

AROUND KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD PAST AND PRESENT



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AROUND
KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD
PAST & PRESENT

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Cover illustration;
Veale's Boot Shop About 1908

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RECENT HAPPENINGS

Dennis Hill, Chairman

The past 18 months have been a very busy period for the officers and committee of Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society.

A great deal of research and preparation was needed in order to stage our exhibition 'Remembering Somerdale' at the Fear Hall in March 2010, but a record attendance of almost 400 visitors, with their many expressions of appreciation, made all the work worthwhile.

However, we became victims of our own success. We received substantial support at the exhibition from Hugh Evans, of Cadbury's, Somerdale, who brought along an extensive display of factory photographs, advertising material and other memorabilia. Eric Miles, a long-serving Somerdale employee now retired brought his own collection of Fry/Cadbury memorabilia and sold copies of his book 'Somerdale Story 1920- 2009' which was illustrated with many photographs reflecting aspects of the company's history over a period of almost ninety years.

Consequently, when we were asked by Cadbury's to support their exhibition 'The Somerdale Story' that was being staged at Fry Club, Somerdale over three days in August 2010, we agreed readily. All our display boards used at 'Remembering Somerdale' went on show again, to be seen this time by an estimated total of 2,500 visitors. Some of us took it in turns to sit at a table in a corner of the main exhibition hall, where we were able to talk to visitors, listen to their comments and reminiscences, sell some of our publications and generally publicise Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society.

Would we do it all again? The Cadbury management certainly hoped so, and said as much to us on the last day that the exhibition was open. However, the next time would definitely be the last. Talking to current Somerdale employees we gathered that the factory might be closing down completely as soon as December 2010.

In the event factory production did not cease until early 2011, and the exhibition was scheduled for five days in January. The extra days enabled groups from local schools to attend and this helped to boost visitor numbers to an impressive 5,450. Although we were not able to staff a sales

table for the whole time our publication sales totalled more than £500, compared with less than £200 at the previous exhibition.

It has always been one of the main aims of Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society to encourage members to carry out research and, where appropriate, to pay for publishing the results. Money made on sales of publications is available to plough back into the financing of new work.

Unfortunately, there appears to be very little new work in the pipeline. An illustrated booklet about Saltford is a possibility. This stems from a conducted walk led by Hilary Smedley and Olive Woolcott on 13 June as part of the 2011 Saltford Festival. The walk itself was a very popular event. The headcount of people attending was 111 (one hundred and eleven), and there would be scope for a guide in booklet form for visitors to Saltford wishing to undertake the walk on their own.

Otherwise, the only ongoing publication is our journal and even here, it continues to be a struggle to find enough material. A chance remark that I made recently to one of my cousins yielded some interesting reminiscences of Saltford School in the years leading up to the Second World War. They appear in the pages of this edition.

I am sure that there must be many more stories of life in Keynsham and Saltford in past decades that remain largely untold. May I take this opportunity to ask all readers to search their own 'memory banks' and those of families and friends so that we may bring the memories to print for our readership to enjoy.

KEYNSHAM'S LINK WITH THE DUKE OF CHANDOS

Sue Trude

We all know, and sometimes talk about, the first Duke of Chandos and Chandos House in connection with St. John's Court. Don Percy wrote an article about the family in Guidelines 57 but I wanted to know why there is a Chandos Road in Keynsham. This road borders Fry's Factory where houses were built by Fry's for their workers in the late 1920's on land once owned by the Dukes of Chandos. So, how did they inherit this estate? There are two families called either Bridges or Brydges, both spellings are commonly used.

I will start with the Keynsham Bridges. Sir Giles Bridges of Coberley in Gloucestershire came from ancient stock; the family can be traced back to the Norman Conquest. On his death he was succeeded by his son, Thomas Bridges, who purchased the ruined Keynsham Abbey site in 1552 for £922.2s.2d., as well as the granges of Eastover and Westover, a holding in Stockwood, and the Chapel and Sanctuary of St. Ann-in- the-Wood, Brislington. The purchase also included a house and wood nearby called Newyke, the wood of Hancliffe in the parish of Hanham and, lastly, a close of land (Cosyners Lease) near Warley Wood. Sir Giles held numerous court appointments during the reigns of Henry VIII and Queen Mary; maybe this was the reason he never lived in Keynsham. On his death in 1559, his son Henry inherited the estate but, unlike his father, he lived a quiet life in Tanglely Hall in Oxfordshire. It seems strange, therefore, that when he died in 1587 he was buried in St. John's Church, Keynsham. His rather large monument can be found to the left of the altar.

Henry's son, Thomas, was knighted in 1603 and was the first of the family to live in Keynsham being active in local affairs. He was a JP and attended the Quarter Sessions in Wells, Taunton, Bridgewater and Ilchester. The family probably lived in the former Abbot's Lodgings. It is thought it was this Thomas Bridges who built the Mansion House, using abbey stone, which was described as: 'a superb and elegant seat'. The Mansion House was sold in 1775 and the new owner was requested to raze the site to ground level, hence no remains can be found. Thomas Bridges died suddenly in 1621 and he also was buried in Keynsham church. Sir Thomas's son, Edward, succeeded to the estate; he had seven children who all lived to maturity. At the age of just 22 his eldest son, Thomas, who was probably on the Grand Tour, had to return home to take care of his brothers and sisters on the death of his father, This Thomas was Governor of the Garrison at Bath during the Civil War. He also lived in Keynsham with his wife and died at the ripe old age of 90.

Thomas's second son, Henry (Harry) Bridges, now inherited the title. He was a magistrate for 50 years, a linguist and a much-travelled man. His first marriage produced only daughters, one of whom died in infancy. In later life he married Elizabeth Freeman. This marriage provoked a scandal as Henry disowned both her and the twin daughters born to her, declaring they were not his offspring. On his death he bequeathed what he could to his illegitimate son, James Bridges who, luckily for us, kept a Day Book giving an insight into Keynsham life in the 1730's/40's. To Elizabeth he left one shilling; she later remarried but brought up her daughters to believe Harry was their father.

George Rodney Bridges, Harry's nephew, who died in 1751 in rather odd circumstances, then inherited the Keynsham estate. It was said that his favourite dog fell into the canal and that George, being a paralytic fell in, (presumably trying to rescue his dog,) and drowned.



