

# Minchinhampton

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The newsletter of Minchinhampton Local History Group

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## Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of our monthly newsletter. I think you'll find it interesting, and I have even given up my monthly task of "Grave of the Month" as there is such a thumping good story provided by Brian Carlick about his Carlick / Sparks grandparents! I have also got rid of the coloured text as I admit that this did not work! This is a learning curve for me as well! Submissions for June's newsletter by the 7<sup>th</sup> of June please!!

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## Grave of the month

### By Brian Carlick



How my grandparents met and their slightly odd gravestone

Up the graveyard from Holy Trinity Church there is part of a line of trees which may mark the former top of the churchyard [Editor – Mr. Carlick is correct – The grave is at the top of the extension to the graveyard opened in 1886, and just before the last extension opened in 1975]. There is a wooden seat and my grandparents' grave is close by, so it is easy to find on my infrequent visits. The gravestone was commissioned from a local builder and undertaker in 1969 at a cost of £40. My grandfather died in Maidstone in 1968. After my grandmother died in 1978 and was buried in the same plot the gravestone was engraved with an additional

inscription by the same builder, but the words were found to be incorrect. (I think the name of a surviving sister was engraved!) My father ensured corrections were made and the surface of the stone in the offending area was cut away and the stone was lowered further into the ground more than normal to partly cover up the mistake.

My grandparents lived 140 miles away in Kent. Burial of people living so far away was allowable due to the generosity of Vicars at the time, as well as a not unusual practice in country villages and towns of stretching burial entitlement rules to allow members of local families to be buried in a "home village" after moving away earlier in their lives.

My grandmother Kate Victoria Sparks (often known as Kitty or Kit) was born and bred in Minchinhampton (1887) and was the third child and second daughter in a family of seven. Their parents were Joseph Sparks (1859-1955), (Jo), and Caroline Sophia (1869-1938) The roots of their families were all fairly local and included Horsley and Brimscombe - the family was living at 11 Park Terrace from at least before 1871. Kate's sisters Eleanor Rose Read and Lucy Sophia Sparks died there in 1977 and 1980 respectively. So, the family lived there for over a century!

On my last visit in April 2021, I happened to meet the neighbours at no. 10 who well remembered my great aunts and the hours they spent cultivating the back garden allotment.

My grandfather Albert Edward Carlick was born in Hoxton in 1889, (He was one of seven children and their mother died quite young) This area of London was notorious for slums and poverty, but my relatives were not among the most impoverished. Life evidently revolved much around the local Church of England and what it offered to the community. Albert's sole formal education was at Christ Church Hoxton's school, but he was a bright enough lad to apparently be offered a scholarship to Christ's Hospital, although he turned it down.

My great grandfather George became churchwarden and Fred, one of Albert's brothers, learnt to play the organ. The church was fortunately served by a very hard-working and dedicated vicar from 1903. Revd. Claude Eliot who was, it seems of the "Muscular Christianity" persuasion, but he died "by sheer overwork and worry in the Hoxton slums" in 1907.

