

# THE WYCHWOODS ALBUM



**Sue Jourdan & Sue Richards**

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WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
1985

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## Introduction

Shipton under Wychwood and Milton under Wychwood are adjacent villages in the valley of the river Evenlode in West Oxfordshire, on the eastern edge of the Cotswold Hills near the once royal forest of Wychwood. They have provided the setting for an extensive number of old photographs recording many aspects of work and leisure, some by professionals like Frank Packer and Percy Simms of Chipping Norton, William Butt of Bourton-on-the-Water and Henry Taunt of Oxford. However, many of the photographers remain unnamed.

The names of people in the photographs have been included as space has permitted. We apologise for any inaccuracies and shall be pleased to hear from anyone who can set the record straight or provide further detail.

We should like to thank Mike Linfield and Norman Frost for letting us use the collections that they have accumulated and for the information that they have been able to provide. We feel sure that they in turn would join us in thanking the people of the Wychwoods and neighbouring villages for lending us their photographs and sharing their memories.

We also thank Malcolm Graham of the Oxfordshire Library Service for his help and for permission to use part of Jeffery's Map of Oxfordshire, and the Oxfordshire Museum Services, Woodstock, who now own the Packer archive.

Sue Jourdan and Sue Richards

The Wychwoods Local History Society acknowledges with gratitude the financial support provided by Milton and Shipton Parish Councils, and the many subscribers who were prepared to support the project.

The secretary of the Society always welcomes local photographs to copy for the archives and would therefore be delighted to be put in touch with any additional sources. (Norman Frost, Secretary, Wychwoods Local History Society, The Gables, Station Road, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxford OX7 6BQ)

Further copies of this book may be obtained from  
Wychwoods Local History Society, price £3.40 including postage and packing.



*Shipton from the church tower, 1893.* This panoramic view of the village was taken when restoration was carried out on the church tower and spire. The row of old cottages built 'on the waste' (in the foreground), was pulled down shortly afterwards.

Church Street on the left (referred to as Main Street in one set of deeds) was once a small business area with a baker, blacksmith, police house, shop and lodging house. The house with the two bay windows was Hambidges tea and

coffee shop in the eighteenth century. Later, it is remembered as the place where people took their Sunday joint to be roasted in the baker's oven.

The semi-detached three-storey houses to the right of the Crown Inn are built on the site of the Shipton workhouse. Miss Barter, sister of the vicar, ran a school in part of the building. In the background, showing against the trees of the Court Walk and Pleasure Grounds, are Shipton Court on the left and Shipton Lodge on the right.



*Shipton post office, 1908. Shipton Band are entertaining on Club Day.*



*Shipton post office, 1910. In this short space of time the front of the premises had been entirely rebuilt and modernised in the current style. Shipton post office was started there in 1845 by Richard Cross, weaver, overseer and parish clerk. A letter addressed to 'Mr Cross, Post Office, Shipton, Chipping Norton, Oxon' and dated 4 April 1845 suggests that it is the oldest sub-post office in the country. It continued with his direct descendants until 1975. Miss Kate Coombes (later Mrs Wiggins) is standing in the left of the doorway with her mother and father, Elizabeth and Henry Coombes.*



*The Crown Inn, Shipton, about 1890. The Crown (now the Shaven Crown) and the Red Horse are the two old inns of Shipton. In 1578 the Crown Inn Charity was set up. Rent from letting the building was to be used for the upkeep of Shipton Bridge and Stokers Bridge, Milton, with any surplus to benefit the village. The property was sold by the trustees in 1930 but the Trust continued until combined with the Shipton United Charities in 1969.*

The Crown has been an important meeting place over the centuries – the Vestry meetings (forerunners of the parish council) were always held there. The Crown Inn Friendly Society was founded in 1860 for 'the mutual relief and maintenance of the members in sickness and infirmity.' Their activities included a Club Day with its church parade and feast.



