me all my errors, pardon all my sins"! He then presented his watch to Mr. Vaillant, After handing over his watch to the Sherriff, along with five guineas to the chaplain, Ferrers mistakenly gave another five guineas to the assistant hangman rather than to the headman, Thomas Turlis. The two men came to blows until the Sherriff finally stepped in and gave Turlis his money.

The executioner now proceeded to do his duty. Lord Ferrers neck cloth was taken off, a white cap which he had brought in his pocket, put on his head, and his arms pinioned with a black sash. The Earl was shown some respect as befitted his rank and social status, his hands being tied in front also with a piece of black sash instead of an ordinary chord. On the silken rope being placed round his neck the culprit turned momentarily pale, but recovered again in an instant. The hangman guided Ferrers to the trapdoor on the raised part of the scaffold, which was covered with black baize, and after Ferrers asked Turlis "am I right?" who nodded, he pulled the white cap, which the earl had brought with him, over his face. Within seven minutes of his leaving the landau, the signal was given for that part of the scaffold on which he stood to be struck, and the guilty spirit of the murderer Earl passed into the presence of the creator.

The new hanging method turned out to be a complete failure, as after the mechanism was pulled, it was obvious there had been a miscalculation. Horace Walpole commented, "as the machine was new, they were not ready for it". His toes still touched the stage and he suffered a little, having had time by their bungling to raise his cap; but the executioner pulled it down again, and they pulled on his legs so that he was soon out of pain and quite dead in four minutes".

The celebrated art historian and politician Horatio Walpole, 4th Earl of Oxford, witnessed the hanging and wrote amongst other things, that; "the procession was stopped at the gallows by a vast crowd, but he got out of his coach as soon as he could, and was but seven minutes on the scaffold, which was hung with black". He added that: "The mob was decent, admired him, and almost pitied him".

After the customary hour, the body was taken down, which resulted in another brawl between the hangmen. "The executioners fought for the rope", said Walpole, "and the man who lost it cried", the rope of course being valuable bounty.

The body was laid out in a coffin lined with white satin and taken to the Surgeon's Hall, where it was cut open and put on display until the evening of Thursday the 8th of May. After the mortal remains of the Earl were again placed in the coffin, the halter and his hat were laid with him near his feet. On the lid of the coffin there appeared these words:-

"THE LAWRENCE, EARL FERRERS, SUFFERED 5TH MAY 1760"

Afterwards, it was returned to his family for burial in St. Pancras Church. After 22 years, the body was taken back to Staunton Harold where it was re-interred in the family vault.



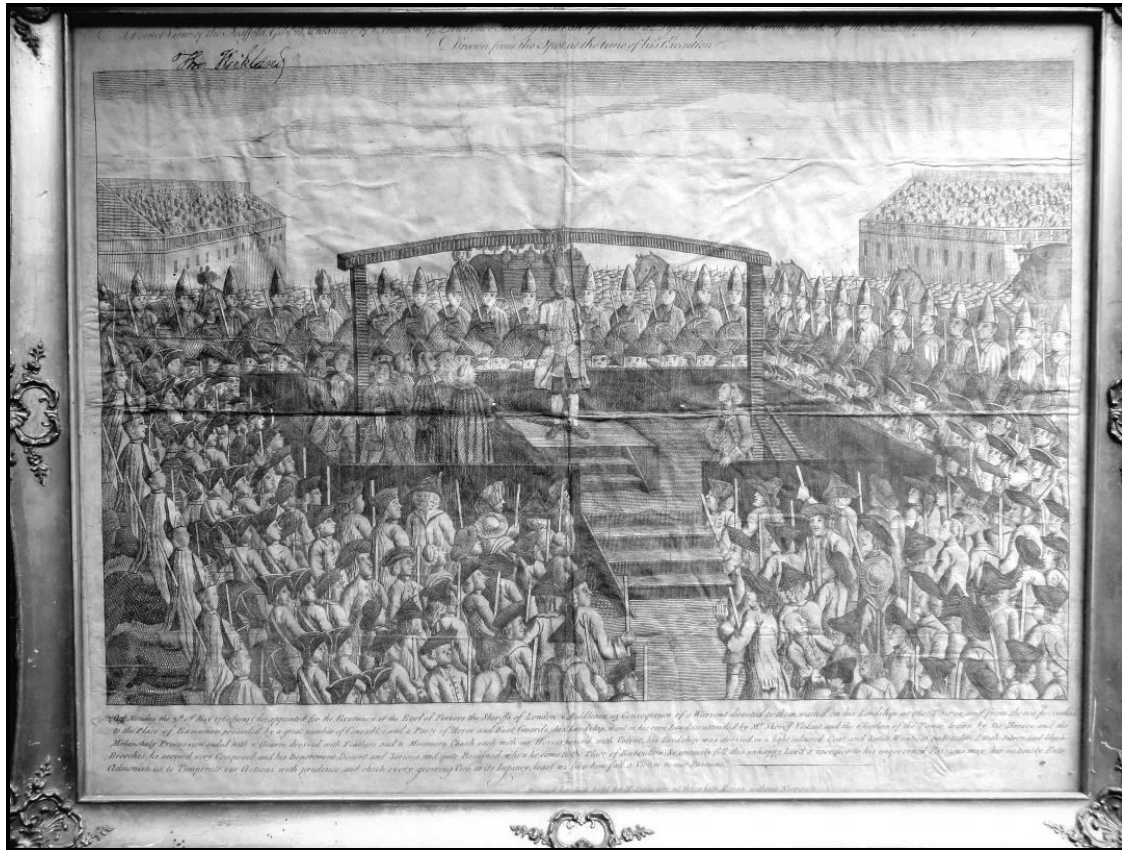
Lord Ferrers as he lay in his coffin at Surgeon's Hall

It would be an injustice to the memory of the unfortunate nobleman not to mention that during his imprisonment he made pecuniary recompense to several persons whom he had injured during the extravagance of those fits of passion to which he unhappily so often gave away.

In conclusion, G.R. Heath's book entitled "The Pioneering People of Melbourne" tells us - Lawrence left behind four illegitimate daughters and a mistress, Margaret, daughter of his agent Richard Clifford. Margaret came to live at Chantry House, Melbourne with her eldest daughter who had married Philip Godkin. Her second daughter also lived in Melbourne after marrying Louis Pasteur, a tutor at Melbourne Hall. The 4th daughter Mary, lived at Melbourne until her death in August 1823.

DRAWN AT THE TIME OF HIS EXECUTION

(Note the signature of Thomas Kirkland at the top)

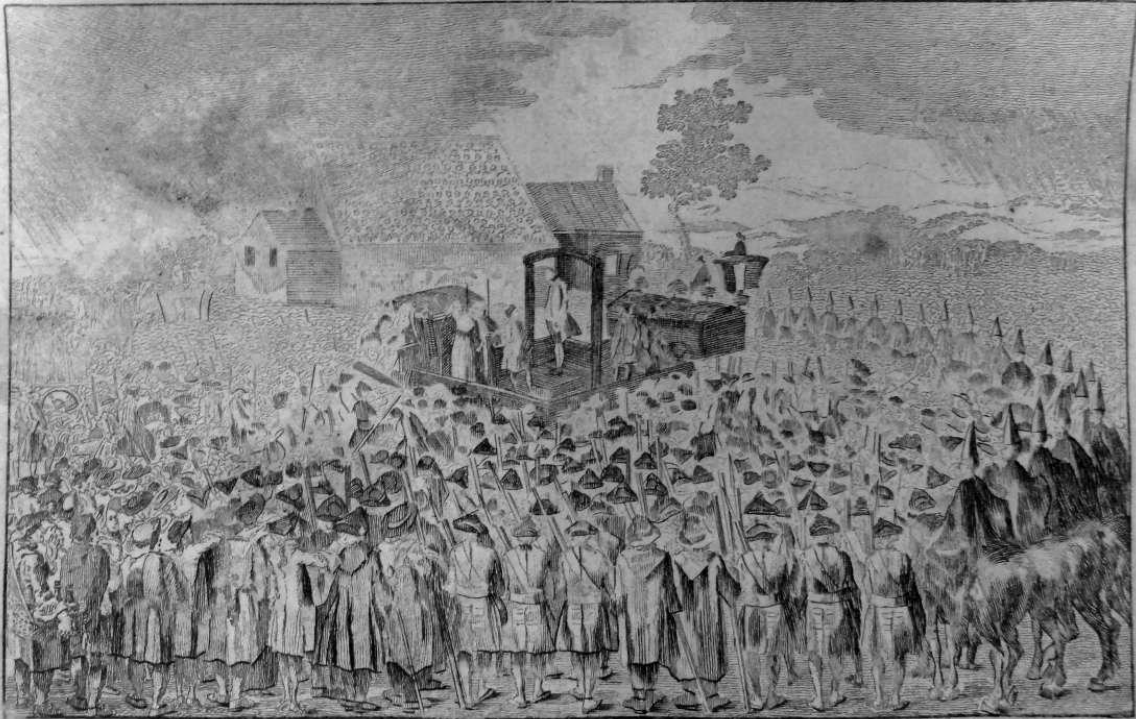


Shown by kind permission of Ashby Museum

The following is a transcription of the text at the bottom:-

On Monday, 5th of May 1760 being the day appointed for the execution of the Earl of Ferrers, the sheriffs of London and Middlesex in consequence of a warrant directed to them, waited on his lordship at the Tower and from thence proceeded to the place of execution preceded by a great number of constables and a party of horse and foot guards, his lordship went in his own landau attended by Mr. Sheriff Valiant, and the Chaplain of the Tower, drawn by six horses, and the melancholy procession ended with a hearse dressed with feathers and a mourning coach each with six horses covered with velvet, his lordship was dressed in a light coloured coat and satin waistcoat, embroidered with silver, and black breeches, he seemed very composed, and his deportment decent, and serious, and quite resigned when he came to the place of execution, so untimely fell this unhappy lord, a sacrifice to his uncovered passions, may his untimely fate admonish us to temperate our actions with prudence and check every growing vice in its infancy, lest we like him fall a victim to our passions.

Engraved for the Royal Magazine.



An exact View of the Execution of LORD FERRERS.

H. G. 181

**EXTRACTS FROM JOHN JOHNSON'S RENT BOOK FOR STAUNTON (PRESUMABLY
INCLUDING LOUNT & HEATH END) MICHAELMAS 1740:-**

Tenants Name	Rents payable		
	£	s	d
Mrs Taborer	57	0	0
Tenants for the Thackholme	9	5	0
Widdow Osbourne	1	16	8
William Hatton	1	10	0
Thomas Minion		15	0
Thomas Crow		15	
Richard Clifford, his Homestead	8	0	0
More for the Rideings & Callins	25	0	0
Thomas Mold	1	10	0
Widdow Harding		13	4
Wilkin's Old House etc.,	1	15	0
Thomas Dobson	4	2	6
Samuel Berridge	2	0	0
Thomas Dickens	3	10	0
Wakefields Tenement	0	10	0
Samuel Harris, the Farther Lawn	13	10	0
William Sharper, the Neither Lawn	5	0	0
John Johnson	18	0	0
Morley's House and Ground	1	3	4
Widdow Richard's, late Draper's	2	4	0
Widdow Cresswell	0	16	3
George Richards	0	8	0
Thomas Raynor	0	5	0
Thomas Fairbrother	0	5	0
<u>Cottages to be paid at Michaelmas only</u>			
John Bird	0	5	0
John Sharper		2	4
Henry Cuttler	0	0	4
Willam Steward	0	0	4
John Kendrick	0	0	4
John Charles Milner	0	5	0
Rebeckah Needham	0	2	6
Thomas Reynor	0	0	4
Thomas Gisborn	0	5	0
Francis Martin, a House in Worthington	0	5	0
Staunton	161	0	3
Arrears	30	13	8

**WILLIAM STEWARD WAS THE 6 X GREAT GRANDFATHER OF THE WRITER OF
THIS BOOK SAMUEL T STEWART**

EXTRACTS FROM JOHN JOHNSON'S RENT BOOK FOR STAUNTON (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING LOUNT & HEATH END) MICHAELMAS 1753:-

Tenants Name	Rents payable		
	£	s	d
Mr. John Harris, the lodge farm	60	0	0
Joseph Baley	0	15	0
Richard Clifford Junior-The Thackholme	9	5	0
Widdow Hatton	1	16	8
William Hatton	1	10	0
Thomas Crow	0	15	0
Richard Clifford for his farm	8	0	0
More for the Ridings Callins	25	0	0
More for latter grass of pool piece	4	0	0
Thomas Mold	1	10	0
Widdow Harding	0	13	4
Charles Willkins	1	15	0
Thomas Dobson	4	2	6
More for the Brickiln	6	1	0
Samuel Berridge, his homestead	2	0	0
More for the Warren	17	0	0
More for the Lincoln	9	0	0
Richard Clifford for George Dickinsons	3	10	0
Wakefields Tenement	1	0	0
John Johnson for his farm	18	0	0
More for the further Lawn	13	10	0
More for the Neither Lawn	5	0	0
John Morley	1	3	4
Widdow Richards	2	4	0
George Richards	1	0	0
Joseph Bosworth, the far Meadow	3	0	0
More for Creswels Meadow, smooth heath	2	11	6
Thomas Reynor	0	5	0

Cont'd over page

Cottages to be paid at Michaelmas only

Thomas Fairbrother	0	5	0
John Bird	0	5	0
John Shaxpear	0	2	4
Henry Cutler	0	0	4
Widdow Creswels	0	2	6
John Kendrick	0	0	4
Jane Richards, Thomas Gisborn	0	5	0
Elizabeth Swain	2	0	0
Thomas Reynor	0	0	4
John Johnson	0	5	0
Joseph Tetley for getting clay	0	1	6

	207	15	0

Richard Clifford and for Lady Day 1753	45	0	0
George Dickinsons and for Lady Day	3	10	0
Widdow Swains and at Michaelmas	2	0	0
William Shaxper for Lady Day 1748	3	13	4

Staunton	266	18	4

Arrears	190	16	6

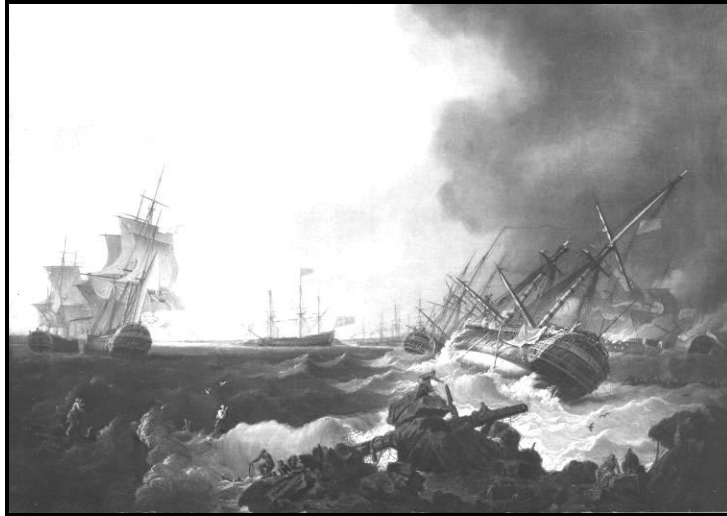
The above information is taken from the rent books held at the LRO

WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, 5TH EARL FERRERS (1722- 1788)



The 5th Earl Ferrers

Circa 1738, at the age of 16, Washington Shirley joined the Royal Navy and rose through the ranks as a Midshipman, Second Lieutenant in 1741, First Lieutenant and Commander in 1746. On April 19th 1746 he was appointed captain of the Fox frigate. Shortly after, he became Captain of the Dover, which had forty-four guns. He then moved to the Renown, which was a frigate captured by him whilst captain of the Dover. By the end of 1753, he became Captain of the Mermaid frigate, which he was thought to have captained till the commencement of the war with France, in 1756. By 1758, he was captain of the Duc D' Aquitain, which had fifty guns. The only other record of him seems to be when he was Captain of the Temple, a ship of the line, which had seventy guns, and was one of the Channel fleet under the orders of Sir Edward Hawke, which totally defeated the French, on the 20th of November, 1759, in the Battle of Quiberon Bay (known as *Bataille des Cardinaux* in French), which was a decisive naval engagement fought on 20 November 1759 during the Seven Years' War between the Royal Navy and the French Navy. It was fought in Quiberon Bay, off the coast of France near St. Nazaire. The battle was the culmination of British efforts to eliminate French naval superiority, which could have given the French the ability to carry out their planned invasion of Great Britain. A British fleet of 24 ships of the line under Sir Edward Hawke tracked down and engaged a French fleet of 21 ships of the line under Marshal de Conflans. After hard fighting, the British fleet sank or ran aground six ships, captured one and scattered the rest, giving the Royal Navy one of its greatest victories, and ending the threat of French invasion for good.



A B&W copy of 'The Battle of Quiberon Bay, 21 November 1759: the Day After'
By Richard Wright, 1760

Washington Shirley unexpectedly succeeded his unfortunate brother to the title of 5th Earl together with the family estates on the 5th of May 1760 following the hanging of his brother, and from this point apparently left the Navy. He took his seat in the House of Lords on the 19th of May 1760. As testimony of the abilities he had displayed when actually engaged in service, he was later on the 31st of March 1775 advanced to be rear admiral of the white, which was his first appointment in the rank of a flag officer and on the 3rd of February, 1776, he was moreover promoted to be vice admiral of the blue. This was the highest rank his lordship lived to attain, before dying at Chartley Manor Place on the 1st of October 1778 without issue. On October 11th he was interred in the family vault at Staunton Harold. He is recorded as marrying Anne Elliot (1722-1791) on the 1st Dec 1747, at St. George's, East Stonehouse, Devonshire. She was the daughter of John Elliot of Plymouth, esq. She was interred in the family vault alongside her husband.

Washington was clearly a well educated and talented individual, because as well as his achievements in the Navy, he was also an Amateur Astrologer, Mathematician and Architect. Washington Shirley designed a planetary machine known as 'The Transitarium' which was engineered and engraved by Benjamin Cole c.1761. **A bulletin by the 'Scientific Instrument Society' No 116, written by Martin Beech was published in 2013, and anyone wishing to know more about this instrument should acquaint themselves with this publication.** Washington Shirley's device was demonstrated at a meeting of the Royal Society on the 10th December 1761 where he was elected a 'Fellow of the Royal Society', even though stangely he apparently did not attend this meeting, but was represented by a Mr. Davis who explained the workings of the 'Transitarium'. At the meeting, letters he had written earlier to Philip Carteret Webb about his observations on the transit of Venus were read to the assembled gathering. These indicated that the transit observations were made, in a convenient house situated on a high hill at Staunton in Leicestershire and that a room in the house was converted into a 'camera obscura' by use of a specially constructed window shutter. The passage of Venus across the sun's disc was recorded for several hours. In connection with his research into Astrology, it is understood that the 5th Earl owned a

scientific instrument called 'The Orrery' or 'Grand Orrery'. It was concerned with the laws governing the movements of the heavens. A hidden oil lamp was normally used to represent the sun in order to demonstrate the movement of the planets around it by a clockwork mechanism. The following illustration is a mezzotint of a 1766 oil painting by Joseph Wright (1734-1797) of Derby, entitled *A Philosopher Lecturing upon an Orrery*, which is held at the Derby Museum and Art Gallery. It portrays a lecture being given by a philosopher on the working of "the Orrery" who is thought to be John Whitehurst of Derby, who was elected a fellow of the *Royal Society* in 1779 and was a member of the influential *Lunar Society* and was a friend of the 5th Earl (see the later article on the Stable clock). It is thought that the seated figure on the right of the painting could be Washington Shirley, 5th Earl Ferrers, and the figure on the left taking notes is Peter Perez Burdett. The 5th Earl is recorded as purchasing the original painting at one time for £210. The 6th Earl Ferrers, Robert Shirley did not share his brothers liking for Wright's painting (possibly a commissioned piece), and within a year of the 5th Earl's death he had sold it on to the Christie and Ansell auction house in London, presumably to help pay off some of the 5th Earl's debts.



**A copy is held at National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London'
Copyright is with the originator**

Peter Perez Burdett (c.1734-1797) was an important figure in the scientific movement, but was only on the periphery of the important Lunar Society, as was the case with Washington Shirley who strangely never became an associate. Burdett was unmatched as a surveyor, cartographer and topographical illustrator, and was the inventor of a process of aquatinting which he subsequently sold to Paul Sandby. He also produced a map of Derbyshire dated 1791. He was the son of William Burdett and Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of Peter Perez, vicar of Eastwood, Essex. Burdett's apparent ability to move easily in the upper echelons of society paid off handsomely, when in 1760 he was taken up by

Washington Shirley, 5th Earl Ferrers, with whom he is known to have lodged regularly at Staunton Harold. He assisted Ferrers with various astronomical experiments, notably their observation of the Transit of Venus, which James Ferguson FRS published on their behalf in the *Royal Society's Journal Book* of 10th December 1761. Ferrers, as Grand Master of the English Freemasons from 1762 to 1764, apparently introduced Burdett to the club also. In the 1767 edition of the 'Constitution of the ancient and honourable fraternity of free and accepted masons', it is recorded that on the 3rd of May 1762 that there was an assembly and feast at which the Right Honourable, Lord Ward introduced the 'Grand Master Elect', The Right Honourable Shirley, Earl Ferrers. The feast was attended by the twelve Stewards, and near three hundred Brethren, properly clothed. Various other members of the 5th Earl's extended family were Freemasons, but only Robert Shirley (1673-1699), the eldest son of the 1st Earl was the only other member to be elected FRS which took place on the 11th January 1699 shortly before his death. He resigned in 1764 as Grand Master in exasperation over opposition to a scheme he had conceived for expanding influence of the craft which the writer understands involved the building of a school for the qualifying and finishing of 12 boys, the sons of poor masons (From an alphabetical list of Fellows of the Royal Society who were Freemasons).

By 1765 Burdett was re-married, and had by then moved into a house in Derby's Full Street, extravagantly re-fronted for him in Gothic by the architect Joseph Pickford (at the unwitting expense it seems of Wright, using the fee paid by Ferrers for *A Philosopher Lecturing upon an Orrery*. Regrettably, it was demolished in 1933. Recorded in an article published in 'Country Images Magazine' entitled 'Derbyshire Antiques - Peter Perez Burdett FRSA'.

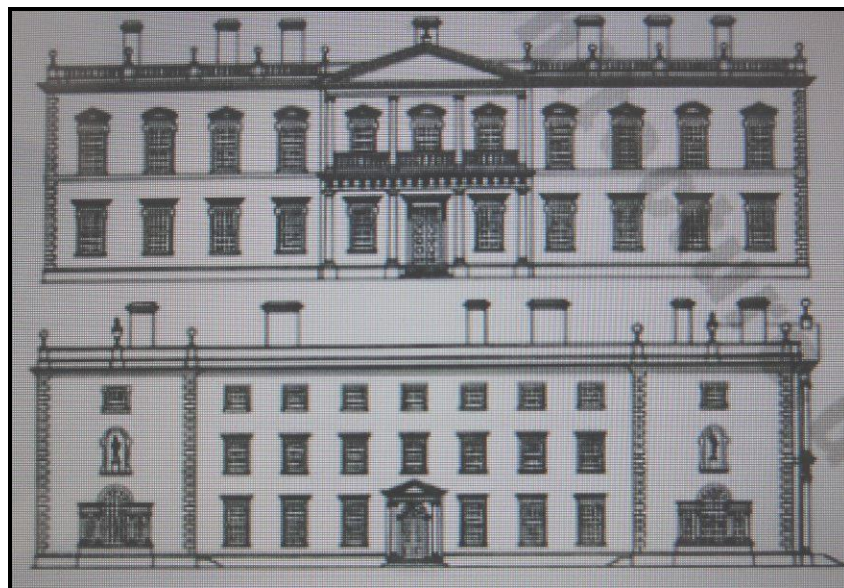
THE START OF THE RE-BUILDING OF STAUNTON HAROLD HALL c.1763.

Permission has been granted to publish the following excerpt from "The Buildings of Peter Harrison Cataloguing the Work of the First Global Architect, 1716-1775" © John Fitzhugh Millar by permission of McFarland & Company, Inc., Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640.

Perhaps the most important architect ever to have worked in America, Peter Harrison's renown suffers from the destruction of most of his papers when he died in 1775. He was born in Yorkshire in 1716 and trained to be an architect as a teenager under William Etty of York. He designed several important houses in England including St. Helen's House in Derby and Foremarke Hall. He also became a ship's captain, and soon sailed to ports in America where he had been designing some of the most iconic buildings on the continent. In a clandestine operation he procured the plans for the French Canadian fortress of Louisbourg, enabling Massachusetts's Governor William Shirley to capture it in 1745. The setback forced the French to halt their operations to capture all of British America and to give up British territory they had captured in India. As a result he was awarded a commission to design important buildings in Britain and nearly all British colonies around the world, and he became the first person ever to have designed buildings on 6 continents. He designed mostly in Neo-Palladium style, and invented a way of building wooden structures so as to look like carved stone - "Wooden Rustication". He also designed some of America's most valuable

furniture including inventing the coveted 'block front', and introducing the 'Bombe Motif'. In America he lived in Newport, Rhode Island, and in New Haven, Connecticut, where he died at the beginning of the war of Independence

On the border of Leicestershire and Derbyshire is the estate of Staunton Harold, the ancient house was built there in the 1670's with a classical wing and garden pavilions designed by Elizabeth, Lady Wilbraham. The owner in the mid 18th century was Admiral Washington Shirley, Earl Ferrers, a kinsman of Massachusetts Governor William Shirley. The Admiral (an armchair Admiral: his last sea job was in 1759) sort Peter Harrison to produce plans for a great Neo-Palladium brick mansion on the site in 1762 at the end of the war with France. Harrison was impressed with Lady Wilbraham's north wing, and so he echoed her design in his much larger design for the east or entrance front, inserting a pedimented double-decked palladium portico in the middle of the front; in the event, English weather that far north would not have permitted use of such a portico, so at some later date it became instead only the outline of a portico to save the needless expense of maintaining a real portico. The placing of additional partial columns on either side of the portico proves that a full portico was once actually in being. The entrance front is eleven bays wide and two stories tall, with a ballustrading to hide the low roof. The upper tier of windows whose sills stand on the belt course, is crowned by alternating triangular and and segmented pediments, and the lower tier is crowned with sections of freize and cornice (the Wilbraham elevation also had pediments on the lower windows). The south elevation cleverly makes the transition from the two stories of the front to a three story house; the south front in the U-shaped courtyard has seven bays. The south elevation of the ends of the U are trimmed with quoins; they have a square window at the top, a compass headed niche in the middle, and a venetian window at the bottom.



Top - Front elevation

Bottom - South (Lion Court) elevation

The "Lion Court" elevation took its name from the figure of a lion (still there) on its facade, one of several sculptures with which the exterior is adorned.

William Henderson of Loughborough, an architect in his own right was said to be the clerk of works for the re-building project and resided at Staunton from 1762 - 72 (This information is carried over in several publications, but the writer has not found any research material to substantiate this).

The impressive ancient gardens at Staunton Harold created by the 1st Earl and shown in the Leonard Knyff print were swept away and the lovely fountains and canals were merged into the present lakes, much as we see it today. The idea was presumably to provide a more natural styled landscape. The ancient family estates at Astwell, Northamptonshire, Brailsford in Derbyshire and the parks and other properties at Shirley in the same County, were evidently sold to partly finance what could be judged as questionable improvements.

Stemmata Shirleiana tell us - that in 1763, King George III by patent, dated December 6th (3 George III) re-granted to his Lordship (the 5th Earl), the Astwell, Northamptonshire estate, which had become forfeited to the crown on the conviction of Laurence 4th Earl Ferrers in consideration of the many eminent and faithful services to V's and our Royal predecessors, done and performed by Washington, the present Earl Ferrers, and several of his ancestors. Confirmed by Act of Parliament in 1771.

A paper by J.V. Beckett in "Helmsdon Historical Articles", supported by bibliography, records: - *When the 4th Earl Ferrers was hanged at Tyburn in 1760 for the murder of his land steward, certain family estates were confiscated by the Crown. His brother and heir, Washington Shirley, 5th Earl Ferrers, recovered the Northamptonshire property by an Act of Parliament in 1771, but the improvements he preceeded to make to the family home at Staunton Harold ran him into deep financial difficulties. In an attempt to restore his credit, he sold estates at Brailsford in Derbyshire for £88,000. It was not enough, and when creditors continued to press, Ferrers was forced to consider further sales. The property he put on the market was his 1,963 acre Northamptonshire property at Astwell and Falcutt. Negotiations opened in 1774 and the estate was finally conveyed in 1778 to the second Earl Temple of Stowe, in Buckinghamshire for upwards of £36,000.* - The writer recommends that the reader acquaints themselves with the full article which makes interesting reading. It goes on to explain how Earl Ferrers had accrued almost £50,000 of debt on the estate which Earl Temple of Stowe inherited and wasn't fully aware of when he agreed to the purchase.

The 5th Earl became keenly involved with horse racing, along with his brother. The following is a transcript from a letter held at the LRO - DE1536/393 June 29th 1776. It was presumably sent from his London address.....*From Sir Washington Shirley, Bt, Earl Ferrers of Upper Seymour Street, Port Munsy, London to Nathaniel Curzon of Breedon discussing his horse's prospects at Newmarket and advising Curzon to bet on them and meet him to discuss the matter.*

In the 1770's the 5th Earl is recorded as possessing the following:-

17 manors, divided into 118 farms, besides the park of Staunton Harold, which contained 900 acres; at that time including two mines, abounding with excellent coals; one lead mine, and one lime pit; besides the park of Chartley, which has a circumference of seven miles,

and contains 1,400 acres; and, independent of the woods, a coal mine and a salt mine, farmed to the crown. His Lordship moreover, possesses a Barony, a viscounty, and an Earldom, which makes three peerages united in him. (Transcribed from "An historical account of the facts, motives, and reasons, which ..., Volume 14" dated 1790).

SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO STAUNTON HAROLD HALL

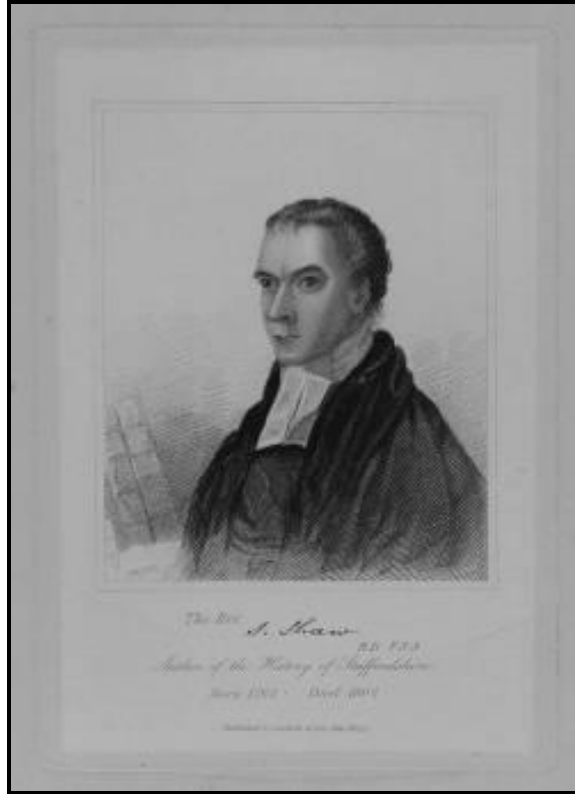
The following water colour print of Staunton Harold Hall by the Reverend Stebbing Shaw, is historically quite important, and portrays some unique features.

The Reverend Stebbing Shaw (1762-1802) became a Christian cleric, historian, accomplished artist and topographer. He was the son of Stebbing Shaw who died in 1799, and was the rector of Hartshorn in Derbyshire. Stebbing junior was reputedly born near Stone in Staffordshire, probably in the spring of 1762. His mother's maiden name was Hyatt, and she owned a small estate in Staffordshire, which was inherited by Stebbing. He received his early education at Repton School, and on 24 May 1780 was admitted as pensioner (commoner) at Queens' College, Cambridge. There he became acquainted with Sir Egerton Brydges (bibliographer and genealogist), who had been admitted around the same time. Stebbing eventually graduated with a B.A., M.A., and B.D (Batchelor of Divinity), and subsequently took orders in the English church.

Brydges and Shaw set off on a tour of England in 1789, gathering masses of information as they went on a range of subjects, and they spent the autumn of 1789 visiting the counties of Derby and Leicester. This eventually led to the publication of four volumes of "The Topographer 1789 to 1791".

Stebbing retired to his father's rectory at Hartshorne in the summer of 1791, and succeeded him as rector when he died in 1799. He had been elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1795. At the end of his life, he was examining the topographical and genealogical manuscripts in the British Museum. When he died in London on 28 October 1802 he is said to have been insane.

Stebbing Shaw possessed considerable drawing and painting skills, as can be observed in the following water colour painting of Staunton Harold Hall. This was almost certainly painted during his tour through Derbyshire and Leicestershire in the autumn of 1789, and helps to date a number of architectural features.



Reverend Stebbing Shaw, 1762-1802

Shaw's painting shows the two magnificent golden gate piers ornamented with twisted pillars, surmounted by the "Talbot" & "Stag" (the family supporters) bearing shields, in what is frequently recorded as their original position at the entrance to what was the bowling-green, during the 1st Earl's time.

We have not been able to find evidence of the exact year when these piers, together with the golden gates were moved down to their current position at the end of the causeway bridge which crosses church pool. However, we now know with certainty that they had not moved prior to 1790. The engravings of the pillars and gates shown later, one of which we know is dated 1836, does not suggest that they were on the causeway bridge at that time, but most probably still standing in their original position as shown in Shaw's painting.

What is thought to be the bowling-green pavillion shown on Leonard Knyff's 1707 coloured version of Kip's earlier engraving, had clearly survived when Shaw did his painting around 1790, and this is confirmed by the following two enlarged sections, where, allowing for a little draughtman's licence, Stebbing Shaw gives an excellent representation of it. The pavillion and the adjacent building with columns to the side are shown on both painting, although Smith's painting portrays a pediment above the columned building. To the rear of the pavillion, we can see the end of the stable block with its pediment and clock, much as the building survives today. This is more clearly defined on Thomas Smith's painting shown later, and as he died in 1767, the original stable block must have been built prior to that date.



A water-colour painting of Staunton Harold Hall (mis-titled in William Salt Library records as Hall, Staffordshire) by the Rev. Stebbing Shaw c.1790.

THIS PAINTING IS SHOWN BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE TRUSTEES OF
"THE WILLIAM SALT LIBRARY"



Above is an enlarged section from Stebbing Shaw's painting showing the golden gates and side pillars in what confirms their original position at the entrance to the bowling-green, as shown below in the enlargement of Leonard Knyff's 1707 coloured version of Kip's earlier engraving.

Also one of the two original bowling green pavilions had survived, the design of which has been attributed to *Elizabeth, Lady Wilbraham*. Elizabeth. Lady Wilbraham, née Mytton (1632-1705), was a member of the English aristocracy, who traditionally has been identified as an important architectural patron.





Above is a black and white version of an old coloured oil painting showing Staunton Harold Hall after re-building work had been carried out by the 5th Earl. The painting is attributed to Thomas Smith who died Sept 12th 1767. The *Golden Gate* piers shown on Stebbing Shaw's painting are hidden by the branches of the pine tree.

THE DEMOLISHING OF THE BUILDINGS IN FRONT OF THE STABLE BLOCK

Exactly what date all the buildings along the front of the 18th century stable block which joined to the rear of the hall were demolished is not known. These can be seen on both Shaw's and Smith's paintings. However, if we look at the following engraving which was included in 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester' Vol 111, published in 1804, none of these buildings appear and the stable block stands alone. This engraving was presented to Nichols by the 7th Earl, and assuming it was an accurate representation of the buildings at this, then we can assume that they were demolished sometime between Shaw's 1790 painting and say 1802 by Robert Shirley, 7th Earl Ferrers.

THE STABLE BLOCK



Smith's painting shows the front of the stable block much as it is today with a four windows span either side of the central feature surmounted by a pediment. The central feature appears to have been retained much as the original design. Thomas Smith died c.1767; therefore the original stable block would have been constructed several years prior to that date. In the engraving below, presented by the 7th Earl Ferrers to John Nichols for his 1804 publication 'The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester ' Vol III , there is only a two window span to the RH side of the central pediment and the roof is not shown pitched as it is now (see the following enlarged view of the stable block). John Blunt, the present owner of Staunton Harold Hall explains that this enormous building had been at the heart of the working estate, with stabling for 40 horses, two carriage houses, a dovecote, two graneries, a blacksmith's shop and accommodation for a great many staff.



The view is looking towards the "Lion Court", which takes its name from the figure of the large stone lion on the top façade. The stable block can be seen to the left



Enlarged extract of stable block from previous illustration

THE PEDIMENT CLOCK

Another interesting feature on the Rev. Stebbing Shaw painting is that it clearly shows a clock face in the centre of the pediment above the stable block and the time is shown as 12.15 a.m. (see the following illustrations). What appear to be wooden fixing blocks, possibly for the clock face backing boards, are still in existence.



It is thought that the central hole which can still be identified, may have been for an inter-connecting shaft between the external clock shown above and the one that was mounted on the pediment on the inside of the stable block. A recent Staunton Harold Hall bulletin

states that the original clock was installed in the newly built stables of the 5th Earl Ferrers in 1779 (*the year after he died*), by John Whitehurst (1713-88) of Derby FRS., a reputed friend of the Earl. John Whitehurst was an Innovator, Scientist, Geologist and Clockmaker and a fellow member of the influential Lunar Society. A new clock bearing a five foot diameter dial has now been installed on the face of the pediment on the inside of the stable block.

THE UNWALLED GARDENS

The old unwallled gardens adjacent to the causeway bridge over the canal, and shown in a section of Kip's engraving below, were swept away as part of the 5th Earl's re-building programme, and are therefore are not shown in either Thomas Smith's or Stebbing Shaw's paintings. One can only assume that a kitchen garden was developed to the rear of the hall, out of sight of the principle views from the house, which was the fashion at this time.



There are several references in various publications to a walled garden being started c.1830 to the rear of the hall, but we have not been able to locate any evidence of dates beside the following. Below is a record found (LRO 26D53/2495) referring to labour costs for the building of a greenhouse in 1830 which involved the services of a stone mason:-

Labour for building 'Green House' - Aug 14th to 6th Nov 1830:-

Thomas Dunn	5 days	9s. 2d.
Richard Maltby	6 days	11s. 0d.
William Nichols	5 days	9s. 2d.
Sam Holmes	5 days	10s. 0d.
Joseph Bird	5 days	9s. 2d.

Stone Mason labour for building green house - John Cooper (mason), John Edwards (lab), Joseph Bird (lab), William Overbrook ?? - no costs given.

One suspects by the date, that this was one of the first, if not the first, of the greenhouses to be built in the new walled garden at the rear of the hall.

Towards the end of the 1800's a peach house (now a restaurant) and a greenhouse (lately demolished) were built in the gardens. These were heated by a coal boiler located in a cellar below what is now the ladies toilet. Hot water was pumped through large cast iron pipes below the floor to both the greenhouse and the peach house. These were in evidence in the greenhouse prior to it being demolished.

According to the survey of the estate in 1856 for the 1859 map, the walled kitchen garden at that time was 3 acres.

Up to nine full time gardeners are recorded as being employed to grow a wide range of fruit and vegetables to supply the Earls Ferrers and his families. In the Shirley Papers at the LRO, a time book for 1856 demonstrates that there was a head gardener by the name of Thomas Challis. He was paid £5. 7s. 8d for 4 weeks work. His deputy, an undergardener named William Dunicliffe was paid £2. 0s. 12d. 5 other men were paid £2. 0s. 8d. and an apprentice and women were paid £1.

THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

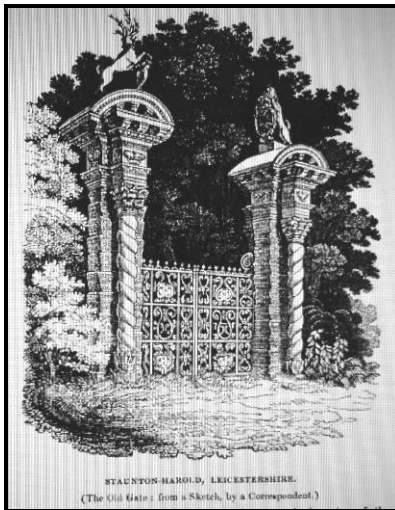
If we compare the bridge shown in Stebbing Shaw's and Thomas Smith's paintings, the latter has a far more grande appearance. Shaw's painting is much more representative of the bridge that exists today which exhibits some evidence of later re-building of the sides of the bridge with the addition of shaped coping stones along the top of the walls, also shown in Shaw's painting.

In Smith's painting, he portrays an additional wooden bridge across the lake, possibly used for fishing from, with the addition of a pier, presumably to facilitate getting into rowing boats. This apparently had been removed when Shaw painted the scene.



Recent photographs of the 'Golden Gate Bridge' over the lake, which forms part of the front entrance to the hall from the Melbourne Road.

John Throsby after visiting the hall in 1790, said in his book:- "*The church is skirted by a fine sheet of water of considerable extent, adorned with swans, over which is a **new and spacious bridge** corresponding with the house*". Surely the use of the word new, must have meant just that, and gives credence to why the representation of the 'Golden Gate Bridge' in Shaw's and Smith's paintings are different. The date also coincides with Shaw's painting.



The above prints of old engravings show the early 18th century "Golden Gates" between magnificent piers ornamented with twisted barley-sugar ionic columns, surmounted by the "Talbot" & "Stag" (the family supporters) bearing shields. The pillars and gates are clearly not on the causeway bridge at this time.

The upper right engraving is described as being made from a sketch by one of their correspondents for the 1836 publication of "The Mirror of Literature, Amusement & Instruction", Vol 27. If this statement, appended underneath the engraving is correct, then they were not moved to the bridge till post 1836.

It is reasonable to assume that the archways (shown in the following illustration) were added to the pillars after they had been moved to the end of the bridge. The author's view is that these arches are often incorrectly recorded, as being added in the 18th century. The spiral on the pillars twist in opposite directions as we see them today, but the LH drawing above shows them running in the same direction. Either the draughtsman drew them incorrectly, or one of them had to be re-made. Probably the former applies. They were Grade II listed in 1965. Apparently, the "Golden Gates", were moved to the home of Earl Ferrers at Ditchingham Hall, Norfolk at some point.



Looking towards the Melbourne Road main entrance



Illustration by kind permission of Ashby Museum



Note 'The Ferrer's Horseshoes' above the arches

THE 'SUPPORTERS' OF THE SHIRLEY COAT OF ARMS

These were granted to his Lordship Sir Robert Shirley, on his being summoned to the House of Peers as 7th Barron Ferrers of Chartley in 1677.

IN HERALDRY, "SUPPORTERS", SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS ATTENDANTS, ARE FIGURES OR OBJECTS USUALLY PLACED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE "COAT OF ARMS SHIELD" AND DEPICTED HOLDING IT UP, AS SHOWN BELOW



The supporters, according to Collin's Peerage of England 1818 & Stemmata Shirleiana 1873, were described at the time as follows (From the original grant penes Com.F.). The author has added what he believes to be the correct modern translations:-

WERE ON YE DEXTER (RIGHT) SIDE OF YE ESCOCHEON OF HIS ARMES (COAT OF ARMS), A TALBOT (TYPE OF EXTINCT HUNTING DOG), ERMINE EARED (FUR EARED), ARMED, LANGUED (TONGUE OF A LION FOR EXAMPLE) AND GORGED (COLLARED) WITH A DUCAL CORONET GULES (SMALL CROWN OF ORNAMENTS ON A METAL RING); AND ON YE SINISTER (LEFT) SIDE, A RAIN-DERE (STAG) GULES (ROUGE) BILLETED (MOUNTED ON A BRICK SHAPED OBLONG STONE CARVING) OR, HORNED ARGENT (SILVER OR WHITE), GORGED (COLLARED) WITH A DUCAL CORONET (SMALL CROWN OF ORNAMENTS ON A METAL RING) OF YE SECOND

The above could loosely be interpreted as follows:-

On the right hand side, a type of extinct hunting dog coloured rouge with drooping fur ears, and with a collar like a small crown of ornaments mounted on a metal ring around its neck. On the left hand side, a stag, coloured rouge with silver or white coloured

horns, and with a collar like a small crown of ornaments around its neck. Both supporters and shield mounted on a brick shaped stone carving.

Stemmata Shirleiana goes on to tell us that when Robert Shirley (1723-1787), the 6th Earl inherited the titles and estates following the death of the 5th Earl in 1778, the following supporters were granted to the 6th Earl on March 27th 1779, on the basis that those assigned to his grandfather in 1677, actually belonged to the Barrony and not the Earldom of Ferrers. These were described as follows:-

A TALBOT (TYPE OF EXTINGUISHED WHITE HUNTING DOG WITH DROOPING EARS) ERMINE (FUR) EARED GULES (RED), GORGED (COLLAR) WITH A DUCAL CORONET (SMALL CROWN OF ORNAMENTS ON A METAL RING) OR, AND ON THE SINISTER (LEFT) A REINDEER GULES (ROUGE) BILLETTE (A SMALL BRICK SHAPED OBLONG STONE CARVING) ARGENT (SILVER OR WHITE) OR, GORGED (COLLARED) AS THE DEXTER (RIGHT), ON THE SHOULDER A HORSESHOE OF THE SECOND.

The reader will note that the revised Supporters assigned to the 6th Earl, were basically the same as those assigned to his grandfather, except for the words "On the shoulder a horseshoe of the second".

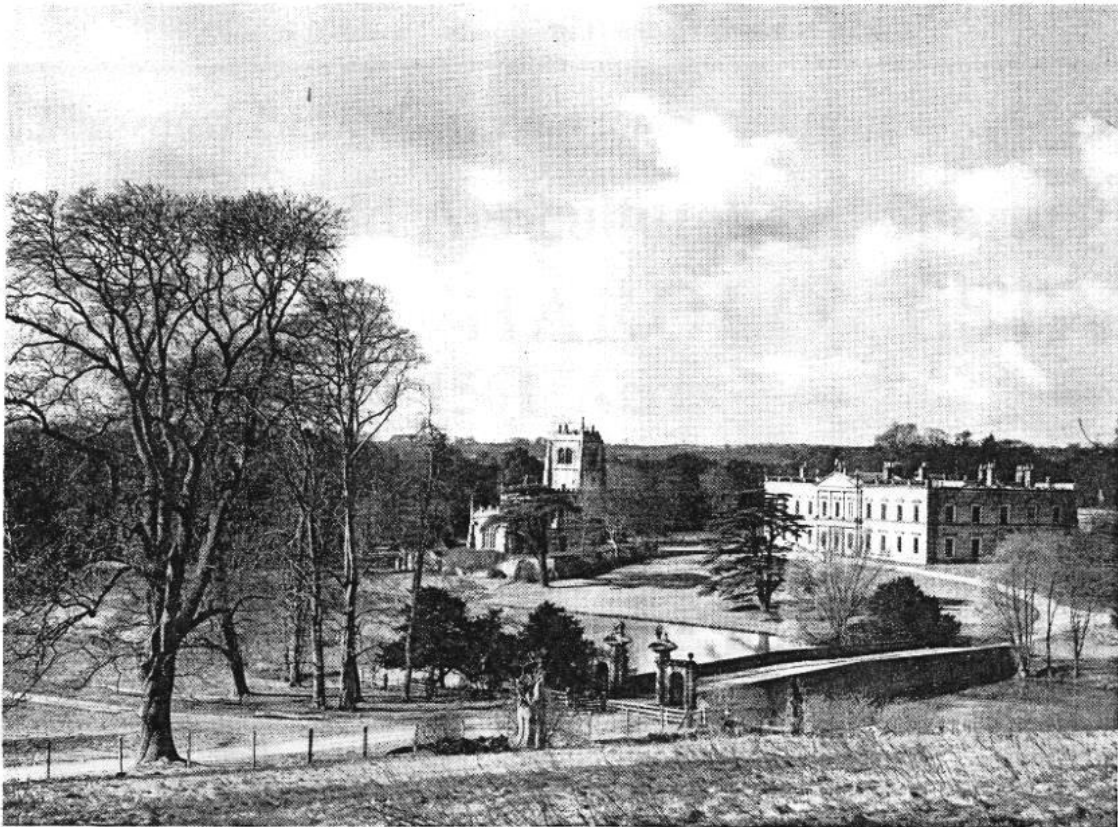
The re-building of the hall was only partially completed by the time of the 5th Earl's death on October 1st 1778 at Staunton Harold, where he was buried. Whether the re-building and final landscaping was fully completed by the 6th Earl to the original planned design, is not known, but in 1826 it was described as an unfinished building. At the time of his death the 5th Earl had accrued substantial debts, some of which were inherited by the 6th and 7th Earls, but not necessarily settled as the reader will learn about later.

For all its changes and set backs during its history, Staunton Harold Hall has continued to be one of the principal country houses in Leicestershire, and lies in a beautiful valley with woods and water surrounding it.

The area immediately surrounding the hall including Lount, Dimmingsdale and Heath End was a hive of industrial activity for several centuries as will be seen later in the book. With coal, ironstone, lead and lime mining taking place, and the fumes associated with the smelting of lead and the processing of lime, it must have made it a dirty and foreboding place. Later there would have been the fumes from the Coleorton Pottery kilns etc to add to it. All would not have been as attractive as it might first appear. There were similarities between Staunton and Coleorton, the seat of the Beaumonts, but Coleorton only had the coal mining to contend with. William Burton said about Coleorton, in his "Descriptions of Leicestershire" published in 1622....." *We gather that coal was found on the surface before the days of King Henry III, and distributed around the countryside by donkey pannier. These coal mines in the beginning of the reign of King Henry the eighth (as I have heard reported), did burne many years together, and could not be quenched, until that sulphurous and brimstony matter (whereupon it wrought) was utterly exhausted and consumed*"

**A LIST OF CHAPLAIN'S OF THE 5TH EARL
(FROM THE CLERGY DATABASE)**

Porter Bringloe	1760	Chaplain
Charles Bartholemew	1760	Chaplain
Charles Bartholemew	1762	Chaplain
Richard Burleigh	1766	Chaplain
Richard Burleigh	1766	Domestic Chaplain
Offley Crewe	1777	Chaplain
Offley Crewe	1777	Domestic Chaplain
Charles Markham	1778	Domestic Chaplain
Charles Markham	1778	Chaplain



STAUNTON HAROLD HALL

(Lot 10)

This impressive view of the hall, Chapel of the Holy Trinity and surrounding grounds appeared in the 1954 estate sales catalogue.

AN INTERESTING DEBT ACCRUED BY WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, 5TH
EARL FERRERS & SUBSEQUENTLY INHERITED BY THE 6TH AND 7TH
EARLS FERRERS



The Chevaliere d'Eon



The Chevalier d'Eon



Portrait of d'Eon by
Thomas Stewart (1792)



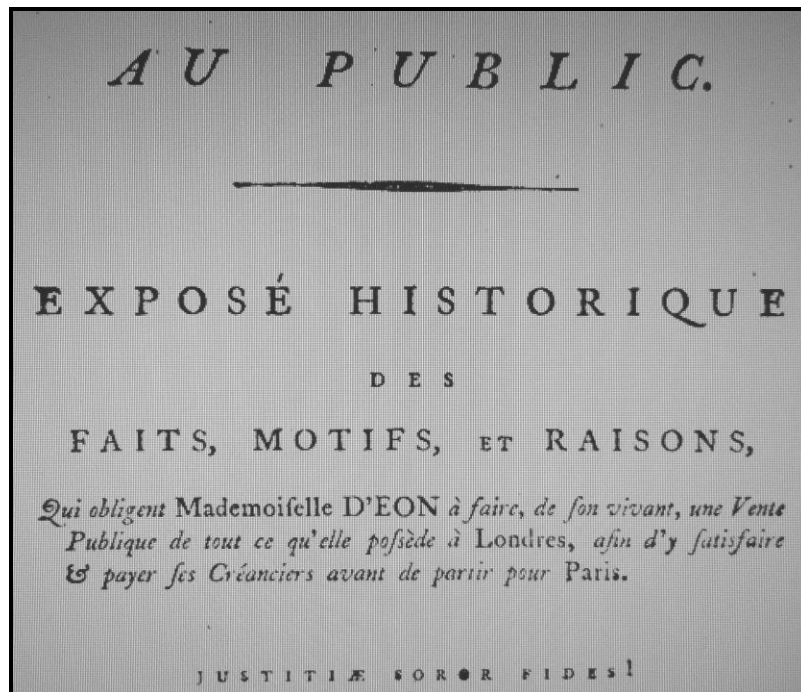
Caricature of d'Eon
dressed half in women's clothes
and half in men's clothes

This rather sad and complicated story is based around an **initial** unpaid loan of **£6,000** which was made to the 5th Earl Ferrers in 1777 by Chevalier/Chevaliere d'Eon of France. apparently to fund the development of the "Dimminsdale Lead and Lime Works".

Based on the following record in the publication entitled "Freemasons and The Royal Society - Alphabetical List of Fellows of the Royal Society who were Freemasons", it would seem that this is how the 5th Earl first came into contact with this person:-

Washington Shirley, 5th Earl Ferrers gave shelter and protection to the famous Chevalier/Chevaliere D'Eon, a member of the Lodge - L'Immortalite de l'order (a French Lodge) No 376, London, at his home Staunton Harold, during the height of the controversy regarding the latter's sex.

Many letters and documents regarding this unpaid loan appeared in the newspapers of the day, and various historical recordings, but they are far too numerous to include all of them in this synopsis of events, however, a selection from Expose Historique follow. From records of what happened in the Chevalier / Chevaliere d'Eon's later life, it is clear that the loan was never repaid by the 5th, 6th or 7th Earls Ferrers and the bitter affair dragged on for many years, eventually causing the bankruptcy of d'EON and left her destitute and dying in poverty. It is reasonable to assume, that at the time the loan was made to the 5th Earl Ferrers, it was in the guise of **Mademoiselle** Chaveliere D' Eon, and to confirm this, subsequent correspondence from the 6th and 7th Earls Ferrers address him / her as **Mademoiselle**.



Staunton-Harold, the 24th December, 1775.

• • • • •
• • • • •

I have so much business to settle here, that if I am not obliged to go to London on account of the Duchess of Kingston's trial, I think I shall not come there before the month of May; and it being requisite for you to have some voucher to produce for the money you have in my hands, in case any thing should happen to me, you will be pleased to let me know your christian name, in order that I may send you by the stage a bond for the sum due to you, which bond will bear an interest of five per cent. And having been disappointed with respect to a sum of money which was to be paid to me last month for an estate sold for the purpose of settling my affairs, I should take it as a particular favour of you to leave this money in my hands for one year at the above-mentioned interest. It is all the same to me, as I receive of others the same interest I pay you. Should you in the interim want any money for the settlement of your affairs, you may draw on me whenever you please; which indeed seems to me to be much better than to remit you at present in bank-notes, for reasons which I once told you.

The gout has left me. I find myself, thank God, very well, and am

Your sincere, and very affectionate,

(Signed)

FERRERS.

Extract of letter sent by 5th Earl from Staunton on 24th Dec 1775 to Chevaliere referring to a bond, a copy of which follows later

Since the time I had the honour of seeing you last, I have been very ill, the gout having attacked my lungs so seriously that I did not know what to think of it. I have by this time deposited the bond of 3000l. with Mr. Woty for you, in case I should die. It has been ready this great while, and is dated the 26th December 1775, bearing interest of 5 per cent. from that time. Thank God, the gout has left my lungs, and is fallen into my feet. . . .*

If the gout permits, I shall in a month be in London. There is nobody here at present but my Lady, Mr. Woty, and my nephew. You know very well that I shall always be happy to see you in Stanton, and I shall only conclude assuring you that I am

Your very faithful,

(Signed)

FERRERS.

* Secretary to Lord Ferrers, residing at present at Loughborough.

A promise from the 5th Earl to d'Eon that he has deposited the bond with his secretary Mr. Woty

* *A COPY of the BOND duly Stamped.*

Know all men by these presents, that I, the Right Honourable Washington Earl Ferrers, am held and firmly bound to Charles Genovesa Louisa Augusta Andrea Timothea D'Eon de Beaumont, Knight of the Royal and Military Order of Saint Louis, now of Brewer's-street, Golden-square, in the county of Middlesex, in the penal sum of Six Thousand Pounds, of good and lawful money of Great-Britain, to be paid to the said Charles Genovesa Louisa Augusta Andrea Timothea D'Eon de Beaumont, or his certain Attorney, Executors, Administrators, or Assigns. For which payment to be well and faithfully made, I bind myself, my Heirs, Executors and Administrators, firmly by these presents. Sealed with my Seal; dated this twenty-sixth day of December, in the sixteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great-Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth; and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

The condition of this obligation is such, that if the above bounden Washington Earl Ferrers, his Heirs, Executors and Administrators, shall and do well and truly pay or cause to be paid to the said Charles Genovesa Louisa Augusta Andrea Timothea D'Eon de Beaumont, his certain Attorney, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, the full sum of Three Thousand Pounds, of good and lawful money of Great-Britain, on or before the twenty-sixth day of December, which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty, with interest for the same after the rate of five pounds *per centum, per annum*, then this obligation to be void, or else to remain in full force.

(Signed)

FERRERS.

(L.S.)

Sealed and delivered (being first
duly stamped) in the presence
of

(Signed) W. WOTY.

(Signed) JOHN NEWCOMB.

Passed by Order of Mr. John Dural and Son, at London, Aug. 11, 1777.

(Signed) The Chevalier D'EON.

Copy of a Bond signed by the 5th Earl Ferrers in 1777 for £3,000
d'EON was deceived into accepting this five year £3,000 bond!

You inform me of your coming here very soon; as you know that I shall always be happy to see you, there is no occasion for me to say any thing on that subject. I shall only add, that I am eagerly expecting you here. Newcomb^m is at present in Derby, and had some time ago the misfortune of breaking his arm, of which he is not yet quite recovered; this has prevented me from sending you the hundred guineas you want for the present, but shall remit you this sum in the course of next week. I have at present no money in the hands of my bankers in London, having withdrawn the same from them to have here a ready supply of cash for the mine, which proves already richer than I expected. I have drawn a great quantity of lead ore from it; but having no furnace built, I cannot yet make money of it. This has rendered me very poor at present; that is to say, until the

time when I shall receive my rents, and which will be in about a month hence; otherwise I would have sent you the 175 guineas according to your desire.

Farewell, and be assured of my being

Your sincere friend,

(Signed)

FERRERS.

Further excuses

Earl Ferrers, notwithstanding his sense of honour, his probity, and even his friendship for Mademoiselle D'Eon, discharged part only of her debts; and, without first asking her consent, kept Three Thousand Pounds Sterling for his own private use; yet undoubtedly with the intention of returning them to Mademoiselle D'Eon, who requested his Lordship to satisfy those creditors who were not as yet paid, and especially Mr. John Duval, the King's jeweller, *Warnford-court, Throgmorton-street*, for several sums by him advanced during the law-suits and distresses of Mademoiselle D'Eon in England. His Lordship, being urged to satisfy those claims, acknowledged that he had applied the above-said Three Thousand Pounds Sterling towards completing the furniture of his seat, and the working of a lead-mine and a lime-pit in his park of *Stanton-Harold*, and which since then has produced a revenue of six hundred pounds sterling.

Further excuses. Note the important reference to a lead-mine and lime-pit.

* Extract from the Morning Post, No. 4414, Monday, April 23, 1787.
“ The death of Lord Ferrers, announced in the papers a few days ago, will, in all likelihood, prove an unfortunate event for the Chevalier D'Eon. The principal object of her return to England was to solicit the payment of four thousand pounds, deposited, by order of the present King of France, in the hands of the late Admiral Earl Ferrers, to pay the debts of the Chevalier, which hath not been effected to this day.
“ The son, Lord Tamworth, now Earl of Ferrers, who, to his honour be it said, highly blamed the legal contestation maintained on this subject, by his late father, will, by putting an end to all further delay, derive great credit from this act of justice in favour of so extraordinary a character, whose concerns cannot but be warmly espoused by all who are acquainted with her, and the sufferings she has undergone, after having fought the battles of her country, and managed its interest as an able negociator.”

An extract from the Morning Post, No. 4414, Monday, April 23rd, 1787 regarding the death of Earl Ferrers and the non payment of his debt. See the later copy of her filing for bankruptsy after the 7th Earl refused to pay his uncle's debts to her

**A HISTORY OF THE LIFE OF CHEVALIER / CHEVALIERE D'EON,
TAKEN FROM WIKIPEDIA:-**

D'Éon was born into a poor noble family at the Hôtel d'Uzès in Tonnerre, Burgundy. Louis d'Éon de Beaumont, who was d'Eon's father was attorney and director of the king's dominions and later became mayor of Tonnerre and a sub-delegate of the intendant of the généralité of Paris. D'Éon's mother, Françoise de Charanton, was the daughter of a Commissioner General to the armies of the wars of Spain and Italy. Most of what is known about d'Éon's early life comes from a partly ghost-written autobiography, "The Interests of the Chevalier d'Éon de Beaumont".

D'Éon excelled in school, moving from Tonnerre to Paris in 1743. She graduated in civil law and canon law from the Collège Mazarin in 1749 at the age of 21. D'Éon became secretary to Bertier de Sauvigny, intendant of Paris, served as a secretary to the administrator of the fiscal department, and was appointed a royal censor for history and literature by Malesherbes in 1758.

In 1756, d'Éon joined the secret network of spies called the Secret du Roi, (secret of the king), employed by King Louis XV without the knowledge of the government. It sometimes promoted policies that contradicted official policies and treaties. According to d'Éon's memoirs (although there is no documentary evidence to support that account) the monarch sent d'Éon with the Chevalier Douglas, Alexandre-Pierre de Mackensie-Douglas, baron de Kildin, a Scottish Jacobite in French service, on a secret mission to Russia in order to meet Empress Elizabeth and conspire with the pro-French faction against the Habsburg monarchy. At that time the English and French were at odds, and the English were attempting to deny the French access to the Empress by allowing only women and children to cross the border into Russia. D'Éon had to pass convincingly as a woman or risk being executed by the English upon discovery. In the course of this mission, d'Éon was disguised as the lady Lea de Beaumont, and served as a maid of honour to the Empress. Eventually, Chevalier Douglas became French ambassador to Russia, and d'Éon was secretary to the embassy in Saint Petersburg from 1756 to 1760, serving Douglas and his successor, the marquis de l'Hôpital. D'Éon's career in Russia is the subject of one of Valentin Pikul's novels, Le chevalier d'Éon et la guerre de Sept ans («Пером и шпагой»).

D'Éon returned to France in October 1760, and was granted a pension of 2,000 livres as reward for service in Russia. In May 1761, d'Éon became a captain of dragoons under the maréchal de Broglie and fought in the later stages of the Seven Years' War. D'Éon served at the Battle of Villinghausen in July 1761, and was wounded at Ulstrop. After Empress Elizabeth died in January 1762, d'Éon was considered for further service in Russia, but instead was appointed secretary to the duc de Nivernais, awarded 1,000 livres, and sent to London to draft the peace treaty that formally ended the Seven Years' War. The treaty was signed in Paris on 10 February 1763, and d'Éon was awarded a further 6,000 livres, and received the Order of Saint-Louis on 30 March 1763, becoming the Chevalier d'Éon. The title *chevalier*, French for knight, is also sometimes used for French noblemen.

Back in London, d'Éon became chargé d'affaires in April 1763, and then plenipotentiary minister - essentially interim ambassador - when the duc de Nivernais returned to Paris in July. D'Éon used this position also to spy for the king. D'Éon collected information for a potential invasion - an unfortunate and clumsy initiative of Louis XV, of which Louis's own ministers were unaware - assisting a French agent, Louis François Carlet de la Rozière, who was surveying the British coastal defences. D'Éon formed connections with English nobility by sending them the produce of d'Éon's vineyard in France and abundantly enjoyed the splendour of this interim embassy.

Upon the arrival of the new ambassador, the comte de Guerchy in October 1763, d'Éon was demoted to the rank of secretary and humiliated by the count, D'Éon was trapped between two French factions: Guerchy was a supporter of the duc de Choiseul, duc de Praslin and Madame de Pompadour, in opposition to the comte de Broglie and his brother the maréchal de Broglie. D'Éon complained, and eventually decided to disobey orders to return to France. In a letter to the king, d'Éon claimed that the new ambassador had tried to drug d'Éon at a dinner at the ambassador's residence in Monmouth House in Soho Square. The British government declined a French request to extradite d'Éon, and the 2,000 livres pension that had been granted in 1760 was stopped in February 1764. In an effort to save d'Éon's station in London, d'Éon published much of the secret diplomatic correspondence about d'Éon's recall under the title *Lettres, mémoires et négociations particulières du chevalier d'Éon* in March 1764, disavowing Guerchy and calling him unfit for his job.^[5] This breach of diplomatic discretion was scandalous to the point of being unheard of, but d'Éon had not yet published everything (the King's secret invasion documents and those relative to the *Secret du Roi* were kept back as "insurance"), and the French government became very cautious in its dealings with d'Éon, even when d'Éon sued Guerchy for attempted murder. With the invasion documents in hand, d'Éon held the king in check. D'Éon did not offer any defense when Guerchy sued for libel, and d'Éon was declared an outlaw and went into hiding. However, d'Éon secured the sympathy of the British public: the mob jeered Guerchy in public, and threw stones at his residence. D'Éon then wrote a book on public administration, *Les loisirs du Chevalier d'Éon*, which was published in thirteen volumes in Amsterdam in 1774.

Guerchy was recalled to France, and in July 1766 Louis XV granted d'Éon a pension (possibly a pay-off for d'Éon's silence) and a 12,000-livre annuity, but refused a demand for over 100,000 livres to clear d'Éon's extensive debts. D'Éon continued to work as a spy, but lived in political exile in London. D'Éon's possession of the king's secret letters provided protection against further actions, but d'Éon could not return to France.

Life as a Woman

Despite the fact that d'Éon habitually wore a dragoon's uniform, rumours circulated in London that d'Éon was actually a woman. A betting pool was started on the London Stock Exchange about d'Éon's true sex. D'Éon was invited to join, but declined, saying that an examination would be dishonouring, whatever the result. After a year without progress, the wager was abandoned. Following the death of Louis XV in 1774, the *secret du roi* was abolished, and d'Éon tried to negotiate a return from exile. The writer Pierre de

Beaumarchais represented the French government in the negotiations. The resulting twenty-page treaty permitted d'Éon to return to France and retain the ministerial pension, but required that d'Éon turn over the correspondence regarding the *secret du roi*.^[6]

The Chevalier d'Éon claimed to have been assigned female at birth, and demanded recognition by the government as such. D'Éon claimed to have been raised as a boy because Louis d'Éon de Beaumont could only inherit from his in-laws if he had a son. King Louis XVI and his court complied with this demand, but required in turn that d'Éon dress appropriately in women's clothing, although d'Éon was allowed to continue to wear the insignia of the Order of Saint-Louis. When the king's offer included funds for a new wardrobe of women's clothes, d'Éon agreed. In 1777, after fourteen months of negotiation, d'Éon returned to France and as punishment was banished to Tonnerre.

When France began to help the rebels during the American War of Independence, d'Éon asked to join the French troops in America, but d'Éon's banishment prevented it. In 1779, d'Éon published a book of memoirs: *La Vie Militaire, politique, et privée de Mademoiselle d'Éon*. They were ghostwritten by a friend named La Fortelle and are probably embellished. D'Éon was allowed to return to England in 1785.

The pension that Louis XV had granted was ended by the French Revolution, and d'Éon had to sell personal possessions, including books, jewellery and plate. The family's properties in Tonnerre were confiscated by the revolutionary government. In 1792, d'Éon sent a letter to the French National Assembly offering to lead a division of female soldiers against the Habsburgs, but the offer was rebuffed. D'Éon participated in fencing tournaments until seriously wounded in Southampton in 1796. D'Éon's last years were spent with a widow, Mrs. Cole. In 1804, d'Éon was sent to a debtors' prison for five months, and signed a contract for a biography to be written by Thomas William Plummer, which was never published. D'Éon became paralyzed following a fall, and spent a final four years bedridden, dying in poverty in London on 21 May 1810 at the age of 81.

Doctors who examined the body after D'Éon's death discovered that the Chevalier had "male organs in every respect perfectly formed", while at the same time displaying feminine characteristics such as rounded limbs and "breasts remarkably full". D'Éon's body was buried in the churchyard of St Pancras Old Church and D'Éon's remaining possessions were sold by Christie's in 1813. D'Éon's grave is listed on Baroness Burdett Coutts's sundial memorial in St. Pancras Gardens as one of the important graves lost when they were dug up in the former church yard burial ground.



NINE YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF THE 5TH EARL

THE LONDON ORACLE

EARL FERRERS (7TH EARL)
TO
THE CHEVALIERE D'EON
RAGDALE, NR LOUGHBOROUGH
MAY 5TH 1787

I am sorry to see by your letter, **Mademoiselle D'Eon**, that you still hope I will pay you the debt of my late uncle (**5th Earl Ferrers**). I must tell you plainly, that I will not; and that if this affair be further urged to me, I shall be under the necessity of giving my reasons in the Herald, and the morning post, with my name at the bottom. I should be sorry to give you any uneasiness; but my determination is fixed; and I am resolved not to pay a penny either for my father or uncle; and I am determined to preserve entire, as long as I live, the residue of my fortune, in support of my rank in England, and you may rest assured, that I will not banish myself to France, or elsewhere. When I shall go to town, is at present very uncertain; but I shall remain at Ragdale, until then.

I have the honour to be, Mademoiselle D'Eon
Yours, &c., Ferrers

COPY OF CHEVALIERE D'EON'S ANSWER TO THE ABOVE LETTER LONDON MAY 10TH 1787

I am very sorry to find, my Lord, by your letter of the 7th inst., which I received the next afternoon, that you are no longer a Lord Tamworth to me, but a downright Lord Robert ----- that is to say, Robert the Devil, whose heart changes according to circumstances. When you were Lord Tamworth, you told me that you wished most ardently, that I should not loose my time in endeavouring to get Lord Robert Ferrers, your Father (**Robert Shirley 6th Earl**), to restore to me the money deposited. That he Lord Robert had caused to be made by the auctioneers of Leicestershire, and according to his own fancy, the valuation of the furniture, goods and effects, left by the late Admiral Ferrers (**5th Earl**), his brother, in his seats, houses, and on his lands; and you expressed yourself on the subject, that you would not wish me to trust them to paper, and to the post. My good and dear Lady Dowager Ferrers, in Albemarle Street, told me the same thing. My friend, Commodore Shirley, your dear uncle, full of openness, good faith, and honour, told me the same thing. Woty, the secretary to your late uncle, and John, his old Valet de Chambre, all confirmed the same, as well as yourself, when you were Lord Tamworth. But now that you are become Earl Ferrers, by the unhappy indigestion of your father, how, my Lord, will you digest your former discourses? - You so felt the truth of this, that, touched with my disappointment, to see me frustrated of the King my Master's great kindness for me, you promised to give me comfort, in the presence of Mr. Lautem and Mrs. Duval, when you all did me the honour, the latter end of April last year, to dine with me; that if you ever became Earl Ferrers, you would behave with more justice to me, and that my debt, on the succession of your uncle the Admiral, was so just, that you would certainly pay it as a debt of honour of your house. You overwhelmed us all with pleasure, we drank your health to your face, and behind your back also.

At this time, satisfied with yourself, as we were all with you, in your coach, from London to your seat at Ragdale, you hurried myself, my woman, with my little dog *Chiffonne*, your old and good friend. What a *dogged* kind of friendship have you offered us, since you are become Earl Ferrers much sooner than you expected, or than we could have expected. All my friends came to wish me joy on the death of your illustrious father, relying on what I had formerly told them, that you had promised to pay me whatever you got possession of of your uncle's and father's titles and fortune. Messrs Lautem and Duval, with Chevaliere d'Eon, and the honourable and virtuous part of the world in general, how are they all deceived in their hopes of you! You are now of your Father's opinion, who would not pay Mademoiselle d'Eon because the estates of Admiral Earl Ferrers (**5th Earl**) were entailed on his family. - But should justice, honour, virtue, truth, should they not be entailed also upon it?

Although the honour of a Lady lies in not quite so elevated a situation as that of a Peer of the Realm, still, when founded on a base as solid as truth, it is full as respectable as that of any Peer or Peeress in the Kingdom.

THE LONDON ORACLE - JANUARY 2ND 1791 (4 YEARS ON FROM THE PREVIOUS ENTRY)

In consideration of the house and family of Ferrers, I have waited in vain the result of the steps Commodore Shirley took, as well as the respectable Lord Rawdon, who both lament the extraordinary conduct of the present Lord Ferrers (**this is referring to Robert Shirley, the son of the 6th Earl, who later became the 7th Earl**)

This conduct is in effect the more extraordinary, as I swear, upon the Holy Evangelists, that Lord Tamworth, now Lord Ferrers (**6th Earl Ferrers**), when he came to dine with me at my house in Brewer Street, Golden-Square, the 25th of April 1786, with Mr. John Duval and the late Mr. Joseph Lautem, the above present Lord Ferrers, after condemning in very severe terms the injustice of his father towards me, promised to give and procure me all the instructions necessary to compel his father to pay to the house of Messieurs Duval all that I owed them; ; *the present above mentioned Lord, at and before dinner, nobly and generously expressed and declared in my presence, and before the witnesses above mentioned, that in case his father did not pay me, and that he survived, and came into possession of his titles and estates, he would look on himself as bound in justice and honour to acquit so.* This noble and generous promise made a deep impression on Messrs. John Duval and Joseph Lautem, and was the more pleasing to me, as so spontaneous a declaration calmed in a great measure the uneasiness of the above Gentlemen, to both of whom I then owed money.

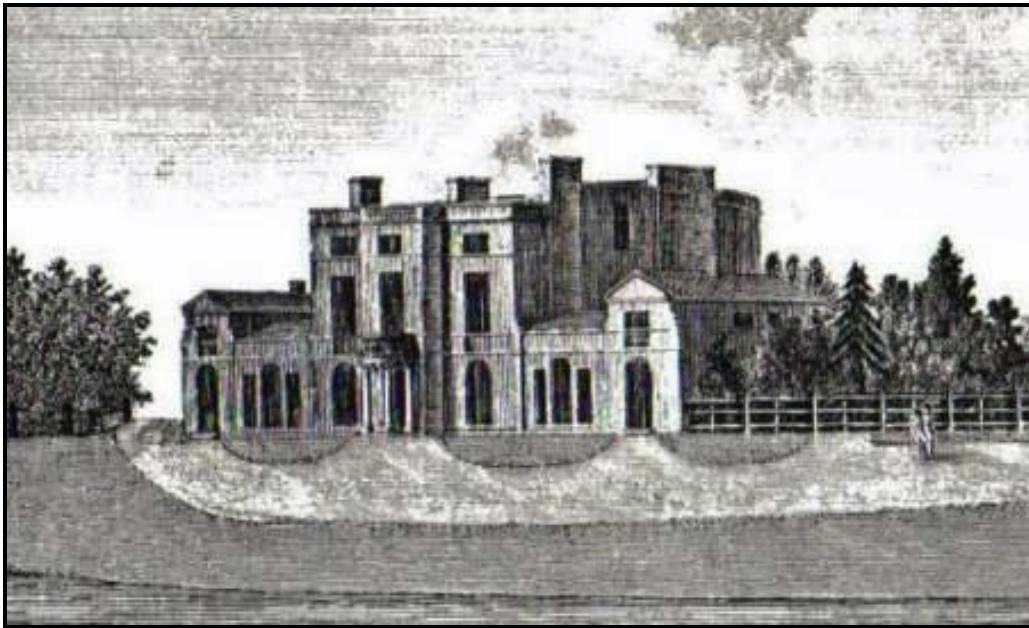
This promise was besides the more just, as I swear and prove from the very letters of the late Washington Earl Ferrers (**5th Earl Ferrers**), that he employed this money, the gift of Lewis XVI (King Louis), in carrying on the works, and opening a mine of lead, and another of lime, lately discovered in the Park of Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire, and in the erecting of furnaces (**see a separate publication on the website entitled "A History of Dimmingsdale Lime & Lead Works" to which this was referring**).

Five days after this dinner of the 25th April, Sunday 30th April, 1786, at ten in the morning, the present Lord Ferrers conducted me and my chambermaid in his carriage to Ragdale, his country seat, within ten miles of Leicester, free of all expenses; my Lord absolutely

insisting, like a nobleman to pay all. I resided at Ragdale until Monday 22nd of May 1786, when I accompanied his Lordship at one in the afternoon to Loughborough, within eleven miles of Leicester, where we supped, lay, and dined the next day with Mr. William Wotey, formerly secretary to Washington Earl Ferrers (5th Earl). I returned with my maid to Leicester, and from thence to London; and his Lordship returned to Ragdale.

The 8th September 1786, at six in the afternoon, I left London with my woman, and returned to Ragdale to see Lord Tamworth, the present Lord Ferrers (6th Earl Ferrers), and remained there until Wednesday the first November 1786: when at two in the afternoon, I took my leave of his Lordship, and returned to London. During these two journeys, and my long stay at Ragdale, the present Lord Ferrers not only behaved with all possible attention and politeness to me, but over and above took the trouble to sketch two plans of his house on the hill of Ragdale, which he presented me with; and besides, he wrote in his best hand what follows:

"South east Elevation of Ragdale Lodge, extends 64 feet in Leicestershire, belonging to Lord Viscount Tamworth, given to Mlle. Le Chevaliere D'Eon, when she did him the honour to visit him at Ragdale, in the year 1786".....this was the new manor house built by the 6th Earl c.1785 on high ground about 2 miles from the old manor house shown below. The house referred to is shown in the engraving below



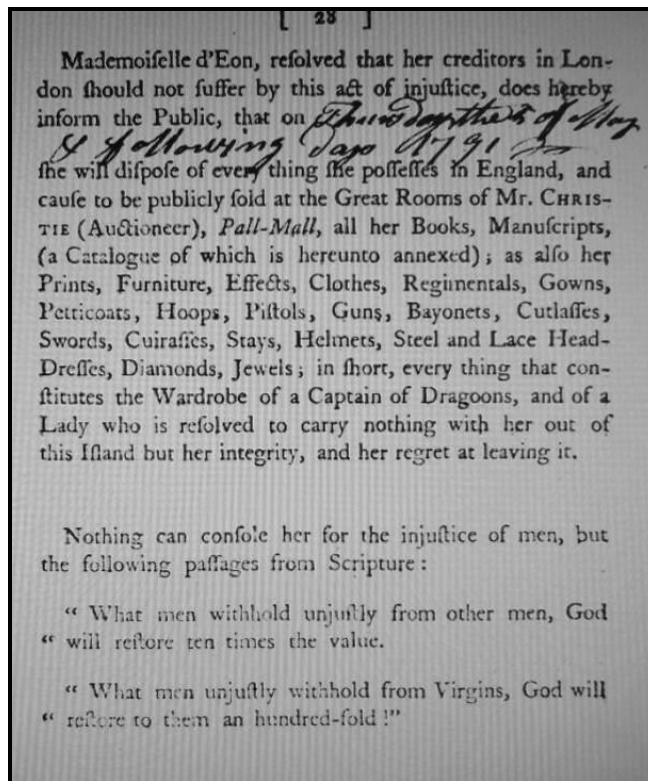
**An engraving of the new Ragdale Lodge, dated 1799 -
Built c.1785 by the 6th Earl Ferrers**

And besides, the present Lord Ferrers, to give me a stronger proof of his esteem and his friendship, gave me in his own hand-writing, and that of Mr. William Wotey, his confidential man of business, all the *éclaircissement* and necessary instructions respecting the estate and inheritance, as well as the rent-roll of Washington Earl Ferrers (5th Earl), and all the answers to the questions and interrogatories of my Attorney committed to writing: These facts I can prove from the very letters and writings of the present Lord Ferrers, by those of the above-named Mr. William Wotey, by my Attorney, Mr. Thomas Lloyd, No 15, Great

James Street, Bedford Row, as well as by my great journal book, where may be seen, in pages 334, 335, 336, 339, and 340, my journeys to Ragdale, with all my other journeys and expenses, as well in England as France, since the year 1762.

