

CAKE & COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society



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1960/1961

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BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CAKE AND COCKHORSE

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The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society
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VOLUME I. No. 8. MARCH 1961.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 28th March, 1961, in the Court Room of the Town Hall, Banbury.

BUSINESS

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held 29th March, 1960.
2. Annual Accounts.
3. Report of the Executive Committee.
4. Election of the President of the Society.
5. Election of Vice-Presidents.
6. Election of the Honorary Officers of the Society (ex-officio members of the Executive Committee)
7. Election of the Executive Committee.
8. Appointment of the Honorary Auditor.
9. Any other business.

Members of the Society wishing to propose a Member for election to the Executive Committee must notify the Hon. Secretary in writing before the Annual General Meeting, having first obtained the Candidate's written consent.

After the business, Mr. Humphrey Case, M.A., F.S.A., Senior Assistant Keeper, Department of Antiquities, Ashmolean Museum, will speak on "Barrow Diggers of the 19th Century". His account of the beginnings of interest in archaeology and the somewhat surprising methods used is sure to be both interesting and amusing. The talk will be illustrated.

BANBURY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - THIRD ANNUAL REPORT - 1960.

The Committee has pleasure in submitting its Third Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1960.

Membership: Total numbers have risen from 145 to 149, despite the loss of 40 previous members. Most of the new membership, including 25 Corporate, can be attributed to the start of the Records Section.

Accounts: In spite of the doubling of the Ordinary subscription a deficit of over £15 was incurred on the year. "Cake & Cockhorse" is the largest item of expenditure and this is unlikely to decrease. However, it is hoped that cost of printing and stationery, which this year includes reprinting the Rules and the Membership Form, may be reduced in future. The sale of Christmas Cards to shops fell short of expectation, and this is reflected in the accounts. Sales of "Old Banbury" are down, but should maintain a steady income, while sales of past publications, including the magazine, are likely to become an increasing source of revenue. So long as the expenses of production are not greater than the provision already made, the cost of the 1960 Records volume will be covered. For the first year of publication this is indeed satisfactory.

Your Committee regard the overall deficit with concern, but are convinced that the necessary solution is an increase in membership. They look to the present members to do their utmost to attract new ones; and believe that in providing a four-issue magazine, an average of four lecture meetings and two excursions, no similar Society in Banbury is offering better value.

Lectures and Meetings: Three general meetings have been held, when the following lectures, etc., were given:

- January "The History of the Banbury Fire-Service" - F.H. Anker.
- March (AGM) Films: "Beauty in Trust" National Trust.
 "The Pageant at Blenheim" Norman Blinkhorn.
 "Old Banbury" Banbury Camera Club.
- October (Members' Meeting) "Colour Photography of Old Buildings"
 - J.C.B. Coffin.
 "Tracing Ancestors" J.S.W. Gibson.
 "Auction Sales" C.F.C. Beeson.

There were excursions in the summer to Brackley 700th Anniversary Historical Exhibition, in addition to which Mr. E.G. Forrester showed us round Magdalen College School; and to Steane Park, where Mrs. Norris showed us the Chapel.

As before we are most grateful to all our speakers, who have given their services without charge.

In conjunction with the Oxford University Delegacy for Extra-Mural Studies a course of ten lectures on "Archaeological Techniques" was given by Mrs. C. Woodfield, of the Herbert Museum, Coventry, in the autumn.

Archaeology: In August a start was made on what appears to be a most promising Romano-British site at Park Farm, near Broughton, on which work will continue in 1961. A report on the dig undertaken by Bloxham School Archaeological Society last summer appears in this issue. We were represented by Mr. V. Bromley at the Inquiry into proposals to mine ironstone in north Oxfordshire held in the autumn, when he ably presented the archaeological objections to any such scheme. We should like to place on record our appreciation to Mr. Bromley for giving up so much of his time in this important cause.

Magazine: This has been the first full year of publication of "Cake & Cockhorse". Size has been increased to 16 pages and the aim is to include at least one major article in each issue.

