

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



R. N. Coats & Co - Barrel Making in the 1960s

Price £3.00

**LOCAL HISTORY**  
**GOSSIP - NEWS - RESEARCH**



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## **Nailsea Glassworks and the Great Exhibition of 1851**

by Peter Wright

There have long been rumours that the Nailsea Glassworks tendered for the glazing of the Crystal Palace prior to its erection in 1851.

Thinking that the details would make a useful addition to Pennant and to our knowledge of the event and our local Glassworks I wrote to the Archivist of the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 in the following terms-

23<sup>rd</sup> June 1998

Mrs Valerie Phillips  
Archivist  
Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851  
Room 456A  
Sherfield Building  
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine  
Exhibition Road, London, SW7 2AZ

Dear Mrs Phillips

Nailsea Glassworks and its tender for glass for the building of the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park

I refer to our conversation this morning and would appreciate information relating to communications between the Nailsea Glassworks and the Commission relating to the tender made for the glass to be used in the construction of the Glass palace.

I quote from Margaret Thomas's book "The Nailsea Glassworks" ISBN 09517749 2 1 -

"Little is known of the amounts of glass produced once the works had gone over to sheet and plate glass. However, they were certainly producing considerable amounts of glass since they were in a position to tender for the building of Crystal Palace at the time of the Great Exhibition, around 300,000 panes of 49" x 10". They failed to win the contract, which was won by

Chance Bros., but were supplying several of the large railway stations such as London Road Manchester and Crewe with glass in the 1860s. "

I have spoken to Margaret Thomas in Essex today and she mentioned that there is a reference in some notes kept by Basil Greenhill (who was the first person to write articles about history in this area) that imply that the Nailsea Glassworks advertised in the 1851 Exhibition catalogue.

He mentioned that "The Great Exhibition of 1851 had examples of glass water pipes and curtain poles".

Could we possibly have a copy of the relevant page(s) if this statement is correct?

By coincidence Chance Bros. eventually bought the Nailsea Glassworks in 1870 and closed it down as the local coal mines, which supplied the glassworks, began to produce such poor quality coal that that it could not be used for heating the furnaces.

The Society has a small fund for acquisitions relating to old local businesses and photographs and would be prepared to pay for photocopies. While copies of correspondence are of interest copies of billheads and advertisements etc are far more arresting than straight text when shown in exhibitions or even when forming a part of the content of Pennant referred to in the heading of this letter.

I am the editor of this Local History Journal and I enclose a copy of the Society's Constitution. Are you able to authorise me to use, in our journal, copies of the information which I hope you can supply? *If not is there anyone else that I should write to?*

Yours sincerely  
Peter Wright, Deputy Chairman of,  
Editor and Publisher for N&DLHS

*The reply I received from Mrs Phillips was dated 16<sup>th</sup> July and read as follows:-  
Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851*

Dear Mr Wright

Thank you for your letter about the Nailsea Glassworks.

I have looked through our two series of correspondence on the Great Exhibition (the Commissioners' Correspondence and the "Windsor Archives") but can find no mention of the Nailsea Glassworks. The 1851 Catalogue did not carry any advertisements, despite Basil Greenhill's suggestion that it did. He is correct however in his statement about the glass water pipes and curtain poles exhibited and I am enclosing relevant pages from the Exhibition Catalogue as well as the introductory remarks on the glass section of class 24.

I am sorry that this will be a rather disappointing reply for you and that the enclosed copies would not be particularly interesting in an exhibition. There is no restriction on their use, however.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs V. C. Phillips  
Archivist

Disappointment? Yes! but we now know the true position.

I had a look through the items enclosed and was interested to find the Introduction to the catalogue for Section III Class 24 making comments about Excise duty. You will no doubt remember the comments that our local experts Trevor Bowen and Margaret Thomas have made in their books and articles wherein they mentioned Excise men being on duty whenever glass was being made.

Sect III Class 24 Glass

The introduction begins

*" The beautiful and valuable production, which forms the subject of the present Class and its sub-divisions, is beginning to assume an extraordinary degree of importance in the present day. Yet few manufactures have, until*

*within a very recent period , made so small amount of progress. Every process of the manufacture having been beset with the stringent regulations considered to be necessary to enforce the due observance of the Excise Laws, and no exemption being permitted even for the purposes of experiment or improvement, it is scarcely a matter of surprise that the production of glass remained in a poor and imperfect state both as a manufacture and as a philosophical problem”.*

It then goes on to discuss various types of glass and glass manufacturers of which Nailsea is NOT one. The date of removal of the Excise restrictions is mentioned as being 1845.

Among the exhibitors is listed:-

COATHUPE & Co  
Nicholas Street Bristol  
Inventors and Manufacturers

**Glass water pipes, plain, jointed and angular. Glass Curtain poles.**

*I wonder if this is what Greenhill took as an advertisement. It seems likely but I wish I knew what made him say the Nailsea Glassworks tendered for the Crystal Palace!*

*Did anyone see the recent History programme devised by Tony Robinson where teams attempted to work out what happened to the Crystal Palace and why?*

*You may have read that it was destroyed by fire in 1936. The team of firemen did at least come to the conclusion that the fire was not deliberately started.*

**Notice of new publication**

Martin Bodman one of our members lives not far from Crystal Palace. He wrote the first of two books that we have produced about the Land Yeo. Have you seen the latest book in the series “Who Made The Land Yeo” prepared by Keith Gardner? It is available from the Society price £5 inc. post and packing. (*but see inside back cover of Pennant for special terms for LHS & Archaeological group members*)

## **A Short History of the**

### **R. N. Coate Cider Works at Nailsea 1925 - 1974**

### **Part 1**

by Trevor Bowen

*This is part of an article previously printed in BIAS Journal 27 in 1994. It is printed with permission and the remainder of the original article will follow in Pennant 23 and 24. For a list of sources see page 8.*

#### **Part 1**

##### **The Pre-War Years**

Redvers Norman Coate, Somerset born and bred, determined at the age of 22 to put the drink of his native county on the national cider makers' map. In 1924 the Devon cider makers Whiteways had taken the entire front page of the Daily Mail and advertised with considerable success, and Bulmers of Hereford retaliated soon after with a national campaign of their own. Somerset, however, produced more cider than any other English county, but the bulk of this was drunk locally for there was no large representative company to rival the sales of Whiteways and Bulmers.

Taking lunch one day with his future father-in-law, it was suggested that Redvers might usefully apply himself to the art of cider making, since he had a degree but no job. This casual remark appealed to the young man who, in later life, recalled, "I had the ridiculous idea that I would like to build up and run the biggest cider making business in the country". How was he to obtain the experience and the capital necessary to realise this wild ambition? He approached Professor Barker of the National Fruit & Cider Institute at Bristol - later the Long Ashton Research Station - and persuaded him to teach him the rudiments of cider making for a year, unpaid. In 1925, Redvers Coate invited relatives and friends to invest in a new cider company and he was joined in this venture by his brother W.O. Coate - who later formed his own successful enterprise at Bridgwater, Coate's Fencing - and co-partner A.V. Lister. Modest premises were acquired between Nailsea and Wraxall and five employees taken on. For the fermenting of the apple juice, Redvers Coate installed three glass-lined concrete vats, each holding 10,000 gallons. These were Swiss-made and reputedly the first to be installed in Britain.