*The High Street, Shipton, near the Milton turn, about 1900.*

*The Red Horse Inn, Shipton, about 1900.* The name of Annie Longshaw can be seen above the door. In 1936 she was acclaimed as England's oldest licensee at the age of 98.

Murray's Handbook of Oxfordshire, 1903, writes 'In the courtyard of the Red Horse . . . was formerly a medicinal fountain of much repute.' Mrs Phyllis Smith remembers her mother telling her of fetching water from the Vamp (or Fant) Well to dress the wound on her grandmother's leg in the 1890s.



*Ascott Road corner, Shipton, early 1900s.* This quiet scene belies the presence behind the houses of Shipton gas works which operated from 1868 until 1951. Tom Barrett of Milton worked there for the United and District Gas Co. from 1936-39 and 1946-50 as district fitter, stand-by stoker, meter collector and general maintenance worker. In his time the gasometer did not rise above the roof level until early afternoon. Children with chest complaints were taken to stand in the retort house or by the fumes from the tar-well. The site is now Bowerham Wardened Flats for the Elderly.



*Shipton green and church, 1930s.* The fountain on the right was erected in 1877 to the memory of seventeen members of the Hedges and Townsend families who emigrated to New Zealand in 1874. They sailed on the S.S. Cospatrick but never reached their destination as the wooden ship with an inflammable cargo caught fire and sank. Over 200 people emigrated from Milton in the 1870s.

What is now the green was allotments when this photograph was taken. The land was bought by Colonel O. Stedall and given to the village in 1968.



*Shipton Mill, about 1910.* Known locally as Hawcutt's Mill, this is probably the site of one of Shipton's six mills listed in the Domesday Book. The stream that supplied the power is the parish boundary up to the site of the mill and its pond. There the boundary detours round the whole property, keeping it in Shipton parish, before it continues down the stream to the river Evenlode.

The mill and adjoining cottage on the right were burnt down in the 1930s and subsequently demolished. Jack Prew's garage now occupies the site.



*High Street, Milton, about 1900.* The boys with their iron hoops stand outside the blacksmith's forge on the right, now converted to a house.



*Venvell's Stores, Milton, 1905.* Wishing the season's greetings, this postcard was sold at Venvell's Stores. Thomas Venvell of Ascott under Wychwood acquired the shop in 1871, becoming postmaster in 1883. Archibald took over from his father and the business continued in the family until 1935.



*Green Lane, Milton, 1917.* The building on the extreme right was the Society of Friends Meeting House which was established together with a burial ground by Robert Secoll in 1669. In 1925 the property was sold and divided into two cottages. Proceeds went to the Robert Secoll charity, interest from which is still received by the Oxford Quakers today. This information was supplied by Sandra Seacole who coincidentally occupies one of the cottages today.



*The Terrace, Milton, about 1930.* Formerly called Hawkes Yard, the cottages were originally thatched buildings belonging to Mr Hawkes' farm, the corner of which can be seen on the left. This is one of several groups of cottages which housed a large number of people in earlier times. Many were the homes of agricultural labourers and Groves' workers. In the 1881 census there were nine households here, with sixteen of the thirty occupants with the surname Miles. At the far end of The Terrace is the Strict Baptist Chapel built in 1882.



*High Street, Milton, probably 1930s. Miss Lydia Dangerfield kept the draper's shop on the right. There are many entries in the minute book of the Infant Welfare Clinic of wool bought from her for knitting into baby garments. She often gave one farthing change as a sheet of pins.*



