

ISSN 0966-5951

No 15

PENNANT



Summerell's Carpenter's Yard
North Street House c1896

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

Previously published by Nailsea & District Local History Society.

This ebook version, © The respective authors and Nailsea & District Local History Society, PO Box 1089, Nailsea BS48 2YP, has been made available in August 2008, so that an individual may download and read this document, for private research purposes only. It must not be reproduced or passed to a third party without written permission of the copyright holders.

An Anniversary or two

21 Years

Celebrating 21 years of work to ensure Nailsea's heritage is not lost without being recorded the Nailsea and District Local History Society will be holding an exhibition in Christ Church Vestry Hall in Nailsea on 5th October. We hope to see you there.

Among our major achievements in those 21 years have been the formation of a Civic Society, the preservation of a coal mine and saving John Whiting's cottage. One aim remains unfulfilled. That aim was to have a museum in Nailsea. We live in hope that the latest proposed development will achieve our aim. In the past we have been disappointed and wonder whether we will be yet again.

75 Years

On Sunday 7th July I attended the Dedication of the Poppy Garden of Remembrance in Stockway North, Nailsea. 1996 is the celebration of 75 years of the Royal British Legion. I understand that the Nailsea Branch was formed 6 days after the formation of the national body. About 75 people were there, most from the British Legion, together with clergy from six local churches. I took it upon myself to represent No 2467 (Nailsea) Squadron ATC, Nailsea and District Local History Society and Nailsea Civic Society.

Society News

In Pennant 14 I asked if anyone knew the regiments associated with some of those named on the Wraxall War Memorial. The person seeking that information was Anthony Price and not Anthony Stevens. Sorry for the error Anthony.

George Knox has recently published a book prepared from a copy of the Times dated 22nd June 1815 which he found when

sorting out a late Aunt's papers. Entitled Battle of Waterloo it may interest members. Priced at £1-50 including p&p from George at his home address at 8 Woodland Glade, Clevedon, BS21 6AL. Copies may be available from him for £1-00 at some meetings of the N&DLHS.

On 8th July members went on a walk led by Brian Mayled described in the programme as "A Countryside History of Bourton Wood". The following report has been provided.

On a bright dry evening, and firm under foot, twenty five of us climbed the gently rising paths through this ancient woodland. For two hours and a half, local naturalist Brian Mayled - who has frequented these woods for 37 years - kept us enthralled with information and anecdotes. Late into the evening as we were examining a badger trail leading to a dew pond Roger Mitchell spotted two Roe deer just a hundred yards away. "Worth almost a year's subscription" commented one of our members. I'm inclined to agree.

Trevor Bowen

Society Projects

The mention of farmhouses in the previous article reminds me to wonder "How is our farm Survey going?" Would anyone like to give the editor a written report?

Parish Survey

That for Nailsea and Backwell was carried out by Jim Pullan c1976. It may be time to update this and, maybe, add more entries. If you are interested in participating please contact the editor or Trevor Bowen

Nailsea Memories

by Peter Wright

Having been a resident of Nailsea for roughly the time that the Society has been operating I hope readers will find the following notes and illustrations bring back a few memories. These are from an unpublished manuscript which I hope to publish shortly.

The shopping precinct now known as Crown Glass Shopping has altered mainly around the eastern extremity where Somerfields now stands. In 1976 this was an open space used for car parking and lorry parking. At the eastern end of Somerset Square stood the water feature. I never saw it at its best as it was intended to be enhanced by running water. When I came to Nailsea the water was off possibly in view of the drought we were experiencing but also I believe due to a defect.

It closely resembled a girder type construction where the builder had over-extended his credit before completing the project; it was hard to realise that anyone would have wanted such an item in a public place! Subject to much scorn it was eventually removed in March 1978 and replaced by a platform subsequently used for various events. This platform has recently been removed in the latest refurbishment.

In the area described above as a car and lorry park and immediately opposite the Queens Head stood a strange shaped building that at one time was an enquiry office for the council. In 1975/6 it was used by the Red Cross.

By February 1988 the High Street had been altered and Kings Court had been built and was occupied on the south side by Worlewind Videos and Nailsea Curtain Centre. This reminds me that a few years before there was another video shop Bernco? where the garden centre is now (opposite McGregors).

