

PENNANT 20

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THE
LOCAL HISTORY JOURNAL
OF
BACKWELL, NAILSEA,
TICKENHAM AND WRAXALL



Photograph taken from the N&DLHS archive - from an original photograph in the possession of Mrs Casey

Price £2.50

LOCAL HISTORY
GOSSIP - NEWS - RESEARCH



CONTENTS INCLUDE

NAILSEA PUBS . WORLD WAR ONE . LOCAL FAMILIES
READERS QUERIES . TICKENHAM STORY (PART. 2)

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The Garnett Memorial - Backwell

by Richard Cornish

In Pennant No. 17 there was a description of the newly erected private war memorial to William Patrick Garnett, late of Backwell Hill House who died in the Great War. Beneath his name are two more, both men from the garden staff who also lost their life in that dreadful conflict. Details of Pat's death when in the Royal Flying Corps are widely known because his story attracted the attention of the national press so I should like to add a little concerning the other two men.

The first, Second Gardener Christopher George Ball, came from the village of Dyrham, Gloucestershire, where his name appears on the War Memorial. He enlisted early at the Colston Hall, Bristol in the 12th (Imperial Service) Battalion, Gloucestershire Regt. (Bristol's Own), was allocated No. 14853 and placed in 'C' Company. The Battalion was housed in "The White City" exhibition grounds at Ashton Gate where training commenced at once. After further training in Yorkshire and Salisbury Plain the Bn. crossed from Folkestone to Boulogne as part of the 95th Brigade on November 21st 1915. They joined the 5th Division on the Somme and spent Christmas and the New Year in the muddy trenches. On July 29th 'B' and 'C' companies took part in their first attack from Longueval. However on September 3rd 1916 at Guillemont 'A' and 'C' companies were in the first wave of a massive attack on this fortress village. It was a success but at a high cost. Chris Ball was one of 45 men of Bristol's Own who died that day.

The third name is that of Garden Boy William Henry Lock who was born and lived in Backwell. He joined the Nailsea Section of the 2nd Wessex Field Company Royal Engineers as a Sapper with the number 727. Just prior to the outbreak of war the Wessex Division R.E. were in their summer camp at Bulford. Upon the outbreak they were mobilized and sent to Portsmouth to work on the defences. They were then known as the 1/1st & 2nd/1st Wessex Field Companies. In early 1914 it was decided that the Territorial units should be sent to India to release the Regulars for service in France and the Wessex Division was the first one chosen. The Engineers did not accompany them and, as a result, were attached to the new 27th Division on 20th November near Winchester.

This Division was made up of Battalions that had come back from India, Hong Kong and China. Little time was wasted before the 27th Division crossed over to France in late December, spending Christmas and New Year at St. Omer.

Early in January they took over some of the French line from Vierstraat to St. Eloi, south of Ypres, with Dickebusch as the support area. For the first few months of 1915 the Division was engaged in trench warfare with the Engineers digging new trenches and wiring after dark. It was here that Sapper William Lock received the wound to which he succumbed on March 5th 1915 at Dickebusch.

Note

William Henry Lock's name is on the Backwell War Memorial as is the name of William Charles Lock. It is not known if they were related. William Charles died of sickness in Flanders on October 16th 1917 whilst serving with the 1/4th Glosters (HQ Bristol). In addition it is recorded that a Charles Lock from Backwell also served in the Royal Engineers, he was, quite likely, William's elder brother.

A Mr H Lock was a Sexton at St Andrew's Church and by 1915 had held that office in excess of 50 years.

Another son of Backwell who died in France is not recorded on the War Memorial presumably because he spent his adult life away from Backwell. See article on page 19 about Gilbert Brean born in Backwell on 2nd July 1891.

"A Short History of the Village of Tickenham" **originally published in February 1933.**

by Eleanor M James & Members of the Women's Institute

Part 2 :-

The lower room has a fine fire-place surmounted by carved shields, the walls and ceiling were panelled in oak. The ceiling remains almost perfect; the wall panelling has been mutilated. Handsome windows light this and the room above, which also has a fine roof. These rooms measure 30 ½ ft. x 16 ½ ft.

This manor was held by members of the Berkeley family from the twelfth to the sixteenth centuries. Perhaps the Court house was built during the life of the tenth Lord Berkeley. Since 1596 it has been in the possession of Edward Basset, Rees Davis, Samuel Gorges (of Wraxall) and Sir J.H. Greville Smyth of Ashton Court and many others.

Barrow Court

Barrow Court is the smaller of the two manors. The little that is left of the old house indicates a house of the fourteenth century, about the same date as Tickenham Court. The window in the eastern gable may indicate the end, that tradition says, was the Chapel. Under the plaster of the South front can still be seen the main Gothic entrance to the house; and in the arch of North wall are two Gothic archways quite perfect, with old oak doors still in use. During a recent alteration the spring of the arch of another window came to light. The older end of the house seems to have been restored in Elizabethan or Jacobean times, and again modernized in the nineteenth century. The western is much later than the eastern end of the building, though the present occupant says he remembers the house when it had mullioned and leaded windows all along the front. An adjoining field is called "Chapel" and the upper part of it "Chapel Ripple."

There was intermarriage between the families of the two Manors in the middle of the twelfth century, when both were held by the Berkeleys, but in the fourteenth century both passed into separate hands. In the fifteenth century it passed to the Percivals, ancestors of the Earl of Egmont, the "Rancher Earl" of recent fame. In 1656 it was bought by Dr Samuel Bave, a German, and M.D. of Christ Church, Oxford, whose arms are still over the door of Brown Rocks Farm. His descendants held it till 1837, when the

property was divided between three sisters named Reed, who thus owned Barrow Court (Blue Rocks), Middle or Grey Rocks (now called Barn Farm), and Brown Rocks. In Middle Rocks Farm the date 1590 is carved over the door which opened from a passage way through the house to cottages beyond. Now a "front" door has been put to the passage; though the occupant says there is still a right of way. There is also a wonderful old beam in this house rough hewn with an axe.

