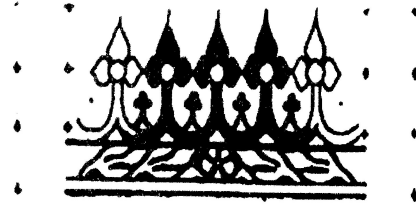


SOMBORNE

and District Society



Winter 2020/1

Newsletter 168

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DPA 2018 – GDPR Data Policy

<p>What personal data we collect</p> <p>The Somborne & District Society collects personal data from its members comprising name, address, email address and telephone number. Occasionally other personal data may be collected from sources such as attendance lists at events, documentation of personal achievement and publication awards, and records of sales including publications.</p> <p>What we will do with the data</p> <p>The Society will use this data to send members its quarterly Newsletter, and managing events and meetings. We may also use it to send you mailings relating to news.</p>	<p>We may also use your information for data analysis so that we can monitor membership numbers and location. We do not share your data with other organisations.</p> <p>How we will store the data</p> <p>The Society will store your data on a database held by our membership secretary and used in accordance with the Society's data protection policy.</p> <p>Historical Data</p> <p>The Society may also hold historical data for its historical research purposes.</p>
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Chairman's Letter Winter/Spring 2020

It seems to be a long time since the last Letter. We are already well into our 2020/2021 programme and it has all been via Zoom. Thanks to David Pennington our Zoom lectures have all taken place without a hitch and we are now getting used to them.

We started the programme of activities with Pimms in the Park held outside the village hall and it was enjoyed by all those who attended. The August picnic had to be cancelled. The 2020 lectures have been described in the Gauntlet. So far in 2021 we have had a talk about a local resident, one John Kneller who was a survivor of the Crimean War, became a national celebrity and lived until 1917. We now look forward to learning about International Shipping, Romsey Abbey, the First World War poets and a Medieval Royal conflict.

We had planned to hold a Quiz in March but since this is more a social occasion than a competition to be the smartest team in Kings Somborne, Mike Reynolds has decided to postpone it until that longed-for day when we can all get together again. We are still hoping to be able to arrange a summer visit in June, virus permitting.

The committee have been approached by Sue Jackson and Anne Feld who are proposing to make an audio record of residents' life histories and opinions about life but again this will have to wait until we are virus free.

Sadly, our Archivist, Val Chapman passed away at the beginning of the year. Val was a loyal member of the committee and we shall miss her.

Our Programme sub-committee is already planning next year's programme and the Society's finances remain in good shape

In summary your Society is thriving and will continue to do so.

David St.John

In Memoriam

Val Chapman, Our ever cheerful Archivist and Tea Lady has died aged 90.

Wendy Hartley, Former Secretary and Newsletter Collator.

John Pennington, Farmer, Father and Vintage Car Enthusiast, after a long illness

Editorial

Gordon Pearson tells me that he was now written and published 100 articles on King's Somborne and District over the years. This edition is no exception and has 3 more articles from Gordon.

Due to the extended lock down this is an online PDF (Adobe Portable Document Format) version.

David Pennington

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Cover Picture: New Salisbury, from Old Sarum

A day trip out: Old Sarum

When the first lockdown was relaxed, English Heritage sites became available for pre booked tickets. We took the opportunity to visit Old Sarum. *At the time of writing this may be seen as too far for local exercise, and previously would have meant crossing a tier boundary into Wiltshire.*

We travelled down the Roman road from Horsebridge, well nearly, we went down the A30 from Stockbridge and diverted through Ford to reach the east entrance to the complex. The presence of a Roman road from Winchester to Old Sarum gives some idea of the age and importance of the site. First impressions are of a hill fort, so pre-Roman, although much has changed over the last few thousand years. The other bailey is now all grass, but with a curtain wall remaining in places. In the north west corner one can find the site of the Norman cathedral, its foundations marked out in stone. The size is impressive, but the remains are only at ground level. The previous year we'd visited Jervaulx Abbey in Yorkshire, where the church had also been reduced, but Old Sarum is much larger. Walking round to the south, the spire of Salisbury cathedral can be seen from the curtain wall.



In the centre of the bailey is yet another mound and the more impressive remains of a medieval castle. Passing the welcoming marshal, we crossed the bridge into the inner ward of the castle. To a gatehouse guarded by an English Heritage ticket collector. The castle was started soon after the conquest, and it was rumoured the Domesday book was presented to King William at Sarum in 1086. The castle was developed by King Henry I and the Bishop Roger, and the remains of the lower rooms of impressive towers and apartments are visible in the NW corner of the ward.

