

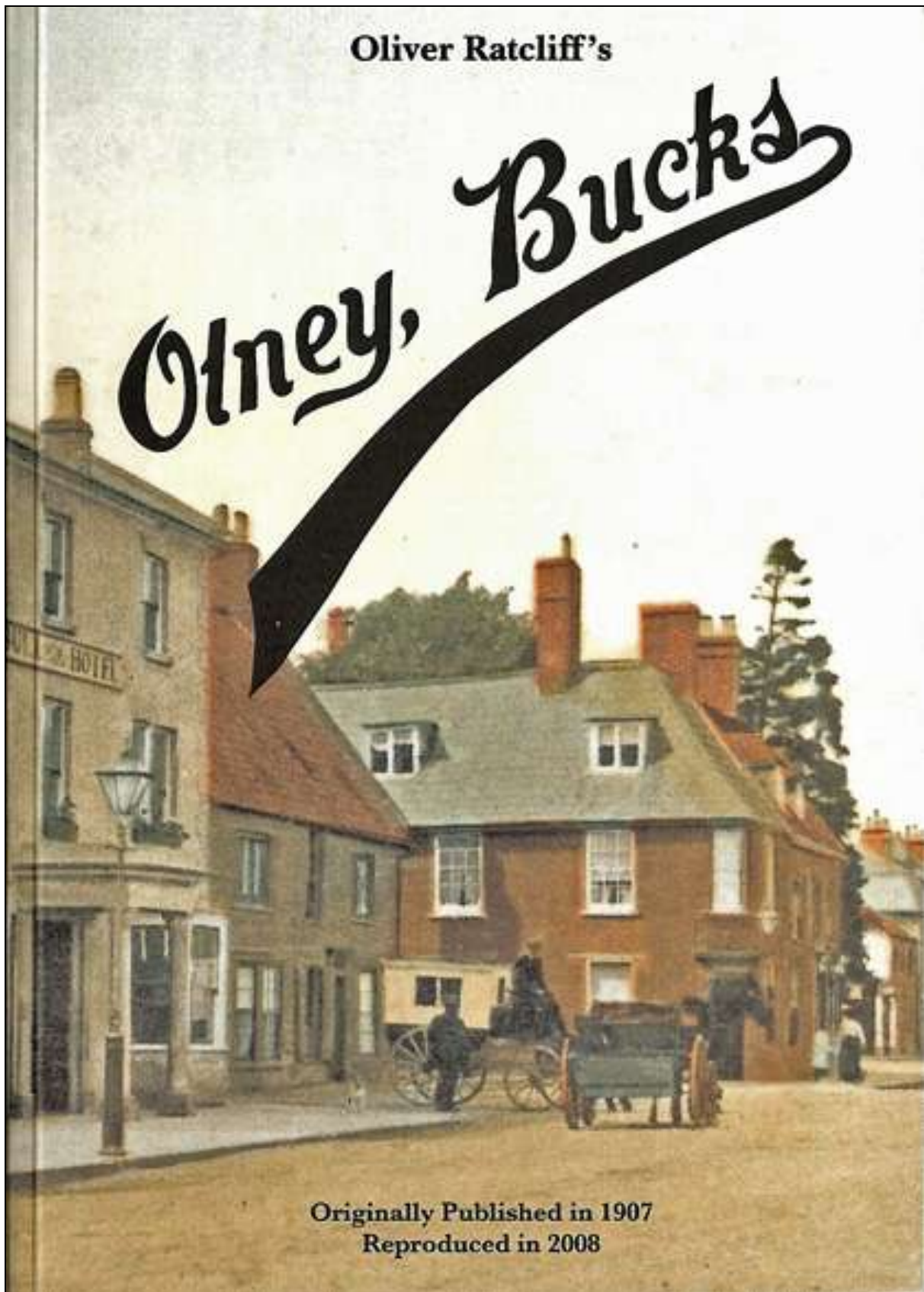
OLIVER RATCLIFF'S 1907 OLNEY BUCKS

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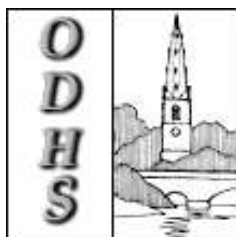
Front cover to the ODHS 2008 reproduction

**A Reproduction
Commemorating the Centenary
of**

Olney, Bucks

by Oliver Ratcliff

Originally Published in 1907



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



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

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

Mike Neale (Editor)

On behalf of the ODHS

May 2008

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ODHS PREFACE - 2008

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Olney's Soldiers.

NOTES on K Company, 3rd Volunteer Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment. During the spring time of the present year (1907) the volunteer movement in Olney took definite shape in the raising of a section of K Company, 3rd Volunteer Battalion. The Bedfordshire Regiment (Colonel Spencer Jackson commanding) soon reached considerable strength. Since the raising of the Company three or four years ago, its Headquarters have been at Harrold with Drill centres at Podington and Sharnbrook, but as this would not have been convenient for the new Section, official sanction was obtained for the establishment of an additional drill centre at Olney, and the number of men who availed themselves of the opportunity thus given for joining the Volunteers soon dispersed any doubt as to the practicability of the arrangement.



K Coy. 3rd Batt. Beds Regt. - Shorncliffe Camp 1907

The Company had originally covered a very large area, including no less than 13 parishes, which caused many difficulties to arise in the way of preventing the men drilling together, but now that it has become more consolidated these difficulties will to a large extent disappear. It has already become one of the strongest Companies in the Battalion, numbering at present about 100 of all ranks, and there is every reason to hope that before long it will reach the full strength of 116.



2nd Lieut. A Smith

The officer commanding is Captain R R B Orlebar of Hinwick, the Subaltern, Lieut. G P L Orr (Podington) and 2nd Lieut A Smith (Olney), the last of whom served with the Bucks Yeomanry in the South African War. The Non-Com. Officers are Colour-Sergt F Knight (Harrold), Sergts H Pettit (Podington), Tompkins (Bozeat), Gudgin and Hatton (Olney), together with Colour-Sergt-Instr P Caswell. Both Colour-Sergt Knight and Sergt Tompkins have passed the musketry course at Hythe. K Company has

charge of the Maxim gun belonging to the Battalion and by the end of another year will doubtless be complete with signallers, bearer and cyclist sections; indeed most satisfactory progress in these directions has already been made.

The musketry of the Company has always been to the fore, and each year since its formation its members have carried off some of the leading battalion cups and prizes. The cup, however, for the most efficient company in the Battalion has yet to be won, the competition being very keen in a Battalion that during the last camp won high praise from the inspecting Generals, but all will join the hope that such a success may shortly attend it.

The following list gives the names, together with the rates of pay, of the townsmen serving in the militia in 1812.

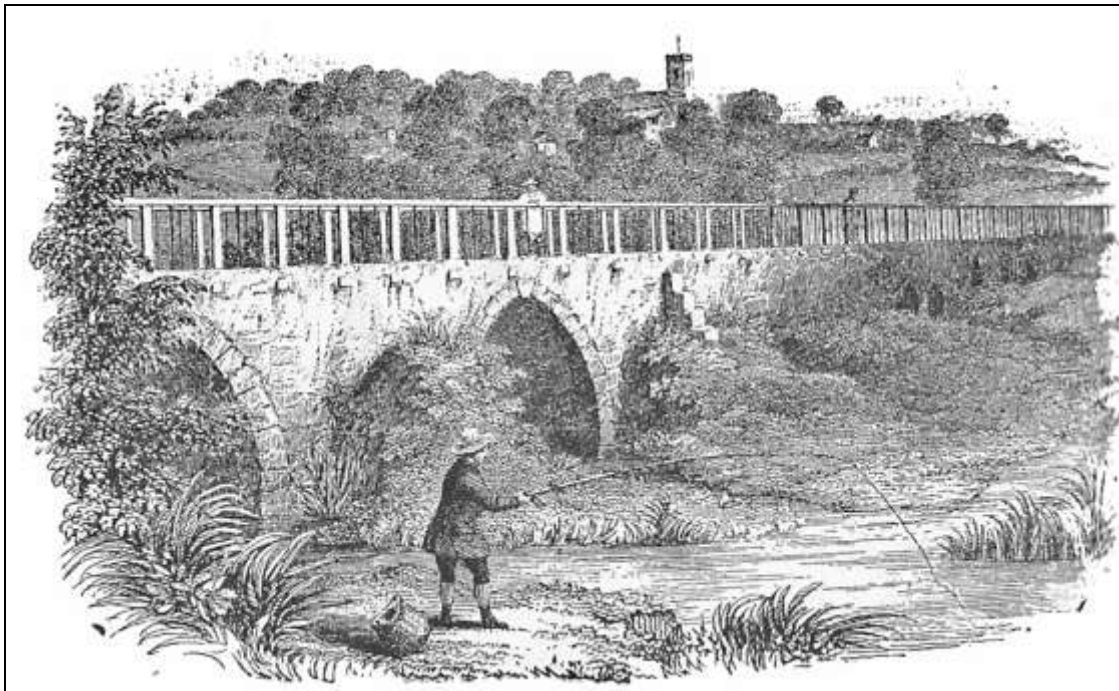
John Smith, Sergeant,	from May 9 th to 30 th incl.	3 wks	12/-	1	16 0
Jos Gillman	from May 9 th to 30 th incl.	3 wks	2/-		6 0
John Tarry	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-		8 0
Eben ^r Smith	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-		8 0
Jas Brittain	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-		12 0
Geo Hardwick	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-		8 0
Jas Tyrril	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	8/-		16 0
Richd Line	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-		12 0
Jos Wilmer	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-		8 0

OLNEY'S SOLDIERS

Thos Atterbury	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	8/-	16 0
Jas Cooper	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-	12 0
Goss Hammonds	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-	8 0
Thos Wheeler	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-	12 0
Henry Hind	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-	8 0
John Harris	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	10/-	1 0 0
Benjn Rigby	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-	12 0
Saml Smith	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	2/-	4 0
Thos Chater	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	12/-	1 4 0
Josiah Philpot	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-	12 0
Thos Dix	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	10/-	1 0 0
Wm Barnes	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-	8 0
John Rogers	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-	8 0
Thos Evans	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-	12 0
Joseph Kitchener	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	4/-	8 0
Slayter Griggs	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	2/-	4 0
Thomas Jackson	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	2/-	4 0
William Fisher	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	2/-	4 0
John France	from May 16 th to 30 th incl.	2 wks	6/-	<u>12 0</u>

Entered in Parish Ledger May 1812

£16 2 0



Olney Bridge From An Old Engraving

The Rev. Thomas Lord

During the past twelve months it has been no uncommon thing upon picking up either London or provincial newspapers, to find a heading somewhat as follows: 'Still preaching at 99' at the top of paragraphs varying in length, about an old Olneyite. The various accounts have given a biographical sketch of the life of the Rev Thos Lord, of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, the oldest living congregational minister, the subject of this chapter.

