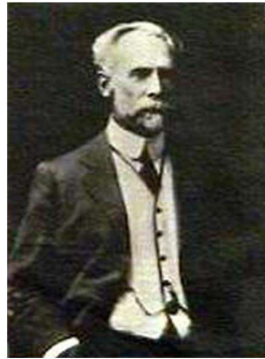


William Wheeler Kendall - Umbrella Manufacturer

William was born in Great Oxenden Northamptonshire in 1849, the son of Francis Burdett Kendall and Diana Wheeler. Francis was a cordwainer (shoemaker). Diana died whilst William was a child and his father remarried and had several more children. In 1871, the census lists William as aged 21, a hairdresser lodging in the St Margaret's district of Leicester. Local directories show that by 1875 he had a shop in Northampton Street, where he traded as hairdresser and tobacconist.



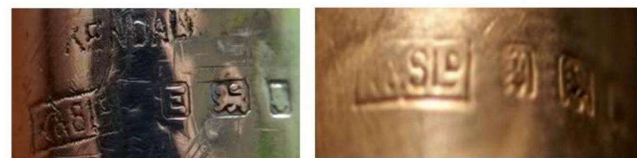
William Wheeler Kendall 1849-1910
The Kendall's at Moel Lllys

William married Lizzie (Eliza) Messenger in 1876 and the couple set up home at 42 Gopsall Street, where in 1881 his occupation lists him as an umbrella maker and hairdresser, and he now had an apprentice, 18 year old Frederick Almond. At this time, he had shops in Myrtle Street, Wellington Street, Sanvey Gate, and two in Northampton Street, with the latter selling "a very large stock of umbrellas, walking sticks, canes, riding whips, hunting crops and dog whips". By the mid 1890's, he had opened shops further afield, including Burton upon Trent and Cheltenham.

Moel Lllys, Forest Drive, was built for the Kendalls and the couple were living there in 1901 with their children Percy, Frank, Clifford, Daisy, Celia and Elsie.

William died in 1910 and at this time he owned 37 shops and a newly built factory in Belvoir Street. Lizzie continued to live at Moel Lllys until her death in 1934, when the property was purchased by Frank, who lived there until 1940. It was then leased to Leicester City Corporation and was sold by the family in 1944 for £4200. It was, for many years, used as a children's hostel. William, Eliza and daughter Daisy are buried in Kirby churchyard.

William's three sons were listed in 1913 as partners in the company and in the same year entered their first mark at the London Assay Office. 'K & S' above 'Ltd' was in use until June 1921. A second mark was then entered as 'K & S Ltd' contained within an oblong punch.



Kendall assay marks for 1922 and 1940

Our thanks go to KM Parish Council for financial assistance with the production of these newsletters.

In 1932, a purpose-built factory was built at 128 Charles Street that was specifically designed for efficiency and staff comfort. The company introduced tea breaks (tea provided) and also a staff canteen, one of the first in the country to do so.

The welfare of the staff was of prime importance, and Kendall's regularly took the entire workforce on trips to Cleethorpes, Skegness and Kenilworth. Many of the work force were Kirby residents.



Kendall's Works Outing 1908

Sales and marketing for the company emphasised quality and high standards, and Vogue was one of the publications in which it advertised. They regularly bought the entire front page of The Daily Mail around St Swithin's Day! The company continued to grow and added rainwear and ladies clothing to their cane & umbrella range, and during WW2 they manufactured mackintoshes for the army and also silk parachutes. By the 1960's, Kendall's had expanded to over 100 retail stores, and their umbrellas were sold world-wide. They also supplied the Royal Family, who required umbrellas to particular specifications, and in 1953 five umbrellas were part of the equipment in the Everest expedition.



Kendall's Granby Street Store next to the Turkey Cafe

Kendall's remained a family business until 1977, when it was acquired by Combined English Stores. It was then sold in 1981 to Hepworth and sons of Leeds, who converted all the Kendall stores to the Next brand, which was completed by 1984.

The family were members of the Free Church and William was president of the Choir. In 1905, he sponsored the first choir outing and also presented a pipe organ to the church. Frank was the church choirmaster for 25 years. Ewart "Clifford" was a captain in the army during WW1, and during WW2 he was captain of the Home Guard "A" Company, which included Kirby.

