

Luton: Market Town

1750 to 1850



A Local History Resource Pack
Luton Museum Education Service

Arts Libraries & Museums

Luton Culture

Luton: Market Town

The resources in this pack focus on Luton from the mid 18th century to the mid 19th century. At this time Luton was a small market town with an economy largely based on farming. The pack focuses on an area we would now consider the centre of town, but then was the whole town. The aim has been to provide a core of resources that will help pupils studying local history at KS2 and 3.

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2: The Town and its Buildings

Early Descriptions of Luton

A collection of references to the town from a variety of sources.

Two Descriptions of Luton in 1800

As the 19th century progressed old Lutonians looked back to remember the town as it had been in their youth. The first, published in 1855, comes from 'The History of Luton' by Frederick Davis, the second from 'Old Luton' by Misses D.M. and E.K. Higgins, a much smaller volume published around 1880.

Map of Luton 1815

This map comes from Misses Higgins' 'Old Luton'. The heavy black lines indicate the inhabited areas.

Map of South Bedfordshire from 1839 Trade Directory

This map shows Luton and its environs prior to the railways. Many of the separate hamlets indicated have since become part of the town.

1842 Map of Luton

This map gives more detail than the 1815 map and it is possible to see how the town has grown in the intervening years.

Street Names in the early 1800s

This information will assist when comparing older maps of the town to those of the present day.

View of Luton 1848

From Davis' History of Luton (1874). This view of the town from Hart Hill gives some impression of its comparatively small size. The church can be easily picked out in the centre and on the left is the octagonal Baptist meeting house. A few years later the railway would cut through the pasture at the bottom of the hill. Today all the foreground and the hill is developed.

Engraving of the Corn Market House, Luton, 1775

The earliest representation of the Market House included in this pack. This was one of the two notable buildings in the Luton of this period – the other being the parish church. The viewer is standing on the London road looking towards town.

George Street, looking towards Market Hill by Thomas Fisher c.1820

The corner of the Market Hall can be seen as the road disappears round to the right. The grassy verges of the road are visible on the right.

Engraving of The Market Place 1835

This shows the Market House in the centre. The finger post points the way to London and to Bedford.

Photograph of Market Hill 1867.

This photograph shows almost the same view thirty years later.

The George Inn, Luton. Sketch by Thomas Fisher c.1820

A detailed sketch of one of the most important places in the town at the time. It was a coaching inn, post office, meeting house, function room, magistrates' court and auction house. It stood to the right of the Bute Street entrance to the Arndale Centre.

The Old Red Cow 1830

This inn stood on Tower Hill, the road out of town to Bedford. It was demolished during the 1830s.

Luton Hoo Park 1785

The seat of the Earls of Bute from 1762 to 1844. It was bought by the third Earl from the Napier family. He carried out extensive improvements to the house and enlarged the park considerably, enclosing many more acres of land. The description comes from 'Select Illustrations, Historical and Topographical, of Bedfordshire' by Rev. I.D. Parry, 1827.

St Mary's Parish Church 1827

This engraving comes from 1827 Rev. I.D. Parry in 'Select Illustrations, Historical and Topographical, of Bedfordshire'. St Mary's Church was much remarked on by early visitors. It still stands today although it has a modern extension.

3: Business and Trade

The Merchants Miscellany 1785

This is essentially a trade directory for Bedfordshire. The description of the town does, unlike its successors, hint at the political views of the writer.

Luton entries from Pigot & Co.'s Directory of Bedfordshire 1830 and 1839

A comparison between these trade directories will give some impression of the growth of the town and also the development of its transport links.

Brick Kilns from Pyne's Microcosm of the Arts, Agriculture and Manufactures Etc. of Great Britain. 1808

Brickmaking was one of Luton's early industries. There were brickyards in and around town, including one in George Street, using local clay. Pyne's illustrations show the process of making, stacking and firing the bricks. Extracts from the accompanying texts gives some impression of the process and the work involved.

Brewing on a small scale from Pyne's Microcosm of the Arts, Agriculture and Manufactures Etc. of Great Britain. 1808

Every town had its brewers and Luton was no exception. In the 1785 directory one brewer and three maltsters are listed.

A Country Fair from Pyne's Microcosm of the Arts, Agriculture and Manufactures Etc. of Great Britain. 1808

Luton's fairs are referred to in the Trade Directories. They would have been a highlight of the year for townspeople and those from the surrounding countryside. This article and illustration give some impression of their attractions.

4: People

Joseph Hawkes' Memory Sketches of Luton

Hawkes was born in Luton in 1814. Several Hawkes appear in the trade directories suggesting his was a large Luton family. The extracts included come from a series of reminiscences he wrote for a local newspaper published in about 1895.

1841 Census Data from Adelaide Terrace

Adelaide Terrace was a courtyard of thirty-three terraced houses off the eastern side of George Street. Built in the late 18th or early 19th century, development included a well and four privies. Less information was collected in 1841 than in later censuses. House numbers were not recorded nor was the place of birth or relationship to the head of the family.

Acknowledgements

This resource pack was produced for Luton Museum Education Service by Eleanor Markland, Keeper of Education and Elizabeth Adey, Keeper of Local History with the assistance of Kate Warren, Michael Bristow and the Bedfordshire and Luton Archive and Record Service. Thomas Fisher's Sketch of George Street is reproduced with the permission of The Cecil Higgins Art Gallery, Bedford. Layout and design by Shaw Design Associates.

Front cover: Luton From Hart Hill 1848 from Davis' History of Luton (1874).

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Luton Culture

1: Teachers' Notes

Introduction

Until the 1800s Luton was a small country market town, surrounded by a ring of villages and hamlets. It was a small settled community, its economy based on brewing and agriculture, including sheep farming, and had changed little over the last 600 years. The surrounding area also provided the raw materials for brick making. Luton was notable for being the seat of the Marquis of Bute, whose family lived at Luton Hoo and whose estates included much of the town. When visiting Luton in 1781 Dr Johnson's biographer Boswell noted that they "visited the seat of Lord Bute on the King's birthday; we dined and drank His Majesty's health at an inn in the village of Luton".

The town itself lay in the area we would now consider the centre of town. St Mary's Church formed its centre together with the Market House on Market Hill. Park Street, George Street and Church Street were the main streets. They were unpaved, had wide grass covered verges and were so narrow that it was difficult for two carts to pass one another. In George Street there were four farms and the road was lined with trees. A large chestnut tree stood just in front of where the Town Hall now stands.

The River Lea was far more of a feature of the town. Now it flows through culverts under the town and is only noticed when excessive rain causes it to flood up the New Bedford Road. Then it was wider than it is today and formed the border of the town on the eastern side. When it flooded it could cause great damage and even loss of life. It was crossed by fords in several places and powered water mills along its length. Mill Street in town is now the only reminder of the North Mill which was demolished to make way for the railway embankment.

Most people lived in small houses and cottages around the church. These houses were low with overhanging storeys, making the streets even narrower. The old thatched and timber framed houses were gradually replaced by brick and tile buildings. By the 1700s some more prosperous families were living in houses which had a few luxuries and better furnishings. However as the town's population grew the housing available to the poor grew more cramped and squalid. In 1800 about 3,000 people lived in the parish of Luton. This remained more or less static until the 1820s, but by 1831 it had risen to nearly 4,000 and 10 years later it had grown again to nearer 6,000.

As a market town Luton served the surrounding villages and hamlets. The Market House was designed with the sale of corn in mind, including a grain loft in its construction. However the market would have drawn anyone who had produce to sell or wanted to buy. The town's developing role in serving the wider community can be seen in the growth of businesses listed in the trade directories included in this pack. This also indicates the town's growing prosperity and helps explain the growth in population as people were drawn from the surrounding countryside to work.

Traders and visitors coming to the town for markets, and people coming here to look for work, would all have come by road. As can be seen from the 1839 map of south Bedfordshire included in this pack, Luton was not on the railway network at this period. The nearest canal was the Grand Junction which ran through Leighton Buzzard. The nearest main road was what is now the A5 running through Dunstable. A stark difference to today when Luton is very well placed for transport connections: road, rail and air. The Directories included in this pack make reference to the coach and carrier services which served the town. The coaches ran from London to Bedford and the North and could carry both passengers and post. The town's position in the centre of a ring of hills made the roads a challenge to teams and drivers, especially in bad weather.

At the end of this period Luton was on the cusp of huge growth that would change the town forever, from a small country market town to a large industrial centre. Few reminders of this Luton remain. The Parish Church is the only building in the centre of town a 18th century Lutonian would recognise. Through using this collection of resources students will hopefully be able to build a picture of the town as it was at this time.

Bibliography

Luton Museum Newspaper Archives Collection

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William Austin, *History of Luton and its Hamlets*, Isle of Wight County Press 1928

James Dyer, Frank Stygall, John Dony, *The Story of Luton*, White Crescent 1964

Stephen Bunker, Robin Holgate, Marian Nichols, *The Changing Face of Luton*, Book Castle 1993

Stuart Smith, *Pubs & Pints, the Story of Luton's Public Houses and Breweries*, Book Castle 1995

Stephen Bunker, Strawopolis, *Luton Transformed 1840-1876*, Bedfordshire Historical Record Society 1999

Using The Resources

These are just a few suggestions for activities using the sources included in this pack.

The Town and its buildings

- Which of the descriptions best fit the illustrations of the town?
- Compare the two descriptions of Luton in 1800.
What do the writers feel about the town as it was then?
What do the writers feel about the town as it is when they are writing?
Highlight references to the look of the town in each passage. How do they differ?
Draw a picture of the town based on each of descriptions. How do they differ?
Which do you think is the more accurate picture?
Why do you think the descriptions differ since both writers are remembering the same town at the same time?
- What impression of the town do Joseph Hawkes' reminiscences give you?
- Look at the illustrations of the town. What types of buildings can you identify?
- Compare the 1835 drawing of Market Hall to the 1867 photograph
- Visit the centre of Luton. Can you find any remains of the old town as illustrated in these pictures? Take some photographs of the same views today. List all the changes you can see.
- List the street names marked on the maps included in this pack, highlight them on a modern map to show the extent the centre of town has changed.
- Compare the 1839 county map to a map of today. Mark on a copy of the 1832 map the extent of Luton today. Which villages have now become part of Luton?
- Select information and images from this pack to:
Design a leaflet on 'Old Luton' for foreign tourists.
Write an article for a local paper about George Street at the end of the 18th century

The Townspeople

- What impression of life in the town do Joseph Hawkes' reminiscences give you?
- Consider why fairs were such big events.
From Pyne's article list the pros and cons he sees in fairs.
What elements of the fair has he chosen to illustrate in his picture?
Compare Joseph Hawkes' description of Luton's 'Stattie' fair to Pyne's article, how do their views compare?
- Brickmaking was an important industry at the time. From the information given by Pyne's article and illustration what do you think it would have been like to work in a brickyard?
- Look at the surnames listed in the directories and mentioned in other sources. Are any of these names still listed in a modern directory? Consider whether it is likely that they are the same families.

- Consider the data provided by the census return for Adelaide Terrace in 1841
What proportion of people were born outside Bedfordshire?
What is the average family size of those with children?
What are the most common occupations?
What type of jobs do the majority of working men do?
What type of jobs do the majority of working women do?
How old is the oldest person? How much older are they than the average?
- What conclusions can you draw from the information these census returns provide about the town as a whole? Discuss the nature of these conclusions.

Trade and Business

- Look at the trade directories included in this pack
Compare the lists of tradesmen from the town directories
Use a dictionary to look up any that you do not recognise
Compare lists to a modern trade directory - such as Yellow Pages. Which types of trades are still present in Luton? Which have disappeared? Think about why this might be the case.
Pick one trade and compare the statistics over the years you have figures for. What conclusions can you draw from them?
In the later directories the number of businesses grew. Which businesses grew most strongly?
Did any stay the same? Did any decrease? Do you notice any trends?
Which businesses would be considered manufacturing, which service? How does the proportion of these change over the years?
- Look at the introduction to the 1795 directory. It begins by describing the town and then makes a political statement.
What is the writer complaining about?
What does he suggest is the solution?
- The introductions from the later directories are descriptions of the town and its amenities.
Compare them and list the changes in the town over the years.
- What do these resources show about Luton's transport links at this time?
What can you find out about the transport and communication links from the directories?
Do some research to find out what a journey by mail coach would have been like at this time. It was 31 miles to London, how long might this have taken?
What types of transport does Joseph Hawkes mention. List all the references he makes to roads and travel. What impression does this give of the town's transport network?
Look at the roads in the illustrations and photographs. What changes can you see recorded in them. Hawkes refers to a 'dandy horse'. From the text only, what do you think it was and why do you think it caused such a stir? Draw a picture of it from his description. Using other reference sources can you find out what it was?
Visit The Mossman Collection at Stockwood Craft Museum to find out more about horse-drawn wagons, coaches and carriages.
- Brewing and farming were important industries at this time.
Find out more about the processes involved
What was the link between them?
Visit Stockwood Craft Museum, or a similar rural life museum

Early descriptions of Luton

1586 William Camden in 'Britannia'

"I saw nothing memorable in it, unless I should say that I saw a fair church, but the choir there roofless and overgrown with weeds."

1618 from 'Calendar of State Papers'

"The town of Luton is much injured by pulling down fair dwelling houses and erecting in their place cottages for poor tenants who have no certain livelihood, for the profit of certain private persons."

1715 Rev. Thomas Cox in 'Magna Britannia'

"North-east of Dunstable is Luton, a pretty little market town, pleasantly seated amongst hills. It has a large Market-House and a very great Market on Monday."

1724-34 F. Blomfield in 'Collectanea Cantabrigiensis'

"A good market town set among the hills."

1772 N. Spencer in 'Complete English Traveller'

"A handsome town, situated between two hills, and the inhabitants carry on a considerable manufactory of straw hats."

1776 Robert Gough in 'Notes taken at Luton'

"A long, dirty town of one street, meanly built, and forming off, like a Roman Y, the Market Place and then again to the Church north, and by a pond south to Lord Bute's house."

1782 T. Pennant, 'Journey from Chester to London'

"From Flitton I went southwards, over a hilly and open country. Ride over the Luton Downs, and reach Luton, a small dirty town, seated on the Lea; remarkable for its church and tower steeple, prettily chequered with flint and freestone."

1806 D. and S. Lysons in 'Magna Britannia'

"A considerable market town, noted for its abundant supply of corn."

1827 Rev. I.D. Parry in 'Select Illustrations, Historical and Topographical, of Bedfordshire'

"Luton is a considerable town in Bedfordshire... The Parish is of very great extent, being thirty-four miles in circuit, and containing 17,000 acres, rather more than a seventeenth part of the whole county. It contains several hamlets; as Legrave, Limberry, Stopsley, East Hyde, West Hyde, &c.The town is tolerably, but very irregularly built; the streets are wide, and one or two of them are partly paved. The Market-house is a very plain brick building, on wooden pillars. The only structure at all deserving of notice, or of which the inhabitants have any reason to be proud, is the Parish Church."