Publications: A series of hold-ups, first of all occasioned by additional checking and then by printing, have seriously delayed the publication of the 1960 Records volume, "Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1724". We apologise to Records subscribers for this and ask their tolerance. With our first attempt at independent Records publication teething troubles were perhaps inevitable. We hope that the lessons learnt will enable us to produce the 1961 volume, the Marriage Registers subsequent to 1724, also before the end of the year.

Christmas Card: This was of Broughton Castle, home of our President, and was specially drawn for us by our member Mr. W.H. Clark, F.R.I.B.A., to whom we are most grateful.

Records Copying and Research: A considerable amount of work has been done, details of which have already appeared in this magazine from time to time. Helpers are always wanted, whether for copying and/or analysing original material, typing or indexing.

SUMMER PROGRAMME, 1961.Saturday, 20th May (Whit Saturday)

Departure, 2.15 p.m.

Expedition to the Silver Jubilee Exhibition at the County Record Office, County Hall, Oxford. A large-scale exhibition of maps and documents is being staged. Official records from the archives of the County Council and the Court of Quarter Sessions will be shown, as well as documents dating from the 12th century from privately deposited collections. The exhibition will also be open to the public from 2 till 5 p.m. on Friday, 19th May and from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m. on Saturday 20th May. Admission free.

Tuesday, 27th June.

Departure, 6.00 p.m.

Expedition to Chacombe Priory, by invitation of E.W.H. Allfrey, Esq.

Departure for both these expeditions will be as usual from outside the Essoldo Cinema, Horsefair, Banbury. Also as usual, transport will be by members' cars, and those intending to go should contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J.S.W. Gibson, Humber House, Bloxham (tel. Bloxham 332), well before the date concerned, stating whether they can offer, or will require, lifts. The Hon. Secretary particularly requests the cooperation of car drivers - as last year on one occasion, fifteen members asked for lifts, while not one was offered beforehand, though cars with room for at least twenty extra people in the event turned up at the rendezvous.

Repair work is still in progress at Farnborough Hall, Warwickshire, the recently acquired National Trust property. It is hoped that we shall be successful in organising an expedition there later in the summer. This would be on a Saturday afternoon, but members will be informed of any arrangements made.

Autumn meetings should be held on Tuesdays, 26th September and 28th November. Confirmation and full details will be announced in the September issue of "Cake & Cockhorse".

LECTURES

Those who listened to the lecture on Parish Government in the 18th century, based on the Wigginton records, given by Mr. F.D. Price, Dean of Keble College on the 31st January, learned a great deal about the information hidden away in the Overseers' Accounts, Vestry Meetings and similar church documents of a small village. And when these scraps of history are interpreted with the imagination and scholarship of the lecturer a most fascinating story is brought to light. Fortunately for those who missed this rewarding experience Mr. Price has kindly agreed to make his notes available to the Society for future reference.

The Civil War in North Oxfordshire. The Banbury area is rich in Civil War history and, in her stimulating talk to a packed meeting, Miss Margaret Toynbee sketched the background of the times; a Protestant town surrounded by many Royalist households and affording security to neither side.

Miss Toynbee has previously given a talk to the Society from the field of the Battle of Edgehill, and on the occasion she described in considerable detail the Battle of Cropredy Bridge. A battle might well have taken place at Crouch Hill, which had been occupied by the Parliamentary forces under Waller, had not Charles withdrawn up the road to Daventry. Waller then pursued a parallel course on the opposite bank of the Cherwell and launched an attack at the first connecting point - Cropredy Bridge. Much confused fighting followed with the three crossings, Hays Bridge, Slatt Mills and Cropredy Bridge itself featuring largely in the tactical direction of the battle. The result, as in the earlier encounter at Edgehill, was inconclusive although the balance of advantage again lay with the Royalists.

Miss Toynbee, who made no secret of her Royalist sympathies, also gave an interesting account of the King's marches in Oxfordshire during the War, indicating the places at which he stayed and the allegiances of the great houses of the neighbourhood.

It was clear that members particularly appreciated the many books on the period, including contemporary sources, which were recommended by Miss Toynbee.

SIR BERNHARD SAMUELSON - A PIONEER OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

By - Archie Potts, B.A. (Oxon.)