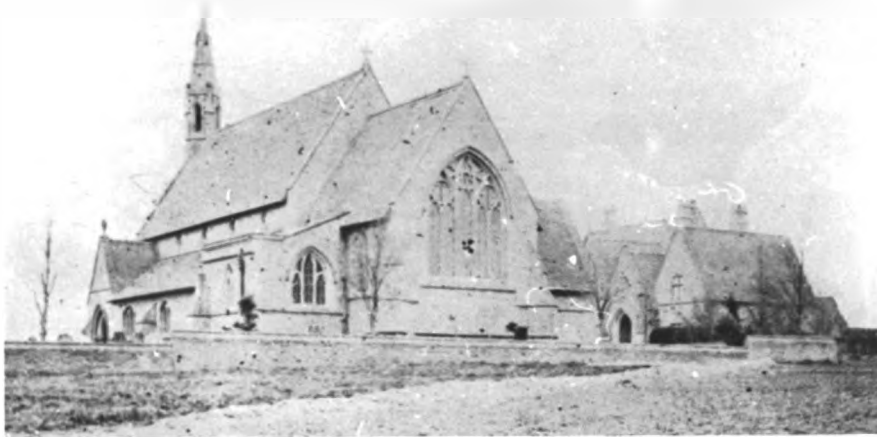
*Kohima Cottages, Lyneham Road, Milton, probably 1920s. The cottages were built in 1893 by the widow of Colonel Damant who was killed at Kohima in 1857 during the Indian Mutiny. Mrs Damant wanted to help other widows of the mutiny during their last years and built the row of six one-bedroomed cottages on land adjoining her house, now Heath House. Corrugated iron, a revolutionary building material at that time, was used for both the outer walls and the roofs. It is likely that the cottages were one of its first applications. Flush toilets and mains water were added in 1929.*

After the last war the cottages were used as temporary housing until their demolition in 1978. A bungalow, the last in Lyneham Road, now occupies the site.



*Left: The Butcher's Arms, High Street, Milton, probably 1930s. This public house (previously a butcher's shop and abattoir) closed in 1970 and is now a private residence. The extension to the left was demolished some years ago to make a car park but has recently been replaced. Milton vestry meetings were held here. The house on the right also used to be an ale house – the Black Horse – and the beer cellar with domed roof can still be seen in the yard. The far end of the house has also been a laundry.*





*Church of St Simon and St Jude, Milton, 1897.* This unfamiliar view of the church is taken from the east before the building of the vicarage in 1898. The relative newness of the building is accentuated by the lack of mature trees which are such a feature of the site today.

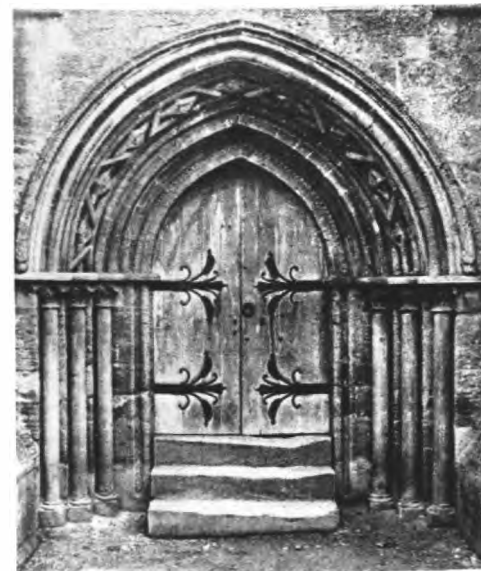


*Milton church about 1910.*

The church and lychgate, together with the school and teacher's house, were designed by G. E. Street and built in 1853-4 in the then popular Gothic style. James Haughton Langston MP of Sarsden helped to finance the scheme to provide the village with its own church. Until then Milton was part of Shipton parish although it did have Baptist, Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan chapels, as there is a strong history of non-conformity in the area.



*Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Shipton.* The present church is mainly twelfth century although it is believed to have been built on the site of a Saxon minster church. The original parish consisted of Shipton, Milton, Bruern, Lyneham, Leafield, Ramsden and Langley.



*The west door, Shipton church.* This photograph was taken by Henry Taunt of Oxford, probably on his first visit to the area in 1880.