Although the Rev gentleman completed his ninety-ninth birthday last April, he still takes a very active part in religious work and has since that date preached his five thousandth sermon which was on the 73rd anniversary of his ordination. Owing to failing eyesight, this veteran pastor has to trust entirely to his memory, which is so wonderful that he can recite whole chapters of scripture. Mr Lord has been a teetotaller nearly all his life and always a non-smoker. He has never dieted himself in any way. Beef and mutton have been his favourite meats. He lives with his



Rev Thos Lord

Photo by S Percival, Kettering

daughter and son-in-law and, to use his own words, he "lives with the family and fares as they do". He served an apprenticeship to shoemaking, but in July 1834, accepted a call to the Congregational ministry. He attended the annual meetings of the Congregational Union of England and Wales for fifty years without a break. Mr Lord has been married three times and celebrated a golden wedding with his second wife. Asked the secret of his long life, he once replied, "I have no secret, I only see the duty of a Christian man to his own common sense, and the way clear to moderation in all things". Upon

writing to Mr Lord for some information regarding himself and our town, he kindly replied as follows:

Horncastle, Oct 11th '07

Dear Sir, I have pleasure in complying with your request, but I fear it is little that I can communicate to serve your purpose.

Yours truly,
THOMAS LORD

I was born at Olney on April 22nd, 1808, when the town was redolent with sweet and precious memories of Thos Scott, John Newton, and William Cowper. At that time the people enjoyed the ministrations of the Rev John Sutcliff, MA, one of the founders of the Baptist Missionary Society; the venerable Rev Thos Hillyard of the Independent Denomination; and the Rev Henry Gauntlett, the worthy vicar of the parish. I have a keen remembrance of the bitter winter of 1812-1813; which while it added greatly to the sufferings of the poor of our country, delivered Europe from the power of that scourge of humanity, Napoleon Bonaparte. I have also clear recollections of the general rejoicing at the battle of Waterloo, and the proclamation of peace, which followed. Pillow lace trade was at that time very brisk in the neighbourhood and many of the children of the poor (myself at six years of age) were put to learn the trade, and so add a little to the scanty income of the family. I believe that at that time there was no school in the town, but a Dames' school, where I learnt my alphabet. There was also an academy for the sons of tradesmen and farmers, kept by the worthy Mr Haddon. I knew well the ministers of the town, and the principal persons in the dissenting congregations; my father being one of the Independents. I was present at the funeral of the Rev John Sutcliff and heard the Rev Andrew Fuller preach the funeral sermon. Afterwards my family left the town to reside at Northampton. In later years, after entering the ministry at Wollaston, I renewed my acquaintance with Olney and its people. Being on intimate terms with the Rev John Morris, the Rev John Simmons, MA and the Rev Mr James, I preached repeatedly for one or the other during eleven years. After that time I removed to a distant part of the country and have only seen Olney once since. I may say I have never had any relations living at Olney since. - T LORD.

In the *Daily Mail* of Tuesday, November 26th, 1907, under the heading 'How to live to 100', we notice the following reply: 'Rev Thomas Lord (100). Eat meat twice daily with salt only as condiment: keep a quiet mind.'

Nonconformity in Olney.

CONGREGATIONALISM in Olney dates back to 1699. The first Congregational Church was built in 1700; it was a plain, unpretending structure, standing back from the High Street, and approached by an archway. This was taken down in 1879, and the present church, with its imposing frontage, secured by purchasing and removing the property between the site and the street, was built in 1880. The Cowper Memorial Church "is a very fine building and is an ornament to the part of Olney in which it is situated"; and the name of the Rev G G Horton, through whose untiring exertions it was mainly built, will always be associated with the great improvement made in the appearance of the town.

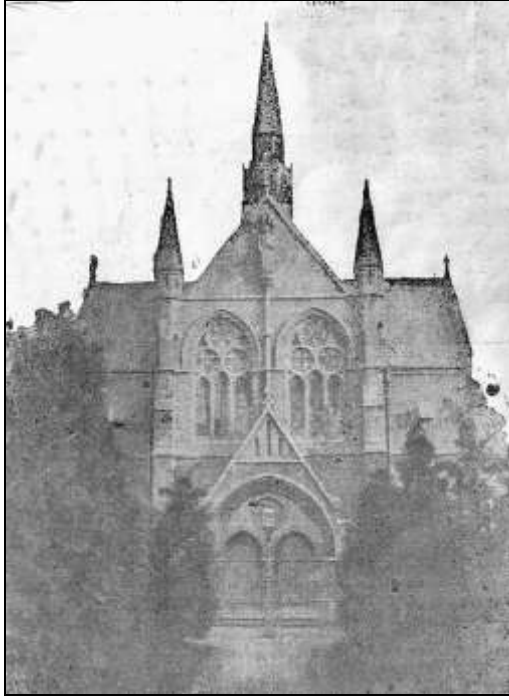


Rev. G G Horton

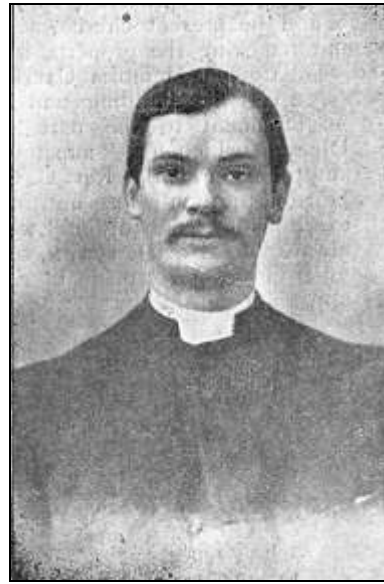
The following list of the names of the pastors of the Congregational Church will probably interest many of the readers of these pages.

1699 Rev Maurice	1841 Rev Isaac Vaughan	-- Rev M Hickson
-- Rev Gibbons	-- Rev Campbell	1869 Rev T Coop
1738 Rev Drake	1850 Rev M Blood	1875 Rev G G Horton
1776 Rev Whitford	1856 Rev Wilkes Simmons	1896 Rev Thos Scott
1783 Rev Hillyard	1861 Rev T W Mays, MA	1902 Rev M H Robert
1828 Rev J Morris	1866 Rev T T Grey	

In connection with the Church there is a successful Sunday School, superintended by Mr John Kitchener, assisted by a devoted staff of teachers. There is also a Young People's Society (CES) having as its motto - 'For Christ and the Church', which meets once a week, and special topics are considered at its meetings with a view to awakening and deepening the interest of the young people in religious matters.



Olney Congregational Church



Rev. M H Roberts

In addition to other organisations belonging to the church, there is a Book Society and a monthly magazine called 'The Pleasant Hour' which is much appreciated and has a good circulation. For some time the Church has been contemplating a scheme which includes the renovation of the Church and the building of New Sunday Schools at a cost of about £800.

CHURCH OFFICERS

<i>Pastor:</i>	The Rev M H Roberts
<i>Diaconate:</i>	Messrs A Field, F Field, R Donaldson, J Garner, J Kitchener, and Ed Mapley
<i>Church Treasurer:</i>	Mr S Paggett
<i>Church Secretary:</i>	Mr A Field
<i>Church Council:</i>	The Pastor, Deacons, and Church Treasurer, and Messrs C Eaton, A Gudgin, J Hart, Wm Hinde, A Hoddle, - Labrum, Wm Lett, Ed Mapley, F Whitmee, and J Whitmee

SUTCLIFF BAPTIST CHAPEL

THE early history of the Baptist Church which during the latter part of the last century adopted the name of 'Sutcliff' is not very extensive, as the old records have either been lost or destroyed. It appears to date contemporaneously with the Congregational Church, but can boast of more eminent divines than that place of worship - notably Sutcliff and Carey, the former who now gives the name to the church. In the year 1893, the structure was entirely renovated and remodelled in the interior and brought more up to present day requirements. The list of ministers so far as can be gleaned is:-

1694 Rev John Gibbs	1840 Rev John Davis	1866 Rev T H Holyoak
1775 Rev John Sutcliff	1842 J Simmons (again)	1870 Rev Jos Allen, BA
1814 Rev Jas Simmons	1858 Rev Rich Hall, BA	1892 Rev M Joslin
1835 Rev John James	1860 Rev Fred Timmis	1899 Rev Jac Samuel, BA

The deacons are: Messrs George Hollingshead, James Hollingshead, George Smith, and Samuel Gibson. The superintendent of the Sunday School is Mr James Hollingshead.

THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The small community of Wesleyans at Olney, with the help of friends, have during the last few years erected an iron church facing the Wellingborough road.

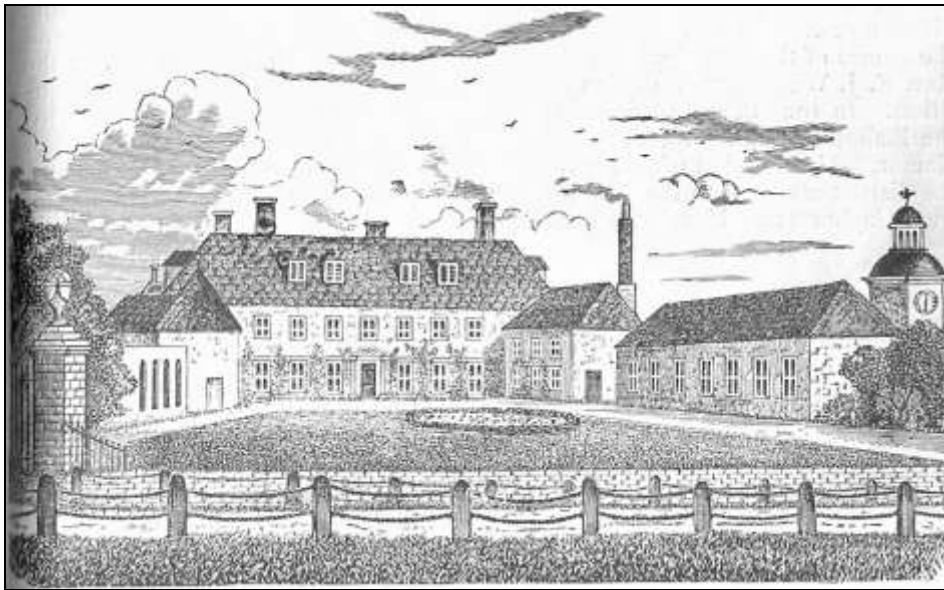
A Ratcliff 'end piece'

Mrs KNAGGS: "What yer wearin' that black band round yer hat for?"

Mr KNAGGS: "That's for your first 'usband, I'm sorry e's dead."

Our Lady and St. Laurence, Olney

BEFORE giving an account of the establishment of the Catholic Mission at Olney it may be interesting to the reader if we give a short description of the old Catholic settlement at Weston Underwood. Since about 1446, the estate of Weston Underwood was the property of the Throckmorton family. In 1381, John de Olney purchased land at Weston, Sir Robert Olney possessed it after him. From Robert it passed to Margaret, his daughter, who was married to Sir Thomas Throckmorton. The Throckmorton family having always adhered to the Catholic Faith, there have always been Catholics at Weston and though there has not been a chaplain constantly at Weston since the Reformation, there have, doubtless been Catholic services, and the consolations of religion administered with tolerable regularity, ever since Catholic times.



The Old Mansion, Weston Underwood

At the Reformation the Parish Church passed over to the followers of the Protestant religion. A room in the mansion was therefore set aside for a chapel, and here Mass was offered and Catholics worshipped from the times of Elizabeth till the beginning of last century. Most of the old mansion was pulled down in 1827 and Mass was then said in the granary until a chapel was built. From the old registers a tolerably correct list of the chaplains of Weston Underwood may be made out

from Queen Anne's time to the destruction of the Mission in 1899. The last chaplains were John Fletcher, DD, 1808 to 1826; Seth Eccles, DD, 1826 to 1884; George Frederick Stokes, 1884 to 1899.

