

GOOD HISTORY

**Journal
of the
Eynsham Junior
History Group**

**Number 1
1995**

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The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

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Front cover design suggested by Alison Retz, featuring drawings by various members of the group of the old key of St Leonard's Church. Title suggested by Claire Winter.

We are indebted to friends and relations for photographs reproduced in this issue.

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EDITORIAL

The Eynsham Junior History Group was started in the Autumn of 1987 when the first group of eight members from Eynsham Primary Upper School put together an article entitled "The Railway Comes to Eynsham" which was published in The Eynsham Record No. 5. Since then it has continued with one break and made various contributions to The Eynsham Record. The group has also given talks to the Eynsham History Group.

Recently the group has expanded to include some older and some younger members. The older members are past pupils who are now at Bartholomew School. It tries to meet weekly through the school term but, because of the Senior Member's teaching commitments, this is not always possible. Mr Ted Whelan is the Senior Research Assistant.

At a meeting last September it was decided that not only should we try to make a contribution to The Eynsham Record but that we should attempt to produce our own magazine.

We would like to acknowledge with thanks the support we have had from Mr Paul Keates, Headteacher, the Eynsham Primary School, and the Eynsham History Group.

We hope that this issue of *GOOD HISTORY* will be the first of many.

Pamela Richards, Senior Member & Editor

REPORT OF SOME OF THIS TERM'S TALKS

We have had five outside speakers this term. Mr M. Harris spoke about his family business [see Eynsham Record No. 12] and Mr S. Green told us about his school days and we have been able to publish some of the photographs he showed us. Other speakers were Mrs J. Buttrick, Mrs J. Smith and Mr D.S. Richards.

Her Family's Shop in Eynsham by Mrs Buttrick

Mrs Buttrick came in to tell us about her family's shop in Eynsham. She said it was like Aladdin's cave because it went on and on and on....and it sold everything from tomatoes to bath tubs. The shop [Mr Bill Sawyer's] was in Newland Street. It is now an Indian Restaurant

The Druce Family by Mrs Smith.

Mrs Smith came in to tell us about the Druce family. The Druce family owned a lot of land in Eynsham. They also had a very big family. The Druce family originally came from France. They introduced the Oxfordshire Down Sheep and later we discovered from the Witney Gazette of June 1877 that Mr A. F. Milton Druce was winning prizes at the Bath & West Show with a champion sheep whose picture appeared in the Agricultural Gazette!

John Bartholomew by Mr Richards

Mr Richards came in to tell us about John Bartholomew. We found out what the Bartholomew Room has been. It has been: a market, a jail; a library, a fire station, a school, and now it is used for art exhibitions and meetings. When John Bartholomew died he left £350 for a school to be set up. £5 a year was to be used when a child went to go to learn a skill for 7 years.

Reports by Gregory Neilson and Jack Rossiter

EYNHAM SCHOOLS
The John Bartholomew School by Beccy Bullard

The first school in Eynsham was funded by John Bartholomew. In his will he left most of his money to have 10 boys get an education and go off to get an apprenticeship and for a school master to be paid. Money was still needed to pay for a building so they went round Eynsham to the rich families and asked for money. They managed to get enough money in the end to build the school building. It was open at the bottom for the market and upstairs there was a schoolroom where 10 boys had reading, writing and arithmetic. Then they were sent to be apprentices. Some even went as far as London. The trades they did were things like, shoemaking, carpentry, farming and being a blacksmith. Another man called William Plasterer gave some money.

In the next century the Druce family gave some land for another school. [Also see below] Here the classes were much bigger than the ones we have now and they were only taught simple things. It was not a very good education. When girls were about 13 or 14 they might go and help at school as long as they could read and write. They would be paid very little and they would probably be given their own little group to teach and when they had done that for a number of years, if they had done well, they would be allowed to go to a teachers' training college.

Later in the same century another school was built. That is the one in Witney Road. It is still used as a school but it has been made bigger. There used to be two separate entrances, one marked Boys and one marked Girls. The school was named after John Bartholomew in the middle of this century and it is now the local Comprehensive School.

The Old National School by Samuel Scott

In 1847 the second school of Eynsham was built. When my grandfather was there the school had three classrooms, one big room and two small rooms. The building was built at the corner of Swan Street and Station Road. Thirty-five children were taught in the big room and thirty-five in the two little rooms. The children were taught to read, to write and to do tables. He also remembers a sand tray in a corner.

