



# The Fairford Flyer

Newsletter No 17

July 2013

FHS receives many family history enquiries and it is always a great pleasure to meet the 'sons and daughters of Fairford!' In June we had the pleasure of meeting members of the Caldicott family. FHS put on a small display and gave them tea in the Heritage Room. Tony Malin, whose great grandmother was Agnes Rose Caldicott, was 3 times great grandson of Richard Caldicott, the first Caldicott in Fairford (from Herefordshire), Tony has been in correspondence with FHS since 2008 and has been an assiduous worker on the Caldicott family history. He counts 1900 members in his family tree!



After a family lunch at the New Inn at Coln St Aldwyns, they then visited Kempsford as Mary Ann Couling from the village was Tony's great, great grandmother; they then came on to Fairford. Caldecott House and Cottage in Milton Street was where Richard and Emma Caldicott set up home (1851 census). It is thought that the house had probably been recently built, the site had previously been owned by Benjamin Thomas (Sarah Thomas's uncle). Richard and Emma had 9 children. Emma was a sister of the renowned missionary, Abraham Cowley in whose honour Fairford, Manitoba was named. Another brother was Isaac Cowley who went to South Africa and founded a church there. Some of his descendants went to Australia, one of them, Alfred Sandling Cowley, was Speaker of the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 10 years and was knighted in 1904.

Richard was the first of the line of Caldicott painter and decorators in Fairford. He is in the 1841 census as a painter living in The Crofts. This tradition seemed to have carried on through Fred (son of Richard) and Frederick William (son of Fred) with other family members also being involved along the way.

Augustus Caldicott, one of Richard's sons, became post master and his wife Esther (nee Mitchell) succeeded him to the Post Office, first in London Street and later at Lloyd's Bank where the cashpoint is now.

Caldicotts stayed in the house until 1972 when Edith Caldicott who was married to Herbert William son of F.W. Caldicott and Edward Czopek, the Polish lodger, moved to Bettertons Close. The house was presumably sold and divided and wrongly renamed Caldecott after this time. Edith, the last remaining Caldicott in Fairford died, in 1986.

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Another son of Fairford visited earlier in the year; this was David Hope from the United States, descendant of Elizabeth Richards and John Hope who were married in Fairford in 1811. Thomas Hope and Robert Hope, two of their ten children, went to America and founded that line there. Robert Hope, from whom David is descended fought in the American Civil War and died from disease in Wisconsin as a result. David and his wife Connie are on a tour of Europe and he is going to send FHS more information on Robert Hope when he gets back to the States.

## Chair's report—FHS AGM

The AGM was attended by about 45 FHS members. The Chair reported that the Society was in good health with over 140 members.

Topics covered in talks during the year took us from the Romans to aviation in Gloucestershire. The day-time meeting on the topic of churches and chapels was again successful.

We have been forging wider links outside the immediate area with the Gloucestershire Local History Association, which gives us links to the expertise of other groups and individuals. Chris Hobson is going to give a talk on Fairford Park at the GLHA local history day in October on the theme of Gloucestershire's special houses. FHS has also been taking part in projects in collaboration with Gloucestershire Archives. (See also the article in inventories).

Next season's topics range from Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire to the two World Wars and the history of Swindon. The February day meeting topic will be on Fairford Farms by Edwin Cuss with input from Chris Peachey.

Grateful thanks are due to Fairford Town Charity for money towards a new FHS Laptop; Piers Hobson for updating the website; Edwin Cuss and Syd Flatman for conducting the guided walks and providing material and information; and also my colleagues on the Committee.

## ARCHIVES

Work has continued listing individual items in the Raymond Barker collection at Gloucestershire Archives. There are many title deeds for land and property owned in Fairford. For example there is a bundle of deeds relating to land from 1771 until bought by the Raymond Barkers in 1873, information on who owned the property and who lived there. The land was called Crabtree Gate and was first called Mount Pleasant in about 1853 when the first cottages were built.

However it is not always so easy identify areas. The following is from a deed relating to Milton End Fields in 1689. A farundell is a quarter acre of land.

*“one acre in Woolfurlong being the homewardmost of a plott of three acres belonging to the said Albert Savery having the said John Hill next on the south side thereof one farundell thereof lyeing in the Long Pieces having land of Robert Wake north on both sides thereof and the land of Charles Betterton the Elder south one farundell more thereof lyeing in the same piece having the lands of Robert Wake on both sides thereof the other acre thereof shootes upon Greenway having the land of John Hill west and another acre of the said Albert Savery on the homeward side and to the land of Thomas [blank] grazing on the south side thereof”*

(GA D1728 Box 331)

