

# **Sudbury House, Faringdon**

**A Private School in the Early 19<sup>th</sup>-century, situated  
within the Bailey of a Medieval Castle**

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## **Sudbury House, Faringdon: a Private School in the Early 19<sup>th</sup>-century, situated within the Bailey of a Medieval Castle**

### **SUMMARY**

*The discovery of a dedicated school building at Sudbury House, Faringdon, has provided the opportunity to examine the relatively brief period in educational history when private schools like Faringdon Hall, with considerable patronage, encouraged a wider modern curriculum, breaking the monopoly enjoyed by endowed Grammar Schools and pre-dating the arrival of Public Schools, and the involvement of the state.*

*Sudbury House has a much longer history, however, with the likelihood that buildings existed on the site throughout the second millennium. This paper has sought to make a reasonable case for archaeological research to throw light on the habitation of the lower western slopes of Faringdon Hill since the Conquest.*

### **Introduction**

The discovery of an etching, donated to Abingdon County Hall Museum in 2008, part of a family collection of twenty-seven works by the local artist, William Watkin Waite (1778-1856) provided the opportunity to identify and research the buildings depicted in Waite's drawing. Once identified, it might be possible to trace the history of the structures on the site and their function, particularly when the drawing was made, sometime during the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century.



*Figure 1 - Dr Bordes's School, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. Etching from a drawing by William Watkin Waite (Abingdon County Hall Museum, OXCMS : 2007.500.22)*

Although one of the two main buildings had been demolished it was possible to identify the survivor as that known today as Sudbury House, situated immediately to the south-east of the junction between London Street and Stanford Road, Faringdon (Grid Reference SU29335 95626). Close examination of the etching revealed the tree-line of Faringdon Clump behind the house, to the south-east.



*Figure 2 – Sudbury House Today (Photo Sudbury House Hotel).*



*Figure 3 – Sudbury House from the East (Photo Author)*

## Historical Account

Sudbury house was listed by English Heritage in 1952 and described as an 'Early C18 rubble stone house on earlier core altered c.1815-20'. English Heritage stated that records existed from 1703 (although the supporting papers had not been kept) and that the house was named for Samuel Sadbury, owner c.1740.

The full Historic England description follows:

*'Earlier C18 rubble stone house on earlier core altered c.1815-20. L-plan with short rear west wing, 2-storey and attic with stone tiled roofs. Main range with 2 ashlar corniced ridge stacks and one eaves stack at west side. Roof hipped at west angle. c.1815-20 all but the eastern end was refronted and the whole range was rendered. Eastern section 2 windows with thick glazing bars to ground floor pair. Main section has 2 very large full-height curved bows with curved stone tiled roofs and triple sash windows with glazing bars. Central arched doorcase with reeded surround and fluted half-columns each side. 6-panel door with radiating bar fanlight. Stone porch in front with Tuscan columns and incised decoration to frieze, 6 columns, the centre pair projected with canted sides. Modern glazing between columns. At east end of main range is early C19 1-window range with 16-pane sash windows and stone east wall chimney. Brick east wall. West side: 2-window range, roof hipped to rear, possibly former stair gable. 1 curved head dormer. Glazing bar sash windows above, round arched windows below behind C20 verandah. Rear: rubble stone with 2 hipped dormers. Range of altered cross windows to first floor, ground floor west side masked by 2-storey c.1920 rear addition. Low 2-storey early C19 red brick range to east side, stone tiled roof, some iron-framed casements and small wood oriel. Interior: early C19 rooms created within older shell leaving fielded panelled doors, moulded cornices, chamfered beams and length of fielded panelling in upstairs room behind later wall. Full height staircase hall in centre with stair around 3 sides. Early C19 plaster mouldings. Plank doors to attic. Tie-beam and collar trusses. Records from 1703. Named from Samuel Sadbury, owner c.1740'.<sup>1</sup>*

## Phase (i): Pre-1700 - Historic Links with Faringdon Castle

Sudbury House is situated on a level piece of ground on the otherwise sloping west side of Faringdon Clump (Grid Reference SU 29740 95654), approximately 400 metres in distance from and 35 metres below the summit (on which stands the 43 metres high 'Folly Tower' of 1935 designed by Gerald Wellesley, Marquess of Douro for Lord Berners).



Figure 4, OS Map, 1905 (Printed by kind permission of Ordnance Survey)

According to the Victoria County History (VCH), ‘Whether a royal household was maintained here after the Conquest is uncertain, but in or about 1144 Robert Earl of Gloucester and other adherents of the Empress Maud constructed a castle at Faringdon, which was stormed and taken by Stephen in 1145. This castle, which was doubtless only an earthwork with timber defences, was probably destroyed shortly afterwards, but the fact that in 1179 Faringdon was in the charge of William the Porter suggests that possibly part of the castle or some other royal residence then survived. In 1202, however, King John granted the site of the castle to St. Mary of Citeaux, to found there a Cistercian abbey, and in the following year he provided timber for the buildings. The monks entered into possession, but probably found the position unsuitable, and in 1203 they were moved to Beaulieu. After this date no further reference to the castle is found. Some 8 acres of land called the Bailey in the 16th century, which lay next to the Parsonage Close, seem to indicate the position of the site as at Faringdon Clump, on a hill that commands both the Oxford and Wantage roads’.<sup>2</sup> The whereabouts of the Parsonage Close has not been discovered.

E T Leeds described the site thus:

*‘From the market-place at Faringdon the Oxford road mounts steadily, passing under the north slope of the hill known variously as Faringdon Clump or Faringdon Folly. The hill is a rounded knoll, the summit of which stands 505 ft. O.D. and, besides being a well-known landmark in the Vale of White Horse, commands an extensive prospect in every direction. Like Cumnor Hurst, Shotover, Brill and others, it is one of a series of undenuded caps of Cretaceous sands overlying Berkshire oolites that crop out at intervals between Faringdon and Aylesbury. The sands are ferruginous, dark yellow with lighter sands below, divided by a layer of sandstone rock. On the summit of the hill is a clump of beeches and Scotch firs, probably planted here, as on so many similar eminences, in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century’<sup>3</sup>*

His archaeological excavations, after skeletons were found during the building of the Folly, revealed that the site at the summit of Faringdon Clump consisted of a single rampart and two ditches surrounding a central keep, which he identified as Robert of Gloucester’s ‘castle’, occupied as a temporary fortified post for about six months in 1144 and then abandoned. E M Jope in his paper ‘Medieval Pottery in Berkshire’<sup>4</sup> challenged ET Leeds’s finding, arguing that the pottery found by

Leeds could not be from a 12<sup>th</sup>-century group but must date to the 13<sup>th</sup>-century *'with only a few sherds bearing any resemblance to the good 12<sup>th</sup>-century pottery series from Hinton Waldrist, five miles away'*. He considered that the pottery found was too fine to have been deposited in a *'temporary military camp'* and that there must have been a later unrecorded occupation of the site, perhaps by William the Porter. In view of what he noted about the extent of the hostilities at the castle, Edmund King believes that it must have been significantly larger than that indicated by Leeds.<sup>5</sup> However, Jope's paper rendered the identification of the documented 12<sup>th</sup>-century 'castle' to the site of the Folly Tower inconclusive.