Fronting onto the High Street were Revelation and Shoes. I assume that the signpost which then carried the sign "Clevedon" was damaged when Kings Court was constructed as I remember when there were two pointers. Now, of course after refurbishment, there are three. In 1988 Golden Valley School celebrated the Australian Bicentenary with a float in the Nailsea Carnival Procession.

The bookshop, which had occupied the building used in the past by Dr White for his surgery, moved when part of the High Street was rebuilt. It can now be found in premises just past the site of the old slaughter house. The wooden building, above the slaughter house yard, was for some time was used by the local removal firm Loader and Munckton. That firm moved first to Blackfriars road and then to Avonmouth when they took over Martins Removals.

Reflections on old belfry Rules at St. Andrew's Backwell by John Brain

Of all the groups of people from parish life associated with the church in historical terms, apart from the incumbents and churchwardens, one of the most consistent and most documented in records are the bellringers. In the past they enjoyed a rather dubious reputation, and until the Oxford Movements gained support and belfry reform complemented the many church restorations in the 19th Century their often described "one foot in the church - one in the pub" was not all that far off the mark. They were a strong and independent group of men, with not a lot of regard for the parson, and their control by the church authorities required a fairly comprehensive set of rules, couched in terms which both sides recognised as firm but fair, and exhibited prominently in the belfry.

The old rules, written in beautiful copperplate, dated January 1906, have been hanging in the belfry at St. Andrew's Backwell since those days, bearing the signature of the rector of the time, the Revd. E.S.S. Caudwell, but a few years ago the ringers decided to renew the frame, and to our surprise and good luck, discovered behind them the previous set, dated October 31st 1901, agreed and signed by the previous rector and local eminent historian Prebendary Edward Burbidge. Both sets of rules give a good insight on how jealously the ringers guarded their privileges, bearing in mind that paid ringing for special occasions constituted a more than useful addition to their income, in the days when an agricultural labourer would have earned no more than fifteen shillings a week.

There are, however, some interesting changes in our 1906 rules; in 1901 Burbidge was approaching the end of his 28 years ministry in the parish, and although a man with an ordered approach to things one suspects that he merely formalised the previous rules, probably to tie in with the fact that the church had just undertaken the rehangings of its six bells which had been rededicated in February of that year. By 1906 Mr Caudwell was well installed as the new rector, and subtle changes to the rules at least ensured the ringers gave a little more time and effort to the service of the church than they had been used to in the past. Up to 1901 the rules stated "*the usual ringing days are Advent Sunday, Christmas Day, Easter Day, Whitsunday and New Year's Eve. The bells may be rung for service also on the last Sunday of the month*". It was almost as if ringing for ordinary services was only grudgingly accepted, along with a lukewarm rule 7: "*It is hoped that when the bells are rung for service the ringers will attend such service unless prevented by some special reason*" to which was added (forcibly) "*Any member who shall smoke or bring liquor or dogs into the belfry shall be expelled!*"

Caudwell's rules were much more precise; "*Ringers shall be church goers, and shall on no account walk away from a service*

after ringing unless for a special reason to be stated to the President".

The belfry door at Backwell may allow the easy opportunity to slip out unnoticed, but the Rector could hear the six bells (as they were then) being rung and his eagle eye would have ranged over the congregation, and checked the number of ringers present! Caudwell added Ascension Day and Harvest Festival to the ringing festival days, and in future the bells were to be rung "*for ordinary services of the church*" instead of just the 4th Sunday.

What is striking is the rigidity of these old rules, both in the conduct of the ringing and in the inflexibility in membership. Apart from designating the Rector as President, and the two churchwardens as vice presidents of the Guild, membership in 1901 consisted of "*not more than eight ringers and two probationers*", which was increased to 12 in 1906 to include a Leader, a sub leader, a treasurer and a steeplekeeper, the leader's job being "*to call the ringers together (no telephones then) for teaching, and for seeing that the rules were observed*". The steeplekeeper will (sic) "*oil the bells, tighten the nuts, and keep the belfry clean*".

Business meetings were to be held quarterly on the first Tuesday, which was normally practice night, except in Lent, or if a parishioner was lying dead in the parish, and in contrast to today, when ringers from other parishes are made welcome in each other's towers, in 1906 "*no one but a member of the Guild shall be allowed to enter the belfry without special permission from the President*". There was even a pecking order when it came to manning the bells - "*the ringers will be enrolled in a fixed order, and in the event of a ringer being unable or not wishing to ring, the next in order on the list shall be entitled to fill his place*".

