

# DISCOVERING BINGHAM

Quarterly NEWSLETTER of the **Bingham Heritage Trails Association**  
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BHTA: Increasing public awareness of our heritage in Architecture, Folk & Natural History, Archaeology & Geology



## POPPY FOR REMEMBRANCE

"Sometime ago Roy Hill contacted us through the web site while he was researching his uncle Albert who was killed in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) in the Great War. Roy kindly gave us the photos that now adorn Albert's soldier's page on the web site. Albert was killed 100 years ago on 25th January 1917, aged 23.



Roy invited us to meet him as he laid a wreath at the war memorial in the church in memory of his uncle. The bell ringers also marked Albert's death when on Sunday 8th January, a 1260 Plain Bob Minor was rung. They perform this for each soldier named on the Rood Screen War Memorial on or near the hundredth anniversary of their death. The dates are also indicated by the poppy image (above) on the BHTA calendar.

*The following item is the first we have received from a BHTA member, as distinct from Committee members. Our thanks to David Boxer. We hope this will start a trend! Ed.*

## THE BARDOLPH SIGNET RING

While field walking in February 2005, as part of the BHTA project started in November 2004 to investigate the history of human settlement in Bingham parish, I made a discovery that was to have personal significance. It was in late February 2005, in the very large field between Chapel Lane and 'The Fosse', walking a particular line with my wife and picking up several 'finds', I decided to walk it again since, for some reason, I felt I may have missed something. In doing so I disturbed a clod of earth and saw, buried in the soil beneath it, the tiniest blue glint. I had found the signet ring stone, shown below on the left. An interesting find, of course, but at that point I did not connect it with the extensive family history research through which I had established that I was a descendant of both the Bardolph family of Shelford and Stoke Bardolph and the Goushill family of Hoveringham and after several years it came as a

revelation to find that the Bardolph Crest in Fairbairn's Book of Crests (below right) was the exact match for my field walking 'find'.

How old it is I don't know but my earliest known male ancestor is Sir Thomas Bardolph, born in 1154, and it could date from around that time. The last Bardolph (also Thomas) died from mortal wounds during the Battle of Bramham Moor in 1408, when he and Sir Henry Percy (also slain) fought Henry IV. The King had Bardolph quartered but subsequently allowed his wife to retrieve the parts of his body for burial. Bardolph having two daughters and no sons, the name died with him. Interestingly Bardolph, and Percy, had previously fought against the king at the Battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 when Percy's son 'Hotspur' was killed. Also killed in the battle was Sir Robert Goushill of Hoveringham, fighting for the king. He was married to Elizabeth Fitzalan, Duchess of Norfolk, and I'm descended from them through their daughter Elizabeth Wingfield.

Records show that before several generations of the Goushill family, Hoveringham was ruled by Hugo de Hoveringham, and before that, in 1066, by Swein (the Noble), who also ruled Radcliffe on Trent, Tithby, Cotham,



Flawborough, Horsepool and Thurgarton. After 1066 ownership passed to Walter of Aincourt, a reward for fighting for William the Conqueror against Harold Godwinson.

When I moved my job from London 25 years ago, on a spur of the moment decision, I had no idea that I had historic connections to the area, so to find that signet stone in such circumstances reminds me of Shakespeare's words in Hamlet 'There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will'.

## FIRST 2017 LECTURE



An audience of 50 people met in the Methodist Centre for the first BHTA lecture of 2017 delivered by Adrian Henstock on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Dr Robert Thoroton (1623-1678) was the author of the first history of Nottinghamshire. He was descended from an old Nottinghamshire family which took its name from the village of Thoroton near Bingham. He lived in the adjacent village of Car Colston where he practised as a physician. He was the 6<sup>th</sup> Robert Thoroton in a direct male line but unfortunately had no male heirs. However his brother's descendants still live at Flintham Hall.

