

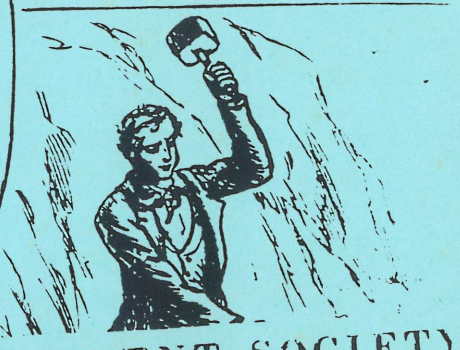
CHRISTIANITY IN THE LITERAL

AND *S*OUR TIMES

Farmer's Death—Flood

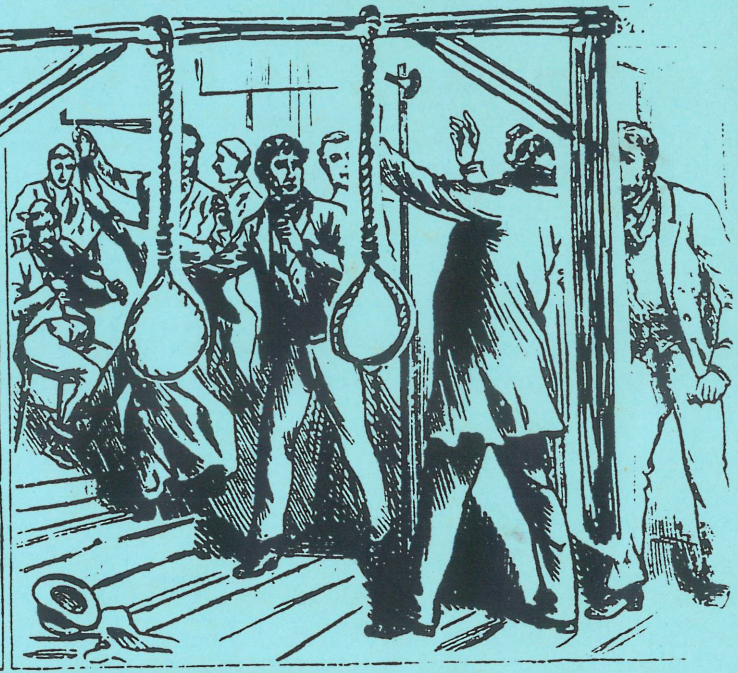
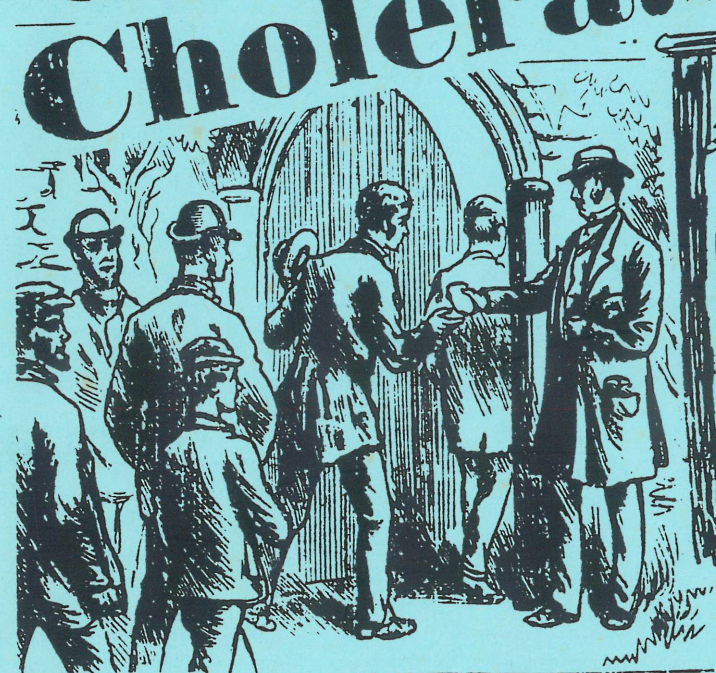


SAMUEL BUDGETT, THE SUCCESSFUL
MERCHANT



BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Cholera.



THE BUDGETTS OF
KINGSWOOD HILL

and their Bristol Family

D.P. Lindegaard

To Mum

with best wishes from

The Author

Xmas 1988

THE BUDGETTS
of
KINGSWOOD HILL
and their Bristol family

D.P. Lindegaard



DESTROYING A CASK OF PEPPER DUST.

©
1988

PROLOGUE

In 1986, Prospect House, Kingswood, formerly the home of John Budgett was threatened with demolition. Kingswood has very few buildings of architectural and historical importance and the Kingswood District History Society spearheaded the attempt to save the old house.

"What we are trying to do", said a council spokesman is to demolish a slum. The condition of it is terrible. It would cost £18,000 to £20,000 to put it right."

Alan Bryant, research secretary of the KDHS thought otherwise. It could be converted into flats, or have a community use or even be a museum for Kingswood.

"You can't save every building but there aren't many of that age. Prospect House was built about 150 years ago. You have to make an effort to keep something."

The house, he added, was built by the Budgett family. wholesale grocers, general merchants and local benefactors. The family led Kingswood people out of the dark ages of the 18th century, creating work, building churches, chapels and schools.

My knowledge of the Budgett family at this point was limited to vaguely having heard of Samuel Budgett, "The Successful Merchant" who had premises in Kingswood and his half-brother Henry Hill Budgett who had spoken up for the Kingswood colliers when they were spitefully and erroneously blamed for the Bristol Riots of 1831. Over a pint in the King's Arms, I said to Alan Bryant,

"I have heard of Samuel and Henry Hill, but who was John?"

"Another brother, I think," he replied.

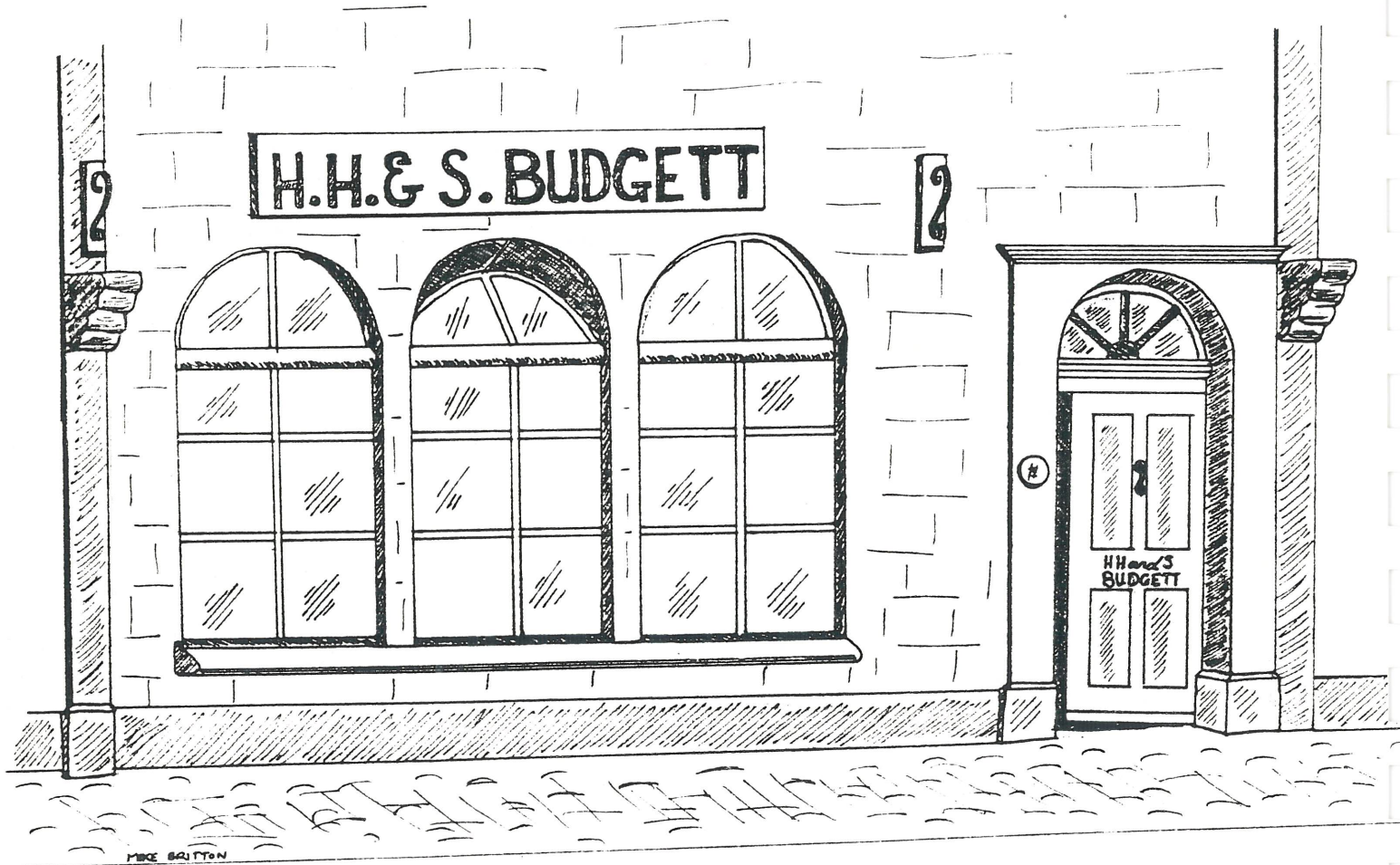
Previously, I had not been that interested in those I thought of as "nobs" in Kingswood, but to my own surprise, I heard myself saying "I'll do you a family tree if you like."

I naturally began with Samuel, whose biography was written by the Rev William Arthur and became a Victorian bestseller. Samuel's life was held up as an example to many an aspiring young businessman of humble origin to show that he could likewise "make something of himself"; that a prince of commerce did not have to worship mammon but could live a truly Christian life.

Samuel Budgett is one of the few Kingswood residents to have a place in the Dictionary of National Biography. A self-made man *sans pareil*, he was, as Rev Arthur said "an athlete in the arena of trade". My story is not only that of Samuel but also of the firm which was founded in a small way by James Budgett; continued by Henry Hill; improved and expanded Samuel himself and finally bequeathed in their turn to his sons and grandsons. It is therefore the family story of a family firm; at

Kingswood Hill from the time of George III to Victoria and in Bristol to the time of Elizabeth II.

There are many who have helped me: Mr John Budgett; Mr A.E. Atwell, Mr George Lippiatt, Mrs Karen Stear (daughter of Gerald Charles Taylor), Mrs Hucker, Mrs Forester, Mr J.E. Cole, Mrs Gladys (Britton) Spilsbury, Mrs Houselander, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Iris Smith, Mrs Sylvia Starr, Mrs Whiteley, Mr Pat O'Brien, Mrs Ivy Jefferies, Mrs F. Read, Mrs Frances Bendall, Mr H.D. Bishop, Mrs V. Pitt (daughter of Edwin Willis), Mrs Kathleen (Britton) Tenney, Mr M.J. Tozer, Mr R.A. Laurence and Mr Herbie Turner. To these, to my publishers Valerie and Alan Britton, and to Alan Bryant (for putting me up to it!) my grateful thanks.



Published by
Valerie Britton
119 Holly Hill Road
Kingswood, Bristol

Printed by
University of Bristol
Reprographics Department

THE BOY SAMUEL

Samuel Budgett first arrived in Kingswood in the year 1801 at the age of nine. His father, a small grocer, had taken a shop in The Causeway (called locally "The Cassy") on Kingswood's main thoroughfare. The shop is believed to have been on the corner of High Street and Park Road. James Budgett had first tried his luck at Wrington, Backwell and Nailsea and hoped for better things from Kingswood, despite the wild reputation of the place.

Young Sam went to school at Mrs Stone's at The Yew Tree. The school-marm stood for no nonsense and employed a unique punishment for naughtiness. She would, recalled Sam

"put us in a corner with her husband's long speckled stocking drawn over our heads with the foot hanging over our faces."

(Bearing in mind that washing was well-known for its weakening effect, let us hope that the stocking came from the line and not direct from Mr Stone's foot!) Twice Sam stood in the corner thus arrayed; first for scrumping an apple and second - richly deserved - for cleaning off his shoe in a pan of drinking water. Removed from this school, he went to another where the Dame all the while spinning worsted with her foot on the treadle, kept the children quiet by the telling of stories.

"There was once a man," she said, "chopping wood. The hatchet slipped and he chopped his bowels out. But he did not go to Heaven as decent folks should. His ghost made mischief in Kingswood and people saw him putting his finger in their fires and lighting his pipe with it. Then he would go down the pit and frighten the poor miners with his shreiking and howling. Twice they laid him, but he would not go. Then lay all got together and laid him all the way into the Red Sea."

"This," chuckled Sam, "was an example of the tuition I received at that Temple of Literature."

His father grew restless again and once more the family moved, to Coleford, a hamlet just outside Kilmersdon on the Mendips and like Kingswood a coalmining district. The Cassy shop was left to the management of Henry Hill Budgett, son of James's first marriage and sixteen years older than Samuel. Henry was recently married. Of a serious and thoughtful nature, he was a convinced Wesleyan.

From Kilmersdon, Sam and his younger brother Isaac were sent to a school at Midsomer Norton as weekly boarders. Sam began to show himself adept at trade and numerous small business transactions netted him a profit of £30. He presented it to his parents as a parting gift, for now fifteen he was to return to Kingswood as an apprentice of brother Henry.

THE GROCER'S ASSISTANT

Three years into his apprenticeship, the brothers fell out and Henry gave Samuel notice for "want of ability". Undaunted, Sam applied for a situation in a Bristol grocery store, but when he was asked to write his address, he was baffled and offered instead:

"I can write an invoice, sir!"

"Very well. Write 86lbs of bacon at ninepence ha'penny a pound."

Samuel scribbled busily. To his mortification, his answer was incorrect. He was allowed a second chance but failed again. Into the shop marched another youth, taller and better dressed. Samuel's hopes plummeted, but luck was on his side. The shopman devised another test.

"You could never carry those cheeses!" he cried pointing to a high shelf.

In a flash, Sam monkeyed up to the cheeses and triumphantly displayed his strength. He was engaged to start within the month.

He took a few days off before starting his new job and set off to see his parents at Coleford, accompanied by his little brother Isaac. His arithmetical misery still rankled and during the long walk he "practised addition and multiplication on all matters of bacon" to the yawning boredom of his brother.

Things at home had not prospered and he noted sadly that "trial seemed to be the portion of his admirable mother." Her "straits and pinches" touched his heart and he grew more determined in his ambition for her sake. (He was very attached to her. When she died in 1831 he described her as "a saint, ripe for glory".)

On the return journey they met a man selling jays. Samuel bought a bird for 3d with a view to a quick re-sale. As the day wore on, he found no takers and eventually at journey's end, he stood haplessly on Bristol Bridge offering his caged companion to passers-by. This too failed but with the persistence he adopted as a motto, he set off hawking round private houses and eventually sold the jay for a shilling, making a handsome ninepence on the deal.

For six months he worked at the Bristol grocery and always remembered his employers with a great deal of gratitude, but at the end of this time brother Henry had a change of heart, relented and wanted him back. Sam was reluctant to give up his weekly pay and his master was equally unwilling to let him go but Henry reminded him grimly it was his duty to return. So he turned again to Kingswood, to the little shop, open all hours from six in the morning to nine, ten or eleven o'clock at night. The grinding punishment of these hours was something Sam never forgot.

KINGSWOOD HILL

Kingswood Hill was an ungainly sprawl of a village, partly in the parish of St George (then still called "The New Church, Kingswood") and the parish of Bitton. At its nearest point it was two and a half miles away from the City of Bristol and at its other extremity nearly six miles from it. There were about seven thousand inhabitants, of whom the vast majority of the men and boys were employed in the extensive coal workings which covered the area.

The colliers of Kingswood had for many centuries enjoyed a fearsome reputation for lawless and wanton behaviour, not only amongst Bristolians who thought of them as sub-human, a race apart, but throughout the country as a whole. They lived in conditions of misery, degradation and abject poverty. Fatal accidents amongst the colliers (some of whom were as young as six years old, which were accepted unquestioned as an occupational hazard) decimated the population. These circumstances together with disease and the lack of any education whatsoever, either religious or secular, gave birth to endemic petty crime. The old saying "a man might as well be hanged for a sheep as for a lamb" might have been coined in Kingswood and the draconian harshness of the law had no deterrent effect. Many a Kingswood man dangled at a rope's end and many more were transported to the penal colonies of Australia. By the early years of the 19th century, the criminal activities of the so-called Cock Road Gang were becoming legendary; burglary, minor highway robbery - (one such crime netted the large haul of twopence and a hat for which the 18 year old miscreant was lucky to get off with transportation for fifteen years) - the spiriting away of food items, dead or alive and at the upper end of the scale, organised horse-theft. Often the local papers reported tongue in cheek. The following extract in a Bristol newspaper displays some local patriotism and fully enjoys the discomfiture of the Taunton men:

"THE KINGSWOOD DIAMOND OR A CUT, RIGHT AND LEFT"

"About a week ago, two gentlemen near Taunton each lost a valuable horse from the pasture in the neighbourhood. After much trouble they traced them in the direction of Bristol and suspecting they might have strayed towards Kingswood they hastened thither and found one of them grazing on Cock Road Common. The gentlemen seized the horse; as it was late they didn't think it prudent to bring it through the country but led it to a neighbouring inn, secured it in a stable and bespoke supper and beds for the night. In the morning they discovered the stable door had been forced and not only the stolen horse carried away but the two others they had used in the pursuit with saddles and bridles altogether. Neither horses nor felons have been heard of since and the gentlemen on returning home were congratulated by their friends that they had not also lost their boots and spurs."

"TO ARREST THIS PROGRAMME OF ORGANISED VILLAINY"

By 1811. certain worthies, most of them Bristolians and not local people at all, suggested the situation in Kingswood had got so out of hand that action was vital before all control was totally lost.

A meeting held at The Flower Pot at Kingswood Hill on 9th September 1811 issued a lengthy communiqué, referring to the many villains of the neighbourhood, the hucksters who were in alliance with them and the cartloads of stolen goods which were lifted to and from the place. Furthermore, the criminals were known faces yet none dared impeach them for fear of life or property.

So, in the absence of a regular police force, the Kingswood Association was born, vigilante in deed as well as spirit with the object of relentlessly harrying the thieves. Soon, irregulars mounted on horseback ("The Bitton Cavalry") rode into battle with swords drawn, trying hard to avoid giving the impression that they were hugely enjoying themselves. They began to round up the most minor of pathetic small fry, whose crimes amounted to the necessary ones of attempting to fill empty bellies. Kingswood people were noted for sticking together and were inclined to rescue those taken prisoner. Riot and disorder were commonplace.

HENRY HILL BUDGETT AND THE BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

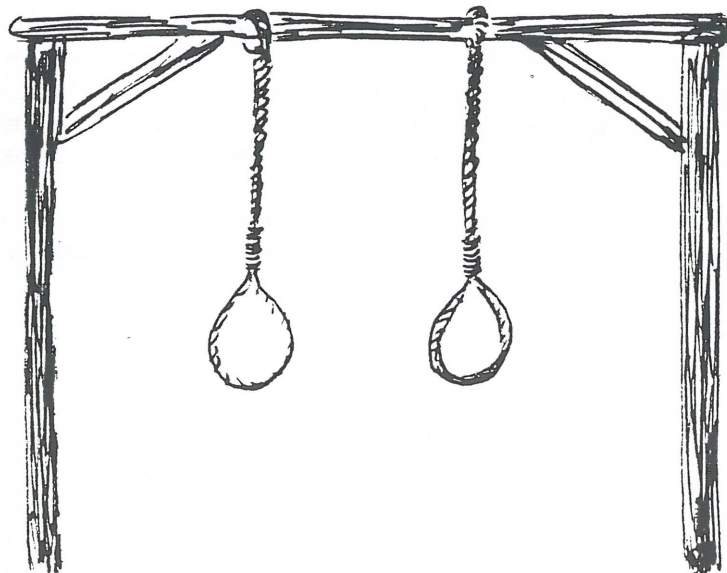
Years ahead of his time and even though he himself had suffered menace and harrassment, Henry Budgett suggested that the root of Kingswood's infamy lay not in the inborn evil of its population, but in the wasteland of despair in which they dwelt. Had not Wesley and Whitfield encountered a similar situation seventy years before? Had not the colliers then responded with touching eagerness to the idea that schools should be built in the forest? These schools had now fallen into decay but would not Kingswood respond again to another call? Henry supported the Kingswood Benevolent Society, the exact antithesis of the gungho Association. This institution was begun by William Stephens with the object of finding money for the relief of the desperate poor. Now Henry suggested a further object. The building of a school in the heart of bandit country. The Society would not hound the thieves to the foot of the gallows as did the Association, whose policy was one of extermination, but would feed and clothe them and would educate their minds.

Henry knew his colliers. In their limited rest time from their back-breaking underground toil they gave the only thing they possessed, their labour, free, to clear and level the ground and dig the foundations of the school. So the brave Cock Road School was opened in 1812 with Henry as its first superintendent and an enthusiastic Samuel among the teachers. Seventy five potential pupils turned up on that first day. Prevention is better than cure, thought Henry. Not so, cried the Association. Cure is the permanent way. As if in confirmation, Philip Smith, aged 40, from the lower Kingswood parish of St George was hanged for housebreaking that same year.

