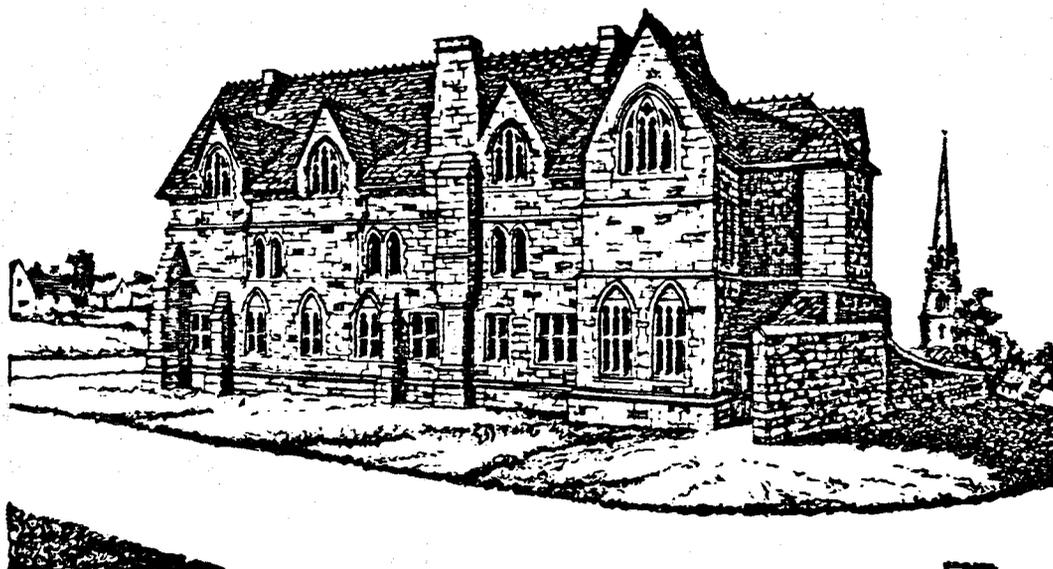


CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



Vol. 2, No. 6.

November, 1963

Issued four times yearly, September, November, January, March

Price to non-members, one shilling and sixpence

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The Society was founded in 1958 to encourage interest in the history of the town and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The magazine Cake & Cockhorse is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. A booklet Old Banbury, a short popular history, by E.R.C. Brinkworth, M.A. price 3/6, has been published and a Christmas card is a popular annual production.

The Society also publishes an annual records volume. Banbury Marriage Register has been published in three parts, a volume on Oxfordshire Clockmakers 1400-1850 has been produced and South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts 1560-1662 is planned for 1964.

Meetings are held during the winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. at the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions are arranged and archaeological excavations are undertaken from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is 25/-, including the annual records volume, or 10/- if this is excluded. Junior Membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.



The magazine of the Banbury Historical Society.
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That education is an aspect of historical study much neglected is commonly acknowledged. Few serious works of social history delve much below the crust of acts of parliament, ministry statistics and reports of royal commissions into the varied contents of the educational pie of a particular period. Even local historians are not guiltless of sins of this sort. The educational history of many a community is recorded as little more than a pedantically legalistic list of pious benefactions appended with a list of inevitably long-serving headmasters or a brief superlative-ridden excursion into educational architecture. But a school is a social organism; it has pupils, teachers, parents and patrons, who have financial interests, religious beliefs, political convictions and cultural aspirations. The local historian should see educational history in these terms, for he is concerned for the most part with ordinary men, men who had an ordinary education at places other than Eton, Oxford and the Inns of Court. To try to explain men's actions without reference to their schooling would seem equivalent to trying to explain the workings of a plant while ignoring the functions of its roots.

Our ignorance of the sort of education enjoyed, or more probably suffered, by the majority of our ancestors is abysmal. Yet no sooner are the first stones of educational history upturned than facts of great significance begin to emerge. Recent study of the Banbury Blue Coat School in the early 19th century has revealed that several of the town's leading Chartists were educated there. The failure of John Hewett's school at Bloxham for the sons of the poorer clergy reveals as much about the position of these unfortunates as it does about its founder's lack of business competence. The considerable social consequences of the lack of a resident school-master in most north Oxfordshire villages since the re-organisation of secondary education are the object of interesting speculation in Country Planning.

Our two main articles in this issue illustrate educational history in North Oxfordshire at a time of rapidly increasing activity. Mr. Gibson's study of the original Bloxham School displays the mixture of ideals, sublime and ridiculous, which inspired the founders of the great Victorian public schools. It also shows that their founders needed considerable business acumen as well as piety and benevolence.

Many airy generalisations have been made about the Education Act of 1870 and the opportunities it afforded for the founders of the popular press. Miss Samuels' article gives some indication of the effects of the act among the grass roots of rural society. It is clear that a complete transformation of opinion with regard to education took place in the last three decades of the 19th century. In 1870 Cropredy School was feared, resented and its demands could never override those of the traditional country holidays and festivals. By 1900, the school was respected and even an object of pride, a vital part of the social machinery of the village.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Forthcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 27th. The film, "Twenty-four Square Miles", introduced by Mr. L. W. Wood of the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council. This film was made to illustrate the book, Country Planning reviewed on page 99. Like the book, it already has the air of an historic document, although not yet twenty years old, and should prove of great interest to all members of the Society.

Tuesday, January 28th. Dr. R. P. Beckinsale: "The Plush Industry of North Oxfordshire".

Both of these meetings will be held in the upstairs reception room of Banbury Conservative Club, High Street, (next to Martins Bank), at 7.30 p.m. It is not, of course, necessary to belong to the Club to attend, and no political connections are implied.

Christmas Card

As may be seen from the print facing this page, this year's card, of North Bar and St. Mary's Church in 1880, is again a particularly attractive one. The cost to members is 9/- per dozen. Last year's card, of the Town Hall and Cow Fair in 1863, is available at the same price, and that of Banbury Cross in 1860 at 6/- per dozen. Both prices include envelopes. Single colour cards of Cornhill, 1859, Broughton Castle and The Old Gaol are 4/- per dozen; envelopes for this size are not available. Orders should be sent as soon as possible to the Secretary at Humber House, Bloxham.

September Meeting

The first autumn meeting of the Society was held on 24th September at the Conservative Club. Members and guests were treated to a fascinating lecture by the Revd. E. P. Baker on the Church and Clergy of Oxfordshire in the 18th century. Using diocesan records, particularly returns to articles of inquiry addressed to the incumbents, Mr. Baker brought his subject vividly to life and demonstrated afresh the wealth of material that these records provide for several aspects of history, beside the more obviously ecclesiastical.

The replies varied, naturally, with almost every incumbent, from the succinct, indeed often monosyllabic, to the near-essay, not unmixed with occasional counter-queries which the vicar of Kidlington was wont to inflict upon his diocesan. But then, the vicar was none other than James Edgcombe, rector of Exeter College.

Many churches were allowed to fall into a sad state of disrepair. On the other hand there were many conscientious men, striving hard to follow their calling; and in many parishes, a great deal was done to preserve the fabric.

Mr. Baker illustrated his lecture with well-chosen quotations, adding a commentary at once illuminating and delightful. At Banbury in 1738, among the "six or seven hundred families", were "a great number of substantial people". Nine or ten families were "papists, all exceeding poor under the influence of Mr. Holman (of Warkworth) a very great contiguous papist". About fifty families were "presbyterians or mixed", one was Independent, and one was Baptist. Among the fifty "mixed" were ten families of Quakers. There was a Charity School for twenty boys and fifteen girls, who were taught "to read, write and account, to knit, spin and sew". This was the "blue-coat" school, established in the upper story of the building in the Market Place which from 1649 to 1852 served as the local gaol. The return was signed by John Wardle, who was vicar of Banbury from 1739 to 1758.

