

one on chief constables in 1994 and the Inspectorate in 1996. His research on the Inspectorate also led to his becoming the joint author of its official history, published in 2006.

In 2010 Dick published yet another book, *Outrage and Murder*, about which he was interviewed by the BBC:

A former Northamptonshire policeman has written a book based on 800 years of criminal homicide and judicial execution in the county.

Richard Cowley, from Finedon, wrote the book 'Outrage and Murder' which looks at Northampton's violent past.

"My interest of murders in the county came from working on manslaughter

cases in the police force," said Richard. After 10 years of collecting the information, Richard completed the book.

"The earliest records go back to the 13th century where there was an average of eight murders in the county a year. Most victims of murder knew their attackers and there was a lot of alcohol related crimes," said Richard.

Information in the book dates back to 1202 running up to the 1850s.

Richard found a lot of inconsistency in the records held about sentencing.

"A man could steal a horse and get a simple fine, but another man could steal a horse and be hanged. I know we don't know all the evidence, but it

struck me as being very unusual," he said.

This is the first edition of this book and Richard hopes it will get more people interested in local history.

"Reading is great as it allows your imagination to run away with you, I hope people find the book a fascinating read whilst learning more about their local ancestors."



EDITOR'S NOTE: While browsing the articles collated by Dick for the 2017 *Journal* I discovered the following item written by him, which we're pleased to publish in this edition.

The First HMI

The Life and Times of William Cartwright: HM Inspector of Constabulary 1856-1869

By RICHARD COWLEY

Finding petty crime rampant in those counties and boroughs not having police forces, Palmerston's Royal Commission on the Police of 1853 urged the compulsory establishment of constabularies for all counties and boroughs.

Thus the County and Borough Police Act of 1856 was born, which forced the counties and boroughs that had not already done so, to form professional full time police forces immediately. And to ensure full compliance, three Inspectors of Constabulary were appointed under the Act, one for each of the three districts into which England and Wales had been divided.

The Inspector's task was to examine every force in his district annually and judge whether that force was 'efficient'

in terms of numbers, equipment and buildings.

Being mindful of the huge expense to the local rate-payers of full-time efficient constabularies, the government provided an incentive whereby each constabulary found efficient by the Inspectors, was to have a quarter of its annual wages and clothing expenses paid by central government (eventually this would be raised to fifty-one percent of all expenses).

Appointed on Friday 1 August 1856, William Cartwright, was the very first Inspector of Constabulary. He was followed in September that year by John Woodford, for sixteen years Chief Constable of Lancashire, and then in January 1857, by Edward Willis who had been Chief Constable

of Manchester for fifteen years.

Ironically, it was the only non-policeman of the trio who was to have the greatest and longest lasting influence on policing policy, and who, upon his death was to be fondly remembered as 'the policemen's friend'.

Coming from the privileged upper classes of his time, William was born on Wednesday 22 February 1797 into the wealthy land-owning Cartwright family of Aynho in Northamptonshire.

Educated privately, and then at Eton, his future appeared mapped out when he was sent to the Royal Military College at Marlow in Buckinghamshire (later moved to Sandhurst) in 1809. Having been 'Gazetted' into the 61st Regiment of Foot (2nd Battalion

the Gloucestershire Regiment), Cartwright joined Wellington's army in the bitterly fought Peninsular War of 1812-1813. Just two years later however, he transferred to the 10th Hussars, and so fought at the Battle of Waterloo, along with another army officers, one Charles Rowan by name, who was also to figure prominent in the British police, although neither then knew it.

It was at Waterloo that Cartwright acquired one of Napoleon's dinner services, which remains a possession of the Cartwright family to this day.

Cartwright retired from the army in May 1825 on half-pay, with the rank of Major. As was the custom of the time, regular promotion still came during retirement. By 1856 therefore, he was a Major-General, even though he had not worn army uniform for more than thirty years.

In 1822 he had married a wealthy London heiress, Mary Ann Jones. After living in Sussex for a time, he returned to his native county eight years later, when in 1831 he bought the Manor House at Flore, a small village between Daventry and Northampton.

