

THE TOWNSWOMENS GUILD
Sileby Branch

A HISTORY OF SILEBY

SOCIAL STUDY GROUP

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F O R E W O R D

TOWNSWOMENS' GUILD

The Sileby branch of the Guild was formed in 1955, Miss E. Perry being the first Chairman. She later became President, retiring from Chairmanship in 1963; at the present time Mrs. M. Heath is Chairman, Mrs. N. Smith is Honorary Secretary and Mrs. M. Ecker is Honorary Treasurer.

Within the members of almost 100 there are Drama, Music and Social Study Groups.

It was at the first meeting that members of the Social Study Group decided to study their own village. During the following weeks everyone borrowed photographs, old books, newspaper cuttings and leaflets. Many people outside the Guild have helped and we do give them our thanks.

Special appreciation goes to Mr. J. Whittington for much information and to Miss E. Perry for borrowing and returning leaflets.

This is not a history of Sileby, only a gleaning of information concerning the people of Sileby and their environments from the Wooden Danish Sandal to the Plastic ones of today. Several dates of world historical significance are inserted for interest and as a measurement of time.

SILEBY

The name of the village has many spellings, Cilebi, Siglebi, Siglesbie, according to the listeners ear or local pronunciation, but probably it came from the Danes as SIGHULES-BY, a personal name and the 'BY' denoting his homestead, as also Hoby, Frisby, Saxby, Rearsby, Asfordby and Dalby. About the year 1,000 the Vikings made their last powerful attack on South East England, lead by Sweyn Forkbeard, and in 1016 Canute 'Knud' became King of England. At his death in 1025 his empire collapsed. With the army disbanded settlements sprang up where the Danes had captured land and one of these areas was the Wreake Valley, probably because it was not far from a good road and water was available.

- 1087 - the meadow not held by the King totalled 60 acres and there were two water mills, one off Barrow Road and one off Cossington Road. The King held 96 acres. The present acreage is given at 2,285.
- 1229 - (approx), the lands of the Earl of Chester in Sileby were acquired by Stephen de Segrave.
- 1238 - 39, Simon de Montfort exchanged land in Sileby and Thurnby held by Richard, son of Robert de Harcourt with land held by Stephen de Segrave in Thornton and Bagworth. Citizens of Sileby were already in the Merchant Guild of Leicester.
- 1265 - Richard de Segrave was taken at the Battle of Evesham, he had two parts of the town of Sileby worth £15. At this time there were mentioned, Henry de Sileby, William de Sileby, Robert and Richard de Sileby, the surnames being acquired later but, at the present day in Sileby the custom of Christian names prevales.
- 1316 - Quit claim to Matilda de Sileby in Leicester from Margery, late wife of William of Lutterworth of all her rights in her messuage in the weekly market . . .
- 1361 - Black Death prevalent in Leicester. The Bailiwick of Sileby assigned to Matilda one of Henry, Duke of Lancaster's daughters, it was afterwards held by Thomas de Belegrove and William de Belegrove.

1488 - Richard Bocher of Sileby sold "diseased meat" and took "excessive profits".

1497 - John Cabot landed in North America.

1532 - Robert Farnham of Quorn bought land in Sileby.

1617 - Thomas Taylor married Margaret Fowkes of Sileby.

1618 - Thomas Lane married Joan Thorpe.

1628 - Edward Hill married Judith Bradhurst of Sileby.

1629 - Elizabeth Barrowdale of Sileby married Nicholas Castledine of Saxby.

1630 - Freeholders in this year :

George Barnard
John Gibson

Hugh King
John Dawson

John Chamberlyn of Sileby married Susanna Harrison of Loughborough.

1636 - Richard Barradale, Tailor.

1639 - William Lane Charity Founded. Born in Sileby and was later Mercer in London.

1640 - George Steave, Baker.
Richard Thorp, Tailor.

1641 - William Smith of Sileby married Constant Caunt.

1644 - Elias Smith was 'Phisition' (doctor).

1650 - Parish Church School was founded. First Schoolmaster recorded, Francis Partridge.

From a list of Wills, these names were recorded in the latter half of the 17th Century :-

William Bury
Thomas Gibson
Thomas Oswyn
Hugh Bosse
John Gaye

William Kendall
Ann Duckets
John Chamberlain
Richard Aslen

1664 - Thomas Stanvie charged tax for 'one hearth'.
William Gover married Mary Middleton.