As long as Lord Robert Ferrers (6th Earl Ferrers) lived, his son Lord Tamworth (7th Earl Ferrers) most zealously assisted me both with his private advice, and that of Mr. William Wotey, which greatly contributed to my obtaining in the Court of Common Pleas, the 6th of February, 1787, a judgment against Robert Earl Ferrers (6th Early Ferrers), his father, whereby he was condemned to pay the house of Messrs. Duval. He probably was better pleased to see his father pay this debt of honour by his ?????, than to pay it himself by his own. He did not think his father, who was not old, would die so soon; but Lord Robert, his father, having died suddenly the 18th of April 1787, from an indigestion, Lord Tamworth (7th Earl), heir to the titles and fortune of Earl Ferrers, had the misfortune to forget his most sacred promises, and he wrote me word, "that all the houses belonging to his father in town and in country were in confusion, and that he was determined not to pay a penny of his debts, not even to me, who was his friend".

At the time of Washington Shirley, 5th Earl Ferrer's death, he had left, besides considerable personal property, also an entailed estate producing a rental value of Eight Thousand & Thirty Five Pounds, Nine Shillings and a Half Penny Sterling. During the above case, it was revealed that by the time his son Robert Shirley, 6th Earl Ferrers died on April 18th 1787, he had hardly paid off any of his brothers considerable debts.



Mademoiselle d'Eon files for Bankruptcy in 1791 which left her destitute and dying in poverty

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON
ROBERT SHIRLEY, 6TH EARL FERRERS (1723 - 1787)**

Robert Shirley, 6th Earl Ferrers, was born in the parish of St. James, Westminster on July 20th 1723, and on the death of his brother in 1778 inherited the title and estates. He was married on December 26th 1754 at All Saint's Church, Derby to Catherine, the daughter of Rowland Cotton Esq., of Etwall in Derbyshire.

Catherine bore him three children including Robert and Washington, the 7th and 8th Earls. Catherine died at Staunton Harold on March 26th 1786. The 6th Earl died at his London house in Upper Seymour Street on April 17th 1787. Both he and his Countess were buried at Breedon.

His brother Walter was born September 23rd and baptized October 7th 1725 and was educated at University College, Oxford. The honourable & Reverend Walter Shirley became one of the most prominent of the Calvinistic Clergy and was first cousin of the celebrated Selina, Countess of Huntingdon.

**STAUNTON HAROLD RENTS DUE ON LADY DAY 1785 PRESUMABLY INCLUDING
LOUNT & HEATH END WHEN ROBERT SHIRLEY, 6TH EARL FERRERS
WAS LORD OF THE MANOR**

Tenants Name	Rents payable		
	£	s	d
Messr's William & George Jaiguers ??	83	0	0
Richard Clifford	86	8	8
Thomas Varnham	69	10	0
Clifford Dunicliff	10	10	0
Thomas Richards	6	11	6
Peter Stretton		5	4
Widdow Hoult	2	10	9
Thomas Richards	3	7	6
Thomas Crow	2	8	6
William Turner	2	10	0
Widow Morley	2	10	0
Widow Richards	2	2	0
Robert Williams	2	10	0
Joseph Shakespeare			
Robert Swain	1	10	0
William Bird	0	13	0
Thomas Whyman	0	12	6
Thomas Gisbourne	0	10	0
Charles Steward & Albert? Johnson	0	5	0
Thomas Cutler	0	8	9
Richard Kendrick	0	2	6

Thomas Fairbrother	0	2	6
Joseph Fairbrother	0	2	6
Henry Watson	0	1	3
William Stewart	0	0	6
Margaret Kignor	0	0	6
Joseph Whyatt	0	0	6
Widow Shakespeare	0	0	3

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON THE 7TH EARL FERRERS

A VIST BY JOHN THROSBY TO STAUNTON HAROLD IN 1790 DURING THE 7TH EARL'S OWNERSHIP. TAKEN FROM THE SUPPLEMENTARY VOLUME TO JOHN THROSBY'S "SELECT VIEWS IN LEICESTERSHIRE"

INTRODUCTION (TRANSCRIBED FROM THE OLD ENGLISH SCRIPT)

Staunton Harold liberty belongs to Earl Ferrers. On the road hither the stranger is amply supplied with hand-posts (finger posts), which in some counties of England are called parsons; these are necessary and benevolent compliments to passengers; I have travelled, during my excursions in this county, many unnecessary miles for want of these surplised gentry. On his lordship's estate here, is got excellent lime, coals, lead, iron and copper.

The splendid seat of Staunton Harold, when I first visited it, struck me as one of the noblest I had seen. It is described in the volume of views. The chapel is the only thing I need notice here; it is a neat piece of worship, and built by Sir Robert Shirley, as has been noticed, in 1653, and is represented in the view of Staunton Harold. It consists of a handsome tower, a nave, and two fide ailes. Here is a vault where part of the family lie buried. On a tablet, Sir Robert Shirley is remembered, who founded the chapel.....*he goes on to describe the church further in a manner that has already been described in the earlier section on Robert Shirley.*

Cont:- I cannot help observing, that I slept at Staunton Harold, and in consequence was much entertained in going home, by the artless tales of my companion, a man whom I occasionally take with me to carry my books and papers on his horse. In words nearly as follows, he describes this place, and the reception he met with:-

"Lord, master, what charming ale my lord keeps. They (meaning the servants) thought to have made me drunk, but I was a match for 'em. I took horn for horn out of a great copper can after supper, and soon did the old coachman over. He has been a tough-un; but they were mistaken in taking me for a milk-sop. They were good companions, and I should like to go with you there again. I think I never saw such a place in my life
, Sir; why, its like a town. They led me to bed through windings and turnings, up one stair case, and then another, through long passages, that I thought, sounds, I should never see you more. I begged hard, before they left me, that they would come and shew me the way down again in the morning, which they did, or I am sure I could not have found it. I had a charming bed, I almost wanted a ladder o get up to it. Did you see the lion Sir, upon the house? Why, it is as big as a bull. And there's men and women on thetop of the other side

(meaning the figures upon the pediment at the front). What fires they keep, master? I was very cold when I got in, but I soon burnt my shins. How the poor of Leicester would scramble for the small coals they throw away! Did you see what a large bank of 'em at the back door. Lord! What fish ponds. I could see no end to the water. I warrant you there's some jolly dogs of fish in 'em. I should like to be there when my lord fishes in 'em.

He remarked also the church, and many more things, with the same kind of astonishment; which entertained as much a few hours of a very cold day's ride.

A FURTHER PART REPORT BY JOHN THROSBY ON HIS VISIT TO STAUNTON HAROLD IN 1790

TRANSCRIBED FROM THE OLD ENGLISH SCRIPT.

On the north-east side of the library front, which is very extensive and was originally designed by Inigo Jones, which design is nearly preserved in the present structure.

The first apartment you enter is the south front of this noble edifice, is the hall, which is a square of about 40 feet by 16 feet high. Here is a fine portrait of Sir Robert Shirley, by Vandyke. On the left is the principal dining room 42 feet by 30 feet, beyond which is a room of good size and a staircase. From the right side of the hall you enter a vestibule, where is the grand staircase. The common dining room and dining parlour, which is adjoining is 28 feet by 20 feet, beyond which is a handsome drawing room. The library measures not less than 72 feet by 18 feet, and abounds with choice and valuable books. When I am deprived of liberty, let me be imprisoned in a room like this; where distant objects are intercepted only by books; then, the loss of liberty, and the society of men, blessings of the highest order when rightly used, would be supplied by the experience and wisdom of past pages!.....Here is kept the family pedigree, one of those when his Lordship (7th Earl) politely showed me, when unrolled, reached almost from one end of the room to the other, on which is rightly emblazoned the arms and some heads of his Lordships progenitors; on which also is written, abstracts of wills, deeds and gifts. Here are several curiosities brought from India by one of the family, amongst other, the complete works of Confucius (the Chinese philosopher). In Indian characters; 16 small quarto volumes bound in Turkey leather. I was also shown a very curious old bugle horn, or elephants tooth, formed like one on which are some excellent figures of dogs pursuing stags and every species of game usually hunted.... This very much resembles Ulphus's horn shown at the Cathedral of York, which is also an elephants tooth; but that is not so rich in carved work, nor so well executed as this, tho' the subject of the same, Besides several other good rooms, about 60 in all, is a withdrawing room, 36 feet long hung with an uncommonly rich paper, representing blue damask edged with a gold carved paper.

THE FUNERAL OF ROBERT SEWALLIS SHIRLEY (1778-1824), THE SON OF ROBERT SHIRLEY, 7TH EARL FERRERS (1756-1827)

The 7th Earl and his family were living at Chartley Manor at the time Robert Sewallis Shirley died of an inflammation of the bowels.

The following details of the funeral were recorded in the **Leicester Chronicle** dated **June 26th 1824**.

FUNERAL OF LORD VISCOUNT TAMWORTH

The funeral procession of the much lamented Lord Viscount Tamworth, son of Earl Ferrers, took place from Charley Castle, Staffordshire, on the 17th inst., and proceeded on the first day to the seat of Earl Ferrers at Staunton Harold, in the County of Leicester, where The various Tenants and Gentlemen attending passed the night, and next day moved on to Breedon, the parish church, for the interment of the deceased in the family vault in the following order:-

Four Mutes on Horseback
A Carriage, with two Clergymen

THE HEARSE

Two Mourning Coaches,

With the Hon. N. Curzon and his three brothers in the first: and Robert William Shirley, Esq., the Rev. Walter Shirley, Charles Mundy, Esq., High Sheriff for this county, and Col.

Cotton, in the second coach

The Carriage of the deceased Viscount; with closed blinds.

The Carriage of Earl Ferrers

The Pall Bearers and Friends of the deceased.

In nine carriages of Lord Scardale and of the different Gentlemen attending; followed by the principal Tenants of the Earl Ferrers from Chartley and Staunton Harold on Horseback, forming a procession of about 40 persons.

The funeral had attracted a vast concourse of persons at Breedon, (supposed upwards of 2000) who conducted themselves in and out of Church in the most orderly and exemplary manner upon the solemn and melancholy occasion.

OBITUARY FOR THE 7TH EARL FERRERS

THE FOLLOWING APPEARED IN THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE JUNE 1827
Obituary May 1827 - Died at Hastings, aged 70, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Shirley, seventh Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth, and thirteenth Baronet of Staunton Harold in Leicestershire, F.S.A.

His Lordship was born September 21st, 1756, the eldest son of Robert the late Earl, by Catherine, daughter of Roland Cotton, of Etwall in Derbyshire, Esq. He is said to have received his education in High Street, Marylebone, where his father, then a younger brother, resided on a small fortune. He afterwards went abroad, and lived for some years in foreign countries. His Lordship succeeded his father in his honours in 1787, and was twice married, firstly, March 13th, 1778, to Miss Elizabeth Prentise, by whom he had issue, an only son, Robert Sewallis, Viscount Tamworth, who married in 1800, the hon. Sophia-Caroline

Curzon, daughter of Lord Scarsdale, but died s.p.l. in 1824 (see Vol. xc1v. ii.). Having lost his first Countess September 14, 1799, the Earl married on that day fortnight, Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Wrightson Mundy, Esq., now M.P. for that county. This lady died in February last.

The 7th Earl never at all interfered in public affairs; but was very expert and attentive to his private concerns. He was his own manager, and in consequence his fortune prospered. When he came to his estates, they were, we believe, much disarranged. His Lordship soon re-instated them, added considerably to his landed property, and did extremely rich in personals. He had a great taste for building, and had at one time six mansions in different parts of the country. His chief seat in Leicestershire was at Staunton Harold, the largest and most elegant display of Grecian architecture in that county. It is a light and elegant structure; the chief front after Palladio, and backed by a fine wood, in contrast with a wild heath at a due distance, and a variety of beautiful scenery surrounds it. Another seat at Rakedale (Ragdale) in Leicestershire, his Lordship entirely built, about 1785; and at present it is possessed by Mr. Joliffe, in right of his late wife, who was a daughter of Earl Ferrers by his second Lady.

"The family of Shirley", says Mr. Burton, in his M.S. editions to the "History and Antiquities of Leicestershire", is of great antiquity, of an ancient Saxon line long before the conquest, which, if there was no other proof, the very Saxon names used by them about the time of the conquest (as Sewal, Fucher, Eldred, and the like), would fully testify. Their matches were eminent, as with the heirs of Walderchiefe, Braose, Basset, Staunton, Lovett, Devereux, and Ferrars, all families of note". In the library of Staunton, the pedigree of Shirley's measures nearly 40 feet, and on it are richly emblazoned the arms and several monuments and portraits of this noble family, with copious abstracts of several of their wills, deeds and &c. Over the porch of the old mansion at Rakedale, (built about 1629, and now a farm-house), remains a large coat of arms carved in stone, with no less than fifty quartering's. The late Lord Ferrers had a considerable taste for genealogical and heraldic pursuits; and was particularly well skilled in the history of his own family. This taste led his Lordship to be very assistant to Mr. Nichols, when compiling the account of the Shirley family in his elaborate "History of Leicestershire". To Earl Ferrers, Mr. Nichols dedicated one of his volumes; and in 1795, in anticipation of his Lordship's assistance.....

.....His brother-in-law, Mr. Mundy, and Mr. Smedley, are left as his Lordship's executors. The Earl has left a large personal property to a favourite young lady, one of several illegitimate children of his son, the late Viscount Tamworth.

The Earl was succeeded in his titles and estates by his only brother, the Hon. Washington Shirley, now 8th Earl Ferrers (1760-1842).

STAUNTON HAROLD HALL SOUTH LODGE

The lodge and associated railings and entrance gates were thought to have been build towards the end of the period that the 7th Earl Ferrers was lord of the manor. They were grade II listed in 1965. The drive gates were apparently destroyed at the end of the war.



Saracen's head from the Shirley/Ferrers family crest

On each side of the drive stand two cast iron screen pillars from which hang two side entrance pedestrian gates between two more cast iron screen pillars. Between these pillars and two cemented piers are sets of spear top railings.

Two of the cast iron screen pillars carry the Saracen's Head with coronet and motto from the Shirley/Ferrer's family crest. The pillars are surmounted by flaming bowls. A square lantern atop two of the cast iron screen pillars are surmounted by Earl's coronets.

"Saracen" which was also used in the name of the former Saracen's Head Public House at Heath End which features later, means in that context, a Muslim at the time of the Crusades. The word predates the origin of Islam, and hence the Crusades. A Saracen's head appears as a heraldic device in the coats of arms of some families that fought in the Crusade, as was the case with the Shirleys'.

The following is taken from the Staunton Harold Bulletin 92 - Feb 2014 by John Blunt, the owner of Staunton Harold Hall;-

The Lodge and iron railings at the southern end of the Estate were built about two hundred years ago at the end of the Georgian era, with a nod to the Gothic style in the arched front door. The lodge-keeper's job was to keep the entrance gates closed, and open them when a visitor approached. Many years ago I went to an estate in the West Midlands where this practice still obtained. At Staunton, the local blacksmith once told me, he arrived at the gates one day with his father and was starting to open them when the old man rushed out saying "You'll cost me my job". If he lost his job, he'd lose his house as well.

The Lodge was 'T' shaped, with three rooms: living room, bedroom, and kitchen/scullery. Each room had a fireplace and for symmetry the flues were arched over to gather in the roof space and emerge as one central stone chimney. We bought the building in 1966 and extended it by adding a second bedroom on one side and kitchen on the other, with the old kitchen made into a bathroom. In the course of the work we had to demolish some of the original chimneys, and it was then that we found the child's leather shoe. It was concealed in a small cavity created for it in the solid wall.

I can visualize it now, and wish we'd kept it, but it was many years later that I learned of the tradition of building a shoe into the chimney to ward off evil spirits which might enter the house that way. Now the gates are gone, destroyed at the end of the war, the gold-topped railings have been lovingly restored, and a family lives in the Lodge, with as far as we know, no ill effects.

**A SYNOPSIS OF THE SHIRLEY / EARL FERRERS HISTORY IN
RELATION TO THE MANOR & ESTATE KNOWN ANCIENTLY AS
'RAGENDALE / RAKEDALE OR REKEDALE' &
IN MORE MODERN TIMES AS 'RAGDALE'**

The following have proved useful in carrying out the research for this feature:- An article in "The Leicestershire and Architectural Society" Volume II published 1870 by James Thompson, and Ragdale Old Hall and church by A. Hamilton Thompson with notes on the manor of Ragdale by George F. Farnham 1925. Copyright remains with the originators.

The village or settlement of Rakedale, as its original name was thought to be, was supposed by Nichols the Leicestershire historian, to have take its name from a remarkable break or *Rake*, which forms a very deep dale, beginning about a quarter of a mile above the village, through which it extends itself a considerable distance, till it diminishes to so small a breadth as only to allow the passage of a little brook, which runs to Hoby and meets the river Wreake. Ragdale as it is now known, together with Brooksby, is part of Hoby and Rotherby Parish Council. It is about 8 miles north of Leicester near six hills on the A46.

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Robert de Buci possessed the manor of Ragendale (Ragdale) under whom 6 carucates (c.700 acres) were held by a certain Hugh. In King Edward the Confessor's time 6 ploughs were there. In demesne, there is one plough and 4 Sachmen have another. There were 30 acres of meadow. It was worth 16 pence. The same Hugh held 2 carucates of land in Wilges, a former hamlet of Ragdale and usually referred to as Willowes, which is the term used in this book. Willowes became depopulated several hundred years ago. It was judged to be waste, but had a value of 12 pence.

Nichols, the Leicestershire Antiquarian states, without authority it seems, that William the Conqueror gave Ragdale to Hugh, Earl of Chester. However, what is certain is that the Bassets' of Drayton were in possession of Ragdale in the 12th century, based on the "Assize Roll 1193, 46/7 Henry III, 1262". See "Notes on the manor of Ragdale" by George F. Farnham c.1925, for a detailed account.

Ralph, Lord Bassett of Drayton, was the proprietor of the manor, in the reign of Richard II when he died in 1389 without issue. In his will he entailed Ragdale and the adjacent Lordship known as Willows or Willowes upon his nephew Sir Hugh Shirley, Knight, the son of his sister Isabella, who had married Sir Thomas Shirley. This was on the condition that he assumed the name and arms of Bassett. This Sir Hugh Shirley declined to do so, possibly considering his own lineage superior, and a protracted legal dispute ensued. Following over thirty years in litigation, the dispute was finally settled in 1423 by King Henry VI, when the feoffees (in feudal law, a person to whom grant of freehold property is made) of Ralph, Lord Basset released the manor to Sir Ralph Shirley, Knight, Sir Ralph Shirley (son of Sir Hugh) was born on St. Georges day April 23rd 1392, and was only aged 11 at the time of his father's death - Please see the earlier feature entitled "**A Synopsis of the Further Development and Ownership of the Staunton Harold Estate**" for the continuation of this line of the

Shirleys' at Staunton Harold through marriage to the de Stauntons'.

In *Stemmata Shirleiana*, E. P. Shirley 1873, the following is recorded.....*A year or two before his death in 1633, Sir Henry Shirley appears to have been occupied re-building the mansion house of Rakedale or Ragdale. From the frequent repetition of arms on this curious old house (which still existed in 1873) nearly as Sir Henry had left it, the taste of the antiquary Sir Thomas Shirley may perhaps be traced. The old hall of Rakedale, built mainly of brick, with portions of the more ancient wood and plaster work intermixed, abuts upon an unfrequented road; the principle front, facing the south, overlooks the little village below. Amongst the writing recorded in the schedule of evidences, written in 1652, is, "1629 a bargain for the making of 100,000 of brick by Garland of Ragdale". Apparently, a carved stone depicting the arms of Shirley impaling Devereux (a form of heraldic combination or marshalling of two coats of arms side by side in one divided heraldic shield), still remained in a farm-house at Staunton in 1873, and was brought from Ragdale; beneath the shield is the motto, "Stat Sua Cuique Dies" (to each his day his given). Over the entrance to the manor house the "Saracen's Head" still frowns above a large shield, with fifty quarterings, now partly gone to decay. Over the east oriel is again the coat of Shirley impaling Devereux. Within the house and over the parlour chimney-piece are some of the quarterings of Shirley and Devereux, with the initials H.D.S. (Henry & Dorothy Shirley) 1631. The arms of Shirley impaling Devereux are carved in several rooms at the east end of the house; the western part was in some degree modernized, and fitted up as a hunting-seat by Lord Robert Ferrers (7th Earl Ferrers?)*



The 17th century carved stone plaque referred to above, which is set in the wall of the road side long stone and brick building adjacent to the grade II listed Hilltop Farmhouse at Staunton Harold

From this point on, it seems that several generations passed before Staunton reverted to becoming the *main* seat of the Shirley's in Leicestershire (See the earlier feature entitled "A synopsis of the Development & Ownership of the Staunton Harold Estate").

John Throsby, in volume 2 of Leicestershire Views dated 1790, records the following with respect to the manor of Rakedale, however, there does seem to be some confusion between the 6th and 7th Earls Ferrers and in what year this would have been written..... *The Lordship contained about 1500 Acres of old inclosure land in 1790. There were only nine dwellings at that time besides the manor house, which was occupied by two families. The original manor house stood on rising ground near the church as shown in the following engraving. Over the entrance is a large coat of arms, with almost numberless quarterings. In a very large chamber also, are finely emblazoned, a coat of arms carved in wood. His lordship kindly accompanied me through the rooms, and to the church. This has two aisles and two bells. It is small and has been lately repaired beautifully by Earl Ferrers (probably the 7th Earl) at the expense of £400. (The chancel and porch, both embattled, were rebuilt in 1787 with stone, in the Gothic style, by the present Earl Ferrers; who also repaired and new-paved the church, and put up a new pulpit and pews). His lordship has had some arms done on glass by a Birmingham artist, which gives this neat place an air of grandeur. Here are the arms of Shirley, Bassett of Drayton, and Bassett of Ragdale. In the churchyard is an old cross with a shaft of solid stone (we are told elsewhere that this was actually raised on steps and surmounted with a perforated cross which is confirmed in the following 1792 engraving). Near the village on an eminence, his lordship has lately built a neat small dwelling (This was actually built by the 6th Earl c.1785 (died 1787) and is shown in an engraving from Nichols in the previous section in connection with the CHEVALIERE D'EON and referred to as Ragdale Lodge), I call it small compared to his splendid seat at Staunton Harold which he is about to enlarge. It commands a delightful prospect but is at present destitute itself of field or pleasure ground decoration.*

The earliest register in the Parish of Ragdale began in 1685. In the first five years, there were seven babies baptized, and eight people recorded buried there. From 1785 to 1792, 8 babies were baptized and two people buried. Ragdale was a perpetual curacy at the time under the patronage Of Earl Ferrers (7th Earl).

The author has not been able to find out the date that the original manor house was built. However, in the later plan of the old manor drawn by Albert Herbert in 1927, for the Royal Archaeological Institute of Leicester 1955 Summer Meeting, he shows what he believed to be evidence of a central section being the original timber framed manor house dated c.1505. A. Hamilton Thompson tells us that between 1629 and 1631, the house was greatly enlarged.



To the Right Hon.^{ble} ROBERT SHIRLEY,
 this Plate, is with due Respect

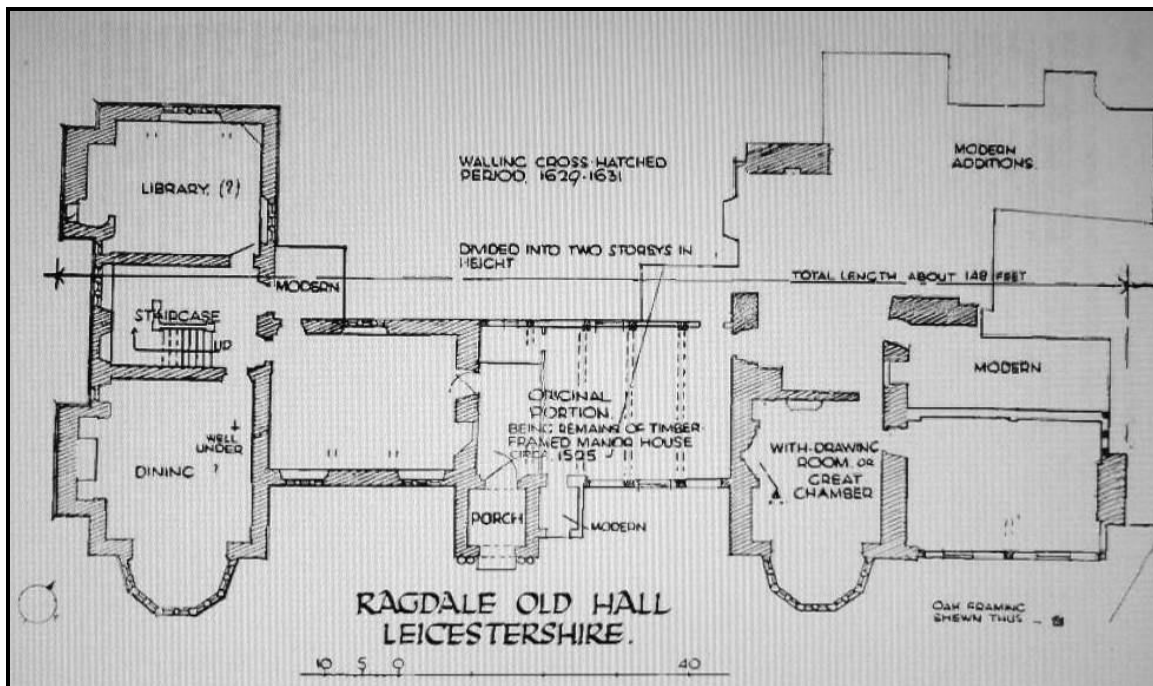


Earl FERRERS, Viscount TAMWORTH, &c. &c.
 and Gratitude inscribed by J. Nichols.

**Engraving of the original Ragdale Hall situated adjacent to the church.
 According to Albert Herbert, and shown in the following plan, the centre portion
 adjacent to the entrance porch is thought to have been the original timber framed
 house dated c.1505 from which the rest expanded outwards.
 The engraving is taken from "John Nichols History and Antiquities of Leicestershire
 Volume 3 Part 1" - c.1800**



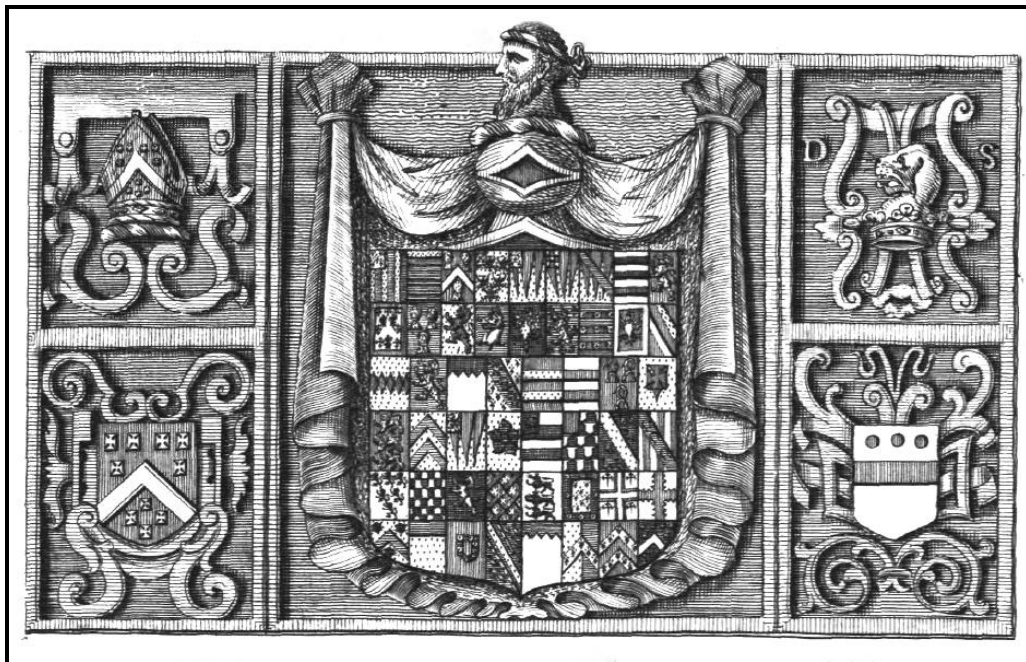
An early 20th century photograph of the south facing front of the house
 Which relates very well to the preceding late 18th century engraving.
 Leicestershire Archaeological Society (copyright is with the originator)



A plan of the hall drawn in 1927 by Albert Herbert, for the Leicester Archaeological Society. At this time, the hall was reported as being in a decrepid state
 Copyright is with the originator.



The entrance to the hall



Stone carving above the entrance to the hall, showing original heraldry as described in preceding text.

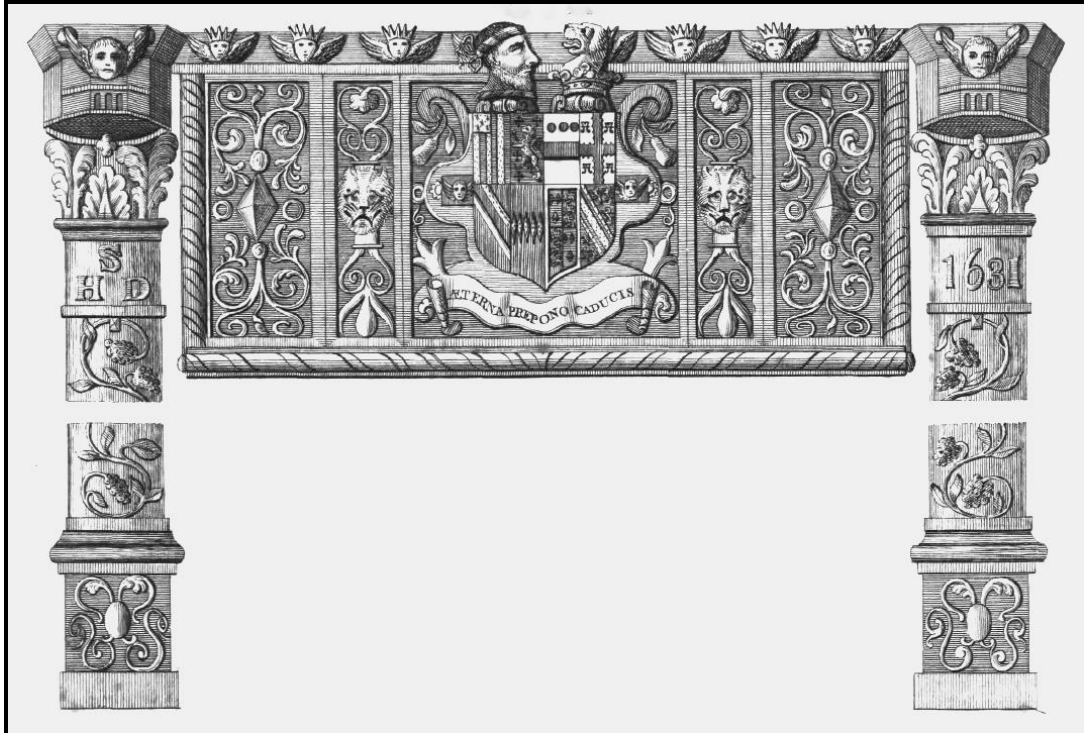
Taken from "John Nichols History and Antiquities of Leicestershire
Volume 3 Part 1" - c.1800



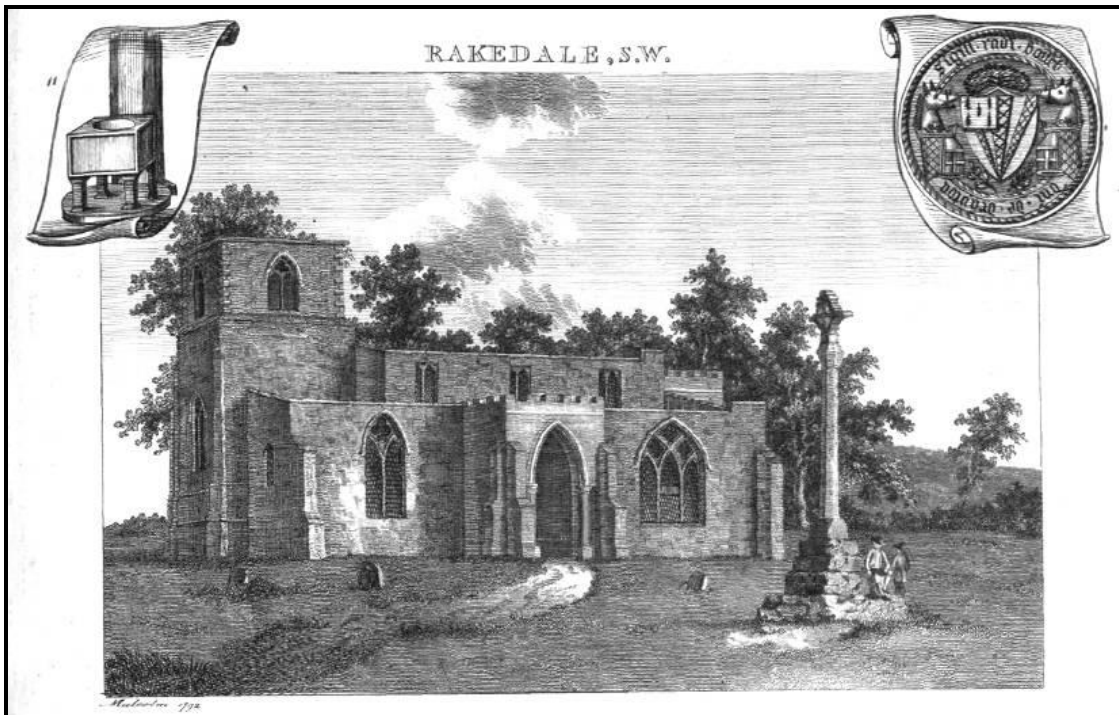
1835 engraving with hall viewed from the north west -
Taken from *Stemmata Shirleiana*



The oak room / parlour early 1900's
Leicestershire Archaeological Society (copyright is with the originator)



Engraving taken from 'John Nichols History and Antiquities of Leicestershire Volume 3 Part 1' c.1800. Note the SHD (Henry & Dorothy Shirley) initials on the left and the date 1631 on the right



1792 engraving of Ragdale Church

The "Lay Subsidy Rolls 133-26 Edward III year 1332", for Rakedale shows the following seven people paying taxes:-

Ralph Basset	4s.	Robert de Barwe	2s. 6d.
Robert le Reve	2s. 6d.	Samson, son of Robert	2s. 6d.
Ralph on le Hull	2s. 6d.	Gilbert le Hunt	2s. 6d.
William son of Henry	2s. 6d.		
Total	19s.		

The tax was principally raised on the value of crops and stock. The 1332 subsidy was the last where there were direct assessments of the goods of individuals.

The "Lay Subsidy Rolls 133-26 "Poll Tax" for year 1377" for Rakedale and Willowes. Rakedale

Ralph Wylliamson	From Agnes his daughter
Robert Rudde	Alice, wife of John
John, son of William	Emma, daughter of same
John Hunte and wife	William Smyth
John Samson	William Oke and wife
John Koc	Ralph, his son
Robert, his son	John Clerk
Thomas, son of Ralph	Roger Carter
Ralph, son of Robert	Ralph Carter and wife
Thomas ate Brigge & wife	John, son of Robert Rudde
Thomas Reve	John Hawley & wife
Total tax	- 7s. 4d.

Willowes / Willoughes

William Freeman and wife	William Clerk & wife
Amice, his daughter	Alice, daughter of Roger
John Bateman & wife	Joan, her daughter
Willam, son of Geoffrey	Robert Wryth
Ralph Wryth	John Schepperd
John Atterones	John Dykun & wife
Ralph, son of Geoffrey	Ralph, son of William
William Draper & his wife	William Reve & wife
Agnes, his daughter	William, son of Henry
Total tax	- 6s.

In 1377, Parliament voted a poll tax of 4 pence from every male and female over the age of 14 irrespective of income. More details on the poll tax are given earlier in the book under the feature -"A Synopsis of the Later Development and Ownership of the Staunton Harold Estate"

The "Lay Subsidy Rolls 133-116 15/16 Henry VIII for the year 1524", for Rakedale, shows the following three people assessed for taxes. It is thought that Willowes had been combined with Ragdale at this time:-

	Assesment	Tax
Hugh Newton	£20	20s.
Robert Grene	£12	6s.
Cristopher Heyn	£4	2s.

"Lay Subsidy Rolls 251-9 18 Charles II year 1666" for "Hearth Tax" at Ragdale:-

Thomas Pagett	1 Hearth	John Branston	1 Hearth
Mrs. Lewes	7 Hearths	John Pagett	1 Hearth
James Holwell	2 Hearths	Francis Cam	1 Hearth
John Brewen	1 Hearth	Thomas Bell	1 Heath

Nichols tells us, that in 1564, there were 8 families in Rakedale, **The only freeholder here in 1630 was, Sir Henry Shirley, (2nd) baronet**; who died 8 Feb. 1633, seised, *inter alia*, of the manor of Staunton Harold, value £20 a year, held of the honour of *Tutbury*, of the manors of Rakedale and Willoughes, each worth £10 a year, held under the honour of *Basset of Weldon*; and of the impropriate rectory of the church of Rakedale, worth 33s 4d a year, held of the king *in capite* by the 100th part of a knight's fee; the manor of Sileby, worth 40s a year, but by what service was unknown, and divers other lands in various counties.

The title of 3rd baronetcy was then inherited by Sir Henry's eldest son Charles, who was then only ten years of age at his father's death, having been born on September 9th 1623. He was placed under the guardianship of his uncle, Robert Devereux. As far as the author can ascertain, Sir Charles did not come into legal possession of these lands until 1641/2, but stands to be corrected on that. Sir Charles died in 1646, and the lands were inherited by Sir Robert Shirley 4th Baronet (Sir Henry's youngest son), who died in the Tower of London in 1656.

Nichols was of the view that Robert Earl Ferrers (**this would have been the 6th Earl**) was then the sole proprietor of lands in this parish, which includes the lordship of Willoughes; and his lordship has lately purchased the land-tax of the parish. The present earl became possessed of this parish and lands in fee in May, 1781, in consequence of a recovery suffered by him and the late Earl (Washington Shirley). The two lordships of Rakedale and Willoughes (comprised in the parish of Rakedale) contain about 1430 acres of land, chiefly grazing; some part of which is of excellent quality. The poorest land is in the Woulds, which contain about 400 acres out of the above quantity.

It is recorded in "The Beauties of England and Wales" 1807, that Sir Robert Shirley, 1st Earl Ferrers, frequently resided at Ragdale Hall and kept his hawks there, in a room which still remains and wherein is the stone trough from which they were fed. Transaction of the "Leicestershire Archaeological & History Society 1870, tell us that towards the end of Charles II reign, the 1st Earl Ferrers built the "largest bow" (a projecting bay window in the

shape of a curve) to the old manor house at Rakedale, near its western extremity (can be seen in the following engraving and photograph), and he made this place his hunting-seat, where he kept the hawks he used in his falconry, the stone trough upon which they were fed being in existence about 1800, when Nichols published his volume of East Goscote Hundred.