At Flore, Cartwright settled down to the life of a country squire, but having time on his hands, soon became involved in local government. In particular, he took a deep interest in the Poor Law administration, and in 1833 was elected Chairman of the Brackley Board of Guardians. This was always to be the General's hobby-horse, and after he became HMI, it was his influence that led most police forces to appoint policemen as Assistant Relieving Officers, to help administer the large numbers of the Victorian destitute.

Cartwright became Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Northamptonshire in 1846, and permanent Chairman of Northamptonshire Quarter Sessions in 1851.

So he was not only acquainted with

virtually all the influential politicians and society leaders of his day, but also when visiting his wife's London properties would have met them fairly regularly.

Given Cartwright's interests and influence, it is not surprising therefore, when the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, was looking for the first HMI, Cartwright was snapped up at an annual salary of £700.

His allocated district comprised the English midland and eastern counties, the north Welsh counties, and all the boroughs contained therein - a total of twenty-five counties and sixty-eight boroughs.

Journeying round his district in the first months of 1857, Cartwright made a preliminary study of the existing forces and offered advice to those forces still being established under the compulsory 1856 Act. In this cursory survey, he found only fifteen of the twenty-five counties already had forces in existence - and of this fifteen, he considered only nine to be efficient!

Returning to Flore, he set up administration machinery in his own house, employing clerks to maintain a constant stream of correspondence with the borough Watch Committees and the county Quarter Sessions. In doing this, he was completely independent of the Home Office.

So well did he influence and advise his Police Authorities, that when he came to make his 'official' inspection in the summer and autumn of 1857, he could report that all his counties now had police forces, and that with the exception of tiny Rutland, every one was efficient. But in any case, the county constabularies were never to be any problem. Rutland became efficient in 1861, and after that, no county constabulary was ever in danger of being considered inefficient, and none ever was.

But the boroughs were to be

different. In his first inspection year of 1857, of Cartwright's sixty-eight boroughs, thirty were efficient and sixteen had agreed to be policed by their surrounding counties. The remaining twenty-two, he said left him 'only with the unpleasant alternative of reporting them inefficient', and thus ineligible for the cash hand-out by central government, the so-called Exchequer Grant.

It was always the small and inefficient boroughs that would prove to be the thorn in the side of the Inspectorate. And despite repeated requests through their Annual Reports to the Home Office (the Inspectors had no power to enforce, only advise), incredibly, it would not be for another thirty-odd years that all borough forces were considered efficient. The 'wooden spoon' for the last force to be declared fit for purpose, was Congleton Borough Police in 1889.

William Cartwright remained as an Inspector of Constabulary until 1869 when he resigned. He was then seventy-two years of age, and had just seen his surviving son, Fairfax, elected as MP for South Northamptonshire. Aubrey, his other son, had been killed at the Battle of Inkerman in the Crimea, fifteen years earlier.

Not wishing to remain idle, though, he took on another post - Governorship of Northampton General Hospital - and still immersed himself in Quarter Sessions affairs. He died at his London town house in Grosvenor Square on Thursday 5 June 1873, and was buried in the 'Cartwright Corner' in Aynho churchyard.

That William Cartwright was probably the most influential of all the long line of HMIs is shown by the fact that some of the ideas that he implemented during the 1860s are still with us. Others have dropped by the wayside, being rendered unnecessary by the improvement of

social conditions in life generally.

