

The Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Walk 20

- 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.

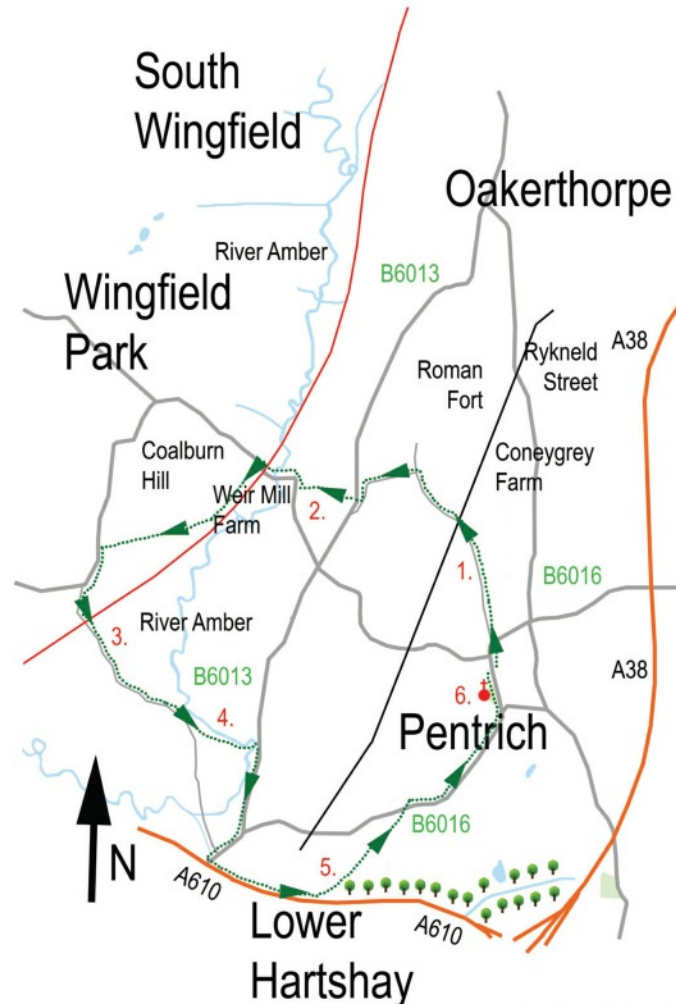
- Ambushed by troops, the marchers fled and many were arrested. At their trial in Derby, three - Brandreth, Ludlam and Turner - were sentenced to death. They were to be hanged then beheaded. Fourteen were transported to penal colonies in Australia, others imprisoned. Their families were evicted and homes 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. | |
| 20. The aftermath | 21. Ambergate, England |
| 22. Belper, England | |



THE PENTRICH
& SOUTH WINGFIELD
REVOLUTION GROUP



©Photographs by
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Roger Tanner &
Sylvia Mason



Walk compiled by
Roger Tanner



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The Pentrich & South Wingfield Revolution Walk 20 The Aftermath



River Amber near Samuel Hunt's farm
©Photograph by Roger Tanner



www.visorando.co.uk
Walking software and app



Distance: 4.5 miles. Care needed when crossing roads.
Difficulty: Undulating, mostly footpaths, some roads, several awkward stiles to cross and some uneven ground.
Park: The Dog, customers only. Parking on the roadside on Asher Lane.
Start: The Pentrich Village Hall, OS Explorer 269 ref. 390 526

The walk will visit places in and around Pentrich and the Amber Valley which remind us of the impact of the June 1817 'Pentrich Revolution' on people's lives one year after the Rising.

1. Starting at the Village Hall, walk uphill along the main road to towards Swanwick. When the road bends to the right take the footpath on the left side of the road, which continues straight ahead. Continue to follow the footpath, walking ahead through the gate and keeping to the left of the hedge. (Do not cross the stile to the right.)

The Village Hall is on the site of the house of Thomas Bacon, framework knitter and radical reformer. He went into hiding before the Rising, fearing arrest as a leader of the rebels. He was transported for life in 1817, sent on the convict ship Tottenham to Sydney Cove and then to Paramatta. His home was demolished and a village school was built on the site. Those related to Thomas, including Bacons, Weightmans and other rebels' families, were evicted and families left destitute.

