

MINCHINHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

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Minchinhampton Local History Collection,
The Trap House, West End, Minchinhampton, STROUD, GL6 9JA

MINCHINHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP COMMITTEE 2008/2009

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PROGRAMME OF PAST MEETINGS

2008	November	A.G.M. and “Edwardian Photographers” - Howard Beard
2009	January	“Your Family History” - Sue Stafford
	February	Gloucestershire Almshouses” - John Loosley
	March	“The Family History of James Simmonds” - Tony Simmonds
	May	“Uncovering Woodchester Park” - David Armstrong
	June	A walk around Avening.
	September	“My life on the River Severn” - Chris Witts
	October	“Harry Baughan - A life of Motor Cycling” - Ken Chandler
	November	A.G.M. and “Old Minchinhampton” - Michael Mills

Minchinhampton War Graves of World War II

Diana Wall

In the northwest corner of Holy Trinity Churchyard, Minchinhampton, there are four war graves, well-tended thanks to the efforts of Maybelle Dullea until a few years ago, when she left Minchinhampton. Others have taken on the task. The memorials record four young airmen, members of the Operational Training Units (U.T.U.) at Aston Down, who lie many miles away from their homes.

Sergeant Thomas Desmond Vernon

Pilot of the Royal Air Force
28th December 1940

Sergeant Peter Brain Tyres Quint

Pilot of the Royal Australian Air Force
6th October 1941

Sergeant Norman William Barbeau

Pilot of the Royal Canadian Air Force
7th December 1941

Sergeant Roger Pierson Owen

Pilot of the Royal Canadian Air Force
18th December 1941



Sergeant Norman Barbeau

Operational training was a dangerous exercise, and many young pilots lost their lives in and around Aston Down and the other airfields in Gloucestershire. Recruits would first train with an instructor in two-seater Miles Master aircraft, then the pilots honed attack techniques solo, first in Hawker Hurricanes and as they became available from the factory, Supermarine Spitfires. By reference to various sources, including the excellent “Wings Over Gloucestershire” by John Rennison (1988) it has been possible to find out rather more of the circumstances of these young pilot’s deaths.

Sgt. Vernon was a member of 55 O.T.U. Aston Down, aged nineteen, and he was killed when his plane, a Hurricane, nose-dived into a farm at Saul. His memorial stone relates that he was the dearly loved grandson of V.L. Johnston of Brighton in Sussex. In some accounts Sgt. Owen is listed as an American, but he was a member of 52 O.T.U. Aston Down, who was killed on take-off, crashing his Spitfire at France Lynch

Sgt. Quint was a twenty-four year-old member of 50 O.T.U. Aston Down, also a Hurricane pilot. His aircraft was caught in the slipstream of others in the formation, and crashed at the New Grounds, Slimbridge, now part of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust site. “*For King and Country, His duty nobly done*” reads his inscription.

Norman Barbeau was one of six brothers from Ontario, three of whom served in the Royal Canadian Air Force. Aged just twenty, he was married one month before being posted overseas, and was in England for about a month when he was killed. Barbeau was based with an O.T.U. at Aston Down and was taking off in his Spitfire when his port wing hit a petrol tanker. He was committed to take off, the wing became detached and the plane crashed on to the road at Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon. His elder brother, George, corresponded with Mrs. Dullea, and sent her a photograph of Norman, together with a copy of a poem he wrote to his mother on arrival in England – the family treasure it as a poignant tribute to him.

Nature and God

*I stood on a Surrey hill one day
Looking down over the green
The morning sun came slanting down
And tipped each dewy blade with sheen.
Upon the sparkling stream below
A thousand sunbeams danced
And from a poplar’s fluttering leaves
A thousand others glanced.*

*I’ve never forgotten that beautiful morn
When angels kissed the Surrey sod
I’ve treasured it deep inside my soul
For it brought me close to God.
And whenever I feel a doubt of Him
As in the loss of someone dear
I think of that day in the Surrey hills
And I feel God’s presence near.*

A fitting memorial to those young men who gave their lives for the freedom we now enjoy.



Visiting Historic Sites - A Personal View

Diana Wall

Earlier this summer I spent a weekend visiting sites associated with the flight of King Charles II in 1651, after his forces were defeated at the Battle of Worcester. The presentation of the sites, and the whole visiting experience varied considerably, and it struck me that perhaps now is the time to evaluate this growing sector of the tourist industry.