KT

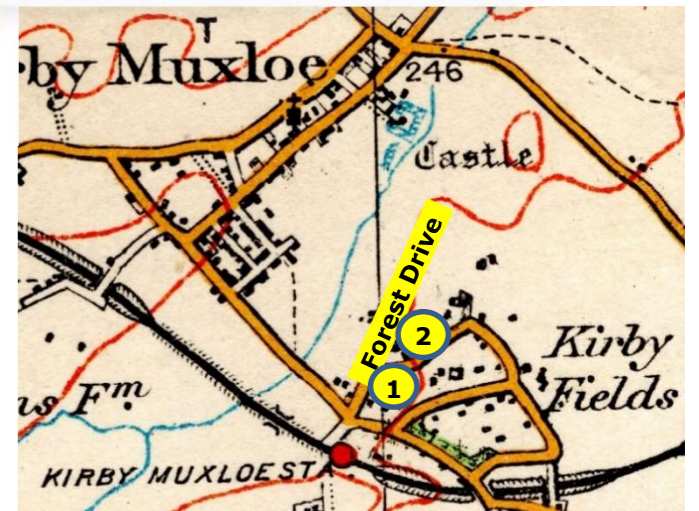
I am afraid that this will be our last Newsletter. Now that we are resuming our meetings, the need for newsletters to keep in contact with our members has disappeared. They have been enjoyable to produce, but a lot of hard work. We know that you have enjoyed them, from the feedback that we have received. We hope to see you all at our meetings.



Newsletter No. 17, September 2021

Hi and welcome to our latest KMLHG Newsletter.

Mike Gould (Chair) Val Knott (Secretary)
Kate Traill (Treasurer) Judith Upton (Archivist)
Kerry Burdett Our meetings resume on 28th Sept. This will include a talk by Ted Cook on "The Ivanhoe Line" - the railway goods line that runs through Kirby. The meeting starts at 7:30pm in St. Bart's Church Hall, Main St. Admission will be £2 for members and £5 for visitors. Membership costs £8, which covers from Sept. to May 2022, when yearly subscriptions at £10 will resume. The £8 membership will be payable at the Sept meeting, along with the admission charge.



① Back once more to 1945, with more houses and more offspring marrying each other. As we travel further up Forest Drive, keeping to the right-hand side of the road, we follow the corner around and arrive at the next house. The Slopes, its original name, is said to have been built around 1908, however it appears not to have been occupied until 1913. This house was given as a wedding present to Muriel Hewitt by her father Francis Hewitt of Walburton. Muriel Hewitt married Arthur Silver, who originated from Islington in 1913. The Silver family lived here until around the early '20's, when it was sold to Basil Wynn Edwards, a Leicester Lawyer. By 1924, the house changed hands again, this time the occupant being Edward Percy Rose, whose occupation had been as a dental surgeon. At the time of moving to the house, Edward Rose was eighty-one years old and his wife Annie was fifty-eight. They moved here from The Spinneys, where they had lived since 1899. The Spinneys was a very large house and so maybe they decided in their later years to move to a smaller residence. Edward Rose married Annie Dalrymple in 1890. She had previously lived at Portland House with her parents, William and Sarah. Edward and Annie Rose's only daughter, Dorothy, married Edgar Price, son of Wallace Frank Price of Walton Lodge. Yet another marriage of the residents of Kirby Fields! By the 1930's, the house was rented to Norman A. Collard, and then during WWII and now in 1945, to Norman Simpson Waite and his family. Norman Waite was a hosiery merchant, owning his own business. Next year, in 1946, the house will change hands again and be sold to Thomas Edward Brown, son of Edward Brown and his wife Elsie of Rosendene. Thomas Edward Brown and his wife had previously lived at Westleigh. It becomes intriguing that so many families moved around in Kirby Fields, sometimes moving to a larger house and also sometimes, in older age, swapping a large house for a smaller one. It appears that so many people enjoyed living in the area that although they may have changed abode, they did not leave their friends and neighbours. Kirby Fields was indeed a very close community. By this time the name of the house will be changed to Grey Lodge. In future years, the house will be occupied by Dr. James Proudfoot, who many older residents will remember as a kind and caring G.P. He will change the

name again, this time to Spey Cottage. Eventually Dr Proudfoot and his family will emigrate to Australia. The next occupant will be Dr Munro. By the 1970's, the house will have changed its name once more and become Whirlow House, a name it will retain until at least 2021.

