

A Hawkins Family Link to Oxhey

HISTORY SHEET 40
by ALAN HAWKINS

William Hawkins my great, great, great grandfather was born in Rickmansworth in 1790 and married Anne Mitchel in 1810 at Abbots Langley. There were nine children, two of whom died in 1881, no further details are available. It is likely that William died before 1851 as his wife Anne was living in Batchworth Hamlet about that time.

My great, great, grandfather Edward was born in Rickmansworth in 1824, married Ann Earls in Hendon in 1849 and became a Farm Bailiff on the Grange Farm Estate, on Watford Heath.

They had six children, including Henry my great grandfather, who worked as a bricklayer, and his brother William an apprentice stack builder.

Henry married Elizabeth Murch of Aldenham Road, Oxhey at St. Pancras in 1880.

They lived at 15 Heath Road, Oxhey and had six children two of whom died leaving Florence, Nell, Mabel and Horace George, my grandfather.

Family gossip had it that Elizabeth had

married beneath her station. Henry died in 1901 at the age of 41, rumoured to be because of the drink. Horace George, the only son, had to be the family breadwinner and went out to work when he was 14 years old.

In 1950 (when I was 11) I can remember being taken to visit this very elderly lady, my great grandmother Elizabeth, who was living with her daughter Mabel, my great aunt, at No 49 King Edward Road, Oxhey.

She died later that year, aged 90. Great Aunt Mabel was married to Bernard Willett who worked in the Co-op in Pinner Road, eventually as manager.

They had one daughter, Beryl.

Horace George went on to be a master plumber, he was involved with replacing the lead on Warwick Castle roof.

All his life he was a strong traditional Labour and Daily Herald man. So he did not take it too kindly when his boss told him who to vote for in a pending election and that if he didn't comply he would never work in Watford again, and he didn't.

Horace married Emily Louisa Frogley in Aylesbury in 1913 and they lived at



20 Lower Paddock Road, early 1900s. The gate and railings were taken for the Second World War effort

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