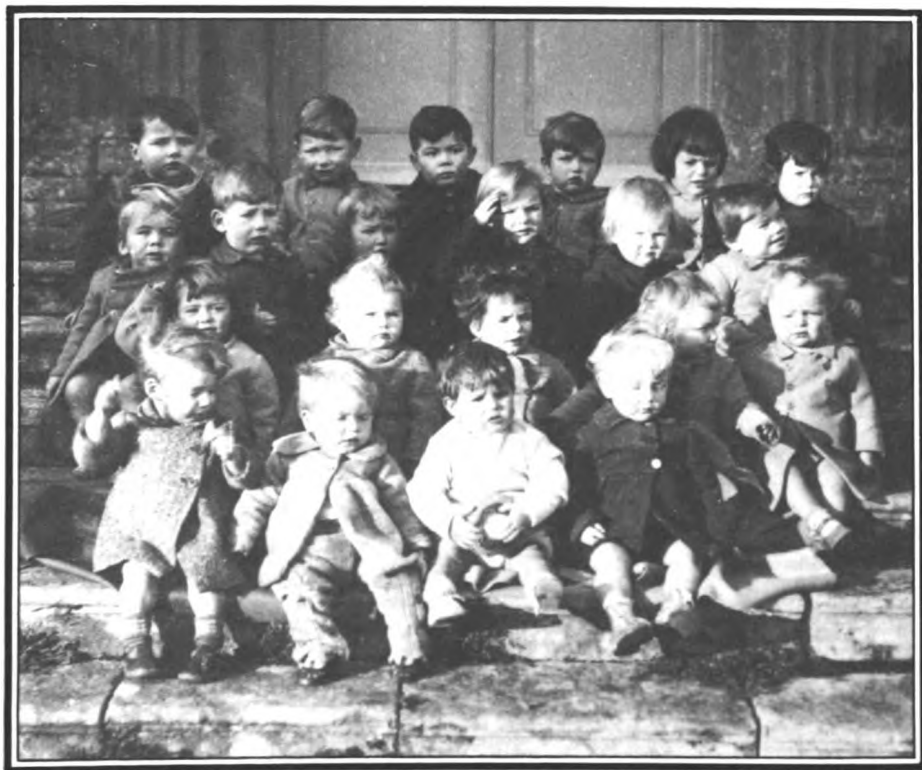


# THE SECOND WYCHWOODS ALBUM



**Sue Jourdan & John Rawlins**

# **THE SECOND WYCHWOODS ALBUM**

**Sue Jourdan & John Rawlins**



WYCHWOODS LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
1990

# Introduction

Wychwoods Local History Society,  
Monks Gate, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxford OX7 6BA

Copyright © Wychwoods Local History Society 1990

ISBN 0 9510372 6 9

Printed by Parchment (Oxford) Ltd, Crescent Road, Oxford

Copies of this book may be obtained from  
Wychwoods Local History Society, price £5.60 including postage and packing

*The Second Wychwoods Album* is another selection of old photographs of people and places in West Oxfordshire, this time including Ascott under Wychwood, Leaffield, Langley, Lyneham, Bruern, Fifield and Idbury as well as Shipton and Milton under Wychwood.

As it is now 76 years since the start of the First World War and 50 years since the start of the Second, we have used this opportunity to focus on the impact that these two great events of the twentieth century had in these villages. From the two plaques in Shipton church, one listing the 162 men who served and the other remembering the 27 who died, together with the 1911 census, it is possible to calculate that over half the men of Shipton left the village and one in six did not return. The situation was similar in the other villages, with 42 men from Milton, Lyneham and Bruern killed, 13 from Ascott, 13 from Fifield and Idbury and 20 from Leaffield. In the Second World War, the casualty lists were not so horrendous, but the people of the villages were much more involved in wartime activities. Many men and women were 'called up' for long periods and those remaining, who were in reserved occupations, too old, too young or disabled, had duties such as the Home Guard, Civil Defence and Women's Voluntary Service. In addition they undertook the billeting of the military, Women's Land Army, evacuated children and their families. They also had to answer the call for the production of more food, the collection of salvage, and the raising of huge sums of money for charity and National Savings. Interestingly, the photographs from the First World War are mainly taken by professionals while, with the greater availability of cameras though with restrictions on use, those of the Second are by amateurs.

The names of people in the photographs have been included where 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 all those people who have lent us their photographs and shared with us their memories.

We should also like to thank Sue Richards for her professional help and advice, and for arranging the layout of the album.

Sue Jourdan and John Rawlins

*Title page: Harvest, Potter's Hill Farm, 1948*



*Left: Langley Park Camp, 2nd Battalion The Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry, about 1913/14. The enthusiasm for the War which was expected to be 'over by Christmas' caused many youngsters to enlist under-age, like Benjamin Standen the pillion rider and Ernest Ashmore who both enlisted at sixteen. It was regarded as a great joke by their families that they were thought to be competent to guard the wireless poles by the camp. Benjamin was 'reclaimed' by his parents and discharged but Ernest went on to serve the whole war and was a Quartermaster Sergeant in the Second World War.*

