



In the
Warwickshire Federation of Women's Institutes'
Competition for Village History Scrapbooks
1956

Halford Women's Institute
was highly commended.

Barbara Newbigh

County Chairman.



Halford Scrapbook

This book has been compiled to revive old times and memories and to tell of how we live to-day - Mr F. Scarlett Potter in his "Notes on Halford" written in 1912, is the source from which many of the earlier historical facts have been gleaned - The County Archivist's Department at the Shire Hall, Warwick have produced old books and documents for our reading and given us much help but the major part of the contents is a jumble of living memories - written down by some and told and re-told by others.

The village is fortunate to have retained its individuality through the centuries. We have no big main road and although the Fosse Way cuts right through the village for many miles it "leads to nowhere".

We were inspired by the Warwickshire Federation of Womens Institutes competition for village scrapbooks, to undertake the work. Not only Womens Institute members have contributed - the men of the village have taken a hand in its production and supplied the greater part of its lighter side.

The Index give the names of all contributors.

March 1956

E.P.J. Cooke

Editor

St. Mary's Church

A sketch of the outside of the Church is shown on the cover of this book. There is enough of its original structure left to show that it was built in the late 12th and early 13th. The Chancel arch and hatchet carving adjacent to it, are Norman and also the Tym-

panum in the space between the arch and lintel of the north door.



The Church has suffered severely at the hands of renovators, once between 1635 and 1640 and again in 1861. The Tower has been re-cased, the chancel re-built and a chantry chapel dedicated to St. Thomas has been merged into the Church.

The Bell Loft is reached by ladders. Of the three bells, the treble bell is probably the oldest inscribed bell in the County (14). The second bell was silenced whilst being rung on Sunday, 29th October 1876. It was re-cast and the old inscription re-produced

on it in 1883. The Tenor Bell bears the legend "Prayse the Lord ye people" H.B. 1639. The Sanctus Bell was removed when the Church was restored in 1861 and spent the next 50 yrs. in the keeping of the Rector. It was inadvertently sold for 8/6 after his death. The buyer was Mr. F. S. Potter who gave it back to the Church. It now hangs in a cote on the roof.

Of the interior fittings the Font and its oak cover and the carved oak chair in the Chancel date back to the 17th restoration. Medieval fire hooks hang close to the Font. The old gallery was removed at the second restoration. The following names appear on the inscriptions on the floor of the Church: Apperley, Gibbs, Granger, Halford, Horton, Mason, Plumb and Rowney. In 1905 Professor and Miss Wyse gave the stained glass window over the Altar as a memorial to their parents. The Church



yard surrounding the Church is fast becoming too small in spite of the additional piece taken from the Rectory orchard in 1935. This piece was beautified by a landscape gardener at the expense of Sir Frederick Freake whose family still contribute to the upkeep of the whole churchyard. The Sanctuary carpet, runner and the long cushion in the front seat were all worked by parishioners. Old rush footstools made locally have only lately been discarded. The church is heated and lighted by electricity, but the sconces for candle lighting are still under the tower



The Bishop of Coventry is patron of the living

but since the parish has been joined with St. David's, Newbold-on-Stour the gift alternates with Jesus College, Oxford. The Parish Register dates from 1538

The Turnpike.

Until about 1870 a toll gate barred the way at Halford. The Toll Gate house which was removed stone by stone and now stands at Shottery stood at the junction of the Fosse Way and Blithcoté road on the Hwt side of the road. The gate stretched across to the White Lion Inn. Around 1800 when it was fashionable to take the waters of Leamington Spa and Bath the takings of the turnpike were reputed to be the highest in Warwickshire. The charge for a rider on horseback was 1d., a horse and cart 6d and a waggon with two horses 1/-.

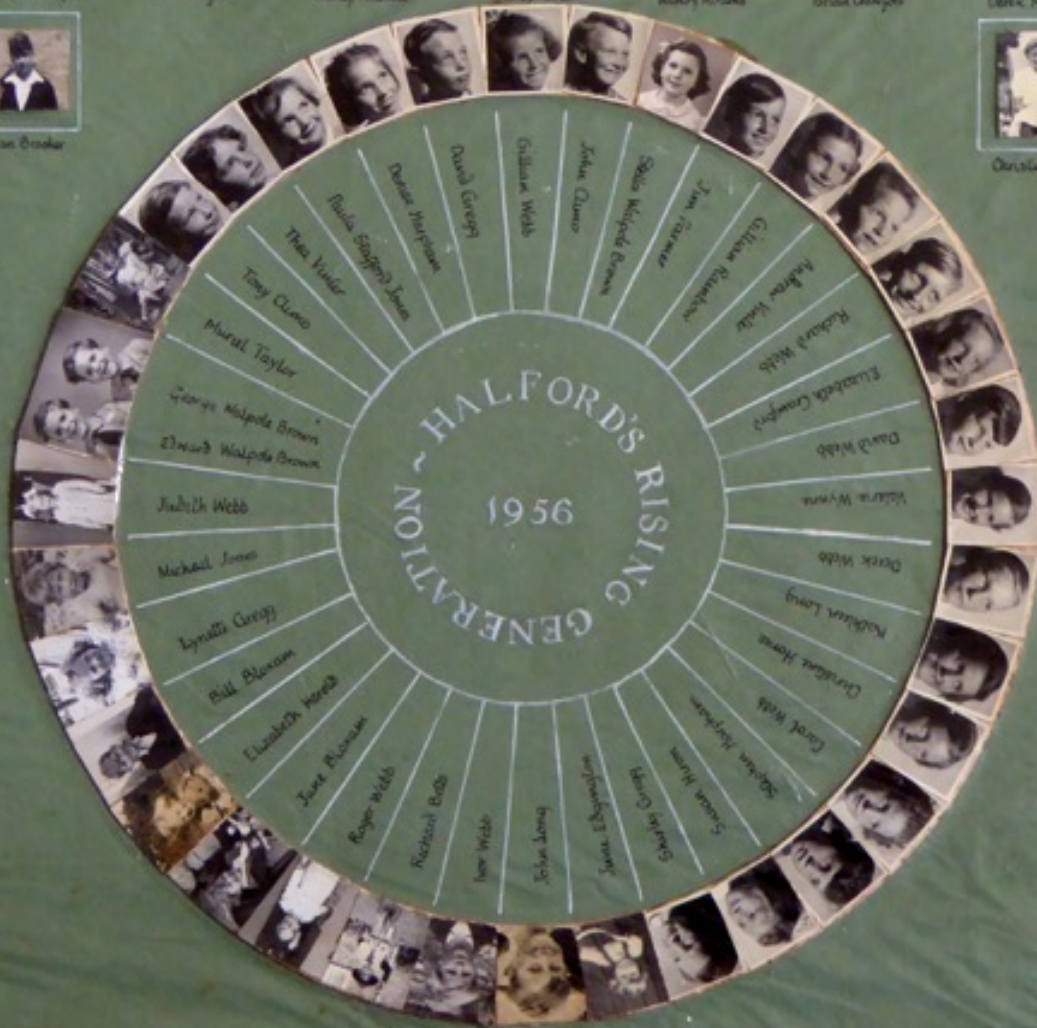


A WALK ROUND THE VILLAGE ILLUSTRATED

1. The Bridge and Waterfall (see Cover)
2. The Top of Bell Hill
3. The Mill
4. Maryland - 40 years ago
5. The Church (see Cover and p. 5)
6. The Old Manor (see Cover and p. 5)
7. The Malt (see p. 10) house
8. The Manor (see Cover and p. 7)
9. Halford House
10. Jubilee Tree (see Cover)
11. The Rectory

12. The School (see p. 10)
13. The Turnpike Side (see p. 10)
14. The Folly (see p. 11)





HALFORD'S UNDER FIVES

Trevor and Andrew Aston, Sheila, Myra and Julia Cooke, Angela and Andrew Edden,
David Edgington, Rosemary Herold, Linda Hiron, Jane Horne, Lesia and Jane Miles,
Marybeth Stafford Jones, Marian Taylor, Victoria Webb, Paul Webb, Janice Webb
David and Barbara Wynne



The Manor.

The house which since 1851 has been called the Manor was described by Mr F. S. Potter as a modest mansion of stone, built in the 17.

It is possible that either William Halford or George Granger occupied it in its



early days as both their names in a 17 Hearth Tax list as paying for five hearths.

The first owner of whom much is known was Mr Samuel Aylsworth. Of his ancestry we do not know but of his philanthropy we know much. He took such a personal interest in the villagers that he would enter cottages unheralded to see for himself if a good meal were brewing - if it seemed too frugal he would remedy the defect by sending meat for the next day's meal. By his will he left all who had ever been in his employ £10 and to every other adult labourer £5, he also gave several of his cottages to his tenants. He died in 1799 and is buried in the Churchyard.

