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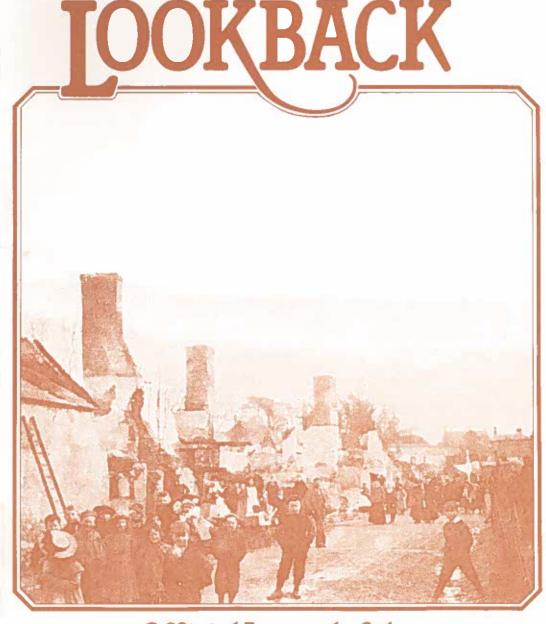
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ANDOVER HISTORY



LOCAL SOCIETY

ISSN No 01 44 5898

LOOKBACK

NO₃

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

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EDITORIAL

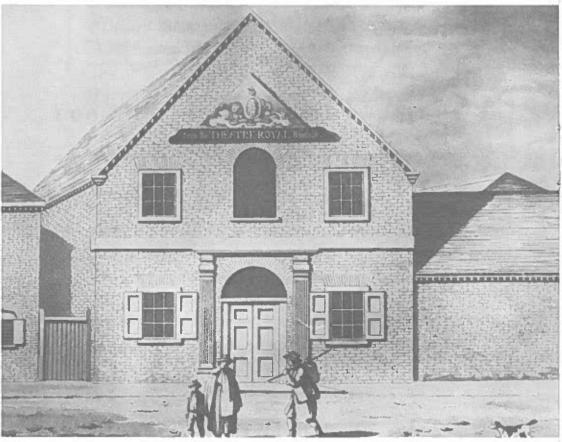
"Lookback No. 3" comes to our subscribers with an apology - for being late.

This issue should have been published in December, but for one reason or another its printing had to be delayed until now.

This was partly due to the fault of the Editorial committee, but some of us were, at that time, somewhat involved with getting the "Samuel Best" book on the stocks.

But the main reason for this late issue was a financial one: the money to pay for the publication was just not there, and, with regret it may be necessary for us in future to review our financial position in 1982, and not least the charge we make for publishing this magazine.

In this respect, however, our best method of approach is to get more members of the Local History Society and more regular subscribers to Lookback. How you can become a subscriber, and thus help to ensure a regular income to our finances, is set out on Pages 22 and 23 of this issue.



Andover Theatre.

Photograph courtesy of Ed. Hendry.

This picture of the old Andover Theatre, which was once in Newbury Street, next door to Priory Lodge, belongs to Mr and Mrs Fred Holloway, who retired last year from the Bric-a-Brac antique shop in Chantry Street. On the reverse of the picture was this account, which we repeat here in toto:

THE ANDOVER THEATRE

It cannot be said that the theatre in Andover stood high in public estimation in bygone days, but its records are worth noting.

It was said of Mr Thornton, a man of many eccentricities, that he proved himself one of the most courageous theatre managers of the day, in that he took over this house at Andover when other theatre folk steered a course away from it.

Prior to the year 1787 theatrical performances were generally carried on in a large malting house or barn, until, in the year mentioned, a large thatched barn was rented on a lease of ten years at £10 a year, situated in the yard of the Angel Inn, and it was agreed, after negotiations with the proprietor of the Inn, who was also a carpenter, "to enlarge and make it fit at considerable expense." At the end of the lease, however, the theatrical barn was sold and fell into the hands of Quakers.

In 1802, Thornton, after many set backs, entered into an arrangement with a man called Rawlins, a printer. He procured permission from him to perform, and to pay an adequate rent, "provided he erected the shell of the theatre at his own expense". This was begun soon after January 1st, 1803, and, on the following Easter Monday, theatrical performances were given there.

Mr Thornton fitted up the interior in an admirable manner, and we are told that the house held from £30 to £40.

It stood in "a dirty lane" leading from the upper end of Andover to Newbury. Mr Rawlins, to whom the property belonged, called the new thoroughfare "Rawlins' place". It could truly be said that it was "a sweet place" for Mr. Rawlins had completely filled part of the new theatre with pots of honey, and at the bottom of the bills of the day we find the idea still further confirmed, in that we learn "that places for the boxes are to be had from Mr. Treakell's".

The performers in Mr. Thornton's company had one great drawback, in that there were many occasions when plays were due to begin and they (the cast) were not word perfect. It is recorded that on one occasion he had billed a play as being ready for presentation, when hardly one member of the company knew a syllable of the printed word! The first night of the performance arrived, the last bell was rung, and the actors assembled, when Thornton, examining the audience through a fissure in the curtain, beheld, to his horror, a gentleman in the boxes with a copy of the play in his hands. In view of such disastrous evidence of their incorrectness, it was impossible to proceed. Eventually he came to the front of the curtain to announce, with great regret, that the play could not proceed owing to the "prompt-book" having been mislaid; whereupon the gentleman with the damning evidence kindly offered his book for their assistance. The offer was accepted and the evidence of the incorrectness of the players totally destroyed.

A short article on the Andover Theatre has previously appeared in 'Test Valley and Border Anthology No. 6'. A small number of copies are available from the Secretary at 20p plus 15p p & p.

