

GOOD HISTORY

Journal
of the
Eynsham Junior
History Group



A Christmas Tree.

Number 11
Winter 2001

Front Cover:

Illustration taken from *The Eynsham Churchman's Monthly Magazine*, [Price one penny] kindly lent by Mrs Gladys Gamer. The Christmas tree is commonly believed to have been introduced to England by Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband.

Acknowledgements:

Supplementary information was found in booklets produced by The Woodstock Museum. Thanks to Mr Richard Bidgood, Eileen Brown, Mr & Mrs Hockedy and Josie Smith. Thanks to Mr Keates and the Staff.

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GOOD HISTORY

The Journal of the Eynsham Junior History Group

EDITORIAL

This issue is mainly devoted to our research on the differences between Eynsham in 1851 and in the year 2001, and is based on the talk given to the Eynsham History Group on 11th October 2001. We were delighted that our talk produced very interesting responses from the floor, some of which we have now incorporated into our text.

During the second half of this autumn term we have been thinking about the Council held here in 1186 when Henry II finally got his way to have Hugh of Avalon made Bishop of Lincoln. Personally, I am very grateful for the research done by another Bishop. It is upon the work of Bishop Gordon, once of Sodor & Man, that the little playlet which we are preparing for relay to the school is based.

As an introduction to our little production I talked to the group about how Henry II and Thomas Becket had fallen out, Thomas was murdered and how Henry II tried to make amends, which led to the council at Eynsham.

I give below what Rosy Hammond made of her notes.

1066, the Normans invaded England. The monks were frightened so they ran away but then came back. King Henry II had a special place at what is now Blenheim Palace.

The king saw that the church had a lot of money so he wanted to take it over. Henry wanted a new chancellor and he chose Thomas Becket and they became friends.

The Archbishop of Canterbury died so Thomas became archbishop. He changed and started doing what he believed God wanted him to do. He wouldn't do what Henry said. Henry then wanted to be rid of Thomas. Four knights heard what Henry said and thought that if they killed Thomas they would be popular with the king. So they went up to Thomas and said "Will you do what Henry wants you to?". Thomas said "No", so they all stuck their swords in him.

Henry was sorry. He had heard of a good man in France called Hugh and he got him over to Somerset at an Abbey there. Then Henry thought Hugh would make a good Bishop of Lincoln. Hugh was a bit like Thomas but gentler. At first he said "No", but when he got permission from "the boss" in France he agreed. Hugh is associated with a swan.

I think this is a cross between Jane Austen's *History of England* and *1066 and all That*. Well done Rosy!

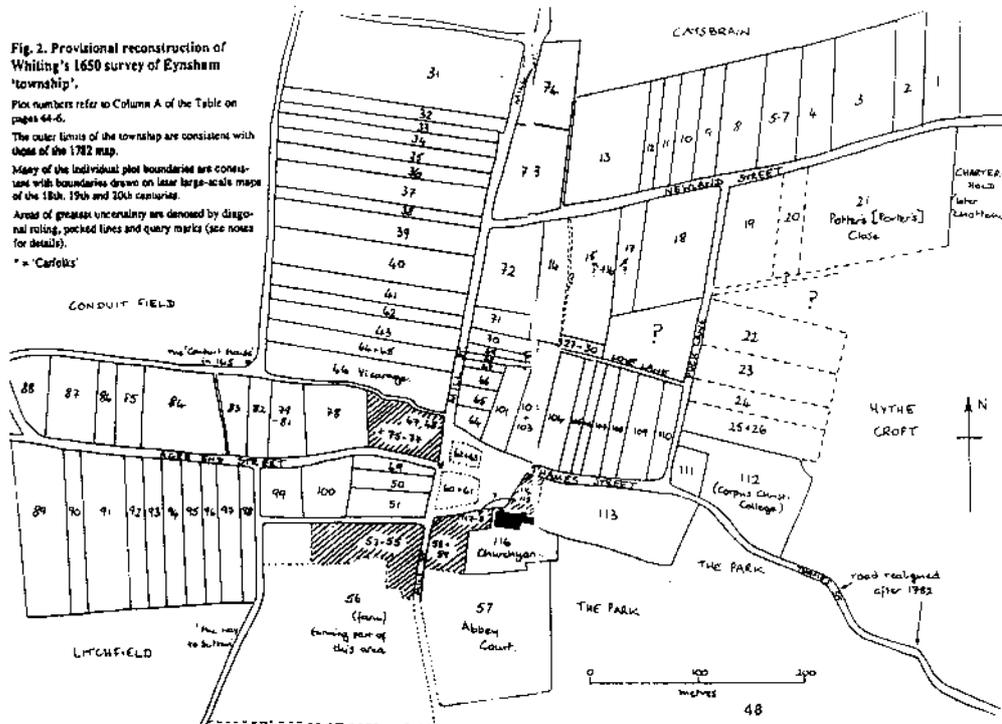
My particular thanks must go to Professor Marker for all her help, particularly while I have been away, and to Miss Ann Price who has acted as 'back stop' and driver.

Pamela Richards, Editor.

