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PENNANT



Tickenham Church

From the M. J. Tozer collection

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

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Oddments of Interest

If you come across references that you believe will help others let the Editor know and they will be published.

"Statutes - Nailsea Rectory Act 1811"

An Act for effectively separating the several Churches or Chapelries of Nailsea and Bourton, otherwise Flax Bourton otherwise Boreton, in the County of Somerset, from the Rectory and Parish Church of Wraxall, in the said county, and for uniting the several Churches or Chapelries of Nailsea and Bourton ... into and making the same one distinct and separate Rectory "

Effective 11 October 1811

Source: book 0565 724. class T348.4Z at Local History Library, The Castle, Taunton.
Information supplied by Martin Bodman

"References at Taunton"

Plan of proposed bridge at Jacklands, 1875	D/RA1/2/82	Photographs of Tickenham and vicinity
Letter referring to Caves at Tickenham	DD/GDL13	The E D Evens collection Bristol Museum
Plan of Tickenham Mill 1937 - 1943	D/RA6/8/3	Listed Building Reports OW Room

Information supplied by David Chappell

Information Wanted

On December 17 1942 an Airspeed Oxford crashed in a field belonging? to Nursebatch Farm. It had flown into the power lines. All on board were killed. The crash is mentioned in both "Villages at War" and "Peace for our Time?" Both books available from the Society. It is also mentioned in "Somerset at War" by Mac Hawkins.

The author of a Squadron history has asked whether anyone knows where those on board were buried. The pilot was a Sgt Hammond. If you have any information please contact the editor.

"THE GLASSWORKS"

a new home for local memories & artefacts

Many of the artefacts "owned" by the Society have been given to us by local residents who saved them from destruction. The Society itself has little room to store such items and welcomes the prospect of the "Glassworks" opening. No we are not about to recommence the production of Nailsea Glass! Rather we welcome the decision to build an imaginatively named museum which we hope will house our artefacts. If you have anything you would like to donate please contact the editor or Trevor Bowen.

We gladly receive any historic items relating to our area of interest and will do our best to find them a home where they will be available for examination and research.

This month Mrs Beryl Bougourd gave the editor bound copies of the Monthly Magazine of Christ Church Nailsea for 1906 to 1909 the first four years of publication. The books are inscribed to the effect that they were left to C H Bougourd by H Packer of Allandale Nailsea. These will either be placed in the Local History Archive or offered to Christ Church if these volumes are missing from their collection.

Another item she gave was the "programme" relating to the Dedication at Christ Church of Memorial Tablets to those who were killed in the 1939 - 1945 war. After it has been used by the Editor in the forthcoming book about those who were lost in the two wars it, too, will be placed in an appropriate archive.

Christ Church Nailsea Monthly Magazine 1906-07

The contents of the January 1906 edition are such that there is little doubt that it is the first of the series that I assume has continued to the present day.

The opportunity to dip into the pages of these two volumes is one that I cannot resist. The following comments relate to 1906/7, those for the three following years will appear in later editions.

January 1906

The cover mentions the following names:-

The Vicar: The Rev E W Smith M.A.

Churchwardens: Messrs E Armstrong, T J Baker, J A Crook, J Langley, W H Organ, J Wyatt.

Organist: Mr E Thatcher

These remained unaltered throughout 1906.

The outside back cover and sometimes the inner cover contained "national advertising". I do not propose to mention these often nor will I normally include Baptisms, marriages or burials.

Evan Christopher son of Evan Percival and Annie Gertrude Lewis was baptised on Dec 1 and has the honour of being the first to appear in the Magazine.

In the text there are references to activities at Vicarage, Gymnasium and Village Club. (*Does anyone know where the Gymnasium was? If so contact the Editor.*)

April 1906

There are references to The Sunday School Fund where the expenditure for the years 1904/6 amount to £12:19:1d (£12.95). The Sunday school outing in 1904 cost £2:6:10d of which "£1:15:3d" was for teas, the remainder prizes. The Sunday School outing on Aug 16 1905 cost £4:0:2d of which £1:18:0d was fares and £2:2:0d for teas.

