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# PENNANT



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

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# **FAMILY HISTORY**

## **1. from Phyllis Horman**

Everything has been very quiet concerning family history lately although Peter Wright and I have had one or two enquiries. One lady from Australia has descended from the Gorges of Wraxall but, having the basics of that family, was more interested in knowing what Wraxall would have been like in the 16th and 17th centuries. I did my best to explain various aspects; the probable population, the market and fair, the Gorges tomb, and the church. I have received a very interesting letter in return giving her side of the family, where, sometime in the late 16th century an ancestor moved to Ireland. Her direct family went to Australia in 1862.

A lady from Weston super Mare was enquiring of her husband's family in Nailsea. They had been to Holy Trinity church and seen the registers so there was not a great deal I could do regarding actual names, but I have found where the man's grandfather lived in 1915 [from an old electoral list at the Library]; when three children started school at Holy Trinity [from an old school record book]. I also given the name and address of someone in Nailsea who is a distant relation they met in the past, but as in so many cases, lost touch over the years.

We are still trying to collect more facts on John Waymouth who was Nailsea's photographer in the mid 1800s and we hope to print an article about him in a future edition of Pennant.

## **2. from other sources via the Editor**

A letter was received from one of our subscribers in Yatton some time ago. One of Mr Vincent's ancestors was a lady named BAVE from Corston. In view of the article by David Chappell in the last

edition (*The Baves of Barrow Court, Tickenham*) I feel that more enquiries should be made before I commit the article to print. Would Mr Vincent and David Chappell like to make contact to see if there is a further story to tell.

I met a young lady that has the COLE family of Backwell as ancestors. If anyone has information on this family I would appreciate hearing from them. The earliest date she had tied into her family was William Cole married Mary Badman 28th April 1772. Needless to say within 10 minutes of my asking Phyllis if she had any information four or five more names were offered.

## **Memories of Nailsea and Wraxall 1914 to 1947**

### **as told to the Editor by Bridget Cox (nee Carey)**

Bridget's father was Fred (Chick) Carey and her mother Beatrice nee Windsor) He was employed as a forester by Wills and worked at Abbots Leigh. He cycled to and from work apart from the walk from Griffins Corner, Nailsea to Wraxall Hill near the first lodge on the Failand Road. He was also an Auxiliary Fireman for Nailsea Fire Brigade.

*(Editor's Note-He was the "Unknown Fireman" in the photo on page 6 of "Villages at War")*

The family lived in a cottage on the opposite side of the road to Christ Church and the Rectory. Grandmother Carey lived with them and looked after Bridget and Tom when they came home from school.

Bridget remembers that prior to 1925 on each Friday there was a delivery of fish from Bristol which was set out on the Village Green in front of the Queen's Head public house.

The Post Office was adjacent to the Green and was run by the two Miss Russells for many years up to the start of the war in 1939. Postman made deliveries either by foot or by bicycle. Among the postmen were Harry Gray, Walt Cutler, Oliver Kitchen and Tim Vowles.

The shops were fascinating compared with today's stores. Service was polite with time for a chat; personal preferences were taken into account. Self service and the hustle of modern shopping make it difficult for the modern generation to understand what they have missed.

The village had two garages. Hobbs by the Royal Oak and Neates near the cider factory. There were few telephones. These were used mainly by businesses and the "well-off".

There were several doctors, John White was in Silver Street, his nephew Reg White lived at Welclose High Street and with Dr Gornall had their surgery in the High Street. There was also a lady doctor Dr Bown who had a surgery near the Drill Hall.

She mentions Coates opening in the 1920s and providing employment and the fact that the villages were surrounded by farms. Cows used to amble through the village to and from milking.

Pubs outnumbered churches as they did in most country areas and many cottages had their own poultry and vegetable gardens. People were less reliant on shop bought goods then.

No gas was available in the village but some places had electricity. Cooking and lighting was mostly by oil and heating by coal.

Apart from Skittles in the Village H and some of the pubs there was football on the field near Old Church and cricket was played

at Scotch Horn. The Nailsea Cricket team appear on a photo she supplied. Unfortunately the original was a bit faded but I have reproduced it nevertheless as I feel readers will be interested. It was taken in 1936 and the following members appear

Back row C Coles, J Ward, H Watts, ?(Fletcher), H Cox, J Ridley, J Langley  
Front row N Beachgood, W Simmond Capt, W Summerell, C Baker.