[Editor: Samuel's grandfather is Mr Derek Parker, well-known for his work with local scouts]

AN OUTBREAK OF FIRES AND HOW IT PAYS TO INSURE

by Helen Dearing

A House Fire – August 30th 1890

On Friday evening about 8.30 pm a fire broke out at the residence of Mr Hanley. It appears Mr and Mrs Hanley were both out. A servant was looking after their two children when it happened. About 8.30 pm, the girl went up stairs with one of the children. She was carrying a benzoline lamp. The other child was still downstairs while the servant and first child were upstairs. She put the lamp on a chest of drawers. When she went to the drawers minutes later, she knocked it over. It fell on the bed and set it alight. She threw a counterpane over it but that caught fire too. The child was so scared that he ran all the way down the stairs. The servant then rushed out and warned the people outside. A man called James entered the house and rescued the child who was left in the house. Others helped to put out the fire with buckets of water. Eynsham Fire Brigade arrived later as it was already out on its rounds. Some furniture was damaged but at least the property was insured.

A Farm Fire – September 20th 1890

A fire broke out in a stack yard owned by a Mr W. Arnatt at his farm in Newland Street. About 11.30 am a stack of beans was being built when flames were seen flying along the top of the stack like lightning. In about five minutes the whole yard was ablaze. They managed to get the horse and wagon carrying the beans out of the yard.

Telegrams were sent to Woodstock and Oxford asking for help and in a short space of time both brigades arrived. They could only use the Eynsham engine because of the shortage of water but the Woodstock firemen helped. In a few hours nine stacks and four sheds were reduced to ashes. A hayrick of 40 tons kept its position till after midnight and was said to be like a volcano. In one shed seven cows were burnt alive. Luckily the wind was favourable. At one time it had looked as if it was going to set fire to houses in Mill Street.

Mr Arnatt was covered by "County" insurance and the property of Miss Swann was covered by "Phoenix" insurance.

Ref: The Witney Gazette

EYNESHAM READING ROOM by Alison Retz

Eynsham Reading Room was opened on February 24th 1883 with 80 members at No. 2 Wytham Terrace. Two rooms of the house were furnished, one as the reading room and the other for games such as chess. Although this was thought a very good idea at the time, after only three years it proved not to be and was closed.

The building was taken over by the Eynsham Conservative Party.

Ref: The Witney Express/Gazette

A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS by Jack Rossiter

June 27th 1872

Mr John Hambridge died suddenly last week. He was 72 years old and had been ill for some time. On Tuesday 18th of this month he went out walking. He was found dead next to a fence. The doctor said he had died of apoplexy.

Wednesday, August 29th 1873

A fatal accident has occurred. An inquest was held, at which Richard Tredwell, the lock keeper at Eynsham, described the events. The accident happened at the wharf bridge where he saw a boy with a cart full of manure. One of the two horses pulling the cart jumped, and the boy fell. The cart wheel went over his head, killing him. The horses went on into a field. The boy's name was William Wilson Lambourn who worked for Mr Day.

Friday, January 7th 1876

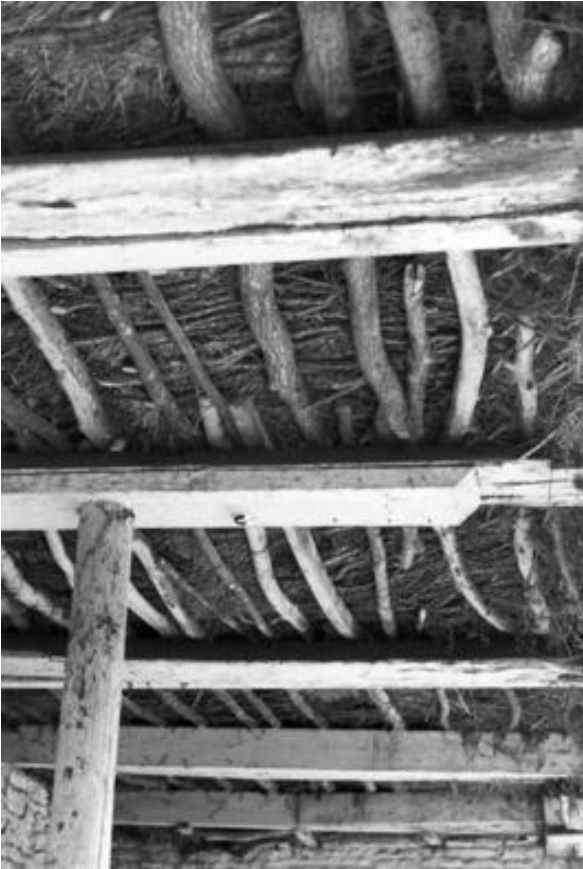
Engine driver Joseph Pain had a serious accident at Yarnton junction yesterday. He was at the rear of his engine when three toes of his right foot were crushed, probably caused by the hook of the coupling chain.