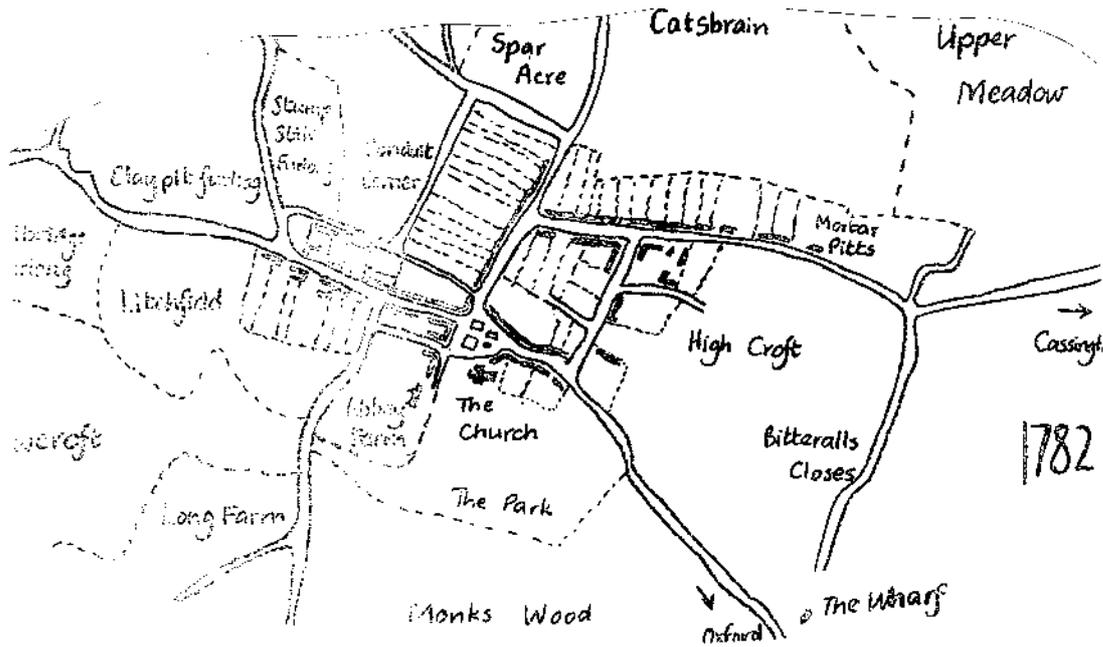
THEN AND NOW A LOOK AT TWO CENSUS YEARS

First we looked at maps to show how Eynsham has developed as a town over the past 150 years.

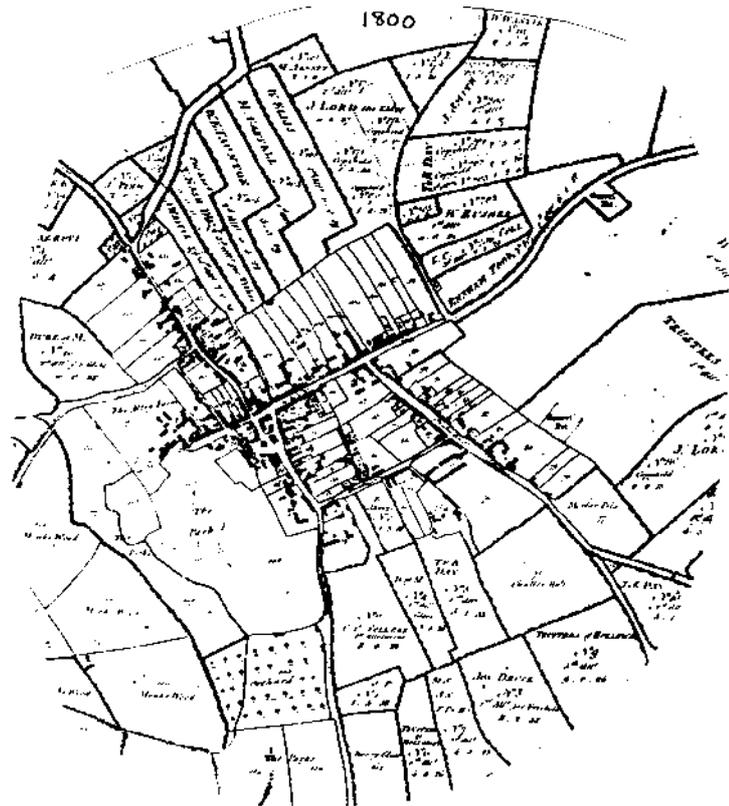
From the reconstruction of Whiting's Survey in 1650 made by Dr Atkins we noted the layout of the centre of the town.



By 1782 not much had changed. The main concentration of houses is still along High Street, Acre End Street, Mill Street, Newland and Queen St.



