



# THE EYNESHAM RECORD

Number 11 – 1994

(including index to numbers 1-10)

## NOTES

1. Images have been optimised throughout for online viewing.
2. Typographic errors in the printed edition, where identified, have been corrected in this digitised version.
3. Errors of fact or interpretation in the original which have since come to light are repeated but followed by an amendment in curly brackets { thus }
4. The pages are not available for printing “as is”, though you may copy/paste sections into another document.
5. Back numbers of the Eynsham Record are available in **print** for £1 plus p&p.
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### Note on abbreviations:

Bodl.	Bodleian Library, Oxford.
Chambers, 1936	Chambers, E. K. <i>Eynsham under the Monks</i> . Oxfordshire Record Society, vol.18, 1936.
E.H.G.	Eynsham History Group.
<i>E.R.</i>	<i>Eynsham Record</i> .
<i>Eynsham Cart.</i>	<i>Cartulary of the Abbey of Eynsham</i> . Salter, H.E. (Ed.), (1 and 2) in 2 volumes, Oxford Historical Society, vol.49 (1907) & vol.51 (1908).
Gordon, 1990	Gordon, Eric. <i>Eynsham Abbey: 1005-1228</i> , Phillimore, 1990.
O.S.	Ordnance Survey.
Oxon. Archives	Oxfordshire Archives, (formerly Oxfordshire Record Office)
P.R.O.	Public Record Office.
V.C.H. Oxon.	<i>The Victoria History of the County of Oxford</i> .

FRONT COVER:

Hercules Humphreys, 1699-1800: an Eynsham character. See pages 10 to 12.  
Illustration by courtesy of the Bodleian Library (MS.Top.Oxon. b.220 fol.59R.)



The  
Eynsham  
Record

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## EDITORIAL

The *Eynsham Record* is now in its eleventh year, and this issue includes an index for numbers 1 to 10. Users will be indebted to the late Edward Hibbert who compiled the entries for numbers 1 to 9. In adding those for number 10, I have attempted to emulate his skill in selecting appropriate items for inclusion.

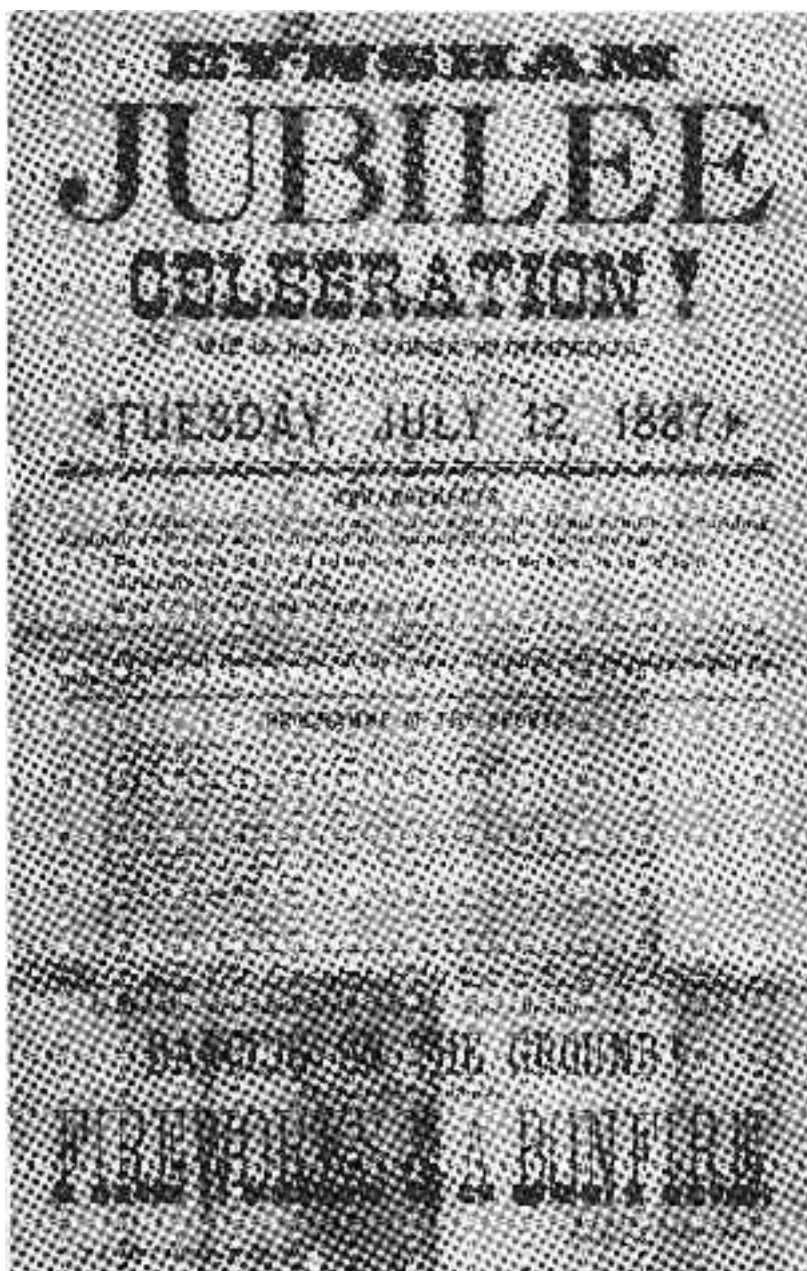
Pamela Richards has kindly agreed to be our Publications Manager, responsible for promoting and marketing the journal, leaving me free to concentrate solely on editing and production. We have also secured a grant from the Greening Lamborn Trust which will establish our Publications Account on a more secure financial base. Greening Lamborn was a prominent Oxfordshire local historian, and his Trust aims among other things to support local history publications.

During the last year the E.H.G. has received two other significant gifts. Mrs Gwynneth Gordon has generously donated some 50 history books from the late Bishop Gordon's library; and Mrs Evelyn Beauchamp has kindly given some local railway memorabilia which her late husband, William, acquired when the station closed down. Some of these items will form part of a display on Eynsham's railway, an E.H.G. contribution to an exhibition in the Westgate Central Library (September 17th to 23rd), organised by the Oxfordshire Local History Association.

Turning to this issue, it is pleasant to welcome back the Primary School History Group to these pages; and most encouraging to receive unsolicited contributions from authors who are not members of the E.H.G. Herein are the results of John Golby's researches into the occupations of Eynsham's womenfolk in Victorian times; and Ronald Lunt's account of unique goings-on in 1934 at Pinkhill, which deals entirely with menfolk. Let no-one dare to suggest that these pages show a gender bias! Do any readers recall attending 'Visitors Day' at Pinkhill Lock on 16th July 1934?

## Eynsham's celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1887.

(Poster kindly loaned by Mrs Evelyn Beauchamp)



Parts least easy to read on this reproduction are details of the sports, in which all the prize winners of the boys' and men's events were awarded cash prizes between one and five shillings; and all the prize winners in the girls' and women's events (excepting the women's tug-of-war where the heroines took home sixpence each!) were awarded lengths of calico, 15 yards for the winner, and 10 yards for the runner-up. Climbing the greasy pole won a leg of mutton.

# 'NOAH'S FLOOD' AT PINKHILL LOCK, 1934

by **Ronald Lunt**<sup>1</sup>

The early 1930s were the time of the 'Great Depression' in this country; nearly two million unemployed, dole of 14s. per week, industry bumping along the floor. It is difficult to make exact comparisons with the 1990s depression, 60 years later, but at the time we thought nothing could be worse. I was at the Queen's College, Oxford. Undergraduates - we did not style ourselves 'students' in those days - had a social conscience, and were keen to do something to relieve the lot of their contemporaries. In 1932 Michael Sims-Williams of Cambridge University led a pioneering enterprise to help unemployed young men in a practical way, rather in the spirit, I suppose, of the Duke of York's camps for schoolboys, an established feature of those days. The idea involved providing a break, away from home, under canvas, and fellowship, combined with tackling a worthwhile job together; not a holiday in the conventional sense; they had too much of doing nothing on the dole.

Oxford decided to follow suit in 1933. Before settling on a site we had to find a suitable project, a worthy project, but one which would not be undertaken by the paid labour force. This involved enlisting the support of the Trade Unions.

For the first Oxford University Camp, Eynsham seemed to offer what was sought; a site on the meadows beside Pinkhill Lock, which was conveniently near our base in Oxford, and a possible project, which was to dig out a hole near to the river which might be made into a safe paddling and learners' pool for children!

We then had to enlist our undergraduate partners, raise the funds, and 'sell' the idea in areas where unemployment was rife. We were blessed with strong support from dons, and with the availability as Camp Chief of Charles Harrison, an Exeter College man who had been on the Cambridge pioneering camp while preparing for Ordination at Westcott House, Cambridge.

Undergraduates were not to be 'staff': we were to be just fellow-workers, and people were deliberately assigned to tents such that each tent housed one or two undergraduates and four members from each of the contributing areas. That year we recruited from South Wales and from London's East End. It was to be for us, mainly from sheltered backgrounds, a tremendous social experiment, and we approached it with trepidation! But, my word, what a lot we learned from it.

I had a tent I still remember fondly. We elected 'Knocker' White, a Cockney, who turned out to be a marvellous friend and wit, as our tent leader. We had always to be on our guard against outbreaks of regional feuds as between the Welshmen and the Cockneys. 'Knocker' was a splendid reconciler, with the result that our tent won the inter-tent competition! There were times, perhaps after a frustrating day, unfavourable

weather, or a difficult seam to dig, when the chaps would not settle down and wanted to go on sparring to all hours. I told them stories, and held them spell-bound with some of the tales in Herodotus, at that time the 'special' author in my course!

Exeter College was one of our strongest supporters, and it was from there that Nevin Coghill, later to become Merton Professor and the Penguin translator of Chaucer, came out to Eynsham to produce the show which we put together for Visitors' Night, near the end of our month-long camp. On July 16th, following a camp inspection, a football match and a singsong, we presented a dramatisation of Noah's Flood, based on the 14th century version used in the Chester Pageant. This, of course, was to be a revival long before Benjamin Britten popularised it in his *Noye's Fludde*. Nevin was captivated by the setting beside Pinkhill Lock, and Mr Smith, the lock-keeper, was thrilled by the new experience of providing the stage effects: it was a quite superb scene. All the lead parts were played - and played remarkably well - by our unemployed men. Owen Prichard, playing the part of Noah, had a superb voice. Since he was a Welshman, an Englishman had to be found to play the part of God. Ronald Bendall filled the bill magnificently. Nevin wrote in extra parts in order to enlarge the cast and to provide pointed contemporary allusions. All the 'baddies' were played by Oxford men! *The Times* reported the event<sup>2</sup>, their correspondent giving the show a great puff! ....

