

This splendid account of the school by Batten follows earlier histories by the Reverend Sidney Boulter covering the years 1860-1910, a supplement by the Reverend G. H. Ward covering 1910-1925 and then a comprehensively revised history by Brian Smith in 1978. With a further thirty years to record, as the author says, full advantage has been taken of 'developments in publishing and technology' enabling 'the present book to include a far greater range of pictures and photographs'. And as such this history, written to celebrate the 150 years of the school's existence, is a visual delight, providing a succinct synopsis of the history of the school from its beginnings up to the present time. Arranged in the historical periods of each headmaster, it is fascinating to read how the school developed over the years and how each has met the challenges of the time. For anyone with an interest in the village of Bloxham, of which the school has played such a central role, I commend this book.

**D.W. Harrington** [Wilberforce 1959-63]

*Ed.note.* As the author acknowledges, this book complements rather than competes with the detail and scope of Brian Smith's 1978 *History* of the school. However, it is well indexed and future researchers will value the names listed in the School Roll at January 2010.

Of particular interest is a photograph of Egerton with fellow Deddington curates in 1858. We hope to include this in the forthcoming Part Two of William Cotton Risley's diary, in which all three curates feature prominently.

In addition to *The Bloxhamist*, due to the efforts of a Bloxham Old Boy, Peter Barwell, over 14,000 photographs have been added to the website <<http://oldbloxhamist.bloxhamschool.com/>>. These include a considerable amount of historical material which is now housed in a room in the Vallance Library for the use of the Old Bloxhamist Society and the school archives.

***Welchman Chronicles: The descendants of John Welchman of Deddington (d.1591)***, by John David Welchman. Card covered, x, 542pp, illus., indexed. Privately published by the author, 2010 (about £35 incl. UK p&p, Church Cottage, Goosey nr Faringdon, Oxon. SN7 8PA; <[john.welchman@goosey.co.uk](mailto:john.welchman@goosey.co.uk)>).

The Welchman family had a major role in Banbury affairs in the seventeenth century and at Brackley in the eighteenth. It was the original John's gt.grandson Edward (c.1610-85) who moved to Banbury in 1638. There he established himself as a baker in Parsons Lane in the building that became known as "The Original Cake Shop", also acquiring the Bell nearby. He was on the Corporation from 1652, later serving as Mayor. He married twice, confusingly having sons named John by both wives. The first (c.1637-1713), an apothecary, was also on the Corporation, and was deeply involved in the political controversies of the 1680s and subsequent decades. The second John (b.1681, when his father was about 70) became a surgeon, again a Corporation member, Mayor in 1721 and 1727, marrying twice, dying in 1730.