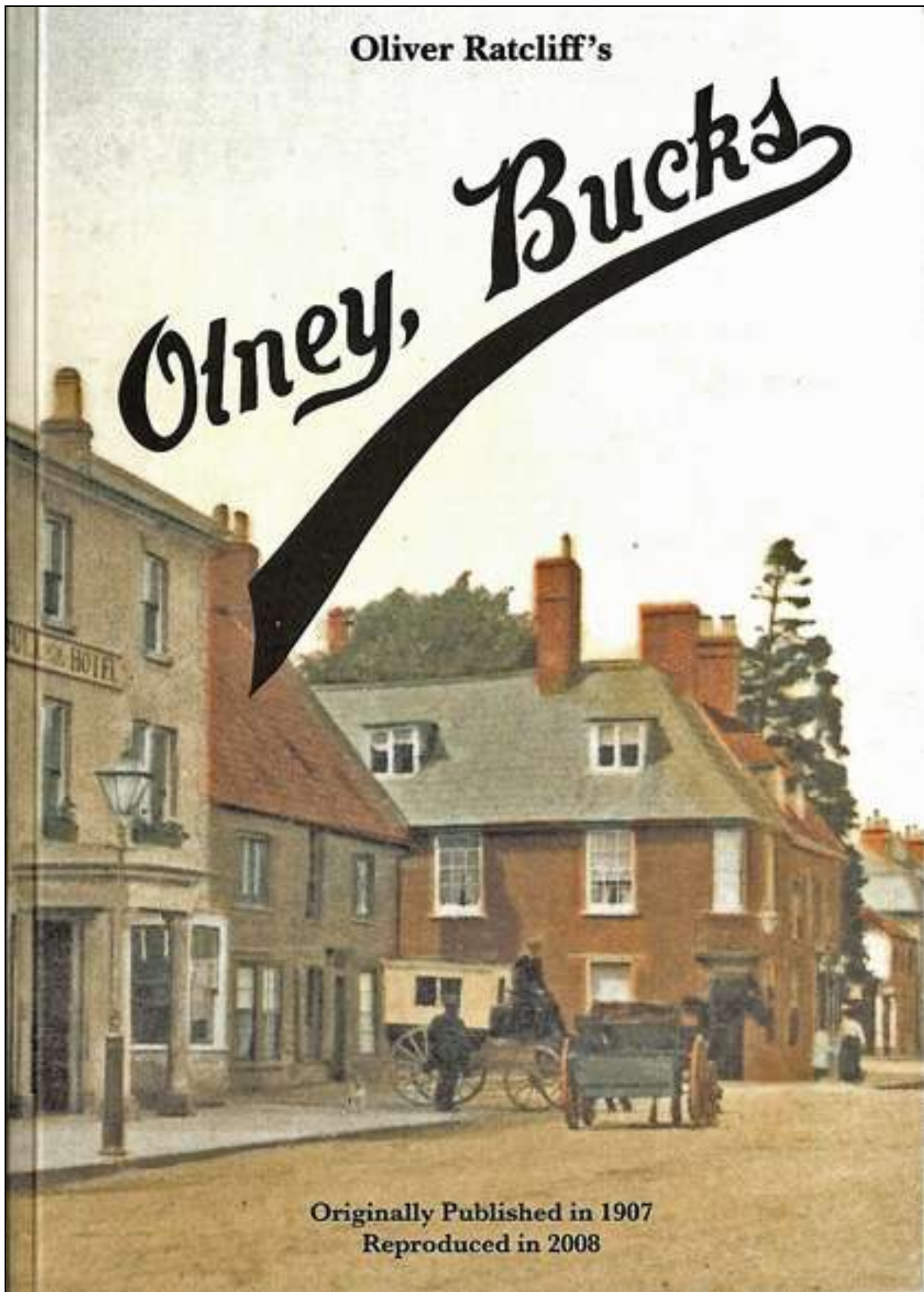


Part 1 of 3

Oliver Ratcliff's 'Olney, Bucks'

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(and those in the printed book)

Part 1 of 3



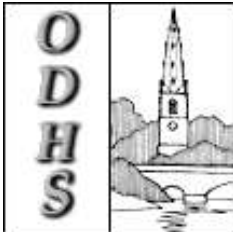
Front cover to the ODHS 2008 reproduction

**A Reproduction
Commemorating the Centenary
of**

Olney, Bucks

by Oliver Ratcliff

Originally Published in 1907



**Published in 2008 by:
The Olney & District Historical Society**



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Grateful acknowledgements are due to Alan Richardson for offering additional photographs of Olney in Ratcliff's day to replace the not particularly relevant ones in the original book. Thanks also to Dora Crawford and Jill Wood for undertaking the extensive proof reading task.

Finally, thanks to Karen Johns and Carolyn Harris at Cranfield University Press for their professional and generous support at the printing stage of this reproduction.

Mike Neale (Editor)

On behalf of the ODHS

May 2008

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ODHS PREFACE - 2008

This publication by the Olney and District Historical Society is a reproduction of Oliver Ratcliff's book 'Olney, Bucks', often colloquially known as his '1907 Almanack'. It is published to commemorate its centenary in 2007 and provides readers with an insight into many aspects of life in Olney one hundred years ago. In particular, the social conditions prevailing in Olney during the late Victorian and Edwardian periods can be readily appreciated from the wide range of topics covered by Ratcliff. Although the authenticity of the detail in Ratcliff's 1907 publication cannot be guaranteed, it is considered to provide a realistic view of life in Olney at that time.

The section entitled 'My Look Round Olney', the major part of the book, illustrates the extensive range of products and services that could be acquired from the town's traders. This range is even more impressive when considering the town's population was only around 2,700 at that time and the majority of its inhabitants were employed in the poorly paid shoe, lace and agricultural industries.

Ratcliff's descriptions of Olney's churches, clubs and associations, together with the local devil-lore, jokes, and cartoons, reveal the local activities, pastimes and humour of the period.

Relatively little is known about Oliver Ratcliff himself. The 1891 Census lists him as born in Ashby-de-la-Zouche, a printer and stationer aged 31 years, apparently a bachelor living with his parents 'over the shop' at 13 High Street South. As stated in his foreword, he produced an earlier Olney Almanack in 1887.

Regarding the mechanics of this publication, the text of Ratcliff's original 1907 book has been faithfully reproduced, as have the advertisements. However, the text size has been enlarged to improve legibility and the advertisements, photographs and illustrations have been scaled and processed to suit the A5 book size. Captions have been added to the advertisements, where the location of the premises is known, to indicate the current status of that address. Additional photographs of Olney taken around the 1900's have been included to replace Ratcliff's not so relevant ones.

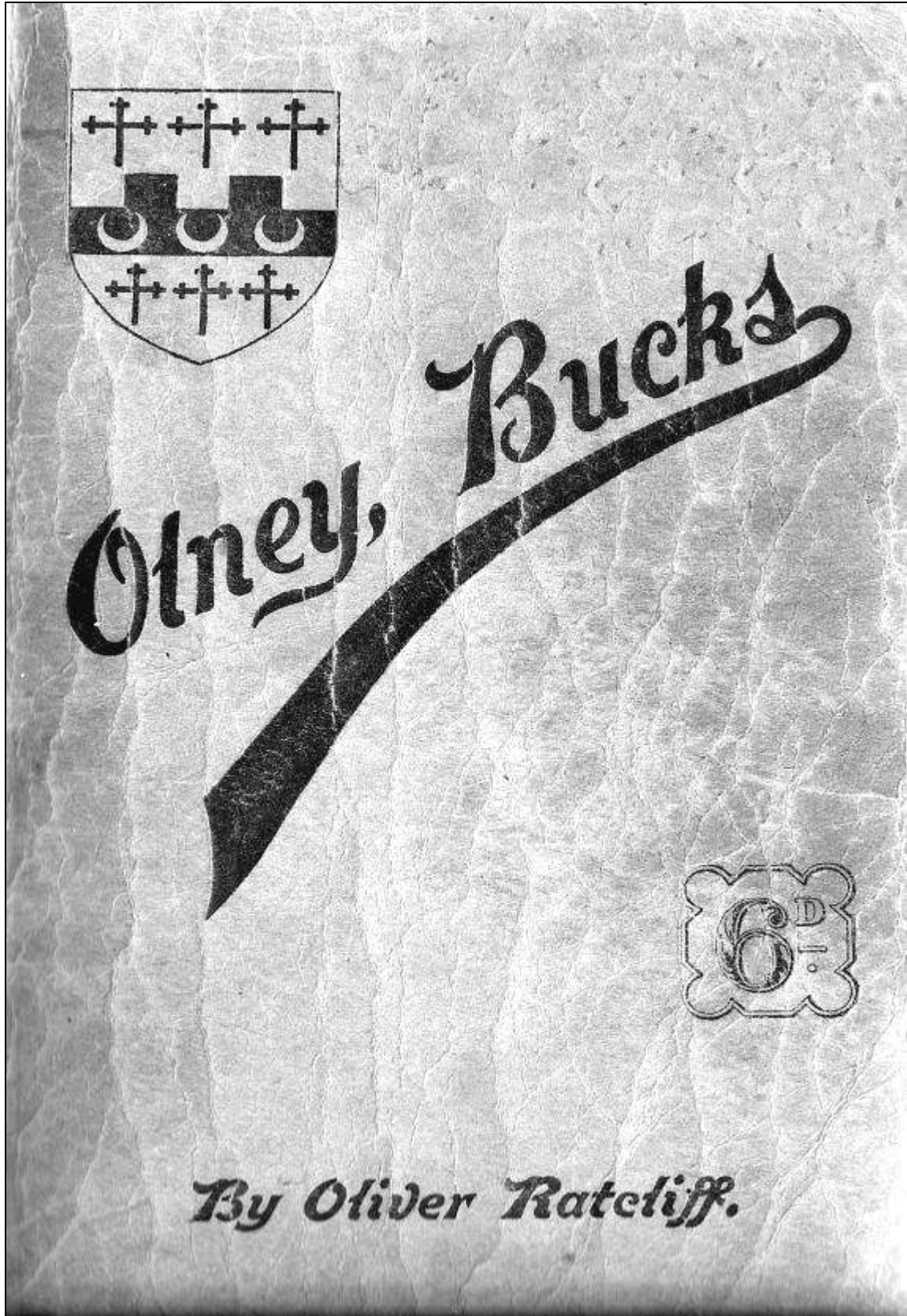
In summary, Ratcliff's 1907 book provides a useful reference for Olney's modern (say, late eighteenth and early nineteenth century) history, as evidenced by the number of subsequent local authors who have referenced, if not 'borrowed', its content. This reproduction is intended to extend this reference to a wider twenty-first century audience.



**Oliver Ratcliff's business premises at 13 High Street South
(to the left of 'Hallelujah' lamp post)**

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Olney

WITH ITS WIT AND HUMOUR ILLUSTRATED.



COMPILED, PRINTED, AND PUBLISHED

BY

OLIVER RATCLIFF, COWPER PRESS, OLNEY,

BUCKS.



To my Readers,

TWENTY-ONE years ago (1887) I compiled an Almanack for Olney, which was at that time a novelty as it was entirely local from beginning to end, and which gained the appreciation of its interested readers.

To excuse my appearance in the publishing world again, I take the advantage of the lack of a good medium for local advertisements at this season of the year and therefore strive to advertise, not only myself but my fellow townsmen

In the perusal of the following pages some may think there has been "a chiel amang us takin' notes" which will certainly appear to be the truth; many of the items it has been impossible on my part to miss as they practically "swam into the ken."

What I have seen I have written, and what I think I have said, whatever it may be, without the least thought of giving or wishing offence, but to amuse and instruct.

Probably there will be a few who will think my intentions unkind, and be satirical, and to such I will offer the advice of Mr. Sleary the immortal showman of Dickens and say: "Think better of us Guv'nor" and much more than better of this book.

COWPER PRESS,
OLNEY, BUCKS.
December 16th, 1907.

P.T.O. for Index
of Advertisers.

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RATCLIFF'S PREFACE PAGES



High Street



High Street South



Olney, Bucks



‘On the Banks of the Ouse’, bathed by the waters of this great river, embowered in park-like fields, woodlands and coppices; a place by itself, scarcely for the spirit of enterprise - a spot where money may more easily be spent than made; its climate on the whole is genial and healthful; its gentle hills on all sides not given to inaccessibility but wooing the steps of the wayfarer with seductive, picturesque, and distant views of the neighbourhood with the woodlands, the

pleasant pastures, churches, and residences of the more affluent associated with the fitful annals of the past.

Such is Olney, grown out of a simple village into a small country town with an industrious community principally employed in the shoe trade, numbering 2,764. The manufacturers are Messrs Hinde & Mann, Messrs S Cowley & Co, Messrs J Kitchener & Son, and Mr T Johnson, and the shops compare favourably with any modern town as the spirit of keeping pace with the times is much in evidence.

The old town itself, hundreds of years ago, stood at the north end but nearly all traces are lost with the exception of the old Elm Tree, opposite the Queen Hotel, known as the ‘Churchyard Elm’. This tree has been written about several times before and so I deem it useless in repeating it again.

The people of Olney take a delight in the purity and copiousness of their water supply although the Ouse is not always a friend, especially to the occupiers of the adjacent fields as it has an unpleasant way of flooding the meadows at the most awkward times, especially just

before the grass is ready to cut. This I presume the occupiers must put up with until the County Councils take over the rivers, like the roads, clean them out, and sweep away the obstructive and practically useless mills which now principally use other motive powers. The river has been, at the lower end of the town, somewhat polluted with sewage, but this will soon be a thing of history as the Sanitary Committee have made arrangements for a sewage scheme from plans by Mr Chadwick, the eminent sewage authority, of Bletchley.



The Great House Olney, demolished in the early part of the last century

The town itself, with formerly, its one long street and ancient hostelries, ancient church, Cowper museum, replete with interest to admirers of Cowper, the antiquarian, and lovers of folk-lore, has changed with the times; the schools and the benefactions are ample, and the aspect of

the place is that of a rising and contented community.

It has not always been so; history tells us that stirring scenes of bloodshed, of conquest, and civil war have been enacted. King Edward IV was taken prisoner here in the Great House which stood near the church and which Lord Lytton describes so vividly in his 'Last of the Barons'. Again, the Royalists and Parliamentarians had a sharp brush in the fields at the north end of the town, and also at the bridges at the south end of the town leading to Emberton, where many relics in the shape of swords, etc, of the fray were found when the present iron and stone bridge was erected. Not only were the above frays enacted but it was no unusual sight for the 'up-town' and 'down-town' roughs to have a difference of opinion on the Market Hill right up to the advent of the railway here.

To put it mildly, Olney, half a century ago, in enlightenment, was on a par with the Middle Ages, and folk-lore or, more correctly speaking,

devil-lore (see page 17) was implicitly believed in by the lower class, as I have been informed by some of our old inhabitants. To go further back there are many traces of the Romans being here in great force, no doubt to stamp out the stubborn spirit of the natives. Their coins are found in Ash Furlong in great numbers and a Roman road is known to cross there in the direction of Lavendon. Following on the Romans and when the Normans attained the ascendancy we find Olney principally woodland as the 'wood afforded mast for four hundred hogs' and the 'meadow-land was ten carucates' (1000 acres). Olney and Warrington contain 3,367 acres according to the Ordnance Survey.

From the early history of Olney we turn to the consideration of the modern appearance of the north end of the town, viz; Wellingborough and Midland roads and the streets diverging from the latter which sacrifice the beauty of the town by their inartistic brick and mortar artisans' dwellings, and imposing factory. Viewed however, from Weston (Over's) hill or Clifton hill, during a good sun-set the prospect is pleasing and diversified, comprehending the various places of worship, Cowper museum, the large houses and business premises, the brewery, the modern gas works which the lovers of the picturesque would have deleted, and a tannery which adds unpleasant ozone in the immediate vicinity. The meadow which boasts the name of '*a recreation ground*' is in prominence, viewed from Clifton hill.

There are all kinds of recreative societies according to the fashion of the times affording amusement to all grades of the inhabitants.

Considerable interest attaches to our church on account of the worthies who have been connected with it - Newton, Cowper, Brown, Gauntlet, etc - and to its architectural beauties, its noble bulging spire



The Old Churchyard Elm,
Opposite the Queen Hotel

OLNEY, BUCKS

technically called *entasis*, and its gradual internal beautification worthy of such a sacred edifice.

Naturally the pleasant township, associated with so many renowned men in the religious world - Scott, Carey, Sutcliff, etc - cannot help but teem with interest; and as a result of the varied labours of these great men the old-world spot, with which their names are linked has become hallowed by the association.



**The flooded meadows looking towards Weston Underwood, May 1907
Goosey Bridge and Toone's Bridge appearing like rafts on a lake**

Just what you need.

Olneyites who have left the town will appreciate a copy of this book, pictureing as it does the scenes and people familiar to them in the past. It forms an ideal gift for Christmas or the New Year. Anyone wishing to send a copy by post can obtain

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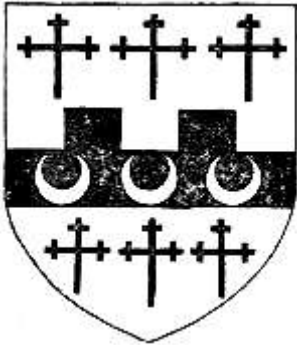


The Bull Hotel and Market Place



The Knoll, Castle Inn and Blacksmith

Olney Coat-of-Arms.