The first visit was to The Commandery which lies in the Centre of Worcester, administered by City of Worcester Museums, which has recently undergone a £1.5million refurbishment. (Entry Fee £5.10) Here the emphasis is on *“peeling back the layers of History. Using state of the art audio interpretation, the Commandery’s long-hidden history comes vividly to life allowing you to explore six chosen periods, enjoying the characters and the atmosphere of the building’s colourful past.”* In practice, a visitor is given an audio handset, and chooses one of the six themes; in each room the relevant number is keyed in and a commentary plays, often drawing on contemporary sources for the narrative. The rooms themselves are virtually unfurnished, save for some modern seating, and it is up to the imagination of the individual to create an illusion. Following the Civil War theme was made easier by some temporary exhibits, as well as a presentation on the Battle of Worcester, but I found my concentration wandering when listening to the commentary whilst watching a narrow boat negotiate the lock outside! Whilst the idea might accord with modern thinking, it seemed that this approach relied heavily upon a degree of prior knowledge, and that the experience lacked cohesiveness.

Next on the itinerary came Boscobel House which lies near Telford, and English Heritage property, (Entry Fee £5.20) and the place in which King Charles famously hid in the oak tree. Entry to the house is by guided tour, in groups of no more than fifteen, and which run every fifteen minutes. This approach is necessary because of the narrow stairs, small size of the rooms, and the fact that the “priest hole” can only be viewed from a certain angle. Of course, this approach depends completely on the expertise of the guide; mine was excellent, and unlike some guided tours there was time to explore each room. Should you have to wait for a guided tour “slot” there was an exhibition room telling the story of King Charles’ escape, in addition to old farm buildings and the garden to explore. I did buy a guidebook (I tend to almost everywhere!) but it was not necessary during the actual visit. This experience. I felt, did justice to the importance of the site.

Finally I visited Moseley Old Hall, a few miles from Boscobel, in

Wolverhampton and the house from which the fugitive made his way to Bristol. The National Trust owns this, (Entry Fee £7.00) and it was possible to make your way independently around the building, join in one of the guided tours, or a combination of the two; I chose the latter. A larger property, it was possible to linger and rejoin a costumed guide in another room, although the guidebook was a necessity to follow the house plan. This less structured approach allowed questions to be answered, and particular interests to be followed, although the groups on a tour were larger, comprising about twenty to twenty-five people. Perhaps after the previous two visits I was gaining a greater understanding of the period, but some of the narrative appeared to be rather superficial. I did see a visitor fall on the uneven floor, because he had his nose in the guidebook! I would rate the experience only slightly less pleasurable than Boscobel.



So what do I make of these three approaches? Perhaps all three have a place in our visits to historic sites; the sites themselves can vary widely and should it be a case of “*horses for courses*”? Of course it is purely personal, but among my other top-ten visiting experiences would be the audio tour around the site of the Battle of Hastings, the information boards at Sutton Scarsdale Hall, the dramatised narration at Southwell Workhouse, the freedom to wander at Heligan and the hands-on approach at Steam in Swindon. What features make a good visit to a historical site? Or is it as much about the quality of the cup of coffee as about the presentation?

Postscript. Since writing this I have visited several chateaux and other sites in the Loire Valley. One or two points that might be of interest to English Heritage and National Trust include the cheap cost of admission (usually

about 3-5 euros), the provision of a small free guidebook in the language of your choice, and the ability to take photographs within a property, provided that no flash was used which might have a detrimental effect upon furniture and textiles. I will add Chenonceau to my top ten!

From the Gloucester Journal

9th March 1730

We are credibly informed from Wing in Hertfordshire, that six young women (four of them sisters) who make lace together in one School, have of late been frequently visited by a jolly handsome Dealer in that commodity, whose conversation, being somewhat familiar, ended in the Disgrace of the poor deluded girls, the amorous Visitor having eloped And left them all with child. Which verifies the old Proverb "*Sweet Meal requires soure Sauce*".

