**SPORLE WITH PALGRAVE: BAR to BON**

A random collection of notes listed in alphabetical surname and forename order:

**ALICE BARNES**

Marriage Transcript.

Tommis Wright of this Parish single man & Alice Barns of the Parish single woman

by Banns this 11th day of October this 11th day of October one thousand seven hundred & ninety seven by me Gunton Postle, Curate

The marriage was solemnized by us the mark x of Tommis Wright the mark x of Alice Barns

In the presence of the mark x of Sarah Moore Henry Whisker

**ELIZABETH BARNES**

Marriage Transcript.

James Robins, Bachelor & Elisabeth Barnes, Spinster both of this Parish of Sporle

were married in this Church, by Banns 1787 by me Gunton Postle, Curate

This marriage was solemnized by us James x Robins his mark Elisabeth x Barnes her mark

In the presence of John Abrey Henry Whisker

**LYDIA BARNES**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census

Barnes, Lydia 5 yrs dau. Grimstone

#### **RUTH BARNES**

Consistory Court of Norwich 1819-1857

Ruth Barnes Sporle with Palgrave spinster 1856 633 Code

Will. RUTH BARNES, spinster of Sporle with Palgrave. Written: 13 November 1850. Proved: 11 December 1856.

Beneficiaries:

Anna Tann, of Sporle with Palgrave, sister, wife of Wm. Tann.

William Barnes Tann of Sporle with Palgrave, nephew

Deborah Blowers. Her husband John Blowers was late servant.

Ann Margerson of Wood Dalling

Barnes Margerson of Wood Dalling, son of Ann Margerson

William Margerson of Wood Dalling, son of Ann Margerson

Sarah Poll of Brisley, wife of George Poll, farmer

Morris Cooper of South Pickenham, farmer

Norfolk & Norwich Hospital

Sporle with Palgrave Church

Scarning Church

Executors: Anna Tann (Anna Tann had died before the will was proved.

#### **WILLIAM BARNES**

Wills and Administrations. Archdeaconry of Court of Norfolk

William Barnes Sporle 1850 W80 167

Will. WILLIAM BARNES, farmer of Sporle with Palgrave. Written: 10 July 1828.

Beneficiaries:

Elizabeth Barnes, wife

John Barnes, brother, of East Dereham.

Ruth Barnes, daughter

Anna Barnes, daughter

Thomas Maidwell, corn merchant, of Shipdham.

Mentioned: James Thompson, father-in-law, deceased.

Executors: Ruth Barnes, Anna Barnes, Thomas Maidwell.

**WILLIAM BARNES**

1871 Census. William Barnes, gardener, at Petygards

**JOHN HENRY BARRETT**

John Henry Barrett c. 1878 and William John Barrett c. 1900, brothers, both born at Little Dunham.

Living at Sporle in the 1911 census.

**WILLIAM JOHN BARRETT**

John Henry Barrett c. 1878 and William John Barrett c. 1900, brothers, both born at Little Dunham.

Living at Sporle in the 1911 census.

**WILLIAM JAMES BARSHAM**

1835 Parliamentary Elections

Wm. James Barsham, Sporle with Palgrave. Place of residence: Ixworth, Suffolk.

**ALBERT W. BARTRAM**

1901 census Sporle with Palgrave

Albert W. Bartram head married 37 years schoolmaster born: Norwich, Nfk.

Caroline Bartram wife married 34 years schoolmistress born: Norwich, Nfk.

Bertram W. Bartram son 14 years born: Gt. Willraham, Cambs.

Nelly C. Bartram daughter 12 years born: Beechamwell, Nfk

Amy D. Bartram daughter 8 years born: Sporle, Nfk

Frank A. Bartram son 6 years born: Sporle, Nfk.

The Bilby’s were still at the school in January 1892. It appears Mr. and Mrs. Bartram took over the placement perhaps, sometime just before, or most likely during the harvest holidays.

Norwich Mercury 1892 27 Aug. Page 1

SERVANT GIRL (useful) wanted, about 14 years of age. Apply Mrs. Bartram, Sporle, Swaffham.

Norwich Mercury 1893 15 Jul. Page 1

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED for August, small Furnished Cottage, or Apartments on the Norfolk Coast; quiet village preferred. A. Bartram, Sporle, Swaffham.

Norwich Mercury 1894 23 Jun. Page 1

FOR SALE.

 TRICYCLE (Sociable) FOR SALE; clean, bright, and good as new: accessories, £3 (5/- per month if required). Bartram, Sporle, Swaffham.

1896 Kelly’s directory

National School (mixed), built in 1841, for 140 children; average attendance, 99;

Albert William Bartram, master

The Lynn Advertiser 1897 26 Nov. Page 5

SPORLE.

 NATIONAL SCHOOL. – On Wednesday evening 17th inst., the children gave another of their successful entertainments to an appreciative audience, the object being to raise funds to pay for a museum case which has been placed in the school-room. The programme consisted of two parts, the first being a cantata entitled The Children’s Crusade, in which Giant Cranky and his imps sought unsuccessfully to destroy the children’s favourite nursery characters, and much amusement was caused by the ludicrous appearance of the boys who had been badly hurt in the skirmish with the giant and his confederates; while Mother Hubbard, Cinderella, the old woman how lived in the shoe, and the giant, all in complete costume, “fairly brought down the house.” The second part was of miscellaneous character. At the interval between the parts, the vicar, Rev. A. A. Avann, explained the object of the entertainment, and thanked the company for their presence, and the master and mistress (Mr. and Mrs. Bartram) and their pupils for their trouble. Mr. Bartram, in response, spoke of the value of a museum educationally, and mentioned the keen interest the children took in it. Through the kindness of the manufacturers and others, several shelves were full of valuable objects, yet some shelves were empty, and it is hoped that friends would spare articles of interest to add to the collection. (Cheers.) The entertainment was repeated on Friday evening, and the result is that the cost of the museum has been met.

The Lynn News and County Press 1899 4 November

SPORLE.

 APPLE TREE IN BLOOM. – In Mr. A. W. Bartram’s garden may be seen a young apple tree in full bloom, a sight that is quite unique at this period of year.

**AMY D. BARTRAM**

1901 census Sporle with Palgrave

Albert W. Bartram head married 37 years schoolmaster born: Norwich, Nfk.

Caroline Bartram wife married 34 years schoolmistress born: Norwich, Nfk.

Bertram W. Bartram son 14 years born: Gt. Willraham, Cambs.

Nelly C. Bartram daughter 12 years born: Beechamwell, Nfk

Amy D. Bartram daughter 8 years born: Sporle, Nfk

Frank A. Bartram son 6 years born: Sporle, Nfk.

**FRANK ALBERT BARTRAM**

1901 census Sporle with Palgrave

Albert W. Bartram head married 37 years schoolmaster born: Norwich, Nfk.

Caroline Bartram wife married 34 years schoolmistress born: Norwich, Nfk.

Bertram W. Bartram son 14 years born: Gt. Willraham, Cambs.

Nelly C. Bartram daughter 12 years born: Beechamwell, Nfk

Amy D. Bartram daughter 8 years born: Sporle, Nfk

Frank A. Bartram son 6 years born: Sporle, Nfk.

FRANK ALBERT BARTRAM – Seaman J.8528, Royal Navy. Frank Albert Bartram joined the Navy in 1910. In 1911 he was at His Majesty’s Royal Naval Training Establishment at Tattingstone, in Suffolk, as a boy under training, aged 16. Frank Albert Bartram was born at Sporle on the 15th of October 1894 to Albert W. Bartram and his wife Caroline, the master and mistress at Sporle Church of England School. His Navy records give his birth as Swaffham, which is the nearest town. Frank Albert Bartram went on to serve in WW1.

**ALBERT BATTELLEY**

Albert Battelley born c. 1887 at Sporle.

He married in 1915, and died in the Downham district in 1918.

**ARTHUR BATTELLEY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1885 4 Jul. Page 7

PETTY SESSION REPORTS.

SWAFFHAM. – MONDAY, June 29th. – Before W. M. R. Haggard, Esq. (chairman), Rev. B. Houchen, and Captain Adlington.

 A DRUNKEN “SOLDIER.” – Arthur Badley (20), labourer, Sporle, a member of the Salvation Army, appeared on bail charged by p.c. Bone with being drunk and riotous at Sporle on 25th June. P.c. Bone said that on the day in question, the defendant, who was mad drunk, was turned out of the Salvation Army barracks, and witness had to procure a tumbrel to convey him to the police station. The Chairman read several previous convictions against the defendant, who was fined 30/, including costs, which sum was afterwards reduced to 21/ on the appeal of his mother, who paid the money.

The Lynn Advertiser 1891 26 Sep. Page 2

PETTY SESSION REPORTS

DRUNKENNESS. – Arthur Batley, labourer, Sporle, was charged with being drunk and disorderly at Swaffham on 19th inst., and with assaulting Sergt. Storey. Remanded.

The Lynn Advertiser 1891 3 Oct. Page 2

PETTY SESSION REPORTS

DRUNK. – Arthur Battley, labourer, Sporle, was charged on remand by Sergt. Storey with being drunk and disorderly at Swaffham on 19th September. He was further charged with assaulting that officer while in the execution of his duty. Prisoner said he knew nothing about the latter charge. The chairman said the bench would take into consideration the fact that the prisoner had been in custody a week, and he was committed to prison for a week further on each charge.

The Lynn News and County Press 1895 19 Jan. Page 6

PETTY SESSION REPORTS

SWAFFHAM. – MONDAY. – Before Rev. Bircham Houchin (chairman), Col. Applewhaite, H. Lee Warner and R. H. Mason, Esqs.

 SEVEN DAYS FOR BEING DRUNK. – Arthur Batteley, Sporle, labourer, was charged by Thomas Archer, innkeeper, Sporle, with refusing to quit his licensed premises on 22nd December last. – Defendant pleaded guilty and was fined 20/-, but in default was committed for 7 days’ hard labour.

#### **GEORGE BATTELLEY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1898 10 Jun. Page 8

SPORLE.

THUNDERSTORM. – On Monday afternoon a severe storm passed over this village, and the rain falling in torrents flooded the roads. The lightning stuck a chimney on the cottage of James Sewell, Little Cambridge, and travelled to the chimney stack of the adjoining house, in the occupation of George Batterlley, shattering the brickwork, passing outside the chimney, through the roof into the kitchen, tearing off the paper and plaster and breaking away the chimney jambs. All windows and doors were closed and the family were out, there was every appearance of the electricity having ascended the chimney.

**THOMAS BEALEY**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

Bealey, Thomas 65 yrs head Costessey

**EDMOND BEAR**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle: John Watley 68 p., Mary Watley 50 / Sarah Philips 65 / Edmond Bear 75.

**BEAR** – not sorted

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Ann Bear 50 years independent, Elizabeth Powley 8.

**GEORGE BECK**

George Beck born c. 1876 at Hackney.

He was living at Sporle in the 1891 census.

**ANNA BECKET**

The Lynn Advertiser 1864 9 Jul. Page 3

SWAFFHAM.

 PETTY SESSION, Saturday, Jul 2nd. – Before T. R. Buckworth Esq. and Colonel Mason.

 Anna Becket, single woman, of Sporle, was charged by Henry Archer, with stealing 12s 6d, a purse, a handkerchief, a comb and a knife, on the 29th June. – Discharged.

**EDWARD BECKET**

Sporle born. 1881 Census Transcript for Swaffham, Norfolk.

Becket, Edward 37 years head married journeyman blacksmith, with his family

**BENJAMIN BECKETT**

1845 was the first mention in Sporle records of Benjamin Becket, wheelwright journeyman.