1st duke, James, with second wife, son John who died, and 2nd duke, Henry Brydges aged five.

The estate then passed to his sixth cousin, James Brydges and now we have the Bath connection. The Chandos title originated in 1554, when

John Brydges, brother of Sir Thomas (referred to above,) was created the first Baron Chandos as a reward for having helped suppress a rebellion against Queen Mary. As well as the title, the Queen made him Constable of Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire, a post held by all successive holders of the title Baron Chandos. It was while he was living at Sudeley that James Brydges (1674-1744 and the 9th Baron Chandos,) was made Viscount Wilton and Earl of Caernarvon in 1714; in 1719 he was created Marquis of Caernarvon and finally the First Duke of Chandos. He became the Paymaster General of the Forces from 1705-1713. It was common practice at the time to accumulate the interest from such a position for personal use, but in 1711, the House of Commons launched an enquiry into some missing millions. James Brydges blamed it on accounting difficulties! No action was taken against him despite the fact he had a fortune of £3 million. In later years, he lost much of his money through poor investments in the Royal African Company, the Mississippi scheme and the South Sea Bubble; it was the first duke's sister,

Mary Brydges, who was the link to Jane Austen on her mother's side: the aristocratic connection of which Mrs. George Austen was so proud!

The second Duke was James's sixth and only surviving son, Henry Brydges. His first marriage was to Mary, daughter of the Earl of Aylesbury, who died in 1738. His second marriage to Ann was most unusual; the following quote is taken from the Temple Memoirs:

Told to me by an old lady, a native of Newbury, who was ten years old when it happened. The Duke of Chandos and a companion dined at the Pelican, Newbury, on the way to London. A stir in the Inn yard led to their being told that a man was going to sell his wife, and they are leading her up with a halter around her neck. They went to see. The Duke was smitten by her beauty and patient acquiescence. He bought her and subsequently married her on Christmas Day 1744.

Ann was a chambermaid at the Pelican Inn, Newbury. Lord Orrery remarked of her: *'Of her person and character, people speak variously, but all agree both are bad.'* Ann preferred to live at Keynsham Abbey, Somerset and died in 1759, leaving a daughter Augusta Ann. James died in 1771.

James, his only son by his first wife, succeeded the second Duke. He lived in Chandos House in London. In addition to his father's titles, James was Baron Kinloss from 1747 and a Baronet. He also held a number of public offices from 1754–51. He was MP for Winchester 1760–64, Lord of the Bedchamber 1761–68, MP for Radnorshire 1783, Lord Steward of the Household 1771 – 80 and Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. On the death of James Brydges, all the titles expired except the Scottish Lordship of Kinloss. As James had no male heir his estate passed to his daughter Anna. She was married to Richard Grenville, Earl Temple, who was created the First Duke of Buckingham and Chandos in 1822 and died in 1836.

Appendices:

1: The Royal African Company

The Royal African Company was a slaving company set up in 1660 at the restoration of the monarchy and led by James Duke of York, Charles II's brother and London merchants. Originally known as the Company of Royal Adventurers Trading to Africa, it was granted a monopoly over the English slave trade by its charter issued in 1660. With the help of the army and navy, it was responsible for seizing any rival English ships transporting slaves. In 1698, the company lost its monopoly, which proved advantageous for Bristol merchants. The company continued slaving until

1731, when it abandoned the trade in favour of trafficking in ivory and gold dust. The Royal African Company's logo was an elephant and castle.

2: The Mississippi Scheme

The Mississippi scheme was the brainchild of John Law who was born in Scotland in 1671. His father was a banker and at the age of 14 John entered his father's business where he acquired an insight into the principles of banking. On the death of his father in 1688, he left the bank and, using his inheritance, which allowed him an extravagant lifestyle, set off to see the world. Law travelled around Europe where he came to the notice of the Due d'Orleans, regent to the young king of France. He proposed to establish a company with extensive powers to trade in the Mississippi region (the Mississippi Scheme). This caused great interest, not just in France, but also throughout Europe. Like all such schemes it was doomed to failure and on its collapse, John Law fled France and eventually died penniless in Venice in 1729.

3: The South Sea Bubble

This was another plan to try and make a lot of money quickly. In 1720, in return for a loan of £7 million to finance the *war* against France, the House of Lords passed the South Sea Bill, which allowed the company a monopoly in trade with South America. The company underwrote the English National Debt (£30 million,) on a promise of 5% interest from the Government. Immediately shares rose to 10 times their value. The country went wild but then the 'bubble' burst. There were 462 members of the House of Commons and 112 Peers who were involved in the crash.

Sources:

Keynsham and Saltford. Life and Work in Times Past 1539-1945.

Keynsham History Society.

Barbara Lowe's research into the Keynsham Bridges.

Internet Site: Dukes of Buckingham and Chandos.

THE VEALES OF KEYNSHAM

Joy Cannam

At the end of the nineteenth century and in the early years of the twentieth many of the businesses in Keynsham were run by Veales - and Veale daughters had married other tradesmen. The records of the Ebenezer Baptist Church on the High Street show that many of the family were members and some were also Deacons. All this suggests that the family touched many lives in Keynsham at that time. Now they are all gone, and in fact I have only found two Veales in the local phone book, who may or may not be members of this particular family.

There was probably more than one Veale family in Keynsham in the early nineteenth century, although they may have had a common origin back in earlier times. The name itself appears in records as both Veale and Veal, in some cases the same person appearing in the GRO Birth Index as Veal and the Death Index as Veale. Until well into the twentieth century the spelling seems interchangeable, and cannot be used to distinguish between families.

Who were these Veales?

