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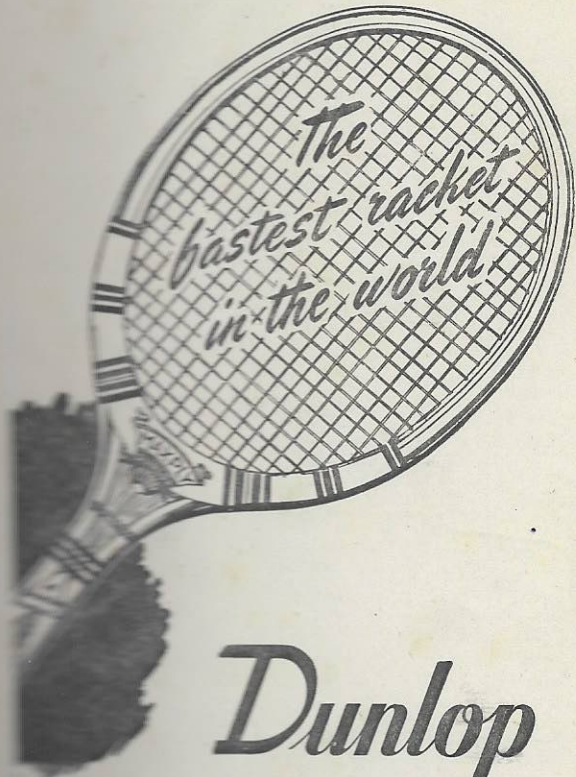


OFFICIAL HANDBOOK  
1949

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1948	...	W. F. DAWSON.
1949	..	C. W. BANKS.

THE Yorkshire Lawn Tennis Association is proud of the fact that so many of its old stalwarts, still retain a real live enthusiasm in the County's well-being.

Year after year, a fresh name is added to the growing Roll of Presidents, and the Council, who make the choice are indeed happy in their selection of men, who have represented and upheld the high traditions of the County of their birth or adoption.

To many of the present generation of players, they are unknown, except by name, but the older members of the Association, still retain memories of their sterling sportsmanship and undaunted allegiance to the County of broad acres.

#### A Worthy Choice.

Mr. C. W. Banks, better known to his many friends as "Cyril" is this year's President of the Yorkshire Association—a right worthy choice, for he is known, much further than the confines of our own County, as a sound administrator, now that his active playing days are virtually over.

He was educated at Wilson's Grammar School and Eastbourne, where he gained 1st XI Colours at cricket and soccer.

He cannot recollect what aroused his interest in lawn tennis, but does remember in spring and summer months, when a boy of 16 and 17, getting up early in the morning, and playing tennis in the local park three times a week and swimming at the baths two mornings each week from 6-30 to 8 a.m. No tennis was allowed at school, except for masters.

#### A "Leg-Pulling" Story.

Our President's family moved to Leeds in 1907, and in that city, he has spent practically the whole of his business and sporting life.

He played soccer for Roundhay, and once toured in Holland, playing against several of the 1st Division clubs of that country; he also was in the Headingley hockey side for several seasons. However, lawn tennis was Cyril's best love, and he commenced his club life with The Leeds Athletic Lawn Tennis Club in Headingley.

The late C. E. Fox, a past President of the Yorkshire L.T.A. over many years, told the "leg-pulling story, of how, when at his best County standard," a young whipper-

snapper in knicker-bockers, complete with fishing net racket, and some dirty balls in an onion bag—came up to him, and said "Will you have a game, Sir?" The reply was to the effect that he was sorry, but his opponent would be coming up shortly.

The subject of our sketch, still vividly recollects how he sat on a pavilion seat the whole afternoon, knowing no one, and eventually went home without a game that afternoon and evening, and so did C. E. Fox!!! Of course, there was a vestige of truth in this story, but there were no knicker-bockers and no onion bag, and our President always possessed a reasonably good racket. Two or three years later, he was playing regularly with "C. E." and much of his early progress at the game, was due in no small measure to the older man's helpful criticism and practice.