② We now approach two slightly newer houses which were built in the late 1920's. The names were White Cottage and Ringwood. Both houses were designed by Ralph "Bedo" Bedingfield, an architect responsible for a number of similar houses in and around Kirby Muxloe built in the 1920's and '30's. Both houses were built on the paddock which had previously belonged to the Old House. The paddock had been sold in 1925 by the Wilshere family. When standing in the grounds near to the stable block of the Old House, although there are still extensive grounds, White Cottage and Ringwood can be seen very clearly. The Green family, who lived in the Old House after 1934 and who were staunch Roman Catholics, converted the upstairs part of the stable into a chapel, which was consecrated by the Bishop of Nottingham. In future years, a path will be clearly seen where the nuns from Carmel, a children's home run by the Carmelite Sisters and opened in the 1950's, will walk to the Old House for morning prayers in the converted barn. At the present time now in 1945, White Cottage is occupied by Archibald (known as Gordon) Ellis, a director of Donisthorpe and Co Ltd. Wool Spinners and Dyers. During WWII, Archibald has been a Senior A.R.P. Warden and his wife Pearl a member of the W.V.S. Ambulance Service. Mr and Mrs Ellis have two daughters, Sylvia and Pamela. In 1953, Sylvia will marry Ewan Cameron of Faleide, Kirby Fields - one more marriage to add to the extensive list! In previous years, White Cottage had been occupied by a Mr Jackson, and then, for a short time, Ralph Tyler. Finally, Ringwood was first occupied by the Bedingfield family, who then sold the house to John Perry sometime after 1939. By the latter part of the twentieth century, the house will be home to Dr Donald May, a local G.P., and family, and they will move out in around 2020.

JU

Sources: Old Kirby (Muxloe) - Jonathan Wilshere, W.I. study of Kirby Fields, K.M. History Group archive.

This will be our last Newsletter - see back page for more.

Suffering for their Beliefs - Early Baptists in Leicestershire

Over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries, many non-conformist religious movements started up across the country. One of these, the Baptists, started to attract followers in the west of Leicestershire around the middle of the 18th century, initially due to travelling preachers who would stop and give evangelical sermons in the middle of a town or village to anyone who would listen. Now we might think that those who heard and believed in what was being said would join the movement and anyone else would simply walk away. But that is a modern view – things were not like that then. As much as these open air sermons attracted people who were eager to listen and open to being convinced, so they also drew people who were strongly opposed to non-conformism, who came to shout down the preacher, to mock him and, sometimes, go even further.

Although he was not a Baptist, it is perhaps worth starting with John Wesley, who in 1741 came and preached in the open air in Markfield, where the Countess of Huntingdon, Selina Hastings of Donington Park, owned property. She was very influential in the early development of non-conformism. This set the scene for similar events, and soon after, David Taylor also preached, this time in Ratby. These early sermons were heard by several people who were themselves to become pivotal in the Baptist movement. Joseph Donisthorpe, a blacksmith from Normanton-le-Heath, Samuel Deacon from Ratby and John Taylor, a schoolmaster in Markfield, were all affected by the evangelical preaching.

John Taylor takes up preaching himself, but is not always well-received by the crowds who hear him. Then he makes a mistake. He reads in public an extract from a periodical called "The Weekly History", in which he relates the inhuman treatment he had received from a brutal mob while preaching salvation. This has the opposite effect from that intended. Realising that the mob had been able to attack Taylor with impunity, some in the crowd decided to do the same. At his next meeting in Barton in the Beans, a crowd come from Nailstone, a mile away, and angrily swears at and threatens all those involved with the sermon. Taylor has to hide and then eventually flee the scene, in fear of his life.

As the vulgar rabble could not put a stop to the preaching by their folly and noise, a swaggering farmer of the neighbourhood of Nailstone resolved to try what he could do to accomplish this object. He hired one of the biggest blackguards of the district, provided him with a horn, and sent him through the circuit of the villages to make this proclamation -- "whoever will attend and assist in taking the Methodist parson the next time he comes, wherever he shall be found, shall be rewarded with a barrel of ale, and shall be indemnified, though the house be pulled down where he is."

