

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

No. 2

Autumn 2013

VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY



Hampshire

Summer Walk to Farleigh Wallop - Skylarks, goats and mermaids !

In late July a group of eight VCH volunteers met at Cliddesden primary school and set out on footpaths between hedgerows heavy with blossom to Farleigh church and on to the hamlet of Farleigh Wallop. Skylarks sang overhead. Looking north, Basingstoke is clearly visible on the far side of the M3. The school, which opened in 1875, is some way out of Cliddesden village, up a steep hill, and stands high on the downs with commanding views to the south over the rolling countryside. It was built to serve the parishes of Cliddesden, Farleigh Wallop and Ellisfield, so getting to school meant a long daily walk for the children, especially hard in the winter.

St. Andrew's church, Farleigh Wallop, stands on its own, isolated, and surrounded by meadows. On the site of a medieval church, it was re-built in 1750 and restored in 1871. Its cruciform shape is unusual, whilst its beautifully kept interior serves as a memorial chapel to the Wallop family. Assistant rector, the Revd Stephen Mourant, showed us around the church and its treasures, including carved wooden goats on each end of the altar rails, and then he pointed



ed us on our way. The path led through the great barns of Home Farm and on to Farleigh House, home of Lord and Lady Portsmouth, and the few houses that surround it. Having admired the mermaids on the entrance gates of Farleigh House and the newly thatched Social Club, we re-traced our steps, deciding to leave outlying Swallick Farm for another day.

Sue Lane

A HUGE ORDER FOR HOOPS!

Tucked in one of the rough account books of John Ring, auctioneer & furnisher in Basingstoke (**HRO8M62/12**), are three letters from 1793 which show how far his clientele ranged – and how speedy the postal service was!

On 19 February John Trotter wrote from Soho, London, to ask for his assistance in procuring *"a very large quantity of White Coopers hoops made of Ash 36 inches long by one inch and one eighth of an inch in width – one edge must be one quarter of an inch thick and the other one eighth of an inch, perfectly flat on both sides"*. Four hundred gross were required immediately.

The next day John Ring replied that there were only two hoop makers in Basingstoke. One had very large orders already but the other provided terms for sending up carriage-free 25 gross a week at least, at 10/- per gross. By return the cooper was asked to proceed.

The *Universal British Directory* for 1793-8 confirms that there were only two coopers (hoop shavers) in the town. One was John Shackelford, who accepted the order, and the other was Charles Ring. Was he a relation and is that why John Ring asked him first? And what would hoops of that specification be needed for in such a hurry? Much too short for barrels for beer - Trotter was *"a well-known military supplier"* and this was during the Napoleonic Wars, so what about cartridges or gunpowder? Barbara Applin

THE BLUE COAT SCHOOL, BASINGSTOKE



Aldworth's Hospital School in Cross Street opened in 1656 after a bequest from Sir Richard Aldworth for the 'education and bringing upp of ten poore Male Children'. Part of the uniform consisted of a blue jacket, waistcoat, leather breeches and yellow hose which gave rise to the colloquial name of the Blue Coat School.

Nominated boys slept two to a bed. They were taught the Catechism, to read, write and cypher and had to attend church weekly. In their final year aged 16, they were apprenticed out for seven years in the town, surrounding villages and London in such trades as shoemaking, milling, papermaking and the cloth industry. They were not allowed to gamble with cards or dice, frequent playhouses or taverns or marry. The 1709 indenture for William Adams, apprenticed to an Alton basket maker, specifically banned him from attending Quaker meetings.

In 1811 National School boys shared the premises. Finances were tight and the Revd Thomas Sheppard and his wife did much to support the school. The master's wife mended their clothes; the leather breeches had been replaced by corduroy and it was suggested that the National School girls could make the shirts. Each boy received bread, quarter of a pound of meat, 2oz of cheese and quarter of a pint of small beer per day. By 1876 they were described as gaunt and underfed, eating their meals on a dresser in the master's kitchen.

The building was enlarged to accommodate 292 children including girls but by 1879 the Aldworth endowment could no longer maintain the Blue Coat boys. The premises continued as the National School, Board School and a private school. In 1896 Messrs Milward, boot and shoe manufacturers, took over the lease. The Aldworth Printing Works bought the property in 1926 but the north side of Cross Street was demolished in 1966 to make way for Timberlake Road. A statue of a Blue Coat boy stands on the school site and Aldworth's Educational Trust still helps pupils in the Borough with small grants.



For more information of apprentices and the school go to: <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/> Jennie Butler

In 1763 Benjamin Woodroffe, rector of Cliddesden, left land in Norfolk to his niece who had been "unhappily educated" by a "Father of the Popish religion". He stipulated that her inheritance would be cancelled if she entered a Popish nunnery or religious house, either in this country or beyond seas after his death. Wills Reading Group

Anthony Spittle, innkeeper in Basingstoke (d.1633), had substantial assets and property including "fower earthen pictures of lions" and a "bald nagg" which he left to his wife even though she had actually purchased it herself from a neighbour! Wills Reading Group

Hampshire VCH group is currently researching the history of Basingstoke and its surrounding rural parishes. When a rural chapter or urban section is completed, it is published on the Hampshire section of the national VCH website: <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire> Transcriptions of documents used for research and short articles about interesting local people, places and themes are published on the Explore section of the same national VCH website: <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/>

BASINGSTOKE POOR LAW UNION and its WORKHOUSE was the third largest in Hampshire, but the workhouse is long gone and there are few remaining records. It had 39 parishes when it was established in 1835, and covered a population of 15,500, including the town, but nobody has ever written a full account of this important part of our history - until now. It is hoped to publish the history as a book when it is finished.