Reference has been made to paid ringing, a feature of the 19th Century and before that; the 1901 rules required a payment of 5/-d from would be ringers - 2/6d to the Leader on entry, and a further 2/6d to the general fund "*when able to ring in peal*". Fees payable probably made it all worth while, the customary charges being set as follows: *for the day £2/2/0d; for part of a day £1/10/0d; for a muffled peal £1/1/0d - all monies to be divided amongst those (six ringers) who ring*".

Remember that in most towers there was also paid ringing on November 5th and May 29th to mark, respectively, the failure of Guy Fawkes to blow up Parliament and the restoration of the Monarchy under Charles II. Other payments in Backwell's accounts include £1/0/0d to the ringers on Queen Victoria's marriage in 1840, and £1/1/0d for a muffled peal for the Marquis of Bath (the church's patron) in 1897. A further source of income came from touring the parish with the handbells at Christmastime to collect donations from all and sundry, especially the big houses, who would provide supper into the bargain. All payments went into a common fund, and were shared out equally at Christmas.

Changes to these old fashioned practices were a long time coming, but Jim Lott, an old Backwell ringer, who still chimes the bells once a month at the great age of 94 has clear memories of the old ringers of that far off era who were required to sign acceptance of the rules "*in a book to be kept by the President for the purpose*".

Perhaps our rules are a little more relaxed in 1996, but I like to think, as we continue our art Sunday by Sunday, that we still remember the heading which prefaced the Rules of both 1901 and 1906 : "*Do all to the Glory of God*" - perhaps the best rule of all?

Little Manor, West End

by Peter Wright

The June meeting of the Society was held at Little Manor at the invitation of Mr & Mrs Hale the owners. The weather was beautiful and all those who went had a thoroughly enjoyable time looking round the old house and receiving refreshments. Thanks were expressed to Mr and Mrs Hale by Trevor Bowen and I have pleasure in repeating them here. A fascinating house to explore with so many mysteries!

I have read the report of an examination of the property in 1990 and made the following summary. I thank Mr and Mrs Hale for allowing me to read it and prepare the following notes. *The report is signed by E.H.D. Williams and notes that Miss P. Brimacombe assisted with this record.*

“Little Manor is a house of exceptional length 69ft and is of two full storeys for 23ft at the E end but only one and a half storeys with upper windows in tall gabled dormers for the W 46ft; to the N abreast the latter but partly overlapping the former is a one and a half storey wing with similar gabled dormers. The roof is tiled with coped gable at the W end and on one wing, but the tall part has plain verges; the depth of coping indicates an originally thatched roof”.

The angular alignment of the wing is unexplained. It is suggested that it was built as a kitchen in the 17C whilst the outer room became a low-ended parlour, a rarity in Somerset occurring in original long-houses, combined house and byre.

In the angle with the wing is a spiral stair. The report suggests that it is possible that the tall part of the house is a late (probably 19C) rebuild and extension of the inner room of the original house.

There is said to have been a datestone of 1661 no longer visible. I infer from the report that the original building of three room and cross passage plan could be earlier. There are spiral stairs abreast the hall stack, which the report says are typical of such an earlier house.

The walls are described as being between 20 inches and 2 feet thick with the tall E end somewhat thinner.

The windows are a mixture of copies and originals. "The known copies are so exact that it is difficult to be sure how many of the others are (or are not) original". The windows are all under angled drip moulds. These are unusual as they are not "of dressed stone but are composed of irregular lengths of the local slab shaped rubble".

In the late Jim Pullan's (JMP) Parish survey of Nailsea which he carried out c1976 he mentions the following two references to buildings called West End Farm at various times:

JMP records

"West End Dairy Farm" - shown as West End Farm on the OS maps. The house known as Little Manor was originally a West End Farmhouse. The adjoining buildings now used for dairy work are recent. Source Mr Biggs. JMP also had information from Mr Whitefield who moved from Little Manor to Nailsea Court. JMP suggests that the building was 17C. National Grid Reference (NGR) 4440 6900.

JMP then describes

"West End Farm" NGR 4455 6920
Described as West End Farm on the sale plan of 1874. The house appears to be 17C but buildings behind appear to be older. A well in front has recently been filled in. Large round stone and a possible stone quern. Information given to JMP by Mr Stevenson.

