

01-992-5021

166 St. Dunstan's Ave.,

London, W3 6QL

*Sidcup*

18th June 1971

My Dear Cousins Alice and Harry,

I am sorry I have not written sooner as I am sure you are wondering what my husband and I found out. I have been very busy since we came back from our little jaunt to Dampton. Quite honestly, I have been overfaced with all the information I gleaned from the parish registers and it is taking a great deal of sorting out. I shall be working on it for weeks (perhaps even months). Now I have got more names of people who the female spurrets married I shall have to go again to see what happened to them when they changed their names. It all gets very complicated. The reason it is so confusing is that Thomas and Richard, the two sons of Susanna (born about 1780) at Woodstock, were having children at the same time as my great grandfather Richard (~~xxx~~ your grandfather) and Emma and some of the baptisms are in the same month. Most of the children of Richard and Jane died, one little girl Jane when she was 6; how tragic for the mother. Walter Richard (as far as I can trace now) their surviving son must have been a bit of a rake. When he was 20 there was a shotgun wedding to a girl of 25, Jane Hoare, and there were 6 witnesses at the wedding, mainly Hoares :

Dampton is a lovely little town and it was lovely weather when we were there for those two days. I can recommend the "Horseshoe" for a good meal with home cooking. Mine host had an ordnance survey map dated 1875 and that was helpful, although it just stopped short of Weald St. which we wanted. We had a walk round there, and took two pictures of cottages and wondered in which one Richard

and Emma lived with all their children.  
We also had a drink at the "Elephant and Castle" and I  
imagined old Thomas, the father of us all, warming  
his tootsies in front of a roaring fire in the open  
fireplace (which has been spoiled incidentally)  
and telling all the children what to do.;

We went to see Mr. & Mrs. Smith in their nice  
little bungalow and Mr. Smith is the image of my  
father, particularly round the eyes. Of course,  
they were first cousins so it is not surprising.  
They made us very welcome and I enjoyed my visit  
to them enormously.

Mrs. Spurrett at Bampton lives at Bay Tree  
Cottage and she says no more address is necessary  
as her son Ernest is the town postman. The cottage  
is in Church View (unless the name of the road changes  
before it gets to the church) at a corner of the first  
turning on the right going towards the church and opposite  
a small cottage which is licensed to sell liquor. It  
has been extensively modernised and Mrs. Spurrett  
keeps it beautifully.

We stayed at Woodstock on Wed. night (travelling  
on Wed. after the office) and Thursday night and on  
Friday went to Bladon (where Churchill is buried)  
On the offchance, I made an appointment to search  
the registers there (and theirs go back to 1500 and  
odd) but without success. We could not find  
a marriage of Richard and Susanna, nor a birthdate  
of the two sons Richard and Thomas. around 1803 and 4.  
I wish they didn't call all their children Dick and Tom!  
We only need the Harry. Come to think of it, we've  
got that too, haven't we ?

I have now made an appointment to search the records of ~~St. Martin's~~ <sup>Mary Magdalene</sup> Woodstock on the 20th June (if it is confirmed), but the Vicar's wife said that the records do not go back very far as the clergy were not compelled to keep records. She was wrong ~~they're~~; they were supposed to do so, but some of them were a bit pig-headed about it. It would be nice to find Richard and Susanna wouldn't it ?

Some of the names in the Bampton records keep recurring and go back to the early 1700's. Fox, Townsend, Orpwood, Clack, Beckinsale, Cripps (thousands of these). And they all intermarried. I expect if one could do so, one could find that ~~all~~ <sup>some</sup> the original sojourners of Bampton have left descendants who still live there. Bampton used to be in a trackless waste - there were no roads and so they used to ring the church bells (curfew) until quite recently to guide people home. It is quite flat there, so there were no hills to guide one. as markers. Is your husband like Mr. Smith at Bampton? If so it is interesting to think that for generations back people looked like my father, Mr. Smith and your husband, and all the rest of the Spurrett clan. I expect a lot of people left in the 1800's because of the lack of work - the village does not seem to have increased very much in size until quite recently.

I wrote to an agent in Witney asking the price of a cottage in Burford which we saw empty. It was £4,500 - isn't that dear ? ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Perhaps Burford is an expensive place for houses as it is on the main road from Witney.

Well I must be off. I hope you find what I  
have written about interesting. If there is  
anything at all you would like to know, please  
get in touch.

