

CHAPTER 16 – FIELD NAMES

Field and local names are always a source of interest, speculation as to whence they came, as well as adding colour to any parish history. They often give a clue to the condition of a locality in bygone years, who may have owned a particular piece of land, or tell of some event which took place there. With Stapleford now possessing so few open spaces such names serve to remind us of much that was here so long ago. The following lists contain a wide range of these, although many are repeated with variations in spelling, and form a well which could be profitably drawn from to provide street and other names more fitting, apt and worthy of perpetuation than many in use today which have no connection with the parish either past or present.

Hill Field and Windmill Field

By taking Derby road and Nottingham road as a centre-line and intersecting it with Toton lane and Pasture road the parish can be roughly divided into quarters whereof the north-east was the Hill Field, so called in 1695, known as Hemlock Field in the very early 18th century and then reverting to its former name until it fell into disuse after the Enclosure Award. Out of this quarter must be subtracted the triangular area bounded by Pinfold lane, Nottingham road and Church street and which, at this time, formed a large part of the village.

The south-east quarter was the Clouds Field, as it was known in the 17th century (1666, 1673, 1682, 1695). By 1716 it had become the Windmill Field, for obvious reasons, but whether because perhaps Gervase Teverey's once stood there or because of one shown on later maps is not certain. Its present site is occupied by Revill's farm near unto which spot was a house known in the early 1820's (and later) as Niagara Cottage.

Niagara Cottage

This "cottage," - now long gone- was the home of a Captain William Sleigh who, although not a Stapleford man, chose to come and live here in the 1820's. He had joined the East and West Lothian Fencible Cavalry in 1798 and after serving in various theatres of war finally retired in 1828 at which time he was a Captain on half pay in the 99th Regiment of Foot. He had been wounded during his service in Egypt, and in Canada, at Cheppewa near Niagara Falls-which he must have seen-, hence the name for his house in Stapleford. As part of the village's celebrations in July 1838 for the coronation of Queen Victoria he entertained to tea some 40 widows and aged families. He died in 1842 aged 62 and his tombstone, a sarcophagus-like monolith supported on 4 sphinxes, stood opposite the south porch of the church until its

destruction in 1952-53 when many gravestones were removed from their original sites. The four sphinxes long remained littered about the churchyard the subject of much speculation as to their original, until finally they too suffered an ignominious fate, the last and almost whole one being wantonly decapitated by a schoolgirl in the summer of 1973.

Bridge Field and land adjacent to the river

The south-west quarter was the Bridge Field, called variously Bridge-end Field, Brigg Field, Brigg-end Field, and before 1286 known as the South Field. To this division must be added a large portion of the meadows.

The fourth quarter, the north-west, comprised the remainder of the meadows, the Cunnery, the Hall and its immediate lands, that part of the village with its old enclosures west of Church street, and the Pastures; all of which had their own descriptive names. In the open fields were the furlongs, so called because anciently there were a “furrow-long”—that is 40 perches, by 4 perches wide, which, if measured by the king’s perch of 16 ½ feet, makes the size of a furlong exactly an acre. All very neat; but I don’t suppose for one minute that our furlongs were measured to such a nicety.

Just how many of these descriptive divisions there were in each field cannot be determined, and although many references described a piece of land as “on” or “in” such-and-such a place may be alluding to a furlong without precisely saying so, to assume such an intention could be most misleading.

Here is given the key to the lists following: - BF=Bridge Field. H=Hall lands. HF=Hill Field. M=Meadows. NK=Location not known. P=Pastures. V=Village proper. WF=Windmill Field.

