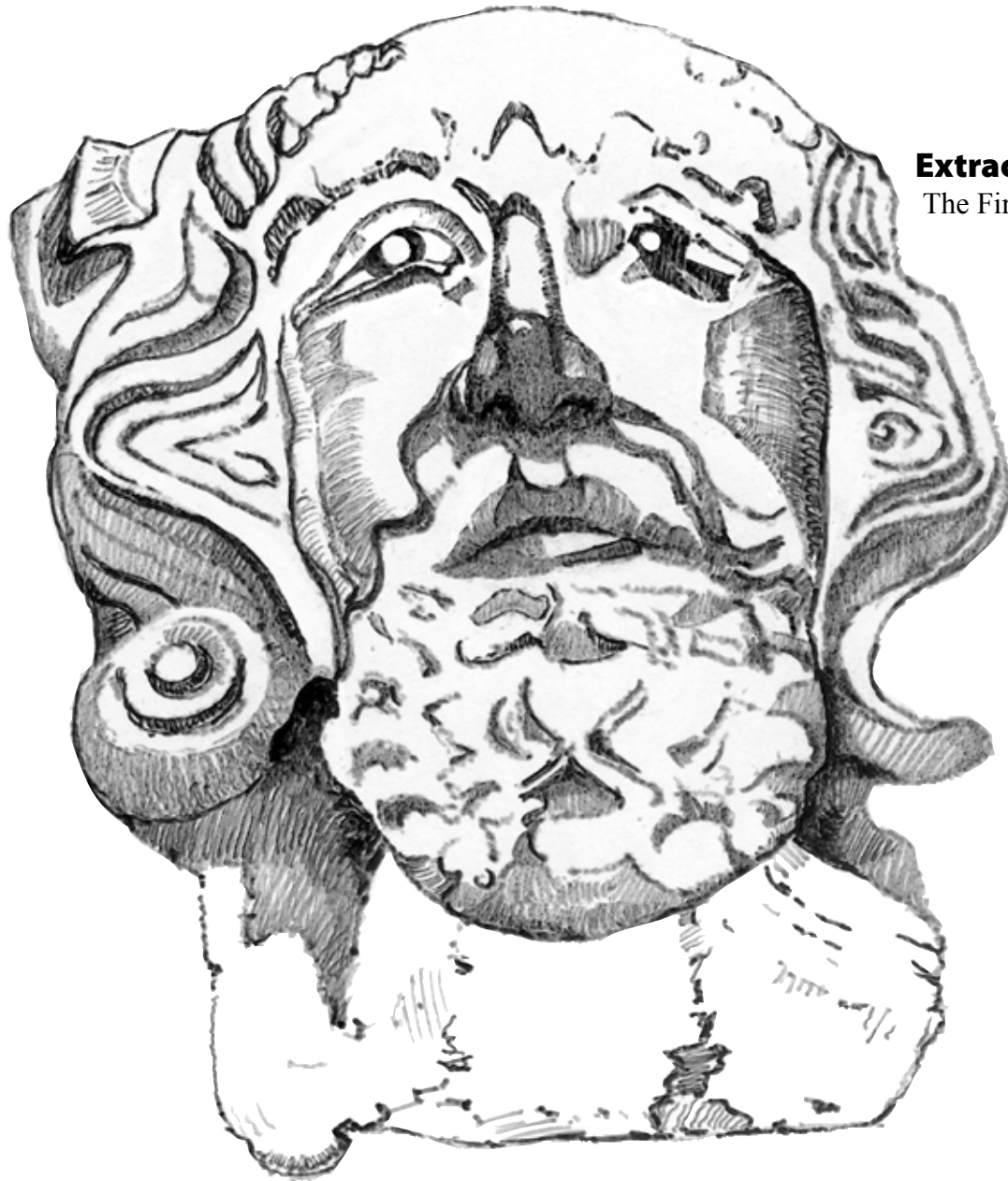


Bishop Wilton

Local History Bulletin 18

February 28th, 2009



Extract

The First Bishop Wilton Show - August 2nd, 1897

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The First Bishop Wilton Show - August 2nd, 1897

... and the South African Connection

Mike Pratt

The origins of the Bishop Wilton Show can be pieced together in copies of the Howdenshire Chronicle and Pocklington Weekly News from 1897. Two extracts reproduced on the opposite page provide an account of the preparation for the first show and a report on the success of the day itself.

