

## *Parwich & District Local History Society*

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### **Some recollections of Parwich by Ken Wayne: including the Sycamore Inn & local businesses**

**Peter Trehwitt**

*Walter Kenneth Wayne, known as Ken to distinguish him from his father who was also Walter, died recently, just over a week before his 86th birthday. Ken's family were well established in Parwich, and though recently he lived in Great Longstone many will remember him as landlord of the Sycamore Inn (1955 to 1968). Here are some notes I made of a conversation with Ken (5th March 2003).*

*Editor*

#### **The Webster Family**

Ken's grandparents, Joseph and Annie Webster had Church Farm but also ran the Sycamore Inn for a number of years around 1900. They also had, at one point, a shop. Joseph and Annie Webster were married on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1870. Ken has a Bible that was given to them by the vicar and his wife, Rev & Mrs Hatton. They had nine children. The children included Thomas who later had Whitecliffe Farm, James who had Buxton Dairy, Bill who ran the bus-cum-coal wagon from Creamery Lane.

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Their daughter Elizabeth married John Cameron who worked for Gilmor's Brewery in Sheffield. John Cameron was from Oban and they had one of the few pipers seen at a Parwich wedding. (The only other one was seen at Annie Slater and Doug Lyons' wedding.) They had a pub in Sheffield during the Blitz. Fed-up with the bombs and the rubble they later lived for a while with the Waynes at the Sycamore, after which they took the Watts Russell Arms in Milldale. They had a daughter called Annie, who died when she was only four years old.

Their daughter Millicent married Walter Wayne. When they first married Walter and Millicent both

worked at Parwich Creamery, for Gerald Lewis. On one occasion Millicent fell into the vat of milk, but it was still used to make the cheese!

## **Rock House**

Walter & Millicent Wayne moved to Rock House in 1919 when they married. Ken was born on Valentine's Day 1920. Walter got his first car when they were here. He was friendly with Major Gainsford's chauffeur who restored the car for him. He used it when he delivered the mail in the 1920s when work was scarce. When cars were still a rarity, Ken and his brother would walk out to White Meadow to watch the cars go by on the road.

The family got their water from the trough by Staines Cottage, and every Sunday evening they had to fetch enough water to fill the big copper for washing the following morning.

In 1936 electricity came to the village on telegraph poles over the Flatts from Tissington. It entered the village by Flatts Stile and so Rock House was one of the earliest to get electricity. Walter had the first electric wireless (a Tilson).

The Waynes bought the derelict Pinfold Cottage, planning to rebuild the house. They did some work cutting back the stone on the hillside so the back wall of the house did not have to be the natural bedrock, but did not get round to building it and eventually sold off the stone. Ken eventually sold the plot to John Evans to add to his garden.

Frank Brownlee at Flatts Stile had a pony and trap he would take into Ashbourne each Saturday. Ken has memories of going to Ashbourne sitting on the back seat of this trap, facing back towards where he came from all the way.

Ken (from 5 to 14 years of age) never missed a day of school even when on one occasion Ken was resting his feet on the hearth at home, and a kettle of water that had been boiled on the fire was accidentally spilt in his feet, scalding them badly. This was such an unusual event that the Headmaster, Fletcher Booth Hampson invited the Education Board to give him a certificate to mark this at the end of his school career. The register had one day when he was not recorded as being in school, so the Education Board declined to give him the certificate. The reason for him not being in the register that day was that in the morning he had been taken to the old Ashbourne workhouse to attend a compulsory dental clinic. He was in school for the afternoon, but he had not been there in the morning when the register was taken. Fletcher Booth Hampson, annoyed with the Education Board's failure, had a plaque made saying "Presented to WK Wayne by Fletcher Booth Hampson Headmaster of Parwich Primary School for full attendance from 1925 to 1934" and presented it to him along with a pocket watch.

Ken was a keen cricket player both at school and later for the village side.