26th January 1730

Broadway, in Gloucestershire, Jan 16. This week, a fiddler that had been playing here pretty late, in his way home, being sleepy, stept into a Barn to take a Nap, and was no sooner laid down, but in came a man and a woman, who presently became familiar with each other, and struck a Bargain. The Man desired the Woman to pull off her Petticoat; she answer'd, she would, if he pull'd off his Breeches; accordingly they both agreed, and to it they went, and as soon as the Fiddler heard they had done, he strikes up the Tune of the Black Joke, which they thought was the Devil come to play them a tune to the Dance they had been at, so out they both run, the Woman without her Hoop, and the Man without his Breeches, in which were 50s. and a Silver Watch. The Fiddler has had both cry'd, but nobody owns them.

1741 May 12

On Tuesday last the Rev. Mr. Rich, lately rejected by the Lady Amaryllis, was married in our Cathedral to Mrs. Lucinda Castle, a very agreeable young widow, adorn'd with those valuable and manifold Accomplishments, which cannot fail of making the Gentleman happy.

1744

On the second of this Instant was married in the Parish Church of Bisley to an agreeable young girl of 18 years of Age, Mr. Shalford aged 88 who, by Reason of his Infirmities, was obliged to be supported by two Men while the Ceremony was being performed.

Minchinhampton Inquests, etc.
Extracts from the Gloucester Journal 1818 to 1832
by Hugh Kearsley

1818

Mar 23 INQUESTS. On Wednesday, at Nailsworth, on view of the body of EDW PENLEY, an aged man, who, in consequence of the horse he was riding taking fright at the approach of the Stroud and London coach, and attempting to surmount a steep bank, fell off backwards, and rolling under the wheels, the hind wheel passed over his head, and killed him on the spot. Not the smallest blame was imputable to the coachman, GLOSSOP; and the jury returned a verdict, Accidental Death.

Jul 27 INQUESTS. Taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner: On Tuesday last, at Bourn's Green, Bisley, on the body of Wm HUMPHRIES, a youth about seven years of age, killed by the kick of a horse on the region of the stomach.

Aug 17 INQUESTS. Taken before W Trigg, Esq. Coroner: At Minchinhampton, on view of the body of JOSEPH SHELTON, who drowned by getting out of his depth, whilst bathing in the lake at Longford Mills. Verdict, Accidental Death. On Friday, near Pin Farthings, near Minchinhampton, on the body of THOMAS MORGAN, aged nine years, who worked at the house of DANIEL PEGLER, weaver. The boy died on Wednesday; and his master having corrected him for some offence a few days before, an alarm was excited against the poor man, who was charged with exercising such violence and inhumanity towards the lad, as to occasion his death. A very minute investigation therefore took place; and it was clearly ascertained, that the deceased, in consequence of disease, wore a mercurial girdle, and had drank cold water to excess, after taking a violent medicine. Verdict, "Died from the improper use of a mercurial girdle, and other remedies inadvertently applied, and not otherwise to the knowledge of the jurors".

1819

Jan 25 INQUESTS. On Wednesday, at Minchinhampton, on the body of SARAH PINFOLD, who met her death at the Mills of Messrs Playne and Co. in consequence of her body coming in contact with the

strap, which instantly drew her up to the drum, and so dreadfully injured her, that she died immediately. Verdict, Accidental Death. At Minchinhampton, two young children were lately so dreadfully scalded and burnt, that each died shortly after the accident.

Mar 22 INQUESTS. Taken before W Trigg, Esq. one of the Coroners for this county: At Minchinhampton, on the body of ANN YEGG, aged 14, who, from the darkness of the night, fell into a mill pond at Brimscomb Port, whilst going to fetch some wearing apparel she had left in a garden to dry. Verdict: Sudden Death.

Mar 29 INQUESTS. The following inquests were lately taken before W Trigg, Esq. one of the Coroners for this county: . And, on the 25th, at Rodborough, on the body of THOMAS WALL, aged about 4 years, who was playing with several other children near a fire, when the flames communicated to his clothes and he was burnt to death. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Apr 12 INQUESTS. Taken before W Trigg, Esq. Coroner: On Wednesday, at Woodchester Park, on JOHN ALLSOP, aged about ten years, who, owing to the darkness of the preceding night, fell into a fish pond, and was drowned. Verdict: Accidental Death. At Minchinhampton, on the body of WM BENNETT, carter, who, whilst driving a waggon laden with grain, fell down and was crushed by the wheel lodging on his body. Verdict: Accidental Death.