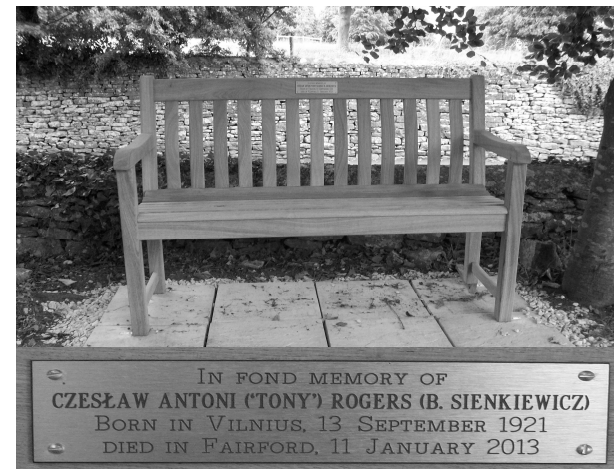
## Inventories

### - or something to do on the long dark evenings of winter!

In the 17th and 18th centuries it was obligatory to append inventories of possessions to wills. These inventories are full of information relevant to the family historian and also to social history. There are 61 inventories at Gloucestershire Archives appertaining to Fairford. When transcribed these inventories will go online as part of the Victoria County History for Gloucestershire (<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/gloucestershire>). In September FHS is going to photograph these inventories which will be able to be printed or viewed on a computer screen to be transcribed. There will be proformas, guidelines and lists of most common used words to aid us. Already FHS has seven volunteers for this work, but would like more. Can you help? Contact Alison 01285 711768 or email [enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@fairfordhistory.org.uk) or my usual email.

## Tony Rogers 1921-2013

Tony Rogers died in Hyperion House Nursing Home on January 11th, 2013. In honour of his memory a seat has been erected by his friends in the New Burial Ground, near Mill Lane. Tony Rogers was born in 1921 in Vilnius, now the capital of Lithuania. He wanted to study medicine but when the Russians and Germans invaded Poland in September 1939, after defending his position, he was arrested by the NKVD and sent to Kazakhstan. He survived his time there in terrible conditions and in 1941 when released by the Russians made his way eventually to the Caspian Sea, suffering great hardship on the way, thence to Tehran, Bombay, then to Cape Town on the SS *Empress of India* via the Gold Coast arriving at Liverpool 7 July 1942. He then, after initial training, joined the Polish Air Force, carrying out 30 missions on Wellingtons, 20 operations on Lancasters and 10 operations with Mosquitos. He was retrained as a pilot and after the war he joined the RAF where he flew in the Far East and Malta until his retirement in 1962. He joined Lucas Aerospace in Birmingham and moved to Fairford in 1993 'the best move he had ever made'. He was a great character, told a wonderful tale and despite his circumstances of his earlier life, served this country well.



Fairford Flyer edited by Alison Hobson. With contributions from Geoff Hawkes  
From the Archives by Chris Hobson. Photographs by Hobson Cameras 4

## From the Archives

### A Policeman's lot is not a happy one!

Police forces, such as we know them today, did not exist in England until the 1830s; law and order in villages and smaller towns in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century depended largely upon local constables. In 1835 the townsfolk of Fairford decided to adopt the new system of uniformed police that was then beginning to replace the old arrangement. A letter was written to the Police Commissioners at Whitehall who provided assistance by sending to Fairford one Samuel Beaumont to be the town's first real policeman with a handsome salary (for those days) of £80 a year. Apparently all went well with Samuel Beaumont's work at Fairford until Christmas Day 1836.

On this day William Podmore, a grocer and draper who lived in Fairford's Market Place, together with his wife Charlotte and their three infant children left their house (securely locked) about 10 o'clock in the morning to spend Christmas Day with friends at Whelford. When they returned in the evening they discovered that the house had been broken into and a number of items, including a gun, six handkerchiefs and a goose ready for roasting (presumably for Boxing Day's dinner!) had been stolen.

A neighbour, Fanny Yells the wife of David Yells a confectioner, saw Samuel Beaumont coming out of Mr Podmore's yard about 6 o'clock in the evening and walk down a shared passageway. Beaumont rented rooms in the house of John Cowley, a hairdresser, just two doors away from William Podmore's house. With the information provided by Fanny Yells, a warrant to search the premises was obtained from the magistrate, John Raymond Barker, and Mr John Giles, a stationer who also served as a parish constable, took Beaumont into custody in the White Hart Inn and then escorted him to his lodgings. Mr Giles, accompanied as witnesses by Mr Podmore, John Cowley and Richard Iles, an auctioneer, then commenced the search. In Beaumont's bedroom they found a locked box that contained the stolen items including the goose which even had Mr Podmore's name written on a label that had been attached by the butcher for delivery.

As Beaumont was being led out of his room he picked up a razor in an attempt to cut his own throat but was stopped by Mr Giles. Shortly afterwards John Cowley asked Beaumont how he could "think of robbing one of his best friends in Fairford" at which point Beaumont started crying and offered money to Mr Podmore, Mr Giles and the witnesses if they would not proceed with the prosecution.

