
The Marlow historian

Volume One

Editorial	Peter Diplock	2
2nd Lieutenant B A Horsfall, V.C.	Ken Turner	3
The Admirals at Thames Lawn, Marlow	Hugh Grice	7
The Gentlemen Cadets of Marlow	Anthony Wethered	16
The Hatchments of All Saints Parish Church, Marlow	John Evans	27
Oxford Lane Infants School - Log Book Entries	Lynn Rimmer	34
Edward Marshall - One of Marlow's Curious Characters	Bill Purser	36
Memories of Marlow		
Mrs Kathleen Sheppard - Her early life in Marlow	Rachel Brown Lynn Rimmer	38
Research Notes		
Mediaeval Printed Paving Tiles - Widmere Chapel	Arthur Border	42
The First Telephones in Marlow	Peter Diplock	43

Editorial

Peter Diplock

There is much interest in local history, not only in Marlow, but in every part of the country. Many people get involved in local history groups, whereas others do research on their own and do not tell many others about their findings.

I became interested in local history several years ago and joined the Marlow Society, which has a very active local history group. Much research is carried out, but only a very small fraction of all the work done gets published and seen by a larger audience. At present there is not a suitable publication for anything other than very short research notes in the Marlow Society Newsletter and Annual Review. The purpose of this publication is both to provide an outlet for some of the research, and also to help to encourage more people to get involved in their own way.

The content of this first volume of *The Marlow Historian* has been dictated by the availability of completed material, rather than to provide a 'themed' publication. It does, however, include a wide range of contributions that should be of interest to many people.

In addition to four 'substantial' articles there is a transcript of an oral history recording, some shorter contributions, two research notes and some 'cuttings'. I hope that a similar broad range of material will appear in subsequent volumes.

The aim is to produce a volume of *The Marlow Historian* every year. However, this

will depend on how many contributions are received. Future topics are many and varied: people, buildings, occupations, utilities, family names, politics, schools, crime and punishment, personal memories, special events, newspapers etc. Please let the local history group of The Marlow Society know if you are willing to contribute to future volumes.

My role as Editor has been solely to pull the publication together and to arrange for the printing. Each author provided their own text and illustrations, and retain the copyright of each article. I have not presumed to change their material in any way.

Editor's Acknowledgements:

Thanks go to the Local History Group of the Marlow Society for supporting the original idea and to the small team (Lynn Rimmer, Hugh Grice and Anthony Wethered) that helped me to get the original idea into a workable project. Also thanks to the authors for agreeing to contribute their material to an 'unknown' publication. Finally, I would like to thank Neil Walters and Alicia Russell (at Wycombe District Council Print Department) for their help at the printing stage of this first volume of *The Marlow Historian*.

2nd Lieutenant Basil Arthur Horsfall, V.C.

Ken Turner

The only Victoria Cross to be awarded to a man from Marlow during the First World War, indeed at any time in the twentieth century, was won by 2nd Lt. B A Horsfall. Although not a Marlovian by birth, having been born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1887, his link with the town was that he was educated at Sir William Borlase's School. In doing so, as the youngest of the four sons of Charles and Maria Horsfall, of Colombo, he appears to have followed a family tradition, as all three of his elder brothers attended the school before him.

Basil Horsfall entered the school in May 1903, at the age of 15, and left in July 1905, having played cricket and football for the school, and was Captain of the School in his last year.

After leaving Borlase, he returned to Ceylon, where he first took up rubber planting, then joined the Ceylon Civil Service in the Public Works Department. He also joined the Ceylon Engineer Volunteers and qualified in signalling. When the War began in August 1914 he at once applied for permission to come to England to enlist, but was refused because membership of the Volunteers was regarded as being of national importance.

On 11 July 1916, however, he finally received permission and he left Ceylon for England. On 19 December 1916 he was gazetted to the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment, in which his elder brother, E F Horsfall, had been serving since the previous year. Basil Horsfall arrived in France in February 1917 and on joining the Battalion was made a platoon



commander in 'C' Company, which was commanded by his brother. On May 11th the battalion was ordered to take part in an attack on the Chemical Works at Roeux, near Arras, a formidable and heavily fortified German strongpoint which had already repulsed several British attacks. 'C' Company formed the leading wave of the battalion attack and both brothers were wounded early in the action, but Basil carried on and, on learning that his brother and the only other Company officer had also been wounded, he took command of the Company.

Writing to 'The Borlasian' afterwards, E F Horsfall said "... (Basil) .. established

The Marlow Historian

communication with the troops on his right and generally took charge of the situation like an old soldier, although that was the very first time he had been up to the front line. It was not till nearly five hours later, when the situation was well in hand, that he yielded to a senior officer of another company, who found him in a fainting condition from loss of blood, and consented to go to the dressing station.”

Basil was evacuated to hospital in England, but after recovering from his wound he returned to France on 24th October 1917, this time being transferred to the 11th (Service) Battalion (Accrington) of the East Lancashire Regiment¹. Early in March 1918, after some time in a relatively quiet sector of the trenches, the battalion was enjoying a period of ‘rest and recreation’, combined with training and route marches, behind the lines in the Arras sector. The recreation included a keenly contested competition for the 31st Division Football Cup in which the 11th Battalion team won its first two matches, only to be beaten in the final on 21st March. Remembering his past prowess at Borlase, one wonders whether Basil might have played for the Battalion, despite his 30 years.

On the same day as that match was being played, the Germans launched a massive offensive against the British lines along a 50 mile front south from Arras. The 31st Division of which the Pals were a part was immediately ordered to move to an area where British positions had been over-run, to help fill the gaps and stem the breakthrough.

Rushed forward at dawn on 22nd March in a fleet of buses, the Battalion de-bussed at 11 p.m. and marched to Boisleux St. Marc, a village already threatened with being outflanked by the German advance. As enemy pressure mounted, during the next four days it was ordered on three successive occasions to fall back to new positions. At dawn on the 26th the Battalion was in position in hastily-prepared trenches at a crossroads between the villages of Ablainzeville and Moyenneville which, with the retirement of other units, at this point had

become the foremost line of the British defences. Throughout the day the battalion endured continual artillery bombardments from both friend and foe, not least from the British shells which fell both on front and support lines, despite appeals being sent to Brigade Headquarters for the guns to lengthen their range, all to no effect. A case of ‘friendly fire’, one of the all too frequent consequences of ‘the fog of war’.

On the morning of 27th March, after an intense artillery barrage, the Germans delivered a frontal attack on the Battalion’s position. After desperate fighting, in which the enemy gained a foothold in the front line, they were driven out by a local counter-attack and the battalion line remained intact, despite the fall of Ablainzeville on the right flank. Soon after midday the enemy made a fresh assault on the Battalion position

with even greater determination, and with aircraft flying low over the front line, but not an inch of ground was gained.

It was during this desperate encounter that 2nd Lieutenant B A Horsfall won the Victoria Cross. He was in command of the centre platoon of his company and held the ridge along which runs the road from Ablainzeville to Moyenneville, the key to the

battalion position. The citation for the award, which appeared in the *London Gazette* dated 23 May 1918, read:

“When the enemy first attacked ..(2nd Lieutenant Horsfall’s).. three forward



B A Horsfall, V.C.

sections were driven back and he was wounded in the head. Nevertheless, he immediately organised the remainder of his men and made a counter-attack which recovered his original position. On hearing that out of the remaining three officers of his company two were killed and one wounded, he refused to go to the dressing station, although his wound was severe. Later his platoon had to be withdrawn to escape very heavy shell fire, but immediately the shelling lifted he made a second counter-attack, and again recovered his positions. When the order to withdraw was given he was last to leave his position, and, although exhausted, said he could have held on if it had been necessary. His conduct was a splendid example to his men and he showed throughout the utmost disregard of danger. This very gallant officer was killed when retiring to the positions in the rear."

The route of the final retirement lay across the abandoned RFC airfield at Alette and a description is contained in a letter from Private Arthur Cheetham: "The order to retire came. Before

we set off our C.O. shouted 'Every man for himself!', terrible words to hear, but it was a terrible situation to be in. Lt. Horsfall was on my left as we started to cross the aerodrome, after about 20 yards I looked to my left and he was not there. There were five of us in our party and two did not make it. I made two crossings that day so I consider I was very lucky. Of all the time I spent in France that was a day I will never forget." 2

2nd Lieutenant Horsfall's body was never found. He is commemorated, together with 35,927 other men who died in the Battles of Arras and adjoining areas and who have no known grave, on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. His name is also on the memorial in Borlase School chapel and is inscribed in the Book of Remembrance in St John's Church in Accrington. A framed photograph of him was presented to the school by one of his brothers, C W Horsfall, in October 1958.

<p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">1 H 18</p> <p>A.^o Prefix</p>	<p>Code</p>	<p>POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.</p> <p>(Inland Official Telegrams only.)</p>	<p>No. of Telegram <u>1305²/3</u></p>
<p>Office of Origin and Service Instructions.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">A. O. H. M. S.</p>	<p>Words.</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center;">A. O. H. M. S.</p>	<p>Sent</p> <p>At _____ M.</p> <p>To _____</p> <p>By _____</p>	<p>I certify that this Telegram is sent on the service of the</p> <p>(Signature) _____</p>
<p>Attention is called to the Regulations printed at the back hereof.</p>			<p>Dated Stamp.</p>
<p>TO { Horsfall C/o Lt Roberts Halstead Essex</p> <p>Deeply regret 2/Lt B.A. HORSFALL East Lancs Regt killed in action March twenty seventh Army Council Express sympathy</p>			
<p>FROM { SECRETARY WAR OFFICE</p>			
<p>The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the space provided at the Back of the Form.</p>			



1 This battalion was widely known as the 'Accrington Pals' having been recruited exclusively from volunteers living in the cotton town of Accrington and surrounding towns. Like many other 'Pals Battalions', it had been raised during the great flush of patriotic enthusiasm which swept the country during the first few months of the war, in response to appeals by Lord Kitchener, Secretary of State for War. Men had flocked to volunteer alongside their friends, whether from work or school, from the same town, often from the same street. At the time no-one appears to have given serious thought to the inevitable consequence, that if battalions recruited in this way were to sustain serious casualties in a major battle, the losses would be concentrated in the single towns or cities where they had been raised, so that not only their families but whole communities would be blighted by the sudden deaths of large numbers of the men who had gone off to war together. And, tragically, so it had transpired with the Accrington Pals, for on 1st July 1916, the first day of the long-awaited British offensive on the Somme, of some 700 men of the Battalion who took part in the attack, 235 were killed and 350 wounded. Other

deaths from wounds during the weeks following had brought the total to 605, more than 85% of those who had gone into action. The disaster which struck the Accrington Pals was far from unique as more than 30 British battalions suffered more than 500 casualties that day.

2 Arthur Cheetham died in 1989. About two years before, he had his first ever X-ray. Unknown to him, there was a bullet lodged in his chest. It was decided to leave it where it had been for almost 70 years.

SOURCES:

The Borlasian

A History of Borlase School

The History of the East Lancashire Regiment in the Great War 1914-1919 (Maj.-Gen Sir N Nicholson, Ed)

PALS. The 11th (Service) Battalion (Accrington) East Lancashire Regiment (William Turner)

Accrington Pals Trail (William Turner)

War Diary, 11th East Lancashire Regiment. Public Record Office, Ref WO95/2358

The First Day on the Somme (Martin Middlebrook)

© Kenneth L Turner

February 2000

The admirals

At Thames lawn, Marlow

Hugh Grice

Introduction

In the first half of the 19th century, not just one, but two Admirals were associated with the house called Thames Bank, later called Thames Lawn, that stood at the end of St Peter's Street until it suffered a disastrous fire in 1992 and was demolished. Each man was a national hero having had command of a ship that took part in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, and each married a daughter of Thomas Somers Cocks, a London banker. One was James Nicoll Morris and the other William Hargood. The following is a summary of notable events in their lives.

Our story begins with James Morris joining the Navy as a midshipman at the age of 12 in 1775. It was not unusual in those days for a boy as young as that to enter the service, but it generally needed a senior officer to sponsor his admission to the officer class; in this case it



Lieut. (later Vice-Adm. Sir, KCB) James Nicoll Morris (1763—1830) aged 17. Of Thames Bank, Marlow. Captain of HMS Colossus, Trafalgar 1805.

was his father who, as Captain of the *Bristol*, took James on board in the capacity of Captain's Servant and Quarterdeck Youngster. The period was not peaceful as the American Colonies were striving for independence, aided and abetted by the French

whenever opportunity arose, and within two years Captain Morris was killed in action off the coast of North America, most probably when James was still on board. Fortunately, and doubtless because of the sad circumstances in which James was left, he was befriended by Admiral Barrington who gave him his lieutenant's commission in 1782. It was in that year that James was engaged in the memorable battle off the West Indies in which Admiral George Rodney defeated a French fleet carrying artillery and 5000 men intent on invasion. Shortly following that event, he was given his own command.

By 1799, James Morris' reputation had risen to the point where, as Captain of the *Phaeton*, he was given the honour of conveying Lord Elgin and his ambassadorial suite to Constantinople for the purpose of setting up an embassy and collaborating with the Turks for the recovery of Egypt from the French, though James had nothing to do with the subsequent transport of the so-called Elgin marbles from Athens to the British Museum.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Captain James Morris was mainly engaged around the coast of Spain and in the Mediterranean. In one action at Genoa he captured twenty French corn vessels and a depot of arms before, as Marshall put it, he "galled the enemy's rear through several miles of their retreat", in which activity he seems to have acted more like a Marine than a Naval officer. In other similar actions he distinguished himself at Fuengirola near Malaga, and at the port of Marin near Pontevedra.

The Marlow Historian

Early in 1802, James Morris arrived at Portsmouth with despatches from Lord Keith, the Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean



Margaretta Sarah (nee Cocks) (1776 - 1842), c.1815

fleet, and later that year he married Margaretta Sarah Cocks at St Margaret's, Westminster, when she was age 26 and he was 39. Fortunately for the newly-weds, he was next given a land-based appointment at Harwich,

being put in charge of the defences against a possible invasion by the French, though his enjoyment of domestic life was short-lived on his being given command of another ship later in 1803.

By 1805 James Morris was Captain of the *Colossus*, one of the finest ships in the Navy, carrying 74 guns and a crew of about 600 men. The principal object of the British Navy at this time was to discover the whereabouts of the French fleet and to engage it in action, but this was more easily said than done and Admiral Nelson had a fruitless excursion to the West Indies in that quest before the combined French and Spanish fleets were found in the port of Cadiz in October. The *Colossus* was one of four ships detailed to keep watch on the port from a distance while the main fleet under Nelson's command kept out of sight until the enemy chose to emerge.

It will now be appropriate to bring William Hargood into the story. He was about the same age as Morris and had also been a midshipman on the *Bristol*. As a result, the two became good friends although their careers followed different paths - or should we say channels - in the next few years. Most significant for

Hargood was his appointment as a Lieutenant on board the *Pegasus* which was under the command of Prince William, who became the Duke of Clarence and later King William IV. The two served together on the same ships for some five years and a life-long friendship developed between them.

Somerset recalls a story (p.41) of the Prince on board the *Pegasus* when stationed off Newfoundland in 1786: "These gloomy surroundings proved no impediment to the riotous celebrations of his twenty-first birthday.....Officers and men became as gloriously drunk as the Prince himself, and he was hoisted on the shoulders of the sailors to be paraded violently from one end of the ship to the other". That, presumably, was within Hargood's experience, as was the Prince's energetic pursuit of female companions, some decidedly less than respectable, during the period when the ship was stationed in the West Indies. From 1790, however, Hargood held his own command, and by 1805 he was Captain of the *Belleisle*, another major ship of 74 guns in Admiral Nelson's fleet.

