



*The Ancient Manor of*

# CRAKEMARSH

*A history by John Walker*



From its origins as an Anglo Saxon Manor to the 21st Century

## INTRODUCTION



John Walker, Uttoxeter 2007, on his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday

When he retired in 1990 Uttoxeter baker John Walker set about writing a history of Crakemarsh Hall something he had planned to do for many years. Although not a definitive history of Crakemarsh Hall John felt he had to write it as he had known about the Hall for many years and often wondered about its history. As a boy in the 1930s John would accompany his father, also named John James Walker, delivering bread to houses, farms and local villages from the family bakery on The Heath, Uttoxeter. One of the places they passed on their way to Combridge and Rochester was Crakemarsh Hall set in its own large grounds off the old road. At that time Mrs Charles Tyrell Cavendish lived at the Hall. When John joined the family business in 1948 one of his jobs was delivering bread and in his own words he must have called at hundreds of houses and farms. Another baker from Uttoxeter delivered to Crakemarsh Hall. By this time Mrs Julia Cavendish was living at the Hall with her two sons Henry and Geoffrey. Geoffrey Cavendish who left Crakemarsh Hall in 1968 was the last Cavendish to live there after a family occupancy of ninety five years. Over the years on his bread rounds John picked up bits and pieces about the history of the Hall and the Estate from local people. He was also helped by the fact that for about twenty years from 1956 he lived a stone's throw from Crakemarsh Hall in the hamlet of Combridge. In 1975 by another lucky chance John Walker came to lodge with the Torr

family who had bought The Garden Cottage in the grounds of Crakemarsh Hall. He stayed there for fifteen years. Living on the old estate gave John the added incentive to find out more about it. It also led him take to upon himself the restoration of the old Ice House in the grounds. Having retired in 1990 he had more time to devote himself to this labour of love. John left The Garden House in 1997.

John had intended to have just a few copies of his history of Crakemarsh Hall printed for his family but his friends and local people who heard about it asked for copies so in the year 2000 John paid for a short print of about fifty copies which soon sold and helped to pay for the printing. He has many requests for copies of his book over the years but has never had it reprinted. Crakemarsh Hall was demolished in 1998. In 1996 John published *Hawkers Galore Memories of a Uttoxeter Baker* which is full of stories of the people and places he visited on his rounds around Uttoxeter over the years. In 1998 he wrote a history, as yet unpublished, titled *The Milling and Baking Industry at The Heath, Uttoxeter*.

Uttoxeter 2013.

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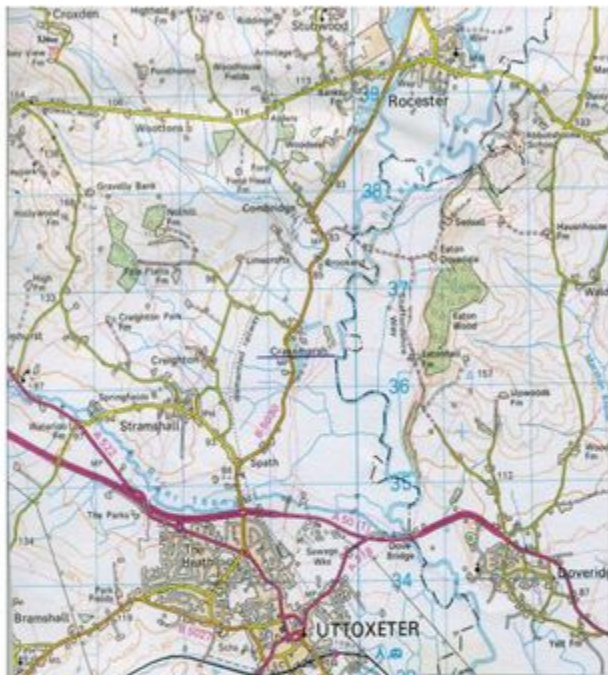
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Portrait of Sir William Cavendish Reproduced by permission of the Chatsworth Settlement Trust.	The Devonshire Collection

My granddaughter Sarah Walker for taking on the mammoth task of typing up my hand-written account on her computer so that it could be published.



Map showing location of Crakemarsh between Uttoxeter and Rocester in Staffordshire. The River Dove winds its way from north to south to the right of the B5030 and is joined by the River Tean near Dove Bridge.

**CRAKEMARSH IN ANTIQUITY**

Crakemarsh, situated very near to the confluence of the Rivers Dove and Churnet, has been a place of importance since earliest times. It is a small scattered hamlet with its main residence Crakemarsh Hall and previously the Manor House of Crakemarsh. Most of these residences which were built, both locally and nationally, were built in commanding positions, such as neighbouring Woodseat Hall and Barrow Hill Hall. Here Crakemarsh gives away the antiquity of its ancient site – where the river dwellers lived in the valleys – as opposed to the settlers of later centuries who always preferred the high ground and commanding elevations. Perhaps the earliest signs of antiquity must be the several round burial mounds or barrows, situated between the Rivers Dove and Churnet – south of the village of Rocester and about half a mile north of Crakemarsh. These barrows would probably have been made during the Bronze Age, which was from 1800 B.C. to 500 B.C.



**The bow-shaped barrows. Each barrow is a perfect circle about sixteen feet in diameter and each surrounded by a shallow ditch about two feet wide.**

They were constructed quite close to the River Dove – despite the propensity of the Dove to undermine its banks – thus devouring the river's course over centuries. Yet, amazingly, these small barrows – constructed in places only forty yards from the river – have survived for over three thousand years.

We must remember that these "Ages" and dates are approximate and vary greatly in different parts of the world. For instance the use of metals was far earlier in the Asian civilisations. The Hittite tribes of Syria and Asia, who are mentioned in the Bible, were producing iron in 1800 B.C.,



whereas the Iron Age in Britain is considered to have started about 500 or 600 B.C., at the end of Bronze Age. The early settlers here – the Ancient Britons – came from the continent, onwards from 1000 B.C. They made their way inland via the main river estuaries – more particularly from the East coast inlets with their shorter sea journeys.

Britain was heavily forested and these river people settled by the rivers which they had navigated. The flood plain of the river Dove would have provided fertile ground and in addition to this, the forest would have been much thinner and more amenable to clearance. In the clearings the settlers would build their wooden huts and perimeter fences. These small groups needed to defend themselves against wild animals such as wolves, bears and boars – not forgetting the other groups of settlers, who might attack them – as a means of obtaining an easy living, by stealing their neighbours' ready killed fish and animals. The later Iron Age people in this vast time scale used ploughs and grew corn – as they had done in their continental homelands. They made look-out posts on high ground – such as the position at Dale Gap, above Barrow Hill on the Rocester to Ashbourne road. The circular ditches here are still quite well defined.

Don't let us imagine that these early settlers were dressed in animal skins and hunted with wooden spears! No, they wore rough clothing made from linen and from wool and lived much better than we tend to imagine. They had organised tribes with leaders, minted coins and fought battles with marauding tribes. Yet, even so the population of Britain was very, very sparse.

This short insight into the pre-history of the area gives us a picture of life here before the Romans arrived at the beginning of the first century A.D. Fortunately, the Romans wrote down and recorded what they found, what they saw and what they did. It was a Roman historian who named the ancient British tribes in Staffordshire as the Cornovii and the Corilani and noted that Britain was already divided into several large Kingdoms. The Kingdoms of Northern England were constantly at war with the Kingdoms of Southern England. The Northern settlers had soon discovered that general conditions were better and the climate more mild in the South. Also, that it was easier to obtain a living the further South they moved – especially if someone else had provided it!! The wars and unrest continued between the tribes for many years – but eventually one of the Northern tribes, the Brigantes from the High Peak district, overcame the Cornovii and Corilani tribes of this area. The Brigantes ruled until the next invaders came – the Romans, and these proved to be quite a different kettle of fish.

## Chapter 2

### ARRIVAL OF THE ROMANS

In the year 55 B.C., Julius Caesar, governor of Gaul, made a reconnaissance expedition to Britain. He was determined to see for himself this country, which the peoples of Northern Europe had been populating – little by little over the previous thousand years.

He was agreeably surprised and decided to make Britain the farthest Western outpost of the mighty Roman Empire – which stretched out as far as the Caspian Sea in the East. Caesar made another landing in the following year, 54 B.C., but it was not until ninety years later, in 43 A.D., that Britain was invaded by the Romans, commanded by their General Aulus Plautius. Julius Caesar was assassinated ten years after his second reconnaissance in 54 B.C.

The tribes of Southern Britain were soon subdued by the invasion of 43 A.D. – in this same year the Romans pushed north in two main “prongs”. One of these “prongs” went via Wall and Lichfield to Shrewsbury and on to Chester – which became one of their great fortresses and sea ports. This route became the Watling Street – now the A5. The other route North was via Burton and Derby and onwards to Lincoln and York. This route was the Icknield Street and now the A38.

The Romans encountered much more resistance from the tribes of the Kingdoms of Northern Britain – in fact the Brigantes rose up several times and actually overcame the Romans in this part of Britain. It was in the year 79 A.D. that the Roman General Agricola finally suppressed the Brigantes.

We now have a picture of Britain under the domination of the Romans – where all the British inhabitants were now slaves to their Roman rulers. The Romans were here for a period of just less than 400 years. Historically this does not seem long, but it is quite a lengthy period if we compare it to the period of time from the present day back to the reign of Queen Elizabeth the first.

Soon after the Romans had suppressed all uprisings in 79 A.D. they began to consolidate their communities and the military garrison at Rocester was established. Road building went on with speed and determination.

The east to west Roman road was built from their fort at Derby through Cubley to Rocester. From the fort at Rocester the road went to Hollington and Tean to the Roman town of Chesterton and then on to Chester.

This road is still visible in a few places – even after 2000 years – although most of it underlies the long straight sections of this road in use today.



The outline of the grassed-over Roman road in a field on Marston Park Farm.

In the above photo the outline of the grassed-over road as it passes through Marston Park farm land is very evident. From here it starts its descent down Marston Bank to Rochester – and from here one can stand and view Rochester and Crakemarsh, lying in the valley of the Churnet and Dove.

The Roman road crossed the Dove about twenty five yards north of the 19th century road bridge. This important crossing would probably have had a wooden bridge, and this straight line of road goes directly and exactly into the east gate of the rectangle occupied by the Roman Fort at Rochester – as shown on the accompanying map.

On leaving the west gate of the Fort, the road proceeds on its same direct and exact line to Hollington. This line would be along the road – now High Street Rochester and fronting Churnet Row. Crossing the Churnet where the old stone bridge now exists, the road climbed Red Hill to the left of the present road and midway between it and Banks Farm – known locally as Mince Pie Hall, from its domed turret!

Just as an aside – my great grandfather Joseph Forrester of Rochester remembered the Marston Road Bridge being built in 1839. A toll house was also built on the Rochester side of the bridge and tolls had to be paid for carts, carriages and animals at a varying scale. Old Joe continued to use the ford to take sheep across the river and so avoid the toll!!

As stated previously, the Roman Fort was probably built about 80 A.D. to consolidate and hold Agricola's suppression of the Brigantes.



Map showing the site of the Roman fort at Rocester.

Excavations made on the site of the Fort in the 1980s revealed that the large Fort was built on the site of a more simple earthen fortification of ramparts and ditches made during an earlier Roman conquest of the Brigantes – about thirty years earlier. Bearing in mind the very, very sparsely populated country and the very small number of tracks which were in existence before the Romans arrived – one can realise just how much work would have been found for the local people – although in slavery. Work people would have been commandeered by the Romans from the nearby settlements of Crakemash and Uttoxeter etc.



An artist's impression of the Roman fort at Rochester, also showing the huge earthen ramparts surrounding it.

The size of the Fort at Rochester was not comparable to the size of fortresses, such as would be at Chester or Derby, but even so it was an important Fort. It was built to hold reserve troops, horses, equipment and supplies for the legions and also to deter or deal with tribal uprisings and to keep watch on the valuable mineral deposits of the Peak District - particularly galena (lead ore). The archaeological excavations of the 1980s at the Rochester Fort revealed a block of barracks or quarters. These rooms had clay floors but rooms at one end of the barracks had hard floors and would have been the quarters of a centurion or other leader of similar status. A latrine pit had been dug out to a depth of six feet and lined with wooden planks which had been charred on their surface.

The Roman Empire finally collapsed after being in decline for three centuries - from the second century to the fifth century A.D. By this time many Romans had remained in Britain and married British women and after these three centuries, quite a large slice of the British population was Romano-British

The Fort at Rochester was demilitarised towards the end of the second century - buildings were dismantled and most things removed - even the ramparts were filled in and levelled over - as shown in the photographs. When the Romans finally moved out, the civilian village which had grown up outside the Fort, now spread inside and used it as a ready-made area for their agricultural occupations. Blacksmiths shops were made, also tannery yards and sheds where animals were kept. It was also an area which could be easily defended against incoming people from the continent, who started coming into the country in large numbers after the departure of the Romans.



**Photo of the excavations in the new cemetery at Rochester in 1986 showing the size of the ramparts and ditches in relation the people standing in them. These are unusually large for the size of a fort such as the one at Rochester.**



Although this record will centre more on Crakemarsh as it progresses, these insights into this country and its peoples create a necessary picture of life in our mind's eye, through the ages from the ancient Britons, the Romans and now the Anglo Saxons.

## Chapter 3

### THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD

The Anglo Saxon Period is from the final departure of the Romans about 407 A.D. until the arrival of the Normans in 1066.

The Romans returned to Gaul (France and its neighbours) to try and bolster up their collapsing empire.

Whilst this was taking place, hordes of Teutonic tribes, barbarous and uncivilised, were spreading across Western Europe, and literally drove the people before them – across the North Sea – to escape from their brutality. This migration of people ended when they had sailed up the rivers of Eastern England and found an ideal country for themselves. These new immigrants were mainly Angles, Saxons and Jutes, and they arrived in large numbers – they were farmers and also sailors, in their own maritime homelands of Northern Europe and the coasts of the Baltic Sea.

The leaders of the British people – now left undefended by the Romans to face the onslaught of the Anglo Saxon invaders – appealed to Rome to send troops back here to defend them from Anglo Saxon attacks. Their appeal fell on deaf ears – the Romans had plenty of troubles of their own. Thus the British were either killed or enslaved – those who escaped fled, either to the shelter of the Welsh hills, Cornwall or North West England. The Anglo Saxons established themselves and formed England - the land of the Angles.

Despite the long period of Roman occupation – 400 years – a strange result is to be observed here in this country.

Unlike that found in any of the other provinces of the fallen Western Roman Empire – where Roman methods and traditions were continued more or less, by their successors – this continuity did not occur here – in fact quite the reverse took place.

Where Roman forts had been established in this country they were only partially occupied or utilised here and there, by the native British and Romano-British population.

Neither did the incoming Anglo Saxons use the Romans' buildings or fortified sites – only in occasional circumstances. Our new overlords – the Anglo Saxons – built their own type of buildings, in groups or small settlements – outside Roman areas.

Roman buildings and such like were generally allowed to fall into dereliction. English speaking predominated over Roman, French and

German! It was as if anything to do with the Romans – a cruel and pagan regime – was avoided like the plague!

All other countries of the late Roman Empire continued to use Roman buildings and towns and their well organised methods of running an efficient agricultural economy and military defences.

This definite lack of continuity is most evident in the survival of ancient British place names – many with little alteration – which were kept alive and in use through generations of Britons, enslaved as they were by the Romans and now the Anglo Saxons. Most noticeable are field names, rivers, mountains and natural features. Classic examples of ancient British names are to be found locally with such names as the river Dove and also the adjacent areas of Creighton and Stramshall.

Professor Ekwall in his Dictionary of English Place Names mentions two early forms of Crakemarsh:

CRACHEMERS of the Domesday Book 1086

CRAKEMERS of the Book of Fees 1242

He defines both as “marsh frequented by water crakes”.

The Anglo Saxon period lasted 100 years and Staffordshire was a part of the area known as Mercia. King Alfred the Great's son and successor was Edward – he divided the country up into administrative units called shires more or less as we know them today – each being named after its principal town - thus York - Yorkshire, Stafford – Staffordshire and Derby - Derbyshire. Most of Northern England was under the Danelaw and soon after the death of Edward in 924 A.D. England was subjected to more violent Danish incursions and uprisings by the Danes in the North of England.





Illustrations 1 to 4 Anglo-Saxon buildings.

Illustration 1 is a large settlement barn – typical of those built by the early Anglo Saxons. A settlement of twenty or thirty people would use this type of building for sleeping and eating. One end of the building would be used to stall animals, if the weather was too extreme for them to be outside – as in Northern areas.

The timbers were mainly of oak, and the areas in between them, as at “A”, were plastered over with clay. The oak posts would often be in pairs – as in the upright fence posts of illustration 4 – thus trapping the hurdles between them.

Some of the communal barns would have godfathers – set at an angle against the wall timbers, as in the fences at “3” and “4”. Although well built, these barns would only survive for perhaps seventy years – when most of the timbers would have gone rotten beyond repair at ground level. A new barn would then be built nearby and most of the good timbers reclaimed and reused from the old barn. The thatched roof would be steeply pitched at 60°.

Surrounding the communal barn would be perhaps six or eight of these low, thatched smaller shelters – measuring about twenty feet long and twelve feet wide. Inside them soil would have been excavated to a depth of about three feet – the sides faced up with timbers and a wooden floor put down. A small ladder would have been used to enter the shelter.

These were working places and work was carried out in them which needed to be done under cover, and with sufficient height to walk about.

Work such as grinding corn, mending clothes and tools, cleaning hides, spinning wool and flax, weaving cloth etc. Other pursuits such as sawing wood and carpentry, iron working etc. would be done outside.

In the construction of these shelters a wooden cross piece was dug into the ground as in Illustration 2 marked "B", also one at the other end and sometimes one in the middle – three long rails went along them from end to end. This carried the roof of either thatch or hides which nearly reached ground level.

As with the larger barns, these were renewed as necessary. Many of the barns and the smaller shelters were destroyed by fires which had got out of hand.

The settlement area would be surrounded by this stockade type of fence – made by driving split pole timbers unto the ground and fastened on to the horizontal timber, which was supported at intervals by godfathers (Illustration 3).

Another sturdy type of fence was constructed of interwoven hurdles and a top rail, held together by pairs of posts trapping them, and godfathers on both sides of the fence (Illustration 4). Such fences would be used for partitioning stock.

As the Anglo Saxon period progressed, settlements and their buildings improved – stone became more widely used particularly for Church buildings.

The communal living system was still similar but the huge barns often had a roof of shingles (wooden tiles) – woodwork was carved and decorated and the small sunken workplaces were replaced by buildings at ground level.



This gold buckle of the Anglo Saxon period reveals the remarkable workmanship of these people.

Edward's son Athelstan succeeded him and reigned for sixteen years. Athelstan's sister Edith married the Danish King of Northumbria.

England was invaded by King Sweyn of Denmark in 1013 and Mercia was in trouble again – being the buffer Kingdom – or more correctly, Earldom – between the Danish Northern districts and the English-ruled districts of Southern England.

Edric, Earl of Mercia, would not fight against the Danish invaders, so Mercia was sacked and pillaged by the Danes, and also by the English for not opposing the Danes.

Three years later, Canute, King of Norway and Denmark, King Sweyn's son, landed with a fleet of 160 ships and invaded and conquered England. For some reason King Canute chose an Englishman – Leofwine – to be Earl of Mercia. Leofwine was succeeded by his son – Leofric – perhaps better known as Lady Godiva's husband!

King Canute died in 1035 and a further unsettled period followed under his two sons. Then, in 1042, Edward the Confessor was crowned King in the recently built Westminster Abbey.

Christianity had spread over England in the last 400 years. King Edward the Confessor was in the royal line descending from Alfred the Great and under Edward, England had a reign of peace and stability for 24 years.

During this time Mercia saw the death of its Earl Leofric – he was succeeded by Earl Algar who was followed by Earl Edwin, Algar's son.

This was the end of the Anglo Saxon period and we now come to the most famous date in our history, 1066, the year that saw three Kings of England! King Edward died and Harold was proclaimed King. In October, William Duke of Normandy, King Edward's cousin, invaded and King Harold was killed at Hastings. The victorious Duke William was proclaimed King of England and was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066. What a year of history!

## Chapter 4

### CRAKEMARSH AT THE TIME OF THE NORMAN CONQUEST

William the Conqueror's suppression of England was quite ruthless when his forces encountered any opposition.

Before the Norman Conquest, Staffordshire - being part of Mercia - was ruled by Earl Algar. He was succeeded by his son Edwin, as Earl of Mercia; his other son - Morcar - became Earl of Northumberland. After the conquest King William gave English lands and Manors to his officers and friends, but not freehold - all land still belonged to William the King. For the same reason the King decided to allow the two English Earls Edwin and Morcar to remain in position as rulers of Mercia and Northumberland. No doubt the King hoped to retain some stability in these two areas, as he also offered the Earls' promises and bribes to try and keep the peace between the people and the conquerors.

Earl Edwin was even offered the King's daughter in marriage. At first the Earls were in agreement, but when Edwin decided to implement the marriage proposal, the King went back on his word and refused him! This incensed the Earls Morcar and Edwin who then decided to muster their people, rebel against King William and overthrow him. It was now two years after the conquest, the King and his retainers even went to meet Edwin and Morcar, more promises were made to the Earls but to no avail.

The Earls' rebellion against the Normans began in earnest, but their meagre forces were insufficient to make any inroads into the Norman forces. The Earls were defeated.

King William ravaged the Kingdoms of Mercia and Northumberland; he killed the people, destroyed their dwellings and their lands. Then he proclaimed that all lands were in sole possession of the King. Thus we find that Crakemarsh had now passed from the Anglo Saxon Earl Edwin to King William I.

After twenty years of his reign the famous Domesday Book was finished - in fact, William the Conqueror died before its completion. The Domesday Book listed most of the Manors of England and named their Saxon owners and present owners, mostly Norman. The King appointed commissioners in each "hundred" of every county. There were five "hundreds" in Staffordshire, Crakemarsh being in the Hundred of Totmonslow.

The following is the Domesday Book entry for Crakemarsh:

**CRACKMERES**

**Before the Norman Conquest – a demesne of Algar, Earl of Mercia.**

**Land for 6 ploughs and 6 acres of meadow.**

**It has 2 Villeins and 4 Bordars with 2 ploughs, a Mill and Woodland of a league square.**

Villeins were a little higher in rank than Bordars, but both were employed as agricultural workers by the Lord of the Manor. Each would have a hut or small dwelling and a small plot of ground, but they were "tied" to the Lord of the Manor and could not move elsewhere without his permission. You will notice that Domesday records Crakemarsh as being in the demesne of Algar, although at the time of the conquest, it was in the demesne of Earl Edwin, Algar's son. Perhaps Edwin's name was not mentioned because of the King's hatred of Edwin and his rebellion against him and his conquering forces.