#### The Value of Practice.

A kind club member, affectionately called "Little Dixon" and his wife were the first club players to give him a game, and then a fortunate meeting with R. Stanley Johnson, who was equally keen on the game provided both a practice partner and a firm friend. This valued friendship has lasted over forty years and still continues.

1909 saw the pair at the Ilkley tournament and a win for "Cyril" in the 2nd Class Handicap Singles and also a win for the couple in the 2nd class Handicap Doubles gave them just the encouragement they both needed. After this, they decided to practice hard, and they certainly did, rarely missing an evening or weekend. Our President's game improved a little faster than Johnson's, and he was soon partnering George R. Coxon, that old stalwart of Yorkshire tournament tennis, as third pair in the Leeds Club first team, whilst later, in 1914, he was advanced to first couple, with Laurie A. Lowe, the Yorkshire County player, as his partner.

#### His War-time Activities.

Cyril's first county invitation was in July 1914, with Lowe against Lancashire—then lawn tennis was blotted out by the Great War for five years. The only game he played during that long period was a knock-up with the old Notts County player, Freddy Walker, at Bethune, in France 1916.

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Commissioned in 1914, in the West Yorkshire Regiment, he rose to the rank of Captain in 1916, and was twice wounded at Neuve Chappell, and Roelincourt near Arras. In 1918, he found himself in the Royal Air Force, acting as Brigade Major to the Balloon Section, which was the first stage of airship training. During this year, he several times experienced the somewhat doubtful pleasure of free-ballooning up 6/7000 feet, sitting in a small basket under a spherical balloon with no means of navigation, except to drop sand for rising and let gas escape for descending. He was often blown over London and once completed the trip from London to Lowestoft.

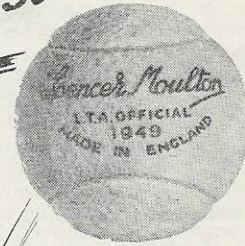
Quartered in the Polo Pavilion at Roehampton, during this period, with eight beautiful En-tout-cas courts at his door, and Fleming, the lawn tennis professional in attendance daily, "Cyril" bemoans the fact that he made one of the foolish mistakes of his life. If he had only had a couple of lessons on his backhand each week, it might have become a similar attacking shot as his forehand. Instead—he played golf.

#### An Active Business Career.

Out of H. M. Services, our President was back at business in December, 1918, and as Director and Secretary of the Norseland Canning Co. Ltd., plunged into the intricacies and technicalities of the canning of "Sardines". Fortunately managing to weather the slump and storms of 1922, good fortune must have attended the hard work he put in, for by 1940, as Chairman and Managing Director of British Fish Cannery Ltd., he was controlling the production of a chain of five modern fish canning factories around the coast, employing nearly 1000 workers with a production utilising 4/5 million silver fish daily. The activities of two subsidiary companies, the East Coast Packing Co. Ltd., and Aberdeen Canning Co. Ltd., were also under his direction.

He thus became the pioneer of the "Sardine Canning industry" and in 1937, was honoured by being elected President of the National Food Canning Council and became a Fellow of the Grocers Institute. A further honour came this year, in the election to the Junior Vice-President's chair of the Leeds Incorporated Chamber of Commerce, whilst he is also on the Leeds and District

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that lasts  
the longest



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#### A Yorkshire Champion.

Returning to lawn tennis, the writer finds that Cyril joined Chapel Allerton L.T.C. in 1919 and soon had the privilege of playing with the famous Watson brothers, Sydney and Ernest, who were then in their prime. A few years later, the Y.L.T.A. policy was specifically to encourage young talent in the County and three veterans in M. D. Hick, H. W. Mackrill and C. W. Banks were given the job of partnering and breaking in, three very promising Yorkshire youngsters Colin Gregory, Jack Chamberlain and the late Reggie Knight, respectively, in County matches. Not many years elapsed before these three great youngsters were amongst the best players in the whole country.

Our President represented Yorkshire on the courts for more than 20 years, and managed to win two County Championships, the mixed doubles with Miss M. F. Harland in 1929, and the men's doubles with Dr. J. C. Gregory in 1930. He was also a finalist in the men's doubles, with five different partners between the years 1920 and 1934, was runner-up in the singles in 1927 and a finalist in the mixed in 1930.