*Pupils of Milton school in about 1932. Standing in the playground next to the church are Ralph Davis, Herman Puddle, Philip Hepden, Jack Prew, Mervyn Dore, John Richards, Eric McShea, Ivor Hunt and Eric Collier.*

The Baptist Church Schoolroom was built in 1867 on the corner of Jubilee Lane and catered for pupils up to the age of seven. It closed in the 1920s. From 1930 the older pupils attended Burford School at the age of eleven. Milton school closed in 1972 when the new Wychwood School was opened.



*Above: St Mary's Church of England School, Shipton, about 1913. The building, also designed by G. E. Street, was constructed in 1854 as a National School and was enlarged in 1887. It closed in 1984.*



*Rest period, Milton school, about 1932. Mrs Gwen Morgan recalls that 'the seats were hard, the desks not easy to work on, the sanitary conditions poor and the school warmed only by tortoise stoves but I cannot remember that causing too much worry. The lime trees around the playground gave such a sweet scent in the spring and attracted so many bees that I still remember the continual hum of their wings.'*



*School children at Shipton school, 1909. Mr John Strong (left) was headmaster and it cost 2d a week to attend.*



*Shipton Court, 1910.* This view of the south side shows the formal gardens.



*Shipton Court, 1901.* Across the main road in front of the house is the Pleasure Ground or The Pleasance, with lakes, canals and woodland walks.



*Shipton Court, 1901.* One of the gardeners stands inside a heated glasshouse, perhaps in the Court kitchen garden, now Court Close.

The Reade family of Shipton Court owned most of the village during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries but the line died out in 1868 and the estate was sold in 1900. The building of the Court was completed in about 1603 and was described on its sale in 1913 as 'a perfect specimen of the Elizabethan period'. From without it remains largely unaltered but the interior was extensively remodelled in 1903 for W. F. Pepper of Leeds.



*Station Road, Shipton, 1932.* Shipton is situated on an ancient route running north/south. In 1770 the road was turnpiked in the Banbury/Chipping Norton/Burford Turnpike Trust. The house on the left, Pike House, with the bay window giving a view up and down the road is thought to be the toll-house. A barrier across the road would have ensured that all travellers paid the toll. The advent of the railway, running within a few yards of this spot, brought about the demise of the turnpike in 1866.



*Milestone at Fulbrook.* In 1773 there was an Act ordering all Turnpike Trusts to provide guide-posts and milestones along their roads. The two milestones at either end of Shipton have lost their plates – many were removed to confuse enemy troops during the Second World War. This milestone is now set into a wall at Fulbrook.



*The coach to Burford at Shipton station, about 1910.* The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway through Shipton was opened in 1853, later becoming the West Midland and then the Great Western Railway. As Burford had no railway the Burford Omnibus Service ran three times a day to Shipton until the 1920s. George Baughan, coal merchant, Philip Franklin, postman and Bill Hedges, porter, sit at the back.



*Shipton station, 1908.* The station building was constructed in the 1880s. The group includes Mr Preece, station master, on the left with Arthur Vine, signalman, and Philip Franklin standing next to him. On the far right is George Baughan with Walter Hollaway, proprietor of the Burford Omnibus Service and John Simmonds, shunt-horse driver. Arthur Curtis, drayman, is wearing the leather apron.



*The station yard, about 1920. By the 1920s the station was handling 11,000 tons of freight a year – coal for Shipton gas works and local domestic use, corn and flour, pit props and general supplies. Local lads could earn 6d for minding the horses while carts were loaded with coal.*



*Matthews Mill, Shipton, about 1912.*



*F. W. P. Matthews, 1915. Mr Matthews was a civil volunteer in the First World War. His main duty was to guard the recently erected wireless poles at Leafield until later in the war he was posted to east coast defences.*

Frederick Matthews and his son F. W. P. Matthews, grain and seed merchants of Fifield, realised that it was a waste to send the locally grown grain to be milled at the large port mills of Liverpool and Birkenhead. In 1911 they built a new flour mill at the station opposite their existing grain stores. The mill was built by Alfred Groves & Sons of Milton and the milling and cleaning equipment was designed and supplied by Thomas Robinson & Son Ltd of Rochdale. Sadly, Frederick Matthews died before the mill's completion. The business is now run by his great-grandsons, Gordon and Ian Matthews and great-great-grandson, Paul.

