

Fairford Flyer

Extra No 45

October 2022

FAIRFORD HISTORY



SOCIETY

The next FHS meeting is on October 20 when your Chairman Chris Hobson will give a presentation on **Grand Designs: Church Monuments in Gloucestershire through the ages**. From rotting cadavers sculptured in stone to effigies in the odd 'contemplation' and 'toothache' poses these monuments reveal history in art form and Gloucestershire has some of the most impressive funerary monuments in the country.

Thank you to all who renewed their £5 membership. Membership renewal was due in September. An easy way to pay is either at the meeting or by bank transfer (Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-92-06 A/C Fairford History Society No 02170130).

FHS Meetings 2022

All meetings are at 7.30 pm in the Farmor Room, Fairford Community Centre except for the February meeting which is at 10 am during half term

November 17: Cotswold sheep and their history by Steve Parkes of the Cotswold Sheep Society

No meeting held in December

The Postcards of T Musto of Bibury: a presentation by Edwin Cuss at the FHS September Meeting

Thomas (Tom) Musto was born in 1887 at Badminton; in 1891 and 1901 he is recorded living with his grandparents in Eastleach Turville and in 1911 living with his brother at Arlington Row, Tom as a cycle agent and his brother Charles as a postman. Tom possibly had a shop or workshop somewhere in the village from where he sold his postcards. Photography was perhaps a hobby with Tom and it appears he cycled round the local villages taking pictures. In the photographs shown (1907-1908) there is quite often a bicycle to be seen propped up on the kerb or against a nearby wall. Picturesque village views were very popular and there were many taken in the local villages, all within cycling distance: Ablington, Aldsworth, Barnsley, Bibury, Coln Rogers, Coln St Alwyns, Coln St Dennis, Eastleach Turville, Hatherop, Poulton, Quenington, Southrop and Winson. Several of the pictures were taken of groups especially in Bibury e.g. Sunday School outings and other events. These would have been profitable as he could sell a postcard to each member of the group. He was not given to annotating his photographs and it is shame that some lovely portraits of individuals are not named. For some of the village pictures Edwin and Syd had to drive round the villages to find the right view. Luckily Cotswold village views have not changed a great deal in over 100 years. In 1908 Tom attended Fairford Carnival and there seems to have been a collaborative effort from local photographers to take a picture of each float. Tom's spot was by the Park Gates looking down Park Street.