In the evening a large number of visitors turned up from Eynsham and Oxford, and after the community singing and the usual form of variety entertainment, refreshments were served, and then the company adjourned to the far corner of the meadow to watch the play, which was produced by Mr Coghill, of Exeter College, in the most idyllic surroundings. The background of the stage was provided by the keeper's lodge of Pink Hill Lock. On the lawn in front of the lodge, sloping down to the lock, there are two neatly trimmed willow trees, between which a throne was erected, which was occupied by God and his angels. On the near side of the lock, there is another lawn, which formed the foreground of the stage, occupied by Noah and his family, while the lock itself, which separated the two parts of the stage, was invisible to the audience. An ingenious system of footlights, composed of motor-car headlights, had been devised, and the costumes, which were adapted from the performance of *Everyman* given by the Exeter College Dramatic Society earlier in the summer, were entirely appropriate.

In this perfect setting the camp cast produced a really memorable performance. Rehearsals had only begun a week before, and with a few exceptions none of the actors had ever acted in his life before. Yet everything went perfectly. The angelic choir sang hymns in harmony as only Welshmen can, and the two principal characters, God (Ronald Bendall) and Noah (Owen Prichard) ... acquitted themselves nobly. They spoke their quaint but engaging lines without mouthing or mumbling, and their gestures were dignified, easy and appropriate. The performance of Noah, indeed, revealed quite extraordinary talent. Nor was the rest of the cast without merit. The building of the Ark by Noah's family in dumb show was most effective, and the animals - personnel eked out with some admirable pastel drawings by some of the camp artists, and a fine animal mimic "off" - were as realistic as one could wish; while the flood was

THE UNIVERSITIES' COUNCIL FOR UNEMPLOYED CAMPS

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*Programme of*  
**VISITORS' NIGHT**  
OF  
THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY CAMP  
(JUNE 22nd to JULY 20th)  
AT  
PINK HILL LOCK, EYNSHAM  
JULY 16TH, 1934

*Camp Chief*—CHARLES HARRISON (Exeter College and Westcott House).

*Oxford Treasurer*—SIR CHARLES HARPER (Exeter College).

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*Commissioner of Works*—T. W. F. SPARROW (Ripon Hall).

*Quartermaster*—C. WIGFULL (Queen's College).

# PROGRAMME

7-8. INSPECTION OF THE CAMP.  
FOOTBALL MATCH

8-9. SING-SONG IN THE BIG MARQUEE.

1. Community Singing.
2. Violin. Mr. COGHILL : The Londonderry Air.'
3. Song : Silvestre; TENT 2. Banjo : Gus JONES.
4. Maori Dance and War Cry. J. BERTRAM and TENT 9.
5. Songs from Princess Ida,' by R. B. PARKER.
6. Song and Patter Dance : Miss GLADYS STROUD.
7. Herr KAMMANN will entertain.
8. Mr. JACK MALTBY will entertain.
9. Hornpipe Dance. Miss PAULINE HAWKINS.
10. Animal Mimicry. TOM BEVAN (Tent 3).
11. Song : Mr. JACK MALTBY.
12. Auld Lang Syne and God Save the King.

*Accompanist*—Miss GLADYS STROUD.

9.40-10.10.

## THE CHESTER PAGEANT OF NOAH'S FLOOD.

(Fourteenth Century).

*Persons in the play in the order of their appearance:*

God	- - - - -	RONALD BENDALL.							
The Archangel Michael	- - - - -	HOWARD EASY.							
The Archangel Gabriel	- - - - -	EDDIE PAYNE.							
Seven Angels	- - - - -	<table style="border-left: 1px solid black; border-right: 1px solid black; width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">PERCY AVERY.</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">ERNEST BROOKS.</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">VINCENT BENDALL.</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">STANLEY CROOME.</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">IVOR DAVIES.</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">CLIFFORD JONES.</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">REG LERWILL.</td></tr> </table>	PERCY AVERY.	ERNEST BROOKS.	VINCENT BENDALL.	STANLEY CROOME.	IVOR DAVIES.	CLIFFORD JONES.	REG LERWILL.
PERCY AVERY.									
ERNEST BROOKS.									
VINCENT BENDALL.									
STANLEY CROOME.									
IVOR DAVIES.									
CLIFFORD JONES.									
REG LERWILL.									
Noah	- - - - -	OWEN PRICHARD.							
Mrs. Noah	- - - - -	ARTHUR COOK.							
Shem	- - - - -	WALTER DRIES.							

*The  
Welsh  
Choir*

Mrs. Shem	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	HORACE PAINTER.
Ham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	WILL BERE.
Mrs. Ham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	GEORGE TANNER.
Japhet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES HACKLING.
Mrs. Japhet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RONALD WILLIAMS.
A Red-Shirt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	JAMES BERTRAM.
A Black-Shirt	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TOM SPARROW.
A Policeman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	JACK HARRIS.
A Bad Woman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RONALD LUNT.
A Bad Man	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NEVILL COGHILL.
A Lion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TOM BEVAN.
An Elephant	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RONALD GOODWIN.
A Monkey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ALF SOLLEY.
Pigs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ALFRED GARDINER and SAMMY CUTTER.
Dogs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	HOWARD NASH and WILFRED WARD.
A Gossip of Mrs. Noah's	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	RONALD LUNT.

*Producers*—NEVILL COGHILL and REGINALD PARKER.

*Choirmaster*—RONALD BENDALL.

*Costumier*—ALF SOLLEY.

*Front-of-House*—PAUL KINGDON.

Lighting and Make-up by REGINALD PARKER, kindly assisted in the latter by Mr. HARALD NORWAY and RONALD CHAPMAN.

Animal Pictures by REG GRIFFITHS.

The Producers offer their hearty thanks to all who have co-operated in the production, particularly to the THAMES CONSERVANCY and to Mr. SMITH, Lock-keeper at Pinkhill Lock, for their kindness in allowing them to use the Lock and its beautiful surroundings for a stage, and for much helpful and constructive suggestion by Mr. Smith. They are also indebted to MICHAEL MILFORD, Esq., for advice and assistance with the lighting, and to the help of STANLEY CROOME and PERCY AVERY in carrying out his directions.

After the play there will be a Silver Collection in aid of the Camp Funds.

admirably provided for by opening the lock gates at the critical moment.

In this rustic environment one might have expected so curious and old-fangled a piece to degenerate into burlesque; yet nothing of the sort happened. The performance was not merely serious, it was even devout, and though the humorous situations - and there were plenty of them - were made the most of, the tone was set by the beautiful unaccompanied singing of the Welsh "chorales".

Indeed, the camp performers succeeded far better than more sophisticated players, amateur or professional, have done in recapturing the real spirit of the medieval mystery.

On the whole, public opinion was very much in favour of the scheme of 'The Universities' Council for Unemployed Camps', and the senior common rooms of Oxford colleges turned out in force for our Visitors' Night whose climax was our performance of the Chester Pageant, in the gathering shadows beside the lock. The distinguished audience that night included the Public Orator, professors, politicians and the civic leadership of Eynsham. The month of living and working together is for all of us overarched by the memory of that evening, whether we were in the play, or part of the works, or contributing to camp activities and hospitality. Besides being a great producer, Nevill Coghill had the most remarkable human qualities which he employed to persuade young men, totally without acting experience, to lose themselves in their acting. However gauche we were, he was always encouraging - a tremendous morale booster. The play had provided the seasoning to the pudding that we had laid on for our contemporaries.

I know that the work project ultimately came to nought. When I was a don at Radley in the late 1930s I visited the site and revived memories standing by the lockside - but of the project we had taken in hand there was nothing to be seen. Nonetheless, the experience of working on it was very good for us all, good for us undergraduates to have experience of sustained manual toil, and an encouragement to our guests to 'keep their hands in' for the time when jobs would again become available - as they did in 1936 with the late rearmament drive. Meeting such fine young men as 'Knocker' White brought home to us the heartbreaking scandal of unemployment, especially with the knowledge that, after the camp, they were going back onto the scrap heap. There, but for the grace of God, went I and my fellow-undergraduates.

Thank you to Eynsham for giving a helpful welcome to this enterprise, a tiny drop in the ocean and a long time ago though it was. I suppose there were about 90 of us altogether.

*Endnotes and references*

1. The author, the Revd. R.G.Lunt, was an undergraduate at the Queen's College, Oxford at the time of which he writes. After teaching at Radley College, he served as Chaplain to the Forces (1940-45), winning the Military Cross. After the war he was Headmaster of Liverpool College (1945-52), and then Chief Master of King Edward VI School, Birmingham (1952-74). (Biographical note provided by Peter Way).
2. Extract from item in *The Times*, Thursday, July 19th, 1934, p.9.

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As reported in the *Roundabout* No. 132, November 1993, local historians will be interested to know that Clive Gordon, of Merton Close, using a metal detector, has made some interesting finds recently at Twelve Acre Farm, and at the Nunnery. These include 1st and 4th century bronze Roman coins, a silver denarius, parts of brooches and rings, and a lead weight.

What especially pleased Mrs Una Blake, now living at the Nunnery, was the discovery only a few yards from her new home, of a small figure with a traces of green enamel and gold, identified by the Ashmolean Museum as once forming a row of such figures attached to a reliquary box of the 12th or 13th century, probably made in Limoges. A tiny blue piece of stone or glass, representing the right eye has also survived.

# HERCULES HUMPHRIES - AN EYNESHAM CHARACTER

## by Lilian Wright

The picture of Hercules Humphries on the front cover was drawn about a week before he died at the age of 101 in September 1800, by W. Wise who may have been the William Wise born in Eynsham in 1737. As noted in the last *Eynsham Record*<sup>1</sup>, Hercules had been born in Burford in 1699, and thus was distinguished not only by his splendid alliterative name, but also by his having lived throughout the entire 18th century!