Other honours were, being selected to play in one Northern Davis Cup Team Trial at Harrogate in 1923, playing at Wimbledon in the late 1920's and appearing in several Inter-County Hard Court Championship finals with Yorkshire.

Playing in practically every Yorkshire tournament of his day, there are few trophies that have not his name engraved once during those years.

#### Administrative Honours.

As I said at the beginning of this article, it is the administrative side of the game that mostly occupies Cyril's attention today.

He was elected a Leeds and District representative on the Yorkshire L.T.A. in 1928 and acted as hon sec. of the Yorkshire Inter-Club Competitions in which there were 21 different groups for some years before the last war. Made a Vice-president of the County in 1936, a further



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honour came in his election as one of Yorkshire representatives to the Lawn Tennis Association, in 1937. That body has elected him as a member of the International Selection Committee, responsible for the selection of Great Britain's Davis Cup, Wightman Cup and other international teams, a member of both the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the International Match Committee, besides being chairman of the British Hard Court Championships at Bournemouth.

For several years past, he has filled the post of Yorkshire L.T.A. Chairman with dignity, whilst he is also chairman of the Yorkshire and North of England Championships at Scarborough. I know, too, that his latest honour has pleased him very much, viz. when his old club Chapel Allerton elected him, together with the Earl of Mexborough, as their joint President.

#### A Veteran's Championship.

On several occasions, Cyril has refereed tournaments, including the North of England Hard Court Championships at Scarborough, and has frequently, as L.T.A. representative been in charge of Davis Cup and other International matches. He has also written a series of weekly articles on the game for prominent newspapers and has been responsible for a number of fortnightly broadcasts on the wireless, once being charged with the broadcasting of a Davis Cup match.

This past few years, Arthur Heron has managed to drag him away from his golf to compete in the North of England Veteran Doubles Championship at Scarborough, and after victories in 1946 and 1947, last year the pair succeeded in making the handsome silver cups presented by Capt. Sir William H. L. Wordsworth, their own property, with a third win. It is a very dark secret, but Heron and our President hope to go into really serious training just once more to make a bid for the All-England Veteran Doubles Championship at Eastbourne. Curiously enough, another old Yorkshire player Gerald W. Chesterman of the Sheffield and Hallamshire Club and the evergreen M. J. G. Ritchie, are the holders of these cups. Then, if he is alive and it is not too late, he will make a serious attempt to reduce his present golf handicap of 10, down to single figures at Alwoodley.

#### A Closing Tribute.

The foregoing will show the type of man, the Council have as their President for this year, a thoroughly good sportsman, and the writer says this in the best sense of the word; a sound administrator, who is endeavouring to put back into the game, what he has taken out of it, an ardent man of business, and above all, one possessing a lovable trait in his character for his fellow-men, which all admire.

Such then is Cyril Wilfred Banks and all will extend to him and Mrs. Banks, the wish for many years of good health, and particularly to the former an enjoyable and successful year of office.

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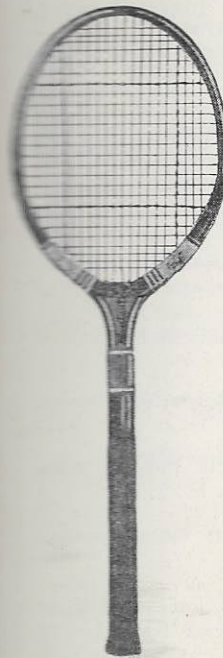
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The Council hope that the Club Hon. Secs. and Officials  
will bring to the notice of the District Representatives,  
the names of any promising players, or any matters in  
the interest of Lawn Tennis generally.