(Ed. Pocket Oxford Dictionary "Quern" Hand mill for grinding corn)

Quoted with permission of Secretary of BAAS. In quoting this information I acknowledge the encouragement given by BAAS (previously the Bristol Archaeological Research Group) and Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society to the preparation of Parish Surveys and the efforts of our late President in carrying out work in the local parishes for the former.

Disappearing Wraxall

by Phyllis Horman

Having moved from Wraxall to Nailsea in 1948 I have not seen many alterations to the village, no doubt a lot has changed that I know nothing about. However there are a few which have been most notable to me.

Firstly, the Cross Tree at the junction of the B3130 road and Wraxall Hill. This tree was a large elm reputedly the third to have been planted on that spot after the market cross was removed in Cromwell's time. It was, in my childhood days, the centre of the village, the pickup point for getting on the "charabanc" (coach) for the Sunday School annual trip to Weston super Mare, it was the bus stop and the general meeting place for everyone. Unfortunately it was killed by Dutch Elm disease in the late 1960's or early 1970's. Three new trees were planted but each died off, but now there is a young oak which seems to be surviving, but the Cross Tree doesn't seem to be the same to me now.

The Battle Axes Hotel was built on the site of a former inn. In 1881 Mrs Matilda Blanche Gibbs had the Battle Axes built as a Temperance house and estate club for the Tyntesfield workmen.

The design on the original inn sign was taken from the coat of arms of the Gibbs family. The Battle Axes has changed hands several times since Lord Wraxall sold it in 1962, one owner decided to rename it the Widecombe Arms, which was a stupid idea as Widecombe isn't even in Somerset, however several years ago the name was changed again, this time to the New Battle Axes. There have been extensions added but somehow it doesn't seem to have spoilt the original design. The part which has been destroyed was the stable building, later used as a school cookery room, a firing range for the local rifle club and also a piggery, all at different periods of time, of course! When it was finally demolished it became the car park for the hotel.

Going toward Bristol and passing the Jubilee Cottages - the almshouses built by the Gibbs family in the later 1800's for their retired work people - across the field on the right hand side, is the ruin of Watercress Farm. This must have been a very old building, the son of the farmer who had lived there told me that it was built back to front as all the rooms faced north and the south side was one long passage way. It was an attractive building but about 1967/8 there was a fire caused by an electrical fault. Fortunately no one was injured but since then the farm has been left to rot away.

Immediately after passing Jubilee Cottages, on the left, there was a very nice square built house, with the outside walls painted white. This was the Tyntesfield butler's house and when I was a child the butler was Mr Hemmings. This year there was a fire which destroyed part of the roof, all the windows are out, the white walls streaked with smoke. The family who were living there escaped, but all their possessions were destroyed. Will this house ever be restored?

Two lodge cottages known as Ivy Lodge stood on either side of one of the Tyntesfield Drives, they were connected by an archway. These were demolished some years ago, but I still look

for them when I go along that drive. There are two more lodge cottages belonging to the estate which are in a ruinous state, one is at the top of Belmont Hill, the other a little nearer Sixty Acres. These were both very attractive Victorian Buildings.

The mill which was at the bottom of the Score was demolished for road widening probably in the 1960's. A pretty little cottage was used as a private dwelling after 1900 when the mill ceased to be used. Later when Mrs Griffin and her son were there the small front hallway was used as a sweets and tobacco shop, while the mill building was used by the son for boot and shoe repairs. During the second world war it was occupied by some of the evacuee families.

The biggest loss I think was a small chapel built on West Hill, now called Stony Steep. It was close to three cottages and in one of them lived my grandparents and later and aunt and uncle. It may still have been in use occasionally in the early 1930's as one of my sisters clearly remembers that on returning home, after visiting Grandma on a Sunday afternoon, Mother would tell us to be quiet as we passed the chapel and that there were people in there singing hymns. This I cannot remember but I can clearly visualise the chapel in my mind. My brother had been inside as a child, although he thought the chapel was not then used as such, and he remembers that around the walls was the text "When two or three are gathered together in Thy name". At Taunton Record Office I found an application for a Bishop's licence to hold Non-Conformist worship in a person's house, which may have led to this chapel being built at a later date. The house was in the occupation of Sophia Roberts, the date of the application was 15th January and was granted on the 22nd January 1821.