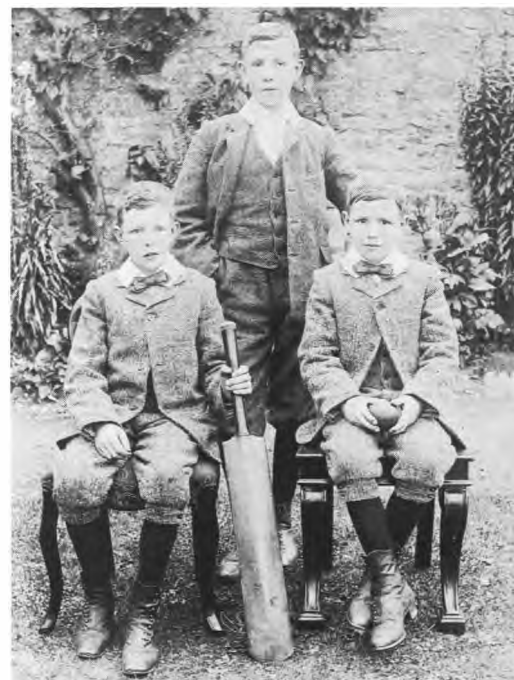


*The Royal Engineers, New Road, Shipton, 1914. Mabel Pearce (née Miles) remembers the sound carrying to Milton of men marching down the Chipping Norton road to Shipton. It seems that the encampment by Cowcommon Plantation along New Road was in use before the outbreak of the war. One of the soldiers from the camp, Arthur Catling, married a Shipton girl, Dorothy Turner, in Shipton in January 1914.*



*Sgt Horace Day with (inset) his son David and wife Elsie, about 1914/15. Horace Day was a baker's boy working for Gortons Stores before the war and was with the Royal Army Service Corps, which included service in the Dardenelles. He later worked as a storeman for Alfred Groves for many years.*

*Above: Lt Cpl (later Sgt) Roy Wiggins 1914. Below: Cpl Charles Wiggins (on right), about 1915. In the Wiggins family, three of the four brothers who served died; Roy in 1915 at Hooze in the second battle of Ypres, and Charles in 1915 of fever in the Persian Gulf. Tom, who enlisted with the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and then the Royal Flying Corps, married Ada in 1918, but was killed in Alsace Lorraine before the birth of his daughter, Pamela. Aubrey was wounded at Ypres. Phyllis, their sister, went to work in a munitions factory at Shepherds Bush. Their younger sister, Winifred, married Harry Miles in 1922, and of his family, one brother had been killed and two others badly wounded. His sister, Rose, had served as a Red Cross nurse. Winifred's brother, Charles, and his friend, Charles Coombes threw away their lunch baskets over the hedge, left Milton to volunteer and never returned.*



*Left: Ernest, Tom (standing) and Frank Hartley, about 1904. The Hartley family came to Shipton in 1882 and farmed at Grove Farm. The boys were all great sportsmen, between them playing hockey, football and cricket for Oxfordshire and England.*

*Below: Lt Cpl Tom Hartley, Private Frank Hartley and Private Ernest Hartley, The Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars, (Oxfordshire Yeomanry), France, 1914. This photograph of the Hartley boys was taken about ten years later, and was sent as a postcard by Ernest to Eric Matthews (see page 9). 'What do you think of these 'fine soldiers'?.... On a seven days manoeuvres all the brigade.' Tom was killed at Caumont, near Arras in December, 1916.*





*Above: R. J. Bradley and F. Pitt, Redcar, 1918. Reg Bradley, an engineer with W. H. Rawlins in Milton before the War, served with the Royal Naval Air Service, working on engine maintenance at Redcar. In this photograph the engine on test is a Gnome 80hp French rotary used extensively in the First World War in fighter planes, such as the Bristol Bullet and the Avro 504.*



*Right: Reg Bradley, 1918. Home on leave, he borrowed Sam Groves' Douglas motor cycle to visit a friend at Stonesfield. It had no gears and the spare drive - belts are hanging on the headlamp.*



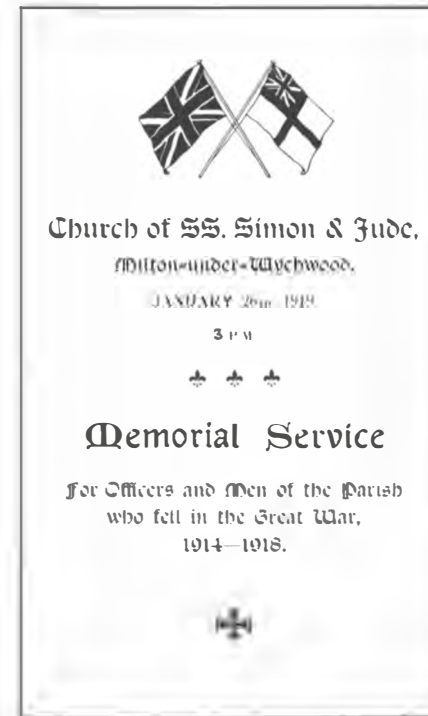
*Lt Frederick (Eric) Matthews, prisoner of war, 1917. Eric Matthews (1897-1973) was another volunteer who enlisted under-age in 1914, with the Oxfordshire Yeomanry. He was invalided home from the trenches with enteric fever. When he had recovered he enlisted in the Royal Flying Corps. Shortly after his training, he was shot down and held as a prisoner for nineteen months, over his 20th and 21st birthdays. He was held in Augustabad, where this photograph was probably taken, showing him convalescent after a bullet was removed from his leg. He was then moved east to Schweidnitz in Silesia in 1918. In his surviving letters home he described his day in Schweidnitz. 'We get up about 8.55, appelle at 9 o'clock, breakfast about 10. Mess about - knock a tennis ball about outside, walk round or do something - Tea about 3.30 & supper about 6.30. We are locked in our huts at 10 pm.'*



Above: Mabel Pearce (second from right), about 1917. Mabel Pearce had a variety of war-time jobs, from preparing shell cases to checking the numbers on 10s and £1 notes. In the photograph she is with Mrs Billington and her three daughters with whom she was billeted.