So the Barton friends approached the principal magistrate in the area, Sir Wolstan Dixie at Bosworth Hall, for his advice. He said that they would be justified in resisting, even with firearms, if the lawless rabble were violent, but recommended milder measures. He indicated that he would punish future offenders. The group left, feeling that they had the law on their side.

Now Sir Wolstan was what we might today call "a character". He would do things his way, regardless of the consequences. His world revolved around one person, and one person only –

himself. He once had a violent encounter with a neighbouring squire, who objected to Dixie barring access to a footpath across his land. Some years later, when Dixie was presented to King George II as "Sir Wolstan Dixie of Bosworth Park", the king, perhaps wanting to show some knowledge of important English battles, despite his German birth, said "Bosworth! Bosworth! Big battle at Bosworth, wasn't it?". Sir Wolstan, clearly oblivious of any other battle that might once have taken place near Bosworth, replied "Yes, Sire. But I thrashed him."!

The following Saturday evening, Taylor and his supporters gathered for worship. Initially, it was to be in the house of a Mr Whyatt, but a Mr Aldridge, who had more power and influence locally, decided to house the preacher and congregation himself. It was not long before a crowd of several hundred, led by farmers determined to win the barrel of ale, started a search. Whyatt's house was first attacked and ransacked, but when they failed to find the preacher, they moved on.

Eventually, they reached the Aldridge house and quickly burst through the locked outer door. Remembering the words of Sir Wolstan, one of those inside took his gun and threatened to shoot any who should proceed to further violence. However, when he hesitated to fire, the crowd overcame him, seized the gun and fired it in the air. The mob now reached the inner door, which although bolted, gave way enough for several to push their hands through. Miss Aldridge, seeing these fingers appear, took down a sharp cleaver and sliced them from top to bottom, causing them to be quickly withdrawn, but leaving their owners with visible marks of their activities for weeks to come!

The door could not withstand the pressure for long, and soon the crowd burst in. They ransacked the house and dragged out the preacher and those who had protected him. Amid much jeering, shouting and cheering, they celebrated their success at winning the prize. Further intimidation, involving mud throwing, face blackening and ducking in the pool, was to follow over the next few hours. Eventually, the mob became tired and bored and went home.

On Monday, all parties appeared before Sir Wolstan to complain about their treatment by the other side. He, however, now seemed to forget his previous words of support for the non-conformists and binds them all to appear at Leicester Quarter Sessions. At the hearing, the decision went against the Barton friends and their suit was thrown out. However, this was so clearly an injustice that public opinion forced a re-trial. It took a further six months before justice was finally seen to be done and the farmers were forced to pay costs to the preacher and his supporters. But it would not be the last time that persecution would lead to violence, or that the law would turn a convenient blind eye to the suffering of those who had different beliefs to the mainstream.

MG

Our Website and Email Address

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1. Historic Memorials of Barton & Melbourne General Baptist Churches, pub 1891. Can be read at Leicestershire Record Office

Holidays Past

"Holiday" – from the Old English "haeligdaeg" (halig – holy and daeg – day) – the name given to special religious days.

I wonder if you remember when you went back to school after the summer holidays you always had to write an essay on "What I did in the school holidays"? Do you remember your school holidays and did the sun always seem to shine for you?

Hopefully, you will have been able to enjoy a holiday this year – probably a "staycation" – the new name for having a holiday in this country, despite the restrictions due to covid-19. Most people haven't been able to go abroad and consequently our holidays this year have been similar to the holidays we enjoyed as children all those years ago. In those days few of us were able to go abroad. This year many of us will have been to the seaside or visited the beautiful countryside that we are fortunate to have in this country.

But when did the idea of taking a holiday actually start?

We know the Romans were among the first to enjoy travel and holidays. In the summer months, wealthy Romans would escape the heat and travel to their luxury villas along the coast of Italy. Of course, their road system enabled them to travel, which led to the establishment of inns along the way and even to travel guides!

