

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2010



Revealing Our Heritage

Wartime Entertainments for Colwall (1942 or 1943) by Kind Permission of Barbara Eagles

ENTERTAINMENTS

Friday, May 28th

“WINGS FOR VICTORY” WEEK DANCE,
Church Room, 8 p.m.—12.30 a.m.

At Midnight SQUADRON-LEADER TRUSCOTT, O.C.,
R.A.F., Malvern, will formally open “Wings
for Victory” Week.

Saturday, May 29th

FUN FAIR on Colwall Green, 3 p.m.

MILE OF PENNIES, New Court Corner to The Elms
School, 10.30 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

GRAND “WINGS FOR VICTORY” DINNER
DANCE, Park Hotel, 7.30—11.30 p.m.

Monday, May 31st

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE, DRAWS. Exhibition
of “Make-and-Mend,” Auction of good Lady’s
Bicycle with 3-speed gear, etc., at 4.30 p.m.
British Legion Club, 2.30—5 p.m.

Organised by the Women’s Section of the British
Legion Club, Colwall Branch.

WHIST DRIVE, Hill Institute, 7.30 p.m.
Admission 2/6. Refreshments.

Tuesday, June 1st

CONCERT by Pupils of St. Nicholas School, in the
School Gardens, 3 p.m.

Tickets 2/6 and 1/- to be had at the School. (If
wet, the Concert will be given in the Church
Room.)

FILM SHOW, Church Room, 8 p.m.

Admission Free. Presented by the Ministry of
Information.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Wednesday, June 2nd

TREASURE HUNT. Starts at the Church Room,
7.30 p.m.

If wet, a SOCIAL EVENING and a BRAINS
TRUST will be held at the Church Room.

Thursday, June 3rd

WHIST DRIVE, Church Room, 7.30 p.m.
Admission 2/6. Refreshments.

Friday, June 4th

GRAND CONCERT by the ‘FLYING ROCKETS’
CONCERT PARTY, Church Room, 7.30 p.m.

Saturday, June 5th

MOCK CRICKET MATCH. MOCK AUCTION.
DRAW RESULTS. Cricket Ground.

Match at 3 p.m. Auction at 4.30 p.m.
Soft Drinks will be obtainable on the field.
If wet, the Auction and the Draw will take place
in the Church Room.

GRAND CLOSING DANCE, Church Room,
8 p.m.—12 p.m.

The Mystery Man, COUNT HO-DE-HO, will attend
nearly all the above functions.

COMPETITIONS

GUESSING TOTAL RESULT OF WEEK’S SAVINGS

Entrance 6d.

PRIZES:—First, £3 in Savings Certificates.
Second, 15/- in Savings Certificates.

DRAW FOR AN R.A.F. DOLL. Tickets 6d.

GENERAL DRAW FOR MANY GIFTS.
Tickets 3d.

DRAW FOR A CAKE.
Tickets 3d., from MR. WORMINGTON.

As Barbara notes “Nothing held on a Sunday in those days.”



Joyce Ingledew found the following copy of a newspaper article in our Archives. It was published in the Ledbury Reporter and Guardian, March 1934, unfortunately we do not have any subsequent instalments of this fascinating insight to life in the village.

COLWALL REMINISCENCES

By the Late Mr. Henry Meates, a Former Resident

Recollections Of 1850 – 1900

In writing of one’s recollections one wonders where to begin, and I suppose the obvious suggestion from a reader or listener would be “Why, the beginning of course.” But the objection to that is that the ‘ego’ will be so predominant as to become wearisome if not absolutely objectionable. The written recollections of one person, however, can hardly escape that objection.

My father commenced his tenancy of the Barton Court Farm - now called the Bartons Farm - in 1850, the ownership of that estate being then in the hands of Reynolds Peyton, who was called 'The Squire'. There was neither house nor buildings on the farm at that time as the land had hitherto been cultivated by the 'Squire' but the house and buildings were erected immediately after the commencement of the tenancy. I believe the bricks required were made in the meadow below Barton Court and the deep hole from which the clay was taken was unfilled for many years. The subsoil as shown in 'the Holloway' may cast a doubt about this, but I believe I am right. In the meantime, my parents and brothers (2) who were then small kids, had rooms at the Barton Court. My brother Albert was born there in 1850 and I was the next, but the first arrival at the new house in 1852. The Squire was a small man with a very big heart and was beloved by everyone. My father narrated how the Squire routed him out of his bed in the night-time and a bottle of champagne disappeared when my brother appeared.

