

MINCHINHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

ANNUAL BULLETIN NUMBER 25

2008

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MINCHINHAMPTON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP COMMITTEE 2007/2008

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PROGRAMME OF PAST MEETINGS

2007	November	A. G. M. and film “Stroud before Traffic Lights” - Geoff and Bet King
2008	January	“Brimscombe Port: Past, Present and Future” - David Viner
	February	“Minchinhampton Area in World War 1” - Sue Smith
	March	“The Quarry Industry from Painswick to Nailsworth” - Arthur Price
	May	“Four Hundred years of Stroudwater Textiles” - Ian Mackintosh
	June	A visit to Woodchester Mansion
	September	“Amberley Chapel and School” - Maureen Anderson
	October	Exhibition: “Every Picture Tells a Story”
	November	A.G.M. and “Edwardian Photographers” - Howard Beard

It's 120 years since the first commercial delivery of bananas arrived in London for the company E W Fyffe & Co. Interesting stuff – but what has that to do with the small village of Box near Minchinhampton?

A fruitful life in Box

THE LITTLE girl's delighted squeal echoed round the narrow lanes of the Cotswold stone village, and brought the other children, running helter skelter, to see what had happened.

“What is it, Ethel?” asked a tussle-haired boy, catching her by the shoulders. The other children gathered round - girls in their white pinafores and lace-up boots, boys in their fitted shorts and jackets. With a look of great importance and excitement, the little girl announced, “Mr Fyffe is back! I've just seen him!”

In those far-off days, at the turn of the last century in the little village of Box near Minchinhampton, “Fyffe” was as much a household name as it is today. But whereas nowadays it conjures up images of deep yellow bunches of bananas cascading over greengrocers' shelves, it meant something different back then. It meant that the elderly gentleman had returned from his travels in exotic locations, laden with things to show the village children.

“After his wife died, he and his daughters would often go to Jamaica. When they came back, they would bring many things to interest us children. The thing I liked best was a piece of sugar cane,” wrote Ethel Smith, one of those youngsters, many years later.

Edward Wathen Fyffe had a huge affinity with the Cotswolds. His family base was in London – his father's firm, E W Fyffe, was in the Howford Buildings, at 148 ½ Fenchurch Street – but as a young lad, he spent much of his time in Box.

The family firm was old and established, dealing in tea, and was said to have started during the early 17th Century when James I was on the throne. Edward was one of two brothers, but the elder, Ebenezer, was not interested in

commerce. He became a chaplain in the Royal Navy, so after their father died in 1882, it was Edward who found himself in sole charge.

Edward was obviously successful enough, carrying on with the tea importing, but when his thoughts turned to love and marriage, a series of events were put into play that were to change the course of his life.

His bride, Ida Stanton Brown, was from Nailsworth, just down the road from Box. As the granddaughter of Isaac Hillier, who owned a factory in the town, she was from one of the prominent families of the area. The couple went on to have two little girls, born within 13 months of each other, but the strains of two pregnancies so close together quickly told on Ida. She fell ill with tuberculosis, and her husband was advised to take her away from the perils of the English climate.

And so it was, in 1887, that the Fyffe family found themselves in the warmth of the Canary Islands where Ida was to make a full recovery. There were a limited number of British expatriates in Las Palmas and in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in those days, and the Fyffes were made very welcome. And during an active social life, Edward began to see the makings of a business opportunity – importing bananas. This fruit, which was considered so expensive and rare back in England, was cheap and abundant out here.

He wasn't the first man to see the potential of the fruit. Other importers had already tried with limited success. One had been dismayed to open barrels arriving back in England, only to discover that a brown sludge was all that remained of the once yellow bananas.

But Edward was canny. Rather than take the risk of importing spoiled and useless fruit himself, he talked the growers into using him as an import agency – he would sell their bananas back in London on a commission basis. The first shipment did, indeed, contain many overripe bananas. But with experience, the amount of usable fruit increased, and Edward began selling it to Covent Garden, to London green grocers, and to barrow-boys. Lack of competition meant that the market was wide open for him.

The Fyffe business began to grow at an enormous pace, and Edward decided to take a partner in the form of James Hudson who owned a chain of high-

class fruit and grocery stores. But no sooner had this partnership been finalised, than the fruit growers back in the Canary Islands decided they wanted to buy the men out. The terms were so good, that both men accepted and, at the age of 44, Edward Fyffe was able to retire to Box.

He and his family moved to the lovely Trullwell House in 1897, where he was to spend a happy 38 years. During his “retirement”, he took up duties and hobbies alike: as a parish councillor; as chairman of Hillier’s Bacon Curing Factory in Nailsworth; and as a founder member of Minchinhampton Golf Club. He also helped to raise money for the National Trust to buy Minchinhampton Common.

He is particularly remembered as the first person in Box to own a car. *“I remember the first motor car in Box. It belonged to Mr Fyffe at Trullwell House and he employed a chauffeur named Bob Whitehead,”* recalled resident Harold Heiron, who died in 1984.

