

CALDECOTT

RUTLAND

Population 252

Area 1,102 Acres

1 Telephone Kiosk

1 Sub Post Office with General Shop

Early Closing Wednesday 12 Noon

Buses and trains serve the village for Uppingham, Stamford and Market Harborough.

Rockingham Station is twenty yards over the County border, in Leicestershire.

"Rockingham names me, Caldecott claims me
But Great Easton owns me"

Church of St. John the Evangelist.

No charities but two old ladies benefitted from Lyddington
Bede House Charities as recently as 1930's

This little Guide Book has been compiled as a result of several meetings and conversations with the older natives, from books in the County Library, from authentic Maps and Charts, from searching of Church Registers and Overseer's Account Books and from the Curator of the Lincoln Archives.

People in the village who have been the chief sources of information are:-

Mrs. Brewster

The late Miss A. Brooks

Mrs. Close

Mrs. Downes

Mrs. Vice

Mrs. G. Ward

The late Mr. G. Brooks

Mr. S.M. Brown F.R.S. Chairman Uppingham R.D.C.

Mr. J. Stanger Vicar's Garden, Lexton, Verger

Mr. J. Stokes

Mr. J. Ward

Mr. A. Wignell Farmer, Chairman of School
Managers

Also Mrs. A. Wignell née Stokes and Mr. J. Bradley - not natives.

The village, formerly also Caldecot, Caldecote (Spode), Caucot (1576) and Cawcott, is one of the seven Caldecotts of England and Wales.

It lies at the extreme South of the County, where Leicestershire and Northamptonshire meet the Rutland border.

The houses are attractive and well built - many are still thatched and belong to the 16th, 17th, or 18th Centuries. It can be seen that many earlier buildings have been attached to houses and to garden walls. The builders have used the nearby ironstones, oolitic Northamptonshire sandstone of a delightful tawny, honey and amber shade, some also with a purple tinge. The house corners are strengthened with a harder superior Weldon stone. On some houses thatch has been replaced by Collyweston slates and there, the new roofs are considerably lower than the gables. By the dates it can be seen that many houses were built during the Civil War 1642 - 49 and in the reigns of George II and III 1727 - 1820.

Caldecott lies on the Nottingham to London Road A6003 and on the North Bank of the "Little Eye" just before it joins the River Welland. The village is of indefinite plan, lanes running here and there from the bisected Village Green.

The Little Eye not infrequently floods and has been known to rise over the main road to a depth of 40 inches. On the road the floods last only a few hours but on the fields near the Welland they persist, leaving in their wake alluvium, which has made the Welland Valley one of the richest in the Country. It is said that, even abroad, this great grazing district is known as the Vale of Plenty.

Societies

1. Welland Valley Whist League, Caldecott Branch - founded over 50 years
Cup won 1954.
2. Parish Council. Founded December 4th 1894.
3. Women's Institute Founded 1926.
Has won many honours for Cookery and Handwork.
Has given widely to Charities, especially to Leicester Royal Infirmary.
Gives Pensioners' Suppers and Outings.
4. Concert Party. Founded 1931.
Has raised large sums for Charities, here and in other villages. Gives
Operas and Plays.
5. British Legion.

6. Jam Centre. Founded during the war for duration.
7. Ladies' Tuesday Afternoon Club. 1957.
Does all kinds of handwork for Fete and Bazaar.
8. Choral with Rockingham. Founded about 1935.
9. Sunday School. Present one begun 1940.
10. Youth Club. Formed May 1958.
Includes First Aid, Drama, Dancing.

11. I.V.S.

Former Clubs:-	Cricket	Tennis
	Football	Choral
	Country Dancing	Dancing Club

Meetings

Monday	Choral at Rockingham Castle	
Tuesday	Whist League - Castle Inn)	In Winter
	Concert Party - School)	
Wednesday	Various, occasional	
Thursday	1st in month Women's Institute	
	4th in month Women's Institute Committee	
	Youth Club First Aid Classes - in winter	
Friday	Youth Club or Social Function	
Saturday	Youth Club or Social Function	

Church Services

Alternate with Rockingham - 11am and 6.30pm

Annual Events

January	W.I. Party
March	Concert by Concert Party
May	"May Day" by School children - occasional
June or July	Outing for Pensioners, arranged by W.I. (last three years)
July	First Saturday. Fete, Wykhana and Flower Show by Village Hall Committee and Parochial Church Council
	Children's School Sports
	Children's Outing
September	W.I. Flower and Produce Show (two years) Caldecott "Feast" Whist Drive
December	Children's Christmas Party Children's Concert (usually)

To find the interesting parts of Caldecott we would like to take our visitor on a CALDECOTT TOUR and assume he is coming via Uppingham. He travels south until he reaches the cross roads and from the 400 ft high hills sees the magnificent views along the valley in which the village lies and the broad ribbon of the Welland winding its way Eastward to Stamford, Spalding and the Wash.

Continuing a little further, he sees a milestone "London 87 miles". To the right is a lake and 30 yards farther on is a field on the right, where the water is just passing from view. That field, known as Short Furlong, is the first in Caldecott and as our tour begins here, we beg our visitor to pause and gaze.

To the left, in the valley, is the ancient village of Lyddington, of which Caldecott was originally a Chapelry. Its squat spire and twin hills, Bee and Priestly, are clearly seen and beyond, veering a little South, is the magnificent eighty-two arch Viaduct, built one hundred years ago over the Welland floodland to carry the London to Scotland train. If the late afternoon sun is shining, the traveller will be as thrilled as our American visitors to see distinctly every cyclamen shaded arch of brick, clear cut and definite, though four miles away.

Again to Southward, is the pretty village of Gteton, seen dotted about the West side of the Northampton Uplands and behind that, just on the horizon, part of Rockingham Forest has been hewn down and Corby ironstone diggers are at work.

Due South is seen the ancient Rockingham Castle with its surrounding terraces and parkland crowning the hill. This is the home of Sir Michael Culme Seymour, a direct descendant of the Edward Watson of Lyddington who took a lease of the Castle from Henry VIII. Sir Lewis Watson, his grandson, bought it from James I in 1619 and completed the restoration. Sir Michael also comes from a line of honoured Sea-men, one so renowned that Gates at Gibraltar bear tribute to his memory. In the Marseilles, the familiar name out there gladdened the heart of many a local sailor. His wife, Lady Faith, is a direct descendant of Sir Edward Montagu, whose daughter married Edward Watson and also of the great Admiral, the Earl of Sandwich, knighted on board ship when he was bringing Charles II back to his rightful throne, as Pepys tells us in his Diary.

