

WOMEN OF DONCASTER

Maud de York and Julianna Atte Gotte



30 SEPTEMBER 2021

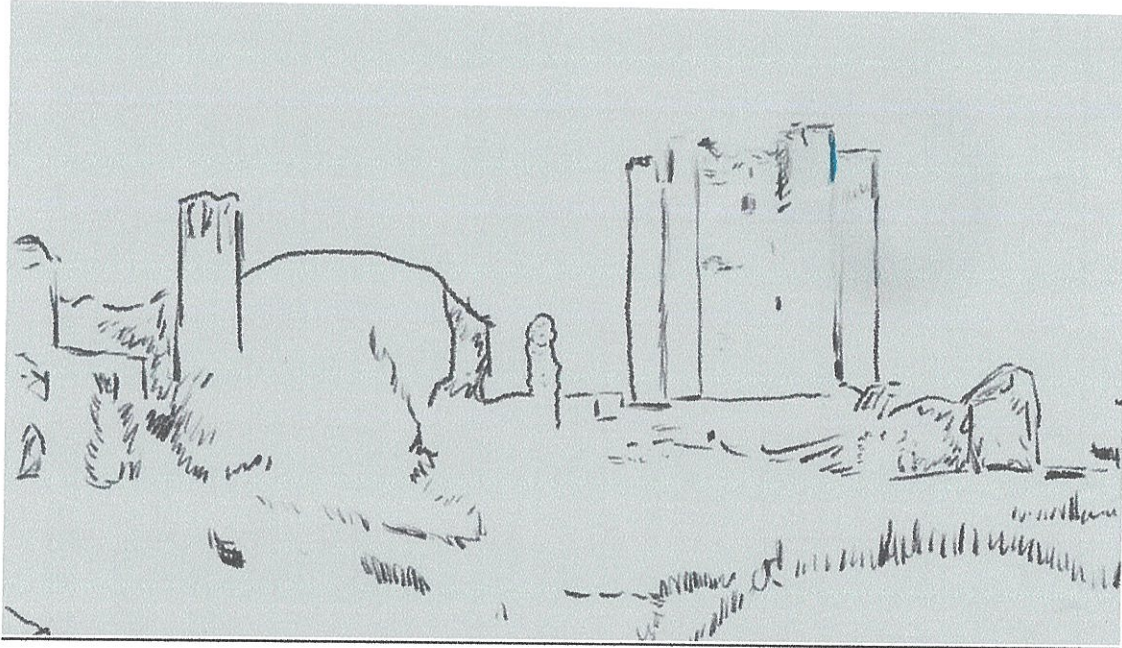
ZOE GARNETT

DMBC

The Legendary Castle

Leaving Doncaster on the A630, and passing over the A1, the road comes over the hill and down into the valley, where on the right stands the medieval keep and ruins of Conisbrough Castle, reputedly of the edifices of Sir Walter Scott's book *Ivanhoe*.

Today the town is part of the Metropolitan Borough of Doncaster. Its castle is now part of English Heritage. It is a popular venue for school visits, with many plastic swords boarding buses home with the children.



More importantly the Conisbrough Manor Rolls exist from 1265 – 1935 and are in the possession of Doncaster Borough Archives. The manor rolls are the lowest form of Government held locally, with more serious crimes sent on to the higher courts.

Heritage Doncaster obtained them in 2018 with the help of a Lottery Grant as the National Archive stated they were of 'National significance' before that they had spent most of their existence at Conisbrough Castle and a conservator repaired the damage of water, smoke, rodents, and handling. They are currently being digitally transcribed so their contents can be studied without damaging the originals.

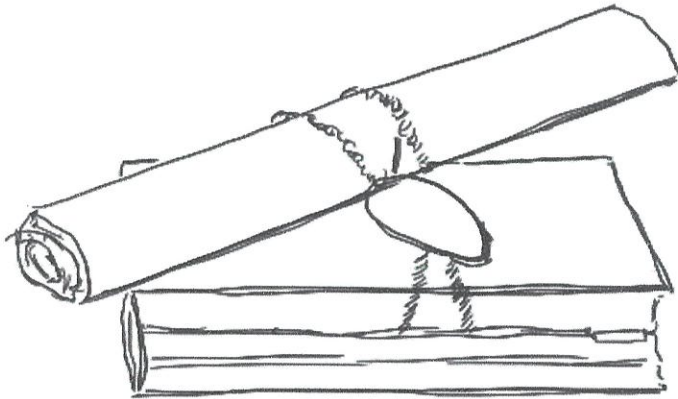
Combined with the rebuild of the Heritage Services in Doncaster, this has meant some of the research is currently unavailable until it is translated or the Doncaster Archives reopen in the next few years.