For the next few years, the Kingswood crime-wave continued unabated, despite the efforts of the two rival societies. Both greedily rattled the collecting box - (the school in particular was beset with financial struggle) - but their aims were diametrically opposed. They might confront each other eyeball to eyeball, they would never see eye to eye. Henry almost certainly repeated the words of his Saviour: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth." Even so there must have been times when he almost lost heart.

In March 1813, Timothy Bush, Thomas Willmott and Joseph Willis were sentenced to death for horsetheft, but reprieved for transportation. Timothy lived with Elizabeth, one of the Caines girls. Her family was notorious throughout the district. Already one of her brothers, Francis, had been hanged in a quadruple execution of members of the Cock Road Gang. Later on another brother would be hanged and three more transported. Later still, Timothy's son, James Caines Bush would be hanged in a cruel miscarriage of justice.

In May, the Association caught Moses Bryant, alias Woodington with a stolen sack of wheat and in June captured James Hathaway for robberies in Warmley. In July, Henry Allum pick-pocketed two pound notes. These people were committed to Gloucester Castle for trial. Then in August, William Lacey stole a loaf of bread from Sarah Townsend at Oldland and was handed over to the parish constables. All hell broke loose. A mob stormed the Bitton Lock-up (which is still standing in Bitton High Street!) William Powe, Henry Willis, Samuel Brain, John Fry, Hester Britton, Hannah Jones, Sarah Lacey and Ambrose Willis made an abortive attempt at rescue and were in their turn arrested and sent for trial. So it went on into the next year and the next in a vicious circle of felony, arrest, attempt at rescue and more arrest. It was war. A "Gang of Desperadoes" lurked in Kingswood and no inhabitant was "safe in bed and no traveller can pass the Kingswood road after dusk" wailed a contemporary news-sheet of 1814. "Desperate conflicts" were two a penny. Guns were being carried by both sides. Fortunately everybody appears to have been a bad shot. In April 1815, another Kingswood man was cured. Moses Owen went to the gallows for horsetheft. Far from being improved, the Kingswood situation was worse than ever before.



THE OFF-SCOURINGS OF ALL THINGS

In June 1815, a letter appeared in the Bristol Journal signed by "Justice". Its doctrine was dear to the heart of Henry Hill Budgett.

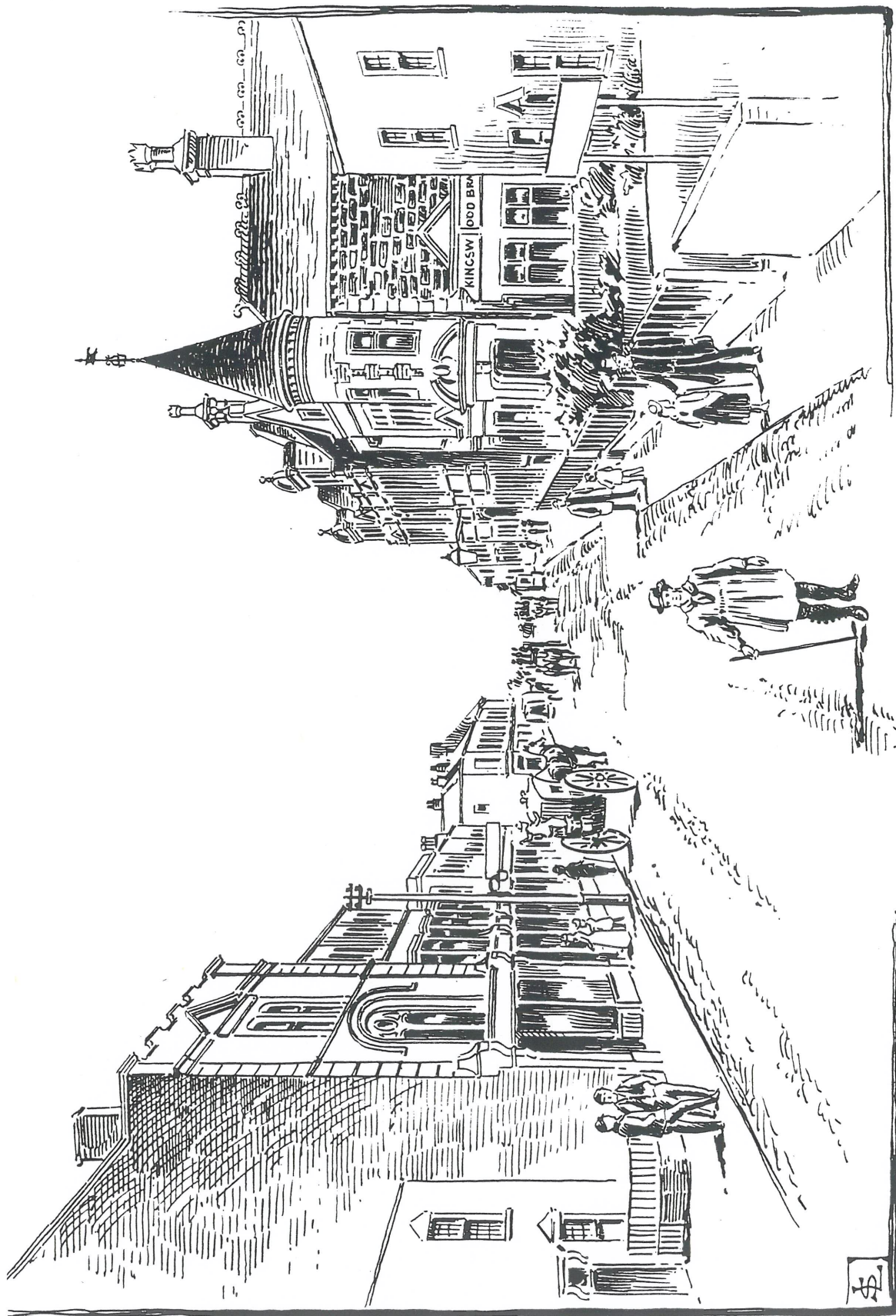
"I have read with pain several paragraphs in the newspapers of late replete with sarcasms on the inhabitants of this celebrated place such as COCK ROAD GANG, COCK ROAD WORTHIES and the like. I assume it as granted that these epithets may be truly to blame? The scarcely humanised uncivilised natives or we, their neighbours? May we not adopt the language of Jacob regarding Joseph? 'We are verily guilty concerning our brother'. What efforts have WE made to rescue them from a state of semi-barbarity? What truly religious information have WE afforded them? Have they not been proscribed as the off-scourings of all things? Have they not been hurled down as unworthy of existence? Are they not driven to associate almost exclusively with one another? Is not every man's hand turned against them? And is it not to be wondered at if they make reprisals that they consider all property lawful plunder? Mistake me not, Mr Editor, as advocating nocturnal predatory excursions against them or extenuating any species of their guilt. No sir! They are wrong, decidedly WRONG - but are we right? Have we done all in our power to teach them better? To obey the law, to fear God, to honour the King? Has not a system of EXTERMINATION been acted upon? Have not many, VERY MANY, been sent prematurely out of the World exclaiming 'No-one careth for my soul!' Are they not to this moment ex-parochial? A state of un-instructed nature, without a Bible or the ability to read it? Without a church or minister? Let us be sparing in our invective against our sadly neglected neighbour - let him that is without sin cast the first stone! Let us aid those who have built a schoolroom capable of educating several hundred but which from WANT OF FUNDS CAN ONLY BE OCCUPIED ON SUNDAYS. Remember Him who said 'As much as ye do it to one of my little ones ye did it to me.' £80 per annum would educate some hundred children daily. Take it on the principle of insurance to protect our property, our lives."

There was a reasonable response to this passionate plea, but not enough. At Christmas, another correspondent, "A Grateful Father" thanked God for the bounty of the past year. The victory at Waterloo and the universal peace, but "Permit me," he said

"to suggest one more topic of conversation: the poor neglected children of Cock Road. While we lift our grateful hearts to our Father let us remember that charity begins at home. About half the required sum has been collected to make a day school. Let all the gentlemen in the vicinity of Cock Road exert themselves to provide the remainder."

Two months later and the Kingswood Association too was running out of funds; perhaps the charitably inclined decided to support the Benevolent Society instead with its long term offer of insurance.

Budgetts was in Park Row behind the horse-drawn carriage on the left.



The Association bemoaned the fact that whilst four years ago they had drawn public attention to "the formidable gang of thieves" at Cock Road, and had taken a number of notorious villains, subsequently capitally convicted, thers had got away to distant parts of the Kingdom. Not through lack of vigilance but through lack of money. They had been obliged to dismiss some of their irregulars, not having the wherewithal to pay them. They warned "If the momentum was not kept up then everybody could look forward to increase depravity."

Accordingly, a meeting was called at Stephen Cave's at Downend on the 20th February 1816 to discuss a way to "destroy the combination of thieves at Cock Road."

The Bristol Journal now joined in the controversy, its editorial coming down firmly on the side of the Association: "There is no institution in our neighbourhood more deserving of support and to those who think it is better to prevent crime than cure it, this association has peculiar aims." The newspaper was happy to announce that the Association was in "unremitting full activity" - a notorious thief, John Crump had been lately arrested. (It was for the - shock, horror - theft of two geese at Siston. The Journal seemingly saw no irony in its report of the Berkeley Hunt Ball where 800 people of the quality sat down to a supper "consisting of every delicacy the season could afford" and later danced the night away, whilst the wretched Crump languished a few miles up the road in Gloucester Castle. It was ever thus.)

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF HIS LIFE

In June 1816, the Cock Road Bible Society, whose object was the specialised, highly romantic notion of supplying a Bible to every household in the district, celebrated its first anniversary. Rev. Dr. Randolph spoke so affectingly about "the blessed effects of the Bible upon a starving peasant" (perhaps he ate it?) that the whole congregation was moved to pious tears. The more pragmatic continued with their full support for the school. On 24th October 1816, the Bristol Gazette carried a public notice addressed to the subscribers of Cock Road School and signed by its two secretaries, Mr P. Arrive and Mr W.B. Cross:

"Tomorrow, Friday, 25th instant. The school will be opened for children of both sexes where the rules and other interesting information will be brought forward and addresses will be delivered to parents and children. The chair will be taken at 11 o'clock precisely."

It was a great day. The school could now open more than once a week though still operated on a shoestring. Samuel Budgett's duty in those early days was to visit any absentees and bring them if possible to school. Riding a pony, he would dash about from cottage to cottage, talk to the people, pray with them and stir them up to educate their children. He noted gratefully the kindness of the very poor, for he would be given a morsel of potato here, a sliver of bacon there. He said these were the happiest days of his life. Equally happily, William Stephens, founder of the Benevolent Society lived to see the results of his early struggle. He died in February 1817. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" was his obituary in the Bristol Journal.

School and benevolence arrived too late to save those whose way of life was firmly established. The year 1817 was marked by continued disorder and by the gaudy funeral of a hanged housebreaker, 22 years old Benjamin Caines, when Kingswood turned out en fête to witness the progress of his coffin borne aloft by six maidens, dressed in white. At the same time, Henry Budgett, addressing the Benevolent Society in his capacity as treasurer, spoke of Kingswood's "wretched abodes where frequently hunger, nakedness and disease are preying on the vitals of our fellow creatures." The Poor Rate funds of Oldland Vestry were overstretched and a letter was penned to "The Committee for relieving the distressed, manufacturing and labouring poor" explaining thus: "our hamlet is composed of colliers, quarrymen and the lowest class of husbandmen. There are few rich persons....."

On 21st March 1818, under the heading "Distress in Kingswood" Henry again appealed to charity in Bristol. Although many people had been relieved, he said, 719 deserving cases still remained. The Society found itself £200 in debt.

In 1819, he gave figures of a miner's subsistence, even when in full time work:

Earnings: twelve shillings per week	
One peck and a half, flour:	5s. 0d
Yeast, soap and salt:	1s. 1½d
One pound butter:	1s. 2d
Cheese:	10d
One peck, potatoes:	1s. 0d
Rent:	1s. 6d
Benefit Club:	5d
Tea & Sugar:	10d

	11s. 10½d

Thus, explained Henry, only three half-pence was left for clothes, meat and beer. Who better than a grocer to expound the cost of provisions? Like Micawber, he would have known only too well the misery of spending even twopence above earnings.



His Indemure Witnesseth That Thomas Peters in Charles Peters

with the Part of a Budgett Apprentice to Henry de la Cour & Robert de la Cour

in the County of Middlesex in the County of Middlesex in the County of Middlesex

And for the true performance of all and every the said Covenants and Agreements either of the said Parties

Indemure Witnesseth that the said Parties have performed the said Covenants and Agreements

Witness my hand and seal this 10th day of the Month of August 1820



Sir, Thomas Peters

Thomas Peters, a Budgett Apprentice, 1820

SAMUEL THE PARTNER

Henry's involvement in his charity work took up a great deal of his time and he realised the wisdom of taking his younger brother into full partnership. Sam's business acumen had increased with experience. When Henry involved himself in an unwise banking speculation, an enterprise which went sadly awry, Sam was able to bail out his brother with £100 he had managed to save from his meagre earnings at the Cassy shop. Also, the younger man was very popular and gained a reputation for fair dealing. Many a good woman would wait patiently until "Mr Samuel" was free to serve her, believing he gave a better weight than anybody else. So the firm of H.H. & S. Budgett came into existence. The business prospered. Samuel took a little cottage in a lane opposite the shop and proposed to Miss Ann Smith. They were married by licence on 9th May 1822 in the bride's home parish, Midsomer Norton.

Many of the women who shopped at Budgetts' came by donkey from neighbouring villages, such as Doynton and Pucklechurch. On occasions noting the patient steeds tethered near the shop whilst their mistresses made purchases, a germ of an idea entered Samuel's mind. Why should he not deliver the goods himself to these outlying villagers, calling at appointed times and thus securing their exclusive custom? Henry, perhaps still smarting from the banking fiasco advised caution, but Sam's energy won the day. The success of this venture sparked even bolder endeavour: the wholesale purchase of sugar and tea and selling at a profit to smaller grocers. Soon Samuel was selling to Somerset and Wiltshire and "a tide of prosperity set in fairly". Purchases which had been in parcels rose to cargoes; sales in trifles swelled to tons; salesman was added to salesman until the connection covered the country from Penzance to Birmingham and from Frome to Haverfordwest. The workforce multiplied. Horses multiplied. The premises grew. From the Port of Bristol waggons were constantly rolling with goods for Kingswood Hill and from the warehouse waggons were rolling with goods for the Port. Bristol merchants now looked with amazement on the Budgetts' enterprise which from small beginnings now threatened to dwarf them. A plain homely business which had expanded not in a great city but in "a village noted for its rudeness" and where all the goods had to be carried three miles from market to store!

Envy and malice are unfortunately parts of human nature and a trap was laid to halt this sky-rocketing advance. An account from Bristol was sent in before time. It was immediately paid but was followed by another and another in rapid succession. A worried Samuel, astute enough to recognise industrial sabotage was obliged to raise money amongst friends to stop the rot. With the settlement of the final cheque he only just made it to the bank with sufficient cash to cover it and met the payee hurrying into the bank by another door, clearly worried about referral to drawer. It was a close thing.

He made stringent enquiries and discovered that a disaffected former employee had taken revenge by going round to the suppliers telling them the Kingswood firm was in financial straits and that it would be advisable to collect their money quickly else suffer the consequences. Samuel compelled the culprit to make a public apology.

THE HONEST DEALER

Samuel's reputation for honest dealing grew. Several tales of his strict adherence to his code, even in minor matters have survived.

Pepper was a costly commodity, bearing a heavy tax. It was general practice in the trade to mix pepper with pepper dust and sell the adulterated combination. Samuel would have none of it. Finding a cask of the offending mixture on his premises he removed it himself to a quarry where he scattered it amongst the stones and slag. Making a hasty departure after this little bit of fun he found to his annoyance that he had left the barrel behind. Waste not, want not, thought Samuel, and he returned early next morning to collect it for re-use.

They also talked about the vinegar. A fellow who was something of a chemist as well as a local preacher approached Samuel with an idea for making ersatz vinegar for next to nothing. Sam gave him short shrift:

"If you are resolved to go to Hell yourself you should not try to drag me with you! And you profess to be a Wesleyan....."

Smarting from this verbal ear-boxing, the poor man left, but such is the way of the World, he probably took his good idea elsewhere where it was less furiously received.

HENRY, THE COLLIERS' CHAMPION

Henry Budgett, by now in semi-retirement from business affairs was still active in Sunday School and Benevolent Society where his true vocation lay. He learned to his fury that his colliers were being blamed for the Bristol Riots, newspaper lies based on Kingswood's former reputation that he with others had tried so hard to change. He issued the following disclaimer with cold passion.

The following
LETTER

has appeared this Day, Nov. 5,
in the Bristol Mirror, and it is
only common justice to the
Loyalty of the

COLLIERS

OF

KINGSWOOD,

to give it extensive circulation.

Kingswood Hill, Nov. 4, 1831.

Sir,

HAVING resided in Kingswood upwards of Thirty Years, and having been an attentive observer of the conduct and habits of the Kingswood Colliers during that time, I deem it but an act of justice to say, that I never knew them, as a body, disposed to acts of outrage; and so far from the statement which appeared in some of the London Papers being true, viz. that they were principals in the late Riots in Bristol, I believe that very few of them were at all concerned in them, and that the few who were, are such as the Colliers as a body would altogether disapprove of and disclaim.

H. H. BUDGETT.

It would have been understandable if Henry had become embittered by the tragedy of his personal life. His first wife Susanna Delamere died aged twenty nine in 1806 after only five years of marriage. Their son, Henry Hill junior died in 1821 at the tragic age of seventeen. Henry married a second wife, Betty Smith and they had a son James, who died in 1810 aged three. Betty died in 1824. Their daughter Ann, born in 1814, married the Reverend John Gaskin, vicar of Holy Trinity, Kingswood. She died in May 1842 aged 28. Henry's third wife Sarah is commemorated by a tablet in Holy Trinity:

"Sacred to the memory of Sarah, wife of Henry Hill Budgett of Kingswood Hill who after a life of unassuming and devoted piety was called to her eternal rest January 1st 1839 in the 55th year of her age. Her mortal remains are interred in a vault beneath Portland Street Chapel, City of Bristol."

It may be that Henry's reward did lie in Heaven, for in Kingswood, very gradually, the meek did inherit.....

THE CHOLERA

On 1st August 1832 there was an extraordinary general meeting called in the hamlet of Oldland, which included Kingswood Hill. Present were Moses Flock and Samuel Hathaway, the churchwardens; Thomas Waters and Abraham Haskins, the overseers of the poor; Rev. Ralph White, vicar of Holy Trinity; the surgeons Henry Mills Grace and Robert Biggs and not least, Henry Hill Budgett. The reason? The cholera.

The managers of the Bristol workhouse, St Peter's Hospital, had been acting in a fashion which caused widespread alarm. The meeting endorsed the following resolution:

"Having heard that the cholera morbus is raging with considerable virulence in St Peter's Hospital and the managers of the said hospital are sending large numbers of boys into this neighbourhood, a measure which we think to be very injudicious, seeing the boys are placed in cottages so small and close as to be likely to increase and promote the disease even more than their residence in the hospital, and that by scattering such boys (many of whom for all we or the managers know may be infected by the disease) abroad among such a dense population of very poor persons as are found in this neighbourhood, the probability is that such a measure will be the means of extending and spreading the disease to a very alarming extent....."

It was resolved that the boys be removed from the lodgings in which they had been placed and returned at once to the hospital and that no further boys should be sent into the hamlet.

As it had been possible to track the insidious progress of plague across Europe in previous centuries, so in 1829 a worried England saw cholera escape from India where it was endemic and spread westward

The following simple Remedy has
been found very useful in cases
of

Cholera.

Take in a table-spoonful of Brandy, as much powdered Rhubarb as will lie on a shilling.

Make a strong tea of camomile flowers, mallows, and mint, either dry or green, and take a tea-cupful frequently.

Get two pieces of wood,* each six inches square, and one inch thick, place one of them against the bars of the fire grate, or in a heated oven, till quite hot, wrap it in a flannel and lay it on the bowels. Heat one while the other is cooling.

It is strongly recommended that the above articles be procured in every family for immediate use, in case of attack of the bowels.

*N.B. If wood cannot be got, two pieces of
Tile will do.

*Committee Room, Kingswood Hill,
7th January, 1834.*

A pre-sanitary reform remedy for cholera.

By courtesy of Avon County Library.

into Eastern Europe. Governmental response was to despatch TWO doctors to Russia to study the disease. The efforts of the stirring pair to mimic King Canute were unavailing and cholera landed in England at Sunderland in 1831 and quickly spread to the rest of the country.

Cholera was made for 19th century England. The Industrial Revolution had brought slum overcrowding to the towns where overflowing cesspits seeped into the main drains of a pitifully inadequate water supply. Flies settling on the communal dung heaps did the rest.