1828 Sir Richard Phillips, Personal Tour

"The poor town of Luton evinced marks of decadency. Such a town cannot be expected to boast of much literature."

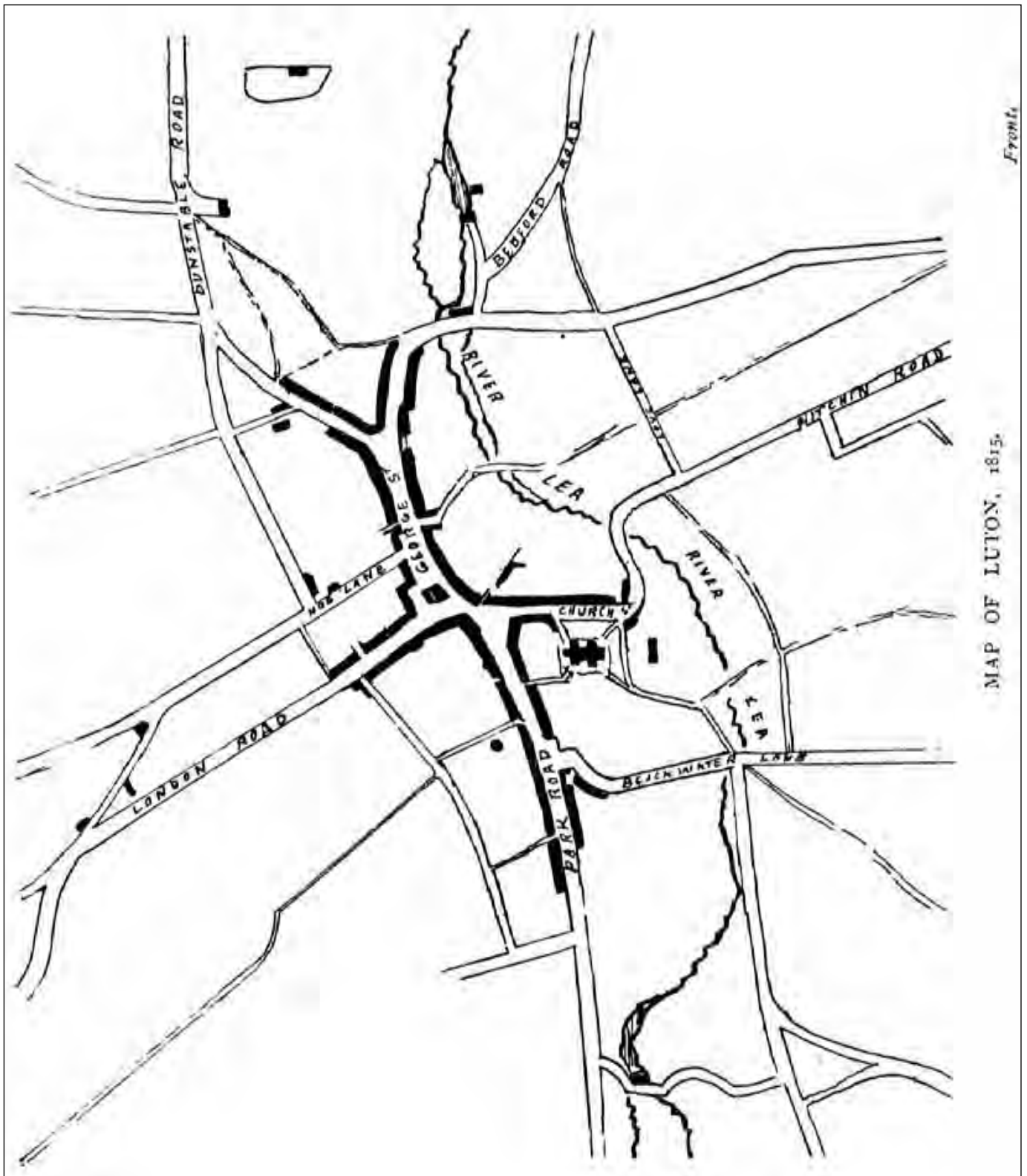
Two descriptions of Luton in 1800

Frederick Davis, in his book *The History of Luton 1855*

"It was a small, dirty, old-fashioned town, of only 5 streets, viz; High Street, Church Street, Sheep-street (now Park Street), so called from the circumstance of the Sheep Fair being held there, and Hog Lane (now Chapel Street). In some parts of the centre of town houses projected so far into the roads that carts could not pass each other; there were also banks on each side of the streets, with grass on almost every part; the houses were in general very low-built with stud walls, and the upper floors overhanging in front two feet. The buildings were chiefly public-houses, farm houses, maltings and old thatched cottages; the few shops had small low windows; the frontages of a few of the more respectable dwellings were paved with pebbles; and other parts unpaved. In front of the houses from Adelaide Terrace to the Market Place, and of those surrounding the Market House, and on the other side of the street from the Black Swan Inn to Spencer's Yard and in front of Mr. Cumberland's private residence in Park Square to St. Ann's Lane were shambles for the sale of butter, eggs & c. The channels along both sides of the roadway were the receptacles of refuse, and planks were placed across, opposite each front door, for the residents to get into the road. The drainage was conveyed into the river from the surface of the streets. In Park Square there was a large pond, called Cross Pond, enclosed with brick walls, except on the south west side, which was left open for cattle, and freely used by boys in summer for bathing and for sliding over when frozen over in winter. There is a legend that the water boiled over at the time of the earthquake in Lisbon. At the south east end of this pond stood the cage and fire-engine house. This pond was condemned at the Court Leet in 1836, and was filled up within two days therefrom, and the cage and fire engine house taken down. There was another pond nearly opposite the Old-yard in Park-street, called the Long Pond, with an avenue of trees along the side; this also has been filled in, and the trees felled."

Misses D.M. & E.K.Higgins in 'Old Luton' c.1880

"Villagers coming in from Streatley would walk through green fields until they arrived in Manchester Street. The New Bedford Road was not in existence, the 'Crown and Anchor' and the Brewery were not built; the ground on which they stand was then part of the Moor. Our 28 miles of street keep sending violets and blackberries further and further away, but then there was a thick hedge in Chapel Street, and also a row of poplar trees, so that boys went birds'-nesting between George Street and the place where the Wesleyan Chapel now stands. Chapel Street was then called Hog-lane; there were only two turnings and two houses between George Street and Farley farm. I may here mention that the public footpath through Stockwood Park was on the other side of the house. From the old market house to the park gates there was no turning except a lane and a footpath or two. There was a pretty walk leading out of the churchyard by the river-side, under shady trees; this lead to the foot of St. Ann's Hill on the right, and on the left through green fields and grassy lanes up the Lynchets to the top of Hart Hill. We must go through George Street once more. From the top of Church Street to where Williamson Street now is, we walk on the first bit of pavement laid down in Luton. The houses, however, did not end there, but at Dunstable Place, opposite to which was a farmhouse; between that and Dunstable there was no building to pass but the Fox public-house. Wellington Street was not begun..... The corner houses in George Street were only built in about 1826, and they were the first. There was not a house in New Town Street or in Langley Street; High Town was not begun and seven acres were not built upon, and was very large. It may seem strange to speak of the size in so many acres, but acre in this case is the Saxon word field, and not a certain measure of land. There were some extensive gardens, orchards and pleasure grounds in Luton then; one house standing in Park Square (where Park Street West now opens) had grounds reaching beyond New Town Street. Another garden, belonging to a house in George Street, covered the ground through which Bute Street was afterwards cut. Other houses on the opposite side of George Street had gardens reaching to Stuart Street."



From from 'Old Luton' by Misses D.M. and E.K. Higgins, c.1880

Luton: Market Town

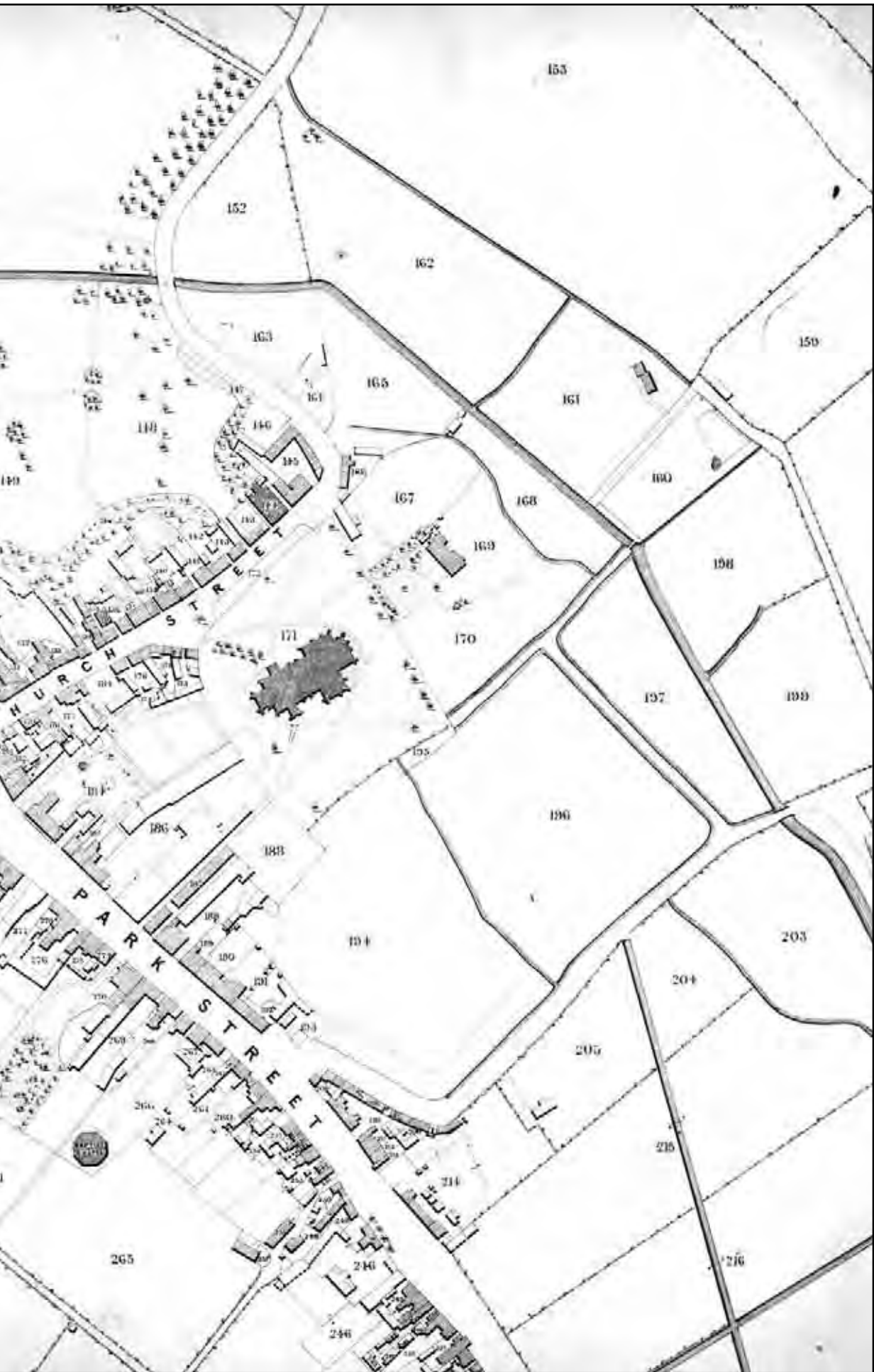




Luton and its position in South Bedfordshire from Pigot & Co.'s Directory of Bedfordshire 1839

Luton: Market Town

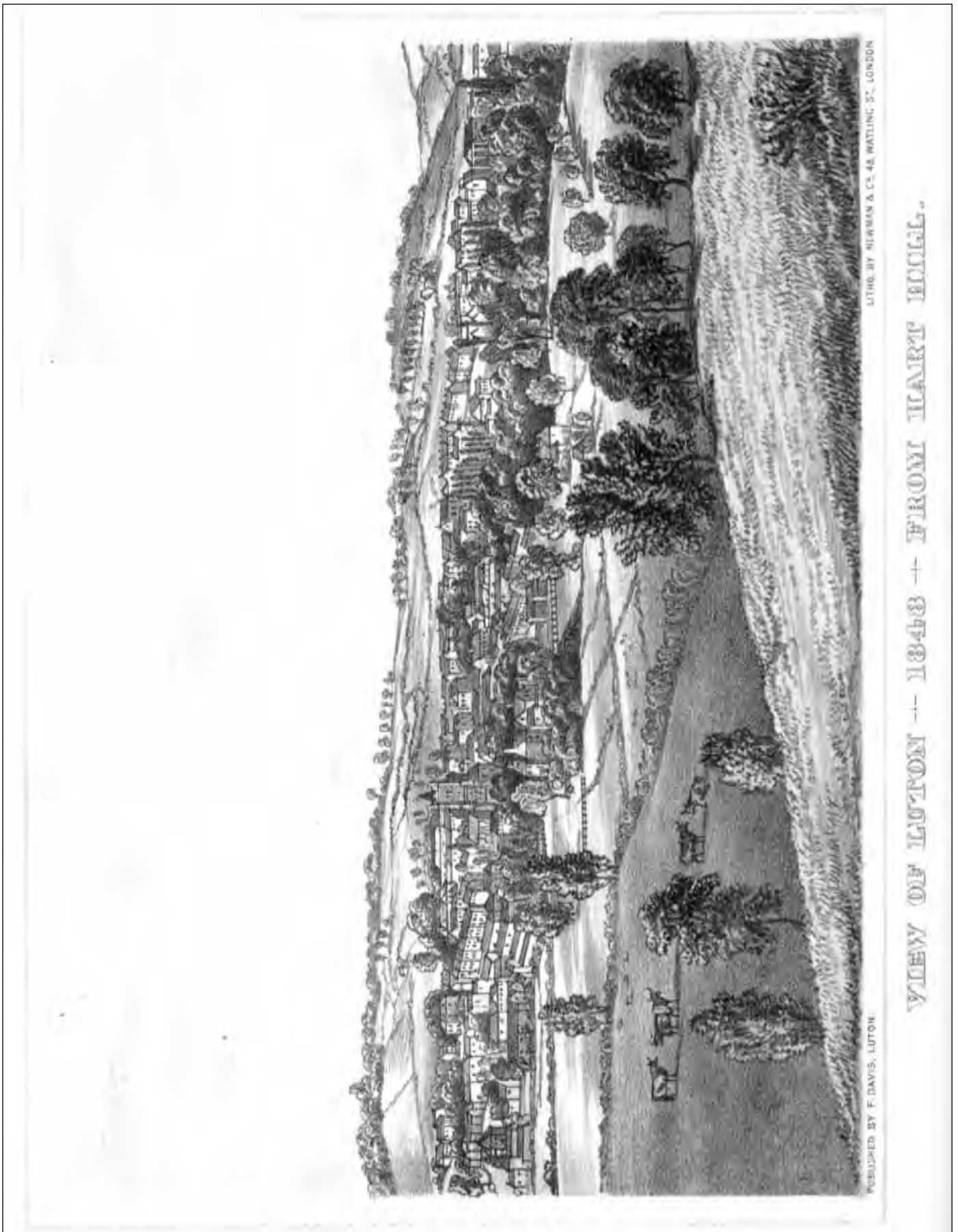




Luton 1842
From History of
Luton and its
Hamlets by William
Austin, 1928

Street Names in Luton 1801 from The Story of Luton, Dyer, Stygall & Dony 1964

George Street	High Street or North Street
Upper George Street	Dunstable Lane
Manchester Street Tower Hill	This was the area now covered by the town hall and up to Gordon Street. It led to Bedford Street/ Road until the New Bedford Road was constructed
Market Hill	Chipping Hill
Chapel Street	Hog Lane - earlier still it was called Beggars Lane
Park Street / Road	The stretch from Market Hill to Park Square was called Common Street Beyond Park Square it was Sheep Street
St. Anne's Lane	Rosemary Lane and earlier School Lane
Stuart Street	Mayes Lane
High Town	Donkey Hall
Blackwater Lane	This road no longer exists. Its name was changed to Lea Road in the 1850s by the Board of Health
Park Lane	Pepper Lane or Louse Lane. Before Waller Street was made Park Lane lead down to the river. Park Lane no longer exists.
Church Street	Stayed the same
Hitchin Road	Is sometimes referred to as Hitchin Lane.
Castle Street	There was a castle on this site thought to have been built in 1139 by a foreign mercenary given the manor of Luton by King Stephen for his service in the civil war. The castle was pulled down in 1154 when all foreign mercenaries were made to give up their possession. Part of the ditch was exposed in 1963 during building work.