One of the Domesday commissioners was Henry de Ferrers. Henry came over from France, an officer in William's army and also a friend of William. The King gave Henry de Ferrers huge grants of land – over a hundred Manors – including Crakemarsh. William the Conqueror died in 1087 and was succeeded by his son William II, known as William Rufus. Henry de Ferrers died two years after the King – in 1089 – and was followed by his son Robert de Ferrers, for fifty years. Robert de Ferrers died in 1139 – a year following his creation of Earl of Derby by King Stephen, William the Conqueror's grandson. The death of King Stephen in 1154 brought the Norman line to an end after nearly one hundred years.

## Chapter 5

### TO THE END OF THE NORMAN LINE

Before the death of Robert de Ferrers he had already given the Manor of Crakemarsh to his daughter, Maud de Ferrers, on the occasion of her marriage to Bertram de Verdun II.

William the Conqueror's two most trusted officers and supporters, during his conquest of England, were Henry de Ferrers and Bertram de Verdun I. Both came from William's own dukedom of Normandy.

Thus by this marriage the Manor of Crakemarsh was added to the vast estates of Bertram Verdun II and in fact joined up to the Creighton, Combridge and Croxden lands of Bertram's Alton estate. Bertram de Verdun referred to his Crakemarsh estate as his "grove", meaning a place of devotion.

His other estates in Staffordshire were at Rushton, Longsdon, Ipstones, Audley, Bradley in the Moors, Cotton, Bucknall and Musden Grange near to Ilam. Bertram de Verdun II founded Croxden Abbey in 1170 and settled a colony of Cistercian Monks in the Abbey. He brought them over from Aunay in Normandy.

Many other English counties had estates in the ownership of Bertram de Verdun II. Amongst them were two castles, one at Brandon in Warwickshire and the other at Alton. Bertram de Verdun II was Lord of Alton and Alton Castle was his premier residence and family home.



Alton Castle, showing the remaining wall of Bertram de Verdun's 12th century castle – seen nearest the camera. The castle and wall shown behind are the 19th century buildings. All were built on the site of a 7th century Anglo Saxon fort, of which nothing now exists.

It is perhaps as well to look now at the tenure of the land in England. William the Conqueror decreed that all the land in England was owned by the King – himself. Despite the fact that he gave so much land to all his favoured nobles and knights, the King still owned the land! Thus the knights, the so called owners of their lands and Manors were expected to perform certain duties for the King. These duties would be mainly to support the King, by going to fight in wars, insurrections and battles, wherever and whenever necessary.

Also, in like manner the tenants of these knights and squires, living on their estates, were also expected to pay a type of rent with goods such as meat and corn and also, if required, were expected to support their knights and squires in uprisings and wars. Also these “sub-tenants” had so much “boon service” to do for their squires by giving their own labour, when required, for such jobs as fencing, building, roadway repairs and jobs for the Squire at the Manor House.

The life of Bertram de Verdun II was one of piety and integrity, demanding his wholehearted support for his King, Henry II, who reigned for 35 years. About the year 1180, when Bertram de Verdun was aged around 45, his wife Maud de Ferrers died. They did not have any children and Bertram married for a second time. His new wife’s name was Rohesia; her family name and line are not known, but they had three sons and a daughter to carry on the Verdun line.

King Henry II died in 1189 and was succeeded by his son, Richard I, Coeur de Leon. In his first year as King he left for the Holy Land accompanied by King Philip II of France and Bertram de Verdun – on the third Crusade.

Bertram’s and Maud’s nephew, William de Ferrers, had already been killed there. Rohesia was left in England with her three small children. Bertram died himself at Jaffa in 1192 – he had always wished to be buried at Croxden Abbey, but his wish was denied him. He was buried in the Holy Land. After the death of Bertram de Verdun II, his vast estates here and in Ireland were inherited by his son Thomas, who died in Ireland as a young man. The inheritance then passed to the next eldest son of Bertram and Rohesia, Nicholas. Upon the death of Nicholas there was no male heir and Nicholas’ daughter, also Rohesia by name, held the estates for her son, who took on the name of de Verdun.

This continued the line of the de Verdun ownership, including of course Crakemarsh, until 1316. The two great Norman families, firstly the de

Ferrers and latterly the de Verduns, had owned the Manor of Crakemarsh for 250 years. Lord Burghersh was the next owner of Crakemarsh.



## Chapter 6

### THE 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

It was in the reign of King Edward I that the Delves family came to the Manor of Crakemarsh, following Lord Burghersh. King Edward I reigned until 1307, in fact the 14th century saw the reigns of five Kings of England. The Hundred Years War with France began in the reign of King Edward III in 1338 and finished in 1453, actually lasting 114 years! In 1356 the French city of Poitiers was the scene of a great victory over the King of France, King John II. The victory was secured for England by the 26 years old Prince Edward, known as The Black Prince, eldest son of King Edward III. The Black Prince never became King of England - he died in 1376 - the year before his father, who had reigned for fifty years.

It is recorded that at the battle of Poitiers, John Delves, son of John de Delves of Crakemarsh, was one of the four squires to Lord Audley, who commanded the English line at Poitiers.

Records of this battle state that it was only when Lord Audley was seriously wounded, that the four squires came out of the line of battle to attend to their wounded leader. After the successful outcome of the battle, the Black Prince was so satisfied with the action of Lord Audley, that he awarded him an annuity of £400. Lord Audley then decided to divide the annuity in its entirety, between his four squires. When the Black Prince heard of this most charitable act, he gave Lord Audley an annuity of £480 for himself. These extraordinary large sums of money were provided out of the Black Prince's heritage, as the eldest son of the King.

During the 1470s - a century later - another successor, still at Crakemarsh, a Sir John Delves, fenced off the open common ground between Crakemarsh and Uttoxeter. The people of Uttoxeter, who used these commons for grazing, were so angry at his actions that Uttoxeter men went out and tore down his fences and uprooted his newly planted hedges. Sir John Delves immediately renewed his fences and hedges and placed guards to keep watch by night and day.

After the death of Sir John Delves, his successor at Crakemarsh, Sir James Blount, gave in to the still simmering anger and animosity and he opened up the commons once more for the people of Uttoxeter.

In the year 1482 records state that a relative of Sir John Delves, who lived in Uttoxeter, was hanged for high treason. It is also of interest to mention here a link with this family of Delves at Crakemarsh. This link was established in 1864 when John Evans, a brewer of Bradley Street Uttoxeter, built a new brewery. The brewery was built on land adjacent to

Uttoxeter Railway Station and was listed as "John Evans and Son – Delves Hall Brewery, Uttoxeter".

The land on which it was built was known as Delves Hall Meadow and was the site of Delves Hall, which was still in existence in 1635. The Delves who lived here were direct descendants of John de Delves, of the Manor of Crakemash.

## Chapter 7

### CRAKEMARSH AND ITS 16<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY OWNERS

As noted at the conclusion of the last chapter, the long incumbency of the Delves family ended with the death of Sir John Delves. The Manor of Crakemarsh had now passed into the possession of Sir James Blount, who had married the daughter of Sir John Delves and became heir to the estate. The Blounts were succeeded in the ownership of Crakemarsh by their heir, Sir Robert Sheffield. He was Recorder for the City of London and had also married a daughter of Sir John Delves.

Sir Robert and his wife lived at Butterwycke in Lincolnshire; they let the Manor of Crakemarsh to a tenant and appointed a steward, Thomas Kingsley Esq. to oversee the estate. The actual deed of this appointment has remarkably survived, dated 1521, and is in the William Salt Library at Stafford.

Basically it says that Sir Robert Sheffield has granted to Kingsley stewardship of the manor and what was presumably its main tangible asset – a rent of 20 shillings a year. This was presumably a “chief rent” – a rent payable to the lord of the manor simply as an acknowledgment of his position as lord. Kingsley was given power under the appointment to distrain the goods of tenants of the manor, if they failed to pay their share of the rent.



The Deed of 1521 to the Manor of Crakemarsh written in Latin above with a translation in English below.

Appointment by Robert Sheffield of Butterwyke, Lincolnshire, of Thomas Kingsley Esq. to the office of steward of his manor of Crakemarshe with appurtenances, Staffordshire, along with all and singular his lands and tenements belonging in Crakemarshe and Uttoxeter: to hold the said office of steward for his [Kingsley's] life: he also grants to Kingsley an annual rent of 20s arising from the manor of Crakemarshe for his life, payable in two portions at Easter and Michaelmas; with power to distrain if the rent and arrears are not paid. Dated 20 September 13 Henry VIII [1521]

After the death of Sir Robert Sheffield his eldest son became heir to Crakemarshe, he then sold it completely to his younger brother, Christopher Sheffield. Shortly afterwards, Christopher Sheffield sold it all again – this time to Mr Gilbert Collier. Upon his death his son inherited the estate and he sold it to Sir Gilbert Gerard, Master of the Rolls. The Manor of Crakemarshe remained in the Gerard family until the 17th century, when the Cottons came to the Manor and kept their name at Crakemarshe for 250 years.

## Chapter 8

### THE COTTONS AT CRAKEMARSH

The Cottons were already established as an important and wealthy farming family at Crakemarsh in 1600. That they were a people of some standing is indicated in various historical references.

In a bid to raise revenue, King Charles I tried to force people of note to buy honours and titles. If they refused they were fined, thus creating a "no-win" situation.

It is recorded that in 1626 William Cotton of Crakemarsh was fined £12 for his refusal. William Fearn, also of Crakemarsh, was fined £10 which was a considerable sum in 1626. The Cottons had a propensity for naming their sons William – a good solid tradition – but not a great help to historical researchers!

King Charles I and his attempt at raising revenue proved most unpopular – eventually culminating in his death at Westminster. He was hung in 1649. When asked if he had a last request, the King asked for a second shirt to wear as it was such a cold day. He did not want to appear to be trembling with terror, when in fact he was just very cold!

Crakemarsh was and still is noted for its lush summer grazing in the fertile Dove valley. Cottons were thus ideally placed for producing dairy products to be sold at Uttoxeter market; mainly cheese and butter – Uttoxeter being renowned throughout the land for its locally produced butter. These same meadows also produced fat cattle and sheep for the local market. The Cottons' farmhouse at Crakemarsh would probably have dated from the 1400s, and no doubt would have been altered, repaired and "modernised" by the 1600s.

When the previously mentioned William Cotton died here in 1641, a detailed inventory of his possessions was listed on December 29th, 1641. These items came to the value of £560.

Amongst the many items listed were the following:

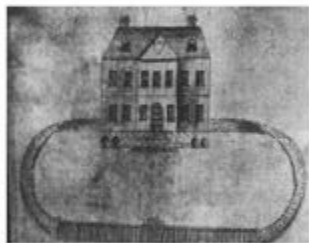
**8 oxen**  
**2 steers (for ploughing and cultivation)**  
**20 cows**  
**10 heifers**  
**a one year old bull**  
**a twynter bullock and 15 calves.**  
(A twynter is an animal that has survived two winters).

80 wethers worth £36 (a wether is a last year's lamb)  
3 old pigs, 7 young pigs worth £ 4 12 shillings  
3 mares, a bay filly, a colt and a lame mare.

Some cattle were also out at Birchwood Park, Fradswell.

Various poultry  
Saddles and bridles  
Silver plate (valued at £30)  
Pewter plate (valued at £5)  
1000 bricks worth 10/=

Wool, flax, yarns  
There were also many cupboards, chairs, stools, tables, beds and bedding –  
barrels and tubs.



The only known illustration of the Cotton's Manor House at Crakemarsh.

The Cotton family must have purchased and moved into the nearby Manor House soon after William Cotton's death. It would appear that the old farmhouse and buildings were pulled down when the Cottons moved into their new abode. It is also possible, and in my view probable, that the old farmhouse itself was reconstructed into that which is now known as The Garden House.



**The Manor of Crakemarsh.**

**To the left of the entrance porch can be seen what is now called The Garden House. This house has medieval foundations of roughly squared large sandstone blocks.**

The 17th century saw the Civil War 1642 to 1648 brought on because of the arrogance of King Charles I and his determination to make and issue laws and decrees – as opposed to Parliament's assertion that they alone could do this. Most of the upper classes of society were supporters of the King whilst the lower class of people were predominately parliamentarians. An interesting piece of news from the Civil War is preserved in the William Salt Library at Stafford – a newspaper report, dated January 1647:

Some gentlemen well affected to Parliament going out of Uttoxeter were surprised near Crakemarsh by Rowland Cotton, who has been both Royalist and Roundhead as he pleased, and others. Cotton cried "Who are you for?" They answered 'King and Parliament'. The others cried they were for the King only and fell on them.

Mr John Bull was wounded in five places and they took his rapier from him. Mr R. Woodward avoided six or seven strokes at his head, but he received another wound in the head. Mr Thomas Oakes and Mr Hugh Shaw were both thrust into the back and Mr Richard Etherington's horse received the wound intended to be his death. Then Cotton and his crew went to triumph at this mischief.

Rowland Cotton was succeeded at the Manor of Crakemarsh by his heir William Cotton. William was at Crakemarsh when Celia Fiennes made one of her many long rides through England and was recorded passing through Crakemarsh in 1697.

## Chapter 9

### THE JOURNEY OF CELIA FIENNES, 1697

Celia Fiennes was born in 1662 near to Salisbury. She was the daughter of an officer in Cromwell's army, Colonel Nathaniel Fiennes, and the granddaughter of the first Viscount Saye and Sele. Celia and her sister were brought up in good circumstances and wanted for very little in the way of comforts – either spiritual or material. Her sister married but Celia remained single. She was christened Cecilia but was never known by that name.

Celia became interested in travel and yearned to see and explore this country with all its wonders – both natural and man-made. Having the financial means available to do this she made many long rides throughout the length and breadth of this country. These rides were accomplished from the age of 23 to her last ride at age 41. Fortunately for posterity, she kept a journal of all these rides, noting things which could have had very little meaning at the time of writing. She made notes of the people she met which were dissenters – as were her own family – indeed her father had supported the idea that Oliver Cromwell should be made a king.

Before dealing with Celia's ride through this locality, it is well that we should acquaint ourselves with the conditions of the "roads" and the dangers which existed for travellers in 17th century England. These "roads" were mainly earth tracks which were deep with mud in wet weather – if the road dipped the hollow would be filled with water. In dry weather everywhere became rock hard except for clouds of dust. There were very few bridges. There were only four over the Dove on the main routes between Ashbourne and Burton at Mayfield, Uttoxeter, Tutbury and Burton where the Dove has already joined the Trent. Elsewhere, small and not so small rivers and brooks had to be forded.

Celia took several spare horses with her, one or two horsemen, and often hired the use of a guide for her journey. She always rode side saddle – if a guide was being used he had a saddle in front of her own. It was also the duty of this guide to carry what she refers to as "her nightclothes and little things". One of her guides was admonished for losing this parcel! Money had to be carried which made travellers prime targets for being waylaid and robbed. Miss Fiennes records that, travelling in the Lake District, the horses had to be shod every two or three days. When a day's travelling was done, Celia much preferred to stay overnight with family or friends if this was at all possible; where this was not possible, she records many inconveniences. At one place the landlady pleased Celia at



first when she brought out her best clean sheets, but Celia said that "her sheets were used to secure my own sheets (nightcloths) from her dirty blankets". Many travellers slept fully clothed on the floor rather than lie in or on the bed – thus getting badly bitten with fleas. Even so, such hazards did not deter Celia from 20 years of travel by horseback!

The journey we will examine was undertaken in 1697 when Celia Fiennes was 35. She called it "Through Darbshire to Woolsly". Although the journey concerning Crakemarsh could be disposed of in half a dozen lines – I make no apology for starting in the Peak District and finishing at Wolesey, as it is so descriptive and delightfully written.



*Celia crosses the Tean Brook with one of her guards, on her journey in 1697. "Nearby to Crakemarsh we passed through a deep and wide river but the bottom was hard gravel just before we came to Uttoeter"*

### **Celia Fiennes visit to the underground caves and caverns of the Peak:**

A "None but very poor people live here which makes some small advantage by begging and by lighting the strangers into the cave which beyond this you enter; so straight a passage at the mouth you stoop very low even upon your breast and creep in and when you are in about a yard or two's length you stand upright it being lofty in manner of Poole's Hole, only the rocks hangs down in so many places that there is often a case of stooping very low to pass by them and here the ground you tread on is all sand and firm, only the rocks do drip water in many places which makes it damp and strikes cold to you; but excepting the pillars of rock in some places that hang

down the most of it is very lofty and a great echo, like a Church; you pass a good way by the light of many Candles having lost the light of day from the first stooping entrance; at last you come to a River they call it, a great water it is and very deep, they say it is about 12 yards over and some do go on it with a little boate to the other side but I would not venture.

There was one Gentlewoman in our company said she had once been carry'd over on two men's shoulders, but they waded above their waste in water, so I would not bee so dangerous. I was sure it was a difficult enterprise, and when you are over that side they go over but such places as was pass'd before, which leads to another such a water which some men have pass'd over and so have gone on to a third water, but there the rocks hung so low as almost to touch the water which hindred their proceeding; that water was so strange so deep and large and look'd like a standing water but whether it were or not could not tell, no doubt but it has a passage thro' the veins of the Earth or else would swell so as to cause a bursting out of the Earth; it seemed to have a motion with it.

All these things shoves the great wisdom and power of our blessed Creator to make and maintaine all things within its own Bounds and Limits, which have a tendency to worke out ruine to the whole frame of the world if not bridled by Gods Command.

The Seventh Wonder is a Flowing and Ebbing Well (Tideswell) between this town and Buxton which ceases its miraculous motion but on great reines which raises the springs very high, and then the man which was with us told he had seen it several times in the winter when the springs were high to Ebb and Flow severall tymes in an hour, which appeared by the rise and fall of the water from the edge of the well – and the man seemed to be a good sober man – Mr. Middleton it was – so that it's likely when the springs are high the water from the sea may have a quicker flux and reflux thro' the channels of the Earth but this is a good distance from the sea of ebbing and flowing streams.

From Castleton to Buxton is 6 mile, but they are very long, you might go 10 of miles near London as soon as you are going halfe so many here.

B Thence we went to Ashburn 16 mile, where I saw some of their Copper mines, and here they dig them like a well but secure the side with wood and turffe bound with the wood like laths or frames across of longways, to secure it; this is a pretty neate

C market towne; thence to Uxeter 8 mile and we cross a River

D on a long bridge and so we enter Staffordshire which has quite a different Soyle, sand and gravell and some clay and very pretty sort of pebbles in the ground, some of a bright green like an emerald, others veined, some clear as christall; this country is well wooded and full of enclosures, good rich ground, is extremely differing from Darbyshire.

E Just before we came to Uchater we pass by a very exact House and Gardens (The Manor House Crakemarsh) of one Mr. Cotten a Justice of Peace, it's brick and coyn'd

F with stone, the Gardens and Courts very complete, but it stands in low moorish ground; to show this worlds good is not perfect but has its foul as well as faire side, and with all its conveniency's must labour under some difficultyes, we pass thro' a

G deep and long water just by, but the bottom was just gravell and hard, this supply's several mills which are used for their preparing the metal they take out of the mines; I had a piece of Copper given me by one of the Managers of them.

H Thence we came to Woobley (Wobsey) 7 mile to a Relation's house Sir Charles Woobley whose Lady was my Aunt, where we dined; the House stands in a fine parke. The House is an old building and but low, it's built round a Court; there is a large lofty hall in the old fashion, a dining and drawing room on the onehand and a little parlour on the other; the best roomes were newer built with chambers over them and a very good staircase well wainscoted and carved with good pictures; the rest of the house is all old and low and must be new built; the Gardens are both good with gravel and green walks, there is a good River runs by it which has dwarfes trees and honeysuckles and binds on the banks, there is a great deal of good fruit and

there are severall walks, one shady with high trees which my Aunt told me my Mother liked to walke in and so was call'd her walke."

Celia lived until well in her seventies; she died in London, having lived through the reigns of six Kings of England from Charles II to George II.

Below are some explanatory notes on Celia Fiennes' journeys in Staffordshire:

A

The very poor people are mainly lead miners – one married couple with five children were surviving on 6d or 7d per day.

B

Ashum – Ashbourne

C

Uxeter – Uttoxeter

D

The long bridge: This refers to Hanging Bridge over the River Dove at Mayfield near Ashbourne. Its name is nothing to do with its construction. It has a more macabre meaning – wrong doers were hung on gallows in the adjacent Dove meadow.

E

Uchater – Uttoxeter. There are over 70 different spellings of Uttoxeter to be found since Saxon times.

F

The house of brick and coyn'd with stone: On examining the derelict body of Crakemarth Hall in the 1980's I could discern many parts of its predecessor – the Manor House – which became revealed as the later building of 1820 fell away from it. In one place the rough cast coating had fallen away and revealed one of the corners of the Manor House – red brick and quoined with stones – as described by Celia Fiennes.

G

This would be the River Tean or Tean Brook as we call it locally.

H

Sir Charles Wolseley (1630 – 1714) was married to Celia's Aunt – Anne Fiennes.

The original journal had no punctuation; semicolons, commas and full stops have been added to aid the reader.

## Chapter 10

### **CRAKEMARSH LINKS UP WITH THE MANOR OF THORNTON** **The Cotton, Sheppard and Cavendish families.**

William Cotton of Crakemarsh had two sons, Henry Cotton who became a Captain in the 33rd Regiment, and William the eldest and heir to the Manor of Crakemarsh, who later became the Reverend Doctor William Cotton LL.D. In 1755 Dr William Cotton married Hester Maria Tyrell of Thornton Hall, Buckinghamshire, only child and sole heiress of her father Sir Charles Tyrell, who had died seven years earlier at the age of forty. The family seat of the Tyrells, one of England's most noble and ancient families, was Thornton Hall, Buckinghamshire with an immense estate in comparison to the quite large estate of Crakemarsh. On their marriage the Cottons went to live at Thornton Hall.

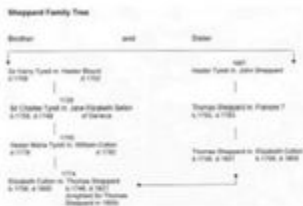


**Thornton Hall as it is today.**

Thornton was also an ancient Saxon Manor, like Crakemarsh. In the reign of Edward the Confessor Thornton was in the possession of Azor, son of Tote.

The first manor house was built by Robert Ingleton about 1460. An enlargement of the manor house was made by Reverend William Cotton about 1760. An alteration and enlargement was next made by the Honourable Richard Cavendish in 1860. Their addition of the armorial stained glass windows can be seen by the staircase. The Church of St. Michael and All Angels which faces the Manor House contains many memorials of these past owners of Thornton Hall. The memorials shown below have been recorded by Bryan Egan, historian of Thornton.

Below is a small family tree of the Sheppard Family.