## **Sycamore Inn**

The brick extension with the current bar and the clubroom above was built in 1889. The date can be seen on the head hopper of the downspout by the old urinals at the west end of the pub. It was Ken and his brother who closed off these old urinals. What is now the dining room was probably a bar before the extension at the back was built. When Ken replaced

the wooden windowsills he found a number of eighteenth and nineteenth century coins that had fallen through the gaps in the wood.

Ken's grandparents Joseph and Annie Webster ran the Sycamore for a number of years around 1900. The sign read "The Sycamore Inn: Joseph Webster Licensed retailer of Beer wines & spirits & tobacco". So Millicent knew a bit about pub work before she and her husband came to the pub.

The Glover family ran the pub from 1908 to 1936. The sign read "the Sycamore Inn: Frederick Augustus Glover Licensed retailer of Beer Wines & Spirits & Tobacco. Parties provided for. Accommodation for cyclists." Mr. Glover ran the pub till his death in 1923, when his widow Elizabeth took over as licensee. Their daughter, Dorothy (although she does not appear as licensee) ran the pub for a short while, before the Waynes took over. Dorothy was very friendly with one of the staff at Alsop Hall. He would come to the pub every evening and she would feed him up with port wine and eggs. Walter used to help the Glovers out behind the bar.

Walter Wayne took on the licence in 1936. His wife Millicent took over the licence when he died in 1952, but found it hard work. She moved back to Rock House in 1955 when their son Ken took over the licence. He was there until 1968. Walter and Millicent's grave in the churchyard is marked by an Italian blue marble stone that was bought from Percival's of Buxton for £280 in 1952.

The bar in the extension at the back was originally smaller, only going to the beam across the ceiling, this meant the fireplace was then in the corner of the room. The rest of what is now the bar was the cellar, and what is now the cellar was a stable. Farmers from the outlying farms, such as the Browns from Upper Moor Farm or the Dakins from Aston Hill Farm used it. They would drive to the pub in horse and trap, and while they were there stall the horse in the stables. Mr. Mayer originally from near Stoke had Whitecliffe Farm. He also had the quarry a little further down the Dale. He would come into the pub at 8pm and have downed 14 pints by last orders at 10pm, and set off home without any apparent ill effects.

The settle by the backdoor of the pub was there when the Waynes took over the pub in 1936. Offiler's Brewery of Derby was the brewery when the Waynes came and continued to supply the pub, until they were taken over by Charrington's Brewery some time around 1960. Later Charrington's merged with Bass to become Bass Charrington.

When the Waynes came in 1936 no ladies were allowed in the bar. There was a bell at the front door, which the women could ring to have their jugs filled with beer. Ken remembers Alice Evans from Brook House with a jug for her husband Fred's beer. Once Fred decided to make a wire mesh chicken run, all the work was done in their living room. Only when it was completed, did he realised that it was too big to go out of the door.

At this time beer was 6d a pint. You could buy a pint of beer, a box of matches and a packet of 5 woodbines with a shilling (5p) and still have a penny change.

Before mains water in the 1950s the toilet facilities were the urinals for the men and three earth closets, one for the men, one for the ladies and one for the pub family. The earth closets would be emptied on a regular basis and provide manure for the garden. On one

occasion an elderly lady came into the pub most distressed, and her speech was difficult to understand. It turned out not to be drink that was distorting her speech, but that her false teeth had fallen into the earth closet. Carefully with sticks the teeth were fished out from the human manure and after a good wash provided a number of year's service. Oh for denture fixative.

Ken kept a copy of the beer order for Wakes week in 1936: 14 hogshead barrels of beer, and ... bottles of beer. It was brought in two lorries.

During Ken's courting days, if he was not home in time, his parents would lock the doors. Fortunately Ken knew how to open the little kitchen window (extreme right on front) from the outside and so could sneak in.