GEORGE & DOLL

The following is drawn from the notebooks of a former local historian, Samuel Shaw who gathered together articles relating to Andover and district and information for newspapers, books, magazines and testimonials in preparation for a history of Andover. Unfortunately the project was never completed, but we do have a good collection of these notebooks in the Andover Archives. This article is drawn from 18/AH/19:

While chatting with an old woman named Piper, at Gore End, East Woodhay, Hants., recently, she related the following horrible story about two persons whom she called George & Doll, not apparently having known their surnames. I may mention that the relator is an old woman of upwards of 70 years of age, and that she stated that she had heard the story from her mother, who had also attained three score & ten: so the events that formed the basis of her tale must have occurred in the early part of the last century (18th).

George was a Carrier, who lived at Gore End, then a solitary moor, at an house she pointed to at her cottage door. He had a wife and child and travelled daily between Woodhay and Coombe. Doll was a widow that lived at Coombe with her two children, boys; and George was in the habit of meeting her during his stay at Coombe, and had long carried out an improper connexion with her.

One day George induced his wife and child to accompany him on his journey to Coombe and soon after leaving their cottage, he murdered his wife, stuffing her head into an hornets nest, for the purpose of making it appear that she had been stung to death. Continuing his journey he threw her child into a pond. On reaching Coombe he went to Doll's residence and related to her what he had done, and the manner in which he had murdered his victims. Doll's two boys were in bed in the room, and a sudden motion on the part of one of them drew George's attention to them, and fearing that one or other might have been awake and heard the account he had given, he proposed to Doll to murder them too. She, however, persuaded him not to do so, assuring him that her children were both fast asleep. It appears, however, that the boys had heard the whole of the story, but were sensible enough to feign sleep when George & Doll looked at them.

In the morning the boys arose as usual and went to plough, and when the Carter joined them, they related to him the terrible story they had heard. The Carter advised them strongly not to partake of any food their mother might give them during his absence, and started off to Newbury for the constable. Fortunately the boys followed his advice. Their mother made them a dish of pancakes for a dinner, but they threw their portions to a dog, which died soon afterwards. When the old woman came to this part of the story, her face changed, and she assured me, with great earnestness and a look of horror, that all that day a blackbird sat at the head of the plough, and that no effort on the part of the boys could drive it away, and that when the horses returned in the evening they were covered with foam.

George & Doll were of course both arrested that night, and George was hung in chains on a Gallows on Coombe Hill. The Gallows, or rather what represents it, forms a prominent object for miles around. I have heard that the inhabitants of Coombe are bound to keep up forever a portion of the Gallows, and that if they did not do so they would forfeit their right to the pasturage on the Hill.

My informant added that a poor silly man that resided at Newbury, seeing George hanging in chains, came daily to feed him, by passing a portion of his food on the top of a stick through the bars, and only desisted from so doing when he saw flames issuing from his mouth.

Noel H. Robinson in N & Q. (Notes and Queries)

The foregoing was inserted in the Andover Adv. and other topical papers, but no reply was made to it.

On 7 March 1676, George Browman & Dorothy Newman were hung on Coombe Hill, for the murder of 2 children. The man cohabited with the woman intending to marry her. She had, however by her husband 3 children, one of the three a ploughboy and the other two quite young. The man and woman murdered the two last mentioned throwing their bodies into a pond (still there) on the hilltop. The eldest child was intended for a similar fate on awaking out of his sleep. He pretended to be asleep and heard their conversation and while they were gone to drown the other two, escaped from the cottage, informing the Carter at the farm where he worked of what had taken place. The guilty pair finding the boy absent made for him a basin of porridge and sent it out into the stable for his breakfast. The porridge killed a sheepdog which was at hand proving it to be mixed with poison.

This is the 3rd Gibbet erected since the Execution. The 2nd was destroyed by lightning. It is 25 feet high.

(Ms. communication from Mr I. F. Child of Vernham 1876).

THE ANDOVER HUNDRED IN 1316

by DAVID L. J. WARNER

Glimpses of our past may be gained by examining such documents as have survived down the ages, though these are all too rare. However an interesting insight is offered by the record known as the Nomina Villarum. This is a list of the names of the Vills compiled at the command of King Edward II in 1316 with the object of raising a levy of one armed man from each Vill at its own cost for sixty days service. A Vill is a small township or hamlet, frequently attached to a Manor and the list gives the names of the lords of the manors or the holders of land and property.

The commission of this list originated with the Parliament at Lincoln on February 20th, 1315/6 and was put in hand by royal writ at Clipston on the 5th March of the same year. The levy was conducted by shires or counties and through the office of the respective Sheriff; in our case this was most likely John de la Beche.

Of the original documents most have long been lost and only five counties are represented in the surviving rolls, namely Devon, Middlesex, Shropshire, Staffordshire and, fortunately, Hampshire. At the beginning of his reign King Henry VII had a copy made into a book but there are many discrepancies and inaccuracies. However in the case of our own county, and therefore Hundred, we may step back in time over six and half centuries.

The Hampshire Nomina Villarum has been printed and published twice; first early in the nineteenth century by Sir Francis Palgrave, father of the Francis Turner Palgrave of "Golden Treasury" fame, and then a century later in the collection of documents in the Public Records Office and under the title "Feudal Aids". There, in Chancery Lane, under the dull title of "The Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, Miscellaneous Rolls, Bundle 2, Number 7" this ancient record may be examined, and there is a sense of excitement as one handles it. At first it seems insignificant – a greasy roll of parchment tied round with string. It unrolls in two sheets, each exactly two feet long by one foot wide, sewn together along the shorter side and so discoloured and stained with age that parts are difficult to read.