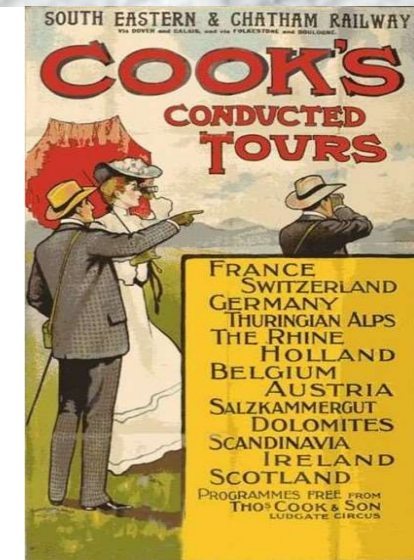
During the Middle Ages, pilgrimages became popular and although these could hardly be classed as holidays, they did lead to the establishment of a whole network of inns and monasteries where pilgrims could rest and eat – the first "hotels".

During the Tudor period, leisure travel was mostly limited to royalty and the court – these holidays were known as "The Royal Progress" by the King and Queen, travelling to different towns where, during the summer months, they could escape the diseases, heat and bad smells present in London.

In Tudor England, ordinary people mostly worked on the land without a break but were able to take a holiday over the 12 days of Christmas as most work on the land stopped then and they enjoyed feasting and celebrating but never went far from their own village. Most roads were impassable during the winter. On "Mothering Sunday", those who worked as servants away from home were allowed to visit their "mother" church and their families, but for just one day!

By the 18th century, wealthy people would take the "Grand Tour of Europe" taking months to travel and visit the grand cities of Europe, bringing back paintings, sculptures and furniture to furnish their grand houses. It also became fashionable to visit spas like those in Bath and Buxton to "take the waters", which people believed could cure various ailments.

In 1841, Thomas Cook, a Baptist Minister, born in Derby in 1808, launched his holiday business by arranging a one-day rail trip from Leicester to Loughborough. He believed alcohol to be the cause of social problems and he organized a special train to carry temperance supporters to a meeting 12 miles away in Loughborough. In the following years, he



arranged more trips for temperance societies and Sunday schools until in 1845 he organized his first commercial venture for the fee-paying public – a trip by train to Liverpool. Eventually he moved into Europe and further afield and the brand became a household name.

It was in 1871 that the Bank Holiday Act gave workers in the new industrial towns a few

days' paid holidays each year and skilled workers and clerks began to have a week's paid annual holiday. Travel by train enabled Lancashire cotton workers to visit seaside towns like Blackpool as they took their annual "Wakes Week", when factories were closed to enable the machines to have essential maintenance. All around the coast of Britain, seaside towns like Skegness, Eastbourne, Scarborough and Bournemouth developed – all of which still offer the traditional seaside holiday with a sandy beach, a pier, sea bathing and entertainment such as the 'End of the Pier show' and 'Punch and Judy' shows or the Fun Fair for the children.

In 1936, Billy Butlin opened his first holiday camp in Skegness, offering families a week's board and entertainment for the equivalent of a week's wages.

From 1939 workers gained the right to holiday leave and millions travelled by train for a seaside holiday. As car travel developed after the war, this led to the popularity of camping and caravan holidays. People began to travel further afield, taking holidays in the West Country, Wales and Scotland. By 1975, most workers had two weeks or more paid holidays and the 1970's saw the introduction of "the package holiday" offering flights and hotel accommodation to Spain, Greece, Italy and many other countries for people wanting to get away to enjoy the sun, the beaches of Europe and the night-life. The following years saw a huge expansion of foreign holidays that were affordable to most people.

In recent years, cruise holidays have given people the opportunity to travel to some of the most remote areas of the world – something our parents and grandparents would never have dreamed of being able to do. Until March 2020, we took it for granted that if we had enough money 'the world was our oyster'! Now, following the world-wide covid pandemic and the need to cut carbon emissions, how will holidays change in the future? A trip into space, perhaps? VK

IMPORTANT: Covid precautions at our meetings

Please follow these rules when attending our meetings:

- 1) Use the hand sanitiser after entering the building
- 2) Avoid queuing closer than 1m / 1yd apart (2m if poss.)
- 3) Unless you have a medical exemption, wear a face mask inside the building.
- 4) Try to remain at least 1m / 1yd away (2m if poss.) from others who are not members of your household.