
**November Meeting : Tuesday 10 December 2019
Mountsorrel Memorial Centre at 7.30pm**

**Pat Neal's Christmas Quiz
includes supper and bar**

Museum News

This month we have we have had two successful grant applications:

1. Charnwood Borough Council £600
2. Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society £1200

These grants will be used for future exhibitions.

Whilst researching and planning these exhibitions we have put up two temporary displays on Mountsorrel Shops and Elizabeth Thornton

Mountsorrel Shops

A display case is included of Mountsorrel tokens from the Co-op, once in Market Place and J.L.Crosby a grocery once on Loughborough Road.

There is also a 'Mount Sorell Half Penny' token from a local grocer called Jonas Davis dated 1665.

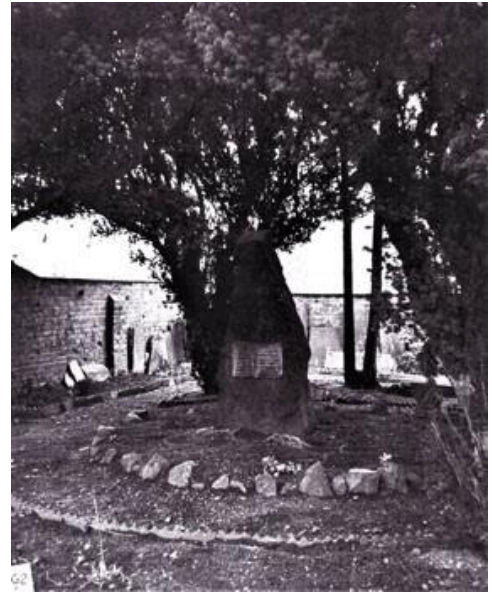


All the tokens are from the Noel Wakeling Collection

Elizabeth Thornton was an early Baptist, born in 1632 who lived in Mountsorrel. She died in 1699 and in her will she left three houses and some land in Barrow to four trustees so that the rent could be used to maintain the Baptist Burial Ground. The burial ground was situated on the corner of what is now Barons Way and Leicester Road. One of the three houses next to the burial ground was converted to a meeting house for Baptists. This house was on the site of the Thornton & Hickling cottages that were demolished and replaced in 1987 by housing.



Thornton and Hickling Cottages



It was known as the 'Back Door Meeting House', its entrance being a corner door at the back in a farmyard. It was a low thatched structure measuring approximately 26 feet by 14 feet. It was being used as a hay barn and the burial ground was used as a wood yard. In 1880 the burial ground, *a shame and reproach to Mountsorrel*, was restored by the trustees. It was laid out with flower beds and a huge block of undressed granite with an inscription in lead letters "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth, wife of Edward Thornton, who died on the 25th June 1699, in the 67th year of her age".

The Trustees of Thornton and Hickling's Charity have erected this memorial, 1880." The memorial stone is still there in the front garden of the building on the corner of Barons Way



In 1987 the gravestones were removed to Mountsorrel Cemetery where they now lie, some in a very poor state of repair.

The Elizabeth Thornton charity still exists, still linked to the Bartholomew Hickling Charity. According to the Charity Commission in 2011 it had an income of £1000, but in 2018 it was zero



Elizabeth Thornton continued

The house Elizabeth shared with her husband Edward was a substantial dwelling. There were five rooms on the ground floor which were: the principal living room, the upper parlour, the nether parlour, the kitchen and the buttery. The buttery was used for brewing beer. When Elizabeth died it contained five barrels and two thralls. There were three bedrooms upstairs and a barn outside.

4 July 1699 : A true inventory taken of the goods and chattels of Elizabeth Thornton of Mountsorrel, widow in the county of Leicester who departed this life 25 June 1699

Purse and apparel ... £5

In the house one table, two forms, four chairs, six cushions, one fire iron ... £1-10s

In the upper parlor one trunk, one table, one cubbard, five chairs, one trundle bedstead, three cushions one stoole... £1

In the nether parler two tables and five stooles, one glass case, one cubbard ... £1- 6s-8d

In the kitching browning vessels, brass and pewter ... £8-15s

In the buttery five barrels, two thralls ... 12d

In the best chamber one bedstead and bedding, seaven chairs, two stooles, two trunks, one box, one chest of drawers, two stooles, two looking glasses ... £5

A chest of linen and plate ... £9

In the chamber over the house one trundle bed and bedding, one press, one coffer, two strikes of malt ... £3

In the chamber over the nether parler one bedstead and bedding, two chairs, two stooles, two boxes and one pinchest ... £4

Wood and cole ... £1-11s-4d

Good debts ... £200

Debts desperate ... £10

Things not found or forgot ... 15s

Total ... £251-10s

Legend

The house was the 'best parlour'

A trundle bedstead was a 'low bed, usually on wheels kept under a normal bed'

Nether 'lower'

A thrall was a 'structure for holding barrels'

A press was a 'large cupboard with shelves'

A coffer was a 'box or chest for storing clothes or other valuables'

A strike was a dry measure, usually 'half a bushel (about 4 gallons), but varying locally'

Debts desperate were 'debts with little hope of recovery'.

Wildlife

A quiet period thanks to the seemingly continuous rain however, elsewhere in the county the winter migrants have now arrived in good numbers so perhaps we will see the Redwings and Fieldfares once more over Broad Hill.

The couple of dry days and nights at the end of November did mean that the Tawny Owls are out calling over Broad Hill looking to pair up for the mating season.



Peace Garden

A big “Thank You” to everyone who has helped this year with work on the Peace Garden which is now really looking much improved from when we started.

First jobs for the coming year (it never stops you know) are pruning the new Pyracantha plant to train them into a neat hedge along the Sibley Road side and generally cleaning down the shoots around the well-established trees.