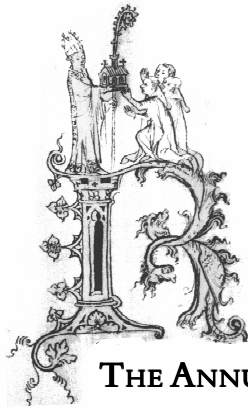


# THE RECORDER



THE ANNUAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WILTSHIRE RECORD SOCIETY

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## EDITORIAL

With the inexorable spread of computer technology, it was inevitable that at some point we were going to have articles connected with the Internet, web-sites or the use of databases! This year we have two articles about the joys of using the computer; well, they are really about how useful they can be when used specifically. I hope they won't put off non computer-owning members. I'm afraid it's part of life now and in a very few years almost everything will be done on a computer. Even this Newsletter comes to you courtesy of the computers of the General Editor of the WRS and the Editor of this publication!

For myself, I used to be very wary of computers, but now that I have learned my way around them and can see what they can do, I am a convert. But I do understand how some people feel about them, whether they dislike them or cannot understand them. So I will make sure that computers do not dominate our articles.

*Sally Thomson (Editor)*

## A2A (ACCESS TO ARCHIVES)

A2A is the English strand in the UK archives network; its database at [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk) (a new web address) already contains the electronic equivalent of over 400,000 catalogue pages or 5.7 million catalogue entries describing archives held across England in national, local and specialist archive repositories, and dating from the 8th century to the present day.

The WSRO has participated fully in this project, and intends to offer further catalogues for inclusion as part of the third tranche organised within our western region. So far almost all the public records (e.g. courts and hospitals), and ecclesiastical parish and school records and all the major lists of family, business, and solicitors' archives are now on the site. With the completion of the third stage by the end of this year (2004) all the catalogues of listed archives will be available.

A very important caution to add is that obviously many of the catalogues are being updated, as records are added to collections, and therefore many of the lists on the A2A site are quickly out of date. In the long term we will update them on the site ourselves.

In the latest monthly analysis of catalogue files requested by users of the web site the WSRO came eighth out of about 250 with over 800 hits, a very creditable performance, but as other record offices achieve total or

near total coverage our position may decline. We are receiving a number of email enquiries about our archives here consequent to these hits and one searcher came specially to Trowbridge to see a number of share certificates of the Real del Monte Mining Company in the Savernake archives, which is probably one of the very few times that those documents have been produced for inspection.

*John d'Arcy*

## CLERGY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND DATABASE

In 2000, I was approached by Steven Hobbs of the WSRO with a proposal that I might like to help out in a national project which was then under way. This was the Clergy of the Church of England Database and the aim was to create a national database of all clergymen of the Established Church from the Reformation to the mid-nineteenth century. This would then form a huge index, available on the Internet, which could be used to trace the complete careers of clergymen, useful to family and local historians, church historians and biographers. The work was being carried out on a county basis and the directors needed researchers to work at the County Record Offices. The idea seemed exciting and I was willing to help – until I was asked to work at the Somerset Record Office in Taunton! This was simply not practical and regretfully, I turned down the offer.

However, during 2003 the team from the project visited the WSRO to assess what records were available for recording. Steve asked if I was still interested, with the result that I am now employed (along with three others) as a part-time Research Assistant in the project, which is currently based at Reading University.

The main documents (in Wiltshire) used for this project are records of the Diocese of Sarum: registers of ordination and institution, licensing and subscription books, clergy call books and act books, which theoretically mean that almost all clergymen will be 'caught in the net'. I have so far used subscription books, act books and some clergy call books, which were compiled after a Bishop's visitation. The earliest date I have worked on is 1663 and the latest 1825, but future documents may extend both these limits.

