



Edward, Prince of Wales and his bride Alexandra of Denmark

Celebrations for the Marriage of the Prince of Wales

The marriage of the Prince of Wales, is, we hear, to be commemorated in this village in no mean style. We understand that there is a general desire to “do” the thing well, by roasting two or three sheep and broaching a cask of ale, to give the people a treat; having rustic games, quoits, etc, in a field during the afternoon; and finishing up with a ball at the Assembly Room in the evening. If this be the programme that the Holt folks intend to fix upon they will sure to carry it out well, and may reckon upon a large flux of visitors. A public meeting will be held very soon to determine the matter.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 21 February 1863

The good people of Holt have made up their minds – and when they do there is no turning them – to “go in” for a succession of festivities. A public meeting was held on Monday evening, a committee formed,

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and subscriptions solicited the following day. Upwards of £30 were collected. It is decided to dine 60 old people in the club room at the White Hart Inn, and 500 villagers on the village green. Rustic sports will conclude the festivity. On Wednesday following, the Melksham Troop of Royal Wilts Yeomanry, together with the Dismounted Corps, will dine at the New Inn, under the presidency of Captain Fuller, of Neston Park. Cornet the Hon. M. Methuen, son of Lord Methuen, is expected to be present. On Thursday evening there will be a ball in the Assembly Room. The services of an efficient string band are retained.

Trowbridge Advertiser, 7 March 1863

This spirited little village did not disappoint the expectations of anyone; but was true to its announcement. The auspicious bridal morn was ushered in with the firing of miniature cannon, which called the inhabitants forth to do honour to the event. About 200 hundred of the poor dined under a large tent erected in the Ham Green, 60 old folks were dined in the White Hart Club Room, and 30 or 40 were supplied with dinner in their homes. In the afternoon a procession, consisting of the inhabitants and schools paraded the village with a profusion of banners, bearing suitable inscriptions. The procession halted under the gigantic tree on the Ham, sang the National Anthem and "God bless the Prince of Wales" and afterwards were regaled with cake and tea in the tent. Rustic sports were afterwards enjoyed. Mr. H. C. Law, of the New Inn, illuminated his house with a crown of variegated lamps, which attracted much attention.

Dinner to the Yeomanry

On Wednesday last, the village of Holt renewed its rejoicings of the previous day, for the wedding of the Prince of Wales, by a meeting of the Melksham Troop of Yeomanry, under the command of Captain G. Fuller. The weather being again favourable, the troop went through different manoeuvres in a field joining the village, kindly lent them for the occasion by Mr. Hunt. The display of military tactics was finished by both the mounted and dismounted men attached in the troop being drawn up into open order, the former then fired a feu de joie, followed by three cheers in which the whole troop joined, in honour of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales. We need scarcely add that the whole was done in the most accurate and soldier like manner, and evidently gave great satisfaction to their Captain and the admiring spectators. At five o'clock, the trumpeter (Mr. Pretty) sounded the well-known call of "The roast beef of Old England", and the troop, consisting at present of 70 members, sat down to a dinner, well prepared by the Host Law, at the New Inn. Captain Fuller, the founder of the feast, taking the chair. In the course of the evening numerous toasts were drunk.

The Chairman first rose and said, that they had met on that occasion for an especial motive, viz, to offer their sincere and humble congratulations to their Queen and the Royal family. Her Majesty has had the pleasure of seeing, in the last five years, three of her children joined in matrimony to such members of Royal families in foreign countries, as could not but give the greatest satisfaction to her to be related to as mother-in-law, and to be united with in the closest alliance as Queen of the country; and therefore we all wish to show our sympathies with her in the joy she must feel in seeing such bright prospect for the future held out to her children.

The toast was responded to by singing the National Anthem, and with cheers.

The Chairman then rose, and said, that yesterday they were all rejoicing as civilians, today as members of Her Majesty's service. They would toast, in their military capacity, the Prince and Princess of Wales. (Cheers). They had every reason to be proud of their Prince. Although only 21 years of age, he has had the good fortune to be so brought up, that every years seems to have been spent with profit to himself. His private education being finished, he appears before the public as a member of our universities, first at Oxford and then at Cambridge, where he might learn that valuable and happy freedom which exists in English society, and at the same time the proper and respectful distinction it pays to superiors in it. He then is seen before us, by taking a long and instructive tour through different parts of the four quarters of

the globe. In Europe he visited many of the principal capitals, where he might impress on his memory the interesting history attached to each, and also their different national characteristics. He then went into Africa, and visited those massive piles of antiquity, the pyramids of Egypt, which are objects of curiosity to all travellers. He then passed into Asia, and in the Holy Land, visited those spots that are handed down to us in the Divine History of the Bible, Having thus devoted himself to foreign languages and nations, he next draws his attention to those parts in which English alone is spoken, and visits our colonies in North America; and there takes the greatest interest, not only in the numerous towns that have sprung up in modern recollection, but also those wild and uncultivated districts that still lie open to the enterprise of future emigrants. He then goes south into the United States – that unhappy country that we now see staggering under its own misgovernment, and weighed down, as it were, by the pressure of its unfortunate national failing, viz, “Overbearing conceit, which will not learn to take advice.” Yet even there, it is fresh in our memories, with what joyous and enthusiastic receptions he was everywhere feted; thereby showing to us that although their pride and system of government does not allow them to own that one man is superior to another, yet there still exists amongst them a proper sense and respect to royalty, and especially to our Prince, the hope of their mother country. (Hear, hear). The chairman then went on to say, that a Prince who had so useful and instructive a youth, whose manners were known to be courteous and affable, whose character was unimpeachable, must be a pride to their nation; and he had now chosen a fair bride, whom we shall be proud to receive into this country as the object of his affections. In conclusion, he wished the Prince and Princess of Wales a long life, perfect happiness, and unimpaired success in all they undertake during their career amongst us.

The toast was received with musical honours and prolonged cheers.

The chairman next proposed the health of the Col. Of the Regiment, the Marquis of Ailesbury, and mentioned the probability of him becoming Lord Lieutenant of the county, and hoped that it would not prevent his still keeping the command of the regiment.

The toast was most enthusiastically received.

Quartermaster Hale then proposed the health of the chairman, and observed that although he had not been known to them as their captain for many years, yet he had certainly grown old in their affections, and that the great interest which he took in the welfare of the troop had brought it to its present state of perfection.

The health of the Hon. P. Methuen, who has lately joined the troop as cornet, was also drunk. These toasts were received with prolonged cheers. Numerous other toasts were drunk, amongst which the healths of Messrs. Hunt and Theobald, Sergeant Ball, and the non-commissioned officers, the Sergeant Majors Lawrence and Goodall, Mr. Mizen and the recruits. The party broke up about half past nine o'clock.

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OPC Note:-

The Prince of Wales and Princess Alexandra of Denmark were married in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, 10th March 1863