1676 - 29 non conformists were recorded:

William Smith and his wife Constance
Richard Read and wife Anne
Thomas Marshall
William Barton
John Chamberlayne and his wife Elizabeth
Mary Chamberlain, widow
William Chamberlain and wife
William Perkins and wife Mary
Thomas Kendal and wife Elizabeth
John Brewen and wife
William Pichard and wife
Joan Alsopp
Alice Milner
Mr. House
Richard Nedham
Ely Knight
Daniel Kerke

All presented for not going to church or receiving Easter Communion.

1677 - George Fox, founder of the Quakers, visited the house in back Lane, home of William Smith whose house has now been demolished.

1679 - Thomas Marshall, a prominent Quaker had land and crops worth £64 - he married Elizabeth Timmins.

1679 - First stocking frame in Leicester. Robert Barnard left by will £6 per annum to be paid out of the water mills and 'holmes' payable half-yearly to the vicar 10/- and 10/- to five poor people.

1680 - Names mentioned at this period :-

John Derry	Robert Barnard
Edward Bate	Thomas Berry
John Brewin	

1689 - Toleration Act passed for freedom of worship.

1692 - Quakers had established a meeting house in Back Lane (once Queen Street).

1707 - William Bentley, Clerk.

Aynesworth, Nicholas	Lucy John
Barrowdel, Thomas	Marshall, Thomas
Barrowdel, Thomas	Miller, William
Bennet, William	Orton, Francis
Chamberlain, James	Pearson, John
Chamberlain, John	Pearson, Thomas
Chamberlain, Thomas	Pacher, George
Dawson, Thomas	Robinson, Thomas
Ferriman, John	Smith, Abraham
Ferriman, Theophilus	Smith, Samuel
Ferriman, Thomas	Stannage, Thomas
Gibson, William	Stark, Henry
Grundy, Edward	Stark, Henry, Jnr.
Hague, George	Stevenson, Thomas
Kendall, Con	Taylor, John
Kendall, William	Taylor, William
Lacy, John	Wooldridge, John
	Wheatley, William

- 1722 - 39 freeholders in Sileby. Elizabeth Smith of Sileby married Robert Pochin of Wigston.
- 1728 - William Chamberlain of Sileby married Sarah Tressler of Willoby-Waterless.
- 1732 - Latin abolished in official documents.
- 1759 - William Pochin, Vicar. The Parish was enclosed, land consisted of 2,153 acres.
- 1760 - Quebec Farm built, Venetian windows, name significant of the time built. Large fields broken up by Hawthorn Hedge.
- 1776 - Money raised for the poor in Sileby in this year, £233.3.2d. £7.14.2d. was expended in the county rate, the rest for the poor. The rent of the workhouse and inhabitants cost £11.5.10d. and £3.6.4d. was spent on litigations.
- 1779 - William Allt buried at Long Whatton. Died August, 1779 aged 60. He was the pastor at the Chapel in Sileby.
- 1786 - John Sing, Schoolmaster died aged 74.
- 1787 - 'Wanted immediately. Two very good hands in the Frame Smith Way at Thomas Shuttlewoods where they may depend upon constant employment and good wages'. (Advertisement)

1789 - John Woodcock of Sileby was working in a lime pit when part of it falling in, fell on deceased, causing him to fall upon a pick-axe which he was holding in his hand whereby he received inward bruises from which he died.

1790 - Sale by Auction by C. Bruce.

The neat and genteel household goods of Mrs. Marshall of Sileby, good bedstead and curtains, feather and flock, blankets and coverlets, parlour and chamber chairs, Peer and Serving glasses, chest of drawers, eight day clock, cheese press, two hand irons, two milk leads, a 30 gallon copper mash tub and tubs and barrels of different sizes, good pewter and brass.

1793 - 204 houses, 978 inhabitants, 95 houses rated with window tax.

Runaway on Sunday Night

Dennis Taylor, apprentice to James Barker, Framework Knitter, Sileby. He was wearing green cloth sleeved waist coat without laps, one sleeve out at elbow, a high crowned hat, old leather breeches, black Denby stockings and a thick pair of shoes. He was 5'7" tall, fresh complexion and his hair curled. Any person bringing him to James Barker shall receive one guinea. Should he return to his master he will be pardoned.

1800 - There had been 2 ancient Mansion houses 'sherards' now in tenance of Mr. Ward, Farmer, the other belonging to the Pochin family was demolished. 3 dissenting meeting homes, Quakers in Back Lane, Baptists - Mountsorrel Lane and Methodists. Reverend Edward Pyke, Minister of Baptists.