Some of the entries have been fascinating. In one subscription book alone I could trace the movements of Isaac Walton, of *Compleat Angler* fame, across several years. Subscription books contain the declarations of individuals

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subscribing to the 39 Articles of the Church of England. Such individuals were usually clergymen, but there were also others applying for licences to practice their craft, such as schoolmasters, surgeons or midwives. One such entry recorded the subscription of Rachel Langridge, licensed to teach at Stratford Toney, on 9 October 1680. She managed to make a cross where her signature should have been, so one wonders what she intended to teach the children in her care! It is also interesting to see where teachers were going to set up their schools, which, in a small village community, would usually be run from their home. In towns, the appointment was often to a Grammar School. Surgeons were normally termed Chirurgeons and there were a few Physicians; one man was termed a 'bone-setter'. Unfortunately, these colourful characters are not required for the Database. But even among the clergy there are those who perhaps should not have been there. I have found two incidences where the bishop has written a letter, dismissing a recently-appointed curate from his curacy. One wonders what went on in those quiet backwaters.

And as for names; some incredible examples have cropped up:

Marcus Aurelius Parker,  
John Cunningham Calland Bennett Popkin Hawkins,  
Chambre Brabazon Ponsonby Lowther,  
Cicero Rabbits and  
Elborough Woodcock

are just a few of those I have found among the licensing records of young Stipendiary Curates from 1818-1825.

*Sally Thomson*

## WILTSHIRE TOLL HOUSES

Robert Haynes (Bob), the County Architect, had a passion for milestones and, when he retired, he spent a lot of his time in surveying all the stones still standing in the county. Following this, he moved on to a study of toll houses. When he died, he left a mass of material, mostly pictorial, on Wiltshire toll houses. Somehow I acquired the task of completing his work and preparing it for publication.

This came to involve more than I had anticipated, partly because there was a large amount of documentary evidence (Turnpike Trust minutes, deeds, Quarter Sessions papers, newspaper reports) which Bob had not tackled and also, each time I thought I had finished, another toll house would 'turn up'. We think that originally there might have been about 200 toll houses and toll booths in the county. After the closure of the turnpikes in the 1870s, many were demolished and in more recent years others have had to make way for road improvements. We have traced 48 toll houses still existing and have documentary evidence for about 70 others.

Some rather surprising aspects have arisen. For example, the positions of turnpike gates and toll houses were not permanently fixed but were often re-organised and re-sited. Sometimes a suitable house would be identified and the turnpike gate moved near to it. In three cases (Warminster, Wroughton and Bradford-on-Avon) toll houses were dismantled stone by stone and re-erected on another site to exactly the same plan.

One aspect, the position of the toll collectors, would benefit from further study and someone may be inspired to do this. Traditionally toll collectors have been depicted as very lowly and often illiterate despite the amount of cash they would have had to handle. There is some Wiltshire evidence to support this, for example in the number of

cases where the wife of an agricultural labourer is appointed the toll collector. But the later toll houses are quite substantial and seem to reflect a much higher status of toll collector. In some cases the toll collector even bought the tolls at his gate when they were farmed out. A diligent trawl through the census returns might throw some interesting light on this matter.

The book *Wiltshire Toll Houses* by Robert Haynes and Ivor Slocombe will be published in the Spring 2004 by Hobnob Press. It will be paperback, 128 pages and with about 150 illustrations. It is expected to be priced at £6.

*Ivor Slocombe*

## THE WILTSHIRE VCH – GOOD NEWS

An agreement, to which the University of London, the University of the West of England, Wiltshire County Council and the four District Councils of Wiltshire, are the parties, and under which the Wiltshire VCH will be sponsored for five years, has recently been concluded. The local authorities will continue to provide funding; UWE, which sees itself as a regional institution and is keen to build up its presence in Wiltshire, will contribute additional funding and will employ the staff; the University of London will continue to give the project its academic direction and will publish volumes as they are completed. The new arrangements began on 1 February 2004 and will last until 31 January 2009. All concerned hope that the VCH will flourish under them and that the agreement will be renewed for further periods.

It has been arranged that I shall continue as County Editor, that a new Assistant Editor (to replace Carrie Smith, who has been County Editor for Gloucestershire since September 2003) will be appointed forthwith, and that I shall retire on 31 January 2006, when a new County Editor will be appointed. The staff will have a small teaching commitment at UWE, otherwise our normal work will continue. Progress is being made on the volume which will include Cricklade, Purton, Ashton Keynes and parishes nearby. Carrie's work on Codford is awaiting publication and we hope to run a special project on Chippenham and to develop our website.