In a year which has seen the opening of a fine, new technical college in Banbury, it is fitting to pay tribute to Sir Bernhard Samuelson, one of the pioneers of technical education in this country. Sir Bernhard occupies a very important place in Banbury's history. He was the Member of Parliament for the town for 31 years; he developed the Britannia Works, thereby changing Banbury's traditional dependence upon agriculture; and he was a great patron of education in the district. Banbury owes much to his activities in these fields. But perhaps his national reputation will continue to rest upon his work for technical education.

Sir Bernhard was born on the 22nd November, 1820 at Hamburg, the son of an English merchant. Soon after his birth the Samuelson family moved to Hull. He was privately educated in Yorkshire, and at the age of 14 was apprenticed to a firm of Swiss merchants in Liverpool.

When he was 17 Bernhard Samuelson was put in charge of a contract involving the export of a number of locomotive engines to Prussia, and was impressed by two things. First, that the export of capital goods of this kind was likely to increase as other countries began to industrialise; and, second, that few people in the business knew very much about engineering. These two observations were the starting point of the young man's rise. He had always been interested in mechanical things, but he now began to take his studies more seriously. During the day he worked as an export clerk, and in the evenings attended night-classes in mechanical engineering.

Sir Bernhard's keenness was rewarded by his being sent to handle the firm's contracts in France. When his employers eventually closed their continental branches in 1846, Samuelson stayed on and opened his own railway works in Tours. He built up a successful business, but was forced to sell out and return to England after the outbreak of revolution in 1848.

It chanced that there was for sale in Banbury a small factory making agricultural implements. This business had been started some years previously by James Gardner, maker of the once famous "Banbury turnip-cutter". The death of the proprietor, however, had brought the firm on to the market. Sir Bernhard seeing its possibilities bought it up and extended its operations. In this way were the Britannia Works founded, which under Samuelson's management grew into a thriving concern.

Sir Bernhard Samuelson's Parliamentary ambitions were awakened by a visit to the House of Commons. Summoned to appear before a House Committee to give evidence on a drainage Bill, he wandered into the empty chamber and there seated himself on one of the green benches. "Sitting there", he later recalled, "it occurred to me that it might not be out of my power to persuade my Banbury neighbours to return me as their member". A by-election occurred in Banbury shortly after, in February 1859, and Bernhard Samuelson won the seat by a majority of one. Samuelson had only taken his seat for a couple of months when there was a general election, at which he was defeated by a fellow Liberal. In 1865 Sir Bernhard fought again, and won the seat he was to hold for the next 30 years.*

Although he never held office Sir Bernhard had a distinguished political career. He was never a great orator, and scorned rhetorical tricks of any kind. But when he made a speech the House of Commons listened closely, for he never spoke unless he knew his subject matter thoroughly. His chief interest was always in education, particularly in technical education. Most of his best work was done in Commons committees, whose proceedings are rarely given much publicity. He was the Chairman of Parliamentary committees on railways and drainage, and was a commercial adviser to the Foreign Office.

Sir Bernhard was a Liberal, but he was never violently partisan in his opinions and was popular on both sides of the House. He always sat with those Liberals who occupied seats above the gangway of the House of Commons, thus signifying his support for Mr. Gladstone, as opposed to the Radical critics who sat below the gangway. In the great Liberal split on Home Rule in 1886 Sir Bernhard remained loyal to Mr. Gladstone, although two years after his retirement from political life he repudiated his earlier views on the Irish Question and announced that he was no longer a Home Ruler.

Sir Bernhard was very worried at the way Britain was neglecting the education of her people, particularly in the teaching of science and technology. In 1867 he toured the continent studying the growth of technical education; and upon his return he submitted a memorandum of his findings to the Government, which was published as an official document.

* A detailed account of Sir Bernhard's election campaigns can be found in William Potts's History of Banbury.

Without doubt Sir Bernhard Samuelson was one of the first people in this country to urge the development of technical education in Britain. He saw clearly that the neglect of this vital subject was one of the reasons why Britain's former industrial supremacy was passing to Germany and the U.S.A. As early as 1867 Sir Bernhard was urging the setting up of technical schools and colleges, and the inclusion of science subjects in the school curriculum.

