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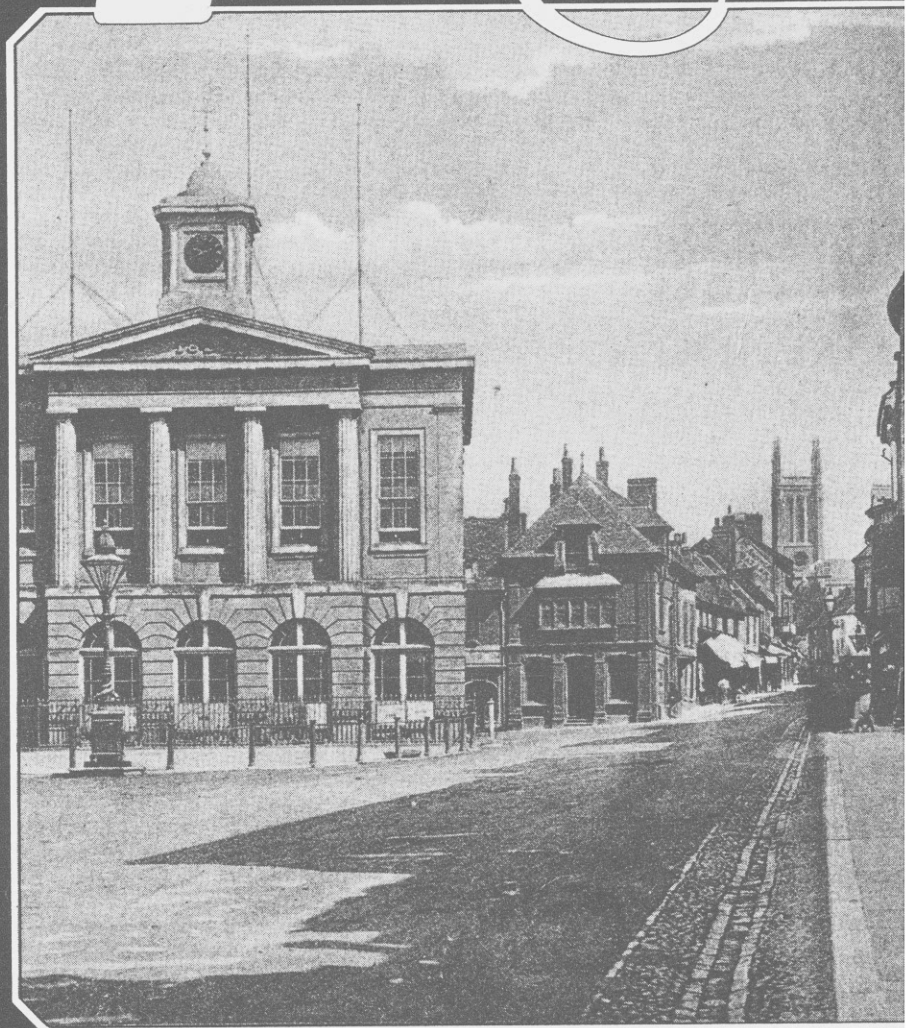
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# LOOKBACK



Official Journal of the  
Andover Local History Society

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## WELCOME TO LOOKBACK

This is the first edition of a new magazine for Andover and District, aimed mainly at those who take pride in the town's history and heritage.

It is, in essence, a successor to the magazine which bore the title "Test Valley and Border Anthology" and which was the official journal of the Andover Local Archives Committee. Fourteen editions of this magazine were published by the committee between 1973 and 1979.

But times change, and the Local Archives Committee has now been wound up and reconstituted itself into the Andover Local History Society. To this end they are hoping to see a new "umbrella" organisation formed in conjunction with kindred bodies in the town, such as the Andover Archaeological Society and others, under which all the activities of those who work to preserve the best of Andover's past, might be amalgamated.

With this metamorphosis in mind, we have therefore given the magazine a new name, a new format and a new image. The principal intention is to present it in a more attractive form, more readable, and we hope, of interest to a much wider public.

The editorial committee is always interested to hear from readers—and writers—who have a contribution to make towards recording Andover's past, and aspects of historical interest from local villages. The more contributions we receive from members of the public, the more interesting we can make this new journal.

Letters and queries addressed to The Editor, Lookback, c/o Andover Public Library, Chantry Way, Andover, will be particularly welcome. And we shall do our best to provide answers.

Editorial Committee: H. W. Earney, A. E. Brickell, J. Spencer, T. H. Hiscock  
and Mrs. P. Simmonds



Picture reproduced by courtesy of Hampshire County Library Service.  
*Waterloo Iron works at Anna Valley, as they appeared over 50 years ago, when there were buildings on the opposite side of the road as well.*

## THE TASKER RIOTS OF 1830

by H. W. Earney

A hundred and fifty years ago this year, Andover was in turmoil.

Mobs roamed the streets, shouting, abusing and threatening: shop-keepers hastily put up their shutters to avoid damage to their property.

Ordinary peace-loving citizens cowered in their homes in apprehension. Mob violence took over the town.

This was none of your protest marching of today's style: it was not a case of people hitting out at poor housing or demonstrating against rising rates. It was part of the Agricultural Labourers' riots which swept through Hampshire in the autumn of 1830—men reacting to the surge of new farm machinery which was threatening their livelihoods; men fighting for an existence, demonstrating violently at the starvation level wages they were getting—a mere eight shillings a week. They wanted this increased to ten shillings a week at least, to enable their families to live.