In the 1950s Dr. Lloyd from Hartington held a surgery in the pub. This was some years before Dr. Broom from Ashbourne held a surgery in the dining room in the 1990s. Also in the 1950s Ken took out a Hopton stone fire surround that had been painted over from a bedroom at Alsop Hall. As they were going to throw it away he put it in the dining room at the pub.

The Waynes used what is now the pub dining room as a living room.

Ken used to have a greenhouse behind the pub (now the car park) and he grew tomatoes and cucumbers there. This greenhouse was built in 1937 from old glass covers that had sheltered the peach trees at the Hall but were being thrown away. Every year Ken's cucumbers and tomatoes would win in the village show. One year his cousin Arthur Wayne bought a cucumber from a travelling shop and entered it in the show as a joke. It beat Ken's entry that year. Abel Shipley also suffered at the hands of the Wayne sense of humour. Abel usually won the longest runner bean, so Ken, using three beans, faked a three foot runner bean that took Abel in. Abel was keen on his snuff, which he bought at the pub. So another time, Ken took an article from the Daily Telegraph that reported the sale of a snuff box at Sotherby's for £2,000, and doctored it so that it read Abel Shipley had bought the antique snuff box for £2,000. This was then hung on the pub wall for all to read.

The big clubroom upstairs was well used. (Fire regulations mean it can not be used now, unless an external fire escape is built on.) Ken built the bar in the club room himself. The most the Waynes ever had for a club dinner was 110, when they had to set up a table in the smoke room as well. Although they would have caterers (Potter's of Ashbourne) in to provide and serve the big joints of meat, the Waynes would prepare and cook the vegetables themselves, getting a host of relatives to help peel the potatoes. The copper in the back kitchen could cook a hundredweight of potatoes at a go. Len Gibbs' wedding reception was held in the clubroom.

The clubroom was used for the cricket club dinners, an event close to Ken's heart. Normally Sir John Crompton-Inglefield would present the prizes (he was cricket club president), but one year Ken managed to get Norman Yardley (Yorkshire and England captain) to come to the dinner and present the prizes. The Sycamore had two darts teams, and darts matches were normally held in the clubroom, but at times the other team would play downstairs when there were two matches. One time when there was a darts match with another pub, there was a police raid. Ken and his wife had called time at 10pm as normal, and were leaning on the bar waiting to collect the glasses. The police arrived at ten past, and true to form not every-

one had drunk up. The police had been tipped off by the landlord of the other pub, who thought his wife was having an affair with one of their darts team. Even though it was just half and quarter full glasses a number of people were charged with drinking after hours and Ken and his wife with aiding and abetting.

George Slater (Einy Begeiny) the one-armed school caretaker who lived in the one up one down next to the Shop (now demolished), as well as stoking the school boiler was the postman. He made his deliveries on his bike, but promptly at 11-30am he was in the Sycamore ready for his pint. Mr. Yates, husband of the schoolteacher who lived on the Green, was an over enthusiastic daytime drinker and after an over enthusiastic singer.

Ken and his wife got a deep freeze and were the first to sell ice-cream in the village ... " 'Course they went bloody mad". The ice cream sold like 'hot cakes'. People would be buying it from eight in the morning till ten at night. For a while before this, Mazza's of Belper had come every Sunday afternoon to sell ice cream from a motorbike and sidecar. The Waynes also sold frozen food, delivered from Newcastle-under-Lyme by Birdseye. They also sold sweets, bought from wholesalers in Buxton, and chocolate direct from Cadbury's in Ilkeston. In the 1950s Ken had a hundredweight of Parwich rock made for Wakes week: sticks of rock with Parwich written all the way through it. It was all sold.