Half-way down the left-hand column of the second page (the sheets are written on both sides) one reads:

Hundr^o de Andevre ë dñi Regis & Margareta Regina Anglie illus tenet in dotem & sñt in eodm Hundr ville subscripte – videlz

(The Hundred of Andover is of the Lord King and Margaret Queen of England holds it in dowry and there are in the same Hundred the vills following – namely.)

There follows a list of twenty-four Vills and their Lords. They lie mainly along the Penton Valley and beside the Pillhill Brook and when plotted on a map show where the important areas were. The four manors of Andevre, Cherleton, Ennam and Etherdene (Andover, Charlton, Enham and Hatherden) cluster round the first-named town and are in royal hands, belonging to Queen Margaret. She had been the second wife of Edward I and his junior by 43 years. Only two years older than her step-son, she had a close and affectionate relationship with him. Daughter of King Philip III of France she was well aware of her royal position and either in her own right or through the King held control of 24 Vills scattered around Hampshire as well as seven Hundreds, two Boroughs, a Liberty and even the capital city of Winchester itself.

Next to the Crown, the Church held important positions and six Vills were in the hands of Churchmen (with Little Anne close by and belonging to Wherwell Abbey), though none of a Bishop. Geoffrey de Ferringes was Abbot of Hyde, Winchester, from 1304 to 1317 and claimed Abbots Ann; the Abbot of Gloucester had held Littleton since 1096 and the Abbot of Grestein* in Normandy had been given Clanville and Penton (to which he attached his title) by William the Conqueror. Quarley and Anne Beck (which belonged to Bec Abbey in Normandy and gradually became known as Monks' Anne and thus Monxton) came under the Prior of Okebourne.

The remaining fourteen Vills were held, in part or in whole, by various landlords, the only noble name to appear being that of the Earl of Gloucester; however since the holder of that title, Gilbert de Clare, had been killed at the Battle of Bannockburn but two years before, it passed through his widow Joan, the King's sister. John and Philip of Anne indicate purely local landowners, but many are well-known figures of that time in our history.

To complete our peep into our district of all those centuries ago, I add a list of the remaining vills and their owners; perhaps it will prompt some reader to look even further at our past local history.

Upclatford Anne Savage

- the Earl of Gloucester, Thomas Spircock and Clarice Sackville. (named after Richard le Salvage, 1203 and now called Sarson)
- John of Anne.

Anne de Port (Amport) - Thomas of Quarley and John of St Manefeo.

Grateley - Thomas Mauduyt (but his mother holds in dowry).

Tidworth – John the Dunn.

Kimpton - John Hussey, John of Wimbledon and William of Dummer.

Trokeleston - John of Cormeilles.

(Thruxton)
Chelewartone &

Appelshaghe - John and Philip of Anne, Philip Waspray and John of Romsey.

(Cholderton & Appleshaw)

Fyfield - John of Marwell.

Penton Mewsey - Robert of Harnhill, John Peverel and Alice who was wife of

Thomas the Rich.

Foxcotte & - Thomas of Foxcotte.

Hatherden

Ennam Milit - John of Handlo, for his wife.

(Knights Enham)

(I have used original or modern spellings, whichever seemed of most interest or clarity)

THE BIRTH OF A SCHOOL

by T. H. HISCOCK

It was the 29th January, 1814. George III was approaching the end of his long reign; England was at war with America and the threat of Napoleon had not been entirely removed.

At Amport an old man lay dying. By his side his young wife sat comforting, assuring and helping him through his final hours until death brought an end to a long and good life.

The old man, the Rev. Thomas Sheppard, D.D., was born on the 21st September, 1727 and baptised three weeks later at Amport where he spent his childhood with his three sisters, Sarah, Elizabeth and Mary. He grew up to be a studious young man who attended Magdalen College, Oxford, of which, in 1749, he became a Fellow and his connections with the college lasted even beyond his death.

His life was spent at Amport. He became Rector of Quarley in 1762 and, although he was appointed to the Magdalen Living at Basingstoke in 1768, it was Quarley that received the benefit of his exertions. He farmed in Amport, living at what is now 'The Firs', that delightful house at the bottom of Keepers Hill, and riding frequently to Quarley where he conscientiously discharged his duties.

Basingstoke was less fortunate. Sheppard is described in Baignent and Millard's "History of Basingstoke" as "The non-resident Vicar of Basingstoke" and comment is made upon the slackness in the administration of Church ordinances.

His quiet life at Amport was pleasantly interrupted at some auspicious moment during the last twenty years of the 18th century. He inherited a fortune. The details are unknown but the amount must have been considerable.

^{*}Grestein later became corrupted to Grafton.



He distributed part of his new wealth among many deserving causes. The Blue Coats School and the Deane's Almshouses in Basingstoke were two beneficiaries. A third was his old college. His generous donation to Magdalen resulted in his being invited to Oxford for an appreciative presentation. It was to be one of the most important visits of his life. He was entertained by the college president, Martin Routh, and his sister, Sofia.

Martin Routh was one of the thirteen children of the Rev. Peter Routh from Norfolk. He became President of Magdalen College in 1791 and died in office some sixty-four years later having reached the age of a hundred.

When he began his presidency he invited his favourite sister, Sofia, to keep house for him and she must have been a delightful and competent hostess for the visiting Dr Thomas Sheppard was overcome by her charms and married her in 1801 when he was 74 and she a mere 31.

He took her to his Amport home where they lived until his death on that January day thirteen years later.

Then Sofia set about carrying out his wishes. She was a determined and energetic lady, deeply religious and with strongly-held, definite views. Two of these were important: firstly she believed whole-heartedly in the teachings of the Church of England and was convinced that a knowledge of and adherence to those teachings brought eternal salvation and, secondly, she felt that the money which she had inherited from her husband was Sheppard money and should be used to continue the good work that he had begun.

