

## NOTES

# JOHN SMALRUGGE OF RISBOROUGH: A CASE OF DUAL IDENTITY?

In the Middle Ages, a boy showing a talent for learning might be lucky enough to receive tuition in reading, writing and Latin *gratis* from his parish priest in return for assisting in the services and care of the parish church. In turn, a local patron of standing might be influential in sending the boy to a university for further studies. This is what may have happened to one fortunate Risborough youth. In the series of Ancient Petitions of the Chancery and of the Exchequer in the National Archives there is a petition addressed to Edward the Black Prince (1330–1376), Prince of Wales to Edward III, from a certain John Smalrugge, B.A., of Merton College, Oxford, requesting the prince to issue a licence to enable Smalrugge to proceed to holy orders<sup>1</sup>. The licence was required before ordination to release the candidate from a nominal condition of servitude to the manor of Risborough of which the prince was lord from 1345 until his death in 1376. The petition, which is in Norman French, reads:

To his very good lord the Prince and his council prays John Smalrugge, son of a bondsman (neaf) of my said lord the prince of Ryseburgh, who is bachelor of arts in Merton Hall at Oxenford, that he will be pleased for the honour of God and of His gentle mother and in honour of charity to grant his gracious letters that the said John shall be able to be free and to take orders to be chaplain to pray for my said lord and his heirs forever

The original petition, which is undated, is not included in the published *Register of Edward the Black Prince*<sup>2</sup>, which covers only the years 1346 to 1367, and of which volume 4 includes three similar licences to sons of bondsmen on the Prince's estates. This suggests that the petition was made between 1367 and 1376, the year of the prince's death, but it could equally well have been misplaced. The relevant PRO *List* (revised 1966) assigns the petition to the period 1375/6, but without giving a reason.

The alphabetically-arranged *Biographical Register of the University of Oxford to 1500*<sup>3</sup> makes no mention of a John Smalrugge. It does,

however, include a long entry for a John Risburgh, M.A., B.Th., first mentioned in 1364 as a chaplain. Risburgh became a fellow in 1373 and subsequently held various College offices until 1397, when he was presented to the vicarage of St Peter-in-the-East, Oxford. He evidently survived until 1411, when the living was reported vacant.

Granted the relative fluidity of medieval names, it is clear that, from the vantage point of Oxford, “[of] Risborough” would have been a more meaningful cognomen than “[of] Smalrugge” (i. e. small ridge). There must thus be a strong presumption that the two Johns were one and the same person.

As for Smalrugge, this surname, first noted in a manorial document dated 1296–97<sup>4</sup> derives from a now-vanished settlement of the same name commemorated in the place name Smalridge Wood mentioned in a lease of 1582.<sup>5</sup> It bordered on the three or four cottages known as Coombes and can most conveniently be found in the 1823 Princes Risborough enclosure map and accompanying awards (Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, IR 87). A footpath from Loosley Row leads through the remains of the wood where the rising ground is clearly a ridge. After leaving the wood the path descends along the parish boundary (a double hedge) to the road by Smallden Farm.

Rex A. Kidd

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author is indebted to Mrs Sarah Charlton of the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies for translating the petition of John Smalrugge.

### NOTES

1. (PRO (now TNA) SC 8/333, previously E 1042)
2. (4 vols, HMSO, 1930–1933)
3. A.B. Emden, ed., 3 vols. OUP 1958)
4. (L.M. Midgley, ed., *Minsters' Accounts of the Earldom of Cornwall 1296–1297*, Camden Soc., 3rd series, vols 66 & 68, 1942 & 1945, vol. 1, p.2
5. (George Lipscomb, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*, 1847, vol. 2, p. 432

# COTTAGES IN PARSONS FEE, AYLESBURY

The terrace of four black and white timber-framed houses numbered 5–8 Parsons Fee, with its distinctive gabled oversailing upper stories, is one of the more striking features of the churchyard area in Aylesbury. Evidently erected as a single unit, it is dated by Pevsner and Williamson to the seventeenth century, but structural evidence indicates a much earlier origin (Pevsner and Williamson 1994). The late Mr John Chenevix Trench, an authority on vernacular architecture who had the opportunity to examine part of the roof construction, dated it to between 1450 and 1550, with the exception of a rear extension dating from *c.*1700 running the whole length of the building to add an extra room's width (personal communication from Mr Gilbert Beattie).