The Nailsea Choral Society sang Roeckels Cantata "The Christian Armour" in Church. There were worries that the Coal Club was so appreciated that the number of members had become so large that it was becoming unwieldy.

I wonder if Lockyer's Sulphur Hair Restorer advertised on the back cover as The Best. The Safest. The Cheapest. would have done me good? Maybe I should take "Whelptons Purifying Pills" where I am enjoined to "Look at your Tongue" If your tongue is furred or discoloured it shows that your stomach is out of order.

May 1906

The Men's Guild Social Evening was held at the Gymnasium.

June 1906

The members of G.F.S. gave an enjoyable entertainment in the School Room.

July 1906

The Men's Guild Outing took place on June 12 and "the young women of Mrs Armstrong's Bible Class had decided to take advantage of the same excursion".

50 from the parish joined the "Cambria" at Clevedon and after calling at Penarth Lynton and Lynmouth most of the party landed at Ilfracombe. A goodly number remained to make the further trip to Lundy in order to see the ill fated battleship "Montague"

ashore on the rocks. The total fare including boat and brake (to and from Clevedon) was only 3/6d (18p)!!!

August 1906

Reference is made to a united meeting of the Church people of the two parishes of Nailsea to protest about the education bill now before Parliament. A resolution objecting to the bill was passed "because it violates justice and liberty, deprives parents of their rights and degrades religion from its proper place in education". *(see also comments on the November edition)*

(Can anyone enlighten the editor as to what the problem was and how it affected the children of Nailsea?)

September 1906

Aug 17 was the date of the Sunday School Treat. There was a short service in Church at 3pm and then as the weather was threatening tea was taken in the school, the proceedings enlivened by Mr Backwell's gramophone.

After tea prizes were distributed and a move made to the Vicarage field but unfortunately the rain came down in torrents and in consequence the sports had to be postponed.

The Mothers Meeting outing was to Teignmouth. It was by train leaving Nailsea at 9am and arriving there at 11-30am and home by 10pm.

October 1906

At a meeting of the Church Council it was decided that Mr Lippiatt should be asked to give an estimate for altering the seats immediately behind the south door of the church. It was also decided to proceed with the reredos and the altar rail. The drainage work just completed will undoubtedly be of the greatest benefit to the stability and dryness of the church.

November 1906

The Education Bill was still receiving attention. A resolution was passed at a meeting to the effect that " This meeting of parishioners of Nailsea urges the House of Lords to so amend the Education Bill that all children may be instructed in the religion of their parents, in school hours, and by teachers who believe what they teach".

December 1906

The Children's Clothing Club was paid out on November 2. There are 54 club members. Gifts had amounted to £5:3:0d and a bonus was paid that related to attendance throughout the year. Children paid 1d a week. Those who had attended each Sunday received 2:7d bonus while those who had attended just 13Sundays received only 6d.

1907

The churchwardens remain as they were in 1906 until April when there are changes. The Secretary and Treasurer of the magazine is Mrs Curry.

January 1907

Church Council The Chairman announced that the work in connection with the seats behind the door had been placed in Mr Lippiatt's hands

February 1907

Coal Club There were 108 members last year. The total sum paid in was £90:11:6 (£90.57p) and 102.75 tons were duly delivered by Mr A E Morgan.

March 1907

Mrs W G Curry organised a concert in aid of the Church restoration fund " full of excellent items and proved most enjoyable from beginning to end".

"Through the kindness and thoughtfulness of Miss M B McMillan a number of the old people of the parish were entertained to an excellent dinner at the Royal Oak on Tuesday January 29th. After dinner pipes and 'baccy for the men and sweets for the women were handed round and the old folk settled down to enjoy a programme of songs etc to which they themselves contributed"

April 1907

Offertories and collections Easter 1906 to Easter 1907 exclusive of the latter:

Church Fund	£50:4:4
Sick & Needy	£19:4:5
Special Offerings	£48:2:1
Total	£117:10:10d

Number of Communions made 946 a weekly average of 19 (131904/5) Baptisms 12; Weddings 5; Burials 13; Confirmed 8.