The common ancestor of all those appearing in this piece was James Veale, born in Keynsham in 1791. The evidence for this is the entry in the Keynsham Baptism Register for the James Veale born in 1819 that names his father as James Veale (alias Flower). What this means is not clear though it could possibly indicate that although he was born into the Veale family the Flowers brought him up. We know from later censuses that he was born in about 1791, and that he was a labourer; some censuses say agricultural labourer, but others are less specific and the likelihood is that in those days men turned their hand to any kind of work that was available, depending on the season of the year. He was still listed as a labourer in 1861 when he was 70, and he died in 1868 aged 78. James married Maria Malpas (or Malpus) and they had three sons and two daughters. Of their two daughters, I have found no certain information. James (1819) was the oldest son and it was his line that produced all the traders who had shops on Keynsham High Street. Of his two brothers, Thomas (1823) lived out his life in Keynsham and worked at the Logwood Mills, where by 1881 he had been promoted to Manager; and William (1829) moved away to Bristol and kept a butcher's shop. After James's death in 1868 Maria seems to have lived with Thomas and his family in Charlton Lane until her death in early 1881, aged 92

James (1819) seems to have had the most modest employment of the three brothers: whereas Thomas and William were prospering in either manufacturing or retail industries, he was variously employed as a labourer or as a carter and in fact is to be seen in the well-known photograph of the men at the Keynsham Brass Mill taken in about 1870. He sits at the back on his wagon behind two horses. He had married a local woman, Hannah Tipney, from a family largely engaged in the masonry trade, and they had six children who survived childhood. Three were daughters: Emily may have died in 1865 aged 13, and Sarah Elizabeth married Thomas Baker of High Littleton, a labourer. Thomas and Sarah had several daughters, but Thomas died in his late twenties, and the censuses show that Sarah Elizabeth at first relied on Parish Relief, but later established herself as a laundress in Keynsham. The third daughter, Hannah Marie seems to have stayed in Keynsham and to have been an Infant teacher until her marriage to Francis Jones in 1882. They seem to have been childless until her death in 1888. The other three were sons. James (1842) and Eli (1855) did not become shopkeepers. James took employment with the Great Western Railway, and Eli worked in Keynsham at the Brassworks where his father was also working. He appears as a small boy at the front of the photograph taken at the works in 1870. The middle son William, born in 1849, may



Keynsham Brass Mill personnel circa 1870.
William, James, Thomas & Eli Veale all appear in the photograph

have been the first Veale to set up a business of his own.

William (1849)

A family member who lived in Keynsham as a child from 1909-1919 remembered William as a "farmer and butcher", and indeed several Kelly's Directories from 1889 to 1919 list William Veale, Butcher, Temple Street (later ones had William and son). On the other hand, all censuses up to 1891, list William as a Wire Drawer and only after that date as a butcher, so it may be that the butchery business (which included a slaughterhouse) began as a sideline that became very prosperous. Certainly, by the late nineteenth century this family seems to have been socially upwardly mobile.

Whereas previous generations were labourers of various kinds, William had a skilled job and owned a business, his sister Hannah Marie was an infant teacher, and his older brother James was a skilled worker on the railway. William married a Keynsham woman, Emily Green, and three of their children had shops in the town: Horace was a grocer, Gilbert had a tailoring business, and Harry joined his father in the butcher's shop. Two other children died in infancy. By the late nineteenth century, Veales had become essentially middle class. In addition to the shopkeepers, William's daughter Winifred was a schoolteacher, and his other son Harold a civil servant working in London.

William's family

Horace Arthur was born in 1877 and spent his childhood and youth living in Temple Street where he eventually opened a grocer's shop. His name appears in trade directories from 1902 onwards and it was in that same year that he married Edith Carter from Bristol. It seems that they had no children, and the grocery business was eventually taken over in the 1920s by Horace's nephew Gordon Reed, son of his sister Winifred. Horace evidently also had some musical skill - he is said to have had a sideline tuning pianos.

Both Horace and Gordon were active members of the congregation at Keynsham Baptist Church and it has been said that they were the grocers of choice for the Baptist community. In those days, church or chapel allegiance evidently extended into other aspects of life to a far greater extent than it does today. By the 1940s, both Horace and Gordon

were Deacons of the Baptist Church, and they appear on a 1949 photograph of the whole Diaconate published in The History of Keynsham Baptist Church in 1985 by Russell Leitch. The Baptist connexion may have begun with James Veale (1819) who, although he appears in the Baptism Register of Keynsham Parish Church for 1819 is also recorded as having been admitted to the Ebenezer Baptist Chapel in June 1850 "by baptism". His son Eli and his daughter Hannah Marie are recorded as members, as are three of his grandchildren and two of his great grandchildren. Horace, Harry and Eli's son Alfred were all Deacons of the Chapel.

Gilbert James was born in 1879 and lived with the family in Temple Street until he left to board with a Tailor's Cutter in Reading, presumably to learn the trade, as he later returned to live in Keynsham and work in a tailoring business in Bristol. In 1906, he married Gladys Oxley from Clifton and their daughter Iris Doreen was born in 1909. Not long after that the little family emigrated to Canada and remained there until 1919 adding three more children to their number, William (always called Jack), Marjorie and Gladys. Passenger lists from trans-Atlantic ships indicate that Gilbert went first, travelling in 1910, and Gladys and young Iris Doreen in 1911. They returned to Keynsham in the summer of 1919, and lived in a cottage on Durley Hill where their last child Monty was born. Gilbert worked for a firm of tailors in Bristol, and had a shop on Keynsham High Street just opposite the church, where he prepared orders to be finished in Bristol.

His sons did not take to the tailoring business, but his daughter Doreen was a talented needlewoman; she worked in the High Street shop and learned a great deal from her father. Later she married Ernest Wiltshire who was a builder, and Doreen worked in his builders' supply shop on High Street opposite the Fire Station. She was widowed in 1996 and continued living in Keynsham until a year or two before her death in 2008. Gilbert's daughter Gladys married Douglas Dyson and lived out her life in Saltford until she died also in 2008. Of Gilbert's other children, Jack worked in telecommunications for the Post Office until he retired in 1961 and he lived on in Keynsham until he died. Monty had a distinguished career in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve during WWII, and afterwards lived in Bristol until his death in 2006. I know very little of Marjorie except that she died some years ago.

Harry was born in 1881. He was registered as Herbert Harry, but so far as I know his first name was never used. He also grew up in Temple Street, and in due course joined his father William in the butcher's shop.