Further expert investigation, if that should prove possible, would doubtless reveal more about the building's origins. Meanwhile some interesting information about its more recent history has come to light in the form of a bundle of deeds and other documents of title. Allowing for copies and abstracts of missing originals, they cover the period 1719 to 1876 and relate to all four of the present cottages, though they stop just before the introduction of house numbers locally. Throughout this period the terrace remained in single ownership. In a conveyance of 1734 the property is described as a "messuage" (i. e. a dwelling house with appurtenances) "wherein Robert Mead, gentleman, formerly dwelt, now divided into three dwellings", from which we deduce that the whole building had recently been occupied as a gentleman's residence.

Robert Mead (d. 1725), the earliest known occupier, was an attorney, or lawyer. He was descended from the Meads of Soulbury in Buckinghamshire, a family of Dissenters, several of whom achieved distinction in various fields. His brother William, a wealthy London merchant, purchased and rebuilt the Prebendal House, on the other side of Parsons Fee, around 1707 and lived there until his death in 1725, leaving his fortune to his niece, Mary Mead, later Mrs John Wilkes (Hanley, H, 1986, chap. iv).

Robert himself was a person of consequence

locally. He first appears in the records in 1693 as coroner for the county and he later served as under-sheriff. True to his dissenting origins, he was a staunch Whig and a supporter of the Hanoverian succession. As such he played an important role as counsel for the defence in the great constitutional case of *Ashby v. White* which arose out of a disputed parliamentary election for the borough of Aylesbury in 1701. (Gibbs, R, 1885, chap. xx.; Hanley, H.S. 1986) It is not known whether Mead was still living in the Parsons Fee messuage at the time of his death, but a copy deed of November 1727 confirms that the subdivision mentioned above had already taken place by that date. The 1734 deed also recites that the freehold of the property had earlier been purchased from one Samuel Baldwin, gentleman, by John Burnham of Thame, Oxon, gentleman, who in turn by his will, proved in 1724, had left it to his son of the same name.

The Burnhams, like the Meads, were lawyers, but, unlike them, they were Tories, with strong links to the institutional established Church. Together with their relations the Bells, they provided much of the personnel of the ecclesiastical courts for the archdeaconry of Buckingham and the peculiar jurisdiction of Aylesbury. Both courts were held in the south aisle of Aylesbury parish church for the greater part of the eighteenth century (Pemberton, WA 1980, 19–32)

In 1729 John Burnham, junior, of Aylesbury sold the Parsons Fee property to Jane Tuckwell, spinster, one of the three occupiers named in the 1727 deed, after which it passed through several hands before coming back to the Burnhams in 1784. It was then purchased by Joseph Burnham (1725–1799), one of the sons of John Patten Burnham, a proctor in the archdeaconry court and grandson of the earlier John Burnham, junior. The three occupiers at this date were all men, although the majority of the occupiers named in the earlier deeds were single women.

Joseph Burnham, registrar of the archdeaconry court from around 1780, was a successful lawyer with several lucrative strings to his bow. In 1784 he

purchased for his own use the elegant gentleman's residence in Church Street later known as Ceely House (now part of the County Museum) which had been rebuilt by Hugh Barker Bell in the 1760s (Trench JC and Fenley P, 1991). The deeds show that he added to this property by purchases of cottages and buildings in Pebble Lane.

In his somewhat laconic will, proved in 1799, Joseph left all his considerable estates to his only child Elizabeth, wife of of the Reverend Joseph Wells of Little Missenden, with the proviso that if she should die without issue, they should be divided equally among all his nephews and nieces then living. Elizabeth died childless in 1802. The resulting share-out among the testator's ten nephews and nieces resulted, predictably, in much spilling of ink and several indentures of mind-boggling complexity. The upshot was a public auction in Aylesbury in October 1806, at which Lot 9, the Parsons Fee property, is described in the printed sale particulars as two "convenient" dwelling houses in the several occupations of Thomas Hatten, attorney at law, and Mrs Jenkins ("Widow Jenkins" in the deeds). The purchaser was William Rickford, joint founder with his father of the Aylesbury Old Bank and future MP for the borough of Aylesbury (CBS D114/94/1).

