

Diary Dates



Salopian Recorder

The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives,
gateway to the history of Shropshire and Telford

Courses at Shropshire Archives

Tuesday 28 February 2017

Palaeography — how to read old writing

Course tutor Helen Hayes uses documents such as wills and inventories, parish registers, deeds, private letters and borough account books, from Shropshire and further afield. This six-week course is suitable for those with no previous experience of reading old documents but will also equip those experienced in local and family history research to understand their own older documents.

10.00am - 12.00pm Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ

Cost: £45 to include all six sessions

Booking: to book or for further information, please contact Museum Education, Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery, the Square, Shrewsbury SY1 1LH, tel: 01743 258881 / 258884 email: museumeducation@shropshire.gov.uk

Saturday 3 March 2017

Community History Day

10.30am-2.30pm All Saints Parish Hall, Wellington
Free event, contact info@wlsf.org.uk or visit www.wlsf.org.uk for further details.

Saturday 25 March 2017

Beggars can't be choosers — investigating the story of the poor and destitute in Shropshire

An opportunity to learn more about the lives of ordinary people in Shropshire from the 16th to the 19th century, from a range of fascinating original sources.

10.00am Welcome

10.05-10.50am 'The poor are always with us', the old and new poor law in Shropshire, *Alison Healey*

10.50am-11.20am Transforming access to Shropshire's poor law collections, *Mary McKenzie, Team Leader, Archives*

11.40am-1.00pm Display of poor law documents. Behind the scenes tours of Shropshire Archives including the Conservation and Reprographics studio

Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ
Booking essential, Cost £5, contact details below.

Summer events for your diary

14 June 2017, AGM and visit to Lilleshall Hall

30 September 2017, Bishops Castle History Day

18 July 2017, Visit to Combermere Abbey, Whitchurch

For more information on the summer activities go to www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk in the Spring

News Extra...

Do you have any stories to tell about Shropshire's history or have any news about Shropshire Archives? If you have, the editor is waiting to hear from you now. The contact details are below and photographs are always welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: The newsletter of the Friends of Shropshire Archives is edited by Andrew Pattison and designed by Nat Stevenson, Shropshire Archives' Image Services.

There are three issues per year, paid for by the Friends. The contents are provided by friends and well-wishers. If you would like to join the contributors, please contact the editor at apattison@clara.net

DISCLAIMER: We have made every effort to ensure that the information in this publication is correct at the time of printing. We cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions.

Contact... For further details or to pass on your comments, please contact:
Shropshire Archives, Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ • Tel: **0345 6789096**
Email: archives@shropshire.gov.uk • Website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk



Impressions of the past: Medieval seals and historical research

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Interior of the Market Hall, Shoplatch, Shrewsbury, c.1898. Shropshire Archives ref: PH/S/13/S/24/11

Feature

Elizabeth New

Impressions of the Past: Medieval seals and historical research

Seals survive in great numbers in British archives, but are a surprisingly neglected source of evidence for past societies. This article will reveal some of the ways in which these small packages of image and text can provide glimpses into the lives of men and women from medieval Shropshire and beyond.

In the mid-1270s Roger son of William, a tailor, and Ysolt his wife, leased a plot of land and a building in the parish of St Julian's, Shrewsbury, from Lilleshall Abbey. The details of this exchange were recorded in a chirograph, a piece of parchment on which the agreement was written in duplicate and then cut across with a zig-zag line, so that both Roger and Ysolt and Lilleshall each had a copy. While this provided evidence, however, the writing did not validate the agreement — this was instead done by impressing seal dies (technically known as matrices) into disks of wax that were attached to the documents. The Abbot of Lilleshall impressed the communal seal on behalf of all the brethren, and would have handed the sealed document to Roger and Ysolt; they, in turn, each impressed a

matrix which identified them, and it is this document, with the wax seal impressions attached and preserved by the abbey, which survives today. The motifs and wording on the seals of ordinary men and women was usually a matter of personal choice, and in Roger's case it identifies him by both name and occupation, complete with the depiction of a pair of scissors (Figure 1). His wife Ysolt used a seal with a radial motif, a type of image that was popular at the time and may have been engraved as an 'off the shelf' matrix with space for a name to be added; she (or perhaps Roger on her behalf) could however have picked other common motifs such as a lily, bird or animal, so even a ready-made seal can tell us something about personal choice. Unusually, Ysolt is named as 'wife of Roger' - women are more

commonly identified on seals by their place of origin or in relation to their father — showing that this matrix was acquired after her marriage. This may not seem much, but unlike the Abbot of Lilleshall or the leading burgesses who

acted as witnesses to the lease, Roger and Ysolt do not otherwise appear in the historical record, and it is only through their seals that we know that Roger was proud of his occupation — and perhaps aware of the value of advertising!

monasteries, urban and other local communities, nobles, Church and secular officials, and departments of royal government, all owned and used seal matrices to authenticate formal charters, property and land deeds, bonds, agreements such as articles of apprenticeship, records of sale, and legal documents of all kinds. As a result of the way in which medieval common law worked, even peasants with a claim to a very small parcel of land could be required to seal documents, and as result hundreds of thousands of seal impressions survive in archives across the land.