Competition was strong since Whiteways and Bulmers both had well-established outlets in Bristol. Taunton Cider was active, as were Gloucester Cider at Wickwar and, locally, Williams Brothers at Backwell and throughout the area farm cider presses were selling off their surplus production. His contention that good cider would sell itself was not borne out in practice. But it was good cider none the less and this was recognised by the National Cider Competition, held at the Brewer's Exhibition in London, to which some early samples from the Nailsea works were sent for adjudication:

"Being very inexperienced all I did was just to draw a sample from each of our three tanks. We got first prize in all three, a most extraordinary thing".

Redvers Coate insisted that only Somerset apples be used at Nailsea and popular varieties included "Sheeps Nose", "Fox Whelp", "Cap of Liberty", "John Brown" and "Slack Ma Girdle". He personally visited farmers to persuade them to sell their surplus crop to the new works to ensure a continuous input of apples during the September to December milling season. They had also to be encouraged to revitalise the run down orchards and to invest in new trees for Coate's future use. Together with his brother Bill, he canvassed the public houses throughout Somerset for more trade since in the late 1920s pubs were tied for beer but not usually for wine, spirits or cider. Expansion was painfully slow for all too soon the breweries started making their own cider or arranging for the larger cider makers to supply their houses on payment of a royalty. R. N. Coate sales slumped in the 1930s as did Britain itself. Several times the company almost went out of business but gradually over the years it clawed its way back into profitability. An associate company was formed, Bristol Wine Shippers, which specialised in British and Empire wines, and a small joint sales force of agents and representatives built up.

The outbreak of war in 1939 proved to be the salvation of R. N. Coate & Co. The government introduced zoning which not only took freight off the road and onto the rail network, but also meant that cider companies, like others, were restricted in their areas of operation. Bulmers at Hereford fared well with ready access to the midlands and north; Whiteways in Devon were additionally allocated London since they had a depot there; and Coate was allotted Somerset, Wiltshire and South Gloucestershire, which included Bristol and Bath. They were well satisfied with these restrictions on their larger competitors and, with the rationing of beer in the middle years of the war coupled with an influx of American troops locally, Coate became firmly



established. Apart from losing most of his male staff through conscription, Redvers Coate had the added pressure of running the business virtually single handed. There was no production after dark due to the blackout and workers took their turn to fire-watch on the premises. Redvers himself was both head warden for the district and an army welfare officer wrestling with the domestic problems of locally based troops. Spare parts for machinery were often made by hand. Sales representatives were required to perform many functions, including assisting with production since supply could not match demand and Italian prisoners of war were brought in each day from Bristol to work alongside evacuees. Most serviceable vehicles in the area had been requisitioned, so deliveries by rail were collected by the GWR using an antiquated 1920s lorry lacking not only a battery but also its cab.

After the war Richard Bywater was appointed works director. During the hostilities he had worked for the Ministry of Supply on armament production and earned the distinction of gaining both the George Cross and George Medal. A brilliant man possessing a keen scientific mind, he was charged with developing the works to meet the anticipated demand. This proved an unenviable task with post-war shortages, and one of his many second hand acquisitions were 25 oak vats from the Guinness Brewery at Park Royal, London, ranging in size from 25,000 to 48,000 gallons capacity. Charlie Toogood, who was Coate's head cooper, was responsible for dismantling these vats stave-by-numbered-stave and re - assembling in Nailsea, a process which took 11 years to complete. Six similar vats, already 100 years old, were purchased from George's Brewery in Bristol, so that the total number of new and second hand vats grew to 110. Each was identified by a name, such as "Gog" and "Magog" (each 9,000 gallons), "Churchill", "Spitfire", "Time and Tide" (32,000 and 20,000), "Cleopatra" and "Caesar" (each 10,000), and in later years from the world of entertainment, "Acker Bilk" and "Adge Cutler" (each 25000). Some of the larger vats had staves 28ft long, 18 in wide and 2 ¼ in thick. Coate's coopers were mainly engaged on 'remakes' repairing their own casks from bought out staves, or fashioning new from French Oak (favoured for a grain that could be worked in all directions) or, failing that, Russian or Scottish. Their real expertise, however, lay in the maintenance of the oak vats. These were susceptible to draughts from open doors, causing shrinkage of the timber even when full, with consequent leakage.

Bywater was joined by ex-office and sales staff returning after demobilisation and a depot was established in London by Redvers' co-director A.V. Lister. He

had close connections with the London brewery Mann, Crossman & Paulin which enabled Coate's to expand into their tied houses. Arrangements were also made with Flowers, Ansells and Whitbreads, and outlets developed in the midlands and the north as well as exports to many parts of Africa, South America, New Zealand, the West Indies and Scandinavia. The NAAFI contract was also won by Coate.

### **Sources**

Enquiries made with Showerings, Vine Products and Whiteways Ltd., and Coates Gaymer in 1976 indicated that little archive material remained of R. N. Coate & Co Ltd. Representative photographs still exist, salvaged from the rubbish bins at the time of its closure in 1974, but ciné film held by Showerings and viewed by the author in 1977 was subsequently lost.

This short account of the works is therefore based on interviews with ex-employees and items that appeared in Showerings Group Newsletter.

### **Recorded Interviews**

Redvers Coate (1977)

Stewart Allcott (1977)

Mary Coate (1991)

Trevor Thomas (1991)

### **Published Material**

*Grapevine*, Showerings Group Newsletter (1966-1968)

Taverner, H., *Our Roots and Branches*

*Choice*, Allied-Lyons magazine (Sept - Oct 1990)

## **Villages at War**

by Peter Wright

*In the book of the same name published in 1990 (the research for which may have been the subject of a slot in a BBC TV programme by the time you read this) much use was made of the memories of pupils of the school who were billeted in and around Backwell. Viz. GRACE CHAMPION then(1990) living in MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA; LOUISE COOK then living in ONTARIO, CANADA; JOYCE COYLE then living in FELTON nr BRISTOL; STELLA CRAFER then living in WICKFORD, ESSEX: DAPHNE WANFORD then living in CHICHESTER, SUSSEX. Since then another ex-pupil, John Christiansen, has written to me giving more information about the school, staff and pupils. I have also received information about the camp at Tyntesfield. First the school:-*

## **North Hammersmith Central School**

by John Christiansen

*(Ed. Note The school was in a two storey building in Bryony Road, Shepherd's Bush. It opened in 1931 and the buildings were used as a fire station during the war).*

### **1. List of Original School Staff up to 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 whose names are clearly recalled:-**

Mr Jamieson - Head

Miss Ayres - Deputy Head  
(Commercial Course Work)

Mr Arnold  
(Art & Tech. Drawing RSA Course)

Miss Ciceley (Music)  
Mrs Hunt (Maths, History?)  
Miss Proudfoot (English, Geography)  
plus one other see *list 2 below*

Mr Dinsmore (?)

Mr Gascoigne (?)

Mr Hisee

(Maths, Games, Commercial Work)

Mr Hook (Woodwork)

Mr Hutchins (?)

Mr Owen (History, Geography)

Mr Perrott (Science, Biology)

Mr Winterton (French and ?)

