

LOOKBACK AT ANDOVER



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**ANDOVER HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY
1998**

ANDOVER HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

The Society was formed by the merger of the Andover Local History and the Andover Archaeological Societies.

The principal object of the Society is to stimulate and maintain public interest in local history, archaeology and architecture in and around Andover. It does this in various ways and in particular by organising meetings, lectures and other activities, by arranging for the safeguarding of local archaeological and historical material of all kinds, and by publishing the results of its studies and research.

Meetings are usually held in the Meeting Room at the Andover Museum at 7.30pm on the 4th Friday of the month from September to May. The programme year ends in June with a guided walk around a local village to see points of interest and learn more of its background.

Membership is open to all who are interested in furthering the objects of the Society or who wish to provide their general support to those objects. The annual subscription is £4 for individuals or £6 for family membership.

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Cover illustration:

The Electric Picture Theatre, 1912.

LOOKBACK AT ANDOVER

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CATHOLIC RECUSANTS IN THE ANDOVER AREA

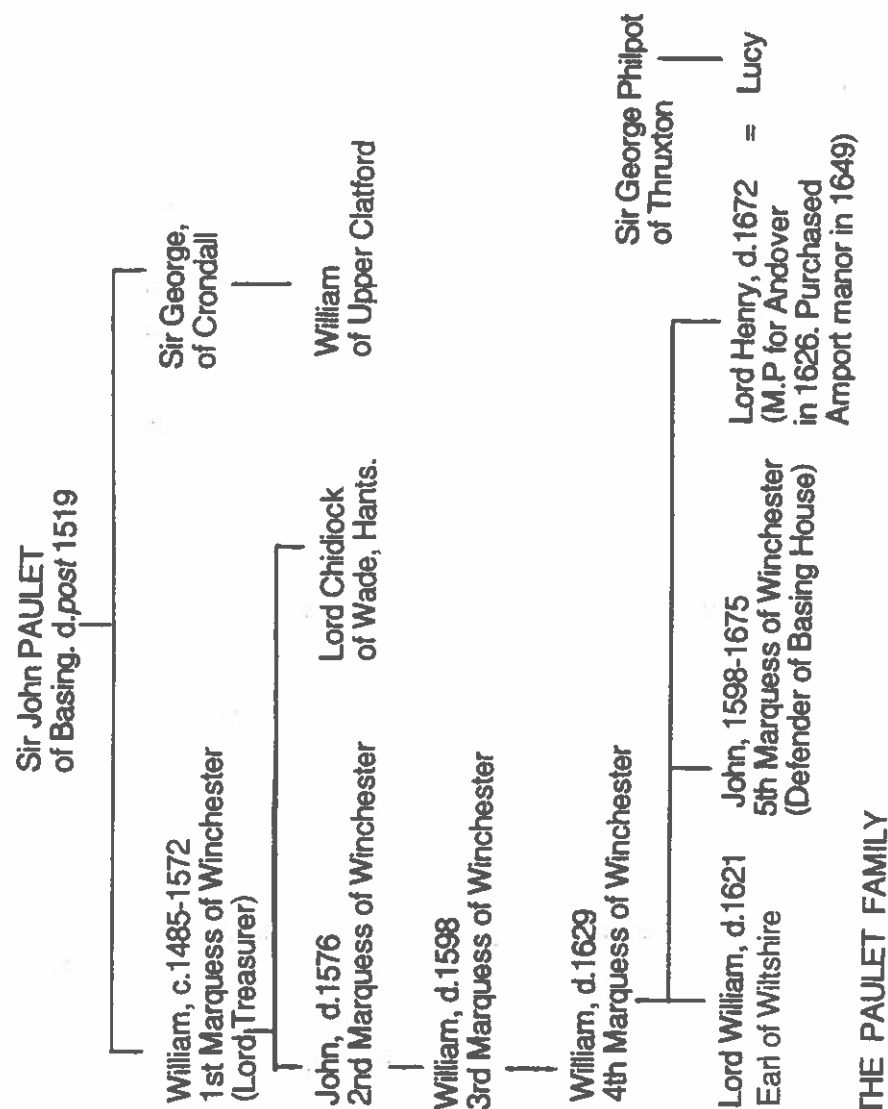
By R. Arnold Jones.

The Elizabethan settlement was not universally accepted, and opposition to it was particularly strong in Hampshire. Attendance at the parish church was legally obligatory, and those who refused to go were called recusants, from the Latin word *recusare* (to refuse). One recent historian has written of its being imposed 'upon a somewhat reluctant community'¹, with Catholics still forming the majority of the population; another has noted that ... 'the protestantising influence of the port of Southampton was apparently neutralised by the long rule of a conservative bishop, and in the reign of Elizabeth Catholicism remained surprisingly strong in the Channel county.'² In 1584 the Clerk of the Peace of the county complained that-

.. the number of recusants which at every session are to be indicted is so great that the Clerk of the Peace is driven to spend, not only by himself, or his deputy and a servant or two, a great deal of time before and after the session itself, in drawing and engrossing the indictments, judgments and processes, and the Justices most occupied about them, whereby the sessions are continued more days than heretofore, and almost all other causes of the shire omitted altogether.³

Twenty years earlier 'the alarming amount of recusancy among the J.P.'s was revealed in a series of letters from the Bishops to the Privy Council'.⁴ One of these, written on November 13 that year by Robert Horne, Bishop of Winchester, stressed the need to strengthen the commission for the peace, the constables, bailiffs and grand juries with those whose religion was approved. This was particularly necessary in Winchester '... all that bear authority there except one or two being addicts to the old superstition and earnest fautors thereof [and also] in other towns franchised with liberties'.⁵ Amongst those other towns the bishop included Andover, while his list of 'mislikers or not favoured' of the established religion included Lord Chidiok Paulet and William Paulet of Upper Clatford.

Lord Chidiok Paulet was the third son of the first Marquess of Winchester, Lord Treasurer in the reigns of Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth, who attributed his long tenure of office under very different sovereigns to the fact that he had imitated the willow rather than the oak. His family had become



one of the most important in the county and its seat at Basing House was, until its destruction by Cromwell in the Civil War, perhaps the grandest in Hampshire. The family's importance in county affairs continued long after the Lord Treasurer's death in 1572. William Paulet was the son of the Marquess's younger brother George, who had been a strong supporter of the Marian regime. William had taken his father's place as a Justice of the Peace 'but his name disappeared from the commission and he ceased attending Quarter Sessions at the end of 1564'.⁶

The Bishop's letter bears witness to the struggle in Hampshire between himself and the Paulet family.⁷ A further reflection of this struggle may perhaps be found in the rebuke sent in 1587 by the Privy Council to the third Marquess of Winchester, the grandson of the Lord Treasurer:

... whereas we find by late letters written from our very good lord, the Lord Delawarr, that certain persons very disorderly and seditiously behaved themselves at the town of Andover, whereof he gave your lordship knowledge, to the end [that] you might extend some punishment towards the said disordered persons as the qualities of their offences might merit, lest that by over mild dealings towards them others might be encouraged to join with them in the like disorder. We are therefore both to pray you advise your lordship to look very substantially to the matter, and not to suffer those disordered people to take courage, for lack of punishment at the beginning, to proceed to the committing of some further outrage, whereof there may ensue some disturbance of the quiet of that county, and to take some speedy order for the punishment of such as shall be discovered to have been parties or confederates with such as were committed by the Lord Delawarr for the said disorder. And if the indisposition of your lordship's body will not permit you to deal in this cause yourself, then we pray you to appoint such of the justices of that country, whom for countenance, credit and discretion you shall think meet to employ in the same, to proceed to the due examination and correction of the delinquents. And thus not doubting but upon this you will more carefully look into the redress of the premisses, we earnestly require you to certify us with all convenient speed of your proceedings therein, that we may the better satisfy her Majesty

of your diligence according to the great care and trust [im]posed in you.⁸

Lord Winchester apparently complied with the instructions of the Privy Council, perhaps with some reluctance, and a month later he received a further letter dealing with this matter:

