

WYCHWOODS HISTORY

THE JOURNAL OF THE WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Number Twenty-Eight, 2013



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The observations and opinions in the articles and notices on this Journal are those of their authors and not necessarily those of the Society

Foreword

Several members of your Committee have been working throughout the autumn and winter to organise the archive of photographs left to the Society by John Rawlins. There are literally hundreds of pictures, many from the distant past but others showing more recent events. You will be seeing more of these pictures in this and future journals. More work is going on in another group organised by our Chairman to digitalise some of the photographs to make them more available. John has left us a priceless legacy and we must conserve and utilize it.

Journal 28 contains the story of development, building and some local uses of the old Beaconsfield Hall. There is an example of how the lives of ordinary people of the past here can be learnt from a will that has been transcribed by a member of our Probate Group. It is followed by an investigation into a World War II friendship that would never have happened in peace-time. We learn from a letter written by Doctor Gordon Scott to all his patients in 1956 about the consulting hours of that time and how he intends to modernise the practice. Lastly, local immigration to New Zealand in the bad agricultural times of the 1870s is here examined showing Milton families leaving for a new life on the S.S. Mongol. Reports and diary entries show just how dangerous the voyage was for those leaving these shores. Those that arrived safely write home to say the risk of leaving was worthwhile and life though hard is much better than in it was in this country.

The Old Beaconsfield Hall

Joan Howard-Drake



The Old Beaconsfield Hall (in Station Road)

Among the papers that John Rawlins gave to the local history society are some which have details about the building of the old Beaconsfield Hall. The photographs he bequeathed to the Society also show activities that have taken place in the Hall over the years, a few are shown here.

In 1883 the idea of a Hall for Shipton was raised by local members of the Primrose League. The Primrose League started in 1883 and its name was suggested by Lord Randolph Churchill to honour Lord Beaconsfield, Benjamin Disraeli whose favourite flower was the primrose. The latter had been Conservative Prime Minister twice and was much admired by many members of the Conservative party. The League became incorporated into the official Conservative party system in 1884. One of its objects was to build 'club houses' or halls which were to be for political meetings and general use and they were to be built in places where money could be raised for the purpose. Any hall so built was to be called the Beaconsfield Hall again to honour Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield. The following is how it came about in Shipton under Wychwood.

Mr Thomas Brookes, a member of an important Shipton family and a farmer who lived in the Old Prebendal House, then called Parsonage Farm, was the prime mover in getting the Hall established. John Simpson Calvert in his diary Rain and Ruin writes that On 28th May 1883 a meeting was held at The Crown Hotel, Shipton and arranged about subscriptions for Beaconsfield Hall. Discussions went on for a year and in May 1884 a limited company was set up for the purpose of erecting and managing a hall. It started with capital of £300 divided into 300 shares of £1 each. Gifts and donations were also needed. The subscribers to the articles of association were Messrs Thomas Brookes, John Addy, John Calvert, James Baggs, Albert Wootton and John Franklin. The prospectus of the Company gave the purposes of the building and part of this was 'to establish a hall in Shipton under Wychwood to be used for political meetings, concerts, balls, entertainments, social gatherings and any like purpose'.



Thomas Brookes of the Old Prebendal

The Company found a suitable site for the Hall in Station Road, Shipton. A copy of an Indenture shows that Mr Alfred William Spence Hitchman who owned the Red Horse Inn sold part of the Inn garden to the hall subscribers for £15. The freehold land they bought was opposite the recreation ground and measured 80 feet from East to West beside the road to Chipping Norton and by 32 feet from North to South.

An architect was appointed - Mr J.C. Traylen of Peterborough and Mr Alfred Groves's firm of Milton undertook the building work for £300. There are some details of the specifications of the building work, quantities of necessary goods needed for the building work. A further £100 was needed for furnishings and equipment. Milton and other local stone was to be used for the main building with Welsh blue slates for the roofing. Inside there was to be an entrance hall with a cloakroom, a ticket office on the right with a lavatory on the left. This led into the main hall 45 feet by 24 feet and at the East end there was to be a room to be used as a kitchen. A Bill of Quantity for the Building of the Hall, was found, in very poor condition in the attic of the

Old Prebendal House during later renovations. It was sent by the architect and was handwritten as follows:-

Quantities of work required to be done in the erection of a Conservative Hall at Shipton, Oxfordshire, according to Drawings Specification & prepared by
J.C. TRAYLER - Architect
Stamford & Peterboro'

July 1884

The Contractor will be required to enter into an Agreement binding himself to the final completion of the work by a time specified therein.

All Carting of materials will be found free of cost to the Contractor.

All Stone (except the small quantity of wrought required to heads & sills) found & delivered on the Site.

The Bricks from Leafield or others not inferior in quality.

The mortar to be composed of 2½ sand to 1 good local lime (no road mortar will be permitted).

Yds.	ft.	ins.		
59½	0	0	Cube	Digging to foundations & ramming
195	0	0	Supl	do to Floor space, about 1/6" deep & levelling
39	0	0	Cube	Stone in foundations
274½	0	0	Supl	Labour & mortar only to 18" stone walling neatly pointed outside & left rough inside for plastering
	23	0	run	9" x 4" wrought weathered and throated sills
	39	6	-	11" x 6" wrought lintels

Carried Forward £ [unreadable paper torn]

-1-

60	0	0	Supl	9" red [rest of line unreadable paper torn away] sleeper
50½	0	0		9" brick wall[ing] " "
				" sides for plastering " "
36	0	0		9" reduced brick[work] " "
				breasts with chan " "
				Arc. " "
				neatly pointed & " "
				for. " "
				painting up as 1 " "
				wanted shelf " "
				& include china " "
				ft at back " "
				No:2. 2": x -- wrought iron chimney bars

				No:8. 9" x 3" cast iron air grating & form apertures.
134	0	run		Beam filling in ½ brickwork
34	0	0		Slate in cement damp course well lapped
57½	0	0	Supl	Paving with Peakes 6" second quality red quarries on & including 6" of hard dry rubble bedded in mortar grouted in cement
				Carried For'd £
-2-				

20½	0	0	Supl	Levelling to yard spaces at each end with hard rubble well rammed & covered with 3" gravel Include as for provision of 30 yds of 6" vitrified socket pipe drain to be disposed of as may be directed
318½	0	0	Supl	Render, float & set to internal walls
Squrs				
22½	0	0	-	Bangor or Penrhyn slating on 1½" x ¾" red deal sawn lath with 2 zinc V.M. nails in each slate, having 2½" lap
	67	0	Run	Blue aris ridge tile solid in cement
	87	0	-	Cement filleting to gables & round chimneys
<u>Carpenter & Joiner</u>				
All fir to be the best 'seconds' Meniel timber free from sap. shakes, large, loose or dedd knots & thoroughly seasoned				
All joiners work to be the best				
Christiana yellow deals				
	130	0	Cube	Rough timber in lintels, wood bricks bond timbers etc
Squrs				
10	12	0	Supl	1½" wrought plough' & tongued red wood flooring
22	0	0	-	¾" match'd V jointed boarding, including felt, to roof measured net
	60	6	Cube	Wrought purlins & Ridge
	43	6	-	" & framed principals
	200	0	Run	7" x 1½ wrought beaded facia X barge board
				Carried Forward
-3-				

In Jackson's Oxford Journal of Saturday 29th August 1885, a copy of which John Rawlins had taken, is a long report of the laying of the memorial stone at the Beaconsfield Hall in Shipton under Wychwood. It notes that the weather was favourable and says numerous flags attached to scaffold poles were stretched across the road and a platform was erected outside the Hall for special guests who came from far and wide. Letters of apology had been received from those unable to attend including one from 'A. Brassy, Esq who wrote from his yacht Czarina', and Mr T. Mace of Chipping Norton who although a Liberal had taken some shares in the Hall. There were a large number of people assembled there many wearing the Conservative colours of blue and orange.



The opening ceremony of the O.B.H

The ceremony was due to take place at four o'clock and before this the Shipton Band, under the direction of Mr. Thomas Alder, paraded through the village and assembled on the recreation ground opposite the Hall. Mrs Wynne wife of the prospective Conservative candidate for North Oxfordshire, said to be a true blue Conservative and Dame of the Primrose League was to perform the ceremony. The Memorial stone which had been given by Mr Edwin Groves was carefully lowered into place. Miss Barter then handed the specially made silver trowel to Mrs Wynne and she tapped the stone three times with it saying 'I declare this stone well and truly laid'. There were loud cheers and the band

played Auld Lang Syne. Mrs Wynne later gave the trowel to the hall company and it was placed on the wall inside the building for all to see. Speeches followed and thanks and congratulations were given all round. The Reverend Barter, vicar of Shipton, made two long speeches in which he reiterated the intention that the Hall was for the village to use for meetings, social entertainments and amusements. He also said it had been suggested that the school managers should rent the Hall to receive and teach infants because at present the school was full. They could not be accepted much to the inconvenience of Mothers. He hoped and believed that one day the kitchen would be used to provide 'one penny' dinners for those that needed them. He went on to say that Mr Davenport Clerk of the Peace had said that the Hall was now registered as the polling place for the district. Finally he hoped that the Hall would be roofed by October and there was to be a meeting in the Hall in November. The ceremony ended with the playing of the National Anthem and loud cheers for Mr and Mrs Wynne.

Not everyone approved of the ceremony however and the report closed with the following paragraph - *Later on, some Radical feeling was shown after the removal of the flags, banners, etc., by the nailing on top of one of the scaffold poles of a black flag, which, no one took the trouble to remove and it remained for remainder of the day as an example of the bad taste which had been exhibited.*

The ownership and running of the Hall continued in the hands of the Beaconsfield Hall Company until 1923 when it appears that the Company was finding it difficult to 'carry on in a legal manner' the running of the Hall and there is no explanation of what that meant. Perhaps some of the directors had left the area, certainly John Calvert had, and John Franklin and James Baggs had both died in 1903. The Parish Council was approached by the Company to consider taking over the Hall. A special parish meeting was held in the schoolroom at Shipton to consider the letter received from the Beaconsfield Hall company proposing that the Parish Council take over the Hall. The Company offered the Hall freehold for a nominal sum of £5 upon condition that the Hall was for the use of the whole parish and offered to defray all the expenses of the transaction. Those present to consider the offer were Messrs J.A. Willis, H.J. Coombes, A. Baylis, R. Hartley, S. Moss, J. Wright, J.F. Maddox, W.E. Coombes, J. Franklin and Alf. Miles. Facts and figures were discussed with the Secretary of the Company who was also present and finally a proposal was made to the Council as follows:-

It was proposed by Mr. J.F. Maddox seconded by Mr. Alfred Miles and carried by 8 votes to 1. That the offer of the Beaconsfield Hall Co. be gratefully accepted by the Council subject to any condition agreeable to the Parish Council.

