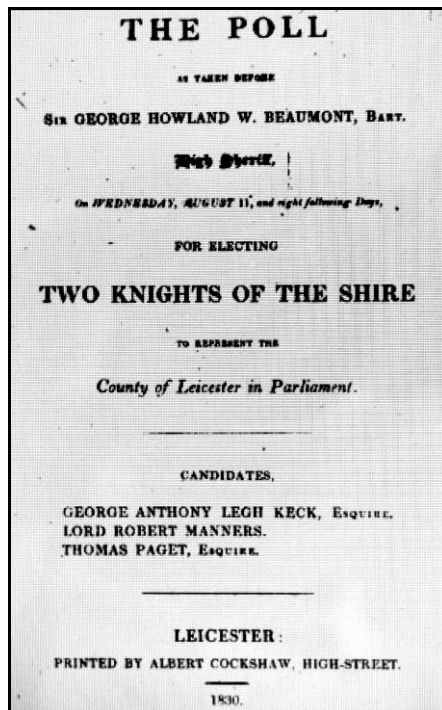


**1830 'WEST GOSCOTE HUNDRED' POLL  
FOR THE ELECTION OF 'TWO KNIGHTS' IN  
THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER**

**&**

**THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE (LATE 19th C)**



**BY SAMUEL T STEWART - DECEMBER 2023**

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**1830 'WEST GOSCOTE HUNDRED' POLL  
FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO KNIGHTS  
IN THE COUNTY OF LEICESTER**

**THE POLL**

AS TAKEN BEFORE

**SIR GEORGE HOWLAND W. BEAUMONT, BART.**

**High Sheriff.**

*On WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, and eight following Days,*

FOR ELECTING

**TWO KNIGHTS OF THE SHIRE**

TO REPRESENT THE

*County of Leicester in Parliament.*

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CANDIDATES,

GEORGE ANTHONY LEGH KECK, Esquire.  
LORD ROBERT MANNERS.  
THOMAS PAGET, Esquire.

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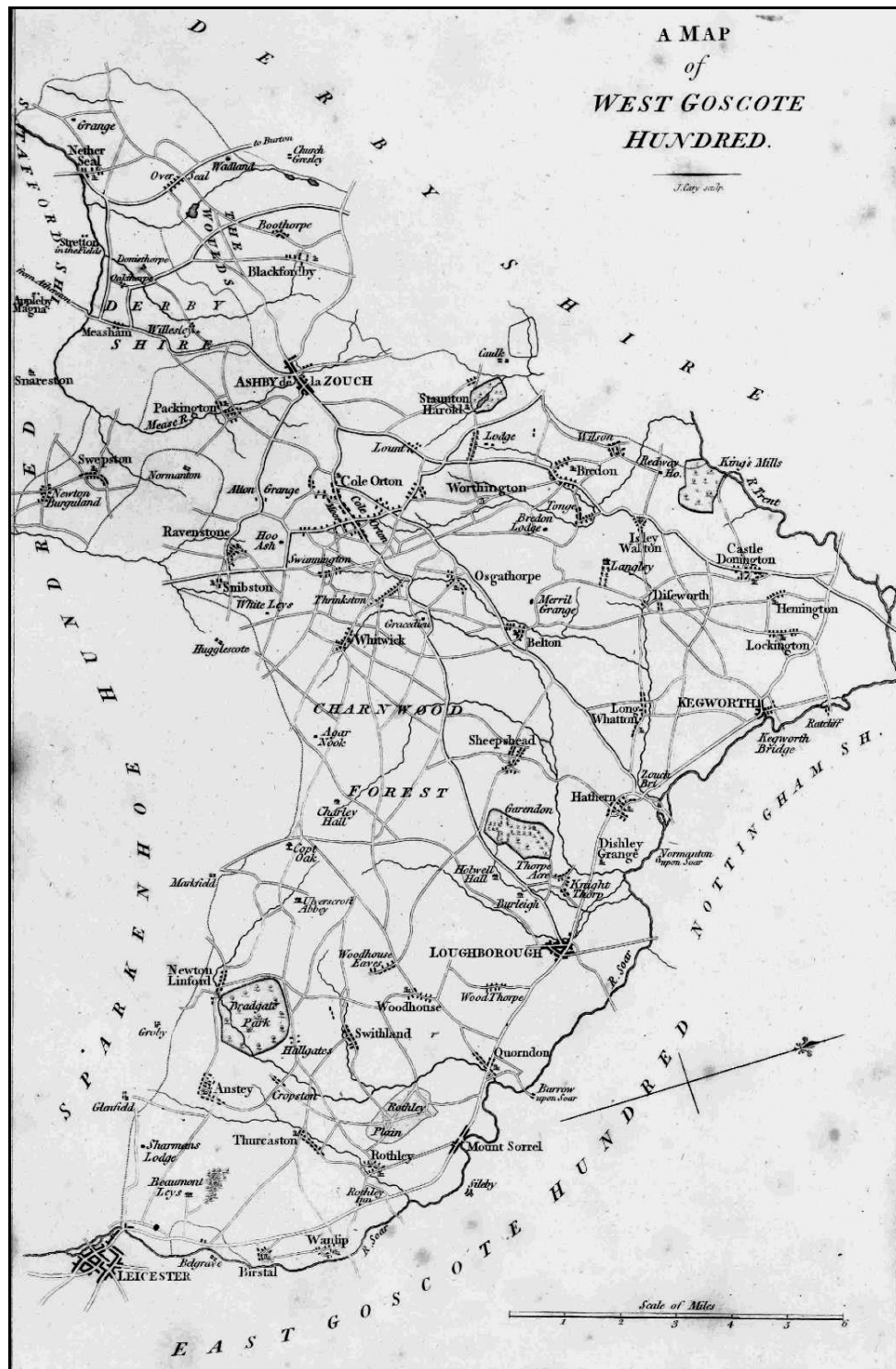
LEICESTER :