Many people have worked very hard to keep the Wiltshire VCH show on the road, especially in the last few years. It is now certain that it will stay on the road for five more years; and there is every chance that it will go on to completion.

*Douglas Crowley*

## ARE REGIMENTAL COLOURS RECORDS?

In June 2003 the WRS held its annual meeting at Wilbury House, Newton Tony, after which we were shown round by the present owner, Miranda, Countess of Iveagh. Her commentary included reference to long-time owners, the Malet family, prompting the recollection that from 1981-1985 I had recorded the military memorials from Salisbury Cathedral.<sup>1</sup>

'Entry number 29 Brass plate [high on W wall of SE transept] to Lt. Col. Charles St. Lo Malet 8th The King's Regiment (1801-1889) and the colours of the Regiment. The inscription [corrected at a later date] reads:

*'These old colours of the 8th The King's Regiment were deposited in this Cathedral in 1844 by Lt. Col. Charles St. Lo Malet, Commanding Officer, and were repaired in 1890 by the officer then in command. This tablet was erected to his memory by his surviving son Major Alexander G. W. Malet.'*

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It seems odd that the colours of a northern regiment, deployed throughout Lancashire in 1844 and 1845, after returning from Ireland, should have been laid up in October 1844 in Salisbury. However, Lt. Col. St. Lo Malet was the son of Sir Charles Warre Malet of Wilbury House and no doubt returned to Wiltshire (apparently with the colours) when relinquishing command. The 1st Bn of the successor The King's Liverpool Regiment was stationed in the south of England from 1889, covering the period when Lt. Col. Dawson, the then Commanding Officer, had the repairs carried out'.

My brief commentary on the memorial makes interesting reading twenty or so years on. In 1844 infantry regiments had no connection with any part of the country and my reference to The Kings Regiment as a northern regiment was anachronistic. I am obliged to the the present Regimental Secretary, Colonel (Retd) M G C AmlBt, for pointing out that the title The King's Liverpool Regiment followed the 1881 reforms of the Army. He also suggests that my mild surprise at a commanding officer taking the colours to be laid up near to his own home is misguided and indeed the question is rather 'why not?'. I overlooked the fact that until abolition of the purchase of commissions as part of the reforms later in the century each regiment was 'not simply a unit in an army but a colonel's private property'.<sup>2</sup> If he wanted to take the colours, why not indeed. The Regimental Secretary also sent me extracts from Cannon's Historical Records of the King's Liverpool Regiment which I take to be a fuller citation of the source I originally found in the War Office Library and used as the basis for my commentary. A more careful reading however reveals that Colonel C St Lo Malet deposited the colours in Salisbury in October 1844 but did not retire until December 1845.

Finally, what of the two colours themselves? In the photograph on page 16 of *The Spire*, published in 1980, maybe taken earlier (and a look at page 3 would have told me that it was provided by Roy Spring, then Clerk of Works) the regimental colours are shown in a very dilapidated condition in their nets. I recall seeing them in that condition over the North Porch, probably in 1981; Tim Tatton Brown, the Cathedral Archaeologist, tells me he can remember them later in the eighties before the major restoration work reached the Porch roof. I went to look for them again. The colours were no longer there.

I am intrigued to know how worn out colours generally are regarded and treated. And how would an archivist or a curator regard them and their conservation? It has been normal practice to simply hang them exposed to any passing dirt but interesting now to see that the last colours of the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire) laid up on amalgamation in 1987 in the Chapel of St Michael the Archangel in the South Aisle are in glass cases. Significantly the colours of the other half of the amalgamation, are similarly housed in the regimental museum – that of the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment in Salisbury Cathedral Close.

By contrast the five stands by the North Door relating to the earlier Wiltshire Regiment simply hang exposed to the atmosphere. Two of the sets are the final colours of the old Wiltshire Regiment and the Berkshire Regiment laid up in 1959 when the two regiments were amalgamated. Some 45 years on they are in a sorry state, now reduced to a few threadbare tatters. They are very similar in fact to those of the 8th of Foot, the 'Malet' colours, as I saw them in 1981 and of which no trace seems to remain. If pieces of regimental silver were to have survived so long they would be regarded as treasures and treated with the greatest care.

