



It is assumed that these two pictures are of the family, it hoped that it may be possible to identify the individuals.



Local History Digest

The Newsletter of the Cranmer Local History Group

Researching the history of *Aslockton and Whatton -in-the-Vale*

Volume 2

Number 1

March, 2006

Free

Forthcoming Local History Events

Tuesday April 4th 2006 7.45pm	Coaching Days Turnpike Roads and Inns of Main Street, Nottinghamshire <i>Adrian Hemstock</i>	The Cranmer Arms, Aslockton.
Tuesday May 2nd 2006 7.00 pm	Whatton Parish Church Trevor Webster	St. John of Beverley Church Street Whatton
Tuesday June 6th 2006 7.00 pm	<i>Visit to Greens Mill</i>	

Visitors, particularly residents of the three villages, are most welcome.

Membership is only £5 per year (the Membership year runs from July to June). Come along to any meeting and join.

Visit our web site at www.cranmerlhg.org.uk
e-mail: info@cranmerlhg.org.uk



We are not quite sure which room this photograph depicts. The organ is now in the Parish Church at Whatton-in-the-Vale.



This external view shows the South face of the Manor and one of the formal gardens.

History & Local News

The web site provided another overseas contact. Peter Hall of South Africa a friend of the group has provided a set of 28 photographs of Whatton Manor and the Hall Family taken in about 1880. There are some 28 photographs in the set, they provide a unique view of the property which was demolished in the mid 1960s.

The dining room faced south-east and measured 32 foot by 22 foot. Not shown in this photograph is the bay window and stone fireplace.

The photograph to the right and the one below show what we believe to be the Drawing Room which was some 31 foot by 28 foot. The room had a marble fireplace and a moulded plaster ceiling.

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Welcome to the Local History Digest

This is the fifth edition of our newsletter and is published on the 450th anniversary of the death of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer who was born in Aslockton in 1489 and was executed in Oxford on the 21st March 1556. There is a transcript of an eye-witness account of the event, on page 7.

The web site has provided to overseas contacts in the last three months:

Grant Malcolm from Western Australia contacted us about William Henry Baker who was born in Aslockton. He served with the Australian Army in Gallipoli. An article about WH Baker starts on page 4. A transcript of a family tale in future issues.

Our second contact was from Peter Hall in South Africa. Peter is a descendant of Maurice James Hall who was the son of Thomas Dickinson Hall who was born in Aslockton in 1841 until his death in 1879. Peter provided us with 28 unique photographs both of the Manor House (inside and out) and the family. Some of these are reproduced on Page 10, the rest will be published in future editions.

History & Local News is a free newsletter for everyone and everyone is welcome to attend. A small charge (typically £2) is made to non-members.

All the activities of the Group (including this Newsletter and web site) are funded from members subscriptions and efforts. We receive no external funding at all. Membership costs only £5 per annum, please come along to any meeting and join.

Gregg Redford
21st March 2006

An Aslockton veteran of Gallipoli

We received an enquiry from Grant Malcolm in Western Australia who was looking for information on a William Henry Baker, whose father Charles Baker lived in Aslockton. Grant is writing a history of the C Section 3rd Australian Field Ambulance. We were able to put him in touch with relatives of WH Baker still living in Aslockton. This is a story which is likely to be of interest to many of our readers. This short article was provided by Grant Malcolm. The family information was provided by Margaret and Kath Auckland, with additional family history research from Gregg Redford

William Henry Baker was the son of Charles and Mary Ann (nee Wilson) Baker. Charles worked for the Railway as a porter in 1881 and lived with his parents in Scredington, Lincolnshire. Charles and Mary Anne were married on the 20th December 1881 at Swaton (nr Sleaford) from at least the end of the 18th Century.

Between December 1881 and March 1883 Charles and Mary moved to Hucknall in Nottinghamshire, where William Henry Baker was born (15th March 1883). As Charles worked for the Railway the move may have been connected to the opening of the new Great Northern Station at Hucknall Town in 1882.

Sometime before November 1885, the family moved to Aslockton, where Charles was a signalman for the Great Northern Railway. and it appears his mother Mary Ann died in childbirth or slightly afterwards on the 18th November 1885, aged 28.

Charles remarried and the Scarrington Parish registers show that he married Harriett Ann Carlile on the 3rd of August 1887.

In the 1891 Census, William Henry is shown living with his father, stepmother, brother and half-siblings on Scarrington Lane, Aslockton, Nottinghamshire.

By 1901 William Henry had left home and was working as a Journeyman baker and was boarding at 7, Broughton Street, Pendleton,

answered, that, as concerning his recantation, he repented it right sore, because he knew it was against the truth; with other words more. Whereby the Lord Williams cried, 'Make short, make short.' Then the bishop took certain of his friends by the hand. But the bachelor of divinity refused to take him by the hand, and blamed all the others that so did, and said, he was sorry that ever he came in his company. And yet again he required him to agree to his former recantation. And the bishop answered, (showing his hand), 'This was the hand that wrote it, and therefore shall it suffer first punishment

Fire being now put to him, he stretched out his right hand, and thrust it into the flame, and held it there a good space, before the fire came to any other part of his body; where his hand was seen of every man sensibly burning, crying with a loud voice, 'This hand hath offended.' As soon as the fire got up, he was very soon dead, never stirring or crying all the while.

