



The Rev Maurice Frost  
The Vicarage  
Reddington  
Oxon

Doone  
London Road  
Bamberley, Surrey.  
14<sup>th</sup> October. 1942.

Dear W<sup>r</sup> Frost

Thank you for your very interesting letter. I am always glad of local news, which means so much to me in my isolation from Deddington.

I am glad you have such a good school master; it is most important that the children are under the care of a man who is keen, and interested in their welfare, further that he should be a good churchman.

It must have been a great joy to the church-goers of Blifton and Hempton to have met the Bishop under such friendly conditions. A touch of human kindness goes far to win the hearts of people — not only to the church, but to Christ! It

is sympathy that people require to improve their outlook on life. I think the Bishop must be a very fine man.

Now about the little stream which lies south of the village. The stream to which you refer, I think be the Bugbrook. It is not named on my map published in the year 1777 (scale 1 inch = 1 mile), but it is shown by a faint line thereon. On that same map is shown a stream named Swere River, and it is a portion of this stream which divides Deddington and North Aston parishes — not the supposed bug brook, which flows through the grounds, or land, belonging to Deddington House.

I enclose a print of a portion of the 6 inch Ordnance map (which please return to me in the stamped addressed envelope as it belongs to my file of papers appertaining to another subject)

Upon this map, I have coloured in green, three fields belonging to me, also in red ink, I have written the names Harbour's Hill Road, and Plumdown

Road, as they will help you to locate them more easily. In the Deddington & Great Barford Inclosure Award, made in 1808, the two fields Chapman's Leys closes, are described as "situate at Harbour's Hill, Bugbrook Butts and Chapman's Leys". The small triangular shaped field is described as "situate on Harbour's Hill and at Bugbrook Butts".

The western boundary of this small field is against an allotment to Solomon Bowerman, so if you will consult the Award, you will probably find that the boundaries of Solomon Bowerman's allotment will be described and may indicate the Bugbrook. The Award Map may also show the stream and its name.

Please let me know what you find, and, will you please ask Mr Stanley to write me an extract of the deed which refers to the Bugbrook?

I have not with me here, my 6 inch and 2.5 inch Ordnance Maps nor have I Davis' Map of Oxfordshire drawn to a scale of 2 inches to 1 mile, a very fine map <sup>published 1793 or 1797</sup> I could tell you more about the streams, but

no doubt, you could see the Ordnance  
Maps at Fortescue's office

This raises another matter  
of interest. It is the name of the  
stream running in an easterly direction  
between the villages of Barford St Lawrence  
and Barford St John. We locally have  
always called this the river Swere  
the Award merely refers to it as "the  
brook". My map of 1777, designates  
it "Oke river". Which is correct?

Oke or Swere? My 1777 map does  
not extend farther west than Great  
Jew Village, therefore I cannot locate  
the sources of these streams. It may  
be that the Swere, which I believe  
rises near Swerford Village, has two  
main branches, ~~one~~ running north  
and south respectively of the parish  
of Deddington. Another pro-

position, does the so-called Oke  
pass through Hook Norton? The  
place was once (or often) <sup>anciently</sup> referred to  
as Oke Norton. Streams and  
rivers existed long before habitations  
of man!

You will find Bugbrook

referred to in Mr Vane Turner's book  
on Deddington, pages 88 + 89.

Please do not disappoint  
me about my quest for the  
bug - brook. I have got my teeth  
into the subject now and must  
not drop it!

I will certainly look out  
for books of psalmody &c.

I think the book list of HW  
Hunt (bookseller) Oxford Hill  
Norwich might be productive;  
I would suggest that you write  
to him.

With kindest regards  
Yours very sincerely  
Henry C. Stigoe

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