

Miss J. Selby Lowndes, 22 Church Lane, Aston Rowant. 5. 6.1986. (1)

Baxendale House was the Chequers and many years ago was called 'The Long House'. When Eliz I was being moved from Woodstock, she still a prince came up the lane and changed horses at the 'Long Cottage' and they rushed to ring the church bells as they thought she was going to be crowned. Miss Selby Lowndes was told this by Sir Edward Cadogan, in he said it was recorded in one of the History books. Go and visit Baxendale as he has been researching the history of his house. (Cadogan l at Wotton Farm, now demolished)

Brian Croxford, Oakley Road, Chinnor, his father interested in family and done lots of work. One Croxford was landlord of the Chequers, blacksmiths at the back - about 200 years ago, also farm before A.40.

Curse on big house after the Lamberts, no one would live in it for more than 20 years and no eldest son shall have it. Dashwood quarelled with his son in Australia and he was dis-inherited. Dashwood died after exactly 20 years.

Lady Plowdens dairy on bend where high brick wall. There was a box hedge with a model dairy in the middle, Octagonal shape, light from the top. Blue and white tiles. Lady Plowdens bog garden now Plowden Park, the lake came through there. The first two contractors who came sank in mud, they drained it and stuck them up, ~~again~~. Aston Park: The two by the lake had damp half way up the sides! Very high water level.

No mains water when she came they had a well and pumped water. One summer there was a drought and had to have the well deepened. The cottage higher up ran dry.

The house next door was supposed to be a shepherds cottage. Big open fireplace with the rack for a gun. Elizabethan, just one cottage. Next two were two separate cottages. Cobblers Cottage where Annino's are (first one in Mr. Beach's row). The thatch is no 20, road starts at 14 where are numbers 1 - 13.

The malt house, Colonel Gilbert attached to Military Attaché in Portugal where they make tiles. He put up this name tile, although this house was never a malt-house. Cellar under pub, passage across to Yew Tree in churchyard - she has always wanted to dig under the yew tree!

The shop was where Copelands are, It was kept by Robinsons when she came. Licensed to sell drink. Pub supposed to be the Lambert. Postman used to sell stamps. Before Robinson it was a pair of old sisters. Robinsons next door, old sisters in Schmidt's house. Last shop was run by the Piver's, she had a jewelry business in High Wycombe, and she thought it would be nice to have a village shop as a sort of hobby, but they found they had to work very long hours, including the lunch hour and delivery, bottles etc. It is sadly missed. Mrs. Piver didn't like the hard work and sold it. I have a picture of him (my donkey) tied up outside the railings there.

When we first came old Dashwood had a pet swan which used to waddle down and stand outside the shop and would hiss at you when you tried to go in. I have been to tea with old Dashwood, typical Georgian house, square.

The last Stationmaster still lives at Watlington. The Watlington Flyer. I wanted to take my horse once from here to Aylesbury, and it was the hight of luxury, because they sent a complete horse box and it was hitched on to the back and it took the horse and me, I sat in state looking at my horse in its box all the way to Aylesbury, it cost me 15s.

We used to go carol singing outside Aston House. It had a lovely central hall, staircase and skylight. Picture gallery at the back

Dashwood held a Christmas Party in there for all his tenants. All the greenhouses are gone, I never saw those, when we first came the head gardener was Mr. Stopps, in 1948. Mrs. Stopps apparently is still alive as the Rev. Martin is still in touch with her. The head gardeners cottage was where John & Patty Lyall live. next door to Hardings - cottage on right.

Where the Baskervilles live, there used to be an 18th century lodge. Aston Lodge? it was at the entrance on the road that goes right down to the A40, used to have a gatepost with pineapples on the top. Mr. Perrins handyman to stud, used to live in there, he had two daughters, one comes over with her husband to ride my horse (Margaret) Pamela Perrins is married to Henry Smith from Adwell who also still visits me.

The Hailey family founded the stud in the 1930 based on a Derby winner called Trygo who was a dead loss as a stallion. Mr. Hailey was originally a race-course photographer. His son Jim and wife Sheila lived in the house where the Baxendale's are ran the stud. I met their daughter Sally when she came over last month for Mike Worth's internment of ashes. Jim went to run Lord Roseberry's Stud when he left here. She showed us Trygo's box. The Hailey's built their first house on Chinnor Road, it was the first to be built along there, they owned all the land at that time. About half way along. The old people stayed there until they sold to someone from Callard & Bowser's Butterscotch. It then went through several hands, with just a manager living in, Jim Thompson. Then the Wilders. Then there was Mr. Wright the Pig Dealer, Mrs. Wright built the house where the Bennetts now live between Church Lane and the main road. The one with just one pillar. . . The three Bennett Brothers she calls Pigeon Bennett, and Swimmingpool Bennett who lives nearest to the Lambert Arms and Rolls Royce Bennett lives next door. Mr. Wright shocked everyone by throwing out all the horses and keeping pigs.