Sheppard Family Tree

Soon after their marriage in 1755 Dr William Cotton and his wife Hester began a substantial rebuilding of Thornton Hall. Their only child, Elizabeth, was born to them in 1758. Captain Henry Cotton, William's younger brother, was having matrimonial troubles and his daughter Dolly spent many years at Crakemarsh with her grandmother Mrs Cotton. Elizabeth Cotton, being of a similar age to Dolly, also spent much time there and the cousins became great friends. At the age of sixteen, Elizabeth married her second cousin Thomas Sheppard from the neighbouring parish of Stewkley. Thomas was twenty eight years of age.



*A drawing of Thornton Hall after re-building by the Cottons in the 18th century.*

Five generations of William Cotton's descendants were to be owners of Thornton Hall, spanning 150 years, before the estate was sold in 1905. As the principal concern of this work is the history of Crakemarsh, it would seem appropriate at this stage to finalise the story of Thornton from the Cottons to 1905.

In the history of Thornton, documented so well in 1755 by Browne Willis, he describes Thornton Hall as follows:

*"The Seat of this ancient family is of great Antiquity, viz. above 500 years standing: It is a large house, quadrangled round, and has several spacious rooms in it, and a noble gallery, the length of which being one side of the house, is no less than 135 foot. Here is a good library: and in a bow window of the great ParLOUR are these Arms in painted glass. Viz. Argent on a Chevron between three pellets as many Roses of the Field."*

We now need to consult another small family tree giving the line of descent for the ownership of Thornton from Dr Cotton's daughter Elizabeth to the sale in 1905.

As previously stated, 16 year old Elizabeth Cotton married her second cousin Thomas Sheppard of Littlecote, Stewkley. They had four children, two boys and two girls. The two males were required to take the name of Cotton to comply with the will of their grandfather, Reverend Dr William Cotton. The eldest boy became Thomas Cotton Sheppard and the youngest became William Thomas Sheppard Cotton ! Elizabeth Sheppard, nee Cotton died in 1800 aged 42. Nine years later Thomas was created a baronet. He married again to Margaret Beardsworth who died in 1813. Sir Thomas Sheppard died in 1821.



Thornton Hall



Interior of Thornton Hall showing the armorial glass on the stairs commissioned by the Hon. Richard Cavendish in 1850's



Thus we see how the Thornton Hall estate passed from Elizabeth Sheppard, nee Cotton and her husband Thomas Sheppard to their elder son William Thomas who died without issue aged twenty five when it then passed to his brother Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard. He too died without issue and after his death the Estate passed to his sister Elizabeth Hart, nee Sheppard, of Uttoxeter, then to her daughter Elizabeth Maria Margaret Cavendish, nee Hart (1817-1858) and her husband, the Honourable Richard Cavendish (1794-1876). It was they who rebuilt Thornton Hall in the 1850's – a hundred years after Doctor Cotton's alterations.

When Elizabeth Maria Cavendish, nee Hart died in 1858 her husband Richard held Thornton Hall and all the other estates until his death in 1876. The elder son, who inherited all the estates, was William Thomas Cavendish 1843-1878) but he died two years after his father at the age of 35. The second eldest son Charles Tyrell Cavendish, who had married in 1873, moved into Crakemarsh Hall following the death of Lady Cotton Sheppard the previous year.

All the estates then passed into the hands of his son, Henry Sheppard Hart Cavendish, (1876-1948), Army Officer and a noted explorer and traveller – predominantly in Africa. He sold Thornton Hall estate in 1905 to a Mr Whitworth who in turn sold it again after two years to Mr Henry William Harris. It was then eventually acquired by the Reverend Mother St. Clare, in 1917. The Hall was then known as Thornton College – Convent of Jesus and Mary - an independent day and boarding school for girls from the age of 4 ½ to 16 years.

#### THORNTON CHURCH



The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Thornton, stands in a green parkland setting. A short distance away is the river Ouse, where Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire meet.

Thornton is "the village where the thorn-bushes grow". Its parish was roughly in the shape of an equilateral triangle with its apex to the north, the church and the manor house being situated at one end, near the north-west boundary.



SACRED  
TO THE MEMORY OF  
ELIZABETH MARIA MARGARET CAVENDISH,  
DAUGHTER OF THE LATE THOMAS HART, ESQ<sup>RS</sup>  
AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH,  
NIECE OF THE LATE SIR THOMAS COTTON SHEPPARD,  
AND WIFE OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD CAVENDISH,  
BORN FEBRUARY 16<sup>TH</sup> 1818,  
AND DEPARTED THIS LIFE JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> 1858,  
LEAVING THEIR SONS AND SIX DAUGHTERS.

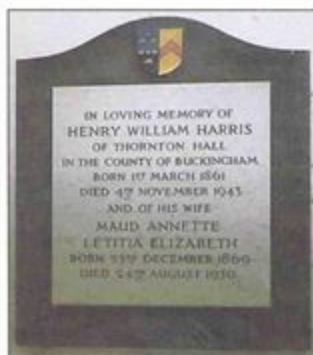
TO THE MEMORY OF  
THE HONORABLE RICHARD CAVENDISH,  
WHO WAS BORN DECEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> 1794,  
WAS MARRIED JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> 1841  
TO ELIZABETH MARIA MARGARET HART,  
AND DIED 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 1876,  
LEAVING NINE CHILDREN



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
 SIR THOMAS SHEPPARD BART:  
 WHO DIED AT THIS PLACE ON THE 21ST NOVEMBER 1821  
 IN THE 75TH YEAR OF HIS AGE  
 ALSO

TO ELIZABETH FIRST WIFE WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE  
 ON THE 27TH OF SEPTEMBER 1800  
 IN HER 43RD YEAR

SHE WAS THE ONLY CHILD OF THE REV<sup>D</sup> COTTON, D.C.L.  
 OF CRAKEMARSH HALL IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD  
 BY HIS WIFE HESTER MARIA ONLY CHILD AND SOLE HEIRESS  
 OF SIR CHARLES TYRRELL BART OF THORNTON  
 SIR THOMAS MARRIED SECONDLY MARGARET  
 SISTER OF JOHN BEARDSWORTH ESQ<sup>R</sup>  
 OF ENFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX  
 BY WHOM HE HAD NO ISSUE AND WHO DIED AT UTTOXETER  
 ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> OF DECEMBER 1813  
 AND WAS BURIED IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF THAT PLACE



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
HENRY WILLIAM HARRIS  
OF THORNTON HALL  
IN THE COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM.  
BORN 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1861  
DIED 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1943.  
AND OF HIS WIFE  
MAUD ANNETTE  
LETTIA ELIZABETH  
BORN 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 1869  
DIED 24<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1950



SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
SIR THOMAS COTTON SHEPPARD, BART.  
OF CRAKEMARSH HALL IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD,  
AND THORNTON HALL, BUCKS

HE WAS BORN ON MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 1785 : MARRIED DEC<sup>R</sup> 10<sup>TH</sup> 1822,  
TO MARY ANN DAUGHTER OF THE REV<sup>D</sup> GEORGE TURNOR ;  
AND DIED APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 1848, AT RYDE ISLE OF WIGHT,  
AGED 63 ; AND IS BURIED HERE.  
*HIS WIDOW PLACES THIS TABLET IN GRATEFUL RECOLLECTION  
OF ONE MOST JUSTLY BELOVED AND REGRETTE.*

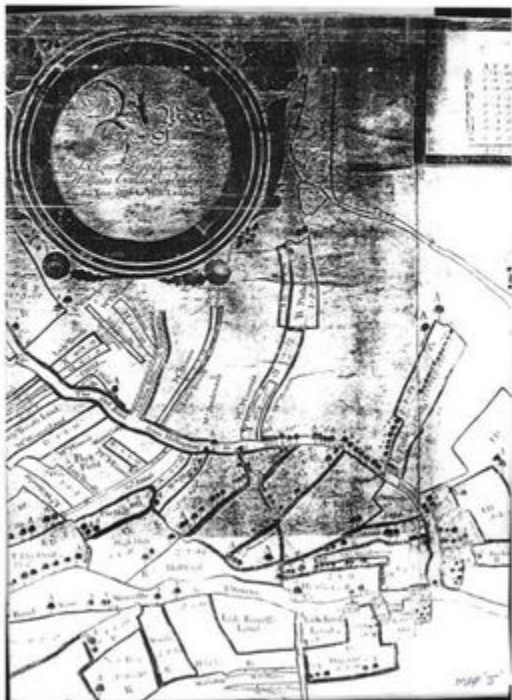
ALSO OF  
DAME MARY ANN COTTON SHEPPARD,  
WIDOW OF SIR THOMAS COTTON SHEPPARD, BART.  
DIED SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 1872 IN HER 80<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

POOLE  
WESTMINSTER (LONDON)

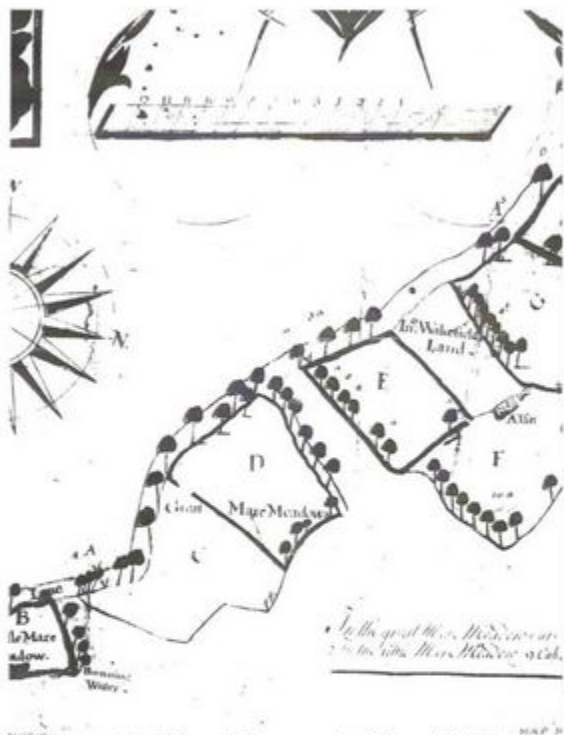
## Chapter 11

### CRAKEMARSH IN THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

As noted previously, in the early 18th century, William Cotton, Esquire of Crakemarsh, bought a considerable amount of land to enlarge his estate at Crakemarsh. We are fortunate to have maps of these lands, prepared by Will Lander when he surveyed the estates for the purchaser, William Cotton Esq. All these maps are in the William Salt Library in Stafford.



Map J of the Crakemarsh Estate 1736 by Will Lander.

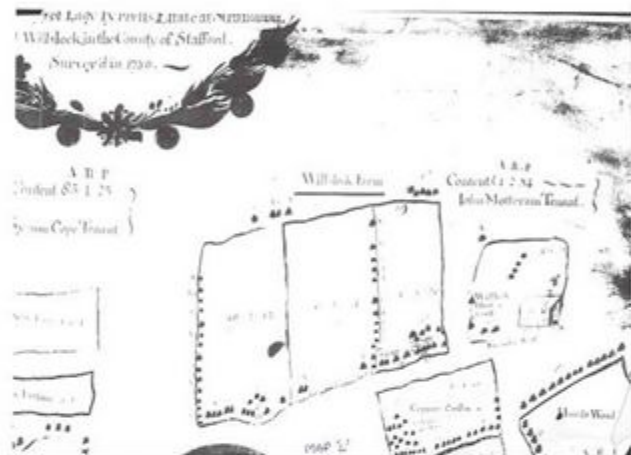


Map K shows an estate at Crakemarsh in the same year, from the Reverend Mr. William Browne of Burton on Trent.

Thus William Cotton was able to leave a considerable estate to his eldest son and heir, the Reverend William Cotton, who later became Reverend Dr. William Cotton LL.D. when he became a Doctor of Law.

Several maps of this period are of Lady Tyrell's lands in this area. These maps are with the Crakemarsh maps at the County Record Office. This would be due to the fact that Sir Charles and Lady Tyrell's only child and

heirress, Hester Maria, married the Reverend Dr Cotton in 1755. Thus all the Tyrell properties and the Crakemash properties went to the Reverend Doctor and his wife Hester. A portion of one of these maps is shown as Map L below.



Map L showing Willbuck Farm in 1730 part of Lady Tyrell's estate.





Map M is a section of the large Estate Map of Crakemarsh, dated 1775.

There is a book of names accompanying Map M listing the owners and tenants and field names of this large area – a sample page is shown below.

# Survey of Crakemarth

No	Rev. J. Bolton	A. R. 1
1	Manion House and garden	4 1 17
2	Fishpond	1 1 23
3	Lawn	6 2 35
4	Backside	9 3 3
15	Upper Dove Meadow	4 3 22
16	Lower do do	4 2 27
22	Fishpond and Nursery	1 2 26
41	For New Terrace	11 - 16
42	Middle do do	20 - 30
43	Lower do do	20 - 9
123	Gate Croft	1 - 4
124	Collage piece	0 - 23
125	do do Garden	- 2 12
126	Nursery	- 3 20
131	Little Mae. Meadow	1 1 19
137	Lane	- 1 16
137	Gutrick's Meadow	3 3 21
201	Mantolion	- 3 12
210	Fishpond	1 1 4
Thomas Phillips		110 2 27
5	Beach and Hays Meadow	20 1 19
6	Thomas's Crown piece	2 1 35
141	Little Longfields Meadow	2 3 1
142	Cox's home	13 2 22
143	Little do do	3 2 16
147	Confiscated Long Meadow	4 3 7
148	Part of Long Down	3 1 25
171	Breadley	10 2 22
172	Little do	2 3 0
181	Part of Pit Meadow	- 3 29

Sample page from the book of names with Estate Map of Crakemarth of 1775.

The importance attached to trees because of their commercial value can be seen on these old maps: they are often marked as "O" for oak trees and "A" for ash trees and a count is made of them on the Reverend Brown's Estate Map K. The black rectangle shown on Map M is the roof of Crakemarsh Church. The avenue of trees on the eastern side of the Church consisted of red elm trees. I remember the last two of these elms.



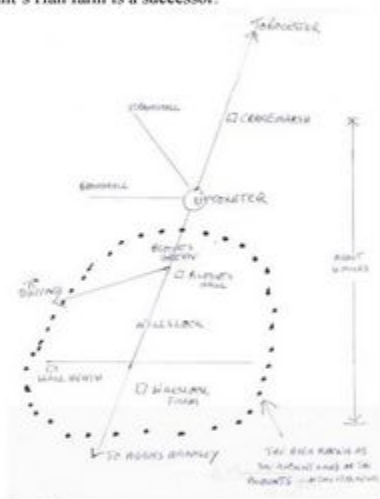
The last of the red elms on the avenue from South Lodge to Crakemarsh Hall. The avenue of trees can be seen on Dr Cotton's map of 1775 Crakemarsh (Map M). Photo John Walker 1990.

The ancient and noble family of Tyrell had lived at Thornton Hall, Buckinghamshire, for centuries and were descendants of the Tyrells of South Ockendon in Essex.

Why did Lady Tyrell own lands near Uttoxeter in Staffordshire? I think the following reason must be correct, although it is always dangerous to assume anything in historical research. As can be seen from the Tyrell's family tree below, Sir Charles Tyrell's mother was Hester Blount and his grandmother was Frances Blount. The Blounts were a very old family, whose name was given to several local properties and areas, such as Blount's Green. The ancient family of Blount had arrived in this country as military knights and squires – with their compatriot and leader, William the Conqueror - in 1066. On the Crakemarsh maps, Lady Tyrell's estate is shown in the Willslock and Stramshall areas.

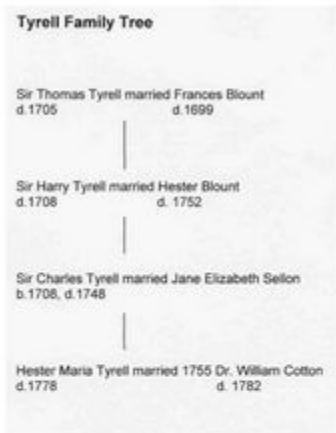
Blount was their family name, which had been anglicised from the French. They came from the Guivres area in Normandy and were then known as Le Blond.

Through the favours of William the Conqueror they soon amassed large estates – mainly in Derbyshire and Staffordshire. At the beginning of the 15th century, the seat of the leading branch of the family was at Barton Blount, about twelve miles from Uttoxeter. They moved to Uttoxeter after building Blount's Hall there in 1580. Demolished in 1770, the present day Blount's Hall farm is a successor.



"The ancient land of the Blounts" circled above.

Although only partially concerning Crakemarsh – through Doctor Cottons's wife and inheritance – it is interesting to note a comment in the Survey of Uttoxeter Manor, taken in 1629. This refers to the "ancient land of the Blounts". The estate at that time -500 acres- belonged to Sir Thomas Pope Blount and was let out to tenants. Yes, the lands of the Blounts were described as "ancient" in 1629!



After their marriage, Hester and Dr William Cotton took up residence at Thornton Hall and began their alterations to the mansion house. Their only child Elizabeth was born in 1758.

Dr Cotton's mother was still living at Crakemarsh in the Manor House. This period is recorded in Chapter 10 and details Elizabeth's visits to her grandmother at Crakemarsh. Elizabeth married when she was 16 – to her second cousin and close neighbour, Thomas Sheppard, who was 28. Their family line is shown on the first family tree in Chapter 10. Of their four children, Maria was married but had no family and died at 22, the eldest son William Thomas died at 25 without children.

Elizabeth Sheppard, nee Cotton died in 1800 aged 42, leaving husband Thomas Sheppard with a son, Thomas, and a daughter, Elizabeth. Old Mrs Cotton at Crakemarsh had died and Thomas Sheppard is listed as being at Crakemarsh in the directory of 1793. His son Thomas took the additional name of Cotton – becoming Thomas Cotton Sheppard in 1806, when he was 21. He was then at Thornton Hall and was Sheriff of Buckingham in 1813. He married Mary Ann Turner, daughter of the Reverend George Turner of Lincoln; they had no children. Sir Thomas

Cotton Sheppard's sister Elizabeth Sheppard married Thomas Hart, of an old Uttoxeter family and a wealthy banker of Church Street, Uttoxeter.

Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard and Mr Thomas Hart of the Bank House, Church Street, paid for the beautiful new East Window to be put into Uttoxeter Church during its rebuilding of the 1820's.



**The East window of Uttoxeter church. Erected in the course of the churches rebuilding of 1828. The window cost £256 and was paid for by Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard and Thomas Hart.**

In 1629 John Hart is listed as holding 283 acres of land around Uttoxeter. His parents, William and Annie Hart, in 1637 gave a silver Chalice to the Church; it weighed 10  $\frac{3}{4}$  ounces.



Bank House, Church Street, Uttoxeter-Home of Mr and Mrs Thomas Hart – Parents of Elizabeth. The original huge cast iron bank is still in situ. Photo John Walker 1990.

After Thomas Hart's death, Elizabeth built the National School for Uttoxeter in Bradley Street. Elizabeth's father, old Thomas Sheppard, was created a Baronet in 1809 – Sir Thomas Sheppard. He was married for a second time, his wife being Margaret Beardsworth. Dame Margaret died in 1813 and Sir Thomas in 1822. The title now passed to his son Thomas Cotton Sheppard who came to live at Crakemarsh with his wife.

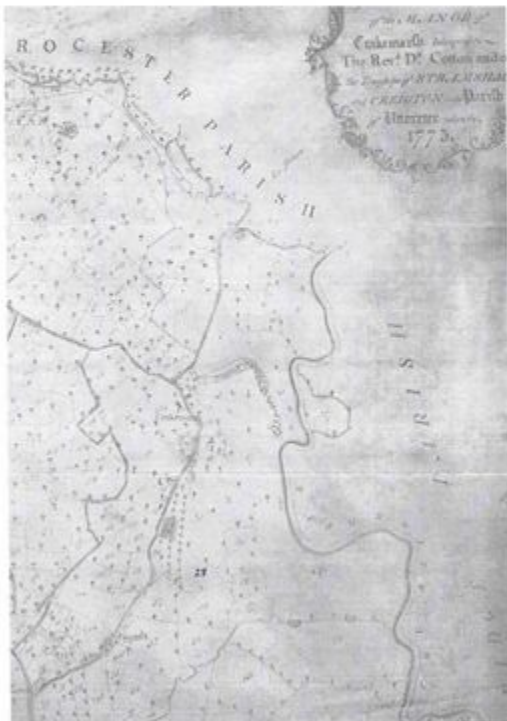
Sir Thomas and Lady Cotton Sheppard immediately embarked on the massive work of building Crakemarsh Hall – onto and around the existing Manor House. Much of the old Manor House was left "in situ" and walls and rooms were incorporated into the new structure.

Before going on to the chapter on the building of Crakemarsh Hall, we must record what is known about Crakemarsh Church and its demolition, which must have occurred between 1780 and 1820.

## Chapter 12

### CRAKEMARSH CHURCH

Sometimes referred to as Crakemash Chapel, although local people, who know of it through handed-down information from their families, always seem to refer to it as Crakemash Church. The exact period of its existence is not known but it certainly existed for several hundred years.



Map of Rev. Dr. Cotton's Crakemash Estate 1775. The River Dove is shown on the right.



Looking at the map of the Reverend Doctor Cotton's estate at Crakemarth dated 1775, there is a simple drawing of the Church, thus also giving its situation and it is probably the only sketch of this Church in existence.

On the inventory of the estate, listed in 1775, we read as follows: "The Rectory Globe" – The Chappel Yard, having an area of one acre, two roads and six perches".

More recently – in the twentieth century – Mr and Mrs Charlie Clowes lived at Crakemarth Farm. Mrs Clowes, neé Allen, originated from Eaton Hall Farm across the River Dove from Crakemarth.



Map showing Crakemarth Hall and Farm and the site of the Church. The River Dove is on the right.

In the course of my visits to the farm, as a baker, three times weekly, Mrs Clowes on occasions would mention the church to me. Unfortunately, I was young and uninterested in recording historical detail. One day she mentioned to me that there had been gravestones in the Churchyard and also what had happened to them – but I just cannot remember what she told me!

Her son Colin had been a choirboy at nearby Stramshall Church in the 1930s. Stramshall has quite a new church, built about 1856. Colin told me that he was puzzled by the very well-worn steps which led out of the vestry into the church. Colin mentioned this to his mother and she said that the steps were originally from Crakemarsch Church.

Some time ago I went into Stramshall Church to see these steps and they certainly have not received their wear in Stramshall Church. Made of a smooth, pale York Stone worn in a central area – judging by the shape of this wear – I would suggest that previously they would have been set in front of a narrow doorway or opening. Not in connection with a wide double gated entrance, such as is the case in their present situation.



The worn steps in Stramshall church. The well-worn reverse side and its infilling can clearly be seen. Photo John Walker 1990.

