

WASC
2153

Material
donated
by Ron
Treadgold

19-06-2009

LETTERS, CONTAINING INFO.
ON WORK AT R&P, ETC

WASC

2153

TEL 01 992 76912 WA
OR 01 502 584473. LT.

10 LEA VIEW
WALTHAM ABBEY
THUR 4TH DEC. 97

DEAR RON,

GEOFF HOOPER 'PHONED ME LAST TUESDAY TO INVITE ME FOR A TRIP AROUND SOUTH SITE TO NOTE SOME OF THE ITEMS THAT MIGHT BE SAVED FOR THE GUNPOWDER MUSEUM! WE STARTED AT 3pm TODAY ACCOMPANIED BY DAVID STANNERS, KAREN EYRE, ALAN CROCKER, TREVOR WILSON AND STEVE CHADDOCK.

WE HAD A QUICK LOOK AT THE BOX & TRAY STORE, 10 1/2" CORDITE PRESS, TWO ROUND NE HOUSES, TRUCK DRYING, 'SOLVENT' TANGYE PRESS AND P708 STORE (IN THE FADING LIGHT). THEY PLAN TO TAKE THE BOX & TRAY STORE AND THE NE BUILDINGS TO NORTH SITE IF R.O. AGREE - WHICH IS LIKELY.

THE SITE HAS TO BE VACATED BY THE END OF FEB! GEOFF HOOPER WANTS YOU AND ME TO VISIT THE UNOCCUPIED BUILDINGS ON THE SITE AND COMPILE A LIST OF ITEMS THAT WE, AS EXPERTS, CONSIDER SHOULD BE SAVED; DAVE STANNERS WOULD ACCOMPANY US AS ~~GENERAL~~ A COMPILER OF NOTES, THIS OPERATION SHOULD BE COMPLETE BY, WAIT FOR IT, CHRISTMAS (1997). YOU'VE STIRRED IT LONG ENOUGH SO WE'VE NOW GOT TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTHS ARE!

I SHOULD BE BACK IN W.A. BY MONDAY NIGHT. WELCOME BACK TO BRIGHTY! HOPE YOU HAD A NICE HOLIDAY HA! HA!

Rayon

P.S. SANDHURST HOSPITAL TABLET WILL BE SAVED.

Dr G. Hooper
15 Stoney Shotts
Waltham Abbey

10 Lea View
Waltham Abbey
Essex EN9 1BJ

14th Jan 1998

Dear Geoff,

Items of Historic Merit at R.O. Waltham Abbey

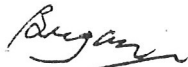
Please find enclosed a copy of the first ninety items of a list which represents a consolidation of Steve Chaddock's list and the additional artefacts that were found by Ron Treadgold and myself.

The list is incomplete since we have not identified and labelled the contents of P708 that came from Powfoot and we have not had access to those buildings still in use. Note also that the buildings M349 and M326 and the two Round buildings are not included.

To expedite the collection of artefacts I intend to provide Royal Ordnance with a copy of this letter and list for transmission to Westcott. Steve Chaddock is aware of this list and I will provide him with a copy which he will put on the museum computer.

I trust that this will enable some progress to be made towards the eventual release of these artefacts.

Yours sincerely



B.C. Howard

List of Items required by the Gunpowder Museum from R.O. Waltham Abbey

1. Powder blender P723
2. Powder blender P723
3. Weighing Machine P741
4. Cordite transporting box P741
5. Baird & Tatlock fume cupboard R665
6. Crawford Strand burner M343
7. Pressure gauge for Strand burner M343
8. Sample of Elephant hide flooring M348
9. Two Mill Stones near to Quinton Gate
10. Strand burner Panel P720
11. Strand burner timers P720
12. Tangye Press P706
13. Stool for changing into overshoes P731
14. Strand Drying Rack M343
15. Explosives Barrow (A) P718
16. Explosives Barrow (B) P718
17. Tangye Press P718
18. Tangye Press Controls P718
19. Danger Building Telephone P706
20. Greenwood & Batley 10.5 in Cordite Press P716
21. Explosives Barrow R672
22. Rope Mantlet M343
23. Rope Mantlet P718
24. Dilly Cart for Truck Drying(A) P712
25. Dilly Cart for Truck Drying(B) P712
26. Dilly Cart for Truck Drying(C) P712
27. Dilly Cart for Truck Drying(D) P712
28. Stool for Changing into overshoes M348
29. Red Barrier P718
30. Contraband Sign and Box R652
31. Cordite Drying Rack(A) P703
32. Cordite Drying Rack(B) P703