The whole site was getting more cramped, so during the peace after the Baron's Wars in 1221 the two Bishops Poore, two brothers, moved the cathedral down the hill, not

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quiet stone by stone, but Old Sarum was left undeveloped and used as a quarry in later years.



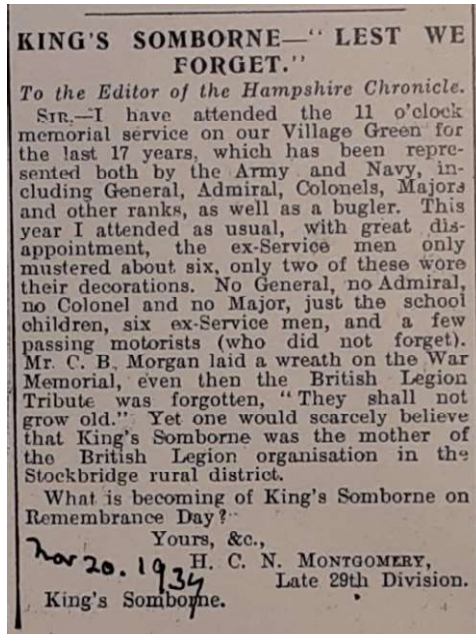
Many sites are billed as belonging to a certain period, Old Sarum, shows the key features of some of these periods, but also the continuation of history of a site, from the Iron age through, the Roman and later Norman periods. Then history stops, or rather pre-(recorded) history stops and we have documented history. The Bishops moved the church, and a new market town down the hill to a less crowded site at New Sarum, our Salisbury. The lack of modern development allows one to see the medieval and earlier phases. Winchester had a similar Roman, Saxon and Norman history, but history and development continued, it is interesting to compare and contrast.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-sarum/>

https://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/old_sarum_and_stratford_sub_castle.page

The Remembrance Service.

Gordon has found the attached letter in the Hampshire Chronicle from 1937. After the well-attended service in 2018 (hundred years) and 2019, the 2020 service, was much reduced as we were in another Covid lockdown.



I have attend the 11o'clock memorial service on our Village Green for the last 17 years, which has been represented by the Army and Navy, including General, Admiral, Colonels, Majors and other ranks, as well as bugler. This year I attended as usual, with great dis-appointment, the ex Service men only mustered about six, only two of those wore their decorations. No General, no admiral, no Colonel and no major, just the school children, six ex-Service men and a few passing motorists (who did not forget.) C.B.Morgan laid a wreath on the War memorial, even then the British Legion Tribute was forgotten, "they shall not grow old." Yet one would scarcely believe that King's Somborne was the Mother of the British Legion organisation in the Stockbridge Rural District.

What is becoming of King's Somborne Remembrance Day?

H C N Montgomery Late 29th Division.

The 29th Division included the 88th Brigade and 2nd Hampshire Regiment, which was at Gallipoli and the Somme and Flanders.

Henry Charles Nicholson Montgomery's daughter married in the church in 1957 and he was buried at the age of 63.

Charles Wake (1837 to 1925): The Life of an Emigrant from King's Somborne

Introduction and acknowledgements

In 2018/19, whilst researching my book "The Reverend Richard Wake (1831 -1915): Somborne's Pioneering American Colonist," my attention was often distracted by the many references Richard made in his diaries to his younger brother Charles, who was also born here in King's Somborne.

Having now published Richard's biography, I have turned my attention to Charles to discover a man quite different to his older siblings but still closely allied with his family. A hard-working man of principle but not dominated by Methodist doctrine like his two older brothers, William and Richard, both of whom became Ministers of the Church.

I have extracted information from Richard Wake's diaries and carried out additional research locally at the Hampshire Records' Office. Transcriptions of the diaries have been lent to me by Dr Brian Birch, former chair of the Environmental Sciences Board of Studies at Southampton University. The originals are in Wakefield Museum, Kansas which has kindly provided me with a photograph of Charles Wake from its archive. It was donated to the museum in 1984 by Bernice Sheppard, nee Seitz. My thanks go to Dr Birch and the museum for their assistance.

In addition, I must thank Professor James R Beck of Union, Clay County, Kansas. "Jim" was the Senior Professor of Counselling at Denver Seminary in Englewood, Colorado. He trained as a clergyman and holds a PhD in clinical psychology at Biola University in California. Now in retirement, he has become actively interested in local history and is the former curator of Wakefield Museum which is only a few miles from his home. He is the author of "Toward a Perfect Union: The Settlement of Union Township, Clay County, Kansas" which he published in 2012 and from which I have extracted valued information. In addition, he has written or co-authored and published sixteen other books dealing mainly with psychology and religion. Jim's research has been of considerable help and he has been able to contact friends for specialist information which he has kindly passed on to me.