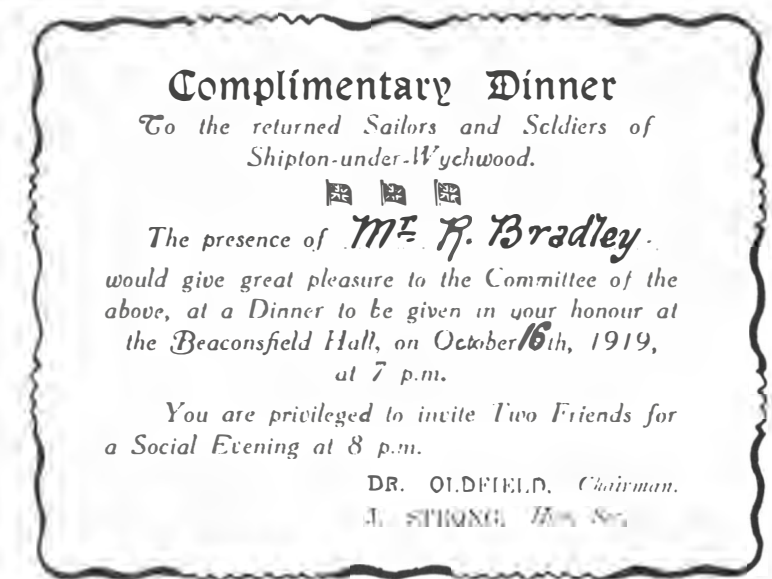


Right: Women's Land Army Certificate. This certificate, with a beautifully coloured coat of arms at the top, was presented to Mrs Barnes who is thought to have worked on the Upper Milton farms in 1915-16.



Left: Front cover of the service sheet for the service held at Milton Church, 1919.

Below: Invitation to the dinner held in Shipton, 1919.





*Church Street, Shipton, early 1900s.* Although looking similar to today, Church Street is no longer the commercial area it used to be. The house in the centre of the photograph has a board 'E.E.Bradley, butcher', who farmed Parsonage Farm for Mr Brookes before he died in 1908. The wall around the old allotments and the lamp bracket have gone and shortly after this photograph was taken, the post office (second from right) was modernised and refronted. In 1920, the memorial to those who died in the Great War was erected and consecrated.



*Above: Coldstone Farm, Shipton, 1910s.* This photograph would appear to be posed because of the smart dress of two of the men and the boy in an Eton collar 'leading foremost'. This job was one of the reasons given for absence in the nineteenth-century Shipton school log books. The sheaves were carted from the fields on the Downs to Mr Maddox's rickyard at Coldstone Farm. The man second from the right was Owen Turner who subsequently lost a leg in the First World War.



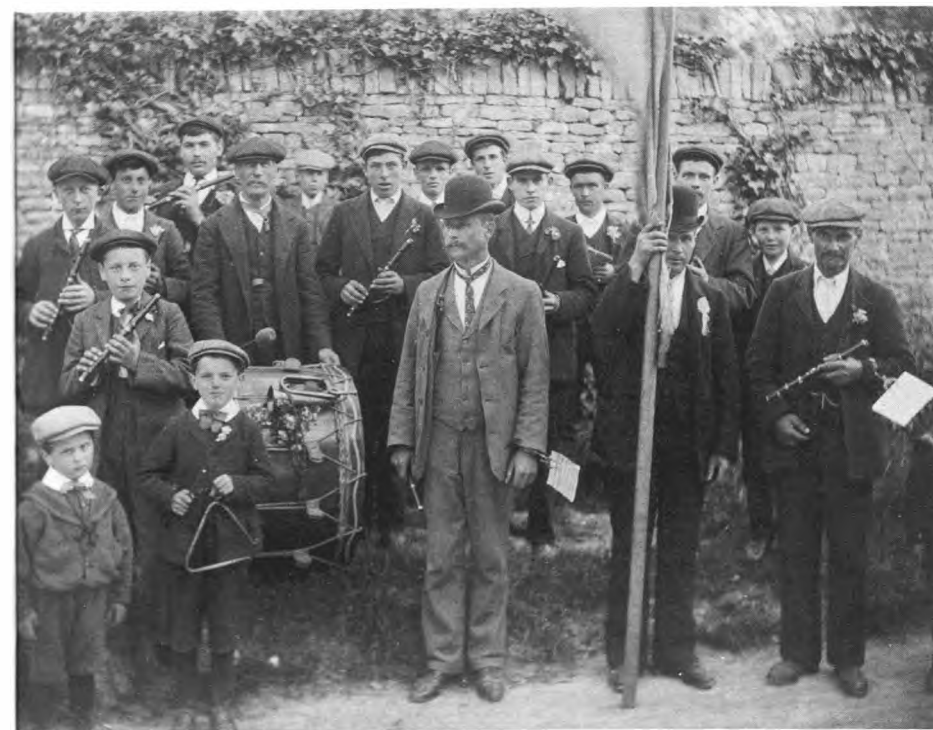
*Shipton School Gardeners, 1935.* One of a series of photographs taken at St Mary's school to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of George V and Queen Mary. The pupils at this school came from Ascott and Milton as well as Shipton and stayed on until 14 years old (unlike Milton where they moved on to Burford at 11), so gardening was part of the boys' curriculum. The garden was later grassed over as a play area and sports ground. Charlie Smith (third from right) of Ascott remembers pushing the wheelbarrow through the village to deliver the produce to the master, Mr Horne (standing behind the boys). Three of the boys in this photograph died on active service just a few years later.



