

# The Newsletter

## January 2018

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### WARWICKSHIRE POPPIES APPEAL

"Warwick Poppies 2018". This exciting project was formally launched on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017, and there is now a yearlong campaign to collect literally thousands of hand crafted poppies. These will then be displayed in the magnificent St Mary's Collegiate Church in Warwick, from October to December 2018, and will be a massive community tribute to those whose lives have been touched by conflict. It is timed to coincide with the centenary of the end of World War One, and will be open daily to the public. Any profit will be shared equally between the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and St Mary's Church - both registered charities.

St Mary's is home to the Royal Warwickshire Regimental Chapel, and is steeped in military history. Many of your members will have relatives who fought with the Royal Warwick's., but our tribute goes beyond this, to commemorate those from all Regiments, and from all areas of the country/world. However, as a minimum, we are seeking 11,610 poppies - one for every life lost in World War One from the Royal Warwickshire Regiment alone. Many of your members will have family members that they wish to commemorate, so I hope that they will want to become involved with our project.

POPPIES CAN BE SENT TO 59 SHILTON LANE, COVENTRY, CV2 2AB, WEST MIDLANDS

### WARWICK ADVERTISER 6<sup>TH</sup> February 1869

#### Rugby Petty Sessions

Before James Atty and J.A. Campbell.

Eliza Baker and Mary Ann Smith alias Ironmonger, two prostitutes, committed for 24 days each for acts of vagrancy in the old churchyard on Sunday last.

Thomas Radley, Beerhouse Keeper, convicted of having his house (between Newbold on Avon and Harborough Magna) open for sale of beer until  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 11 on Saturday night.

William Squires of Milverton was ordered to pay 2s per week, 10s for midwife and 30s costs, for the maintenance of the child of Joyce Gutteridge of Princethorpe.

Mary Ann Beasley v William Beasley. An assault case. Man and wife both residing at Draycote. After hearing both sides the Bench dismissed the case. Both parties getting some wholesome advice.

**GRACE LILIAN BROADHURST**  
**THE MIDLAND DAILY TELEGRAPH - Tuesday 3rd August 1915**

Found Drowned in the Canal - Mother's evidence as to "a good hiding."

A sad story was related at an inquest held at Potter's Green, Walsgrave-on-Sowe this afternoon concerning the death of a twelve-year-old girl. It was stated that the deceased was found to have taken small sums of money from a relative, and shortly after receiving chastisement from her mother she disappeared, and was later found dead in the Wyken Colliery arm of the Oxford Canal.

The deceased was **Grace Lilian Broadhurst**, daughter of **Timothy Broadhurst**, Woodway Lane, Sowe Waste.

The Coroner, Dr. C.W. **Iliffe**, conducted the inquiry at the Potter's Green Schools. The mother of the girl had to be assisted to the court, and her evidence was scarcely audible, owing to her distressed condition.

The evidence of Mrs. **Elizabeth Broadhurst**, the mother, showed that on Saturday last a statement was made to her by a neighbouring shopkeeper that deceased had been spending sixpences and three penny pieces at his shop, and he asked if she were aware of it. Witness said she did not know of it, and, returning, she questioned her daughter about the matter. Deceased admitted taking the money from her sister's drawer, and witness gave her a good hiding with a stick, striking her across her back. It was rather a thick stick and she hit her eight or nine times with it.

"What force did you use?" asked the Coroner. "I gave her a good hiding, as much as I could" answered witness.

Continuing, Mrs. **Broadhurst** stated that the child continued to clean the grate after the thrashing and did not seem in pain. An hour after the girl said "I will go and drown myself." Witness told her she must not. The girl went away with a bucket and that was the last time she saw of her daughter alive.

**The Coroner:** *Have you ever chastised her before?*

Witness stated that she beat her on July 22 with a waist-band, that being for a similar offence - for stealing from her sister, who lived next door. She had consulted her husband about what she did and he approved of her chastising the girl.