The VCH suggested that the short-lived Cistercian abbey at the site of the castle may have been in the vicinity of Faringdon Clump. It is also possible that the site of the castle and surviving royal palace were predecessors of the Elizabethan hall to the north of the church. The VCH refers to this possibility, namely *'that a royal palace was on the site of the later Faringdon House'*, noting that the borough lay just to the south of this and on the east side of the Westbrook.<sup>6</sup> At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup>-century, the remains of Faringdon's Cistercian Grange at Wyke were identified on the edge of Grove Wood to the north of the town, a little over a kilometre from the centre of Faringdon Clump. Historic England, in scheduling the site of the grange in 2003, commented that it had *'been one of the largest and best of its class in England'* and that it had been *'suggested that the grange had incorporated the unfinished buildings of the original abbey of Faringdon'*. The abbey had administered the bridge over the Thames at Radcot and the road to the south would have been the main route by which abbey employees and produce were transported to and from the curia. The *'seigneurial residence of the manor'* had been occupied until at least 1600 but had gone out of use and become derelict by 1750.<sup>7</sup> The site of the grange is flat, being situated some three kilometres from the bridge at Radcot on level ground. There is a causeway connecting the site of the grange to the north-south roadway. This discovery confirms E. T. Leeds's view that in the absence of any archaeological evidence, the Cistercian order had never established a presence at Faringdon Hill.

There is insufficient documentary evidence to pinpoint the eight acre site of Sudbury House to the bailey of a medieval castle. But there is little doubt that parts of the present structure date to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century and the topography of the site lends itself to such a theory.

#### *A Motte and Bailey Castle at Faringdon?*

A Motte-and-Bailey castle is a fortification consisting of a wooden keep, erected on a natural hill, or raised earthwork, with steps or a bridge leading to an enclosure containing various buildings and defences. The motte is usually protected by a ditch and palisade

E. T. Leeds, who carried out the only known archaeological investigation at the site in 1935/6, excavated at the summit of Faringdon Hill, and referring to documentary evidence, stated that *'The tradition of a Bailey that had belonged to a castle that shows such manifest proofs of rapid destruction is hardly conceivable'*.<sup>8</sup> But he discovered pottery on the top of the hill of a later period and acknowledges the possibility of a 'castle' or a gaol elsewhere in Faringdon, perhaps *'on the site of the modern workhouse'*, though he provides no information. Rev. P J Goodrich states that *'In an old history of Faringdon (date 1798) it is said "The base of the castle is to be seen in a part of the town called Back Street"'*. Goodrich found no subsequent reference to it.<sup>9</sup>

No archaeological investigations in the vicinity of Faringdon Hill and Sudbury House have been identified, either by Thames Water, on construction of their Folly Hill Service Reservoir, or by the builders of the hotel at Sudbury House. However, the owner of Sudbury House, Sir William Glock, found Medieval pottery over a ½ acre site at Sudbury House in 1978 that was identified by Oxford Archaeology. The finds consisted of ‘a wide range of Medieval and post-Medieval ware. The Medieval pottery could be divided into three groups: 1) Sandy wares of a type similar to those from kilns at Mouny (Minety?), Wiltshire or perhaps Gloucestershire (23 sherds). 2) Pottery with a flinty/chalky fabric derived from the chalk ridge S of Faringdon, 12<sup>th</sup> to C15<sup>th</sup> (24 sherds). 3) Oxfordshire Brill/type wares of the C14<sup>th</sup> and C15<sup>th</sup> with red slip applied strips and mottled green glaze on the characteristic biconical C14<sup>th</sup> jugs (90 sherds)’.<sup>10</sup>



Figure 5, Medieval sandy and calcite-gritted cooking pots, OXCMS : 1984.57.0705 (Photo Author)



Figure 6, Medieval yellow-glazed and red-slipped jugs, OXCMS : 1984.57.0707 (Photo Author)



Figure 7, Medieval copper-splashed and yellow-glazed white-ware jugs, OXCMS : 1984.57.070 (Photo Author)



Figure 8, Medieval brown-slipped and rouletted jugs, OXCMS : 1984.57.0710 (Photo Author)



*Figure 9, Medieval green-glazed jugs, OXCMS : 1984.57.0711 (Photo Author)*

Figures 5-9 illustrate medieval pottery collected by Sir William Glock in 1978, probably when digging a swimming pool just to the north of the house.<sup>11</sup> Maureen Mellor identified pottery fabrics OXAM, OXBB and OXAQ, and kindly provided her original record sheets. OXBB and OXAQ were current from the late 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century, OXAM from the early 13<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>12</sup>

It is possible, therefore, that the castle survived for rather longer than previously asserted and that a bailey may have existed on the lower slopes of the hill towards the town to the west.

The present site of Sudbury House and its lands

are some 7 acres, but do not include the top of Faringdon Hill. Figure 4 gives an impression of the Motte and Bailey castle at Brinklow in Warwickshire. The bailey at Saffron Waldon is reflected in the layouts of the surrounding streets, whilst at Faringdon the bailey would have been on the edge of the Medieval town.

12<sup>th</sup>-century Motte and Bailey Castles existed across the country, often in association with The Anarchy, a period of English history during the reign of King Stephen (1135-1154), characterised by civil war. It is written that Stephen's policy, after recapturing adulterine rebel strongholds was to destroy them, and E. T. Leeds is convinced that this is what occurred at Faringdon. More recent research casts doubt on the extent to which Stephen carried out this policy. Castle Neroche, in Somerset, continued to be used in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps by administrators of the surrounding royal forest as a base for operations against poachers. Fenny Castle, also in Somerset, may have been constructed during The Anarchy - not until 1480 was it described as a ruin. An order was given in 1157-8 to destroy Pleshey Castle, in Essex, but a decade later, in 1167, permission was given to refortify it, which may have included the construction of an additional bailey and possibly a town enclosure. In 1558-9, most of the (timber) buildings at Pleshey were ruinous. There was a chapel of flint-rubble. After The Anarchy, the site of Burwell Castle, Nottinghamshire, was returned to the church and continued in use as an unfortified manor, with a private chapel for the Abbot.

Stone from one of Wilton Castle's towers may have been used for the construction of an Elizabethan manor house, but Faringdon's Elizabethan manor house has been lost. Lower Slaughter Castle's history mirrors Faringdon's, where 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>-century pottery was found. Documentary evidence indicates that King Henry's sergeant maintained a gaol at Lower Slaughter by 1190, rather than at the castle.

Had there been a Bailey at Faringdon Castle, the topography indicates that Sudbury House may be situated in the vicinity of its gateway to the town.

Although E. T. Leeds dismisses the possibility that Faringdon Castle was the basis for Cromwell's artillery assault on the Elizabethan Faringdon House (in which the spire of All Saints, Faringdon, was destroyed), having found no evidence, the myth endures that the site, still known as 'Cromwell's Battery' played a part in the siege.