At Brown Rocks Farm an ancient fire-brick dated 1625, with the initials R.C. is found and it, as well as Folly Farm, possesses a cement-floored barn, where corn was thrashed with a flail, until within the memory of many people. On the south of the road at Middletown are the Rectory School, and Middletown House, among others. The Rectory was enlarged in 1861, and is a pleasing house, though too far from the Church. The School is adjacent, the old Tithe Barn was adapted for the main schoolroom, and is a delightful, well lit room, with a fireplace at each end, and has wonderful acoustic properties.

Where Middletown House now stands there used to be a poor house. This was sold in 1838.

It is hardly credible, but a fact, that Tickenham had no Post Office till 1930. Now, that and a public telephone are placed at the east end of Middletown. And until 1924 no hall or room of any kind (except the school) existed for social gatherings of any description. Against great difficulties a Recreation Hut was erected and opened, and is an untold asset to the village.

Stone Edge Batch and the Great House

Now we will explore the eastern hamlet. A few farms, a dozen cottages, the one and only inn, a Chapel, and the third big house of Tickenham, and in the old days the forge, are clustered on the steep hillside of the Batch. It is certainly the most picturesque part of the village.

The Great House (now called Hales' Farm) is very different from the two Court Houses, and much more recent in style. Henry Burgum, a pewter merchant, of Bristol, early in the eighteenth century added to an existing farm and made it into a suitable residence where he lived and died in 1759. He was a friend of the poet Chatterton. A more recent inhabitant, a Mrs Gordon, has left a memory of autocratic ways. She objected to the little village girls wearing long curls, and used to go into school, then at the end of the village, and order the

schoolmistress to cut them off on the spot. Later this house belonged to Sir G H Smyth, who used it as a shooting box. King Edward visited it once when staying at Ashton Court.

West of the Great House there are woods, Summerhouse Wood on the north of the road was famous for its snowdrops, and Knights Wood, on the south, seems to have had two places of amusement: Hole House, where a game like bowls was played, and Mogg House. These belonged to the same property.

The Chapel belongs to the "Open Brotherhood" and is served from Clevedon. A schoolmaster named Shawyer walked the four miles from Clevedon for the Sunday Meeting every week for forty years, without failing once. A good room under the Meeting Room was used as a school when there was no other in the village.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century a school was kept by Dame Bassett in one of the cottages near Jacklands Bridge. To punish a naughty boy she pinned him to her apron; on one occasion the offender purposely fell down, and so tore the apron, and consequently got severer punishment!

One farm is called "Well House" Farm because it has a well in the house. Wells were of utmost importance in the old days, as the water supply, always scanty, often failed, and in a dry season everyone had to obtain water as best he could from the Yeo.

The village forge and bakehouse were here too. The baker would take round the bread, for the few who did not bake at home, in a basket on his head, and had no conveyance at all. Also here was a tiny cottage where the postman spent the day cobbling. Until well into the twentieth century he walked out from Clevedon in the morning and delivered letters and parcels, started back about 3 p.m., and those who wanted to send parcels must watch and hand them to him as he passed.

Until about 30 years ago, the Star Inn was a low thatched house, like so many other houses in the village. It had stone seats on each side of a wide porch, and saw many merry gatherings when men of various military units came to practice rifle shooting at the target behind Folly Farm. Next door to the Star was the only village shop, where all that a villager wanted could be procured.

West End

The small cluster of houses at West End are not of much historic interest. The farm was once thatched, and in the 1880s a fire caused by the farmer shooting sparrows in the roof, destroyed the roof and some part of the building.

These extracts will be completed in Pennant 21 out in September 1998.

(Editor - N&DLHS will consider publishing in one volume this series on the village of Tickenham if sufficient readers express interest. Price will be under £5 and illustrations will be included together with other information on Tickenham previously published in Pennant. Contact the editor if you are interested in purchasing a copy later in the year.)

To be sold by Auction
AT THE
Sign of the Butchers' Arms, Kings Hill,
In Nailsea, in the County of Somerset,
On MONDAY, the 18th Day of MARCH, 1799
at TWO o'Clock in the Afternoon,
THE FOLLOWING
Freehold Premises
Situate at NAILSEA aforesaid

LOT I. A MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, with a garden and Orchard adjoining, containing about half an Acre, in the tenure of George Plumley (inserted in ink "John Plumley" deleted)

LOT II. A MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, Stable and Garden, in the tenure of Thomas Efcott and James Jones; together with a small Piece of LAND in Chew-mead, about half an Acre, now a Withy-bed; and a Piece in Horse Hitchins, about Twenty perch.

LOT III. A MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, and Blacksmith's shop in the tenure of John Bryant, together with a Garden and Orchard belonging, containing near One Acre.

LOT IV. A New-built MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, Garden and Orchard, containing an Acre and an Half (more or less), in the tenure of John Gallop.

LOT V. A large convenient MESSUAGE or TENEMENT, Barn, Stable, and two walled Gardens, with a Tan-Yard and outbuildings, in the tenure of James Budget and Michael Rudge.

LOT VI. A FARM-HOUSE, Barn, Stable, Barton, sundry Out-houses, Garden, Two Orchards, and Two Closes of Pasture Ground, together with Part of the Meeting-house Paddock, as now marked out, containing in the whole Fourteen Acres (more or less).

LOT VII. A FARM-HOUSE, Barn, Stable, Out-houses, Garden, Orchard, and Four Closes of Arable and Pasture Land adjoining, containing in the whole

Seventeen Acres (more or less), together with all the Coals lying under Lots 1, 2, and 3.

LOT VIII. An ORCHARD, Alder Bed, and Three Closes of Ground, containing Eleven Acres (more or less).