May 10 INQUEST. Taken before W Trigg, Esq. Coroner: At Avening, on the body of JOHN RISBY, a youth about 11 years of age, who was climbing a tree, when a limb giving way, he was precipitated to the ground, and killed on the spot. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Aug 2 INQUESTS. Lately taken before Wm Trigg, Esq. one of the Coroners for this county: At Bisley, and the body of WILLIAM CHEAR, who was killed while at work in a quarry, by a quantity of stones and rubbish falling upon him. At Avening, on the body of THOMAS CAVE, aged 21, who was drowned whilst bathing in a mill pond. Verdict: Accidental Death.

Sep 13 INQUESTS. Taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner: At the Box, Minchinhampton, on view of the body of ROBT GILLMAN, who was killed by a winding machine in a stone quarry, which came in contact with his neck, and precipitated him to the bottom. Verdict: Accidental Death.

Nov 22 MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.

We are sorry again to have occasion to record one of those shocking accidents, arising from the imprudence of persons leaving loaded fire arms within the reach of children. On Saturday last, at Bisley, a boy, named Wm FRANKLYN, about 13 years of age, incautiously took a gun into his hands, which had been left in the care of his mother; and whilst playing with it, not knowing it to be loaded, the piece went off, and the whole contents lodged in the head and shoulders of his sister, a little girl about six years old, and killed her on the spot. On Tuesday an inquest was held upon the body, before William Trigge, Esq. Coroner, when a verdict was returned of Homicide by Chance Medley. The gun was declared a deodand¹.

Nov 29 INQUESTS. Lately taken before Wm Trigg, Esq. Coroner: At Horsley, on view of the body of RHODA LOCKIER, who was killed at Nailsworth, by a carriage wheel accidentally passing over her. Verdict: Accidental Death.

1820

Mar 6 INQUESTS. Taken lately before Wm Trigg, Esq. one of the Coroners for this county: At Minchinhampton, on the body of CHAS KING, who was killed by a quantity of stone and rubbish falling on him whilst in a quarry.

Mar 27 INQUESTS. Taken before Wm Trigg, Esq. Coroner: On the 11th ult. at Minchinhampton, on the body of a new born illegitimate infant, found dead. It appeared that the unhappy mother had been prematurely taken in labour, at a distance from her home, and delivered of a dead child; of which she gave instant information.

¹ **Deodand** *The doctrine of deodand, or guilty property, allowed English courts to strip a person of property if the property was involved in a certain offense. This doctrine allowed a court to seize property regardless of the owner's culpability. For example, if a horse caused the death of a person, the owner would lose that horse, even if he had been completely blameless.*

She had also provided some clothes for the occasion. Verdict, Stillborn.

Jul 17 INQUESTS. The following inquests were lately taken before Jos Mountain, Esq. Coroner: On the 30th ult. at Minchinhampton, on the body of JOSEPH NEWMAN, who died in consequence of a fall from a building. Verdict Accidental Death. Same day, at Chalford, on the body of THOMAS ROGERS, who died suddenly whilst mowing in a field, in the said parish. Verdict, in each case, Died by the Visitation of God.

1821

Oct 15 INQUESTS. Before J Mountain, Esq. Coroner: At Horsley, on the body of SARAH LOVETT, who fell from a landing place at Ball's Green. Verdict; Accidental Death.

1822

Apr 8 OBITUARY. Thursday, at Littleworth, near Minchinhampton, in consequence of injuries sustained by falling into a quarry, on his return from Minchinhampton market, in his 60th year, Mr OBADIAH BURGESS. *It is scarcely credible, that notwithstanding many accidents have recently occurred, several quarries, varying in depth from 10 to 50 feet, are suffered to remain open, without any fence whatever; and in many cases, within a few feet of public roads.*

Jul 1 INQUESTS. The following inquests were taken last week before W Trigg, Esq. Coroner: At Minchinhampton, on the body of Mrs MARY WATT, who fell down in the road, and instantly expired. At the same place, on the body of Mr THOMAS JONES, carpenter, who was found dead upon Hampton Common, where he was following his occupation. Verdict, in each case, Sudden Death, by the Visitation of God.

1825

Apr 25 INQUESTS. Lately taken before Jos Mountain, Esq. one of the Coroners for this county: At Chalford Hill, on the body of SARAH HUNT, who died without any previous illness. Verdict in each case, Died by the visitation of God. At Avening, on the body of JOS ARNOLD, who was found nearly dead on the highway, and expired in a few hours. Verdict, Died from the inclemency of the weather and inebriety.