*Left: Trot's Lane, about 1900.* In the field to the west of this old sunken lane are the humps and bumps of house platforms, probably indicating part of medieval Shipton. The lane, worn down by wear and water over hundreds of years, is on a line of springs with a spout at the top end on Fiddlers Hill and Trot's Spout nearly opposite the chapel. The lane is also called Water Lane and Chapel Lane.



*Baptist Chapel, Shipton 1921.* The chapel was erected in 1861 at a cost of £300. In *The Brief History of the Baptist Chapel* written in 1889, it is recorded that Mr J. F. Maddox not only paid half the cost but also superintended the school, Sunday and weekday services. On 21 September 1921, the Chapel celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with two services and tea on the lawn.



*Below: Drum and Fife Band, 1904.* The band was founded by Reuben Rainbow in the early 1900s after he had returned from fighting in the second Boer War (1899-1902). He was wounded in the back, returned home in 1901 and eventually died of his wounds in 1911 aged 40. On the right with a fife is Bill Bradley, and his son Reg plays the triangle.



*St Michael's Home for Waifs and Strays, Milton Lane, Shipton, early 1900s.*



*A group of residents with staff and the Reverend W. C. Carter, chaplain, 1902. The girls were given three hours schooling and four to six hours 'industrial' training each day, to prepare them for their anticipated life in domestic service or industry.*

St Michael's was originally built as a 'college for young ladies' in the early 1880s, but it was acquired by the Church of England Society for Waifs and Strays in 1899 for girls 'rescued from immoral surroundings'. In the 1920s the residents changed to being girls who were orphans or from motherless families with boys cared for too after 1931. By 1933 the home had closed and was thereafter used at various times to house Basque refugees, British and American servicemen, as a corn chandlery and as a warehouse. It was also proposed to use it as a Wychwood Social Centre. In the 1960s it became a junk shop and in 1989 it was demolished to make way for houses.



*Top: Visit of Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein to Bruern fete and (above) to St Michael's, 1911. 'A most delightful garden Party on the Society's behalf at Bruern Abbey in July by Mrs Samuda who, in her usual indefatigable manner arranged everything to the best advantage. Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein came down from London...and in the morning paid a visit to the local home...where she received a hearty welcome....It proved to be quite a 'red letter' day'... (From the monthly magazine *Our Waifs and Strays*).*



*Parsonage Farm, Shipton, early 1900.*



*Prebendal House, after 1912.*

Called variously over the centuries Parsonage Farm, The Rectory and The Prebendal, parts of the house are medieval, built on land taken out of the churchyard. The building, the main entrance to which used to be at the bottom of Church Street, has had many structural changes over the centuries. From the twelfth century the prebend, or income, from the house, tithes and land, went to a canon of Salisbury cathedral. In 1614, James I transferred the prebend to the Regius Professor of Civil Law at Oxford University. One of the more notable prebendaries was John Foxe, the martyrologist, whose family retained an interest in and used part of the house until the mid-eighteenth century. In the late nineteenth century, a large wing was demolished and in 1912, when it was bought by Dr and Mrs F. R. B. Hinde, more alterations took place with a southeast wing added.



*Thomas Brookes and his daughter Millicent, nineteenth century.* The occupiers of the Prebendal House were usually local tenant farmers. In 1726, the Brookes family became tenants and continued there until 1908. The Thomas Brookes in the photograph was born in 1797 and was tenant until his death in 1869, aged 72. Like many of his family he was much involved in parish affairs, as churchwarden, constable, overseer of the poor and trustee of the Crown Inn Charity. His tombstone is in Shipton churchyard. Millicent, a spinster daughter, lived with her bachelor brother, Thomas, who ultimately bought the farm in 1892 for £2500 and died there in 1908.



*Left: Aerial View of Shipton Court, 1930s.* In 1932, Colonel D'Arcy Hall purchased Shipton Court. His son, Professor Hall, remembers his happy childhood roaming the village with his brother Bill, and conducting his first scientific experiments in a room in the stables. During the war, the house was requisitioned for troops and the family and his mother's animals moved to Court Farm. His brother was killed in action with the Irish Guards in the Anzio landings in Italy in 1943.



*Right: Wychwood W.I. 'Coming of Age', 1939.* The ladies of the Wychwood W.I. celebrated their 21st birthday with a tea party at Shipton Court with Mrs D'Arcy Hall. The Institute, according to the report in the *Oxford Times*, was formed in the garden of Mrs H. E. H. Way at Frogmore, Milton. Muriel Groves, standing alone in a checked dress by a tub of agapanthus, was the founding secretary. In 1952 the Wychwood Institute split and separate Milton and Shipton Institutes were formed.



*Milton High Street and Milton Baptist Chapel, early 1900s.* This view down the High Street is thought to have been taken on Boxing Day. The Baptist Chapel, behind the railings on the right, was built in 1839. It was considered that the large tree spoilt the look of the Chapel so it was cut down and part of it was made into a hymn board.



*The Tap, Milton, about 1910.* The corner of the Lyneham Road and Shipton Road had always been the place for the men of Milton to gather, the older men waiting for the Quart Pot to open and the younger ones for something to happen. The tap was one of the village water supplies and was eventually demolished to improve the junction and for the installation of the coronation gates.



*E. E. Bradley, butcher and mealman, Milton, pre-1920.* In *Kelly's Directory* in the early 1900s, E. E. Bradley is listed as a butcher and farmer in Shipton, but by 1920 his address is given as The Butcher's Arms. His son, Cecil, from Leafield, was killed in July 1917 in the third battle of Ypres. This photograph is of Bradley's shop, now Harmans.



