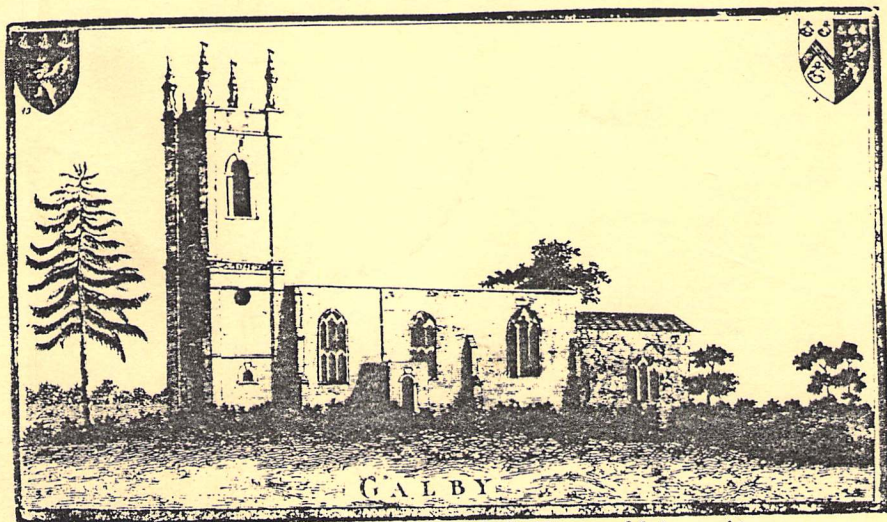


# GAULBY



*St. Peter's Church, Gaulby, from Nichol's History of Leicestershire.*

As a village Gaulby lays no claim to beauty nor to fame; no rows of picturesque thatched cottages, no great manor or hall, never a resident Lord of the Manor; no great battles have been fought here. The Church, founded in the 11th Century, has no visible remains of its early foundation but it is a village where people have lived and worshipped and whose ridge and furrow fields have supported villagers for over a thousand years.

## COUNTY RATE ASSESSMENT, 1803

GAINBY (Dec 4 1803)

Occupier	Owner	Description	Acbble	Feature	C.E.R.	Rental	Rate (6d. in £)
Reed, Geo. A.L.K.	Geo. A.L.K.	Slaneys	A. R. F.	A. R. F.	C.E.R.	Rental	Rate (6d. in £)
Billing, Geo.	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	6. 0.	0.	11-4-0	10-2-0	3s. 2d.
Billing, Daniel	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	20. 0.	0.	63-0-0	50-12-0	11s. 12d.
Holl, George	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	83. 3. 0.	0.	155-0-0	133-0-0	3s. 15d.
Swain, George	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	164. 2. 0.	0.	213-0-0	223-0-0	3s. 12d.
Reed, George	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	42. 3. 0.	0.	35-10-0	40-0-0	1s. 4d.
Hird, Thomas	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	13. 0. 0.	0.	15-0-0	21-6-0	17d.
Kade, Samuel	G.A.L.K.	land & B.R.	13. 0. 0.	0.	15-0-0	21-6-0	17d.
Ord, T.C. Rev.	T.C.O.	Tithe	13. 2. 0.	0.	31-14-0	22-7-0	1s. 11d.
Ord, T.C. Rev.	T.C.O.	Rectory	20-10-0	70-10-0	1-13-10		
Horspool, Robt.	T.O.C.	Land	74-10-0	18-0-0	9. 3		
Holl, Richard	T.O.C.	Land	14. 0. 0.	0.	20-0-0	18-10-0	9. 3
Shillock, Joseph	G.A.L.K.	Land	12. 0. 0.	0.	18-6-0	17-0-0	8. 6
Tailly Andrew	G.A.L.K.	Land	3. 2. 0.	0.	3-0-0	2-15-0	1. 4
Holl, Nat	G.A.L.K.	Land	9. 0. 0.	0.	9-16-0	9-7-0	4. 6
Tyre, Charles	G.A.L.K.	Land	4. 2. 0.	0.	5-12-0	5-4-0	2. 8
Hird, John, poor	G.A.L.K.	Old house	4. 2. 0.	0.	6-8-0	7-15-0	3. 10d
Stacey, Thos. poor	G.A.L.K.	Old house	1-10-0	1-0-0	1-10-0	1-0-0	. 6
H. Bond, Jm., poor	G.A.L.K.	Old house	1-10-0	1-0-0	1-10-0	1-0-0	. 6
Holl, Johannah, poor	G.A.L.K.	Old house	1-10-0	1-0-0	1-10-0	1-0-0	. 6
Stacey, Wm. poor	G.A.L.K.	Old house	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	. 3

Jos. Swain overseer and Geo. Billing, stewards.

FRISBY

Sally, Mr. Henry	Mr. Geo. Farr	land & B.R.	23. 0. 0.	0.	144-3-0	152-0-0	£ 3. 10s. 0d
Holl, -	Stevenson	land & B.R.	3. 0. 0.	0.	9-15-0	9-5-0	4. 7d
Billing, Thos.	Mr. T.N.	Land	10. 0. 0.	0.	20-0-0	18-10-0	9. 3
Sally, William	Mr. W. Cresser	Land	46. 0. 0.	0.	92-0-0	85-0-0	2. 2. 6
Farr, Thomas	Mr. G.A.L.K.	Land	99. 0. 0.	0.	178-4-0	165-0-0	4. 2. 6
Billing, Dan.	G.A.L.K.	Land	143. 0. 0.	0.	243-2-0	223-0-0	5. 12. 6
Holl, -	Rev. J. C. Ord	land & B.R.	100. 0. 0.	0.	135-3-0	143-10-0	3. 11. 9
Levin, -	J.C.O.	land & B.R.	4. 2. 0.	0.	6-10-0	6-0-0	3. 0
Conwell, -	Land, Stoker	land & B.R.	34. 0. 0.	0.	615-0-0	569-0-0	14. 4. 6
Hale, -	G.A.L.K.	Land	33. 0. 0.	0.	38-6-0	34-0-0	1. 7. 0

77. 0-0 072. 7. 0 11143-5-0 11437-5-0 (35. 13. 7)

Conwell, Conwell, Overseer.

(none in 1861 Census in Grawell Greenall)

1801 Census - Heads of Households

(taken by William Chapman, enumerator, carpenter of Little Street).

17 houses, 39 male, 41 female - 80.

NAME	Age	Occupation	Place	Place
1. John BURGESS	H 42	Agricultural labourer	Pirbright	Do. in house
2. Henry DINE	H 41	Graveler and farmer	Stouton	Stouton
3. Joseph SWAIN	H 32	Graveler and farmer	Stouton	Stouton
4. Samuel WARD	H 49	Graveler 86 acres - 1 lab	Croft	Croft
5. Francis COX	H 43	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
6. Thomas LAWLER	H 45	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
7. George WILKIN	H 33	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
8. George HAD	H 26	Graveler 70 acres - 1 labourer	Stouton	Stouton
9. John RICHMOND	H 26	Farmer 137 acres - 3 lab	Stouton	Stouton
10. Elizabeth STACY	H 23	Graveler of Parish relief	Stouton	Stouton
11. Alfred RICH	H 29	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
12. Thomas CORHAM	H 39	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
13. Jonathan WILKIN	H 39	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
14. John RICH	H 62	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
15. Mary RICH	H 61	Agricultural labourer	Stouton	Stouton
16. Elizabeth SMITH	H 44	Housekeeper	Stouton	Stouton
17. Richard ARNOLD	H 33	Farmer 167 acres - 3 labourers	Stouton	Stouton

FRISBY

5 houses, 13 male, 10 female - 23.

1. George HOLL	H 47	Farmer 150 acres - 2 labourers	Frilby	Frilby
2. William FRISBY	H 30	Agricultural labourer	Frilby	Frilby
3. Richard HOLL	H 30	Farmer 150 acres - 1 labourer	Frilby	Frilby
4. George RAYNER	H 28	Shepherd	Frilby	Frilby
5. Henry ALLEN	H 75	Farmer 200 acres - 2 lab	Frilby	Frilby

Hollister, J. D. - Housekeeper, 16th house.

Jonathan Wilshire.

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*Proceeds from the sale of this booklet will be used for the benefit of the  
Church and the Village.*

## INTRODUCTION

Gaulby is one of many small villages lying hidden and unknown in the East Leicestershire uplands. Outwardly it has altered little for generations though its dependence on agriculture is less marked now than it was even thirty years ago. Its history as a settlement began in all probability in the last years of the 9th Century when the conquering Danish army was disbanded and given lands in the Kingdom of Mercia, of which what is now Leicestershire was a part. But as a settlement it is even older than that as Saxon jewellery and Roman potsherds have been found in the area and there is a tradition of a Roman Bath and Villa in Bath Spinney; even earlier Bronze Age implements have been found.

The earliest known spelling was 'Galbi'. In the past it has been spelled 'Galbie', 'Galby' or 'Gaulby' and only in this Century has the spelling been standardised to 'Gaulby' (a fact that some maps have yet to accept.) Mr William Keay who lived at Grey Ladies from 1932-1952 was largely instrumental in having the change adopted.

The Danish origin of the village is shown in the name 'Carrygate' a field name and now the name of a house but once the name of the road to Illston derived from the Scandinavian 'kiarr' meaning marsh and 'gata' meaning road.