The case was heard at Gloucester Assizes on 30 March 1837 where all the witnesses gave their evidence which was reported in some detail in the local newspapers. Mr Godson, defence counsel for Samuel Beaumont, tried to show that there was ill feeling against Beaumont because of his position as a policeman and suggested that Fanny Yells or one of her family may even have tried to frame Samuel as an act of revenge for her son-in-law having been transported, possibly as a result of Beaumont's actions. It seems that Samuel Beaumont may well have been unpopular in Fairford because the church bells were rung when he was taken away in custody!

Despite his counsel's vigorous defence, Samuel Beaumont was found guilty of the theft of the items from Mr Podmore's house to which was added the theft of three silver spoons stolen from Sarah Betterton on 12 December 1836 (and which were also found in Beaumont's box hidden in his bedroom); a third charge was not proceeded with, presumably as there was already enough evidence to convict. Samuel was indeed convicted and sentenced to transportation for life. While the life sentence may seem unduly harsh it was certainly not uncommon for thefts of this nature and Beaumont's position as the appointed defender of law and order made the offence all the more deplorable.

Samuel Beaumont is recorded in the Assize records as being aged 36, therefore being born around 1800, and was formerly a farmer from Flowton near Ipswich in Suffolk. There was a 16-year old Samuel Beaumont who was convicted of stealing leather from his master, John Conder of Ipswich, in 1813 and sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Despite the difference in reported ages (not uncommon in official or unofficial records), one wonders if the burglary at Fairford was Samuel's first offence!

Samuel was imprisoned in Gloucester gaol for a week before being taken to a prison hulk until he sailed from The Downs off the Kent coast on 1 June 1837 with 279 other convicts on the *Recovery* bound for

Australia. After what must have been a voyage full of hardship the ship finally arrived in Van Diemen's Land (now called Tasmania) over four months later on 8 October. Samuel was then formally inducted into the penal colony on the island. Conditions were very harsh and with no possibility of escape; survival became the main aim in life for most prisoners. It seems that, despite his past history, Samuel was appointed a constable soon after arriving in Tasmania as he is recorded as having been dismissed from that post in September 1839. However, Samuel was fortunate in being assigned to a well-respected Tasmanian settler called William Kimberley who lived on a 600-acre farm at Bagdad about 20 miles north of Hobart. The work would have involved farm labour (not a new experience for Samuel) and road building. Samuel was granted a conditional pardon in July 1848 but his employer, William Kimberley, was in financial difficulties and declared bankrupt in the following year when his estate was sold. It is not known if Samuel Beaumont ever returned home to England.

The sad story of Samuel Beaumont's actions in Fairford in 1836 may have been one of the factors that led to the creation of Gloucestershire Constabulary in 1839 which thereafter provided a properly managed police presence in the county.

William Podmore was originally from Sandon in Staffordshire and he and his family were still at Fairford according to the 1841 census but by 1851 they had moved to London where he owned a coffee house at 5 New Quebec Street near fashionable Bryanston Square. Ten years later William and his wife Charlotte (who is recorded as having been born at Whelford so may well have been visiting her parents on Christmas Day 1836) were still running an eating house at the same address.

#### References:

Gloucester Journal, 8 April 1837

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 13 April 1837

Norfolk Chronicle, 14 August 1813

The Hobart Town Courier and Van Diemen's Land Gazette, 4 October 1839

## Meetings 2013-14

All meetings take place in the Farmor Room of the Fairford Community Centre at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated.

19th September 2013 - Fairford Park: A lost treasure and The Tames of Fairford (two talks) by Chris Hobson

17th October 2013 - Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire by Carolyn Heighway

21st November 2013—The Gloucestershire Regiment and World War 1 by Graham Gordon of the Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum

20th February 2014 - Fairford Farms by Edwin Cuss and Chris Peachey

20th March – Dad's underground army: the Auxiliary Units (British Resistance Organisation) by Bill King

There will be a follow-up evening walk to visit the Auxiliary Unit training site at Coleshill led by Bill King (date to be arranged)

17th April – no meeting

15th May – Swinedown to Swindon: a town on a hill by members of the Swindon Society

19th June – AGM followed by an event to mark FHS's 10th anniversary

## Membership Renewal

It's that time again! Membership subscription is due in September. It remains at £5. Members with standing orders need not do anything, you will be contacted if there is a problem and your membership card will be enclosed with the Flyer. For those who pay annually a membership renewal form is enclosed with this Flyer, and you can pay at any meeting or drop it in to the Community Centre, clearly addressed to FHS.

Another method of payment for those of you with online banking is bank transfer. The treasurer requests you name it something like YOUR NAME – FHS Subs 2013. The FHS Lloyd's Bank account number is 30-92-06 A/C 02170130. Thank You.