

# Three key people from local history who made the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway happen



Image copyright Harley Gallery

## William Bentinck, 4th Duke of Portland

I am the 4th Duke of Portland and I own most of the land around Sutton, Kirkby and Mansfield.

I care a lot about local businesses and the poor people.

I think that the railway is a good idea because it will help local businesses sell their goods further afield and bring coal into the area to fuel the factories.

The Bentinck memorial in the middle of Mansfield marketplace is dedicated to my son, William. It will help people in the future remember how much my family contributed to Mansfield's prosperity.

## Bentinck Memorial, Mansfield Town Square



Published in The Mansfield and Pinxton Railway by John Vanags 1819 -1848 (Copyright unknown)

## John Coke

My name is John Coke and I come from a wealthy family who live in Pinxton. My father was the Reverend D'Ewes Coke who owned the coal mines at Pinxton.

I took over the family's business interests when my father died in 1811.

Pinxton has a lot of coal beneath the ground and I realised that I could make more money if there was a railway to transport it to the factories around Mansfield.

John Coke laid the cornerstone for the new Mansfield Town Hall in 1836. The inscription can still be clearly seen.



Josias' father William. Image Wikipedia, Creative Commons licence

## Josias Jessop

I am Josias Jessop and am the second son of William Jessop. I was the engineer for the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway line.

My father is known as the "father of civil engineering". He designed many of the canals around the country.

# What else can you find out about these important figures through secondary research?

You can use the internet, or visit your local library and ask the librarian if they have any books that might help you.

You might try and answer these questions as part of your historic research:

1. What date were they born, and when did they die?
2. Were they married?
3. What were their most notable achievements?
4. Are there any other interesting facts about your person from history?

**Write down where you found your answers;** in other words, which websites did you visit, or which books did you get the information from?