1801 - Population 1,111. Abraham Lincoln born.

1807 - Henry Wordsworth born.

1809 - William Palmer, grocer of Loughborough bought for £327 at sale at the Crown Inn, Mountsorrel, the Free Trade Inn. William Francis Palmer inherited. Names mentioned, John Brown, Charles Arland, John Whittington.

1811 - Population, 1,200. - Robert Browning/Elizabeth Barrat

1820 - November, 8th - A camp meeting was held at Seagrave where the yearly Parish Feast was also held. One party was playing cricket whilst the other was engaged in solemn worship of God: This was the usual practice of Hugh Bourne (Lace Manufacturer) who believed that fairs and feasts were evil and worked and schemed to stamp them out.

The first meeting of the Primitive Methodists was held in Sileby on the site of Heaps' shop, and according to the July magazine of 1818, the first Chapel was built in that year, on the site of what is now Middletons' shop.

1821 - Population 1,328 - Post came daily from Mountsorrel.

1823 - The Baptist Church was built on Cossington Road.

1831 - Population 1,491.

1840 - May 4th, a Railway Section was opened privately and the public service began. Four first class and six second class carriages reached Leicester from Nottingham on a cold 5th May and a large crowd gathered to see the train leave Leicester for Loughborough at 7.30 a.m. arriving at Loughborough at 8 a.m. where a great crowd were waiting to welcome it.

1841 - July 5th, a wood turner and temperance preacher named Thomas Cook organised an excursion train from Leicester to Loughborough, fare 1/-, for people who wished to attend a Temperance Meeting. He sold the tickets and travelled on the train to attend to the comfort of his passengers and from this small beginning arose the world's largest travel agency.

1846 - Chief land owners, W.A. Pochin, Reverend Thornton, J. Breedon. The manor court is held every three years. The mill belongs to J. Wilkins, baker and miller. William Barger Parish Clerk and school master, Josiah Whittington, wheelwright.

1849 - Small free school for 6 poor boys held in Tower of Church endowed 6 guineas by W.A. Pochin. Lord of the Manor. Elizabeth Browett and Ann Robinson each had a day school. These were known as "Dame Schools" and fees were paid.

- 1849 - William Burgess - Schoolmaster, Parish Clerk and Postmaster.
- 1850 - Robert Louis Stevenson born.
- 1850-60 - Boot and Shoe trade developed in Sileby. Leicester factory cut and closed the uppers and Sileby did the finishing.
- 1851 - Population, 1660. 489 Hand Knitting Frames. Thomas Crick organised shoe finishing in Sileby and later began a factory there.
- Sileby to Mountsorrel bridge already existed in 1274, in 1852 the old brick and rubble bridge was replaced by one of wrought iron.
- 1855 - Sydney Oswin was paid one pound and allowed $\frac{1}{2}$ d per old sparrow and $\frac{1}{4}$ d per young sparrow, received weekly on taking the heads to Edward Smith.
- 1856 - George Bernard Shaw born.
- 1859 - At Vestry meeting it was decided to provide buckets for the fire engine which should be put in order.
- 1860 - National School built at cost of £1,300 raised by subscriptions. Designed by Mr. Ordish who also designed the Corn Exchange, Leicester.
- 1861 - Population 1,572. 5 Bake-houses in village.
- 1862 - Public Meeting of Rate payers to decide whether to adopt Gas Lighting.
- 1863 - William Francis Palmer died leaving his wife The Free Trade Inn.
- 1865 - Primitive Methodist Chapel built in King Street for £1,250.
- 1865 - Lessons in catechism given by a young catholic convert in the Horse and Trumpet Inn. He afterwards became Father Knight. 2 cottages converted into a school in Brook Street.
- 1865 - Where "Heaps" shop now stands was cottage where "Ranters" meetings were held (Prim.Meth.)

~~1866 - Undenominational School - £1,300.~~

1868 - Free Trade Inn sold to William Hand for £425 - before this it was in the King family for almost 3 centuries.

Sileby Gas Works established
5/- per 1,000 cu.ft.
now 1,000 cu.ft. costs 15/-.

1869 - Charles Dickens died.

1870 - Mr. Porter was Town Crier.
Mr. Llanwarne teacher National School.

