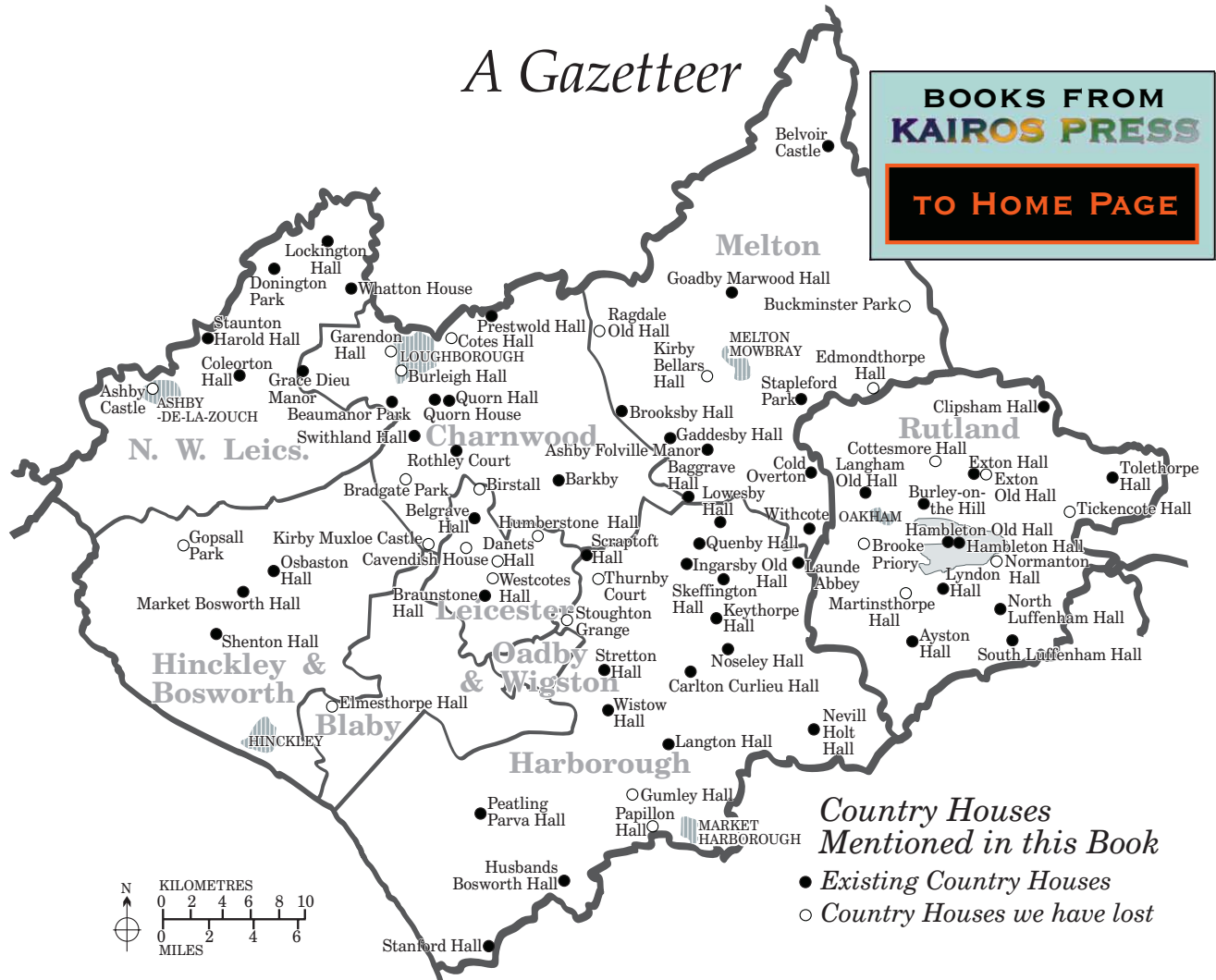


PART TWO
*The Historic Country Houses of
 Leicestershire And Rutland:*

A Gazetteer



Leicestershire

ASHBY FOLVILLE MANOR



38. *Ashby Folville Manor. The original manor house having been burnt down, this one was rebuilt in 1893 in a mid-seventeenth-century style. This photograph shows the west front.*