Easter Vestry Mr Winstone presented the accounts showing a very satisfactory balance in hand of £10:18:3d. This will be used to defray the cost of repainting the church walls, porch gates etc.

The Vicar heartily thanked the Church wardens and sidesmen for their willing and efficient help and again nominated Mr G H Yendole as his warden. (*The revised list then reads*)

Vicar: The Rev E W Smith M.A.

Churchwardens: Mr G H Yendole, Mr W S Winstone Sidesmen Messrs E Armstrong, T J Baker, J Langley, J Wyatt, J Edbrooke, H Griffin, W Jones.

Organist: Mr E Thatcher.

H Morse was re-appointed Verger and Sexton at an increased salary of £12 per annum satisfaction being expressed at the way in which the Church and Churchyard have been kept.

The burial is recorded on March 30 of Ernest John Hart aged 24years. (see entry in June)

May 1907

The members of the Choral Society are to be congratulated upon their effective and enjoyable rendering of Sterndale Bennett's work "The Woman of Samaria".

The Rifle Club and the Hockey Club and in particular those upon whom the burden of organization has fallen are to be congratulated upon the success which has marked their first year of existence. One would also wish the Cricket team all success in the season now beginning.

An industrial exhibition in connection with the Y.W.C.A. will be held at the Gymnasium on Wednesday May 15th.

June 1907

"There is very little to record this month."

The offertory at all the services on Sunday June 23rd will be given to the organ fund. The organ is sadly in need of repair...

July 1907

There are four outings to record this month. Men's Guild to Plymouth; Mrs Armstrong's bible class to Torquay; Women's Bible Class to Wookey.

The annual festival of the Portishead Branch of the G.F.S. was held at Clevedon and our party arrived about midday.

Church Parade. The Nailsea Friendly Societies held their annual Church Parade on behalf of the Bristol Hospitals on Sunday June 2nd. Members of the Foresters, Oddfellows, Patriots and North Somerset Society took part in the parade. The procession was

headed by the local members of the North Somerset Yeomanry under Sergt. Winstone and accompanied by the band of the 10th Company 1st Glos. R.G.V.A. The Boys' Brigade under Capt A G Keevil also took part in the procession.

Baptisms Ernest John Charles, son of (the late) Ernest John Hart and Violet Mary Hart.

(Pennant Editor's Note "Jack" Hart was the author of the first book published by the N&DLHS (The Nailsea I Knew 1910 - 1918) .

August 1907

The Sunday School outing was to Weston-super-Mare... the little ones thoroughly enjoyed the many delights of Weston...paddling, donkey riding, the various open air entertainments together with a liberal patronage of the many stalls on the sands... reinforced with a capital tea at Glass's restaurant.

Thanks to Messrs Baker, Binning, King and Yendole who kindly sent conveyances the children were saved the long walk from the station.

The infant class had their treat at the Vicarage on Wednesday July 24th. They had tea, the usual romps and races and departed well laden with prizes, biscuits and sweets.

Members of the Mother's Meeting went to Teignmouth for their outing on July 8th.

September 1907

The Young Men's Bible Class Outing chose London as its destination and they had a busy time travelling:-From Paddington along the Marylebone Road by bus, then by Bakerloo Tube to Trafalgar Square. Then by another bus via The Strand, Fleet St,

past St Paul's, the Mansion House and Bank of England to the Tower.

They inspected the many items of interest in the Tower and Tower Bridge and "the river with its fleet of shipping" before returning to St Paul's by underground.

A short visit to the Cathedral was followed by dinner in the Strand and another bus trip to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey and thence by rail to the Earl's Court Exhibition.

They returned to Nailsea by the 8 o'clock express (by special permission of GWR!?) so that Nailsea was reached before midnight.

October 1907

This contains a detailed list of what has been done to the Church and a copy has been made.

November 1907

At a service held on Friday evening Oct 4th the Rural dean Prebendary Vaughan dedicated the work of restoration. The congregation was much smaller than one would have expected. One can only regret that so many missed the opportunity of hearing the preacher's helpful address.

Mothers Union As we propose starting a branch in our parish Mrs Richardson came over from Bath and addressed a well attended meeting at the Gymnasium.