The citation with Wise's drawing states that *'his memory was so clear as to enable him to give evidence in a tryal at Oxford Assizes in the 101st year of his age, and his strength also enabled him to walk from Ensham to Oxford for that purpose. Has left several children, the eldest upwards of seventy'*.<sup>2</sup>

Further investigation of this Eynsham character provided some interesting information. At the age of 33 or 34, he married Sarah Hobbs of Eynsham on 1 April 1733. They had three children, John baptised 15 April 1734, Thomas baptised 18 April 1736, and Phillis baptised 11 March 1738. Their mother, Sarah, was buried at Eynsham in December 1756<sup>3</sup>.

He next turns up as a leatherworker or shoemaker, apparently living in Oxford where he remarries:

'Hercules Humphreys widower of Oxford, St. Martin, Cordwainer, and Mary Buckingham, widow of Eynsham, 11 August 1759 at Oxford, St. Martin'<sup>4</sup>.

On Friday, 18 January 1760, the following notice appeared in *Jackson's Oxford Journal*.

'At Witney. A Meeting of the Rector, Churchwardens etc. was at The Lamb to let farming land including 22 acres of Woodland at Freeland with the common rights on Ensham Heath in the possession of Hercules Humphries and his wife (formerly Mary Buckingham) ...'

In the next year we find Hercules in trouble with the law. At the Oxford Trinity Quarter Sessions, 1761, he faced two separate charges of assault;

'Hercules Humphries, late of the parish of Ensham, Victualler, on the 26th day of February, in the first year of the reign of George the Third, with force and Arms at the parish aforesaid in and upon one Elizabeth, the wife of Thomas Jeffs in the fear of God and our said Lord the King, did make an Assault on her the said Elizabeth then and did Beat, Wound and ill-treat so that her life was greatly despaired of and other wrongs to the said Elizabeth and against the peace of our said Lord the King etc.'<sup>5</sup>.

He pleaded guilty and was fined. He had pleaded not guilty at the Easter Sessions. The other charge is more interesting:

Hercules Humphries, shoemaker, James Bowerman, slater, and James Webb, joiner, all of Ensham were presented for an assault on his wife Mary on the 4th of May'<sup>5</sup>.

There can be little doubt that Mary was Humphries' wife (rather than Bowerman's or Webb's) in the light of a notice he placed in *Jackson's Oxford Journal* almost immediately after the alleged assault:

'Whereas Mary the wife of Hercules Humphreys of the Parish of Ensham, Cordwainer, did on the 4th of this instant May, elope from her said husband and is not yet returned. These are to give publick Notice, that the said Hercules Humphreys will not pay any Debts his said wife may contract during the continuance of her Elopement; And if any Persons shall entertain or permit his said wife to cohabit with them, such Person or Persons will be prosecuted for so doing by me. HERCULES HUMPHREYS.

In the same month, only one week after Mary had been attacked by, and fled from her husband, a child was baptised in St Leonard's Church. The entry in the Baptism Register reads: '1761, May 11th, Richard Humphreys, son of Mary'.

By this time it had been normal for some forty years for the Eynsham baptismal records to give both parents' names. This entry is unusual. Piecing together the events of May 1761, it is clear that Mary bore a child; that she fled having been assaulted by her husband and others; but that she did not flee far, and had her child baptised at St Leonard's without declaring the father's name. Is it possible that Hercules was not the father, and that he refused to acknowledge the child?

I have no further information on Mary. Hercules next appears as a witness at the Epiphany Sessions of 1781 at the trial of 'John Blagrove of Ensham who broke Pound and rescued 50 sheep there impounded by Edward Saywell and John Walker for trespassing on Ensham Common'. Blagrove pleaded guilty<sup>5</sup>.

At the Michaelmas Sessions 1788 Hercules Humphreys prosecuted Thomas and Elizabeth Scarisbrook for assault. They pleaded not guilty, but at the same Sessions four Eynsham men and two women forfeited money to keep the peace with Hercules Humphreys<sup>5</sup>.

He does seem to have been a rather controversial character.

The last trial he attended, mentioned above by W.Wise, would have been the one at Epiphany 1799 at the Petty Sessions where four Eynsham people were convicted of stealing hedgewood from James Wastie and Charles Smith.

Speculation still remains concerning the two daughters described by the curate,

Thomas Symonds, as having been present when he administered the Sacrament to Hercules a week before his death; one of the daughters being "in her 71st year", and the other "aged 13" The only daughter of whom we have independent evidence is Phillis (born 1738) and she would have been 62 when her father died. I can only think that the girl of 13 was a grand-daughter, daughter of either John or Thomas Humphreys.

The name Humphries appears in the Eynsham Registers certainly up to 1900.

It would be interesting to know if W. Wise drew portraits of other Eynsham people 200 years or so ago.

*References (see inside front cover for abbreviations)*

1. E.R., no.10, 1993, p.33.
  2. Robinson, J.E. *Monumental Inscriptions with Drawings etc. in the Co. of Oxford, and other Antiquarian and Topographical Notices*, 1840. Bodl. ms Top. Oxon. b 220.
  3. Eynsham Parish Registers - Baptisms, Marriages and Burials.
  4. Index of Oxf.Dioc.Marr.Bonds and Affidavits. Oxon Archives, ms s Oxf.Dioc.pps d 22-97.
  5. Oxon Archives Quarter Sessions and Petty Sessions Records. Oxon Archives.
  6. Phillis married Jonathan Simpson of Witney at Eynsham on 9 October 1759. They seem to have had only one child, a son William, bom at Broadwell 2 February 1766 (International Genealogical Index).
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# WHY THE 'Y'?

## A brief enquiry into how 'Ensham' became 'Eynsham' in the middle of the 19th century

by Mark Hogg

Most of today's residents of Eynsham, new and old, are familiar with the pronunciation of our village's name as 'Ensham'. 'Outsiders' and 'incomers' pronounce it 'Ainsham', not surprisingly since this is what the modern spelling seems to indicate. Some of us will also know that for a long period, and certainly throughout the 18th century, 'Eynsham' was actually spelt 'Ensham'. The Benefactors' Boards, happily preserved in the Council Chamber in the old Market House (Bartholomew Room), bear witness for the period 1703 right through to 1827. If this spelling had been maintained, the pronunciation would not be ambiguous, though there need be no argument about it, for Gelling's authoritative book<sup>1</sup> confirms the pronunciation as 'Ensham'!

Matthew Arnold's poem '*Thyrsis*', which is said to be a particularly fine description of the countryside in this area, includes the lines:

*"I know what white, what purple fritillaries  
The grassy harvest of the river-fields,  
Above **Ensham**, down by Sandford, yields"*

Thus for Matthew Arnold at least, writing as late as 1864-5, the 18th century spelling was still current. The Ordnance Survey (OS) used the spelling 'Ensham' on its first map of the area (1833)<sup>2</sup>, whereas for the second (1876)<sup>3</sup> it had changed to the modern spelling 'Eynsham'. Matthew Arnold was a great walker and defender not only of the Ordnance Survey - "The Ordnance Map is the greatest possible pleasure to me ...." - but also of the retention of old place names, so we can be sure that his use of the name 'Ensham' for our village was made with full thoughtfulness; he knew the area well, would certainly have had the first edition OS map for it, and would have been keen to preserve the extant spelling.

However, a change was imminent. As mentioned above, the OS inserted the 'y' at some stage between 1833 and 1876. The Post Office made the transition between 1854 and 1864 according to its published Directories; and the late Edward Hibbert's article *Eynsham's Postal History*<sup>4</sup> informs us that 'Ensham' was still in use as a postmark in 1856. Although other publishers of local directories and gazetteers would not have instigated a spelling change, it is of interest to note when they adopted such a change. Slater's *Oxfordshire Directory* of 1850<sup>5</sup> seems entirely confident about

'Ensham'. However, only two years later in 1852, Gardner's *History, Gazetteer & Directory of Oxford* <sup>6</sup> is hedging its bets; the village and parish is called "Ensham or Eynsham". From 1853 onwards 'Eynsham' became the norm<sup>7</sup>.

These various strands of evidence suggest the change occurred in the early 1850s.

But why did the change occur at this time, particularly when it was stated OS policy that "It is important that names which have appeared on the Ordnance Survey maps should not be altered .... except on the best authority"?

I half feared that our 18th century village name might have been (to quote a Welsh cartographer of 1757) "murdered by English map-makers"! There are the charming stories of the 17th century surveyor who, relying on phonetic spellings, produced "Slow of Ye Old" for Stow on the Wold; and of the John Speed map of Wiltshire, on which a village was mysteriously named 'Quaere'. This is, in fact, Latin for 'Query', and indicated that the map-maker was unsure of the correct spelling of the village's name at the time of drawing his draft map. Unfortunately he forgot to check this before sending his map to the engraver who prepared the printing plates, and the error was not picked up at proof reading. If this was a problem for John Speed and other cartographers in the 17th century, it was still a problem for the OS in the 19th century. Indeed, the fact that publication of the first edition 'Oxford' sheet was delayed for ten years seems largely to have been due to problems of this sort. I began to look for some reassurance that 'Eynsham' was not merely a misprint.

I knew that my parents' old encyclopaedia (Chambers, 1908) said that "in the 14th century a fashion set in of substituting the vocalic y for i, and I was mindful of the Victorian obsessions with name-spellings that produced comic verses such as '*Mrs Jones' Pirate*', from which the quote.. "*The Smith that spells without a y is not the Smith for me*" ..illustrates the point <sup>8</sup>.

I also needed, therefore, to establish that the change in our village name had not been merely a matter of changing fashion; that it had not - worst of all - been due to the class fashions of the Victorians. '*Mrs Jones' Pirate*', for example, had sought 'superior' status by claiming to know '*Smythes, Jonsons and Thomsons*'; eventually his falsity was exposed when Mrs J discovered that:

*"The scoundrel fibbed most shamelessly.*

*In truth he only knew*

*A lot of Smiths without a y -*

*A most plebeian crew."*

I hoped that the worthy Victorians of 'Ensham' had not merely been seeking to raise their social status when they introduced the 'y'.

The fact that the Post Office changed the name to 'Eynsham' raised the question of who - if anyone - defines the 'correct' name for any place. Nowadays, I think we

would tend to look to the Ordnance Survey to provide us with authoritative spellings of place names, and it is interesting, therefore, to read that "The OS has always assumed responsibility for deciding what place names are to appear on its maps and how they should be spelt. Indeed ... there exists no national body in the UK responsible for laying down the names and spelling of places appearing on maps or in other official documents"<sup>9</sup>. What was happening in the OS between about 1833 and 1875, the period in which the name of our village seems to have changed officially from 'Ensham' to 'Eynsham'?