In December 1898 the estate of Weston Underwood was sold by Sir William Throckmorton to Major Bowyer who took possession of it on Ladyday 1899. The sale included the chapel, school and priest's house, and in consequence the last Catholic service was held at Weston on March 20. A chapel and two rooms were then lent, for the use of the Mission at Olney, at the house of Mr L Glasspole in the High Street, now the Liberal Club. The Rev M E Carton de Wiart, secretary to the Bishop of Northampton, took charge of the Mission. He rented a hall in Bridge Street, originally built for the Salvation Army and for a time the Sunday services were held in that hall, the week-day services being held at the residence of the priest. After unsuccessfully trying to buy a house in High Street and an adjoining Court, and also other property, a plot of land of nearly two acres was secured in West Street. In August 1900 a temporary church was built. Eventually it will become the sacristy and part of the priest's house. It is 24 feet long and 18 feet wide, with a chancel of 11 feet in length and a sacristy 18 feet by 8 feet in dimension. It has seating accommodation for 90 people. In April 1901 a convenient priest's house was built next to the Church. This Church having become too small for the congregation, it was decided to build part of the new Church, and in April 1903, the building was begun. This new portion will become the Chapel of Our Lady in the new Church. The plans have been already prepared by Mr William Hull, architect of Northampton. It will be built of local lime-stone and will seat about 250 persons. The dimensions will be; Nave, 43 feet by 24 feet; chancel, 16 feet by 24 feet, with entrance porch 10 feet by 6 feet and baptistry 6 feet square. On November 8, 1903, the Right Rev Arthur Riddell, DD, Bishop of Northampton, who had on several previous occasions visited the place and had contributed to the cost of the purchase of the land and of the building of the presbytery, paid his first official visit to Olney and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation.

A beautiful brass plate was placed in the Lady Chapel in March 1904. This tablet records the destruction of the Catholic Mission of Weston

Underwood, the establishment of the Olney Mission, and the names of the principal benefactors. The text, which was written by the Rev E J Watson, MA, of Brentwood, is a beautiful example of Latin composition. In 1906 the priest of the Mission, who since 1896 had been secretary to the Bishop of Northampton, was made an Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of Namur. The Mission of Olney belongs to the Diocese of Northampton and the district attached to the Mission extends from Bozeat to Sherington, and from Gayhurst and Horton to Harrold and Turvey.

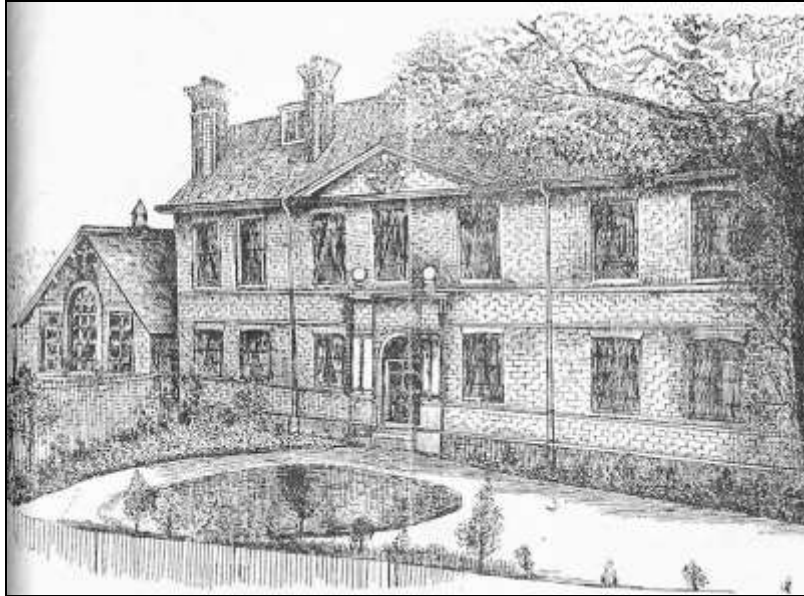
St. Joseph's Convent, Olney.

THE year 1902 opened for the French religious orders an era of sufferings and anxiety. The laws enacted by the government compelled many of their members to leave their country and to seek freedom in foreign lands. Consequently in October, 1902, there came to Olney the first three nuns belonging to the Breton Congregation of the Holy Ghost, commonly known under the name of 'White Sisters' (*Sœurs Blanches*) from the colour of their habit. They rented two small cottages in West Street, almost opposite the Catholic Presbytery, and gave their dwelling the name of St Joseph's Convent. They were soon joined by six more nuns, and, then their true community life began. Prayer and the study of the English language occupied the greater part of the day. Study seemed hard at times, but nothing could be done before knowing English. There were so many difficulties to overcome in that respect; tradespeople came to the door and no one understood them aright. This led to many funny incidents, which, however, were a cause of no slight annoyance to the parties concerned.

At the end of ten months' study, under the direction of an English teacher, seven of the nuns gained their Senior Oxford diploma. During that time, too, they had erected a School and built a Convent, the foundations of which had been started on March 19th, 1903. Having engaged a competent teacher and fitted the School with every requisite, two of the nuns devoted themselves to the work they had come for, and which the Catholic population of Olney felt so much in

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CONVENT, OLNEY

need of a RC Elementary School. This school has been working now five years, has placed itself on a level with the other elementary schools in the district, and has been recognised efficient by HM's Government. Owing however to local opposition a grant has been so



St Joseph's Convent

far refused to the school. Thus while saving the rates the educational expenses for about sixty children, the nuns have nevertheless to pay educational rates on the Elementary School buildings. At the time when the elementary School was started, a High School was also opened. French, needlework, and other subjects were taught by one of the nuns, and the English branches by an English teacher. This High School had very small beginnings indeed, but seems not to have fallen short of what was expected. For it has not ceased to increase and to develop since October 1903. Another institution which has been greatly appreciated by the population of Olney, and the immediate vicinity, has been the establishment of a free dispensary and the appointment by the superiors of the Order, at the request of the Rev M E Carton de Wiart, of a trained nurse for the care of the sick. This was done with the approval of the doctors of the district who on several occasions have made use of the nuns for nursing purposes. At the dispensary people suffering from various ailments are able to avail themselves of the Infirmarian's services, either by calling at the dispensary or by asking the Sister to their houses. This charitable work is helped by the free offerings of the people.

Olney Parish Register,

THE old Parish Register of Olney begins in 1665 and is of course continued to the present day as the Church register of Baptisms, Weddings, and Burials. Since 1837 the appointment of the civil registrar has rendered the Church record one for Churchpeople only, though before that date it included all in the parish. Our old Parish Registers are valuable in more ways than one, not only as genealogical records, but as also affording much light on local history; it is most desirable that the registers should be printed and thus by multiplying copies diminish the chance of total loss which has overtaken so many old records as long as they existed only in one, and that a handwritten and much handled copy. The earlier years of Olney Register are now in print and will shortly be issued to subscribers by the Bucks Parish Register Society. The Society was originated a few years ago for the purpose of printing old registers. Among the volumes already issued are the registers of Walton (Bletchley), Woughton, and Thornton, etc. The annual subscription to the society is 10s 6d, and a few spare copies of its issues are still to be had of the Hon Sec, W Bradbrook, Bletchley. Anyone wishing to subscribe for the Olney volumes only, can learn terms from Mr Ratcliff, the printer. Early application is necessary as the edition will be small and not repeated.

The annexed interesting paragraph is a copy of an old newspaper cutting in reference to parish registers which is pasted inside the old register for the parish of Emberton:

‘During the Commonwealth an Act of Parliament was passed providing for a careful registration, ‘in a book of good vellum’, of all births, deaths, and marriages in each parish, by ‘some able and honest person chosen by the inhabitants and householders’, who was to be a sworn officer, and who should subscribe the entries in the presence of a justice of the peace. This plan would seem to have worked well, but at the Restoration matters relapsed into their former state, and the registration of births, deaths and marriages reverted into the hands of the clergy, who continued to rule the destinies of registration down to the establishment of the Registrar-General’s Department in the year

1836, when an Act of Parliament provided for the establishment of a proper office in London or Westminster to be called 'The general Register Office', for keeping a register of all births, deaths, and marriages of His Majesty's subjects in England, and to appoint for the said office, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, a registrar-general'.

That such an institution was not established before it was needed is evinced by the following testimony of a learned judge, given only three years before the establishment of the Registrar-General's Department. At the York Assizes, in the year 1833, on the trial of Doe-v-Hungate, a case of considerable notoriety in Yorkshire, in which a large estate was at stake, Mr Sergeant Jones, who was a counsel for one of the parties, observed that an obliteration appeared in a register which was produced, whereupon Baron Alderson, who tried the case, observed "Are you surprised at that, Brother Jones? I am not at all surprised. I have had much experience, and I never saw a parish register book in my life that was not falsified in some way or other, and I do not believe that there is one that is not". The registers were not only falsified, but they were scandalously kept in some instances; for example: - in the year 1819 it was necessary, for purposes connected with the sale of a certain property, that proof of the death of one Mrs Gouldsmith should be forthcoming. She was known to have been buried at Waldon, in Sussex, and search was accordingly made in the parish register. The death was not entered; but going to the parish clerk, who was a blacksmith, he stated that he recollected the circumstance, and accounted for the non-entry of her burial in this way: - He said it was usual for him, and not the clergyman, to take an account of those who are buried, and he entered them in a little sixpenny memorandum book after the following fashion: - 'A. B., £1'. If it so happened that the fees to the clerk were paid at the time, as was the case with affluent persons, no entry would appear in his book; he only booked what was due to him, and as the clergyman booked the parish register at the end of the year from his book, and not at the time of the ceremony, all burials that were not entered in his book would not find their way into his register. Mrs Gouldsmith being in affluent circumstances he thought this must have been the case. Some remarkable instances of the careless manner in which the registers

were kept came to light during an enquiry into the general state of parochial registers, which was directed by the House of Commons about 40 years ago. An incumbent at Lewes kept the old registers in a cupboard in his house, where the children or anyone else could have got at them, and from which they were fetched when a search was wanted, and the modern ones at the house of the parish clerk, very much exposed to accidental fires. In some registers parts were destroyed, whole leaves being cut out. An instance was given where the clerk was about to destroy the old register, saying "It was of no use", but was fortunately prevented. A gentleman from the Herald's College sent to a clergyman in the country for extracts from the register, whereupon he cut them out and sent them by post, saying he "could make nothing of them".

The following is a list of families prior to 1672, in Olney, which have completely died out; Abbot, Ablett, Alleston, Amps, Ashburner, Ashby, Assaby, Barngham, Barringow, Beauchamp, Boone, Bowler, Brice, Brierly, Bryer, Buck, Burk, Byway, Carey, Cason, Chambers, Clyston, Dobs, Diffitt, Dittman, Eddins, Ellington, Ellis, Fountain, France, Freebasker, Gersam, Geynes, Gifford, Giggins, Gillet, Goodale, Goodridge, Glydall, Gwillet, Hall, Harriett, Hathorne, Hatter, Henly, Hensman, Hulett, Jackson, Jolley, Laughton, Lym, Mallard, Masson, Milles, Nure, Odehill, Papper, Park, Parker, Penn, Phillips, Pointer, Pope, Poulcher, Pulley, Punter, Purrier, Puttenham, Pye, Ranne, Read, Renn, Risely, Roade, Rogers, Scrivener, Siars, Stagg, Starlinge, Stringer, Symkyn, Tander, Tatman, Templeman, Thornton, Tod, Tripp, Vace, Watts, Wheeler, Wildman, Willisson, Windmill, Wyld.