"An attack of the bowels" they called it and then "King Cholera" for it endangered everybody alike, rich and poor, initially from the infected water and then by direct contact with case or carrier. Those affected could go from health to death in three days. Acute diarrhoea was accompanied by vomiting; dehydration was followed by complete collapse and death. Horrifyingly, one recommended "cure" was the total denial of fluid to the victim, the exact opposite of what was required.

In London, 10,000 people died. In Bristol, the death toll was in excess of 700. The crisis at last stirred the sleepy state to action and eventually brought about the first effective local machinery to deal with environmental hygiene. Local boards of health were set up, building on existing organisations, as we have seen, the Oldland Vestry and the Kingswood Benevolent Society. Having no clear idea how the disease was caused and spread they could do little other than try to keep it under control - just as their forebears had done in the plague years - by the burning of contaminated articles, by the paying of brave women to minister to the sick and trying so far as possible to isolate the afflicted. Likewise they did their best in trying to suggest remedies.

The Kingswood Hill homeopathy - opposite - was as good as any in the circumstances, though the suggestion of rhubarb as an additional laxative may well have done more harm than good.

There were over a hundred cases on the Benevolent Society's books. The parish registers of St George show that in 1832/3 in two distinct waves at least 33 people were known to have died of the cholera.

1832

- ✓ Sarah Powell aged 75 of Rose Green 3rd September
- ✓ Sarah Milsom aged 38 of Whitehall 4th September
- ✓ Elizabeth Hicks aged 67 of Bath Road 4th September
- 71 Poor ✓ Sarah Bryant aged 56 of Whitehall 8th September
- P. ✓ Thomas Griffin aged 50 of Crew's Hole 8th September
- Slc 63 ✓ Samuel Davis aged 63 of Whitehall 8th September
- 17 ✓ William Hill aged 11 of Whitehall 9th September
- ✓ Thomas Jefferies aged 6 months of Bath Road 10th September
- ✓ George Garland aged 50 of Rose Green 12th September
- 2ycbm ✓ Eliza Hodges aged 2½ of Lower Easton 14th September
- ✓ Hannah Pratt aged 55 of Pile Marsh 18th September
- Poor HARDING ✓ Samuel Hardy aged 37 of Pile Marsh 19th September

SIGNATURE

✓ Sarah Hodges aged 12 of near the Fire Engine, 22nd September
✓ Ann Barrett aged 71 of Whitehall 28th September

1833 ✓

- Jas
- ✓ Mary Rees aged 4 of near Dundry Farm 10th November
 - ✓ Hannah Rees aged 33 of " " " 10th November
 - ✓ Thomas Rees aged 7 of " " " 13th November
 - ✓ Joseph Rees aged 8 of " " " 16th November
 - ✓ Sarah Jones aged 20 of Clay Hill 21st November
 - ✓ Hannah Davis aged 28 of near the Fire Engine 22nd November
 - ✓ Maria Rees aged 2 of near Dundry Farm 22nd November
 - ✓ William Milsom aged 2 of Clay Hill 1st December
 - ✓ Mary Milsom aged 4 of " " 3rd December
 - ✓ William Pearce aged 55 of Clay Bottom 9th December
 - ✓ William Pearce aged 4 of Rose Green 19th December
 - ✓ Sarah Hollbrook aged 3 of Two Mile Hill 22nd December
 - ✓ Sarah Stone aged 27 of " " " 25th December
 - ✓ Elizabeth Hobbs aged 70 of " " " 26th December
 - ✓ George Weeks aged 36 of Whiteway 27th December
 - ✓ Mary Stone aged 22 of Two Mile Hill 29th December
 - ✓ Richard Hobbs aged 9 of " " " 30th December
 - ✓ John Stone aged 60 of " " " 31st December
 - ✓ Mary Winkworth aged 3 of White's Hill 5th January 1834

THE STEWARD AND ALMONER OF HEAVEN

On 22nd July 1834, Henry as secretary delivered the Annual Report of the Kingswood Benevolent Society. There was, he said, a population of more than 20,000 inhabitants, all of whom with very few exceptions were ordained to tread the dreary steps of penury and by the sweat of their brow earn a pittance far too small to meet the urgent cries of nature. They were hardly fed, poorly clad and scarcely sheltered from the inclemency of the seasons; to this was superadded sickness and consequent inability to reap even the small reward of daily industry.

In the midst of this misery stood the Kingswood Benevolent Society as "the steward and almoner of Heaven". The Society's agents, who gave their time free were familiar with "the hovel of poverty, with a single miserable room as the only apartment, a wretched bed on the cold damp ground the only furniture, where the victim of disease and woe lingers on in nakedness and filth, loathsome to all.....; they have gone forth, conferring blessings alike on the thankful and the thankless; the hungry they have fed, the naked they have clothed, the sick they have visited..."

Last November, he continued, the Society found its funds totally exhausted with a considerable amount outstanding to the Treasurer at the very time of year when need was at its greatest. Such was the worry they had almost been forced to consider abandoning their operation.

It was a thought they were not permitted long to indulge, for "that mysterious visitant, the Cholera Morbus" advanced on the district and they felt themselves bound to administer prompt and temporary relief. Urgent fund raising netted the sum of £1003.2.8d and attention was given within a circle of fifteen miles. In the worst afflicted areas, the houses were carefully cleansed and frugal assistance given of food and clothing. Of the 113 malignant cases on the Society's books, seventy five were won back to life. The Society remained £167.17.10½d in credit. It was now proposed that one hundred pounds of this balance should be set apart for the rental of small plots of land to be let out as allotments to poor but industrious people and cultivated in the field garden system. "A smiling garden" said Henry, in a joyous phrase, to enable some to maintain themselves, reducing the misery that habitual begging entails on its victims.

To those unfamiliar with Kingswood, he described again the wretched hovels, incapable of affording shelter from the severities of the winter season. The many instances of families without any articles of bedding, their clothing confined to the few tattered garments in which they stood, totally dependent on the miserable pittance allowed by the parish for the little food on which they eked out their lives until the return of spring. Once more he solicited aid from "that public to whom an appeal, having for its object the brightening of a portion of this wilderness of human woe, is never made in vain."

As usual certain sections of the population can gain some cheer from even the most dire situation. A correspondent of the Bristol Journal overheard a conversation between two women who had just returned from the Committee for the Prevention of Cholera.

"I say Martha, what hast thee got?"

"Why, I got five yards of flannel. What hast thee?"

"Why, I got seven and dung me if I don't think after all cholera's better than Reform."

("Reform" was a reference to the riots of 1831, and the looting during and thereafter. Not Henry's colliers, as we have seen. The joke would have saddened him for it may well have deflected coins away from his collecting box.)



'A million insects in every drop'
A Victorian Cartoon of the Water Supply.

KINGSWOOD BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

Cr.

1833.		£.	s.	d.
By School-mistress		16	10	0
By Printing and Advertising		2	15	0
By Rent of School-room		5	0	0
By Beds, Blankets, Shoes, and other articles of Clothing		69	16	8
By Cash paid to the Poor.....		53	18	1
By Collector's Commission, &c.		4	17	0
By Subscriptions not received		9	19	0
		<hr/>		
		£160	15	9

Examined, and found correct, H. O. WILLS,
GEORGE DIX.
Bristol, 22nd July, 1834.

KINGSWOOD BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

Cr.

1833.		£.	s.	d.
By Balance due to Treasurer from the last Annual Account		62	3	11
By N. Lomas, for Printing and Stationary.....		10	10	0
By paid Mrs. Binns		1	13	6
By Advertising in Bristol Journal.....	14	1	6	
Less donation	1	1	0	13 0 6
Ditto Bristol Mirror.....	13	18	6	
Less donation	1	1	0	12 17 6
Ditto Bristol Mercury	12	2	0	
Less donation	2	1	0	10 1 0
Ditto Bristol Gazette	8	8	0	
Less donation	0	15	0	7 13 0
Ditto Bath Herald.....	8	16	6	
Less donation	4	4	0	4 12 6
Ditto Bath Chronicle.....	9	7	0	
Less donation	4	13	6	4 13 6
Ditto Bath and Cheltenham Gazette	9	18	0	
Less donation	5	0	0	4 18 0
Ditto Bath and Cheltenham Journal	9	0	0	
Less donation	5	0	0	4 0 0
By paid Extra Visitors †		44	7	10
By Medical attendance and Medicine		40	17	6
By Wood's Medicines, Brandy, Wine, &c.		26	5	0½
By Beds, Blankets, Sheets, Counterpanes, Linens, Cottons, Woollens, and Shoes		376	7	5½
By Rice, Treacle, and Allspice.....		94	18	11½
By Boiling Rice in Bristol, conveying it to the stations in the country, with attendant expenses		16	8	3
By Soup, with attendant expenses		18	5	3½
By relief in cases of emergency, afforded through the medium of the regular Visitors		53	1	7½
By sundry poor women, for making garments		15	2	3
By Sundries, not reducible under any particular head.....		13	6	1½
By Balance in the hands of the Treasurer		167	17	10½
		<hr/>		
		£1013	1	8

Examined, and found correct, H. O. WILLS,
GEORGE DIX,
Bristol, 22nd July, 1834.

† For removing filth from the premises, cleansing, whitewashing,
&c. the houses of the poor, and attending on the sick.

Part of Accounts, Kingswood Benevolent Society, 1833. Note that another famous local businessman helped Audit the books...and took the chair

.....also there were two more well-known names: Joseph Storrs Fry, the chocolate maker and H.M. Grace, Kingswood's surgeon and the father of "V.G."

THE
REPORT

AND
ANNUAL ACCOUNT

OF THE
Kingswood
BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED,
A LIST OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS

TO
THE FUND
For the Relief of the Poor of Kingswood and the adjacent parts,
afflicted with

THE CHOLERA.
FOR THE YEAR 1833.

BRISTOL:

PRINTED BY NATHANIEL LOMAS, CASTLE STREET.

PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Annual Meeting of the Society

On Thursday, July 23, 1834,

In the Savings Bank, Bristol,

H. O. WILLS, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

The Report of the Committee having been read by the Secretary, Mr. H. H. BUDGETT, and the Cash Account by the Treasurer, Mr. JOSEPH FRY, the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Moved by Mr. GRACE, seconded by Mr. JOSEPH STORRS FRY;

I. That the Report now read be adopted, and the Treasurer's Accounts confirmed and passed; and that they be printed and circulated under the direction of the Committee.

Moved by Mr. JOSEPH FRY, seconded by Dr. BALL;

II. That this meeting record with gratitude to Almighty God, the success which has attended the labours of the general and the acting Committees on all occasions, but more especially during the ravages of the late epidemic within the Society's districts;— and that the best thanks of this Meeting are due, and are hereby presented to those bodies, for their efficient services during the past year.

Moved by Mr. BARRELL, of Oxford, and seconded by the REV. ROBERT SMITH;

III. That the constitution and objects of the Kingswood Benevolent Society receive the warmest approbation of this meeting, and that they strongly recommend it to the entire confidence and liberal patronage of the public.

Moved by the REV. R. WHEELER, seconded by Mr. DIX;

IV. That the recommendation of the Committee with reference to the balance now in the Treasurer's hands, by which it is proposed to set apart £100, to be employed under their direction in promoting the welfare of their poor on the *field-garden system*, be approved and adopted; and that the exertions of the Committee be requested for the augmentation of that sum to an amount ade-

THE SUCCESSFUL MERCHANT

Samuel was now sufficiently prosperous to build a substantial house in Kingswood. (It was "The Park" in Tabernacle Road, now called Park Road. The house has long since gone but it is interesting that the name lingers on in the modern street name.)

A friend, the Reverend Joseph Wood being shown round by the proud new owner noted the position of the property and sounded a sombre warning to the man who was now becoming known to all as "The Successful Merchant" by saying:

"Here you have something to admonish you. In front is the Workhouse to which you may come. Behind is the graveyard to which you MUST come!"

Although he had now "got on", Samuel's character remained constant. He did not decide that Kingswood was too rough for his growing family and transplant them to the more genteel reaches of Clifton or Bath. Instead he actively encouraged them to associate with the people of Kingswood, the colliers and labourers and their needy families.

Similarly he instituted improvements for his workers. An old employee of the original grocery store recalled the early days of business when they sometimes worked fifteen hours a day.

"It is not rational," 'Mr Samuel' would cry, "You should be at home with your families. We MUST get done sooner!" He remembered only too well the drudgery of his young life. He made efforts and soon the leaving bell went at half past eight. The men were well pleased, but Samuel was not. He aimed at seven and increased efficiency brought this about. Still not content he aimed at 6 p.m. and got it. Eventually, paradise:

"Every man in that great establishment could turn homeward at five or half past five o'clock with a full evening of leisure!"

THE FAMILY IN 1841

Recorded in the census of 1841 we find Henry Hill Budgett described "grocer &c" aged 60 (adult ages in this census were usually given to the nearest five years) of Kingswood Hill, living with a mysterious Sarah Budgett aged 60. (His sister Sarah aged 16 died in 1806; his half-sister Sarah married George Mees, her sister's widower in 1836. His wife Sarah as we have seen died in 1839. The Sarah of the census can be none of these.) With them was a visitor, twenty years old Elizabeth Brittle; the housekeeper, Elizabeth Gibson; two teenage servants, Ann & Sarah Birket and a contingent of the Budgett workforce residing on the premises: Nicholas Gibson, warehouseman, (probably married to the housekeeper, Elizabeth); Thomas Woods and Almond Wolf, also warehousemen; two clerks, Robert Carr and William Edwards; two apprentices, Elkwin and Alford

Cheshire; Alfred Hunkins, a salesman and fourteen years old Richard Robin, another shopman.

Living next door was Elizabeth Budgett, Samuel's unmarried sister and with her, his three boys, James an apprentice grocer, William aged 14 and Samuel, junior, 10 who were taught at home by a governess, Mary Brice. Also living on these premises were Adam Fleming, a warehouseman and his wife Ellen.

The third Budgett household comprised John Budgett aged 30, a wholesale grocer, his wife Hannah and their baby Annie, aged 1. (In the 1844 tithe map of the district, John is shown as living at Prospect House.)

Of Samuel Budgett the merchant there is no sign for he and the remainder of his family were away in Midsomer Norton, Mrs Budgett's home. There can be found Samuel, age given as 44, Ann, 47, Edwin aged 10 and Sarah, 8, with a servant, Elizabeth Barnes.

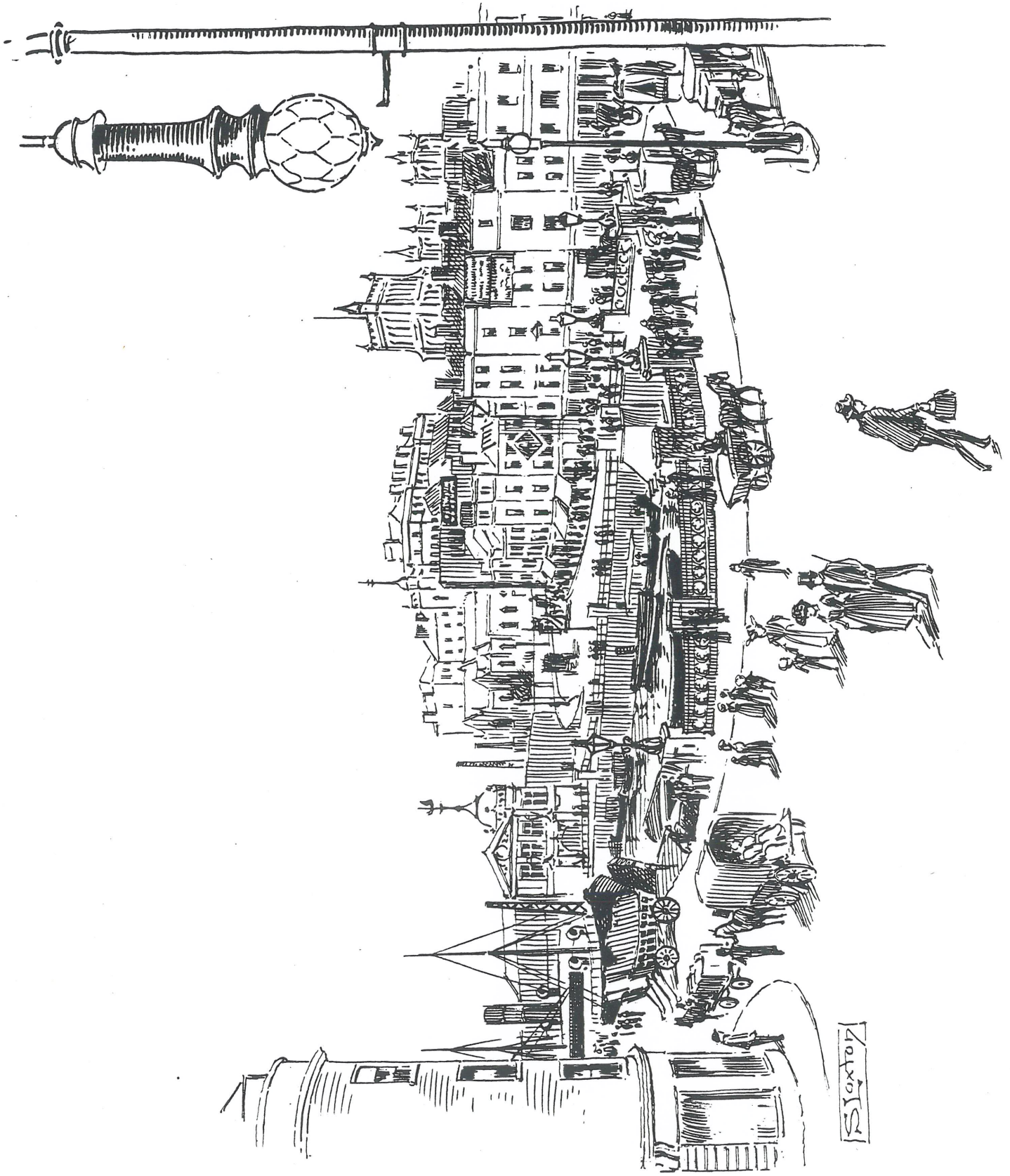
Other family members had been drawn into the trade; brother James aged 36, described grocer/draper was residing at Stoke, Somerset, with his wife Mary. Mary, the third daughter of James Warner, was born at Eastington, Somerset. She met James when she was twenty four and most of their married life was spent in Paulton before finally moving to Kingswood Hill. Sadly for many years Mary was ill:

"Like many sincere Christians, Mrs Budgett was frequently laid low by affliction. Soon after her marriage it pleased the Lord to visit her with his rod. Her sufferings were almost indescribable but Jesus was present with her and precious to her." So reads the typically Victorian eulogy, "Memorial of Mrs James Budgett" written by Rev. W.S.F. Moss. Mary died in 1859 aged 53.

Another of Samuel's brothers, Isaac, with whom he had practised the permutations of bacon, also a merchant was living at Winterbourne.



Samuel at "The Gothic Door" handing out the wages. Good workers were given an occasional bonus so that "Remember the Gothic Door" became a Budgett slogan.



Saxton

FIRE!

On the evening of 29th November 1842, not long after Samuel had taken sole control of the company "a conflagration of immense extent" lit up the heavens in a terrific display for five or six miles around Kingswood. Budgetts' was on fire!

The fire started at about 7 p.m. in the Titler Room. (A titler was the trade name for a cone of sugar.) These titlers, about 150 of them were being kept dry by hot air provided by small coal-burning stoves directed up flue pipes in adjoining rooms. It was never discovered how the initial accident took place but the sugar rapidly became molasses and the room itself a raging inferno. Hopes of confining the fire to this small space were soon abandoned when it was discovered the only possible way would be to take off the roof above and pour water down on the blaze. Far too dangerous.

There was only one small entrance to the sugar room from another direction, the space from which the waggons were loaded and unloaded and when this was opened, mistakenly as it turned out, the rush of air caused the flames to burst forth with even more fearful violence. A messenger was despatched to summon the fire brigades, private affairs run by various insurance companies. (The idea of a civic or county brigade belonged to the future.) First to arrive was the Sun engine (pulled by Samuel's own horses!) and then hard on its wheels came the Bristol Union, The Norwich and West or England Engines.

The fire had gained a firm hold and the brigades' main efforts were directed towards saving Park House and in preventing the blaze from spreading to the nearby Methodist Chapel and to Whitfield's Old Tabernacle Schoolroom (still standing at present but in a grievous state of preservation) which was in deadly peril. Stirling efforts and a fortuitous change of direction of the wind helped save them, as did the lucky chance that an unusually wet season had left an abundance of water. The Kingswood quarries were filled to the top.

The fire drew a huge crowd, many of whom under the direction of the Rev John Gaskin, Henry Hill Budgett's son in law, assisted the employees in shifting the moveables to the safety of the church. There was a little looting, but on no great scale.

The fire raged for eight hours and was not finally overcome until 3 a.m. the next morning. Samuel's house was saved but the acre of warehouses, the counting house, the retail shop and the library which Sam had made available for his workmen were all lost. Only the little chapel where early morning prayers preceded each day's work remained untouched amid the devastation. There had been no loss of life and the forty horses in the stables who carried the Budgetts' wares all over the country had been brought out unharmed. The workforce, some two hundred of them, gloomily surveyed the smouldering remains of their jobs, carried away it seemed in the torrent of black sugar which trickled down Tabernacle Road in a rapidly congealing glacier.