1861 Census was the last mention of Benjamin Beckett

**BENJAMIN BECKETT**

He was son of Benjamin Beckett.

1861 Census was the only mention of wheelwright Benjamin Beckett.

**WILLIAM BECKETT**

WILLIAM BECKETT – Private 1107, Regiment of Rifle Brigade, 3rd Battalion. He enlisted on 1st of February 1856 as a boy under age. His service was counted from the 1st of February 1857 and he went on to serve for 21 years and 5 days, spending 14 years and 6 months of that time in the East Indies. Private William Becket was discharged on the 12th of March 1878. His intended place of residence on discharge was Boon’s Yard, Queen’s Street, King’s Lynn. Military records for William Beckett state his birthplace was Spoole (sic), but he was born in May 1838 and baptised in June at Pentney before his move to Sporle with Palgrave. William Becket was son of Benjamin Beckett, journeyman wheelwright, and his wife Ann (late Buck), and he was living with them and his six siblings in the Street, at Sporle with Palgrave, in 1851. William Beckett’s age was given as 12 and he was working in a gang on the farms.

**EDWARD BECKETTS**

He lived at Sporle with Palgrave.

The Lynn Advertiser 1868 31 Oct. Page 3

SWAFFHAM QUARTER SESSIONS.

 William Whistler (20), labourer, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house, and stealing therein a watch chain and a chummy hat, the property of Edward Becketts, at Sporle-with-Palgrave, on the 11th of September. Mr. Carlos Cooper prosecuted; the prisoner was undefended. The house of the prosecutor, a labouring man, was entered by the back window on the day above-mentioned, and the chain and chummy hat were afterwards found to be missing. Prisoner was seen wearing the chain, and when apprehended he was also wearing the hat. He had previously lodged with the Becketts. – The prisoner’s defence was that he was not in Sporle on the 11th September. – The chairman summed up the evidence, and, being found guilty, the prisoner was sentenced to nine calendar months’ hard labour. He had been previously convicted.

**CAROLINE BELL**

1861 Census Return Sporle with Palgrave, Sporle Street.

John Bells 59 years head married b: Necton, Nfk.

Maria Bells 39 years wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Charlotte Bells 22 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Jonathan Bells 13 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Caroline Bells 11 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Edward Bells 8 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Mary Bells 12 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Emily Bells 4 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

**CHRISTIANA BELL**

Born at Sporle with Palgrave, CHRISTIANA BELL was baptised at Sporle on the 8th of January 1826, daughter of John Bell and his wife Mary late Walker. Like many women at Sporle, Palgrave, and elsewhere during that period she had a large family, leading on to numerous grandchildren.

1841 Census Necton, Norfolk

Rowland Rayner 36 born in county

Mary Rayner 30 born in county

Frederic Rayner 2 born in county

Mary Groom 22 born in county

CHRISTIANNA BELL 15 born in county

William Bond 32 born in county

1846 Christiana Bell married Perry Codman in the church at Sporle.

1851 census Street, Sporle with Palgrave, Norfolk

Perry Codman head married 23 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

CHRISTIANNA CODMAN wife 24 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Henry Codman son 3 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Jesse Codman son 2 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Mary Ann Codman daughter 0 born: Sporle, Norfolk

1861 census Sporle Street, Sporle with Palgrave, Norfolk

Perry Codman head married 33 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

CHRISTIANNA CODMAN wife 36 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Henry Codman son 14 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

Jesse Codman son 12 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

Mary A. Codman daughter 10 scholar born: Sporle, Norfolk

Robert Codman son 6 scholar born: Sporle, Norfolk

Ellen Codman daughter 2 born: Sporle, Norfolk

1871 census Sporle, Norfolk

Perry Codman head married 44 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

CHRISTIANNA CODMAN wife 45 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Henry Codman son single 26 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

Mary Ann Codman daughter single 20 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Robert Codman son 15 agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

Ellen Codman daughter 13 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Amelia Codman daughter 9 scholar born: Sporle, Norfolk

Emma Codman daughter 5 scholar born: Sporle, Norfolk

Rebecca Codman daughter 4 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Emely Codman daughter 2 born: Sporle, Norfolk

1881 census Sporle Street, Sporle with Palgrave, Norfolk

Perry Codman head married 44 ag. lab. born: Sporle, Norfolk

CHRISTIANNA CODMAN wife 53 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Emma Codman daughter 16 born: Sporle, Norfolk

Emily Codman daughter 12 born: Sporle, Norfolk

1891 census Street, Sporle with Palgrave, Norfolk

Perry Codman head married 63 agricultural labourer born: Norfolk

CHRISTIANNA CODMAN wife 65 born: Norfolk

Rebecca Codman daughter seamstress 24 born: Norfolk

Emily Codman daughter field worker 22 born: Norfolk

Alice Codman daughter 6 born: Sporle with Palgrave, Norfolk

John H. Lynn boarder 23 agricultural labourer born: Norfolk

1892 Christiana Codman was buried in Sporle churchyard on the 15th September. Her age on her death registration was 66 years.

1901 census Palgrave Cottage, Sporle, Norfolk (2)

John Gilding head married 37 groom – worker born: Sporle, Norfolk

Rebecca Gilding wife 33 married born: Sporle, Norfolk

Perry Codman father in law 81 widower agricultural labourer born: Sporle, Norfolk

Augustus Couzens border 11 born: Sporle, Norfolk

1902 Perry Codman was buried in Sporle churchyard on the 1st August. His age on his death registration was 73 years.

The children of Christiana and her husband Perry Codman were registered in the Swaffham district:

HENRY CODMAN 1847, married Ann Elizabeth Horney. Children: Henry Edward Codman 1871, Laura Louisa Codman 1873, Robert George Codman 1876 (died in Yorkshire in 1894), Anna Sarah Codman 1879, Dennis William Codman 1883

JESSE CODMAN c.1849 (birth not registered), married Harriet Elizabeth Dye. Children: Edith Codman 1871 (death not found), Anna Elizabeth Codman 1873, Margaret Alice Codman 1875, Walter Bernerd Codman 1876, Alfred William Codman 1878, Agnes Mary Codman 1881, Charles Edmund Codman 1883 (death not found), Jesse Vincent Codman 1885 (served in WW1), Gertrude Ellen Codman 1888, Edward Codman 1890, Florence Theresa Codman 1893, Charlotte Lily Codman 1895

MARY ANN CODMAN 1851, married William Briston. Children: Edith Codman 1872, Henry Briston 1879 (died in 1879) Arthur Briston 1880, Henry Briston 1882, Bertha Ellen Briston 1883, Jesse Briston 1886, Robert William Briston 1887 (served in WW1)

SARAH CODMAN 1852 (death not found)

ROBERT CODMAN 1855, married Frances Rosetta Scase. Children: Frances Rosetta Codman 1879, Florence Mary Codman c.1881, Emily Anna Codman 1883, Robert William Codman 1885, Bertie Codman 1887, Bessie Janet Codman 1890, Albert Sidney Codman 1891 (served in WW1, ASC), Ernest Codman 1893 (served in WW1, Nfk Reg), Helen Gertrude 1898 (died in 1898)

JOHN CODMAN 1857 (died in 1857)

ELLEN CODMAN 1859, married Abraham Green. Children: Frederick Codman 1877, Robert George Green 1879 (died in 1879), George Green 1881, Ada Mary Green 1882, Sydney Edward Green 1884, Ethel Green 1888, John Green 1889, Ellen Green 1891, Augustus Green 1893 (served in WW1), Charles Green 1895 (served in WW1)

AMELIA CODMAN 1862 (registered as Ann Elizabeth, but baptised as Amelia)

CHARLES CODMAN 1864 (died in 1864)

EMMA CODMAN 1865, married Walter Couzens. Children: Augustus Couzens 1890 (served in WW1), Lilly Couzens 1893, Beatrice Couzens 1895, Herbert Couzens 1896 (died in 1896), Ethel May Couzens 1897, Percy Christmas Couzens 1898

REBECCA CODMAN 1867, married John Gilding.

EMILY CODMAN 1869, married John Henry Lynn.

**EDMUND BELL**

Census Sporle with Palgrave

Edmund Bell 40 years head married ag. lab. born: Necton, Nfk,

Sarah Bell 36 years wife married charwoman born: Sporle, Nfk.

Maria Bell 12 years daughter scholar born: Sporle, Nfk.

William Bell 10 years son ag. lab. born: Sporle, Nfk.

Emily Bell 2 years daughter born: Sporle, Nfk.

Ann Boulding 70 years mother-in-law widow in receipt of parochial relief born: Swaffham, Nfk.

**EDWARD BELL**

1861 Census Return Sporle with Palgrave, Sporle Street.

John Bells 59 years head married b: Necton, Nfk.

Maria Bells 39 years wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Charlotte Bells 22 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Jonathan Bells 13 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Caroline Bells 11 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Edward Bells 8 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Mary Bells 12 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Emily Bells 4 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Sporle born. Found in the 1881 Census Transcript for Stow Bardolph, Stow Gardens.

Bell, Edward 28 years head married carpenter and family

Sporle born in the Census Returns for 1901

Bell, Edward 48 yrs Downham Mkt, Nfk. Joiner

**FRANCIS BELL**

Sporle born. Found in the 1851 census

Bell, Francis 59 yrs head Euston

1861 census Euston, Norfolk, Barnham Road

Francis Bell 70 years head married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Elizth Bell 67 years wife married b: Euston, Nfk.

Lucy Parker 19 years servant b: Wretham, Nfk.

# FRANCIS BELL

# 1861 Census Return Middlesbrough, Durham. Dacre Street.

# Francis Bell 29 years head married iron works labourer b: Sporle, Nfk.

Sarah Bell 36 years wife married b: London.

**FRANCIS BELL**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for 1901.

Bell, Francis 62 yrs Soham, Cambs. Publican

**FREDERICK BELL**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

Bell, Frederick 3 yrs son Gaywood

**GEORGE BELL**

1851 Sporle with Palgrave

George Bell 33 years head b: Sporle, Norfolk

Maria Bell 31 years wife b: Sporle, Norfolk

Harriot Bell 9 years niece b: Sporle, Norfolk

Lydia Bell 21 years niece b: Sporle, Norfolk

Mary Bell 2 years grand niece b: Sporle, Norfolk

1861 Census Sporle, Mount Pleasant.

George Bell 43 years head b: Sporle, Norfolk

Maria Bell 41 years wife b: Sporle, Norfolk

Harriot Bell 19 years niece b: Sporle, Norfolk

1881 Census Transcript for Holme Hale

Bell, George 60 years head marr. and wife

# GEORGE BELL

1892 Kelly’s Directory for Sporle with Palgrave: George Bell, shopkeeper

**HERBERT BELL**

Sporle born. 1881 Census Transcript for Little Massingham, Gipsey Bay

Bell, Herbert 20 years son unm. farm labourer with family

**ISAAC BELL**

Born c.1809 at Sporle. In the 1851 Census Isaac Bell was living at Gaywood.

**JAMES BELL**

1861 Census Great Dunham, Castleacre Road.

James Bell 39 years head b: Sporle, Norfolk

Hannah Bell 38 years wife b: Sporle, Norfolk

Elizabeth Bell 8 years dau. b: Sporle, Norfolk

James Bell 14 years son b: Sporle, Norfolk

**JAMES BELL**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for 1901

Bell, James 45 yrs Ingham, Lindsey, Agric. Labourer

**JONATHAN BELL**

Baptised at Sporle 28 July 1847.

1861 Census Return Sporle with Palgrave, Sporle Street.

John Bells 59 years head married b: Necton, Nfk.