The Education Act of 1870 owed much to Sir Bernhard's work in the Committee rooms of the House of Commons. In 1872 he was appointed a member of a Commission on Scientific Instruction, and in 1881 he was made Chairman of the first Royal Commission on Technical Education to sit in this country, a position he filled with great distinction. After Sir Bernhard had presented the Commission's report to the Commons in 1884, Mr. Gladstone was heard to remark to a colleague: "We really ought to do something for this noble-minded gentleman", and Sir Bernhard's baronetcy followed. Sir Bernhard had already been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in recognition of his contribution to practical science. Upon his retirement from political life in 1895 he was further honoured by being made a Privy Councillor.

Sir Bernhard died on the 10th May, 1905 at his London residence. Many tributes were paid to the old Gladstonian Liberal, not least in warmth those that came from his old constituents in Banbury.

Sources: A History of Banbury, by William Potts. Hansard. The Banbury Guardian. The Oxford Chronicle. The Times. The Daily Telegraph. The Oxford Times.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS BY BLOXHAM SCHOOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ON A ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT (Map ref. SP/423360), NW of Bloxham Village. (By P.J.F. Wade-Martins)

Between the years 1929 and 1935 about 24 inhumation-burials were recorded in various states of preservation, from a few scattered bones to a burial excavated intact while ironstone quarries were being worked over a large area south of the Tadmarton road. The associated pottery was continuous from the first to the early fifth centuries. (Oxoniensia, Vol. III, 1938). Although human remains were abundant, there were no structural remains to indicate domestic quarters or suchlike, except for one hard, red ware, flue tile with a grooved pattern. Mr. W.F. Jackson Knight, during this period a housemaster at the school, assumed the inhabitants of the

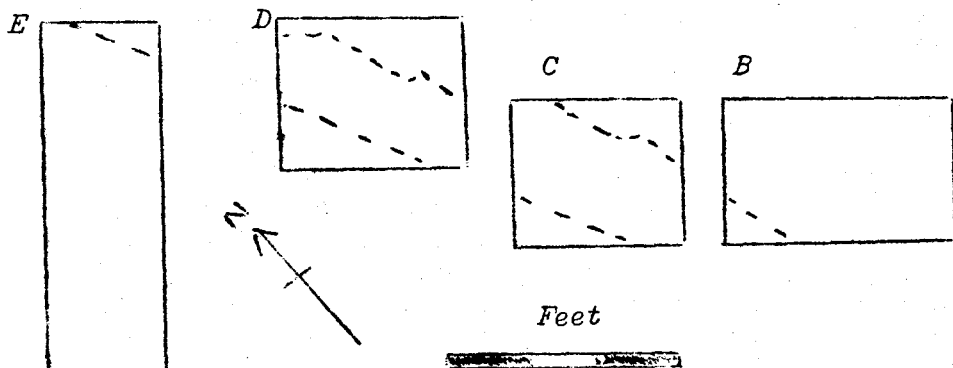
settlement used only wooden or mud huts. As the ever increasing roadside development of Bloxham village will soon reach the area and destroy the site, and with the threat also of further ironstone mining, we thought it necessary to make further investigations.

Although, with the mining, the ground had been investigated almost completely to the south of the road, except for a small strip near the road where more graves may still exist, nothing had been done about the pastures north of the road. They seem to have been little ploughed or disturbed. The only visible structure other than ridge and furrow on Hobb Hill is a single ridge about 15 feet wide, running just off parallel with the modern road, at an average distance of 50 yards from it. This might have been a Roman road which would join the end of a lane called the 'Ridgeway' running E-W on the east side of the village. We put one section across it beside the eastern hedge of the small centre field (152), in the hope of finding road metalling, but without success. The soil consisted of small stones with clay, without pattern.

This was the main object of our work, but the presence of one Romano-British grey sherd made us realise that the site probably extended as far away from the graves in this direction as this first cutting. This stimulated us to put down a cutting 4 x 6 ft. in the centre of the field about 30 yards from the road. For the first 2½ ft., post-occupation soil-accumulation was encountered, below which the top of occupation-level was very clearly defined. This second cutting was followed at intervals by three others (C.D.E) to the west. They were laid out thus to follow foundations of a wall, 2½ ft. wide in the dark occupation-soil. Just over 20 ft. were traced without encountering a corner; which was the inside and outside thus remains uncertain. This was the only structure found within the cuttings, which had sufficient shape to be identifiable. There were many others, for instance two stones in line, and slight traces of what may have been a wall on natural subsoil beneath. To identify these a much larger cutting was necessary, which would have been beyond our capabilities.

