

# *The Bowdon Sheaf*

A BOWDON HISTORY SOCIETY PUBLICATION

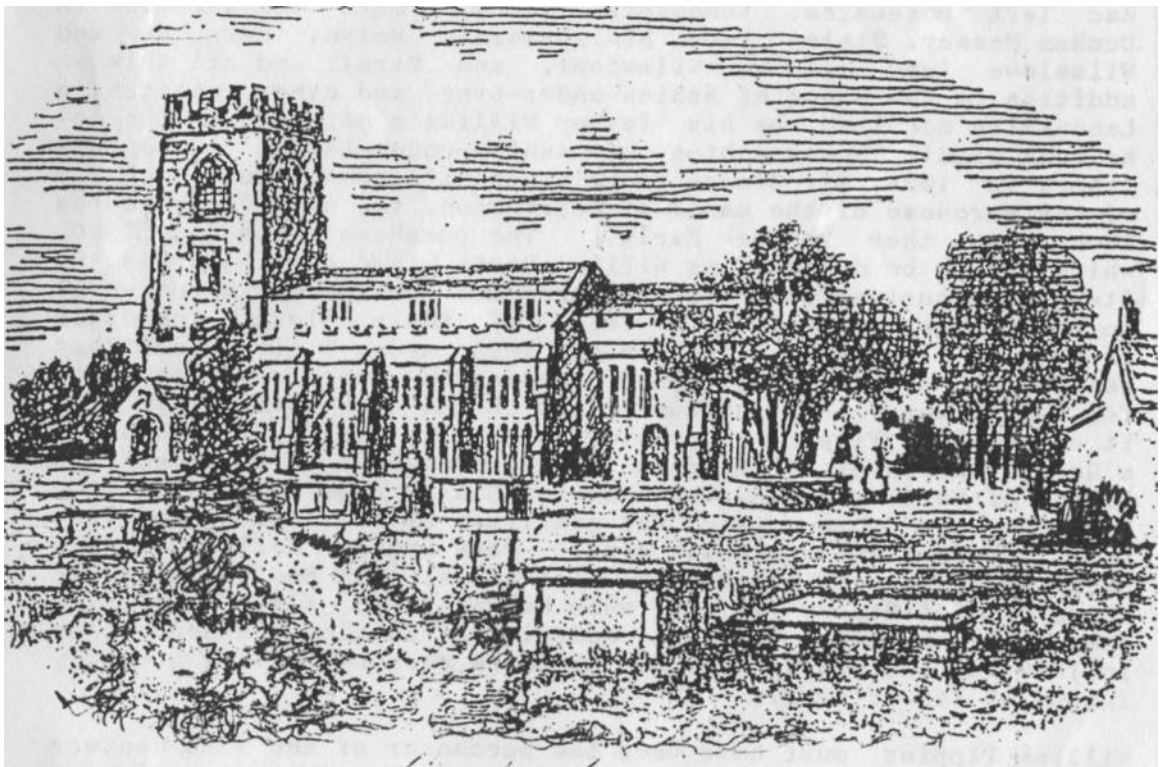
No. 23 February 1994

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ISSN-0265-816X

**BOWDON IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES**  
**THE BOOTHS AND THE TIPPINGS - LANDED GENTRY AND YEOMAN**  
**RETAINERS**  
**by Peter Kemp**

**Part 3**

The high point in the fortunes and status in local society for the Tipping family occurred around the middle of the 1600s when the presumed grandsons of old Henry and Maud both held office under the Booths. William, later called The Elder, was a yeoman and Bailiff to Lord Delamer of Dunham Massey when he died in 1671, and Robert, gentleman of Dunham Massey, and later of Bowdon Hall, was Steward to the same Lord Delamer when he died in 1663. Both would seem to have been born around the year 1600, but unfortunately the Bowdon Registers and Bishop's Transcripts have not survived to record their baptisms.

