

**November Meeting Tuesday 14th January 2020
Mountsorrel Memorial Centre at 7.30pm**

The Vikings in Leicestershire

By Peter Liddle

Half Pint Mottle Ware Tankards 1680-1780

Back in July as part of the Leicestershire Festival of Archaeology we did two test pits in Castle Gardens. A large number of bits of brown pot were found in Test Pit No 2.

When Peter Liddle came to look through the finds he suggested they might not be modern and suggested we try and stick them together.

Two volunteers, Pat and Robin spent many happy hours super-glueing and lo and behold two 300 year old tankards emerged.



Framework Knitters – Report of the Commissioners to the House of Lords 1845.

In the 1840's most people in Mountsorrel were employed in the Hosiery Trade as framework knitters or in associated jobs such as winders or seamers.

In the early 1800's low wages, unemployment and new machinery in the knitting industry led to strikes, the Luddite riots and petitions to parliament.

In 1844 a Royal Commission was set up to investigate their complaints. The commissioners spent several months interviewing in the East Midlands.

In Mountsorrel they interviewed four men Richard Jarratt, John Hawkins, Thomas Holland and John Boddycoate.

Jarratt received 17s a week for producing 48 Derby Ribs.

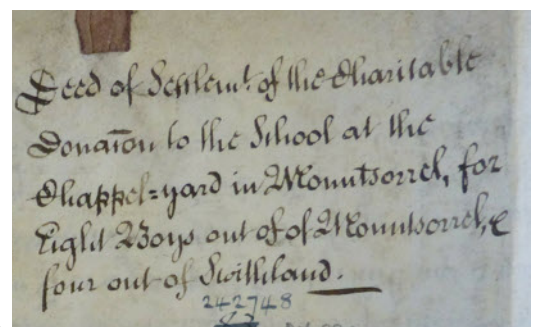
His weekly expenses were 2s 6d frame rent, 6s footing, seaming & winding, 6d needles and 3d candles. A total of 11s 9d leaving him with 5s 3d a week.

He set up a society and which purchased four acres of land for £265 on which the members could grow potatoes. The money was lent to the society by 'Scott of Mountsorrel, a very wealthy gentleman'

John Hawkins aged 45 had had fourteen children but only seven were still alive. He received his wages in flour and bread. By 1851 he was a quarry worker.

The men reported the following:

- At that time there were about 190 frames in the village
- All the stockings produced were exported to China
- Most in Mountsorrel worked through bagmen in Sileby [bagmen were middle men who collected the work and took it to the hosiers' warehouse]
- The children at the age of 5/6/7 are put to winding and seaming.
- They go to Sunday School until about three or four, and then we are obliged to keep the biggest ones to nurse the little ones until they can begin to seam.
- At Danver's free school there are places for eight Mountsorrel boys to receive three years free education from the age of seven or eight. At a cost of 2d a week the school will teach frameworkers' children winding and seaming



Framework Knitters in Mountsorrel



104 Leicester Road August 1966

Back elevation of former stockinger's late eighteenth century cottage with attic workshop for frames.



Leicester Road

Stockinger's workshop



John Hawkins lived in
Watling Street



Danver's Free School



Four Loughborough Road
Joseph Scott's house in 1841



The White House
Joseph Scott's house in 1851/1861

Weather

We've all had more than our fair share of rain this winter and in fact Stormtrack's Mountsorrel Weather Station (www.stormtrack.co.uk) shows we've had 19 inches extra this year but thankfully although it's sometimes come down heavily we have only had a very unfortunate few who've suffered flooding. It was a bit different in 1899 when the Leicester Chronicle reported on 19th August that:

“STORM – A thunderstorm of unusual violence swept over Mountsorrel on Tuesday night at half past eight and lasted about half an hour. In a few minutes the streets became like a mighty river, flooding the houses and causing much consternation. After the flood had subsided the roads presented the appearance of the bed of a river, and much damage is reported.”

And in 1891

Mountsorrel Floods and Frost.

In consequence of the recent rainfall, the meadows here have been extensively flooded, and communication with the railway station at Sileby was stopped in consequence. The frosts of the last few days have had the effect of producing some fine sheets of ice on the meadows, on which several hundreds of the villagers have indulged in skating and other games.



The well named overflow car park of the Waterside Inn 22 December 2019

Wildlife

There are Redwings over Broad Hill, not in as great numbers as in the past but they have at least returned, despite the building work. No sign of any Fieldfares as yet. One bird that doesn't seem to be bothered by the building work, at least during when work is not actually in progress, is the Raven. On New Years Day morning there was one perched atop an upright scaffolding pole calling loudly.



Primrose on Wildflower Meadow 1st January 2020