

Harefield History Society

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LADY DERBY AT HOME

HAREFIELD 1634-5

"This Booke contains the Houshold expenses of the Right Honble Alice Countesse of Derby widdowe of Ferdinando Earle of Derby in the years 1634 to 1635 whilst shee lived at Harfield in the county of Midlsex." So runs the first entry in an account book which is among the Egerton papers in the Huntington Library, California. In it the purchases made for the Harefield household each week are recorded, together with the items consumed in the various offices: the larder, buttery, pantry and pastry, cellar, "woodyeard and colhouse", the spicery, the chandery, the saucery and the stable. Each week's miscellaneous expenses are also included and make specially interesting reading. The notes which follow are largely based on material extracted from these accounts and may help to give an idea of the activities of a rich and noble household in Harefield three and a half centuries ago.

THE FAMILY was headed by the Dowager Countess of Derby (she kept this title after her marriage to her second husband, Sir Thomas Egerton). Lady Derby is said to have been 76 on her death in January 1636/7, so she was an old lady when these accounts were being compiled and was probably much occupied with setting her affairs in order, judging by the many consultations with lawyers and her future executors. A granddaughter, Lady Alice Hastings, had lived with Lady Derby for some years (since 1631 or earlier, maybe); so had Alice's sister Elizabeth who married Hugh Calverley in Harefield Church in April 1634. There are references to the wedding festivities in these accounts (Mr Alladyce the Confectioner presented a bill for over £20 which included "banqueting sweetmeates served at my La Eliz. Wedding"). Lady Alice stayed on at Harefield until her grandmother's death and she received handsome legacies of money, a rope of pearls for her head, a green taffeta bed and all the furnishings associated with it, and a gown of her own choosing from Lady Derby's wardrobe (1). Two grandsons, Lord Chandos who was aged 14 and his brother William Bridges, about a year younger, completed the family. Though the boys' mother, the dowager Countess of Castlehaven, had lived in the household for a time and was occasionally mentioned in these accounts, she does not seem to have been a permanent resident in 1634-5, and Lady Derby was

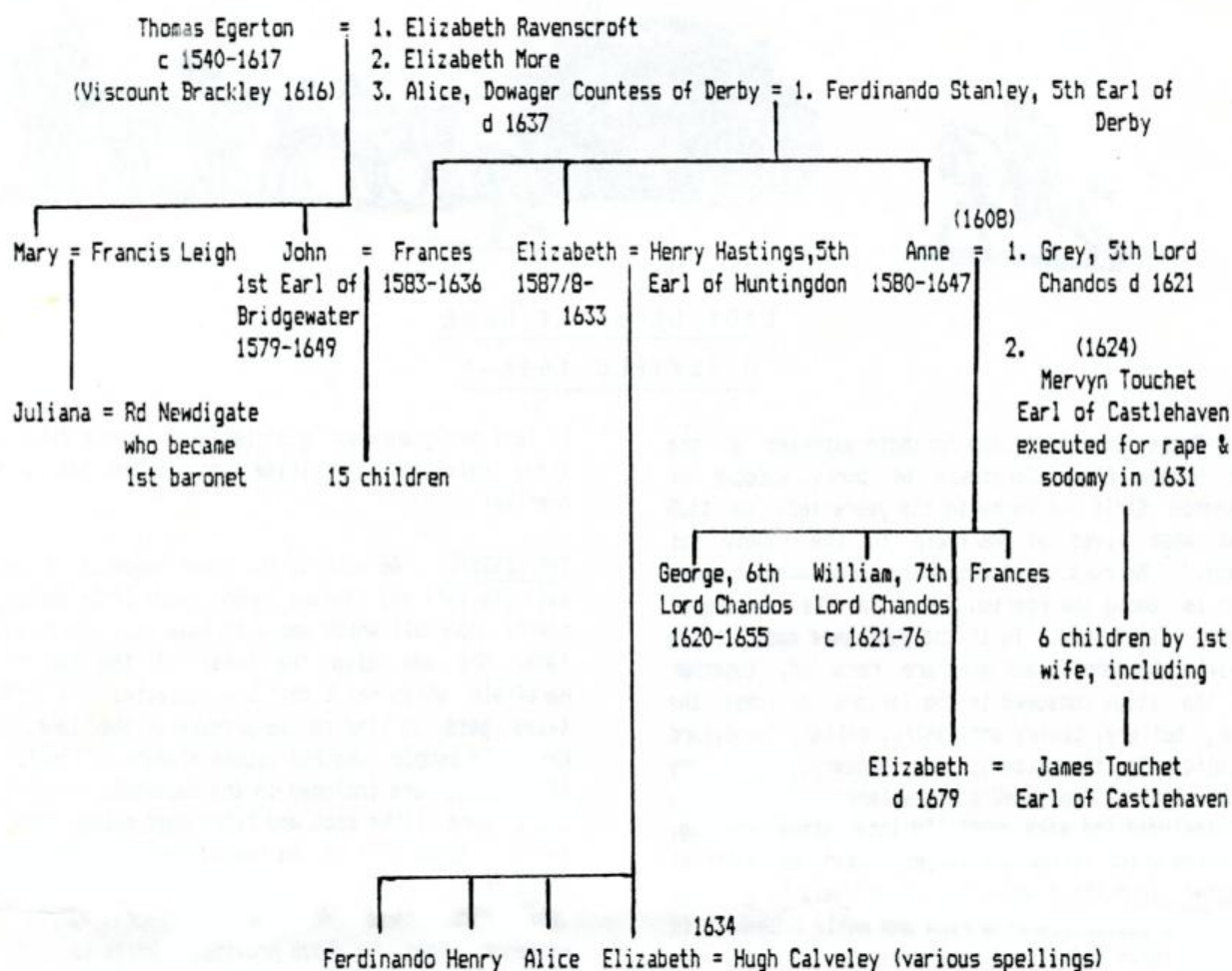
in fact her grandsons' guardian. For further details of these relationships please consult the family tree overleaf.

