



# MHG NEWSLETTER

No 55

No meeting this month

## Revival Sunday 14th August

The museum will be open for Revival and we will have book, plant and 'wine or water' stalls in front of the library. If anybody would like to help man the stalls in the afternoon to relieve our volunteers they would be very welcome.

### Rock House

Justin Price, who lives at Rock House, 55 Loughborough Road has kindly allowed us to inspect the deeds of his house. It was built by William Grundy between 1865 and 1868 on what was a farm. The farmhouse was what is now No 19 Loughborough Road. The land belonging to the farm stretched along the main road from the quarry entrance to Crown Lane and back to the road that turns into the quarry at the top of Crown Lane.

The farm was part of the 88 acre 'Mountsorrel Estate' owned by the Spring Hill College charity in Birmingham. They sold the estate in 1859 to William Perry Herrick of Beaumanor Park for £7300.

Prior to the estate being sold the farm was leased by Joseph Cuffling. He became the owner by purchasing it from William Herrick for £1359.

After Joseph Cuffling died in 1865 William Grundy purchased the land fronting the main road for £180. Over the next three years he borrowed money from several individuals and built houses on the land including the Rock Inn where he became the landlord.

But in 1868 he still owed £600 and arrears of interest and the property was sold for £1460 to Charles Barrs and he sold the Rock Inn to



Rock House 1976

a surgeon called Thomas Green for £450. When he died it was passed on to his daughter Francis. She sold it in 1886 to William Pepper for £400 and It was then passed down through the Pepper family until William's grandson, also called William, died in 1964. It then passed to his daughter, Edith Hack who sold it to Gilbert Read for £700. The family also owned No 57 which was sold at the same time Rock House then had several owners until it was purchased by the present owners.

## Two New Cafes

The BOx Kitchen and the Rural Kitchen & Deli [RKD], two new cafes, have recently appeared in the village.

**The BOx Kitchen** was once a pub called the Plough. It was mentioned in the 1767 settlement examination of William Gibbons who declared that he was born in the North End of Mountsorrel where his father's settlement then was, but on Lady Day 1761 he lived in his own house, The Plough in the South End. After his mother died he inherited the Nags Head in the North End. He moved there- but only stayed for two weeks while he employed an attorney to sell the property. It sold for £200. *A settlement certificate was an important document as it proved that you belonged at a certain place and at that place only were you able to seek relief if you fell on hard times*

It was also mentioned in John Duffill's will of 1790 in which he bequeathed the Plough Inn to his wife Mary

Smalley Tebbutt was the landlord in 1832 when it was put up for auction as a public house, lately known as the Plough, but now called the Volunteer. At one time it was also called The Grenadier. Around 1840 William Johnson became the landlord. He was also a carpenter and built a joiners shop behind the pub. In 1855 a butchers shop (now Wintertons, No 85 Leicester Road) was erected next door to the pub. William Simpson took over the butchers shop and later moved it to the butchers shop and his son-in-law John Dilks a carpenter and builder moved into 87b He was there in 1881 and in 1911 and it remained a joiner's premises into the 1970s when it was occupied by Philip Rayner. After that it became 'Homefixer' then 'Sterling Homecare' before the café,



### **The Rural Kitchen and Deli RKD**

RKD occupies two buildings, Nos 91&93 Loughborough Road

#### 93 Loughborough Road

This was a grocer's shop since at least 1871. In 1893 William J Spence, who two years earlier was a wheelwright living in London, took over from a Mr William Smith. In 1901 he was a draper, grocer and beer retailer. He sold beer for 3d a pint, but by 1955 it cost the exorbitant sum of 1s 2d (about 5p) a pint.

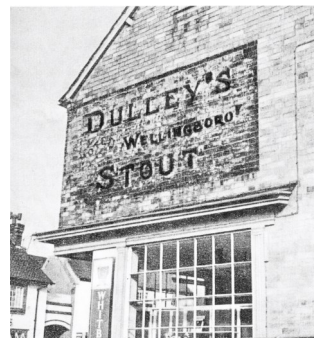
One day a young man was walking down New Road from the Quarry with his week's wages in his pocket. As he passed the shop Mr Spence (known as "Old Spenny"), standing on the step at the door of his shop, called out

"What about that half penny you owe me?"

The young man said "But can you change a pound note?"

"Come into the shop my boy" was the reply.

In 1958 the shop was being run by his daughter, Clara, helped by her sisters Edith and Margery.



