



The Griffin

ISSN 0383 7335 *A publication of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia*

Vol..16 - No. 4

DECEMBER, 1991

WINTER PROGRAMME 1991-2

Unless otherwise stated, regular monthly meetings of the Heritage Trust are held on the **THIRD THURSDAY** of each month at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, at 8.00 pm.

THURSDAY-DECEMBER 19, 1991 Join us for an evening of Christmas Nostalgia with Appropriate Refreshments. A FESTIVE VICTORIAN EVENING.

THURSDAY - JANUARY 16, 1992

Details on enclosed flyer

THURSDAY - FEBRUARY 20, 1992

Details on enclosed flyer

THURSDAY - MARCH 19, 1992

Details on enclosed flyer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Celebrate **HERITAGE SHOWCASE** at Bayers Road Shopping Centre on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1992** with special presentations arranged by various Nova Scotian Historical Societies including Heritage Trust.

And don't forget the Annual General Meeting in June Time to start thinking about nominations for Board of Trustees and Executive.



BOOK LIST

Researching a Building in Nova Scotia	\$4.95	(05.07.90)
<u>An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings in</u> Nova Scotia		(05.07.90)
Lakes, Salt Marshes and the Narrow Green Strip	\$8.95	"
A Sense of Place (Granville Street)	\$4.95	(01.04.91)
West House, Brunswick Street, Halifax	\$7.95	(21.03.90)
Rogers' Photographic Advertising Album - Halifax 1871	\$9.95	(01.04.91)

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PAIR OF TRINDLES, HISTORIC PROPERTIES.



MAINLAND SOUTH HERITAGE SOCIETY PROJECT
A HERITAGE CALENDAR FOR 1992

The recently formed Mainland South Heritage Society has produced as its first project, an interesting calendar illustrated with 12 early photographs of Armdale, Jollimore, Spryfield, the Northwest Arm and Herring Cove, each accompanied by a brief description. There is lots of space to record daily engagements.

The cost of the calendar is \$5.50, proceeds to go towards the start of a photo archives based at the Captain William Spry Community Centre. Calendars can be picked up at several locations in Mainland South or delivered to your door - just call Marjorie Swingler at 477-9655



ART GALLERY OF NOVA SCOTIA FAMILY WEEKEND:HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA WALKING TOURS.

On Saturday, November 2 and Sunday, November 3, the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia organized two self-guided walking tours of historic downtown Halifax as part of the AGNS's Family Weekend. The theme of this Family Weekend - the Art Gallery's third birthday in its present location - was "Mozart's World". The centrepiece for this weekend was the outstanding 18th century exhibition in the gallery entitled "Mozart's World" which focused on the European world that Mozart knew.

Dr. Janina Konczacki, a member of the Trust's Board of Trustees, suggested to the Art Gallery that the Heritage Trust complement this weekend by giving historic walking tours of early Halifax. In addition she suggested that the Chairman of the Trust Walking Tour Committee be Heritage Resources Chairman Julie M. Ross, who is also a member of the AGNS's Special Events Committee. And so, in conjunction with the Special Events Committee of the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, a Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia Walking Tour Committee consisting of Blair Beed, Doris Butters, Arthur Carter, Pamela and Louis Collins, Brenton Haliburton, Philip Hartling, Pauline Hildesheim, Janina Konczacki, Don Patton (President of the Heritage Trust), Bonita Price and Julie M. Ross arranged for two self-guided walking tours and for ten buildings to be open free of charge to the public from 1-5pm on both days.

Walking Tour #1 was entitled Halifax's Early Domestic and Public Architecture. It included buildings such as Keith Hall and the Black-Binney House on Hollis Street, two of the Fraser Terrace townhouses on Bishop Street (one belonging to the lawyer Janet Morris and the other to the architectural firm of McFawn and Rogers), two former manses of St. Matthew's Church (the Stoddard House at 1361 Barrington Street and the second manse at 1355 Barrington Street) as well as the Jairus Hart House at 1340 Barrington Street and St. Matthew's Church.