Thus at some unknown date between 1784 and 1803 the Parsons Fee messuage had apparently been converted from three dwellings into two. Thomas Hatten, one of the two occupiers in 1806, had been Joseph Burnham's clerk and is mentioned in his will. Hatten and Jenkins were still in occupation in 1808, when Rickford sold the property to Zacharias Daniel Hunt, grocer, his brother-in-law and business associate. Thereafter, according to a later mortgage of 1843, Hunt himself lived in one of the houses and James Grace in the other until Hunt's death in 1821, after which the occupiers were Hunt's widow, Elizabeth Hannah Hunt, and John Fowler, gentleman.

In 1823 the property was put up for sale under the terms of Z. D. Hunt's will and was purchased on behalf of Frances Turner of Aylesbury. Her trustee was Bill (sic) Turner of Aylesbury, presumably a relation and probably the [legal] "writing clerk" of the same name listed in a poll book of 1804. Frances Turner converted the two dwellings into one in her own occupation and died in April 1832 leaving the property jointly to her son Marcus and her two unmarried daughters Frances Rafela and

Selina (there was another son Brook Turner). The two daughters were described as the occupiers in 1843.

What the deeds entirely fail to disclose is that Frances Turner's conversion was preliminary to the establishment of a girls' school which was to continue in being for many years. Pigot's directory of Aylesbury for 1842 and a later directory for 1853 both list Frances Rafela Turner as the proprietor of a boarding and day school in Parsons Fee, while an earlier edition of Pigot's for 1823–4 lists "Mrs and Miss Turner (ladies), Broad-street" (i. e. Church Street) under the heading of "Academies."

This last reference could explain a discrepancy between the deeds and the account, ostensibly based on contemporary written sources, given in Gibbs (1885, 433) of an incident that took place on the departure of the restored Louis XVIII of France from exile in Hartwell House in April 1814. Gibbs relates that the king ordered his carriage to halt at "Mrs Turner's seminary in Parsons Fee", where he saluted all the young ladies with a parting kiss, as did the Count of Artois, afterwards Charles X. There seems little reason to doubt that this incident actually occurred, but there has evidently been some confusion about the location of the school at the relevant date.

Endorsements on the 1843 deed seem to imply that the property was still in Turner family ownership in 1876 but say nothing about its occupancy. However, the 1851 census enumeration, which lists only eight households in Parsons Fee, records Frances R. Turner, "schoolmistress" (born Sudbury, Derbyshire), aged 62, as head of an all-female household of ten, including three pupils aged 11–13, two teachers and two domestic servants. Thirty years later the 1881 census, the first to include house numbers, shows that there was still a girls' school in Parsons Fee of which the principal was now Barbara Stedman, aged fifty. The household of ten people, including three "scholars" and two governesses, was confined to the house numbered No. 8 Parsons Fee, while Nos 5 to 7, comprising seven persons in all, were in separate occupation (headed respectively by a tutor, a professor of music and the vicar of Aylesbury), suggesting that the original messuage had again been subdivided, possibly into four units.

Further information is provided by an outsize auction sale poster of furniture and effects upon the premises of 5 Parsons Fee on 10 May 1880, "in liq-

uidation,” now in the possession of Mr Gilbert Beattie of 5 Parsons Fee. The poster, a most interesting record in its own right, comprises no fewer than 230 lots, of which lots 94 to 155 consist of books. The rooms named are: scullery, kitchen, pantry, sitting room, dining room, hall, bedrooms (5), attics (2).

Also in Mr Beattie’s possession are some bills and vouchers belonging to “Mrs Turner”, dated 1812–14, including bills for copybooks and other school materials, all – like the poster – found by Mr Beattie in the attic. Other miscellaneous items include an abstract of title tracing the later descent of the property, beginning in 1884 with the sale by John Merrick and Thomas Horwood, the trustees named in the mortgage of 1876, of five houses in Parsons Fee for £390. They were again sold as a group in 1908, but subsequently as separate houses numbered 5–9.