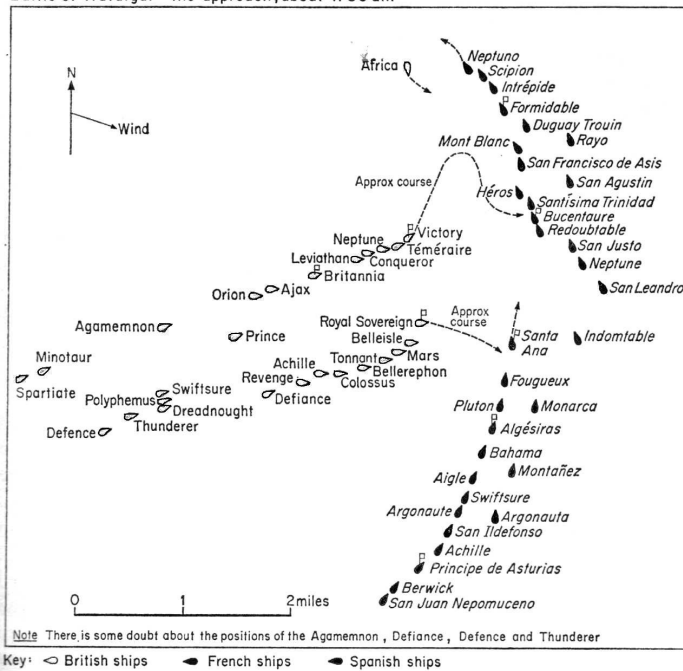
The Battle of Trafalgar

There can be little doubt that the Battle of Trafalgar was the crowning achievement in the naval careers of Captain James Nicoll Morris of the *Colossus* and of Captain William Hargood of the *Belleisle*, who were not yet the brothers-in-law they were to become. They were both highly experienced sailors, each with command over a ship-of-the-line and part of the fleet that had been searching over many months for the French fleet.

On 21 October 1805, the combined French and Spanish fleets of 35 ships under the overall command of Admiral Villeneuve sailed from Cadiz, and Nelson finalised his battle plan for attacking a more numerous force. This was to cut through the line of enemy ships and then engage them individually, doing as much damage as possible at the centre and rear of the line before the lead enemy ships could return to join the fray.

The Admirals of Thames Lawn

Battle of Trafalgar: the approach, about 11:30 am



The British ships approached in 2 lines. Nelson in the Victory led the northerly division of 13 ships. About a mile to the south, Admiral Collingwood, second in command of the fleet in the Royal Sovereign, led the lee division of 14 ships, he being followed closely by Hargood in the Belleisle and by Morris in the Colossus.

Because of the angle of approach by the English ships, few of their armaments (predominantly broadside) could be brought to bear until the last moment, whereas the French and Spanish ships had the ability to defend themselves most effectively. Also as a result of wind and course, it was the Royal Sovereign that was the first of all the English ships to open fire as she passed behind the Santa Anna - some 10 minutes before the Victory could get engaged - and it was the Belleisle that followed closely behind the Royal Sovereign. One of the officers on the Belleisle described the scene (Bennett, p.175 et seq) as follows:-

“At a quarter before twelve, seven or eight of the enemy’s ships opened their fire upon the Royal Sovereign and Belleisle, and as we were steering directly for them we could only remain passive, and perseveringly approach the post we were to occupy.....This was a trying moment. Captain Hargood had taken his station at

the forepart of the quarterdeck, on the starboard side.....whence he issued his orders for the men to lie down at their quarters, and with the utmost coolness directed the ship. The silence on board.....was broken only by (his) strong voice...’Steady!’ or ‘Starboard a little!’, and occasionally by an officer calling to the now impatient men, ‘Lie down there, you sir!’.”

The impact on the Belleisle was considerable, and more than 50 were killed or wounded before she fired a shot, seeing which the First Lieutenant asked Captain Hargood whether it might not be better to turn broadside and fire, if only to cover the ship in smoke.

“The gallant man’s reply was.....emphatic: ‘No; we are ordered to go through the line, and go we shall!’ This state of things had lasted about twenty minutes, and it required the tact of the more experienced officers to keep up the spirits of those round them, by repeating ‘We shall soon begin our work’.....until our energies were joyfully called into play by the command, ‘Stand to your guns!’ On that the Master earnestly addressed the Captain: ‘Shall we go through, sir?’ ‘Go through by ---- !’ was the energetic reply.....We were soon passing slowly through the line, and our fire was opened on a ship on each side.....”

As the Belleisle followed the Royal Sovereign through the line she engaged the Santa Anna to port and the Fougueux to starboard, becoming locked by rigging to the latter for about an hour while they fired broadsides at one another at point blank range. When Hargood’s ship, extensively damaged, drifted away she was hampered in engaging other ships by a fallen mizzen mast. Her most pertinacious attacker then became the French Neptune. The narrative continues:

“About two o’clock (our) mainmast fell over the larboard side, and half an hour afterwards the foremast fell over the starboard bow. Thus was the Belleisle a total wreck, without the means of

The Marlow Historian

returning the fire of the enemy except from the very few guns still unencumbered by the wreck of the masts and rigging. Every exertion continued to be made for presenting the best resistance, and offering the greatest annoyance to the enemy. Guns were run out from the stern ports on each deck, and all that intelligence could suggest and discipline effect was done. Our loss, though, was then becoming severe. The First and Junior Lieutenants had both been mortally wounded.....early in the action. About the same time the Captain was knocked down and severely bruised by a splinter, but he refused to leave the deck.”

Hargood was badly bruised from throat to waist, and of this incident another member of the Belleisle’s crew wrote:

“The splinter-netting was cut away and knocked Hargood down and entangled him in the meshes. On getting clear, half stunned.....by the blow, he called out: “Let ‘em come on; I’ll be d----d if I’ll strike (surrender). No, never - to nobody whatever.”

Describing their position, the Belleisle’s story continues:

“At half-past two our foremast was shot away close to the deck. In this unmanageable state we were but seldom capable of annoying our antagonists, while they had the power of choosing their distance, and every shot from them did considerable execution. We had suffered severely, and those on the poop were now ordered to assist at the quarterdeck guns, where we continued till the action ceased. Until half-past three we remained in this harassing position. The only means at all in our power of bringing our battery towards the enemy was to use the sweeps out of the gunroom ports. To these we had recourse, but without effect....and we lay a mere hulk, covered in wreck and rolling with the swell.

“At this hour a two-decker ship was seen, apparently steering towards us.

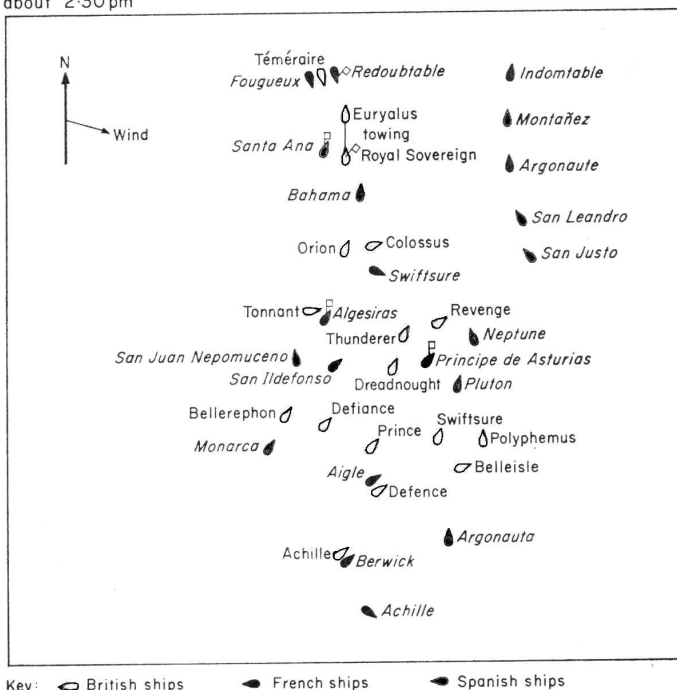
It can easily be imagined with what anxiety every eye turned towards this formidable object, which would either relieve us from our unwelcome neighbours or render our situation desperate.....and it is impossible to express our emotion as an alteration of the stranger’s course displayed the White Ensign to our sight. The Swiftsure, an English 74, came looming through the smoke..... passed our stern..... and boldly steered for.... the French Neptune which had so long annoyed us.”

One of Swiftsure’s lieutenants noted that, despite being an immovable log, the Belleisle kept up a smart fire upon the enemy whenever it was possible to bring a gun to bear. The Belleisle was virtually a total wreck, but before she was taken in tow by the Naiad around five in the evening, Hargood had the satisfaction of taking possession of the Spanish Argonauta.

For his part, Morris was similarly heavily engaged. Clowes (Vol. 5, page 154) summarised the part played by the Colossus:

“The Colossus, as she neared the enemy, made as if to pass astern of the French Swiftsure (to be distinguished from the

Trafalgar: the action between Collingwood’s division and Villeneuve’s rear at about 2:30 pm



The Admirals of Thames Lawn

English Swiftsure in the same action). The Frenchman, to avoid being raked, bore up; and the Colossus ran past her starboard side, and presently found herself locked broadside to broadside with Argonauta, which lay to leeward. Captain Morris' starboard battery had nearly silenced the Frenchman's port one within 10 minutes, and the Argonauta seemed ready to strike, when the ships drifted apart. As the Frenchman paid off however she was well raked by her antagonist which, during the whole period, had been steadily engaged also, not only with the French Swiftsure which lay on her port quarter, but also with the Bahama, which lay nearly on her port beam. Just before 3 pm the French Swiftsure, which by that time had forged so far ahead as to shut out the fire of the Bahama, and as to receive the full broadside of the Colossus, dropped astern, practically beaten, and once more exposed the Bahama. The Colossus quickly obliged the latter to surrender. In the meanwhile the French Swiftsure made a last effort, endeavouring to bear up under the Colossus's stern; but Morris wore very smartly, escaped most of the fire that had been intended to rake him, and delivered his starboard broadside. Almost simultaneously, the Orion poured another broadside into the Frenchman, whereupon the Swiftsure signified that she submitted. Both she and the Bahama were taken possession of by the Colossus, which had the distinction of having suffered more heavily in killed and wounded combined than any other British ship."

In fact, the Colossus lost 40 killed and 160 wounded in the action, virtually one-third of the ship's complement. Captain Morris was himself severely wounded in the knee by one of the last salvos from the Argonauta and was obliged to apply a tourniquet to his thigh to stop the bleeding, but he refused to leave the deck. By the time the action had ended and the Agamemnon had taken the Colossus in tow, Morris was so weak from loss of blood that he

was taken below, and on arrival at Gibraltar he was carried on shore to the hospital.

By the end of the battle and with Nelson dead, Collingwood had captured 17 enemy ships, but 14 of these were lost in the storm that blew up in the evening, either sinking or being wrecked on the shore. Thus the victorious crews were substantially deprived of the prize-money normally awarded in the circumstances, and their reward was more the glory of the occasion.

Shortly after returning to England, Hargood received a letter from the Duke of Clarence who was no longer on active service in the Navy:

"Bushy House, Friday Night

"I congratulate you from the bottom of my heart that at last you have had the opportunity of convincing your brother officers of those merits which I have long known you to possess. Everybody that had the honour and glory of sharing in the action speak and write in the highest terms of the Belleisle and her gallant commander. To me it is a matter of great satisfaction that my old shipmate is so well thought of. I hope to see you, that we may converse over the action, and that I may be the master of the subject. Besides, I must consider you as a child of my own, and we are to celebrate the victory here, which I have not yet done till you can be present. I wish another brave fellow could have witnessed our rejoicings, but he is gone. I mean my friend Nelson. You well know my attachment and friendship for him, and you may therefore easily conceive what I must have felt, at the moment of the most brilliant victory, to lose my friend covered with glory and entitled to the first honours of a grateful country. I did not think it was possible, but for one of my dearest relations, to have felt what I have and what I do still, for Nelson. I shall now conclude as I trust to see you shortly; but I must request you will let me know the day, that we may arrange your reception. You cannot refuse the pleasure to several young ladies and gentlemen, who talk of nothing else but the brave Captain Hargood.

"Adieu! and ever believe me, dear Hargood, your most sincerely,

William."

(Fitzgerald, Vol. 1, p.119.)

The Marlow Historian

For Margareta Morris this must have been a trying time: no father to lean on and, as far as she knew, her husband in mortal danger, so we can confidently assume that she was delighted to see him return to a hero's welcome, despite the fact that he had suffered a serious wound to the leg. Clearly Morris was not completely disabled by his injury for he remained in command of the Colossus until 1808, and was able to undertake other appointments before his promotion to Rear-Admiral in 1811.

Tradition has it that Admiral James Nicoll Morris and his wife took up residence at Thames Bank in 1811, and the date is of particular interest from another point of view.

The naval service record of Admiral Morris indicates (Marshall, p.488) that he was in command of the Baltic fleet in the latter part of the war with France, and Admiralty records further show (PRO: ADM 9 /1/ page 74) that his flag was then hoisted on HMS Vigo from 16 January 1812 to 1 June 1813, which happens to coincide almost exactly with the period when Robert Hammond of Marlow (see "The Hammonds of Western House", p.50) entered the Navy and joined the Vigo as a midshipman at the age of 14. The coincidence deserves an explanation.

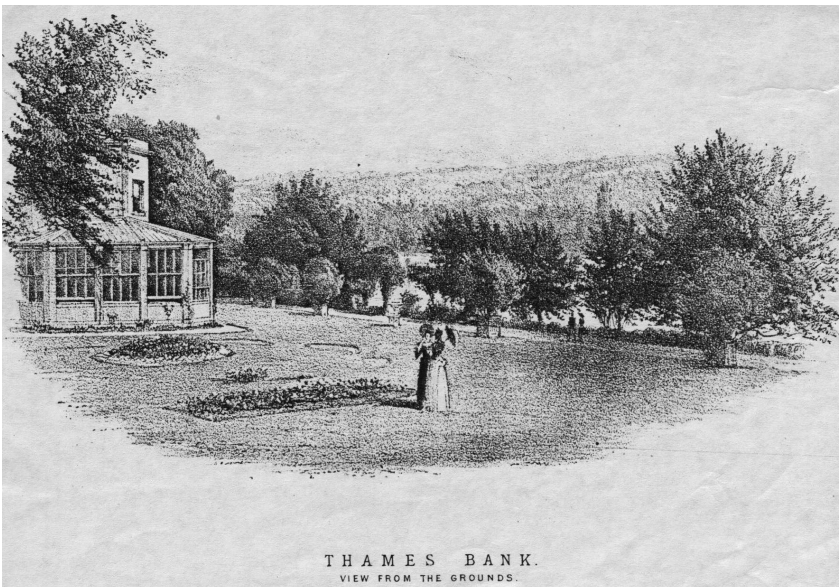
What we know is that Robert Hammond's father, Jonathan, was in the marines in his

youth and was wounded in America some time around 1784, after which he went to university, took Holy Orders, and married in 1794. He was in fact about the same age as Morris, born 1767 and 1763 respectively, and it seems at least quite possible that both Jonathan Hammond and James Morris came to know each other in those actions on the eastern seaboard of America in 1782 and afterwards, as enumerated in Morris' biography. They may have kept in touch with one another, or they may have renewed their acquaintance when Admiral Morris became Colonel of the Harwich Division of Royal Marines for a year to August 1811, just at a time when the Rev. Jonathan Hammond would be thinking about a career for his second son. The proposition is that as a result of such familiarity Morris agreed to take Robert Hammond into his own ship and to sponsor his introduction to the Navy. As mentioned earlier, this was in fact the way that Morris had entered the Navy.



Maria (nee Cocks) (1777 - 1849)
married Sir William Hargood in 1811.
c.1812

Meanwhile, Hargood too had been elevated to the rank of Rear-Admiral in 1810 and had been courting Margareta's younger sister, Maria, whom he married in the following year. We can well imagine that henceforth there would be frequent contact between the sisters, actively encouraged by their respective husbands who would use the occasions to spin



The Admirals of Thames Lawn

a yarn or two.