Maria Bells 39 years wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Charlotte Bells 22 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Jonathan Bells 13 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Caroline Bells 11 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Edward Bells 8 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Mary Bells 12 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Emily Bells 4 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

The Lynn Advertiser 1890 29 Nov. Page 5

SPORLE. – UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCE. – About 18 months ago, Jonathan Bell, a miller’s carman fell from a cart and fractured his ankle, and his foot was amputated. A Norwich firm made him a wooden leg, and on Thursday, 20th inst., he went there to have it refitted, and when returning, near the Norwich railway station, he accidentally fell and fractured the other ankle. He was taken to the Norwich hospital, where his injuries were attended to, and then taken home by a friend. The sufferer is under the care of Mr. F. J. Thomas, surgeon,

**JOHN BELL**

1861 Census Return Sporle with Palgrave, Sporle Street.

John Bells 59 years head married b: Necton, Nfk.

Maria Bells 39 years wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Charlotte Bells 22 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Jonathan Bells 13 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Caroline Bells 11 years daughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Edward Bells 8 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Mary Bells 12 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

Emily Bells 4 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

**JOHN BELL**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave

Sporle Street: John Bell 40 ag. lab., Mary Bell 40, Robert Bell 19, John Bell 17, Henry Bell 14, Lydia Bell 12, Barnard Bell 10, Sarah Bell 8, Francis Bell 6, Charlotte Bell 3, Martin Bell 1.

**JOHN BELL**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave

Sporle Street: John Bell 40 ag. lab., Mary Bell 40, Robert Bell 19, John Bell 17, Henry Bell 14, Lydia Bell 12, Barnard Bell 10, Sarah Bell 8, Francis Bell 6, Charlotte Bell 3, Martin Bell 1.

John Bell married Charlotte Norman (formerly Rallison) in 1850.

1851 census Sporle, Nfk. 69. Street. occ. ag. lab.

1861 Census Return Sporle with Palgrave, Sporle Street.

John Bell 36 years head married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Charlott Bell 46 years wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

James Norman 23 years stepson b: Sporle, Nfk.

James Bell 12 years son b: Sporle, Nfk.

1871 census Ely, Cambridgeshire.

1881 Census Transcript of Ely, Cambs, Kings Arms, St. Marys Street

Bell, John 55 years head marr. lic. vict. and family

**JOHN BELL**

The Lynn Advertiser 1871 23 Sep Page 7

SOUTH GREENHOE ASSOCIATION.

 This association, which during the present year had offered upwards of £43 for promoting and rewarding good conduct and encouraging industrious habits amongst servants, cottagers and labourers, held its annual meeting at Swaffham, on Thursday, the 21st inst., the premiums being awarded on the previous Monday. The cottage garden show for fruit, flowers and vegetables was held on the same day in a field near the Manor house. Subjoined is a list of the prizes awarded to the servants, &c., together with the names of the successful competitors: -

 CLASS A. – Hired Agricultural and Domestic Servants. – To the single woman who has lived the longest time without intermission (not less than four years) and is still living with the same master or mistress, or their son or daughter, or on the same farm, within the limits of this association, as farming servant, whose character is irreproachable, Sabina Skipper, aged 24 years, servant to Mr. C. Carter, 6 years, £1. The next, Mary Nobbs, aged 26 years, housemaid to Mr. E. Farrer, of Sporle, 4 years, 10s. To the lad or youth between the ages of 14 and 21, who has lived the longest time with the same master or mistress, &c., Robert Anderson, servant to Mr. D. Wells, of Sporle, 7 years, 10s. To the girl between the same ages who has lived the longest time, &c., Jemima Farrow, 19 years, servant to Mr. E. Farrer, 4 years, 5s; Emma J. Groves, aged 17 years, servant to Mr. C. B. Mason, 4 years, 5s.

 CLASS B. – Shepherds. – To the Shepherd who has reared the greatest number of lambs from not less than 12 score ewes set that year for a breeding flock, George Bailey, shepherd to Mr. W. N. Roberson, reared 531 lambs from 363 ewes with the loss of 33 lambs and 15 ewes, £1 5s. To the next, William Woods, shepherd to Mr. Wells, Sporle, reared 384 lambs from 275 ewes with the loss of 10 lambs and 16 ewes, 15s. To the shepherd who reared the greatest number of lambs in proportion to the number of ewes under his care, being not less than 5 score ewes set that year for a breeding flock, James Bullen, Narborough, shepherd to Mr. Marriott, reared 186 lambs from 109 ewes, with the loss of nine lambs and 2 ewes, £1.

 CLASS C. – Yardmen. – To the yardman who has lived the longest time (not less than 6 years) with the same master, &c., William Tuddenham, yardman to Mr. Chambers 22 years, £1 10s. To the next, William Palmer, yardman to Mr. E. Farrer, 21 years, £1.

 Team-men. – To the carter or team-man who has lived the longest time, &c., and who produces satisfactory testimonials that he has never returned home intoxicated, or been convicted of furious driving when sent to market or elsewhere with his team. William Fuller, team-man to Mr. Dodd, Cley, 45 years, £1. To the next, W. Walker, team-man to Mr. Wells, 15 years, 7s 6d.

 Labourers. – To the labourer who has worked the greatest number of years same master or mistress, or on the same farm, at present occupied by a member, Thomas Smith, labourer to Mr. Bulling, 45 years, £1. To the next, James Gilden, labourer to Mr. Farrer, 38 years, 12s 6d; to the next, Samuel Knights, labourer to Mr. Amhurst, 32 years, 7s 6d; to the next William Shinfield, labourer to Mr. H. Oldfield, 26 years, 2s 6d; JOHN BELL, labourer to Mr. Farrer, 26 years, 2s 6d. To the lad or youth, of not more than 18 years of age, who has worked the longest time with the same master, &c., William Hubbard, aged 15 years, with Mr. Whistler, 7½ years, 10s. To the next, George Syer, aged 16 years, with Mr. Farrer, 7 years, 2s 6d; Thomas Howes, aged 17 years, with Mr. Farrer, 7 years, 2s 6d.

 CLASS E. – Cultivation of Gardens and Allotments. … …

 CLASS F. & G. – Ploughing. – The ploughing did not take place this year, owing to the dry weather.

 CLASS H. – Stacking and Thatching. – To the best stacker of good character, on a farm of not less than 800 acres, Perry Codman, Henry Hall, Robert Blyth, servants to Mr. Farrer, Sporle, £1. To the best ditto, on a farm of not less than 200 acres, Samuel Davey, servant to Mr. Whistler, 10s. To the best thatcher, Turner and Whiskeard, thatchers to Mr. Farrer, 12s 6d; to the next, George Wilkin, thatcher to Mr. Whistler, 7s 6d.

**JOHN BELL**

1861 Census Return Necton, Norfolk, Hale Road

John Bell 25 years head married b: Necton, Nfk.

Lydia Bell wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

William Bell 1 year son b: Sporle, Nfk.

Sporle born. 1881 Census Transcript for Necton.

Bell, John 46 years head married sawyer and family

**MARTIN BELL**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave

Sporle Street: John Bell 40 ag. lab., Mary Bell 40, Robert Bell 19, John Bell 17, Henry Bell 14, Lydia Bell 12, Barnard Bell 10, Sarah Bell 8, Francis Bell 6, Charlotte Bell 3, Martin Bell 1.

The Lynn Advertiser 1892 14 May Page 8

DEATHS.

May 7th. – Sporle, Martin Bell, 52.

**ROBERT BELL**

1861 Census Sporle with Palgrave, Sporle Street

Robert Bell 38 years head married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Ellen Bell 43 years wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Sarah Codman 8 years niece b: Sporle, Nfk.

Sporle born. 1881 Census Transcript for North Pickenham.

Bell, Robert 58 years head married farm bailiff, with a wife

**SARAH BELL**

Sporle born. Found in the 1851 census.

Bell, Sarah 14 yrs servant Ashill

**SARAH BELL**

1881 Census Transcript for Norwich St. Andrew, Old Stamp Office Yard

Bell, Sarah unmarried domestic servant b: Sporle, Nfk.

# SARAH ANN BELL

# Born at Sporle with Palgrave, daughter of Edmund Bell and Sarah Ann (Boulding).

In the 1861 census she was aged 23 years and working as a cook servant for Alfred Ball and family in Leeds. In 1862 she married John Letby in the York registration district.

**WILLIAM BELL**

Sporle Marriage Transcript:

William Bell, bachelor & Judith Winkfield, Spinster both of this Parish of Sporle

were married in this Church, by Banns the 18th day of October 1787 by me Robert Walker, Curate

This marriage was solemnized by us William Bell Judith x Winkfield her mark

In the presence of Robert Whisker John Greenwood

Sporle Marriage Transcript.

William Bell, of the Parish, widower, and Elisabeth Gipson of this Parish, single woman,

were married in this Church by Banns, this fourteenth day of October, in the year one thousand eight hundred by me Gunton Postle, Curate

The marriage was solemnized between us the mark x of William Bell the mark x of Elisabeth Gipson

In the presence of the mark x of Rose Gipson Henry Whisker

**WILLIAM BELL**

Sporle born. 1881 Census Transcript for Beeston with Bittering, Gt. Fransham Road

Bell, William 43 years head marr. farmer, with wife and mother

**WILLIAM BELL**

Sporle born "stray" in the 1851 census

Bell, William 13 yrs son Necton

**BELL** – unsorted

Sporle born. Found in the 1851 census.

Bell, Maria 34 yrs wife Necton. Maria could be daughter of Thomas and Maria Garrett 1814, and married at Necton in 1839.

Sporle born. Found in the 1861 Census Returns for Yorkshire.

Frances Bell c.1832 – Middlesbrough

Sporle born. 1881 Census Transcript for Beeston with Bittering, Hyrne Lane

Bell, Sarahann 66 years wife with her husband & family

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for 1901.

Bell, Mary 47 yrs Beeston, Nfk. Farmer

**JAMES BENNETT**

Baptised at Sporle in 1812, son of Thomas.

**ROBERT BENNETT**

Baptised at Sporle in 1808.

**THOMAS BENNETT**

Baptised at Sporle in 1802, son of Thomas.

**WILLIAM BENNETT**

Baptised at Sporle in 1803, son of Thomas.

**BARBARA BENNINGTON**

1881 Census Transcript for Weasenham, 1. Church Lane

Bennington, Barbara 12 years visitor b: Sporle, Nfk.

# BENJAMIN BENNINGTON

The Lynn Advertiser 1897 26 Mar. Page 2

PETTY SESSIONS REPORTS.

SWAFFHAM. Monday 22nd March. – Before Rev. B. Houchen, J. C. Martin, R. H. Mason and H. Lee Warner, Esqs.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. – Benjamin Bennington, of Sporle, blacksmith, and Wm. Robinson, of Swaffham, labourer, were summonded by R. Smith, school attendance officer, for neglecting to send their children to school regularly; the former was fined 2/6, and the latter 1/.

The Lynn Advertiser 1897 30 Jul. Page 2

PETTY SESSIONS REPORTS.

SWAFFHAM. MONDAY 26th June. – Before Rev. B. Houchen, R. H. Mason, J. C. Martin and H. Lee Warner, Esqs.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. – Benjamin Bennington, of Sporle, labourer, charged by Mr. Robert Smith, School attendance officer, with not sending his child John to school regularly, was fined 5/, and allowed a week to pay.

**CHARLES WILLIAM BENNINGTON**

CHARLES WILLIAM BENNINGTON – Private 7773, West Yorkshire Regiment, 4th Battalion Army Reserves. Charles William Bennington, born at Sporle, enlisted in the Army Reserves on 28th of November 1912, and left on the 7th of July 1914. He was son of Frederick Benjamin Bennington and Jane (Pooley). He re-enlisted and served in World War One.