Two late-nineteenth-century photographs of the terrace are in the County Museum’s collection (reproduced in Vaughan, K, 2005, 73). One shows the, then rough-cast, front of the building (there are front doors at No.s 5 and 6 only) together with part of No. 9 Parsons Fee, which had obviously been inserted within the former carriage entrance to the rear courtyard, as it must have looked prior to its rebuilding in the 1890s. The other is a back view taken from the courtyard, then used as a playground, showing a maypole and swings as well as a projecting two-storey wing to No. 5 and other additions. Both also show a bell turret on the roof.

*Hugh Hanley*

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mrs Dolores Odam of London for allowing me to examine the title deeds of the Parsons Fee property. A calendar of their contents is available in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. Grateful thanks are also due to Mr Gilbert Beattie for showing me his house and the documents in his possession and for providing information about them.

#### REFERENCES

- CBS Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies  
 Gibbs, Robert 1885, *A History of Aylesbury*, Aylesbury.  
 Hanley, Hugh 1986 *The Prebendal, Aylesbury. A History*, Aylesbury.  
 Pemberton, WA 1980 Some Notes on the Court of the Archdeaconry of Buckinghamshire, *Recs Bucks* 22, 19–32.  
 Pevsner, N and Williamson, E 1994 *The Buildings of England: Buckinghamshire*. Penguin.  
 Trench JC and Fenley, Pauline 1991, The County Museum buildings, Church Street, Aylesbury, *Recs Bucks* 33, 1–43).  
 Vaughan, K 2005 *Aylesbury Remembered*, Sutton Publishing Ltd.

# AN AGREEMENT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BOUNDARIES AT PADBURY CHURCHYARD

Around 1910, The Bucks Parish History Society published the second part of the parish registers of Woughton.<sup>1</sup> The editor, Dr Bradbrook, also the Honorary Secretary of the Bucks Archaeological Society, included all the various memoranda, covering the period between 1718 and 1812, that were inscribed at the back of the third volume of the Woughton Parish Registers. One of the Woughton memoranda (page 94) contains a list of the inhabitants who were responsible for maintaining the “Mounds” or hedges, fences etc. surrounding the churchyard of St Mary’s in 1722. Originally, it appears that virtually the whole of the boundary was divided into three-yard lengths, with the upkeep of these sections shared between fifteen of the more substantial inhabitants. It seems, however, that responsibilities shifted over the years. For example, in 1722, John Putnam was responsible for three sections totalling fifteen yards. Thomas Goodman, grocer, had to maintain three separate lengths, while another three-yard stretch had become the joint responsibility of Widow Bowery, John Putnam and Sarah Chevall, widow. The text contains an example of one of the changes; it is recorded that in 1716 “It was agreed by William Hames & Thomas Reddall with the consent of Wid. Chevall & Joseph Johnson Esq<sup>r</sup> to part the mounds against the Pond ten yards to Thomas Reddall and seven yards to William Hames”.

The method of maintaining church boundaries used at Woughton does not seem to have been practised widely, yet it was sufficiently well known for Burn to refer to it in his book on Church law “*And if the churchyard be not decently inclosed, the church (which is God’s house) cannot decently be kept: and therefore this the parishioners ought to do, by Custom known and approved*”. Other arrangements were possible for Burn says later that “*if the owners of lands adjoining to the churchyard have used time out of mind to repair so much of the fence thereof as adjoineth to their ground, such custom is good custom; and the churchwardens*

*have an action against them at the common law for the same*”<sup>2</sup>.

The Padbury document, now in private possession, provides another local example of this practice. Unlike the Woughton agreement, however, this is a nineteenth century revision of an earlier arrangement made in 1798 and gives equivalent names for both dates. It is also clear that the earlier document had itself been an update. Whereas responsibility for repairs to the chancel followed the ownership of the great tithes, the duty to maintain churchyard boundaries seems to have rested on an informal agreement between the parishioners and was not formally attached to particular lands or properties.

