

The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Walk 3 of 19

- On 9th June 1817, over 300 men set out for Nottingham from villages on the Derbyshire-Nottinghamshire border.

- They thought they were part of a 'general rising' to bring down an unjust and oppressive government. Motivated by poverty and hunger, all efforts to gain a hearing suppressed, and having no vote, many saw an armed revolt as the only alternative.

- Unbeknown to them, the Government 'agent provocateur', William J Oliver had encouraged the armed revolt. Rebel leaders had already been arrested and only a handful would take up arms in Huddersfield and Nottingham. The Derbyshire men were to be used as an 'example' to others.

- Ambushed by troops, the marchers fled and many were arrested. At their trial in Derby, three - Brandreth, Ludlam and Turner - were sentenced to death. They were to be hanged then beheaded. Fourteen were transported to penal colonies in Australia, others imprisoned. Their families were evicted and homes destroyed.

The other walks in this series

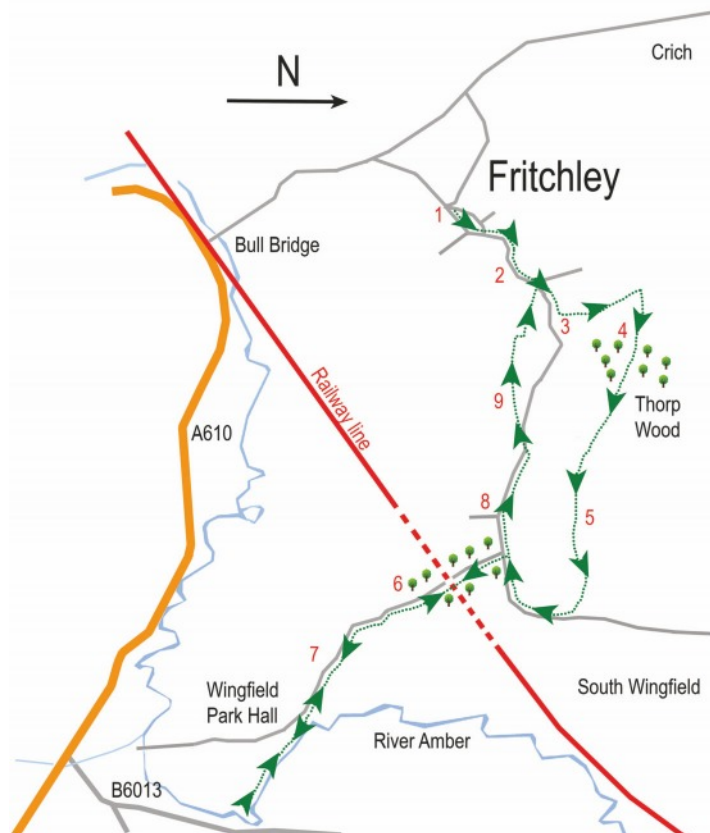
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| 1. Nottingham, England | 10. Heanor, England |
| 2. South Wingfield, England | 11. Langley Mill, England |
| 3. Fritchley, England | 12. Eastwood, England |
| 4. Heage, England | 13. Giltbrook, England |
| 5. Pentrich, England | 14. Sutton in Ashfield, England |
| 6. Alfreton, England | 15. Derby, England |
| 7. Swanwick, England | 16. Sydney, Australia |
| 8. Ripley, England | 17. Parramatta, Australia |
| 9. Codnor, England | 18. Kiama, Australia |
| 19. The full route of the march, England | |



THE PENTRICH
& SOUTH WINGFIELD
REVOLUTION GROUP



LOTTERY FUNDED



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Sylvia Mason and
Geoff Johnston 2017

Walk compiled
by Roger Tanner



Walk 3

This walk is produced by:-

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The Pentrich & South Wingfield Revolution

Walk 3 of 19
Fritchley, England



Thorp Hill Wood
©Photograph by Sylvia Mason



Distance: 5 miles. Care needed when crossing roads.
Difficulty: Undulating, footpaths, tracks, roads, 'squeeze stiles' and stiles.
Park: On street, limited parking at Bobbin Mill Lane.
Start: The Congregational Church, Fritchley. OS ref. Explorer 269 -358 529

After leaving South Wingfield, on the night of the 9th June 1817, the rebels passed through the Fritchley area, visiting farms to demand weapons and men as they marched towards Nottingham.

1. From the church, walk past the Red Lion public house to the end of the village. A board on your left gives details of Butterley Gangroad, an historic railway built to carry limestone from quarries at Crich via the Cromford Canal to the Butterley Works at Ripley.