Life in Hampshire

When Richard and Ann Wake came to King's Somborne from Headbourne Worthy in 1825, they brought their three young children with them viz. Sarah, William and George. Ann had been born here in 1791 and Richard was a Methodist preacher who almost certainly helped to build The White Chapel in Winchester Road which opened in 1828. He had learned his trade as a blacksmith in Exton in the Meon Valley and his move to the village raised his status to works manager at the new foundry built and owned by William Steele, located where houses now stand at the

Old Foundry in Romsey Road. Ann gave birth to Richard junior in 1831 and her fifth and final child, Charles on the 19th February 1837 who was baptised on the 25th June 1837.

Late in 1840, the family moved to Canford Magna near Poole, Dorset, where Richard obtained employment at the nearby Waterloo Ironworks in Creekmoor which was paying higher wages than William Steele. Richard soon moved his family to Creekmoor to be closer to the factory. However, as he was anxious to start his own business, the family moved to a cottage on Shirley common at Millbrook, now a suburb of Southampton. Here, early in 1842, he built Hammersmith Cottage with a smithy alongside and set up a blacksmithing business which prospered to the extent that he was able to pay to have his children privately educated.

Charles was probably educated in the same school in Millbrook where brother Richard was being taught by Richard Woods who had a local reputation for being an eccentric preacher. On Sundays the family worshipped at the Wesleyan chapel in Southampton and Charles would have attended Sunday school with Richard which was run by a Mr Yelf, the local boot and shoe maker. Being a leading member of the Methodist faith, he ensured that his children received a religious education.

In 1844, when Charles was eight years old, George, one of his older brothers, died of tuberculosis which must have devastated the closely-knit family. Further disruption was to follow in 1850 when William, Charles's oldest brother married and emigrated to America where he became a Methodist Minister. Four years later, Charles stood on the dockside in Southampton and bade farewell to his older brother Richard who was also emigrating to America where he became a Methodist Minister and married Sarah Attwood whom he had met whilst in Millbrook.

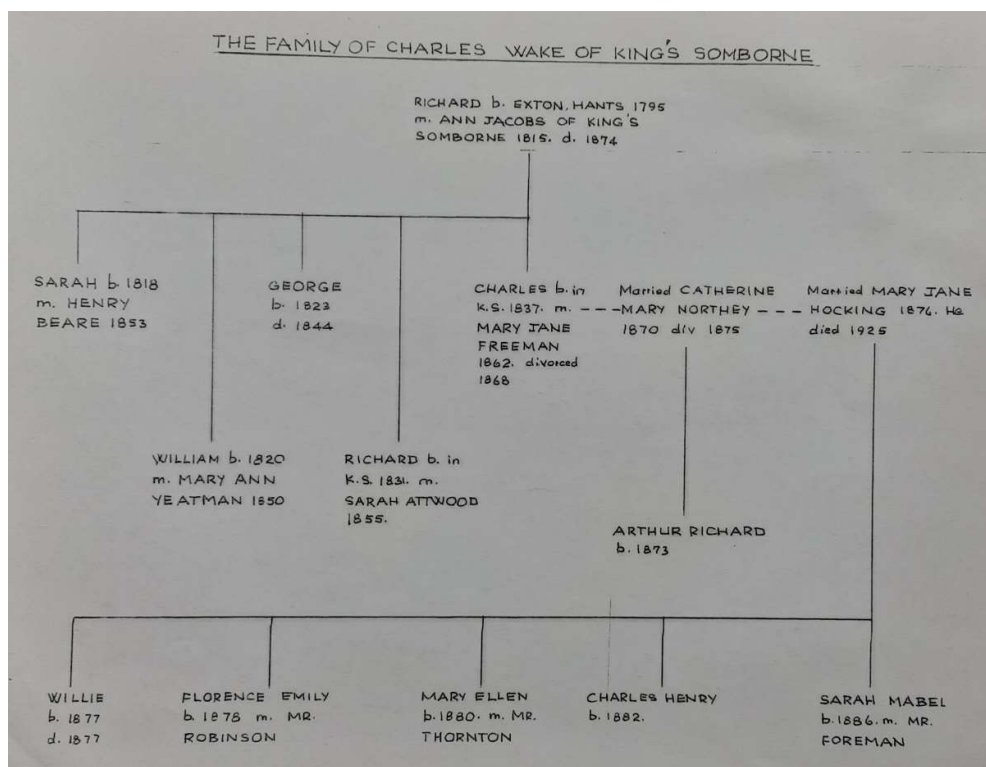
Although Charles was Richard and Ann's only son not to become a Methodist Minister, he was educated in the faith and attended its services in local chapels. In 1851, along with brothers William and Richard, he was expelled from the Church by the Elders for having attended a meeting of the rival Methodist Reform Group in Southampton. Later that year, he and brother Richard attended a service at the Timsbury Wesleyan chapel (still standing) but as there was no speaker, a prayer meeting was held. Turmoil broke out when Brother Medley was asked to lead the prayers because he also had been expelled from the Church. Clearly feelings ran high when reform of the Methodist Church was discussed and debated.