William the Conqueror built the Castle on the site of a previous British and Roman one and used iron, it is said, for arrow heads. It has been recently established that there, in the Great Hall, in 1095, the English Parliament was really born, for William summoned there a two-day Council of Nobles, Bishops and Clergy, to meet and settle a dispute between himself and Anselm, Archbishop

of Canterbury. Twice in the course of the deliberations, the Archbishop, having been left alone during the consultations, was found quietly sleeping with the wall for a pillow.

Almost every succeeding monarch, to Elizabeth I (who was lost in the forest there and, when guided by a Corby man, granted a fair to that village) has visited the Castle. It is exciting to think that many of them have passed along this very road, some bound for Scotland. King John left the Castle on his last fateful journey to The Fens. Edward I was here many times, one room being called "Queen Eleanor's bedroom" and he spent five days there when his Queen died.

Hereward the Wake was stabbed in Rockingham Forest. From the Forest, in hard winters, the deer escaped across the Welland to Caldecott and thrilling chases for poachers ensued.

Turning again to the South-West are the pretty hillside villages in East Leicestershire and, if we step into the bounday field on the right, seven churches will be visible and the lovely picturesque Eye Brook Reservoir lies at the traveller's feet. The brook comes from Tilton Hill, 639ft up and has a daily flow of many million gallons. It was dammed in 1937 to provide water for the fast growing Corby Works. An Act of Parliament allowed the blocking but 700,000 gallons per day were to be allowed through for those fields dependent on the water. Its area is 400 acres and the capacity 1,781 million gallons. It is a pine fringed rendezvous for the Saturday afternoon peace loving holiday maker, a fisherman's joy and a bird watcher's paradise. It abounds in salmon trout, mallard, widgeon, swans, mute and bewick, teal, coot, snew, pochard, goldeneye, tufted duck, pintail, heron and, looking like a snowdrift, ornithologists tell us, are often as many as 25,000 seagulls at a time. A delightful run of about seven miles takes one right round the reservoir and through three villages, one of which is Caldecott.

Lastly, looking North-West behind us, is the little lakeside village of Stoke Dry, where once the Digby family lived and owned. One of them became notorious in connection with the Gunpowder Plot, partly hatched, it is said, in the little room above the Church porch.

Returning to the road, we are now again on "Turnpike" as the old people call the road and we are reminded of stage coaches rattling along between Leeds and London, three times a week, the post boy playing "The days we went a gipsying". One dark night, we are told, the village post master, a little

merry, flung his own 'bags' through the window into the mail bag, the mistake was not discovered until they reached "The Green Dragon". One newspaper was bought and shared avidly by those who could read.

We pass Galley or Gallows Hill where many a poor starved sheep stealer has kicked his last. Field roads East to Lyddington and West to Jtockerston and come to the fascinating site of the lost Saxon village of Snelston. This high view point may have been the original settlement, from where the river could be watched should Viking raiders come. Also there were all life's necessities fuel, food from woods and streams, clay for vessels, wool for clothing, abundant springs of drinking water, the Eye Brook behind and the Welland in front, for transport. Aerial photographs show that these queer shaped humps and bumps in the field are definitely earth works and probably there is a buried street formation leading right down to the road. The traveller may mount the field hill without trepidation, the farmers are very kind. Limestone walls can be seen, remains of buildings, a windmill mound and, from records, we know a church was here, probably St. John's. The font for many years was in a Caldecott garden but, unhappily has been transferred to Northamptonshire.

It is not known whether the village "died out" in the Black Death 1348, or whether it was abandoned when the arable land was given over to pasture when the Flemish weavers had shown England that fortunes could be made from wool, or whether the Great Plague wiped the village out in 1665. That is thought to have been a stone coffin with lid grooves has been seen within living memory and covered up again. Local men, cleaning dykes have found pottery and coins - one a Stuart - and in the last century a coffin containing jewelry was found on the opposite side of the road.

The episcopal lands are often mentioned with Caldecott but it was owned, in 1243, by Emma de la Legh and went in dower to John Gray of Whitwell Manor, Ketton. (See Characters)

The last known entry "1654" mentions only Snelston field.

Proceeding to the crest of the hill, one can see again the southern half of the boomerang shaped reservoir and the dam. One half of the latter and one hundredth of the former are in Caldecott, from where the "Hobbijohn" field was submerged. Here the view is superb but we are sadly reminded of Guy Gibson and the gallant fighter pilots who practised here before their historic attack on the Mohne Dam. For a succession of evenings they thundered low round our Church spire, then dipped to the reservoir and up would go fuchsia coloured flares as the 'target' was hit. Then, after one Saturday,

night, they came no more and history tells the rest of the glorious epic but our hearts ached in Caldecott.

The Old Vicarage

Badly, we retrace our steps to the main road and see through the trees, a quarter of a mile away, a square, strong building. "In 1860 the Rev. T.W. Gilham had a handsome new rectory built with 47 acres of Glebe Land". This was to be the new home of the Vicar of Lyddington cum Caldecott. The stone was the lastoolitic limestone to be quarried from Uppingham Road. Mr. Stanger, the groom who drove Vicars between to two parishes, tells vivid tales of the stately life of fifty years ago. The Rev. Brooke-Brown, the last Vicar, left in 1931, when Caldecott was joined with Rockingham and both livings fell vacant for about eight months. The present owners are Mr. and Miss Cox of Kettering who bought the estate from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Just before the A6003 turns East into the village are two fields on the right, called "Windmill Close" and the Windmill Paddock, where Caldecott Windmill stood on an eminence on the edge of the ridge, as shown on the 1800 A.D. maps. It was a great oak post, fitted with an iron pivot and sails which swivelled to catch the wind. Below the post were buildings for stores and machinery. It was dismantled about fifty years ago and the post and doors were brought down to the water mill in the village.

On the bend is "Smoky Row", home of Mr. Chris Keightley Senior, whose name is one of the oldest in Caldecott, being spelt as Cateley and Kately in Church Registers and, in the Overseer's book :-

Caitley's girl for calling two meetings 4d.