In 1913, he married Eliza May White from Westbury in Wiltshire, and they produced six children, Thelma (1914), Brian (1915), Ruth (1921), Zoe (1923), Arnold (1924) and Roger (1928). The family lived at 70 Temple Street over the butcher's shop, with the slaughterhouse behind it. Harry was another devoted member of Keynsham Baptist Church, and was also a deacon in 1949. However, later in that same year Harry, by then in his late 60s, decided to sell up and move to a farm in South Molton in Devon. There he was joined by two of his sons, Arnold and Roger, who took over the running of the farm and continued farming after Harry's death, specialising in sheep farming, horse breeding and dog breeding. Once Harry's other children had grown up some moved away from Keynsham when they married, or to work. Ruth married Peter Dyke, and lived in Keynsham, working as a Nurse in Bristol, and later as a Health Visitor in Exmouth. Brian married Clarice Muriel Grimes and remained for many years in Keynsham where he became a civil servant working in the Ratings and Valuation Departments for Bathavon and later Bath. Thelma trained as a teacher, and lived and worked mainly in the West Country with her husband Simpson John Cooper; Zoe was also a teacher and worked at times in Middlesex and Kent as well as locally in Bristol. She married Sylvanus George Thomason.

Thus, by the early twentieth century William and his children had provided Keynsham with a butcher, a grocer, a tailor and a hardware shop and in addition to the shopkeepers, a school teacher and a piano tuner.

James (1842)

William (1849)'s older brother James born in 1842 was not tempted by the retail trade, but joined the Great Western Railway and worked on track laying and maintenance. At that time employment by the GWR was much sought after, and highly prized. When the GWR was first built in the 1830s it was a broad gauge line, but in the years leading up to 1892 the track needed to be converted to the same gauge as the railway system in the rest of the country, and it is reported in the family that James was involved in this work. He rose to be a foreman platelayer (track maintenance man) by 1901. His eldest son George followed him into employment with the GWR as a track maintenance man, and was in fact run over and killed by a train near Parson Street Bridge in Bedminster in 1887 when he was 24 years old.

James married Elizabeth Ollis, daughter of Nicholas Ollis (b. 1816) and they had nine children, seven of whom survived childhood. Two

of his sons had shops on the High Street, and one of his daughters married another retailer. Another daughter married a local blacksmith whose forge was also in High Street.



Oliver Veale's Boot Shop decorated for either Queen Victoria's Jubilee in 1897 or King Edward VII's Coronation in 1902

James's family

James's second son Oliver kept a boot and shoe shop at the end of Keynsham High Street where it joins Bath Hill. The "Bespoke" sign on the lamps in front of the shop on a photograph I have seen seems to imply that he also made footwear, and the occupation given on his death certificate confirms this. He married May Hendon in 1890 and they had one child, Olive, born in 1891. Oliver took his own life in June 1921 when he was 54 years old, and Kelly's Directory for 1923 has an entry that suggests that young Olive took over running the shop after her father's death. There is a family memory that Oliver or his wife also kept a fancy goods and china shop on Bath Hill, but I have not found any independent evidence of this.

The other one of James's family who was a shopkeeper was his youngest son, Frederick William, born in 1882, who kept a fruit and flower shop on High Street just north of the Lamb and Lark. He was also a

successful market gardener and had extensive greenhouses on the outskirts of Keynsham where he grew tomatoes and experimented with hybrids, one of which produced extremely prolific crops. He called it Veale's Leader. He won the Residents' Challenge Cup at the Keynsham Horticultural Association Show three times between 1909 and 1912, but whether for tomatoes is not clear. In 1908 he married Elizabeth Scott whose family came from Warminster, Wiltshire. They lived in a house called Roseland Cottage in Charlton Park and had just one child, another Frederick William born in 1909. Although Frederick may have been brought up in the Baptist tradition Elizabeth was Methodist and they continued in that tradition throughout their lives.



Frederick Veale's shop next to the Lamb & Lark car park (about 1914).



Frederick Veale with wife Elizabeth and son Frederick

In 1915 when he was 33, Frederick volunteered for the Army and was drafted into the Army Service Corps where he became part of the Remount Division, responsible for finding and training horses to replace those wounded and killed in action. In 1918 he was transferred to the Royal Guernsey Light Infantry along with others from the ASC. The purpose of this was to make up the numbers of the RGLI who had suffered disastrous losses at the battle of Cambrai in December 1917. Although Fred

returned briefly to Keynsham after the war, he did not settle and soon returned to Guernsey with his wife and son to set up another market gardening business there. He and Elizabeth remained on Guernsey throughout the Occupation of the Island in WWII, and both died there, Elizabeth in 1971 and Fred in 1979.

James Nicholas (1879) lived out his life in Keynsham and worked as a gardener, but in what capacity I have not found any evidence. He married Ellen (or Helen) Elizabeth Stapleford from Bath, and they had one son, Ivan.

Of James's daughters, Emily Thyrza was born in 1871, and married James Rawlings in 1895. James was born in Hanham on the eastern outskirts of Bristol and was the brother of Albert Rawlings who kept Refreshment Rooms on Bath Hill, and Walter Thomas Rawlings, the cycle agent in Temple Street, later on Bath Hill. James was a Pork Butcher with premises a few doors to the south of the Lamb and Lark where High Street joins Temple Street. They had one daughter, Vera, born in 1900. A family memory recalls that James Rawlings was also the weighbridge master and that Emily was often the one to respond when the bell rang to say there was a customer waiting at the weighbridge, but I have so far found no evidence for this.

His second daughter Florence Elizabeth married Bruce Osborn who worked for an engineering firm in Bath, and lived out her life in Keynsham. They had two daughters, Audrey Florence (1900) and Ruby Elizabeth (1902).

James's youngest daughter, Hannah Ada Jane (always known as Ada), was born in 1877 and married James Ruck who was not Keynsham born and bred, but came from Monmouthshire. He was a blacksmith and came from a family where most of the men were in that trade. In fact one of his older brothers had been employed as a blacksmith in Keynsham in the early 1890s but moved away to Chew Magna. Maybe James knew he was leaving and moved to Keynsham to take his place. It is reported that two vets originally employed him, but that later he and another employee worked for themselves in a forge behind the Westminster Bank building on High Street across from the Parish Church. He and Ada lived on Bath Hill. They were married in the Baptist Ebenezer Chapel on High Street and had three children, Freda Myra (1902), Marie Isabel (1903) and Ronald James (1905). Freda remained in Keynsham and worked at Fry's factory; Ronald was a well-known postman in the town, and Marie married and

moved away to live in Liverpool.

So, in addition to the services provided by William's family, James's family provided a boot and shoemaker, a greengrocer and florist, a gardener and maybe a china shop. His daughters were linked by marriage with another butcher, a blacksmith, refreshment rooms and a bicycle shop.