When Richard celebrated his 21st birthday in 1852, fifteen year old Charles joined the family for a day trip to Salisbury on a hired 'bus. After attending a service to mark the opening of the Methodist Reform Chapel in Church Street, the party climbed the tower of the cathedral. The 'bus driver got drunk on the journey back to Millbrook and collided with a mail cart resulting in a very long, slow walk home for the eighteen strong party.

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The emigrant

Charles's only sister, Sarah, married Henry Beare in London in 1853 and promptly emigrated to America. All this left sixteen year old Charles living at home with his parents and working for his father as an apprentice blacksmith in Millbrook. Thoughts must have been stirring in his mind about whether or not he also should emigrate to America. Eventually, in May 1855, he left the United Kingdom and sailed on the Victoria from London and lodged with sister Sarah and Henry, a Methodist Minister, in Roslyn on Long Island. Here he attended the wedding of his brother Richard and Sarah Attwood who were married by older brother William at William's house.



Back home in England, Charles's parents were still living in Millbrook until his mother died on the 25th June 1857 and Charles returned to this country to sort out his mother's financial affairs and to sell Hammersmith Cottage and smithy as his father had decided to emigrate to America and join his children. The entire family had now left England for good.

In 1860, Charles was living at Horse Creek in Wilmington, Illinois where he and his father had bought a farm but his father soon had to leave as he had caught malaria from mosquitoes. Charles married Mary Jane Freeman on the 22nd August 1862 at Wilmington, Illinois with brother Richard and Sarah in attendance.



The American civil war was fought between 1861 and 1865 and the dispute between the forces of the northern states and the southern states centred on whether or not slavery should be abolished. The northern states were victorious and slavery officially ended in 1865. On the 12th August 1862, only ten days before his marriage to Mary, Charles, now twenty five years old and living in Joliet, Illinois, volunteered to fight and support the abolitionist northern states. He signed on for three years and served as a private in the 72nd Illinois infantry and was later assigned to the Signal Corps in 1863 where he distinguished himself on the 5th August 1864 during the Battle of Mobile, Alabama. He also saw action in the Battle of Vicksburg which took

place between 18th May and 4th July 1863 in Warren County, Mississippi. He was wounded in the chest on the 2nd June and became one of the 33,000 casualties. At the end of the civil war, he was discharged on the 4th July 1865 at New Orleans, Louisiana and moved to Junction City in Kansas. His discharge certificate describes Charles as being *“Twenty five years of age, five feet eight inches high, light complexion, hazel eyes, dark hair and by occupation when enlisted, a blacksmith.”* He was described as *“of good character”*.

The Homestead Act of 1862 provided for the US government to grant a plot of land up to 160 acres in size, free of charge to any applicant who submitted a \$10 administration fee and who agreed to settle on the land and to farm it. These plots were known as homesteads but not all US citizens qualified for a land grant. Land was also available to purchase at about \$1.25 per acre, minimum forty acres. The two land acquisition systems ran alongside each other. The 1866 Amendment to the Act extended coverage to include black Americans, mainly newly freed slaves. Between 1862 and 1934, 37 million acres were given away, i.e. ten per-cent of the US land mass, thus depleting much of the land from native Americans. The legislation was not finally abolished until 1976 under President Gerald Ford, and even later in Alaska under Reagan.

In 1866, Richard decided to encourage emigration from the UK to a newly founded German colony named Palmyra in Nebraska. It was aimed at hardworking families in central southern England where the great agricultural depression was having

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maximum impact. This brought the brothers back to the UK to organise a publicity campaign. Richard and Charles advertised the benefits of emigration to America in newspapers and Methodist magazines. They travelled around Wessex together speaking to chapel congregations having earlier put up fly posters informing them of their visit. The campaign brought forth many enquiries and resulted in 115 immigrants going to Palmyra.

Advice given by the brothers to some of the emigrants have been noted by historians and were published in the USA by the Riley Genealogical Society in 1976. How many trips Charles made to the UK in the late 1860s or his length of stay is not known but he maintained his home in Lincoln, Nebraska during 1866 and 1867.