(Smoky Row, within living memory, was a cycle and repair shop. In 1979 the Keightley family is still there. One of the older ones, sadly deaf and dumb, is in a Ketton Home.)

Then we reach the corner of Church Lane where are six Council Houses built in 1921. At the far end, in an enclosed yard are five houses called "Burgess' Row". This had previously been a crew yard and stables, where very good horses were kept. Miss Burgess, of Cottingham, was the owner until recently.

The long, low, wooden building now confronting the traveller, is the newly acquired Village Hall, whose story could fill a book to itself. It stands on the "Black Horse" site, the yard of the old country inn which stood in the next lane and was once the only building in the 'village' and so, should have

been a 'museum piece' with its stout inner structure and little oak doored cupboards going thirty inches back into the wall. It was sold and pulled down in about 1935, having been last occupied (as a dwelling house) in 1927. The Village Hall Committee came into being after a meeting in the school when Mrs. Vice decided to let the Mill Hall as Garage premises after the tragic death of her daughter. Village efforts raised the money and Messrs. Stewart and Lloyds Ltd. very generously gave us the huts then standing on the Pumping Station ground. They had been hurriedly erected for men working at the dam but, that work finished, they became obsolete. The cost of demolishing, removing, rebuilding etc. was £1,400. The Grand Opening Ceremony was performed on April 27th 1955, by Mr. Menzies Wilson of Messrs. Stewart and Lloyds, when refreshments and entertainment were free to all villagers and friends of the village. Now the ground is being prepared for seed by the kindness and generosity of the Director of the Northants Water Board and Mr. Hinch. We hope for a dignified Community Centre for many years to come. The inside, decorated by Mr. Chris Keightley Junior, for a very small sum, looks gay and attractive. The Government Officials, pleased with our efforts have just given us a substantial grant for equipment.

The Garden House or Priest's House

Before leaving this lane, one must take a look at a house in the garden, reached by going a few yards towards the church, turning right and along a garden drive-way. This tucked away gem seems as if it had seen much better and more dignified days. Could it have been a dower house? or a Presbytery? The height, alternate layers of Northampton stone with a superior whiter one, inside a lovely white marble fireplace, were built for no ordinary cottage dweller. The thick thatch and well built barns speak of former affluence. The kitchen has the enormous oak fireplace into which seats could be put in the chimney. There are enormous hooks and bars for flitches and pots. Upstairs is a priest or chimney hole, big enough to hide a man - or haunches of venison - the walls on the landing on the second (?) floor are Tudor - whitened plaster striped with oak. One of the bedroom doors has the kind of fastening one associates with the Bonnie Prince Charlie heroine. The old people say the house was last lived in by a refugee family from the French Revolution. After that it became a butcher's shop, then the War-time Jam Cantre 1939 - 1945. Now, alas it is a poultry house. (In 1978 - 79 renovated as a home).

Continuing down the Black Horse Lane, the traveller arrives at the old Village green, once known as Cross Bank, scene of many a feast and

revelry. Annually, on the first Sunday after 19th. September, Feast Week began. Roast beef on Sunday, Hash on Monday, Thrummerty (boiled wheat and honey) and "Methlegin" in the week. Here and in the Old Plough Yard were roundabouts, shooting galleries, stalls of brandy snap, presents to be won, spinning wheels, darts, donkeys - and black eyes. It was the highlight of the year but petered out in the 1920's, moving to Pitts Meadows and was last seen, very reduced, in 1931.

On the Green stood a "King Stone" with a Cross but the stones of the former were thought to have been put as quoins in the Black Horse wall - which eventually became unsafe and was demolished in 1956. There were also Stocks which disappeared in 1835. The Green was probably cut through when the main road was diverted round the village instead of by the Church and it was paved in 1949 to keep visiting motorists from making a car park of it.

We are now coming to some of the oldest part of the existing village. On the corner house above our heads is a blocked in Cheese Window. The little cattle lane is now known as "Post Office Lane", as the house at the top was the second Post Office (kept by Mr. Rimmington, late of the Army in India). Ivy, his daughter, was for many years Church organist, very talented. Behind the house is a gate-post containing the stone weight of the Church clock, taken out fifty years ago to exchange, as the clock was not keeping accurate time.

The delightful house with the Chile Pine and "W.W. 1774" was until 1932 a shop with counters, canisters and the old world scent of a village store, where tallow and cheese, paraffin and resinous wood, made a delightful mingled aroma and outside, a notice:-

H. B U R C H N A L L

DEALER IN

TEA TOBACCO
AND SNUFF

Next door, roofless now and also owned by the Woodcock descendants, is the derelict Congregational Chapel. This was originally a woolcomber's shed, where the workers combed down the hanging fleeces with spiked gloves. In 1789 (Geo. III) is a record:-

"We whose names are underwritten do recommend the bearer,
Richard Trueman of Caldecott, to the Justices of the Peace

at Quarter Sessions as a person qualified to be sworn as a wool winder according to the directions of an Act of Parliament passed last Sessions. C.Peach. W.Gibson. Hy Shield."

Wool trade had been protected after 1340 and no-one might be a wool winder unless he were furnished with a certificate from the Justice of the Peace at the Sessions. The last known woolcomber was James Ougden.

Later, the building was used by Mr. Moore as a "Stays" factory and eventually it became a Chapel. In 1829 a return had to be made of all the places of worship other than the Church of England and records state:-

"From Caldecott, one Independent Decenters' Chapill, attendance 40 to 50".

(From 1672 the Dissenters had met in licensed private houses. One was Thomas Langdale's 1672 and another Francis Smith's 1789). The chapel closed in 1920 but in 1939 became a centre of great activity in the War. Fitted with a telephone it became the A.R.P. Headquarters under Mr. Baden Wright and was continuously manned. The ladies met there for Red Cross meetings. The old benches were there and fire grate and a great green tarpaulin draught sheet.

