

## From the chair

The Society has had a good third season. Our speakers have brought variety and stimulation to our monthly meetings, covering periods from the Anglo-Saxon to the 20th century, and topics from place-names to the Second World War. We are grateful to them all. Some travelled long distances at considerable personal inconvenience: Robin Leleux even used up a large part of his last gallon of petrol during the blockade to fulfil his commitment to us. It would be invidious to praise individuals, but I think it is fair to say that we will all treasure the privilege of examining at first hand John Cheney's collection of archives from his historic family business [see page 4??], and John Leighfield's astonishing collection of Oxfordshire maps.

The recent day school devoted to Deddington Castle was a major new venture for us. Eighty people attended, from as far afield as Norfolk, Bournemouth and London. Many came here to pursue their interest in castles, but they all left with an awareness and appreciation of this area. It has certainly raised our profile.

We have again arranged exchange visits with neighbouring societies,

## See you in September

We are already working on next year's programme.

Meanwhile make a note for your diary that the new season starts on 12 September when we look forward to hearing David Eddershaw speak on the Civil War in Oxfordshire.

Meetings normally take place at the Windmill Centre in Deddington at 7.30 on the second Wednesday of the month.

and will continue to do so as long as members find them worthwhile. Would you also like us to arrange an occasional visit to sites of historical or archaeological importance, or to particular events? If so, please let committee members know. It will be even better if you can offer a firm recommendation and some details.

Moira Byast has begun work on compiling the reminiscences of women who lived in the area during the Second World War. I hope to resurrect the wills and inventories group, and it would be good to involve other members in activities such as transcribing and putting onto a database the 19th-century census returns. Don't forget that the 1901 census will be available before too long.

Our season ended last year with a wonderful evening spent at Colin Cohen's house and garden in Barford. This year we shall finish with a visit across the county boundary to Aynhoe Park [see next column]. History is always rich in irony. For 300 years the Cartwright family was a major force in Deddington, much of which it owned. Their tenants were only too aware of Aynhoe Park's significance. Now the Cartwrights are gone but a transformed Deddington goes on, perhaps a majority of its people totally unaware of them and of the role they played in our local history. Their house is simply that large pile you glimpse on the way to Bicester Shopping Village. On 13th June Deddington residents, successors to cottagers who would never have presumed to cross the threshold, will stroll through the house admiring or criticising at will.

We gather back at the Windmill Centre on Wednesday 12th September for our first meeting of the 2001-2 season. We hope to see you all there again. Why not encourage friends and neighbours to come along, too?

Chris Day—Chairman

## Aynhoe Park

*Based on the talk given to the society by Nick Allen (former Administrator at the Park) in May*

As a preparation for our visit to Aynhoe Park on 13 June, we were given a fascinating account of its history. The place-name Aynho is Anglo-Saxon and relates to its position on the 'hoh', or promontory. By family tradition the initial 'h' was not pronounced, while the final 'e' seems to have been a 19th-century affectation.

There has been a house on the site for at least a thousand years. It first belonged to a royal officer of Edward the Confessor who rejoiced in the name of Asgar the Staller. After the Conquest it became the property of the de Mandeville family. Allegedly Norman cellars remain of that period. Richard Cartwright was the first of that name to live there. He was a yeoman who trained in London as a lawyer and, at the age of 50, married an heiress. In 1616 he bought the house and its park with 4,000 acres. There are no drawings from that time, but it had presumably already been rebuilt to the Tudor style. It remained, intact, in the family for eleven generations until 1954, when two generations died together in a car accident, leading to double death duties.

The Cartwrights were Puritans and Parliamentarians in the period leading up to the Civil War. Richard's son John, an MP, sided with Parliament in the great debate over whether the King had the right to raise taxes without consultation and he refused to pay Ship Money until threatened with imprisonment. John naturally took Parliament's side when civil war broke out in 1642. The tragic splits even within families that the war occasioned was exemplified within the Cartwright family: John packed off his wife Katherine, daughter of the King's Attorney General, Sir William Noy, to live at a farm 30

miles away.

After the indecisive battle at Edgehill, Charles I commandeered, and spent the night at, Aynho, and the Royalists then garrisoned it until the King's surrender in 1646. As the garrison, commanded by Sir William Compton of Compton Wynyates, left the house they burned down a large part of it.