THE ESTATE As well as the manor house of Harefield with its park and demesne lands, Lady Derby owned the nearby Moorhall which seems to have been run as a home farm. She was also the owner of the Rectory of Harefield which meant that she collected the tithes, taxes paid in kind on the produce of the land, from Harefield people (she had tithes elsewhere, too). The tithe goods were included in the household accounts, so there were tithe pigs and tithe eggs going into the larder, tithe corn in the pantry/pastry, tithe hay and beans in the stable. The park was stocked with deer and swans; there was a dovecote and a rabbit warren (the warrener seems to have provided rabbits in lieu of rent). Venison, swans, pigeons and rabbits were all consumed by the household. Haydons and Norwood in the parish of Ruislip also feature in the accounts. Haydons was intended for Lady Derby's daughter the dowager Lady Castlehaven and then for William Bridges; Norwood was held on a lease from the Ashby family of Breakspears (rent was paid to Mr Beverley Britton, second husband of Lady Joanne Ashby). In her will Lady Derby directed that the profits of Norwood should be paid to Mrs Dorothy Jones, wife of her servant Edward Jones. Jones was to have nothing to do with this money; it was to "remaine for the better maintenance of vorrhie and the children".

THE HOUSEHOLD The annual wages bill for staff on the "check roll" was just over £277, but in the absence of that check list we cannot say how many servants there were or, except in a few cases, how much they were paid, exactly what their duties were, who "lived in" and who did not. Some of the household and estate staff had official titles - the comptroller, the clerk, the carter, the cook, the caterer, the huntsman - but their names are not known. Others are referred to by their christian names - John the footman, Francis the porter, John the groom. cont. p 3



FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS



Most of this information comes from *The Complete Peerage* and the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

Both Anne, Countess of Castlehaven, and her daughter Elizabeth gave evidence against Lord Castlehaven at his trial by his peers. After the execution the King pardoned Anne, now the Dowager Countess, and her daughter the young Countess, for all offences of adultery, fornication and incontinency (*Calendar of State Papers*). However the young Lady Castlehaven and her husband James were never reconciled, and Lady Derby herself seems to have taken against her granddaughter whom she ignored in her will. The young woman was clearly sinned against in the first place but perhaps did not live a particularly respectable life afterwards: in 1655 "Lady Peters and Lady Castlehaven were, by the constable in the Common Garden, carried to the Cage where they lay all night" (quoted in the *Complete Peerage*). The Dowager Lady Castlehaven and her other three children lived at Harefield during 1631 - a Harefield testator left money for mourning gloves to all members of the family in that year. Very likely by 1634 Frances Bridges had married Mr Edward Fortesque. At the time of Lady Derby's death Anne was her only surviving daughter (she herself is said to have died at Ruislip where she had a house Haydons, and been buried at Harefield).

Lord Chandos died young. He had an active career as a Royalist during the Civil War (though he had started off as a parliamentary supporter) and he suffered for this under Cromwell. He spent a year in prison waiting trial for manslaughter, the result of a duel. Smallpox killed him. He had six daughters by his two wives. His brother William inherited the title. He married but had no surviving children. Pepys the diarist had something to say about him (21 December 1662): "By and by comes my simple Lord Chandos who began to sing Psalms, but so dully that I weary of it."

The descendants of the Earl and Countess of Bridgewater must have inherited Lady Derby's account book along with the other Egerton papers which were acquired by the Huntington Library.

Lady Alice Hastings who was Lady Derby's companion during her final years eventually married Sir Gervase Clifton.

However, at Harefield as in great houses generally there was a hierarchy of servants, headed by the gentlemen and yeomen of the household, and under them the grooms and other lower servants. Mr Lea was in the top echelon. He was presumably the elderly gentleman who was attacked in Uxbridge during the toll-corn riots of 1631 (2). He seems to have been leading a quieter life by 1634, handing out tips and alms on Lady Derby's behalf, and escorting her here and there. He had his own manservant (who also busied himself with useful jobs like making mousetraps and killing birds for the table) and his horse was kept at household expense in the stable. Mr Juice was another of Lady Derby's gentlemen. He was a clergyman, it seems; there are references to a minister or preacher called Mr Juice in contemporary wills (3), though by the time Lady Derby made her own will Mr Pritchett, who also appears in these accounts, was her chaplain. Mr Juice and Mr Lea may both have lived at Harefield House.