I found that a family of Roberts were living either on West Hill or the base of the Hill about that time. Quite a number of years ago a large piece of land was sold for market gardening. This land

included the chapel and through this sale the chapel was demolished. Had I been aware of what was about to happen, I would have taken photos but no one seemed to talk about it or take an interest in the chapel; it was not a pleasant surprise when I walked that way to find the chapel no longer there.

What a pity so much has disappeared or changed. Overall, Wraxall looks very much as it did when I was still living there, but, knowing the village well, I can easily pick out the empty spaces and ruins.

Oh dear; goodbye old Wraxall.

"The Five-Pint Cider Mug"

**Extracted from "Picture Post dated October 21 1944.
Price 4d"**

(Ed. 4d is equivalent to 1.7p compare that to prices of current magazines. The illustrations in the photocopy are not suitable for reproduction. The Editor acknowledges that the copyright of the original article and magazine remains with the current owner of the Title)

The cover of this edition of "Picture Post" shows Mr Reginald Wear of Honeyhall Congresbury drinking from the five-pint cider mug which carries the words "John Wear Congresbury 1874" (Reginald's grandfather). The reason that I mention this is that the article in the magazine then goes on to discuss the making of cider and contains among the illustrations a picture "*Italian Prisoners Press the Apples*" followed by the explanation " *At Messrs Coates of Somerset, Italian prisoners have been brought in to help press this year's record apple crop*".

A half page picture shows 6 men and three large cider vats which bear the names "Churchill" "Roosevelt" "Stalin". The

caption reads "Every vat at this big cider maker's has its own name. On average, every vat holds 10,000 gallons. Britain drinks 20,000,000 gallons of cider a year. So you can work out how many vats like this are needed to store the year's cider supplies" .

The last paragraph mentions that if you follow the farm carts dragging the red and green, yellow and brown loads of apples back to the farm, the horse will lead to the cider - house. You'll recognise it by the old casks lying about outside. But you'll know you are coming to it long before that by the heavy perfume of apple juice in the air. It's the sweetest and most penetrating of all the autumn smells.

This reminder of times past brings us to the following article which shows that 25 years later certain aspects of Nailsea were still the same: -

Where has the smell gone?

by Bid Wheeler

I left Nailsea in 1969 having finished 7 years at Nailsea Grammar School, and only returned to live herein 1991, and one of the most noticeable changes was the smell of the place - it no longer had one!

As a girl in the 1960's I lived in Tickenham and travelled to Nailsea Grammar School by bus, getting off at the stop in High Street just near the Queens Head, then walking down the path opposite through the archway which still remains beside Reflections, Hairdressers, to Station Road and into Mizzymead Road which was built then to only just beyond the school main entrance.

On the homeward leg of the journey, I and one other pupil used to walk to the stop near the Royal Oak to enable us to get a seat

on the bus before all the other pupils got on at the Queens Head. *(In those days of course Nailsea Grammar attracted pupils from a large surrounding area including Clevedon, Portishead, Long Ashton, Backwell and Yatton with most arriving on coaches but some had season tickets for the ordinary bus).*

It was at the Royal Oak Bus stop that the smell of Nailsea came into its own - the stench of rotten apples from Coates Cider Works. We would stand there gazing down the road towards Wraxall watching for the bus to make its way along the bendy road, breathing in this all pervading stink of rotten apples.

Now I'd been brought up visiting a grandmother who lived in Burton-on-Trent, and was used to the smell of brewing as we approached on the train - Mum would open the train window and you could soon tell you were approaching by the pong!

Nailsea was very similar - you could tell by the smell that there was a cider works somewhere in the area. You'd have thought that the pong would have been blown away from the village centre, with the factory being on the east side of the village, but no, it made its presence smelt all the same.

Having moved away for 20 years, I now miss the "aroma" - it does seem that something is missing. Nowadays Nailsea smells the same as many other towns - with traffic fumes the predominant one. It doesn't have the same character as Nailsea of old!

A LOCAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

PART 2 continued

Section B

Published by Nailsea and District Local History Society.

Books A4 size -Typed and duplicated; bound with staple or slide binder.

O/P = out of print, photocopies may be available, contact N&DLHS for availability and prices.