The limited evidence available indicates that there may have been buildings in a bailey at least since the 12<sup>th</sup>-century.

### **Phase (ii): 18<sup>th</sup>-century - History of Sudbury House**

In 1952, Historic England dated Sudbury House to the early 18<sup>th</sup>-century, named for the Sadbury family who were its residents in the first half of the century. Historic England also stated that Sudbury House had an earlier core, though nothing more was known about this and no research or earlier records have been found to date.

Archives refer to Sadburys living at Faringdon in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Samuel Sadbury (of Inglesham, Wiltshire) married Martha Woodward (of Faringdon), who had been baptised on 5 March 1686. Samuel may have been baptised at Inglesham on 20 March 1679. Their children's births are recorded on the All Saints, Faringdon, parish registers, together with the burial of a Samuel Sadbury on 27 September 1713 and that of Martha Sadbery on 9 May 1728.<sup>13</sup> A Samuel Sadbury (of Faringdon) married Elizabeth Leggatt of Inglesham on 26 January 1729.

The Sadbury family are the oldest known inhabitants of the house but towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century a school was run on the site by the vicar of All Saints, Faringdon, Rev. John Bradley.

One of the earliest maps showing the buildings of Faringdon (south of London Street) is the William Stanley map of Wantage (and the Vale of White Horse) dated 1811 that suggests a structure to the east of Sudbury House. The Roque map of 1761 indicates the possibility of another building immediately to the east of Sudbury House. However, there is evidence of the building (or rebuilding) of this structure in the 1820s. It had gone by 1905 (Figure 4) and may have been ruinous in 1870, the date of the earliest Ordnance Survey map of the area.

### **Phase (iii): 19<sup>th</sup>-century - Waite's Drawing of Dr Bowles's School**

The Waite etching (Figure 1), that had been erroneously identified as 'Dr Bordes's School' from the handwriting thereon, shows a large building situated close to Sudbury House to the east and 19<sup>th</sup>-century maps show the presence of other structures on the site. Dating the rediscovered building from the drawing alone is inconclusive but an examination points to the occupation and use of the building before 1850.

On Saturday 11 January 1777, in an advertisement, the Oxford Journal informed its readers that Rev. John Bradley (who was vicar of All Saints, Faringdon) 'takes this Opportunity of acquainting the Public that he has taken Sadbury-House at the Foot of Farrington-Hill, for the Reception of young Gentlemen. The Situation is remarkably dry, healthy, and pleasant.' The terms were £16pa including writing and arithmetic with an Entrance Fee of one guinea. A dancing master attended weekly.<sup>14</sup>

Almost fifty years later, the Oxford Journal reported on Saturday 9 July 1825 that 'a convenient mansion, called FARINGDON HALL, had recently been purchased by Dr BOWLES'. The report went on to state that 'A school room, 60 feet by 20, and of proportional height, with library, cold baths &c.

are now building'. The report further stated that 'it stands entirely detached, and surrounded by 8 acres of meadowland'.<sup>15</sup> In a letter addressed to the Bishop of London, dated 25 October 1824, Bowles wrote, 'Permit me then, my Lord, to inform you that I have a freehold estate in this neighbourhood with an extensive mansion thereon, to which I am making preparations to remove..'.<sup>16</sup>

In an advertisement for the school in the Bath Chronicle of Thursday 26 June 1828, Dr Bowles stated that '.. the Mansion and Grounds having at an expense of some thousand pounds been purchased and fitted up for, and entirely adapted to, a Seminary of the first respectability'.<sup>17</sup>



*Figure 10, Close-up of the school building (Abingdon County Hall Museum, OXCMS : 2007.500.22)*

Looking closely at the drawing (Figure 12), and bearing in mind the uncertain history of the site, it is worth considering whether anything remained of an older structure. The building seemed to be separate from Sudbury House, it had three parallel rows of windows with drip mouldings and possibly stone mullions, as well as a pointed arched doorway, to the west, and two large windows to the north gable, indicating perhaps that the building was of two storeys, rather than three. The walls were crenellated and there was a delicate cupola at the centre of the building's steeply-pitched tiled roof.

The general proportions of the structure might be said to reflect the appearance of a medieval hall. Medieval first floor halls are rare survivors, Frewin Hall at Oxford and Boothby Pagnall in Lincolnshire being examples. Another medieval hall is the Abbot's Fish House, Meare. From just these few examples it is impossible to be categorical, but from the evidence available it seems unlikely that the school hall at Faringdon dated to the medieval period. Examples of medieval and Tudor school buildings, such as at Ewelme and Bampton in Oxfordshire and Thetford, Norfolk, bear comparison. Again, the symmetry and proportions at Faringdon indicate a later design with an absence of the idiosyncrasies present in older, much-altered buildings.

The design adopted by a number of Oxford colleges after about 1740 (Bowles obtained a law degree at Magdalen Hall, Oxford) was known as 'collegiate gothic', bearing a striking resemblance to the school building at Faringdon. The Church of England incorporated ecclesiastical features into its school architecture, particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century and this style of architecture was followed widely (Figures 12-14 show examples).

In summary, the Waite drawing depicts a medieval structure in style but with 'collegiate gothic' (gothic revival) features that probably date it to the late-18<sup>th</sup> or the early 19<sup>th</sup>-centuries, although it may have been developed on the footprint of an earlier building.

### **A Private School in the late-18<sup>th</sup> and the early-19<sup>th</sup>-centuries**

In the 1777 advertisement, Rev John Bradley added that *'Those Gentlemen who will favour him with the Care of their Sons, may depend upon their being kindly and humanely treated, and every due Attention paid to their Morals and Learning'*.<sup>18</sup> So one should probably dismiss any thought that private school masters of the period always resembled the character of Wackford Squeers, the master of Dotheboys Hall in Dickens's novel, *Nicholas Nickleby*.

In an advertisement dated Saturday 10 July 1790, Rev Bradley styled himself as, *'Vicar of Faringdon & Chaplain to Right Hon. Lord Craven'*. *'YOUTH continued to be genteelly boarded, and carefully instructed in Classical Learning. Dancing and Drawing Masters regularly attend. An Assistant resides in the House. Particular Attention paid to their Morals and Learning'*. The terms had risen to twenty guineas a year.<sup>19</sup>

The grammar schools gradually lost their educational monopoly as private schools catered to clients who sought a more modern curriculum including subjects such as modern languages, surveying and perhaps the natural sciences. Private schools were the private ventures of their owners, so they lacked permanence, often depending on the reputation of an individual master, but were more adaptable than the endowed grammar schools. Most were very small but they provided a significant part of the education available to the emerging middle classes.<sup>20</sup>