**The Coroner:** *Don't you think that on this occasion - when you say you gave it her "as much as you could" - you inflicted too much corporal punishment on her?*

**Witness:** *No I do not.*

**The Coroner:** *Don't you think the stick was too heavy to use on a child of 12 years? Don't you think it was too cruel to use a stick as thick as a kidney bean stick upon her?*

**Witness:** *Well, you see I did it in a passion.*

**The Coroner:** *What a lot we do in a passion that we regret later.*

Witness added that the child was found in the canal next morning. It was between 10 and 11 o'clock on Saturday morning that the chastisement was inflicted. With the exception of the events she had referred to the child had been a very good girl.

Mrs. **Sexton**, sister of the deceased girl spoke to seeing the mother chastise the child.

**The Coroner:** *Do you think your mother over-chastised the child?*

**Witness:** *No, she did not give it her hard.*

The Coroner told the Court that he had asked Dr. **Phillips**, of Coventry, to examine the body, because there were various bruises or marks.

Dr. **Phillips** said he had just examined the body. On the left shoulder blade there was a large contusion, which it was possible to have been caused by a passing canal boat. Any marks that might have been on the back were covered by post-mortem lividity.

P.C. **Pink** gave evidence that he started dragging the canal at 3.45 on Sunday morning, and found the body at 4.30 a.m. It was 275 yards from deceased's home, eight feet from the towing path, and in water 4ft. 6in. deep. When

he examined the body there were several marked as though caused by a stick. The bruise on the shoulder he thought was caused by a boat. He noticed several marks like weals. The body had been in the water 12 to 14 hours when he discovered it. The mother admitted to him that she had given the child a good sound thrashing and that it was not the first time. The people were highly respectable. No one had a bad word to say against them. The learned that the mother had been strict with the child but on the whole very kind. With regard to the deceased he had a written character from her schoolmaster who described her as honest, truthful, and of good behaviour though occasionally excitable. She was very intelligent and of a bright and cheerful disposition. It was also mentioned in the headmaster's report that the girl seldom missed a day without bringing sweets to the school.

The Coroner, in summing up, said that the child's character was evidently a good one. He remarked the schoolmasters were allowed under certain conditions to beat scholars, and parents were by law permitted to chastise their children. At school a thin cane was used, and in this case a thick stick was employed. The deceased child, he imagined, felt first of all that she had done wrong by stealing her sister's money, and then she was castigated by her mother and came to the conclusion that it was a hard and cruel world, and that life was not worth living and she threw herself into the water. It was a most unfortunate thing for the mother and the sister because there would always be a reflection that had there been less punishment the matter would in all probability have passed over. He did not think that the jury would be justified in calling Mrs. **Broadhurst** before them. She seemed to be inwardly sorry for what had taken place.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, expressed sympathy with the relatives, and returned their fees to the parents.

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## TWO LITTLE FOLESHILL BROTHERS DROWNED

**Ronald Charles Tomalin** - cause of leaving - drowned. **Ernest John Tomalin** - cause of leaving - drowned.

*In the newspaper report*

### FISHING TRAGEDY IN CANAL

#### Accident Seen By Playmate

Two Coventry brothers, **Ronald Charles Tomalin**, aged 9, and **Ernest John Tomalin**, aged 7, of 73, Radford Road., were victims of a drowning tragedy in Foleshill on Saturday night.

Ernest and Ronald were two of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. **S.C. Tomalin**.

After tea they left home with a seven- year old playmate and took their nets with them to catch fish near Cash's Bridge. Their parents never saw them again alive.

'Shortly after 9 p.m. a R.A.F. man walking near the canal came across **John Cook**, the third little boy. He was crying and said that his friends had fallen into the water. The R.A.F. man gave the alarm.

### BEYOND AID

Police dragged the canal and the boys' bodies were soon recovered, but ambulance men, who worked with resuscitation apparatus, found them beyond help.

No adult person had apparently seen the accident. The boys' father is a security officer at a Coventry factory.