There are a few miscellaneous documents and, of course, the ten-yearly snapshot of census returns. But, fortunately, there is an almost complete set of Minute Books in the Hampshire Record Office, which gives a very good, detailed timeline of what happened. There is also extensive correspondence with the Poor Law Commission and subsequent authorities in the National Archives at Kew. Neither of these is indexed or catalogued in any way, and it is necessary simply to trawl through and slowly build a picture. The correspondence folios are particularly difficult, with probably more than half the material being illegible, but they make an interesting, human contrast to the dry, administrative minutes.

The story that emerges is detailed and fascinating: the first formal valuation of properties and local taxation, the establishment of the Registry Office, local smallpox vaccination strategy, reports on living conditions and sanitation amongst the poor, the importance to the town's tradesmen of a new, huge consumer of basic food, clothing and household items. As for the Workhouse itself, it has been firmly established as one of the more humane ones, in stark contrast to nearby Andover - in the words of its first Chairman, W. L. Sclater, it tried to be a "*refuge for the destitute*" - and, within a harsh, bleak system, it mostly succeeded. *Barbara Large*



BASINGSTOKE and SOUTH AFRICA in the Late 19th Century

By 1878 Basingstoke iron workers and engineers, Wallis and Stevens, founded in 1856 to supply agricultural machinery to the rural hinterland, were supplying machinery to the Crown colonies in South Africa. Herbert Wallis sold machinery produced in the Basingstoke company to the diamond mining industry. In 1882 nearly £10,000 worth of tipping trucks, elevators and pumps were dispatched to E. W. Tarry of Kimberley.

Trucks were also supplied to Consolidated Bulfontein Mine company and to Malcomess & Co in Johannesburg in 1894. In 1892 Wallis and Stevens' wagons won a gold medal at the Kimberley Exhibition. Some products were shipped through Crown Agents: in 1899 two 8 hp road locomotives (price £1,188) and in 1900 tipping wagons and one road locomotive (price £2,886) were dispatched through the Agent General for the Cape of Good Hope, London. Many were supplied directly by Wallis and Stevens with shipping charges paid regularly in the 1890s to the Union Steam Ship Company, Southampton, which sailed from England to the Cape of Good Hope. Trucks worth £6,000 were shipped directly to Langlaagte Estate and Gold Mining Company, Johannesburg in 1891-2. A reminder of the risks involved came when £1,341 worth of trucks were lost and claimed for on insurance after the SS *Nubian* sank in 1891. In 1894 Herbert Wallis died in Johannesburg after which company business in South Africa ceased to expand. However, Wallis and Stevens continued to supply trucks and winding engines to South Africa for the next 40 years.

Read more about Basingstoke manufacturing on the VCH website:

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/work-in-progress/basingstoke-economic-history-trade-and-industry-1860-2013>

Jean Morrin

JANE AUSTEN and THE BUNGLING BURGLAR OF BASINGSTOKE are the subjects of two of 50 plus items the Hampshire VCH Group have posted on the VCH Explore website to date (<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/>). These items provide a wealth of information about aspects of the history of Basingstoke and the surrounding villages.



"The privy belonging to Thomas Bulpit is close to his house; it is overflowing and the fluid from it finds its way under the flooring of the rooms."

"There is much complaint of the water supply being rendered impure by the frequent presence of dead toads, snails, etc."

"In Herriard parish the children are frequently infected with worms, this is produced by the bad state of the water used for drinking purposes."

These quotations come from the 19th century Sanitary Inspectors' reports that Barbara Large transcribed onto the website. The reports tell a messy story of open cesspits, houses without privies, and where there were privies they were often "objectionably full" and "constant sources of noxious effluvia."

Other articles include a study of timber-framed houses on the Hampshire downlands, a survey of the local carrier network centred on Basingstoke, 100 years of Methodism in Cliddesden, the development of education in Basingstoke to 1902, and the story of the riots against the Salvation Army in the 1880s.

The group have also posted transcriptions of a selection of local wills and inventories. The inventories provide a fascinating tour of 17th century houses, describing the contents of each room and helping to give an insight into domestic life at the time.

From the information the Group have copied from the censuses for Herriard and other villages, you can track the changes in people's occupations between 1851 and 1901. These are a wonderful resource for schools, and you may even be able to spot one of your ancestors. *Bob Clarke*



The Victoria History of Hampshire: MAPLEDURWELL

Copies can be purchased from Dr Jean Morrin (see foot of page). Cheques for £9 (£7 + £2 pp) made out to **Hampshire Archives Trust**, and please supply your name and address.

A Kindle version can be purchased from Amazon: http://www.amazon.co.uk/The-Victoria-History-Hampshire-ebook/dp/B00BQK91SA/ref=kinw_dp_ke

FUNDRAISING! Last year **Professor Jim Wilkes** not only gave us a very generous donation of **£10,000** but will add the same again if we and our supporters can **raise another £10,000**. So far, with Gift Aid tax recovery added in, donations amount to just over 18% of our target. Please think of making a donation yourself or encouraging an interested friend to do so, however small. Better still, make a monthly standing order. Every £10, if Gift Aided, is worth £12.50 to us. If you qualify for higher rate income tax, the actual cost to you *falls* to £7.50.

Any offer of help with fundraising or fundraising events (no previous experience needed) would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to spare just a few hours, please let John Isherwood know. It could make a big difference.

Please email John Isherwood, ji@dmac.co.uk, if you are able to help. We must not let Jim's challenge fail!