PRINTED BY ALBERT COCKSHAW, HIGH-STREET.

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1830.

The local divisions known as hundreds, though now practically obsolete, played an important part in judicial administration in the Middle Ages. The hundred system as a whole is first shown in detail in Domesday. **Osgathorpe** was one of the villages within the 'West Goscote One Hundred'. It is a complex subject but the following map will suffice to show the reader the area covered by the 'WEST GOSCOTE ONE HUNDRED'.



John Cary (1754 – 1835) map of the West Goscote Hundred

Prior to the election in 1830 covered here, the last contested Election for the County of Leicester was on the death of Sir Thomas Cave, Bart. in the year 1775 ; the candidates were John Peach Hungerford, Esq., of Dingley, supported by the Tory Interest, and William Pochin, Esq., of Barkby , patronised by the Whigs, when Mr. Hungerford was chosen.

In 1780 Mr. Pochin was unanimously elected , on the resignation of Sir John Palmer, Bart.

In 1784 Hungerford and Pochin were re - elected .

In 1790 Mr. Hungerford withdrew, and Sir Thomas Cave, Bart. was chosen with Mr. Pochin .

In 1792 Penn Asheton Curzon , Esq. of Gopsall Hall , was elected to fill the seat vacant by the death of Sir Thomas Cave.

In 1796 Pochin and Curzon were re- chosen ; and in 1797 , in consequence of the death of Mr. Curzon, George Anthony Legh Keck, Esq ., of Stoughton Grange, was elected to supply the vacancy.

In 1798 Mr. Pochin died, and Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp , Bart. took his place . In 1802 Keck and Hartopp were re - chosen.

In 1806 Mr. Keck was reinstated , and Lord Robert Manners , a brother of His Grace the present Duke of Rutland , was chosen with him, on the retirement of Sir Edmund Cradock Hartopp .

In 1807, and in 1812 , Mr. Keck and Lord Robert Manners were re - elected .

In 1818 Charles March Phillipps , Esq., of Garendon Park, was chosen with Lord Robert Manners.

In 1820 , and 1826 , Mr. Keck was again elected with Lord Robert Manners .

## **PEOPLE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THE ELECTION OF KNIGHTS TO A SHIRE**

The English parliament of 1265 was instigated by [Simon de Montfort, 6th Earl of Leicester](#), without royal approval. Simon de Montfort's army had met and defeated the royal forces at the Battle of Lewes on May 14, 1264. Montfort sent out representatives to each [county](#) and to a select list of [boroughs](#), asking each to send two representatives, and insisted the representatives be [elected](#). [Henry III](#) rejected the new Parliament and resumed his war against Montfort, who was killed later that year at the [Battle of Evesham](#), but the idea of electing [Knights of the Shire](#) as representatives of the counties, and burgesses from the boroughs, became a permanent feature. The process for electing burgesses varied from town to town, according to local custom. **Representatives from the counties were called knights of the shire and were publicly elected.**

By 1430, legislation limited the franchise to only those who owned the freehold of land that brought in an annual rent of at least 40 shillings (forty-shilling freeholders).

**Forty-shilling freeholders** were a group of people who had the parliamentary franchise to vote by possessing **freehold** property, or **lands held directly of the king**, of an annual rent of at least forty **shillings** (i.e. £2 or 3 marks), clear of all charges.

The legislation did not specify the gender of the property owner, however the franchise became restricted to males by custom. In subsequent centuries, until the 1832 **Great Reform Act** specified 'male persons', a few women were able to vote in parliamentary elections through property ownership, although this was rare.