**ELIZABETH BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

Bennington, Elizth 17 yrs serv. South Lynn All Saints

**EMILY BENNINGTON**

1881 Census Transcript of King's Lynn St. Margaret, Market Place.

Bennington, Emily 35 years unm. general servant

**GEORGE BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Return living in Yorkshire in 1901.

Bennington, George 63 yrs Middlebrough, Green Grocer Hawker

**JAMES BENNINGTON**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle Street: James Bennington 25, Harriot Bennington 25, Benjamin Bennington 6, George Bennington 3, Thomas Bennington 1.

During the 1851 census was living in Sporle Rectory.

1861 Census born c.1813, at Sporle. Living at Sporle.

**JAMES BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Return living in Durham

1881 Census Transcript of Crook & Billy Row, Bell Street

Bennington, James 44 years marr. coal miner and family

wife Harriet Bennington c.1843

son Henry Bennington c.1865

son Jesse Bennington c. 1867

dau. Leah Bennington c.1864

**JAMES BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for 1901.

Bennington, Jas. 28 yrs (K. Lynn) St. Margarets Blacksmith

**JEREMIAH BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in Ormesby, 56 Hymer St. Ormesby, Yorkshire, in the Census Transcript

Bennington, Jeremiah 33 years head marr. laborer iron works, with his family

# JESSE BENNINGTON

# Son of Robert Bennington & Mary Ann (Anderson), of Sporle.

Jesse Bennington (1842-1932). Jesse died in the King’s Lynn district aged 92. Married in 1869, he was the husband of Emily Green. Jesse Bennington was a member of the Methodist Church, a Trustee of Town Farm, a member of the Sporle Allotment Committee, and a Parish Councilor. He appears in several newspaper reports.

1891 Census Sporle with Palgrave. Bunkers Hill

Jesse Bennington and family

1901 Census Sporle with Palgrave. Bunkers Hill 137. 3 rooms

Jesse Bennington 60 years head married carter of farm b: Sporle, Nfk.

Emily Bennington wife married b: Sporle, Nfk.

Eva Bennington 12 years granddaughter b: Sporle, Nfk.

**JESSE BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for Durham.

1881 Census Transcript of Crook & Billy Row, Bell Street

Bennington, James 44 years marr. coal miner and family

wife Harriet Bennington c.1843

son Henry Bennington c.1865

son JESSE BENNINGTON c. 1867

dau. Leah Bennington c.1864

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for Durham in 1901.

Bennington, Jesse 34 yrs Hetton Le Hole, Coal Miner Hewer

**JOHN BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

Benington, John 60 yrs head Clenchwarton

**JOHN BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for Yorkshire in 1901.

Bennington, John 47 yrs Middlebrough Blast Furnace Lab.

**MARIA BENNINGTON**

The Lynn News and County Press 1897 14 Aug. Page 8

MARRIAGES.

STRETTON – BENNINGTON – On the 2nd inst. at the Parish church, Sporle, Thomas George Stretton to Maria Bennington.

**MINNIE L. BENNINGTON**

The Lynn Advertiser 1897 Jun.

 STEALING MONEY. – Minnie L. Bennington, (aged 13,) of Sporle, was charged by Abraham Elliott, of that place, shopkeeper, with stealing 7/6 from his shop on 1st June, and 3/6 on 31st May; George Thomas Bennington, of the same place, was charged with receiving the 3/6 on 31st May, knowing it to be stolen; and Jane Bennington, his wife, was charged with aiding and abetting the child, and receiving the 7/6. Mr. C. H. Large defended. Complainant asked leave to withdraw the case against the man, and Mr. Large commented strongly on the way in which he was arrested, having been handcuffed and brought to Swaffham. – Complainant said: I keep a shop at Sporle, and also sell milk. On 31st May I missed 3/6 from my till, and on the 31st May about 11 a.m., 4/. I communicated with the police, and then marked a coin and place it in the till. At 8 p.m. on 1st June, I saw Minnie Bennington come into the shop for a pint of milk, and my daughter, who served her, went into the dairy. When she returned to the shop she made a communication to me, and after looking in the till I found that a florin and a shilling had been taken. I sent for p.c. Banyard, who brought back the girl, she having left the shop. I told Banyard I had missed 3/ that evening, part of the money I put in the till; he charged the girl with taking it, and she replied “I have not got it.” Banyard told her he would have to search her, when she said: “I’ve got it, sir; it’s in my boot;” and taking off her boot, the florin and shilling were found inside it. I identified the coins as those I had marked. – Edith Mabel Elliott, daughter of complainant, gave evidence as to the girl’s visits to the shop, and afterwards missing the money. – P.c. Banyard said: I went to complainant’s shop on 1st June and counted the money, 7/9, which was marked. At 8 p.m. I met Minnie Bennington on the road, and said: “Haven’t you just come from Mr. Elliott’s shop?” She replied: “Yes.” I told her I suspected her of stealing money from his till, and she afterwards admitted that the 2/ and 1/ were in her boot, and gave it to me. I took her home and told her mother what had occurred. I said to the girl that Mr. Elliot had lost some money the previous day, and she said: “I took the money and gave it to my brother George; he was waiting outside the shop for me.” On 4th inst. I served a summons on the child, and she made a statement as to Jane Bennington, and the same evening I served a summons on her. She replied: “I can assure you I never had only 1/ from her. I put some more to it, and bought her a pair of shoes.” She said Minnie told her she earned the shilling by nursing some-one’s child. – Sophia Bennington, mother of the girl, and mother-in-law of Jane, said that the evening of 1st June, Jane told me her Minnie had given her 1/, then she said 1/3, and afterwards altered it to 4/. Witness said: “She did not come by it honestly, for you knew I had none to give her,” and Jane left crying. – Harriet Bennington having given evidence, Mr. Large, on behalf of Jane Bennington, contended that there was not an atom of evidence to prove the charge against her. – The magistrates having consulted privately, the chairman said they considered the charge against Jane Bennington had not been proved, and she was discharged. The girl was bound over to come up for judgement if called upon within a year.

The Lynn News and County Press 1897 19 Jun. Page 6

PETTY SESSIONS

SWAFFHAM.

 ROBBED BY A CHILD: CURIOUS CASE.

Minnie L. Bennington (13), of Sporle, was charged by Abraham Elliott, of Sporle, shopkeeper, with stealing from his shop 3/- on June 1st; 3/6 on May 31st; and 4/- on June 1st. George Thomas Bennington, of the same parish, her brother, was charged with receiving 3/6 on May 31st, knowing it to be stolen; and Jane Bennington (his wife) was charged with aiding and abetting in the commission of the three offences, and with receiving the remaining amounts, knowing them to have been stolen. – Mr. C. H. Large defended Jane Bennington. – On application of the prosecutor, the case was withdrawn against the man. – Prosecutor stated that on the 31st May he missed 3/6 from his till, and on June 1st 4/-. Having communicated with the police, he placed some marked money in his till about two o’clock. At eight the child defendant went into the shop for milk, and, after looking in the till, found 2/- and 1/- gone. He sent for P.c. Banyard. The child was gone out of the shop, but the officer returned with her. The constable told the child he suspected her of stealing money, and after denying it she said the money was in her boot. She took the boot off, and the two coins were there. – Ethel Mabel Elliott, daughter of prosecutor, deposed to the child’s visits to the shop and to afterwards missing the money from the till. P.c. Banyard said he went to the shop and examined the till, which contained 7/9; all the money was marked. In the evening from the information received he took Minnie Bennington to the shop and accused her of taking the money. The child denied this but afterwards admitted it and told witness 2/- and 1/- were in her boot. He told her to take her boot off, and she did so. When at her mother’s house the child said “I gave the money to my brother George.” On the 4th of June, when witness took a summons the child made a statement as to Jane Bennington. On the same evening witness served a summons on Jane Bennington, and she said, “I can assure you I never had only a 1/- from her. I added some more to it and bought her a pair of shoes.” On the 3rd witness saw Jane and inquired what money she had spent in Swaffham, and she told the witness. On inquiry he found her statement was true. – Sophia Bennington, mother of the child, said that after she heard of the affair from Banyard, Jane told her Minnie had given her 1/-; then she said 1/3, and afterwards 4/-. Witness said, “Jane she has given you more money than that; she did not come by it honestly.” Jane replied, “Well, I’ll own she’s has given 4/- all in coppers.” Cross-examined: she remembered Minnie carrying her son’s wages home to Jane on the previous Saturday, amounting to 12/9. – Harriet Bennington having given evidence, Mr. Large submitted that there was no evidence against his client. – The court was cleared. On its re-assembling the Bench dismissed the case against the woman, and bound the child to come up for judgment if called upon within a year.

**NOAH BENNINGTON**

The Lynn Advertiser 1862 11 Oct. Page 2

SWAFFHAM.

 PETTY SESSIONS. – Saturday, Oct. 4th. – Before T. R. Buckwoorth, E. A. Applethwaite and J. Dugmore, Esqs.

 Noah Bennington, of Sporle, labourer, was charged by James Hudson, farm bailiff, with stealing two bushels of wheat, the property of Mr. Charles Palmer. Pleaded guilty, and sentenced to 14 days’ hard labour.

Sporle born. Found in the 1871 Census Returns living in Durham.

Noah Bennington born c.1841

Sporle born. Found in Yorkshire. 1881 Census Transcript of Middlesbrough, 16 Beech St.

Bennington, Noah 42 years head married foundry labourer iron, with his family

**PHOEBE BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the 1871 Census Returns living in Durham.

Pheby Bennington born c.1862

Sporle born. Found in the 1881 Census Returns living in Middlesbrough, Yorkshire.

Pheobe Bennington c.1862 daughter

**ROBERT BENNINGTON**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle: Robert Bennington 30 ag. lab. Mary Bennington 30, Anderson Bennington 6, James Bennington 4, Ann Bennington 2, Jesse Bennington 1.

During the 1851 census was living in Sporle Rectory.

1861 Census, born c.1809 at Sporle, living at Sporle.

**ROBERT W. BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the 1871 Census Returns living in Durham.

Robert W. Bennington born c.1870

Sporle born. Found in the 1901 Census Returns living in Durham.

Bennington, Robert 31 yrs Crook & Billy Row, Durham Tailor

**THOMAS BENNINGTON**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle: Thomas Bennington 70 ag. lab., Feaba Bennington 65, Lyda Bennington 35.

Thomas Bennington was the former head of this family, who in 1851, were nearly all living in the Rectory building next to the Bunkers Hill road and Sporle Street junction at Sporle:

Widow Phoebe and unmarried daughter Lydia.

Son Thomas, his wife Mary and six children aged from 19 years down to 3 years.

Son Robert, his wife Mary Ann with seven children aged from 16 years down to 4 years.

Son James, his wife Harriet and six children aged from 15 years down to 4 years.

Of the children present in the Rectory during the Census only five of the them attended school:

Robert’s son Robert aged 7.

James’ daughter Rose aged 8.

Thomas’ daughters Phoebe 8 and Ruth 6, and son Jeremiah 3.

The known workers in the Bennington families taken from the 1851 Census consisted of:

Robert and his sons aged 16, 14, 11 and 9, who were agricultural labourers.

Thomas and his son aged 11, both agricultural labourers.

James and his sons 15, 13 and 11 who were also agricultural labourers.

**THOMAS BENNINGTON**

During the 1851 census was living in Sporle Rectory.

1861 Census, born c.1801 at Sporle. Living at Sporle.

**WILLIAM BENNINGTON**

Sporle born. Found in the 1871 Census Returns living in Durham.