The correct Olney Arms

Some years ago, when collating and writing up the history of Olney which appeared under the title of 'Olney, Past and Present', I used every endeavour to find out if our town was more fortunate than our county, by possessing a coat-of-arms of its own. During the many enquiries I made from every known local authority the answer was in the negative, and so I let the search drop. When working up the 'History and Antiquities of the Newport Hundreds' I found upon the grave of Elizabeth wife, first of Sir Walter Hungerford, who died in 1572, a coat-of-arms, engraved on brass, showing the following quarterings:

1. *Throckmorton* - Gules (red) a chevron argent (silver)
2. *Abberbury* - Arg. on a fess embattled sable (black)
3. *Olney* - Arg. on a fess embattled between six cross-crosslet fitchée sable, three crescents of the field arg.
4. *Spiney* - Gu. a cheve, arg. Between three crescents arg.
5. *Olney* - Arg. a fess sable between six crosses patée fitchée sable, three roundels of the field purpure (purple)
6. *Bosun* - Gu. Three blunt arrows pur
7. *Wylie* - Gu. A fess arg. Between six gutté-d'eau (white)

IMPALING:

1. *Hussey* - Shield of St George, arg. Cross gu
2. *Hussey* also - Barry of six ermines (white spots on black) and gu
3. *Fortesque* - Arg a bend wavy cotised or (gold)
4. *Hussey* - as the first

At the death of Sir Walter Hungerford, Elizabeth married Sir Robert Throckmorton, hence the above quarterings.

OLNEY COAT OF ARMS

The heraldic description shows that the premier quartering of Olney is simply a silver shield with black blazoning (argent and sable), and the subordinate one a silver shield with black blazoning, having three purple roundels of the field. As the former is undoubtedly the arms used by the elder branch of the Olney family, I issued this coat-of-arms upon post cards when the craze of collecting them was rampant. Since that time there have appeared fabrications both in blazoning and colouring which are entirely foreign to the original and also must cause disappointment to those interested in heraldry when they notice these worthless imitations bearing other colouring.

John Olney who died in 1405 was buried in Weston Underwood church. The Latin inscription upon his tomb records that he converted that ancient and dilapidated chapel into a church.

Ratcliff 'end pieces'

A JUDICIOUS BULL. Mrs Tommy Atkins: Of course we ought to have a coat-of-arms.

Mr T A: Well, I'd like to have a bull rampant, with some kind of a Latin motto meaning that he was only rampant when the market was right.

“Sidney, dear, you are very late; it is long after midnight.” “Well, if that isn't just like a woman. Before we were married you didn't seem to care how late I got home.”

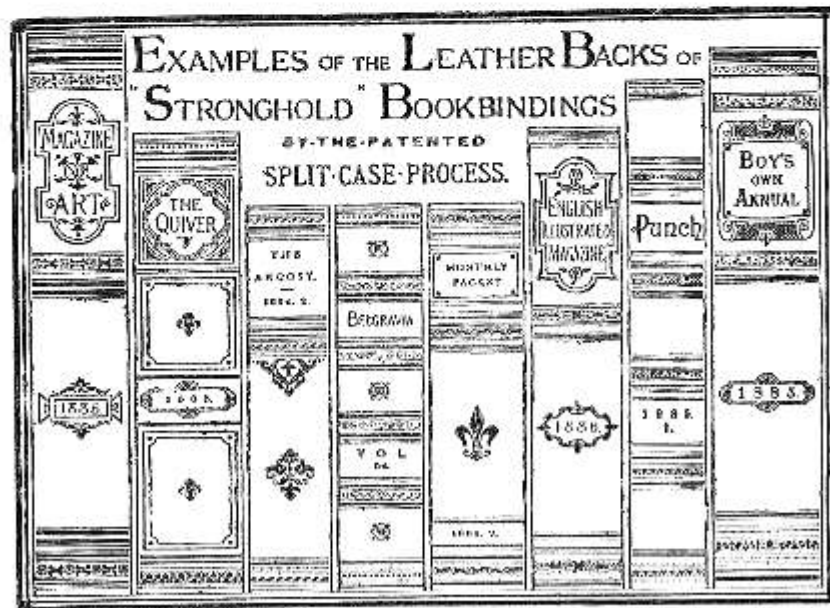
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Split-Case "Stronghold."



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OLNEY COAT OF ARMS



Olney from top of Church



Midland Road

Olney Devil-Lore.

Folk-Lore and Devil-Lore are synonymous, and, as before mentioned, had strong hold upon our fore-fathers in Olney. The rural superstition that predominated here was Devil-Lore as will be noticed by the following tales collected some years ago from the then old inhabitants and natives of Olney.

Respecting the commencement of our present Parish Church, which was erected in the early part of the fourteenth century, a curious story is told which illustrates the superstitious tendencies of the age to which it relates. The old Church, which stood at the north end of the town, had become very dilapidated and it became a question of thoroughly repairing it or building a new one. The latter course was decided upon, the site to be near the river, in the field now called Lordship Close. The work was put in hand, and in due time the foundations were laid; but on the morrow when the workmen appeared to resume their labours, they were much surprised to find that the stones had been shifted into the adjoining field. Thinking possibly that some footpads or midnight marauders had been guilty of the mischief, they gathered up the materials, and conveying them back into Lordship Close, replaced them in their original position.

The next morning their surprise was deepened into astonishment and alarm on finding that the strange proceedings had been repeated. The stones had not only been shifted as before, but laid with a skill and precision that marked the hand of a cunning workman. Who could it be? It had not occurred to any of those concerned to set a watch the night before, and failing a satisfactory solution of the question, the workmen came to the conclusion that it was no other than the Devil himself. Of course competition with such a worker was entirely out of the question and so the men refused to work. The resources of the promoters of the building were equal to the emergency, and they very soon devised means to allay the fears of the workers. They boldly declared that the Devil had nothing to do with all the commotion; but

that Heaven, in its wisdom, had in this manner indicated another and better site for the new Church. The men, who were ready enough to follow the course thus miraculously pointed out, returned to their work, and the structure was completed, where it now stands. The above is told of several Churches throughout the country.

At the north end of the town there is a pond known as the Whirly Pit. This was supposed to be bottomless and to be fed by some mysterious spring. It is a curious fact that it never shows any signs of becoming dry. It contains numbers of carp, and it is very

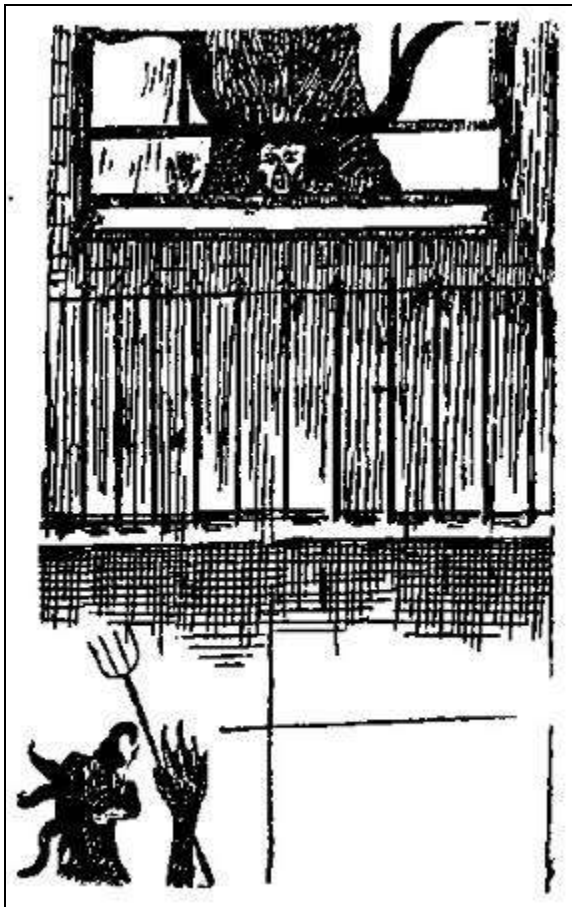


probable it was the fish pond to the old castle or monastery that is supposed to have stood in the vicinity. A remarkable story was current which connects the Whirly Pit with Sway Gog – a meadow some distance away in the direction of Weston. One night the Devil was supposed to have approached Olney by the Warrington road, in his chariot drawn by four headless horses. The coachmen were also without heads, while to complete the weird details, the night was dark and the hour that of midnight.

On nearing the town the coachmen drove straight into the Whirly Pit and continued the journey underground by means of a passage extending as far as Goosey Bridge. Here they emerged into the open with such violence that the meadow was seriously disturbed. And even now, if any person stands astride on this meadow, it is said to *sway*, as if shuddering at the recollection of that fearful night.

Several of the details of the above story are to be found in another legend of the Whirly Pit. Here again we have the coach drawn by headless horses. A murder had been committed, followed by an elopement, and the two occupants of the vehicle were on their way

from Wellingborough to London, hotly pursued by the avenger. They entered Olney at the north end, and passed up High Street, but instead of continuing along High Street South, the drivers who resembled the horses in being minus their heads, turned up Weston Road into the meadow Sway Gog. Thence by an underground passage they passed to the Whirly Pit, from which they emerged at midnight to continue their journey and make the same mistake as before.

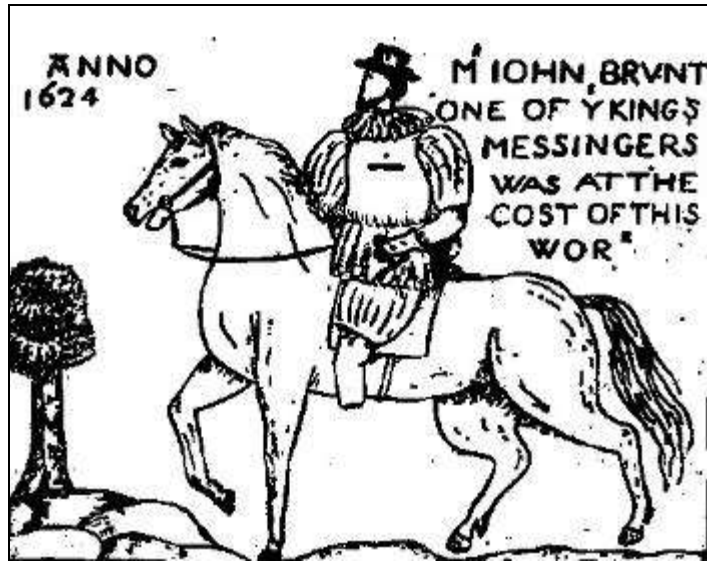


According to legendary accounts the Devil seems to have frequently favoured Olney with his presence. At one time the clatter of his chariot would be heard on the high road, at another he would take upon himself the mortal coil and visit them in the flesh, going so far as to take up his residence here. I cannot say what his motives were, for on this point tradition is silent. Probably he wished to draw the folk aside from the path of virtue, or it may have been that he bestowed his attentions upon the inhabitants as a reward for faithful services.

On one of these occasions when he (the Devil) was residing in the town, in a large house, the site of which is now occupied by three cottages in High Street, bearing the Nos. 121, 123A, 125A, he was greatly annoyed by an old woman living opposite, who used to put her head out of the attic window and watch his movements in his own rooms. After bearing with the old dame's inquisitiveness for some time he determined to put an end to her curiosity. So on one occasion when she had taken up her usual post of observation, he caused a pair of gigantic horns to appear on her head, so that she could not draw it in at the window until he chose to

remove them. This cured the lady and she respected his privacy ever after.

In the house above mentioned, there were some fine plasters in relief, which were executed at the expense of Mr John Brunt, one of the King's messengers. Tradition says that this gentleman was on his way to Castle Ashby with a message from the King, when his horse stumbled and threw him. He was taken into a doctor's house which was thought to be a Doctor Grindon's. This cannot be correct as the Grindon family do not appear to have been connected with Olney until about 1694, some 70 years after the accident. His leg was found to be broken, and subsequently amputation became necessary.



A sketch of one of the Brunt Plasters before the lime wash was removed, now in the possession of Dr Grindon

It is said that a Dr John Faust once lived in this house, and that he terminated an unhappy existence by having his head dashed against the ceiling by the Devil. Of course the presence of blood stains were necessary to lend probability to this story; and when these were pointed out to the spectator he was solemnly assured that no amount of lime washing or scouring would remove these stains. The house earned the reputation of being haunted; and many declared that they had heard sound by night, as of chains rattling, proceeding from the chamber in which the deed was perpetrated.

This house in which the Devil lived was afterwards occupied by a man who appears to have had a clean conscience, a stout heart and a strong nerve. This worthy retired to rest one night after having duly adjusted the curtains. On getting into bed he found that the moon shone on his face. This rather surprised him as he felt certain he had properly arranged matters. So stepping out, he drew the curtains again and

sought his bed once more, but only to find that the moon beams fell on his face as before. He said to himself that the Devil must surely be at the bottom of the affair, and got out again to re-arrange the offending drapery.

To his great astonishment he saw his Satanic Majesty seated on a chair. Nothing daunted he took another chair on the opposite side of the window, and as often as one of them drew the curtains aside, the other pulled them in the opposite direction. Here the account abruptly terminates just where the story becomes most interesting. But,

however, we will hope that the man's persistent attitude was sufficient to rid him of his disreputable visitor and enable him to resume his slumbers in peace.



The particulars of the last appearance of the Devil in Olney are interesting, showing as they do how completely he was outwitted at last. There is an inn, called the Two Brewers, which he used to visit frequently, causing the host to play the fool and dance at his bidding. Whatever the landlord's profits may have been, it is clear that his returns must have been seriously affected by the doubtful honour, thus forced upon him, of entertaining such an unlooked for visitor. His patrons were getting fewer and fewer, and they would instinctively shrink from coming in contact with the Devil, though at the same time they might be constant worshippers at his shrine. The situation was quite bad enough as it stood, when the Devil threatened to continue these evil practices, it became necessary to take steps to mitigate or remove the evil.

Thirteen priests with bell, book and candle went forth to seek the disturber, and come to terms with him for the relief of the distressed publican. When they met old Clovenfoot, one of the priests, more

witty than the rest, asked for a respite of a hundred years. The Devil said he could not grant this, as the term was excessive. But the wily priest was not to be outdone. He had a move in reserve which he thought might prove more successful. He therefore asked "Will you postpone your visits until this candle I hold in my hand is burnt out?" The Devil fell into the trap and answered "Yes". Thereupon the priest blew out the candle and placed it at the bottom of a well in the yard.

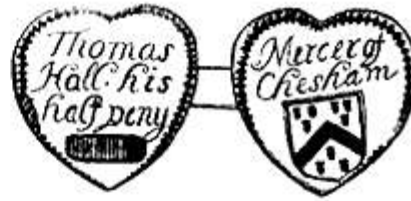
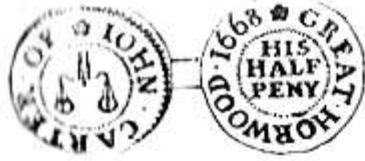


If the re-lighting of this candle is to bring about a renewal of these visits, it is to be hoped in the interests of those concerned, that no meddling busybody will succeed in identifying this well and

bringing the candle to light.

The old Dun Cow Inn, which stood on the Yardley Road, was also reported to be haunted. The midnight disturber in this case was not the spirit of one whose deeds in this world had been such as to deprive him of rest in the next; but an old winnowing machine which used to appear every night and set to work on its own account. My informant finished the strange narrative by saying that every one was astonished; and I can quite believe that they were.

The above attentions from the Devil might have been all very well in a superstitious age when events moved slowly; at the present day the people of Olney are well able to dispense with such favours. These are a few specimens of the stories which maintained a footing here for centuries.



TO LET

every one know that O. Ratcliff, Printer and Numismatist,
 Olney, will give a good price per dozen for Trade
 Tokens or Card Counters that bear the
 name of any Town or Village in Bucks,
 Northants, Beds, Oxon, and Berks.
 Single Specimens bought.

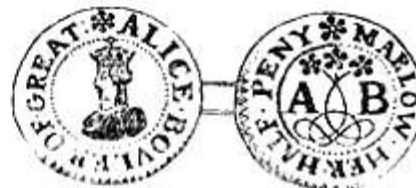


WANTED

Small old Wooden Presses with iron screws, which were used
 for stamping Tokens, etc. Those with the dies preferred.
 Also steel dies used for stamping, which have an
 impression similar to the accompanying
 illustrations. Send full particulars to

OLIVER RATCLIFF, OLNEY, BUCKS.
 ENGLAND.

☞ Enclose stamp if reply is required in answer to communication.



13 High St South, now commercial offices

OLNEY DEVIL LORE



Silver End



The Church Hall

Olney Workhouses.

‘Ye have the Poor always with you’ is a truism which was more frequently brought home to the Olney townspeople years ago than now. Towards the beginning of the 18th century the workhouse and work house yard occupying that part of High Street South, now known as Tory Row, were under the superintendence of Mr Matthew Marriott. At that time workhouses were very popular and those supervised by this gentleman had the distinction of reducing the poor’s rates at least 50 per cent. In transcribing the parish records I found the following curious report entered in the last parchment register, which will give a good insight into this bygone domicile.

‘The following extracts are taken from a book without a title page, published apparently about the year 1726, and now in possession of William Andrews, Esquire, of this place. The book contains an account of a great number of Workhouses which were established in various parts of the country from the year 1720 to 1725 inclusive; many of which were instituted under the direction and occasional superintendence of Mr Matthew Marriott, of Olney.

Olney in Bucks, Dec. 31, 1724.

Sir. The first design of this Workhouse was that the expenses of the parish in the maintaining their Poor might be contracted, and that the poor receiving collection might be more effectually provided for.

As to reducing the expenses of the parish, the Poor’s Rates, before the erecting of this workhouse, were three shilling and ninepence in the pound, and are now reduced to one and ninepence.

To bring this about, the Town in the first place purchased a piece of ground adjoining to an House belonging before to the Poor, which purchase was about forty pounds; the whole

OLNEY DEVIL LORE



Iron Bridge



Clifton Planks

is now reckoned worth £150 including the worth of the Poor's House before.

To see that due Orders are kept in the Workhouse, a Master is provided to superintend it, whose business is to keep the poor at their work, to see to the buying in and dressing the provisions, to give an account of the work done, and what is expended. This Master is maintained out of the provision of the house, and a salary allowed him of £16 per annum.