At the Restoration John Cartwright applied to Charles II for compensation in order to rebuild the house. The king responded that since Sir William Compton had burned down the house, John should get him to rebuild it. For all his claims, John was far from ruined. Indeed, he was able to employ the King's master mason, William Marshall, in the rebuilding.

In the early 18th century the house was expanded with orangery and library wings and an extra floor by the famous architect Thomas Archer, whose work includes Heythrop Park. Despite that work, William Cartwright clearly felt that the house was too old-fashioned for modern taste. In 1795 he commissioned Sir John Soane to refashion it. He partly rebuilt the house, connecting the east wing to the main block with a very elegant arch and moving the main entrance from the south side of the house to the north, so as to open out onto the courtyard and village beyond. Soane also remodelled the interior to include a Palladian library and drawing room. The cost of the works has been estimated at £15-20,000. Aynhoe Park remains one of only two surviving Soane interiors and is therefore of national importance. In that context it is especially regrettable that much panelling has been removed from the house, along with the magnificent collection of pictures and 4,000 or so books.

Soane was the son of a Berkshire builder who learned to be a draftsman and then quickly an architect, working first with George Dance and later Henry Holland, winning a glittering array of medals. George II personally gave him a bursary to travel to Italy, where he met many wealthy future clients who were on the Grand Tour. He was surveyor to the Bank of England and Clerk of the Works at St



*The south elevation—with what was originally the main entrance.*

James's Palace. George IV gave him the knighthood promised by George II, and he was professor of architecture at the Royal Academy. Travelling by horse, he carried out an average of seven commissions a year, visiting each one of them.

The Park was landscaped by Capability Brown, at a cost of £1,300. Incidentally, virtually every bill the family ever had is now with the family records in the Northamptonshire Record Office

Sir Thomas Cartwright (*d* 1850), ambassador to Mexico, sourced the

Onyx for one of the house's fireplaces while he was there.

The Cartwright estates, as so many others were undermined by agricultural depression in the late 19th century, and by death duties in the 20th. The family sold much of the village in 1940 and the remainder in 1946.

The double death duties in 1954 were the end. Aynhoe Park was sold in the fifties to the Mutual Households Association, now the Country Houses Association, who run it as retirement apartments.

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## Deddington's Titanic survivor

### Amy Zillah Elsie Stanley

*As some members may know, I am working on a history of the Barfords. In my research I use the Internet a great deal, and it often produces Barford-related items that one could not hope to find in any other way. The following is an intriguing example, which is perhaps more Deddington than Barford.*

*I am grateful to its editor for permission to use it verbatim: in the small world of cyberspace it turns out that he lives in Oxford.* Colin Cohen

Amy Stanley's father, Thomas James Stanley, was born in Nether Worton, Oxfordshire c 1849 but by 1861, when Thomas was 12, he, his parents (John Stanley, 60, and Rebecca Stanley, 43) and Mary A. Stanley (his 11 year old sister) had moved to the nearby Hamlet of Ledwell where they ran a grocer's shop (also licensed for the sale of

beer!) In 1881 Thomas (32) and Mary (31) still lived in Ledwell where Thomas ran a public house and Mary was a housekeeper.

Sometime between 1881 and 1884 Thomas was married to Eliza Agnes Margetts of Deddington, Oxfordshire.

Eliza Agnes Margetts was baptised in her home village of Deddington, Oxfordshire, on January 31, 1861. She was the daughter of sometime wine-merchant, innkeeper and grocer Henry Margetts and his wife Eliza. Between 1850 and 1870 Henry and Eliza had around 12 children, at least three of whom died young.

The newly-wed Thomas and Eliza Stanley remained in Ledwell until after the birth of their third child (c 1887). The 1891 census shows Tho-

mas and Eliza to be living in Green Road, Wolvercote, a village north of Oxford. Thomas was working as a Farm Sheriff (a kind of foreman), and they had 5 children John H. (7), Harry O. (5), William S. (4), Alfred Margetts (1, born August 9, 1889) and their only daughter Amy Zillah Elsie Stanley (3). A sixth child Walter Fredrick Stanley was born on April 7, 1894.

Amy Zillah Elsie Stanley was born on (?) 4 January 1888. She was baptised at the church in Barford St. Michael, Oxfordshire on March 16 1888. Barford St. Michael (or Great Barford) is a village about 2 miles W.N.W. of Deddington situated on the river Swere.