This did not mean that she neglected the Routh family. When her brother Samuel, rector of Boyron in Wiltshire, died in 1821 leaving a widow and six children, she brought the family to Andover, housed them at Boyton Lodge, New Street, and arranged for the education of the children. It was to the youngest of these, Robert, that Sofia left The Firs and Amport Farm when she died in 1848 and it is Robert's great grandson, Martin, who lives there now with his wife Marigold, who has become the family historian and his young son, Charles.

But the major part of the Sheppard fortune was spent on good works. Theale, near Reading, received the greatest benefit. One of Sofia's brothers, Martin Joseph, held the living at Tilehurst and was troubled because the people of Theale, a hamlet in his parish, had no church of their own and had to walk three miles to Tilehurst Church every Sunday. Sofia rectified this. Not only did she spend £26,000 building a church, parsonage and school at Theale but she also took steps to ensure that an Act of Parliament was passed to create a new ecclesiastical parish there.

While the Parish Church at Theale was, perhaps, the greatest Sheppard memorial,—it is there that the only portrait of Thomas Sheppard is to be found; unfortunately a tiny picture of a man on horseback which gives little clue to the rider's appearance—it was Amport that received his first bequest—a school.

Amport School was built in 1815, a year after his death, in accordance with his wishes.

". . . to instruct the poor children of the parish of Amport to read and to teach them the Church Catechism."

Thirty years later Sofia Sheppard was to put the administration of the affairs willed by her husband into the hands of "The President and Scholars of Magdalen College" and it is

from the Indenture dated the 25th July, 1844, (kindly loaned by the present Mrs. Routh) that we gain much insight into the intentions of Thomas Sheppard:

"And he declared it to be his Will and desire that his Executrix should invest in the public funds a sufficient sum of money to raise £20 per annum as a Salary or Stipend for a proper person or persons to instruct the poor children of the Parish of Amport to read and to teach them the Church Catechism which person or persons he declared should reside either at Amport or Cholderton . . ."

A further £20 a year was added to the Head-teacher's salary for medical assistance and fuel and, provided that person obeyed certain regulations, the goodly sum of £40 was assured. But the teacher appears to have been under strict supervision:

"... it shall be tawful for the said Sofia Sheppard during her life And after her decease for the Vicar of Amport aforesaid and the Rectors of Quarley and Thruxton aforesaid... to superintend the affairs and concerns thereof And the mode of teaching and instruction to be used in the said School And also from time to time make any rules and regulations to be observed by the person or persons who shall be appointed to instruct poor children as aforesaid..."

Should the teacher prove unfit for such a responsibility, the appointment could be annulled and the teacher removed. The same fate could be suffered by the pupils:

- ". . . and upon breach or non-observance of such Rules and Regulations by any Child or Children or upon any other act of misconduct or misbehaviour by him her or them respectively to forbid or prevent the attendance of such Child or Children."
- Those who successfully completed their schooling were duly rewarded:
- ". . . that each of them if deserving should have at the time of leaving the said School a Bible and a Common Prayer Book."

Amport was the estate of the Marquess of Winchester and most of the children grew up to work on that estate. It is doubtful whether Thomas or Sofia Sheppard considered it important that the village children should be educated in the way that we believe essential today. What they did think vital was that the children should be taught to read, understand and obey the teachings of the Church. Eternal damnation, through ignorance, had to be defeated. Amport School stands as a memorial to their beliefs.

THE 'NEW STREETERS'

by H. W. PARIS

Monday Saturday 4th 1919 to the people of Andover was just another Bank Holiday. But to the "New Streeters" it was the day they were going to celebrate the signing of the peace treaty between the Allies and Germany. For weeks previously a committee formed and based on the St Marys Mission Hall had schemed and worked together to raise the money to make this day possible.

What did this particular event mean to the people of New St? To the women, a day of thanksgiving that the four years of hardship (to which they were no strangers) anxiety and dread, caused by the absence of their men, fighting on the battlefields of Europe, the near east and Russia, were over. Now with their husbands, brothers and sons beside them they could resume their normal struggle for a bare living. To the men it was a sense of relief that no longer were they to be called upon again and again to go down the seemingly endless

Valley of the Shadow from which, for some, there would be no return; for others a return to a lifetime of pain and suffering. There was a feeling of thankfulness that they had returned, and a hope that England would be a land fit for heroes and that their children would be removed for ever from the dreadful curse of war.

To the children it was the beginning of a day, the life of which many had never known. The day before had been one of preparation with decorations, including flags, flowers and home-made bunting, christmas decorations and gay posters, drawn by the children, gradually transforming the dull, drab street into a bright new world which before had existed only in their dreams. A quick breakfast of bread and 'marg', perhaps jam and a cup of tea and then out in the street to join their pals, rivals, enemies, – what mattered – today they were all "New Streeters".

A melee of excitement and laughter unfolded – and admiration – as entrants in the decorated house competition completed their preparations. Meanwhile fancy dresses were being prepared for the grand parade.

At the top of the street a group of people were doing something special. They were forming their own band. A side drum reputed to have been used on the field of Waterloo; a kettle drum and whistle pipes were their only instruments. Their uniforms were a motley display of fancy dresses, Soldiers' hats and belts worn with a pride of "belonging" to the band. They were led by a small boy in a costume made from a Union Jack, bearing a card inscribed "New St. Jazz Band". His nickname was "Georgie Porgy Pudden & Pie"; but today he led the band!

A banner, carried by two ladies and supported by two little girls very charmingly dressed, which bore the inscription "Thanks to those who helped to end the war", completed the group. The morning wore on until the bells of St Mary's and the Town Hall announced midday. Comparative quiet reigned as the children went to their dinners—never too excited to eat! Dinner over, the children who were to take part in the parade donned their costumes and, together with the adults and decorated vehicles, wended their way to the assembly point in Adelaide Rd.