## **List of staff (some of whom travelled from London on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939) in place at Backwell and West Town by 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1939.**

Mr Arnold (with wife); Mr Dinsmore (with wife); Mr Hisee (with wife and children); Mr Owen; Miss Ayres; Mrs Hunt plus 1 senior female tutor *whose name I cannot recall, also included in List 1. Mr Winterton and Mr Hook left shortly afterwards.*

## **3. List of original staff, and replacements drawn from any available source (including retirement) from about 1<sup>st</sup> October 1939 onwards.**

### Notes

- a. This staff list remained operative through to 1945 as far as I know.
- b. WT and B = West Town and / or Backwell House Badminton Halls
- c. Mr Dinsmore drafted into RAF aircrew c 1942 - when Mrs D's twins arrived.
- d. Mr Keate - Might this be, I wonder, the Head of the L.C.C. School in Nailsea rapidly transferred to NHCS by County Hall London?  
*(Ed. Note As far as I am aware Mr Keate took over both schools presumably following the death of Mr Jamieson)*
- e. "Wackford Squeers" (another teacher - left in circumstances John does not reveal)
- + summoned from retirement.

**ORIGINAL STAFF:** Mr Arnold (WT & B); Mr Dinsmore (B); Mrs Dinsmore (WT); Mr Hisee (B); Mr Owen (B); Miss Ayres (WT & B); Mrs Hunt (B).

**REPLACEMENTS:** Miss Davies (WT) *1<sup>st</sup> Level French, Music*; Miss Johnson (WT) *Nat. Hist., English*; +Miss Caldwell (WT & B) *English Lit., Drama*, Miss Startup (B) *Intermediate and Advanced French*; +"Wackford Squeers" (WT) *General Subjects*; Mr Keate-replacement head, soon after Mr Jamieson's untimely death c early 1943.

Up to 1<sup>st</sup> September 1939 NHCS operated a simple 'four house system: North House; East House; South House and West House with a very good prefect set up organised for each house, all discontinued during the war. The classes, or Forms, were retained as follows

### **West Town Badminton Hall**

1R (First remove, designed for new intakes of 11 ½ - 12 years - *a kind of settling tank*) - transitional.

1<sup>st</sup> Form - 12 to 13 year olds

2<sup>nd</sup> Form - 13 year olds

### **Backwell Badminton Hall**

3<sup>rd</sup> Form - 14 year olds

4<sup>th</sup> Form - 15 year olds

5<sup>th</sup> Form - 16 year olds

### **Some names remembered**

*brothers and sisters or brothers together*

Margaret and Tommy Martin; Peter and Gwyneth Bartlett; Jimmy and Peter Hawkins; Frank and Reg Judd; Albert and Christine Pitcher + *two more unnamed sisters*; Margaret and Charles Smith; Ronald Patterson + younger brother; Eileen Moore and younger sister; George Smallwood and elder sister; Joyce Quirico; Chris Newton; Peter Mills; Frank Mills; Ronald Hewson; Ken Boulton; June Sears; Grace Champion; Betty Tyrell; Johnny Williams; "Dicky" Richardson; John Kimp; Leslie Whiley; Jimmy Skinner; Leonard Parkins; Ray Robertson; Mike Harris; George Harwood (*Transferred to NHCS from another school*); Jules Jouniaux and Henry Liebelsohn (*Belgian refugees from Namur and Antwerp respectively*). (Ed. Note A letter from Jules Jouniaux was included in Pennant 13).

### **Nailsea and the Archives of the Kemys Tynte family.**

Correction

*Norma Knight has noticed an error in the last edition arising from the misinterpretation of difficult writing. Norma writes:-*

*Pennant 21 p 19 col. 2 states:-*

*"The family's land in Backwell .... Was rented to Thomas Parsons and Holdeth Reeds."*

The entry in the survey book referred to by Julie Mansfield in fact reads "Thomas Parsons holdeth Reeds".

Norma goes on to say:-

The farm called Reeds is also referred to in a survey of the Manor of Backwell 1709 (now at Longleat and quoted by permission of the Marquess of Bath) which lists those “persons paying chief rents to Lord Bath for lands in Backwell” and continues “We present Sir John Tynt, baronet, to be a freeholder for a farm called Reeds containing 18a. ground lying at Farleigh, now rented by Thomas Parsons”. The annual chief rent was 1s 3d. The farmhouse survives and is now called Park Farm.

## **The Ivydene Club - (A tale of Nailsea Evacuees)**

by Norman A. Tucker (Nat)

The letter of thanks from Clementine Churchill (reproduced on page 13) is addressed to five children, four of whom, myself included, were evacuees from Bristol. The fifth child was a Nailsea girl who made a valuable contribution to the ‘Ivydene’ venture. The letter is unique but the events relating to it are probably among many adventures and achievements, by evacuees sent to Nailsea.

Ivydene Club was the product of childhood imagination and enterprise; it originated from an old pigsty discovered in a garden near our cottage billet. The pigsty was in a state of dereliction, most of the roof tiles were missing, it had no door and was thickly overgrown with ivy and brambles. We saw it as a challenge and without delay, started renovation with no thought of aiding Russia, at that time, but simply to make a den.

We cleared the undergrowth and found many roof tiles which, combined with other materials, made a fairly secure roof. Our efforts attracted the attention of several local residents, one of whom gave us brushes and whitewash with which we coated the inside walls. We had a den but it had neither furniture nor door, so that was the next problem to be resolved. My acquaintance with a local carpenter provided the solution, I had tidied his workshop and done other small tasks for him on several occasions, and he appreciated this. He gave us some wood offcuts which I roughly made into a table, seats and a door which was a ‘lean-to’ patchwork of nailed timber. Thus established the pigsty was duly named ‘Ivydene Club’ and we began to search for a purpose.

Firstly we made club badges displaying an ivy leaf design which gave us a sense of identity. More importantly the badges induced an interest in

handicrafts which we adopted as our 'raison d'être'. At about this time the AID TO RUSSIA campaign, sponsored by the British Red Cross Society, came to our notice and we decided to support it.

For some time we tried unsuccessfully to obtain material suitable for handicrafts when, quite unexpectedly, we were given several wallpaper sample books. Equipped with these and other necessities, Ivydene Club went into production and made brightly coloured wallets to hold ration books, identity cards, writing paper and envelopes; we also made spill holder sets which could be used to save matches. Every scrap of material was used, after many hours of work we set out to sell our wares.

Most of my recollections from the evacuee days are happy, almost idyllic compared with the Bristol Blitz experience. There were many evacuees in Nailsea and Toc H hall in Silver Street played an important part in our lives.

Lunches were sometimes provided for unruly hordes of youngsters under the watchful eyes of W.V.S. ladies. The 1d\* rock cakes that were sold, one only to each child, were a real treat. They were dispensed under the hawk-like gaze of Mrs Cowlin, who, I believe, was in charge. She could always spot an opportunist sneaking back for a second rock cake. Her wrath brought total silence to the hall but discipline was necessary.

*\*(1d i.e. 1 old penny equals 4/10ths of a new one but 1d was worth much more in those days)*

The most dramatic events that I witnessed were the last moments of an RAF Airspeed Oxford before it crashed\*\* and the night time glow of Bristol ablaze during those terrible blitzes. I also saw a doomed enemy bomber caught in the searchlights, it was frantically twisting and turning in a futile attempt to escape.