Two of the earliest extant Shropshire seal impressions relate to a father and son, and are suggestive of one family's developing social status. In around 1150 a man called Marscot gave a small parcel of land to the newly-



Figure 1.

The impression of a seal was the principal means of authenticating written exchanges throughout the Middle Ages, continuing to be used even when signatures became more common from the early sixteenth century (the origin of our phrase 'signed and sealed'). Indeed seals are still used today for many purposes; the mosaic outside the Shropshire Archives building is in fact based on Shrewsbury's first communal seal! (Figure 2, over page) Medieval men and women, along with institutions such as

Main picture: *Inspeximus* and confirmation of charters of Henry VIII (seal), 1548. Shropshire Archives ref: 3365/37

Below: Figure 1 - Seal of Roger the tailor from a lease, c. 1275. Shropshire Archives ref: 972/1/1/442



Figure 2 - The first communal seal of Shrewsbury, Exemplification by the bailiffs of Shrewsbury, Jul 1328. Shropshire Archives ref: 322/2/85

established Augustinian priory at Haughmond, and validated the record of the gift by impressing a seal matrix engraved with the image of a lion, a motif often used by well-to-do people at the time. Approximately twenty-five years later (the documents do not specify an exact date; both survive in the National Library of Wales), Marscot's son Hamo also gave some land to Haughmond, but this time the matrix depicted a warrior on horseback, a symbol of secular power that had been adopted as the principal image for the nobility to use on their seals. Hamo cannot otherwise securely be identified, and it seems that the family's increased social standing — or their attempts to move up the pecking-order — were either temporary or illusionary, despite the best efforts of seal-based propaganda.

The adoption of images that projected high status by people lower down the social scale led the 'real' nobility to change to a new

type of motif on their seals — the heraldic device. The Corbet family is a case in point, with the family adopting heraldry on their seals during the thirteenth century, with one branch of the family settling on the device of a corbie, a raven or crow. For example, Robert Corbet of Moreton Corbet validated several documents in the later fourteenth century with his seal depicting a shield charged with a *corbie* (Figure 3 below).

While some people used their seals to say something about their social status or family connections, others employed images and words that can provide us with glimpses of religious commitment, humour, and different ways in which men and women identified themselves. In the second quarter of the thirteenth century, Bromfield Priory leased a small plot of land to a man who was named in the document as Simon son of Robert of Bromfield — but who chose instead the name 'Simon Gernun' for his seal. In the early fifteenth century George Haukeston, validating a jury return from Bridgnorth, didn't choose an alternative name but certainly had fun with his own, the design on his seal being the visual pun of a



hawk, pecking a 'g' in front of it, and with the remainder of his last name spelt out with the letters 'stun' trailing down the bird's back. Deciding to use a religious image or devotional wording meant opting not to identify oneself through occupation or social status. This was not particularly unexpected for priests such as Richard Longeleys, vicar of Chelmarsh, who in 1381 used a seal depicting St Katherine. In this instance, however, either Richard wanted to have 'two for the price of one' in honouring different saints or the seal maker got confused, because the accompanying text reads MATER DEI MISERERE MEI ('Mother of God have mercy on me', an invocation to the Virgin Mary). Perhaps more surprising was that Richard de Caynham, a butcher from Ludlow validating a grant of land in the town in 1341/2, also chose to use a seal honouring the Virgin Mary; a rare glimpse, perhaps, of a man with deep personal piety.

In the absence of diaries and journals, a very limited amount of correspondence, and many people who are almost completely absent from the historical record, medieval seals are an invaluable resource, and paying closer attention to them undoubtedly provides us with clearer impressions of the Middle Ages.