It had been arranged that the military band should take the lead. The New St. Jazz Band was to be half way along the Parade. Then came a crisis: The band of the 2nd Bat. Hampshire Reg. would not be coming from Winchester owing to a rail strike! A request was made for the jazz band to lead the parade!

Proudly the ladies and their banner, together with the children carrying their drums and pipes, moved forward to take leading place behind the Parade Marshal "Dandy Rolfe", who was dressed in a costume representing "John Bull" and riding a pony promoted from drawing Dandy's fish cart. It symbolized the spirit of the Street.

Mr Ambrose in a bandsman's uniform took over as bandmaster and with his cornet playing the tune of "Colonel Bogey" the Parade moved off. It was originally intended to parade the High St. but owing to the delay it was decided to proceed direct to New St. Townsfolk and children lined the route as the parade proudly wended its way past the Grammar School, and the Council School with the children's memories of a ton of conkers collected for the war effort. Opposite the school, outside Church Cottage, Miss E Bracher known to the New Streeters as "Molly", stood with her sisters watching the people she knew and served so well, pass by. With a sad memory of Guy Bracher whose young life was thrown away like thousands of other young subalterns on the battlefields of France. The beat of the drums grew louder as the band entered the Street proper, under an archway of flags – the first of fifteen spanning the street – they rose to the cheers of their own folk

standing outside the Bishops Blaize and Tony Vitales ice cream factory. On past Butcher Bonds and Dandy's fish shop to where tall bearded Robert Bunce and his plump little old lady stood side by side with "Stepper" and Mrs Sims, flanked by Mrs Prior, whose daughter Dolly was playing the drum.

Opposite, on the steps of one of the old thatched cottages fronted by a flint cobbled pathway stood Dick and May Paris with their neighbours Rose Grace and her husband Tom, proudly wearing his uniform cap which told the world he drove the town steam roller.

Past the Elephant they went well stocked with liquor which no doubt would be in great demand, come the end of the day. A cluster of cottages gaily decorated and framed by the overhanging thatch told the story of a man who, bedridden and cut off from active participation in the life outside, nevertheless in his brighter periods had made the decorations which his children used to make his contribution to the celebration.

The next side road was of particular interest to the land girls on their float, as St. Johns Rd gave a view of New St. Farm, with the Kissing Gate and Cuckoo Pen in the foreground, flanked by the pond with its ducks.

On the other side of the street stood patriarch "Buffer Rolfe" in the midst of his family outside the shop which was the centre of his activities and the place where "Darky Hawkins", of negro extraction, produced the windmills which were later exchanged for jam jars, rabbit skins, etc. The family raised a special cheer for Buffer's grandson Robert, who was the kettle drummer in the band.

One of the little girls holding a ribbon attached to the banner had a special smile for a group standing next door containing her mother and grandparents, chimney sweep and fireman Job Bull and his wife.

Coming into view now was the first prize winning entry of the decorated cottage competition. Ben Lewis had been loaned bunting by a gentleman of the town and had covered the front of his cottage with great effect: truly a worthy winner. Opposite on the top of her doorsteps stood "Granny Bunce" with her son Harry and his family, not forgetting "Aunty Bessie". It was quite a gathering of the clans!

Cheered on by Pelican Landlord Bill Gorey and his patrons, the procession approached their zenith.

If the band's tempo had tended to slacken they now quickened as they approached that part of the street in which was situated the centre of most of their activities – New Street Mission Hall. Isolated as they had been by class distinction the Mission Hall was their church, their theatre and their sports centre, the heart of the street. "Kitcheners Army" billeted in the street, slept on its floors as they did in most of the houses in the street before they marched away to the Somme taking with them memories of a warm and generous people who took them into their community and treated them as their own. On this day, doubtless they too were remembered.

The Band was now nearing the end of their parade and their moment of glory as they passed the Blacksmiths Arms and into "March's Meadow", followed by the procession, where fair ground entertainments and sports awaited them – not forgetting a tea for the children in New St. Farm. The Old Folk and the widows of those who did not return, dined in the Mission Hall.

Heavy rain ended the day but, nothing daunted, Tuesday saw the completion of the sports. A grand firework display was the conclusion of New Street's peace celebrations and the beginning of their fight for a brave new world.



The New Street "Peace Celebrations" committee, who organised the day.



New Street Jazz Band 1919.

H. W. Paris, S. Hughes, E. Andrews, L. Simms (nee Bunce)

J. Prior, B. Johnson, J. McCallum, H. Burchett, P. Simms, L. Paris, L. Blackmoor, B. Simms

P. Bunce, G. Grace, R. Rolfe, R. Paris

BOSSINGTON by MARGARET CARTER

From the V.C.H. – 1908 BOSINTONE (11th Century) BOSUTON (13th Century) BOSYNTON & BOSYNGTON (14th Century) BOSINGTON (16th Century)

The Parish of Bossington is situated between Houghton and Mottisfont, – covering an area of 1,592 acres, of which 45 are covered by water, and is traversed by the Roman Road from Winchester to Old Sarum.

Bossington House, the seat of Mr. William Henry Deverell, D.L., J.P., is in the N.E. corner, to the S.W. is Pittleworth Farm and on the extreme west, Crown Farm.

Crown Farm, formerly extra parochial and afterwards a separate parish, was included in Bossington by Local Government Board Order dated March 25th 1883.

The Manor was held at time of Domesday by Robert, son of Gerald and had been held before the Conquest by Tovi, of King Edward. It was held in 1167 by Gerald and William. In 1243 Mabel, widow of Peter Scotney, died seized of half a carncate of land in Bossington which she had bought in her widowhood.

Her son and heir, Walter, settled land worth £8 on himself and his wife Audrey in 1255, and was hanged in Winchester in 1259 for the murder of William de Clare, Earl of Gloucester.