1871 - Population 1766. 409 houses and 2,190 acres.
Mrs. Muscott was School Mistress
Mr. Onions was R.C. School Master.

1874 - Infant School was built £800 (C of E School).

1875 - Roman Catholic Church St. Gregory was built as a school Chapel by Father Lewthwaite from a design by Father Bailey. Father Bone collected the money, Duchess of Sporza Benefactor.

The elm tree in the church yard measured 25'3" in circumference.

Assessors of Taxes - Edward Parkinson and William Robinson.

Overseers - George Tinkler, William Barrington, Harry Warden and Joseph S. Furness.

1876 - A pole was taken to decide whether the Parishioners of Sileby wished to be constituted into a Local Government district. The majority voted in favour of this and it now lies within the London Government to decide if this shall be.

After part of the House of John Lewin was destroyed by fire, request was made to organise a Volunteer Fire Brigade for Sileby.

1877 - Doctor Patrick Downey, Surgeon, Registrar of Births and Deaths, Medical Officer of Health, Brook Street.

Edward Cooper - Corn Merchant and Miller. Sileby Mills and Sileby House.

1877 - (cont'd)

George Hives - Corn Miller and Victualler, Railway Inn, King Street.

Reverend John Haigh, Primitive Methodist, Grove House, Swan Street.

John Harriman, Quebec Farm.

Frederick Keightley - Farmer, King Street.

Robert Lacey - Farmer, Sibley Lodge

Miss M. Newball, Horse and Trumpet, High Street.

Mrs. Harriet Parkinson, Old Plough, High Street.

William Sharpe, Steam Brewery, Duke of York, High Street.

Mrs. Hannah Porter, Farmer, Bell Eye Lodge.

Reverend Augustus Shears, Vicar

1880 - Junior School in King Street was erected with a master's house at the cost of £2,500. Money was given by Thomas Caloe.

1894 - There was a 'Coffee House' corner of Swan Street, managed by William Chapman.

1894 - Parish Councils established. Fred Marlow was Blacksmith, High Street.

1901 - Population 3,082.

There was in Sibley a Brick and Tile works, a Brewery, six Hosiery Factories and six Boot and Shoe Factories.

1907 - Exelsior Shoe Company was incorporated.

1908 - John William Marston ran Coffee House.

1915 - Newbold and Burton Holdings Limited - Business founded by J.A. Newbold and G.A. Burton, it became incorporated in 1926 and made a public company in 1950.

1931 - Sunday Schoolrooms and Hall built. King Street Methodist Church.

1951 - Sileby Evergreen Club, formed October, 1951.

The Parish Council and Mr. Francis Burton who equipped the Adult School and Village Institute for the use of Elderly People in the village.

Members can attend any morning or afternoon of the week for Whist Drives, Social Gatherings or Restful Periods. Television and Radio are provided.

The Officers of the club organise holidays to the seaside for the members, also day and half-day outings to various places of interest.

After the second world war a special committee raised £7,763 for a Memorial Park which included a Rose Garden of Remembrance, a Children's Corner and a Football Ground. The War Memorial was removed from its earlier site in front of the Village Institute and re-erected in the Garden of Remembrance.

The cost of the entrance gates was mostly borne by Mr. Francis Burton, who officially opened the Park for the Queen Elizabeth Coronation in 1953.

1965 - Sileby division has two representatives on the Leicestershire County Council with over 3,000 persons on the Electoral Register.

Sileby is also included in the Rural District of Barrow-upon-Soar which returns for members: viz: Mrs. E. Parkinson and Mr. W. Preston (St. Mary's Ward), Miss G. Barber and Mr. Scott (St. Gregory's Ward). Miss Mervyn Pike is the elected member of Parliament and frequently visits the village to talk to her constituents.

The present population is over 4,650.

1966 - On May 28th an old custom was revived, there was a parade with Decorated Lorries, a Beauty Queen, Children's Fancy Dress, Tug O' War, Friendly Football and a Flower Stall too.

Sileby is a large, busy village with a British Legion section, Football, Cricket, Bowling and Methodist Tennis Clubs, a section of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Brownies, a Methodist Youth Club, a Photography Society and an Evergreen Club, so that it would appear there is something for everyone.

SILEBY CHURCH

7 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles North of Leicester
8 miles South-East of Loughborough
105 miles from London.

St. Mary the Virgin - built of granite in the early part of the 14th century in early Gothic style. Consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, south porch and a lofty tower between 80 and 90 feet high with pinnacles and containing a clock with chimes and ~~five~~ 8 bells. The massive roof with leaves carved on the cross-beams are all 15th century.