Next is a house with P.W. 1640 at the gate and 1651. Peter and William Woodcock were a family of graziers of very good standing, very respected overseers and wardens. Peter, on 2nd May 1639, promoted an Action in the Court of High Commission against Robert Rudd M.A., priest here for forty eight years, more keen on "sordid occupations" than on his Church, "served a thatcher with thatch on a Sunday", was accused of neglect of duties and contempt of office, "wearing only a threadbare coat with four skirts and no surplice". He preached against Nebuchadnezzar and all graziers, after Woodcock had accused him. When the parishioners were kneeling at the Communion rail he would take away the Bread and Wine and dispose of it to his own use. Sometimes he would draw away the Cup from the Communicant. Rev. Rudd was forced to pay a fine of £100, make public apology and be deprived of his office and a curate was to be provided who was to have a competent stipend from the profits of Rudd's Vicarage. Two years previously Peter Woodcock had given or changed the Church plate, consisting of a cup and paten of silver, marked with the maker's mark D.G.30. Each bore, round the rim "Changed this Cupp by mee Peter Woodcock of Caldecott in the County of Rutland this 30th day of June 1637, added to it 48d".

In the barn at the back of the house, a great feast was held for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1897 when great arguments went on as to whose was the original tithe barn. Malting was carried on in the Crew Yard. This

Meadow Farm is now occupied by the Billson family (see Personalities) and owned by Sir Michael Culme Seymour.

Passing down we come to Mill Lane with its ancient cottages whose backs are perilously near the water's edge. One new house seems out of place among so much antiquity but the original, where Miss Brooks once held a little school, was burnt down in 1944. Here was also Bates Dam which kept the water from overflowing into the lane and a little further along, an earlier water mill.

At the end of the lane is the Manor House, with a Fire Insurance Plate of the Yorkshire Insurance Co. 1824. There is also J.S. (John Stokes) 1695. William le Queux wrote about the Manor House and thought there might be a secret passage to Brighthelmston. It is thought that a former Manor House might have stood here, for, in the next property, belonging to Mr. W. Wignell, one of our main sources of village information, is a mediaeval dove-cot, shed or rick-shaped, in perfect condition, with roosts for six hundred pigeons. As only the Lord of the Manor was allowed to keep pigeons, this was probably his estate and of considerable extent. Quite near to it, where Wignell's house now stands, was a long, low building, known as the poor house.

Retracing our steps along Mill Lane, we are reminded that along here, opposite the new house, stood a row of cottages whose stone was used to build the organ chamber in the Church in 1908. We arrive back at the main road A6003.

The Garage premises here were once a Mill which carried on a big wholesale trade. Here is the loft, in good condition, up to which the corn was hoisted before chuting down to the grindstones. One can still hear the sound of rushing water dashing over the weir and the mill wheel is still visible, also the tall mill chimney. The working mill was once given to Miss Vice of Blaby and Mr. Burchnall as a wedding present from her father. Later, Mr. Leonard Vice possessed it. Eventually, in 1910, grinding ceased. After some time, when a new floor had been added, the Mill premises became the Village Hall, with ante-room cum billiard cum refreshment room and a chandler's shop at the side. When an ex-serviceman wanted the premises in 1945 and Mrs. Vice's daughter had met with a tragic death, the premises were let to Mr. Knights and negotiations for a Village Hall were begun. Half an old grindstone forms the step of the house and over the door is an old sun dial. It is said that before it was a mill, the premises, or the adjoining house, were "The Sun Inn", perhaps when the mill stood higher up the brook. At the back of the premises are the doors from the old Uppingham Road Windmill and the post stood for

many years in front of the mill.

The field adjoining the Mill is Pitts Meadows where there is a ford and where gravel was once dug. It is the field where a weather observation balloon recently fell, where the new sewage pump is to be, where an unexploded bomb fell in the War and the locality had to be evacuated for forty eight hours or so and where Caldecott's last little visiting fair was held.

On the other side of the road, near the confluence of the Eye Brook and the Mill Race was a Bleaching Ground and, until recently, in the home of Miss Annie Brooks, was a linen sheet, handwoven and bleached in Caldecott.

Quarter Sessions Geo. IV 1821:-

"No person be allowed any relief on account of any child above nine years of age who shall not be able to spin Linen or Woollen".

The two arch bridge was built by Scotts in the early nineteenth century. Formerly there had been a ford, not muddy enough to impede the progress of Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln in the thirteenth century, when he became mudbound half a mile farther on and collected money for the bridge there. Recently the Council has added a footbridge for the safety of pedestrians, particularly schoolchildren.

Crossing the Eye Brook, which is now about a mile from the Reservoir, we come to the Southern Boundary of the County and Parish and to "Toll Bar". Here, at the corner where Ellis and Everard's shed is, was a hut and toll gate, let annually to a toll-keeper. Saddle horses were 2d. waggons 3d. Local cattle went through free. A local tradesman used the rough, damp, ford field crossing rather than the gate when taking his gravel into Leicestershire.

Recently the local paper reminded us "A hundred years ago a Drayton man was fined for jumping the toll gate to avoid payment". Mrs. Jim Ward's ancestor was the last to keep the toll gate.

The County Boundary, running most of the way from the reservoir with the Eye Brook, leaves it near Pitts Meadows, crosses "Toll Bar" field at diagonal, then across the Great Easton road to behind Ellis and Everard's shed, continues the oblique line across A6003, across Castle Inn yard, into Walton's field and on to the River Welland.

Retracing our steps to the Mill Garage along the A6003, we see on the left, two ancient cottages, supposedly three or four hundred years old, with huge oak planks for bedroom floors and with quaint little nooks.

On the right hand side is a row of what at first sight might be thought to be stables but, facing Rockingham, this was once an attractive cottage, home of Caldecott's first Post Office, a sub-Post Office of Rockingham, from where, previously all Post Office business was transacted. Then it became "Miss Raine's School" before the Board School was built. Before, children had attended Rockingham School and earlier even walked to Corby, itself a very small village then.

Adjoining Miss Raine's are the stables in which were born "Playfair" and "Forbra", which both later won the Grand National. It will be noticed that there is a Continental style archway with a room over, connecting Mr. Hunt's stables to his house.

Next door is the Bakehouse and old Parish Oven, still owned by the Brown family. Here in addition to the usual bread, large batches were ordered for distribution to those in Caldecott and other villages, who were "on the Parish". From here the housewives could be seen every Sunday rushing home with the steaming joint, having been summoned by the twelve o'clock bell. From here on St. Catherine's Day, wives and maids had their "Katten" cakes baked. One set of woolcombers frightened the maid so that she dropped her cakes on the way to "P.W." and they took a few minutes off for feasting. The oven was also used for baking clay pipes, which were set on an iron stand. The last baking was during the 1914 - 1918 War. The baker was killed, and, we regret to say that on the morning of the Armistice, just as his sisters were rejoicing and preparing to make and burn an effigy of the Kaiser, news came that gay, laughing, young George Brown had been killed. Walter, happily, returned to do much valuable public work.