TITLE	AUTHOR(s)	PUBN DATE	ISBN/ISSN	PRICE	REMARKS
Nailsea - The Story of Our Village	Nailsea WIs	1980	None	O/P	a reprint of the book originally published in 1953 by Nailsea WIs
Care of the Poor in Nailsea	J. M. Pullan	1980	None	£2-00	
In Nailsea and Far Afield	Jack Hart	1981	None	O/P	
Memories of Wraxall 1917 - 1935	Wilf Rew	1981	None	O/P	
Nailsea Then and Now	Margaret Thomas and David Cains	1982	None	O/P	
Brockley with Chelvey	J M Pullan	1983	None	O/P	
A Place Set Apart - The Methodist Church in Nailsea	Trevor Bowen	1983	None		
Roads and Tracks of Old Nailsea	Peter Wright	1984	None	O/P	
Around and About	Ed. Thom and Wright	1984	None	£2-00	see entry in Part 2 A in Pennant No 14

Section C

Style A5 landscape Published by Nailsea and District Local History Society

Typed and duplicated; stitched. Published in 1979 No ISBN/ISSN. Now out of print.

John Robert Lucas by B. J. Greenhill

Hannah More by B. J. Greenhill

Section D

Style A5 book Published by Nailsea and District Local History Society

PRINTED; stitched. No illustrations. Published in 1977. No ISBN/ISSN. Now out of print.

The Nailsea I Knew 1910-1918 by Jack Hart

Section E

Pennant the Local History Journal of Backwell, Nailsea, Tickenham and Wraxall ISSN 0966-5951

Published by Nailsea and District Local History Society and printed by Adroit Printers.

Back Nos. 1 to 12 still available sold only in sets.

Single copies of some editions are also available as at 1 July 1996

Section F

Published by Nailsea and District Local History Society and printed by Adroit Printers

PRINTED and stitched. Size A5 unless otherwise indicated.

TITLE	AUTHOR(s)	PUBN DATE	ISBN ISSN	PRICE	REMARKS and relevant series
Nailsea Village Gossip	Phyllis Horman	10/92	0 9516258 1 0	O/P	Newspaper accounts of life in Victorian Times
Nailsea Village News	Phyllis Horman	08/93	0 9516258 2 9	£0-50 <i>Special Sale</i>	Further Newspaper Accounts of life in Victorian times
Mills on the Land Yeo	Martin Bodman	04/94	0 9516258 3 7 <i>ISSN 1353-3967</i>	£1-50	Pennant Special No 1
Mills on the Land Yeo - Further Discoveries	Ruth Poole & others	12/94	0 9516258 4 5 <i>ISSN 1353-3967</i>	£1-50	Pennant Special No 2
Nailsea Parochial School - Admissions Register 1877 - 1911	Prepared by George Knox	12/94	0 9516258 5 3 <i>ISSN 1354-5612</i>	£5-00	Nailsea Records No 2 size A4 LANDSCAPE
Holy Trinity Churchyard, Nailsea: Tombstone Inscriptions 1978	Edited by Peter Wright	03/95	0 9516258 6 1	£2-00	Nailsea Records No 1
Nailsea Village Institute and Church House	Christine M Milton	08/95	0 9516258 7 X <i>ISSN 1359-009X</i>	£2-00	People and Places No 1
A Short History of Chelvey	Norma Knight	03/96	0 9516258 8 8 <i>ISSN 1353-3967</i>	£2-00	Pennant Special No 3
Youngwood Lane, Nailsea - An Historical Landscape - well worth exploring	Margaret Thomas	06/96	1 900772 00 0 <i>ISSN 1359-009X</i>	£0-60	People and Places No 2 NB some copies carry ISSN 1359-0096 in error

Published by Nailsea and District Local History Society in association with the author

TITLE	AUTHOR(s)	PUBN DATE	ISBN/ISSN	PRICE	REMARKS
Villages at War; Backwell, Nailsea, Tickenham and Wraxall 1939 - 1945	Peter Wright	05/90	0 9516258 0 2	£2.99	(jointly with Peter Wright)

A LOCAL BIBLIOGRAPHY is to be continued in Pennant 16

Family History

by Peter Wright

A Fruitful Mention in Family Tree Magazine

Readers will know that the Society has been in correspondence with several descendants from local families over the years. It was a pleasant surprise to find a reference to one of our publications in Family Tree Magazine (June 1996).

This was in the section of comments in diary form by **Anthony Camp Director of the Society of Genealogists** where he mentioned that Local History Magazine had reviewed the unusual "Nailsea Parochial School Register 1877 - 1911 edited by Peter Wright (on behalf of Nailsea and District Local History Society)" and quoted my address.