**Below - Inquest report also from the newspaper.**

### SURPRISING STORY AT DROWNING INQUEST

#### Boy Says Girl Pushed Children into Canal

A surprising development marked the inquest, yesterday, following the Foleshill double drowning tragedy in which **Ronald Charles Tomalin** (9) and **Ernest John Tomalin** (7) lost their lives. One of their playmates, a boy of seven, said he saw the two brothers pushed into the canal beneath Cash's Bridge by a 12- year old girl, who afterwards ran away.

The girl, who was present in court and was cautioned by the Coroner (**Mr. C. W. Iliffe**) before giving evidence, firmly denied this allegation, and said she went away without saying anything after hearing a splash and seeing the boys in the water because she was afraid of her mother, who had forbidden her to go near the canal.

### *Drowned whilst fishing*

Ronald and Ernest **Tomalin** who were two of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Charles **Tomalin** of 73, Radford Road, Coventry, were drowned on Saturday night while out fishing.

In recording a verdict of "Accidental Death " the coroner said that in regard to the accusation made against the girl, he was satisfied that no jury would convict on the evidence of a boy of seven, who might not even understand the gravity of the oath. He was, how-ever, not prepared to say that the boy was not speaking the truth. To the girl the Coroner said; "You should at least have put your fear in your pocket and shouted for help."

### **Told and R.A.F. Man**

An R.A.F .man, Jack **Bliss**, told how, while he was walking in Cash's Lane, a small boy came to him crying and saying; "A little girl has pushed a little boy into the water. She also tried to push me in, and I ran away. Witness went straight down to the water's edge, but could see nothing except a cane sticking out of the water. He gave the alarm.

John Roy **Cook** (7) of 59, Radford Road, said he accompanied Ronald and Ernest to the canal, where Ronald watched the other two fishing beneath the bridge. After a while a girl came along and said, "I dare put my feet in the water." John said he went to the end of the bridge leaving the other two boys together in the middle and then added: "The girl took her feet out of the water, stood behind Ronnie and Ernest and pushed them in." The girl ran up the bank, John continued, and he ran after her and held on to the railings, thinking the girl might push him down. John then described what the girl was wearing, and, asked if he could identify her, pointed her out in court.

### **Girl's Denial**

The girl in question, who was seated next to her mother, then gave evidence and said her age was 12. She said the boys were talking about the fish they had caught. She picked up a jar of fish and took it to the edge of the bridge so that she could see inside. One of the boys followed her.

She put her feet in the water for a time, and when she took them out one of the boys was standing by her. "I walked away from him," she continued. "The other two boys were in the middle under the bridge, reaching over for some fish with their nets. I walked past them and had just started to walk up the slope when I heard a splash. I turned back and came down the slope and saw two boys in the water. I then came home because my mother had told me not to go near the water, and I was frightened. I didn't tell anyone and didn't know what to do."

The Coroner then asked the girl; Do you deny pushing the boys into the water?

The girl; Yes.

You did not touch them at any time?—No.

What did you suppose caused them to fall in?—I think they overbalanced both at the same time. They were leaning over the water when I last saw them, standing with their arms touching.

Why did you not shout or scream?—I was frightened that my mother would grumble at me for going near the water.

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**HELP WANTED ON THE MOORE FAMILY**  
Richard Patterson of Wales requires assistance.

I am currently researching my late mother's father's family. The earliest record I have is of **John Moore**, born in 1803 in Great Ains, who went on to become a cattle dealer and lived most of his life in Hill Wootten.

John was married, first, to **Mary** (b. estimated 1806) but I haven't been able to find her surname: they had three children. After Mary's death (I calculate between 1841 and 1843), John married **Sarah** (1813 - 1883 and, again, surname unknown) and they went on to have six children, only the eldest of whom, my great-grandfather **Thomas Moore** (1844 - 1902), had children.

On 2nd February 1878, at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford (Shakespeare's church) **Thomas** married **Ellen Bullock**, born at Fen End, Balsall, in 1854. He worked as farm