Right: Alfred Groves with children Sarah (left), Mary (right) and Thomas, 1856.



Below: Alfred Groves with his workmen, early 1900s. This photograph is believed to have been taken during the extension of the present Bruern Abbey.



Groves' horse team, about 1920. Horses, singly or in pairs, were used to drag tree trunks out of the woods. They were then harnessed as a team to haul the load by wagon back to Milton.

The Groves' family has been associated with quarrying and building at Milton since the sixteenth century. In the nineteenth century the companies of Groves Brothers Quarries and Alfred Groves and Son, builders and English timber merchants, were founded. The quarrying and timber businesses have since closed but the building side continues.

Although Milton stone is not as famous as that at Taynton, it was quarried adjacent to the Taynton stone by the Hazleford Brook and on the hillside south of the village. Flagstones, used for flooring and paving, came from 'plank quarries'. Dressed stone for building was quarried as vast lumps which were sawn by hand. Some of the colleges of Oxford are built of Milton stone.



*Groves Brothers quarrymen, about 1900. Ben Pratley is seated on the left. Eli Trotman and Christopher Miles stand in the back row, fourth and fifth from the left.*



*Stonecutters at Groves' Yard, 1926. Jim Puddle and Ned Rathband are using a cross-cut saw to shape the stone. Stonemasons Bill Yateman, Thomas Groves, Alfred Sheppard and Leslie Townsend stand in the background.*



*Ben Pratley stone breaking, about 1900. Ben Pratley was a Milton quarryman who lived in Magpie Alley off Church Street, Shipton. He was a quarry mason which ranked between a building mason and a field mason.*



*Mayer's delivery van, Milton, about 1905.* J. H. Mayer's shop and bakery is now the Midland Bank – the photograph is taken in the yard behind. The vehicle is a delivery version of an American Oldsmobile Curved Dash Runabout, a popular car at this time.



*Fred Puffett, Milton, about 1930.* Mr Puffett's forge was in the High Street opposite what was then Poplar Farm, the buildings of which can be seen over the road. A lot of his work was for Groves – shoeing the horses, sharpening the masons' tools and general smithy work. Bill Simms is sitting in the background.



*Left: Horwood's delivery van, about 1912.* William Horwood acquired the business from Mr Mayer and apparently reverted back to the horse-drawn delivery van. The photograph is again taken in the yard behind the shop. Tom Moss from Ascott is in the driver's seat with William Horwood standing close by. Mrs Horwood is with their first two children, Peggy and Tom.





*Hathaway's shop, High Street, Shipton, 1930s.* Originally Dee's Stores, the shop was built in 1919 when Mr Dee moved from his premises opposite Shipton Lodge. The drapery section was upstairs with the groceries below. Deliveries were made to surrounding villages by Stanley Gorton, seen here with Mary Barnes and the Model A Ford van. The railings around the shop went in the war effort in 1940.



*Butcher's shop in Upper High Street, Shipton, 1920s.* The Lamb Inn, which became a pub in the late nineteenth century, was run by Dick Avery and his wife until the late 1950s. The butcher's shop was in the part which is now the bar, where the meat hooks can still be seen outside. Standing with Dick Avery is Horace Barnes.



*Milk delivery boy, 1900.* This photograph was taken by Sidney Arundell whose son Graham still has the glass plate negative. The gardener at Shipton Court and the Court Pleasure Grounds (pages 18 and 19) and the postman below are also from the same collection. Nothing is known about this boy who was delivering milk from the farm, a popular job for young lads.