“But cars were not so powerful in those days, so that when they got to the steepest part of the Halfway House Hill, the passengers had to get out and walk, while the chauffeur drove up to the top and waited for them to walk up. But Mr Fyffe soon altered this arrangement by cutting a roadway out of the back of his premises and across the common, coming out near Hampton Green. This way, needless to say, was not so steep.”

Others recall the Fyffes letting the village children play in their back garden, where they had games with swings and see-saws.

In spite of such a long retirement, Edward Fyffe died a rich man, leaving £38,493 – a lot of money in 1935. But his legacy was far more than cash in the bank. He helped to bring a well-loved fruit to England, employment to many – and excitement to a generation of children in Box. His grave is in Amberley Churchyard, alongside those of his wife and mother, one of many lasting memorials to a particularly fruitful life.

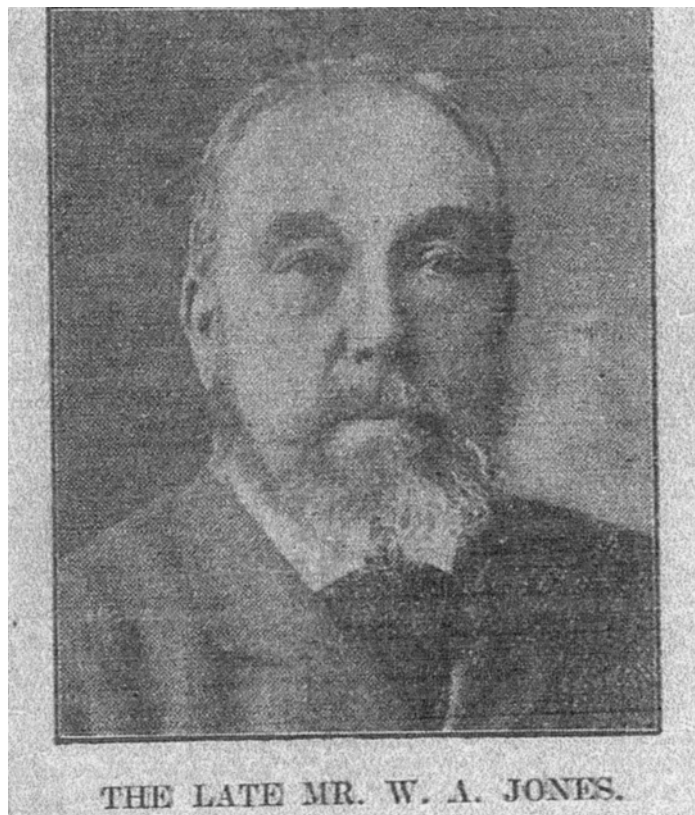
Keeping up with the Joneses

The story of a remarkable local family

by Diana Wall

When researching for the “Every Picture tells a Story” exhibition, it became clear that during the first decade of the C20th a local brother and sister - Fenning and Emily Jones - had published postcards of Minchinhampton. The number of different views was limited, and so far less than two-dozen have been found, but it started a quest to learn more about this remarkable family in Victorian and Edwardian times.

The patriarch was one William Arundell Jones, born at Minchinhampton in 1830 and described in his obituary in 1915 as “*a useful public servant ...who lived an active life ...greatly respected by all.*”¹ This press cutting, with many others relating to the family, has been preserved in a scrapbook in the Local History Collection compiled by Cyril Jones, a grandson of William, and has provided valuable detail for this story. It appears that at



the age of 14 William went to London to be apprenticed to the outfitting trade, staying for five years but being forced to return to Gloucestershire by a bad attack of pleurisy. His father was assistant overseer, a public post involving the collection and disbursement of the poor rate, and after helping him for some time William was officially appointed to the post in 1851. He held the post for some fifty years, before in turn handing over to his own son, Fenning.

¹ Stroud News, July 23rd 1915



“Funny Jones” 1903

In 1853 William married Rebecca Nash in Minchinhampton Church. She was the sister of “Jolly” John Nash, a nationally famous music hall entertainer, and William and his family enjoyed musical entertainment all their lives. He played the flute, clarinet, cornet, oboe and cello, often stood in at short notice to play the organ in Holy Trinity Church and is credited with founding the Minchinhampton Brass Band in 1860². John Nash as well as William performed songs at the first public concert in the Market House. Towards the end of the C19th Charles and Fenning Jones performed monologues during band concerts, and formed their own local group of entertainers, the Ojibeway Minstrels; it was from his comedy performances throughout the district that Fenning earned his nickname “Funny” Jones. One of the grandsons, Roy, whose brother and cousins were serving their

² The History of Minchinhampton Town Band, Trevor Picken, 1977

country, formed a group with his friends called “The Jolly Boys” in 1915, which toured the local houses and raised money to buy comforts for the troops.

William and Rebecca enjoyed fifty-six years of marriage, and raised a family of two sons and six daughters in their house in Well Hill. A granddaughter, writing under the pseudonym of Fay Inchfawn, described a visit to this house at Christmas in 1885³. The property was still owned by Charles Jones at his death in 1946, and it was described as having a sitting room, living room, kitchen and scullery on the ground floor, three bedrooms and two attic rooms and a good garden. It appears that this large family all succeeded in their chosen paths, five daughters marrying into prominent families, and both sons and Emily, the unmarried daughter, pursuing their own careers.