Mr J. H. Turbitt whose tablet in the Church is partly undecipherable, succeeded him. His son was Curate at Halford and when he died at the early age of 41 an old letter reports "That there was not a dry eye in the Church when the Rector of Nibley preached on the Sunday after the funeral."

In 1837 Mr. Edward Brooks, a member of a family that had for two hundred years figured in the history of Churchill (Oxon) bought the estate and rebuilt the front of the house. He had been a silk merchant whose warehouse was in St. Paul's



Churchyard in London. His nephew, William, whilst on a visit to his uncle met and fell in love with Elizabeth Court who he married in 1851 just before his uncle's death. Edward Brooks is buried at Churchill.

The next owner was Mr J. Pigott Smith a civil engineer, who married for his second wife a Miss Taylor of Armscott. He died at Leamington in 1861.

The next owner was Mr Allenby who came from Yorkshire. Within four years he decided to sell as his wife found Halford too lonely. In a letter to Mrs Brooks she offered to sell the estate to her for £10,000 or £12,000 with stock and crops. A purchaser was found in Mr Thomas Cooke who had built up a prosperous business at Tamworth as a pioneer in the mass production of mens' clothing. He spent part of his time at Tamworth and after his first wife's death let the Manor to Mrs Crowther (né Garratt). She and her companion Miss Howland earned a reputation for kindness & hospitality. After Mr Cooke re-married in 1884 he spent every summer at Halford, until the turn of the century when Sir Thomas Freahe bought the estate for his bachelor son, Frederick, who married Miss Alison Ussher soon after taking possession. A time of great prosperity followed.

In 1906 an addition was made to the house, only the frontage to the Ettington road remaining unaltered. Polo ponies & hunters abounded and



the Manor became a rallying ground for the County's Sporting Contingent. Sir Frederick was generous and well liked in the village. During the 1914-18 War he lent the Manor to the B.R.C.S. for a convalescent home for



the troops and the patients who found their way to Halford enjoyed a well earned respite in a land of luxury. Lady Freake was Commandant.

In 1935 Lady Freake died and her death followed by the onset of the last war broke up an era in the history of the village. Sir Frederick went to live at Kington and various tenants invaded the Manor. The grounds became a semi-wilderness. Although Sir Frederick returned after the war he never re-established himself at the Manor. In 1947 he sold it and some of the land to a Mr. Geoffrey Lewis who worked feverishly to re-claim the garden and who turned part of the 1906 wing into two flats. After three years he sold the property to Mr Walpole Brown who with his wife, daughter and twin boys is now in residence.

The Old Manor

It is probable that for four hundred years Halford has beheld, near to the roadway to the old ford, the black and white house that is part of the old manor. It is a house that has seen many a change and has housed families of very varied fortunes.

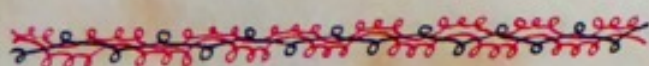
When owned by Sir Hercules Underhill in the 17 a stone built addition was made and it was described as a "Capital Messuage or Mansion" whereas during the 19 it was divided into three cottages and occupied by villagers of modest means. Since 1914 it has changed hands many times. In 1909 the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings became interested in the house and sent down an architect who reported as follows: "It is proposed to repair, and carry out many alterations to this Historical Residence, in order to adapt the building for the purpose of letting as a Hunting Box.... The oak timbers of the



earlier portion are in good condition. In carrying out the alterations English oak timbers will be used... Three or four acres of land adjacent and running down to the river will be let with the house, and could be nicely laid out into gardens, lawns etc." This report was not implemented and in 1914 after the death of Mr John Paget it was sold to Mr Carr

in 1914 and since his time it has seen many changes. Some of Sir Thomas Berchem's family lived there in the 1930s and Miss Maddox had part of it. During the war a Belgian, Mr. St. Leger occupied the house.

It was not until it became the property of Col. Elliott Allday that the 1909 architect's dreams began to come true. More rooms are being added at this moment and the ¹⁷ description of the Old Manor as a "Capital Messuage or Mansion" again rings true.



The Malt House

Behind the house now called the Malt House (no. 7 in "A Walk round the Village") stood a malt house built in the ¹⁸

Mrs Mills who died at the age of 96 in 1945 remembered the buildings being a hive of industry, for as well as malting there was a dairy, stabling and two pig sties

in the same yard.

By 1947 the brick buildings became past repair and a demolition firm cleared the site.

The stone house is of an earlier date - It seems credible that "the boardes to floore his house at Halford" ^{left} by Stephen Halford to his son Stephen in 1587 are still serving their



purpose.

Drastic "modernising" somewhat altered the character of the house in 1885 but the top floor seems to have remained unaltered. It was let to the Coxes and Blackwells at various dates in the ¹⁹ but the house has always belonged, and still does, to descendants of the old family who took their name from the village.

The Folly.

This eccentric dwelling, which would seem to have been formerly known as "Webb's Folly", owes its existence to a certain Mr Thomas Webb, a land surveyor, who was professionally engaged in the Enclosure of the Common Fields of Halford in 1774-5. He is said to have been so much pleased with the site - the edge of a moderately high plateau above the Stour which commands a view across that river and away beyond it to the Cotswold Hills - that in buying the land, and in building the house, he spent the whole of the profits derived from his engagement here.

His ambition was to raise a house which should be unlike all other houses, and in this he achieved some sort of success. As his model he is reported to have taken the upright knife-box of the period. According to its original



Mr L. and Miss A. Penson

plan the Folly consisted only of two octagonal towers set side by side and having a winding stair in the angle between



them at the back. The building rose to a height of five storeys and had a high pitched roof covered with Nampton stone slates. The low buildings to the north were added later - the original kitchen being in the basement. In 1891 the height of the Folly was reduced by the then owner Mr E. Vere Nicholl (whose wife was a daughter of the Rev. C. W. Simons) and the Nampton tiles replaced by blue slates.

The Folly was bought in 1900 by Mr R. Penson of Barcheston. After his death it became for nearly fifty years the residence of his son Leonard and his daughter Ada. In 1908 they added the entrance hall. During the whole of this period William Taylor was (and still is) responsible for the garden, the beauty of which adds so much to the house's appearance.

In 1953 Captain & Mrs Milne bought the Folly and further "modernised" it by putting in electricity, pulling a window in a sitting room & redecorating every room. The yew tree which stood before the front door has been felled.

The Hut.

A long wooden hut stands on the site of the old Toll Gate House - It has no pretensions of beauty and is one of those Cinderallas that has served its purpose and still is to-day an indispensable adjunct to our village life.

After the 1914-18 War it was carted to Halford by men of the village and erected by them. Sir Frederick Freaks was the moving spirit of the venture and bore much of the expense attached to its erection.

It was primarily for the men who fought in that war and Amos Gardner Bentley Webb and Walter Trentham, amongst others, enjoyed foregathering in its

early days - As time went on, it became the village's "social centre" and was managed and mismanaged by a succession of Committees. It has survived over 30 yrs of wear and is the focal point of any gathering - Plans are afoot to modernise it and make its exterior more permanent. So perhaps in years to come the corner, which must have felt bereft after the removal of the Toll Gate House will again house a building of which we can be proud.



Paradise Row

Three cottages facing south on the Fosse Way. The end one was Patience Taylor's school 100 yrs. ago

Halford School.

Before the Education Act of 1870 decreed that all children must attend school their education was not altogether neglected in Halford. Patience Taylor's school at the house now occupied by Mr & Mrs Bryan, at the north end of Paradise Row taught the three 'R's' and at one time there was one at the Old Manor.

In 1868 Mr Mason who at that time owned considerable property at Halford, gave a barn and a piece of land adjoining it, for use as a Church of England School and the Rev. C.W. Simons and Mr T. Cooke opened a subscription



for money to equip the School. They collected £212. The School was furnished and Miss Fanny Jaques was appointed Headmistress at a salary of £40. For the next 47 years she taught both boys and girls up to the age of 14. The Rev. A. Laurie was Rector from 1867-1907, besides undertaking the religious instruction of the children

he also helped to preserve discipline. When the older boys became too troublesome he is reputed to have cuffed them on their left ears with the back of a hand which bore a heavy signet ring

The boy who kicked 'Rectors' Shins about 1890



Penalty: To walk daily in Ettington School where his parents had to pay 4d a week instead of 2d

Miss Jaques retired in 1919 and was given an Illuminated Address and purse of £16 to which everyone in the village subscribed. She had completed 47 years of faithful service. The Headmistress who succeeded her only stayed a short time and then Miss Maddox came - 1921 - and spent the rest of her life at Halford. She died at the Old Manor after living as a recluse for many years. It is doubtful if anyone in the village knew her true history.

In 1929 the village was unable to rely on enough money for the School to remain a Church School and it was handed over to the County Council.