But Samuel had been prudent as usual. He was well-insured, £8,000 in the Phoenix alone and additional sums in the other companies. The firm's books had been saved and Samuel promised only a temporary cessation of business. And it's an ill-wind which blows nobody any good.

The Nelson Street, Bristol depot which had been operational as a staging post since 1841 would become the headquarters of the firm; not only a practical solution in the present crisis but future common-sense if the firm was to continue to prosper. Rather a bustling city than the backwater which was Kingswood Hill. So, by necessity they moved, but Samuel himself remained faithful to Kingswood and could be seen, a cheerful figure, daily driving his two-in-hand to and from his house in Budgett's Park to his offices in Nelson Street.

THE FÊTE

During the years at Kingswood Hill, Budgetts' had observed the tradition of the Harvest Home, a supper for the workers after the annual stocktaking. Since the removal to Nelson Street there was an innovation - The Summer Fête.

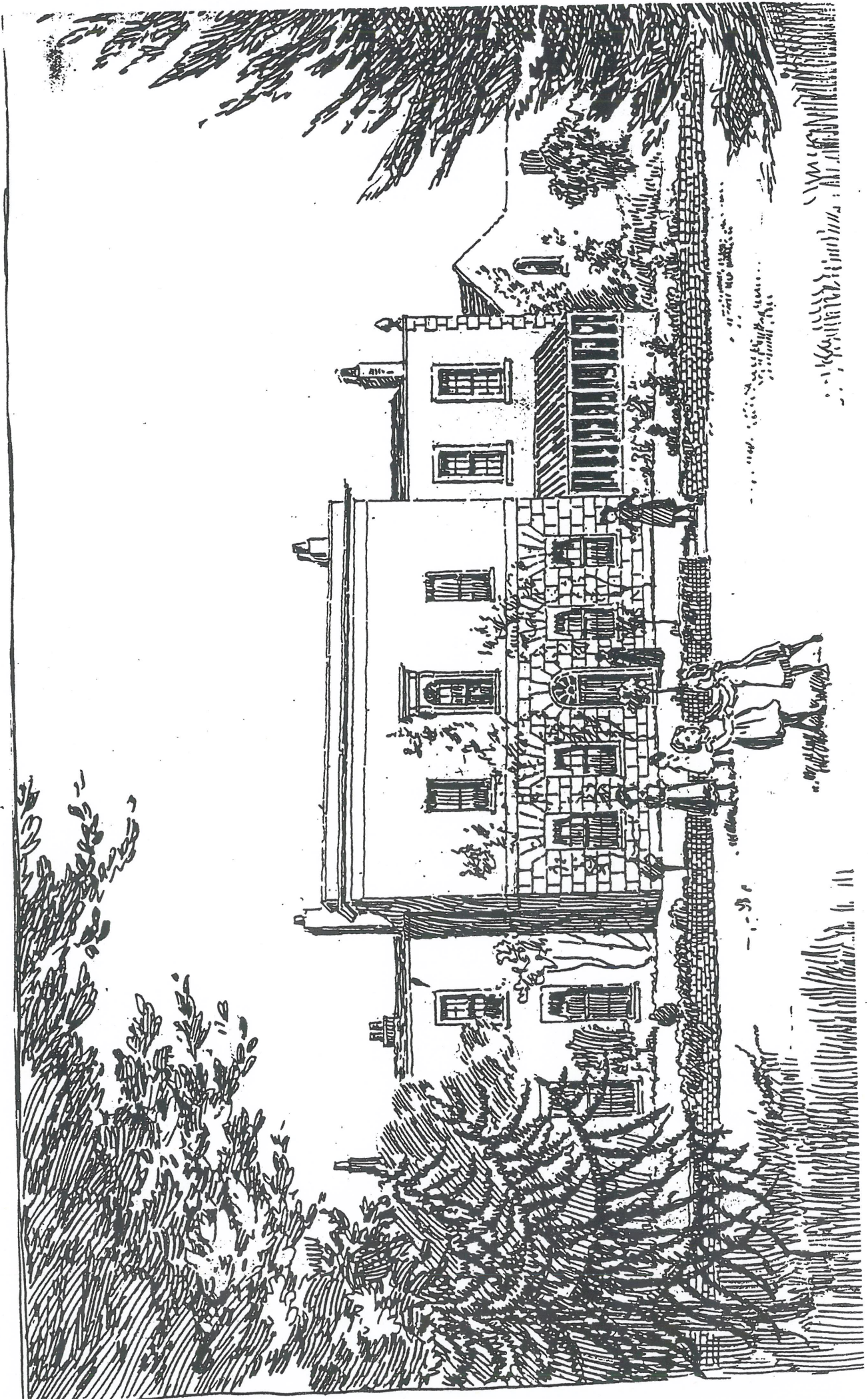
Two hundred employees came to dinner served at 3 p.m. on the lawn at Park House.

"Porter and waggoner, clerk and salesman, traveller and cooper, errand boy and principal all sitting down in hearty kindred...then the repast over, the men betake themselves according to taste, unrestrained and unawed, some to saunter around, some to sports whilst the music stirs them. Their wives, their mothers, their sweethearts arrive to share the pleasure.....and the principal and his sons amidst it all seem the chief pleasure-takers of the day....."

So reported Rev B. Corvosso who was there. "No scene could portray a happier appearance of enjoyment and social union," observed a local paper.

During the evening some four hundred people sat down to tea, this time under a covered awning and the party was entertained by "animated speeches from the gentlemen present" who included the clergy from every denomination in the village. Let us hope for the occasion that brevity was truly the soul of wit! All of this reminds us that Samuel as a creature of his time was far more Fezziwig than Scrooge. The uniqueness of such a celebration is summarised by Samuel's biographer who says he "cannot do better than recommend a similar EXPERIMENT to other businessmen if they wish to cherish a common feeling between employers and employed."

So the gates clanged behind the last of the revellers who very likely finished the day in one or other of Kingswood's many pubs, for like the Chapel Teas of recent memory (my own) which formed the climax of the Whitsuntide Procession, the affair was strictly temperance. It is possible to imagine Sam saying to Ann, his wife. "Now my dear, I think that went off rather well!"



THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL

Among Samuel's benefactions to Kingswood was the Wesleyan Chapel. In 1845 he wrote to a friend:

"We have a great work going on here....come and spend a week with us and see for yourself. We will give you cheering accounts. Some of the stoutest rebels have been constrained....and God has forgiven their sins and made them the means of bringing others to salvation. Do come before the week is out and stay if it is but for a few days. Just drop me a line and I will meet you at the station; or find your way to Nelson Street and I shall feel real pleasure in conveying you to Kingswood. I think we have added two hundred and fifty to the society...but you must come and I hope very soon...."

He did not raise the chapel from his own funds but by motivating others with his boundless enthusiasm. In Bristol, Bath, London, Liverpool, he begged, cajoled, inspired. At last when a public meeting was called TWELVE HUNDRED people indicated they would attend and a vast tea was prepared. In the event, such was the demand that another two hundred guests arrived and were accommodated. The tea was served and cleared away in one half hour of solid military precision and organisation. Every penny for the new sanctuary was raised with a sixty pounds surplus. Samuel would shake his head sadly if he could see his derelict chapel today with its overgrown graveyard. Yet, after this momentary disappointment, he would roll up his sleeves and start all over again!

Amongst the early congregation of the Wesleyan Chapel were my great-great grandparents, Stephen and Jane Pillinger. They with their large family lived a few doors away from Samuel at Kingswood Hill, though in rather lesser circumstances. The connection continues today through John Edwards, a Pillinger descendant who is the circuit organiser.

THE CHOLERA AGAIN

When Bristol was surveyed in 1845, Henry de la Beche described how his stomach revolted when he was required to go into the stinking alleyways of the city and its suburbs. He could only stand aside and vomit whilst his less squeamish colleague Dr Playfair determinedly investigated the pits of existence of overcrowded humankind. Overflowing privies discharged into sixty or so open drains and thence into the polluted River Frome. There were no arrangements to dispose of sewage. Little improvement had been made since 1832. Said a contemporary article:

"Cholera merely sweeps away those already doomed to acute and lingering disease; they possess existence rather than enjoy life."

Confirmed Rev G.N. Barrow: "There is bad drainage everywhere. No comfort, cleanliness and decency."

In the centre of Bristol where people sometimes dwelt ten to a room and a small garret could house two families, the inevitable happened in June 1849 when twenty two people in the vicinity of St Stephen's church died within three days. It spread, into every parish in the City, creeping through infected sewers and along lanes a foot deep in mud. Cholera advanced like an invading army heralded by its own stink. To prevent panic, cases were taken by barge along the river to a hastily set up special hospital near Cumberland Basin and an out of the way burial ground was put aside near the Cattle Market. Outside Lawford's Gate, in West Street, a place of refuge was established where people were housed whilst their own dwellings were scrubbed and whitewashed but even here there were thirty five deaths. In many places water had to be got from public houses at a rate of a penny for two small buckets as long as a similar quantity of beer was bought at the same time!

From Lawford's Gate the cholera marched eastwards into the miners' cottages of St George and onwards into Kingswood itself.

Edwin Budgett, Samuel's youngest son had been in high spirits after attending a prayer meeting but on returning home complained of illness which was rapidly and correctly diagnosed. After three days of agony, Edwin died on 26th July 1849. He was in his nineteenth year. He was buried in the graveyard of Wesleyan Chapel. Could it have been that his father, who from visiting the stricken houses of the poor was the carrier who brought the deadly cholera bacillus to him? Certainly Samuel blamed himself for his son's death, saying God had seen fit to punish him for his sins.

Most of Kingswood's cholera victims of 1849 were buried in the pit of a mass grave in a quiet corner of Holy Trinity churchyard. The area has never been re-used and I have been told it is inspected by a health official every few years.

The cholera epidemic of 1849 ravaged Bristol for five months and left more than 400 dead. The Bristol Sanitary Committee suggested that at long last water rates should be levied and was answered in the local press in August 1850 by an outraged citizen:

"Gentlemen! Beware your pockets!"

There was another epidemic in 1854. It was only years later that the general concensus believed at last what Dr William Budd, physician at St Peter's Hospital from 1842 had been saying since his appointment that the disease did not arise from poisons in the air but from a living organism carried into the body originally from infected water. The remedy, he insisted, lay in an unpolluted water supply.

It is likely that Samuel planned another fete for the summer of 1849 but with Edwin not long dead The Park was a house of mourning. The gala eventually took place in the warehouse several months later. The men decorated it themselves with evergreen and mottoes.

PERSEVERANCE
SURMOUNTS
DIFFICULTIES

said one; and

MAY POVERTY BE ALWAYS
A DAY'S MARCH BEHIND US!

cried another. It was an altogether more subdued and thoughtful occasion than the happy party of the previous year.

THE DEATH OF HENRY HILL BUDGETT

By the time of his death, Henry had moved from Kingswood to Oldland Hall. There is a tablet to his memory in Holy Trinity Church, Kingswood.

"Sacred to the memory of Henry Hill Budgett, esquire, of Oldland Hall (formerly of Kingswood Hill) and for many years churchwarden of this parish. He departed this life on 15th December 1849 aged 71."

Like his wives and his two sons he was buried at Portland Street Chapel in Bristol. His worldly goods were submitted to public auction on 18th March 1850.

THE FAMILY IN 1851

The census of 1851 shows Samuel Budgett aged 56, described as a merchant employing 170 men living in Kingswood with his wife Ann, aged 59 and three unmarried children, William aged 23, Samuel aged 19 and Sarah Anne, 18, all of whom were born in Kingswood. Samuel's spinster sister Elizabeth aged 59 lived with them. There was a visitor, 26 year old Elizabeth Skrine and five servants, Fanny Pine, aged 22, young for her grand position as housekeeper, sixteen years old Caroline Edwards, housemaid, Hannah Skuse, aged 21, parlourmaid, a local girl from Soundwell; Margaret Butcher, 35, the cook and one whose presence had become a sad necessity, Mary Scammell*, a Kingswood girl who was a nurse. Samuel was dying. The stress of an over vigorous life had led to dropsy and heart trouble and he had already suffered several debilitating attacks. He died on 29th April 1851 and was buried in his Wesleyan Churchyard at Kingswood. The Bristol Times and Mirror printed his obituary on 10th May 1851.

THE LATE SAMUEL BUDGETT, ESQUIRE OF KINGSWOOD.

The remains of this eminently useful and excellent man (of the house of Messrs Budgetts of Bristol) and who died last week at his residence in Kingswood were interred in the Methodist Chapel of that place on Wednesday last when thousands were present to witness the last rite. Their serious and becoming manner evinced the respect in which the deceased was held. The funeral left the residence of the departed gentleman soon after eleven. Three hundred friends and dependents having assembled about ten o'clock to conduct the body to the grave.

*For further adventures of Mary Scammell
see "Bristol Was My Village" by Mary Curtis.

More than 200 persons all employed in his vast commercial business walked in the procession in black cloaks and acted from time to time as the bearers, besides whom fully 2,000 persons being in the Kingswood Hill neighbourhood followed the cortège and though many of them were the rudest colliers they behaved themselves with decorum. The shops were closed and the blinds of the windows drawn in private houses. The funeral service of the Church of England was read by the minister of the chapel and a discourse was given by the Principal of the Methodist College of Kingswood which was established by John Wesley. Rarely has a neighbourhood suffered a greater loss in the death of a man than Kingswood in the decease of Mr Budgett, whose charity was unbounded and who distributed without discrimination and without ostentation fully £2,000 a year from his own pocket. Mr Budgett was the founder of his own fortune which he used to such good purpose. By his energy, ability and great activity he made from small beginnings what is, we believe, the largest business in the West of England, and which turns nearer millions than thousands in the course of a year, giving employment to hundreds. Nevertheless from all his business he found time to attend to the wants and visited the homes of all who required aid for he considered his property bestowed on him by Heaven for higher purposes than his own personal enrichment. Mr Budgett was a Wesleyan Methodist but so unsectarian was his spirit of charity that all who wanted his aid and deserved it whether belonging to the Church of England or any dissenting denomination than his own had it. Mr Budgett had of late begun chiefly to leave his business to his sons and partners that he might have the more time for works of active good doing. He was in his 56th year and his death was caused by disease of the heart."

"Kingswood has lost its best man today," said a rough old collier. It was a sentiment echoed throughout the district.

AFTER SAMUEL

Ann Budgett returned to her house The Park and continued to live there with her sister in law Elizabeth until their deaths. Ann was buried in the family vault at Wesleyan aged 74 in 1866 and Elizabeth followed her three years later. In 1861, William Henry Budgett, now 32 and Sarah Anne, 28, were still unmarried and lived at home. William was the only man in an otherwise all female menage. (He married the following year.) The two old ladies had expanded their staff to six young girls who "did" for them all. Samuel junior had married Sarah Hannah Brogden, the daughter of John Brogden of Sale, Cheshire at Manchester Cathedral on 2nd June 1858. They had forsaken Kingswood at the time of the 1861 census and were living at Clifton.

Samuel's kinsman John Budgett who once lived at Prospect House, Kingswood had moved to Westbury on Trym where by 1861 aged 51, described as a sugar-refiner he was living with his young second wife, Miriam aged 28 and seven children aged from twenty one down to one year old. From the census we learn that the three eldest, Anne, (the baby Annie we last saw aged one, in 1841 at Kingswood Hill), Edna aged 18 and Celia, 16 were born in Kingswood. The next child, John Arthur, aged 15 was born in

OLDLAND HALL, HANHAM.
(Four miles from Bristol, and eight from Bath.)

CATALOGUE

Of all the genuine and useful

Household Furniture,

WHICH INCLUDES A

Complete Suite of Drawing Room
Requisites in Rosewood.

A LARGE BRILLIANT PLATE UPRIGHT CHIMNEY GLASS,
BRONZE OR-MOLY MOUNTED THREE-
LIGHT CHANDELIER,

CHINA, RICHLY CUT GLASS,
250 OUNCES OF PLATE,
BRILLIANT TONED CABINET PIANO-FORTE IN
ROSEWOOD CASE,

MAHOGANY LIBRARY RANGE WITH SECRETAIRE,
LIBRARY OF BOOKS CONTAINING 500 VOLUMES,
MAGNIFICENT GROUP OF STUFFED FOREIGN BIRDS,
Galvanic Apparatus, Barometer, Spy Glass, Bass Violin, Eight-day
Dial, Turning Lathe, and Tools, Sword, Pistol, Blunderbuss, and
Percussion Gun.

Two excellent PHAETONS, one with Head and
shifting Lights,

SEVERAL SETS OF DOUBLE & SINGLE HARNESS,
Bay Gelding, Cow in Calf, Nineteen Sheep, and other

LIVE & DEAD FARMING STOCK,
Garden Rollers, Chairs, Flower Stands, and Ornamental Plaster Figures, Green
House Plants, Fifty-seven Iron Hurdles, and other valuable Effects of

HENRY HILL BUDGE, ESQ., Deceased,
AT HIS LATE RESIDENCE

OLDLAND HALL, HANHAM,

WHICH WILL BE
SUBMITTED TO PUBLIC COMPETITION,

BY MR. SCOTT,

ON THE PREMISES,
On MONDAY, MARCH 18th, 1850,
AND TWO FOLLOWING DAYS.

Commencing each Morning precisely at Eleven o'Clock.
The whole will be on View on SATURDAY, the 16th inst., by Catalogue
only, which may be had (Sixpence each) at the Angel Inn, Bath,
and at Mr. Scott's Office, No. 66, Broadmead, Bristol.

MATHEWS BROTHERS, PRINTERS, BROAD QUAY, BRISTOL.

CATALOGUE.

FIRST DAY'S SALE.

ON MONDAY, THE 18th DAY OF MARCH, 1850.

Commencing punctually at Eleven o'Clock.

BACK ATTIC.

- LOT
- 1 Tent bedstead and straw palliass
 - 2 Mahogany four-post bedstead and chintz furniture
 - 3 Straw palliass
 - 4 Two painted deal corner cupboard
 - 5 Reading desk, pole fire-screen, two chairs, wig block, and two-flap screen
 - 6 Portable reading desk and three-flap screen

FRONT ATTIC.

- 7 Mahogany cheese tray, painted butler's tray, lantern, and fancy with chair-back fire-screen
- 8 Mahogany butler's tray, lantern, fancy with chair-back fire-screen, and mahogany cheese tray
- 9 Leather portmanteau
- 10 Large oak linen chest
- 11 Painted deal linen chest with two drawers
- 12 Two pieces of floor cloth, 8 yards

SEEVANTS' BED-ROOM.

- 13 Stump bedstead and millpuff mattress
- 14 Millpuff bed and four feather pillows
- 15 Four blankets, counterpane, and coverlid
- 16 Mahogany corner basin stand with ware and toilet glass
- 17 Mahogany commode and pan
- 18 Three rush-seat chairs, deal table, and towel horse
- 19 Painted dressing table and mahogany two-drawer swing glass
- 20 Painted chest of drawers
- 21 Linen chest
- 22 Mahogany bureau
- 23 One piece of druggel, three pieces of Venetian, and one piece of Kidderminster carpet
- 24 Four pieces of Kidderminster carpet, 28 yards



SLOXTON

Clifton. From this we can deduce that John Budgett left Prospect House c1845/6. In 1861 they employed a cook, a parlourmaid, a housemaid, a nursemaid (to help with the baby, Edith), a needlewoman and a coachman, thirty nine year old Samuel Britton, who had come with them from Kingswood. John Budgett's son, John Arthur matriculated at Brasenose College, Oxford in December 1865, aged 19. Alumni Oxonienses, the catalogue of Oxford scholars describes him "eldest son of John Payne Budgett, of Kingswood, near Bristol, armiger". John, despite living in rather more up-market surroundings still retained his links with Kingswood. Additionally the College of Heralds had granted him a coat of arms. John Budgett's obituary appears in Bristol Times and Mirror, 11th December 1867.

"The late Mr John Budgett. The death of this respected gentleman who has been for a considerable time suffering from a severe and painful malady took place on Monday night at his residence, Henleaze, near Westbury on Trym. It was only a few months ago that Mr Budgett owing to failing health retired from the great sugar-refining house of Finzel & Co, Counterslip in this City in which he had been a partner for 15 years. The deceased gentleman was a man of great business capacity, judgement and energy and his success in trade was proportionate to his talents. He was most liberal inclined making large contributions to charitable and religious objects of which he approved and was said to be specially generous to the Great Orphan Homes on Ashley Downs to which his late partner Mr Finzel was so generous a friend. Mr Budgett, an independent, being a regular attender at Highbury Chapel, was in no way influenced by party or sectarian views in his charities and donations and in local politics never took an active interest. His kindness and munificence and personal integrity made him much respected in this city. He was a Gloucestershire man*, his family belonging to the neighbourhood of Kingswood. He was in his 59th year. He leaves nine children and a widow, having been twice married."

(* He was in fact born at Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire on 2nd July 1809 and baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel there in 1812.)