May 16 INQUESTS. Lately taken before J Mountain, Esq. Coroner: At Minchinhampton, on view of the body of WM TURNER, who died suddenly. Verdict, Died by the Visitation of God.

1826

Jun 19 ACCIDENT. On Wednesday last, a gentleman riding near Rodborough, asked a boy named HENRY HODGES, about eleven years of age, to lead a horse to the Bear Inn, while he went to make a call in the neighbourhood. The boy, however, instead of leading, mounted the animal, and when on his back gave him a slap on the neck with his hand, upon which the horse set out on the trot, and the poor child being unable to keep his seat, fell to the ground upon his head with such violence as to cause a concussion of the brain. He was picked up in an insensible condition and conveyed to our Infirmary, where he expired in the course of the following morning. A Coroner's Inquest before J Cooke, Esq. on Saturday, found a verdict of Accidental Death.

Jul 29 INQUEST. Taken before W Trigg, Esq. Coroner - On Monday and Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the Blue Boys Inn, Minchinhampton, on view of the body of JOHN HITCHINGS, labourer, of the same place, who was killed in a fight, by JOHN COSBURN, stone mason, chiefly by the violent fall he had on a heap of stones. The deceased appeared, from the evidence, to have been the aggressor; and after a patient and minute investigation, the Jury returned a verdict of Manslaughter against John Cosburn, as principal, and RICHARD KIRBY and SAMUEL WOTHAN, clothworkers, as accessaries. We are sorry to add, that the deceased was very drunk at the time; and some culpability attaches to an individual, whose timely interference, we are informed, might have prevented the combat.

1827

Dec 29 INQUESTS. The following have been lately taken before J Mountain, Esq. Coroner. at Brimscomb Port, on the body of ANN JONES, whose head was severed from her body by the gearing of the machinery in a clothing manufactory; at Minchinhampton, on the body of THOS. PIMBURY, who died from the bruises he received from a horse which carelessly rode over him at the Fair, and on which the Jury very properly declared a deodand; Verdict, in each case, Accidental Death.

At Minchinhampton, on the body of MARY PHILPOT, who died suddenly; verdict, apoplexy.

1828

Dec 13 INQUESTS. The following Inquests have lately been taken before J Mountain, Esq. Coroner: At Minchinhampton, on the body of ELIZ. WILLIAMS, an infant, whose clothes caught fire in the momentary absence of her mother, whereby she was so dreadfully burnt that she expired the same evening. Verdict: Accidental Death;

1829

Mar 14 SUICIDE. On Friday last, an inquest was held at Minchinhampton, on the body of Mr S STRATTON, clock and watchmaker, an old and highly respectable inhabitant of that town. On Thursday morning, the deceased (who was between 60 and 70 years of age), rose at three o'clock, but being informed of the earliness of the hour he retired to bed again, and at six he went out to take his usual morning's walk. His continued absence considerably alarmed his friends, who sought for him ineffectually till the evening, when a labouring man found him lying dead in a quarry in Minchinhampton Park, with a pistol firmly grasped in his hand, having discharged the contents through his mouth into his head. It appearing that he had received a hurt on his head about 30 years before, which had caused occasional derangement, the jury returned a verdict, Destroyed himself in a fit of Insanity.

May 9 FATAL ACCIDENTS. On Thursday se'nnight² an Inquest was held in the parish of Minchinhampton, before William Trigg, Esq. Coroner, on the body of BENJAMIN WATTS, who was killed on the preceding evening by falling through the tappet pit, among the machinery, while in the act of greasing the wheels connected with the stocks, at Messrs Barnard's manufactory, Nailsworth. The poor man was attending to his work, leaning on a bar of wood which lay across the pit, when he suddenly lost his hold and fell through, calling upon his son, who was near him, to stop the wheel, which the lad had not strength enough to do. The unfortunate man's head

² *i.e.* Thursday preceding

coming in contact with the iron pins in the tappetts, was completely crushed, and life was immediately extinct. He has left a widow and four children. Verdict, Accidental Death.

A short time ago, a young girl named ANN JONES, employed in a manufactory at Brimscomb, unfortunately got her clothes entangled in the straps attached to some upright shafts of the machinery, by which her head was nearly torn from her body.

1831

Jan 22 The following have lately been taken before W Trigg, Esq. Coroner: At Rodborough, on SUSAN MORGAN, five years old, who was burnt to death by her clothes catching fire in the absence of her parents. Verdict, Accidental Death.