In 1925 Miss Chapman was appointed

Headmistress and still holds this position. Many changes have taken. Numbers have fluctuated from over 40 to a mere dozen (during the 1939-45 war). Usually there have been enough children to keep two mistresses employed. The balance of boys and girls



is usually fairly even. There was a threat in 1947 of closing the School and transferring the children to Newbold but happily the L.E.A. changed their minds and it became a Junior County School. All over 11's going to Shipston or Stratford. In Miss Chapman's time ten

children have obtained either scholarships (before 1946) or special places in Grammar Schools and the Inspectors have always spoken highly of the School's efficiency.



A Quotation from Sir James Fraser's "Golden Bough".

"At Halford in South Warwickshire the children go from house to house on May Day walking two by two in procession and headed by a King and Queen. Two boys carry a Maypole some six or seven feet high which is covered with flowers and greenery. Fastened to it near the top are two crossbars at right angles to each other. These are also decked with flowers and from the ends of the bar hang hoops similarly adorned. At the houses the children sing May songs and receive money which is used to provide tea for them at the Schoolhouse in the afternoon"



This information was given to Sir James by Miss Annie Wyse, whose brother Mr W. Wyse, an eminent Greek scholar was a close friend of Sir James's.

Charities and Old Customs

In the reign of King Edward I, John de Bregethwaite held land from a member of the Halford family on condition that he supplied to the poor of Halford a herring, some bread and a flagon of wine on Christmas Day.

M^{rs} Elizabeth Mason in 1704 left £5 for the poor of Halford the interest thereon to be given by the minister at Christmas to such as came to the Holy Sacrament.

M^{rs} Elizabeth Halford in 1710 gave £10 and her son William in 1718 left £20 for the same purpose.

In 1774 a strip of land in Little Halford (the Idicote Road) was set out by the Commissioners for the building of Parish Cottages to shelter free or on easy terms the poor of the village. Mr Samuel Aylsworth provided most of the money to build the cottages and the rest was found somewhat illicitly by using the money left by M^{rs} Mason and the Halfords.

Mr Richard Badger, a Shipston wine merchant, who died in 1897 left money to the village - About £17 a year for Church restoration and £17 a year to buy coal for the poor.

A custom that fell into disuse some hundred years ago was the right of Halford people to mow a certain quantity of hay in Newbold Meadow

The Christadelphians

In 1895 the Christadelphians held their first meeting in Halford in the Club Room (demolished in 1954) opposite the Bell Inn. Since that date lectures have been given every Sunday,

but for many years now the Christadelphian Meeting Room has been in Mr. Charles Lomas' orchard on the right hand side of the lane leading down to the Mill.

A Whitsun gathering is held yearly on Whit Monday and members from all over the Midlands come to Halford for a meeting and social gathering - sometimes as many as 400 attend.

A firm belief in the Bible and the second coming of Christ are the keynote of the Move-



ment and the members are bound together in a great unity of purpose - Many come on foot from surrounding villages to join in the Meeting and enjoy one another's society. The picture shows M^r William Taylor and M^r Charles Lomas both of whose influence has been felt over a wide area.

Molly Nash's Lesson.

William Harrison "Professor of Physic" who died in 1790 had a pupil, Molly Nash who was reputed to be something of a white witch. The story goes that her master sent her to cull a herb in Armscott Meadow at a certain hour. Molly went, but met a friend with whom she gossiped for a long time. At length she remembered her mission and hastily filled her basket. Upon her return Dr. Harrison gave one look at the herbs and threw them on the floor saying that they were without virtue as they had not been picked at the prescribed hour. Molly never again attempted to deceive her master!

Taxes

Subsidy Roll 1332 - A tax authorised by the Barons - Robert De Halford 3/-

Window Tax Evidence of blocked up windows can still be seen in some houses in the village

Hearth Tax in the 17th Century 2/- a hearth

Halford names
the list were

Granger 5
ford 5, Thomas

Richard Buller 3,

Richard Higgins 1, Ralph Aston 1, Stephen Cox 1

Philip Gardner 1.



appearing in

George

William Hal-
ford 3,

Thomas Knibb 1,

Land Tax. These names appear as paying

Land Tax around 1800 :- Thomas Webb, John

Cox, Nathaniel Halford, Joseph Higgins, Alice

Halford, Hannah Higgins. The Assessors and

Collectors were : John Cox and Mark Marshall and
later Ben and William Scarlett.

Enclosure of the Fields 1774-5

Commissioners: Edward Gibbs, Henry Jephcott

and John Newcomb. Surveyor: Thomas Webb

Names mentioned: Samuel Aylsworth, Thomas

Mason, Nathaniel Halford, Richard Higgins, Ann

Plumb, Sherlock Willis, William and Henry Clark

William Ford, John Henshaw, William Goff,

John Pearshouse and William Scarlett

Hair Powder Tax - Those who paid £1. 1s for
themselves or their servants were in 1796:-

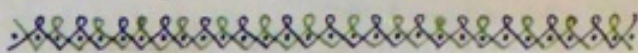
Samuel Aylsworth, Thomas Brain, M^{rs} Seagrave,

M^{rs} Young of the Inn and M^{rs} Venour and her four
daughters.



The Shirley Toll

Since early in the 19th the Shirley family have paid a toll to certain Halford residents as 'hush money' for stopping the Direct road to Lower Easington and so diverting traffic through a turnpike. It is thought that this was done to enable Mr Shirley to make a deer park at the time when he depopulated the village of Lower Easington. Most of the Halford residents who were recipients of the toll have ceased to claim but the sum of seven shillings and eightpence a year is still paid by the Easington Estate to the owner of the Malt House.



Blacksmiths.

We still have a Forge in Halford and horses can be shod by Leslie Hancock who in company with his father, has for many years held the position of blacksmith.

His father, Harry Hancock, died last month

he will long be remembered for his handsome face & ready tongue as well as for his craft.



The two blacksmiths who preceded him were Cook and Smith, but the man whose initials are engraved on many old cutting tools was James Lomas, who during the last century held the post for many years. In those days, when garages were unknown, the blacksmith's tasks were many - he was the strong man and mechanic of the village - Stubborn locks, bed keys, damaged agricultural implements, hinges and pumps, were all his department, so James Lomas had two apprentices to help him.

The blacksmith in 1800 was named Ryland. He became very prosperous and retired to Long Marston. His son became a surgeon and practiced in Halford for a short time.



In 1920 M^{rs} Howard of Barford came to Halford to see whether enough women would come forward to form a Women's Institute. She told of all the opportunities that would be open to members. How good housewives could learn tips from one another, how expert help could be given in handicrafts, and of the power for good that could be wielded by countrywomen voicing their opinions in unison.

Five of our present members remember that day: M^{rs} Gardner, M^{rs} Ralph Smith, M^{rs} C. Webb, M^{rs} H. Webb and Miss Southam and they all have made big contributions to the life of the village and Institute.

The Women's Institute's President for the first fourteen years of its life was M^{rs} Williams whose kindness and encouragement urged on members to enter for county events and brought many honours to Halford. The first piece of co-operative work to gain a cup was a layette. It was agreed that

the layette should be given to the member who first produced a baby after its completion. That baby was Ronald Harper, of Newbold, now himself a proud father.

The next cup was won for a four year task. Miss Sutton and Miss Emmet undertook to be the custodians of a Sanctuary Carpet of 9 ft. by 6 ft. and a runner. Every week members who were skilled needlewomen went to Thatched Cot to fill in the intricate pattern in cross stitch. The wool was of the best quality and of beautiful colours and hours of patient work were devoted to the carpet. The result can be seen at any time in Halford Church.

Over the years Drama teams have entered for competitions, enduring the "savage pleasure" of rehearsals and the nerve racking suspense of the green room. Cranford, The Taming of the Shrew and King Robert of Sicily were memorable productions and concerts raised the funds to buy a piano for the Hut and

in recent years a Drama Team has produced plays most skilfully - The Clouded Crystal's performances both raised funds for the Institute and entertained at two neighbouring Institutes parties.

The 1939-45 War brought an unexpected obstacle. Soldiers were billeted in the Hut. The Difficulty was overcome by Meetings being held in Mrs Harry Webb's house and it was at her house that the Institute celebrated its 21st Birthday with Mrs Fenn, the County Chairman, as guest of honour and a cake given by Miss



An impression of our five original Members taken in 1954
M^{rs} W. M^{rs} H. W. M^{rs} S. M^{rs} B. M^{rs} G.

Theresa Brooks who from the day the Institute opened in 1920 until her 90th year in 1951 was, in one or another capacity always an officer of the Institute.

Since the war and with the addition of 14 new houses in the village the Institute has gained in strength and takes a prominent part in village life and county activities. Awards have been won in produce shows and an essay competition and two members have gained proficiency certificates for cookery. Classes and demonstrations of handicrafts are held at intervals and a discussion group meets during the winter months. For the past seven years all members are eligible to attend residential courses at the N.F.W.I.'s own college - Denman College.