Next door is the old Plough Inn, whose business was transferred to the premises opposite in 1948. Malting and brewing had been done by Morris and others since 1578. Part of the annual village Feast was held in the yard and, up in the out-house loft, Club suppers were held until the floor became unsafe. William le Queux stayed here and wrote part of the "Tickencote Treasure".

(The premises opposite are known as the new Plough Inn, which, previous to 1948 had been the Post Office and, before that, the home of the Ward family. Before her death Mrs. Lenton Ward had told the undertaker, Mr. Bradley, of the White Hart, that she did not want to lie on the bare boards of her coffin

he was to supply a feather bed and pillow, which he willingly did.)

The next house, occupied by the Murrant family for many years, was built in 1707 by a local celebrity Peter Browne, donor of the bell, probably a descendant of Robert Browne, the fiery originator of Congregationalism and the Brownist Sect, whose grandson, an apothecary of Uppingham, married Prudence Kirkby, a Caldecott girl. Peter and John were men of some standing and set up the first wooden water engine in Market Harborough for £60 and bound themselves to maintain and repair it for twenty years at a cost of £10. Peter's story is also linked with Church history.

Another descendant was "Boykin" Browne, a little cripple, who used to crawl to "Town Pump" opposite and carry the buckets of water in his mouth.

One of the rooms is called "Slab Hall" and has a diamond scratched pane "Jane Cave 1866".

Proceeding along the main road, we see the Village School and house built on Mr. Laxton's land where the shepherd huts were. The stone was from the Lyddington road cottages known as "Castle Rag" which were bought for £10 each. There is only one other County Primary School in the whole of Rutland. The "little Chapel" was so popular and the non-conformist element so strong that a Church of England School could not be agreed to. It was a Board School or nothing. In 1908 it became a Council School and all documents except the Log Book and Parish Award were taken away. It began with thirty-one children and eight hundred and twenty-two have passed through the School. The records disclose much medical history over the eighty years. Where once there was malnutrition, skin Disease and "the plague" fever, ring worm and whole families excluded, now every child is a picture of health and good feeding.

For many years children have competed in and often taken first place in singing and drama competitions. They dance at the village fete and are invited to other villages. They help with the social life of the village and have outings, give concerts and win scholarships. They are encouraged in every way to become loyal, useful citizens. Eleven are at the Grammar Schools and John Watson, with an underage scholarship, is at Peterborough Cathedral King's School.

On 25th November 1953, after winning several County Junior Singing Competitions, the School was invited by the B.B.C. to take part in a

Christmas Broadcast for Schools. Vans and equipment arrived, two technicians and Felicity Kinross, the producer. It was all great fun and the children were marvellous and never did a wrong thing all day. Their clear singing and speaking voices were a pleasure to listen to. When the relay came, on December 7th, parents sat tense at home, waiting for the miracle of hearing their own children's voices on the air. At school the children were almost numbed with the mystery of it all as their recording came through on the Vicar's loudspeaker.

(Since the compiling of this book in '58 and '59, forgotten histories of the original school have come to light).

Mrs. Robinson, of old Post Office Lane, now Mrs. Rawlins, of Brooke, wrote a thesis and found from Parish Council records, that the founders and fund raisers for the school were:-

Rev. W. Gilham	Chairman	
Mr. Slendlove	Clerk to the Board.	Salary £7 per annum.
Mr. Vice	Probably Mill owner	
Mr. Ward	Farmer?	Coal deliverer?
Mr. Brown	Baker?	
Mr. Morris	Publican?	(Old) Plough Inn.

Now, the school having closed in Dec. 1977 and being taken over temporarily by Miss Glew of Great Easton as a nursery school, the question arises re rent. Who really owns it? Leicester Education Committee (former Rutland Ed. Committee) or the village?.

I always paid my rent to Rutland Ed. Com. (M. Neenan). It will be seen from this book's records that from 1875 to 1908, the school was a Board School but, in 1908 the Rutland Ed. Com. arrived and seized all the documents except the log book, which, I believe, Mrs. Haddon hung on to.

(Perhaps ownership was debated then, we do not know).

The Parish Award was also left behind.

Now Leicestershire Ed. Com. has the log books and everything movable. Recently 1978 - 79, Mr. Clarke of Lyddington has produced the architects' requirements and estimate for the building of the school and school house, the erection of which was granted to his forbear. The cost to be, without architect's fees £887.8.11 :-

Excavation and bricklayer	£165.9.0	Plumber and glazier	£43.4.9
Mason	£226.6.9	Smith and Ironmonger	£112.1.7
Slaterer and plasterer	£126.16.10	Painter	
Carpenter and joiner	£253.10.0		

Mr. Clarke hopes that this estimate will eventually be kept in Oakham museum. Today, July 1979, the school and schoolhouse stand empty.)

At the North East corner, there was, until 1947, a pretty Village Green but it was ruthlessly dug up to give place to the bollards on a corner where many accidents had occurred.

Opposite the School House, beyond the little gate, in the house facing the meadows lives Mr. Roscoe Wignell, a water diviner, who helped to locate water for the new houses. If you ask him, no doubt he will display this magic skill. Again, Church registers show many spellings of the name, Wignall, Wigfall, Wigsall.

Opposite the School, until recently, was a village "pub" with a sign "The White Hart" (formerly "King's Head") until a passing van ripped the sign off and a piece of wall with it. Here one could imbibe the true old world atmosphere, a step down, a scrubbed table, big hearth and blazing fire, old settles, "Church Wardens", old dialects, dim lamps or candles and yarning, yarning, "old yows" and tups and market prices and, for the quieter ones always dominoes. In the workshop across the yard, at one time a blacksmith's shop, Mr. Bradley, with his sons, an excellent tradesman, raconteur and player upon "the bones" would make doors and coffins. One night, a visitor enquiring for him was terrified to see him rising out of a coffin on the bench but was told he was "just trying it" to feel if it was comfortable.

Many a night after closing hours, Mr. Bradley would take his customers home in his little gig, perhaps ten or fifteen miles away, along some very narrow, badly surfaced roads and lanes. They had enjoyed the old world atmosphere too long.