But, like so many instances when a mob begins to move, the rebellion, engineered by scheming activists who were stirring it up and goading normally tranquil villagers and townsfolk to violence, got out of hand and went farther than it should.

Farm machinery, and its implications on the men who laboured on the farms for their living, was at the heart of it all. Threshing machines, winnowers, ploughs—anything which led to crops being produced more efficiently and more cheaply by mechanical means—were the targets for destruction.

Taskers foundry at Anna Valley, where Robert Tasker and his brother William owned and ran the business which manufactured these dreaded machines, was an obvious prime target of the rioters' anger.

On the morning of November 20th, 1830, the Taskers brothers, sensing the mood that was abroad in the country, anticipated trouble, and sent some of their servants into Andover to find out what was afoot. They returned to report that a mob, estimated at 300 men, were out in the streets, and planned to storm the foundry at Anna Valley: and that they (the servants) could not dissuade those men from their intent.

Taskers promptly closed their factory gates to give "security"—but it proved of no avail.

The mob swept up Andover High Street and gathered outside the Angel Inn, shouting and demonstrating—some carried mouldy crusts on pitchforks to illustrate that this was the only sort of food they could afford to eat! Others carried sticks, and bludgeons.

Two of their number, John Gillmore (25) and William Shepherd (23) burst into the magistrates' court room at the Guildhall, where Mr. Edward Blunt was sitting with Sir L. Curtis. They were accompanied by two or three others (not named) and from their conversation it became clear to Blunt that they intended to storm Taskers that afternoon.

Back at the Angel Inn, another magistrate, Bethel Cox, threw open the large window facing Newbury Street and addressed the rioters, appealing to them to desist and go home. They shouted they would come back for him later, and moved off down the High Street in a tumultuous manner, heading for Anna Valley.

The factory gates did not prevail against the rioters for very long. One Isaac Manns took a swing at the padlock with a bludgeon and knocked it open at one blow. The double gates were swung apart and the mob surged through.

John Howell, foreman at Taskers, offered the men money to stop before any machinery was broken. He even told them to name their price. But one of the mob, believed to be Gillmore, shouted: "Go to work. No money shall stop us." And the wreckers went to work with a will, smashing everything in sight—castings, moulds, a lathe and a crane, the water wheel which provided the foundry's power, ploughs, rollers and all kinds of agricultural implements under manufacture there. Even the windows and walls of the factory were smashed or damaged.

At the special commission of assize held in Winchester in December, where the ringleaders were put on trial, Mr. Robert Tasker estimated that damage ran near to £1,000 worth. The foundry, he said, was put completely out of action and there could be no more work until the machinery had been repaired.

Destruction and devastation at Taskers continued until midnight, when—being Sunday—the mob stopped in their work and said they would come back on the Monday and finish the job.

By which time a contingent of Lancers had been drafted over from Winchester to put a stop to any further activities of this kind: by which time also, a number of arrests had been made.

The special commission of Assize held in Winchester opened on December 20, broke for a few days over Christmas and re-assembled on the 29th to carry on until New Year's Eve. Fourteen of the ringleaders of the "Taskers riots" stood charged with riotous assembly and machine breaking: Joseph Blatch (20), James Manns (24), Thomas Green (22), John Ellis (23), Isaac Manns (19), John Gillmore (25), John Whitebread alias White (29), William Stamford alias Stanmore (23), Thomas Goodall (30), Thomas Beckingham (30), Charles Fay (22), George Myland (28), John Goodall (27) and William Shepherd (23). They all pleaded "Not Guilty."

A contemporary report of their trial stated that "most of the prisoners were fine young men."

All but Whitebread, Thomas and John Goodall and Beckingham were found "guilty." The verdicts were not delivered by the grand jury until five minutes before midnight on December 21st. The summing up alone lasted three hours.

Gillmore, undoubtedly, was picked out as the ringleader of the riot and he heard the dreaded death sentence delivered by Mr. Baron Vaughan with, says the trials official shorthand report, "stoical apathy."

Gillmore was one of six Hampshire men on whom the death sentence fell that day, for their leading roles in the Agricultural Riots in the county. The judge told him: "It grieves me to find that, on the morning of that day, you were seen at the head of a riotous and tumultuous mob which paraded the streets of Andover . . . that when attempts were made to stay your arm before the completion of your crime, you were, in spite of those remonstrances, the first to enter that factory, and to commit the aggression for which you now stand capitally convicted."

"I feel, and I have no doubt that feeling is shared by those with whom I have the honour to be associated, that we should not discharge our duty with satisfaction to our consciences, if we allowed you, John Gillmore, to entertain any expectation of mercy."

The death sentence was also recorded on all the other 13 men convicted, but in their cases the judge found reasons for mitigating their punishment and reducing the sentences to transportation for life.



## ANDOVER'S LANCASTER BOMBERS

### —WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

Log books for the two Lancaster bombers to which the townspeople of Andover subscribed during World War II, are in the care of the town's archives, but the information in them is sketchy, to say the least.