Edmund Slye, Thomas Higginson, and Richard Bateman were three of the specially trusted servants whose names often appear in the account books. Bateman and Slye were both Harefield men and their descendants were still living in the village when the Newdigates repurchased the estate. Higginson appears in other records as steward of the manor court of Moorhall. Philip George was possibly in charge of the stables; he played an important part in running the estate and was a well-to-do man when he died (1634) while still in office leaving "unto my honorable lady for her kynd love unto me allwayes fyve pounds and desire her honer to be good to my wiffe" (4). Other servants frequently mentioned were: William Hussie, Thomas Peeters, John Smoute, Richard Spencer and, lower down the scale perhaps, Dudley. Being a servant (a senior servant, that is) in a big house was said to be a passport to prosperity, and this seems to have been true of the Harefield household for a number of these men owned property and left wills.

COACHMEN Among the many other names which appear in the accounts are those of Lady Derby's coachmen. The first, John Hamon, died during 1634 and he was succeeded by Yewin Smoute, brother of John Smoute who was already a member of the household. Through his wife Grissill, Yewin Smoute was kinsman to Edmund Slye and Edward Jones (see above) - an example of ties between the Harefield servants established by marriage (Richard Bateman eventually married one of Edmund Slye's daughters, and Mr Juice the clergyman was also one of this large clan). Coachmen were proverbially well paid, and John Hamon's wages amounted to over £6 per annum (for purposes of comparison, one of the ordinary servants who left during 1634 was paid £3 a year, while the rate for a Mr Leonard Cotton, gentleman, was £9-£10). Yewin Smoute, who presumably had the same pay as John Hamon, left money to his six servants when he died, plus bequests to his many relatives and his current employers, Lord and Lady Chandos, so he had obviously prospered. His widow farmed over 250 acres in 1664 (5).

MAIDSERVANTS Mistress Starkey headed the women on the staff; she was the housekeeper perhaps. The "upper maydes" included Anne Crosier who left during 1634, Kate Vincent and Maudlyne (surname unknown). They seem to have been Lady Derby's personal attendants. Kate Vincent specialized in starching, a respectable, skilled, womanly trade, several degrees above laundering (6): "4 oz blew starch for Kate Vincent", ran an entry for July. There were "washmaydes" as well. In January 1645 a new "great tubb" and five "washing beetles" were purchased for them. Another maid kept the poultry at Moorhall. Margaret Dymocke worked on the catering side.

CALLING IN THE EXPERTS Many jobs demanded specialist tradesmen and a long list can be compiled from the accounts, ranging from John Bradford the Basketmaker to the Chimneysweep who was paid 2s 9d for sweeping 22 "chimnelles". On p.5 is a list of the tradespeople who were employed by Lady Derby during 1634-5. Some lived in Harefield (a manorial survey of 1636 and the protestation return of 1641/2 helped to identify them) and work originating from this wealthy household must have been good for local business. Walter Hampshere and John Lything or Living, the two Blacksmiths, lived opposite each other in the village street. Hampshere was employed more often than Living (who mostly supplied nails). He presented bills about once a month for work in the stable and at Moorhall; he also did jobs in the garden, the brewhouse, the kitchen and elsewhere. William Knight the Wheelwright and John Burbanke the Carpenter were both from Harefield; so was William Beamond the Tailor who lived in Church Hill (7). Beamond made outfits for some of the servants: a suit for William Hussie (14s 2d); "new mandillions of freize" for the two footmen at a cost of 32s 6d (these were overcoats). Mr Smyth, the Keeper of the park, was given £2 "for his Somers Livery by my Ladye" and Richard Spencer was given money for a livery cloak, but it does not say who made these garments. Beamond did quite a lot of work for young Mr William Bridges, too.

OFF TO LONDON Hardly a week went by without someone from Harefield House going to London. As many as six different people might submit expenses incurred in the city during a single week. The Caterer, who did most of the purchasing of food, went to markets regularly, often confining himself to local markets (Uxbridge?) but travelling to London about twice a month on average, winter and summer. He went by horse. If he made a lot of purchases they would be carried, by a carman and porter if necessary, to an inn to await collection. The "mayd that made cleane the Roome where the provisions laye" would be given a sixpenny tip. The carter and carthorses from Harefield might take the goods home (at a cost of up to 4s in expenses), but sometimes a waggoner was employed: the "Woxbridge waggonor" was paid 7d "for bringing a ferkine of sope from London", 3s 6d for transporting rundlettes "full of wyne", and 10d for carrying groceries. On one occasion at least the Caterer took an extra horse to carry goods, and on another the groceries returned in Lady Derby's coach. The Caterer's horse did a lot of

travelling and a charge of 1s 6d "for fower shoes on the caterers horse" was a regular item in the accounts.