What was happening was a long drawn-out sea-change in the way in which the OS verified the place names that it included on its maps<sup>10</sup>. Prior to 1800, map makers had generally been guided in their choice of names and their spellings by local usage, moderated to some extent by reference to local land owners, clergy and other "knowing and skilful persons". In its first 20 years as a map publisher (1801-1820), the OS did little to refine this system of place-name verification. But by 1862, for example, we find Matthew Arnold drawing attention to the fact that the OS had been "reproached with letting the nomenclature of their maps become obsolete; the names of places are left ... just as they stood 40 or 50 years ago".

The OS policy was changing to push much of the task of place-name verification onto the field-surveyors. They were being required not merely to establish the local and accepted versions of names, but also to seek for written 'authority' for these names, and even - to a limited extent - to begin to research their etymological and historical origins, to make sure that any selected spelling could be justified; they were "encouraged to be curious about the meaning of the names". The full development of this system for establishing correct names continued through the mid-19th century, and can only be regarded as being completely developed by about 1880.

The first edition of the OS 'Oxford' sheet was, as we have already seen, published in 1833, but only after a delay of ten years, so that it may be assumed that its naming was performed very much on the lines of the old policy, which was certainly in use until the early 1820s. For the second edition published in 1876, however, the new system would have been operating, so that to find a change away from the 18th century spelling of 'Ensham' would not be surprising.

However, I am still left wondering why the 'authorities' of the day (perhaps around 1850) decided that 'Eynsham' was more correct than 'Ensham'. I know that the old encyclopaedia I referred to earlier tells us that "Our English use of y is unique", and goes on to explain (in a 500 word essay!) how it may have derived from the Anglo-Saxon *g*. Knowing, as we do, that our village name derives from 'Egonesham' or 'Egnesham', this may well be the right train of thought, but if so, I think that following it through might form the subject of another brief enquiry' in these pages.

*Endnotes and References (see inside front cover for abbreviations)*

1. *The Place-Names of Oxfordshire*. ed. M.Gelling, English Place-Name Society, Vol.23, Cambridge, 1953.
2. O.S. First edition 1 inch to 1 mile map, Sheet 45, 1833.
3. O.S. First edition 25 inch to 1 mile map, Eynsham Sheet, 1876.
4. E.R., no.8, 1991, p.13, fig.3.
5. Slater's *Oxfordshire Directory*, 1850. "Witney with the village of Ensham and neighbourhoods" ... "Ensham - formerly a Saxon .. town, then called Egonesham, of which the present name is obviously an abbreviation".
6. Gardner's *History, Gazetteer & Directory of Oxford*, 1852. "Ensham or Eynsham parish".
7. Lascelles *Directory & Gazetteer*, 1853; Dutton, Allen & Co. *Directory of Oxon & Bucks.*, 1863; *Post Office Directory*, 1864; Edward Cassy & Co., *History, Gazetteer & Directory of Berks & Oxon.*, 1868; and Kelly's *Directory*, 1883 all list "Eynsham" unequivocally. The only exceptions where "Ensham" is used after 1852 appear to be in the *Post Office Directory* of 1854 (see main article), and Melville & Co., *Directory of Berks, Cambs, Beds & Northants*, 1867 (since Oxon was only peripheral to the compilers' interest, they were presumably out of date in this matter!)
8. 'Max Adele? (nom de plume of Charles Heber Clark). *Out of the Hurly Burly*, 1874.
9. Harley, J.B. *Ordnance Survey Maps - a descriptive manual*, 1975.
10. Harley, J.B. *Place-Names on the Early Ordnance Survey maps of England and Wales*. *Cartographic Journal*, Vol.8, pp.91-104, 1971.

**"DARKEST" EYNESHAM**  
**by a 'Special Correspondent'**  
*Witney Gazette, Saturday, 29 January, 1898.*

In these days of School Boards and Parish Councils most villages of any importance whatever do something in the way of lighting their streets during the dark evenings of the winter months. This is a luxury that does not cost a vast sum of money, in comparison with the convenience and comfort resulting from the outlay. Eynsham was formerly lit by gas, but some six or seven years ago this was discontinued, and although some attempt has since been made to light the streets with oil, nothing has been done during the last two or three years, although there are still lamp posts, and it is said there are lamps somewhere, although it is probable that by this time they have become practically useless.

Having been invited to see for myself the extreme darkness of the village, I visited the place on a recent occasion, when no moon or stars shed their gentle light to guide the traveller. Arriving at the Station, my first misadventure was to skin my knuckles by knocking them against the wall, which bounds the footpath, and which it was impossible to see; however, at length, I managed to grope my way to the main street [Acre End St.], which by the way would not have been ascertainable had it not been for the light given from a lamp provided by a beneficent government at the Post Office [then in Acre End St.]. Another lamp, erected at the residence of Mr Smallhorn [the village doctor], shows him to be a good Samaritan in this matter, as all know him to be in other ways, and these two lamps are all the illumination the main street has after the shops are closed, with the exception of that produced from a lamp placed in a window containing .... LOLLIPOPS AND ONIONS ....., but notwithstanding its environments, it serves a good purpose, and the owner deserves to be patronized for his (or her) public spirit [Pimm's shop?].

Mill street and the Station road are in Egyptian darkness, "verily a darkness that can be felt", for I heard of more than one case of collision occurring between pedestrians, in fact so dangerous has walking in the street become that one has to be very careful to walk slowly, and stop frequently to listen for anyone coming from the opposite direction. Having finished my tour around the town, I made tracks for the station, and having turned the corner of that well known hostelry "the Swan", and left the dim light of the Post Office behind, I was again plunged into darkness, when suddenly I saw near to me a dull red light about the size of a sixpence. This brought me to a standstill, when the light proved to be the end of a cigar, and from behind it, out of the darkness, came the words "can you direct me to the village?" (I may mention here that your correspondent was also smoking a cigar, which by the way is

the safest thing to do when walking the streets of Eynsham after dark, providing you keep the ash well knocked off. A pipe will not answer, it must be a cigar, or a cigarette, and if you have not one in your pocket, the "Lion" or the "Swan" have both capital brands; and armed with this danger signal you are fairly safe from pedestrian collision at any rate). The suddenness of the encounter, and the extraordinary query, when the questioner was already in the village, fairly took one's breath away. However after a few complimentary (?) remarks on the government of Eynsham, we each proceeded on our dark path, keeping as near the middle of the road as could be judged, but the approach of a vehicle without a light caused me to make for the footpath, which at this spot, is raised some inches from the road; this it was impossible to see, and the result was first a stumble, and secondly a collision with the wall. Again the middle of the road was sought and followed, until the rippling of water induced the belief that your correspondent was safely proceeding over the bridge, when to his utter dismay, he found himself walking into the brook [the Chilbrook]. Having once more got onto the road, and reached the station lamp placed outside, with the name of the station on it, he felt as one awakening from a nightmare, and glad to be assured he was still in the land of civilization.

#### *Footnote*

Thanks to Pamela Richards for unearthing this item from the *Witney Gazette*, written nearly one hundred years ago. Eynsham's gas supply was certainly in suspended animation at that time. In April 1898 the plant off Spareacre Road was up for sale, advertised as "late the property of the Eynsham Gas Company"; and in July of the same year *The Journal of Gas Lighting* reported that "Mr Morgan, the purchaser of the old gas plant at the Eynsham Gas-Works, has now bought the land whereon the works stood and has commenced renovating the holders. He intends also to put down new plant on an improved system". (Information courtesy of Mr J.B. Horne of British Gas Southern, in 1988). I hope to publish a history of Eynsham's gas supply in due course. [Editor]

## EYNESHAM HAUNTINGS

### **Part 1. by Joan Weedon (some tales recounted to her by Jean Mitchell, September 1990)**

Early in this century, and on more than one occasion when they were living in their grandmother's house in Church Street, Emmie, Lottie and Ada Pimm saw a man emerge through a door and walk along the room; he wore a hat, his eyes glistened and sometimes he carried a knife. The girls reported this to their grandmother whose immediate response was that they were not to tell anyone since, if they did, she would not be able to let the property! Later the staircase in the house was demolished in order that a pulley lift could be installed for their grandmother, and beneath the staircase was found a corpse. The girls took the skull to the village schoolmaster. Some years later when the floor of the house was taken up for the installation of modern drainage, three or four skeletons were found, thought at the time to be the remains of monks.

Other people who have lived in the same house have mentioned an unsolicited 'presence' there. In the early 1980s, the son of a local County Councillor rented the property with friends, one of whom refused to sleep in a certain room because, she said, someone regularly walked through the room at night. Another former resident has told me (J.W.) that her dog refused to enter that room.

The old house in Thames St. was, allegedly, haunted by two apparitions who were wont to fall down the stairs in the night, shouting! Lottie, as a child who had been told that she had a 'psychic gift', occasionally stayed there with an elderly lady, and she said that she heard two people tumbling down with loud exclamations. As a young woman Lottie, hurrying one day to visit her mother's grave in the churchyard, found herself walking towards what she perceived as a double column of monks coming towards her, their heads downcast and hooded. As she continued towards them, the double column parted to let her through. At the same time someone else also saw the monks from a window which overlooked the churchyard. This lady remarked on their robes which appeared to be pale in colour<sup>1</sup>.

In later life Lottie came to live in the old house in Thames St. where she had stayed, occasionally, as a child. Some years ago she felt obliged to ask the vicar from Stanton Harcourt<sup>2</sup> to exorcise a ghost in one of her bedrooms because one of the guests was having disturbed nights; the vision sitting on the foot of the bed each night and then walking down the stairs.

Emmie and her second husband lived, in later life, off Oxford Road. Her husband was a devotee of motorcycles and was also staunchly sceptical about paranormal

occurrences. One day, returning from the yard where he had been tuning a bike, he appeared agitated and white-faced. He reported that, for a second time, a woman and child had walked through the gate, across the yard, and out through the wall on the other side towards the abbey site. The woman wore a long cloak. Apparently on the first occasion he had called out to the woman who had ignored him and walked on.

It is understood that at a local social event, not too long ago, the wives of two university tutors discovered, while conversing, that students of their respective husbands had independently experienced difficulties with a haunted room in a house in the middle of the village - the same house of which Mrs Mary James had told her granddaughter that there was a room where 'neither man nor woman could sleep'.

