

THE BOOK OF MONTACUTE

CLARENCE BRADLEY

Montacute, lying in the rolling landscape of South Somerset, has a long and distinguished history stretching back before the Domesday Book. William the Conqueror's half-brother, Robert of Mortain, built a castle here which became the focus of a new settlement which grew in prosperity in the succeeding centuries. The Phelps family became the principal landowners in the parish and built what is perhaps one of the most beautiful Elizabethan houses in England, today in the care of the National Trust.

But there is much more to Montacute than the great and the good and the buildings they created. Generations of the community worked in agriculture and a host of other trades and businesses which have left their mark on the village – quarrying, weaving, linen-making canvas-making, milling and many others. The village's institutions – churches, school, pubs and societies – were and remain a vibrant part of Montacute's daily life. And many noteworthy individuals have made a significant contribution to the story of Montacute over the decades and centuries.

Long-time resident and historian Clarence Bradley reveals multiple aspects of Montacute's past – especially over the last hundred years – in this profusely illustrated pictorial and social history, packed with fascinating insights into how the inhabitants of this remarkable place lived and worked, prayed and played, studied and celebrated.

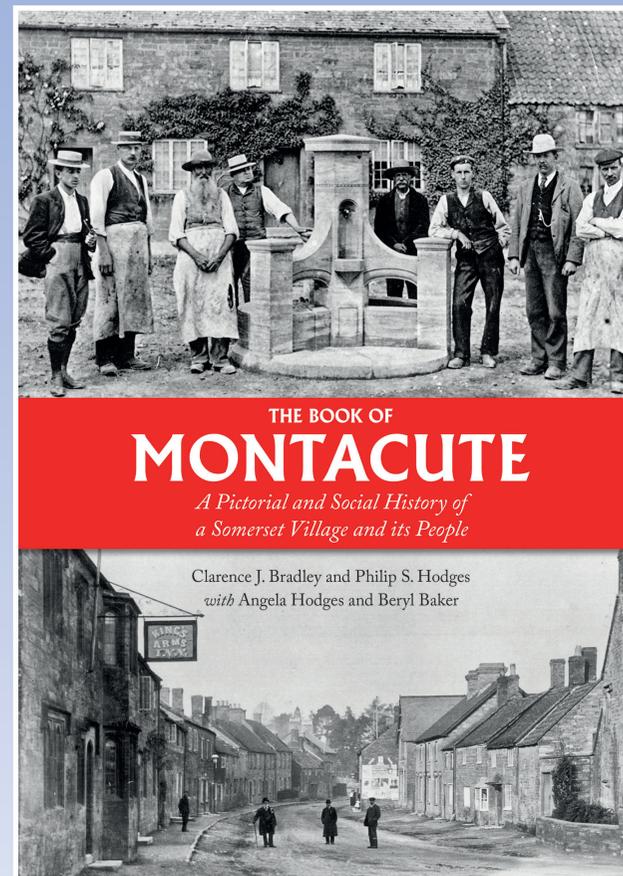
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Clarence Bradley was born in Stoke-sub-Hamdon, Somerset in 1941. He lived with his mother and grandparents, his father having been killed in Norway while serving as aircrew with the Royal Air Force. The family moved to Montacute in 1944. Clarence attended Montacute National School, Stoke Secondary Modern School and when he was fifteen he continued his education at Yeovil Technical College, doing apprenticeship training as a carpenter. During his working life as a carpenter, Clarence took an interest in local government, joining the Parish Council in Montacute and was also a governor for Montacute and Stanchester Schools. His interests took the form of clay pigeon and game shooting and playing cricket, and later becoming Chairman and President of the Montacute Cricket Club. Another interest was taking part in motorcycle trials, where he achieved some success. In 2015 Clarence published *Under the Shadow of the Hill* which explored the role of Montacute in the Second World War.

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THE BOOK OF **MONTACUTE**

*A Pictorial and Social History of
a Somerset Village and its People*

Clarence J. Bradley and Philip S. Hodges
with Angela Hodges and Beryl Baker

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