Within a week I had an order for one copy from a professional researcher in Sussex and 5 copies from a firm that undertakes similar research. I have also had queries about the SHEPSTONE, JONES and LOCK families.

Mr A. J. Thompson of 18 Riverside Close Upton on Severn Worcs. WR8 0JN is making a study of the name SHEPSTONE and enquired what the register showed for that family. He has sent me much information and I have sent the details set out below. This does not represent all we know about the family as there is much in Phyllis Horman's Nailsea Village Gossip.

(The editor would welcome any further information about any local families, if you have any please drop him a line).

Shepstone -

ENTRIES IN THE NAILSEA PAROCHIAL ATTENDANCE REGISTER 1877 - 1911

Col 7 showing progress was seldom completed and, to save space, has been omitted.

1 CHRISTIAN NAME	2 Adm No	3 Date of Admission	4 Residing at	5 Born	6 Previous school	8 Date of Withdrawal <i>Reason</i> <i>Age</i>	9 Parent or Guardian	10 Occpn.
ARTHUR	1263	08/04/07	West End	11/09/03	None	14/09/17 <i>Age</i>	Cornelius	Dealer
CHARLES	881	08/03/97	Kings hill	24/04/93	None	15/02/07*	Cornelius	Lab
CORNELIUS	1178	04/05/04	West End	12/07/00	None	14/07/04 <i>Age</i>	Cornelius	Dealer
ELIZ JANE	755**	28/01/01	West End	12/02/90	N. Paroch	02/02/04	Cornelius	Dealer
ELIZ JANE	755*	19/10/96	Kings hill	12/02/90	Pentcray, Wales	25/04/00	Cornelius	Lab
ELIZA JANE	755	10/04/93	Kings hill	12/02/90		21/05/94	Cornelius	Lab
GEORGE	925	18/04/98	Union St	26/03/95	None	22/05/08 <i>Exempt by exam</i>	Cornelius	Dealer
SIDNEY ERNEST	1331	19/04/09	Old Church	19/08/05	None	25/07/19 <i>Age</i>	Cornelius	Dealer
WALTER EDGAR	1114	16/02/03	West End	8?/03/99	None	03/02/13 <i>Age</i>	Cornelius	Dealer
WILLIAM JOHN	981	13/06/99	Union St	04/12/96 <i>96 over 95</i>	None	23/12/09*	Cornelius	Dealer

Notes:

881 Charles * Apparently given Certificate of *?Prev.* Attendance

981 William John similar note to the above

Walter Jones - Schoolmaster

Another enquiry that I received was in connection with a schoolmaster called Walter Jones. Would he have been at the Parochial School? I was able to say no and point out that he was at what is now Four Oaks.

The enquirer was a Mrs Linda Wake of 7 Shadwells Road, Lancing West Sussex, BN15 9EN who was descended from his brother. In reply I have sent her a copy of Christine Milton's book about the school and much about Walter Jones. To this I added the details we have readily available. For these I have to thank

Phyllis Horman and Millie Knox. As Walter is one of the people who had a great influence on the youth of Nailsea over many years I repeat the information here for a wider audience

NOTE BY PHYLLIS HORMAN

The only item of interest that Eileen's mum (Mrs Derry) told her about Mr Jones was that he boxed Mabel Binning's ears and made her deaf for the rest of her life!

CHRIST CHURCH – NAILSEA SOMERSET BAPTISMS ENTRIES UP TO 1939

<i>NAME</i>		<i>PARENTS</i>	<i>DIST.</i>	<i>FATHER'S OCCUPATION</i>	<i>DATE</i>
WALTER WILLIAM	s.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	Ch.Ch.	Nat. Schoolmaster	6 th Feb 1876
FLORENCE DAISY ELIZABETH	d.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	Ch.Ch.	Nat. Schoolmaster	27 Jan 1878
HERBERT	s.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	Ch.Ch.	Nat. Schoolmaster	3 Jun 1883
LILIAN MAUD	d.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	Ch.Ch.	Nat. Schoolmaster	3 Jun 1883
SAMUEL GEORGE	s.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	Ch.Ch.	Nat. Schoolmaster	1 Mar 1885
FREDERICK COURTNEY	s.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	Ch.Ch.	Nat. Schoolmaster	9 Mar 1889
PERCIVAL	s.o .	Walter & Sarah Maria Thomason Jones	The School	Schoolmaster	27 Oct 1895
RENEE AMY	d.o .	Samuel George & Amy Rebecca Collett Jones	Ch.Ch.	Clerk	1 Sep 1912
MARGORIE MAY	d.o .	Samuel George & Amy Rebecca Collett Jones	Silver St Nailsea	Clerk	23 May 1915
GORDON SAMUEL	s.o .	Samuel George & Amy Rebecca Collett Jones	Hillview Silver St	Clerk	1 Feb 1920
REX GEORGE	s.o .	Samuel George & Amy Rebecca Collett Jones	Hillview Silver St	Clerk	16 Dec 1923
DOUGLASS RAWLINSON	s.o .	Percival & Charlotte Elizabeth Jones	Restlands Nailsea	Clerk	14 Dec 1919