His land at Bossington was evidently regranted to his heirs, since in 1281, one messuage, one carncate of land, 12 acres of meadow, 40 acres of wood and 20 shillings rent in Bossington were held by John Scotney.

This passed to Imbert Scotney whose widow Sarah was holding one eighth part of a fee in Bossington in 1346.

The Manor remained with the Scotney family until the close of the 14th century, when Joan, only daughter and heir of John Scotney, bought the manor in marriage to William Baker (Pistor) of Upper Eldon who was living in 1397.

His descendant, Nicholas Baker, died seized of the manor in 1504 leaving it to his heir and grandson William, who died in 1527.

His son Robert sold it to Baldwin Wigmore. John Wigmore, grandson and heir of Baldwin died seized of it in 1584, leaving only a daughter and heir, Elizabeth, who married Thomas Edmunds, second son of John Edmunds of Baylies Court, Sussex. Elizabeth survived her husband and died in 1640, leaving a son who had married Barbara, daughter of Richard Venables of Andover, in 1616.

Thomas was followed by his son Thomas whose descendants held the manor till the 18th century. It next passed to Thomas South whose family held it until 1823, when it was bought by Penlease Esq.

In 1835 he sold it to John Meggett Elwes on whose death in 1855 it was sold to Tyrwhit Walker. In turn it was bought by W. H. Deverell in 1876.

A Mill at Bossington was acquired by Imbert de Scotney, the Lord of Bossington in 1309 and became an appurtenance of the Manor.

Nicholas Baker settled a water mill on his son Edmund worth 20 shillings. On his death in 1485 it was said to be held by the Prior of St. Swithins, Winchester. Two water mills belonged to the Manor in 1813.

The Pryors lands in Broughton and Bossington and a parcel of possessions in Mottisfont were acquired in the middle of the 16th century by Baldwin Wigmore.

AGINCOURT EVE

It is very difficult to place the water mills mentioned in the V.C.H. The only mill near Bossington is Houghton Mill, there are no traces of any others. It is well known that the Domesday Surveys tended to overlap, as boundaries were not always clearly marked.

When Mr. Penlease acquired Bossington House (built about the beginning of the 19th century), he caused many alterations to be made. He did not like to see the humble cottages of the villagers clustered round the Church – they spoiled his view, so he dismissed all the labourers from his service, and as they left the place to seek work elsewhere, he pulled the cottages down until there was nothing left but the Church. As this was ecclesiastical property he could not pull it down – but as the congregation had melted away, the Church gradually became a ruin.

When John Meggett Elwes came to Bossington House in 1835, he set about restoring the Church. It had been built of Swanage Stone, and he had similar stone brought to Bossington for repairs. John Elwes is buried in the churchyard right against the east wall of the Church. The Church is very small, and has one bell. It seats only about 40 people.

Henry V visited Bossington while his second army, under the Earl of Huntingdon camped in the fields near the Church. They had to wait about six weeks for a favourable wind to take them from Southampton to France. One of the fields on Bossington Farm is still known as Agincourt Field. (There is another at Michelmersh).

On the west wall of the Church above the Churchwardens pews is the Coat of Arms of Henry V carved in wood. He heard Mass in the Church before leaving for France.

Another Royal connection is commemorated in the carved pew ends. They show the Tudor Rose. Elizabeth I is said to have stayed at Pittleworth Manor and attended Church at Bossington.

Another connection with the first Elizabeth is at Pittleworth Manor, about half a mile from the Church. There is a mural painting on a wall in the house depicting the raising of Lazarus. One of the women attending Christ is depicted as Elizabeth.

Six tenants of Bossington Farm are known, they are

- Goodwin - Wyatt - Teasedale - Milsum, William Butler, John Bright

When Mr. Bright retired from farming, the farm ceased to be let on a tenancy, and became part of Bossington Estates Farms – the property of Mr. John Fairey who owns Bossington House.

When the Andover to Redbridge Canal was built – it passed over part of Bossington on the east side – a Saxon Bishop's ring came to light when a labourer noticed it glistening in some peat.

On the oval bezel, which measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, is the bust of an ecclesiastical figure in profile, and on the border a Christian inscription in abbreviated form.

NOMEN EHLLA FIDES IN CHRISTO

This interesting relic appears to date from the 9th century. It is in the Bodly Head Library — Oxford. A child's terra cotta pig was found in a ford at Bossington.

Also a pig of lead – lost in A.D.60 was found at Bossington in 1783 – probably during the building of the canal. The lead was brought from the Mendips via Old Sarum to Winchester and then exported to Europe. It is inscribed in Latin 'British (lead) the property of the Emperor Nero'. It is now in the British Museum. A similar pig of lead was discovered at St. Valory-sur-Somme.

Several years ago I was lent a copy of an old News Sheet in which appeared the following:-

OLD BOSSINGTON A REMINISCENCE OF OVER 50 YEARS AGO

To the few remaining who remember the farmstead and little village of Bossington about the year 1827, when Mr. Penlease purchased the estate, and all the alterations that then occurred, the following lines, written at the time, and preserved among the old dwellers in the village will probably recall to the memory; names once 'familiar to the ear'. Farmer Hunt, who succeeded Mr. Webb at the New Farm, was not partial to tramps and gypsies, but was a good kind of man notwithstanding, and pleasant thoughts often arise of himself and family.

As to the destroyer of the village, though a noted man at the time (M.P. for Southampton) was he not quickly destroyed, for who has ever heard of him or his family since? Was it wise or just to pull down the cottages that clustered together within a few minutes walk of the farm, and thus compel every labourer who has ever worked on the estate from then till now to walk day by day into distant parishes, thus depriving them of the time so much required to cultivate their own gardens. Surely the rights of property, whatever they may be, when thus used, unnecessarily oppresses the poor, and makes every day's work harder still. Could not this be remedied?