In the New Year's Honours List gazetted on 2 January 1815, both Rear-Admiral James Nicoll Morris and his brother-in-law, Rear-Admiral William Hargood, became Knights Commander of the Order of the Bath, but family celebrations would have been tempered by the knowledge that both men were still heavily engaged in the war.

Days of Peace

Little is known about how Sir James and Lady Morris spent the remainder of their lives at Thames Bank, other than that he received promotion to Vice-Admiral in 1819, and the assumption must be that it was in semi-retirement and relative tranquillity. However, there is an event on the record (Allen, p.220 et seq.) that may have given them some unusual excitement.

As was well known, the Duke of Clarence was a rumbustious character with manners more associated with life at sea than at court, although he was a generous and convivial host. It could therefore have been in some trepidation that the Morris' anticipated a visit to their home by the Duke accompanied by Admiral Sir William Hargood, and very probably by Maria Hargood who was taking the opportunity to see her sister. The story goes that at some point, possibly after a prolonged and largely liquid lunch at Thames Bank to celebrate the reunion, the Duke and Hargood ventured out on the Thames in a rowing boat, and that the antics of the Duke threatened to destabilise the boat to such an extent that he had to be restrained. Had that not been successful, and with the proximity of the weir, the course of English history could have been very different.

That is as maybe, and all that can be assumed further about the period is that before his death at Thames Bank in 1830 at the age of 66, Admiral Sir James Nicoll Morris welcomed the prospect of a new bridge at Marlow which would shift the traffic somewhat further away from his home and make it yet more peaceful.

Lady Margaretta Morris erected a plaque to his memory in the church, also shortly to be rebuilt.

As for Admiral Sir William and Lady Hargood who set up home in Bath, somewhat more is known, mainly arising from his friendship with the Duke of Clarence.

When Queen Charlotte visited Bath for some days in 1817, she was accompanied by her son, the Duke of Clarence, who took every opportunity of making private visits to Sir William and Lady (née Maria Cocks) Hargood at their home in Queen Square.

Again, when Hargood slipped on ice and broke his leg while walking in Bath, the Duke of Clarence wrote him a letter:

“Bushy House
January 30, 1830

“My dear friend and valued shipmate,

Mrs Harper has just written to my unmarried daughter, mentioning that you have had the misfortune to break your leg; I must therefore write to enquire after you. This misfortune I have, thank God, not met with; but the dislocation of the shoulder,

and the fracture of the arm, I am acquainted with, and are bad enough, but not by any means equal to your accident. I am anxious to know how you are, and request Lady Hargood will answer this letter if it is at all



Admiral Sir William Hargood GCB, GCH (1762—1839) of Bath. Captain of HMS Belleisle, Trafalgar 1805. c. 1830

The Marlow Historian

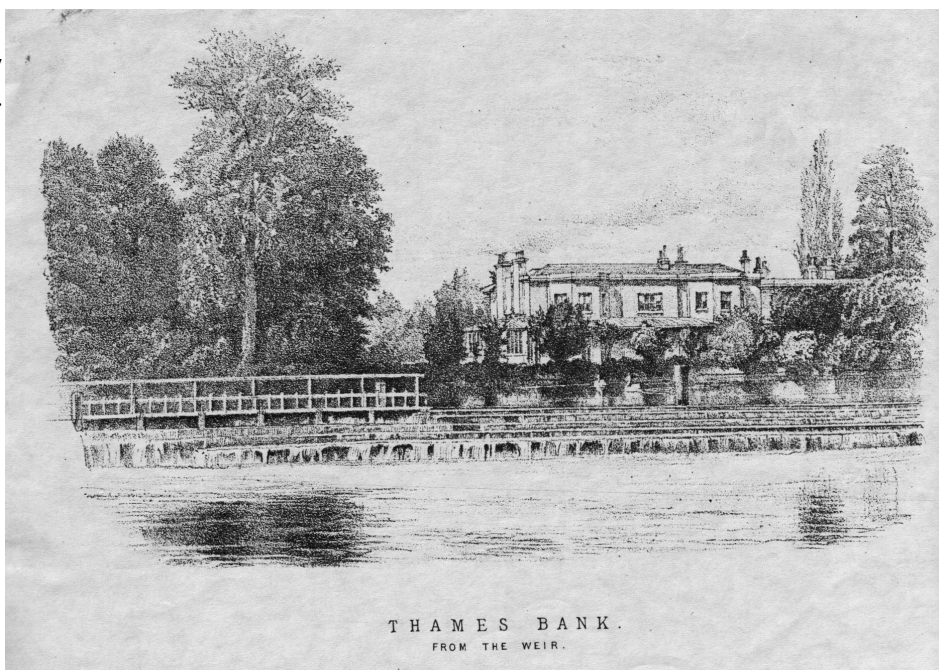
inconvenient for you to write. I hope you will soon recover, and ever believe me,

*Dear Hargood,
Yours truly,
William”*

When George IV died on 26 June 1830, the Duke of Clarence became William IV and Hargood was one of the first to be invited to meet him at St James' Palace on 6 July. On 23 March 1831, Admiral Sir William Hargood was decorated with the Grand Cross of the Hanoverian Guelphic Order, a personal honour conferred by His Majesty. (Allen, 1841, p.220 et seq.)

The Duchess of Kent and her daughter, Princess Victoria, the heir apparent, visited Plymouth while Admiral Hargood, by now in his 70's, was commandant of the naval establishment there between 1833 and 1836. It was well known that William IV heartily disliked the Duchess and was determined to outlive her and prevent her becoming Regent on behalf of the Princess, of whom the King was nevertheless fond. The yacht arriving with the Royal party suffered a mishap. The Duchess and Princess later had breakfast with Admiral Sir William and Lady Hargood, and were sent on a cruise around Eddystone lighthouse. There are grounds for thinking that a letter along the following lines **may** subsequently have been received by Hargood:-

*Dear Bill,
Heard about the to-do last week and thought a few lines might be appropriate, if only to offer sympathy. Thought of you there, all dressed up in your best bib and tucker to do your stuff, everything ship-shape, and then all hell breaking loose.*



When I gave my permission for the boat to be used I thought it would give the little girlie a treat; poor thing, she so misses not having a father, but I never guessed the crew would be so incompetent - wouldn't have happened in our day, eh? Couldn't get into the harbour without a tow, they said, and then to use a tow-rope so long that it fouled and broke when going round the headland was bad enough, but to allow all and sundry to wallow around before hitting the hulk was unforgivable. Mind you, your chap towing must have been a bit of a nobby not to anticipate difficulties on entering the tide-race, and I expect he heard from you accordingly.

Not quite the grand arrival the you-know-who was expecting after all the gun salutes and bunting everywhere, to say nothing of the huge crowds on the quay expecting something a bit more dignified. Must say, I had a bit of a giggle to think of the chaos. The old boat, ie she of the timbers and not of the skirts, is a bit bashed up I gather, but what a good thing the mast got wedged and didn't fall on anyone, anyone important that is!

Liked the story of your young man who took the girlie to a safe place. Got his priorities right if you ask me and left her Mum to fend for herself, but I'm expecting a different

The Admirals of Thames Lawn

account of things from her p.d.q. ! A little something for his pocket seems called for, but better not from me if you would be so kind.

Never mind the papers, they probably enjoyed the spectacle and made the most of it, but I hear everyone was full of praise for your getting the party off the boat smartish and into your barge without further mishap. Nothing like being on the spot and taking charge. I am grateful to you as always, and look forward to having a tincture or two with you at earliest.

Incidentally, my good woman is off to foreign parts for a while. Nice if we could get together. Remember how we enjoyed ourselves, you old rascal, when off-duty in warmer climes; but we were young then!

Yours,
(Unsigned)

One understands that the Hargoods were liked and respected in Bath, and that Lady Hargood did much charitable work in the city. Sir William died in 1839 at the age of 77 and was buried in Bath Abbey. His portrait hangs in the Painted Hall, Greenwich.

When the Census of Population was taken in 1841, Lady Margareta Morris and Lady Maria Hargood, both widows, were to be found at Thames Bank in Marlow. No doubt the sisters found comfort in one another's company.

(Adapted from "The House of Cocks" by the author, February 2000)

© Hugh Grice
February 2000

References

- Allen, Joseph "Memoir of the life and services of Admiral Sir William Hargood" (1841)
Bennett, Geoffrey "The Battle of Trafalgar" (Batsford, 1977)
Clowes, "The Royal Navy - a history"
Dawson, W.R. "Nelson Collection at Lloyds" (Macmillan, 1932)
Fitzgerald, P. "Life and Times of William IV" (Tinsley, 1884)
Marshall, "Naval Biographies" (1823)
O'Byrne, W.R.O. "A Naval Biographical Dictionary" (1849)
Somerset, Anne "Life and Times of William IV" (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1980)

Cuttings

(Found by Bill Purser)

Fishing – Marlow 1851, Windsor & Eton Express, Jan 10th 1852

SUCCESSFUL ANGLING. - A short time since the fisherman to Major General Sir W. R. Clayton, Bart., of Harleyford, near this town, took a very fine jack which weighed 27½ pounds; it is a handsome fish; also a very large otter captured at the same place, have been preserved and stuffed in a manner creditable to Mr. R. Harding, at whose house in High Street, they are now to be seen. The above is only one of the numerous fish taken in this neighbourhood - the river abounds in them. A few days since W. Hickman, Esq., of this town took three, weighing together 42 lbs.

Newspaper Cutting, GREAT MARLOW, October 1848

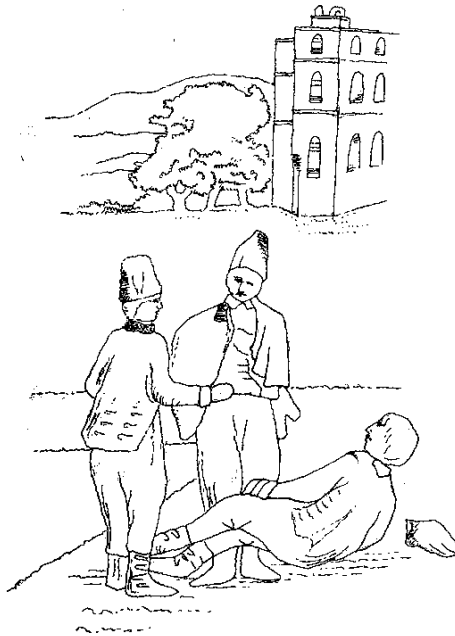
At a meeting of the rate-payers held on the 16th inst., it was determined to adopt so much of the Act of 3^d and 4th Wm., 4th, as respects the Lighting of the town of Great Marlow. The gas-works are now in a forward state, it is expected the town will be lighted up next week. Col. Knox, one of the members, has handsomely given one hundred guineas, which the gas company have laid out in erecting lamp irons and providing lamps for the use of the town. The application of gas is the second move this year in this town. The establishment of a day mail, about six weeks ago, was the first. Marlow may yet rival the great towns in this county.

The gentlemen cadets Of Marlow

Anthony Wethered
Illustrations by Jo Burden

On 17th May 1802 the house in Marlow known as Remnantz opened its doors to sixteen of the British army's new "gentlemen cadets." They were aged between thirteen and fifteen and were to be the guinea pigs in a bold scheme to provide officer cadets with a general education and at the same time to prepare them for the military life. Ahead of them lay three years of intensive instruction and (supposedly) rigorous discipline, after which, if they satisfied their examiners, they would be commissioned in the army without purchase.

A watercolour painted that same year shows them in their scarlet tunics and fez-like black caps (later to be replaced by shakos) relaxing in little groups outside the house. Remnantz in those days was still as it had been built *c.* 1720: a rather fortress-like three-storey block with two parallel wings jutting out from the south side. Not until Thomas Wethered bought it in 1825 did it acquire the pitched roofs and elegant bay windows that it has today. In the left foreground of the painting can be seen the foundation of one of the two new buildings erected for the use of the cadets. The number of boys would eventually rise to four hundred, when other large houses such as Thomas Archer's Marlow Place and Alfred House in the High Street would be needed to accommodate them.



The college was the brainchild of a remarkable officer who, had he lived, would surely have reached the pinnacle of his profession. John Gaspard Le Marchant was a Channel Islander from Guernsey. His early years were marked by lack of promise. So poor were his efforts at school that his father withdrew him and had him educated at home, mostly, it is said, by the family butler, apparently a man of unusual learning.

With a commission bought for him by his father, the young Le Marchant joined the Wiltshire Militia where he quickly quarrelled with his colonel and even challenged him to a duel. Fortunately the colonel had a forgiving nature. But gambling debts followed and only a loan from another officer - after Le Marchant had promised to give up gambling for good - saved him from having to sell his commission.* According to one biographer** he kept both his promise and his quick temper, though he never again challenged anyone to a duel. His hard-

*Gambling was part of the late 18th century culture. The Duke of Wellington as a young man was embarrassed by gambling debts.

**R.H. Thoumine: *Scientific Soldier, A Life of General Le Marchant 1766-1812*, Oxford University Press 1968.

The Gentlemen Cadets of Marlow

pressed father was prevailed upon to buy him his first promotion (from ensign to cornet) but subsequent advancement was by merit and cost him little.

His ideas for a school for officers came to him during a journey by mail coach in the autumn of 1798. Now thirty-two, a lieutenant-colonel in the 7th Dragoons, Le Marchant had achieved distinction in several fields. He had shown himself to be a fearless commander and a horseman and swordsman of the first rank. His manual of *Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exercises of the Cavalry* had received warm praise from King George III, to whom Le Marchant owed his present rank. The king had also admired some of Le Marchant's paintings for he was a talented draughtsman and water-colourist, important qualifications for a field officer in the days before photography made its appearance.

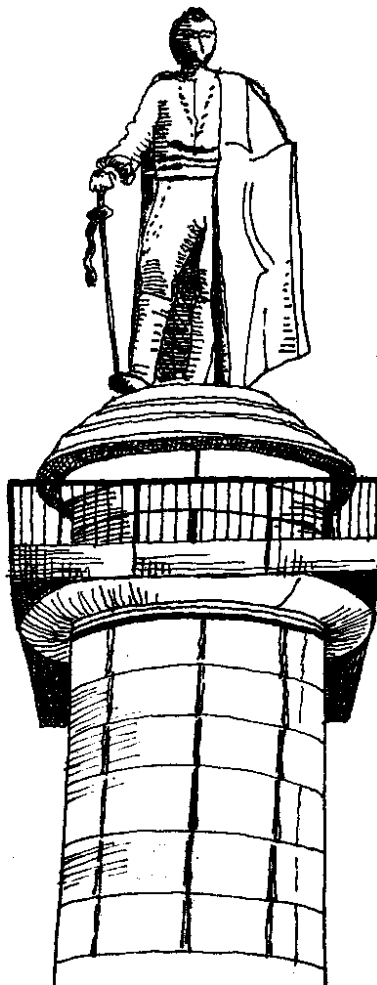
Military academies were nothing new. Frederick the Great's *Kriegsschule* in Berlin had been founded in 1765, France's *Ecole Militaire* in 1756. The Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, although a specialist school for artillery officers, dated from 1741. That Britain was slow to recognise the need for a general programme of training for its officers is said to have been due to a tradition of amateurism, a sort of gentlemanly aversion to professional armies. War, according to one source,* was seen as "fox hunting carried on by other means."

Le Marchant was fortunate in his patrons. In the Flanders campaign of 1794 he had served with distinction under Frederick Duke of York, the favourite son of George III, who in 1795 had

been appointed commander-in-chief of the army. Today, the "grand old Duke" is commemorated in two ways: by the towering column on which he stands, posed heroically, at the top of Duke of York Steps in London; and by the wicked little nursery rhyme deriding his deployment of forces at Cassel Hill in Flanders. But if he lacked the qualities of a good field commander, the duke was generally well liked and later proved himself to be an able administrator. According to the great military historian Sir John Fortescue, he was "the best commander-in-chief we ever had."