Items List page 2

33. Telephone M316
34. Use List R610
35. Minatol Soap dispenser P708
36. Contraband Box P709
37. Danger Building light fitting P709
38. Red Shelving Unit P731
39. Rapier Production Notices P730
40. Machinery N552
41. Ammunition Box P739
42. Boot Bench P741
43. Ericson Telephone P741
44. Acetone storage Tank P745
45. Alcohol storage Tank P745
46. Wooden Chemical Signs P745
47. Battery Charger equipment P751
48. External Weighong Station N569
49. Transformer unit P752
50. Temperature Recorder for Cracking trials N570
51. Flow Chart in Bay3 N572
52. Red Wooden Truck (A) P771
53. Red Wooden Truck (B) P771
54. Flat roofed Truck P771
55. Metal flat bed Truck P771
56. Red Toe Board P765
57. Metal Cabinet P765
58. Safety section sign P760
59. Fume Cupboard P757
60. Wooden Benches P757
61. Shoe lockers M348
62. Notice Board and signs P747
63. Drencher handle P729
64. Rope Mantlet P726

Items List page 3

65. Fire Bucket Hooks P726
66. Cyclone Fan P726
67. Clocking in/out Board P717
68. Red Toe Board P706
69. Thermometer N531
70. Winch N531
71. Telephone N531
- 72.. Blackboard P705
73. Boot Box P714
74. Rope Mantlet
75. Cambridge Recorder P716
76. Melvin Cutter blackboard P716
77. Corderoy Cast Iron Scales G432
78. Telephone P720
79. Emergency Telephone Cabinet P722
80. Marble Cattle Trough G442
81. Firing Test Bed P725
82. Wood Lids N557
83. Doulton Ceramic Acid Tank N588
84. Brass Thermostat R632
85. Stock sheets R644
86. Temperature/Humidity recorder R663
87. Laboratory Bench R665
88. Ericsson Telephone R601
89. L-shaped Flatbed Trolley R601
90. Section of Railway line M333 area

WALTHAM ABBEY CHURCH MONTHLY.

MAY, 1906.

BAPTISMS.

- March 25—Doris May Danes.
April 1—Cecilia Ada Stratton.
" 1—Ivy Clements.
" 1—Marjorie Ethel Keeley.
" 8—Eric Benjamin Rice Pyle.
" 12—William Mead.
" 15—Sidney Edmund Jack Gypps.
" 15—Arthur Sharpe.
" 15—Norman Stanley Cummings.
" 15—Herbert Linwood Cummings.
" 15—Horace William Speller.

MARRIAGES.

- March 24—Mr. Samuel Perry and Miss Alice Phillips, of Rounton Road.
" 24—Mr. Henry Jackson Howard and Miss Caroline Eza Hearn, of Rounton Road.
" 25—Mr. Samuel Francis Bright and Miss Ruth Parrish, of Rounton Road.
April 14—At the Parish Church, Stanton Fitzwarren, near Highworth, Wiltshire, Mr. Arthur Leeder, of Copt Hall Green, and Miss Ellen Giles.
" 18—Mr. Francis Edward Chew and Miss Alice Maud Carter, of the Green Man Inn.

DEATHS.

- March 7—Mr. Samuel William Denning, of the Cordite Factory, Aruvankad, Nilgiri Hills, South India, youngest son of the late Staff-Sergt. Francis Denning, R.E., of this parish. Died at St. George's Hospital, Colaba, Bombay, aged 26 years, and interred at Shurrie Cemetery, Bombay.
April 6—Grace Violet Attwood, daughter of Mr. John Charles Attwood, of Broomstick Hall Road. Died at Tottenham Hospital, from the results of an accident, aged 6 years.
" 7—Mrs. Sarah Jane Dykes, wife of Mr. William Dykes, of Sewardstone, aged 65 years.
" 7—Mrs. Susan Eve, of the Alms-houses, High Bridge Street, widow of the late Mr. Charles Eve, of Paradise Row, aged 79 years.
" 12—Mr. John Heasman, of Copt Hall Green, aged 79 years.

WALTHAM ABBEY.

May 3 is the 846th anniversary of the consecration of our venerable Parish Church.

The usual services were held on Good Friday and Easter Day, when the Vicar preached in the morning, and the Rev. J. H. Stamp in the evening. Large congregations attended the Easter services, and there were 157 Communicants.