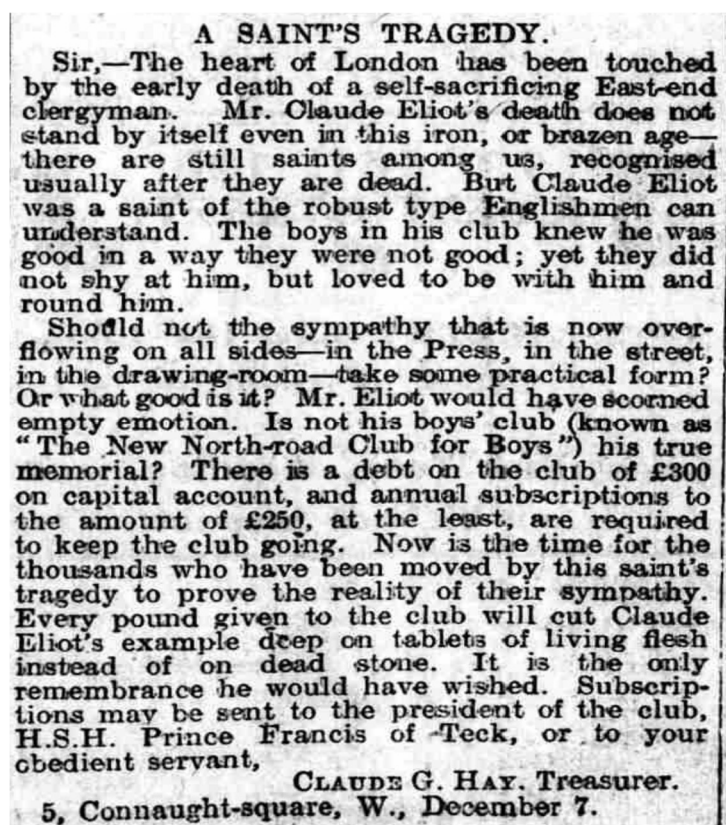


Fig 2 - The Globe 9<sup>th</sup> December 1907

Sport played a part of church life. Albert played cricket and was also secretary of the church cricket club. He left school in 1904 and was employed by a firm of solicitors. He subsequently worked for other firms in Cambridge, Bristol and Folkestone, moving away to Chard to avoid aerial bombardments in World War I.

He finally settled in Maidstone in the early 1920s and became the managing clerk of a well-known firm there.

So far, I have not linked my grandparents. The link is via Revd. Claude Eliot. His aunt was Miss Baynes of the Lammas Minchinhampton. I do not know much about Miss Baynes but there is some information about the

Baynes Family on the MLHG website and in the section about the Lammas can be found this quotation:

"Miss Mabel Baynes was a great benefactress to the Minchinhampton Schools, and sometimes taught needlework to the girls. (Minchinhampton Life and Times, Volume 2, 2000)"

What my grandparents told me is that Miss Baynes in her generosity offered through her nephew Revd. Claude Eliot the opportunity for some of his young parishioners to come to Minchinhampton to have holidays with families there. These holidays must have taken place after 1903 and they continued after the death of Revd. Eliot in 1907. I do not know whether there were other children and young people who came from east London to stay with other Minchinhampton families. Albert's younger brother Fred also came to Minchinhampton and stayed with the Sparks family at 11 Park Terrace. It

must have been quite crowded in the few rooms as the censuses show there were ten occupants in 1901 including the mother-in-law! However, numbers had reduced to six by 1911.

These holidays were certainly happening around 1906 because I have a letter dated 1906 written from the Lammis by Revd. Claude Eliot to Albert regarding cricket grounds back in London. The short letter also mentions Fred Carlick and the Sparkes (sic) family. Fred's connections with Minchinhampton continued in another way. Said to have "a weak heart" he was granted an escape from living in London by being able to attend Marling School for a while.

My grandparents must have been acquainted with each other for some years from their late teens because it was not until 1913 that they were engaged when on 28th January my grandfather wrote in pencil in his diary "Day of Days – Engaged". They married on 6th September 1915 in Holy Trinity Church. Kate was 28 and Albert was 26. The wedding ceremony was conducted by Revd. Edward Fisher of "Christ Church Watney Street E" (Hoxton) - a successor of Rev C. Eliot.

Kate and Albert set up home where Albert was living at the time, about 170 miles away in Folkestone.

Their only child [my father] was born there in 1917 and named Robert after his late Minchinhampton uncle Robert ("Bob") Sparks who died in the First World War. He is commemorated on the war memorials and on the MLHG websites.

I have memories, memorabilia, and a few documents as well as furniture and ornaments which came from 11 Park Terrace. My brother has some items as well. I hope to find the time and energy to write some further articles for the MLHG newsletters.