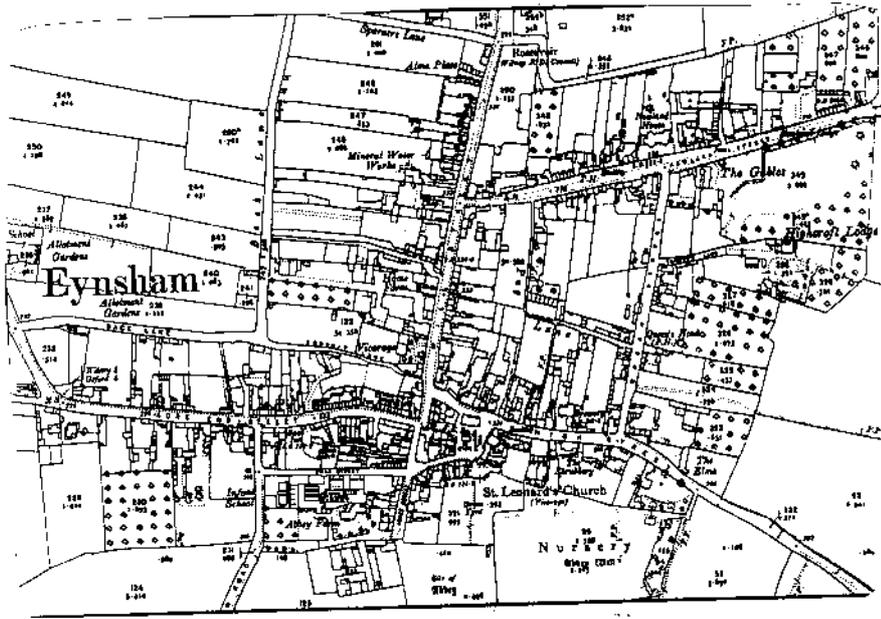
There was little change on the 1800 map although there is more evidence of the ownership of fields. Eynsham was very much a farming community.



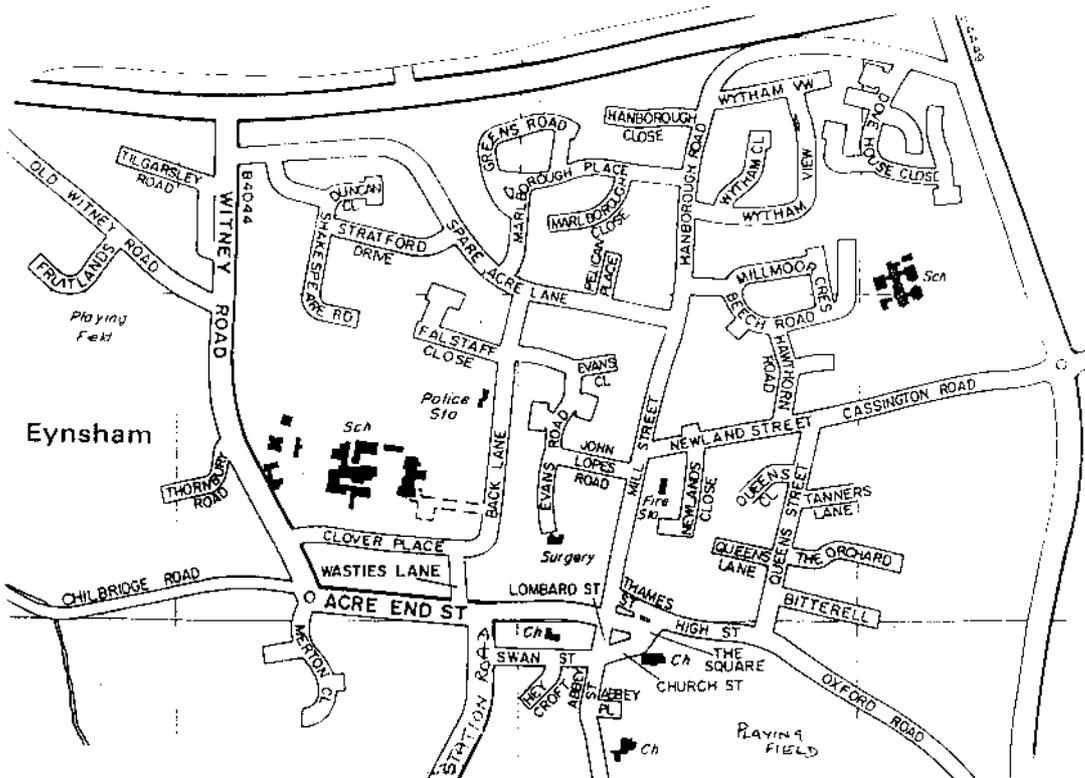
The 1876 map gives the feeling of denser housing but it is still around the main centre streets. But there is now a school and a brewery.