The old custom of holding a Christmas breakfast at the expense of the incumbent was here and there beginning to be frowned upon. The verbose and formidable Mr. Edgcombe informed the bishop that his people at Kidlington were wont to get up at midnight and "run about the parish in a tumultuous manner till four or five, then to the vicarage house, take their breakfast not in the most decent manner, and by the time divine service begins more than half the parish are unfit to attend the public worship of Almighty God... If your Lordship could think of any method of altering this to a better purpose, it will be a thing of great benefit to the parish". A Kidlington terrier of c. 1680 shows that the meal was ample, though perhaps stodgy; beef and bread washed down with beer. At Kencott it was still ample but a little more delicate; "a loin and rib, two rumps and two udders of beef, two legs of mutton, with bread and convenient garden-stuffs, four plum puddings and a barrel of ale"; but of course Kencott was a much smaller place, "twenty-five houses, no families of note, no papists, no nonconformists, no Quakers".

E. R. C. B.

CROPREDY AND BOURTON NATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE 19th CENTURY

The objects of this article are to describe the changing attitude towards education in the last three decades of the 19th century, to illustrate something of the contribution which the school made towards the village it served and to set down some of the day-to-day happenings which throw light on the normal life of the village in the latter half of the century.

The site for the school beside the parish boundary about midway between Great Bourton and Cropredy was acquired under a grant - section six of the School Sites Act 1841. A building was made and the Trust Deed is dated 1855. There was originally one long room (measurements 60 ft. x 14 ft. 10 in.) divided by a partition and curtain, in which as many as 130 children were taught. Later, in 1867 an Infants' Room, 21 ft. 3 in. x 14 ft., catering for 75 children, was added. The building is of brick with a tiled roof. The high windows had diamond panes, there were open fires, and small lobbies catered for coats, caps and bonnets.

The school house adjoining had two living rooms, a scullery, small hall and three bedrooms. Rent for this was £12, "heavy but probably not unfair". At this time the master received a salary of about £40 p.a.

As a result of the Schools Inquiry Commission, the following entry was made in the Log Book in 1867:- (Char. Comm. Rep. XII 184. A.D. 1824) as corrected:
Foundation and Endowment - by Walter Calcott who by indenture of 14 August----- (probably 1575) granted an annuity of £13 charged on land to Trustees for a school-master of the Grammar School then newly erected at Williamscote.
John Ditchfield - by will of 24th March 1708, gave rent charge of 40 shillings yearly to instruct two poor inhabitants of Williamscote.
School Property - Income of Lands £39, £35 net, all applied to school.

Cropredy School still benefits from these charities. On October 18th 1879, the Williamscote School bell was hung beside the school house. This bell, cast at Chacombe in 1588, still has a beautiful tone and is rung daily by the boys.

There is a continuous record in the Log Books of the working of the school from 1863 until the present day, and all quotations in the rest of this article are taken from these books.

When the school at Cropredy was opened, some of the pupils of the Grammar School at Williamscote which had closed at the same time were transferred. Yet despite the existence of this earlier school and the awareness of education which it must have brought, it is all too obvious that attendance at school was regarded as secondary to any other activity. Although the school had to work 44 weeks of 26½ hours, there are frequent day or half day closures, or in some cases an early dismissal for such causes as "to allow carpenters to erect platform for Bourton Band Concert", or "May 1st: General Holiday for children to go round with the Garland. Collected £3. 9.0d. for a tea." On February 14th poor attendance was regularly recorded on account of "Valentining". A day's holiday was always given for Banbury Michaelmas Fair, followed by low attendance the next day. Applications for leave were made on 20th January 1876 for Banbury Horse Fair. Similarly leave was given at the time of a visiting circus or show. Cropredy Wake Feast on October 10th, and Bourton Wake Feast on November 18th, were celebrated with a holiday, and sometimes a tea. At the time of the consecration of Bourton Church a week's holiday was given and a luncheon took place in the school for the guests on the day of the event - November 18th 1863.

Club feasts, Cooperative teas, village teas, village concerts, Band of Hope and Primrose League activities, choir outings, choral festivals, special services, clothing club payments, hunt meetings, and sales all caused very low attendance if a full holiday was not given. Weddings and funerals were frequently attended by children and one entry speaks of the vicar reprimanding the children on their behaviour at a funeral. Weddings usually took place at 9.00 a.m. and consequently the children were late for morning school.

Holidays were arranged to suit the timing of the harvest and haymaking, but all of the following are entered to account for low attendance.

1879 Sept. 1st First corn cut today. (August had been wet.)

- 1879 Sept. 5th Harvest operations becoming general.
 Sept. 11th Dismissed school for Harvest Holiday (5 weeks).
 1880 Nov. 19th Acorn picking (for pig food).
 1881 Oct. 17th A great storm on Friday last. Several children away gathering wood and leaves.

There are frequent references in all the Log Books of the period to haymaking, potato picking, fruit picking, work on allotments, blackberrying and leasing (gleaning) to account for low attendance.

Even when children were free to come to school, the weather frequently made it difficult or even impossible for them to do so.

- 1877 Jan. 3rd The road this afternoon flooded even over the footpath. Placed the forms for the children to walk over from the corner to the school gate.
 1880 Oct. 5th Heavy - very heavy rain throughout the night and day caused highest flood I have seen at Cropredy. Communication with Bourton cut off. School premises isolated. No school today.
 1881 Jan. 13th Weather very cold. Snow fell.
 Jan. 14th Colder than yesterday. Children crying with cold.
 Jan. 18th Colder. East wind. Ink froze on pens.
 Jan. 19th Snowed up. School closed for rest of week.
 Jan. 24th Roads still very difficult to traverse. Many unable to get to school. Sent after absentees - useless in some cases.

At other times, the weather gave pleasure and variety to life, for children were allowed a longer lunch time in order to "skate on the canal", "slide on the ice" or "enjoy the snow" and in the summer when classrooms became oppressive, classes were taught "under the trees".

The Master's income depended on the attendance and the success of his pupils. Absence fines and the penny, twopenny or threepenny school payments brought an additional income to the grant which was calculated according to the success of his pupils in the annual examination and the actual attendance they had made. Early records frequently speak of the master visiting parents. This must have been both arduous and disappointing. One mother argued, "I don't hold with all this learning".

Later in 1876, Robert Manning newly appointed as Headmaster tried a new approach. The following note was sent to parents:

"You are requested to state the reason of the absence during the past week of _____ and to take notice that regular attendance is necessary both in order to fulfil the government requirements and to secure satisfactory progress for the pupil."

He received "several" satisfactory answers. Then the appointment of an attendance officer seems to have caused some opposition and entries speak of the futility of sending lists of absentees. But later again, there seem to be no more than six families whose names are repeatedly mentioned for keeping children away. Of these, two, who had been classified for school pence purposes as labourers paying one penny, were reclassified as farmers paying threepence a week at a meeting of the Managers. Of those receiving Parish payment benefit, application was made for Labour Certificates because the Board of Guardians decided not to allow payment of school fees of any children who had passed the third standard (April 25th, 1880).