LOT IX. A Close of Pasture GROUND called Hedges Batch, and Two Orchards, called Withy Bed Orchard and Hedges Orchard, containing in the whole Eight Acres (more or less).

LOT X. A FIELD called the Eight Acres, containing Seven Acres and a Half (more or less) in which the Coal-Yard adjoining is not included.

LOT XI. A Piece of Arable LAND containing Four Acres and a Quarter (more or less). The Stable and Buildings adjoining are not included in this Lot.

LOT XII. A Piece of Pasture GROUND called the Two Acres Paddock, with Two Gardens and a small Paddock adjoining, containing Two Acres and a Half (more or less).

LOT XIII. A Piece of Arable LAND on the Southward side of Nailsea Church, containing Two Acres (more or less).

Lot XIV. A Piece of Pasture GROUND called the Five Acres, adjoining Lot 7, containing Five Acres and a Half (more or Less).

LOT XV. A Piece of Arable LAND adjoining Lot 1, containing Two Acres and a Half (more or less).

LOT XVI. A Piece of Arable LAND called White Cross, containing Two Acres (more or less).

LOT XVII. Two Pieces of Meadow GROUND situate in Longdale, containing Three Acres (more or less).

LOT XVIII. Two Pieces of Meadow GROUND situate in New-mead, containing One Acre and a Half (more or less).

LOT XIX. A FIELD in Nailsea Heath, containing Two Acres and a Quarter (more or less).

LOTS VI. to XIX are now in the possession of Mr. WILLIAM WITHY.

N.B. There is a right of Common on Nailsea Moor, Nailsea Heath, and Wraxall Hill, attached to each Lots 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 10. (in ink "and" has been deleted "and 15" added)

There are considerable Veins of Coal under great part of this Estate, which render it extremely valuable. An Engine has been erected near thereto, and some of the veins are now in Work.

Mr Withy has notice to quit the Meadow and Pasture Land in his possession on the 5th of April next, and the Arable Land on 29th September next.

CONDITIONS of SALE

(Editor - The Conditions not shown here are general conditions relating to payment for purchases and the transfer of title.)

Secondly - No person to advance less than Five Pounds at each bidding, on Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, and 17, nor less than Two Pounds on each of the several other lots.

Thirdly - The Purchaser to pay down immediately a deposit of 10L. per cent. in part of the Purchase money, and sign an Agreement for payment of the remainder, and to complete the Purchase on the 24th day of June next, at the Office of Mr. HENRY DAVIS, Clare- Street, Bristol.

Eighthly - The Proprietors do not warrant the Title to the rights of Common attached to Lots 1, 2, and 10. (in ink "and" has been deleted "and 15" added after "10") but the same will be conveyed to the Purchasers as the Proprietors now hold the same.

Ninethly - All the Coals lying under Lots 1, 2, and 3, are to go with lot 7, and said three Lots are to be sold subject thereto.

Tenthly - Part of the Orchard heretofore belonging to Lot 7, as the same is now marked out, is to be attached to Lot 1, and a hedge, or other proper fence, to be made to separate the same, at the joint and equal expence of the Purchasers of Lots 1 and 7.

Eleventhly - A wall to be built with the stones which now divide Lots 2 and 3, in a track now marked out for that purpose, at the joint and equal expence of the Purchasers of Lots 2 and 3.

Twelfthly - A wall to be built in the Meeting-house Paddock, at the joint and equal expence of the Vendors and the Purchaser of Lot 6, as the same is now marked out.

Lastly - The Purchasers of Lots 1, 2, 3, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, to pay the Broker half a Guinea each, and the Purchasers of each of the several other Lots to pay him One Guinea, and the Purchaser of each Lot to pay down Half-a-Guinea for the Contract.

signed Charles McGorn(?) Broker

The above has been taken from an original document in the effects of the late Mrs Vance. It may originally have been found in the attic when the Vances took over the post office. Given to N&DLHS it has since been sent to the SRO. A christening gown and a night-dress worn at a school play by Mrs Vance in 1928 have been sent to the Museum in Bridport. The night-dress was once owned by her grandparents in Bridport.

Mr and Mrs Vance ran the Post Office in Nailsea for a number of years in the middle of this century. N&DLHS hopes to have more information from the family about life in the Post Office in the not too distant future.

The Village Green, once owned by the Russell family that ran the Post Office at the turn of the century, (see illustration on cover of Pennant 19) can be seen on the left of the picture.

The western edge of the Village Green which now forms part of the footpath approaching Somerfields from the south can be seen marked in brass studs opposite the Queens Head. The remainder is walled and above ground level.

William White first resident minister of the Independent Chapel in Nailsea by Peter Wright

In her book "**Zion Thrice Happy Place**" Patrice Sessions tells the story of the development of the Independent Chapel through its time as the Zion Congregational Church to what is now the Nailsea United Reform Church. This stands in Stockway North near to the corner of the Clevedon Road.

Prior to the changes to the roads in this area which took place in the third quarter of this century it stood in a narrow lane known as Chapel Alley. A corresponding "Church Alley" on the west side of Clevedon Road ran to Christ Church built in 1843.

In the roll of Ministers and Pastors William White is listed as serving from 1838 - 1854 and was ordained at Nailsea. He was 29 when he came from Devon. By 1841 he had two small children William and Harriett. His wife Harriett was older than he being 33 at the 1841 census while he was 32. Mary Attwell was listed as a female servant.

In the 1851 census more information is available William senior is shown as having been born at Newton Abbot while Harriett (senior) is stated to have been born in Newent Glos. William (Junior) who is 13 and a scholar is shown as having been born in Coventry# in the same year that William was appointed minister.

The census also shows that the family had increased as four more children had been born in Nailsea viz.

Emily	Dau	9yrs	Scholar	born Nailsea
Tom	Son	6yrs	Scholar	born Nailsea
John	Son	2yrs		born Nailsea
Marina	Dau	7mos		born Nailsea

"William White left Nailsea in 1854. For some reason which is not clear he was not replaced immediately and the chapel declined."