Walking Tour #2 was 'billed' as Shops, Warehouses, Breweries and Churches of Colonial Halifax and it included not only the Sperry-Mitchell Building at the corner of Prince and Lower Water Streets

and St. Paul's Church and the Grand Parade, but also the Brewery Complex, Historic Properties, Granville Mall East Side and Barrington Place.

The 11" by 17" layout for these walking tours was designed by Arthur Carter and the descriptions were arranged by Julie M. Ross. Publicity for the event was set up in conjunction with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. Mention of our tours was included in their Calendar of Events, the Family Weekend flyer which had a wide distribution, articles in the Entertainment section of the Mail-Star and several media events.

We were very privileged to have Mr. Bruce Oland agree to give a "mini-tour" of Keith Hall for the CBC's "Information Morning" program on November 1, 1991. This very interesting and informative 'tour' created a great deal of interest in our walks and we received over 60 calls in connection with it. That same evening, on CBC television's "First Edition", the Black-Binney House was featured as one of the houses on the tours.

Despite the inclement weather on both days of the Family Weekend, many people took advantage of the tours, particularly the house tours. And it was very heartening to see people of all ages from the very young to the very old moving in and out of the houses obviously enjoying themselves.

That sense of pleasure came not only from seeing the buildings themselves but also from the informative tours and friendly presence of our guides (over forty both days) which were on hand in all the buildings and historic complexes.

We wish to thank the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia for allowing us to be part of this important event and for all the associations, companies and institutions which opened their buildings for these tours, and which in some cases supplied staff to keep them open. Thank you again to all the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia volunteers who helped with this important event. And thank you Mr. Bernie Reardon, Director of the Art. Gallery of Nova Scotia for inviting us to come back next year!

Julie M. Ross - Chairman
Walking Tour Committee.





Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia

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HERITAGE TOUR MAY 1991 - A VIST TO
MARY ARDEN'S COTTAGE -

Mary Arden's house, the home of Shakespeare's mother, was indeed a highlight of the tour for me, and I'm sure for many others of the group. Our guide Nick Carter gave us a most informative insight into the origins of some words and phrases in the English language, but so quick in imparting his knowledge that it was almost impossible to digest it all.

For instance, the word BOARD - originally a plain board set on trestles usually in the centre of the room, the rough side used for eating, the polished side for other functions or for 'show'. When reversed after a meal the crumbs would fall to the floor. Some of the derivations: an unexpected overnight guest would be offered food and a place to sleep - on the 'board' - hence BED AND BOARD BOARDER, BOARD AND LODGING etc. Sometimes games were played on it - BOARD GAMES, with hands kept on top of the table at all times to prevent cheating and so we have EVERYTHING ABOVE BOARD.

In early times only the master of the house had a chair (in his absence his dog sat on it!) the mistress and children sat on stools and servants stood to eat. He was CHAIRMAN. Decisions were made around the table which gave rise to expressions such as CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD; a group of decision-makers held a MEETING OF THE BOARD, the room itself eventually becoming the BOARD ROOM. I asked about the word 'sideboard' and the guide said he was coming to it but never did. However, my imagination had already decided it was beside the Board - hence a SIDE BOARD (take it or leave this one - purely unofficial)

The scum on top of the beer was used for raising the bread. Bottom crusts (most likely to be burned) were given to the servants who ate their meal on it and then the crust itself. Top crust went to the master - hence UPPER CRUST. In later years square wooden plates known as 'trenchers' were used, from which we get expressions such as a SQUARE MEAL, and a GOOD TRENCHERMAN (a hearty eater).

In early England the mud floors were covered with straw left from threshing - 'thresh'. To cover dirt and food droppings more straw was spread on top, a raised step in the doorway - THE THRESHOLD - held the straw in place.