#### 91 Loughborough Road

In 1901 this was a Greengrocers shop run by Sarah Newbold. In later years William's son, George Spence, had a cycle shop here. In the cobbled yard at the back he had two large workshops where he carried out vehicle repairs with his assistant, Alan Sanderson. He also owned two open charabangs for outings and transporting football and cricket teams. He later commenced a funeral, wedding and taxi service. The drivers were George, Alan and one of George's sisters.



George Spence with his Austin 20 taxi

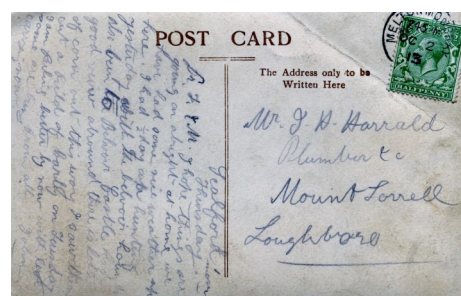
## Censuses

Census data is released to the public after 100 years and the 1921 census has been recently released. National censuses have been carried out every 10 years since in 1801, except for 1941 due to the war. Until 1841 they were used to collect data on population but not information on individuals.

The records of the 1931 census of England and Wales were completely destroyed by fire in 1942. They were not destroyed by enemy action and it is not known what caused the fire. The only suggestion at the time was that it was caused by a lighted cigarette thrown down by one of the six fire watchers employed to guard the premises.

At the outbreak of the war national identity cards were issued to all UK residents and the information was retained so we do have a 'mini 1939 census'

Prior to 1914 houses in Mountsorrel had no numbers making it difficult to know who lived where. The only identifiable places were pubs, chapels, shops etc. Postmen managed ok because they probably knew where everyone lived. Note the address on the postcard posted in 1913. However in January 1914 at a parish meeting they decided to name the streets and number the houses. The Clerk stated that 333 number plates and 25 street name-plates would be required. It was resolved that the main street be known as Mountsorrel North-end and Mountsorrel South-end and that all owners of property in the parish be written to asking permission to affix the number plates.



There not much information relating to the population before 1801, but in the 1500s and 1600s there were probably less than 100 households in Mountsorrel. Around 1700 it was about 140 households. It has increased rapidly recently

Year	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1871	1911	1970s	2022
Pop	1233	1502	1422	1692	1536	1596	1935	1685	4000?	9000?

---

### Is anybody old enough to remember Derek Fry?

We have just received this email via Sue Templeman.

Hi just to touch base with you. I was living in Mountsorrel during the war, I was about 9 years old. We were evacuees from London. The family we lived with on the main road thru the village had a son around my age and we used to go to the US camp at Quorn and collect washing from the soldiers there. My friends mum did washing and ironing for the troops. We used to travel by bus to collect it. The soldiers used to give us food and chocolate, large dried apple in tins and dried milk in tins amongst other things. The chocolate was about 1 inch thick and it was hard to break a bar. They also liked english cigarettes, weight and woodbines which were 5 in a packet and also some stronger ciggys, no tips, cant remember their name. Probably Players full strength. They gave us chewing gum and Lucky strike, Camels and other brands in exchange. which our parents could sell and help out with the food rations. I went to the local school and used to climb up to the war memorial every day from my back garden then over to school.

I now live in Spain and am 87 years old. I do hope some of my memories help your museum.

Kind regards

## Mountsorrel Football

Football in Mountsorrel appears to have started at an earlier date than in other villages in the district. In 1874 owing mainly to the efforts of the schoolmaster, Mr A W Turner, a club was formed in connection with St Peter's school. He provided the team with their first football. For some time the football consisted of games between scratch teams of mainly Mountsorrel men and boys, watched with envious eyes by youths of other villages. They soon became proud owners of goalposts, made by a sporting labourer at the quarry. They had red tape tied along the top to serve as the crossbar. Money was scarce and they usually played in mufti and could not even afford shin guards, an essential at that time when robust methods were in vogue and the whistle had not come into its own. After two or three years, as there were no other teams in neighbouring villages, they played two sides in Loughborough. They were the Athletic who played on the old Greyhound field and the Olympic who played on the field close to the Midland station. In the late 1870s clubs were formed in the neighbouring villages. On one occasion when they were due at Hathern there was only one regular player, George Clarke, available. A frantic effort was made to raise a team and men were persuaded to make the journey irrespective of their football qualifications. The brake drove off through the village they gradually received reinforcements until they had 11 men and one faithful supporter. They lost 13-0.

