

## **ALBURY HISTORY SOCIETY - [alburyhistory.org.uk](http://alburyhistory.org.uk) - RECORDING SCRIPT**

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### **[Extracts from Anthony Browne's Diary by Win Browne](#)**

There is a set of 42 slides for this talk.

Albury Village Hall, 21 March 1990.

18 minutes.

EXTRACTS AND NOTES FROM ANTHONY BROWNE'S DIARYA talk by Mrs.W.Browne

Anthony Browne was born in the old village of Albury on January 13th. 1813, he was the fourth child of Horatio Benjamin and Hannah Browne. Horatio Browne came to Albury about 1800, he married Hannah Renmant, whose grandparents lived at Crossways Farm, Abinger. He worked for Mr.Thornton, Mr.Wall and Mr.Henry Drummond, consecutive owners of Albury Park Mansion and Estate. He died in 1844 and is buried in Albury Parish Churchyard.

Anthony was born in one of a pair of tenements (cottages) near the Old Parish Church gate next to the big Yew tree - his own description. At that time there were about 14 houses occupied there -

- No.1 Jonathon Meyers
- No.2 William Renmant and Horatio Browne
- No.3 Mary Merry
- No.4 G.Hawkins (Miller)
- No.5 Not named
- No.6 Gisilina Butler
- No.7 Box (Keeper)
- No.8 Not named
- No.9 Not named
- No.10 Lowick
- No.11 Sarah Ives - in the Old Churchyard are memorials to Henry & James Ives.
- No.12 William Refell (known as Badger)

The Little George Inn, Landlord - R.Jarlott

I can find no record and the family do not know, where Anthony Browne went to school. In the late 1820's there were boys being taught in the old village in a hired room and the girls in a barn, there being no school at Shere or Weston until the 1830's.

He married Sarah Stanton in 1837, they lived at Sherbourne and then at Chennels West in Brook, one of a pair of old cottages that Anthony had taken down and rebuilt, using the same materials at a cost of £326-3-8d. Later they lived on Albury Heath, they had 6 children.

Anthony worked on the Estate with his Father, and he was to stay there for sometime after his Father left. He was a gifted craftsman and much of his work is still with us in the Irvingite Church/and the Mausoleum in the Old Church, he was also responsible for some work in Albury Park Mansion.

The entries in the diary are not on a day to day basis, there are a great number of marriages, baptisms, deaths and burials recorded. This first entry is something which happened before his time -

9 1811 "Charles Wall bought the Albury Estate including Albury Green, he began by pulling down some of the old cottages. The locals had been walking a small track across the Waste (common) to the church gate and formerly Waste Green, he had an iron fence put from the house round to the Mill Bridge and a pair of iron gates across the road from Weston to the church. (Thus he closed off the traditional path for the villagers going to the church). The diary also records "he was the first to be carried through on May 12th. 1815 -- DEAD"

This next entry was recorded in 1837 when Anthony Browne was 24 years of age -

10 1837 Irvingite Church

"Taking farm buildings from Cooks Place to Sherbourne Farm to make room for the Irvingite Church".

11 1838 "The Chapter House built this year, the Irvingite Church begun".

12 "We altered the stable and coach house including putting a covered way from the Mansion to form a church for the preachers while the Irvingite Church was being built. Henry Drummond, Mrs Caid and the Campbells spoke in the Spirit, but the common people were not encouraged to do so, Mrs. Jelly from Farley Heath was asked to be quiet".

13 1839 "Setting up the Eastern Cross window - weighed 27cwt.". (This was removed in 1852 and replaced by a circular window in stone).

"Making plan for a Sedilia for which the Architect and others failed to give design so I made it from instructions".

14 "Making Spandrels and under-beam in the Irvingite Church and Skirt moulding. Making Vestry Screen and Door for Irvingite Church".

"Fixed the Organ Loft in the church".

15 "My son William Browne carving flowers in making Sedilia" (William also assisted in carving the Poppy Heads).

1840 September. First service in the Catholic Apostolic Church.

In 1850, 1852 and 1853 Anthony made the following entries (apparently in retrospect ;

16 1850 Tabernacle

"Preparing cedar for making Tabernacle for Church"

"I finished the Tabernacle for Church - cost me £17-0-0" (The notes are not quite clear but I think it must have taken him about 6 months to complete). Another entry says "I made a second Tabernacle of Aspen wood, was unable to finish it".