The work which is done ordinarily in the House (the inhabitants being most of them old) comes now to about 15s. a week, which is given to the Parish Officers, as a part of what is to contribute to the maintaining of them.

The persons admitted into the Workhouse, are admitted by the consent of the Parish first obtained; and having been found too poor to subsist independently of some help, are there maintained, after having first delivered up all their goods into the Parish Officer's hands.

The Parish provides them with all necessary clothing besides diet, and keeps them when sick in a more comfortable manner. The number of poor in the Workhouse, is sometimes greater and sometimes less, but is generally about thirty, and the meat, drink, washing, firing, &c., is reckoned at about thirty shillings a week.

The Persons belonging to the Workhouse are supposed to be such as are like to be a continual Parish charge; for as to those who are only contingently so by sickness happening to them, they have Helps allowed them during the continuance of those unfortunate circumstances, by which they were reduced.

The poor of the House have hot meat twice a week, they are allowed cheese, their bread is two parts wheat to one of barley; and for their small beer two bushels are allowed to the hogshead.

OLNEY DEVIL LORE



Market Place (premises demolished – now entrance to Baptist Church)



The Vicarage

If any claims a right to a constant share in the poor's collection and refuses to accept it upon the terms of being admitted into the Workhouse he is refused the collection he asks.

It is owing to the erecting of this Workhouse, that several hands which would be either otherwise idle, or ill employed in the breaking hedges and such like acts of dishonesty, are commendably engaged in labours innocent, useful, and advantageous.

What is received for the work every week, is weekly set down; as is also what is weekly expended; at the foot of which account the difference is computed and how much the Town is every week out of Purse.

An extract of the Orders in the Workhouse of Olney:

That no person shall be put into the House to be there kept, without a licence under the hands of five of the chiefest Freeholders and Inhabitants of the said parish, and the hands of the Overseers of the Poor, and of as many more of the rest of the Freeholders and Inhabitants hands as will sign the same.

That if any person shall come into the said House themselves, or bring in any child or children to be there kept, without such licence as above named, they shall be sent to Bridewell, and further punished.

That if any person refuse to work orderly, and so many hours as the Master of the House shall command them, they shall be sent to the House of correction.

That if any person will not work, pretending to be sick, which may be discovered by their stomachs or otherwise, they shall be severely punished.

That if any person shall go a begging or charing, that is kept in the said house, they shall be sent to Bridewell.

OLNEY DEVIL LORE



Westlands, Market Place



Market Place

That if any person sell any thing or goods that are seized by the Overseers of the Poor, they shall be punished as the law directs.

That the Poor people in the Workhouse, if of healthful bodies, and able shall in Summer rise at 5 or before that time, and go to bed at 9.

That if anyone in the Workhouse shall convey, take, or steal, either wood, coals, clothes, lace, or any thing belonging to the Workhouse, or anybody else there, they shall be punished as the law directs, with the utmost severity.

That if any person shall presume to cut off the seal affixed to the end of their lace, they shall be severely punished.

That on Saturday in every week, at four o'clock in the afternoon, the Overseers of the Poor shall meet, and the Freeholders and Inhabitants, who are willing, may meet, to adjust the week's accounts for the Poor, enquire how the Poor in the House are used, and whether any abuses have been there committed, and what else is needful to be done for the week ensuing.

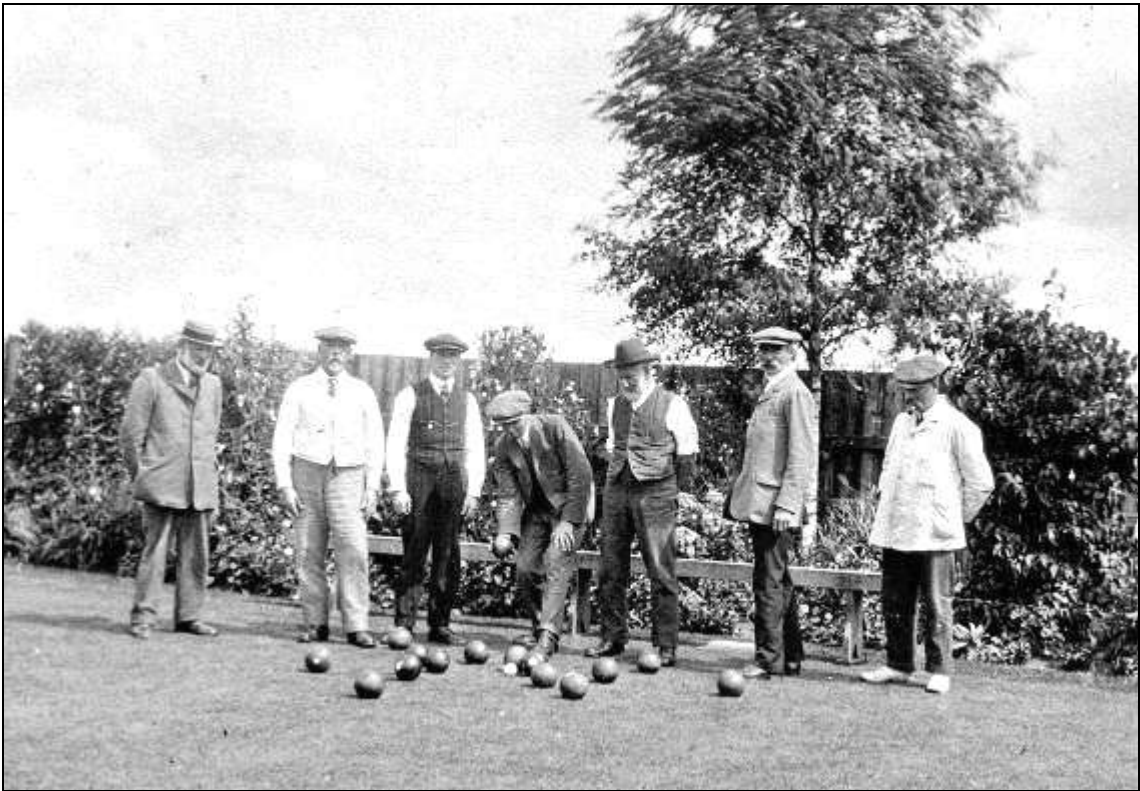
That the Master of the Workhouse shall every week, at the end of his receipts, set down in writing all the disorders committed in the House that week, that the offenders may be examined by the Freeholders and Inhabitants, and punished as they deserve.'

In addition to the above, the Great House, illustrated on page 8, was also used for such purposes. In this instance the male inmates were clothed in coarse white flannel swallow-tailed coats, leather breeches, and a dogskin cap.

The Pay Book of the Poor has many curious entries, for instance there are the following items: Nov. 27, 1812, Susan Freeman attending Jas. Putten's leg, 4/-; Jan. 19, 1813, Bet at the Bull, 2/-; March 2, 1813, Shaving Mary Gutteridge's head, 4/3; March 23,



Very Early Sowmans – Market Place



Mr Albert Gudgin bowling

1813, Caution money for Chimney Sweep, 21/6; etc. The Poor's accounts were kept, for some time, by Timothy Brice, one of the overseers. His entries of the tradesmen's bills for the month of November 1812, are fairly representative, and are:

| 1812. Novr. | £ s d | | £ s d |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| A County Rate..... | 8 4 0 | John White.-Potatoe Do. | 2 5 0 |
| Thos. Dumvile's-Baker Bill. | 5 13 4 | Do. Stow's Cloath | 4 0 |
| Jo Todd's Do. | 5 19 4 | Do. Scott's Do. | 1 14 0 |
| John Soul's Do | 5 19 0 | John Limbree's – Shoe Bill | 1 3 6 |
| Wm Pool Do..... | 5 19 0 | Steven Freeman's Potatoe Do..... | 1 16 0 |
| Thos. Davidson Do..... | 5 19 0 | Samuel Robinson Do. | 1 2 6 |
| Miss Griggs – Butcher's Bill..... | 8 8 7 | Wm. Rogers – Small Beer Do. | 2 9 0 |
| Wm Griggs – Do. | 8 9 0 | Do. Edmond Hill..... | 1 14 9 |
| Js Harrold – Coal Bill | 7 0 0 | Mrs. MacDonold's –Cloath Do | 1 3 6 |
| Parish of Strattons for J Clark | 5 10 0 | Parson & Clark Do..... | <u>7 0</u> |
| Do Newporte – Witnee..... | 2 5 0 | | |
| Thos Burman – Draper's Bill..... | 1 18 1 | Total in November..... | £85 3 7 |

The following appended copy of the Monthly Levy or Poor's Rate of a hundred year ago, will probably be interesting to many of the older readers of this book as it will bring back to their memory the old inhabitants at the time of their childhood. And to those, at the present time, interested in parish matters it will illustrate the difference between what we pay and what our ancestors a century ago were called upon monthly. Just fancy Mr Mantel with his little black bag and his gracious smile and "Have a drink," once a month.

'At a Vestry held at Olney in the County of Bucks the 12th Day of February 1808, the following Levy of One Shilling in the pound was Granted to Timothy Brice and John Raban, Overseers of the Poor, for the relief of the Poor of the said Parish.'

| | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | | HY FOULKES | } | J ANDREWS |
| JOS HARROLD | } Church | THOS WORLEY | } Overseers | GEO RABAN |
| | } Wardens | TIMOTHY BRICE | } of the Poor | WM BOSWELL |
| | | JOHN RABAN | } | WM ALLEN |

OLNEY WORKHOUSES



Cowper School



Market Place

OLNEY WORKHOUSES

| £ s d | £ s d |
|---|--|
| The Revd Mr Stephenson, Close, Rushy, Meadow..... | John Banister |
| 2 11 0 | 2 0 0 |
| Jos Harrold, my Lord's land, malting, Town Close | Thos Humphreys..... |
| 9 16 6 | 6 0 |
| Thomas Forster..... | Henry Mason |
| 9 0 | 6 9 |
| Mrs Rivis | Saml Thompson..... |
| 7 0 | 3 0 |
| Mr Todd, Close & Rushy | Mr John Thompson..... |
| 15 0 | 1 0 0 |
| Mr Sampel, Malting | Mr Robt Andrews, Close & Folly..... |
| 11 3 | 15 6 |
| Mrs Sampel | Mr Pedley |
| 3 0 | Mrs Smith |
| Mr Hubbard..... | 7 6 |
| 6 0 | Mrs Wikes..... |
| Mr Elston..... | 1 6 |
| 3 3 | Mr Worley, Meadow & Hill..... |
| Mr James Andrews..... | 2 3 0 |
| 5 3 | James Chater..... |
| Mr Corby | 6 0 |
| 4 0 | Mr Wilson..... |
| Mr Wm Raban, Market Place..... | 6 0 |
| 1 0 0 | Mrs Gray, excus'd |
| Mr White, empty | Mr John Morgan, for land..... |
| Mr Jno Wagstaff, Close..... | 1 14 0 |
| 1 10 0 | Mr Wm Andrews, late Soles land late Slayter's Hatch Green & Barn |
| Mrs Brookes | 6 10 6 |
| 4 9 | John Tarry..... |
| John Lord, Water & Malting | 2 0 |
| 12 0 | James Perkins |
| Mr Hardwick, 2½ Comm in pasture | 1 0 |
| 18 0 | Late Marriott's, empty |
| Elizth Wooding | Wm Smith & Barn |
| 1 0 | 6 0 |
| Wm Griggs | John Davison, Rushy |
| 3 0 | 7 0 |
| Mrs Brown..... | Geo Cobb |
| 1 0 | 2 0 |
| Mr E Aspray | Mr Coles |
| 9 6 | 13 0 |
| Hugh Marshall..... | Do Johnson's Close |
| 2 3 | 5 0 |
| Chas Silsby..... | Mr James Clarke, late Perry's land & Slayter's land |
| 1 0 | 1 13 9 |
| John Griggs | Mrs Hull..... |
| 2 9 | 5 0 |
| John Field (Filgrove)..... | Mr Jno Raban, orchard |
| 1 0 | 11 0 |
| Mr Nichols, Stow's and Close..... | Mr Garrard, orchard..... |
| 18 9 | 1 3 0 |
| Wm Dunton, 1½ Comm in pasture & 2½ Commons..... | John Soul |
| 1 5 9 | 1 6 |
| Francis Perkins | Revd Mr Sutcliff, late Jno Raban's |
| 1 0 | 10 6 |
| Elizth Tailby..... | Thomas Litchfield..... |
| 5 3 | 6 6 |
| Richd Lord..... | Thomas Watts |
| 1 0 | 1 0 |
| John Brittain | E Palmer..... |
| 1 0 | 1 0 |
| Johnson..... | Mr John Soul, Rushy |
| 1 0 | 8 3 |
| Saml Raban | James Thompkins |
| 4 6 | 2 0 |
| Sam Robinson | Slater Grigg's, empty |
| 1 6 | Mrs James |
| Thomas Jackson | 2 0 |
| 1 0 | John Coulson |
| Widw Timbrel, excus'd | 6 0 |
| Eli Chater..... | Mr Parker |
| 1 6 | 6 0 |
| John Worker | Wm Griggs, Close |
| 1 0 | 7 6 |
| John Robinson..... | Mrs Tindon, 4 Commons in Pasture, Rushy |
| 1 6 | 1 6 9 |
| Wm Allen, Meadw & Hill..... | Mr John Talbot |
| 1 11 6 | 8 0 |
| Thomas Creamer | |
| 2 0 | |
| Messrs Raban, York's land and Rushy..... | |
| 11 10 0 | |

OLNEY WORKHOUSES

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Mr Haddon | 8 0 | Wm Marshall | 2 6 |
| Geo Morgan, Close & Rushy | 12 3 | Saml Litchfield, 3 Commons in | |
| John Knight | 4 0 | pasture, Rushy..... | 12 3 |
| Wm Poole | 1 7½ | Saml Aspray..... | 1 0 |
| Thomas Dunton, Garden | 3 9 | Geo Knight, Rushy | 9 0 |
| John Palmer | 1 0 | - Hardwicke, Pasture..... | 4 0 |
| Mr Grondon..... | 7 0 | James Herbert | 3 0 |
| Danl Warren | 2 0 | Mrs Robinson..... | 4 0 |
| Mr Lermitee | 6 0 | Thomas Bowden | 4 3 |
| Thomas Harris | 3 3 | James Herbert | 3 6 |
| Wm Law | 4 3 | Mr Thos Talbot..... | 7 0 |
| John Smith..... | 1 0 | Richard Mayes | 1 6 |
| Geo Hollingshead..... | 1 6 | Michl Hind..... | 5 0 |
| Widw Bass..... | 2 0 | John Tompkins, Rushy | 18 0 |
| Thomas Robinson..... | 3 6 | Revd Mr Hillyer..... | 4 6 |
| Thomas Davison..... | 3 6 | John Milward | 2 3 |
| James Butcher | 6 0 | John Limbrey | 4 6 |
| Thomas Whitmee | 6 5 0 | Wm Clarke..... | 3 6 |
| Mr James Johnson 5¼ | | Mr Mason..... | 6 0 |
| Commons in pasture, | | Mr James Abraham..... | 13 0 |
| his own close, Lord Dartmouth's | | Mrs Gee | 16 6 |
| Land, Bletsoe's Land, late | | Mrs Palmer, a close..... | 19 6 |
| S & Geo Raban's..... | 6 11 11 | Wm Plowman | 6 0 |
| Mr Thos Osborn, 5 Commons | | John Soul | 5 3 |
| in pasture, Drayton's Land | 12 11 0 | John Cobb | 5 0 |
| Thomas Babbington, Tan Yard | | Henry Foulkes, Malting, Rushy | |
| 3½ Commons in pasture, | | Nursery, Carey's Land, Hand- | |
| Dropshort..... | 13 3 | combe Close..... | 2 18 0 |
| Willm Tunn | 1 0 | C Gill | 5 6 |
| John Whitmee, Farm, pasture, | | John Willis, Rushy, Close..... | 1 6 0 |
| Andrews | 7 17 3 | Mr Wm Wagstaff | 9 9 |
| J Crouch..... | 4 0 | Jos Slayter | 4 0 |
| Wm Luck..... | 1 0 | Revd Mr Ousby..... | 6 3 |
| Fras Freer..... | 1 6 | Mr Cuthbertson..... | 13 0 |
| Robt White | 1 0 | Mrs Harrold | 12 3 |
| Timothy Lineham | 5 0 0 | Mr Fennell, Close | 18 6 |
| Peter Perkins..... | 5 0 | John Andrews, Garden..... | 5 3 |
| Wm Bowden, Cheese House, | | Thos Berrill..... | 3 1½ |
| Lord Dartmouth's Land, Rushy, | | Mrs Revis..... | 9 3 |
| 2½ Commons in pasture..... | 7 0 0 | Wm Raban, Rushy | 8 6 |
| Wm Raban..... | 4 0 | Lau Spencer | 2 3 |
| Abm Wright..... | 4 0 | Wm Smith (Grocer) | 8 3 |
| Jos Putman, Dayton's Close..... | 6 6 | Geo Griggs, Ld Dartmouth's Ld | |
| John Thompson | 1 0 | Rodwell, Brittain's & Pasture..... | 8 0 3 |
| John Osborn..... | 1 0 | Thomas Taylor..... | 2 0 |
| Hubbard..... | 1 0 | Mr Smith..... | 5 0 |
| Litchfield | 2 0 | Mrs Lovell, Elm Acre | 1 3 9 |
| Mr Lewis | 6 0 | Mrs Smith | 11 7½ |
| John Bowden | 1 0 | Mr Moxon..... | 4 3 |
| Thomas Whitmee | 1 0 | Messrs Sloan..... | 3 0 |
| John Carter | 1 0 | Mrs Pitts..... | 3 0 |

OLNEY WORKHOUSES

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--|------------------|
| Mrs King | 4 0 | Edmd Dumvile..... | 5 8 |
| Mrs Monday | 5 3 | Charles Amos..... | 1 0 |
| Wm Rollins | 1 0 | Widow Reynolds | 1 0 |
| Wm Knight..... | 1 0 | Thos Dumvile, Pasture..... | 9 9 |
| Michl Hind | 1 0 | Edw Lambert | 3 0 |
| Edwd Simco | 1 0 | John White..... | 1 0 |
| Robt Spencer | 1 0 | Miss Marriotts..... | 4 0 |
| Tho Gates | 1 0 | Mr Brice..... | 8 10½ |
| Jos Mead..... | 1 0 | Thos Tompkins | 2 0 |
| Tho Harrison | 1 0 | Thos Walkman..... | 3 7½ |
| Tho Aspray..... | 2 0 | Wm Blower..... | 3 0 |
| Mr Kilingworth | 7 0 | Thos Hannah..... | 1 9 0 |
| Doctor Aspray | 10 0 | Robt York | 9 15 0 |
| Jos T Palmer, Swan & Pasture | 2 9 9 | John Day | 10 13 0 |
| Mr E Abraham..... | 7 4½ | Wm York, 2¼ Commons..... | 3 6 |
| Mrs Rickett..... | 6 0 | Mr R Gardner, Close, orchard | 1 3 0 |
| Mr Emmerton | 8 0 | | <u>£175 3 10</u> |
| John Bannister..... | 2 0 | | |
| J H Talbot, Hide | 1 7 6 | 13 th February 1808 Allowed by us | |
| E Negus | 3 0 | W PRAED | |
| James Andrews | 4 0 | J MEAKIN | |
| Charles Wagstaff..... | 5 3 | | |

The call upon the ratepayers for five consecutive months was £174/13/10, £175/13/10, £175/3/10, £174/16/4, and £174/17/4.