From F. Davis' History of Luton, 1874



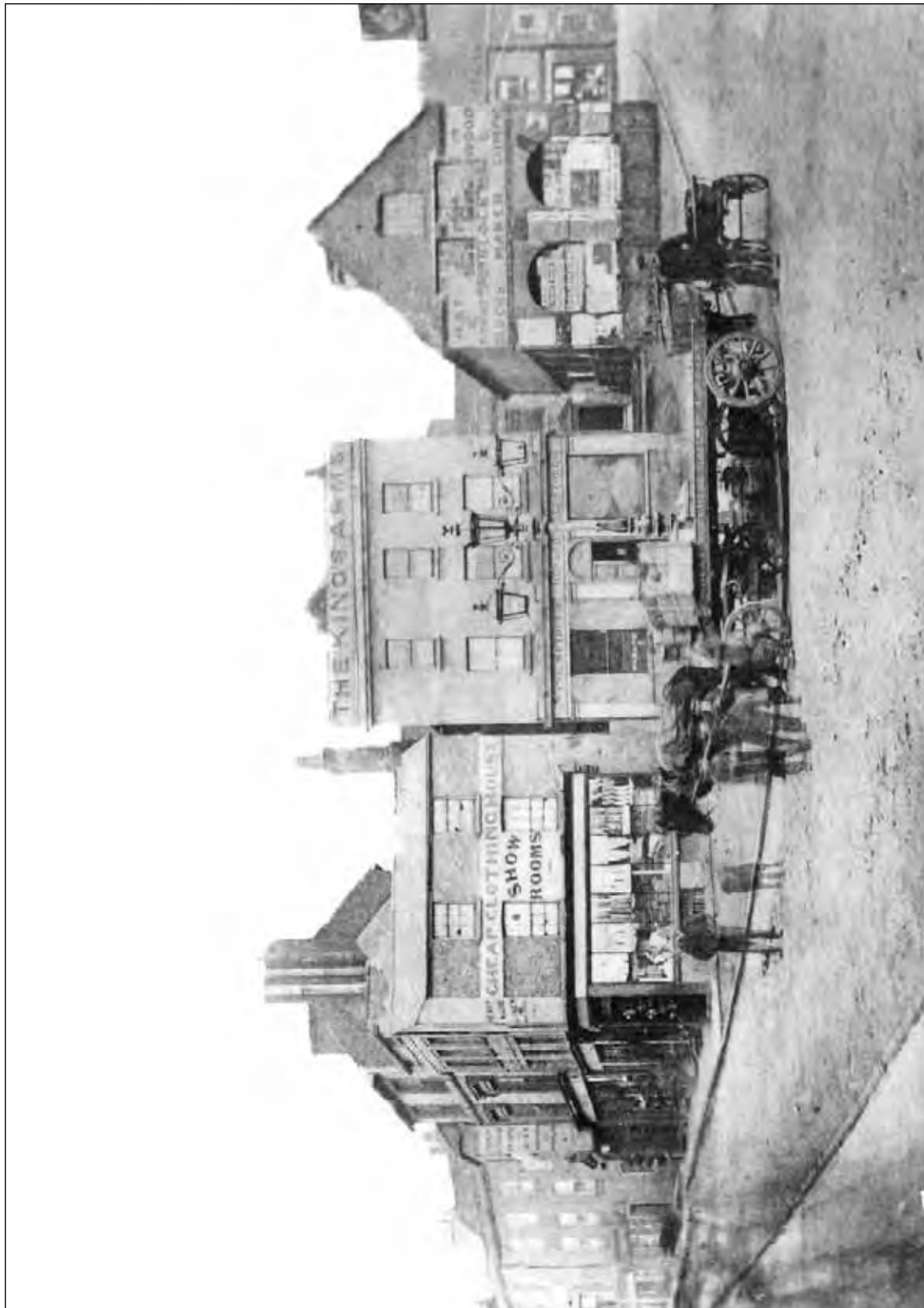
Davis wrote in his 'History of Luton' 1855: "The sketch of the Corn Market House, Luton, 1775, will give some idea of the road in the centre of town, or rather the want of a defined road."



George Street, looking towards Market Hill by Thomas Fisher c. 1820

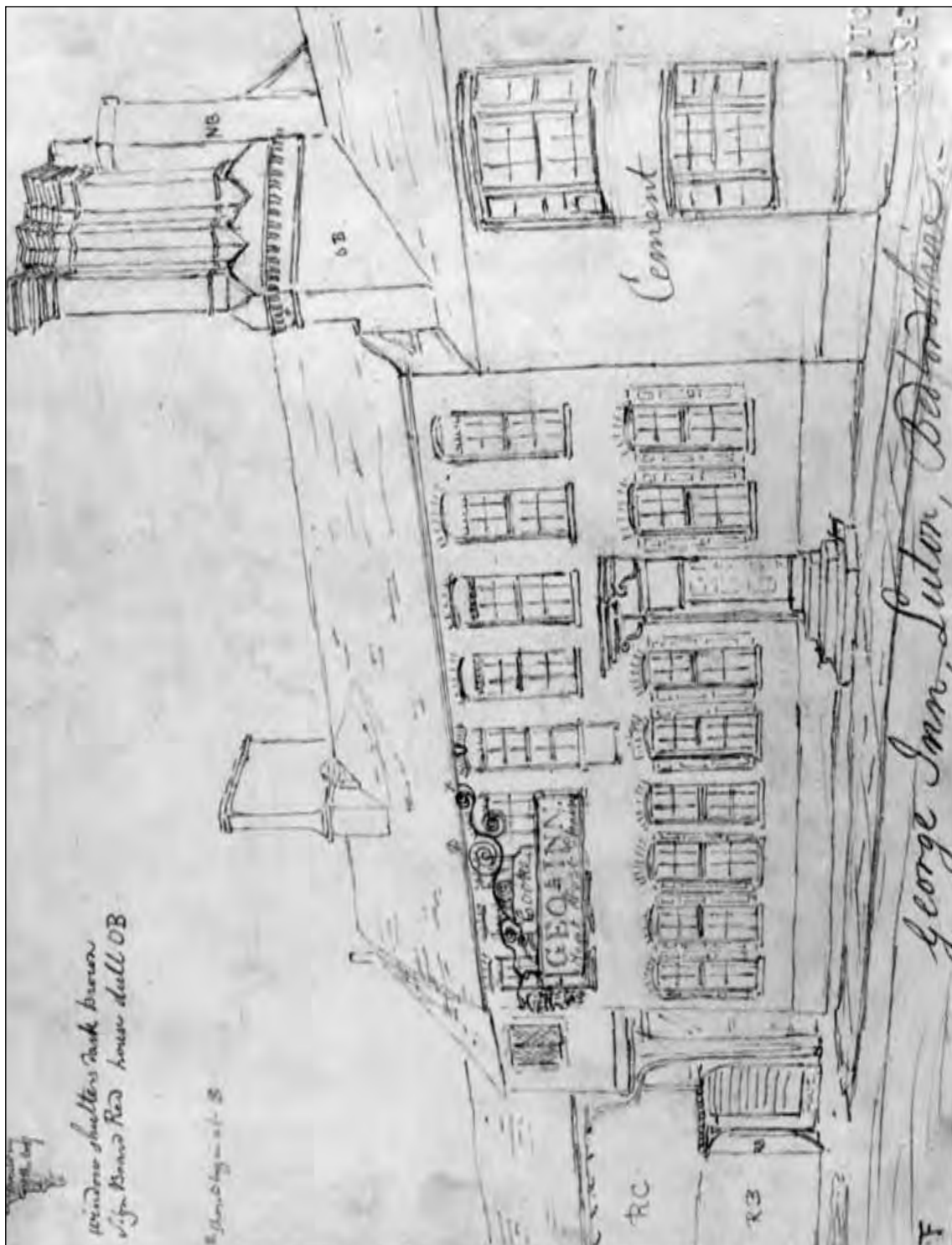


The Market Place, Luton 1835

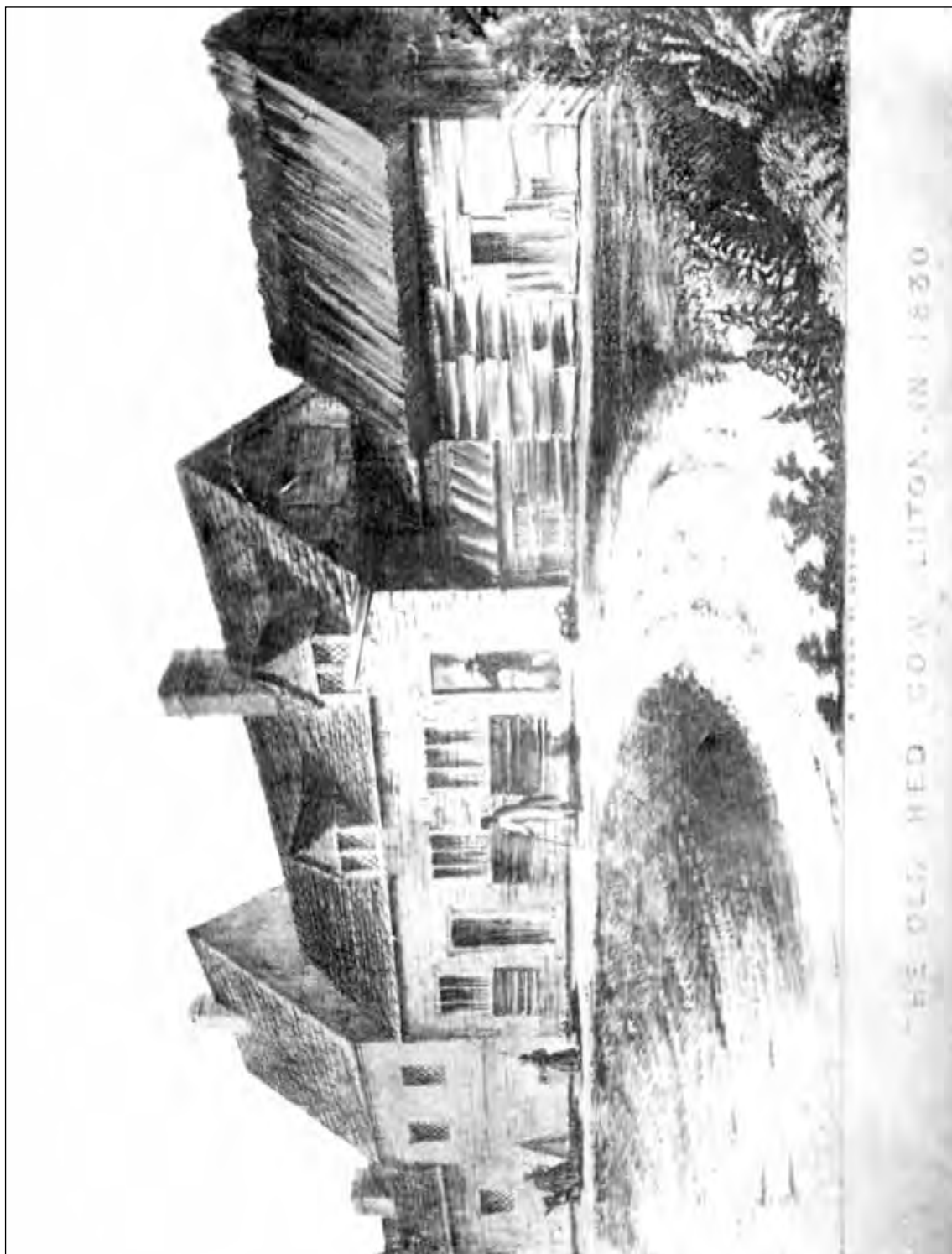


Market Hill in 1867

The Market Hall was knocked down and the area redeveloped that year.



The George Inn, George Street, 1820 by Thomas Fisher



The Old Red Cow appears in the 1830 Directory as The Red Cow in Bedford Street. The licensee was William Grey. It does not appear in the 1839 Directory.