There are, undoubtedly, more strange tales of Eynsham awaiting discovery or the telling: as Shakespeare asked *'What seest thou else in the dark backward and abysm of time?'*

When I (J.W.) endeavoured to check the story of the ghostly monks' procession in the churchyard, I was asked 'What do you want to know...about the ghost seen in your own garden?'

#### *Footnotes*

1. The Benedictine monks of Eynsham Abbey would have worn black robes. Medieval vegetable dyes probably started to fade after a few washings. Perhaps we should expect them to look pale when worn by 20th century apparitions!
2. The then vicar of Eynsham declined to perform an exorcism.

**Part 2. An extract from *Some Account of the History of Eynsham*, p.49. An unpublished, undated typescript of uncertain authorship; internal evidence suggests that it was written between 1928 and 1936, possibly by Mrs Cruikshank, wife of the Eynsham doctor.**

One would expect a place of such antiquity would have its Ghost Stories, but I know of only two.

When the moat at the bottom of the Elms garden is dry, a coach and horses is said to drive from there across the roof of the Shrubbery to an unknown destination. The moat was dry in the heat wave of 1928 but neither the inhabitants of the Elms nor the Shrubbery have seen or heard the coach.

An old lady of my acquaintance says that when she was a girl she heard the Spirits (which were said to have been those of some ancient and evil inhabitants of Eynsham Hall) had been laid [to rest] by twelve nuns who came to exorcise them. This may account for their non-[re]appearance. An old saying is that when the aforementioned moat is dry, the Devil will have half of Eynsham.

The other ghost takes the form of a black horse which gallops along the Stanton Harcourt road and across the Bell Bridge. This bridge is shortly to be demolished, and one wonders if the horse will take to the new bridge or transfer himself elsewhere. Only about six or seven years ago a woman pushing a perambulator in the dusk along that road is said to have had to take to the grass along the roadside to escape the horse.

**Part 3. An extract from *Some Strange Events*, by John J. Donnelly, *The Clarendonian*, Vol. 21, No. 4, (Oxford University Press), 1967.**

The Railway Inn at Eynsham came into the ghostly news earlier this year [1967] when it was announced that the landlord, Mr Littlechild, was quitting on account of a ghost. The cellar at the inn was reputed to be haunted by the spirit of a man who had been murdered there over a century ago.

Mr Littlechild told of the strange events that took place over the last four years. The pressure was cut off and the beer stopped flowing, the fridge shut itself off, and the doors of the cellar rattled night after night until he could stand it no longer and decided to leave.

Although Mr Littlechild didn't see an apparition, he is convinced that the inn is haunted; as he says himself: "There's no logical explanation ... I've got to get out ... he's frightened the life out of me".

**Disclaimer: None of the above authors, nor the editor, claim that there is any objective reality behind these events, however real they appeared to the original witnesses. Nevertheless these stories have at least a socio-historical local interest, and are worthy of recording in that 'spirit'! [Editor]**

## THEN...



Mill Street, looking south, in the early 1960s. The sign on the corner of John Lopes Road advertises 'Bradstone', makers of a synthetic building stone used for the shops soon to replace the cottages on the corner (but set back from the main road), and many new houses built in the village during the 1960s. (Photograph by courtesy of William Bainbridge)

## .. and NOW



.. Well, not quite now! I took this photograph in early 1993, since when Barclays Bank has closed. To have achieved an exact comparison between the two pictures I also should have crouched down exactly in the middle of the road, a dangerous enterprise these days! [Editor]

**NOTE:** the images opposite  
have been re-sized to reduce the overall size  
of this .pdf file.

Back numbers of the Eynsham Record are available in print for £1 plus p&p.

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# MARRIED WOMEN AND WORK IN MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY EYNESHAM

by John Golby

The belief that 'woman's place was in the home' was one adhered to by many Victorians. It was a belief sustained not just as a result of irrational male prejudices but partly out of practical necessities, for as the 19th century progressed, the opportunities for married women to seek paid employment outside the home grew less. With the growth of towns and industries, so work was increasingly transferred from inside the home to workshops, factories and offices. This, together with the decline in agricultural work, meant that married women who wished to work in order to supplement the family income, found it increasingly difficult to obtain regular paid work and to look after their young and, very often, large families.

By 1851, the Census figures show that, for the country as a whole, only a quarter of married women were in paid employment<sup>1</sup>. (The trend continued throughout the century, and it has been estimated that by 1901 the number of married women working was less than half that of 1851<sup>2</sup> ). But what about married women in Eynsham in 1851? Did they find it as difficult to find paid work as women in many other parts of the country? Eynsham, in the 1850s, was described as a 'Village or Town ... of considerable extent ... Few villages in the country are adorned with more pleasing circumstances of situation. The surrounding scenery is rural, and picturesque<sup>3</sup>. It was primarily an agricultural parish with a population of 1,941 in 1851. Just under one sixth of the population (319) were described in the 1851 Census returns as married women<sup>4</sup>. Of these, some 139 married women informed the Enumerator that they were in paid work. A comparison of the numbers of married women in paid employment with those not working broke down into age groupings as follows:

### Married women in Eynsham (1851)

	<b>Working</b>	<b>Not working</b>	
Under 25	8(36.4%)	14	(63.6%)
25-45	94(49.5%)	96	(50.5%)
Over 45	37(34.6%)	70	(65.4%)
 Total	 139( 43.6%)	 180	 (56.4%)

These figures indicate that the percentage of married women in Eynsham in paid employment (43.6%) was much higher than the average for the country as a whole (ca. 25%). The reason for this can be seen by examining the occupations listed by the Enumerator for the 1851 Eynsham Census. Seventy-four, or 53.2% of the employed married women were working in jobs connected with the clothing industries, and which were undertaken in their own homes. Of the 139 working married women mentioned in the 1851 Census, ten gave their occupation as dressmakers, two as tailoresses, one as a seamstress, one as a waistcoat maker, and one as a milliner. In addition, some 59, or approximately 42.5% of those in paid employment, gave as their occupation glove-making.

Glove-making was a major home industry in Oxfordshire, and Woodstock was famous as the centre of an industry which concentrated on producing hard-wearing leather gloves made from either deerskin or sheepskin. It was these sorts of gloves that were hand-sewn by the women of Eynsham. It was poorly paid work and was regarded by many as a 'sweated home industry', but it was welcomed as a much needed additional source of income for some of the poorer families in the village. Pennington and Westover have rightly pointed out that a large percentage of this home-based workforce was composed of 'the daughters and wives of agricultural labourers'<sup>5</sup>. In Eynsham 55% of the married women who were in paid employment were the wives of agricultural labourers.

So, the married women of Eynsham in 1851 had more opportunities for paid employment than those in some other parts of the country because they were still able to work at home. Perhaps, surprisingly for an agricultural village, only 7 of the 139 married women gave occupations which were directly connected with agricultural work. But we must remember that the Census was conducted in late March/early April, and although many married women may not have been working in the fields at that time of the year, they may well have been later on when helping with the harvest.

This is just one reminder that we should be aware of the dangers of relying completely on Census figures for our evidence. The information given to the Census Enumerator was not always accurate. Some husbands probably did not bother to declare the occupations of their wives. The work of many women was of a casual and temporary nature, and although working for some months of the year, they may not have been in employment at the time the Census was taken. Also much of the work undertaken by married women - washing, sewing, child-minding, taking in lodgers - were duties which were often deemed unworthy of entering in the Census. For these reasons, it is highly likely that the Census returns underestimate the percentage of married women working.

Nevertheless, one thing is clear; a higher percentage of married women in Eynsham were in paid employment, compared with many other parts of the country.

### *References*

1. Hunt, E. *British Labour History 1815-1914*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1981, p.18.
2. Lewis, J. *Women in England 1870-1950*, Wheatsheaf Books, Sussex, 1984, p.149.
3. Gardiner, Robert (ed.) *History Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Oxford* (1852), Peterborough, p.673.
4. These and the following figures have been obtained from the transcripts of the 1851 Census Enumerator's Books held in the Centre for Oxfordshire Studies, Central Library, Westgate, Oxford.
5. Pennington, S. and Westover, B. *A hidden workforce, homeworkers in England, 1850-1985*, Macmillan Education, Basingstoke, 1989, p.44.

## **OF CATCHPITS AND BOREHOLES**

### **The Eynsham Drainage & Water Schemes.**

**by Pamela Richards**

The *Victoria County History*<sup>1</sup> states that main drainage was introduced to Eynsham in 1899 and the mains water supply in 1903. However, at Eynsham could things have been so clear cut? Research has shown otherwise.

Following the Act of 1893 the Thames Conservancy Board [TCB] promoted a Parliamentary Bill to amend and consolidate existing acts. This Bill received the Royal Assent on 17th August 1894. The Board's powers to lessen pollution were greatly extended and pressure was applied to towns and villages up and down the Thames. This led to many schemes being taken to the Local Government Board [LGB] by town and rural district councils. The schemes were so successful that by 1898 the Conservancy's analyst could report that organic impurity in water immediately about the Water Corporation intake was only two-thirds of what it had been before the Act.

The new Act was not welcomed by all. In fact, there was much opposition. Long before the Bill had come before Parliament such opposition was voiced in the 'Jottings' column of the *Witney Gazette*. On January 27th 1894 it welcomed the Witney Authority's intention to oppose the measure, citing the late Dr Tidy who had "proved conclusively that the sewage of Witney [and presumably that of Eynsham] did not pollute the Thames and that it was nothing short of ridiculous nonsense to suppose that a ditch, situate as Witney is, more than 100 miles (as the river flows) from London and containing so little sewage, can in any appreciable degree affect the water of the metropolis", although he did "strongly urge upon all whom it may concern, the advisability of allowing as little obnoxious matter as possible to pass into the river". The Council even voted itself £50 to oppose the Bill. There were also letters from indignant ratepayers.

A year after the assent to the Bill the Rural District Council [RDC] received a letter from the TCB complaining of the pollution of the Thames at Eynsham where the effluent had been found to be of a "very unsatisfactory character". Although the Council "decided to do nothing in the matter at present", the TCB did not let the matter rest.

During the 1890's Eynsham was described by one of its councillors as "impoverished". The paper mills had closed down and there was considerable unemployment, although in December 1898 there was an unconfirmed report that a steam laundry was proposed by an Oxford firm. Much of the housing was poor and often overcrowded. On September 10 1898 it was reported that a woman and 9

children inhabited a house where the sleeping accommodation was only sufficient for 5 persons. The Log Books of the Infant School show the prevalence of poor health. Lilian Wright has written of the insanitary state of Eynsham at this time<sup>2</sup>.