The duke was supportive of Le Marchant's proposals for a military college though doubtful at first that they would succeed. Undeterred, Le Marchant drew up detailed plans which he sent to senior members of the military establishment. One of these was William Huskisson, at that time Under Secretary for War. Huskisson was impressed; he secured an interview for Le Marchant with his chief, Henry Dundas, the Secretary of State. Le Marchant came away from the meeting with a promise from Dundas to recommend the scheme to the Prime Minister. Before long he was writing to his wife Mary: "I think you may begin to see the sunshine of fortune opening out on my new projects. Mr Pitt has read my book and has promised to support the Plan."

At Pitt's suggestion a committee chaired by the Duke of York, and with Le Marchant as a member, met to do what we would call a feasibility study. The result was a Royal Warrant issued on 24th June 1801, establishing the principle of a Royal Military College. The committee set a budget of £146,000 for the provision of suitable buildings. Several



*Hugh Thomas: *The Story of Sandhurst*, Hutchinson & Co. 1961.

The Marlow Historian

possible sites were discussed but the choice was surely clear from the start. As A.R Godwin-Austen wryly notes,* "It was proposed that the buildings should be erected on land at Bagshot Heath, the greater part of which, it was found, could conveniently be purchased from Mr Pitt. One passes this coincidence by without comment."

The imposing porticoed building known today as Sandhurst was designed by the noted architect Sir James Wyatt, then in the post of Surveyor to the Board of Works. But with the delays and cost overruns not unusual with public works, it would be some years before the college was ready for occupation. In the meantime temporary quarters had to be found, and these turned out to be in the Buckinghamshire market towns of High Wycombe and Marlow.

Besides his school for officer cadets, Le Marchant's plans included another "for the improvement of the Staff," offering advanced courses for young officers. This senior department, which would later evolve into the Staff College at Camberley, already existed in embryo form in High Wycombe. There, at the Antelope Inn in the High Street, a course of lectures was being given by General Francois Jarry, a royalist *émigré* whose *c.v.* included the governorship of the *Kriegsschule* in Berlin. With the issuance of the Royal Warrant this operation was expanded and brought under the aegis of a Supreme Board with the Duke of York at its head.

As governor of the college the Board appointed General Sir William Harcourt, soon to be Lord Harcourt, with Le Marchant as his deputy or lieutenant-governor. At fifty-eight Harcourt was nearing the end of his military career, the high point of which had been the capture of General Charles Lee in the American Revolutionary War. The governorship of the college was seen by him as a well-earned sinecure, a reward for past services rather than a fresh demand on his energies. This insouciant

attitude would contribute to the inevitable difficulties of any new venture.

The day-to-day running of the junior department was to be the responsibility of the commandant, Lieutenant-Colonel James Butler, deprecatingly described by Alan Shepperd as "an elderly gunner officer with no experience of active service."** A proud, self-important man, Butler resented the authority of the younger lieutenant-governor and would go over his head to Lord Harcourt whenever possible. Shepperd continues: "Between Butler's obstructive tactics and fierce independence, and Harcourt's studied indifference, Le Marchant found his authority undermined and all his future plans for the college endangered." Add to this volatile mixture Le Marchant's own proven irascibility and the potential for trouble can well be imagined.

* * * * *

Marlow's chief attraction as a temporary home for the junior department was its proximity to High Wycombe where Jarry's school for staff officers was already established. Of the several large houses that were available Remnantz was a natural first choice. Its six-acre field would make a serviceable exercise and parade ground and there was space for the erection of additional buildings. Its owner, Stephen Remnant, had come into the property through his marriage in 1747 but it is doubtful that he had spent much time there. The family business was an iron foundry in Woolwich which, coincidentally, made railings and other minor products for the Military Academy. Now almost eighty and in poor health, he was to die at his home on Shooters Hill before the lease with the army was signed.

With the issuance of the Warrant things moved fairly rapidly. On 10th December 1801, the Supreme Board met at Horse Guards with the

***Sandhurst, the Royal Military Academy*, Country Life Books 1980. Colonel Shepperd's attitude is understandable. His own active service led to the loss of both legs in the Normandy campaign of 1944.

**The Staff and the Staff College*, Constable & Co. Ltd 1927.

The Gentlemen Cadets of Marlow

Duke of York in the Chair. Harcourt and Le Marchant were there, as were the new Secretary for War, Charles Yorke, the Adjutant General, Sir William Fawcett, the Quartermaster General, Sir David Dundas, and Barrackmaster General, Oliver De Lancey. Since the Board's last meeting on 19th November, Harcourt with De Lancey and Le Marchant had been down to Marlow and looked at several properties there. They reported "that the House belonging to Mr Remnant, if it could be procured, would answer the purpose."* De Lancey had subsequently been to see "the Person who had the authority to let it," and had "made an agreement for the same, together with the adjoining Grounds, comprising in the whole about ten acres, for the term of three years... at the rate of £120 per Annum."

During a series of lettings the house had been neglected by its absentee landlord, for repairs were needed to every floor of the building as well as to the exterior. Other work included the provision of living quarters in the stables: a dining room at ground level and sleeping quarters in the hayloft overhead. To the rear of the stables was a small lean-to billiard room; this was to be "fitted up," along with the brew house, wash house and wood house, over which would be space for servants' sleeping rooms and a kitchen. The total cost would be £400.7.11, De Lancey told the meeting. He was authorised to put the work in hand without delay.

A Mr William Bond had billed the Barrack department for £500 as an advance against a sum as yet unspecified. The nature of the work was likewise unspecified, but it may well have had to do with the two additional buildings that were to be erected to the south of the stables.

The next item on the agenda was the seemingly minor matter of the cadets' beds. This was not delegated to some subcommittee as one might expect, but apparently received the attention of the full Board:

*The minutes of the meeting are held at the Public Record Office, ref. WO99/5.

Lieutenant-Colonel Le Marchant...presented to the Board a drawing of a Bedstead proposed to be provided for the use of the Students of the Junior Department at Marlow, and some alterations therein being suggested, the same were approved of, and the required number directed to be provided...together with such bedding as may be approved of by Lieutenant-Colonel Le Marchant.

There, then, was the commander-in-chief of the British army with four of his most senior staff officers plus a Cabinet Minister, studying a drawing of a bedstead with a critical eye, and indeed making alterations to it. It is to be hoped that the beds won the approval of the cadets as they had that of HRH the Duke of York.

And so the cadets came to Marlow. With them came their officers, their professors and instructors, and the college servants including a housekeeper. For the next decade Marlow was a garrison town, its streets brightened by scarlet tunics and fresh-faced youth. And if the cadets' high spirits sometimes got out of hand, as they did, this was offset by the greatly enhanced social life of the townspeople and the lasting friendships formed between them and senior members of the college.

* * * * *

In the early part of 1802 the Supreme Board issued, as part of the Royal Warrant, its *Rules, Orders and Regulations*...for the junior department of the college. Despite its formidable title,** this little book runs to only thirty-six loosely printed pages, yet it contains an excellent distillation of Le Marchant's plans for the department. It was the intention from the beginning to provide not only for "those, who from early Life are intended for the Military Profession," but also:

***His Majesty's Warrant: Containing the Rules, Orders and Regulations Necessary in the First Instance for the Formation, Conduct and Good Government of the Junior Department of the Royal Military College. Also the Regulations of the Formation of the Collegiate Board with the Authorities Vested in the Same.* Local Studies Library of Bucks County Library, Aylesbury.

The Marlow Historian

for the Orphan Sons of those Meritorious Officers who have fallen, or been disabled in the Service of their Country, as well as for the Sons of those Officers in our military service, who, from pecuniary difficulties, might not otherwise be able to give them an adequate education.

The sixteen first arrivals in that May of 1802 were assigned to the first of four planned companies of a hundred cadets each. Each company was to be made up of three "establishments," varying both in numbers and in fees according to its members' circumstances. The "sons of noblemen and gentlemen" - thirty in each company - were charged £90 a year, as were the twenty cadets preparing to serve with the East India Company; the sons of serving officers - another twenty - were charged £40 a year, while those whose fathers had been killed in action - thirty - were to "receive their Education, Board, and Clothing, free from Expence." For paying students the cost of "Clothing" (as distinct from "Necessaries" such as shirts and underwear) was included in the fees. Each cadet was provided annually with

One Scarlet Infantry Jacket, with blue Cuffs and Collar, looped with Silver
One Scarlet Waistcoat, without Sleeves.
Two Pair of Blue Pantaloons.
One Felt Cap.
Two Pair of Short black Gaiters.
Two, or more, Pair of Shoes.

Every three years he would be issued with "One Blue Greatcoat." It was a uniform, according to one source,* "somewhat after the style of a French railway porter." But viewers of an engraving c. 1805 of the cadets smartly drawn up for inspection, possibly by the Duke of York, may find that comparison unfair.

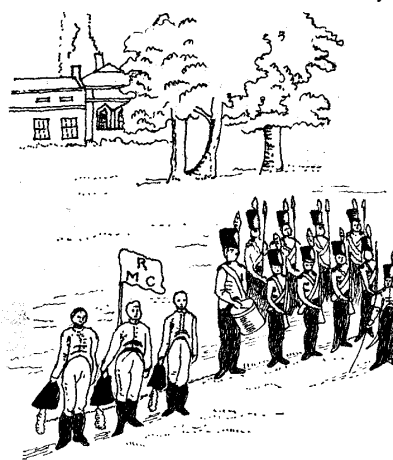
The boys were given a rigorous daily routine, starting with a parade and inspection at six a.m. At six-thirty there were prayers followed by two hours of study. Not until nine did the cadets get their breakfast, after which they studied

again from ten to twelve. Then came "fencing, riding, swimming** and the sabre." Dinner was at two o'clock, and then it was study until five-thirty when there was an hour of military exercises. At eight-thirty they had supper, followed by prayers and "the Retreat" at nine.

Military subjects were pre-eminent in the curriculum and included Fortification, Gunnery, Tactics, "the Drawing of Plans, Military Movements and Perspective [and] Military Geography and History." But there were also classes in Mathematics, French and German (Oriental Languages for the East India Company cadets), and "Frequent Lectures...on Natural and Moral Philosophy." Not listed here, although taught by three masters at least, were the Classics. All in all, it was a well-rounded education.

Little has been written about the teaching staff or the quality of their work. Hugh Thomas writes that the latter "was no worse than at most public schools at the time,"*** which suggests no better than mediocre. But from what we know of the civilian teachers, we can believe that their performance was to a higher standard than that.

The most distinguished academic was the then young Rev. Godfrey Faussett, later to become Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity at Oxford and a canon of Christchurch Cathedral. His subjects at the RMC were History, Geography



**Annals of Sandhurst* by A.F. Mockler-Ferryman, William Heinemann 1900.

**In the Thames, presumably.

****Op. cit.*

The Gentlemen Cadets of Marlow

and the Classics. He remained there for just two and a half years, but when he departed in 1807 to take up a curacy at Holton, near Oxford, he left behind in Marlow a young woman who had lost her heart to him. She was Sarah Wethered, eldest daughter of Thomas Wethered the brewer.

There is space here only to touch on the friendships that developed between Thomas's family and the college staff, although letters survive showing them to have been warm, and that several continued after the college had left Marlow. Sarah eventually achieved happiness with her Godfrey,* although only after he had married elsewhere and been widowed. To the seven children of his first marriage Sarah added seven more. A wall plaque near where they are buried in Christchurch Cathedral describes him as *Vir Strenuous Probus Sincerus* (a vigorous, honest, sincere man) and her life as *Pia Pulchra* (pious and beautiful).

Isaac Dalby was a Fellow of the Royal Society. A Cornishman of humble origin, he was a mathematician of genius and worked on the first Trigonometrical Survey of England and Wales. Le Marchant had engaged him in 1799 as an assistant to Jarry in High Wycombe, but with the coming of the junior department he began riding over to Marlow twice a week to teach Mathematics to the cadets. They are said to have held him in considerable awe, for he was a demanding teacher, intolerant of careless or unfinished work.

However, his exacting standards applied only to his own subject; other subjects did not interest him. R.H. Thoumine** tells how one day, to his disgust, he was asked to examine a class in History.

It was a happy stroke for the candidates, for he brought with him a small book of dates and a quite uncharacteristic mood of careless gaiety. One student who was boggling over the date of

the Armada was rallied most cheerily with, "Come along, never mind a hundred years or so, give me a good round guess!"

Hugh Thomas*** has good words for William Delamotte, a young drawing master who was highly regarded as a painter in his day. His work, like Le Marchant's, had been admired by George III who commended him to Benjamin West, the President of the Royal Academy which the king himself had founded. But "the only distinguished individual on the staff," as Hugh Thomas describes him, Delamotte was not. In the drawing department alone there were some credible claims to distinction.

For the first half of the Marlow period the chief drawing master was William Alexander, who left to become First Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum. His salary from the college was £200 a year (about £12,000 in today's money) which, while not princely, did carry some perks: a rental allowance for his house, six bushels of coal a week, candles and writing paper. He and Delamotte were joined in 1806 by William Gilpin, who had just completed a two-year term as president of the Royal Society of Painters in Water Colour. However, an attempt by the Board to recruit John Constable to the drawing department failed, Constable declining on the advice of Benjamin West. "It would have been a death blow to all my prospects of perfection in the art I love," he told a friend.

The Rev. James Pears was on the staff from 1806 to 1810, teaching the same three subjects as Godfrey Faussett. He had been educated at Winchester and was admitted to New College, Oxford, at the age of sixteen. A born educator himself, he went on to become headmaster of Bath Grammar School. For a time after leaving Marlow he ran a preparatory school for the college in Maidenhead Thicket; among his pupils were the sons of the Duke of Clarence - the future William IV - whose chaplain he was. His next move was to Windlesham in Surrey where he continued to prepare boys for

*In the next generation two Godfrey-Faussett brothers (the name had become hyphenated) married two Wethered sisters.

***Op. cit.*

****Op. cit.*

The Marlow Historian

entrance to the RMC, now at Sandhurst. It was at that house in Windlesham* that he coached Thomas Wethered's third son, Florence, who was doing poorly at Eton. As Mr Pears reported to Thomas:

Florence is well, but I fear he will be sick of this place & heartily glad to get back to Eton, for I find he is not used to much work there. He is on a very bad System, but I will do all that is possible in so short a time with him.

So much for the education at Eton in the early 1820's!

* * * *

On 25th July 1809, two men, both in their forties, one a French army officer, the other an English brewer, set out from Marlow and rode through the leafy lanes to Blackwater in Surrey. They wanted to see for themselves how the building work on the new military college was progressing.

The Frenchman was Charles Fontaine de Mervé, formerly a lieutenant in the elite *Garde du Corps du Roi*, King's Bodyguard to Louis XVI, but now a teacher of French to the cadets at Marlow. De Mervé's adventures before and since that date would fill a book, but until it is written, brief summaries will have to suffice. With the coming of the Terror and the deposing of Louis XVI, and incidentally of his little son (Louis XVII), de Mervé had escaped across the German border, possibly with his new master the Comte de Provence, the future Louis XVIII, or at any rate in the same year, 1791. For eighteen months he served in the counter-revolutionary "Prince's Army" of Louis' distant cousin the Prince de Condé. Louis' own desultory service with it ended when he was asked to resign for the safety of his person, and he began the long, wandering exile that eventually brought him to England in 1807. De Mervé meanwhile had joined up with, of all things, a Highland regiment, the 79th

*A son of Mr Pears later converted the house to a preparatory school, Woodcote House, which flourishes to this day. Two sons and three grandsons of the writer were educated there, as (it turned out) was his grandfather.

Foot, which had retreated into Germany from the battlefields of Flanders. When the regiment crossed over to England,** de Mervé went with it. In England we lose sight of him until 1805, the year he took up his post in Marlow.

* * * *

If anyone thought that the cadets' rigorous work schedule would put a brake on bad behaviour, they were soon to be disabused. Reports reaching Le Marchant's headquarters in Wycombe told of drunken scenes in the streets of Marlow, with stones being hurled at professors, women being insulted, and shops pilfered. The lieutenant-governor's complaints to Colonel Butler were met with hostility and an indignant defence of the cadets.