*It was proposed by Mr. J.F. Maddox seconded by Mr. Alfred Miles and carried by 8 votes to 1
That the offer of the Beaconsfield Hall Co. be gratefully accepted by the Council subject to any conditions thereof being agreeable to the Parish Council*

The proposal by the P.C. to acquire the O.B.H

A copy of the conveyance of the transfer of the Beaconsfield Hall from the Company to the Parish Council is dated 23rd April 1924.

In the succeeding years alterations and improvements were added to the Hall. The old balcony at the rear of the Hall was removed, and a small room was added where the balcony had been. In 1962 it was extended to include a better kitchen, newer cloakrooms and was redesigned to accommodate a stage.

No charges are known for the hire of the hall in the 1880s but those proposed in 1925 when the Parish Council owned the Hall were calculated by John Rawlins. It was then proposed that the hire per day for residents was to be 10s with an extra 10s for after midnight; for non-residents it was 12s 6d. This included cleaning, lighting and two fires but did not cover placing of chairs or the erecting of platforms. For the Workers' Union the use of the kitchen only 2s 6d included light and fires. Travelling and theatrical companies were to pay £1 for the first day then 10s a day thereafter. To hire chairs was to be a halfpenny each; tables 9d each and trestles 3d each. By 1946 the charges had increased and the Hall could be booked furnished or unfurnished, presumably meaning with chairs and tables or not as the case might be. Costs were for residents unfurnished 7s 6d to 10 p.m and 10s to midnight; furnished 10s to 10 p.m 12s 6d to midnight. For non-residents the same as unfurnished

but furnished 15s to 10 p.m and 20s to midnight. Travelling theatres and Auctions etc 20s daily. The use of the kitchen only could be had for 3s 6d.

The Hall was well used from the start with local organisations' meetings, lectures, political activities, as a polling centre and not least entertainments. The annual Parish meeting took place there once a year. John Calvert in his diary



A ticket to an Entertainment in O.B.H. in 1890



Miss Edith Faulkner & Miss 'Topsy' Coombes at Shipton Court dressed for a fancy Dress Dance at the Beaconsfield Hall. 1929/30. The suit was borrowed from the owner of Shipton Court, Graham Thomson

records several visits. In January 1886 he and his daughters went to a concert in aid of the Church Organ The Shipton Choral Society and Coningsby Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield's nephew, performed and sang to his banjo. John Calvert comments 'altogether a nice evening's entertainment for 1s each'. The next year he reports their Conservative Party dinner being held there and a meeting of the Primrose League. In February of 1888 Signor Gilletti gave a 'ventriloquial and magic lantern entertainment' and the vicar arranged for all the school children to attend. In March members of Oxford University gave a concert. While in November the Primrose Ball took place. Earlier that year J. Edmonds performed with his Oxy-Hydrogen Lamp which sounds to be a highly dangerous evening, nowadays oxyhydrogen is used in several ways in industry among other things in welding and is regarded as very combustible. There was an Entertainment in the Hall on Saturday April 26th 1890 and a reserved seat cost 3s. It is not known what the entertainment was but a ticket for that day is in John's papers.

It is not until the second decade of the 20th century that there are pictures of activities in the Hall itself. The earliest picture is one of Miss Edith Faulkner and Miss Topsy Coombes at Shipton Court dressed as a wedding couple for a Fancy Dressed Dance in the Beaconsfield Hall in 1930. The bridegroom's suit was borrowed from Graham Thompson of the Court.



Shipton WI with their patchwork bedspread made for charity

A more solemn occasion was a meeting of the Royal Antedeluvian Order of Buffaloes taking place about 1930.

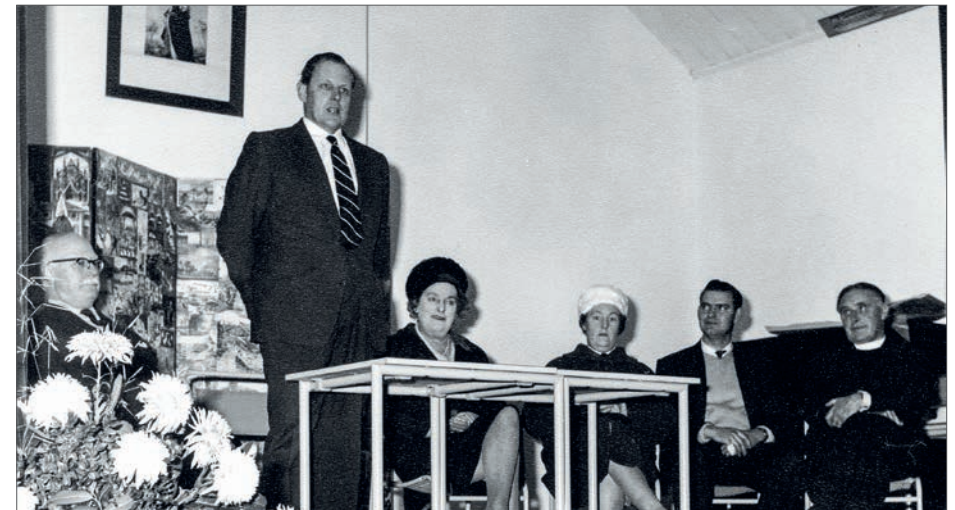
From 1952 the newly formed Shipton Womens' Institute meetings were held in the Hall every month. This photograph shows some of the members in later years with a bedspread which they had made to be sold for charity.

In 1957 it was decided to improve



A meeting of the Wychwood Lodge of the Royal Antedeluvian Order of Buffaloes

the hall facilities, this included building on a new kitchen, making the old one into the stage, and using the old open balcony for a ladies cloakroom. To raise money for new furniture and various other alterations Street Fairs were held on the nearest Saturdays to the date of the old Shipton Fairs at the end of May



Opening of reworked Village Hall

or beginning early in June. The first of these was held in 1959 and many village organisations took part.

A dance was held in the Hall where the 'Miss Wychwood' contest took place to choose the village's entry in the 'Miss Oxfordshire' contest. The photograph shows the ten young ladies who took part but unfortunately the winner is not shown. This was a part of a series of yearly dances organised by Shipton and held in many villages around here, the final being held in the Oxford Town Hall. The proceeds of the events going first to the lay-out of the Recreation Field and then towards the cost of the Hall alterations.



Ladies in the 'Miss Wychwood' Competition

Finally the pictures show some of the things that took place for the last time in the old Hall in 1998. There is a photograph of the audience enjoying the last Pantomime put on there in 1998. The yearly Pantomime had been a feature of life in Shipton for many years. On 27th April 1998 youngsters of the Youth Club are shown playing games at their last meeting of the Club in the Hall.

Included in the information about the use of the Hall John had collected copies of the programmes of other entertainments (not photographed) which show the kind of things put on for the village to enjoy. A souvenir programme shows that members of the VRD, RAOC did a revue in 1945 in aid of the Wychwood Sports Club, it has many signatures on it. At another time Miss Miriam Benjamin presented her pupils in 'Happiness Fair' a Fantasy of Village Life by Fred Westlake and in 1998 a revue called Hors D'oeuvres was performed there in aid of the Wychwood Project.



Last meeting of the Youth Club in O.B.H (showing some of their activities)

And lastly there are photographs of the demolition of the Hall before two houses were built on the site.



Demonlition of O.B.H

Shipton's present day community activities now take place in and around the New Beaconsfield Hall. In 1993 the Parish Council proposed that a new village Hall should be built on the Recreation Ground. It was erected after money raised in the area and a grant from the Sports Council. It opened on 4th July 1998 being named the New Beaconsfield Hall.

Cow Cubbs and Dung Flakes

Wendy Pearse

Cow cubbs and dung flakes. What a fine set of words! The mind boggles. But apparently these particular words were in general use in Milton in the early 18c. For they occur in the Inventory of goods of a certain John Baylies the elder, who died in the village in 1714.

As a member of the Wychwoods Probate Group transcribing the Wills and Inventories of earlier Wychwoods inhabitants, John Baylies Inventory was one of those I worked on. I felt that so much information about the past life of the Wychwoods was contained in this single document, that further investigation was warranted and the results of my research follow.

The first mention of the Baylies family in Milton appears in the Parish Register for Shipton, which at that time included Milton village, in 1620. On October 8th of that year a John Baylies married Ann Chapman of Frog Lane. This seems to locate the family probably at the far end of the lane, near to, in those days, the open fields of the village. The couple went on to have a family which included a son, John and it is this John whose Inventory was appraised in 1714, and whose story continues.

John married Margaret Mathews on 17th November 1657 and during the next three years two sons, John and Thomas, were born. But sadly, when their first daughter Katherine arrived in February 1661, the burial register records 'Feb 27th – Margaret wife of John who died in childbed'. Katherine was baptised on the same day her mother was buried.

John apparently remarried seemingly another Margaret and had two more sons, Francis and William but again, after the birth of another daughter Hannah in summer 1670, her mother died in the following February.

There is no surviving Will for John but unusually his Inventory records many details from his Will and includes the names of all his children and some of their subsequent families.

John was buried on 13 July 1714 and the Inventory was appraised on 16th July, and the way the Inventory is arranged perhaps gives the impression that the goods his family and friends were to have, may have been distributed before his death. The first half of the Inventory describes these bequests in detail and is followed by the words "These Goods above bequeathed in the Will". Their

value amounted to £25 14s 6d. The Inventory continues with unbequeathed goods which probably went to his eldest sons, John and Thomas, who are not mentioned in the bequests but are the executors.