Research infers that when the old manor came into use as a hunting seat, the Shirleys gradually abandoned it as a residence. At the LRO, there is a draft lease dated November 2nd 1773 from Washington Earl Ferrers (5th Earl) to William and Henry Henton of Ragdale, graziers of Ragdale Hall - orchard of two acres and closes containing 703 acres-31 perches, tithes etc; timber and mines excepted. For term of three years, yearly rent £376. 4s. Clauses for repairs - tenants to pay window tax, half land tax and parish rates. **To keep greyhound or spaniel for Lord Ferrers etc.**

Nichols (writing in 1799) records that "the old mansion house is at present inhabited by a Mr. Henton, a substantial farmer and Earl Ferrers tenant".

The Shirley Association website comments that "Robert Shirley, 7th Earl Ferrers, 1756-1827 (who had lost his last Countess, the daughter of Mr. Wrightson Mundy in February 1827), was now living in moody retirement at Rakedale Hall". The Earl actually died in Hastings in May 1827, three months after the death of his wife.

THE DUCHESS SFORZA CESARINI

The manor of Ragdale was left by the 7th Earl Ferrers, to his illegitimate Granddaughter Caroline, who later became the Duchess Sforza Cesarini. She gained that title through her marriage to an Italian by the name of Duke de Sforza. There was a stipulation in the will of the late Earl, that Miss Shirley should spend three months of every year on the continent. During a visit to Italy, she was introduced to the young man.

Caroline's mother was a servant girl in Earl Ferrers household, and it is not unreasonable to come to the conclusion, that his son Robert Sewallis Shirley, Lord Tamworth (9 November 1778 - 6 June 1824) was the father. The following obituary states that Caroline was in fact one of several illegitimate children of Robert Sewallis. Caroline Shirley was born in England at around Christmas in 1818. It is known that she was baptized on 29 December that year in the Church of St Mary and St Chad at Brewood in Staffordshire, but the precise date of her birth cannot be established because in those days there was no requirement for the date of birth to be registered. Her father died when Caroline was only five, but her grandfather the 7th Earl, when he died in 1827, left a will in which he made surprisingly generous provision for her.

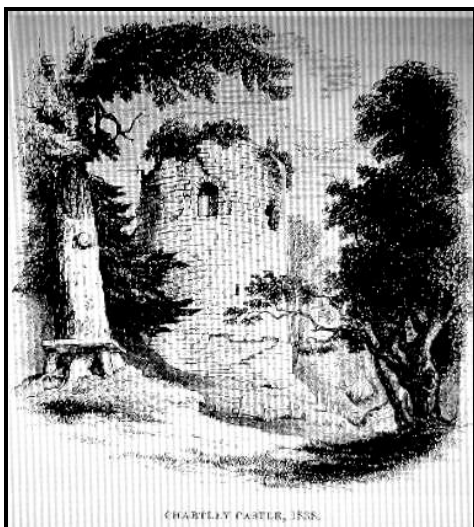
The following is taken from the Shirley Association website, which is a reprint from *VICISSITUDES OF FAMILIES*. Series. by Sir Bernard Burke, LL.D., Ulster King of Arms Published in London by Longman, Green, Longman and Roberts; Paternoster Row, 1863. **The author recommends reading the complete story on the Shirley Association website....." When an occurrence took place that afforded him (the 7th Earl) an**

opportunity of making some atonement for the harshness he had shewn to his lamented son. One morning a woman of plebeian appearance came to the Hall, and at first requested, and then, being refused, demanded an audience of his lordship. She was at last ushered into the study, and she led by the hand a little girl of three years old, for whose support, as the grandchild of the Earl, she supplicantly pleaded for some assistance. While the mother was telling the tale of her troubles, the little one began to play with the stern Earl's shining knee-buckles. He looked down, on the child, and, relaxing and relenting, said, " Ay, you have Tamworth's eyes." This likeness to Lord Tamworth, the little one's innocent prattle, and perhaps some compunctious feelings for his late coldness to his son, made a strong impression on the Earl's heart. He took the child on his knee ; his stern heart was softened, and from that moment he formed the resolution of adopting her. During his life-time she never left him, but became the solace of his declining years. He bestowed great pains on her education, and by his will appointed Mr. Charles Godfrey Mundy, of Burton Hall, her sole guardian, with an allowance of three thousand pounds a-year for her maintenance during minority, and bequeathed her the beautiful manors of Rakedale, Ratcliffe, &c. &c., with a large amount of personal property".

THE CHARTLEY CASTLE ESTATE

The Chartley Castle estate in Staffs, was the seat of the old line of the house of Ferrers, and together with its castle, had been inherited by Sir Robert Shirley through marriage, and continued since that time as the occasional seat of the Shirley, Earls Ferrers family.

The original castle, primarily, of motte and double bailey construction, was altered in the early 13th century to form an enclosure castle. The remains are located north of the village of Stowe-by-Chartley. The castle was abandoned by 1485, and was described by Leland as a ruin in 1545.



Engraving of Chartley Castle 1838



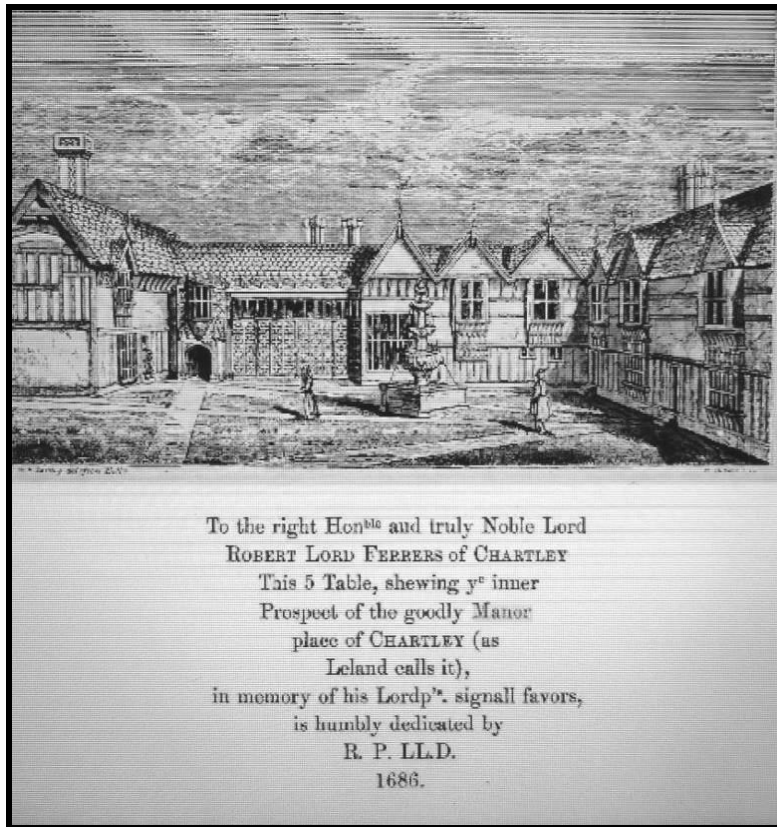
Chartley Castle ruins in recent times

In the Ferrer's papers, there is mention of their ownership of salt workings at Shirleywich on the Chartley Castle Estate, but although this would have provided a steady flow of income during the first half of the 18th century, this would have been on a much smaller scale than their coal mining interests (LRO 26D53).

The following two paragraphs are taken from "A History & Gazetteer and Directory of Staffs, and the County of the City of Lichfield" by William White of Sheffield dated 1834:-

Chartley, a hamlet manor, one mile north of Stowe, is the property of Earl Ferrers, and was formerly the principal seat of his family. On the summit of an artificial hill, stands the remains of Chartley Castle, built in 1220 by Ranulph Blunderville, Earl of Chester, who died without issue. The castle, with extensive estates annexed to it, devolved on one of his sisters, who carried them in marriage to William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby. The fortress seems very soon allowed to fall into decay. Its present remains consist chiefly of fragments of its two massive round towers, partly covered with ivy, and rising amid the foliage of nearly one hundred full grown yew trees, which have weathered the storms of many centuries. The noble owners afterwards built, a little below the old castle, a more convenient mansion, in the half-timbered style, curiously carved and embattled at the top; but this house was destroyed by fire in 1781, so that little now remains to mark its site, but

by the moat which now surrounds it. *See the later description by Pennant twelve months prior to the fire.*



1686 engraving of the house that was destroyed by fire in 1781

Since then, another, but a much smaller house has been raised near the same site, and was till lately the occasional residence of Earl Ferrers, but in 1834, the whole of the furniture was sold by auction, his lordship's main seat being at Staunton Harold in Leicestershire, though he is said to possess about ten thousand acres of land in this and the adjacent parishes of Weston and Colwich. Chartley Park consists of nearly one thousand acres of land, in a state of nature, enclosed within an ancient oak palling, and celebrated for its breed of wild cattle. This park is studded with a few aged trees and several small plantations, and is included in the extra-parochial liberty called Chartley Lodge which comprises about two thousand acres, one half of which forms the Lodge Farm, and the other the park. One of the two sisters and co-heiresses of the last Baron Ferrers, and Viscount Tamworth in 1711, and these dignities have since continued in his family, and are now held by the Right Hon. Washington Shirley, the 8th in succession. Chartley Park apparently was amongst the few places where the indigenous wild cattle of Britain are now to be found, of the pure and un-mixed breeds. These animals are of a white colour with black ears and muzzles, plus white horns tipped with black. Their natural wildness appears at the first approach of man; when the whole heard instantly sets off at full speed to a considerable distance, and then wheels round, at the same time staring with eager curiosity.



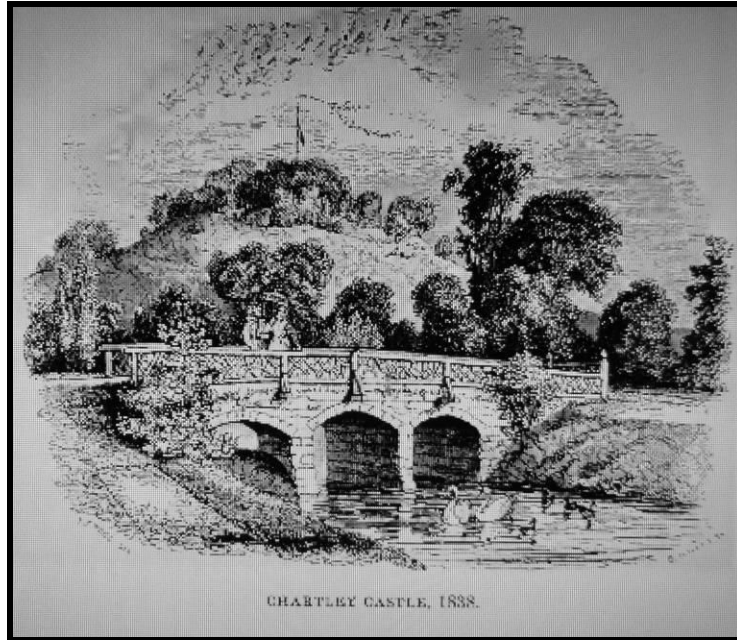
Engraving of wild cattle in Chartley Park 1840

William White wrote in his "History, Gazetteer and Directory of Staffordshire", William dated 1851":-

Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned at Chartley Manor from December, 1585 to September, 1586. There are still preserved a chair cover, and a set of bed curtains, said to have been embroidered by her hands before she was taken to Fotheringhay Castle in Northamptonshire for trial and execution. Soon afterwards, another, but a smaller house, was erected near the same site, but it was also destroyed by fire in 1847, since when it was rebuilt, and the present Elizabethan style mansion is now known as Chartley Castle. The present mansion is a handsome structure, and is splendidly furnished, but Earl Ferrers' principal seat is at Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire, although he owns about 16,000 acres in this neighbourhood. Chartley Park is nearly eight miles in circumference, and comprises about 1000 acres of pasturage, stocked with deer and indigenous wild cattle of Britain.



The above photograph is of the Hall that was re-built in the Elizabethan Style after the fire in c.1847, and subsequently became known as Chartley Castle.



The bridge in this 1838 engraving can be seen to the left in the old moat in the upper photograph. This was the moat that surrounded the house prior to the c.1847 fire.

The following is an extract from **Thomas Pennant's** "Journey from Chester to London" published in 1782. **Thomas Pennant** (1726 - 1798) was a Welsh naturalist, traveller, writer and antiquarian :-

He related that he visited Chartley, the year before the destruction of 'The Goodly Manor Place' by fire in July 1781. I directed my course he states, to Chartley, about four and a half miles distant from Sandon, and about three north from the great road. This venerable pile is built around a court, and a great part of it is curiously made out of wood, embattled at the top, and the sides carved (it was covered with shingles and kept in repair by 'The Shindler', who had regular pages for that purpose). In many places are the arms of the Devereux's, the devices of the Ferrars', and Garnishes, and in Saxon characters the initials of the founder, W.D. (Walter Devereux) with motto 'Loial suis je' over the door is carved a head in profile with a crown above (this appears to have been the Saracen's Head, the crest of the Shirley's. The gateway which stood on the bridge over the moat, was taken down by Washington 8th Earl Ferrers).

In the middle of the court stands a fountain, and the whole building is surrounded by a moat (see the preceding 1686 engraving). In several of the windows is painted glass. In the great Bow Window of the hall are the horse shoes, the ancient device of the Ferrars'; in others, the arms of of the family of the Devereux's, Garnishes and Shirley's. A bed is still preserved here, the work of Mary Stewart (Queen of Scots), who was for sometime imprisoned in the house (from Christmas Eve 1585 to September 1586); besides this, there are no vesticles of its former grandeur. Within and without is a mortifying appearance of neglect and approaching decay. It seems that all the ancient Ferrers and Devereux writings down to the marriage of Lady Dorothy Devereux with Sir Henry Shirley were destroyed.

Pennant's reference to the "horse-shoes" in the great Bow Window of the hall is interesting, in that it is well known that horse-shoes are a symbol of the Ferrers, and appear in many places where the Ferrers have had a connection, including a proliferation at Staunton Harold, and in the family coat of arms. John Fox in his book entitled "Staunton Harold" donates a feature to the Ferrer's horse-shoes, and the author rather likes the fanciful reason given for the horse shoe connection. This was related by Katherine Everett who visited the Staunton Harold estate as a little girl in 1890:-

"She was told that the horse shoes, which she first noticed on the footman's uniform there, were "in memory of the escape of Mary Queen of Scots from Chartley Castle, when she rode away on a horse shod with horse-shoes mounted on three stilts to disguise the manner of her going"

STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER - OCTOBER 23RD 1847

DESTRUCTION BY FIRE OF CHARTLEY HALL,
THE SEAT OF EARL FERRERS

(Washington Sewallis Shirley, 9th Earl Ferrers)

We regret to state that to the many seats of the nobility and gentry of England, which have accidentally been destroyed by fire within the last few years, must now be added Chartley Hall, the Staffordshire residence of Earl Ferrers. The lamentable disaster occurred in the night of Monday last, and it must be considered a providential circumstance that the Earl and Countess Ferrers, with most of the domestics, were absent at the time - the family having been spending some months at the ancient mansion at Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire. Chartley Hall had been left in the care of Mr. Leadbetter, the butler, who, with a female domestic, and Stanley, a groom, were the sole occupants of the house when the accident occurred. They had retired to rest on Monday night, leaving everything as apparently safe as usual. About half-past one o'clock, Leadbetter and Stanley were disturbed by a crackling noise, which they attributed to the attempts of thieves to break into the house; and under that supposition they proceeded to load a gun and pistol. Having taken that precaution, they went into the kitchen, and from thence towards the drawing room, on opening the door of which a dense volume of smoke issued from within, extinguished their light and drove them back. The fearful truth was thus revealed that the house was on fire. The butler immediately dispatched Stanley to Stafford, for the fire engines; and caused an alarm to be raised in the neighbourhood, which soon brought a great number of persons to the spot. The discovery had, however, been made too late to save any portion of the best rooms of the house, or of the valuable contents. The drawing room, dining room, and library, on the ground floor, with the bed-rooms and a museum, or armoury, in the upper story, were inaccessible from the first; and so rapidly did the flames spread that when Stanley, on his way to Stafford, reached the top of Weston Hill, which he did in less than a quarter of an hour, he looked back, and saw the flames issuing from all the principle windows. Stanley reached Stafford in 20 minutes from the time of his departure from Chartley, although it is seven miles distant. He immediately gave notice to Mr. J. K. Shaw, the agent of the Norwich Union Fire Office, who without a moments delay, rose, and dispatched the fire-engine belonging to the Birmingham District Fire Office, which is in the

care of Mr. Thomas Till, and which drawn by four horses, reached Chartley Hall before three o'clock. Superintendent Bresnan and Inspector Wollaston, with eight policeman, also proceeded from Stafford without loss of time, and reached Chartley soon after the arrival of the engine. Their presence was exceedingly useful in maintaining order and protecting the property. When the engine reached Chartley, the roof over the principal apartments had fallen in, and the work of destruction in that part of the house was complete. Every effort was then directed to prevent the fire from spreading to the servant's apartments. It was pleasing to notice the cheerful manner in which all parties exerted themselves. The supply being plentiful, a large volume of water was continuously poured upon those parts of the building which were in danger; and thus the further extension of the flames was prevented. Earl Talbot's engine from Ingestre arrived later in the morning. With respect to the extent of the pecuniary loss, it will not be so great as many persons might suppose. The house itself was quite an unpretending building, and it was intended, many years ago, to be superseded by a handsome structure, which, in fact, was built, but, from some cause, was never completely finished, and was ultimately taken down. The house was insured in the County Fire Office for £5000, which will more than cover the loss. The furniture and other contents of the house were insured in the Norwich Union Office for £4050. Although, amongst the articles destroyed there were many books, some paintings of value, jewellery, ancient arms and armour, and other curiosities, yet it is supposed that the insurance will cover that loss likewise. With respect to the origin of the fire, there can be no doubt that it was perfectly accidental. There had been fires in several of the rooms, for the purpose of airing them to the return of the family from Leicestershire; and it is supposed that either some of the flues were foul, or that being an old structure, wood had been built into some of the chimneys, or under a hearth stone; and that the fire had perhaps been smouldering some time before it broke out. However, we understand that no blame is attached to Leadbetter, who has always been remarkable for his care and attention; and much sympathy is felt for him under circumstances so harassing and painful.

INTERESTING NEWSPAPER REPORTS

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - DECEMBER 19TH 1868

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A GAMEKEEPER.

On Saturday, a fatal accident occurred to Henry Phuler, aged 37, head gamekeeper to Earl Ferrers, at Chartley, Nr. Stafford. The deceased and an under keeper were on the boat on the pool in front of Chartley Castle (manor) shooting wild ducks, Both were armed with double-barreled guns, and they had two dogs with them in the boat. The deceased was loading one barrel of his gun, the other already being loaded, when one of the dogs touched the trigger of the loaded barrel, which had been left at full cock, and the gun went off. The charge entered the deceased's face, and came out at the back of his head, carrying away a portion of his skull. Death was of course instantaneous.

EXTRACT FROM TAMWORTH HERALD - AUGUST 20TH 1904

EARL FERRERS' STAFFORDSHIRE ESTATE

The announcement that Earl Ferrers' (*Walter Knight Shirley, 11th Earl Ferrers*) Chartley Estate near Stafford is to be disposed by public auction has created considerable surprise in the Midlands. The estate embraces about 8,000 acres of land, situate in the parishes of Stowe-with-Chartley, Drointon, Hixon, Amerton, and Weston-on-Trent, and consists of a fine residential, agricultural, and sporting domain, with an abundance of shooting and fishing, within the country of the Meynell Hunt.....

TAMWORTH HERALD - SEPTEMBER 24TH 1904

SALE OF CHARTLEY CASTLE

Chartley Castle, Near Stafford, the historic seat of Earl Ferrers, has been sold by auction for £55,000. This included the hall, picturesque castle, ruins, and park of 2,924 acres.

The bidding commenced at £40,000 and by bids of £5,000 the sum of £55,000 was reached, at which figure the lot was knocked down to the trustees of the late Colonel Congreve, formerly Chief Constable of Staffordshire, and father of Colonel Congreve, D.S.O., who distinguished himself at the battle of Colenzo. Colonel Congreve is a native of Stafford, and is a descendant of the poet Congreve.

NOTE

It is recorded in the "History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Staffordshire" by William White in 1841, that the whole of the furniture at Chartley was sold off by auction in 1834. This strangely coincided with the great sale at Staunton Harold. Both of these seats were of course used by Earl Ferrers. One has therefore to ask the question, where did they go to live at this time? No records have been found to suggest where this was. In the following article on the 8th Earl Ferrers the great sale at Staunton Harold is featured.

THE 1787 STAUNTON AND CHARTLEY SEVEN DAY SALES

Robert Shirley, the 6th Earl Ferrers died on 17th April 1787. Below are copies of two advertisements for sales held on the 25th of June 1787 (**two months after his death**). These appeared in the Gazette and New Daily Advertiser dated June 18th 1787 and involved both the Staunton and Chartley Castle, Staffs estates. The 6th Earl was succeeded by his son, another Robert, who was 40 years of age at the time, and he died in 1827.

Family chattels were listed in the Staunton sale, including all the household furniture, a capital collection of pictures, wines and ale etc. All the cattle and animals, plus farm implements were also offered for sale. The Chartley sale was only for cattle, animals, farm implements etc. It seemed very strange that this "clear out" sale at Staunton was taking place within only two months of the 6th Earl's death. However, the answer appears to lie in the fact that the 5th Earl clearly had outstanding debts which were then inherited by the 6th Earl following his brothers unexpected death. The 5th Earl had become involved in numerous projects which must have involved large sums of money at the time, such as the re-building of Chartley Manor which was mostly destroyed by fire in 1781, and furthermore to finance the re-building of Staunton Harold Hall. He also started to develop the "Dimminsdale Lime and Lead Works" c.1786 (for which he had obtained a substantial loan), and re-built his Leicestershire seat Ragdale Hall, Nr. Loughborough in an elevated position above the village c.1785. We can see in the following section, that his debt to the Chevalier d' Eon had not been paid off by the 5th Earl when he died in 1778 and was still not paid off when the 6th Earl suddenly passed away in 1787. There is a reference to this sale in the next section in relation to the 5th Earl's debt.

STAUNTON HAROLD, LEICESTERSHIRE.
By Mr. CHRISTIE,
On the premises, on MONDAY the 25th inst. and Seven following Days (Sunday excepted) beginning each day at eleven o'clock,
ALL the RICH and ELEGANT HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, a CAPITAL COLLECTION of PICTURES by old and modern masters, particularly the ORIGINAL LECTURE on the ORREKY, by that celebrated artist WRIGHT, of DERBY; the DEATH of ADONIS, very capital, by WEST; a capital full-toned FINGER ORGAN, SIDE-BOARD of PLATE, STOCK of WINES and ALE; pines, hot-house and green-house plants; live and dead stock, farming and garden implements, and numerous valuable effects, the property of the late EARL FERRERS, deceased,
At his LORDSHIP's late SEAT at STAUNTON HAROLD, near ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH, in the County of LEICESTER.
N.B. The live stock, farming implements, &c. will comprize the Two LAST DAYS SALE, and consists of about THREE HUNDRED SHEEP and LAMBS; about SEVENTY Cows, heifers, yearling calves, &c.; THIRTY PIGS; THIRTY-FOUR WORKING HORSES, colts and fillies; FOUR WAGGONS, THREE CARTS, ploughs, harrows, and land-rollers; about TWO HUNDRED and FIFTY TONS of HAY, oats and barley in the straw, FORTY QUARTERS of MALT, &c.
The whole to be viewed on Friday the 22^d, and following day.
Catalogues may be then had on the premises; at the White Lion, Nottingham; the Cranes, Leicester; the Bull's Head, Loughborough; the George, Derby; Queen's Head, Ashby de la Zouch; Three Queens, Burton on Trent; and of Mr. Christie, in Pall-mall.

CHARTLEY CASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
By Mr. CHRISTIE,
On the premises, on Friday the 22^d inst. PRECISELY at ELEVEN O'CLOCK,
ALL the LIVE and DEAD FARMING STOCK, and other VALUABLE ARTICLES, late the property of
EARL FERRERS, deceased,
At his LORDSHIP's late Seat at CHARTLEY CASTLE, situate near WOLSELEY BRIDGE, in the COUNTY of STAFFORD;
Consisting of TWENTY-ONE WORKING HORSES, mares, colts, and fillies, TWENTY-EIGHT HEAD of OXEN, cows, heifers, yearling calves, and TWO WAGGONS, hay, oats in the straw, farming implements, &c. &c. &c.
To be viewed two days preceding the sale; catalogues may be then had, on the premises; at the Swan, Litchfield; Star, Stafford; Crown, Rudgeley and Stone; White Hart, Uttoxeter; at Wolseley Bridge; and at Mr. Christie's, in Pall-mall.

WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, 8TH EARL FERRERS (1760-1842)
INCLUDING DETAILS OF THE CLEARANCE SALES AT STAUNTON HAROLD IN 1834
WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE 1834 FURNITURE SALE AT CHARTLEY

Washington Shirley, the 8th Earl Ferrers, inherited the title and family estates in 1827 on the death of his brother, the 7th Earl. Washington was born at Derby on the 13th of November 1760, being the third and youngest son of Robert Shirley, 6th Earl by Catherine his wife. Washington was educated at Westminster School, and he was page to HRH, Princess Amelia, sister of King George III. He was married twice, first in 1781 to Frances, only daughter of the Rev. William Ward, and cousin of Lord Viscount Dudley, and by whom he had issue of one son and two daughters. **It is recorded in the Shirley papers at the LRO, that Washington was the manager of Lord Dudley's collieries in the Dudley, Bilston and Tipton areas of south Staffs from 1798 to 1810 and in Feb.1809 there is correspondance and case for counsel's opinion recorded concerning Lord Dudley's allegations that Washington Shirley had misappropriated funds in connection with his duties as a mine manager.** Washington was married for the second time to Miss Sarah Davey in 1829, who died without issue in 1835.

THE FUNERAL OF MISS JULIA ANNE SHIRLEY (YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF
WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, 8TH EARL FERRERS)

The following was recorded in the Leicester Chronicle dated December 10th 1825:-
On the 3rd December 1825, the remains of Miss Julia Anne Shirley (youngest daughter of the Hon. Washington Shirley, and niece to the Earl Ferrers), who departed this life at her father's house, in Half Moon Street, Piccadilly on Wednesday the 23rd of November, aged 40, arrived at Mr. Wright's, the "White Hart Inn", Ashby de la Zouch, where, after waiting a short time, the procession moved on for internment, in the family vault at Staunton Harold in this County. The procession was as follows:-

TWO MUTES - UNDERTAKERS -TWO MUTES
PLUME OF WHITE FEATHERS
TWO MUTES

CARRIAGE (With Rev. Mr Bagg, curate of Staunton
Harold, Rev. W. McDougall, Re. Mr. Tunnicliff).

MOURNING COACH WITH FOUR HORSES, ORNAMENTED WITH WHITE PLUMES
PALL BEARERS

Mr. Thomas, Mr. Webb, Dr. Cubit, Mr. Orme.

THE HEARSE, WITH SIX HORSES WITH ORNAMENTED PLUMES

MOURNING COACH WITH FOUR HORSES ORNAMENTED WITH WHITE PLUMES
WHEREIN WERE HON. WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, REV. W. SHIRLEY, REV. W. A.
SHIRLEY AND MR. GEORGE. THEN FOLLOWED THE CARRIAGE OF R. W. SHIRLEY,
AND SIX MEN ON HORSE BACK IN MOURNING CLOAKS
SIX MUTES CLOSED THE PROCESSION

DEATH OF THE 2ND COUNTESS FERRERS - LADY SARAH

Staffordshire Advertiser - July 18th 1835

COUNTESS FERRERS - The remains of this Lady passed through Burton-on-Trent, on Thursday night, from Chartley, to be deposited in the family vault at Staunton Harold. The cavalcade consisted of two mutes, hearse drawn by six horses, two mourning coaches and four horses each, and two private carriages, together with upwards of 40 tenants, &c. on horseback. **Her husband, the 8th Earl, died in 1842**

We understand that Robert William Shirley Esq., of Butt House, near Ashby de la Zouch was much affected at the death of his sister that he did not attend.

A RECORD OF WORK BEING CARRIED OUT AT STAUNTON HAROLD DURING THE PERIOD 1828-1830 WHEN JAMES ORME HELD THE LEASE FOR MINING AND FARMING RIGHTS

When the 8th Earl Ferrers inherited the estate in 1827, we saw a second development of formal gardens etc., with the introduction of the pleasure grounds, new drives, an expansion of the walled garden and a new conservatory being built.

A grand conservatory was situated to the south of the house and was described as an extensive and splendid conservatory built on the latest and most approved principle. It was a gothic structure with pinnacles and castellation. It is believed to have been demolished following damage from a severe hail storm. (Taken from parksandgardens.org Record Id: 3069). However, in codicils of his will proved in 1844, Washington Shirley, 8th Earl Ferrers left instructions -'For his conservatory to be pulled down and disposed of' (see later details of the will). Interestingly, to his grandson Washington Sewallis Shirley, 9th Earl Ferrers who succeeded him, he only appears to have left him a full length portrait of himself. In the trial of action brought against his grandson by Mary Elizabeth Smith for breach of promise of marriage, the 9th Earl had suggested buying the conservatory for her for £1,000. We know therefore that the conservatory was still standing in 1846. A synopsis of the trial appears under the following feature on the 9th Earl.

The following undated and uncatologued map held at the LRO, which appears to relate to the following accounts, helps to identify the location of the new coach road, the new lime kiln road and the avenue road to the hall which was thought to be only a rough cart track at this time. The latter is shown running along the bottom of the map which needs to be rotated such that the arrow is pointing north to get the true geographical perspective.

LIST OF ACCOUNTS (LRO 26D53/2495)

Labour for taking away said coal from coach road May 16th to Aug 22nd 1829 - £9 8s. 12d.

Labour for making coach road in park £49 13s. 11d. - Nov 8th 1828 to Jan 10th 1829

Labour for making coach road over Palmer's Field May 28th to Aug 22nd 1829 - £12 1s Od.

Labour for making 'Pleasure Gardens' - Apr 26th to Aug 11th 1828 - £208 15s 10d. plus Oct 28th 1828 to Aug 15th 1829 - £12 15s. 10d. *This refers to what was also described as the Pleasue Ground which was situated to the south and east of the hall. Lawns were laid and specimen trees planted. A yew-edged path crossed a ditch to a low lying area of woodland and shrubs. This ran north before turning along the outside of the south-east wall of the kitchen gardens.*

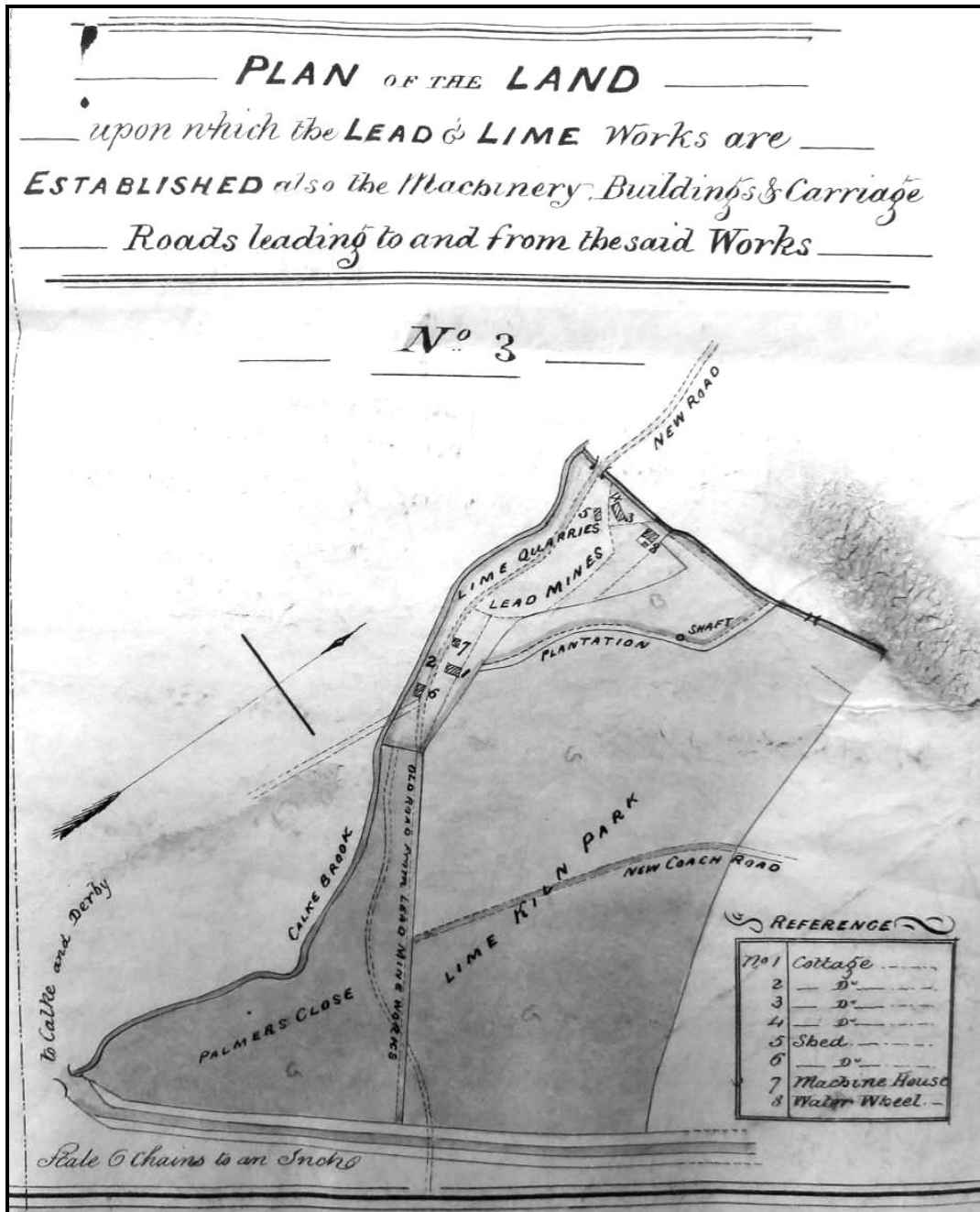
Labour for repairing brook in park May 17th to May 31st 1828 - £4 12s. 0d.

Labour for getting stone for lime kilns May 31st 1828 to May 2nd 1829 - £94 18s. 0d. *(it is assumed that the burnt limestone cobbles from the kilns were crushed and used in the road making)*

Labour for making lime kiln road - Marcgh 14th to June 27th 1829 - £145 12s. 0d. and July 4th to Aug 8th 1828 - £14 13s 0d.

Labour for getting stone for lime kilns Aug 15th to Oct 1829 - £35 17s. 7d. *(it is assumed that the burnt limestone cobbles from the kilns were crushed and used in the road making)*

Labour for making Avenue Road - Sept 6th to Dec 6th 1828 - £51 3s. 8d.



One can only presume that the family had serious financial problems around 1834, and it is worth mentioning that the Beaumonts of Coleorton Hall experienced similar problems in the mid to late 1800's resulting in them selling off the family chattels in a similar manner to that which the 8th Earl appeared to be embarking on. Staunton Harold Hall and its external buildings and farms had been re-furbished / re-stocked over the years since the 1787 clearance sale.

We know from the details which feature earlier in 'The Mirror of Literature, Amusement & Instruction', Vol 27 dated 1836, that Staunton Harold Hall was deserted at this time. The family had clearly moved to Chartley, although this was a much smaller residence, and strangely seemed to be selling off household items at the same time.

In 1826, Staunton Harold Hall was described as a noble but unfinished house in the 'Journal of Paul Pry Jun' during his visit there. Could this suggest that the work started by the 5th Earl never got finished off by the 6th and 7th Earls who had been left with the 5th Earl's debts, which were getting passed down the line? Further evidence that suggests Washington Shirley was experiencing serious financial problems at this time was the sale of the Shirley estates at Sutton Bonnington and the leasing of Ratcliffe Hall.

SUTTON BONNINGTON

The following was reported in the "The London Gazette" in 1833:-

The late Right Hon. Viscount Tamworth's (7th Earl) estates, in the counties of Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Stafford are to be peremptorily sold pursuant to an order of the high court of Chancery. This included the land situate in the parishes of Sutton St. Ann, and Sutton St. Michael, within Sutton Bonnington together with the manor of Sutton St. Ann, and the cottages and fishery belonging to the same - Mr. Orme of Sutton Bonnington will show the estate, which will be sold on Tuesday 22nd day of April 1833 at the Flying Horse Inn, Kegworth.

RATCLIFFE HALL, LEICESTERSHIRE

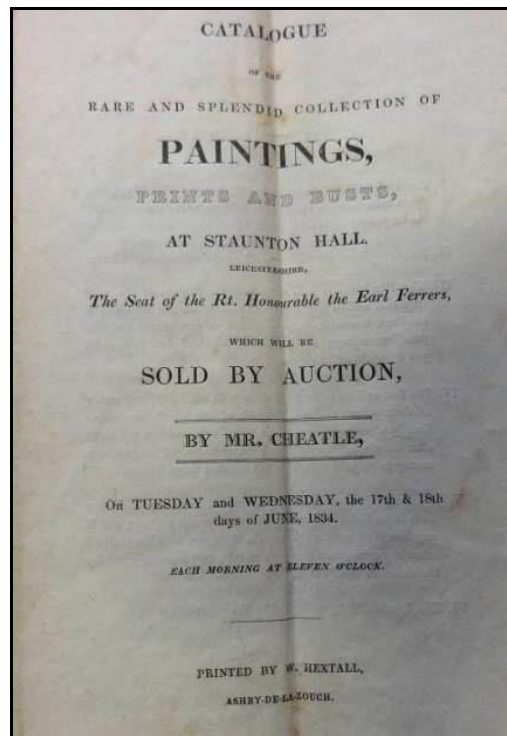
The following was reported in the Leicester Journal on the 11th of March 1831:-

To be Let - All persons willing to take the mansion house, situate at Ratcliffe-Upon-Wreake in Leicestershire, late the property and residence of Robert Shirley, 7th Earl Ferrers - Put up for Lease.

Washington Shirley was subsequently possessed only of the Staunton and Chartley estates, of any significance, both of which were used as his seat at various times. We know he had a residence at Half Moon Street, Piccadilly in 1825, but how long this was retained is not known.

The first of a series of auctions / sales took place at Staunton Harold, the first being on Monday, March 24th 1834, which was reported in the Leicester Journal and involved the following:- 2 Milch cows, 1 Heifer, 1 Sturk, 10 in lamb ewes, 11 pigs, 3 draught horses, 2 mules, 2 shooting ponies, chestnut cob, pair of dark brown carriage horses, pair of chestnut mares, superior chestnut colt and filly by "Silkworm", neat Stanhope rig with patent axles and lamps, broad and narrow wheeled wagons, carts and sundry farming implements, 100 succession pine plants &c.

TWO DAY SALE OF PAINTINGS ON JUNE 17TH AND 18TH 1834



136 paintings and busts from Staunton Harold Hall were put up for auction in this two day sale and realized a total sales value of £1,372 6s 6d. It is hard to believe that there was any art work left in the hall following this sale.

For example, six portraits from the small drawing room of "The Hampton Court Beauties" by Sir Peter Lely and presented to the family by King Charles II were sold. Paintings were sold from the following rooms in the house - Vestibule, Entrance Hall, Library, Steward Room, Lady Frances Shirley's Room, Lady Ferrer's Boudoir, Great Drawing Room, Staircase, Brown Room, Billiard Room, Small Drawing Room, Breakfast Parlour, Smoking Room, and Justice Room.

Examples of Portraits from the smoking room realized the following prices:-

Portrait of Lady Elizabeth Shirley -	£2. 0s 0d
" " " -	£3. 3s 0d
Portrait of Robert Shirley -	£4. 0s 0d
Portrait of Robert 1 st Earl Ferrers in his robes -	£26. 5s 0d

FIRST DAY'S SALE,

TUESDAY, JUNE 17th.

Vestibule.

- LOT
3-0-0 1 A Sportsman, with a Dog and Gun. *Palamedes.*
7-7-0 2 Cupid removing a thorn from the foot of Venus.
A clever picture.
3 The Woodman. After *Barker.*
A well-known subject, from which a highly popular Print
was published.