Further details, however, of what happened to these two aircraft has come from Flight Lieut. H. T. N. Ling of R.A.F. West Drayton, Middlesex. He writes to say that, apparently, neither aircraft W4933 or ED656, was officially nominated with the name of "Andover," and goes on to say:—

The "logs" are a little misleading in that in the case of W4933 one would expect the operational record to commence in late 1942/early 1943. The F 78 substantiates this; thus the aircraft was taken on strength from A. V. Roe's by No. 156 Squadron on the 14th March, 1943 and later went on operations with that Squadron and with Nos. 44 and 50 Squadrons before being struck off charge on the 8th April, 1944 damaged beyond repair when it had the dubious distinction of being the first aircraft lost on the disastrous Nuremberg raid on the 30/31st March, 1944. After a tyre burst as it was taking-off from R.A.F. Skellingthorpe, it veered off the runway with a full bomb and fuel load, had a wing torn off but did not catch fire, nor did the bombs explode. The captain F.Sgt. C. G. Bucknell and crew had a miraculous escape.

In the case of ED 656, a later production model, the aircraft was taken on strength from No. 20 Maintenance Unit by No. 9 Squadron on the 19th April, 1943 and began operations on the night of the 26/27th April, 1943 against Duisburg. It flew a total of 46 operations by seventeen different crews. On the night of 29/30th May, 1943 when captained by Sgt. J. Evans



detailed to attack Wuppertal, it tracked north of Dusseldorf due to a navigation error and (by inference) flew into a flak prescribed area. It was hit, set on fire and the bombs jettisoned outside the target area. The aircraft was recovered in a sorry state to base and was out of commission for a month.

Again the "log" records only part of the history and I regret to say is inaccurate on many counts compared with the narrative Form 540 Squadron History and with the Form 541 from which the "log" has been compiled.

I can only suggest that in recognition of the savings effort of Andover the "logs" were issued as tokens only. They are not complete records nor are they wholly accurate; this may have been of necessity at the time, of course, for war-time security reasons.

As tokens therefore the books can reflect civic pride and are therefore of some value but as documents of historical fact they are misleading."

Flt.-Lieut. Ling is at present writing a book on the history of another "Andover" aeroplane, a Spitfire named "The Andoverian" which was given by the people of Andover as their contribution to "Wing's Week" in World War II. Entitled "Johnny Spitfire" it is due to be published—by Standard Press—around Christmas 1980.

## **"THE COX FAMILY AND QUARLEY MANOR HOUSE"**

by Kenneth R. Jones

The connection of the Cox family with Quarley Manor House appears to have started in the middle of the 18th Century, when the Manor was leased to Joshua Cox by the Hoare family. It is not clear as to their exact title, as for many years the owners of the Quarley manor were the St. Katherines Charity, with offices at the Tower of London. It was a tradition of the Charity that the Queen Mother was its patroness.

The Cox family came from Clent in Worcestershire and surrounding villages. They had been yeomen and farmers and some had associations with the manufacture of scythes. Thanks to a work "The Cox's of Clent" by Sir Hugh Chance, their ancestry can be traced back to the 16th Century.

Joshua Cox in the early 18th Century moved from Worcestershire to Lotherton in Yorkshire, where he married Mary Greenwood of Stapleton. His occupation is not known but he had connections with a wealthy family at Aberford. A daughter, Frances, was baptised at this village in November 1716 and it is likely that his son, Richard Cox (1718/1803) was also born in Lotherton, near Aberford. Later Joshua moved to Bartletts Buildings, Hol-

born, London, where he was living when he purchased his interest in Quarley Manor. He died in the year 1757, when his interest in Quarley passed to Richard Cox.

Richard appears to have been first a Civil Servant and was Secretary to the Board of Ordnance and to Field Marshal, Lord Ligonier. A copy of a letter exists written by Richard Cox to Mr. William Pitt in 1758 in which he declined to receive promotion and asked to remain in the service of Lord Ligonier.

Richard married the daughter of Sir William Codrington of Dodington in Gloucestershire in 1747 and they lived at Aspenden Hall, near Buntingford in Hertfordshire. The marriage settlement by Joshua Cox shows that the father owned a number of properties in London, besides his interest in Quarley Manor.

In 1758, Lord Ligonier appointed Richard Cox agent to the 1st Regiment of Foot, the Grenadier Guards. Later Richard became agent to many more regiments and also the Royal Artillery.



### **Hunting Interests**

It seems that from their early days at Quarley, the Cox family were interested in hunting. A painting by Seymour, which remained in the possession of the Cox family until 1943, showed the Quarley hounds, with six huntsmen, running over what appears to be Quarley Hill. As the farm near the Manor was named Dog Kennel Farm, it seems possible that the hounds were kenneled at this farm.

Unfortunately, I have not come across any letters in the Cox papers for the decade of the 1760's and it is probable that Richard Cox spent most

of his time at Aspenden Hall or at his business address in Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, London and later in Craig's Court, Whitehall, where he worked with his new partner, Henry Drummond one of the famous banking family.

However, by 1773, Richard was able to spend more time at Quarley. In October of this year, he wrote to Sir Murray Keith, our Ambassador in Vienna and Colonel of a famous regiment, a long letter describing the delights of his life at Quarley. Among Cox's guests were Sir John and Lady Sebright from Beechwood in Hertfordshire, whilst others to stay with him were David Garrick, the actor and Mr. Treves, a Jewish gentleman, friend of the Royal family. To entertain his guests, Cox had taken them to a fair at Wayhill (sic), where they had seen Elephants, Lions, Tygres (sic), all sorts of other wild beasts besides a Mountebank Doctor and a lot of Strollers.