*(\*\*Editor's note another witness to the crash commented on it in "Villages at War" see later)*

I do not know what happened to Ivydene pigsty after we went away, but it did provide a sense of purpose and friendship. It also drew the attention of 10 Downing Street and gave Nailsea a small but unusual place in Wartime history.

*(Editor - If any reader has memories of the war period that are relevant to the area the Society covers please write them down and send them to him.)*

Other wartime memories shared with the Society have been set out in "Villages at War" and "Peace for our Time". We still have a few more for later editions of this Journal.

Information provided by John Christiansen relating to the North Hammersmith School evacuated to Backwell is reproduced above.

As previously mentioned Villages at War with its companion book Peace for Our Time has many accounts of wartime in and around Nailsea. The crash of the Airspeed Oxford seen by Nat was also seen by others. The following is another account by Vernon Ridley who still lives in Nailsea.

An Airspeed Oxford

"came from the direction of Wraxall flying low up the valley. It didn't sound as if it was in trouble but it just missed old Church and then caught the lower cable of the electric supplies near to a Pylon in the second field to the west of Engine Lane."

*Vernon Ridley recalls that he and his father were the first ones there and found*

"It was an awful mess .... there was one body in the hedge. One of the dead did not appear to be a member of the aircrew. We thought he had hitched a lift. There was a bicycle on board."

Vernon's father was the local undertaker and was the official layer out of bodies killed due to the war. The place he used was a small room adjacent to the Royal Oak.



## **Answer Wanted.**

Your editor has been given copies of cuttings from newspapers of many years ago. Can anyone tell me when the events happened and possibly add to the information below?

**Nailsea Fire - Moorfields Farm**, the property of Mr W Baker, which was partially destroyed by fire on Sunday night.

**Nailsea Fire - Premises** belonging to Mr J Ridley a carpenter and builder, of Nailsea which was badly damaged by fire yesterday.

**Bristol City Football Club at Nailsea** The photograph on the outside back cover was presumably taken earlier this century. Can anyone supply more information?

## **Answer Supplied.**

The wedding photograph in Pennant No 20 was of Roy Minor and Hazel Clarke. They married at Christ Church on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1941 and now live in Mark. Thanks to the three members who gave me the information and to Bid Wheeler who pointed out that that was the day the bomb damaged the Church as the following extract from

**Villages at War** shows:-

"31st May 1941

0100

1 HE fell in field at Nailsea. Crater 26 feet by 60 feet. 1 cow belonging to Miss McMillan of Nailsea killed.

a) damage to roof of North Somerset Electric Lighting Co resident engineer's house , mile away.

b) Smithfield (sic) Road and surrounding houses damaged and interior and around Congregational Church.

*(Editor. I presume reference to Congregational Ch was meant to be Christ Church.)"*

## **Press Gang in Nailsea?**

### **Can you help?**

By Phyllis Horman

*Phyllis Horman recently had a telephone call from a relation who asked if she was still researching Local History and when she replied "Yes" was asked if she had heard the following which her relation had "read in a book about the Nailsea Glass Factory".*

*The problem is when did he read it and in which book was it? Where does this story come from? Phyllis has not come across it before and neither has the editor. Have any readers seen it in anything they have read about Nailsea? :-*

The Press Gang were in Bristol and a few Nailsea men (presumably from the Glassworks for reasons which become obvious later) overheard them to say that they were heading for Nailsea.

The Nailsea men hot footed it back to Nailsea (glassworkers more fleet of foot than the Press gang!) to the Glassworks and barricaded all the workers inside.

*Did the Press gang manage to break in and did they manage to press any of the workers? Please contact the Editor if you think you can help.*

## **Somerset Record Office**

N&DLHS has arranged with those responsible for some more "original" documents to be deposited in Taunton for safe keeping.

They were hidden away in a safe at the Library and formed, in the main, part of the Nailsea Town Council papers most of which had already been sent to the SRO.

One item which had been part of the Greenhill Collection which we are also glad to see go was a notebook kept by Mr Coathupe in which he listed all the different constituents that enabled various types of glass to be made.

It is our view that this book is important to the whole glass making history and not to Nailsea alone.

The Coathupe family were involved with the management of the Nailsea Glassworks and also had business interests in Bristol. Their firm exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851.

## **Longleat - Treasure Trove and Wildlife Park**

by Julie Mansfield

N Somerset Archivist

Archivists from all over the South West recently gathered for a regional meeting at Longleat House, providing a wonderful opportunity to look behind the scenes at the extensive library and Archive collection of the Marquis of Bath. Located just outside of Warminster, Longleat was the centre of the family's vast estates located not only in Wiltshire but also scattered throughout the neighbouring counties of Somerset Gloucester and Dorset and extending as far afield as Herefordshire, Shropshire Staffs and Warwickshire.

Although the major estates in Somerset lay in Cheddar and Frome, the family also owned lands at Backwell, which were finally auctioned off in the first half of this century. The estate archives for the manor of Backwell include deeds, leases and surveys dating back as far as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as well as more recent papers relating to coalmining in the area and the coming of the railway.

Two full time professionals are employed by the Marquis of Bath to look after the library and the archive, which contain a treasure trove of rare books and priceless mediaeval records. The archivists work on the top floor of the house, comprising a warren of rooms where the servants once had their quarters and visiting bachelors their bed chambers. It is here that space is provided for those wishing to browse through the records, although the archives are housed a few minutes away in the stable buildings, recently converted and equipped with all the latest fixtures and fittings.

The records attract local and family historians from across the country and in the Nailsea area there is certainly still local interest in the family. During my visits to Nailsea Library I have talked to a number of family historians eager to find evidence of their ancestors who either worked for the Marquis of Bath in the house, or leased land from his various estates.

The Longleat papers are first and foremost a working collection, essential for determining the current extent of the Marquis's landholdings and for the administration of this property. However the interest of family and local historians is certainly acknowledged and the public are allowed to consult records at a fee of £15 a day, having contacted the Librarian in advance. Holdings are now being indexed onto computer and at present Wiltshire estate papers, including wage records for servants at Longleat and some of the Somerset records can be searched by place and person for a fee of £6 per hour.

The house and grounds are open all year round, they are quite spectacular and well worth a visit. For further information about the Archives contact Dr K Harris Librarian and Archivist, the Estate Office, Longleat, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7NW.

As readers are no doubt aware the North Somerset Archivist comes from Taunton on the second Thursday of each month and will bring documents for examination at Nailsea.

## **Failand Inn**

by Phyllis Horman

*Prepared in reply to a query from Eric Love a S&D FHS member. He also asked about the LOTT family. Phyllis's reply on that subject forms the basis of another article.*

The present Failand Inn is not the original one, this one was built about 1860. It was bought by Mr William Gibbs of Tyntesfield in 1874 and the present Lord Wraxall sold it to Courages of Bristol in 1962.

Lord Wraxall has told me that the present inn was already a public house when Mr Gibbs bought it and he suspects that he only did so because it was on the edge of the Park.