Entrance Hall.

- 8-0-0 4 Lord Tamworth and his Groom, with Portraits *Done & L. Tam*
of three celebrated Hunters.
7-17-6 5 Lord Tamworth going out with his Fox Hounds. *Do*
14-14-0 6 Lord Tamworth, with his Huntsman and Pack. *Do*
All Portraits. *Do*
10-10-0 7 Interior of Stable, with three Horses.
The above four fine and interesting Pictures were painted
expressly for Lord Tamworth by *Ferneley*, and must be
of inestimable worth to every lover of the Chase, especi-
ally if connected with the County.
3-3-0 8 Man with a Duck and Woman with a Hen.
An old picture.
4-14-6 9 Fire Arms. A splendid Hall picture.
5-15-0 10 Winter Scene. A pleasing modern picture.
4-0-0 11 Samson and Delilah. *Caravaggio.*
It is much to be lamented that this splendid effort of Italian
art should have been permitted to receive injury. It
may however be restored, and is worthy the protection of
the affluent amateur.
1-15-0 12 Cast of Lord Tamworth.
0-5-0 13 Ditto Mrs. Jolliffe.
5-17-6 14 Cleopatra and Mark Anthony.
A fine old picture of the School of *Rembrandt*, after *Bol.*
2-18-6

4

29-15-0^{LOT} 15 Most perfect and beautiful Italian Landscape, enriched with figures of Venus and Adonis, groups of Cupids, Dogs, &c.

7-15-0 16 Diana and her Nymphs. Pleasing effect of Sun-rise, after *Wilson*.

3-15-0 17 Triumph of Bacchus. An old picture.

4-10-0 18 Choice of Paris. *Albano*.

3-15-0 19 A Spanish Cavalier, his Mistress, and Bacchus. Supposed by *Murillo*.

2-10-0 20 The Emblems of War. *F. Van Kessel*. A curious composition.

Library.

2-5-0 21 Portrait of a Gentleman, in an oval frame. *Hill of Derby*

50-0-0 22 The Last Judgment. *Rubens*. *Matthews - it made 1000 Guineas, which the late Earl refused to accept One Thousand Guineas, which were offered to him as the price of purchase. See Nichols's Leicestershire.*

4-0-0 23 The Madonna. *Italian*.

1-0-0 24 A Head. School of *Rembrandt*.

25-Portrait of Shakspeare.

26 Marble Bust. Mrs. Shirley. *L^d Pan H*

27 — Miss Shirley. *J*

28 — Miss Ann Shirley. *J*

29 — Washington Shirley, Esq. *D*

30 — Lawrence Shirley. *J*

31 — The Hon. Mr. Shirley. *J*

Steward's Room.

1-12-6 32 Landscape and Figures. Style of *Berghem*.

0 5-0 33 Venus and Adonis.

0 5-0 34 Crayon Sketch of Earl Ferrers.

Lady Frances Shirley's Room.

1-12-0 35 Still Life. *F. Aug. Brecht*.

5

1-1-0^{LOT} 36 Small oval profile Portrait of Lord Tamworth.

1-15-0^{LOT} 37 Beautiful drawing of a Lady, framed & glazed. *L^d Pan H*

Lady Ferrers's Bondoir.

2-10-0 38 The Iron Forge, by *Earlom*, after *Wright* of Derby. Fine proof, framed and glazed.

1-10-0 39 The Air Pump, by *Earlom*, after *Wright* of Derby. Fine proof, framed and glazed.

2-0-0 40 The Orrery, by *Earlom*, after *Wright* of Derby. Fine proof, framed and glazed.

3-5-0 41 Death of the Earl of Chatham, framed & glazed. The large Print published at Ten Guineas, after a painting by *Copley*.

0-8-0 42 Portrait of the Duke of Sussex, framed & glazed

5-10-0 43 Portrait in Crayons of Lady Elizabeth Shirley, framed and glazed. Very fine. *L^d Pan H*

5-15-0 44 Portrait of Lady Ann Shirley when young, by an unknown Artist, in a richly carved frame. Very fine. *J*

5-5-0 45 Portrait of Robert, sixth Earl Ferrers. A fine Painting in oil. *Place of Leicesters*

1-1-0 46 Portrait of Robert, Viscount Tamworth, nephew to the present Earl. *Caroline Shirley*

1-5-0 47 Portrait of Duke of Devonshire, framed & glazed.

Great Drawing Room.

12-0-0 48 Portrait of the Hon. Lawrence Shirley. *Vaander Vaart*. *L^d Pan H*

7-10-0 49 — Lady Shirley. *Place ditto*.

9-10-0 50 — Lady Elizabeth Shirley, do. *Place ditto*

9-16-0 51 Portrait of Lady Ferrers, wife of Washington, second Earl. *Vaander Vaart*. *Matthews*

21-0-0 52 Portrait of Charles II. in his robes, presented by that Monarch to Earl Ferrers. *Sir P. Lely*.

6

8-0-0^{LOT} 53 Portrait of Bertie, Earl of Lindsay. *C. Jansen*.

13-10-0 54 — Earl Ferrers, in armour. *Sir P. Lely*. *L^d Pan H*

13-13-0 55 — a Lady representing Diana. ditto. *Ridley*

12-10-0 56 — a Lady leaning on her hand. ditto. *James*

10-10-0 57 — a Gentleman seated. ditto.

10-10-0 58 — a Lady with her arms a-kimbo. ditto.

15-15-0 59 — a Lady with a wreath of flowers. do. *Matthews*

13-13-0 60 — a Lady. ditto.

19-19-0 61 — a Gentleman in a rich dress and worked ruffles. ditto.

10-10-0 62 — Maria D'Este, wife of James, Duke of York, afterwards James II. ditto.

13-13-0 63 — the Duke of York, afterwards James II. in armour, holding a truncheon. ditto.

10-10-0 64 — William III., holding a truncheon. *Sir Godfrey Kneller*.

10-10-0 65 — Queen Mary, in a blue satin dress and ermine robe, companion to the last. *Sir Godfrey Kneller*.

4-15-0 66 Cattle-Piece. Very fine.

5-7-0 67 Portrait of James Cotton. *Bowley of Stowell*

4-10-0 68 — Mrs. Cotton, wife of the above. *J*

6-0-0 69 — the Daughter of Robert, first Earl Ferrers. *Vaander Vaart*.

70 Portraits of the first Earl and Countess Ferrers, and their Family. *Vaander Vaart*. *Sir Godfrey Kneller*. A most magnificent Family Picture, the master-piece of this renowned Painter, in a very superb carved Oak frame.

5-0-0 71 Portrait of Sir Robert Shirley, in his Persian Dress. *Vaander Vaart*. *L^d Pan H*

72 Venus and Cupids. A large and splendid Picture of a recumbent Venus, surrounded by numerous Cupids, described in Nichols's Leicestershire, and attributed to *Corregio*.

SECOND DAY'S SALE,
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 186.

Statrass.

73 Landscape, containing Family Portraits. *L^d Pan H*

74 The Larder. *Snyders*. A very magnificent Picture painted with the vigour and decision of touch so remarkable in the works of this great Master. A peculiar clearness and brilliancy of colour, connected with great truth to nature, render this performance a chef d'œuvre of the Artist.

75 Battle-Piece. *Wycke*. A very fine and spirited performance, which has been attributed to *Wouvermans*.

76 Battle-Piece. *Wycke*. Companion to the preceding.

77 Christ Blessing Little Children. *Le Sour*. A very grand Picture, admirably treated, and in the best style of this esteemed Master of the French School.

78 Cattle-Piece. *Moucheron*.

79 Romantic Landscape. ditto.

80 Roman Ruins. Very fine. *Marco Ricci*.

81 Susannah and the Elders. *Boucher*.

82 Battle-Piece. Very beautiful. *Salvator Rosa*.

Brown Room.

83 A circular Picture of Birds, &c. *Hondikoeter*. Painted with great spirit and effect.

Billiard Room.

84 Landscape, with Figures. Damaged, but a speculative Picture.

85 Portrait of Lawrence, Earl Ferrers.

8		9	
LOT		LOT	
86	Portrait of Earl Ferrers.	109	Portrait of Sir Robert de Shirley, in an oval. <i>Vandyke.</i>
87	Portrait. <i>Amesbury</i>	110	Portrait of a Lady. <i>Weyman & Shalby</i>
88	Portrait of a Lady.	111	Landscape,—effect of a Storm. After <i>Poussin.</i>
89	— a Gentleman on horseback.	112	Portrait of a Lady. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>
90	— Charles II., in his robes. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i> Small whole-length, presented by that Monarch to Robert, Earl Ferrers.	113	Portrait of a Lady. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>
91	Rabbit Warren.	Breakfast Parlour.	
92	A Lady, holding a cup and cover.	114	Portrait of Robert, first Earl Ferrers, in his robes. <i>105</i>
93	Portrait of a young Lady.	115	— Elizabeth Washington, first Countess Ferrers. <i>105</i>
94	A Magdalena.	116	Landscape, with Ruins and Figures. A grand subject. <i>Mouchevan.</i>
95	Portrait of Admiral Thomas Shirley.	117	Fruit, Flowers, and Still Life, with a Cupid the size of life. <i>Jean Baptiste Monnoyer.</i> Rich and beautiful. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>
96	— Lady Elizabeth Ferrers. <i>1755 Am. Gallery</i>	118	Flowers and Fruit. ditto.
97	— Washington, Earl Ferrers. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>	The above two Pictures are splendid examples of the power of Baptiste as a Painter, and fully justify the high rank he filled, and the great reputation he acquired in the French Academy.	
98	Landscape. A very curious and interesting Picture of the family Estate at Staunton Harold, exhibiting its original condition and appearance previously to the improvements made by Earl Ferrers.	119	Portrait of Lady Barbara Shirley.
99	Sacrifice to Ceres.	120	— Lady Elizabeth Shirley. <i>105</i>
100	Portrait of a Gentleman, with a Dog on his desk	121	A Marshy Pond, filled with Ducks and other fowls, in great consternation at the approach of Dogs. <i>Hondikoeter.</i> The whole painted with great vigour and truth.
101	A Man Drinking from a large Glass. Fine effect.	Smoking Room.	
Small Drawing Room.		122	Portrait of Lady Elizabeth Shirley. <i>105</i>
102	Portrait of Sir Peter Lely, painted by himself. A well-known Picture, the chef d'oeuvre of the talented Painter. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>	123	— Lady Shirley. <i>105</i>
103	Portrait. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>	124	— Earl Ferrers. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>
104	Portrait. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>		
105	Portrait. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>		
106	Portrait. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>		
107	Portrait. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>		
108	Portrait. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i> Six Portraits of the Hampton Court Beauties, presented to the Family by Charles II. <i>Sir Peter Lely.</i>		

10	
LOT	
125	Portrait of James II., in armour, with scarf and truncheon. <i>Sir Peter Lely.</i>
126	Decollation of John the Baptist. Full of subject.
127	Portrait of Earl Ferrers, in his robes. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i>
128	— a Venetian Nobleman, in a black robe. Style of <i>Sebastian del Piombo.</i>
129	Portrait of a Lady.
130	A magnificent Marble Bust of Viscount Tamworth. <i>Nollekens.</i>
131	Plaster Cast from the original Bust of Viscount Tamworth.
132	Plaster Cast of Mrs. Jolliffe.
Justice Room.	
133	Twelve Saints and Angels, on pannel, with circular tops to suit the compartments of the wainscoting. <i>W. D. C. p. No. 100</i> May be sold together or separate.
134	Ducks, Snipes, and Spaniel. An interesting picture.
135	Ditto ditto
136	Birds and Fish. Finely painted.

THE ELEVEN DAY HOUSEHOLD AND GENERAL ESTATE SALE -
MONDAY 23RD OF JUNE AND THE FOLLOWING TEN DAYS

CATALOGUE
OF
THE CURIOUS ANTIQUE, AND SPLENDID MODERN
HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE,
PLATED ARTICLES, LINEN,
Glass, China, Dinner and Dessert Services,
GRAND PIANO FORTE,
(BY LEWIS.)
WINES,
CARRIAGES, HARNESS, SADDLES, BRIDLES,
DOUBLE AND SINGLE BARREL GUNS, PISTOLS,
AND NUMEROUS OTHER EFFECTS,
AT STAUNTON HALL,
LEICESTERSHIRE,
THE SEAT OF THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL FERRERS,
TO BE
SOLD BY AUCTION,
BY MR. CHEATLE,
ON THE PREMISES,
On MONDAY, the 23rd Day of JUNE, 1834,
AND TEN FOLLOWING DAYS,
(SUNDAY EXCEPTED).
EACH MORNING AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK, PRECISELY.
May be viewed Eight Days previous to the Sale, by Ticket only, to be had of
the Auctioneer, Ashby-de-la-Zouch.
PRINTED BY W. HEXTALL,
ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.
Price One Shilling.

A total of 1585 Lots (mostly in multiples) were listed in the eleven day sale and below is a list of most of the rooms included in the catalogues

Saddle House	Vestibule
Coach House	Dining Room
Gardeners Room	Drawing Room
Unfinished part	Library
Coal yard	Billiard Room
Brewhouse Yard	Closet, Next the Salon
Bakehouse & Room Above	Lord Ferrer's Dressing Room
Brewhouse & Cellars	Lady Ferrer's Bedroom
Wash House	Boudoir
Shoe House	Saloon
Servant's Hall	Bedroom No.1. East Front
Laundry	State Bedroom
Housemaid's Room	Bedroom No.7. South Front
Dairy	Bedroom No.8. South Front
Housekeeper's store Room	Plated Articles
Closet Facing Office	Wines etc
Offices Nos. 1 & 2	
Housekeeper's Room	
Stewards Room	
Passage	
Cooking kitchen	
Butler's pantry	
Smoking Room	
Water Closet	
Justice Room	
Tailor's Room	
Footmen's Room	
Bedrooms No.2,3,4,5,6,9,10,11,12	
Coachman's Room	
Store Room (adjoining Coachman's Room)	
Lady's Maid's Room	
Water Closet Passage (Library Front)	
Bedroom No. 1. South Front	
Green Damask Bedroom	
Water Closet & Passage	
Cut Velvet Bedroom	
Bedroom No.4. Far East of Evidence Room	
Bedroom No.2. Adjoining Cut Velvet Room	
End Room, West Front	
Bedroom No.2. Adjoining End Room	
Passage	
Bedroom No.3. Beyond The Passage	
Linen	
Grand Entrance Hall	

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF THE 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH DAY'S SALE ITEMS
TAKEN FROM A COPY OF THE SALES CATALOGUE

<p style="text-align: center;">NINTH DAY'S SALE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 2nd.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BILLIARD ROOM.</p> <p>LOT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Polished steel Stove 2 Steel Fender and tin ditto 3 Full-sized mahogany Billiard Table, 12 ft. 6 in. by 6 ft. 6 in., with queues, maces, balls and markers 4 Oak dressing Chest of Drawers 5 Seven mahogany Chairs, hair seats and backs, moreen covers 6 Mahogany Sofa, on castors, hair stuffed 7 Two Window Blinds, rollers and racks 8 Antique Stand 9 Pair of Bell Pulls 10 Wood Dial 11 Fire Irons. <p style="text-align: center;">CLOSET, next the Saloon.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12 Slipper Bath 13 Flower Stand with six Baskets 14 Two ditto with one basket each. <p style="text-align: center;">LORD FERRERS' DRESSING ROOM.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15 Beautiful mahogany tent Bedstead, chintz Furniture, lined with blue 16 Hair Mattress 17 Feather Bed, Bolster, and two Pillows 18 Three Blankets 19 Marseilles Quilt 	<p style="text-align: center;">45</p> <p>LOT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20 Window Curtain with half-fringe to match the bed, black pole, ornaments and pins 21 Three pieces of Carpet 22 Hearth Rug 23 Fender, brass mounted 24 Set of Fire Irons 25 Thermometer and Dial 26 Taper Stand and Chimney Ornaments 27 Handsome Chimney Glass in gilt frame, 35 in. by 20 28 Neat japanned Coal Urn 29 Mahogany pillar-and-claw Table, and cover 30 Ditto Writing Table 31 Three painted Chairs 32 Mahogany Chair, blue cover 33 Painted Dressing Table 34 Ditto Chamber Table with pot cupboard and Service, complete 35 Mahogany Chamber Horse 36 Ditto Bidet and pan 37 Ditto Night Commode 38 Ditto Dressing Glass with three drawers 39 Neat ditto Wardrobe, with brass-wire doors and moreen curtains 40 Footpan and slide 41 Wig Block 42 Two Blinds, rollers and racks 43 Bath Stove Grate. <p style="text-align: center;">LADY FERRERS' BED ROOM.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 44 Handsome and lofty carved mahogany four-post Bedstead, grey moreen Furniture festooned, with fringe and painted cornice 45 Paillasse 46 Hair Mattress 47 Three Blankets 48 Prime goose-feather Bed, Bolster and two down Pillows.
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<p style="text-align: center;">46</p> <p>LOT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 49 Marseilles Quilt 50 Window Curtains to match the bed, 5 yards long and 5 breadths each, with painted cornice and brass pins 51 Beautiful mahogany gothic Wardrobe 52 Mahogany Night Commode with pot cupboard 53 Ditto Bidet and pan 54 Ditto cane Bedsteps and Night Commode 55 Pair of mahogany Fire Screens 56 Japanned Coal Box 57 Large wire Fender, brass mounted 58 Set of Fire Brasses 59 Six neat fancy Chairs and two hair Cushions 60 Washhand Table with Service, complete 61 Dressing Table to match 62 Footpan and slides 63 Lady's French Dressing Chair 64 Handsome Dressing Glass with drawers 65 Splendid cheval Dressing Glass in rich carved mahogany frame, 45 inches by 26 66 Mahogany Cap Stand 67 Lady's Cabinet, beautifully inlaid 68 Neat mahogany fancy Table 69 Bed-round and two pieces of Carpet 70 Carpet, 5 yards by 4 71 Hearth Rug 72 Very handsome Chandelier, glass droppers 73 Pair of china Candlesticks 74 China Night Lamp 75 Transparent Lamp 76 Bell Pull 77 Window Blind, roller and racks 78 Bath Stove Grate. <p style="text-align: center;">BOUDOIR.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 79 Mahogany pillar-and-claw Table on castors, with beautiful cover 	<p style="text-align: center;">47</p> <p>LOT</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 80 Superb mahogany Bedstead with footboard, French polished, splendid chintz drapery lined blue and festooned, rosettes, ball fringe with cornice, brass ornaments and rings 81 Paillasse 82 Sea-weed Mattress 83 Prime goose-feather Bed, Bolster and two Pillows 84 Three Witney Blankets 85 Marseilles Quilt 86 Bed-round Carpet 87 Carpet, 4 yards by 3 88 Hearth Rug 89 Neat brass Fender 90 Set of Fire Irons 91 Copper Tea Kettle 92 Japanned Coal Box 93 Antique Indian Cabinet, beautifully inlaid 94 Dressing Table with muslin toilette and extra cover 95 Very handsome Dressing Glass, marble bottom 96 Moreen Window Curtain with painted cornice (companion to Lot 50 in the room adjoining) 97 Muslin Window Curtain with rich border 98 Mahogany Chamber Horse 99 Neat Washhand Table, with green and white footpans and Service, complete 100 Pair of china Candlesticks 101 Ditto Flower Pots 102 Handsome Timepiece, bronze stand 103 Footstool 104 Splendid cheval Dressing Glass, mahogany frame on castors, 45 inches by 24 105 Six fancy Chairs, cane seats, hair cushions, chintz covers 106 Bronze Inkstand, Letter Scales, and Candlestick 107 Bell Pull 108 Sundries.
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TENTH DAY'S SALE,

THURSDAY, JULY 3rd.

SALOON.

- LOT
 1 Splendid and rich figured Carpet, 25 feet by 21
 2 Pair of very handsome rosewood Card Tables, pillar-and-block
 3 Very handsome rosewood Loo Table, on pillar and triangular block
 4 Ditto ditto Occasional Table, on castors
 5 Six beautiful French elbow Chairs, white and gold, hair seats and backs, figured crimson satin covers, and check cases
 6 Six ditto ditto
 7 Pair of Sofas, to match the chairs; two down Pillows to each
 8 Elegant Chiffonnière with plate-glass panels (very costly)
 9 Ditto ditto
 10 Mahogany Pembroke Table
 11 Hearth Rug
 12 Fender, brass mounted
 13 Set of Fire Irons
 14 Elegant double-fronted polished steel Stove
 15 Two pair of muslin Window Curtains, 5 yards long, 8 breadths each, with brass rods and arms
 16 Pair of Bell Pulls
 17 Antique Timepiece.

BED ROOM, No. 1, (East Front).

- 18 Splendid mahogany four-post Bedstead with footboard, French polished, brass ornaments, cornice and rings, brown moreen Furniture, blue fringe

49

- LOT
 19 Paillasse
 20 Wool Mattress
 21 Prime goose-coat feather Bed, Bolster and two down Pillows
 22 Three Witney Blankets
 23 Marseilles Quilt
 24 Bed-round Carpet
 25 Brussels Carpet, 5 yards by 4
 26 Hearth Rug
 27 Six fancy Chairs, hair seats, and two elbow to match
 28 Pair of Window Curtains with painted cornice, to match the bed, eight breadths, 5 yards each
 29 Pair of spring Window Blinds, rollers and racks
 30 Mahogany Bidet
 31 Ditto Night Commode with pot cupboard
 32 Painted Washhand Table with Service, complete
 33 Dressing Table, with muslin toilette lined with blue
 34 Beautiful circular Dressing Glass, carved mahog. stand
 35 Splendid mahogany wing Wardrobe, French polished
 36 Superb cheval Dressing Glass, beautiful carved mahogany frame
 37 Polished steel Stove
 38 Fender
 39 Fire Irons
 40 Mahogany pillar-and-claw Table.

STATE BED ROOM.

- 41 Lofty mahogany four-post Bedstead, carved pillars, chintz Furniture lined throughout and festooned, fringe, and ornamental cornice
 42 Paillasse
 43 Hair Mattress
 44 Prime goose-coat feather Bed, Bolster and two Pillows
 45 Three Witney Blankets
 46 Neat Counterpane

6

50

- LOT
 47 Pair of Window Curtains, with cornice to match the bed
 48 Ditto Window Blinds, rollers and racks
 49 Bed-round Carpet
 50 Brussels Carpet, 8 yards by 4½
 51 Hearth Rug
 52 Mahogany Wardrobe
 53 Neat sweep-fronted mahog. Dressing Chest of Drawers
 54 Neat mahogany Dressing Glass
 55 Mahogany Washhand Stand, Basin and Ewer
 56 Gentleman's mahogany Dressing Stand, with Glass, Basin and Ewer
 57 Five bamboo Chairs
 58 Four mahogany Chairs, hair seats and backs, loose covers
 59 Neat Bed Steps
 60 Mahogany Bidet, with japanned pan and brass tap
 61 Set of Fire Irons
 62 Steel Fender
 63 Stove Grate, 35 inches
 64 Beautiful mahogany portable Water Closet, nearly new.

BED ROOM, No. 7, (South Front).

- 65 Tent Bedstead, blue striped Furniture
 66 Wool Mattress
 67 Feather Bed, Bolster and Pillow
 68 Pair of Blankets
 69 Ditto
 70 Deal painted Washhand Stand with Service
 71 Deal Table with two Drawers
 72 Ditto painted Dressing Chest of Drawers
 73 Six neat bamboo Chairs
 74 Two pieces of bedside Carpet
 75 Mahogany Sofa, on castors, with cushions and cover
 76 Six neat mahogany Chairs, hair seats, brass bands
 77 Two elbow ditto, to match
 78 Neat mahogany sweep-fronted Chest of Drawers

51

- LOT
 79 Dressing Glass
 80 Mahogany Pembroke Table on castors, with cover
 81 Ditto portable Desk
 82 Lady's ebony Jewel Case with six drawers
 83 Bath Stove Grate
 84 Brass Fender
 85 Set of Fire Brasses
 86 Deal painted Washhand Table, two drawers, with china Basin, Ewer, Soap Dish, and Candlestick
 87 Three Window Blinds, rollers and racks
 88 Mahogany Night Recess
 89 Lady's rosewood Netting Box, ivory inlaid.

No. 8.

- 90 Neat tent Bedstead, striped Furniture
 91 Wool Mattress
 92 Feather Bed, Bolster and Pillow
 93 Pair of Blankets
 94 Deal painted Washhand Stand with Service
 95 Ditto ditto
 96 Fender, brass mounted
 97 Venetian Carpet, 9½ feet by 8½
 98 Inkstand and Work Box
 99 Two pieces of Drugget and two pieces of Carpet
 100 Chamber Horse
 101 Four Chairs, rush seats
 102 Small Dressing Glass
 103 Set of Fire Irons
 104 Ditto
 105 Two Door Mats
 106 Cleaver and Iron Stand
 107 Candlestick and Toastfork
 108 Lamp, Oil Can, and Skewers
 109 Bellows and Frying Pan
 110 Bucket and Tub

- LOT
 111 Bowl, Dustpan, and four Brushes
 112 Eight Spoons and eleven Knives and Forks
 113 Tea Kettle and Cullender
 114 Fish Kettle
 115 Dripping Pan and pair of bed Candlesticks
 116 Iron Fender
 117 Three tin Saucepans
 118 Coffee Pot, Dredger, and Candle Box
 119 Neat Dinner Service, green and white, 60 pieces
 120 White Plates and Dishes
 121 China Tea Set
 122 Tea Service, purple and gold, 25 pieces
 123 Jugs, Basins, &c.
 124 Handsome pair of Chandeliers, glass droppers
 125 Pair of Spell Vases and china Tea Canister
 126 Pair of china Scent Jars, two pair of Bottles, Tea Pot and three Jugs
 127 Rich gilt Flower Basket, Wafer Tray, and two Baskets
 128 Nine china Ornaments
 129 Eight pieces of China, pair of Scent Bottles, and pair of rosewood Spell Vases
 130 Pair of cut Quart Decanters
 131 Ditto Water Bottles
 132 Pair of Salts and Cake Dish
 133 Five Wine Glasses and three Goblets
 134 Two pair of plated Decanter Stands
 135 Plated Fruit Basket
 136 Ditto pair of Vegetable Dishes and covers
 137 Ditto ditto
 138 Sharpe's Peerage, 2 vols
 139 Inchbald's British Theatre, 25 vols, neatly bound
 140 ——— Modern Theatre, 17 vols. ditto
 141 Handel's Vocal Works, 4 vols. arranged by Dr. Clarke
 142 Prayer Book
 143 Prints, various
 144 Sundries.

ELEVENTH DAY'S SALE,
 FRIDAY, JULY 4th.

PLATED ARTICLES.

- LOT
 1 Pair of Decanter Stands
 2 Ditto
 3 Ditto
 4 Set of four Castors and stand
 5 Pair of large Candlesticks
 6 Ditto
 7 Pair of bed ditto with snuffers, &c.
 8 Ditto
 9 Ditto
 10 Ditto
 11 Snuffers and Tray
 12 Two Toast Racks
 13 Tea Pot
 14 Coffee Pot
 15 Dozen Table Spoons
 16 Ditto ditto
 17 Ditto Dessert ditto
 18 Eighteen four-prong Forks
 19 Pair of branch Candlesticks
 20 Ditto ditto
 21 Bread Basket
 22 Tea Urn
 23 Pair of Soup Tureens and covers
 24 Double dozen Dessert Knives and Forks, ivory hafts
 25 Twenty-three ditto
 26 Pair of Ice Knives
 27 Eight Skewers and case

- LOT
 28 Pair of Waiters
 29 Pair of small Candlesticks
 30 Six four-prong Forks
 31 Pair of Snuffers and Tray
 32 Ditto
 33 Pair of bed Candlesticks
 34 Ditto
 35 Ditto
 36 Ditto
 37 Very handsome Tea Urn, embossed edges, nearly new
 38 Pair of Snuffers and Tray
 39 Ditto
 40 Ditto
 41 Pair of Ice Pails
 42 Large Dish Cover
 43 Ditto Tray with embossed edges
 44 Pair of Sauce Boats with covers
 45 Ditto
 46 Ditto
 47 Set of Liqueur Castors, richly cut, and stand
 48 Castor Stand, and seven rich cut glasses
 49 Sauce Castor Stand and four glasses
 50 Four Egg Cups, gilt inside, and stand
 51 Coffee Biggin
 52 Ditto
 53 Tea Pot
 54 Sugar Basin and Cream Jug, gilt inside
 55 Mustard Pot, blue glass inside
 56 Two Toast Racks
 57 Inkstand, two glasses
 58 Pair of Skewers
 59 Centre Piece, richly embossed
 60 Castors and stand
 61 Pair of Salts and two stands
 62 Salad Bowl

- LOT
 63 Two embossed Waiters
 64 Pair of plain ditto
 65 Pair of card table Candlesticks
 66 Ditto ditto
 67 Ditto richly embossed Candlesticks
 68 Two pair of paper Decanter Stands with silver edges.

WINES, &c.

- 69 Sixteen bottles brown Sherry
 70 Twenty-seven bottles old red Hermitage, ten years in bottle
 71 Forty dozen Perry, in lots, five years in bottle
 72 Three bottles Malmsey
 73 Eleven ditto old Madeira
 74 Twenty-one bottles old pale Sherry
 75 Six pint ditto Bacellas
 76 Twenty-five ditto Orange
 77 Twenty-five ditto Red Currant
 78 One dozen Gooseberry
 79 Four ditto Lachryma Christi
 80 Four ditto ditto
 81 Four ditto ditto
 82 Four ditto ditto
 83 Four ditto ditto
 84 Eleven bottles fine old Champagne
 85 Two dozen very old Claret
 86 Sixteen bottles Sauterne
 87 Three dozen Sherry
 88 Three ditto ditto
 89 Three ditto ditto
 90 Three ditto ditto
 91 Three ditto ditto
 92 Two dozen old Port
 93 Two ditto ditto

**OBITUARY OF WASHINGTON SHIRLEY, 8TH EARL FERRERS
(1760-1842)
DETAILS TAKEN FROM 'THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE' VOL 173**

The late Earl was afflicted about eight years ago by repeated paralytic and apoplectic affections, by which he totally lost the use of his right side, and his speech was greatly affected, he retained, however, his intellect and memory to the last; the immediate cause of his decease was a violent attack of erysipelas, terminating in mortification. A kinder-hearted and more benevolent man than the late Lord Ferrers never existed, and though from his great age, and numerous infirmities, he had lived retired from the world for several years, he had died greatly lamented by his family and numerous tenantry, by whom he was ever respected as a kind and benevolent landlord.

The remains of his lordship were privately removed on Monday, October 10th, from his residence at Chartley to Staunton Harold, in Leicestershire, the principle seat and burial place of the Shirley family. The funeral arrived at midnight at Staunton, and the coffin rested until the internment in the great library there; the funeral procession was formed at 12 o' clock on Tuesday October 11th, in the great hall, and consisted of a body of the lordship's tenants. Numerous relatives and dignitaries were in attendance, far too numerous to list here. At the conclusion of the service, the coffin was lowered into the vault beneath the chancel of the beautiful church of Staunton Harold, founded by Robert Shirley during the great rebellion, and wherein, now lie the remains of about forty of his descendants.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - FEBRUARY 9TH 1844

THE WILL OF EARL FERRERS - The will and three codicils of the Right Hon. Washington Earl Ferrers and Viscount Tamworth, has recently been proved. In his will he appoints Mr. W. Mathews sole executor; but in a codicil revokes that appointment, and names his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex (since dead) and Mr. P. S. Shirley executors, to whom he bequeaths £100 each, to purchase a ring; to his grandson he gives £500; to another a full length portrait of himself; and directs his executors to offer his library to his grandsons at a fair valuation, and, in case they should not become purchasers, to sell the same by auction. His conservatory is to be pulled down and disposed of in the same manner. To his late wife's sister, £100; to his adopted child, Eliza Davy, £1,000; to two of his servants, legacies of £200, free of legacy duty. The property is sworn under £30,000.

From the effect of a paralytic stroke the deceased was unable to sign his will, and made his mark instead; but he appears to have recovered from the effects, for the codicils are signed "Ferrers" in a firm bold hand. - From the Observer.

The Mr. W. Mathews mentioned in the above will as sole executor, was the Ashby architect, William Mathews, who had in 1833, taken out a 21 year lease on the Earls Ferrers Lime and Lead works at Dimminsdale and coal mining at Heath End.

The author has decided to include the following for its historical value at a time when Staunton Harold Hall was unoccupied in 1836, the reasons for which are described in the feature entitled "Washington Shirley, 8th Earl Ferrers (1760-1842)" The following is taken from an article written by a correspondent for 'The Mirror of Literature, Amusement & Instruction', Vol 27 published in 1836:-

The present mansion stands on the site of the ancient edifice, pulled down in the reign of George III, about 1772 (over simplification !!!) Of the old building, very little mention is made by topographers. Mackay, in his tour through England, in the reign of George I., calls Staunton "a noble seat, as being a little town, and the gardens plentifully adorned with statues", &c. A view of the ancient seat as it was in Charles II, may be found in Les Delices de Grande Bretagne, a series of perspective "prospects" of the houses of the nobility and gentry. The building itself was plain, and the north and west sides flanked by towers, presenting nothing of a picturesque appearance. But if the house was plain, the gardens, (in accordance with the taste of the age), were beautiful. A series of terraces, laid out in parterres, led by slight descents from the house to the water before it. In addition to the ornamental shape of the flower-beds, the gardens were further enriched by several fountains and very many statues, presenting altogether a picture of formal and expensive taste, only to be found around the mansions of those rich old days, all vestiges of which have now nearly passed away.

When the house was pulled down for the erection of the present building, the gate of the old hall was left standing. Its beauty and elaborate workmanship acted as a charmed safeguard from the hands of the destroyer, and it was preserved as an ornament to the grounds. As a specimen of the taste displayed by our ancestors in this peculiar walk of design at the time of its erection, it is, perhaps, the most beautiful in England; at least, I have never seen its parallel. The gates are formed of light ornamental iron-work, and the supporting pillars, animals &c., of stone. The workmanship is most elaborately finished, yet solidity and grandeur are not lost of sight; while the wreathed pillars (which bring in Raphael's cartoon, and the beautiful gate of the Jewish temple), give a lightness and grace to the whole, at once strikingly picturesque. The Stag and Talbot, each bearing a shield of the family arms, complete the design and mark its identity. Standing as it does, a monument of by-gone grandeur in the grounds of the now deserted mansion, its light and elegant form "coming out" in bold relief from the dark trees behind it, it can never fail in delighting the spectator, viewed only as a work of art; while on the antiquary it will have a double claim, in the pleasure he would feel at its being thus preserved from destruction.

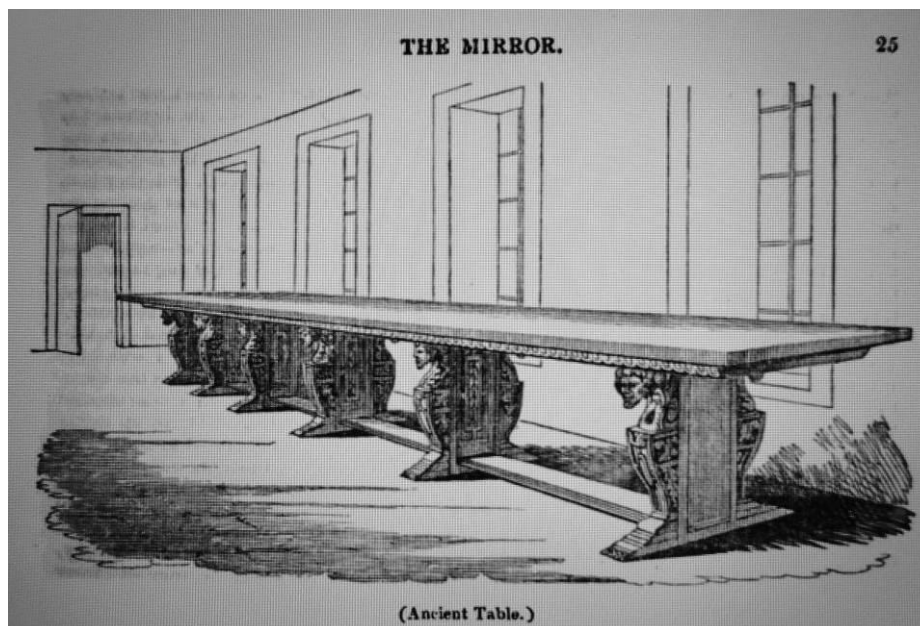
The present mansion was built by Washington, fifth earl Ferrers, the plan being entirely his own; he died in 1778, when it was nearly completed. It is a large substantial building of brick, finished with stone. Its south-eastern or principal front is ornamented with stone pilasters and Doric columns, in the centre surrounded by a pediment. The side facing the south-west is embellished with statues, representing strength and beauty; and, in the centre, placed on the parapet of the house, is an immense lion of stone. The library front, at the north-east, was originally designed by Indigo Jones, and is mainly preserved in the present structure. There are nearly sixty rooms in the house, all of which are nearly stripped of their furniture. Some part of the old hall is said to be yet standing, and incorporated with the more modern structure. One of the rooms has certainly a very antique appearance; it is wainscoted, and ornamented with carved paneling, above which, and

reaching to the ceiling, a series of arches rise, inclosing half length portraits, in oil, of saints, which are continued round the apartment. This room is reported to have been used as an "oratory". The room is also shown as being that in which the murder was committed; but doubts are reasonably entertained of its identity, as it seems improbable that when the old house was removed, that portion of it which would naturally be the most unpleasant to its inhabitants, should be respected as much as to save from destruction.

Of the many valuable pictures once kept here, not one is now remaining. Among them were the pictures previously mentioned and presented by Charles II; a portrait of Sir Robert Shirley by Vandyck; his Lady by Lely; Dead Game by Weenix; a landscape by Wynants, in his best manner; a large painting of the Crucifixion by Caracci; The Last Judgement, by Rubens, a valuable picture; and others, by Bergbem, Wouvermans, Poussin &c.

Among the works of literature contained in the library is a singularly curious Chinese edition of the works of their celebrated philosopher, Confucius, in sixteen quarto volumes. Here to is preserved a splendid and copious pedigree of the Shirley family, which, when unrolled, reaches half-way down the room, measuring seventy-two feet by eighteen. The letter from Charles II., previously recorded, was taken from the book, and hung up here in a frame, but has now disappeared, together with other curiosities once to be found here. Among them was a very curious old bugle-horn, or elephant's tusk formed like one; on which were some beautiful figures of dogs pursuing stags, and every species of game usually hunted, all equally well executed, and supposed to be by Benvenuto Cellini, the celebrated sculptor. It bore a great resemblance to Ulphus's horn, preserved and shown at the Cathedral, York; but though the subjects are the same, the latter is neither so richly carved, nor so well executed, as the one at Staunton.

In one of the lower rooms, the antique carved oak table, (see the following engraving from the Mirror Vol xxiv), is preserved; though its destruction for firewood has been more than once contemplated.