During those early times a small hole or holes would be left in the walls of a building to allow air or wind to come in; 'wind holes', from which we get WINDOWS. Later, when they found that cow horn soaked in vinegar and water for a period of time could be peeled in thin, near-transparent strips, they covered the holes, letting in light but keeping out some of the drafts. These strips were also used to protect the candle in a lamp - so 'lamphorn' became LANTERN

We have all heard the term "Merrie Englande", and merry it must have been. As water from the farmyard well was likely to be polluted with manure from the animals roaming near the house, and with household waste, everyone drank ale. It was brewed several times and the weaker beer given to the children - even babies were weaned on weakened beer. According to the records the wife was allowed only eight pints at each meal, with two meals a day. If she was found drinking more, she could be beaten with a stick 'no larger than the thumb' - hence RULE OF THUMB.

Each household made its own ale- the housewife usually the family brewer with each seeking the reputation of being 'a good alewife'.

The early mug, known as a piggen or piggin was made from peeled oak bark - a large one for the master, a smaller one for the missus. At noon when the farmer took a break from his labour in the fields, he would send his servant back to the farmhouse for ale, commanding him to "Fetch me a piggen and whistle all the way back" (so the lad couldn't take a sip). Eventually the phrase was abbreviated to "PIG-N-WHISTLE - a name popular with so many English pubs.

Meat, vegetables, barley etc., whatever was available that day was thrown into the pot, and this has come down as a POTLUCK meal.

When animals or fowls were slaughtered, nothing was wasted. One use for the fat was to smear the body to keep it clean! The Church played an important role in promoting cleanliness by requiring parishioners to attend the spring festival on the first Sunday in June after taking a bath known as "a sweetening". The baths were large tubs with sometimes two or three persons in the tub at one time - seniority down the line to servants. From this came the nursery rhyme RUB-A-DUB-DUB-THREE-MEN-IN-A-TUB Church records show that most weddings took place in June!

There were considered to be two stages in a woman's life - that of the unmarried maiden, whose life was not complete and that of a wife; with marriage the circle was complete (wedding band or ring - the motif shown in the decorative carvings on her household chests as partial or entire circles)

COURTING was the term used when nobility courted a young maiden; in the middle class it was known as SPOONING, and in the lower class, WENCHING. When a middle class lad went to call on his lass, he sat at one end of the high-backed bench by the large open fireplace, and the girl sat at the other with her father in between. A 'serious caller' was offered a piece of wood from which he would carve for the girl a betrothal spoon, depicting things of importance to her - SPOONING.

A final tid-bit: in those early days lighting was by rushlight - a reed dipped in mutton fat and clipped into a metal bracket fixed at the front of the hearth so that the fat dripped into the fireplace. The rush was lit at the ends and from using both ends of the rushlight came the expression BURNING THE CANDLE AT BOTH ENDS.

Mary Arden's house, built in the early 16th century of local stone and timber, has seen over 4 centuries of rural life. We visited the small tenant-farmer's house at the back (called a 'glebe') now filled with kitchen, farm and other household implements from the time of Mary Arden to 1930 when it became a museum. The barn, with its working forge adds to this picture of rural life over time. Beautiful flowers and shrubs were blooming in a small plot in front of the house, itself covered with flowering vines. We were also given a fine display of falconry by the young man who trains the birds to hunt. The stone dovecote has over 600 nesting holes.

Hope you enjoyed reading this glimpse into the lighter side of history, as I did on hearing it.

Daphne Faulkner



Treasurer's Report 1990

Although the statement of income indicates that revenue increased by almost \$21,000 it is a deceptive figure as our major funding source is our own funds. Nevertheless real improvements were shown in the area of program and tours and in particularily as a result of our distribution arrangement with NIMBUS.

Increased expense can be attributed to the new research efforts for registration, new efforts by the Resources Committee in documenting our history and to our current efforts regarding Brenhold and related provincial legislation.