As with most small villages in England the earliest reference to Gaulby occurs in the Domesday Book, that 2,000,000 word statistical, social, economic survey of land tenure and population compiled in 1086. Then Gaulby was a village of thirty or so families, about the size it is now. The entry in the Domesday Book reads:

'The son of Robert Burdet holds from Hugh (de Grentemaisnil) in Galbi 13 carucates and 2 bovates of land. There is land for 10 ploughs. In demesne there is 1 plough, 5 serfs, 2 female slaves, 14 villeins with 2 bordars and 11 soke-men have 7 ploughs. 1 Frenchman with 1 plough. There is a mill at 2 shillings. 30 acres of meadowland. It was worth and is worth £3.00. Of this land 2 soldiers have 1 carucate and 3 bovates of land and they have one plough and a half. It is worth 20 shillings.'

## MANORIAL DESCENT

By the time the Domesday Book was compiled in 1086 some 200 years had elapsed since the Danish soldiers had settled here as free men working their own land. The Normans introduced 'villeinage' or 'serfdom' whereby the land was held only by bond service to the Lord, and the Lords were appointed by the Normans.



The lands of Gaulby along with about 230 other manors in Leicestershire were given to Hugh de Grentemaisnil, one of William the Conqueror's most powerful barons. From him it descended to the Earls of Leicester in the 12th Century, the most famous of whom was John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster who died in 1399. With his death the Earldom of Leicester came to an end, for on the accession of his son as Henry IV the title and estates were absorbed in the Crown, The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, by virtue of this connection, still appoints the Masters of Wyggeston's Hospital and Trinity Hospital in Leicester.

In the latter part of the 14th Century the lands and manor of Gaulby passed to the Marmions who held it for over 200 years. The last male Marmion died in 1520 and his daughter Katherine, who was married to John Haselwood of Northampton, inherited. In 1610 William Whalley, Lord of the Manor of Kings Norton, bought the Gaulby lands from the Haselwoods. When his descendent Bernard Whalley died in 1752 Gaulby and Kings Norton went to William Fortrey, inherited through his mother who was a Whalley. He left it in turn to his nephew Henry Greene of Rolleston. In 1791 it was sold to Peers Anthony Keck of Stoughton Grange and in 1913 most of the land was sold to the Co Operative Society and the Wyggeston Hospital Charitable Trust, except for the Glebe lands held by the church.

Gaulby has never had a resident Lord of the Manor even though there was a manor house described in 1576 as the 'capital messuage of Gaulby', families holding the title preferred to live on their lands elsewhere and gather rents from Gaulby. In 1900 H.L. Powys Keck, then Lord of the Manor, lived in Surrey.

## **TWELFTH to FIFTEENTH CENTURIES**

From 1086 (the date of the Domesday Book) until 1527 there is little documentary evidence of the prosperity and size of Gaulby as few records survive, but some indication of population can be ascertained by tax returns as the number of taxpayers generally represented between a third or a quarter of the population. In 1327 the Lay Subsidy registered 15 families liable for tax, in 1332 there were 14. The plague badly affected many places in Leicestershire in the original outbreak in 1349 and the subsequent recurrences in the 30 years following but the population evidence shown in the 1381 Poll Tax (45 people over the age of 14) suggests that Gaulby may not have been too decimated, as the 'black death' commonly reduced communities by a third or a half at one stroke.

Of the 45 inhabitants in Gaulby most farmed for a living, though the

land was not theirs, or worked as farm labourers. As well there were two carpenters who made the ploughs, cart wheels and other farm gear, two tailors who made up the rough cloth spun and woven in the cottages and farmhouses, a blacksmith and servants.

In the 14th Century 'villeinage' introduced by the Normans was dying out but here and there throughout the country it survived until Tudor times. At Gaulby in 1381 only 2 families lived under this onerous duty, referred to as 'nati' in the records, Richard Norton, William Attewell and John Hycheson. The remainder had become more prosperous and held their land by rent, either in money or in kind, free from the obligation of villein tenure.

1 3 8 1

POLL TAX: GAULBY:

John atte Hall and Joan his wife, tenants at will, 2s.  
 William Sharpe and Alice his wife, tailor, 2s.  
 Richard Norton and Emma his wife, *nati*, 2s.  
 John Penne and Juliana his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Robert Smyth and Isabel his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Richard Ode and Isolda his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Robert Wilkson and Amice his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Thomas Pake and Joan his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Robert Penchep and Juliana his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Robert atte welle and Rose his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 William Symson and Gonilda his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Robert Dande and Elisabeth his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Robert Bocher and Amice his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 William de Westgate and Agnes his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 John Godhave and Emma his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 William Dande and Margery his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Henry Sterr and Rose his wife, holder of land at will, 2s.  
 Richard Souter, cottager, 12d.  
 Robert Gymson, cottager, 12d.  
 Richard Ode, servant, 12d.  
 John Hegges and Alice his wife, smyth, 2s.  
 Thomas Smyth, servant, 12d.  
 Thomas Hegges, servant, 12d.  
 Robert Herry and Margery his wife, cottager, 2s.  
 Ralph Smyth and Elena his wife, labourer, 2s.  
 William Threscher and Agnes his wife, labourer, 2s.  
 William atte welle and Joan his wife, *nati*, 2s.  
 Richard atte welle, servant, 2s.  
 Robert Shepherd, servant, 12d.  
 Richard Bucke and Beatrice his wife, carpenter, 2s.  
 William Burgeys and Emma his wife, servant, 2s.  
 Robert Shepherd, servant, 12d.  
 Katherine, daughter of Robert Dande, servant, 12d.  
 Symon Kyte and Dulcia his wife, servant, 2s.  
 John Hycheson and Margery his wife, *nati*, 2s.  
 Richard, their son, servant, 12d.  
 Agnes, their daughter, servant, 12d.  
 Alice, their daughter, servant, 12d.  
 William Nots and Amice his wife, carpenter, 2s.  
 Richard Nots and Gonilda his wife, tailor, 2s.  
 Margery de Galby, cottager, 12d.  
 John atte priour, servant, 12d.  
 Elena Faulon, widow, 12d.  
 Thomas Kent, labourer, 12d.  
 Robert Smyth, 12d.

## SIXTEENTH CENTURY

From the Lay subsidy of 1545 it is known that there were about 14 families in Gaulby only 10 of which were liable for tax, these were (in order of wealth) John Dand, John Goode, John Holyocke, John Power, John Kirke, Richard Norton, Robert Smaley, Robert Hackett, Richard Dand and John Warner. In 1572 only 4 householders were liable for tax, William Warner, William Kirke, Thomas Holyocke and John Dand. By 1628 only 3 householders were liable, John Dand, William Kirke and George Goodman. These numbers would indicate a decline either in population or in general prosperity.

In the 16th Century most dwellings would have been of one story, timber framed with walls of wattle and daub; farmhouses probably had 2 to 3 rooms and cottages only one. In the farmhouses there would have been a hall, used for cooking and living and a parlour or parlours used as bedrooms. Inventories of this period exist which include pewter plates and candlesticks, chairs and stools, bedlinen and table linen, from which it can be seen that a comfortable standard of living was being achieved though the cottages with their labouring families were much poorer.

These inventories and wills provide insight into the daily living and prosperity of the period. The earliest Gaulby will extant is that of Richard Sanson, written in Latin, in which he left 3s4d to the church and 2d to the Mother Church (Lincoln Cathedral). In 1531 Thomas Goode left 3s4d to the Church, 12d to Frisby Chapel, 8d to Lincoln Cathedral and he 'required his godly father to say five masses for my soul and the souls of all Christian people.'

As livestock was a more prized possession than money it was common to leave a relative a sheep or a cow or perhaps a strike of malt. Extracts from some 16th Century wills indicate that the poor, the parson and the Church were also remembered. Anne Bupas, widow (1540) whose house was one of the few at this date to include a chair, stools and cushions left the Parson 6 silver spoons, a goblet and 4s. Owston as well as Gaulby Church received 6s8d for repairs and every household in Gaulby, Frisby, Owston and Newbold was left 4d.

Richard Northam (Norton?) in 1558 left 8d each to the Churches of Illston, Kings Norton, Houghton, both Strettons and 3s4d to Gaulby. John Power, 1558 left 3s4d towards the repair of 'Scotaryll' bridge. Margaret Northam (Norton?) widow, gave a strike of malt for Gaulby Church tower repairs and a hoop of malt to 4 poor cottagers. Her estate included 15 cheeses as well as corn, hay, malt, cows and pigs.

Robert Hackett, 1561, left 12d and a sheep to each of his nephews and

nieces, 12d to the poor box and 4d to every poor cottager. He also left 6d 'towards the mending of 'Scoteyll' bridge.' Will Goude left his son William 20 sheep and a cow, 3s4d to each of his grandchildren, 12d to each poor cottager and the poor in nearby villages were also remembered, Billesdon 3s4d, Houghton 2s8d, Evington 2s8d, Stoughton 3s, Norton 12d and 2s was left for the mending of 'Skotterel' bridge. The whereabouts of this 'Scottaryll' 'Scoteyll' or 'Skotterel' bridge is not known but there is a Cotterill Spinney about 1½ miles N.W. of Gaulby. Bridges were obviously important to the way of life because in 1576 John Dand left 6d towards 'the mending of the bridge at Houghton that we go to Leicester on'. Was this the 'Scoteyll - Skotterel etc. ' Bridge?

## SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

In 1607 the Archdeacon, on one of his yearly visitations, remarked 'the parish clerk can neither singe nor reade but theire minister is content with him because he is diligent,' but as nearly 85 per cent of the population was illiterate at that time this need not be surprising.