Whereas their lordships received his letters in answer of theirs ... concerning the insolent disorder at Andover, their lordships did very well allow of his lordship's proceeding in the punishment of the said disorders, only they advised his lordship not to use any delay in such disorders in the speedy apprehension of such as might happily hereafter commit the like outrage.⁹

It is not clear what form these disorders took, or whether they had any religious motivation, but no such doubt is attached to a previous occasion when Andover had attracted the unfavourable attention of the Privy Council. On 5 August 1580 their lordships wrote to Richard Kingsmill of Hurstbourne about a report which had recently reached them. The Bishop of Winchester¹⁰ had written to the ministers, churchwardens and other officers of every parish ordering them to present such persons 'as should show themselves mislikers of her Majesty's proceedings or uncomfortable in matters of Religion'. As a result of this the minister of the church of Andover, Mr Samborne, and other parish officers duly took action against '... one Henry Procter, a school master, for his obstinance in Religion ... [However] the said Procter hath since that time not only used very lewd speeches against the said minister and officers, but also most violently assaulted one Christopher Burgh' [a churchwarden]. Kingsmill was therefore ordered by the Privy Council to examine all those involved in the affray and to '... take bonds of him with sufficient sureties in good sums of money to her Majesty's use for his undelayed appearance before them.'¹¹

Procter duly appeared on 16 August and was '... commanded to attend the pleasure of the Lords of the Privy Council until some time as he should be licensed to the contrary'.¹² He evidently made a satisfactory submission, since a week later he was '... by commendment of Mr Secretary Walsingham discharged and his bond cancelled and delivered unto him'.¹³

According to the Winchester diocesan records there were 11 non-

communicants and six recusants in Andover in 1570, and a total of 24 non-communicants in 1575.¹⁴ A list of Hampshire recusants remaining at liberty in 1592 supplies a small number of names in the Andover area: Richard Hinton of Barton Stacey; Tristram Fantlewraye of Shipton; and William Burley of Longparish; while one of the recusants at liberty upon bonds was Richard Rives of Barton Stacey, bachelor of law.¹⁵

In 1582 a priest called John Chapman was examined by John Watson, Bishop of Winchester, who wrote to Walsingham asking for instructions and suggesting that the case should be referred to the Privy Council or else sent to the Assizes, to be dealt with by the Justices of Assize at Andover since Winchester gaol had so 'many backward people there, we thought not good to commit' him there. As a result, Chapman was sent to the Marshalsea prison, where he was in November 1583 and still there in July 1586.¹⁶

The official lists of recusants are far from complete, so it is difficult to gauge the degree of support still enjoyed by 'the old religion', although Hampshire as a whole was one of the main strongholds of recusancy in the south of England. At any rate the Elizabethan government evidently felt that there was enough recusant sentiment in the Andover district to warrant a stringent warning of its consequences, in the form of public execution. The victim was a Catholic schoolmaster, John Body. He and Alexander Twitchin, the first recorded Headmaster of Andover Grammar School, were pupils together at Winchester and subsequently Fellows of New College, Oxford in the same year, 1568. Body kept a school somewhere between Andover and Winchester. Many years later one of his pupils wrote that '... he was my schoolmaster a year or two before his Apprehension at Mr Archdeacon Shelley his father's house, where he was taken and committed by Sir Richard Norton'. His arrest took place in Mapledurwell in 1580, and three years later Body and John Slade, another schoolmaster, were tried at the spring assizes in Winchester, and again on 19 August at Andover, for denying the royal supremacy. Both were condemned to be hanged, drawn and quartered. Slade was executed at Winchester on 30 October, and Body at Andover on 2 November, after being imprisoned for over three years. Sir Richard Kingsmill was one of those present and followed the official government line by telling him that he was executed for high treason and not for reasons of religion.¹⁷

To the 1580's may be ascribed an undated letter from Nicholas Venables, bailiff of Andover in 1574 and subsequently one of the first Approved



*The Blessed John Body and St. Swithun Wells.
Part of a chapel window in St. Peter's Catholic Church, Winchester.
(photograph: Dr. John Crook)*

Men named in the Andover Charter of 1599¹⁸, to the Warden of Winchester College:

Right Worshipfull, my duty remembered, this present day, St. James Eve [24 July] received your letter whereby I grieve you are wrongly informed. That is to say the composition is between yourself and the parson of Enham Militis [Knight's Enham] being an old priest and hath said many a mass, and the said William Blake keeps him in his house and giveth him five pounds by the year and his diet or thereabouts, and so hath kept him these thirty years, and that parsonage as he uses it by fraudulent dealing between the parsonage of Andover and the parsonage of Enham, he makes it worth a hundred marks [£33-6s-8d] by the year, and so I would it were mine.¹⁹

The William Blake referred to may be the 'William Blake the elder' of King's Enham who in 1574 fraudulently attempted to gain possession of some Andover town lands.²⁰

Obviously Venables was hardly an unbiased witness, but the recusancy of members of the Blake family is confirmed by the list of 'recusants disarmed in the county of Southampton' which was drawn up in 1625 because of the outbreak of war with Spain. It is signed by Hameden Poulet and Thomas Jervoise and mentions -

Thomas Blake of King's Enham, himself, wife and children recusants, taken from him one musket and delivered [it] to the Bailiff of Andover to be employed in that bond where it is charged, and one corselet and musket charged in another bond delivered to Peter Blake to be kept there. [Also] John Blake of Enham, a non-communicant and suspected to be a recusant, taken from him one corselet furnished and delivered to Mr Venables, captain of that company wherein it is charged.²¹

Among other recusants in the Andover district mentioned in this document were Sir John Philpot of Thruxton 'and most of his family'; Robert West of Andover who 'hath married his kinswoman and heir[ess] to a recusant, one Thomas Petty, since which marriage he doth forbear the church'; and Dibbell Snow of King's Somborne, a widow.

The Philpots, a landed family which produced sheriffs of Hampshire in the 15th and 16th centuries, acquired Thruxton by marriage in 1556. Most of the family were Catholics, but one, John, was a Protestant and was burnt at the stake in Mary's reign. Sir John lost his property in 1628 after being indicted as a recusant, but died possessed of the manor of Thruxton in 1634. Lucy Philpot, daughter of Sir George, married Lord Henry Paulet, third son of the fourth Marquess of Winchester, who was M.P. for Andover in 1626.²²

This list of recusants in 1625, itself probably incomplete, exposes the inaccuracies of the official returns made for the Deanery of Andover in 1603, which recorded no recusants in any of the parishes except one man and two women in Enham and one man and a woman in Wherwell.²³

Since the education of catholic priests was impossible in England, seminaries for that purpose were established overseas at Douai in Flanders, at the English College in Rome, and also in the Iberian peninsula. The Andover district produced a number of these seminary priests. Three of them were named Curtis. Their father was called Thomas and is perhaps the Thomas Curtes included in a list of the residents of Andover, from the tithing of the Priory, who were between the ages of 12 and 70 years in 1582.²⁴ He was still alive in 1609 when his son John described him as '... a man of plebeian stock, neither rich nor poor, but weaker and richer than he was during my mother's lifetime'.²⁵ His brother Peter claimed that his father was a Catholic gentleman of the family of the same name in the village of Enborne, near Newbury, who was forced through poverty to become a fuller for many years. Out of nine brothers six were Catholics, two of them Jesuits and another two lay brothers. Their two sisters were both Catholics, one of them a Franciscan nun.²⁶ One other brother was a 'Protestant Minister, but not malicious nor (in my view) a bigoted believer'; there was also a Catholic aunt (unnamed).²⁷ One of the sisters, Anne, was the mother of Thomas Malte, another seminary priest ordained at Douai in 1642, who worked in Norfolk and died in 1684.²⁸ The large number of Catholic offspring is the more surprising since the father and mother are described as schismatic, though the mother probably died a Catholic in spite of not having 'lived publicly as such'.²⁹

Thomas Curtis, who appears to have been the eldest brother, became a Jesuit. 'After spending his noviceship in England he had the care of Hampshire and the district round for more than fifty years. He was often Rector, and was loved for the affability and moderation of his character. He lived till about eighty, was always cheerful and happy, and died at Liège, January 22, 1657.'³⁰

Under his influence his brother John became a Catholic. He was born in Longparish, from which his mother (née Joanna Barton) originated, and was brought up there by his Catholic grandmother before moving to Andover in the care of his father and mother. In 1609 he wrote that he 'studied humanities at Andover', presumably in the Grammar School. Later he went to London and worked as a writer of Court Hand.³¹ He was ordained at Douai in 1604, returned to England in 1609, became a Jesuit in 1612 at Louvain and died in 1651.