The occupation-layer was two feet thick, beneath which came 'natural', which seemed to take the form of clay intermingled with small stones, similar to that found in the first cutting. The most striking things about occupation-level were specks of charcoal and a considerable scattering of burnt ironstone. These stones were found at random and had no particular centre of concentration. The main wall had only one of these, and its surrounding stones were unburnt. Thus the wall may have been built later than the burning. It is interesting that, although burnt stones were plentiful, the wall was

otherwise uncharred.



*Site of the excavations N.W. of
Bloxham village, 1960.*

As to the construction of the wall, there was no worked or faced stone visible. The stones were of no special size or shape, indeed they varied from very small up to a width of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ft. The north side did not possess a straight edge and was rather disorganised in appearance. The larger stones seemed to have been used on this side. The south side mainly consisted of smaller flat stones on their edges, all tilted westwards, rather resembling a line of dominoes stood on edge and then pushed over. A similar pattern was found by J. May at Swalcliffe.

First and second century pottery was moderately abundant, mostly grey ware, but there were a few sherds of native ware with a black interior and reddish covering, very delicate and liable to crumble. About half a dozen small sherds of samian ware were found, which supports an early date. The most interesting small find except occasional minute fragments of metal was a small bronze brooch, an inch long, with two circles on the lower half. The spring at the top is missing.

The only conclusion to be drawn is that the settlement, which is to be associated with the cemetery on the south of the Tadmarton road, is in the pasture to the north of it, although the spot investigated was only inhabited in the first and second centuries, while the cemetery was in use until the early fifth.

If anyone knows something of interest concerning the site, or any

unpublished evidence which he feels may be of importance, I will be glad to hear from him.

MOSAIC DISCOVERED IN BLOXHAM (SP/430360)

While removing an old sewage drain from beneath Webb House, situated on the west side of the main street of Bloxham and close to 'Coles Stores', a circular mosaic pavement seems to have been found, but was filled in and concreted over in the course of work. One fragment was kept. It is about six inches long and was made of white, red and blue tesserae, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. The white appears to be the background colour. The only blue tessera, was an inch wide and two inches long. The mortar was white with red specks and contained hard buff pottery. Mrs. C. Woodfield from Coventry, considers it to be fourth century and the white stone is probably foreign. The white tesserae have a surface area averaging $\frac{1}{4}$ inch sq.

A plan showing an exact position will be published in the next edition of the 'Bloxhamist', the school magazine, with other information on the results of the society's research and field-work.

ARCHAEOLOGY - by V. Bromley.

Pike Farm, Broughton Bob Edgson's discovery of a large number of Roman-British potsheds in a field at the junction of Salt Way and Broughton Road, led to several members (and a number of non-members) spending most evenings and weekends at the site during the summer and early autumn of 1960. Following the discovery of a buried wall by Mr. Fearon's dowsing methods and a trial pit, it was decided to start work on the principle of working from the known into the unknown. A 10 ft. square was marked out and careful trowelling commenced and it was not long before the upper courses of the wall were revealed. The wall was aligned in roughly an East/West direction in the centre of the cutting. To the North of it was a thick layer of black earth lying below the topsoil, while to the South of the Wall was a thick deposit of stone rubble among which were found odd pieces of human bones, a small Roman coin and a bronze (?) brooch. A full report of this first part of the excavation will appear in a future issue of "Cake and Cockhorse".

Helpers for pottery-washing and registering are urgently needed - any volunteers for this most important, delicate work would be most welcome.

Ironstone Inquiry Your Society was represented at two Public Inquiries held in November into applications by Richard Thomas and Baldwin (Mineral Recovery) Limited to win and work iron ore from 4,700 acres

of North Oxfordshire; and by McGregors Limited to win and work iron ore from land to the West of Bloxham. Our objections were based on the grounds that (a) the subject areas contained several known archaeological sites which should at all costs be left intact for archaeologists of the future and (b) that such proposed workings would destroy the natural beauty of the countryside. The Minister's decision is still awaited.