Lots of love,

Cousin Shefla and Syd Emm

X X X

01992-5021

166 St. Dunstan's Ave.,  
London W3 6QL  
20th July 1971

Dear Mr. Hughes Owens,

Thank you very much indeed for your most helpful letter; it is very gratifying that people are so interested and people of like interests seem very willing to help each other. I think the thrill of the chase and the detective fever eats into one. Mine is a hobby and I really do not have enough time to devote to it - I can only do it during my lunch hour at the office. It can become an all consuming passion I should think.

I hope the enclosed helps you in your local history; I am sure it is the other way round though !

I am on the mailing list of an estate agent in Witney and by a strange coincidence I had a circular from them about a house for sale in Witney and the vendor was one A.L. Spurrett. Do you know if this is Mrs. Spurrett's son (of Bay Tree cottage) ? I know she has two sons, Ernest and another.

It is really by chance that I came to do my family tree, although I always had a desire to do so. We were visiting Blenheim last year during a short holiday and while touring came across Bampton. I bought an old plate from Mr. Hill's shop and asked if he knew of anyone by the name of Spurrett and of course he put me in touch with Mrs. Spurrett. It was a strange sensation meeting someone of the same name as myself in such a different place from the North West where the name is very odd. She showed me a picture of your pupil Ann when young and I was absolutely amazed at the likeness to my cousin Shirley

(who is about the same age), even to the way of throwing her head back. This is a family trait; my Uncle Frank does it too. I knew we were related as soon as I saw this likeness and this set me off on the hunt. I traced it back to 1781 very quickly. I am assuming that Richard is the surveyor of roads mentioned in the letters from Oxfordshire County Council (of course this was before the Local Government Act). It was very kind of them to search like that, wasn't it?

Mrs. Spurrett has ferretted out more relatives and she put me in touch with a Mrs. Smith of Sidcup in Kent whose husband is first cousin to my father. Imagine my surprise when I should receive from Kent two photographs of my Great Aunt Louisa Ann (who looks as if she had a great sense of humour) taken at St. Ann's on Sea, Lancs. where she retired. Mrs. Smith is my most satisfactory correspondent, even though she is over 70. She sits down with my letter in front of her and answers each question, but unfortunately she does not know very much as she lived in Fulham before moving to Sidcup in Kent just before the war.

Louisa Ann moved to Rochdale about 1880 and I am going to write to St. Alban's C of E school which is still in existence to ask if they have a record of her. I say St. Albans because my grandmother was a great church goer. It was a long way and up a hill to St. John's in Dukinfield where they lived and they built a small mission on Thame Valley. I believe my grandmother suggested the name "St. Alban's" (which was adopted) and I am wondering if this is too nebulous a connection for thinking that St. Alban's is the school at which my great aunt taught?

She had to leave teaching, of course, when she married Joseph Henry Martin and they had one son Christopher Wallwork who went to University, but unfortunately he died when he was 21. Joseph Henry and my Aunt Louisa Ann used to take public houses which were run down, (buy them, I mean), install a pianist and sell at a profit. when they were making money. I don't know who ~~was~~ was the brains behind this lucrative business, but I have a feeling it must have been L.A. J.H. drank himself to death sampling too freely of his own wares when he was about 40. I have a picture of the "Golden Ball" Spotland Rd. (which is still in existence but has been 'mucked about with') taken in the 1890's and a really up-to-date public house it looks, with swivel windows which must have been new in those days. Joseph Henry is standing outside looking very pleased with himself - he looks as if he may have been a bit of a braggart and L.A. is looking on amusedly. I own the black grosgrain apron which is in the photograph. She left £14,000 about 1930 and the legacy left to my father was enough to buy him a house and set him up.

The family tree is a very poor one. My daughter is good at this sort of thing and a better one is much overdue. If you are interested I will send one along to you when we have (I won't say completed) it.

Once again, thank you very much for the trouble you took over your most interesting letter.

It is strange how families disperse but a strange coincidence is that Mrs. Spurrett of Bay Tree Cottage was born in Acton, where we now live, (my husband's Research & Development Dept. of his Company moving here in 1954) and she was in service only just across the railway line from us here.

at 17 Perryn Road, which was a family of doctors and nurses. She tells some amusing tails about a parrot they had there.