Thomas (1823)

Thomas was the third son of James (1791) and like James (1842) and Eli he was not a shopkeeper. He began as an agricultural labourer, but was later employed at the Logwood Mills, in 1871 claiming to be a manager. He is of interest because sometime during the 1860s he appears to have deliberately changed his name (and that of his family) to Vale. This is not a transcription error by a census enumerator, because he uses the same name in 1871 and all subsequent censuses, and his son Sidney was registered as Veal in 1862, but ever afterwards appears in official records as Vale.

Where did they come from?

I have so far found it impossible to trace the Veal/Veale family any further back than James (born 1791) using sources available to me. On-line I have used the 1841 census which is the earliest one available; the Parish Records of St. John's, Keynsham which have recently become available on-line thanks to the transcription work done by Doug Williams and others; and Doug Williams' personal website. I have also visited repositories in Keynsham, Bristol and Bath. There were certainly Veales in Keynsham from the late seventeenth century onwards - there are many Baptism, Marriage and Burial entries in the Keynsham registers showing the name, and using the on-line records, I can put together a family structure for most of them up to the very early nineteenth century. However, it does not link with James (1791) because so far I have been unable to identify his father or mother.

Nationwide, there were about two thousand Veal(e)s in the census taken in 1841, mostly in Devon and Cornwall, but only eleven living in Keynsham, five Veals and six Veales. The Keynsham ones include James (1819) and his wife Hannah who were both born in Somerset and James (1791) who we know from the Keynsham Baptism Register was the father of James (1819), and who was also born in Somerset. Including their families, this means that of the thirteen in Keynsham seven (regardless of how the name was spelt) were one family. The rest were an apparently

unconnected elderly couple, a servant and a single elderly woman. In the following decades up until 1911 censuses show that nearly all the Veales living in Keynsham were of the same family, with possibly one or two incomers who were either servants or lodgers. 1881 was an exception when there was a large farming family running St Anne's Farm, but they had gone again by the next census. By 1911, however, three more unrelated families were present - those of a GWR policeman, a grocer and a Methodist minister. It remains to be seen whether they remained in Keynsham and established another Veale line, or whether they too moved on. There were also three Veale children who had been adopted by other Keynsham families - I have not so far traced who their parents were.

At this time it is interesting to note that there were more Veals than Veales in Keynsham, but they were all incomers and not obviously related to our Veale family. The spelling seems to have sorted itself out and by that date it was distinguishing between families.

James (1791) remains a puzzle. Who were his parents? Who were the Flowers? And what was their role in his life? Until those questions can be answered it is not possible to either move back a generation or find how this branch of the Veale family links with the others round about. I am still working on it.

What happened to them all?

The grandchildren of James (1819) almost all spent their lives in or very near Keynsham. Only two moved permanently away in their adult years. Harold, son of William (1849) who moved to London and had a career in the Civil Service; and Frederick William, son of James (1842) who moved to Guernsey after World War I.

The picture in the next generation is not significantly different: most of the family stayed in the Keynsham or Bristol area, but others moved to Devon, Kent and Liverpool. From then on the family has spread far and wide, to Ely, Norwich, Lichfield, Leicester, Cornwall, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, Germany and USA amongst other places. There is still a nucleus in the Bristol area, but so far as I am aware, there are now no Veales from this line in Keynsham itself.

TWO GIANTS OF KEYNSHAM RUGBY CLUB

The last few years have seen the passing of two remarkable men who had a profound influence on the post war development of Keynsham Rugby Club - **Dennis Cockbaine M.B.E.** and **Peter Scarman G.M.**

At the end of the 2nd World War a number of rugby enthusiasts were anxious to get the Keynsham Rugby Club going again. In order to help them a number of local residents formed a small company to purchase the Crown Field for the use of both the Rugby and Football Clubs.

A lot of work was necessary to turn the existing buildings into changing rooms with shower facilities and funds had to be raised to pay for these improvements. The club members who rallied round to do this included both Dennis and Peter who continued to support the club for the rest of their lives.



Dennis Cockbaine (centre) and the Keynsham Rugby Team, 1947/48 season

Dennis Cockbaine was born on May 17th, 1921, was educated at Bristol Grammar School, and as a Territorial was mobilised at the outbreak of the war. He joined the 5th Royal Tank Regiment and served with them as a tank commander with the rank of major. He fought at El Alamein in the

North African campaign and, after D-Day, in Europe. Following the German surrender, he was involved in a number of administrative jobs in the zone of occupation until he was demobilised in 1946.

Returning to Somerset, Dennis soon made his presence felt and in the 1947/48 season, he was elected Keynsham Rugby Club captain.

After his playing days were over, his well developed organisational and administrative skills were soon put to good use and he served the club in a number of roles. As Chairman and subsequently President for over thirty years, he was instrumental in seeing the club grow from a single team in 1946 to one that can boast superb community facilities catering for six senior teams. Under his guidance a new clubhouse and changing complex was built to accommodate eight teams and the car park extended. Mini and junior sections were formed, providing sporting opportunities for youngsters from 7 to 17 years, in addition to the five senior teams and colts.

On Christmas Eve 1992, a fatal accident occurred on the road in front of the club entrance when a drunken driver ploughed into a group of club members leaving the annual disco. Two young adults were killed and nine others seriously injured. As President, Dennis took personal control of the club's response calling an emergency meeting of the Management committee on Boxing Day. Subsequently he chaired a fund-raising committee that raised £2,100 for those affected by the accident. In 2000, he made a personal appeal that raised a further £3,500 to erect a set of memorial gates at the club entrance. His work in various voluntary capacities was rightly rewarded in 2006, when he was made an MBE.

When he died peacefully in hospital on March 4th 2010, aged 88 he had served 39 years as the rugby club's president.

Peter Scarman was born on 2nd March 1924 in West London and moved with his family to the Bristol area the following year. After living in several houses in the city, his parents moved to Keynsham 1938, and Pete Scarman lived in the town for the rest of his life. He was joined by Pat when the pair married in 1974.

Educated at Fairfield Grammar School, Pete joined the Ordnance Survey straight from school. From 1943 to 1947, he served with the Royal Engineers as a surveyor, serving in Norway, Egypt and Palestine. In 1950, he got a job as a civil engineer with the then Bristol Corporation and worked for the firm until ill-health caused early retirement in 1986.