The third brother, Peter Curtis, was also converted by Thomas the Jesuit. He was born in Andover where he 'studied a little' before going to St. Omers for four years (1614-8), then to Seville and Louvain. He entered the English College in Rome in 1621 and was ordained in 1625. He went to England the same year and spent the rest of his life in London, where he died in 1673³², having been imprisoned in Newgate for some time in 1632.³³

Another Jesuit in this period was Cyprian Shelley, who was born in Mapledurwell, near Basingstoke, where John Body had been arrested in 1583. Thomas Shelley, a senior member of the family, was one of the Catholic J.P.'s in the first two years of Elizabeth's reign, but he was opposed to the Paulets. Cyprian Shelley, who was 19 years old in 1611, 'made his first studies in Andover for five years, and when quite young and under the care of Protestants he attended their services, but was reconciled to the Catholic faith by Mr Hull, a priest in England'. Cyprian was ordained in the English College in Rome in 1616.³⁴

Another seminary priest was Henry Oxenbridge, the fourth son of Sir Robert Oxenbridge of Hurstbourne House, Hurstbourne Priors, a noted Catholic who was one of the Paulets' supporters among the Hampshire J.P.'s in 1558; he was appointed Constable of the Tower in 1574. Henry was born in 1575 and entered the Inner Temple in 1594, but in September 1602 he went abroad to study at the English College in Rome. He was ordained there in 1604 and became a Jesuit in the following year. His brother John was the brother-in-law of Lord Chiddiock Paulet and became involved in the struggle between Bishop Horne and the Paulet family.³⁵

During and after the Civil War Parliament sequestered the lands belonging to royalists, who were divided into two categories: delinquents and papists. However, this process was not always a simple one and John Woodman, the sequestration officer for Hampshire, complained in a letter of 19 April 1648 that the

county committee concerned seldom sat, and that 'many who have estates have been recusants in arms, which saddens the well-affected'.³⁶ He enclosed a list of those sequestered in the divisions of Andover and Kingsclere, which includes four who were certainly recusants. Apart from the 5th Marquess of Winchester, these were Henry and Thomas Philpot, Anthony Hyde and Henry Foyle.³⁷

Henry Philpot had already confessed that he had fought for the King at Edgehill, and he was also informed against as having borne arms against the Parliament at Winchester and elsewhere.³⁸ In November 1645 he and his brother Thomas begged to be admitted as a joint composition, Thomas's only estate being an annuity of £100 for two lives, charged on Henry's estates. Their delinquency consisted in actual war against Parliament. In March 1646 Henry was respited and ordered to bring a certificate of taking the sacrament. In April he was fined £1200 - then a huge sum - and Thomas £125. In May the House of Commons ordered the County Committee of Hampshire to certify whether the two brothers were Popish recusants, which they did at the end of July. Next month the fines were agreed by the House.³⁹

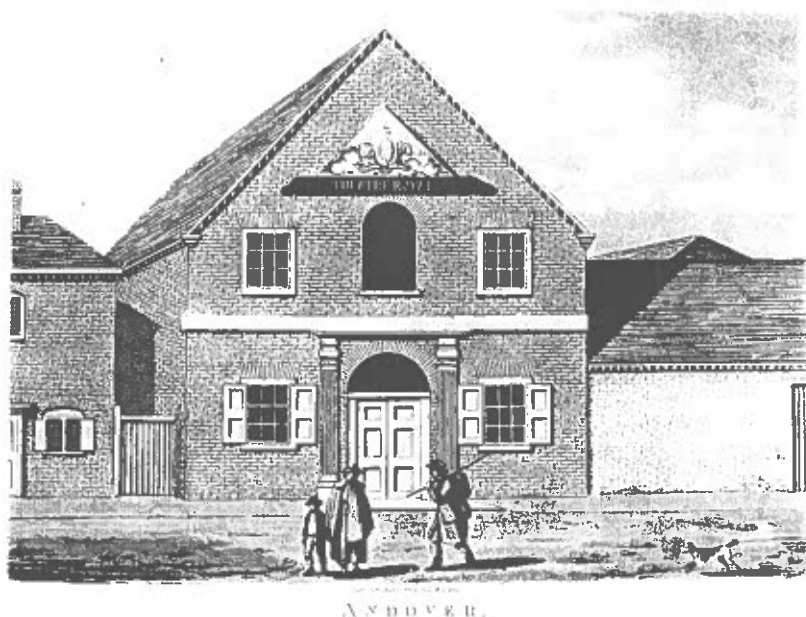
Anthony Hyde of Woodhouse Farm, Andover was presented for recusancy in 1647.⁴⁰ He was subject to sequestration for delinquency and recusancy, and in 1650 his children begged for one fifth of his estate.⁴¹

Henry Foyle of Abbots Ann Farm appears to have lost his whole estate, which was freed from sequestration in favour of its purchasers in June 1654.⁴² His house in Winchester Cathedral Close had earlier been illicitly acquired by John Woodman, the sequestration officer already mentioned. In July 1650 Woodman was accused of embezzlement of funds, but was temporarily shielded because he was a militia captain and the authorities were unwilling to act until he had been deprived of his commission. At the end of December he was charged with forging a deed in support of his claim to Foyle's house, the annual rent of which was £12; in 1652 he was ordered to account for three years' rent.⁴³ Another result of the heavy fines imposed on delinquents and recusants under the Commonwealth was a change in the ownership of Penton Mewsey. It had come into the possession of the Oxfordshire family of Stonor in the mid-14th century, and the family had remained Catholic throughout the reformation period, as it does to this day. But by 1656 the heavy fiscal burden imposed by the Puritan government had resulted in the loss of all the family estates outside Oxfordshire, except for Didcot and Penton Mewsey. Then in 1653 Thomas Stonor was forced to sell Penton Mewsey to Thomas Allen of Ewelme.⁴⁴

A HAUNT FOR HONIED THESPIANS: THE GEORGIAN THEATRE IN ANDOVER

By Paul Ranger.

At about 1803 James Winston visited Andover. He searched out the new theatre in the town, made some sketches in preparation for a coloured engraving, and discovered what he could about the state of the drama. Winston was an unsuccessful actor who found greater satisfaction in theatre management and as an intermediate enterprise he was preparing a magazine type publication on the provincial theatres in Britain. To this end he contacted many actors by letter and personally examined playhouses. In his book, *The Theatric Tourist*, published in 1805, he stated that Andover was an unpropitious town in which to erect a theatre.¹ History would not bear him out. It would be as well at the start to consider the events which preceded Winston's book.



Andover Theatre
(from *The Theatre Tourist* (1805). Courtesy of HRO)

The manager of the Poole Theatre, Robert? Bowles created, as all Georgian managers did, a circuit of theatres which, as well as Andover, also took in Colnbrook, Wallingford, Dorchester (Oxon) and Windsor. Bowles' habit in