Things reached their nadir in August of 1804 when a handful of cadets who considered themselves to have been unfairly punished attempted to take over the college. Their plan was to set fire to a haystack in the hope that the college armoury would be left unattended while the guards ran to put out the blaze. Muskets in hand, they would then confront the lieutenant-governor with a list of demands including the dismissal of the two offending staff members and the abolition of the "Black Hole," a detested form of confinement imposed for even quite minor offences.

That the plot failed seems to have been due to one of the conspirators having turned informer. R.H. Thoumine names him as J.W. Cole, a bright thirteen-year-old who passed his qualifying exams in sixteen months instead of the usual three years and was subsequently gazetted without purchase. His former accomplices were expelled from the college after being stripped of their army insignia and having their swords broken over their heads.

The episode brought discredit on the college and drew much criticism from the national

**Dates here are uncertain. De Mervé's service record (from the *Musée de la Légion d'Honneur* in Paris) gives 1797 as the year of his arrival in England. However, British forces had been withdrawn from northern Europe by 1795.

The Gentlemen Cadets of Marlow

press. Le Marchant, naturally, blamed the uprising on Butler's failure to maintain good order and discipline, an accusation that Butler hotly denied. The point was reached where Harcourt was forced to refer the matter to the commander-in-chief. There followed a formal enquiry at which Le Marchant, thanks to his habit of meticulous record keeping, was able to cite chapter and verse of the incidents behind



Colonel Le Marchant

his complaints. The panel of three generals was plainly impressed and Le Marchant found himself effectively vindicated. As a result, Harcourt undertook not to communicate directly with Butler but only through the lieutenant-governor.

The ensuing weeks and months saw a marked improvement in Butler's performance and consequently in cadet discipline. That he retained the confidence of the Supreme Board became evident in 1811, after Le Marchant had been promoted to major-general and joined Wellington in the Peninsula with his own brigade of dragoon guards. The lieutenant-governorship of the college then fell into

Butler's lap.

Nor should it be thought that there were no good apples among the bad in the ranks of the cadets. Two early entrants to the Third (or £90) Establishment, one the son of a "gentleman," the other of a "nobleman," were to bring credit both to their fathers and to the college. Both as it happened had connections with Marlow itself. Cadet William R. Clayton had been admitted to the college in July 1803, at the age of sixteen. His father, Sir William Clayton, Bart., was lord of the next-door manor of Harleyford. On obtaining his commission young William joined the Duke of Wellington's army and fought in the Peninsula and at Waterloo. Later, as General Sir William, he served as MP for Marlow for thirteen years.

Edward Charles Cocks was the eldest son of John, 2nd Baron Somers and Lord Lieutenant of Herefordshire. (Another line of Somers Cocks was a leading family in 19th century Marlow.) In 1821 the baron was created Earl Somers and Viscount Eastnor, but Edward was never to inherit his father's titles. He was killed during the failed attempt to storm the castle at Burgos in October 1812. "This kilted young major was," according to Elizabeth Longford,* "an outstandingly daring Intelligence officer [and] Wellington's *beau ideal* of a soldier." Wellington was in no doubt that "if Cocks had lived, which was a moral impossibility, since he exposed himself too much to risks, he would have been one of the greatest generals we ever had."

* * * * *

The next major crisis was not of the college's making but that of the commander-in-chief himself. It grew out of a scandal surrounding the Duke of York's mistress, Mary Anne Clarke, who had been using her influence with him to secure promotions in the army. It was not uncommon then for promotions to be obtained by "favour" instead of the more usual purchase. But with or without the knowledge of her royal lover,

**Wellington: The Years of the Sword*, Weidenfeld & Nicholson 1969.

The Marlow Historian

Mrs Clarke had been taking payments from the officers concerned. Her method was to undercut the official rate so that a captain aspiring to the rank of major, say, would pay only about £1000 instead of the customary £2500. For him of course it was a bargain, but for her it was pure profit, to be put away against the day when the duke would tire of her undoubted charms.

This occurred in 1806 and it was the moment the duke's enemies had been waiting for. Chief among these was another of George III's sons, Edward Duke of Kent, who would one day father the future Queen Victoria. His part in what followed is unclear; not in doubt is the enmity between the brothers nor Kent's resentment of York's command of the army. Hugh Thomas has found evidence that the Duke of Kent's secretary, a certain Captain Dodd, was instrumental in persuading Mary Anne to admit to her misdeeds.

In 1809 she was called to answer charges in the House of Commons. Her interrogator was Colonel Wardle, M.P. for Oakhampton, who was widely believed to be in the Duke of Kent's camp. From the floor of a packed House she reportedly gave a good account of herself and, says Thomas, "her gaiety and saucy directness endeared her even to so strict a man as Wilberforce."* No action was taken against her, nor was any move made to reform the system of promotion by purchase.**

Meanwhile a printed pamphlet had appeared which was as fulsome in its praise of the Duke of Kent as it was derogatory towards the Duke of York and the army under his command. It came from the pen of a notorious muck-raker named McCallum. Godwin-Austen, never one to mince words, makes no attempt to hide his disgust:

This scandalous production was part of a poisonous effusion by that reptile Pierre Franc M'Callum, a creature of the scoundrel M.P., the

Militia Colonel Wardle, who, backed by the Duke of Kent (said clacking tongues), was commencing his attack on the Duke's brother, the Commander-in-Chief. . .***

McCallum saved some of his most venomous words for "the seminary at Marlow," describing it as "an absolute mockery of anything like military education" and the governor, Harcourt, as "totally ignorant of every branch of military science." Marlow, for various reasons, was "the most ineligible situation for [the college] in the whole Kingdom," and was chosen, according to McCallum, for its proximity to Harcourt's estate at St Leonard's Hill in Berkshire.

Somewhat to his embarrassment, no doubt mixed with relief, Le Marchant was specifically excluded from McCallum's indictment of the college personnel. His disagreements with "the non-resident governor" were, in McCallum's words, "fomented and kept alive by [Harcourt's] ignorance, obstinacy and folly" The commandant, Butler, on the other hand, was accused along with the housekeeper of misuse of college provisions. Finally, after pointing out some cases of venereal disease among the cadets, McCallum rated the college "a seminary of vice, pollution and immorality."

While most of McCallum's invective could be dismissed as empty bluster, it contained enough grains of truth to hit home. And in Whitehall as in Marlow the effect was devastating. At the urging of the Duke of York's secretary, Colonel Herbert Taylor, Le Marchant wrote a strong letter to Harcourt dissociating himself from McCallum's attack on the governor and offering to co-operate in any way to uphold "the honour and character" of the college. He refused, however, to add his name to a letter Harcourt had written to the Board refuting the entire contents of the pamphlet. This was asking too much of him, although apparently, at Butler's request, the letter had been signed by the whole Marlow staff. A move by the Board to prosecute McCallum for libel came to nothing;

*Hugh Thomas *op. cit.*

**The purchase of commissions and promotions was only abolished in 1871.

***Godwin-Austen *op. cit.*

The Gentlemen Cadets of Marlow

the college was shy about having its affairs made public.

The pamphlet, along with Mary Anne Clarke's revelations, handed victory to the Duke of York's enemies which was nevertheless short-lived. Although compelled to resign as commander-in-chief, he was subsequently reinstated. Among some sections of the public there was a feeling that Parliament, which had censured him for negligence but failed to prosecute him for corruption, had allowed his royal status to stand in the way of its duty. Many no doubt shared the view of fourteen-year-old Thomas Arnold, whose elder brother Matthew taught at the college and later corresponded with the Wethereds.* Writing home from school at Winchester, the future headmaster of Rugby expressed his opinion:

I think the Ministry go too far in their defence of the Duke when they say they see no fault in his Conduct. What? No fault? Is then the permitting of a Mistress to intermeddle at all in military affairs no fault?

To the defence of both the college and the duke came a professor of the junior department named Lewis Theophilus Peithman. He wrote a counter-blast to McCallum's pamphlet of which Godwin-Austen much approves: "Bravo! Theophilus Peithman," he whoops, "for you're a jolly good fellow."

* * * * *

What de Mervé and Wethered thought of the construction work at Sandhurst is not recorded, but by 1812 it was near enough complete for the college to take up its permanent quarters. De Mervé continued his teaching there until April 1814 when, suddenly and urgently, he was called to the side of the king. Peace had been declared and Louis XVIII, who for the last months of his exile had had the loan of Hartwell House in Buckinghamshire, was returning to France to

*On leaving the college Matthew Arnold took holy orders, became an army chaplain and served with the British forces in Sicily. A few years after returning to England he was drowned while sailing off the Isle of Wight. Thomas Arnold's son Matthew, the poet, was named after him.

claim the throne of the Bourbons. De Mervé was one of just eight members of the *Garde du Corps* to accompany him and his court to Paris.

Soon after his arrival, de Mervé wrote a long letter** to Colonel Butler, now lieutenant-governor of the college. In it he describes the dangerous tensions existing in post-Napoleonic France, while complaining that his service to the king is "confined hitherto to accompany HM when he goes to the Chapel." Almost as an afterthought he mentions that his wife, whom he cannot have seen for twenty-three years, "was waiting for me at my arrival."

With Napoleon's return from Elba the following year, Louis and his entourage fled north to Ghent where, in a splendid house lent by an aristocratic friend, he waited out the result of Waterloo. As always in wartime, transport was a problem and de Mervé wrote to Thomas Wethered in the hope that Wethered could find him some horses. The regretful reply came back from Thomas's eldest son. Situated as they are in the country,

it is next to impossible to meet with three such horses as you describe. . . or with any indeed that would be worth the expence and risk of sending [them on] the Voyage, except at a price *very far* above what you have named.

Prices have risen sharply, he explains, owing to the demand created by the cavalry having been sent overseas.

Already a favourite of de Mervé's, young Tom had enjoyed a highly successful visit with him and his wife in Paris in 1814. Within days of Waterloo he was dead, having pierced his hand on a thorn while playing with his younger sisters, and succumbed to tetanus or "the locked jaw."

De Mervé retired from the army as a colonel in 1823. He had been awarded the title of *Compte* and made a member of the *Legion d'Honneur*. When it came to computing his pension the French army was generous, counting even his years at the college in with his service to the

**Sandhurst Collection.

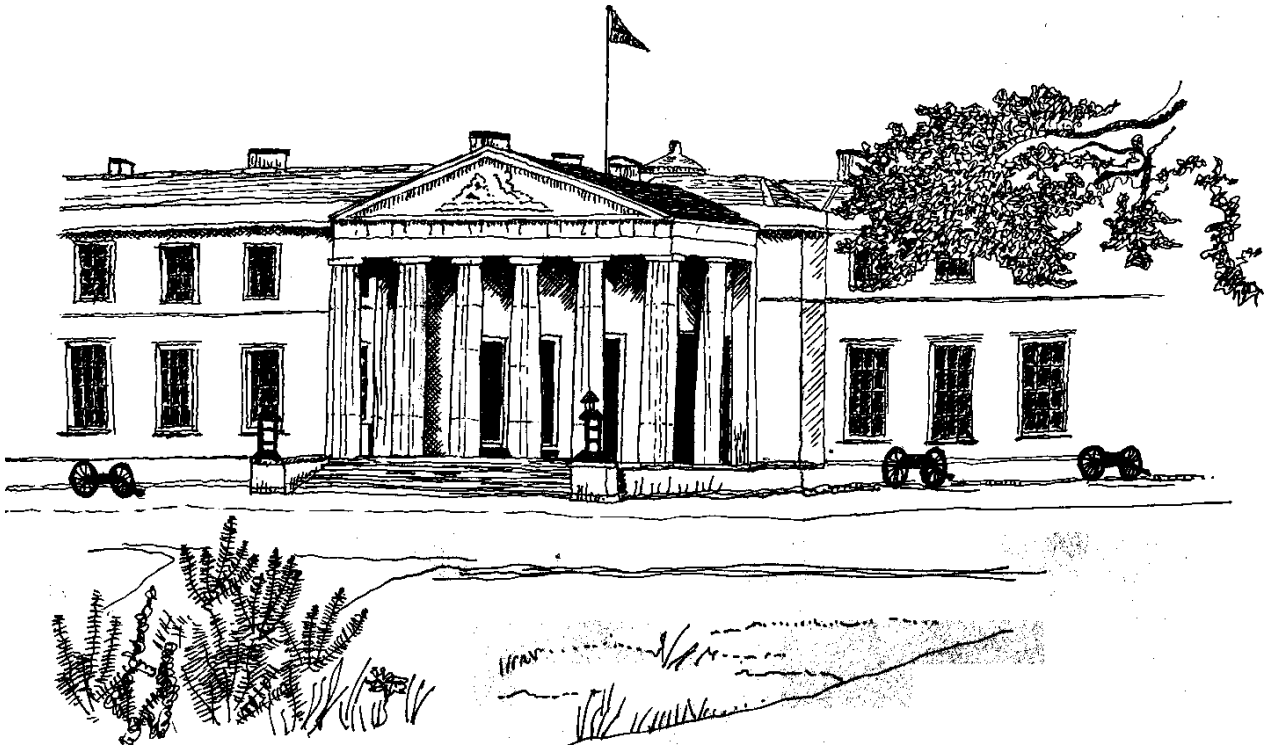
The Marlow Historian

king. Oddly, it may seem, his time with Condé's army was excluded, as was the year he spent with the 79th Foot.

* * * * *

Like its founder, the college had made an uncertain start, but also like him it went on to achieve great things for the British army.

Behind them in Marlow the cadets left many memories, besides a small harvest of musket balls and uniform buttons to be unearthed by



John Le Marchant did not live to see the full flowering of his creation. He was killed at the Battle of Salamanca on 22nd July 1812, the very year that the gentlemen cadets moved to their grand new home at Sandhurst. He had won battle honours at Ciudad Rodrigo, La Granja and Villa Garcia before leading his dragoons in a thunderous charge against the French infantry at Salamanca, scattering their lines with the weight of the attack. Wellington and his cavalry commander, Sir Stapleton Cotton, had watched the action from a nearby hill. "By God, Cotton," Wellington told him, "I never saw anything so beautiful in my life. The day is yours."

In the act of regrouping his own forces Le Marchant was struck by a French musket ball which severed his spine, killing him instantly. When the news of his death reached England, it is said that that the Duke of York wept.

future generations. There is also a handsome silver salver inscribed with these words:

From
The Gentlemen Cadets
of the
Royal Military College
To
Thos Wethered Esq.
25th October 1809

The reason for the presentation is not known.

© Anthony Wethered
May 2000

Thanks are due to Mrs M. I. L. de Lee for access to the Sandhurst Collection, to Professor Ian Beckett for reading the script and making suggestions, and, as always, to Miss S. M. ("Bill") Purser for generous help with the research.

the hatchments of all saints parish church, Marlow

John Evans

What are Hatchments?

The All Saints' *hatchments* are the large *lozenge* (diamond)-shaped boards bearing coats of arms high up on the north, south-east (in the Wethered Chapel) and south walls of the nave. Quoting from the General Introduction to Summers and Titterton's book, 'The Development and Use of Hatchments':-

'The diamond-shaped hatchment, which originated in the Low Countries, is a debased form of the medieval achievement (the shield, helm, and other accoutrements) carried at the funeral of a noble or knight. In this country it was customary for the hatchment to be hung outside the house during the period of mourning, and thereafter placed in the church.

'This practice begun in the early 17th century is by no means entirely obsolete, for about 80 examples have so far been recorded for the present (20th) century'.

By the eighteenth century coats of arms and hatchments had outlived their original purposes, but had become very fashionable amongst the English gentry. The earliest hatchment in All Saints, dates from 1744 (for Sir William Clayton), and the latest from 1856 (for Sarah Wethered).