On 25 October 1824, Joseph Bowles wrote to the Bishop of London from Faringdon. He told the bishop that for nine years he had *'conducted a classical and mathematical school in this place and during that period I have frequently sent young men to the Public Schools, and Universities, so informed as to reflect a respectable degree of credit both on the teacher and the taught'*. He had worked for three years making a plan to use the buildings of Sudbury House, *'to receive and educate twenty boys, being the sons of Curates who are destitute of private fortune, and whose stipends do not exceed £80 per annum. Also twenty boys, sons of half pay officers who have no other means of support than their half pay. No charge will be made for the education of these boys, but every curate or officer sending his son will be required to pay five pounds per quarter towards defraying the expenses of his son's board and other incidental charges. The boys so received will be fitted for the Church, the Naval or Military professions, or any other situations in life in which a superior education united with Christian principle and good morals is necessary'*. To make his proposal viable financially he proposed in addition, to educate thirty boys, *'the sons of wealthy and loyal individuals'* at one hundred guineas each, per annum. The purpose of the letter was to seek the bishop's permission to

use his name as a patron of the school, alongside the Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, who was William, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Craven (Viscount Uffington).<sup>21</sup>

By the middle of the century the most expensive boarding academies charged 70 to 100 guineas per annum and extras would often make the figure higher.<sup>22</sup> A successful school was one where the master had succeeded in attracting boarders and paying day pupils as well as foundation scholars.<sup>23</sup> There is evidence that Dr Bowles attempted to achieve this goal in setting up the school. Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century there was criticism of the traditional classical curriculum and pressure to teach mathematics as well as subjects such as geography and history.<sup>24</sup> Sir Thomas Wyse, an Irish educational reformer working in the 1830s may have been the first to recommend a distinct 'secondary' form of education as we know it today.<sup>25</sup> Up to this time schools took pupils from 7-8 years of age up to 15-16, though the average stay was only around two and a half years. Wyse was critical of the dominance of the classics and stressed the importance of the physical sciences.<sup>26</sup> The proportion of time devoted to each subject depended on the local demand. Thus private schools in industrial towns emphasised a 'mercantile' education, with the amount of classical teaching proportionately less. It would seem that at Faringdon there was a demand for both, namely preparation for University and for a business career.

In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century private schools were expensive and class oriented, whereby the children of the upper classes were not expected to consort with those from a lower class, neither would those of the latter aspire to share the company of those above them in social class. Parents and children selected themselves according to '*what they could pay, what religious denomination they belonged to and what kind of education they wanted*'.<sup>27</sup> There are clues as to where Bowles saw Faringdon in this hierarchy.

Later in the century the new 'public' schools would provide entry for all, subject only to the parents' ability to pay the fees. Meanwhile, the endowed grammar schools were struggling to compete due to their inflexible structures, and private schools flourished if there were few satisfactory grammar schools near at hand.

Roach wrote that the efficient private school master believed that he could do well enough for himself and state interference was resisted by the masters and by the middle classes.<sup>28</sup>

The July 1825 Oxford journal report went on to say that '*The situation is delightful, and admirably adapted for a school. The play ground will be fitted up on the plan of Mr Clias, Professor of Gymnastics at the Academy of Berne, and when all the improvements have been carried into effect the Establishment will be replete with every convenience for the accommodation of respectable Pupils... We understand the school is under the sanction and patronage of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, the Lord Lieutenant of the County and several Noblemen and Gentlemen of high character and consideration, and his Royal Highness has condescended to assure Dr Bowles that he takes a lively interest in the success of his Establishment*'.<sup>29</sup> This explains the coat of arms displayed below Waite's drawing. The Duke of York died on 5 January 1827.

Just a week later, on Saturday 16 July 1825, the Berkshire Chronicle published an advertisement for the school (among many advertising private education in the county): '*AT YORK SCHOOL, FARINGDON HALL, BERKS, DIRECTED BY JOSEPH BOWLES LL.D. A LIMITED and select number of Young GENTLEMEN are carefully prepared for every situation in which a superior education, united*

*with Christian principles, and good morals, is necessary. The Terms are exceedingly moderate, with the advantages of a single bed, liberal table, and parental care. Masters of the first eminence are engaged. The discipline is kind, rational, vigilant, and efficient. The domestic arrangements are on a respectable scale, rendering the situation of Pupils, as far as it is possible to be so at School, equally as comfortable as at home. The chambers are numerous, warm, and airy, neatly fitted up, and amply supplied with water’.*<sup>30</sup>

Bowles’s advertisement in the Bath Chronicle on Thursday 26 June 1828 exalted the virtues of ‘*the Classics, the Modern Languages, the Mathematics, and all the ordinary branches of School learning*’. The advertisement went on to state that, ‘*The classics are taught on the system pursued by the Rev. Dr. Russell, head master of the Charter-House, and which has been kindly committed by him to Dr. Bowles. Appropriately for the parents of potential pupils residing in Bath, Bowles added, ‘Detailed particulars, and references of unquestionable character, may be had on application, either personally, or by letter, at the Hall’.*<sup>31</sup> The advertisement was repeated two weeks later.

The Reading Mercury carried at least one advertisement for the school, on Monday 7 December 1829, ‘*DR. BOWLES requests the attention of the Families in Berkshire and the adjoining Counties, to the System of Education and the Domestic arrangements of his school. Terms very moderate. Detailed particulars, and references to gentlemen of the highest character, whose sons have been educated by Dr. B., will be forwarded to any enquirer’.*<sup>32</sup>

The school was advertised as a Classical and Mathematical school in an advertisement in the Oxford Journal dated Saturday 2 July 1831 and it seems possible that by this time Bowles may have been finding it more difficult to recruit sufficient private pupils.<sup>33</sup> By July 1839 Dr Bowles had left to take up a career in the church. An advertisement in the Oxford Journal of Saturday 6 July advertised, ‘*THE FARINGDON, English, French, Classical, Commercial and Mathematical ACADEMY, Conducted by Mr. J. C. BARTON, For sixteen years and upwards resident on the Continent, and lately Classical, French, Drawing, Music, and Fencing Master at the establishment of the Rev. Dr. BOWLES, Faringdon Hall. Mr Barton begs respectfully to offer his sincere acknowledgements to the inhabitants of Faringdon and its vicinity for the very liberal encouragement he has experienced since the opening of his Establishment, and respectfully announces that the duties of his Academy will be resumed on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of July next’.*<sup>34</sup>

By the time the infant son of J. H. Gandell Esq., aged two months, was reported to have died, the place of his death on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1840 was Sudbury House, Faringdon. On 9 January 1841, the Reading Mercury announced the sale by auction of the contents of Sudbury House, including a ‘*Valuable and highly interesting Assemblage of Furniture, Paintings, Engravings, Five Hundred Ounces of Plate*’, etc. The sale included horses and carriages and the agents for the sale commented that, ‘*The whole of the above property is of the very best description, and was purchased new within the last eighteen months’.*<sup>35</sup> Sudbury House had been a school since 1777, with an undiscovered period between Rev Bradley’s death in 1794 and Dr Bowles’s purchase of Sudbury House in 1825, until it closed finally around 1839. There is a likelihood that children continued to receive education at Sudbury House after that date, though the information is uncorroborated. For example, in a plan of ‘*titheable lands*’ of 1850, the plot containing the buildings at Sudbury House (plot 123) is labelled ‘*House, school and gardens*’.<sup>36</sup> The plot immediately to the west, plot 122 is described as ‘*Stile Close*’ and that immediately to the east (124) is labelled ‘*Paddock*’. There is a further (unnumbered and

unnamed) plot to the east between Sudbury House and Faringdon Hill. All these plots are contained within the almost parallel (at this point) east-west Oxford and Wadley Roads, the former to the north and the latter passing directly over the centre of the hill (Figure 4).