You can follow the Arts & Humanities Research Council funded *Imprint: A forensic and historical investigation of fingerprints on medieval seals* project on Twitter #Imprint_Projectseals and on a website from early 2017. ■

Figure 3 - seal of Robert Corbet, grant of the manor of Harpekote, 1374. Shropshire Archives ref: 322/2/194

Book Review

Andrew Pattison

Braidwood &c

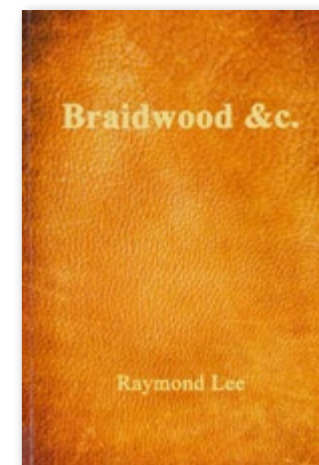
by Raymond Lee, published by the British Deaf History Society, 2015, SA C35.6

Though this book might win a booby prize for the dullness of its title and cover, it nevertheless provides us with a unique window into the history of disability in Shropshire. In the late 18th century, those who were deaf from birth (and hence unable to speak) often existed only on the margins of society. Raymond Lee quotes one writer who had this to say about them,

'Excluded from the knowledge of everything except the immediate objects of sense, apparently doomed to ignorance, idleness and uselessness, a burden to friends and to society, incapable in such a state of that social intercourse and communication of mind, which constitute the most pleasing and rational enjoyment of intellectual beings, without distinct ideas of moral obligation, of their duty to God, or the nature and end of their existence; what pitiable animals are men in such circumstances, and how little superior to brutes!' (p.223)

Thomas Braidwood (1715-1806) was determined to change that and developed a revolutionary method of teaching the deaf, which he put into practice at the first ever Academy for the Deaf and Dumb, opened in Edinburgh in 1760, and transferred to London in 1783. Much of *Braidwood &c* tells the story of what is known of Thomas Braidwood, and recounts the history of his academy, but the latter half of the book gives a potted history of as many of the early students as possible. Four of these were from Shropshire. All four came from well-to-do families, which is perhaps not surprising as the education was quite expensive.

Elizabeth Metcalfe was born in 1755 at All Stretton. Her father was a local landowner, and Elizabeth was born deaf, and hence could not speak. She was sent to the Braidwood Academy in June 1767, and within a month she had acquired speech, with pronunciation clear enough to be understood. Over the next year she learned to lip read, read and write, and her father was so amazed to hear of her progress that he despatched two relatives to Edinburgh to confirm the reports. Her father died in 1769 and left the estate to



Elizabeth, initially with her mother as ward. After her mother's death, Elizabeth appears to have managed the estate on her own. She was a local benefactor and left a sum of £100 to the poor of the parish of St Lawrence's when she died in 1841.

Sarah Walcot (usually known by her maiden name of Dashwood) was the daughter of an aristocrat and was born in 1762. She was at Braidwood Academy in Edinburgh in 1775 when Samuel Johnson visited, an event that put the school on the map. She had a large dowry and married Rev John Walcot of Walcot Hall, Shropshire, in 1788. One of their children was Charles (1795-1875), who married his cousin Anne, who was also deaf. She went to the Braidwood Academy in London about 1798. Charles became Rector of Hopton Wafers in 1820, and they had four sons, but Anne and her youngest died together in childbirth in 1824 (they were buried in the same coffin in Bitterley).

Jane Poole was born deaf and was baptised on 1.8.1781 in Ludlow. She attended the Braidwood Academy in London at a young age. Here she learned the technique of finger-spelling. She never married, and was very well off, being a regular supporter of the deaf school in Liverpool. When she was about 60 she gradually became blind and lived as a deaf-blind person for her last 20 years, dying in 1860. Later in life she wrote a will via finger spelling, which was disputed after her death by her sister. This became an important legal precedent, the court finding that the will was valid, as Rev Charles Walcot had been one of the witnesses and had taken considerable pains to demonstrate that she was of sound mind.

So, far from being 'doomed to ignorance, idleness and uselessness, a burden to friends and to society', the evidence shows that these profoundly deaf Shropshire ladies were very much a part of society, two of them marrying and bringing up a family, and each capable also of running an estate and coping with the management of significant amounts of money. They are a group of which all disabled people, especially those who are profoundly deaf, can be proud. ■

Building Shrewsbury's Markets

As a Shropshire Archives volunteer I was recently given two boxes of documents to catalogue. The boxes were marked 'Markets' and on examination it soon became apparent that these were documents associated with the construction of the Cattle Market in 1866 and the General Market in 1867. Mostly these documents concerned the finances involved in these developments.