A few years earlier, Richard's eldest daughter Caroline, born in 1750, had married Sir Thomas Champneys, Bt., of Orchardleigh, Lullington, near Frome. Although a son, another Thomas, was born to them, the marriage must have been very worrying to the Cox's, as the Baronet and later the son were lavish spenders and noted litigants. When the Baronet visited family estates in Jamaica, Lady Champneys came to live in a cottage at Quarley and a later bill of sale listed the contents, which included a print of Cox's patron, Earl Ligonier.

David Garrick seems to have been a constant visitor to both Aspenden and Quarley Manor House. Many of his letters to Richard Cox were disposed of on the death of his descendant, Mr. Algernon Cox in 1942 and have now found their way into the Library of Harvard University.

### Attack of the Bile

In a letter to Cox at Quarley in October 1778, Garrick wrote to say that he was suffering from a bad attack of the Bile and had been taken ill while visiting Lord Palmerston to see a review of the troops at Winchester by George III. Later Mrs. Garrick wrote to Cox saying her husband was too ill to make the journey to Quarley.

By 1778, Cox was describing himself to friends as a banker. He had taken as partners a relative, Mr. Mair and his son Richard Bethel Cox (1754/1832). Bethel, like many of his male descendants was educated at Eton. The college register for 1768/9 gives the following information:—"While at Eton he had lost a hand owing to the bursting of one of Piper's guns: he afterwards used a cork hand 'but an iron one in the memorable row at the Opera'."

In April 1776, Bethel had married Jane Diana Drummond, younger daughter of John Drummond, M.P. for Thetford. Jane's mother was descended from the Duke of St. Albans. Sadly, he did not remain in the banking business for long, and in 1790, Richard Cox had to write to Sir Murray Keith telling him that Bethel Cox had been rusticated to the country because of his extravagant habits. The old partnership ledgers show that

Bethel was earning £10,000 a year much of which he appears to have gambled away.

From old letter headings, Bethel Cox appears to have retired to "The Old Warren Cottage," a house shown in a Bacon's atlas of 1880 as lying on the Cholderton side of Quarley Hill. He was a member of a Volunteer regiment and a miniature by one of the Engleheart family depicts him in a green uniform. A further misfortune was to follow, when his wife, Jane Diana, died in 1791. She appears to have been buried in the now ruined church at Stanmore, where a tablet bearing her name shows the Cox arms impaling those of Drummond.

Both father and son continued hunting at Quarley and a letter from General W. A. Pitt of Caversham, father-in-law of the second Lord Ligonier, mentioned that Richard Cox was looking after the General's hunters at Quarley and he hoped to be there soon "to enjoy the silken downs around Quarley."

Some of Richard Cox's friends appear to have been among the set of Mrs. Thrale, the brewer's wife at Streatham, London. Among the Cox papers are two letters, written in French, from the musician Piozzi, later to become Mrs. Thrale's second husband. Writing from an address in Wigmore Street, London, in October 1778, he acknowledged a present of game shot at Quarley and some beer sent from Hampshire. Apparently, Lady Champneys must have been living at Quarley at this time for the musician enclosed two compositions—a Rondo and a Sonata—specially composed for Cox's daughter. Mrs. Thrale, in one of her books, described the friendship between the two men:—"Richard Cox, the Agent, is mad about music. He talks of nothing else with Piozzi. Cox sings a cantabile in good time—people call him 'Cantabile Dicky' now."

### Old Friends

In a foreword to the life of Doctor Burney, the organist and musician, Fanny Burney wrote "Richard Cox is amongst my father's oldest friends and every year, spends a few weeks in his villa at Quarley." Dr. Burney, in his early days, had been organist to Ffulke Greville, at his house in Newton Toney and perhaps the friendship between Burney and Cox had started then. Ffulke Greville certainly knew Cox, as an undated letter mentions a meeting with him at the Opera and some visits Greville had made to Quarley Manor House.

By 1790 Richard Cox seems to have spent most of his time at Quarley. The Agent's business was being run by Charles Greenwood, a cousin of Richard, and later, Richard Henry Cox, the eldest son of Bethel, became a partner. Mrs. Richard Cox died in 1793 and a tablet to her memory can be seen in Quarley church, together with the other Cox memorials. Before she died Mrs. Cox had arranged for her husband to be painted by Sir William Beechey R.A., and according to the artist's account books paid the sum of £15 15s. when the portrait was started. The picture now hangs in the manager's room at 6 Pall Mall, London.

During the 1790's Richard Cox continued to entertain guests at Quarley and among them were the Miss Berry's, friends of Horace Walpole at Twickenham. A letter from Horace Walpole, Earl of Orford, addressed to Miss Berry, c/o Cox at Quarley appears in "Miss Berry's Journal and Correspondence" 1866 by Lady Lewis.

Richard Cox, as Esquire to Lord Amherst, had been a senior official in The Order of the Bath for many years. In 1798 he received a request from a Herald to supply details of his family tree. In 1801 he paid £17 11s. 6d. for the pedigree, which shows the family traced back to Richard Cox, Bishop of Ely in the 16th Century.

About the year 1800 Richard financed the building of the new Rectory at Quarley and established a fund for the local school. However, these were among his last acts, as the Gentleman's Magazine reported his death at Quarley in August 1803.