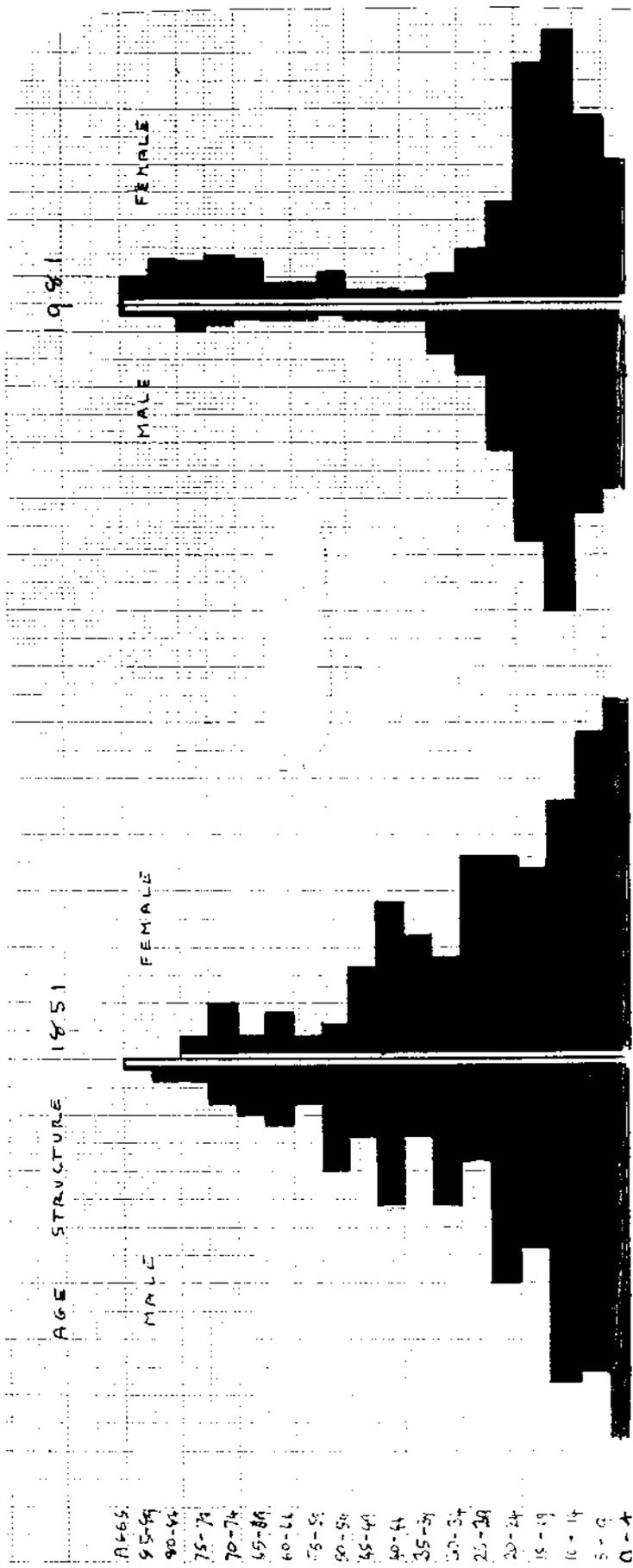
These can probably be seen more plainly on the 1910 map



As we leapt forward to the present day we could see that since 1910 there has been a great deal of expansion, particularly in the last 50 years.



The population has also grown. Again, using research done by Dr Atkins we found that in 1851 there was a population of 1,941 and in 1981, 4,449, a number which has probably grown since then.



Graph by Professor M. Marker

Population Pyramid

A population pyramid is a graph of age groups at a point in time. 5 year classes have been used here. Each graph shows the Eynsham population, first in 1851 and then in 1991. [Data is not yet available for 2001]

Not only has the number of people living in Eynsham changed but many other things have changed too.

So what was Eynsham like in 1851?

The group thought that it was probably rather smelly. There was no tapped water or proper drainage or sewage works. People fetched their water from wells and the "night soil" was collected in a cart, which was meant to come round very early in the morning but sometimes it was late! There are reports of sewage leaking into people's wells and kitchens. [See Eynsham Record No 11 p.27]

There was no electric light and candles and lamps could be a fire hazard. There would have been no street lights.

Food that had to be kept had to be salted or pickled as there were no refrigerators.

For more detailed information we looked at the 1851 census, mainly confining ourselves to the main streets which we have already mentioned.

Generally, families were larger than now, with many people fitting in to quite small houses.

Most of the population had been born in Eynsham. Those who moved into the town generally did so because of marriage or for work and were often from villages round about.

Most people were working on the land including women, who were called field workers.

We sometimes think that married women going out to work is a modern thing, but many of the women of Eynsham had jobs outside their homes. In his survey of married women at work in the mid-nineteenth century, Mr John Golby noted that 43.6% were working. [Eynsham Record No 11 p.24]

We also found that many youngsters we would now think of as school children were working. It was noted by one of the group that most people in the census were working.

These are some of the interesting jobs which are not usual today.

John Baker, **Candlemaker**, living in Mill St.

James Burden, **Smith Farrier**, living in Newland St.- He was kept busy making shoes for horses. Besides animals working on the land, horses were the 'fast' means of travel. Cars are still rated in horse power.[Descendents of the Burden family still live in Newland Stand the smithy was still working in the mid 1960s]

Stephen Ward, **Ostler**, living in High St., to look after the horses that had been shoed.

Jane White, **Slop maker**, living in Mill St. - Slops were cheap ready made clothes. This term was still in use in the navy 40 years ago for the ration of uniform. We are not sure if this continues.

Mary Smith, **Milliner**, living in Newland St.- A maker of hats. Hats were not only worn for special occasions in those days.

Rebekah Barratt, **Gloveress**, living in Newland St.- Glove making was an important industry in this area.