At the time of the 1881 Census William described himself as a coal merchant, assistant overseer and Registrar of Births and Deaths. He had set up business as a coal merchant in 1855, possibly with Thomas Excell of



Tetbury Street, trading from both the Brimscombe and Dudbridge wharves. However, once the Midland Railway opened in Nailsworth he transferred his business to the station yard there, using his own railway wagons. William lived in Well Hill (now number 16) with Rebecca, unmarried daughters Caroline (27 years old) and Emily (21) and his two sons Charles (18) and Fenning (13), with one female servant. The girls, along with their mother, are described as milliners; Charles is a clerk (possibly in his father’s business) and Fenning is still at school. A search for Amelia (17) in the Census for the southwest of England failed to yield any result, but she was living at the time at St. Bees College, in Campbell Road, Portsea, Hampshire. This appears to have been a private school for teenage girls, run by five

³ Minchinhampton Life and Times, Volume 4 - Reminiscences

sisters, described as governesses and three teachers of which Amelia was one.

The Census reveals a series of complicated links between the Jones family, and that of Daniels of the Bourne, who were also coal merchants. The second Jones daughter was Mary (25) who had married Gilbert Daniels, described in the Census as a baker, employing one man and three boys, and living in the High Street at Portishead. They had two daughters; one was the author referred to above, and kept a servant. Martha (23) had married Alfred Daniels from the Bourne, a watchmaker in Long Street, Tetbury. Their daughter was just four months old at the time of the Census, exactly the same age as the younger girl at Portishead. Florence (20) had married George W. Daniels of the Bourne, a baker and corn dealer, and was living in Stroud with a two-week old son. They too had a female servant and a live-in nurse for the baby, as was common at the time. These Daniels men were brothers or cousins.

Caroline married William Alma Harman in Holy Trinity Church in 1885, and they set up home in Church Villa in Church Street (now Bell Lane). He was a builder and contractor, and his advertisements for the early years of the C20th describe a building and joinery works opposite the Church (he was also a funeral director and undertaker) and an ironmongery depot in the High Street. It is perhaps interesting to note that when Fenning Jones became



HIGH STREET, MINCHINHAMPTON.

F. N. Jones, Photographer, Minchinhampton.

Parish Council Clerk all the woodworking contracts were awarded to William A. Harman!!⁴

Amelia eventually married and like her sisters she became part of a well-known local family. She became the wife of Hubert Fowles, of Cherington, a farmer's son. Some of the Fowles family were later photographed at Hampton Fields with a donkey cart, but whether this includes Amelia and her husband is not clear.⁵ Perhaps, as the photograph was taken about 1907 when Fenning was certainly pursuing this interest, it would be nice to think that it does. There is one other piece of speculation, that Lizzie, who became the wife of Charles Jones, was the older sister of Hubert; certainly the date and place of birth, and the fact that this is recorded as her name (rather than Elizabeth) in both the 1881 and 1901 Census returns would lend credence to the suggestion.

William retired from the coal merchant's business at the age of 61, in favour of his son Charles William. The latter proved himself an excellent businessman, developing the yard at Nailsworth, and advertising over a wide area. "*C.W.JONES, supplies GOOD COAL at FAIR PRICES all the year round. Truckloads to any station in England at Colliery Prices. Railway Yard Nailsworth, Branch Office – Well Hill Minchinhampton TELEPHONE No. 311*"⁶. He purchased his own railway wagons from Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagonworks in Bristol Road, one of which has been reproduced for model railways. He diversified into building materials and the remains of his name can still be seen painted on the side of one of the outbuildings by the car park at Egypt Mill. In the days of delivery by horse and cart he purchased land at Park Farm and used it for overnight accommodation for his animals. His family lived at "Yatesfield" in Watledge, with a view over the railway and his yard; his sons, Norman and Valentine, attended Wycliffe School.

The story returns to Fenning and Emily, the two photographers. Fenning married Louisa Mortimer, daughter of John Mortimer, the butcher at the former Beehive Inn of Box, in 1891. There are two coincidences here: William's own father was a butcher and a John Mortimer, of the right age,

⁴ Parish Council Minutes

⁵ Minchinhampton: A Photographic Record, Nick Hurst, 1981

⁶ Holy Trinity Magazine, 1915

is described as a coal trader in an earlier census! Is this an indication of the rather limited society prevailing in Victorian times? Fenning appears to have made his living as a public servant being described as “*registrar of births and deaths for Minchinhampton sub-district, Stroud Union and assistant overseer and Clerk to the Parish Council*”⁷. His sister Emily was running her own haberdashery business in Well Hill, and keeping house for her parents.