His son, Richard Bethel, now assumed the title of Lord of the Manor of Quarley and Grateley. Bethel's children by his first marriage were:—Richard Henry (1779/1885); George, d.1810; Diana (1777/1823); Charles Thomas; Capt. 7th. Foot; (1782/1866) Charlotte Anne (1778/1855). Bethel married as his second wife a Miss S. A. Thompson, who bore him the following children:—Caroline Maria. d. 1803; Edward Bethel (1805/1856) a clergyman, who resided at Quimper in France and G. A. E. Blucher (1815/1826).

#### Dispute with Neighbour

A lot of Bethel's time at Quarley seems to have been taken up with an acrimonious dispute with his neighbour at Amport, the Marquis of Winchester. The trouble started over the shooting rights in Gollards Wood. Cox claimed that as the Manor stone was in this wood he had the rights, whereas the Marquis said the wood belonged to his estate. The dispute lasted for many years, with incidents such as the shooting of one of Bethel's dogs in Gollards Wood by the gamekeeper of the Marquis and the serving of a writ on Bethel, as he left the Magistrates' Court in Andover, where he had been presiding.

Although friends of both parties intervened to save the matter going to court, more trouble was caused when the Marquis ploughed up a field road running between Amport and Quarley Manor House, which had been used by Bethel's visitors.

After Bethel's death in 1832, the estate passed to his eldest son, Richard Henry Cox of Hillingdon House, near Uxbridge, by then the senior partner in the banking concern of Cox and Co. in Craig's Court, Whitehall, London. Richard Henry had a plan prepared for the rebuilding of Quarley Manor House and wrote to the Secretary of the Queen Mother, who was then living at Cassiobury House, Watford, home of the Earl of Essex.

Sadly, the proposed rebuilding never took place and according to letters in the Hampshire Record Office, the Quarley Manor House was demolished

about 1843/44. Richard Henry's reluctance to rebuild may have been caused by a disastrous fire which badly damaged Hillingdon House at this time. The land at Quarley is said to have later been incorporated into the Amport estate.

Sources:—The Cox Collection, Lloyds Bank Limited, Cox's and King's Branch, 6 Pall Mall, London S.W.  
Harvard University (Garrick Letters).  
British Museum (Letters of Sir Murray Keith).  
Marriage Register: St. Georges, Hanover Square, London.

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Gentlemen's Magazine.  
Sir William Beechey: W. Roberts.  
The Drummonds of Charing Cross; Hector Bolitho and Derek Peel, 1967.

## AN EARLY ANDOVER PRINTING FIRM

by Anthony C. Raper

Thomas Bensley (d. 1833) began his own private printing business in 1814 in London's Fleet Street. His offices in 'Bolt Court' were the same which had been previously occupied by Edward Allen, the friend of Dr. Johnson.

Thomas Bensley was no newcomer to printing for with Fredrich Konig, a German who came over in 1806, he helped adapt James Watt's invention of the steam engine, to power a printing press. Together they developed the first mechanical platen press capable of 400 impressions an hour, later going on to produce a steam powered cylinder press capable of producing over 800 sheets an hour.

Two of these presses were ordered for 'The Times' newspaper and the first paper was produced on the new press on the 29th November, 1814. The joint efforts of both Bensley and Konig were described as "the greatest improvement connected with printing since the discovery of the art itself."

In 1819 and again about 1822, fire destroyed Bensley's premises, together with much of its valuable stock.

Soon after the last fire Thomas's son, John Benjamin Bensley, moved down to Andover and set up a printing business in Sopers Lane (now West Street) in a premises which had previously been occupied by Joseph Wake-

ford of Wakeford's Bank, Andover. Thomas junior acted as a principal proof reader and corrector for his printer brother, and he lived in a newly erected house in Winchester Street, Andover.

Working in close co-operation with his father many books were transferred from Bolt Court to Andover, including 'Rural Rides' by William Cobbett, first published in 1830. In fact several books written by Cobbett were first printed in Andover, including 'A Grammar of the English Language' and 'Advice to Young Men.'

The Andover works was not without its problems and during the Agricultural Riots of 1830, John Bensley narrowly avoided having his newly installed machinery smashed, by giving the men beer money, whereafter the men determined to concentrate on Taskers foundry.

A period of national and trade depression followed these riots and it was not long before the business was sold out to Joseph Billing, and, in order to be nearer to London, the plant was moved to Woking.

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## ANDOVER'S FIRST FIRE BRIGADES

by D. J. Tempero

Over the years the Andover district has been well served by its firemen—part-time men as well as a handful of full-time firemen. It is interesting to note, however, that the first time mention was made of an Andover Town fire brigade as such was in 1838.

Delving into the borough archives many years ago the late Mr. Arthur C. Bennett found documents which showed that in 1838 "the newly organised town council" took the matter in hand and formed a committee to negotiate with a Mr. Nurse, presumably a Fire Office agent of the time, for the purchase or hire of one of his fire engines.

A conference was proposed between the council and the agents of the various "Fire Office Establishments in Andover" (in those days people had to make their own fire cover arrangements through various fire agents) with the idea of "rendering the Fire Engine Establishment more efficient in the borough."

In the following year the council recommended the matter to the "Churchwardens in Vestry" (at that time the churchwardens made their own fire provisions for the church and part of the parish.

As far back as June, 1717 the churchwarden's accounts showed that an "Hingen be bought for the church and parish and one duzen of lether bucketts to be paid for at the expense of the parishenrs.")