Parish Registers of marriages, baptisms and burial date ostensibly from 1583 and are an invaluable source of information reflecting the change in population. From 1609 to 1614, 51 baptisms and 32 burials are recorded but by the 1620's the average number had fallen to five and it remained near this figure for the rest of the century. In 1672 there was but one marriage, William Brown of Tugby to Elizabeth Norton; one 'burriel', that of John Ward and one baptism, Hannah, daughter of John Hawkins and his wife Christina.

Interesting information can be extracted from Inventories. In 1602, Margery Warner left 'all my holy day apparell' to daughter Ann and entrusted Mr Haselwood (who lived in the Manor) to bring up her children. In 1606, Robert Warner left Mr Haselwood (his good friend and master) 10s. In 1660, Thomas Dand, yeoman, left 20s for church repairs and 10s to the parson for a funeral sermon and 6d to each poor person at his funeral. John Dand, yeoman, who died in 1663, left similar provisions but the poor in his case were to receive 10s collectively. In 1673, Francis Squire, husbandman, left 30s to be spent at this funeral.

In 1669, Robert Warner the elder, shepherd, left 40s to the poor of Gaulby and Frisby on the advice of Mr Tookie (the Rector). He also left 'good debts £56; desperite debts £12.15s'

Seventeenth Century inventories show an improvement in housing with first floor rooms more common and the addition of a kitchen. Where



there was no kitchen, the cooking was still done in the hall. The majority of farmhouses had two hearths and one or two of the wealthier yeomen had three or four as their houses grew in size and comfort, like Robert Warner who died in 1606 and whose house included 'a chamber over the house and a loft over the hall.' In 1652, the house of John Dand, yeoman, comprised hall, parlour, 2 lodging chambers, two other chambers, store chamber, buttery and kitchen, while his kinsman, (another John Dand who died in 1669) lived in what may have been a grand house as it had wainscotes (oak panelling). The rooms listed were: 'hall, parlour, inner parlour, dairy, kitchen, buttery, chamber next the stairs, chamber over entry, chamber over hall, store chamber and room over chamber.'

The Hearth Tax lists for 1670 record twenty three households in Gaulby (seven of which were too poor to pay the tax) showing an increase in the population over the previous century. Five of these were farmhouses with a hearth in both hall and kitchen, one (the old manor house mentioned in 1576) had four and the Rectory had five. The remainder were cottages or smaller farmhouses with only one.

#### HEARTH TAX

1 6 7 0 GAULBY:

	Hearths	These persons are discharged by Certificate :
Mr. Henry Tookey	5	Widow Newton 1
John Dande	2	Thomas Warner 1
Thomas Good	2	Widow Smith 1
Jane Squire	1	Alice Cooke 1
Thomas Rice	4	Amy Good 1
William Newton	1	Widow Tookey 1
Robert Warner	1	Dan Warner 1
William Warner	2	
Robert Smith	2	Viewed by us -
William Bird	1	Thos. Good Constable
William Newton	2	Robt. Hunt Deputy Collector
Robert Rowell	1	
Thomas Squire	1	(16 plus 7 excused=23 houses;
John Norton	1	total hearths=35)
Widow Barker	1	
Thos. Green's house	1	

Land enclosure took place piecemeal from 1614 to 1649 by private agreement among the three landowners, Square Whalley of Kings Norton, John Dand and George Goodman. Whereas the open field system survived in most other parts of the country until its abolition by private Act of Parliament in the second half of the 18th Century, the farm labourers and the common folk here were deprived of their rights much earlier.

This change from communal to individual farming caused hardship

and poverty as the ordinary people no longer had access to free or 'common' land on which to graze their animals and grow their corn. People were pleading exception from tithes 'because of the enclosure and want of grass'. A burial entry for February 1, 1636 reads 'Thomas Woodford a poor labouring widower that lived by ye alms of ye parish was buried and hath left two children to be kept by ye parish' is evidence of the poverty present in the wake of the enclosures which caused greatest hardship to the poorer cottagers. With the acceptance of enclosure came the realisation of poverty and many families were forced to move elsewhere.

From the Parish Registers of 1634 to 1646 a list of trades and gentry living here suggests that for a small village Gaulby was a well balanced mainly self sufficient community.

Gentlemen:	Hugh Aston, Edmund Haselwood, Thomas Holt, John Stacey, Clement Tookie, Henry Tookie, William Tookie, John Tookie, John Dand.
Yeomen:	John Dand, Thomas Dand, William Warner
Husbandmen:	Francis Power, Francis Squire, Thomas Squire, Robert Warner
Blacksmiths:	William Newton, Richard Newton
Carpenters:	Richard Alsop, George Pole, Thomas Newton
Millwright:	Thomas Newton
Tailors:	Thomas Goode, Henry Rainer (Rayner)
Cooper:	Anthony Long
Butcher:	Thomas Darker
Weaver:	Anthony Long
Cordwainer:	Edward Smith
Felsmonger:	Jacob Sharpe
Bonesetter:	Thomas Allen
Shepherds:	Edward Beaumont, William Hawkin, Anthony Smith Robert Smith, Robert Warner, Thomas Warner
Labourers:	John Bagnall, John Butler, William Killingly William Squire, John Ward, Lewis White

The Civil War did not leave Gaulby unscathed; the siege of Leicester and the Battle of Naseby took place in 1645 and before the entry in the Parish Register of 1646 is the following comment: 'Here the register is somewhat imperfect being in the time of war and the incumbent fled to

Leicester for sanctuary.' (Thomas Tookie) It was at this time that the stained glass windows in the Church were destroyed.

In 1610 when William Whalley bought the Manor of Gaulby for £600 it comprised 663 acres - 300 arable, 300 pasture, 40 of meadow, 20 of furze (gorse) and 3 of wood. There were eight 'messuages', four cottages, a windmill (possibly sited by the corner of Gaulby Lane and the road to Billesdon) and a dovecote, twelve gardens and orchards which suggests that each dwelling had its own. The Rectory and the houses of the Dands and the Goodmans were excluded from the purchase.

## EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

In the 18th Century the community remained agricultural throughout and framework knitting, found on a large scale in many villages of north west Leicestershire occurred in only a few places. In 1736, Edward Beaumont, Church Warden, signed a Settlement Certificate which enabled Thomas Billings (1694-1765), his wife Ann and their five children to move to Billesdon where Thomas became a framework knitter; he must have prospered as he took in an apprentice in 1760. The effect of a Settlement Certificate, a feature of the Parish Poor Law, was that Gaulby agreed to take back the Billings family should they become a charge on the poor rate in their adopted parish.

The Gaulby 'Towne' book comprises accounts rendered from 1728 by the Church Wardens, Constable, Overseers of the Poor and Surveyors of the Highway. Parish levies were assessed annually according to needs under these headings. The Constable, responsible to Quarter Sessions, was concerned with the collection of rate for the County but locally he had responsibility for law and order, the upkeep of Parish property and payments for the killing of vermin. The molecatcher was paid 10s6d a year, the ratcatcher 12s but anyone could ask the Constable for payment for any vermin caught, 1s was paid for a fox and the going rate for sparrows was 1s6d to 2s per dozen.

Each Parish was responsible to the Surveyors of the Highways for the upkeep of its roads and bridges with parishioners required to do a stint of five days work a year, for which they were paid but, if they could afford it they supplied the necessary labour and materials instead.

Among the expenses incurred in the upkeep of the parish bridges were:

1743 - tree for a bridge at Outon Brook (Houghton?) 8s  
(plus labour 10s)

1748 - bridge for the Town End £1 (presumably down Carrigate past

what is now School Lane). Regular payments were also made for 'mending the pound' where straying beasts were impounded.

The accounts of the Overseer of the Poor are the most detailed and in the following century the poor were a constant drain on Parish Resources. However, until the 1770's expenditure was low, the annual figure usually below £10. Thereafter disbursements steadily increased until a 3s levy had to be raised in 1796 and 1799 producing £119 to meet payments to the poor.

One specific example was Goody Carter who received relief from 1742 until she died in 1750. As additional food and supplies were given in time of illness, or greater need, she received an extra £1.7s6d over the eleven weeks before she died. Elizabeth Warner and Elizabeth Goode were paid 2s each for laying her out. In 1742 brandy and cinnamon were provided for a woman at childbirth and the burial of a poor boy cost the Parish 10s.

During this century the Parish Registers showed an average of three baptisms a year and as many burials. Among some interesting entries are the following:

1710 '28 February - Richard Hawkins son of John (buried) leaving a wife and 7 children in tolerate circumstances his beginning being small had he lived to April 12 he had been 47'

1724 'Old widow Palmer of Frisby was buried'

1727 'Jane Smith an old maid was buried'

1724 'Sarah Dalby wife of John both dead of the smallpox 13th day.'

From Wills and Inventories:

1700 - Thomas Rice, Yeoman, left estate of £139.16s which included 85 sheep and 11 cows.

1715 - John Rice left 94 sheep and 2 heifers, estate valued at £66.

1728 - William Rowlet, weaver, left £14.8s plus 12 ewes, 1 cow and the contents of his shop which was valued at £2.

1730 - William Bird left estate worth £122.17s which included 5 cows, 1 bull, 6 yearlings, 7 calves, 16 sheep, 7 heifers, 39 lambs and 1 hog.

1737 - Alice Bird, widow, left her prized possession, a clock, to her son William. Included in her estate of £101.16s were 81 sheep, 7 lambs, 13 heifers, 4 cows, 6 calves, a hog, a bull and a mare.