#Editor - Note on place of birth of William Junior - Patrice Sessions states that William, when appointed to the Chapel, came from Devon.

(Editor - This is the last we hear of William White in Patrice's book and indeed the last we knew until the Society received a letter from a gentleman from Manchester enquiring about the Tannery book.)

Mr Charles Steels is descended from William White's daughter Emily Elizabeth who married William Steels in Hull. Both were then resident in Pocklington where the bride's father was Independent Minister.

In a plan of the town which he provided and part of which appears on page 11 it can be seen that the romance was of the proverbial "boy next door" type.

Charles Steels 23 Fairhurst Drive, Little Hulton, Manchester M28 0JJ would welcome news of the White family.

(Editor - Coincidentally a correspondent wrote to the Society about the Brooks family who were glassworkers. Patrice's book states "1837 seventeen trustees were appointed Foremost amongst them were John and Joseph Brooks, both of whom were skilled glassworkers". Watch out for further developments in later editions of Pennant.)

Letters and Questions received by N&DLHS

Letters and queries for inclusion in this section of the journal should be sent to N&DLHS c/o Peter Wright, 5 The Perrings, Nailsea, Bristol BS48 4YD.

Mr Keith McIlwain who has recently purchased Yew Tree Cottage in Union Street writes to enquire whether anyone has information about the history of the building. He says that it seems to have been two separate cottages that were built c1740 and that it may have been used for shoemaking. (Editor. An interesting comment in that the Tannery was only a few yards away being on the far corner of what is now Watery Lane)

Mr McIlwain goes on to say that by the late 1800s there was an additional building added on at the rear; he wonders what was that building used for.

He notes that in the 1844 Tithe records the owner is shown as Joel House.

(Editor - N&DLHS has had a number of enquiries over an extended period about Union Street and would welcome any information about, and a sight of any deeds that relate to, properties in the Kings Hill, North Street and Union Street areas.)

Mr Robert L Withey of [Redacted] visited Nailsea Library enquiring into the Withey family. Mrs Phyllis Horman was able to provide some assistance. Another coincidence was that the family were mentioned in the sale document which has been reproduced in this edition.

(Editor - If you have any information please contact Mr Withey or send details to the Editor.)

Mr Donald R Brean of [Redacted] wrote enquiring about the family name and its connection with Backwell. Subsequently I was told by Mrs Norma Knight that the family shown as BREAM in the 1891 census and in Bryan Button's book had appeared as BREAN in 1881 census.

(Editor - If you own a copy of Bryan Button's book about the 1891 census please add a note warning of the change. We have not checked the entry again.)

Mr Gary Boudier of [Redacted] is continuing his research into the LOCK family. His attention has been drawn to an article in the West Middlesex Family History Journal which mentions several members who are interested in the Lock family. He will be following up this lead. The results of his researches are deposited in with N&DLHS but now need updating.

(Editor - There are a number of people of this name resident in the circulation area of this journal. If any information is known about the family which seems to originate in Aller Somerset please let him have details. I saw "J. Marvin Lock, Dorchester" on the side of a Foden steam Wagon in a photograph taken c1930 in a book bought from Nailsea Library.)

Mr John B White of [Redacted] has been in touch with information and items that he obtained following the death of his uncle Sid Rowe who used to live in Southfield Road. Amongst the items he has provided are some original documents and some of the photos on page 15 and the back cover. The latter showing Miriam Grace Clark later Davenport and an unknown driver on a tram.

(Editor - The photograph was probably taken at Brislington. See also article in Pennant 14 about transport in Bristol. I spoke to Mike Tozer and described the photo. During the conversation I referred to her as a "Clippie" showing my London upbringing). Mike writes :-

"I can now confirm that according to the personal diary kept by the Bristol Tramways Co's then Manager the 'lady conductors' (note correct title at that time, not conductresses and certainly not 'clippies' as I have seen written sometimes - 'Clippies' were a World War II LONDON institution originally and the term was not regularly used outside London) were first put on to the trams from 1 January 1917. [In case you are interested, their hours were 8 ½ to 9 hours daily, 3/6 per day (17 ½ p) 6 days a week plus 2/- (10p) per week War Bonus!!!]. The exact date of their termination of employment is a bit vague as they did not all finish on the same day, but the company issued a press statement on 1 May 1920 to the effect that the lady conductors were to be given a week's notice and their services terminated with a payment of a £5 gratuity".

Another find is the programme of an event at the "Nailsea Village Institute on 14th September 1938 to celebrate the Eightieth Birthday of Lieut. Commander Charles E. Evans R.N.V.R. of Nailsea Court.

A newspaper cutting of John White's great grandfather's funeral also accompanies the items donated to the Society. It records:-

"Nailsea Forester's Funeral - The funeral took place at Christ Church Nailsea of Mr John Thomas Attwell who died at his home, Easton Road, Nailsea on October 4th (1917) aged 83. Deceased was a pioneer of the Court Pride of Nailsea Lodge of the Ancient Order of Foresters, being the eldest member

and the first to join the local branch. Members of the order acted as bearers, and the Rev J. H. Powell was the officiating minister. There was a large attendance at both church and graveside services.

The mourners included Messrs W J Attwell, A J Attwell (sons) Mrs E A Rowe (daughter) Mr A Rowe, Mr H Butler (sons in law) Mrs E F Attwell, Mrs M Attwell (daughters in law) Messrs M White, W J Attwell, W Rowe, B Attwell, Mrs J Attwell, Messrs F & AJ Attwell, B White and F Minor, (grand-children).