The church plates includes a silver chalice and paten given by William Lane in 1639.

The Church was restored in 1880 under the direction of Sir Henry Blomfield, A.R.A., at a cost of £5,718. There are now 420 sittings.

1897 - John Dudley was rector for over 60 years. The bridge over the brook is known as Dudley Bridge.

The nave and door-way in the North aisle are fine 13th century mouldings.

For Queen Victoria's Jubilee a special clock and chimes was installed in the Tower and at the Church Restoration in 1912 a special panel of old cast lead was taken from the roof and re-hung inside the church with interesting inscription concerning local plumber, Eli Porter. New addition - Communion Rail, in memory of Rev. F.L. Burrows, Vicar 1910 to 1941. Chancel Oak Panelling and the Church War Memorial unveiled by Sir Robert Martin, C.M.G., in 1923.

Elm tree in the Church yard is said to have been planted in the 14th century.

FARMS - HIRING FAIR

Until about 90 years ago the Hiring Fair was held in Sileby with the Wakes.

Farm workers, dairy maids and house servants paraded in and around High Street, called then 'High Causy' where they were seen by possible employers.

The shepherds carried crooks, the waggoners whips and the ploughmen had knots of corn in their hats.

When the farmer saw a likely farm worker, he handed him a Hence shilling which was a bond and promise that the person was engaged for the following year.

FARMS - 1894

Samuel Barber	Peas Hill Farm
James Armson	1876
Joseph Dakin	Barrow Road Farm
William Dowell	High Street
Herbert Bryan Foster	Barrow Road
John Edmund Parkinson	High Street
Mrs. Emma Porter	Hanover Lodge Farm
William Jabez Porter	Bell Eye Lodge
Mathew Rudkin	Cossington Vale

SURNAMES

1440	Ralph Payle - Constable of Sileby.	1569	Whitbie
1470	Gilson Sybson		Arne
1483	Brett		Walton
1509	Edwards		Gadsbie
1521	Gwylckes		Key
1522	Hambryn		Morrise
1525	Thorpe		Barradale
	Norrys		Gase
1537	Waddington		Boden
	Colckes	1570	Chamberlain
1557	Stokes		Dudlie
1563	Oswen		Toone
	Summer	1571	Howson
	Basse		Hel
	Brettle	1572	Plumer
	Ryne	1573	Middleton
	Greves		Crofts
	Barnards	1574	Alton
	Wylde		Twelves
	Lane		Otsbie
1568	Ewers		Oram
	Wells	1575	Noble
	Fewkes		Elwood
	Kinton		Dawson
	Till	1576	Fisher
	Stafford		Tailer
	Gilbert		Michaell
	Geston		Keene - Kine
	Kinge		
	Boman		

FIELDS AND MEADOW LANDS

Southfields

Peashill Furlong

Stonyland Furlong

Barnards Close

Meadow Lands

Southfields Leys

South Holme Bank Platt

South Holme Gap Platt

Ford Platt

Long Northing Plat

Short Northing Plat

Brannsford Plat

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

1876. A Spelling Bee was organised and after many rounds of elimination the winners were William Oswin and William Kettle. The prizes were framed pictures of the Church. Mr. Hansford was the interrogator. There was also music and singing. In a further Spelling test Mr. Harry Fisher and Mrs. F. Sharpe were the winners.

1876. The lending library was open every Monday from 12 noon - 12.30 p.m. at Joseph Betts house, Church Road. - payment 2d. per month.

Mr. and Mrs. Llanwarne left Sileby schools where they had been teaching for 16 years. Mr. Muscott took over Headship of the mixed school.

1876. Monday, October, 14th. Classes for men and boys over 14 years old were held in the National School. It was felt that this would help those of Sileby who could not read or write. Employers and parents were reminded of the good influence this would have in that their men-folk would then be able to read the Bible, and also write to their relations. For the progressive students there would be Literature and Science.

The Vicar would help any promising young student to go on to Higher Education.

1876. Cottage Lectures: A course of these Lectures began in Sileby on Wednesday, November, 8th. They were held in a room in the house of Mr. W. Collington. Mrs. Crampton has now been appointed mistress of the Infant School. Children must now attend school at 10 minutes before 9 o'clock and leave at 10 minutes before 12 noon to enable them to take their fathers' dinners to their place of employment.