*Frog Lane, Milton, early 1900s.* Frog Lane used to be a rural lane bordered by elm trees. At the end, on Shipton Road, are the last of the thatched cottages in Milton.



*Thatched Cottage, High Street, Milton, 5 July 1908. Standing in the doorway is Dinah Willis. The cottage later became a barn and has now been reconverted to a house – Barn Cottage, near Jack's Cottage.*



*An aerial view of Poplar Farm, after 1948. Charles Wells came to farm in Milton after serving in the First World War. After farming at Heath Farm in Green Lane, he moved in the late 1920s to Poplar Farm where he stayed until it was sold in 1964. The house and farm buildings were subsequently demolished and the houses of Poplar Farm Close built.*

*Left: The opening of Pear Tree Close, 1 July 1932. However picturesque the thatched cottage may look, rural housing left a lot to be desired. After the First World War, with the slogan 'Homes Fit for Heroes', the government took the initiative for the first time in public housing, using as guidelines the garden city movement of the early 1900s. The official opening of the fourteen 'cottages' was presided over by Mr J. W. Robertson Scott, Chairman of the Housing Committee of Chipping Norton R.D.C., who was one of the four speakers that day. The 'cottages' were built by Alfred Groves at a cost of £402 6s per house, and all had that most desirable luxury, a parlour. The Close was named after Thomas Peartree who farmed the land in the nineteenth century.*

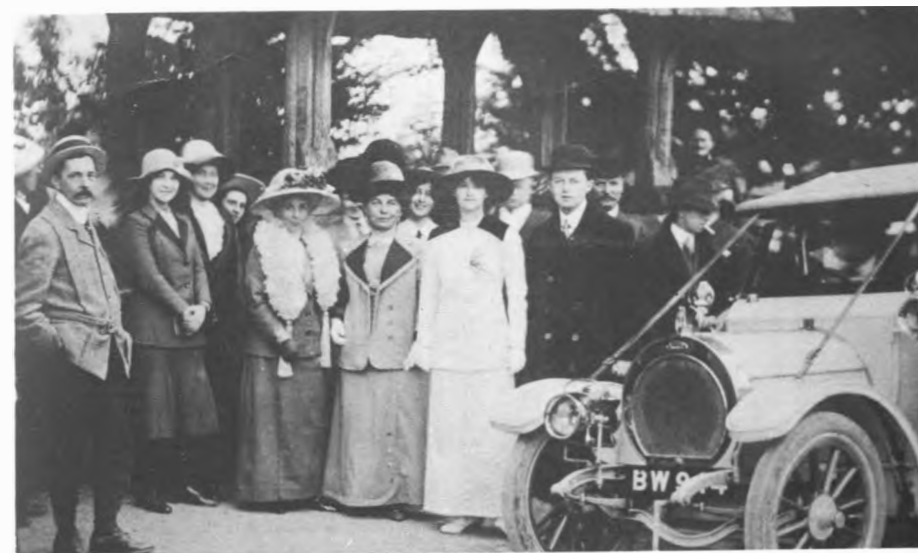


*Charles Wells, 1922.*



*Left: The Mutual Improvement Society, 1900s. Regular 'improving' lectures were held; another poster advertised 'Our English Cathedrals' on Thursday, 4 March. Admission was 3d or by season ticket. This photograph was taken by Ellis Groves, who was also the 'lanternist'.*

*Right: The wedding of Helen (May) Edginton and Francis Bailey, 14 September, 1912. May was the daughter of William and Rose Edginton of Merriscourt, Lyneham and she continued to use her maiden name as an author. The musical *No, No Nanette* was based on her book *Oh James*.*



*The Wychwood Brotherhood outing, about 1920. The Brotherhood was a non-sectarian movement but in the Wychwoods it was strongly connected with the Baptist Chapel and the Groves family. In the 1930s, Sam Groves was president and chairman and James Groves was treasurer. The Brotherhood met at 3pm on Sunday afternoons from October to March. This outing was setting off from outside W. H. Rawlins, the only garage in Milton or Shipton pre-First World War. In September 1939, the *Chipping Norton Advertiser* reported the closure of the Wychwood Brotherhood until further notice.*



*Sunday evening cricket, Milton, 1949. Playing after Milton's Sunday game, the batsman was Philip Coombes with Roy Wayne (back to camera) and Stan Dore as fielders and Herman Puddle watching.*

*Right: Fred Mansell, Potter's Hill Farm, Langley, 1949.* Fred, with his son George, took over the Crown Estate farm at Langley in 1938. George's son, Dennis, who took this and the next photograph, remembers the Luftwaffe daylight raid on the radio station in 1940 when all 10 bombs fell in line across the farm.

*Below right: Harvest, Potter's Hill Farm, 1948.* Oats were being harvested in the field looking towards the copse called Hensgrove with the road from Langley to Fordwells in the valley. George Mansell was on a McCormick reaper-binder with Meta Bastin, whom he later married, driving the International Farmall tractor.

*Below left: Charles Dore, about 1910.* 'Chas' Dore, like his father, was an itinerant hurdlemaker, going from farm to farm, cutting ash and willow on the farms as required. He also worked for Roy Ridley in Milton who ran a carrier's cart to Chipping Norton. His grandson, Harold Dore, remembers that he continued hedging and ditching until he died aged 82.