At Rodborough, on JOHN COX, a weaver, who died in consequence of injuries sustained by falling down stairs, at the manufactory of Messrs Lewis and Co. of Brimscombe. Verdict, Accidental Death.

May 28 We regret to state, that a melancholy and fatal accident occurred yesterday morning, at Gatcombe Park, in this county. As the only son of DAVID RICARDO, Esq. a youth between five and six years of age, was taking his usual exercise in the park, with a servant attending him, the pony on which he was riding suddenly turned round in the direction of the stable, and threw the unfortunate young gentleman with such violence on his head, as to occasion his death in two hours afterwards. Mr & Mrs Ricardo, who were on a visit to Bath, returned home in the course of the night, and their feelings on their arrival may be more readily imagined than described.

Oct 8 INQUESTS. The following inquests were taken last week before JG Ball, Esq. Coroner. At Minchinhampton, on WM. BIRT, who was thrown from his gig on Minchinhampton Common, and died on the morrow. Verdict, Accidental Death; deodand 1s.

Oct 22 INQUESTS. Taken before JG Ball, Esq. Coroner. At Minchinhampton, on the illegitimate male child of ELIZABETH COOPER, who was found dead in bed.

1833

Jan 5 INQUESTS. Lately taken before JG Ball, Esq. Coroner. At Walls Quarry, on SAMUEL SMITH, a child about two years old, who was killed by a stone falling upon him; and at the same place, on JOHN MANNING, aged upwards of 60 years, who fell from his garden into a court below, and fractured his skull. In each of these cases a verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Local History Collection – New Items

During the past year some interesting new items have been deposited in the Collection. Peter Jones, formerly of West End, was for many years secretary of the Minchinhampton Darts League, and on moving he gave us paperwork and trophies relating to this pastime. Peter Grover has donated photographs taken underground in Balls Green Mine, as well as a large lump of calcite from one of the caverns. For many years John Cooper researched the history of field names in the area, and, along with an excellent series of maps, his card index is now available to consult.

The purchase of a laptop to replace the old computer provided a spur to improving the cataloguing of the many photographs that have been scanned in over the years, and it is hoped that this makes them more accessible to anyone conducting research. In future many of the images may be available through our website.

Martin Ecclestone has kindly donated a copy of his transcripts of “The Account Rolls of the Manor of Minchinhampton” 1298 - 1515. A very valuable tool for the researcher.

100 Years Ago From the Church Magazine

C. B. GARDNER, HATTER, HOSIER, SHIRT MAKER, 13 King Street, STROUD.

1909

Holy Trinity, MINCHIN HAMPTON, PARISH ✦ MAGAZINE.



JANUARY, 1909.

Printed by JOHN WHITE, Bookseller, George St., STROUD.

C. W. JONES, Supplies GOOD COAL at FAIR PRICES all the year round.
Truck Loads to any Station in England at Colliery Prices
Way Yard Nailsworth. Branch Office—Well Hill Minchinhampton. TELEPHONE No 311.

The Lych Gate

An anniversary of 100 years ago was the dedication of the Lych Gate.

Though Mr. Edward Playne was a devout Churchman and strong Conservative, and always ready to express his opinion very plainly, all classes and creeds had a respect for his devoted labours as Chairman of the Board of Guardians and other public offices, in which work he may literally be said to have laid down his life. Consequently we found all parties joining in the erection of the Lych Gate, which now adorns the principle entrance of our Church.

This was opened by a public ceremony on a fine afternoon of June 12th, when Mr. F. A. Hyatt, Major Ricardo, Mr. E. Shipway and the Rector bore testimony to the high esteem in which Mr. E. Playne was held. Mr. Hyatt's scholarly speech included a wise review of the work of the Guardians in the past, and the prospects of its being superseded in the near future.



On the following Sunday the Lych Gate was dedicated by the Rector after his morning sermon from the words of the Psalm (cii.14) "We are but dust", in which allusion was made to the special object of a Lych Gate, the Choir proceeding down the Church to the Gate. Singing the hymn "They whose course on earth is o'er," and the congregation following. The dedication was as follows:-

"Our days on the earth are as a shadow and there is none abiding."

"O Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

"This is the gate of the Lord," through which those who depart this life pass

to their rest here for a while.