Francis Redfern, the 19th century historian of Uttoxeter, mentions Crakemarsh Church in his first edition of 1856 and also in his second edition of 1881 – A History of Uttoxeter. The first edition records that

*"Mary Blood, a native of Spath, and said to have been the last person baptized in Crakemarsh Church, died a few years since at Uttoxeter, at the age of 106". Sarah Blood was the daughter of William and Ann Bednall of Crakemarsh and was buried in Uttoxeter Church yard along with her parents. Her age is recorded on the gravestone as 103".*

Redfern mistakenly refers to "Mary Blood" – whereas her name on the gravestone is Sarah Blood – although, possibly she could have been known locally as Mary. The stone records this remarkable record of longevity and also shows that the burials of this Crakemarsh family took place at Uttoxeter – as Crakemarsh Church was closed down before Mrs Bednall's death in 1780 and of course before Stramshall Church was built. The family gravestone is now laid flat – at the spot indicated on the sketch below.



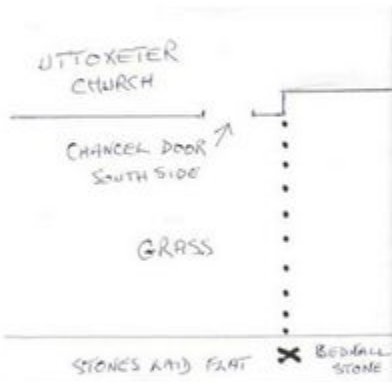
The Bednall's gravestone in Uttoxeter churchyard – also their daughter Sarah – the last child to be baptized in Crakemarsh church. Photo John Walker 1990.

## Wording on the Bednall's Gravestone

HERE  
lieth the body of Ann  
The wife of William Bednall  
of Crakemarsh who departed this life  
Jan the 25th in the year  
of our LORD 1780 aged 74 years

ALSO  
The said William Bednall who  
Died Feb 22nd 1796 aged 93

Also Sarah Blood their daughter  
Who died 29 August 1833  
aged 103 years



Position of Bednall gravestone in Uttoxeter graveyard.

The second edition of Redfern's History mentions Crakemarsh Church as follows:

"Crakemarsh Church was still standing in the last century and a short time ago a man was still living who remembered both the Church and the gravestones standing around it as well."

The oldest of these very sparse references to the church is found in "Historical Collection for Staffordshire", Volume 1915. The entry reads "Crakemarsh Chapel, not mentioned in any return subsequent to that of 1533 - when there was a Curate here - Hugh Perkyn".

The three footpaths which led to the Church are still in existence today. One comes from the Eaton Hall area to the north east and another serves all the Stramshall area from the west. The path from the south – the Uttoxeter and Spath area – is a raised footpath which can be seen on my photograph of the Lord's Meadow. The new B5030 road cuts through the path on its direct journey to Rocester.



The raised footpath over the Lord's Meadow to the site of Crakemarsh Church. Part of the new road to Rocester is under construction in the foreground (1988). The new road was built to the south of Crakemarsh and bypassed Combridge. The huge beech tree died a couple of years later due – I think – to drought. Photo John Walker 1988.

The construction of this raised pathway must have entailed a considerable amount of work, but it must have been a blessing to people who could only travel on foot. The roads of Tudor England were not hard surfaced but were deeply rutted by horses, carts and carriages, mostly deep in mud, but in hot, dry weather they were hard, bumpy and made clouds of dust. The gateway for the carriage drive and into the park was made near to South Lodge, demolished in 1970. The gateway consisted of two stone gate piers and a wrought iron gate. Construction of this entrance area was done in the 1820s to complement the building of the Hall by Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard. Walls of dressed stone were built – about four feet in height and finished with dressed coping stones. The wall from the left hand gate pier was only about six yards in length before it joined the fencing of South Lodge. The wall on the right hand side was about thirty yards in length coming up to the roadway and bounding a small planting

of trees. On the field side of this planting the wall continued but was quite inferior to the "best side".

For this piece of walling – enclosing the spinney – it appears that stones, possibly from the demolished Church, were used. Completely different from the more exact and better cut stones of the grand entrance. Also this field wall does not have the well cut dimensions of the copings of the better wall – instead it is coped with bits and pieces of stone, albeit well set in mortar, and this has certainly stood the test of time!



Entrance to the field Lord's Meadow where Crakemarsh Church was once located on the right. Photo John Walker 1998.



Site of old Crakemarsh Church in Chapel Yard. Photo John Walker.



### THE BUILDING OF CRAKEMARSH HALL.

Plans for the hall were drawn up by the great architect of the day – local man James Trubshaw. He was born at Haywood in 1777 and died at nearby Colwich in 1853 where he was buried there close to the Trent and Mersey Canal upon which he worked as an engineer. Trubshaw was also a Master stonemason, builder and surveyor. His architect business was Trubshaw and Johnson of Lichfield. Johnson was married to Trubshaw's daughter. James Trubshaw's brother Henry also worked for them.

Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard was a friend of Trubshaw's and stood as a guarantor for a £1000 that a Manchester City building would be completed on time.

He carved the stone memorial to Sir Thomas Sheppard's second wife – Dame Margaret – which can be seen on the north wall of Uttoxeter Church.





Before continuing with Trubshaw's building of Crakemarsh Hall it would surely not be out of place to mention perhaps his finest work. He confounded the opinions of engineers of his day when they said it was not possible to build a single span stone bridge of 200 feet. This beautiful bridge the Grosvenor Bridge over the River Dee at Chester is the largest single span stone bridge in the world.

Trubshaw designed many Staffordshire Churches. His rebuilding of Uttoxeter Church was finished in 1828 – the 13th century tower remains original. Trentham Hall and Ilam Hall were designed by Trubshaw.

The building of Crakemarsh Hall meant that Sir Thomas and Lady Cotton Sheppard would have to move out of the Manor House. They did this and moved into the nearby Garden House, which was big enough to accommodate them and their staff. We are fortunate to have a drawing of this house drawn in 1841 by Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard's niece and heiress Elizabeth Maria Margaret Hart. This year – 1841 – was the year of her wedding to the Honourable Richard Cavendish. On the back of the drawing Elizabeth had written "The Old Cottage Crakemarsh 1841".



The Old Cottage, Crakemash 1841 known as The Garden House or Cottage.  
Drawing by Elizabeth Maria Margaret Hart. Later that year she married Richard Cavendish.  
Drawing courtesy Geoffrey Cavendish.



A second drawing of the Garden House at Crakemarsch by Elizabeth Maria Margaret Hart.

The second drawing, undated, shows more detail of the 'round piece' at the end and the hatchment on the wall above. This was obviously done after the 1841 drawing as the roof has been tiled and some of the finials removed.

The Garden House as it is today consists of the largest building with the 'round piece' – the other two buildings to the right have been removed, as also has the decorative entrance porch. The demolition of the two buildings must have taken place in the 19th century – a decorative barge board was then put around the eaves of the entire house.

I am indebted to Mr Geoffrey Cavendish for letting me have these two old copies of the Garden House – drawn by Elizabeth, his great grandmother, and captioned by Geoffrey.

The Hall was built in the 1820s and re-occupied by Sir Thomas and Lady Cotton Sheppard. The following is an early artist's impression of the new Hall.



**Over the ensuing hundred years, alterations and additions were made, such as the covering in of the entrance portico and the addition of chimneys as seen in the photograph below.**



The most notable feature of the new Crakemarsh Hall was the magnificent staircase, which lifted upwards from the hall in three flights, made from oak and chestnut, with a heavily moulded hand rail, carved

bannisters and newel posts, with acorn finials. This staircase is thought by many to have been the work of Grinling Gibbons, Royal Master Wood Carver to five Kings and Queens of England – from King Charles II to King George I. He worked for Sir Christopher Wren on the interior carving of St. Paul's Cathedral, and lived from 1648 to 1721. The staircase cannot now be definitely ascribed to Gibbons.

Grinling Gibbons specialised in the carving of flowers, animals and birds – his usual sign is the peacock.



The stairs at Crakemarsh Hall.

This sign can be found on the landing bannister of the Crakemarsh stairs. It is thought that the staircase, which of course predated the Hall by nearly two centuries, was removed from a demolished hall in the South of England, and incorporated into the new building by Trubshaw in the early 19th century for Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard.

The previous Mansion House was at the Eastern end of the new Hall – behind the new grand entrance. In the 1980's when the hall was standing derelict when I was looking up at the ceiling of one room I noticed that the plaster work cornice was overlapping the one used in the previous room there. It was hardly noticeable at first but it was most evident when studied.



**Hatchment in Uttoseter Church. Photo John Walker.**



Close-up of Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard's crest in Uttouster Church. Photo John Walker.

The hatchment shows:

- the ram which is the crest of the Sheppards
- the eagle, the crest of the cottons
- the mill rinds, the crest of the Turnor family  
(a mill rind is the central iron fixing in the mill stone)

The mid-18th century saw the improvement of roads throughout the country. This was achieved by the creation of Turnpike Trusts who improved the roads by using the receipt of tolls imposed on road users.

In previous centuries, all roads were in a very poor condition – deep holes, ruts deep with mud and in fact very little level surface and were quite difficult to use, either on foot or on horseback or in any conveyance. It not only required effort but a great deal of time to travel the roads.

These poor roads were kept passable by the people of the parishes, through which the roads passed. A Steward of the Parish would detail the men he required for the road repairs, and they would have to go with their horse and cart, if they had them. Stones would be fetched and repairs effected. This would all be without any payment and often amounted to one day per week. The Steward would detail others for the following day and so on throughout the week or until the repairs were finished.

Dissention was not usual, as most men were tenants of the Lord of the Manor! As also was the Steward!! Each of the seven routes out of Uttoxeter was turnpiked. The Uttoxeter to Ashbourne road was turnpiked at Crakemarsh in 1763, when the Toll House and its gate were constructed.



Tollgate House on the old Uttoxeter Rocester Road Crakemarsh in 2001. Photo John Walker.

The Toll House was first occupied by William and Ann Bednall, mentioned previously in connection with Crakemarsh Church. They must

have considered themselves fortunate to get the tenancy. The house was of course newly built and a good exchange for their old cottage elsewhere in Crakemarsh. Revenue was obtained from the road users according to a tariff board affixed near the gate; the latter was kept closed with lock and key. Charges were made for all wheeled vehicles – horses and other animals. This toll money was used by the Turnpike Trustees to keep the road in good repair, also the Toll House and gate, any bridges, signposts, milestones and of course the toll gate keepers' wages.

The dictionary defines a turnpike as "a turning frame bearing spikes that is used as a barrier on a road or a bridge to protect against sudden attack. The barrier would have to be turned to allow passage. The Middle English word for such a barrier was a turnepike. Because of this toll gates were called turnpikes and eventually the word became synonymous with any road which had toll gates. The only difference was the toll gates didn't have spikes.

Legislation was in place for criminal acts, such as bypassing the gates or assaulting the gate-keeper. Prosecution incurred fines of up to forty shillings. The Toll House is still standing but it underwent many alterations in the 1950's. I remember it as a red brick cottage with a sandstone pillar and entrance door at the roadside corner. The windows were made up of small lozenge shaped panes, quite attractive with their stone sills.



TOLL GATE  
COTTAGE  
CRAKEMARSH

Toll Gate cottage, Crakemarsh - as I remember it.

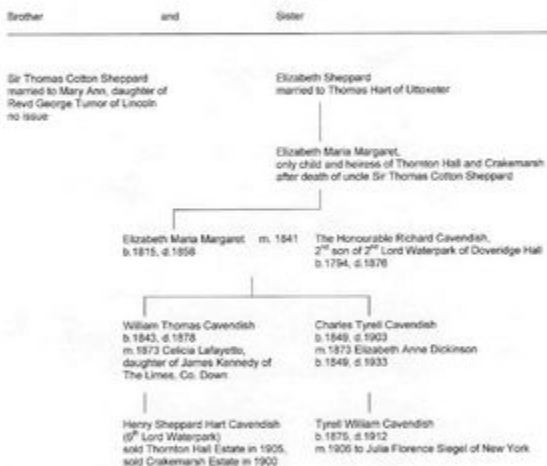


## Chapter 14

### CRAKEMARSH IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

With Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard and his wife now installed in the new residence, it will be as well if we look at another family tree to follow the family fortunes.

The chart below follows on from the second chart in Chapter 10:



Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard died in 1848 but his wife Lady Cotton Sheppard lived on at Crakemarsh Hall until 1872. Although at Sir Thomas's death, Crakemarsh and Thornton Hall were vested in Elizabeth Maria Margaret, Sir Thomas's niece.

Elizabeth Hart married the Honourable Richard Cavendish of Doveridge Hall in 1841. They lived at Thornton Hall for the remainder of their lives.

Detailed here is the line of descent of the Honourable Richard Cavendish. The Cavendish family came from Postlingford in Suffolk. Thomas Cavendish and his wife Alice had two sons, George and William. Old Thomas occupied a legal office, as Clerk of the Pipes in the court of King Henry VIII.

His elder son George was a gentleman usher to Cardinal Wolsey. William, born in 1505, probably started out as a gentleman servant in Wolsey's court. William later became Treasurer of the King's Chamber and to the Court of General Surveyors.

William Cavendish married Margaret Bostock in the 1530s; they had one son and four daughters. Only two daughters survived, Margaret died in 1540.



Sir William Cavendish, 1505 - 1557, married to Bess of Hardwick.  
Reproduced by permission of the Chatsworth Settlement Trust.

William Cavendish (his two young daughters with him) married for a second time to Elizabeth Parris in 1542; the three girls of this marriage all died; Elizabeth died herself in childbirth in 1545.

William Cavendish became a Privy Councillor – Sir William Cavendish – in 1546, and was looking after the two girls from his first marriage.



Bess of Hardwick, painted in the 1570's when Bess was married to her fourth husband, George Talbot the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury.

The year following – 1547 – saw the death of King Henry VIII and also the third marriage of William Cavendish. His bride was the seventeen year old widow of old Robert Barley and the daughter of John Hardwick. Elizabeth Barley, known to history as Bess of Hardwick, accepted Sir William's daughters as her own and she and Sir William had three sons and five daughters. Two of these girls died as infants. The three sons were Henry, born in 1550, William in 1551 and Charles born in 1553. One of Henry's godparents was Princess Elizabeth who later became Queen Elizabeth I. Sir William Cavendish bought Chatsworth for £600 in 1549.

Sir William Cavendish died in 1557 after ten years of marriage to Bess of Hardwick; he was 52 years old and his eldest son, Henry, became his heir – Sir Henry Cavendish.

In 1552 the Manorial estate of Doveridge and also Tutbury Castle had been granted to Sir William Cavendish by the Crown. Sir William devolved these estates to his heir Sir Henry Cavendish, who later built the first seat of the Cavendishes' at Doveridge.



Sir Henry Cavendish

When Sir Henry Cavendish was nineteen years of age, he married Grace Talbot, an eight year old girl, daughter of one of the wealthiest men in England – the 6th Earl of Shrewsbury. A marriage arranged by Henry's mother, Bess of Hardwick. The marriage produced no heir but Henry had at least nine illegitimate children and one of these, Henry Cavendish, the eldest, was made Sir Henry's heir.

Sir Henry Cavendish died in 1616. In 1611 Sir Henry he had settled the Doveridge Estate on his natural son, Henry Cavendish, who had married Bridget Willoughby of Wollaton, Nottinghamshire, the previous year, 1610.

Their son Francis Cavendish, born 1618, married Dorothy Broughton; he died 1650.

Their son Henry Cavendish, born 1648, married Mary Tyrell and died 1698.

They had fifteen children.

Their son William Cavendish, born 1682, married his cousin Mary Tyrell.

Their son Henry Cavendish, born 1707, created Baronet Sir Henry Cavendish in 1755 married Anne Pyne of Waterpark Co. Cork. He rebuilt Doveridge Hall on the site of the original seat.

Their son Henry Cavendish, born 1732, married Sarah Bradshaw, who was created Baroness Waterpark in 1792 – with remainder to her issue male by her husband, Sir Henry Cavendish. He died in 1804.

Their son Richard 2nd, Lord Waterpark, born 1765, married Juliana Cooper. He died 1830.

Their second son, The Honourable Richard Cavendish, was born in 1794.



Doveridge Hall Home of Lord Waterpark – as sketched by Elizabeth wife of the Hon Richard Cavendish 1841.



20th Century picture of Doveridge Hall

## Cavendish Family Tree

A skeletal tree of the Cavendish family – from Sir William Cavendish, 1505 – 1557, to the Honourable Richard Cavendish, 1794 – 1876



A skeletal tree of the Cavendish line is given for ease of reference.

Richard Cavendish was an Army Officer and also the British Envoy to Nagpoor. Being 47 years old when he married Elizabeth Maria Margaret Hart of Uttoxeter in 1841, they started the rebuilding programme at

Thornton Hall as referred to earlier in Chapter 10. The Honourable Richard Cavendish retired from the Army in 1848 and was granted a pension of £1000 per year, a colossal sum at that time.

The couple had nine children, three sons and six daughters. Elizabeth died in 1858, but Richard lived until 1876, when his estates were devolved onto his eldest son. This was William Thomas, born in 1843, as will be seen from the tree at the beginning of this chapter. He only lived a couple of years after his inheritance, which then passed to his son, Henry Sheppard Hart Cavendish.

The second son of the Honourable Richard Cavendish was Charles Tyrell Cavendish J.P.D.L., born in 1849. He married Elizabeth Anne Dickinson in 1873 and they followed Lady Cotton Sheppard at Crakemarsh, who had died the previous year, 1872.

Elizabeth Anne was the daughter of Robert Dickinson J.P.D.L., of Shotley House and Ebchester Hall, County Durham.

Charles Tyrell Cavendish took on the role of country squire and spent a great deal of his time with shooting parties on the estate and elsewhere. He was also a very active participant in the activities of the local Foresters Lodge of Masons at Uttoxeter, as will be seen from the following account.

*"On Thursday, May 24th 1888, Queen Victoria's birthday, the Brethren assembled at the White Hart Hotel at 12 o'clock and were conveyed to Rocester in brakes, Brother C.T. Cavendish lent his carriage and pair for the occasion. The original Bridge building was in 1839 recorded thus:*

*On arrival at Dove Bridge Rocester the party alighted at the North East end of the bridge. The Secretary read the minutes of a Lodge of Emergency called on the 6th August 1839, held at the Lodge House, The Black Swan Inn, Uttoxeter, to make arrangements for the laying of the foundation stone of the Dove Bridge at Rocester. A subsequent minute stated that the Lodge was opened on August 8th, 1839. Officers and men were in Masonic clothing, escorted by a troop of Yeomanry and the regimental band. They marched in procession to the Uttoxeter Wharf, where they embarked on three fly boats, on the canal, where they were conveyed to Rocester.*

*Here a procession was formed - led by the band and the Yeomanry, followed by members and officers of the Foresters Lodge and members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Staffordshire, with full regalia, four sons of the masons carrying a large Bible.*

*The Brethren also carried three columns, the Ionic, Doric and Corinthian, made of yew, with magnificent regalia. There was a large platform erected at the bridge to hold 500 ladies and gentlemen.*

*The ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed by John, Earl of Shrewsbury, Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, using a gold trowel - the band played the tune 'Mosco' during the impressive ceremony. At the conclusion the party were conveyed back to Uttoxeter and the Lodge closed."*



The Brother Hodgkinson handed a silver trowel to Wor. Bro. J.E. Wood who examined the foundation stone in due form, after which he scattered corn on the stone as an emblem of plenty, poured wine on it as an emblem of prosperity and oil as an emblem of universal benevolence and goodwill.

Portions of Scripture were read and the W.M. declared that the foundation stone was well and truly fixed by the Brethren on August 8th 1839, and had stood the test of the hands of time for nearly half a century. Before leaving, the party were photographed by Brother H.J. Gover of Hanley. They then processed to Crakemarth Hall where they were entertained to a most recherché luncheon by Bro. C.T. Cavendish.

Menu—Crakemarth Hall, 24.5.1888

Crakemarth  
Luncheon du 24 Mai

Chauds:

Pigeons à la Maintenon  
Côtelettes de mouton à la Bretonne  
Poulet Printaniers  
Jambon braisé  
Pouding de Lapereau

Froids:

Le rond de Veau  
Boeuf roti

Salads:

Crème à la Bavarian  
Pouding à la Reine Mab  
Gelée à la Russe



In Order:-Wm. Ben. A. Parker; Bro. R. J. Chawner; Wm. Bro. J. Payne Hall, Secretary.  
 Master:-Wm. Bro. W. Vernon; Wm. Bro. C. Bunting; Bro. J. H. Simpson; Bro. W. J. H. Fletcher, A.D.; Wm. Bro.  
 C. T. Cavendish; Bro. C. Taylor, Elder; Wm. Bro. G. Greenslade, D.F.; Wm. Bro. E. Hodgkinson, J.F.M.; Wm. Bro. W. Torrance;  
 Master:-Bro. S. Keeling, L.S.; Wm. Bro. T. H. Rabone; Wm. Bro. L. E. Wood, W.M.; Wm. Bro. J. S. Crapper.  
 Ex. Officers:-Bro. C. J. Bowers; Bro. J. H. Vernon.

**Jubilee Group of Foresters Lodge of Masons at Crakemarth Hall 24<sup>th</sup> May 1888.**

Below are some additional notes on the Jubilee group at Crakemarth Hall. The photograph was taken adjacent to the entrance portico of the hall, which can be seen on the left.

**Alfred Parker** was a chemist with a shop in Uttoxeter High Street.

**R.J. Chawner**, partner in a solicitor's business – Cooper and Chawner, Uttoxeter. **John Payne Hall**, Corn Factor, High Street, Uttoxeter.

**William Vernon**, Corn Miller at Fole Mill, later Sir William Vernon

**Charles Bunting**, Wine Merchant and Brewer, Uttoxeter.

**F.W. Simpson**, Printer of Shrewsbury. **Henry Bagshaw**, Grocer, Uttoxeter – father of

the Vet, Major Tom Bagshaw. **W.J.H. Fletcher**, Doctor, Uttoxeter. **C.T. Cavendish**,

Gentleman, Crakemarth Hall. **Charles Taylor**, Joiner and Clockcase Maker,

Uttoxeter. **G. Greenslade**, Village Doctor at Rocester. **E. Hodgkinson**, Vet, Church

Street, Uttoxeter. **W. Torrance**, Commercial Traveller, Uttoxeter. **S. Keeling**, Timber

Merchant, Denstone. **T.H. Rabone**, Gardener, Alton Towers. **J.E. Wood**, a Builder at

Derby, lived in Uttoxeter. **J.S. Crapper**, N/K. **C.J. Bowers**, Farmer at Fole.