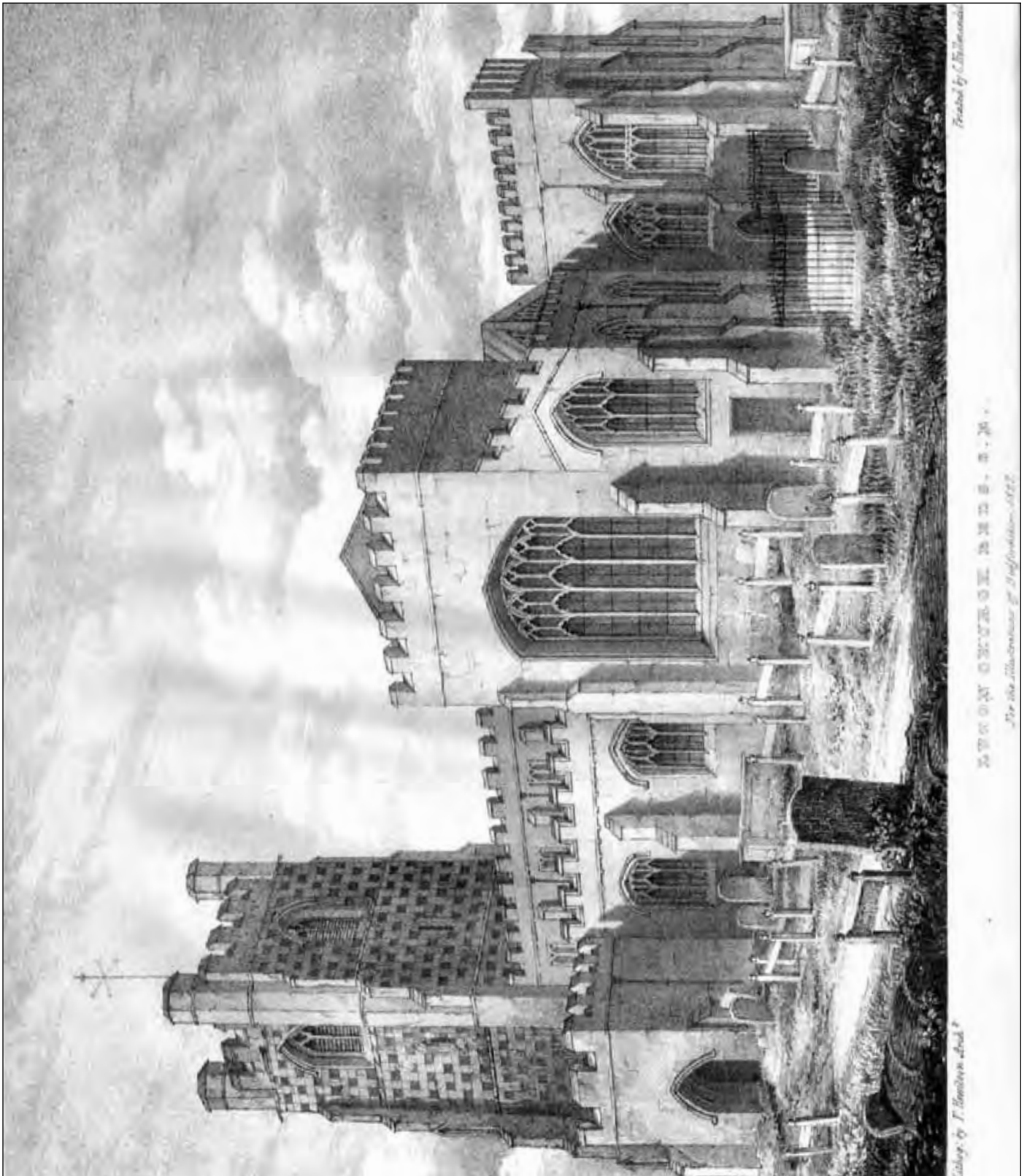
Luton Hoo

The Marquis of Bute's seat, at Luton Hoo, or West Hyde, is a very handsome edifice, and will be much more regular and grand, as great part of it is now being rebuilt...The principal room in the interior, is the library, which is 146 feet long, and contains about 30,000 volumes: it is said to be inferior only to Blenheim; the ceiling is lightly and elegantly painted, as are those of some other rooms, by Cipriani.... Luton Park contains 1,500 acres. The Scenery, particularly about the House, is pleasing; the River Lea, which runs through it, supplies two pieces of water, one of 14 acres, and the other of 50. There are many fine trees of different kinds, amongst which beech is predominant."

1827 Rev. I.D. Parry in *'Select Illustrations, Historical and Topographical of Bedfordshire'*



Luton Hoo and Park in 1785



St. Mary's Parish Church in 1827 from Rev. I.D. Parry in 'Select Illustrations, Historical and Topographical, of Bedfordshire'

T H E
Merchants Miscellany,
A N D
T R A V E L L E R S
COMPLETE COMPENDIUM;
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Mercantile State and public View of the
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Short Description of each Market Town, List of
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By *JOHN FRANKLIN HENINGTON*,
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TO BE CONTINUED ANNUALLY.

 The Public are respectfully informed, that
the Compendium for Northamptonshire will
be published on the 14th of May.

L U T O N

AN irregular built town
but enlivened with a few
good corn markets. The
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meeting of Anabaptists.

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own, and situated on low ground, good houses, and distinguished by the livelihood of a great number of the manufacture of straw for hats; which, the bone lace, is much decreased in of monopolizers crushes the exertion like all other businesses is daily in- purchase opinion to barter, to the op- e and the reward of merit. If it ent patriotic parliament to turn t of England, we would recom- sideration, to reform that which ut altogether. Or rather, by a bold and restore the commonweal, the briton; and let us again find, that be assented to by all." Luton con- living of which belongs to a son e great erudition and noble endow- name of Stewart; and verify the good may arise. Also a numerous

TRADESMEN, &c.

Apothecaries, men-midwives, and surgeons, —	Samuel Chase and Sons
Attorney at law, —	Hampson & son John Jackson
Brewer, —	Thomas Godfrey Burr
Carpenter & auctioneer, —	Robert Hill
Carrier and ironmonger, - -	John Freeth
Draper, . . .	William Austic John Sharp
& woolstapler, . . .	John Hay
Fellmonger — . . .	Robert Barton
Flax dresser & sack-maker, . .	Francis Nash
Grocers, — . . .	Thomas Alfop Matthew Coles John Coles Joseph Brown Daniel Knight
Glazier, plumber, &c. . . .	Charles Sherlock
Manufacturer of hats, . . .	Williamson & son
Malster,	John Prior
Malster & mealman,	Joseph Brown Richard Brown John Butterfield Thomas Pike James Baker
Malster & miller,	Daniel Brown
Surgeon,	Robert Kirby
Watch-maker and brasier, . .	Daniel Field

Post Office, at the George, John Smith.

Excise Office, Red Lion, William Green.

MARKET on Mondays.

FAIRS Ap. 25 and Oct. 24. New ones, toll free, on
Ap. 18 and Oct. 18.

WAGGON to London Mondays and Thursdays.

*The Merchants
Miscellany by
John Franklin
Henington 1785*

Bedfordshire.

Pigot & Co.'s

LUTON,

A FLOURISHING and respectable market-town, giving name to the parish in which it lies, in the hundred of Flitt; is 31 miles from London, 19 from Bedford, 10 from St. Albans, 9 from Hitchin, 5 from Dunstable, and 4 from Market street. It is situated near to the small river Lea, from which locality it is said to have been formerly called *Lea-town*; while others contend that it derives its present appellation 'Luton' from *Low-town*, deduced from the low position of the place;—being surrounded by gentle eminences. This town is entitled to high consideration in the particular and interestingly curious branch of manufacture which pervades this county—the straw hat trade, which in Luton flourishes, and is progressively increasing; giving employment to many hundred females, who would perhaps otherwise have to seek means of subsistence more degrading and precarious. Some of the manufacturing houses here are of great extent and respectability; amongst these, the name of Waller stands most conspicuous, there being three distinct establishments in that name. One of these gentlemen (Mr. Thomas Waller) has recently obtained a patent for the manufacture of 'Tuscan grass plat,' a beautiful article, successfully introduced; the raw material, as its name implies, is of foreign growth, but it is here prepared, plaited, and formed into hats and bonnets; the which, excel in durability, delicate texture, and flexibility, the most expensive fabrics produced from the Leghorn straw. The importation of Leghorns is also of great extent here. The business carried on in Luton, exclusive of the hat branch, may be considered only of a local nature, embracing some good malting concerns; and a respectable general retail trade. There are two excellent inns, the 'George' and the 'Red Lion,' the latter is well adapted to the convenience and respectable economy of the commercial traveller. The summer of 1828 will long be remembered by the inhabitants of this town; for on the eighth of July in that year, it was visited by a great inundation, occasioned by such continued and immense torrents of rain falling, that several small houses were laid under water, and the foundations of many other habitations more substantial, were so sapped and injured, as to cause it necessary to rebuild them; so sudden, indeed, was the rising of the flood and irresistible the deluge, that

POST OFFICE, George-street, Hannah Griffiths, *Post Mistress*.—Letters from all parts arrive from DUNSTABLE, by a foot post, every morning at eight, and are despatched to the same place at the like hour in the evening.

NOBILITY, GENTRY AND GLEBOY.

Austin Charles, esq. George st
Bute the Marquis of, Luton Hoo pk
Crawley Samuel, esq. Stockwood
Hibbert Robert, esq. Hyde
Sibley Henry, gent. Park st
Sikes Rev. Thomas, Castle st
ACADEMIES AND SCHOOLS.
Basley Mrs. S. (ladies') Chapel st
Basley Rev. Dani. (gent.'s) Chapel st
LANCASTERIAN, Park street—Thos. Bedford, master

ATTORNEYS.
Chase Frederick, Park street
Williamson Edward C. George st
Willis Valentine, Market place

AUCTIONEER.
Hill George Francis, Park st

BAKERS.
Adams William, Park street
Brown William, Church at
Cooper Thomas, George st
Day George, Park street
Ellard John, Donkey hall
Hawkes Amos, City road
King Susannah, George st
Lambert William, Bedford st
Sinugh William, Park st
Stevens James, Dou
Tomalin Matthew, Park st
Waters William, Church at

BANKERS.
Sharples & Exton, Market place—
(draw on Barclay & Co. London)

BLACKSMITHS.

Cain Susannah, George st
Gosby Sarah, Park street
Wilson Edward, Market place
Wilson Thomas, Chapel st

BOOKSELLER, PRINTER, &c.
Hill William, George street

BOOT AND SHOE MAKERS.
(Marked thus * are Clog and Patten Makers also.)

*Butterfield Francis, George st
Clark William, Park st
*Rushmore James, Market place
*Seabrook Hill, Market place
Underwood William, Church at
Walker Henry, George street

BRAZIERS AND TINMEN.
Hagger Joseph, Market place
Keelling Joseph, Park street

BREWERS.
Adams Wm. (retail) Park st
Burr William, Park street
Carter Thomas, Castle street

BRICK AND LIME MAKERS.
Gregory William, Castle st
Gutteridge James, Market place
Hawkes Thos. (lime only) City road

BRICKLAYERS.
Hawkes Joseph, Castle st
Hawkes Thomas, City road

BUTCHERS.
Biggs George, Park street

many persons had difficulty in escaping being drowned. Luton is governed by a high and two day constables, elected at the court leet, held once a year, under the Marquis of Bute, the lord of the manor.

The parish church is a handsome Gothic structure, having an embattled tower on the west, composed of flint and other stones, in cloister work; at the corners are hexangular turrets, and the arch of the west door is handsomely ornamented with mouldings. The living is a lay rectory and vicarage, in the gift of the Marquis of Bute and incumbency of the Rev. William M^r Dowall, whose curate is the Rev. Thomas Sikes. The chief object of curiosity which the church contains is the font or baptistery, composed of stone, and hexagonal in form; inclosed in a lofty wooden frame of gothic arches, terminated by an elegant tabernacle. Here are chapels for the baptists, methodists and the society of friends; a Lancasterian school, supported by benevolent contributions, imparts instruction to the poorer class of children, and twelve neat cottages, with ample endowments, afford comfort and residence to twenty-four aged widows. About two miles east from the town, upon an eminence, in Luton-Hoo park, stands the seat of the Marquis of Bute, containing about 1500 acres of land. The river Lea runs through the park in a highly picturesque manner, and forms, in its progress, two fine sheets of water, the largest contains several small islands, ornamented with beautiful woods and thriving plantations, which present a most agreeable prospect. The mansion and grounds are now undergoing vast improvements, which, when completed, will render this noble seat one of the most splendid in the kingdom. Luton was the birth place of John Pempter, in 1668, a great classical scholar and justly celebrated poet. The market day is Monday, and is a very large one for corn and straw plat; fairs are the third Mondays in April and October, for cattle; and a statute fair in September, for the hiring of servants. The parish of Luton embraces the hamlets of East and West HYDE, LEEGRAVE, LIMBURY-CUM-BISCOTT, and STORLEY, which, together with the town of LUTON, contained, by the census of 1821, 4,529 inhabitants, of which 2,986 were of the town; but it is computed that the population of Luton at this period is increased to about 4,000 persons.

Cole Thomas, Park street
Crawley John, Bedford st
Dancer Matthew, Church at
Field John, Market place
Pain James, Donkey hall

CHINA & GLASS DEALERS.
Jones Joseph, George street
Jones Thomas, Market place

COOPERS.
Foster Thomas, George st
Wingrave Thomas, Market place

CORN DEALERS & MEALMEN.