William Tipping married Emma Yannes (a present-day spelling is Annis) of Staley (now Stalybridge) in 1626 according to the Chester Marriage Licences. It is clear that, even as a young man, William was well-regarded by the Booths and must have acted in some capacity for them over on their Staley estate, and that it was where he met Emma. Back in 1531 when George Booth, the 5th owner of Dunham, had died, besides his manor at Dunham, he had left messuages, tenements, lands, rents and services in Dunham Massey, Staley (now Stalybridge) , Bolyn, Deyn Row and Wilmslowe (now all in Wilmslow), and Styal; and all this in addition to the manor of Ashton-under-Lyne and other estates in Lancashire acquired by his father William's marriage to the co-heiress of Sir Thomas Ashton of Ashton-under-Lyne. A century later, in 1628, Sir George Booth's son William was put in charge of the purchase of the manor of Warrington, the name later Booths took when they became Earls. The purchase price was £7300, which was to be defrayed as William Booth laid down, by his two Stewards ensuring that all the tenantry contributed a sum equal to three year's rent as a sign of their 'love' for their landlord! Such a gift having been made, William said that neither he nor his father would require any more rent or gifts for two lives. William Booth died on the 26th April, 1636, and it was William Tipping who was involved with Sir George Booth and a George Birch of Altrincham in a conveyance of the manor and barony of Warrington and the manor of Staley from the son William Booth to Sir George which was confirmed by an indenture of 1636 shortly before William Booth died. Both Staley Hall and Bollin Hall were seats of the Booths. Indeed, William Booth's place of abode was "of Staley" in 1631 when he was fined £15 for refusing compulsory knighthood on the occasion of Charles I's Coronation in 1626 as one on a list of Cheshire persons having a yearly income of £40 or over.

William Tipping must have been the purchaser of the 17th century Bible still in the possession of a descendant of his son Robert Tipping of Yarwood, through the Pownalls and Carters of Rostherne, since it was printed in 1636 by Robert Barker of London and records baptisms of the children of William and those of his Rostherne descendants. It also contains a note of the Bowdon land-holdings of his son Isaac Tipping dated 27th July, 1657, made apparently when the boy was only 15 years of age. (This has been dealt with in more detail in my article in the "Bowdon Sheaf" No.18 of October, 1991, and here I must correct the error in stating that Isaac was the youngest son of a William Tipping of Rostherne).

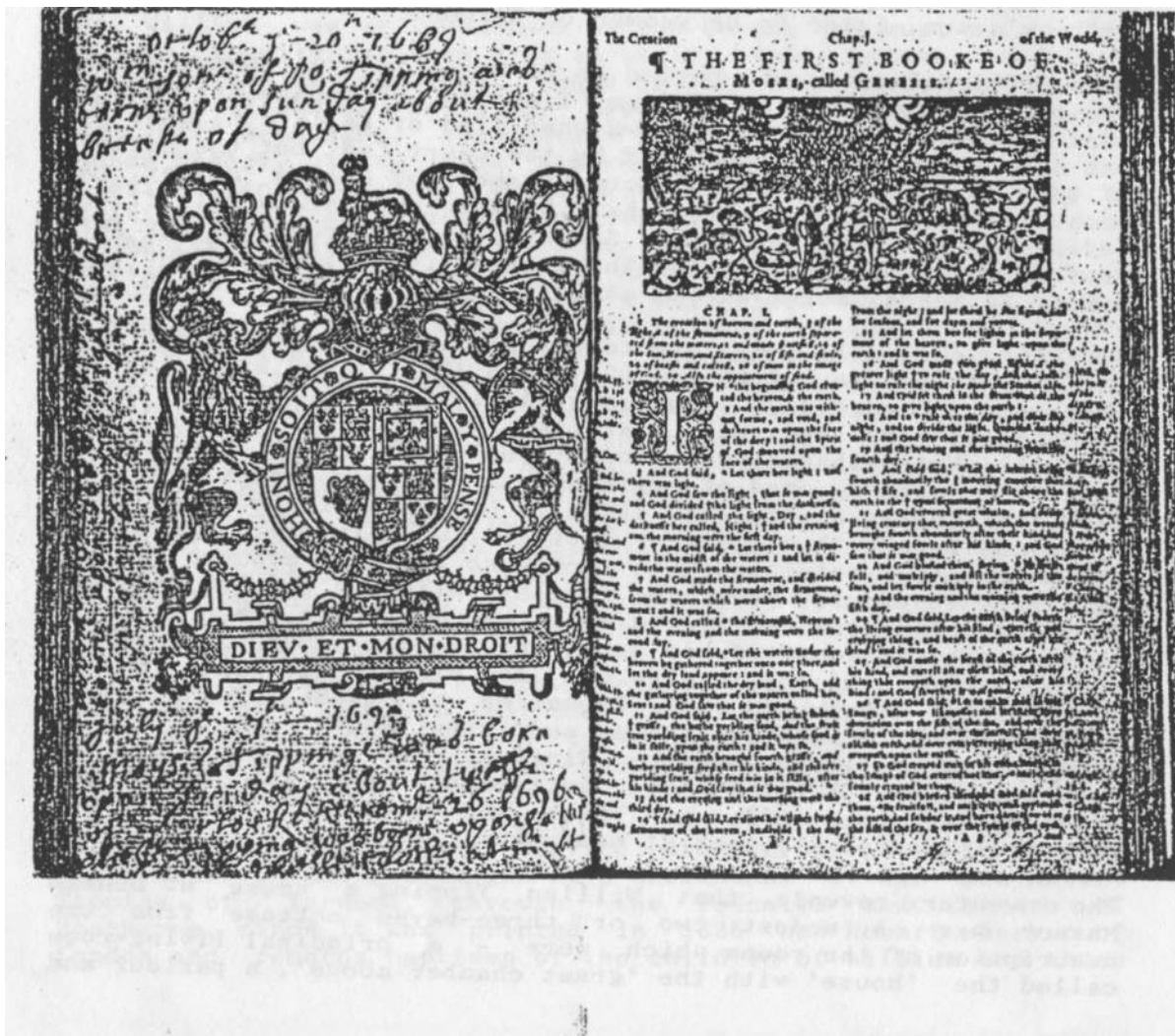
In 1655, according to a lease in the Stamford Papers at the John Rylands Library, George Booth, later Lord Delamer, assigned the Salt House formerly belonging to the Bowdons, to the two brothers William, yeoman of Dunham Massey, and Robert, gentleman of Dunham Massey - "Assignment made by my Mr. to mee Robt. Typing and William of Bowdons Salte house to ye use of my Mr.". The use of the term "my Mr." (my master) indicates that Robert at that date was already employed as a retainer in some capacity by the Booths shortly before he actually became the Steward. On the 17th July an attorney took possession of the property and delivered it to William Tipping. The witnesses to the document were, William Bowdon of Dunham Woodhouses (where the salt-house was situated), Hugh Worrelle, and the 20 year-old Robert Tipping, junior,