The following families, which were in the town in or before 1671 are still represented in the town:

Abraham, Abram, Andrew, Barnes, Berril, Boswell, Brown, Cattell, Clare, Clifton, Coles, Dicks, Field, Freeman, Gibbs, Griggs, Goldsmith, Hinde, Johnson, Kitchener, Knight, Lord, Manning, Morgan, Morrice, Osborn, Robinson, Rose, Sanders, Scot, Seviginton, Sergeant, Sharp, Smith, Sole, Stanton, Whiting, Yorke.

Olney Charities,



The Almshouses

MY earliest intentions were to devote several pages to the charities of Olney, and to draw attention to many of the anomalies connected therewith, but as the advertisements to appear in this work, have come in far in excess of my most sanguine expectations, I have been compelled to curtail this item, with several others, in order to keep the book within the limit of paying its own expenses. It is understood that Pierson's charity was left for the 'clothing of the poor', and the 'Causeway charity' to keep the causeway which skirted the brook down the street in repair. These are now amalgamated and become a Feoffee charity to be devoted to the whims of the trustees. Clothing, bread, blankets and coal have been distributed at times, and year by year there is always, and will be, dissatisfaction as to the amounts given.

Undoubtedly the donor's wishes were for the deserving poor or for the good of the town, that was if the man or woman were sane, or if troubled with religious mania he thought by bribing the rich, that they would remember his soul and it would be R.I.P. with him. Be it as it may, it is a recognised fact that any one who applies can have coal dumped down at their doors, and the better appearance they present on application the better chance they have. If space would have permitted to allow the list of names and addresses of the 207 recipients out of the 597 householders, it would have been food for reflection. For

instance there is one who holds freehold property has 5 cwt of coal, a tradesman 5 cwt., a farm labourer 3 cwt, a widow without any means 2 cwt, and so on throughout the list. The maternity list is even more astounding. To obviate the above abuses the trustees should not make grants to those who have a living wage coming in the home, but give a larger share to the deserving ones.



"I have used similitudes." – *Hos. xii. 10.*

Why should some poor have coal given to last a week, and others a fortnight, and some houses even have two doles when they have only the same number of fireplaces as their neighbours? If the names and addresses of all recipients were given in all cases it would certainly be an incentive to curb some of those who are mean enough to apply. If there is more money than required why not keep the field used by Mr Osborn for a playground for the children?

The following are the balance sheets, so far as published, which show partly how the money is expended, but lumps the doles up. People may or may not have it for what either the Charity commissioners or others know, and if their names were given it would give a more business like appearance, and show that there was no favouritism.

OLNEY CHARITIES

SMITH'S ALMSHOUSES FOR THE POOR

<i>Income</i>	£ s d	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s d
1902 Endowment Fund £5,462/8/5		1902 Expenses of Management	
Dividends	163 17 4	J Cobb, Repairs	1 12 6
Repairs Fund £942/9/3		S Dawes, Repairs	1 11 0
Dividends	28 5 4	T Perkins, Repairs	3 4 1
Balance in hand	48 4 8	F Morgan, Plumber	2 17 1
	<u>£240 7 4</u>	Gas and Lamp	
TRUSTEES		Lighting	1 5 11
A W Hipwell, Brewer, Olney		Insurance	1 4 0
G Whitlock, Draper, Olney		Sowman, Iron-	
J Whitmee, Gentleman, Olney		mongery	1 1 2
W Hinde, Gentleman, Olney		Morgan, Spouting	9 0
W R Chantler, Newport Pagnell		Gardener	<u>1 12 6</u>
F Littleboy, Newport Pagnell			£14 17 3
Jas Bass, Ramsgate		5s. per week each to 12 inmates	156 0 0
E Ransome, Bedford		½ ton of Coal to each inmate	5 17 0
E W Allen, London		Balance in hand	63 13 1
			<u>£240 7 4</u>

SMITH'S CHARITY, 1846 "D" DOLES TO POOR INDEPENDENTS

<i>Income</i>	£ s d	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s d
1906 Dividends from Consols	18 15 0	1906 Distributed to 71 Recipients	
		in sums from 2/6 to 10/.	18 15 0
	<u>£18 15 0</u>		<u>£18 15 0</u>
TRUSTEES: The Deacons			

SMITH'S CHARITY, 1846 DOLES TO POOR BAPTISTS

<i>Income</i>	£ s d	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s d
1904 Dividends from Consols	18 15 0	1904 Distributed to 77 Recipients	
		in sums from 3/- to 10/.	18 15 0
	<u>£18 15 0</u>		<u>£18 15 0</u>

TRUSTEES

G Smith
G Hollingshead
L Perkins
J W Hollingshead
Deacons of Baptist Church

OLNEY FEOFFEE CHARITY

<i>Income</i>		£ s d	<i>Expenditure</i>		£ s d
1906	Feb 1 Balance in hand	150 15 4	1906	Feb 10 Lord J, Quit Rent	10 3
Sept	29 Allotments, One Year's Rent	17 15 1		10 Distribution to Poor	12 13 6
	29 (Long Lane)	8 16 3	Mar	25 Aspray, Mrs, rent	4 0 0
	29 Paggett; R G	40 0 0		31 Higgins, contract a/c	100 0 0
	28 Allen, A	7 10 0		31 Soul, F, Repairs	1 10 0
Dec	25 Field, A	13 0 0	Apr	4 Ratcliff, O, Printing	7 0
	25 Knight, Mrs	14 0 0		4 Revitt, W T, Repairs	3 6
	25 Osborn, A J	16 10 0		4 Sowman, Grate	1 3 0
	25 Talbot, Wm	5 0 0		4 Morgan, F, Repairs	2 6
	25 Dawes, F	3 10 0		4 Dawes, F, Repairs	1 9 6
	25 Dix, S	13 0 0		4 Page, J, Right of road to allotments	4 6
	25 Gardens, Horse Pond	1 0 0		4 Hoddle, W	1 6
1907				4 Eady, G E making out Coal Tickets	1 0 0
Jan	21 Haseldine, J	13 0 0		4 Lord, J, Distributing Coal Tickets	15 0
	21 Crouch, J	13 0 0	May	3 Insurance	2 11 9
	21 Kitchener, E	13 0 0		24 Dawes, F, Repairs	6 18 9
	21 Lineham, W	13 0 0	June	12 Higgins, bal. on a/c	80 19 5
	21 Hooton, Mrs	13 0 0		12 Ingram, J, Architect	24 0 0
	21 Govier, Sergt	13 0 0		25 Paggett, G, Wall Paper	3 3 0
	21 Mynard, Mrs	6 10 0		30 Barclay & Co, Interest on loan	6 0 0
	21 Smith, W	7 16 0	July	11 Mantel, J, Rates	9 16 2
	21 Morris, J & Abrams J	8 3 0		20 Morgan, F, Painting	4 7 6
	21 Paggett, R G, on a/c alterations	7 2 6		20 Perkins, T, Repairs	5 8 10
	21 Olney Gas Co	1 0 0	Aug	1 Northampton Infirmary	6 6 0
	31 Balance due to Treas	7 16 2	Sept	29 Aspray, Mrs, Rent	4 0 0
			Oct	16 Grindon, Dr, Medical attendance	12 10 0
				16 Perkins, T, Repairs	1 2 3
				16 Hedge cutting	1 2 9
				16 Abraham, J, Repairs	2 6
				16 Ratcliff, O, Printing	9 2
				16 Council School, for Room	9 0
			Nov	10 Lett, A, part cost of invalid's chair	1 0 0
			Dec	12 Mantel, J, Rates	10 2 11
				22 Perkins, T, Repairs	4 10 0
				31 Barclay & Co, Interest on loan	6 0 0
				31 Ditto, Bank Charges	11 8
			1907	Jan 2 Hinde, C, Coal	33 17 5
				2 Cheque Books	5 0

OLNEY CHARITIES

17 Taylor, W H, Land tax	1 17 9
29 Grindon, Dr, Medical attendance	4 5 0
29 Lord, J, Collector, salary	10 0 0
29 Ditto, Stamps	3 8
29 Eady, G E, Clerk, salary	5 0 0
29 Ditto, stamps	6 6
31 One-third of net Income Transferred to the Olney Education Foundation	33 6 1

£407 4 4

£407 4 4

OLNEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

<i>Income</i>	£ s d	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s d
1907 Jan 31 To one third of Net Income for the year of the Olney Feoffee Charity	33 6 1	1906 February 1 st Balance due to Treasurer	17 10
” ” Balance due to Treasurer	2 11 9	May 1 Longland, A, part Scholarship	3 6 8
	<u>£35 17 10</u>	1 Field, H, Balance of Scholarship	3 6 8
		1 Wright, W, part of Apprenticeship grant	1 5 0
		1 Brooks, W, part of Apprenticeship grant	1 5 0
		July 20 Bull, A, part of Apprenticeship grant	2 10 0
		20 Knight, W T, part of Apprenticeship grant	2 10 0
		Sept 14 Longland, A, part of Scholarship	3 6 8
		14 Lineham, F, part of Scholarship	3 6 8
		Nov 10 Harrison, F, part of Apprenticeship grant	2 10 0
		10 Newbury, J, part of Apprenticeship grant	2 10 0
		10 Wright, Mrs J, part of Apprenticeship grant	2 10 0
		1907	
		Jan 12 Longland, A, part of Scholarship	3 6 8
		12 Lineham, F, part of Scholarship	3 6 8
			<u>£35 17 10</u>

Signed at the Annual Meeting, Feb 5th, 1907

Thos T Coles, Chairman
W Clarabut, Treasurer
T Longland
J C Hipwell
J W Sowman
L Cooper
L Thompson
J W Mann
J Hollingshead

TRUSTEES.