William Bennington born c.1842

1881 Census Transcript of Collierley, Dowlais Cottages

Bennington, William 39 years marr. coal miner and family

wife Mary Bennington c.1850

son Robert William Bennington c.1850

**BENNINGTON** – not sorted

Sporle born. Found in the 1871 Census Returns living in Durham.

Mary Bennington born c.1850

**BENJAMIN BENSLEY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1891 27 Jun. Page 2

SWAFFHAM. – MONDAY, 22nd June. – Before Rev. B. Houchen, R. H. Mason, J. Feilden, J. C. Martin and H. Lee Warner, Esqs.

DAMAGING GATES. – Robert Cooper, labourer, Swaffham, was charged by Fred. Case of the same parish, farmer, with doing damage to some gates by throwing them off their hinges, and further with pulling up some hurdles, at Sporle on the 9th inst. Sergt. Storey called Harry Garrod, labourer, Swaffham, who was in defendant’s company at the time, but the witness said he knew nothing about the matter, and did not see Cooper throw off any gates or pull up any hurdles. In answer to the Clerk, witness said he never told any one he had seen such things done. The case was dismissed. – Defendant was further charged by Benjamin Bensley, aged 14, with assaulting him at the same time and place. The boy said Cooper struck him on the head, knocked him down on the bank, and hit him twice when down. This statement was corroborated by a boy named Battelley. Garrod, who was called for the defence, said he did not see Cooper hit the boy. Defendant was fined 2/6 and costs 15/. – The Chairman spoke in strong terms as to the evidence given by Garrod, and said he might hear further of the matter.

**CHRISTOPHER BENSLEY**

1871 Census Return, Sporle.

James Bensley 60 years head married groom b. Saham, Nfk.

Harriet Bensley 51 years wife b. North Pickenham, Nfk.

Martha Bensley 24 years daughter unm. out door work b. Sporle with Palgrave

William Bensley 23 years son agl. labourer b. Sporle with Palgrave

Christopher Bensley 16 years son servant b. Sporle with Palgrave

1901 Census Return.

Bensley, Christoph. 46 yrs Swaffham, Nfk. Market Gardener b. Sporle, Nfk.

**EVA BENSLEY**

Sporle born. Found in the Census Returns for 1901.

Bensley, Eva 16 yrs Swaffham, Nfk. General Dom. Serv.

**GEORGE BENSLEY**

Sporle born.

1881 Census Transcript of Middlesbrough, Yorkshire, 20 Marl Street

Bensley, George 43 years head marr. laborer in ironworks, with his family

**JAMES BENSLEY**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle: James Bensley 30 ag. lab., Harriet Bensley 20, James Bensley 2.

1871 Census Return, Sporle.

James Bensley 60 years head married groom b. Saham, Nfk.

Harriet Bensley 51 years wife b. North Pickenham, Nfk.

Martha Bensley 24 years daughter unm. out door work b. Sporle with Palgrave

William Bensley 23 years son agl. labourer b. Sporle with Palgrave

Christopher Bensley 16 years son servant b. Sporle with Palgrave

**JAMES BENSLEY**

Labourer for Mr Wells, at Great Palgrave Farm.

Norfolk Chronicle 1864 12 Mar. Page 7

PETTY SESSIONS.

 ELMHAM. – Elijah Eagle and Charles Wright, team-men, of Sporle-with-Palgrave, were summoned at the instance of Mr. Flowerdew, farmer, of Fransham, for leaving their waggon unattended for about an hour, at the Nelson Inn, on the 18th of February. The waggon, it was stated, was standing at the Nelson Inn for an hour, whilst the men were indulging themselves within. To make up lost time the defendants put the horses into a gallop, and endeavoured to race the two other men, who were in a second waggon. They ran among Mr. Flowerdew’s sheep; but so far as he knew none of the sheep were injured. The furious and reckless driving appeared to be the real complaint, and Mr. Flowerdew stated that it was to put stop to such dangerous practices that he took that step. – Lord Sondes said it was for the benefit of the defendants as well as the public. – Mr. Flowerdew said one of his men fell off his waggon, both wheels of which passed over his leg, so that it was nearly broken. Defendants pleaded guilty, and paid £1 each, including fine and costs. – A similar case was preferred against Edward Manning and James Bensley, also team-men of Sporle-with-Palgrave, by the same complainant, they being the men driving the second waggon. They paid a like amount, having pleaded guilty.

The Lynn Advertiser 1872 5 Oct. Page 7

SWAFFHAM.

 SOUTH GREENHOE ASSOCIATION. – The annual meeting of this association, which has its object that promoting and rewarding good conduct among labourers and servants, was held on Thursday, the 3rd inst., when the prizes which had been previously awarded were distributed. Subjoined is a list of such with the names of the successful competitors: -

 Hired Agricultural and Domestic Servants. – John Bone, servant to Mr. E. Oldfield, Foulden, 4¾ years, 20s; Mary Daniels, servant to Mr. E. Harrison, Sporle, 5 years, 20s; Louisa Carter, servant to Mr. R. Heyhoe, Swaffham, 3¾ years, 10s.

 Shepherds. – William Wood, shepherd to Mr. Wells, Sporle, reared 382 lambs from 260 ewes with the loss of 8 ewes and 9 lambs, 25s; George Bailey, shepherd to Mr. W. N. Robinson, Sporle, reared 456 lambs from 362 ewes with the loss of 12 ewes and 25 lambs, 15s; James Bullen, shepherd to Messrs. Marriot, Narborough, reared 180 lambs from 120 ewes with the loss of one and 10 lambs, 20s.

 Yardman. – John Daniels, yardman to Mr. E. Harrison, Sporle, 20 years on the same farm, 30s.

 Team-men. – Wm. Walker, team-man to Mr. Wells, Sporle, 17 years on same farm, 17s 6d; Charles Wright, team-man to ditto, 17 years on same farm, 17s 6d.

 Labourers. – Christopher Starling, labourer to T. R. Buckworth, Esq., Cockley Cley, 47 years on same farm, 20s; James Ward, with ditto, 42 years on same farm, 12s 6d; James Bensley, with Mr. Wells, Sporle, 23 years on same farm, 7s 6d; George Stockings, with T. R. Buckworth, Esq., 21 years on same farm, 5s.

 Lad or youth 18 years of age and under. – Wm. Shingfield, labourer to T. R. Buckworth, Esq., eight years on same farm, 10s; John Billman, with Mr. E. Oldfield, Foulden, four years on same farm, 5s.

 Savings Bank depositors. – John Bone, recommended by Mr. E. Oldfield, Foulden, 10s; Wm. Osborne, Cley, recommended by T. R. Buckworth, Esq., 10s; independent labourers, no claims.

 Garden Prizes. – The following received prizes amounting in each case to 7s 6d for the best kept gardens: - Christopher Stockings, George Stockings, Samuel Pryke, James Shingfield, Robert Buckenham, James Fuller, James Squires, William Osborne, John Pryke, Abram Stockings, Thomas Buckenham (Cockley Cley), Henry Greef, Christopher Starling, John Body, William Shenfield, John Coker (Caldecote), Thomas English, John Ward, Thomas Rushbrooke, Henry Beavis, William Ward, Henry Seymour (Oxboro’). – The following received 5s each: John Watts (Necton), William Pryke, Charles Muskett, John Stockings, David Stockings, John Root, James Ward, Thomas Pryke (Cockley Cley), John Greef (Caldecote), James Mears, Robert Reeve, Wiley Rushbrooke, John Langley, William Obbins, James Jarrold (Oxboro’) – The following were awarded 3/6 each: George Thorpe, Noah Mears (Oxboro’), William Wells, William Ward, Robert Rallison, Robert Osborne, John Fuller, William Fuller, George Gamble, William Root, John Shingfield (Cockley Cley).

 Ploughing. – Thomas Wright, servant to Mr. E. Farrer, Sporle, for the best straight furrow, 10s; John Rallison, servant to ditto, for next best furrow, 7s 6d; Henry Clarke, servant to Mr. Roberson, Palgrave, for best ploughing, 20s; John Rallison, servant to Mr. E. Farrer, 15s; Abraham Rallison, servant to ditto, 10s.

 Stacking. – On farm of 200 acres, Samuel Davey, servant to Mr. Whistler, Necton, 10s.

 Thatching. – George Wilkin, thatcher to Mr. Whistler, Necton, 10s.

- The annual show of fruit, vegetables and flowers were also held on the same day, in a field adjoining the Manor House, but our report on this must stand over to next week.

**JAMES BENSLEY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1893 1 Apr. Page 2

PETTY SESSION REPORTS

SWAFFHAM. – MONDAY, 27th March. – Before Rev. B. Houchen, Col. Applewhaite, R. H. Mason, J. C. Martin and H. Lee Warner Eqrs.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. – Thomas Wright, James Bensley and William Eagle, of Sporle, James Ives, of Cockley Cley, and William Ward of Swaffham, all labourers, where charged by Robert Smith, attendance officer with not sending their children to school. There were two charges against Wright, who was fined 2/6 in each case. The others were fined 2/6 each.

**JAMES BENSLEY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1896 13 Jun. Page 7

SPORLE. – DROWNED. – John Bullard, aged 15, was accidentally drowned while bathing on the 3rd inst.; and at the inquest, in the Chequers public house, before Mr. B. H. Vores, deputy coroner, on the 4th inst., the following evidence was adduced: - James Gilding, aged 14, said that on the preceding Tuesday, Herbert Sampson, Edward Utting, John Bullard and himself, all boys about one age, arranged to have a bathe in the Six Acre pit. The next day at dinner time, by appointment, they all met and went to the pit, sat down and had their dinners. Bullard, who was the first to finish, stripped at the mouth of the pit, and then went round to the other side, where the sun was shining and the water was warmer. None of the other boys pulled off all their clothes. Bullard went in up to his waist, and then he went about a yard further, and said: “It is steep.” He then pulled himself back by a small bough and walked round the edge, “bobbing” his head. He said he should not mind going across the pit, and stood a little while, and said: “Here’s off.” He then went to where he said it was steep. It was over his head, and when he came up his eyes could just be seen. They all thought he was playing, and he was making a bubbling noise. He then went down again, and when he came up a second time they could only see his head under the water. They then lost sight of him, and all became frightened. They then put on their boots and ran to the carpenter’s shop, and told Mr. Bensley and Mr. Knoll that Bullard had drowned. Both men ran to the pit with a rake. The boys told several others, and then they returned to the pit and pointed out the spot where Bullard went down – James Bensley, labourer, said that he and Knoll ran with a rake to the pit, which was about 500 yards from where witness was when the boys told him. When he arrived he could see bubbles coming up from the water, and tried to recover the body with the rake, but could not do so. He then tied a stone to the rake and sank it, but could not find the body. – At the place in question there was 6 feet of water or more, and the boy must have been in the water over half-an-hour when the witness arrived. – P.s. Woodward said that he ran to the pit which about a mile away from Sporle. He procured some drags, recovered the body, and had it conveyed to the father’s house. The body had been in the water quite two hours, and life was extinct. – The jury did not blame any-one, but they thought that as so many persons assembled near the pit some-one should have taken steps to rescue the boy, especially as he was only four yards from the edge. Gilding (recalled) said the reason why they went to wade in the pit was because it was quiet and out of the way. He had not been cautioned by Mr. Batterlley not to go to the pit, but was cautioned about another pit, and was discharged by Mr. Matthews for not obeying Mr. Batterlley’s orders. – Verdict: “Accidentally drowned while bathing.”

**JOHN BENSLEY**

Sporle born. Found in Yorkshire in the 1881 census.

Census Transcript of Linthorpe, 106 Duncombe Street

Bensley, John 44 years lodger widr. plait layer, with his daughter

**ROBERT BENSLEY**

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle: Thomas Cook 55 ag. lab., Mary Cook 55 / Robert Bensley 20.