And thus to the question in my title. Are a set of colours 'records'? Would an archivist welcome them and protect them. The embroidered battle honours and other information is readily available in published form. But is the fabric itself historically valuable as in the case of a paper record where the original, however much copied, is carefully conserved? For these colours in Salisbury Cathedral I am told there are three parties involved – the church authorities, the Regimental Headquarters and the regimental Museum. Are there, I wonder, those who feel inclined to take a lead in putting the older colours into the safety of the museum before serious deterioration sets in? Or should they, like old soldiers, simply fade away?

*Lt. Col. (Ret.) Michael Cowan*

<sup>1</sup> *Military Memorials in Salisbury Cathedral*. The printed list was first compiled in 1981 and revised in 1985; a number of copies were distributed locally and may be in various Local Studies Libraries. There have been a few additions to the list since 1985

<sup>2</sup> Corelli Barnett, *Britain and her Army*, Allen Lane, The Penguin Press 1970 p308

## EARLY VEHICLE REGISTRATION IN WILTSHIRE, 1903-1914

Work is progressing well. I have now finished transcribing all eight registers, dating from 1903 to 1914 and I am well on my way to completing the checking process. Just after Christmas I had a scare when my computer hard drive failed, but thankfully a very skilled engineer was able to retrieve my file containing the complete text. I had a backup copy but three months work would have been lost if the file had not been retrieved. My work is back on line now and I hope to complete it by the end of 2004.

The number sequence of registration had reached AM-4419 by the end of 1914. Unfortunately there are around 80 missing numbers, a few of which were possibly missed by mistake during the time vehicles were being registered. I have noticed spaces left for a few missing numbers. With three separate registers for motor cars, motor cycles, and heavy motor cars using the same number sequence, the clerks seem to have made errors, perhaps not surprisingly. This is probably the reason also for the issuing of the same number to separate vehicles, which I have also come across. The majority of missing numbers are from the heavy motor car register, which was started in April 1905 for vehicles that weighed over two tons. A few heavy motor cars were added into the motor car register in error and then deleted, so I have been able to include these.

Now that I have been studying the registers in depth, a few interesting points have arisen. Even during this early period of motoring history, owners with the initials A. M. were registering their vehicles in Wiltshire in order to personalise them, as residence in the county of registration was not a requirement. A number of vehicles were registered to addresses in London and also Doncaster, for reasons that I have not yet ascertained.

Skurray's, motor engineers, of Swindon appear many times, not only registering their own vehicles, but also those of customers whose names have been added at a later date. I will conclude with a couple of amusing points; firstly, I have found a couple of motor cycles intended for use as public conveyances and I am a little puzzled as to why an eight year old Rover was registered to Rolls Royce Ltd. in 1919.

*Ian Hicks*

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## THE NATHANIEL HONE CONNECTION

In the absence of a 'Notes and Queries' publication for Wiltshire, this newsletter seems the best place to request ideas about a puzzle which I have turned up.

Seventeenth and eighteenth century towns tended to house populations which were remarkably mobile, so it is surprising to find a family surviving in Marlborough for nearly 170 years. It is perhaps not so surprising that in six successive generations, at least one son, usually the eldest, was given the same Christian name. The first Nathaniel Hone was married to Ruth Blissett at St. Peter and St. Paul's church in Marlborough on 12 August 1632. The clerk recorded them as 'both of this parish', but most subsequent references to the family are found in the registers of Marlborough's other parish church, St. Mary's. The first recorded child of the marriage, Nathaniel II, was born in 1635. He married in 1665, and his son Nathaniel III was born in February 1670/71. He in turn was married in 1701, but no children were recorded from this marriage, presumably either the family had moved out of Marlborough, or they had joined one of the many non-conformist sects which flourished in the area.