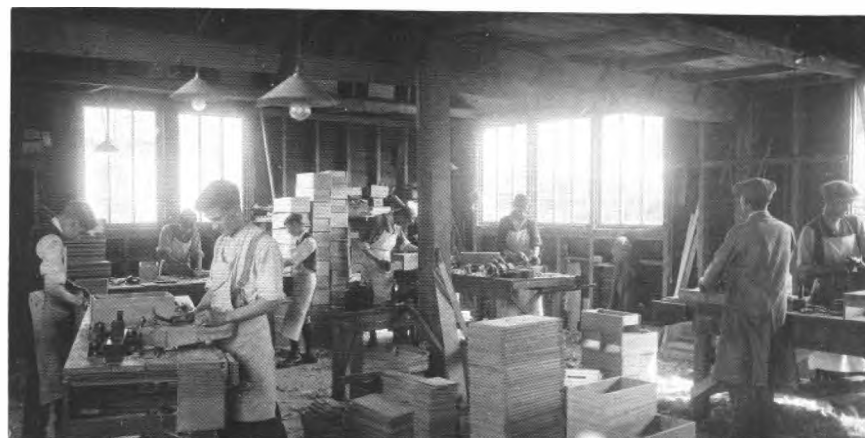
*Shipton postman, 1900.* The GPO records for Shipton start with the issue of a date stamp in July 1847 and a note about a messenger being required between Chipping Norton and Shipton two months later. This is Peter Costiff of Chipping Norton, postman from 1890-1900.



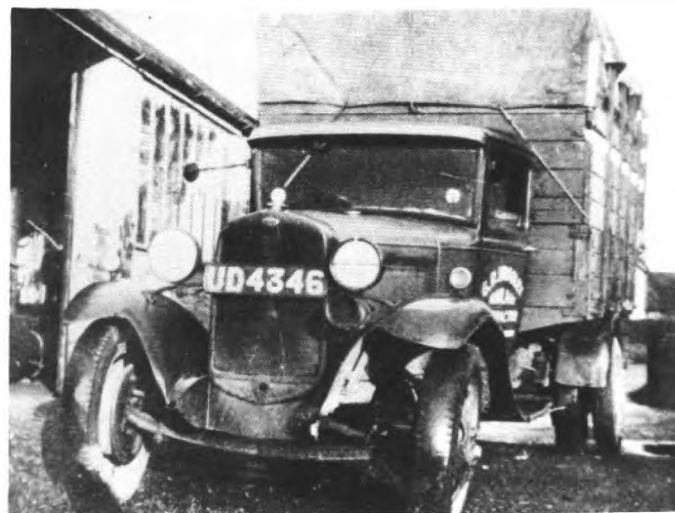
*Christopher Miles, the Milton postman, about 1918. He is standing outside his home, the Corner House, opposite the post office. Mr Miles had a variety of jobs during his life – he also appears in the photograph of Groves quarrymen on page 26.*



*George Baughan, 1918. Mr Baughan, who also appears in two of the photographs taken at Shipton station, was a coal merchant. He used the donkey to travel to and from the station where his coal stocks were kept and with a cart behind he was able to deliver small quantities. The photograph is taken outside Cotham Cottage in the High Street, Milton, although Mr Baughan lived at Cotswold on the junction of Shipton Road and Frog Lane.*



*The United Woodworking Co. tillyard, about 1928. Shipton has had three firms making wooden cash tills. In 1926, this tillyard in Station Road had been in business for a year when Mrs Phyllis Smith was employed to start a proper system of book-keeping and to manage the office. After the Second World War she and her husband, Frederick Smith (left foreground) started the Wychwood Manufacturing Co. for the exporting of tills and drawers. The third company, the Oxon. Cash Register Co., operated from a site in Upper High Street which later became Shipton cinema. The last of the tillyards, the Wychwood Manufacturing Co., closed in about 1975.*



*George Bradley's lorry, 1931. George Bradley collected his first lorry from Ford's Trafford Works in 1931. The 15 cwt Super-truck had many agricultural haulage uses including, with extended sides, the transport of livestock.*