The main obstacle to regular attendance was illness. Fear of infection was a frequent reason given for absence and, of course, family contacts had to be kept - or even sent home. Some years were particularly tragic ones with many deaths recorded. Of these, 1877 and 1878 were the ones most affecting the school. Seven children died, two of them from the Watts family and two of the headmaster's children, one on Christmas Day. Six died as a result of Scarlet Fever and one from Gastric Fever. Brain Fever, Consumption, Mumps, Measles, Whooping Cough and Blisters (chilblains in this case) are all recorded at other times as causes of death. In later years, J.J. Bonner, the next headmaster, records the death of his baby son from a fit. But it is always apparent that both adults and children knew birth, illness and death closely



and continued the daily pattern of life with the least possible amount of disruption. Each Headmaster's wife taught in school until the day before the birth of her children and was usually back in school within a month of the birth. Often, if the master was not well himself, he would "take a look in school" to see all was well, and even if confined to bed, he wrote the log himself. It is interesting to note that in 1889 children from three to seven years of age were vaccinated and many were absent as a result.

Whereas in earlier years, reports of differences with parents often concluded unsatisfactorily, it is noticeable that in the closing years of the century there are not only fewer such entries but a better understanding is clearly being reached. By 1900, after defiance from one boy and "abominable behaviour and truancy" from another, the parents of both came to apologise and the boys were allowed back in school. The master also noted "Sensible notes were received from the two other mothers about whose boys I had to complain".

Although corporal punishment was often administered, it is evident that Head and staff were kind and thoughtful not only to individuals but to the community at large; "A sad accident occurred" - a child lost the sight of an eye. "Draughty. Children kept on caps and bonnets". "The Queen's train passed today. Boys waved caps and girls handkerchieves". April 27th, 1900, 3.45 p.m. "Children are happy" or "Working happily". "Little children came to school with their brothers and sisters and will continue until term ends". (Beginning of harvest week.)

Often the Headmaster's wife was absent from school "in consequence of the tea to be held this evening" or "to Banbury to buy requirements for choir tea". Many talks were given on good manners or cleanliness and children were congratulated on polite behaviour or pleasing appearance. In needlework lessons, articles, usually shirts, were made for the vicar's wife (once she complained that they were not finished well enough) and "for Miss Loveday who visited today".

Apart from the various teas and concerts, "a political meeting" was held on September 29th, 1900 and two weeks later the school was used as a polling station in the 'Khaki' election.

By the turn of the century fewer children were on the poor attendance list, daily attendance fluctuated less (around 130 children), respect for the school and staff was growing and it had become the focal point for village meetings and social occasions. The Headmaster wrote "Work has gone on well". "This has been a good week". "Satisfactory progress throughout the school", and almost daily the Vicar visited (as his predecessors had done) to open school, read prayers and take scripture lessons. The Diocesan Inspection took place annually as did the Government Inspection. Each of these showed more stability than in earlier years. A comparison of government reports, the first entered and the last of the century, shows this fairly. Government Report on Cropredy and Bourton National School Examined 9th February, 1865.

"The room is very narrow and cold from the thinness of the walls. It is also very much crowded with the children, of which one class consists of Infants. (The Infants' classroom was built later.) These things considerably increase the difficulties. The Reading is not very good. In many instances in the second and third standards inferior. The Arithmetic, except in the fifth standard, is good. The writing is very good. The spelling weak. H.M. Inspector will receive special instructions next year to report on whether the Infants still crowd the classroom, and a continuance of the present deficiency in the premises will entail a reduction under Article 52(a).

Average attendance was 114 children, there were 25 Infants under six years of age, and payment was made on 170 passes in examination subjects.

	£	s.	d.
Average attendance	21	8	0
On examination	22	13	0
Infants attendance	7	16	0
	51	17	0
Deductions: Article 52(d)	6	5	10
	45	11	6

July 22nd, 1865"

Government Inspectors' Report Received 17th March 1899

"The teaching of this school is distinguished by its earnestness. The children are much interested in their work and make creditable progress. The Infants are very well taught and do

their teacher credit. My Lords are glad to learn that the Managers are about to provide new offices. H. M. Inspector's remarks as to insufficient lighting of the schoolroom and the need of increased accommodation should receive careful attention. Pupil teachers taught by the Headmaster daily, early in the morning or in the evening, are completing their training and gaining recognition of scholarships to enter Training College, although many in earlier years failed to do this. Children in their care must have been very badly taught and it is not surprising reports were so poor."

What can account for these marked improvements in the working of a small village school? The beginnings of the improvement can be traced to the 1870 Education Act which clarified the position of the schools and brought education to public notice. Clearly better accommodation and improved teaching helped the position by raising the standard of education provided, and socially, the school and its staff had become securely established in the village by 1900. Perhaps most important of all, the parents themselves had usually experienced schooling by the end of the century. The idea of education was no longer a strange one nor was it considered a complete waste of time. Rather, the parents were beginning to value the school for its own sake and for the social standing it gave. Nothing, however, can overshadow the work of the school's headmasters. The achievements of Victorian head teachers, pioneers on the frontiers of literacy in rural England, were no less notable than those of their better known contemporaries on the frontiers of Empire.

Cropredy School

Eileen Samuels.

APPENDIX

Headmasters of Cropredy and Bourton National School

Mr. G. W. Buckingham	-	to 1863	Mr. Robert T. Manning	-	1875 to 1884
Mr. John Lewis	-	1863 to 1875	Mr. John James Bonner	-	1884 to 1910

A RAIL TOUR OF OXFORDSHIRE

In the light of the many changes in local rail services in the last decade and the even more drastic changes likely in the near future, a rail tour organised by the Railway Enthusiasts' Club on September 14th was of some historical significance. The tour left Rewley Road, the former L.N.W.R. station in Oxford, and proceeded to Bicester where it reversed. The train then crossed the Oxford Road junction - Yarnton loop, which has rarely been used by passenger trains, and went on to Chipping Norton by way of Kingham. After further reversals the train resumed its journey from Kingham to Honeybourne and then crossed the newly built loop from Stratford upon Avon racecourse station to the former S.M.J.R. Old Town Station. This loop was opened recently to shorten the route of ironstone trains from Banbury to South Wales, which was also the object of the new connection from the S.M.J. line to the ex G.W.R. main line which the train crossed at Fenny Compton. After passing Banbury the tour embarked on the Banbury and Cheltenham Direct Railway at King's Sutton. This line has been closed to passenger traffic since 1951 and notices have recently been given that it is to be closed completely between Adderbury and Chipping Norton, though it has been blocked by a landslip near Rollright for some years. This was therefore almost certainly the last train to venture as far as Hook Norton station where the shaky condition of the viaduct prevented further progress. It is to be hoped that the viaduct, one of the chief works of Samuelson's foundry, will be fully photographed before its inevitable demolition. After returning to Banbury the tour crossed the connection from Banbury General to Merton Street and proceeded to further little-used lines in Buckinghamshire.

ALL SAINTS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BLOXHAM, 1853 - 1857

(An abridged version of this article appeared in The Bloxhamist for November 1963, from which the two illustrations are reproduced by kind permission.)

Bloxham School is a striking landmark in the village. The story of the foundation of the present Woodard School, which celebrated its centenary in 1960, is a familiar one. The Revd. P.R. Egerton has described how, while walking from Banbury to Deddington in 1859, he was inspired by the sight of the earliest buildings, at that time derelict and for sale, to start a new school in Bloxham. He mentions that they had been erected for a school under the head-mastership of "a Mr. Hewett", which had failed financially, but gives no details of their previous history.