The extracts are valuable in identifying the leading lights of the times as follows:

President:

Rev. J. A. Eldridge

Patrons:

T. N. F. Bardwell, Bolton Hall

H. T. Glynn, Spitzrop, South Africa

L. Dales, Bishop Wilton

Committee Members

Q. Adamson

R. Bailey

W. H. Cook

W. B. Cooper

S. Fryer [*only mentioned in the first extract*]

J. Newby

J. Tipling

Q. Wilkinson

Treasurer:

L. Dales

Hon. Secretary:

H. Bramley

A number of other points are of interest: the Show started as a Floral and Horticultural Show in

a tent in the school yard; a cricket match took place between Bishop Wilton and Bolton; Thixendale Church Choir Brass Band were involved and there was a dance in the evening.

The South African Connection

One name that stands out in the list above is that of H. T. Glynn of South Africa. Who was he, why exactly was he here and why was he a patron of the very first Show to the extent that he is singled out for recognition in the second of the two extracts opposite: "Mr H. T. Glynn, of Spitz Rop [sic], South Africa, has been a most generous patron of the show, and owing to his liberality the committee have been enabled to offer substantial sums for the prizes"? This is all the more significant when the £9 of prize money mentioned is seen to equate to about £800 in today's money.

The question has intrigued me for a number of years and slowly the pieces have fitted into place.

The Dales Link

From the outset Levi Dales stood out as a likely link. An inscription in the Churchyard reveals that he had visited South Africa:

In memoriam
Hannah Guinevere
daughter of Levi and Frances Dales
born at D'Urban, Natal, S.A.
Oct 8th 1895

fell asleep in Jesus and was
buried at sea April 18th 1896
"Until the sea gives up its dead"

But it was only after further research and contact with a number of Dales family descendants that it became clear that he had relatives in South Africa.

It would appear that his younger sister, Elizabeth, married a certain Henry Holderness who was involved in a family business based in Bishop Wilton. This was a Brass and Iron Foundry which was beside the Chestnuts, the Holderness family home¹. Whether the business prospered we do not really know but it would seem that Henry became insolvent and emigrated with his family to South Africa leaving the family business in the hands of his mother and brother. Henry's brother, William, was declared bankrupt in 1890 and in 1892 Levi came into possession of the Chestnuts and lived there almost until he died in 1919.

It was a second marriage for both Levi and Frances Dales. We have been told that Frances (born Frances Martin) had herself lived in South Africa, married to James Adlam by whom she had children.

Why Levi Dales went to South Africa is not clear. It seems unlikely that it was simply a holiday. We have been told that he traded with South Africa and with Australia as a grain merchant so perhaps it was partly a business trip. We do know that his sister, Elizabeth, gave him Power of Attorney from South Africa in 1892 and as she died in 1897 it seems likely that she was the reason for the trip.

(continued on page 4 ...)

¹ The Chestnuts exists to this day but the Foundry building was knocked down in the 1960s.

Extracts from the Howdenshire Chronicle & Pocklington Weekly News of 1897

Saturday, June 5, 1897

FLOWER SHOW FOR BISHOP WILTON.

In common with several of the surrounding villages, it has been decided to hold a Floral and Horticultural Show during the coming summer. Among the gentlemen who have promised to become patrons are T. N. F. Bardwell, Esq., J.P., Bolton Hall, T. H. Glynn, Esq., Spitzrop, South Africa, and L. Dales, Esq., Bishop Wilton, the Rev. J. A. Eldridge, the vicar of the parish being the president. The following gentlemen have kindly consented to serve on the committee, Messrs Q. Adamson, R. Bailey, W. H. Cook, W. B. Cooper, S. Fryer, J. Newby, J. Tipling, and Q. Wilkinson, with Mr L. Dales as treasurer, and Mr H. Bramley as secretary. At a meeting held in the schoolroom on Monday evening last, an attractive schedule was decided upon, the committee offering upwards of £9 in prizes. The show will be open to residents in Bishop Wilton-with-Belthorpe, Bolton, Youlthorpe, and Gowthorpe, and it is hoped that those interested in gardening matters will respond heartily to the efforts of the above named gentlemen by entering freely in the various classes, 40 in number, which are open for competition. The schedule embraces vegetables, fruit, window plants, cut flowers, dairy produce, bread, farm produce, and children's classes for needlework, etc. Last, but by no means least, are three valuable prizes offered to cottages for best kept and best cropped gardens.

Saturday, August 7, 1897

BISHOP WILTON FLOWER SHOW.

A NEW ENTERPRISE.