Furlongs

No	Name	Dates	Location	Remarks
1	Chilwell Bank	1699	WF	
2	Cliffe Hill	1699, 1709	WF	
3	Clouds	1710	WF	
4	Conigslon	1317	HF	
5	Coneysee	1744	HF	A corruption of No.4
6	Coneysey	1709	HF	..
7	Coneysaw	1673	HF	..
8	Connisaw	1699	HF	..
9	Crangledike	1695	HF	
10	Cunnesay	1761	HF	..
11	Furgin Slade	1700, 1709	WF	

12	Golden Greaves	1699	BF	Probably a corruption of No. 13
13	Goldgrane	1695	BF	
14	Gooseroods	1684	HF	
15	Long Rose	1695	Bf	Probably meant for Long Rows
16	Long Ryecroft	1700	HF	
17	Longston	1700	HF	
18	Middlegate	1744	WF	
19	Narhalf-e-acre-dike	1695	WF	
20	Ruecroft	1317	HF	
21	Saint Helens	1716	WF	
22	Short Ryecroft	1700	HF	
23	Sick	1317	HF	Variation in spelling of 24
24	Sike	1317	HF	Variation in spelling of 23
25	Sweetapple	1666	WF	
26	Sweetappletree	1716	WF	Probably the same furlong as 25
27	Windmill	1695	WF	
28	Wormaldhill	1695	BF	
29	Wormhill	1700	BF	Could be the same furlong as 28

Closes and other Locations

No	Name	Dates	Location	Remarks
1	Adamsons Close	1714	NK	
2	Albany	19 th cent	HF	
3	Albany Fields	1905	P	
4	Andrew Robeson	1317	M	
5	Andrew rode Robeson	1317	M	
6	Ashtree Close	1860	BF	
7	Atte Pitte	1317	NK	
8	Aubraiacre	1317	NK	
9	Barn Close	1759	WF	
10	Barn Close	1771	BF	
11	Barn Close	1856	P	
12	Barnaby Close	1866	HF	
13	Bench Croft	1860	WF	Erroneously for Binch Croft

14	Beshill Meadow	1771	M	
15	Beshills Close	1651, 1860	BF	
16	Bessills Flat	1684	BF	
17	Besthill Lane	1850	M	
18	Big Avenue Field	1856	H	
19	Binch Croft	1711, 1850	WF	
20	Birch's Close	1850	P	
21	Blackacre	1570, 1597	HF	
22	Blackpool Close	1860	BF	A later spelling of No.25
23	Blakeacre	1771	HF	Later spelling of No. 21
24	Blakepol	Ante 1286	M	
25	Blakepool Close	1709	BF	
26	Bob's Rock	19 th & 20 th cents.	WF	
27	Botany Bay Close	1860	WF	
28	Bottom Eight Acres	1866	HF	
29	Bottom Holme	1856	H	
30	Bottom Holme	1856	P	
31	Bottom Sandholes	1836	WF	
32	Bottoms Gate	1709	WF	
33	Bowling Alley	1771	WF	
34	Bramcotestigh	1317	NK	
35	Brick Field	1905	P	
36	Brick Kilns	1771	HF	Alias Eight Leys
37	Brickyard Close	1850	HF	
38	Bridge End Close	1762, 1771	BF	
39	Bridge Field Close	1850	BF	
40	Bridge Meadows	1771	M	
41	Le Brigge	1317	NK	
42	Bringscroft Close	1714	NK	The later spelling of No. 42
43	Brinscroft	1649	NK	An earlier name for Binchcroft?
44	Brockhill Close	1678	BF	
45	Brook Close	1675	H	
46	Brounescroft	1317	NK	Could be the earlier name for No. 43
47	Browns Little Brockhill	1771	BF	
48	Bull Close	1860	WF	
49	Cawthorne	1317	NK	
50	Chevin Pool Close	1678,1699,	BF	