Adams William, Park street
Brown Daniel, Park street
Brown Richd. Marks, Breach mill
Brown William, Church at
Cook Elizabeth, Market place
Cook Francis, Castle street
Pates John, (corn only) Castle st
Taylor Edward, Market place
Williams John, George street

CORN MILLERS.
Brown Richard Marks, Breach mill
Freeman Daniel, North mill

DRESS MAKERS.
Etches Lucy, Park street
Griffiths Hannah, Market place
Haseelgrave Ann, Church at
Smith Sophia, Park street
Watson Hannah, Park st

DRUGGISTS.
Foster John, (& stamp distributor)
Church street
Ranley Newcomb B. Market place

1830 Directory
from Pigot &
Co.'s Directory
of Bedfordshire
1830

Directory.	LUTON.	Bedfordshire.
<p>FIRE, &c. OFFICE AGENTS. COUNTY, Bedf. Harrison, Park st HELTFORDSHIRE and CAMBRIDGE, Daniel Pearman, Castle st NORWICH UNION, Frederick Chase, Park street ROYAL EXCHANGE, Valentine Willis, Market place</p>	<p>Heilens John, Park street Hooker Saml. (collar only) George st</p>	<p>Wheel Plough, George Biggs, Park st White Hart, Charles Besser, Castle st</p>
<p>GROCERS & TEA DEALERS. (See also Shopkeepers.)</p>	<p>SHOPKEEPERS & DEALERS IN SUNDRIES.</p>	<p>TOY DEALERS.</p>
<p>Ainsworth Samuel, Park st Bell Charles, Market place Foster John, Church street Gardner Joseph, Church st Gutteridge Bath, Market place Mead Frances (and ironmonger) Market place Spencer Samuel, George st</p>	<p>Booth John, Park street Dancer Wm. (& postler) George st Dymock R. (& fishmonger) George st Field Ann, Market place Frailey Mary, George street Hunter John, Donkey hall Terry George, Bedford st</p>	<p>Brown Sarah, George st Hall Sarah (sic postler) Park st</p>
<p>HAIR DRESSERS.</p>	<p>STRAW HAT & BONNET MANUFACTURERS & PLAT DEALERS. Marked thus * are Plat Dealers only.</p>	<p>WATCH & CLOCK MAKERS.</p>
<p>Cawdell James, George st Tomlinson Thomas, Market place</p>	<p>Blundell Joseph, Church st Bulton William, Market place Coupees, Bowles and Coupees, George street</p>	<p>WHEELWRIGHTS.</p>
<p>INNS.</p>	<p>*Coupees Fran. & Son, George st Goujon Samuel, Donkey hall Johnson James, Church st</p>	<p>Mayer James, George street Wren Joseph, Bedford st</p>
<p>Georce, (& posting house) Thomas Cook, George street Red Lion, (commercial inn & excise office) Thos. Bullin, Market place</p>	<p>*Hawkes Mary, Castle street *Hunter John, Donkey hall James Richd. & John, Tavistock st</p>	<p>WHITE AND GUNSMITHS.</p>
<p>JOINERS AND BUILDERS.</p>	<p>*Kourwies Hannah, Park st Newman Francis, Donkey hall Nutting Henry, Castle st</p>	<p>WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.</p>
<p>Cain James, (joiner) Church st Gray William, Bedford st Hill George Francis, Park street Leeper Joseph, Castle st Smith Robert, George st Taylor Stephen, George st Williams John, George st</p>	<p>*Walker Edmund, George street Waller John & Thomas, George st Waller Robert, George street Waller Thomas, (sole patentee and manufacturer of the Tuscan grass plait) George street</p>	<p>Bullin Thomas, Market place Pearman Daniel, Castle st</p>
<p>LEGHORN MERCHANTS. (See also Straw Hat, &c. Manufacturers.)</p>	<p>Wood Thomas, Dunstable st</p>	<p>Miscellaneous.</p>
<p>Coupees, Bowles and Coupees, George street</p>	<p>SURGEONS.</p>	<p>Bailey Wm. Henry, professor of music and dancing, Chapel street Bigg John, machine maker and iron founder, Castle street</p>
<p>Jones Richd. & John, Tavistock st Waller Edmund, George st Waller John & Thos. George st Waller Robert, George st Waller Thomas, George street</p>	<p>Chase John & Son, Park st Dyer William, George street Waller Thomas, Park street</p>	<p>Brown Henry, timber merchant, Castle st Clark John, carrier, Park street Clarke George, rope maker, Donkey hall Farmer Thos. basket, &c. maker, George st Field Saml. fruiterer, Market place Gardner Wm, sack manufacturer, Park st Green John, land surveyor, Park st Haselgrove Thomas, stone and marble mason, Chapel street Newman John, breeches maker, Market pl Sell Edw. veterinary surgeon, Church st</p>
<p>LINEN AND WOOLLEN DRAPEES.</p>	<p>TAILORS.</p>	<p>COACHES.</p>
<p>Bowles Richard, Castle st Harrison Benjamin, Park st Waller John, (and woolstapler) George street</p>	<p>Cain Edward, George street Gardner George, Park street Sturmer Thomas, George st Underwood John, Market place Weston James, Park street</p>	<p>To LONDON, the <i>Bisher</i>, from the Cock, Park st, every morning (Sundays excepted) at six—the <i>Pilot</i> (from Bed- ford) calls at the same place, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morn- ings at nine—and the <i>Peacok</i> of the Peak, (from Manchester) calls at the Red Lion Inn, every morning at half- past 7; also thro' St Albans & Betnes.</p>
<p>MALTSTERS.</p>	<p>TALLOW CHANDLERS.</p>	<p>To BEDFORD, the <i>Pilot</i> (from London) calls at the Cock, every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons at four; goes through Ampthill.</p>
<p>Adams William, Park street Brown Henry, City road Cook Elizabeth, Market place Gregory Charles, George st Gregory William, Tavistock st Kidman Thomas, Castle st</p>	<p>Mead Frances, Market place Spencer Samuel, George st</p>	<p>To MANCHESTER, the <i>Peacok</i> of the Peak, (from London) calls at the Red Lion, every night about eleven; goes through Bedford, Kettering, Derby, Leicester, Moulton and Buxton.</p>
<p>PLUMBERS, PAINTERS AND GLAZIERS.</p>	<p>TAVERNS & PUBLIC HOUSES</p>	<p>CARRIERS.</p>
<p>Ellerd George, Church street Higgins John, Market place Sherlock Thomas, Park st</p>	<p>Hell, William Townrow, George st Black Swan, John Higgins, Market pl Boicklayer's Arms, John Ellerd, Donkey hall Bull, William Tyler, Park street Chequers, William Clark, Park street Cock, William Clarke, Park street Cross Keys, Corasia Young, George st Crown, William Buzze, Market place Duke of Wellington, J. Harris, Bedford st Foot Plough, Mary How, Market place Fox, Lawryner Clarke, Tavistock st George IV. George Clarke, Donkey hall Horse & Groom, Wm. Lambert, Bedford st King's Arms, Jane Brown, Market place Red Cow, Wm. Gray, Bedford st (pl Shoulder of Mutton, Ed. Wilson, Market Tillot, Ann Pates, Castle street Two Brewers, Martha Hill, Tavistock st Vine, William Wilson, City road Wheat Sheaf, Sarah Barrett, Church st</p>	<p>To LONDON, Wm. Clarke's Wagon, from the Cock, Park street, every Mon- day and Thursday afternoons, and same person's Cart, every Monday, Wednes- day and Friday morning—Wm. Hay- den's Wagon, from Church street, every Monday and Thursday evening—Thos. Waller's Cart, from Castle-st, every Tuesday and Friday morning—and— Whitbread's Wagon, every Monday & Thursday.</p>
<p>SADDLERS & COLLAR MAKERS.</p>		<p>To AMPHILL, SILSOE, &c. — Whitbread's Wagon, every Wed. & Sat. To DUNSTABLE, Wm. Kent, from the George Inn, every Tuesday, Wednes- day, Friday and Saturday evenings.</p>
<p>Cawdell John, Market place</p>		

LUTON,

WITH THE VILLAGE OF CADDINGTON AND NEIGHBOURHOODS.

LUTON, a flourishing and respectable market town, giving name to the parish in which it lies, in the hundred of Filst, is 31 miles from London, 10 n. from St. Albans, and 2 s. w. from Hitchin. It is situate near to the small river Lea, from which locality it is said to have been formerly called *Lea-ton*; others, however, contend that it derives its present appellation, 'Luton', from *Lusctum*, deduced from the low position of the place, being surrounded by gentle eminences. Baron Palk de Brest built a castle here, in the early part of the thirteenth century; and John Lord Wenlock, in the reign of Henry VI, erected a sepulchral chapel on the north side of the church, and last commenced building a noble mansion at Sunnories (the portion of which is still standing), on the opposite hill to Luton Hoe park, but the battle of Tewkesbury, in which he fell, prevented its completion. The manufacture of straw hat, and of Tuscan grass mat, is the predominant trade of the town; it is conducted, by several houses, on a very extensive scale. The Tuscan straw is here prepared, plaited, and formed into hats and bonnets, which excel in durability and delicate texture the most expensive fabrics produced town: on the 8th of July, in that year, it was visited by an alarming inundation, occasioned by a continued and uncommonly heavy fall of rain; several small houses were laid under water, and the foundations of many other more substantially constructed habitations were so sapped and injured as to render it necessary to take them down and rebuild them. On the 1st November, 1755, the water of a pond, in an elevated part of the town, was so violently agitated, that it several times overflowed on one side, and ebbed six feet on the other; the day was unusually calm: the great earthquake at Lisbon happened 29th of September, in the same year.

About two miles east from the town, upon an eminence in Luton Hoe park, which was laid out by the celebrated 'Capability Brown,' stands the mansion of the Marquess of Bute: this edifice, a few years since, was greatly enlarged and embellished—a considerable portion, indeed, was rebuilt; it now vies with most in England, and contains a collection of paintings ranking amongst the first in the kingdom. The river Lea courses through the park in a most picturesque manner, and forms in its progress two pleasing sheets of water; the largest contains several small islands, exhibiting lovely woods and thriving plantations, and presenting a most fascinating prospect. Luton was the birth-place of the Rev John Poterret, a great classical scholar, and author of various beautiful poems; he was born in 1692. The market is on Monday, and is a very large one for corn and straw hat; fairs are held on the third Mondays in April and October for cattle, and there is a statute fair in September for hiring servants. This parish comprises the hamlets of East & West Hyde, Longrave, Linsbury-cum-Biscott and Sturley, which, with the population of the town of Luton (3,961), collectively contained, in 1831, 5,693 inhabitants.

The parish church of St. Mary is a venerable structure, partly in the decorated Norman and partly in the later English style: an embattled tower, constructed of flint and other stones, in chequer work, rises from the western end; at the corners are hexagonal turrets, and the arch of the west door is handsomely ornamented with mouldings: the principal object of curiosity in the interior of the edifice is the stone font or *baptistery*, hexagonal in form, inclosed in a lofty frame of gothic arches, terminated by an elegant tabernacle. The benefice is a lay rectory and vicarage, in the patronage of the Marquess of Bute and incumbency of the Rev. Wm. McDonall; the Rev. Thomas Sires, M. A. is the present curate. The baptists have a large chapel, and the society of friends and Wesleyan methodists likewise have their respective places of worship. In a national school, erected in 1835, and supported by the contributions of the benevolent, upwards of four hundred children are instructed; and twelve neat cottages, with ample endowments, bestow home and comfort on twenty-four aged widows. A reading and news room has been recently established by a society of gentlemen, as also a literary and scientific institution. The summer of 1828 will long be remembered by the inhabitants of this

reign of Henry VI, erected a sepulchral chapel on the north side of the church, and last commenced building a noble mansion at Sunnories (the portion of which is still standing), on the opposite hill to Luton Hoe park, but the battle of Tewkesbury, in which he fell, prevented its completion. The manufacture of straw hat, and of Tuscan grass mat, is the predominant trade of the town; it is conducted, by several houses, on a very extensive scale. The Tuscan straw is here prepared, plaited, and formed into hats and bonnets, which excel in durability and delicate texture the most expensive fabrics produced town: on the 8th of July, in that year, it was visited by an alarming inundation, occasioned by a continued and uncommonly heavy fall of rain; several small houses were laid under water, and the foundations of many other more substantially constructed habitations were so sapped and injured as to render it necessary to take them down and rebuild them. On the 1st November, 1755, the water of a pond, in an elevated part of the town, was so violently agitated, that it several times overflowed on one side, and ebbed six feet on the other; the day was unusually calm: the great earthquake at Lisbon happened 29th of September, in the same year.

Cauntington is a village and parish (the latter partly in the hundred of Filst, county of Bedford, and partly in the hundred of Duncorm, county of Hertford), nearly two miles s. w. from Luton. Markgate Cell, more particularly noticed in Market Street, is in this parish. The church of Caddington, dedicated to All Saints, is situate in the Bedfordshire part of the parish; the benefice is a vicarage, in the presentation of the dean and chapter of St. Paul's, London. The entire parish of Caddington contained, in 1831, 1,563 inhabitants.

from Pigot & Co.'s Directory of Bedfordshire 1839

<p>POST OFFICE. George street, Eliza Griffiths, <i>Post Mistress</i>.—Letters from LONDON and all parts arrive from LITTLEPORT BUSZANS (to which station they are brought by the Railway trains), and are despatched every evening at half-past seven to that station. The delivery of letters at LUTON takes place about 9 morning.</p>		
<p>NOBILITY, GENTRY AND CLERGY.</p>		
<p>Annes Levi, esq. East Hyde Austin Charles, esq. auditor of Luton union, George st Barton Mr. John, Langley st [rd Bright Rev. John Shenstone, London Burgess Rev. Henry, Park st Burr Mrs. Elizabeth, Park st Bute the Most Noble the Marquess of, Luton Hon park Butlin Mr. Thomas (agent to the shareholders of the gas works), Dunstable road and George st Chase John, esq. Park st [road Cooke Mrs. Catherine Mary, London Cooke Mrs. Frances, Langley st Couper Mr. Francis, Langley st Crawley Saml. esq. str. Stack wood park Danes Mrs. Susanna, Park st Field Mr. Thomas, Langley st Foster Mr. John, Church st Gazeley Mr. Samuel, Caddington Gazeley Mr. William, Caddington Greenstreet General, Hyde Hadow Rev. James, Streatley Hobbsack Mrs. Elizabeth, George st Hope Rev. Samuel, Chapel st Jones Richard, esq. Dunstable road Lester Rev. William, Luton Hon McDonall Rev. Wm. M. A. Copt hall Macnamara Arthur, esq. Caddington hill [vicarage Mellard Rev. Wm. A. M. Caddington Morris Henry Belsh, esq. Woodside Samm Mr. Edward, Caddington Scott Mr. Walter, London road</p>	<p>Sikes Rev. Thomas, M. A. curate of Luton and rector of Pottenham, Hertfordshire, Luton vicarage Smith Mr. Thomas, Gt. Brunningham Sowerby Colonel, Puttriges-bury Trennan Rev. Samuel, Chapel st Warr Mr. James, Pipers bottom Williamson Edward Chilwell, esq. Cross hill Witting Mr. Robert, Elmtree cottage</p>	<p>Hunt William, near the George hotel, George street Williamson & Austin, George st</p>
<p>ACADEMIES & SCHOOLS.</p>		
<p>Brett M. & M. (ladies' boarding and day), Market hill Burriss School, Langley street—William Lathbury, master Daniel Misses (boarding), Park st Edwards Mary (day), Castle st Hayton S. and J. (ladies' boarding and day), George st Hyde Thomas, Park st [st Krobb Thomas (brdg&day) Church NATIONAL SCHOOL, Church street—William G. Leftly, master; Charlotte Bedford, mistress</p>	<p>AGENTS—ESTATE. Bennett William, Lowsey farm Gough Frederick (and surveyor), George street</p>	<p>AUCTIONEERS & APPRAISERS. Bennett William, Lowsey farm Bigg John, Castle st Gough Frederick, George st Higgins Charles, Bedford New road</p>
<p>AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT MAKER.</p>		
<p>Bigg John (and iron and brass founder and engineer), Castle st</p>	<p>BAKERS. Adams William, Park st Allingham James, Church st Bennett John, George st Bond Joseph, near Chapel st Brown William, Church st Couper Thomas, George st Cotchin William, Donkey hall Drewett William, Park st Glenester Amos, Newtown st Hawkes Amos, London road How Richard, Market place How Robert, Park st [hill Smith Elizabeth, corner of Market Stevens James, Bedford Old road Tomalin John, Chapel st Tomalin Matthew, Park st Tomalin Thomas, Church st Waters Samuel, Castle st Waters Sarah, George st Wright Thomas, Bedford Old road</p>	
<p>ATTORNEYS.</p>		
<p>Brickwood Edward Latham, Park st Chase Frederick, London road</p>	<p>BANKERS. Sharples, Eaton and Lucas, Market place and <i>Hitchin</i>; draw on Bingley, Berris & Co. London (Monday and Friday)—agent for Luton, John Walker, woodstapler, Castle st</p>	