1876. On Thursday, December, 23rd, 1876 a meeting of Parishioners was held in the Vestry. Rev. Augustus Shears presiding. It was decided to discontinue our connection with the Highway Board and take care of the roads of our Parish ourselves.

1876. An example of donations for the Church Restoration Fund:

	£.	s.	d.
Profits of Spelling Bee	4.	5.	0.
Mrs. Perry Herrick	350.	0.	0.
The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of Peterborough	5.	0.	0.

	£.	s.	d.
Mrs. J. Church, Snr.	2.	0.	0.
Rev. E.H. Price, Maidenhead	5.	0.	0.
Mrs. E.H. Price	1.	1.	0.
Mr. E. Warner, Quorn Hall	25.	0.	0.
Rev. C.T. Frampton, Chichester	25.	0.	0.

1877. Sileby Clothing Club - There were 150 depositors. Some drapers give presents to depositors when they purchase goods on the credit of these cards and some do not.

It is desirable to have uniformity so the Vicar intends to ask all drapers to give a small percentage towards the gifts distributed to the poor.

1877. The Education Department have arranged a plan by which children who attend school regularly and punctually and pass fairly in three subjects, i.e., Reading, Writing and Arithmetic - above a certain standard shall receive Honour Certificates, have their school fees returned and attend school free for a certain period.

1877. Sileby Cricket Club. President: Rev. A. Shears.

Several members have fallen into disgrace by encouraging drinking liquor at the cricket field.

A fine of 3d. be strictly enforced upon members using profane language or taking an oath whilst at practice or in a match.

INNS

FREE TRADE: The name King - originally Kinge, has been in Sileby since the middle 16th century.

1699 - Hugh King's son, Thomas married Elizabeth Oswin from Cossington. Hugh King gave land in Sileby to William and Thomas Oswin - her Father and brother.

1760 - Thomas King: Gent: owned Free Trade Inn

1868 - Free Trade Inn sold to William Hand for £425.

1894 - Duke of York: T.J. Addison. Beer was once brewed from water from a well under the kitchen, there were originally two rooms - the dividing wall being built of pebbles.

Railway, King Street
Fountain Inn, Brook Street

Harry Brampton
Will Barber

Gen. Sir John Moore
Was on site of Fish and Chip Shop
High Street/Brook Street.

W.R. Blockley

Horse and Trumpet, High Street

Tom Chamberlain

White Swan, Swan Street

Robert Joyce

The Bell Ringers Arms - (On
site of Middleton's, Brook Street).

Thomas Marriott

The Old Red Lion, King Street

Mrs. Eliza Parkinson

The Plough, High Street

Henry Parkinson.

SILEBY OCCUPATIONS

Mercers

1255 Will de Sileby
1264 Rob de Sileby
1636 Will Baradale

Tailors

1636 Richard Thorp
1636 Richard Wild
1636 Launcelot Baradale

Yeomen

1577 Christopher Fisher
Thomas Baradale
1598 William Kinge
1636 Thomas Reading of Seagrave
1647 Thomas Barrordell
1658 Thomas Oswyn

Husbandmen

1636 Thomas Orton
1636 Thomas Middleton
1636 Nicholas Parsons
1637 Thomas Oswin
1658 William Bury

Weavers

1636 Will Lane
1636 Ed. Hecteling

Shepherds

1636 William Dakin
1638 William Walker
1655 Richard Callis

Labourers

1636 Will Till
1636 Will Thomson
1646 Thomas Duckett
1647 Roger Herrick

Wheelwrights

1587 John Greaves
John Woollidridge

Miller

1639 Francis King

Glaziers

1639 William Massey

SILEBY MEN'S ADULT SCHOOL

First school session Sunday, May 7th 1899, in the top room of the Coffee House. On May 21st fifteen were present and Mr. W.A. Francis then Headmaster of the School was elected President, but the meetings were ill attended.

At this time licensed premises were open all day and seemed very popular, especially as a great many of the men worked locally in sheds or spare rooms hand finishing boots and shoes and could work many hours for several days then have days off to spend the money they had earned, mostly in drinking.

The foremost aim of the school was to enlighten and distract from these habits. The Bible was used as a Text book and in the second year 2/3d was spent on exercise books. Though the numbers were small the members attending were staunch and early in the year 1900 they adopted a new motto "Every man a man" - in the next few weeks the attendance doubled.

In the summer of 1900 the women's section began with 33 members.