MEANWHILE BACK AT KINGSWOOD HILL

In 1861, Samuel's brother James, now a 56 year old widower lived next door to his sister and sister in law at Kingswood, attended by one domestic servant, Jane Lucas. On the night of the census his household included two visitors, the Rev John Spencer Jones, Wesleyan minister from Westerleigh Circuit and his wife Ann. Later that year on 21st November, he married Sarah, the daughter of Henry Holland, gentleman, by licence at St Andrew's Church, Clifton with his brother Isaac in attendance as a witness. James and Sarah had three boys baptised in the Wesleyan Chapel at Kingswood: Henry Holland in 1862, Frederick Brackenbury in 1864 and Thomas Mortimer in 1866. James and his family appear to be the last of the Budgetts resident at Kingswood, which they left prior to 1871, though the family continued to be represented by the Mees and the Hunts. Mary Budgett, sister of Henry and Samuel married George Mees and they had a daughter Matilda born in 1828. Mary died in 1835 and George married her sister Sarah at St Paul's Portland Square on

11th October 1836 with the bride's brother and sister Samuel and Elizabeth as witnesses. When George died in 1866, his sole beneficiary was his daughter, Matilda Hunt, the widow of William Morris Hunt. George's fortune was less than £600 and his nephews William Henry and Samuel Budgett were named as his executors. In 1861, Matilda Hunt was in business at Kingswood Hill as - what else? - a grocer, an enterprise she augmented by being also a baker and draper! Living with her was her son, eighteen years old George Mees Hunt, merchant's apprentice. (He had clearly been taken under the wing of the family firm.) Sharing the same roof were Sarah Budgett Barber, aged 27, an accountant (good for her in those days pre-women's liberation) and her brother Samuel James, grocer's assistant. (The Barbers were the children of a sister of James Budgett's first wife Mary Warner. In 1841, Sarah, then aged 6 was living at Stoke with James and Mary.) Matilda had two servants, sisters, Mary and Martha Widcombe; a shop assistant, William Henry Underwood and an apprentice, Walter Bateman, aged 15. The grocery business was not to young George Hunt's taste; he sought adventure in faraway places. A plaque commemorates him in Holy Trinity, Kingswood:

George Mees Hunt
1842-1886

Captain in the Royal Mail Company
born at Kingswood Hill
died St Thomas, West Indies

It was erected by his brother officers. Matilda outlived her only surviving child by six years and was buried in the family vault at Wesleyan in 1892.

IN THE NEWS

"The Successful Merchant" the biography of Samuel Budgett written by the Rev William Arthur in 1855 became a runaway best-seller and went into umpteen impressions. Rev Arthur gives us a vivid picture of the Kingswood Samuel left behind, still rough and uncouth, but a far cry from the place where once the inhabitants had exhibited corpses of hanged thieves by the roadside in the hope of collecting enough money from passers-by to pay for their funerals:

"Kingswood is not a bewitching place. Going out from Bristol you will find the road skirted by rough cottages prolific of a rough population. Here and there is a man whose face was painted in the coalpit or a woman in a long great coat of dark blue cloth with manifold capes like a coachman's surmounted by a great black hat and a leaf spreading widely all around but lapped down about the ears. To the eye of a stranger the neighbourhood seems to be behind our day but a few modern houses aspiring towards respectability, a modern church, modern chapels, all in good taste show that a new spirit of improvement has broken in upon the place....."

Of the sons of Samuel Budgett, the eldest, James, started a branch in London, subsequently carried on under the name of James Budgett & Son Ltd. He resided at Stoke Park, Guildford in Surrey. William Henry and Samuel junior continued with the firm of H.H.&S. at Nelson Street. In 1861 the brothers were associated with the building of the Colston Hall. For many years Samuel was the treasurer of the Y.M.C.A. Like other Budgetts, William though a Liberal, did not actively involve himself in party politics. As a magistrate he frequently sat on the bench at the Bristol petty sessions. He was elected to the Bristol School Board in 1871, becoming secretary of the North Street and Hanham schools. He was on the committee of the Children's Hospital and for over thirty years was associated with The Stranger's Friend Society. He became chairman of the Bristol Methodist Missionary Society and served as the Wesleyan steward for Clifton. Elsewhere, Budgetts were busily laying foundation stones of new Methodist chapels. John Payne at Nicholas Street and Jane at Clifton. Samuel junior was amongst the trustees at Westbury on Trym. At Portland Street Chapel, a Budgett grand-daughter, Mrs Peter Thompson held the office of circuit steward, the first woman to do so in the history of the chapel. She became well-known for her "organising ability, energy and thoroughness in whatever she undertakes which has more than justified her acceptance of this important post."

The tradition of morning prayers at the commencement of each morning's work, instituted by Samuel was continued by his sons as was the idea of staff get-togethers and celebrations. The following extract from the Bristol Observer of 1st May 1871 is full of good humour:

"A gathering of a very interesting character took place whereby Mr Noah Watts, foreman or inspector, received a gold watch value £30 at H.H.&S. Budgett's, Nelson Street. Two hundred were present in the spacious lecture room and partook of an excellent tea provided by Mr W. Hatton of Union Street. Mr W.H. Budgett was asked to preside and he was supported by Mr S. Budgett on one side and Mr Watts on the other. Mr Allison read an address which was elegantly subscribed on vellum. Mr W.H. Budgett made the presentation and said that he deemed it an honour that his brother and himself had been invited. As they had nothing to do with the purchase of the watch and chain he could rightfully say they were elegant and valuable. Mr Watts then suspended the watch round his neck and received great applause. There was then an entertainment of a musical and elocutionary nature."

In 1872, Budgetts purchased the old Bridewell and the buildings were extended until they covered a large site, extending from Rupert Street to Nelson Street (where there was large frontage) and into Bridewell Sreet.

John Arthur Budgett, the son of John Budgett of Prospect house was on the original board of the Bristol Tramways Company. On 1st August 1875 at noon sharp, the Mayor and Corporation took their seats for the inaugural ride. Each car was drawn by four splendid horses decked in new livery with the drivers resplendent in uniform grey with scarlet trimmings. Crowds thronged the route and hearty cheers were given for

the success of the venture which triumphed despite the usual killjoy objections trotted out by those who opposed Sunday travel and even worse, those who dreaded their genteel suburbs would be invaded by the unwashed working classes and their rowdy families at holiday times.

Samuel's grandsons, the sons of William Henry Budgett, attended Clifton College, which must have been a contrast to their grandfather's education in the Dame School where a stocking was pulled over his head! In time they went up to Trinity College, Cambridge. James Henry graduated in 1886, after which he pursued a business career, becoming a director of the family firm and President of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. His brother, John Samuel gained his B.A. in 1898 and his M.A. in 1901. He was adventurous and took part in natural history expeditions to Africa and South America. Sadly, he died in 1904 at the tragically young age of thirty one.

Their cousin, Walter Felix, the son of Samuel junior was also a Cambridge man. In 1899, the Boer War broke out. Walter joined the colours and served with the London Scottish contingent in South Africa. The British under Sir John Warren crossed the Tugela and on 22nd January 1900 attacked Spion Kop, an eminence which formed the centre of the Boer right. The position was taken, but being exposed and under intense attack it was abandoned the following night. Three hundred British soldiers were killed. Walter Felix Budgett was severely wounded and later died of his injuries.

By July 1900, Samuel Budgett, the Successful Merchant was becoming legendary. Some of his effects were exhibited by the Grocers' Federation. Old invoices caused a stir, showing as they did the dearness of provisions in the early years of the 19th century. Also on show was Sam's manuscript of his "Instructions to Travellers" and a diary which he kept for the last two years of his life. He rose each day at 5a.m. and rigourously disposed of each waking hour until bed, at 10 sharp each night.

In October the same year, William Henry Budgett, J.P. died, leaving a widow, four sons, two daughters and a lifetime of good works behind him. Three of the sons, William Edward (who was by now County Councillor for the Westbury ward), James Herbert and Charles had taken over the family business.

A THEATRICAL KNIGHT

In 1905 died Sir Henry Irving, the first actor to receive the accolade. Budgetts would have known him as Broadribb. Before succumbing to the lure of the greasepaint, he had worked for them as a junior clerk.

SPORTING EVENTS

The works football team played in the Downs' League from its inception in 1905 until 1908. The side finished runners-up of Division 2

in the season 1906-7. Mr J.E. Pratt was the League's assistant secretary from March to September 1905 when he was transferred to Budgetts' Cardiff branch.

The Budgett Cup is still annually competed for by the Girl Guides.

THE FIRE OF 1913

Budgetts by now had some of the most modern premises in the country. The triangular building housed offices on the ground floor with sugar store-rooms on the first floor, whilst three top storeys were utilised for the storage of fruits, various classes of provisions and flour.

On a Saturday morning in August 1913, Thomas Hull, one of the oldest employees opened the door to one of the floors when he heard a crackling sound. He first believed this to be water dropping but on advancing into the room he was met by smoke and flames. He immediately gave the alarm and the Bristol Fire Brigade, luckily situated just around the corner turned out at once. Owing to the serious and rapid spread of the fire Superintendent Gotts called out re-inforcements from other parts of the City and outlying districts. Nevertheless within an hour the roof fell in. Huge crowds, kept back by Deputy Chief Constable F. Wookey and Inspectors Foley and Loxton of the Bristol Police were drawn to the scene. The crowd were keenly interested in the new fangled telephone wires which were connected to a standard on top of the building near Rupert Street. The heat of the fire was intense at this point but for a long time the standard and wires remained intact. At about noon the wires crumpled up and gave way though the standard remained. The fire raged for ten hours before being brought under control and as in 1842, the horses in the stables were not forgotten. They were removed to a place of safety. Likewise the firm's books were saved undamaged by members of the staff. The loss was estimated at £20,000, fully covered by insurance.

Mr J.H. Budgett stated that the office staff would commence work immediately. The old portion of the building being intact the firm would be able to continue business despite the handicap caused by the fire.

In 1914, Britain declared war on Germany. Mrs Budgett, Hon. Secretary of the Red Cross, became the leading spirit and organiser of the sending of parcels to Bristol prisoners of war. This came about because of a letter received from Private Thomas Furnell of the 1st Gloucesters, taken prisoner at the Battle of Mons. Private Furnell described the terrible conditions endured by the prisoners, saying that if Bristol people knew they were starving and dying, something would be done. There was opposition. Some said it was not Red Cross work. But there was a Budgett at the helm. Something was done. Three parcels a fortnight containing provisions and tobacco (the latter, a welcome addition, was organised by Mr W.E. Budgett) were sent to each prisoner.

THE FAMILY FIRM

"We never got paid that well, but there was something about itit was part of your life" - so said Mr Atwell, a former employee. The feeling of "belonging" and "family" amongst Budgett staff is reiterated over and over again.

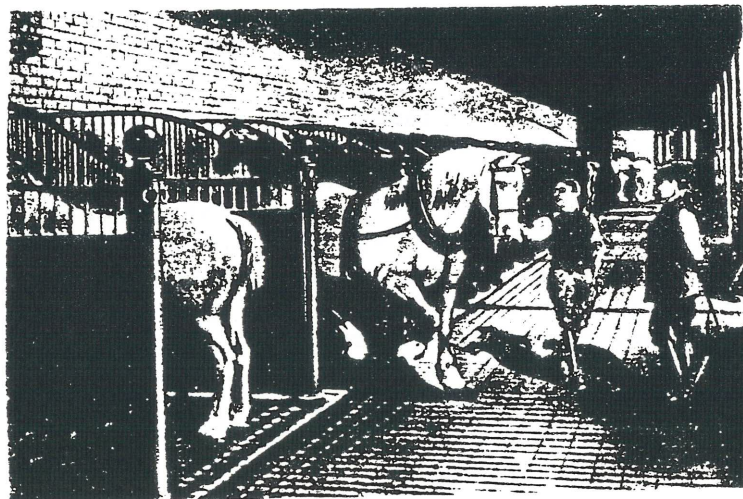
During the First World War, Budgetts mourned their dead, like Lance Corporal Ronald Roach, Killed in action in Mesopotamia on 25th January 1917. He was "highly esteemed both by the firm and his fellow workers as he was bright and cheerful at all times."

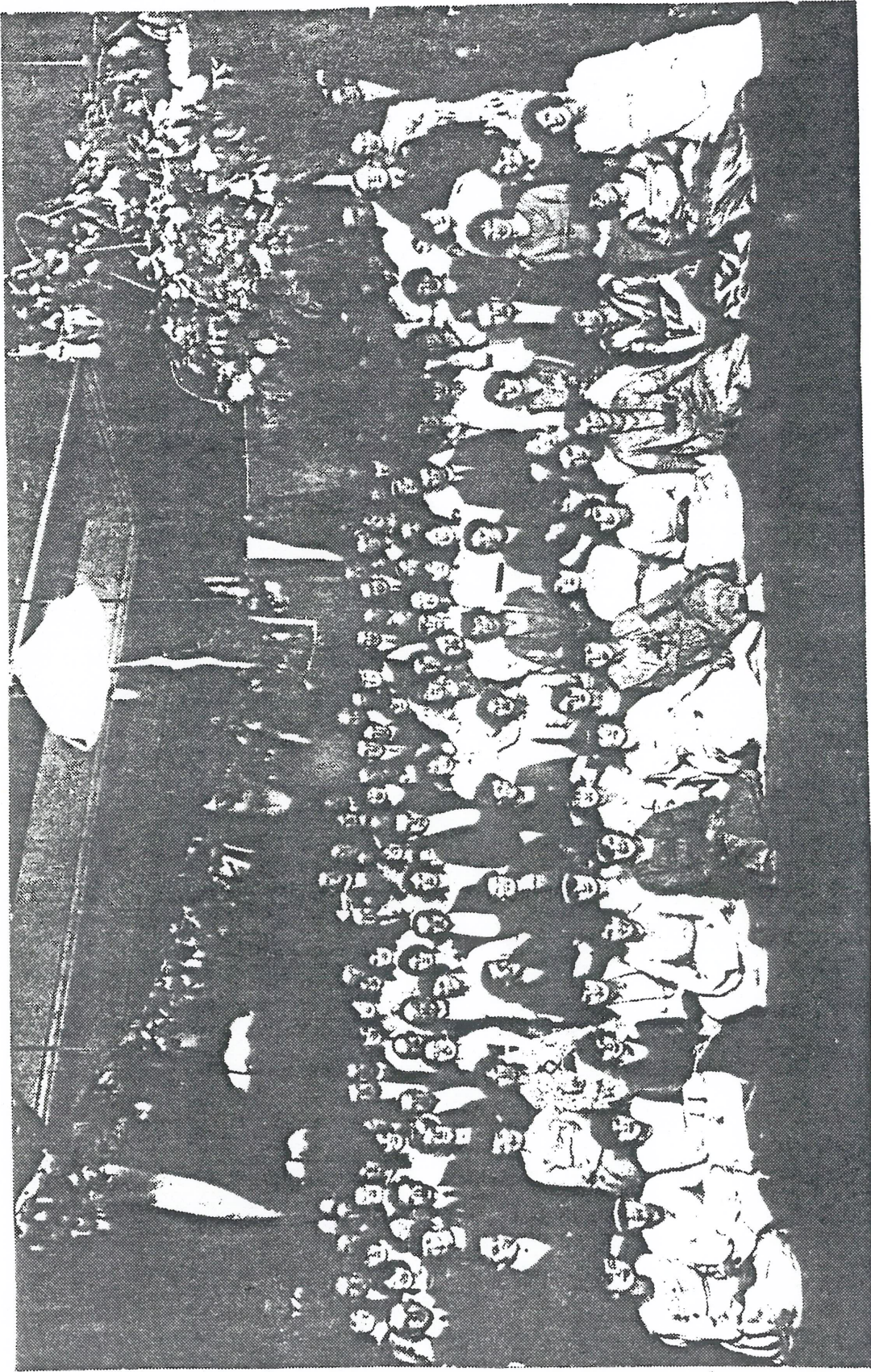
In 1919, the firm gave a party to celebrate the return of their survivors. A splendid photograph belonging to Kathleen (Britton) Tenney survives which shows the directors in formal evening dress of white tie and tails, the rest no less handsomely turned out. The girls wearing the head bands then bang in fashion; Miss Bedford, head of the office staff looking "serious as usual" said Kathleen.

In 1924, they all went on an outing to the Empire Exhibition at Wembley. The Budgetts hired a special train from Temple Meads for the occasion. "A wonderful day!" recalled Kathleen.

The smell at Nelson Street was something to be savoured, especially on a thundery day, for malodours from the Rupert Street brewery met head on those from Fry's chocolate factory at the other end. The Nelson Street offices overlooked the police station and the girls sometimes made eyes at the constables, an activity presumably not encouraged by Miss Bedford, but love as always will find a way. On one occasion there was a wedding between Budgetts and Bridewell. I have been unable to discover the names of the happy pair; perhaps somebody will recognise themselves!

Edwin Willis was employed as a stableman. His job was to look after the horses. He started work at 4 a.m. and would feed and groom them. He would return home for his breakfast and then go back to clean out the stalls and fill the feed racks. When the great drays had finished their day's toil, he would look in and see they were settled for the night. He was inseparable from his favourite, "Kitty".





Budgetts' Staff Celebrating Victory after the Great War

In the 1930's the firm decided horse-transport was outmoded and went over the motor vehicles. Edwin's services were no longer required and they paid him a pension of five shillings a week. He was heart-broken and died in 1936, still pining for his beloved horses. As a little girl, Edwin's daughter, (now Mrs Pitt) suffered from ear problems and spent considerable time in the BRI. She remembered "Miss Budgett was very friendly with my father and from him learned of my disability. Taking pity on me, she would send her chauffeur and car to take me to her house near the Suspension Bridge. I had a maid to look after me. At Christmas they used to give a party for the employees' children."

The fires which ravaged Budgetts in 1842 and 1913 were by no means the only ones. In the 1930's there was yet another. Sylvia White (now Mrs Starr) jovially recalled that her mother went down to look at it and romanced blossomed. Budgetts as Cupid were not this time successful, for the engagement did not survive - luckily for Sylvia - for Mum married another, Sylvia's Dad! As coincidence would have it, Sylvia herself became a Budgett girl from 1946, for twenty five years. Her supervisor, a worthy successor to Miss Bedford was the formidable Miss Govey, who had appeared to another of the girls, Miss Bilk, aged 14, who joined in 1945 "to be about 90 years old." Miss Bilk earned twenty five shillings a week, of which two and sixpence had to come out for "superannuation"; said Miss B. "I didn't even know what it meant!" (and I'm not sure I do myself!)

In 1936, Charles Theodore Budgett became Lord Mayor of Bristol. During his period of office, he and his Lady Mayoress invited the staff to tea at The Mansion House. Iris Bennett, aged 16, received the following invitation:





*The Lord Mayor & the Lady Mayoress
(Aldermen & Mrs. C. J. Budgett)*

request the pleasure of the company of

Miss Bennett

at the Mansion House,

on Saturday, September 12th, 1936, from 4.0 to 6 p.m.

*Please reply to
The Lord Mayor's Secretary,
The Council House, Bristol 1.*

Ten.

Iris started "as a junior in No 1 office (commencing salary £2 per month!) and later transferred to 'X Dept' where I remained until we were bombed out."

The first bombing of Budgetts Nelson Street was on 24th November 1940. War-time censorship was in force and all the Bristol Evening Post was allowed to report was "the enemy's main attack last night was aimed at a town in the West of England..." All Bristolians of course knew the extent of the devastation which levelled the heart of their city. One young employee almost skipped along to her work, certain with the ever optimism of youth that they would all be sent home. Not a bit of it. Budgetts found them plenty to do, clearing up the mess.

Early in December, the premises suffered another hit and very little was left.

BETWEEN OURSELVES

During the years of the Second World War, the staff published a monthly newsletter "Between Ourselves" to keep up with the news of their extended "family". No 23, dated May 1942, survives in the possession of Alfred John "Herbie" ("when I started straight from school in August 1939 they called me a young Herb and the name stuck") Turner.

"A monthly interchange of news and comment between members of the staff of H.H.&S. Budgett & Co. Ltd. in H.M. Forces and their colleagues at Home."