2. Walk on with the open field and view of the Amber Valley to your left. Across the valley see Wingfield Manor to your right and Crich to the left, Follow the track to the left before reaching the farm and take the roadway down the hill to the left. Go through the small gate on the right and cross the field ahead to a stile. Wait as you reach the busy road (B6013). When it is safe to do so, cross and walk for a short distance to the left, watching for oncoming vehicles. Turn right on the footpath. Take care as the path is initially steep and the first stile is very high. Walk down the fields to the stile in the left-hand corner. Cross with care to reach the road.



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Descending the field you will see wooded Coalburn Hill directly ahead. Here was the quarry worked by Isaac Ludlam and William Turner. Both were executed in Derby in November 1817 for their part in the Rising. Edward Turner was transported to Australia for life. The only rebels remaining to work the quarry after the 10th June were Joseph Turner and Abraham James.

3. Take the road ahead to cross the bridge over the River Amber and continue under the railway line. Immediately turn left, over a stile and follow the fenced path. Over two stiles and walk straight ahead across the large field towards a single large tree. Cross the old hedge line into a small field and head to the top left hand corner to reach the minor road. Follow the road to the left, turning off onto the track on the left as the road turns right. Continue on this track to Lodge Hill Farm.



©Photograph by Sylvia Mason

The farmer, Samuel Hunt, joined the rebels and was transported for life. He was taken to Paramatta in New South Wales on the convict ship Isabella during 1818.

4. Walk past the farm and bear left down the track after the gateway. When the track turns to the right, continue across the field parallel to the River Amber. The path crosses the river in the far left corner of the field. Over the footbridge is the B6013, a busy road. Turn right and take care walking along the verge until reaching Pentrich Mill.

See the plaque telling how Thomas Bacon hid near the Mill. Despite a reward of 100 guineas, he and his brother John were not caught until 15th August in St Ives in Huntingdonshire. They were taken for trial in Derby. Other rebels also avoided capture for many weeks. Ludlam was arrested in Uttoxeter and Brandreth in Bulwell, both in late July.

5. Continue along the pavement by the B6013 to the junction with the A610. Cross the B6013 at the traffic lights. Walk towards Ripley on the left of the A610 on a wide

grass verge. Continue for half a mile until just before the second bus shelter. Take the footpath to the left. Going through the bushes, follow the path up a bank. Continue on this main path between hedgerows up the hill, through two gates and a farm track. The path reaches the road at Pentrich near the site of the former non-conformist chapel.



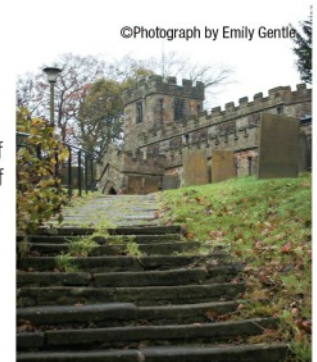
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Miles Bacon ran down this hillside to avoid arrest. After the Rising failed he had hidden in a hayloft and was fed by the non-conformist minister. When soldiers came he ran from the village, with soldiers giving chase. He leapt across the Cromford Canal between Lower Hartshay and Buckland Hollow and escaped capture. He settled in Leicestershire and married. He returned when it was safe to get his mother out of the workhouse. She had been left unsupported, as husband and brother in law had been transported. Miles settled, with his family, as a stockinger in Belper.

6. Reaching the road, turn right into the village, to The Dog on your right and St Matthew's Church on the left. The Village Hall is directly ahead.

Hugh Wolstenholme, the Curate of the church, was seen to be too sympathetic to the rebels and their families by the Duke of Devonshire and Mr Lockett, his Derby solicitor. He was forced out of his post in March 1818 and fled to America as he feared arrest. There he gained a reputation for standing up for the poor and opposing slavery.

The Duke of Devonshire visited Pentrich in April 1818, with Lockett and Colonel Wingfield Hatton. He was pleased to hear of the "reformed attitudes" of the villagers. He then visited Swanwick Hall to see the new vicar of Pentrich, Rev. John Wood, and to plan the new church at Ripley.



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