In 1869, Richard Wake formed the Kansas Land and Emigration Company and became its first President. Brother Charles was one of the six other investors in the company, the aim of which was to create an English colony alongside the Republican river and populate it with new immigrants. This brought the brothers back to England again to organise their second emigration campaign. Charles, Richard and others laid out the homestead plots under the direction of a New York land agent. Although the colony grew, some immigrants returned to England claiming that conditions in America were far worse than they had been led to believe by the brothers. However, the colony thrived and is now named Wakefield Kansas, after Richard Wake.

Charles divorced Mary Jane on the 10th June 1868 at Ottawa, Illinois and two years later, he married twenty-two year old Catherine Mary Northey at Fort Riley, Kansas who gave birth to a son, Arthur Richard on the 23rd March 1873.

The family lived in Junction City, Kansas where Charles worked as a lumberjack. However, five years later, with the opening of the local branch railway line, Charles was appointed Wakefield's first railway agent which involved a move to nearby Republican with his young son Arthur as he was now separated from Catherine.

In 1867, Charles had applied for an eighty acre homestead, probably near Palmyra, Nebraska, which he later commuted to a cash entry, and lived there for 2½ years. In 1870 a patent was issued to Charles which confirmed the agreement on the basis of a full cash payment. Several years later, he completed an affidavit for an additional homestead entry in Union Township, near Wakefield in Clay County, Kansas which was rejected due to an incorrect application and he had to pay an extra \$14.00 to amend the entry which was finally approved on the 8th July 1874.

Charles was able to take advantage of a provision in the law which gave Civil War veterans a reduction in the five year residency requirement for their homestead entry equal to the length of their military service. He entered the homestead on the 10th July 1873 and received his patent on the 15th February 1874.

Richard Wake senior, Charles's father, died in October 1874 at his home in Hempstead, Long Island, New York.

In 1875, Charles divorced Catherine on the 10th November at Clay Centre, Kansas. On grounds of desertion. He accused her of "*Disregarding her duties as an obedient wife, abandoning her husband and remaining wilfully absent for more than one year without cause or justification.*" As her whereabouts was not known, the charges against her were published in the Clay County Dispatch for three consecutive weeks to allow her time to respond. On the 31st March 1876 Charles married Mary Jane Hocking at Wakefield, the ceremony having been conducted by Charles's brother, the Reverend Richard Wake. She was to bear him five children including Willie who was born on the 16th January 1877 but died seventeen days later. Florence was born 5th March 1878 (and would become Mrs Robinson), Mary Ellen was born 9th May 1880 (Mrs Thornton) and Charles Henry was born on the 13th March 1882 who would become a doctor. Finally, Sarah Mabel was born 31st October 1888 (Mrs Freeman). Charles sold his homestead to Mary Jane in 1876 for \$600 and moved to Tarkio in Missouri.

The 1875 census returns reveal that he was living alone in Tarkio which is 170 miles from Wakefield and that he had returned to his original trade as a blacksmith. He stayed in Tarkio for only one year before moving to Kansas again and settling in Williamsburg where he stayed for two years. In 1878, he decided to return to farming which involved a 120 mile move to Centralia, Kansas where he remained until 1884 before making the 280 mile long journey to Cozad, Nebraska where he continued to till the land.

Charles and Richard visited the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 and the following year, Richard visited him at his home in Cozad, staying for a week and helping him on the farm. Richard must have enjoyed farm work as he visited Charles again in 1897 and stayed for several weeks to help with the harvest. Charles took Richard to visit neighbouring farms on his pony and trap. On one such occasion the two witnessed a spectacular phenomenon in the form of ferocious storm which Richard described in his diary as "*A fine electric display and peculiar cloud effects.*"

In 1898, at the age of 61, Charles applied to the US government for an invalid pension due to disability of age and rheumatism (arthritis) caused by injuries he received during the civil war. He was still living in Cozad at the time.

By 1910, Charles and Mary Jane, together with their younger daughter Sarah Mabel, had left Cozad and were living together in Bryant, Nebraska some 140 miles away. At the age of 73, Charles had purchased and was running a lumber mill.

In 1919, Charles attended the Golden jubilee celebration of the founding of the City of Wakefield as he was the only living member of the original party which laid out the town.

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By 1924, now aged 87, he had moved to Los Angeles on the west coast, 1,500 miles away in California, where he was living with his son Dr Charles Wake. His siblings and their families were all living nearby in the city.