While the houses of the yeomen, the Parson and the gentry continued to improve in size and comfort the cottages of the labourers remained poor. The timber framed houses of the 15th and 16th Centures which had



either burned down, fallen down, or been knocked down were replaced by brick, often rebuilt on the existing stone foundations. Staircases, introduced in the previous century, were more common giving access to a first floor which would originally have been used as a hayloft, corn or wool store but later upgraded as bedrooms.

At the end of the 18th Century the main landowners of Gaulby were the Kecks who bought it from Henry Greene of Rolleston in 1791 and owned it for 122 years.

## THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

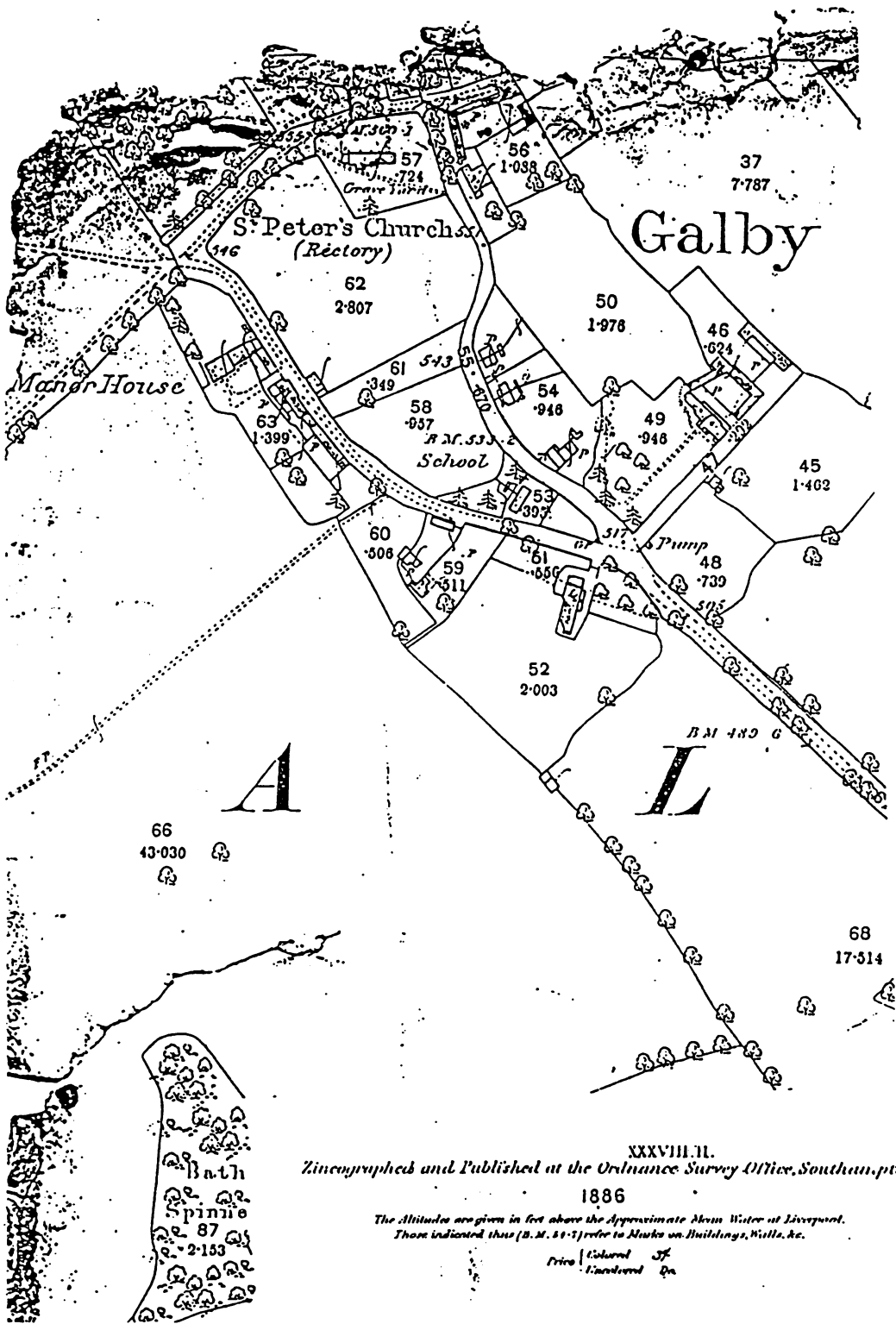
Throughout the first three decades of this century poverty was rife. As farming was the main occupation of the village the country wide agricultural depression which started in 1815 may have been responsible for the poverty resulting in the decline of population.

In 1830 William Cobbett described the cottages of Leicestershire villages as 'hovels, made of mud and straw (wattle and daub) bits of glass or of old off cast windows merely stuck in the mud wall ..... bits of chairs or stools; wretched boards tacked together to serve for a table; the floor of pebble, broken brick or of the bare ground; a thing called a bed and rags on the backs of the wretched inhabitants.' (*Rural Rides, William Cobbett*)

The picture of the population was one of change. The first population census of 1801 records 81 inhabitants but in 1901 it was down to 52. Most of the old families who had roots in Gaulby for centuries were gone by 1881, having either died out or moved away.

The Dands, first mentioned in 1296, died out in the male line in 1717. The last Warner in Gaulby, Simeon, whose forebears were substantial Yeoman farmers in Tudor times, died in the workhouse in Great Glen in 1846. His last surviving son James married Frances Barton in 1846 at Hallaton. His Grandson, Robert, born in 1836, son of his daughter Mary Warner and Mathias Norton went to Leicester as an apprentice. Stephen Bird, a coachman as well as the Parish Clerk, was the last descendent of the Birds who had lived here in the Sixteenth century. He died in 1898 and his wife Eliza died in 1919.

In 1813 Thomas Parkinson, Clerk to the Archdeacon of Leicester, was advised that Thomas Stacey 'hath appointed and set apart his dwelling house in Galby in the County and Archdeaconry of Leicester and Dioces of Lincoln as and for a public meeting place for Protestant Disenters from the Church of England for religious and divine worship.' In 1822 the house of Joseph Wignall was also appointed as a meeting place for non-conformists.



In 1849 the main farmers were Richard Adcock (Limes Farm), Henry Allen, George Hull, Richard Hull, George Read, John Richardson and Joseph Swain (Manor House).

In 1846 Samuel Wade was a carrier who went to Leicester two days a week, in 1868 John Wade was described as the Gaulby butcher and in 1871 William Nichols was a waggoner.

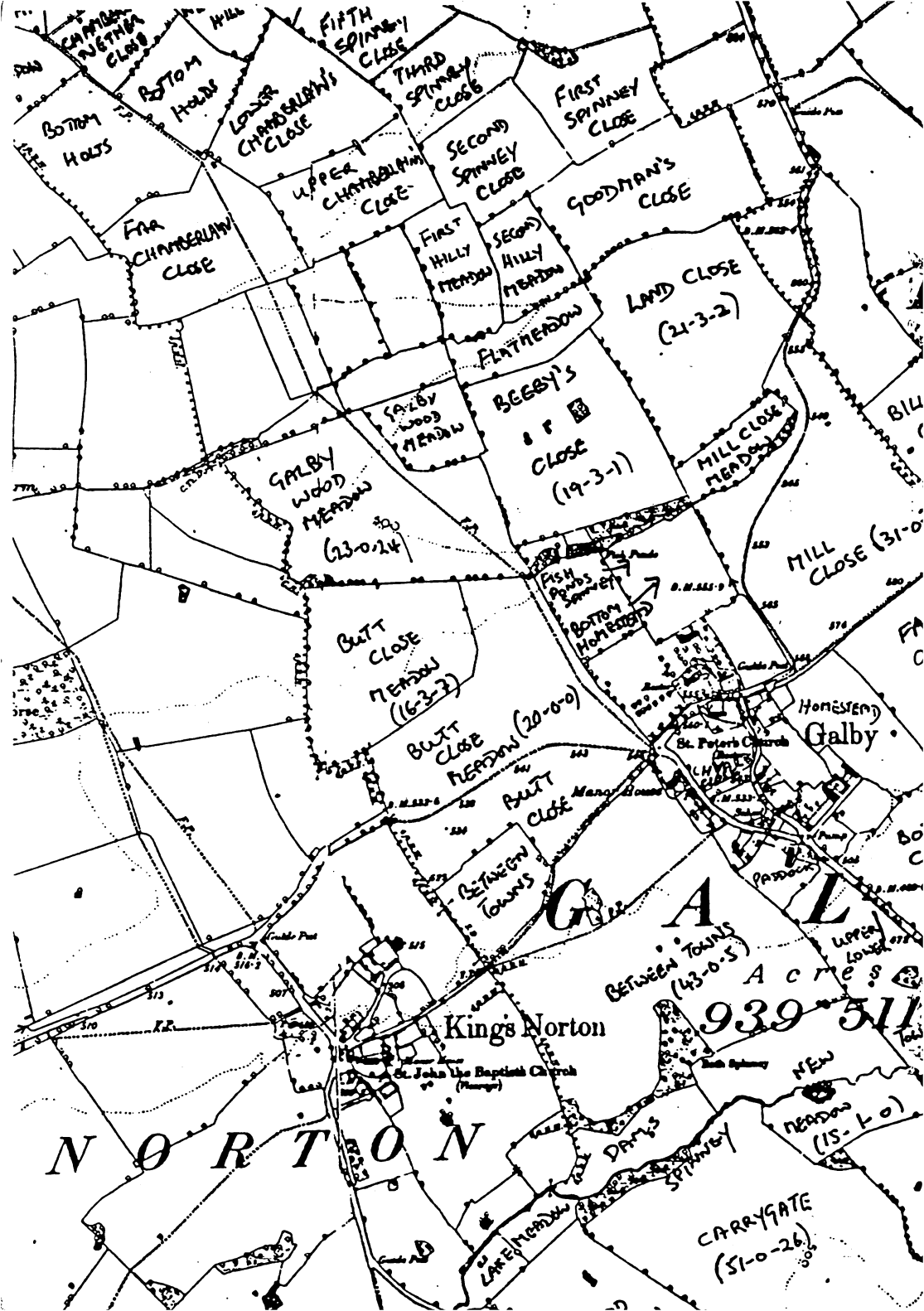
In 1881 the farmers in Gaulby were: Richard Adcock (Limes Farm) George C Beeson, George K Beeson, William Goodman (Manor House Farm) John Howkins. In the cottages lived Joseph Peberly, John Robinson, George Coleman, Stephen Bird and George Measures who was described as a shopkeeper.