Cattle Market

Many of the bills concerning the development of the Cattle Market (in Raven Meadows, beside what is now Smithfield Road) were for the purchase of rock and stone from local quarries in order to prepare the site and repair and construct the two roads – the Old [Raven] Road and the New Road. One bill for 'stones broke' is from the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of St Chad [DA5/135/5/5/11], so the work had presumably been done by Poor Law recipients. As well as individual bills, some submitted on very small scraps of paper, there is a note book, prefaced with an almanac of 1847 [DA5/135/5/6/1] This notebook records the names of the men, details the work they were paid for, and the wages they were paid. For example, on the 17th August 1850, Thomas Thomas was paid 5s.6d for 1 day for the 'hauling of blue pipes and rubble stones' and on 31st August, he was paid 3s.6d 'for use of horse and cart'. Other bills were for fitting out the pens and the buildings.

General Market

In the case of the General Market (which was situated where the Market Hall is now), existing properties needed to be demolished and owners and occupiers compensated. Some of the documents give names of owners and occupiers, and the sums of money involved in these transactions. Most properties are simply listed as houses, but Richard Evans is shown as the owner and occupier of the Mermaid Inn, Bellstone. The claim for this property was £2,800. The valuation was given as £2,360. The purchase money agreed on was £2,700 [DA5/135/6/2/5/1-2].

Some of these documents throw light on the technology of the time. A bill from November 1869 from the Gas Light Company, Shrewsbury records £350 for fixing gas pipes, meter and service pipes and performing all works in connection with the supply of gas to the General Market [DA5/135/6/3/12]. Associated with this undertaking is a bill from Xmas 1869 from Thomas Jones of St Alkmond's Place [sic] for (among other things) the making of a 'large step ladder to run up on four wheels for the New Market to light and clean the gas burners'. Charges were shown as: William Hinshell 7¼ days £1.12s.7½d, James Blaze 1½ days 6s.9d, Richard Roberts 4¼ days 12s.9d and Robert Wilding 7 days 19s [DA5/135/6/3/11].



Buildings in Clarendon Street, Shrewsbury, demolished to make way for the new Market Hall, c. 1866. Shropshire Archives ref. PH/S/13/C/18/7



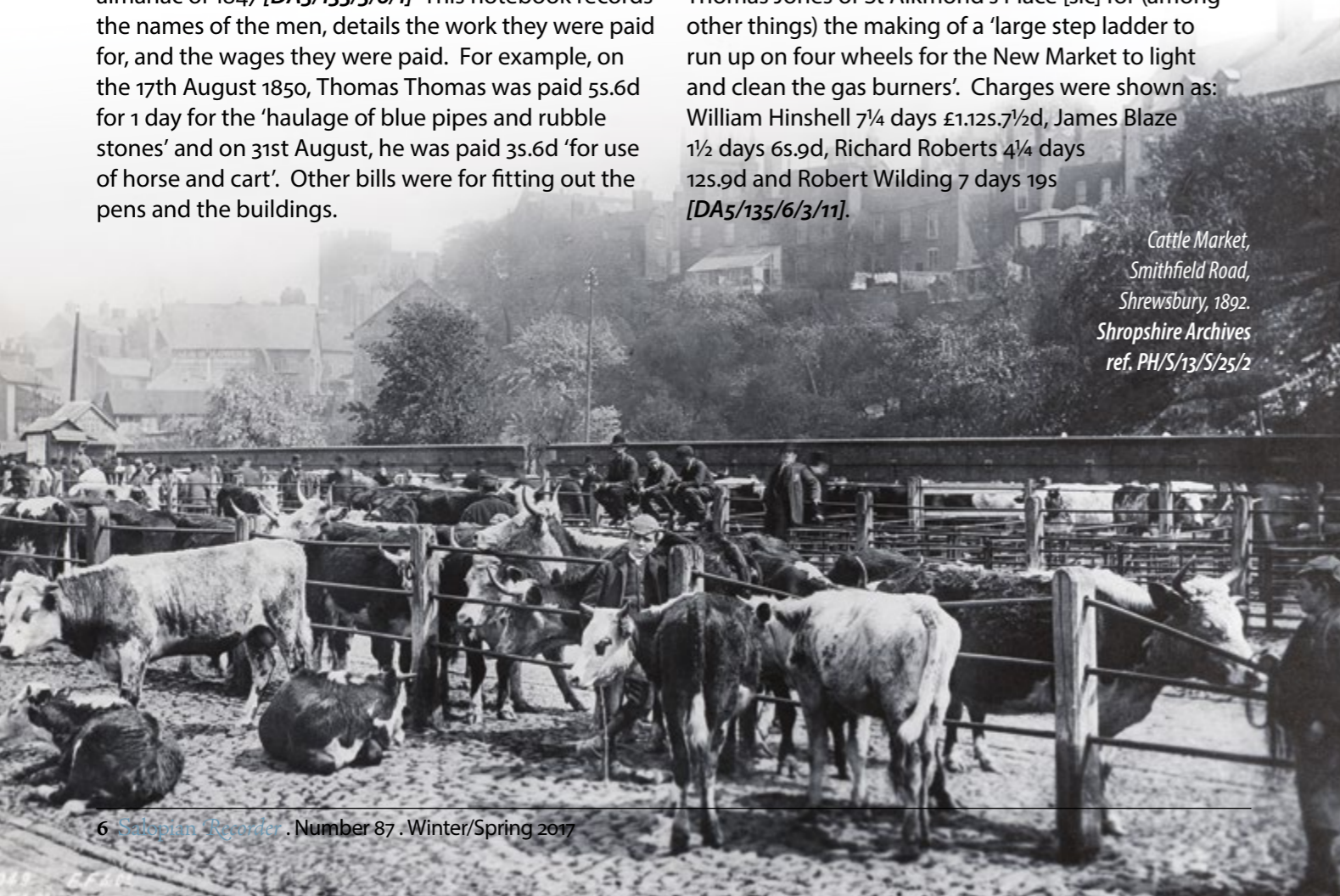
Buildings demolished to make way for the New Market Hall, Clarendon Street, Shrewsbury, c. 1866. Shropshire Archives ref. PH/S/13/C/18/9