As she grew up Amy probably helped in the family grocery on Green Road (they sold butter, bacon and cheese). Eventually however, she became a dressmaker working in the nearby city of Oxford. Later she left home to go into domestic service in Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

In 1912, when Amy was 24, she prepared to move to New Haven, CT, USA to become a children's maid. She purchased a third class ticket through Thomas Cook & Son, Ludgate Circus, London and left Wallingford in April of that year to join the *Titanic* at Southampton. According to contemporary newspaper reports, she would have made the journey earlier but for the coal strike, by which she was delayed.

'My two cabin mates were a Nurse and an 11 year old [*sic*] child, her name was Elizabeth. The child was alone, because her parents were still in Europe and she was going home to America.'

Amy's cabin mates were almost certainly Elizabeth Dowdell (30) and Virginia Ethel Emanuel (5).

Amy survived the sinking having escaped in Collapsible C and completed the journey to New York on board the rescue ship *Carpathia*. During the journey the *Carpathia*'s wireless operator accepted the following Marconigram, however it was never transmitted due to lack of time:

To: Mrs Stanley, Wolvercote, Oxford. 'Saved *Carpathia*.— Amy'



Amy Stanley in later life. Photo: *Oxford Illustrated Journal*

Whilst on board the *Carpathia*, Amy also made a happy discovery: 'I found Elizabeth and the Nurse I roomed with on the *Titanic*, I was so glad they survived the trauma.'

After her arrival Amy wrote to her parents:

'Dear Father and Mother,

I have had a terrible experience, one that I shall never forget as long as I live. I seemed to have a presentiment that something would happen to the boat I was going to sail on. I enjoyed the first part of the voyage immensely. I had not been sea-sick all the voyage. I am now only suffering from shock and exposure to intense cold, with scarcity of clothing. I was writing a postcard the night that the boat struck the iceberg. It was about 11.30 p.m. I got out of bed and put my coat on and went out on deck and asked the steward what was the matter. He told me it was only the engines stopped, and ordered all the women back to bed. But I did not go. I shared a cabin with an American lady and child. I assisted them to dress, and then we went up on deck. We tried to reach the boats. Then I saw two fellows (whom we met at meals, the only men we made real friends of) coming towards us, who assisted us over the railings into the lifeboat. As we were being lowered a man about 16 stone jumped into the boat almost on top of me. I heard a pistol fired-I believe it was done to frighten the men from rushing the boat. This man's excuse was that he came because of his baby. When

we rowed off the child must have died had I not attended to it.

We were rowing for several hours. I seemed to have extra strength that night to keep up my nerves, for I even made them laugh when I told them we had escaped vaccination, for we were all to have been vaccinated that day (meaning the Monday). I will say no more of that awful row, except that I was able to fix the rope round the women for them to be pulled up on the *Carpathia* while the men steadied the boat-the women seemed quite stupefied-yet when I was safe myself, I was the first to break down. The sight on board was awful, with raving women-barely six women were saved who could say they had not lost a relative. Oh! the widows the *Titanic* has made! The last three days have been terrible. I attended to a woman [Mrs R Abbott] who was picked up on a raft with four men. The latter died, but she lived. She has lost two sons on the *Titanic*. Their cabin was next to mine. She was the last woman I spoke to on the ship's deck. I am staying in a Woman's League Hotel, but I am quite well, and these people are fitting me up with clothes. I have telegraphed to Grace but have not yet received a reply. I long now to be with her. I will not write again until I am safe in Newhaven [*sic*]. Don't you think I have been lucky throughout?

I remain your loving Daughter

AMY

P.S. I nearly lost the boat at Southampton.'

Amy later expanded on her meeting with Rosa Abbott:

'We were very close since we were on the *Titanic* together. And her stateroom had been near mine. I was the only one that she could talk to about her sons because I knew them myself. She told me that she would get [*sic*] in the lifeboat if there hadn't been so many people around. So she and her sons kept together.

She was thankful that [the] three of them had stayed with her on that piece of wreckage. The youngest went first then the other son went. She grew numb and cold and

couldn't remember when she got on the Carpathia. There was a piece of cork in her hair and I managed to get a comb and it took a long time but finally we got it out.'

Amy was given \$200 by the American Red Cross (Entry no. 431) and she travelled on to New Haven to start her new life.