**BELOW IS A LIST OF OSGATHORPE FREEHOLDERS WHO WERE ENTITLED TO VOTE IN THE 1830 ELECTION**

NAME	PLACE OF ABODE	TRADE	KIND OF FREEHOLD
WILLIAM BAILEY	OSGATHORPE	BLACKSMITH	HOUSE & LAND
JONATHAN BOSTOCK	“	FARMER	LAND
THOMAS GILBERT	“	CORDWAINER (SHOE MAKER)	HOUSE & LAND
THOMAS GILBERT	“	CORDWAINER (SHOE MAKER)	HOUSES & LAND
GEORGE THOMAS WALE	“	FARMER	HOUSE & LAND
GEORGE BARRATT	“	LABOURER	HOUSE & LAND
DANIEL WOODCOCK	“	FRAMEWORK KNITTER	HOUSE & GARDEN
JOSIAH BRANSON	“	CARRIER	LAND
WILLIAM BRANSON	“	FARMER	HOUSE & LAND
HENRY HOLLALY (HOLLOWAY ??)	“	LABOURER	HOUSE & LAND
WILLIAM HOLLILO (HOLLOWAY ??)	“	LABOURER	LAND
BENJAMIN JOHNSON	“	FARMER	HOUSES & LAND

**THE POLL WAS HELD ON WEDNESDAY AUGUST 11th AND THE FOLLOWING 8 DAYS BEFORE SIR GEORGE HOWLAND WILLOUGHBY BEAUMONT, 8TH BARONET OF STOUGHTON WHO WAS HIGH SHERIFF AT THE TIME. HIS SEAT WAS AT COLEORTON HALL**

**VOTES POLLED IN ELECTION:-**

George Anthony Legh Keck – 3,515;  
 Lord Robert Manner – 2,996;  
 Thomas Paget – 2,196

## THE PRIMROSE LEAGUE



The Primrose League was an **organisation for spreading Conservative principles in Great Britain**. It was founded in 1883 by Lord Randolph Churchill. At a late point in its existence, its declared aims (published in the *Primrose League Gazette*, vol.83, no.2, March/April 1979) were *To Uphold and support God, Queen, and Country, and the Conservative cause*.

Sir Winston Churchill, in his book on his father, *Lord Randolph Churchill* published in 1906, stated that the Primrose League had one million paid up members "determined to promote the cause of Toryism".

Membership of the League was said to be "well over a million by the early 1890s", and at that time enjoyed more support than the [British trade union movement](#). 6,000 people were members of the League in [Bolton](#) in 1900, which was as large as the national membership of the [Independent Labour Party](#) during the same time. However, by 1912 the League's membership had fallen to just over 650,000 as other leagues emerged, such as the [Tariff Reform League](#) and the [Budget Protest League](#).

**Part of the attraction of the League was due to its cross-class appeal: workers could enjoy the fêtes; the middle-classes could enjoy meeting the local nobs; while for upper-class women, the League offered an opportunity for political mobilisation, with the new bicycles providing means for them to reach a wide range of country villages.**

## **Leicester Journal – January 10<sup>th</sup> 1896**

### **OSGATHORPE PRIMROSE LEAGUE**

The annual meeting of the Osgathorpe Ward of the Primrose League was held in the Harley Grammar School room. Osgathorpe on Tuesday night. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. W. A. Williams, rector of Osgathorpe. It was preceded by a meat tea to which about one hundred persons sat down. During the evening, addresses were delivered by the Rev W. F. Williams, who spoke on the objects of the *Primrose League*. The Rev. H. W. F. Hepworth, vicar of Shepshed and Mr. H. G. Howe of Whitwick spoke on current politics. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the warden, Miss Williams, for her services during the past year. It was stated that the society now numbers 98 members. The meeting was followed by a dance and the proceedings were concluded at about midnight **by the singing of the National Anthem.**

### **JUST A THOUGHT FOR THE POOR PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGE**

## **Leicester Journal – December 31<sup>st</sup> 1897**

The comfort of the poor at Osgathorpe at Christmas was kindly cared for by Mr. R. Lucas Tooth, Garendon Park, who sent a cheque for £2 to the Rector for that purpose; also by the Leicestershire ladies' needlework guild, who through Mrs. Edwin De Lisle sent a very useful and acceptable parcel of needlework for distribution.

## **Leicester Chronicle - January 7<sup>th</sup> 1887**

**OSGATHORPE.** Seasonable Liberality.— The poor and aged have been favoured with a new year's gift in addition to the Christmas gift of coal, Mr. Samuel having given a piece of beef to 16 families in greatest need.

**OSGATHORPE.** This village came in for a share of the bounty of the Christmas season. J. P. White, Esq., of Coalville, sent 21 loads of coal to the old people, widows, and others in great need, Messrs. Adcock and Kidger, and others doing the carting free of cost. This village has suffered very much from the depression of trade.