The Officers of the Halford W.I. for the year 1956

President
Miss Cooke
Vice-President
Mrs. Summers
Secretary
Mrs Harpham
Treasurer
Mrs. Nightingale



SECRETARY



PRESIDENT



VICE-PRESIDENT



TREASURER

Sports, Games and Pastimes

"Muddied caps and flannelled feet" are rarities in Halford. Boys kick footballs and play cricket in fields where the owners are amiable enough to allow games. There was a football club named the Stour and Foss Football Club (Hon Secretary J.H. Pannett) in 1892.

The foxhounds and otterhounds and at times beagles are familiar features of village life.

Sir Frederick Freake who spent nearly 50 years of his life at Halford was at one time Master of the Warwickshire Foxhounds and was also a very fine polo player.



Nine Men's Morris' was played and croquet has been a pastime indulged in by the older residents from time to time.

The river does not lend itself to boating but one solid old white punt gave pleasure

to many for some forty years.

Bowls might be said to be Halford's game for there is mention of a Bowls Club in the 16 and a club of note met weekly throughout the summer during the whole of the 19. Its members were men of substance from all over the county. The owner and host of the Bell Inn early in that century was Mr. Cox who built a Club Room adjacent to the green, in which there was a portion railed off for Cockfighting. The Club's motto was "Honest Hearts and Good Bowlers" - each meeting started with a dinner at 2.30. To be marker and greenkeeper of the Club was no sinecure as one duty of the marker was to place the wood in each gentleman's hand with the bias so placed as to insure the bowls arrival close to the jack. In 1871 the Club



erected a carved cross to mark the grave, in the Churchyard, of Edward Humphriss who was for 39 years the Club's marker. Walter Lomas succeeded him and held the office until the Club waned and finally dispersed around 1900. His family still have some of its assets - woods reputed to be 300 years old and the old key of the green - Miss Mills, of Pillerton, whose father, the Rev. H. Mills was a member whose was unique in wearing a smock on the green, has a box which contains the Club's books and the little box and black balls used by members to bar candidates they considered unsuitable for election.

The Bowling Green was little tended after the Decease of that Club but since the 1939-45 war Bowls has  once again become popular and there is now an efficient and prosperous Club supported by most of the men in the village. Mr Walpole Brown has given a

"Coronation Cup" and yearly invites the members to compete for it on his green at the Manor. The present holder is Kenneth Aston. The Club's captain is Jeffrey Webb and Jim Farmer is Honorary



Secretary The Club

competes in the Kington and District League and although the

Cup has not yet been secured, Halford's bowlers have never dropt lower than fourth in the league. * The Club has now won it (1966 season)

The Stour contains plenty of coarse fish - perch, roach and pike, in particular - but the majority of fishermen nowadays come from nearby towns. A lamprey was caught near the Bridge some years ago.


The Bridge.

There is evidence that the bridge was built in about 1300. It now has



nine arches of which the older ones are painted. A skirmish took place on the Bridge during the Civil War - the Royalists gaining some advantage. The bridge was broken down and a dispute arose over its re-building. In 1633 the inhabitants of Halford were presented at the Sessions for not repairing the bridge and were ordered to pay a tax to supply the necessary money. Eventually the County repaired it at the cost of £190 and also reimbursed Thomas Halford £4. 6^s. 8 probably for a temporary repair carried out at his own expense.

At the beginning of the 19th the Turnpike Trust became wealthy as the result of the influx of traffic between Leamington and Bath and money was spent on the Bridge and it became as we now see it - picturesque, but entirely unsuitable for to-day's traffic. A scheme is afoot to build a new one some yards north of the present one.



Piped Water written by Miss Sutton.

When my friend and I came to Halford in 1920 the village depended on wells for its water supply. We came from a large town where piped water was so commonplace that we never thought of it as a luxury - but now we had to depend on our 'handy man' to fetch us two buckets a day from the opposite side of the village. Then we heard that a meeting had been called to discuss the bringing of a piped water supply. At the Meeting I was the only resident to attend and so I had the four officials to myself to ply them with questions. It was proposed to lease a spring at Compton Wynyal's and lay on water which could be drawn from four stand-pipes - one of which was close to our cottage - no private houses were to be supplied as there might not be enough water. After a year or so, however, I heard that water was to be laid on to the Manor, so I at once put in an application and in 1933 we had the joy of indoor taps and flushes. It was difficult for our town friends to understand what such an event meant to us.

The Parish Council.

As in many other villages there is no great competition for membership of the Parish Council. The present members have held office for seven years and have two more years to serve before another election takes place.



During their term of office they played their part in keeping open "Rights of Way" when the Survey was made in 195. All those marked on the Ordnance Map and those of which old families were conscious, were walked and marked on the Ordnance Map and since no objections have been made by landowners the privileges of the past remain unaltered.

The other chief duties that devolve on the Council are the maintenance of the Parish Cottages (now called 1 - 4 Aldicote Road) and the management of the Allotments on the

south side of the Ettington road.

The provision of a new burial ground is a burning question that they now have to face as the Churchyard has become inadequate.

The Chairman of the Parish Council is Mr Peachey (who is pictured on this page) the other members are: Mr. F. Long, Mr. F. Trentham, Mr. Gerald Webb and Miss Cooke.

The Game Laws.

In olden times a poacher was liable to forfeit his life for offence against the Game Laws and Halford seldom lacked men who lived dangerously.

John Bright felt that tenant farmers were subjected to tyranny by landlords preserving the shooting rights over their farms. In 1846 - when deportation was still a penalty for night poaching - a Select Committee of the House of Commons sat to consider the Game laws. From then onwards less severe penalties have been enforced but the rights of the landlord remain much the same.

Mrs. Dyer of Newbold-on-Stour's Stories.

My grandfather, John Watts, was born at Halford. His wife was Esther Hine a relative of the pig Dealer, Hine, who lived at Halford House.

They had a large family - one son J. Watts was taken from the fields to the Crimean War where he lost his life and another managed Simion's Barn Farm. Mr. Simions was Rector of Halford in those days - he afterwards went to the living of Saintbury in Gloucestershire.



My father was married at Halford to Mary Sheller whose family came from Abingdon - her father used to drive the Coach on the Fosse Way but when railways and trains came he was ruined and came to live at Halford.

Trinity Sunday and Monday were joy days.

The Bowling Green was open on Sunday and the villagers from all round, dressed in their best, walked on the lovely green, it was beautifully kept in those days and then the next day was Halford Club - a great holiday and pleasure to men, women and children and to many, the old Halford Band was joyful - it paraded to Church with members and then to the field for tea - Mr. Mills, Tom Webb, John Blackwell, William Watts and Mr. Southam were usually gate-keepers.

When the news came that the Brooks family was coming to Halford from London we girls were



very excited and hid behind tombstones to see them enter the Church for the Misses

Brooks pretty dresses and smart hats were something quite new to

us. In those days the only vehicles on the roads were carriages and pairs, one-horse traps, donkey carts and trucks and we had to walk many miles, but the boots that we wore were made of good leather and we were measured for them. One shoemaker was Mr. Walter Lomas at Halford. We children thought it a great treat to get a lift in a donkey cart or a waggon.

There were not so many papers and books printed 75 years ago and so Mrs. Canning who came to Newbold from Halford exchanged printed books and papers with Mrs. & Miss Wyse, Mrs. Miller and H. Potter at Halford each week.



Fanny Jaques was Teacher at Halford School for many years. She went to Saintbury when the Rev. Simons left but soon



returned to Halford. She was a good Teacher and very much liked, she played the organ in the Church in Mr. Laurie's time.

I must speak of old Tom Webb, he was a great character and there is no doubt that he grew the longest beans and peas and largest onions and potatoes that were possible. He grew and presented mistletoe to many families and the story goes that he made use of the mistletoe before he left their houses.

One other dear native of Halford must not be forgotten - Mrs. Mills, who lived there for 92 years - she loved singing and hearing all the news of the Church and village.



Mrs. & Mr. Mills and family about 1894.

A "Who's Who" and Portrait Gallery of Halford in the late 19, mainly supplied by Miss Harriet Southam.

BLACKWELL. John Blackwell and his family lived at the Malt House in the 1870's. His son John became a Churchwarden and two of his daughters and many descendants still live in the village. Miss Cissie Blackwell (inset) spent many years in Canada.



BRITTON The Britton family lived at the house now called Maryland. He was a retired solicitor and used to write news for the local papers.



BROOKS. M^{rs} Brooks lived with her widowed mother, M^{rs} Court, at "Restwyse" until she married William Brooks in 1851. Her great grandfather was Nathaniel Halford. In 1885, after 34 years in London, she returned and lived at the Malt House with three of her daughters.



She died in 1896. This is her covered waggonette driven by William Lomas.