**John Herbert Vernon**, later Sir John Herbert Vernon, son of Sir William Vernon of Fole.

The article concludes below and although not directly concerning Crakemarth I think it is of historical interest because it is not far from the

Hall. I find it quite humorous as I have been in the same position at Spath crossing:

*"We used to meet on the Thursdays nearest the full moon and so we got the benefit of the moonlight when driving home. I used to come with Dr. Greenslade (Rocester doctor) in his gig, and many a long wait have I had at Spath - where at night the railway gates were always closed and locked up. The man in attendance, in bed and asleep, had to be fetched out, and the waiting was very long, or seemed so in the rain, the snow and the cold! Very many nights I have stayed at the White Hart when my friendly brother was not available. At one time our officers were all living a great distance away, which meant a long railway journey for them."*

The article was written by Mr Samuel Keeling of Denstone.

Mr & Mrs Charles Tyrell Cavendish had one son, Tyrell William Cavendish born in 1875. He was educated at Harrow. At Crakemarsh he was taught the art of horse riding, by the coachman Alfred Turvey.

The Crakemarsh Estate was now owned by the 6th Lord Waterpark, Henry Sheppard Hart Cavendish, as will be seen from the tree at the beginning of this chapter. In 1900 Lord Waterpark decided to sell the Crakemarsh Estate. This forced C.T. Cavendish and his wife, who were renting the property, to either buy it or move out.

Thus on June 19th 1900 the sale took place and Mr & Mrs C.T. Cavendish bought the Hall and its immediate estate with the money given to Mrs Cavendish by her father, Mr Dickinson, as their wedding settlement.

On the following pages can be seen details, photos and floor plan from the 1900 catalogue of the sale of the Crakemarsh Estate.

1900 Catalogue for sale of Crakemarsh Estate.



FROM THE SOUTH-WEST.



FROM THE WEST.



FROM THE SOUTH-EAST.

Crakemarsh Hall.

Mr & Mrs Charles Tyrrell Cavendish bought the Hall in 1900. They had rented it since 1873.

# STAFFS: ON THE BORDERS OF DERBYSHIRE

PARTICULARS, PLANS, VIEWS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE,  
OF A NUMBER OF

## VALUABLE PROPERTIES,

SITUATE IN THE PARISHES OF UTTOXETER, CHECKLEY, CAULDON & MILWICH,

TOGETHER AMOUNTING TO AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY

### 2,350 Acres,

## THE CRAKEMARSH HALL ESTATE,

A valuable Freehold Residential and Sporting Property,

EXTENDING OVER AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY

### 1,400 ACRES,

## A fine old Family Mansion, known as Crakemarsch Hall,

Overlooking the picturesque Dove Valley, and situate about 2 miles from the Town of Uttoxeter, together with

TEN WELL-EQUIPPED AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS AND ACCOMMODATION GRAZING LAND;

**A HEALTHY FREEHOLD PROPERTY,**

## THE CAULDON ESTATE,

Situate in the Parish of Cauldon, 2 miles from Leek and 2 miles from Ashbourne, extending over some

### 517 ACRES,

And including 3 capital Breeding Farms and a portion of the well-known Cauldon Low Lime Quarries,

TOGETHER WITH

### 140 PROPRIETORS' SHARES IN THAT UNDERWEARING.

A useful GRASS FARM, situate in the Parish of Milwich, together with VALUABLE ACCOMMODATION HOLDINGS AND BUILDING LAND adjacent to the Town of Uttoxeter; GROUND RENTS and other PROPERTIES.

THE WHOLE PRODUCING AN ACTUAL AND FAIRLY ESTIMATED RENTAL VALUE OF NEARLY

### £4,500 per Annum.

*The Properties are of a very variable character, and such as must necessarily appeal to a wide circle of possible Purchasers of Real Estate.*

THE CRAKEMARSH HALL ESTATE, in its entirety, forms a valuable Sporting Residential Property, but it has been divided in such a way that the Mansion may be purchased with any area of Land from 100 to 1,000 Acres.

THE CAULDON ESTATE will be intersected by the New Leek, Cauldon Low and Hartington Railway, and arrangements have been made for the construction of a suitable siding in the Quarry. While offering a sound investment on the basis of the present Basis, this Property will, therefore, with the increased Railway facilities, undoubtedly grow in value in the immediate future.

The Building and Accommodation Lands near Uttoxeter are admirably situated for meeting the requirements of the growing Town, either for Industrial, or for Residential, Manufacturing or other Commercial purposes.

## Messrs. WALTON & LEE,

In conjunction with Messrs. GEORGE BENNETT & SONS,

Have been favoured with instructions to offer the above for SALE BY AUCTION, in a number of convenient LOTS,

AT THE TOWN HALL, UTTOXETER,

On TUESDAY, the 19th of JUNE, 1900,

AT 11 FOR 1 O'CLOCK PRECISELY

(Unless an unexpected offer be made meanwhile by Private Treaty.)

Copies of Plans, Particulars, with Plans and Conditions of Sale, may be had on application to Messrs. LEE, SHAW, MACKENZIE & CO., Solicitors, 25, New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.; Messrs. GEORGE BENNETT & SONS, Estate Agents, Nottingham; C. H. COTTELLMAN, Esq., Solicitor, Uttoxeter; or, with Orders to View, of the Auctioneers, at their Office,

Uttoxeter & Leek, Staffordshire.

10, Mount Street, London, W.

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## SUMMARY OF ACCOMMODATION.

ENTRANCE HALL AND SITTING  
ROOM.  
DINING ROOM.  
DRAWING ROOM.  
BUDGEOIL.  
STUDY.  
BLUE ROOM.  
BILLIARD ROOM.

SIX PRINCIPAL BED AND DRESSING ROOMS.  
TWELVE SECONDARY BED AND DRESSING  
ROOMS.  
THREE WATER CLOSETS.  
FOUR SERVANTS' BED ROOMS.  
COMMUNICATING OFFICES.  
EXTENSIVE CELLARAGE.

## THE OUTBUILDINGS

Are extensively situated near the Mansion, and consist of Wash House, two Store Houses, two Ash Bin, Laundry, Bake House, Brew House, three Servants' Closets and Utensil.

## The Pleasure Grounds and Environment of the Residence

Are in a large measure of that interesting and historical character peculiar to the Ancestral Properties of England. At a slight remove from the Western side of the House is

### *A FINE OLD-WORLD FLOWER GARDEN AND ROSERY.*

Approached by a winding path, sheltered by well-matured Yews and Ornamental Shrubs. A series of winding Wilderness Walks, screened by British Forest and Coniferous Trees, also lead to the large Southern Lake, which in turn is crossed by an artistic Foot Bridge.

On the North-West of the House is

### A CREEPER-CLAD GARDENER'S COTTAGE.

Containing Living Room, Sitting Room, Wash House, Laundry, Cellar, three Bed Rooms and two Closets.

In the Front Yard adjoining is a Chamber House, Store House, lean-to Shed with Slake Walk, lean-to Stone Shed and Boundary Slake Walk. There are also

### A RANGE OF THREE VINERIES.

Another Range containing lean-to Double Conservatory, lean-to Vinery with Peach House at end. There is

## AN EXCELLENT WALLED-IN FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN

With a Range of brick and slated Sheds, comprising Cold Store, Potting Shed, Store House, Gardener's Office and Matroom House at end, two Frying Houses and two Frying Pits. There are

## LOT 39.

A CHARMING RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY.

situated at

## CRAKEMARSH HALL,

situated about 2 miles North of the Town of Epsom, 2 miles South of Bagshot, 12 miles South/West of Guildford and 2 miles South of Alton, while the Junction of Stroudwater affords ready access to Andover, Basingstoke, Truro, the Buses, the Postoffice, Stratfield, Liphig and Basingstoke, Bournemouth and Basingstoke, the Property being situated in direct communication with all the great commercial centres. Buses-to-Truro may be started in about 15 minutes, London in 1½ hours, Stratfield in 1½ hours and Winchester in 2 hours.

The Property comprises

### A COMMODIOUS FAMILY MANSION

occupying a delightful yet sheltered site, about 270 feet above sea level, and overlooking the picturesque Stone Valley.

The Residence is approached by two winding carriage drives each with suitable Lodge Houses, and which, after traversing the well-wooded Park Lands, terminate in a hall-way on the Southern side of the Mansion.

The Entrance, which is built of brick with several stone and lead and stone roof, is entered through a magnificent Hall which leads to

### A SPACIOUS ENTRANCE HALL,

12 ft. by 17 ft., with polished oak floor, and a gallery of which is used as a living room. Adjoining to the Hall and entered through a pair of massive oak doors is

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As shown in the following Schedule—

No. of Plot	Description	Extent	Quantity
<b>FARM OF 570 ACRES.</b>			
201 & 202	Stone Field	Parton	6 2 14
207	Marsh Field	Water	1 1 25
201	Orchard and Hill	Buildings, &c.	0 2 8
202	Lawn and Plantations	Plantations, &c.	2 2 1
203	Carriage Drive	Drives	1 1 16
204	Stables, Yard, &c.	Buildings, &c.	0 1 13
205	Stable Lodge, Drive, &c.	Do.	1 0 12
206	Kitchen Garden	Garden	0 2 22
206a	Stable, Yard, Pile, &c.	Buildings, &c.	0 0 22
207	Garden, Water, Pond, &c.	Do.	0 1 25
211	Garbner's House, &c.	Do.	0 1 28
212	Green House, Flower Garden	Do.	1 0 4
213	Plantation near Road	Plantation	0 2 14
240	Little Park	Parton	2 2 17
240	Marsh Field	Water	2 1 22
241	Lawn and Little Honey Spot	Parton	10 3 2
242	Stable Lodge, Garden, &c.	Buildings, &c.	0 1 22
244	Plantation	Plantation	0 0 27
<b>Total</b>			<b>42 1 28</b>

Mansion to be furnished, together with the above and other Leases, and the Renting over the Estate, to CHARLES and CAROLINE, Esq., under Yearly Michaelmas Tenancy, at an aggregate Rental of £450. The appointed Rental for the above (including the Mansion as aforesaid) being

**£300 per Annum.**

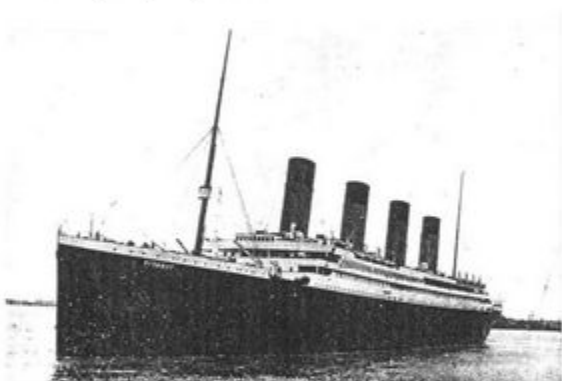


A brass memorial to Charles Tyrell Cavendish who died in 1903 can be seen in Uttoxeter Church. The Cavendish crest has the Latin motto, meaning "Secure by Caution".



### THE TITANIC AND A TALE OF HEROISM

When Mr and Mrs Tyrell William Cavendish made it known to his mother, Mrs E.A. Cavendish at Crakemarsh Hall, that they were all going to travel to America on the maiden voyage of The Titanic. Mrs Cavendish was most distraught at the news. She had a premonition that the liner would go down and would have liked to prevent her only son and his wife from making this journey. This was not possible but she strictly forbade them from taking the two small boys with them – Henry was nearly 3 ½ and Geoffrey nearly 1 ½ years old.



The Titanic

Mrs Cavendish's late husband had a sister, Mrs Emily Mundy also a widow, without any children, who lived at Markeaton Hall, Derby. The parents agreed to let the children stay with Mrs Mundy while they went to America. She was their great aunt and the children were very fond of this lovely, kind hearted old lady. Mrs Mundy was one of the nine children of the Hon. Richard Cavendish and his wife Elizabeth Maria Margaret.



Markaton Hall, Derby

The Titanic was due to leave Southampton on Wednesday, April 10th 1912. One can imagine the hustle and bustle of the last few days, taking the children from their home at Little Onn Hall, to stay with Mrs Mundy, then Mr and Mrs T.W. Cavendish and their maid leaving for Southampton to board the great liner



Two pictures of Mrs Mundy

Not only was it Mrs E.A. Cavendish at Crakemarsh who had a dreadful premonition about the Titanic on its maiden voyage, but apparently her son, Mr T.W. Cavendish was uneasy about it too. This is ominously brought to mind as one realises his will was dated Tuesday, April 9th – the day before the departure.

T.W. Cavendish added a codicil to his will later in the day – this was to provide a legacy of £200 to Mr A.N. Baker, described as his motor man, and his only other legacy apart from that of his estate to his wife and children.

As The Titanic left the dock on Wednesday, it narrowly missed colliding with the United States passenger boat New York. Towed out by tugs, the liner was soon on its way to its first port of call - Cherbourg in France.



The Titanic under steam

Leaving Cherbourg the Titanic cruised to Queenstown in Southern Ireland for its last port of call, before cruising over the North Atlantic at a fast 22 knots, hoping to capture the Blue Riband for the fastest ever Atlantic crossing. By day and night a sumptuous life of elegance and refinement was enjoyed by the liner's clientele – amongst them were some of the wealthiest people in the world, many of them multi-millionaires, in 1912.

Mr Crompton Miller describes the scene aboard the Titanic on Sunday, April 14th - hours before the liner struck the iceberg – at 11.40 p.m.

*"Accustomed as I am to the ballrooms of Mayfair and the Home Counties, I am surprised by the absence of true blue society aboard this magnificent liner. From Captain Smith's table tonight in the oak panelled Palm Court with the orchestra playing, I realised why no member of the Royal Family consented to join this epic maiden voyage. There may be many Millionaires aboard but is this the cream of the British Empire? Worthy folk all, but I counted only three titled names on the passenger list. I chatted to the Earl of Rothe's beautiful wife Lucy, who was looking forward to being reunited with her land owner husband Norman in New York next week. She is travelling with her charming cousin Gladys Cherry. Keeping them company was that epitome of elegance Lady Duff Gordon, whose couture house – Lucile - is, of course, where all the noblesse buy their Ascot finery. Her Ayrshire baronet-husband seems unperturbed by his wife's dalliance with the trade.*

It would be churlish of me not to be impressed by the extraordinary assembly of Chicago, Philadelphia and New York tycoons aboard this astonishing and luxurious vessel. I estimate the wealth of the first class passengers alone to be well over £ 120 million. No wonder so many lesser mortals were unable to find berth. Even dropping the name of the Titanic's owner J. Pierpont Morgan, the Wall Street financier, failed to impress. The social leader is undoubtedly the gallant Colonel John Jacob Astor, a scion of the world's wealthiest family, who had fought in the Spanish American war 14 years ago. He and his wife are returning from honeymoon in Egypt. They have, of course, their personal manservant and ladies' maid accompanying them. Scarcely poorer than the fabulously wealthy Astors is fellow American tycoon Benjamin Guggenheim. A noted philanthropist, his presence is largely due to his business relationships with J.P. Morgan.

The white whisked Staffordshire-born Captain E.J. Smith has no shortage of famous international names to entertain on his table. There is President Taft's aide de camp, Major Archibald Butt, who is always resplendent in his military uniform. Wall Street banker Washington Dodge, Broadway theatrical manager Harry Harris, archaeologist Clarence Moore, painter Frank D. Miller and the Pennsylvania Railroad king J.B. Thayer.

Among the English passengers is the formidable W.T. Stead of the Pall Mall gazette, who is surely our greatest living journalist. Full of enthusiasm, wit and intellect he quickly became the life and soul of the party, at the chief purser's table. The chief purser being H.W. McElroy.

The other night W.T. Stead regaled the celebrated New York attorney Frederick W. Seward with a curious dream he had just had. It involved somebody persistently throwing cats off a top story window.

Nightly the Louis Quinze Lounge, aglow with cut glass chandeliers and blazing fires, is where the fashionable gather before taking dinner in the first class saloon. White tie and tails with full decorations, long dresses, diamonds and pearls are, of course, de rigueur.

My friend the purser is astounded at the valuables secured in his safe keeping, in the ship's strong rooms. There is jewellery reputed to be worth £6 million as well as £5 million worth of uncut Amsterdam gems and £ 3 million gold bullion. One pearl necklace alone, he assures me, is insured for £160,000. Nightly after their five course dinner with champagne, the glittering group repairs to the Palm Court. Dancing to W. Hartley's music, the waltzes and fashionable ragtime present a scene as elegant as any Manhattan or Mayfair salon.

In a ship of 1,308 passengers and 898 crew, the elite 190 families travel in a pampered style reminiscent of Queen Cleopatra's barge. The public salons with ankle deep carpets, antique mirrors and furniture and old Master paintings convey an atmosphere as grand as Versailles.

The deluxe suites, fitted in some millionaires cabins with the contents of some 16 pieces of Louis Vuitton luggage, cost well over £1000 for the six day transatlantic crossing. A personal promenade deck gives complete privacy.

The personal attendants – maids, valets, nurses and governesses – are confined to C deck, which is only slightly less glamorous. Over the last five days I have periodically ventured down to the gymnasium, swimming pool, Turkish bath and the racquet courts to offset the effects of all my Hansoverian eating.

On my daily promenade around this fine vessel's ten decks I have had to be heavily muffled. The weather is inclement and there is talk of giant icebergs off Newfoundland."



The Terrors of the North Atlantic.

Mystery still surrounds why the legendary J.P. Morgan cancelled his berth at the last moment on his ship's historic maiden voyage. He would doubtless have been displeased, when on leaving Southampton docks, his prize liner narrowly escaped collision with a U.S. passenger boat. But deputising for him is the jovial Bruce Ismay, Chairman of the White Star shipping line, which Morgan's International Mercantile marine recently acquired.

Pacing the decks I dream about the London which opens on my return – the sumptuous balls, the Derby, Ascot, Henley Regatta. But for the moment, Captain Smith's end of voyage feast tomorrow night is all that matters.”

1500 people on board the Titanic were never going to see tomorrow night – let alone the feast. Fifteen minutes before midnight on that Sunday night as the Titanic sped through the ice ridden waters 400 miles South of Labrador, the ‘look out’ reported: Iceberg ahead. As every schoolboy knows, the peril of the iceberg is in the massive unseen portion below the water line. Within minutes the Titanic was mortally crippled with the impact. There were 2340 people on board and enough lifeboat seats for 1178 people. The first lifeboat to leave had in it 3 millionaires including Bruce Ismay, managing director of the Titanic's White Star Line. Another boat contained all men, but on the whole the boats were filled on the ‘women and children first’ principle.

T.W. Cavendish put his wife and her maid, Miss Barber, into a boat but he remained on the deck, helping to fill the boats and keep discipline.

### THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER.



The map shows the position of the icebergs on which the "Titanic" struck, with the other liners that hurried to her assistance. She was following the southern or winter track, as shown in the smaller map. The northern track is only followed in summer months, when the ocean is free of ice.

Radio distress calls were sent out – there were five other ships within a 300 mile radius. The nearest ship was 'The Californian' only 20 miles from the Titanic. It could have seen the Titanic but it did not see it or pick up the distress signal. The Carpathia heard the signal at midnight and immediately turned round and headed for the disaster area. It arrived at 4 a.m. Monday morning, finding only boats and rafts with survivors – the unsinkable Titanic was gone. People were still clinging on to pieces of wreckage – many had perished in the sub-zero temperatures.

One of the eye witnesses to the rescue from the Carpathian reported:

"Just as it was almost half day we came upon a boat with 18 men in it but no women. It was not more than a third filled. All the men were able to climb up a Jacob's ladder which we threw over the port side. Every one of them was given a glass of brandy or as much coffee as he wanted. The work of getting the passengers over the sides of the Carpathian was attended by the most heart rending scenes. Between 8.15 and 8.50 we got the last two boats, crowded to the gunwale, all the occupants of which were women. While we were pulling in the boat loads the women were quiet enough, but when it seemed sure that we should not find any more persons alive, then Bedlam came. The babies were crying, many of the women were hysterical, while many of them were barefoot and without head gear. We never want to go through this again. The way those women 'took on' for the folk they had lost was awful. We could not do anything to quieten them until they cried themselves out."

In a while after picking up the last survivors the Carpathian swung round and steamed westward — on course for New York. Called 'the ship of Sorrow' the Carpathian had on board 70 widows, weeping for the husbands they would never see again. She had women who were mad with grief and men whose eyes were haunted with horror. The Carpathian docked at New York on Thursday, April 18th.