William's son, later to be yeoman of Yarwood. When William Tipping was buried on 23 March 1670/1, Bowdon Parish Register records him as "Willm. Tippinge of Dunham Bayliffe to Lord Delamere". It is not known what kind of bailiff he was. He was not the bailiff appointed by the Court Leet but the Bailiff of the Lord of the Manor, Lord Delamer of Dunham Massey. As such, it seems most likely that he was the estate Bailiff, an office immediately below the Steward, and responsible for part of the management of the Booth estates. His wife Emma survived him by 14 years, being buried at Bowdon on 6 January, 1684/5.

He left a full will and inventory, his will having been made three days before burial on 20 March 1670/1 and his inventory appraised and drawn up four days afterwards on 27 March 1671. His eldest son and heir, William Tipping of Benshall (now Benchill, Wythenshawe) had been set up earlier on marriage in June 1654 with a deed of gift and so only received a legacy of five shillings. He was just 40 while Robert of Yarwood and Isaac of Acton Grange, his younger brothers, were in their early 30s, and all clearly established as yeomen so the main concern of the will was to ensure provision for his wife and the two youngest surviving children, George and Mary, who must have been in their teens. After payment of his debts and funeral expenses, one half of his estate went to his wife and the other half went for "ye maintenance Livelyhood and Education of my Said Two Children George and Marie with goods and sufficient meats drinke Cloaths Linnen and Woollen washinge Ringinge and starchinge". The inventory shows that the 1654 settlement upon the eldest son William had been £60, and that the other two elder sons had received loans of £10 each at some time.

The inventory reveals that William Tipping's house at Dunham Massey was a modest two or three-bayed cottage from the description of the rooms which were - a principal living-room, a kitchen, a 'little chamber next to the backdoor', a 'chamber nearer the house', and a 'garnery over the shippon'. Including debts owing to him of £97. 16. 6d, his estate was valued at £360. 19. 2d, reflecting a good standard of living and a comfortable life-style. The listed farm animals, produce and furnishings give a picture of a prosperous hard-working establishment. Wool was spun on "Two great spining wheeles and one sittinge wheele" and the yarn was "at makeinge into cloaths". Besides the family Bible which survives to this day and which was valued at five shillings, there were four large pictures in frames, a brass clock, a looking-glass, a brass pan regarded as an heirloom and £47. 5s. 0d in silver plate and ready money. He asked in his will to be buried "after a Christian manner in my Ancestors burying place at ye Parish Church of Bowdon" but the site in the churchyard, probably being unmarked, is now unknown.