The excess of income over expenditure is due to the increase in the operating fund, derived from transfers from our own funds, that was experienced during the reporting period and should not be taken as an indicator of underexpenditure.

Turning to the balance sheet we show a slight decrease in total assets. The decrease can be attributed to a \$8000 decrease in the share value of the Colpitt's investments. It should be noted however that our income from these assets increased during the period. The high cash balances during this reporting period also represent a decreased income due to lower rates of return paid on cash or short term deposits. The finance committee has taken steps to consolidate our investments that should rectify this situation.

However the persistence of this situation I believe has demonstrated that the Trust should review its operating and management procedures. The structure of the organization with a large Board and, in terms of attendance, an almost as large executive work against the timely dispatch of routine business as meetings tend to be dominated by the crises and causes that often confront us. Many voluntary organizations probably encounter the same difficulties. Perhaps during the next year the Executive and Board should review our situation.

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
Statement of Changes in Capital Fund Balance
Year Ended December 31, 1989.

Balance Beginning of year	577830.97
Income	28301.25
Less Transfer to operations	34149.05
Balance End of Year	571983.17

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
Statement of Income and Expenses and Operation fund balance
Year Ended December 31, 1990
(With comparison for 1989)

Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia
Balance Sheet
December 31, 1990
With comparative figures for 1989.

	1990	1989		1990	1989
Income:			Current Assets:		
Transfers from Investments:	29500.	20078.25	Cash	7044.06	1548.80
Colpitts:	4649.05	4227.75	Investments		
Tours / Program	5729.7	1246.	Cash	61947.19	88998.26
Membership	5011.12	5034.04	Investments	336535.98	315332.71
Donations	182.78	124.	House	173500.	173500.
Publications	3431.90	43.08	Total Investments	<u>571983.17</u>	<u>577830.97</u>
Grant (Research)	3130.	-	Total Assets	579027.23	579379.77
	51634.55	30753.12	Fund Balances		
Expenses			Capital	571983.17	577830.97
Tours / Program	5768.22	2213.10	Operating	7044.06	1548.80
Projects / Research	1013.11	562.76			
/ Crises	7983.06	2730			
Donations	8507.85	2729.26			
Print / Post / Newsletter	500.	2200.			
Rent	3151.23	2396.72			
Other Office	2784.	3042.			
President's Fund	4654.47	2892.20			
Travel / Conference	2396.55	1189.45			
Resources	1275.65	1472.25			
Awards	4384.14	300.			
Miscellaneous	-	80.75			
Macdonald (Net)	3720.29	1432.32			
	46138.57	32126.12			
Excess of income over expenses	5495.98	(1373)			
Operating Fund, Beginning of year	1548.08	2921.80			
Operating Fund, End of year	7044.06	1548.80			

A FEW REMINISCENCES OF HERITAGE TOUR
OF MIDLANDS ENGLAND, MAY '91



Part 1.

"Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May"* - and that they did; nonetheless the darling buds survived and were in full bloom when our Heritage Tour group arrived on its three-week tour of the Midlands and South Wales. Being fresh from the bare trees and barren ground of Nova Scotia, our drive from Heathrow to Royal Leamington Spa was almost a shock - leafy green trees, flowers everywhere and the blinding gold of rape fields. Streets were lined with Japanese Cherry like overstuffed pink cushions, massive Horsechestnuts white with 'candles'; gardens aglow with colour, and hedgerows and ditches snowy with Hawthorn and Cow Parsley. In recent years many field hedges had been destroyed to create huge fields for the easier manoeuvring of today's cumbersome farm equipment. However I did notice that roadside hedges have been restored or preserved and the banks sown with the little Red Poppies and blue Cornflowers we used to look for among the gold of ripening wheat. Cowslips too are making a comeback.

Our hotels were all comfortable and well-run. Three were 'period pieces' - The Regent in Leamington, the Lion in Shrewsbury and The Feathers in Ludlow. The Dolphin in Swansea was more commercial.