A considerable amount of information on the history of this previous school has been found to survive in the Bodleian Library on which this history of its short life has been based. Chief in importance are a printed "Calendar of All Saints Grammar School, Bloxham, 1856", which includes a list of boys at the school, an account of its foundation and subsequent history, and a set of exam. papers; Diocesan records, which, as the Bishop was chief trustee for the school, give a very detailed story of the legal side of Hewett's bankruptcy (including a full list of creditors); and a letter book of the Revd. Dr. W.D. Macray, a close friend of Hewett's.

Late in 1852 the Revd. John William Hewett came to Bloxham as an unpaid Curate. He was then 28 and unmarried. Born in Aylesbury, son of William and Mary Hewett, he was educated at Barnstable Grammar School, Devon, and Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he was M. A. For three years he had taught at St. Nicholas' College, Shoreham, then newly established by Canon Woodard, and in Dr. Macray's words he was "imbued with enthusiastic desire to aid in developing at his own risk the Canon's great plan for church education". He gave everyone to believe that he was a man of means, substantiating this impression by taking no stipend apart from £34 during 1853, when he officiated regularly at Milcombe. In fact, apart from a large library and some furniture, his sole resources were £2,000 inherited just at this time. Undeterred by these circumstances, which bore in them the seeds of his disaster, he proceeded with his plans, and on Thursday, 10th February, 1853, All Saints Grammar School opened in the Vicarage, with five boys. The prospectus issued later that year claimed that the school was designed "for the Liberal Education of the Sons of the Clergy, Naval, Military and Professional Men, and others"; and it was Hewett's own hope that it would be for the poorer clergy what Bradfield and Radley were for the richer - to a man financially less ingenuous the implications should have been immediately apparent! The Course of Instruction was to include Theology, the Classics and Mathematics, History, and Geography, Writing and Drawings, French and singing. Arrangements were shortly to "be made for giving such Boys as require it a more general Course of Studies."

It was hoped to extend its accommodation until 100 Commoners, 40 or more Scholars and a body of Choristers could be received - their ages at entrance to be no less than eight and no more than twelve. By 1856 this had been amended to a total of 150 boys, of whom 110 were to be Commoners, 20 Foundation Scholars and 20 Choristers. There was eventually to be a staff of twelve masters - Graduates of Oxford or Cambridge - as well as an Organist and extra teachers of Drawing and French. Only the last had been appointed at the time of the Prospectus - a Monsieur Cauville of Leamington - and a Mr. Marshall of Deddington as Singing Master (who was also prepared to give Private Lessons, if desired, in Instrumental Music, at two guineas a quarter).

The annual fees for Commoners were £40, for Scholars £20 - in which terms were included washing and medical attendance - William Wellington Hyde was the official School Surgeon. No plate or household linen was required "(save a bag for dirty clothes)". By 1856 the fees had risen to fifty guineas a year, the Scholars enjoying a remission of twenty, and Choristers of thirty-five guineas; extra subjects were German and Drilling, at four guineas each, and pianoforte lessons, at eight guineas.

For these ambitious plans immediate expansion was essential. Hewett had soon purchased from a local builder, Thomas Barrett, and Hannah his wife, a farmhouse and four acres of land which remain to this day the nucleus of the school. Their cost of £1,100 - half his entire capital. The house was suitable only for the temporary accommodation of the school, and was

sufficiently converted for this purpose by January 1854 - doubtless to the relief of the Revd. James Hodgson, the Vicar in whose home it had until then existed. The land afforded a desirable site for the erection of permanent buildings, and the laying-out of a "playground" was commenced. It was also at some stage "planted with choice shrubs at the expense of nearly £200", according to the final sale notice.

Meanwhile the first "School Gaudy" had been held, on All Saints Day, 1853. This consisted of a celebration of Holy Communion, the admission of two of the boys to Scholarships, and a morning service. Breakfast and luncheon were provided for the visitors, while in the afternoon the Choir of the Parish were invited to dinner. The sermon was preached by the Revd. C. Kegan Paul, who later was to recall "I paid a long visit to the Harmans at Bloxham. Hodgson was administering the parish with much High Church vigour, but by no means acceptably to the people, and was busying himself with a college founded by his curate, Mr. Hewett, which was to be a second Radley, but failed lugubriously. In other hands, and with all connection with the parish church severed, it is doing well enough as a secondary school. I sent my brother Willie there for a time, till I could have him with me at Eton... Hodgson was maintaining a daily service single-handed, which I undertook to keep up while he took a holiday....."

The next important event in the School's history was a meeting of Clergy and Laity of the neighbourhood, on 1st August, 1854, at which Hewett stated his plans for the Foundation of the School. This was to be vested in a body of Trustees, consisting of the Bishop of Oxford (Samuel Wilberforce), the Archdeacon of Oxford (Charles Carr Clarke), the Rural Dean (Edward Payne, Vicar of Swalcliffe), the Vicar of Bloxham and Hewett himself. He proposed to give to these Trustees the premises already purchased for the accommodation of the school, together with the furniture, about 2,000 books as the nucleus of a library, and the sum of £1,200, for the perpetual maintenance of a Grammar School. The Deed of Trust was not actually signed until 15th February, 1855, but meanwhile Hewett had commissioned the distinguished Diocesan Architect, George Edmund Street, F.S.A., to draw up a design for the school buildings. By the Spring of 1855 a temporary chapel for the use of the members of the school was opened, "a convenient building having been fitted up for that purpose". It is evident that this must have been one of the outhouses, of which there appear to have been several; another was used as a School Room. By 1857 the building of a permanent chapel had been started and this is intriguingly referred to in the notice of sale as "an unfinished portable building, the materials consisting of a quantity of bricks, with oak and deal timbers, so constructed that they may be taken down and put together again at pleasure, admirably adapted for a Granary or Store Room."

7th June, 1855, was the most memorable day of the School's short history, when the Bishop of Oxford laid the Foundation Stone of the Collegiate buildings of the Grammar School and it merits a detailed description. After the celebration of Holy Communion at the Parish Church, at which the Bishop officiated, a procession was formed to the site of the future buildings, in the following order:-

A Scholar with the Banner of the School Motto

"Justorum semita lux splendens"

The Commoners of the School

A Scholar with the Banner of the Founder's Motto

"Be just, and fear not"

The Scholars

A Scholar with the Banner of the School

Argent a cross patonce gules

The Masters; The Lord Bishop; The Clergy; The Laity.

The procession entered the site under an arch decorated with boughs, flowers and flags, occupying the position of the future gateway. Amid a large number of spectators they walked through the Cloister, the walls of which were already some feet above the ground, to the north-west corner of the building, where the Office appointed for the occasion was commenced. In a hollow below the Foundation Stone were deposited handsomely bound copies of the Holy Bible, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Services of the day; and over these was laid a brass plate with this inscription in illuminated characters: "Justorum semita lux splendens/Scholae Grammaticalis Omnium Sanctorum de Bloxham/Fundamentum posuit Samuel Episcopus Oxoniensis,

/die vij mensis Junii, MDCCCLV".

The Foundation Stone, marked with three crosses, was next lowered into place... Afterwards about 100 visitors sat down to luncheon in the temporary Dining Hall, the Bishop presiding.

On the following day, Friday, the workmen on the building were entertained to dinner at the Joiners' Arms, Bloxham, and on Saturday the aged poor of the parish received a dole of tea and sugar. The festivities of the occasion concluded with a Concert given by the boys in the Hall of their School-Room under the direction of their Singing Master.

