

chimney stack. The clock was presented to the school in 1898 by William Bevington Gibbins in memory of his mother, Sarah Gibbins (nee Lowe).

I Nelson House, on the right, was originally owned by Sarah Gibbins. She let it to Isaac Sharp from 1883 until he died in 1897. Born in 1806, Isaac Sharp was a much travelled Quaker missionary who went to South Africa in 1877. In 1892, at the age of 86, he travelled to Asia, via California, although against his doctor's advice.

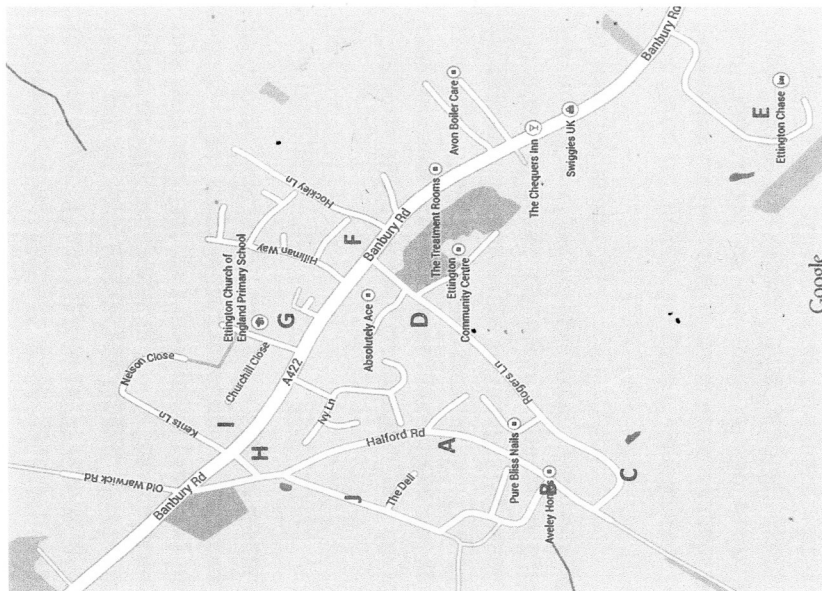
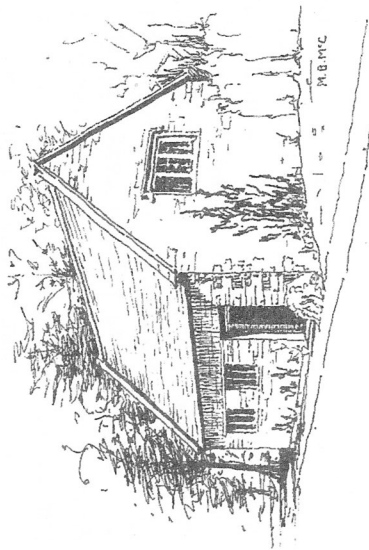
J Cross the road and return to Halford Road; turn into Rookery Lane on your right. Ettington Hall is built on the site of what was believed to be a substantial Tudor House, occupied by Jeffrey Lowe, born in 1774, until his death in 1864. Every Sunday, Jeffrey Lowe went to the Meeting House by means of a footpath which led from the Hall to ensure that the room was warm in time for the start of Meeting for Worship. William Gibbins built the present house in 1871, living there until he died in 1936. There had been a tradition in the Lowe family, kept alive by William's mother, Sarah and his sister Margaret, of providing meals of bread and cheese for tramps who were on their way from the workhouse in Stratford-upon-Avon to the next one on their journey.

To return to the Meeting House, continue along Rookery Lane and turn left at the T junction.

ETTINGTON

QUAKER

WALK



Originally devised by John & Alma Harding

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

ETTINGTON QUAKER WALK

Quakers first met in Ettington in 1660 at the home of Samuel Lucas (1612-1681). At the time, they were persecuted and many were imprisoned for their religious beliefs, and for not supporting the established Church. But they continued worshipping steadfastly over the years, and Quaker meetings are still held in Ettington today.

A Our walk starts at the Friends' Meeting House in Halford Road. In his will, Samuel Lucas left a small parcel of land for a Quaker burial ground and Meeting House for the Friends. The Meeting House took three years to build, being completed in 1684. Look closely and you will see what may be three distinct phases of building. In 1984, a small extension was completed, consisting of a children's room and utilities. The burial ground has been levelled to make the peaceful garden that enfolds the Meeting House today.

B Follow the lane to the junction of Rookery Lane, and look right. The Quaker, John Bevington (1691-1755) farmed the land here. In 1716, he received a gift in the ministry and he then travelled extensively in England, also visiting Scotland and Ireland. He had a large household consisting of family and

servants. Quakers were often imprisoned or fined for refusing to pay tithes to the Church, and John Bevington's descendant, William, had goods taken from this land as late as 1857.

C Continue along Halford Road and turn left into Rogers Lane. From a gateway 50 metres along the lane, can be seen Lambcote House, which was the home of William Lucas in the 1670s. Quakers also met here and George Fox himself preached here in 1678. The room where meetings were thought to have been held is still called the Quaker Room.

D Continue along Rogers Lane until, just beyond a new housing development, you come to another gateway. This is the entrance to the Old Manor House, which, according to the 1851 Census, was the home of Sarah Bevington, widow of Timothy Bevington, a china manufacturer, who was related to John Bevington.

The three Bevington daughters were known as the Bevington Ladies, and lived in three cottages which had been added to the back of the main house specifically for them. The 'Ladies' were well known in the village, wearing Quaker dress, and tripping along on pattens in wet weather. Each had her separate role - the eldest was the housekeeper, the second one managed the garden, the orchard and the animals. She also had some medical knowledge which she put to good use among the villagers. The

third was looked upon as the child of the family! Years later, they lived in the main house. The eldest married Theophilus Pegler from Stow on the Wold, who then moved to the Manor House.

E At the T-junction, turn right on to Banbury Road, and continue until you reach Ettington Chase. This used to be called Foshill, and was built in 1867. It was the home of William Bevington Lowe, who was an agriculturalist and also wrote a book on road making.

F Returning to the village, we see on the right, a house called Sycamores. In 1851, this was occupied by two Quaker families, G Soden, shopkeeper and Thomas Sharp, schoolteacher.

G Farther on is the Dairy House, the home of the Bevington Lowe family, who farmed the adjacent land (now a housing development.). In 1931, Mary Margaret Lowe, daughter of William Bevington Lowe, is named as head of the household. Also living there were Dorothy and Jeffrey Lowe. In 1936, Mary wrote a booklet on her impressions of Ettington Village in the 1860s.

H Next we come to the old school with its clock tower and the original school bell still in place on the