LISTS OF MEN LIABLE TO BE CALLED UPON TO SERVE IN THE MILITIA.

(Continued from "Cake & Cockhorse" No. 7. January 1961)

LIBERTY OF WARKWORTH

Farmers:-

Daniel Taylor	Robert Bull	William Bull
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Farmers sons:-

Richard Kimbel	John Gulliver	Thomas Wilson
Edward Kimbel	John Taylor	

Servants:-

Charles Spencer	William Nevil	Jonathan Green
Flanders Bendle	Joseph Baker	John Lovel
Richard Judd	Robert Wilsdon	Thomas Gilkes
John Neal	Matthew Shillingsworth	William Pargiter
Richard Hartwel	William Bloxham	Robert Pargiter
John Kerod	Richard Tenant	Thomas Box
William Garner	Richard Seeny	John Jennings
Samuel Lamb	William Williams	James Howkins

Labourers:-

John Stanley	John Bland	John Hartwel
Joseph Pratt	Edward Smith	John Garner
Robert Izard	Thomas Nutt	

Papists:-

Frances Eyre, Esqr.	James the Buttler	Thomas Hopkins
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Constables:-	Robert Taylor	John Pratt
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Church Warden:-	Thomas Taylor	
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Overseer of the Poor:-	Thomas Stanley	
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Poor men with 3 children born in wedlock:-

Moses Garner	Henry Mace	James Roberts
John Hartwel	James Bench	
Joseph Taylor	John Payne	
Lame:-	William Prat	William Miller

Note: the names of the constables, poor men and lame are crossed through.

Novr 29th 1762 verified upon oath
 J Dryden Ri Grey J P Jno. Blencowe

Total marked on the outside 45.

THE MILITIA LIST OF CHALCOMB

Charles Fox Esqr	Alben Bull Gent
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Farmers:-

Jno. Pratt (1)	Mich Pratt	Amos Chinner
(1) Name crossed out and marked "lame"		

Sarvents:-	Thomas Luddit	William Leak
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Joseph Watts tayler

Sarvents:-

Samuel Bloxham	Jno. Saben	Thomas Wodhull
Jno. Izzard	William Harbidge	Rich Bezzant
Jno. Warner	Rich Mole	William Tayler

Framework Kniter:-	Wyatt Hancock
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Labourer:-	Jno. Pad
Cordwaner:	Rich Sabin
Carpenter:-	Joseph Warner
Labourers:-	

William Hazelwood	William Addames	Thomas Cross
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Pluch Weavers:-

Jno. Jeffs	William Middleton	George Williams
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Labourer:-	Jno. Granttom	
Frainwork Kniters:-	Jno. Ping	Edward Tompkins

(112)

Parrish Officers:- Crescent Jeffs 3 children Mich Bennett
Mich Saben 3 children Thomas Heritage

Headborough:- Thomas Jeffs 3 children (1)
(1) Name crossed out

Baker:- Matthew Jesset 4 children
Miller:- Jno. Allin 4 children
Clarck of the Parrish:- Thomas Ilet
Prentice:- William Parrish (1)
(1) Name crossed out

Joseph Dumbleton 3 children (1)
(1) Name crossed out and marked "laborer"

Thomas Mobbs labourer 3 children Rich Harrish labourer
3 children (1)
(1) Both names crossed out

Joseph Simpkins bucher 6 children (1)
(Name crossed out and marked "labourer"

Job Gardner infirm (1) (1) Name crossed out

Thomas Tompkins cordwainer 4 children
George Cowley labourer 3 children Robert Bazley labourer
3 children (1)
(1) Names crossed out

Samuel Bloxham sheppard 5 children (1)
(1) Name crossed out and marked "laborer"

Jno. Seeney labourer 3 children (1)
(1) Name crossed out

Thomas Hancock fraimwork kniter 3 children
Jno. Chinner infirm (1) (1) Name crossed out

Thomas Sabin dealer 8 children (1)
(1) Name crossed out and marked "one eye"

Novr 29th 1762 verified upon oath
Jno. Blencowe D.L. J. Dryden J Spencer J P

Total at the bottom 52; total on the outside 38.

