



DAWLISH LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Newsletter

September 2011

Dear Members,

In July we had a very interesting afternoon visit to Tuckers Maltings in Newton Abbot as you can see in Mavis's report. Tricia is already hard at work organising the outings for 2012.

Membership

Our membership numbers seem to be dropping! We tend to encourage continued membership by circulating the newsletter, however this cannot continue for those not paying their 'subs'. Our financial year starts in April; we expect members to re-join by September. If you have not yet contributed but intend to continue membership please contact our treasurer Paul de Lusignan at 4 Valletta House, Plantation Terrace, Dawlish, EX7 9DR, Tel. 01626 865844 by 30 September.

Information from Mavis Stuckey

Dawlish Gazette archives

Dawlish Museum is now able to access the *Dawlish Gazette* archives for 1970-2000. This will be on the basis that the papers can be viewed by appointment only and there will be a small charge for the service. Any member of the history group interested should contact the Museum on 888557 or Mavis Stuckey 865736.

Derek Wain

**Our next meeting is on
3rd October**

**Vanessa Langley
on
'Light Houses'**

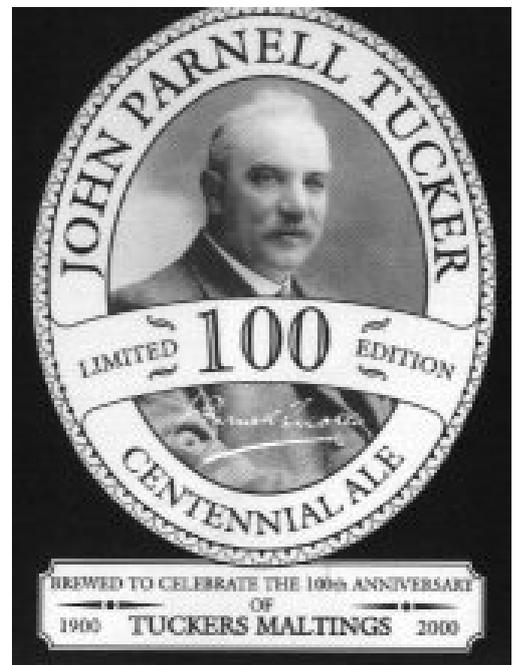
Visit to Tuckers Maltings, Newton Abbot.

When the members of the DLHG arrived at Tuckers Maltings on a lovely sunny afternoon on July 4th we were greeted firstly by a lovely ginger cat, who has replaced the legendary Edwin, who "looked after" the maltings for many years, the signs around the building are in the form of a big black cat Edwin - and secondly by our guide Mike. Tuckers Maltings prepares the barley grains from the farm to the basic malted barley product which is vital to the many micro-breweries in the West Country. The barley has been treated on this site since 1900, the process being largely manual; the main change - electric power as opposed to the original coal, which was brought in by train

to a siding alongside the maltings. Another important member of staff was the rat-catcher, he was paid by the number of rat tails produced each week!! The grain has quite a journey through the building, being dried for storage, then soaked in water to germinate when spread out on the floors and turned several times a day. We saw the various processes in action and heard staff as the grain was moved from floor to floor. After three days of

germination it was shifted to a drying kiln, again spread over a floor and subjected to heat. After going upstairs and downstairs many times we were allowed to handle the barley at different stages and invited to taste a few grains too, they resembled crunchy muesli. The waste products, e.g. short roots from germination, all went for animal feed, no loss here! We all appreciated the complimentary glass of beer (and a brief sit down) at the end of the tour which had been guided by Mike who certainly knew all about barley and explained it very well. Tuckers Maltings in Newton Abbot is the only working Malthouse left in the West Country, and the only one open to the public in England! As usual a cream tea at Jack's Patch rounded off the afternoon. Our thanks as usual to the drivers who gave lifts to others and as ever a big thank you to Tricia who did all the planning but unfortunately was not well enough to attend.

Mavis Stuckey



Mary Ann Thorn and Her Family Connections

The traders and shopkeepers of small towns like Dawlish were very often related to one another, and the story of Mary Ann Thorn, who kept a draper's shop in Albert Place for more than thirty years offers a good example of this. In many towns, the local traders came from families who had farmed in the town or its immediate environs for

centuries – indeed such was the case with Mary Ann, whose own family had been in Chagford from time immemorial, and whose brothers and cousins ran various businesses in the town, as well as continuing the family tradition of farming.

During the early nineteenth century, a combination of the Industrial Revolution and the agricultural slump which followed the Napoleonic Wars led to mass migration from the land to the towns. In areas like South Devon, the development of the seaside towns into resorts for the well-to-do also provided good opportunities for traders, and it seems natural for those who started afresh in another place to go where they already had a network of kinsfolk to support them, especially in the case of young girls like Mary Ann and her business partner, Thirza Cann. In the case of these two, it was not only trade which attracted them – family members who joined them might also enter the professions, and ultimately other relations would retire to the place where the family had established new connections.