Charles had been discharged from the army in 1865 and the fact that he had volunteered to serve, and was wounded in action qualified him to spend the rest of



his days in the U.S. National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. He entered the home at 1143W 37th Drive, Los Angeles where he was diagnosed as "senile" (dementia). He died there on the 21st July 1925, following a cerebral haemorrhage and is buried in Cozad, Dawson County, Nebraska. His grave is marked by a carved stone mounted on a roughly-hewn stone, the upper of which state the name of Charles and his wife Mary Jane, together with the years of their birth and death. An obituary notice appeared in the Los Angeles Times on the 23rd July 1925, my copy of which has not reproduced well but it refers to Charles Wake of Cozad, his wife and his children, naming them all. His funeral service was held in the chapel of the

Wilshire Undertaking Company at 717 W. Washington Street, L.A. His wife, Mary Jane pre-deceased him.

Conclusion

Charles Wake was the odd-man-out within his family being the son of a Methodist preacher and born into a deeply religious household which was privileged but not wealthy. His father appears to have been a highly devoted and successful business man who was able to employ a household servant which was unusual for a tradesman in the 1840s. It is clear that as a child, Charles respected the family trait and complied with what was expected of him. His brother-in-law Henry Beare and his two older brothers William and Richard became Ministers of the Methodist Church but that lifestyle did not appeal to Charles. His photograph suggests that he was a musician playing the trumpet with a local band.

For a child born in 1837 in a small, poor Hampshire village which did not yet have a school, he was fortunate to have had an education, his father realising its importance. In adult life he divorced twice and married three times which was not a common pattern of behaviour at that time.

It is clear that the spirit of adventure was a major force in Charles's life. He was a practical man, at home with manual tasks as his work as a blacksmith, lumberjack, farmer and woodyard supervisor all confirm. His appointment as a railway station agent did not fit neatly into his lifestyle and did not last long. His work encouraged

him to travel over great distances across north America, settling for a while before uprooting to seek pastures new. During the seventy years he spent in the USA, he lived in at least thirteen houses in six different states from the east coast to the west. His adventurous ego was that of an early pioneer, a rolling stone, a free spirit.

It is clear that Charles set out determined to make a success of immigration. His willingness to volunteer to fight for his adopted country in its civil war on a matter of principle tells us much about his character. After all, he had lived there for only eight years and was to marry only ten days after enlisting.

The many references to Charles in Richard's diaries point to a closely-knit relationship between the two men. At times they lived near each other. The co-operation they developed when organising their emigration publicity in the UK in the 1860s indicate a good working relationship as their campaigns were highly successful. Charles appears to have admired the success of his older brother and taken pride in assisting him, a point not directly acknowledged by Richard's diary but not expected from a modest man.

When he died in 1925, his siblings and some of his own children had moved to Los Angeles. Here they bought a large plot of land in 37th Street upon which each family member built their own house. "Together until the end".

Gordon Pearson

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Somborne's First Street Lights: A Debatable Matter?

Introduction

In 2002, village resident the late Alan Cook, husband of Pauline, started a campaign to provide street lighting along Romsey Road right through the village. Alan lived at "Hedgerows" and he visited the houses on both sides of the A3057 to put forward his views and to seek support. At the King's Somborne Parish Council (KSPC) meeting on the 1st October, he presented the results of his survey despite being disappointed that he received little backing. Some residents held strong views both for and against Alan's proposals. After discussion, the council agreed that any such lights would not be erected in front of dwellings whose owners objected. Alan envisaged low columns alongside the footpath with a low wattage lamp to create a glow to assist pedestrians, but the meeting was told that any lights along an A class road would have to be up to A road standard as defined by the Ministry of Transport, so the scheme was rejected by the council.

Street lighting in King's Somborne has become a contentious issue on several occasions. In 1978, K & N R Smith of Southampton purchased land in Winchester Road and applied for planning permission to develop what is now named Riverside Green. Approval was given with a stipulation that the sewers, roads and street lighting be provided and built to national standards in accordance with the appropriate Acts of Parliament. Once the houses were built, several owners wrote to the Hampshire County Council asking if the street lights could be omitted from the development. Support to these views were given by other nearby residents and by the KSPC but the HCC refused the request stating that it would not be allowed to take on the responsibility of maintaining the infrastructure unless the lights were erected. Ironically, it was not the policy of the HCC to provide street lighting in rural areas at that time.

The first lighting scheme

The village was lit for the first time 120 years ago to commemorate the coming of the 20th century. Once the vicar, the Revd John Creighton, heard that the KSPC was considering the matter, he wrote

"It is rumoured that the village will be lit by lamps this winter. Well done KSPC."