The change in population is shown once again in the list of farmers in 1900: John Fielding (Fieldings Farm now known as Tamborough) Mrs Ann Harris, John Hawkins (Limes Farm) Thomas North, and Joseph Oldacres (Manor House Farm).

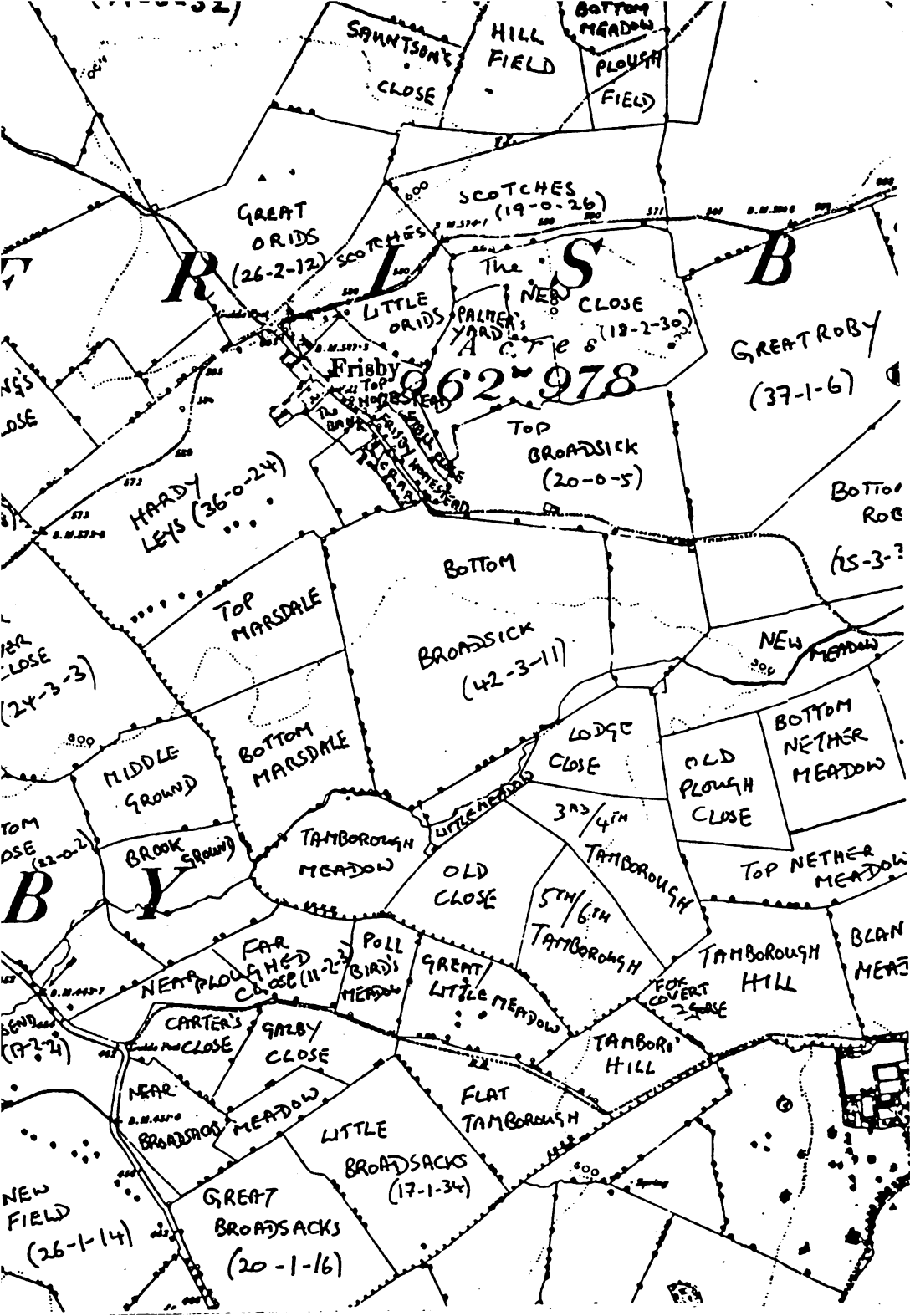
## THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

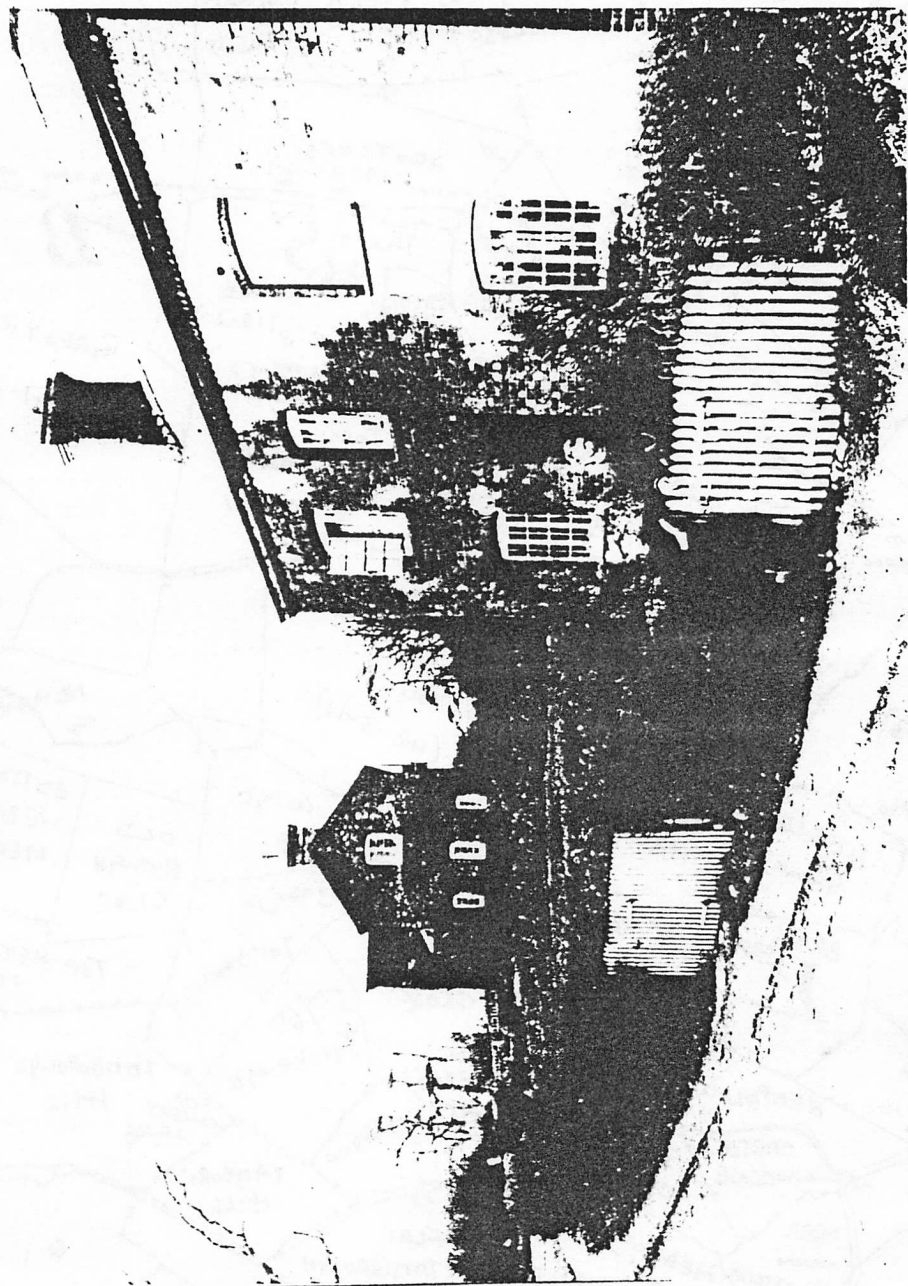
The 20th Century is one of changing times in Gaulby, from a rural farming community to a satellite village of Leicester. New families have moved in, not only farmers but commuters who occupy new, modern houses. Of the old houses and cottages little is left; the location of the eight 'messuages' recorded in the 17th Century is open to question and speculation as only four of them exist, Limes Farm, Manor House, Grey Ladies and Tamborough Farm. There are four Victorian cottages, the actual date of which is unknown but they were here in 1886 as they are on the Ordnance Survey map of that year. Wyggeston Farmhouse, described in 1913 as a modern farmhouse was also built prior to 1886. Manor cottages date from the 18th Century, one of these, it is rumoured, was once an Ale House but documentary evidence is scarce. Pine Trees, also 18th Century, was once a labourer's cottage, lived in by the Measures family, but now extended and modernised. Lavender Cottage, now a substantial house, was originally two or perhaps three 17th Century cottages built of wattle and daub.