The inauguration of the new building recently erected in Baker's Entry for the accommodation of the Leverton Endowed School, took place on April 5 in the presence of a large audience. The proceedings commenced with the singing of a hymn by the children on the foundation, and special prayer by the Vicar, who also complimented J. Parnell, Esq., on the success of his new undertaking, and in the name of his co-trustees tendered their hearty thanks for his kindness and munificence in providing this new home for the Leverton School. Mr. Parnell suitably responded, and in the course of an interesting speech observed that during the 32 years of its existence, over 2,000 children had received their education in the School, and most of them had done well in after life. Among those who had distinguished themselves one alumnus of the School had obtained the high distinction of gaining the gold medal for English Literature at Dublin University.

The children were afterwards entertained to tea in their new Schoolroom by Mrs. Lewis Parnell.

The death of Mr. Samuel William Denning, which we regret to record this month, occurred under most pathetic circumstances. The deceased, who in his early days attended our Sunday School, Temperance Meetings, and was a member of the Abbey Church Choir, had been engaged for several years in the Royal Gunpowder Factory, where his father, the late Staff-Sergeant Denning, of the Royal Engineers, had occupied a responsible position for eight years before his death, which took place in 1892. Early last year he accepted an appointment at the Indian Government's Cordite Factory, Aruvankad, Nilgiri Hills, South India, where Mr. Ernest Bardell and several other Waltham men are still employed. At the beginning of this March he obtained leave of absence for a few days, and proceeded, apparently in the best of health and spirits, on the three days' railway journey to Bombay, where he had arranged to meet his fiancée,

Miss Packman, of Watford, with a view to their marriage, which was to be solemnised on her arrival from England in the "Plassey." On reaching Bombay, on March 6, he made his way to the Great Western Hotel, and as he was ill and in great pain, the medical-officer was summoned. The doctor, finding he was suffering from *carbuncle septicaemia*, ordered his immediate removal to St. George's Hospital. There he received every attention, both from the surgeons and nurses, but after suffering terrible agony he sank into a state of coma, and expired at 11 o'clock on the following morning, within twenty-four hours after his admission into the hospital. Four hours later the "Plassey" arrived with Miss Packman on board, and she was overwhelmed with grief on learning the sad news of her great loss. The solemn funeral rites were solemnised in the evening, when she attended as chief mourner, and the coffin was carried to the grave with every token of sympathy and respect by six Ordnance Sergeants.

The startling news of his unexpected death came as a great shock to his friends at Aruvankad, and at Waltham, where his widowed mother still resides, and both in India and in England the deepest sympathy has been manifested for Mrs. Denning and Miss Packman in this sudden and mysterious bereavement. We pray that they may find consolation and strength in their overwhelming sorrow in communion with the God of all comfort.

Another sad incident, which occurred in our midst during the past month, also calls for our sympathy. The little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Attwood, on her way to school on April 6, was so terribly burned that in the course of a few hours she succumbed to her injuries.

At the close of the funeral service on the following Wednesday, a large number of her school-fellows sang at her graveside the appropriate hymn, "Safe in the arms of Jesus."

UPSHIRE.

We must reserve the "notices" of this hamlet for insertion in the June number.

SEWARDSTONE.

We have been requested to insert the following notice:—

"A Sale of Work will take place (D.V.) about the second week of June, in aid of the Country Town's Mission Society. Gifts of plain and fancy needlework or donations will be gladly received by Mrs. Brock, The Woodlands, where the Sale of Work will be held." Mr. J. B. Thompson is the Missionary working in the district for the Society.

HIGH BEECH.

BAPTISM.

March 22—Peter Purne Gumprecht.

BURIALS.

April 11—Mr. James Henry Langdon, aged 48 years.

The Sunday School children, numbering over 50, had their Annual Treat in the Schoolroom on March 9, when the teachers, friends, and adult members of the Choir, also sat down to tea. The usual entertainment was then held, and passed off with great success.

The Rev. J. Norton, Vicar, who presided over a crowded audience, distributed the prizes, which were generously provided by Mrs. Baring. Members of the Scripture Union also received prizes, the gift of Miss Norton. At the close hearty votes of thanks were accorded to the generous donors, the Chairman, and other kind friends.