Story Of A Black Ghost

It was said then that a ghost haunted one of the bedrooms and was frequently seen in the Barton Meadow. She was a Lady Tempest and the story as far as I recollect was that she married against her parents wishes and was denied admission when she returned home widowed. She was said to be a black ghost. My mother was told her history but I have forgotten it, if I ever knew it.

One of my earliest recollections, connected with the Bartons is that of an old man named White who was chiefly employed in the conveyance of water to the house from a spring in Daffy's Lane near to the stile leading into it from Tackfield. The water was conveyed in a barrel on cart wheels with an old white horse in the shafts. The old man walked in front of the horse which followed him like a dog. The horse was an old pet of the Squires and when it died it was buried in the Barton Meadow and a tree planted (and protected) over the grave. The tree is or was when I last saw it—still there, not far from the footpath leading from the brook to the Cummins bridge. That tree must be now about 60 years old. Old White, who lived in one of the cottages opposite Mr. Pedlingham's row of houses had a son named Sam who also worked at the Bartons - a big burly red-faced man with a thin pipey voice. Another man who was employed there was one John Church, who lived at the Beacon Toll bar house. He was rather a character in his way. An expression attributed to him, and often repeated, is 'as old Church says "I wish I'd been born dead or died a borning."' He once fell off a load of hay when White was pitching it. The 'sympathetic' words White used to him were "You dwin'd ass broke th' neck hast?" The conveyance of water ceased soon after my recollections begin and I remember the pipes being laid from the Reservoir to the Bartons, from Chances Pitch through the fields called 'Gobbits', The Bank Shop Orchard and the Little and Big Winniatts. This water brought to the Reservoir - made for the supply of the Bartons Farm, and whose overflow runs into the drinking fountain at the foot of Chances Pitch - comes originally from a spring in an orchard called "Cataclay" under the wood in the direction of Occeridge. The water is very 'hard' and has much lime in it—so much that the supply pipes and the kettles at the Farm became periodically furred up.

When Reynolds Peyton died - in the 60's it must have been - his brother Major T. G. Peyton came into the estate. A younger brother, Reginald (I believe) was then farming Colwall Park, near the Church. Major Peyton was not so popular as his brother Reynolds had been. There were two sisters, the Misses Francis and Rosetta Peyton, who lived with their brothers at the Bartons. They were the donors and dispensers of many private charities and good deeds and indeed their 'good deeds do live after them' as in those of the Bright family and others, in the endowment of charities bearing their names. These Charities were, however, dealt with by me in a pamphlet issued in 1895.

When The Railway Came

It was in the year 1861 when the railway from Worcester was opened. The occasion was celebrated by the Colwall people by the ringing of bells and by the floral and evergreen equipment of a train of open trucks and engine loaded up with people which ran to the north end of Ledbury tunnel and back. Of course Mr. Ballard would be with us but I can the most clearly remember the old Rector Rev. F. Custance and Mr. Martin, of Old Colwall, the latter remarking to Mr. Custance that his proper place should be seated on the funnel of the engine. Not many years afterwards the old Rector died. During his rectorship he collected and contributed chiefly himself to funds with which a new chancel and a new organ at the old church, and the 'Church of the Good Shepherd' at the Wyche were built - the pipes of the new organ having been painted by Miss Mary Custance, his daughter. Two sons, Revds. G. M. and Arthur Custance, were then in curacies, and it was almost the individual opinion of Colwall people that the elder son should have the living given him. My father, who had been churchwarden for some years, held strong opinions about it and he, with the help of others, got up a petition to the Patron, Bishop Hampden. The latter was then very old, and his son, who was the Rector of Cradley, had considerable influence in the direction of these matters. A deputation waited on him and the Rev. G. M. Custance was given the living.

For a few years previous to these happenings I was in the choir singing soprano when the rudiments of music, 'Doe, ray,' etc., were taught me by Miss Custance. Three or four of us at a time were generally 'pumped' with music, and with what patience I cannot describe, I can only imagine. Our lessons were given in the 'Hop-pole'

room, with a harmonium in it. The 'Hop-pole' was, I believe, once a public-house before the railway bridge near it was built. My recollections of choir singing before I left home for school are, however, of the vaguest, but sometimes I seem to remember Turberville and James Voice singing bass and a Mr. Urry playing the bass viol. Miss Custance played the organ and Miss Mary Custance led the choir with a very loud voice. Old Mr. Custance, who was a stout man, a round big face and clean-shaven, and one whose expression varied with the bass notes he sang, was the source of considerable self-repression amongst us boys, which sometimes burst its bounds.