While there are similarities with Woughton, the Padbury document shows that the burden fell on a slightly higher number of the parishioners – although their number diminishes considerably between the two dates. There is another significant difference with Woughton. Although the Padbury churchyard boundary was divided up into lengths of one, two or three ‘panes’, this was not a fixed measurement and varied from 1 foot 8 inches to 9 feet per pane. It would be interesting to know if other Buckinghamshire parishes maintained their churchyard boundaries in this way and, if so, how responsibility was apportioned.

The document itself, printed below, appears to be a copy of the 1831 agreement, but is probably contemporary, since it is written on paper with an 1827 watermark. It is endorsed on the outside “June 1831 Padbury relative to Churchyard Mound” and “Messrs Bartlett & Nelson Bank”.

*Edward Legg*

## NOTES

1. *The Register of the Parish of Woughton-on-the-Green*. Ed. Bradbrook (n.d.)
2. *The Ecclesiastical Law*. Burn 8th Ed (1824) p346

## Padbury

## The Church Yard mound examined and numbered

December 1798. the names of Proprietors here affixed to each number. Willm Eyre Vicar –

No	Proprietor.	Panes	Feet	Proprietors – 1831.
1	Mr Greatheed	1	4 . 8	Mrs Holloway
2	“John & Esau Clark, late Th: Budd.” Church Gate.	1	4 . 6 5 –	Mr Clark of Barton The Parish.
3	James Bailey late Harris. The Wall.	2	12 –	Mr Rd. King. Sir James Eyre.
4	“Next Wall, Thos: Flowers.”	2	16 .	Mr John Flowers.
5	James & Thos Merry.	1	7 . 8	Mr Thos: Flowers.
6	Rob: Read.	1	3 . 2	Mr Rob Read.
7	Wm: now Thos. Merry	1	4 . 8	Mr Thos: Merry of Padbury
8	Adams & Read Now Es Clark.	2	14 . 6	Mr Clark of Barton
9	“Thos: Flowers, from the Corner.”	3	23 –	Mr Thos: Flowers.
10	Es: Clark Late Salisbury	2	9 . 4	Mr Clark of Barton.
11	Shillingford late Russel.	2	12 –	Mr Wm Horwood.
12	Thos: Bunce.	1	7 –	Mr Nelson
13	Thos: Flowers.	1	2 –	Mr Thos. Flowers
14	John Sayer	1	4 –	Rev: W. T. Eyre
15	Wm Howard	1	5 –	Mr Thos Horwood
16	“Wm Howard, late Shelswell”	1	4 . 3	Mr Thos Horwood
17	“J. Jackson, late Thos: Judge.”	1	2 . 6	Mr Reub. Littleford
18	Wm now Thos: Merry.	1	1 . 8	Mr Th: Merry Padbury
19	Thos: Merry	1	3 . 2	Mrs Ridgeway or Thos. Merry
20	The Parish.	1	2 . 2	The Parish
21	James Budd. (Wilmor.	1	7 –	Mr Thos Flowers
22	Wm Clark.	1	8 –	Rev W. T. Eyre. Mr Langton &c
23	Mr Greatheed late Hamilton	2	10 . 6	Mrs Holloway
24	Shillingford late Russel.	2	10 –	Mr Wm Horwood
25	“Esau Clark, late Shillingford”	2	12 –	Mr Clark of Barton
26	Judge of Hillsdon late Baldwin.	1	6 –	Mr B. Judge
27	Ch: Dixon now Thos: Flowers	1	5 . 2	Mr John Flowers
28	Wm Harwood [Sic]	2	19	Mr Thos: Horwood
29	Wm Harwood [Sic] & Thos: Merry	1		
30	Thos: Flowers late Cooper	1	7 –	John Flowers
31	Rob Read.	2	13 . 6	Mr Cross.
32	John Clark & Eliz: Read	1	6 . 6	Mr Clark of Barton
33	Esau Clark late Adams & Read	1	5 –	Mr Clark of Barton
34	Wm Tomkins late Piddinton	1	3 –	Mr Rob. Tomkins
35	Esau Clark late J Betts.	1	5 . 4	Mr Clark of Barton
36	Wm Horwood	1	5 . 4	Mr Thos: Horwood
37	Bates late Harrup	1	6 . 4	Mr Bates. (Mill
38	James Budd.	1	6 . 6	Mr Edm: Walker
39	“Wm Tomkins, late Piddinton”	1	7 –	Mr Rob Tomkins
40	James Bailey late Harris	1	6 . 6	Mr Rd. King
41	Hann: Reade	1	6 . 6	Mr Rob. Read
42	Wm Clark	1	4 . 2	“Rev. W. T. Eyre, Mr Langton &c”
43	Ann Boughton	2	15 . 6	Mr Rob. Tomkins
44	Thos: Bunce	2	12 . 9	Mr Nelson
45	John Sayer	1	5 –	Rev: W. T. Eyre
46	Greatheed late Hamilton	1	7 . 2	Mrs Holloway
47	Eliz now Thos Bunce	2	11 –	Mr Nelson
48	Langton now Rob: Tomkins	1	4 . 4	Mr Rob. Tomkins
49	The Parish	1	1 . 8	The Parish
50	Th: Bunce & Rd. Boughton	1	3 . 8	Mr Bates of the Mill
51	Wm Horwood late Shelswell.	1	5 . 4	Mr Thos Horwood
52	Thos Flowers late Dixon	2	12 . 6	Mr John Flower
53	Wm Tomkins late Piddington	1	9 –	Mr Rob. Tomkins
54	Rd Smith - the Ditch	1	–	Cap. Dayrell