In December 1895, following a forceful letter from the TCB's solicitor complaining that nothing had been done about the continued pollution of the Wharf Stream, a Parochial Committee was formed to examine the problem. Their report was slow in coming and the Councillors did not seem to be convinced of the urgency of the matter. Mr J.C.Watts, who lived in Freeland, reported to the RDC that "We have not done anything but I suppose we must abate the nuisance" and Mr Arthur Blake supposed it would take them about two years to get anything done.

Meanwhile, frames, gratings and catchpits were frequently broken and old drains blocked. In October 1896 Mr Thomas Buckingham of Eynsham sent a telegram to the RDC Inspector complaining that the street drain near his house and cottages was blocked and "all matters thrown down his private drain could not get away but found its way into and spoiled his well." Another inhabitant complained of sewage seeping into her kitchen from a neighbour's broken drain. In the summer Eynsham could be particularly aromatic! In August 1898 a Mr Wynter complained that the Scavenger sometimes removed household sewage as late as 7.30 a.m. thus causing a nuisance.

The Conservancy Board realised that to implement a proper drainage scheme would take time but they were insistent that the RDC should start the work as soon as possible. In July 1896 it was resolved that Mr Eaton, the RDC's Surveyor, should commission Mr C.Nicholson Lailey, Civil Engineer, "with a view to his preparing plans and an estimate" for an Eynsham drainage scheme, and thus began what was frequently a wrangle about the cost of the scheme and who should pay for it.

In January 1897 it was reported that on the 17th December 1896 Mr Lailey had visited Eynsham to make an inspection, to obtain permission to have certain trial holes made at the proposed outfall site, and to have the ground opened up in Conduit Lane to ascertain the quantity of water that could be collected for flushing purposes. By March, the work having been carried out, Mr Lailey was able to write to the RDC saying that his plans were ready, and in April he met the Drainage Committee to explain them. The Committee recommended acceptance of the scheme at an estimated cost of £1,600, exclusive of the purchase of the field over which the effluent would be spread. Mr Lailey was asked to prepare further details for submission to the LGB.

In November the revised plans were ready to be approved by the Council and submitted to the LGB, but the question of finance still worried the Eynsham District Councillors. Mr Arthur Blake wanted the matter left for a fortnight to clarify a few details. He wanted information on the cost of connecting the drain to the houses,

which might be high and for which sufficient funds should be applied. The Inspector reported that it had been estimated that there would be about 150 connections at a cost of £80. Mr Blake said that was simply for laying junction pipes and that in some cases they would have to make connections with the sewer at a distance of 50 yds., and it was agreed that this had not been estimated for.

Mr Watts complained that it was unfair to expect Freeland residents to contribute to the cost of the scheme which would not benefit them. His complaint was taken up by Mr Mason of Eynsham Hall, who also objected to having to contribute to the cost of something from which he would not benefit, and he called for the formation of a Special Drainage District under section 777 of the Public Health Act of 1875. A Committee was asked to look into this and, at the RDC meeting in January 1898 after much heated debate, Mr Mason's request was rejected. The proposed plans were then accepted and an application was made to the LGB to sanction a loan of £2,500.

The next thing was to purchase the field on which it was proposed to erect the Eynsham Sewage Works. Mr Thomas Townsend of Burton-on-Trent, who owned it, asked £393 15s. Od. for the field. At £75 an acre, this was considered exorbitant and arbitration was proposed. The outcome must have been satisfactory although it does not seem to have been recorded in the minutes.

In June a letter from the LGB gave general approval to the drainage scheme and the application for a loan, but reassurance was sought that the Council had found a proper supply of water for flushing the sewers, a sewage disposal area, and that consent had been obtained from the Railway Company to construct the effluent water drain under their line. Also in this letter the LGB forcefully stated the necessity of providing Eynsham with an efficient and wholesome water supply.

In the same way that the drainage system had been resisted, the response to the idea that Eynsham did not have good water was one of disbelief. Mr Arthur Blake claimed that Eynsham water was perfectly good, and that it was quite unnecessary to have a water scheme. He was quite willing to have the water of any of the wells analysed. He thought any water scheme would cost at least £10,000. However, it was brought to the Councillors' attention that the LGB was likely to insist that they provide a scheme.

Meanwhile, by August 1898, Mr Lailey had drawn up the specifications for the drainage works, and advertisements for tenders were placed in the *Witney Gazette* at the end of that month. In October the contract for the Drainage Scheme was awarded to Messrs Johnson Bros. of Hereford at £2,127 3s. 4d. and work was begun on 17th November by which time "some of the managers had taken up their quarters in the town and there was every prospect of plenty of work for labourers during the coming winter". They soon ran into a major stumbling block over the support of the

main outfall sewer. Mr Lailey, the engineer, had first suggested that this should be carried by a concrete wall, but the LGB preferred an earth mound. However, the estimated cost of the purchase of land and the construction of an earth mound was much higher and the concrete wall was accepted, as originally proposed. Then there was the purchase of the strip of land over which it had to pass. The owner, Mr Samuel Druce, was not at first very co-operative although he had given permission for the work before he actually realised what it would entail. Once again financial compensation was the essential part of the argument.

In February 1899 a further problem arose. A letter expressing great concern was received from the Oxford City Engineer. He wanted full particulars of the sewerage site and the system of drainage proposed. He was concerned for the City Water Works intake at King's Weir. The Witney RDC failed to see what Eynsham drainage had to do with Oxford City and declined to reply!

Meanwhile, progress was made. In his first report in December 1898 Mr Lailey stated that "The main outfall sewer is laid through private property between Queen Street and the outfall land; the whole of Queen Street towards the High St., half of Queen Street towards the west and High Street up as far *as* the Church Square. Proper manholes and lampholes have been constructed; the junctions allowed in the contract sum, but the lateral drains for connecting up the houses, have been put in, the owners agreeing to pay for this extra work....The contractors have 44 men and 3 horses and carts at work, the labour employed being principally from the locality. They all appear at present to take an interest in their work and no pains are spared to make a good and sound job. .... The pipes, bricks and cement being used are of admirable quality and the former when laid are giving an absolutely true line and gradient to the main sewer." By February 1899 "the contractor had laid 3,600ft of mains, constructed 3 manholes, 2 lampholes and 48 connections had been made to the main sewers for private drainage." In March he reported the laying of 1495ft of 9" pipe sewers, the insertion of 56 junctions and 56 connections from the sewers to drainage premises as well as 4 manholes and 1 lamphole. However, "pumping had had to be resorted to in order to keep down the spring water which had caused certain inconvenience." In April came the news that "the whole of the sewers in connection with the drainage scheme were complete and all holes built and the contractor was now engaged on the construction of the outfall where a large volume of underground water had to be dealt with."

The Oxford City Engineer continued to be worried and there was further correspondence both from the Town Clerk of Oxford and the TCB who were concerned over the possible flooding, as had occurred in 1894, of the field onto which the effluent was discharged. Assurances were given that all precautions would be taken. Finally it was reported in September 1899 that the Eynsham Sewerage

works were now complete and the set of regulations under which houses might connect with the sewer were approved. However, this was not the end of the story.

Even as there was satisfaction at the new drainage scheme Mr Eaton continued to report grating frames and catchpits out of repair and in places dangerous. The scavenger was still operating in the village although his work had changed over the ten years that have been considered. Having collected the water- or pail-closets or buckets which were put out into the streets he was now cleaning gutters and collecting household refuse.

Once the sewerage scheme had been determined upon, the attention of the Eynsham District Councillors and the Eynsham Parish Council was increasingly focused upon the need for an Eynsham Water Scheme.

In January 1899 the LGB had again written asking what had been done about obtaining a pure water supply. This time Mr Blake stated that they had found a place (Wytham Hill) with plenty of water and that they had permission to take water from there. Mr Watts of Freeland objected that only Eynsham town was benefitting from the water while all the parish had to pay for it. The response seemed to be that there was no polluted water in Freeland. However, it was pointed out that the Council was responsible for securing an adequate supply of pure water to any house in the parish, but that in the case of isolated houses such supply might be obtainable from wells.

In October 1899 a water diviner, Mr Mullins, was called in and according to the Chairman of the RDC had "conjured up water all over the parish and the only question was what was the best way to obtain a supply". On June 7th 1900 the parochial committee concerned with the Eynsham Water scheme again met Mr Mullins. He reported that the site of the trial well adjoining the village was not a good place for obtaining a sufficient water supply and suggested another near the Railway station. He recommended one or two test borings which he thought would cost £35. Having decided that a field near the proposed site would be better, it was agreed that borings should go ahead at a cost not exceeding £35. Permission to bore in the field owned by the Duke of Marlborough was delayed, the Duke being abroad at the time. Messrs Mullins sank a trial well in October, reporting in November, but the water was found not suitable for drinking by the county analyst, Mr.W.W.Fisher. Messrs.Mullins sent in a bill for £62 7s. Od. which was immediately disputed. Eventually, Mullins was paid £54 19s. Od., there having been no written agreement to the sum of £35.

In September Mr Lailey had submitted plans for a Water Scheme but this had met with much scorn as a site had not yet been chosen and the RDC's dispute with him over charges for the Drainage Scheme had gone to public enquiry. The dispute was only settled in March 1901. It may be interesting to note that Mr.Lailey was in

dispute both with the RDC over charges for Cogges Drainage scheme as well as the Urban District Council for their Drainage and Water Schemes.

In November 1900 the Councillors turned to Mr Winship, a Civil Engineer from Abingdon, to help with plans for the water scheme. It was suggested that Mr Winship's likely charges be ascertained first! By June the following year Mr Winship was advising that application be made to the LGB for a provisional loan to defray the cost of sinking a well and making the necessary test pumping. By July a sample of water from a trial hole proved satisfactory although it was agreed that from the favoured site, on charity land north of the Cassington Road, it would have to be pumped into a water tower from where it would flow by gravitation to the town. In April 1902 a well was sunk to a depth of 15ft and the required 14 days continuous pumping was carried out. The yield from the well was considered greater than that required by the population of Eynsham (1,572), being a minimum of 82,891 gal. and a maximum of 234,952 gal., and analysis had shown it suitable for drinking purposes. In fact, the analyst had found that it had only 5 more grains of solids than Thames Water!