from Pigot & Co.'s Directory of Bedfordshire 1839

Directory.	LUTON, &c.	Bedfordshire.
<p>BASKET MAKERS. Farmer Thomas, Market hill Foster Thomas, Market place Wingrave Thomas, Market place</p>	<p>COACH BUILDERS. Chambers George, Castle st Mayer James, Back st</p>	<p>Mead Joseph, Park st Spencer Samuel, George st Waring Richard, Market hill</p>
<p>BLACKSMITHS. Brown John, Park st Cain Samuel, George st Edwards Henry, Park st Sibley John, Gravel pits Wilson and Son, Market place Wilson Thomas, near Market hill</p>	<p>COAL MERCHANTS & DEBS. Brown John, Newtown st Dancer William, Cross hill</p> <p>CONFECTIONERS. Cawdell Mary, Market place Race Martha, George st Stevens James, Bedford Old road Stratton Joseph, Donkey hall Walker Sarah, George st</p>	<p>HAIR DRESSERS. Cawdell James, Market place Carrington Samuel, Donkey hall Swenson Solomon, Castle st Tomlinson Thomas, Market hill Webdale Julia, George st</p>
<p>BLOCK AND MILL MAKERS. Nye John, Castle st Blund Robert, Donkey hall</p>	<p>COPPERS. Foster Thomas (& dealer in turnery ware), Market place King John, Cross hill Wingrave Thomas, Market place</p>	<p>INNS. George (posting and commercial), Thomas Hutlin, George st Red Lion, Robt. Paybody, Market pl</p>
<p>BOOT & SHOE MAKERS. Adams William, Bedford New road Almond James, George st Arnold William, Park st Bath John, Park st Butterfield Francis, George st Clark James, London road Clark William, Market place Eninton William, Park street Seabrook Hill (& putten), Market pl Stephens George, George st Underwood William, Chapel st Walker Henry, George st</p>	<p>CORN MEASURE MAKER. Foster Thomas (& fans and sieves), Market place</p> <p>CORN MERCHANTS & DEALERS AND REAPERS. Adams William, Park st Ainsworth Samuel, Park st Brown Daniel, Park st Brown Henry Coles, Park st Brown Richard M. Park mill Brown William, Church st Cook Elizabeth, Market hill Hawkes Ann, London road Irwin William, George st Pates John, Castle st Seabrook Hill, Market place Sell Mary Ann, Church st Taylor Edward, Market place Tomalin Thomas, Church st Tomson Hy. & Christopher, Park st Williams John, George st</p>	<p>IRONMONGERS. Brown Frederick (turning), Market hill Spencer Samuel, George st Waring Richard, Market hill</p> <p>JOINERS, CARPENTERS AND BUILDERS. Abbott John, Chapel st Burge James, Market hill Butt Joseph, New road, Chapel st Cain Henry, Church st Craker John, Back st Everitt Joseph, Bedford New road Fountain Abraham, Newtown st Gray John (builder), Bedford New rd Hastings Richard, Church st Hawkins Thomas, Caddington Higgins Charles, Bedford New road Lawford Samuel, Church st Leeper Joseph, Castle st Pudlephatt Peter, Pipers bottom Smith Robert, Market hill Taylor Edward, Market place Taylor Edward, Langley st Taylor Samuel, new Lane lane Thurgood William, Chapel st Williams John, George st</p>
<p>BRASSIERS, COPPERSMITHS, & TIN-PLATE WORKERS. Brown Frederick, Market hill Kroding John, Park st Keebling Joseph, Park st</p>	<p>CORN MILLERS. Brown Richard Marks, Park mill Buckingham John, Bovey Windmill Cox Thomas, Hyde mill Freeman Daniel, North mill, Bedford New road James John, New Mill end</p>	<p>IRONMONGERS. Brown Frederick (turning), Market hill Spencer Samuel, George st Waring Richard, Market hill</p>
<p>BREWERS. Adams William, Park st Murr Frederick and Charles (ale and porter), Park st Butlin Thomas, George st Hester Charles, Castle st Townrow William, Church st</p>	<p>CORN MILLERS. Brown Richard Marks, Park mill Buckingham John, Bovey Windmill Cox Thomas, Hyde mill Freeman Daniel, North mill, Bedford New road James John, New Mill end</p>	<p>JOINERS, CARPENTERS AND BUILDERS. Abbott John, Chapel st Burge James, Market hill Butt Joseph, New road, Chapel st Cain Henry, Church st Craker John, Back st Everitt Joseph, Bedford New road Fountain Abraham, Newtown st Gray John (builder), Bedford New rd Hastings Richard, Church st Hawkins Thomas, Caddington Higgins Charles, Bedford New road Lawford Samuel, Church st Leeper Joseph, Castle st Pudlephatt Peter, Pipers bottom Smith Robert, Market hill Taylor Edward, Market place Taylor Edward, Langley st Taylor Samuel, new Lane lane Thurgood William, Chapel st Williams John, George st</p>
<p>BRICK & TILE MAKERS AND LIME BURNERS. Brown Henry, near Market place Clarke William, Codd aboist Gray John, New Bedford road Gregory Elizabeth, Dunstable road Gutteridge James, Donkey hall Hawkes Tho. (lime burn), London rd Pigott Frederick, Caddington Williams John, George st</p>	<p>CURRIERS AND LEATHER CUTTERS. Clark John, Park st Clark William, Market place</p>	<p>LINEN & WOOLLEN DRAPERS. SILK MERCHANTS, &c. Beale Edward James, Market place Harrison Francis & Charles, Park st Oliver Samuel (and shoe warehouse) Park street Waller & Jordan (and carpet warehouse) George street</p>
<p>BRICKLAYERS, SLATERS & PLASTERERS. Barrett John, Hitchin road Barrett John, Langley st Gutteridge Joseph, Donkey hall Hawkes Thomas, Back st Heywood George, Donkey hall Mildmore William, Park st</p>	<p>FIRE, &c. OFFICE AGENTS, COINS, &c. & PROVIDENT (life), Benjamin Harrison, Park st Pigott's PROVIDENT INSTITUTION (life, &c.), H. C. Brown, Park st LOCAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE, E. L. Brickwood, Park st NATIONAL ENDOWMENT ASSURANCE, Benjamin Bishop, Park st NATIONAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION, H. C. Brown, Park st NORTHEN UNION, Frederick Chas., London road Pigott, Grand Pezzman, Castle st SUN, Williamson & Austin, George st</p>	<p>LIVERY STABLE KEEPERS. Blund Robert, Donkey hall Townrow Richard, George st</p>
<p>BUILDERS. (See Joiners, Builders, &c.)</p>	<p>TIENMONGERS & FRUITERS. Brown James, Wren's yard Woodward Edmund, George st Wright Samuel, George st</p>	<p>MACHINE MAKERS, FOR BOSSNEY PRESSES. Albott John, Chapel st Digg John, Castle st</p>
<p>BUTCHERS. Aldingham James, Church st Baldrey George, Bedford New road Cote Thomas, Park st Crawley Elizabeth, Bedford New road Dancer Matthew, Park st Hogwood James, Park st Payne Simpson, Newtown st Pigott Francis, Market place Wildrick William Pizer, Church st</p>	<p>FURNITURE MAKERS. Foster Thomas (& bedstead & chair maker), Market place Smith Robert, Park st & Market hill Wingrave Thomas, Market place</p>	<p>MERCHANTS. EXPORT AND IMPORT. Vase Richard, Park st Waller Brothers & Co. George street Waller Edmund, George street</p>
<p>CHINA, GLASS, &c. DEALERS. Axtos John, Park st Jones Joseph, Cross hill</p>	<p>GROCERS AND TEA AND PROVISION DEALERS. (See also Shopkeepers, &c.) Ainsworth Samuel, Park st Bell Charles, Market hill Bishop Benjamin, Park st Darley James, Park st Frost Thomas, Market place Gardner Joseph, Church st Gutteridge Bath, Market place</p>	<p>MILLINERS. Dear Ann & Martha, London road Griffiths Eliza, George st Griffiths Misses, Castle st Hastings Ann, Church st Plummer & Townrow, Chapel st Underwood A. Castle st Wright M. Market place</p>
<p>CHYMISTS & DRUGGISTS. Joclin John (and soda water, &c. manufacturers), George st Phillips William (and stamp distributor), Market hill Walker Thomas, Market hill Woodfou Peter, Park st</p>	<p>MUSIC TEACHERS, &c. Moody Wm. (& dealer) George st Pudlephatt William (Gresham (and organist of Luton church) Dunstable road</p>	<p>MUSIC TEACHERS, &c. Moody Wm. (& dealer) George st Pudlephatt William (Gresham (and organist of Luton church) Dunstable road</p>
<p>CLOTHES DEALERS. Adams William, Bedford New road Hayburn F. & Co. Park st</p>	<p>MUSIC TEACHERS, &c. Moody Wm. (& dealer) George st Pudlephatt William (Gresham (and organist of Luton church) Dunstable road</p>	<p>MUSIC TEACHERS, &c. Moody Wm. (& dealer) George st Pudlephatt William (Gresham (and organist of Luton church) Dunstable road</p>
	<p>BURSEY & SEEDSMAN. Foster Thomas, Market place</p>	<p>BURSEY & SEEDSMAN. Foster Thomas, Market place</p>

