

## A VICTORIAN CHILDHOOD

### **Memoirs of Banbury during the early years of the life of *Dorothy Mary Bromley***

I was born on the 29th of December 1886 at 44 North Bar, Banbury and was baptized in St Mary's Parish Church, Banbury during the early months of 1887. The year of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

My father and mother were married in St Mary's Church on February 24th 1886.

My father, Clement Bromley, was born at 43 North Bar in 1846 and was the eldest son of Clement Bromley, who came to live in Banbury when he was apprenticed to his uncle John Bromley, a builder, decorator etc who carried on his business in Parsons Street in the premises lately occupied by Kingerlee & Son. John Bromley and his family were buried in St Mary's Church Yard, a large square stone being visible from the path near until removed when the gravestones were removed to make a Garden of Rest. The piece of stone bearing his name now forms part of the curb opposite the Vicarage side door.

My mother Caroline Allen before her marriage was the only daughter of Samuel and Charlotte Allen. Samuel Allen was the son of the schoolmaster at Farnborough [?]. He was an ironmonger with one shop in [48] Parsons Street next to the Reindeer Inn and another in Bridge Street.

My grandmother Charlotte was a twin daughter of Henry Herbert who lived at the Reindeer. They were the youngest of a large family. The eldest, Henry, followed his father at the Reindeer, helped by his sister Maria. He was Assistant Overseer for many years. Later he retired to 48 [?45] West Bar and was elected Mayor but was taken ill and died before he could take office. One of his sisters married Joseph Malsbury who was Mayor of Banbury [1871-72] and after his retirement built and lived with his daughter for some years at the Limes now occupied by Reynaby[?] School.

My father and his brother and also mother's two brothers all attended the school called the Banbury Academy in the Horse Fair now divided into offices called Whateley Chambers. The Head Master from 1854 to 1883 was Mr William Hartley. I have the Menu and Toast list of a Centenary Dinner at the [f.2] White Lion Hotel on March 23rd 1897.