(To be continued)



**THE ADSHEAD FAMILY AND BOWDON**  
**by Prue Wallis Myers and Myra Kendrick**

The sisters, Alice and Elizabeth Adshead became a feature of Bowdon life especially in connection with the Red Cross Association with which both had links and with the Parish church of St Mary the Virgin at which both were devoted and assiduous workers. Alice's lifespan covered most of the twentieth century and for nearly sixty years of it she was resident in Bowdon.

Their maternal grandparents, who came from Timperley, were married at St Mary's, Bowdon, in 1862, the first wedding to be conducted in the rebuilt church which at that date included Timperley within its enormous parish bounds. A photograph of the wedding party is still to be seen in the vestry.

Their father, Allen Adshead, came from Hazel Grove. He ran away from home as a lad because of his distaste for the family butchering business in which he had been put to work. So he came to Hale to work as a gardener's boy. But horses were his love, and one of his employers suggested that he should satisfy this devotion by becoming a cab driver. This he did, and was based at Altrincham railway station.

So it was that he became known to the Dunkerley family, then living at Graythwaite Lodge in Barrow Lane. Hale Barns. Allen Adshead pleased Mrs Dunkerley so much by his careful driving when she was expecting a baby that she wanted no other driver. In time, her husband, Mr Frank B Dunkerley, the architect who designed the extension to Altrincham General Hospital, had his own coach and asked Mr Adshead to be his coachman. This was in the early years of the twentieth century. Eventually the coach was superseded by a car with Allen Adshead as chauffeur.

Alice and Elizabeth's mother, Eliza Roberts, belonged to a large farming family in Timperley. She was the seventh child in a family of ten. Eliza was twenty-five years old when in 1904, she married Allen Adshead (a year older) at Timperley Parish Church. The marriage certificate stated that her father was Oswald Roberts, a farmer, and Allen's, John Adshead, a labourer.

In the early years of their marriage the couple lived in Hermitage Road, Hale, "on the Hermitage" as Alice put it. Alice was born on 1st September 1906. When Elizabeth was born on 29th June 1911 the family were living in the Dunkerley's coachman's cottage at Hale Barns.

Before her marriage Eliza Roberts had worked as nursemaid to the Gatley family of Oak Road, Hale, in which there were seven children. Eliza became a family favourite and the bond continued right up to her daughter Alice's death in 1992. The fourth Gatley child became Alice's god mother and Alice bore her name. Eliza was happy when surrounded by children and after her marriage became much loved by the Dunkerley children at Graythwaite Lodge, who, when sent to play out-of-doors in cold weather, used to make their way to the coachman's cottage where "Mrs Addie" used to give them hot cocoa to drink.

About 1923 Frank Dunkerley moved his family to a house he had designed at the bottom of Grange Road, Bowdon. This he named The Green Bend. Here the chauffeur, as Allen had now become, was provided with a delightful lodge in the grounds.

Alice and Elizabeth attended the church school at Hale Barns. Alice's bent was practical and she was a good cook and needlewoman; while Elizabeth learnt quickly and by the time she was twelve years old the school mistress declared that she had taught Elizabeth all that she herself knew. So Elizabeth progressed to Bradbury Central School, Hale, while Alice had left school at fourteen and become apprenticed to a dressmaker in Delahays Road at a wage, initially, of two shillings and sixpence a week. She became an "improver" and had to stitch meticulously at the dress seams. She remembered when zip fasteners were introduced in the nineteen thirties and learning how to insert them.

Eventually when her mother became ill, Alice had to take charge of house and family and do her dressmaking at home. This was after a period of being employed by a number of local families, specially in demand for making children's clothes. She remembered to the end of her life putting a little boy to stand on a table while she measured him for his new clothes. Years later that boy became Bishop Arnold of Warwick, recently retired. Other families she sewed for included the Hulls in Hale Barns, the Wests in Portland Road, Bowdon, and the Bells in Albert Road, then Bowdon but now included in Altrincham.