from Pigot & Co.'s Directory of Bedfordshire 1839

Bedfordshire.	LUTON, &c.	Pigot & Co.'s
PLUMBERS, GLAZIERS, PAINTERS & PAPER HANGERS.	TAILORS AND DRAPERS.	WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
Elder George, Church street Ellison Thomas & Wm. Market pl Hizdins Ann, Cross hill Sherlock John, Park st Tiplady George, Newtown st	Carrington George, Church of Carrington Samuel, Donkey hall Eyles John, Church st Gardner George, Park st Harris James, Bedford New road Moody William, George st Storrier Thomas, Langley st Underwood John, Market hill Weston James, Park st	Partridge & Jordan (and importers of Highland whisky and London & Dublin porter, & soap dealers), George street Pearman Daniel, Castle st
ROMAN CEMENT & PLASTER OF PARIS MANUFACTURERS.	TALLOW CHANDLERS.	WOOLSTAPLER.
Clarke William, Jm. Park street Waring Richard, Market hill	Spencer Samuel, George st Waring Richard, Market hill	Waller John, Castle st
ROPE MAKERS.	TAVERNS & PUBLIC HOUSES.	Miscellaneous.
Foster Thomas (and wicker ware) Market place	Bell, Richard Tawmow, George st Black Bull, Samuel Carter, Park st Black Swan, Wm. Archer, New Mill end Black Swan, Thos. Tomlinson, Market hill Bricklayers Arms, William Smith, Mount pleasant (sington Bricklayers Arms, Thomas Stokes, Cal- Chequers, John Bradshaw, Caddington Chequers, John Clark, Park st Cock, William Clarke, Park st Compass, Wm. Thornwood, Chapel st Cross Keys, James Hawkes, George st Crown, James Doye, Market hill Crown & Anchor, Joseph Everett, Bedford New road Duke of Wellington, James Harris, Bed- ford New road Foot Plough, Richard How, Market place Fox, William Brown, Dunstable road George IV, George Heywood, South place, Donkey hall Harrow, Maria Farr, Kjosman green Horse & Jockey, Sarah Higgins, Bedford New road Hill King's Arms, Thomas Farmer, Market Leather Bottle, Wm. Woods, East Hyde Masons Arms, Thos. Hasegrove, Chapel at Queen's Head, Wm. Hillmore, Chapel at Rabbit, James Stevens, Bedford Old road Royal Oak, Thomas Wilson, Leagrave Shoulder of Mutton, Elizabeth Wilson, Market place Sportsman, James Dayley, Stopsley Sugar Loaf, William Sharp, Leagrave Talent, Ann Pates, Castle st Three Horse Shoes, William Payne, Lea- grave marsh (road Two Beavers, John Hargrave, Dunstable Vine, Sophia Elliot, London road Wagon & Horse, John Cox, Hitchin rd Wharf Street, Robert Biscock, Church st Wine of Plough, Thomas Brown, Park st White Hart, James Enson, Castle st	Austin Thomas Erskin, superintendent register, and clerk of Luton Union, Dunstable road Bennett William, farmer, Lowsey farm Butlin Thomas, farmer, George st Cawdell Mary, eating house, Market place Clarke William, farmer, Park st Dancer William, postoffice, &c. Cross hill Fitch Thos. coach proprietor, Market pl Hill Wm. printer & bookseller, George st Lexus Luxos Workhouse, Dunstable road—William Gardner, governor; Elizabeth Gardner, matron Mead William, registrar of births & deaths, Dunstable road Newman John, glove & legging manufac- turer, Market Hill corner Smith Robert, cabinet-maker and uphol- sterer, Park st Swain Edmund, gunsmith, George st Taylor Edward, registrar of marriages, Market hill Todd Robert, engraver and copper-plate printer, Bedford New road (Park at Wright Jeremiah, steam and clothes dyer, Market hill
SACK MANUFACTURER.	TOY DEALERS.	COACHES.
Foster Thomas (and waggon and cut filts) Market place	Cawdell Mary, Market place Hall Sarah, Park st	FROM THE GEORGE HOTEL
SADDLERS & COLLAR MAKRS.	TURNERS IN WOOD, &c.	To LONDON, the <i>Favourite</i> , every morn- ing (Sun. excepted), at six—the <i>Industry</i> <i>Domibus</i> , every Monday, Wednesday and Friday forenoon at eleven—and the <i>Credity</i> (from Bedford), on the same mornings at half-past eight.
Cawdell John Taylor, Market hill Hosker Samuel, Bedford New road Payne Charles, Park st	Abbot John, Chapel st Barratt John, Castle st Bigg John, Castle st Bland Robert, Donkey hall Cain Henry, Church st Smith Robert, Park st	To BEDFORD, the <i>Credity</i> (from London), every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at seven and three in winter.
SHOPKEEPERS & DEALERS IN GROCERIES & SUNDRIES.	VETERINARY SURGEONS.	To BIRMINGHAM and WELLING- BOROUGH, Waggons, from the George Inn, every Sunday, Tuesday & Friday.
Batt Joseph, New road, Chapel st Cawdell William, Chapel at Cork Richard, Hitchin road Pressey Deborah, London road Rixon Henry, Donkey hall Smith Daniel, Donkey hall Stevens James, Bedford Old road Terry Diana, Bedford New road Tufnall George, London road	Heskin William, George st Sgt Edward, Church st	To LEIGHTON BUZZARD, Clarke's conveyances, from the Cock Inn, Park street (through Dunstable & Hockliffe), Biscock's Waggons, from the Bull Inn, Beech street, half every morning (Sunday excepted); and — Kent, from the Red Lion, Market hill, every evening (Sund- day excepted). (See also <i>CLARKE, &c.</i>)
STONE & MARBLE MASONS.	WATCH & CLOCK MAKERS.	To ROYSTON, see — Kent, to CAM- BRIDGE, see — Clarke, to LONDON.
Hargrave John, Dunstable road Hasegrove Thomas, Chapel at	Gillham William, Market hill Mutton Peter (and Jeweller, &c.), Market place Oclec John, Park st Wurr Jabez, Market hill	CONVEYANCE BY RAIL- WAY & CANAL.
STRAW, TUSCAN & LEGHORN HAT, &c. MANUFACTURERS.	WHEELWRIGHTS.	To LEIGHTON BUZZARD, from whence goods are forwarded to all parts on the line of the London and Bir- mingham railway, and on the Grand Junction canal.
Marked thus * see also Plat Dealers.	Chambers George, Castle st Laur Daniel, Park st Mayer James, Back st Parratt Edward, Stopsley Sell Henry, Wren's yard Smith William, Caddington Wilson James, Leagrave	To LONDON, — Clarke's Waggons, from the Cock Inn, Park street, daily (Satur- day and Sunday excepted); go through Harpden, St. Albans and Hatfield— Waggons, from the George Inn, every Sunday, Tuesday & Friday morning— Deacon's Waggons, from the Bull Inn, George street, every Tuesday, Wednes- day and Friday evening—Arnolds and — Whittred's Waggons, from the Shoulder of Mutton, Market hill, and Haydon's Waggons, from Castle street, every Monday and Thursday afternoon.
*Ballslaw Ann, Donkey hall *Banher James, Langley st *Banter Francis, Chapel st *Barber William, Donkey hall *Blunell Joseph, Church st *Bolton Benjamin, Chapel st *Bolton William, George st *Bradshaw Cornelius, Caddington *Couspes William, Market hill (Hall Daniel Samuel (& bleacher) Donkey *Cliffingham Gabriel, Donkey hall *Field Francis, North place, Don- key hall *Freer Frederick, Church st *Gee Frederick, Newtown st *Gee George, Langley st *Goodwin George, Chapel at *Gonjon Samuel, North hill *Higgins William Hiram, Castle street *Hunter John, Donkey hall *Johnson John James, Church st *Jones John & Co. Dunstable road *Lawrence Thomas, Stopsley *Lines Francis, Park street *Muggleton William, Park st *Parkins Henry, Dane st *Plummer John, Donkey hall *Savill Joseph, Chapel st *Shepherd John, Market hill *Smith Sophia, Castle st *Tomlin John, Chapel st *Tufnall George, London road *Turney William, Dunstable road *Vyne Richard, Park st *Waller Brothers and Co. George st *Waller Edmund, George street *Webb William, George st *Wood William, Dunstable road	TIMBER MERCHANT.	To AMPHILL, — Arnold and — Whit- bread, from the Shoulder of Mutton, every Wednesday and Saturday.
*Frederick, Church st *Gee Frederick, Newtown st *Gee George, Langley st *Goodwin George, Chapel at *Gonjon Samuel, North hill *Higgins William Hiram, Castle street *Hunter John, Donkey hall *Johnson John James, Church st *Jones John & Co. Dunstable road *Lawrence Thomas, Stopsley *Lines Francis, Park street *Muggleton William, Park st *Parkins Henry, Dane st *Plummer John, Donkey hall *Savill Joseph, Chapel st *Shepherd John, Market hill *Smith Sophia, Castle st *Tomlin John, Chapel st *Tufnall George, London road *Turney William, Dunstable road *Vyne Richard, Park st *Waller Brothers and Co. George st *Waller Edmund, George street *Webb William, George st *Wood William, Dunstable road	TOY DEALERS.	To RETTERING and WELLING- BOROUGH, Waggons, from the George Inn, every Sunday, Tuesday & Friday.
*Frederick, Church st *Gee Frederick, Newtown st *Gee George, Langley st *Goodwin George, Chapel at *Gonjon Samuel, North hill *Higgins William Hiram, Castle street *Hunter John, Donkey hall *Johnson John James, Church st *Jones John & Co. Dunstable road *Lawrence Thomas, Stopsley *Lines Francis, Park street *Muggleton William, Park st *Parkins Henry, Dane st *Plummer John, Donkey hall *Savill Joseph, Chapel st *Shepherd John, Market hill *Smith Sophia, Castle st *Tomlin John, Chapel st *Tufnall George, London road *Turney William, Dunstable road *Vyne Richard, Park st *Waller Brothers and Co. George st *Waller Edmund, George street *Webb William, George st *Wood William, Dunstable road	TURNERS IN WOOD, &c.	To LEIGHTON BUZZARD, Clarke's conveyances, from the Cock Inn, Park street (through Dunstable & Hockliffe), Biscock's Waggons, from the Bull Inn, Beech street, half every morning (Sunday excepted); and — Kent, from the Red Lion, Market hill, every evening (Sund- day excepted). (See also <i>CLARKE, &c.</i>)
SURGEONS.	WHITE & LOCK-SMITHS AND BELL-HANGERS.	To ST. ALBANS, see — Clarke, to LONDON.
Chase Edward, Park st Clarke Frederick, Market hill Waller Thomas, Market hill Woakes Edward, George st	Bigg John, Castle st Edwards Henry, Park st	To ST. ALBANS, see — Clarke, to LONDON.

from Pigot &
Co.'s Directory
of Bedfordshire
1839



Fig 1



Fig 2

*Brick Kilns from Pyne's
Microcosm of the Arts,
Agriculture and
Manufactures Etc. of
Great Britain. 1808*



Fig 3

**Extracts from: Microcosm of the Arts, Agriculture and Manufactures Etc. of Great Britain
by W.H.Pyne 1808**

Brickmakers

Bricks are burnt either in a kiln or clamp. Those burnt in the former, are placed in it; and then the kiln being covered with pieces of brick, some wood is put in to dry them by means of a gentle fire. This is continued till the bricks are pretty dry, which is known by the smoke's turning from a darkish colour to transparent. The brickmakers now make ready for burning; but before they put in any faggots, they dam up the mouth, or mouths, of the kiln with pieces of brick, which they call shinlog, piled on one another, and close it with wet brick earth instead of mortar. The shinlog is made so high, that there is just room above it to thrust in a faggot. The faggots are of brush, furze, spray, heath, or fern. They keep putting them in, till the kiln and its arches look white, and the flame appears at the top, when they slacken the fire for an hour, and let it all cool by degrees. This they continue to do, alternatively heating and slacking, till the brick is thoroughly burnt, which is usually effected in forty-eight hours.

The bricks in common use with us for building houses, bridges, and walls for fruit trees, paving cellars, &c. are oblong squares, nine inches long, four and a quarter broad and two and a half thick. But besides these, which are called statute bricks, there are a great many sorts, which differ in their forms, dimensions, uses, and method of making. Great bricks are twelve inches long, six broad and three thick, and are used to build fence walls. Plaister or buttress bricks have a notch at one end, half the breadth of the brick; their use is to bind the work of great brick. Feather-edged bricks are like common statute bricks, but thinner on one edge than the other, and are made use of for penning up the brick panels in timber building. Coping bricks are formed on purpose for coping of walls; and cogging bricks for making the indented works, under the coping of those walls built with great bricks. Compass bricks are of a circular form used in steining of walls. Concave or hollow bricks are flat on one side like a common brick, but are made hollow on the other for the conveyance of water. Dutch or Flemish bricks are used for paving yards, and stables, and for soap-boiler's vaults and cisterns. Clinkers are those bricks, which are glazed by the heat of the fire in making, and sandel or samel bricks are such as lie outermost in a kiln or clamp, and consequently are soft and useless, not being properly burnt.

Illustrations

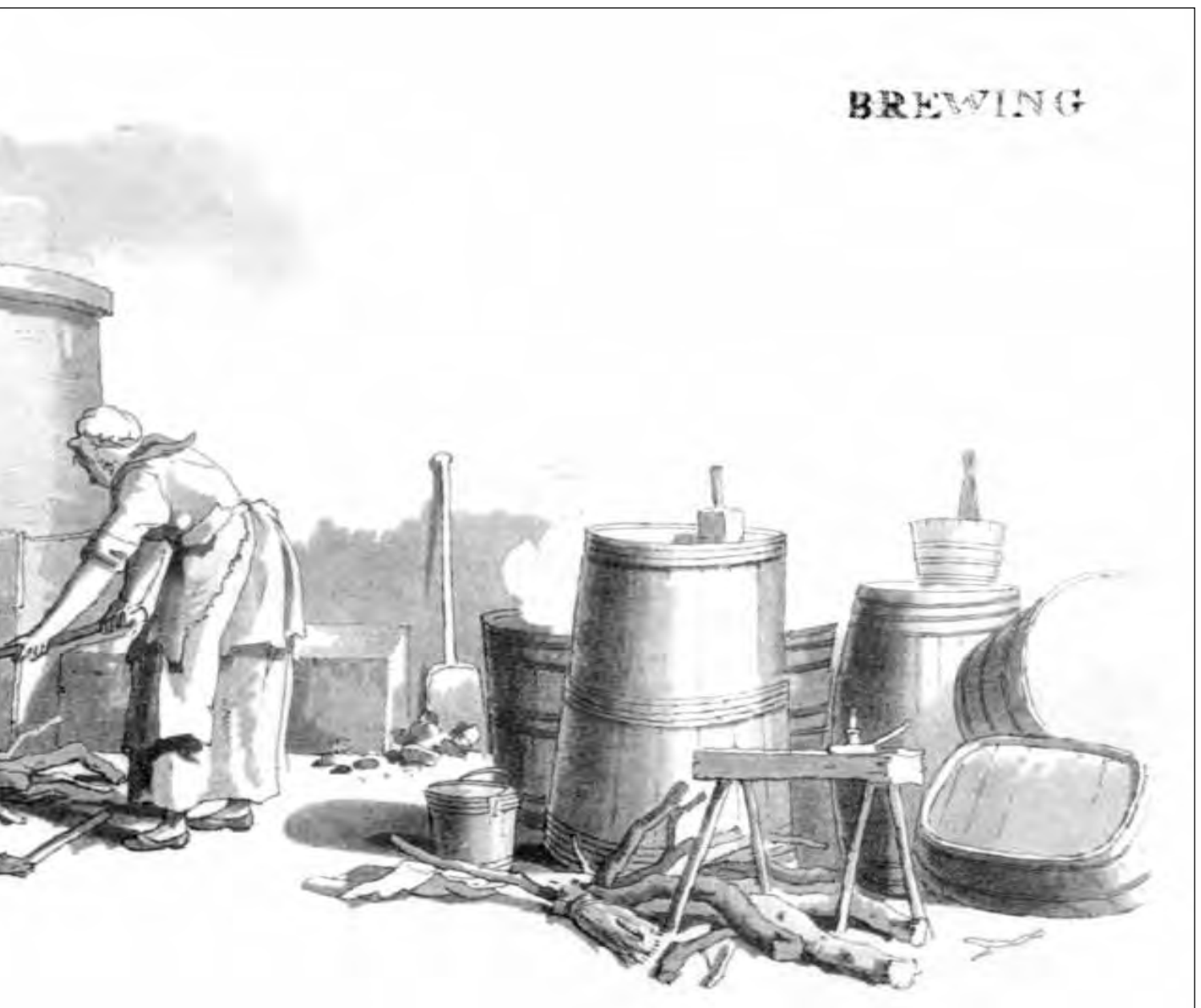
Fig. 1. Brickfield. Loading a cart with bricks. In the back ground the mill for grinding the clay. This, we believe, has but lately been adopted by the brickmakers, but potters have long used such mills.

Fig.2. Loading barrows from a brick kiln.

Fig.3. Taking down a kiln. In the back ground a man pumping water out of a clay pit.

Every one has a certain part assigned, and they supply one another without confusion, or intermission. The materials are frequently mixed in a mill turned by a horse. One puts a quantity in a wheelbarrow; another brings back an empty barrow, and takes away a full one. A girl prepared a quantity about the size of a mould. A man, perhaps the father of the family, with a constant activity and exertion bending forwards moulds it, then puts it aside. It is now placed on a long barrow; and when a cargo of these wet bricks is made up, they are carried and placed in rows to dry. When dried they are piled for burning.





Brewing on a Domestic Scale from Pyne's Microcosm of the Arts, Agriculture and Manufactures Etc. of Great Britain. 1808

**Extracts from: Microcosm of the Arts, Agriculture and Manufactures Etc. of Great Britain
by W.H.Pyne 1808**

Country Fairs

Fairs, or the stated meeting of buyers and sellers, were once better attended than now for the sake of business. But for amusement, perhaps, they are now more crowded than ever. In former times it was only in larger towns, that regular shops were found, which could furnish fancy articles, not to be found in the neighbourhood. Travelling peddlers, on foot or horseback, or with carts, went round from fair to fair to accommodate buyers. Fairs were thus the grand places of resort for the buying and selling of articles of every description, but particularly those brought from a distance. In the country they are still considered as distinguished epochs. The country people calculate the time by so long before, or so long after some well-known fair in the neighbourhood. They are places of rendezvous of the farmers, farmer's servants and cottagers for a considerable extent of country round, both on business and pleasure. When our peasants have in view the important act of buying a suit of clothes from a shop, they commonly fix on a fair for the scene of the transaction, and they make a formal appointment with the tailor to meet them. They also afford a distinguished stage, on which the country belles and beaux may show themselves off. Even schoolboys do not feel more rapture over their approach, or cherish a fonder expectation of it, than the lads and lasses in the town, and for many miles around; nor do the former feel more disappointment when the long-looked for day proves rainy. Many love-appointments take place long before; and the country people observe of the lasses, that their best clothes are not in their trunk on the occasion of such a fair. From time immemorial they have been held favourable to love, and particularly prized by sweethearts. Many a swain, from the warm generous emotion, which he feels in buying fairings for his well-dressed lass, has been set a thinking on making her the more serious present of his hand. Nor is it sufficient to her with gingerbread, ribbands, trinkets, or potter's ware: he must carry her to the show and then to the dance. For at fairs, particularly in the northern division of our island, all the fiddlers, whether blind or seeing, for many parishes round, are put in requisition; and every room of any size, in every public house in the town, is turned into a dancing room.

Fairs are certainly useful to the lower ranks, by cherishing good nature among them, adding to their comforts, and encouraging them to go more contently in the rugged road of life by affording them a pleasing relaxation now and then. It must be admitted, however, they are not without their disadvantages. Like all meetings of the lower ranks, they too often end in drunkenness and debauchery; for, as we have already remarked, it is too generally true that working people seem to have scarcely another other idea of the use of a holiday, than to get drunk. Fairs tend to introduce among many of them habits of idleness and expense. And though they are favourable to courtship, and frequently prove the scene, when an attachment first takes place, or is increased, which leads to an honourable and happy union, the scene is often reversed. Many an unfortunate lass, on looking back with a sad heart and a heavy sigh, can date, with certainty, the commencement of her distress and disgrace, the era of her ruin, from some fair or other.