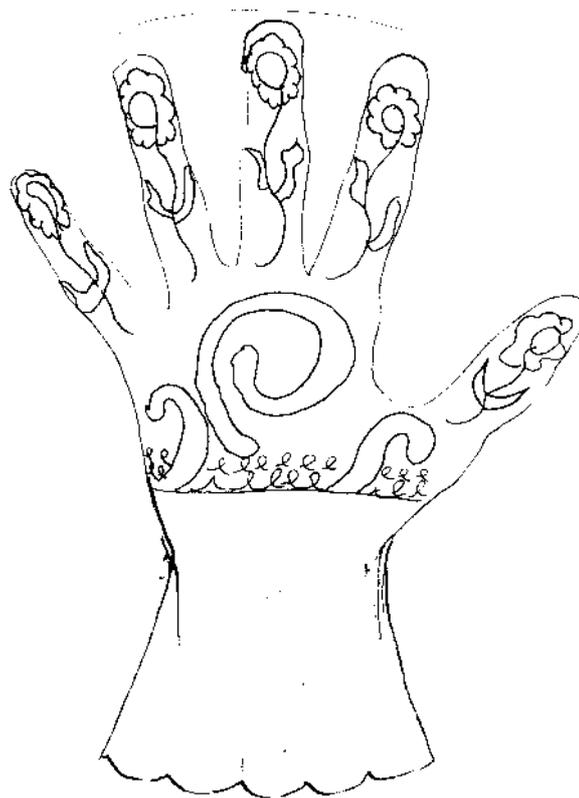
Matthew Marks, wrote on our behalf, to Mr Richard Bidgood who used to be at Woodstock Museum and he sent us this interesting reply.

"As far as I am aware all the women would be "out workers' receiving their work from Woodstock, the major glove-making area at the time.

It is most likely that a carrier would deliver a bundle of unmade gloves to a "pack lady" who would distribute the glove pieces to other workers. She was very powerful and you did not have to upset her or you got no work. At this time the earnings of the gloveresses were crucial to the survival of village families, as their husbands usually agricultural workers, did not always have full time work. The glove making had to be completed in a week, for only a few pennies per pair of gloves. The carrier called one week later to collect finished work and leave the next work.

The Woodstock factories had military contracts awarded to them by the government of the day and the church bell was apparently rung when a new contract was awarded so that the gloveresses could apply for work.

The glove making tradition in Eynsham is believed to have lasted about 150 years and a Woodstock glove manufacturer exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851.



Victorian Glove by Rosy Hammond

We noted 109 glove makers in the whole of Eynsham, the oldest being aged 69 and the youngest aged 10.

In response to our talk, Eileen Brown, a member of the Eynsham History Group, contacted her friend at Leafield who is still making gloves. She married into the Wiggins family, who were major glove makers in this area. Fifty years ago a glove maker would have received 2/6d per pair of made gloves whereas today she would receive £5. There will be no sheepskin gloves made this year because of the effect of the Foot & Mouth Disease which led to the slaughter of so many sheep.

James Radbourne living in Newland St. is describe as a **Shoe Maker Journeyman**. He would have travelled from place to place looking for work and would be employed a day at a *time*. The name comes from the French word for day, "jour".

Jonathan Sheldon, living in Acre End Street, **Corndealet**.

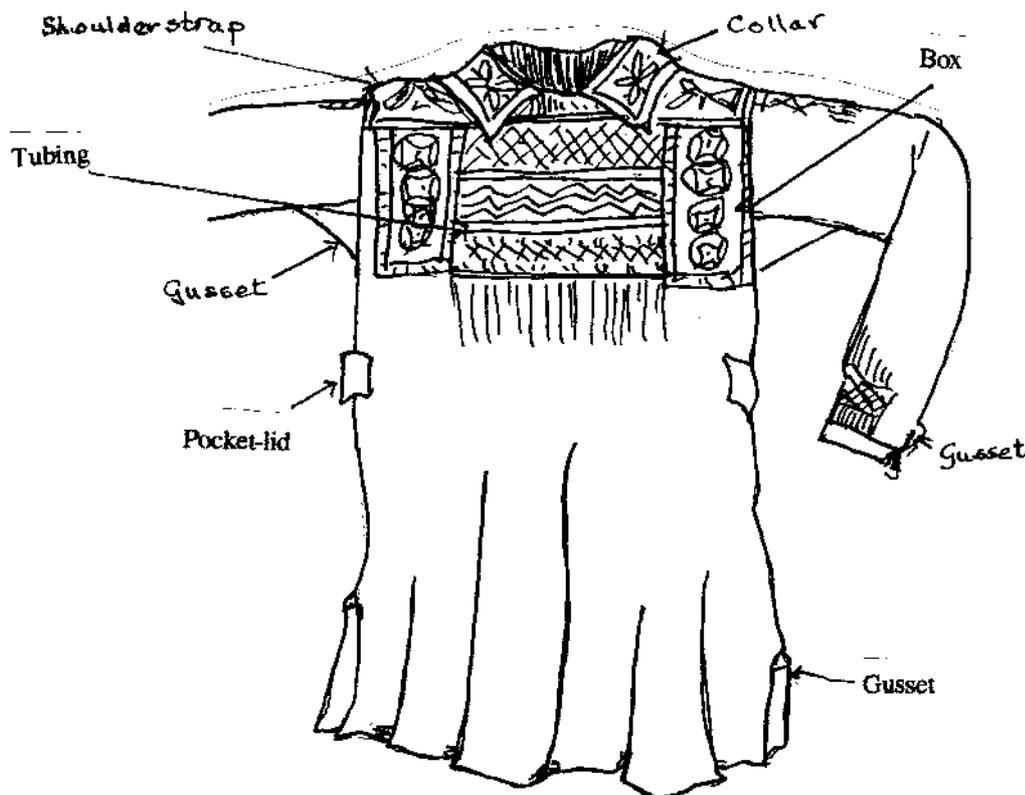
Henry Pritchett, lodging in High St. **Maltster**. Malt was used in brewing

Mariah Ovnell, living in Acre End St., **Frock maker**.