The new houses are the "Welland Close" estate of flats and houses, built in 1953. The Parish Council was invited to suggest names, which the ladies supplied and the Rural District Council made the final choice.

The intervening empty building was once the headquarters of the Salvation Army. The house facing Uppingham Road has twice been struck by lightning.

Just beyond Welland Close, on the left, is a little garden, once the Village Pinfold but after the enclosures of 1800 this became obsolete and later was given to the Parish by the Lord of the Manor. By then it was being used as an ash tip and rubbish dump and grew more unsightly every year. Eventually, in 1951, for the Festival of Britain, the Women's Institute asked permission to make it into a little garden and was allowed to do so for the peppercorn rent of 6d per annum. The seat was subscribed for and given by the W.I. being made of teak from H.M.S. Warspite. Competition verses, written at the time, describe the work:-

1. "Come for a walk", you said to me,
Right gladly now I can agree,
For when my feet get tired and slow
I can enjoy the seat and so
Look round this simple garden fair
With flowers sweet to scent the air,
And bless the folks who were so kind,
To have our happiness in mind.

I. Williams (Winning Poem)

Rockingham Headmistress.

2. In olden days a village pound,
Where straying cattle oft were found,
Later still, mid sun and breezes,
Housewives threw their bits and pieces.

Along came the Head of the W.I.,
With mortal combat in her eye,
Said "Ah, I'll call a meeting,
That's just the place to put the seat in."

Out came the broken pots and pans,
Nettles, briars and rusty cans,
Bottles stones and nasty clinkers,
That made the blood flow from our fingers.

F.M. Mrs. Munro Shopkeeper.

3. Around the wall they planted shrubs,
Far more aesthetic than old tubs.

G.C. Mrs Chambers From Halifax.

4. So little boys please keep your feet,
From off the ladies' village seat,
Appreciate what they have done,
In nineteen hundred and fifty one.

K.V. Mrs Vice Mill and shop.

Returning to the bollards, we pass "Ye Olde House" built in 1647. It is said that the end wall once fell out and was entirely rebuilt by W.S.(William Tiptaft Stanger) for £5. There was once an orchard tragedy there.

Next door was a Cruck House, supposed to be older than Agincourt (1415) but this was demolished as unsafe in 1957. On it was a ring for shoeing bullocks.

Opposite, at Rose Villa, was Caldecott's fourth Post Office 1948. Formerly on this site was the Carpentry Shop of a Mill Wright, whose descendant is Mr. Dennis Wright, now Postmaster at Post Office No. 5. This Deacon family were great inventors. (See personalities)

In the last house on the right live the Stokes' descendants, two sisters who wrote "Just Rutland" in 1953, Mrs. A. Wignell and Mrs. J. Singlehurst.

And now the Church of St. John is full in view, standing dignified and four square. It is a Church of the people, no extravagances, crusaders' effigies, squires' tombs: everything good, solid, built to last but graceful and well proportioned. We are grateful to our forbears for this heritage and we have tried to follow their tradition by renovations recently with the best of materials. The bells have been rehung and the tower repaired at a cost of £990.7.6. We have reroofed the South Aisle with lead at a cost of £960, whereas an inferior roof would have cost about half the money.

Viewing from the outside, we see the Sanctus Cot remains but the bell has gone, perhaps at the Reformation. The porch, built of Ashlar, is thought even in 1648 to have been made of old stones.

The Mass or Scratch Dial, seen on the South side, West of the porch, is worthy of note. It was rather like a sundial but recorded the canonical hours prior to the use of clocks and so, is pre fifteenth century. The Gnomon has gone but the Mass hours are clearly scratched, the chief one 9.0.am (tierce) being the deepest. Other hours scratched are 2.0pm (none) 4.0.pm (vespers) and 7.0. pm (compline) and 6.0 am (prime).

The buttresses at the junction of the South Aisle and the belfry tower prove part of the Church to have been erected before 1300. They are square with the corners of the Church and not diagonally, as after 1300.

The tower and spire were probably added in the fourteenth century (Richard II) and the steeple repaired in 1638. During a terrific thunderstorm in July 1797, between 3.0 and 4.0 am, $1\frac{1}{2}$ yards of the 100ft. steeple crashed and caused great devastation. "The frames and the wheels of the bells were shattered so that only the fourth could be tolled". The North wall was partly cracked but scarcely any glass broken, though holes were made in masonry and moulding and stones and mortar fell on almost every pew. People came from miles around to see the damage but repair work was started immediately, Mr. (Brown(e) carting stone from Weldon. (At this time notice of the coming of enclosures was hanging in the Church Porch). The steeple top, recently found at the North of the Church, has been assembled by Mr. Stanger and placed at the Porch door. In this corner of the Church Yard are two sunken stones of 1658. Many gravestones and floor tablets are supposed to have found their way to a neighbouring village, the Vicar of that time having given permission for their removal.

The North and West doors are almost permanently closed, as in most churches, because of prevailing and cold winds.

The clock is 1724 and the second finger 1922.

On the North exterior much history is revealed. The eastern end of it, of rubble and dressed stones, is twelfth and thirteenth century but the thrilling pieces, for the historically minded, are the bright red Roman tiles and bricks slipped in among the stone. It is supposed that prior to 400 A.D. there stood on this spot a little Roman temple and that several of the stones still remained when Caldecott demanded a little Church, which was built as a Chapelry of Lyddington.

In 1280 the Chancel was extended eastward, the Nave westward, then the tower and steeple and south aisle added. There is a distinct break in the wall showing where the extension took place, the old west wall probably remaining standing until the new part was finished.

In the fifteenth century the Clerestory was added and part of the original still remains with corbel motifs on the south side but, in 1863, the other windows were added or reset and the corbel carvings newly made. It is a

matter of some conjecture whose heads are represented.

In 1908 the organ chamber was added, with arches to add a North aisle if necessary. The stone was from some old cottages in Mill Lane (Duck's Nest) opposite Mr. Joe Wignell's new house (the first was burnt). This addition to the Church added a graceful synnetry and balance.