*Anthony Townsend, nineteenth century.* The Townsend family at Long House Farm were long standing tenant farmers of the Spencer Churchill family who purchased Cornbury House in the eighteenth century and who owned the majority of Ascott. Anthony Townsend (1792-1881) held many of the offices of the village – juryman at the manorial court, constable and fieldsman. He was tenant when Ascott was enclosed in 1839 by private Act of Parliament brought by Lord Churchill and lived through many changes. He was the tithingman from 1842 until his death in 1881. In 1824, he married Martha Cooper who died in 1833, having had seven children including two sets of twins. The gentleman on horseback was his grandson, Edwin, with his sisters and other members of his family outside the farmhouse.



*Long House Farm, High Street, Ascott, 1870s.*



*Wheelwrights at Ascott, 1930s.* Robert Storey, Fred Dore and Michael Shayler worked for John Young and Son whose workshop and wheelwright shed was off the High Street, beyond Priory Lane.



*View over Manor Farm, Ascott, 1930s.* Manor Farm was cut off from the rest of the village by the Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton railway line opened in 1853. The small brick and timber building to the left of the rickyard is one of the last granaries in the area which still stands on its staddlestones. The farm is the site of the motte and bailey castle built in the twelfth century for Roger d'Oilli and probably dismantled within fifty years. The importance of Ascott to the d'Oilli family was its proximity to the King at Woodstock and to Wychwood forest.



*Left: Reginald J. E. Tiddy, 1912.* Lt Tiddy was born at Margate in 1880, the son of a headmaster, and came to live in Ascott at Priory Cottage with his father and brother. A fellow of Trinity College, Oxford, he was the first secretary of the Oxford branch of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. He was a colleague of Cecil Sharpe, the English folk song collector who often came to Ascott and who would pay a shilling for a song. Reggy Tiddy brought about a revival of Morris dancing in Ascott and in 1912 he built the Tiddy Hall which has a special sprung floor for dancing. The team was much in demand for fetes and garden parties at the big houses in the neighbourhood like Cornbury, Bruern Abbey and Lee Place. In 1914 Reggy Tiddy enlisted with the 4th Battalion of the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and was killed as a Lieutenant at Laventie on 10 August, 1916, aged 36 years. He is affectionately remembered on a plaque in the Hall.



*The Tiddy Hall, about 1915.*



*Morris Dancers, Ascott, about 1913.* In 1965 Mrs Doris Warner wrote her 'Personal Memories' of her life in Ascott. In it she described the clothes worn by the dancers as she remembered them as a child. The women wore 'dresses with tight bodices, full skirts, white spotted muslin dutch bonnets and fichus, and had their hair in two long plaits with matching ribbons in their hair and on their shoes. The men had white flannels with coloured baldrics and bells on their legs. The girls wore flowered-print dresses and matching sunbonnets and the boys had holland smocks with wide hats and red scarves'. Mrs Warner died in 1986. In the photograph Reggy Tiddy stands watching the children.



*Above: Road builders, Leafield, 1930s.* The Act of Disafforestation of Wychwood Forest was signed on 7 July 1853, and between October 1856 and January 1858 large tracts of the forest were cleared and a network of roads laid out. These remained dirt roads until the road from Finstock was the first to be macadamised at the time of this photograph. Many of the men are 'Field-towners' including Fred Wiggins, Fred Williams and Fred Pratley.

*Top right: Leafield Chapel, pre-1859. Bottom right: The Church of St Michael and All Angels, Leafield, 1934.* Although part of Shipton parish, Leafield had its own chapel from at least 1591 when Sir Henry Unton of Bruern gave a chapel and chapelyard, cottages and land, to feoffees in Leafield. Burials still had to take place at the mother church in Shipton until permission for a burial ground was granted in 1831. The chapel is shown as it stood from 1822-1859 when it was pulled down to allow a bigger church to be erected next to it. The foundation stone of the present church was laid on All Saints' Day, 1858, by Lady Churchill. Within five years, the spire had been damaged by severe weather and a smaller, lighter one was erected. In 1934 it was again damaged, it is thought by lightning, and the top third was shortened and the gradient of the spire altered. For all its problems, the spire remains a notable landmark, visible for many miles. The old village cross can also be seen in both photographs; in the one of the old chapel as just a base and in the other after restoration in 1873 'as a memorial for their deliverance from the scourge of smallpox'. The lychgate was erected as the village memorial to the 20 men of Leafield who died in the First World War.





*The Fox, Leaffield. about 1925.* Mr and Mrs Widdows outside the Fox, probably shortly after becoming tenants, with Mr Fred Williams the 'donkey-man'. Fred Williams had a crippled leg and used the donkey to help him get about.



*Fred Williams (1858-1927).* Fred Williams 'the donkey-man' and great-grandfather of Doreen Dore, was the last of the Leaffield potters. The Williams family, who came from Llanelly in the nineteenth century, started the pottery in Witney Lane but by 1861 had moved to Chimney End, behind the Fox Inn. In 1895, the pottery was taken over by Groves who continued to make land-drains, tiles and bricks there until about 1920.



*Fairspear Road, Leaffield, 1930s.* The council houses in Leaffield were built just before those in Pear Tree Close, Milton (see page 24). Mervyn Dore, the little boy carrying his lunch bag to school on the right of the picture, remembers that he and his family left their house behind the Fox Inn to move into one of the new houses in Pear Tree Close, only to find when they got there that the house was let to someone else and they were homeless.



*The Pond, Leaffield, 1930s.* Leaffield always had a problem with a good water supply in summer and there are references to water being collected by buckets from springs in the forest. In 1927 J. F. Maddox made a gift of a spring in Shipton which was piped to Leaffield. The pond on the green was filled in in the late 1950s.