The Ancient Order of Foresters were represented by the following:- Brothers F A Lilly, (Secretary) R Shaddick, C.R., E Webber S.C.R., O Cobburn, S.W., H Fisher, (Trustee), F Rawlings,, P.C.R., T Shaddick, C Fisher, J Caple, G Caple, S Baker, G Crane, and F Williams (hon. member), Mrs Honeywell and others. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful, and included a wreath from Messrs J Moore and workmen. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr F. L. Cobbett, Silver Street Nailsea.

Another burial recorded on the same slip of paper was that of Mr Samuel Brake a former Nailsea Resident at Nailsea Old Church Cemetery. The chief mourners were Messrs S Brake, A Brake, E Brake, L Brake and H Brake (sons) and Messrs Sims and F Williams. The officiating Minister was the Rev W H Finney (Rector) and the arrangements were carried out by Mr W Lippiatt, Nailsea.

Mr M J Weekes of [Redacted] wrote enquiring about a book he had seen advertised.

(Editor - N&DLHS supplied the book with copies of settlement examinations for James Weeks 1777, Elizabeth Weeks 1801 and Harriett Weeks 1833)

The White Lion Silver Street Nailsea

by Cynthia Nash

According to the Tythe Map of 1844 the house and garden on this site in Silver Street Nailsea was owned by Sir J Smyth. In 1866 the occupiers were William Lovell and George Newton, when it was licensed as a beer house.

The Census of 1871 showed the Innkeeper to be Robert Jakeways, whose father, incidentally, had an ale house near the church. It continued in the possession of the Jakeways down through the years and appeared to be little different structurally. By 1913 it had become the White Lion.

Soon after Mr & Mrs Bert Palmer became Licensees (C1963) Allied Breweries closed the place for several months to refurbish it.

(Editor - Cynthia Nash records in her notes which were written probably 10 years or more ago that she had received help from Mr Bill Baker who had lived in the adjoining cottage for many years. He told her that in 1890 the north eastern portion of what is now the White Lion was purchased by Daniel Sykes. In 1900 the Jakeways purchased the cottage referred to above.)

(Editor - Following Donald Brean's letter about the Brean family referred to on page 15 it is hoped that the following may be of interest in that it shows details of service in the First World War which are probably representative of many of those who served on the Western Front. Gilbert's brother Ernest b Backwell 2/7/1891 joined 12 Platoon "C" Coy 6th Batt. South Wales Borderers on 06/12/1915 and served all his time in France. He was demobbed on 17/01/1919 and served in the Home Guard in the 2nd World War. Some of the details have been taken from Gilbert's diary in Donald Brean's possession).

265202 Private G. Brean

born Backwell 2nd July 1891

by Donald R Brean

Gilbert was the ninth of eleven children. born to George William Brean (who had been born at Wrington on 29th June 1849) and Eliza Veale (born at Stowey on 23rd October 1849). They had been married at Stowey Church on 15th April 1872.

Obviously Gilbert and or the family had moved from Backwell because he was attested at Newport on Thursday 10th February 1916.

1916	Remarks
08/03	Attended Moresly Eye hospital - he suffered from very bad eyesight
20/06	Joined Army at Newport
21/06	From Newport >Bebington Camp
27/06	Arrived in Norfolk
15/08	Released for Farming
01/12	Recalled from Farming
1917	Remarks
03/11	Landed Le Havre
04/11	Rouen
12/11	Etaples
13/11	Poperinghe
16/11	Landrelhum
07/12	Herqule
15/12	Boesinghe
25/12	Front Line
1918	Remarks
01/01	Out of Line
03/01	Armonties
12/01	Front Line
18/01	Boulonge Hospital (Trench Feet)
07/02	Convalescent
20/03	Reinforcement Camp 2/4 Batt
05/05	Front Line
16/05	DIED OF WOUNDS

Spelling as in diary

He is buried at the Doullens Communal Cemetery, Extension No 2 Plot 1, Row B, Grave No 3.

House and Home

Avon Local History Association Spring Symposium hosted by the University of the West of England Faculty of Humanities report by George and Millie Knox

The Spring Symposium on Saturday 21st March was the fourth to be held at St Matthias Campus, Oldbury Court Road, Fishponds.

N&DLHS was represented by the Membership Secretary who, with his wife Millie, put on a small display of the Society's publications. A lot of interest was shown in the items they displayed. Bristol Record Office had a large table showing their publications. Other societies and groups also displayed their projects.

The programme consisted of four lectures, within the theme of Home and House but offering very different subjects. The first presenter was Dr ROGER LEECH of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for England who has been researching buildings in Somerset and Bristol for many years. He introduced the audience to the development of Bristol from the Middle ages with the aid of slides, and showed where the past can still be seen and preserved.

JOHN DALLIMORE, who has been researching the vernacular architecture of Somerset Villages for some 20 years, presented his lecture on Newton St Loe and demonstrated the work that has been done researching farm houses and buildings in the village.

After lunch we were taken on a tour of Victorian kitchen with DAVID EVERLEIGH, the Curator of Social History for Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery, and with responsibility for Blaise Castle Museum. His excellent programme of slides described and portrayed the improvements that had been made in this domestic department of homes large and small.

The afternoon closed with MIKE HOOPER, the Secretary of Knowle and Totterdown LHS showing the different types of property built by the local authorities from simple dwellings with, or without, parlours, the post war prefabs and other prefabricated houses, right up to the present day tower blocks.

It was a most enjoyable and informative day and we look forward to next year with interest. The seating in the auditorium is very comfortable and, even without the mike, all the speakers could be heard. The refreshments on sale were excellent and the day was very well attended.

(Editor - I was, regrettably unable to attend this year but have been to previous events organised by ALHA.

I would encourage all readers to take a note in the diary for the end of 1998 to carry forward to early next year to enquire when the 1999 symposium will take place. If there is no information in the library drop a line (in good time) to the Secretary enclosing a self addressed stamped envelope.)