Two Ratcliff 'end pieces'

“You have a model husband,” said the lady who was congratulating the bride. The next day the bride bethought her to look up the word ‘model’ in the dictionary, and this is what she found there. ‘Model: A small imitation of the real thing’.

“I wish to complain” said the newly-wedded wife, “about that flour you sold me. It was very tough.” “Tough, ma’am?” stammered the grocer. “Yes, tough. I made a piecrust with it, and my husband could hardly cut it.”

OLNEY WORKHOUSES



Olney Church



High Street

Newton-Cowper Centenary.

The year 1907 will be a long-remembered one with the rising generation of Olney as the centenary of the Rev John Newton the curate of Olney who made himself world-famed by the beautiful hymns he wrote. Many long years have rolled by since John Newton and William Cowper were contemporaries here. The rich associations with these celebrities have immortalised our town. Generation after generation have enjoyed Newton's sublime hymns and Cowper's beautiful poetry; and much interest was displayed in the Newton-Cowper Centenary celebrations which took place on Thursday April 25. The Cowper Society, which was founded in 1900, meets every April 25, the anniversary of the poet's death, in some town with which he was associated. This year's proceedings were made the occasion of the Centenary commemorations of Newton who died December 21st, 1807, and the 107th anniversary of the death of Cowper. The gatherings arranged were of a distinctly inspiring character; they remind one of what great riches such great writers have left behind them. Visitors began to arrive at Olney in good time, and passing through our long broad street, in which many of the residents displayed flags from their windows, they mostly made their way first to Cowper's House, now used as the Cowper Museum.

At 2.30 pm there was an impressive service in the Parish Church. The Bishop of Durham preached and selected as his text the passage, "Whose faith follow, considering the end of their conservation" (Heb. xiii, 7).

At 4 pm a public meeting was held in the Cowper Memorial Congregational Church. The Vicar of the Parish Church presided. Mr Thomas Wright, the secretary gave an account of the Cowper Society and its aims. The Rev Preb H E Fox, MA, was unable to be present, but his paper on 'Some after fruits of John Newton's teaching' was read. Miss Q Cooper recited a poem specially written for the occasion by Mr John Payne and the concluding address was by Alderman Campion, on 'Newton's Letters to a Wife'.

GLORIOUS THINGS OF THEE ARE SPOKEN.
ACHTHIA.—8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7.
♩ = 76.

HOW SWEET THE NAME OF JESUS SOUNDS.
St. Peter.—O.M. ♩ = 76.

The image contains two musical scores. The first score is for the hymn 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken' by Achthia, with a tempo of 76. It consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The second score is for 'How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds' by St. Peter, also with a tempo of 76. It consists of two systems of two staves each. Both scores are written in a style typical of 19th-century hymnals, with clear notation and a focus on harmonic accompaniment.



The Children Singing Newton's Hymns

Photo by Mr G Lett

At 6 pm the School Children of the town and district sang on the Market Place, Newton's hymns: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" and "Glorious Things of Thee are spoken". On this occasion Mr Catt, of *The Protestant Times* distributed 500 illustrated Gospels among the children.

At 7.30 pm a public meeting was held at the Cowper Memorial Church, presided over by the pastor, the Rev M H Roberts. The Rev H J R Marston, MA, of Belgrave Chapel, London, delivered an eloquent address upon "Our Evangelical Fathers: their power, depth, and limitation". The Rev John Callis, MA, of South Heigham, Norwich, next read a paper upon 'The Olney Hymns' which, he said, numbered 348, John Newton being the author of 281. The Hon T F Fremantle and the Rev J Samuel followed with speeches, and the day's interesting proceedings were brought to a close.

NEWTON-COWPER CENTENARY

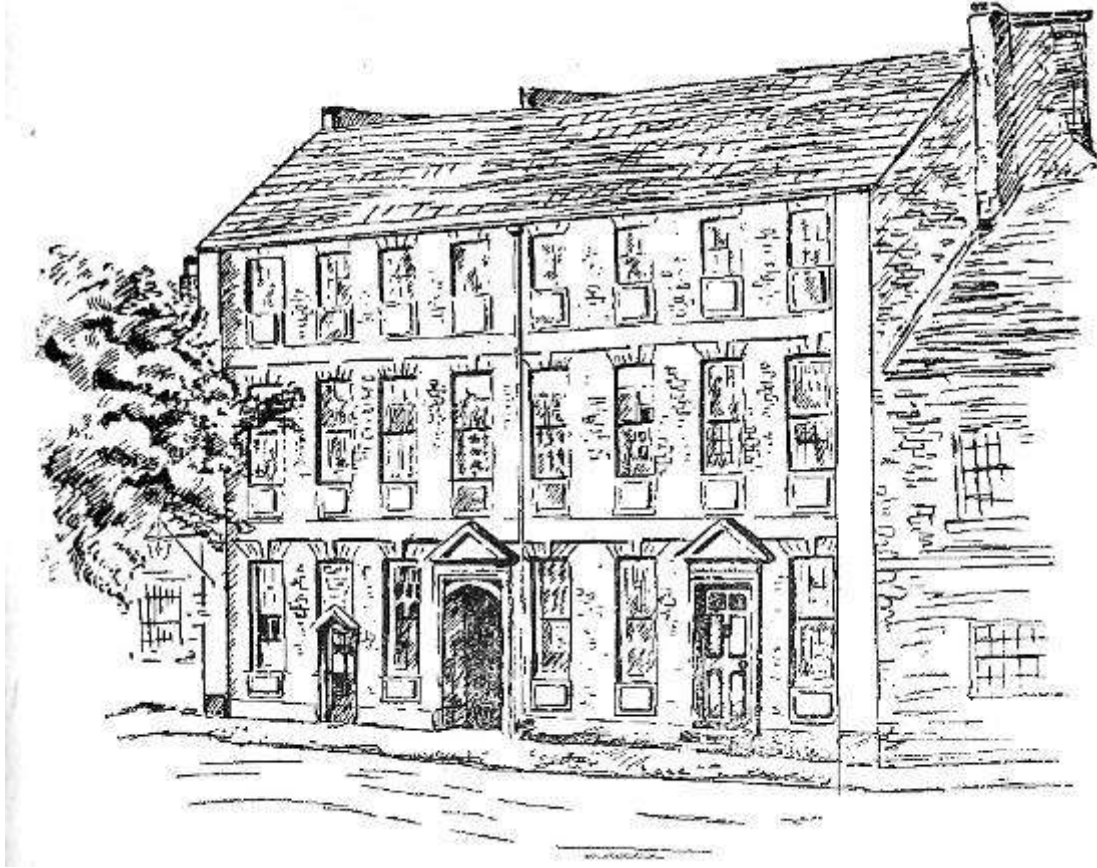


Market Place



East Street

The Cowper Museum.



When Cowper's house was built is not on record. Curiously enough nothing is known of it prior to the arrival in it, in September 1767, of Cowper and his friend Mrs Unwin. The earliest preserved deed is a marriage settlement, made in 1769, when the property was conveyed to trustees for the use of the Rev George Smith of Market Street, who had married Mary, daughter of Robert Carey, a malster of Olney. In 1815 the house was sold by Mrs Smith to Mr Robert Andrews. In 1830 the Andrews family sold it to Mr James Hale Talbot. In 1854 it was sold by auction at the Bull Hotel - the purchaser being Mr WH Collingridge, who in 1900, presented it 'To the town and nation'.

The Museum, a large brick building with stone dressings, consists of two tenements. Cowper and Mrs Unwin resided in the western one, and Dick Coleman (Cowper's protégé) and his wife in the eastern one - hence the latter is sometimes called 'Dick Coleman's house'.

THE COWPER MUSEUM



Early Sowmans – Market Place



The Knoll and High Street



Newton by W S Wright

On entering the Museum, the visitor finds himself in Cowper's Hall, and notices right in front of him the port-hole through which Cowper's hares Puss, Tiney and Bess used to leap to their gambols on the Turkey carpet. Cowper's Hall is referred to many times in his letters. In order that the hares should not escape he usually kept the front door locked, so visitors had to enter at the back.

The principal objects of interest in Cowper's Hall are the following:-

1. Cowper's Counterpane presented to him by Mrs King of Pertenhall.
2. Mrs Unwin's Bobbin Winder.
3. Oil Paintings of Olney Church and Great House and the Dog Fop by Jas Andrews.
4. Oil Painting of Thomas Bull (Cowper's 'Young Hebræan').
5. Oil Paintings of the Alcove, the Old Bridge, Cowper and his Mother's pictures, Judith Cowper, and the Rev William Bull, by WS Wright.
6. The Rev William Bull's Chair.
7. Cowper and his Hares from the painting by Walter West.
8. Three carved Figures from the Rood Screen of Olney Church.
9. Many Portraits of Cowper's friends, etc.
10. Candle-stool with old Flasks and Hutches.

THE COWPER MUSEUM



Bridge Street



Olney Station

On the left of the Hall, is the famous Parlour the scene of so many events recorded in Cowper's letters - the most amusing of which is called 'The Kissing Candidate Letter'.



Here Cowper read to the ladies - Mrs Unwin, Lady Hesketh and Lady Austen; played battledore with them when it was too wet to go out; amused himself with his hares; and wrote *The Task* and many other of his poems. The original wainscoting surrounds the room, and at the windows may be seen the very shutters referred to in that oft quoted passage:

Now stir the fire, and close the shutters fast,
 Let fall the curtains, wheel the sofa round,
 And, while the babbling and loud-hissing urn
 Throws up a steamy column, and the cups,
 That cheer but not inebriate, wait on each,
 So let us welcome peaceful evening in.

It was from one of these windows that Cowper first saw Lady Austen who was entering the draper's shop opposite, now carried on by the enterprising Mr Joseph Garner, and the fact will be recalled that it was at her suggestion that he wrote *The Task*.



Newton's Chair and Bible

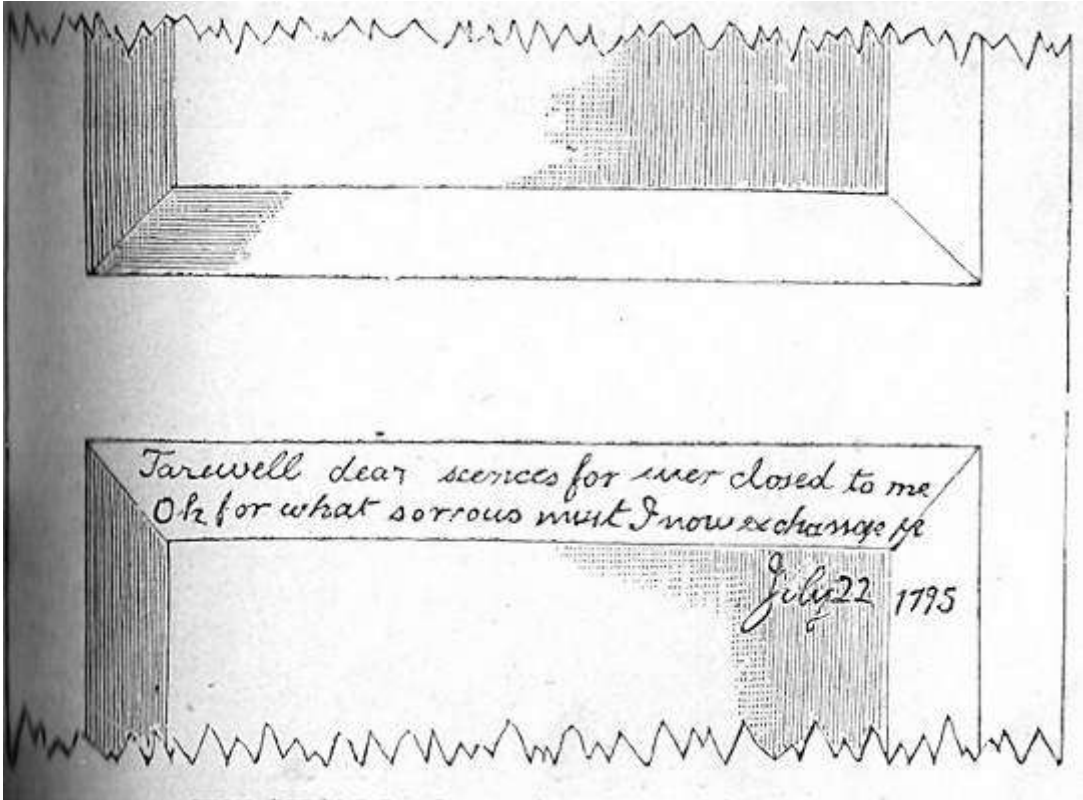
The principal objects of interest in the Parlour are:

1. The original of Cowper's poem *Yardley Oak*, which consists of eleven pages in Cowper's handwriting.
2. Several original Letters of Cowper.
3. The original of Cowper's lines *To Mary*.
4. The Document authorising the payment of a pension of £300 to Cowper, signed by Geo III, and Pitt.
5. Cowper's Mirror, Coffee-pot, Walking-stick, Stock-buckle, & Watch.

THE COWPER MUSEUM



The Cowper Medal



Writing on the Shutter

6. Oil Paintings of Cowper, Newton, and the Temple by WS Wright.
7. Facetious Oil Painting, Cowper looking at an egg, which he holds in his hand, and boiling his watch.
8. The original Teedon's Diary, with numerous references to Cowper. Teedon, the schoolmaster lived in a thatched house that stood on the site of the shop now occupied by Mr Hoddle, bootmaker, High Street South.
9. Newton's chair and Bible.
10. The shutter with the pencil lines written by Cowper, from the Lodge, Weston Underwood, presented by Lieut-Col Bowyer.
11. The Cowper Centenary Medal, struck at the expense of a few of the inhabitants of Olney, as a lasting record of the gift of the house and a tribute to the children for the part they took in the Cowper Centenary celebrations.
12. Many curious copies of 'John Gilpin', by various publishers.
13. Letters of Cowper, Lady Hesketh, William Wilberforce, John Thornton, Rev John Berridge, Rev Henry Gauntlett, Dr Gauntlett, and Charles Longuet Higgins.
14. First editions of Cowper's Poem and Olney Hymns, and many things of interest.

The visitor will next notice the stair-foot door referred to humorously by Cowper in his letter to Unwin of 3 Jan 1784. The large room on the first floor, Cowper's bedroom, is generally called the '*John Gilpin Room*' because it was here he wrote that poem. The lines on the 'Loss of the Royal George' were also written here.

Mrs Unwin's room is the smaller of the two front rooms on the first floor.

Another room on the first floor is devoted to the William Wright Library which was recently presented to the Museum by Mr Wm Wright of Moseley.

The garden is arranged very much as it was in Cowper's day. At the end may be seen Cowper's Pew which was removed from Olney Church in 1904.

THE COWPER MUSEUM



Clifton Meadows



Garners – Market Place

Olney Parish Church,

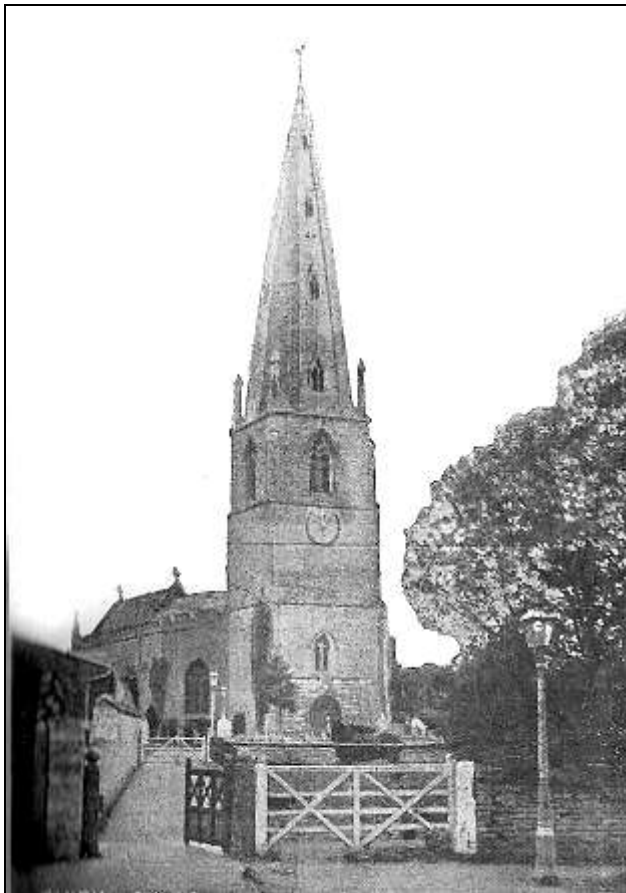


The casual visitor who has only come to 'have a look round,' and make the most of the time before his train is due, will naturally proceed at once to the Parish Church, of SS Peter and Paul.