The next references are to a marriage of Nathaniel Hone and Martha Cook at St Mary's in 1721 followed by a marriage of Nathaniel Hone to Sarah Greenland in 1731. Both these marriages produced children, including the next Nathaniel in 1724/5. Assuming that the groom in both marriages was a son of Nathaniel III, he would have been Nathaniel IV, and the child born in 1724/5 Nathaniel V. He almost certainly died (St. Mary's burial register is missing for this period), since Nathaniel IV baptised another son Nathaniel (V) in 1732. I have not yet found his marriage, but Nathaniel VI (and last) was born in 1767. The last appearance of the family is in 1798, when Jane, daughter of Nathaniel (presumably VI) and Jane was baptised in St. Peter's church. She is recorded as having been born in 1780, which is an unusually late baptism. During all this time, Hone was the usual spelling of the surname, but it also appears as Hoan, Hoen, Honn and Horn.

The only recorded occupations I have for any of these men is that Nathaniel I was a cordwainer and Nathaniel II was a fuller, so I was very surprised to find that a painting of Beau Brummel in the Holborne Museum was by *another* Nathaniel Hone, and that this one was born in Dublin in 1718, the son of yet another Nathaniel, a merchant, and the treasurer of the Presbyterian Chapel, surely several steps up the social scale from the humble family of Marlborough. So this is my puzzle: is there any connection between the two Hone families? Or perhaps the combination of names is not so uncommon as I had originally assumed.

Lorelei Williams

## CENTRE FOR WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

Replacing Southampton University's Wessex Medieval Centre as a focus for regional history in Hampshire, Wiltshire and Dorset, this new centre will be launched by a conference at Hampshire Record Office in September 2004 on 'Henry of Winchester: Henry III in History and Archaeology'. Responsibility for the centre will be taken up by University College Winchester (hitherto King Alfred's College), and the organizer is Professor Michael Hicks. The History and Archaeology departments there have long undertaken local and regional research projects from prehistory to the present, have particular strengths in medieval Wessex, operate a joint MA in Regional and Local

History and Archaeology, and supervise numerous PhDs on Wessex topics.

Initially medieval topics will be prominent, but the research centre will cover all history and archaeology from prehistory to date. The centre will operate initially from Winchester, where a regular 5.30 seminar will operate from Hampshire Record Office, but will extend activities into Wiltshire (especially Salisbury) and Dorset. It will hold an annual (and perhaps twice-yearly) day conference on the model of the successful events on Henry of Blois, William of Wykeham, and the Winchester Pipe Rolls at Winchester and other venues (eg Christchurch). Speakers will include experts on relevant topics and regions other than Wessex. It will construct a network of scholars, research students, and institutions engaged in research (e.g. archaeological units, record offices) within the area of study and represent them on the steering committee. It will complement and not compete with existing local and regional bodies.

## DR MARJORIE REEVES

It is sad to have to report the death in Oxford, on 27 November 2003, of the distinguished historian and educationalist Dr Marjorie Reeves CBE FBA, at the age of 98. With her passing the Society, established in 1937, has lost its last founding member. It is proposed to include short tributes to her, and to a former general editor, the late John Kirby, in our next volume.

## WEBSITE

Although search engines do not seem to be able to find **A**us, you can easily at [www.wiltshirerecordsociety.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirerecordsociety.co.uk), where is displayed all the information, periodically updated, that is contained in our publications leaflet.

## NOTE FROM THE GENERAL EDITOR

**M**y perpetual aim to publish two volumes in one year may at last be realized in 2004. I am hard at work typesetting Dr Joe Bettey's volume on *Farming in Wiltshire during the Seventeenth Century*, and almost ready to follow it is Lorelei Williams's edition of *Marlborough Probate Inventories*.

John Chandler

## ANNUAL MEETING 2004

**T**his year's annual general meeting and lecture will take place at Great Chalfield Manor, between Melksham and Bradford, on 12 June 2004, at 2.30 p.m. Robert Floyd will speak about the history of the house and its associations, notably the Tropenell Cartulary.

## NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

**M**ay I remind members that subscriptions (remaining at £15) were due on 1 January. I am most grateful to those who have already paid including the very many who now pay through a Banker's Order. If you have still to pay, I shall be very pleased to receive your cheque made payable to the Wiltshire Record Society.

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