Miss Emily (Tinna) Brooks did a lot of good work in the village - she was a keen Churchworker and regularly decorated the pulpit in the Church.



She ran a Women's Clothing Club which was very useful as the money was given out before Christmas and a Book Club for the children.



and she was School Correspondent. She died at the age of 91 in 1953. Miss Pearly Brooks, her elder sister lived to the age of 88.

COOKE M^r Thomas Cooke bought the Manor in 1866. He took a great interest in stock and farming and employed much labour.

Thomas Southam was his farm bailiff and after his death George Southam. M^r Cooke sold the Manor soon after 1900 and spent the rest of his life at Leamington. In 1887 his son, Alfred, married Jane Brooks in Halford Church.



COX Edwin Cox was a well known character he owned a waggonette and took people out for drives. The saying was "If you want to see the country, go for a drive with Edwin Cox." He drove at a very slow pace and told many good stories. He was Churchwarden for 40 years.



HUNT. Mr Joseph Hunt was an excellent carpenter and wheelwright and a very strong Churchman - his sister was Hannah Fitter, she was a great needlewoman she wore

her hair in short curls under her various bonnets. They used to say that she wore a different one each Sunday. At one time she re-



ferred to her best frock as her "geremium gown". The Hunts had a pony with black lozenges on it.



JAQUES Miss Jaques was Schoolmistress for 47 years - she was liked by everyone, she played the harmonium for two services each Sunday and organised a well attended Sunday School. LAURIE. The Rev. A. Laurie was Rector for some 40 years. Mr & Mrs Laurie always kept a cook, house-parlourmaid and gardener. The gar-



were kept in good order - There was a tennis court on one side and a croquet lawn on the other. They were very fond of croquet and held large parties.

LOMAS. Many generations of the Lomas have lived here - one Walter Lomas

Shoemaker as was his father M^r John. M^r Jim Lomas was Blacksmith for many years, there was so much demand for his work that he had to have as many as three apprentices. He was full of jokes. On one Maypole Day, the Queen was looking very smart in a needlework frock and he came out and said to her "Why, you've got holes all over your frock". The Queen was upset so her made the King kiss her to put it right and he put a bit of extra money into the box.



POTTER The Potters were a very old family. At one time they lived at the Folly. M^r F.S. Potter was a fine sculptor and an author. Miss Potter, his sister, was a splendid needlewoman and could up to the time of her death at 91 still sew without glasses. Miss Sisam, a niece, lived with them she was very fond of getting up little things for the children and helpful in many things in the village.



SNOWDEN Dr. & M^{rs} Snowden came in 1893 and lived for

many years at Halford House, they were both very keen on Entertainment's in which most of the village took part. Jarley's Waxworks was enjoyed by all - it gave much fun when Mr Bertie Paul went behind each one to wind them up and set them going.



MARSHALL The Marshalls lived at Halford Hill Farm.



He was Churchwarden for many years and walked twice on Sundays to Church, two miles each way. In his day the Charity (Badgers) coal was drawn from Ettington Station by horses & waggons lent by good hearted farmers & gentlemen and put on the green triangle where it was weighed out and put into heaps marked with families names. People were supposed to be there on St. Thomas' Day to receive it. Everyone was busy

with barrows and prams taking home their share with thanks! In those days the school children used to get a holiday and parade the village singing "Please to remember St. Thomas' Day". It was great fun as afterwards we all went up to Halford Hill where nice warm cider and apples were waiting for all and very quietly poor old Mr Marshall used to ask for the Box to put in her gift

MILLER Mrs Miller was the widow of Dr Miller and was a lover of having large parties and was very fond of playing the game of Pope Joan - she believed in taking long walks every day in all weathers and lived to be 93



MILLS The Mills were married at this Church and lived to see their Golden Wedding when they gave a very nice party to the villagers in the Hall. They were big Church people - himself at one time being a Choir member, He was secretary of this Branch of the Tysoe Medical Club and carried the Banner to Church on Trinity Monday. Their son, Ralph, is a Schoolmaster and was Organist here at one time. Mr Mills was our Postmaster and also a farmer. Mrs Mills ran their shop.



Before she married she was head laundry Maid at Elington Park. She could recall many stories of the Shirley family who at that time kept a staff of 30



Trinity Monday Procession to Church about 1895
SUMMERTON The Summerlions came to the Hill towards the end of the century and employed several men. The big water wheel was running day and night. When great floods came along the house was often surrounded by water for days so Mr Summerton built himself a house higher up the hill with his own hands.

WISE Mrs Wyse, with her son William (Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge) and her daughter Anne, came to Halford about 1875. The east window, carvings in the Chancel & the pavement to the Church porch are memorials to Mr & Mrs Wyse. Prof W. Wyse left the bier now used at funerals to the village.

Memories and Stories 1856 - 1956

Miss T. Brooks remembered: The Toll Gate, her grandmother, Mrs Court, living at 'Restwyse'. Sunday joints being taken up little Halford and cooked in a communal oven. The Church collections being given to the 'poor' directly after the service. Walking daily to Ettington to fetch their daily paper - the Standard - and little girls bobbing to the 'gentry'.



William Taylor remembers: Walking from Armscott to the Folly (then a doctor's house) to fetch a bottle of medicine and the lovely smell of baking that pervaded the kitchen.

Charles Lomas remembers: Helping his mother to pull up flagstones that floored the demolished old farm house that stood in his yard (adjoining Halford House).

Bentley B. Webb (son of Thomas) remembers: his and Fred Mumford's efforts to clean the white face of the Church clock, with a mop, and the face turning black!



Benjamin Webb (son of Richard) remembers: saving Charley Trentham from drowning AND a man being buried with his top hat nailed to the coffin in order to comply with his last wish which was not told to the undertaker until the day of the funeral.



Mrs A. Trentham remembers coming to her grand-parent's house on Club Day and feasting on home-cured ham, chimes and lardy cake and enjoying donkey rides, coconut shies and dancing to Halford's band, AND Sunday dinners cooked in a three-legged pot into which went meat, pudding and vegetables (kept together in a net).



Bert Mills remembers (among other things!) rats moving a farm implement up at the Manor Farm AND the fireworks let off by Mr Greig in 1887 to celebrate a wedding.

Mrs Charles Webb remembers Sir Philip Foster coming to the Folly in 1906 at the time of an election and Mr L. Penson's battle with Jack Gardner over posters - Jack plastered Mr Kincaid Smith's poster on top of Sir Philip's and the combat continued until there were several thicknesses of posters. William Taylor defeated Jack by declaring his wall was 'let' to Mr Penson AND she remembers Jo Tyrrell, the handsome son of a well-to-do farmer becoming a 'gentleman of the roads' and hawking mushrooms, watercress, bootlaces and lollipops and becoming a popular figure in the village.



Bill Aston well remembers his gallant uncle Mark who in spite of his legs becoming

useless, earned his living and prospered and made light of his handicap. In those days there was no National Health service to supply a motor bath chair!



M^{rs} M. Rainbow remembers her first visit to Halford in 1930. She came to a dance dressed in a short frock of blue petalled taffetta with tight plaits twigged round her ears - ear-phones - and there met her future husband, AND she remembers going to the Sale at the Manor in 1947 when dealers arrived from everywhere and a big marquee was set up on the lawn AND she well remembers her family's joy at coming to live at Maryland.



Many who lived in Halford during the nineteen years (1928-47) that Canon Baxter was Rector remember the many kindnesses that he did to them and their families. Before coming to Halford he was Headmaster of King's School, Peterborough.



Spring Cleaning the Church, supervised by the Rev D. Stafford Jones.



Welcoming a new Rector. 1955



The Rector of Halford to-day is the Reverend D. Stafford Jones. The Rector's Warden is Lt. Col. F.E. Alday and the People's M^{rs} Bainbridge

Homes untouched by Fashion

Some old clock faces in Halford smile down on furnishings that have become very familiar to them.

Solid oak, mahogany and rosewood, ornaments of forgotten purpose, enlargements of family portraits - what nots, canterburys, a piccolo grand piano, pembroke tables and here & there a plush table cloth and anti macassar - Curtain materials and napery that has stood up to years of sun & soap. Some of the linen at the Malt House dates back 200 years & sheets a century old are still in use - An embroidered herts



egg, a sampler of 1757 and flowers embroidered in satin embellish a sitting room wall and the Victorian lamp in the sketch is a constant reminder of more specious days.

Mr Edwin Cox's picture is amongst the 'Who's Who' of the late 19 and although his daughter, Annie, does not now live at Vine Cottage she does live next door and is surrounded by old family treasures. The little sketch shows her in modern dress, sitting comfortably by the fireside of a room that savours of the 19





Lady to little boy: "What is the matter? why are
 you crying?"
 Little boy: "I've just got my shoes to walk
 and now my mother has no shoes."