The Church is situated at the south end of Olney on the north bank of the back-water of the Cowper Roller Mills. It is in the Early Decorated or Middle Pointed style of architecture and is supposed to have been built during the years 1325 and 1350. The reader would probably be wearied with any technical details concerning the building so I will only mention obviously interesting

features. The graduated tower with its massive bulging and sixteen-light spire is 180 feet high.

During the year 1884 it was found necessary to re-build about fifteen feet of this, owing to damage sustained by its being struck with lightning. These repairs were entrusted to a Mr Parker of Oldham. While the steeplejacks had adjourned to the 'Churchyard Arms' - the Boot Inn, for a slight refresher, Mr Charles Grindon made his notable assent, an illustrated account of which is given in the Olney Almanack of 1885, published by Mr Jackson, and reads as follows:



Olney Church

OLNEY PARISH CHURCH



Sowmans Work Force



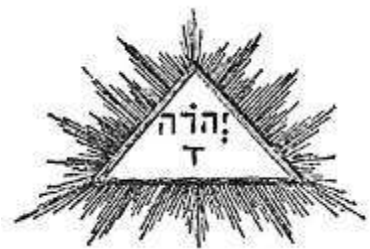
Market Place and Freemans

‘Considerable interest was at first excited in the operations of the steeple-jack during the fixing of the scaffold,’ & etc, and this culminated on Tuesday, October 14th in an unlooked for incident.

A young gentleman, a native of Olney, who is a sailor and happened to be visiting his friends, was seized with a burning desire to ‘go aloft,’ and accordingly while the workmen were at dinner, Master Charlie ascended the ladders, climbed up the rods above, and hung his hat on the weather-cock, twirling round the metal chancicleer and performing other antics amidst the excitement of a number of spectators. The steeple-jack, finding something untoward going forward, rushed out and ascended the steeple just as Master Charlie was coming down. An altercation ensued, the steeple-jack threatening to ‘punch’ Master Charlie’s head. In order, we presume, to facilitate the performance of this agreeable operation, the steeple-jack removed a ladder, but meantime Charlie had sped like lightning down a pulley rope amid the gesticulations of his pursuer’.

The repairs were completed on the 14th November, but not before the weather-cock, which is two feet nine inches from the beak to the tip of the tail and two feet high, was re-gilded and further inscribed as follows: J P Langley, vicar, John Garrard, Thomas T Coles, churchwardens, 1884. The tower has also a fine west door and a good two-light window, the gift of the late Mrs Welton of this parish, with the figures of SS Peter and Paul, and contains a fine peal of eight bells.

Entering the building by the west door will be noticed the imposing font of Caën stone with oak canopy, recently placed near the west column of the south aisle, upon which is a brass plate inscribed: ‘This font was given by the Vicar the Rev J P Langley, June 20, 1897, on the completion of the 60th year of Queen Victoria’s reign’. On the west wall of this aisle is the framed amalgam coffin plate of the Rev John Newton, the inscription is surmounted by a triangle surrounded with glory and enclosing the Hebrew characters for Jehovah.



OLNEY PARISH CHURCH



Mill and Church



Market Place

Proceeding along the aisle, there is a brass plate notifying that ‘To the Glory of God, AD 1903, two new bells were added to the existing six and the latter re-hung; at the same time the Westminster Chimes were fitted to the Clock. The cost of the above was defrayed by a bequest of Thomas Eyles of Olney, supplemented by a gift from his sister Catherine.’ Near by is a mural tablet to the memory of Dr George Grindon who died in 1832.

The fine organ, by J Binns of Leeds, more to be admired for its grand tone and splendid workmanship than for its elaborate appearance, takes up a large portion of the east end of the south aisle.

The chancel, approached by a massive arch, contains mural tablets to the memory of members of the families of Johnson (1680), Browne (1787), and Mason (1787). In the south wall is a sedilia of three seats and a piscina, gradually rising eastward. Further east is an engraved brass plate reading ‘To the Glory of God this Reredos is placed in affectionate memory of John Garrard, Born January 19th 1804, Died March 2nd 1896, Aged 92 years, and of his brother William Garrard, Born December 15th 1805, Died Sept 6th 1896, Aged 90 years. Both were born and died in this parish, and are interred in this Churchyard, Whitsuntide, 1897’.

The reredos calls for more than a passing glance. It is of Caën stone, relieved by pillars of black, grey, and red Devonshire marble. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Jones & Willis of London. The design in the centre contains the pastoral lamb and the side panels are emblematical of the four Evangelists. The tops of the panels are diapered and fitted with crocketed labels. The elaborately carved tracery is in the Gothic Style, with Conventional capitals, and figure-heads at the top of the pillars. Four pinnacles surmount the centre.

The east window, of five lights, representing scenes in the Life of Christ, was presented by the late Mr Thomas Revis in 1870. One of the north windows of the chancel illustrates the story of the ‘Brazen serpent,’ and is inscribed ‘To the Glory of God this and the opposite window are placed by AGH Iliffe in loving memory of her husband and infant daughter.’ The window thus mentioned, on the south side, is not only a striking picture of the ‘Crucifixion’, but also for the

OLNEY PARISH CHURCH



'Hallelujah' Lamp Post



'The Churchyard Elm'

fidelity of the portraits therein contained of the late Mr John Garrard and Mr Iliffe, whose bare grey heads tower above the helmetted soldiers on the left hand side of the picture. This window is inscribed 'Woman behold thy son: Behold thy Mother. John Arthur Iliffe B 6 June 1836 D 28 Sep 1898. Elin Philippa Iliffe B 7 Oct 1889 D 10 Ap 1890'.

In the north wall of the chancel is an ambry; and in the lower part of the wall is the Easter sepulchre or founder's tomb beneath a low arch. In the east wall of the north aisle are the remains of an ancient piscina showing that this portion of the Church was anciently used as a chapel. There are also traces in this wall of an ancient lancelet window. On the north wall are mural tablets to the memory of William Gaines (1657) and William Leapidge Cooper (1903), and traces of an old window. The fittings of the edifice are modern, principally in oak and very good.

In the porch is a framed list of the Rectors and Vicars from 1263 to the present time, also the coat-of-arms that formerly stood above the chancel arch.

Since the advent of our present vicar the Church has made rapid strides towards what it should be as a place of worship. We had a fine external Church but a paltry interior, and this the Rev SH Smith has earnestly set to work to rectify. He has had the Church cleaned, the old unsafe gallery removed, the floor levelled and nicely re-laid with stone and wood, massive and comfortable oak benches, the organist surpliced, and last but not least, a splendid organ to lend tone to the singing, and make the services more bright and cheerful. If the improvements still continue we may hope to see a good screen, and a surpliced choir in the chancel. A great improvement to the external portion would be a gate, in Lordship Close, sufficiently wide to allow of carriages and coaches to drive up to the Church door when fashionable weddings or funerals take place allowing them to draw out through the north gates, or vice versa. This would be greatly appreciated by, especially in inclement weather, one and all.

OLNEY PARISH CHURCH

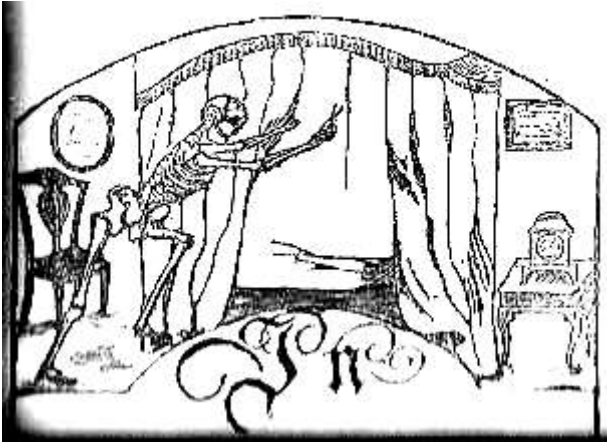


The Bull Hotel



High Street and Clifton House

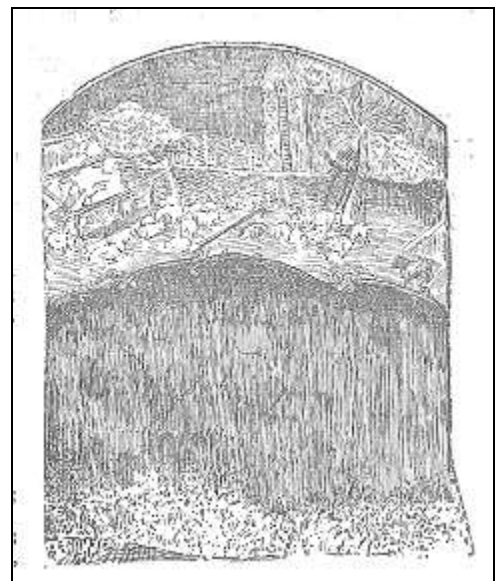
Olney Churchyard Stones.



Very few of us, after burying our friends in the churchyard, seem to think that the last office has been performed for the departed, until we raise in some form or other a memento setting forth the age and sometimes the virtues of those 'Not lost but gone before'.

The style of our forefathers differs from that of the present day as will be observed by the accompanying illustrations. The curious epitaphs and the quaint carving, not the value of the stone were formerly the great features. This will be fully seen by noticing the stone on the south side of the church, parallel with the tower, erected to the memory of George Gee where, on the head-piece, is a representation of the fell destroyer Death, springing forward to sever the thread of life from the figure lying on a bed. In this design is a clock on the table in place of the hour-glass which forms so prominent an object on many old-time grave stones.

Turning to the left we observe a well carved stone to the memory of Charles Morgan, a youth, who died in the year 1791. This represents a cherub bearing 'The Book of Life' opened, pointing to the name and age of the deceased written therein. A setting sun, anchor, and other symbols are depicted around the head of the stone. Another curious stone, near the north porch, is called the



‘Farmyard’ stone, from the fact of a farm scene being depicted upon the head of it.

The following is a list of all the older ones worthy of note:-

Here lies interred the Bodie of William Gaines late of this parish who deceased the 4th of August 1657 and in the yeare of his age 67.

*Death is noe losse. But rather gaines,
for he by dieing Life attaines;
The Poore, the World,
the Heavens, and y^e Grave
His Almes, His Praiers,
his Soul & bodie have.*

Hic jacet Catherina, filia perdilecta Thomæ Johnson, argr et annæ uxoris ejus quae obit vicesimo Septimo die Augusti, Anno Dom 1680.

Ætatisque Suæ decimo.

*Stay Reader stay, lett mee bespake your eye,
To take a view who here intomb'd doth lye:
'Tis worth your while for things of excellent worth,
His tender years beyond hir years brought forth;
Takit in a word within this narrow roome.
Great Beauty, witt, youth, duty, have a tombe;
Then stand & reade thy self within this Glasse,
How soone these perish, & thy selfe maist passe.*

The inscription on the coffin-shaped stone near the NW corner of the tower, was: Edmund Ball, died 11 day of May 1692.

*My TIME is pass'd as you may see,
Prepare Thy selfe to Follow Me.*

In memory of Susanna, wife of Henry Andrews, senr, she died Novber, the 19th, 1716, in the 48th year of her age; here also lyes Sarah Andrews, daughter of Henry & Mary Andrews, junr., she died June 13, 1736, in y^e 3rd year of her age

*The tender branch that lieth here,
She was beloved by parents dear;
Few was her days, Short was her race,
From womb to grave, She run apace;*

*And here she lies, free from all pain,
When Christ shall call, She'll rise again.*

Here lieth the body of John Webb, he departed this life y^e 13th of May 1717, aged 50 years.

*All flesh is Grass. The Glory of a man
Is like a Flower. His life is as a span;
The earth he Treads upon it well doth tell,
That in this World he hath not long to dwell;
The Flowers, the Grass, the Greenness flees,
Death & Decay. Man's Life's like these.*

Mary the wife of George Carey, she died y^e 20th day of October 1718, in y^e 32 year of her age.

*She was a kind and loving Wife,
A Quiet Neighbour, free from strife:
Good humoured was, with bad & best,
'Tis hoped in Heaven, Shees now at rest.*

John Boothworth, he departed this life the 9th November 1723, in the 19th year of his age.

*A blooming sober youth in Death doth sleep,
Although the parents here may seem to weep.
We hope his soul with Christ will ever keep.*

Here lieth the body of James, son of John & Mary Robertson, who died Novembr. 4th, 1724, in the 1st year of his age; also Thomas, who died Septembr. 24th 1726, in the 1st year of his age; also William, who died December - 1727, in the 1st year of his age; also Mary, who died July 8th 1729, in the 1st year of her age.

*Four harmless Babes, took from y^e breast,
Wee hope are in Eternall rest;
And here hath left y^e World of sorrow,
Christ and His Prophets for to Follow.*

Edward, husbnd. Of Sarah Adkins, died March 16, 1725 aged 23 years. And Sarah his wife, died July 29, 1728, aged 29 years.

*By tears my sorrows are exprest,
For my dear Friends who lie at rest;*

*May I submit to GOD above,
Whose pleasure it was to part our love,
Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.*

To the memory of James Clarke, late of this town, Tayler, son of John and Mary Clarke of Weston Underwood, he died March 18th, 1735/6, aged 25 years.

*I seized was with a distemper sore,
And patiently my great affliction bore;
Then in my bloom, Just in my youthfull time,
Grim death appear'd & cropt me in my prime.
I allways knew myself to be but dust,
And died that I might live amongst y^e Just.
Requiescat in pace.*

To the memory of Elizth, wife of Richard Kitchener, junr., she died Octbr y^e 5th, 1735, aged 92 years.

*Oh do y^e works of Jesus Christ,
That we may meet in Paradise.*

In memory of Elizth. Beard, wife of Iohn Beard, she deputed this life y^e 2nd of Novbr. 1735, in y^e 55 year of her age.

*You, that pass by this place may think of me,
For as you are so once you did me see;
What I am now will quickly be your doom,
My house is strait, but by my side there's room.*

To the memory of Iohn Dowse, the son of Iohn & Lydia Douse, he died April 4th, 1736, aged 20 years.

*In prime of years, Death fell'd my tree. And quickly I was gone;
Prepared be, to follow me, and weep not for your son.*

Here lye y^e bodys of Sarah and Martha, daughters of Willm. & Elizth. Stanford. Sarah dy'd June y^e 30th, 1736, aged 4 years & 5 weeks; Martha dy'd July 4th, 1736, aged 3 weeks & 2 days.

*Go home dear friends & cease your tears,
We must lye here till Christ appears.*

Here lieth the body of John Hardwick, Mason, he deped, this life March the 18th, 1739, aged 84 years.

*While in this World I did remain,
My latter end was grief and pain;
And when y^e Lord did think it best,
He took me to a place of rest.*

The following appears in Latin:

Here is buried Thomas Ball of this parish, physician, of whom it may be said he was very useful in life, how well he understood the art of medicine, those will bear witness, who having been torn away from the shadow of death (God favouring) he restored to life and safety, after he had lived, not long enough for friends, having been snatched away by a fatal disease he restored his soul to God, March 5th, 1744.

Sacred to the memory of Thomas Abbott, the much loved only son of Thomas & Ann Abbott, snatched (alas) suddenly away by the violence of a fatal & cruel distemper, December 4th, 1748, in the 6th year of his age.

*Ah! doom'd too soon to yield thy youthful breath,
To Thee so lov'd in Life and mourn'd in death;
Thy weeping Parents raise this funeral stone,
That holds thy Ashes, and expects their own.
The day will back restore thee to their sight,
Oh may they hail thee, in those fields of light;
There feel a vast expanse of Joy from you,
'Till then sweet little saint, Adieu, Adieu.*

In memory of Thomas Harison, husband of Sarah Harison, he died Octbr. y^e 29th, 1752, aged 29 years.

*The best of husbands sure had I,
The wants of Christ was all his cry;
A hope he had before he died,
The hope of being glorified.*

Here lieth the body of William Lawrence, the son of Robert & Sary Lawrence, he departed this life, Novber. y^e 6th, 1752, in y^e 20th year of his age.

*All you young men that do pass bye,
As you are now, so once was I;*

*Death, doth not always warning give,
Therefore be careful how you Live.*

In tender memory of dear Ann Abbott who, ornamented with the attractive graces both of sweetness of nature & form, and every amiable quality that made her lovely & beloved by all. In the midst of health and the prime flower of virgin years, by a fatal visitation of the small pox was hastily deprived of life, Decber. 9th, 1754, at the age of 17 years.

*Reader - In pity turn thy Self away,
For Foot ne'er trampled on more lovely clay.*

Here lieth y^e body of Elizth. Stanton, wife of Joseph Stanton, she died May y^e 11th, 1755, aged 60 years.

*Consider Reader as you look, How suddenly my soul was took;
Pray take warning by my fall, And ready be at Christ's call.*

In memory of Elizabeth Hooton, wife of Andrew Hooton, she died Octbr. y^e 29th, 1763, aged 81 years; Also Andrew Hooton, husbnd. of Elizth. Hooton, died Febry. y^e 8th, 1764, aged 80 years.

*With pain and sickness long opprest, We very willing was to die;
In hopes that we should rise possrest, With Christ to all eternity.*

In memory of Ann, wife of Willm. Smith, she departed this life Jary. 17th, 1768, aged 62 years.

*He is a God of sovereign love, Who promised Heav'n to me;
And taught my thoughts to soar above, Where happy Spirits be.*

In memory of Jabez, the son of Thomas and Mary Chater, who depted. this life Sept. the 18th, 1774, aged 10 months.