Heraldic Conventions

A gentleman's arms were originally meant to identify him (and his entourage) whilst enveloped in armour, at tournaments or in battle, in the days when most people were illiterate. The conventions for *marshalling* arms were established to avoid duplication and confusion, and help identify who was related to whom. Also, when a hatchment was hung outside a home it would have been helpful to indicate which member of the family it was for. So hatchments acquired their own conventions.

If the hatchment was for a man, it would show a shield with a *helm* (helmet) (fig 1). If it was for a woman there would a cherub's face, or a lovers' knot, instead of a helm. If she was a spinster, a widow or divorced, the shield would be replaced by a diamond (fig 2).

The helms of knights and baronets face front with the visor open. Those of *esquires*, i.e., untitled gentlemen, are shown in profile, facing to the *dexter* side (the right hand side of the person behind the shield), with the visor closed. In England a title has never been a pre-requisite for the grant of arms.

The *crest* above the



Fig 1

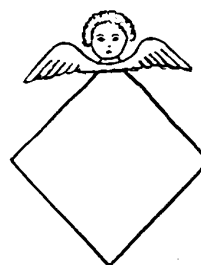


Fig 2

helm may differentiate between persons, or family branches, entitled to bear the same arms. Or it may just reflect the special interests or achievements of the *armiger* (a man entitled to a coat of arms) or those of his ancestors.

If the man or woman was unmarried, then the

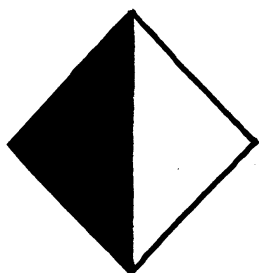


Fig 3

background of his/her hatchment would be all black. If the man or woman was married, the background would be half black and half white: for a husband the black on the dexter side as in fig 3; for a wife on the other (*sinister*) side as in fig 4.

The pattern on the shield is the *coat of arms*, more

usually referred to as simply the *arms*. After the marriage of an armiger to a woman whose father was also an armiger, the two arms would be combined, usually by *impalement* (fig 5), the husband's arms again being on the dexter side. If the wife happened to be an *heraldic heiress* (heiress in heraldry meaning an armiger's daughter with no brothers), her sons would be entitled to *quarter* her arms with their father's (fig 6), and after her father's death her arms would be placed as an *escutcheon of pretence* on her husband's arms (fig 7).

After a few generations of marriages involving

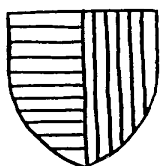


Fig 5

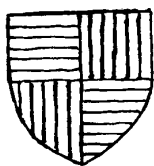


Fig 6

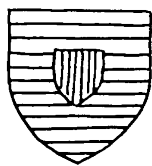


Fig 7

heraldic heiresses, the quarterings could become quite complicated unless some (usually the women's) were omitted.

If a man had more than one wife, the arms of all his wives might be shown on his hatchment. See hatchments D and F-below.

The Red Hand of Ulster

On some of the hatchments (A,B and E-below) there is a red hand. This is The Red Hand of Ulster which is usually seen paraded at Loyalist gatherings in Northern Ireland. In heraldry it indicates that the deceased was a *baronet* (Bt), i.e., he held a hereditary knighthood. Baronetcies are believed to have been invented by Edward III, and were revived by James I in 1611. They were sold by him to finance the plantation of English and Scottish protestant families in Ulster.

An Irishman told me (so it must be true) that the origin of the Red Hand is a contest held long ago to decide a succession to the throne of Ulster. The successful candidate was to be the first to swim across the lough and place his hand on the other side. The winner of the race was the slower swimmer, but succeeded by cutting off his left hand, and throwing it onto the shore.

The Hatchments in All Saints Parish Church, Marlow

The names of the families involved are:-

Clayton [See A, B, E and F below]

Ellison [C and D]

Wethered [G and H]

Morris [I and J]

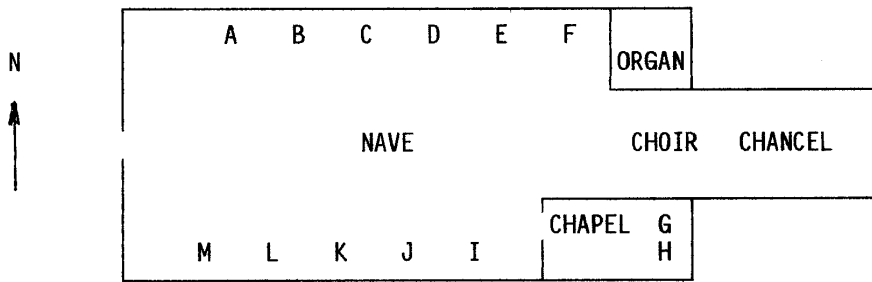
Higginson [K and M]

? [L]

[The letters refer to the positions of the hatchments in the church as shown on the plan on the next page.]

The sequence of the hatchments seems illogical, and is so far unexplained. The Ellisons intrude into the Clayton family on the north wall, and there is an unidentified hatchment amongst the Higginsons on the

The Hatchments of All Saints Parish Church



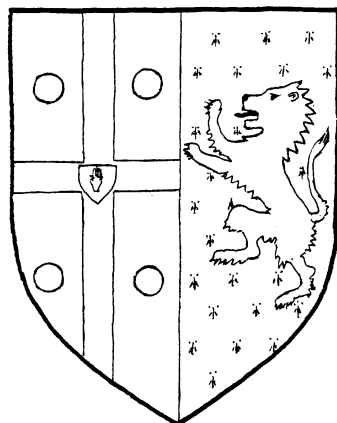
Plan of All Saints Church—The letters represent the positions of the hatchments

south wall. The sequence is also different from that recorded by Summers and Titterton. To identify the hatchments they are lettered in the above plan of the church clockwise from the north-west corner. But it will be easier to describe the hatchments in order of family and generation. A capital letter will indicate the position of the hatchment, and the English translations of the Latin mottoes, *cris-de-coeur* (war-cries), and mourning sentiments, will be shown enclosed thus < >

The Claytons

for Sir William Clayton Bt, 1st Baronet B
d. 28 December 1744
<There is rest in Heaven>

The Claytons originally came from Bulwick in Northants. Sir William's uncle Sir Robert Clayton Kt (1629-1707) was an MP for the City of London for over thirty years, and Lord Mayor of London in 1679/80. He had purchased the Manor of Hambledon in 1684. There is a statue of him at the entrance to the Harleyford marina with an interesting biographical inscription. Sir William was a banker and MP for Bletchingley. He married Martha Kenrick (d. 1739), daughter of John Kenrick of Flore,



Clayton — Kenrick

Surrey. He was created a baronet in 1732, and acquired the Manor of Harleyford, and with it the Manor of Great Marlow, in 1735. He is said to have boasted that he could ride from London to Eastbourne and never be out of

sight of a piece of land he owned.

The Clayton arms consisted of a black cross separating four black roundels, all on a white ground. Sir William's arms impale Clayton (on the dexter side) and Kenrick. His hatchment background is all-black as he died a widower.

for William Clayton Esq. F
d. 3 July 1783
< Virtue lives on after death >

This William was the younger son of Sir William (B), so he did not inherit the baronetcy, though he did inherit the manors of Harleyford and Great Marlow. He was an MP. He married three times: (1) Mary Warde (d. 1760), (2) Mary Eliza Catherine Lloyd (d.1763), co-heiress of Rice Lloyd of Allt-y-cadno (Welsh for *Hillside of the Fox*), Carmarthenshire, (3) Lady Louisa Fermor (d. 1809) daughter of the Earl of Pomfret.

All three wives are represented on his hatchment. The Fermor arms are impaled with Clayton on the main shield. The small shield on the dexter side bears the Clayton arms impaled with Warde, and the other bears the Lloyd arms as an escutcheon of pretence on those of Clayton. Because William's mother (Martha Kenrick) was not an heraldic heiress, her arms do not appear. The background of his hatchment shows his last wife was alive when he died. There is a memorial to Mary Warde, recounting her many virtues, on the wall near the organ. William demolished the old manor house at Harleyford, and on a new site he commissioned Sir Robert Taylor to build the house we see today (completed in 1755).

The Marlow Historian

Probably for Sir William Clayton Bt, 4th Baronet **A**

b. 1762 d. 26 January 1834.

< What is stronger than a lion? > (By its position this is a cri-de-coeur.)

< Valour stands fast in action >

This Sir William was the eldest son of William (G) and Mary Lloyd, and as she was a co-heiress, his arms quarter Clayton's with Lloyd's. He inherited the Clayton baronetcy in 1799 from his uncle Sir Robert Clayton, the third baronet, who died childless. He was Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1810, 1812 and 1814.

Sir William married Mary East (see below) and his hatchment shows she pre-deceased him.

for Mary Clayton, née East **E**

d. 9 August 1833.

< My trust is in God >

Mary was the daughter of Sir William East Bt, of Hall Place, Burchetts Green (now The Berkshire College of Agriculture), Lord of the Manor of Hurley and a barrister (d. 1763). Mary married Sir William Clayton (A) in 1785. Their eldest son, Colonel Sir William Robert Clayton KCB Bt, 5th Bt, (1786-1866), fought in The Peninsular War and at Waterloo (1815), and he buried his charger 'Skirmisher' in 'Colonel's Meadow', which is now a playing field of Sir William Borlase's School. He became a General, and from 1831 to 1842, MP for Great Marlow Borough. Skirmisher's gravestone with its sentimental verses is now at in the old walled garden at Harleyford and much deteriorated. Here is the first of those verses:-

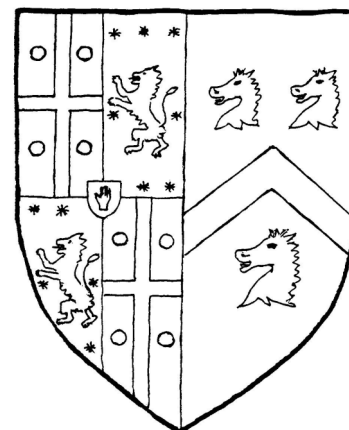
'Sleep on, Sleep on, Thou faithful one,
Light lie the turf upon thy Breast,
Thy toil is o'er, thy race is run,
Sleep on and take thy rest.'

Their second son Sir East George Clayton-East Bt, 1st Baronet Clayton-East, (1794-1851) founded the Clayton-East dynasty at Hall Place.

Sir William Robert Clayton's daughter, Caroline Margaret, married the 7th Marquis of Queensbury. Their son, the 8th Marquis, drew up the famous Queensbury Rules of boxing, and it was Oscar Wilde's association with their grandson, Lord Alfred Douglas, that put Wilde in Reading Gaol. The words 'Marquess of Queensbury' and 'Lord Douglas' can be made out on the monument above the Clayton vault in All Saints churchyard (just north of the organ).

Sir William Robert Clayton's grandson, also called William Robert (1842-1914), inherited the baronetcy from his grandfather, and married Miss Aimée Gertrude Mackenzie of Fawley Court, Henley-on-Thames. They had no issue and the Clayton and Clayton-East baronetcies were united in 1914 in the person of Sir Gilbert Augustus Clayton-East (1846-1925). Tragically, Sir Gilbert, his son, Sir George, and his grandson, Sir Robert, all died within the space of seven years.

Mary's arms impale the Clayton/Lloyd arms with those of East, and the background shows that she predeceased her husband.



Clayton/Lloyd - East

The Ellisons

for Thomas Ellison **D**

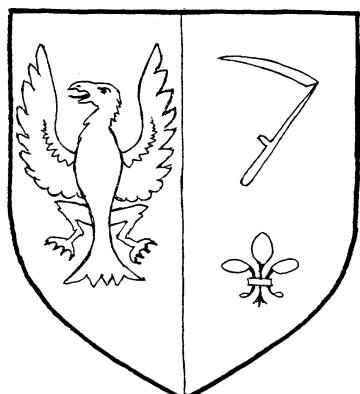
b. 1728 d. 18 May 1800

< Think always that your last day is at hand >

Thomas was a barrister of the Inner Temple. The two small shields on the hatchment show that he married twice: (1) in 1753, Elizabeth Smith of St Saviours, Southwark (d. 1775), an heiress. (2) in 1778, Sarah Sneath (or Sneyd) (d. 19 September 1800). Sarah was a local girl. Her father,

The Hatchments of All Saints Parish Church

William Sneath (Sneyd) was a Marlow surgeon. The Ellison-Smith arms are on the dexter side, and the Ellison-Sneath (Sneyd) to sinister against a black and white husband's background (she survived him). Because when Thomas died his first wife (an heraldic heiress) had



Ellison - Sneath

already died, and his surviving wife was not an heiress, the main shield shows only the Ellison arms.

Sarah's father's arms show a scythe; the Grim Reaper's tool of trade, which must have been

an embarrassment for a surgeon.

Thomas' father John was a Southwark wine merchant who came to Marlow from Cheshire. Thomas lived at Cromwell House in the High St (not so long ago Marlow's Post Office), which the Ellisons called 'the Great House'. He also had a house near the Strand in London. He was on a business trip to London on February 27, 1800, when his stagecoach overturned near Hammersmith turnpike. He suffered a 'luxation of the spine' (dislocation), and died three months later.

There is a memorial to several Ellisons on the nearby oval marble tablet.

for George Ellison ?

b. 1759 d. 15 December 1830

< Think always that your last day is at hand >

Summers and Titterton attribute this hatchment to George Ellison, the son of Thomas (D) and Elizabeth Smith. But there are grounds for querying this. The arms do show Ellison quartered with Smith (at bottom left), but the arms in the top right quarter and the Fleur-de-Lys with star are unexplained. In heraldry this flower indicates a sixth son, which George was not. Could it be a gesture to George's stepmother, Sarah Sneath (Sneyd)?

Or is the hatchment for someone else; a grandson of Thomas and Sarah possibly, which would explain the extra coat of arms?

Another oddity is the six pointed silver star overlaying the dexter side of the crest. It looks as if it has been stuck on. Summers and Titterton do not mention it. What is it doing there?

George was born in 'the Great House', became an attorney-at-law in Lincoln's Inn, and married twice but the hatchment does not show this. In 1809 he sold his Marlow property to Thomas Wethered for £755.

The Wethereds

for Thomas Wethered

H

b. 1761 d. 7 September 1849

<By virtue and endeavour>

Thomas was the son of George Wethered (1714-1783) and his second wife, Ann Reynolds. George came to Marlow from Penn, and his first wife, Elizabeth Gibbons, was the daughter of a Marlow brewer and maltster. Thomas had a half-brother called George, and when their father died George inherited the maltings and Thomas the brewery. The brewery prospered. Thomas' nephews however, quarrelled, took their quarrel to the High Court, sold their father's business and left Marlow forever.

In 1825, twelve years after the Royal Military College had moved out (to Sandhurst), Thomas bought Remnantz in West St from the Remnant family, and in this way promoted himself from 'brewer' to 'gentleman in the local directory.

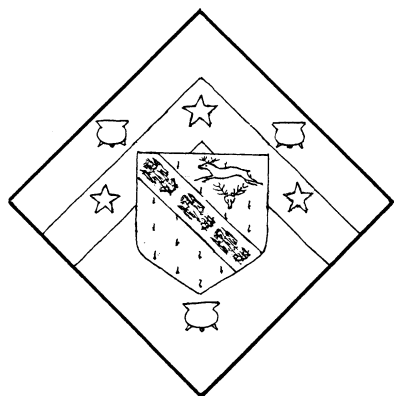
Because his wife was an heiress and she was alive when Thomas died, Thomas' shield carries his father-in-law's arms on an escutcheon of pretence. The cauldrons on the Wethered arms are properly called 'fleshpots'. The background also shows he died before his wife.

for Sarah Wethered, née Badger

b. 1767 d. 8 June 1856

< By virtue and endeavour >

Sarah was the wife of Thomas Wethered (H), and the background shows she died a



Wethered - Badger

widow. Her arms are the same as her husband's. Her father was Samuel Badger of Fritwell Manor in Oxfordshire. She was his co-heiress with her widowed sister, Martha.

But they were co-heiresses to not very much. It fell to Thomas to support Martha and her large family.