Jun 15. 1831

W. T. Eyre Vicar.  
Thos Horwood Churchwardens.  
W Tomkins



# THE BELL HOTEL AT ASTON CLINTON AND THE WRITER A.W.F.

The Society has in its Library a small booklet on The Bell Hotel at Aston Clinton<sup>1</sup> donated by George Eland, a distinguished member and past editor of *Records of Bucks*, in 1943. It carries no date of publication, other than a pencilled 1922 on the cover. Apart from the description 'by a regular visitor' the only hint as to the author are the initials A.W.F. at the end of the booklet. It was included in the Library and Archive case in the Exhibition to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Society in 1997 and formed the basis for a gallery talk which I gave on Aston Clinton House. The historical details it gave about the origins of the building and the theory put forward that it was built as a hunting lodge to Aston Clinton House proved, through my research, to be both inaccurate and confused<sup>2</sup>. However, the value of the booklet lay in its contemporary description of the hotel, which still stands today on the main road from Aylesbury to

Tring in Aston Clinton, and its owners during the 1920s. The proprietors then were Mr. & Mrs. John Herbert Gladding, who were described in the following way 'The host, who has the right to carry the badge not only of the London Scottish but of the Royal Air Force, runs the establishment with the skill and precision which he formerly applied to his City business; while the hostess, keenly interested in all literary and artistic movements of the day, creates an atmosphere of cultured leisure which cannot be equalled in any other countryside hostelry of our acquaintance.' Praise indeed and it is not surprising that Evelyn Waugh, whilst a schoolteacher at Aston Clinton House in the 1920s, found it a very convivial place to spend his time and where he no doubt would have met the mysterious A.W.F. There are details of the tariff – rooms for 4/- for a single; 7/- for a double and dinner could be had for 3/6. Details of the nearest railway