*Sleep little Saint until that day,
That God, thy God, to Earth shall say
Return this soul its little clay,
Refin'd from dross without delay.
To dwell with me in endless day,
Thy ransom Jesu's blood did pay;
Thy soul meanwhile shall dwell above,
To admire discriminating love.
And soon, at most a few days more,*

*We then shall meet on Canaan's shore;
The Lamb's new song shall us employ,
We'll sing to all Eternity.*

Also Thomas Chater, the father of Jabez, died the 28th of Janry. 1811.

In memory of Mary, the wife of Willm. and Grace Perry (of Ravenstone Mill), who died May 4th, 1777, aged 44 years.

*Reader - if Heaven doth unto thee, a longer time bestow;
The things which for thy peace shall be, Hence better learn to
know.
Then O what solid peace to thee, Will every moment bring;
The Grave its Victory will flee, And Death will lose its sting.*

In memory of Willm. the husbnd of Elizth. Brice, who depd this life Janry 11th, 1778, aged 31 years.

*A time of Death there is we know full well,
But when, or where, or how, no one can tell;
Short and uncertain is the life of man,
Certain to die, but is uncertain when.*

In memory of Rebecca Wykes, daughter of John and Elizth. Wykes, she died Sepbr. 9th, 1788, aged 15 years.

*Behold and see as you pass by, The darling of a parents' joy;
She left this World, it was but vain, In hopes in Heaven to meet
again.*

In memory of Edwd. Andrews & Susanna his wife, he died Jany. 18th 1756, aged 52; she died Jany. 13th, 1790, aged 82.

*Ah what is Life that thus employs our care,
This frail weak Bubble of uncertain Air;
From earliest infancy to latest Age,
How swift has Man, the Pilgrim, run his stage,
Happy that escape the dangers of the Road,
Brought safely home by Christ the Guide to God.*

Charles Morgan, son of Jno. & Barbara Morgan (apprentice at Northampton), died Decbr. 18th, 1791, in the 17th year of his age.

*Let the gay youth review this solemn page,
And see Death certain here at every age;
Not all the fondness that a Mother knows,
Nor all the sweet sollicitude she shows,
Can her lov'd offspring for a moment save,
Or snatch those objects from a greedy grave.*

In memory of Mary Clarke, wife of Willm. Clarke, died Augst. 18th, 1796, aged 30 years.

*A lingering sickness did me seize,
And no Physician could me ease;
All means was tried, but all in vain
Till Death did ease me of my pain.*

In memory of Richard, the husbd. of Ann Turner, died June 25th, 17--, aged 30 years; also Ann Dumville (formerly the wife of Richard Turner), died April 10th, 1798, aged 93 years, who at the age of 88 years, cut 4 teeth; also Willm their son, who died in infancy.

*Their God will sure on them bestow,
Whose virtues do embalm their names below.*

In memory of Elizth Worley, wife of Thos Worley, she died June 12th, 1800, in the 32nd year of her age.

*O cruel Death that would not spare,
A Tender wife and mother dear;
Great is the loss to those she leaves behind,
But bliss eternal, She we know will find;
May we submit to God above,
Whose pleasure it was to part our love.*

Near this monitor of human instability are deposited the remains of Susanna wife of Willm. Marshall, laceman, who resigned life in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, August 16th, 1812, aged 40 years.

*She wasBut words are wanting to say what;
Think what a wife she would be.....and she was that.*

Here lies interr'd the remains of Mr John Rose, born at Warrington in this county, and died at Loddinton in the county of Northampton.

*My days on Earth in pain I spent,
My Soul from God to me was lent;
My Soul return'd to God again,
And eas'd me of my earthly pain.*

To the memory of six children of George and Ann Marriott who died in their Infancy.

*God took us from our Mother's breast,
From this Vain World to a place of rest;
And none need doubt the truth of it,
Because no sin did we commit.*

Sacred to the memory of George Grindon, Esq., who after practising as surgeon in this (his native) town with the greatest success for nearly half a century exchanged time for eternity 17th Nov. 1832, in the 72nd year of his age; also to Ann, wife of the above, who died 7th Jan. 1845, aged 77.

The oldest grave stone known in the yard, is inscribed 'Robert Sharp', died the 23 day of December 1667. The farmyard stone which has been mentioned and illustrated on page 59 is 'In memory of William, the husband of Mary Langley, Pasture Keeper to George Main of Weston Underwood, by whom this stone is erected. He departed this life, March 6th, 1779, aged 66 years'. The stone on the north side of the church, depicting King Death, crowned, is undecipherable. On this head stone the skeleton is supporting a tablet upon which are, in bold relief, three cherubs' heads, above which are clouds with the sun's rays scintillating upon the faces of the small angelic busts. On the left of the tablet is an urn, and Death, rests with his left arm upon a broad pick, and clasps the handle of a shovel with the sinister hand.

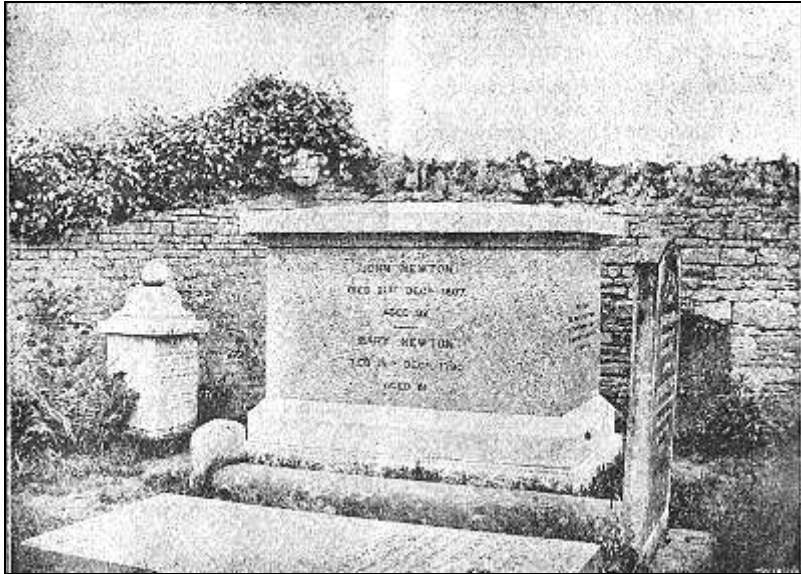
The fine quaintly carved head-stones are principally the work of two brothers, James and Edward Andrews, who were in business as stone masons and glass blowers at the house now occupied by Mr. William T. Knight, boot maker, 14, High-street.

A modern stone, near the west side of the tower records a singular instance, namely the deaths of an old married couple during one night, and reads: Erected to the memory of William Thomas Litchfield who

OLNEY CHURCHYARD STONES

died Dec 27th 1874 aged 63, also of Mary, wife of the above, died Dec 28th 1874 aged 58 years.

In the east corner of the south side of the churchyard is a massive grey granite tombstone inscribed: John Newton died 21st Dec. 1807, aged 82. Mary Newton Died 15th Decr. 1790, aged 61.



Newton's Tomb Stone

John Newton, clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa was by the Rich Mercy of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ preserved, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the faith he has long laboured to destroy, near 16 years curate of this parish and 28 years as rector of St Mary Woolnoth.

These remains were removed from the Church of St Mary Woolnoth, in the City of London, and re-interred here 25th January 1893.

This monument is erected by a large number of subscribers who revere the memory and value the works of this eminent servant of God.

There is a goodly number of later day memorials, both in various coloured granites and marble, erected to members of the following families: Allen, Aspray, Barber, Berrill, Boyes, Brooks, Coles,

OLNEY CHURCHYARD STONES

69 John Roberts, Nov 4
 77 John Kent, Nov 11
 62 Ann Freeman, Nov 20
 3^{m*} Clara Minney, Dec 3
 15 Bertha Knight, Dec 6
 2 Reginald Pearson, Dec 18
 90 Susanna Raban, Dec 20
 2* Harrold John Kitchener,
 Dec 21
 6^m Florence Bertha Joyce, Dec 27

1891

2 Emma Sharp, Jan 10
 70 Thomas Crouch, Jan 11
 19^m Frank William Church, Jan 12
 16^m Harry Knight Lack, Jan 16
 58 Thomas Knight, Jan 19
 3^m Alice Ada Brown, Jan 18
 18^m Harry John Fellows, Mar 27
 75 Jane Worker, Apr 6
 72 John Boswell, Apr 18
 10^m Florie Champion, Apr 19
 63 Ann Hilton, Apr 22
 1^{d*} Annie Robinson, May 8
 81 Sarah Harris, May 18
 21 Harriet Berrill, June 3
 3^m William Alfred Johnson,
 June 4
 80 Susan Coles, June 8
 71 Ann Boswell, June 9
 46 Sarah Cotton, June 13
 87 Elizabeth Hall, June 23
 70 Jane Tarry, June 27
 62 Thomas Freeman, June 29
 49 William Mardlin, June 29
 22 Thomas Kitchener, July 5
 55 Selina Partridge, July 20
 29 John George Stow, Aug 10
 4^{w*} William Gammage, Aug 11
 33 Alice Maud Mary Wilford
 Aug 16
 60 William Gammage, Aug 20
 48 Sarah Ann Hopper, Aug 26
 3^m Mabel Finch Lichfield, Sep 1
 55 Walter Snow, Sep 28
 10^{w*} Arthur John Harris, Oct 24
 3^w John Henry Willey, Nov 15
 2^m Roland Peters, Dec 2
 54 Abraham Tunn, Dec 5
 19 Frank Charles Mynard,
 Dec 17

1892

77 Jane Aspray, Jan 8
 57 James Coles, Jan 16
 7^m Elizabeth Cooper Gibson,
 Jan 19
 53 Jane Fairey, Jan 20
 8^m Frederick Partridge, Jan 27

3^m William Robert Wright, Jan 29
 67 John Muskett, Jan 31
 80 Sarah Kent, Feb 11
 60 John Dix, Feb 11
 73 Jane Longland, Feb 25
 71 George Gammage, Mar 17
 73 Esther Coles, Mar 29
 72 Gilbert Ratcliff, Ap 15
 3^d Henry William Smith, Ap 16
 74 Ann Barnes, Ap19
 64 William Smith, May 16
 50 Eliza Clifton, May 17
 78 John Page, May 31
 72 William Brittain, June 1
 63 William Rose, June 11
 70 Susan Oliver, June 20
 66 Jane Stow, June 21
 30 Joseph Coles, July 8
 38 Jane Mary Raban, Jul 11
 49 Anne Berrill, July 20
 82 David Underwood, Jul 27
 68 Elizabeth Wright, Aug 17
 87 Ann Mynard, Sept 2
 3^m John Champion, Sept 3
 67 William Champion, Sep 17
 59 Deborah Dix, Sep 25
 1^m Florence Lucy Childs, Sep 28
 66 Isaac Barber, Dec 9
 1 Francis William Sowman,
 Dec 21

1893

82 John Newton, re-interred, Jan 25
 61 Mary Newton, re-interred,
 Jan 25
 4^m Kate Perkins, Feb 6
 7^m Alice Maud Mary Nicholls,
 Feb 22
 93 Ann Langley, Mar 4
 64 George Berrill, Mar 15
 66 Eliza Foskett, Mar 27
 52 William Edmund West, Mar 30
 20^m Elizabeth Martha Farrer, Apr 10
 67 Ann Coles, May 3
 46 William Skevington, June 14
 51 Albert Edward Skevington,
 July 10
 70 Thomas Sharp, July 23
 34 Alice Nichols, Sep 10
 19^d Florence Edith Peters, Sep 16
 67 Comfort Wilmer, Sep 23
 7 Elizabeth Richardson Partridge,
 Sep 30
 67 Sarah Ann Brookes, Oct 31
 6^m Florence Emily Tompkins,
 Nov 4
 1 Thomas Barwick, Dec 4
 51 Charles Marriott, Dec 20
 11^{d*} Herbert Chapman Coles, Dec 29

1894

70 Hannah Stow, Jan 2
 4 Maud Emily Odell, Jan 11
 2 Walter Haseldine, Jan 17
 49* Thomas Hooton, Feb 2
 71 Eliza Tarry, Feb 7
 64 Thomas White, Feb 8
 92 Joseph Palmer, Feb 10
 86 Sarah Turner, Feb 10
 76 Mary Dunn, Feb 21
 64 Caroline Higgs, Mar 21
 71 Jane Wright, Apr 15
 25 Annie Harris, Apr 21
 69 Thomas Foskett, Apr 24
 4^m George William Clark, May 1
 10^d Albert John Brittain, May 15
 9^m Doris Wright, May 22
 43 Frederick Tassell, May 22
 57 Thomas Hazeldine, June 19
 1^m Lizzie Champion, July 5
 18^m Sarah Jane Clark, July 21
 63 William Richard Clarke,
 July 30
 11^m Winifred Bertha Wilson, Sep 4
 2 Herbert Athol Saunders, Sep 9
 11^m Doris Lyman, Sep 27
 51 Eliza Anne Wright, Oct 1
 2^m David Adams, Oct 6
 1^m Winifred Maud Hooton, Oct 6
 47 Elizabeth Lord, Nov 6
 18^m Edward Hutton, Nov 14
 29 Lucy Jane Wright, Dec 29

1895

79 Susan Cooper, Jan 2
 52 Thomas York, Jan 9
 73 Hannah Drage, Feb 4
 36 Daniel Raban, Feb 21
 77 Enoch Johnson, Mar 11
 41 William James Aspray, Mar 14
 9 Elsie May Freeman, Ap 5
 80 Jane Archer, Ap 8
 81 John Brown Saunders, Ap 9
 77 Ann Church, Ap 9
 42 Benjamin Allus, Ap19
 72 James Hind, Ap 20
 40 George Coles, Ap 23
 73 Sarah Hubbard, May 10
 82 John Knight, May 11
 2^{m*} Joseph Francis John Griggs,
 June 5
 71 Selena Ratcliff, June 22
 6* Edith Richardson, June 25
 70 Thomas Field Coles, July 16
 2^m Doris May Johnson, July 18
 2* Frank Douglas Gelsthorpe,
 Aug 8
 33 Hephzibah Wright, Aug 9
 5^w Doris Maud Cattell, Aug 24
 17^m Alice Susan Cooper, Aug 28

OLNEY CHURCHYARD STONES

2 Ernest Thomas Holmes,
Sep 18
2^m Alice Ada Brown, Sep 27
68 Jason Hubbard, Oct 14
81 Jane Axam, Oct 23
44 Mary Ann Partridge, Nov 20
77 John Clarke, Nov 24
5^v Margaret Harrison, Nov 26
28 Ellen Amelia Robinson, Dec 9
68 Sarah Ann Brice, Dec 28

1896

24 Rebecca Watts, Jan 24
11^m Sidney Thomas Smith, Feb 3
11^{w*} Frederick Huckle, Feb 22
92 John Garrard, May 7
66 Joseph Whiting, May 27
76 Sarah Marshall, May 30
78 Mary Ann Welton, June 1
8^m George Edmund Boswell,
June 12
12 Jesse Fanthorpe, June 13
50 Dorcas Coles, July 5
76 James Smith, July 9
3^m Florence Annie Smith, July 25
90 William Garrard, Sep 11
69 Hannah Neal, Sep 17
2^{m*} Rose Champion, Sep 25
5 Hilda Margaret Timperly,
Oct 3
86 Sarah Gillman, Oct 12
76 Sarah Muskett, Dec 24

1897

83 Eliza Knight, Jan 2
6^{m*} Ivy Wooton, Jan 13
4 Gladys Annie Harris, Jan 16
87 George Odell, Jan 17
23 Minnie Ruffhead, Feb 24
53 Catherine Freeman, Mar 28
12^d Mary Anne Elizabeth
Freeman, Ap 8
48 Emily Elizabeth Hipwell,
Ap 23
6^{m*} Reggie Chater, June 5
20 George Wise, June 8
74 John Drage, June 16
45 Sarah Andrews, July 19
33 Zenas Minney, Sep 6
30 Frederick Boswell, Sep 20
1^m Frank Hinde, Oct 4
2 Edith Rose Tompkins, Dec 10
17 Emily Elizabeth Tapell,
Nov 12
34 Martha Annie Smith, Nov 13
81 John Barnes, Nov 15
53 Hoddle Harrison, Nov 23
65 Elizabeth Peters, Nov 24
64 Carrington Garlick, Dec 5
83 Mary Hooton, Dec 7

20^m Lucy Smith, Dec 8
73 Isaac West, Dec 11
80 John Marshall, Dec 14
6^m Winifred Mabel Saunders,
Dec 17

1898

22^m Maud Edith Wooding, Jan 1
1^m Kate Smith, Jan 1
73 Eliza Bishop, Jan 2
35 Annie Eva Hipwell, Jan 8
74 Thomas Scott, Jan 19
5^m Lillian Alice Coles, Jan 21
74 Sarah Field, Feb 2
70 Jane Slater, Feb 6
56 Anne Scott, Feb 22
60 John Knight, Feb 23
55 Sarah Abraham, Mar 10
64 Daniel Knight, Mar 15
65 Sarah Ann Clark, Mar 16
1^{m*} Florence Mary Underwood,
Mar 26
77 Mary Ann Scott, Mar 28
17^m Charles Johnson, Mar 29
50 Elizabeth Griffiths, Ap 4
76 Elizabeth France Ap 11
1^m Charles William Newberry,
Ap 25
2 Florence Ellen Britton, Ap 29
37 Lois Brown, May 3
94 Thomas Freeman, May 16
4^{m*} Leslie Albert Peters, June 5
62 Thomas Wallinger, June 6
1^{m*} May Elizabeth Looms, June 15
52 Sarah Minney, June 18
52 Mary Ann Whitmere, June 17
75 Job Church, July 8
38 Mary Ann York, Aug 3
2 Frederick James Wilson,
Aug 29
50 James Farrar, Sep 5
82 Edward Hinde, Sep 6
61 Mary Sophia Skevington,
Sep 10
82 Mary Robinson, Sep 19
62 John Arthur Iliffe, Oct 3
65 Edward Syngé Wilson, Oct 5
79 Ann Limbrey, Oct 27
81 Peter Field, Oct 30
80 Samuel Perkins, Nov 1
54 Clara Hoddle, Nov 7
7^m John Henry Harris, Nov 16
63 Richard Freeman, Nov 20
64 Mary Ann Coles, Dec 8
72 Isabella Hinde, Dec 31