The buildings thus commenced to Street's designs "belong to an early period of the Middle Pointed or Geometrical Decorated Style of Gothic Architecture". They were to form a quadrangle, the north side of which would face the entrance from Banbury to the village of Bloxham. This side would contain the entrance gateway, on the left of which were to be the Library and Oratory, with the Chapel above these; and on the right the Porter's Lodge, Common Room, Second Master's Apartments and Singing School, over which were two dormitories, capable of containing twenty or twenty-four boys each, with lavatories, linen rooms, etc. It was this right-hand portion of the north side that had been commenced, and which in fact was all that was ever completed of Hewett's school. The more detailed description in the sale notice tells us that it included "a Porter's Lodge, with Sitting Room and Sleeping Room; Dining Room, 33' x 15'; Masters' Rooms, and Bed Rooms adjoining; Singing Room, 27' x 17' and 14' high; 2 dormitories, 70' x 22' each, with Clothes Rooms, 22' x 9' adjoining; Washing Room, supplied with soft water, 21' x 16'; 3 Water Closets, fitted-up on the newest and best principle; and a large bedroom. The walls, of Native Stone, with Bath Stone dressings, were at ground level 3'4" in thickness".

The remaining sides of the quadrangle - like the Chapel and Library, unbuilt - were to be, on the west side, the Higher and Lower School Rooms, with a range of Dormitories above; and on the east side, the Hall, with sick wards above, having an Oratory connected with the Chapel by a screened opening high in the wall. The Assistant Masters' rooms, the Scholars' Library, the Museum, Class Rooms, and several small "studies" for the Boys of the Sixth Form would occupy the south side of the buildings; beyond which was the already existing Head Master's House. A Cloister was carried round the whole interior of the quadrangle. The kitchens, with the Housekeeper's and Servants' rooms, etc., were to be at right angles with the east side of the Hall, and here, under the walls of the Chapel, another Cloister was designed to enclose a small burial ground, where any who died while in residence at the School might be buried.

Amidst such grandiose plans, it is sad to report that the actual number of boys never appears much to have exceeded thirty. The 1856 School Calendar gives a complete list of boys to pass through the school from its foundation until April that year. At that time, of the forty-six listed, twenty had left - it is unfortunately impossible to know how many came or went in the one remaining year of the school's life. Two of the five boys who originally formed the school in February 1853 were still there - Francis Arthur Groom, Prefect and Captain of the School, and William Henry Faulkner; both were Scholars. Another, Willoughby Hannam, left at Christmas 1855, and was the only one officially listed as "Steward", the description given to "those who have creditably completed at All Saints their School Course". These three together with Vaughan Benjamin Wintle, who came to the school in April 1854, and was the Second Prefect, made up the Sixth Form at Michaelmas 1855. Wintle was evidently a "late entry", being aged at least 16 when he came. The prize lists show that he was the cleverest in the school; formerly these had been exclusively shared between the other three mentioned and another foundation boy, Henry Hill Butts, but from Christmas 1854 nearly all the first prizes for Classics, Maths, Theology and the English Essay go to Wintle - though perhaps significantly not that for Diligence and Good Conduct. He went on to Trinity, Cambridge, and became a preparatory school master. Butts, the only other to be made a Prefect, appears to have left in 1855 for Lancing, whence he proceeded to Christ's College, Cambridge. He later became a distinguished judge in the Indian Civil Service. There were three other Scholars, William Frewen Thompson, and Charles and John Vodin Walters, brothers who both became parsons. Charles Walters was a Sacrist - a School Exhibition worth £5, whose holder had charge of the Chapel furniture and books. As might be expected, many of the boys' fathers were clergy, and, not surprisingly,



THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL IN 1857 SHEWING THE PRESENT MASTERS' COMMON ROOM



THE DERELICT SCHOOL 1860

those whom it has been possible to trace through the Alumni Lists of Oxford and Cambridge mostly went into the Church themselves. Two at least, also following in father's footsteps, became doctors: Edward and William Derby Hyde, who with their brother John Knowler, attended the school for a short time in 1854. Their father was a Witney doctor, a cousin of the school surgeon. It is interesting that a great-grandson of W. W. Hyde, Robert Aplin, is now at the present All Saints' School, and has Hyde relatives still living in the village.

With the opening of the temporary School Chapel a start was made on a Choir, and of the 23 boys joining the school between April 1855 and April 1856 twelve were probationary choristers - the number Hewett had announced. As annual fees were reduced to as little as fifteen guineas it was probably not difficult to fill these places, though it cannot have helped the tottering school finances.

In 1855 also, the first full-time teaching staff were appointed: The Revd. Francis Charles Autridge, B. A., and Scholar of St. John's College, Cambridge, as mathematical master; Henry Josiah Day, late of St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, and Francis Howson, late Scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, as assistant classical masters; Monsiour H. Girondeau, a graduate of the Central School of Arts and Manufactures of Paris, to teach French and Drawing; a Mr. Daniell as Singing Master (he was also master of the "Servitors' School" of six boys, presumably children of the domestic staff); Herr Stuhlman, of Leamington, Professor of German; and Major Johnstone (late of the 13th Light Dragoons), Professor of Military Drill and Calisthenic Exercises. It is evident that this last aspect of school activities was taken seriously, as in 1857 £11 was due to Robert Keppel, Drill Sergeant, of Deddington, "for drilling pupils".

Holidays lasted six weeks, from mid-December to the end of January, and from mid-June to the end of July. Examinations were at the end of May and November. It is not possible to tell the hours worked, but the examination week may give some indication. During this at least two three-hour exams. were taken each day, and on two there were three. The subjects of the exams. give a clear impression of a curriculum, typical of mid-19th century teaching. Of the fourteen taken by the sixth form, six were in the Classics, five in Maths., two on the Scriptures and one in History to the Norman Conquest. The questions themselves seem strictly factual: "The Pentateuch : Describe the Tabernacle and its contents;" "English History: Give some particulars connected with the following places: Verulam, Mona, Camulodunum, Augusta, Godmundham"; and the embracing: "Write a brief outline of the History of England from the Roman to the Norman Conquest." Other subjects were of little importance, though there were special prizes for French and for an English Essay.

Early in 1856 occurred what may be called the episode of the Friday Fasting. This has been preserved in a printed sermon delivered by Hewett in the School Chapel on 19th April that year, and which suggests that his approach to his pupils was as naive as his approach to business. It had been Hewett's desire to encourage the boys to fast on Fridays, and, schoolboy appetites being what they are, he had evidently tried to do this by making the food as uninteresting as possible. "Doubtless you have felt the old Friday rule a burthen: it was less pleasant to sit down to your dinner on Friday than any other day; you longed after more agreeable food." He claimed that it was "good, nourishing and sufficient", but all who have experienced school meals know what that can mean! One's sympathies are with the boys in the "grumbling" he mentions, and in the eventual "complaint that was made, urged on first on my detection of a breach of school rules" - tantalizingly not specified, but presumably connected with the consumption of illegal tuck. A little light is thrown on the school by his, one suspects idealized, portrait of life there: "I suppose that this old Friday rule was almost the only subject of complaint that the most self-indulgent of you could have brought to me. I have tried to make school life as easy to you as possible. Holidays, playing-hours, bounds, light-reading - have you not in these, and suchlike things had every indulgence at all consistent with your business here; has not your work been diversified for your relief, broken into the least fatiguing periods, and simplified by the most patient explanations of those who have taught you; have I not dispensed with punishments as far as they can ever be dispensed with at a school." At any rate he had now just withdrawn the rule, and was evidently providing more palatable food - perhaps after an increase in fees. The purpose of his sermon was to try to persuade the boys to give this up and return to their former "fasting" voluntarily, and it is both this general idea and

in particular his choice of charity - its purpose as uninspiring as its length of title - that makes one wonder at his understanding of adolescent psychology: "I doubt not you have been well informed, or shrewdly guessed, the old Friday Rule we have talked so much of was one of great economy to the School...the moderate payments which are made on your behalf were fixed with due consideration to that economy...The recent change in one weekly meal will increase the cost of our living by £20 a year. Now if through reverting to your old custom you will save this sum it shall be given in your name to a Society which has a very righteous work before it - The Diocesan Society for the Increase of Church Accommodation and of the Number of Parsonage Houses within the Diocese of Oxford". The outcome of this moving appeal is, alas, unknown.