1852 Irvingite Church

"I made 2 Red Cedar lamp stands for the church, one on each side of the altar, also the oak stall seat".

"The mouldings in the drop under quarter beams were carved by C. Mills - plasterer"



1853

"Unpacking the Reredos from Norwich and later putting together the Reredos".

"My Father and I made the pinnacles round the church of sandstone, they cost about £8-0-0 each, they did not last, they crumbled away and fresh ones were made".

"At this time I was asked to make an oak stock for the door of the Irvingite Church in Glasgow. Key and lock made by John Trower, Ironsmith".

(John Trower was an ancestor of Arthur Trower, at present Chairman of Albury Parish Council).

#### The Drummond Chapel - Old Church

(17) "Making the Mausoleum in the Old Church according to A.W.Pugin's design.

(18) Roof to be all Chestnut in framing for a Mausoleum in the south transept  
(19) of the Old Church, making screen of old Bell staging for the Mausoleum for 2 archways and a pair of gates, I carved the flowers and fixed the stained glass lights. A.W.Pugin set out the painting and gilding. Attending the Architect at Mausoleum. The iron and stonework was carried out by local craftsmen on the Estate".

1841

"In making the Mausoleum there were 3 brick graves, 1 and 2 on the lower dais, In taking out the mould to the churchyard, in No.3 there was a coffin, said it was Captain Finch who was buried there in October 1794, he was said to have died in an asylum in London. The coffin was not decayed, being so sound when we had taken it out to the churchyard we looked inside to see how he faced, it was filled with saw dust, the middle quite bright and not a bone to be seen. All the parish being of certain disposition thought that he got out to see that his wife got enough for the sale of the Estate and forgot to to get back in".

Having covered his close involvement with the Irvingite Church and the Drummond Mausoleum I have made the following selection of entries from the diary, which are of wider interest;

(20) 1850

"Albury Mill burnt down - ARSON" (Again this entry is in retrospect - the Mill was burnt down in 1830 by James Warner, the last man in the British Isles to be hung for arson).

1851

"I went to the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park".

(21) 1852

"I made a Maypole and fixed it in Weston Street where the old one stood, Which had been taken down about 50 years before, because J.Edwards had climbed to the top and turned around the weathercock, then turned himself round and came down head first to the horror of onlookers",

1854

April 10th

(22) "Weston House burnt down".

(23) There is also a note for 1811 - "Weston House was in the possession of the Godschall family, they used the cartway through Weston Wood, which was also their property, to connect with Kirby's coach at Clandon Crossroads, to London".

1855 January 13th.

"Henry Drummond had a notice fixed to the church door of a meeting to be held at the Inn for the owners of the Manor to meet an Enclosure Commission to enclose all Farley Heath, Lord Onslow and Lord Grantley and others objected to it and shut off any further claim. The Commission said that all the Lord of the Manor could claim was one sixteenth part of it".

May 31st

"Lord Onslow granted me 1 acre, 2 rods, 6 poles on Albury Heath, fine certain and heriot certain". (I think this probably means fine and payment fixed).

November 2nd.

"H.Drummond's estate men destroyed my house on Albury Heath with the authority of the Copyholder. J.Howe the steward rejoiced above measure" !

November 15th.

"I went to Rand Capion, steward to Lord Onslow, to know what the words in the grant meant, 'Without Warranty' - it means he said Lord Onslow would maintain his right of the Manor on the heath, but not my loss by H.Drummond, he was acting with the right of the Copyholder". (Anthony Browne did not get the land on Albury Heath enfranchised until 1895, by that time Albury Estate had passed to the Percy's.)

1860 "R.Tunnell and Anthony Tunnell's wife were summoned to the Bench for cutting wood on the waste of Winterfold, they were fined 10/-"

1863 "I was summoned to Guildford Bench to give evidence against a Father and Son for cruelty to an Ass".

1864 "Signed paper for James Mercer to get a 'spirit licence' for his Public House at Little London".

"Mercer obtained his licence to sell spirits - Canon Dundas said he would like to do away with Mercer's 'spirit licence' at Little London".