The first show of the kind ever attempted in this village was held on Monday last, and from every point of view turned out to be an unqualified success. A spacious tent was erected in the school yard, in which the exhibits were shown, and the carrying out of the arrangements left nothing to be desired. An energetic and hard working committee had been formed, every member of which has done his very utmost to promote the interests of the show. Difficulties had to be met but these only served to stimulate rather than daunt those who from the first had thrown all their energies into the affair. The exhibits shown were very creditable to the village, the farm produce especially causing the judge some trouble in giving his awards. Winter onions were an excellent class, and eggs (especially blake), very good. But the palm of the show must be awarded to the fancy butter, the beauty of the various exhibits calling for unstinted praise from the visitors. The first prize fell to Mrs Wilkinson, the design reflecting the greatest credit on the skill and patience of that lady. The Thixendale Church Choir Brass Band supplied the music and their efforts were duly appreciated both during the afternoon in the tent and cricket field, and in the evening at the dance. A cricket match, Bishop Wilton v. Bolton, was played in a field quite near to the School, kindly lent by Mr Wilkinson, the home eleven being victorious. The wives of the committee-men kindly undertook the refreshment department, which was a considerable item in the day's proceedings. At eight o'clock the large room was cleared for a dance, and if anything was wanting to complete the success of the day it was supplied by this. The room was crowded, but thanks to tact and good management, everything passed off as pleasantly and agreeably as could be desired. Quite a special feature in the show was an exhibition of plants and fruit, by Mr T Read, florist, Pocklington, which attracted a good deal of attention from the numerous visitors. The judges were, for vegetables, fruit, plants and flowers, Mr Ellcock, head gardener to Major General Duncombe, Kilnwick Percy; for farm produce, Mr Gilbertson, Catton, and for butter, eggs, bread, needlework, etc., Mrs Gilbertson, whose awards gave universal satisfaction. The chairman of the Show Committee is the Rev. J A Eldridge, while Mr L Dales, treasurer, and Mr H Bramley, hon. Secretary, the committee being, Messrs Q Adamson, R Bailey, W H Cook, W B Cooper, J Newby, J Tipling, and Q Wilkinson. Mr H T Glynn, of Spitz Rop, South Africa, has been a most generous patron of the show, and owing to his liberality the committee have been enabled to offer substantial sums for the prizes.

Bishop Wilton Local History Bulletin No. 18

(... continued from page 2)

The Glynn's of South Africa

H. T. Glynn (or HT as he became known) was born at Cape Town in 1856, his parents having come from Ireland in 1836 with a family of seven sons and three daughters¹.

Trekking inland, HT's father left Cape Town and established his family at Lydenburg and from there they moved to Spitzkop/Sabie².

Like his father, HT became involved in the discovery and mining of gold and took over from him when he died and founded the Glynn's Lydenburg Gold Mining Company. He was an explorer and a big game hunter being instrumental in the creation of the Sabie Game Reserve which became known as the Kruger National Park³.

HT who some saw as the founder of Sabie commenced the building of a house there in 1896. It is said that he travelled by ship to England in the same year, with his brother, Arthur, in search of a mistress for the new house. This is where HT's path met that of the Dales family when he met Levi Dales' daughter, Miss Gertrude Gilbertson Dales, on board the ship bound for England.

With little loss of time, the couple married at the

1 Information about H T has been gleaned from his obituary in The Times of November 30, 1920, from numerous websites about Sabie and from contact with descendants of the Dales family.

2 It would appear that HT saw his home as Spitzkop (referred to as "Spitzrop" in the press extracts of 1897) when he was in England. Perhaps it wasn't until he returned with his new wife that Sabie became the preferred name.

3 HT wrote a book, evidently, called "Game and Gold".

end of 1896; Gertrude was 19 and HT was 40. Due to war in South Africa, the newly-weds did not return there for four years. All of which explains why HT was in Bishop Wilton and acting as a patron to the Bishop Wilton Show in 1897.

When the couple finally returned to South Africa, the "new" house was named "Huntington Hall" after Gertrude's place of birth.

Although apparently born in Huntington, York, Gertrude is said to be "of Bishop Wilton" when referred to in HT's obituary. The mention of Levi Dales in the press coverage of the Bishop Wilton Show and his inclusion in the 1901 census return living at the Chestnuts is the first indication we have that he took up residence in the village. It is possible that this only commenced on return from South Africa.

HT, Gertrude and the house at Sabie are well remembered to this day as evidenced by a number of articles on the internet that provide a history of the area. It is clear that Gertrude along with her husband became committed to the development of the area and they were both widely known for their hospitality.

When HT died in 1928, survived by Gertrude, he had two married daughters and a son, H. H. Glynn, who succeeded him. HH was educated in Oxford in the 1920s. Gertrude died in her nineties in 1970.