Main image: Shrewsbury Market Hall, c.1891. Shropshire Archives ref. PH/S/13/M/8/25

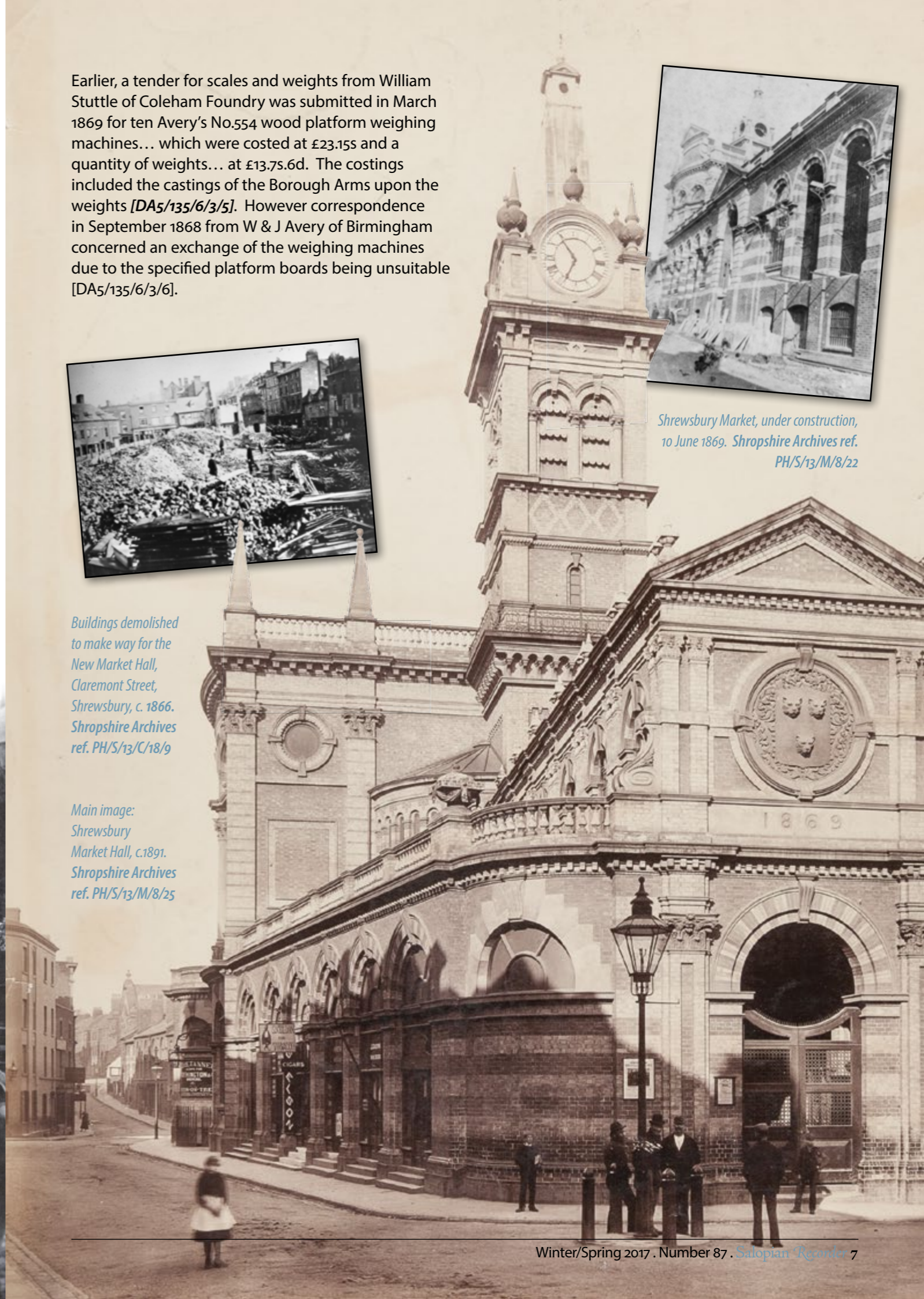
Earlier, a tender for scales and weights from William Stuttle of Coleham Foundry was submitted in March 1869 for ten Avery's No.554 wood platform weighing machines... which were costed at £23.15s and a quantity of weights... at £13.7s.6d. The costings included the castings of the Borough Arms upon the weights [DA5/135/6/3/5]. However correspondence in September 1868 from W & J Avery of Birmingham concerned an exchange of the weighing machines due to the specified platform boards being unsuitable [DA5/135/6/3/6].