## PASSENGERS WHO WERE SAVED.

The following is an alphabetical list of "Titanic" passengers who were picked up by the "Carpathia" taken to New York, as called to the White Star Company's London office:

Ablett, Mrs. Rose	Bellis, Helena	Chambers, John	Deaneville, Emma von
Ablett, Clara	Bellis, Leticia	Cherry, Mrs. Alice	Douglas, Jennie
Ablett, Kate	Bellis, Matthew	Cherry, Mrs. Julia	Dora, Mrs. Letia
Ablett, Mrs. Agnes	Bennell, Miss Caroline	Clark, Mrs. Walter M.	Doran, Marjorie M.
Ackerman, Margaret	Bennell, Miss Elizabeth	Clarke, Mrs. Ada Maria	Downall, Miss Beatrice
Acland, Rosamund	Brown, John	Cohen, Gust	Duggan, Joseph
Ade, Miss Alice	Brown, Miss	Collett, Mr. D.	Duncan, Miss Frances
Ade, Leah	Brownman, Miss Eliza	Collett, Mrs. Stuart	Dunne, Miss Antonia
Alden, Miss Elizabeth Walter	Bradley, Bridget	Collier, Gordon	Dykes, Elizabeth
Allison, Master, and Name	Bradley, Ben	Collier, Mrs. Charlotte	Lambert, Mrs. Evelyn
Allison, Dorothea	Brayton, Mrs. George	Compton, Mrs. Marjorie	Milroy, Louisa
Anderson, Curtis	Brown, Miss F.	Compton, Miss S. E.	Ellis, Annie
Anderson, Mr. Harry	Brown, Miss Mildred	Compton, Master A. E.	Emmett, Ethel
Anderson, Miss Gertrude L.	Brown, Miss J. J.	Conroy, Kate	Emmerson, Mr. Elizabeth
Anglo, Mrs. Florence	Brown, Mrs. J. M.	Conry, Nellie	Endon, Miss Caroline
Antoni, Louisa	Boyd, Miss Dagmar	Coote, Will	Evans, Miss E. M.
Appleton, Mrs. E. D.	Buckley, Daniel	Coote, William	Falson, Kenneth
Appleton, Mrs. Geneva, and two children	Buckley, Mrs. W. and maid	Cowan, Mrs. E. C.	Farran, David
Armsen, V.	Burns, Miss O. M. (maid)	Cox, L. M.	Farrington, Mrs. Lizzie
Arpley, William	Bury, Mr. Richard	Coxley, Mrs. Edward G.	Felix, Edith
Arson, Margaret	Burns, Miss Kate	Coxley, Mrs. Harriet	Fingert, Mrs. A.
Arxford, Selma	Bryson, Mrs. Kandina	Cummings, Mrs. John Bradley	Fitz, Mrs. J. J.
Arxford, Felix	Caldwell, Mr. E. F.	Daly, Charles	Fitzma, Miss Beat
Ashe, Mrs. J. J., and Maid	Caldwell, Mrs. Sylvia	Daly, Charles	Fitzma, Miss Elsie
Ashwin, Mrs. Y., and Maid	Caldwell, Master Allen G.	Daly, Eugene	Fitzma, Miss Alice
Bali, Mrs. Ada A.	Cameron, Miss Clara	Daly, Marcella	Fitzma, Mrs. Elsie
Barnack, George	Candell, Mrs. Charlotte	Daly, P. B.	Fitzma, Mrs. T. C.
Barnack, Harriet	Candell, Mrs. J. W. M.	Daly, Mr. Robert W.	Fitzma, Mrs. Henry W.
Barnack, Matias	Candell, Mrs. T. D. H.	Daniell, Sara	Fitzma, Mrs. Frederick
Barkworth, Mrs. A. H.	Carr, Elsie	Daniell, Elizabeth	Fitzma, Mrs. Margaret
Barkson, Beat	Carter, Mr. Wm. E.	Darwood, Mary	Fisher, Mrs. Joseph
Baskin, Miss	Carter, Mrs. Wm. E.	Daswood, Mrs. Florence	Fisher, Mrs. J.
Baskin, Emily	Carter, Miss Lucie	Deane, Mrs. Agnes	Labouch, Miss
Baxter, Mrs. James	Carter, Master Wm. C. T.	Deane, Master John M.	Gardie, Miss Elsie
Beane, Mr. Edward	Carron, Boyce	Deane, Mrs. Mary	Gibson, Mrs. L.
Beane, Mrs. Ethel	Casson, Ward	Deane, Elsie, and two children	Gibson, Mrs. D.
Beck, Mrs. J. O., and three children	Casson, Mrs. E. A.	Deaneville, Julia	Giles, Mary
Beckwith, Mr. E. L.	Casson, Mrs. T. W. and maid	De Villiers, Mrs. E.	Gilchrist, Mrs. Emma
Beckwith, Mrs. E. L.	Chadwick, Mrs. Robert F.	Dick, Mr. A. A.	Gilchrist, Frank
Bendy, Mr. Laurence	Chadwick, Mr. E. C.	Dick, Mr. A. A.	Giles, Colonel Archibald
Beith, Mrs. Lillian W.	Chadwick, Mrs. V. C.	Dick, Mrs. Washington	Gibson, Mrs. M. G.
Bills, Maggie	Chadwick, Miss Victoria	Dilling, Mrs. Alice	Gibson, Miss Margaret
Bing, Leo	Charles, John	Dilling, Mrs. Elsie	Greenfield, Mrs. L. D.
Bishop, Mr. D. H.	Cherry, Fm	Dunsmuir, Christine	Greenfield, Mrs. W. R.
Bishop, Mrs. D. H.	Cherry, Miss Gladys	Dunsmuir, Edward	Hallam, Lina
Bishop, Mr. Henry	Cherry, Mr. Paul	Dunsmuir, Mrs. F. C.	Hanselman, Mrs. Anna and maid
Birkham, Mary	Chickard, Mrs. E. M. Bow- man	Dunsmuir, Mrs. W. D.	Hanson, Maria
Bisby, Mr. E. H.	Chipp, Chang	Dunsmuir, Agnes (or Mrs. A. A. Dill)	Hastings, Eliza
Bisby, Mrs. Eugene			Hawes, Jenny

When the "Carpathia" arrived at New York, the following statement, drawn up by a committee of the surviving passengers of the "Titanic" was handed to the Press:—

"We the undersigned surviving passengers of the 'Titanic,' in order to forestall any sensational and exaggerated statements, deem it our duty to give to the Press a statement of the facts which have come to our knowledge, and which we believe to be true.

"On Sunday, April 14, 1912, at about 11.40 on a cold, starlit night, the ship struck an iceberg, which had been reported to the bridge by the look-out, but not early enough to avoid collision. Steps were taken to ascertain the damage and save the passengers and the ship. Orders were given to put on life-belts, the boats were lowered, and the usual distress signals were sent out by wireless telegraphy, and rockets were fired at intervals.

"Fortunately, a wireless message was received by the 'Carpathia' about midnight. She arrived on the scene of the disaster about 4 a.m. on Monday. The officers and crew of the 'Carpathia' had been preparing all night for the rescue work, and for the comfort of the survivors. There were received on board with the most touching care and kindness, every attention being given to all, irrespective of class. Passengers, officers, and crew gladly gave up their state rooms, clothing, and comforts for our benefit; all honour to them.

Archibald Gracie was a Colonel in the U.S. Army and had one of the most extraordinary escapes from the sinking Titanic. As the ship was going under, Colonel Gracie jumped from the top deck and was sucked down in the fearful vortex of the plunging vessel. Colonel Gracie gave the exact time of the sinking – his watch stopped at 2.22 a.m. on contact with the sea water. He was later to give the account below.

"After sinking it appeared as if I was propelled through the water by some great force – as if by explosions. Innumerable thoughts of a personal nature having relation to mental telepathy flashed through my brain. I thought of those at home, as if my spirit might go to them to say good-bye, forever. Again and again I prayed for deliverance, although I felt sure that the end had come. I had the greatest difficulty in holding my breath until I came to the surface. I knew that once I inhaled, the water would suffocate me. I struck out with all my strength for the surface. I got to the air again – after a time which seemed to me to be unending. There was nothing in sight – save the ocean, dotted with and strewn with large masses of wreckage. Dying men and women all about me were groaning and crying piteously.

The second officer and Mr. J.B. Thayer jr., who were swimming near me, told me that just before my head appeared above the water, one of Titanic's funnels separated and fell apart near me, scattering the bodies in the water. I saw wreckage everywhere, and all that came in reach I clung to."

Colonel Gracie told how at last by moving from one piece of wreckage to another he reached a cork raft.



"Soon the raft became so full that it seemed as if she would sink if any more came aboard her. The crew, for self-preservation, had therefore to refuse to permit any others to climb aboard. This was the most pathetic and horrible scene of all. The piteous cries of those around us ring in my ears, and I will remember them to my dying day. We prayed through all the weary night, and there was never a moment when our prayers did not rise above the waves. Men, who seemed long ago to have forgotten how to address their Creator, recalled the prayers of their childhood. Together we said the Lord's Prayer again and again."

Mr T.W. Cavendish was last seen alive on the deck of the Titanic after all the boats were filled – he was seen talking to his friend just before they both jumped overboard from a height of 60 feet. In the Uttoxeter Advertiser of May 8th 1912, the following marvellous tribute to the bravery of Mr T.W. Cavendish is recorded for all time.

### **HOW MR.CAVENDISH DIED** **Heroic and unselfish to the last.**

Mr A.B. Morris, formerly of Doveridge, who will be remembered by many in Uttoxeter, writes to the Uttoxeter Advertiser from New York, giving authentic particulars of the last words of Mr Tyrell Cavendish, son of Mrs Cavendish, of Crakemarsh Hall, Uttoxeter, who, it will be remembered, perished in the sinking of the Titanic. Mr Morris married the only daughter of Mr Thomas Mellor, formerly Station Master at Uttoxeter, some 14 years ago, and has been in New York about seven years. He writes as follows:

"Through two of the survivors I am able to tell you that your neighbour, Mr. Tyrell Cavendish, was one of the heroes in the unfortunate sinking of the Titanic. He did great work in helping to place women and children in the lifeboats. One touching scene, as told to me by two survivors, was when he placed his wife in the boat, and said 'Good-bye dear, I will be with you soon'. He stayed on the ship until the last boat was filled, and with revolver in hand he kept at bay men that were trying to pull the women out of the lifeboats to save themselves. He was standing beside the first officer loading the last boat, and one man would insist on getting into this. The first officer told this man to get out of the boat, or else he would blow his brains out. He would not obey the command, so lost his life before the ship sank."

One of those who told me this said to Mr. Cavendish 'Well chum, don't you think it is time for us to get busy?' He replied 'Well, there are no more boats to fill, so we will shake hands and hope that we will meet again soon.' Then they both jumped overboard, a drop of sixty feet, to the water. This survivor believes that Mr. Cavendish must have dropped on a piece of ice, as he did not see him again. The sea was filled with pack ice.

This narrative was given to me by one who knew the Cavendish family well, by two survivors – one Miss C.M. Burns and the other a personal friend of the writer. Both can be fully relied upon as to the true statements of facts of how some English gentlemen died the death of heroes."

Mr. Tyrell Cavendish belongs to a noted county family - the Harts - one of whose esteemed ancestors took great interest in the little town of Uttoxeter and did much for the poor of the town, and it is right that the people of the town of Uttoxeter and neighbourhood should know that they can be justly proud that Mr. T. Cavendish died as an English noble gentleman, unselfish and heroic to the last. Staffordshire can feel honoured and proud of such men, even in death."

# The Daily Mirror

THE MORNING JOURNAL WITH THE SECOND LARGEST REY SALE.

No. 5282

"DAILY"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 1912

One Halfpenny

"I HAVE NO MONEY THIS QUARTER, BUT I WISH TO SEND SOMETHING": LADY SENDS HER JEWELS TO "THE DAILY MAIL" TITANIC DISASTER FUND.



Mrs. M. Cavendish, the lady who sent her jewels to the fund.



The jewels sent to the fund, with which the fund is connected.



Mr. W. G. Cavendish, of Weymouth, who sent his jewels to the fund.



Mr. W. G. Cavendish.



Mr. W. G. Cavendish, of Weymouth.



Mrs. F. W. Cavendish, the lady who sent her jewels to the fund.



Mr. W. G. Cavendish, of Weymouth.



Mr. W. G. Cavendish, of Weymouth.

The body of Mr Tyrell William Cavendish was found washed up on the coast of Newfoundland some weeks after the Titanic went down. His body was brought back to England and cremated at Golders Green cemetery in London. The ashes are within this vault at Golders Green.



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Date 23.4.17

We regret to announce the sad death of Mr. Tyril William Cavendish, of Little Oak Hall, Stafford, who was lost on the Titanic between Mullis Island and Cape Race on the 15th inst. He was born on the 12th of October, 1875, and was, therefore, only in his thirty-seventh year. He was the only son of the late Mr. Charles Tyril Cavendish and of Mrs. Cavendish, of Colerain Hall, Worcester, and grandson of the late Mrs. Richard Cavendish, of Thurston Hall, Suffolk, and St. Charles-place. Mr. Cavendish married in December, 1909, Julia, daughter of Mr. Stapel, of New York, U.S.A., and leaves two sons. In politics Mr. Cavendish was a strong Unionist, an ardent supporter of David James, and a member of the Carlton and Windsor Clubs. His tragic death has cast a gloom over a wide circle of friends and relatives.

Thurston Hall the home that the Cavendishes had bought was never lived in by them but was sold. Mrs Cavendish had a Memorial Hall built at Thurston which she gave to the people of Thurston in memory of her late husband.



Thurston Memorial Hall or Cavendish Hall built in 1914 for the village of Thurston by Julia Florence Cavendish in memory of her husband Tyrell William Cavendish, who lost his life in the Titanic disaster, April 15th 1912.



Cavendish family inside Cavendish Hall or Thurston village Hall, August 1979.

Left to Right:

Geoffrey Cavendish (son of donor), William Aliaga Kelly (grandson of Geoffrey), Caroline Aliaga Kelly (daughter of Geoffrey), Pamela Cavendish (wife of Geoffrey).

## EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY CRAKEMARSH

The first World War was only a couple of years away and this 'period marker' more or less saw the end of the era of lives in the 'big houses' – at least as it had been known for the last century. Mrs Cavendish senior had a faithful friend and companion living with her at Crakemarsh – Miss Stanistreet – she was known locally as "Old Stanny"!

Servants and other workers became difficult to obtain during the first War – men being needed in the Armed Forces and women to manufacture ammunition and other similar jobs. Even so Mrs Cavendish was able to manage the Hall and Estate with a nucleus of older loyal workers – to mention a few: Mr Turvey, Coachman, Mr Ryman, Head Gardener, Mrs Ryman, Head Cook and Mrs Whitehall, Housekeeper.

Mrs Cavendish and her companion always went to London for the Winter Season and Crakemarsh was run by a minimum of staff. They travelled by train from Uttoxeter Station – in Victorian times these journeys were made from their own private railway siding at Crakemarsh. The site of this at Hook Lane could be seen until about six years ago – as a grassed spur of ground next to the line – north of the level crossing.

The land on the Crakemarsh estate was let out to local, mostly neighbouring farmers.

Every Sunday morning Mrs Cavendish would attend Uttoxeter Church driven by Mr Turvey in her coach or carriage. The Church was reached by turning down Bradley Street into Church Street – the return journey after the service was by way of the Market Place and High Street – the same directions being used every week. The Cavendish and Cotton Sheppard families had always used Uttoxeter Church – long before the much nearer Church was built at Stramshall, in the 19th century.

The gardens immediately surrounding the Hall were mainly lawns and immaculate beds of red geraniums – whilst there were many attractive walks laid out in rhododendron plantations going towards the South Lake, with its artistic rustic footbridge. All of which is described so well in the 1900 Sale catalogue extracts at the end of Chapter 13.

Surrounding The Garden House were the many glasshouses and frame pits required to provide flowers for the Hall and all the plants for the gardens. The conservatory and glasshouses were all heated – not by water but by hot air which was driven through a system of underground ducts – mostly about 12 inches square and built of bricks, stone and cement. These ducts were quite black in places as the very hot air from the coke furnace was carried through them. The hot air emerged through brass

gratings in the sandstone floors. It had obviously been a most satisfactory system.

Mrs Cavendish was an artist of considerable talent and excelled particularly at painting on china. Before her death she gave several pictures and plates to the Turveys – her faithful retainers. These are in the possession of the Turveys' only living grandchild – my cousin Marjorie, who is now ninety years of age. One of these decorated plates is about 12 inches in diameter – white, and on it Mrs Cavendish has painted a Wisteria flower and leaves, also a crimson rhododendron and a lily flower and leaves. The colours of these are so unbelievably true to nature.



**Decorated plate with flowers painted by Mrs Cavendish**

Marjorie remembers Mrs Cavendish senior and recalls that she used to give her a shilling at Christmas and describes her thus: "Stocky, plump – a Queen Victoria type of person."



The lakes known as the North Lake and the South Lake were both man-made lakes. The South Lake was over two acres in size (nowadays much enlarged). The North Lake was over an acre but was filled in during the 1980s. The South Lake being much older, both are shown on the 1775 map – no doubt medieval carp lakes. Both lakes can be seen on the photos on the 1900 Crakemarth Estate Sale details in Chapter 13. The lakes were supplied with water from Nothill Brook which flows by the side of Hook Lane. Water was diverted from it and ran by channels and sluices across the field of Home Farm – to supply the North Lake – or top lake as we referred to it locally. The main stream entered directly into the South Lake or as we called it the Bottom Lake.

The Lakes were completely different in makeup; the top lake ran east to west and was bordered by the turf of the Park; the Bottom Lake ran north to south and had a large area of reeds and bulrushes on its western side. The surface of this lake never froze over smoothly in winter – it always tended to be rough and uneven. The ice from it was broken up and carted to the ice house about a hundred yards away. In contrast the Top Lake froze over very uniformly and smooth and was ideal for skating – a scene of great social enjoyment and pleasure each winter. Only skating was allowed – no hockey, sliding or other games. After several days and nights of hard frost, word soon spread around that the lake would 'hold'. The lake was approached from the North Lodge, where the field gate was only about thirty yards from the lake. People walked or cycled from

Uttoxeter and the surrounding area and of course by car when these became more in use.



North Lodge to Crakemarth Hall on the old Uttoxeter Rocester road looking south.  
Photo John Walker.

Mr Prince at Home Farm would open his yard gates to allow people to leave their cars. Most people would be at work during the day and would go skating after work. Everyone seemed to have skates – both my parents and uncles and aunts – all had boots with skates screwed on and kept solely for that purpose. I had loose skates which clipped on to everyday boots and had clips on the sides which were tightened up by means of a skate key – not very satisfactory – they would keep slipping off. Skating went on until after midnight very often, in fact I was once skating there with Joe Dwyer when we heard Rocester Church clock strike midnight! No light of any kind was used or even needed – the ice seemed to give sufficient light for our needs. Week-ends of course saw hundreds of people at the lake and at times a man would come and set up a brazier and roast chestnuts for sale! At times the ice would make a slight creaking or cracking noise, at which people would say: "It's good to hear that – it's always safe when it makes that noise!"

In the 1914-18 war some German prisoners were housed, under supervision, in the North and South lodges. They had to do manual work and this included cleaning out the two lakes. After these prisoners some French wounded came for convalescence.





**Plan of Crakemash Hall and grounds showing site of Church, the two lodges, the Ice House, the Garden House, the Stable Block and the Lakes. Plan John Walker 1999.**

The waters of the lakes supported the life of the huge swan mussels. These shells were up to nine inches long with a beautiful mother of pearl type sheen inside them.

During the First World War, Baroness Burton of Byrkeley Lodge, Rangemore, sent her finest horses to Crakemarsh for safety. The Germans were bombing Burton from their Zeppelins. These horses were in the 'Front Field' - the skating venue, a field always known as the Horse Field.

A small lake shown at the north edge of Map IV, provided the feeder stream for the Top Lake, via the Horse Field. The stream entered this lake over a small weir. The lake was always the home of water hens and dippers. As the water left the lake it cascaded down a waterfall before it went underneath the road and across the Horse Field.

Whilst cycling along this road I would always stop here and look through the hedge - to view this lovely, peaceful and idyllic scene. The piece of hedge can be seen on the right hand side of the North Lodge photograph!

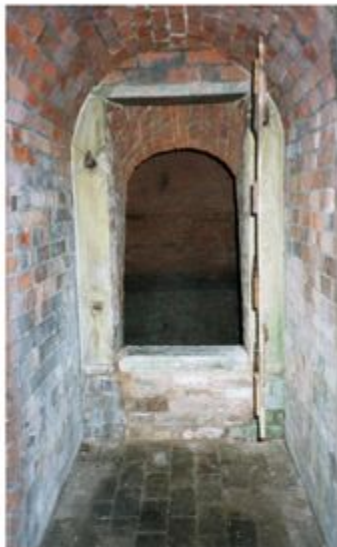
## THE RESTORATION OF THE ICE HOUSE AT CRAKEMARSH HALL.

The Ice House is situated at the highest point of the estate in the roadside plantation and is marked on the Estate Map. It is also marked on the plan of Crakemash above next to the old Uttoxeter Road. Its use would probably have been discontinued about 1900, when refrigeration was becoming more dependable and more affordable. Unfortunately it was neglected for a hundred years and was full of rubbish – old buckets and bowls, bicycles, broken glass, pottery, rotten timber, bottles and soil etc.! The exterior was overgrown with bushes and ivy, bricks and coping stones dislodged by tree roots and the ivy. The building itself had been so well built originally that it was still bodily sound when I decided to make a conservation project of its restoration in 1992. I was living nearby at The Garden House at the time.



The Ice House at Crakemash Hall. Photo John Walker 1992.

The first move was to uncover a square blue brick yard which was the forecourt of the ice house. This yard was not visible and was covered with about nine inches of leaf compost and plant debris. It can just be seen in the picture. The corridor to the ice house is about five yards long with an alcove built into each side – presumably for hanging meat and game. Half bricks had been left out here and there and still contained the small smoky stumps of candles which were burnt in them for light.



**The corridor with vaulted ceiling and steps leading to The Ice House at Crakemarsh Hall. The door opens into a deep brick-lined chamber with a drain at the bottom. It too had a vaulted ceiling. Photo John Walker 1992.**

For the cleaning out operations a metal ladder was put into the chamber itself and the whole interior of the ice house was cleared of rubbish. I carried it up the ladder a bucketful at a time. Larger items such as bike frames and timber were taken up one by one – all done with the help of a good light, rigged up from a battery. After about a couple of months the chamber was cleaned out and washed down.



**The brickwork of The Ice Chamber seen from the doorway. Note the change in colour of the brickwork caused over the years by contact with the ice stored there.  
Photo John Walker 1992.**



Looking down on the floor of The Ice House. There was a drain in the centre of the floor – it can be seen in the picture near the foot of the ladder. Photo John Walker 1992.

All the brickwork was integrated, the corridor with the chamber – the expertise of it all was remarkable – such as the roof vaulting of both corridor and chamber. Any poor brickwork is my repairing effort! I also replaced the missing door to the chamber shown open on the corridor picture and made a new exterior door to the yard.

One day during the work a cyclist stopped on the adjacent road and enquired if it was an ice house and when I replied that it was he asked if he could come round and see it. He was a historian from Cheadle and soon declared it to be the best example of an ice house that he had ever seen – better by far than the one at Chatsworth. The oldest ice house known in Great Britain is dated 1595.

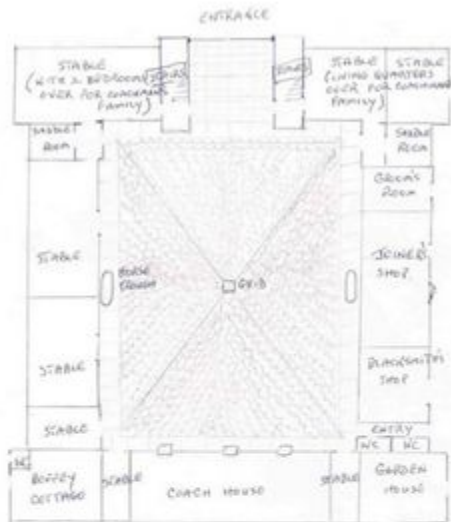
The Ice House at Crakemarsh would be replenished with ice from the South Lake in winter and interleaved with layers of straw for good insulation. There is a gate onto the road close by and the ice would have no doubt been drawn from the lake area by horse and cart, taken up to the field gate onto the road and through the next gate from the road to the ice house. The ice, insulated with the straw, would keep until its replenishment the following year.

#### THE STABLE BLOCK AT CRAKEMARSH HALL.



The Stable Block at Crakemarth Hall. Photo John Walker 1998.

Mrs Cavendish's coachman, Alfred Turvey, had come to Crakemarth from Buckingham, about the year 1867 as coachman to Lady Cotton Sheppard. Alfred and his wife came with their first child, Jenny, who was only a baby in arms. The rest of their family, two boys and six more girls would be born at Crakemarth – two boys and six more girls. The Turveys lived in the stable block, their living quarters were on the right hand side of the clock tower - looking from within the stable yard – their sleeping quarters were in the two bedrooms on the left hand side, all being above the horses' stables for warmth and reached by flights of stairs on each side of the archway.



Vicarious  
 for ID — THE STABLE BLOCK WITH ITS OPEN COURTYARD  
 IN THE CENTRE — THE FOUR SIDERS SLOPING GENTLY  
 TO A CENTRAL GRID, THE ENTRANCE FRONT BEING  
 TWO STOREY WITH A CLOCK IN THE REAR TOP AND SURMOUNTED  
 WITH A LEADEN BALL TOWER AND WEATHER VANE.