Foreign Missions - During the winter a working party will be held fortnightly at the Lawn under the direction of Mrs Armstrong, Mrs Wormall Watts and Miss McMillan the object is to raise money ...to provide a bed in one of the C.M.S. hospitals in Persia or India to be named after our own village "Nailsea".

December 1907

A concert organised by Mrs W.S. Winstone raised over £7 for the organ fund.

A visit from Dr Barnardo's Boys was organised by Mr and Mrs Russell on Nov 14th. They gave two excellent concerts and "the funds of the Institution benefited by about £10".

The Land Yeo

Correspondence on this subject continues. Martin Bodman has been in touch with Keith Gardner and Phyllis Horman and Wilf Rew have written to the editor. Maybe our readers will consider whether it is now TIME FOR ACTION!

I am looking for people with local knowledge of the waterways to help a working group that N&DLHS may set up to investigate the history of the Land Yeo. (see Martin Bodman's comments below). If you know anyone with such knowledge give the editor his/her name. I will contact them.

Although we may need a person who can read "medieval manuscripts in debased Latin" this can wait. There are many other jobs that we can get on with while we wait for one to appear. Even to identify the whereabouts of likely documents would be a step forward.

Do you have an enquiring mind?

Would you be interested in joining a group to investigate what may be around in various repositories or even on the ground.

Would you be prepared to co-ordinate the work of such a group? Guidance would be given.

If you are interested have you read the two books about the Land Yeo produced by N&DLHS? If not contact the editor.

If you do not wish to join such a group but feel that you could help in other ways we will be glad to hear from you. Providing transport for researchers to and from Taunton or Bristol on rare occasions is but one example of where help might be needed.

THE EDITOR AWAITS THE AVALANCHE OF VOLUNTEERS!

Queries from Martin Bodman

Two people mentioned to him matters that relate to the Land Yeo viz.

"Nailsea Brewery re-routed the river below Jack land's Bridge in the 19th Century"

"A member of N&DLHS recalled seeing pipes leading from the Yeo to the brewery" (*which was situated behind the Friendship*)

Unfortunately he has had a computer burglary and does not have their names; if they read this and recognise themselves would they please contact the editor?

Martin's latest letter states

"I have written to Keith Gardner attempting to help him develop his theme. He wants proof for instance that the monks of St Augustines built the leat to Tickenham Mill. I think this may be found with some effort in the Bristol Record Office by someone who can read medieval manuscripts in their debased Latin."

"Support, I believe, will need to come from N&DLHS. I am remote from records offices and find now to undertake research

at Somerset CRO at Taunton I have to book two weeks ahead....."

"We have started the ball rolling on the Land Yeo. I hope others can pick up the baton"

His letter finishes with this wonderful mix of metaphors, for which he apologises.

Two of our members have already taken up the baton but in this "race" there are many more nettles to grasp. I have copied parts and summarised others of a letter from Phyllis Horman and her brother Wilfred Rew.

Letters from Phyllis Horman & Wilf Rew

For many years we realised that the portion beside the Dogs Kennels at Wraxall of the Wumbles or Wombles (the local name for the Land Yeo) must have been man made.

The name Wumbles or Wombles seems to derive from two fields which come between the "Little River" and the Land Yeo. These are mentioned on the 1837 Tithe map of Wraxall, no 525 Great Wammrells and no 544 Little Wammrells, owner J A Gordon (Naish House) and lessee Joseph Pierce. There is a mention in the Churchwardens Accounts 1707 "Mr John Parsons for the Wambles9/-"

In the fields to the east of Wraxall House there was and still is a dried out river bed with two stone bridges over it. After Watercress Wood heading west is another wood known to us as Little Wood and the stream that runs on the North side is Little River.

Phyllis and Wilf also mention discoveries by Sykes Whittle and Usher c1960 and also a will of Edward Tynte dated 1st

August 1629. In the latter there are references to fields, possibly near to Wraxall House, but no references to a river or mill.