1899

11^m Anne Elizabeth Smith, Jan 7
22^m Francis Levi Childs, Jan 11
14^m Mary Ann Wilson Jan 11

13^m Arthur John Chaplin, Jan 30
72 George Tyrell, Feb 11
79 James Stow, Feb 17
57 Joseph Procter, Feb 24
47 Charles William Elmer, May 11
3 Doris May Hooton, Mar 16
53 Elizabeth Harris, Mar 18
21 Catherine Mary Meakins,
May 13
38 James Barwick, May 28
72 Jane Hooton, June 4
65 John Horne, June 11
77 Esther Crouch, June 14
58 Jane Underwood, June 14
82 Sarah Robinson, June 15
52 Mary Ann Farrer, June 17
51 Emily Gertrude Stevens
Morgan, July 11
20 Harriet Jane Farrer, Aug 5
29 Mary Ann Graves, Oct 1
67 Elizabeth Dix, Oct 15
76 William Odell, Nov 17
6 Christabel Marjory Wright,
Nov 29
11 William Saunders, Nov 30
79 Martha Gammage, Dec 11
64 Martha Partridge, Dec 28

1900

72 Thomas Wethers, Jan 4
69 George William Raban, Jan 11
75 Ann Church, Jan 13
63* George Withers, Jan 14
42 Sarah Ann Wright, Jan 20
77 Harriet Green, Feb 7
56 Charles Kempster, Feb 21
39 Annie Maria Brandon, Feb 22
38 Thomas Partridge, Mar 4
63 Eliza Jones, Mar 6
76 William Hooton, Mar 11
79 Maria Minett, Mar 16
4* Harry Huckle, Mar 16
12 Annie Elizabeth Hazeldine,
Mar 28
76 Thomas Clarke, Mar 31
35 Emma Tarry, April 3
18 Florence Huckle, May 10
33 Fanny Smith, May 12
43 Benjamin Stow, June 4
76 Hannah Pratt, June 9
15 Florence Mary Sharp, June 15
63 Thomas Brittain, June 28
53 William Thomas Marriott,
June 30
63 Robert Huckle, July 3
59 Jane Stanton, July 10
8^m Elsie Caroline Shouler, July 11
25^d Doris Mary Alice Lett, July 21
6^m William Kitchener, Aug 8
42 Joseph Partridge, Aug 19

OLNEY CHURCHYARD STONES

- 18^m Harriet May Sharp, Sep 4
 73 Elizabeth Smith, Sept 5
 2^m Charles William Newbery,
 Sep 26
 53 Isabella Dunmore Perkins,
 Sep 27
 50 William Peters, Sep 30
 5^m Stanley John Thomas
 Brittain, Oct 6
 1^{d*} Maurice M^cMenamin, Oct 8
 2 Thomas Paine Chater, Oct 31
 64 Charlotte Emma Freeman,
 Nov 18
 18 Emily Harriet Charlotte
 Goldsmith, Nov 30
 29 George Crouch, Dec 17
 44 Emily Goldsmith, Dec 18
- 1901**
- 70 Caroline Parrot, Jan 10
 59 John Coles, Jan 11
 58 Josiah Wright, Jan 27
 75 William Lucas, Feb 7
 47 William Richardson, Feb 7
 48 Louisa Phillpot, Feb 8
 66 Sarah Carter, Feb 9
 84 Ann Freeman, Feb 9
 78 Emma Redmill, Feb 13
 71 Susannah Tarry, Mar 18
 3^{m*} Edith Jane Partridge, Mar 23
 4 Violet Steff Jordan, Mar 27
 44 James Norman, April 1
 2 Annie Maud Ada Aldridge,
 Ap 7
 75 Elizabeth Peters, Ap 22
 48 Elizabeth Boswell, Ap 24
 80 Isabel Clarke, Ap 30
 59 Martha Maria Field, May 3
 61 James Minard, May 4
 78 Harriet Raban, May 8
 76 Elizabeth Kent, June 24
 20* Edith Hoddle, July 12
 61 Richard Edward Hale
 Saunders, July 23
 66 Catherine Sharp, Aug 10
 51 Annie Matilda Saunders,
 Aug 13
 75 Mary Anne Jane Ledger,
 Aug 21
 63 Mary Ann Freeman, Sep 25
 3 Fanny Mary Watson, Oct 23
 52 Sarah Hannah Dix, Nov 1
 61 Joseph Crouch, Nov 23
 51 Ann Aldridge, Nov 30
 32 Arthur Peters, Dec 9
 4 Lilian Elsie Timperley Dec 9
 14 John Howson, Dec 26
- 1902**
- 41 William Andrews, Jan 4
- 70* Mary Anne Sharpe, Jan 4
 42 Selina Whiting, Jan 13
 10 Edith Andrews, Jan 18
 7^{m*} Horace George Hill, Feb 1
 66 Thomas Knight, Feb 4
 89 Ruth Smee, Feb 11
 93 Mary Fraiel, Feb 18
 43 Fanny Hipwell, Feb 20
 40 William Soames, Mar 8
 27 Ernest Walter Coles, Mar 24
 7^m Gladys Crouch, Ap 14
 31 Herbert Horn, Ap 21
 82 George Hinds, Ap 28
 51 Sarah Perkins, May 3
 79 Susan Umney, May 10
 54 Charles Wright, May 17
 18 Charles Ernest Brandon,
 May 26
 72 Caroline Brown, May 29
 49 John Tyrell Wooding, June 16
 95 Ann Hoddle, June 20
 3 Gertrude May Branson, June 29
 55 Joseph Travil, Aug 5
 72 John Higgs, Aug 14
 78 Maria Morgan, Aug 28
 7^m Lillian Kate Wright, Nov 11
 42 William Wethers, Dec 1
 73 Mary Ann Limbrey, Dec 19
 62 Harriet Morgan, Dec 20
 71 George Mynard, Dec 26
 85 Susan Paybody, Dec 30
- 1903**
- 2^m Doris Winifred Rice, Jan 6
 29 Lottie Page, Jan 7
 74 Thomas Eyles, Jan 9
 63 James Griggs, Jan 17
 53 Sarah Sanders, Jan 17
 4 Nellie Sharpe, Jan 22
 3 Margaret Emma Partridge,
 Feb 4
 79 John Luck Field, Feb 11
 51 William Aldridge, Feb 12
 3 Mary Hilton, Feb 16
 1 Violet Beatrice Payne, Feb 20
 9^w Kathleen Jane Clifton, Mar 17
 31 Richard Edward Sanders,
 Mar 10
 20 Lucy Field, Ap 15
 60 Mary Dawes, May 1
 48 Elizabeth Ann Mobbs, May 14
 77 Mary Partridge, June 1
 21 Thomas Charles Perkins,
 June 10
 67 Hannah Bridget Whitmee,
 June 13
 24 Alfred James Dix, June 24
 72 Ann Elizabeth Pettet, June 29
 4 Joseph Melbourne Peters, Aug 1
 80 Samuel Freeman, Aug 19
- 80 Samuel Dawes, Aug 21
 19 Athol Augustus Wilford, Sep 8
 61 Alice Clark, Sep 17
 4^m Doris Ada Shaw, Oct 8
 44 Lydia King Peach, Oct 23
 72 Henry John Turnell, Nov 2
- 1904**
- 89 Judith Cotton, Jan 4
 47 Louis Harris, Feb 6
 77 Mary Ann Cattell, Feb 11
 82 Jane Valentine Holmes, Feb 22
 4^m Constance Dorothy Hutton,
 Feb 25
 3^m Lillian May Elson, Feb 27
 2^m Lillian May Kitchener, Mar 9
 61 John Perkins, Mar 9
 82 Mary Ann Hoddle, Mar 18
 21^d Louie Kathleen Shouler May 2
 77 Mary Ann Perkins, May 6
 37 William Coles, May 19
 40 Charles Barnard Dimmock,
 May 24
 65 Charles Newell Roberts.
 June 22
 49 John Wethers, July 14
 16^d Ellen Elizabeth Hooton, Aug 5
 13 John George Wethers, Aug 31
 44 Sarah Holmes, Sep 2
 66 Edward Hinde Knight, Oct 7
 42 Elizabeth Emma Boswell,
 Oct 11
 78 John Griggs, Oct 22
 66 Marianne Coles, Nov 26
 4^w Mabel Aldridge, Nov 28
 1^m Maggie Aldridge, Dec 3
 3^m Geoffrey Hart, Dec 19
- 1905**
- 54 Harriet Jane Perkins, Jan 9
 47 Mary Anne Travil, Jan 11
 72 Elizabeth Berrill, Jan 25
 10^d Bessie Taunt, Feb 10
 64 William Osborn, Feb 14
 80 William Cook, Feb 16
 82 John Morgan, Feb 24
 34 Mary Field, Feb 25
 25 Violet Field, Mar 4
 68 Mary Ann Page, Mar 9
 50 William Samuel Wilford,
 Mar 12
 6^m William Fred Field, Mar 27
 70 Sarah Robinson, Ap 3
 79 James Wilmer, Ap 5
 72 Louisa Jordan, Ap 15
 64 Henry Saunders, May 8
 67 Charles Hoodle, May 16
 37 Albert Edwin Knight, May 26
 80 Sarah Ann Durdin, June 23
 81 Charles Mitchell, July 10

OLNEY CHURCHYARD STONES

25 Henry Cowtan Hatton, July 11
 8 Florence Hilton, July 17
 1^m Lucilla Goldsmith, July 17
 7^w May Goldsmith, Aug 2
 83 Ann Barratt, Aug 11
 84 Samuel Payne, Aug 15
 58 William Richard Ager, Oct 2
 2 Ethel Dix, Oct 9
 71 James F Ingham, Oct 20
 43 John Henry Adams, Nov 13
 16 Benjamin Joseph Brooks,
 Nov 13
 63 Marianne Knight, Nov 13
 Hannah Watson, Nov 21
 41 Jane Anne Sowman, Dec 6
 16 Eliza Chaplin, Dec 16

1906

79 William Whitmee, Jan 4
 24 Helen Kate Hooton, Jan 8
 81 Matilda Sharp, Jan 15
 22 James Farrar, Jan 26
 5^w Mabel Coleman, Jan 20
 81 James Drage, Feb 19
 50 John Bellamy, Feb 11
 66 Amos Clifton, Mar 7
 19^m Alice Barwick, Mar 15
 83 Daniel Tarry, Mar 21
 82 William Bellamy, Mar 21
 93 Ann Foster, Mar 24
 85 Sarah Sleath, Ap 9

82 Phebe Scott, Ap 7
 76 John Morris, Ap 20
 33 Sarah Chater, Ap25
 84 Elizabeth Pailthorpe, May 11
 5^m Samuel Chater, May 12
 14 Elsie Florence Dimmick, June 7
 3^w Harry Frederick Harrison,
 July 23
 77 William Taylor, Aug 27
 56 Archer Field, Sep 3
 27 Arthur Charles Lyman, Sep 10
 18 Lizzie Hinde, Sep 11
 82 Sarah West, Sep 25
 75 George Julian Spencer, Oct 8
 4^w Olive Eliza Richardson, Oct 20
 70 Mary Ann Harrold, Oct 20
 53 William Stratton, Nov 6
 73 Fanny Knight, Nov 7
 48 Jane Jones, Nov 10
 76 Anne Wright, Nov 11
 78 Ann Barnfield, Nov 13
 10 John Elfric Sturart, Nov 22
 28^d Kate Evelyn Tinston, Nov 22
 63 James Carter, Nov 28
 73 James Whitmee, Nov 28
 76 Rosanna Richardson, Nov 29
 50 Emma Annie Elizabeth Bayliss
 Hatton, Dec 18
 62 Annie Selina Ruffhead, Dec 20
 39 Gertrude Mary York, Dec 21

1907

75 Eliza Woodling, Jan 14
 56 Eliza Anne West, Jan 31
 76 Returah Katherine Philips,
 Jan 30
 77 Ann Loveridge, Feb 9
 50 Margaret Amelia Sheridan,
 Feb 12
 64 Sarah Freeman, Feb 13
 89 Mary Mead, Feb 23
 56 Charles Clarke, Mar 9
 7^m Myma Barwick, Ap 6
 16 Daisy May Dix, Ap 6
 30 Ann Selma Taunt, Ap 18
 45 Samuel Church, Ap 19
 86 Esther Barber, May 4
 65 William Wright, May 6
 87 John Chaplain, May 22
 36 James Andrews, May 23
 80 George Coles, May 24
 40 Susanna Lucy Johnson, June 22
 45 Thomas Charles Freeman,
 July 11
 41 Rose Anne Campion, July 18
 23^m Dorothy Alice Willis, July 25
 20 Percy James Coles, Aug 12
 56 John Church, Sep 10
 24 Walter Peters, Sep 18

A Ratcliff 'end piece'

New Sideboard for the Party:

The band had secured an engagement, and when the leader called at the house of one of the instrumentalists to acquaint him of the fact, he was met by the lady of the house, who looked worried.

"You'll 'ave to manage without 'Enry," she said. "Our New Year party done for 'is band outin's. Some of our company started dancin' after supper, and 'Enry's brother Bob, who weighs fifteen stone odd, managed to ketch 'is foot in the cocoanut mattin' and fell through our sideboard."

"Not 'urt bad, I 'ope?" "Bob wasn't, but the sideboard was." "Then why can't 'Enry come?" "Cos 'e can't," explained the lady. "'Enry's big drum is our sideboard when we're givin' a party."

OLNEY CHURCHYARD STONES



The Knoll



High Street

Olney's Bells and Their Ringers.

The tower of SS Peter and Paul's Church is supplied with a harmonious peal of eight bells which are manipulated by a very efficient corps of nine ringers whose names are: Ed Boswell, Frank Boswell, B Fisher, W Jones, Rowland Perkins, W Robinson, H Rose, Sidney Smith (their foreman), and Thomas Wright.

The records in connection with the bells and belfry are very scanty owing to the old documents of the church having been lost and the later day ones being burned by orders of thoughtless churchwardens. The few following entries are the only ones that can be traced.

In 1611 four shillings were paid to the ringers when the Queen (Anne, wife of James I) came through the town.

December 27, 1851. Very little ringing of the bells this Xmas on account of the illness of Mrs C Talbot.

September 15, 1852. Our g^t Bell rung out, Hour & half in honour of the Hero - His Grace the Duke of Wellington.

December 1, 1853. Tolling of the Bells (muffled) throughout the day for the funeral of the Rt Hon Earl of Dartmouth, the Lord of the Manor.

In the Belfry there are the following records:

SS Peter & Paul. December 16, 1895. A peal of 720 Bob Minor was rung by T Wright, treble; R Perkins, 2; W Wright, 3; S Smith, 4; W Jones, 5; R Raban, Tenor. The first peal rung by a local band.

Olney, Bucks. The Oxford Diocesan Guild. North Bucks Branch. On Saturday, October 29, 1904, in three hours and sixteen minutes, at the church of SS Peter and Paul, a peal of Bob Major, 5,056 changes, Tenor, 25 cwt, was rung by William Jones, treble; Frank Boswell, 2; Fred Mynard, 3; John Lovel, 4; William Robinson, 5; Sidney Smith, 6; William Freeman, 7; Rowland Perkins, tenor. Composed by G Hughes and conducted by W Freeman. First peal of Major by the Branch. Rev S Smith, vicar. A Allen, J C Hipwell, churchwardens.

Olney Bucks. The Oxford Diocesan Guild. North Bucks Branch. On Saturday, October 13th, 1906, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes, at the Church of SS Peter and Paul, a peal of Treble Bob Major, 5,088 Changes, in the Oxford Variation. Tenor 25 cwt. in D. Bernard Fisher, treble; Frank Boswell, 2. Jacob Lovell, 3; William J Robinson, 4. Frederick W Booth, 5; Sydney W H Smith, 6; Frederick J Mynard, 7; William Freeman, Tenor. Composed by A Knight. Conducted by W Freeman. First Peal in the Method on the Bells, 1st Peal in the Method by the Band, 1st Peal on eight by F Booth, 1st Peal of Treble Bob Major by the Branch, and rang at the first attempt.

The inscriptions on the bells, their weight and diameter in :

| | | <i>Weight of Bell Cwts</i> | <i>Diam of Bell Inches</i> |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>First:</i> | <i>Boswell & Son, Founders, Ipswich. Bequeathed to the Parish Church of Olney by Thomas Eyles 1903</i> | <i>7½</i> | <i>32½</i> |
| <i>Second:</i> | <i>Same as above</i> | <i>7 ¾</i> | <i>34</i> |
| <i>Third:</i> | <i>God Save the King. Henry Bagley made mee. There are impressions of nine five- shilling pieces of Charles II upon this bell</i> | <i>8</i> | <i>35½</i> |
| <i>Fourth:</i> | <i>God Save the Queen, 1535</i> | <i>9</i> | <i>36</i> |
| <i>Fifth:</i> | <i>Thomas Martin, Richard Pheasant, Chvrchwardens, Henry Bagley made mee, 1699. Thomas Martin</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>40¾</i> |
| <i>Sixth:</i> | <i>Robert Atton of Buckingham made mee, 1631. Robert Atton</i> | <i>13</i> | <i>45</i> |
| <i>Seventh:</i> | <i>Iohn Markes and Thomas Osborne, Chvchwardens. Thomas Russell of Wooton made mee, 1733. On this bell are ten impressions of shillings of George I. Iohn Markes</i> | <i>17</i> | <i>48</i> |
| <i>Eighth:</i> | <i>Matthew Pye Arthvr Bvck, Chvrchwardens 1682. Insigni Thome Iohnson Arm. There are impressions of crown pieces of Charles II on this bell. Matthew Pye</i> | <i>25</i> | <i>53</i> |

On the great bell before it was recast was “Ora pro nobis virgo Maria.”