		1788		
51	Clarke Acre		HF	
52	Clarke Hedge	1673,1709	WF	
53	Clarke Hedge Close	1727,1771, 1860	BF	
54	Clerkhole	1728	NK	
55	Cliffe Hill	1709,1860	WF	Back o'Sammy's
56	Le Cloudes	1317	WF	
57	the Clouds	1678,1728	WF	
58	Clouds Closes	1678,1732, 1771	WF	
59	Clouds Flatt	1719	WF	
60	Clouds Pingle	1682	WF	
61	Club End	1771,1860	M	
62	Cocking Close	1771	V	
63	The Common Baulk	1661,1709	WF	
64	The Common Baulk	1661	BF	
65	Common Baulk Close	1860	WF	
66	the Conerys	1736	H	
67	Crabtree Close	1657,1737, 1866	BF	
68	le Cross	1317	NK	
69	le Crossgate	1317	NK	
70	Dankers Croft	1872	V	
71	Deborah's Close	1866	HF	alias Hooley's Paddock
72	le Dernewell	1317	NK	
73	Eight Leys	1771	HF	alias Brick Kilns
74	Eleven Acres	1860	WF	
75	Elis Croft	1317	NK	
76	Erewash Meadow	1850	M	
77	Ewelamb Close	1771	HF	A corruption of No.299
78	Far Bench Croft	1860	WF	
79	Far Bridge Ends	1860	BF	
80	Far Toton Nook	1860	BF	
81	Farr Coney-Gree	1675	H	
82	Fear Croft	1832	V	
83	First SDick Close	1866	HF	
84	Five Acres	1860	WF	
85	Florence Place	1317	NK	

86	Furgin Slade Close	1709,1771, 1850	WF	
87	Garholme	1597	NK	
88	Gawthrey Close	1771,1860	WF	
89	Gooseholme	1597	NK	
90	Goose Roods	1573	NK	
91	Gray's Paddock	1860	BF	
92	Great Brockhill Close	1874	BF	
93	Great Cow Pasture	1905	P	
94	Great Flatt Croft	1649	NK	
95	Great Pasture Close	1866,1867	P	
96	Great Sick Close	1771,1860	HF	
97	the Green	1771	V	
98	Greengate	1317,1709	BF	
99	Greeghilslade	1317	NK	
100	Grenegate	ante 1286	BF	a variation in spelling of No. 98
101	Halfacredicke	1673	WF	
102	Halfacredyke	1710	WF	
103	Hallam's Yard	1771	V	
104	Hanging Hill Pitt	1709	WF	
105	Have Aker Dyke	1709	WF	a variation in rendering of No. 101
106	Hemlock Hills	1675	P	
107	Hemlock Stone		HF	
108	Hemlock Stone Close	1850	M	
109	Hether (Hiher) Coney Grae	1675	H	
110	Helewelplace	1317	NK	
111	Hibberd's Close	1714	NK	
112	High Park	1771	HF	
113	Hill Closes	1719,1771, 1850	HF	
114	Le Hillocks	1317	NK	
115	Hindelepdale	1317	NK	
116	the Holme	1317,1651	NNNN NK	
117	the Holme	1619,1736, 1771	P	
118	Holme Close	1675	H	
119	Home Close	1860	WF	

120	Hooley's Paddock	1866	HF	alias No.71	Deborah's Close
121	Huedale	1317	NK		
122	Hyndelepedale	ante 1286	NK		variation in spelling of No.114
123	Jacob Eaton's Croft	1783,1809	HF		
124	Jillings Cross	1771	WF		a corruption of No.125
125	Julyan's Croft	1673	WF		
126	Kerrygate Close	1866	WF		
127	Kirkgate CVclose	1709,1728, 1771,1866	WF		
128	le Knightsdyk	1317	NK		
129	Knightscroft	1617	NK		
130	the Lea	1699	H		
131	Leas Close	1675	H		could be the earlier name for No 130
132	Lime Kiln	1709	WF		
133	Lingihok	1317	NK		
134	Little Avenue Fields	1856	H		
135	Little Binch Croft	1771	WF		
136	Little Botany Bay	1860	WF		
137	Little Brock Hill Close	1874	BF		
138	Little Crabtree Close	1678	NK		
139	Little Flatt Croft	1649	M		
140	Little Gate	1860	BF		
141	Little Old Rolls	1820	WF		
142	Little Pasture Close	1866,1867	P		
143	Little Sick Close	1860,1866	HF		
144	Little Wellspringdale	1771	BF		
145	Le Longbothum	ante 1286,1317	NK		
146	Longclose	1649	NK		
147	Long Meadow	1695	M		
148	Le Long Moor	1317,	NK		
149	Longrood in the Narr Meadow	1678	M		
150	Long Row Close	1874	BF		
151	Long Ryecrofts	1771	HF		
152	Long Shutterell	1666	BF		
153	Longstone	1709	HF		
154	Lower Hurst	1860	M		