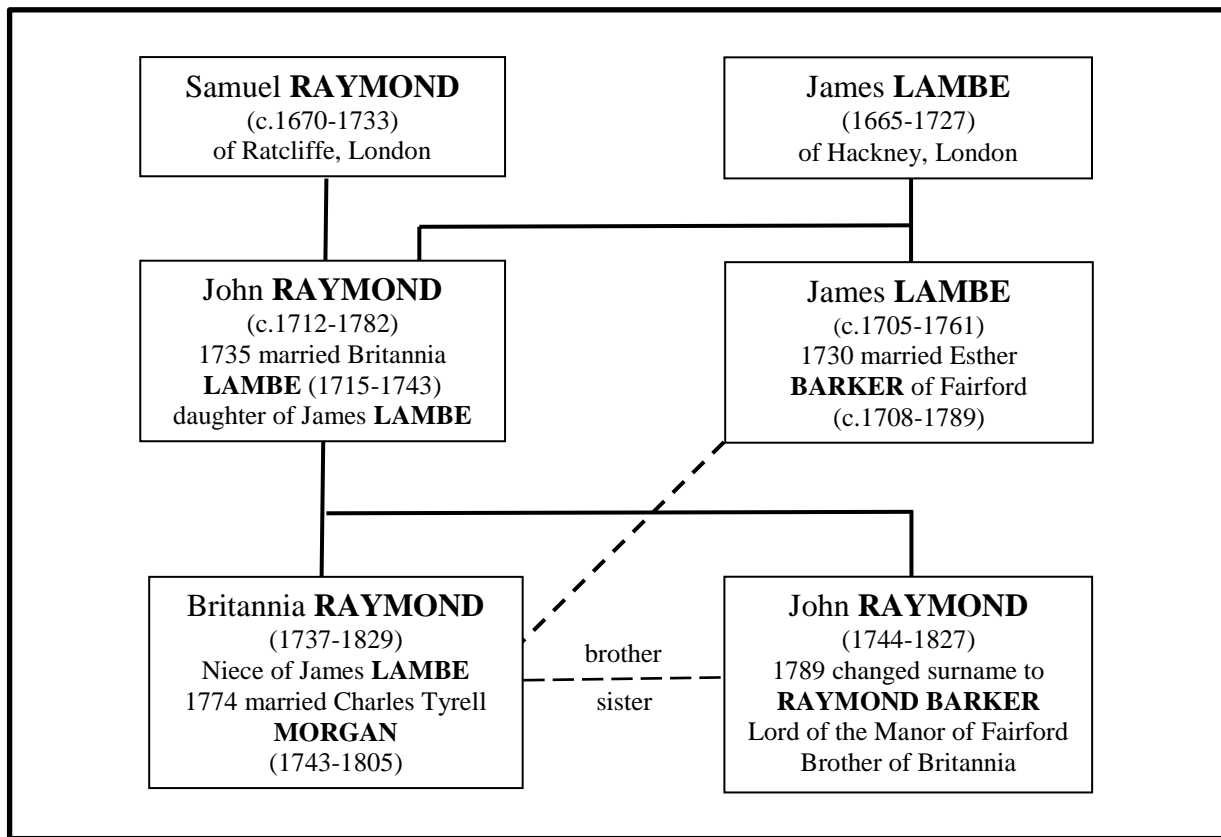


On 3 May 1911 Tom emigrated to Canada on the ship 'Royal Edward' with Quebec as its destination. He is listed on the passenger manifest as a farm labourer (which he had been when living with his grandparents in Eastleach Turville) as there was probably a great need for farm labourers in Canada at this time. His brother Charles emigrated to Canada in 1913, married in Vancouver in 1916 and died in Burnaby, British Columbia in 1973. Thomas proved more of a problem to trace but according to records he enlisted into 9 Field Ambulance of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in December 1915. Although he is listed as a theological student, he also stated his birthplace was Badminton and next of kin C Maisey who was his stepfather. He died in Edmonton, Alberta in 1951.

RULE BRITANNIA!

This short essay is about the long and eventful life of Britannia Raymond who was intimately connected to four of the most prominent families of Fairford in the 18th and 19th centuries: the Raymonds, the Barkers, the Lambes and the Morgans.

The lineage of Britannia Raymond and her antecedents is slightly confusing not least because there were two Britannia Raymonds and two James Lambes! Hopefully the schematic below will help to make the relationships a little clearer.



Britannia Raymond was baptised at St Anne's church in Limehouse, London on 19 December 1737. At that time the Raymonds lived in Ratcliffe between Limehouse and Shadwell but later moved to the more fashionable Hackney. Britannia was the daughter of John Raymond (1712-1782) and his first wife Britannia (1715-1743) who was the daughter of James and Elizabeth Lambe, also of Hackney. The marriage of John and Britannia in 1735 was announced in the Press mentioning that she was "a beautiful young lady with a fortune of £10,000". Her father James Lambe (1665-1727) was a wealthy haberdasher of Hackney and John Raymond was a brewer and a Member of Parliament for Weymouth from 1741 to 1747. After John's wife Britannia died in 1743 he then married her sister Mary Lambe who outlived John by 12 years. Unfortunately John Raymond became bankrupt in later life and in his will of 1781 he could only leave his wife the sum of £3,000 that had

been a legacy left to her by a relative. The Lambe and Raymond families must have known each other for many years as they were both members of the small Presbyterian congregation in London and many of them were buried in family vaults in St John's church at Hackney.

In 1730 James Lambe's son, also named James (c.1705-1761) married Esther Barker who, as the last surviving grandchild of Andrew Barker, had inherited the estate and manor of Fairford in 1708 when her father Samuel died. Various newspapers announced that Esther Barker was "a Lady of above £60,000 fortune" which would be the equivalent of more than seven million pound today. As a niece of the younger James Lambe, Britannia Raymond must have visited Fairford from a very young age and probably thought it a very pleasant contrast to the hustle and bustle of London. Esther Lambe was left childless and widowed in 1761 when James died and she chose not to remarry. By this time the Raymonds of Hackney had become very close to Esther Lambe, especially John Raymond's son John (1744-1827) who had been helping Esther to run and improve the estate and her house at Fairford Park for many years. This assistance was much needed as Esther became blind in later life. In her will Esther left her estate to her nephew the younger John Raymond with the condition that he change his surname to Raymond Barker which he did by Royal Licence on 30 May 1789 a few days after Esther's death.

Meanwhile, on 13 September 1774 Britannia Raymond at the age of 36 had married Charles Tyrrell Morgan in St Mary's church at Fairford. A branch of the Morgan family had moved to Fairford from Monmouthshire in the late 16th Century and Charles Tyrrell would become the last surviving male of the seventh and final generation of the Fairford Morgans. His unusual middle name was the maiden name of his grandmother Mary Tyrell, a daughter of Avery Tyrell, gentleman of West Hagbourne. Charles was a barrister, a justice of the peace, a town clerk for Gloucester and a proctor and professor of moral philosophy at Exeter College Oxford.

Charles Tyrrell Morgan died in London and was buried in the churchyard of St Leonard's in Streatham on 2 April 1805. It seems that relations between the Morgans and the Raymond Barkers were very cordial as Charles Tyrrell named John Raymond Barker and his son Charles as trustees for his wife in his will. In the event, Britannia outlived her husband by 24 years and died at the grand old age of 91 on 22 June 1829 having lived during the reigns of King George II, III and IV. In her later year she divided her time between Fairford and her town house in Great Ormond Street, London, living very comfortably from her inherited income and bequests from various relatives. Britannia wrote her will on 23 January 1823 appointing her brother John Raymond Barker and his son Charles as her executors. She failed to update her will after her brother died in 1827 so the execution of the will was left solely to Charles. Britannia left most of her money to her brother John's children, her nephews and nieces, and to other relatives. She also left £100 to Gloucester Infirmary and £50 for the poor of Fairford "to be distributed as my Executors think best". The extensive legacy that she had bequeathed to her brother John Raymond Barker would have devolved to his son John Raymond Raymond Barker. Britannia was buried at St Mary's but there is no marked grave in the churchyard so she may have been buried in the Barker vault within the church.