Shrewsbury Market, under construction, 10 June 1869. Shropshire Archives ref. PH/S/13/M/8/22



Cattle Market, Smithfield Road, Shrewsbury, 1892. Shropshire Archives ref. PH/S/13/S/25/2



All 'mod cons'

In March 1871 there was a bill concerning the supply of one MacFarlane's Patent No.4 Water Closet Range for 4 persons complete £9.16s.6d. The bill is headed 'Architectural, Sanitary and Artistic Ironfounders. Saracen Foundry, Washington Street, Glasgow' and would appear to indicate that distance was no object in acquiring the desired standard for these fittings [DA5/135/6/3/24]

Several of the items concern the provision of the Market Hall clock. The clock was funded by subscriptions, and in 1869 Walter W. Naunton and Richard Davies, both of High Street, and Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal all submitted bills with regard to advertising and printing of circulars concerning subscribers to the clock fund [DA5/135/6/3/16-20]. The clock was supplied by James Joyce of Whitchurch, who in March 1871 submitted a bill for a 'large turret clock... to strike the hours and show time on 4 dials... 4 glass dials 8ft 9 ins in diameter, copper hands, as per contract £250' [DA5/135/6/3/23].

The bell came from London. A bill from Mears and Stainbank, bellfounders of 267, Whitechapel Road, London concerned the carriage of the bell to and from Shrewsbury in February 1870. It reads, 'A 20 cwt bell and ironwork to fix same, including carriage, men's time and expenses, fixing, journeys and all expenses as of estimate £201.17s.8d – with a deduction of £3.1s.3d for underweight' [DA5/135/6/3/21/1]. A bill for certificate

of carriage of 'one bell' from Salop Station to London by the London and North Western Railway Company for £2.16s.2d is dated January 1870 [DA5/135/6/3/21/2].

These items record the construction of these local markets at a time of burgeoning Victorian developments nationwide, but both just failed to reach their centenary. The Cattle Market was moved to a new site at Harlescott in 1959/60 and the General Market, still fondly remembered by older Salopians, succumbed to demolition in 1963. ■



Interior of the Market Hall, Shoplatch, Shrewsbury, c.1898.
Shropshire Archives ref: PH/S/13/S/24/11

George Wright



Star Volunteer,
11 Feb 1927 – 15 Nov 2016

An appreciation

Andrew Davidson,
Senior Conservator

George started volunteering at Shropshire Record Office — at that time in the Shirehall — in 1990, soon after he retired. He continued working with me in the conservation studio until 2009, when his health started to dampen his otherwise irrepressible enthusiasm. His first task was to help me prepare poorly packaged items, such as rolled maps, for the move to our current location. He made himself immensely useful, not just in the conservation studio and strong rooms, but at home as well, where he fabricated a drying rack, weights, and various other items that we still use today. He also played a major role in the photography of our map collection.

George was always cheerful and endlessly helpful. He was deeply interested in the collections — a natural corollary of his interest in family history, which he and his wife, Frances, had pursued for many years, and which, no doubt, led him to volunteer at the archives.

George, you were a star. I trust you are getting on well with the ancestors. ■

From the Chair

Jill Ming

Our third summer visit in August was to Weston Park where we were extremely fortunate in having its Curator Gareth Williams as our expert guide. This was a treat indeed since Gareth's extensive knowledge of the house and its collections enabled him to weave a lively narrative as we toured the building. Paintings, ceramics, furniture, silver — all were explained in context with insights into the family members who had collected them. A 'behind-the-scenes' tour by one of Weston Park's seasoned guides completed a fascinating afternoon.