The half-yearly meeting of the Church Missionary Association was held on March 29. After an account of the year's work had been read by the Vicar, a most interesting address was given by Mr. Deekes, on Usagara, where his brother, Mr. David Deekes, has been working since 1887. He also gave a graphic account of the dangers and hardships through which the East African Missionaries have been passing lately, and invited the prayers of C.M.S. helpers on their behalf. During the meeting numerous African curios were exhibited, and excited much interest. At the close of the proceedings the boxes, containing £4 16s., were opened by Messrs. Salmon, Titt, and Turner, and the collection at the door amounted to 10s. 10d. During the past year the association has contributed to the C.M.S. work the sum of £45 15s., the largest amount ever subscribed by the Association in one year. This includes £5 10s., sent direct to the Rev. J. and Mrs. Paterson for Bharatpur, and £5 5s. given to the Rev. R. Hack for Jubbulpore.

HOLYFIELD.

We hope to give an account of the Easter Services and decorations next month.

The following subscriptions to the Magazine Fund have been received, and are hereby acknowledged with sincere thanks:—Mrs. S. Bavister, 3s. 6d.; Mrs. Brickwell, 2s.

3 Fox Close,
Langley Green,
CRAWLEY,
West Sussex.
RH11 7PR.

to....

Mr. Ron Treadgold,
9 Mark Avenue,
CHINGFORD,
Essex.
E4 7NR.

7th. Jan 1993

Dear Ron,

Firstly a very happy new year to and yours, hope it brings all we wish for.

Thought you might be interested in this snippet of information I got from another source regarding my Grandfather's brother Samuel DENNING for whom I had been searching for some time. He apparently worked for the RGPF but I did not know that, we had him down as getting married around the great war and possibly getting killed as a soldier. This certainly makes a more interesting story, did you know that some of the workers had opted to go to India?

Anyway I have put you a photocopy in for your history file it might ring some bells somewhere.

regards



Frank Barnes.

3 Fox Close,
Langley Green,
CRAWLEY,
West Sussex.
RH11 7PR.

to...
Mr. Ron Treadgold,
9 Mark Avenue,
CHINGFORD,
Essex.
E4 7NR.

23rd. Dec. 1992.

Dear Ron,

Again I must thank you for the information you have sent me, also the Christmas card, you've captured that young bluetit a treat in that photograph, you are obviously a keen photographer as well.

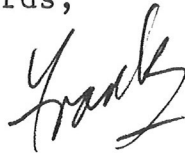
I have just written a letter to that chap mentioned in the letter from the museum, I bought Dr. Bascombe's book from the Information centre when I came down there.

I liked the ideas for the use of the old RGPF, when we saw that there was a heronry there it has quite spurred our bird watching instincts, we normally do ours down at Arundel and Amberley where there are "Hides". Whilst over in Holland in August we saw literally hundreds of herons around the dykes there.

If these enquiries you are answering for me are causing you any expenses please tell so that I can re-imburse you, I have put a book of stamps in this time because each of your letters was obviously more than the envelope I sent you.

Anyway all the best for 1993 to you and the family, will let you know what news I get from the Almshouses queries,

Best regards,



den17



€ Epping Forest District Museum

Museum Officer Kate Carver
39-41 Sun Street
Waltham Abbey
Essex EN9 1EL
Tel: Lea Valley (0992) 716882

Mr Ron Treadgold
9 Mark Avenue
Chingford
E4 7NR
1992

16th November

Dear Ron,

With reference to the enquiry from Mr Frank Barnes regarding his family research, we consulted Ken Bascombe and I enclose his reply herewith.

I gather he has telephoned you on this matter and you are going to reply to Mr Barnes yourself.

I do hope he will find the information useful and will help him in his researches.

Best wishes to you and Freda and hope to see you in the Museum again in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Stephens
Administration & Education Manager

Encl.

Information from Dr K Bascombe in response to enquiry from
Mr F Barnes, Crawley, West Sussex.

1. The almshouses in question were wrecked by the V2 explosion in March 1945. Their successors (opened 1953) have now also gone; they were empty for several years before demolition.

The new "almshouses" are under construction on the same site.

2. Presumably a photocopy could be made of newspaper cutting shown by the "information lady".

3. Any papers still in this town will be in the possession of Cliff Smith

Clerk to the Trustees
Francis Greene Almshouses Trust

Abbey Gardens House
Churchyard

Waltham Abbey
Essex.

He should also have the Minute Book from 1890 and also a box of papers the contents of which are maybe unknown.

There should also be material deposited at the Essex Record Office.