155	Lower Meadow	1860	M	
156	March Close(s)	1860	M	
157	Marle Pitt Close	1719	WF	
158	Marsh Close	1649,1695	M	The old spelling of No. 156
159	Meadow	1860	M	
160	Meadow Close	1732	M	
161	Meakin's Croft	1850,1878	V	
162	Middle Eight Acres	1866	HF	
163	Middle Pasture Close	1866,1867	P	
164	Middle Toton Nook	1860	BF	
165	Mill Close	1771	V	
166	Mill Meadow	1856	P	
167	Moor Close(s)	1771,1866	HF	
168	Moorbridge Close	1856	P	
169	Mushroom Close	1860	BF	
170	Nallekilne	1317	NK	
171	Near Bench Croft	1860	WF	
172	Near Besthill Meadows	1850	M	
173	Near Bridge End Close(s)	1860	BF	
174	Near Toton Nook	1860	BF	
175	Near Windmill Close	1850	WF	
176	Neitherworm-land	1709	BF	
177	Nether Meadow	1317,1714, 1850	M	
178	New Close	1771/1860	WF	
179	New Intake Close	1783	NK	
180	New Rayle Close adjoining Toton Hedge	1675	BF	
181	New Stapleford	1860	HF	
182	Nine Leys Close	1771,1866	HF	
183	North Conery Field	1862	H	
184	North Halvacre dyke	1317	WF	
185	Nottingham Way Closes	1728,1771, 1860	WF	
186	Old Brick Kiln Close	1783	HHF	
187	Old Holme Close	1695	P	
188	Old Rolls	1860	WF	
189	the Paddock	1771	HF	

190	the Parlour	1771	BF	
191	the Parlour	1771	HF	
192	Parten (Parter) Close	1866	P	Probably a corruption of "Pasture"
193	Paster Hedge	1709	HF	
194	Pasture Close	1838, 1850	P	
195	Pasture Gap	1771	HF	
196	Pasture Gate Field	1856	P	
197	Pinfold Close	1771	V	
198	the Pingle	1771	HF	
199	the Pingle	1850	HF	a different one to No. 198
200	the Pingle at Pasture Gap	1771	HF	a different one to No. 198 & 199
201	Plum Meadow Pudding	1739,1866	M	
202	under le Quarrels	1317	NK	
203	Quarrey Close(s)	1675,1860	BF	
204	Queen Closes	1866	HF	Erroneously for No. 273
205	Rail Close(s)	1771,1860	BF	
206	Red Hurst	1714	M	Later name for No. 207
207	Redihurst	1317	M	
208	Redmedwe	Ante 1286	M	
209	Reedy Hurst	1860	M	Later name for No. 207
210	Rickhill	1709,1771	BF	
211	the Roach	c1815	V	
212	Road Close	1860	WF	
213	Rood Hades	1649,1771	HF	
214	Roody Hurst	1678	M	Later name for No. 207
215	Rookery Close	1856	H	
216	Rudyhurst	1771	M	Later name for No. 207
217	Ryecroft Close	1695,1727, 1767	HF	
218	Ryecrofts	1709,1850, 1860,1866	HF	
219	St. Helens	1728	WF	Alternative name for No. 220
220	St. Churchpiece Helens	1666	WF	
221	St Helens Stinting	1682	WF	Alternative name for No. 220
222	Sallowbush	1695	WF	