The old Failand Inn was said to be almost opposite where the present one stands, there is a building which may now be used as a farm, but as you will read this you will see that the position of the old Inn is difficult to place. The

old Inn was also used as the local Justices Court, but according to Mrs L Bowden who wrote two books on Failand, at least three farms were also inns.

John Stracey's manuscript of 1736 talks of a well known hostelry at Failand. In the Bristol Gazette 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1771 there was an advertisement that "Faylands Inn" was to be let. Notes of Rev. E P Vaughan of Wraxall and Failand (it is one parish) states in 1884

*"This house Failand Lodge, was built in 1801 and for many years was an inn .. (and) .. that the old Inn was rebuilt by Mr George Penrose of Belmont. The magistrates meetings were held there, it stood where the present house stands. The ground before it was open Down until the 1812 enclosure. The Inn was closed about 1835"*

So, counting the present one there appears to have been three buildings, more or less in the same area.

## **Mark Lott.**

by Phyllis Horman

*Prepared in reply to a query from Eric Love a S&D FHS member about Mark LOTT. Mr Love also asked about the Failand Inn.*

On the 1841 census of Failand Mark was living at an Inn and was a publican aged 40 with Elizabeth his wife 50 years and 5 children.

On the 1851 Census he and his family were at the Failand Inn and one daughter aged 18 was a barmaid. His wife Elizabeth died in 1851 aged 60.

Mark died in 1856 aged 58 and by the time of the 1861 census Sarah Lott (possibly Mark's second wife and now widow?) was the licensed victualler of Failand Inn. In 1871 and in 1881 the census shows Sarah still to be there.

If the previous Inn was closed as stated by the Rev Vaughan in 1884 viz.

*"This house Failand Lodge, was built in 1801 and for many years was an inn .. (and) .. that the old Inn was rebuilt by Mr George Penrose of Belmont. The magistrates meetings were held there, it stood where the present house stands. The ground before it was open Down until the 1812 enclosure. The Inn was closed about 1835"*

which Inn was Mark at?

*In the 1881 census the Failand Inn comes under Wraxall and not Failand!*

## **Tyntesfield at War**

*Some of the land owned by Lord Wraxall east of Wraxall and north of the road to Long Ashton was used during the war as an American Field Hospital and afterwards for several years as emergency housing.*

*Recently as editor of the journal I have been fortunate to obtain some photographs from the USA of the site in use and also other information that has a bearing on the activities in the 1940's. A photograph appears on page 21. Two were recently loaned to the Museum Service to illustrate their National Health Service display.*

*In "Villages at War"(copies of which are still available I mentioned that:- "the American Hospital had already been built and the longest holly hedge in England had been breached to provide access to the Hospital. It was supposed to be the largest American Hospital in North Europe. General Eisenhower is believed to have visited the hospital. (In the course of writing this book I have failed to trace a single photograph that gives any impression of the buildings). Thanks to Gwen Hardwidge that failure has now been rectified.*

In her letter Gwen Hartwidge wrote to say that some of the US Army people who were at Tyntesfield still get together for an annual reunion although Winnie and Jim Carter from whom the pictures came do not join them. However Gwen will ask if some will write down their memories and let us have them.

*Gwen also sent information about Winnie's father Jim Shortman who was killed when he*

## **Fell from fire engine -**

Nailsea man's tragic death

*The following is a copy of a press report.*

The tragic death of Mr James Shortman of Clifton Villa, High Street Nailsea, came as a great shock to many friends both in Nailsea and elsewhere, for he was well known in the district.

As a full time member of the Auxiliary Fire Service, attached to the headquarters station at Long Ashton, he was with a party who had been engaged in a brigade exercise on Sunday afternoon at Gatcombe, when he fell from the fire engine when it was returning to the station. He sustained injuries to the head, and was conveyed to Bristol General Hospital where he died on Monday (Whit Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1941).

Prior to his joining the A.F.S. in July 1940 Mr Shortman filled the position of groundsman to the Flax Bourton C.C. and greenkeeper to the Backwell Golf Club for some years.

In his young days he joined the Somerset Light Infantry and served with the regular forces in India, Malta and China. He was in the service when the last Great War began (1914) and went through the whole of the four year's campaign. He received four medals including the D.C.M. the M.M. and the Service and Victory medals.

He was one of the founders of the Nailsea Comrades Club, which afterwards became a branch of the British Legion.

### **Funeral Tributes**

Fire Brigade Services were among a large and representative assembly at the funeral which took place at the Parish Church on Thursday afternoon. Contingents were present from Long Ashton and the area sub-stations, under the command of Chief Officer Clist, while Clevedon and Bristol Brigades were also represented.

The coffin was covered with the Union Jack, was borne to the church on the Long Ashton Fire Engine.

The service which was choral, was conducted by the Rev. W. Russell Davey, (Rector) and Preb. J. H. Powell Rural Dean. The hymns were "For ever with the Lord" and " Abide with Me". Mrs Ridley was at the organ. The Rector paid a high tribute to the life and work of Mr Shortman.

### **Family mourners were:-**

Mrs Shortman (widow); Miss Winnie Shortman (daughter); Mr W Shortman (father); Messrs E & A Shortman (Brothers); Miss Doll Shortman (sister); Mr & Mrs Strickler; Mr & Mrs Wright; Mr & Mrs Palmer; Mr & Mrs Perry (brothers in law and sisters in law); Mr & Mrs G Hartwidge; Mr & Mrs S Hartwidge; Mr & Mrs C Hartwidge and Mr & Mrs H Hartwidge (brothers in law and sisters in law); Mrs P Hartwidge and Marjorie, Mr and Mrs Bert Gray (niece and nephew); Sam and Ivy, Margaret, Stan, Ron and Mary (nephews and nieces) and Mr and Mrs J Sullivan.

In addition to the Fire Services, other bodies represented included Nailsea Parish Council; Messrs R E Gray (Chairman), H G Hedges, J Langley, J Stock (Clerk) together with Mr H Shepherd who represented the Royal Engineers and Mr H Parsons and Mr A Sprod (Brotherhood members); Capt. Neville Rolph, Lieut. E C Tuckey, and Messrs Sullivan, Summerell, P Maggs, and A BurrIDGE represented the British Legion; while among many others who attended were A.R.P. Wardens.

*Editor - Following the end of the war the Americans had moved out of Tyntesfield and there was a need in the area for emergency housing. Doris tells her story of how the huts at Tyntesfield recently evacuated by the Americans came to be a home for many local families.*

### **A Village after the War**

by Doris Christie (née Rew)

I moved into Tyntesfield Park in 1946. Originally it was called Tyntesfield Estate but was re-named owing to some confusion over the house numbers of the original Tyntesfield Estate.

We were among the first families to be housed, so we were not surprised to see the road up to the houses had not been surfaced (and it never was!) and the path to the front and back doors had still to be paved. But who cared? We had the house. It was pretty basic but well laid out. Two good sized bedrooms, large living room, bathroom, kitchen and pantry. The living room was heated with a large round boiler type stove, with the chimney pipe running up the room.



I was able, eventually, to buy a grey range which improved the look of the room, and which proved more useful. At first hot water was supplied from the boiler house, but when it got too expensive to run, we were all supplied with a large immersion heater, which was placed on a high shelf in the passage. This shelf was also useful for a hideaway for the children's presents until Father Christmas called.