About 5 years later a match was arranged to raise money for a Quorn man who had had a serious accident. The Mountsorrel men wore red coats borrowed from the grooms at the Kennels while the opposing team were rigged out as clowns. In the early 1890s Mountsorrel entered the North Leicestershire League and when this was disbanded they were one of the first clubs to join the Loughborough and District League. One of the most prominent players was 'Roger' Palmer, the right back and captain for many years. A useful forward was 'Algy' Scott who later turned his attention to the handling code and played for the Tigers. Another forward was 'Bang' Neal' one of the finest footballers Mountsorrel has ever produced. A dead shot with either foot, probably the most prolific scorer in local football at that time. He later paid for Leicester Fosse. Mountsorrel did not enjoy a lot of success at this period and in 1910 the team folded. The following season it was revived and the name of the United was adopted. They entered the Loughborough and District League and did well until the outbreak of the war. At the end of the war the club reformed and the next few years were the most successful in their history. They won the Loughborough Charity Cup and the league championship and were admitted to the Senior League, winning the Sileby Ex Service Mens Cup, the Rolleston Cup and finally the Senior League championship. During the greater part of their career Mountsorrel played on the ground behind the Bull and Mouth, which was headquarters of the club. The depression in local football in the mid 1920s was also experienced by Mountsorrel and in 1926 the oldest village club in the district was compelled to haul down their flag.

*The above was taken from an article in the The Echo dated February 1st 1935*

In 1929 Mountsorrel Town disbanded and was replaced in 1931 by Mountsorrel Amateurs who had Dr Maitland Gibson (the former Leicester City forward) as their president. They had no ground early in their first season but by September were using the Cufflins lane ground where they beat Mountsorrel United 3-0. In November they should have been playing a "Derby" match against Mountsorrel Athletic at their Cufflin's-lane ground, but it was cancelled owing to a number of the Amateur players wishing to visit the Springboks' match at Leicester.

## Wildlife

The heat and lack of rainfall (apart from the odd notable shower) have baked out the Wildflower Meadow well in advance of when we normally scythe and the grasses and flowers really look ready for haymaking but that will have to wait until after Revival. The dry weather though has had the benefit of holding back the more rampant late summer growth of bindweed and briars which we had already knocked back by selective weeding out. The other benefit of the weather has been the number of butterflies and moths that have been on the wing, appropriately enough as the last week of July and first week of August is the "Big Butterfly Count" run by the charity Butterfly Conservation. We have been able to note, Small White, Large White, Common Blue, Comma, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Brimstone (they fly in both spring and late summer), Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock in the recording period.



Navins Wildflower Meadow  
6th August 2022

**The Leicester Evening Mail on Thursday 14 August 1930 ran an article summarising the trustees' reports fo the various Mountsorrel charities:**

Ralph Smalley Charity

80 parishioners received a sum of money on St. Thomas' Day

Bartholomew Hickling's Charity

The customary gift of a Bible, presented by the Parish Council was made to Mr. Watterson

Education fund

£50 for scholarships tenable at any Leicestershire Secondary School

£5l to Barrow-on-Soar rating authority in relief of Mountsorrel's general poor rate

£5 grants of to each of the local elementary schools Christ Church and St. Peter's

Eleemosynary Fund

£27 to the vicar of St Peter's church

£3 to Mountsorrel Nursing Association

£3 to Leicester Royal Infirmary

£3 to Charnwood Forest Convalescence Home

Castledine Charity for maintenance of Alms Houses

£70 for the inmates

John Mitchell's and Thomas Rawlins' Charity

A disbursement of coals to 71 needy parishioners.

**Leicester Daily Post - Wednesday 19 August 1903**

**ACCIDENT AT MOUNTSORREL WORKMAN SERIOUSLY INJURED BY A FALL OF CLAY**

While working at the Mountsorrel Granite Company's new bridge in Wood Lane yesterday afternoon a workman named Hands of Barrow was buried by a fall of clay. and severely crushed about the head and shoulders He was conveyed to the quarry hospital and attended by Dr. Paulson. He lies in a critical condition

**Leicester Daily Post - Wednesday 12 August 1903**

**SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST A MOUNTSORREL YOUTH**

Yesterday morning at the Loughborough Police Court before Mr W C Burden a youth, Robert Hawkins aged 18, of Mountsorrel, was charged with an offence under the Criminal Law Amendments Act.

Annie Wakeling, the complainant, said she was 15 years of age and lived with her grandmother, for whom the prisoner had been accustomed to chop sticks. Ten months ago he had made improper proposals to her and she eventually gave way. Her condition had led to her conduct being detected and when questioned by her grandmother she admitted all.

Prisoner was remanded until Wednesday bail being allowed.