He went on to present his views forcefully in the parish magazine by stating

"We want light where darkness reigns in another sense which is beyond the power of the KSPC to grant. Prejudice, bigotry, conventionality and ignorance with many other sins hold sway where the sum of righteousness would shed. His beam of lightness. Light in this state of darkness will come from God by our persevering faith and prayer."

The council planned to provide twelve temporary lights along Romsey Road, Winchester Road and Old Vicarage Lane at strategic points so that as many cottages as possible could benefit from them and to have them lit by Christmas 1900. This initiative had been taken by the council because a number of villagers had fallen into the stream on dark, winter nights. The Board of Guardians had agreed to erect steel railings alongside the stream and the KSPC was happy to play its part by providing lighting.

Although the exact locations of the lamps are recorded, most of the cottages at that time were known only by the name of their current tenant (e.g. Smith's Place) which makes it difficult to pin-point their locations today. They were as follows:

Romsey Road: Opposite the Cricketers' Arms
 At the corner turning down to Mr Futchers house (Frogghole?)
 Just beyond Gladstone House (Wisteria House)
 On the village green opposite the church
 Outside Mr Whittaker's farmyard gates
 At the corner of Mr Hyde's garden

Old Vicarage Lane:
 Opposite Vicarage cottages
 Outside the Vicarage stable gates
 Near Mr Palmer's house

Winchester Road: Near Mr Waterman's house (Riverside Cottage)
 At the corner of Mr Perry's garden
 Opposite Manor Farm House

The KSPC raised the finance for the lights by increasing the rates (council tax) by 1½d which raised a total of £23/3/9d (now £2,700). At just under £2/-/-d each (now £248) they sound cheap but those lights were only intended to be in operation for three years for some unrecorded reason.

The lamps comprised glass lanterns mounted atop decorative cast iron standards which appear to have been in two pieces, a base and a column. They were oil fired and lit daily at 5.00 p.m. by Mr Kelsey who lived in Crown Cottages and whose family is recorded as being in residence in King's Somborne in 1965. He extinguished them at 10.00 p.m.

The vicar thought the lights were wonderful and told the KSPC that at least six more were needed. An extra standard was added in 1902 to mark the coronation of King Edward VII on the 7th August. It was sited on the village green at the south end of the triangle and shone along Romsey Road to welcome visitors to the village. However, it remained only until 1904 when it was taken down for another unrecorded reason.

In 1903, at the parish annual meeting, the KSPC discussed a proposal to install permanent lamps throughout the village but it broke up in confusion after the

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proposal was put to the vote by residents attending the meeting who voted 18-17 in favour of abandoning village lighting. Claims were made that the meeting was biased as many residents from the tithings of Brook and Up Somborne attended and voted against the scheme because those communities were not to be included. The vicar was furious.



The following year, the KSPC discussed the matter again and decided to restore the existing lamps. The lanterns were removed and sent to a workshop for repair before being returned and re-fixed. The work was completed by November 1904 and the vicar was “de-lighted”.

“To have the lamps and not be able to use them is worse than having no lamps at all.”

He wrote. Mr Hewlett took over the nightly task of lighting and

extinguishing them in addition to cleaning them and replenishing the oil.

In October 1910, the KSPC decided to extend the lighting to other parts of the parish. This was to commemorate the forthcoming coronation of King George V which took place on the 22nd June 1911. One was erected in the centre of Horsebridge and one at the bottom of Dicker’s Hill (Romsey Road beyond Toll-Gate Cottage). The council also approved the sum of £30 for parish lighting expenses for the following year. Two months later, three more lamps were erected, one of which was in Vicar’s Hill (now generally referred to as “The Cross”).

More lamps were to follow. In February 1912, four more were erected. One was outside "Harlington" (Wisteria House) in Romsey Road, one near to the newly built working men's club, one outside Mr Morgan's butchery shop (Butcher's End) and one at the foot of Up Somborne hill (Strawberry Lane). The vicar expressed his delight with the actions of the KSPC lighting committee and congratulated its members.

Eventually, the parish had thirty street lights. Over the years most failed to work due to lack of regular repair and maintenance so the council decided that as the cost of repairing, overhauling and redecorating them was too high, they were abandoned and eventually taken down in 1925. There were no comments from the vicar as he had left the parish in 1915. They were stored in Mr Tull's sheds but in 1937 he asked the KSPC to move them away as he needed the space.

"All are broken and of no value"

Councillor Martin told the council which agreed to sell them to Clement Verrier for 2/6d (now £8.50) provided he moved them quickly. One was in working condition which he retained in his barn at Hayes Farm in Romsey Road which he had purchased from the Munday family in 1922. It probably remained there until the barn was emptied and converted into a dwelling circa 2009.