He was educated at Thoroton village school and may possibly have attended a grammar school at Newark or Nottingham. At the age of 16 he went up to Christ College, Cambridge graduating with a BA in 1643 and an MA in 1646 but with no medical degree. Although there is no record of any formal medical training he was licenced to practise medicine. On leaving Cambridge he worked with Dr More from Hockerton and could have possibly gained experience treating injured soldiers around Newark during the Civil War between King Charles I and Parliament?

In 1663 Thoroton successfully petitioned Gilbert Sheldon, Archbishop of Canterbury, for a degree. He claimed he had been unable to complete his degree due to the Civil War and had

suffered financially from his support for the losing Royalist cause. Fortunately he already knew Sheldon, a fellow Royalist who had been lying low with relatives in East Bridgford for some years during the war. Sheldon was a religious hard-liner and did not like non-conformists and appointed Thoroton as a magistrate to prosecute groups such as Quakers. As a magistrate he sat on the Bench at Newark but he also heard cases at home. He could put people in the stocks, which can still be seen on The Green in Car Colston.

His practice extended over Nottinghamshire as well as Leicestershire and Derbyshire and he had to make long

journeys on horseback to visit patients drawn from the gentry classes. Some of their surviving letters indicate that he had a very chatty and informal relationship with them. He trusted only one apothecary - in Nottingham - to dispense his potions and 'Dr Thoroton's Balsam' became famous over a wide area.

Thoroton's interest in history began as a hobby when he traced his own family back to a Norman baronial family. His expertise in genealogy was in great demand by neighbouring gentry families during the Heraldic Visitation of Nottinghamshire in 1662. This official inspection was designed to check whether they could prove their right to bear coats-of-arms and be called 'gentlemen' after the social upheavals of the Civil War. In fact over 70 Nottinghamshire men were either unable or unwilling to produce evidence and were formally disclaimed as being 'no gentlemen'.

The Visitation was conducted by one of the chief heralds, William Dugdale, who was so impressed by Thoroton's work that he persuaded him to compile a history of Nottinghamshire. He began research in 1667 and visited many churches, copying inscriptions and sketching coats of arms, often on his travels to see patients. He also studied many mediaeval Latin archives held by local families. However he was mostly interested in manorial descents and not archaeological remains, which is strange in that his home in Car Colston was within a mile of important Roman sites.

The *Antiquities of Nottinghamshire* was finally published in London in 1677 – only a year before his death – and dedicated to William Dugdale.

Subsequent research has shown that he was a very accurate recorder, and always acknowledged the source of his information. He also incidentally records details about his own times – for example his telling comment that the besieged royalists in Newark in 1644 ‘suffered more by the plague within [the town] than the enemy without’. The book is also valuable for numerous drawings of churches, monuments, country houses, and the earliest ever views of Nottingham and Newark.

In his will of 1673 he commissioned an enormous coffin and lid to be carved out of stone and decorated with heraldic shields of his ancestors. Following his death in 1678 his executors obviously had problems with moving it as it was discovered in 1843 buried just below ground outside the chancel door of Car Colston church. It was opened in front of a group of village schoolchildren and his skull was removed and displayed in a shop window before the vicar ordered its reburial.

His chief memorial is the Nottinghamshire historical and archaeological society founded 200 years later in 1897 and named The Thoroton Society in his honour. This year it is celebrating its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary, having published an annual journal of miscellaneous articles on local history – called *The Transactions* – ever since.



*Adrian taking questions at the end of his talk held in the new Methodist Centre.*

## 100 YEARS AGO IN APRIL

Those who have seen our web pages on World War One will know there is a wealth of information about each Bingham person who was involved. The layout provides an easy to digest resource of information. For more general readers we would also like to produce “potted histories” written up like the following two stories. There are many examples of several members of the same family serving, so some stories about “Families at War”, for example, would be appropriate and make interesting reading for today’s audience. We invite any of our readers to take up the challenge and write up some stories from web site material that interest you. It would be helpful if you let us know what stories you are contemplating writing so we can avoid duplication. The aim is to load these stories onto the web site to enhance what is already there and possibly publish some in *‘Discovering Bingham’*. If you have family connections with any of those named on the web site we’d love to hear from you. Contact us initially via the web site. [See page 4]