'Good Fanny' and 'Lovely Mary' were, we believe, much respected domesticservants at Bossington House. The old lichen covered posts and rails which surrounded the Churchyard, have been removed. No family were ever more honoured and loved while at Bossington, or more regretted when they left it, than that of Mr. and Mrs. Webb, one of whose daughters was, a few years since, brought from London to be buried in the old Churchyard of the village where she had spent the happy days of her childhood.



ARCHIVES ACCESSIONS

Some recent acquisitions to the Andover Archives (which are kept in a special room in the Andover Public Library) are listed below.

- Day book of Thomas Lynn & Sons Ltd for 1861 (donated by G. Lynn).
- Photographs of 1917 Pupits of Andover Grammar School performing 'Pied Piper' in the grounds of The Elms, Salisbury Road. (donated by Mrs. D. Coles, 4 Croft Avenue, Andover).
- Programme for 'Festival of Remembrance' 1937 held in Drill Hall, East St., Andover.

Programme for 'Andover Coronation Celebrations' 1953 – Andover Pageant programme.

Programme for 'R.A.F. Freedom of Borough' 1955 - order of ceremony, historical notes etc.

Ministry of Food Licensing Policy 1948.

Ministry of Food Licensing Consumer Need 1949.

Evening News, Jan. 5, 1929 - Sports edition.

Letter from Ministry of Food re:- food rations 1949.

(donated by Mr. S. Butler, 37 Junction Rd., Andover).

 Catalogue of documents held in Magdalen College, Archives, Oxford – relating to Enham, Andover, Charlton, King's Enham, Knight's Enham, etc. (dating from 1210 to 1548).

(donated by Hampshire County Library - Andover).

5. 'Board of Trade' Buying Permit for 40 Utility Furniture Units issued to Rev. E. L. Banks – 20 Nov., 1946.

Price List etc. for utility furniture – Ponds of Andover. (donated by J. D. G. Isherwood, High St., Andover).

6. Menu for 'Annual Buck Feast' at White Hart Hotel, Andover – Sept. 23, 1904.

Menu for feast held at Town Hall, Andover - Nov. 9, 1898.

Menu for feast held at Town Hall, Andover - Jan. 1, 1902.

Menu for 'Tedworth Hunt Ball' held at Drill Hall, Andover - Dec. 18 (no year). (donated by Mrs. G. Cox, 48 Junction Rd., Andover).

Andover Local History Society is always pleased to hear of the existence of old documents to add to the store the town possesses. These can be deposited at the Library (Reference Section) and receipt of them will be acknowledged.

Our plea to the public of Andover and district is: please do not throw **anything** away which is OLD – whether it be a document, will, indenture, record of sale, bills, receipts, photographs, diaries, certificates – or just odd jottings on a slip of paper.

Any of these could be important to the recording and preservation of local history.

So, if you are having a turn-out in the attic or disposing of a deceased relative's effects, please let us see these kind of items before they are destroyed.

Olla Podrida

INDICTMENT

"Joseph Turner late of Andover, joyner, and Margaret his wife, 1 July, 1701, at Andover, spoke these opprobrious and contumelius words in English concerning Thomas Macknell, Richard Waight senr., John Cooke, John Seagrove, Henry Silverthorne and Christopher Sumner, then sitting as assessors for the town of Andover according to Act 1 Anne, intituled an Act for granting an ayd to Her Majesty by divers subsidies and a land tax in the exercise of their office, with high publicly in the hearing of very many, "You assessors are foresworn knaves and rascalls."

Barton

Endorsed, Witnesses -

Thomas Macknell Swo
Christopher Sumner A tri

Sworn in court. A true bill.

1982 PROGRAMME

Subjects to be covered in talks to be given at the Local History Society's meetings for the first quarter of 1982 are as follows:

198	2	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Mar. Apl.			Max Dacre Roger Davey

(All Meetings Commence 7.30 p.m. at Andover Museum)

Back numbers of LOOKBACK (nos 1 & 2) are still available from Simmonds Bookshop (price 80p) or by post from the Secretary (postage & p. 15p).

LOOKBACK is published by the Andover Local History Society % Public Library, Chantry Way, Andover, SP10 LT and is printed by Standard Press Ltd., South Street, Andover, Hants.



LETTERS AND QUERIES

PLEA FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Olga Suberg, of 5 Ravenshaw Road, Parkdene, Boksburg, 1460, Republic of S. Africa, seeks information regarding a former Andover vicar and his wife. She has written to the present vicar:

"I am researching into H. B. Bousfield, first Bishop of Pretoria (1832-1902). Before he was consecrated bishop and came to the Transvaal he was Rural Dean in the Diocese of Winchester and was Vicar of St. Mary's, Andover.

Bousfield married for the second time in 1888, to Ellen Lamb. She was from the Winchester Diocese and, I think, from Andover, and came out to the Transvaal with the Bishop in 1878 to be a teacher in the Girls' School he planned to start.

According to one of Bousfield's grandchildren she returned to England in 1902, after he had died in Cape Town. When she died her sister had her buried as Ellen Lamb. I know it sounds strange, but could you find out where she is buried? Also if any members of the Lamb family still live in Andover, and if they kept her letters. I do hope you can help me. When I started my research I did not realise how interesting he was."

SERVED UNDER NELSON?

Dear Sir.

I have recently acquired an old will and testament belonging originally to a lieutenant in the Royal Navy. I have been to the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London and acquired what information that they have and am therefore writing to you in the hope that you may have some information in your archives, old parish registers, etc., that will help me complete my research. I also hope that you will also find some academic interest in this quest, which will be of local interest.