Within the last few years the base of a decorative cast iron column has been discovered by Michelle Qassim, set upright in the garden of the Cross Stores. It is completely covered with ivy and could well be the only remnant of those thirty lamps which once lit our village over a century ago.

Bibliography

Personal recollections of the author as a KSPC councillor for 25 years.

King's Somborne parish magazines: July and December 1900, October 1902, December 1904, December 1910 and December 1912.

KSPC minute books: 4th October 1937, 4th and 25th April and 4th July 1938: HRO ref 71M80/PX/1

KSPC minute books: 26th October 1910: HRO ref 71M80/PX/20

Bank of England website: Inflation calculator

Newsletters 121 and 122: Somborne & District Society

My thanks go to Eric Cook for his personal recollections and to several residents of Riverside Green.

Gordon Pearson

(picture of recently installed lights, in the style of old gas /oil lamps.)

Members News

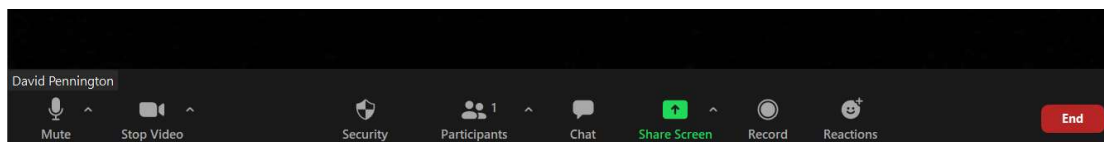
ZOOM Video Conferencing

ZOOM is a video conferencing tool that many of you will have become more familiar with over the last year. The meeting code will be sent as an email before the meeting. It would help if you have already downloaded a copy of the application.

Zoom can be down loaded from <https://zoom.us/>, you'll need to sign in with your e-mail address. Meetings can be programmed in a calendar and a meeting code word is generated. This codeword can then be emailed (as a "link") to the various meeting attendees. At the appointed time, use the Zoom App (application, ie programme) and code words to sign in to the conference. A basic (free) licence allows meetings for up to 45 minutes, however the society has signed up for a licence to allow our meetings to last a bit longer.

The meeting host has some extra tools to allow participants in and to mute users (turn their microphones off) which can reduce the background clatter and echo's.

Details of the meeting code are sent by email to those members of whom Linda Aucock has addresses. This code can be sent to your guests, as it isn't user specific. We do however change the code for each meeting.



To view a "webinar", a camera and microphone shouldn't be required, so your internet browsing PC should be okay. Sometimes the volume on the device/computer needs to be increased using an external control. More controls are hidden on the small up arrows on the ZOOM menu bar, which sometimes hides under other open documents

Society Publications

Celebrating Somborne Hardback <i>A History of King's Somborne</i> Paul Marchant (Ed) 1989	£6.00
The School: The Ongoing Legacy of a School Founder and Education Innovator by Josephine Finch	£5.00
Richard Dawes: Education pioneer and Dean of Hereford – Family, Friends and Legacy. By Norman Denison 2017	£6.50
The History of Ashley Village Kate Gilbert 1992	£4.00

Booklets

<i>Winton Cottage and Goffe Family</i> Gordon Pearson	£4.00
Sir Thomas Sopwith Robin Gunter & Norman Denison	£3.50
Seven Walks Around <i>the Countryside</i> of King's Somborne Joy Hunt, Steve Rake and George Upton	£4.00
Two Walks Around <i>the Village</i> of King's Somborne Keith Chapman and Gordon Pearson	£1.50
The History of The Crown Inn (<i>new Revised 3rd Edition</i>) Gordon Pearson	£4.50
The Folks Who Lived on The Hill (The Johnson family of Marsh Court) Mary Pollock	£2.00
Pigskin and Silk (The Story of the Stockbridge Races) Mary Pollock	£4.00
The 6 th Bell and Other Stories – Somborne Memories Mary Pollock (Ed)	£3.50
Deep Flowed the Som – Collected Poetry	£1.50

Electronic Media.

The Parish Records of King's Somborne CDRoms Baptisms, Burials & Marriages 1700 – 1971	£6.00 each or Online
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Low Stock - Loan Copy available

Illustrating Somborne <i>A photographic history</i> (1992)	Somborne Remembers, World War I Mary Pollock and Norman Denison
<i>A History of Up Somborne and Rookley.</i> Gordon Pearson (2016)	King's Somborne Farmers' Club
A Year in the Life of Somborne DVD filmed by Bill Sutton	The Founding of King's Somborne Working Men's Club