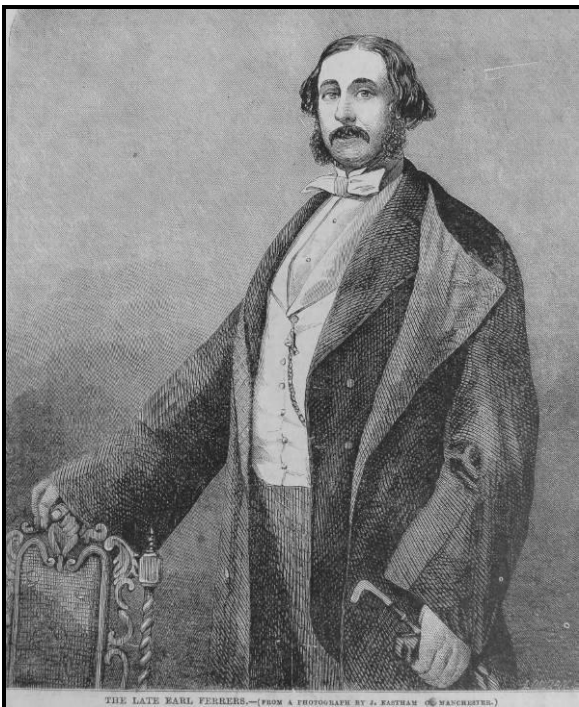
The relic of olden hospitality is of oak and richly carved and ornamented in the taste of the sixteenth century, having been made about the time of Henry VIII. With that quaint whimsicality which is so predominant a feature in antique articles of taste, the table is constructed of as many pieces as there are days in a year, and ornamented with twelve heads as supporters, representing, it is said the twelve apostles, but for my part, I think, they are more probably the representatives of the twelve months, particularly as they are encircled with wreaths of fruits and flowers. The legs are still further enriched with elegant scroll-work, and on the sides of the supporters are richly carved panels, &c., each of a different pattern, exhibiting a series of beautiful designs. An ornamental band runs the whole length of the top, which measures ten yards and a quarter in length by one yard and a half in breadth, the table standing one yard from the floor.

This curious relic of the antiquity was used by the family on festive occasions; and at Christmas - "The Merrie Yule-Tide" - the tenants seated around it, partook of the good cheer of the "good old times"; the hall ringing with the merriment of the light hearted, happy peasantry; mayhap. Laughing at the gibes of the lordship's jester; or at some merry Christmas gambol:-

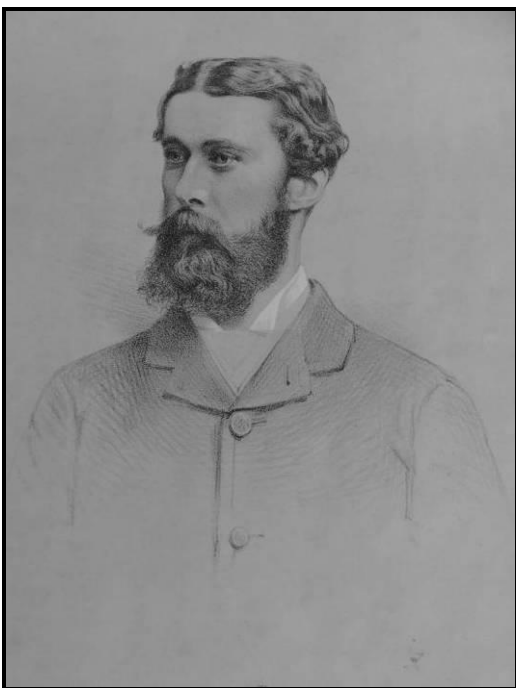
*The huge hall table's oaken face,
Scrubbed till it shone the day to grace,
Bore then upon its massive board,
No mark to part the Squire or Lord,*

But now, the scene is changed - the mansion is deserted, a prey to damp and decay, and the old table stands a forgotten relic in a solitary chamber, unthought of and uncared for.

WASHINGTON SEWALLIS SHIRLEY (1822-1859), 9TH EARL FERRERS



THE LATE EARL FERRERS.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. EASTMAN (© MANCHESTER).)





His Lordship was born at Ednaston, on the 3rd of January 1822. He succeeded to the title and estates on the death of his grandfather, Washington Shirley, 8th Earl Ferrers, in 1842. He married on the 23rd July, 1844, Augusta Annabella, daughter of Lord Edward Chichester, 4th Marquis of Donegall and his wife Amelia Spread Deane Grady.

Earl Ferrers was the only surviving son of Robert William, Viscount Tamworth (who died on the 3rd of February, 1830), by Anne, daughter of Richard Weston Esq. His Lordship was succeeded by his only son, Sewallis Edward, Viscount Tamworth, who was born on the 24th January, 1847. His only other surviving issue was a daughter, Lady Augusta Amelia Shirley who married Sir Archdale Robert Palmer, 4th Bart, of Wanlip Hall.

Lady Augusta Annabella was married for the second time on June 15th 1864 to Capt. Frederick Henry Walsh who was aged 38 at the time, the same age as his wife. He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the 78th Highlanders. She had been 18 years of age when she married the 9th Earl on July 23rd 1844.

BIRTHS AT STAUNTON

In 1847 to the Countess Ferrers a son (became 10th Earl), on Friday the 1st of December 1848 to the Countess a daughter, on the 25th of January 1850 to the Countess a daughter, and on the 17th of July 1853, to the Countess, a son.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - JUNE 10TH 1843

EARLDOM OF FERRERS. - The Lord Chancellor on Thursday week laid upon the table of the House of Lords, by her Majesty's commands, the petition that had been presented to the Queen by the Right Hon. Washington Sewallis Shirley, Earl Ferrers, praying her majesty to order a writ of summons to pass the Great Seal to summon the petitioner to sit in Parliament, and there to enjoy the rank and privilege of his title dignity, and honour; together with the report of the Attorney- General on such petition. They were ordered to be referred to the Committee for Privileges, to consider and report thereon.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - JULY 1ST 1843

THE FERRERS PEERAGE HOUSE OF LORDS - COMMITTEE FOR PRIVILEGES TUESDAY, JUNE 27TH 1843

Sir H. Nicholas appeared on the part of Washington Shirley Ferrers, and stated the circumstances under which the claim was made. The claimant, who was now about 22 years of age, was the grandson of the 8th Earl. The 8th Earl had married the daughter of the Rev. Mr. Ward, and had a son, Robert William Shirley, Viscount Tamworth, who was born in 1783, and married on the 12th of December, 1821, at Brailsford, in the county of Derby, Ann, daughter of Richard Weston. It appeared that he had had an illicit intercourse with this person, and that a female child had been born. This intercourse continued, and Ann Weston again became pregnant. He then determined to make the child legitimate. He accordingly married Ann Weston, at the place already mentioned, and the present claimant was born at Ednaston-Lodge in the parish of Brailsford, on the 3rd of January, 1822. Viscount Tamworth died at Butt House, Ashby de la Zouch, in the County of Leicester, on the 3rd of February, 1830, his father being then alive. The earl himself died on the 2nd of October, 1842, and the present claimant applied in January, 1843, having attained his majority, by petition to the crown for his writ of summons to Parliament. The case was referred to the Attorney-General, who reported that the evidence appeared to him to establish that the claimant was "born at an early hour of the morning of the 3rd of January, 1822, being about three weeks or a month after his parents' marriage, which took place on the 12th of December, 1821; "but as the learned Attorney-General had no means of having the information afforded him verified on oath, and it related to a matter of such dignity and importance as the claim to the peerage, he recommended her Majesty to refer the claimant's petition to the house. That had been done, and the question was then referred to the Committee for Privileges. The learned council said he should establish these facts in a satisfactory manner.

Evidence having been called for this purpose, the Attorney-General repeated what he had already stated in his report to her majesty.

The Lord Chancellor expressed his opinion that the claim had been fully established.

Lord Campbell said that the Attorney-General acted with perfect propriety in the course he had pursued. The case was a perfectly honest case, and was most completely established.

The committee then resolved that the petitioner had made out his title to sit as Earl Ferrers.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JULY 7TH 1843

TRUE SCION OF NOBILITY. - The Earl Ferrers, who succeeded to his title and estates only last Michaelmas, and who, on the 12th of last month attained his majority, generously remitted ten per cent on their respective rentals to his tenantry at Staunton Harold, in this county. The tenantry of his Lordship, in Staffordshire, have also experienced the Earl's munificence in a like degree. We have the greatest pleasure in making this announcement, speaking, as it does, so loudly for the goodness of his Lordship's heart, and for the kind consideration which he has for those who are in a sense dependent on him. The generosity was the more appreciated, as it was wholly unexpected.

For anyone who may wish to read the complete record of the following trial, a 412 page e-book by is available on the internet by William Pickering 1846. The following was a synopsis of events by the Leicester Mercury newspaper. The Earl's relationship with his Chaplain Revd. Edward Francis Arden is quite remarkable.

LEICESTER MERCURY - FEBRUARY 21ST 1846

COURT OF QUEEN'S BENCH

(before Mr. Justice Wightman and a Special Jury)

BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE

Damages Laid at £20,000

Miss. M. E. Smith v. Earl Ferrers

Last Saturday the Court of Queen's Bench was excessively crowded to hear the extraordinary case, which has excited no less interest in Warwickshire, and in some parts of this county (in the latter of which the noble defendant has large possessions) - than it has in the great metropolis.

Besides the amusing incidents of the case, it unhappily affords a lamentable proof of the absence of all sincerity and high moral feelings, in some portions of the so-called fashionable circles.

The Solicitor General, Mr. M. Chambers, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Symons were counsel for the plaintiff; and the Attorney-General, Mr. Crowder, Mr. Humfrey, and Mr. Barstow for the defendant.

The declaration stated that the plaintiff was Miss Mary Eliza Smith, and the defendant was Washington, Earl Ferrers. The action was brought to recover compensation in damages for a breach of promise of marriage, but that since such promise he had married one Isabella Chichester. The defendant had pleaded that he had not promised, and that at the time he made the promise, he was under age. The plaintiff replied that the promise had been renewed after he came of age.

The Solicitor-General, in opening the case to the jury on the part of the plaintiff, said, the young lady, Miss Smith, was at this time twenty-one years of age, but she was only seventeen years old when she first became acquainted with the defendant. Earl Ferrers was a nobleman of a very ancient family, having vast landed possessions in the counties of Leicester and Stafford; he was himself young, having only attained twenty-one early in the year 1843. His grandfather had died in the October, 1842. The father of the present Earl never became a peer, as he died many years before his father, who was the grandfather of the defendant. This young man, before the death of his grandfather, was placed under the care of a gentleman in Warwickshire, and he continued under his care, prosecuting his studies, till 1840, when he went abroad, and remained till 1842. Miss Smith, the young lady who appeared as plaintiff in this case, was the step-daughter of Mr. Smith, who resided at Austrey, in Warwickshire. He was a gentleman of high character and respectability. He had married the mother of the plaintiff. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and the plaintiff resided at Austrey during the whole time the defendant, as Lord Tamworth, and afterwards Earl Ferrers, lived in the neighbourhood. As long ago as 1839, the young lady had attracted the attention of Earl Ferrers. They occasionally spoke to each other, and this kind of occasional conversation continued till the time Earl Ferrers went abroad. Miss Smith was a young lady of great personal attractions, and she engaged the affections of Earl Ferrers, who had

made to her the most unequivocal promises of marriage. - The learned counsel then went on to trace the progress of the "interesting acquaintance", - the efforts from a sense of duty (the plaintiff being in much more humble sphere of life than he defendant), on the part of Miss Smith's parents to check the intimacy, removing her for a time to France, &c. In spite of these precautionary movements, the tender passion grew stronger, and the day of nuptials between the lovers was fixed for May, 1844, but it was afterwards postponed till July or August. Every preparation was made - the dresses were prepared - the bridecake was ordered, and everything was done that is usual on such occasions, and it was only at the end of July that this unhappy young lady was apprized of the fact that the defendant could not marry her, by reading in the newspapers of the marriage of Earl Ferrers to Miss Chichester. - (*married on July 23^d 1844, at St. George's Church, London, to Augusta Annabella, daughter of Lord and Lady Edward Chichester*) - The Solicitor-General then produced and read to the Court a series of love letters from the Earl to the confiding girl, which indicated, - if genuine, and if the defendant then contemplated deserting her - the most heartless selfishness and the grossest hypocrisy that were ever practiced. - Our space will not allow us to select more than one or two letters from this correspondence. The following was addressed to the plaintiff when, though somewhat desponding, she had no great reason to suspect that her professed lover would be unfaithful:-

"Dearest Mary. - Your parcel and last note reached me the day ere yesterday, and though much engaged I write immediately to thank you for them. The handkerchief I shall prize above all other handkerchiefs. Thank you much, dearest. Your note I have read and re-read. I am grieved to hear so ill an account of you - not from your note, for that says nothing, but from my brother, whom I saw, and who told me he had seen you. What is the reason of all this, that you should be so ill? By day and by night it haunts me. I have thought for some time you have not, dearest, been yourself; but when I have asked you you have always most dexterously changed the subject. Now it really distresses me very much, and vexes me too. You are so very reserved, and never tell me anything, though you must know how anxious I am about you. Really I think it unkind, never hardly mentioning in your note your being out of health. Now, do write soon, and tell me if you are better, for I shall be down in the country for perhaps another week or fortnight, unless I come down one day and return the next to see you, but I hope you will shortly be better. Do not work, do not do anything to tire you, but get well. Would it not be well to go to some watering place for a month? I think change of scene would benefit you. What does Taylor say of you? I have foreseen this sometime, and told you how careful you should be. No doubt you have caught cold from not wrapping warmly. Naughty girl! So much as I have said to you about it! Dearest, do take care of yourself. Surely all ought to be right by May; for you know hen you are to be mine, and I shall have to watch over and take care. Then it will - will it not? - be joy and happiness for me to have you quite my own. Dear one and most beloved, remember health is the first consideration. Ah! Take care of your precious self. Evelyn (cousin) is appointed one of the guardians to the young Hastings. You would perhaps see this in the papers. With several other gentlemen I often go to hear the speeches in the house. Really, 'tis a great treat, and what you would like, and your father, too, much, I fancy. When we stay in London after our marriage he must come up; then he will have the pleasure of hearing his friend Robert speak. What a clever fellow he is! Young Lord Clive I was introduced to the other day by cousin. He is thought much of, but I think, though a young man of abilities, he is a thorough army, which means, a gay, fashionable, dashing, gambling

young man; not one whom I could wish to make a friend of. I have had sent to C-----
 (*Chartley* ?) a dozen very pretty chairs and a large swing glass for your special use fair
 ladye, and have ordered furniture for your own room. I am going to Brighton for a day or
 two to see my sister, who is very unwell; then to Eattington, on business, with Mrs. Shirley;
 so it may be some days, or a week or two, ere I see you; at all events, you will hear from me
 soon again, telling you of my movements. Lord Claude Hamilton, a friend of Devereux (I don't
 like the man, a thorough cox comb), called for him at my rooms the other day; but he was
 gone to Brighton; so he went after him. My very good brother knows about twice as many of
 these sprigs of nobility as I do. They all like him. His wit and versatility make him liked, I
 think. The fashions are much the same. The bonnets not. Very pretty plumes are universally
 worn. Went to see the "Bohemian Girl" again. 'Tis very good. See very much of Evelyn. Mrs.
 Shirley comes to town next week. I am to have the honour of escorting her - Mrs. Walker -
 no better - I hate her husband; consequently see nothing of the lady, but I see there has
 been some cause of distrust between the two, and with that there can be no happiness. I
 have been trying to get a beautiful dog for you, but the owner will not part with him - one of
 those Italian greyhounds. Since I have been here my hand has been most painful. You should
 receive some books on Saturday; I have ordered them for you. They will serve to while away
 the time. I shall not tell nyou what they are. You will see. Is there anything, dearest, that
 you would like or wish for? Write instantly and say to me; hen you shall have it. I shall soon
 write again if I do not come. Let no one see this scrawl. And dear Mary, begging you to take
 every care of yourself, and not to fear about anything, nor put yourself about at all; for it is
 all nonsense. I must conclude, as you will be tired of reading what I write; but I must tell
 you that the other day I ordered two beautiful plates to be sent to me - one of Oliver
 Cromwell proroguing Long Parliament, and the other of Mary Queen of Scotts. Also I have
 purchased a beautiful carpet for your room at Chartley, Evelyn stepped in and caught me
 looking at my purchases. He laughed, and asked me what I, a bachelor, should do with those
 fine things; or if they were for presents? I said I should send them to the country - that
 they were for myself. He admired my taste, and remarked the next thing would be a wife he
 supposed. Nothing more was said. A piano must be the next thing thought of; but of that
 more when we meet. Atkins will bring you this. You have nothing to do but to take it - the
 parcel altogether. And now, adieu, dearest love. Please to be cheerful and happy. Order
 Bouley to make you a handsome frame for your work. I have just had a new dressing case
 for my brother, which I shall take him when I go to Brighton. Will you pardon this letter,
 and send the other handkerchief with a note - when finished. Say, is there anything you
 wish for I can get you here? It is thought O' Connell will be punished severely. I am sorry
 for him. Lord Brougham dined with me yesterday, I like him well. He comes here to-morrow.
 Talbot is down; but returns in a day or two. I do not enter much into the amusements of
 London life, nor do I like them particularly; my promised wife will be all on earth to me. I am
 reading much more, as I really as I find myself wanting here amongst all these great men. I
 was surprised to find what a good Italian scholar Evelyn is. He knows the language well
 Adieu, now, dearest. Ever, ever think of me as your truly attached - "Washington Ferrers"

"Remember me to your sister Anne. Adieu"

At the close of another letter he says:-

"Our wedding will be such a quiet one; but we will have a handsome carriage and
 beautiful greys. There is a quotation in your note from your Byron. Ah, dearest, that
 beautiful dream! "She was his life; the ocean to the - of his thoughts, which terminated all".

So thou art my life - the gleam of sunshine in the dark cloud. I the cloud, you the sunshine. God will give thee to me for my bride, my happiness, and we shall walk together on earth, and look to meet also in the land of souls".

After numerous reports had been in circulation that he intended to marry another, he wrote to his "Mary dearest and ever beloved", assuring her these reports were false; that he was still true, and would ever continue so. - Several other epistles were read, to show that the plaintiff was beguiled by their "soft sawder" almost to the very day or hour that the defendant was married to another! - Amongst the witnesses called to identify the Earl's hand-writing was the Rev. Mr. Arden, formerly the "noble" defendant's chaplain, but latterly discarded like Miss Smith, and from him it was elicited, in cross examination, that, though he was now about 37 years of age, and had assumed the clerical office, he and the Earl had been in the habit of disguising themselves after the fashion of the toll gate breakers - by putting night-caps over their whiskers, and handkerchiefs around their hats - and then sallying forth at midnight to have a spree together! - The hand writing having been proved to be the Earl's, and several other witnesses having been called to speak to the courtship of the plaintiff and defendant, the case was resumed on Monday when the court was again densely crowded. Several other witnesses were called for the plaintiff, amongst whom were her mother and father. The witnesses underwent several cross-examinations by the defendant's counsel, whose object was to make it appear that the letters were not only forgeries, but were actually written by the young lady herself, an apparent similarity in the hand writing of the Earl's letters and Miss Smith's having given ground for this suspicion; and the mother acknowledged she had once said she thought this was the case, and that her daughter and Lord Ferrers had tried to imitate each other's hand writing. The case was again adjourned, and occupied Tuesday and Wednesday, the Attorney-General making a most elaborate defense for the Earl, declaring that the charge was a gross conspiracy against his honour and happiness; that the letters said to be his were written by the plaintiff; that she had commenced the acquaintance by writing to his Lordship some most laudatory epistles of her own beauty, under an anonymous signature, in order to excite his curiosity; and that these letters had been admitted by Mrs. Smith to be her daughter's handwriting! - Different members of his Lordship's family were then called on this and the next day to prove that the letters asserted to be his, were not in his handwriting, though it had been exceedingly well imitated, and to show that, on several of the days, he was in very different parts of the country from where they were dated. - The Solicitor-General then said that he, attorney, and plaintiff's family, had been completely taken by surprise, and in the present aspect of the case, he could not proceed with it; and therefore, for the sake of justice and the young lady herself, he would elect to be nonsuited. - his course was sanctioned by the Court, the letters on both sides, however, being ordered to be impounded.

LEICESTER MERCURY - FEBRUARY 28TH 1846

SMITH v. FERRERS - It is said that Miss Smith will immediately commence a fresh action against Earl Ferrers.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JUNE 26TH 1846

"The romantic Miss Smith whose interesting letters to Earl Ferrers created such a sensation a short time ago, has had to pay the sum of £1,563. 6s. as law expenses".

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - JULY 14TH 1848

STAUNTON HAROLD - On Thursday last, Staunton Harold, presented a gay and animated scene. The Earl Ferrers, the noble proprietor, issued invitations for a *Fete Champetre* to the principle gentry of the neighbourhood. Staunton is peculiarly well situated for giving effect to arcadia storts and pastimes, embosomed as it is amid woodclad slopes, diversified with mazy paths, and verdant lawns. The company amused themselves by rambling through the delightful scenery, some exercising their skill at the target, or in rifle shooting; while others boated on the lake. An excellent *dejeuner* was prepared in the great conservatory, under the able direction of Mr. Leadbetter. The day was remarkably fine, and all present appeared highly delighted with the hospitality and urbanity of the noble host and hostess.

LEICESTER MERCURY - JUNE 7TH 1856

On the 29th ult., by the permission of the Right hon. Earl Ferrers, upwards of the 60 workmen employed upon his lordship's estate, partook of an excellent dinner of old English fare in a large room in the hall, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion. A large barrel of ale was placed in the room, with pipes and tobacco; and after the cloth was drawn, his lordship entered and addressed the assembly in a very appropriate speech, hoping they would enjoy themselves. He then proposed the health of the Queen, and left them, again expressing a desire that they would enjoy themselves, which they did till ten o'clock, and then separated in a manner highly creditable to themselves. Numerous flags were flying from the top of the hall. The bells rang, and cannons were fired at intervals throughout the day. On the following day, more than one hundred of the school children, and females employed in the house, partook of an excellent tea, provided by the Countess Ferrers. After tea, the Viscount Tamworth addressed the children, boys and girls, as follows:- "I hope you have had a good tea; now go into the park and enjoy yourselves, and as peace is generally proclaimed, I hope you will celebrate it in a rational manner amongst yourselves". They went into the park, and a variety of sports followed, comprising wheel-barrow racing, bag-racing, and other amusements, for shawls, gown-peices, handkerchiefs, caps, &c. On returning to the hall, they partook of more refreshments. The younger children then went home, highly pleased. Two fiddlers were engaged to contribute to the happiness of those who wished to dance, and great numbers availed themselves of the opportunity. Altogether the arrangements were most satisfactory, and the fetes so generously provided by his lordship will long be remembered by those who had the privilege to be present.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - 31ST DECEMBER 1858

STAUNTON HAROLD - Her majesty had been most graciously pleased to accept of a noble baron of beef, from one of the wild oxon in the park at Chartley Castle, presented by the Right Hon. the Earl Ferrers. Two of his lordship's head gamekeepers had the honour of conveying the present to Windsor Castle.

**GREYHOUND COURSING MEETINGS HELD AT STAUNTON HAROLD
& CHARTLEY BY THE 9TH EARL**

During the time the 9th Earl was resident at Staunton Harold, the 1853 Railway act was passed for the proposed route of the Midland Railway section from Melbourne to Ashby. Although there is a separate section on the railway in Part 13, the map for the proposed route shows a rather interesting feature in the Township of Staunton Harold, namely a "racecourse". It has taken considerable research to find out why this was indicated on the map. This wasn't a horse racing course as first thought, but was actually used for greyhound coursing. At this time, greyhounds apparently chased live hares around a track. This was thought to be the forerunner of greyhound racing as we know it today, where an artificial hare on a wire around the track is used. Several newspaper accounts have been found, and examples are shown below. Clearly the Earl was a great fan of this sport as can be seen from the following meeting, organised three months before he died in 1859. Regular coursing meetings were also being held at Chartley and an 1854 newspaper article reporting racing at Chartley is appended also.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - DECEMBER 3RD 1858

STAUNTON HAROLD OPEN COURSING MEETING through the courtesy of Earl Ferrers, took place on Tuesday last the 30th ult. The day being unfavourable, it was thought it would prevent many from attending, but it proved quite the reverse, for we never saw such numerous company. There was some most splendid running, in fact, we may say, although a postponed meeting, it was in every sense a most successful one. The two dogs left in for the Ferrer's Cup, being bred by the same gentleman (Mr. Bradshaw of Barrow), their nominators, at his request, agreed to divide, although the Benedict party were anxious to run it out for the sake of the cup. Benedict was the favourite at 6 to 4. Mr. Warwick's manner and decisions gave general satisfaction. The Stewards were, Mr. Brunt, Mr. T. earp, and Mr. Wilson; judge, Mr. Warwick; flag steward, Mr. Bancroft; slipper, Mr. Peters; honorary secretary, Mr. T. Davenport.

THE FERRER'S CUP

For sixteen greyhounds at £3 12s. 6d each, the winner to receive £30 with a Silver Cup added, the second dog £10, the third and fourth dogs £3 each.

THE FERRER'S CUP		
Red	Against	White
J.R. Blount blk b MERRY		Earl Ferrer's blue b STELLA
Bancroft's blk d BILLY		J. Holliers blk & w d BENIDICT
Hawkesworth's r b HELEN		J. Smith's blk b p BRIDESMAID
Newham's fwn & w d TOPPER		Earl Ferrer's w & y b CAPSUL
Brunt's blk b BETSY BAKER		J. Smith's blk b p BESS
Davy's w & blk d MOSCOW		Woodward's r & wd WINDSOR
Cockram's Fn d CHESTERFIELD		J. Hollier's FN d ELLINGTON
T. Keetley's blue & w b p FAIRY THE SECOND		Woodward's bkd WETHERGAUGE

HEATS

1

Benedict
Topper
Bess
Fairy the Second

Merry
Helen
Windsor
Ellington

2

Benedict
Fairy the Second

Topper
Bess

3

Benedict and Fairy the Second divided the stakes

THE STAUNTON HAROLD STAKES

For eight puppies at £2 12s 6d each, the winner to receive £12, the second £6.

THE STAUNTON HAROLD STAKES FOR PUPPIES OF 1857

J. Smith's blk b BESSY SANSOME
Earl's blk b FLY
Campbell's fwn b PRINCESS
J. Radford's blk d RAILWAY

Woodward's fn d WIRKSWORTH
Mellor's w & blk b DAISY
Woodward's blue d WELL- I- NEVER
Mellor's w & blk d ALMA

HEATS

1.

Fly
Well - I - Never

Daisy
Railway

2.

Fly beat Well - I - Never, and won the stake

STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER - MARCH 11TH 1854

CHARTLEY OPEN COUSING MEETING (by permission of the Right Hon. The Earl Ferrers) will take place on Tuesday, March 14th 1854.

The **CHARTLEY STAKES** of £1 11s. 6d. each, for eight all aged greyhounds.

The **HIXON STAKES** of £1 1s. each, for eight all aged greyhounds.

One sovereign will be added to each stake by the Right hon. Earl Ferrers, and the necessary reductions will be made to defray expenses. The entry and drawing will take place at the "Ferrer's Arms Inn", Shirleywich, near the Weston Station on the North Stafford Railway, between the hours of five and eight o'clock the evening before. The dogs to be in the slips by ten o'clock a.m. No person will be admitted on the ground but with a field ticket; and no one on horseback except on payment of 2s. 6d., and by consent of the keepers.

A dinner will be provided at the Green Man Inn, Hoxon, at four o'clock, where the coursing also will commence.

Judge, Mr. Bennet. - Slipper, Mr. Wilcox.

THE GRAND BALL AT STAUNTON HAROLD

LEICESTER CHRONICLE – JANUARY 1ST 1859

A fortnight ago, we inserted a brief statement relating to this ball. The court Journal of Saturday has gives the following account, which will doubtless interest many of our readers:-

Shortly after the spirited ball at Derby, of which the Countess Ferrers was patroness, the principal families of Leicestershire and Derbyshire were invited to Staunton Harold for a fancy dress ball, which went off with singular éclat. The gaiety of the evening commenced at nine o'clock, at which early hour many of the invited guests arrived masqued, some in rich fancy dresses, others dressed in somber dominoes, defying recognition; and many amusing scenes resulted from the vain endeavours, throughout the evening, of different parties trying to discover by whom they had been successfully and thoroughly mystified.

One of the most amusing and best dressed characters we observed was Major Lowe, who, proverbially a lady's man, on this occasion assumed the attire of the fair sex, and in that guise, as an excellent waltzer, and with a most fascinating deportment, won as many hearts of sterner stuff as it is his want at other times from that sex whose dominion for a while usurped.

The noble host, Lord Ferrers, appeared in three different costumes during the evening. The first an inimitable fiery suit, as Pluto; the second, as a blacksmith, carrying out the *jeu de mot* of his name "Ferrers"; and third, a magnificent dress of the period of Charles I.

An amusing scene took place between the noble Lord in his second dress (that of a blacksmith), and an admirably dressed country bumpkin speaking the broadest Hampshire dialect, who after some time was discovered to be Colonel Daniell, of Donington Park, who had mystified every one, having appeared in the first part of the evening in an Oriental costume taken at Lucknow, out of the Kaiser Bagh, at its late capture. Our limited space will hardly permit us to give, as we would wish, the names and addresses of all who composed the motley assemblage; but amongst them we noticed the beautiful hostess, Lady Ferrers, as the Morning Star; and her sister Miss Chichester, in a most becoming costume, as if she had just stepped out of Watteau's charming pictures; whilst her brother ably represented, both in costume, and good dancing, the light-hearted Neapolitan Masaniello..

Harmed would have been the painter Lewis to have seen the prototype of a Spanish Maiden, so perfectly attired as Miss Buckley. The accuracy of her sister's costume defied criticism, and the same might be said of Mr. and Mrs. Griesly, whose tabard and sacque made them the most original and carefully dressed characters in the room. Let us not be unmindful of the three misses Walker; the eldest being Queen of the Night. The fairfooted Miss Vavasour, the graceful Lady Beaumont, Miss Mary Holden as a shepherdess, the *espiegle* Miss Pole, the Misses Wilmot, the sparkling Misses Phillips, Mrs Clay as a vendor of pedlar's goods, Mrs Storey, Miss Emily Whyte as Ceres, and Mr. Arbury in a Court-dress worn by his grandfather - all were the subject of raised commendation and remark, and not unnoticed was the beautiful dree of Mrs Daniell as Night, and that of Miss Millet as Aurora. Mr. Mitchell was a gay Contrabandista, and Mr John Story, jun., as a hermit, disguised himself most effectually. At eleven the guests unmasqued, and the magnificent supper-room, was thrown open, and a number of uniforms, hitherto hidden beneath dominoes, added

considerably to the brilliancy of the scene. Amongst the Crimean decorated warriors we observed the gallant defenders of Hougomont, Colonel Gooch, whose Waterloo medal recalled vividly the spirit stirring epoch of *Napoleon le Grand*.

Refreshed by the sumptuous cheer, the invigorated dancers returned to the ball room, and five o'clock struck ere the last lingering guest took his departure from the brilliant fete which had caused so much amusement and pleasure to all present, and will long be remembered as a scene of unalloyed gratification.

Subjoined are the names of some of the principle guests, and we must evoke the good feeling of those accidentally omitted from the list, the difficulty attendant on the arrival of guests in masque precluding, in many instances, recognition, and consequent noting of their names; this must account for any incorrectness in the following list of guests on that festive occasion:- Mr and Mrs Arbury, Sir George and Lady Beaumont, Mr and Mrs and Miss Buckley, Captain Blacket (Coldstream Guards), Dr Bowen (Coldstream Guards), Mr Bathurst, Mr Buller, Mrs, Miss, and Messrs Clay, Captain Croban, Mr and Hon. Mrs Colville, Lord and Lady Edward Chichester, Colonel and Mrs Henry Daniell, Mr Devas, Colonel and Mrs Gooch, Mr and Mrs Griesley, Misses Green, the Countess of Harrington, Lady Geraldine Stanope, Miss Stewart, Mr Haydon, Mr and Mrs and Misses Holden, Captain Lane (Coldstream Guards), Mr Lane, Major Lowe, Mrs and Miss Millet, Mr and Mrs Moore, Mr Chandos Pole, Lady Anna and Mr Sacheveral Pole, Mr and Mrs Pole, Mr Palmer (Rifle Brigade), Mr and Mrs Philips, Mr Ambrose Philips, the Misses Philips, Mr and Mrs Story, Mr John Story, Misses Vavasour, Misses Wilmot, Major Willis, C.B., Mrs and Misses Walker, Miss Whyte, Captain Browne, Sir Wm. Fraser, &c. &c. - Derby Reporter

LEICESTER MERCURY - JANUARY 8TH 1859

On Monday, Earl Ferrers attained his 37th year. The event as usual, was celebrated by the firing of cannon, merry peels from the beautiful chapel, and a free hospitality to all.



**The Shirley's / Ferrers Coat of Arms
"Honour is the Reward of Virtue"**

E . P. Shirley explains in *Stemmata Shirleina* that the earliest example he could find for the association of the "Saracen's Head" included in the Shirley coat of arms, was in a deed bearing the seal of Sir Thomas Shirley, Knight (born c. 1305, d. 1362) in the 31st year of Edward III (1358), where above the coat of Shirley is engraved the Saracen's Head, perhaps assumed from some memory of some encounter with the infidels, which ever since continued to appear in the family crest. This was engraved in Dugdale's Warwickshire.

THE DEATH OF THE 9TH EARL, WASHINGTON SEWALLIS (1822-1859)

LEICESTER MERCURY - MARCH 19TH 1859

DEATH OF THE EARL FERRERS - This nobleman died on Sunday last, at his Leicestershire seat, Staunton Harold, Nr Ashby de la Zouch. The indisposition of the noble Earl came on very suddenly; and it at once assumed a character so alarming, as to cause a hasty dispatch to be sent, summoning to his aid his lordship's medical adviser, Mr. Tasker, of Melbourne. That gentleman speedily arrived, but medical assistance was of no avail, and his lordship shortly afterwards expired. The event must have been peculiarly distressing to the Countess Ferrers, who at the time was confined to her bed by severe illness. Her ladyship was carried down to see his lordship, who expired almost immediately afterwards. *Earl Ferrers died on the 13th of March from congestion of the lungs.*

FUNERAL OF THE LATE EARL FERRERS

On the 22nd inst., the remains of the late Earl were interred in the family vault at Staunton Harold. The mournful procession consisted of:-

TWO MUTES

THE PRINCIPLE TENANTS, TWO AND TWO ABREAST

UNDERTAKERS

Mr. Tasker, Rev. J. D. Letts.

Pall bearers	Paul bearers
Rev. John Greasley	Rev. R. Blockson
Rev. H. Collingham	Rev. Wm. Hides
Rev. W. Hope, A.M.	Rev. Measley

THE BODY

CHIEF MOURNER,

THE YOUTHFUL EARL FERRERS

MOURNERS

Rev. A. Shirley	Lord Edward Chichester
H. H. Trace, Esq.	F. Chichester, Esq.

After the mourners, were the personal friends of the late Earl, two and two abreast; the domestic servants completing the sad *cortege*. The funeral service was most impressively read by his lordship's private chaplain, The Rev. J. D. Letts

Samuel Blackburne had been private Chaplain to the 9th Earl in 1851 and was residing at Staunton Harold with his wife and one servant.

PROGRAMME.

Two Mutes.

Clerk and Sexton.

Tenants,

Two and Two.

MR. TASKER,
Surgeon.

REV. J. D. LETTS,
Private Chaplain.

MR. DAVENPORT, MR. WRIGHT,
Undertakers.

Pall bearers.

REV. W. HOPE.

REV. J. M. GRESLEY.

Rev. Hyde
REV. CROKER.

REV. H. COTTINGHAM.

REV. R. R. P. MEALY.

REV. R. R. BLOXAM.

Pall bearers.

THE COFFIN.

Borne by eight Servants.

Chief Mourner,

W. F. Chichester THE EARL FERRERS. *Lord E. Chichester*

~~MAJOR W. D. SHIRLEY.~~

REV. W. W. SHIRLEY.

~~THE HON. H. H. TRACY.~~

~~COLONEL SHIRLEY.~~

~~MR. F. CHICHESTER.~~

LORD EDWARD CHICHESTER.

Friends.

W. W. ABNEY, ESQ.

THE HON. W. H. TRACY.

E. M. GREEN, ESQ.

in loco Parent
G. F. ABNEY HASTINGS, ESQ.

MR. RALSTON.

G. STEPHENS, ESQ.

The following address has been presented to Lady Ferrers by the Staunton Harold tenantry; the address was presented personally by the Rev. J. D. Letts, Mr. T. Earp, Mr. J. Cheate, Mr. S. Bowles, and Mr. W. Stubbs:—

“To the Right Honorable the Countess Ferrers.

“Madam,—We, the undersigned, the Chaplain and tenantry on the Staunton Harold Estate of the Right Honorable Earl Ferrers, beg leave to approach your ladyship with the most sincere feelings of respect, and to offer to you and your family our heartfelt condolence upon the severe bereavement with which it has pleased Almighty God to afflict you.

“Although most reluctant to intrude upon your ladyship at such a time, we yet cannot deny ourselves the mournful duty of assuring you that the deceased nobleman, so suddenly cut off in the prime of manhood, and who has lived for many years among us, was universally beloved for his kind heart and generous nature, and we feel that we have lost in him a sincere friend, a benevolent patron, and a considerate landlord.

“We will only add that it is our humble prayer to that merciful Being, who never wounds with both hands, but always reserves one wherewith to bind up and heal, that He will sustain you through this dark night of sorrow, and enable you yet to enjoy many years of chastened happiness, and so to train up your children in the way they should go, that when the young Lord enters upon the responsibilities of his exalted position, he may adorn it by his virtues, and perform his duty both to God and man.

“We beg to subscribe ourselves, Madam,

“Yours most respectfully and obediently,

John D. Letts, M.A., Domestic Chaplain
 Daniel Earp
 Thomas Earp
 John Shakespear Bowles
 John Knight
 Thomas Dunicliff
 William Hatton
 William Stubbs
 Joseph Stubbs
 Charles Richards
 James Edwards
 Abraham Mee

Benjamin Mason
 Thomas Mason
 William Baker
 Thomas Stewart
 William Fairbrother
 John Edwards
 George Bacon
 John Morley
 James Cheate
 John Poxon
 James Cheate, jun.
 Joseph Burton
 William Harris.”

Her ladyship’s reply (which we subjoin) was, on account of her illness, read by Lord Edward Chichester.

“To the Tenants of the Staunton Harold estate.

“My kind Friends,—I have read your address with deep emotion, and I thank you from my heart for the warm expression of your sympathy in my sad loss, and for the very feeling manner in which you allude to my lamented husband.

“It was ever his wish, I well know, to make all about him contented and happy, and therefore I can the more readily believe that many others will feel with me in this, my sore bereavement.

“I will only add my regret, that I am still too unwell to see you to-day; but I hope that at no very distant period I may be enabled to thank you all in person for this kind proof of your condolence and attachment.

“Believe me to be very sincerely yours.

“April 7th, 1859.

“A. FERRERS.”

Thomas Stewart who features in the list of tenants in the above was the 3 x Great Grandfather of the author Samuel T Stewart.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - APRIL 15TH 1859

SALE AT STAUNTON HAROLD HALL

MR. CHUBB

Begs to announce that he is honoured with instructions from the executors of the late Right Honourable Earl Ferrers.

TO OFFER BY AUCTION

On Monday and Tuesday, the 25th and 26th days of April, 1859, at the stables and farm premises, Staunton Hall, The Capital Hunters, with the saddles, bridles, Horse clothing etc. The carriage horses, with the carriages and harnesses and the stable requisites

Also, the FARM EFFECTS, comprising a team of capital wagon horses, and the gearing, cart and nag colts, dairy cows, yearlings, and rearing calf, pigs, wagons, carts, ploughs, barrows, and various other effects; catologues of which may be had ten days previous to the sale on application to the Auctioneer, Ashby de la Zouch

EXTRACT FROM THE PERSONAL ESTATE OF THE 9TH EARL
AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH ON MARCH 13TH

March 1859.

Shirley Estate	349	19	11
Staunton Do	1221	11	4
Chartley Do	4661	14	10
" Do	540	~	4
Staunton Do	9	17	2
Chartley Do	104	9	5
Staunton Harold	17	3	7
Stave Cottage Kenilworth	37	10	1
4 Shirley aueans	12	16	4

Thought to be the income from estate rents at
Shirley, Staunton and Chartley

Part 4^o 6 Freehold Estates sold by
the late Earl Ferrers but of which the
Purchase money had not been received
at the date of his death.