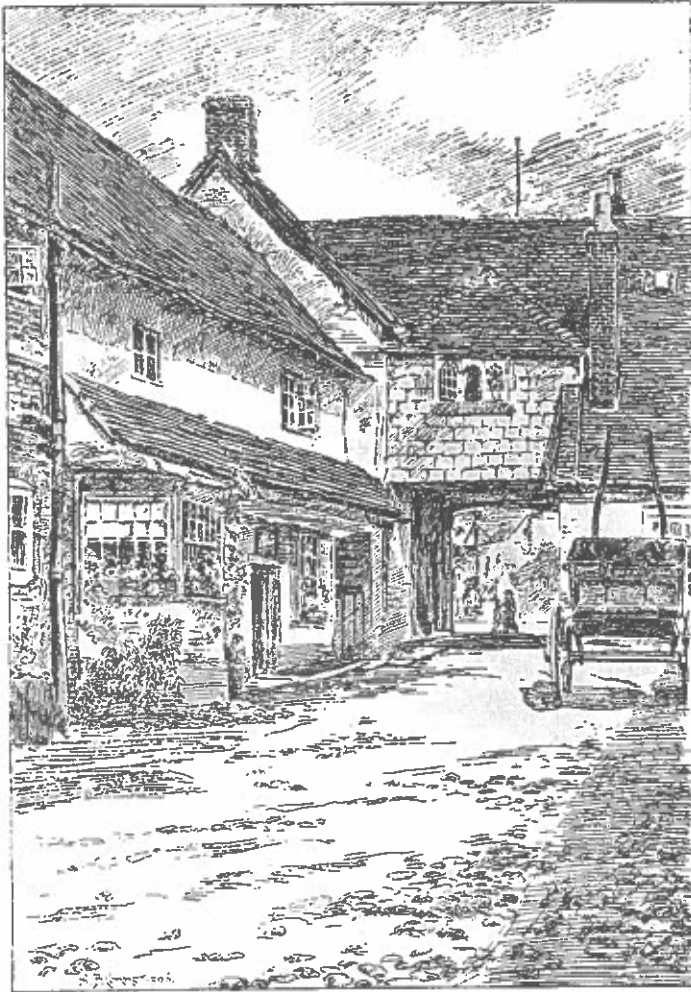
the 1770s was to visit Andover once every two or three years, converting a barn or a malthouse into his playhouse. After his retirement he was succeeded by Hounslow. Later Manager Hambling came to the town and opened a theatre in the Market Place, possibly in the room above the Market House (the old Guildhall), a venue popular with managers.²

The next manager to view Andover favourably was Henry Thornton, a man whose chief glory was the proprietorship of the Windsor Theatre which offered his company the opportunity to perform regularly before the royal family, a pleasure stopped unfortunately by George III's porphyria. The manager, on the strength of this passing patronage, gave his company the title 'Their Majesties' Servants' and referred to his Windsor premises as the 'Theatre Royal'. From about 1787 Thornton began to visit Andover. His first act was to settle with Buckland, the landlord of the Angel Inn, owned by Winchester College, to rent a large thatched barn in the yard for £10.00 per annum.³ Buckland was a carpenter by trade and he agreed to enlarge the building as well as repair it. The resulting construction and decorations passed muster. The theatre bug appears to have bitten the landlord for by 1788 he was the scene painter to the playhouse, assisted by Gilbert White, the son of the vicar of Fyfield.⁴ Our knowledge of audiences in the 18th century is slight. Presumably agricultural workers were the staple of the gallery in a rural area and according to one resident, Turner Poulton Clarke, it was the 'noisiest in the kingdom'.⁵

Thornton rested content with this theatre at the Angel until the lease expired in 1800 and the building was sold to the Society of Friends to be used as a Meeting House. For a couple of years Thornton's company was homeless until at Christmas 1802 their manager entered into an agreement with Thomas Rawlins, the printer, bookbinder and stationer of the town.⁶ Writing to Winston, Rawlins outlined the arrangements:

I ... showed him my premises, and proposed building all the shell of a theatre at my expense if he would agree to give me a rent accordingly and take a long lease, which he very readily agreed to ... The inside work was done at the expense of the manager and fitted up in a very neat manner.

These premises were off the Winchester road from which a rough and dirty track, near to the former Angel Inn playhouse, led to the construction. Rawlins managed to make the lane presentable, naming it after himself.⁷



*The yard of the Angel Inn, Andover
(from D.H. Moutray Read, Highways and Byways in Hampshire. (1908))*

By Easter 1803 the theatre was ready for its first audience. Those who walked along Rawlins Lane were faced by a neat building of brick and slate with a central entrance framed with fluted pilasters; above this were windows and the façade was topped by a triangular pediment containing the Royal Arms resting on the legend 'From the THEATRE ROYAL Windsor'.⁸ In describing the plate of this theatre, issued with *The Theatric Tourist*, Winston wrote:

To induce a belief of its being a patent theatre [i.e. a theatre given a royal patent such as the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, enjoyed], the words 'From the' are written so faintly as to be scarcely legible, while 'Theatre Royal' appears in striking characters, followed by an almost invisible 'Windsor'.⁹

Once past the entrance, visitors discovered a paybox: admission to the gallery was 1 shilling, to the pit 2s and a box seat (there were two tiers of boxes) cost 2s6d or 3s. A local broker, Thomas Treacle, looked after the admissions to the boxes where seats were bookable in advance. Narrow passages led to the various parts of the house. The auditorium was small; on a good night the takings amounted to just over £30.00.¹⁰ However, an impression of opulence was created by the cushioned boxes and the carpets.¹¹ The first night programme was lively: Thomas Morton's agricultural comedy *Speed the Plough* was the main piece, after which some of the dancers and singers in the company performed a brief series of interludes, and the evening finished with Frances Brooke's ballad operetta based on an episode in James Thomson's poem 'The Seasons'. Performances of other plays were given in repertoire for a couple of weeks on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.¹²

One wonders what the standard of the company was like. Thornton was renowned for not bothering to learn his lines. Instead he paraphrased his way through a part, filling in with lines from another play when this facility failed him. Other members of the company became similarly negligent. On the occasion of a new play at Andover Thornton was horrified to see that a member of the audience in one of the stage boxes held a copy of the text in his hand from which he would discover that few words of the original writing were spoken. With presence of mind the manager appeared before the curtain and explained that the prompt book had been mislaid and that there would be a delay whilst a search was instituted. Charminglly the owner of the text handed his own copy to Thornton.¹³

After a brief season of a couple of weeks Thornton's company would dismantle the proscenium arch and the seating and make its way to the next theatre on the circuit. In the vicinity of Andover Thornton managed playhouses at Newbury, Reading, Fareham and Gosport, all towns which could be approached by public transport along roads stemming from London.¹⁴ Once the players had left, the small theatre reverted to its former use as a store for Rawlins' stock.

It is a mystery why Thornton relinquished this theatre to Minton who by 1809 was playing in the building during May and June and continued to arrive for some years.¹⁵ An able actor, he sometimes appeared at the Theatre Royal in the Haymarket in London. A playbill of 1816 suggests that the Andover Theatre still staged performances until that date and possibly later. One of the celebrities whom Minton brought to play in the town was Dorothy Jordan, an actress of great charm in her youth who specialised in transvestite roles such as Sir Harry Wildair - 'an airy gentleman, affecting ... freedom in his behaviour' - in *The Constant Couple* by George Farquhar. By the time she visited Andover in 1813 she had been the mistress of the Duke of Clarence (later William IV) for many years, bearing him 10 children until, searching for the means of making a profitable marriage, he jettisoned her. To support her aristocratic brood she was forced to return to the provincial stage with its travelling and many discomforts. But she enjoyed the days in Andover; they were pleasantly filled with seeing friends by day and her engagements in the evenings.¹⁶ The townspeople maintained a pride in their playhouse. In 1816 the Bailiff gave his patronage to a new comedy *Smiles and Tears* and was in the audience.¹⁷

When a rebuilt Guildhall was opened in 1826 the large upper chamber again was often used for assemblies and plays although Rawlins' building still stood. By 1827 one Hannam was manager. Several factors made life difficult for managers at this time, though. After the termination of the Napoleonic Wars a financial recession set in with the result that audiences were sparse as people suffered straightened circumstances. With the arrival of the 1830s various scientific and literary institutes opened: self-improvement brought a touch of austerity to social life at the expense of the theatre. Rawlins' small storehouse theatre fell into decay and the building was demolished in 1842.¹⁸

In this brief survey I have concentrated on just a few managers and their work. All of them had the effect of binding a cross section of the community together during evenings of enjoyment, song, patriotism and learning, for many a contemporary event was re-enacted on the provincial stage. The spring visits of the players must have seemed all too short.

THEATRE, ANDOVER.
 BY PARTICULAR DESIRE OF A
GENTLEMAN
 IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.
 FOR THE BENEFIT OF
Mr. DAVENPORT.
 Who has the honour, respectfully to solicit the support of the Ladies, Gentlemen, and Public in general, of ANDOVER and its Vicinity, on this occasion.

