



*The Banbury Academy: drawing on the Centenary Toast List.*

Many well-known names in Banbury are given as proposing and responding to toasts. My uncle, Hebert Allen, sang a solo and took part in glees with Messrs. Sykes, Johnson and Wells and another uncle William Bromley gave two recitations. The Chairman was the Mayor, Mr W. Lake and the Vice-Chairman Mr Alban Buller. Mr J.N. Durrant was the Headmaster from 1890. A pleasant little copy of a drawing of the school on this Toast List is unsigned. A list is given of the names of ninety-four old boys who were present.

Later on my father went to a school at Bilton near Rugby as a boarder in about 1868. I have an exercise book he wrote there containing very neat copper-plate writing and also drawings and plans. Also a knife and fork of horn in a case he used there. He said the boys were give meat, perhaps a chop and a mug of ale for breakfast.

Subsequently when he joined his father in business he joined the volunteers and also became a member of the Fire Brigade, the membership of which was voluntary and unpaid. I remember as a child more than once seeing a man on a farm-horse galloping wildly up North Bar to the Fire Station then in the Horse Fair next to the Woodlands, the home of the Brigade Captain, Mr Charles Fortescue, now the main part of the Whateley Hotel.