Apart from John's clothes and money and goods in the 'Dwelling Room' which included a table, chairs and utensils, and the 'Chamber over the Dwelling Roome' comprising bed, bedstead, chest, sheets and other lumber, everything else listed in the Inventory is consistent with the livelihood of a well to do farmer. For John was a wealthy man – his total goods were listed at £133 9s, a very good endowment in those days.

Perhaps John lived in a substantial house consisting of several rooms, of which he occupied just two whilst his son or sons lived in the rest of the building.

There is mention of a Dairy House whose contents included a cheese press and vats and a separate chamber which held cheeses on specially built shelves. There was also a corn chamber where wheat, sacks and a flitch of bacon were stored. In the outhouse was a malt mill with a bin for the malt and special wood faggots for heating. In the Buttery were barrels and pottery and glass bottles and in the Barn threshing equipment and ladders with other lumber.

Out in the Backside were wood and firewood, a wheel barrow and the mysterious cow cubbs and a parcel of dung flakes. Not so mysterious when their true meaning is revealed. Cow cubbs were bins or containers for feed and dung flakes were hurdles – quickly erected, ready prepared fencing.

Also in the backside there were remnants, in the middle of summer, of hay and straw set up on staddle stones, and a sow with three little pigs. And perhaps in a nearby close or enclosed field were four cows and presumably a calf which John had left to his grandson, another John. No wonder John was designated the elder since he must have been approaching eighty years old, with other generations of Johns to succeed him. The above cows were probably the producers of the milk used in the manufacture of the cheeses stored on the cheese shelves.

In the open fields, scattered amongst the crops of his fellow villagers, and planted in strips all over the parish, were five acres of wheat, eleven and a half acres of barley, one acre of oats and six acres of pulses – peas and beans. There was no mention of actual farming equipment – ploughs, carts, draught animals etc. but presumably these belonged to John's elder sons who dealt with the day to day running of the farm. At that time however, this appears to be a very substantial farming enterprise.

By far the largest amount of John's wealth consisted of money lent at interest - £60 worth. But the appraisers also listed £7 10s of desperate debts, money which was unlikely to be realised.

Returning to the first half of the Inventory where John's bequests to his family are listed, son Francis was to have John's best suit of clothes and a hat. John's youngest daughter Hannah who had become Mrs Andross, was to have pewter dishes, sheets, a trunk and a black hat, and her daughter Mary, a looking glass. Whilst Mary's sister Margaret had sheets, brass pots, etc. Possibly a close relative Mary Newman, was to have a bed, bedstead and gold ring and a friend, John Young, a bible.

Almost all the other bequests were to John's eldest daughter Katherine and her family. Katherine had obviously survived the sad and rapid death of her mother and in 1682 had married Richard Horton. Katherine was left a bed, bedstead, bushels of wheat and malt and other goods and her husband Richard was to have all his father-in-law's old clothes. Clothes were precious in those times, made to last and commonly bequeathed.

In 1686 Katherine and Richard had a daughter, Jane, who in 1712 married Job Smith. They produced a son, another Job in 1713. Jane and her husband also benefited from John's Will. Jane was to receive another bed and bolster, wheat, malt and another gold ring amongst other goods, whilst Job was to have all the Iron Tools.

Sadly Job Jnr. like his great grandfather was to suffer the consequences of the harsh life of past times. Childbirth, far more frequent than today, and prey to a number of problems and infections, had few remedies. Job Smith Jnr. married Margaret sometime during his twenties. Unfortunately on August 2nd 1740 Margaret, wife of Job, and William, son of Job, were buried at Shipton. It is likely that Job Jnr's father Job and mother Jane had already died so Job Jnr. aged 29, must have felt all alone in the world. In 1742 'Job Smith of Milton was found dead in Sarsden' and was buried along with the villagers of Sarsden in the churchyard at Churchill. Although noted 'of Milton' Job was not returned home for burial. Was there a question of suicide and the reluctance of vicars to bury suicides in consecrated ground? But at least Job found a saviour in both the owner of Sarsden and his vicar.

A Letter from Doctor Scott in 1956

This letter from Doctor Scott was one he sent to all his patients after 20 years of responsibility for the Wychwood Practice. The letter was found by Jim Pearse when checking through some old documents left by his mother

Shipton under Wychwood,
November 28th 1956

Friend,

I am pleased to be able to mark completion of 20 years practice in the Wychwoods by a reorganisation of surgeries. Better accommodation has for long been overdue but the war, and then the greater needs of housing, made this provision difficult. I regret any inconvenience you may have suffered during the last two months, and enclose a card showing the new surgery hours commencing Monday December 3rd. Should you hear of any patients who do not receive a copy of this letter please ask them to let me know.

D R. G O R D O N S C O T T,
Telephone : Shipton - under - Wychwood 260
Only if no reply—Phone Shipton - under - Wychwood 419.

C O N S U L T I N G H O U R S
FROM 1st OCTOBER 1960

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
ASCOTT	5-30—6-15	5-30—6-15	—	5-30—6-15	5-30—6-15
MILTON	6-30—7-30	9-30—10-15	6-30—7-30	9-30—10-15	6-30—7-30
SHIPTON	9-0—9-45	6-30—7-30	9-0—9-45	6-30—7-30	9-0—9-45

No Consultations on Saturday, Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday or Bank Holidays, except by appointment, or in emergency.

Patients requiring injections, and Mothers with Children under school age, will be given immediate attention if present AT THE COMMENCEMENT of any Session.

For some years I have been refusing to accept new patients who live outside the immediate district. By reducing travelling, and concentrating the practice around Shipton, Milton, Ascott, Lyneham and Idbury, I hope to establish the kind of health service which experience has shown me to be the most efficient and practical (if not the most remunerative). By making the laboratory provision at Ascott for bacteriological and biochemical tests I am looking to a future when the scientific side of medicine will receive greater attention in every day practice than it does at present. It seemed sensible to defer rebuilding at Shipton for a few years, when more new ideas can be incorporated.

Through the trainee doctors this small practice is having a widening influence. It may be confusing to you to see a fresh face each year, but I keep a firm hand on all that is happening: for you are in my personal care and responsibility. For this reason I am rarely away for more than a long weekend. If you will remember this you will understand, (as you have done in the past) we will all benefit. Medicine is changing so rapidly that it was never more difficult and more necessary wisely to keep abreast of the times. The stimulus of these fresh and informed minds, and their impact on the practice, is much to the good. I use my experience to sieve out what is best from what is merely new. These young men leave here wiser I hope and with pleasant memories I know, and your kindness and interest influence them to try and build up for themselves happy practices like this one. "A golden year" one of the best of them wrote to me.

I always intended to finish with public affairs before 50, and I have done so. Life is uncertain: we can only plan, and leave the rest to the wisdom of Providence. I may be permitted to have another 15 years here, and then my son could step into my shoes. Please take an interest in his progress, and think kindly of him: if you will, remember him in your prayers (as I hope you remember me) because half a century from now he may still have responsibilities which are now mine. He promises well. I will try to bring him under the best teachers. Your goodwill can be a powerful if unseen help to him during these years when his character is being moulded by his professors and friends.

December is nearly here, so I and my family join to send good wishes for Christmas to you and yours. May the New Year bring you happiness: but if it bring pain or sickness may we be given wisdom to help you back to health quickly.

Yours, very truly,
Gordon Scott

A Wartime Serendipity

Trudy Yates

"The best thing we can do," Christopher Fry once wrote, "is to make wherever we're lost in as much like home as we can."

What must it have been like in sleepy Shipton under Wychwood during the six long years of World War II? There were evacuees from London and American soldiers billeted in the village environs—all to be fed and entertained. The Triangle (YMCA) Hut on the Ascott Road was in constant use. Mr. Coombs, the postmaster, and Mr. Goss from Matthews Mill were busy organizing events for the young men and Dr. Gordon Scott was everywhere, soliciting prizes for the whist drives and apple tarts for the canteen. Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Shepherd and a group of local ladies cooked and baked daily to supply the ever demanding Hut. The village was a hive of activity.

Perhaps it was not quite so busy along the Burford Road and up a little unpaved lane to the right. Here there were a pair of humble country cottages planted cheek by jowl belonging to a farmer, Mr. Percy Holloway. The Buildings, as they were called, were occupied by the Stoters and the Frys. The Stoters' cottage was tied; the Frys' paid three shillings a week rent. When the Frys' Shipton adventure began, they had rented Gale's Green in the village.



Albert Edgar
and Lillian
Elizabeth
Stoter on their
wedding day.
The couple were
to have six sons
before leaving
East Hendred
for Shipton.



The Stoters with
grandchildren.

However, this house was soon sold and, when Percy Holloway saw their dilemma, he took pity on the family, slapped some whitewash on the cottage he had used for a feed store and solved the problem.

Mr. Stoter was a carter for Mr. Holloway (known as Mister to the locals). Mr. Fry was away in service with the non-combative corps and was only present during occasional leave. His cottage was occupied by his wife, Phyl, and small son, Tam. Even though there was a considerable age difference between them, Mrs. Stoter and Mrs. Fry had a warm relationship. Daughter-in-law Rose Stoter was closer to Phyl's age. She and her new husband Norris (Norrie) lived nearby in Blenheim Cottages on the main road. Rose and Phyl grew to know each other well. We read in her letters that Phyl was employed for two years in Fulbrook at Miss Thomson's school for under eight-year-olds. Five-year-old Tam was a boarder at Cotter's Bow. As Christopher Fry wrote in the preface to *A Pinch of Nutmeg*, a slim volume of letters Phyl wrote to him during the war years—"The good purpose of this was that Phyl could add to the small army allowance and yet be with Tam while he had some schooling." Phyl wrote that she cycled the four miles to Fulbrook and, in her interview with

Wood's Farm
East Hendred
Wantage
Berks.

Sept. 13th 1935

A. Stoter has worked on this farm for 30 years and his son aged 20½ since a boy and I can honestly give them both the best of characters, both being good workmen, good for mornings, honest and sober and it is only for economical reasons that has caused his discharge.

yo Signed A. E. Smith.

Reference for Albert and Norris Stoter from their employer in East Hendred.