The Regent, built in 1819 had a most interesting history from the height of the Spa's popularity in the mid-1800s to its use by the Ministry of Transport during WWII when its minions mixed camouflage paints in the baths. And speaking of baths - the "Old" Regent featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the largest hotel in the world when it was built, with 100 bedrooms and one bath!

Famous visitors include the Prince Regent who gave leave for the hotel to bear his arms and crest (three white plumes and the words "Ich Dien" - I serve); the 11-year old Princess Victoria who stayed there in 1830 (when Mum brought along the Princess's own bed); a year or two later the Duke of Gloucester, and - on the 150th anniversary of the grant by Queen

Victoria of the Royal Warrant entitling the town to be known as Royal Leamington Spa - a visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The hotel exterior is quite plain, the main rooms spacious and luxurious. Beautiful stained glass windows glow with colour at the head of the stairs where the staircase divides into two, leading to modernized bedrooms. During our stay at The Regent we made the acquaintance of the owner Mr. Frank Cridlan who invited us to visit his home in Warwick on the occasion of our day there.

In Shrewsbury it was The Lion, old and charming but lacking the warmth of The Regent. The Feathers in Ludlow was a private residence in 1603, before becoming an inn in 1656. Its attractive and unusual exterior is patterned in black and white panels of crosses and diamonds the upper floors extend over the street, the windows of the three large bays being of small lozenge-shaped panes. Our modern bedrooms were ornate "20th century-Mediaeval" and boasted curtained four-poster beds!

Enough of hotels - what of the tour? Nina Konczacki had - as usual - arranged a well planned itinerary of castles, cathedrals and churches, of stately homes and gardens and enchanting little villages, this time including several fortified manor houses of the Marcher country along the border of Wales and England..... In the 8th century following the Saxon conquest which drove the Celts into the Welsh mountains, a 70-mile-long 35-foot-high earth embankment was thrown up the full length of the border to check possible invasion by the Welsh princes. At frequent intervals along this dyke fortified houses were built as border outposts and thanes appointed to provide defences for the Kingdom of Mercia (now the Midlands) ruled by the powerful and ruthless King Offa. In the original Saxon (German) the name was "Marka" from which the word "Marcher" was derived ... Those who served King Offa were rewarded

* Sonnet #18, William Shakespeare.

with a barony and granted a house and land - hence 'the Marcher Barons'. A Celt caught on the English side of the dyke had a hand cut off for the first offence, to be caught a second time meant he was never seen again.

We began our tour at Charlecote, built in 1558, the home of the Lucy family; it was Sir Thomas Lucy the First whose deer young William Shakespeare was alleged to have been caught poaching.

In my giddy youth I had often peered through the West Gate of Charlecote Park along the famous avenue of limes to the stone-trimmed rose-pink brick facade, with its octagonal towers and strange little cupolas. This time I was actually able to go inside. Despite the 'Romantic' exterior I found the interior rather heavy - a bit overblown - in particular the "Warwickshire Sideboard" once described as "a masterpiece of genius and skill". It completely dominated one wall - a huge carved oak depiction of 'The Progress of Agriculture'. A three foot long deer and a rabbit tied by their feet to a pole decorate one side of the back, a huge fish and vegetable group the other. Animal heads, trailing leaves, cone, grapes and even symmetrical patterned borders adorn almost every square inch, and a centre panel of well-fed cherubs dig, hoe, harrow and roll to illustrate every phase of early cultivation. All most skilfully done, but what a conglomeration!

Of most interest I found the outbuildings, wash-house and brewery with six foot high vats each with built-in steps for the worker to reach the mouth of the vat. Charlecote also possesses one of the 'busiest' coats of arms I have so far seen.

Nearby St. Leonard's Church, although not built until 1850, contains the 17th century tombs of three Sir Thomas Lucys, each with remarkable carved effigies.

