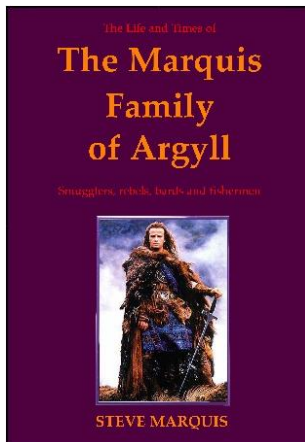
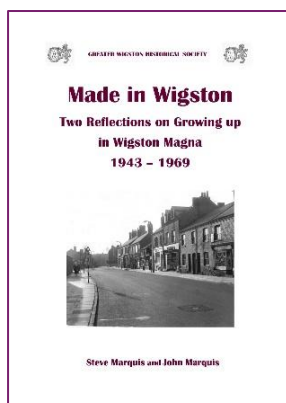


Books Written by Steve Marquis



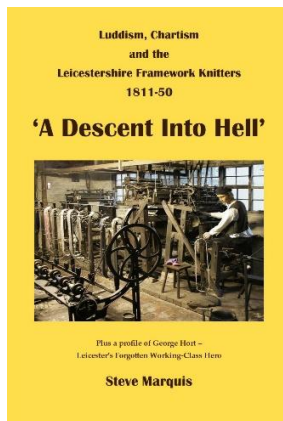
The Extraordinary Story of the Marquis Family of Kintyre. It tells of Gaelic bards, clan warriors for the MacDonalds, Jacobite Rebels, smugglers and fishermen. Related through marriage to Flora MacDonald of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' fame, whose adventures from South Uist to North Carolina, will figure prominently in this story. A chronicle that also features tales of adultery, murder and execution. The origins of the name Marquis (Gaelic Mhic Mharcuis, the 'son of Mark') appear to have lain in the lands of the MacDonalds and in the development of a close, long-term relationship that goes all

the way back to their shared Viking origins and lasted until the end of the eighteenth century. A significant bardic family during the 16th and 17th centuries with substantial landholdings in southern Kintyre. By the 1700s, the McMarcus Family had become tacksman (chief tenant) for the MacDonalds of Largie on the tiny Island of Cara, just off the west coast of Kintyre. Alexander McMarcus and his son Donald were both described as traders and smugglers. By the 19th century, they had become fishermen out of Tarbert, where my great-great-grandfather, Dugald Marquis, was jailed for illegal fishing during the infamous Ring-Net controversy (1851-67). The MacMarquis/Marquis family history closely mirrors that of Gaelic Kintyre. It is a tale of struggle and endurance as they tried to survive extremely traumatic and violent times. In this book, I try to tell the story of both.



This book tells the story of two working-class lads growing up in Wigston Magna during the 1940s, 50s and 60s. It includes accounts of early family life, school and the first steps into employment. My uncle John (he is seven years older than me) and I shared very similar experiences; we went to the same schools, although his school career was far happier and more productive than mine. Our working lives were very different, however, with John having a very successful career as a journalist and editor as well as a successful author.

I left school at 15 to work in the hosiery industry, as did most of my extended family, although I eventually managed, after two challenging years of night school whilst working during the day, to enter Higher Education, obtaining a history degree from Birmingham University and training as a teacher. My writing activities began after I retired, when I realised I had some ability to write about local historical subjects and give talks on local historical events.

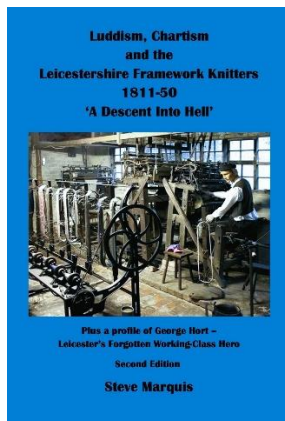


During the first half of the 19th century, Leicestershire framework knitters (who formed around 50% of the Leicestershire's workforce at this time) were forced to fight a desperate war of survival against overwhelming odds, not only from employers' endless pressure to reduce wages, but also the state's total indifference to their appalling poverty and eagerness to brutally suppress any attempts made to safeguard their livelihoods. Ultimately, this is a story of community solidarity, endurance and determination to resist injustice and oppression no matter how hopeless the situation.

