





















Dick Butler pre 1914



Sophia Tanner, wife
of Thomas 'Buscot' Tanner



John Tanner



Frank & Ada Tanner

Vera

Stella

POST CARD

This Space for communication

The address to be written here

STAMP



HERE


To My dear Brother
with the best of good luck
and hope to see you back
home safe again



3. TEMAN.

BAMPTON





OBITUARIES

FRANK TANNER of Bampton

For many generations prior to the second war, the Tanner family of Weald, Bampton, was one of the mainstays of the morris side of that town. According to his grandson, Thomas Tanner (born around 1770) was a member of the morris team, while his son Charles (1816) was "head morris dancer in his younger years". His son, Charles 'Cocky' Tanner, one of Alfred Williams' chief singers, was first a dancer then ragman for the team for about forty years, until the first war brought about the demise of the Bampton dancing for the first time in recorded history. (He died, aged 77 years old, in 1922). His cousin, Thomas 'Buscot' Tanner, born 1850, was "head

dancer" from the 1880's until the first war. When Clive Carey visited Bampton on Whit Monday, 1913, the team had five members of the family dancing—'Cocky' and his sons Jesse (born 1888) and Percy; and 'Buscot' and his son John (1873). Following the war, 'Buscot's' other sons, Reg ('Scudgel') and Victor ('Buller') maintained the Tanner involvement with the tradition, both dancing well into the 1930's.

The youngest son of 'Buscot' Tanner, Frank ('Perky'), died at his home in Colville Close, Bampton, aged 85, on November 10th, 1980. Having emigrated to Australia prior to the first war, he did not join the morris team with his brothers, although his father had instilled the steps into all his children from an early age. Frank fought with an Australian regiment and was so badly wounded that he was listed among the fatalities. The Red Cross nursed him and he recommenced working on the sheep station. When he returned to England in the early twenties, the team said to him, "come on, we want you to dance". Despite protestations, he danced in the side for several years during the middle part of the decade. In 1926 it was again literally a "Tanner team", with Frank, Reg, Victor and their brother-in-law, Billy Flux, making four of the six dancers. Shortly after this, Frank's wound forced him to give up the morris; although he often had a "shake-up" in civvies on a Whit Monday well into his sixties.

One of his favourite stories concerned the 'Bacca Pipes' jig. This he learned on the bridges down the Weald by dancing over a cross drawn in the dust with a finger—"One Sunday night I was up 'til after twelve o'clock 'cause I had to dance it on the Monday. And me and Buller danced it nearly all the time." Once the side went to dance in Oxford—"worst job as I ever had." Some undergraduates came out and asked them if they could dance over the warden's pipes, and if so they would give ten shillings to the dancers. "I reckon we can," says Frank; so they fetched out some long churchwarden's pipes and he and his brother Buller performed the jig. The students were so impressed that they said it was the best dancing they had ever seen, and gave them the promised money. "They thought that we should break them, but we got close in—heel and toe. Ten shillings was a lot of money in those days. That went in the tin, of course." (Another of the older dancers, Ted Lay, also recalls the incident well.)

With his wife Ada, he contributed much towards the maintenance of the garland tradition which accompanies the other festivities on Whit Monday in Bampton, by giving aid to children in the construction of the garlands. He had a vast store of local knowledge and had broadcasted on country life on Radio Oxford. He is survived by his widow, two daughters and many grand and great-grandchildren; and as the last dancer of a long line of a venerable dancing family, his passing is of historic importance to all devotees of the morris.

Keith Chandler

































































The wedding of Ada Butler to and Frank Tanner. Ada was the mother of Vera Elward who is the mother of Janet Newman. Back row L-R:- Sophia Tanner, Annie Edginton mother of the bride and the bride's father Bill, Hester Poole and her daughter Cecily, behind them is Dick Cotton the husband of Mabel Tanner, Mr Hunt, Billy Flux, Dick Butler and his wife Violet. Seated, L-R:- Mabel Tanner, Frank Tanner, Ada Butler, Lizzie Tanner (may be Lizzie Flux at this date.) Circa 1921.

Buscot Tanner in Queen Street. Buscot was Vera Elward's (nee Tanner) paternal grandfather and great grandfather of Janet Newman (née Elward)

The wedding of Billie and Lizzie Flux. Back row L-R:- Mr Flux, father of the groom, child of Tom Hunt and his wife, Billy Flux, Tom Hunt (behind) cousin of the bride, Lizzie Tanner, ??, Thomas Tanner (with pipe) father of the bride, Sophia Tanner mother of the bride. Seated, Ralph Tanner brother of the bride, Cecily Poole, Hester Poole, seated at the front the bridesmaids are Ethel Tanner and Mabel Tanner and young boy ??

Nell Tanner, married Ted Phipps and sister of Albert Tanner. Mother of Lou Woodley (Bing Woodley's grandmother).

John Tanner in World war 1 uniform. Son of Buscot and Sophia Tanner. Served in the Ox and Bucks Light Infantry and survived WW1. Brother of Frank and he worked on the railways in Birmingham after the war.

Bob Woodley (named on Bampton War Memorial) in WW1 uniform. Brother of Ada Tanner. Arnold Woodley's uncle.

Mabel and Ethel Tanner, daughters of Thomas Tanner and sisters of Frank Tanner who was the father of Vera Tanner who became Mrs Vera Elward mother of Janet Newman née Elward

Bill Butler in uniform. Father of Ada Tanner the mother of Vera Elward. He was the father of Dick Butler and second husband of Annie Edginton, who later became Annie Woodley and later Annie Butler.

Albert Tanner married Ivy Randell the sister of Madge Randell who lived across the main road from Weald Manor.

Lizzie Tanner in service in London originally then the vicarage at Kencott followed the Mill at Alvescot down Mill Lane passed the church.

Tanner family 1930s Frank, Ada, Vera (later Mrs Elward) and Stella.

Vera Tanner (later to become Mrs Elward) 1930

The 2nd wedding of Ethel Tanner. L-R Frank Tanner, bridegroom's mother Mrs Hewer, Stella Tanner (became Mrs Whitlock), Bill Hewer, Ethel Williams (nee Tanner), her daughter Joy Williams, Reg Tanner (Mary and Tommy Tanner's father), Sophia Tanner (nee Hunt). Circa 1941

Vera Elward (née Tanner) and daughter Jean 1944.

Ada Tanner on the right and daughter Stella (smoking)

Ada and Frank Tanner.

L-R: Bobby Wells, Ada Tanner Mrs Kath Tanner (mother of Mary and Tommy), Rose Wells, Ann Shergold

Bill Butler, 1930s father of Ada

Janet Elward in a white blouse on the front row and Pat Rose on her left; on the Isle of Wight in the 1960s. They were camping with the Witney Girl Guides.

Pyramid and club swinging group 1960s.

Jean Elward and Rosemary Ham 1950s.

Children staying with the Elwards 1950s.

London children staying with the Elwards 1950s.

Annabelle Newman, daughter of Janet and Graham, and Father Christmas. 1980. Somewhere at the turn of the millennium, it was decided that children could no longer sit on Father Christmas' knee. Changing times.

Janet Newman née Butler, June 1949 aged 2. Janet's sister is Jean and her parents are Vera and David Elward

Vera and Dave Elward. Dave Elward in uniform. Vera worked in the school in Bampton until well after retirement age and left to look after David.

Dave Elward, husband of Vera (Tanner)