Somerset Public House Tokens

Notes by Peter Wright from a book of the above title (see below)

In a book carrying the above title which I borrowed some time ago from Nailsea Library there is a description of tokens bearing the names of public houses which are in the area covered by this journal. In the hope that readers may know of the whereabouts of those described or others, as yet undiscovered I have listed below the information made available by the book's authors S.C. Minnitt, J. Durnell, and A.J.H. Gunstone and its publishers the Somerset County Council Library Service. Information relating to "new finds" should be conveyed to the editor who would welcome an opportunity to photograph such items. Unless specifically requested otherwise all such new information will be conveyed to Somerset Record Office and to the publishers of the book referred to for onward transmission to the authors.

NB the dates in the remarks column refer to the date the name appears in trade directories. The dates thus #####< >##### are those of the directory previous to the first entry and also that of the directory following the last entry of the name. Directories appeared infrequently and therefore the dates give only rough guidance as to the actual period the person named was the landlord.

Village and "Public House"	Description of Token	Obverse (e.g. head on penny)	Reverse	Remarks dates present - dates not present
Backwell New Inn	Brass/ 24.5mm Milled edge	C GALLOP NEW INN WEST TOWN BACKWELL	3D within a wreath	C Gallop 1893-1902 1892)< >(1903
Nailsea Butchers Arms *	Brass/ 23mm Plain edge	THOS BRYANT BUTCHERS ARMS NAILSEA	3D M MOLE & SONS MAKERS BIRMING- HAM	Thomas Bryant 1882-1887 1881)< >(1888
Nailsea Butchers Arms *	Brass/ 24.4mm Plain edge	A LIPPIATT BUTCHERS ARMS NAILSEA	3D M MOLE & SONS MAKERS BIRMING- HAM	A. Lippiatt 1897-1902 1894)< >(1906
Nailsea Queens Head	Brass/ 24mm Plain edge	W LUKINS QUEENS HEAD INN NAILSEA	3D M MOLE & SONS MAKERS BIRMING- HAM	William Lukins 1883-1889 1875)< >(1894

* Butchers Arms is now the Moorend Spout.

Nailsea Village News

extracts from the book of the same name by Phyllis Horman

1850

Nailsea - A Robber Shot

For some time past complaints have been prevalent with farmers and others residing within a circuit of four or five miles around Nailsea, of being unable to keep their poultry, geese and goslings, delicate ducks, plump pullets, tempting turkeys, and fowls of all sorts of breeds, from the stately Spanish to the bustling bantam, have disappeared in the most mysterious manner, and suspicions of 'foul' play were, not unreasonably, entertained. A little circumstance that occurred on the morning of Wednesday last, between one and two o'clock, seemed, however, to clear up the mystery. Mr Gillard, a worthy inhabitant of Nailsea, had retired to rest, and wrapped in the arms of Somnus, was enjoying a pleasant dream of future prosperity - a moderate protection on corn and no potato blight - when the bark of a trusty dog disturbed his slumbers and caused him intuitively to consider that all was not right. He accordingly jumped out of bed, hastily adjusted his 'togger', and taking a well-tried double-barrel gun proceeded to make a survey of his premises. In his fowl house he encountered a fellow accompanied by a dog, and armed with a collier's mattock. Mr Gillard considered it prudent to make sure of the dog before coming into contact with the master. He accordingly as Brother Jonathan says, "calculated his distance", took aim and fired, but the dog slipping aside, the robber received the charge in his leg, and at once surrendered. The fellow proved to be an idle, dissolute character named John Warfell of Nailsea, an old offender, having but lately returned from gaol, which he had frequently visited for making free with his neighbour's poultry. It being found that the injury he had received in his leg was of a rather serious nature, Mr Gillard dispatched his prisoner to the Bristol Infirmary where, we believe, he remains a patient. Warfell does not follow any occupation for gaining a livelihood, but appears to have subsisted for sometime past by his nefarious practices, having been a perfect nuisance in the neighbourhood. He has now, however, received a lesson which will doubtless be indelibly 'marked' upon his memory as well as upon his leg.

1854

Cutting and Wounding

William James Brown was indicted for maliciously cutting and wounding John Vowles. Mr H T Cole was counsel for the prosecution.

Mr Vowles is a farmer residing in Tickenham, and the prisoner was a servant in his employ. On the 29th of June the prisoner was sent out in the afternoon to milk some cows, and not returning for sometime after he ought to have been back, his master went in search of him, and found him drunk. In the course of the evening Mr Vowles saw the prisoner again, and spoke to him about his neglecting the milking and getting drunk. He was very saucy and Mr Vowles struck at him; the prisoner then struck out at his master, who found blood coming from his neck. At first he supposed that Brown had struck him with a stone, but he afterwards found that he had been stabbed. He remained ill for some time and had not now entirely recovered.

On cross-examination by the prisoner, Vowles admitted that he had struck his servant before and on one occasion thrown a wooden bottle at him. He denied ever having struck the prisoner with a fir pole, or said that he would kick him into the ditch. His Lordship said he hoped Mr Vowles would never strike a servant again.

The evidence of the prosecutor was confirmed by other witnesses; and Mr Davis the surgeon who was called in, described the wound inflicted as a dangerous one, from which Mr Vowles was still suffering. The prisoner in his defence, pleaded provocation on the part of the prosecutor, and the Learned Judge having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty of unlawful wounding and he was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

1854

Diabolical Outrage

A few nights ago, as a train from Exeter was passing along the line near Nailsea, some fiend in human shape discharged a pistol or gun at it, the bullet of which passed through the glass of one of the carriages, striking near the side-light opposite, and glancing off, pierced a hole through the woodwork. There were five persons in the carriage but fortunately none of them were hurt.