Thomas and Sarah's memorial tablets (and those of many of their descendants) are on the adjacent south wall of the chapel. They are also mentioned on the base of the column between the organ and the pulpit.

The Morrises

for Vice Admiral Sir James Nicoll Morris, KCB

b. 1763? d. 15 April 1830.

< I shall rise again >

Sir James was captain of HMS *Colossus* at the Battle of Trafalgar (21 October 1805). The *Colossus* was a first-rate (74 gun) ship, and short of sinking, suffered greater damage and heavier loss of life than any other ship in the fleet. Sir James himself was severely wounded. In about 1811, he bought Thames Lawn, then known as 'Thames Bank', and it is probably he who diverted the towpath from the river's edge and created Seven Corners Alley. This may have been prompted by the river level rising when

G

the timber pound lock was replaced in 1826 by the present lock of masonry.

Sir James' hatchment has two shields: The dexter bearing the Morris arms with the Order of the Bath ribbon and star, and the sinister bearing the Morris arms (dexter) impaled with his wife's (the Cocks arms quartered with Somers and Thistlethwayte). The reason for two shields is because the award of Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath was a personal honour, not shared with his wife. The ribbon carries the Order's two mottoes: 'Three joined in one' (the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland) and 'I serve' (the Prince of Wales' motto - for the Principality of Wales?).

There is a memorial to Sir James just inside the Wethered Chapel.

for Margaretta Sarah Morris, née Cocks

J d. 16 January 1842

<Persevere>

Margaretta was the daughter of Thomas Somers Cocks, a banker. She married Sir James in 1802. After her death, Thames Bank (Thames Lawn) passed to her brother Thomas Somers Cocks. Her arms are the same as her husband's, and the hatchment shows she died a widow.

There are memorial tablets to Margaretta and other members of the Morris/Cocks/Thistlethwayte family near by.

The Higginsons

for Elizabeth Higginson, née Coke

K d. ?.

< Death is the doorway to life >

Elizabeth was the daughter and heiress of Richard Coke of Melton Regis, Dorset. She married John Higginson, a citizen of London. Her arms impale the Higginson arms (dexter) with those of Coke, and the background shows

The Hatchments of All Saints Parish Church

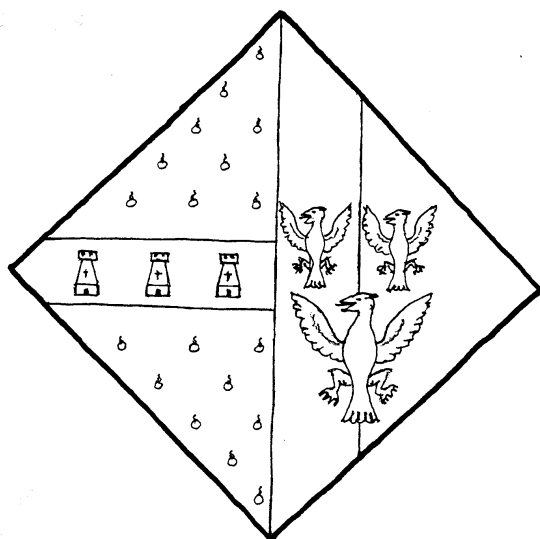
she died a widow. She was a great-grandmother of General Sir George Wentworth Alexander Higginson, GCB GCVO KCB JP, of the Grenadier Guards (1826-1927).

The General was a veteran of The Crimea War and a personal friend of the Royal Family. He lived at 'Gylderscroft' on the Henley Road. To celebrate his centenary in 1926 the Court Garden estate was purchased by public subscription, and the deeds presented to the General by Princess Mary, the Princess Royal. Whereupon the General gave the deeds to the Town, so that Marlow now has the extensive recreational facilities of Court Garden Leisure Centre and Higginson Park.

for John Higginson
d. 1780

M

Eldest son of John and Elizabeth Higginson (K). His shield shows his father's arms quartered with his mother's. His hatchment shows he was unmarried at his death. He was a bachelor.



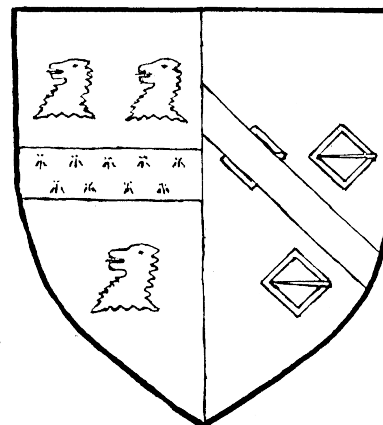
Higginson - Coke

and finally: for whom?

L

< There is rest in Heaven >

The hatchment background shows he was untitled and somebody's husband when he died, but who was he? The crest suggests a Hammond - of Western House perhaps



Who is this?

With my grateful thanks to :-

Dr Rachel Brown
Mrs Jane Ellison
Mrs Joy Halton
Mr Julian Hunt
Miss Bill Purser
Mr Alan S Walker
Anthony Wethered Esq.
Berkshire College of Agriculture
'The Development and Use of Hatchments' by Peter Summers and John Titterton.
'The Intra-mural Monuments and Other Inscriptions of Great Marlow Church' transcribed by Alfred Henage Cocks
'An Introduction to Heraldry' by Stephen Oliver
Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage and Companionage.
'Discovering Heraldry' by Jacqueline Fearn
The Maritime Information Centre
Macmillan's Encyclopaedia
Records of Buckinghamshire, Vol 10

© John Evans
April 2000

oxford lane infants school log book entries

Lynn Rimmer

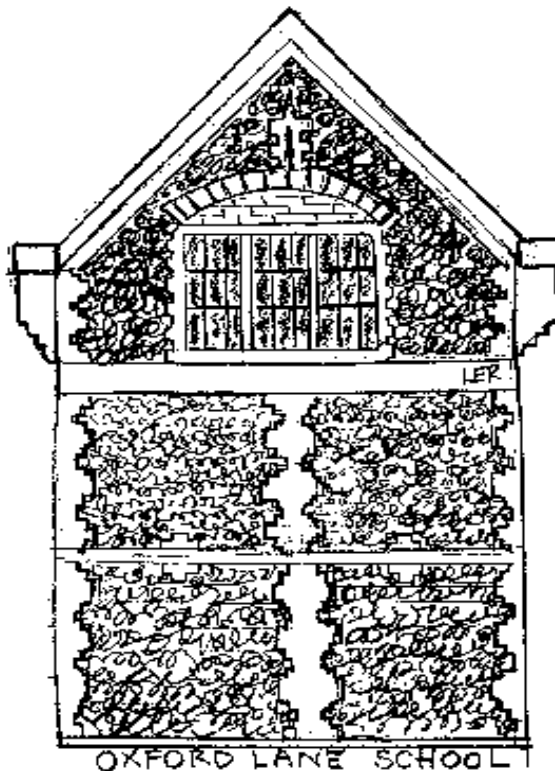
Schools are now subject to rigorous OFSTED inspections feared by all. In the nineteenth century inspections were carried out but the emphasis (the Offices) was somewhat different.

Log Book entry
December 18th 1868

Summary of the
Inspectors' Report.

"The children are in very fair order. I regret that nothing had been done to amend the Offices and provide a Playground.

As the Managers have failed to make the Offices satisfactory, My Lords are compelled upon the Inspectors' renewed complaint to reduce the Grant by one tenth (Article 52a)"



Log Book entry
November 19th 1868

Summary of the
Inspectors' Report.

"The School is conducted with animation and good success My Lords have again ordered the Grant to be reduced by on tenth on account of the unsatisfactory position in which the offices are allowed to remain

(art. 52a)

As their Lordships have on several occasions called attention to this defect by without success, the Managers must be prepared to expect heavier deductions in future, unless and until the defect is remedied."

Tut tut, still not got the 'offices' right!!

Oxford Lane Infants School—Log Book Entries

Log Book entry - 1870

Summary of the Inspectors' Report.

"The School has increased in number, is well taught and in good order"

A deduction of two tenths has been made (Art 52a) from the Grant inasmuch as the defect in the Premises, which has formed the subject of repeated warnings to the School since 1867 which has not yet been remedied. Their Lordships cannot but express their regret that an alteration so necessary involving such a comparatively small outlay should not have been made and their Lordships would refer the Managers to Art 51a and warn them that a School whose offices are in the position of those alluded to cannot strictly be said to be properly supplied with Offices.

Oh no! They still have not got their act together!!

Log Book entry - December 9th 1872

Summary of the Inspectors' Report.

"This School is now in a high state of efficiency."

Got it right at last!



One of marlow's Curious characters

Bill Purser



Edward Marshall, age 24, single, Gentleman/Officer. Born in London, living in St Peters Street Marlow, with two male servants (a groom and a waterman). That is the information given in the 1891 census.

Local folklore has it that Captain Marshall stabled his horses at Thames Bank (as Thames Lawn was then known). At that time it was occupied by Alfred Heneage Cocks. Later Marshall was to build a house in

Gossmore which he called "The Eyrie" and this he left to his friend Percy Wild - an artist.

Nothing very special about that you may feel but perhaps you would have felt differently if you had met Captain Marshall exercising his young lion, and people approaching Marlow by river from the Bourne End direction were puzzled to hear sounds that might have suggested that they were in the wilder parts of Africa or India.

The newspapers of the day found Captain Marshall an endless source of news to enliven their columns. So who was this young man? It seems he was the son of Frank Marshall, best known as a Shakespearean critic. It is not clear whether Edward Marshall had seen active service but when he appears in Marlow in 1890/91 his particular hobby is a passion for fast launches. At one time he had three but the two mentioned in the local press are "Babette" in which he was to be seen out on the river usually in the company of one of his lady

friends – he must have been considered quite 'a catch' with his apparent affluence. The other boat was a 54ft steam launch the "Deianara" that he had had fitted out as a sea-going yacht in which he crossed and re-crossed the Channel. He took a party to Henley Regatta on the "Deianara".

With the death of his father, possibly in 1889, he came into a considerable fortune and immediately, it seems he developed another expensive hobby. The first sign of this was the acquisition of a young lion which he took round the town on a chain. He elderly ladies of Marlow were reported to have been "terribly scared" and in deference to their uneasiness Leo was not thereafter allowed to walk the streets.

Marshall got the use of some fifty acres of land in Gossmore and set about building up his menagerie. In the next few years he spent £8000 – a fortune at that time. An elephant, a puma, two leopards, a Bengal tiger cub and a large collection of cranes,

pheasants, storks, emus, wallabies, kangaroos, alpaca being just some of his acquisitions.

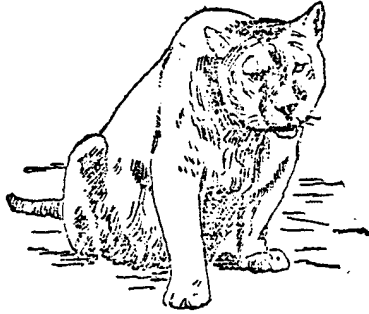


All these needed housing and feeding. A wild animals' house was built and fitted out with heaters for cold weather – this cost, it is reported, "£500, a larger sum than a very good dwelling house would cost in Marlow". But even so in the early years he lost large

One Of Marlow's Curious Characters

numbers of animals, often due to the cold.

In 1893 the newspaper reports on the cost of feeding this menagerie. The butcher had to supply fifteen pounds of beef and mutton daily and the



fishmonger supplied twenty-five pounds of fish, mainly cod and herring, per day. Then there was a ton of dog biscuits per month,

besides oats, corn and hay.

In 1893 he planned a trip abroad and the paper report "Captain Marshall wishes me to mention that during his absence abroad his menagerie will be under the charge of Mr Richard F Jackson of Westhorpe. Mr Marshall leaves England early in January for a trip around the world in the course of which he intends to visit Australia, New Zealand, Japan and America, including the Chicago Exhibition". [A World's Fair in commemoration of Columbus's discovery of America, was opened in Chicago in June 1893].

Later the paper reports that the "Bungalow (ycept "The Eyrie") which the Captain is having built close to the menagerie is rapidly approaching completion." And Captain Marshall has very kindly consented to open to the public his splendid

Zoological collection on Saturday June 4th and Whit-Monday from 2 – 7 p.m. The admission will be one shilling and the proceeds will be given to the funds of the Marlow Cottage Hospital [*this would have been the one in Cambridge Road*]. The large and valuable collection is well worth a visit. The buildings are situated below Marlow Lock and the public will have to enter from the tow-path.

Once the bungalow was completed an announcement appeared "A marriage will shortly take place between Capt. E. W. Marshall of "The Eyrie" Marlow and Miss Hayter, daughter of the late Colonel Hayter C.B."

The O.S. maps of the time show "The Eyrie" to have been where Gossmore House is now and directories of the day indicate that Capt. Marshall resided there in 1895.

Sadly, the story seems to end here – the source dries up and all we know is that later directories show his friend, the artist Frank Percy Wild living in "The Eyrie". No sign of Capt. Marshall – did the marriage take place? What happened to the animals – perhaps there is another story to be told?

[Much of this is based on undated news cuttings of the 1890's in a scrapbook donated to the Marlow Society by Maurice Oram]

Frosts, Floods and Plagues in the 17th and 18th Centuries

As if the common lot of the people was not hard enough they, as now, had to contend with 'Acts of God'. A. H. Plaisted, Vicar of Medmenham has noted some of these visitations in this area.

In 1665 The Great Plague

In 1683-4 Severe frosts were experienced The Thames was frozen from December to February – with ice reaching eleven inches thick. Fairs were held on the river.

He records similarly severe winters in 1709, 1716, 1740 and 1766.

In the winter of 1775-76 there was heavy frost from 7th January to 2nd February – Snow fell for 12 days. There was no news from Henley or Reading for ten days. After the snow there was intense frost, with the Thames frozen over. 217 men were employed cutting a passage through the snow for carriage between Nettlebed and Benson on the Turnpike road from Henley-on-Thames to Oxford. Ice on the ponds was reported to be 9 inches thick.

By 1788 the inoculation against small-pox was available – the parish registers of Medmenham record that at Easter 1788 Dr Cleobury's bill for inoculating was £6. 9s 3d.

In 1795 there was another severe winter, the thermometer was down to 8°F with intense cold all January. The thaw began on 8th February, but was so rapid that the Thames Valley was soon flooded. Within ten days, before the floods had abated, another severe frost set in, with heavy snowstorms. This weather continued until the end of March! There was snow on the ground for thirteen weeks!

Mrs Kathleen Sheppard

Her early life in MARLOW

An interview with Rachel Brown and Lynn Rimmer

Mrs Sheppard thank you for meeting with us. You have a lot to tell us about life in Marlow in the last century. Where were you born?

I'm not sure but I think I was born in Oxford Road in a house next to the Queen Public House on Quoiting Square. That's now the dress shop Catch on the Corner. There was also a pub called the White Lion where Platts garage is now. Quoiting Square was just an unmade up square with a water pipe at the main road corner. In the summer the water cart would come up, fill up with water and then spray the roads because they were so dusty. There was another pipe outside the Crown. (Dr Brown has a photograph) In Ascot Week people with horses and carts would arrive in the square to catch the coaches to the racetrack

Did you go to school?

At age 3 my father went into the army to fight the Germans and I used to play in Quoiting Square on my own because my mother had to go to work. I was spotted by Miss Salter, Head Mistress of Oxford Lane Infant School, who came up on her bike one day and told my mother to send me into the school. I was not put on the school register. There was only one front playground. Miss Fleet was my teacher and there were 2 or 3 other teachers. Miss Fleet's sister took over the china shop opposite Waitrose from her mother and father. I was at the school until I was eight and I wasn't really interested in school. There were round stoves and we wrote with chalk on slates.

What can you tell us about the Bib Shop?