The tower of Conisbrough August 2021

Their grey locks and long full beards, together with their antique tunics and loose black mantles, suited well with the singular and rude apartment in which they were seated....

A passage from Sir Walter Scott's novel *Ivanhoe* set in the third floor apartment of the 'great tower of Coningsburgh Castle. The novelist came to the district in 1865. He visited the Castle and wrote part of his novel in a house now known as The Boat Inn. (Haigh, *Discovering Yorkshire's History*, p135)



WOMEN IN DONCASTER

This project is about two women of Medieval Doncaster. Juliana atte Gotte and Maud or Matilda de York both lived in and around the area of Conisbrough Castle during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Juliana is one of the many women listed in the Conisbrough Manorial Rolls of that time and Maud was the chatelaine of the castle itself.

The fourteenth century was an unstable time, besides the schism between the various factions of the royal family, the ordinary population were growing uncomfortable with the feudal system, the whole country was ravaged by the Black Death that killed approximately 60% and caused problems with employees and production there was major unrest. This affected the women as well as they had to step up and become lessees. During this time the local courts kept going, and the only difference appears as there seems to be more swapping of tenants. The populace considered that less craftsmen meant more money for those who survived the dreadful plague.

Even after the Peasant Rebellion in 1381 the gulf remained between the ordinary medieval family and the noble family.

Juliana Atte Gotte

Juliana features in the Conisbrough Manor Rolls as one of the 40 plus women who fell foul of the Statute of Beer and Bread. These are her and her daughter Isolda's Records. Her surname varies with the different clerks who wrote the Rolls: Attegotte, Atte Gote because surnames were not yet a set name.

There is little chance of finding any further details about her personally, apart from her daughter Isolda and the possibility of her name turning up in future translations of the Conisbrough Rolls, but it shows there was local unrest in her time and similar problems with neighbours that occur today!

1317-1318

Conisborough

25 Oct	Juliana Atte Gote baked against Assize	6d
15 Nov	Juliana Atte Gote baked against Assize	6d
6 Dec	Julian Atte Gote brewed weak ale	3d
	Juliana Atte Gote brewed against Assize pardoned as a pauper	

1324-1325

Edington

Amercement	Juliana ate Gote was amerced and fined	3d
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Conisborough

Distrain	The bailiff was ordered to distrain all baker and brewers to produce all their corn and ale measures at the next court. ("Court Roll 1324-25 - Page 3 of 6 - DHI")	
Amercement	Juliana Attegotte brewed and did not send ale for tasting Order having been issued at previous court for all bakers/brewers to present goods.	
Amercement	Isolda Attegotte for weak ale	3d

Braithwell

Amercement	Juliana Atte Gotte and five others	
	Escape of three pigs into part of the Lord's land sewn with peas	2d
Amercement	Juliana brewed against Assizes four times	
Amercement	Isolda Attegote weak ale	

1349-1350 (The Black Death Rolls)

	The name of the 1349-1350 rolls came at a later date and there are no obvious marks in the rolls to display the plague that ravished the country and killed 60% of the population, except that names changed more than usual on the rented properties and fields.	
Summons	Isolda daughter of Juliana Atte Gotte to answer William del Wod in a plea of debt	
Summons	Juliana Hert raised a hue and cry justly upon six people plus Juliana atte Gote (dead)	4d
Essoin	William del Wod plaintiff against Isolda daughter of Juliana in a plea of debt through William Milner And because said Isolda, herself summoned, does not Come, therefore to resummon	
Distrain	It is ordered to distrain Isolda, daughter of Juliana Atte Gote to answer to William del Wood who puts himself in a plea of debt	
Essoin	Isolda Atte Gote defendant against William de Wod who puts himself in a plea of debt through John de Vesey	
Amercement	It is found by inquisition that Isolda Atte Gote unjustly detained of William del Hille 3s and one chest Therefore she is to make satisfaction and is in mercy.	

11 April 1369

Fine

William Orleans and William Milner surrender a messuage in
Conisbrough abutting on the lane and on the land of Juliana
Vescy which is granted to Isolde Attegotte and her heirs forever
Entry fine 6d



Peasant Medieval woman

The Statute of Ale and Bread

(Assiza Panis et Cervisiae)

The Statute of Ale and Bread was revised by Henry III in 1267 and is acknowledged to be one of the earliest food legislation sought to ensure that bread and ale were neither adulterated nor sold underweight and sold to a standard. It was a law only repealed in the late nineteenth century.