**Plan of the Stable Block at Crakemarth Hall**

Every night the Turveys had to come downstairs and cross the cobbled  
 entrance and go up the other set of stairs to the bedrooms! Water, coal,  
 food and every necessity had to be carried upstairs for this large family.





Henry Turvey    Minnie Turvey    Joe Forrester    Lill Turvey    Nellie Turvey

Arthur Turvey    Alfred Turvey    Mary Ann Turvey    Emily Turvey

MARIE FORRESTER

daughter of Geo (successor to Elizabeth Turvey) (all in group)

also mother of William Turvey  
Arthur Turvey

*The Golden Wedding of Mr & Mrs Turvey  
Photograph taken by the South Wall of the Stable Block.  
Cottingham, 7th August 1912*

**The Golden Wedding of Mr & Mrs Turvey Crakemash August 7<sup>th</sup> 1912.**

Mrs Turvey died in 1926 and Mr Turvey died in 1937 in his 90th year. All the grand carriages were housed in the stable yard – the yard itself being made of cobble-stones, very nicely laid – with each of the four quadrant sections sloping gently towards a central drain. The archway was closed off with huge wooden doors and was surmounted with a clock tower and an antique weather vane above.

The two horse troughs in the yard were identical – each made out of a single block of stone – in the shape of baths, with a gadrooned edge carved around the top.

Also in the Stable Block were the joiner's and blacksmith's shops – as it will be noticed, the whole estate was quite self-contained with its own tradesmen and artisans. This fine old Georgian building, now a listed building, is a grand example of 18th century building expertise.

Before closing this Chapter with the end of Mrs E.A. Cavendish's incumbency at Crakemarsh, it will be of interest to record some facts about the huge portrait of Mrs Cavendish's father, J.L. Dickenson, in the Hall. The portrait was in the entrance hall, close to the lower flight of the magnificent staircase. The picture was avoided by the staff who refused to touch it.



Geoffrey and Pamela Cavendish prepare to leave Crakemarsh Hall in 1968. The edge of the picture frame to the portrait of J.L. Dickenson can be seen behind Geoffrey Cavendish.

A maid had died suddenly and without any apparent illness after cleaning the picture, sometime later another maid had died in similar circumstances, after handling the picture. From then onwards the picture was avoided like the plague!

Mrs Cavendish had a great respect for her father, Mr J.L. Dickenson, and revered his memory. On the reverse of the picture Mrs Cavendish had pencilled the following words:

"Portrait of my beloved father, L. Robert Dickenson J.P. & D.L.

Born the year of the Battle of Waterloo 1815. Died September 9th 1884 and was interred in his family vault at Benfieldside, Co. Durham.

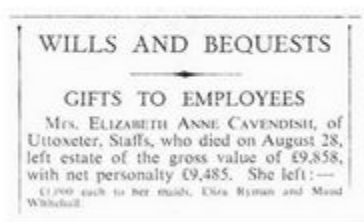
I hope whoever succeeds me at Crakemarsh Hall will cherish this portrait above all others or evil will befall them.

It was my father's money that enabled me to buy Crakemarsh and the right to be called the master of the House.

E.A. Cavendish"

The picture was included in the sale of the contents of Crakemarsh Hall after Mrs E.A. Cavendish's death in 1933. It was listed as Lot No. 178 – Oil Painting – Mr Dickenson – in gilt frame. It was not sold and in fact it remained in situ through subsequent sales of the Hall! It still remained in the Hall despite dereliction of the premises – even after the staircase was removed and any other artefact of value or antiquity. It was about the year 1980 that someone vandalised the picture, cutting the portrait out of its frame and making off with it.

Mrs E.A. Cavendish died on Monday, 28th August 1933. She was aged 85 and had lived at Crakemarsh Hall for sixty years. The funeral was at Uttoxeter Church on Friday, 1st September, a grandiose occasion, attended by estate workers and friends, local notabilities such as Captain Unwin V.C. of Wootton Lodge, Dr George Herbert of Uttoxeter, and titled ladies and gentlemen from all parts of the Kingdom. The old family vault at Uttoxeter Church was opened for the last time – to admit the coffin of Mrs Cavendish to be with that of her late husband.



The cutting illustrated was in The Times newspaper of November 1933. Gifts to employees – this would certainly have been something of an unusual nature in 1933 – especially considering the size of the two bequests!

Chapter 17

**CHANGE OF OWNER BUT NOT OF NAME**

After the death of Mrs Elizabeth Anne Cavendish in 1933 the contents of Crakemarsh Hall were put up for sale. The sale lasted five days.

**CRAKEMARSH HALL,  
UTTOXETER.**

*Two sales from Uttoxeter, on the Uttoxeter to Ashbourne  
Bus Route. Starts at frequent intervals*



**CATALOGUE**

of the  
**ANTIQUE AND MODERN**

**Furnishings**

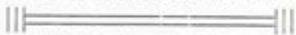
of the above Residence,

which will be Sold by Auction, on the Premises,

on

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday and Saturday,

Nov. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1933.



Sale Each Day at 11-30 Prompt.

On View for Catalogue, 10-noon, to about two o'clock, on  
Friday, November 2nd, from 11 to 4 o'clock.

Auction Office: Uttoxeter (Tel. 45), Ashbourne and Derby.

MR. P. H. PHIPPS, Auctioneer.

## Order of Sale.



### First Day's Sale, Tuesday, Nov. 7th.

Glass and China, Vestibule, Entrance Hall,  
Morning Room, Passage, Dining Room, Library.  
Lots 1 to 307.

### Second Day's Sale, Wednesday, Nov. 8th.

Books, Silver and Plate, Drawing Room, Lavatory.  
Lots 308 to 626.

### Third Day's Sale, Thursday, Nov. 9th.

Linen, Billiard Room, Staircase and Landing,  
Bedroom No. 1, Yellow Bedroom and Dressing  
Room.  
Lots 627 to 940.

### Fourth Day's Sale, Friday, Nov. 10th.

Late Mrs. Cavendish's Bed and Dressing Room,  
Back Landing, Sun Parlour, Lavatory,  
Bedrooms 7, 8, 9, 5, 6, 11, 12, 14, 15,  
Cupboard on Landing, Back Staircase,  
Top Bedroom, China in Butler's Pantry and  
Butler's Pantry.  
Lots 941 to 1256.

### Fifth Day's Sale, Saturday, Nov. 11th.

Blue Room, Kitchen, Housekeeper's Room,  
Lady's Maid's Sitting Room, Servants' Hall,  
Housemaid's Pantry, Larders,  
Maid's Bedrooms 1 to 8, Stables, Gardens.  
Lots 1257 to 1459.



- 437 E.P. plain hot water jug and E.P. bottle holder 15.-  
 438 E.P. vegetable dish, wood handle 1.- 5.-  
 439 8 E.P. canisters with handles 10.-  
 440 Case of 6 E.P. tea knives and plated spoon, in case 5.-  
 441 6 E.P. fish knives, ivory handles 7.-  
 442 Copper 2-light table heater and 2 dishes 3.- 7.-

## Silver.

- 443 Silver-mounted mirror, buttonhook and paper knife, in case 1.- 6.-  
 444 Continental silver stand, fitted spirit lamp 2.- 2.- 0.-  
 Indian silver embossed cup —  
 445 Dutch silver bell, with windmill top, Continental silver pepper and 2 silver windmills 2.- 5.-  
 446 Silver-mounted stationery case and blotter 3.- 5.-  
 447 Silver-mounted red leather stationery case and inkstand combined 1.- 7.-  
 448 Green leather stationery case and blotter, silver mounted 3.- 5.-  
 449 Silver-mounted inkpot and rat glass silver-mounted scent bottle and smelling salts, with silver top 1.- 0.-  
 Silver-mounted scent bottle, with initials in turquoise  
 470 Small silver inkstand, with 2 containers 2.- 0.-  
 471 Plain silver tea caddy, 6 oz. 1.- 5.-  
 472 Victorian silver partridge, 11 oz. 2.- 5.-  
 473 George III plain silver butter dish and stand, 21 oz. 2.- 10.-  
 474 George III plain silver pepper and mustard, 8 oz. 5.- 10.-  
 475 Pale Victorian silver tea box dishes, 8 oz. 2.- 0.-  
 476 George II plain pint tankard, engraved crest, 10 oz. 1.- 0.-  
 477 Small Victorian silver sugar and cream and sugar tongs, 6 oz. 4.- 0.-  
 478 George III Plain Silver Salver, 7", on small feet and headed border, 8 oz. 7.-  
 479 Bitta, 8 oz. —  
 480 George III Engraved Silver Tea and Coffee Service, 44 pieces, including wooden handles 14.- 10.-  
 481 Magnifying glass, in silver frame 5.-  
 482 Victorian silver 4-light candelabra, 105 oz. 7.-

- 483 Victorian silver rose bowl, 48 oz. 7
- 484 Victorian silver gilt ewer and 2 goblets, 32 oz., in walnut case 1/2
- 485 1 Silver tea strainer, small dish, 1 pair sugar tongs, silver whistle, silver-mounted thermometer, and silver calendar frame 1
- 486 2 Silver patch boxes, 2 silver visagrettes, silver embossed snuff box and silver matchbox holder, 6 oz. 2
- 487 Silver chain with pencil, metal chain with silver pencil, scent bottle, etc.
- 488 Silver engraved card case, silver scent bottle holder, scent bottle in silver case, silver-mounted diary, 6 sixpences, 2 shillings, mounted silver pepper, and 2 small silver jugs 9
- 489 Silver locket, 1 silver thimble and gold disc, and sundry trinkets
- 490 Silver chain, silver scent bottle, silver pig pin cushion, Continental silver caddy spoon, silver stag's head brush, trinket box with silver top, sundry trinkets and 2 silver mounted paper knives 1
- 491 Silver pen holder, 3 silver fruit knives, 3 carved ivory needles, piece of ivory, plated sugar bowl, 2 pairs scissors, pair grape scissors and gent's silver watch 2
- 492 6 Miniatures painted on china and compass in case, etc. 2
- 493 Alabaster case, fitted 2 cut scent bottles with gilt mounts 1
- 494 3 Glass boxes with plated tops, etc.
- 495 Buttonhook, shoe horn, pair glove stretchers, paper knife and silver pocket flask
- 496 Pair opera glasses in mother of pearl, case of combs and case of scissors
- 497 Case of 6 engraved and embossed George III fruit spoons, 12 oz.
- 498 Set of 4 ditto, 9 oz.
- 499 Pair of Victorian silver salad servers, engraved handles, 7 oz.
- 500 George III silver soup tulle, 7 oz. 1
- George III silver gravy spoon, 3 oz.



- 8 782 Mahogany corner cupboard on deal stand.  
 D 783 Mahogany Dywiden, lined 4 drawers.  
 L 784 Walnut frame chair, upholstered crimson leather.  
 O 785 Corner chair, upholstered figured tapestry.  
 O 786 Birch chair with cane seat and back.  
 O 787 Walnut frame chair, upholstered crimson repp.  
 L 788 4 Deck chairs.  
 L 789 Antique mahogany frame settee, hair stuffed, with  
 loose crimson cover.  
 D 800 Mahogany frame armchair, upholstered American cloth.  
 O 801 Mahogany frame full-size billiard table, by Wright,  
 London, with marking board, cue rack, 17 cue,  
 3 rests, long butt and rest, half butt, mahogany  
 triangle, table brush, 2 stons, 18 ivory balls,  
 American cloth table cover.  
 O 802 3-hd screen covered American cloth.  
 O 803 Leather gun case, fishing case, trout rod with reel.  
 O 804 12-bore D.B. sporting gun.  
 O 805 Pine gun cabinet fitted with 2 drawers.  
 O 806 Coal box and cover, cast leader, cocoa fibre mat and  
 rubber mat.  
 O 807 2 Garden hammocks.  
 O 808 Persian carpet, 17' 6" x 9' 6".  
 L 809 114' of crimson ground and ferd pattern Axminster  
 carpet, 3' wide (in 3 lengths).  
 O 810 Wilson pile stair and landing carpet, 36' x 7'  
 O 811 in 4 lengths).  
 O 811 Brussels stair and landing carpet, 34' x 7' (in 2 lengths).

#### Foot of Billiard Room Staircase.

- O 812 Valuable antique oak refectory table, 9' 3" on  
 bulbous legs with carved base.  
 See illustration  
 O 813 Plushes *white and night*.

#### Staircase and Landing.

- O 814 22 brass stair rods and eyes.  
 O 815 Brussels stair carpet, 36' x 7'

- 416 Brussels landing carpet, 30' x 2'
- 417 Carved mahogany pedestal stand.
- 418 Pair of crimson damask curtains and valance.  
Grisco Room.
- 419 \*Large oil painting "Magdalena with Angels" in gilt frame.

## UNKNOWN.

- 420 Oil painting "Scripture subject" in gilt frame.
- 421 Pair of 4-tier brackets covered crimson baize.
- 422 19 Pieces blue printed Staffordshire pottery.
- 423 17 pieces ditto and blue oriental turban and cover.
- 424 4-tier bracket covered crimson baize.
- 425 Mahogany frame with spring seat.
- 426 Mahogany table, 21", fitted with drawer on standard supports.
- 427 Mahogany stick stand.
- 428 Antique oak chest with carved and panelled front, 4' 3"
- 429 Box ottoman with needlework top.
- 430 2 Trunks and 2 valises.
- 431 Pair of water colours in leather-work frames.
- 432 5-tier rosewood bookshelf, 4' 9" wide.
- 433 \*Mahogany cabinet, 7' wide, fitted with 2 cupboards with brass lattice doors and 3 shelves.
- 434 8 Blue printed pottery ewers and basins.
- 435 8 ditto brass trays and covers.
- 436 3 Soap basins and covers.
- 437 A blue printed pottery buspan.
- 438 4 Axminster floor mats.

## Bedroom No. 1.

- 439 Case of 2 glass scent bottles and powder pot with silver tops.
- 440 2 upholstered stools.
- 441 Small medicine cupboard.
- 442 Birch medicine cupboard.
- 443 Birch beer cupboard.

- 44 W. S. Bagshaw & Sons, Auctioneers.
- 1012 Stationery rack, 2 letters and inkstand.
- 1013 6 Stationery racks, incipered card box and 4 packs of cards.
- 1014 Japanese 4-fold screen with needlework panels.
- 1015 Wicker armchair with blue repp and feather cushions.
- 1016 Moorish inlaid stand and book rack.
- 1017 Pair of brass pole screens with leadwork banners.
- 1018 Set of 8 rosewood frame chairs and 1 armchair inlaid brass.
- 1019 Set of 6 rosewood frame chairs inlaid brass with loose seats and plush cushions.
- 1020 Chippendale armchair.  
See illustration
- 1021 Antique Sheraton mahogany inlaid holding card table.  
See illustration
- 1022 Ebony and gilt table, T 3' with plush top and liver border.
- 1023 Rosewood inlaid china display cabinet, T 6' wide, with glazed door and sides, lined pink velvet.
- 1024 Bamboo table and plant basket with metal liner.
- 1025 Horse shoe shaped 2 tier table, covered velvet.
- 1026 Mahogany pedestal reading stand on claw feet.
- 1027 Mahogany holding card table, green baize top.
- 1028 Dura.
- 1029 Pair of walnut round back armchairs, covered crimson plush.
- 1030 Pair of copper embossed Indian jardiniere.
- 1031 Pair carved stained pedestal stands.
- 1032 3 ink lamp shades, etc.
- 1033 Mahogany box ottoman with plush top.
- 1034 Rosewood circular table on pillars and plush with scroll feet.
- 1035 Oval 2 tier table covered in orange plush.
- 1036 Antique mahogany Pembroke table.
- 1037 2 stools, covered velvet and silk brocade.

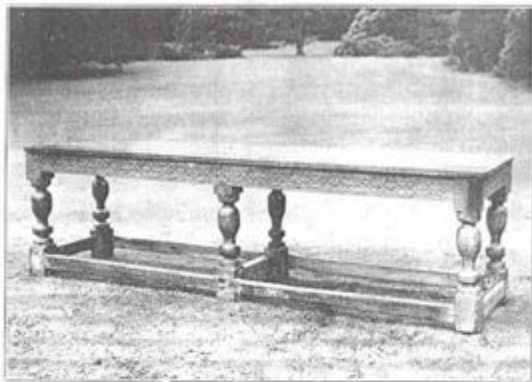
- 1078 A fine old lacquered cabinet on stand, fitted 10 drawers enclosed by pair of doors with raised gilt figures, trees and birds, with chased ornament and hinges. / 2  
*See illustration*
- 1079 Mahogany and mahogany bureau with bookcase above with glazed doors, fitted 4 drawers and interior drawers. 3 0  
*See illustration*
- 1080 Mahogany wardrobe, 8' 6" with 2 hanging compartments, glazed doors, ornate cupboard fitted 4 drawers, enclosed by pair of doors with brass lattice panels. / 2
- 1081 2 Pair cretonne lined curtains and valances. /
- 1082 Brussels carpet, 24' x 18' /
- 1083 Skin hearth rug. /
- 1084 4 Hamocks. /
- 1085 Brass plated ladder, fire implements, and japanned oval box and cover. / 2
- 1086
- 1087
- 1088
- 1089

## Lavatory.

- 1090 Antique mahogany table, 22", fitted with drawers, on standard supports. / - 11
- 1091 Ammirator rug, 9' 6" x 2' 3" / 2

## Bedroom No. 2.

- 1092 2 Water colour drawings and parrot in case. /
- 1093 Painted washstand, odd toilet vase. / -
- 1094 Wicker armchair. /
- 1095 2 Chairs with cane seats, pine twisted rail. /
- 1096 Mahogany swing frame toilet mirror. / 2
- 1097 Mahogany dressing table with 2 drawers. / 2
- 1098 Mahogany bedstead. / 2
- 1099 Oak chest of 2 drawers with brass handles. / 2



Lot No. 812



Lot No. 1079

The ownership of the Hall and its immediate estate now passed to Mrs Julia Cavendish, daughter in law of the late Mrs E.A. Cavendish and widow of the late Mr T.W. Cavendish, lost in the Titanic disaster.

As stated at the end of Chapter 13 the estate was bought in 1900 with the marriage settlement money, which was given to Mrs E.A. Cavendish by her father, Mr Dickenson. This made the Hall 'heirable property' and no doubt led to Mrs Cavendish writing a 'warning - sometimes referred to as a curse - on the reverse of her father's portrait, as described in Chapter 16. Mrs Julia Cavendish and her two sons moved into the Hall with some trepidation - this later proved to have been well founded. She was advised that the demand for, and the suitability of these large houses had been in a gradual decline since about 1900. By 1933 the demand for them was very much more reduced, and the difficulty of maintaining them had become much greater.

Henry, her elder son, was now twenty five years old and had been educated at Eton and afterwards at Trinity College, Cambridge. Geoffrey, the younger son, was twenty three and had been educated at the famous new public school of Stowe in Buckinghamshire. These were now the last six years of peace in this country before the outbreak of war in 1939.

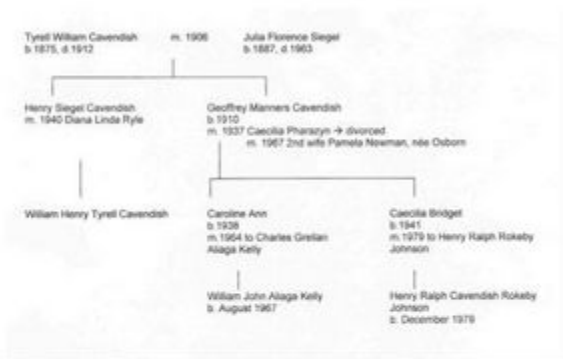
Mrs T.W. Cavendish or Julia Cavendish was more closely linked to the village of Stramshall than she was to the town of Uttoxeter, her predecessor at Crakemarsh Hall, Mrs C.T. Cavendish relating more to Uttoxeter. She attended Stramshall Church and supported the Stramshall Girl Guides group which was run under the auspices of Miss Esme and Miss Violet Barnwell. In the summer the Guides held their annual garden party and tea on the lawn at Crakemarsh Hall.



**Mrs T.W.Cavendish seated centre – at the Stramshall Guides Summer Fair in the 1930's. On the left of the picture is Mrs Wells, wife of the Rev'd Wells, Vicar of Stramshall. On the right is Mrs Wm. Bagshaw of Springfields, Stramshall.**

Skating on the lake continued to be enjoyed in the winter and Mrs T.W. Cavendish was always in demand for opening village fêtes and church garden parties in the area, during the summer season.

In 1937, Geoffrey Cavendish was married to Caecilia Frances Patricia Pharaszyn of Dannevirke, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. The Cavendish family tree below follows on from the family tree in Chapter 13.





### WARTIME CRAKEMARSH

The outbreak of World War II in September 1939 saw a change at Crakemarsh – as it did with most families and their homes in Great Britain. Mrs Cavendish was very proud of both her sons and their contribution to the war effort of this country. Henry married Diana Ryle in 1940. He became a Squadron Leader and was a fighter pilot, taking part in the Battle of Britain. Geoffrey already married and with degrees in engineering, became an Air Ministry Examiner. This was in the Scientific and Electrical Section of the Aeronautical Inspection Directorates. Mrs Cavendish struggled on to keep up the estate – with a bare minimum of labour due to the war. Then after the entry of America into the war in 1942, the British Government requisitioned Crakemarsh Hall and its grounds for the accommodation of a small unit of American servicemen. This American unit as I remember it consisted of about 50 or 60 men and their N.C.O.s and about six officers. The Hall was converted internally, leaving a principal residence for Mrs Cavendish and making seven other self-contained units of accommodation for the Army officers. Several brick and asbestos roofed billets and an ablation building were erected in the grounds of the Garden House for the use of other ranks. A brick built water tower was constructed between the Stable Block and the Garden House. This is the only building still in existence today from the time of the American occupation.



The Water Tower at Crakemarsh Hall. The Stable Block is on the right.

The entrance to their camp was via the huge double doors directly opposite to Stramshall lane end. These doors were swung from a pair of solid hexagonal brick pillars – with their heavy stone pier caps. These doors and pillars were constantly battered by the large American trucks – this damage culminated in the demolition of one of the hexagonal pillars. Repair and rebuilding was always being carried out by local tradesmen.



The Garden House at Crakemash Hall drawn by John Dragon an American servicemen billeted at the Hall during the Second World War.

During the war, farmers and landowners were required by the government to put large posts in the middle of any big fields, to prevent enemy aircraft from making a landing. William Prince at Home Farm, Crakemarsh, put one of these posts in the centre of the large field known as the Twenty Acre Field which is across the road from the South Lake. It was here until its removal in the 1970s! Skating continued throughout the War years – when conditions were favourable for this pastime.