That was beyond Borlase. Marlow was well know for this industry. They made embroidered babies' bibs to go to London. The bibs arrived cut out and the children would embroider the edges in

buttonhole stitch for one penny each. My grandmother would quilt them using cotton wool. At one time the shop caught fire and a horse drawn fire cart came to put it out. The firemen had to catch the horse first. Mrs Sheppard's grandfather was one of the fireman who pumped the water. Mr Chalk's father was captain and Dr Brown's godfather was the second in command. (Dr Brown has a photograph) Two firemen lived in Glade Road. They all had brass hats.

What about Smith's Draper's Shop?

That was in Spittle Street and owned by Dr Brown's godfather, then Applegates took it over. Applegates used to be opposite Waitrose then they moved to Smiths in Spittle Street. Once a year I had a new coat from there which became Sunday best. The Sunday best coat would then be for school and the school coat became the play coat.

Now your father had a job at Court Gardens I believe?

Yes my father went in the army with his 2 brothers to the First World War, and my older brother was left behind but my father did not come home straight away from the war because he was in the military police. Then he had a job at Court Gardens where there was a big garden and our family moved to accommodation over the stables at the house. Another brother was born there. I was eight years old when I went there and eleven when we left.

So who owned Court Gardens then?

Mr and Madame Griffin owned Court Gardens. He was an old man and his wife was a young French nurse. Madame Griffin was not an easy person to live with. My father found her difficult to please and un-cooperative but she was very good to us children. My eldest brother was a beautiful painter

Mrs Kathleen Sheppard

and drawer and Madame Griffin would buy him paints and pencils. She bought me a doll. She would go up by Sampson's shop at the bottom of the High Street and see a child's dress she liked then go back to my father and say, "Send Kathleen to get the dress". Then I would wear it and show it off in the big house. Us children were allowed to play in the grounds of the house. When it was cold, I would sneak in with the cook and sit on the stairs by the kitchen. When the cook came out she would give me some grapes. When Mr Griffin died, his wife wanted the house shut down and our family were in difficulties because we were in a tied house.

Your family then had nowhere to live and you had to leave Court Gardens?

Well further up Oxford Road where my grandmother lived there was a house with two old men in it. Our family then moved into two rooms in this house and part of grandmother's house. The two old men eventually left and we had number 88 to ourselves. The house belonged to Mr L J Smith of the water company. Eventually it was bought for £250. My grandson now owns the house.

It seems that the family were close knit and helped each other....

Yea that's right all the families up Oxford Road helped each other in the road. One time when my mother was expecting a baby she sent me to fetch a neighbour. Nurse Manners was called. She was a marvellous lady. She was the midwife and covered Bovingdon Green, The Common, Medmenham, Little Marlow all on a bike. If anyone had harmed her they would have been murdered. A very much respected lady. They all thought the world of Nurse Manners.

Yours is an old Marlow family Mrs Sheppard.....

My father, grandfather and grandmother were born in Marlow. Grandfather's name was Grove and he and his brother were river men. He was an engineer and would attend to river launches. My grandfather's sister was her mother. Miss Jose worked in the coal shop by the station.

The river men were important in those days?

Oh yes, the barges unloaded rags for the paper mill below the lock where there are now gardens. There is a slipway there. The barges then went on up to Temple. The Wrights owned the mill and they built two of the houses now there. Thomas had the mill afterwards. Grandfather used to bring eels home. Eels were famous in the river at Marlow. Rent would be paid in baskets of eels in Domesday times.

What did you do when you were a young girl growing up?

There were plenty of members of the Girl Guides in my time. We were on parade the day the princess came. In charge was Miss Vansitaart Neil. She was in the army in France and kept us guides drilled like soldiers. We used to meet in the church hall. When she got fed up with this, a meeting place was put on her ground over the bridge on the left. She paid a peppercorn rent of one shilling a year for the land. We used to go for swimming lessons with Mr Davies in the river behind the island. Mr Davies had a shop next to the Crown run by his daughter Cissie.

When did you first take a job?

When I was 14, I left school and went to work in C H Carters. That's now Burgers. It was a bakers and I went into the kitchen to learn to cook for the restaurant. Miss Carter taught me how to cook. Very particular she was. Miss Carter's sister Annie was a doctor of music and had a cap and gown. She would play the church organ if the organist Dr Bath was unavailable.

I understand that the verger was an important person in Marlow....

If you wanted to be married or have a christening you had to go with details to Spooky Badger the verger in his sweet shop with the bay window on the right hand side at the bottom of the High Street. He taught music too. I learnt music with him. He was a little fellow with moustaches and had one little son.

When General Higginson was one hundred the princess came to see him. I

The Marlow Historian

understand the Marlow people were very proud of him....

Oh no. The working people had no time for him. Everything came each day for the household from the Army and Navy Stores in London. He never bought anything local. He was on the bench. If a man with no work and with five or six children to support snared a rabbit the General would put him inside for a week. He never had a party for the children. One time my mother went to General Higginson's house Gylternscroft to do the washing up when he held a party and I had to go too. I sat on a chair in the corner of the kitchen and was given plenty of food and thought it was wonderful.

The General owned a lot of land in Marlow?

Yes. Mr Tappin was the gardener and he lived in the lodge in Pound Lane. The General owned all the land down to the river. (Dr Brown's family rented a field for grazing and had to keep a path mown through the meadow where the king and queen had walked down to the river.) There was a navigable canal with little lock gates right down from the meadow.

I have heard that his funeral was a very special occasion....

General Higginson was a friend of the Royal Family and when he died the road to the church was lined with the Coldstream Guards

Another prominent family was the Terrington family?

Lady Terrington was a chorus girl, very well liked. One of the nicest people we knew round here. She contributed to the new fire engine and they named it Vera after her. She was very good to the congregational chapel in Quoiting Square. She presented prizes and if there was a concert she would be there. She joined in many organisations. She became the Member of Parliament for one year. Lord Terrington got into trouble and was put in prison and Spinfield House was pulled down.

Tell us about another well known family who lived in New Court

New Court was owned by Mrs Forrest. Her son and my uncle who was working there went to the

first World War together and were both killed. The daughter who married an officer was Mrs Liston a councillor and well liked, a real lady. She would speak to us in the street. She had no children and the house and grounds were left to the people of Marlow.

What about Riley Park?

This park behind Waitrose was left to the people of Marlow. Mr Riley left it with the ground for the children. At one time it belonged to the Crown Hotel and was used for the horses. A big archway where Boots shop is now led through to the field. The coach horses were changed at the Crown on the way to London. There were Horse Fairs held on the field and at one time Marlow Football Club used the ground. There was a stand for spectators on the site. At another time the football ground was on Star Meadow where Green Verges is now. What happened to the money and the Trustees? At one time from the bequest there was money for stockings and coal. There was Mr North in Klondyke who after the war rang the bell at dusk and closed 3 gates. He opened them in the morning.

There were alms houses in Oxford Road...

That's Brinkhurst up Oxford Road and it's now rebuilt. It used to be free for the old people. People have to pay to live there now. What happened to the bequest? Brinkhurst used to be a miller in the seventh century and managed the lock. He left money for the almshouses.

The Lees family had a problem with their cows...

Yes, Lees Farm had the only case of foot and mouth disease in Marlow. I remember the cows having to be killed and burnt. The stench over Marlow lasted for weeks and weeks No milk for several months.

Tell us about some of the characters you remember living in Marlow.....

Chinky Allen sold rabbits once a week for 6 pence and 9 pence each and he would take the eyes out first. The cats would follow him and eat the eyes. You don't ask where he got them from.

Curly Allen who played a mouth organ and slept out somewhere.

Scamper Truss, as were many of his family, was a

Mrs Kathleen Sheppard

bell ringer as were many of his family. They lived in St Peter's Street in the pub. He fetched out the dead. Any accident in the river, they would call for Scamper.

Barney Cook the gas lamp lighter in the town. He would pull down the lamps to light them and the kids would follow him round and put the lamps out again.

The gypsies played their part in the life of Marlow....

They lived near the water works up Chalk Pit Lane on the way to Bovington Green. Harry Price owned the land where they burnt chalk to make lime. Two gypsy girls with lovely black hair would come to school. Three gypsy boys would come down the top road to the old Bank of England public house and walk back singing when the pub closed at 10 o'clock. The road up to Bovington Green became very overgrown and prisoners of war worked to cut the over growth back. Marlow had its own water company. Beldam who lived up Berwick Road would make skewers and pegs. The authorities checked to see if the gypsy site was clean. They were real gypsies and no trouble to the town. Some moved to Maidenhead. They made pegs from branches and cut the tin to bind them. The funeral with the horse drawn black carriage was for Eddie Price. His father and grandmother kept the Bank of England pub. There was Beldam's funeral where the body was left in caravan and was burnt. In the field opposite the Bank there were at one time gypsy caravans.

Some areas were thought not to be very nice for children to go to...

As a child Dean Street was off bounds for us children. The inhabitants drank a lot. The kids from the area were always clean. The houses were tiny with the front door leading directly into the room. The horse belonging to the family would be led through the house to the shed at the back leaving the cart in the front of the house on the street. Every other house was a beer house. In summer the old ladies sat in chairs outside. The road was very narrow. Dan Clark who lived in West Street was always in trouble, drunk. The police put him inside for a month.

Tell us about the churches.....

Miss Godman, Mrs Carter's sister, was a 'churchy'

woman. Trinity Church lessons on a Sunday were held at Oxford Lane School for Marlow children plus children from Bovington Green. the children then used to march two by two to Trinity Church. The older ones went to All Saints Church where boys sat in the front and girls sat at the back. In the 1920's Borlase boys walked down the High Street to the church in top hats and tails. (Dr Brown has photographs)

And the shopkeepers?

The Olde Tuck shop by Borlase was Mrs Tidy's. The Price family in Oxford Road were smiths and made and repaired the gates for Remnantz. Horses were shod in Farey's in Chapel Street. The gap where the farriers was is now filled in with houses. The farrier used to go to the pub and was not popular. The old cottages there belonged to the big house which was behind and was pulled down.

The shop with the candles along by Boots the Chemist used to be a house. Marlow was a small place then and everyone knew everyone because they all went to school together. Dr Downs was the posh doctor. Dr Culhane, 'Johnny', looked after the poor people and often forgot to give the bills. His surgery was at the bottom of the High Street.

Mrs Sheppard I think you could go on and on about Marlow and all you remember. Thank you so much for the time you have spent with us. We have really enjoyed hearing about your memories of Marlow.

A note on mediaeval printed paving tiles at widmere chapel, marlow

Arthur Border
with Mrs Barbara Hurman

At Widmere Farm, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, there is a 13/14th Century Chapel building with a earlier (Norman) Crypt beneath. During the recent renovation of this building, the Architect drew attention to the upper floor which appeared to be in part paved with small red coloured square Mediaeval paving tiles.

The tiles were very worn and damaged the result of long use as an agricultural building. However, later careful washing and expert examination revealed two tiles with fragmented yellow glaze which could be fairly securely identified with Christopher Hohler's design P.66, a product of the Penn, Buckinghamshire, Tileries.



Widmere Chapel—13/14th Century Paving Tile

It is estimated that approximately 2,500 tiles would have been required to pave Widmere Chapel. Examination of other Mediaeval Chapel floors would suggest that several different designs could have been used, all of a standard size 115 x 115 millimetres (plus or minus 1).

In this connection, it is interesting to note that a single decorated tile in mint condition has been dug up nearby. Perhaps this was a trade sample? (a cache of samples was noted at Stratfords, Penn by J. D. Broadbent – See Records of Bucks Vol. XXIII 1981). This tile was well preserved and a different pattern from the ones on the floor. Christopher Hohler's design 49 appeared to fit.



Hohler—design 49

It had a central feature of black slip – a pierced Fleur de lis (Heraldry 3 petal Lily of the old Royal Arms of France). The four corners decorated with a quadrant with two halves of two leaves, four tiles form a complete pattern. The face of the tile is covered with a thin yellow glaze (probably powdered Galena) the body is of common brick fabric with small quantity of flint fired to a red colour. The back of the tile is lightly sand faced.

Other examples of this tile have been reported in the floors of Churches at Hurley, Little Marlow, Bierton, St. Bartholomew the Great, London, Thame Abbey, and kiln wasters at Beacon Hill, Penn. E. S. Eames suggests these tiles were being produced by Penn Tileries from just prior to 1332 to the 1380s. See Records of Bucks Vol. XXXIII 1991. – Pauline and Stanley Cauvain. For designs see Records of Bucks Vol. XIV 1941 – Christopher Hohler.

However, the kilns in the Penn area may not have been the only manufacturers of decorated paving tiles. At least one Mediaeval paving floor tile now embedded in the window cill of Radnage Church was kilned at Bolter End.

A note on the first telephone subscribers in Marlow

Peter Diplock

The telephone is probably now just about taken for granted. Not just the one in the home and office, but also the mobile 'phone.

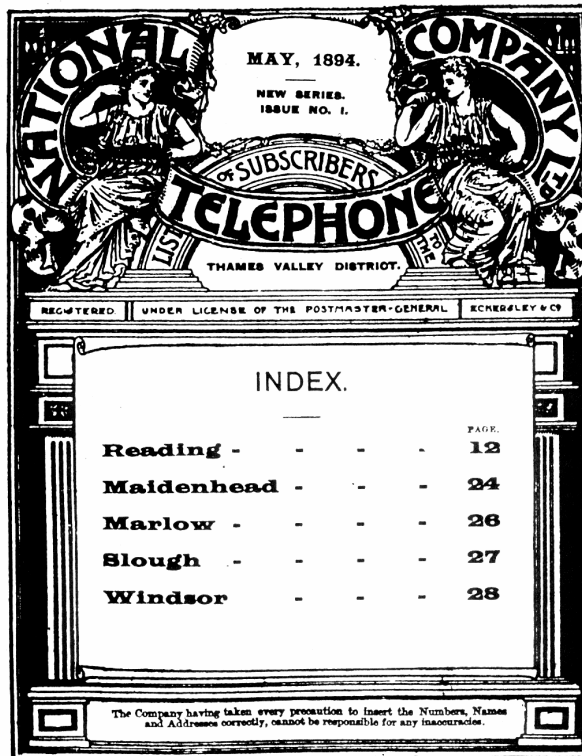
When did the telephone first arrive in Marlow? Who were the first subscribers? Why were they the first subscribers? What does this tell us about Marlow? Was Marlow any different from other towns?

This note will be developed into a longer article for a future Volume of *The Marlow Historian*, but is included here because of a connection with one of the other articles in this edition.

One of the first telephone subscribers in Marlow, with the telephone number 1, was none other than E. W. Marshall, The Eyrie, Great Marlow—the subject of Bill Purser's article on page 36. He was the only private subscriber in the first Marlow listing that was published by The National Telephone Company in May 1894.

The others listed were:

2	Stephens Blandy & Co	Bank, High Street
3	Porter & Son	Cartage Agents
4	Meakes & Redknap	Boat Builders
5	Shaw & Son	Boat Builders
6	Wood, G.J.	Fishmonger, etc.
10	Call Room	National Telephone Co Offices, High St.



The directory also provides 'Instructions for the use of Exchange Lines:

TO CALL A SUBSCRIBER
'Turn the handle, then take the receiver off the hook, place it close to your ear and listen for reply. Tell the operator the number of the subscriber you wish to speak to, notice that the number is correctly repeated, and wait with the receiver to your ear until the subscriber asked for replies to the operator's call. When listening be careful to answer only to your own number.'

TO ANSWER A CALL
Take the receiver off the hook, place it close to your ear and speak. It is of the greatest importance that the bell should be answered IMMEDIATELY it rings; neglect of this frequently causes delay throughout the whole system.

Speak about six inches from the transmitter clearly and distinctly but not loudly.

Another useful piece of advice:- *'Do not knock on the transmitter either with the receiver or your knuckles as it damages the instrument'*

By 1900, the list of subscribers had increased to thirty nine. One of the private subscribers being Madame Melba of Quarry Wood Cottage.

To find out more about the development of telephone usage in Marlow you will have to wait for a further Volume of *The Marlow Historian*.

Illustration: By courtesy of BT Archives