There is, on the East side of the Church, a gravestone erected to Lottie Day, a little girl killed by a snowball (with a stone in it) and another to Laurence Packer, 1937 an American lawyer, son of a former Vicar. Expressing a wish to be buried here, his body was brought over on the 'Queen Mary', then came by road from Liverpool. The glass lidded coffin, a £400 copper casket, was in the Church all night, many going to view the corpse, lying in lawyer's robes (similar to gentleman's evening dress) on silken cushions. The next day the Rev. O.R. Plant conducted the service.

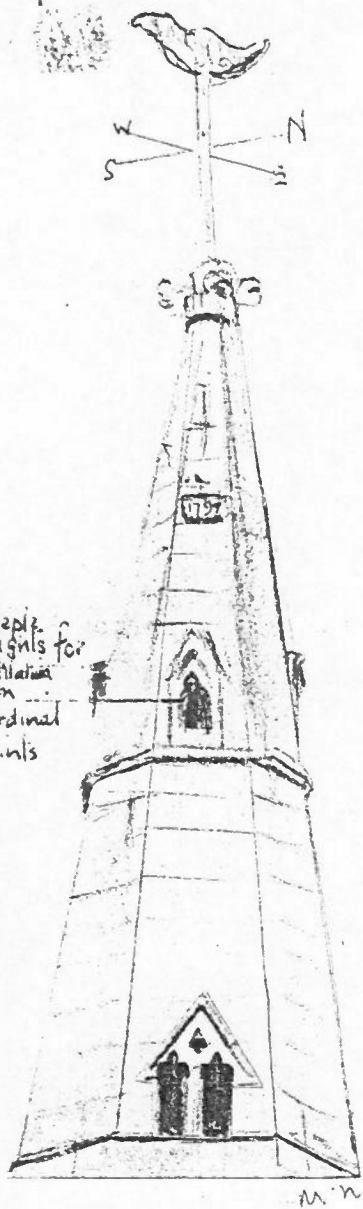
(In 1956 the grave was reopened and an urn, containing his wife's ashes interred).

Before entering the Church, the oldest part can now be seen, part of the Chancel, the eastern end of the Nave, to which, inside, the rood loft was once attached.

The rood arch is happily left but some of the steps were moved to make room for heating apparatus. Here on the rood loft, passion plays may have been acted at the foot of the Cross, or Carols sung. Part of this loft is thought to have found its way to the underpart of the old belfry floor, for, during 1863 restorations "a gilt and carved oak beam was seen, ornamented with a king and a queen and roses on each end and in the middle". At the time of the thunderstorm, on the Nave side of the Chancel arch, a stone was seen "about two feet square with a border, having two rudely carved human figures sculptured in high relief". This may have been part of the original Roman Altar.

The Chancel was extended in 1280 and again in 1863, re-inserting the lovely fourteenth century East window of geometrical tracery but setting it in cement instead of the original mullions.

The lancet window, splayed to give more light, was also re-inserted. During the last extension the Altar rail was probably placed East, instead of West of the Sedilia to allow more room for the Choir.



Our five bells 1951



Bell framework

Bells retuned & re hung, £990.7.6

New South Aisle ^{leaf} £960
^

At the Bell Foundry Loughborough



Corbel heads
King and a
Bishop



The tiny aperture on the South of the Chancel is supposed to be of Roman origin; this has been said by some antiquaries, who also believe that the sacellum walls were used as the first tiny chancel of the Christian Church and that, when roofed, there was no light except from a slit and that the Roman stones surrounding the slit have been reassembled to enclose the tiny window. Others say it is Early English.

The candlesticks behind the Altar were unearthed out of Mr. Billson's (Peter Woodcock's) barn in 1941 after having been lost sight of for many years. Caldecott hopes to be as lucky, in the near future, with handbells and the orchestral instruments.

Before leaving the Chancel, the visitor will notice a piscina, for washing the holy vessels, the aumbrey where the wine and bread are kept and the recess for a reliquary to hold sacred relics, behind the altar.

Inside the Vestry is a chest, probably R. Deacon Junior and the drawing of the steeple when struck in 1797.

On the North wall of the Nave, a visitor of that time states that "at the gallery end is an ancient painting of the Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve under the Tree of Knowledge with birds and beasts around them". On the West wall, another fresco; he writes "On the upper part which is the back of the neat deal gallery (for the orchestra) is a painting of Time with his scythe and hour glass and Death ". The modern scrolls are said to have been done by the Vicar's daughter.

The wooden candlesticks on the War Memorial were "turned" from belfry wood by Mrs. Vice's grandson and the offertory plates by Mr. Colley of Corby.

The framed lists of Clergy and Wardens were researched and given by Mrs. Neenan.

The tower was completely rebuilt and the bells re-tuned and rehung in 1951 - 52. Originally five had been installed in 1696 (William and Mary), cast by the famous Toby Norris of Stamford. The first, the little treble, was given by Peter Browne and bears the inscription "Peter Browne gave me to this town 1696". The second and third have the date only, 1696, the fourth "Toby Norris made us all five" and the fifth "Robert Colwell" (Church Warden)

"Peter Browne died in 1710 and was buried in an altar tomb near the South

door. The brass plate recording his death disappeared within the last few years. His descendant now resides in a house built by Peter Brown 1707."

(Church Bells of Rutland 1880)

The Rutland Magazine adds that the plate was stolen in 1848 and the tomb likewise disappeared soon afterwards, the Vicar having given permission to a stonemason to take it away. Perhaps it was the one that old people say recorded:-

"Here lies the body of Peter Browne
Who gave the little bell,
Not to the town nor to the people
But to the steeple."

The coat of arms hanging in the belfry chamber is of Queen Victoria.

Before restorations the pews were boxed, with "poppy heads", each with a candlestick, into which the candle was put by the parishioner at the winter services.

The War Memorial speaks for itself. We honour our glorious dead,

G.F. Brown	F. Chambers	J.T. Day	G.R. Chambers	Ed	Hunt
E.H. Jeffs	H.R. Stokes	A.J. Wignell			

God bless them.

The Reredos in the South Chapel was carved by Miss Everet and for many years was in the Chancel and the full length of the lovely East window could be seen but, on receiving the second one from Duddington, Miss Everet's was moved.

On the wall is an image bracket and the figure standing in the piscina represents Robert Raikes, the founder of the Sunday School system. It was given by Miss Bryant of Great Easton.

The Font is of early decorated character but restored by local workmen. On leaving the Church, the traveller cannot but admire the heavy oak Gothic door with the original iron studs.