She employed assistants in the shop, which was created in the front room of the cottage, and probably had time to spend with her brother on photography. Certainly, she knew E.P. Conway, the Nailsworth photographer (whose father was another coal merchant!) as he took views both inside and outside her shop.⁸ The exterior view shows stationery in the right-hand window – was it perhaps in response to this market that the F.E. and E.N. Jones Series were published? It is clear that they were not photographic reproductions but produced in a manner



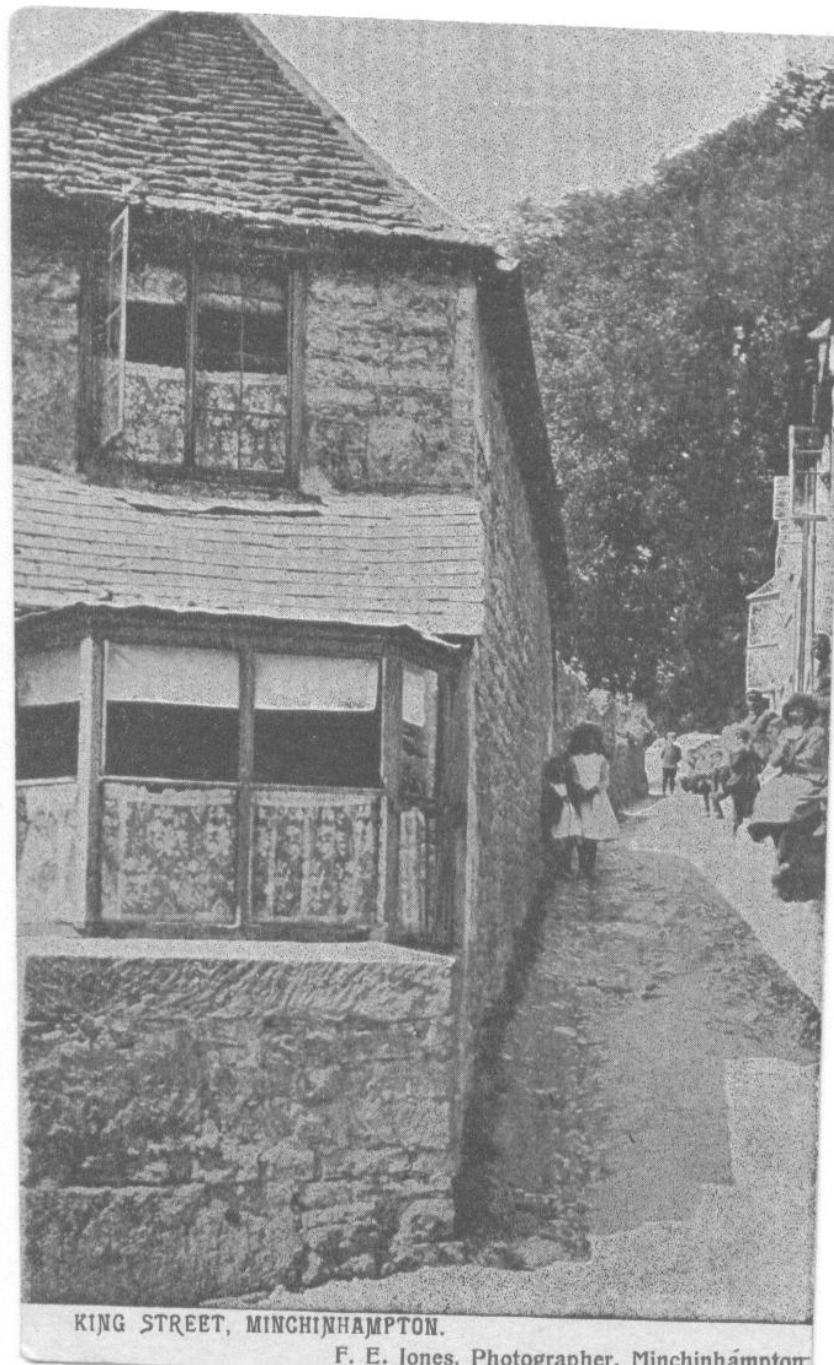
similar to newspapers with a dot matrix; Fenning photographed local events for the Stroud News so this is perhaps the origin of the postcards.

Rebecca Jones died in 1909, and was survived by William for another six years. He had taken an active part in public life, being one of the prime movers in getting Minchinhampton lit by gas. However, he always boasted of being a neutral in politics, and was only known to have voted once in a local election – for Mr. Edward Playne, for whom he had the greatest

⁷ Kelly's Directory, c1905

⁸ Around Nailsworth and Minchinhampton, Howard Beard, 1994

admiration. Late in life he became associated with the Plymouth Brethren, and was baptised in the Chalford brook; his funeral service in the parish church was described as “*of a simple but impressive character.*” Perhaps the greatest testament he would have wished was the affection in which all his family held him, and the dedication of his employees; three of his pallbearers had been in his employ for well over twenty years. He had lived through great changes, died during the greatest conflict this country had yet seen, but was, first and last, a family man.