During this period the Stable Block, which was by now no longer in use by horses and their carriages, was used as a storage depot by Wilts United Dairies of Uttoxeter. Milk powder and condensed milk were stored here and when the Dairies no longer used it as a store, it was used by Elkes Biscuits.

The Elkes firm made 'iron ration biscuits' for the wartime troops. Tins of these unpalatable biscuits were stored here. They not only provided sustenance but also mental and physical exercise in order to eat them. A certain method had to be followed: first the biscuit was given a smart tap on each side; this would rid it of the small black weevils which were in the thirteen holes of the biscuit. The bayonet handle was generally used for this and also for the next stage, the breaking up of the biscuit into small pieces, which could then be soaked in water or tea – if available – or, if not, sucked until the teeth could deal with them. They were brown – about two inches square; with the thirteen holes they were like a miniature mattress in appearance and taste!

## THE POST WAR PERIOD

With the end of the Second World War in August 1945 the following fifty years saw the gradual decline and eventual end of the Crakemarsh Estate.

The return of men from the Services saw a boom time for marriages and an acute housing shortage. This was quite an advantage for Mrs Cavendish, who by now was nearly sixty years old, and her two sons married and living elsewhere.

Mrs Cavendish rented out the seven flats at Crakemarsh Hall, which were eagerly sought as first homes for local people. She, of course, retained her own principal residential part of the Hall and converted further outbuildings into homes for other people mainly in the stable block.

The old bake house and laundry, which was a separate building, was made into a bungalow-type of property – shown on my plan of the estate, east of the Hall and outbuildings. Mrs Cavendish was now really busy as landlady to all these tenants – most of whom were constantly on the move as they became able to find houses for themselves and in many cases their young families. I knew many of these tenants, but there were so many changes of tenancy that it is difficult for me to recall many of them.

A few that come to mind are Bernard and Margaret Cooper, Captain and Mrs Old, the Catfords, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Trees. The latter named was quite an eccentric, who boarded the Uttoxeter bus quite regularly and would take one of her cats with her for a ride – in an open basket. Often late and in a hurry for the bus she would finish dressing at the bus stop!

Mr and Mrs Clements lived at Boffey Cottage. The stable block building, the part of it which had housed the horses, was let out to Mr Joe Bamford, who was pleased to have extra room to enable him to employ several young men to develop his mechanical diggers and loading shovels etc. Previously he had worked on the making of his trailers in Mrs Eckersley's garage at Uttoxeter. After several years here Joe received a letter from Mrs Cavendish asking him to refrain from shooting starlings – particularly on Sundays – or otherwise his tenancy would be terminated. Joe, or JCB as he was now known, moved to Rocester and began the world famous JCB excavators factory on the site of the old cheese factory. The mechanical diggers became known as JCBs being the initials of Joseph Cyril Bamford the founder.



1948 Inside the stable block – a tipping trailer made by J.C.B. from left to right Joe Bamford – Bert Holmes, welder and John Hodgkinson, worklad.



1948 Outside the stable block. A single axle trailer ready for delivery by jeep!

As time progressed the upkeep of the flats and the rest of the estate became a heavier burden on the shoulders of Mrs Cavendish. The Garden House and all the glass houses and gardens with it had long since passed the days of stability under Mrs and Mrs Ryman. Mr and Mrs John Dawson lived here in the 1940's; their garden produce was marketed

from a small shop in Utoxeter – adjacent to Byatts, grocers in High Street.

After them came a succession of tenants, who did not have the gardens. The last of this line of tenants were Mrs and Mrs Townsend, a retired bank manager from Northern England; they left in 1961. From then on nature took over the Garden House – and in fact the whole estate.

Mrs Cavendish's last gardener was an old man named Charlesworth. He was deaf in one ear; as a schoolboy he had rolled a sweet pea seed up the side of his face and it had gone into his ear. He couldn't get it out, daren't tell anybody about it – then when the pain was unbearable, he went to a Doctor. The pea had taken root in the ear wax, it had begun to make a shoot, and when removed permanently damaged his ear drum.

Mrs Cavendish became unwell and died in 1963. One of her tenants, Nancy Clements of Boffey Cottage, attended to her last needs. Her son Geoffrey and his wife Pamela came to live at the Hall and saw the whole estate put up for sale. The Sale took place in 1968 and was bought by a Mr Stott.



Geoffrey Cavendish and his wife Pamela leave Crakemarsh Hall in 1968.



Geoffrey Cavendish and his wife Pamela leave Crakemarsh Hall in 1968

The two under bidders at this 1968 sale were Mrs and Mrs W. Prince from Home Farm, Crakemarsh, and the Buxton brothers who were both directors of the London firm Period and Country Houses.

By direction of the Public Trustee

**STAFFORDSHIRE—DERBYSHIRE BORDER**

Uttoxeter 2 miles    Stoke-on-Trent 10 miles    Derby 19 miles

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ILLUSTRATED PARTICULARS, PLAN and CONDITIONS OF SALE  
of

**The Crakemarsh Hall Estate**

including

**Crakemarsh Hall**

A GEORGIAN MANSION  
at present divided into a Principal Residence and Seven Flats

TWO LODGES    TWO FLATS IN STABLE BLOCK  
BOFFY COTTAGE    GARDEN HOUSE    BUNGALOW YARD COTTAGE  
Fishing in the River Dove

9 ACRES LET

**In all 87 acres**

TO BE OFFERED FOR SALE BY AUCTION AS A WHOLE OR IN TEN LOTS

by

---

**W. S. BAGSHAW & SONS**

11 High Street, Uttoxeter, Staffs. (Tel. Uttoxeter 2811), and at Brackley  
in conjunction with

**KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY**

20 Hanscomb Square, London, W.1 (Tel. 41-425 8171), and at Hereford

---

at The Estate Sale Room, 11 High Street, Uttoxeter

on WEDNESDAY, the 5th day of JUNE, 1968, at 3 p.m.

Johnstone Brown, BROUGHTON & CO., 44 New Comstock Street, London, W.1.  
(Tel. 41-3266 4051)





*Craigmoad Hall (Lot 1)*

Their intention was to restore the Hall and make it into luxury flats, not for letting but for sale. Three flats were still tenanted as were North Lodge and Boffey Cottage. The South Lodge had many tenants over the years. Apart from the demolition of this cottage the estate remained unaltered for the four years of Mr Stott's ownership.

By coincidence, Mrs Stott's mother owned and lived at Little Onn Hall, where the Cavendish family had lived prior to the Titanic tragedy.

The whole estate was again put up for sale by Mr Stott in 1972 and was bought in one lot by JCB.



Bagshaws Map used for sale of Crakemarth Hall and Estate in 1972.

The under-bidders at this sale were Mr and Mrs Prince of Home Farm, Crakemarth, and the Buxton brothers. North Lodge was tenanted by Mrs and Mrs L. Johnson and before them by Mrs Harvey, Mrs Johnson's mother.

### JCB AT CRAKEMARSH

From the time of JCB's purchase in 1972 the last tenants of the flats left, as the Hall rapidly became derelict. The remaining tenants were Mr and Mrs Johnson of North Lodge and Mr and Mrs Clements of Boffey Cottage. The deterioration of the Hall itself was hastened by the continual presence of thieves who stole lead mainly from the roof area allowing rain to get into the building. Some of the downspouts were made wholly of lead. These were the only lead downspouts I have ever seen and they quickly disappeared. The lead was of a particularly fine type and upon analysis was found to contain a higher than usual percentage of silver.

An old man from Uttoxeter was allowed the use of the coachman's garden and its small range of potting sheds. He would arrive in the morning with his flask of tea and sandwiches and would spend the day there tending his garden. His name was Joe Hare – a bachelor – who had spent his later working life as an ostler at the White Hart hotel in Uttoxeter. Now an anachronism, an ostler looked after the customers' horses, while the owners were spending the day at Market or otherwise doing business. Joe mainly grew vegetables at Crakemarsh but he always had a row of sweet peas – he had a particular liking for these.

JCB had decided by 1973 to restore Crakemarsh Hall to its former eminence – converting the Hall into an International Management and Marketing Centre, with accommodation for 25 delegates. The stables were to be converted into a museum for vintage cars and construction equipment. At the end of 1973 JCB had decided not to go ahead with their intended project. The general industrial situation and building difficulties in connection with the Hall prompted this reversal of policy. In the late seventies, with commendable foresight, JCB removed the staircase from the Hall. It was packed and placed into storage elsewhere. The stone pillars from the entrance portico were also put into safe keeping.

Although the estate was still in one piece, the next four years saw all the properties and grounds deteriorate quite rapidly and properties were soon being sold to various purchasers.

The South Lake and adjoining wood were sold by JCB to Leek Fishing Club. JCB retained a strip of ground consisting of the Hall frontage and extending up to the Uttoxeter to Rocester old road.



The South Lake beginning to fill with Crakemarsh Hall in the background. Photo John Walker.

Next to be sold was the park land between the Hall and the River Dove, including the North Lake and the adjoining 'Horse Field'. These seventy acres were transferred to Bodens farmers from Denstone, in exchange for some of their fields at Denstone, which were adjacent to the JCB factory. Bodens filled in the North Lake and made one huge field of their land here and put it under the plough.

This area was bisected in 1989 by the new B5030 road from Uttoxeter to Rocester, built to alleviate the problem of traffic density and also size of vehicles going mainly to JCB and Alton Towers.

The Stable Block and walled garden of one acre were sold by JCB to Mr. Harding, who owned a marquee hire business in the West Midlands; he never lived at Crakemarsh.

In 1977 the Garden House was sold by JCB to Mr and Mrs Torr of Ipstones Edge. With the Garden House were four acres of grounds and woodland, including The Ice House. This beautiful old house was badly in need of restoration, having been untenanted for fifteen years, and like the Hall had suffered from vandalism. Only three houses on the estate were occupied: Mr and Mrs Johnson at North Lodge, Mr and Mrs Clements at Boffey Cottage and the Torrs at The Garden House. Youths would come from Uttoxeter and even by bus from the Potteries and would shoot at birds on the South Lake and make fires in the Hall and outbuildings. This would be about 1980.

Following are two newspaper reports of fire and vandalism.

December 1982 – DERBY EVENING TELEGRAPH:

#### CRAKEMARSH HALL GUTTED IN BIG BLAZE

Historic Crakemarsh Hall, between Rocester and Uttoxeter, was gutted early today in a mystery blaze. Because of difficulty in gaining access, Staffordshire firemen were allowing it to burn out.

Police and forensic experts are still investigating the blaze. The Hall, vacant and disused for many years, and owned by JCB, was seen to be on fire just before 2.30 a.m.

Two pumps from Uttoxeter and one from Cheadle went to the scene and a fourth machine was sent soon afterwards. The fourth was an emergency tender from Burton. Later the turntable ladder with monitor was sent from Burton and was there for six hours.

The ground floor and two upper floors were well alight and flames were leaping through the roof. Firemen used five jets from nearby open water to fight the blaze.

Using the turntable ladder they played water on the blaze from 100 feet. Seven hours later firemen were still at the scene.

The East Staffordshire District Council planning department said permission was granted two years ago for the Hall to be demolished.

The Grinling Gibbons staircase was removed three years ago by Mr. Bamford to be treated and preserved and was now in packing cases – awaiting possible use elsewhere.

Could the fire have been started by someone using the place to sleep? Mr. Knights of the District Council said: 'Well, I wouldn't like to spend a night there – it is a weird and eerie house – the nearest to a haunted house that I've been in. It is an odd place to go in on a bright sunny day, let alone at night.' "

I don't suppose he knew of the 'haunted picture' which had been cut out of its frame and stolen a few years previously as described in Chapter 16!

February 1983 – DERBY EVENING TELEGRAPH:

#### YOUNG SQUATTERS ALARM RESIDENTS

Six youths have been squatting in a deserted bungalow near the burnt out remains of Crakemarsh Hall – and alarming people who live nearby. As a result, the owners, JCB Ltd of Rocester, are to alert the police and keep a close security watch on the place. The youths from Longton, Stoke on Trent, have spent the last two weekends in a bungalow near the Hall yard.

(This was the bake house shown on the plan – later made into a bungalow and rented to a Mrs Bennett until vacated and it became derelict.)

Mrs Joan Torr who lives at the Garden House said: 'They broke into sheds and stole tools – my husband told them to clear off.' Mrs. Torr continued: 'I told him I'm not staying here if this goes on much longer. They just think they can come

and go as they please – and they do – then they look at us as if we shouldn't be here.'

Mr. Walter Clements of Boffey Cottage, a pensioner, said the youths broke into his garage and took a small ladder – which was later found in the courtyards. 'It makes me worry about leaving the place at weekends' he said.

Police Inspector Willard of Uttoxeter said: 'No charges were made after enquiries had been made. The youths were all juveniles and the problem was one for JCB.'

A spokesman for JCB echoed the residents' concerns."

Mr Harding soon sold the Stable Block to Mr Peter Palmer who had a saddlery shop and business near Cannock Chase. He also owned horses. Although horses were kept in the stables and fed and exercised here, the Palmers never lived here, travelling daily.

After several years, Peter Palmer's wife's father, Mr Joseph Hubbard, bought the Stable Block from the Palmers.

Joe Hubbard was a retired engineering manufacturer from the West Midlands. He and his wife obtained planning permission to site a temporary chalet style bungalow to be erected at the eastern end of the coachman's garden. Mr and Mrs Hubbard lived here in the Chalet and began the work of making a house for themselves in the Eastern corner of the Stable Block, and with the idea of making further homes, apartments and garages around the courtyard. He had the entire roof re-slatted and spouted and most of the brickwork repointed. Unfortunately, Joe was not well and went into hospital for a heart operation; he never recovered and died the following week; he was sixty. This was in December 1983. During the following year, his widow sold the Stable Block – unfinished as it was, and moved to be near her daughter in the West Midlands. The Stable Block and its gardens was bought with its unfinished accommodation by Mr and Mrs Thomas, I believe from the Stafford area. Mr James Thomas passed away in February 2001. Mrs Thomas and her two daughters left in 2002.

This same time also saw the departure of Mrs Johnson from the North Lodge – now widowed, she went to live in some 'sheltered' housing in Uttoxeter. JCB then rented the lodge to Mr James Brough, one of its employees.

Let us now proceed to the next Chapter and the Garden House with its new owners, Mr and Mrs Torr.

## THE GARDEN HOUSE

As briefly mentioned earlier The Garden House was bought from JCB by Mr and Mrs G Torr and they moved into the property in 1977 with their young son David, aged eight. The Torrs had their work cut out in restoring the old property.

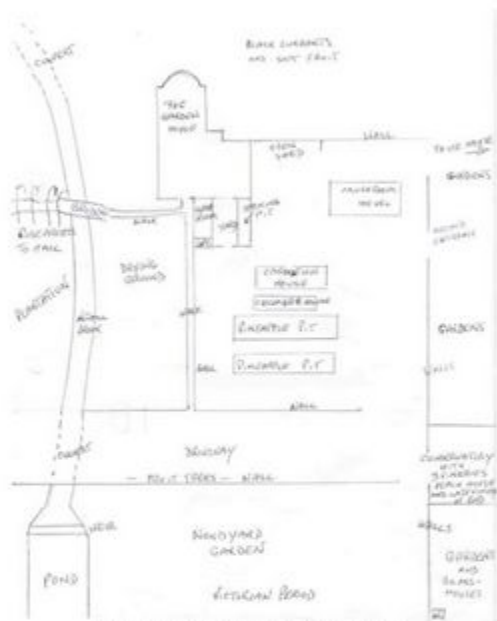


The Garden House. A new wooden barge board was put up, with the same striking pattern as the old disintegrating barge board.

The Wood Yard Garden shown on the Victorian Period map was a rough field of about half an acre with Nothill Brook running through it. This was ploughed up and put under cultivation with a range of vegetables such as cabbage, potatoes, carrots, peas and kidney beans etc. Also the gardens on the right of the Victorian Period map were used for kidney beans and other crops. All the produce was sold to customers who came to a glass sided shed, erected on the inside of the garden at the right hand end of 'The Fruit-Trees Wall' shown on the map below.

The four glasshouses and mushroom shed were all falling down and a mass of rotten wood and broken glass. These were all cleared and the area levelled into a hard yard. A log shed, large garage with pit and workshops were erected to the right hand side of the house in the mushroom shed area. The house is built on a course of large irregular sandstones. It was entirely reroofed with its own blue tiles and rendered and pebble dashed as the brickwork was most uneven – owing to many periods of brickwork joined one to another. This work was carried out by local builders, Batemans. The poor lean to back-kitchen also received the same treatment and a gabled roof put on it, instead of the lean-to roof.





Drawing showing The Garden Cottage and gardens.

All these improvements were effected over a period of several years, and were all seen by your scribe who was taken in as a lodger in July 1978. Mrs Torr removed all the ground floors, she then mixed and laid concrete floors and tiled it all with nine inch terrazzo tiles. Lath and plaster ceilings were removed and plaster boarded and plastered by Mr Torr. The large sitting room had its board floor left and renovated where necessary. In the Estate days, Mrs Ryman was always required to keep this room especially for the use of Mrs Cavendish, who liked to bring her visitors here to sit and enjoy the garden views. Mrs Ryman would provide tea.



A renovated Garden House at Crakemarsh.

The fruit trees on the wall were all overgrown and finished; some of the old lead labels were still fastened on the wall. These wall trees were originally trained and pruned into the shape of tuning forks. The Torrs had peach trees on this wall and these cropped well for several years, until an enemy arrived! Grey squirrels would come and take the ripe peaches, sit on the wall and take out the stone for its kernel, and throw the peach on the soil!



The Garden House

The boundaries were made with Leyland Cypress, alternating green and gold, which were planted from the driveway to beyond the bridge; from there onwards were green Leyland Cypress, all kept at six feet in height and about ninety yards in length. To the south of the house seventy yards of Laurel hedging was set – also at six feet in height.

Lawns were made and an orchard planted. Choice plants and shrubs were planted on borders and in spot positions. Every inch of the four acre property was made sound and attractive. Vegetable growing for sale long since ceased as the ground was grassed over. Bullocks would graze the grass and ornamented ducks were kept on the water and fancy poultry and peacocks. These were all shut up at night, as this was a good hunting ground for foxes.

All the huge brick walls everywhere were repaired where necessary, ivy was removed from them and missing coping stones were replaced and cemented in position. A small vegetable garden and greenhouse were put into operation, for the use of the Garden House.



**The Garden House, Crakemarsh.**

Eventually, in 1998 after seventeen years of restoration and conservation, the Torrs left Garden House and moved to Winkhill, Leek. The Garden House was sold to Mr and Mrs Mitchell from Marchington. The Mitchells carried out several alterations and additions, as can be seen from the sale brochure below.

Possibly the diamond shape above the 'round piece' shown as a sketch in the brochure below may be the hatchment of Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard – illustrated in Chapter 12. The Cotton Sheppards moved into the Garden House whilst the Hall was being built.

I don't give any credence to the suggestion in the sales details that the 'round piece' – or in fact any part of The Garden House – has any ecclesiastical connection.

The Mitchells left in 2000 and were followed by Mr and Mrs Delwyn Stevens.

A detached country cottage nesting in about  
4 acres (1.61 hectares) of English country garden and  
known as:

**THE GARDEN HOUSE  
CRAKEMARSH  
UTTOXETER  
STAFFORDSHIRE**



- HALL & LANDING - 'OLDE WORLDE' DOORS
- ELEGANT AND CHARMING DRAWING ROOM  
Gothic style windows in the bay with garden views.
- DAY ROOM/SNUG
- STUDY
- SPACIOUS BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- FITTED UTILITY ROOM
- MASTER BEDROOM  
Sun drenched balcony overlooking the garden.
- TWO FURTHER BEDROOMS
- NURSERY/DRESSING ROOM
- BATHROOM IN BLUE AND WHITE
- LPG CENTRAL HEATING
- LARGE WORKSHOP/GARAGE
- GENEROUS PARKING SPACE
- INDOOR AVIARY WITH EXTERNAL FLIGHTS
- PADDOCKS
- A GARDENERS WORLD

**£350,000**

**Viewing:** By arrangement through  
Kington Residential on 01283-535243

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STAFFORDSHIRE DE14 5PQ

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Please refer to: Burton Office

Staffordshire Estates Limited  
Reg. in England No. 1001090



A sketch of the former Chapel



The south-east facade



The Drawing Room



Master Bedroom and balcony



Rear elevation and courtyard



A view from the balcony

I have re-introduced below the sketch of the Garden House as it was in 1841, in order that it can be compared with later photographs, and of course it also shows the essential large section of it which remains today.

ON BACK OF ORIGINAL DRAWING  
JUST ...

THE OLD COTTAGE CRAYCUMRASH



ON BACK OF ORIGINAL DRAWING  
THE OLD COTTAGE CRAYCUMRASH  
AND ... 1841

### INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

In the late 1990s JCB obtained planning permission for five executive-style houses to be built on the site of the 'to be demolished' Crakemarsh Hall. This site also included the strip of access land which they still owned from the Hall frontage up to the roadside of the old Uttoxeter to Rocester road.

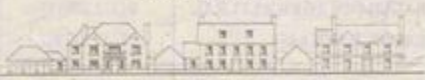
The ruined Hall and site with planning permission was sold by JCB to Moorlands Investment Corporation who contracted with Lythgate Homes of Leicestershire to build five executive homes.

**John German** 30  
STAFFORDSHIRE 4617  
1944


**A HIGHLY PRESTIGIOUS  
DEVELOPMENT OF FIVE  
DETACHED HOMES LOCATED ON  
THE VERY PRIVATE RURAL THREE  
ACRE SITE OF THE FORMER SITE OF  
CRAKEMARSH HALL, UTTOXETER**

*Approached over a long tree lined drive this mature site will house five individually designed 5 bedroomed houses adjacent to a fishing lake.  
The properties are all to be erected to a high specification each with 3/4 receptions, 3/4/5 shower/bathrooms, triple garages etc.*

**PRICES RANGE FROM £320,000 UPWARDS**  
ARTISTS IMPRESSION



Site office open from 2-4pm  
For further details apply to  
Sole Agents John German  
on Burton 01283 512244







The ruins of Crakemarsh Hall on the left during the construction of the new road from Uttoxeter to Rocester in 1988. The old road through Combridge is on the other side of the Hall.

Crakemarsh Hall was demolished in 1998. The old bricks were put onto pallets and any useable timbers, which had escaped the fires of vandalism, were removed for sale by the demolition firm.



The site of Crakemarsh Hall after its demolition in 1998.



A huge amount of unwanted rubble was used to fill in the vast area of cellars which had been under the Hall. The site was finally cleared and levelled, thus enabling the building of the five houses to commence.



The five houses that were built on the site of Crakemash Hall were completed in the Millennium year 2000 A.D.

This brief record has been compiled to preserve the scarce and scattered historical records of this ancient Saxon Manor from long before the Norman Conquest until the present day.

John Walker, Uttoxeter 2000.