May 1851

Nailsea

On Thursday afternoon about two o'clock, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr Samuel Thatcher, brewer, Nailsea, owing it is supposed to a spark from the engine chimney having fallen on a thatched roof. In addition to their own engine they were assisted in extinguishing the fire by two engines from the glass manufactory and the prompt exertions of the inhabitants. Under these united efforts the flames were subdued in about two hours, but not, we regret to say, till considerable damage had been done. Mr Thatcher we are informed, was insured in the Imperial

1855

Nailsea

On Monday night last the peaceable inhabitants of this village were subjected to much annoyance from some lawless gang. A large stone was thrown through one of the bedroom windows of the Rectory House, the residence of the Rev F Brown. Two servants were sleeping in the room at the time, but fortunately escaped injury, although the missile went completely through the blind inside the window. The windows of several other houses were broken, a quantity of broccoli stolen and the flowers in several of the cottage gardens wantonly destroyed.

A Trip Around some of the Local Hostelrys

by Peter Wright

Editor - Most of the information set out in this article comes from work done by others preparing a book about the Pubs that was planned many years ago.

If any reader feels disposed to complete the research then maybe the long awaited volume could see the light of day.

The Queens Head

In one of the Society's earliest publications Jack Hart a founder member of the Society wrote somewhat as follows:-

Before the First World War the pubs were open all day with food always available on the counter. There were joints of meat, parts of a whole cheese, bread and pickles.

Public Houses were numerous in Nailsea and played a large part in the social life of the people. The Queens Head being centrally situated, was a very popular and well liked house. My grandparents had several helpers but, life by present day standards was very hard as it was necessary to do everything by hand.

There were several fireplaces and a large kitchen range to be cleaned out, blacklead, polished and relaid. All floors and stairs were of bare boards which had to be scrubbed by hand. The bar shelves, counter and seats were washed down, windows cleaned and the bar floor sprinkled with sawdust.

Spittoons, those very insanitary objects, were thoroughly cleaned and a quantity

of sawdust put in each. Brass fittings were plentiful and had to be polished every morning. I thoroughly enjoyed getting a real shine on all the brass.

Lighting was by acetylene gas supplied to the downstairs rooms, bar and skittle alley from a gas plant situated in a small shed, within a shed, at the bottom of the yard. The jets gave a fan shaped flame; much better than the oil lamps and candles that preceded them. Upstairs oil lamps and candles were still used.

The 'decor' was very dark, heavy wall papers, usually dark red or green. Curtains were of a heavy material liberally hung with tassels; the same material and tassels decorated the mantelpieces and some of the furniture.

Bathrooms were not very common so, like many others, we had to use a long galvanised bath, or, if one preferred it a hip bath.

The hip bath was a round, shallow affair with a high back. Water was boiled on the kitchen range in large saucepans or crocks. The bath was taken where privacy could be assured, either in the scullery, the kitchen or bedroom.

(Editor - **Jack Hart** was born at The Queens Head Nailsea in 1907. Much of his early life was spent there with his grandparents as his father died when he was only six weeks old. On the death of his grandmother, his mother took over the license. In later life he and his wife **Zena** became licensees **of The Queens Head**.)

Following the brief description of the inside of a pub in the second decade of this century we can look back a further century to an application for a license by **Thomas Brooks** and the letter that his employer sent to the magistrates supporting his application.

from Lucas Coathupe & Co

"Worshipful Gentlemen

Thomas Brooks has been in our service for thirty two years - he is now one of our principal workmen. His character is unexceptionable. We believe him to be in every respect a fit and proper person to be entrusted with a licence for a public house and we respectfully beg leave to recommend him"

Villages had many ale houses and public houses as well as Inns. The following notes are about four lesser known "hostelries" in Nailsea and Wraxall.

Remember Lots Wife

was sited in front of Wraxall church on the site of what is now the Memorial cross in the lower churchyard Lord Wraxall says "stood a beerhouse of sorts

that was acquired by my grandfather **Mr Anthony Gibbs** and then was demolished by my father **Colonel George Gibbs** in about 1920 when he gave the lower churchyard to the village as an extension".

Phyllis Horman provides the following:-

Louisa Hobbs kept the beerhouse. This lady dealt with the old Ashton Gate Brewery.

She would not serve anyone if they seemed to have drunk too much in her estimation. She seems to have been a widow at the relatively early age of forty two years and had eight children still living at home their ages running from eighteen down to four years also a granddaughter of 3 when the census was taken in 1851.

Louisa Hobbs is still there in 1861, 1871 and 1881 by which time she was 72 years old.

Spotted Horse

This was in Silver Street. In recent times it was **Joe Stokes** house. He developed the grounds around the house into a well known market garden.

A photograph of Joe and his sister when both were children was reproduced in **Margaret Thomas' Book of Nailsea**.

Seven Stars

Little is known of this beerhouse which was in business when the Glassworks was operating (i.e. before 1873). It stood facing across Scotch Horn and was at one time owned by **Thomas Vowles**. The house was subsequently called Sycamore House (not to be confused with the bungalows at the junction of Stock way South and Stockway North).

The Gordon Crest Inn

was on the site of the **Battleaxes** and was bought by **Mr William Gibbs** in 1854. It must have been demolished to make way for The New Battle Axes.

Local Emigration to Australia

by Peter Wright

Your editor has recently received two letters that relate to members of Nailsea Families who travelled abroad and made names for themselves. There needs to be some research undertaken and results will be published in future editions of this journal. At present I shall merely state that one family is **MANFIELD** while the other is **BROOKS**. If anyone has any information about these families please contact the editor. There are references to the BROOKS family in Patrice Sessions book about the United Reform Church mentioned earlier and in the article on page 12.

Having remembered that there was a mention of local people emigrating in "Nailsea Village Gossip" (a Society publication now out of print; companion volume "Nailsea Village News" is still available) I sought out the entry which is set out below:-

1856/7

On Mon. about forty men and women left Nailsea and the adjoining parish of Backwell for Australia. The men were principally miners and agricultural labourers and are sent out at Government expense, from Liverpool. On the Sun. afternoon previously, the emigrants attended Divine Service at Nailsea and the Rector, the Rev F Brown preached an appropriate and affecting sermon.