## COUNTY FIXTURES

## MEN.

April	1	Warwickshire (Seniors)	..	Southport
May	7	Lancashire (Seniors)	..	Liversedge
	7	Lancashire (Juniors)	..	Urmston
	14	Cheshire (Seniors)	..	Heaton
	21	Notts (Seniors)	..	In Notts.
	21	Notts. (Juniors)	..	Doncaster
June	25	Durham (Juniors)	..	Middlesborough
July	9	Durham (Seniors)	..	Darlington
	9	Cheshire (Juniors)	..	Timperley
	10	Derbyshire (Seniors)	..	Derby

## INTER-COUNTY WEEK.

July	18	Warwickshire, Middlesex	}	Eastbourne
to	23	Surrey, Kent, Essex		

## LADIES.

April	29	Junior Practice Match	..	Drighlington
May	18	1st Team Practice	..	Chapel Allerton
June	15	Notts. (Seniors)	..	Sheffield
July	23	Notts. (Juniors)	..	In Notts.
Aug.	26	Notts. (Juniors)	..	Sheffield
Sept.	28	Notts. (Hard Courts)	..	In Yorkshire
Oct.	5	Notts. (Hard Courts)	..	In Notts.

## INTER-COUNTY WEEK.

July	18	Middlesex, Warwickshire	}	Folkestone
to	23	Kent, Surrey, Sussex		

## OUR 1948 SEASON IN REVIEW

### INTER-COUNTY GRASS COURT CHAMPIONSHIP SUCCESS

#### PLACE KEPT IN GROUP 1.

By "THE EDITOR."

**T**AKING up the story of the Inter-County Hard Courts (Singles) Competition, where we left off in our last handbook, we qualified to meet our old friends and rivals, Lancashire, in the intermediate round at Chapel Allerton.



**E. HAMPSON.**

(Vice-President)

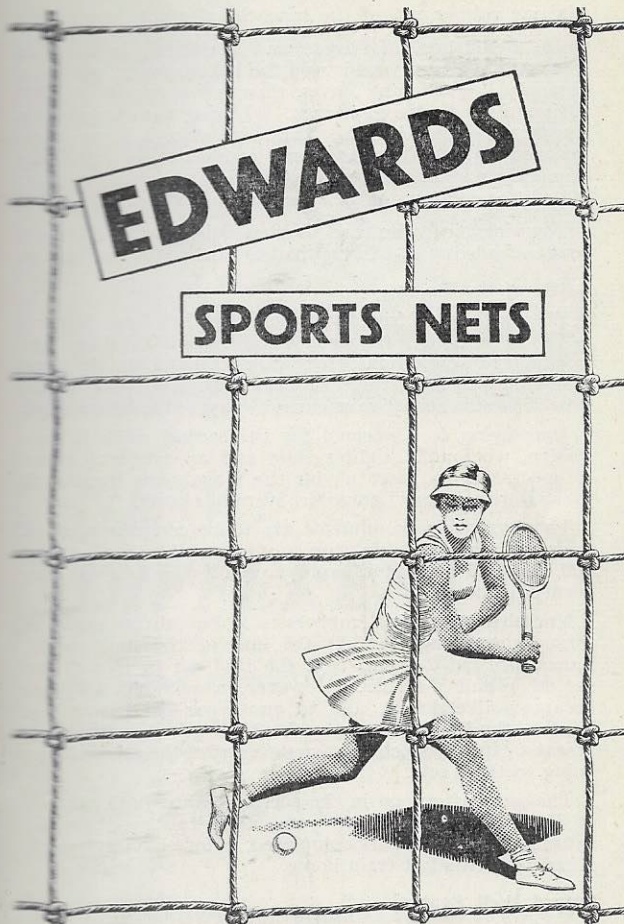
Member L.T.A. Council.

Received Yorkshire Colours.  
Editor

Yorkshire L.T.A. Handbook.

As on other occasions the Red Rose made a determined attempt to gain the lead on the first round, but once again failed, even though Cowdy easily beat Royds in straight sets, and Sherwell unexpectedly defeated Hansom. Both Marriner and Hacking had to fight hard to win strenuous three-set encounters against Lo and Howarth respectively, but with Webb and France easily accounting for Brian Finnigan and Howard Baker we had a 4-2 lead. Save that Royds lost his second rubber of the match, to Finnigan, we did not lose another set, and qualified easily for the semi-final by 9 rubbers to 3.