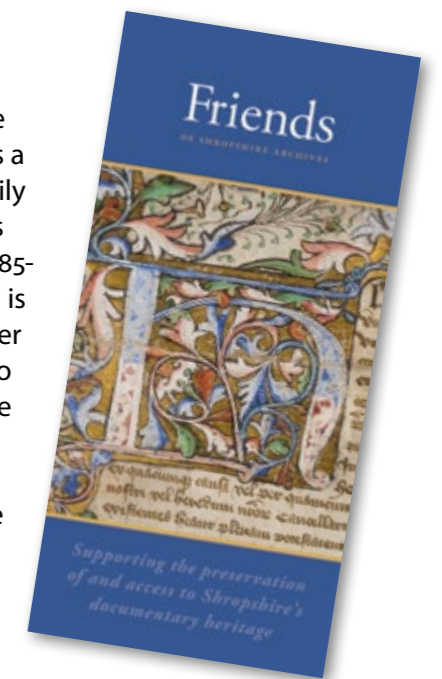
The Friends' annual lecture this year was presented by our Editor Andrew Pattison who has made a detailed study of the life and work of the ironmaster William Hazledine. Andrew delivered a fascinating illustrated talk about the extraordinary achievements of Hazledine, and his collaboration and friendship with Thomas Telford and John Simpson. All manner of ironworks were produced at Hazledine's base at Coleham Foundry, and used in many notable structures such as the Ditherington Flax Mill, the Picture Gallery roof at Attingham Park, as well as bridges and aqueducts across the country. We look forward to reading Andrew's biography of William Hazledine which will be published in 2017.

Your committee have recently authorised a number of purchases for Shropshire Archives made possible by members' subscriptions and the money we raise through our events programme. It is very satisfying to be able to provide funds for items which, without the support of the Friends,

the Archives would be unable to acquire. One of the acquisitions was a set of Lacon Child family indentures and papers covering the period 1585-1799, the cost of which is being shared with other history groups. We also approved the purchase of 200 map boxes, and additional map shelving for one of the archive stores, as well as a projector screen and a new PC.

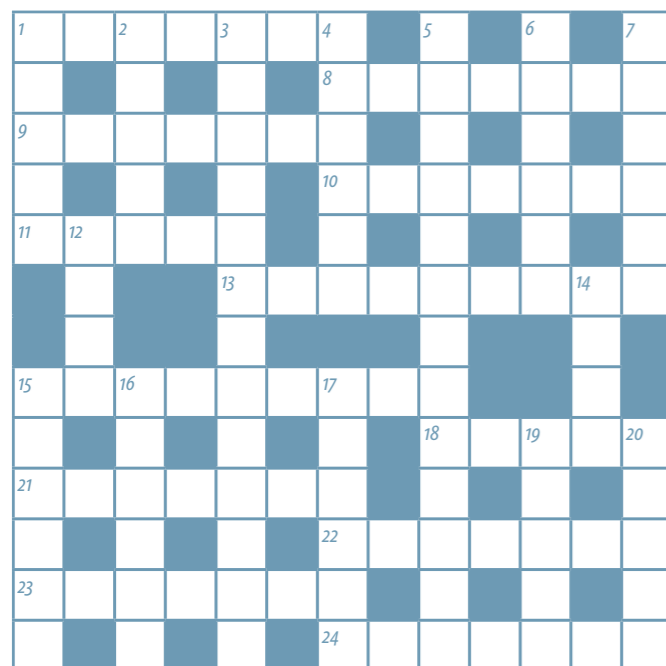
We have a new brochure! Stocks of the old one had run out and the committee felt a more colourful design would help to draw attention to our cause. We are delighted with the result and hope you will take the opportunity to pick up one or two next time you visit Shropshire Archives or one of our events and pass them on to friends or neighbours who might be interested in joining us.

Plans for our events in 2017 are well in hand and will be announced in the New Year and on our website www.friendsofshropshirearchives.org.uk. ■



Below: The Friends of Shropshire Archives during their visit to Weston Park.





Prize Crossword with a Shropshire historical slant

Please send answers to Andrew Pattison – apattison@clara.net or 77 London Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 6PQ

This time the prize is copy of *This is my Life* by Agnes Hunt. First correct reply out of the hat on 28 Feb 2017 wins the prize.

