

The Newsletter

October 2017

©carolinewetton 2017

Scrap Book

TWO FROM HAUNCHWOOD MAGAZINE 1933 ' AT WORK AND PLAY'

There was a young girl from Galley Common
Who wore a saucy red hat with a pom-pom on,
She was petit and smart,
Which went straight to one's heart.
And they say that's how she egged Tom on!

Rag & Bone Man: 'Any old beer bottles lady?
Sour old lady: 'Do I look like the type to drink beer?'
Rag & Bone Man: 'Any old vinegar bottles then?'

SAD TALE OF IMMIGRANT TO CANADA

Michael Harrison of Toronto, Canada came across the following sad tale in the Toronto Globe, June 2nd 1883

John E Clifford, wife and child, recent immigrants from Southam, Warwickshire. Within a week the child died of Typhoid. On Tuesday ult. The man died of typhoid and the same day the wife was removed to hospital suffering from the same.

The husband was buried at St James Cemetery on Thursday May 17th by officers and members of the Loyal Lodge L.O.O.F., 5,534 Manchester Unity, the deceased being a member of the Loyal Shuckborough Park Lodge, Napton Warwickshire.

AN EMIGRANT'S LETTER FROM NEW ZEALAND

Published in the *Warwick Advertiser* October 17th 1874.

This delightful letter paints a vivid picture of the traumas of the long voyage out to New Zealand and the hardship and exploitation suffered by the emigrants when they arrived. The parallels with the ongoing problems faced by refugees and economic migrants to the British Isles are poignant. Reproduced by kind permission of the Warwick County Record Office who hold the original. Full stops (absent in the original) have been added to assist the reader.

'The following communication has been received by Robert **Jeffs**, a labourer, residing at Easington, from his son, who, with several other married men, recently emigrated to New Zealand, and is now at Ashburton, in that colony: -

Emmanuel Jeffs
June 28

Dear father and mother sister and brother i write theas fu lines to you hoping to find you quite well as it laves us all wel thank god for it. Dear mother we had a good voige over the sea i was never sick at all but the children was very sick my wife was very sick. all over fred **Berey** lost his child it was scalded on the bosom. **Taylor** lost theare child. we are now at the barracks at ashburton thears 10 of us in one room about as big as our pantry was at home. tel no one to come out heare that as eny famely for they wont employ you. it is single men and girls that they want for thear no place for you to get in and they talk of making us pay six shillens a weak in the barracks. we cant get no place not so good as our hovel under ten and 12 shillens a weak, William **Petty** and ruben **Kite** is hear and works on the railrode with fred and **Taylor** and me. every think is very Dear besides muten and beef & bread that touf and 3d apound. it is Diferont to wat we expected to find it for we have had to walk for miles and got no work but singel men get fifty 2 pound ayear and is grub. Jack **Drinkey** as 45 pounds. pleas to tell them not to belave they union papers. william **Petty** and his wife Ruben **Kite** and his wife are all well. we gets 8 shillens for 8 hours. it very cold sharp frost. please to remember thomas **Hobs** and all my enqiren ferends. now about egs 2 shillengs a dozen. no trees of no sort.'



BEDWORTH HEATH RESIDENTS.

Alf Freeman's outings in the 1940s and 1950s were always looked forward to. Weekly pennies would be 'put away' to pay for a week in Blackpool with visits to the Tower and Golden Mile. Holidays were then special as few could afford them. The group always stayed at a guest house in lord Street.

Some names are known.

The man standing 2nd from the left at the back is **Herbert Rathbone** (known as 'Bounce it') who used to play the piano in local pubs.

Mabel Coombs, 2nd from left middle row worked for many years in the canteen at Newdigate Colliery

Back Row: Left to Right. Mrs RATHbone, Herbert Rathbone, Joe Wright,.....?, Sam Harrison,?.....?.....?

Middle Row: Mrs Ogilvie, Mabel Coombs, Mrs Shilcock, Mrs Cloves, Mrs Harrison, May Wright, Mrs Page.

Front Row: only Cloves 2nd from left is known.

Mrs Page, middle right. Lived in Topps Drive. Formerly **Mary Beddowes** she married my grandmother's cousin, **Francis Page**. **Mary** celebrated her 90th birthday in 1994.



Family Stories

AN OLD FAMILY BUSINESS - HENRY BURBIDGE

It is good to know that some old family firms remain that way today this is one such Company-

Henry Burbidge born of Coventry parents was educated at a Dame School, which was run by the wife of a Coventry Butcher. After his education he was apprenticed to a Wood Turner and on completion moved to work in Coleshill. He married **Hannah Court** and soon after they moved to Oxford. At the age of 40 Henry returned to Coventry to start up his own business, renting premises in West Orchard.

His main lines were warp rolls, bobbins, and quills for the weaving trade, banisters and also sporting equipment, croquet mallets, bowls and cricket stumps.

Henry's business grew and he moved to Queen Victoria Road, with a timber yard and where a gas engine was installed.

During the latter part of the 19th century the company became associated with the Motor Car Industry, when many steering wheels were made from turned wood. **Burbidge** made the first wooden tyre moulds for **Sir Arthur Du Crox** of Dunlop Rubber Company.

The business continues to flourish. Courtaulds need for bobbins and drying rods to equip their worldwide plants set the pattern for the future of the company.