Janet Wallace, Rose said that she travelled to Burford the same way since she was working at Burford Laundry during those years. She also was a Fulbrook native, the daughter of Edward Arnold, a renowned stonewaller. She could have acquainted Phyl with that village while they rode along together as they surely must have done.

As a matter of fact, neither the Stoters (senior and junior) nor the Frys were Shipton natives. The Stoters—Lilian Elizabeth, Albert Edgar and son Norris came from East Hendred in 1935 and were recommended to Mr. Holloway by their former employer. Norrie and Rose met and courted in Fulbrook and were married when she was 21 (1941).

Christopher Fry was Bristol born in 1907. He had a strong religious background—his father having set aside his career as an architect to become a dedicated Anglican lay preacher in the city's slums. His death when Christopher was only three-years-old affected the child greatly. His mother and her two sisters were also deeply religious Quakers. Christopher was the product of a close family that was modest materially speaking but rich in the fostering of literature and religion. He was a shy young man, self-effacing and generous. When the Frys came to Shipton, he was already a poet and playwright. He had acted a bit, taught school, founded a Repertory Theatre in Tunbridge Wells and written a play about St. Cuthman called *The Boy With A Cart*, at the request of a Sussex vicar.



The Stoters at tea.

Canadian-born Phyllis Hart, a journalist whom Christopher had

married in 1936, was, if anything, shy than her husband but a talented writer, humorous and fun loving.

The Stoters and Frys had little in common save proximity and the serendipitous vagaries of a war that maimed many and killed more but managed somehow to yield some things unexpected and quite lovely. Hear Phyl's voice as she writes to her husband. Mrs. Stoter had brought a large pile of white chrysanthemums to Phyl and she described them joyously to Christopher.

10 Oct. 1943 "The room looks now as if two large white swans had alighted in it and gone to roost—one on top of the tallboy and one in the window!"

17 Nov. 1943 "The Stoters are a pretty sight by lamplight, all plump and wheezy with her knitting and carter (Albert) making his rag rugs and siffling through his black, falling moustache. He's going to make me a rag rug on sacking next winter. Perhaps we can incorporate your khaki trousers by then. It would be nice to trample on them for the rest of our lives." A lovely thought but not quite yet, Phyl.

19 Feb. 1944 "I cycled over in drear cold not daring to hope that Mrs. Stoter had made a fire but she had and she warmed and comforted me with a cup of Horlicks and told me she was counting the days until you came back."

Christopher's leave had been cancelled and for once, Phyl gives in to disappointment when she takes up her pen.

22 Feb. 1944 "Isn't it a sad thing that the only mental preparation one can make for living in these days is defence against disappointment, sadness or depression? I've forgotten what that other life was like when one took it as due that something good was just around the corner."

Oh dear, those dreadful Americans! Phyl reports to Christopher that Mr. Franklin at least is quite dismayed by them.

25 April 1944 "In the village on Mr. Franklin's empty shop is suddenly a large painted board NO PROFANITY. Should you think that the soldiers used to congregate there and all say DAMN at once?"

Mrs. Stoter had waxed eloquent about Christopher which brought Phyl close to tears.

20 May 1944 "Mrs. Stoter makes lumps come in my throat when she says—"The irises were out last year when Mr. Fry came on leave. We must get him back for the peas and new potatoes'."

The war came to Oxfordshire in a rush.

7 June 1944 "The invasion news came at 1 and Miss Thomson immediately arranged prayers for after dinner, and even after lentil soup and roly-poly, I was in such a state

of emotion that I couldn't gulp O God our Help. It was difficult to know exactly what to pray for, unless for the Allies to kill more people than the Germans. But it was a day fraught with awe."

Phyl has left the employ of Miss Thomson with the latter's frosty reply that she had hoped Phyl would "see them through the war!" When she reached the Buildings, a blaze of beauty awaited her.

29 July 1944 "I had asked Mrs. Stoter vaguely in passing if she could sell me a few flowers to welcome us home, but my goodness, every door and window was open showing vistas of flowers upstairs and downstairs in every receptacle and in the middle of the table—the piece de resistance—of her most precious crimson and lemon carnations mixed with what she calls 'Gyps-Ophelia'"

5 Aug. 1944 "Tomorrow is Shipton Flower Show and Mrs. Stoter is as busy as a bee. She hasn't really gone in for things like this before—certainly not for prizes, but she feels that you must have a little public spirit in these days and it's not for the prizes. Everything will be excellent as all her doings are; she has prepared a tray covered in bright blue silk to exhibit her carrots on; her black flowered dress was washed today and blew on the line in the sun and the wind and I'm sure that she and her exhibits will be the freshest and most savoury in the whole show."

6 Aug. 1944 "Mrs. Stoter had spent the morning in the dank oven of the YMCA Hut arranging her produce—she returned exhausted and triumphant—first prize for her cottage garden, second for carnations and a bevy of firsts, seconds and thirds for plates



Christopher and Phyl Fry with the Buildings in the background.

of gooseberries, potatoes and beetroot. Tam managed a second prize of 6d in a race and told the story to everyone he met. Altogether, the Flower Show was a great success for the Buildings.”

14 Aug. 1944 “Mrs. Stoter, dear love, is tetchy to say the least. It’s all the evacuees billeted with her. ‘Mrs. Scholfield,’ she complains, ‘looks so mournful and never takes her hair out of curlers and does her bits of washing in a basin and hangs them in her bedroom to dry and that Reen –well, down she strolls at 10 a.m. looking greasy as an old pork pie, flaps a bit of damp flannel over her face and sits down with her feet up and her nose in a magazine. She never lifts a hand’s turn to so much as do her shoes up yet she smells worse than Norrie after a day’s harvesting.’ No wonder Mrs. Stoter gets a bit vicious, yet her laugh is just as merry and she went to immense pains to tell the grocer that now I was a customer, I must be told when there were bits of suet, or it was custard week; she believes in fair do’s all around.”

27 June 1945 “There has been no let up or hindrance to the gloom. Norrie has stood in doorways shooting rusty cans and Mr. Stoter spent a gloomy morning hammering a nail in a hoe handle, and the hens drooped their dripping feathers in the mud.”



Norrie Stoter driving Mr. Holloway’s first combine harvester.



Rose Stoter feeding her chickens.

But the mood soon improved at the Buildings and in the entire village. The terrible war ended, the evacuees and the Americans left Shipton and, wonderfully, Christopher Fry came home. Almost at once, changes began to occur. Christopher decided that the Frys must have some modern conveniences. One improvement was the installation of a bathroom and lavatory—thanks to the success of one of his plays being produced in the West End. No more prevailing upon friends for the luxury of a good “soak.” And then, to provide himself with a study, Christopher converted an adjoining shed. Another shed

housed the car and bicycles. In lovely summer weather, Christopher climbed the field above the Buildings to the old Shipton barrow. The rough hillock inspired him. John Hartley recalls coming upon him quite suddenly one day and being surprised that he was busily writing, seated on the ground. During this period, Fry undertook further work at the Oxford Playhouse, completed his tragedy *The First Born*, a modest success, and *A Phoenix Too Frequent*, a comic and poetic triumph.

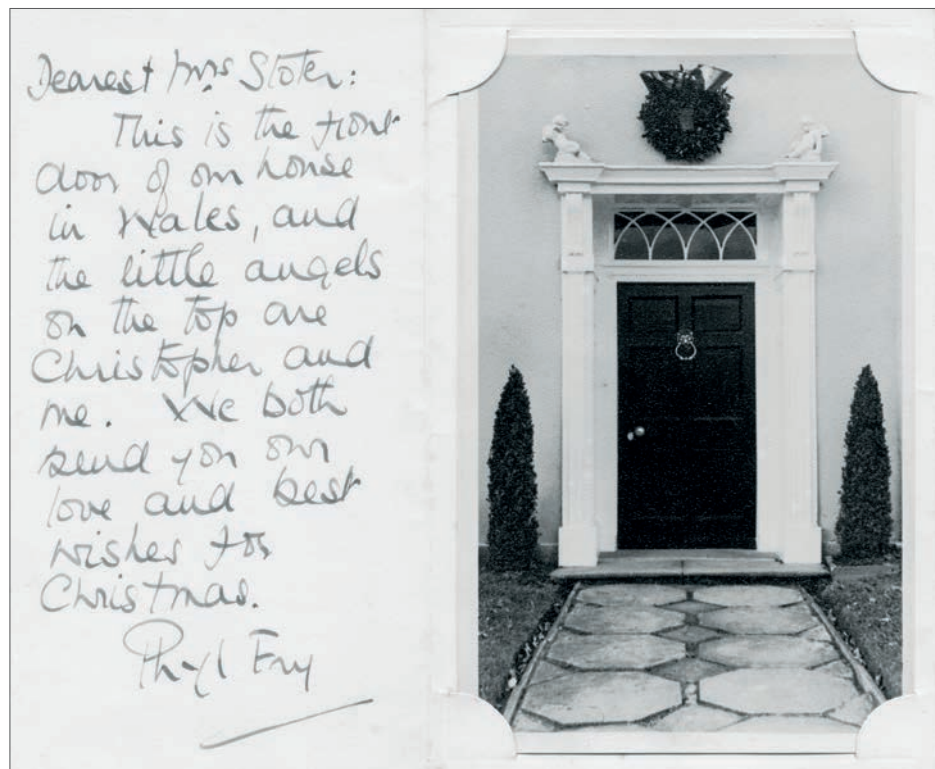
1946 brought changes to the Stoters as well. Albert Stoter died of a pulmonary embolism at the age of 53. Lilian, his widow, moved to Simons Lane in the village. Norrie and Rose were offered their cottage but Rose refused. She told Norrie she didn’t want to live in a tied cottage so they stayed at Blenheim Cottages. A brief period of peace and quiet enveloped the Buildings. Norrie continued to work for “Mister;” and Christopher scribbled away in his study. Rose left the laundry and began to work for Dr. and Mrs. Scott. Phyl and Tam busied themselves in farm and village activities. Raymond Timms can remember Tam playing football in Hartley’s field in Frog Lane. After the weary war years, it was a healing interlude. But it was only an interlude. Life moved on, for the Frys at least. After the success of *The Lady’s Not For Burning* and *Venus Observed*, it became obvious that the playwright needed a London address. People had to be entertained, colleagues consulted and friends provided with overnight accommodation. The Frys moved to



Rose and Lilian Stoter at No. 5 Mt. Pleasant Cottages.