Jane Batts, **Smock Frock maker**, living in Acre End St. - A frock maker probably made loose working dresses while a smock maker was making a practical garment which was like an overall.

Smocks were worn by a wide variety of labourers and sometimes the embroidered patterns signified the trade of the wearer. For example, a three-legged stool would mean he

was a cowman and a crook would mean he was a shepherd. The pattern of a smock was based on material cut in rectangles. Each garment would take about 8 yards (7.5 metres) of cotton or linen which was 36 inches (just under a metre) wide. The whole width of the material was used for the front and back pieces, the smocking drawing in the fullness. Such smocks were worn from the mid-18th century until the beginning of the 20th century. They were expensive, costing roughly a fortnight's wages. A smockmaker would probably make two smocks a week depending on the amount of intricate embroidery involved. Below is a sketch showing the different parts of a smock. Examples can be seen at the Woodstock Museum.



Amelia Taylor, **Dressmaker**, living in Queen St., presumably making rather smarter clothes for ladies. Dress and frock came to be used to mean the same thing at one time but originally a frock was worn by men and the name is preserved in 'frock coats' with tails worn by men on special occasions and when playing in orchestras..

William S.Sawyer, **Cordwainer**, living in Acre End St. a man who mended shoes. There were three other cordwainers all living in Abbey St., John Cox, John Moss and Albert Clark.

George Thornett, **Gingerbread dealer**, living in Pug Lane We liked the idea of someone spending their time making gingerbread but we also noted that 'gingerbread' was a name sometimes given to a type of ironstone.

Thomas Beauchamp, **Coal labourer**, living in High St.

Edward Bennet, **Sawyer**, living in Acre End St.

John Pitmoor, **Bark Hatcher**, living in Acre End St., - a man who stripped bark from trees.

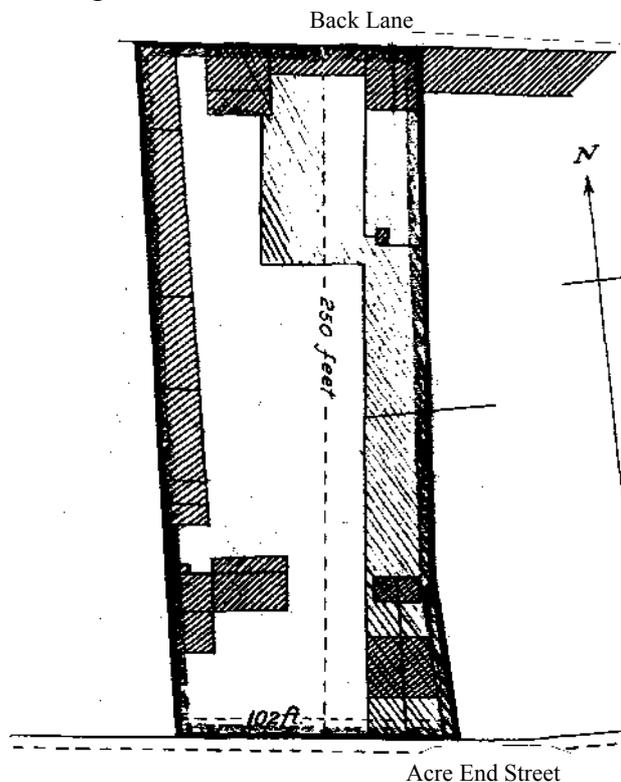
Josiah Wall and his two sons, Josiah (15) and John (13) are described as **Twinemakers** in the census, although as we can see from their card they made more elaborate claims. Thomas and Richard Grant, living in Pug Lane; Edward Jeffrey of Abbey

St., John Simpson of Acre End Street, James Jeffry & his three sons and William Owen, of Will St., are all described as **Ropemakers**, while Thomas Masters of Newland St. aged 8 is described as a labourer at the rope factory.

JOSIAH WALL & SONS,
(ESTABLISHED 1700.)
MANUFACTURERS OF
ROPES, TWINES, SACKS,
BEDSACKINGS,
RICK, WAGGON, BOAT, AND MACHINE CLOTHS,
EYNSHAM,
AND
STAND, CORN EXCHANGE, OXFORD.

HALTERS AND TWINE OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.
Door Mats, Cocoa Matting, Curled Hair, and all kinds of Netting.
CART GREASE, ETC.

Recently, Mr & Mrs Hockedy, moved into the village and have acquired some of the documents relating to the property which comprised the rope factory and the rope walk and besides the card shown above have allowed us to have some copies of these. Below is a diagram of the property showing the length of the rope walk. Part of one of the buildings of the factory is still standing and the wall which runs the length of the property is also to be seen. It is evident from the documents that Josiah Wall was a leaseholder of the property. The hazards of the trade are shown by the fact that even in 1812 while the annual rent was £16, they were expected to pay at least £200 in insurance against fire. It also seems likely that another branch of the family became involved with the business a few years after the census when in March 1855 one Ebenezer Wall of Neithrop near Banbury was in agreement "*for the absolute purchase of the said messuage land*"



George Pimm of Newland St., **Millwright** A man who was making or repairing engines
 James Hedges, **Shepherd**
 Henry Biggers **Woolsorter**
 Richard Ashfield, **Woolstapler**

All these are connected with the wool trade but we did not find anyone who was called a weaver although we know that the trade was carried on locally.