Situated eight miles north-east of Leicester, the original manor house was built in the mid-seventeenth century on an H-plan. Having burnt down, it was rebuilt in 1893 in a similar style, to the designs of J. Eley. Built of coursed and squared ironstone with limestone ashlar dressings, it is of three storeys and attics, and consists of five bays. The west front has a three-bay recessed centre with a two-storey tower porch flanked by taller gabled wings. The central arched doorway has a shield panel above it dated 1893. According to Pevsner, the north side is essentially part of the original house, though much altered. The house is owned by Mr and Mrs Rimmington, Mrs Rimmington's professional name being Rosemary Conley.

BAGGRAVE HALL

What one sees today is a plain mid-Georgian country house set in a small park in a green valley, south of South Croxton. The valley once contained a village which lay to the south of the house and which was deserted in about 1500. In the earlier part of sixteenth century, there was a house on this site, the property of Leicester Abbey, which as at nearby Ingarsby presumably dispossessed the villagers in order to lay down the land to sheep

farming. After the Dissolution, in 1543, the manor of Baggrave came to Francis Cave, a relation of the Caves of Stanford Hall and at some time in the seventeenth century a wing was added. The house came to John Edwyn in 1680 and it was his ancestor, another John Edwyn, who largely rebuilt the house in the 1750s. Finally, a second wing was added, dated 1776. John Edwyn's daughter carried the estate to the Burnaby family who held it until 1939 when it



was sold. Since then, it has passed through various hands including those of Asil Nadir, the Turkish Cypriot entrepreneur.

The west front of the house, which faces the road through the park, is characteristically mid-Georgian and consists of seven bays and two storeys with quoins and a central section of three bays carrying a pediment with an oval bull's eye window with a carved stone frame. To the left is a more recent brick range. The house has a Swithland slate hipped roof with brick ridge stacks which are also hipped. The south front of five bays is quite plain, while on the north side there is some evidence of the sixteenth century house. Inside, the best

39. *The mid-Georgian west front of Baggrave Hall with its central three-bay section topped by a pediment with an oval bull's eye window.*

rooms are the oak room in the south-east part of the house with its pedimented doorcases, panelling and overmantel; and the drawing room in the south-west of the house with its painted panelling and richly carved fireplace and overmantel in a style described by Pevsner "as a very rare mid-eighteenth century essay in the Jacobean Revival". To the east of the house are mid-eighteenth century stables with a walled kitchen garden beyond.

BARKBY HALL

The manor of Barkby, some five miles north-east of Leicester, has been associated with the Pochin family for centuries and, indeed, they are still here. They are first mentioned in connection with Barkby in the fifteenth century and at some later date built a house here. It was rebuilt about 1810, damaged by fire in 1847 and altered again and considerably reduced in size in 1870. Even so, it remains a substantial building, two-and-a-half storeys tall and with a balustraded porch over the central two bays. The interior dates from the Regency and, although plain, has a grand staircase.



40. *The entrance front of Barkby Hall, eight bays wide, and with a two-bay balustraded porch.*

BEAUMANOR PARK

As we have seen, over a period of at least 500 years some four houses were built in succession at Beaumanor, south of Loughborough. The last and



present one dates from 1842 when building began. By this time, the estate had come into the hands of William Perry Herrick, one of the wealthiest of Victorian landowners owning large areas of land. Having ordered the demolition of the Georgian house, he commissioned William Railton to design and build him a new one. Railton, a fashionable London architect of the time had designed Nelson's column and also had local connections having, some ten years earlier, built Grace Dieu Manor for Ambrose Phillips de Lisle. Possibly influenced by having seen a drawing of the earlier Jacobean mansion at Beaumanor, he built the new house, which took until 1853 to complete, in a Victorian-Jacobean

41. *The entrance front of Beaumanor Park, a house built in the 1840s in a Victorian-Jacobean style.*