Blomfield Road in Little Venice. Here, Fry's study overlooked the Regent's Park Canal. It was a delightful, leafy, watery kingdom for the writer and inspired him to paint a sign which read—Beware of the Doge! and to plant it on the front gate. It was a delightful pun for there was neither Doge nor dog, but it was Little Venice, you see, and there was lots of water.

Rose left the Scotts to work for Smith's Industries in Witney in order to save money toward a home of their own. She and Norrie rented a cottage at last on Swinbrook Road—No. 5 Mt. Pleasant Cottages—in 1957. This was an important milestone for the childless couple for, in 1966, they purchased their home from Capt. Hathaway for £469.10.6. Their renovations came to almost as much again. They carefully saved each invoice for work done. The paid bills remained in sequence with their important family papers—ration books, Albert's death certificate, Home Guard instructions, a leaflet from the Transport and General Workers' Union inviting agricultural workers to join, a Workman's Compensation Application for an accident affecting two fingers of Norrie's right hand, and a funeral director's invoice for Lilian's funeral in 1968.



Christmas greeting to Mrs. Stoter from Phyl Fry.

When "Mister" sold Grove Farm in the 1960s (the Hartleys' bought the land and the Cochranes' the house, Norrie began to work for the council. The need for her factory income had passed and Rose returned to the Scotts' employ. There was time to plant and tend a spectacular garden and own and cherish a dog. Many tiny snapshots recorded this happy, settled period in their lives and, for the first time, Norrie posed without the backdrop of a tractor or a combine harvester.

Eventually, another move was in store for the Stoters. They left Shipton for a home in Reade Close in Milton. It was here that Norrie died on the 29th of December 1999. Rose lived on until the 18th of August 2003, having spent her last days in Langston House, following a fall.

Prominent in the Stoters' archive was a Christmas greeting from Phyl sent from the Frys' new home in Wales. The harsh realism of the Royal Court dramas of the mid-1950s, from *Look Back in Anger* onward, left the imaginative, lyrical sparkle of Fry's plays suspended in time. A London home was no longer necessary but Christopher embraced new challenges. He was invited to Rome in order to rewrite parts (practically all) of William Wyler's film *Ben Hur*. In 1962, he scripted Dino De Laurentis' *Barabbas*. He translated Anouilh's *The Lark* and Jean Giraudoux' *Tiger at the Gate* for the West End.

One more move brought the Frys to East Dean on the South Downs below Goodwood Race Course in Sussex. Here, their new house was in almost as close proximity to the neighbouring dwelling as the Buildings had been all those years before. This time however, Christopher had chosen his next door neighbour. It was his old friend and fellow poet, Robert Gittings and his wife. And, hereby hangs another tale of serendipitous delight.

Many years before when the poets were young, Christopher read a poem of Robert's in a periodical he was glancing through. It caught his eye and his imagination—so much so that he wrote the author a letter expressing his admiration. Robert, very much surprised and pleased, wrote back immediately and so began a correspondence and a deep friendship that lasted a lifetime.

Gittings had won the Chancellor's Gold Medal for English Verse at Cambridge and went on to produce four volumes of poetry along with critically acclaimed biographies *Of Keats* and *Hardy*. He was also employed for over 20 years by the BBC as feature writer and producer. His son John, who now lives in the Gatehouse in Shipton, has a bulging folder of Robert's letters to his friend. Sadly, Christopher's letters to Robert have been lost. When perusing the collection, it becomes obvious that the Gittings visited Shipton often. John also remembers as a child coming along and sleeping in a tent at the Buildings. Wakened by cows snuffling nearby has remained a clear memory.

John and I had great fun filling in the blanks in Robert's letter of 14

June 1940.

“Thank you very much for your illustrated guide to Shipton. I look forward to more news of the doctor (Scott, of course), the vicar (who else but the Rev. Mr. Winsor Cundell). Mr. Lambeth (?), Mrs. Hall (doyenne of Shipton Court), seven cowgirls (land girls, perhaps), the butler (Shipton Court again) and the old Uncle Franklin (the proprietor of the No Profanity emporium).” And the next month, “Your account of the Tiddy Hall players knocked me over completely.” What a production that must have been!

An undated letter shows that Robert, as well as Christopher, was inspired by Shipton. “My last stay with you may have had some semi-dramatic results. Today I sent a script off to a friend of mine who produces for Children’s Hour. It is called Tam and the Witch of the Wychwoods. Even if they don’t like it, I hope you will. I economize paper so I can’t send you a copy.”

Our story cannot end without mention of Christopher’s 1951 play called *A Sleep of Prisoners*. This was inspired by the imprisonment of the Levellers in Burford Church and was written in response to a request from the Christian Drama Society to write a play for the Festival of Britain. The script became in the author’s own words—“a play about a church turned into a prison camp, the prisoners being not Cromwellians but men of our own time.” It is sober in tone but, at the end, reaffirming the faith that man can still grasp hope out of adversity. This powerful play was dedicated to Christopher’s closest friend, Robert Gittings.

As close neighbours, Christopher and Robert lived enriched and happy lives but, as it always seems to turn out, they were all too short. Phyl passed away in 1987 and Robert in 1992. The indomitable Christopher lived on until July of 2005, having written his last play *A Ring of Bells* only seven years before. He was 97 years old. He was survived by Tam, who lives in London and has been active for many years in children’s charities.

In a book entitled *Christopher Fry Album*, the author, Derek Stanford, wrote of Shipton—“Shipton under Wychwood, a village which has its own reticent beauty without aspiring to be a beauty spot. Unlike Broadway or Bourton on the Water, Shipton is not conscious of itself with that kind of shrewd historical pride that leads to the laying of traps for tourists. It is old without making a song and dance about it, charming without insistence on its charm. Here, too, one attains to a sense of the past still continuing on into the present...Fry, whose plays are often set in the past, never wished to write mere costume pieces, and living at Shipton he sees about him a mingling of modern and ancient ways of life—an aeroplane passes overhead, a ditcher by the hedgside sharpens his scythe—two levels of time exist together.”

This book, of course, was published in 1952 and it is now 2013.

Sixty-one years have brought many changes. Still, the essence of Stanford’s impression of Shipton is what has brought newcomers here and persuaded natives to stay on. It has been a wonderful place for people like the Stoters and the Frys to “rub along” together in mutual contentment.

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- Excerpts from *A Pinch of Nutmeg* by Phyl Fry are reproduced with the kind permission of Stephen Stuart-Smith of Enitharmon Press.

Emigrants From Milton to New Zealand

Janet Wallace

My first encounter with them was in the churchyard of St Simon and St Jude, Milton-under-Wychwood, 2005. During the intervening years I have heard of several more in the village particularly in the church or library. Who, or what are they? They are the descendants of farm labourers and their families who emigrated to New Zealand during the 1870s. Why did so many go from this area – especially from Milton – and feel the need to pull up their roots to start a new life thousands of miles away? Shirley and Gerald Abraham Turner were the couple I was so fortunate to meet. Gerald is a descendant of Thomas and his wife Mary Ann (nee Busson) who were living with their family in Milton.

Contained in previous Wychwood History Journals there are excellent articles relating to the condition of the local farm labourers and their desperate plight to survive. Background history tells us that over the centuries the farm worker had, especially since the time of the Enclosure Act, become less able to do any work except for that of the farmer by whom he was hired and paid, with

no security due to 'tied' accommodation. Occasionally these problems led to rioting in different parts of England by the men trying to get a better deal from their employers. 'The Revolt of the Field' started in 1872 when labourers refused to work, causing more problems and hardship to themselves and their families. By this time, Joseph Arch (born 1826) had founded the National Agricultural Labourers' Union and was travelling the countryside, addressing meetings aimed at getting a fairer outcome for all farm workers. The meetings were very well attended locally and several other speakers encouraged emigration as an alternative life to England. At



the same time the governments of Canada, Australia and New Zealand were very keen to offer assisted emigration to labourers for work on the land, having previously been supplied by this country with men for work on their railways.

An 'original enclosure' from an organizer, Mr C.R. Carter to the Agent General – with reference to assisted emigration to New Zealand read –

'In consequence of Mr Christopher Holloway, President Delegate of the Oxford National Labourers' Union, a request to permit me to attend a meeting of agricultural labourers to be held at a small village near Shipton in Oxon, called Milton-under-Wychwood. I attended the meeting in question. Mr Holloway occupied the Chair and the audience consisting of agricultural people (a few accompanied by wives and grown-up children) assembled from villages far and near of the number to between five and six hundred persons.'

Mr Carter goes on to say that the proceedings occupied nearly three hours – a much more encouraging kind than over the last years. This was mainly due to flattering accounts sent to England by emigrants already settled. He sent a letter to Mr Holloway dated 6th November, 1873 in which he confirms that the Agent General consents to his going to New Zealand with a party of emigrants selected by himself and Mr Taylor who will also accompany the emigrants, noting various conditions included in which is that the number of labourers with their families must not be less than two hundred. Mr Carter also notes that Mr Holloway occupies a high position amongst the agricultural labourers second only to that of Mr Arch (now in Canada) and he appears



Mongol

satisfied of procuring the required number for the steamer Mongol which will leave Plymouth on 15th December, 1873

What follows next are accounts of the voyage of the S.S. Mongol carrying some of the families, including the Turners from Milton, on assisted passage to Otago in New Zealand in charge of Mr Christopher Holloway from Wootton (by Woodstock)

Mr Holloway's journal starts on 16th December, 1873 following the journey from Oxford to Plymouth by train, which he says was far from satisfactory due to problems with luggage. On arrival in Plymouth they found the depot clean and there was sufficient food which was far superior to what they would have had at home.