Apart from the Church the village is predominately built of brick. Limes Farm clearly shows its origins as a timber framed building of the 16th Century even though it underwent extensive alterations at the back in the 18th Century. It is the only existing house which combines 16th Century timber with 18th Century brick. The names of some of the previous occupiers seem reasonably well established, Billings, Adcock, Howkins, Batten Keay and Welch.









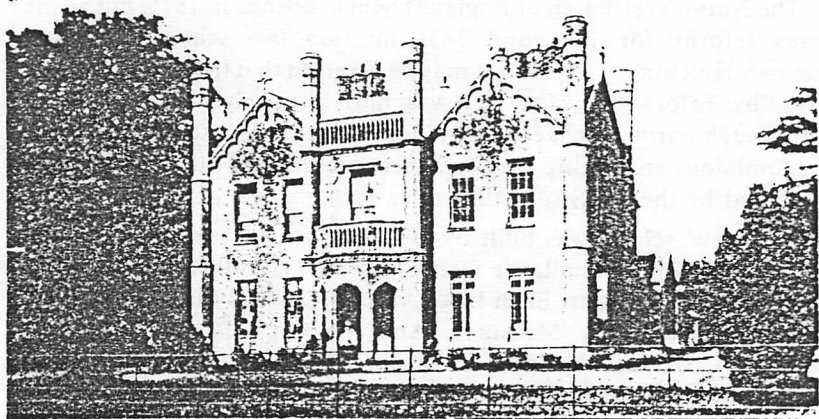
GAULBY COTTAGES ABOUT 1900

Manor House, once the main house of Manor Farm, is predominately Eighteenth Century though traces of an earlier dwelling are visible in the foundations. Adjacent to the house is a Sixteenth Century bakehouse complete with oven and open hearth. The house was probably rebuilt on the foundations of the old Manor House described in 1576 as the 'capital messuage' of Gaulby. At one time it possessed a chapel, two stories high, the denomination of which is not known but it is recorded as having a fine carved pulpit, which suggests it may have been non-denominational.

Although never lived in by a 'Lord of the Manor' it is established that in the 16th Century it was occupied by the Holyocke family, in the 17th and 18th Centuries by the Rice Family, in the 19th Century successively by the Swains, Goodmans, Oldacres, and in the 20th Century by the Foresters and the Nourishes. Although described in the Stoughton Estate sale brochure of 1913 as a 'first class house' by 1969 it was in such need of repair as to be uninhabitable so was sold off from Manor Farm to a private buyer who saved it from becoming derelict. In the old kitchen he found a lead water tank with the date 1660, which he hoped to preserve but unfortunately it was stolen.

The central part of Grey Ladies, the former Rectory, which was built (or most probably re-built) in the early 18th Century, has ironstone foundations indicating an earlier dwelling on the site. In the Glebe Terrier of 1703 it was described: 'seven bays of buildings for the house and eight bays for outhouses, an orchard, two gardens and a homestead 13 acres and 6 perches.' The portico and additional wings date from 1829 and the grey stucco covering the original red brick was no doubt a Victorian addition. It ceased to be a Rectory when the present one was built in 1930.

*Grey Ladies about 1890*



The major event of this century was the sale of the Powys-Keck (Stoughton) Estate in 1913. In all, the estate comprised of 6,700 acres in the Parishes of Stoughton, Evington, Thurnby, Bushby, Houghton on the Hill, Frisby, Billesdon, Kings Norton, Great Stretton, Little Stretton, Burton Overy, Oadby and Gaulby. Well over 90 per cent of Gaulby, 1,700 acres was sold either to the Cooperative Wholesale Society or the Wyggeston Hospital Charitable Trust. The farms and cottages were all sold with vacant possession, the farmers given 4 weeks notice to quit and the labourers one week, with the exception of one old lady aged 86 living in one of the Alms Houses at Little Stretton, who was allowed to stay.

In terms of modern convenience the 20 Century was late in coming to Gaulby; electricity was connected in 1934 and telephones soon after. The coming of mains water posed a problem because of local opposition; at a Parish meeting on January 3, 1937 the idea was turned down and only agreed to on December 9, 1938 but due to the war and other delays ten years were to elapse before Gaulby was 'on water'.

Before this, villagers had to rely on pumps and wells. There is still a pump in front of Limes Cottage and the Parish pump was situated at the corner of School Lane and the Illston Road, Manor Farm had its own water supply which was pumped up from Bath Spinney.

During the war twelve evacuee children from London were billeted in Gaulby and went to the local school. People from Leicester slept in the cellars of Grey Ladies and Manor House to escape the bombs in the city and one bomb actually fell in Gaulby, in the garden of Carrygate.

## THE SCHOOL

The National (Church of England) School opened in 1875, but as the Census returns for 1841 and 1851 mention two school-mistresses, Susannah Hull and Mary Bird, it may be assumed that there was a school in Gaulby before this. The site was most probably to the right of Tamborough Farm in School Lane. After it ceased to be a school it came to an ignominious end, being used to house chickens and ducks and finally demolished by the CWS sometime after 1919.

The 'new' school was built by H.L. Powys-Keck for children from Frisby, Kings Norton and Little Stretton as well as Gaulby. It opened with 31 pupils, Clara Webster, Ellen Bird, Alice Bird, Ward Bird, Harry Bird, Ada Measures, Henry Measures, Ann Measures, Bertha Measures, Elizabeth Coleman, George Coleman, Walter Coleman, William Coleman, John Nichols, Edwin Nichols and Florence Pride were the first intake of children living in Gaulby.

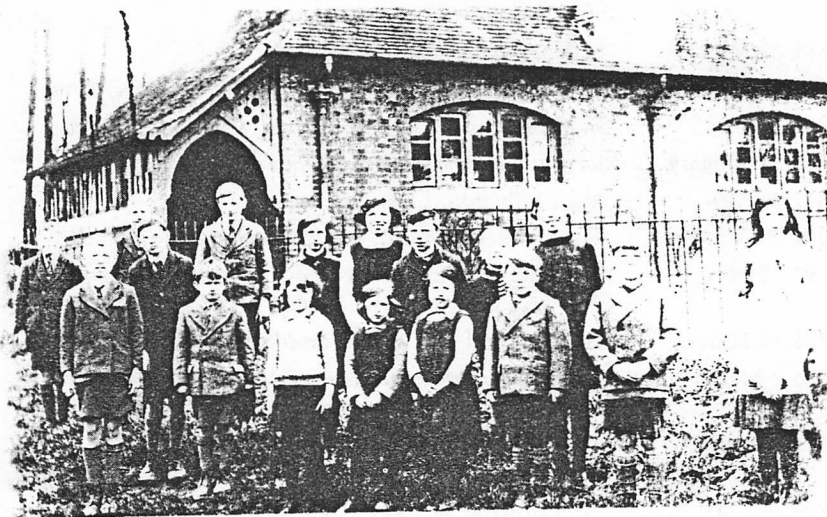


As with most small village schools it suffered from changing rolls which fluctuated from between 8 and 44. Farm labourers and their families were constantly on the move and with several children from the same family in school at any one time, two or three families moving away would reduce the roll overnight, but it soon swelled again when replacement families arrived.

Throughout the history of the school the health of the children seems to have been poor with constant colds, skin infections, nits and frequent infectious illnesses, influenza, whooping cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever and mumps. With intake from four villages it was not uncommon to find several epidemics afflicting the school simultaneously.

School holidays varied from year to year. Summer holidays were geared to harvest time and were in fact called 'harvest holidays', usually lasting four to five weeks, thus having the children free to help on the farms. A week or so was usual at Christmas and Easter with often only a half day at Whitsun. Sometimes there was a half day on Shrove Tuesday and Mayday but a whole day on St. Peter's Day. The day of the annual bazaar at the Rectory was also a holiday as the school had a needlework stall on which garments made by the girls were sold.

*Pupils 1933 including John Fielding, Barbara Woolricks, Amy Williams, Daisy York, Betty Williams, Mary Williams, three Tudor children and Betty Fielding*



One of the most famous pupils from the school was Walter Halls who became Lord Mayor of Nottingham in 1941. He was one of eight children of a Norfolk born shepherd who lived in Tugby before moving to Gaulby. He was born in 1871 and entered the school in 1880 after which he worked as a farm labourer on Limes Farm 'shooing the birds from the cornfields'. From here he went to Leicester where he worked on the railway looking after horses. During his year of Office in Nottingham he revisited his old school and, as his niece Mrs E A Dickens of Leicester tells us 'he put on his robes to the delight of the children and he told me how much he had enjoyed the day'.