Missing both Middlesex and Warwickshire in the draw, we rather fancied our chance against Oxfordshire, on the Tally Ho Club ground at Birmingham but we found them a tougher handful than expected and were only able to



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win one rubber out of the nine the elements permitted.

We were short of Royds and Marsland, bringing in Heaton and Sharp, and it was the latter player, who won our only "ewe lamb", even though we were "set-all" in five of the first six matches. During the whole of my long experience with the Yorkshire side, I have never watched a match under worse conditions, a drenching rain and a gale of wind, making it a joy when all was over, to seek the comforts of the spacious club-house.

Warwickshire who had beaten Middlesex 7-4 easily beat Oxfordshire 12-0 in the final to win the Championship.

#### Battle of the Roses.

We started our friendly matches, with a long journey to Port Sunlight, to meet Cheshire, in anything like "Sunlight" conditions, for after completing the first round, in which all three rubbers were won, without the loss of a set, heavy rain caused play to be abandoned.

Journeying to Liverpool for the second week in succession, we found brighter skies and an excellent crowd of spectators to meet us on the Vagabonds ground at West Derby, where Lancashire were our hosts.

The Lancashire committee are to be congratulated on their enterprise to popularise county matches, for between 500 and 600 spectators were present, who followed play keenly to the end.

Yorkshire won by 7 rubbers to 2, but not so easily as these figures suggest. At the end of the first round, Lancashire led 2-1 and won the first set in two of the second round matches. However, a possible 4-2 lead became a like deficit, and to quote our old friend Don Foulis "the Red Rose was by this time wilted and blown." It was a capital match however, six out of the nine rubbers going to three sets.

The same afternoon in the corresponding Junior match at Doncaster. Lancashire were much too good for us, winning all five rubbers completed, before having to rush off to catch the last train home.

#### Oxford Well Beaten.

Yorkshire made the journey south on their Southern tour, with a man missing from each of their regular pairs



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which had represented them against Cheshire and Lancashire in their opening matches this season, viz., Marshall, Sharp and Hacking, but they had capable substitutes in Heaton, Reader and Hardy.

As both Universities had expressed a wish to play singles as well as doubles the team were in for a strenuous time, and so it proved, for they were extremely weary in the doubles at the end of the third successive day's play at Cambridge.

There were some excellent singles in the top three matches of the opening game at Oxford all of which went to the tourists. Though short of their captain, Gen. Jackson, who was playing for Ireland in the Davis Cup match against Denmark, Oxford had probably the strongest side out, but it could hardly be termed as such a combination as last year (Kitowitz, Drinkall, Miles and Baker appeared against us) along with Jackson and Bob Cox, who was the only man playing this year. Then Cox was No. 6, but he was now at No. 1, and we left him playing a marathon single with Webb, which the latter ultimately won after 51 games had been played and which took up the whole of lunch time. Marriner just got the better of Renouf, a splendidly built New Zealander who appears to have thrown off the grimness of life in captivity as a prisoner of war, since I saw him in Sheffield a couple of years ago. Heaton came up with another win, and we had the comfortable lead of 4 rubbers to 2. Teaming well, we won six of the nine doubles, all our pairs securing two rubbers each. A notable win was that of Heaton and Reader, who disposed of the varsity's first string, Cox and Renouf in straight sets after they had beaten our other two pairs.

#### A Good Win at Wimbledon.

We have met far stronger All England sides at Wimbledon on previous tours, and were a trifle disappointed not to see our own Dr. J. C. Gregory, but Colin had taken a team over to Copenhagen.

However, the Premier Club gave us a capital game, perfect courts just like a carpet which were a big change after the fast courts at Oxford. Our first and third couples secured "triples", the latter Taylor and Hambro not dropping a set in a good exhibition of volleying and overhead work. We won the match by 7 rubbers to 2.