We had a local farmer (Mr Atherton) who delivered milk daily and also a greengrocer who called twice a week and a hardware van from Nailsea, later there was a shop run by Mr & Mrs Colley who sold almost everything else that was needed (coupons permitting).

There was a hall where concerts were held and eventually cinema shows. Parties for children were laid on at Christmas, a small lending library was just inside the main gate and also a chapel where my daughter was the first baby to be baptised there using a little silver font which had been kindly donated by Mr Warry, the local blacksmith. During the time we were living there, the present Lord Wraxall came of age and a firework display was held at Tyntesfield House.

We were living there during the very cold winter when all the country was iced up. The bus came into the estate to pick up the school children and on at least one occasion, could not turn round to go back out. People came out with buckets of ashes and sacks to put under the bus wheels, but I think eventually the buses were taken off. It was so cold that year that icicles hanging over the windows were like bars in a prison.

If I remember the following summer was gloriously hot. During that time polio was around and several children developed it; one little boy, sadly, died. Later on a Flower and Veg. Show was organised, as every home had a garden front and rear, and allotments were available.

There were also raffles which I once won (the only time I ever had) the prize was a box of groceries which, as food was in very short supply, was very welcome. I do not know who organised it, or who donated the prize, but it was certainly a great idea. I think we paid 6d a week towards it. (*6d old money = just over 2p new money*).

We also did our bit as we had done for the war effort in the past. There were containers for waste paper\*, cardboard and rags, also a bin for household scraps for the pigs.

Eventually the time came when people were being re-housed. The usual speculation as to who would be 'first out'. We left in 1956 after 10 years at Tyntesfield Park, to settle into town life, which to say the least, was decidedly different.

*Editor's note*

*\*I still find it hard to tear the wrapping off Christmas presents. Shouldn't they be unwrapped tearing as little of the paper as possible and saving it for next year?*

*Doris Christie with her sister Phyllis Horman has recently produced an account of their childhood in Wraxall which makes interesting reading.*

## **The Sperrin Family in Backwell**

by Norma Knight

The earliest references to the Sperrin family in Backwell are to be found in the parish registers in the late 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is not possible to give all the relationships between the names recorded but there are some which can be grouped as families. The spelling of the names varies considerably as spelling was not standardised.

The earliest entries are those for the baptisms of:

Edmund Spyring	28 Mar	1571
Margaret Spyring	10 Feb	1572
William Spyring <i>son of Roger</i>	9 Nov	1572

On 27 September 1602 William Spirrin married Elizabeth Starke. Four children were baptized in the following years:

Edward	28 May	1604
Joan	5 July	1607
Elizabeth	20 Oct	1611
Henry	27 Feb	1613

*(The original date of Elizabeth's baptism gave the date as 19 October 1610 but this was firmly crossed out and the correct date entered. This indicates that the registers were not always kept up to date and it was wise to check the details.)*

William Spirrin himself was buried on 21 Oct 1626 and Elizabeth his wife on 7 April 1632. Their daughter Joan married John Crane on 16 June 1634 but their other daughter Elizabeth remained unmarried and was buried on 21 December 1636.

There is no reference in the registers to Harriet Sperrin whose tombstone in Backwell Churchyard was referred to in Pennant 21. After further examination of the stone it now appears that the inscription refers to the Katherine Perrin late wife of Thomas Perrin. It is easy to see how the confusion arose as the inscription is badly eroded and was carved in capital letters not spaced. Indeed to save space the name KATHEREN begins with two letters on one line and then continues to the next. Also the stone stands close to a later tomb which does belong to the Sperrin family. The Perrin family occurs frequently in the 17<sup>th</sup> century registers and the burial of Katheren wife of Thomas Perrin on 7 May 1628 is clearly entered. Incidentally it was Thomas Perrin who in 1640 acquired a lease of Backwell Mill from John Cottrell of Long Ashton, later lord of the manor of Barrow Gurney.

Our references to the Sperrin family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century include the marriage on 11 August 1634 of Edward Sperrin and Elizabeth Willmott. Their children were:

Catheren bap 30 Jan 1635 d 10 Nov 1658

Roger bap 23 June 1639 bur 25 June 1639

Agnis bap 18 Aug 1640

Edward and his wife were alive and recorded as ratepayers until ca. 1680 but there are long gaps in the Backwell registers for the middle and late 17<sup>th</sup> cent, reflecting the unsettled times following the Civil War.

The next reference is to John Sperring, who married Mabel Hardwick on 5 April 1743. In 1747 Edward Sperring, baker, leased a house, orchard and parrock of land (1 acre) at an annual rent of 5 shillings. He was then aged 26 and his wife Mary 24. Two daughters were baptised, Betty on 7 October 1745 and

Ann on 29<sup>th</sup> February 1747. Edward was one of the singers listed in the Vestry Book in 1758 who agreed to appear at church every Sunday on pain of a fine of 2d for failing to do so,

It was with the arrival of John Sperrin, a farmer from Flax Bourton, that the family became prominent in the history of the parish. On 31 March 1776 he married Sally, the daughter of Edward Bird, or Bord, who was the manor bailiff. They had 6 children , all boys:

John	bp	17 Mar	1777
Edward	bp	2 Nov	1778
Samuel	bp	28 Aug	1780
William	bp	3 Nov	1782
James	bp	3 Nov	1783
Thomas	bp	18 Oct	1785

In midsummer 1785 Edward Bird died and John Sperrin succeeded him as bailiff of the manor of Backwell, part of the Longleat estate of Lord Weymouth (later 1<sup>st</sup> Marquess of Bath).

John Sperrin lived in and farmed the home farm of the manor, still called Court Farm. He collected the manorial rents, rendering annual accounts to the steward at Longleat, where they still survive. His working book for 1791-1797 also exists. It shows him paying for repairs to farms and cottages, buying and selling stock (the cows named Gentle, Cowslip, Primrose, Lovely, and Peggy), authorizing the felling of timber etc. He was also churchwarden and overseer of the poor, in other words an active member of the parish, summed up in the inscription on his tomb: "To an active industry he added modesty, patience, meekness and Christian charity". He died on 19 June and was buried 25 June 1810.

He was succeeded as bailiff at Court Farm by his eldest son John, who then leased a plot of land near the church from the Marquess of Bath and had a house built there for his mother Sally which still survives as part of Combe House. She lived there until her death in 1824 aged 80. Three sons had predeceased her: James in 1795 (aged 12), Edward in 1813 (aged 34), and Thomas in 1822 (aged 37).

John Sperrin (II) had married (17 March 1799) Mary Light, daughter of John Light, a prosperous farmer who lived at the Grove and also farmed in Chelvey.

Like his father he was a churchwarden (1818-1825 and 1833-1837) and acted as overseer in 1814. He died on 10 May 1838 aged 61. Mary outlived him for many years carrying on the work at Court Farm, although by 1861 she was described as "formerly farmeress". She was 88 at her death on 3 June 1866.

Of the seven children of John (II) and Mary, the eldest daughter Mary, born 8 May 1801, married Thomas Beard of Banwell. By 1861 she had returned as a widow to Court Farm where she was described as assistant to her mother. She died on 29 December 1883. Sarah, born 30 May 1804, died 6 April 1870; Lucy was born 8 January 1808 and died 26 September 1851; Hannah, born 16 November 1809, married George Hitchman and died 12 May 1837 aged 28.