1866 Anthony's tasks were varied on September 16th. !

"Decorating lodge gates with flowers for Sir Thomas Gage and Adelaide Drummond's wedding. Honeymoon spent at Albury Park House".

"In 1866 Albury Court Manor held on October 11th. granted me a piece of waste land - 1 acre, 2 rods, 6 poles at Smithwood Common in the Parish of Albury".

1867 June 7th.

"G.Cannon (Carter) and his two horses killed by lightening while ploughing to the south of Dilton carthouse". (The area between Pond's Farm and Lockhurst Hatch Lane where there were large deposits of ironstone)

June 27th.

"Coming of age of Lord Warkworth. J.Miles and I being churchwardens met Lord Warkworth to receive the clock for the church, I read the thanks of the Parish to him".

1868 May

"No fair at Albury today and no fair at Sherbourne as formerly on Palm Sunday,



and rent feasts a thing of the past".

(30) After leaving the Estate's employment, Anthony became a Master Builder with his son John Stanton Browne. They built Hurst Lea on Albury Heath, which has recently been made into 2 houses - among the exhibits here tonight is a photograph of it at the building stage in the early 1880's.

1884 January 27th.

"My wife Sarah died - I made arrangements for her to be buried in Albury Churchyard, the grave was dug and the materials for lining delivered, good red bricks and York Stone, when I received a message from the Rev. Dundas to say this custom was no longer allowed".

(31) *h. south* "I went to Shere and saw Mr. Rolf - so filled in the grave at Albury and took the materials to Shere, my wife was buried there".

1885 "Went to the Colonial Exhibition".

1887 "The Queen's Jubilee" (Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee)

ALGERNON

(32) ~~Augustus~~ Percy presented Anthony Browne with an official Jubilee commemorative medallion in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the success of the local Jubilee festivities.

Many local deaths are recorded in the diary and also the following ;

(34) Henry Drummond

(35) A.W. Pugin (Architect)

(36) Martin Farquhar Tupper

Duke of Wellington

Bishop Wilberforce - who was thrown from his horse crossing Abinger Rough on his way to Holmbury and was killed.

He also mentions - women working in the fields for 10d. per day,

Butter 10d. per lb. at Ponds Farm,

Rabbits at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. each

There is only one reference to the railway, "Mr. Drummond gave his reaction to the Reading and Riegate Railway Company, that he did not want a station on his property", the Company would have liked one at Brook.

(37) Anthony Browne died 29th. January 1898 aged 85 years - he was one of the last of the children to be born. in the old village of Albury and was buried with his wife at Shere.

The following slides show examples of his gifted craftsmanship ;

(38) Carved Pew ends in the Catholic Apostolic Church.

39 A carved mirror surround, which is a prized family possession.

40 The gate pillars at The Little House, Albury Heath, are examples of decorative bricks for which Anthony made the moulds, as are these Pugin chimneys at

41 Weston House.

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- 1 Anthony Bowne.
- 2 Albury Old Village.
- 3 Crossways Farm.
- 4 Old Church.
- 5 Little George.
- 6 West Chennels.
- 7 Entrance Apostolic Church.
- 8 Entrance Droommond Chapel.
- 9 Albury Museum.
- 10 Mill Bridge.
- 11 Chaplin's House.
- 12 Side view Apostolic Church.
- 13 Sedile.
- 14 Spondrels.
- 15 Poppy Head.
- 16 Interior Apostolic Church.
- 17 Droommond Chapel roof.
- 18 Stained glass windows.
- 19 Painting & ~~gold~~ gilding.
- 20 Albury Mill.
- 21 Maypole.
- 22 Westlin House.
- 23 Bowne's Trackway.
- 24 Old Church Door.
- 25 Winterfold.
- 26 William IV.
- 27 Lodge Gates.
- 28 Lord Parkworth invite.
- 29 Albury Park Church (clock).
- 30 Hurst Lea.
- 31 Here Church.
- 32 Jubilee medal (face).
- 33 Inscription side.
- 34 Droommond.
- 35 Pezen.
- 36 Leppes.
- 37 Grave stone.
- 38 Pans ends.
- 39 Murres.
- 40 Little Horse gate pillars.
- 41 Westlin House chimney.
42. North House chimney.