The manorial courts met triweekly and one of their duties was to check weights, monitor quality and control prices of wheat and cereals. It brought about the Guilds for commercial bakers and brewers but it also meant families were charged by amercements or fines for their own infringements. The extra phrase linked with this statute is *Lucrus Pistorum*, which meant *Gain of the Baker*. This was meant for the growing number of commercial bakers.

At this time a general labourer would have received approximately two pounds a year and since Juliana atte Gotte seems to be a pauper this was quite a sum of money and probably why she was pardoned early on in her "career" in the local court.

Bread and ale making were considered women's work, at least in the home. Therefore many of the names of transgressors on the Manor Rolls are female, because usually when a man is fined it is as head of the household not the transgressor.

They were linked by the fact that often the starter for the bread, known as ale-barm, came from the process of brewing and both were made by grain which tied the prices together. The cost of grain and where it was grown and where it was sold set the price.

1. The wealthy ate a loaf called Pandemain, made of carefully sifted white wheat flour and made for them by servants, as quoted in the nursery rhyme *sing a Song of Sixpence*:

The King was in his Counting House

Counting out his money,

The Queen was in the parlour

Eating Bread and Honey.

2. Wastrel Loaf was of slightly less refinement and was similar to a Manchet Loaf.
3. Cheat Loaf was a wheat loaf with all the bran removed.
4. Tourte Loaf contained the husks in the flour.
5. Clapbread was barley or oatcakes.
6. Which leaves the basic Cocket or Cockle Bread, this loaf would contain anything edible that the baker had to hand, especially split peas. Folklore has it that the Cockle Weed (a type of Rye grass). The nearest actual recipe seems to be Horse bread.

Medieval Horsebread

Prep time: 30 mins

Cook time: 25 mins

Total time: 19hrs 55 mins

EQUIPMENT

mixing bowl

banneton (proving basket)

baking tray

cooling rack

INGREDIENTS

100 grams dried split peas

200 grams lively starter

450 grams wholemeal flour

50 grams pea flour

10 grams seaweed

350 ml water

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wash split peas and place them in a medium bowl. Cover with water and leave overnight to soak.
2. Take starter out of fridge and leave overnight to get to room temperature.
3. The next morning, mix the starter, flours, seaweed (or salt) and water until a thick wet dough forms. Cover and leave for 3 hours.
4. Drain and dry the split peas. Coarsely chop and set aside.
5. Turn dough onto a floured board, adding extra flour to get a workable dough. Knead in the chopped peas and form a loaf.
6. Using extra flour, make sure to coat the sides of the banneton to prevent sticking. Place loaf in banneton and leave to rise for four hours.
7. Place a large baking tray in the oven and heat to highest setting.
8. When the oven is hot enough, remove tray, sprinkle with more flour, and turn loaf out onto tray.
9. Score loaf with a knife and cook for 25 minutes. Turn out onto rack.

Medieval Baker in her Kitchen



Brewing Beer

Before the Black Death housewives brewed their own ale for the home, and often sold the excess for extra income. This is shown in the Conisbrough Manor Rolls. If they were fortunate their husband would consider the money a bonus and they were able to spend it otherwise it went into the family finances. It was brewed mainly for drinking instead of water as a safer alternative.

It was strenuous and heavy work, involving lifting large amounts of boiling hot water. Fires had to be kept going day and night and window shutters kept open to release fumes. Any of the family around were roped in to help. The ale-barm was the froth scraped off the top of the fermenting liquid and cleaned before using as the bread starter.

There are many tales of ale-wives, depicting them as *grotesque, old witch like women who adulterated their ale*. These are characters depicted in John Skelton's poem *the Tunning of Elynour Rummyng* and William Langland's *Piers Plowman*, where he puts cloth making and brewing under the title of Covetousness in his seven deadly sins, for he says you are able to break every rule in brewing.

This is why it is mostly women who are fined and turn up on the Manor Rolls, for if men do get fined for this they usually have a familiar name or are named under the aegis: husband of..... otherwise the couple are working together.

When the Black Death struck the consumption of ale rose, both for medicinal purposes and as a sign of the times and it caused the decline of the woman brewer and growth of the professional sector. The growth of the professional guilds did not actually prohibit women but views of the age probably did.

