



MEMORIES

The dates and inscriptions tell us so little about all the people commemorated in St Michael's Churchyard. So this document is designed to gather information from you – photographs, stories, documents, links to other sites – to tell us what they were like, where they lived, what they did for a living and what they did for fun. If you have anything you would like to be considered for inclusion, please contact us via: technical@stmichaelspenkridge.co.uk.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

Tomb A82 (the big stone cross lying in a square to the left of the Main Church Door)

The floor of the nave of the church where we sit for our services was once at the same level as the Chancel and High Altar. This was deemed disrespectful by our Victorian forebears, who ordered the lowering of the floor to a more appropriate height. In the process, the workmen uncovered the bones of earlier clergy. To avoid awkward questions and complications, the builders decided amongst themselves to cart them off to the quarry at Pottal Pool for disposal. They were spotted by the then Vicar of St Michael's, Hon. Cecil James Littleton, M.A., who was not impressed. He ordered the return of the bones to church, where they were re-interred with proper reverence beside the door, a stone cross to cover them and a plaque above them in the wall to mark their final resting place. (Many thanks to Mr John Linney for this information.)

Bagnall Randle

<http://www.bagnallvillage.com/Biographies/RandleBagnall.htm>

The "Pirate" Grave

Some fascinating comments to be found with the following link:

<http://uk.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20080716115929AAdXMMR>

It suggests pirates would be denied the recognition of a gravestone, that the symbol could indicate freemasonry or toxicity – the Black Death? The most likely explanation is less dramatic– the skull and crossbones were often used simply as a symbol of death.

The oldest inhabitants of the churchyard

Thomas Pickstock and Catharine Lovatt have that honour, both being born in 1661.

The Rochelle, Sambrook, Aspley and Emery Graves

Following is a brief history of the family buried together at Penkridge church.

The author can provide more detail if required. (Robin O'Neill, Mulberry House, 6 High Street, Great Cheverell, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 5TH. Tel: 01380 813126 Mobile: 07802 401773 robin.oneill@btinternet.com)

We shall commence at the 1841 census at **Dunston** which is a small village just north of **Penkridge**. In that village lived **Richard Emery** (b. 1808 at **Abbots Bromley**) an Agricultural Labourer with his wife **Ellen Emery** (b. 1814, née **Taylor**) and four children: **John Emery** (b. 1835), twin daughters **Mary and Ann Emery** (b. 26 December 1836 at Dunston) and **Henry Emery** (b. 1840). A fifth child, **Eliza Emery** would be born in 1843. The twins, Mary and Ann

Emery, are buried (grave E26 on the church plan) with their respective husbands: **John Sambrook** and **Thomas Aspley**.

The twins were only 11 when their mother died. By the 1851 census although Ann was still at home her sister Mary, aged 14, was a servant at **Clay Street Penkridge** with the **Dugmore** family.

In late 1860 Ann married Thomas Aspley (b. 1831 in **Bradley**) and went on to have a daughter, **Mary Ann Aspley** (b. 13 November 1864 at Penkridge) and sons **John T** (b. 1868, Penkridge) and **William Aspley** (b. 1873).

Thomas was a shoemaker. In 1861 they were living at **Mill Street, Penkridge**, in 1871 and 1881 at **Cannock Road Penkridge**. Latterly by 1901 they moved to **Town End, Brewood**.

By 1881 their daughter, Mary Ann Aspley, then aged 16 was a servant to **Charles and Jane Day** at **Clay Street, Penkridge**. In 1891 she was in Cheltenham still a servant to Jane Day, by then widowed. Jane Day probably died in 1893 and in autumn 1895 Mary Ann married widower **Frederick Ingram** (b. 1851) back in Cannock. By 1901 they were living at **Quarry Heath, Penkridge** with his children Eunice, John and Wilfred and their children **Francis Ingram** (b. 1897, d. 1907) and **Alfred Ingram** (b. 1901, d. 1904).