Traveller: I see you have electric
 heating in the Church.
 Halfordian: Ah, yes and we are going to have
 a refrigerator too.
 Traveller: A refrigerator, what for?
 Halfordian: To keep the "carpenters" in till
 it's time to bury 'em.



Half's Puppet Show



The 1st "Horseless Carriage" to leave London through the
 streets - 1895



Petticoat Government.
 The wife who chased her husband
 out with the belovos.



The first "Horseless Carriage" to come to Halford - Owned by
 Mr A. B. Grey



Michael's Fox stick for health. These
 have been the first in Halford Church.

The Webb's.

The Webb family's fortune have been interwoven with Halford for at least two centuries and their "ups and downs" make interesting reading. In 1741 Richard Webb, yeoman, leased for 5/- a messuage or tenement with barns, stables, garden, orchard and barkside. This must later have become his property as by his will made in 1765 he left it to his wife together with £200 and his household goods. In



1774 Edward and Richard sold this same property to Nathaniel Halford for £360. At the enclosure of the fields in the 18th, the story goes that

the Surveyor was a Webb who so much admired the view from the 18th c. Road that he decided to build himself a house of an unusual pattern. He erected side by side four stories of eight sided rooms. This house, with some alterations still stands. His venture is reputed to have ruined

him and the house acquired the name of "Webb's Folly".

The reduction in prosperity of those who tended the land around the "hungry 40s" brought the Webbs to poverty and during the latter part of the 19th they had a struggle to live. but pride of race and their ready wits rescued them in the early years of the 20th - Two Richards, Thomas and a Benjamin were men of definite characters. Thomas became the village carrier with the aid of an intelligent donkey and a bicycle - he was also a keen follower of the hounds and grower of mistletoe. The two illustrations show that a love of music is characteristic of the family. Tom Webb is shown with piano-accorion and the Band in 19th when only two,



Fred Southam and Walter Best, were not Webbs.

To-day we have ten families of Webbs in the village and two more just outside the parish in Armscote, and these are the undertakings to which we are indebted to them 1) Care of the Church 2) Transport - the Donkey is replaced by three luxury coaches & some lorries 3) Petrol supply 4) Boot and shoe mending 5) Milk Distribution 6) Animal Transport 7) Roadwork

The school to-day contains eight of the rising generation and five more are not quite old enough to attend. In both World Wars the Webbs have sent their quota - one lost his life in the 1914-18 war - but Halford seems their natural home and even war cannot unsettle them for as soon as they are demobilised they return and carry on again just as they did before.

They now own a

The picture shows who is now head of



considerable
in the village
Mr B.B. Webb
the family

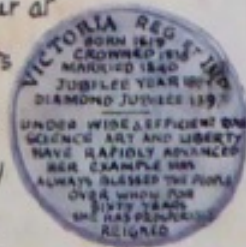
CORONATIONS AND ROYAL CELEBRATIONS.



1625 Robert Halford senior of Halford was fined £10 for declining a knighthood at the Coronation of King Charles I.

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee 1897

Extract from a letter written from Halford on June 1st by Miss Tina Brooks: "Here they are going to have first a service in the Church, a dinner at 1 p.m.: Tea for children at 4. Sports dancing and supper if there is anything over. I am on nearly all the committees. We held a 'pudding committee' yesterday they are to have 30. Everything is to be cooked at Mill's and if fine to feed in Mr Cooke's field opposite the house & if wet in Mill's barn.





Coronation of King
George V 1911.
Halford's celebrations.

The day that King George was crowned the village all turned out for a procession. The Band played marches all round the village followed by the school children - Miss Jaques and Miss Kedwards were in charge. All the children flags and sang a little song which went something like this :- "King George is crowned to-day hurrah
Long may he live and reign, hurrah
Hurrah, hurrah, hurrah"

The Procession went to Church where a short service was held, then the children had tea at the School and the adults a meat dinner, then plum pudding and plenty of beer. Mr. Mills had got willing helpers to clear out his barn and a jolly meal it was. After dinner everyone went to Mr. Walter Lomas' field along the Idlicote road for sports and games. The Band had been hired to play at Atlescote Park and were well paid, so here Ernie Jeffs of Shipston played

his fiddle for dancing on the Bowling Green and the Committee paid him £1.

The children each received a mug and a medal. Next day those who wished to, went to the Barn to finish up the beer and the remains of the food. A little merriment was caused when William Mumford, the bonniest man in the village, came dancing along the road with Miss Liz Atlet (whose eyes were going dim). She did not know what was causing the laughter - someone had pinned a long tail on William's coat!



Silver Jubilee Celebrations
1935

The people of Halford celebrated the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary with great rejoicing.

In the morning a Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church, which was packed on that occasion. A Procession was formed at the Hut headed by the Rector, the Rev. H. Baxter, followed by the Halford Brass Band, the Jubilee



Queen, Barbara Young, the schoolchildren and their Teachers and the villagers.

Later in the morning the adults had a sumptuous

meal in the Hut and the children, teachers and Correspondent (Miss E. Brooks) had their meal in a gaily decorated School. The Head Teacher, Miss Chapman, presented each child with a Jubilee Mug and the Assistant Teacher, M^{rs} R. H. Clarke gave a Jubilee coin to each child. In the afternoon sports were held for children and adults. In the early evening the children gave a display of Maypole Plaiting and Country Dancing at the Manor and the Finale was a Patriotic Tableau in which the children formed a Union Jack with red, white and blue scarves. Later in the evening a huge bonfire was lighted in a field up the

Idlicote Road and there was a grand display of fireworks.

So ended a very happy and memorable day for the villagers of Halford.



1937 Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth

In the morning there was a procession from the Hut to the Church headed by the Rector and followed by the Band, school children and villagers. After the Service there was a sumptuous dinner for everyone. The adults feasted in the Hut and the children in the School which had been gorgeously decorated by the Staff - Miss P. K. Chapman, M^{rs} R. Clarke. Miss T. Brooks (Correspondent) joined the party and Miss Chapman gave each child a decorated china mug. M^r C. Lomas lent his field, the Keys, for sports and a firework display, but the display had to be postponed owing to rain. A Social was held in the Hut with the aid of a Radiogram provided by Capt. H. Greene and music played by Miss Chapman.

1953

Coronation Day



H. B. B. B.



H. B. B. B.

The temperature was low and rain never far away - it was anything but "Queen's Weather", but the weather was the only discordant on Tuesday, June 2nd.



A. Taylor

Halford's celebrations included a Service in the Church at 10am choice foods & drinks free for everyone, fireworks at night, Bibles, Coronation Books and



H. B. B. B.

mugs for the small his-
presenting
of British
from medieval



children and a
torical Pageant
facile
life
times up

to the present day - Queen Elizabeth I on a charger with a groom and three heralds rode at the head of the procession. A



H. B. B. B.

May Queen and Maypole surrounded by children Robin Hood and his merry men. A hay-



cart full of haymakers as a reminder of the time when the men of Halford the ford ed in territory



returned rejoicing with their spoils. A band of gypsies peddling their wares lent colour to the scene. Then followed a



galaxy of Victorians The Queen her-
self, in a little
pony carriage,
with Prince Edward & her faithful servant

John Brown, two Ladies in Waiting, a galaxy of ladies and their children and a bride in a dress worn in 1879.



After the Victorians came a contingent of sportsmen and representatives of Scotland, Ireland and Wales. A mobile Britannia bined Bands of Brailles brought up the rear of the Procession.



Wales. A and the com- Halford and up the rear Those who took

part in the Pageant were:

Queen Elizabeth I: Miss Ann Peachey
Groom: John Cooke
Martin English
Taylor and
Rainbow. May
Carol Webb. Maypole Dancers: Wendy Adams,
Marjorie Long, Kathleen Long, Carol Webb jr.
Ivor Webb, Christine Horne, Denise Harpham,



Heralds:
Aubrey
Robert
Queen:

Valerie Wynn, Muriel Taylor
Robin Hood and his Merry
Men: Brian Harrison.
Andrew Vinter, Peter Parr.
Derek Russell, John Jones.
Haycart: Leonard Horne
M^{rs} C. Webb, M^{rs} Gardner.



Miss Southam, M^{rs} W. Easton jr., Walter Trentham
and David Long. Gypsies: M^{rs} Long and John
M^{rs} Jeff. Webb, M^{rs} R. Hancock and Miss K. Buckland
Queen Victoria: M^{rs} Nightingale; Ladies-in-Waiting:
M^{rs} B. Webb jr., Miss Cooke. John Brown: Robert
Rainbow snr., Victorian Group: M^{rs} W. Taylor jr.
Miss Brooks, M^{rs} G. Webb, Miss M. Webb, M^{rs} Jo. Webb and
Pamela, M^{rs} Hiron Susan, M^{rs} J. Cooke, the Misses J. & E.
Taylor, Thea Vinter, Gillian Webb and Edward W. Brown
1879 Bride and Bridesmaids: Deidre English, Gillian
Rainbow and Elizabeth Crawford. Britannia:
Dorothy Sykes. National Dress: Nicholas Vinter,
Sheila Smith, Shirley Russell & Betty Taylor &
Elma Burnie. Flower Girl: Christine Farmer
Scout Cub: David Webb Barrow Boy: Michael Ashley

Taking Possession of a new Council House.