**ROBERT BENSLEY**

Born at Sporle with Palgrave.

Primitive Methodist Baptismal Register 1854 Oct 13

John, male, of Sporle. Born: 1854 Sep 16

Son of Robert Bensley labourer and Susan (Whiskerd) of Sporle

1861 Robert Bensley was a trustee of the new Ebenezer chapel.

**WILLIAM BENSLEY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1869 4 Dec. Page 7

SWAFFHAM.

 ANOTHER INCENDIARY FIRE AT SPORLE. – A little before 7 o’clock on Monday morning last the inhabitants of this village were again alarmed by the cry of fire. It was found that the incendiary had chosen another large wheat stack, the produce of fourteen acres. The stack, the property of the Misses Matthews, stood on the right hand side of a private road leading from the Swaffham road, the residence of Mr. Charles Palmer, and was twenty yards long by six broad, and contained about 160 coombs. Some of the labourers were soon on the spot, and efforts were made to save part of the stack farthest from the fire, by cutting it away, and carrying it in waggons to the barn. By this means 20 or 30 coombs are supposed to have been saved. There was a footpath leading through the field, but some of the labourers on passing to their work about half an hour previously did not notice anything amiss. The police had been on the lookout all night and had only just left the spot; it is therefore believed that they had been watched. The stack was fully insured in the Norwich Union Fire Office. Two persons are in custody on suspicion, as will be seen below.

 POLICE INTELLIGENCE. – Tuesday, November 30th. Before the Rev. C. V. Holme Sumner. William Bensley and Arthur Rallison, two labourers employed on the farm of the Misses Matthews, of Sporle, were charged on suspicion, by Supt. George Lambley, with setting fire to a stack in that parish on the morning of the previous day. Sufficient evidence was given to justify a remand, and the prisoners will be brought up at the Petty Session this day (Saturday).

The Lynn Advertiser 1869 11 Dec. Page 3

SWAFFHAM PETTY SESSION.

SATURDAY, December 4th. – Before T. R. Buckworth, Esq. (chairman), Captains W. M. R. Haggard and H. S. Adlington, and the Rev. C. V. Holme Sumner.

 THE INCENDIARY FIRES AT SPORLE. – The magistrates were engaged upwards of four hours to-day hearing the charge preferred against the men in custody in reference to this matter. Before the commencement of the case the room was cleared, to enable the magistrates to consider the evidence against William Bensley, after which they decided upon dismissing him.

1881 Census Transcript of Durham, Hunwick & Helmington, Constantine Cottages

Bensley, William 33 years marr. coal miner Born at Sporle.

**WILLIAM BENSLEY**

Sporle born. Found in the 1901 census.

Bensley, William 20 yrs East Winch, Nfk. Agricultural Labourer

**BENSLEY** – not sorted

Sporle born. Found in Yorkshire in the 1871 census.

Lois Bensley c.1858 - Linthorpe

John Bensley c.1833 - Linthorpe

Judith Bensley c.1837 - Linthorpe

Sporle born. Found in the 1881 census.

George Bensley c.1838 head – Middlesbrough

John Bensley c.1837 lodger - Linthorpe

John Bensley c.1866 son – Middlesbrough

Robert Bensley c.1864 son – Middlesbrough

Sporle born. Found in the 1881 census.

Census Transcript for North Pickenham

Bensley, Sarah 70 years wife marr. with her husband & family

Sporle born. Found in the 1901 census.

Bensley, James 60 yrs East Winch, Nfk. Agricultural Labourer

Bensley, William 20 yrs East Winch, Nfk. Agricultural Labourer

**EDWARD BERRY**

Of Sporle with Palgrave.

1851 Census Edward Berry, shoemaker journeyman, employed by William Couzens

**ROBERT BERRY**

Of Sporle with Palgrave.

1851 Census Robert Berry, shoemaker, employed by Robert Moore

**JAMES BILBY**

The Lynn Advertiser 1888 25 Aug. Page 8

SPORLE. – SCHOOL TREAT. – On Tuesday, 16th August, the children attending the Church Sunday school. Numbering 72, with their teachers, assembled at the vicarage to celebrate their annual treat. A capital tea, including bread and butter, cakes, &c., was provided for them on the lawn, which was deposed of in an incredibly short time. All evidently thoroughly relished the repast, which was under the management of the esteemed vicar, the Rev. T. Jones and Mrs. Jones. The entire arrangements for the comfort and happiness of the party were all that could be desired. The weather was fine throughout the afternoon, and various games and amusements were enjoyed in the vicarage grounds. In the evening the parishioners were admitted and amongst them was one very old inhabitant, James Bilby, aged 82, who is a great favourite, and very fond of children. Master John Matthews was most energetic assisting at cricket, and arranging for the races for the boys, to the winners of which he gave liberal prizes in money, while the Mrs. C. Farrer, Miss Farrer and the Misses Wells, likewise gave presents to the girls, and also distributed prizes consisting of many useful articles of unmade clothing, &c., to each pupil according to the number of attendances at school during the past twelve months. Mr. W. Bilby, master of the day school, kindly assisted during the day, and returned thanks on behalf of the teachers and children to the donors of the treat. Before the party dispersed deafening cheers were given for the rev. gentleman and his wife, and to all who had kindly contributed to such a successful treat.

The Lynn Advertiser 1890 26 Jul. Page 5

SPORLE. – MR. James Bilby died on the 19th, aged 84 years, and his funeral took place in the parish churchyard on Tuesday. The cortege left the deceased’s late residence at 4.30, headed by the Rev. T. Jones, and followed by the choir and 84 school children, under the management of Mr. R. Smith. The deceased was a man of somewhat reserved habits, but possessed a fund of knowledge. In his early days he attended the Church school, South street, Park lane, Hanover square, where he received his education, and got a thorough knowledge of the scriptures and of the Church catechism, which was his guide through life. After leaving school he obtained employment in an office in London until he reached the age of 21 years, when he proceeded to Norwich in a like capacity. He was a regular attendant at church and a good singer, and was engaged to lead the choir in church. The clergyman proved to be a staunch friend and good adviser, and he recommended Mr. Bilby to become master of an infant school containing 200 children, where he remained for 14 years. In addition to teaching the children he trained choirs during the evening. In the course of his life he came into contact with many clergymen, among whom was Bishop Stanley, whose letters of recommendation he held to his death. He left this school and took up an appointment in the Docking Union for a short time, and subsequently took charge of a school in Wales, where he remained ten years. On leaving this place he went to Sporle with his son William, who is the present master of the National School, and there he spent the last 13 years of his life, as an assistant in the school, which place he filled to the end of last year. Thus ended a long life of comparative peace and happiness, and almost his last words were, “May God bless and protect the Church, which is the pillar and ground of truth; and “May God bless and strengthen the working people’s best friends – the Church of England clergymen. He was a staunch Conservative, and to converse with him respecting the doings of the past and present statesmen proved highly interesting. For the last 10 years he had been in receipt of a pension from the Church Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress Institution.

**WILLIAM G. BILBY**

1891 census Sporle with Palgrave

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| William G. Bilby | head | M. | 58 |  Schoolmaster | Essex Chelmsford |
| Elizabeth Bilby | wife | M. | 49 |  | Norfolk Castleacre |
| Elizabeth Bilby | dau | S. | 24 |  Dressmaker | Glamorganshire, Llandough |
| Ellen A. Bilby | dau | S. | 22 |  Schoolmistress | Glamorganshire, Llandough |
| William G. Bilby | son | S. | 20 |  Miller | Glamorganshire, Llandough |
| Charles Bilby | son |  | 15 |  Painter's Appentice | Glamorganshire, Llandough |
| Kate M. Bilby | dau |  | 13 |  Scholar | Glamorganshire, Llandough |

1892 Kelly’s directory

National School (mixed), built in 1841, for 140 children; average attendance, 95;

William George Bilby, master; Miss Elizabeth Bilby, mistress

The Bilby’s were still at the school in January 1892. It appears Mr. and Mrs. Bartram had taken over sometime before, or during the harvest holidays.

**BESSIE BILHAM**

Sporle born. Found in the 1901 census.

Bilham, Bessie 16 yrs North Wimbleton, Surrey, Housemaid Dom.

**CHARLES BILHAM**

1881 Census – Charles Bilham, shoemaker

# GRACE BILHAM

# Daughter John Bilham and Caroline (Bullard).

The Lynn Advertiser 1897 5 Feb. Page 5

SPORLE. – AN ENTERTAINMENT by the children of the National school on Friday evening 29th January was in aid of the vicarage building fund. The room was tastefully decorated, the promoters (the schoolmaster and his wife) were fortunate in securing a crowded audience, and many were unable to obtain even standing room. In a short address the vicar, Rev. A. A. Avann, thanked Mr. and Mrs. Bartram for the pains and for the trouble they had taken in training the children to such perfection; also the parents of the children for allowing them to attend the rehearsals. A most pleasing variety of amusement was them commenced. Programme:

 Part I: Prologue, “Butcher boy,” F. Wright; pianoforte solo, “Chimes again,” E. Larwood; chorus, “ Fire brigade,” 32 children; recitation, “Constancy,” GRACE BILHAM; chorus, “Twinkle little star,” juniors; solo, “Au revoir,” Mrs. Bartram; chorus, “Happy schooldays”; recitation, “When I’m a man,” 6 little boys; drawing lesson, “A pig,” J. Bennington; chorus, Drive the nail aright, boys”; musical drill and song, juniors; “topsy turvy, 9 boys; solo, “The toy monkey,” Mrs. Bartram; chorus, “Laughing song.” – Part II: Pianoforte solo, “Royal Greek march,” Bertie Bartram; chorus, “Meeting the waters”; recitation, “Jack in the box,” J. Briston; duet, “Fresh fish,” H. Corbyn and B. Bartram; solo, “Is marriage a failure,” Mrs. Bartrum; chorus, “Boys and girls,” musical drill, lower division of seniors; song, “Won’t you buy my pretty flowers,” Mrs. Bartram; recitation, “Billy Bray,” T. Gilding; action song, “Japanese fan,” 12 girls.

- Marked attention was paid to Maud Hendry, aged 10 years, in the last named group, and one or two of the choruses. Mr. Bartram presided at the pianoforte, and the happy meeting ended by all present heartily singing “God save the Queen.”

# JAMES BILHAM

# Son Jonathan Bilham & Jemima Bensley.

James Bilham (1846) He may have been the James Bilham whose death was registered in the Swaffham in 1937. If that was him his age was given as 85 years, but he would have in fact been 91. He married Elizabeth Bell in 1873.

The Lynn News and County Press 1899 8 Apr. Page 8

SPORLE.

 AN EARLY SWARM OF BEES. – Some little excitement was caused at noon on Sunday by a swarm of bees (from Mr. James Bilham’s hives) alighting upon Mr. T. S. Matthew’s garden wall, adjoining the street. A crowd soon collected and watched the process of hiving the swarm, which was successfully accomplished by their owner. The swarm was a very numerous one.

**JONATHAN BILHAM**

Baptised at Sporle in 1813, son of Joseph Bilham.

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle Street: Jonathon Bilham 25 ag.lab., Jemima Bilham 20, Sarah Bilham 5, Maryann Bilham 3, Robert Bilham 1.

1861 Census Sporle.

**LAURA BILHAM**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1901 census.

Bilham, Lawria 15 yrs Great Dunham, Nfk. General Dom. Serv.

**ROBERT BILHAM**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1901 census.

Bilham, Robert 18 yrs North Pickenham, Nfk. Railway Porter

**W. BILHAM**

The Lynn Advertiser 1899 24 Mar. Page 8

SPORLE.