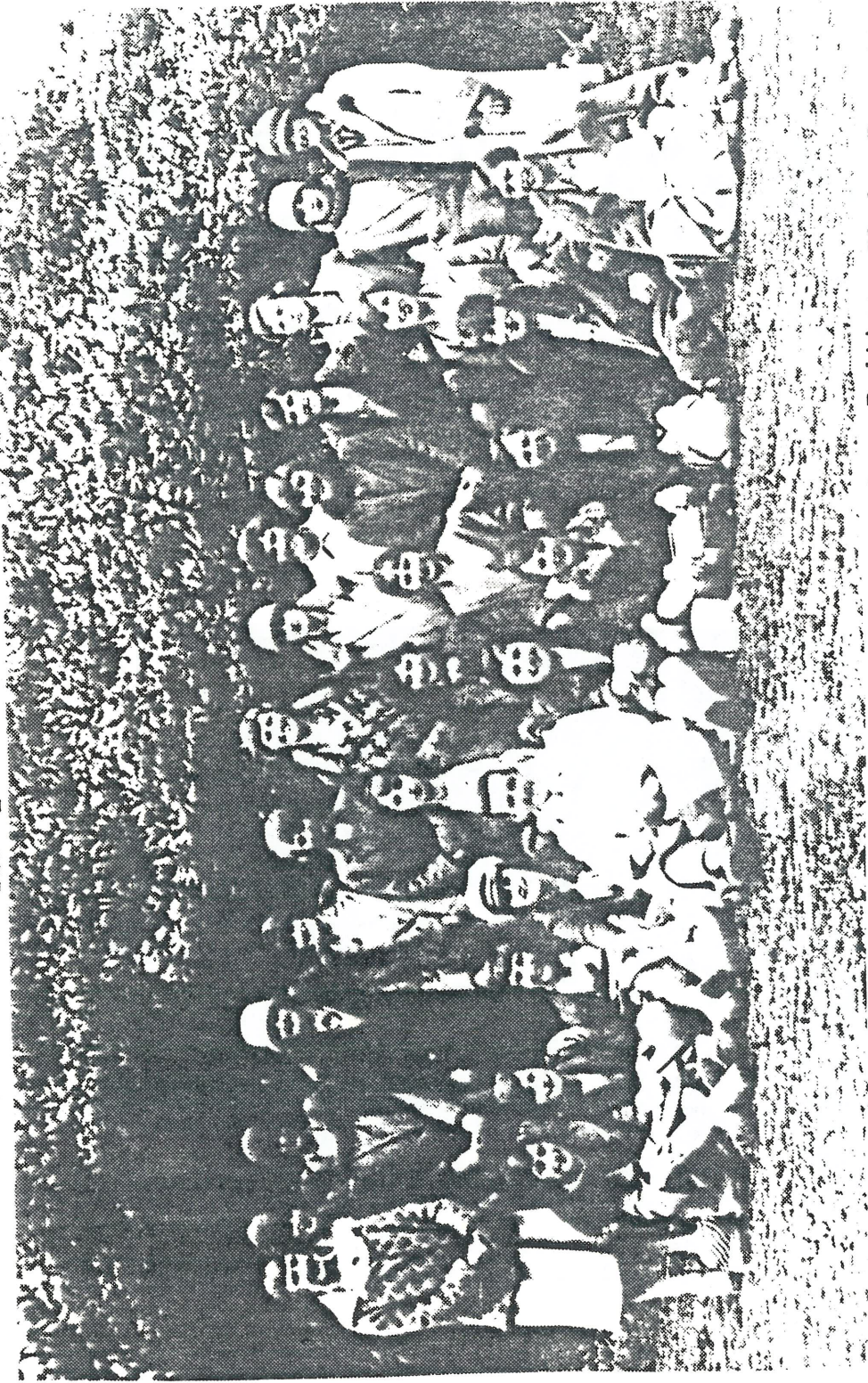
Budgetts' Ladies Cricket Team, 1926



Budgett's Office Staff,
in the entrance of the Nelson Street Building, May 14th 1930

Judy Britton, Mary Murdoch, Vida Bird, Gertie Julia Garlick, Mary Gibson,
Hilda Venning, Tessie Westaway, Phyllis Williams

Budgetts' Nelson Street Ladies Hockey Team
outing to Longleat 1926



Gladys Hunt, Elsie Clarke, Edna Garlick, Edna Candy, Kathleen Britton, Gladys Bennett

Enid Rogers, Rita Trotman, Peggy Boddy, Gladys Denham, Marion Roberts

Gladys (Judy) Britton, Nora Friend, Kitty Clarke, Doris Bull, Myrtle Bush, Rosie Gay (switchboard)

Marion Tomlinson, Elsie Weston, Daphne Thayer, Celia Lane,

Kathleen Organ, Winnie Gover, Ada Curle, Barbara Melhuish, Joan Allward

"The correspondence received during the past few weeks provides such a wealth of material that we can scarcely do justice to it in the space at our disposal. We thank all our friends in the Forces and can assure them that we greatly appreciate their letters and their many expressions of goodwill and loyalty to the old firm. In the present issue of the Bulletin we will make some reference to each letter, however brief, taking them in approximately datal order.

FROM THE MIDDLE EAST letters have reached us by air-mail from BRYAN DEW (Transport Driver), LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN D.C.SMITH and AIRCRAFTSMAN D. McDERMOTT. All three are stationed in different parts and they were all in good health and high spirits when they wrote to us.

Soon after his arrival Dew had the gratifying task of helping to feed 1000 of our men who had just been rescued from captivity in the Libyan Campaign - the first good meal they had enjoyed for six weeks!

FEMININITIES. Once again we give a special welcome to the batch of correspondence from our women colleagues in the forces. LEADING WREN E.J. WILTSHIRE has become engaged to a fellow-member of her ship who has now gone to Gibraltar. In her reply to this letter Miss Govey mentions a charming tit-bit (or should we say tit-bits?) of information about a former member of "X" Dept. whom we all remember. She says "Mrs Jewell (nee E. Champion) and her twins are probably returning to Bristol shortly to live. I hope to see the babies about whom I have heard so much." MISS WIENEKE who is in the Records Department of one of the provincial war offices tells of strenuous days with little leisure, for even when there is no overtime the working day extends to 6.15 p.m. MISS BETTY ELSON has also been very hard at work in the Pay Corps as a section correspondence clerk. MISS JOAN PRICE continues her hush-hush job at the War Office in London. She says "My work consists of enciphering and deciphering messages. Naturally I can't go into detail about it, but it really is most fascinating. We work in shifts, so ofcourse the work never stops. I have just finished a month of night duty which sounds pretty awful to you, I expect, but most of us prefer nights to days. You see, we only work every other night and we are also off all day as well, so we get quite a lot of free time for shopping etc. Living in London is very nice and convenient, as there is always something to do and ofcourse it doesn't take me long to get home."

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST. Our able war correspondent of the Somerset Light Infantry, PRIVATE PRICE was still holding the Germans at bay on the East coast when we heard from him over a month ago. After some weeks on beach patrol, his unit was moved higher up the coast involving a short walk of some thirty miles through deep snow. Yes, we said thirty miles and we call it short because that is how the men regarded it on the flat roads of East Anglia after their mountain gymnastics in Devon and Cornwall. At the end of it they went into billets with no fires in the rooms and slept between wet blankets! Our men are learning to take this sort of thing in their stride: it is the army's method of making 'em tough and ensuring the survival of the fittest. PHILIP R. PLEASANCE called in a few days ago. He was on his way north for a special course. We wish to thank Pleasance for his photo of himself for our gallery.

He is looking his best, and no wonder for the photograph was taken on Christmas Day after dinner. Congratulations to Pleasance on his marriage - March 14th. The bride was a London girl whom he had known for about eighteen months. Good luck to them both! SAPPER R. SAUNDERS has been moving about quite a lot lately and has been expecting to go overseas, having been detailed for no less than eight drafts, none of which have materialised to the present. DRIVER D.L. DACEY (Headquarters, signals) would no doubt envy the constant movement which has fallen the lot of Saunders for he has now been eighteen months in one spot near London. However he enjoys a good billet and good food and has time for reading. He has been up to the eyes lately in Pitman's Commercial Law thanks to Miss Govey who sent the book to him. LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN D. FULTON is stationed in a south eastern county and is expecting strenuous times ahead as he has been taking a course in commando technique. LANCE SERGEANT A.W. ATWELL is still with his survey regiment of the Royal Artillery in an adjoining county and in his last letter indulges in this prophetic remark "I am longing for the day when I shall be back with you all again and something seems to tell me that day is not so very far off." It is with great pleasure we have heard of the marriage of Atwell and NURSE PEGGY POWELL. This calls for special congratulations as both are members of our staff and we all wish them every happiness. F. LOFT tells us that in the raids on Bath he and his wife escaped quite unhurt. We were all very glad to hear this. R.C. WALLINGTON sent us one of those precious little Air graph letters in which he tells us how his pal aboard ship is a Bristol fellow and that they were able to find recreation in the form of swimming and sunbathing. CORPORAL M. DAVIES had to go into hospital in Yeovil for five weeks with a septic leg but is now quite well again and back at duty with the R.A.F. LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN D.G.E. HILL has not only moved up in status from A.C.1. to L.A.C. but has moved also to a new R.A.F. station in South Wales. He still finds life with his squadron very likeable although when operations are on the work is apt to fluctuate from two days idleness to rush jobs when the planes return.

ALIVE AND KICKING. Three letters received from SIGNALMAN A.J. TURNER (Royal Corps of Signals) cover a period of two months of his training in Yorkshire. The first begins "Just a line to let you know I'm still alive and kicking." Subsequent letters show that Turner is still very much alive. He has gone through a course in wireless telegraphy and is probably qualified as an operator now. His obvious interest in food and athletics confirms the statement "Just what the doctor ordered for a lad like me"

AIRMAN PILOT? We are hoping to hear that LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN REG GAMES has been accepted for a course of training as an airman pilot. When we last heard from him he had already passed a preliminary education test and medical examination and had been recommended by the Wing Commander.

THRICE CURSED DUMP. This rather startling phrase is F.E. REDWOOD's description of Iceland. He is due back in England very shortly after a year there and hopes to be stationed with R.A.F. rescue patrol boats in some pleasant English port.

ICELAND IN ENGLAND. Redwood's experience reminds us however that Iceland has no monopoly of Icelandic weather. We had a visit about a month ago from D.C. RIPPON (R.A.F.) who had spent a short time in hospital. This was his account of wintry conditions in his R.A.F. Station in the North of England.

"I am now able to tell you that we had some really bad weather here and what the local inhabitants told me about the snow has really come true. I know that when I was at school snow used to be looked forward to as a time when schoolboys could run amok with snowballs and toboggans that was providing there was three or four inches of snow. Up here they don't seem to be content with inches because we've just got 3 or 4 feet and I can assure anyone that when you have to walk around in it for more than a week you can think of lots more things that are better than snow. The only way to keep warm is to go to bed with a dozen blankets and defy even the Orderly Corporal to move you. This very seldom works as the O.C. is very persistent. It was so cold in the mornings that our boots were frozen to the floor and needed a good tug to get them free. Thank goodness it thawed quickly but caused floods so that didn't improve tempers."

UNDAUNTED STILL. Despite these hardships and difficulties we are continually reminded in all the letters we receive of the indomitable spirit of our men in the forces. FLIGHT LIEUT. J.N. WALKER makes a comment on this when he says:

"There is no doubt that the cause for which this country is fighting is recognised as the all-important factor and personal hardship doesn't count for much, either to the individual concerned or to anyone else." Walker's experiences and his own stoical attitude to danger are a case in point. Here is an extract from a letter of his:

"My most interesting experience was a forced landing in Dorset. Fortunately it was not in a big aeroplane but a small single-engined type. The pilot showed admirable presence of mind when the engine died on us and made some really remarkable manoeuvres to get into position for landing in a field which was accomplished successfully. During it we hopped over a barbed wire fence, under a long wire (there to prevent aeroplanes landing!) and missing ditches and hillocks. I waited for an inevitable crash but was relieved to find everything intact. After carrying out running repairs to the engine, being interviewed by the local Bobby (and having lunch with him!) we took off again from the same field. A few minutes earlier when we were over the New Forest, we should have had very little chance of getting away with it. We were too low to bail out."

STILL IT'S A GOOD LIFE. So says OFFICER CADET J.H. SYMON after describing a course he is taking with the Royal Anti-Aircraft Artillery. He says "I am now nearing the completion of the third month here and if the days are not quite so hectic, it is made up with mental concentration. The second month was all cross country runs, plenty of drill, P.T., ground fighting, unarmed combat and forced marches. The latter was really the worst. It entailed slogging across open country fields, ditches, etc. at the double complete with all equipment. After two miles you didn't really care. Still a shower soon revived one."

Now we have started on the technical side of the course. It includes all types of searchlights, sound locators, lorries, cars, motor bicycles right up to the latest equipment of Radiolocation. It is a change after concentrating on administration, King's Regulations, Military Law and map reading. Our periods of motor cycling were grand fun, even if bumpy. Chiefly consisted of cross country, finding the worst roads possible and trying to get over mounds and hills almost perpendicular. Fortunately the hill tracks were dry even so there was plenty of stalling and just sliding off the bike.

Our daily routine is fairly long at present. Reveille at 6 a.m. (It means 6 a.m. too!) Breakfast at 6.45, Parade at 8 a.m. Dinner 1-1.45. Tea 5 p.m. Generally work to do for an hour. Night exercises 8 p.m. to 12 midnight. That means getting into bed about 1 a.m. and up again at 6. Still it's a good life and time passes quickly."

OUR NEW BOMBERS. We are always glad to hear from LEADING AIRCRAFTSMAN A. PAINTER whose enthusiasm for his work in Bomber Command and his optimism about the war situation are encouraging to us in the second line at home. He gives a brief account of his duties:

"The squadron I am with consists of the very latest type of bomber as yet on the secret list but there can be little harm in saying they are the finest bombing machines in the World, of such gigantic proportions and wonderful performance that I really do believe the results of future air-raids will just be one more happy answer to the prayer of the much quoted maiden. The work of maintaining them to the pitch of operational efficiency is correspondingly large and the last few weeks have left very little time for rest. With such an area of airframe requiring attention, repairing, additions and rebuilding we really have been worked to capacity."

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY. One of the breeziest letters in our post-bag this month was from PRIVATE R.B. LEWIS who has recently been appointed a Supply Clerk in a division of the R.A.S.C. He says:

"It is a pretty hefty job preparing distribution of the daily rations for a division whose strength varies between 25,000 and 30,000 men - particularly so when the ration scale is 2/7oz Tea, Beef 4½ ozs, tinned bacon 1½ozs (packed in 18 oz tins) and tinned milk 3½ozs (packed in 14 oz tins). What with these items occurring daily and units of the divisions whose strength varies from 137 to 743 men, whew! I considered myself pretty good at figures but during the first month I had many a headache. However having nearly completed three months in the job, I'm happy to say I'm happy in my work and hope I shall remain in "Supplies" for the duration. It is like being back in the Birmingham office, except that we don't offer, the customer demands. What a business!

During the past three months the division has been occupied giving demonstrations to various Army Commands, War Office Brass Hats and last but not least H.M. THE KING. My own company did their day's work and we were watched, inspected and congratulated by him and he was amazed by the accuracy of distribution & the ingenuity displayed by the butchers when they put up their shop, particularly the swiftness with which the bulk was broken, loaded and delivered to the units. The newsreel cameramen and pressmen were there in their dozens. I've already seen the

Gaumont-British showing of it. I hope you have seen it too. It stated that the King had spent two days inspecting his finest troops, members of famous divisions etc. The only answer I can give to these flowery statements is that we shall live up to the standard, we hope, when the people decide it is our turn to face the enemy. Since June 1940, we have been entrusted to a share in the defence of Britain, how much longer we don't know, not much longer we all hope. However, it hasn't been all defence as the division were proud to be ordered to provide the infantry support to form the bridgehead for the recent commando raid on Bruneval. I was particularly proud and I feel the 1914-1918 members of that regiment (now busy as travellers in the Birmingham area) are proud too. I'm sorry I cannot give you the regiment's name for security reasons. However, some of you who have good memories of 1914-1918 will know the Birmingham travellers referred to, no names no pack drills!! Not only did the infantry have a job to do but also the R.A.S.C. We transported to the embarkation port and airfield, complete with ammunition, weapons, varying from hand grenades to a super hand bomb and iron rations. Of course the St Nazaire job wasn't in our line. It was left to the Marines, but we do hope that the next time the Commandos visit occupied France all our infantry will be ordered to take part. Not to help and cover the get-away but to make way for the remainder of the Division to land, then we shall all be happy. When that day will arrive I do not know but I sincerely hope it will be soon."

CONGRATULATIONS TO J.S. IRELAND (R.A.F.) formerly a Cardiff traveller who topped the list at a recent examination on getting his L.A.C. and being put into trade Group 2. He says "It was a good day for me. I was asked all the right questions on which I was sure of my ground. The work I am doing is of a secret nature, just emerging from the experimental stage. We are hoping when we operate it will be a big success. In addition I have just completed ten days on manoeuvres. This was just up my street, the weather was fine and dry and we had training in the new machine guns and tommy guns. We worked in patrols of mixed rifles and machine guns. The nights were spent in the open. We had to attack nearby docks and crawled on our stomachs for miles in fairly thick mist. It ended in a glorious scrap in which a number of defenders landed in the dock. I also had a week's course in unarmed combat. Possibly you remember something of this from the last war. It is a gruesome business and one has to take a good deal of care to avoid accidents. It does not appeal to me, but I'm glad to have learned something about it, as I realise how helpless I should have been if anybody had tried it out on me.

VISITORS TO PEMBROKE ROAD. Better even than their letters are the visits we get now and then from the men and women themselves. Not that any of you must put off writing till you can call on us in person! That would be too bad; we just want to know between times and all the time where you are and what you are doing. But it is grand to see any of you walking into the office in your uniforms. We feel a sort of reflected glory you know. So don't forget to come and see us when you are home on leave. Among recent visitors we have had PRIVATE BRIGHT (R.A.M.C.) who is serving in military hospitals in the London area and WILFRED HOLLINS (R.A.F.) who is stationed near Bristol. Being near home, Wilfred was

able to make himself very useful when his wife fell ill. Thanks to his army training, he soon got the hang of household duties, but when it came to bathing his infant son he found himself in some difficulty. The baby's one idea, it seemed was to splash Daddy, with the result that Daddy, rather than the baby got most of the bath-water.

Mr J.S. FARLEIGH, (Sundries Dept.) writes: "Prior to the war we were always worrying the travellers to sell more goods and the customers to buy more. Today the position is reversed. It is we who are being worried to supply more and more lines. This makes us feel that ours is the most important department in the House (Hear! Hear!) and it is chiefly on us that both traveller and customer look for their supplies.

"It is no easy task for our travellers when we tell you that many lines you used to see at Nelson Street and Pylle Hill are not now on the market and many well-known firms have reduced their output and we have been cut down accordingly. As goods arrive in our depots we allocate to each traveller a certain amount and he has to burn the midnight oil seeing that each customer receives a fair share and no-one is forgotten. You can imagine their difficulties and we should like to record how well they are doing the job. We can assure those travellers with the forces that their journeys are receiving every consideration from the representative who has taken over. A number of Sundry Goods are now on the Minister of Food's points system and it is rumoured we shall see many more before the war is over. Well! We can take it and "if you don't see us for points" when you next visit Pembroke Road, you will know we are somewhere underneath doing our stuff. You will gather there is little salesmanship these days but one of our representatives is keeping in practice for after the war. Last week he sold

Moth balls to a nudist camp!!

The tea department is ever busy passing on orders for the cup that cheers. We are glad that the well-known blends of

"Bud" "Ruby" "Glenoya" "Suntips"

are still packed in increasing quantities. At Nelson Street our teas were packed by machinery but now we have to blend, weigh and pack by hand. This is hard and tiring work and we salute the noble band of girl packers who are behind the scenes turning out thousands of packets every day"

Sadly, "Between Ourselves" ends on a tragic note:

OBITUARY. It is with great regret that we record the death of SGT-PILOT RONALD E. NATION, who was killed on active service. He left the Company just before the outbreak of war and had been for some time in the Sundries Department.

It is clear that in those dark days it never occurred to a single member of Budgetts' staff that we might be beaten. It is possible to see the ghost of Samuel encouraging Officer-Cadet Symons at his early morning reveillé, a routine which would surely have had his endorsement; and hovering in sympathy at the shoulder of Private Lewis as he worked out his mind bogglingly complicated permutations of rations, echoing Samuel's own youthful wrestle with the multiplication of bacon. Samuel would have been proud of them all.

THE LATER YEARS

After the bomb, goods were salvaged from the ground floor and basement and taken to Whitwill's Transport warehouse in Cumberland Road by horse drawn carts belonging to Messrs Burgess & Co. (How happy this would have made Edwin Willis!) John Budgett, great-grandson of "The Successful Merchant" in a feat of which Samuel would have totally approved, climbed up the girders to rescue the books. The tea packing was then housed for a period at Carson's Chocolate Factory at Greenbank. The flour packing was carried on at St Raphael Milling Company, a Budgett subsidiary opposite the footbridge on Cumberland Road. The office was opened at 13/17 Pembroke Road, Clifton, taking over a nursing home there, the patients being gradually moved out. The ground floor of Nelson Street was cleaned out and with temporary roofing was used as a grocery warehouse.

Another move was when a factory was built next to St Raphael Milling Co. and this was used to pack Budgett "own label" teas. (Blue, Red, Green and Golden Bud) "own label" flour (Red Ring) and "own label" sugar (Festal). Subsequently were added an extensive range of dried fruits (Blossom); cereals and pulses (Crescent) were additional lines.

In 1948, a delivery depot was opened at Exeter and about the same time depots were commenced at Cheltenham and East Coker, which moved later to Castle Combe.

In the middle of the 1950's the company ventured into the Cash and Carry business. In 1957 they opened a delivery warehouse at Winterstoke Road at the back of Bristol City Football Ground.

In 1961, John Budgett sold to Scribbons Kemp, but the firm remained trading as "Budgetts" which after all was the ideal name for a cash and carry. In the late 1960's they were sold to Barker Dobson, the sweet people but still traded as Budgetts. In November 1971, Head Office moved to Leicester. In 1975, the firm was sold to Warriner-Mason of Birmingham and took the name of Warriners for all the depots.