223	Sallumbush	1727	WF	A corruption of No.222
224	Sandholes	1771	WF	
225	Scallards Closes	1771	HF	
226	Second Sick Close	1866	HF	
227	Seven Mens Close	1771	HF	
228	Shiterhill	1317	BF	
229	Shoemakers Nook	1675	H	
230	Short Bottoms	1709,1874	BF	
231	Short Hedge Close	1756	WF	
232	Short Hedge Flatt	1719	WF	Earlier name for No.231
233	Shorthillocks	1684	BF	
234	le Shortleys	1317	NK	
235	Short Ryecroft	1771	HF	
236	Shitterill Flatt	1714	BF	
237	Shuttrill	1709	BF	A corruption of No 228
238	Sick Closes	1678,1771	HF	
239	Le Smallmeadwe	Ante 1286, 1317	M	
240	Smythie Bank	1666,1682	NK	
241	Sourmoor Close(s)	1771,1860,	BF	Probably a corruption of No 242
242	South Conery Field	1862	H	
243	Southmoor	1317	BF	
244	Sower Moor	1709	BF	A corruption of No. 241
245	Stable Field	1856	H	
246	Stainacre	1317	NK	
247	Stainwaigate	1317	NK	
248	Standhill Gap	1709	HF	A corruption of No. 251
249	Stapleford Fields	1829	HF	
250	le Stonecludes	ante 1286	WF	
251	Stonehill Gap	1657,1676	HF	
252	Stonepit(t)s	1666,1710, 1716	NF	
253	Swanhooke	1597	NK	
254	le Tepit Willughis	1317	NK	
255	Thefeholme	1590	NK	
256	Third Sick Close	1866	HF	
257	Thorney Croft	1771	V	
258	Top of Brockhill	1709,1874	BF	
259	Top Cliff Hill	1860	WF	

260	Top of Clouds	1709,1860	WF	
261	Top Clouds Close	1860	WF	
262	Top Croft	1860	WF	
263	Top Eight Acres	1866	HF	
264	Top Holme	1856	P	
265	Top Holme	1856	H	
266	Top Long Row Close	1874	BF	
267	Top Meadow	1856	P	
268	Top Sandholes	1860	WF	
269	Toton Nook	1709	BF	
270	Towle Leas	1663,1709	HF	
271	Tree Close	1866	HF	
272	Treece's Yard	1860	B	
273	Tween Closes	1771	HF	
274	Twelve Acres	1860	WF	No connection with No 275
275	Twelve Acres Close	1719	NK	Possibly same as No.276
276	Twelve-acre-havedes	1317	NK	
277	Ule-Holme	1727	HF	A Corruption of No.299
278	Ulum	1709	HF	A Corruption of No.299
279	Warren Barn Close	1860	BF	
280	Weed Furrows	1860	WF	A corruption of No.286
281	Ie Wellhirste	1317	NK	
282	Wellspringdale	1317,1709, 1727	BF	
283	Wellspringdale Close	1700	BF	
284	West Furrows	1728	WF	A corruption of No 286
285	Westpindale	1860	BF	A corruption of No. 282
286	Wet Furrows	1709,1713	WF	
287	Wetecroft	ante 1286	NK	
288	Wherdyke	1317	NK	
289	the Widdens Close(s)	1771,1860	BF	
290	Will Flatt	1736	HF	
291	Windmill Field Close	1850	WF	
292	Windmill Hill	1700	WF	
293	Windmill Hill Closes	1860	WF	
294	Windmill Hole	1709	WF	
295	Windmill Hurst	1673	WF	
296	Windy Bank Close	1762	WF	
297	Yulam	1700	HF	A corruption of No.299

298	Yulebonndland	1700	BF
299	Yuleholme Close	1570,1597	HF
300	The River Erewash, known as the Irwys in	1317	

The Roach

According to what has been handed down the Roach derives its name from “La Roche” or “Les Roches” -the Rocks. During the Napoleonic wars there were many French prisoners of war and a party of these was set to work widening the Stapleford end of Toton lane. The presence there of much rock was a good reason for them to allude to the site as “les roches” and this, following the Englishman’s custom of anglicising foreign words, became the “Roche” in speech and therefore spell it like the only similar English word that would be known to the local “Roach”.