*After a rough shoot, about 1910. Thomas Alfred Groves (left) with his dog Nero and Richard Hartley (right) stand in the timber yard with Alfred Groves looking on. In 1982 the Hartleys celebrated a century of farming in Milton. Alfred and his son Thomas can also be seen in the photograph on page 24, taken fifty years before.*



*Livestock auction, Shipton, 1930s. Auctions were held regularly by Tayler and Fletcher in the back yard of The Crown. These are Oxford Downs coming under the hammer – a popular local breed which superseded the Cotswold.*



*Haymaking, 1921. Joseph Griffin (standing in line with the elevator) with his workforce at Hill Farm, Bruern. The names of the men are nearly all known – most are from Milton, some lived on the farm and the rest are from Fifield.*



*Cotswold rams, 1942. Mervyn Griffin, Joseph's son, with four Cotswold shearing rams. At their first shearing (in their second year) each fleece would weigh about 20 lbs. The breed was the basis of the wealth of the Cotswold Hills over many centuries, but it almost disappeared after the Second World War when the preference was for a smaller animal with a better quality fleece.*



*Mrs Fanny Rathband, about 1925.* Mrs Rathband (née Honeybourn) was the last surviving Ascott Martyr when this photograph was taken outside Milton Methodist Chapel. In 1873, at the age of 16, she was sentenced with fifteen other women (two with young babies) to ten days in Oxford jail for picketing a farm in Ascott. The cause of the dispute was the sacking of farm labourers who were members of the National Union of Agricultural Labourers. The harsh sentences imposed by two Reverend magistrates caused a national outcry but because Parliament was about to recess, nothing was done. After several days, when some of the women had already completed their sentence, the Home Office advised Queen Victoria to remit the remainder of the sentence of the seven women still imprisoned. The warrant eventually arrived on the day that the remaining women were due for release. Mrs Rathband lived in The Square in Milton, dying in 1939 at the age of 82.



*Mr Eli Trotman and his wife Ellen, about 1910.* Eli Trotman was born at Idbury in 1850 and was employed as a quarryman by Groves. He also appears in the group photograph on page 26. In spite of her increasing years Mrs Trotman apparently helped thatch hay ricks on Mr Dangerfield's farm at Shipton during the First World War. They lived their married life in Milton at the far end of what is now Gable Cottage in the High Street. They had no children.



*The Smith family, about 1908.* James and Matilda Smith with Frank, Sidney, Mabel, Dolly, May and baby Maggie pose with their horse and trap behind the present Co-op building on the Green in Milton. They lived in the High Street opposite Poplar Farm. Mr Smith's horse and trap were for hire, mainly collecting from and delivering to Shipton station.



*Church Road, Milton, early 1900s.* Unfortunately the people remain unidentified. The building with the plaque was the Hand and Post Inn, sited by the old West-end Gate, one of five gates in Milton which before enclosure used to keep animals off the cultivated land.



*Milton Friendly Society Club Day parade, 1909.* On Club Day members met for a church service followed by a parade and 'feast' held in the yard of the Quart Pot. They are seen here walking up the hill from the church after the service.



*The Heath, Church Road, Milton, about 1925.* The four ladies on the right have been identified as Mrs Clemson (later Mrs Peachey), Mrs Edwards, Mrs Greenaway and Mrs Flossie Wilks: the boy on the bicycle is Jack Wilks. The only bridge across Littlestock Brook at that time was these few planks.



*Thomas Manders and his wife Bella, 1927.* Known as Groomie, Mr Manders was groom to F. W. P. Matthews. The photograph was taken at their home in Fifield by Maria Matthews and was published in the second edition of *The Countryman* which was founded by J. W. Robertson Scott who also lived in the village. Mr and Mrs Manders are listening to a two-valve radio, a very up-to-date set in 1927, although loudspeakers were more commonly used than headphones.