OLNEY'S BELLS & THEIR RINGERS



Market Place



Market Place

Some of Olney's Book Writers

The two most recent books emanating from Olney are 'The Life of Walter Pater', by Mr Thomas Wright, and 'With the 10th Imperial Yeomanry', by Mr Alfred Smith, coal merchant, & c.

The book on Pater obtained phenomenal success - its first edition being sold out on the day of publication, thus testifying to the esteem in which its author is looked upon in the publishing world. It teems with quaint remarks and doings funnily put together by Mr Thomas Wright, so much so that it attracted the attention of *Punch* who is ever on the alert for tit-bits. Mr Punch jocularly suggests the illustrations for 'Darwin and his Family,' a work which we need scarcely say Mr Wright is not engaged upon.

The 'Charivari' account of April 3rd, 1907, is as follows:-

'Having successfully brought out his monumental illustrated Life of the late WALTER PATER, Mr THOMAS WRIGHT has, we are informed, now returned to the completion of his biographical *magnum opus*, *Darwin and his Friends*. Here for the first time a flood of light will be thrown on the great Victorian philosopher and naturalist's inner life, which will, as in the case of PATER, be inexorably illustrated by a profusion of magnificent and poignantly appropriate plates, many hundreds in number.

Of these the most important and significant are the following:-

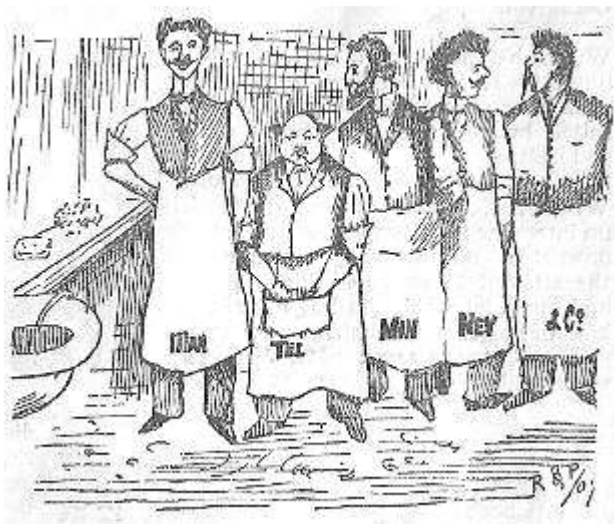
- (1) *Figure head of the Beagle, in which DARWIN made his celebrated voyage to South America.*
- (2) *Belaying-pin from the Beagle, kindly lent by the grandson of the purser who sailed on the voyage in question.*

SOME OF OLNEY'S BOOK WRITERS

(3) *Photograph of the Eton Beagles breaking up a hare.*

(4) *Portrait of the Headmaster of Eton conversing with Mr WRIGHT*

(5) *Portraits of Mr SILAS K HOCKING, Miss MARIE CORELLI, and Mr MORLEY*



ROBERTS, illustrating DARWIN'S notorious fondness for novels.

(6) *Facsimile (life-size) of early Victorian bull's eyes, to illustrate DARWIN'S extraordinary partiality as a boy for sweetmeats.*

(7) *Pen-drawing of DARWIN'S dustbin, with Mr WRIGHT in the foreground.*

(8) *Facsimile of one of DARWIN'S washing bills now in the possession of a biographer.*

(9) *Facsimile of a letter from DARWIN declining an*

honorary degree from the University of Speonk, NY.



(10) *Daguerreotype portrait of the hairdresser who used to cut the hair of the great philosopher.*

(11) *Daguerreotype portraits of five other hairdressers who never cut DARWIN'S hair.*

- (12) *Photograph of the stocks at Down (Kent), with Mr WRIGHT in the foreground.*
- (13) *Photograph of Down Street Station on the Brompton-King's Cross Tube Railway.*
- (14) *Photograph of DARWIN'S family boot trees.*
- (15) *Pen drawing of two lumps of sugar which DARWIN refused to have put in a cup of tea while paying an afternoon visit on Mrs BEGTHWAYT, a neighbour of his in Kent.*
- (16) *Water-colour sketch of a rocking-horse belonging to the grand-niece of DARWIN'S groom, ANDREW BOAKES.*
- (17) *Enlarged photograph of an earthworm recently discovered at Down by Mr WRIGHT.*
- (18) *Photograph (reduced) of a carpet bag belonging to JOSEPH WORNUM, a schoolmate of DARWIN'S who subsequently made a fortune as a hardware manufacturer.*
- (19) *Collotype portraits of three friends of DARWIN of whom no one has ever heard.*
- (20) *Three-colour print of a toboggan run at Montana (Switzerland), representing 'The Descent of Man'.*
- (21) *Pen drawing of waste-paper basket formerly belonging to DARWIN, now in the possession of his biographer.*
- (22) *Portrait of Mr BERNARD DARWIN, the famous amateur golfer, as he appeared when interrogated by Mr WRIGHT on the subject of missing links.*
- (23) *Photograph of Wright's Lane, Kensington.*
- (24) *Snapshots of the DARWIN family on receiving the momentous intelligence that Mr WRIGHT was determined to undertake the biography of their illustrious ancestor'.*

SOME OF OLNEY'S BOOK WRITERS

NB: The three below remind one of those who trotted *Punch* round the town - failing themselves to see where the laugh came in.

The following reviews give a fair idea of how our well-known townsman's book was received.

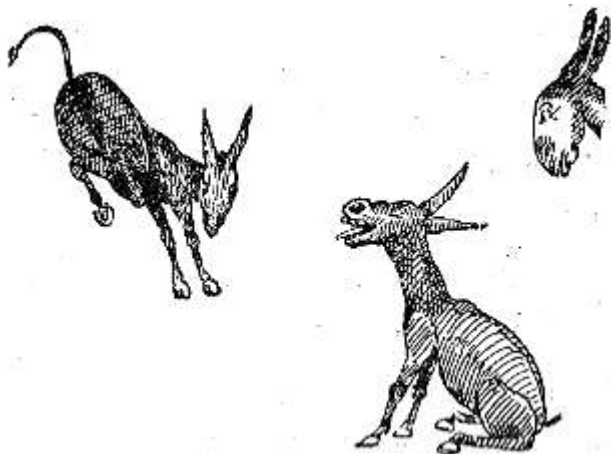
The *Daily News* says: 'Certainly for the first time in biography Pater lives and moves in this narrative.'

The *Athenæum* says: 'The book contains a good deal of new material, especially in the account given of the literary relations between Pater and Oscar Wilde'.



The *Pall Mall Gazette* says: 'Mr Wright has produced a work of great interesthe has succeeded in compiling a record which must be consulted by all students of Pater's work and character'.

The *Standard* says: 'Mr Thomas Wright.....leaves no stone unturned, no interview unaccomplished, no letter unwritten, no pilgrimage unmade, in the attempt to sweep all things, great and small, into the great drag net of the kind of biography in which he excels'.



The *Scotsman* says: 'Mr Wright's work makes faith at once as a book distinguished primarily and essentially by the scholar's virtue of patient research and exact learning.. This biographer

does not deny Pater insight and genius, and so may be said to allow him everything; but it must be for erudition, for substantial value as a storehouse of hard facts.....that these volumes rank as important in the history of English literature in the nineteenth century. They have a rich equipment of portraits of Pater and his friends (including him who was the model for Marius, the Epicurean) and of the places associated with Pater's academic and literary activities. They are remarkably wealthy in particulars concerning his youthful years and his life at school and as an undergraduate. They give an interesting account of the central event of his life, his connection with the St Austin's 'monkery'. They are full of anecdote, full of facts, full of interesting little things'.

The *Times* draws attention to 'the mass of new facts accumulated by Mr Wright'.

The *Outlook* says: "Much amusement may be collected from these two large volumes".

P.T.O. says 'Ruthless in anecdote, Boswellian in candour, unlimited in curiosity is Mr Thomas Wright's biography.....*The Life of Walter Pater*, as Mr Wright has written it, is a wonderfully full and entertaining account of a man's relation to his age'.

The *Oxford Chronicle* says: 'Mr Wright's researches have brought to light a great many facts about Pater's school days at Canterbury of which nothing has been given by previous biographers.'

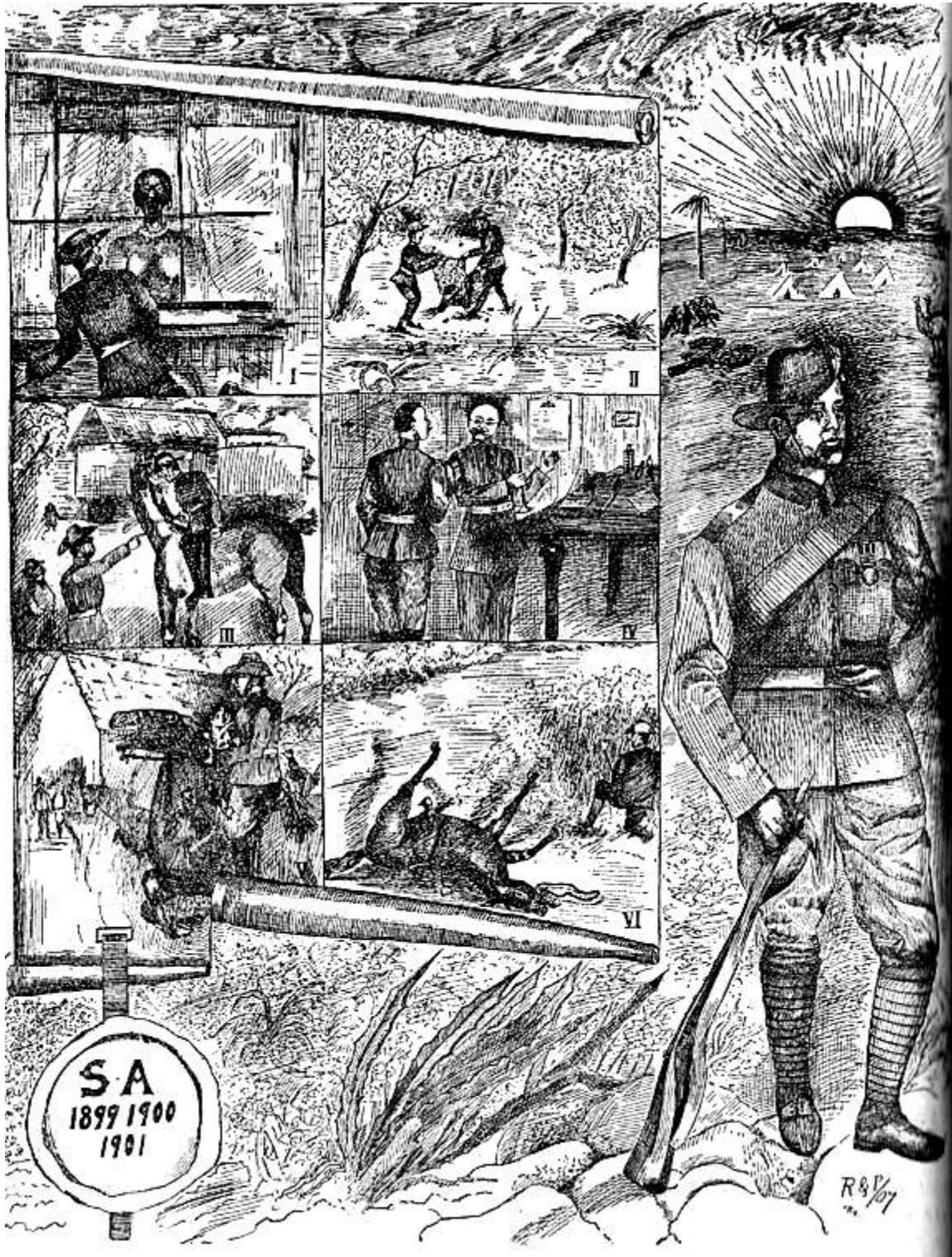
OLNEY'S PAST AND PRESENT



Two poets in two distant periods born
The quiet town of Olney did adorn :
The first in tenderness and wit surpassed,
A humorous fancy percolates the last.
If this you doubt procure his latest tome.
And read the lines “He brought them Something
Home”.

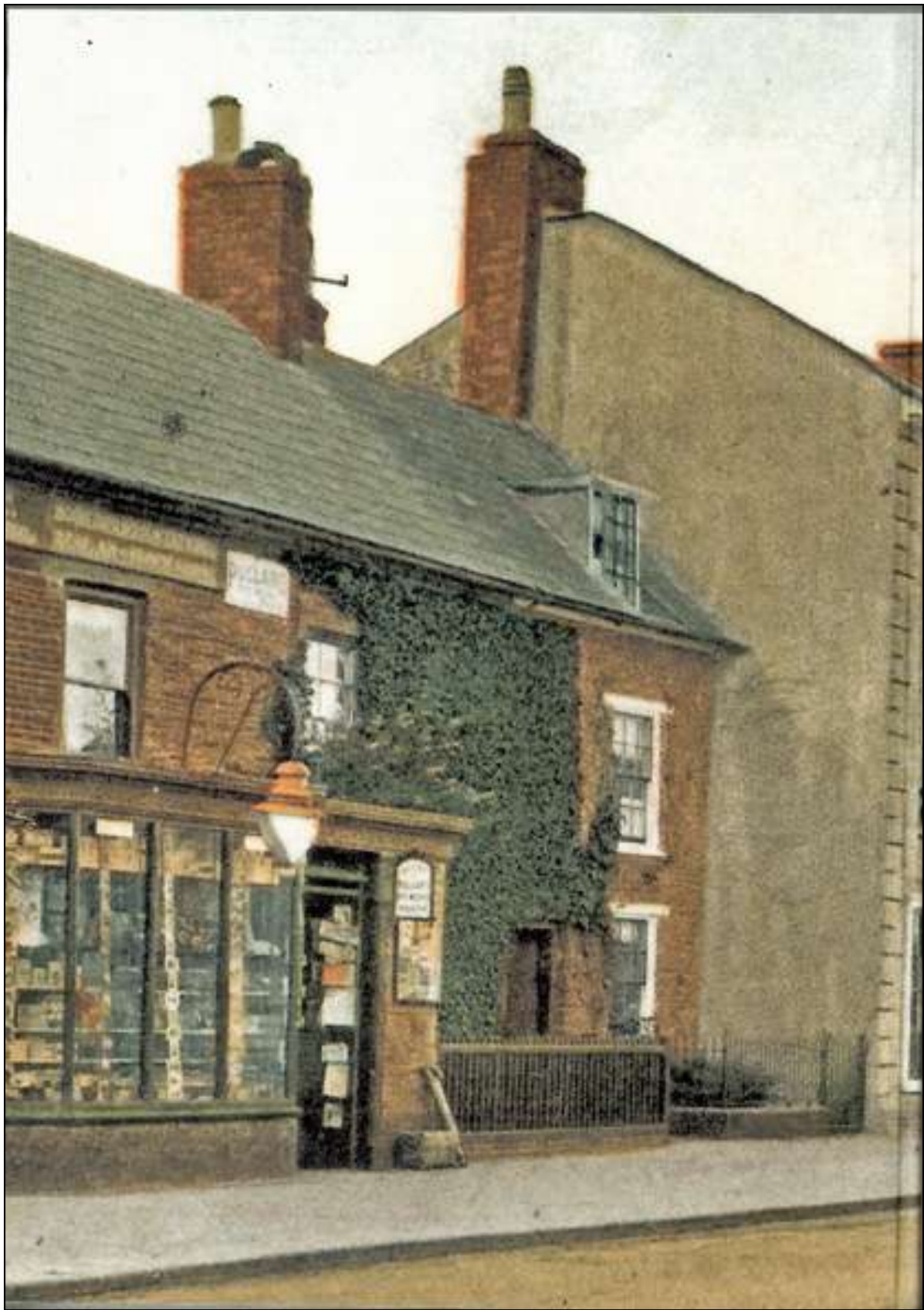
Mr Smith's ‘With the 10th Imperial Yeomanry’, who terms himself ‘Tommy Atkins’ on page 68, line 31, of his *brochure*, gives a graphic illustration of his remembered experiences from the time he volunteered for active service in South Africa on December 22nd 1899,

until he returned on April 22nd, 1901. He had many exciting experiences and home sicknesses, but never-the-less came through the ordeal of warfare fairly well, as his present smiling face and agile appearance leads one to believe.



There are many comical incidents which might have been illustrated for the amusement of readers of these pages had space permitted. The following quotation will fully explain the six illustrations depicted herewith upon the scroll at the side of 'Tommy' who is standing sentry upon the South African veldt, as 'A Soldier of the Queen'.

- I. Page 34, line 34 - "My dismay was needless for a smile greeted me".
- II. Page 38, line 31 - "Disposed of the oranges by putting them in our shirts".
- III. Page 41, line 24 - "Here was a nice thing; wagons ready to start, and I had lost my horse! Only one thing could be done; that was - to pinch another. So going over to another wagon to which several horses were tied, I selected the best.....and put my saddlery on.....a claimant showed himself for the horse, a few hot words, a few lies, with plenty of bluff, and I retained my thievish capture".
- IV. Page 71, line 33 - "At last came my turn and when I faced the doctor.....'Well what is wrong with you? Let me see your tongue.....you have better take medicine and duty".
- V. Page 88, line 7 - "To my lot fell five hens and a sucking pig".
- VI. Page 90, line 33 - "My horse, trembling violently, fell to the ground - dead.....I then crawled a few yards to take cover behind a bush".



Rear cover to the ODHS 2008 reproduction