Verger Who Prodded Sleepy Churchgoers

There were three or four episodes - if I may so call them without giving the impression that I feel any disrespect for God's services - which happened in Colwall Church when I was a boy. I need hardly mention old Willis, called 'Piner Willis', and why so I don't know, who was then the verger who carried a long stick with which he prodded the sleepy members of the congregation, and in the case of children misbehaving, more than a prod. The old 'three decker' pulpit from which the service and sermon were read and preached was then placed between the two north windows in the old nave of the church. The parson occupied the mid-deck, and the clerk, then an old man named Matthews, the lower. It was during the sermon old Matthews was in the hands of Morpheus. There was a pause in the sermon when Matthews, thinking it was the end of a prayer, brought out a sonorous "Amen". His amens were always loud, because he occupied the lowest box, as clerks did in those days for the purpose of leading in the responses in a very loud nasal tone.

Another episode was when the Rev. R. O. Carter and his pupils ostentatiously left the church when a certain curate ascended the pulpit to preach. Mr. Carter, who was the nominal headmaster of the Walwyn Free School, but occupied and kept a preparatory school at the Elms, disapproved of the doctrines about auricular confession which the curate had openly advocated. The pupils occupied the southern portion of the gallery, and in their exit from the church caused considerable commotion.



Major General Logan Scott-Bowden CBE, DSO, MC & Bar

We have received an article for the archives from Tom Marsh*, relating to the war time exploits of Major General Scott-Bowden whose parents owned the Colwall Park Hotel.

Major General Logan Scott-Bowden CBE, DSO, MC and Bar, is the son of Lt. Col. Jonathan Scott-Bowden, OBE, TD, and Mary (Mollie) Scott-Bowden (née Logan).



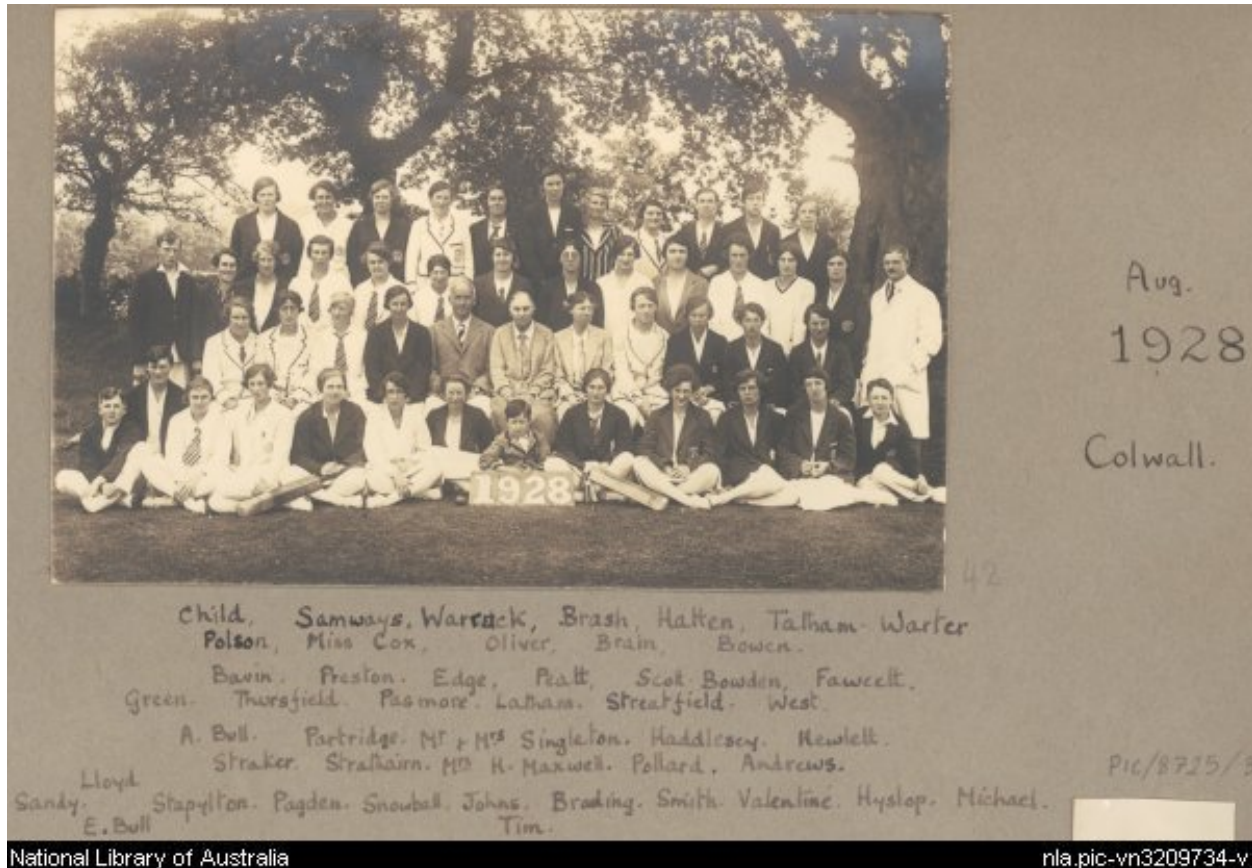
Maj.Gen. Scott-Bowden, 1943, then a Major in the Royal Engineers