Dear Mr. Hughes Owen,

Thank you once again for your most helpful letter; it is very gratifying that people are so interested and people of like interests seem very willing to help each other. I think the third of the detective fever eats into one. Mine is a hobby and I really do not have enough time to devote to it - I only do it during my lunch hour at the office. It can become an all consuming passion I should think.

Yours sincerely,

*Sheila Emm*

Sheila Emm

I hope the enclosed helps you in your local history; I am sure it is the other way round though!

Encl.

Woodstock visit report (written for my relatives)  
 letter to Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Sidcup  
 family tree  
 Story of the Bampton Spurrets.  
 Woodstock records

PS.

I sincerely hope there are not any inaccuracies in my account.

It is by chance that I came to do my family tree, although I always had a desire to do so. We were visiting Blenheim last year during a school holiday and while touring came across Bampton. I bought an old plate from Mr. Hill's shop and asked if he knew of anyone by the name of Spurrett and of course he put me in touch with Mrs. Spurrett. It was a strange sensation meeting someone of the same name as myself in such a different place from the one where the name is very odd. She showed me a picture of your pupil Ann when young and I was absolutely amazed at the likeness to my cousin Shirley.



The Story of the Bampton Spurrets as far as it is known at 22.1.1971.

The earliest member of the family we know about is Richard Spurrett who must have been born about 1781 at Woodstock. Certainly, his wife Susanna we know was born at Woodstock in 1781 or thereabouts as she is listed in the Census of 1851 (Public Records Office, No. 1731, Page 295) as being aged 70, a grocer and widow.

Susanna Osborne  
dtr of Richard &  
Tabitha bap.  
24.7.1782

They had two sons, Richard and Thomas. Richard was born in 1803 and Thomas in 1804, both at Woodstock. There may have been more children.

Richard, the father, (1781) was a surveyor of roads in the 1820's and 1830's. See Oxfordshire County Council letter dated 30.10.70 ref. HMW/SJB/206 in which it states that Richard was paid £7. 8. 8. at Michaelmas Quarter Sessions records 1828 for the repair of the Bampton turnpike roads and Mill, Fisher's and Bampton Lane Bridges. In Michaelmas 1829 he received £7.15.9. for the year 1828 - 1829 and at Michaelmas 1830 he received £8. 4. 6. for the Bampton turnpike Road and Bridges.

A surveyor of roads in those days was not a surveyor of a professional body as we know it today, but he was a mender of roads and bridges. However, Richard made a living out of this and his younger son Thomas helped him. At the Adjournment of Michaelmas Sessions for 1836 there is an entry to the effect that the Treasurer of the County is to pay Thomas Spurrett £9.18.9. for repairs to Mill, Fishers Bridges, Bampton. He also had a lot of mouths to feed!. We know he helped his father as in 1837 (the first year of compulsory registration) when Thomas' son Robert was born "Surveyor of Roads" is written as the father's profession (see birth Cert.) It was lucky that a Spurrett Witney registration was found in the very first year of registration. (XVI.99 Dec. 1837 Robert).

Richard, the elder son, born 1803 Woodstock, became a soldier and we do not know as yet in which battle he was wounded, thereby qualifying for a pension, but in 1851 he was living at 143 West Weald, Nr. Bampton with his wife Jane Bedwell born Weald 1818, whose father John was a beadle. Richard married <sup>lived Stanford Cotts.</sup> late in life on the 4th December 1847 when his soldiering was over and he was 44 and his wife 33, eleven years younger. They married at St. Mary's Bampton (see marriage cert.) and had a son Walter who was born two years after they were married in 1849. I can imagine Richard coming home from the wars and looking for his first glimpse of Bampton church spire - he would really know he was nearly home then. We were lucky that Richard and Jane were married in 1847 within ten years of compulsory registration as the marriage cert. gives us Richard his father. (born 1781) By 1861 they had another daughter, Jane b. 1859 and they lived at a cottage in Weald St. Jane died when she was 6 and they had several other children who died in infancy.

way up in the world.

It was Thomas, born 1804 at Woodstock who had the large family, & worked his way up in the world. We know he had six children and there may have been a seventh Anne, whose only record we have is of marriage (Reg. X21.160 Witney, Mar. 1848) His wife, Joyce Orpwood was born in the same year at Weald, a hamlet nr Bampton and in 1851 they lived at 30 Mill St. Weald.