The other stud is in the old stable block of the house. Dashwood had a couple of hunters there, he didn't really ride himself. He was really a property developer who made all his money up at Clapham, he bought this country squire property, his real name was Hayes and he tacked the name Dashwood on to it to give himself credibility. (No connection with Dashwood) He went in for Buddhism and he also towed a caravan up to Stokenchurch which he put on the Green. He died first and she went to live at the farm at Chalford. I used to commute to Chalford when Eric Browning had it, as she used to leave her horse there when going back to London to work. The house is beautiful and belonged to St. John's College. Eric Browning was 20st just a tenant farmer and under the terms of the College, when he died she was not allowed to take it on. Their son Osborne does agricultural contracting at Towersy,

The Plague House - walk Icknield Way to Sydenham Road, cross a huge ditch which divides what was Home farm land from Browning land. On the left is a long thin strip of a field which was where they had the plague. If anyone had it they were carted off down there for isolation it was just a building, pest house.

No electric in 1948, church had oil lamps. the church organ was where the Lady Chapel bit is. The vicar was Mr. Hicks who lived at the ~~XXXXXXX~~ Rectory with his sister, like many vicars he stayed on over his retirement age to see the war through they were so cold that they practically lived in the kitchen. He also played the organ.

The rectors at Crowell were better off Mr. Hicks and his sister were not well off. When Hicks retired Aston & Crowell were put together Rev. Frank Martin chose to live at Crowell Rectory so the

Aston one was sold. Jim Hailey from the Stud moved in, presumably as tenants, and then it was sold. McIvers bought it, put in central heating and all the doors warped. She gave us a copy of the church guide which we also have in the up-dated form. (3)

When the train driver got married and went on his honeymoon, for ten days there were no trains because no one else could drive it. The other story that between Risborough and Watlington the train ran out of steam, and there it was sitting in the middle of the line, they had to rush down to Kingston House and get a load of wood to get it going again, I believe that Lord Macclesfield had a load of baby chickens on board so he was quite hopping mad. They used to hire out Aston Rowant Station on Sundays to film crews. I was once included in the film Claire by Galsworthy when I went nosing around there while they were filming, in my gig. I have commuted to London on that train. You had to change at Princes Risborough. I used to eat marmalade sandwiches on the train. I think they should have turned the route into a road to stop all those lorries going through. It was a very friendly station. Closed before Beeching 1950.

Should go to see Mrs. Ross - Hesters Cottage - she was very fond of the Clerk Browns, she used to go and have supper there. Old John Clerke Brown would love to talk about the family and the house. He said that all the doors and boards at the Grove were cut from the beech trees up in the woods. I used to play tennis there.

The house next to the Frears - Tower House used to belong to the Mills, he is still in Chinnor. Mills used to work at the stud. Two doors along Bee Bailey kept bees. My friend and I used to keep bees out here, and she used to rush for Mr. Bee Bailey if there was a swarm. He was a professional photographer.

Adies Barn was Brown & Hatton the Butchers shop, John Clerke Brown would sell his cattle to Mr. Hatton. There was also a shop in Brook Street.

Bill and Peggy Williams came at the end of the war to Home Farm. In those days there used to be a notice on the wall saying batteries re-charging 6d. There also used to be a street lamp in the tree on the green. Used to be a notice as you came round the bend, there used to be a high flint wall there, The notice in the field said 'caution Cattle & People' and is recorded in one of John Benjamin's books.

I remember the big house being burnt down it was very spectacular. there were something like twelve fire engines.

The Burial path went from Kingston across the moors, past the cricket pitch, through the spinney and on to the church.

She used to have lunch at the Royal Oak. Nichol was the manager. It was 1/6d. The Red Lion was a Doctor's surgery, she had been in there many times and queued up, Dr. Truscott came from Watlington. May the baker lived in Vine House he used to deliver bread. Bakers Piece comes from there. When he retired he moved to the house that was Bennetts, they've now put bay windows in. on the green KB. The house next door to that with wood on it used to be occupied by a Mr. Dady a dress-maker, she had even helped make dresses for Susan Mary, they were tenants of the Clerk Browns. She was very prim and proper. She told my friend Lesley Ferguson that Mr. Dady was very nice, as he always put the light out.

Rosemary Cunningham who lives in Plowden Park used to be Rosemary Simpson who lived at Moat Manor, she may have some photos. When I first came there was a very old family there called Mitchell, who lived there with their daughter Nancy. Their maid still wore a cap and apron, when I was invited to tea it was 'china or indian madam'. Nancy Mitchell would not speak to me later as I went to live in a caravan.

There used to be a big chestnut tree as you come down into the village, also the main road used to be tree lined with chestnuts and beech. Professor Bronoski lived in house in Kingston (ask Donaldsons) There is a big map in the church on the wall to the right of the font.

Ordered 100 box bushes 2' high each root wrapped. They all arrived at Aston Station and they filled the entire ladies waiting room. She bought her trap in 1948 from old Sammy Bird, rag and bone man in Stokenchurch. Fighting to keep Kingston Church open to have it as a flat for a curate.

Cis lunday's bits and pieces with a lot of the Shoulder went to Fords of Towersey Nursery Gardens.

Barnett who kept greyhounds, died in the well, by cottages now demolished by Pat Lockrie's house. KB. They have cut down all the trees down by the crossing up K. Hill. Lots of blackberries up hill belonging to J.C.B.

Two Franciscan friars were in the Chilterns one Christmas - were they connected with K. Lilley end Church?

Lambert Arms photo still has old front door, then they put porch outside to protect you when you were waiting for a bus. Moved the front door when someone got knocked down there. Lambert gave it to his butler when he retired.

Bennetts' old mother lives in Kingston Blount.

Why not publish book, in the same form as the parish notes?