Music was initially provided by piano, and every Wakes week it was carried up stairs to the clubroom. There would an extension on the licence till twelve o'clock every night of Wakes week. In 1956 or '57 Ken hired a jukebox, the first in the area. Even Ashbourne did not have one then. Now every Wakes week the jukebox had to be carried up to the clubroom, with the volume up full and the windows wide open. You got five records for a shilling, and it was so popular that after the weekend there would be £50 or so in it, that was 5,000 records. The hire firm changed the records on a regular basis. Ken's son persuaded them to give him the old ones and he built up a collection of some 3,000.

In the 1960s one day Ken was driving his son to school in Ashbourne. There were terrible gales and he had trouble getting through the fallen trees in his Jag. Coming back, the road was blocked at Fenny Bentley so he had to come back on the Buxton road, and through Alsop-en-le-Dale. Between the Hall and the Church a number of trees were down, but because the road is sunken with walls on either side there was just enough room for Ken to drive his sports car under them. When he got back to Parwich one of the chimney pots had blown off the pub, and the Church spire was swaying 5 or 6 feet in either direction. The pub has always been at risk of flooding. The worst Ken remembers was late after a busy Saturday night, the water started to come in through the backdoor and through the tap room door. The water reached the top of the skirting boards, and Ken and his wife were up all night. It was not till the next day that they realised that the empty wooden barrels left outside as usual were gone. Eventually they were found wedged under the bridge at Nether Green.

Ken's wife developed MS and as he needed to be out working during the day, they gave up the pub and moved to a bungalow out of the village.

## **Under Gardener at the Hall**

When Ken first left school he started as a gardener at the hall under John Shields the then head gardener for 18 shillings a week. There were six gardeners then. Ken continued here

until he was called up into the Army. Each Tuesday evening the Crompton-Inglefields Ford shooting break was taken into Ashbourne, so Ken would get a lift. As he put posters up for the cinema, he would get a free seat to watch a film.

## **Wayne & Sons Builders**

Walter as well as having the pub had the building firm. He did the stone work for Rosemary Cottage and Pool Croft for Birches of Ashbourne. The sons were Walter junior (i.e. Ken) and John Donald. Walter also built the stonework for Major Crompton-Inglefield's greenhouses at the Hall.

In the winter of 1947 when there was very heavy snow, Ken and his brother put their ladders in place to work on a chimney on the 28<sup>th</sup> February. The same day the snow started and they were unable to come back and complete the work until April. When the north door had been put on the Church in approximately 1907, the large ancient stone font was placed centrally under the tower blocking the west door. In 1950 or 1951 Ken & John moved the font by themselves to its present position so that the west door could be opened up again.

The firm also built the large cow shed at Hawkeslow Farm and another at Sitterlow.

## **Other Parwich Businesses**

-Uncle Bill (William Webster) ran a business from what is now called Creamery Cottage, with a petrol pump and a vehicle that doubled up as a bus and a coal lorry. On Saturdays it was a bus running to Ashbourne, after which it was parked up in a tin hay barn behind the stone barn at Hallcliffe. All that remains of this barn now are the stone bases for it supporting wooden posts. Then during the week the bus was winched up from the chassis, and left hanging in the barn, so that the vehicle base could be used as a coal lorry. This business was later taken over by Frank Steeples.

-William Webster had a slaughterhouse and piggery at Nether Green Cottage.

-Mrs. Pollit had a shop of Nether Green, and her husband ran a taxi business.

-Sam Webb at Knob Hall ran a taxi business

-G Rogers had green grocers at Mount Pleasant. He was related to the Goslings. The stone shed was built by Walter Wayne. He would take the pony and trap to Alsop Station every week to get the train to the Manchester wholesale markets, but delayed making his purchases till the wholesalers were about ready to go and happy to sell up cheap.

-Albert Beresford was a hairdresser and greengrocer. The window in the gable end of Shaw Lane Cottage (now blocked up) was put in by Walter Wayne for Albert to sell the vegetables out of it.

-Sam Lees (Dolly Wayne's brother) had a shoe repair business in a wooden shed just through the stile opposite Brook Cottage and in Bear Stake Croft.