(ALMOST) THE END

On 4th June 1969, Blakeney, owned and trained by Arthur Budgett at Whelcombe won the Derby. "We all backed it" recalled a member of the staff. Four years later, he did it again, with Morston.

EPILOGUE

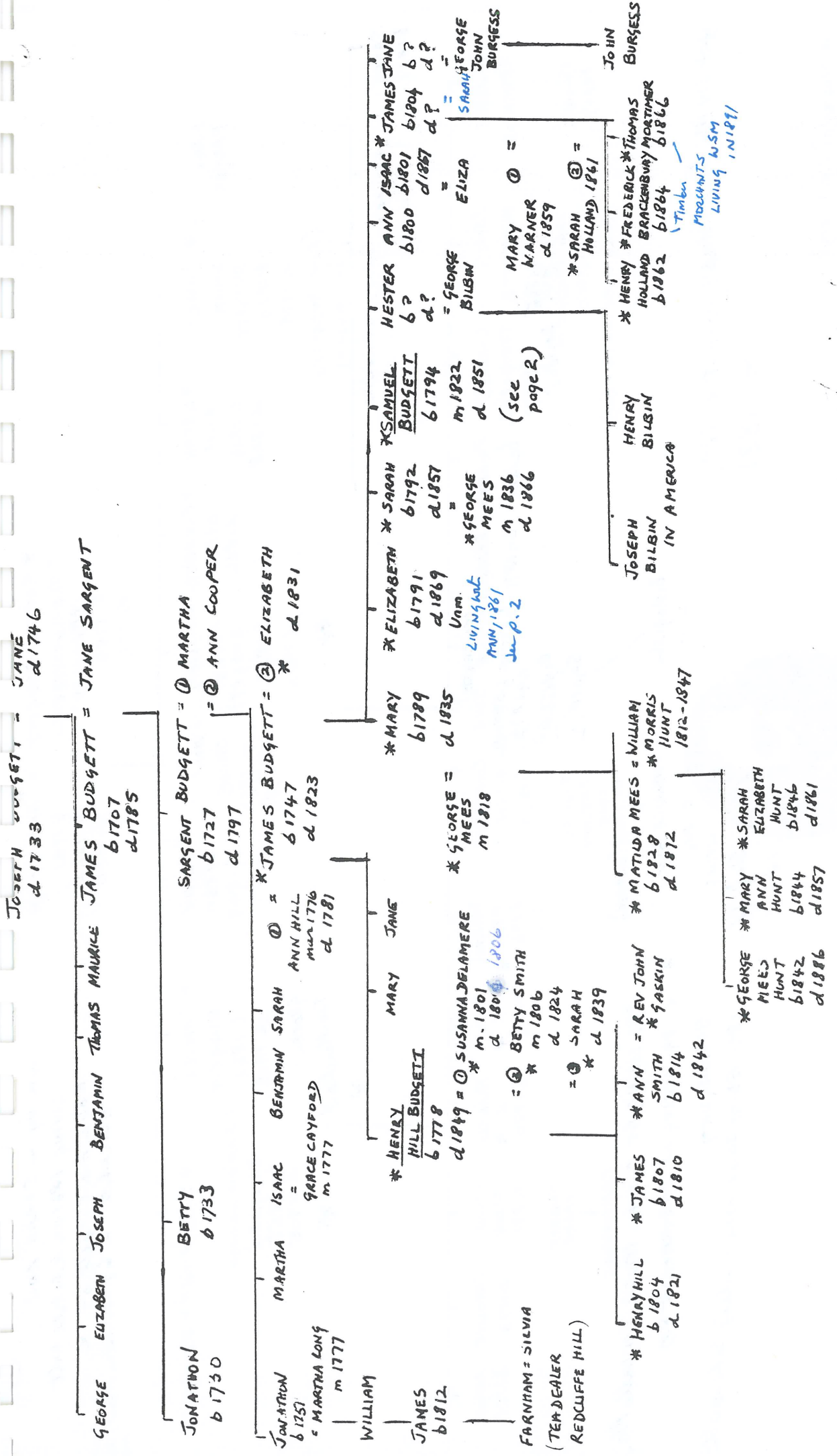
But what of John Budgett, 1812-1867 whose Prospect House in Kingswood was the reason for my initial quest?

My brief, almost casually undertaken had been the seemingly easy one of establishing the relationship between Henry Hill Budgett, philanthropist and educationist, his half-brother Samuel, Victorian whiz-kid, and John, who in the 1840's lived at Prospect House. Like Topsy, the project "just grewed" but as yet the simple core of the mystery remains unsolved.

That John lived in Kingswood there is no doubt. He is recorded in the 1841 census and the tithe map of 1844. By the time his son John Arthur attended Oxford University in 1865, he had long been a resident of Westbury on Trym, yet the boy is described "son of John Payne Budgett of Kingswood, near Bristol". And John's obituary emphasises yet again the Kingswood connection. A glance at the family trees will show that grocery predominated in both the Kingswood and Bradford on Avon branches; so too did non-conformity. I believe that the two James Budgett's - James the father of Henry Hill and Samuel, and James the father of John, shared the common roots of kinship. That young John Payne was sent at an early age as an apprentice to his rather more prominent relations in Kingswood. He inherited the family talent for business and eventually came to prominence on his own account. Hopefully someone else will one day be able to sort out the exact genealogy.

Prospect House for the moment has been temporarily reprieved. Let us hope that it can be rescued from its present derelict state and sometime be put to good use to form a memorial for the whole Budgett family, who through a fortunate aptitude for commerce, coupled with a sense of responsibility for their less fortunate fellow human beings played a substantial part in bringing Kingswood out of the dark ages of its past.

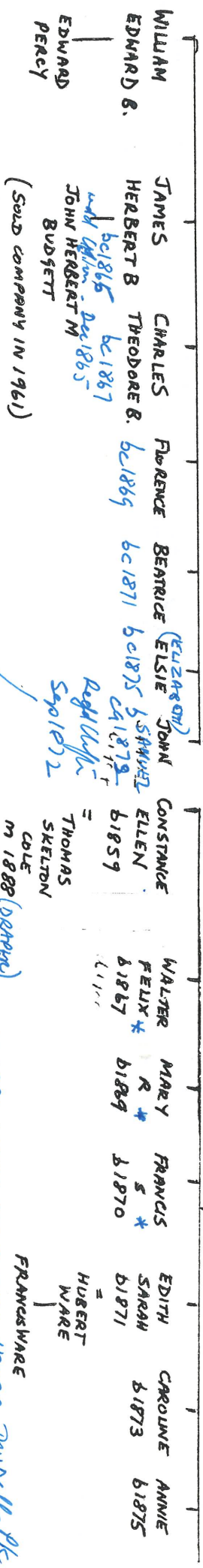
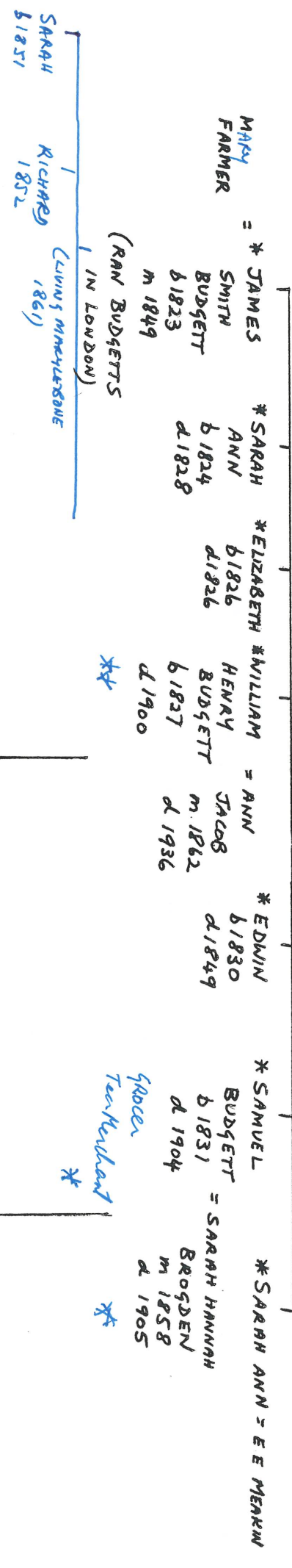
In Kingswood, many roads and streets are named after erstwhile inhabitants, many of them obscure. Even my own family has one. Sadly a Budgett's Road, long overdue, is unique in its absence.



Family lines

* DENOTES KNOWN TO HAVE LIVED IN KINGSWOOD

* SAMUEL BUDGETT = ANN SMITH
 "The Successful Merchant"
 b 1794 d 1851
 b 1791 m 1822 d 1866
 Ann by Sarah Ann
 Living 1861 at Kew Hill with
 Mother Ann Budgett, 69 &
 Elizabeth "69" in circle class, m



* * * LIVING STONE HOUSE, W-O-T in 1891
 1881
 Biologist
 MRVICE GALE
 b 1890
 LIVING
 Sheffield
 1891
 * IN 1881 LIVING AT COTTAGE HOUSE, TRINDALE PK.
 * IN 1891 LIVING AT ALBION HOUSE, RD
 BEGINNING WAY
 IN 1891 EDITH SAUNDERS VISITING SLEWOCK



* DENOTES KNOWN TO HAVE
 LIVED IN KINGSWOOD

The Budgetts of Bradford
ON AVON

JAMES BUDGETT = JANE (JENNY) PAYNE?
b 1765 d 1842
d 1822



* DENOTES KNOWN TO HAVE LIVED IN KINGSWOOD

NOTES

- 1. THE BAPTISMS OF THE CHILDREN OF JAMES & JENNY WERE ALL AT WESLEYAN CHURCH, BRADFORD ON AVON
- 2. JAMES, JENNY, ROBERT, & EDWARD HARRIS WERE BURIED IN THE SAME VAULT AT BRADFORD CHURCHYARD. THE REGISTER REPAIRED "THIS VAULT FELL IN AND IN JUNE, 1920 WAS REPAIRED BY MISS MARION BUDGETT OF REDLAND RD, BRISTOL"
- 3. JAMES PAYNE BUDGETT WAS A GROCER, MARKET STREET BRADFORD, & AGENT TO COUNTY FIRE & PROVIDENT LIFE, (1848) (1839) ALSO CHEESEMONGER AND TALLOW CHANDLER
- 4. JOHN PAYNE BUDGETT MOVED TO KINGSWOOD WITH HIS WIFE, PRIOR TO 1841, & HIS FIRST FOUR DAUGHTERS WERE BORN THERE
- 5. HE IS THE ONLY SON OF COAT OF ARMS BY 1865 WHEN HIS SON WAS AN ALUMNUS OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY

1861 Census Henleaze, W-O-T
John P. Budgett H.M. 51 Sugar Refiner
Miriam " wife 28
Anne " d 21
Eliza " d 18
Lydia " d 16 Sch
John A " 5 15 " "
Eleanor " d 13 " "
Ada " d 7 " "
Edith R " d 1

1891 W-O-T SR
Miriam E Budgett H.W. Living's Granter
Eleanor " Elgdon 43 means 6 Cypri
Edith R " " " 51 " 6 W-O-T
1891 BERRINGTON BEAUFORT S. MOULTON
John A Budgett H.S. 45 own means 6 KW
KATE " SISTER S. 41 VISITOR 6 Cypri

John NEWMAN Coal 61888
John GEORGE SOUTHAM Coal 61891
John NEWMAN Coal 61888
John GEORGE SOUTHAM Coal 61891

John NEWMAN Coal 61888
John GEORGE SOUTHAM Coal 61891

ALLISON Mr., 29
ALLUM, Henry, 7
ARRIVE, Mr P. 9
ARTHUR, Rev. William, 28,
ASHLEY, John, *
ATWELL, A. E., 32, 36
BAILEY, Mrs. *
BALL, Dr, *
BANKS, Mrs, *
BARBER, Samuel James, 28
BARBER, Sarah Budgett, 28
BARNES, Elizabeth, 20
BARRELL, Mr, *
BARRETT, Ann, 17
BARROW, Rev G.N., 23
BATEMAN, Walter, 28
BECHE, Henry de la, 23
BEDFORD, Miss, 32
BENNETT, Iris, 33, 34
BEVAN, Jeremiah, *
BIGGS, Robert, 14
BILK, Miss, 33
BIRKET, Ann, 19
BIRKET, Sarah, 19
BRAIN, Moses, 10
BRAIN, Samuel, 7
BRATT, Thomas, *
BRICE, Mary, 20
BRIGHT, Pte, 39
BRITTLE, Elizabeth, 19
BRITTON Hester, 7
BRITTON, Kathleen, 32, 33
BRITTON, Samuel, 27
BROADRIBB, Henry, 30
BROGDEN, John, 26
BROGDEN, Sarah Hannah, 26
BRYANT, Moses, 7
BRYANT, Sarah, 16
BUDD, Dr William, 24
BURGESS & Co, 41
BURGESS, Joseph, *
BUSH, James Caines, 7
BUSH, Timothy, 7
BUTCHER, Margaret, 25
CAINES, Benjamin, 10
CAINES, Elizabeth, 7
CAINES, Francis, 7
CARR, Robert, 19
CAVE, Stephen, 9
CHAMPION, Miss E. 35
CHESHIRE, Alford, 20
CHESHIRE, Elkwin, 20
COOPER, Abraham, *
CORVOSSO, Rev. B. 22

CROSS, W.B. 9
CRUMP, John, 9
DACEY, D.L. 36
DAVIDSON, Mr, 20
DAVIDSON, Mrs, *
DAVIES, Corporal. M. 36
DAVIS, Hannah, 17
DAVIS, Samuel, 16
DELAMERE, Susanna, 14
DEW, Bryan, 35
DIX, George, *
DIX, Mrs. *
DIX, Robert, *
EDWARDS, Caroline, 25
EDWARDS, John, 23
EDWARDS, William, 19
ELSON, Betty, 35
FARLEIGH, J.S., 40
FINZEL. Mr. 27
FLEMING, Adam, 20
FLEMING, Ellen, 20
FLOOK. Moses, 14
FOLEY, Inspector, 31
FRY, J.S., *
FRY, John, 7
FULTON, D. 36
FURNELL, Thomas, 31
GAMES, Reg, 36
GARLAND, George, 16
GASKIN, Rev John 14, 21
GIBSON, Elizabeth, 19
GIBSON, Nicholas, 19
GOTT, Supt. 31
GOVEY, Miss, 35
GRACE, H.M., 14, *
GRIFFIN, Thomas, 16
GRIFFITH, Mrs, *
HARDY, Samuel, 16
HASKINS, Abraham, 14
HASKINS, Edward, *
HATHAWAY, James, 7
HATHAWAY, Samuel, 14
HATTON, Mr W. 29
HICKS, Elizabeth, 16
HILL, P.G.E., 36
HILL, William, 16
HOBBS, Elizabeth, 17
HOBBS, Richard, 17
HODGES, Eliza, 16
HODGES, Sarah, 17
HOLLAND, Henry, 23
HOLLAND, Sarah, 23
HOLLBROOK, Sarah, 17
HOLLINS, Wilfred, 39

HULL, Thomas, 31,
HUNKINS, Alfred, 20
HUNT, George Mees, 28
HUNT, Matilda, 28
HUNT, Wm. Morris, 28
IRELAND, J.S. 39
IRVING, Sir Henry, 30
JEFFERIES, Thomas, 16
JEWELL, Mrs E, 35
JONES, Ann Spencer, 27
JONES, Arthur, 10
JONES, Hannah, 7
JONES, John Spencer, 27
JONES, Sarah 17
LACEY, Sarah, 7
LACEY, Wm, 7
* LEWIS, R.B. 38
LOFT, F. 36
LOWE, Rev H. *
LOXTON, Inspector, 31
LUCAS, Jane, 27
McDERMOTT, D., 35
MEES, George, 19, 27
MEES, Matilda, 23, 27
MILSOM, Mary, 17
MILSOM, Sarah, 16
MILSOM, Wm, 17
MOSS, Rev W.S.F., 20
NATION, Ronald, 40
OWEN, Moses, 7
PAINTER, A, 38
PEARCE, Wm, 17
PETERS, Thos, (illus)
PILLINGER, Jane, 23
PILLINGER, Stephen, 23
PINE, Fanny, 25
PITT, Mrs. 33
NB * denotes members of Kingswood Benevolent Society. See pamphlet, 1833.

PLAYFAIR, Dr, 23
PLEASANCE, Philip, 35
POWE, William, 7
POWELL, Peggy, 36
POWELL, Sarah, 16
PRATT, Hannah, 16
PRATT, J.E., 31
PRICE, Joan, 35
PRICE, Pte. 35
RANDOLPH, Rev Dr. 9
REDWOOD, F.E. 36
REES, Family, 17
RIPPON, D.C. 37
ROACH, Ronald, 32
ROBERTS, Thos, *
ROBIN, Richard, 20
SAUNDERS, Sapper, 36
SCAMMELL, Mary, 25
SKARDON, John, *
SKRINE, Elizabeth 25
SKUSE, Hannah, 25
SMITH, Ann, 11
SMITH, Betty, 14
SMITH, D.C. 35
SMITH, Philip, 6
SMITH, Rev Robt. *
SMYTHIES, Miss, *
SMYTHIES, W.C. *
STARR, Sylvia, 33
STEPHENS, Wm, 6, 9
STONE, M & J., 17
STONE, Mrs, 3
STONE, Sarah, 21
SYMONS. J.H. 33, 41
TENNEY, Kathleen, 32
THOMPSON, George, *
THOMPSON, Mrs Peter, 29

TOWNSEND, Sarah, 7
TUCKETT, P.D. *
TURNER, A.J. 36,
UNDERWOOD, W.H. 28
WALKER, J.N. 33
WALLINGTON, R.C. 36
WARNER, James, 20
WARNER, Mary, 20
WATERS, Thomas, 14
WATTS, Noah, 29
WEEKS, George, 17
WESLEY, John, 6,
WHEELER. Miss, *
WHEELER, Mrs, *
WHEELER, Rev Robt, *
WHITE, Rev Ralph, 14
WHITE, Sylvia, 33
WHITE. Thos. *
WHITFIELD, George, 6
WIDCOMBE, Martha, 28
WIDCOMBE, Mary, 28
WIENEKE, Miss, 35
WILLIS, Ambrose, 7
WILLIS, Edwin, 33, 41
WILLIS, Henry, 7
WILLIS, Joseph. 7
WILLMOTT, Thos, 7
WILLS, H.O., *
WILTSHIRE, E.J. 35
WINKWORTH, Mary, 17
WOLF, Almond, 19
WOODINGTON, Moses, 7
WOODS, Thos, 19
WOOKEY, Chief Const, 31

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

"The Successful Merchant" by Rev W. Arthur. ARL.
"Minutes of the Vestry of Oldland" BRO.
"Report & Annual Account of Kingswood Benevolent Society" ARL.
"Catalogue & Sale of Contents of Oldland Hall" ARL.
"A History of Banking in Bristol" by C.H. Cave (W. Crofton Hemmons, Bristol 1899) BRO. "Memoir of Edwin Budgett" ARL. "Ellacombe Mss" ARL.
"The Christian Herald", 1882. ARL. Drawings by S. Loxton. ARL.

My thanks to the staff at Bristol Record Office and Avon Reference Library. To Mr John Williams, City Archivist and Mr Geoffrey Langley, Avon Reference Librarian for their kind permission in allowing me to reproduce the documents in their collections. And to the editors of The Evening Post, Western Daily Press and Bristol Observer for their similar courtesy.

Appendix

Despite my lack of sympathy with the The Kingswood Association, it is only fair to record that Stephen Cave established a school in Mangotsfield Village in 1812 and 180 children attended. In one newspaper, Bristol Mercury, 20th January 1817, we read that *The Lodge House at Stephen Cave's in Downend was broken into whilst the poor person who had the care of it was at the Methodist Chapel. Two lads returning to Downend were robbed of a fat goose at Ridgeway by "a genteel man". A poor man called Spicer was robbed of a bag of articles he had bought at Bristol by a villain near the Fishponds and on the same evening a man called Golding was abused and robbed of seven shillings in the same road.* Let no-one say that mugging is anything new. These petty crimes were punishable by execution or transportation which had no deterrent effect. Whilst being all for Henry, I do understand the irritation and frustration of Cave and his cronies in the Association.

1851 census Kingswood Hill.

Matilda Hunt	Head of household	widow	32	greengrocer, draper.	born Frome
				employing 6 hands.	
George Hunt	son		8	scholar	born Kingswood Hill
Mary A Hunt	daughter		7	"	" "
Sarah E Hunt	daughter		5	"	" "
William H Gilpin	nephew	unmarried	21	"	" "
John M Tozer	assistant	"	25	"	" "
John E Harris	"	"	22	"	" "
George J Sayle	apprentice	"	16	"	" "
Mary Witcombe	servant	"	29	"	" "
Martha Witcombe	"	"	25	"	" "

next door lived

George Mees	head of household	married	59	Clerk in merchant house	born Frome
Sarah Mees	wife	"	39	"	born Wrington
Sarah Gardner	housemaid	unmarried	29	"	" Mangotsfield

Matilda Hunt was Samuel Budgett's niece, the daughter of George Mees by his first wife, Samuel's sister Mary. After her death George married Sarah, another of Samuel's sisters. Clearly he found employment as a clerk with Budgetts.