Frederick died in 1910 and by the end of the year Mary Ann had married another widower **Ebenezer Jellyman** (b.1865) and was living at **Field House, St. John's Road, Cannock**. Ebenezer died 7 June 1926 but Mary Ann Jellyman lived on to the age of 86 at **Cannock Road, Penkridge**, dying on 22 September 1951. Her will left her assets to cousins Sarah Jane and Jessie Matilda Sambrook. She is buried in grave E25 on the church plan with her cousin, Jessie Matilda Sambrook.

In 1869 Mary Emery, Ann's twin sister, married John Sambrook (b. 20 October 1834 in **Bilston**) at Penkridge. John was a Gun Implement Maker or Gun Implement Forger. In 1871 they were living at **11 Bath Street, Birmingham** and at least from 1881 to 1911 at **14 Loveday Street, Birmingham**. They had four daughters, all buried in the Penkridge graves:

Mary Sambrook (b. 14 March 1872 at Birmingham) (grave E19 on the church plan);

Martha Ann Sambrook, (b. October-December 1875 (grave E27 on the church plan);

Sarah Jane Sambrook, (b. 2 September 1887 at Birmingham) (grave E19 on the church plan);

Jessie Matilda Sambrook (b. 5 March 1882 at Birmingham) (grave E25 on the church plan).

Sarah Jane and Jessie Matilda never married and spent their lives in the umbrella trade, ending up back in Penkridge. They outlived all the others. We shall return to them later.

Martha Ann Sambrook married **Thomas Corbett** (b. 1876) in July-September 1908. By 1911 they were living at **3 Fort Royal Hill, Worcester**. Thomas was a wheelwright, They had one child who had died by 1911. Martha Ann died 3rd January 1944 and Thomas died 17th November 1944. They are buried in grave E27 on the church plan.

This leaves Mary Sambrook who married **John Rochell** (spellings of this name vary: sometimes Rochelle and earlier Rotchell or Rotchel). John Rochell was born about 1871 at **Great Wyrley** and was a Railway engine stoker and then a Locomotive Driver. His father **John Rochell** was born 1845 in Penkridge and his mother, **Sarah Cartwright**, in 1842 at **Hobble End, Essington**.

Mary Sambrook and John Rochell married on 23rd September 1896 and enjoyed their wedding night as son **Reginald John Rochelle** was born 9 months and one day later on 24th June 1897 at **66 Croft Street, Walsall**. A year later **Harold Thomas Rochelle** was born on 1st June 1898, also at 66 Croft Street.

They lived at **9 Cecil Street, Birmingham, 10 Westbourne Street, Rushall, Aldridge** and **66 Croft Street, Walsall**. *66 Croft street, which was near the corner with Green Lane (now the A34) has now been demolished but brick terraced Croft Street up to number 61 still exists.*

The boys' father, John Rochell, died in 1915 when they were still in their teens. Their mother Mary Rochell (née Sambrook) married Joseph W Haden in 1918 at **King's Norton**.

Reginald John Rochelle was 5' 4" and worked for the G.P.O. General Post Office in Birmingham. When he went into the army on 16 January 1917 his address was **4 Lower Church Lane, Tipton, near Dudley**. He served with rank of Sapper in the Signals Corp. in Palestine. He was demobilised in Egypt giving his home address as **33 Drumpellier Street, Coatbridge, Scotland**.

Subsequently he worked in the Middle East, returning from Port Said in 1932 and 1933 and died on 13th November 1941, aged only 44, at **33 Blair Road, Coatbridge** giving his occupation as a Postal Telephone Engineer.

His younger brother Harold Thomas Rochelle also worked abroad in the Middle East. He arrived from Port Said in 1923 giving his address as **33 Drumpellier Street, Coatbridge, Scotland** where his brother lived. In 1931 he left Swansea for Abadan.

His mother, now Mary Haden, died on 23rd July 1959 in Wellington, Shropshire. She is buried in grave E19 on the church plan. Harold Thomas Rochelle was 61 when this happened. He had been working for the British Petroleum company and had retired to a new house at **Yaffle Hill, Playden, Rye, Sussex**. He died suddenly on 24th January 1960 still aged only 61. His profession was given as Physicist.