-Blackwell's shoe repairs.

-Sid Lees fish and chips in Shaw Lane

-W Webster (later Frank steeples) bus and coal merchant.

-Butcher's shop on the site of the Legion

-Will Bradbury the blacksmith in Smithy Lane. He lived in Rose Cottage.

-L Lord joiner opposite the Sycamore (now demolished). He also served as undertaker. Walter used to help Mr. Lord out when he was at the Sycamore and Ken still has some of Mr. Lord's tool with his name marked on them.

-Other shops: Wibberley's, Brownson's, Northcliffe's, the two Miss Gadsbys', Webster at Green Gates.

-Harry Twigg ran milk deliveries from Close Farm

-Brownlee's at Flatts Stile milk retailers

-W E Brownson, auctioneer at Town Head

-D Lowndes welder

## General Recollections of Parwich

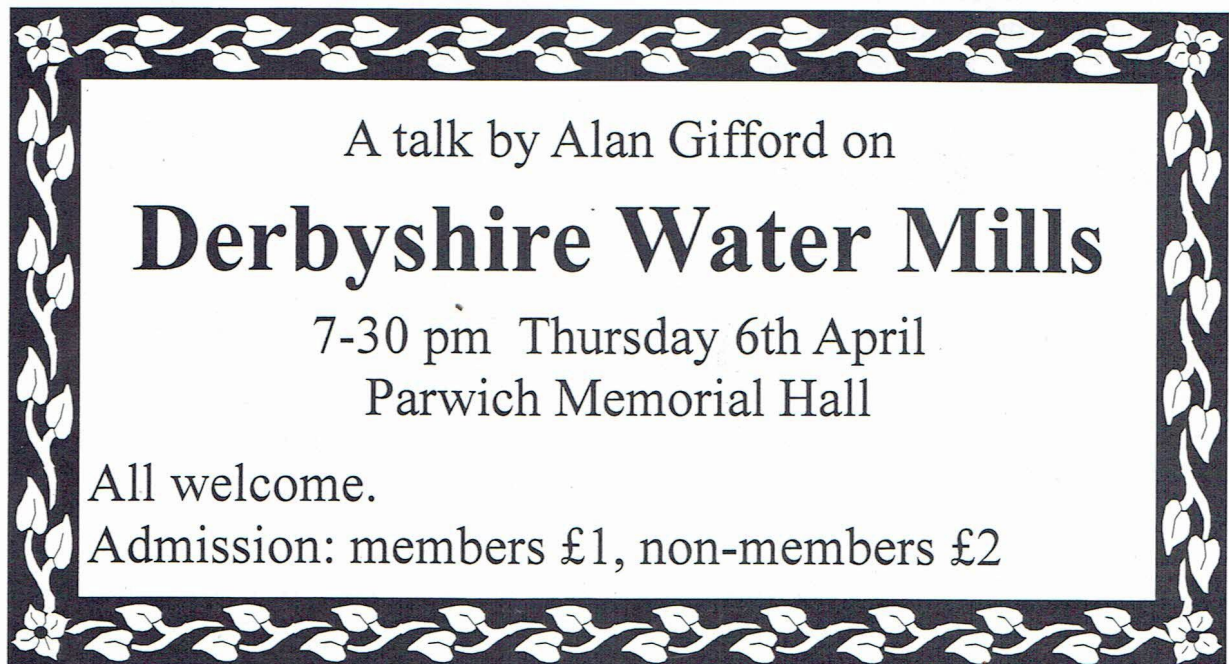
Even in Ken's childhood, people would go to the elderly blacksmith in Smithy Lane to have their warts charmed.

Ken had a number of photographs of the church illustrating the changes in lighting. First there were oil lamps, then in Major Gainsford's time gaslights were installed and when electricity came to the village, electric lights. The gaslight was powered from carbide gas produced in the small stone shed in front of the Memorial Hall. This also powered a number of street lights: by the Hall, on the wall on corner of the Square, a lamppost set into Flaxdale wall opposite Shaw Lane end, opposite the pump shed (bus shelter now) by the stoops, and at the Church gates.