There was not a dry eye in the church and the following day the neighbourhood was a scene of wailing for the loss of so many of its inhabitants.

This brought back to me another memory of a book "The Letters of Rachel Henning" published in the Sydney Bulletin in 1951 and subsequently published in book form. The copy I have before me (still waiting to be read) was printed in 1986 by Angus and Robertson Publishers of 16 Golden Square London W1R 4BN. ISBN 0 207 14981 X.

In it we are told that Rachel Henning (who at 19 took over the care of the household on the death of her mother in 1845) moved with the family from Taunton to Backwell where the Reverend Henry Biddulph M.A. (their uncle) on

his death had left them his house. Briefly Rachael went to Australia in 1854, returned to England in 1856 and settled finally in Australia in 1861.

As usual the editor will be pleased to have further information on this family or where they lived in Backwell for future publication.

These are not the only families that went abroad and we are in touch with several correspondents whose roots are here in Nailsea. We have had several enquiries about the Coomb(e)s family and also Newton and Young.

Lost at Sea

by Peter Wright

Elsewhere in this edition are details of soldiers who gave their lives in the first world war. There are also family names mentioned in other connections that appear to be related to other entries on Nailsea War Memorials viz. Lippiatt, Lock and Vowles.

Two names on the local memorials have a connection with the Royal Flying Corps, one is Pat Garnett and the other Captain L. H. King-Harman RHA attached to the RFC who died in Mesopotamia in 1916. His name appears on the memorials in Nailsea.

The main reason though for this article is to add some background to the names of those who were lost at sea.

Two names in particular have been selected. They are 1st class Stoker G James who was lost in HMS Goliath in the Dardanelles in 1915 and 1st Class boy C. F. Hunt who died in 1916 aboard HMS Queen Mary at Jutland.

In *The Uncensored Dardanelles* by E Asmead-Bartlett the author mentions that the Goliath relieved HMS Cornwallis covering the right wing of the French forces on land. It was customary to leave a battleship on the right flank day and night and she was in turn covered by two destroyers further up the Straits. The flanking ship was not allowed to use her searchlights for fear of attracting fire from the batteries on the eastern side of the straits.

Other authors have provided the following information. The Turkish torpedo boat destroyer Muavenet-i-Millet used a dense bank of fog to escape detection and was able to fire three torpedoes all of which hit Goliath.

While the enemy ship escaped Goliath turned over and sank in three minutes. Roughly 150 officers and men were saved and nearly 600 lost. Of them one was Stoker G James of Nailsea.

At Jutland during the battle the Queen Mary was singled out as the target for the massed fire of German guns. She was struck upon her forward deck. This was followed by a terrific explosion. The Queen Mary burst into flames and after only thirty seconds disappeared in one burst and glare of smoke. One of our latest battlecruisers was lost with a complement of over 1000 men. One of these was C.F Hunt.

It is recorded that when told of the loss of HMS Queen Mary Admiral Beatty turned to his Flag Captain with the remark "Chatfield - there seems to be something wrong with our ships today! Turn two points to port (i.e. Engage the enemy more closely).

(Editor - I would like, if possible, to obtain more information about those who lost their lives and their families to provide some background to the bare recital of names on the local war memorials.

With the first world war ending 80 years ago it is obvious that much knowledge has been lost. However I would hope that some remains and can be used in future editions.

Similar information about those lost in the later conflicts will also be gratefully received.)

Somerset Studies Library

by David Bromwich - Somerset Studies Librarian.

Taunton is quite a long way from Nailsea and District, and I would expect most Pennant readers to travel here after trying Nailsea, Weston and / or Bristol Libraries first, but we do have plenty to offer, and we still regard North Somerset as very much part of our patch.

Books still form the basis of our collection. We hold, for example, rather more than half of the titles listed in "A Local Bibliography" in Pennant Nos. 14/16, but also (between ourselves and the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society's large library in the room next door) many major reference works which range wider than Somerset, such as the Patent Rolls, Close Rolls, State Papers, History of Parliament, Oxford and Cambridge Alumni and Dugdale's Monasticon.

By around the time that this article appears, all the public libraries in Bath and North East Somerset, North Somerset, Somerset and South Gloucestershire will be using the same computer system, and this means that it will be possible to go into any of their libraries and consult the book catalogues of all the others. That includes the books in Somerset Studies Library, but not initially the Somerset Archaeological Society's, though a grant is currently being sought to add them too.

Periodicals are a special strength here, as the Somerset Archaeological Society has numerous long runs built up by purchase, gift and exchange over the past 150 years. They include *Archaeologia* (1780 to date), the *Gentleman's Magazine* (1731 to 1844) and the *New England Register* (1880 to date). A computer index to the Somerset articles in them contains, for instance, fifty four entries under "Nailsea ". Half of these refer to Pennant itself, but other sources include *Connoisseur*, *Country Life* and *The Archaeological Journal*.

In the single matter of newspapers, we have neglected North Somerset. We have a large and growing collection of papers on microfilm but, with the exceptions of the three Bath titles and of the (Radstock) *Somerset Guardian*, they all belong to the area administered by the Somerset County Council.

Maps (and / or microfilm copies) which cover the whole county include Ordnance Surveyors' drawings (ca 1810), tithe maps (ca 1840), first (ca 1880) and subsequent edition O.S. 1:2500 maps, and smaller scale maps showing geology, soils, land classification and archaeology.

Illustrations commence with drawings made by S. H. Grimm in the 1780s which include Brockley Combe, Failand Inn and Walton Castle. Then there are the early 19th century Pigott and Braikenridge Collections, which have been heavily used in the recent Somerset Record Society volume, Sir Stephen Glynne's church notes for Somerset and, amongst much else, coverage of large parts of North Somerset by 1947 vertical air photographs.