His patience in the torment, his courage in dying, if it had been taken either for the glory of God, the wealth of his country, or the testimony of truth, as it was for a pernicious error, and subversion of true religion, I could worthily have commended the example, and matched it with the fame of any father of ancient time: but, seeing that not the death, but cause and quarrel thereof, commendeth the sufferer, I cannot but much dispraise his obstinate stubbornness and sturdiness in dying, and specially in so evil a cause. Surely his death much grieved every man; but not after one sort. Some pitied to see his body so tormented with the fire raging upon the silly carcass, that counted not of the folly. Other that passed not much of the body, lamented to see him spill his soul, wretchedly, without redemption, to be plagued for ever. His friends sorrowed for love; his enemies for pity; strangers for a common kind of humanity, whereby we are bound one to another. Thus I have enforced myself, for your sake, to discourse this heavy narration, contrary to my mind: and, being more than half weary, I make a short end, wishing you a quieter life, with less honor; and easier death, with more praise.

with him. And then rising, he said, 'Every man desireth, good people, at the time of their deaths, to give some good exhortation, that other may remember after their deaths, and be the better thereby. So I beseech God grant me grace, that I may speak something, at this my departing, whereby God may be glorified, and you edified.

And now I come to the great thing that troubleth my conscience more than nay other thing that ever I said or did in my life: and that is, the setting abroad of writings contrary to the truth. Which here now I renounce and refuse, as things written with my hand, contrary to the truth which I thought in my heart, and written for fear of death, and to save my life, if it might be: and that is, all such bills, which I have written or signed with mine own hand since my degradation: wherein I have written many things untrue. And forasmuch as my hand offended in writing contrary to my heart, therefore my hand shall first be punished: for if I may come to the fire, it shall be first burned. And as for the pope, I refuse him, as Christ's enemy and antichrist, with all his false doctrine.'

And here, being admonished of his recantation and dissembling, he said, 'Alas, my lord, I have been a man that all my life loved plainness, and never dissembled till now against the truth; which I am most sorry for it.' He added hereunto, that, for the sacrament, he believed as he had taught in his book against the bishop of Winchester. And here he was suffered to speak no more.

Then was he carried away; and a great number, that did run to see him go so wicjedly to his death, ran after him, exhorting him, while time was, to remember himself. And one Friar John, a godly and well learned man, all the way traveled with him to reduce him. But it would not be. What they said in particular I cannot tell, but the effect appeared in the end: for at the stake he professed, that he died in all such opinions as he had taught, and oft repented him of his recantation.

Coming to the stake with a cheerful countenance and willing mind, he put off his garments with haste, and stood upright in his shirt: and bachelor of divinity, named Elye, of Brazen-nose college, labored to convert him to his former recantation, with the two Spanish friars. And when the friars saw his constancy, they said in Latin to one another 'Let us go from him: we ought not to be nigh him: for the devil is with him.' But the bachelor of divinity was more earnest with him: unto whom he

Salford.

It is unclear as to when William Henry left for Australia. There is a possible lead in 1902, however more research is required in this area.



We do know that he enlisted in the *Australian Imperial Army* in 1914 at Blackboy Hill, Western Australia. His next of kin was registered as Charles Baker (his father).

The photograph on the left was taken at Blackboy Hill, presumably about 1914.



The photograph on the right is undated.

This is a story which is certain to continue in future issues of the *Digest*.

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Archbishop Thomas Cranmer

Depending on which side of the ecclesiastical fence you sit March 21st this year saw the 450th anniversary of the Martyrdom, Execution or death of Archbishop Thomas Cranmer. This dramatic account of the execution is said to have been written by an anonymous bystander.

But that I know for our great friendships, and long continued love, you look even of duty that I should signify to you of the truth of such things as here chanceth among us; I would not at this time have written to you the unfortunate end, and doubtful tragedy, of Thomas Cranmer late bishop of Canterbury: because I little pleasure take in beholding of such heavy sights. And, when they are once overpassed, I like not to rehearse them again; being but a renewing of my woe, and doubling my grief. For although his former, and wretched end, deserves a greater misery, (if any greater might have chanced than chanced unto him), yet, setting aside his offenses to God and his country, and beholding the man without his faults, I think there was none that pitied not his case, and bewailed not his fortune, and feared not his own chance, to see so noble a prelate, so grave a counsellor, of so long continued honor, after so many dignities, in his old years to be deprived of his estate, adjudged to die, and in so painful a death to end his life. I have no delight to increase it. Alas, it is too much of itself, that ever so heavy a case should betide to man, and man to deserve it.

But to come to the matter: on Saturday last, being 21 of March, was his day appointed to die. And because the morning was much rainy, the sermon appointed by Mr Dr Cole to be made at the stake, was made in St Mary's church: whither Dr Cranmer was brought by the mayor and aldermen, and my lord Williams: with whom came divers gentlemen of the shire, sir T A Bridges, sir John Browne, and others. Where was prepared, over against the pulpit, a high place for him, that all the people might see him. And, when he had ascended it, he kneeled him down and prayed, weeping tenderly: which moved a great number to tears, that had conceived an assured hope of his conversion and repentance.

When praying was done, he stood up, and, having leave to speak, said, 'Good people, I had intended indeed to desire you to pray for me; which because Mr Doctor hath desired, and you have done already, I thank you most heartily for it. And now will I pray for myself, as I could best devise for mine own comfort, and say the prayer, word for word, as I have here written it.' And he read it standing: and after kneeled down, and said the Lord's Prayer; and all the people on their knees devoutly praying