The following extracts, some paraphrased, from the school log book reflect the difference in school days then and now and as well give an insight into village life of the time:

1876 19 October	"Children rather backward in reading"
1882 30 November	"Closed school p.m. Special service at the church on the opening of the organ. Oldacres moved into Manor Farm."
1883 2 April	"Extremely backward in all subjects. Arithmetic more especially."
1884 1 July	"Mr. Oldacres and Mr. Adcock visited to reprove the children for several acts of disobedience."
1884 5 September	"Whooping cough and colds. Only 13 present. Infants neglected."
1885 23 March	"School closed one week, Mumps."
1887 21 January	"Some school fees paid by Billesdon (Poor Law) Union."
1889 26 July	"94 % passes in exam."
1890 13 January	"Low attendance. Plough Monday."
1891 29 May	"Most influenza. Closed all week."
1892 29 January	"Three prizes from Mr. Oldacre for best attendance."
1893 12 May	"Mr. Hull of Frisby gives 2 books for good behaviour. Given to Ernest Nichols (12) and Lizzie Lewin (8)."
1895 15 March	"Hounds meet in village. No school in afternoon."
1896 2 March	"Mr Oldacres spoke to the boys about playing in the churchyard and climbing trees."
1899 9 October	"Mr Oldacres (Manager) leaving Gaulby. Presentation of marble clock and cheque."
1900 24 May	"Miss Musson gave each child a bun."
1906 17 August	"Scarlet fever closure on order of M.O.H."
1909 23 August	"9 only present, rheumatic fever, pneumonia, mumps."

1910 20 May	"Diphtheria."
1911 14 July	"Afternoon school closed so they may take tea into the hayfields."
1913 9 September	"Ernest Nichols broke a window of schoolroom at 4 p.m."
1913 11 September	"Policeman came from Billesdon about throwing stones."
1922 19 June	"School library opened with 20 books."
1934 21 April	"Electric lighting installed this week. Mary Williams awarded scholarship to Kibworth G.S."
1939 12 September	"12 children evacuees admitted."
1940 2 December	"Air raid shelter connected with school."
1940 3 December	"Air raid warning."
1941 16 June	"5 cases whooping cough."
1941 4 December	"Pump practice, gas masks on."
1942 26 October	"3 weeks holiday, potato picking."
1947 4 October	"School bus now runs via Kings Norton and Gaulby to pick up 5 for Grammer School (Market Harborough)."
1948 3 June	"Pine tree cut for Maypole."
1950 24 April	"School closed permanently, children transferred to Billesdon school."

## THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, GAULBY

Gaulby has had a Church since the 12th Century. Unfortunately no visible traces of this early building remain but it was there in 1518 as Church Inspection Records of that year state 'the south nave roof and the south wall in need of repair'. The church was rebuilt in the early 16th Century but all that remains from this date, 1520, is the chancel and the communion rail. There is a reference to 'church tower repairs' in 1558.

In 1741 the nave and tower were rebuilt through the munificence of William Fortrey, Lord of the Manor of Gaulby and of Kings Norton. He employed a local architect John Wing the elder whose son (also John Wing) was the architect for the rebuilding of the Church of St. John the Baptiste at Kings Norton in 1761, also financed by William Fortrey. Fortunately the 16th Century chancel survived this rebuilding because the vicar of that time, Thomas Shaw, refused to let Mr Fortrey touch it.

The most striking feature of the church is the tall classical tower surmounted by four large stone pinnacles which incorporate both classical and chinese details. Throsby, writing in 1790, commented on the rich

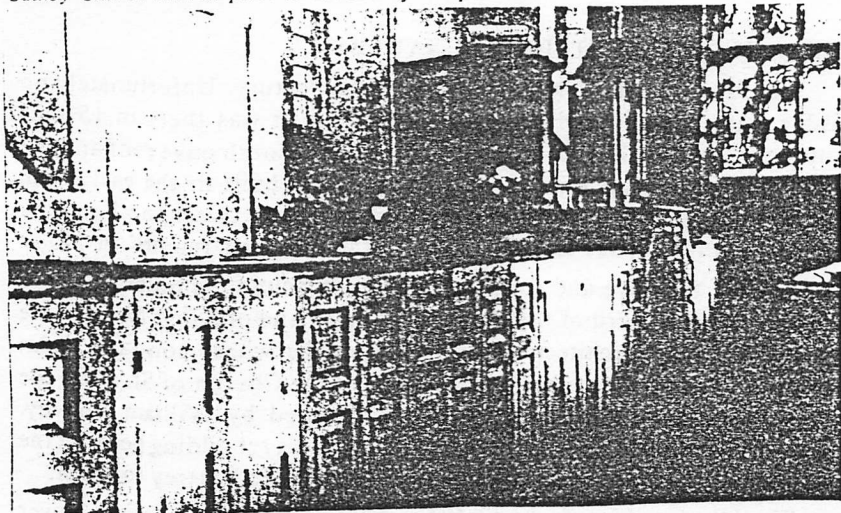
appearance of the tower when seen from a distance but added that at a near view 'it seemed overcharged with whimsical decoration'. The same 'whimsical decoration' can be seen on the tower of the Parish Church of St. John in Peterborough.

William Barton, one of the earliest of the Leicestershire historians, mentions that in 1622 the arms of Burdet, Marmion, Willoughby, Everingham and Haselwood were depicted in glass in the windows. The present stained glass in the chancel was installed in 1912, given in memory of the Rev. R T C Ord, Rector for eighteen years, by his daughter Mrs Bigge.

Under the carpet in the chancel is the oldest memorial in the church. It commemorates Martha Tookey, wife of Thomas Tookey Junior who died in 1612. The chancel and sanctuary contain several mural and floor slabs to former rectors and in the nave is a simple memorial to four men of the Parish who gave their lives in World War I; Ernest Henry Johnson, Fred Measures, Henry Major Taylor and George Glover. Also in the nave is the Dand floor slab which reads:

*'John Dand last issue male of an ancient reputable family whose exemplary piety morality conjugal love and his paternal care in the prudent education and marriage and ample provision for his five daughters, Dorothy, Anne, Frances, Elizabeth and Mary will be memorable to posterity. He died in 1717 aged 90 years'.*

*Gaulby Church interior prior to removal of box pews 1958*



There are few very old gravestones in the Churchyard, most have been removed, lost or destroyed during various renovations, restorations and periods of neglect. One of the oldest, to Frances, wife of Carter Bird, dated 1688 is just by the entrance to the church; another 17th Century stone can be seen under the hollybush to Jane Norton of Frisby who died in 1694. A number of 18th Century stones remain notably to the Dands, the Birds and one to the Rice family, Elizabeth, who died in 1720, among others.

## RESTORATIONS

Although major roof repairs were recorded in 1830, by the 20th Century the fabric of the church as well as the fitments had suffered from neglect and disrepair. The pulpit dated 1643, (last recorded in 1800) had disappeared; the early 19th Century box pews and pulpit were rotten and riddled with worm and the roof was in need of repair.

During a £3000 restoration in 1959/1960, raised by subscription and a generous donation from Sir Charles Keene, a notable resident who was Lord Mayor of Leicester in 1953, urgent work was carried out. The 16th Century ceiling of the nave was retimbered, the lead on the roof replaced by copper and the worm ridden box pews and two tiered pulpit removed and replaced by chairs.

In November 1968 Messrs Jones, Burden and Hall of Kettering wrote in the Visitors Book 'This Church is worthy of better fittings, a great disappointment'. They would not be disappointed seeing it now after the 1983-86 restoration. A simple brass plaque in the Church records this 'during the Ministry of Roger Wakely and due to the generosity of parishioners and friends: 1983-86'.

As the result of a £40,000 appeal launched after the Harvest Festival in 1983 the Church of St. Peter has undergone a transformation due entirely to local support and voluntary efforts. Pews were acquired from All Saints Church in Langport, Somerset, and after slight adjustment look as though they were purpose built. New lighting, replastering and redecorating gives the impression of a well cared for church. It was felt that further improvement could be achieved by replacing the white painted communion rail with oak but it emerged that the P.C.C. had considered this in 1959 when the Archdeacon had said 'they can do what they like but the Communion rail ought never be removed or replaced as it is Medieval and one of the very few ancient furnishings of the church.' Consequently, instead of being replaced the rail was taken for stripping, treating and polishing with the excellent result we have today - surviving yet another restoration.

In addition necessary work was carried out on restoring the bells, the clock, the roof, the walls and the tower.

Bells have rung in St. Peters since Medieval times and the present ones were cast by Thomas Eayre in 1740-1741. A major part of this restoration was devoted to the six bells which were last dedicated in the 18th Century and last rung a peal in 1927.

'The Ringing World' of November 2, 1984 reported: 'After resoration the first peal for 57 years at Gaulby'. It went on to say that the bell fittings had long been considered dangerous and unsafe and on the initiative of the Rector, the Rev. Roger Wakely, quotations were sought culminating in John Taylor and Co., Bellfounders of Loughborough, being commissioned to carry out this work, providing new fittings and tuning the bells.

To the amazement of onlookers blocks were hung, fittings removed, bells lowered from the tower and loaded on to a lorry in just three hours. This, and the re-hanging, was doen by Peter Hayward, Kingsley Mason and Gerald Flatters in their spare time on a voluntary basis.

While the bells were being restored in Loughborough another activity was taking place lower in the tower which involved removal of the unique one handed clock; it has a blue dial face and a bird cage movement with a six foot pendulum and had probably not been in working order for over a century. Parts were corroded or missing and links between church and belfry were almost entirely missing. The dismatling and re-installation of the clock was filmed by the B.B.C. for the Blue Peter programme in 1984. Gaulby is grateful to Geoff Herriks of Oadby and Bob Owens of Ullesthorpe for their voluntary work in restoring the clock.

The re-dedication of the complete set of bells was on September 2, 1984. A joyous occasion when the small church was packed with local people and visitors to celebrate this unique event in the history of the village. At the conclusion of the service the congregation was 'rung out' and the bells were rung again for morning service on September 23 when Clarence Jones, who had rung in the last peal in 1927, raised the tenor bell in peal and Mr Jones still rings the bell.