Apart from encouraging the establishment of public schools, such as Radley College at Abingdon, to turn out boys to run the empire and for the military, many Grammar schools continued and the role of the private schools declined. The state was formalising a national system of education. The All Saints, Faringdon, Sunday school was merged into the National School, established in January 1826, which consisted of about 150 boys. There was also a Girls' Charity School containing about 80 scholars and a Female School of Industry to teach domestic service was opened on London Street in 1833; it may have replaced the earlier Girls' Charity School'.<sup>37</sup> The 1876 Ordnance Survey map shows this school on the north side of London Street, a little to the west of Sudbury House



Figure 11, OS Map, 1876, indicating a possible location for the (demolished) school building (Printed by kind permission of Ordnance Survey)

Many private schools thrived until the coming of the railway meant larger catchment areas for boarders.<sup>38</sup> Some private school masters prospered but many of them struggled along on the margin of success or failure. Their calling lacked prestige and professional status. They were too much at the mercy of charlatans within their own rank and of pressure from parents who preferred the meretricious and the showy to the solid fruits of scholarship. They were expected to achieve too much with boys and girls who were sent to them for too short a time.<sup>39</sup>

### Sudbury House in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries

The name 'Sudbury House' (rather than Sadbury) occurs in the records for the first time after closure of the school, and this may be when the school house was demolished. Sudbury House was purchased by William Bennett of Faringdon House as a dowager house, occupied in 1851 by Daniel Bennett, born in 1824, Daniel's wife, Mary Elizabeth Corbett, Mary's brother Lionel and their servants. Daniel had been born at Blackheath in Kent and was described in the 1851 Census as a 'landed proprietor and magistrate'.<sup>40</sup> On the day that the 1851 census was carried out in Faringdon, Faringdon House was occupied by the 42-year old Fitzroy Campbell, Mary his wife, and three

children by the name of Carter, sons and a daughter in law, described as ‘scholars at the house’, together with their governess and nine servants.<sup>41</sup>

By 1861, Daniel Bennett had inherited Faringdon House and had moved there with his wife and three year old daughter, Marianna Katharine. Sudbury House was by then occupied by John Harvey Lovell, described as a ‘landed proprietor’, of Coln Park, Malmsbury, Wiltshire, his wife, family and servants.<sup>42</sup> Subsequent occupiers of Sudbury House were, in 1871, the family of Augustus des Monstiers Campbell, a British subject who had been born in Rome, in 1841;<sup>43</sup> in 1881, Charles Gregory Emery, a war office clerk, whose birthplace was Kensington, with his wife Maria, and their children and step children;<sup>44</sup> and in 1891, Arthur Molesworth Case, from Fareham in Hampshire, described as ‘living on his own means’, with his family.<sup>45</sup>

By the time of the 1901 census, Daniel Bennett and his wife had both died and their daughter had moved to live at Sudbury House with her cousin, Maud Corbett and their servants.<sup>46</sup> Although her parents had lived at Sudbury House on their arrival in Faringdon, Marianna had been born at and spent her adult life living at Faringdon House. New tenants at Faringdon House, according to the 1911 census, were Col. Ward Bennitt and his new wife Julia Tyrwhitt, nee Foster, who had inherited the Berners barony.<sup>47</sup> Marianna Bennett continued to live at Sudbury House until her death in 1918.<sup>48</sup>

It was in 1918 that the freehold of Sudbury House was sold, eventually coming into the possession of Harry Cecil Rose, a solicitor in the Faringdon firm of Crowdy and Rose, for £2,200 in 1928. In the 1960s, Sudbury House was occupied by Sir William Glock, Director of BBC Music, who died in 2000, aged 92, and his second wife, Anne Balfour Geoffroy-Dechaume, who died in 1995.

In 1970, estate agents Buckle and Ballard advertised Sudbury House and its tennis court and paddocks, comprising about eight acres, for sale, freehold, at an asking price of £19,500, suggesting that it had been in the ownership of the vendor since 1918.<sup>49</sup>

In 1989, the ownership passed to Cranfield University and Sudbury House was transformed into a residential conference centre and eventually a hotel. In June 2013, the ‘Best Western Sudbury House Hotel’ was sold by specialist property adviser Christie + Co to a private investor, for some £2m for the freehold.

Cranfield University decided to sell the 49-bedroom hotel following 24 years ownership, as the business had become secondary to their principal educational interests. The hotel and conference centre had been substantially extended from the original Grade II listed 17/18<sup>th</sup>-century house, without any archaeological excavations.<sup>50</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Faringdon has a long history, from the laying down of the ‘Sponge Gravels’, through to its involvement in the English Civil War in 1645 and beyond. To date, it has been difficult to present an accurate and co-ordinated chronology of the area. It is to be hoped that one day this will be possible.

In 1824, Dr Joseph Bowles took up residence developing the school with the help of a number of prominent patrons, before leaving to become a priest in 1837. Sudbury House was occupied subsequently by William Bennett of Faringdon House as a Dowager House to the estate until 1918, though it was rented out for long periods. Since 1918, it has been a private residence until becoming a hotel in 1989. Sale particulars c1970 quoted the property as comprising eight acres.

### **People - Dr Joseph Bowles, the man and his life**

It might be wondered what characteristics were required of an individual like Bowles to be effective in setting up at such an early age and sustaining Faringdon Hall school?

In his letter to the Bishop of London, Joseph Bowles stated that, *'My family is ancient and respectable – one member of it (the Revd W. L. Bowles) is tolerably known in the literary world'*.<sup>51</sup>

Joseph Bowles was born at Faringdon on 2 August 1798 and baptised at All Saints church on 6 September.<sup>52</sup> His father was William Bowles and his mother was called Mary and she would have been 42 when he was born. They had married at Shrevenham on 19 October 1776<sup>53</sup> and Joseph was their ninth and last child. There was a William Bowles, shopkeeper, recorded at Faringdon in 1791.<sup>54</sup> Joseph Bowles probably did obtain a law degree at Magdalen Hall, Oxford (their records are lost), whilst establishing his teaching institution at Faringdon, known to have existed in 1819, when Bowles would have been 21 years of age, but perhaps in business as early as 1815, if as reported to the Bishop of London, when Bowles would have been only 17.