The front group in the place represents a booth, before which is erected a stage, with itinerant actors exhibiting themselves before the gaping multitude, to attract them to enter and see the show. We have heard young folks remark, that people might well save their money. For the finest part of the show, as well as the most humorous, is seen on the outside, for nothing. As soon as the weather begins to grow fine, our showmen, pick-pockets, pedlars, horse and foot, mountebanks, gingerbread sellers, toymen, jugglers and others sally forth from the metropolis, to make the annual tour of the country fairs.

*A Country Fair from Pyne's
Microcosm of the Arts,
Agriculture and Manufactures
Etc. of Great Britain. 1808*



Memory Sketches of Luton by Joseph Hawkes

Hawkes was born in 1814 and this was published about 1895 in a local newspaper.'

The Corn Market House

"1823 - The old Corn Market house, a prominent and memorable building standing on the site of the present Corn Exchange, and, assuming it to be the hub of the borough, appears to be a fair starting point for some sketches. The old place was built on pillars, open on all sides, with corn chambers on the upper floor when any unsold grain could be stored, a market bell on the centre of the ridge, which was also used as a firebell."

Market Hill in the 1820s

"The 31st mile stone from London was placed at one corner of the Market House for convenience, the correct spot being a little further north. In front of the Market House (where the Ames Memorial now stands) stood a covered building for butchers, used on Saturday and Monday. Mrs Crawley, Mrs Dancer and others used it for many years. Passing down George-street and by Cross Hill, down Manchester-street we come on the left side upon the gateway entrance to old Tower Hill, a large space of enclosed ground containing 28 charity cottages let at low rents belonging to the churchwardens.

The Statute Fair

On the occasion of the annual statute fair (known as the stattie) for the hiring of servants, held on the Friday following the third Monday of September and on the following Saturday, the Market House was used as a fancy bazaar, several travelling merchants within enclosed compartments making a brave show of fancy goods in very great variety, which attracted the attendance of the families of the town and neighbourhood to make their yearly purchases. At this fair the farmers and their wives came to hire male and female servants for the following year, and when they had made their selections and come to terms, the master or mistress gave to the servant one shilling as earnest money to bind the bargain so that it would stand good before a magistrate. Large numbers of servants came to the fair and stood in groups on or about the Market Hill, generally with some distinctive sign about them, as the horsekeeper with a piece of whipcord on his hat, the shepherd with a piece of wool. At the Statute Fair ballad singers used to put in an appearance. I once heard a couple sing a ballad, the refrain of which was rather remarkable, and, as I have sometimes thought, prophetic:

*Then beware of these finnickin' lasses,
And never by beauty be led,
For the girl I'd advise you to marry,
Is one that can work for her bread.*

The servants went to their new places on Old Michaelmas day, and many came to Luton on or before that day to rig out with new clothing, and made the drapers and clothiers busy.

The George Inn 1821

The first landlord I knew was Mr Thomas Cooke. About this time the main gateway was at the north or gable end of the house.... There were some circular steps up to the large entrance hall, in which was the bar. 'The George' was the principal inn in the town. The Excise Office, post horses and chaises provided, and the Magistrates' Sessions were also held there....About 1822 a gentleman rode through the town on a dandy horse. At noon he stopped at the George Inn for lunch. With many others I saw the machine standing outside the house in the front. It was formed of a solid beam for the body with four legs or supports on a plain frame, with two small wheels – one on each side – one of them near the front, the other near the back end. The seat was just the height for the rider to reach the ground with his toes, and he propelled the machine with his feet, guiding it from the front."

The George Inn January 11th 1834

A fire broke out at the George Inn about 4 o'clock this morning, which was extinguished without any material damage. The house was under repair and the workmen had kept a fire (in order to dry the rooms) which caught a girder that lay just under the hearth. The conduct of Thomas Straton, a young man of the establishment, cannot be too highly praised. As soon as he was woken by the watchman he ran up to the room of Mr Butlin, the father of the Landlord, who was old and infirm, and slept in the upper storey, took him on his back and carried him to Mr Walker's, the bootmaker, next door.

George Street in the 1820s

Lower down on the same side of the [Bedford] road stood the Red Cow public house belonging to old Mr Gray, carpenter and builder. Himself and his two sons (William and John) took a leading position for many years in building operations. Next to the 'Red Cow' was the path leading through Lancrets Meadows to Upper George-street (formerly Dunstable-lane), with a stile at the lower end. From this stile there was an open space at the end of the present 'Crown and Anchor'. This space was used by the public at fair times and on special occasions. In 1820 I saw a travelling mountebank for a few evenings exhibiting conjuring tricks on a stage facing up Manchester-street (or Tower Hill as it was then called) and amusing a large crowd of people. Further on was the entrance to the Moor, and the horse pool river, open for the watering of cattle, a side footbridge for pedestrians, animals and conveyances having to pass through the open water. Beyond was Gravel Pits-road to Donkey Hall; turning to the left (before reaching Gravel Pits-road) was the Old Bedford-road leading to the very steep old Barton Hill, which all coaches and wagons had to encounter in order to reach Luton. The water mill of Mr Freeman was near the present Villa-road, also the tan yard estate occupied by Mr Barton.

Luton's First Pavement

The first stone pavement in Luton was one from the office of Mr Williamson (the Magistrates' Clerk), at the corner of Williamson-street, along the same side of George-street to the top of Church-street, and on the other side from the top of Church-street to the church gates. Along this new promenade on Easter Sunday the boys and youths strutted in their new suits.

The Flooding of the Lea

An account of the Luton flood of 100 years ago and another in 1828 was written by my grandfather Thomas Hawkes, senior, and published by him in a small pamphlet. I contribute a copy and may, perhaps, premise that I witnessed the flood of 1828; and never before or since have I witnessed so terrible a visitation, such a destructive war of the elements, of thunder and lightening, with many continuous hours of heavy downfall of rain. The Farley and Winsdon hills poured down such torrents as to produce a violent, rushing mighty current some 18 inches or more in depth, down Chapel-street, bearing many articles of the most varied nature. The narrative is given as follows:- ' The First Flood. February 9th, 1795. We have had a sharp frost eight weeks, and after the ground was first frozen hard, a great quantity of snow fell, and to-day it melts very fast, and as the ground is frozen so hard, the greatest part of the water runs off, and there is more water at the river in Luton than there ever was known in the memory of man; at that time all carriages were obliged to go through the water at the Horsepool-river, as there were only bridges for foot people; no arches for carriages near Luton; and although this was market day there was but two teams that could get over the river all that day and night, and they came through about eight in the morning; the first was Mr Deacon's waggon of Brammingham, but the horses were obliged to swim, and the waggoner went back another way; the other team was Mr Goodyear's of Batford Mill, but that could not go back until the next day, but the man thought he would get back if possible, so he tried to go through the millyard, at the breach, but could not get so far as the gate that leads to the mill by above two poles, and had great trouble to get his horses out, and back again. The waggon stood all night, there were two women in the waggon, and there was great trouble to get them out; they laid a long ladder from the back part of the waggon, to the top of a wood pile in Mr Adams yard, and the women crawled up.

A great number of us went in the afternoon to see if the Silsoe waggon could get through the water at the Horsepool-river, as we all thought it impossible, but the man thought he would, so he tried to ride a single horse through first, but horse and man were drove against the handrails of the footbridge, and with great difficulty got back again, as the water was then running fifteen inches deep on the bridge of the footpath, and about three feet deep all over the moors. The man got his horses out of the waggon, and with great trouble, over the footbridge, and left the waggon all night: this was about four o'clock in the afternoon; at that time we were told that the water at the Breach-mill was running through the house three feet deep, the window drove out, and all the small things drove away, with all the fences this side of the house, and that Mr John Brown was drowned; accordingly a great number of us went to the Breach-mill, and found what we had heard was true. Mr Brown thought he would try and get to the mill to assist them if possible, but, before he had got to Mr Goodyear's waggon, the road was so washed away that his horse fell, and he was out of sight in an instant, and could not be found till the next morning, when he was found stopped between the spokes of the waggon. The horse run home. Mr John Brown was buried in Dunstable, in the Friends' burying ground, February 15th, 1795.'

1841 Census Data from Adelaide Terrace

inhabited	Name and Surname of each person	Age last birthday		Profession, Trade, Employment, or of independent means	Born in Beds
		Male	Female		
\	Isaac Sell	20		Shoemaker	n
	Harriet Sell		25		n
\	Benjamin Chaplin	40		Miller	n
	Mary Chaplin		30		n
	Edward Chaplin	13			n
	Emily Chaplin		9		y
	Millman Chaplin	6			y
	Louisa Chaplin		4		y
	Frederic Chaplin	2			y
\	George Janes	25		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Elizabeth Janes		25		y
	Elizabeth Janes		4		y
	James Janes	2			y
\	William Turney	20		Bonnet Presser	y
	Sophia Turney		20		y
	Ellen Turney		5		y
\	Frederic Weston	25		Tailor	y
	Martha Weston		25		y
	Charles Weston	6			y
	John Weston	4			y
	Frederic Weston	2			y
\	Daniel Philpot	50		Agricultural Labourer	n
	Elizabeth Philpot		50		y
	Hannah Philpot		20	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Lydia Philpot		15		y
	Sarah Philpot		15		y
	Mary Philpot		10		y
	Eliza Snoxell		15	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
\	William Hopkins	50		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Mary Hopkins		45		y
	Thomas Hopkins	25		Bonnet presser	y
	William Hopkins	20		Bonnet Presser	y
	Elizabeth Hopkins		14		y
	John Hopkins	11			y
\	George Milemore	20		Bricklayer	y
	Sarah Milemore		20		n
	Jane Bale		14	Straw Bonnet Maker	n
	Mary Woodland		14	Straw Bonnet Maker	n
	Charlotte Ginger		15	Straw Bonnet Maker	n
\	John Wright	41		Butcher	y
	Joyce Wright		40		n
	Sarah Wright		14		y
	Elizabeth Wright		10		y
	Samuel Wright	7			y
	John Wright	3			y
	Thomas Liberty	42		Tailor	y
	Thomas Killman	16		man servant	n
	Mary Woodland		17	female servant	n

inhabited	Name and Surname of each person	Age last birthday		Profession, Trade, Employment, or of independent means	Born in Beds
		Male	Female		
\	Elizabeth Rumbal		55	Straw Plaiter	y
	Sophia Rumbal		15		y
	Maria Rumbal		15		y
\	Thomas Chambers	25		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Susan Chambers		20		y
	Thomas Chambers	4			y
	George Chambers	2			y
\	William Trott	30		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Susan Trott		25		y
	Emma Trott		9		y
	Ann Trott		6		y
\	William Ellis	35		Chimney Sweep	n
	Phoebe Ellis		35		n
	John Ellis	14			n
	Maria Topham		11	Straw Bonnet Maker	n
\	Peter Roe	40		Shoemaker	y
	Dinah Roe		40		n
	George Roe	8			y
	Daniel Roe	6			y
	James Roe	2			y
\	William Bartlett	25		Straw Bonnet Maker	n
	Mary Bartlett		20		n
	Mary Bartlett		10 months		y
	Ann French		14	Straw Bonnet Maker	n
\	John Fensom	35		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Elizabeth Fensom		30		y
	William Fensom	14			y
	John Fensom	12			y
	Thomas Fensom	10			y
	Sarah Fensom		8		y
	Maria Fensom		1		y
\	Samuel Dawson	35		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Elizabeth Dawson		35		y
	Eliza Dawson		3		y
	Maria Dawson		2		y
\	Mary Carter		35	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Henry Carter	10			y
	Thomas Carter	7			y
	Charles Carter	1			y
\	Sarah Allen		60	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Hannah Allen		20	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Martha Allen		20	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
\	Elizabeth Smith		45	Laundress	y
	Hannah Smith		20	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Sarah Smith		13		y
	Emma Smith		11		y
\	Sarah Hill		50	Laundress	y
	Allen Hill	15			y

inhabited	Name and Surname of each person	Age last birthday		Profession, Trade, Employment, or of independent means	Born in Beds
		Male	Female		
	Eliza Hill		15		y
	Mary Hill		14		y
	John Field	25		Bonnet Presser	y
\	Abigail Crick		50	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Elizabeth Waller		45	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
\	William Allen	30		Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Eliza Allen		30		y
	Emma Allen		7		y
	William Allen	6			y
	Eliza Allen		3		y
\	George Roe	30		Shoemaker	y
	Lucy Roe		30		y
	Emma Roe		8		y
	Sarah Roe		6		y
\	Richard Barrett	30		Agricultural Labourer	y
	Phoebe Barrett		30		y
	Charles Barrett	8			y
	Mary Barrett		7		y
	George Barrett	6			y
	Henry Barrett	3			y
	Agnes Barrett		1		y
\	John Lowin	35		Hurdle maker	y
	Charlotte Lowin		35		y
	Sophia Lowin		13		y
	Ann Lowin		11		y
	Sarah Lowin		8		y
	James Lowin	8 months			y
\	Samuel Freeman	40		Lawyer	y
	Mary Freeman		40		n
	Eliza Freeman		18	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Sophia Freeman		9		y
	Amos Freeman	6			y
	Ann Freeman		4		y
	Emma Freeman		1		y
\	Ann Fensom		60	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Mary Fensom		25	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Ann Fensom		20	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Mary Fensom		15		y
	Julia Fensom		2		y
\	William Lay	35		Labourer	y
	Eliza Lay		34		y
	Hannah Lay		16	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Sarah Lay		14		y
	George Lay	12			y
	Emma Lay		8		y
	Eliza Lay		4		y
	Ellen Lay		2		y
\	William Kingham	40		Bricklayer	n

inhabited	Name and Surname of each person	Age last birthday		Profession, Trade, Employment, or of independent means	Born in Beds
		Male	Female		
	Hannah Kingham		45		y
	Elizabeth Kingham		14		n
\	William Read	37		Bonnet Presser	y
	Jane Read		32		y
	John Read	10			y
	Miriam Read		7		y
	Thomas Read	5			y
	James Read	3			y
\	Martha Holloway		45	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	Ann Holloway		20	Straw Bonnet Maker	y
	William Holloway	15			y
	Sarah Holloway		15		y
	Joseph Holloway	12			y
	Theodora Holloway		10		y
	Eliza Holloway		4		y
\	John Airess	30		Bricklayer	y
	Sarah Airess		25		y
	John Airess	4			y
	Maria Airess		1		y
	Sarah Airess		60	female servant	y