A public enquiry held in Eynsham on 5th August found in favour of the scheme and the Council invited tenders for the work.

All the tenders seemed too high for the Councillors, ranging from £4,000 to £9,499, but Mr Morgan, the engineer who had already carried out the trial work, offered to do the work according to the given specifications for £3,600, although he could not guarantee the sum. The Council thought this fair and they accepted Morgan's offer subject to the approval of the LGB. Once again the Council severed its connection with a Civil Engineer, Mr Winship, for financial reasons, and a Mr Edmund Cullis of Gloucester was appointed Engineer to the scheme in January 1903. The frequent problems of dealing with engineers and other experts became the subject of the *Witney Gazette* "Jottings" column (21st February 1903) which thought that "Eynsham Ratepayers, who have to pay the piper, have a right to know what the tune is". However, the Council had, on this occasion, placed the contract in very safe hands.

Work began in February 1903 and throughout the year there was steady progress. As was reported on Saturday, October 24th, "The water tower was built and the steel girders were laid in June. The tank arrived in September and is now in place and rivetting is daily taking place so we may expect it to be finished about the end of the present month. In appearance it is about the ugliest structure in the county, 50ft high without a break or cornice to relieve its plainness. The pumps and engines are fixed at the pumping house and all mains are laid so we may expect a supply of water about New Year's day."

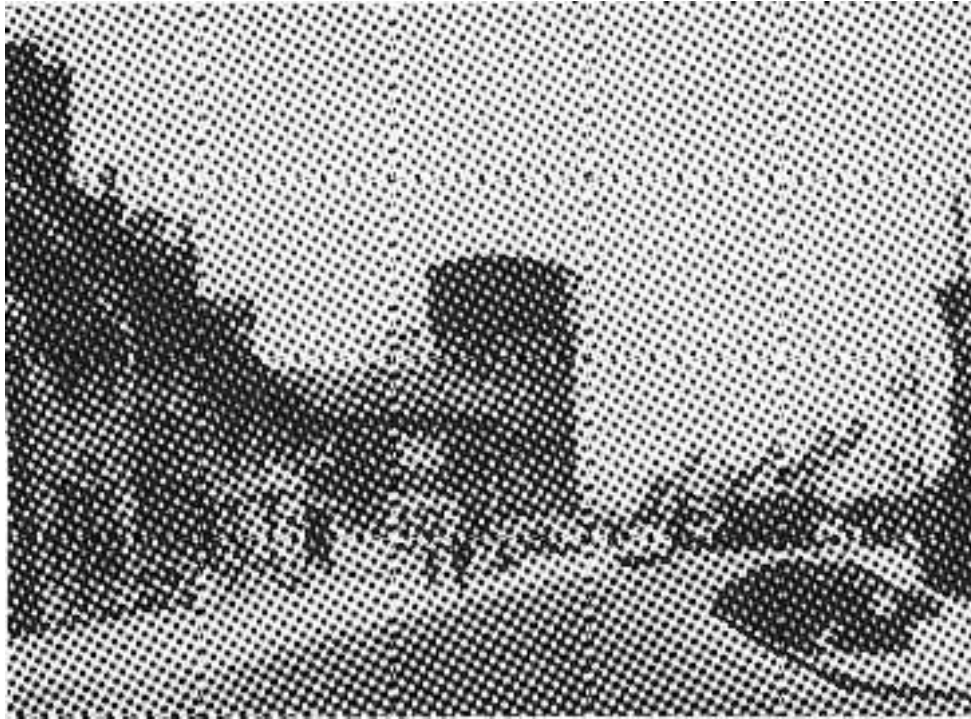


Fig.1 Eynsham's old water tower at the corner of Mill St. and Spareacre Lane. It consisted of a plain brick structure topped by a steel tank, the whole about 50 feet high to produce a gravity feed. Described in 1903 as "about the ugliest structure in the county" (see text), it was demolished in 1972.



Fig.2 The pumping house in the field north of Cassington Rd. (O.S. grid reference SP 442101) was built in 1903 to supply fresh water to the tower. This building was demolished in 1982. Drawing by D.S.Richards.

The expectations were not quite fulfilled but on January 30th both the *Witney Gazette* and the *Oxford Times* carried detailed accounts of the opening ceremony at which Mrs Bricknell and Mrs Blake "gently moved two levers which were tastefully decorated with ribbons and the two sets of pumps commenced throwing water into the tank on the tower at a rate of 10,000 gal. per hour." A toast was drunk in "sparkling water from the tap". The 6ft diameter well was mostly lined with Staffordshire blue bricks and covered with an engine house which contained a pair of gas engines of 5 h.p. each driving 2 sets of 3-throw ram pumps, each set geared to lift 5,000 gal. of water per hour into the distributing tank. The engines were of the Otto type "of excellent finish" made by Crossley Bros. The pumps which were interchangeable were made by Messrs Tangye and specially constructed to the specifications of W.H. Morgan, the construction engineer of the works. They were silent running and could be got at from the engine house floor without interfering with the well. Economy had governed the design of both engine and pumps. A saving had been made "having the well on some charity land so that the site cost practically nothing". A further economy was made by using the same trench for the rising main, the gas supply and the telephone wire. Such thrift was commended by "Jottings" as was the use of gas; "probably a cheaper article than oil and certainly cleaner." This point was also taken up by the *Oxford Times* "Gas running enables the engines and pumps to be properly attended to by the manager of the gas works at a very reduced annual cost, in fact the Parish Council hope their efforts to buy the gas works which we hear Mr. Morgan is willing to dispose of to them for £1,200 will be successful".

The RDC Inspector's work was not finished though. There were still some properties not yet connected with the sewers and the applications of those who were anxious to have the town water had to be dealt with according to the regulations, as well as checking samples of well water of those who were less keen.

The water tower was taken down in the 1972', the water works building on the charity field was demolished in 1982, and the sewage disposal has been modernised, but there is no doubt that the Thames Conservancy Act of 1894 had a beneficial and lasting effect on Eynsham.

#### *References and Sources*

1. V.C. H. Oxon. vol.12, p.115
  2. E.R., no.7, 1990, pp.25-28
- The Minute Books of the Witney Rural District Council 1895 - 1903;  
*The Witney Gazette* 1894-1904; *The Oxford Times* 1904;  
The Thames Conservancy 1857-1957; Log Books of the Infants' School

## VICTORIAN VILLAGERS

by Edna Mason

For some years now, the Eynsham History Group has been compiling an index of people living in the village during the 19th century. A talk about the *Victoria County History* showed us how much could be learnt from sources such as census records and Parish Registers. So when the Oxfordshire Family History Society asked for help in transcribing the 1851 census for Eynsham, we decided first to do this, and then all the others between 1841 and 1881. We then went to work on the index, taking the census records as a starting point and adding information from other sources.

Official censuses have been taken every 10 years since 1801 (except for 1941); and from 1841 onwards the detailed results have been kept and released to the public after 100 years. The 1841 census gave the names of all the people in the household, the ages of children and, to the nearest five years, of adults, the sex, occupations, and whether they were born in the county. Later censuses give more details, such as relationships to the head of the household and place of birth. Over a period of time such records can give valuable insights into the lives of ordinary people of town or village who do nothing to make headlines.

So we started by transcribing all the censuses for the Eynsham district, including Barnard Gate and Freeland, that were then available under the 100 year rule; that is the five including 1841 and 1881. Next a team of members was assembled to transfer the details of each individual onto a separate card. Some twelve or fourteen people volunteered for this, initially each taking a street or half street and tracing the inhabitants throughout the 40 years. When this was completed all the cards were put together into alphabetical surname order, and instead of working on streets, the indexers now took an alphabetical batch of names, often to include one in which they had a particular interest, such as their own family name. They collated on a single card all the references to an individual. Thus, the information concerning John Smith, son of William, aged 6 and living in Mill Street in 1841 was put with that of John Smith, son of William, aged 16, ploughboy, living in Abbey Street in 1851 and the 1861 entry for John Smith, aged 26, farm labourer, married with two children ... and so on. Some cards, although not as many as we would have liked, gave details from all the censuses. Others had gaps perhaps caused by temporary absence, or the entries stopped entirely during the period

So the next step was to look through the Parish Registers, where burial entries explained many incomplete series. Marriages accounted for a number of the girls 'disappearing', but if they had married local men and remained in the village, we were able to reference them to their new surnames. We found children too who never

appeared in the census returns because they were born and died between two consecutive census years. Finally we added on the back of an individual's card miscellaneous information culled from other sources such as newspapers, police records or family memories.

In theory this gives us a kind of potted biography of most people who lived in the village in the last century. In practice, it is not as straightforward as that. Two people of the same name and similar ages might well be indistinguishable from the available data; and in a community with a large number of settled families, there are many people who share names. Moreover census returns contain errors and inaccuracies. Sometimes successive entries for the same individual can show discrepancies in his or her ages from one census to the next. In those days some people were genuinely uncertain when they were born, and may have given the enumerators inconsistent ages from one decade to the next. In these cases the baptismal entry in the Parish Register (if it exists) is likely to be definitive, since by the 19th century it also records the date of birth. The Registers may also give more accurate name spellings. In an age when the majority of people were illiterate, the enumerator had to interpret the names of both people and places of birth as he heard them. The vicar, curate or parish clerk, who compiled the Register, who might have known the family better or have had a better knowledge of English place names, might well have given a more accurate rendering, although even for them it could be tempting to write 'Eynsham' rather than some half remembered phonetic version of another place name.

Despite these difficulties, the index does provide a wide and valuable record of the lives of Eynsham individuals and families over a hundred years ago. Shortly it will be available for consultation on request, as it is to be put into the Eynsham branch library as soon as the drawers are ready for it. It is not a tidy index. Most cards are hand-written by more than one person, and the project involved a number of people who had never done any such research before, but who were fascinated by the way that details could be linked together. For its errors and omissions we apologise. Some of these are the faults of those of us writing the cards; others, errors or misunderstandings of those long dead. If any users of the index find mistakes, or have information which can be added to the miscellaneous items on the backs of the cards, we would be grateful if they would let us know. No collection can ever be complete, especially when it first sees the light of day, and corrections and additions can only improve it.

The task has taken a long time - I wrote about the earlier stages in these pages ten years ago (E.R. No.1, 1984, pp.27-30) - and it has involved a lot of people. All of us have enjoyed working on it, and we hope that you will enjoy consulting and using it. Perhaps others may even feel inspired to continue it for later censuses!