Elizabeth's career developed along different lines. On leaving school she learnt shorthand and type-writing and her first post was with the Broadheath firm of Luke and Spencer. This she held for five years, but she was already interested in nursing, one of her maternal aunts being a nurse and in 1933, on the recommendation of Mr Dunkerley who was chairman of the hospital governing body, she was appointed shorthand typist at Altrincham General Hospital. She proved her worth and in time became hospital almoner. After the National Health Service was established in 1948 the post of almoner was waived and Elizabeth was promoted deputy to the hospital secretary, Mr Geoffrey Pearson, who was in charge of six local hospitals. This post she held until her retirement in 1971.

At the hospital Elizabeth was commonly known as "Addie", though at home she was Bessie or Bess.

Allen Adshead lived until 1951, still in the Dunkerleys' service. When his children were young he saw active service in the 1914-18 war and these were hard years for his wife and young children. The back and heart troubles suffered by Eliza in later life were probably brought on by her wartime spells of potato-lifting on one of the Roberts family farms. She died in October 1955.

Soon afterwards the two sisters moved to a house in Vicarage Lane, Bowdon. Alice's sphere was the cooking and cleaning and Elizabeth's mainly the garden, growing vegetables as well as flowers. Soon they were also sharing the running of St Luke's Sunday School nearby.

For a time after her mother's death, Alice felt lost without an ailing parent to care for, but encouraged by Elizabeth she accepted an invitation to help at a newly founded Red Cross club for the elderly in Bowdon Vale. She started in the kitchen, cleaning it and the crockery to make it fit for use. In time she became the club secretary, working closely with the chairman, Mrs Dorothy Mitchell. This work continued until the summer of 1992 when Alice became too ill for the weekly round of baking, making sandwiches, wrapping up gifts and coping with all the tasks entailed. In September of that year, about a month before her death, the Red Cross Society awarded her a long service medal and honorary life membership.

Elizabeth joined the Red Cross Society in 1935 and was an active V.A.D. The Society grew to be her main sphere of activity outside her work. She became leader of her detachment and her energy and efficiency bore fruit when the team she led won the Stanley Shield in competition with teams from all over the country. In 1939 she was appointed first Assistant and then Commandant for the Altrincham Division which came to be based on Lark Hill in Heald Road, Bowdon. This entailed organising the V.A.D. detachment (training in First Aid and Home Nursing) and the Division's administrative work. Later she progressed through the offices of divisional secretary, director and eventually president. When county and local government areas were revised in 1974, the Altrincham Red Cross division was removed from the county of Cheshire and merged with the Greater Manchester organisation, Elizabeth's role being designated co-ordinator for the newly formed Trafford area.

She was an extremely active member of the committee of Edenhurst Residential Home for the Elderly in Thorley Lane, Timperley, and was instrumental in the setting up of the Heightside Housing Project which developed flats and bungalows behind Edenhurst and in association with it.

In all these activities Elizabeth had the full support of her sister Alice.

In July 1977 Elizabeth was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal on the strength of her Red Cross work. She also received Branch Commendation and the British Red Cross Badge of Honour "for devoted service". Finally, in the 1983 Birthday Honours List she was awarded the M.B.E.

About this time the Adshead sisters moved house again, to a flat at Richmond Court not far from the Parish church of St Mary the Virgin in Bowdon to which both were devoted and into which they poured their characteristically energetic service. Elizabeth became secretary of the Parochial Church Council and later one of the four churchwardens and Alice's practical skills were exercised in the St Mary's Guild, in embroidered kneelers and altar frontals (work shared by Elizabeth) and in baking superb bread and cakes for fund-raising activities. Her fruit cakes graced many a twenty-first birthday, wedding and Christmas celebration.

The younger sister died first, in 1986 at the age of seventy-five. Alice lived on in the flat, deeply missing the sister she had cared for and supported from childhood to the end of her life. But she had many friends and her excellent memory enabled her to keep up correspondence with those who had left the district. She was still involved with church and the Bowdon Vale Red Cross club while battling with increasing ill-health, almost up to her death at eighty-six years old in October 1992.

The Adshead family, then, as Bowdon knew it, represents over a century of local history, illustrating a revolution in social life from the era of valued and loved family retainers to the age of equal opportunity and the so-called classless society.