*View down Green Lane, Fife, 1900s.* The Matthews family lived at The Gables from the end of the 1890s until F. W. P. Matthews's widow left in 1930. The bridge over Green Lane from The Gables garden to the fields, was built with a high arch to allow loads of hay to pass under it to the Manor Farm rickyard. Emma Matthews used to cross it to feed her hens and Frederick to get to his hunters.



*Arthur Gee, Fife, early 1900s.* This small thatched cottage of one room with a stone floor downstairs and two bedrooms upstairs was the home of Mr & Mrs Gee and their four daughters and four sons. It was demolished in the 1930s.



*The Green, Fife, early 1900s.* Standing in front of Sidney Arthurs' cottage, since demolished, are Tom Manders with his spaniel and Mr Houlton on the left with an old English sheepdog. Sidney Arthurs was gamekeeper to the Baileys at Foxholes and Bould Wood. Mr Houlton was the Matthews' farm manager and Mr Manders their groom.



*William Arthurs, 1930s.* The Arthurs family have a long history in Fife and are mentioned in the Manor Court rolls in the seventeenth century. From 1856, their occupation was given as hurdlemakers, which they continued until William retired in 1955. A good maker could complete ten hurdles in a day, using willow and ash cut into three lengths and split in a primitive but efficient stand.



*Left: Maria Matthews, 1930s.* Born in 1864, Maria died on 8 June 1963, two days before her 99th birthday. An intellectual, she never had the academic education she would have enjoyed. Instead she devoted her time to housekeeping for members of her family, and photography. Her photographs illustrated *Three Centuries in North Oxfordshire* by M. Sturge Henderson, published in 1902.

*Right: The tomb of Sir Benjamin Baker, 1840-1907.* Sir Benjamin Baker was a well-known engineer responsible for the Forth Railway Bridge opened in 1890, for which he received his knighthood. For his funeral in 1907, twelve black ponies were harnessed to the bier at Kingham station and the mourners who had come by special train from London, followed the coffin up the hill to Idbury.



*Road leading east towards Bould and Foscot, Idbury, 1900.* The scene shows the old Idbury smithy in the middle with the tower of the Church of St Nicholas behind. The thatched house, now demolished, was dated 1572 and lived in by the Paxford family. Benjamin Paxford was a Morris dancer in the last Idbury team in the mid-nineteenth century and his cottage was used for practice.



*Idbury School, 1906.* The Church of England School in Idbury was built by Miss Langston of Sarsden in 1846. This photograph is from a unique collection taken by the chief education officer for Oxfordshire, Mr Wilson, who was an enthusiastic amateur photographer.



*The Iron Church, Lyneham, 1931.* After Milton became a separate parish, services were held by the vicar of Lyneham in Lyneham School Room. In 1907, Rev. D. H. W. Horlock conceived the idea of erecting an Iron Church and it was opened and dedicated to St Michael and All Angels on 24 September that year. Similar in style to the building on the south side of Fiddlers Hill in Shipton, which was described in *Kelly's Directory 1931* as 'a small church mission room of corrugated iron', it was last used for services in October 1972 and was demolished shortly after.



*Lyneham Farm, 1914.* Albert Henman standing wearing a boater with his son William (Jack) sitting on a knee in front of a threshing machine. Albert came to Lyneham Farm at the beginning of the century. Jack took over from him and then Peter, Jack's son, continued farming until 1988. Half of the farm is now being made into a golf course.



*Fancy dress parade, Lyneham, 1937.* The ladies of Lyneham dressed for the fancy dress parade which took place as part of the Coronation celebrations.



*Home Guard, Milton, 1944.* With invasion imminent, the Local Defence Volunteers were formed in May 1940, and with their name changed later in the year to the Home Guard, were gradually equipped with uniform, rifles and ammunition. Initially, their duties, after a normal week's work, were anti-invasion. Later in the war, when they were better equipped and trained with drilling and manoeuvres, they became a back-up for the regular army.



*The Observer Corps, Shipton, 1939. Left to right: Reg Bradley, Charlie Shepard, George Wiggins, Laurie Pittaway (seated), Alf Moss. In 1936, Post Y.1 Oxford Group was formed on the hill above Shipton on the road to Chipping Norton. Later becoming the Royal Observer Corps, their duties were to report the height, position, direction and number of aircraft. Later they were also required to identify them. The piece of equipment between them is a height/position finder.*



*Wedding at Swinbrook, summer, 1943. Sergeant Bob Smith, the drill sergeant to the Milton Home Guard Platoon, who formed the Guard of Honour, married Miss Gregory of South Lawn. No wedding bells could ring because that was the signal that invasion had begun.*



*Sketch of Post Y.1 by Hope Bourne, 1945. From the W.I. booklet Milton and Shipton During the War.*



*Daisy Burrus, about 1942. Early in the war, Daisy Burrus whose family worked at Manor Farm, Upper Milton, volunteered to join the NAAFI, and was drafted to Southampton where she worked in a camp canteen.*



*Evacuees, 1943. September 1939 saw the first contingent of official evacuees from London to be billeted in the Wychwood villages. The three Lane children were from West Ham and were split up. George was placed with Mrs Tibbitts and his sisters, Joan and Ena, with Mr and Mrs H. Day of Sandford Cottage, Shipton Road, Milton.*



*The War Nursery, Bruern Abbey, about 1940.* Mr and Mrs Crompton Wood offered part of Bruern Abbey for a War Nursery in 1938. The area around the courtyard, including the billiard and gun rooms, was made over for a Children's Society nursery. Monica Badger (née Rose) and her sister Vivienne Prentice worked there as assistants helping to care for 24 under-fives from the East End of London. They remember the chaos in the 'potting shed' after breakfast each morning and the chore of cleaning 24 pairs of shoes each evening. Members of the Wychwood W.I. helped with pram pushing, bathing and, particularly, mountains of mending.