During WWII, Maj. Gen. Scott-Bowden served in Norway in 1940 with Special Forces. In 1941 he was Adjutant 53rd (Welsh) Divisional Engineers; 1942 in Canada and the USA, returning in 1943 to Special Forces as a commando in Combined Operations Beach Reconnaissance and Assault Pilotage Parties. One mission was to reconnoitre the 'Omaha' beach to be used by the Americans, this involved travelling in an X-craft 20 [midget submarine] and beaching under the noses of the enemy, avoiding fishing boats and German patrols. Another mission was to survey the left-hand sector of what was to be the American 1st Division landing area. This involved swimming ashore to obtain samples of the sand, because the D-Day planners needed to know what lay beneath the sandy beaches. Aerial photographs and knowledge of local conditions indicated that beneath the top layer were pockets of peat bog, which could spell real trouble for tanks and other heavy armoured vehicles. A few miles from their target, they changed into bulky rubber swimsuits, strapped on heavy bandoliers, backpacks and weapons, and transferred to a small inshore craft which took them to within a quarter-mile of the beach. They then swam ashore and were able to successfully complete their mission under the cover of night. These surveys were a major contribution to the success of the Normandy landings.

*Lt. Col. Tom Marsh RE Rtd., a long time resident of Colwall, now living in Old Church Road with his wife Dorothea, recalls "I served under 'Scotty' when he was CRE I Division."

For a detailed and personal account of these daring exploits there is a photocopy of the full article from the 'Royal Engineers Journal' in the archives.

As a matter of interest, Maj. Gen Scott-Bowden's mother was a well known sportswoman and was one of the Leominster Ladies Hockey Club's most prolific goal scorers. She went on to found the Colwall Ladies Hockey Club. It was in 1926 that Mollie Scott-Bowden, organised a cricket festival for women in Colwall – and so was founded the National Women's Cricket Association.



Note: This cricket team photo shows both Mollie Scott-Bowden and Betty Snowball (see below)



CVS Commemorative Plaque

Members and others have voted by a large majority that the Society's next plaque should commemorate Elizabeth "Betty" Alexandra Snowball - international cricket, lacrosse and squash player. We are currently discussing with Colwall Cricket Club whether the main cricket pavilion would be a suitable site for the plaque.

CVS History and Water Maps

After many hours of painstaking research "the group of three members" (James Ferguson, Mike Hazleden, and Michael Milne) has finally completed its task and the maps are currently being printed. Every member will receive a free copy prior to James giving his talk on 20th September 2010. The Society would like to thank the group for their sterling efforts and all other members who have made contributions. Additional thanks are due to Hereford Library for the loan of the base maps. We also record our gratitude for the generous financial assistance of Colwall Parish Council, Malvern Water and Malvern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Future Talks

17th January 2011:
Tim Bridges : 'Colwall Church'

18th April 2011 [AGM]:
Elizabeth Lloyd : 'The Bright Family of Colwall'

Finally ...

I was very pleased to find out that a number of people do read the newsletter, judging by the feedback I have had. Furthermore there were no adverse comments, so I shall continue with the present format. Whilst the object was not to seek praise, I had a number of kind and generous comments which were much appreciated. DGR
 My thanks to our contributors. Articles on Colwall related subjects (however tenuous!) are always welcome.

If you are prepared to receive your newsletters by electronic means, please register with the email address below.

Corrections and additions to the information in newsletters are always welcome, as are CONTRIBUTIONS!

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