The Parwich Institute was a great place for social gathering. There were weekly dances with Mrs. Yates playing the piano. Every evening you could play billiards. The billiard table was across the top end and it cost 6d an hour to play. Ken and his brother made a stage that went across the top of the billiard table.

Arthur Payne was gardener at the Hospital, and lived in Gardener's Cottage. George Wayne, Walter's brother lived at School View and worked for the Crompton-Inglefields at the Hall.

Olga Twigg married George Ridgard who was one of the Crompton-Inglefield's chauffeurs. They lived at Rosemary Cottage. She took some rubbish to burn in the woods behind the smithy along with a can of paraffin to set it alight. Unfortunately she was not careful enough with the paraffin and died as a result of the burns.



A talk by Alan Gifford on

# Derbyshire Water Mills

7-30 pm Thursday 6th April  
Parwich Memorial Hall

All welcome.  
Admission: members £1, non-members £2

# Serendipity:

## Tracing the Swindell family in Mayfield and Parwich

By Maurice H Wilson

Dear Friends (and possible relations),

I call you friends although I haven't met many of you. I came to visit Parwich for the first time in July 2005, the reason being I had discovered that my 3x great grandparents, Samuel Swindell and Lydia Kirkham, originated from there.

I have been studying my family history for approximately 6 years, my mother now 94, used to say "My mom came from Ashbourne." Through the census I discovered that the Swindells were farmers in Mayfield (Staffs.). I found out about 2 farms in Mayfield and decided to call on them: one Woodside Farm, where the present occupiers had only been there a short while, and couldn't tell me anything. The other was Lord's Piece Farm, also in Mayfield; the farmer there suggested I go to another farm (now called Harlow Farm) just further down the lane. Here I met a couple who invited me in and showed me their family bible which contained various Swindell names and dates, who at the time did not mean much to me. They also showed me photos, even they didn't seem to know who they were. Then there was one I recognised: a photo of my aunt getting married for the second time together with my cousin, grandmother and others at St. Chad's Church, Hopwas, near Tamworth (Staffs), where I grew up. Apparently my grandmother and the farmer's mother used to correspond; they were cousins. Since then I have been to the farm a few times, and borrowed newspaper cuttings and photos to copy. One such newspaper cutting said that my 2x great grandfather, Thomas Swindell (son of Samuel Swindell of Parwich) was getting married to Sarah Twigg.

This prompted my first visit to Parwich. I knew of the Twigg connection already, because my great grandfather was called Joseph Twigg Swindell. During this first visit to Parwich, I went to St. Peter's Church, and bought a parish magazine (I'm always interested as I write for my local parish magazine) and also the History of Parwich Church, which gave me your web-site. Consequently the Census returns on the site told me Flaxdale House was where Samuel and Lydia lived in 1841 and 1851. On my second visit there was no answer when I called at Flaxdale, but I did manage to locate names in the churchyard and found Samuel and Lydia's grave.

On my third visit just before Christmas 2005 (I hadn't set out to visit, but had been to Ashbourne Library to pick up copies of Newspaper cuttings and decided to carry on to Parwich), I was lucky. Mike and Gillian made me most welcome; it was a fantastic day; I was standing in the very house my ancestors had lived in, and that was before tasting 3 or 4 of Gillian's mince-pies, which made the day even more memorable. They introduced me to Peter who took me on a tour of the village (his knowledge nearly blew my brains out), and showed me where Swindells and associated families had lived. Peter then took me to St. Peter's, and showed me the stained glass windows behind the altar with the Swindell and associated names in the dedication underneath.