Time rolled on before anything more was done and it was not until 1860 that the council resolved that "in future the expenses of the Parish Fire

Engine be defrayed from the Borough Rate instead of from the Church Rate" and called into existence the Fire Brigade Committee who recommended "a more powerful engine" be provided and also a more convenient and accessible house than the present Engine-house in the churchyard (at the rear of the "Silent Man" beerhouse in Upper High Street.)



Picture by courtesy of Hampshire County Library Service.  
From about the turn of the century until 1962, when the present station in London Road was opened, Andover's Fire Station stood in East Street. The site is now occupied by the Plymouth Brethren church.

### The First Crews

The new engine, by Shand and Mason, arrived in January 1868, and was housed, together with the old engine, in its shed adjoining the Angel Inn. The engine cost £178, less 10% discount for cash, and the bill for repairs to the old "Sun Fire Office" engine amounted to £27.

In 1877 the council also took over the custody of the two parish fire engines. There were then seventeen different fire office agencies in the town.

The Andover Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed, in two companies, in December, 1867. They were: Brigade No. 1, Superintendent, P. H. Poore; assistant ditto, G. Curtis; Foreman, W. G. Beare; Engineer, H. P. Moore; Firemen, W. C. Deane, C. E. Clarke, G. Collins, W. Brown, A. Salisbury, W. H. Hillier, T. Butt, J. G. Hewitt, C. Tredgold, T. Deane, E. Deane, C. Fray, H. Rolfe, F. Shaw, F. Marsh, J. Shipton, S. Shipton, G. Perks, F. Col-



lins, J. Newberry, W. Turner, W. Hickman, T. George, C. Chandler (jun.), Jas Blackmore.

Brigade No. 2.—Superintendent, Jno Moore; Foreman, C. Chandler; Engineer, C. Viney; Firemen, Thos. Head, J. Burnett, T. Hickman, G. Bower, J. Tarrant, R. Webb, G. Maycock, E. Davidge, H. Chandler; Hon. Sec., P. H. Moore.

The fire brigade was dissolved in 1879 but a resuscitation was effected in the following year. In 1891 changes took place consequent upon dissatisfaction amongst the members of the brigade, who resigned in a body at the end of March.

This resignation gave certain lively spirits in the town a unique opportunity, and in the very early hours of 1 April the summons of the fire-bell called out an impromptu band of volunteers to extinguish a smouldering heap of field rubbish in the vicinity of Love Lane!

However, differences were soon settled and the fire brigade settled down to give a distinguished record of service as a Town Fire Brigade until the outbreak of World War Two, when the structure of Fire Services was once again re-organised.

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## A VISIT TO THE BODLEIAN

### A SPIN OFF FROM THE 1979 ANDOVER TRADE FAIR

by Clive M. Burton

At the Andover Festival and Trade Fair, held at Cricklade College in June 1979, The Andover Archaeological Society and The Andover Archives Committee, jointly staged in Cricklade House a display of exhibits pertaining to history of North West Hampshire. Included in these exhibits were some 18th Century legal documents bequeathed by the late Melville T. H. Child to the Archives Committee. One concerned the transfer of land at Appleshaw between a Mr. Child and Mr. Lansley in 1790.

The writer when doing an afternoon spell of duty in charge of these exhibits, noticed a lady intensively studying this lengthy document of land transfer. In course of conversation, she introduced herself as Mrs. Gillian Yarde-Leavett of The Forge Cottage, Fyfield. She recalled that a few weeks previously, an unknown woman had arrived at her cottage; this woman had motored down from Coventry bringing with her an 18th Century legal document, which stated that a Mr. Lansley had purchased The Forge, Fyfield.

This Coventry woman, when clearing out the house of her recently deceased aunt, had come across a large bundle of family papers which

included the Fyfield document. The document on display at the Cricklade exhibition, and the one found in Coventry, were practically identical in size, format, script, and both were of very close dates.

Mrs. Yarde-Leavett showed great interest in the recent discovery of the manuscript diaries written at Fyfield by the Rev. Henry White, Rector of the parish in the 1780's. She expressed a desire to personally read the volumes for 1785 and 1788, now at the Bodleian Library.

During the following weeks, and several phone conversations, Mrs. Yarde-Leavett offered to drive the writer up to Oxford, but stated she would only spend a short time at The Bodleian, do some shopping in Oxford and call back at the Library in the late afternoon.

During the last week of July, we set off from Andover, arriving mid morning at Oxford, to find the streets packed with tourists. With great good luck there was a vacant parking space near The Radcliffe Camera, in front of The Bodleian. On leaving the car we immediately became enmeshed with a large party of French students, being conducted round the Bodleian Quadrangles. Eventually finding the correct doorway, and showing a Readers Ticket, we were admitted to a spacious hall, and escaped from the tourists. We were directed to proceed up an impressive 17th Century staircase to Duke Humfrey's Library with its magnificent painted and gilded ceiling. Here, we were told to select a vacant alcove, and the White diaries, ordered in advance, would be brought to our table. After a very short interval, the volumes arrived, Gillian Yarde-Leavett taking over the two Henry White books, and the writer, diaries written by Henry's sons, Samson and Charles covering the period 1790—1810. It was after 1 p.m. when we thought about lunch, and had a quick snack meal in the town, being back at our desk by 2 p.m. After a further two hours of intensive study of these fascinating manuscripts, we both agreed it was time to pack up and return to Andover.