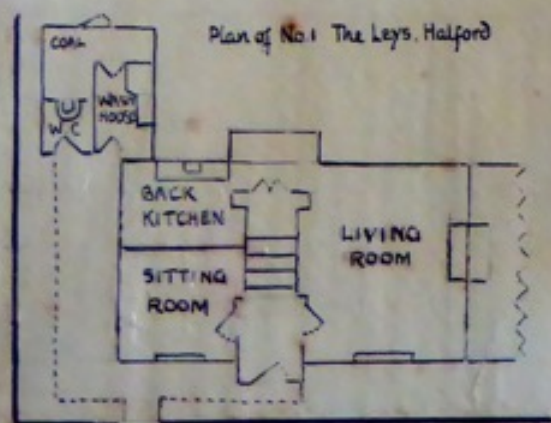
by Mr Kenneth Webb.

In 195 we watched the Architect and his men plotting the position of our new Council Houses - We had all read about them in our weekly newspapers and one of our village boys worked in the architect's drawing office and gave us news of the plans. One day a lorry came to the field and a workman's hut was unloaded and put up just inside the gate. From then onwards for several months a continual stream of lorries brought their loads of materials and the drains and foundations were laid - The roads appeared as rough muddy tracks - In a few weeks the skeleton of the first

block appeared. Everyone was very curious to know what the various rooms were to be.

My husband and I had put our names on the R.D.C.'s housing list and hoped that we should be fortunate enough to be allocated a house - At last the names were announced and we were among them. From then on we, and the children, talked of little else than of planning our garden and furnishing. I went up to measure the windows for curtains and found an elderly painter who initiated me in the intricacies of the Cook and heat range in the living room. I had never used one of these modern fireplaces before and was rather worried about its management.

When at last my husband came home with the key, I wondered how I would like having near neighbours as I had always been accustomed to living in a house quite apart from any others - We worked for hours scrubbing, polishing floors and cleaning windows and at last were able to hang up our new curtains. The great day for moving in

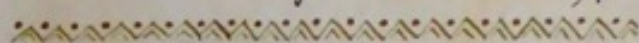


arrived - several of the other houses were already occupied and smoke coming from their chimneys and at night lighted windows shone out across what had been just a field - Willing friends and neighbours gave us a helping hand and soon the house was straight and tidy -

It seemed strange at first to have such a big living room for we had a very small one in our last cottage - We christened it "The Barn" for it seemed so big and cold until we became used to it - but what a joy it was to be able to switch on a light whenever we needed it - no lamps and stores to be filled and trimmed - but we found we had not said "Good-bye" for ever to lamps and candles as there were several breakdowns in electricity at that time - To have a constant supply of hot water in the house was another of our delights, and to know that whenever we wished we could luxuriate in a bath and bathroom without first having fill a copper, wait for the water to heat up and then bathe

in the kitchen.

There seemed to be weird noises at first in the new house - the solution was that whenever anyone turned a tap on or off in any house it made a loud banging sound down all the water pipes - we're now settled in and also hear friendly sounds - other people opening and shutting their doors - men going off to work - the children running happily to school - various tradesmen making their daily rounds - No longer does the hooting of an owl seem an eerie it just reminds us that in spite of our "modern" surrounding we are still Countryfolk.



Election Day 1955 by Mrs. I. Harpham

Rotten eggs and bad tomatoes are out of fashion these days - the old rough & tumble of elections of 100 yrs ago has ceased. To-day in Halford the only evidence to be seen is discreet little labels - no huge posters - most of them say "Vote for Profumo". We have

about 190 voters on our list and so the polling booth at the School receives its visitors at infrequent intervals. Our "Returning Officer" Mr Nighuigale lives in the village and so does our Special Constable, Mr Warr - Even his policeman's uniform could not camouflage him -

I was very excited over the Election but did not meet many people who seemed as enthusiastic as myself. After 9 p.m. everything seemed back to normal in Halford but with the knowledge that the Government was decided and no one yet knew the result I could not go to bed, so I settled down, with my supper, in front of the television and waited - I waited and watched until 4 a.m. next morning busily taking down the results and listening to the speeches and interviews -

When I went out into the village that day I found that people were very talkative!

On Friday evening quite a crowd gathered to see Mr Profumo and his wife Valerie Hobson go through the village on his "victory drive". People shook hands and collected their autographs - I then realised that Halford people

were not really apathetic but went quietly to the booths and voted without all the hustle and bustle and noise of the towns



Mr F. S. Potter

Mr Potter lived with his sister at the house now occupied by Mrs Bainbridge. Some of the older residents still call it "Potter's Corner." He was

born at Larkstoke in 1834 - He became a sculptor of note and won the Royal Academy's Gold Medal in 1863. Owing to ill health he gave up working in London and came to live at Halford - Mr Potter then turned his attention to writing. Many of his books (mainly for children) were published between 1870 and 1900. In his latter years he wrote histories of both Halford and Ilmington. He died in 1915.

Field Names from 17th Century Terriers

The parish was divided into Quarters:
Fosse Hill ~ Anpittayes - Slapnell - Mornehill

Field names:- Bryer Furlong, Hogthorn.

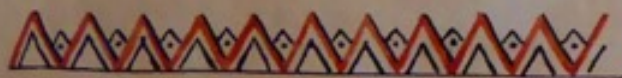
Pillerton Hill ~ Fulredy Hedge, Hurry Comb.

Long Ballands, Banbury Hedge ~ Park Hill.

Idlicote Way, Red Cliff, Roses Hook ~

Hawthorn Hook, Down Meadow Hill, Wag-

thorn Bridge



Ecclesiastical Terriers

Ecclesiastical Terriers of the Glebe
land at Halford were made in 1585 and
1616.

In 1585 M^r William Thornehill was parson
Nicholas Edwardes was curate and others
who signed the terrier were: William Roose,
Thomas Roose, Richard Butler, Richard
Smithe, William Smithe, Thomas Ashworthe
and Robert Halford.

The 1616 Terrier describes the Parson's House
and a special privilege:-

Housuige: Inprimis the Parsonage House
beinge Eight Bayes, with a garden & orchard on
the north side of ye House, one barne att the
East end of the house beinge foure bays, the
stable two bayes, the barley & pease barne &
Carthouse Eight bayes, one dovecote and
a Rickyard.

The parson also enjoyeth all tythes of what
name or nature soever they be arysinge or
being with in the lordship of Halford, with
a small parsell of tylthe hay arysing out of
Noball meadow in the County of Worcester.

Signed by William Thornehill the Rector their

Robert Halford

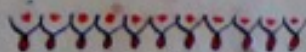
Richard Aston

Walter Son(th)ern side(man)

Richard Fradon

sideman their

From Sir Simon Archer's MSS.



Halford. The Chancel of the Church hath bin buylde frō the ground wth in these two years 1641.

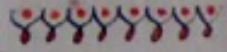
A Document written in 1302.

Carta in custodia Halford de Halford 1641
Oib. Christi fidelib. Ricus Stokes de Halford
Saltm in Dno. Noveritis me concessisse & Johi
de Fosse de Halford Totu. jus meū & quod habui
& in undecim acris et dimid. terre quas idē
Johes habet de dono et feoffamento Thome patris
mei &c. Hūc testibus Robto de Halford, Wille
de Marecall de sādē, Ricō ad Castra de eadē.
Wille. de Veyn de eadem, Ricō Marescall de eadē.
Johē dicto dñō. de Elydone, Thoma Francis,
Ricō de Middleton, Petro de Weston et Phō. de
Erdewyke. Dat. apud Halford die Sabi p̄x
ante festu. pasch. An^o Regni Regis Edwardi
filii Regis Henrici Tricesimo.

Fellowe's Historical Sketch of King Charles I :

In the list of Royalists who compounded for their
Estates with Parliament (1640-5): Halford, William of Halford, Warks, Gent.

From Burke's Landed Gentry - 1833



Halford - Richard Esq^r. of Puddock House -

The Halfords of Kent derive either from the son or brother
of Sir Richard Halford the 1st Baronet of Wistow; but owing
to the loss of some family documents at the time of the
Revolution, the precise fact cannot now be ascertained.
The house of Halford, one of great antiquity, was origi-
nally seated in Warwickshire at a place called Halford,
where one branch of the family continued to live until a
century and a half ago. Dugdale in his history of that
county mentions a Robert de Halford of Halford, who held
half a Knight's fee under the Earl of Warwick in the
time of Henry III. The senior branch of the Halfords of
Wistow maintained for several generations a leading
position in the County of Leicester - until the death of
Sir Charles Halford in 1780 when Wistow passed under his
will to his widow, who bequeathed the estate to
her nephew who assuming the surname
of Halford was subsequently created a
Baronet and is the present Sir Henry Halford.