Mr Holloway, the Revd Kennedy and others had to keep their party of emigrants occupied at the depot. Due to bad weather in the Port of London the S.S. Mongol was held up for six days. She was described as

'a fine clipper of 2252 tons, with 400 horse power engines well fitted. There are ducks, geese, sheep, pigs, cows etc alive on board to use on the voyage. The total number of passengers on board the Mongol were 384 (English 246, Irish 67, Scotch [sic] 2, cabin passengers 22, and crew 56, destined for Canterbury, Wellington, Auckland, and Otago'

The sailing ship Scimitar was due to embark on the same date.



Scimitar (built 1863), renamed Rangitiki 1874 after her first voyage under the New Zealand Shipping Company flag. She made five voyages to New Zealand with government immigrants in the 1870s, bringing over 1500 immigrants.

The S.S. Mongol finally left Plymouth on 23rd December, 1873 and by 27th December had passed the Rock of Gibraltar. After initial problems with sea sickness all appears to be well on board with Sunday service being held the next day during which the ship passed the Madeira coast and the Canary Islands on 29th December. On 30th Dec. Mr Holloway notes that there are a few people in the hospital and several children down with

measles, and that on 31st December, the saloon passengers have a dance. The ship enters the Tropic of Cancer.

1st Jan, 1874 (10th day) Saw several flying fish and porpoises playing in the water. Routine life continues on board but on 4th January, the three month old infant of Mrs Lammas died and was buried at sea the next day. Very impressive and solemn.

6th Jan. (15th day) Crossed the line and the weather was delightful. By next day entered the Tropic of Capricorn.

8th Jan. (17th day) There had been 35 cases of measles – ten cured. Sadly a little girl of three years died the next day and was buried at sea.

10th Jan. (19th day) The ship passed the island of St Helena, Napoleon's prison and place of death. Over the next few days the weather was not good and during this time some passengers took the opportunity to look at their luggage brought up from the hold – much was damaged and mildewed. Noted that the crew were very rough with peoples' luggage.

16th Jan. (25th day) Passed Cape Town at eight o'clock this evening. Considered a good run from England in twenty four days and a half. Vessel rolling fearfully in the evening – tossed Mr Kennedy out of his berth.

17th Jan. (26th day) Albatrosses were seen. Mrs Gibbs presented her husband with a son – the first birth on board. The weather was fine and there were birds, sharks and porpoises seen in abundance.

18th Jan. (27th day) The Sabbath has again returned and with it a most glorious sunrise which imparted new life and vigour among the emigrants. Sea calm as a rippling river, air delightful. Visited and distributed tracts among the emigrants who attended Divine Service. Mr Kennedy's subject, "Keep thy heart with all thy diligence." I again preach'd in the evening, taking for my subject "The pearl of great price." Phillip Pratley's child of one year and eight months died tonight. 3rd death on board. Problems with mothers of some of the sick children saying that they were not receiving enough nourishment.

21st Jan. (30th day) Woke up feeling very unwell. It was raining in torrents. The people could not get on deck and as a consequence many of them suffered from sickness and headache.

22nd Jan. (31st day) Awoke this morning refreshed after a good night's rest. Another of Lammas's children died during the night and I also heard that several others are seriously ill. More than sixty have had the measles. There are problems of short supplies of water. 4th death on board.

23rd Jan. (32nd day) Informed by the captain that two more children had died. One, the remaining one of Lammas's children. This was a great trial for the parents who had brought three children on board and who had had to commit them all to the deep in less than five weeks. The other child was Mrs Spraggett's lovely boy of five years old. 5th and 6th deaths on board.

24th Jan. (33rd day) Joseph Collimore's little boy of one year of age died. This was the 7th death on board.

25th Jan. (34th day) Saluted the vessel Beautiful Star of Aberdeen, outward bound. Religious teaching continued each Sunday. Over the next few days the weather is changeable and ill health still troubles many children for whom everything is being done.

27th Jan. (36th day) Mrs Turner presented her husband with another son – the 2nd birth on board,

28th Jan. (37th day) Spraggetts' lost another boy of ten years of age, being the 8th death on the voyage.

29th Jan. (38th day) On visiting some of the emigrants, Mr Holloway found many were most grateful to the doctor for what he had done for their families. . . . while others must have been born grumblers. 'In confirmation of this statement I notice the following fact which came under my observation with one of the emigrants and I found him complaining because the doctor had not allowed his child which [sic] was unwell, Port Wine the same as yesterday. Thinking the man was justified in making the complaint, I spoke to the doctor upon the subject and he assured me that he had that very morning dispensed to that family one bottle of Stout, two glasses of Brandy and 1 Tin of preserved meat.' Annie, the ten year old daughter of Mr Johnson, a friend of Mr Holloway, died. The 9th death on board.

The next few days were uneventful but on 1st Feb. (41st day) Wm Timms lost his infant. Illness still continued to affect some of the emigrants although they were well cared for by the doctor and those concerned, but on 2nd Feb. Mr Kendle's twelve month old child died, followed on 4th Feb. by that of Emily Hewitt aged ten. These last three brought the total of deaths on board to twelve. There continued to be much illness on board the ship. As well as the children, Mr Kennedy was unwell, but soon recovered, while Wm Witham was taken into the hospital area on 7th Feb.

8th Feb. (48th day) Mrs Turner's little boy of two years died during the night (13th death) and in the afternoon Mr Thomas's little boy of thirteen months just passed away (14th death). In consequence of Mr Kennedy's indisposition the captain read the prayers (it being Sunday). In the evening Mr Holloway preached in the young mens' department on the subject – The Recognition of friends in Heaven. Good attendance.

9th Feb. (49th day) A fine sunshiny morning. Mr Holloway visited the emigrants, found Wm Witham much worse and he died at one o'clock of typhoid fever. 'This, the first adult we have lost, making the 15th death on board. He leaves a wife and one child.'

10th Feb. (50th day) Entered the Pacific Ocean during the night. Expect to see land on Thursday - (2days).

11th Feb. (51st day) Lovely morning. Mr Johnson lost another daughter – Em-mie, six years of age.

16th death on board.

12th Feb. (52nd day) Land was sighted and on the next day the passengers were able to make out cattle etc and trees. The Pilot came on board and guided the vessel into safe anchorage in the quarantine port of Port Chalmers. There, the passengers soon saw the yellow flag had been hoisted and, after a conference

of members of the Board of Health they were informed they would be landed on Quarantine Island the next day.

14th Feb. Six boat loads were conveyed to the Island, the rest to go the next day. Another death occurred making the 17th on board.

15th Feb. The emigrants were in excellent spirits and the arrangements that had been made for them were very satisfactory. The cabin passengers were still on the Mongol in quarantine and would remain there until the vessel was liberated. Before disembarking Miss Tripp's illegitimate child died (18th death) and Mr Johnson's third child also died making a total of 19 deaths in all.

18th Feb. Still in quarantine. It is expected we shall leave the vessel tomorrow morning (ie. The cabin passengers and organizers). In the meantime they had a trip round the harbour. It was found that the Matron from the Mongol was down with scarlet fever. News that we are to be freed in the morning.

The distance traversed by the S.S Mongol from Plymouth to Port Chalmers, New Zealand was:- 12,630 miles

Average speed:- 252 miles per day

Time taken:- 51 days

ADVANTAGES OF AUCKLAND OVER OTHER PROVINCES.

Free grants given to all emigrants and each emigrant can claim as a matter of right under the Homestead Act, 40 acres free for each adult and 20 acres to each child under 18 years of age.

The Emigrant must, however take whatever land the Government may give him, . . . whether such land be held by Provincial or by General Government.

The rates of wages to labourers are more steady in Auckland and not subject to fluctuations from gold rush etc.

There is no doubt that when all the Maori difficulties are over, that free grants placed in Auckland will be abolished and consequently land must advance considerably in price and value.

This ends the account of Mr Christopher Holloway (Extracts)

The second record is that by one of the saloon class passengers, Mr James Dixon Gore. Sadly only part of his diary is available and extracts have been taken from this giving a slightly different angle to the events as follows:-

On the morning of 23rd December, 1873 S.S Mongol left Plymouth England, for New Zealand. On the first few days of the voyage many passengers including Mr Holloway suffered very badly from sea-sickness although Mr Dixon Gore says he was unaffected and he recorded seeing the Eddystone Light-house on 25th December and the passing the Rock of Gibraltar on 27th December. By the fifth day things were calmer, enjoying beautiful weather in the Bay of Biscay.

Day 6 (28th Dec) There were religious services on board with hymns, songs and some sermons. One person was diagnosed with measles.

Day 7 (29th Dec) Off Madeira and could see Mt Teneriffe – first time seeing land since leaving England. Beautiful weather.

Day 8 (30th Dec) A week since leaving England. There are a few passengers in the ship's hospital and several children are down with measles. Thankful to have a most skilled medical man on board who never wearies from attending the ailments of his patients. Mr Gore documents a row between the boatswain and two sailors which the Captain had a job to stop. Enquiries tomorrow.

Day 9 (31st Dec) Sailors reprimanded by the Captain, they apologize. Grand Ball among the saloon passengers. Entered the Tropic of Cancer, hoping for two weeks of hot weather. Travelling at 15 knots an hour.

Day 10 (1st Jan 1874) Butcher killed a pig yesterday but while the officers were at the Ball, the engine men stole the pig and a sack of potatoes and ate the lot! Flying fish seen and some landed on the deck, porpoises seen in the water. Evening presided over by Christopher Holloway.

Day 11 (2nd Jan) Several children down with measles, two people discharged from hospital.

Day 12 (3rd Jan) Dead calm and very hot. Had to wait till 6 p.m. for dinner – lack of wind meant fires wouldn't burn.

Day 13 (4th Jan) Petty thieving among the emigrants. Captain threatened to put anyone found guilty in irons and handed over to the authorities on arrival in New Zealand. Two services held today one each by Kennedy and Holloway. Baby Lammas aged 3 months old, died today.

Day 14 (5th Jan) Gore remarks that the captain is a stingy fellow. Baby buried at sea.

Day 15 (6th Jan) Crossed the Line today. Two sailors put in irons today – wouldn't work because the captain refused to give them extra rations. Fine day, very hot below, both in the saloon and berths.

Day 16 (7th Jan) In Tropic of Capricorn, weather fine.

Day 17 (8th Jan) Two sailors still in irons and refusing to work. Weather delightful. Doctor reports there have been thirty five cases of measles on board – ten cured.