On MONDAY EVENING, the 24th of OCTOBER, 1831,
 A new and highly interesting and popular Play, taken from the Novel of the same name by Sir Walter Scott, called
Guy Mannering,
 OR, THE GIPSIES' PROPHECY.

To give any analysis of a Piece so well known and appreciated would be superfluous, its merits both as a Literary and Dramatic production, it admits of no question. Even the stale must smile at the laughter exciting situation, and the vigorous and the most dramatic scenes, but description would impair the never failing interest excited by the representation.

Dominic Sampson [Tutor to the family of Ellengowan], Mr. DAVENPORT.
 Colonel Mannering, Mr. RAYMOND, Henry Bertram, Mr. WILLIAMS.
 Gilbert Glosin, Mr. BLANDFORD.
 Handic Dumont [the farmer of Charles hope], Mr. LEWIS.
 Miss Haycock [Captain of a Dutch Smuggler], Mr. RENAUD, Jack Jabsu, Mr. WRIGHT.

Mr. Merriliss. Mrs. DAVENPORT.
 Julia Manwaring, Mrs. MELLON, Lucy Bertram, Miss PHILLIMORE.
 Mrs. Mac Canlish, Mrs. GUNNING, Flora, Mrs. BLANDFORD.

In the course of the Play.
 A Song - "Hail the Duke
 Chorus - "The Change and Crow"
 A Song - "There's a use lock"
 A Song - "There's a use lock"

END OF THE PLAY.
 A COMIC SONG, - - - MR. LEWIS.

To conclude with the New and laughable Farce, performed last season at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, with unbounded applause, called
High-ways & Bye-ways.

Charles Stapleton, Mr. DAVENPORT.
 Nathaniel Shubble, Mr. LEWIS, James, Mr. RENAUD.
 Robert, Mr. WILLIAMS, John, Mr. RAYMOND.
 Thomas, Mr. BLANDFORD.

Miss Susan Flint. Mrs. DAVENPORT.
 Miss MELLON, Miss Primly, Mrs. GUNNING.
 Jenny, Miss PHILLIMORE.

Nights of performing, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
 Boxes, 2s. Stalls, 1s. Gallery, 1s.

For the benefit of Mr. Davenport's apartment, Mr. Davenport's High Street, and at Mr. Davenport's Library, High Street.

RAWLINS, PRINTER, ANDOVER.

Poster for Andover Theatre, 24th October 1831
 (Courtesy of Derek Tempero)

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Editor's note:

Paul Ranger's *The Georgian Playhouses of Hampshire 1730 - 1830* was published by H.C.C. in 1996 as Hampshire Paper No. 10. It is available at Andover Museum. Mr. Ranger would be glad to know of any further information about Andover's Theatre.

THE LOYAL ANDOVER VOLUNTEERS PART 3 1806 - 1813

By Keith Oliver.

Nelson's victory at Trafalgar had removed the immediate threat of a French invasion, but as 1806 opened Napoleon's armies were victorious on the continent, and the fear that he might again gather his soldiers on the channel coast to invade England was very real indeed. Britain's need and support for its Volunteers was as strong as ever.

Like many towns in Britain, Andover would still have presented a military air. The cartoonist, George Cruikshank, wrote of that year: "Every town was in fact a sort of garrison, in one place you might hear the 'tattoo' of some youth learning the drum, at another place some march or national air being practised upon the fife and every morning at five o'clock the bugle horn was sounded through the streets to call the Volunteers to a two hour drill from six to eight, and the same again in the evening".¹

The surviving payrolls for the period show the Andover Volunteers were undertaking fortnightly drills at this time for which each man received one shilling per drill.²

1806 was particularly significant for the Andover Volunteers in that it was in this year that the Corps was presented with its colours. Each year the Volunteers of Hampshire celebrated the King's birthday on 4 June, and it was that occasion which was chosen to carry out this important ceremony. The *Hampshire Chronicle* in a brief account relates that the "Colours were presented to the Andover Volunteers by Mrs Etwall with an appropriate address. The Colours were afterwards consecrated by the Rev Mr Peddlar. They are the gift of the Hon Miss Wallop. After firing three excellent volleys the Volunteers were entertained in an hospitable manner by Major Etwall".³ The presentation of the Colours was intended to be "a small but sincere token of my personal obligations" by the Hon Miss Wallop to the inhabitants of Andover, but was to spark a split between the Andover and Whitchurch Corps.⁴

Although the Corps of Andover, Wherwell and Whitchurch had agreed to serve together in 1804, they had reserved to themselves their "separate funds and distinct internal Regulations and appointments". Thus when the offer of the Colours was made to the Andover Corps, Major Etwall saw no reason to extend

the offer to the other two Corps, although Battalion officers from each were invited to attend the ceremony. The men of Whitchurch saw this as a slight upon themselves and gave notice to the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Bolton, of their intention to act independently of the Andover and Wherwell Corps, and despite Lord Bolton's hopes of a reconciliation between the parties, the Whitchurch Corps withdrew from the Battalion, never to return.⁵

The final shot in this unhappy event came at the end of the year when Sergeant Major Dibley, formerly of the Whitchurch Corps, was dismissed from his position in the Battalion by Major Etwall. Major Etwall explained to the Lord Lieutenant that by "residing seven miles from the Commanding Officer and one Corps of the Battalion, ten miles from the other Corps", he considered that Sergeant Major Dibley could "never effectively perform the duties required of him for the service of the Battalion".⁶

Despite this internal strife the Andover Battalion, like its counterpart at Stockbridge, was reported as being of a state of readiness where they "may on emergency be brought to act with troops of the line". The Romsey and Winchester Corps in comparison were both considered fit to join the line, while of Basingstoke the report could only conclude that they were "advancing in discipline".⁷

The last record of the Andover Volunteers in the *Hampshire Chronicle* was in July 1807 when the Andover and Wherwell Corps met at Upper Clatford to drill, and "went through their manoeuvres in a very correct style".⁸ By this time the threat of invasion had receded to such an extent that Government felt it safe to wind down the Volunteers by reducing their allowances. Many Corps, faced with the increased costs placed upon them, disbanded at this time and the force was reduced by 13,000 nationally. The victory at Trafalgar had only given Britain a breathing space however, and by 1808 Napoleon was in a position to challenge Britain again.

The incoming Portland Government quickly sought to re-establish the allowances and set about strengthening the Volunteers. Concern was still expressed about their ability however, and to address this it was proposed to establish a new force to be known as the Local Militia. The aim was to provide a force nationally of over 300,000 men. Hampshire responded by establishing two regiments, both in the south of the County, consisting of 800 rank and file. Men serving in the Volunteers were encouraged to join in return for a two guinea

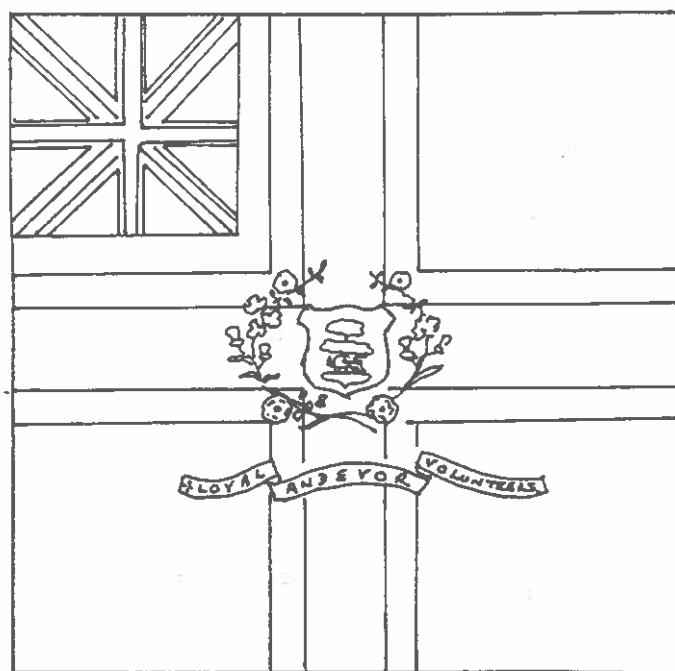
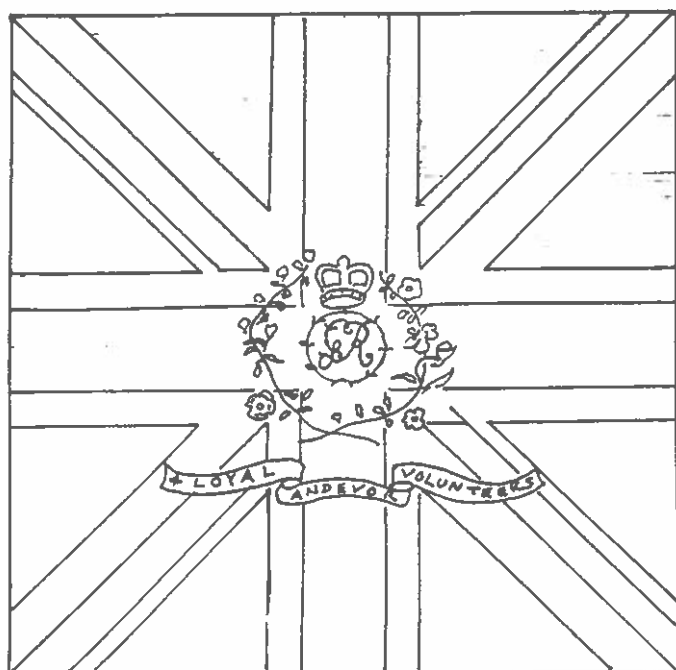