2. Go down the road, Bobbin Mill Hill. On your left is Mill Cottage, on the right is Mill Farm, reminding us of the mills in this area. The first corn mill was built in 1760 by Enoch Harrison, Bower's Corn Mill built between 1810 - 1820 and the cotton spinning mill was built 1805. The pond behind Mill Cottage in Dimple Valley was the water supply for these mills. On this hill was a woodturning factory, built in 1805, and run by the Weightman family, employing 40 men and boys.

3. Continue along the road, until you reach Barn Close Farm on your right. Opposite the farm, on the left, take the footpath up Mill Green Hill, marked on the sign as towards Park Head. Walk between two farm buildings then uphill across the field, with woodland on your right. This farm, one of the oldest recorded in the area, dating from at least the 16th century, was the home of Elijah Hall, farmer and miller. The rebels visited his house and made him hand over a gun. He and his two sons were forced to join the march.

4. When you reach the brow of the hill there is a good view of Crich and Fritchley. Turn right onto the footpath into the wood, through the squeeze stile,



follow the path through the wood. As you leave the trees you go through another squeeze stile with the letters W and P carved into them, for 'Wingfield Park' Continue across the field. On the right, you will pass the ruin of a windmill. This was Thorp Hill Wood where wood was gathered to make pikes, to be hidden before the rising. The rebels would have passed this way as they went from Mr Tomlinson's house towards Barn Close Farm. The corn mill, a ruin since around 1860's, belonged to Elijah Hall.

5. Continue on the path, crossing the stile into the next field. Keep to the left when it joins a track, continue to Tithe Farm, go past the first barn on the left, as you approach the farm. Then diagonally; left across to the waymarked gate, through the gate, down the field, keeping the wall on your right. Find the path behind the oak tree, right of the stone wall at the bottom of the field. Step down, go a few metres towards the right through the trees, down the bank, being careful not to slip if wet, cross the field to the road. As you pass Yew Tree farm look to the skyline on your left to see the ruins of Wingfield Manor. Mary Queen of Scots was held prisoner here and it was the site of Civil War battles, but was in ruins in 1817. To its right is Coalburn Hill. A group of rebels, led by George Weightman, went here to collect hidden pikes in the quarry before going through the valley to collect men and guns.

6. Turn right onto the road, walk back towards Fritchley for 200 yards or so. Take the first tarmac farm track on the left, as the road bends right. Walk down the track crossing the railway tunnel, up a small hill through trees, towards Lodge Hill Farm. Walk through the farmyard in front of the house, through the gate facing, take the track to the left. Lodge Hall Farm was Samuel Hunt's farm, the marchers were welcomed and given bread, cheese and beer. Samuel, and 'his man' Daniel Hunt, joined the march. Samuel was transported. In Australia he was convicted of poaching sheep and given a second life sentence and transported to Tasmania.



7. Take the track down the hill, keeping the hedge on your left. The track turns to the right, here, on your left, opposite the driveway to the farm buildings, go diagonally left down

the field and follow the River Amber. Stop at the footbridge.

Looking back up the hill you see Wingfield Park Hall. On this site in 1817 was the house of Mrs Hepworth, on the site of today's stables. The marchers demanded weapons but were refused entry. As the rebels sought to enter the house Robert Walters, a servant, was fatally shot. The shot was fired by Jeremiah Brandreth the leader of the ill fated march. He was never charged with murder. Across the river is Pentrich Lane End where they joined a second group of marchers coming from South Wingfield as they marched towards Butterley Works and Nottingham.



8. Retrace your steps back up the hill, to Lodge Hill farm. Return along the track to the road. Turn left at the road, towards Fritchley, passing the entrance to Beech Hill Farm until you reach the turning to Wingfield Park Farm. This is the route taken by the rebels as they visited the homes of Mr Bestwick, now Beech Hill Farm, where a gun was taken and Mr Walker, at Wingfield Park Farm, where a gun and pistol were taken.

9. At the turning to Wingfield Park Farm turn onto the footpath going in the same direction as the road.



Cross the field at the squeeze stile mid-way down the prickly holly hedge facing you, take care. Continue on the footpath into the next field, follow the path to the right through a gap in the hedge, continue diagonally across the field down to the cross the field, to the right you will see the buildings of Barnclose Farm, down the hill to the bottom of Bobbin Mill Hill. Turn left, walk back into Fritchley and the end of the walk.