Day 18 (9th Jan) Death of three year old girl from bronchitis – “dear little creature committed to the deep at 2.30. The mother and two children had been returning to New Zealand to her husband, very sad as she had lost three children earlier.”

Day 19 (10th Jan) Passed the island of St Helena. Concert in the evening.

Day 20 (11th Jan) Mr Kennedy conducted a service at 10.30 amidships so that all who chose to could attend. Another in the evening by Mr Holloway.

Day 21 (12th Jan) Stormy. Crossing the sun today - where there is no shadow.

Day 22 (13th Jan) Luggage brought up from hold. Some boxes broken very badly and things very much mildewed. Careless handling by officers caused more damage.

Day 23 (14th Jan) Fine morning. Complained about water, with good reason. Just out of the Tropics.

“Cannot call at Cape of Good Hope for fear of losing firemen [stokers] and sailors who threaten to leave at first port of call.”

Day 24 (15th Jan) Passengers affected by coal being moved out of the hold for the last three days. Heavy swell, weekly meeting cancelled.

Day 25 (16th Jan) Heavy swell again. Passed Cape Town in twenty four and a half days, head winds nearly the whole distance. Evening – vessel rolling fearfully – tossed Mr Kennedy out of his berth.

Day 26 (17th Jan) J. Gibbs' wife gave birth on ship today. Beautiful sun shiny morning. Saw some fine albatrosses today, most splendid birds.

Day 27 (18th Jan) Glorious sunrise, inspiring life and vigour into emigrants. Sea calm as a rippling river. Two services today. Phillip Pratley's child of one year and eight months died. Third death on board.

Mr James Dixon Gore's part in this record comes to an end at this point.

There is third documentation of the voyage by the chaplain, Mr Kennedy. This is not in diary form but contains his recollections of events. He had previously become curate of the parish of Toughboyne, the rector of which, one Rev. E. Brown was the brother of the late Governor of New Zealand and upon hearing good reports of the life and living standards there, decided upon emigration himself and accompanied a group of his parishioners most of whom were hoping for a better life in the Auckland region, though some chose Wellington, Otago and Canterbury in which to settle.

The S.S. Mongol was due to leave London on 12th December, 1873, but owing to a very dense and heavy fog was detained until the 17th one of the heaviest fogs that had visited for years. It continued for more than a week, and during its prevalence many lives were lost, chiefly at the docks, into which several people fell, and though their cries could be plainly heard by persons all around, it was impossible to give assistance, so dense was the fog no one could see his neighbour. At Gravesend - to where they had been towed - a part of the engine gear got broken which was repaired when they reached Plymouth (5-6 days late) on Saturday evening, 20th December. The 600 emigrants boarded the ships, from the depot on Tuesday, 22nd December, 250 on the Mongol and the remainder on Scimitar. One of Mr Kennedy's party had been removed to the hospital and . . 'many viewed with apprehension the sickly appearance of the children in their contingent and, when on the morning of our departure on 23rd December a few hours before we weighed anchor, a family of eleven was set ashore as unfit for the voyage, we felt almost certain that scarletina, known to have been in the depot, would break out amongst us.

He remarks on the Services held on board regularly, with two on Sundays, weather permitting, Sunday school and other lessons held by the schoolmaster on board. He notes that illness was a great problem as was sea sickness from time to time. Christmas Day was spent in the Bay of Biscay and on entering the Tropics on the 7th day, saw flying fish. They saw the old year out just as eight bells struck and there was music, singing and dancing.

Some of the deaths of those on board are recorded by him as follows:-

The first death occurred on 4th Jan. a little child three months old, I buried the body next morning at 7 o'clock. This was the first time I had ever seen a body committed to the deep and found it difficult throughout the service, the solemnity of the occasion was felt by all present and many were moved to tears. We had many like sad events, the most painful perhaps that of two fine boys both of whom died from malignant scarlet fever. The death of the second was most painful. The mother who was frantic, drove off the sailors and would not allow them to remove the body nor can I say that I had much better success when sent for. For many days the poor woman looked upon me with aversion and more than once asked me to give back her boys. I have seen her lately and am happy to know that He, who alone can console the afflicted is enabling her to accept with more resignation the visitation of His providence.

We sighted New Zealand soil (the Snares) on the 49th day and cast anchor in the harbour at Port Chalmers fifty one days and eleven hours from the time we left Plymouth, thus making the quickest passage on record by this route. We were of course put in quarantine, the emigrants on an island admirably adapted for that purpose, the cabin passengers remaining on board the ship. As soon as the quarantine period was over I had an opportunity of seeing a good part of Otagobordering on Dunedin and of this I gladly availed myself. A delay of some

days in Canterbury, Wellington and Nelson enabled me to do likewise in those provinces. The drive into the country in these places helped to dispel the delusion which was fast growing upon us, that New Zealand was a land of rugged hills and mountains only. From the sea nothing but mountain ranges were visible, all plains appear to be inland. I reached Auckland on 8th March. This terminated a most prosperous voyage, and one which would have been extremely pleasant had it no been for the sad mortality which attended it, brought on too as it was by want of necessary precautions, imperfect arrangements and deficient supplies.

Following the voyage of the S.S. Mongol from Plymouth to New Zealand an enquiry was held into the 'Conditions on Board - care of, and conditions for emigrants.' The Board of Health had been notified of the health problems resulting in a total of fifty seven cases of measles, twenty one of scarlet fever and of the many deaths which had occurred during and just after the voyage. After the removal of the immigrants as they were now classed, the ship was thoroughly fumigated and released on 19th February, 1874. At inspection the accommodation was classed as clean and well fitted, the hospital and deck commodious and well ventilated. The cooking range was not sufficiently large enough and not entirely satisfactory - especially if the wind was unfavourable. There were three distilling apparatuses for water, one of which alone could distil seven hundred gallons per day. The immigrants seemed satisfied on the whole with their treatment and the matron, officers and constables were recommended.

There was also a report on the medical conditions. The Medical Health Officer in Plymouth was reported for gross carelessness due to the failure to remove those infected from the depot and the late necessity to remove at least two families from the Mongol due to illness. The Surgeon Superintendent of the Mongol, Mr Davidson submitted a long report on every aspect of the voyage from his point of view including illness, original condition of passengers (whole families being in very poor health even at the beginning of the voyage - possibly due to recent conditions at home), disruption or reduction in daily water allowance, infectious diseases and their management, unsuitable and insufficient food especially for very young and ill children. There was criticism of his failure to isolate infected passengers, but in his report to the Commissioners he explained that due to lack of space in the hospital this was not possible and both he and the captain decided that trying to isolate infected people away from the others was the best policy. He was also concerned about the large number of young children in proportion to adults - not having received a copy of the passenger list until one hour before sailing. These reports were very thorough and extensive. Most passengers indicated that Mr Davidson had been very caring and looked after their needs and illnesses for

which they were thankful. He expressed the desire to take up a new post on another boat as soon as possible

And what of the S.S. Mongol? She was built by Dobie and Company on the Clyde, launched on 12.8.1873 and registered in London. Her role was to be that of a cargo and emigrant passenger ship, owned by the London & China Steamship Company. She was chartered to Shaw, Savill for the emigrant trade to New Zealand. However on 12.12.1874, while working out of Hong Kong she was wrecked on the Needle Rock, twenty miles from port. There were fourteen survivors but the Captain, his wife and four officers were lost.

The names of some of the people on board the S.S. Mongol:-

Thomas Margetts, wife & 2 children (aged 6,3)
 Lammas, wife & 3 children (aged 3,2,0) all died on voyage
 John Hudson, wife & 3 children (aged 14,11,8)
 ?Hewitt, wife & 6 children (aged 13,10,8,6,3,0) one died on voyage
 ?Norris or Harris, wife & 4 children (aged 13,11,9,5,0)
 James Mills, wife Harriet and children Harriet and Walter
 Gibbs, wife & 3 children (aged 8,6,3) plus one born on voyage
 Miles, wife ? children
 ?Hills or Mills, wife & 3 children (aged 5,3,1)
 Johnson, wife & 5 children (aged 11,8,6,3,0) three died on voyage
 Charles Pearce 38, lab, represented Churchill Union branch at delegate meetings
 Frederick Berry 37, wife Elizabeth 38, George 13, Ellen 10, Emma 8, Rose 6, Fred 3,
 John inf.
 ?Pitts, wife & 3 children (aged 10,5,3)
 Osman, wife & 1 child (aged 2)
 Thomas Turner, wife & 9 children (aged 18,16,14,11,9,6,4,1,0) one died on voyage,
 Plus one born on voyage.
 Frederick Tripp, wife & 1 child (William Simmonds aged 14) died on voyage
 Smith, wife & 3 children (aged 4,2,0)
 Emanuel Jeffs 30, wife Ann and 4 children
 James Taylor 39, wife and six children
 Edward Gardner, carpenter, wife Jane and young daughter
 Witham, wife & 1 child (aged 2) Father died on voyage.
 Philip Pratley, wife Jane & 3 children (aged 3.1.0) one died on voyage
 William Tripp, & 6 children (aged 21,17,15,11,4,1)
 Timms, wife & 3 children (aged 4,2,0) one died on voyage
 Charles Jeffrey, wife Ann and four children
 Cullimore, wife & 7 children (aged 16,14,12,11,8,5,1) one died on voyage
 Other names mentioned include:- Stroud, Hayes, Gregory, Hanson, Woods, Jefferies,

Willcox,, Mr Thomas (one child died on voyage), Sally Hewitt, Mrs Higgs(one child died on voyage), Spraggett (two children died on voyage), Kendle (one child died on voyage), Edwin Ford and W. Petty.

Thomas Morris, 50, wife Eliza and four children.

The Turner Family Ancestors

What of the ancestors of Mr Gerald Abraham Turner? It is thanks to his wife Shirley that I have the information as follows:-

Thomas TURNER born 1825 in Gt Barrington, Glos. (Agricultural labourer)*
 {married 1849

Mary Ann BUSSON baptized 1832 in Foscoate, Idbury, Oxon.
 Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4 on board S.S. Mongol.