4. There is no known connection between the almshouses and the RGPF.

Two other points:

5. The census records in the library (1841-1891) should provide (a) useful information (b) it might be possible to work out where the ancestors lived. (a) is something of a chore but should certainly be successful (b) requires support from someone who knows the town well.

6. Rate books at the Essex Record Office could also be useful. During the period of interest here they survive for every 10 years - 1841, 1851 etc.

Dr. K.N. Bascombe

15.11.92

3 Fox Close,
Langley Green,
CRAWLEY,
West Sussex.
RH11 7PR

to.....
Mr. Ron Treadgold,
9 Mark Avenue,
CHINGFORD,
London,
E4 7NR.

14th. Nov. 1992.

Dear Ron,

Very many thanks for your interesting letter and the copy of newspaper, indeed thank you very much for the handbook of rules for RGPF, are you sure you can spare that? Also got your postcard this morning with that address, I will certainly contact that chap it looks to be a probable source.

Having briefly scanned through the handbook, I'll get down to it thoroughly in a little while, it strikes me that it was a pretty lethal place to work, especially in the (good) old days. How anyone came from there at a reasonable retiring age beats me, and as for that air raid that cleared Highbridge St., and put paid to my history record of the Almshouses, well.. I guess it was lucky that it did not land a few yards farther over.....

Perhaps I ought to tell you how I got involved in this Gen.. Geanu.. Geanol.. Family history business, when I retired four years ago I finally got down to writing my Autobiography, my children and my colleagues at work had chided me for years about my yarn telling of my navy days, so, I finally got started to record it. I am now on the second (Illustrated) version..... Whilst doing this I suddenly realised how little I knew of my forbears, so the wife and I started following up by means of certificates etc, now we visit some location or other about one day a week either to record in photographs or to look up census reports etc. Last week we went to Cancery Lane PRO and started on the Gloucestershire line, and also found trace of Highbridge Street residence in 1891. Apparently my Great grandfather, the foreman at RGPF, lived in what would appear to be a series of cottages reserved for foremen, all his neighbours were similarly employed at the factory, unfortunately the houses did not appear to be numbered. But I did find another daughter's age, and the origin of his birthplace which had eluded us for some time. He was originally in the Royal Engineers and we have visited his barracks at Chatham, gathered info' about his Fort building activities at Plymouth and even seen copies of his pay documents at Kew PRO. This shows how involved one can get with this tracing business.

den12.

I do not drive or own a car so all our travels are via public transport which is the reason for not being able to visit the museum when we came over last week, by the time we had visited the library and gone over to Farm hill where one of the daughters lived,(The house is still there and we snapped it) there was not a great deal of time left, the journey to Waltham from here is two hours plus, and we encountered a "Security alert"on the way home, still we might go back again some time.

My grandparents got married in the Abbey Church, and I suspect the other relatives did as well which we shall uncover as we go along.

I did mention in my other letter the fact that the old lady was knocked over and fatally injured whilst she lived in the Almshouses. I have obtained the relative newspaper cutting for this,at the bottom of Farm hill and Sun street actually, and in the book of photographs I bought whilst over at Waltham we found a picture of the Police sergeant who was on the scene.

Well I will close for now, have some more writing to do now thanks to your address's, please excuse the letters being word processed, but I find it much easier than hand, and it helps my records as well,

regards for now,look after yourself there are not many of us searchers left,

Frank Beames

Steven Chaddock
Archaeological Advisor
Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills
Powdermill Lane
Waltham Abbey
Essex EN9 1BN

Ron Treadgold
9 Mark Avenue
Chingford
E4 7NR

5th December 1998

Dear Ron,

Oral History Project

I was hoping to see you on the site today (Friday) but I must have missed you. I was pleased to see in Touchpaper that you have made a formal call for Oral History subjects. We recently visited Dr Conrad Wood at the Imperial War Museum Sound Archive and have got some up-to-date information on method and hardware required.

The Marantz audio tape recorder he suggested has two microphones, one for each person, and costs about £300. Obviously there would need to be tapes to go into it as well. I will ask Robert Saunders to see if we can buy just one of the recorders and some tapes to start with – will that be enough?

If you would like to use the computer to organise your efforts then please give us a call on the site on 01992 710809.

Dr Wood also recommended purchasing a pre-recorded tape so that a training interviewer would have an idea of style and also what sort of questions should be asked to start with. I have bought one of his own interviews, a survivor of WWII. You could borrow the tape if you like.

I hope that you have a good response to the call and please send my regards to Freda.

All the best



Steven Chaddock
Archaeological Advisor