Examined and found correct, February 4th 1907
Signed, A Timperley, A J Osborn, Auditors

**A N SMITH'S CHARITY. FOR BRITISH SCHOOL CHILDREN,
EDUCATION AND APPRENTICESHIP**

<i>Income</i>	£ s d	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s d
1903 Balance in hand	7 18 0	1903 To Apprenticing Grants	13 10 0
January - Dividends	10 15 7	To Scholarships	22 0 0
April - Dividends	10 15 7	To Book Prizes at School	10 0 0
July - Dividends	9 16 0	Insurance	4 1
October - Dividends	9 16 0	Rates	17 10
		Balance in hand	2 9 3
	<u>£49 1 2</u>		<u>£49 1 2</u>

TRUSTEES

Thomas Longland
George Smith

Elections,

The inhabitants of Olney have always been very enthusiastic over county and parochial election events, and thus will be probably interested in the polling results that are here given. In 1784 the great party leaders then were Pitt and Fox and the general election in March of that year was:

Grenville, William Wyndham (Pittite)	2261
John Aubrey (Pittite)	1740
Verney, Ralph Earl (Foxite)	1716

The General Election of 1880, result was:

Harvey, Sir R B (Con)	2956
Carington, The Hon R (Lib)	2790
Fremantle, The Hon T F (Con)	2790
Charsley, F	796

ELECTIONS

NORTH BUCKS PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Since Franchise, 1885

General Election,	1885	Verney	5462	Wilson	4006	Lib Majority	1456
“	“	1886 Hubbard	4460	Verney	4389	Con “	71
Bye	“	1889 Verney	4855	Hubbard	4647	Lib “	208
“	“	1891 Leon	5013	Hubbard	4632	Lib “	381
General	“	1892 Leon	5153	Carlile	4701	Lib “	452
“	“	1895 Carlile	5266	Leon	4831	Con “	436
“	“	1900 Carlile	5101	Beaumont	4684	Con “	417
“	“	1906 Verney	6252	Fremantle	4672	Lib “	1580

FIRST SCHOOL BOARD CONTESTED ELECTION, March 1884

1884	No Contest 1890	1899
1. Drage, G A 439	1893	1. Ruff, Jas 507
2. Hipwell, A W 403	1. Drage, D A 475	2. Lord, J 480
3. Coles, T T 387	2. Longland, T 473	3. Longland, T 462
4. Longland, T 365	3. Lord, John 457	4. Thompson, L 461
5. Owen, S R 313	4. Coles, T T 432	5. Hinde, W 419
6. Booth, H 189	5. Hipwell, A W 400	6. Wright, W W 379
7. York, John 179	6. Kitchener, Jno 385	7. Wright, T 333
<i>Pater, Phillip 144</i>	7. Whitmee, Jno 301	<i>Whitmee, J 287</i>
<i>Skevington, A E 87</i>	<i>Horton, G G 217</i>	
<i>Field, Jas 58</i>	<i>Higgs, F 130</i>	
<i>Knight, Ed 51</i>	<i>Howson, Jos 48</i>	
<i>Luck, Joe 20</i>		
	1896	1902
1887	1. Whitmee, Jno 509	1. Longland, T 493
1. Longland, T 541	2. Hinde, W 486	2. Lord, John 487
2. Lord, John 427	3. Lord, John 468	3. Hinde, W 415
3. Coles, T T 389	4. Longland, T 448	4. Thompson, L 409
4. Hipwell, A W 352	5. Coles, T T 419	5. Pebody, J 375
5. Drage, G A 340	6. Kitchener, J 402	6. Ruff, Jas 371
6. Owen, S R 316	7. Hipwell, A W 400	7. Pater, Jno E 367
7. Skevington, A E 298	<i>Wright, W W 346</i>	<i>Wright, W W 285</i>
<i>Hobbs, H 277</i>		<i>Kitchener, J T 256</i>
<i>Kitchener, J 228</i>		<i>Kitchener, Harry 224</i>
<i>Hopper, Jas 88</i>		

Seven Members

Olney's Wit and Humour

A GOOD RETORT

P-T-R (from the Gasworks) having occasion to go to the Tanyard before breakfast one morning was reflecting on the pungent odours arising from his surroundings, and at the same time wearing a very bilious look. Mr Pebody arrived on the scene and the following conversation took place:



Pebody: "Well, Gasman, what are you thinking about?"

P-T-R: "I am thinking what a fool St Peter was for living with Simon the tanner if it stunk like this."

- Exit Pebody.

A MAN IN A HURRY

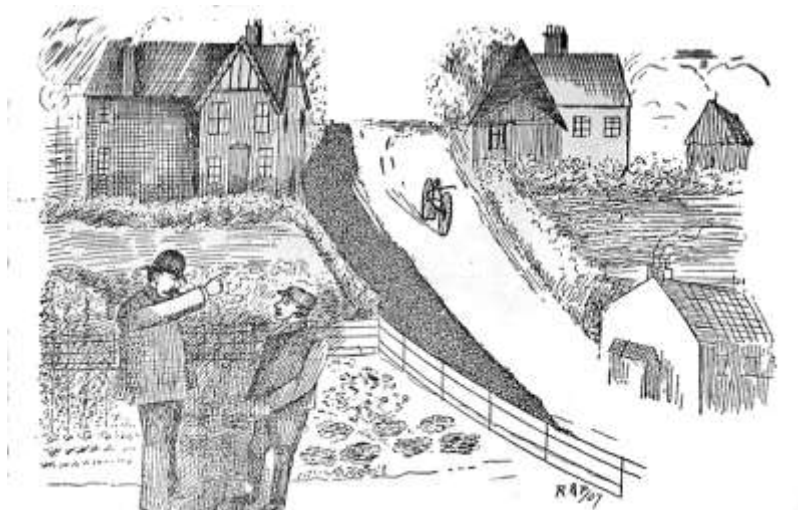
A well know ginger beer man who visits the town occasionally rushed into Mantel's one day and requested a shave in un-parliamentary language. Not noticing the trap in the middle of the floor was open he suddenly disappeared from view. When the facetious barber quietly looked down the aperture and said "do you think I am coming down *there* to shave you?"



A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS



Act I. Home Sweet Home Act II. Scene – Olney High Street
Paterfamilias: “Where’s “Mr Policeman, have you seen
yer bike?” my bike?”



Act III. Scene – Over’s Hill
Mr H-T-N’s stretch of imagination. “Gardener, looking across
Overs’ Hill yesterday morning I saw a bike coming down
without a rider, and it looked like yours!”

A TALE OF A BOWLING GREEN

Mr J K-r having strolled to the green bethought himself that he would like a game and seeing Teddie B-df-d sent him home for his 'woods'.

On Teddie's arrival at Hope Cottage his message was "Please, mum, I've come for the master's bowels" and as the good lady had only heard of the bowls spoken of in their technical phrase - 'woods' was completely nonplussed, to the astonishment of Teddie.

THE CURATE AND HIS 'CELERY'

An amusing tale is told of Mr Mackay, a late curate and Esther Crouch, which is as follows:

Esther: "Does Mr Langley give you any salary?"

The Curate (somewhat taken aback) "That is a rather impertinent question to ask, my good woman"

Esther: "No'arm yer know Sir. I wished no offence, but if he doesn't I've got two rows down there, and I'll give yer sum in welcome"



TIT BITS HEARD AT THE TENNIS GROUND

Why is Smith feeling cold (coaled)? Because he hasn't his hat on (Hatton).

A Stimulant: For tennis you cannot Beat Good Gin.

Why does Coales remind one of an old nurse? Because he is partial to good gin (Gudgin).

QUESTIONS!

Who is known as the landlord of the Market Place?

Who is noted for his buttonhole?

Who is noted for his white hat?

One Sunday evening an Olney lady was seen scorching down Over's Hill on a gent's bicycle. Who was it?

COWPER AND THE HAIRDRESSER

Mr Wilson, a hairdresser, was in the habit of resorting to Cowper's house to shave the poet, who on these occasions was generally silent. One day Wilson was shaving away in silence, when it was broken by the following circumstance.

Cowper was that day to dine with Lady Austen at Clifton. Wilson had left home to be punctual to his engagement, and had told his man to bring Mr Cowper's best wig after him, the wig having been specially dressed for the occasion. When Mr Wilson had finished, Cowper suddenly exclaimed:

“Oh, Mr Wilson, my wig!”



The Cuff and Collar Brigade's Return from the Northampton Mop

Wilson, who was a wit, immediately quoted, in answer, from the poet's well known poem of 'John Gilpin':

"I came before your wig was done
But, if I well forbode,
It certainly will soon be here -
It is upon the road"

"Very well applied indeed, Mr Wilson" quoth the poet, with a smile.



THE REVISED VERSION OF THE PSALMS FOR OLNEY'S HOSPITAL. SUNDAY.

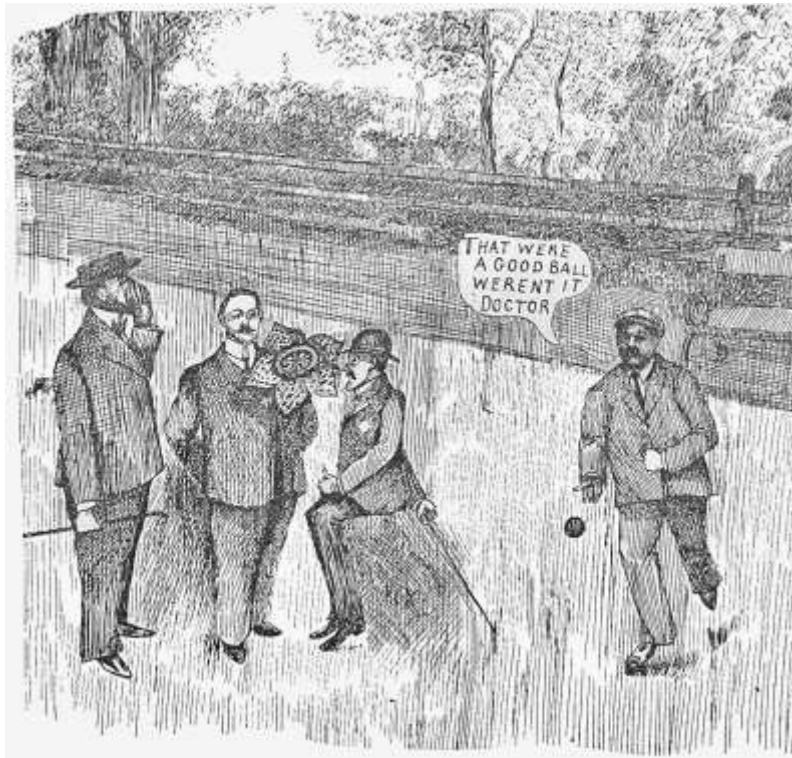
Psalm cxliv. 12. "That our *sins* may grow up as the young plants."

vide Hymn Sheet.

THE NAUGHTY WEATHER GLASS

The following conversation in reference to the late bad weather was overheard in the railway carriage between two of our magnates who are fond of paying the Metropolis a visit. Of course it goes without saying such people like to draw the long bow, and this is what was told of an Emberton farmer. The farmer had watched his weather glass with unabated attention for days during harvesting, and became so disgusted that he took it outside and hung it there, saying: "Now see if you can tell the truth you ---- ". Who was it?

