



# *The Markenfield Irregular*

Issue thirty-four      Spring 2017

MARK-IN-FIELD. The most elegantly carved mediaeval tomb in Ripon Cathedral is that of Sir Thomas Markenfield (d. 1398) in the North Transept. And most curious is his unusual collar, which shows a couchant stag within an elaborate fence round a little field. Many learned essays have been written to prove that this was a badge marking his adherence to the House of Lancaster; others think it is simply a play on the family name - Mark-in-Field (a "mark" being your quarry in a hunt) similar to the mediaeval humour shown by a rebus in heraldry.



A similar image has now been identified, sketched onto the back of a letter written about 1590. It is in the form of a pendant, and has a little ring at the top. The letter, now in the North Yorkshire County Archives, was written by William Mauleverer, a relation of the Markenfields by marriage, setting out his case to claim some of the Markenfields lands which had been confiscated following The Rising of the North in 1569. He



seemed to believe his interest was protected by entailment, but he had been frustrated in proving it by another relation carrying off "79 boxes of evidence, 1 little coffer and 2 littell bags" of papers from Markenfield. Perhaps the pendant belonged to his Markenfield wife and he was trying hard to show just how close to the family he was.

The Friends' Archive & Research Group are actively searching for these papers and we sincerely hope that they are successful.

PHYSIONET is a remarkable charity set up in 2005 to provide essential medical equipment for the disabled in developing and war-torn countries, including Syria. Bulk collection of what becomes available is made from the NHS, Social Services, Local Education Authorities and the private sector; and dispatched in 40-foot containers to where it is needed, sometimes desperately.

The founder and driving force behind this splendid Charity is Peter Thompson, one of the most loyal and regular of our Volunteer Stewards. Markenfield will be honoured to host PhysioNet's National AGM in July, and Christmas at Markenfield, our annual fund-raising Carol Service, will this year be devoted to the charity.

THE FRIENDS OF MARKENFIELD have once more enhanced the Hall, collectively and individually. The line of ageing and diseased Sycamore trees in the paddock on the West side of the moat have finally been felled and replaced by eight 10 foot lime trees - *Tilia Cordata*. They will eventually grow up to 130 feet and last several hundred years.



The total cost was £3,000.

The Friends had pledged up to £2,000 but 18 individual Friends made personal donations totalling £1,600.

It is a magnificent and lasting achievement.



ORDNANCE SURVEY first started to publish their maps in 1801, based on a detailed survey of sections of England region by region. These surveys, hand-drawn and coloured, were 6" to the mile, but the published maps were 1" to the mile - which means that the surveys show a great more detail.

The process took a very long time and only reached Yorkshire 1848-52. Unfortunately, the surveyors' original drawings have not survived for parts including Markenfield, but - thanks to the Archive & Research Group - we have the first published map of the Hall from that period. At first sight, there appears to be little difference from how it is now; but closer examination shows a building connecting the Gatehouse to the Farmhouse Wing. The first floor door, of which the top half was opened up in 2011 to form the window overlooking the Courtyard, must have been the entrance at the Gatehouse end. The blocked doorway at the Farmhouse end will have formed the other.