On the journey home, Gillian remarked how she had enjoyed the experience of seeing the interior of the Bodleian, the magnificent painted ceiling, rows of ancient book presses, and being actually permitted to personally handle volumes of great antiquity. She had lived at Fyfield for the

*Clive Burton, of Wellesley Road, Andover has been a diligent member of the Andover Local Archives Committee for many years. His deep research into the family history of The Rev. Henry White, rector of Fyfield resulted in a book being published last year (1979), and articles in Country Life.*



Photo: Ed. HENDRY. Andover.

past ten years, and could identify many of the field and place names mentioned in the White diaries, also many of the families named in the diaries who had their descendants still living in the village.

So ended a most enjoyable day, in the company of a charming intelligent companion, seeing a part of ancient Oxford not normally open to the passing tourist.

### Notes on The Bodleian

The Bodleian Library in the University of Oxford is one of the oldest libraries in Europe, and in England the second in size only to the British Library, London. It has a continuous history from 1602 but even then it was a refoundation on the site of an earlier library.

The first real library which the University possessed, was housed in a building erected about 1320. With expansion in the collection of books and manuscripts, particularly gifts in 1447 from Humfrey Duke of Gloucester, more space was needed. The University was then building a new Divinity School, and decided to build over it a library room fit to house these new and splendid benefactions. This room was not finished until 1489, but it still survives as one of the glories of the Bodleian Library, and is still known as Duke Humfrey's Library.

The political and religious upheavals between 1530 and 1550, led to the dispersal of the library, its furniture, and neglect of the fabric. In 1598, Sir Thomas Bodley, a diplomat under Queen Elizabeth I, with a distinguished academic career, retired from public life to devote himself to restoring the old University Library. The work of refitting the room took two years; then it was stocked with books partly by Bodley's own gift, and by donations from other sources. The Library was formally opened on 8 November, 1602.

In 1610, Bodley made an agreement with the Stationer's Company whereby they undertook to send to the Bodleian Library a copy of every new book which they published. This agreement, which made the Bodleian virtually a 'deposit library' 150 years before the British Museum was founded, was confirmed by the Star Chamber decree of 1637, which regulated printing and copyright.

In the first twenty years of the Bodleian's history, the most pressing problem had become the provision of space for more books. An extension was built on to Duke Humfrey's Library, and an adjacent Quadrangle completed in 1619. During the 17th Century, huge benefactions of books and manuscripts continued to be received, towards the end of the 18th Century space problems again became pressing, existing adjacent buildings were enlarged and absorbed by the Library. Finally in the 20th Century, the complexity of housing a rapidly expanding copyright library in the congested centre of Oxford, led to building the New Bodleian Library, a multi-storey structure, for book stacks and administrative offices, situated across a main road, but connected by an underground conveyor belt with the Old Library. The New Library was completed in 1939. Since then a new dependent library for Law has been added to the Bodleian group, built on a completely separate site in Manor Road, and opened in 1964.

### Admission to The Bodleian

No person may use any part of the Library, until he has been formally admitted as a Reader. The Bodleian is not a lending library, and all books must be read on the premises. To obtain a Readers Ticket, it is advisable to apply in advance for an application form, which must be signed and witnessed by a responsible, identifiable person. There is no charge. On receipt of a Readers Ticket, the staff are most helpful in giving advice on the location of books on a particular subject, and the reference numbers. When these numbers are known, there may be some delay in the volumes being brought out of stock. It is again advisable to apply in writing, quoting the reference numbers, some days before the intended visit, when the volumes will be available for immediate inspection.

There are some strict Rules in connection with a Readers Ticket; for instance, eating and drinking are forbidden in all parts of the Library; no parcels or handbags can be brought in; the reader can only carry a note book, and a lead pencil, strictly no ball point pens! No cameras are permitted, but the photographic department will make copies of pages or illustrations in bromide prints of excellent clarity, at a modest charge.

The Old Bodleian Library, is open Mondays to Fridays, in term time from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. In vacation from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. On Saturdays the Library closes at 1 p.m.

Application for a Readers Ticket, must be made to:—

The Secretary of the Library,  
Bodleian Library,  
OXFORD OX1 3BG

### ANCIENT DUES

A contributor sends an account (culled from English Historical Documents Vol. II) of the services rendered by peasants at Hurstbourne in Anglo-Saxon times.

"Here are recorded dues which the peasants must render at Hurstbourne. First from every hide they must render 40 pence at the Autumnal equinox, and six church mittan\* of ale and three sesters of wheat for bread, and they must plough three acres in their own time, and sow them with their own seed, and bring it to the barn in their own time, and give three pounds of barley as rent, and mow half an acre of meadow as rent in their own time, and make it into a rick, and supply four fotheres of split wood as rent, made into a stack in their own time, and supply 16 poles of fencing as rent, likewise in their own time, and at Easter they shall give two ewes with two lambs—and we reckon two young sheep to a full grown sheep—and they must wash the sheep and shear them in their own time, and work as they are bidden every week except three—one at midwinter, the second at Easter and the third at the Rogation Days."

\*according to one account the "mittan" contained 3 bushels.

## Olla Podrida

### ALL THE KING'S HORSES . . .

Andover stood on the high road from London to the West and therefore occasionally came into contact with events of national importance. The Privy Council thought it necessary to either furnish horses or give a contribution to the town for the King's use on his travels.