Captain Ralph Etwall
by R. Cosway (Nat. Army Museum)

bounty, and were intended to serve for four years undertaking 28 days training per year. Where insufficient volunteers came forward numbers were to be made up by ballot. The Romsey Volunteers amongst others agreed to transfer and the Corps was disbanded. As an added incentive and to save costs the Government indicated that those Volunteer Corps remaining would in future be responsible for providing their own uniforms, while those with less than 60 officers and men would be automatically dissolved. The Andover Corps to its credit agreed to continue despite the extra personal expense.⁹ Little is otherwise recorded of the Andover Volunteers at this time, but the war continued to impact the town. In 1807 Russian officers were sent on parole to Andover,¹⁰ while French prisoners of war were also billeted in the town. Indeed, the parish records for 1811 record the marriage of Jean Martin Louis Coutier to a Miss Elizabeth Lock,¹¹ and in November of that year several prisoners helped put out a fire in the town.¹²

Throughout the war Volunteers could apply for "permanent duty", what we would today term "summer camp", by which they would undertake 14 days duty usually in a neighbouring town. The Andover Volunteers chose not to avail themselves of this, presumably as in the other Corps such service would be "difficult and injurious" to their various trades.¹³ In May 1808 however, the town played host to both the Avon and Bourne Volunteers and the Blackland Volunteers, followed shortly after by the Calne Volunteers, all from Wiltshire.¹⁴ In defence of the Andover Corps, they had agreed to 10 extra days training with pay in 1805, although this had to be fitted in before the hay harvest and sheep shearing began.¹⁵

As the tide of war turned against France the need for the Volunteers reduced, although the Andover Corps still went through its regular fortnightly exercises. With the risk of invasion all but over, the need for the Volunteers declined, and in 1812 only Andover, Alton and Winchester of the remaining



*Flags of the Loyal Andover Volunteers.
The King's Colour (above) and the Regimental Colour (below)*

Corps in the County still returned any "effectives". Basingstoke and Stockbridge were still nominally active, but no men had achieved the minimum qualifying number of days' drill that year.¹⁶

In April 1812 the Andover Volunteers submitted their resignation for in that month the Lord Lieutenant wrote to the Government advising that Major Etwall had written to him "to state that from the diminished number of men in the two Andover Companies, and from the difficulty of replacing the men who quit, he had called a meeting of officers and it was their general wish and opinion that those two companies should licit leave to resign". However, the third, Wherwell Company, decided to continue their service. The two Andover Companies had now fallen to just 86 men, compared to 166 in 1805.¹⁷

The situation was repeated across the country and nationally just 68,643 officers and men remained in the Volunteers compared to over 340,000 in 1804, and by 1813 Hampshire was one of only a handful of counties still with Volunteer Corps, although Wherwell too appears to have gone by then.

Thus, after almost 15 years of service the Andover Volunteers slipped quietly into history. The colours of the Corps were put into storage and were later displayed in the Sessions Court at the Guildhall. They were still there in 1935, but in poor repair.¹⁸

The remaining Volunteers did not survive much longer for early in 1813, with the French armies in retreat across the continent, the Government decided that it no longer needed to support a volunteer force. The remaining infantry corps were stood down and the Government recalled their muskets to sustain the Prussian uprising against the French.

On March 22 1813 the Earl of Malmesbury, who had succeeded Lord Bolton as Lord Lieutenant of the County, wrote to the various Commanders of the Volunteer Infantry Corps in Hampshire advising them "that as the establishment of the Local Militia precludes the necessity of continuing, under the present circumstances, the services of the greater expenses of maintaining the whole of that force, His Royal Highness the Prince Regent deems it expedient that the Corps of Volunteer Infantry under your command should be released from their military engagements". The officers were asked to pass on to the men the thanks of the country for "the loyalty and patriotism which they have so zealously and constantly manifested in the cause and service of their country,

and by which they have established a just claim to its lasting remembrance and gratitude".¹⁹



*Cocked hat for an Andover Loyal Volunteer
(courtesy of The Director, National Army Museum, London)*

By now public interest had waned to such an extent that the passing of the Volunteers did not even justify a mention in the *Hampshire Chronicle*, except for a notice inserted by the Commanding Officer of the Winchester Volunteers for the return of any outstanding arms and equipment.²⁰

Britain was not to call on its volunteers again for another 50 years, and we are nowadays more familiar with the Home Guard of the Second World War which was the successor to these men of old.

We are fortunate in having such a complete record of the service of the men of Andover, and in the surviving jacket, badges and flags. In 1982 the flags were passed into the hands of the County Museums Service. The remains of the Regimental colour are now in store at the County Museum Headquarters, there being too little to restore, and consist of the town arms superimposed on a red cross outlined in white, on a dark blue background, with the union flag in the top left corner.²¹ What remains of the King's Colour, the union flag with the initials of George III in the centre, is on display at the Andover Museum and serves as a lasting reminder of the men of Andover who answered their country's call to arms in time of war.²²

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APPENDIX. Officers of the Loyal Andover Volunteers 1794 - 1802

Captain	Ralph Etwall	
Lieutenant	Kingston Fleet	
Ensign	William Reding	
1803 - 1813		
Major Comm.	Ralph Etwall	(1804-1813)
Captains	Ralph Etwall	(1803-1804)
	Kingston Fleet	(1803-1813)
Lieutenants	William Reding	(1803-1804?)
	John Godden	(1803-1808) Resigned
	John Henry Todd	(1804-1808) Resigned
	George Godden & another	(1808-1813)
Ensigns	John Henry Todd	(1803-1804) Promoted
	John Sutton	(1803-1807) Resigned
	John Cannon Pyle	(1804-1805) Resigned
	George Godden	(1805-1808) Promoted
	Brice Wakeford	(1807-1808?)
	John Pearce	(1808-1813)
	Benjamin Painter	(1808-1813)
Adjutant	John Godden	(1804-1808) & another (1808-1813)
Surgeon	William Pitman	(1805-1813)

ANDOVER'S FIRST CINEMA

By H. W. Paris.

During the spring of 1911 two events took place in Andover which surprised the locals. The first one was that Dr. E. A. Farr moved from Chantry House in West Street to Heath House in London Street, so Chantry House was up for sale. Then rumours soon went round that it was sold and a purpose built cinema was going to be built alongside the house. The Andoverians were thrilled and through that summer the building of the cinema was watched with interest and anticipation.

The man behind the development was Charles J. Wood, an electrical engineer employed in Tonbridge, Kent. He was enthused with the idea of building and managing a purpose built cinema, which was an original idea in those early days of public cinema as most cinemas were converted halls or shops. After lengthy persuasion he got his father-in-law to put up the money to finance the venture. They considered several towns in southern England, then by chance Mr. Martin, his grandfather, spoke to a friend of his named Mr. Allison of Millway Road, Andover, whose wife had been a Miss Ponting. They considered that Andover had a prosperous future and so they acquired Chantry House with its garden and tennis court, where the cinema was to be built, while the Wood family resided in the house.