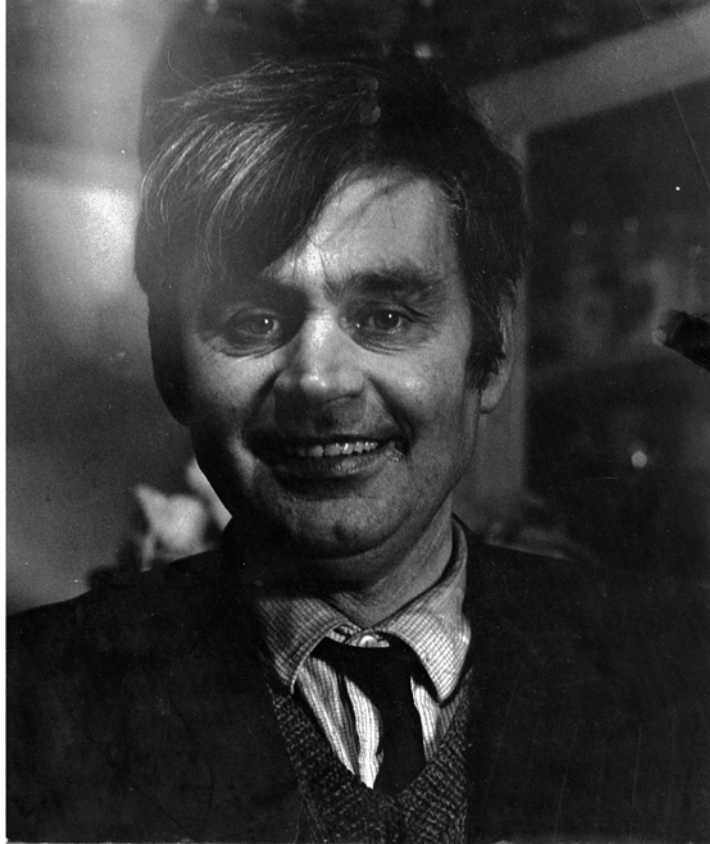


KING STREET, MINCHINHAMPTON.

F. E. Jones, Photographer. Minchinhampton.

Johnny Vosper

A tribute by Simon Chorley



The antique world of Gloucestershire has lost one of its greatest characters. John (Johnny) Vosper of Minchinhampton died on the 6th September after a short illness. In the last half of the 20th century he attended thousands of sales throughout Gloucestershire and the surrounding counties. Tens of thousands of people visited Johnny's antique shop in Minchinhampton's market square and it boasted royalty among the attendees. In the 70's Her Royal Highness, the late Princess Margaret, spent some time in the emporium and Princess Anne also visited the Vospers.

Along with his brothers Eric and Jim, both of whom he survived, the three were always live wires at any auction they attended. Whether arriving in the pickup or the van, they went away having laden it to the gunnels with antique furniture, silver, glass, medals, scrap metal, log piles and bags of coal.

Vosper's mannerisms and humour were his trade mark. In the early 70's, at sale after sale, he would try to start the bidding on lots at 5 shillings; to which

Mr Bruton's reply was "hasn't decimal currency reached Minchinhampton!"...always followed by Johnny's unforgettable chuckle. The auctioneers question "10 pence Vosper?" The reply always "Aw gaw on then!"...and then the Vosper chuckle.

The Bruton family and many others had huge respect for the Vosper family. Mr Cecil Bruton believed him to be one of the most honest people he had ever met. Vosper once returned several items of silver to Bruton Knowles; found in a locked drawer of a chest bought at an earlier sale; just one example of his honesty.

The house in Minchinhampton boasted a cacophony of lots for a sale in 2008. A 19th century longcase clock by a Minchinhampton maker headed the clock section and the two reception rooms were packed with glass, china, silver plate and jewellery; the majority still displaying their original lot numbers.

The upstairs could truly be described as an Aladdin's Cave, it could be nothing else with the miscellaneous hoardings, principally oil lamps. The auctioneers had their work cut out trying to match the shades, wells and chimney erratically stored by Johnny. The attic was something to be beheld; not since the enormous sale of the Summerfield Collections some twenty years before, had the auctioneers seen such a spectacle. Thousands of postcards, more oil lamps a huge number of medals and coins were a fraction of the articles to be unearthed.

One lot found at the house, was a barograph which Vosper had purchased from the Summerfield sale in 1989. Johnny had asked Simon Chorley to pick a lot out from the 24,000 lot sale, to buy on his behalf; as Vosper said "...to remember the old bugger by..." .

Within the last 18 months the three Vosper brothers involved in the Gloucestershire antique business have died. Thus ends a chapter in Gloucestershire's history and closes a book on characters the like of whom the world will never see again.

Minchinhampton Inquests 1750 to 1817

Extracts from the Gloucester Journal

by Hugh Kearsey

1750

Jul 10 Gloucester, Jul 7. On Saturday the 23d of June last, about One o'Clock in the Morning, a terrible Fire broke out at the White Lyon in Acton Turvil, in this County, which consumed the same, with all the Goods therein; among which were those of TIMOTHY SWAIN, of Hampton, consisting of Linnen, Woollen, Bedding, and all his Earthenware, to a great Value, which were lodg'd in the said House; and what renders his Case the more deplorable, is the Loss of his Child, (a Girl, about 11 years of Age) who was burnt to Ashes.

1765

Jul 29. The death of FRANCIS SUTTON, at Hampton, who was killed by SAMUEL DANIELS, proved to be nothing more than manslaughter, as the deceased had given the prisoner great provocation; DANIELS therefore was only branded, and ordered to be imprisoned two months.

1766

Nov 17 On Friday last NATHANIEL CLOSE was brought to our Castle, charged upon the Coroner's inquest with the wilful murder of SARAH VINES, of Minchinhampton, in this county.