Thomas changed his occupation according to what he could turn his hand to at the time. In other words he made a living where he could. My great-grandfather Richard must have been Thomas' oldest son born before or after Susan (born 1830 Weald) who was a witness at his marriage on 21st April 1857 (see marriage cert.) when he married Emma Cripps a maid, at St. Mary's, Bampton. He was missing on the night when the census was taken in March, 1851 and we were unable to find him for some time because of this. However, a further search of the records may trace him, and we will be able to locate where he was that night. There were other children at the house, 30 Mill St. that night:-

			Born	Wald
Susan	aged 21	daughter	1830	
Robert	13	son	1837	"
Joseph (Henry)	11	son	1840	"
Sarah	10	daughter	1841	"
George	8	son	1843	"

On the birth certificate of Robert, Thomas appears as a "Surveyor of roads", in the census of 1851 a coal merchant (so he must have had a conveyance of some sort, and therefore have been better off than most in those days) and at the marriage of his son Joseph Henry to Caroline Lockett (see marr. cert.) on the 22nd March 1864 at Aston Parish Church, he is notified as an innkeeper at Bampton and we think it was the "Elephant and Castle", Dampton. Joseph Henry his son was notified as a dealer and he had 10 children,

but more of his later.

When Robert <sup>was 23</sup> he had a grocer's shop at 10 Bridge St. in 1861 and he lived there alone (~~he was 23~~)

We also think that Robert Spurrett took over the pub after Thomas and passed it on to Mrs. Glassey's father Robert, who was born on the 28th Sept. 1865. Certainly, the Robert who was born at mid-day on the 28th August 1837 died in 1880 aged 43 and Mrs. Gassey's father at that time would have been 15. She says her grandfather died when her father was a boy so that more or less confirms it. ? ! !

There is also a Thomas who appeared in the Court of Quarter Sessions in 1843 (Easter) and at Trinity Sessions 1850 when he (our) Thomas would have been 39 and 46 respectively, but what he had been doing we don't know. (It may not even have been our relative at all) Perhaps he had been watering the beer! But no, he wasn't an innkeeper then, he was a coal merchant. Perhaps he had been giving short weight of coal - - or the bridge may have fallen down!

By 1861, however, Thomas as well as living at the Elephant and Castle owned a farm of 40 acres and employed 4 men and two boys (RG9 161 P. 62) PRO Only Joseph Henry was at home then, single and 21.

In country districts in the 1800's, the registrar only made a visit to the various registry offices every three months, and it is possible that all registrations are not carried at Somerset House. I know personally of one man who was not registered (and he used to worry in case they didn't know he existed!) I asked if he had been baptised and as the answer was in the affirmative, at least we know that he can be traced in that way through parish registers. This may account for our not being able to find Joseph Henry all the times we went to look for him. Also some vicars had got into the habit of putting "full age" or "minor" on their marriage entires (the Vicar or curate at Aston did this). This was not very helpful of them as one usually relies on the exact age to help one date things.

We know nothing as yet about the children of Thomas (b.1804) except for Richard (1828) and Joseph Henry (1839). Though we do know that Susan Spurrett (b.1830) his eldest daughter was a witness together with Richard Cripps at Richard Spurrett and Emma Cripps' wedding in 1857 and she must have lived at home. She ran away to Oxford to get married to Robert Stone, a baker. He was registered as living at Bampton on the marriage cert. and he was a widower and 36. Susan was 30 and perhaps her father, who was a farmer by this time, didn't want her to get married. They were married at the Parish Church in the City of Oxford on the 27th November 1859 by licence so it looks rather as if it were

Richard & Emma Cripps were married on the 21st April 1857 at the Parish Church, Bampton (and their ages were not entered). They had three children before they were married! They had a son in 1852, Thomas Richard who was 9 at the time of the Census in 1861 when they lived at Calvinist Chapel, Fisher's Bridge. Arthur George was born on the 1st June 1854 and Mary Ann in 1856 so they didn't get around to marrying for some time! They lived next door to Ann Cripps, Emma's mother, 60 and a laundress. Richard Cripps

(PRO RG9  
161 Book 2  
P.51)

Very sketchy

Richard SPURRETT m Susanna Osborne  
b 1781 approx. b Woodstock 1781  
Surveyor of Roads

Rejoice

St. Mary Magdalene, Woodstock

Richard m Jane Bedwell  
b Woodstock b 1818 Weald  
1803  
Soldier & labourer (pensioner)

Thomas m Joyce Orpwood  
b Woodstock m b Weald 1804  
1804 m. 16.9.1824  
Innkeeper, surv. of roads, coalmerchant, farmer

Susan b 1830 Weald  
Robert 1837 "  
Sarah 1841 "  
Geo. 1843 Weald  
~~1836 incl.~~  
Joseph Henry b 1839  
m Caroline Lockett

Walter Jane b  
b Weald 1851 d 1864  
1849

Richard m Emma Gripps  
22.2.18 297 bap 21.4.1833

Arthur  
George  
b 1854

Emma  
Miranda  
b 1858

d 1906

\*\* m Smith  
date ?