It was in 1950 that Pete was awarded the prestigious George Medal. On 13th March 1950 two Polish men armed with weapons robbed the branch of Lloyds Bank in Westbury Park, Bristol. During their escape they were chased by a young man, George Taylor and seeing this Pete joined the chase. In the struggle that followed one of the robbers turned and shot Mr Taylor dead. Undeterred Pete continued to chase both men and managed to grab one but who, with the help of his accomplice, managed to free himself. Nevertheless despite the now obvious danger and with no thought for his own safety, Pete maintained the chase and managed to keep in contact with the robbers. He eventually jumped into a police vehicle and with his help the robbers were apprehended. Both the men were convicted and after the trial Pete was awarded the George Medal which was presented to him by King George VI. (he was also presented with a clock by the chief Constable of the Bristol Constabulary).



Peter Scarman on his “tractor” ably assisted by Dennis Cockbaine and John Castle (the reference to Nasser probably dates the photo to 1956).

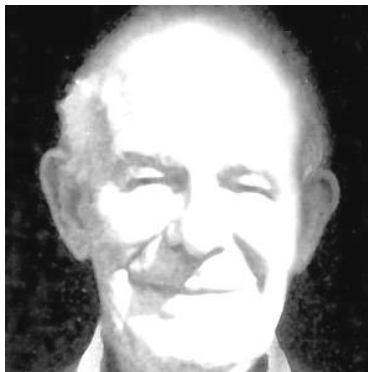
Keynsham Rugby Club became one of his great loves after joining in 1947. He ran the club bar, maintained the pitches, assisted in the development of the old clubhouse and was more recently involved in the planning and construction of the new one. Pete was made a life member of the club in 1998.

Owing to his serious knee problems, and the fact he never played rugby for Keynsham, it is amazing that he made such a great contribution to

the club. Most of his spare time was spent on various club projects.. Everyone with memories of Pete talk of this large figure, bronzed and stripped to the waist constantly driving the club tractor up and down the pitches. One says “the club tractor” but of course it was Pete’s tractor and woe betide anyone who ventured too near it. In those days he maintained the pitches single handed and it is no small reason why the pitches are now in such good condition.

Another role which Pete took was that of running and managing the bar. From the early days onwards he made sure that these facilities made both a financial and social contribution to the club’s prosperity.

Peter was a man of great strength of character, dependable but modest. He served on the committee until ill health forced him to give up. He was one of those persons who, if he did not know the answer himself, he always knew somebody who did.



Peter Dennis Scarman G.M.

For his major contribution to the club’s success he was made a life member in 1998. Peter Scarman died at home in Keynsham on 4th December, 2007 aged 83.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ALLOTMENTS

Sue Trude

Now a days the importance of fresh fruit and vegetables in our diet is emphasised in the proliferation of cooking information both on TV and in magazines.

Many of us have a window box or small garden in which we are encouraged to grow herbs or salad crops. An increasing number of us have developed a great interest in gardening and have rented allotments in which to grow fresh food for our families.

The talk given by Daniel Miles ("Recording Second World War Heritage") encouraged us to unravel the history of allotments.

In a way, allotment holders are descendants of the medieval villiens who cultivated strips of land providing beans and other vegetables for their own consumption, but of course, in return they had to work for the Lord of the Manor. Gradually as farming practices changed and much common land was enclosed so the strip system vanished. In the 18th Century, there was considerable interest in the provision of smallholdings or allotments often attached to cottages to relieve poverty but in the 19th Century this was concentrated upon the rural poor. Opposition to this move came from the farmers who felt that the men would spend more energy on their land and less energy in their employment.

Garden allotments sprang up on the outskirts of industrial cities such as Birmingham; these were mainly to provide the labouring classes with a leisure activity in a clean air environment and also to keep the men out of the alehouses. In 1887, about two thirds of allotments were under a quarter of an acre. These were the so-called garden allotments. 1907 saw such a huge demand for allotments that legislation was brought in requiring local authorities to supply them if demanded. The Small Holding and Allotments Act of 1908 imposed a duty on councils to provide allotments if six or more people said they wanted them, (this is still in force today). By 1913 there were 600,000 allotments in England and Wales and demand increased at the start of the First World War when large amounts of unused urban land was requisitioned to provide allotments to increase food supply. By 1918, the number had increased to 1,500,000 but at the end of the hostilities the land reverted to its previous use, nevertheless returning

servicemen finding difficulties adjusting to civilian life were demanding plots of land. Also in the 1920's/30's there was support for allotments for the unemployed. Legislation in 1925 required the need for allotments to be considered in town planning schemes, and the land purchased by a local authority for such use could not dispose of it without ministerial consent. In 1939, there were almost 740,000 individual plots in England and Wales both urban and rural and the "Dig for Victory" campaign increased that number even more.

Did Keynsham have any allotments? On a 1904 map of Keynsham allotment gardens are marked behind the police station and by Rookhill House, also the Parish Council records show that a number of meetings were held to acquire more land for allotments from 1917-1921. Parish Council minutes are as follows...

Wednesday 7th March 1917. Allotments. The action of the committee in obtaining rented land and utilizing the recreation ground for increasing food supplies was approved.

Wednesday 4th April 1917. It was reported that Mr. Willoughby had consented to a further part of the recreation ground being ploughed up for the production of foodstuffs. (Where was the recreation ground at this time?)

Wednesday 16th February 1918. Details of a scheme to acquire about 2 acres of land owned by Mr. Godfrey behind the Workhouse were put forward for a period of 2 years after the war at a rental of £7-00 p.a.. This was approved. The committee recommended that the new piece of land to be purchased adjoining the cemetery be used partly for allotments and this was also approved.

Wednesday 6th October 1920. It was resolved that the allotments committee be empowered to negotiate with the R.D.C. for a portion of the Pits not immediately required for housing.

Wednesday 1st December 1920. It was resolved that the Parish Council accept the offer of the R.D.C. to let portions of the Pits for allotments at £35 p.a. (Where are the Pits?)