Business, mainly legal business, accounted for many journeys to London, either to see lawyers and legal dignitaries, or to bear letters and papers to and fro: "John Smoute to my Lo: Privye Seales 20d", "The Clerks charge with Levey Sparks at London and their two horses with Sir John Bankes (the Attorney General) 9s 6d". Quite often men would go in to London to collect horses which were not being used there, and bring them back to Harefield: "To John the footman goeing to fetch Mr Barlowes horse from London and the horses meat 1s 6d", "To him more for fetching Mr Goss his horses an other tyme 1s". Now and then Lady Derby's wardrobe would need attention: "To the groom his charge and his horse goeing to London for my la: Ruffe 2s 6d", "To John Smoute his charge at London goeing with my Ladies gownes 20d".

Lady Alice Hastings was in London in May and June 1634, and was escorted on her journeys by her grandmother's servants. The coachman, the groom, three saddle horses, the footman, Dudley with a trunk, Richard Bateman, Mr Vaux and Mr Cotton were all involved in what sounds a complicated exercise!

VISITS AND VISITORS Whilst Lady Derby's staff travelled far and wide, not only to London but to Wiltshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Shropshire and Somerset, she herself went visiting nearer home in 1634-5. She went to Lady Paget's at West Drayton where she presented 5s "unto my Ladye Pagettes ymbroaderer", 2s 6d to the porter there and 5s "to the Ringers at Woxbridge" en route. At much the same time (September) she called on one of her tenants, Raph Pope, and was at Lady Monmouth's (Moor Park). Here is an anecdote about Lady Monmouth. In her younger days she had charge of Charles I, then aged 4 and Duke of York. She successfully resisted James I's suggestion that the child should have "the string under his tongue cut" and that his feet should be "cased in iron boots, the little fellow being slow to speak and having weak ankles" (quoted in *The Complete Peerage*).

Considerably more people came to see Lady Derby at Harefield. Her son-in-law Lord Bridgewater was quite a frequent visitor although he was based in Ludlow for part of 1634 as President of the Council of Wales (his main house was at Ashridge, Herts, and his London house at the Barbican). He attended a grand occasion at Harefield in July, bringing his Trumpeters (who were given 10s) and his own cook to help in the kitchens. Household consumption in all departments rose sharply when there were visitors! In August the Lord Privy Seal (Lord Manchester) and Lord Coleraine were the principal guests. Again they brought their cooks with them and Lady Derby hired three more to help the two resident men; one, a London cook was paid £2 whereas the other two hired men shared 30s; the noblemen's cooks were handsomely tipped. Lord Manchester and Lord Coleraine were to be Lord Chandos's guardians and two of the four executors of Lady Derby's will, and it was

hoped that Lord Chandos would marry Lady Susan Montague, Lord Manchester's daughter (he did). Sir Edward Spencer, who was also to be an executor, attended on this occasion and several other times. Visits were paid by Lady Alice Hastings' father, Lord Huntingdon, her brother Lord Hastings, and her brother-in-law Mr Calverley - he sent his footman on ahead to bring word "of his master comeing". Lord Castlehaven, who had brought about his father's downfall and was the estranged husband of Lady Derby's granddaughter Elizabeth (see Family Tree), must also have been at the Harefield festivities in July 1634 - his horses consumed a bushell and a half of oats in Lady Derby's stable. Lord Huntingdon was at the same party. His horses ate 4 bushells.

CALLERS BEARING GIFTS "Presents", usually of an edible kind, arrived at Harefield House throughout the year. There were trout, fresh salmon, poultry and game. Sir John Bankes, the Attorney General and the fourth of Lady Derby's executors, sent "reddeer pyes". Fruit was given in season: Mr Pritchett sent cherries, Sir Edward Carr "Apricokes", Pope's girl brought "Nutties and Apples to my Ladie", muscadines and peaches came from Sir Edward Spencer. The bearers of these gifts all received tips, tips which had some relation to the value of the gift and the status of the sender! The present-giving reached a climax round the Christmas season when some 66 people sent pullets, capons, geese, turkeys and game. All were valued and entered in the larder accounts: 2 capons were worth 3s, a turkey 3s, a goose 2s, 2 pullets 2s 6d. At least 25 and very possibly up to 33 of the donors were from Harefield. In general they were local gentlemen and yeomen (Mr Edward Ashby of Harefield, or the Hawtreys of Ruislip), those who worked for Lady Derby in a professional capacity (Mr Moreton, one of her legal advisers, for instance), tradesmen like William Knight the Wheelwright or Hampshire the Smith. Some may have been expressing their thanks for favours received: Goodie Bugberd sent two pullets - Lady Derby had been generous to her during the year and was paying "for schooling of a little boye of Goodie Bugbeards". It is unlikely that the presents were in lieu of rent, for rents in kind or tythes were specifically noted anyway. Tips were given to everyone who brought a present to the house - usually children or servants: 6d to most of them (Joseph Winckfield's boy, Richard Wood's son, Simon Shepheard's maid, Widow Raynor's man, Courtney's daughter, John Reynolds' wife) but 2s 6d to Mr Webb's man who brought some fat mutton, 3s to "Mr Slyes daughter for bringing 2 couple of capons 1 couple to my Lady and 1 to my Lord Chand(os)", 1s to Mr Cragge's maid for a couple of capons and 5s to Mr Millett's man for "a fatt Lambe".