During the 1900 Coventry Flood, his logs were washed away and were found in Charterhouse Fields, and eventually in 1914 the business moved to new premises in Verqueray Street.

By 1967 the product range was wide and varied. Their 100-year anniversary was marked when they presented a set of wooden fruit bowls to the then Lord Mayor of Coventry Alderman J. E. **Williams**.

The 1891 census shows the family in Coventry, all working in the family firm

31 Hertford St. Wood Truners Shop

Henry	Head	52	Wood Turner	b. Coventry
Hannah	Wife	52		b. Coventry
Ellen	Dau.	24	Shop Assistant (Timber)	b. Oxford
Sarah	Dau	20	School teacher	b. Coventry
Henry	Son	16	Wood Turner's Assistant	b. Coventry
Florence	Dau	14	Shop Assistant (Timber)	b. Coventry

By 1901 the family had moved to the then newly built Starley Road area

40 Starley Road

Henry Burbidge	HM	62	Wood Turner	b. Coventry
Hannah	Wife	63		b Coventry
Ellen J	Dau.	34		b. Oxford

Today the company still exists, and continues to flourish. Still a family run business in Canley, and the U.Ks largest manufacturer of wooden kitchen furniture. How many can claim this?

Early Records? Sadly, those, which survived the floods, were destroyed in the Blitz.

A FAMILY TRAGEDY By Billie Nizette

I well remember my Great Grandparents, William Henry and Emma **Beamish**. He was a very solemn man with a big white beard, she was tiny and always dressed in black. She used to pop barley sugar into my mouth almost every time I opened it, perhaps that's why I now don't have a sweet tooth.

In 1940 I was evacuated to Australia and somehow always had it in my mind that my great grandparents lived in Birmingham, in this I was wrong, they lived in Leicester.

When I first began trying to trace my family I hit a brick wall with the **Beamishes** but finally discovered an obituary dated June 1946. This stated that William Henry had been born in Coventry and had gone to Leicester at the age of 25 and had died in his 96th year. The only baptism on the IGI (way back in 1986) was for a Wm. H. in Warwick in 1864 so I decided that one wasn't mine and hoped I was right.

At the time I was doing reciprocal research in Somerset for a man in Coventry. I hope I helped him because he did an enormous amount for me in finding my people on the census and looking up apprentice records and so on. I also corresponded with a **Charles Beamish** in Devon, who generously gave me a copy of his Warwickshire Beamish index, which has been of great help.

Following an appeal I had a letter pertaining to William Henry's father and what a gruesome and grisly skeleton turned up in my closet! I felt quite ill and inclined to forget the whole thing until my husband rightly pointed out that one cannot alter the past. The letter said in part -

".....my notes for the year 1911 from the local paper.....in the '50 years ago' article was the following 'Thompson and Beamish to be executed next Monday from the Warwick Advertiser 28th December 1861'. We visited Coventry and read reports of the crime and trial and then obtained copies at the Newspaper Library in London.

William **Beamish** of Hill Fields, Coventry, father of three, a ribbon weaver and then aged 35, was a Sunday School teacher at Well Street Chapel, an upright man of good character until he formed an attachment to Emma **Statham** who worked in William's house. His wife was Betsy nee **Stokes**, and his children, William Henry age 11, Lizzie age 3 and Emily a toddler. Another child, Harriet, had died in 1855 age 16 months.

On Wednesday 14th August 1861, the children and Betsy became ill as they ate their breakfast and Emily died on the night of the 15th. The evidence was that William had tried to buy arsenic 'for rats' on the 14th but was unable to do so and eventually made a purchase on the 17th. Betsy died on the 20th August.

The Coroner's verdict was that Betsy and Emily died from arsenic purchased and administered by **William Beamish** and that **Emma Statham** was accessory to the fact and the coroner found William guilty of murder of his wife and the wilful murder of his daughter.

Perhaps the papers did not give all the facts but if William didn't buy arsenic until the 17th, what made the family ill on the 14th and caused the baby to die? What part, if any, did Emma **Statham** play? I don't know if she was ever brought to trial as an accessory. Be that as it may, William, having refused to confess was tried from 17th - 20th December, the jury took 20 minutes to reach their verdict and he was hung 10 days later at Warwick.

He wrote a letter on the morning of his execution in which he said "I cannot say more of the first cause of the sickness of my children - God bless them - than I have; but finding my wife was so ill, I was wicked enough to get the stuff." He goes on "I never gave the children anything" and further "I used what I used on the Saturday night in her (sic Betsy's) medicine...it was my own wicked heart that led me to do it, had anyone told me I should have done it a week before I should have thought them mad."

In another place he wrote "The bar to all happiness is the bar of the grog-shop, and they who frequent it often, will very likely find themselves before the bar of justice. Let us flee all evils therefore, arising from intemperance, the bar at which many young men have been shipwrecked both in time and eternity"

My great grandfather and his little sister visited the prison on Christmas Eve to say goodbye to their father. William H. went to a brother of Betsy and Lizzie to a **Beamish** uncle in Manchester.

Why did William poison his wife? It seems he became infatuated with Emma but who can tell what was in his mind? He left a letter for his son in which he urged him to speak the truth, shun public houses, not to mix with loose, bad and profligate companions, and to take warning from his father's fate.

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 threepenny 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 marks 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.

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, however, 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.