Magdalen Hall, Oxford, was the original grammar school of Magdalen College, built in 1480. It established itself as an independent hall in the 16<sup>th</sup> century where Longwall Quad now is. Magdalen Hall was large and popular throughout its existence. Following a fire in 1820, in 1822 Magdalen Hall moved to the buildings of the abortive Hertford College on the corner of Catte Street and New College Lane. The members of Magdalen Hall refounded Hertford College in 1874 and Magdalen Hall ceased to exist from that date. The only built remains of the original Magdalen Hall are the Grammar Hall in St John's Quad of Magdalen College.<sup>55</sup> Joseph Bowles published, *'Monody on the Death of Sir John Courtenay Throckmorton, Bart, 1819. Joseph Bowles, Master of the Commercial Academy, Faringdon. Second Edition, Oxford. Printed and Sold by Munday and Slatter, Herald Office, High Street. Sold also by Mrs Piggott, Faringdon, 1819.'*<sup>56</sup>

On Monday 31 August 1829, it was reported by the Reading Mercury under the heading, 'LITERARY ANNOUNCEMENT' that, *'Dr Bowles, of Faringdon Hall, Berks, is engaged in compiling a "GENERAL HISTORY OF THE COUNTY OF BERKSHIRE", and Dr. B. would consider himself much obliged by any communications from the gentry and clergy of the county upon the subject of its antiquities, geology, natural phenomena, eminent men, family pedigrees, soil &c. A prospectus detailing the plan of the work will soon appear'*.<sup>57</sup> This publication may not have been progressed.

On 27 March 1830, the Berkshire Chronicle published two hymns, written by Bowles *'for the purpose of being sung in churches, when charitable collections were making for Ireland'*.<sup>58</sup>

Hymn 1.

Lo! Famine through Hibernia's land  
Stalks with resistless tread.  
And grasps within her shrivelled hand  
The dying and the dead.

Hark to the mother's piercing shriek,  
Or wildly feeble cry;  
Shudd'ring she feels her heart strings break,  
And lies her down to die.

Yet closer is her infant pressed,  
But vain its plaintive cries;  
She clasps it to her milkless breast,  
Then droops her head and dies.

The young, the old, the sire, the son,  
Resign their struggling breath,  
While Famine sweeps her thousands on  
Fast to the realms of death.

O haste to cheer this awful gloom,  
Bid the desponding live;  
Snatch from the borders of the tomb,  
And largess freely give.

Children of Britain's happier isle,  
Relieve a nation's need,  
And heaven and earth's approving smite  
Will consecrate the deed.

On 28 August 1830, celebrations were held in Faringdon to commemorate the first anniversary of William IV's accession to the throne. In the early evening a dinner took place at the Crown Inn. On the company entering the dining room, Joseph Bowles was asked to preside at one of the two tables. After the dinner Bowles rose to propose the health of the King, saying that *'we are now living under a paternal sceptre of a Sovereign who appears to consider it his greatest happiness to reign over a free, and consequently a happy and loyal people'*. He continued at great length before toasting the Queen in a similar fashion. The speech also included a toast *'To the immortal memory of the brave Frenchmen who perished during the three days' revolution in Paris, and may civil and religious liberty triumph in the world'*. Bowles was reported to have been *'most animated and eloquent'*, and his toast *'welcomed with immense cheering'*. Mr Richard Crowdy, presiding at the other table, also proposed a number of toasts that were reported briefly, Joseph Bowles apparently having stolen the limelight.<sup>59</sup>

An indication of the character of the man may be obtained from the reports of these occasions, but Dr Bowles was not always the beneficiary. An international fraudster found his way to Faringdon and took up the advertised two-year post of an assistant at Faringdon Hall. *'Wheatley conducted himself so well as to become a favourite of the establishment'*, obtaining advances exceeding £2,000

Hymn 2.

Father of Mercies I deign to hear  
A suppliant nation's cry;  
O! consecrate the falling tear,  
The penitential sigh.  
Meekly we own thy chast'ning sway,  
O! Listen when thy servants pray, And wipe a  
nation's tears away.

Behold, before thy throne we bend,  
For hearts with many sorrows riven;  
And thou has said that from thy throne  
The broken heart shall ne'er be driven.  
Preserve, we pray, in every deed,  
Thy people, at their utmost need,  
And spare, O! spare the bruised reed.

Vouchsafe thy spirit from above,  
To sooth the sorrows of each breast,  
To whisper of thy pardoning love,  
And give a suppliant nation rest;  
Still guide them on life's rugged way,  
Let Mercy cheer their darkened day,  
And wipe a nation's tears away.

and at one point inducing Dr Bowles to promise to *'give up his school and come and reside with him'*. Bowles reached the point of writing letters to the parents of his pupils. Bowles had also been persuaded to take Wheatley into a partnership in the school and a deed was drawn up. The fraud came to light in the nick of time, together with others committed by Wheatley across Europe, though at the time of the report Wheatley had not been apprehended.<sup>60</sup>

In the same year, Bowles wrote a letter to the editor of the Times on the subject of the Established Church in Ireland. He was anxious to point out, in response to earlier correspondence, *'that the majority of Irish archbishops and bishops were not those of aristocratical houses, or of families possessing parliamentary influence'*. He listed examples of Irish clergy who were *'belonging to no other aristocracy than the honourable of all aristocracies – the aristocracy of talent and virtue'*. Bowles went on to state, *'that I do not hold one farthing in the church, and that I make this statement only for the sake of truth and clarity'*. In a post script, Bowles makes mention of the latest published work of *'the poet and clergyman, W. L. Bowles'*.<sup>61</sup> In the Transactions of the Linnean Society of London, Volume 17 (1835), the List of Fellows includes Joseph Bowles, L.L. D. Farringdon Hall. Berks

Joseph's mother, Mary Bowles, died on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1836, at Faringdon Hall. Her tomb is in the churchyard at All Saints, Faringdon (B29, 1W). An inscription states:

*'Hallowed to the memory of the best mothers. Here rests Mary Bowles who departed this life on the 28th July 1836 in the 81st year of her age. To the heartfelt grief of the only surviving son to whom for 61 years she was the unchangeable friend and devotedly attached mother to whose unbounded affection and constant self-denial he is under providence indebted for every temporal attendance and who as a tribute of filial love has placed this tomb (in which one day hopes to rest) to her memory'*.

These excerpts from his life give a flavour of Bowles's personality and the events that may have influenced his career.

### **Bowles's later life**

Dr Bowles was ordained into the priesthood on 14 August 1837 taking up his duties at Noke, Oxfordshire. He was appointed Rector of Bladon with Woodstock (Chapel) on 9 March 1840 and was living at the Rectory at Woodstock in 1841. He was by now 40 years of age, and lodging with him were a fifteen year old schoolboy, Caldwell Andrews, 40-year old Harriet Carter and her fifteen year old son.<sup>62</sup> Bowles was appointed chaplain to the Duke of Sussex,<sup>63</sup> and in 1847 moved to Shropshire, to become vicar of Stanton Lacy, near Ludlow,<sup>64</sup> where Earl Craven was the patron and impropiator.<sup>65</sup>

It is recorded that on 4 September 1844, Rev. Joseph Bowles (aged 46) married Ellen Mary Walker (aged 42) at Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Two weeks later, on 17 September 1844, a family wedding took place between the two at All Saints, Loughborough, Leicestershire, reported in the Leicestershire Mercury on 21 September.<sup>66</sup> Bowles's bride was the youngest daughter of Sir William Walker deceased and Martha Kenworthy deceased.