THE COOK was well rewarded at this season: "To the Master Cooke by my La: my La: Alice my Lord Chandos & Mr Bridges on Newyears daye 35s"; "To his sonne the second Cooke by my La then 5s". There was an Easter bonus: "To the Master Cooke to his wherewith at Easter by my Ladye, my Ladye Alice and my Lord Chandos 26s".

THE POOR were given alms at Christmas. In the week ending 25th December 1634:

"Delv'd to Baylie Quarrington to give the poore of Hillingdon & Woxbridge" ----- £4
 "To Cuthbert to give the poore of Ruislip"--- £1
 "To Richard hee gave to the poore of Harfield from my Ladie" ----- £2
 "More given them" ----- £1

Lady Derby gave 6s to the poor at church on Easter Sunday. There were very occasional payments to folk who turned up at the gate of Harefield House, when a porter or footman might take pity and give a few pence (though a distressed gentleman at the gate was given 5 shillings "upon my Ladies command"). The poor were also remembered when Lady Derby went visiting. Otherwise there are no indications in the accounts of any regular payments in cash to relieve the needy, but there were benefits in kind: each week 4 cheeses worth 1s 2d each and bread containing 2 pecks (i.e. 4 gallons) of rye were set aside for the poor, and extra amounts of wheat (worth 40 shillings) and rye (worth 32 shillings) were given at Christmas.

LORD CHANDOS AT OXFORD Though Lord Chandos was only 14 years old this was not considered too young for him to profit from a term in Oxford. In August Mr Juice and Richard Bateman rode off to the university town to make arrangements and pay the charges for admitting the young lord and his attendants to Corpus Christi College (£9 6s). In September Richard Bateman had another two days at Oxford; Thomas Peeters purchased "a cloake bagg and a male pillion" (a bag for clothes and a pack saddle) to carry Lord Chandos's things and a sumpter trunk, to go on a pack horse's back, was brought from London by waggon. At the beginning of October a party was ready to leave for Oxford. The costs of the journey were £6. Mr Juice (see above) probably went as his lordship's supervisor or personal tutor. Certain essential items were lacking in the college lodgings: a stool pan and a stool pan case, two chamber pots, bellows, andirons, fire shovel and tongs, and a pair of brass snuffers had to be purchased, and a new rug was bought "for my Lords mans bedd at Oxenford". The college had not provided enough furniture and Richard Bateman paid for a settle bed to carry there - and four new "joynt stooles to go thither alsoe". There must have been doubts in Harefield about the adequacy of the college diet. Two cheeses and scurviegrass ale (a health-giving drink) were sent via the Oxford waggoner; a fortnight later more delicacies were dispatched - two hare pies, a cheese and a couple of hares. Mr Bridges wrote a letter to his brother and a carrier arrived at Harefield with "things" from Oxford. There was silence for a few weeks, then "a fellow brought letters from Woxbridge that came from Oxenford". Term was over and Mr Lea submitted his charges for fetching Lord Chandos and his attendants home (£2). At Christmas Lady Derby gave £4 to Lord Chandos's Greek tutor, and in the new year bills began to come in:

To my Lord Chandos for charges layd out at Oxen by his Lop. p. bill £9.15.03
 To his Lordship by an other bill for charges of Friday night suppers 4.00.04

CRAFTSMEN AND TRADESMEN WHO WORKED FOR THE DOWAGER COUNTESS OF DERBY IN HAREFIELD 1634-5

Allmydye the CONFECTIONER
 Auditor the COOPER
 Beamond the TAILOR
 Belch the BAKER
 Belle the APOTHECARY
 Bradford the BASKETMAKER
 Burbanke the CARPENTER
 Chapman the BRICKLAYER
 Charsley the RATCATCHER



"To Charsley the Ratcatcher for his half yeares wages ending at our La: day last 10s"

Cocke the HARNESSE MAKER
 Comynges the SAWYER
 Dixon the HARNESSE MAKER
 Edwards the COLLIER
 Englefield a WATCHMENDER
 Gladman the BUTCHER
 Grove the MALTMAN
 Hampshere the SMITH
 Hore the APOTHECARY
 Hubbard the MILLER
 Mrs Jones, MIDWIFE & NURSE
 Knight the WHEELWRIGHT
 Living the SMITH
 Lyons the SADDLER
 Mundaye the BRASIER
 Nendicke the GLAZIER
 Parkinson the COACHMAKER
 Priest the RICKMAKER
 Pyper the SHOEMAHER
 Rowell the MATTKAKER (from Staines)
 Sawle the CONFECTIONER
 Skiddmore the CHANDLER
 Skinson the COACHMAKER
 Smith the BUTCHER
 Wylde the COBBLER
 Unnamed: a CHIMNEYSWEEP and a GILDER

(NB Many of these people did NOT live in Harefield).

