

the players from the resources of the Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library, which include the detailed census of 1851.³³ The certitude of identification from the 1851 census varies from the confident to the very, very dubious, but I include it for what it is worth, or for what memories it might stir. There are also the results of much research by the Banbury Historical Society, for example *Register of Baptisms 1723-1812*³⁴, and *Baptisms and Burials Registers of Banbury 1813-1858*³⁵ from which the specific birth dates for those whose birthplace was given as Banbury in the 1851 census can be ascertained. In addition, the Register of Electors for 1850 yields information.³⁶ I have also sought to try to trace them in the 1881 and 1901 censuses.³⁷ Taking the 29 players alphabetically:-

Blencowe, W. (Played in one game) – The census of 1851 shows him as aged 38, living at 127 Butchers Row. His occupation is registered as Tailor, and he was born in ‘Middlesex Southwark’.³⁸ He was married with 6 children (one of whom, aged 11, was a tailor’s apprentice). No entry in 1901 census. The 1850

smith and labourer, with their women and children come to see the fun, were at ease together and happy all the summer afternoon. If the French *noblesse* had been capable of playing cricket with their peasants, their châteaux would never have been burnt.” Cricket and Empire has recently been scholastically explored in Ramachandra Guha’s *A Corner of a foreign Field: The Indian History of a British Sport*, Picador 2002. An example of cricket and Jingoism is contained in an extract from a poem “*A Soldier’s Home*” printed in the *Oxfordshire Family Historian*, 10.1 (Spring 1996), p.15:

In that chest are Bats and Balls,
The wicket to which often falls,
Suggestive of our foes who must
Before the British bite the dust.

The Soldier was John Hill who served from age 18 in 1885 to 1893, in Princess Charlotte’s of Wales, Royal Berkshire Regiment.

³³ This census was taken on the night of 30/31 March 1851, and was the second national census. Its principal changes since the 1841 census were to give the actual ages of those 15 or more, and to specify the place of birth. I consulted the *Index to Oxfordshire Census 1851, Vol 9 Banbury Union*, compiled by Hugh Kearsay, Oxfordshire Family History Society, 1991. They transcribed the census in two volumes, undated, but acquired by the Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library in September 1996.

³⁴ J.S.W. Gibson, Banbury Historical Society 16, 1978.

³⁵ J.S.W. Gibson & R.C. Couzens, Banbury Historical Society 22, 1988.

³⁶ In *Banbury Electoral Registers 1836-1850*, Centre for Banburyshire Studies, Banbury Library.

³⁷ These are the two which have easily accessible alphabetical indexes.

³⁸ Southwark was actually in Surrey.