Dec 22 On Friday came on the trial of NATHANIEL CLOSE for the murder of SARAH VINES, near Hampton, in this county. He was convicted upon the strongest presumptive evidence of committing the horrid fact; a murder attended with the most barbarous, the most unmanly instance of brutality that was ever heard of in any age or nation. He is to suffer this day.

Dec 29 On Monday last NATHANIEL CLOSE was executed pursuant to his sentence, for the murder of ANN VINES. He persevered to the last in obstinately denying the fact. Before he left the prison he seemed much shocked at the approach of death, and with great fervour exclaimed, "The Lord have mercy on my unhappy soul" He said, that if he had no

other crimes to answer for than that for which he died, he should not have regarded his untimely end. His body was delivered to the Surgeons for dissection.

1787

Mar 26 On Monday last Mr DANGERFIELD, who kept the Blue Boys public house at Hampton, returning home from Cirencester market, very much in liquor, was thrown from his horse and killed on the spot.

1794

Jun 9 A few days ago, as DANIEL WEBB, was returning on horse back to his residence in the parish of Rodborough, he being much indisposed, fell from his horse, and instantly expired. Verdict, Died by the Visitation of God. On Thursday last, as MARY KIRBY, an infant three years old, was playing near a millstream, in the parish of Minchinhampton, she fell in, and was instantly taken down the brook by the velocity of the stream, and was drowned. The above inquests were taken by Mr Trigg, of Cainscross, near Stroud.

1795

Jan 19 On Monday last about four o'clock, a house at Upper Hyde, near Minchinhampton, inhabited by Mr AARON LORD and his sister, both upwards of 80 years of age, was discovered to be in flames, and the fire was so far advanced, that before any assistance could be given, the roof of the house fell in, and the inhabitants both of them perished. Part of the body of Mrs LORD was discovered in the ashes, but no traces of her brother could be found. There was a considerable sum of money dug out of the ruins. Mr LORD was a person of remarkable character.

Jul 6 On Saturday last CHARLES ROWDEN, a shear grinder, returning home from Minchin-Hampton, fell into a brook, and was found drowned. An inquest was taken by Mr Trigg, of Cainscross, near Stroud - verdict, Accidental Death.

1796

Jun 27 On Friday last, at Tetbury, an inquest was held on the body of a male base child. Verdict, Stillborn. And on Saturday last, on THOMAS MALLARD, found dead in the high road, in the parish of

Minchinhampton. Verdict, Died by the Visitation of God. The above inquests were taken by Mr Trigg, Coroner, of Cainscross, in this county.

1797

Jun 12 On Friday last THOMAS GREEN, of Hampton, cut his throat. This inquest was taken by Mr Trigg.

1801

Aug 24 On Saturday se'nnight the body of a male infant, with its throat cut in a most inhuman manner, was found in the millpond belonging to Mr JOHN COOPER, of New Mills, Minchinhampton, in this county. The body was wrapped up in a paper parcel, to which a large stone was fastened, for the purpose of preventing it from rising. An inquest having been taken before W Trigg, gent. one of the Coroners for this county, the Jury returned a verdict of wilful murder, by some person or persons at present unknown.

1802

Nov 29 Inquests have lately been held by Mr Trigg, one of the Coroners for this county, at the following places: At Minchinhampton, on Friday se'nnight, on view of the body of SAMUEL CLIFT, sen. who fell down dead on the high road. verdict, Died by the Visitation of God.

Dec 20 And at Minchinhampton, on Tuesday last, on view of the body of MARY WHITHORNE, who, during the parxysm of mental derangement, jumped into a draw well, nearly 25 yards in depth, by which she fractured her leg, and died in a short time after from the general shock she sustained. Verdict, Lunacy. Great praise is due to Mr HILL, brazier, of Minchinhampton, who, hearing of the circumstance, went down at the imminent hazard of his life, and prevented the poor unfortunate woman from drowning, whilst he fastened a rope round her body, by which she was drawn up from the bottom of the well alive, but soon after expired!

1803

Sep 16 Friday se'nnight Mr Trigg, one of the coroners for this county, held an inquest at Minchinhampton, on the body of SAMUEL GRAINGE, who was killed by the kick of a horse; verdict accordingly. And also on

Monday, at the same place, upon the body of MARY HARDING, an infant, about four months old. It appeared, that the child being disordered, her mother had sent a person to buy some Tincture Of Rhubarb; but the messenger mistaking the name, asked for Godfrey's Cordial, under which title a deleterious preparation from Laudanum was sold, and administered by the unsuspecting mother. The consequence was that the child died in a few hours. After minute investigation the Jury returned a Verdict, Died by the injudicious preparation of a medicine administered for the benefit of the child.

1805

Mar 11 The following Inquests have been taken by W Trigg, Esq. one of the Coroners for this county, viz. On Saturday se'nnight, at Minchinhampton, on the body of the wife of JOSEPH HILLIER. On the husband's returning home from the house of his brother, who then lay dead, he found the unfortunate woman a lifeless corpse, with her infant child lying at her breast. Verdict, Died suddenly by the visitation of God.