We visited the Woollen Mill at Filkins to see how different types of wool, having been sorted by the woolsorter and sold by the woolstapler were made into different types of cloth. We also noted that life would have been hard working in the mills. We found the rules and regulations from one such mill.

We particularly noted these rules:

9. Any person leaving their work and found Talking with any other workpeople shall be fined 2d for each offence.

13 If two persons are known to be in one Necessary together they shall be fined 3d each; and if any Man or Boy go into the Women's Necessary he shall be instantly dismissed.

16. The Masters would recommend that all their workpeople Wash themselves every morning, but they shall Wash themselves at least twice every week, Monday Morning and Thursday morning; any found not washed will be fined 3d for each offence.

Thomas James, **Thatcher** living in Acre End Street- many of the houses had thatched roofs at this time.

Matthew Bond, **Brewer's labourer**

Nehemiah Nash, **Cooper** - he would have made and repaired the barrels which were probably been moved around by the Brewer's labourer.

RULES TO BE OBSERVED By the Hands Employed in THIS MILL.

- Rule 1. All the overlookers shall be on the premises first and last.
2. Any person coming too late shall he fined as follows: for 5 minutes 2d, 10 minutes 4d, and 15 minutes 6d &c.
3. For any bobbins found on the floor 1d for each bobbin.
4. For single Drawings Stubbing, or Roving 2d for each bobbin.
5. For Waste on the floor 2d.
4. For any Oil wasted or spilled on the floor 2d each offence, besides paying for the value of the Oil.
7. For any broken Bobbins, they shall he paid for according to their value, and if there is any difficulty in ascertaining the guilty party, the same shall be paid for by the whole using such Bobbins.
8. Any person neglecting to Oil at the proper times shall he fined 2d.
9. Any person leaving their work and found Talking with any other workpeople shall he fined 2d for each offence.
10. For every Oath or insolent language, 3d for the first offence, and if repeated they shall he dismissed.
11. The Machinery shall he swept and cleaned down every meal time.
12. All persons in our employ shall serve Four Weeks' Notice before leaving their employ; but L. WHITAKER & SONS shall and will turn any person off without notice being given.
13. If two persons are known to be in one Necessary together they shall be fined 3d each:: and if any Man or Boy go into the Women's Necessary he shall be instantly dismissed.
14. Any person wilfully or negligently breaking the Machinery, damaging the Brushes, making too much Waste, &c., they shall pay for the same to its full value.
15. Any person hanging anything on the Gas Pendants will be fined 2d.
16. The Masters would recommend that all their workpeople Wash themselves every morning, but they shall Wash themselves at least twice every week, Monday Morning and Thursday morning; and any found not washed will he fined 3d for each offence.
17. The Grinders, Drawers, Slubbers and Rovers shall sweep at least eight times in the day as follows, the Morning at 7½, 9½, 11 and 12; and in the Afternoon at 1½, 2½, 3½, 4½. and 5½ o'clock; and to notice the Board hung up, when the black sweep is turned that it is the time to sweep. and only a quarter of an hour will be allowed for sweeping. The Spinners shall sweep as follows, in the Morning at 7½, 10 and 12; in the Afternoon at 3 and 5½ o'clock. Any neglecting to sweep at the time will be fined 2d.
18. Any persons found Smoking on the premises will be instantly dismissed.
19. Any person found away from their usual place of work, except for necessary purposes, or Talking with anyone out of their own Alley will be fined 2d for each offence.
20. Any person bringing dirty Bobbins will be fined 1d for each Bobbin.
21. Any person wilfully damaging this Notice will he dismissed.

WATER-FOOT Mill,

SEPTEMBER 1851

J. Read, Printer, and Bookbinder

James Shepherd, Mill St. A **Wharfinger** who managed the wharf where the coal barges would unload and the Edward Gardner living in Acre End St., **Parish Beadle** who was a mixture of town crier and policeman.

John Cantell was the **Relieving Officer** administering relief to help the poor such as Sarah Jeffrey aged 81 living in Mill St. who was on Parish Relief. There was no retirement pension is those days.

In the 1851 census they also took note of people's disabilities. It is noted the Joseph

White, Farm Labourer is deaf, that James Hedges aged 13 is dumb and that Charles Harris is a cripple.

We noted a lot of children given as pupils but whether they attended the school regularly is in question.

There has been teaching happening in Eynsham since the time of the Abbey but then it was the boys who learned to read and write as they did in the school which was held in what we know as the Bartholomew room.

It was not until the 19th century that there was any general provision for girls, although there had always been dame schools and private learning for the daughters of the rich.

The vicar in 1851 was the Reverend William Simcox Bricknell, a very controversial figure who only saw a school as a place to promote the teachings of the church.

At the same time the Baptist Minister, the Rev. Henry Matthews was running a small school for boys in his house in what was then called Abbey Street, now Lombard Street. He had 6 pupils at the time of the census.

The Board School mistress was Miss Ann James who ran the school with her father Mr William James and a Mr John Ham. As Mr James was also a Land Surveyor he may have left much of the teaching to the other two.

There also seemed to be a school in Newland Street in the house of Mr Thomas Bruton where his wife is described as a Governess and a young lady of 17, Marian Abrams, as a teacher. They had nine girls from the age of 15 to 8 in the house at the time of the census.