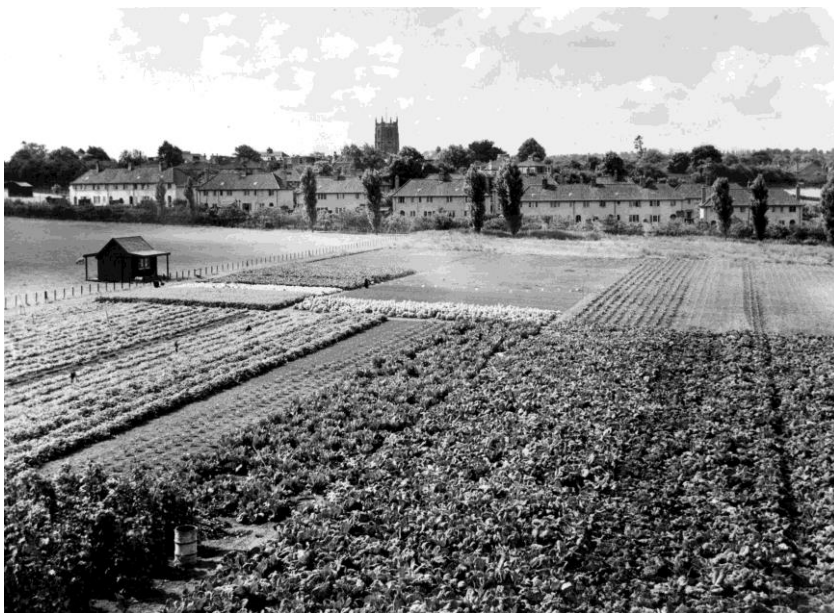
Wednesday 2nd February 1921. It was recommended that the Council should offer £150 for the purchase or £9 p.a. for renting the allotment field at the back of the Workhouse.

Wednesday 6th. April 1921—The clerk reported completion of the purchase of land in Park Road for allotments.

During W.W.2 people were turning their lawns into vegetable plots, large portions of parks were dug up, the lawn in front of the Royal Crescent was also converted to allotments, and we all know Fry's turned over a lot of grassland to grow fresh food for the works canteen.

A member of the society remembers after the war his father worked two plots on the triangle of land between Avon Lane and Dragons Hill Close in addition to two others on the land bordering the River Chew (now the Park)

An OS map (updated in 1968) shows six allotment sites. Another member of the society remembers some behind and beside number 29 Manor Road in 1955/56, which have since been built on. Other plots were off the Wellsway going down towards the bottom of Gooseberry Steps. She thought these were worked by schoolchildren under supervision.



Fry's vegetable plots 1940

Keynsham Allotment Association was established in 1987 to provide allotments for the community of Keynsham. The Association looks after 122 plots at the Park Road site. Each allotment is approximately 150 sq. yard.

Exactly one hundred years earlier in 1887 the Keynsham and District Horticultural Association had its first meeting on February 26th and in our archives we have a record of every meeting until 1st December 1922. These meetings give us an insight into the organisation of these exhibitions, the difficulties faced and the upsets that can occur amongst the exhibitors. (In 2005, I wrote an article on that subject called “Neighbourhood Watch 19th Century Style” in journal number 5, series 2). We also have many of the schedules for these exhibitions setting out the rules for those wishing to exhibit their prize vegetables, fruit, flowers and the prizes to be awarded.

In 1898 the Bristol Mercury reported on classes in the flower show for “cottagers whose rent does not exceed £13” and another “whose rent does not exceed £8”. In 1920 the Cottagers' Classes were limited to “bone fide cottagers whose rental of house, garden, allotment and potato ground does not exceed £15” and by 1923, that rental had risen to £25. These minutes make interesting reading especially as the names of several of the committee members are still familiar to us today.

Finally, we could update our records if any of you have knowledge of other sites or other projects. Did anyone in your family have an allotment? Do let us know.

Information taken from the internet and from our archives and with the help of Barbara Lowe.

Sue Trude

P.S. There was a small article recently in the Western Daily Press where a scheme was being considered to provide allotments for returning service men from Afghanistan in an effort to help them to cope with life back home.

“Plus ça change plus c'est la même chose” as the French say...

Some Memories of Salford Primary School in Wartime.

June Stowell (nee Steer)

I started at Salford C of E primary school early in 1935 at the age of 4½. My teacher was Miss Hooker who sat on a tall chair at a high desk. Our classroom was one-half of a large room divided across the centre by sliding panels; the infants on one side; the juniors on the other. Until we were five we had a rest in the afternoon, lying on the wooden forms we used for P.E., with cushions for our heads. The room was heated by a tortoise stove, kept going by the caretaker who lived with his wife in a house adjoining the school. Their parlour was used by the school dentist on his annual visit. In the winter, the crates of milk, often frozen, would be warmed through on the stove. We took our milk money into school every Monday, 2½d (1p) per week. The stove was a great comfort when children were poorly. On one occasion I remember leaning miserably against its fireguard with toothache before my mother took me off by bus to Bristol Dental Hospital where the offender was removed under gas. A lady gave me a penny for being brave and I bought a sponge finger at Batstone's Bakery on the main road. I don't know where Miss Hooker lived but believe she came by bus, bringing her lunch with her. On Shrove Tuesdays Mrs Shellard, one of the mothers, made pancakes for her, bringing them to school in a basket covered with a cloth.

At seven or eight we moved into the top class the other side of the partition. There we were taught by Mrs Bunker, the school's Headmistress, who lived in the village. When the war started, Salford received its share of evacuees from London, together with a teacher, Mr Crompton. So they opened the Kelly room as a classroom and we were integrated with the evacuees and taught in three groups instead of two. We weren't used to such tough children, or



The Old Salford Primary School today

strong teacher and it didn't go well with the gentler country children, or their mothers!

The Kelly room was used as our Air Raid Shelter. The windows were high and criss-crossed with sticky tape and were left open during a raid. I remember the daylight raid on Filton. The German aircraft came in very low and through our open windows we watched them go over.

Our curriculum was very basic: arithmetic, English - spelling and writing, stories, scripture, singing, art and p.e. The girls did sewing and embroidery while the boys did raffia work and made sea grass stools. I remember the cupboard in the hall where the supplies were kept which gave off a musty smell of damp sea grass and ink! The favourite subject for painting was the view from our window of Salford Manor, just over the wall. It was especially beautiful at apple blossom time.

At the age of 10 or 11 we took what we called the Scholarship - an exam set by Somerset County Council - for a place at The City of Bath Girls' (or Boys') School. In 1941, while the Rector, Rev. Evans, was officiating, the sirens sounded, much to his consternation, but it was decided to keep the exam going.