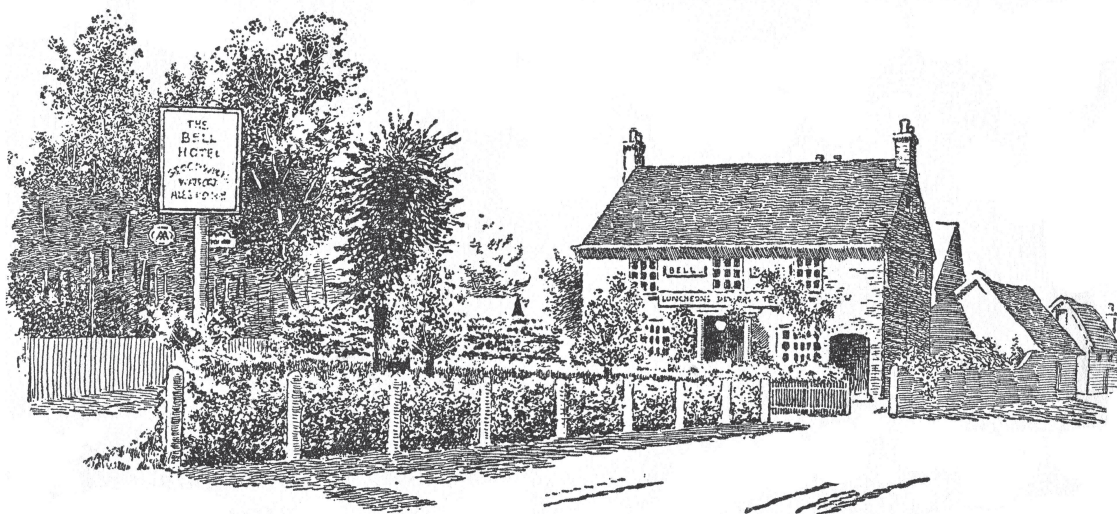


FIGURE 1 Cover illustration to *Tariff and history of the Bell Hotel, Aston Clinton, Bucks*

stations and the connection to The Bell either by Aston Clinton Motor Bus, hotel car or hackney are given. The hotel accommodation is described in loving detail as are the facilities which included a telephone and an HMV gramophone.

But who was the author 'A.W.F.'? A chance find of an obituary notice in the *Bucks Herald* in December 1930<sup>3</sup> on the death of a Mr. A.W.Foster helped to solve the mystery. Foster, a bachelor, was described as a great lover of the Aston Clinton neighbourhood who had spent his week-ends at the Bell Hotel for the last ten years. He had involved himself in various local activities including umpiring for the Aston Clinton Cricket Club. He had also been involved with the Aston Clinton Branch of the British Legion, where only a fortnight before his death he had responded to one of the toasts in his usual happy vein. The obituary goes on to say that he was a man with '*a literary turn of mind*' who had connections with the Paper Makers Association. The Aston Clinton Burial Register provided a little more information about him. His full name was Alfred William Foster B.A., Foundation Scholar of St. Johns College Cambridge born on 16 February 1875 and died on the 1st December 1930. Although he died in London he was buried in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels at Aston Clinton. His memorial, which still survives, is in the form of a sundial with '*Post tenebras lux*' on its base and around the dial the inscription '*Tis mine the passing time to tell, tis thine to use it ill or well*'.

I followed up the reference to his connections to the paper making industry and in a book celebrating the centenary of the British Paper and Board Makers Association<sup>4</sup> found that he had been no ordinary member but the Association's Secretary from 1913 until his death in 1930. During the

1920s the paper making industry went through considerable change. Until the 1920s the industry had been run by practical paper makers and engineers with few chemists. In 1907, for example, the firm of Thomas and Green of Soho Mill, High Wycombe, had an excellent reputation but the only method they had of testing whether the make-up of the pulp was right, was to take some from the stuff-chest and hand-make it in a mould to see how it turned out! The Technical Section of the Association was set up in 1920 to convince mill owners of the need for chemists and to overcome the resistance to change amongst its members. Foster is remembered within the Society for his encouragement of the younger men at a time of pioneering. He organised sub-divisions to deal with the more localised problems, Scottish, northern sections and one for the west of England.

It is pleasing to think that Foster came to Aston Clinton every weekend to find peace and rest from the challenges of his career and used his 'literary turn of mind' to write this small booklet as a thank you to his hosts.

#### REFERENCES

1. A.W.F. undated, *Tariff and history of The Bell Hotel, Aston Clinton Bucks*.
2. Gulland, Diana 2003 'Aston Clinton manor house: from moated site to classical mansion', *Recs Bucks*, 43, 196–207.
3. Obituary notice for A.W.Foster 1930, *Bucks Herald*, 5 December.
4. Muir, Augustus 1972, *British Paper and Board Makers Association 1872–1972: a centenary history*. Privately printed for the Association.

Diana Gulland