The Andover Entertainments Co. was floated and leased the cinema, which was to be named The Electric Picture Hall. The directors included Mr. C. J. Wood, managing director, Mr. Martin, Mr. Allison and a local gentleman, Mr. Thomas Webb. The launching of this company gave Mr. Wood a considerable sense of achievement. Being an electrical engineer, he probably welcomed the challenge of coming to Andover which had no electricity supply. It meant that he had to generate his own independent supply at the rear of the cinema.

The total capacity of the cinema was 750, including 60 in the balcony. The balcony was divided by the projection room which had one projector and a lantern for showing slides. The lantern was used during the interval when the films were being changed. One of the slides that caused some amusement was a picture of a woman wearing a huge hat, and the caption read "Ladies will greatly oblige by removing their hats". I never saw a lady ever remove her hat! There was an emergency exit half way down the hall, on the right hand side, that was secured by an iron bar which, when pushed, threw the doors wide open. At

the end of each performance an attendant went and operated a device which locked the doors in position. When the National Anthem was finished, he released the device and threw the doors open to release the patrons.

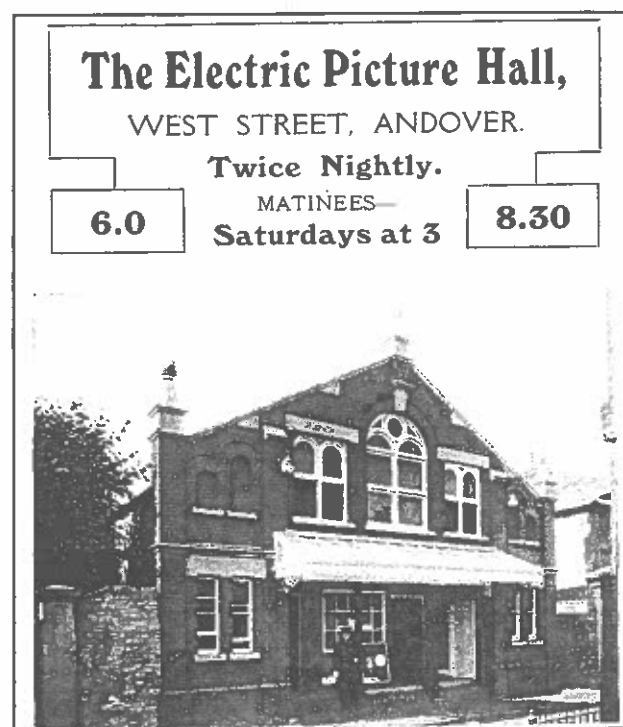
Mr. Wood had to recruit the personnel to run the cinema: a commissionaire; a projectionist; a pianist, who was essential for the enjoyment of silent films; a powerhouse engineer; a ticket seller and a boy to sell chocolates. The first projectionist was a man named Richardson, who left to join the Metropolitan Police. Miss Mabel Roe was the first pianist, and another who worked there was Mr. Sid Portsmouth who later founded the newsagents business in the Broadway.

At the end of 1911 The Electric Picture Hall opened and advertised itself soon afterwards as 'One of the most comfortable and well appointed Cinema Halls in the provinces'. When the *Andover Advertiser* reported the Christmas activities in the town that year they noted:

Holiday seekers did not need to go away from Andover for their pleasure. On Boxing Day the Picture Palace showed some good films to crowded houses. In fact all the week the pictures have been of the best and good houses have been the result

Shows were screened at 6.00pm and 8.30pm from Monday to Saturday, with an entire change of programme on Mondays and Thursdays. On Whit Monday four performances were given. The entrance charges were 3d, 4d, 6d and one shilling for adults, and 2d, 3d and 6d for children at the matinées and the first evening show.

The advantage of advertising soon became apparent to Mr. Wood. Postcards were sold and a number of bill boards were sited round the town; their rent was free weekly passes to the Picture Hall. Advertisements appeared in the *Andover Advertiser* from March 1912 and when a special film was being shown, Joe Smith ('Happy Joe') from New Street became a sandwich board man and paraded round the town. He was a Boer War veteran who had suffered severe head wounds; he had a remarkable repertoire of scripture quotations which he would proclaim as he paraded the streets. He used to sit in the front row of the cinema during the Saturday matinées (3.00pm) to keep the children in order. The special films screened in 1913 included 'Quo Vadis' and 'Cleopatra'.



With 1914 came the Great War with all its restrictions. In November Kitchener's Army was moved from Salisbury Plain into billets in the towns and villages surrounding the Plain. When the Liverpool Brigade was billeted in Andover, 14 soldiers were allocated to Chantry House and they stayed there for six weeks over Christmas. All soldiers in uniform were admitted to the Picture Hall for 2d, 4d or 6d. They were to be seen in the queues waiting for admission, and once inside they were transported into a different world - the world of romance - by stars like Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks. A wartime programme card shows that 'The Vicar of Wakefield' with Sir John Hare was being shown for three days in March, while at the end of the week there was a more typically varied programme starting with 'Pearl of the Army', episode 10. All the programmes included a News Gazette which were in great demand as they showed pictorial news of the war.

In 1915 came a crisis. Mr. Wood left his family, surrendering his directorship to Mrs. Wood who was faced with a daunting prospect, having no business experience of any kind and a family of six to manage. However, she ran

the Picture Hall for the next nine years with strong support from a loyal staff and directors like Grandpa Martin and Mr. Webb, who was always close at hand. Another staunch friend was Jack Collins, landlord of the Rose and Chequers nearby; he would step into the breach when the lady was away or indisposed.

Once the initial period of novelty was over, films which attracted regular patrons were shown such as 'A Tale of Two Cities' and 'Oliver Twist', while the News Gazette covered the four previous days. Local events such as Penton Races and the Andover Boy Scouts rally were very popular, and so was a demonstration of The Turkey Trot with the younger generation. From this period the quality of the films improved. One interesting film was of a magnificent flight from Dover to Cologne, crossing five frontiers.

Cinema audiences saw a new life, far from the one they knew. They were introduced to a new type of comedy, so comedians like Charlie Chaplin, Ben Turpin and the Keystone Cops would raise the roof. Everyone joined in the roars of laughter.

It was amazing how the boys reacted to the films. They did not have the money to buy souvenirs of film stars but they used simple things and a vivid imagination. One of the serials, 'The Shielding Shadow', featured a villain whose face was concealed by a napkin; it was noticeable that during the school playtime Silent Menaces sprang up all over the place. When 'Quo Vadis' was being shown, the boys improvised chariots out of prams and ran chariot races round the meadow behind Dance's Farm.

By 1924 Mrs. Wood decided to retire. The old Andover Entertainments Co. was voluntarily liquidated and Mr. Webb, with his son-in-law Mr. Hugh Overmass, promoted a new company called The Andover Theatre Co. The Electric Picture Hall soon became The New Theatre in honour of Andover's previous theatre. The stage was enlarged and cinema entertainment then alternated with stage shows, including a regular pantomime at Christmas. (During the intervals the players would drop into The Vic (The Victoria Arms) nearby, or Tony Vitali's café.) In 1924 'Babes in the Wood' was put on with a cast of 11 and two troops of dancers, and two years later it was an elaborate version of 'Aladdin'. Even a circus with 20 acts was staged that year. The new stage could accommodate a chorus of 12 girls. How the young men loved it!