From the Acts of The Privy Council 1601—4 p. 211 comes this extract:

"A letter to Sir Thomas West and Mr. Hampden Paulett and the rest of the Justices of the Peace in the devision neere the towne of Andevor requiring them to take order that within the neerest devision to the towne of Andevor there maie some good helpe be afforded to the saide town (in respect of their great charge by the often sending by poste) either by furnishing of horses for her Majesty's service or else (which is supposed the best and easist waye) in yielding contribucion therunto."

### GRANT OF LAND

c.1270

"Grant from William Orpede of Andovere to John Spircok son of master John Spircok, for the sum of 6/8d., of a plot ("placea") of land belonging to his market-guild ("ad gyldam meam meratoriam pertinentem) near the market-place ("forum") of Andovere, opposite the house of Stephen le Bouer, which plot of land is called Zeldstede, and is ten feet long; rendering annually one clove. W: Roger le Poer, Walker de Marisco, John Asse, John Osward, bailiffs, Walker Cras, John de Marisco, Thos. Spircok, Thos. le Ryche, John de Farham, Roger Calche, Walter Prat, clerk.

Oval dark seal; sun & moon. "S'Will'i Orpede."

(Magdalen College Archives, Andover)

"Zeldstede" is another local place name which is unfamiliar, and which does not seem to have cropped up before. Has any reader any information on this?—Editor.

## CHILD LABOUR AT OVERTON

The following is an extract from "The British Tourist's or Traveller's Pocket Companion" Vol. III, by William Taylor, LL.D., printed in London 1798:

"From Hackwood we proceeded to Basingstoke, a town pleasantly situated in a rich fertile soil and formerly surrounded by woods. Thence our journey continued to Overton, a small town distant eight miles.

"Adjoining to Overton we stopped to observe a silk manufactory carrying on at that place by Mr. Stratwell. Nothing in the whole journey afforded us more satisfaction.

"The first process was carried on by children of six and eight years of age, and consisted simply in winding from the skain upon the bobbin; the second was putting the threads together to be twisted, by other children of a somewhat more advanced age, and by women; the third in twisting four threads together by a tram-mill; and the fourth and fifth in sorting and making it ready for the weaver.

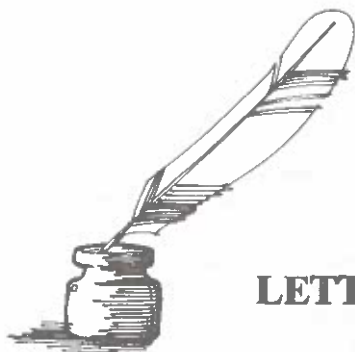
"Though the process in itself is curious, the little creatures, who so innocently, and yet so advantageously, were employed for themselves and their families, were the objects which chiefly rivetted our attention. They amounted, in all, to about one hundred and forty; independent of which, Mr. Stratwell, who originally projected this manufactory from a principle of benevolence, constantly maintains, in an adjoining building, another little group of about fifty children, whom he likewise protects from their infant state.

"Women he appoints to take care of them; and they are fed and clothed, at his expense, until they are capable of work, when they are entered at the looms, and receive a regular stipend for their daily labour.

"Delighted at this unusual, but highly praiseworthy and sensible exertion of charity, we begged the permission of the people to let us see the children. We were accordingly admitted into a room, where we observed a party of them gathered round their old mistress, decently dressed, and with health and cheerfulness speaking in their countenances. The sight was affecting, we could not refrain from expressing it; and we thereby gained the blessings of the venerable matron. "God protects them" said she "and sure I am he will reward their generous benefactor with peace and happiness hereafter!"

"Happy man, thought we, the feelings of his own heart will afford him recompense in this life, and, in that to come, may blessings attend him and all his generation!

"With pleasant emotions we proceeded till we arrived at Whitchurch, an ancient borough, situated on the skirts of the forest of Chute. From thence, continued our route through Andover, Luggershall, and Everley, we at length reached Devizes, where we slept . . ."



## LETTERS AND QUERIES

### WHY THE ANGEL?

Mr. D. Grist, a local historian from Alresford, Hants., writes:—

"On looking through the records I find that the College (i.e. Winchester College) contractor from Andover, who built the Alresford 'Angel' (re-named the 'George'), was Thomas Wolfhow of Andover . . . The work was done between 1218 and 1222."

Mr. Grist asks why "the College was so keen to use the name 'Angel' for their inns?" He goes on to suggest that it might possibly be as close as they could get to St. Mary without giving religious offence. St. Mary being to whom Winchester College was dedicated.

"The Angel" as a name for an inn, is frequently found, all over the country, in the close proximity of churches. Invariably, they were at one time either built or owned by the church. "The Bell" is another such name, with similar connotations.

Originally the sign of the 'Angel' depicted the archangel Gabriel slaying the Devil.

Mr. Grist's mention of Thomas Wolfhow of Andover is interesting. This may well be a corruption of the spelling of "Wolfel"—the family from whose name the area of Wolverdene, in Andover, derives.

### HILLIARD HURSTBOURNE

Anna Gledhill from Shaftesbury, Dorset requests help tracing her great, great, grandfather Thomas Hilliard from the Hurstbourne Tarrant/Upton area (c. 1830s). She has viewed the parish records and has found one Thomas Hilliard buried 3rd June, 1832, aged 27 years, but believes there could possibly have been another. Can any local residents help further?

Letters to this section should be addressed to the Editor, LOOKBACK, c/o Andover Local History Society, The Public Library, Andover, Hants., SP10 1LT.

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