To the booke bynder for bookes & paper
for my Lord p. bill 33.00
To the Colledg groome for charges of his
lops horse at Oxford p. bill 45.10
To the Mansaple of the colledge of charges
of a dyner when the Lord Herbert dined with
my Lo: p. bill 33.03
To Mr Juice for his own & my Lo: man there
commons & other things p.bill 13.12.00
To Mr Juice by an other bill lps charges
in the Terme last 5.07.06
William Bridges, left in Harefield while his brother
was at the university, went to Corpus Christi College
in 1639 when he was 17.

AT THE MASQUE Lord Chandos did not return to Oxford
after his Christmas in Harefield. In January he went to
London, taken there by Yewin Smoute in the coach.
Apparently he was involved in a legal case and was
required to attend a hearing at court. William Hussie
was his escort and had to buy torches to light his
young master's way through the London streets "in the
nighte". Lord Chandos also went to a masque in London -
it was a form of entertainment specially popular with
Lady Derby and her family whose performances in famous
works are well documented. His expenses at this event
were £8.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES in Harefield included hawking
(partridges were killed for the table) and hunting for
hares with the beagle hounds. The hawks and hounds were
nominally Lord Chandos's; he also had his own nags in
the stable. There was archery: six arrows and three
bowstrings were bought for William Bridges and his bow
was mended. Did Lady Derby practise archery too? There
was a purchase of crossbow arrows for my Lady's bow and
a pound of crossbow threads. Battledore and
Shuttlecock was played. Lady Derby had cage birds, so
there were regular payments for canary seed (or bird
meat!). She must have enjoyed the music of the Uxbridge
band (or orchestra): she gave "the Mewsickle of
Woxbridge" £2 at "allhallowtyde" in November and
another £5 in December. A harpsichord and Lady Derby's
own virginals were kept in tune, and three gentlemen
(Mr Jones, Mr Allome and Mr Cotton) were required to
keep their viols furnished with strings.

DOCTORS AND APOTHECARIES provided medical help. At the
end of May 1634 "Mr Hore the Apothicarie" supplied
"phisicke" for Lady Elizabeth (the recently married
Elizabeth Hastings?). This was expensive: 26s 6d. In
July Lady Derby paid Mistress Jones "Middwieff and
Nurse" 15s, presumably for professional services. The
household expenses covered medicines for relatively
humble employees (a man at Moorhall, for instance) as
well as more important servants. The master cook fell
ill and Dr Hector attended him. Edmund Slye had a
potion from Mr Jones, another apothecary; yet another,
Mr Belle, was paid 55s 6d "for severall thinges had for
my Ladye". Thomas Beckington, Harefield's parish clerk,
had powder "for the gout". "Wormeseed" was bought; it
was made from plants of various sorts and was a cure
for intestinal worms. Scurvy grass, "egrimoine"

(agrimony) and scabious, all plants with medicinal
virtues, were purchased by the bushell and the
occasional quart of Aquavita for Lady Derby may have
been used for medical purposes, too. Kate Vincent, one
of the maids, ordered brimstone by the pound - it is
known as a remedy for constipation.

POSTSCRIPT

The weather turned wintry at the end of January:
"To John Anslowe one daye at casting snowe from
off the house 8d".

REFERENCES 1) Public Record Office PROB 11 174 70 2)
Carolynne Hearmon's Concise History of UXBRIDGE (1982)
3) Guildhall ms 9171/26 145v 4) PRO PROB 11 166 114 5)
Warwick RO CR136/C2523 6) Dorothy Davis A History of
Shopping (1966) 7) G.London RO Acc 1085/M59.

FOOD AND DRINK, HEATING AND LIGHTING, WORK ON THE LAND,
are among other aspects of life in Lady Derby's
household which will be covered in future editions.

Elona Cuthbertson

OUTINGS FOR SUMMER 1990

JUNE NORRIS (822692) is arranging next summer's
outings, and provisional dates are as follows:

Saturday afternoon, 9 June, HATFIELD HOUSE.

This fine early 17th century house is full of
beautiful furnishings and paintings, and is
surrounded by gardens which should be at their
best in June. The West Garden dates back to the
15th century and Queen Elizabeth I spent much of
her childhood in the old Royal Palace of
Hatfield, of which one wing still survives.