It is difficult at this distance in time to discover anything of the character of the man at the centre of all this, Hewett himself. No personal reminiscences of any kind have been traced, so there are only stray clues to follow. He was evidently a keen classicist, as were perforce the great majority of 19th century schoolmasters. Teaching was his great love; his letters to Macray after he left Bloxham show his longing to return to this profession. He continued to tutor pupils in his own home and eventually became senior Classical master at the North London College School. He was also an enthusiastic antiquary. He had written histories of Ely and Exeter Cathedrals. The library he gave to the school included many archaeological books, both general and local, including Skelton's *Oxfordshire* and Beesley's *History of Banbury*; while a manuscript copy of monumental inscriptions in the parish church of Bloxham has now returned to the custody of the Vicar. A Museum was included in the plans for the school building, and a collection of coins had been started, for which he had "fitted up an elaborately carved oak cabinet".

The crisis came with the completion of the first part of the building, for the agreement with Thomas Barrett was that it should cost £2,000, half of which was paid at its commencement and half to be due at its completion. The first payment exhausted Hewett's capital. He relied upon raising the remainder from "benefactions of Churchmen" and upon the profits of the School itself. Neither were forthcoming in anything like the necessary amount. The Building Fund raised just over £250 (including £20 from the Bishop, and £50 from a J. Barrett Esq.); it is doubtful whether the school with its relatively small numbers was profitable at all. All through the autumn of 1856 Hewett was desperately trying to raise money. He petitioned the Bishop for permission from the Trustees to mortgage the school building - and when the Diocesan Chancellor ruled that this was not legally possible, suggested a Private Act of Parliament to alter this; but all to no avail. By early 1857 he was able to withstand his creditors no longer, and was forced to file his Petition of Bankruptcy on 21st February. His total debts were found to be well over £5,000. Still he struggled to find a way of keeping the school going, even at the cost of his own departure from Bloxham. Somehow work continued through March, though with the Bailiff's men in residence, but by April 2nd the Vicar of Swalcliffe, one of the Trustees, was writing to the Bishop "Mr. Hewett is unable longer to maintain the School, and the Boys will all be gone by Saturday if help does not arrive". Help did not arrive, and thus after just four years of promising life and great ambitions came an end to All Saints Grammar School, Bloxham.

Now came a complex legal tangle, for it was Hewett, not the School that had gone bankrupt. But Hewett had given all his assets to the School Trustees; so, not unreasonably, the creditors claimed that as the great part of his debts were incurred on behalf of the School, his and the School's credit, as represented by the solid assets of land and buildings, were synonymous. This contention was in large part agreed by the Trustees in principle, but unfortunately was legally unacceptable. It was found that the library and furnishings could be claimed immediately by the creditors, as they had never been legally transferred to the Trustees; and a sale was held that May. To dispossess themselves of the buildings the Trustees found they had to go to the High Court of Chancery, and two years passed before the property could at last be transferred to the official Assignees of the Creditors, John Fortescue and Henry Stone. Even then their troubles were not over, for at the first attempt at sale, an auction in the Red Lion in Bloxham on 27th April 1859, it appears that only two cottages attached to the School were sold. It was thus that Philip Egerton was able to take his historic walk back from Banbury through Bloxham in the autumn and see the empty buildings still for sale. They were finally disposed of at an auction

at the Banbury Red Lion on 15th September, 1859.

A few details of Hewett's creditors who had supplied the school can be gleaned from the Bankruptcy Petition. Chief of these was Thomas Barrett, who had built the school and was owed the enormous amount of £1,614. Local tradesmen included two Banbury booksellers and stationers, Henry Stone (incidentally the writer's great-grandfather) and William Potts, the founder of the Banbury Guardian. In Bloxham itself there were two butchers, Edward and Samuel French; a baker, Thomas Summerton; grocers Thomas Berry and William Otter (also a chemist); and Thomas Warr and Hannah Manning, laundress, for washing. An interesting contrast with present day education is provided by the £75 due to Messrs. Hunt and Edmunds, Banbury brewers, for beer.

A school had been founded, survived for four years, and had failed, leaving behind it a distinctive piece of Victorian architecture and a mass of unpaid debts. This is what it must have seemed to the neighbourhood. Its effect on those who passed through it it is impossible to know. Few of the boys can have been there long enough to have been affected decisively; of the staff, two became parochial clergy, the third a Naval chaplain. Only Hewett himself was ruined. His life thereafter was a constant struggle, in ill-paid curacies, against sickness and penury. He never returned to Bloxham, and died aged 62 at Ashby-de-la-Zouche, on 20th April 1886. But within three years the school had been refounded, and before the end of the century was to become part of the Woodard group of public schools whose own founder had so inspired Hewett. A letter from the Revd. G.H. Ward, a later headmaster of the present school, to Hewett's friend Macray, who had come to live in Bloxham, makes a fitting memorial to him: "It may be quite true that Mr. Egerton had to build up the School from the beginning and in that sense was the Founder, but he would be the first to recognise that the original idea was not his any more than the name and choice of place. I think Mr. Hewett's life is such a splendid example of the way in which God will carry out a man's hopes and aspirations for him, if only he has the courage and faith to give up all for his convictions, whether he himself has the necessary qualifications or not. I think we ought all to recognise that Bloxham is in a real sense the outcome of all the trials and privations he had to bear in the latter part of his life."

J. S. W. Gibson

Appendix One

(Selection of local creditors from Hewett's Bankruptcy Petition. (Amounts over £10 only included)

Bloxham: Thomas Barrett, builder, £1614; Edward French, butcher, £57; Thomas Warr (washing) £13; Hannah Manning, laundress, £29; Thomas Summerton, baker, £80; Samuel French, butcher, £160; William Otter, chemist & grocer, £18; John Cooper, victualler (for board and lodging); Jonathan Heath, tailor, £15; Thomas Berry, grocer, £34; William Wellington Hyde, surgeon, £26; Isaac Gascoigne, shoemaker, £14; - Hitchman, carrier; Robert Fowler, carrier; J. Clifton, blacksmith; Thomas Barrett, senr., carpenter; Thomas Gibbard, £12; Reuben Hall.