THE 'GENIAL' DOCTOR'S BUTTON-HOLE



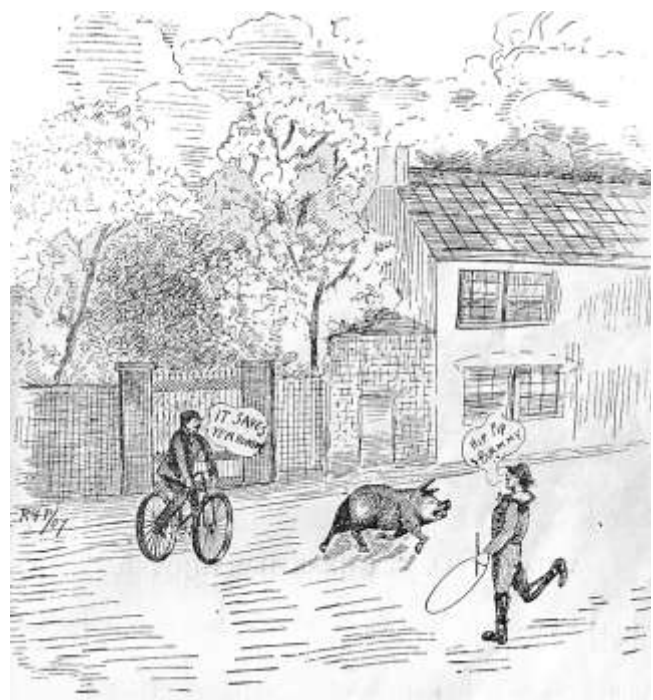
This gentleman wishing to save his friends from inhaling the dangerous and obnoxious whiffs to be obtained in the 'Recreation' field, donned for his button-hole a Stapelia flower celebrated for its vile smell, and invited them to have a sniff and thus save the trouble of the 'Rec' whiff. The above is a correct sketch of the flower used for the occasion.
- Scene, the Bowling Green.

A HARTWELL TEA HEARTILY ENJOYED



'THE WESTON EXPRESS'

A familiar and amusing sight on several occasions last summer was Sammy driving the very athletic pig from Weston to Olney, who went by the name of the 'Weston Express'. The sketch gives the ludicrous aspect of the events.



OLNEY'S LOST SINGER

Most of the readers of these pages will have a more or less vivid recollection of Mr John Horn who died in 1899. He was one of the celebrities of the town, and the anecdotes about himself which he delighted in reciting, afforded amusement to his hearers. His pet subject was about his singing abilities which everyone in either Olney or Clifton church could judge during his lifetime. He prided himself that 'he could sing an octave lower than the church organ' and also 'bass to a drum solo'.

One day he visited Northampton and entered a well known public house where he found several in the tap room. These disciples of Bacchus, having heard of Johnny's fame in the singing world, at once suggested that he should either sing or pay for drinks round. He preferred the former, mounted a form or chair, and in his stentorian voice belched forth, "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah". The title itself was sufficient for the men in the room, and it was unanimously decided to let him off. On another occasion he paid the Metropolis a visit in the early part of the year, and wishing to see a pantomime play went to one of the leading theatres. He did not notice the card calling attention to have the proper amount ready in passing the pay box, viz. 1s, and being somewhat affluent at the time, he tendered a sovereign. The crush behind forced him on. As soon as he got clear of the hustling he asked someone what the title of the play was, when their reply was "The Forty Thieves", Johnny, thinking of his lost sovereign replied, "If the other thirty nine are as bad as the first I won't go any further," and thus came away without seeing the play.

A curious sequence in the names of the Olney stationmasters is Mee, Knott, Little, Grice.

The grown-ups of today will remember P C Pitson. He was located at Newport Pagnell prior to his advent in Olney, and when at Newport it was a curious coincidence in connection with the names of the police there, which were as follows: Superintendent Hall, PC's Mercer, Pitson and Pidgeon. Many a time an amusing spectacle could be seen in Newport, when the naughty boys shouted out: "Hall have mercy on poor Pitson's Pigeons."

HB, a rather too precocious boy was sent to Joseph Thompson's for a half-quartern loaf. On being told that bread had risen in price that day, he replied. "Please, I will have one of yesterday's."

An intelligent (?) person on seeing the original sketch of Mr Thos. Wright and Mr Wm. Cowper, which appears on page 84 asked, "Did Mr Wright really have tea with Cowper?"

W M-n, a well known old bachelor of the town, some time ago was invited to a wedding party. When he got home he went to bed and after a short nap awoke with a violent thirst, so went down stairs to have another drop. After getting into bed again he fell fast asleep and dreamed *he* was married too and his wife was kicking him. On awaking he found he had his boots in bed with him. Who was it?

HOW WILLIE STEERED THE MOTOR

On May 10th, 1907, early in the morning the motor lorry at the mill was manipulated with telling effect into the front wall of the house, which has left a very noticeable impression under the window - vide Miles's Boy.

Most of the readers of these pages are aware that the Brewery men have an annual holiday. The one that followed on the fall of Port Arthur was the cause of a rather cute remark from one of the men who is rather small of stature and goes by the name of 'Turpin'. He unfortunately had to stay behind. On his return to Olney, his remark upon the event was: "It took the little Japs a long time to take Port Arthur, but it didn't take the Brighton chaps long to take poor little Arthur."



A CHANCE FOR YOUNG MEN

A nice looking ex PT of the Olney Council Schools being asked why she had given up the scholastic profession, replied: "By what I saw of it teachers generally became old maids, and I don't mean to. That is why." Who was it?

IRISH ECLIPSED

Whilst pulling down the old cottages on the site of Mr Luddington's fish shop, the church bell tolled out for an old lady who was well known in cases of delicate illness, when the following conversation took place:

Labourer No. 1: "How old was the old gal?"

Labourer No.2: "I doan't know, but if she'd 'ave lived till next week she'd 'ave been 73."

OLNEY'S SHORT JOURNEY

Scene: Hallelujah Lamp Post.

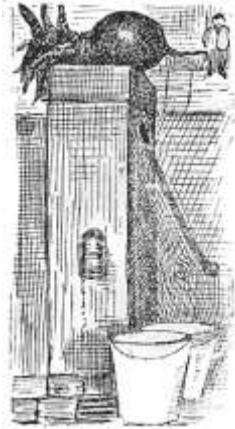
Cyclist (alighting): "Can you kindly tell me how far it is to Fenny Stratford?"

Olneyite: "It's about the same distance to Fenny Stratford as it is to everywhere else from here. It's about twelve miles to Fenny Stratford, twelve miles to Stony Stratford, twelve to Northampton, twelve to Bedford, twelve to Wellingborough, twelve to Heaven and twelve to Hell".

Cyclist: "Then you Olneyites have not far to travel".



OLNEY'S COW, PUMP, AND TURNIP.



Early one morning last May, one of our milk purveyors found a large turnip in East Street. Being a careful man he bethought himself that it would make a good feed for one of his cows, so took it home. Whilst having his breakfast he told one of his sons, a bright olive branch, when he had finished, to take it down to the cows and give it to the one who gave the most milk. Accordingly the lad, lad like, being in a hurry over his meals, left the breakfast room before his Pa. Shortly after Mr K- went down the yard and to his astonishment found the said turnip adorning the top of the pump. I wonder whether it was a question of Kick.

A REPORTER'S READY WIT

Wishing to know who the gentleman was that was marshalling the procession for last year's Hospital Sunday, he was asked why he required such information. His reply was that "the said gentleman made a most sensible remark by saying that the parish officials should be placed before the fire brigade" Why? "Because , they often want the hose turning upon them".

AN INTELLIGENT OSTLER

A tale is told of the late James Aspray and Robert Huckle. The former said to the latter, "go and saddle my horse". Robert had never done such a job before and did not wish to show his ignorance by asking how to do it, and placed the saddle backwards, when the following modified remarks consequently took place.

J A "Robert, you have put the saddle on backwards."

R H "You didna tell me whether you were going up town or down town."

Another tale is told of one of Olney's past curates, the Rev Whitechurch, who had a weakness for the water from the spring on the Yardley Road. One morning he went, as usual, with his bottle, and a man was there with a bucket. Being rather impatient the cleric remarked in the most polite manner, "After you please." The man, J B, thinking it was a PC said, "What are yer after me for?"



EXCITEMENT AT THE 'RED LION'

Some time ago, so hearsay goes, T-d B was in the 'Red Lion' Inn, on business of course, and noticed a strange man come up from the cellar with a lighted candle in his hand. He, T-d B, in his great haste to acquaint the landlady, rushed to find her, exclaiming, "Missus, I've just seen a man run up the candle with the cellar steps in his hand."

Olney's Past Events.

The figures preceding the line denote the day of the month.

JANUARY.

1. Henry Hinde (a child) found dead at Warrington, 1865. Rev A M Mackay died, 1907.
2. Colin Dale Stag Hunt, 1880
3. Olney Mills burnt down, 1878
4. Fire broke out on the premises now occupied by Mr J Walder and spread to Killingworth's watch factory (now Mr Howson's residence) where Scott and Marson were killed, and Clifton died from injuries received at the fire, 1853. Nicholls' reprieve received, 1874. Lily, wife of Mr J C Hipwell died, 1898.
5. Stacks belonging to Miss Raban and Mr Longland burnt, 1874. Mr Thos York died 1895.
6. Marriage of Mr W C Millard and Miss Skevington, 1870. Nurse Hinde died, 1887.
8. Mr W Field's accident in the Football field, 1898.
9. George Covington died, 1873.
10. Inquest on Kate Smith, 1887.
12. Frances Mary Hollingshead baptised, 1907.
13. Mrs Simco died, 1869
14. Boiler explosion at the Tanyard, 1867. The Great Flood, 1866.
15. Mr Charles Douglas Osborn and Miss Lizzie Drage married at Newport Pagnell, 1890
18. Notable snowstorm, 1881.
John Clark fell off a load of straw in the Bull Hotel yard. 1873.
19. Motor car parade from Newport Pagnell to Olney, 1899.
22. C Clark of Midland Road caught a 16½lb pike, 1898.
Arthur William Timperley baptised 1905.
23. Portion of the Market Hill elm blown off, 1872.
24. County council election, 1889.
26. Marriage of Mr W Snow and Miss Sleath, 1869.
Horse of the Olney and Newport 'bus died on the road, 1872.
27. Mr Frederick West and Miss Sarah Gibson married, 1890.
28. Fire at E Knight's butcher, 1891.
Mr G W Wickens and Miss Rachel Cooper married, 1905.

FEBRUARY

1. 'The Bucks Echo and Olney News', a monthly paper started to find out if it were possible to run a weekly paper, 1890 - ran four years.
2. Frank and Alice Spencer baptised, 1907
3. John Whiting Berrill and Miss Sarah Elizabeth Clare married, 1906.
4. Nora Raban and Eric Arthur Downing baptised, 1907.
6. Richard Hawley died, 1873
7. Bessie Taunt privately baptised, 1905.
10. Meeting to consider the practability of introducing gas into the town, 1851.
11. Reginald Harry Hayman, Dorothy Annie Fennell, and Harrold Hunt baptised, 1906.
12. Parcel of postage stamps lost by the postman at Olney, 1869.

OLNEY'S PAST EVENTS

13. Over 1,000 loaves distributed to the Poor of the town by the Feoffee Trustees, 1852.
14. Mr James Whitlock died, 1881.
15. The great bell rung for 1½ hours for the death of the duke of Wellington, 1852.
17. Cowper's Summer House and adjoining property sold for £480, 1896.
18. The overshot pit frozen over and scores of skaters and sliders thereon, 1855.
Fanny, wife of Mr H G Hipwell died, 1902.
22. Accident to Paybody whilst ringing the one o'clock bell, 1869.
23. Public meeting at the Bull Hotel, called at the request of Thos Soul to clear himself of being the author of the incendiary fires, 1853.
24. Harry Lord and Miss Florence Emily Knight married, 1906.
25. Serious trap accident to Mrs Toon and Miss Eyles, on the Weston Road, 1854.
George Hoddle drowned at Singapore, 1890.
28. Mr T T Coales and Miss Marianne Hall married, 1867.