Maud de York, Countess of Cambridge

(1389 – 1446)

My second lady was the Lady of Conisbrough Castle, she was born Maud de Gifford at Brough Castle, Cumbria in 1389. She and her second husband Richard of Cambridge are connected by family to both sides of the later Wars of the Roses, for Richard was father of the Duke of York (another Richard) and therefore grandfather to two kings, Edward IV, and Richard III. Maud's family were Lancastrian and her great nephew John Clifford is reputed to have killed Edmund of Rutland, Edward and Richard's brother.

Maud and her brother John were the children of Thomas de Clifford, 6th Baron Clifford and his wife Elizabeth de Ro(o)s Baroness Cobham.

As a child Maud was married to John Neville, Baron Latimer. The marriage was never consummated, and the marriage was dissolved, though she retained some of the Neville lands previously put in trust for her. As T.B. Hugh states in his book, Henry V, and the Southampton Plot:

She took the initiative in obtaining a divorce from him, *causa frigiditatis eiusdem Johannis Nevill*. At least she could console herself with the advantageous property settlement that had accompanied her Latimer marriage. Despite the dissolution of that ill-fated match, Maud Clifford contrived to retain for the rest of her life a large part of her former husband's estates. (Pugh, p.95)

Richard Plantagenet, later Earl of Cambridge had recently lost his first wife, had little money and no land. He had been born in Conisbrough Castle, lived there as a tenant of his older brother Edward Duke of York. He was left out of the will of Edmund Langley his father and had to depend on the largesse of his older brother. It was rumoured that his true father was one John Holland, the Duke of Exeter, with whom his mother had an affair. John was the half-brother of the King and his mother Isabel had written to King Richard II to pay him a pension. His first wife, Ann Mortimer, was an heiress but since they had eloped, she brought no dowry with her. She had died in childbirth of her son Richard, their younger child.

Maud was therefore a good prize and he married her not long after Ann's death, bringing him wealth to equal his relatives and peers. But Maud's luck in marriage

would again cause her problems, for within a few years Richard would be executed for plotting against King Henry V.

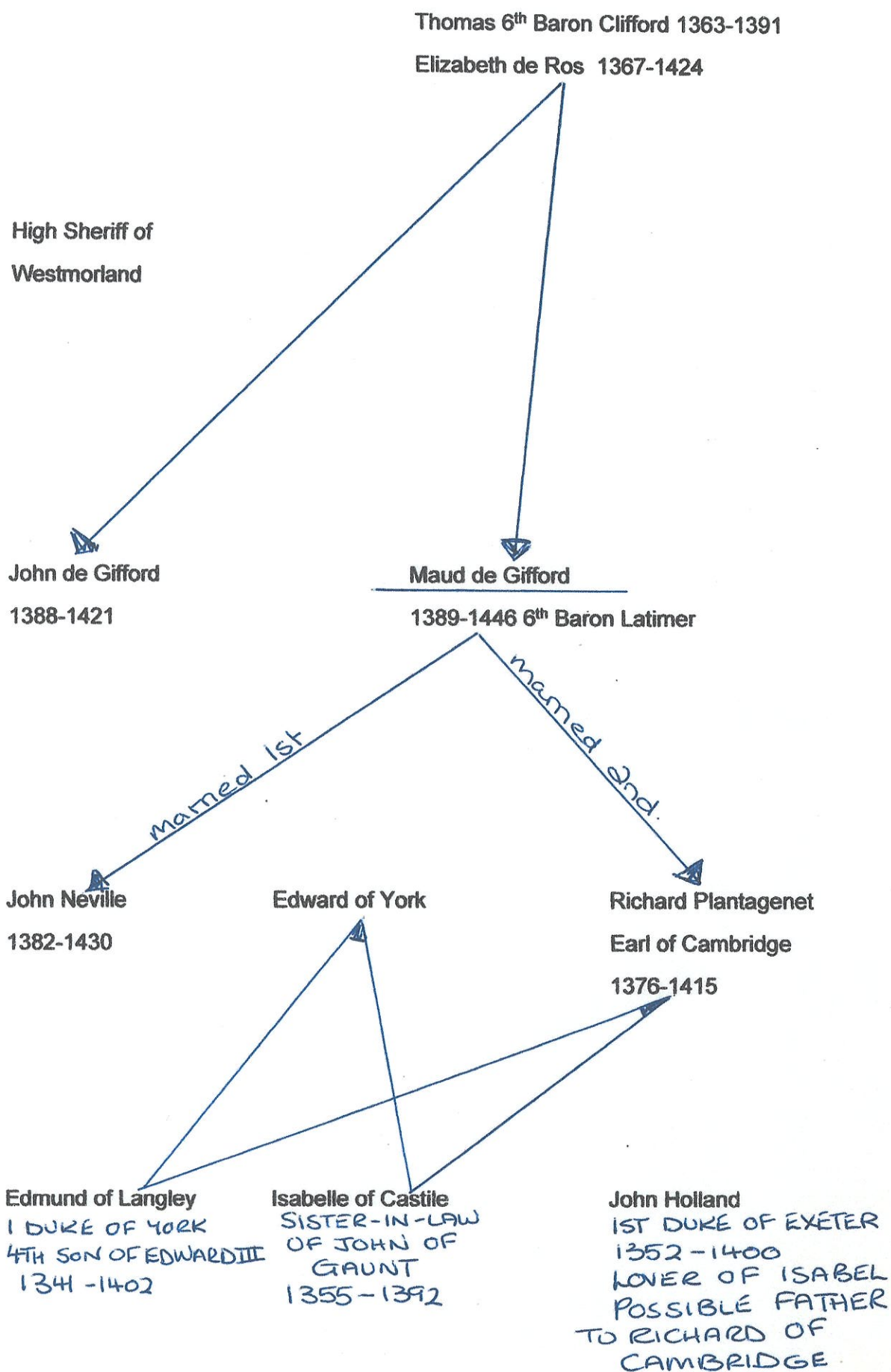
Just before the King set off for France for the campaign that would ultimately end at the Battle of Agincourt he had to deal with a conspiracy against his life. The brother of Cambridge's first wife, Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March had approached the King in July 1415, to tell him that Richard of Cambridge, Henry Lord Scrope of Masham and Sir Thomas Gray were plotting to kill the King and his three brothers and put him, the Earl of March on the throne. All three were executed, Edmund Mortimer was exonerated and went to France with the King.