Harry

Louisa  
Ann  
b 1860  
Bampton

m Joseph  
Henry  
Martin

Rochdale

1 son  
Christopher  
Wallwork  
b 1886  
d 1907

Rosollah  
Elizabeth.  
b 1864

\*\* Brothers

\*\* m Smith  
date ?

Herbert Wm.  
b 1866  
Bampton

m Sarah Jane  
Newton at  
St. Peter's  
Ashton-u-Lyne  
Lancs.  
founded  
Dukinfield  
branch

Mary Anne  
b ?

m Mason

Edith  
Emily  
b 1872

large issue  
incl.

Harold  
Florence

kept public house

Sheila Emm b 27.10.1926  
nee Spurrett

b = born  
m = married  
d = died

There is little doubt in my mind that the system which prevailed until the middle of the nineteenth century, by which Aston, Clanfield, Standlake and for a time Brize Norton also, were regarded as dependent 'outliers' of Bampton is of considerable antiquity. We know from a charter of King Eadwig (the one who drank himself to death at the age of eighteen -- no mean feat, even for an Anglo-Saxon king) that there was a college of priests at Bampton. These Colleges are rather a feature of the English Church in the later ninth and early tenth centuries: they had some things in common with monasteries, being a community, but with the important exceptions that they were not subject to the authority of one head, corresponding to the abbot, and the participants were usually allowed to keep their own property, so there was not much stability -- there was nothing to prevent one of the priests from contracting out and going elsewhere, as there would be in a monastery where the individual monk has no private property of his own. The motives behind the establishment of these colleges seem to have been partly security (collecting together in the most important centre of population in a given area) and partly, by living together, to ensure some kind of standard of behaviour. Most of these colleges disappear after the Dunstanic revival of monasteries properly speaking, in the second half of the tenth century, but a few lingered on in a somewhat modified form: priests living together in one place and going out to the surrounding villages at week-ends, usually with one chap being allocated more or less permanently to one 'parish'. Bampton seems to have been an example of this, though there is the complication which I have not yet succeeded in explaining, that it became attached, at a date I don't know, to the chapter of Exeter Cathedral for the purposes of presentation to livings. That is about as far as I can go at the moment, but I hope when I can find time to get on with my work on Bampton to be able to throw some more light on the problem.

# by gift to Lanfranc - charter Wm. 1<sup>st</sup> 1069.

Hugh Lead -  
22. XI. 59.

VISIT TO WOODSTOCK SATURDAY, 26th JUNE 1971

1

We set off on the 26th June early at about 7 30a.m. and were at Woodstock by about 9.40. We had to call for the house key at Mrs. Whitlock's bed and breakfast establishment as it was her day off and then I went along to the church while Syd parked the car. Mrs. Halberg was waiting at the church for the door to open as there was a Festival of Arts taking place and she was going to replenish the flowers, waiting impatiently. I went round to the Rectory and was greeted by the Rector's little pekinese who is a good watchdog and he bounced along growling threateningly. The Rev. J.E. James showed me through the flagged hall (full of antiques and pictures; they have a Jacobean dresser and a painting of someone in a wig who looks like John Wesley) into the sitting room with a huge bay window with a window seat and a most marvellous view over Blenheim Lake. There was a grand piano in this room and it was pleasant, comfortable and very light. The Rector got his sealed parcel of records which he had got out of the bank and then we went along to the vestry of the church. The Arts Festival had lasted the whole week and the church looked lovely with paintings, jewellery, corn dollies, collages and embroidery pictures. The prices were rather high for the sculpture, mostly £150 for the bronze ones by . . . . . The festival is an annual event and it originally started as fund raising event but has now developed into a thing in its own right.; the church gets a commission on any article sold and Syd bought me a silver and chrisophase ring to add to my set.