MARCH

2. Mr John Garrard died, 1896.
4. Incendiary fire in Mr Thos Longland's rickyard, 1882. Mr Revitt's shop burnt, 1907.
5. Harvey Teasdale (the converted clown) lectured in the Congregational Church, 1873.
6. The twin Peters born, 1890.
7. Black rat caught at the Tanyard, 1870.
William Samuel and Frances Phebe Wilford baptised, 1905.
10. Rose Carter Taylor baptised, 1907.
11. Miss Mabley died, 1869. Arthur Alfred Freeman baptised, 1906.
12. Ada Mary Dewry-Taunt privately baptised, 1907.
15. Rev Daniel Baxter Langley died, 1881.
16. Sudden death of Thos Kitchener in the Baptist Chapel vestry, 1851.
17. School Board Election, 1887.
18. Sudden death of Miss Chapman, a governess, 1875. Total eclipse at the Gas Works, 1875.
19. Isaac Perkins killed at Mears Ashby, 1872. Foundations of the Convent layed, 1903.
20. A lad named Dix found dead, 1872.
21. Additional ground consecrated in the Churchyard, 1865. Mrs Bailey died, 1887.
22. Wm Curtis robbed on Olney bridge by two Lavendon men, who received 6 months, 1852.
24. Fire in Bridge End, at the house of S Whitmee, extending to John Smith's premises, 1854.
25. Harry Hooton and Miss Kate Elizabeth Harris married, 1905.
27. The Roman Catholics held their first service in Olney, 1899.
30. Sudden death of Elizabeth Griffiths, 1898.
Passenger trains from Olney to Towcester ceased running, 1893.
31. Plans decided upon for a Public Room, 1865.

APRIL

1. Woman named Rose found drowned at Warrington, 1873. Miss Pickering died, 1884.
John Pennyfather died, 1898.
2. Sudden death of Thos Gibb, of the Two Brewers, 1884.
3. Mr Thos York and Miss Shakeshaft married, 1866. Mr Peter West died, aged 82, 1892.
4. Mr W H Lockyer, landlord of the Bull, died 1866. Mr Thomas Osborn died, 1883.
5. Battalion of Artillery stayed for a night, 1865.
Mr John Whitmee and Miss Minnie Jane Pedley married, 1893.

OLNEY'S PAST EVENTS

6. Intelligence received in the town of the wreck of the *Birkenhead* off the Cape of Good Hope, on which Thos Field had sailed, 1852. Mr Charles Atherton Allen died, 1885.
7. Mr Thomas Palmer died, 1880.
8. Mr J W Sowman and Miss Jane Ann Neal married, 1890.
11. Serious motor accident to Mr H York, 1907
12. Meeting held in the New Hall to form the Volunteer Corps, 1907.
14. Joseph Dunkley and Miss Emma Church married, 1903.
15. Inquest on the body of Harry Timms, 1874.
16. Mrs Woodham's body found in the river at Kempston, 1890.
Sudden death of Samuel Church, the Pastures, 1907.
17. New Organ in the Parish Church dedicated, 1907.
19. The turntable, required for the transfer of the engines on the East and West Junction, arrived at Olney Station, 1890.
20. Two coloured ministers preached, one at the Parish Church, the other at the Congregational Church, 1890. Rev Joseph Allen, Baptist minister died, 1892.
21. W York's farewell supper at the Queen's, 1894.
22. F W Brown, pupil at Kidd's school, drowned, 1870. Earthquake shock distinctly felt, 1884. Dr F J Grindon and Miss Catherine Maud Mary Robinson married, 1890.
23. The property of the late Henry Flood sold, 1891.
24. Mr W Pedley and Miss Jane Rogers Revis married, 1866.
25. Newton Centenary celebrations, 1907.
27. Great excitement in the town over the attempted suicide of Mr Castle, the National schoolmaster, 1852. Burglary at Thos Bass's, now Ennals', 1865.
28. Walter Frank Hoddle and Miss Underwood married, 1903.
29. Mrs Drage, Springfield House, died, 1884. John Mantel elected assistant overseer, 1898.
30. Richard Hugh Harris baptised, 1905.

MAY

2. Foundation stone of the Cowper Memorial Congregational Church laid, 1879.
3. A troop of the 13th Lt Dragoons billeted in the town en route from York to Kensington, 1852. Sudden death of Mr Abel Horwood, registrar, 1888.
4. Arthur John Farrer and Miss Amelia Huckle married, 1907.
8. Sudden death of Joseph Irons, at the Duke of York Inn, 1902.
Mr W S Harris and Miss A Hipwell married, 1885.
9. The fields on the sides of the Station Road sold for building, 1890.
10. Louisa Hinde struck by lightning, 1867. Thomas Freeman, aged 94, died, 1898.
11. Mrs Elizabeth Ann Mobbs died, 1903.
12. Opening celebration of Hinde & Mann's factory, 1894.
13. Coles's fire in East Street, 1891.
14. Cottage occupied by J Horn burnt down, 1865.
109 gals. of sherry spilt at the station, 1892.
15. W Smith, a navvy, killed on the Olney and Newport Railway, 1866.
17. Beatrice Lilian Harris baptised, 1903.
18. Sudden death of Henry Hurst, 1870.
19. Arthur Donald Peters baptised, 1907.
22. Elsie Bertha Gomm baptised, 1904.
23. Mr Edward Sowman and Miss E Edwards married, 1899.
24. Illuminated address and silver tray presented to the Rev J P Langley, 1899.
25. Mr T T Coles's, now Mr L Thompson's, chimney struck by lightning, 1883.

26. J Gibb won amateur championship at Lille Bridge, 1877.
27. Man named Chaplin seriously hurt by falling from the Market Hill tree, 1867.
Sudden death of William Raban, 1873.
28. Bertha Whitlock died, 1869.
29. Mrs Welton died, 1896.
31. Ivy May Drage baptised, 1903.

JUNE

1. Fire at Negus's workshop, 1865. Fatal accident to T Field, a youth, 1888.
2. Peace rejoicings, 1902. Harry Cowley and Miss Kate Lyman married 1903.
3. Suicide of Thomas Wallenger, 1898.
4. Dr Roberts preached his farewell sermon, 1882.
5. Tramway commenced at Olney, 1888. George Wise, excise officer, drowned, 1897. The *Olney Advertiser*, better known as 'The Buster', started 1897. Jack Ennals born, 1907.
7. Alfred Coles (a lad) drowned while bathing, 1874.
8. A lad named Drage run over at the Hyde, 1869.
9. Rev G G Horton preached his farewell sermon, 1895.
10. Bedford and Northampton Railway opened for passenger traffic, 1872.
Suicide of Stephen Richard Owen, shoe manufacturer, 1890.
11. Mary Doris Taylor baptised, 1905.
12. Another portion of the Station Road Estate sold for building, 1891.
Rev J Samuel and Miss Mary Hannah Hughes married, 1902.
15. Coming of age rejoicings of Mr H G Hipwell, 1875.
16. Bridge House and Tanyard sold to Mr W Pebody, 1898.
17. Mr Archibald Allen and Miss Emily Maud Langley married, 1891.
Home-coming from South Africa of Thos Page, of the Bucks Imperial Yeomanry, 1901
18. Mr Thomas York, of Olney Courts, died, 1889.
19. Large concourse of Quakers attended the funeral of Miss Ann Smith, aged 84, 1851.
21. Royal Jubilee Celebrations, 1887.
22. Mrs Grindon died, 1883.
24. Suicide of John Guteridge, 1888.
26. The greatest fire in Olney for 77 years, 55 houses burned down and 25 more or less damaged, broke out at 2.30 pm, 1854. £1,050 collected.
27. Fourteen emigrants left Olney for Australia, 1851.
28. Joseph Coles drowned, 1878.
29. Marriage of Mr Bean and Miss Emma Grindon, 1871. Band Contest in Higgs's field, 1895.
30. Violet Maud Lett and Irene Selina Coles baptised, 1907.

JULY

2. Philip Wright, son of Mr Thomas Wright, born, 1890
4. Top of the elm tree on the Market Hill blown off, 1884.
6. C Barber, Prudential agent, and Roger Smith's bicycle accident, 1897.
Fatal accident to Henry Cowtan Hatton, 1905.
7. Mr Albert Edward Skevington found drowned, 1893.
9. Marriage of Mr R Whitworth and Miss M S Hipwell, 1884.
11. Sudden death of J W Line, 1877.
13. Bill for Northampton and Bedford Line read the second time in the House of Lords, 1866.
Police Sergeant Bunker left Olney, 1891.
14. Sudden death of Mrs Hubbard at the Congregational Church, 1873.

OLNEY'S PAST EVENTS

15. Sudden death of Mrs Rose Anne Champion, 1907.
16. Harry Frederick Harrison privately baptised, 1906.
17. Mr A Osborn's, butcher, house struck by lightning, 1880.
18. Meeting at the Swan Hotel, Newport Pagnell, re the Olney and Newport Railway, 1865.
Hugh Osborn born, 1890. Sudden death of John Berridge, gasfitter, 1901.
19. Richard Sanders, the well known 'bus driver, died, 1901.
20. Fire at Paggett's, High Street, 1885. Mr J C Hipwell's trap accident, on the bridge, 1891.
22. Bucks Archæological Society Meeting at Etolia House, 1890.
23. Kenneth George Muncey baptized, 1905.
27. Three cottages the property of T Tandy, burnt, 1872.
28. Frank Howard and Margaret Elizabeth Sowman, baptized, 1907.
29. Florence Helen Sharpe, Violet Elizabeth Perkins,
Anice Kate Perkins, Stanley Frank Harris and Bertha Agnes Harris, baptised, 1906.

AUGUST

2. Ernest James Chapman and Miss Florence Mary Wright married, 1904.
3. Rev Sams's boat accident at Goosey Bridge, 1888.
William Stratton and Miss Annie Lyman married, 1907.
4. Richard George MacDowell baptised, 1907.
5. Frederick Parker Haseldine and Miss Annie Perkins married, 1907.
6. Fire in Hawley's Yard, caused by fireworks, 1877.
Narrow escape from drowning of a boy named Reginald Freeman, 1907.
7. Mrs Chattell died, 1884.
8. Coal discovered at Olney, 1891.
9. A soldier locked up in the old Round House for refusing to be billeted with one of his comrades, 1869. Coronation celebrations, 1902.
10. Mary Roberts, wife of the late Rev Roberts, DD, died, 1882. Marriage of Mr Tom Perry Baker and Miss Annie Elizabeth Hart, 1897.
11. Cottages, at the back of Whitlocks timber yard, burnt, 1875.
Rev T Scott preached his farewell sermon, 1901.
12. Ernest Moss baptised, 1906.
13. Nora Hooton baptised, 1905.
14. First excursion train from Olney, 1872.
15. G F Clift, printer, died, 1867.
16. Mr John Negus knocked down by a milk cart in Midland Road, 1899.
20. The bridge for the Olney and Newport Tramway commenced, 1890.
21. Olney and Emberton boat race, 1871.
22. Charles Boswell, a boy rescued from drowning by Stanley Allarbarton, a schoolboy, 1907.
25. Marriage of Mr Charles Gibson and Miss Horwood, 1897.
29. Fatal accident to a man named Farrer at the Pastures, 1898.
30. Pew-to-pew collections started in the Parish Church, 1891.
31. Mr and Mrs Collingridge celebrated their golden wedding, 1875.