In 1902 the attendance was 100 on Easter day and that year also two Sileby bands got together and became the "Adult School Band" and at the Summer Rally, of the County Schools at Humberstone Hall, gained first prize. By this time the effect of the School was beginning to show. Men came better dressed and felt a need for reading and writing and this in turn opened up a wider sphere of learning and thinking and it is not an exaggeration to say that the Adult School had greatly improved the behaviour of the village.

Sam Yates was one who benefitted and learned to become a good citizen and was one of a party from the Adult School movement to visit Germany on a good-will mission in 1914. A stockinger, he gave on his retirement his frame, winding gear and lamp and stool to the Leicester Museum, where he helped to erect the Stockingers Shop.

In 1908, on being told Sileby was not doing its share for the Hospital Fund, the Secretary of the School, Alf Freer, organised a Fancy Dress Parade which raised £14.9.3d. The two local Bands played in alternate years.

Progress was maintained and in 1916 £60 was sent to the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Through the years this effort was known as "The Adult School Parade and Demonstration" though anyone who was not connected with the School was welcome to help on the Committee.

At this time Sileby began working for an amount of £1,000 to endow a "Sileby Bed" in the Leicester Royal Infirmary, this was soon achieved, Sileby being the first to start this hospital bed scheme. In the years following an amount of over £11,000 was raised, being sufficient to endow a further 10 beds in the hospital, a clear indication of the generosity and understanding of the people of Sileby.

The present Institute building was at one time a Dining Hall and kitchen on the Prisoner of War Camp at Rothwell.

After the repatriation of the German prisoners of War a group of local men with Adult School experience, went to Rothwell and purchased the Building which was for sale. Mr. C.H. Martin gave the site on which it stands, and also a generous contribution towards the cost of buying and the erection.

Many members of the school and Institute together with their friends gave generously and spent much time in preparing the site and foundation ready for the delivery and erection of the Building. In 1920 it was ready. In this year too Mr. Francis resigned after being President and friend to all members alike for 21 years.

Two families who have served the School are the Chaplin family and the Whittingtons in four generations.

Through the two world wars Sileby suffered as others, but the Adult School did not close for a single week. When speakers were unavailable, members used their own resources and talents and kept going at their usual high standard.

It would appear that the Adult School has at all times been an asset and great help to the village, especially in the early days, when in teaching a man to read, he was encouraged then to read to learn thereby widening his horizon of knowledge and thinking.

It is to the credit of the past Presidents and Committees who have guided the school through the years of trial and sometimes error, to the present surely established feature of Sileby village life.

THE QUEENS JUBILEE FESTIVITIES, **SILEBY.**

ON MONDAY JUNE 20TH. 1887,

(The Fiftieth Anniversary of the accession of Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.)

ARRANGEMENTS D.V. WILL BE AS FOLLOWS,

10-30 to 11-15 a.m. United Thanksgiving Service.

1-30 p.m. Children meet in Mr. Foster's field.

2 p.m. Procession of Children &c., starts with Band.

3-30 p.m. Childrens Tea; in Mr. Foster's field, if fine.

5 p.m. Meat Tea for Widows & Widowers and Aged Persons; in National School.

5 p.m to 7 o'clock, Meat Tea for others, by Tickets 6d.
each; in National School or Playground.

AFTERWARDS SPORTS IN MR. FOSTER'S FIELD,

ADMISSION AFTER TEA 3D. EACH.

Bonfire to be prepared to be lighted in Mr. F. Sharpe's field, on Tuesday June 21st.
with Rockets at 10 p.m.

ON TUESDAY, JUNE 21st.

THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE BANK HOLIDAY.

9 a.m. United Jubilee Thanksgiving Service;

9-30 a.m., Holy Communion.

Afterwards the Festivities will be continued, concluding
with Rockets and Bonfire at 10 p.m. and united singing

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

[Further details and Tea Tickets may be had from Mr. Skelton, Secretary, or Mr. Wyld, Post Office]

A. Porter, Printer, and Bookbinder, King Street, Sileby.

✠ A REPLY ✠

TO

THE BREWER'S TRACT

ON

“THE OTHER SIDE OF THE . . . NEW COMMANDMENT:”

“Thou shalt not drink Wine or Beer, etc.”