This article is a much expanded version of an entry in the forthcoming FHS publication 'Fairford Folk: a Fairford Who Was Who' which provides brief biographical information of 100 important, noteworthy or just plain interesting men and women who have played a part in Fairford's history from the 11th to the mid-20th Century. The entries in this ready reference publication includes artists, authors, clergymen, doctors, land owners, lawyers, lords of the manor, soldiers, teachers, tradesmen and others.

Newspaper Cuttings

DUST – During the few days of sunshine vouchsafed to us this summer as yet, walking in the streets here has been a minor kind of martyrdom, owing to the great quantity of dust blown about. Since the inhabitants have been able to purchase a fire engine, which has happily not been needed, it would be showing the right kind of public spirit to provide a water cart for use during the summer months, thus making the streets resemble a miniature Sahara less than at present.
Cirencester Times and Cotswold Advertiser, 5 July 1869

A BIG FISH – An enormous pike was taken in a net, by Messrs H and J Howell and R Burge, from the Thames at Marston, on Friday week. It was 42 inches in length, and weighed 25 lbs. In its stomach was found another pike 24 inches long, partially digested; and during its dying struggles it disgorged another of a pound weight. On Saturday evening, a supper was provided by Mr Ladley at the George Inn, of which the “big fish” formed the principal dish, nearly 20 partook of it, among whom were, of course, the lucky netters. The party spent a social evening and did not separate until midnight.

Cirencester Times and Cotswold Advertiser, 11 May 1868

FREAK OF A FOX – On Tuesday the hounds met at Barrow Elm, and found at the Grove a fox, which ran to Fairford. On arriving there it got on a wall, and from thence into Mr Kingsley’s garden, at a corner of which is a summer house of two stories. Entering this, Reynard proceeded upstairs. By order of Captain Milbourne [Sarah Thomas’s husband] he was locked in, in order that his life might be spared. Huntsmen and hounds then departed, leaving Reynard master of the situation. About five o’clock the order was given for his release, but before this could be effected he jumped through a window, breaking two large squares of glass – an ungrateful return for the shelter he had received.

Gloucestershire Chronicle, 22 January 1870

FIREWORKS – Mr Gyngell the pyrotechnist visited this town on the 11th inst. and treated the inhabitants by an excellent display of fireworks. An exhibition of minute objects by means of the oxyhydrogen microscope, a panorama illustrating the ascent of Mont Blanc, and some very good dissolving views took place in the Crofts Hall, after which Mr Gyngell exhibited and explained the Drummond light. The entertainment was highly instructive and amusing.

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard, 20 February 1869

The oxyhydrogen microscope became better known as a ‘Magic Lantern’ and the Drummond light was in fact ‘limelight’ i.e., a flame being directed on to a cylinder of quicklime, an early form of theatre stage lighting.

...and now for a little bit of journalistic humour

FISHING EXTRAORDINARY – A young Nimrod started quite spruce on a very fine horse for the purpose of having a day’s sport with the Vale of the White Horse pack on Saturday, the 25th. All went well until arriving at Fairford. A wide piece of water had to be crossed, and a thought struck him that fishing would be more amusing, and, seeing a large trout he took the plunge, accompanied by the noble beast, and both disappeared for a short time. He did not succeed in catching the trout, but the water was all alive with soles, (h)heels, and flounders. The horse did not appear to enjoy the sport, but scrambled out on the opposite side to the gentleman, who had to catch his hat and then cross over to secure the animal. He returned home, and did not require any lard to fry the fish, being himself dripping. He was placed under medical treatment, and is recovering from the shock.

Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard 4 March 1871

Petty Sessions, Fairford Monday May 8 before J R Raymond Barker Esq

THE EFFECTS OF DRINKING ‘TEA’

Henry Dixon, a tailor, late in the employ of Mr Lea, of this town, was brought up in custody of P S Mason, charged with being drunk and sleeping on the side of the road near the Park Wall. On being aroused from his slumbers defendant began telling the officer of his skill as the ninth part of a man, and also he had taken too much tea, and that made him drowsy, and so he had mistook the Park Wall for the side of the house at which he was lodging, and that he intended to retire to rest respectably like a gentleman now. This, the officer agreed should be the case, and that on the morrow he should be waited upon and seen to his bedroom, (the police cell), as a gentleman, and he was accordingly placed in durance vile. – Before the worthy magistrates on Monday defendant adopted a different stance and pleaded the weakness of his stomach. As nothing was alleged against him beyond that he was drunk, defendant was let off on payment of the normal fine to wit, 5s and costs. Allowed a week to pay it.

North Wilts Herald 15 May 1871