We went into the vestry and the rector opened his large chest with the records. He had found the wedding of Richard and Susanna Osborne on 28.12.1801 but the registers for the baptism of Richard, their son in 1803 were missing (A lot of the records for the Palace are missing at this date ; the Duke of this period was a bit of a scoundrel.) We did find

Thomas, however, baptised 12.10.1804, the father of us all. While we were there (Syd and Adele had found me by this time) the Rector showed us the baptism of Winston Churchill, but as far as our searches were concerned he was un-cooperative. He said he was rather tired of Americans who come searching for something nebulous with no idea of dates or even who they want. We were just another nuisance too. We did not find any more than the list attached. I may have to go back there as we did not look at marriages before 1800.

We set off after having coffee at a local 'home-made' shop and it rained like mad as we were driving along. Lots of cars pulled off to the side - the rain drove on the windscreen like deluging buckets of water. However, by the time we got to Bibury the sun was shining.

The Cotswolds were very rich in the 1600's, exporting in wool and its supporting local industries - at Woodstock and Bampton~~xx~~ they had glove and coat industries and Woodstock still has a shop selling locally made products. At one time it was the law that one had to be buried in wool. Witney blankets have been made since 1695 and there are rich merchant's houses dotted all over the Cotswolds. They richly endowed the churches too. Near to Bibury there is a famous row of medieval cottages called Arlington Row. The river flows passed Bibury and there are two medieval bridges leading over to the cottages. Originally the stream in front ran underneath them from one end to the other to facilitate the dyeing process of the wool. They were bought and restored by the Royal Society of ARTs in 1926.

A little farther up the road is a historic mill full of



interesting photos and relics. The machinery still works but is not in use. There is a trout farm here and we visited this and fed the fish with specially packaged food. They were all sizes, from very small to enormous coloured rainbow trout. It was interesting to see the different behaviour of the trout in the river at the bottom of the farm from the shoals of fish in the lakes.

Places which were prosperous in the Middle Ages and later lost their prosperity have not been developed and spoilt. Witney and Burford were almost derelict for years. Now with the Motor Industry at Oxford, and a large complex of hospitals being built for a great surrounding catchment area, property is becoming very dear. Everyone wants to "get away from it all" and even small cottages are fetching fabulous prices.

That evening we had dinner at "The Winter's Tale", Burford - very enjoyable. Adele had prawn cocktail, I had home-made liver pate, Syd had egg mayonnaise, we all had duckling green peas (frozen) and potato croquettes - the duckling was delicious. Afterwards Adele had lemon meringue pie, I had strawberries and cream (must think of the figure) and Syd had sherry trifle. We had half a bottle of Graves and half a bottle of Hock. The bill was reasonable - about £8.50

The next morning (Sunday) we attended morning service (Series II) at St. Mary's, Bampton and started to look round the graveyard (which was closed in the late 1800's) for any relatives' names, particularly Richard, Susann's husband.

There were great gaps in the grass where the previous vicar had had the idea the grass would be mown better if the stones were placed along the wall. Mr. Stroud the churchwarden and organist who was helping us suddenly remembered that a lot of gravestones were in the Deanery garden (adjacent to the churchyard) as crazy paving. We called and the garden is beautiful. There is a large duckpond to the right as one goes in with ornamental ducks and a large kitchen garden with a scarecrow. Miss Pinnock was very friendly and her two little pekinese tumbled about on the grass very excited at having callers.

She took us over to the herbaceous border under the boundary wall, an absolute riot of colour, and showed us the footstones laid in a half circle which had been used to make a lily pond. She said that she thought the headstones were in the church yard but that a farmer who had been on the PCC had wanted to use them as gateposts. So that is probably where they are now. What sacrilege ! How dare they take other people's property. Some of the gravestones; are left if the descendants objected, but there are many gaps.

We found Cripps and the other names we saw in the registers. One man had died of a surfeit of sausages, and they are sculpted at the corners of his tombstone.

During the service the Vicar had announced that there was a Flower Festival being held at St. James, Aston and so we went along there.

St. James, Aston, Oxon churchyard.

Metal board with words "To my dear wife Anice Mary Spurrett  
24.1.1939  
aged 82 "

Large white grave with

"GEORGE SPURRETT died 3.2.1953  
aged 86

this would be George J.T.  
He had a son George J.T.