Mr. Frederic Sharpe, Brewer, Sibley, has elected to defend the drinking of intoxicants on Scriptural grounds. Beer and the Bible he evidently thinks, go together. To discuss the question on these grounds is not a new method of controversy, but it is certainly rather late in the day for Mr. Sharpe to claim that the Bible upholds drinking. To quote scattered texts without reference to their context and without inquiry as to the meaning of the word “wine” appearing in the English Bible, simply proves nothing. In the original Hebrew and Greek of the Bible there are thirteen distinct words which the English translators have rendered “wine.” This fact alone will at once suggest that the wines spoken of probably differ in quality and in form, and that this is so anyone who studies the Bible Wine Question may at once discover. For the purpose of his argument Mr. Sharpe naturally quotes the texts which he thinks are most favourable to his view. He takes, of course, his strongest ground. Let us examine the texts he quotes and see how far they go to support the contention that the Scriptures favour temperate drinking.

The texts quoted in favour of temperate drinking are—

I. David's words: “And wine that maketh glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread to strengthen man's heart.”—Psalm 104, v. 15.

Mr. Sharpe assumes that this wine, making glad the heart of man, was intoxicating. The Hebrew word used for ‘wine’ in this text is “yayin,” which is a generic term used in the Bible as meaning wine of any kind or condition. Pliny speaks of 193 kinds of wine, as used in Eastern countries, many of them of a non-intoxicating quality. Sometimes the word “yayin” is used for wine which we know must have been intoxicating, for it is used to describe the wine which made Noah drunk.—Genesis 9, v. 29. On the other hand the word “yayin” is used to describe vine fruit, or the expressed juice of the grape, which could not possibly be intoxicating, as in Jeremiah 40:10: “Gather ye wine, and summer fruits, and oil, and put them in your vessels. And they gathered wine and summer fruits very much.” This wine which was gathered must have been ‘the new wine in the

cluster’—and therefore not intoxicating. It is much more reasonable to believe that this kind of unfermented wine would make glad the heart of man, than the intoxicating wine which made Noah drunk, and has made many others drunk since Noah's time.

The use of the Hebrew word ‘yayin’ in a generic sense to include wines of all kinds may be illustrated very simply. The word ‘grain’ is a generic word, which may be used to include wheat, barley, oats, rice, maize, and many other grains. All wheat is grain, all barley is grain, all oats is grain, all maize is grain, all rice is grain; but all grain is not rice and all grain is not barley. Yet, when Mr. Sharpe sees this word ‘wine’ in the Bible, he assumes that it always means intoxicating wine. It would be just as reasonable for him to assume that the word “grain” always means ‘barley.’

II. “Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that are of heavy heart.”—Proverbs 31, v. 6.

Why does Mr. Sharpe not quote the words immediately before this? “It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes strong drink, lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.” The nature of drink is to cause even kings and princes to forget the law. But does Mr. Sharpe brew his beer simply for those who are “ready to perish,” and that are of a “heavy heart?” Even if this verse be regarded as an injunction to drink wine, and some of the most learned commentators do not agree with that view, the verse alludes to those who are ‘ready to perish’ and that are of ‘heavy hearts,’ and cannot therefore possibly mean the average healthy working man who is advised to drink beer as a daily beverage.

III. “Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.”—I. Timothy 5, v. 23.

Again Mr. Sharpe assumes that this word “wine” means intoxicating wine. The Greek word used is the word “oinos” which like the Hebrew word “yayin” is used to describe every kind of wine, intoxicating and non-intoxicating.

Even supposing that the wine recommended to Timothy was intoxicating in quality, this passage certainly does not support Mr. Sharpe's assumption that the Scriptures favour temperate drinking of intoxicants. Rev. Wm. Ritchie, D.D., remarks on this point “It was not as a common drink, but the exhortation or command extends *only* to its use as a medicine. All the use which can be legitimately made of this injunction is that it is proper to use a small quantity of wine for medicinal purposes.”

Another authority, Rev. William Reed of Edinburgh, says, “Nothing is plainer than that Timothy had been an abstainer. . . . It is the medicinal use of wine alone which the Apostle recommends. The phrase ‘Drink no longer water’ is equivalent to ‘Drink not water only.’”

In his second tract, Mr. Sharpe says “Notice the temperate word *little*, why *little*? Because the wine was fermented and contained alcohol.” Indeed! Does not Mr. Sharpe know that all medicines for “often infirmities,” have always been given in “littles!” Both ancient and modern physicians have prescribed drugs in grains, and the dispenser's glass is carefully marked in drachms and half-drachms.