Of the sons, the youngest Edward Bird Sperrin was born in 1820 and died in 1850, leaving John (III), born 19 March 1803 and James, born 13 September 1811.

John (III), the eldest son did not follow in his father's and grandfather's footsteps. Instead by 1843 he had moved to Hunt's Farm at Farleigh and was later employed by the Guardians of the Bedminster Union workhouse as a Relieving Officer. It was his job to give allowances to the outdoor poor, i.e. those who were not in the workhouse and not completely destitute but suffering hardship perhaps due to sickness or other temporary difficulties. He was retired by 1872 when he and his wife were described as annuitants. He died 29 October 1881.

James Sperrin, the second son of John (II) and Mary, appears to have stayed on at Court Farm and certainly took over from his mother when she died in 1866. He married twice.

His first wife, Ellen, died on 30 December 1859 aged 46.

He then married Mary Ann James, who was the housekeeper at Court Farm. James Sperrin was a prominent figure in Backwell, chiefly remembered for his 37 years as a churchwarden (see Pennant 21 p.39). After his death on 7 January 1891, Mary Ann moved to West Town and died in 1900 aged 75.

There were other members of the Sperrin family in Backwell in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, descendants of Edward (1778-1813) William (1782-1842) and

Thomas (1785-1822), but there are few details and many moved away from the parish. After the death of Mary Ann Sperrin in 1900 the name appears to have died out in Backwell.

*The information in this article comes from Backwell Parish Registers; monumental inscriptions; Census Returns 1861, 1881, 1891; Kelly's Somerset Directories; Tithe Award 1843 (S.R.O., D/D/Rt 395), and from leases of property held at Longleat quoted by permission of the Marquess of Bath.*

## **Family History**

### **Nailsea / Australia connections.**

By Peter Wright

In Pennant 21 I reported that Mrs Janet Adams had written from Australia about the Broom Family and their emigration.

Phyllis Horman helped me with the reply and I asked Mrs Adams if she had any details of other emigrants from this area.

She has now replied twice. She mentioned that:-

Edward Broom and Ann Jones with my grandfather William aged 18 months, Uriah Broom and his wife Elizabeth and their two young children, and Ann's sister Elizabeth Jones and her husband James Gaymer emigrated in 1857. They boarded the "*Alfred*" in Liverpool and sailed on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1857 arriving in Sydney on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Ann gave birth to a daughter on the voyage and they all settled in the coal mining area of Newcastle in NSW.

..... The Broom family only came to Nailsea in about 1830, although the family of William Jones and Charlotte Rogers were probably there longer."

*She included photocopies of articles from local papers of the time which I believe were dated Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July 1857 and which I have copied below as the extract as it gives a good impression of the vicissitudes of travel in those days.*

"The Alfred left Liverpool on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and made the passage to King's Island in 82 days, since which time she has been delayed on the coast by

adverse winds. The immigrants consist of 78 married couples, 110 single men, 80 single women, 59 boys, 36 girls and 12 infants.

The casualties have been 6 deaths (infants) and 5 births.

In the early part of the passage one of the single men had an attack of the small-pox, but he was immediately separated from the rest of the passengers, and a person who had suffered from the disease was placed over him. The vessel was fumigated and every precaution taken to prevent the spreading of the disease which fortunately was attended with the happiest results.

The passengers are all remarkably healthy, and the ship particularly clean. The surgeon -superintendent Dr Davis has been presented with a testimonial by the immigrants as a mark of their appreciation of his kindness to them during the passage".

*The vessel did not carry only immigrants. It brought cargo needed by the local inhabitants and the following was listed in the paper*

## **Imports**

### July 23 - Alfred from Liverpool

75 barrels tar, 14 packages cheese and ham, 200 cases brandy, 29 packages, Scott Cameron & Co; 3 cases books J Menahan; 110 barrels plaster of paris, 38 furnace bars, 2 boilers, 75 packages of machinery, Caird Patterson and Co; 1534 pipes, 1 cask earthenware, J Doulton; 1 package, T.D. Macaul; 40 hogsheads beer, 2 packages, Aspinwall, Sutherland and Co; 3 packages, H. Cohen; 51 cases bacon, How Walker and Co; 220 cases porter, J. Delaney; 143 cases whisky, Rundle Dangar and Co; 4 cases hardware, S. Birrell; 54,700 slates, 56 hogsheads beer, Campbell and Co; 1080 bars, 50 bundles, 72 plates, 93 sheets, 160 bundles hoop iron, 56 kegs nails, 600 bags salt, 14 cases cheese, 27 packages figs, 60 boxes tin plates, 50 cases spirits, 10 boxes castor oil, 64 packages oilmen's stores, 8 bales sacks, Prost Kohler and Co; 85 packages, J. Taylor; 28 sheets lead, 100 firkins, 10 packages, Smith Brothers and Co; 677? deals, 800 bags, 30 tons salt, 47000 slates, 43 tons coals, H.T. Wilson and Co; 50 hogsheads beer, Smith Croft and Co; 13 bales, J. Comrie; 2 packages Anderson Brothers and Co; 1 package, E. Robinson; 5000 fire bricks, 165 deals, Buyers and Learmonth; 42 cases oil stores, 4 packages, Order.

**Pennant Article -The Manfield Brothers and The Valley of the Shadow of Death.  
Further Developments  
The Mount Buffalo Story 1898-1998 by Dan Webb & Bob Adams**

*Book received for review 4 Jan 1999 as this edition of Pennant goes to press.*

“The Mount Buffalo Story is a lively and evocative account of the much loved Mount Buffalo region in Victoria” is the opening paragraph on the inside of the dust cover. The book is hardbound 8¾ in X 11in landscape and contains many black and white and colour illustrations. Among the black and white are two showing James Samuel Manfield who with his brother John Robert Manfield were sons of George and Sarah Manfield. The two boys were baptised at Holy Trinity Church Nailsea (JSM on 15 Nov 1829 & JRM on 29 Dec 1833). The family was recorded on the 1841 census as living in Nailsea Heath

Those who read Pennant No 21 will remember the article it contained about the two brothers who went from Nailsea to Australia c1854 at the time of the Gold Rush. Much of their story and later events are related in this most attractive looking book published by The Miegunyah Press Melbourne University Press. A full review will appear in the next edition of Pennant. A brief review will possibly appear in the N&DLHS Newsletter that accompanies this edition of Pennant. Details of the book and where it can be obtained are as follows:-

**The Mount Buffalo Story 1898-1998 by Dan Webb & Bob Adams**  
**ISBN 0 522-84783 8** may be purchased from Nailsea Bookshop price £22.99. Readers who live out of our area may be interested to know that it is obtainable from Gazelle Book Services Ltd Falcon House Queens Square Lancaster LA1 1RTN tel no. 01524 63232 fax 01524 68765. This firm is the UK distributor for Melbourne University Press.

Please mention the Nailsea and District Local History Society Journal when ordering.