Various messuages + 157 acres
Land at Shirley sold Revd
W. Waddington Shirley 10662. 13. 6

Messuages and 92 Acres land at
Shirley sold F. Wright Esq. 7213. 3. 6

Messuage and 115 Acres Land at
Shirley sold Henry Bodenley - 6953. 7. 6

Messuage and 15 Acres Land at
Shirley sold William Gillman 1361. 7. -

Cottages Gardens at Shirley sold
Thomas Sheldon 196. -

26 Acres Land at Shirley sold
John Holland 1635. 5

4 Acres Land at Yeasley sold
John Harrison Esq. 200. -

Messuage + 5 acres Land at
Shirley sold to Joseph Jackson 625. 16

7 Acres Land at Shirley sold
to Joseph Wiberley 660. -

24. Should not the interest be added to these items -

**Sales of various messuages and lands for which payment
had not been received at the time of the Earl's death**

It is thought that when the 9th Earl died in 1859, only the Staunton and Chartley estates were still in the possession of the family, plus various properties. Two months before the Earl's death, a grant of annuity for 99 years was put into place (LRO 25D60/13) for £2,000 p.a. to be paid to the Lady Countess Augusta Annabella, plus her and her husbands children Sewallis Edward Viscount Tamworth and his sister Augusta Amelia. This to be paid from the property in Chartley, Stowe, Fraudswell, Gayton, Weston trent, Hixon, Coldwich, Dronton, Grindley, Gratwich and Chartley Outwood, all in Staffordshire with an annual value (rent) of £10,000. Also in Staunton Harold & Worthington, Leicestershire, with an annual value of £2,400, and in Brailsford, Shirley, Ednaston in Derbyshire with an annual value of £19,000.

SEWALLIS EDWARD SHIRLEY, 10TH EARL FERRERS (1847-1912)



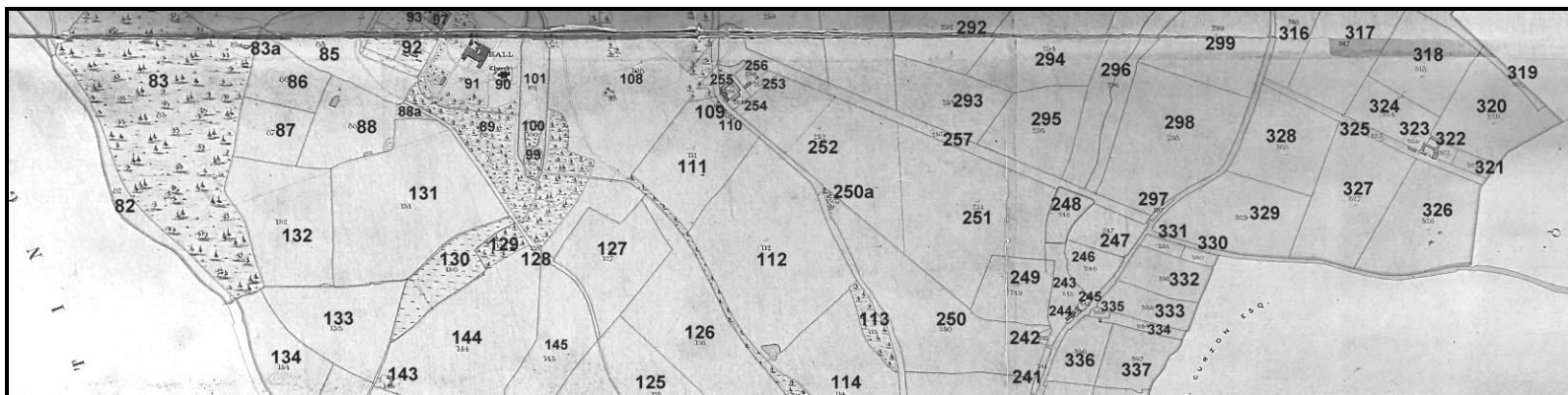
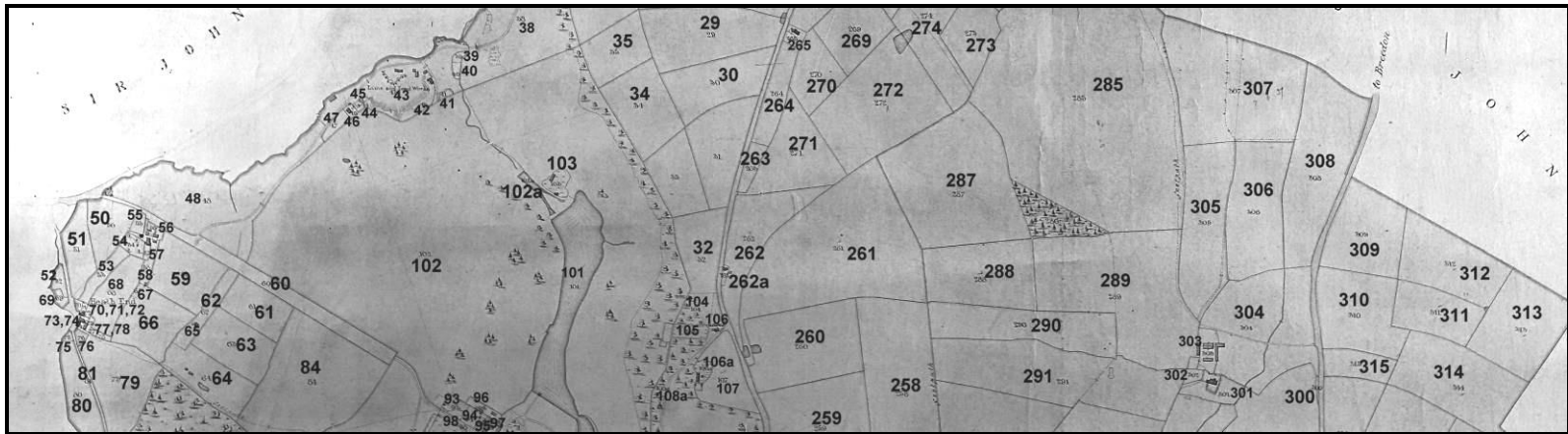
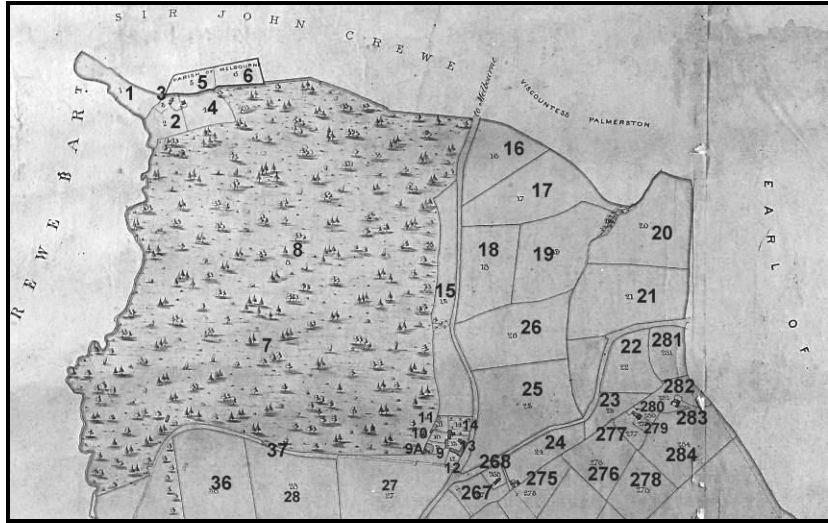
GIRDWOOD'S 1859 STAUNTON HAROLD ESTATE MAP.

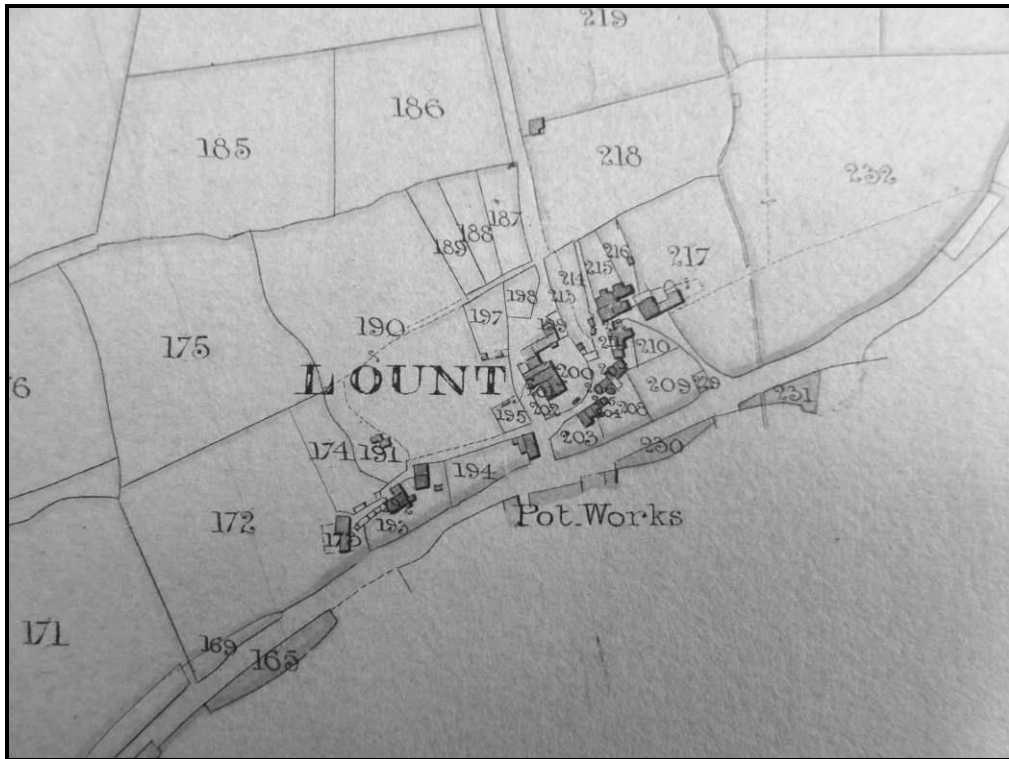
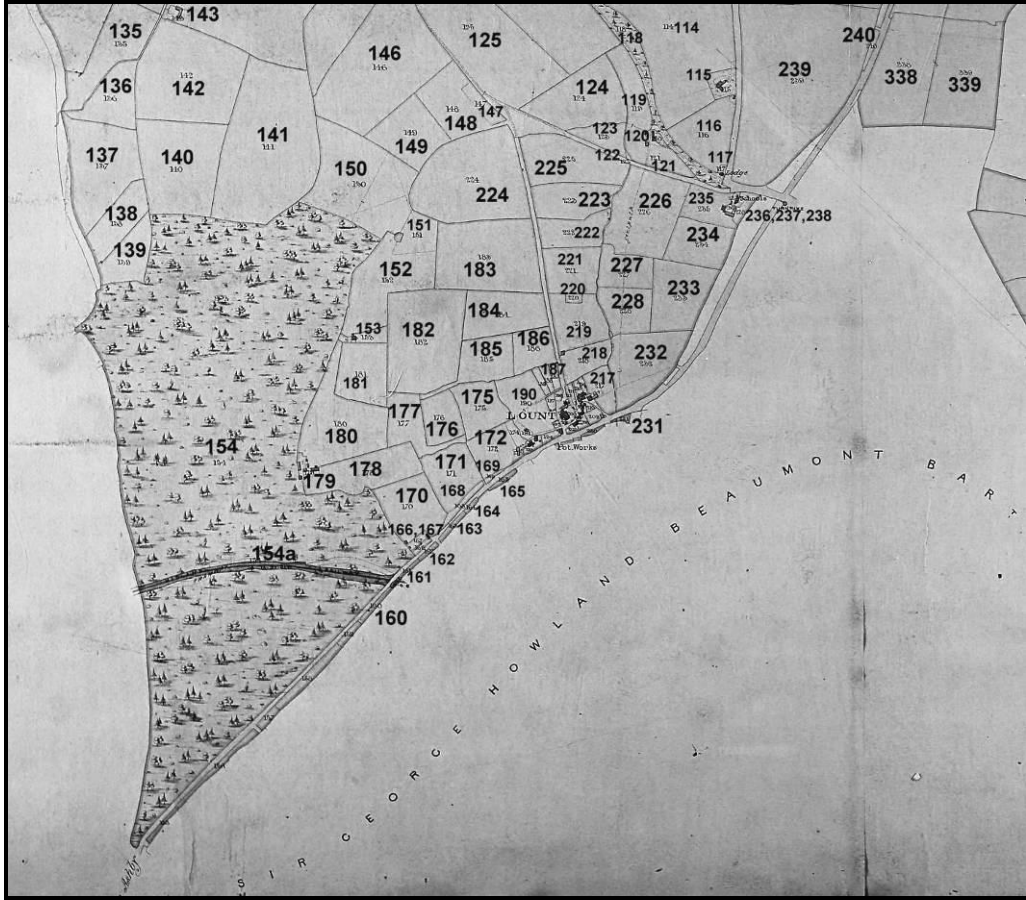
The original is held at the Leicester Record Office (copyright owned by the originator).

The area of the land amounted to - 1986 Acres 0 roods 2 poles.

**THE ESTATE WAS INHERITED BY THE 10TH EARL
AT THE AGE OF TWELVE.**

Below are horizontal slices of the preceding 1859 map, in order to try and help the reader identify the names of the various parcels of land etc, from the schedule which follows. The two separate areas of land from the main body of the map are not included, as they were not part of this study. The area around the hamlet of Lount is shown separately at the end.





SCHEDULE:-

1. The Meadow
4. Upper Croft
7. Lane
- 9a. Pond
12. Stackyard
15. Woodside
18. Hovel Close
20. Burney Bottoms
23. The Intake
25. The Meadow
28. Wood Close
31. Far Thistley Riding
34. Door Riding
37. Road
40. Garden
43. Lime Yard Kilns & Building
46. Cottages & Garden
49. Plantation
52. The Bulls Eye
55. Garden
58. Croft
61. Allotment Gardens
64. Brickyard Field
67. Cottage & Garden
70. Cottage & Garden
73. Cottage & Garden
76. Garden
79. Home Close
82. Callen's Lane
84. Middle Meadow
87. The Far Heath
89. Plantation
92. Kitchen Gardens
95. Timber Yard
98. Road
101. Lake
103. House garden etc.
106. Lodge
108. Hill Side
110. Plantation
113. The Lawn Spinney
116. Croft
119. Lower Croft
2. Lower Croft with Orchard
5. Common Close
8. Spring Wood
10. Garden
13. Homestead
16. Far Coppice Nook
19. Stoney Flats
21. White Wells
24. Long Meadow
26. Pasture Close
29. Nine Acres
32. Top Riding
35. Oak Tree Close
38. Spring Wood Park
41. Garden
44. Garden
47. Gardens
50. The Near Green
53. The Croft
56. Elm Tree Inn & Building
59. Home Close
62. Engine Piece
65. Office
68. The Meadow
71. Cottage & Garden
74. Building & Yard
77. Cottage & Garden
80. Callen's Lane Close
83. Rough Heath Wood
85. Barn Field
88. The Bottom Heath
90. Church & Yard
93. Garden & Lodge
96. Yard
99. Plantation
102. Park
- 104 Part of Top Riding
- 106a. Cottages & Garden
- 108a. Wood in Hill Side
111. Seed Piece
114. Whitehouse Close
117. Lodge & Garden
120. House, Garden Etc.
3. House and Garden
6. The Top Close
9. Garden
11. Shrubbery
14. Orchard
17. First Coppice Nook
- 19a. Plantation & Waste
22. Far Richard's 3 Acre Piece
- 24a. Building & Brick Yard
27. Home Close
30. First Thistley Riding
33. The Pump Riding
36. The Pit Riding
39. Waste
42. House & Garden
45. Garden
48. Meadow
51. The Far Green
54. Orchard
57. Garden
60. Avenue
63. Middle Close
66. Coalpit Close
69. Garden
72. Cottage & Garden
75. Cottage & Garden
78. Cottage & Garden
81. Lane
- 83a. Colliery
86. The Near Heath
- 88a. Osier Bed
91. Staunton Hall & Pleasure Grounds
94. Croft
97. Stable Yard
100. Plantation
- 102a. The Stew
105. Garden
107. Wilkin's Close
109. Plantation
112. Big Lawn
- 115 House, Garden Etc.
118. Plantation & Drive
121. Upper Croft

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 122. Road | 123. Three Corner Piece | 124. Rye Grass Field |
| 125. Ox Field | 126. The Meadow | 127. Long Close |
| 128. Road | 129. Plantation | 130. Osiers & Plantation |
| 131. Big White Flatts | 132. Top White Flatts | 133. The Near Callen |
| 134. The Far Callen | 135. Callen Meadow | 136. Callen Corner |
| 137. Richard's Piece | 138. Shakespear Close | 139. Shakespear Close |
| 140. Far Lincoln | 141. The Lincoln | 142. Near Lincoln |
| 143. Buildings & Stackyard | 144. The Dog Kennel | 145. Long Close |
| 146. New Close | 147. Part of Oxfield | 148. Part of Oxfield |
| 149. Oxfield | 150. Oxfield | 151. Gin Stable Close |
| 152. Gin Stable Close | 153. House, Garden Etc. | 154. Lount Wood |
| 154a. Tramway | 155. Garden | 156. Slang |
| 157. Garden | 158. Garden | 159. Garden |
| 160. Slang | 161. Garden | 162. Garden |
| 163. Slang | 164. Garden | 165. Garden |
| 166. Cottage & Garden | 167. Cottage & Garden | 168. Garden |
| 169. Garden | 170. Cow Pasture | 171. Middle Close |
| 172. The Coppice | 173. Buildings & Yard | 174. House & Garden |
| 175. Second Lount Piece | 176. First Lount Piece | 177. Little Piece |
| 178. Meadow | 179. Homestead | 180. Yard Close |
| 181. Wood Close | 182. Turnip Close | 183. Seed Piece |
| 184. Edward's Land | 185. Edward's Land | 186. Edward's Land |
| 187. Garden | 188. Rickyard Piece | 189. Garden |
| 190. Allotment Gardens | 191. House & Gardens | 192. Cottage |
| 193. Cottage & Garden | 194. Cottage & Garden | 195. Cottage & Garden |
| 196. Included in 190 | 197. Garden | 198. Garden |
| 199. House, Garden etc. | 200. House, Garden etc. | 201. Cottage |
| 202. Cottage & Garden | 203. Cottage & Garden | 204. Cottage |
| 205. Cottage | 206. Cottage & Building | 207. Cottages |
| 208. Cottage & Garden | 209. Garden | 210. Public House "Ferrers
Arms" & Garden |
| 211. Cottage & Garden | 212. Cottage | 213. Cottage & Garden |
| 214. Cottage & Garden | 215. Cottage & Garden | 216. Cottage & Garden |
| 217. Croft | 218. Calf Close | 219. Far Close |
| 220. Garden | 220a. Road | 221. New Close |
| 222. Seed Piece | 223. Seed Piece | 224. Foalfoot Close |
| 225. Foal's Close | 226. Home Close | 227. Edward's Field |
| 228. Edward's Field | 229. Pinfold | 230. Garden |
| 231. Garden | 232. Engine Close | 233. Brickiln Field |
| 234. Lount Close | 235. Croft | 236. Homestead |
| 237. Schools, House
& Garden | 238. Garden | 239. Smoile Lawn |
| 240. Garden | 241. Long Piece | 242. Garden |
| 243. Coachman's Croft | 244. Houses & Gardens | 245. Building & Yard |
| 246. Spring Close | 247. Walk Close | 248. Fishpond |
| 249. Roper's Hill Field | 250. Long Lawn | 250a. Plantation |

251. Warren Field	252. Cow Close	253. Garden
254. Yard	255. House Etc.	256. Rickyard etc.
257. Avenue	258. Long Hill	259. Crabtree Close
260. Brickiln Close	261. Big Park	262. Cliff's Close
262a. Garden	263. Top Bit	264. Long Close
265. House & Garden	266. Bottom Close	267. Croft
268. Cottages & Gardens	269. Richard's Middle Close	270. Richard's 3 Acre Piece
271. Little Pool Piece	272. Big Pool Piece	273. Park Hill
274. Far Richard's Pool Piece	275. Near Richard's Pool Piece	276. Meadow
277. Croft	278. The Lees	279. Homestead
280. Orchard	281. Far Home Close	282. Home Close
283. Homestead	284. Big Close	285. Big Park
286. Plantation	287. Plough Park	288. Little Park
289. Corse Parke	290. Long Close	291. Garden Piece
292. Over Atkinson	293. Top Warren	294. Nether Atkinson
295. Bottom Warren	296. Long Meadow	297. Garden
298. Far Hurst	299. Near Hurst	300. Garden
301. Orchard	302. Garden	303. Homestead
304. Home Meadow	305. Near Thackum	306. Hop Yard
307. Far Thackum	308. Dickenson's Meadow	309. Far Field
310. Middle Field	311. Near Broomhill	312. Far Broomhill
313. Lower Broomhill	314. Furlong	315. Little Field
316. Lodge Nook	317. Water Furrows	318. Seed Piece
319. Slang	320. Back Meadow	321. Orchard
322. Homestead	323. Rickyard	324. Croft
325. Avenue	326. Meadow	327. Haslands
328. Tithe Barn Close	329. White Gate Close	330. Worthington Lane Close
331. Worthington Lane Close	332. Harris Field	333. Seed Peice
334. Narrow Piece	335. Garden	336. The Quarry
337. Top Quarry	338. Top Quarry	339. Top Quarry

The 9th Earl was succeeded by his son Sewallis Edward Shirley, 10th Earl Ferrers (1847-1912), at twelve years of age. Maybe his succession to the title at such a young age had an influence on the later excessive style in which he apparently lived his life. Under the 10th Earl, the Ferrers entered an age of unparalleled excess which caused severe financial hardship for those that followed. John Fox in his book entitled "Staunton Harold", tells us that in the 53 years that he was the head of the family, the 10th Earl had a great effect on Staunton Harold and the family's fortunes, and was the last member to live in great style, his footmen having powdered heads and wearing silk stockings, with silver horse shoes on their sleeves.

Sewallis, 10th Earl, was born Jan 24th 1847 at Chartley, and was also christened there, suggesting that it was still the main seat of the Shirley's at this time. As an infant, his guardians were his Grandma, Lady Countess Augusta Annabella, the 9th Earl's wife, Lord Edward Chichester her father, Wootton Abney esq., of Measham Hall, and Rev Richard Rideway Parry Mealey of Anglesey Church. We know that Chartley Manor was destroyed by fire in 1847, and subsequently re-built before 1851, so Sewallis was born in the same year (see the earlier feature on Chartley Castle Estate). Presumably the family would have moved back to Staunton Harold at this time.

A rather interesting case was held in Chancery on August 5th 1861 to apparently make a judgment on the fitness of the Earl, who was aged 14 at this time, to attend public school. Two letters were presented, the originals of which are held at the LRO and read as follows:-

*16 George St
Hanover Square
17th August 1860*

Dear Lady Ferrers,

After hearing Lord Ferrers history and a careful examination of his person, I am of the opinion that it would be unwise to place him at a public school. The excitement incidental to such institutions might I think prove injurious to his Lordship's health and under the circumstances I would strongly recommend private tuition - care being taken that his Lordship should have every facility and encouragement to practice all, or most of the manly sports peculiar to young Englishmen.

*I am dear Lady Ferrers
Yours very faithfully and obediently
Jas Ferguson*

*Melbourne
August 3rd 1861*

I have been the medical attendant of Earl Ferrers from his infancy and have had constant opportunities of seeing him. I consider him to be physically and morally unfit to be exposed to the ordeal of a public school like Eton or Harrow - I feel that it would be productive of much injury to him.

*Richard T Tarker
MRCS*

Sewallis went to Trinity College, Cambridge and obtained a B.A. in 1867 and an M.A. in 1871. He achieved his majority on January 4th 1868. The following describes the celebrations on him reaching his majority, which took place at both the Chartley and Staunton estates, and also describes his return from Chartley to Staunton passing through Ashby de la Zouch and Lount. He married an Irish lady by the name of Lady Ina Maude Hedges-White, daughter of William Henry Hare Hedges-White, 3rd Earl of Bantry and Jane Herbert, on 24 October 1885. They didn't have any children.

COMING OF AGE OF THE 10TH EARL FERRERS

THE LEICESTER JOURNAL - 31ST JANUARY 1868

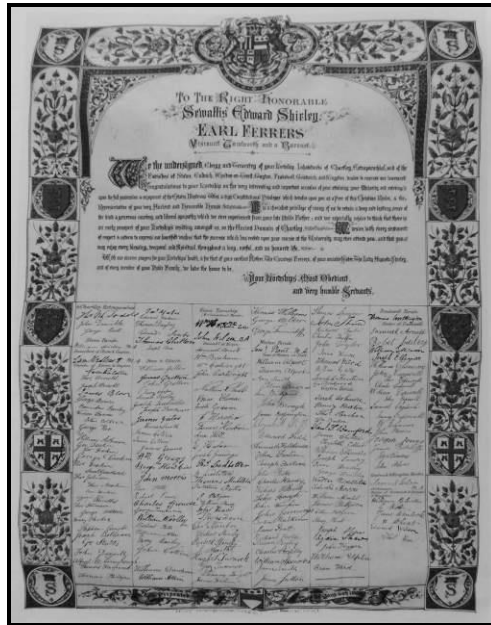
On Friday last, the twenty-fourth instant, was the 21st birthday of the Right Hon. Sewallis Edward Shirley Earl Ferrers, and was celebrated at Chartley Castle, the ancient seat of the family, one of the oldest in the British peerage. His Lordship's father died in 1857, and the noble Earl, with the countess and his sister, the Lady Augusta Shirley, has since resided at Staunton Harold, the family seat in Leicestershire, visiting Chartley only to shoot and hunt, sports in which the noble earl takes a warm interest. After being educated by a private tutor, his lordship entered, as a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, and took his degree of B.A.

Lord Ferrers, the countess, Capt. Walsh, (*at some point after the death of the 9th Earl, the Countess seems to have married for the second time to Capt. Walsh*) and the Lady Augusta left Staunton Harold on Wednesday, but previously Mr. Leadbetter, the house steward, distributed the flesh of an ox weighing twelve scores a quarter, and of two fat sheep, with bread and ale, amongst the cottagers of the Staunton estate. The coach-and-four containing the noble party was met at the border of the estate at Leafields, on the Uttoxeter and Stafford road, by the principal tenants, some of whom, on horseback, wore their uniform as members of the yeomanry. After those assembled had cheered the earl and his noble mother and sister, the carriage proceeded and met a crowd of upwards of 500, consisting of the school children, tenantry, and &c., at the principal entrance to the Hall, where an arch, very tastefully decorated with evergreens and bearing the crest of the family with the inscription "Welcome" had been erected. Several of the gentry in their carriages were also present. The noble earl was received with loud applause, and on reaching the hall was introduced to the tenants, with whom he shook hands, expressing his warm thanks for the reception given to him. The tenantry were liberally supplied with wine by Mr. Hewlett.

The season being unfavourable for out-door amusements, they have been deferred to the summer. Two of the wild oxen for which Chartley Castle is celebrated, had been fed in a paddock adjoining the park, and were slaughtered and the flesh was distributed to 130 cottagers on the estate, with bread and ale, on Thursday, so as to enable them to enjoy themselves on the festive day, and a baron of beef and two rounds from the oxen were sent to the dinners at Shirleywich, Weston and Hixon. Cannon placed on the Cage Hill fired 21 rounds at noon, and at the time the clergy and the tenants on the estate arrived in carriages and on foot at the hall to present an address, and were received in the dining-room by the Earl Ferrers, the Countess Ferrers, Capt. Walsh, and the Lady Augusta Shirley.

The address had been most beautifully illuminated in colour on vellum by Mr. Cull, ecclesiastical inscriptionist to the firm of Burns, Lambert and Oates, Portman street,

London. It was headed by the arms of the family, with the motto *Honor virtutis premium*. The shield containing the arms of Shirley, Devereux, Bouchier, Plantagenet (Thomas of Woodstock), quartered with the lilies of France and the lions of England. The address was beautifully emblazoned and the facsimiles of the signatures of 200 persons were headed with the parishes to which they belonged, and the famous horse shoe also associated with the family arms was judiciously introduced in the ornamentations. The address was enclosed in a very handsome oak box made from an old tree grown on the estate, with the coronet and other silver mountings.



The Rev. W. Hides, with whom Mr. Wooley, of Amerton, chairman and treasurer of the testimonial committee, was associated, presented the address, observing, as he did so, that he presented it as the incumbent of the home parish, in the name of the clergy and tenantry of the Chartley Estate, and they all thanked his lordship for affording that opportunity of expressing the warm feelings of congratulation with which they hailed his arrival amongst hem. The address was as follows:-

**TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SEWALLIS EDWARD SHIRLEY - EARL FERRERS,
VISCOUNT TAMWORTH, AND A BARONET**

We, the undersigned clergy and tenantry of your Lordship, inhabitants of Chartley extra parochial, and of the parishes of Stowe, Colwich, Weston-on-Trent, Gayton, Fradswell, Gratwich, and Kingston, desire to express our warmest congratulations to your Lordship on the very interesting and important occasion of your attaining your majority and entering upon the possession and enjoyment of the estates, illustrious titles, and high constitutional privileges which devolve upon you as a Peer of this Christian realm and the representatives of your very ancient and honourable house.

It is a cherished privilege of many of us to retain a deep and lasting sense of the kind of courtesy and liberal sympathy which we have experienced from your late noble father; and we especially rejoice to think that there is an early prospect of your Lordship's

residing amongst us, on the ancient domain of Chartley.

We desire, with every sentiment of respect and esteem, to express our heartfelt wishes that the success that has rested upon your course at the University may ever attend you, and that you may enjoy every blessing, temporal and spiritual, throughout a long, useful, and an honoured life.

With our sincere prayers for your Lordship's health, and for that of your excellent mother, the Countess Ferrers, of your amiable sister, the Lady Augusta Shirley, and of every member of your noble family.

We have the honour to be your Lordship's most obedient and very humble servants.

His Lordship, after carefully examining the address and handing it to his mother, the Countess, and Lady Augusta, returned his sincere thanks for the flattering terms in which it couched, more especially as many of the names he read there were those of tenants with whom he was not personally acquainted. He was fully aware of the many duties and responsibilities which the day devolved upon him, and assured them that it would be his earnest endeavour to maintain the friendly relations which existed between his tenantry and himself by looking after their wants and interests, and the improvements of his estates. Here were many ties which should bind together landlord and tenant, and he thought the oftener they met the closer those ties would be drawn. His Lordship then thanked them for their kindness, and hoped that before long he should be personally acquainted with everyone on his estate, and that he might realize the good wishes they had so kindly expressed (Applause).

Mr. Yates, addressing his Lordship, said he was about to enter on the highest and most honourable position to which an English nobleman could attain - to become the landlord of a numerous English tenantry, a class of men who had always been considered the most loyal in these realms. They were, said Mr. Yates, about to enter into partnership with his lordship, and should place him at the head of the firm, for it would be his lordship that they would have to look for co-operation in that partnership, so that it might carry on their occupation as farmers both to his lordship's and their own advantage, as they were mutually interested in acting on the motto "Live and let live". After an extensive practice of more than fifty years in the cultivation of the land, he was of the opinion that farming was still in its infancy, compared with what would be attained when the farmers were placed under liberal landlords, without very strict agreements, for too strict agreements were injurious alike to landlord and tenant. He felt confident that his lordship's energetic agent, Mr. Ralston, would endorse his remarks, and they were assured that, under his able management, the interests of both landlord and tenant would be fairly balanced.

His lordship has received a number of beautiful presents on the attainment of his majority. Earl Ferrers then drank the health of the tenants and their families on the Chartley estate. Mr. Chas. Spenser, whose family had been on the estate for at least 200 years, responded in suitable terms.

The Rev. Mr. hides proposed the health of Earl Ferrers in very appropriate terms, and the toast was most cordially received, and was followed by a hearty round of applause, cheers being added for the Countess, Capt. Walsh, and the Lady Augusta.

Lord Ferrers acknowledged the toast with much feeling, observing that if good wishes could ensure his happiness he could not fail to be the most fortunate of men.

The health of the Countess Ferrers, Capt. Walsh and lady Augusta Shirley was

proposed by the Rev. S. Plant, and responded to by Capt. Walsh, who said he was quite sure that the Countess Ferrers only required to be known to be appreciated, and he was satisfied that the more they knew of her son, the more highly they would esteem him.

Mr. Woodroffe, who, with Mrs. Woodroffe, was present, responded for the Lord Lieutenant and the County Magistrates, proposed by Mr. Yates, observing, as he did so, that they gave Lord Ferrers that cordial reception not only because of his high position, but because of the promise he gave of worthily filling it of being "the right man in the right place".

Mr. Woolley gave the health of Mr. Ralston, the agent of the estate, as one who did justice between landlord and tenant, and Mr. Ralston briefly replied.

Capt. Walsh then asked the company to drink the health of the three oldest, best, and most faithful servants any family ever had, whom they took great pride to regard, not as servants merely, but as friends. - Mr. Thomas Leadbitter, Mr. Thomas Hewlett, and Mrs. Heslop.

The toast was most warmly received, and the Countess, who had left the room, stood near the door whilst it was being proposed, and united heartily in the applause with which it was received. Mr. Leadbitter responded in suitable terms.

VISIT OF EARL FERRERS TO ASHBY ON ATTAINING HIS MAJORITY

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - 8TH FEBRUARY 1868

ASHBY DE LA ZOUCH

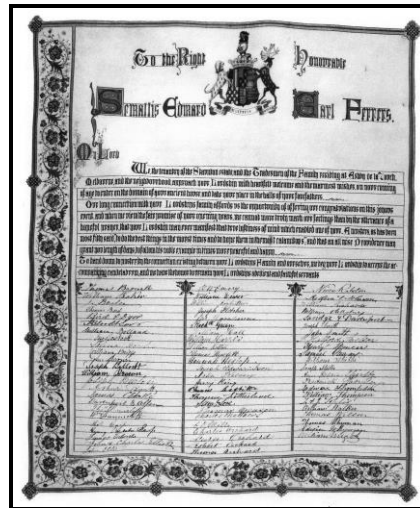
On Monday last, the town of Ashby was the scene of considerable gaiety, in consequence of the anticipated arrival of the youthful Earl Ferrers, who was expected to pass through the town on his way from Chartley Castle, Staffordshire to Staunton Harold. On the occasion, the gentry and tradesmen of Ashby determined to give him a hearty welcome, by a grand display of flags and banners, which reached from the corner of Bath Street to the top of Wood Street. In the latter street there was a magnificent triumphal arch reaching entirely across the street, composed of laurel, in the centre of which hung a banner with the words in huge characters, "Welcome". For the space of two hours, the streets were literally lined with eager spectators, although a misty rain kept continually falling. About half-past three o'clock his lordship drove through the town in a coach and four, with postillions, amidst loud acclamations. By the side of the earl sat Capt. Walsh (*2nd husband of the Countess*) and in the interior of the coach the Countess Ferrers, who waved a white handkerchief as they passed along. On arriving at the outskirts of the wood, the equipage was met by his lordship's tenantry on horseback, who formed a cavalcade, and conducted him to Staunton Hall, which is situated in a beautiful valley on the left of the Nottingham road from Ashby, and was designed and built by Washington, fifth earl Ferrers. On arriving at the rustic village, his lordship again met with a most welcome and enthusiastic reception from the villagers, and others who flocked to the spot. On the left to the village is a garden, at the entrance of which was an arch composed of evergreens, and a lofty pole, at the top of which hung a profusion of ribbons of various colours; while at the house of Mr. Wilson, the earthenware manufacturer, a number of flags hung out, and over the warehouse was suspended the Union Jack. Overhanging the road was a beautiful triumphal arch, composed of evergreens, in the centre of which there was a banner bearing the words, "Welcome Noble Earl". On arriving at the lodge gate, kept by Mrs. Fairbrother, there was a grand

wreath of evergreens, and, over the gateway hung a centre piece, in the midst of which were armorial bearings, and the words, "Riches and honour attend thee", and "He will direct thy paths".

In the evening, the Eight Hasting Rifle Band attended at the request of his lordship, and performed selections of music in the ancient baronial hall. On Tuesday the committee of the tenantry of the estate and tradesmen of Ashby waited upon the noble earl, and proceeded to present him with a testimonial. The committee, who arrived at the hall about twelve o'clock, were met by the Ashby band on the carriage drive and conducted to the hall, the band taking up position on the lawn. The testimonial consisted of a beautiful and massive candelabrum, of octagon shape, and of a new and handsome design, and bore the coronet, &c., of the house of Shirley, with six branches attached, and glasses affixed to some, either for light or flowers. On the base were the words:-

**"Presented to the Right Honourable Sewallis Edward Earl Ferrers'
On the attainment of his majority, January 4th 1868,
By the tenantry of the estate of Staunton Harold,
Tradesmen of Ashby de la Zouch and neighbourhood"**

The testimonial was accompanied by an address, which was read by Mr. Earp, his lordship's eldest tenant, to which the noble earl replied. This splendid piece of plate, which was selected by Mr. Charles Orchard, of Ashby, and has been greatly admired, was purchased at a cost of £130. After partaking of refreshments at the hall, the committee returned to their homes.



The above parchment, the original which was beautifully decorated in colour, along similar lines to the one referred to in the Chartley celebration, includes the address which was read by Mr. Earp to Sewallis Edward Shirley, 10th Earl Ferrers, on behalf of the tenantry of his Staunton Estate and the tradesmen of the family in Melbourne and Ashby de la Zouch on the occasion of his majority. It was signed by many of the tenantry and tradesmen, and those names that are readable are listed below. It is headed by the arms of the family, with the motto *Honor virtutis premium*. The shield containing the arms of Shirley, Devereux, Bouchier, Plantagenet (Thomas of Woodstock), quartered with the lilies of France and the lions of England, and the shield is supported by the talbot and Stag which also feature on

the top of the baroque gate pillars at Staunton Hall which are shown earlier. The address reads as follows:-

**TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
SEWALLIS EDWARD EARL FERRERS**

MY LORD

We the tenantry of the Staunton estate and the tradesmen of the family residing in Ashby de la Zouch and Melbourne, and the neighbourhood, approach your Lordship with heartfelt welcome and the warmest wishes on your coming of age to enter on the domain of your ancient house and take your place in the halls of your forefathers.

Our long connection with your Lordship's family affords us the opportunity of offering our congratulations on this joyous event, and when we visit the fair promise of your opening years, we cannot more truly mark our feelings by the utterance of a hopeful prayer that your Lordship may ever manifest that true loftiness of mind which enabled one of your ancestors as has been fully said " To do the best things in the worst times and to hope them in the most calamitous", and that an all wise providence man grant you length of days to follow his noble example in times more peaceful and happy.

To hand down to posterity the connection existing between your Lordship's family and ourselves, we beg your Lordship to accept the accompanying candelabrum, and we have the honour to remain your Lordship's obedient and faithful servants

Thomas Bagnall	R. W. Emery	Niven Ralston
William Baker	William Ensor	Redfern & Johnson
J. Barker	William Fairbrother	William Richards
Thomas Bird	Joseph Fletcher	William ?
Bird & Dyer	? Goodman	Savidge & Davenport
J. Blood & Sons	Richard Green	Joseph Smith
William Bolland	William Hall	John Smith
M. Bostock	William Harris	S. Helford Shelson ??
? Bowler	William Hatton	Henry Spencer
William Briggs	Thomas Hewlett	Samuel Stewart
John Brown	Hannah Heslop	William Stubbs
Joseph Bancroft ??	Isiah & Edward Ison	Joseph Stubbs
William Brown	John T Jessop ??	Ann Marie Thirlby
Joseph Burton	Henry King	Frederick Thornley
Arthur Barrat	Thomas Leadbitter	Edward Thompson
James Cheatle	Thomas Litherland	William Thompson
Davenport & Allen	?? & Sons	T & J Topliss
Thomas Dunncliffe	Thomas Mason	William Walker
William Dunncliffe	Charles Mathews	Thomas Wilson
Thomas Earp	?? Mills	Thomas Whyman
Henry ? Earp	Charles Orchard	Edwin Whyman
James Edwards	George Orchard	William Wright
John & Charless Ellis & Co ??	Robert Orchard	
John Ellis	Thomas Orchard	

The following quote which is included in the transcribed address on the previous page " To do the best things in the worst times and to hope them in the most calamitous".....is included in the inscription above the great west door of the Chapel of the the Holy Trinity as part of the epitaph to Sir Robert Shirley, 4th baronet, which was written by Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon of Canterbury, who was one of the devines who had been given sanctuary in the hall during the Civil War.