Amy married Eugene Sheldon Tanner Sr. on November 1, 1918 in Brooklyn, NY. Through connections with the family she worked for in New Haven Amy managed to get Eugene an early honorable discharge from the Navy so they could be married.

On July 22, 1921 (in North Attleboro, MA) Amy gave birth to Alfred Stanley Tanner Sr. (died 30 September 1993 in Warwick, RI). A second son, Eugene Sheldon Tanner Jr. was born in Providence, RI on August 8, 1926.

Amy Tanner (née Stanley) died on April 21, 1955 in Providence, RI and was buried at Oakland Cemetery, Cranston, R.I. on 25 April 1955.

#### **Mrs EUGENE S. TANNER**

Private funeral services for Mrs Amy E Tanner, 66, of 60 Eliza St., will be held Monday at 2 pm at the Bailey-Shippee Funeral Home, 417 Plainfield St. Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery, Cranston

Mrs Tanner, wife of Eugene S. Tanner, died Thursday at Rhode Island Hospital after a short illness.

Born in Oxford, England, Jan 4, 1889 [sic], a daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Stanley, she had been a resident of Providence 38 years. She was a communicant of the Church of the Messiah, Episcopal.

Mrs Tanner was a survivor of the Titanic disaster.

Besides her husband, survivors are two sons, Alfred S. of Cranston and

# **ELECTORS <sup>OF</sup> BANBURY.**

## **MR. COBDEN**

CAME, HE WOULD SIMPLY MAKE A CONVENIENCE OF US  
TILL THE GENERAL ELECTION; AND AS FOR

## **MR. MIALL,**

**Let him eat his "Banbury Cakes" elsewhere.**

NOVEMBER 3rd, 1858.

CHENEY AND HITCHCOX, PRINTERS, BANBURY.

*In March we enjoyed, in every sense of the word, a talk by John Cheney on 'Cheney the Printer, of Banbury'. We hope to print a report in a future issue, but given the timing of this issue it seemed appropriate to print this election poster from his archive.*

*Last week's constituency election posters did seem to lack bite in comparison.*

Eugene S. Tanner, Jr. of Warwick, and three grandchildren.

#### **Notes**

Amy's father died on August 4, 1921 aged 73. Her mother died on December 27, 1937 aged 77. The couple are buried in the graveyard of St Peter's Church, Wolvercote, Oxford.

#### **Articles**

*Oxford Times*, 18 May 1912, p 11  
*Jackson's Oxford Illustrated Journal*, 24 April 1912, p 3  
*Oxford Chronicle-Bucks & Berks Gazette*, 19 April, p 7; 26, p 7; May 10, p 10; 17 pp 7,9

#### **Certificates**

State Of Rhode Island And Providence Plantations Certificate Of Death

#### **References**

British Census 1891 (Oxford), British Census 1861, 1881 (Deddington & Woodstock). Parish Registers for the parishes of Barford St. Michael; St. Peter's church, Wolvercote. American Red Cross (1913) Emergency and Relief Booklet (#431).

#### **Contributors:**

Phillip Gowan, USA; Arthur Merchant, USA; Jessica Tanner, USA (great granddaughter); Brian Ticehurst, UK.

The full site can be found at:  
[www.encyclopedia-titanica.com](http://www.encyclopedia-titanica.com).

#### **From Deddington Online**

My name is given on the Deddington Online website as the History Society contact. This has led to a series of calls from foreign parts.

On Thursday May 10th, I met Davids Gibbs, on holiday from Indiana. His ancestor, Henry Gibbs emigrated, with his wife Emma Draper, of Great Barford, in 1870. There were five children in the family. Henry Gibbs lived in Hempton Road, Deddington. His Parents, Henry and Sophia Gibbs lived at the Toll Cottage on Hempton Road. Are any of the present Gibbs family in Deddington descended from the Henry Gibbs, living in Hempton Road in 1870s?

If so, their American cousin would like to hear from them. pleas call me on 01869 338637

*Moira Byast*—Secretary

*If undelivered please return to:* Deddington & District History Society, c/o 37 Gaveston Gardens, Deddington OX15 0NX. **224** is the newsletter of the Deddington & District History Society, published three times a year and distributed free to members.

The Society meets on the second Wednesday of the month during the season, normally at the Windmill Centre in Deddington. Membership £8/14 pa single/couples, or £3 per meeting at the door.

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