Stratford-upon-Avon - barely recognizable as the place where I spent my three-day wartime honeymoon - is now highly commercialized but still fascinating. The 16th century sites of the Museum Complex are well restored, the one I found most enjoyable being the Arden Farmhouse at Wilmcote,

the home of Shakespeare's mother. Here we were treated to one of the best guided tours of the trip by a charming young man who gave us an in-depth look at country life in the 1500s. He delighted us with his derivations of modern words and phrases from ancient ones; Daphne will be writing these up for the Griffin.

The Glebe Farm, it's 'yard' cleaned up and grassed, has been preserved intact and houses old farming equipment and bygoners. Included is a falconry where raptors are still trained for hunting. We watched a demonstration.

The name "Stratford" is taken from the 'ford' of the 'street' across the river. When the town developed as a trading centre following the granting in 1196 of its first charter to hold a market, the ford was bridged over, to be replaced in the 1400s by the solid stone bridge which still carries road traffic today. Its builder was Sir Hugh Clopton the wealthy mercer who became Lord Mayor of London in the reign of Henry VII.

Ragley Hall I enjoyed enormously. Its grey-white Palladian exterior is beautifully balanced, its interior light and pleasant. Designed by Robert Hook in 1680, the interior remained unfinished for 50 years when James Gibb designed the wonderful plaster decoration in the Great Hall. The present owner, the 8th Marquess of Hertford (pronounced 'Harford') lives and works at Ragley - he came through a couple of times while we there giving us a blue-eyed wink and a cheery smile.

Quite the most outstanding area ("outrageous" did someone murmur?) is the South Staircase Hall. Ceiling and walls are painted in the most amazing trompe-l'oeil style I have seen in a long while. The flat ceiling appears to be an open-topped dome through which is seen the Mount of Temptation with Christ at the moment when the devil offers him the world. On the landing painted balconies show the family one side, and the four children with their godparents on the other, all in quite natural poses; one woman is pointing upwards at a small object in the next panel - a flying saucer!

On the ground level artist Graham Rust was given a free hand and apparently enjoyed his commission. Animals, birds, flowers and themes from Greek literature stand out from the walls - at the foot of the stairs a brown and white puppy peers over the garden parapet. Peacocks strut, a squirrel nibbles an acorn over one doorway, a bright-eyed black monkey holding a melon slice sits on the lintel of the opposite doorway; two ornately framed mirrors appear to be set in decorated niches. I could not tell for certain whether or not the huge shell over the double doors was plaster or paint - or the rather startlingly-black bust of a Negro between two cherubs trying to catch a butterfly. Overdone? Perhaps. But I loved every scrap of it.

The River Windrush still meanders the length of the main street of Bourton-on-the-Water, but many of the little Cotswold stone houses are now trendy boutiques and a perfume factory and train museum have been opened. There being no access for a coach to the next-door hamlets of Upper and Lower Slaughter, we walked over a little bridge and around these tiny unspoilt villages. A tributary of the Windrush, the Dikker - wanders down the centre of Lower Slaughter to the Old Mill at the end of the road.

Snowhill Manor was owned by Wincombe Abbey from 821 until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 when it passed to the Crown. In Tudor times it was owned by monarchs and 'persons of high degree' including Katherine Parr. The main part of the house dates back to c1500 with 17th century additions and alterations.

Its contents today beggar description - the most unusual collection of vanished handicrafts and everyday artifacts from the past one could ever see. Apart from 26 suits of Samurai armour of the 17th to 19th centuries and a number of oriental pieces, the rooms are filled with clocks, cabinets, carpets; equipment for spinning, weaving, lace and cloth-making; nautical gear and models of ships and farm wagons, plus '100 wheels' in the attic. One of the most notable collections in the world is that of musical instruments from the 1700s to the 1900s.