Grant them rest in Thee, O Lord, and at the last joyful resurrection.

Thou art the first fruits of them that slept. Even so in Christ may all be made alive; for His merits, who died and is alive again, for evermore — Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

In the faith of Jesus Christ we dedicate this Lych Gate to the glory of God, and in memory of His servant, Edward Playne, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

The day was fortunately fine. The bells rang a muffled peal, both on the Saturday and Sunday.

The total cost of this improvement, due to the suggestion of Dr. Church, is about £120, and it reflects much credit upon the builder, Mr. W. A. Harman, who has preserved the tone and features so characteristic of the picturesque Cotswold country. Nor must we forget the thanks due to Messrs. Shipway, Mr. J. Harman (Treasurer), Mr. F. E. Jones (Hon. Sec.), and Major Ricardo, who acted as Chairman of the Committee.

It is interesting to note that at the Vestry meeting held on January 11th at the Market House, the proposal of the “Edward Playne Memorial Committee” to erect a Lych Gate at the principal entrance to the Churchyard. The motion was duly proposed and carried unanimously to proceed with the scheme.

June 14th 1909, Springfield, Minchinhampton.

A letter from Frances A. Playne to Mr. Bryan (the Vicar) thanking all those who had so kindly and generously helped to erect the Lych Gate to the memory of my husband.

Dedication of Stained Glass Window

The last of the four windows in the South Aisle of the church has been filled with stained glass and was dedicated by our Bishop on Sunday, January 3rd. The subject here shown is the Presentation in the Temple.

Minchinhampton Schools

MISS WEBB'S RETIREMENT.

The Schools closed on July 29th, - a memorable date, as on that day Miss Webb's long and successful career as Head Mistress of the Girls' School came to an end. In the morning a presentation on behalf of the girls themselves, consisting of half-a-dozen Silver Spoons and a pair of Silver Sugar Tongs, was made by Miss Baynes, who called to mind many reminiscences of the past, now nearly 50 years. Miss Webb made a suitable and touching reply, in thanking the girls for their pretty and useful present.

At the close of the school in the afternoon there were present Rev. E. L. Bryans, Chairman and Correspondent of the Managers, Mr. A. T. Playne, Major Ricardo and Miss Baynes, and all three gentleman on behalf of the Managers addressed the School and the Teachers, bearing their testimony to the admirable way in which they felt that the school had been conducted; the freshness and unflagging zeal shewn by Miss Webb, and the wonderful way in which she kept fully abreast of the educational requirements of modern times.

The following letter was also read from Mr. F. A. Hyatt, of Painswick.

Dear Miss Webb,

I have been deputed by the Gloucestershire Education Committee to convey to you an expression of their regret that their official relations with you are about to be severed, and of their appreciation of the services which you have rendered to the cause of education - services which are remarkable, alike for their excellence and their length. Your connection with our County Schools began before Education Committees were born or thought of; but my Committee know well how in those days, when the true aims of education were dimly realised, how far in advance your views and methods were, as compared with those of the large majority of teachers in the County. You have made the school under your charge the best Girl's School in Gloucestershire. I can wish nothing better for the education of my County than that it may have a large succession of teachers animated by your spirit, and gifted with your capacity.

Yours very truly,

F. A. HYETT.

Miss Webb then thanked the Managers for their interest and support, and said that, although she was retiring from the school, her interest in it would always remain unabated; that she had no intention of growing old, but hoped for many years yet to be useful here in more ways than one. The Rector then called for cheers for Miss Webb, to which the girls heartily responded.

MISS WEBB'S TESTIMONIAL

A sum of £187 7s. 8d. has been collected by the Committee, which has been expended on the purchase of an annuity of £20 per annum for Miss Webb's life, and a Silver Tea Service. The Teapot has on it her Monogram "E.W." and the date on which she began and ended her career as Head Mistress of the Minchinhampton Girl's School - "Jan. 1st, 1861 to Sept. 10th, 1909".

A letter from Emma Webb of Priory Cottage, November 11th, 1909 used the medium of the Parish Magazine to express her gratitude to all her dear friends and regretting the impossibility of thanking each kind donor directly.

A Hundred Years later Mr. Rod Harris retired as Headmaster of Minchinhampton School at the end of the Summer Term in July, after thirteen Years at the school.

Copies of the old Church Magazines can be seen in the Local History Collection at the Trap House.