The old part of Salford remains much as it was before the Second World War, with most of the development on the other side of the Bath/Bristol road. The Post Office was in the Batch, and there was a sweetshop owned by Miss Mitchell on the left hand side just before the. Bird in Hand. During an air raid, an incendiary bomb went through Miss Mitchell's roof and bed! The sight of the mattress with its burnt hole was a great attraction to us children.

We lived a few doors from the Evangelical Church in Norman Road and it played a large part in our young lives, with Sunday School, young people's meetings, lantern lectures, socials and annual outings (usually to Cheddar and Weston-super-Mare). Mr. Gane was the Superintendent and his Uncle and Aunt (also Gane) were the caretakers in the Chapel House next door.

We lived at No. 40 Norman Road and our garden backed on to the Recreation Ground -a large field with swings and sandpits and a wooden cricket pavilion, which became very dilapidated through neglect during the war and collapsed one evening when a horse rubbed his back against it.

Good Byes

This year sadly, we have had to say goodbye to some long serving members of the society.

Arthur John Shore (known as John) 1931 – 2010

(based on extracts of the address given by Reverend Dr Adrian Hough, his son-in-law, at John's funeral on 15th December 2010).

Arthur John Shore was born on 16th August 1931 at Portland, Dorset where his father was a Prison Officer at the Borstal. He lived on Portland until his National Service, leaving only to attend Dorchester Grammar School. One of his achievements at school was to excel at Cross Country, and another was to be an active member of the Army Cadets, both of which were to have consequences later in his life.

On leaving school, John was called up for National Service, joining the Royal Artillery where his earlier time in the Cadet Force soon saw him promoted to Lance Bombardier and, in due course, a secondment to administrative work. Here, presumably in the adjutant's office, John's curiosity led him to study a number of the numerous Army Regulations and therein discover that he could obtain an early discharge if he entered Higher Education. Putting his new found knowledge into practice, he went to Teacher Training College, at the College of St Paul, Cheltenham, now part of the University of Gloucestershire.

Early in his first year at college, John attended a sixpenny dance lesson which had also attracted a number of female students from his college's sister institution of St Mary's - the men and women had separate colleges in those days. Looking around the room he saw a group of bright young ladies on the opposite side of the dance-floor, walked straight across and asked one particular young lady to dance with him. Margaret accepted and the rest, as they say, is history.

On 8th August 1957, John and Margaret were married and three years later, on 17th September 1960, they moved to Lyndhurst Road, Keynsham. Within a few months, they were delighted to discover that their first child was on the way, due exactly one year after they had moved into the house. However, with what turned out to be a characteristic trait of wanting to do everything with excessive speed, Kathryn arrived four days

early. In due course, the family grew with the birth of Elizabeth in 1964 and Jane in 1969.

Career wise, John progressed from mainstream teaching first to children with learning and behavioural difficulties, and then to the home teaching of children who had been excluded from school. Along the way, he also spent a year on the Staff of Redland Teacher Training College, training teachers who would work with children who had severe learning difficulties. In due course John became the Senior Teacher on the Avon Education Authority Home Teaching Team.

In 1975, John and Margaret joined the Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society and in due course this led to them serving as joint Treasurers for almost twenty years and for much of this period also being joint Membership Secretaries, jobs which they very much enjoyed.

John had joined St John Ambulance in 1954, first as a member of Bristol North-East Division and then later becoming a founder member of the Keynsham Division. His service included being responsible for first aid at school and teaching first aid skills to both St John Cadets and the local Girl Guides. Later he became secretary of St John Ambulance, Eastern Area of Avon.

His service was recognised in the mid 1980's when he was made a Serving Brother of the Order of St John and following his retirement, he maintained his contact through the St John Fellowship.

John also had a passion for transport, although his interest in trains, particularly the Somerset and Dorset Railway on which he had frequently travelled, was overshadowed by his passion for Vintage Buses. Many is the Christmas and Birthday present which has been purchased with ease through some knowledge of this passion. With the greater time and



freedom afforded by retirement, he used to enjoy attending vintage bus rallies, the final one in Warminster, eight weeks before he died.

In August 2007, John and Margaret celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with the renewal of their marriage vows during the Sunday Morning Service at St John's Church, Keynsham. The following month, they went on a river cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg as another celebration. In retirement, they had travelled far more widely than previously and particularly enjoyed river-cruises. Early August, 2010 witnessed their penultimate holiday, a coach tour in Scotland, including climbing the 176 steps of The Bell Tower, Inveraray. However, by the end of August, the climbing up and down the hills at Lynton, Devon did not prove as easy and the development of a hoarse cough and increasing loss of energy led to the seeking of medical advice.

Over the following three months, John's illness progressively developed and he eventually required nursing care, this being provided at home, primarily by Margaret and Jane, with outside support and Elizabeth's help at weekends. Meanwhile, Kathryn who inherited John's athletic genes, was following a thirty-five year-old ambition to walk the South-West Coast Path. She was urged on by John and the hope was that she would reach Portland before he died. Portland was duly circumnavigated on Saturday 4th December and Kathryn travelled straight back to Keynsham. John died peacefully on the evening of the following day, Sunday 5th December with Margaret, Kathryn, Elizabeth and Jane at his side. He was in his eightieth year.



Margaret & John Shore

Mary Lanning (1928-2011) - An Obituary Poem by Jim Allen

To Mary, lover of flowers and poetry

The long sleep that knits up the raveled sleeve of care

Is yours. No more will cherry blossom whiten your churchyard way

To Eastertide. And not for you the sweetly scented air

Of orange blossom, lilies and lilac bless earth's springtime day

.

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis you'll not sing again

'Neath the high arches of St. John's you loved so well

.

Nor will you walk the Park in sunshine and in rain

To tend the Abbey site where canons said sad farewell.

Nor will you read to friends verses by Wordsworth or John Donne

Housman, Herrick, Hopkins, Byron, Yeats and Edward Lear,

And kindle their memories of childhood days long gone

Bring rhythms, cadences expressively to aged inclined ear.

These were the earthly treasures in your kindly life

.

Where your soul rests in heaven we mortals can't conceive;

You'll have no cares, no pain, no ills, no man-made strife

But closeness to God, his flowers and poetry, we believe.