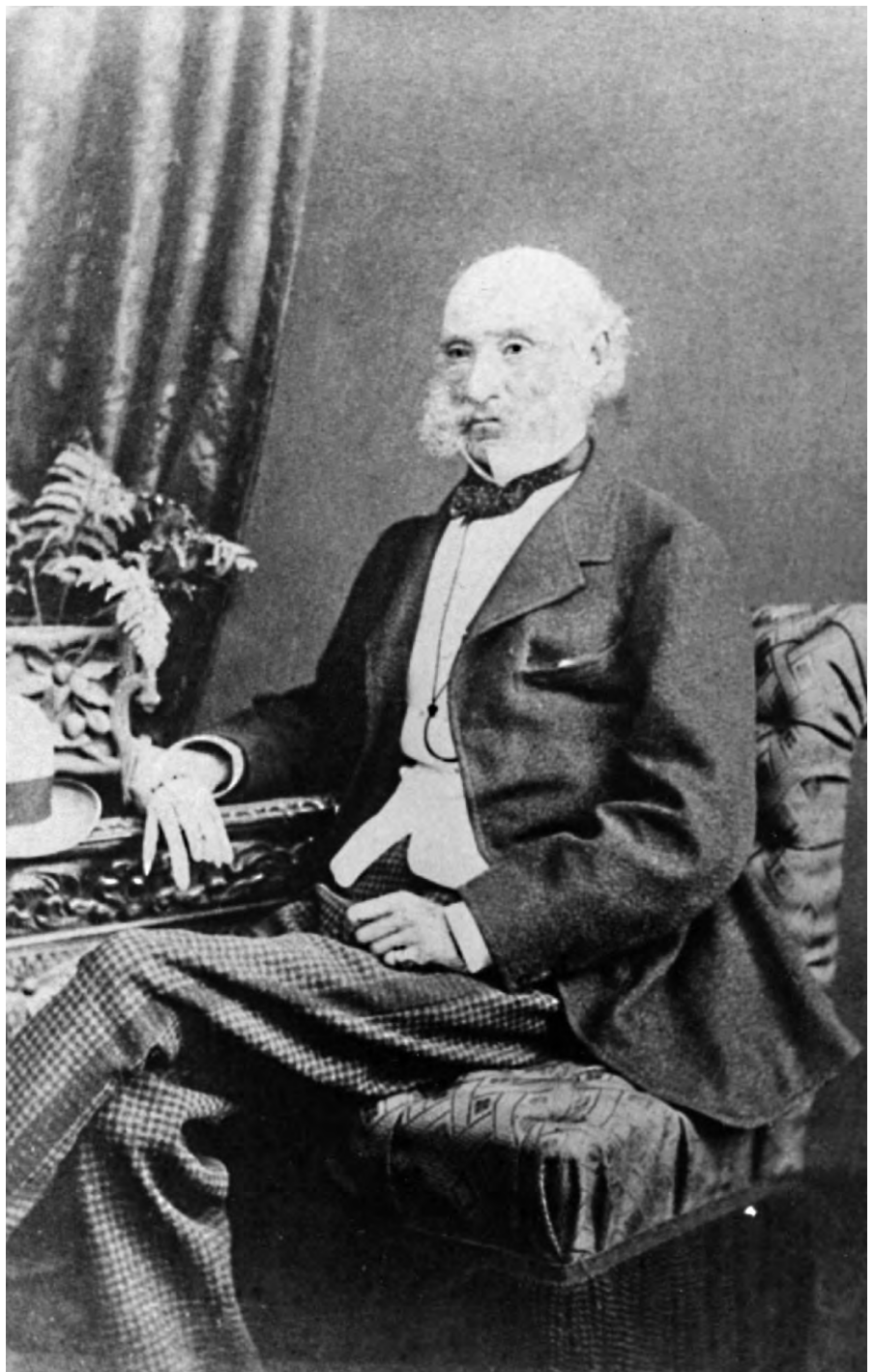
Apart from his desire to involve the police in the Poor Law, Cartwright was concerned with the welfare of police officers themselves, and judging by his remarks in several of his annual reports, certainly appreciated the social pressures a man is placed under when he joins the police service - a subject as relevant today as it was then.

Following on from that, he advocated a standard pay structure for the whole country, rather than different scales for each autonomous force, so that the drift away from the poorer paying forces was halted. He wanted to see police officers carrying their former police service with them when they joined another force, instead of having to accrue service afresh. He wanted greater and better superannuation benefits, especially in the borough forces, and he was a great subscriber to, and champion of, the Infant PMAA.

He helped to organise and establish a police orphanage at Brighton. He suggested the retention of police surgeons. He saw the benefits of larger, specially trained CID force and actually proposed in his very first annual report of 1857, a system of inter-force co-operation not very far removed from the Regional Crime Squads of today.

These benefits, because they are commonplace in today's police service, are taken so much for granted that they seem scarcely worthy of interest. But when Cartwright had felt the need to propose them, all those years ago, they were radical ideas, previously unvoiced.

Formative perceptions such as



William Cartwright
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those were essential for the proper development of the embryo modern police service. And with his energy, astute observations, knowledge and above all, intense interest, William

Cartwright was a much a pioneer of today's mature police service, as the likes of Peel, Rowan, Mayne, Desborough and Willinck.