 FUNERAL. – On Friday 17th inst. the mortal remains of Mrs. Harriet Elizabeth Wheatland, of Hornington, Suffolk, were conveyed to Swaffham by rail from Thetford, enclosed in a paneled elm coffin, with brass furniture and plate, inscribed: “Harriet Elizabeth Wheatland, aged 79.” It was covered with floral tributes, it was brought from the railway station in the Washington car, followed by two mourning coaches containing the mourners, viz. Mr. J. Wheatland (husband), Mr. J. Winter (son by first marriage), Mr. W. W. Wells (nephew), Mr. C. Hart (son in law), Mr. Wall, Mr. Dennis Wells, and the nurse. The procession went to Great Palgrave hall, the childhood home of the late Mrs. Wheatland and thence to the parish church, where it was meet by six labourers from Great Palgrave farm, who acted as bearers, viz. Messrs. J. Utting, R. Wright, W. BILHAM, W. Winner, E. Anderson and J. Barrett. The Rev. A. Avann officiated. A brick grave had been prepared, adjoining that of the late Mr. Dennis Wells, Mrs. Wheatland’s nephew. The whole of the arrangements were under the direction of Mr. J. Grummett. The wreaths included: “In loving remembrance of dear mother from her son James”; “from Walter and Kate with affectionate remembrance”; From Mr. William and W. Wells, the Elms, Sydenham, with kind sympathy”; Alfred and A. E. Grant; “In loving memory from Mr. and Mrs. Hart”; “In affectionate remembrance from Emma.”

# WILLIAM TAYLOR BILLING

# Born at Sporle with Palgrave.

In the 1861 census he aged 23 years, single, Ship Smith.

Lodging with the Walton family at Woolwich in Kent.

**WILLIAM BIRCH**

WILLIAM BIRCH – Guardsman 5735 Coldstream Regiment of Foot Guards, 1st Battalion. William Birch enlisted at Swaffham on the 26th of September 1904 for 4 years with the Colours and 8 years in the Reserve. His age was given then as 20 years and 5 months. Guardsman Birch for 18 months of his service was company cook. He transferred to the reserves on the 26th of September 1908. William Birch was baptised at Castle Acre in 1885. He was son of Charles Birch, labourer, and Harriet (late Bunkle). With his family he moved to Southacre, and by the 1901 census he was living with them at Sporle with Palgrave. William Birch was notified and mobilized to London on the 6th August 1914 to serve in World War One.

**FREDERICK BIRD**

The Lynn Advertiser 1867 6 Apr. Page 3

NORFOLK COUNTY COURT.

 SWAFFHAM, WEDNESDAY, April 3rd.

 GEORGE GIRLING, miller, Great Dunham, v. EDWARD BROADWAY, miller, Sporle-with-Palgrave. – This was an action to recover 17s 10d, being 5s money overpaid to the defendant and 12s 10d paid to him by and at his alleged request. Had the claim involved as many pounds as it did shillings, it could not by any possibility have received greater attention on the part of the Court, by whom the facts were gone into with a minuteness of detail which must have been exceedingly annoying to others suitors waiting to have their cases heard. At the February Court, Broadway met Girling for a balance of 14s for wages, which the later admitted. On the application of Mr. Wilkin, of Lynn, who then appeared for Girling, this learned Judge ordered the money to be paid into Court to abide the result of the present action, the incidents connected with which were spoken to by Mrs. Girling, who was subjected to an extraordinary long examination by the Court, every opportunity being at the same time afforded to Broadway to cross-examine her. Briefly expressed, Mrs. Girling’s testimony was that she keeps her husband’s books, and occasionally makes payments for him. In the capacity, she had advanced to Broadway, while he was in their service, when he was known to them as “Frederick Bird” small sums for beer and tobacco, shirting and boot-mending, amounting to 12s 10d, and the 5s of overpaid money having been made by mistake in a payment for wages on the 18th January last. – In answer to the demand, Broadway denied his liability for anything beyond 2s 9d for mending his boots; but the person to whom Mrs. Girling said she had paid the money in December last had only a few days ago informed him that it had not been paid. (Mrs. Girling shewed the court the receipt for the money.) As to the other items in the claim, they were generally payments made by Mrs. Girling for beer while he was out with her on the cart delivering goods, when now and then he would be drinking with her, although on one occasion he paid for two pints of half-and-half for Mrs. Girling. He had been in the plaintiff’s service before the last time, and never had a stain upon his character until Mr. Girling attempted to charge him before the Litcham magistrates with the “magnificent embezzlement” of 1s 5d. Notwithstanding this, the plaintiff took him back again at the remuneration of 4s a week, with board and lodging; and he believed Mr. Girling’s sole object in getting him back was that he might have “this law with him.” – His Honor, at the close of a very protracted investigation, signified his belief that every item of the 17s 6d had been proved, so that Broadway would have to pay in 3s 10d, which would be added to the 14s previously paid in by Girling, who would then take the 17s 10d out of Court. Broadway was allowed a month in which to square the matter.

**JAMES BIRD**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

Bird, James 7 yrs son Little Dunham

**THOMAS BIRD**

1851 Census. The only mention at Sporle of Thomas Bird, aged 40, schoolmaster, and his wife Maria, aged 46, schoolmistress

**ELIZA BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1836, daughter of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte.

Eliza sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. She was under a year old.

**HENRY BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised in 1800 at Sporle, son of Samuel Blanchflower.

**HENRY BLANCHFLOWER**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

1851 Census Henry Blanchflower, born c.1807, living at Swaffham.

**HENRY BLANCHFLOWER**

Sporle born. Found in Norfolk in the 1851 census.

Blanchflower, Henry 31 yrs lodger King's Lynn St. Margaret

**JANE BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1831 - daughter of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte.

Jane sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. She was 6 years old.

**JOHN BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle in 1813, mother Elizabeth.

In 1851 Census for Sporle.

**JOHN BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1828 - son of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte.

John sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. He was 9 years old.

**MARY ANN CLARKE BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1823 - daughter of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte

Mary sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. She was 13 years old.

**SAMUEL BLANCHFLOWER**

Samuel Blanchflower sailed to Canada, with family, as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration.

**SAMUEL BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1821, son of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte.

Samuel sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. He was 15 years old.

**SOPHIA BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1833, daughter of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte.

Sophia sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. She was 3 years old. She married Andrew Bray, son of Oliver Bray and Aga (Little), in Norfolk, Ontario. Sophia was born in Norfolk, England, and her parents were given at the marriage as Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte (Clark). – Clark was not Charlotte’s maiden name, but her mother’s maiden name.

**SUSANNA BLANCHFLOWER**

Baptised at Sporle with Palgrave c.1825, daughter of Samuel Blanchflower and Charlotte.

Susanna sailed to Canada as part of the Sporle with Palgrave Assisted Poor Law Migration. She was 11 years old. She married Robert Jarrett from England, and she was with him, and their three children, in the 1871 census for Brantford, Brant, Ontario, Canada, aged 45 years. She gave her religion at that time as Church of England.

**GEORGE BLOWERS**

George Blowers, son of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, was baptised on 5 Aug 1859 at Sporle, and buried there on 14 Jun 1928.

1861 census Sporle, Nfk. 83. Sporle Street.

He married ROSANNA EAGLE, daughter of ELIJAH EAGLE and MARY ANN KIDD, on 27 Oct 1883 at Sporle. She was baptised in 1864 at Sporle.

1881 census Sporle, Nfk. 167. Lt. Palgrave Farm. with Ann Wells. occ. housemaid.

1891 census Sporle with Palgrave, Cambridge Cottages. (Each cottage had 4 rooms.)

Samuel Rook, 55 years, ag. lab. (with wife)

GEORGE BLOWERS, 31 years, ag. lab. (with wife, and three young children)

James Sewell, 36 years, ag. lab. (with wife, and four young children)

Thomas Loads, 44 years, gardener domestic servant (with wife, and a lodger a groom)

1901 census Sporle with Palgrave, Cambridge Cottages. (4 rooms) 141.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| George Blowers | 41 years | marr. | head | farm teamman | b. Sporle, Nfk. |
| Roseanna Blowers | 36 years | marr. | wife |  | b. Sporle, Nfk. |
| George E. Blowers | 15 years |  | son | stock feeder | b. Swaffham, Nfk. |
| Herbert Blowers | 13 years |  | son | stock feeder | b. Sporle, Nfk. |
| Ada Blowers | 11 years |  | dau. |  | b. Sporle, Nfk. |
| James E. Blowers |  4 years |  | son |  | b. Sporle, Nfk. |
| Charles E. Blowers |  2 years |  | son |  | b. Sporle, Nfk. |
| Florence M. Blowers |  1 year |  | dau. |  | b. Sporle, Nfk. |

The Lynn News and County Press 1899 15 Apr. Page 8

SPORLE.

 ACCIDENT. – As a wagon laden with cake, and drawn by three horses, was being driven from Swaffham to Sporle on Thursday week by George Blowers, teamman for Mr. T. S. Matthews, the foremost horse shied at the crossroad just out of Swaffham. Blowers attempted to pull the horse to the centre of the road, and fell underneath the wagon, a front wheel passing over one of his legs – fortunately not breaking it. Three fingers of the right hand were badly crushed. Blowers, after placing his horses in charge of a man who was at work close by, walked back to Swaffham and had his wounds dressed. Later information states that mortification has set in, necessitating the amputation of the little finger. Mr. Blowers is now an inmate of the Swaffham Cottage Hospital.

**HANNAH BLOWERS**

Hannah Blowers, daughter of ROBERT BLOWERS and ROSE OXBOROUGH, was baptised on 16 Jul 1826 at Sporle, and was buried there on 24 Jan 1877.

1851 census Sporle, Nfk. Street.

1861 census Sporle Nfk. 108. Sporle Street.

HANNAH married JOHN ETHERIDGE, son of GEORGE ETHERIDGE and MARY WHISKER, on 10 Nov 1855 at Sporle. He was baptised on 23 Jul 1824 at Sporle, and buried there on 9 Feb 1864.

1841 census Sporle, Nfk. Street.

1851 census King's Lynn, Nfk. 15. Guanock Terrace. occ. excavator

1861 census Sporle, Nfk. 108. Sporle Street. occ. ag. lab.

Sexton of parish.

They had the following children:

Unnamed Etheridge was born on 22 Aug 1856 at Sporle. Stillborn.

Unnamed Etheridge was born 28 Oct 1857 at Sporle. Stillborn.

John Etheridge was baptised on 11 Apr 1859 at Sporle, and was buried there on 16 Apr 1859.

John Etheridge was baptised on 10 Aug 1860 at Sporle.

# JAMES BLOWERS

James Blowers, son of ROBERT BLOWERS and ROSE OXBOROUGH, was baptised on 13 Sep 1828 at Sporle, and buried there on 15 May 1900.

1841 census Sporle, Nfk

1851 census Sporle, Nfk. Street. occ. farm servant

1861 census Sporle, Nfk. 83. Sporle Street. occ. ag. lab.

1891 census Sporle, Nfk. 148. Road. occ. ag. lab.

He married MARIA CROSS, daughter of ROBERT CROSS and SUSAN HARDY, on 20 Nov 1858 at Sporle. She was born about 1837 at Scarning.

1851 census Scarning, Nfk. Fenn Road. scholar

1861 census Sporle, Nfk. 83. Sporle Street.

1891 census Sporle, Nfk. 148. Road.

They had the following children:

George Blowers baptised on 5 Aug 1859 at Sporle, and buried there on 14 Jun 1928. Married.

Mary Ann Blowers baptised on 24 Feb 1861 at Sporle. Married.

Susan Blowers baptised on 23 Nov 1862 at Sporle. Married.

Walter Blowers baptised in 1865 at Sporle. Married.