Their children were:-

Hannah born-1853 in Fulbrook*, Oxon. Emigrated to Ontario, Canada. Married Walter FITCH.

Thomas (Tom)-born 1855 in Milton-u-Wychwood*, Oxon. Agricultural labourer*
 Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4. Drowned in Kyeburn, Otago in 1877.

Emily born-1858 in Milton-u-Wychwood*. Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4.
 Married Charles CRIMP and had thirteen children. Died in Dunedin 1941.

Frederick Walter (Fred)-born 1861 in Milton-u-Wychwood*. Ploughboy* Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4. Died in Palmerston, Otago in 1877.

George-born 1863 in Milton-u-Wychwood* Scholar* Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4. Married Harriet ABURN and had seven children. Died in Dunedin in 1939.

Walter Henry-born 1865 in Milton-u-Wychwood* Scholar* Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4. Drowned in Gore Southland in 1899.

John Albert-born 1868 in Milton-u-Wychwood* Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4.
 Married but no issue. Died in Dunedin in 1950.

William Arthur (Bill)-born 1870 in Milton-u-Wychwood* Emigrated to New Zealand 1873/4. Married and had ten children. Died in 1942.

Henry-born 1872 in Milton-u-Wychwood* Died on board S.S. Mongol during emigration to New Zealand in 1874.

Frank Henry-born 1874 at sea aboard S.S. Mongol during emigration to New Zealand. Died in 1876 in Palmerston, Otago.

Thomas TURNER died in 1877 in Otago.

His widow Mary Ann married (2) Martin MCLURE in 1882 and (3) James MULFORD in 1900. She died in 1910 in Ashburton, N.Z.

George and Harriet (nee ABURN) TURNER'S youngest child Walter, was the father of Gerald Abraham TURNER who came back to Milton-under-Wychwood in 2005.

* indicates information obtained from the Census for Milton-u-Wychwood in 1871.

Appendix

Names, facts and reports of some who left the Wychwoods area to start a new life in New Zealand

On 12.9.1871 The Chile sailed from London arriving in Napier, New Zealand on 8.12.1871 with 220 assisted emigrants on board. (192 were recruited by Brogdens for work on the railways and were mainly from Cornwall.) Passengers from this area included Thomas HOWSE 23, and Caroline 22. By 1882 he was a settler with fifty acres at Makiester. It is thought he is likely to have nominated his brother Timothy for consideration (for emigration). They appear to be the sons of Daniel HOWSE of Milton who had been appointed to the Executive of the Oxford District. In the 1871 census he appears as a 60 year old agricultural labourer living with his 61 year old wife and son John.

On 22.11.1873 on board the Invererne were a party from London bound for Hawkes Bay. They included three families from Milton:-

John Ireland 45 (ag. lab), wife Phyllis (nee Parsloe), Henry 11, Benjamin 9, George 7, Elizabeth 5, Mary 3, and Louisa 1. The two youngest girls died on the voyage Joseph Wheeler 40, wife Ann (nee Eden) and children Paulina 10, Mary 8, Albert 6, Philip 4, and Annie 1. Annie died on board.

Edward Groves 35, wife Eliza with six children – Frank 12, Eliza Ann 10, Arthur 8, Gertrude 5, Frederick 4, plus one more not named.

Wheeler and Groves classed themselves as farm workers but they also worked in the quarry. (Milton Census 1871) shows Wheeler as a 39 year old quarry worker and Groves a 32 year old mason's labourer.

The Invererne was a ship of 774 tons under Captain Foreman. She was formerly the Atlanta Banfield, but she came to grief, was condemned and sold. After repairs she was renamed and made three voyages to New Zealand. The first of these being the one containing the above-named. She arrived in Napier on 8th March, 1874 carrying in all 280 passengers. Sadly there had been sixteen deaths on board, mostly from scarletina.

Joseph Leggatt 34 (carpenter), wife Ann and seven children sailed with 111 others on Ballochmyle

Jan, 1874 including:-

Alfred Groves 44 (quarryman), wife and five children (MuW).

Edwin Stringer 36 (ag. lab), wife Ann (gloveress) and seven children. (MuW)

Daniel Wilks 44 (ag. lab), wife and five children (MuW)

Frederick Barnes 34 (shepherd), wife and five children (Fifield)

Richard Wiggins 40 (ag. lab), wife Eliza and 15yr old son.

Nearly 150 Oxfordshire immigrants arrived in Hawkes Bay during 1874 including 40 from the Wychwoods, among them on The Herald being the following:-

George Franklin 29, wife Emily, daughter Mary Ann plus one other child.

Lawrence Franklin 53 (ag. lab), wife Hannah 51 (gloveress) and three children.

William Jackson 31 (ag. lab), wife Ruth 26 and three children.

Joseph Franklin 22.

Other local men were:- John Pinfold (Taynton) Branch Secretary of the Union, Charles Coombes 28, and William Alden 23, both from Lyneham, William Maisey (Fulbrook), James Hoverd 37, and David Margetts both from Churchill.

Edward Harding, wife Sarah and five children from Taynton.

George Millin, wife Mary and four children.

George Smith 31 (ag.lab), wife Maria 31, with George 11, Ellen 9, Lydia 0. George (sen) had been an active Union member representing Burford branch. He later wrote to John Pinfold (Taynton branch) who like Smith was a preacher, recommending both Pinfold and Edward Harding to follow him. The letter quotes '6/- for a day's work' Says he would have to work for three days in Burford for the same amount.

William West 49,(ag.lab), wife Elizabeth, Mark17(lab), Sarah 11, Walter 8, Sidney 6, Mary 3, Thomas 1.

In early September, 1874 a party from Shipton joined the Cospatrick. They from the HEDGES and TOWNSEND families. Very sadly all were lost at sea. (see Memorial on Shipton Village Green and Wychwoods History Journals Nos 3 and 9.

The last party to leave in 1874 was that led by Thomas Osbourn aboard the Lady Jocelyn. Among her 72 passengers were at least nineteen from Milton and Lyneham. They included three married farm labourers from Milton- Henry James 43, Henry Rooke 30, George Watts 22, plus William Gardner 51 and ?family, as well as Thomas Timms 39, (shepherd), wife Ellen and four children.

26.9.1875, George Allington sailed from Plymouth with 101 people on board Crusader. Several families from Ascott were among them. Frederick Pratley31 (ag.lab), wife Mary Ann and six children. She was one of the Ascott Martyrs who was sent to goal, taking baby Thomas with her.

Edwin Smith 43 (ag.lab), wife Harriet, daughter Mary and her seven siblings.

John Tymms 33 (ag.lab), wife and six children.

Peter Honeybone 30.

Eli Pratley 28.

Other emigrants mentioned:- William Cook 39 (ag.lab), wife Elizabeth

36, Clara 12, Albert 10, Alice 7. In 1882 listed as settler with 100 acres. The son became known as Albert William Cook JP, County Councillor (born in Oxon on 22.4.1866.) He was a stock keeper and farmer with 900 acres and 2000 sheep, and in 1908 owned a general store in Ashton Clinton. The family sailed on the Herald.

Quotes from emigrants to relatives 'at home'

John Timms Ascott: We can live here, but we only lingered in England. After 9/12 in N.Z.

Charles Loomas: Fed so well on voyage, he had never lived so well. Very impressed on arrival.

Walter Warren: Very pleased with Wellington Barracks. Abundant, best food supplied on journey.

Betty & William Bocock:..travelled 5 miles to post as farm labourer at 30/- a week, house, garden, 2 cows.

We are all getting what we want. We are at home. We are happy as the day is long.

We can get a bag of sugar & half a chest of tea from shop and pay for it with ready money.

Working people don't eat sheep or bullocks' heads etc here. We have the best joints as well as the rich.

Jack and Gem Smith: live first class, dine along with master and mistress and live the same as if we are his own. Never have a meal out in the field.. farmers are not so proud as some people at home.

John Pratt (Kent) ..'Will you do this please – not – if you don't like it you can leave.

George Mumby (Lincs) ..been working with farmers a good deal and when I work by the day I get dinner.

After six months in Auckland, Stephen was able to provide to the unfortunate of his own class.

George Box, 20, wrote of the joys of hunting wild boar and cattle in the N.Z. bush.

George Phillips, 23, (Glos) ..shooting, and James Pratt tried hunting.

Annie Leggett to mother.. Fred Barnes says he should want £500 a year to live on if he went back to England.

James Pratt..nearly all people have a horse to ride on to work.

More men than women in N.Z. 100% to 75%.

Letter from Pinfold to Smith ..'bought myself a horse, harness and saddle for £70...going to buy a cow and the wife has her fowls. Living in two-room cottage with garden for 5/- a week. Meat good and plentiful, plenty of work. Shearing pays £1 a day. Shepherd with one or two children gets £60-70 per annum, all found. Clothing dearer.

Those arriving were often greeted by previous immigrants and welcomed into their churches (mostly Methodist). Occasionally some were not given such hospitality – overcrowding etc. Immigrants were hired, single couples were favourites – those with larger families were more difficult to place. Ploughmen were needed especially.

Acknowledgements

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To Gerald Turner for coming to look for his family roots, and especially to his wife Shirley for so much advice and information.

Thank you All.

Images Emerging from the Archive

Alan Vickers

A consequence of the success of the WLHS over the past 30 years has been the amassing of a considerable archive of images (mainly thanks to the late John Rawlings) - estimated at more than 3,000. We have formed a Digital Group within the Society and have agreed standards and made a start with the scanning of some of these images. As a "taster" we are presenting four of these images here. They are typical of the gems to be found in this very valuable resource.



Station House Shipton in the early 1900s. Subsequently knocked down and re-erected as the last house in Shipton before the boundary with Milton.



Chapel Lane Shipton in the early 1900s



Sid Smith driving cattle down Milton High Street to his smallholding in the 1950s



Aerial view of Poplar Farm High Street Milton in the 1940s, now Poplar Farm Close

Wychwoods Local History Society

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Further details can be obtained from the Secretary, Wendy Pearse, Littlecott, Honeydale Farm, Shipton under Wychwood, Chipping Norton, Oxon OX7 6BJ (telephone 01933 831023)

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Cover illustration: Old Beaconsfield Hall



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