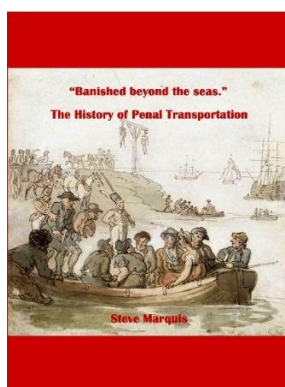
Of course, Leicestershire stockingers were not alone in this struggle: most British workers faced similar circumstances as deteriorating trading conditions and new machinery forced down incomes and plunged thousands into unemployment and destitution. The recent revolution in France had terrified this country's ruling class, and any efforts by the labouring classes to resist their predicament were met with excessive and violent repression. Undisguised class warfare drove the nation to the brink of revolution in the most violent period since the Civil War.

This book tells the story of the Leicestershire framework knitters and their protracted fight for survival in the context of national and international events and major developments of this era. It also reveals for the first time the full extent and duration of Luddism in the county. The historical record suggests that the Luddite campaign was less intense in Leicestershire than in other handloom areas, and that Luddism was confined to the five years between 1811 and 1816. This author will contend that not only were Luddite actions more prevalent in Leicestershire than is generally perceived, but that the spirit of Luddism continued throughout the 1820s.

During my research, I frequently came across the name of George Hort, who was clearly a leading figure in the Framework Knitters Union and a formidable campaigner in their many battles over forty years, yet seems to have gone largely under the radar in terms of historical recognition. As far as I'm aware, this is the first ever written account of George Hort's life and the significant role he played in the stockingers' cause during those four fateful decades. Hopefully, this book will go some way towards resurrecting his memory and acknowledging the considerable contribution of Leicester's forgotten working-class hero.

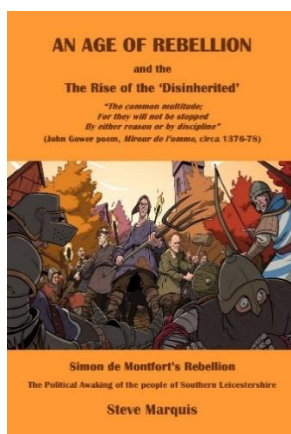


With the first edition having sold out, I decided to write a much more extended second edition. The book contains an additional three chapters: Chapter One, The History of Framework Knitting; Chapter Seven, Undeclared War; Chapter Sixteen, Luddism, Chartism and the Role of Women. I've also expanded other sections, in particular Chapter Two and given a more detailed account of the life and importance of George Hort. There are also additional profiles of significant figures from this period.



'Banished beyond the Seas', The History of Penal Transportation and Other Enforced Mass Migrations, examines how the many and varied victims of the British Empire resisted the brutality and forced migrations that were central features of empire-building.

The largest and most cruelly treated, of course, were the two million or so black Africans forcibly enslaved in the New World. But these weren't the only or last peoples to be taken from their homes and transported in appalling conditions across the Empire.



An Age of Rebellion investigates the Impact of Simon de Montfort's Revolt on his Leicestershire heartland. The book is in three parts. The first looks at de Montfort's Rebellion in general.

The second examines its impact on his Leicestershire Earldom, especially in the Guthlaxton and Gartree Hundreds in the south of the county, which were the most actively involved in the Rebellion.

The Third attempts to establish why the lower orders of southern Leicestershire were so radicalised and enthusiastic in support of De Montfort's Rebellion.

The last two books are finished, but the circumstances of their publication are yet to be decided.