The Treasure Family

The Treasures are believed by their descendants to have been kinsfolk of the Budgetts. It is said that William Treasure shared a small grocery business in Frome with the young Samuel. The business was sold and William followed Samuel to Bristol. There is some corroboration in the 1861 census:

No 3 Catherine Place, Cheltenham Road, Bristol, United parishes of St James & St Paul:

William Treasure	Head of house	married	61	retired grocer	born Frome
Dinah Treasure	wife	"	66	"	born Bitton

James	Treasure	son	unmarried	27	grocer's assistant	born Kingswood
Jane	Boulde	niece	"	22	visitor	born Kingswood
Fanny	Swaine	niece	"	18	visitor	born Frome

William Treasure married Dinah Brain at St Mary le Port Bristol on 8th May 1826. She was the daughter of Samuel & Hester Brain. Samuel, a blacksmith was a trustee of Kingswood Independent (i.e. Congregational) Church. Fanny Swaine was the daughter of William Swaine and Elizabeth Treasure. According to Joy Cannam, James's granddaughter, the Budgetts were "hard driving & dominant by character whereas the Treasures were not at all pushing." Not surprisingly perhaps the Treasures became "very secondary members of H.H. & S. Budgett."

James Treasure worked for Budgetts' at Nelson Street. The following letter written to him has survived:

Nelson Street, Bristol

Aug 24 1878

*from
H.H. & S Budgett & Co.*

Dear Sir,

Mr Samuel is just leaving for the day and he wishes to say that he is pleased to find you are so much better but he would much prefer your not coming to business until you are decidedly recovered. He would like to see you first before commencing.

Trusting you will soon be quite strong again,

I am, Dear Sir,

yours truly

W. Henderson.

Mr Jas Treasure,

(I'll bet they didn't pay him sick money.)

Extract from the *Western Daily Press*, Monday 3rd June, 1872:

"On Saturday the remains of one of the oldest and most respected inhabitant s of this district, Mr Robert Jefferies were interred in the burial ground of Wesleyan Chapel, Kingswood. The deceased had reached the advanced age of 82 and for 37 years had been employed by the firm of H.H. & S. Budgett & Co. by whom he was greatly esteemed for his integrity and for the manner in which he discharged his duties. His death was sudden and unexpected. On Sunday he attended the Wesleyan Chapel. He died on Tuesday morning engaged in family worship.

Nelson Street Bristol.

FROM
H. H. & S. BUDGETT & CO.

Aug 24 1878

Dear Sir,

Mr Laurence is just
leaving for the day & he
wishes me to say that he
is pleased to find you are
so much better, but he
would much prefer your
not coming to business
until you are decidedly
recovered. He would like
to see you first before
commencing.

Trusting that you

will soon be quite
strong again,
I am Dear Sir,

Yours truly
W. Henderson

Mr Jas Treasurer,

A THEATRICAL KNIGHT

In 1905 Sir Henry Irving died, the first actor to receive the accolade. Budgetts would have known him as Broadribb. Before succumbing to the lure of the greasepaint, he had worked for them as a junior clerk. It is difficult to imagine what they could have made of him, with their strait-laced non-conformism at a time when actors were grouped with vagabonds and gypsies as part of an underclass and I cannot but feel they must have been glad to see the back of him. Broadribb must have been even more of a misfit than Leslie Phillips, *q.v.*



Irving as Cardinal Richelieu and Louis XI drawn by Bransby Williams.

SPORTING EVENTS

The works football team played in the Downs' League from its inception in 1905 until 1908. The side finished runners-up of Division 2 in the season 1906-7. Mr J.E. Pratt was the League's assistant secretary from March to September 1905 when he was transferred to Budgetts' Cardiff branch.

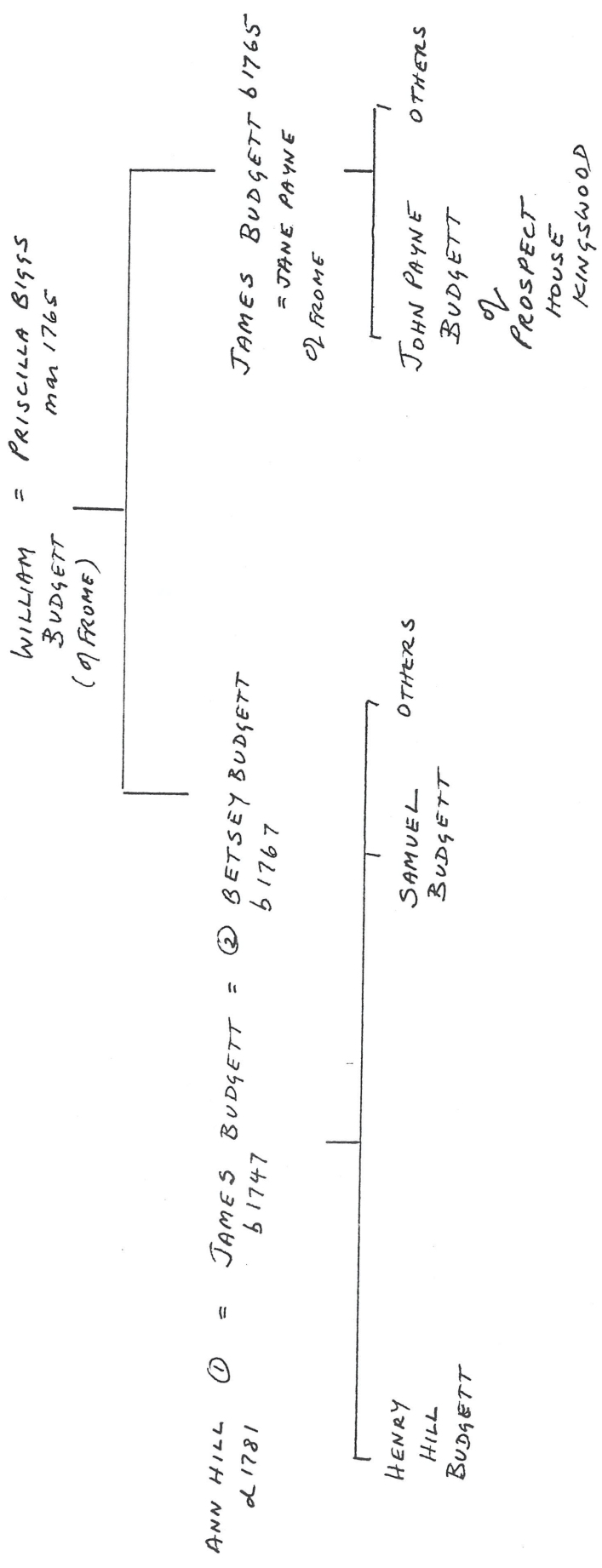
I have been told that the Guides still compete annually for the Budgett Cup.

ADDENDA TO THE FIRST EDITION.

Most family historians share information and most will also be aware that as soon as they commit themselves to print, answers will emerge to solve seemingly insoluble problems. None of us can know everything about everything and some other person often holds "a bit of sky" or such like, which will join parts of the jigsaw together to eventually make a complete picture. Readers of the first edition of the *Budgetts of Kingswood Hill* will be aware that in my epilogue to the story I explained that the core of the mystery remained unsolved. What was the relationship between John Payne Budgett of Prospect House, Samuel Budgett the Successful Merchant and Henry Hill Budgett, the philanthropist?

The "bit of sky" came from Miss Nancy Budgett, presently in her 84th year, the grand-daughter of Samuel's brother James, born in 1804, by his second marriage to Sarah Holland. 'I well remember my grandmother Sarah Holland, a charming old lady, who played games with us, sitting on the floor.' James & Sarah's youngest son Thomas Mortimer Budgett was Nancy's father. The solution to the puzzle was so simple, it had me kicking myself, particularly as I too am the grandchild of cousins who had the same surname. After the death of Ann Hill Budgett in 1781, James Budgett, the father of Henry Hill married again, Betsy Budgett of Frome, the daughter of his distant cousin, William. Then living in the parish of Whatley in Somerset, he took out a marriage licence from the Bishop of Bath and Wells on the 27th day of December 1788, with his cousin William, the father of the bride, as his bondsman. They became the parents of Samuel the merchant and Nancy's father James. The other James Budgett, of Wrington and Frome was Betsy's brother and therefore the brother in law of James Budgett of Kingswood. John Payne Budgett was the son of James Budgett of Frome and his wife Jenny Payne and therefore the first cousin of Samuel the merchant. I am deeply grateful to Nancy Budgett for this information.

In 1834 in a report to the Kingswood Benevolent Society, Henry Budgett spoke warmly of the gallantry of his colleagues. (see page 17). One of them was Joseph Burgess. A tablet was erected to his memory in Kingswood Methodist (Zion) graveyard, by subscription "as a tribute to his character and usefulness": *In affectionate and grateful remembrance of JOSEPH BURGESS who died April the 2nd 1876 aged 85 years and whose remains are interred in the adjoining burial ground. He was a consistent member of the church of Christ for 68 years. And after serving his generation according to the will of God he fell asleep in peace. When in 1834 and 1849 the cholera raged in and about the neighbourhood of Kingswood, his philanthropic and heroic nature was remarkably displayed in his untiring and incessant visitation of the suffering and dying ones who he pointed to the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. He also instituted a class for the mental and spiritual culture of young men over whom he for many years presided with devotedness and efficiency. As a preacher and class leader he was plain, affectionate, comprehensive and practical and through his magnanimous temperament, eminent piety, fervent prayers and abundant labours, he was instrumental in bringing many to the fold of Christ. When summoned to the immediate presence of God, he said 'Absent from the body, present with the Lord.'* The memory of the just is blessed. (DPL. 23 August 1990)



FAMILY TREE SHOWING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
HENRY, SAMUEL & JOHN BUDGETT of KINGSWOOD

AFTERWORD (1999)

In November 1997, I received a letter from Tamea Willcocks, of Elderslie, New South Wales, Australia, which presented me with a puzzle.

Tamea wrote of her maternal great great grandfather, Alexander Britton who was born in 1812, the son of Maurice Britton and Lucinda Watts Delamere Britton. Alexander's early life was spent in Bristol but he died in 1887 in Victoria, Australia. His obituary states the following:

"When a young man in England, Mr Britton was a contributor to the Press. His first contribution was to a Bath newspaper, edited by the late Mr Roebuck, MP, and it was during the stirring times of the passing of the Reform Bill in 1832. He was a native of Bristol and was a nephew of the late Samuel Budgett of that City, well known to readers of biographies of eminent merchants as "The Merchant Prince". From 1834 to 1853 he resided in the town of Derby, where in 1844, he was associated with Herbert Spencer, the sociologist, in the formation of a Literary and Debating Society....."

Tamea's question was a simple one. How, she asked, could he be a nephew of Samuel Budgett?

Tamea had referred to G. Britton Spilsbury's book "The Brittons of Kingswood Chase" and had noted the author's words:

"I was interested to learn how much the Budgett family was involved in Kingswood history. I had worked, fifty years ago, for the firm of H.H. & S. Budgett in Bristol and at that time would have been delighted to know of the support H.H. Budgett had given in the past to the Kingswood colliers....."

and

"I must express my regret on hearing of the fate of the Wesleyan Burial Ground in Blackhorse Road, Kingswood. The family vault of Mr Samuel Budgett is there, from 1851, and some two hundred Brittons of all ages, some well known in their time, and many not so well known, dating from 1847 to 1975."

As well as Alexander Britton's obituary, these extracts seemed to suggest a definite relationship between the two families.

The only link I could find in my book "The Budgetts of Kingswood Hill" was with "Delamere", one of Alexander's mother Lucinda's several names. Samuel Budgett's half brother Henry Hill Budgett's first wife had been Susanna Delamere. She had died aged 29 in 1806. This surely did not make Samuel, "The Merchant Prince", Alexander's Britton's uncle?

However, this was indeed the connection and it was revealed through marriage licences and weddings.

Maurice Britton of the Hamlet of Hanham, Parish of Bitton, took out a licence to marry Lucinda Delamere of Seend in the County of Wiltshire, spinster, on 8 November 1809. A Charles Price of Devizes stood as bondsman in the sum of £100. The marriage between Maurice and Lucinda took place at Seend on the following day. The witnesses were T. Hook, M. Delamere and H.H. Budgett!

The same parish register revealed a marriage a few years earlier on 12 October 1801, between Henry Hill Budgett and Susanna Delamere, with witnesses Chris. Hook and Alexander Delamere. This marriage too was by licence granted to Henry Hill Budgett, of the parish of Bitton, grocer, and Susanna Dalimear (sic) of the chapelry of Seend, dated 5 October 1801.

Lucinda and Susanna were sisters, the children of Alexander and Susannah Delamere. After much more research, we were able to draw up a family tree of the Delamere-Watts-Britton-Budgett axis. I can only think that Alexander Britton, a writer, was using a little literary licence when he boasted of his "Uncle Sam", who was honorary at best, being the half brother of his mother's brother in law. I am not quite as old as Alexander, but even in my time numerous inlaws and outlaws and people of no relationship whatever, were called "uncle" and "aunt" by young people as a polite and informal alternative to "Mr" & "Mrs".

I am only sorry that my friend, the late Judy Spilsbury never knew of the connection between the Brittons and the Budgetts. I know she would have been "tickled pink".

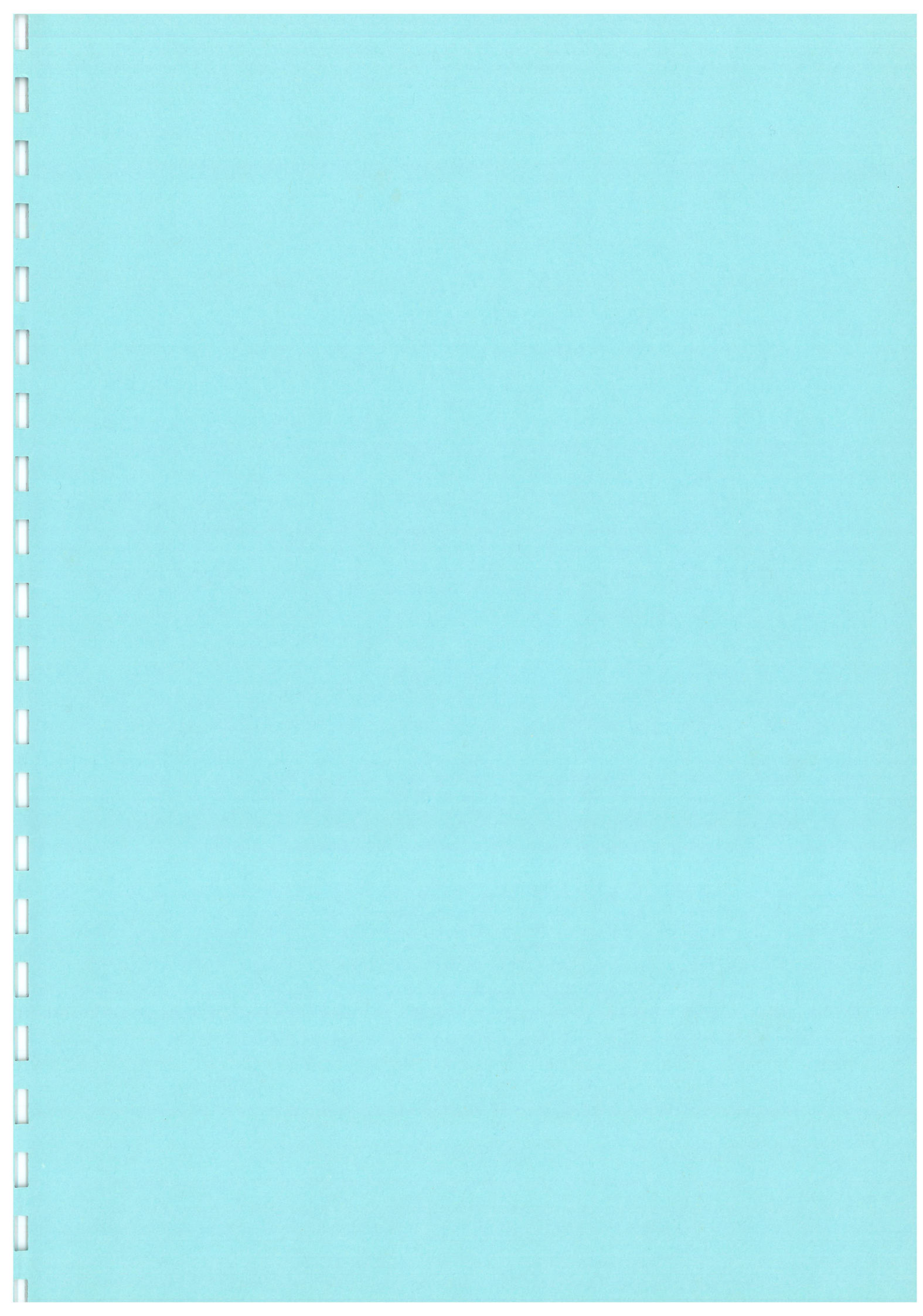
ADDENDA:

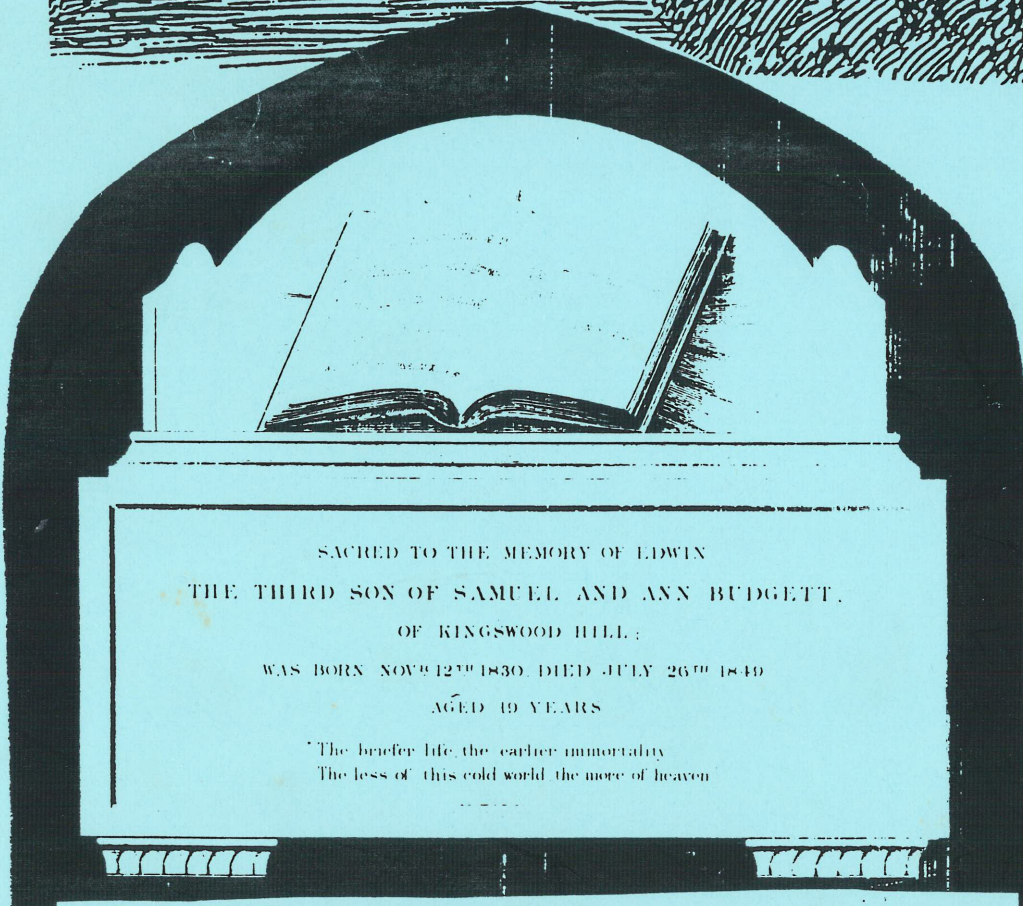
"On Monday, Joseph Walker, employed by Messrs Budgett in Nelson Street was standing by the corner stone of the gateway when his arm was crushed by the waggon wheel, resulting in a compound fracture."

Bristol Gazette, 6.5.1843

"May 14. 1840, at Burslem in Staffordshire by the Reverend John Gaskin MA, H.H. Budgett esquire of Kingswood Hill, to Sarah, daughter of Enoch Wood, esquire of the former place."

(Ellacombe Mss, quoting Bristol Journal at Bristol Ref Library)





S. Budgett

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF EDWIN
 THE THIRD SON OF SAMUEL AND ANN BUDGETT,
 OF RINGSWOOD HILL;
 WAS BORN NOV^R 12TH 1830. DIED JULY 26TH 1849
 AGED 19 YEARS

"The briefer life, the earlier immortality
 The less of this cold world, the more of heaven"

MEMORIAL TABLET OF EDWIN BUDGETT IN WESLEYAN CHURCH KINGSWOOD

£3.00