Banbury: Joseph Gardner, ironmonger, £11; W.P. Gilkes, chemist, £17; William Potts, printer and bookseller, £37; Henry Ward, coalmerchant, £115; John Page, toyman, £55; Thomas Bonser, chinaman, £25; Henry Stone, bookseller & stationer, £150; Robert Potter, draper, £20; Mary Fowler, innkeeper, (hire of carriages and horses) £79; Robert Gibbs, fishmonger, £20; Thomas Perry, nurseryman, (shrubs and trees) £21; William Petty Payne, jeweller; Messrs. Hunt & Edmunds, brewers, (for beer) £75; John Golby Rusher, stationer; Robert Heygate Brooks, dentist, (for dental surgery); William White Coleman, grocer, £16; Messrs. J.C. & A. Gillett, bankers, £441; Thomas Pain, solicitor, money lent, £356; Rolls and Pain, solicitors, law charges, £20; James Hall, upholsterer; Charles Grimby, draper; John Hart, shoemaker; John Harlock, draper; Thomas Beesley, chemist; Robert Kirby, draper; Thomas Wells, watchmaker, (hire of piano); Thomas Coless Thomas, cutler; - Taylor, cooper; George Walford, bookseller; - Lamb, bakers, Parsons St.; James Bartle Austin, chemist; Edward Holloway, cabinet maker; John Fortescue, solicitor;

Others: Robert Keppel, Drill Sergeant, Deddington, (for drilling pupils) £11; George Edmund Street, £140;

Appendix Two: The School List, from the 1856 Calendar

* (An asterisk is prefixed to the names of those who have left the School)

10 Feb 1853. Francis Arthur Groom, Prefect and Captain of the School, admitted Scholar, All Saints Day 1853; *Henry Hill Butts, adm. Hon. Scholar All Saints Day 1853, Prefect 7 Apr 1855; William Henry Faulkner, adm. Scholar 2 Feb 1854; *Willoughby Hannam, adm. Scholar 1 Aug 1854, Steward 14 Dec 1855; *Robert Fousae Algar.

26 July 1853. William Frewen Thompson, adm. Hon. Scholar, All Saints Day 1854; Arthur Henry Lewis; *Edward Hyde.

11 Oct. 1853. *Joseph Vernon Whitaker; *William Francis Bourne Paul.

31 Jan 1854. *Frederick Drummond Hay; *Edward Drummond Hay.

19 Apr 1854. Charles Walters, adm. Hon. Scholar 1 Aug 1854, Sacrist 2 Aug 1855; Vaughan Benjamin Wintle, adm. Hon. Scholar All Saints Day 1854, Prefect 8 Oct 1855; Charles Augustus Maude Fennell.

26 July 1854. Arthur Hesketh Groom; *George John Butts; *John (Knowler) Hyde; *William Derby Hyde; James Barratt; *Francis Graham Hatchell.

10 Oct 1854. John Vodin Walters, adm. Scholar All Saints Day 1855; *Gerard Augustus Noel.

31 Jan 1855. *Richard Hopgood.

11 Apr 1855. *Charles St. John; *Joseph Kelly St. John; *William Als St. John; *Edmund Lacon, Probationary Chorister; *Clement Stanton, Prob. Chorister.

2 Aug 1855. Thomas Pym Williamson; *Henry Williamson; James Hazel; Benjamin Field Roberson; Edward Roberson, Prob. Chorister; Frederick Spencer Powys, Prob. Chorister, Commoner 29 Jan 1856; Theodore Hamilton Killick, Prob. Chorister; Henry Vaughan, Prob. Chorister.

3 Sept 1855. Henry Wilson.

16 Oct 1855. William Barrs; Frederick Nugent De Belin, Prob. Chorister; Edmund Williams, Prob. Chorister.

29 Jan 1856. Clement Thompson, Prob. Chorister; Albert Edward Francis, Prob. Chorister; Francis Henry Templer, Prob. Chorister; Edwin Charles Burton, Prob. Chorister.

8 Apr 1856. Charles Bedford.

Edward Newton
Philip Boulton

SERVITORS' SCHOOL
Edward Barnes Bond
Egbert Griffiths

Henry James Bailey
William Huntridge

SOURCES

Numbers refer to the Bodleian Library Catalogue.

The Calendar of All Saints Grammar School, Bloxham, 1856, Cal. Oxon. 8^o480.
Diocesan Parish Box for Bloxham (containing legal documents relating to the Bankruptcy). MS Oxf. Dioc. Pprs. c.1736.

Letter-book of correspondence from Hewett to the Revd. W.D. Macray (including the first school prospectus and a copy of the memoir of Hewett written by Macray that appeared in The Bloxhamist Feb. 1914). MS Top. Oxon. f.40.

"The Observance of the Fast-Days of the Church by School-Boys": A Sermon preached in the Chapel of All Saints Grammar School, Bloxham, April 19th, 1856, by the Revd. J.W. Hewett, 100k.21.4.

"Memories" by C.Kegan Paul. 1899. London. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner & Co. Ltd.(p.199)

THE CHARITY BOYS OF WILLIAMSCOTE SCHOOL IN 1820 and 1821

Our publication of the 16th and 17th century registers of Williamscombe School in January last aroused considerable interest and this month we are pleased to print a much later document illustrating the history of the school. The lists below detail the charity boys attending the school in 1820 and 1821. It appears from the differences between the two lists that the usual time of leaving school was around the age of ten. It is interesting to note that the villages intended by the founder to benefit from the school continued to send charity boys, some of them still making the long journey from Mollington. One change of importance was the admittance of girls, though exactly when this took place cannot be ascertained. It is particularly appropriate that these lists should appear in this issue since they show something of Williamscombe School not long before its absorption in Cropredy and Bourton National School. It seems reasonable to suppose from the lists that hardly more than a hundred children in the five villages of Bourton, Cropredy, Mollington, Wardington and Williamscombe were receiving formal education about 1820, for very few parents could have afforded any other school. There could be no more telling indication of the problems which faced the first of the headmasters whose work Miss Samuels describes.

Once again, we are grateful to Dr. Thomas Loveday for permission to reproduce these records.

A LIST OF THE CHARITY BOYS, JANUARY 1st 1820

(Abbreviations: C = Cropredy; M = Mollington; Wa = Wardington; Wi = Williamscombe; B = Bourton.)

	Jeremiah French, M.	1818 Feb 2	John Hunt, C., 9
	John French, M.		2 Timothy Hunt, C., 7
1815 June 19	John Davis, Wa., 5	Mar 10	Henry Buttler, Wi., 7
1816 Apr 22	Thomas Carter, Wa., 6	May 5	Edmund Sabin, Wa., 9
June 10	James Bonham, Wa., 6	27	Edward Hawkins, M., 8
Nov 11	William Barnes, Wi., 8	June 15	Charles Hunt, C., 9
1817 Jan 1	Thomas Haycock, Wi., 6	Sep 14	Thomas Bateman, Wi., 5
Feb 10	William Ricketts, C., 8	1819 Feb 8	Thomas Mobbs, C., 6
Mar 3	John Bateman, Wi., 6	22	Richard Hunt, C., 7
	10 Nicholas Bateman, Wa., 6	Mar 15	George French, M., 7
	17 William Berry, C., 6	June 14	John Neal, C., 6
Apr 14	Thomas French, C., 7	28	William Gardner, C., 10
	14 John Carter, Wa., 5	July 26	William Archer, M., 6
	14 Richard Mainwood, Wa., 5	28	John Checkley, C., 6
May 6	John Elkington, C., 6	Sep 13	John Dumbleton, C., 7
Nov 24	Thomas Smith, C., 6	20	Samuel Ricketts, C., 6
	24 John Rogers, Wa., 6	Oct 13	John Haslwood, C., 8
1818 Jan 23	Joseph Atkins, C., 7	Nov 15	John Hartwell, C., 8
	26 John Biddle, C., 7	15	John Kelcher, C., 6
Feb 2	William Pargeter, C., 8	15	William Nicolls, Wi., 8

(40 Boys)

(Endorsed)	Mollington	5
	Wardington	8
	Williamscombe	6
	Cropredy	<u>21</u>
		<u>40</u>