## **RECTORS AND RECTORIES**

The present Rectory, designed by William Keay in 1930 is the fourth one recorded for Gaulby. The earliest reference to a Rectory is in 1287 when it is described as being 'near to the Church'. Nichols, in his History of Leicestershire, refers to one in 1485 which was on the same side of the road

as the Church. It was leased by the Abbot of Owston to 'Richard Woodruffe (Wooddrof), parson of Gaulby, one messuage with a yardland in the town and fields of Gaulby, lessors to sustain the place in timber and stonework; lessee to leave all other reparations in as good case as he found them or better, after the custom and manner of the town while he is parson of Gaulby.'

As Gaulby was a good living, worth about twice as much as the average Leicestershire living, the Rectory would have been more substantial than most country parsonages. That the Parson was comfortably endowed with the goods of that time can be seen from the inventory of John Terewestell who died in 1546. He had a fine array of brass and pewter, linen tablecloths, towels and sheets which were unknown in the ordinary houses. As well as a dozen silver spoons he possessed a 'mattress, a feyther beyd, a bolster, two pillows, a peyre of blankets and two coverings' for his bed alone. Behind the living rooms of the house were the brewhouse, cheese chamber (with fourteen cheese vats) and the barn containing wheat, rye, malt and peas. His livestock consisted of four cows and sixteen pigs. Obviously he had a good fire a good meal and a good bed when most village people were a long way from enjoying these comforts.

In the inventory of Henry Tookie (which included a virginal) compiled in 1674, 130 years later, it can be seen that by this date the Rectory was much more commodious and comfortable than the rectory of Tudor days, being on two floors with five hearths and five bedrooms. This probably represents a completely new building on the site of the present 'Grey Ladies'.

The first recorded Rector of Gaulby, Thomas de Lullington, was installed in 1219 - there is a list of all the Rectors inside the door of the Church on the right hand side. From then until 1416 there was an unbroken line but in 1416 there were three Rectors in the one year and then for sixteen years there were none. Of the fifty six rectors recorded for Gaulby some remained in the living for over forty years.

Some of the Rectors, all good and godly men it is assumed, were more colourful than others. In 1260 Hugh de Blaby sued Brother Gregory, Master of the Hospital of St. John of 'Leycester' (who held land in the Parish) and other Brethren stating that they pulled down and carried away a certain house of his in the tenure of his Church of Gaulby without his leave and against the peace.

From 1592 to 1647 Gaulby was served successively by three members of the Tookie (Tookey) family. Thomas senior, rector from 1592-1606,

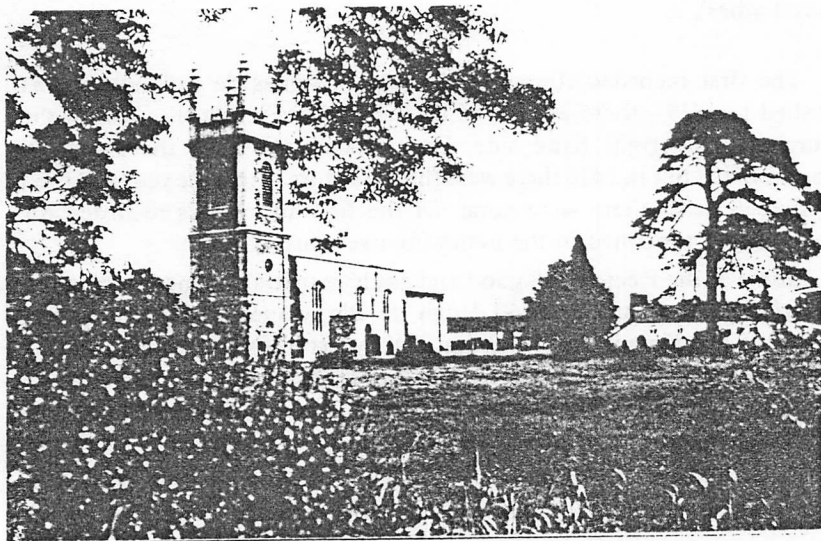
resigned in favour of his son Thomas junior but lived on until 1620 dying a few months after his wife. Their passing is recorded in the Parish Register:

*(That godly matron Bridget, wife of Thomas Tookie sen. who had lived in holy wedlock full fifty four years and upwards; and bare of his body and brought up in the fear of God six sons and five daughters; by who she saw her children's children's child. And September 22, 1620, the Reverend Father, the forenames Thomas Tookie sen so finishing his course, fell asleep in the Lord; whose body was laid in the chancel by his old bedfellow.)*

Thomas Tookie junior was the rector who sought safety in Leicester during the Civil War but he returned and died peacefully in the rectory in 1649. Henry Tookie, who succeeded him in the family living, was deprived by the Commonwealth and did not return to it until after the Restoration in 1661, after which he held it for twelve years until his death in 1673.

There is a certificate in Chancery dated 1638 referring to a sister of Thomas junior. She was not a resident of Gaulby but to his knowledge she was twice married, both husbands living. Unfortunately the first husband returned home after her second marriage!

*Church of St. Peter, Gaulby with Limes Farm in the background*

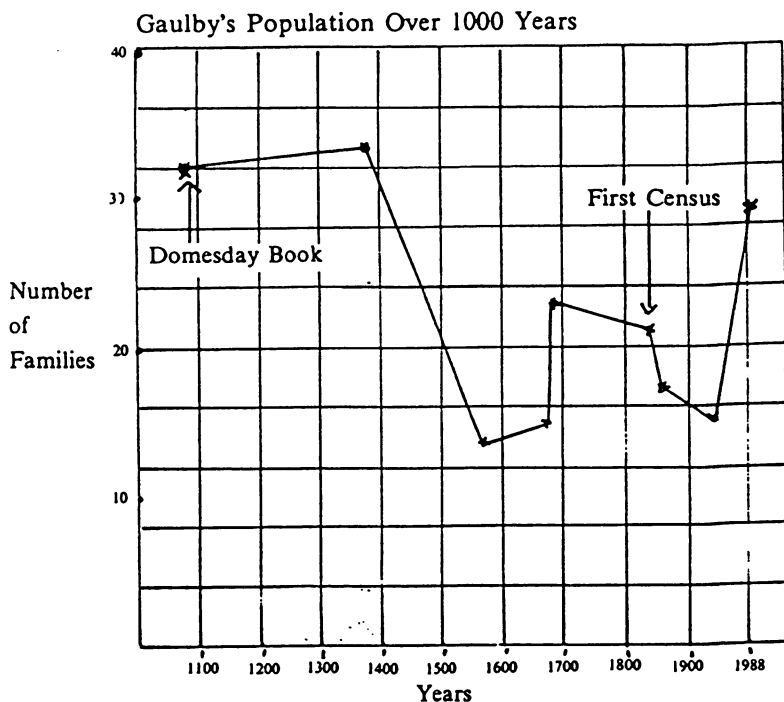




Three Wragges were incumbent at Gaulby, though not in succession like the Tookies. From 1713 to 1727 there was Zachary Wragge, from 1727 until 1737 William Wragge (in 1737 the rector for eleven years was Thomas Shaw). In 1748 James King Wragge became rector for ten years. His marriage to 'Mistress Anastatia Whalley of Norton' is recorded in the Parish Register of 1748. It is interesting to note that Squire Whalley held the advowson. They were a Warwickshire family who achieved notoriety through the exploits of William Wragge, a brother of James King Wragge, who, in 1756 while rector of Frisby on the Wreake, conducted his own 'Gretna Green' marrying parties without banns or license until he was arrested and sentenced to transportation, but because of his advanced age he was not transported, only de-frocked.

The survival of Gaulby Church owes a great deal to Roger Wakely, incumbent 1982-1987, not only for his part in the 1983-1986 restoration but also for guiding the amalgamation of the seven parishes of Gaulby, Kings Norton, Illston, Carlton Curlieu, Burton Overy, Shangton and Little Stretton into one corporate body, thus ensuring its continuation.

Through the years the church has been the only institution to maintain village life, and this is true today when it remains the only public building in the village providing a focus and meeting place for all who live here.



## GLOSSARY

<b>ADVOWSON:</b>	<i>The right of presentation to a benefice or living</i>
<b>BOVATE:</b>	<i>As much land as one ox could plough in a year - varying from 10 - 18 acres</i>
<b>CARUCATE:</b>	<i>As much land as could be tilled by one plough and eight oxen in a year, approximately 100 acres</i>
<b>DEMESNE:</b>	<i>Land held and worked by the owner himself</i>
<b>HOOP:</b>	<i>A barrell</i>
<b>HUSBANDMAN:</b>	<i>A farmer</i>
<b>MESSUAGE:</b>	<i>Substantial dwelling with outbuildings and land</i>
<b>POTSHERDS:</b>	<i>Fragments of earthenware</i>
<b>SERF:</b>	<i>Bondman or slave</i>
<b>STRIKE:</b>	<i>A unit of measure</i>
<b>WATTLE &amp; DAUB:</b>	<i>Interwoven twigs plastered with mud</i>
<b>VILLEIN:</b>	<i>Peasant occupier entirely subject to the Lord of the Manor</i>
<b>YEOMAN:</b>	<i>A farmer cultivating a small estate</i>

*Definitions vary in different dictionaries:*

*I have used the Third Edition of The Shorter Oxford Dictionary*

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*S.P.M. Goldsmith*

*Manor House, Gaulby, 1988*

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