Ref: Witney Express/Gazette

THE OLD BARN by David Luna

The old barn in Newland Close is 300 years old. The barn belonged to the farm on the corner of Newland Street. The two parts of the building were the stables and the barn itself. The hay was kept in the barn and there were holes in the wall with metal rods put through them so that a farmer could pull out a rod and check the temperature of the hay.

Owls could get in to kill any mice by going through a hole near the roof. The stables had faggot roofing. On the limestone walls and the Stonefield slate you can see little fossils. The walls of the barn have a layer of stone and in between a layer of rubble.



Barn roof



Barn before conversion



Barn after conversion

Photographs courtesy of Dr T. Jordan

THE LAU AND LAW FAMILY BUSINESS
by Allen, Darren and Roland Law

Mr M. C. Lau, our grandfather, came to England in 1968. He had four sons and one daughter (our mother, Ansey). His children came to England from Hong Kong in July 1974. At first they went to Headington, Oxford, to live and work in their friends' Chinese Take Away. They worked hard, the hours of the shop opening being 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm to 11.30 pm.

On February 22nd, 1977 there was a move to Eynsham and our grandfather started up The Rainbow House. It was open from 5.00 pm to 11.00 pm. The business did well and on March 3rd 1988 they were able to move into the larger premises which used to be the Mini Market. Here the business was able to expand and now it is not only Eynsham people that come to get take-away meals.

In 1980, Ansey, Mr M. C. Lau's daughter married Mr K C Law and they moved to Eynsham to have their family, us, in 1981. One of Mr Lau's sons married Miss Mandy Tracey, an Eynsham girl.

They have three daughters.

When they came to England, our family could only speak Chinese. They began to learn English as soon as they moved to Headington but when they came to Eynsham they learnt much more. Our parents sent us to school in Eynsham, where we speak English all the time, but we still speak Chinese at home. We have lived all our lives in Eynsham but our parents teach us how to keep up our Chinese culture. We recently celebrated our New Year and we were able to share some of our traditions with our school friends.

Eynsham is very different from Hong Kong. The vegetation and the climate are different. The Rainbow House has been in Eynsham now for 18 years and we hope it will go on and on.

Mr M. C. Lau with his family in Hong Kong



Debts of George Makins to my sister Marie
Woodes

I hereby give Blanche 2
John Woodes 2
Thomas Woodes of Inglesham 2
It is Thomas Woodes of Inglesham 2
I have made and ordained my wife Emme my true
and lawful executress to see that my last will and
testament according to the true meaning thereof be
fulfilled. I John Woodes of Inglesham my overseer
Robert Hagnall small of Inglesham
Thomas Woodes of Inglesham

List of debts owed by and owing to George Makins

GEORGE MAKINS' WILL by Andrew Field

From a will you can learn something of the person's life. George Makins lived during the time of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I, but he died in 1587 the year before the Spanish Armada.

He made his will on April 28th 1587 when he said he was "sick in body" but in his right mind. He was married to Emme. She had been sidled Emme Wood before she was married and was probably a relative of Anthony Wood who wrote about old things. George Makins does not seem to have had any children. He had a brother but he may have died before him as he does not mention him in his will. He left a cow, a coffer and a bed with the bedclothes to his nephew John. He gave his god children 3 pence each but he gave his maid, Elizabeth Rodway, 3 shillings and 4 pence. He also gave 4 pence to Eynsham church.

He gave £12 and 10 shillings to his wife. He mentions Marie Wood in his will and calls her his sister. She was really Emme's sister and his sister-in-law. He left her 26 shillings and 8 pence but he also says in the will that he owes her 20 shillings. There were four people who owed him money too. and he measures the time of one of the debts by saying the money was due to him "before our new vicar Mr Thomas Sacheverill was vicar"

He seems to have been a landowner and quite wealthy for his time.

Ref: Oxon. Archives 43/1/60

THE TALBOT INN AT EYNESHAM by Michelle Winter

The present-day inn is a freehouse owned by Peter and Anne Winter but an inn has stood on the same site for about 200 years.

The first known landlord of the inn was Michael Toner the Elder who was there in 1774. At that time the inn was known as The Horse and Jockey.

In 1845 the Oxfordshire County Council took over the lease of the pub and set the claim by paying Richard Castell Toner £420 for the freehold. At this time the landlord was Phillip Scholey who, with his son, Phillip, wharfinger, held the pub into the 1860s.