Dr Bowles presented a report to a public meeting to discuss a memorial to the late Duke of Sussex.<sup>67</sup> On Saturday 14 January 1854, the Gloucester Journal advertised a Masonic Ball to be held at Barrett's Royal Hotel, Ross on Wye. The Rev. Joseph Bowles, D. D., Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire, was the principal patron.<sup>68</sup> The Friendly Societies' and Licensed Victuallers' Journal, 1854, reported that the Rev. Brother Dr. Bowles had reported on the gift of and memorial to the late Duke of Sussex. Rev. Dr. Bowles had been appointed Master of Palladian Lodge (Hereford) in 1848, although he was not installed until 1850.

In 1856, in its Preferments and Appointments list, the Kentish Gazette reported that Rev. Joseph Bowles D. D. was to be chaplain to the Duchess of Inverness.<sup>69</sup>

He died on 8 February 1879 and was buried in the churchyard at Stanton Lacy, Shropshire. The Rev. Bowles's will was proved at Shrewsbury 8 April 1879, and a trust fund £91 12s. consolidated stock, the annual dividend of which, amounting to £2 5s. 8d., was to be divided equally among four poor widows at Faringdon.<sup>70</sup>

Shropshire Archives has 'Sales Particulars: Furniture, oil paintings, books etc, Stanton Lacy Vicarage - Rev. Doctor Bowles (deceased)'.<sup>71</sup>

### **Pupils of the school**

Something is known of a small number of pupils who attended the school. For example, in 1829, '*at the usual half-yearly examination, the pupils who particularly distinguished themselves in the classics and won prizes*', as reported in the Berkshire Chronicle on Saturday 4 July, '*were the sons of Lady Dick, Sir David Ogilby, Dr. Christie, Major Brooke, the Rev. Craven Ord, J. Bellamy, and R.W. Crowdy, Esqrs.*'.<sup>72</sup> Richard Wheeler Crowdy, Faringdon solicitor, was born in 1787 and died in 1866.

Other pupils were:

**John Thadeus Delane**, Editor of The Times, 1841-1877 who '*received private tuition from Dr Jeremiah Bowles at Faringdon Hall, Oxfordshire*'

John Thadeus Delane (1817-1879), editor of The Times, was born in London. He was the second son of W.F.A. Delane, a barrister, of an old Irish family, who about 1832 was appointed by Times publisher John Walter to financial manager of The Times. While still a boy he attracted Walter's attention, and it was always intended that he should find work on the paper. He received a good general education at private schools and King's College London, and also at Magdalen Hall, Oxford; after taking his degree in 1840 he at once began work on the paper, though later he read for the bar, being called in 1847.

Delane was brought up at his father's house at Easthampstead, Berkshire. Mr. Walter, the proprietor of the 'Times,' a neighbour in Berkshire and a keen judge of character, early remarked the boy's abilities and designed him for employment upon the newspaper. Though never erudite, Delane was very quick in mastering anything that he took in hand. After being at one or two private schools he spent two years, 1833 to 1835, at King's College, London, under Joseph Anstice, went thence to a private tutor's at Faringdon, Berkshire.<sup>73</sup>

A keen horseman, Delane thought nothing of riding many miles in the district, on at least one occasion riding out from Oxford to Faringdon and back in a single day for the purpose of visiting his old tutor.

**Rev. George John Collinson (1813-1865)**, Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, 1852.<sup>74</sup>

**Hugh Bellamy** – All Saints Churchyard Memorial Inscription (1825; B12, 1W):

*'A tribute to departed worth and to perpetuate whilst this frail monument endures the remembrance of a most amiable, affectionate and singularly promising youth. Joseph Bowles L.L.D has caused this stone to be inscribed with the name of Hugh Bellamy whose life was prematurely terminated by a severe illness which he supported with patience and resignation on 27th February 1825 in the 14th year of his age. He was the third son of John Bellamy esquire clerk of Assizes of the Oxford circuit who has kindly gratified the feeling of the preceptor by yielding to them the privilege of erecting this stone to the memory of a deservedly worthy pupil. Let the young who promise themselves many years to come remember his early death and emulate his fair example.'*

**George James Haines.** He was born in 1824 and died in 1897, aged 73 years. He became a solicitor in 1844.<sup>75</sup>

#### **Other Persons Mentioned in the Text**

##### **Prince Frederick Augustus, Duke of York and Albany (1763-1827)**

Prince Frederick Augustus (1763-1827), Duke of York and Albany, was the second son of King George III and Commander of the British Army during the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars.

##### **Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex (1773-1843)**

Prince Augustus Frederick was the sixth son of King George III. He was the only surviving son of George III who did not pursue an army or naval career.

##### **William Bennett (1790-1844)**

William's father, Daniel Bennett (1760-1826) had been a ship owner, engaged in whaling out of Blackheath in Kent and later involved in the East India trade, including the transportation of convicts to Australia, the import of tea from Calcutta and many other journeys across the world, during the last years of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century. He died leaving a substantial fortune to his son William.

In 1836 William Bennett, the purchaser of Faringdon House, was appointed Lord High Sherriff of Berkshire. He lived there until he died in 1844 of a protracted illness.

##### **Rev. John Bowles (1716-1788)**

John Bowles obtained his BA at Trinity College, Oxford, and was ordained a deacon at Christ Church, Oxford, on 23 September 1738.<sup>76</sup> He was ordained priest and curate at Wanborough, Berkshire, at the chapel at Salisbury on 23 September 1739.<sup>77</sup> He was made vicar of Great Coxwell,

Berkshire, on 24 August 1770,<sup>78</sup> where he died on 1 July 1788. He is buried in the chancel at Great Coxwell with his Wife, Sarah, and their only child, Marian, who died, aged 20, in 1772. There is a monument on the south wall of the chancel.

### **William Lisle Bowles, Clergyman, Poet and Critic (1762-1850)**

William Lisle Bowles obtained a BA, followed by an MA at Trinity College, Oxford. He was appointed deacon at Mongewell, Oxfordshire, on 18 May 1788 and priest at the Episcopal Chapel at the Bishop's Palace, Salisbury, on 23 September 1792. Bowles went on to become curate at East Knoyle on 24 July 1789, rector at Chicklade on 14 April 1795 and at Dumbleton on 8 July 1797. He was appointed to the prebend of Major pars altaris at the cathedral, and prebendary of Stratford at Salisbury Cathedral on 16 January 1804. Bowles went on to become vicar of Bremhill with Foxham and Highway on 9 May 1804 and was appointed domestic chaplain to Bishop John Douglas (1781-1807) on 15 May 1804. In 1818, Bowles was appointed chaplain to the Prince Regent and he became canon residentiary at Salisbury Cathedral on 14 August 1828.