In the Smythe papers, Bristol Record Office is a lease between John Codrington of Wraxall and Robert Codrington (his cousin we believe) dated 19th December, 20th year of the reign of George II (1746/7) and in it is mentioned "one pasture or meadow ground called Batchy Leaze containing 4 acres and a close or closes of meadows on the north side of the said ground beyond the Brooks containing about 6 acres, being bounded on the north side by the river called the Yeo and several grounds as they are now divided lately ---"

The north wall of Wraxall house is built immediately in the river and not on a bank by the river. Surely no-one would have built a house actually into a river? We understand that the oldest part of the house (the centre portion), dates from the 1600's (the wings were added much later).

From this information we feel that the river was cut between 1630 and 1747 and, in view of the wording of the lease referred to above, probably much nearer the later date.

The Close, Nailsea (now Mayfair Avenue)

Alan Rome has been kind enough to lend the Society some cuttings relating to what are architecturally probably the most important rank of houses built in Nailsea in the 20th century.

The line drawing of The Close should be compared with the drawing prepared by Alan Rome of the 6 cottages by Lutyens at Ashby St Ledgers.

Robert Love Architect of "The Close, Nailsea"

Robert M Love was born in September 1888 and died in Ham Green Hospital on 26th September 1979. He was the son of the Rev T H Love who lived at Capenor Court Portishead after he retired until he died in 1943.

Robert was educated at Kingswood School Bath and then studied architecture but broke off his studies to join the Derbyshire Yeomanry at the outbreak of WWI. He served in Egypt and Palestine and then, after qualifying in 1920, went to Malaya as Assistant Architect in the PWD Straits Settlement. In 1928 he transferred to New Delhi working as the chief architect in the Government department concerned with the implementation of Sir Edward Lutyen's master plan.

He returned to England in 1932 and joined the Ministry of Health as Regional Architect for the South West Region and remained there until retirement.

Sources

The line drawings are by Alan Rome A.R.I.B.A

Information about Robert M Love from obituaries in RIBAJ April 1979 and in an unidentified newspaper.

BACKWELL WAR MEMORIAL (FURTHER INFORMATION)

The following has been found in "Backwell Local Notes" the title given to typewritten notes that were prepared by Isabel A Robinson. They cover a period from December 1886 to May 1951. Her work contains a general introduction while her notes take the form of an occasional "diary". Entries are few and far between at the start but towards the 1920's entries become more frequent.

May 8 1919 At a Parish meeting it was decided to put a War Memorial at the Cross Roads but eventually the beautiful cross was put in the orchard near the Church

Mar 17 1945 I am not sure whether I mentioned that Mr R M E Reeves has now become Chairman of our Parish Council. We are now holding meetings about our "War Memorial" over which opinions differ.

Nov 22 1946 War memorial Meeting - this still drags on.

Jun 1 1947 Today 2 memorial tablets were unveiled and dedicated

The War Memorial at Tickenham Church

prepared by David Chappell

with the assistance of Mrs McLaren the parish clerk

At their meeting on 5th December 1918, the Chairman Mr Gilbert Parker said that he had been approached about the erection in the parish of a suitable memorial to Tickenham men who had served in the war. After a lengthy discussion the matter was referred to a sub- committee.

By 31st March 1919 that sub committee had suggested the matter be held in abeyance. No reason was given, but it is probable they were awaiting guidance.

On 16th October 1919, the sub committee presented two alternative proposals:

1. A pair of iron gates at the Church supported by stone pillars these to be mounted with bronze plates recording the names of those who had fallen and served. The cost would be about £185.
2. A brass tablet in the church bearing the names of those who had fallen (note - "and served" excluded). The cost about £145.

The council did not accept either of these ideas and referred back their own to the sub committee to be a pillar or tablet at a suitable site in the parish bearing the names of both those who had served and had fallen.

There are no other references in the minutes and it seems that the matter was passed over to the church. That being so it would be natural for the church to deal with a suitable commemoration of those who fell in WW2.

David Chappell was trying on behalf of the editor to establish the circumstances in which the Tickenham War Memorial was set up and the names of those involved. Unfortunately we have been advised that all records of PCC Minutes, pre 1973, are held in Taunton. At the time this journal was prepared for publication it had not been possible to carry out the necessary research.

If any of our readers have the opportunity to visit Taunton more information would be welcomed.