Oct 21 The following Inquests have been held, within the last week, by W. Trigg, Gent. Coroner. At Minchinhampton, on view of the body of SARAH SHURMUR, who was found dead in a privy; she had received a violent contusion on her temple and lip, by falling against the door, which no doubt accelerated her death. Verdict, Sudden Death.

1806

Mar 3 On Wednesday se'nnight, as Mr HIATT, of the George Inn, Minchinhampton, was going into a house at Tetbury, he was attacked with an apoplectic seizure, which instantly deprived him of his speech, and in the space of a few hours of his life.

Mar 10 Inquest was last week taken before W Trigg, Gent. Coroner, at Minchinhampton, on the body of ANN GUNN, about twelve years of age, who fell into the Thames and Severn Canal, and was drowned. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Sept 1 ACCOUNT re ELIZABETH OCKFORD, aged 9, abducted by gypsies from Box Hill, in Minchinhampton, from her widowed mother.

Sep 8 A few days since died, Mrs HIATT, widow of Mr JOSEPH HIATT, of the George Inn, Minchinhampton.

Dec 29 On Friday se'nnight an inquest was taken at Minchinhampton, before W Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of DAVID KIRBY, who fell from a stile, in returning home from his labour, after dark; when the spinal marrow was so much injured, that he survived but a short time. Verdict Accidental Death.

1807

Feb 16 On Tuesday last, an inquest was taken at Minchinhampton, before W Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of ELIZABETH HAYES, who was killed by the vane of the windmill, on the Common adjoining the above town striking her on the temple, and fracturing her skull, of which she languished



about five hours. It is supposed that she must have missed her road from the extreme darkness of the night; and the wind being very high, it is known that the mill vanes were at the time going round with uncommon velocity! Verdict, Accidental Death.

Mar 23 Last week an inquest was taken, before W Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of CHARLES HARRIS, who was killed by a large stone falling upon him, in a quarry on Minchinhampton Common. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Aug 31 The following inquest has been taken before W Trigg, Gent. Coroner: On Saturday se'nnight, at Minchinhampton, on view of the body of GILES CRIFT, tyler, who fell from the roof of the Meeting house at that place, which he was repairing, and died instantly.

Oct 26 On Thursday last an inquest was taken at Longford Mill, Minchinhampton, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of WILLIAM HINTON, labourer, who was killed by a quantity of earth and rubbish falling upon him, whilst digging for gravel. Verdict, Accidental Death. He has left a wife and several children.

Dec 14 On Friday, in the parish of Minchinhampton, on the body of ANN MILDWATERS, who was found dead. No marks of violence appearing on the body, the Jury returned a verdict, Sudden Death from some unknown cause.

1808

Feb 8 DIED. on Tuesday, ... Same day, suddenly, Mr THOS HARRISON, stone mason, of Hampton Common, in this county: as he was sitting at his desk, looking over some papers, he fell down, and expired in an instant, without a groan or sigh.

Jul 4. The following inquest has lately been taken, before W Trigg, Gent. one of the Coroners for this county: At Minchinhampton, on the body of a young gentleman found drowned in the Thames and Severn Canal.

Jul 25 The following Inquest has been taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. one of the Coroners for this county. On Tuesday, at Minchinhampton, on the body of JOSHUA HANCOCK, a youth, who was drowned by getting beyond his depth, whilst bathing in a pool of water: his brother would have shared the same fate, had not a young man who could swim rescued him from drowning. Verdict, Accidental Death.

1809

Aug 28 The following inquest ha been taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. one of the Coroners for this county: On view of the body of ELIZ. PARKER, a washerwoman, who returned home from her work at Minchinhampton, in apparent good health, and was found a corpse the next morning. Verdict, Died from some Cause Unknown.

1810

Jan 15 Inquest was last week taken, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of Mr JEREMIAH PRICE, butcher, of Minchinhampton,

who, owing to the darkness of the night, fell into the Thames and Severn Canal, and was drowned. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Nov 19 On Tuesday last, an inquest was taken at the New Lodge Inn, in the parish of Minchinhampton, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of JOSEPH PEGLAR, a fine youth, about 18 years of age, whose death was occasioned by a rather singular accident. He was attempting to fire a pistol, which, as it would not remain upon the cock, he discharged by the application of a fire stick to the priming; when, the charge being rammed down with great force, the piece rebounded with such violence, as to cut his eye out, separate his jawbone, and fracture his skull, in consequence of which he died in a few minutes, a horrid spectacle. Verdict, Accidental Death.

1812

Feb 3 On Monday an inquest was taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on the body of SAMUEL HEAVEN, labourer, of Minchinhampton, found drowned in the Thames and Severn Canal, on the preceding day. From the appearance of the body, it must have lain in the water several days. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Mar 30 On the 21st, at Longford Mill, Minchinhampton, on the body of WILLIAM LATHAM, millman, who had been many years in the employ of Messrs Playne, clothiers, and was found dead in his room. Verdict, Sudden Death by the Visitation of God.

1813

Nov 8 On Thursday last, an inquest was taken at Brimscomb, in this county, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of PETER GOLDEN, who fell into the Thames and Severn Canal, and was unfortunately drowned. Verdict - Accidental Death.