## Emigrants from Nailsea area (1)

Information supplied by Mrs Janet Adams from data in Australia

Name	A g e	Callin g/ Native Place	Parents /Place	Rel	Rea d/ Wri te	Relatives in the Colony
<b>BROOM</b>						
Edward	2 5	Miner Nailsea	Jacob and Mary /Nailsea	CE	Bot h	Cousin Geo Pain Melbourne
Ann	2 3	Hse Serv not shown	Wm & Charlotte /Nailsea	We s	Bot h	Brothers; Geo. John & Charles Jones
William	1					
<b>BROOM</b>						
Uriah	2 3	Miner Nailsea	Jacob and Mary /Nailsea	CE	Bot h	Cousin Geo Pain Melbourne
Elizabeth	2 8	Hse Serv Nailsea	Wm. And Lucy /Nailsea	CE	Bot h	Cousins Geo. John & Charles Jones
Emily John	2 1					
<b>BURRIDGE</b>						
John	2 9	Farm Lab Nailsea	Robert & Ann /Nailsea	CE	Bot h	None
Elizabeth	2 7	Parl Md Nailsea	Mathew & Mary Father Decd /Nailsea	CE	Bot h	None
<b>GAYNER</b>						
James	2 3	Farm Lab Nailsea	Edward & Eliza living in Bristol	CE	Bot h	None
Elizabeth	2 0	HseSer v Nailsea	Wm. & Charlotte /Nailsea	We s	Bot h	Brothers Geo. John and Charles Jones

## Emigrants from Nailsea area (2)

Information supplied by Mrs Janet Adams from data in Australia

### NOBLE

Mark	2 2	Farm Lab Nailsea	George & Anne Father decd Mother living in Backwell	CE	Bot h	Non
Elizabeth	2 0	Hse Serv Nailsea	Isaac & Mary Mother Decd Father living in Backwell	CE	Bot h	Cousins Geo. John and Charles Jones
Charles	1					

### SPEAR

Samuel	2 9	Farm Lab Nailsea	William and Mary/ Nailsea	We s	Bot h	None
Harriet	2 0	Hse Serv Nailsea	William and Elizabeth/ Nailsea	We s	Bot h	None

### WEEK

George	2 5	Farm Lab Nailsea	Thos. & Martha /Nailsea	CE	Bot h	None
Judith	3 1	Farm Serv Backwell	Wm. & Rachael Father Decd Mother living in Wraxall	CE	Bot h	None
Henry Emily	3	Infant				

### WINDSOR

George	2 8	Farm Lab Nailsea	Geo & Hannah Father Decd/Nails	CE	Bot h	Cousin Samuel Halfield Adelaide Sth Aus
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Charlotte	3	Hse	James	&	CE	Bot	Brother-in-Law	Thos	Baker	Kilmore
	0	Serv	Rosa			h	Victoria			
		Nailsea	/Nailsea							
James	8									
Charles	5									

### Emigrants from Nailsea area (3)

Information supplied by Mrs Janet Adams from data in Australia

#### WRIGHT

Henry	2	Farm	John	and	CE	Bot	None
	7	Lab	Elizabeth/			h	
		Nailsea	Nailsea				
Jane	2	Farm	John	and	CE	Rea	None
	7	Serv	Sarah			d	
		Nailsea	/Nailsea				
William	3						

#### CRANE

Eliza	2	Charw	Wm	&	We	Rea	None (paid 10/-)
	3	oman	Elizabeth		s	d	
		Nailsea	/Nailsea				

#### FELTHAM

Francis	2	Farm	Robert	&	CE	Bot	None (Paid £1)
	5	Lab	Sarah	of		h	
		Backw	Backwell				
		ell					
Elizabeth	2	Cook	Robert	&	CE	Bot	None (Paid 10/-)
	5	Backw	Sarah	of		h	
		ell	Backwell				

## **NAILSEA VILLAGE GOSSIP**

a second extract from the book containing a selection of items from the local newspapers of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The book was compiled in 1992 by Phyllis Horman.

### **1849**

#### **MELANCHOLY DEATH OF "OLD JEMMY BRITTON"**

Old Jemmy Britton was found dead early one Sunday morning. He was an eccentric person and well known for many years in the vicinity of the Somerset collieries. His body was found in a shallow open well near a footpath leading from Wraxall to Nailsea. From the position of the body it would seem that the old man had either gone to the well to drink or wash himself, and having fallen backward into the water was unable to get up again. He was a native of Camerton near Bath and in earlier life had worked in the coal mines of that area. For many years he had wandered about, living entirely on people's charity. He had been heard to say he had not slept in a bed for over thirty years. His inoffensive and unassuming manner won him the good opinion of everyone and with the children he was a special favourite. An inquest was held, when the jury, after hearing the evidence, said, "Found Dead."

### **June 1850**

Two sad accidents occur in one week. Samuel Durbin had his collar bone and ribs broken when a quantity of coal fell on him. He was so severely injured he was not expected to recover.

David Martin was killed by accidentally falling down the shaft of a coalpit at Youngwood new coal works. He was a Cornish miner and left a wife and four children in Cornwall.

### **Aug 1850**

#### **FATAL ACCIDENT AT NAILSEA**

Another fatal coalpit accident, Martin Trewella one of the Cornish miners, sinking a new pit. At the time of the accident, he was standing on the scaffolding, by which the men were lowered down, and one of the ropes holding him gave way and he fell to the bottom of the pit. One of his legs was badly crushed and although he was put on a board to be taken home, he

died before getting there. What made matters even more unfortunate, he had only been married three months. Another man was with him at the time, but he managed to save himself by catching the other rope.

This is the second fatal accident that has happened at this pit, and two men besides have been seriously injured. (Is this Youngwood, as well?)

### **1852**

John Warfull and William Manfield of Nailsea were summoned by George Lilly for assaulting and kicking him and otherwise ill-treating him. It appears that they had just come from a beerhouse, when they quarrelled, which terminated in blows and kicking. Fined twelve shillings each or one month's imprisonment.

### **1854**

An inquest at the Butchers Arms on the body of Mr George Withey Aged 72. He was a highly respected yeoman of Nailsea and highly esteemed by everyone. He was returning to his house one night with Mr Jolleff in Mr Jolleff's gig. They were talking together when suddenly Mr Withey fell over the side on to his back. Mr Jolleff got out immediately to attend to him and found him senseless. Mr Withey was taken to his son's home. Mr Adams the surgeon was send for. He found Mr Withey still unconscious and he died within half an hour. From the appearance of the body, it seemed he died of a fracture at the base of the skull. Verdict, Accidental Death.

### **Nov 1854**

At Nailsea an inquest on the body of Samuel Gray Withy aged 41 a farmer. He was an intemperate man and subject to fits. On the night of the fifth he was seen very tipsy, going towards his house. A labourer named Harvey asked him to come to his house but Withy refused. Harvey made him a straw bed in an empty sty but in the morning, found Withy dead, near Foster's farm. Verdict, Died from Epilepsy, accelerated by drinking.

### **1854 Banwell Petty Sessions**

Samuel Davies of Nailsea, innkeeper, was summoned by Ann Vaughan of Weare, to show cause why he should not contribute toward the support of her bastard child, he being the reputed father. The plaintiff is a married woman whose husband left her five years previously. The Justices after mature deliberation, dismissed the case.