SEPTEMBER

1. Zenas Minney, a shoe finisher, killed on the Line near Turvey, 1897.
2. Rev James R Aitken and Miss Gertrude Allen married, 1897.
3. Herbert William Tunn baptised, 1905.
4. Fire at Mr Skevington's, Warrington, 1871.

6. Fatal fall down stairs of James Boswell, 1878. Mr William Garrard died, 1896. Whilst driving a pig out of her garden Mrs Crouch slipped and broke her leg. 1907.
7. Rev Angus Mackay and Miss Edith Langley married, 1886.
8. Rev Thomas Welton died, 1869.
9. Mabel Annie Wickens baptised, 1906.
13. Mr Leapidge Cooper sprained his ankle, 1907.
15. Opening Services at the Wesleyan Church, 1902. Fire at the Gas Works, 1907. Sudden death of Walter Peters, 1907.
16. Mr John Sleath, of Cowper's House, died, 1882.
17. First engine for Bedford and Northampton Line arrived by road from Newport Pagnell, 1870.
18. Fatal accident to a man named Edmunds at Warrington, 1897.
21. First night Olney was lit by gas, 1854.
22. William Killingworth died, 1869. A woman named Nicholls murdered, 1873. Mr L Cooper and Miss A Higgs married, 1885.
24. Mr William Harris, saddler, died, 1885. 130 Hussars with band billeted, 1890.
26. G Elmer accidentally fell off the 'bus, 1872. Miss Hayllar died, 1882. Fatal accident to William Peters, 1900.
27. Dinner at the Bull to celebrate the occasion of the town being lit by gas, 1854.
28. Every poor woman and girl of 12 invited to tea at the National Schools. A large booth fitted up with flags, &c, on the play ground, full band of music, in short such a gala day as Olney has seldom witnessed. Illumination by gas at night, 1854.
29. A boy named Harry Lineham accidentally shot himself with a pistol, 1892.
30. John Wrighting seriously hurt by a chaff machine, 1870. Isaac Hubbard died, 1880.

OCTOBER

1. Sgt Dalton buried in the Churchyard, 1865.
2. Cottages burnt down at the Leys, 1887.
3. John Peters fell into a pit at the Gas Works, 1872.
5. Mr Daniel Clarabut died, 1880.
6. George Herbert Kitchener and Miss Agnes Cartwright married, 1906.
7. Serious accident to Mr F D Whitmee, baker, 1901.
8. Salvation Army Band visited the town, 1887.
11. Narrow escape of Olney Vicarage being burned by the fall of a lighted lamp which set fire to the stair case, 1852. Mr John Aspray died, 1884. Wesleyan Mission Hall opened, 1899.
12. Rev J P Langley preached his farewell sermon, 1902.
13. Mr William Hipwell died, 1882.
14. The Brewery chimney blown down, 1881. 'Charlie' Grindon climbed the church spire, 1884.
15. Starting of the first engine on Olney and Bedford line, 1870.
16. William Thomas Dix baptised, 1904.
18. Fire at Mr Daniel Morgan's (now W J Brooks), 1892.
19. Rev S H Smith, commenced his duties, 1902.
20. Serious accident to Mrs Clifton at J Pennyfather's, 1865.
21. Sudden death of Miss Jane Tarver, 1891.
23. Accident to a lad named Reginald Peters, 1897.
24. Thomas John Revitt and Miss Annie Eliza Tarry married, 1905.
25. Mrs Raban died, 1867.
26. Fire at Hawthorn's, ironmonger, 1872.
27. Suicide of George Whiting, 1897.
28. Doris Harris and Edith Dix baptised, 1906.

OLNEY'S PAST EVENTS

29. Rev Roberts, DD, died, 1884.
31. A man captured at the Swan Inn, giving the name of John Smith, for horse stealing, 1868.
Marriage of Mr Wm Hewitt and Miss Fanny Jane Hipwell, 1874.

NOVEMBER

2. Mrs Mitchell died, 1907.
5. Fire-ball kicked through Bass's (now Ennal's) shop window, 1872.
6. Elizabeth Ellen White baptised, 1905.
8. Sudden death of Dr H Grindon, 1886.
10. Dorothy Cooper born, 1890. Bessie Hill baptised, 1902.
11. Inquest on the body of James Wrighting, at the Sun Inn, 1865.
12. Horace and Frank Crouch baptised, 1905.
Mr Stephen Inns and Miss Lillian Litchfield married, 1907.
13. Troops of the 8th Hussars rode through Olney en route to London for Wellington's funeral, 1852.
14. Serious accident on the Weston road to John Pater, 1887.
Fred Smith's work shops (now J Garner's) burnt, 1882.
17. Accident to Fred Higgs, 1897.
18. Sudden death of William Goodridge, 1878.
19. Mr Arthur Harris and Miss Elizabeth Soul married, 1890.
20. William Thomas, Gertrude Ann,
Elizabeth Zilpah, Arthur William and Edith Annie Clare baptised, 1904.
21. Fire on the premises of S R Owen, 1871.
23. Sudden death of - Fitzhugh, chemist, 1884.
24. Charles Talbot died, 1872. The Parish Church broken into, 1888. Jonathan Field died, 1897.
26. Funeral of Mrs Thomas Tandy Coles, 1904.
28. Sudden death of Thomas Harris, 1876.

DECEMBER

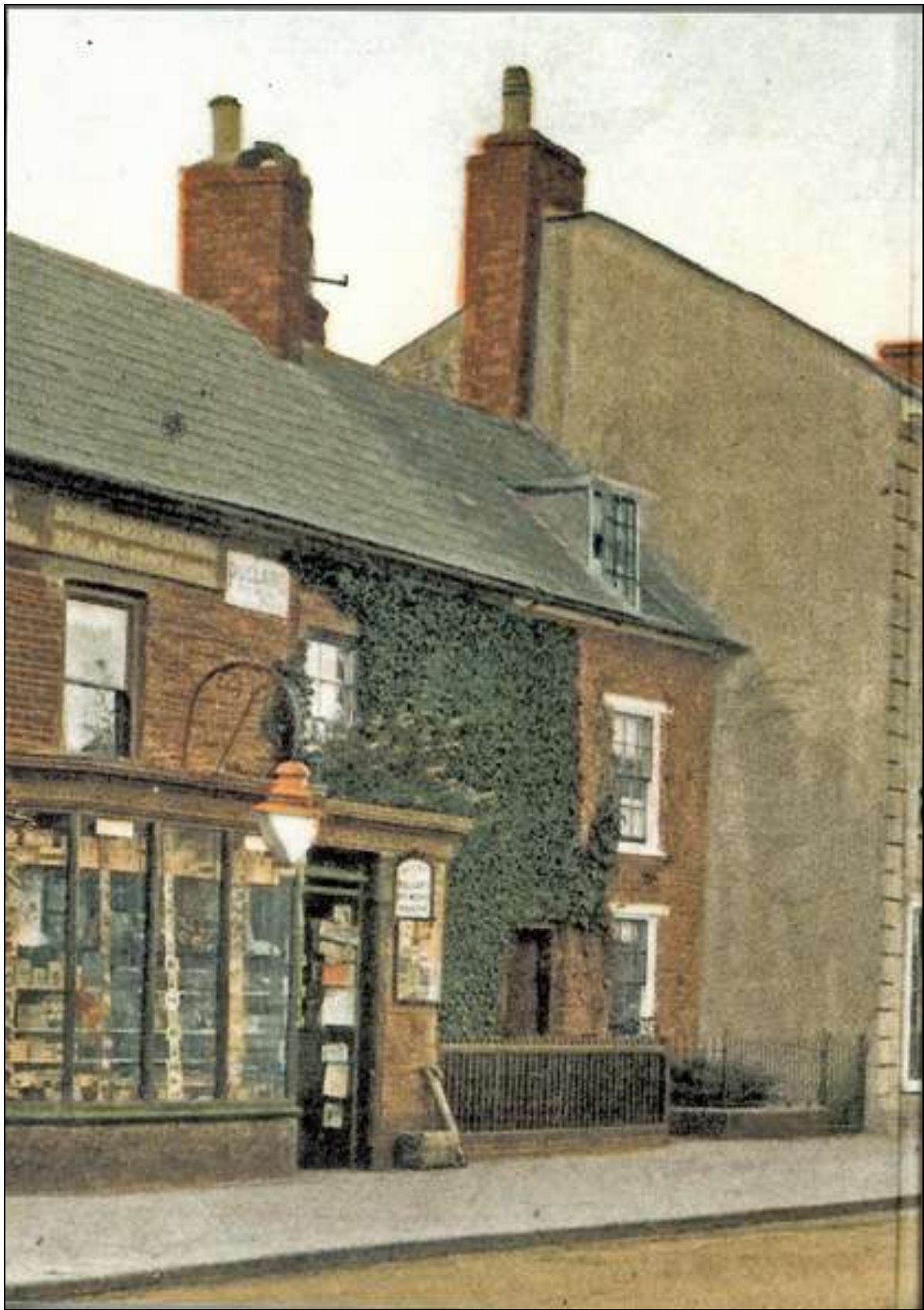
1. East and West Junction from Olney, opened for passenger traffic, 1892.
2. The effigy of a 'Bobby' cremated in the Market Place owing to 'Tow-ball' offenders withdrawn charges at Newport Pagnell, 1891.
3. Mr W Brooks, baker, dislocated his elbow, 1890. The Tanyard monster engine started, 1907.
4. The Rev C H Spurgeon preached at the Congregational Church, 1856.
Samuel Knight, baker, died, 1876.
5. Marriage of Mr W W Wright and Miss Sawbridge, 1897.
6. Post Office Telegraphy commenced in the town, 1871.
Serious accident to a lad named Thomas Stratton, 1890.
7. Thos Griggs, hairdresser, died, 1872. Sudden death of Jesse West, 1897.
9. Trixie Margaret Lord baptised, 1906.
10. William Charles Wright, Kathleen Mary Horne and Annie Elizabeth Perkins baptised, 1905.
15. Walter Pennington Storer died, 1867.
16. Burglary at John Todd's, Overs Hill, 2 hams and 2 fletches of bacon stolen, 1852.
22. Sudden death of Joseph Brandon, 1886.
23. John Church, baker, died, 1867.
24. William Morris, relieving officer, died, 1867.
Harry Wilkins and Miss Edith Jacques Buswell married, 1904.

26. Rev J P Langley preached his first sermon in Olney church, 1852.
Mary Tyrill burnt to death, 1886.
27. William Thomas Litchfield, Dolphin Inn, died, 1874. Fatal fall of William Harris, 1889
28. Mrs Litchfield, Dolphin Inn, died, 1874.
29. Mr Alfred G Brooks, Park Farm, died, 1882.
30. Effigies of a man named Estwick and woman named Smith burned, 1850.
31. Incendiary fire at Jos Palmer's, 7 beasts burned, 1852.
Board of Trade inspection of Olney and Towcester Railway, 1889.


My Farewell,

‘God be with you will we meet again,
When life’s perils thick surround you,
Put His loving arms around you,
God be with you till we meet again.’

O. Pascliff



Rear cover to the ODHS 2008 reproduction