A wharf existed at the Chilbrook near the inn site since around 1302, and the last load of coal came up in the 1920s. Swinford was a ford or ferry, before the present bridge was built in 1769 when George III granted the levying of a toll to the Earl of Abingdon in return for his building it.

Johnny Juggings held the pub until the Second World War and is written about by Mollie Harris in her book *From Acre End*.

The pub is now large and has a bar and restaurant specialising in fish and hot curries.

The Landlords of the pub have been:

The Horse & Jockey

1774 Michael Toner the Elder
1787 Sarah Toner
1789 Michael Toner the Younger
1796 Austin Maley
1801 Edward Richardson
1821 Alice Deane

The Talbot

1836 Robert Wright
1841 Edwin Willis
1844 Phillip Scholey
1867 Joseph Juggins
1891 Johnny Juggins
1940 Gertrude Lambourne
1970 William Kendall
1981 Andrew Sheldon
1992 (Aug.) Peter Winter

View of the Talbot Inn 1906

The Eynsham Junior History Group has written an article in *The Eynsham Record* about the First World War but we have included some extra things in this journal.



MR EVANS
by Katy Bullard

Mr Evans fought in the war and when he was older he came in to school to have lunch, because old people could. Everyone argued to have him on their table because he was very funny and did loads of jokes.

[Ed. note: Mr J. Evans fought in the First World War and appears in Mollie Harris's book *From Acre End*. His family still live in the village and his grandson Alan attended Eynsham Primary School]

LIEUT. E. T. FRANKLIN
by E.F.Whelan

Lieutenant E.T. Franklin was a member of the farming family at Farmoor. He served as a cavalry officer in the First World War under General Allenby in Palestine. He was mentioned in Despatches for gallant service on 3rd April 1918. After the end of the war he lived for a time at the Elms in Eynsham

Lt. E.T. Franklin

His citation (signed by Winston Churchill) is reproduced overleaf





The War of 1914-1918.

Royal West Surrey Regiment.

I./Lt. E. I. Franklin, 1st Bn., att'd. 1/8th Bn. Hamps. R. [I.F.],

was mentioned in a Despatch from

General Sir E. H. H. Allenby, G.C. M.G. K.C.B.

dated 3rd April 1918

for gallant and distinguished services in the Field.

I have it in command from the King to record His Majesty's
high appreciation of the services rendered.

War Office
Whitehall, S.W.
1st March 1919.

Lieut. Churchill

Secretary of State for War.



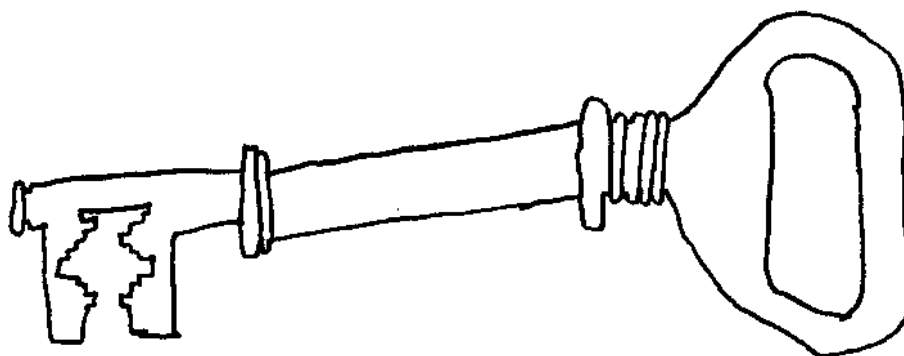
Two forms of
two - wheeled
transport used
during the
Second World
War by the
Green family.

Mr George Green
and his son
Stanley Green

The Good History Quiz*

This quiz consists of questions suggested by the group.
Most of the answers can be found in articles in this journal. Enjoy yourself.

- Q 1: How many members did the Eynsham Reading Room have when it first opened?
Q 2: What kind of roofing did the old stable in Newland Close have?
Q 3: Who owned a hardware store in Newland Street?
Q 4: Which street name tells us that Eynsham's transport was improved during the last century?
Q 5: Who funded the first school in Eynsham?
Q 6: Which street name tells us that the Abbey bought land to make Eynsham bigger?
Q 7: What did Mr John Hambridge die of?
Q 8: What was the first name of The Talbot?
Q 9: Who did Miss Swan insure with?
Q 10: How much money did George Makins leave to each of his godchildren?



Answers

A1: 80, A2: Faggot Roofing, A3: Bill Sawyer, A4: Station Road,
A5: John Bartholomew, A6: Newland Street, A7: Apoplexy,
A8: Horse and Jockey, A9: Phoenix Insurance, A10: Three pence each.