**Charles Edwin Hackett** was born in Burton on Trent on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1879 and lived there with his family. In 1901 he was a brewer’s labourer. In December 1905 he married Sarah Shooter in Burton. They had a son, Charles Edwin who was born and died in 1906. This sad event may have provoked them to emigrate to Canada in March 1907, perhaps feeling they wanted to start a new life. They set up home in Collingwood, Ontario, and had three children, Sydney in 1910, Flora in 1912 and Fred in 1914.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> July 1915 Charles, by now a bricklayer, enlisted in Calgary into the 50<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Canadian Army. He was posted to Europe and in May 1916 Sarah returned to England with the children. The passenger list gave her address as Moor Street, Burton on Trent, but she moved on to Bramcote Street, Old Radford.

On the opening day of the Battle of Arras, 9 April 1917, the four divisions of the Canadian Corps, fighting side by side for the first time, scored a huge tactical victory in the capture of the 60 metre high Vimy Ridge. Sadly, Charles was killed in action at Vimy Ridge the next day when the Canadians took Hill 145 at the cost of 70 dead and many wounded. Having no known



*Trenches on the battlefield at Vimy Ridge - as they are today.*

grave Charles is remembered on the Vimy Memorial, along with 11000 other Canadian servicemen who died there. He has no other memorial than Bingham. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission gives his wife's address as Market Street, Bingham. We do not know what brought her here but in the parish magazine of May 1917 Canon Hutt wrote:

*Pte. Hackett was not known to us in Bingham, and Mrs. Hacket has been with us but for a short time. They had a comfortable home in Calgary, in Canada, and immediately on the outbreak of war Pte. Hackett enlisted in the Canadian Infantry. He had been serving for some time in France, and it was presumably on Vimy Ridge, where the Canadians have won immortal fame, that he made the supreme sacrifice.*

Canon Hutt probably had a hand in placing Charles' name on the war memorial, despite his having had no connection at all with Bingham. Whatever the reason

for her being in Bingham, on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1922 Sarah married Joseph Moseley Curtis, a 50 year old journeyman butcher living in Needham Street. In October they had a son Leonard

(Sarah was 43 by this time) and in 1939 were living in Market Street. He was still a journeyman butcher (he probably worked for Downings the fore-runner of Hopkinsons and now part of the Handicentre); Sarah's unmarried daughter Flora lived with them. It is pleasing to see Sarah finally found happiness after the tragedy of war.

**Gunner Thomas Alfred Buggins** (or Baggins as he preferred to be called) also died on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1917 as a result of his war service. His official War Graves Commission headstone (below) has recently been installed to mark his previously unmarked grave in Bingham Cemetery.

He had been born in 1895 in

Asylum where he is also remembered on the staff war memorial, now preserved in the church hall. He is also named on the Radcliffe on Trent war memorial.

He volunteered in November 1914 becoming a gun layer with the Royal Field Artillery. He was posted to the Western front in August 1915. It is not clear where he served but he contracted Tuberculosis and was hospitalised at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Western General Hospital, Manchester. He was discharged on 16 April 1916 as medically unfit and was sent home with a pension of 12 shillings and sixpence per week. Local informants suggest his sister nursed him at home for the remainder of his life. He died on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1917.



Church Stretton, Shropshire. His father was a gamekeeper and by 1911 the family was living at what is now Buggins Cottage on Fosse Road/Chapel Lane. Thomas lived-in as an attendant at Saxondale

## SATURDAY 20th MAY LIBRARY ROMAN DAY

Bingham Library in collaboration with Lakeside Museum Outreach Team and BHTA will be displaying locally found Roman artifacts with experts on duty to answer your questions. Just drop in between 10.00am and 4.00pm.

## FINAL 2017 LECTURE New Methodist Centre at 7.30pm Thursday 11th May

Tales from the Trent  
Bridge Pavilion  
Peter Wynne-Thomas  
NCCC Archivist

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