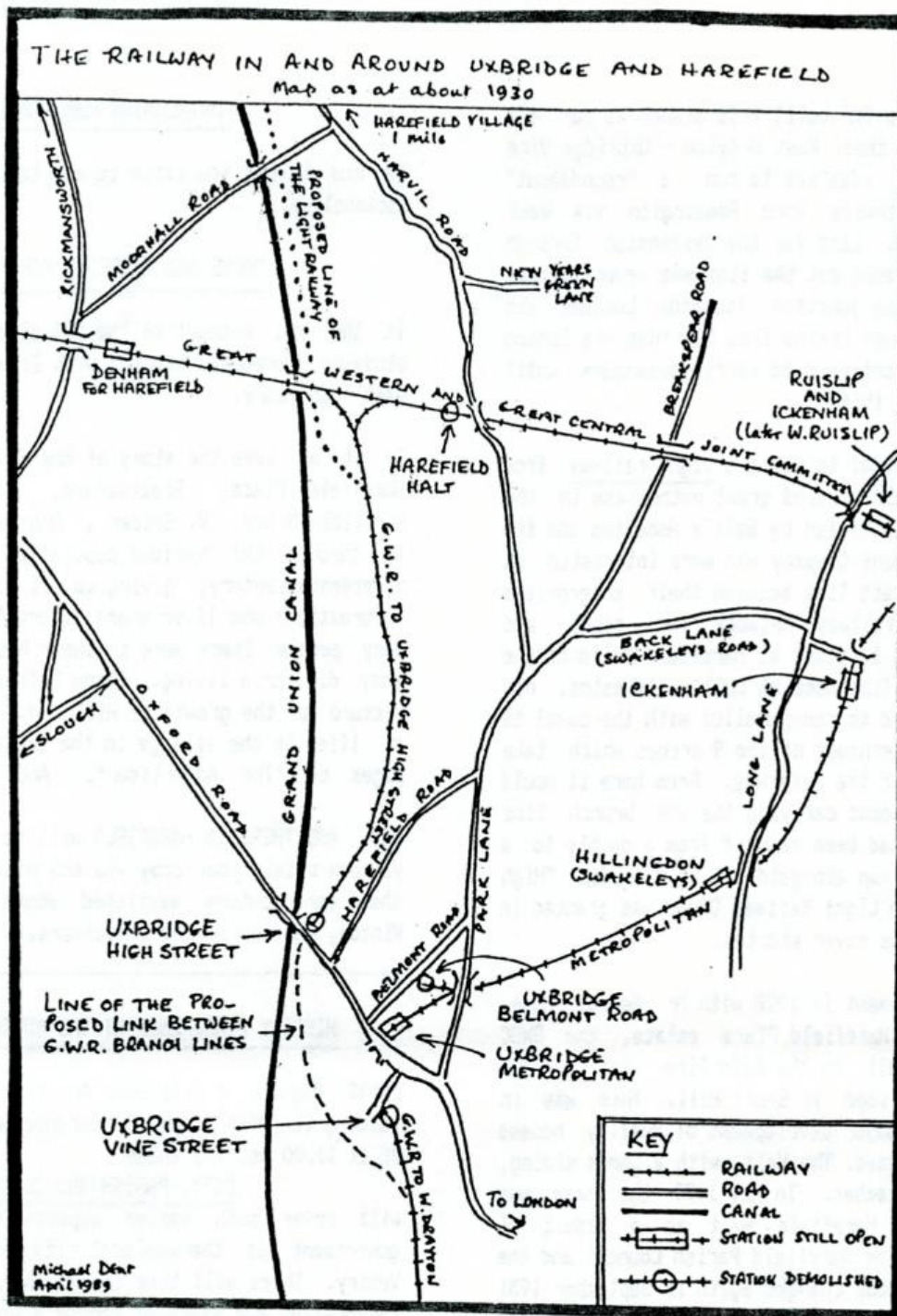
Saturday, 21 July, WOODSTOCK AND BLENHEIM PALACE.

The Palace was built for John Churchill 1st Duke
of Marlborough in the early 18th century, and is
set in 2000 acres of Capability Brown landscaped
grounds. The special group admission price will
include Palace Tour and Churchill Exhibition; Park
and Gardens; Butterfly House; Garden Centre;
also various attractions for children. Any spare
time can be spent exploring the charming small
town of Woodstock.

Saturday, 15 September, CITY OF GLOUCESTER.

Visitors will be free to select their own
particular interests in Gloucester which is justly
renowned for its superb cathedral. But it also
contains museums, art gallery, shops of course,
and a most exciting regeneration of the Docks -
Britain's only inland Victorian Port. This
includes the National Waterways Museum with
floating exhibits and workshops.

Fuller details of what to do and see, and final
costs, will be available at the AGM.



MICHAEL DENT has contributed these notes
on
RAILWAYS IN AND AROUND HAREFIELD AND UXBRIDGE

The first railway to reach Uxbridge (1856) was constructed by the Great Western Railway Company (GWR) as a branch of the London to Bristol main line. It was a single broad gauge line, two and a half miles long, running from West Drayton to "Uxbridge" (later called "Vine Street" to distinguish it from the "High Street" station) with an intermediate stop at Cowley. It was converted to standard gauge in 1871 and double-tracked in 1880. Passenger services were withdrawn in 1962 and goods traffic in 1964. The station was demolished in 1965. The line ran alongside Cleveland Road and forms the boundary of the Brunel University site.

Although no railway was ever constructed between Uxbridge and Rickmansworth, there were eleven acts of Parliament between 1861 and 1899 authorising such a line which would have passed along the bottom of the

Colne valley, alongside the canal. The intention was to connect with the London and North Western Railway branch line which terminated at Rickmansworth Church Street Station (1862) on the site of Davilliam Builders Merchants.

The Metropolitan Railway line to Uxbridge from Harrow opened in 1904. The station was at Belmont Road (now Sainsbury's). The present terminus was opened in 1938.