The story begins in Chagford just after the Battle of Waterloo. In 1816, William Short, son of the young parish schoolmaster was baptised, followed two years later by his brother Caleb. Among William senior's pupils were the children of Henry Scutt, son of Gilbert, a prosperous local farmer. Henry's youngest daughter, Susannah would later marry Caleb Short, while her elder sister Anna would marry Richard Thorn, son of the Parish Clerk, and his wife Ann, formerly Hole.

Ann Hole Thorn's cousin, Joseph, who lived in South Tawton had a daughter, Thirza Catherine, in 1815, and she would later marry George Cann, son of Samuel, the innkeeper at the White Horse, Moretonhampstead, and brother of William. All these families would later form links with the business and educational communities in Dawlish.

William Short Wine Merchant, The Strand.

Probably the first of them to arrive in Dawlish was William Short, who became a schoolmaster. In the 1841 census he is to be found living in The Strand, but a little unsure as to his occupation; 'victualler' has been crossed out and 'schoolmaster' inserted. By 1851, he had made up his mind, for the census records him as being a wine merchant of 18 The Strand. He ran the business for over 20 years, and appears to have done well, for when he died in 1875 he left almost £4,000.

William's son, John Stroud Short, who lived at Broxmore, was also a wine merchant and may have continued his father's business, but he died in 1880. John married Caroline Bussell in 1866. She was the daughter of Henry Bussell, corn merchant and miller of the Strand Mill. Their only child William didn't continue the family business, he became an insurance clerk and went to live in London.

Henry Bussell, Corn Merchant & Miller - Strand Mill.

Henry Bussell was born in 1815 at Blackpool Mill, Stoke Fleming, the son of the miller, John Bussell, who proudly claimed descent from an ancestor who had been granted the manor of Newton Bussell in Devon by King Henry III in 1246.

Henry had moved to Dawlish by 1841 when he married Sarah Caroline Burt, daughter of a cabinet maker and upholsterer in Park Street, and they had three children: Caroline, Henry Burt and William John.

Henry Bussell the miller, was only 38 when he died, as his son Henry Burt later described in a letter, 'of a seizure', leaving his wife with three small children. Sarah Bussell also died young in 1859, and Caroline and Henry were sent to live with her brother in Torquay while William was sent to school in Kentisbeare.

The Strand Mill passed elsewhere. Henry Burt initially took up his grandfather and uncle's trade of upholstery but by the time he married Rosetta Ozmond at St George's Bloomsbury in 1865, he was an architect. He seems to have practiced initially in London, but then moved to Torquay where he lived until about 1877. He then moved to Merton, Surrey, claiming the air suited him better as he suffered from gout 'with heart complications'. He married twice and had eight children, and died in London in 1910.

William John Bussell, the third son, joined the Royal Navy and then apparently disappeared. In fact he had deserted his ship in Sydney, Australia, changed his name to Foxe and married a local girl, Emmeline Eather. The couple had eighteen children and more or less founded a dynasty in Narrabri, New South Wales. William died in 1898, and it was only after his death that a family friend made contact with Henry Burt Bussell in England and the story emerged.

In his letter to this friend, Henry describes his family connection with the Bushels of Bradley, even using an envelope engraved with the family coat of arms and crest, which he describes as being found in the great hall at Bradley. He regrets that as he had moved to Surrey for his health, the 'old name will die out in Devon'.

William Burt Cabinet Maker etc – Park Road.

William Burt moved from Bristol to Dawlish between 1811 and 1813 with his wife Sarah and baby son William. When his daughter Mary was baptised in 1813 he was described as a cabinet maker, although he is sometimes described as an upholsterer. He set up in business in Park Street (now Park Road) and by 1851 he was employing four men. His son William was also an upholsterer and cabinet maker but he set up in business in Torquay in a much larger way; by 1871 he was employing 90 people. William and Sarah's daughter Sarah, married Henry Bussell, the miller at the Strand Mill

From Angela Marks - To be continued...

From "The Western Guardian" which published "Dawlish Notes", weekly.

(It seems that the Salvation Army was not too popular in Dawlish, or at least with this reporter!)

17th April 1890

"Whether the Salvation Army has effected much good in the town, it is difficult to determine. Until recently very little cause for complaint has been given to those who differ in their way of conducting public worship, but it would seem that the return of the bright weather has operated in the way of exciting considerable hilarity of spirit among that peculiar unorthodox sect, and the Sabbath is made noisy by a discordant beating of the drum and loud mouthed accompaniment on a march to the beach, considerable in excess of former comparatively mild performances and which cannot be characterised as anything else than disturbing to peaceful minds."