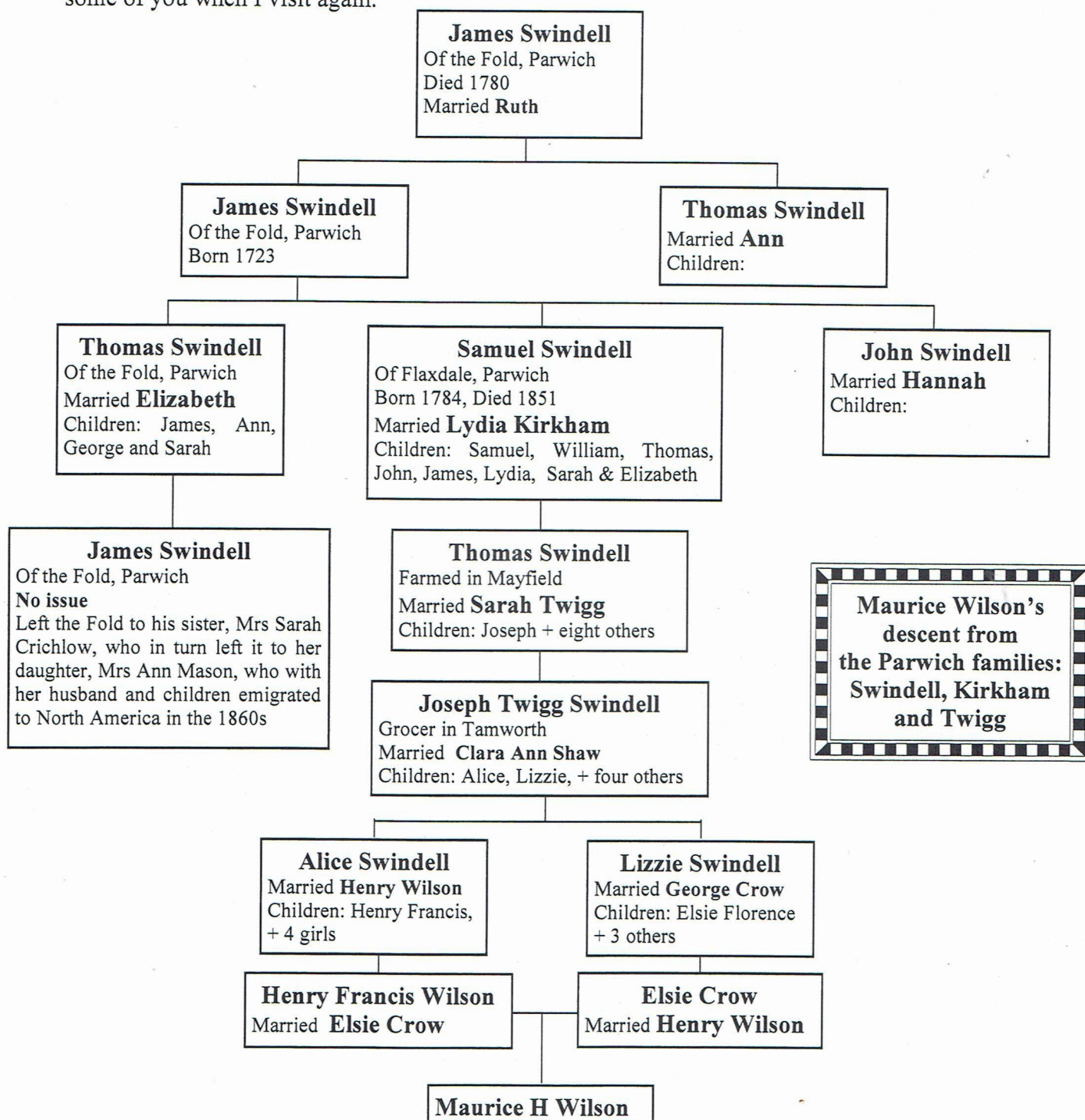
My family tree is rather different to the majority of other people's trees insomuch as you normally start with yourself, 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 8 great grandparents, etc. Mine goes from myself, 2 parents, 4 grandparents, 6 great grandparents and 12 great great grandparents,



etc. You see my 2 grandmothers (both Swindells) were sisters.