Charles Wade who bought the house in 1919 (motto: "Let Nothing Perish") garnered everything he found of interest. There being no room in the manor he moved into the old Priest's House in the courtyard - built his own 'cupboard bed', installed the quaintest of bathroom facilities and no doubt enjoyed his nook in the large recessed fireplace with its built-in iron stove which boasted two bake ovens. An architect, poet and craftsman, independently wealthy having inherited sugar plantations in the West Indies from his father, Wade was able to spend all his time browsing, buying and restoring his collectibles. He also laid out the hillside garden with its terraces and ponds, garden ornaments and plants.

Warwick - I was surprised to see - had not changed all that much. The Castle still towers over the Avon as it did in 914 AD when Ethelflaeda, daughter of Alfred the Great raised a mound of earth crowned with a wooden fort to protect the settlement from the Danes. Warwick, its Castle and its Earls - Beauchamps, Dudleys and Brookes - have been closely involved in England's history in both war and peace. The Castle is a treasure house of memorabilia through the ages - from the turret rooms to the underground dungeon; the latter a terrible place of torture and incarceration of Royalist prisoners. Not everything though is quite so serious - a couple of paintings in the Dining Room have massive gilded frames sporting carved suits of armour, assorted emblems and the usual well-nourished cherubs, one with a yard-long trumpet sticking out across the face of the princess in the painting; a complete suit of armour for a five year old prince, who if he ever had to wear it on a hot day must have stewed inside it; and the enormous soup cauldron once used for a party being filled four times with rum, brandy and other liquors!!

I admit to a slight feeling of shock to learn that Madame Tussaud's now own the Castle. I expected a hint of ...fairground sideshow? Kitsch? However their innovative tableaux of "An Edwardian Weekend" I found interesting and nicely done. The Prince of Wales (later George V) was a frequent visitor and the Countess of Warwick known to be his 'very good friend'. The wax figures are strictly to scale, the features modelled from photographs, accurate in detail, including background and costume. At least one

dress, a known favourite of the Countess', is original. Dame Clara Butt singing to a select gathering in the salon, is realistically portrayed at her actual 6'2" height; a footman proffers a note to the Countess in her boudoir; a maid draws a bath; a nursemaid carries a long-gowned infant along a corridor, and the Earl, a young Winston Churchill and the butler stand (as is only proper) in the presence of the Prince seated on a couch in the drawing room. Femininely elegant pink lace shades adorn the table lamps.

More than a few lines is necessary to adequately describe the charm and history of other sites in Warwick, but Lord Leicester's Hospital is worth a mention.

Lord Leicester's Hospital (a word which originally meant 'hospitality') was founded in 1571 by Robert Dudley, favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, as a home for ex-soldiers of his personal army; now, however, it also includes the wives of ex-servicemen. The hospital is built around a courtyard with carvings on the timber uprights of shields, heads and bears. Each bear holding a 'ragged staff' in a different position (Bear and Ragged Staff, or rough tree branch, is Warwickshire's emblem)

The Guildhall is now a museum of military artifacts e.g.- watchmen's half-moon stools, which would tip over in any direction should the watchman doze off; breastplates so heavy that if the wearer fell in battle he was unable to rise unless he discarded his 'protection'; a light brass helmet with leather insert to hold the metal away from the soldier's head, otherwise his brains would fry in the hot sun of the Middle East; knobbed maces carried by priests who were not allowed swords or guns, and pikes, muskets, swords etc. aplenty. One quite unusual piece of equipment was an early clothes wringer - a heavy (4x4) wooden frame and two rollers operated by a large spindle on top wound around with rope which, when pulled, fed the wet sheets through the bottom rollers - water cascading all over the floor.

This being the day we had been invited to afternoon tea at the Cridlan's, we walked to their home in Mill Lane - three small cottages joined together forming one delightful whole. - where we were served tea by Mrs. Cridlan, a handsome and very gracious lady. Before leaving we were escorted by

Mr. Cridlan around their garden, a charming and colourful retreat unseen from the street.