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSEA MARRIAGES

<i>GROOM & BRIDE</i>	<i>STATE</i>	<i>AGE</i>	<i>OCCUPN.</i>	<i>LIVING AT</i>	<i>NAME OF FATHER</i>	<i>DATE OF MARRIAGE</i>
ERNEST WILLIAM WYATT	Bac	28 years	Farmer	Mizzeymead Nailsea	James	16 Oct 1900
FLORENCE DAISY ELIZABETH JONES	Spin	22 years		Ch. Ch.	Walter	

<i>GROOM & BRIDE</i>	<i>STATE</i>	<i>AGE</i>	<i>OCCUPN.</i>	<i>LIVING AT</i>	<i>NAME OF FATHER</i>	<i>DATE OF MARRIAGE</i>
HENRY FRANCIS TAYLOR	Bac	24 years	P.O. Clerk	Horfield	Henry F.	17 Apr 1906
LILIAN MAUD JONES	Spin.	26 years		Ch. Ch.	Walter	

<i>GROOM & BRIDE</i>	<i>STATE</i>	<i>AGE</i>	<i>OCCUPN.</i>	<i>LIVING AT</i>	<i>NAME OF FATHER</i>	<i>DATE OF MARRIAGE</i>
SAMUEL GEORGE JONES	Bac	26 years	Clerk	Ch. Ch.	Walter	12 Sep 1911
AMY REBECCA COLLETT BAKER	Spin.	23 years		Ch. Ch.	Theodore J.	

CHRIST CHURCH NAILSEA BURIALS

<i>NAME</i>	<i>AGE</i>	<i>PLACE</i>	<i>DATE</i>
SARAH MARIA THOMAZINE JONES	71 years	Brook farm, Backwell	22 Nov 1922
WALTER JONES	86 years	Tyntesfield Wraxall	28 Jan 1937
WALTER WILLIAM JONES	77 years	51 Millington Rd Leamington	31 Oct 1952

When the 1891 census was carried out Walter was the enumerator. The following information was entered and kindly supplied by Millie Knox. I did not ask for details of any children:-

1891 living at Christ Church School No 13 Silver Street Nailsea
Walter Jones, Head, Married aged 40 certified Elementary Schoolmaster, , born Gloucestershire Bristol.

Sarah M. T. Jones married, aged 39, no occupation, born Gloucestershire, Bristol.

Also at same address Louisa Jones sister, unmarried, tailoress, age 48, born Gloucestershire, Bristol.

Linda Wake sent me a list of relatives of Walter and she told me on the telephone that she had previously thought that Louisa was a younger sister. Details are as follows:-

John Jones married Elizabeth Collings on 26 June 1837
issue

Alfred mar. 1 Sarah Sophia Day 2 ?;

Walter married ? headmaster Nailsea School;

John Married Alice;

William Henry (*Tailor and Organist*) mar. Margaret Jane Day
(*sister to Sarah above*) ?19 May 1871;
Elizabeth;
Sarah married Eli Lewis (*something to do with Nailsea*);
George (*Violin maker*);
Frederick;
Louisa (*Tailoress*);
Emma married ? Gibbs.
(*NB list of names not necessarily in order of age*)

Lock

I have also had a telephone call from Edmonton in N. London enquiring about the LOCK family. The enquirer is Gary T Boudier of 74 Grosvenor Road, Lower Edmonton London N9 8RJ who is connected via a branch of the LOCK family that went to Wales from Nailsea. I now have seven pages of descendants from Stephen Lock b 1742 d 1817 and Betty Berran b 1745 d 1828 married in Backwell Parish Church 12 July 1767.

If you have any information about any of these families please let the editor know.