The Great Western and Great Central Joint Committee opened the "last main line to be built in Great Britain" in 1906. It ran from London (Paddington and Marylebone) through "Ruislip and Ickenham" (later West Ruislip) under Harvil Road bridge to Denham, High Wycombe and beyond. From this GWGC main line the GWR built a two mile branch line running from a triangular junction, east of Denham, to Uxbridge "High Street" station. The station was on a viaduct about 100 yards east of the Crown and Treaty inn and now the site of Great Metropolitan Retailing (106 High Street) and

Braybourne Close. The GWR built this branch as part of a projected link with their West Drayton - Uxbridge Vine Street line. Their idea was to run a "roundabout" service of goods trains from Paddington via West Drayton and Ruislip. Land for the extension through Uxbridge was purchased but the link was never built, and the east facing junction (towards London) was removed in 1914, though trains from Uxbridge via Denham to Gerrards Cross continued to carry passengers until 1939 and goods until 1964.

During 1922 a proposal to build a light railway from Uxbridge to Harefield created great enthusiasm in the district. It was initiated by Bell's Asbestos and the British Portland Cement Company who were interested in establishing a direct link between their enterprises and the general railway network for goods and labour. The line was to start at Harefield Mills at the bottom of Park Lane (the home of Bell's Asbestos, now Salamander Quay) and to run parallel with the canal to pass under the easternmost of the 9 arches which take the GWGC railway over the waterway. From here it would rise to the embankment carrying the GWR branch line which by this time had been reduced from a double to a single track, and run alongside it to Uxbridge "High Street" station. A Light Railway Order was granted in 1923 but the line was never started.

Following an agreement in 1928 with Mr George Rose, then owner of the Harefield Place estate, the GWGC built Harefield Halt on the main line west of the Harvil Road overbridge at Short Hill. This was in anticipation of a major development of quality houses as far as Moorhall Road. The Halt, with a goods siding, opened in the September. In May 1929 the name was changed to South Harefield Halt as a result of representations by the Harefield Parish Council and the Uxbridge RDC. The name changed again in September 1931 - to South Harefield. However, Mr Rose's development did not extend beyond The Drive and Highfield Drive, and the Halt closed in October 1931 having failed to meet the commercial targets set by the railway company. The station itself survived, "disused", until the 1950s when it was demolished.

There was much pressure from the local community on the railway companies to build a line to Harefield, but each in turn - The Metropolitan, the London Midland and Scottish and GWR - found the idea unrewarding commercially. The Central Line reached West Ruislip in 1948 with electrified tracks running parallel with those of the GWGC main line. Although it had been intended that the Central Line should eventually terminate at Denham, with an intermediate stop at Harefield Road (the old Harefield Halt), the plans were not realised; by this time the area west of West Ruislip was in the London Green Belt with little possibility for building development.

Sources: C.T. Goode "The Railways of Uxbridge", Minute book of the GWGC, 5 July 1922, Jackson and Croome "Rails through the Clay".

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

We now have a new title to add to our local history bookshelves.

"HERE AND THERE IN HAREFIELD"

is the end product of the WEA class which has been studying Harefield history with Eileen Bowlit for the last four years.

In it we have the story of the four great estates, Harefield Place, Breakspears, Harefield Park and Harefield Grove. Vi Spicer, Ann Dent and others take us through the various population censuses of the nineteenth century, giving us all sorts of interesting information: who lived where, where they were born, how many people there were in their households and what they did for a living. Elona Cuthbertson gives us a picture of the growth of Hill End. There is a glimpse of life in the village in the 1860s seen through the pages of "The Advertiser". And much more.....

HERE AND THERE IN HAREFIELD will be out in October and you can obtain your copy via the History Society, from the contributors mentioned above or from Dorothy Winton, another of the co-authors. Price about £3

HISTORY CONFERENCE AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

LAMAS (London & Middlesex Archaeological Society) is holding its 24th Annual Conference on Saturday November 25 at 11.00 am. The theme

CITY, PARISH AND COUNCIL

will cover such varied aspects of London's local government as the medieval city and the St Pancras Vestry. There will time to see the museum's exhibition celebrating 800 years of London's Lord Mayors. A group from Harefield will be going and there is a possibility of door-to-door transport. Tickets £3.50.

"CHALK AND TALK"

The HAREFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY is organizing the 7th local history conference for our own area which will be at Winston Churchill Hall, Ruislip, on Saturday March 10, 1990, from 10 am to 5 pm.

Education before 1914 is the subject and there will be a presentation on "The Village School" by our History Society, along with other contributions of local interest: Bishopshalt School and the early Grammar School movement, the Commercial Travellers' School at Pinner, the Brentford Sunday Schools, and the Three Rs in Ruislip. Malcolm Cole of Whitelands College will give an introduction on the history of education, and Diana St John of the Fawcett Society will talk on "An Education for Life?"

Tickets in advance £3, to include coffee, tea and biscuits, available from Margaret Evans, 4 Hall Drive.

We hope for support from our own members - there will be displays, books, pamphlets and so on to buy, as well as talks to enjoy. Do come to "CHALK AND TALK".