Mill Lane has another garden, at the river's edge in the shelter of Caesar's Tower - "that impregnable wall in a massive man-made cliff"* . A beautiful little place glowing with colour. Close by is the 'romantic ruin' of the 14th century toll bridge partially demolished when George Greville the Improver started his fine new bridge in 1780. The old stocks used for punishment of persons caught evading payment of the tolls, are now part of the garden decor. Above the former ford a dam raised the level of the river high enough to provide power for two mills - now only the millrace remains.

We met 84 year old Mr. Measures who had planned and constructed this peaceful little haven and still handles the lighter work. He lives in an old white-painted brick cottage in the grounds, where recent restoration work exposed a cache of small coins - tolls not handed over to the Earl? While we stood at the water's edge two Canada geese honked past to settle on a broken branch high up in a tree on the opposite bank, on what appeared to be a nest.

Worcester Cathedral is magnificent, its colourful history dating to pre-Roman times. Remnants of the many changes and additions can be seen in the nave with its wide Roman windows one side and narrow Gothic ones on the other. Victorian influence can be seen in the spandrels on the South side, while on the North they are Mediaeval. Victorian restoration proved to be less solid than it appeared - slipshod - cheap iron cramps used in the pillars expanded and rusted causing cracks to open up.

In the crypt where part of the exterior of the original Roman East end can be seen, ends of column shafts with thick mortar joints below the capitals indicate that they were damaged and uneven at the time the later building was erected. In 983 Bishop Oswald founded a Benedictine monastery with a church dedicated to St. Mary, which soon became the cathedral church of the diocese. After his death and canonization in 992, Oswald's shrine became a place of pilgrimage and the body of one - the Worcester Pilgrim - is on display in the crypt.

* "Warwickshire" : Vivian Bird

(to be continued)

KINWARTON DOVECOTE -

Dovecotes or pigeon houses have been built since Roman times - perhaps even before that - and as pigeons 'lived off the land' - the cost of keeping them was minimal. Their droppings provided a prized fertilizer; it is said that in Persia pigeons were kept for the sole purpose of providing manure for melon growing. When meat for the winter had to be salted to keep it from going bad, the young bird made a welcome relief and a cheap source of fresh meat. In medieval times pigeons were used for medicinal purposes, and many unpleasant cures existed for which these birds were used.

The building and owning of a dovecote was restricted to the Lords of the Manor, both temporal and spiritual, but the crops the birds fed on were those of the tenant-farmers. This injustice caused considerable friction, which in England led to court cases. In France, resentment was so great that it contributed to the discontent which resulted in the Revolution.

The Roman version of the dovecote was usually a large circular building and it is thought that the Normans introduced this to

England. The earliest free-standing one in England is dated 1326. The advantage of the circular design was that nearly every nest hole could be reached by means of a central pole pivoted at the top and bottom, each a little ahead of the other, the outer edges of which supported a ladder. The change to square dovecotes might have meant that to build a round one with timber would have been too much of a challenge. At Snowhill where stone is plentiful, they built a square dovecote which we saw later in our tour. It has been estimated that in 1631 there were 26,000 dovecotes in England. Many have disappeared, but others are cared for by private owners, the National Trust, Museums and other Trusts.

Kinwarton stands in what was the Rector's glebe (this would have been a tenant-farm of the Rector's) and belonged to the Abbeey at Evesham about ten miles to the south. It is a circular stone building and its 'ogee' doorway could date it from the 13th century. The walls are three-and-one-half feet thick and are plastered on the outside. There are more than 580 nesting holes set into the thinly layered limestone walls, arranged in 17 tiers with a continuous projecting stone ledge on which the birds can alight,

Daphne Faulkner





The Trust office is now
staffed by volunteers -
on MONDAY mornings, and
TUESDAY and THURSDAY
afternoons. So
do phone or drop by, to
buy a book or just for
a chat.



NEXT DEADLINE --
February 1, 1992, for
March issue.



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