(sister) ANNIE ELIZABETH d. 14.9.1964  
aged 94 "

The St. James registers must be searched. → *don't exist @ St Mary*

By this time it was late afternoon and we hadn't had any lunch except a drink at the "Talbot", an old coaching inn at Bampton and a few crisps. The attendant in church for the Flower Festival said after my enquiry that a Mr. Wesley E. Jones was the man to ask about local history. We went along there and he was out. We all started to fall out, and drove around a bit still in a bad temper, me at my disappointment and Syd with boredom. Syd said that I couldn't expect anyone else to have enthusiasm about a nonentity and that no-one else would be interested. We all felt miserable and Syd went to sleep and Adele drove along to Ducklington church. This is really quaint; they have two-feet high brass pedestals for candles with tulip shaped glasses fixed on to the pews dotted around the church.

When we went back to Aston I called on Mr. Jones who had been back about 10 minutes. He is a local historian and

ST. MARY MAGDALENE, WOODSTOCK RECORDSMarriages

Richard Spurrett & 28.12.1801 Witnesses: Mary Osborne  
Susanna Osborne Richard Morris

Baptisms

Richard Spurrett born 1803 Records for this period missing

Thomas Spurrett bap. 12.10.1804 Son of Richard and  
Susanna Spurrett

Sarah Spurrett bap 3.6.1808 Dtr. of Robert and  
Susanna Spurrett

Robert Spurrett 7.7.1809

Susanna Osborne bap 24.7.1782 Dtr. of Richard and  
Tabitha Osborne (they  
had several other  
children)

After I had been there about 5 minutes, Adele came in looking for me and she went for Syd who was pretending to be asleep in the car. When he came in Mr. Jones said to him "I suppose you are suffering?" This remark put it all in perspective. Syd had said "You can come on your own next time" to me when we had been driving round miserably. Have you ever known a family tree come between man and wife. ?

Mr. Jones is a very interesting man and a great local historian. He gives lectures on Bampton, Aston, Shifford and district and he gave me a leaflet about Shifford church. He is chairman of St. James, Aston parish council. He says he has it in mind to write a history of the church built in 1837.

He made us very welcome and got Adele to make us a cup of tea while he got out his old directories. (We didn't tell him we had had nothing and it was very welcome) He has some lovely antiques. A William and Mary desk, a lovely inlaid sideboard, quite long in light coloured wood, and a little chair. He has a triangular table which, when it is extended, is a circle.

He was most helpful. I hope he writes his book.

We shall now have to search Burford registers as we found a Spurrett in a marriage in one of his records. Perhaps this is where Richard who married Susanna Osborne is baptised.

We set off home and arrived at the Fortes restaurant just outside Oxford where they had had a fire the previous night. They were serving only cold meals, but we had an enjoyable prawn ~~xxx~~ salad. The cream for the coffee was a bit off as they hadn't mains electricity, but they had managed to keep the ice cream frozen !

We had a good journey home and I felt that after all our tribulations it had been worth it.

I hope Syd and Adele did too!!

FROM BOOKS IN THE POSSESSION OF MR. WESLEY E. JONES,  
THE COTTAGE, ASTON, OXFORD

<u>Book</u>	<u>Published</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Heading</u>	<u>Name</u>	
County of Oxford Directory	R. Gardner	483	Merchants	Thomas Spurrett	Coal & Salt Merchant
1852 Bampton Section & Weald		484	Farmers	Thomas Spurrett	Farmer
		484	Inns, etc.	Thomas Spurrett.	Elephant & Castle
ditto					
1868 " "			Inns, etc.	Thomas Spurrett	" "
1895 " "				Joseph Henry	General Dealer
			Inns, etc.	Joseph Henry Jr.	The Bull, Aston
" "			Shopkeepers	Mrs. Ann Spurrett	Bampton
			"	Mrs. Teresa "	"
1890 "The Banner of Faith" Vol.IX Church Extension Assocn.		ix	Marriages at Burford	Robert Beckinsale Spurrett & Jane Ilott.	17.7.1890
1890 ditto			Bap. Wm. John Spurrett	son of Edward and Rosalie Elizabeth 25.8.1890	
<u>Population</u>	<u>Bampton</u>	<u>Witney</u>	<u>Woodstock</u>	Bampton was in the Domesday Book as West Weald. The Grammar School was started in 1635. (still in existence)	
1821	1,460	2,827	1,455		
1831	1,605	3,190	1,380		
1861	1,865				