Richard was buried in the chapel of St Julian's in Southampton where the plot and its discovery had taken place. His son Richard was put under the guardianship of Earl Ralph of Westmorland and was later to inherit the title of York and the Mortimer claims as both uncles died without issue and later fight the next Henry for the British throne, though the only crown he achieved was a paper one when his decapitated head sat on a spike at York Castle. His son, Edward Earl of March, got his revenge in less than a month, later becoming Edward IV.

Maud remained at Conisbrough Castle, living in state and in close contact with her Clifford relatives. Her great nephew John Clifford was born at Conisbrough Castle and gained mythical status through Hall, Holinshed, and Shakespeare as the character "Butcher Clifford" who is supposed to have stabbed seventeen-year-old Edmund Earl of Rutland in the back before delivering his and his father's head (Richard of York) to Queen Margaret wife of Henry VI.

Maud died in 1446 and was buried at Roche Abbey which had been created by one of her ancestors. She left her possessions to the Clifford family with whom she was still close. The Abbey suffered in the Suppression and was surrendered 23 June 1538., the lead from the roofs was reportedly melted on burning pyres made from the wood of the choir stalls. The English Heritage Guidebook shows a photograph of stone for a large tomb that could be the remnants of Maud's tomb.

The area was landscaped in the 18th century by the famous gardener Capability Brown funded by the 4th Earl of Scarborough, but in the mid 19th century the 9th and 10th Earls cleared some of the work to bring back the monastic history. Today the 1777 Banqueting Lodge is used as the ticket office and entry to the site.





The ruins of Roche Abbey
where Maud of York was buried
in 1446

APPENDIX 1

Kings of England during this period

<u>Name</u>	<u>born</u>	<u>reigned</u>	
Henry III	1207	1216 – 1272	son
Edward I	1239	1272 – 1307	son
Edward II	1284	1307 – 1327	son
Edward III	1312	1327 – 1377	son
Richard II	1367	1377 – 1399	grandson
Henry IV	1367	1399 – 1413	cousin
Henry V	1386	1413 – 1422	son
Henry VI	1421	1422 – 1461	son
Edward IV	1442	1461 – 1470	cousin
		1471 – 1483	
Richard III	1452	1483 – 1485	brother

The Kings were all the Plantagenet family, and by the times of Henry VI were sliding towards the schism of the Wars of the Roses and eventual takeover by the Tudors.

Edward II was murdered at Berkeley Castle Gloucestershire and Richard II met his death at Pontefract Castle.

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Also help from:

Dr Charles Kelham, Borough Archivist and Heritage Doncaster
Conisbrough Local History
Conisbrough and Denaby Main Local History

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