There was a surgeon, Mainwaring Shurlock, living in Acre End Street and another William Twycross living in Newland St. There was also a Chemist, Mr Thomas Goodall, living in Acre End Street and he was probably the one who told people what to do for their aches and pains and prescribed various medicines which he would concoct.

One of the important farming families in Eynsham at that time were the Druces.

Samuel Druce senior was living in Mill Street, in what is now called Home Farm, he lived there with his wife Hannah, two unmarried daughters Mary and Jane and his unmarried son who was also called Samuel.

Mr Samuel Druce the elder

From the copy of the will of the elder Mr Samuel, [for a copy of which we thank Mrs Josie Smith (née Druce)], we see that he was a big landowner in Eynsham, having many properties and fields in the area around the town. We also see that it was a big family and it is interesting to note that the name of the solicitor who dealt with part of the will was also called Druce.

The eldest son, Joseph lived in Acre End Street with his wife, Elizabeth and an unmarried sister Sarah. He was aged 35 at the time of the census. He farmed 400 acres and employed 17 labourers.

The Druce's specialised in Oxford Down sheep which produced large fleeces which was the main reason for keeping sheep at this time.



Mr Samuel Druce The Younger

1851 was also the year of the Great Exhibition which took place between May 1st and October 15th of that year. It was held in The Crystal Palace which was one of the first iron girder structures and used huge sheets of glass for the first time. It was designed by Joseph Paxton. The idea of the exhibition had been that of Prince Albert. Queen Victoria opened it and visited it many more times. Professor Marker told us that her Great-Grandfather went and his father bought him a glass walking stick with twisting colours in it, like a stick of rock. We wonder if anyone from Eynsham went up to London to see the exhibition.



The Crystal Palace, Hyde Park, 1851

But what of our own Census. We distributed 100 forms which we asked people to complete.

EYNSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL JUNIOR HISTORY GROUP QUESTIONNAIRE 2001

To help us in our research we would like answers to the following questions. We do not want you to tell us your name. This material will be used to make comparison with life in Eynsham in the 19th Century.

Were you born in Eynsham?.....If not, where were you born?.....

What is your age
 0-10 10-20 20-30 30-40 40-50
 50-60 60-70 70-80 80-90 over 90

What is your occupation?.....

If you have moved into Eynsham, why did you come here?
 Job?.....Schools? Family connections?.....Other?

How long have you lived here?.....

Answers can be left at Eynsham Primary School. Thank you

We then looked at the results from which we derived the following information.

Results of JHG Census 2001	Sample of 100 people.
Number born in Eynsham	8
Number born outside England	10
Number in each age range	
0-10	1
10-20	5
20-30	3
30-40	22
40-50	11
50-60	14
60-70	27
70-80	12
80-90	4
over 90	1
How many retired?	39

Jobs which would not be around in 1851 Systems
 Computing Manager, Personnel Officer District Nurse
 Electrician HGV driver Microbiologist State Registered Nurse

Reasons for choosing to live here price of houses, peace and quiet
 access to Oxford libraries Bus Service Cricket Team

More movement in and out of Eynsham. This was underlined by Electors Register for 2000. From personal information know that a number of names on the register are no longer living at those addresses whereas many on 1851 Census had been on 1841 and still there in 1861.

Note: Analysis of findings from our mini Census done by Matthew

Marks, Luke Stratford and Thomas Sutherland.

Perhaps the most striking thing was that 39% taking part in our census were retired. And from other information we have gained we believe that although ours was only a small sample it is probably quite an accurate proportion. We found answers from all age ranges from 0-10 to over 90.

Whereas in 1851 most people were born in Eynsham, in 2001 we only found 8 who were born here, and while in 1851 we only found one person born outside of England, there were 10 people born outside England in the 2001 census, including the States, Holland, Germany, and Singapore.

Judging from the length of time people had lived in Eynsham we noticed much movement of place of residence which was underlined by looking at the Electors' Register for 2000 and noting that a number of people on that list had moved away. We also noted that some people on that list have died. It must be remembered when looking at such lists that it is only a snapshot of a certain moment in time.

However, by referring briefly to the 1841 and 1861 census for Eynsham we saw that in the 19th century the population was more static.

We also noted jobs which would not have been on a 19th century list. such as Systems Computing, Personnel Officer, District Nurse, Electrician, HGV driver, microbiologist and State Registered Nurse.

It was also interesting to see why people chose to come to live in Eynsham. We particularly noted, peace & quiet, the price of houses, access to Oxford Libraries, the Bus Service and most intriguing of all the Cricket Team.!

We would like to thank all those who took part and made the task of those who did the analysis, so interesting.

But what of the future. These are some of the suggestions made by our group. One person visualised hover boards and cars that are rather like the one featured in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. - useful when trying to get up Acre End Street! Flying motor bikes also featured. More gadgets and more machines like robots The idea of a chair which can be turned into a bed and back into a chair at the press of a button sounds very useful. Invention might become a regular job. We are likely to be in the 'mobile' age not only for phones but mini-computers and watches which will all fit into pockets. We shall just have to wait and see.

This edition is based on the talk given to Eynsham History Group on 11th October, 2001 by the following members of the Eynsham Primary School Junior History Group:

Rosy Hammond, Matthew Marker, Jodie Simpson, Luke Strafford, Thomas Sutherland and Kimberley Treadwell.