Brian Carlick (Charlton on Otmoor near Oxford)

# Minchinhampton place-names

By Richard Davis



Place-names have a kind of magic about them: they can tell us things about the landscape around Minchinhampton and the people who inhabited it for which there may be no other source. “Hampton” for example refers to the Old English, “heah tun”, a farmstead which is high up. Aston Down has the same root, the first element pointing to its easterly position. The many settlements around the edges of the common with names ending in -ley, refer to a “leah” or clearing, a reminder that in the early medieval period much of the area was wooded, especially with beech. Forwood means “wood in front of the village”. Unusually, the first element of Wimberley contains a woman’s name, Wimburh. Another common ending is -combe, after “cumb”, a valley. In the Stroud area it refers especially to side valleys, as with Cowcombe, derived from “col cumb”, a valley where charcoal was burnt. Theescombe is more alarming, being derived from “theof”, thief, a valley haunted by thieves! Other

names like Burleigh and Besbury relate to the “burh”, the Iron Age Bulwarks on the common. Field names are also very evocative.

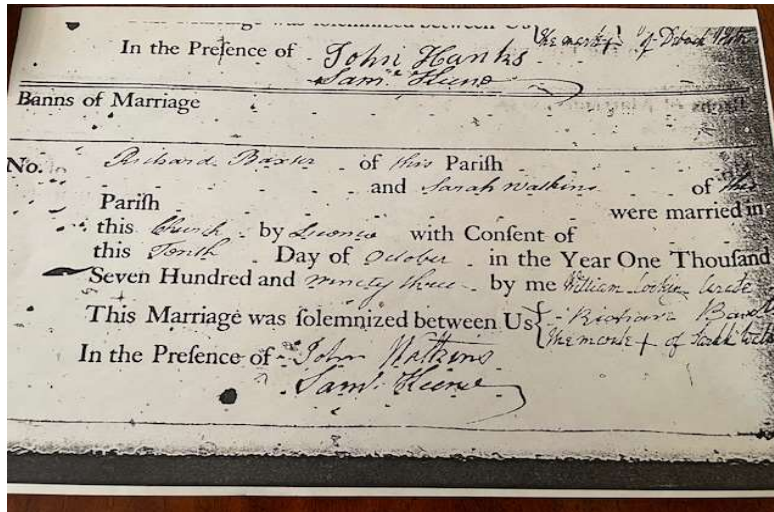
These examples are taken from the classic text by AH Smith, The Place-Names of Gloucestershire, which is free to view online at

<https://epns.nottingham.ac.uk/browse/Gloucestershire>

## Emigration to South Australia

### By Martyn Beaufort – With information from Ann Hirst

It does pay to keep an eye on the Visitor book in the church as sometimes people who have a connection to Minchinhampton visit their roots and leave comments that give some information that is of use to our group. Caroline Thackray very kindly brought my attention to comments in the book, and I contacted Ann Hirst who has provided some fascinating information about emigration to South Australia in 1838 by her ancestors who lived in Minchinhampton.



Ann's 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grandparents were Richard Baxter and Sarah Watkins who were married in Holy Trinity Minchinhampton in 1793. They died respectively in 1848 and 1828 but are not buried in Minchinhampton churchyard. This is possibly because they became Baptists and were buried in the old Shortwood Baptist Chapelyard near Nailsworth.

Three of their daughters were to emigrate to South Australia.

Their daughter, Elizabeth was baptised at Holy Trinity in 1796, and married John Cox of Horsley in 1818 at St. Martins in Horsley. They emigrated to Adelaide, South Australia, in 1838 with their 8 children on the "Duke of Roxburghe" They were not the only ones who emigrated to Adelaide. Indeed over 80 members of Shortwood Baptist chapel did so between 1838 and 1840. Elizabeth's sister Ann Baxter Young led the way by arriving there in January 1838. Sailing with John and Elizabeth were John's brother Thomas, his wife and children, and Elizabeth's sister Anne Marie Baxter.