Across

- 1,14 – We are celebrating the centenary of his death in 2018 (7,4)
- 8 – We like to have these in the Shropshire countryside (7)
- 9 – What 'Mad' Jack Mytton loved to shout! (5-2)
- 10 – Most people lived in one in the old days (7)
- 11 – The right hand page of an open book (5)
- 13 – Story-telling (9)
- 15 – The Puritans followed this branch of Christian doctrine (9)
- 18 – Through the length of (5)
- 21 – A Shropshire market town (7)
- 22 – Desirable or useful feature of a building or place (7)
- 23 – Relating to living matter (7)
- 24 – A position in name only (7)

Down

- 1 – In the old days you got this from a well (5)
- 2 – A sweet-smelling small tree (5)
- 3 – One of the oddest village names in Shropshire (6-2-5)
- 4 – He used to take animals to market (6)
- 5 – A term that includes pistols, rifles etc (5, 8)
- 6 – A substance with a pH greater than 7 (6)
- 7 – Following behind in a boat (6)
- 12 – Famous Italian volcano (4)
- 14 – see 1
- 15 – This did a lot of damage in the Civil War (6)
- 16 – Awe log (anagram) – young (3,3)
- 17 – Unscathed, complete (6)
- 19 – A type of bow window (5)
- 20 – More cheerful in old language (5)

New titles added to Local Studies collection at Shropshire Archives

- Clarke, Neil **Roads of East Shropshire through time**
- Beattie, Derek, **How the other half lived: Ludlow's working classes 1850-1960**
- Faraday, M. (ed.) **Shropshire taxes in the reign of Henry VIII**
- Johnstone, Jan, **Oswestry and Whitchurch in the Great War**
- Owen, Christopher, **Wellington in the Great War**
- Sisson, Mark, **A most rare vision - Shropshire from the air**
- Worton, Jonathan, **To settle the Crown: waging civil war in Shropshire 1642-1648**

News

Mary McKenzie

Archives accreditation

The big news for Shropshire Archives is that we have been awarded Archive Accreditation by the National Archives following a meeting in November. Archive

Accreditation is the new UK quality standard for archives. By achieving accredited status we have demonstrated that Shropshire Archives has met clearly defined national standards relating to management and resourcing, the care of its collections, and what we offer all our customers and users. It also means that we can continue to act as a place approved for the deposit of public records, and can continue to house government records, such as records of magistrates' courts, hospitals and other state bodies.

Achieving accreditation has been a huge amount of work for the whole team at a time when we were coping with other significant demands and pressures. I am very grateful to all the staff and volunteers for their part in this, and we should all be proud of what we have achieved.

The Accreditation Panel which made the award said they:

'...welcomed the return of this strong application from a highly professional service with an excellent grasp of its role and potential. They were pleased to note that the very difficult financial position of the service had eased somewhat since this application was originally reviewed, making an award possible. They also extended congratulations to the Archives' team on continuing to deliver such a positive service in challenging circumstances and in balancing a range of ways of accessing the collections, beyond the traditional searchroom.'

The Panel noted however that the service's staffing and opening hours are at the minimum acceptable for its mission and purpose, and that any reductions should be reported to the Accreditation Committee for consideration.'

I look forward to building on this success in the coming year.



Saturday Opening

Following the changes to the opening hours introduced in June 2016, Shropshire Archives has been open on the first Saturday of the month from 10am – 4pm. Having reviewed the usage of the service, which has been steady, we have decided to extend the Saturday opening until March 2017. We will then review the hours for the year 2017- 2018. Please do continue to use us on Saturdays, if you wish to see this service continue.

New Shropshire Archives website

We are working with our IT partners, Shrewsbury based Orangeleaf Systems, to redevelop our website, including a much improved online catalogue, with many more document images, easier online payments, and advance ordering. We hope this will make your visits to Shropshire Archives much more efficient, but also ask for your patience while we become accustomed to the new system. The website will be launched early in 2017, and we will be arranging familiarisation sessions for Friends and customers.

Much Wenlock Borough Minute books

Volunteers are now working on the transcription and cataloguing of the Much Wenlock Borough minute books, dating from 1495-1810. This information will ultimately be available as part of the online catalogue. Work on the conservation of the text of the volumes is complete, and the volumes will now be rebound in an appropriate binding. This project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (supported by a donation from the Friends) and led by Much Wenlock Town Council.

Courses success

This year our house history course has proved a great success with two sessions being quickly fully booked. Our palaeography and Latin courses have also been popular. If you have any suggestions for future subjects for courses, please get in touch.

Please send any comments to:
Mary McKenzie, Team Leader, Archives, Shropshire Archives,
Castle Gates, Shrewsbury, SY1 2AQ
tel: 0345 6789096
email: mary.mckenzie@shropshire.gov.uk
website: www.shropshirearchives.org.uk