Occasionally a film that had had a great deal of publicity came to

Andover. Naturally the local press used to bring it to the attention of the New Theatre patrons. Such was the film 'The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse' which was advertised as having special music and effects. I went to see this film and was a witness of a disgraceful episode. It was almost a full house and, as advertised, the doors were closed for the reading of a prologue. The music ceased and the curtains were drawn back to reveal a solitary figure holding a scroll and wearing a costume similar to Old Father Time. It turned out to be Mr. Webb wearing a long beard. It was unfortunate that a gimmick was going round the town that anyone sporting a beard was greeted by a cry of "Beaver". In the audience on this particular evening there was a group of youths from South Street and when Mr. Webb commenced to read the scroll, amid a deathly silence, a loud voice from this group broke the silence with calls of "Beaver". There were cries of "Shame", the lights went on and the curtains closed. The commissioner and his assistant came running down the gangway and requested the group to leave. They protested and an ugly situation was developing until the police were mentioned. They then left but continued to make a disturbance outside until P.C. Long stepped out of White Bear Yard swinging his rolled up waterproof cape. Having had previous experience of P.C. Long's cape used as a weapon, they decided to disperse. Meanwhile the film went along as normal until the war sequences showed two soldiers on a rooftop covering the approach to a village. They fired their rifles and simultaneously two blank shots were fired on the stage behind the screen. The effect was startling. For the remainder of the film the audience sat anticipating further bangs. They were not disappointed and left the cinema having had a foretaste of things to come.

The Palace cinema at the end of Junction Road was opened by the mayor in 1926 so after that the *Andover Advertiser* carried advertisements for both cinemas. Their patrons were soon thrilled to hear of the films called the talkies. Short films were being shown in Southampton which were talkie in so far as there was dialogue between the actors, but what they were looking for was a full length film. Suddenly in September 1929 the New Theatre programme in the *Andover Advertiser* contained the startling announcement that the talkies were coming to Andover! It was going to show 'The Broadway Melody'. But the following week the Palace announced that they would be opening their talkie programme with Al Jolson in 'The Singing Fool' a week earlier. By the end of the month patrons had the choice of the 'The Broadway Melody' at the New Theatre and 'Show Boat' at the Palace. The cinemas were packed and long queues formed outside.

Over the years the cinema became the entertainment of the masses. It portrayed life in another world. For the young men it brought adventure, while the westerns inspired the boys to play Cowboys and Indians. To the girls and young women it brought visions of beautiful ladies whom they tried to emulate with their bobbed and shingled hair. And as songs were made for singing in those days, the errand boys were soon whistling songs from The Broadway Melody like 'You were meant for me' as they chased around the town on their bicycles.



The Rex Cinema in the 1950's

In 1937 The Savoy Cinema was built on the site of Heath House, where Dr. Farr had lived after moving from Chantry House, so the town then had three cinemas. In October 1940 the name of the New Theatre was changed to The Rex but there was no change in the management. All the cinemas played to good houses during and after the war, but the coming of television brought changes in the 1950s. At the end of May 1959 The Rex advertised their programme in the *Andover Advertiser* for the last time. Afterwards the building was put to other uses, finally becoming a furniture store before the town centre was redeveloped.



West Street, looking towards the High Street, shortly before demolition. The former cinema is on the right.

One Saturday morning in 1967 I was in the High Street, opposite the Rose and Chequer, when I noticed that the contractors were demolishing West Street. I walked along it until I came to Roy's furniture shop which they had started to knock down. My mind took me back to Christmas 1911 when, as a Christmas treat, my sister and I were given 6d to go to the Boxing Day matinée at the new cinema - 5d admission and a penny for sweets. I was four years old at the time and found it overwhelming. I remember the first film. It seemed to be raining all the time, and when a carriage and horses went across the screen the wheels went the wrong way round. This was followed by what the other children called a comic; it involved a lot of policemen and a motor car. I had never heard such laughter. Ours was a quiet household as my father had a terminal illness. Over the years many people had laughed, cried and become tense and excited in that cinema, but now it had ended.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF LOCAL INTEREST

June Mary Harris. *Yes M' Lady. At Home with the Ansons, 1888-1900.* (Pentland Press, Durham. 1997) ISBN 1 85821 513 7. £7.50.

A short book of family reminiscences by June Harris who earlier helped her mother to write *Remembrance* about Andover in World War I. This time she has written about the years when her grandmother worked as lady's maid to the Countess of Lichfield. It was clearly a happy period for 'Philly' who kept many photographs of the family she had served. It came to an end in 1900 when she married Ralph Cable, the carpenter and wheelwright whose workshop was in London Street. The book is well printed and illustrated.

Sarah Hobley. *The History of Hurstbourne Tarrant School.* (1998) £6.

This well illustrated history has been written to mark the 150th anniversary of the school's foundation in 1848. It will give particular pleasure to parents and pupils, past and present, as well as contributing to the history of education in the Andover area. Copies are obtainable from the School, Church Street, Hurstbourne Tarrant.

Paul Lawrence. *Thruxton. The first 30 years. Motor racing at one of Britain's fastest circuits, 1968-1997.* (TFM Publishing, 1998) ISBN 0 9530052 2 4. £12.

This knowledgeable and comprehensive review of motor racing at Thruxton over the last 30 years is written for racing car enthusiasts. However, chapter 2 summarises the development of the site from 1940, when the Air Ministry requisitioned some of the fields of Thruxton Manor to make another airfield. This became operational by the following year and was used initially by the RAF and later by American squadrons. After the war it was leased to the Wiltshire School of Flying. Motor bike racing started in 1950 and two years later the first car meeting was held.

Eleanor M. Lockyer. *English Airfield. Chilbolton Memories, 1941-1945.* (1997) ISBN 0 9509333 2 5. £15.99.

Following her earlier *Memories of Chilbolton Airfield, 1940-1941*, Eleanor Lockyer has now put together the many photographs and memories that she has collected of the former airfield during the remaining years of World War II. At first it continued as an RAF base but in 1943 it was rebuilt as a three runway airfield and then transferred to the USAAF, so there are plenty of American as well as English contributions. The two well produced volumes are a remarkable record of those wartime years in Chilbolton.

Derek J. Tempero. *They simply stole to live ... Cases before the Andover Courts, 1829-1851*. (Andover Advertiser, 1997) £6.

Local historians will be indebted to Derek Tempero for this book on two counts: firstly, for saving from destruction the clerk of the court's manuscript volume on which it is based, and secondly, for then writing these summaries of many of the cases recorded. The entries appear in chronological order with the names of the magistrates hearing the case, the names and alleged offences of the people being charged, and the verdict of the court. There is also a full index of names. Some licensing offences were tried, but many of the cases reflect the stark poverty endured by so many at that time. Poaching was genuinely for the family pot then, while sometimes only a few turnip tops or watercress had been stolen, or a few sticks taken for firewood.

D.K.C.

Diana K. Coldicott. *Monxton. A Hampshire Village History*. (1998)
ISBN 0 9506798 1 X. £10.

The author of *Hampshire Nunneries* has written a comprehensive history of Monxton from prehistoric times to the present day. The voluminous archives about the village preserved at King's College, Cambridge, make possible a more detailed account than is usually available, particularly concerning the medieval period, and this information is supplemented by extensive research into more modern sources. Monxton is indeed fortunate in possessing so many records of its past, and in its historian.

R.A.J.

CONTRIBUTORS

Richard Arnold Jones is a founder member of the Society who now serves on the editorial committee. His *Members of Parliament for Andover, 1295-1885* was published by the Society in 1996. He is a retired headmaster, and as an historian and a Roman Catholic he is interested in recusant history.

Paul Ranger writes on Georgian theatres and their managers as well as practical books on acting and directing. His most recent work is *The Georgian Playhouses of Hampshire 1730-1830* published by Hampshire County Council. He used to be Head of Drama and Theatre at King Alfred's College, Winchester, and now works part time for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He is also an adjudicator at speech and drama festivals.

Keith Oliver is a member of the Society who works for the Test Valley Borough Council in their planning department. He is a member of the British Militia and Volunteers Study Group, which is part of the Napoleonic Association. He hopes to extend his research into the Volunteers to cover the rest of Hampshire.

Harry W. Paris is now a nonagenarian and the doyen of the Society. His work on the history of New Street, where he grew up, has ensured that its recent past is probably better known than that of any other road in Andover. In 1993 he was awarded the George Brickell Memorial Prize for his contribution to local history.

Publications sold by the Andover History and Archaeology Society
These can be ordered from the Society c/o Andover Public Library, Chantry Way, Andover SP10 1LT. Cheques should be made payable to the Society and postage added.

Lookback at Andover. Copies available for 1990, 1993 at £1.50 and for 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 at £2.

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