Dec 13 Taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner: At Quarhouse, near Brimscomb, in this county, on view of the body of THOS SPENDER, a child about five years of age, who was burnt to death by his clothes taking fire, during the absence of his mother; the accident was occasioned by the little sufferer setting fire to some straw on the floor. Verdict, Accidental Death.

1814

Jun 20 On Thursday se'n night, an inquest was taken at Horsley, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of FRAS COOK, of St George's, Bristol, who was killed in returning from Minchinhampton fair, by falling from his horse, which became restless. Verdict, Accidental Death, and the horse was valued at 7 s. on a deodand⁹.

1815

Feb 6 On the 27th ult. at Minchinhampton, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of NATHANIEL KING, who, whilst at work in a stone quarry on the Common, having incautiously undermined the ground too far, a quantity of stone and rubbish fell upon him, and injured him to such a degree that he expired soon after. Verdict, Accidental Death.

Mar 20 Taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner: On the 11th inst. at Minchinhampton, on the body of THOS PEARCE, aged 44, who was discovered apparently asleep in his chair; but his family, who had retired to bed, obtaining no reply upon calling to him, came down stairs, and found him lifeless. Verdict, Sudden Death.

Apr 10 On Monday an inquest was taken at Minchinhampton, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of a new born female child, who died suddenly during the absence of the attendant on the mother. The jury, after a minute investigation, returned a verdict, Died Suddenly from some cause at present unknown.

Nov 30 On Friday last, an inquest was taken at Minchinhampton, in this county, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, and a very respectable jury, on view of the body of Mrs SARAH MOODY, who died in the space of three hours from the loss of blood, having been wounded on the back part of the head, in falling against the corner of a washing bench, the occipital artery being divided by the violence of the fall. It having been alleged,

⁹ DEODAND (Lat. Deo dandum, that which is to be given to God), in English law, was a personal chattel (any animal or thing) which, on account of its having caused the death of a human being, was forfeited to the king for pious uses.

that her death was occasioned by her husband striking her with a poker, the most minute attention was paid to the case. The gentlemen of the parish had called in superior surgical aid, and several of the faculty assisted in examining the head of the deceased on dissection; all of whom concurred in the opinion, that the poor woman died from loss of blood, and not from violence by a blow, the skull and the brain having undergone no injury whatever. It is proper to state, however, that MOODY being out, his wife had gone to bed; and upon his return she went downstairs, with a candle, to admit him, when a quarrel commenced between them, which alarmed the neighbours, some of whom went into the house and saw Mrs MOODY bleeding. Addressing herself to one of them, she said "See how I am served! he has struck me!" Some person having washed her head in a basin, she threw the contents with violence in her husband's face, at the same time using many opprobrious epithets; and had not the person been alarmed at the state she was in, she would have died without surgical assistance being procured, to which she had strongly objected. MOODY, in his defence, evinced great contrition; he said that immediately on his entering the house, a scuffle ensued, between them, when his wife fell against the bench, in consequence of his having pushed her from him, but without the smallest intention of doing her any injury. The jury after retiring for a short period, returned a verdict, Homicide by chance medley.

Dec 14 Taken before William Trigg, Gent. Coroner: On the 2nd inst. at Littleworth, near Minchinhampton, on the body of THOMAS HUGHES, an infant, who was suffocated while in the act of suddenly vomiting, in the night. Verdict, Sudden Death.

1816

Jun 10. The following inquest was lately taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner: On the 20th ult. at Minchinhampton, in this county, on view of the body of JAS BAKER, who dropped down on the high road, and instantly expired. Verdict, Sudden Death.

Dec 23 On Monday an inquest was taken, before Wm Trigg, Gent. Coroner, on view of the body of THOS NORRIS, turnpike keeper at Minchinhampton, who was unfortunately drowned in a mill stream in

the parish of Horsley, while endeavouring to pass over a bridge that was both unfenced and out of repair. Verdict, Accidental Death; and the Jury at the same time stated that the said bridge, upon a view taken, was found to be in a condition dangerous to the lives of his Majesty's subjects.

Dec 30 On Saturday se'nnight, at Minchinhampton, on view of the body of WM HICKS, who, whilst correcting his horse, in a fit of passion, fell down in his stable, and instantly expired! It was at first supposed that the horse had killed him, but no marks of violence being perceptible, the jury returned a verdict, Died in a fit suddenly.

1817

Mar 3 The following inquests were taken before W Trigg, Gent. Coroner: On the 4th, at Minchinhampton, on the body of RD CLARKE, four years old, who was burnt to death in consequence of his clothes taking fire.

May 5 Taken before Wm Trigg, Gent. one of the Coroners for this county: On the 24th, at Minchinhampton, on the body of SARAH WILLIAMS, who, whilst fetching some water from a trough about nine o'clock in the evening, fell down in a fit in the road, and was not discovered till the next morning.

Sep 15 A few days since, an inquest was taken at Minchinhampton, in this county, on the body of Mrs MDUTTON, of the Bourne, near that place, who, having an altercation with a man renting part of her house, he pushed her down five or six steps at the door; she was taken up senseless, and continued so for three weeks, when she died. Verdict, Homicide by accident.

To be continued in the next Bulletin.