Barbara Blowers baptised on 28 Jul 1867 at Sporle.

Elijah Blowers baptised on 25 Apr 1869 at Sporle.

Robert William Blowers baptised on 12 Jan 1873 at Sporle. Married.

Emma Rose Blowers baptised on 16 Jan 1876 at Sporle.

John Henry Blowers baptised on 15 Jul 1877 at Sporle.

Jane Blanch Blowers baptised on 12 Dec 1880 at Sporle.

Leonard Elijah Blowers baptised on 9 Jul 1882 at Sporle, and was buried there on 25 May 1916.

Occupants of the row of cottages, belonging to the Matthews family, farmers, at Little London, beside Bunker’s Hill Road, at Sporle:

1871 Census Sporle with Palgrave.

John Walker 37 years, ag. lab. (with wife and five children)

Henry Pearson 50 years, blacksmith (with wife)

Thomas Walker, 63 years, pensioner, widr. (with his son a bootmaker, his niece a dom. servant, and a granddaughter.)

JAMES BLOWERS 38 years, ag. lab. (with wife and seven young children)

Henry Couzens, ag. lab. (with his wife, his two young children, and his father in law, also an ag. lab)

David Gilding 43 years, ag. lab. (with his wife, and son, a yard boy)

Robert Walker 70 years, shepherd (with his wife and two sons, one a higgler and the other an ag. lab)

1881 Census Sporle with Palgrave

Robert Walker

(1 unoccupied)

Henry Pearson

William Etheridge

JAMES BLOWERS

Robert Williams (with David Gilding, now a widow, as his lodger)

Thomas Easter

1891 Census Sporle with Palgrave. (cottages all contain 4 rooms)

George Walker 66 years hawker (and wife)

William Bowen 47 years miller’s carman (wife, daughter, a domestic servant and son, a miller’s boy)

Henry Pearson 71 years blacksmith (with wife)

JAMES BLOWERS 62 years ag. lab. (wife and three children, one son an ag. lab.)

(1 cottage unoccupied)

Robert Williamson 55 years ag. lab. (wife and two sons, one an ag. lab.)

Thomas Easter 58 years shepherd (wife, daughter and son, also a shepherd)

The Lynn Advertiser 1888 29 Dec.

PETTY SESSION REPORTS

SWAFFHAM. – MONDAY, 24th December. – Before Rev. B. Houchen, Capt. Allingham, R. H. Mason and H. Lee Warner, Esqs.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. – James Blowers, of Sporle, labourer, was charged by Robert Smith, attendance officer, with not sending his son, aged 11 years, to school. Defendant’s wife appeared, and said the boy had been sent to work as they were hard up. Fined 6d and costs 2/6.

The Lynn Advertiser 1889 14 Sep. Page 5

SPORLE. – ACCIDENTS ON THE HARVEST FIELD. – Last week James Blowers, in the employ of T. S. Matthews, of Top Farm, fell from a load of corn, but escaped with a severe shaking and a few bruises. – James Perry, in the employ of the same gentleman at the Church farm, fell from a load of barley, and was picked up in an unconscious state. He was taken home by Mr. Green, the steward, and Mr. A. W. Thomas, surgeon, was called in, and on examination found that the poor fellow had dislocated his shoulder and received other injuries.

The Lynn Advertiser 1892 30 Jul. Page 8

SPORLE. – ACCIDENT. – On Thursday some men employed by Mr. T. Matthews, of Sporle, were carting hay, when the horses shied and ran away, knocking down James Blowers and severely injuring his leg. He was medically attended to and sent on to Lynn by a passenger train. On arriving at the station Mr. J. Wilson, and Messrs. J. Page, W. Martin, H. Griffiths and J. E. Coston, members of the G.E.R. Ambulance Corps, were quickly in attendance, and after necessary bandaging, the patient was carefully placed upon the ambulance carriage and taken to the hospital.

**JANE BLOWERS**

Jane Blanch Blowers, daughter of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, baptised on 12 Dec 1880 at Sporle.

1891 census Sporle, Nfk. 148. Road. scholar.

**JOHN BLOWERS**

John Blowers was baptised on 16 Mar 1823 at Sporle, son of ROBERT BLOWERS and ROSE OXBOROUGH. He died on 11 Feb 1855 at Sporle, and was buried there on 19 Feb 1855.

1851 census Sporle, Nfk. occ. ag. lab.

John Blowers married DEBORAH HALL, daughter of JOHN HALL, on 29 Oct 1848 at Sporle. She was born c. 1813 at East Bilney. She was buried on 5 Jul 1886 at Sporle.

1841 census Sporle, Nfk. servant

1851 census Sporle, Nfk.

1861 census Sporle, Nfk. 22. Sporle Street

1871 census Sporle, Nfk. 76. Sporle Street. Hare & Hound.

They had the following child:

William Blowers was baptised on 21 Jul 1850 at Sporle, and was buried there on 16 Jun 1859.

**JOHN BLOWERS**

JOHN BLOWERS – Private 5547, Norfolk Regiment, 1st Battalion. He enlisted at Swaffham in 26th February 1900 aged 23 years and 8 months, was born at Sporle in c.1877, worked as a labourer and was previously serving with 3rd Voluntary Reserve Norfolk Regiment. With the 1st Battalion Private Blowers served 12 years and was in India from the 5th January 1901 to 26th December 1904 and in South Africa from the 27th December 1904 to 16th February 1907, before being transferred to the Reserve on the 25th February 1907. His next of kin were given as father John Blowers of Sporle, and brothers George, Walter, Robert and Leonard. John Blowers married Ethel Mary Reeder at Swaffham Registry Office in November 1908, and had a daughter, Alice Mary Blowers, at Swaffham in 1909. He later served in WW1 with the 9th Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment, under his full name of John Henry Blowers.

**JOHN HENRY BLOWERS**

John Henry Blowers, son of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, was baptised on 15 Jul 1877 at Sporle.

1891 census Sporle, Nfk. 148. Road. occ. ag. lab.

**LEONARD BLOWERS**

Leonard Elijah Blowers, son of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, baptised on 9 Jul 1882 at Sporle, and was buried there on 25 May 1916.

1891 census Sporle, Nfk. 148. Road. scholar.

**MARIA BLOWERS**

Maria Blowers was baptised on 21 May 1820 at Sporle, daughter of ROBERT BLOWERS and ROSE OXBOROUGH.

1841 census Sporle, Nfk.

**MARY BLOWERS**

Born Sporle.

1881 Census Transcript for Warham St. Mary, Farm House

Blowers, Mary 21 years unm. domestic servant, cook.

**MARY ANN BLOWERS**

Mary Ann Blowers, daughter of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, was baptised on 24 Feb 1861 at Sporle.

1861 census Sporle, Nfk. 83. Sporle Street.

1881 census Warham St.Mary, Nfk. 5. Farm House. occ. dom. serv. Cook

MARY married CHARLES MOULD, son of WALTER MOULD, on 26 Jun 1888 at Sporle. He was born about 1858.

**ROBERT BLOWERS**

Robert Blowers was born about 1786 in Suffolk.

He was buried on 5 Oct 1867 at Sporle.

1841 census Sporle, Nfk. occ. ag. lab.

1851 census Sporle, Nfk. Street. occ. ag. lab.

Robert married ROSE OXBOROUGH daughter of SAMUEL OXBOROUGH and ELIZABETH BOUGHEN on 26 Oct 1815 at Sporle. She was born on 8 May 1791, and was baptised on 15 May 1791 at Ashill. Rose was buried on 11 Jun 1873 at Sporle.

1841 census Sporle, Nfk

1851 census Swaffham, Nfk. Crown Cottage, with Bertha Roberts. occ. charwoman

1841 Census Return, Parish of Sporle with Palgrave.

Sporle: Robert Blowers 55 ag. lab., Rose Blowers 50, Mariah Blowers 20, James Blowers 12 / Robert Grummet 20 ag. lab.

They had the following children:

William Blowers was baptised on 24 Nov 1816. Married.

Maria Blowers was baptised on 21 May 1820 in Sporle.

John Blowers was baptised on 16 Mar 1823. He died on 11 Feb 1855. Married.

Hannah Blowers was baptised on 16 Jul 1826. She was buried on 24 Jan 1877. Married.

James Blowers was baptised on 13 Sep 1828. He was buried on 15 May 1900. Married.

**ROBERT BLOWERS**

1901 Census Little London Cottages 141. 4 rooms

Robert Blowers 26 years head married labourer on farm b. Sporle, Nfk.

Eliza Blowers 25 years wife b. Swaffham, Nfk.

Emma Blowers 1 year daughter b. Swaffham, Nfk.

**ROBERT WILLIAM BLOWERS**

Robert William Blowers, son of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, was baptised on 12 Jan 1873 at Sporle.

He married ELIZA. She was born about 1876 at Swaffham.

**SUSAN BLOWERS**

Susan Blowers, daughter of JAMES BLOWERS and MARIA CROSS, was baptised on 23 Nov 1862 at Sporle.

1881 Census Transcript for North Elmham, The Vicarage

Blowers, Susan 18 years unm. domestic servant for Rev. Legge.

Susan married PHILIP ERNEST DODMAN, son of PHILIP ROBERT DODMAN, on 23 Feb 1892 at Sporle. He was born c. 1866.

**WALTER BLOWERS**

Walter Blowers was baptised in 1865 at Sporle.

He married JANE. She was born about 1863 at Narborough.

1901 census Swaffham, Nfk. 111. North Pickenham Road. occ. teamster & horseman on farm

**WILLIAM BLOWERS**

William Blowers was baptised on 24 Nov 1816 at Sporle, son of ROBERT BLOWERS and ROSE OXBOROUGH.

He married MARY ANN. She was born about 1819 in Peterborough, Cambs.

They had the following children:

John Blowers was baptised on 24 Nov 1844 at Sporle.

Mary Ann Blowers was born c. 1848 at Sporle.

Robert Blowers was baptised on 20 Jan 1850 at Sporle.

**FRANCIS BLOYE**

Francis Bloye was a saddler from Swaffham.

When he died in 1838, he owned 16 properties at Swaffham and two at Sporle, including the “Vicarage house.

By that year the Rev. Roberts and his family were occupying the “Vicarage house.”

**ROBERT BLOYE**

When he died in 1838 Frances Bloye left all his 16 properties at Swaffham and two at Sporle, including the “Vicarage house.

to his brother Robert Bloye. He was a post captain in the Royal Navy.

**BODHAM** – not sorted

Mrs. Bodham – 1798 Sporle Land Tax £3.0s. owner. Occupier: Rix.

**EDWARD BOLDING**

Baptised in 1804 at Sporle.

**SUSANNA BONE**

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1870 Page 118

 MRS. SUSAN WRIGHT was born March 23rd, 1809, and died at Sporle, February 16th, 1868. Our departed sister was brought to God by the labours of the Primitive Methodists of the Swaffham circuit, and received her first ticket April 7th, 1850. From this date she was always a devoted Christian. She loved the word of God, the preaching service, prayer meetings, and her class-meetings, where her soul has been refreshed, hopes revived, and prospects brightened many times. When the work of God revived, and sinners were saved, she rejoiced with great joy. In adversity and affliction she would say the promise is all on our side. From the time of her conversion to the last moments of life she was unflinching. Her determination was to glorify God, and find her way to heaven. She wished the 421st hymn to be sung before her remains should be carried to the grave. I preached her funeral sermon to a large congregation, and have reason to believe good was done.

 W. KIRBY

Susan Wright, originally Susanna Bone, was born at Scarning and baptised on April 1st 1803! She married Samuel Wright. They lived all their married life at Sporle where at least ten children were born.

**MORE TO COME.**