The old document relates to Lieutenant EDWARD REDING, who in the year 1822 made the will and died either in 1823 or 1824, according to the ecclesiastical seal attached.

He lived in Charlton near Andover, Hants, and had a relative, one William Reding, a wife Jane Reding and a friend called Joseph Woodhead of the London Navy Agent. On the 17th August, in the year 1801 he was made into a lieutenant and is listed in the official Navy List of those times . . . but no further information seems available, other than he remained a lieutenant until he came out of the navy and served on the following ships: 1802 Delft, 1803 Sylph, (sloop), 1805-06 Pompee and in 1808 Drake, (sloop). He was commissioned with two other men . . . Richard Chessell and Henry Fryer. He also seemed to own some land and property.

Any help you may come up with would be most appreciated.

Thank you, V. S. Wilson

> 72 LEIGH HALL ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA, ESSEX, SS9 1QZ.

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE included:-

Mr. N. W. Surry of Portsmouth, Hants. writes to tell us:-

"I am undertaking research on Hampshire artists and craftsmen c.1660-1760. At the moment I am particularly interested in George Beare, an 18th century portrait painter, who spent most of his life at Charlton, Andover."

Mr. Surry would like to hear from any of our members who might be able to help. The secretary has already furnished some information taken from the Andover Archives but will be pleased to pass on any further information.

Mrs. Gwen Howe from Leigh-on-Sea, Essex writes to ask about the LAWES family (mainly in the late 1700's and early 1800's) requesting any relevant information available.

Another lady Mrs. Barbara Hughes writes:-

"I was in Andover on Saturday July 25th for a wedding in St. Mary's Church. My husband parked his car in 'Bracher Close' which is right near the Church. As this was my name before I was married I was interested to know why it was named this."

We were able to tell her that Bracher Close is named after W. C. Bracher, a farmer at East Anton, whose family owned the Anton Laundry, and who did much good work in connection with the Mission Hall in New Street. – [See our article on "The New Streeters" – Ed.]

SAMUEL BEST & THE HAMPSHIRE LABOURER

by ALASTAIR GEDDES, B.A.

All who live in, or know Abbotts Ann will be interested in this book, published by the Andover Local History Society.

The Hon. and Rev. Samuel Best (1831-1873), became Abbotts Ann's most famous rector. Along with William Tasker he founded the village's 150 year old school and then set about his endeavours to improve the life of the poor. Best introduced evening classes for the older children in an attempt to educate and bring new trades into the community. He formed the Abbotts Ann Provident Society, which achieved national recognition when it's Deposit System was adopted by the National Deposit Friendly Society.

Much was achieved by this great man whose efforts were brought to the notice of the Prime Minister, by leading churchmen. Promotion was assured but Best declined it, refusing to leave his country parish, his village institutions, in fact everything he had achieved.

Copies of this book can be obtained from:

A. C. Raper, Secretary,
Andover Local History Society,

Mandover Public Library, Chantry Way, Andover, Hants. SP10 1LT.

Price of the book is £2.95 and is on sale at most local book shops or cheques can be made payable to ANDOVER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY on the attached form. (Postage 20p extra).

to Andover Local History Society	Date
Please accept my cheque/cash for £ of 'SAMUEL BEST & THE HAMPSHIR each.	, in payment for copy/copies E LABOURER' at the price of £
Name	
Address	

ANDOVER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President:

Rt. Hon. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, P.C.

Hon. Secretary:

A. C. Raper, % Public Library, Chantry Way, Andover, SP10 1LT.

The Andover Local History Society is an outgoing organisation and throughout the winter season holds regular monthly meetings (September through to May). Whenever possible a visiting speaker is invited, but there is always some form of activity planned with a local history theme. All meetings are open and free to all full members of the Society. Subscriber members and non-members attending meetings will be requested to pay a nominal charge at the door, in order to cover speakers expenses, hire of the room, etc. Refreshments will be offered whenever possible.

The Society, twice yearly, publishes a magazine LOOKBACK, which is distributed free to all members. It includes articles on local history written by members of the Society and other learned historians. Anyone is entitled to submit an article or item relating to local history and readers comments are always welcome. We continue to publish longer articles and monographs on the history of the area. Out latest publication is "Samuel Best and the Hampshire Labourer" by Alastair Geddes. The aims of the Society as outlined in it's Constitution are:— . . . to stimulate and maintain public interest in archaeology, local history and architecture, in and around Andover, and to maintain such other areas of study as shall be educational and for the public benefit . . ."

Meetings are held on the fourth Friday of the month at 7.30 pm (the venues to be announced). Subscriptions to the Society fall due on the first September each year and are as follows:—

Ordinary member: £3.00. Free admission to Society meetings. Lookback magazine.

One vote at the A.G.M.

Family member: £5.00. Free admission to Society meetings for two adults and

two children. Lookback magazine. Two votes at A.G.M.

Subscriber member: £2.00. Lookback magazine. No vote at A.G.M.

Junior member: £2.00. Those aged under 18 or engaged in full time education.

Free admission to meetings. Lookback magazine. No vote at

A.G.M.

Institutional member: £5.00. Open to any organisation wishing to join as a body.

Entitles members of that organisation to attend Society meetings. Two copies of Lookback. One vote at A.G.M.

A copy of the Society's Constitution will be provided on request.

Membership application form

ANDOVER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Type of membership (tick	whichever app	olicable)		
ORDINARY MEMBER	£3.00			
FAMILY MEMBER	£5.00			
SUBSCRIBER MEMBEI	£2.00			
INSTITUTIONAL MEM	BER £5.00			
JUNIOR MEMBER	£2.00			
I enclose cheque/postal order etc.* for £ ANDOVER LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY	to co	over cost of	membership	to
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