# EYNESHAM STREET NAMES

## by Eynsham Primary School History Group

One of the projects the late Edward Hibbert had in mind was to explore the origins of the street names of Eynsham. This seemed to be a suitable topic for the Eynsham Primary School History Group. We have collated opinion, tradition and fact to produce what we hope will be a useful tool for others to use. When specific research has been done by an individual, the name appears in square brackets at the end of the entry.

EPC = Eynsham Parish Council

See inside front cover for abbreviations to other references

Abbey Place - formerly Abbey Terrace (O.S. Oxon XXXII.7 1876) on land known as Abbey Court, see *E.R.* No 6 on John Whiting's Survey of Eynsham, 1650 .Present housing complex built 1964/5.

Abbey Street - formerly Mill Street.. Name first recorded after the 17th century (V.C.H. *Oxon.* vol.12).

Abbey Terrace - see Abbey Place.

Acre End Street - 1518 mod. (Chambers, 1936). See also *V.C.H. Oxon.* vol.12. From the 1861 census it appears that Acre End Street extended towards what is now the Old Witney Road.

Aire Lane - referred to in schedule attached to deed relating to the family of the late James Gibbons (1879/80 Mor.xviii/vi/4/5) wherein the Britannia Inn, later the Railway Inn is described as being situate. This name was mis read in *E.R.* no.5 p. 21 as Fire Lane. Exact location unsure.

Alma Place - see OS Oxon XXXII.7 1876. Chambers refers to Almere Close (1545) later "the Almoner's" which seems to have been in the vicinity of where these cottages were built.

Back Lane - sometimes referred to as The Backs. Shown on the 1913 O.S. map continuing along the present Clover Place.

Bartholomew Close - modern development on field previously used as sportsfield by Bartholomew School. Named July 1991.

Beech Road - appears on Pye's plans for housing development Nov. 1966.

Bitterell - Bitteralls Lane 1782 = Mead Lane. Also referred to as Beterhale etc. see Chambers, 1936. Corpus Christi College suggested name for present development 1974.

Blankstones Close - 1992/3 development named taken from farm which bears date 1802 and initials of James Preston (V.C.H. *Oxon.*, vol.12 p.114)

Cassington Road - named for its destination. See also Chambers, 1936.

Chapel Yard - built c. 1860 by the Amatts on site of former brewery (V.C.H. *Oxon* vol.12. p.114). O.S. Oxon XXXII.8, 1876, shows Primitive Methodist Chapel at top of this lane. Designated as Chapel Lane EPC 1950. Now 49-63 Newlands Street.

Chilbridge Road - named for the bridge over the Chilbrook.

Church Street - designated as part of The Square by EPC 1950.

Clover Place - name chosen by EPC October 7th 1930 for the newly erected Council houses.

Conduit Lane - named for the conduit there. See *V.C.H. Oxon*, vol.12

Coronation Avenue - leading off from Witney Road opposite Old Witney Road tum.

Crown Crescent - now known as 18-42 Acre End Street.

Cuckoo Lane - see Chambers, 1936 and Thomas Pride Map 1782.

Dovehouse Close - In 1984 when the first house was built the area was named Badgers' Walk by the builder. This was later changed to Dovehouse Close. A close of that name shown on the 1782 Thomas Pride map.

Duncan Close - Pye's plans 1967. See Shakespeare Road.

Evans Close - believed to be named for an Evans family.

Evans Road - ditto.

Falstaff Close - Pye's plans, 1967. See Shakespeare Road.

Freeman's Lane - referred to as near Conduit Lane EPC minutes 1936.

Fruitlands - Built on site of 'Fruitlands' owned by Mr. M.T.Charles, Fruitgrower, Kelly's Directory 1935. Pye's plans, 1981

George Street - Appears in 1841 census as part of High Street.

Grangemill Court - on land formerly housing farm buildings.

Greens Road - believed to named for Mr. Bemard Green.

Hanborough Close - see Chambers, 1936.

Hanborough Road - called Bladon Way in 13th century, see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vol.12 Hawthorn Road - Pye's plans 1974. Formerly known as Newlands Quarry site.

Heycroft - Hey (Hay) a small enclosed field; croft enclosed meadow usually adjacent to a house. Houses built 1971.

High Street - formerly part of Thames Street. See *E.R.* no. 6. Designated from Maltshovel House to Queen St. comer (EPC 1950.)

John Lopes Road - John Ludlow Lopes, M.A., D.D., 1882-1961. Catholic Priest in Eynsham from 1928.

Lombard Street - formerly part of Abbey Street first mentioned in Kelly's Directory of 1899. This is said to have been named by Mr. Gibbons because of the proximity of a bank. See photograph of Barclay's Bank *E.R.* no.7. [Fiona Bryant]

Marlborough Close - built on land formerly owned by the Duke of Marlborough

Marlborough Place - ditto

Mead Lane - Mead or Meadow, see Bitteralls Lane.

Merton Close - built on land formerly owned by Merton College., name suggested by EPC 1979.

Mill Street - street leading to the Mill, see *V.C.H. Oxon*, vol.12.

Milmoor crescent - used on Pye's plans 1966, field name, also Mullemore, see Chambers, 1936.

Newland Close - We have looked at two maps of Eynsham. One of them from 1913 and the other modern. In 1913 Newland Close was called Pug Lane. The only buildings were the thatched barn and Queen's lane Cottages. All the rest of the land was orchards. In

the land registry the entry for our house shows that houses were built in 1962 and the name was changed from Pug Lane to Newland Close. 10 more houses were built in 1971. [David Luna]

Newland Street - In 1215 Abbot Adam founded the Newlands, because people wanted more land to farm and rent and the village was too small. In those days the important parts of the village were the Abbey, church and market square. The Newlands were north of the village. We know all this because the charter still exists. The charter describes the boundary of the Newlands. Newlands Close in the SW boundary of the Newlands. Newlands Close used to be called Pug Lane or Pig Lane! [Joseph Luna]

Old Witney Road- relegated in the early 1930's by the building of the A40. Designated by EPC 1950 as being from "junction of by-pass by the Evenlode Hotel to Mount Pleasant Corner". Orchard Close - built on an old orchard, part of the ground belonging to the house called The Orchard in Queen Street.

Oxford Road - named for destination; the Port Street named as part of boundary in Domesday book according to "*Some Account of the History of Eynsham*", author unknown. Designated by EPC 1950 as being from Queen St. corner to Toll Bridge.

Pelican Place - name suggested by Fr. John Lopes, the land having belonged to Corpus Christi College who have statue of pelican in a quadrangle of the college. (EPC Minute Aug. 25, 1936)

Pink Hill Lane - named for destination.

Puck Lane - Now Queen Street. In 1596 William Boulter had 2 tenements there O.R.O. 187.372;3/4/22. See *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vol.12.

Pug Lane - now refers to the lane emerging by the garage in High Street and running from Queen's Lane. Originally running from Newland Street to Queen Street see under Newland Close.

Queen's Close - Modern development 1970.

Queen's Lane - formerly Love Lane.

Queen Street - formerly Puck Lane. Probably renamed in the 18th century (*V.C.H., Oxon.* vol.12)

Shakespeare Road - name inspired by the 300th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth (1964). Appears on Pye's plans 1967.

Spareacre Lane - field name, Sparrow Acre etc. see Chambers, 1936.

Spareacre Place - 10 new Council houses built there 1933

Station Road - previously New Bridge Road, see Chambers, 1936.

Stratford Drive - Pye's plans 1967. Part of the 'Shakespearean' collection, also many of the houses in this development were of the 'Stratford' design.

Swan Street - Swan Lane 1847= Market Street (Chambers, 1936)

Tanners Lane- mention of a John Tanner living in Eynsham 1434 or could be connected with the tanning industry.

Thames Street - at one time George Street, see *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vol.12

The Tuer - sometimes spelt Tewe: a Midlands term for an alley or narrow lane. [Local Historian's Encyclopedia by John Richardson]

Thornbury Road - Cul-de-sac originally with 8 houses built by Mr Malin ca. 1965. One house since demolished. Named whimsically after Thornbury Castle about which the developer had been reading at the time.

Tilgarsley Road - was named after a medieval hamlet called Tilgarsley (Tilgerdesle, Tylgarslee). The hamlet acquired its name because of an early Anglo-Saxon settler called Tilgar, whose name was given to the forest clearing or 'ley' which put together became 'Tilgarsley'. In the year 1279 the hamlet Tilgarsley had about 52 tenants, but by 1350 the hamlet had been deserted. Tilgarsley was abandoned after it had been struck by the Bubonic plague in about 1349. As yet there have been no proven theories of where Tilgarsley actually was but Twelve-Acre farm, Barnard Gate, Freeland, Turner's Green and Bowles farm are just a few of the possible candidates. ( Ref: E.R. Nos. 1 & 10; *A History of Oxfordshire* by Mary Jessup; *V.C.H. Oxon.*, vol.12) [Katy Bruce]

Trap Alley - at S. end of Queen Street, built by Richard Bowerman 1817 remaining until 1930s (*V.C.H. Oxon*).

Wasties Lane - Mr. David Wastie for many years Chairman of the Parish Council. Named in September 1990.

Witney Road - named for its destination.

Wytham Close - sometime site of pagan cemetery (*V.C.H.Oxon.vol.12*). Former site of allotments.

Wytham View - named for view of Wytham which according to 'M.Billings Director & Gazette 1854' was a fortress supposed to have been built by Kinewulf, King of the W.Saxons during wars with Offa King of Mercia. and conquered by latter. Original possessors of the manor were the Wyghtham family.

Members of the group: Katy Bruce, Fiona Bryant, Julia Harris, (Bartholomew School); Helen Bryant, Becky Bullard, Helen Dearing, Emma Green, Tina Harris, Emily Holland, Faye Leighton, David Luna, Joseph Luna, Catherine Medina, Jillian Pukaniuk, Thomas Rawlinson, Pamela Richards, & Michelle Winter.

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# EYNESHAM HISTORY GROUP

Founded 1959

The E.H.G. exists primarily to encourage studies in, and to promote knowledge of the history of the village and parish of Eynsham, Oxfordshire, by means of regular meetings (normally at least ten), with invited speakers, during the winter and spring; and occasional outings in the summer.

New members are welcome.

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