The bench mark on the East end of the Chancel was inserted like a great collar stud on 16 September 1958 by the Ordnance Surveyors, who told the schoolchildren that spot was 192 ft. above sea level.

The wrought iron gate on Uppingham Road was erected with some of the money collected for celebrations and a commemoration at the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A few flourishing trees were also planted.

Our circuit is now complete and should our visitor wish to know anything further, he has only to ask anyone, anywhere in the village.

HISTORY

Caldecott has been occupied by Britons, Romans and finally Anglo Saxons, who called it Ceald-cot (cold shelter). We are mentioned in Domesday Book. From 1126 there are Church records in each century and two of the Chaplains paid Richard II's Poll Tax. After the Dissolution, Edward VI's uncle-by-marriage became our first Lord of the Manor, brother-in-law of Henry VIII.

We are in the Wrangdike Hundred and in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries paid "Head Silver" of 19/- per year as Chief Rent. At this time the village was very poor. The Overseers paid the doctor £8 per year to doctor the poor, assisted with funeral money, "paid F. Smith when his master would not, 8d".

"Catherine Cox sitting up two nights with Mary Deacon 1 sh.

10 leeches at 3d each Passage to America £14

Constant relief of Poor, Lady Day 1826 to Lady Day 1827 £176.14.0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d."

No help was given for children of six years who could not knit, nor for those of nine who could not spin and weave. The Constables Way Wardens and Dyke Reeves kept the Parish orderly and clean, until the Parish Council was formed in 1894. When times were worst, men tramped into the Fens to work on the drainage system; but no one ever went to Botany Bay!

Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee was celebrated in the barn opposite the Church - probably the tithe barn - and the Diamond Jubilee in Peter Woodcock's barn. When the first aeroplane race took place, the men sat up all night with cheese and beer.

In 1926 the Women's Institute was formed and, later, catered for village feasts, at King George's Jubilee 1935 and King George VI's Coronation in 1937, when Caldecott was said to be the prettiest decorated village between here and Bedford.

The first Fete and Gymkhana was held in 1947, for Village Hall and Church Tower and Bell Funds. About this time a Court of Enquiry was held at the Mill Hall, where farmers and the Northants. Water Company thrashed out their arguments. Counsel arrived in wig and gown.

In 1951 we wrote a village pageant, consisting of twenty-four Historical Scenes. Over seventy villagers took part.

In 1953 at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, television was set up in the Church, houses were floodlit and there was an illuminated fountain on the Village Green.

In 1957 the pipe line water eventually came.

War

There are records of Waterloo and Boer War soldiers.

In the 1914 - 18 War, in addition to our fallen heroes, forty seven are on our Roll of Honour. An interesting book in the village records their names and full descriptions of the life and death of the fallen.

In the 1939 - 45 War, our Roll of Honour was thirty. We proudly presented our Service people with £185 among them on their return and sent them many parcels while they were away. At home we housed evacuees, knitted, sewed, made 960 lbs. jam for the Ministry, had A.R.P. and Civil Defence units (H.G.) were machine gunned slightly, bombed but without damage, saw the reflection of burning London (Coventry?) did Rest Centre drill and gave money to all War causes. Italian and German prisoners worked on the farms and seemed sorry to leave. £8,000 was saved in savings campaigns, £34 given to the Spitfire Fund and £49 raised by Schoolgirls at bazaars.

At the Victory, after the feast when three sheep had been eaten, we admired the floodlit Church and danced round the bonfire on the Village Green.

Occupations

The chief occupation in the village is working for Messrs Stewart and Lloyds -ironstone or for the Water Board. There are six farms and their employees but only three actual tradesmen - a plumber, a carpenter and decorator and an electrician. Some girls are at works in Market Harborough and there is one surveyor. There is a headmistress and an assistant and four ex-teachers, three of whom are splendid pianists.

Other personalities of Former Days

John and William de Caldecott who took their name from the village became High Sheriffs in the reign of Henry VIII and Elizabeth. They lived at Ketton and may have been descendants of Emma de la Legh (1262) of Snelston, who married Mr. Grey of Whitwell, Ketton. As there was probably no Snelston even in 1530, they became de Caldecott.

John Stokes of the Manor House, High Sheriff in 1865.

R. Deacon Millwright, inventor of portable grinding mill, also of a hay todder and a water mill for Islip - a brass tablet is there stating the fact. An ancestor of Dennis Wright, the Sub-Postmaster.

Mr. Barnett who wrote down the news of the 1860's and what was found when

the railway line was laid.

Adam and Eve the travelling musicians.

Mrs. Billson Organised and instructed a Bell-ringing team after the rehangings of the bells. Died after a short illness - three daughters aged 18, 16 and 9.

Mr. E.J. Ward Helped in all village work; often Secretary. Killed by a falling coal truck door at work in Station Yard. Rev. Hughes and the village installed electric light in the Church in his memory.

Mr. Crowson wound the Church clock for fifty years.

Richard Vicars a deer stealer of two hundred years ago, could jump three yards backwards at the age of seventy and hid venison in the chimney.

Personalities of Today

Mr. C. Billson Aged ninety three. Is very active, visits, gardens, very youthful. Helps in all village causes. Ex-Schoolmaster of Cranford. Kind and fatherly. Ex-Parish councillor.

Mr. W. Wignell Farmer. Intellectual. Excellent memory - remembers his grandfather's reminiscences. Family came in 1680.

Mr. W. Stanger Vicar's Warden and Clock winder. Has served Church from Choirboy days for seventy-two years. Has an excellent memory, wonderful perception and descriptive powers. He is also the village barber. He tolls the bell, three times for a man, twice for a woman, once for a child. He rings the Pancake bell.

There are families in the village continuous since the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and one newcomer whose ancestors fought with William I.

The village has numerous women and men of forceful character and strong personality, who all deserve a place in a Village History. There are those who undertake duties on the various Committees and Councils. The ladies who are always willing to give their time and help in so many ways and on so many occasions, those who organise and take part in the Village Clubs and Societies, the teachers and also the children coming along who show great promise. Although this is usually said outside Caldecott, not in it "A wonderful Village".

Today the village is recovering from a bad attack of the 1959 'flu.

Since January 1958, we have had no Vicar but Church work progresses well.

Services are taken by local Clergy and Laymen.

April 1959.