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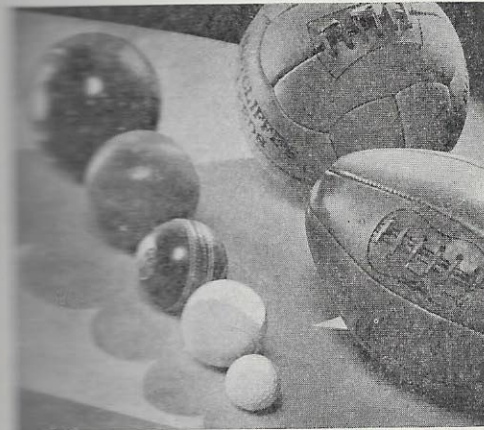
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At Cambridge the University were short of Lewis and Aldercolte, both of whom were down to play in the varsity match; and the captain, Highett took advantage of the match to try out his "probables" both in singles and doubles. Khong, who had already been given his blue, is equipped with all the shots and should come on a lot with more experience.

Webb just got the better of him in a long match, and the Yorkshire man seems to have a penchant for spending his lunch time this way. Marriner's greater experience carried him through against Highett, whilst Taylor and Reader, who had lost at Oxford, had wins to give us a 4-2 lead.

The high-light of the doubles was the splendid teaming of the varsity's first string Khong and Highett who beat all our three pairs, with remarkable volleying and overhead play, the match with our first couple being a high-class exhibition of lawn tennis.

When we had to leave to catch our train, the doubles were in an interesting position at four rubbers all, one set all, but our singles lead, gave us the victory by 8 rubbers to 6.

As non-playing captain, I should like to thank both Universities and the Club for their splendid hospitality which helped so much to make the tour a sheer delight.

### Enterprise at Hull.

We had an easy 9 rubbers to nil win over Notts at the Hull Y.P.I. ground. Our Hull friends are to be complimented on fixing stands, and securing such a large and appreciative crowd of spectators who followed the play with keen interest. Our Juniors suffered another defeat in the corresponding match at Nottingham, all our three pairs accounting only for the home team's second couple in Notts 6 rubbers to 3 win.

Durham were unlucky to lose Charles Goldson, through a strained ankle in the first few games at Scarborough, and Shelton, the local professional was induced to come in and take his place. Our six were well on top, and did not lose a rubber. The same day, the Junior sides had a strenuous battle at Durham, our "boys" just getting home by the odd rubber in nine, due in a large measure to Taylor and Cooksey bagging all three rubbers.



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We brought in Appleyard and Dawson for Shulman and Smith against Cheshire Juniors at Chapel Allerton, and won somewhat easily by 7 rubbers to 1.

#### A Capital Practice.

It was an excellent idea on part of the County Captains of Derbyshire and Yorkshire, to arrange a four-pair match at Derby, with the idea of giving both sides practice for County Week which immediately followed. The "Peakites" have an admirably balanced team, and though short of D. H. Slack on this occasion, their first couple Statham and Thacker went right through our four pairs, only losing one set on the way to Royds and Heaton. It was a capital match, and although we won by 9 rubbers to 5 (two being unfinished at "one set all"), there were only 17 games in our favour at the end. Apparently the practice did both sides good, for we not only kept our place in Group 1, but Derbyshire headed Group 3, winning all their five matches, and securing 40 rubbers to 5. The experiment will undoubtedly be repeated this coming season.

#### County Week.

We commenced the all important County Week in Group 1 at Felixstowe, with only six men, Marriner, Marsland, Sharp, Hacking, Heaton and Reader and it was indeed lucky that Webb came down on the Monday night, for Sharp, after an arduous first day, had to receive attention for a sprain, which kept him out of the second match. As Marriner and Marsland were going home after Wednesday's match, Taylor was coming for the last two days to complete the team.

This is where the Home Counties have such a tremendous advantage over the Northern shires for only an hour or two from London, they can ring the changes on their teams, by bringing fresh men down for a match or so, to give some of the others much needed rest. A strenuous match every day for five successive days, against the cream of the players in the country, is no light work.

#### An Amazing Struggle.

Our first match against Middlesex was one of the outstanding features of the "The Week", and though we ultimately lost by 8 rubbers to 1, we had sufficient



YORKSHIRE MEN'S TEAM, WHO KEPT THEIR PLACE IN GROUP 1 AT FELIXSTOWE.  
(J. P. Taylor is missing).