CHARITY BOYS AT WILLIAMSCOTE SCHOOL 1821

	John French, M.	Mar 17	William Berry, C., 6
1815 June 19	John Davis, Wa., 5	Apr 14	John Carter, Wa., 5
1816 Nov 11	William Barnes, Wi., 8		Richard Mainwood, Wa., 5
1817 Jan 1	Thomas Haycock, Wi., 6	May 6	John Elkington, C., 6
Feb 10	William Ricketts, C., 8	Nov 24	Thomas Smith, C., 6
Mar 3	John Bateman, Wi., 6		John Rogers, Wa., 6
	10 Nicholas Bateman, Wa., 6	1818 Jan 23	Joseph Atkins, C., 7

1818	Jan	26	John Biddle, C.,	7	1819	Oct	13	John Haslwood, C.,	8
	Feb	2	William Pargeter, C.,	8		Nov	15	John Hartwell, C.,	8
			John Hunt, C.,	9				John Kelcher, C.,	6
	Mar	10	Henry Buttler, Wi.,	7				William Nicolls, Wi.,	8
	Sep	14	Thomas Bateman, Wi.,	5	1820	Feb	28	George Smith, C.,	5
1819	Feb	8	Thomas Mobbs, C.,	6		Mar	7	Jonathan Adams, B.,	8
	Mar	15	George French, M.,	7		July	3	William Borton, C.,	6
	June	14	John Neal, C.,	6			10	Thomas Bonham, Wa.,	7
			William Gardner, C.,	10				John Quinney, C.,	7
	July	26	William Archer, M.,	6		Oct	9	Robert Smith, Wi.,	5
		28	John Checkley, C.,	6	1821	Jan	1	William Pain, C.,	7
	Sep	13	John Dumbleton, C.,	7		Apr	30	George Carter, Wa.,	7
		20	Samuel Ricketts, C.,	6				Richard Goode, M.,	7

(40 Boys)

(Endorsed)	Mollington	4
	Wardington	7
	Williamscote	7
	Croprey	21
	Bourton	1
		<u>40</u>

40	Charity Boys
15	Wardington Boys
20	Girls
37	Other Boys
<u>112</u>	Total number

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

SULGRAVE CASTLE

By far the most important excavations carried out in the Banbury area in recent years have been those at Sulgrave Castle under the direction of Mr. Brian Davison and his team from Queen's University, Belfast. Excavations this September have revealed just how important this site may prove to be, for the results may mean that the manorial hall with its raised dais, screen and servery, generally assumed to have evolved in the 12th century, was fully developed at the beginning of the 11th. Mr. Davison has uncovered traces of a hall of timber construction 75 feet long by 20 feet wide, one of the largest of the period found in this country. Cooking was done outside the hall between its wall and the rampart, food was then conveyed into the servery, which had a cobbled floor, and then through facing doors to the dais of the hall on which sat the Saxon thane and his family. Heating in the hall was provided by an open fire on the earthen floor. The building can be dated quite precisely by a mint silver coin of Ethelred the Unready (d. 1016) and by many sherds to the first decade of the 11th century. After the conquest the hall was carefully dismantled and a stone building put up on the same site. Occupation of the site ceased about 1100 when it was given to the Priory of St. Andrew, Northampton, which used it as a non-residential farm.

BANBURY CASTLE

During the past year the erection of the new borough car parks in the Castle Gardens area has brought about the biggest change on the castle site for many years. The Society's archaeologists have observed progress from time to time, and it seems clear that no foundations of substantial buildings have been uncovered, and no objects of particular interest have been found. Spasmodic and admittedly inexpert observation is insufficient, however, and it is much to be hoped that the borough council will take the advice of a professional archaeologist before work begins on the new bus station and inner relief road. Somewhere between the line of the buildings on the north side of the Market Place and the southern edge of the new car parks stood the very substantial buildings of the medieval castle of Banbury. It is highly probable that considerable parts of their foundations remain and it will be a tragedy of the greatest magnitude if they are destroyed or covered up without trace.

REVIEW

The Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Oxford. "Country Planning", a Study of Rural Problems, O.U.P., 1944.

Country Planning is the report of a survey made in the second half of 1943 under the direction of Dr. C.S. Orwin of the Agricultural Economics Research Institute at Oxford of an area of twenty-four square miles stretching from Milton in the east to Sibford in the west, and from Broughton in the north to Swerford in the south. It aimed to examine the prospects of re-organising rural life to improve the lives of all countrymen, and particular emphasis was laid on the problems of housing, of providing adequate social services in small communities and of preserving amenities. The modern sociological practice of naming the survey area was not in fashion in 1943 so the reader must identify the villages for himself from the map on Page 10.

One is first impressed by the immense differences between the area in 1943 and in 1963. Mains water in only six of eighteen villages, mains sewerage in only two, electricity on only 27 of 123 farms, overcrowding on country 'buses, active village carriers indicate a society superficially remote from that of today. The age of commuting by private transport to Banbury or Oxford had not yet arrived, and the Banbury to Kingham railway still played a considerable part in providing for the transport needs of the area. Important changes in rural industries have taken place since 1943 - a big increase in the scale of ironstone mining; plush weaving, still active at the time of the survey, has completely disappeared; a new industry, concrete casting, based mainly on small units, has mushroomed in the area. The problem of dilapidated cottages seems a little unreal at a time when such property fetches high prices for conversion into comfortable dwellings for professional men from Banbury.

Without proper statistical analysis of the present situation it is difficult to make significant comparisons. Nevertheless it would seem that progress in the social services, particularly in the health service and in public utilities in the six years after the war, made living conditions in most villages at least comparable with those in the towns. Since 1951, the most important cause of social change has probably been the motor industry. The Cowley works have been a source of highly remunerative employment for manual workers and the cheap motor car has made the survey area attractive as a dormitory for Banbury's middle classes. It is certainly much to be hoped that the prospect of a follow-up survey will materialise.

Having noticed the progress made in some spheres one is driven to examine other less satisfactory aspects. The extension of proper sanitation has not been pursued as energetically as it might have been when a village of the size of Hook Norton is without mains sewerage. There has been much progress in education, but most children still spend their first years at school in buildings erected between 1832 and 1875. Not even the post-war Attlee government had the courage to tackle the re-organisation of farming as recommended by the report.

The film, "Twenty-Four Square Miles", to be shown at the Society's meeting on November 27th was made to illustrate the problems faced in this book. It is of great value as an historical document, but, what is perhaps more important, is a timely reminder of many social problems which still await solution.

B.S.T.

CHURCH ARCHITECTURE STUDY GROUP

Another season of excursions to local churches has been completed by the Church Architecture Study Group. During the summer, Bloxham, South Newington, Alkerton and Hornton churches were visited and the architectural richness and variation in detail ensured the enjoyment of all who attended.

An innovation this year was a half day visit to two outstanding churches in Gloucestershire. At Fairford the chief attractions were the elaborate wood-carving of the stalls, pews and screens and the magnificent late medieval stained glass windows. The cathedral-like proportions of Cirencester were found most impressive and the few who attempted the climb found that the view from the tower justified the effort.

Our grateful thanks to Mr. G.F. Lawson must again be recorded. The success of the Study Group depends to a large extent on the assistance he so willingly gives.

R.K.B.

OXFORD ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

The Society is concerned with the archaeology, history and architecture of the Oxford region. Its activities include lectures, excursions and the publication of an annual journal, Oxoniensia. The Society also endeavours to preserve and safeguard local buildings and monuments. Full membership (to include Oxoniensia) one guinea. Ordinary membership ten shillings.

Apply Hon. Treasurer, O.A. & H.S., Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

Printed by Express Litho Service, Headington, Oxford
for the Banbury Historical Society

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