Ann kindly provided a link to the Shortwood Baptist immigrants which can be found here: - <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-806867631/view>

South Australia was a planned free colony, first settled by Europeans in 1836. It was never set up to take convicts like New South Wales. Therefore, Ann's ancestors must have been amongst the first colonists, and as Ann says, "true pioneers".

In a letter written by John Cox in 1838, it is clear that Adelaide is in its infancy as he stated that: -

"There is not much of the land worked up yet, for the people are so much employed in building their houses—I might say scores in a month, in all directions; and many of the people are going out in the bush to take their sections".

Going back to their journey to Australia: -



# DUKE OF ROXBURGHE 1838

416t, W 3 mast ship  
Built 1828 St Peters Quay,  
Owners Money, Wigram & Co, reg. London

departed London on April 12th, 1838  
under the command of Captain J. Thomson  
and touched at St. Jago. She arrived  
at Port Adelaide on July 26th, 1838.

(passengers loud in their praise  
of Captain's kindness and urbanity)

BARKER, James and wife
BIDDULPH, Mr - cabin
BOTTRELL / BOTTRILL, John and wife Anne nee LUCAS, daughters Frances Eustacia, Sarah
CHANDLER Henry
CHANDLER W
CHAPMAN Harriet
COX, John and wife Elizabeth nee BAXTER, and children John, Sarah, Benjamin, Joseph
COX Edwin
COX William
COX Martha
COX Mary (not Mrs Edwin COX)
COX Harriet(t)
COX, Thomas and wife (Mary Jane nee STONE?), 2 sons
CRAWFORD, Dougald and wife Charlotte
DEA Bridget
DEHOM, Mr and Mrs - cabin
DUTHIE, Mr and Mrs two children - cabin
EDMONDS William Bennett, Elizabeth Ann nee EVANS - cabin
ESSEX, Enoch and wife Harriett, and child William
FENNELL, Stephen and wife Margaret nee DOWNY, and 3 children
FENNELL Patrick (son of Stephen)
FENNELL Dennis (son of Stephen)
FENNELL Mary (daughter of Stephen)
FENNELL Thomas (son of Stephen)
FENNELL Stephen (son of Stephen)
FENNELL John (son of Stephen)
GILES Ruth
GREENING Job
HAMP, Elizabeth (John's daughter)
HAMP, Henry (John's son)
HAMP, John (John's son)
HAMP, John and wife Sarah Emily nee CHIPP,
HAMP, John Chipp (John's son)
HAMP, Mary Ellen (John's daughter)
HAMP, William Arthur (John's son)
HARKER Ann
HARKER Edmond and wife Elizabeth
HARKER Edward
HARKER Elizabeth
HARKER Henry
HARKER Mary
HOLTHOUSE Edward - cabin
HOWARD Ruth Sarah
JACKSON Louisa Girling
MARSHALL, William and wife (Eliza nee JONES?), and child
O'LEARY Johanna
PHILCOX, Edward Odiardne Dr, (and wife Priscilla) - cabin
RISBEE / RISBY, Andrew and wife Louisa
SANDAL, Mr - cabin
SCOTT, Mr - cabin
WILSON Alfred - cabin
WILSON Chas Algernon - cabin
WILSON, Agnes St John, - cabin
WILSON, Edmund Major, - cabin
WILSON, Theodore Augustus Greenell - cabin
WILSON, Thomas and wife Martha nee GREENELL - cabin
WHITFIELD W(illiam?)

The "Duke of Roxburghe" was a barque which measured 113 feet [34 metres] by 28 feet [9 metres]. It had a crew of 24 and had 84 passengers [including 19 children] There were some people who had cabins, and therefore it must be imagined that the vast majority of passengers [including the Cox family] had communal accommodation on the below deck. It was most likely not a comfortable journey especially in poor weather, but even so the captain won praise for his kindness and urbanity on the trip. However, in John Cox's letter the apparent "rosiness" of this comment is obviated by him mentioning "If any of you come, mind and have all your rations which are allowed on board; if not, tell the doctor you will report him to the Commissioners when you get here, and, if you do, he will have nothing for his passage."