His body was taken back to Penkridge by his aunts Sarah Jane and Jessie Matilda Sambrook and buried in grave E20 on 28th January 1960.

As his brother, mother and father were all dead his house and property went to his aunt, Sarah Jane Sambrook who was by now 82; documents were witnessed by her sister, his other aunt, Jessie Matilda Sambrook. Sarah Jane lived at **The Cottage, Cannock Road, Penkridge** and Jessie Matilda at **Silver Birch, The Marsh, Penkridge**.

Jessie Matilda lived to 87 and died on 17th August 1969. She is buried in grave E25.

Sarah Jane lived on to 93 and died on 6th July 1971. She is buried in grave E19 with her sister Mary Haden, Reginald and Harold Rochelle's mother.

But there is one more story to tell.

We can assume that Harold Thomas Rochelle, then 21, visited his brother Reginald John at 33 Drumpellier Street Coatbridge in February 1920. **Sarah Jane Pinkerton** (b. 7 June 1901), who was 18 and lived nearby in the next road at **57c King Street, Blairhill, Coatbridge** became pregnant and was sent away to have the baby. On 23rd November 1920 at **The Post Office, Biggar, Lanarkshire, Scotland** she gave birth to a boy she named **Harold Thomas Rochelle Pinkerton**.

The family doctor arranged his adoption by a couple from Glasgow and he was named **Robert O'Neill**. He married **Mary Ellen Fairn** on 14th September 1946 and died on 27th November 2002 at **Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex**.

He was the author's father.

There are two further graves in the family in the graveyard – James Rochell, Thomas Rochell and Ann Rochell (D45 on the churchyard plan), John Edward Rotchell M.M., Ellen Rotchell (his wife) and John Edward Rotchell (their son) (F190) and a small, stepped pyramid marker - Frederick Cartwright (E8)

Acknowledgements

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Ingram, Lyons, Aspley, Jellyman

My name is Bridget Amphlett, on Ancestry I am amphlett_1.

I've been on the Penkrige church website trying to find the graves of my Ingram and Lyons family who are in the churchyard. Not having any luck finding the graves I need I decided to look at the memories page and was delighted to find my great grandfather Frederick Ingram's name together with my grandfather Wilfrid Ingram. Also shown were the Emery and Aspley families. I have all the information on Mary Ann Aspley who married Frederick Ingram, and the birth and death of their two small boys. After Frederick died in 1910 I hadn't been able to trace Mary Ann, but today I've been able to solve the mystery with her marriage to Ebenezer Jellyman. My mother and my aunt always said that Mary Ann was a Jellyman, I thought meaning that her maiden name was Jellyman, but when I started research I knew that was incorrect as it was Aspley. One of my uncles used to visit her in Penkrige but as he had passed away before I started my family tree I wasn't able to ask him about her. I'm surprised that Mary Ann didn't die until 1951 as when I was a child I spent many happy hours at Grandad Ingram's cottage at Quarry Heath.

I now have another memory, my Mom and I used to go to Quarry Heath quite often, we lived in Cannock and used to catch the Penkrige bus which went over Shoal Hill getting off at the junction at Quarry Heath, Grandad Ingram's cottage was just over the road. At that time he was married to his second wife, Aunty Doris. Mom and I used to walk along the Cannock road to Penkrige when Mom used to see some her friends and one day we were passing a cottage on the Cannock Road when Mom said that two lovely old ladies lived there and that granddad used to visit them, I now realise that it was Mary Ann Jellyman, his step mother, and her cousin, I also think that Mom and her siblings must have known Mary Ann when they were growing up.

I have all the books about Penkrige and have a piece in one about my Grandad, Wilfrid Ingram, and photographs of some of my relations. My Dad's side are the Lyons family. His Grandmother, Elizabeth Lyons, owned the shop which is now Jaspers Bakery Shop, and next door was her Tea Room. My Gran was Mary Elizabeth Lyons, and her brothers were Henry John, known as Harry, and Alfred Edward, known as Ted or Strapper Lyons. It was very interesting to look at the churchyard plan as I found many surnames of people that Mom used to talk about, and my Lyons relations, sadly none of my Ingram family as they have no headstones.