In 1789 W L Bowles published, in a very small quarto volume, *Fourteen Sonnets*, which were received with extraordinary favour, not only by the general public, but by such men as Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Wordsworth. Bowles was the cause in the 1820s of the Alexander Pope controversy into which George Gordon, Lord Byron was drawn and out of which W L Bowles succeeded, it has been said, in establishing certain principles which might serve as the basis of a true method of poetical criticism, and of having inaugurated, both by precept and by example, a new era in English poetry. Bowles also enjoyed a considerable reputation as an antiquary, his principal work in that department being *Hermes Britannicus* (1828).<sup>79</sup>

After Bowles's death, Alaric Alfred Watts wrote, *'My father had indeed intended to write his life, and has left behind him copious collections with this view derived from W L Bowles's correspondence, to which access was permitted to me through his kinsman the late Dr. Bowles, of Stanton Lacy; but the project fell through'*.<sup>80</sup>

### **Rev. John Bradley, MA (died 1794)**

John Bradley obtained his BA at New College, Oxford, and received his ordination as a priest at the Bishop's Palace, Sarum, on 21 June 1767<sup>81</sup> and on achieving his MA was appointed a curate at St Giles, Great Coxwell, Berkshire, on 15 February 1770,<sup>82</sup> a few months before the arrival of John Bowles as vicar there. Bradley was instituted vicar of All Saints, Faringdon, on 23 July 1779, where he remained until his death on 3 March 1794.<sup>83</sup>

### **Professor Phocion Heinrich Clais, Director of the Gymnastic Academy, Berne (1782-1854)**

Clais was a sports educator, working in continental Europe and he made efforts to engraft a course of gymnastic exercises on the general system of education in England. He described a *'want of proper physical education.. the vast importance of a regular and systematic course of robust recreation; not only as the best means of laying the foundation of vigorous health, but of a graceful form, and of a virtuous and manly character'*.<sup>84</sup>

### **Major-General William Craven, 1st Earl of Craven (1770-1825)**

Major-General Craven was the eldest son of William Craven, 6<sup>th</sup> Baron Craven, and succeeded his father as 7<sup>th</sup> Baron Craven and 1<sup>st</sup> Earl in 1791. He served in the Army and achieved the rank of major-general. In 1801 he was created Viscount Uffington, in the County of Berkshire, and Earl of Craven, in the County of York. The earldom was a revival of the title held by his 17<sup>th</sup>-century kinsman and namesake William Craven, 1st Earl of Craven. Craven later served as Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire from 1819 to 1826. He mostly resided at Coombe Abbey, near Coventry in Warwickshire and occasionally at Hamstead Marshall in Berkshire, and completed the building of Ashdown Park built as a hunting lodge. Craven married Louisa Brunton in 1807. He died in July 1825, aged 54, and was succeeded in his titles by his son William.<sup>85</sup>

#### **William Craven, 2nd Earl of Craven (1809-1866)**

William Craven, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Craven was commissioned a captain in the Berkshire Regiment of Militia on 14 February 1829. He was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Berkshire on 20 October 1831 and Lord Lieutenant of Warwickshire in 1853 until 1856, when he resigned due to ill-health.<sup>86</sup>

#### **William Howley, Bishop of London (1766-1848)**

Howley was born in 1766 at Ropley, Hampshire, where his father was vicar. He was educated at Winchester College and in 1783 went to New College, Oxford. After some time working in Somerset as a private tutor, in 1809 he was appointed Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University (as well as becoming a Fellow of Winchester and a Canon of Christ Church, Oxford). He was an active English Freemason, having joined the 'Royal York Lodge' in Bristol on 21 December 1791, aged 25, and served the lodge regularly until his elevation to the episcopate took him to London. In October 1813, at Lambeth Palace, he was consecrated Bishop of London, a post he was to occupy until 1828, when he became Archbishop of Canterbury.<sup>87</sup>

#### **John Russell D.D., Headmaster of Charterhouse School (1787–1863)**

The son of John Russell, rector of Helmdon, Northamptonshire, and Ilmington, Warwickshire, Russell was educated at Charterhouse School, and at Christ Church, Oxford, obtaining an MA in 1809. Russell took holy orders in 1810 and was appointed headmaster of Charterhouse in 1811. The school became popular: in 1824 he had 480 boys under him, and among his pupils were William Makepeace Thackeray, who alluded to the school and Russell in his works. At Charterhouse, Russell introduced the 'monitorial' system of teaching.<sup>88</sup> In 1827 Russell was made a prebendary and afterwards canon residentiary of Canterbury Cathedral. He resigned the head-mastership in 1832, on being presented to the rectory of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate. He was president of Sion College in 1845 and 1846, and was treasurer of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and an administrator of other societies. He held St. Botolph's rectory until his death, at the Oaks, Canterbury, on 3 June 1863. A Latin inscription to his memory, and that of two sons, was placed in the Charterhouse chapel.<sup>89</sup>

#### **Sir John Courtenay Throckmorton, Bart. (1754-1819)**

Educated at the Roman Catholic college at Douai, Throckmorton succeeded to the baronetcy in 1791. He knew the poet Cowper, was a member of the Society of Dilettanti, and was active in Catholic and Whig politics. He moved to Buckland House, Berkshire, in 1791.<sup>90</sup> *See also: Remarks on*

*the Considerations of Sir John Throckmorton ... arising ...*, Volume 6, by John Coker (of New coll, Oxford.), 1806 (Google Books). *Resisting the Roman Catholics' readmission to the mainstream.*

### **Cecilia Underwood, 1st Duchess of Inverness (1785-1873)**

Cecilia Underwood, 1st Duchess of Inverness (née Lady Cecilia Letitia Gore) was the second wife of Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, sixth son of George III. As their marriage was in contravention of the Royal Marriages Act 1772, it was considered legally void, and she could not be styled either as the Duchess of Sussex or a Princess. She was created Duchess of Inverness, in her own right, by Queen Victoria, on 10 April 1840.

### **Sir William Walker (1753-1825)**

Believed to have been a native of Yorkshire, Walker was born about the year 1753, settled at Leicester and took up his freedom as a 'stranger' on 18 September 1795, joining the corporation and filling various offices later. He married, and according to St. Martin's registers, had a large family.

William married in 1781 Martha daughter of John Kenworthy of Wooldale, and by 1795 had moved to Leicester where he traded as a wool merchant. He was mayor when the Prince Regent, later George IV, visited Belvoir Castle, the home of the Dukes of Rutland. As mayor he presented a loyal address to the Prince following which he received a knighthood at his hands. He became High Sheriff of the county of Leicestershire in 1823.

Sir William died in 1825 and was interred at St. Martin's, Leicester. There is a mural tablet in the south chapel there that says that '*His public life evinced an inflexible attachment to his King and country; in private life he approved himself an affectionate husband and tender parent*'. There is also a mural tablet to the memory of Mrs. Martha Walker, his wife, who died on 11 August 1805, aged fifty-three. There is a monument to his memory in Deanhead church, erected by his son John Kenworthy Walker who had retired to a small estate in the area after practising medicine in Huddersfield for some years.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Historic England List for England, Entry Number 1368525

<sup>2</sup> Victoria County History, London, 1924, vol. 4, Great Faringdon, pp489-499

<sup>3</sup> Leeds, E. T. An Adulterine Castle on Faringdon Clump, *The Antiquaries Journal*, Volume 16, Issue 2, April 1936, pp165-8

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<sup>5</sup> King, Edmund. ed. *The Anarchy of King Stephen's Reign*, 1994, Oxford Scholarship Online

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