THE MARRIAGE OF LADY AUGUSTA AMELIA SHIRLEY - AUGUST 19TH 1873

LEICESTER JOURNAL - 22ND AUGUST 1873

WEDDING FESTIVITIES AT STAUNTON HAROLD MARRIAGE OF LADY AUGUSTA SHIRLEY TO SIR ARCHDALE PALMER, BART.

The following newspaper report is far too lengthy to repeat in full, so a synopsis only follows:-

Tuesday last was a day which will not be easily forgotten by the inhabitants of Staunton Harold and the villagers in its immediate neighbourhood. Staunton Harold was *en fete* for an event which was fixed to come off, the like of which had not been seen in the parish for more than one hundred years. It was the marriage of one of the members of the Ferrer's family.

Lady Augusta Shirley, sister of the present Earl Ferrers (*10th Earl*), is a young lady who is much respected in the neighbourhood. Her kindness, courtesy, and affable demeanor towards those she is acquainted, has endeared her to the hearts of of all, and in the town of Ashby, and the villages on the Ferrer's estate, she is sincerely loved. And when it was finally settled that she was to be the happy bride of Sir Archdale Palmer, Bart., of Wanlip Hall, near Leicester, the tenantry of Staunton Harold and Melbourne, and the tradesmen of Ashby determined that they would do full honour to the occasion.

The hour chosen for the celebration of the ceremony was half-past eleven, and shortly before the time, a goodly company from miles around had assembled on the grounds adjoining the hall to share in the festivities. The heavy rain which had fallen the whole of the previous night and also during the morning, had saturated the turf in fron of the hall, but this did not deter the ladies from coming to the front. There were several hundred persons present, exclusive of about seventy of the more immediate friends and family, invited to the mansion.

The ivy clad beautiful chapel built by Robert Shirley in 1653, and in which the marriage took place (*by special dispensation*) is situated close to the hall, and on the banks of the picturesque lake.

Over the pathway from the hall to the church, an arcade was erected, covered in canvas, which was supported by several painted pillars. Festoons of flowers and evergreens hung from pole to pole and a crimson cloth was laid on the pathway. In the church itself a crimson drugget was laid from the western entrance along the central aisle to the alter steps, and on the buttresses of the arches were suspended wreaths of water lilies surmounted by blue rosettes. Similar decorations were observable in front of the carved

oak panels of the organ gallery.

The Ashby Rifle Volunteer Band was stationed in a marquee close to the church, and as the hour approached for the interesting event to take place, the tenants and tradesmen together with their wives and daughters, flocked into the church. The band meanwhile struck up the appropriate tune "Haste to the Wedding". The female domestics attired in dresses and head dresses of blue (his lordship's colour) next entered the sacred edifice, and were stationed in the central aisle. Then came the ladies and gentlemen from the hall. (*Far too many to many to mention here*). The Countess of Ferrers and Captain Walsh (*her second husband*) were the next arrivals, and they were shortly afterwards followed by the bride, who, leaning on her brother's arm, was received at the chapel porch at twenty minutes to twelve by her six bridesmaids, whose costumes were white tarlatan, trimmed with blue and white lace of the same; white tulle bonnets with corn flowers and wheat ears, bouquets, and gold lockets with monogram, the gifts of the bridegroom.

The bride, who really looked charming was attired in white poult de soie, with flounces and trimmings of beautiful Brussels lace, ornaments, and diamonds, the gift of the bridegroom; on each were diamond bracelets, given by her mother and brother, that given by the latter being remarkable, not only on account of its size and brilliancy, but as bearing the name "Augusta" in diamonds, surrounded by diamond horse shoes and Boucher knots, the badges of the Ferrers family.

After the service the children of Lord Ferrers private school, in white spotted dresses, and straw hats trimmed with blue, strewed flowers in the path of the bride, the organ bursting out with the "Wedding March" as the company were leaving the chapel.

Amongst the gifts specially mentioned was a splendid silver gilt dressing case, presented by the tenantry of Staunton Harold, and the tradesmen of Ashby and Melbourne employed by the Ferrers family. The dressing case reflected great credit on the makers, Messrs. W. Payne and Son, London. It was supplied by Mr. E. Whyman, and selected by the Countess Ferrers from eight. The gifts also comprised a costly gold necklace and diamond locket, given by the tenantry of the Charley estate, and a handsome jewel case with inscription, together with a beautifully bound prayer book, from the attached household of Staunton Harold.

The following gifts were also presented to Lady Augusta - A diamond bracelet from Earl Ferrers; a gold bracelet and locket with monogram from Sir A. Palmer; a beautiful gold necklace, earrings, and brooch from Lord E. Chichester; handsome gold locket with monogram from Lady E. Chichester; silver necklace, earrings and brooch, from Miss Chichester; gold chain and locket, set with pearls and diamonds, from Captain Walsh; a beautiful gold locket, set with turquoises, pearls and diamonds from Miss Clara Walsh; massive gold bracelet and turquoise locket, from Mr. and Mrs. Walsh; large gold ear-rings, from the misses Walsh.

A percentage of the other presents from donors that were listed were - Enamelled travelling clock, Maltese lace flounces, Brussels lace veil, a beautiful gold locket with monogram in diamonds and emeralds, a gold locket set with pearls and emeralds, a Chinese cabinet and an oxydised silver photograph stand, a handsome oxydised silver carriage clock and a bracelet and ear-rings, a handsome gold locket with of pearls and lapis lazuli, gold bracelet with pearls and malachite, and a handsome Louis Quartz library clock, an antique pearl and enamel locket and a splendid ormolu inkstand, Venetian looking glass and an envelope case with clock and letter weights, a gold necklace with turquoise and diamonds and

ear-rings to correspond, a gold bracelet set with pearls and a beautifully fitted dispatch box, a gold locket with monogram, a gold bracelet with turquoises, a silver scent bottle mounted in gold with gold monogram, a gold bracelet with turquoises, a silver scent bottle mounted in gold with gold monogram, a gold beehive fitted as a work box, coral brooch and ear-rings, a gilt carriage clock and aneroid in case, a gilt and ormolu looking glass and candlesticks of beautiful design, a hall letter box, a case of handsome books, very handsome Oriental jars and a pair of Dresden candelabra, glass claret jug with silver mountings, silver goblet set with gold coins, an oak beer jug and goblet mounted in silver, a claret jug with silver gilt mountings, a glass jar mounted in silver and a silver tankard, a silver salver.

The tenantry and tradesmen, to the number of two hundred, including their wives and daughters, were generously invited by Earl Ferrers to a sumptuous feast provided in a marquee, on the lawn close to the hall. Mr. Love, of the Queen's Head Hotel, Ashby, made a most appropriate chairman, and Mr. Mathews (chemist), of Ashby, Mr. Earp of Staunton (the oldest tenant on his lordship's estate), and Mr. Davenport, of Ashby acted as croupiers.

Following numerous speeches and toasts.....it now being three o'clock, the company broke up and retired to the front of the hall, to witness the departure of the bride and bridegroom for Wanlip Hall. The bridal carriage, drawn by four greys with outriders (supplied by Mr. Love, of Ashby), was brought up to the main entrance at half-past three, and the happy couple having entered the carriage and its occupants were driven away, amidst the cheers of those assembled and a shower of old satin slippers. The brides travelling dress was dark blue tabinet trimmed with a lighter shade, hat, and feathers to correspond.

After the departure, dancing was indulged in to the Ashby Rifle Band. At the villages of Lount, Staunton and Heath End, the aged women were entertained to tea, sherry, and other good things, and bands of music played for their delectation, and on Wednesday, the whole of the tenantry were regaled with roast beef and a variety of other substantial things.

Through the liberality and kindness of Earl Ferrers, in the inmates of the Ashby de la Zouch Union, numbering upwards of 130, were treated to a good dinner of roast beef, plum pudding, good Burton ale, and tobacco.

MARRIAGE OF THE 10TH EARL IN 1885

The 10th Earl married Lady Ina Maude Hedges-White, daughter of William Henry Hare Hedges-White, 3rd Earl of Bantry and Jane Herbert, on 24 October 1885, when he was 38 years of age. They didn't have any children.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - APRIL 24TH 1886

PRESENTATION TO EARL FERRERS - At a recent meeting of the Earl Ferrers hounds at Staunton Harold, the members of the hunt presented his lordship with a handsome silver service on the occasion of his marriage with the Lady Ina Maude White. The presentation was made by the Earl of Loudon.

THE MAUSOLEUM - BUILT BY THE 10TH EARL



In 1906, the Mausoleum shown in the photograph above, adjacent to the chapel, was built in 1906 by the 10th Earl in the Gothic Revival style to accommodate the coffin of his wife who had died that year. It is built in coursed sandstone with yellow ironstone dressing and is opposite the entrance to the old family vault under the chancel of the chapel. Apparently, following the doubling of the size of the lake at some point in front of the hall, the old vault had become flooded and unusable. When the 10th Earl died in 1912, his coffin was placed alongside that of his wife. The mausoleum has two windows at either side and both of the coffins can be observed with the coat of arms on top.



A SELECTION OF NEWSPAPER REPORTS IN RELATION TO THE EARLS FERRERS AND STAUNTON HAROLD

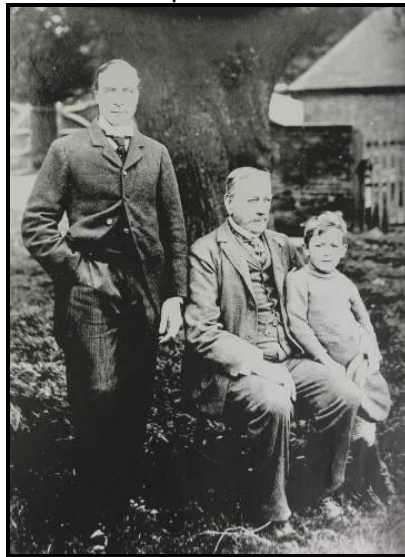
LEICESTER JOURNAL - 4TH OCTOBER 1867

LONG SERVITUDE REWARDED

On the 11th ultimo, at Staunton Harold, Mr. Thomas Hewlett, valet to Earl Ferrers (9th & 10th Earls), had the honour of receiving the following presents on his completing twenty one years service in his Lordship's family. Viz., a very handsome and massive silver tankard, with the following inscription engraved thereon:-

'Presented by Sewallis Edward Earl Ferrers to Thomas Hewlett, on this day, being the anniversary of twenty-one years service in his Lordship's family, as a mark of high esteem and regard for his attached and faithful conduct during that period. September 11th 1867.'

This was accompanied by a very usefull and beautifully fitted up dressing case, presented by the Countess Ferrers, and bearing the like inscription. These gifts were supplemented by a handsomely bound Church Service from Lady A. Shirley, accompanied by the expression of her kindest wishes. - It is some ten years since we recorded similar presentations to Mr. Thomas Leadbitter, butler and house steward to Earl Ferrers, on his completing twenty-one years service, and who is still in his Lordship's service.



**Thomas Leadbitter is in the centre of the photograph with Thomas Gibbons on his right
He was given as Butler on the 1901 census, aged 55.**

Photograph by kind permission of Ashby Museum

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JULY 8TH 1870

FREEMASONRY - On Tuesday the 28th ult., the Right Hon. Earl Ferrers was installed as Worshipful Master of the Ferrers and Ivanhoe Lodge, of which during the past year, he has served the office of Senior Warden. The ceremony of installation, which was performed by the Provincial Grand Master, Brother Kelly, took place at the Town Hall, in the presence of a large number of members and visitors. The bretheren afterwards dined together under the presidency of the noble Earl.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JANUARY 3RD 1873

STAUNTON HAROLD - SEASONABLE BENIFICIENCE - The poor of Staunton Harold and Lount have again through the kindness and liberality of the Rt. Hon. Earl Ferrers, been presented with from five to ten cwt's of coal, according to the number of the family, and a piece of beef, to add to their Christmas comforts. Lady Ferrers (*this would have been the 10th Earl's mother*) has also contributed very materially to the well being of the poor and widows by presenting warm clothing, which at this season will no doubt be greatly appreciated. These substantial gifts remind us of the mercy of quality of which is not stained; it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed, him that gives, and him that takes away.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JANUARY 2ND 1874

CHRISTMAS LIBERALITY AT STAUNTON - On Wednesday week, a tradesman met a woman near Staunton and remarked to her that she seemed heavy laden. She replied, "I have been to the hall for my Christmas gifts". "Then what does my lord give you", he asked. "A piece of beef, plum pudding, ale and warm clothing", was the reply. And this is to all the poor at Staunton, Lount and Heath End. The distribution being under the superintendence of Mrs. Heslop and Mr. Leadbitter, so long in his lordship's service.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JANUARY 15TH 1875

SEASONAL BENIFICIENCE - The Countess Ferrers has made the heart of the widow and fatherless, and those that have no helper, to sing for joy by her liberal distribution of flannel to the poor of Staunton Harold, Lount and Heath End. The noble Earl to the poor above referred to, has given beef and coals; on his Chartley Estate the noble Earl has made no less than 180 families glad by similar gifts; whilst to the farmers of the Staunton Estate, and to the trades people of Ashby and neighbourhood, game has been liberally distributed. Such kindness calls forth the wish oft expressed before of long life and happiness to the kind lady of Staunton and her noble son.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - NOVEMBER 11TH 1876

STAUNTON HAROLD - EARL FERRERS HOUNDS - A pack of fox-hounds is kenneled this season at Staunton Harold, and on Monday the spirited owner commenced hunting. The hounds are said to be first class, fast, musical?, and selected with care and judgement. His lordship's stud, 20 in number, contains, it is stated, some perfect hunters, well-bred, in perfect condition, and fit for any days hunting that may present itself. His huntsman, Gilson, from the Quorn, will, no doubt, give a good account of himself during the season. The two whips - Tasker from the Meynell Ingram Hunt, and Goddard from Mr. Musters' - are said to be bold and daring riders. The turn-out on Monday - ten in pink, with the hounds, and hunters in new saddlery - on the lawn in front of the mansion, was a pleasing site. A splendid breakfast was given, to which all did ample justice, and the hall was filled with guests, including the elite of the neighbourhood. The day's sport was not so good as might have been expected. Numbers of pedestrians were present, and interrupted the getting away of the foxes, one of which was killed and another run to ground. The kennels are newly built, and

contain every convenience for the hounds. The stables are extensive, and replete with every requisite for the stud. The next meeting will be at Donington Park.

LEICESTER JOURNAL - JANUARY 2ND 1880

STAUNTON HAROLD - It is very pleasing to record at the time honoured festival at Christmas, that the noble owner of Staunton, has slaughtered two fine bullocks and distributed them to the deserving poor on his estate at Staunton, Lount and Heath End; also coals from 5cwt. to 10cwt. to each family. His lordship distributed to the poor on his estate at Chartley Castle, Staffs, meat and coals. Such deserving acts of charity mask the character of the noble giver. The distribution was under the care of his valued house steward, Mr. Leadbitter, and Mrs. Heslop, housekeeper.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - SEPTEMBER 26TH 1891

A CHILD DROWNED AT STAUNTON HAROLD - On Monday an inquest was held at Lord Ferrers head gamekeeper's house in Staunton Park, on the body of his child, aged one year and ten months, who was drowned in a stream near the keeper's (Greatbach's) house. The enquiry was held before Mr. Coroner H. Deane, and the Rev. Mr. Crossley, vicar of Breedon on the Hill, was chosen foreman of the jury. The spot where the child was drowned was within a few dozen feet of the door of the house, and the depth of water was about twenty inches. The stream is wholly unprotected, and it was stated by one of the jurors that the child next oldest (Annie) to the deceased had fallen in two or three times, but was rescued. The stream is an overflow of water from a spring from a hill-side, after the requisite quantity has been pumped to Staunton Hall (Lord Ferrer's residence). The stream is about 8ft wide, and runs parallel with the house in a secluded portion of the park. The inquest was held at mid-day. - The father of the deceased child was the first witness - Samuel Greatbach. He said that he was a gamekeeper employed by Lord Ferrers, and the little boy's name was Horace Charles. His age was one year and 10 months. Witness was not at home at the time of the accident. He arrived home about a quarter of an hour after it. The boy had been brought into the house. He was stripped and rubbed for about an hour. - William Greatbach said that he was 13 years old, and was the son of the last witness. The accident happened on Friday. He was left at home with the children; and his mother had gone to one of the cottages in the park. It was about 12 o'clock. He was sitting in the sitting-room peeling potatoes and Horace (the deceased) was outside. He (deceased) was in a piece of garden adjoining the brook near the house. Some stone steps lead down to a watering place there. When he last saw the little boy, he thought he went with Annie (his sister) to fetch some sticks. He (the deceased) did not come back with Annie and witness went out. The mother had been out about 10 minutes when Annie came in. He asked Annie if she had seen Horace, and she said "No". Then he got up to look for him. He went to the brook and saw him in the water. He then went to get a brush to get him out. He got him out and then went to fetch his mother. He had known the boy to go near the brook before. There was not always the same quantity of water there, and on this occasion the pump was "going". There was more water than usual. When his mother went out, he, Annie (4) and "baby" (the deceased) were left at home - This was all the evidence tendered.

The coroner afterwards stated that the whole of the evidence had been heard. The boy was engaged peeling potatoes. He was left with the baby, and the baby having left him, he thought that he had gone with Annie his sister. The place where he was drowned did not

look particularly safe. A child was easily drowned and it would be for the jury to suggest anything, and, if so, he would do his best to have the suggestion carried out. Where there were steps approaching a spot to obtain water, it would be best to have it covered with timber covering, which would allow of water being procured, but which would not allow a child getting through it. A man such as Mr. Greatbach being employed it was not possible for him to always keep an eye on the children. It was for the jury to say whether they would make any suggestion or leave it to Lord Ferrer's steward to do it. - The Rev. Mr. Crossley, on behalf of the jury, suggested that the stream could be guarded, and that the same be left to Mr. Jno. German, Lord Ferrer's agent, to do as he thought proper. - A pretty wreath was sent from Staunton Hall by the employees to be placed on the coffin. The funeral took place after the inquest.



**Samuel Greatbach - Head Gamekeeper
with his double-barrelled shotgun**

John Fox in his book records that Samuel was paid 16 shillings (80p) a week as head gamekeeper of the estate. He had a suit of clothes provided and a special uniform of dark green cloth ornamented with silver buttons bearing the ancient Ferrer's horse shoe symbol, which he is wearing in the above photograph.

Below is a photograph of the "Gamekeepers Cottage" where Samuel Greatbach and his family were living at the time of the accident. The brook in which his son was drowned can be seen running parallel to the front of the cottage. Samuel Greatbach was living at the

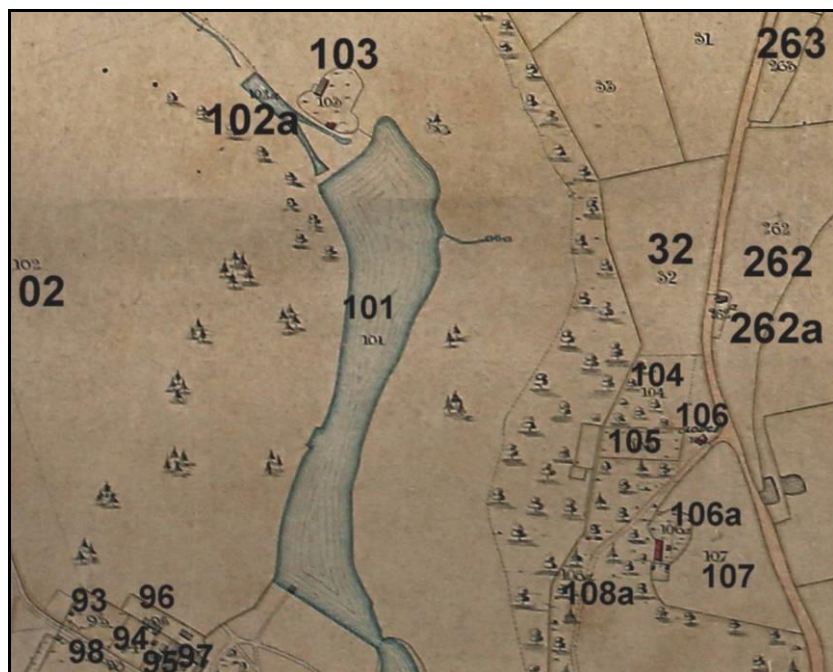
cottage in the 1891/1901 and 1911 census returns and would have been occupying it for at least 25 years. He is shown standing at the kitchen door in the photograph below. The photograph is taken looking from the south west in the general direction of the Lount to Melbourne road.



The following map, which is an enlarged section of the 1859 estate map shows the Gamekeeper's Cottage marked red on the parcel of land numbered 103 to the north of the lake. This was known as "Little Piece" in the schedule.

We understand from John Blunt that the cottage was demolished in the late 1950's. This cottage stood in an impressive position and it is a shame it has been condemned to history. The fingers of water numbered 102a has the unusual name of "The Stew" in the schedule. This presumably refers to the weir, and the stew could imply the water having a boiling appearance.

For those interested in genealogy, the writer felt it was worth including information of the names of the people who lived in the cottage. As you would expect, the head of the house were all gamekeepers.



NAME	POSITION	AGE	JOB DESCR'N	PLACE BORN
1841 Census				
James Fairbrouth	Head	25	Gamekeeper	
Mary Fairbrouth	Wife	25		
Thomas Fairbrouth		12		
William Fairbrouth		10		
Elizabeth Fairbrouth		8		
????		7		
Emma Fairbrouth		4		
1851 Census				
William Peters	Head	42	Gamekeeper	Armitage, Stafford
Maria Peters	Wife	45		Nasall, Stafford
Mary Peters	Daughter	13	Scholar	Rugely, Stafford
Ann Peters	Daughter	11	Scholar	Ridware, Stafford
1859 (LRO 25D60/103)				
Senior Elihu was gamekeeper at Staunton Harold in may 1859				
1861 Census				
Ambrose Wilcox	Head	24	Gamekeeper	Stafford
Mary Wilcox	Wife	23		Stafford
Bernard Wilcox	Son	1		Grindley, Stafford
Helen Wilcox	Sister	13		Chartley, Stafford
John Cheadle substituted Ambrose Wilcox in 1861 (LRO 26D60/105)				
1871 Census				
John Cheadle	Head	38	Gamekeeper	Aston, Stafford
Fanny Cheadle	Wife	39		Lichfield, Stafford
Mathew Cheadle	Son	14		Aston, Stafford
Annie Cheadle	Daughter	12	Scholar	Aston, Stafford
John Cheadle	Son	10	Scholar	Aston, Stafford
Edward Cheadle	Son	8		Aston, Stafford

Margaret Cheadle	Daughter	4		Staunton Harold, Leics
William Cheadle	Son	3		Staunton Harold, Leics
Frances Cheadle	Son	1		Staunton Harold, Leics

1881 CENSUS

John Harris	Head	37	Gamekeeper	Ticknall, Derbys
Sarah A Harris	Wife	35		Breedon, Leics
Linda Harris	Daughter	5	Scholar	Heather, Leics
Albert Harris	Son	3		Heather, Leics
Thomas H	Son	1		Heather, Leics

(An under Gamekeeper John Harris aged 37 from Breedon was living at Heath End in 1881)

1891 CENSUS

Samuel Greatbach	Head	34	Gamekeeper	Sandon, Staffs
Alma J Greatbach	Wife	35		Coton, Staffs
Thomas Greatbach	Son	13		Dryden, Staffs
William Greatbach	Son	12		Dryden, Staffs
Ernest Greatbach	Son	7		Dryden, Staffs
Annie Greatbach	Daughter	3		Dryden, Staffs
???	Daughter	1		Staunton Harold, Leics

(Horace Charles had drowned Sept 1891 aged one year and 10 months - see newspaper)

1901 CENSUS

Samuel Greatbach	Head	45	Gamekeeper	Sandon, Staffs
Alma Jane Greatbach	Wife	46		Coton, Staffs
Ernest Greatbach	Son	17	Under Keeper	Dryden, Staffs
Annie Greatbach	Daughter	13		Dryden, Staffs
Walter Greatbach	Son	6		Staunton Harold, Leics

(An under Game keeper John Rowley aged 32 from Coleorton was living at Lount Wood Cottages in 1901)

1911 CENSUS

Samuel Greatbach	Head	55	Gamekeeper	Sandon, Staffs
Alma Jane Greatbach	Wife	56		Coton, Staffs
Annie Greatbach	Daughter	23		
Walter Greatbach	Son	16		Staunton Harold, Leics
Thomas Greatbach	Brother	59		Sandon, Stafford
Thomas Edward Hampson	Visitor	25		Ford, Shrewsbury
Annie Hampson	Visitor	23		Ford, Shrewsbury

1921 TO 1926 ELECTORAL ROLE FOR GAMEKEEPER'S COTTAGE

George Hurtnall

Mary Ann Hurtnall

William Hurtnall

1931 ELECTORAL ROLL

George Hurtnall Eva Kimberley

Mary Ann Hurtnall Ladysmith

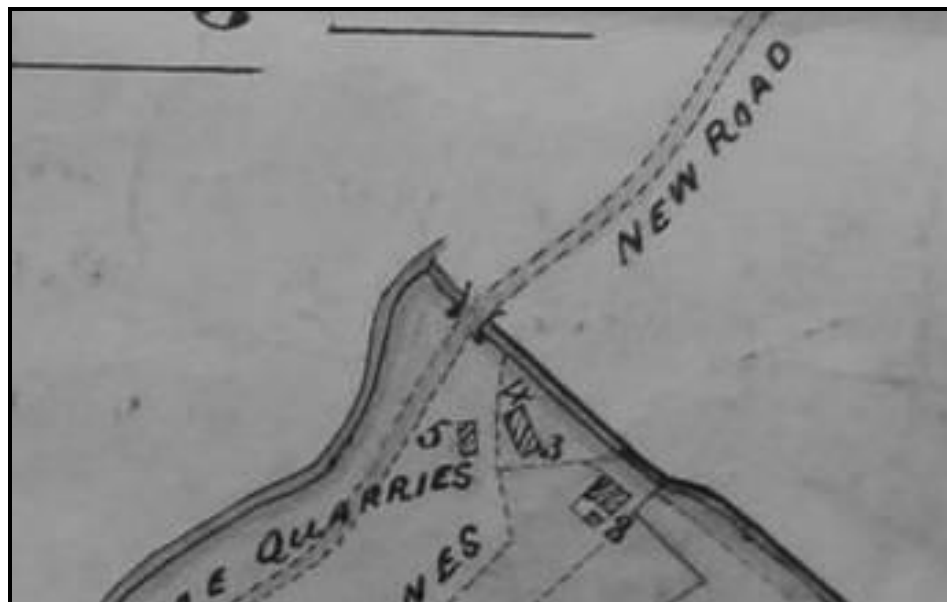
William Hurtnall

Edith Hurtnall

Mafeke King Hurtnall

NOTE: - In 1859 and 1861, Senior Elihu and John Cheadle respectively are recorded as being gamekeepers for Newbold and Worthington as well as Staunton Harold.

SUUPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - DRIVING A WATER WHEEL AT DIMMINSDALE LIMESTONE QUARRY



This is an enlarged section of the map included in the earlier feature on the 8th Earl Ferrers and shows the location of a water-wheel marked number 8. We believe this uncatalogued map held at the LRO is dated c.1846.

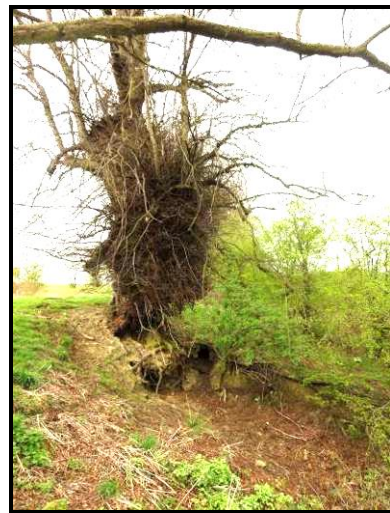
We know that there were at least two water-wheels employed at Dimminsdale, as these are mentioned in accounts and leases and it is recorded that in 1779, a can of oil for a water-wheel cost £0. 1s. 6d.

When Joseph Boulton held a 21 year lease from 1788 for coal, lime and lead mining rights on the estate, it stated that he was given the right to use water from one of the pools (presumably those in front of the hall) to work the pump for the lime works. When William Mathews took out his 21 year lease in 1833, the use of a water-wheel is also mentioned, which based on the above map would have still been in use in 1846.

There are two main lakes in the valley below the hall which are linked by a small pond and weir adjacent to the golden gate bridge. The southerly one was sometimes referred to as 'Church Pool' and the northerly one as the Fish Pond or Surpentine Lake which is the lower of the two, high wise. These lakes (thought to be one lake initially) would have been constructed during the re-landscaping projects started by the 5th Earl as featured earlier and developed from the long sheet of water or canal which can be seen in the earlier Kip Engraving dated 1702. The lakes were formed by constructing an earth dam at the northern end some 15 metres high faced up with boulders to allow the water to cascade down to the brook below via the old five arched bridge which carried a cart track over it, which is shown in the following photographs. The bridge would probably have been constructed in the late

1700's. The 1901 O/S map on the next page shows the path of Staunton Harold brook meandering down to the east side of Dimminsdale. The brook was formed by excess released water flowing down the lake dam.

We were shown by John Blunt, the current owner of Staunton Harold Hall, an arched brick lined culvert which ran from the north west corner of Serpentine Lake, roughly taking a parallel path to Staunton Brook for about one third of a mile, for the purpose of diverting a head of water to drive a water wheel for the purpose of operating a pump to remove excess water from the lime quarry. The culvert followed a natural gradient, and water would have presumably entered the culvert via a sluice gate with the lake acting as a form of mill pond. This would presumably have dated back to the late 1700's when Boulton was working the lime and lead quarries (see the following photographs and maps).



The broken out brick arched culvert a few yards from the edge of the lake as described above



The above photograph is the remains of what we believe to be the stone structure which originally carried the water-wheel. This crossed the brook to the east side of Dimminsdale just before it joins the reservoir.

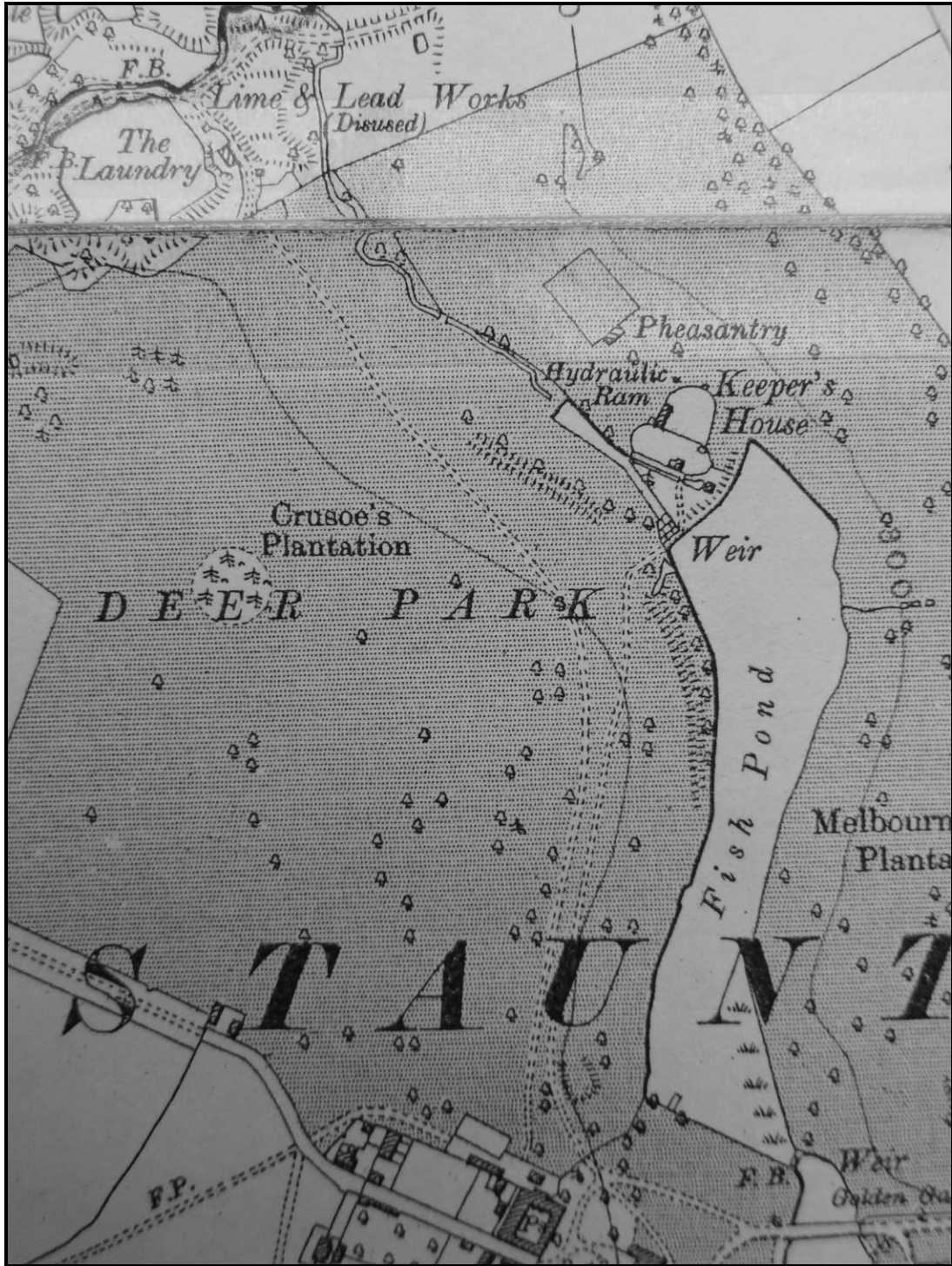


The old trackway bridge and the lake dam



The attractive old bridge running along the top of the dam at the end of the serpentine lake. A cart track ran between the walls of the bridge which later gave access to "Keeper's Cottage".

Both the trackway from the hall across the bridge to Keeper's House and another one down to Dimminsdale can be seen on the following 1901 O/S map.



STAUNTON HAROLD CRICKET CLUB

As mentioned previously, the 10th Earl was a keen sportsman and would no doubt have been responsible for establishing the Staunton Harold cricket team.

By c.1901, the writer's grandfather Samuel Stewart and three of his great uncles as highlighted below, and all living in Lount, were playing cricket for "Staunton Harold Cricket Club". Robert Stewart, the youngest member of the Stewarts of Lount family who are shown earlier in the book, also played for the club. They played their games on the fields to the north of what is now the "Staunton Harold Garden Centre". Apart from the attached photograph, the appended map showing the location of the pitch, and the newspaper reports, there doesn't appear to be any further information available on the cricket club. They certainly make a formidable group, and with the Rev Pritchard at the centre of activities, I am sure God would have ensured that they were a successful side. However, the appended results do not support that theory.



Staunton Harold Cricket Club - 1901

J. Bradford	Samuel Stewart (b.1879)	T.Potter	H.Woodward	F.Chester	J.Chester	J.Waterfield	W.Fairbrother (Umpire)
	James Stewart (b.1878)	H.Bulll (Capt.)	Rev. Prichard	G.Lowe	C.Ball		
J.Harrison						John (Jack) Stewart (b1885)	
	William Stewart (b.1881)	T.Waterfield	J.Harrison	W.Kenney			

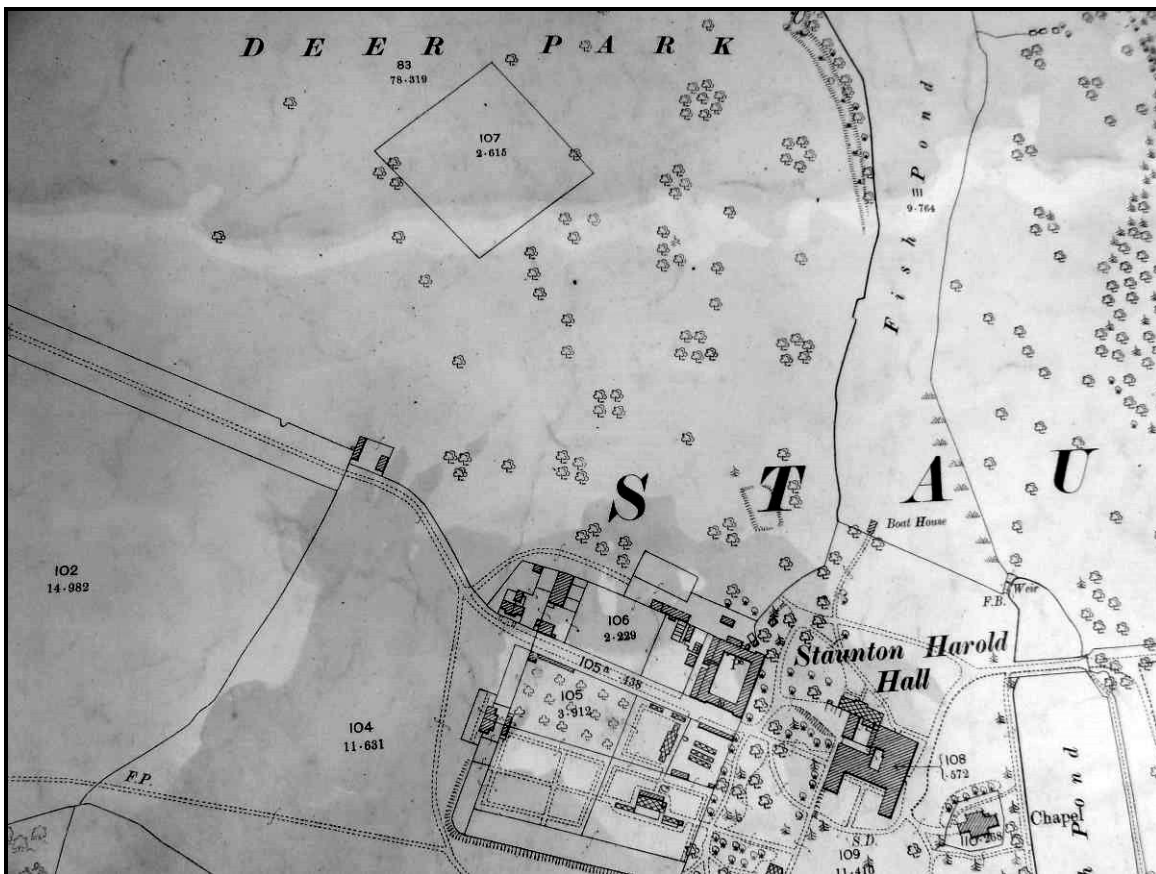
LEICESTER CHRONICLE - JULY 18TH 1896

CRICKET - Ravenstone met Staunton Harold on the latter club's ground. The home team totalled 38, T. Smith taking seven wickets for two runs and Ravenstone scored 54.

LEICESTER CHRONICLE - AUGUST 8TH 1896

CRICKET - The Bardon Hill second eleven played the return match with Staunton Harold Cricket Club on Saturday on the former's ground. The Staunton team scored 52 runs.

G. Hewes took three of their wickets for 4 runs. The home team made 59. Messers contributing 17 and Waterfield thirteen not out.



1901 second edition O/S map

The cricket pitch is also shown on the 1885 O/S map, so the Cricket Club would have existed at that time, and confirms the preceding 1896 advertisement dates.