*Infant welfare clinic, 1934.* Three years after its commencement, the clinic assembled for a group picture with Dr Edwin Roe and nurse Ford. The clinic was held twice a month in the Baptist schoolroom except during the war when it moved to the Red Triangle Hut to vacate the schoolroom for the use of evacuees. A party was held each Christmas with the babies receiving locally knitted garments, and a toy for good attendance at the clinic.



*The Caravan Mission to Children, early 1900s.* This visit to Shipton took place in the orchard opposite the Baptist Chapel. Founded in 1892 as part of the Children's Special Services Mission which aimed to take 'the gospel to isolated and neglected villages', there were five caravans and one large tent travelling around rural area by 1901. In the summer activities increased as Cambridge students helped the full-time evangelists.



*The local Rechabite group, early 1900s.* The Independent Order of Rechabites, named after Rechab in the Old Testament, was founded in 1835. They were a charitable friendly society who abstained from alcohol and organised 'wholesome' entertainment.

On the right of the photograph are the Reverend George Davidson, Baptist Minister for 21 years until his death in 1906, and his wife Annie. In 1889 he wrote *A Brief History of the Baptist Church, Milton* to commemorate the jubilee of the Chapel and the building of the minister's house in Jubilee Lane. The ability that the villagers had acquired as lay-preachers was a great influence in the formation of the Milton Union in 1872, later amalgamated with Joseph Arch's National Agricultural Labourers' Union.



*The Avenue, Shipton Court, 1897.* The avenue of lime trees in the Court Pleasure Garden, where villagers took their Sunday evening promenade, has been the site of many celebrations. The organiser of these celebrations for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, John Maddox, is standing in the foreground. In addition to this dinner there were various sporting events.



*The opening of the Beaconsfield Hall, Shipton, in 1885.* The hall was built by members of the Primrose League to be used for 'political meetings, concerts, balls, entertainments, social gatherings and any other like purpose'. It was named after Benjamin Disraeli, Lord Beaconsfield, who had died in 1881. The memorial stone was laid on 24 August when 'the proceedings were . . . enlivened by the music of the Shipton Brass Band under the leadership of Mr Thomas Alder'. The hall was in use by November.

*Right: Primrose League fete at Bruern Abbey, 1913.* The Primrose League was an organisation founded in 1883 to spread Conservative principles. The Reverend Shildrick (centre), vicar of Milton, took a particular interest in the upkeep of the churchyard and was often to be seen tending the graves himself. Mrs Cécile Samuda, on his left, lived with her husband Cecil at Bruern Abbey. Previously they lived at Shipton Court where, as the 1881 census records, they were looked after by twelve house servants.





*The Wychwood Football Club, 1901.* Whilst working on renovations at Shipton Court two Yorkshiremen, Mark Attfield (back row second from right) and George Fawcett (middle row centre), formed the club. They used a ground in Dog Kennel Lane where this photograph was taken.



*Milton cricket team, about 1905.* Holding the bat is Thomas Alfred Groves (also seen as a little boy on page 24, and again on page 34) who was captain of Milton cricket club for nearly fifty years. Matches were played on the green in a square chained off from the grazing animal. The Vestry meeting minutes regularly record that the 'recreation ground to be cloded every three weeks and no manure to be taken off.



*May Day, about 1900.* Mabel Miles (later Mrs Pearce) features in these May Day celebrations on the green, Milton. Mary Vennell of Vennell's Stores is standing in the centre at the back. She taught the children to dance and provided them with clothes for the occasion.



*The fair at Lower Farm, Milton, about 1905.* Mabel Miles is sitting on the horse in the centre. The roundabout has fixed horses – rise and fall horses were not introduced until a little later. The portraits around the canopy would have featured royalty, politicians or other eminent personalities of the period. This fair is believed to have been run by Spurrett's of Carterton. Another fair which still visits Milton is run by George Hatwell whose family for over a century have traditionally stopped here after the May Stow Fair.



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*Front cover:* Fred Puffett the blacksmith at work in Milton.

*Back cover:* part of Jeffery's Map of Oxfordshire, 1768.