*Canoeing on the lake at the Prebendal House, 1940.* In the canoe are the three evacuated Ault children, billeted with Mrs Wainman at the Prebendal, with her two grandchildren and the son of the Prebendal gardener, Ted Short. Ted was later recalled to the Yorkshire coalmines. The Aults arrived in the second contingent of evacuees who came from Dagenham in 1940 after Dunkirk. The third evacuation was after the Blitz which started in September 1940.



*Potato pickers, Manor Farm, Upper Milton, 1940.* Left to right: Carter Wiggins (father of three sons killed 1914-18), Valerie Bond (Women's Land Army), Mrs Hickman, Kath Timms, Joe Hedges and Shepherd Hickman. With the outbreak of war and the blockade, the intensive rearing of pigs and chickens, which had started in the 1930s, abruptly stopped, and farms again had to become self-sufficient. All farms, regardless of soil, had to grow potatoes. The land was worked by those in reserved occupations, the Women's Land Army and pensioners, school children and prisoners of war.



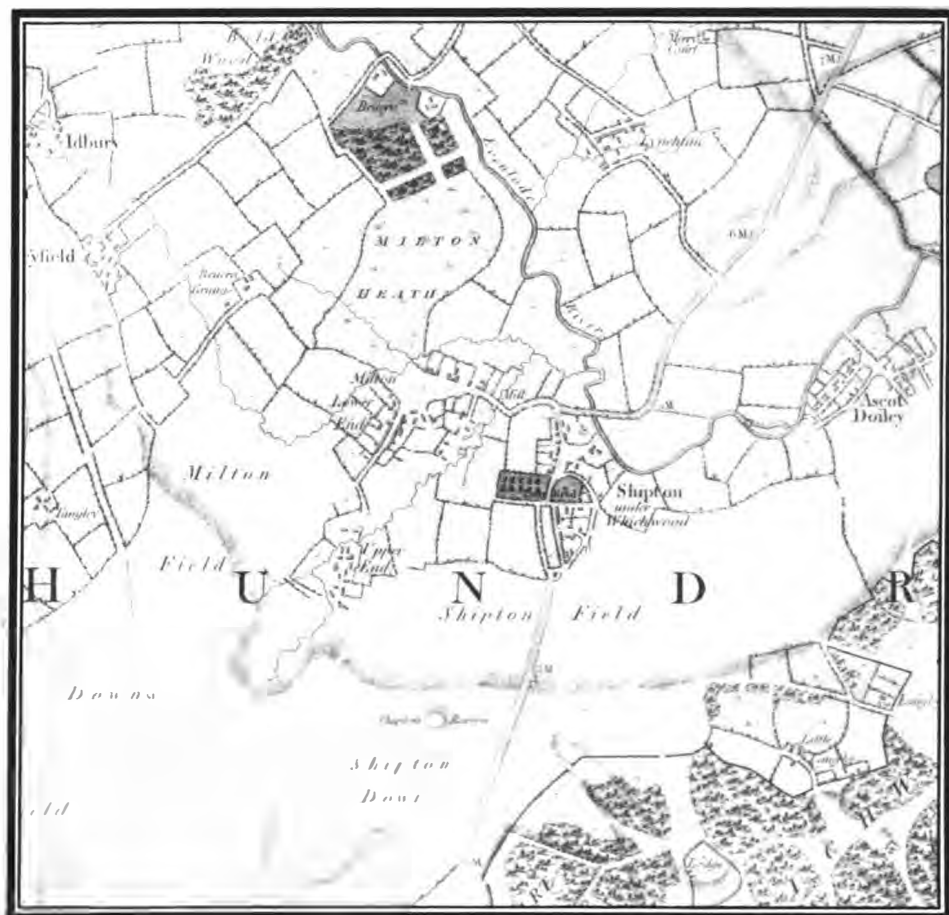
*Fordson tractor on Coldstone Farm, Shipton, 1943.* By the end of the war, more machines were available for farm work, like this standard Fordson with metal wheels with spade lugs. In the photograph Tom Turner is giving a ride to Jesse Hunt who was an evacuee from Upton Cross School, West Ham, billeted on the Turners. She came to Shipton at the age of five and, although all but one other child from West Ham were moved either home or to Launton in 1940, she stayed in Shipton until 25 May 1945, the only official evacuee to stay the whole period of the war in Shipton.



*Lyneham Victory Party, 1945.* The party was held by the Henman's barn at the bottom of Lyneham. The helter-skelter and railway were familiar features at fetes.



*Victory Party, Jubilee Lane, Milton, 1946.* Religious services, tea parties, fancy dress parades, bonfires and fireworks, were all part of the celebrations that took place in the Wychwood villages on VE and VJ days, with a weekend of celebrations in Milton at the beginning of September 1945. On 8 May 1946, Milton Parish Council agreed to spend 'a sum not exceeding £25 on Victory Celebrations'. On the official day, 8 June, the sports in Milton were rained off. John Rawlins remembers that to make up for the disappointment, he and the other children were taken the next week to see *The Wizard of Oz* at the New Cinema, Chipping Norton.



*Front cover:* Children at the War Nursery, Bruern Abbey, about 1940.

*Back cover:* part of Richard Davis' map of Oxfordshire, 1797.

**ISBN 0 9510372 6 9**

**Price £5.00 net**