The ship sailed on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1838, and arrived in the fledgling colony of South Australia 3 ½ months later on the 28<sup>th</sup> of July 1838.

South Australia was founded as a model free colony with freedom of religion, which would have appealed to Baptists. There was still discrimination against them in the UK with one example being required to pay Tithes to the Church of England until 1868. South Australia was founded on the Wakefield Plan [ [Wakefield Plan - Subject - Reason in Revolt](#)] which offered free passage to labourers who emigrated with their families. Potential emigrants had to apply and be accepted for this scheme. Generally married men aged 20-30 with useful occupations and children were preferred.

Why did they leave? John Cox was a weaver, but the Gloucester woollen industry collapsed in 1837. This resulted in bankruptcies or unemployment. Families were desperate. They seized the opportunity for passage to a new life with work and the chance to purchase land. John's letter strongly suggests that the move was economic: -

"We have plenty of labour, and wages are good. Here is plenty of labour for all, and no apprehension; but we can work without being so much beholden to our employers—for, if we leave one, we can have more immediately, and they are glad to get us."

In the UK in the nineteenth century leaving an employer without sufficient notice was an offence which could lead to a fine and even sometimes imprisonment.

John also said: -

"We should be glad if you were all out here, and not be troubled with weaving; and, if Thomas Pearce were here, he would get more in one week than he would in six months at Westrip".

Ann also thinks that "The emigrants must have had a spirit of adventure and have been risk takers. They sought a better life for themselves and their children and were prepared to move to the other side of the world to achieve that" This is more difficult to prove but is entirely possible. As for children, John's letter states this "Children, are not a burden to their parents in the place, if they are any size—girls especially for there are so many wanted".

John was evidently a religious man for he mentioned that: -

"Sin doth abound to a great extent—drunkenness, swearing, sabbath-breaking, and fighting; but we hope we shall be kept from the pollutions of this vain world, and we hope that we shall have an interest in your prayers. But the Lord has not left himself without witness in this place, for he hath a few names in the colony that have not defiled their garments, but walk in the Lord's commands blameless. Zealous for the cause of God, we formed, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, a Baptist church. We are eleven in number: it is governed by two elders and is formed after the manner of the Scotch. We have an audience every Sabbath".

In the 1838 letter John Cox encourages his brother Richard to join him in Adelaide, which John did with his wife and children in 1840. Interestingly, Richard was married to another Baxter girl, Mary Ann Baxter.



Ann also mentions that her 3rd great-grandparents Robert John Mitchell Cox of Avening and Mary Jones of Minchinhampton were married in Holy Trinity Minchinhampton on 17 July 1823. Robert was a mason. They and their 10 children emigrated to South Australia on the "Eliza" in 1840. In Adelaide the eldest son of John and Elizabeth Baxter Cox [Edwin] married the eldest daughter of Robert and Mary Jones Cox. Robert, and his daughter Mary are pictured to the left. Ann is descended from that marriage, and therefore related to both families.

## Addendum: The crisis in the weaving industry and how the Ricardos helped emigration to South Australia

By Brian Lett

The situation for weavers worsened in about the year 1830, when the cottage industry of individual master weavers began to be displaced by the manufacturers' building weaving sheds near to their mills, in order to secure greater regularity and better work.

A new King, King William IV, ascended to the throne in the same year. Poverty increased, and in 1834, there was a second strike by Gloucestershire weavers. In 1838, the introduction of the power loom was the final nail in the coffin of the old cottage weaving industry. It meant that a smaller labour force was needed, and this occasioned much distress and unemployment.

The strikes brought ruin to many manufacturers, and no relief to the strikers. By 1839, the position of the hand-loom weaver was pitiable – where they could find work, a man was paid 11 shillings and nine pence for a 70-hour week, and women and children worked a 60 hour week and were paid proportionately lower.