Arms: Argent, a greyhound passant sable on a chief azure:
three fleur de lis or. Crest: Demi greyhound sable, collared, or



The Rev. Anthony Apperley

The Rev. Anthony Apperley lived at Halford for over 50 years of the 18th and was buried in the Church. He outlived his wife by 15 yrs. and died at the age of 88. 'Nimrod' was his great-nephew and in his book 'My Life and Times' gives an account of him. Mr Apperley was Rector of Tredington and Curate of Halford, he was comfortably off but not rich. He was so greatly esteemed by his servants that at the time of his death, Sarah, his housekeeper had been with him 52 years, John Canning for 48 and a housemaid for 20.

John Canning was trusted to manage the household after Mr Apperley's death. These words were his instructions "Do not get me into debt John, but keep a good house and be sure to remember the poor." John obeyed.

In those days gentlemen dined at 4 and had supper at 9. After supper there was a nightly ritual - John walked in with an old greatcoat and nightcap - whipped

off his master's wig (orthodox with curls) and substituted the nightcap and then giving his master the signal to stand up, exchanged his good coat for an old one. This process over



a white pipe with a waxed mouthpiece was set beside him together with a tumbler of home brewed ale and a glass of rum and water - then 'Nimrod' says "His Reverence went sober, but no doubt comfortable, to his bed.

The Reverend Anthony Apperley died in 1799.

Extracts from

The Will of Stephen Halforde 1587

In the name of God Amen in the yeare of our Lord God a thousand five hundred fourscore and seaven the sixth day of I Stephen Halforde of Armscott in the Parish of Tredington in the Diocese of Worcester being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance thanks be unto God therefore do ordeine constitute & make this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme following First I bequeathe my soul into the hands of Jesus Christ my onlie Saviour and Redeemer by whose merit and bloodshedding I hope to be sared and my bodie I comit to the earth to be buried within the Church of Tredington towards the reparacion of which Church I give and bequeathe six shillings and eightpence.

I do give and bequeathe to the Parish Church of Halforde in the County of Warwick thirteene shillings and fourpence.

I do give and bequeathe unto Alice Halforde my daughter twenty pounds of lawfull money of England one woll bed with the furniture two platters two pottingers two saucers and one candle-stick
[Anne and Grace had like bequests]

I give and bequeathe unto Robert Halforde my sonne twenty pounds of lawfull English money

I give and bequeathe unto Thomas Halforde my sonne twenty pounds of lawfull English money

I give and bequeathe unto William Halforde my sonne twenty pounds of lawfull English money

I give and bequeathe unto Phillipp Halforde my sonne twenty pounds of lawfull English money

I do give and bequeathe unto John Halforde my eldest sonne all my horeles gravile mangers and packe horse plante beast laiers housing in stalls sheepe park or horeles of wood standing so at the Dove house and next the orchard with the wood lying upon the same horel and the wood lyenge upon the ground at the north end of the same horell.

I give unto the same John Halforde two iron bound cartes the second best and the worst two dung cribbes two pairs of draughtes two plows two shares two coulters.....

I give unto the said John Halforde two kyne to the value at the delivery of them thirteene shillings and fourpence. twenty sheep to the value of four poundes one tree for board fourteen foote of length two new pairs of raw hides one brewing lead one malt mill one iron crowe

Stephen Halford's Will continued:

the table board in the hall and frame all benches
formis and stools in the hall belonging to the same
table the best cupboard the chest at the foot of my
bed

I do give and bequeath unto Stephen Halford
my sonne four paire of couples and timber
necessary for building of foure paires of houseinge
to be taken off the timber now felled about my
house the best iron bound cart one wyer(?) tree
lyenge under the hovell next to the comyard and
as many bordes as will floor the same the old
floor which was out of my hall at Armscott to
floore the chamber at house in Halforde

I do will that Enid my wief shall have one
fetherbed with the furniture and as much
householde stuffe as she brought with her
one fetherbed with the furniture before the goods
be divided between them

I give unto Enid my wief my house and
shoppe called Courtyarde in the County of Wor-
cester with one yarde of lande thereto belonging
with all pastures meadows comons profite and

commodities within the towne and field of Armscott

My will is that the said John Halford my sonne shall
have and enjoy to his own benefit and behoof and to his
hires for ever the tenement wherein I now dwell before
to Enid my wief bequeathed for one and twenty yeeres
except a third parte of the said tenement aforesaid
belonging for a dowry unto the said Enid during her
natural life

Witnesses to this my last Will and Testament

Richard Baker of Halforde Robert Lyne(?)

Wolster Halford of Armscott and Henry Dodson
of Newbold-on-Stour

Extracts from the Will of Richard Webb 1756.

In the name of God amen I Richard Webb of
Halford in the County of Warwick Yeoman tho'
weak in body but by the Blessing of Almighty God
of a sound and perfect understanding and memory
and calling to mind the uncertainty of this life do

give and bequeathe unto my wife Elizabeth Webb all that House and Homestall now in possession of one Thomas Garner and also one half yard of arable meadow and pasture ground belonging to the said house during ye term of her natural life and after the decease of my said wife ... unto my brother Edward Webb his heirs and assigns for ever I give and bequeathe to my said wife Elizabeth half my household goods and two hundred pounds of lawful money of Gr. Brittain The two hundred pounds to be paid out of the stock and crop of the Executors hereafter mentioned I give to my brother Nicholas Webb my new dung cart and the half part of my household goods and chattels and personal estate I do hereby make my said brother Edward Webb and my said wife Elizabeth Webb executor and executrix of this my last Will and Testament

The mark of Richard Webb (X)

Witnesses Thomas Marshall Mark Marshall
Thomas Finch Proved in 1766

The decline of the Halford Family

Stephen Halford's Will of 1587 mentions a house at Halford which he left to his son Stephen. This Stephen was a first cousin of the Robert Halford who refused a knight-hood at the Coronation of King Charles I and of whom an entry in Latin is made in the Parish Register "Robert Halford farmer of this town ran out his course on Sunday 6th June during the 11th hour in the afternoon and his funeral was performed on the following day. He lies on the south side of the Church. Aged 77. 1641"

Names such as Robert and Thomas are so often repeated in the family that it is sometimes hard to disentangle them, but it would seem to be the Thomas who was grandson of Robert's cousin Robert who brought financial disaster to one branch of the family who lived eventually in a little house in Halford described thus: "Hall, parlour, cellars, the little room over the cellars, the chamber over the parlour, the garret over the parlour over the chamber and $\frac{1}{2}$ enclosed garden". Thomas was for a time High Constable of Knighton. He was once presented for erecting a dovecote but the case was quashed. In 1675 he married Dorothy Townsend daughter of Edward Townsend of Alveston and soon became

entangled by debts mainly to his father-in-law. He must have owned much property in Halford which he gradually lost, for in all, four messuages, stabling, barns, two closes and fifty acres of land, found their way into the hands of the Townsends and Masons - After Thomas' death it seems that all that remained in the family's possession were the Malt House and the house close by, the field just beyond the Folly and three fields measuring $14\frac{1}{2}$ acres on the Fosse Way. In the 16th the house (once a butcher's shop) next door to the Malt House was sold and the "Folly Piece" changed hands in about 1850. The Malt House and the three fields are still in the possession of a descendant of the Halford family.

An earlier factor was that after the Civil War William was one of the Royalists who "compounded for their Estate with Parliament"



The parish of Halford covers 908 acres. In old maps and papers the village is referred to as Oldiford, Alford + Hawford. A stream called Holigo runs through the village

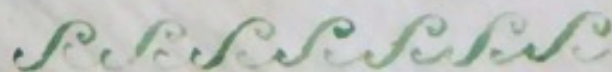
Postscript

And so ends this Scrapbook of Halford past and present - What the future holds for us we do not know -

We do know that some more Council Houses are to be built up the Blithe Road and that our population will rise. For centuries it stayed at about 200, to-day we are nearly 300.

We hope that this book will be succeeded by another for we know that knowledge of the past enriches the present and that the wit of past generations is of absorbing interest and history not just dry dead bones.

The villages of south west Warwickshire are isolated enough to each have an individuality and many a townsman has rubbed his eyes in wonder at the peculiarities of the countryman who has learned so much from nature



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Ada Trentham

Herbert Mills

Beatrice Webb

William Aston

Mildred Rainbow

Annie Cox

Beatrice Webb

Phyllis Chapman

Phyllis Chapman

Susan Webb

Irene Harpham

Jane Robinson

The Editor

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