Through your Society (*see Newsletter No. 8*), I believe, I now have more names and have gone back to my 5x great grandfather (*James Swindell, who lived at the Fold in Parwich in the early eighteenth century*). I have bought and read Gillian's book, "Voices", and now feel as though I too have lived in Parwich. I can also relate some of it to my childhood in Hopwas, where I lived from aged of 3 to 29 years.

I would be interested to talk to anyone with Swindell, Twigg and Kirkham family stories. I will be back in Parwich again sometime; I need to take more photos. I hope you have found this article interesting, Michael and Peter did twist my arm a bit, and perhaps I could meet some of you when I visit again.



# The Kniveton Family of Kniveton & Bradley and their Parwich Landholdings

By Peter Trehwitt

It may seem strange to devote so much space in our Newsletter to the Kniveton family, who shot from obscurity as peasant freemen in Kniveton, around 1200, to wealthy landowners with a moated manor house at Bradley, and land in three counties, all in two generations. The family was to continue in regional importance for four hundred years, with a history packed full of dramatic events, but of particular interest to us is the thirteenth century, when they held land in Parwich. The main reason that so much is known about the origins of the De Knivetons is the survival of the Kniveton Leiger in the muniments of the Dean and Chapter of Lincoln (a register of title deeds and other documents relating to the Kniveton family, compiled around 1300). Though also the family seemed particularly litigious, leaving a fair number of court records. Perhaps their familiarity with the legal system contributed to their rapid acquisition of wealth.

The first record of this family is a charter of about 1200 confirming Hunfrid son of Haslac, a 'native' (i.e. Dane or Anglo-Saxon) freeman, in his holding of a 'toft and croft' (house site and associated paddock), 10 acres of land and part of an area of arable land (probably a recently created open field) in Kniveton. It is not known whether or how long Hunfrid was established in Kniveton prior to this. Kniveton, though mentioned, does not seem to have been of much significance at the time of the Domesday Survey in 1086, however it does seem to have rapidly expanded, being large enough to warrant the building of a church in the twelfth century. So it seems Humfrid was peasant farmer within a fairly typical medieval Midlands village, with a house in the village, an attached paddock, some 10 acres of pasture land and part of the open field. In the early deeds we see a Roger son of Levenat/Levenard of Parwich held land in Kniveton up to c. 1200, he also granted land in Parwich to a Ralph the clerk son of Gamell of Parwich c. 1210. Also a Ralph of Parwich (the son of Gamell?) witnessed a charter in Kniveton c. 1200. Perhaps these connections are not surprising given the proximity of Kniveton and Parwich at a time when the main route from Parwich to Ashbourne would have gone over Wigber Low and through Kniveton.

Humfrid's son, Matthew I, extended the family's landholdings in Kniveton. He appeared to be on good terms with his lord of the manor, Robert son of Robert Tolly, and was able to educate his son, Matthew II. The education of the day would have involved, not English (the language of the working man), but French (the official language of England up to the 1400s) and Latin (the language of the written word), which would have given him access to the ruling Norman elite and to the courts. As Dr. Kniveton points out in his history of the Kniveton family, this was a time of flux in relation to surnames. The Normans used a relatively small number of Christian names, but had a tradition of family names relating to their place of origin, whereas the Saxons had used a large number of first names and patronyms (e.g. Roger son of Levenant/Levenard). At this time you get a combination of both approaches happening (e.g. Simon de la Dale son of Gilbert de Throel of Parwich), over the next hundred years or so things began to settle down to something nearer the situation we know today. Matthew II seems to have been the first to consistently use de Kniveton or Kniveton as a surname, and to have been the main driving force in establishing the family beyond their village of origin.