Comparative wages were as follows: masons were paid between 15 and 17 shillings a week, blacksmiths 15 shillings, sawyers 16 shillings, carpenters 15 shillings, plasterers 15 shillings, farm labourers 9 shillings [But they would get a cottage and garden, and extra at harvest time].

A week never meant less than 60 hours. So that even if a master weaver could find some work to do, he was now at the bottom of the wages table.

The price of bread fluctuated according to whether there was a good or bad harvest, and when there was a bad harvest, poverty was more extreme.

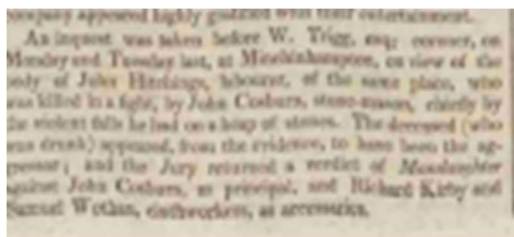
The 1830s was therefore a decade when the tenants of many landlords were suffering great hardship and hunger. Minchinhampton was fortunate to have the second David Ricardo as their Lord of the Manor. He cared and did what he could.

“Various remedies were devised, amongst them cultivation of allotment gardens, and the encouragement of migration to other districts where labour was more in demand – not a few benevolent residents [who were listed] especially Mr David Ricardo of Gatcombe, exerted themselves in assisting emigration 2”

Emigration was a last resort for starving workers and their families. It was sometimes to far flung places, such as Australia, or the Americas – a whole new life. That of course cost money, which the impoverished unemployed did not have. By way of example, sixty-eight persons emigrated from the neighbouring parish of Bisley on 31 August 1837. They were placed on board a steam vessel at Bristol to join their ship lying at Kingroad. The total cost was £191/3/1, including the “Emigrant surgeon Dr Rogers” The passengers were given free transport provided they were beneath a certain age [i.e. only those going to work, not the old and infirm.] It was thanks to the donations of benevolent members of each parish that the emigration was made possible. David Ricardo was a major contributor.

## What we are up to.

By Gary Atkinson



Just a note to let you know what the Group has been up to in the past few weeks.

The Cosburn Family came to Minchinhampton to find out more details about their family. We were able to show them a plaque in the church

and grave plots at the front of the church. Also disappointed them a little by showing the grave of one of their ancestors who was a tax inspector! Well, we all have skeletons in the cupboard! I took them on a walk and showed them Blueboys where there was a fight in 1826 as seen in this newspaper extract. I also showed them No 33 Tetbury Street which is one place the Cosburns used to live. And also – my speciality – I showed them where most of the old Inns in Minchinhampton were!

A Message followed on our Facebook page: -

“A big shout out to the group for kindly hosting some of the Cosburn family last weekend. Your researching and sharing the Cosburn family history of Minchinhampton was fascinating. In particular, thanks again to Gary Atkinson for the fantastic walking tour of Minchinhampton. He kindly shared a brief history of the area and lead us up some fantastic paths, passing on the way some homes that had been occupied by our ancestors. I applaud your group and the fantastic work it is carrying out. And finally, that was a pub, and that was a pub!”

At the same time members of the Baynham family turned up to view their ancestor's monument. We look forward to welcoming them later in the year when the Baynham monument is unveiled. However, please keep donating so that that dream becomes a reality.

We are always working behind the scenes to put Minchinhampton's history out there. And please remember we all volunteers and have a passion for our local history.

I am so glad that in 2021 I put my hand up with 4 others and saved the Group being wound up and our collections sent to Gloucester Archive. [Editor – all credit to Gary for this]

We have plenty more planned but a big thank you to everyone who attended the “Graveyard Controversy” on the 3rd of May. It was great to see members and non-members supporting our group.

It was also good to see so many people going home with raffle prizes. Raffle prizes were kindly donated by The Market Stores, the Crown Inn, Henrys and Greenmills.

Our next talk is arranged for Friday the 21st of June and is entitled “Murder in Minchinhampton”. Please keep an eye out on our website, Facebook, and posters around the parish for more information

Gary Atkinson