## **The Wraxall Market Cross, a Mystery**

**by Phyllis Horman**

At the bottom of Wraxall Hill there is a triangle of grass. This was the site of the Market Cross back in the time of Cromwell. It is said that the Parishioners took down the cross for safety and hid it in the river meaning to remount it when Cromwell had gone. Unfortunately this was never done and the hiding place was forgotten.

In recent times the original route of the river was diverted and the level has dropped since Bristol Water started to draw off water.

In one of the fields not far from the old river course are two large slabs of semi-dressed stone held together by iron strips. The centres of the stones are cut out and could quite easily be the base of the old cross

# Nailsea Tannery

*(Editor: The Tannery was featured in earlier editions of Pennant and I thank Martin Bodman for bringing to my attention the following)*

Sarah Farley's Bristol Journal 7th November 1778

## Tanyard

TO be LETT, and entered upon at Lady-day next, or immediately if wanted, a large and commodious TAN-YARD, with constant Water, Lofts, Drying Houses, and every Conveniency for a good and large Trade; as also a good DWELLING-HOUSE near the same, (or a large and handsome House belonging to the same, now in the Possession of William Bullocke) with a good and handsome Garden, and an undoubted Right of Common to Wraxall-Hill, and Nailsea Moor, with or without 30 or 40 Acres of good Pasture Land, Orchard, &c. situated at Nailsea, in the County of Somerset, about ten Miles from Bristol.

For Particulars, enquire at the said Tan-Yard

## Research – Help Needed!

Do You Remember VE and VJ Days?

Do you remember what you were doing when you heard that the war had ended?

What do you remember of events that took place during the war and shortly after?

Peter Wright is hoping to produce another book in a style similar to that of "Villages at War" and would like to hear from you. The new booklet will spread the net a little wider than Villages at

War. The author hopes to record not only events that took place in Backwell, Nailsea, Tickenham and Wraxall but also those that happened elsewhere and affected people now living here.

Target date for publication is 1995 to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of VE and VJ day.

If the target date is to be met TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Please phone or write to the Editor if you can help.

NB. Villages at War is still available from the Society by post price £2 and may also be purchased from the Nailsea Bookshop.

## **Home Guard**

Mr Jeffrey Wilson of Langport is trying to build an archive of photos of every Home Guard unit in Somerset. He points out that compiling such a record has to be done while there are still those around who can name the individuals that appear.

Nailsea and District Local History Society has agreed to help him with our local units and efforts are being made to sort out the several photos we have and to name those that appear.

Has anyone got any photos of units from Somerset especially those from nearby? If so would they please contact the Editor of Pennant.

## **Memorabilia**

At the March meeting where members were entertained with an illustrated talk on the Kennet and Avon Canal I was given a leaflet showing "66 Specials" sub titled "Bargains for the Post Christmas squeeze".



It is in excellent condition and is overprinted "HEWETTS STORES NAILSEA". For newcomers this shop was sited on the corner of the Clevedon Road roughly where Heavens the Jewellers is now.

Among the bargains mentioned in the leaflet are Scott's Oats 1/11d (9p); Ambrosia Creamed Rice Puddings were 10d while 2oz of Mace Instant Coffee was 2/- (10p). Robinson's Lemon Barley was 2/6d; Kleenex for Men was 2/-. On the back were recipes for Coffee Rice, Cheese and Onion Roly Poly and Shepherd's Pie.

Similar items would be welcomed by the editor as would memories of shop assistants / owners in any of the villages the Society covers.

## **Holy Trinity Church**

(Update of previous N&DLHS publication)

In 1979 urged on by the indefatigable Betty Nickalls, wife of the then Rector, members of the Society made a record of the inscriptions on the tombstones in the churchyard. The results were published in duplicated form without an index. George Knox a member of our Society has taken a copy and will in the fullness of time produce on his computer an index or similar list that will prove most useful for those researching ancestors who were buried there.

## **Backwell**

Mrs Rosalie Cox whose husband was a teacher at Backwell Junior School contacted me recently and gave the Society a large photo of the members of Long Ashton rural District Council and a couple taken at the school. While we hope in due course to publish the picture of Council members there are a large number of names to be included.

I do not have names of the children in the school photos and have therefore decided to fill a gap by publishing the photo with Mr Cox in the background. I look forward to hearing from readers the names of those whose young faces appear.